The VOICE

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

photo by Spc. Brian Murphy

(From left to right) Col. Deborah J. Beckworth, 704th MI Brigade commander, addresses the soldiers in formation as Lt. Col. Stephen G Stewart, 742nd MI Battalion incoming commander, and outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Jerry Sharp, listen during the change of command ceremony at McGlachlin Parade Field here Aug. 2.

Stewart assumes 742nd command

BY SGT. DENNY COX
SoundOFF!

The soldiers of the 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 704th MI Brigade, welcomed a new commander in a change-of-command ceremony on McGlachlin Parade Field here Aug. 2.

Lt. Col. Stephen G. Stewart replaced Lt. Col. Jerry D. Sharp as friends and family members watched from the reviewing stand and brightly colored pavilions.

The ceremonyís reviewing officer, 704th MI Brigade Commander Col. Deborah J. Beckworth, explained the purpose of the event.

ìChange-of-command ceremonies are milestones in the life of an organization,î she said. ìToday is an opportunity to celebrate the many successes of the 742nd and its wonderful soldiers and civilians,îí the colonel continued.

Beckworth complimented the outgoing commanderís leadership skills in developing the 742nd into a first-rate unit.

ìLt. Col. Sharp set and enforced high standards while still creating a command climate of open dialogue, professionalism and espirit de corps,î she said.

Sharp, however, was quick to point out that the credit for the success of the 742nd belonged to the soldiers standing on the parade field in formation.

ìThe truly critical element in an organization is the command ñ not the commander. The soldiers of this battalion have met all the challenges they have faced. Thank you for allowing me to serve with you as your commander,î Sharp said.

After assuming command, Stewart wasted no time on long speeches.

ìOur charge, is to build on the experiences of the past to meet the challenges of the future. Letís get to work,î he said.

The 742nd has a history here that stretches back nearly 50 years. Highlighting a few:

In November 1954, the U.S. Army Security Agency (USASA) created Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, USASA Troop Command.

Three years later in December 1957, the USASA Troop Command became USASA Support Element, NSA.

During the period of 1960 through 1963, the Support Element lost its identity when it was absorbed into the USASA. In 1963, USASA formally reestablished the Fort Meade element as a Support Group comprised of four companies.

Finally, in January 1987, CONUS MI Group was redesignated the 704th MI Brigade and 2nd Battalion redesignated the 742nd MI Battalion.

Today, the 742nd supports four subordinate companies and 14 remote Cryptologic Support Groups that provide trained and ready soldiers to NSA.

Fort Meadeís Access Control Plan

As of Aug. 20, vehicles that are not registered with the installation Provost Marshal will be denied access and re-routed to a visitoris center at the entrance of Reece Road and Route 175. At the center, personnel will have the opportunity to register their vehicles or obtain a visitoris day pass whichever officials deem appropriate.

To register a vehicle, a person must show: an ID card showing government affiliation; a valid driveris license; valid registration and proof of insurance. If the vehicle is not owned by the registrant, the owner must authorize the registration with either a power of attorney or a notarized letter.

The Provost Marshal Office Vehicle Registration Section is in Building 2234, Huber Road, Fort Meade. It is open 7:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays (excluding holidays). Call (301) 677-9625 for more information.

courtesy photo

743rd soldiers raise money, see Eagles concert

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JOHN MOODY
743rd Military Intelligence Battalion

After a great Army Birthday Ball in June, there is no rest for the weary. On Aug. 11 the 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion began its fundraising drive for next yearís event by ushering the Eagles concert, which served as the grand opening of Invesco Field at Mile High.

The newest of the big money stadiums in the National Football League, Invesco Field at Mile High is an amazing facility. At a cost of over $360 million, the new stadium seats over 76,000 guests, has 400 concessionaires and the combination of elevators and escalators make accessing the upper levels of the facility an easy task for all.

With the great success of one event comes pressure to put on an equally exciting and memorable show the following year. This is the case for the soldiers of the 743rd MI Battalion, not only with the ball but with fundraising as well.

Last year we were fortunate to come in contact with Contemporary Services Corporation (CSC), which is the largest crowd management company in the world. CSC provides crowd management at all NFL games, Major League Soccer games, the Olympics and many other events. Although we got a late start on fundraising, not working our first event until late October, things came together nicely and most 743rd MI Battalion soldiers and their guests attended the Ball free of charge.

This year we plan to get an early start and finish with fundraising by January. Planned fund-raisers include all of the Denver Broncos home games and a flag football game that will mark the final event in Mile High Stadium. The flag football game will feature legends of the NFL and the two teams will be led by future Hall of Fame quarterbacks Joe Montana and John Elway.

The day of the Eagles concert was a typical late summer day in Colorado. The warm evening provided a great atmosphere for a concert that drew over 55,000 rock-and-roll lovers to downtown Denver. The evening began with a thirty-minute music video that captured scenes from events at Mile High Stadium that spanned the past thirty years and concluded with various shots of the construction of Invesco Field at Mile High. The concertgoers roared their appreciation each time their beloved hero, John Elway of Denver Broncos fame, appeared on the screen. At around 8 PM the Eagles came out to a rousing ovation and opened with ìSeven Bridges Roadî. The band played two, one-hour sets, which lasted until about 10:30, concluding with four encores including ìHotel Californiaî, ìRocky Mountain Wayî and ìDesperadoî. After the show the Denver Broncos put on a twenty-minute fireworks display that would rival anything seen on the 4th of July.

Thirty-three soldiers from the 743rd MI BN acted as ushers for the show. Most were on the stadium floor and had great vantage points of the concert. The soldiers got our Army Ball fundraising drive off to a great start and raised over $2,000.

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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.

Random shots from a soldier

COMMENTARY BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

When it comes to finding a spokes man, Iím sure the Army has about a million choices in line before me. Even before my first day in a military uniform I was always the kind of non-conformist that drill sergeants eat for breakfast.

I initially talked to the Army recruiter to get out of schoolwork. The local recruiter came to my high school. I had a test in my English class. Going to see the Army recruiter was considered an excused absence. Can you see where I am going with this?

My recruiter asked me what interests I had. Sports. Thatís pretty much all I liked. I played, watched and obsessed with sports. He told me that the Army had journalists who went around and covered the All-Army sports teams. He told me if I was good enough I could be the guy who toured with the All-Army basketball team and wrote their articles. That was enough for me. I joined the Army on the delayed-entry program and left three months after graduating from high school.

The best way to sum up my basic training experience is the movie ìFull Metal Jacket.î Just ask anyone who has ever found out that I am a tall, skinny writer in the military. ìHey, youíre just like Private Joker,î they always say. In a way, theyíre all right. In high school I was always the class clown. In basic, I was too scared and/or focused on the many tasks in front of me to clown around. By the time I started getting comfortable, basic training was over. After my advanced individual training, I was shipped off to Fort Clayton, Panama.

I wish most new soldiers could experience what I did. Being brand new to the Army is one thing. Being brand new to the Army and in a foreign country is another. It took me a while to get the hang of it, but after a while I became confident and started to do a halfway decent job as a photojournalist. During my time in Panama, I even was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to be a sports reporter during a lunchtime radio show on the Southern Command Network.

After my two-year tour was complete, I was off to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. This is where I got to do my job the way the Army intended it to be. Lots of time in the field. Lots of time following tanks. I covered Tank Table XII more than XII times during my two and a half years there, but each time was able to find something or someone unique.

In May of 1999, I was deployed with the 4th Public Affairs Detachment to Camp Doha, Kuwait. For five months our detachment (one officer, one noncommissioned officer, two journalists and one broadcaster) ate together, worked together, learned together and grew together as we put out a weekly newspaper and video packages in support of the troops over there. Just dealing with 131-degree temperatures is tough. Putting out a weekly publication and meeting deadline in the desert is even tougher. I donít know when it happened, but sometime during the last few years Iíve grown up. I went from being a 17-year-old trying to convince my mom that I was too sick to go to school, to a journalist who had a 10-minute one-on-one interview with then Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Dennis J. Reimer. I went from a class clown to a journalist of the year.

file photo

A former class clown and a Chief of Staff of the Army sit and converse over the state of the Army during an interiew in Kuwait.

Iím not a perfect soldier. I might not be the star of Army advertisement campaign. I might not be running through the desert looking for my uniform top, with my dog tags dangling on my chest proclaiming that ìI am an Army of one.î I donít love the Army everyday, but I donít have to.

I am proud of who I am and the job I do for the Army. I am proud that I made a decision and stuck with it. I am proud that Iíve matured (somewhat) and am proud to have met, befriended and served with as many fine soldiers as I have. I might not be the guy who follows the All-Army basketball team as they tour the country, but Iím happy with who I am and the work that I produce. I guarantee that when I decide to move on I will be able to look back and say that I have gained more during my time in the military than any college student has. And if not Ö well, at least I have the G.I. Bill.

With help from her family, local NCO reenlists

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS WILLENE ORR
Brigade Reenlistment

Reenlistment is definitely an integral part of ìTaking Care of Soldiers and their families.î The Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Thomas E. White, stated in a recent article that ìtaking care of soldiers and families is imperative and we will adjust the pace of transformation to accommodate what we need to do for soldiers and their families.î

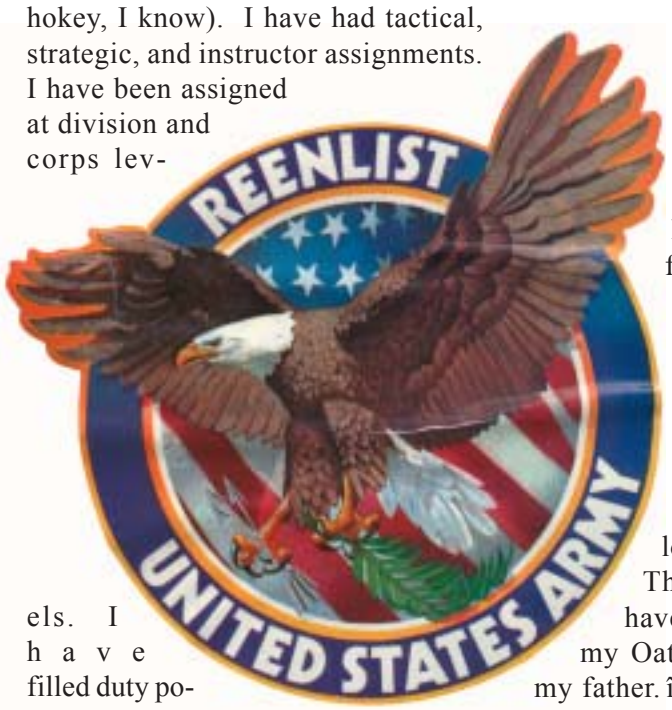
The 704th Military Intelligence Brigadeís Command Retention Teams definitely adhere to the secretaryís advice. Retaining soldiers is one of several ways we at the brigade ìtaking care of soldiers and their families.î Without soldiers, there would be no organization to transform.

Sergeant 1st Class Reba B. Donlin, 741st Military Intelligence Battalion, decided to continue doing what she does best ñ training and mentoring soldiers, by reenlisting at the Womenís Memorial in Washington, D.C. June 18. Below is her story in her own words:

ìMy father, Graden ìBenî Benzing, is a retired infantry officer with 23years active service and 18 years reserve (I know it is hard to believe). He served in the enlisted ranks for half his active career, then attended Officer Candidate School as a sergeant first class. He thought he could do more for the soldier on the ground as an officer. He and my mother, Betty, drove down from Hersey, Michigan to participate in my final reenlistment. Thanks to Staff Sgt. Veronica A. Ingle, career counselor, 741st MI Battalion, my mother was included in the ceremony by signing the contract as a witness.

> ìMy most rewarding roles were as platoon sergeant and instructor. I had the most impact on another soldierís career and life.î
>
> *- Sgt. 1st Class Reba B. Donlin*

Many of my family members believe I enlisted in the Army only to follow in my fatherís footsteps. Although that was part of it, there were other reasons. I saw it as an opportunity to earn college money, to travel some, and most importantly to do something for my country (sounds hokey, I know). I have had tactical, strategic, and instructor assignments. I have been assigned at division and corps levels. I have filled duty positions from squad leader, instructor, and platoon sergeant, up to battalion staff.



My most rewarding roles were as platoon sergeant and instructor. It was in those positions that I had the most impact on another soldierís career and life. That was where I had the opportunity to be a positive influence on future leaders. My father asked me for many years why I never went to OCS. It was because of the soldiers I was training and mentoring that I never left the ranks of the noncommissioned officer corps.

My father and I both have a firm belief that freedom is not free, and individuals like us and the thousands of others who serve or have served are the ones who help pay the price to keep that freedom. There is not anyone who I respect or love more than my father. There is no one I would have rather had administer my Oath of Reenlistment than my father. î

On behalf of the 704th Command Retention Team, Thank you, Sergeant 1st Class Donlin, for continuing your military service to our Nation, to our Soldiers and to the Army. Keep mentoring and training soldiers, for in doing so you will have a great and positive impact on their lives.

Junior ROTC: Stepping up to the challenge

BY CARESSA BOLDEN
SoundOFF!

Few would deny that Americaís future will one day be in the hands of todayís youths. Consequently, both government and private organizations are helping to fund youth development programs that foster good citizenship and prepare them for what lies ahead.

One of the largest, long-standing in-school programs is the Army Junior Reserve Officersí Training Corps (JROTC).

The JROTC was established by the National Defense Act of 1916, and its funding is shared by the U.S. Government and the schools involved. Although the program uses a military format, its primary focus is on teaching life values and skills that will assist cadets to realize their full potential and become tomorrowís leaders.

Meade Senior High School here is among the 1,420 high schools, located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa and Guam, that offers the program. However, Meade is only one of two schools in Anne Arundel County where students can participate in the military structured course. Approximately 30 students from Anne Arundel High School are expected to participated in the JROTC program at Meade this school year.

The JROTC is an elective subject taught here by U.S. Army retired Col. Frank Preston and retired 1st Sgt. Calvin Kerr. Preston has been with the program at Meade since 1990 and Kerr since 1998.

The two instructors have fashioned an effective blend of motivation, discipline and understanding with the programís education and training curriculum.

According to the syllabus, cadet training is designed to ìmotivate young people to be better Americans.î And, if you look at the programís successes here, you can see that it is working.

Tineal Suggs, 18, a Meade Senior High graduate, is a second year junior college student at New Mexico Military Institute.

Suggs said while she was a music track student at Meade, several friends who were part of the JROTC introduced her to the program.

ìWhen I started high school, I was rather timid. I didnít like public speaking,î Suggs said. ìAnd, as the daughter of a chaplain, people expected me to be outgoing.

ìThe JROTC program helped me to develop self-confidence, public speaking and leadership skills,î she said.

Suggs credited Preston and Kerr with her progress in the JROTC.

ìDuring my time in the program, I moved quickly in the first semester from a cadet to sergeant,î Suggs said. ìPreston and Kerr wonít push you unless they see that you have the ability and the will to do the work. I really enjoyed it.

ìNow I am encouraging my younger brother to join when he enters ninth grade this year,î she said.

Suggs, who plans to complete her studies in a four-year institution before entering the U.S. Air Force, said the fact that her parents are active-duty military did not influence her desire to go into military service.

ìI was always interested in joining the military, I just happened to start out on the music side of it,î she added.

ì You have to try things out, to find out what you can do,î Suggs offered. ìIf you donít have the will to try inside yourself, then you need someone close to you to help you get it. And, I believe Kerr and Preston do that at Meade. They insist on your best effort.î

Rayshod Martin, now a second year student at Hampton University in Hampton, Va., admitted that he originally joined the JROTC at Meade Senior High to get on the drill team.

ìI had seen a drill team perform and decided that I wanted to be a part of something like that,î he said. ìI wanted to be able to compete and win.î

However, Martin said when he arrived at Meade, he did not know anyone and had no sense of belonging.

ìThe JROTC gave me a sense of being a part of something,î Martin said.

ìPreston took me under his wing from the first day,î he said. ìBut it was the first sergeant who taught me about drilling, conduct and how to carry myself in a military fashion.î

Kerr admits that he is strict with the cadets and pushes them to continuously try harder. However, he said what they learn through the program are lessons they can use throughout life to help them achieve their goals.

Some young people who have difficulty taking direction, Martin said, may opt out of the program. But, when they see their friends making progress, they reevaluate themselves. And, it makes them want to succeed, he added.

ìThe JROTC gave me more discipline than I had prior to joining the program,î he said.

Preston said the JROTC is open to any student who wants to join.

ìNo one is turned away,î Preston said. ìWhen I commanded the drill team, there were people who had two left feet,î Martin remarked. ìBut, by the end of the year, they could march and drill with the best.î

The young college student said that cadets have to find a balance between friends and what they want to accomplish.

ìWhile I was at Meade, my time was dedicated to the JROTC program,î he said. ìI wanted to be drill commander, so I put everything else on hold.

ìMy mom knew that if I was not at home, I was at drill or a competition. I always had something worthwhile to do.

ìI believe the JROTC helped put me where I needed to be. If it was not for the program, I would not be in college now,î he said.

The former Meade High graduate said that before Preston took him to Hampton Universityís homecoming, he had not thought about going to college.

ìHe (Preston) takes students to Hampton each year,î Martin said.

Four cadets from the 2000/2001 school year received full ROTC scholarships to Hampton.

ìPreston is a father figure to the cadets. He talks to them about the challenges they may face in life and the obstacles they need to overcome. And, he listens to their concerns.

ìAs a JROTC cadet, we learned to band together to achieve a common goal,î he added.

Martin is looking ahead to completing three years of study and obtaining a commission as a second lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General Corps.

Along with citizenship, leadership and Army customs and courtesies, activities that test cadetsí physical endurance and marksmanship are woven into the curriculum.

Nevertheless, the programís proven value is in the competition awards and the cadets that go forward to achieve goals and become tomorrowís leaders.

photo by Spc. Brian Murphy

Big Dogs win softball championship

Big Dog first baseman Franklin Pipes (above) and the rest of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade softball team defeated the 91st IS Demon Chasers 9-8 to win the Fort Meade post championship at Broadfoot Field Aug. 14. The Big Dogs had to rally to win the game, as they were down 7-3 after the first three innings of the game. Home runs by shortstop Jason Bracken, third baseman Jonathan Holloway and outfielder Melvin Long proved to be the difference for the Big Dogs.

photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

More than 1,500 locals, including soldiers, family members and retirees, braved the summer heat to enjoy Twilight Tattoo on McGlachlin Parade Field Aug. 9.

TWILIG TATTO

Patriotic display promotes

The Twilight Tattoo dates back to 300 years ago, during the 30-Yearsí War.

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

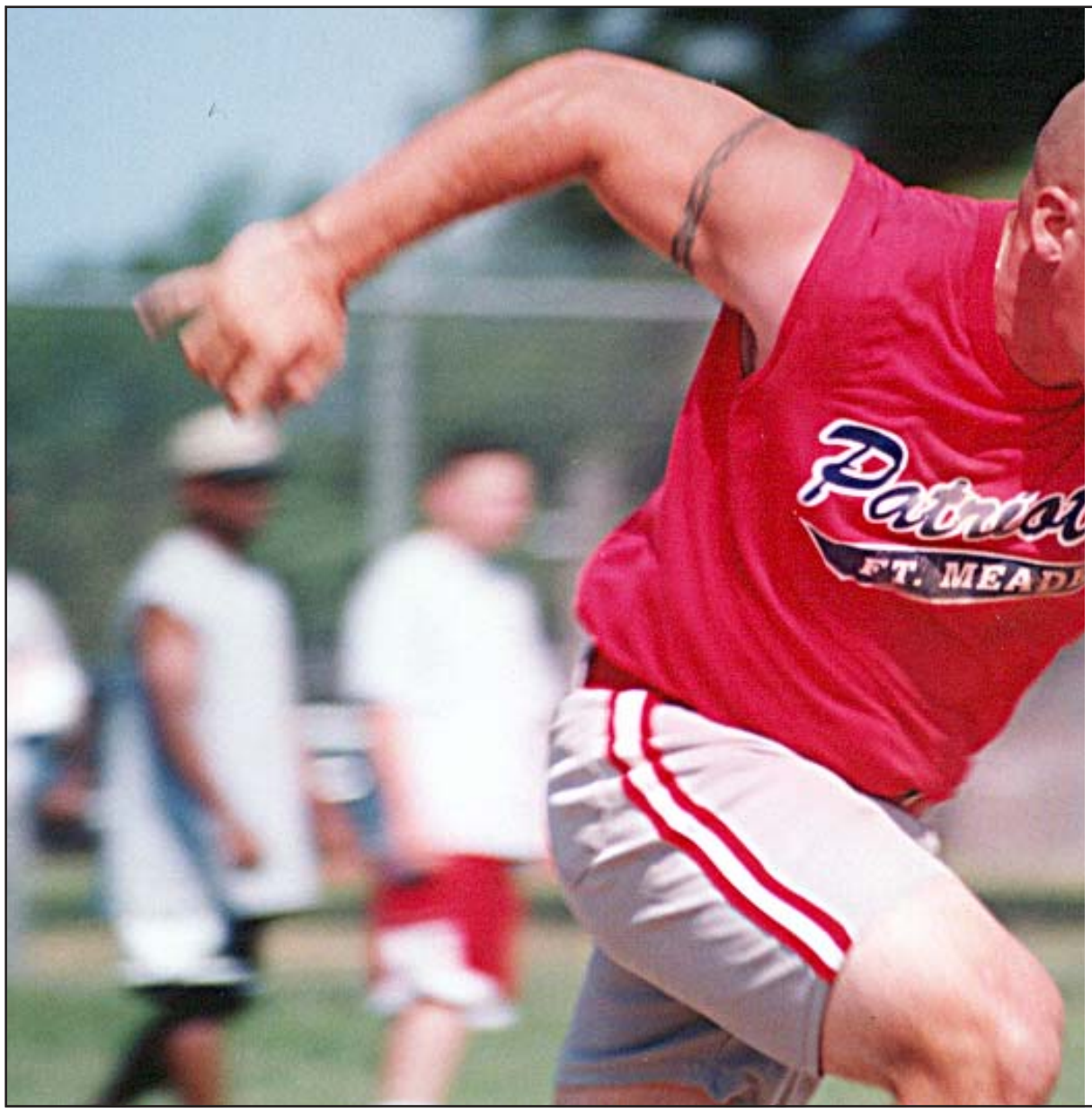
The Armyís Twilight Tattoo, a colorful military sunset parade, was held on McGlachlin Parade Field August 9.

The ceremony honored the Armyís contributions to America, both past and present, as well as commemorated many of the veterans. Representatives from Disabled American Veterans and Korean War Veterans were honored for their membersí dedicated service during the Korean War era.

The Twilight Tattoo was an hour-long ceremony, featuring specialty units from the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) and the U.S. Army Band, ìPershingís Own.î Highlights of the performance included selections from the U.S. Army Chorale, the distinct sounds of the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corpsí authentic wooden fifes, handmade drums and brass bugles, and the bayonet-tipped rifles of the drill team.

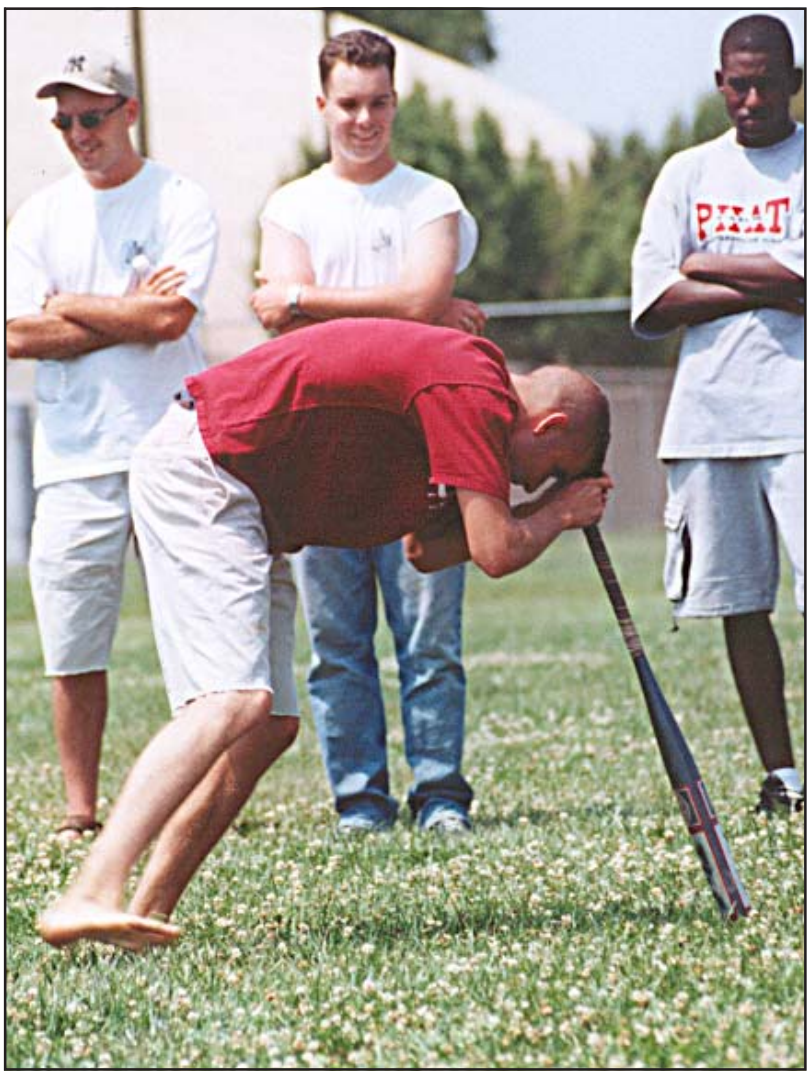
The Tattoo is a military tradition dating back to the 1600ís and Europeís 30-Yearsí War. During the evenings, bugles sounded, signaling soldiers to close the taverns and return to their quarters. Someone would then ìtap to,î or hammer, stoppers back into the kegs. Over time, the phrase ìtap toî evolved into the word ìtattooî and has become an Army tradition signifying the dayís end.

OíDay: Business as usual for 704th



photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

704th MI Brigade shortstop Jason Bracken races to first base after ripping a single down the third baseline during the first round of the Organizational Day unit softball competition Aug. 3. Although Bracken was safe, the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade was defeated by the team from the 902nd Military Intelligence Brigade 7-6.



Spc. Tyler Booth does his best during the Spin-o-rama competition.

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

When teams in the world of sports continually dominate the opposition, it is referred to as a dynasty. After the 704th Military Intelligence Brigadeís most recent victory, they might be in the midst of the first-ever military dynasty.

For the fourth time in six years the 704th MI Brigade walked away from the Intelligence and Security Command Organizational Day with the Commanderís Cup at Fort Belvoir, Va., Aug. 3.

The 704th MI Brigade earned victories in four out of the six team competitions. But the day did not start out on the right foot for the soldiers of the 704th MI Brigade. The 4K team could only muster a fourth-place finish and the softball team lost in their opening round match-up.

The 704th MI Brigade team cruised in three straight-set victories to claim first place in the volleyball tournament. Next, Spc. Tyler Booth won the spin-and-race to put the 704th MI Brigade near the top of the standings. The three-legged racers, led by Col. Deborah J. Beckworth, earned crucial points for the brigade when there were still three teams in the hunt for the Commanderís Cup. Finally, the tug-o-war team, led by Staff Sgt. Rene Leandri easily out-muscled the three teams they met to ensure the trophy left Fort Belvoir in the same hands it arrived in.

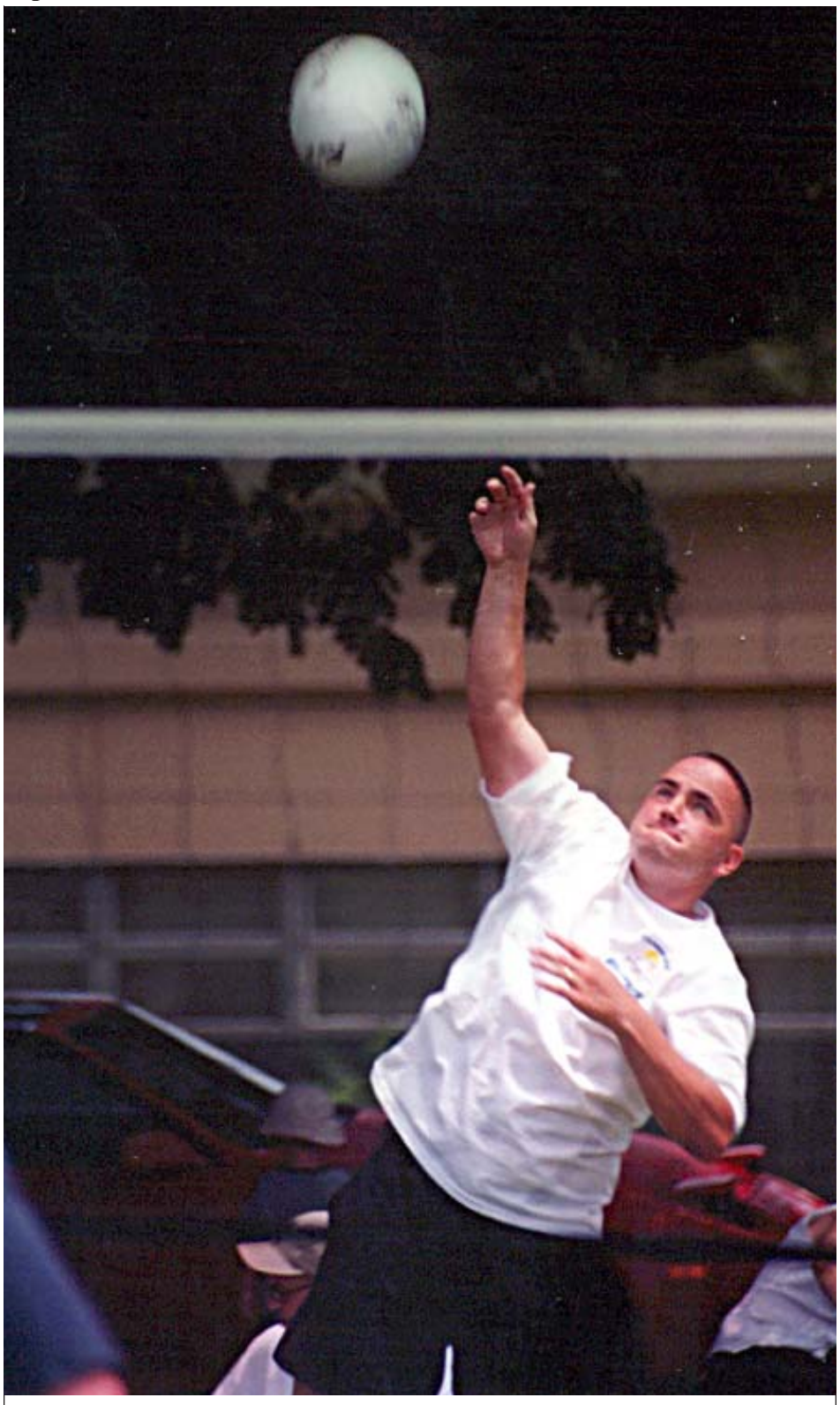
Actually, the Commanderís Cup trophy was replaced a year ago after the original trophy was misplaced.

ìThe trophy was lost two years ago,î said Beckworth. ìWe won last year, and we didnít tell anyone we lost it. This year, before OíDay, we went out and bought this new trophy. We put a lot of our money into it and we are glad to be bringing it home. Hopefully we can hang on to it for another year or two.î

The reason for the brigadeís success is the large number of athletically gifted soldiers in the unit, according to Spc. Lee Nichols, 704th MI Brigade volleyball team coach.

ìWhen I first got to the 704th I was amazed at how many talented athletes we have,î Nichols said. ìWe are very competitive when it comes to sports. It doesnít matter what sport it is - we have enough good soldiers to compete and normally win.î

Like the New York Yankees in baseball and the Los Angeles Lakers in basketball, the 704th MI Brigade continues as one of the premiere teams around.



First Sergeant Joe McLain serves during the volleyball championship game. The 704th MI Brigade team won the entire volleyball competition without losing a set.

Maj. Jose Smith and Col. Deborah J. Beckworth work together during the 3-legged race.

The 704th MI Brigade tug-o-war team earns another victory during OiDay.

How we finished ...

4K run

704th MI Brigade - 4th place

Softball

704th MI Brigade - did not place

Volleyball

704th MI Brigade - 1st place

Spin-o-rama

704th MI Brigade - 1st place

3-legged race

704th MI Brigade - 1st place

Tug-o-war

704th MI Brigade - 1st place

Command Sergeant Maj. Randy Wilson gets released from jail after serving his 15-minute sentence. Jail time could be bought during Organizational Day for one dollar as part of a fundraiser for the Enlisted Advisory Council.

Around the Army

PT helps All-Army chess champion

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Army News Service) - For the second year in a row, Sgt. Rudy Tia captured the Army Chess Championship held Aug. 11-17 at Fort Myer, Va.

Going up against 11 other chess masters from across the Army, Tia, a network switching maintainer and operator from Fort Hood, Texas, won nine individual matches to take the first-place slot at the tournament. He and the tournamentís five other top soldiers are competing in the Interservice Chess Competition at Fort Myer this week.

Physical fitness is important to stay sharp during the long hours of matches, Tia said. He runs and does aerobic exercises to promote good circulation. He said that helps the blood bring lots of oxygen to the brain.

ìBeing fit helps you concentrate for long periods and your body wonít get tired while youíre sitting for hours at a time,î Tia said.

Ronald Braud, senior tournament director, said the Army tournament is played using a round-robin system. ìEach participant plays 11 games, one against each of the other players,î he said. ìItís easier to determine a winner with this system. One point is given for each win and a half point for a draw. The person with the most points is the winner. î

The Army Chess Championship has taken place every year since 1960, Braud said.

Last year Tia swept the tournament, beating all his opponents. This year he lost one game and played another to a draw. He lost that game to Spc. Joseph Kruml, who took second place this year and won the tournament in 1998. Tia said he prepared for this yearís competition by playing in as many local tournaments as possible, studying the games of famous chess masters, and studying his own games.

ìWhen you study your games you not only learn your own strategies, you build a psychological aspect into your game by learning the weaknesses of your opponents,î said Tia. ìKnowing their weaknesses helps when you play against them again in the future.î

ìI play chess because I enjoy the game,î said Tia. ìI like to plan out the strategies to beat an opponent. I enjoy organizing the pieces for an attack and putting them into place to win the game. Itís sort of like moving troops around on the battlefield.î

The six top players from the Army tournament are competing against airmen, sailors and marines in the Interservice Chess Competition at Fort Myer, Aug. 18-24.

Including Tia, the Army team members at tournament are:

Spc. Joseph Kruml, 98th Area Support Group (Wurzburg), Germany.

Maj. David Hater, West Point, N.Y.

Staff Sgt. Charles Costales, Fort Riley, Kan.

Spc. Ken Davidson, Fort Detrick, Md.

Sgt. First Class Andres Hortillosa, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

The top three Army players from the interservice tournament join the top players from the other services to form the United States Military Chess Team. The team travels to San Remo, Italy, in October to represent the United States at the International Chess Competition. Tia was the overall individual winner at the International Chess Competition last year. Costales took second place.

courtesy photo

Sgt. Rudy Tia is the 2001 Army Chess champion.

In addition to the main tournament, the participants played a speed chess tournament. Speed chess is a five-minute, sudden-death chess game played under the regular chess rules. Tournament organizers said itís about the only time you ever see a lot of fast action during a chess game. Kruml won the speed chess tournament.

Greta Anderson, the Community Recreation Center program manager at the Community and Family Support Center headquarters in Alexandria, Va., said that in addition to being important for the soldier, the Army chess program is important to the community.

ìItís one of those programs that can involve the whole family, from children who are involved in youth services, the teens, the young soldiers, retirees, and even DOD civilians,î she said. ìItís something that can bring the community together and itís a great partnership for other Morale, Welfare, and Recreation organizations.î

White gives state of the Army address

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) ó A Department of Defense legislative proposal for another round of military base closings will soon be forwarded to Congress and has the Army leadershipís full backing, Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White said Aug. 1.

Speaking to more than 300 Army officers, DoD officials and defense contractors at a meeting of the Association of the United States Armyís Institute of Land Warfare, White talked about what he believes is the current state of the Army and where it is heading in the future.

ì We (Department of Defense) will send to the Hill Friday a Most Efficient Facilities bill ó current excess is at least 20 percent,î White said. ìThis will be popular with nobody. We would rather be doing other things, but the battle must be fought.î

All the service secretaries agree base closures and consolidations are necessary given their current force structures and the need to use the savings such an action would produce elsewhere, White said.

Another thing the service secretaries agree on, White said, is that each must be allowed to align force structure and resources to support national strategy. Too often in the past decade, the force structure and resources havenít been there ó causing the Army to rely heavily on the Reserve and National Guard, take money from other accounts to pay for deployments and missions, and operate at a burdensome high operational tempo, the Army secretary continued.

ìOne third of the Army is currently either deployed or stationed (overseas),î he said. ìWhatever forces the (Quadrennial Defense Review) determines, we must align strategy, force structure and resources for reasonable OPTEMPO.î

One fiscal quandary robbing Peter to pay Paul has caused is a backlog of approximately $18 billion in base housing maintenance ó an issue that has adversely affected soldiersí and their familiesí quality of life, White explained. His answer ó seek more private industry partners to renovate existing housing, build new quarters and manage all on-post housing in return for soldiersí monthly quarters allowance. Within the past two years, the Army has already entered into contracts with industry to upgrade, expand and manage base housing at Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Lewis, Wash.; and Fort Meade, Md.

Next yearís Army budget is good news, White said. It goes a long way to help close the pay gap between the military and the private sector, and funds a TRICARE For Life initiative. The approved í02 and planned budgets for outlaying years also fully fund the Armyís research efforts toward its future Objective Force, he said. The secretary challenged attending defense contractors to ensure that the technology will be there when needed.

Talking about the Armyís Transformation, White said it is not only about more lethal, survivable and deployable weapons systems, but also the better use of information technology. One area of IT the Army has yet to take advantage of is increasing situational awareness of everyone in the organization and flattening the organizationís structure, he said.

ì War is ultimately about the control of land,î White said. ìWe cannot expect technology to be the silver bullet that answers all the questions, but it must be part of the answer. î

While the U.S. Army is the most dominant one in the world, White said, it is only the ninth largest and therefore everyone in the Army must support its Transformation efforts to maintain its qualitative edge. With 435,000 troops, the Army is the smallest it has been since 1940, he said

White promised he and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki would act quickly on the perception of junior officers that they are micromanaged by their seniors. That perception was one of several grievances found by the Army Leader and Training Development Panel survey of 13,000 officers and family members conducted last year. The results of the survey were released in May.

Around the Army

Ecstasy more dangerous than realized

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) - Although overall drug use is dropping in America, recent years have seen a surge in the popularity of the drug Ecstasy.

There is a ìwidespread growthî in Ecstasy use, according to the testimony before the Senate by Donnie R. Marshall, an administrator for the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

Since 1995, the number of high school seniors who have tried Ecstasy has doubled to one in 10. Between 1998 and 1999 the number of emergency room admissions involving Ecstasy increased 150 percent.

In 2000, the DEA seized over 3 million tablets - three times as many as the previous year. The arrest of several military policemen from Fort Bragg, N.C., for both possession and use of the drug has once again shown that the Army is not immune to trends in American pop culture.

Ecstasy is touted by its proponents as a harmless nirvana. The drug, which is usually put in bottled water or pacifiers to prevent against grinding teeth and heat injury, is mistakenly thought to be as benign as the drinks served from behind the bar, or so the story goes.

In actuality, Ecstasy poses the risk of long-term brain damage, severe mood swings, substantial fines, and incarceration.

Ecstasy causes the brain to release large amounts of serotonin. This chemical causes feelings of euphoria and gives the individual a blissful sensation.

Normally, serotonin is released and reabsorbed in a regular cycle by the brain. However, when the serotonin reservoirs are depleted by Ecstasy, adverse side effects occur.

The most immediate effect is that body temperature rises rapidly. Serotonin is an important part of the bodyís temperature regulation system. Once thrown out of balance, it loses its effectiveness.

To counteract this risk, Ecstasy users often dress in baggy clothes and consume large quantities of water. However, on a hot, crowded dance floor Ecstasy poses an additional risk: elevated body temperatures also increase the chance of permanent brain damage.

After the serotonin reserves are depleted users are often irritable, impulsive and depressed because the brain can no longer ìaffordî good moods. This short-term effect usually clears up in a couple of days, but in the process permanent long-term damage can occur.

In a study performed by researchers George Ricaurte, Una McCann, and George Hatzidimitriou at Johns Hopkins University, monkeys given Ecstasy for four days in doses comparable to those consumed by recreational users still had brain damage seven years later.

The neurons that are permanently injured are responsible for memory and critical reasoning. Studies by researchers at Johns Hopkins Medical Center have demonstrated that long-term users of Ecstasy score significantly lower on tests of verbal and visual memory. Others have shown that even short-term users are at risk, although this is hotly disputed.

According to Cindy Miner of the National Institute

on Drug Abuse, ìIt is likely that as you take more, you get the build up effect so either really high doses or small ones taken over time will cause ìbrainî damage.î

However for people who have used the drug less than 10 times, ìthis research is really hard to do because it is impossible to gauge the dosages the users have taken. A lot of drugs in the clubs are diluted or may have other substances that cause damage, like LSD, in them.î

In 1985, Ecstasy was reclassified by the DEA as a Schedule I controlled substance, meaning that the government has determined that it has no legitimate medical uses.

Thus, Ecstasy falls under the purview of Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Being caught in possession of any amount of Ecstasy could carry a sentence of up to five years in jail, dishonorable discharge, and forfeiture of pay and allowances.

photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy T. Lock, U.S. Air Force

Look out below!

Soldiers of the Armyís 82nd Airborne Division jump from an Air Force C-17 Globemaster III over Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., on Aug. 9. Three hundred soldiers from Fort Bragg, N.C., participated in the training jump.

Around Town

Visiting the Washington Capitol Building

COMPILED BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

The view from the front of the U.S. Capitol Building, which was built in 1793. Each year, about 5 million people visit the Capitol.

Instead of heading to downtown Washington D.C. and just ìlooking at all the pretty buildings,î sometimes it is nice to know a little about the history of your nearby surroundings.

The U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., is among the most architecturally impressive and symbolically important buildings in the world. It has housed the meeting chambers of the Senate and the House of Representatives for almost two centuries. Begun in 1793, the Capitol has been built, burnt, rebuilt, extended, and restored; today, it stands as a monument not only to its builders but also to the American people and their government.

As the focal point of the governmentís Legislative Branch, the Capitol is the centerpiece of the Capitol Complex, which includes the six principal Congressional office buildings and three Library of Congress buildings constructed on Capitol Hill in the 19th and 20th centuries.

In addition to its active use by Congress, the Capitol is a museum of American art and history. Each year, it is visited by an estimated 3-5 million people from around the world.

A fine example of 19th-century neoclassical architecture, the Capitol combines function with aesthetics. Its designs derived from ancient Greece and Rome evoke the ideals that guided the nationís founders as they framed their new republic. As the building was expanded from its original design, harmony with the existing portions was carefully maintained.

Today, the Capitol covers a ground area of 175,170 square feet, or about 4 acres, and has a floor area of approximately 16-1/2 acres. Its length, from north to south, is 751 feet 4 inches; its greatest width, including approaches, is 350 feet. Its height above the base line on the east front to the top of the Statue of Freedom is 288 feet; from the basement floor to the top of the dome is an ascent of 365 steps. The building contains approximately 540 rooms and has 658 windows (108 in the dome alone) and approximately 850 doorways.

The building is divided into five levels. The first, or ground, floor is occupied chiefly by committee rooms and the spaces allocated to various congressional officers. The areas accessible to visitors on this level include the Hall of Columns, the Brumidi Corridors, the restored Old Supreme Court Chamber, and the Crypt beneath the Rotunda, where historical exhibits are presented.

The second floor holds the Chambers of the House of Representatives (in the south wing) and the Senate (in the north wing) as well as the offices of the congressional leadership.

These are the floors you will see during a standard tour of the building. Make sure to notice the artwork and statues throughout the Capitol. Those works of art alone make the trip worth it.

This is the view from the balcony of the Capitol Building.

Beautiful artwork can be seen throughout the inside of the Capitol Building.

Safety Brief

BY PATTI SHELLEY
SAFETY OFFICER

A heat advisory was sent out to all members of the 704th MI Brigade earlier this month.

It addressed the impact of the extreme temperature increases combined with even higher humidity temperatures. It alerted us to the dangers of the heat.

The following is a brief synopsis of the alert... the body normally cools itself by sweating, but under some conditions, sweating is not enough. In such cases, a personís body temperature rises rapidly. Very high body temperatures may damage the brain or other vital organs. To prevent heat related injuries....

Letís pause for a moment to identify the various types of heat injuries. There are three primary injuries: heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Each injuries can be identified by the bodyís reaction to the heat. Here are some of the keys signs:

Heat Cramps: Excessive salt loss, painful cramps of muscles such as legs, arms, or stomach.

Heat Exhaustion: Excessive salt and water loss, skin is cool and moist, pulse is rapid or blood pressure may be low, profuse sweating, headaches, tingling in hands and feet, lack of coordination, trembling/weakness, loss of appetite, nausea or vomiting.

Heat Stroke: MEDICAL EMERGENCY, early signs are those of heat cramps and heat exhaustion, skin is usually hot and dry, sweating may or may not be present, sudden collapse and loss of consciousness followed by coma and convulsions may also occur.

If you witness a soldier experiencing heat cramps or heat exhaustion, you should execute these first aid steps:

Move soldier to shady area (Loosen clothes, if possible), slowly give large amounts of cool water, pour water on soldier and fan, elevate legs for exhaustion, watch the soldier, get medical help if symptoms continue.

For Heat Stroke: Lower soldierís body temperature ASAP, elevate the legs, have soldier drink water, GET MEDICAL HELP.

It is also important to know the steps of prevention for the injuries. Hydration, physical condition, and proper clothing can prevent these injuries.

To maintain proper hydration, soldiers should replace water loss by drinking small amounts of water frequently, regardless of thirst. Work area should have an adequate water supply at all times. The work area should also establish a good work/rest schedule conducive to the climate. Soldiers should avoid alcohol and drugs use during high temperature to decrease the chances of dehydration and heat injuries.

All soldiers are individually responsible for maintaining good physical condition. This helps alleviate other predisposing factors i.e., being overweight and/or fatigued. Other factors which may impact a soldierís physical condition are heavy meals, alcohol/drugs, fevers, or other illnesses.

Proper clothing is important during high temperatures. Soldiers should wear loose fitting clothing and the least amount whenever possible. Proper clothing can protect soldiers from heat injuries; however, improper clothing can result in a heat injury.

Civilianís Corner

BY SAM JONES
BRIGADE SENIOR CIVILIAN

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Department of the Army affords the opportunity each year for commands to nominate their high potential civilian personnel for senior service college programs as follows:

a. National War College (NWC) - (GS-14/15) (1 space).

b. Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) - (GS-14/15) (9 spaces ñ 7 of the 9 must be filled by senior acquisition professionals).

c. Army War College (AWC) Resident - (GS-14/15, and high potential GS-13s) (10 spaces).

d. Army War College ñ Distance Education (AWC-DE) ñ (GS-14/15 and high potential GS-13s) (2 spaces).

The senior service college programs are excellent develop- mental opportunities for eligible civilians and those who aspire to the Senior Executive Service positions. Participation in these programs is essential to the professional growth and development of the select group of civilians who have demonstrated potential to assume command leadership positions in the near future. INSCOM Commanders and HQ INSCOM Staff Heads should nominate their qualified high potential civilians for these programs.

LTT training opportunities are limited; however, commanders and HQ INSCOM Staff Element Heads are responsible for ensuring that all eligible employees are encouraged to participate in these programs. Eligible minorities, women, and persons with disabilities should be among those actively considered as nominees for the senior service college programs.

As part of the application process, Army requires applicants of the resident programs (NWC, ICAF, and AWC) to sign a mobility agreement allowing for operational assignment to a position that fully utilizes the competencies acquired. Mobility may be functional, geographical or organizational. ASA (M&RA), in conjunction with career program functional chiefs and commanders, will identify positions in CONUS and OCONUS which require skills and knowledges acquired at a senior service college and will facilitate assignment of graduates to such positions. The determination of the final placement of each graduate will be a joint decision of HQDA and the parent MACOM. Civilian employees selected for long-term government training in excess of 120 calendar days must complete an Agreement to Continue in Service (LTT).

Interested applicants (and their supervisors) should access Chapter 2 in the current ACTEDS Catalog at http://www.cpol.army.mil (click 2002 ACTEDS Catalog, then Chapter 2) for all requirements for applicants and supervisors, description of the course and determination of eligibility. Fill out forms on-line, submitting all completed forms and information required by the on-line Checklist. The applicant will be certifying that the package is complete. Incomplete applications with omissions of forms or information will be returned to the applicant without action. Nominations (original and two copies) are to be submitted to HQ INSCOM, ATTN: IAPE-CP/Jean Navarro. Nominations of MICECP employees should be submitted to the MICECP Division, Army Field Support Center, Fort Meade, MD 20755-5905, for processing far enough in advance to meet the HQ INSCOM suspense.

LEAD COURSES

The following are dates for upcoming Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) Courses to be held between now until the end of FY02 at APG, MD:

22-26 Oct 01
26-30 Nov 01
28 Jan - 2 Feb 02
29 Apr - 3 May 02
29 Jul - 2 Aug 02
23-27 Sep 01

If you are a supervisor and require this course, please let your supervisor know right away. These classes fill up fast and they are required for all supervisors of civilian personnel.

LEAD is taught by certified LEAD instructors who have successfully completed the LEAD Train-The-Trainer course taught by the Center for Army Leadership, Civilian Leadership Training Division, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. The LEAD Course constitutes Phase II of supervisory training and is MANDATORY (Priority I) for new military and civilian supervisors of civilian employees within six months after appointment to first time supervisory positions. Spaces in the LEAD Course are also available to members who have served in supervisory positions for some time, team leaders, and members who are not supervisors, but have demonstrated high potential leadership abilities in their performance and career development. Phase I, the Supervisory Development Course (correspondence or via the web) is only a requirement for brand new supervisors to take who have come on board as a ìnew supervisorî since April 1992. If a new supervisor who is taking the Phase II LEAD Course (classroom training) has not completed Phase I prior to taking Phase II, this is okay. We realize that it is hard sometimes to complete the training prior to attending the LEAD Course. I do recommend, however, that the new supervisors complete the Phase I, Supervisory Development Course within the 1 year time period of the new supervisory position. Phase I is not a requirement for other attendees to take (i.e. team leaders, experienced supervisors, and those folks who show potential leadership qualities).

The LEAD Course is not a traditional course of lectures, films, and note taking. It revolves around the participantís individual and group participation and interaction, resulting in leadership skill development and practice through the 40-hour program. LEAD teaches class participants to assess their own effectiveness; assess employee and team effectiveness; motivate and influence employees; communicate effectively; conduct counseling; resolve conflicts; develop strategies to create fully functioning teams; make effective decision making; and explain the effect of values on individual and team effectiveness. Attendance at all modules is manditory.

For more information on the these great educational opportunities, contact your program manager today.

Kids get their moment in the sun too

Seven-year-old Mark Millich was one of the many children who took advantage of the Slip-n-slide during the hot summer day Aug. 3.

photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

McGruff the Crime Dog and a friend greet children and passes out treats during INSCOM OíDay.

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

The Intelligence and Security Command Organizational Day festivities Aug. 3 werenít limited to just grown-ups.

There was a little bit of everything for the children in attendance. Children could be seen listening and dancing to the live band that played throughout the day. A line just off to the side of that tent was filled with kids waiting their turn to take their best shot at a pinata. Next to that line was the line for the Moonbounce, where half a dozen children at a time could be seen bouncing around in the imflatable playhouse. On this hot summer day, one of the most popular attractions was the Slip-n-slide. With a little sprint and a face-first slide, children could take a break from the scorching sun.

No matter which area the children chose to go, one thing was evident - all of them wore smiles on their faces.

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