The Voice

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photo by Spc. Brian Murphy

Lt. Col. Robert Mitrocsak, acting inspecting general, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade talks with a soldier.

IG: The fair, impartial fact-finder

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

There are times when everyone feels like theyíre in a ìno-win situation.î For those soldiers who feel they are stuck between the proverbial rock and a hard place, there is help. That help comes in the form of the Inspector General.

ìThe IG is an extension of the eyes, ears and the conscience of the unit commander,î said Lt. Col. Robert Mitrocsak, acting inspector general, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade. ìSpecifically, the IG will inquire into and report on the state of discipline, efficiency, economy, morale, training and readiness.î

The IG office is available to any soldier or civilian in the 704th MI Brigade, but Mitrocsak asks that those individuals coming to IG use the proper steps.

ìBefore coming to the IG, naturally the soldier should use the proper institutions, offices, support and most importantly, the chain of command,î Mitrocsak said. ìTypically, many of the topics soldiers come to the IG for are issues that have been exhausted at those other levels and perhaps have some frustration from it not being resolved.

ìMany times, soldiers are caught in a ëCatch 22,í between contradictory opinions or misunderstandings,î he said.

IG is a fair and impartial fact-finder. That simple, and yet, accurate phrase breaks down what the IG can do for local soldiers or civilians.

ìIG was established to do just that ñ find the facts,î Mitrocsak said. ìOnce we research the facts, then we try to get to the source of the problem.î

Another former acting inspecting general agrees with Mitrocsakís assessment.

ì Weíre totally separate,î said Lt. Col. John Cullison, former IG and acting deputy commander, 704th MI Brigade. ìThe IG is not part of the chain of command. Weíre not involved with the day-to-day operations of the unit. In most instances, when a soldier came to see me, I didnít know who they were or their background until I spoke with them. We donít have any pre-conceived notions or pre-set agendas.î

If nothing else, IG should be viewed as another option for soldiers or civilians in need of help. The most important aspect of speaking with the IG, according to Mitrocsak, is that all conversations are kept confidential.

Mitrocsak and other inspector generals use what is called Inspector Generalsí Action Request system when dealing with soldiersí and civiliansí problems.

ìThe IG is one of the first lines of contact for soldiers or civilians with problems,î Mitrocsak said. ìI also take routine requests for assistance, advice or information.

ìBut my primary duties are to receive and process complaints of personal or administrative nature and conduct limited inquiries to address complaints such as pay problems, loss of household goods or delay in permanent change of station orders,î he said.

For additional information, contact Mitrocsak at (301) 688-5146.

742nd career counselor says farewell

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS WILLENE ORR
Brigade Reenlistment

The 704th Military Intelligence Brigade recently bid farewell to Staff Sgt. Cynthia Kling, 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion career counselor. Staff Sgt. Kling arrived to the brigade in Dec. 2000 after graduating from the career counselor basic course. One of her first comments were, ìThere is only one way we can go and that is up.î No doubt, she held true to her words. Kling brought a renewed since of purpose and a positive energy to the battalion, and has been a great asset to 742nd MI Battalion for the past 12 months. She met the demanding challenge of re-establishing the Battalion Retention Program by revamping it through candor and vigilance. Prior to Klingís arrival, the battalion had been without a career counselor for 4 months.

While serving as the battalion career counselor, Kling raised the standard and excelled in all aspects of retention. Her can do attitude resulted in the command attaining 180 percent Initial Termers for fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2001. She provided genuine professional and personal counseling to soldiers regardless of reenlistment intent, insuring the entire family is included in the decision making process.

A true leader, Kling organized unique locations and opportunities for soldiers to reenlist at momentous sites such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Nationís Capitol and Arlington National Cemetery to name a few. Kling conducted very informative briefings throughout the battalion to include Officer Professional Development, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development, Commanderís Calls and NC Calls. Without question, Kling performed exceptionally well and ensured high priority missions were accomplished immediately. She also appeared before the 704th MI Brigade Career Counselor of the Year Board. She impressed the board members quite admirably with her tenacity and resilience. In short, Klingís work ethics enabled the brigade career counselor to focus on one of the brigadeís primary missions ñ ìSustain and Maintain the Force!î

Kling departed this command last month. Currently, she is assigned to the 902nd Military Intelligence Group located here, under the leadership of Col. Ginger T. Pratt and Command Sgt. Maj. Johnnie R. Neill. We extend our best wishes to Kling and trust she will continue to excel in her future endeavors. She will be missed.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Collins now serves as the battalion career counselor. Please give him a warm and hearty 704th MI Brigade Welcome!

For more information on retention please contact me or your battalion career counselors listed below:

704th MI Brigade -
Sgt. 1st Class Orr (301) 677-0164
741st MI Battalion -
Staff Sgt. Ingle (310) 677-0157
742nd MI Battalion -
Staff Sgt. Collins (301) 677-0117
743rd MI Battalion -
Staff Sgt. Pringle (303) 677-5048

courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Cynthia Kling left the 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion in January. Prior to her departure, Kling served as the battalionís career counselor.

The Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers program is currently putting together a BOSS trip tentatively scheduled for April to Walt Disney World, in Florida as part of Disneyís Armed Forces Salute.

Contact Spc. Michael Caves at (301) 677-0745 for details.

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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.

Single-parent soldiers truly ëArmy of oneí

BY DENVER BEAULIEU-HAINS
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Being a sole parent in the military is many things: demanding, difficult, challenging; it is not impossible.

For three years as a single mother, I woke up at 4 a.m. to prepare for physical training, and readied my three girls for the 5:45 a.m. drop-off for before-school care.

I depended on a long list of childcare providers, friends and family to ensure my children were constantly supervised during deployments and field exercises. Most people will not admit their prejudices against mothers in the military, women in the workforce, and sole parents, in general. Some believe single parenthood is a low-class, uneducated, never-been-married, desperate womanís problem.

My spouse and I were college-educated and were married for more than 10 years, and we were committed to our military professions.

All the positives werenít enough to keep the marriage together.

Army statistics for 2000 show there are about 36,000 soldiers who are sole parents. Of the women in the Army, 6.8 percent are single parents. About 3.1 percent of the men in the Army are single soldiers who have custodial responsibility for children, according to statistics from the Defense Manpower Data Center.

Because of shrinking budgets and less personnel, we all do more with less, making outdated ideas that alienate soldiers ó enlisted and commissioned ó unpractical.

As a soldier, I strove to keep obstacles involving my children. I never wanted to be perceived as using my children to get out of 24-hour duty or weekend assignments. Most of my friends were also sole parents, and we acted as another support network.

Putting all the stereotypes behind us, what all soldiers need is unbiased support and guidance through the militaryís many programs and services, like those provided by Army Community Services, childcare co-ops, single-parent support groups and parenting classes.

Every soldier and soldierís family can serve as a vital member of a support system linking sole parents and their children to an array of alternate fathers, mothers, cultures and experiences that are not only a support system, but also a source of enrichment.

Today, I am an Army civilian. Nothing has changed. It was hard then and it is hard now. Now my employment hinges on a mobility agreement and five months of training, during two months of which I completed a resident course at Fort Meade and couldnít bring my family.

My 12-hour days at the 25th Infantry Division in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, were just the beginning of what was to be the rest of my life.

When I accepted the job, I received feedback that I should find a career that requires less obligation, because I am a mother first.

Iíve learned that if I could be a sole parent and make it in the military, then I can do anything. Iíve learned to think ahead and plan for the worst, and I feel that my children have benefited from being surrounded by other hard-working soldiers. My girls have learned the value of independence and self-sufficiency.

It is not an easy road to travel, but it is possible using the ìone Army, one team and one missionî theory with soldiers taking care of soldiers.

Recruiting picture murky in post Sept. 11 world

BY JIM GARAMONE
ARMED FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON - Recruiters said it is too early to gauge whether the events of Sept. 11 will translate into more young Americans wanting to join the military.

In the days and weeks following the attacks in New York and the Pentagon, people calling toll-free recruiting numbers or entering recruiting Web sites went up dramatically, said recruiters in all services.

ìThe number of people calling our toll-free number increased and the hits on our Web site spiked,î said Lt. Ingrid Mueller, a Navy Recruiting Command spokeswoman.

ìSince then, the numbers have leveled out, but at a higher level than previously. î

But many of the calls are from veterans asking how to get back in, or older Americans asking for information or from Americans just wanting to tell the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard that they are proud of them.

ì We love these calls,î Mueller said, ìbut the calls are not coming from that group of young men and women we need in the military. î

But, these calls indicate a change in the way Americans regard the military, and this may indicate a different recruiting environment in the months and years to come.

One aspect of recruiting during the war on terrorism, for instance, is the very nature of the conflict works against a sudden surge of enlistments.

The war on terrorism is not World War II. In December 1941, men swamped recruiting stations around the United States to enlist. The crush was so great that many recruiting stations had to tell the men to go home and wait for their draft notices - the military had no way to absorb, process and train so many enlistees. The war the United States entered following the attack on Pearl Harbor needed mass armies, navies and air forces. The U.S. military grew from around 1.5 million in the beginning of 1942 to more than 10 million by September 1945.

The active duty U.S. military before Sept. 11 was about 1.4 million; the military end strength in September 2002 will be about 1.4 million. In other words, there will be no change in the size of the force. Add to this the fact that people enlisting on any given day may not have to leave home for up to a year.

> ì Patriotism is a motivator in getting people into the military. So is training, and so is college money, and so is improving your situation. The military has to continue to offer these benefits.î
>
> *- Lt. Ingrid Mueller*
> *Navy recruiting command*

Department of Defense (DoD) officials point out that the U.S. military is already the best, most potent military force in the world. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has said the U.S. military does not need more people at this time. But while the number of people in the military will remain constant, he says, how they are configured will change.

Given this situation, enlisting in the military is still an option, but not a mass outlet for Americans who wish to help in the war on terror. Recruiters are not going to find recruiting for the military to be easy, although Sept. 11 may make the atmosphere for recruiting easier.

ìThe thinking in many places is that having the American people think highly of the military will be good for recruiting,î said Air Force Capt. Gwen Rutherford, a recruiting specialist in DoDís personnel and readiness office.

She said that following Sept. 11 and subsequent actions in Afghanistan, many Americans see the military as ìnoble people doing great things.î

Americans who grew up after the draft ended in 1973 are less likely to know anything about the military firsthand, Rutherford said. ìItís not so much that they were opposed to the military, they just didnít know anything about it,î she said.

It is possible these Americans are more apt now to recommend the military because of its reputation in the days that have followed Sept. 11. Again, Rutherford pointed out, interest has not translated in signed contracts.

ìThereís nothing concrete,î she said. ìThe data is not there yet.î

But anecdotally, recruiters are meeting people they have not in the past. Marine Sgt. James Covington, a Marine Corps Recruiting Command spokesman in Quantico, Va., said young men and women who ordinarily go straight into college are speaking with recruiters. ìThis does not mean they are signing up, but they are showing interest,î he said.

Rutherford said her research agrees with this anecdotal evidence. ìOur data show that more people have thought about military service,î she said.

ìItís still a very challenging recruiting environment,î Staff Sgt. John Asselin, an Air Force Recruiting Service spokesman. ìWeíre still competing with Fortune 500 companies for the best people.î

Asselin said recruiters still have to dig for qualified young men and women. He said the service continues to make its goals, but the life of the recruiters continues to be challenging. ìThis is not going to change any time in the near future,î he said.

All services reported an increase in ìwalk insî at their stations following Sept. 11. Army recruiters noticed an increase in young men wanting to become Ranger or Special Forces soldiers. In fact, the Army introduced a test program to recruit nonprior service recruits into the Green Berets. About 400 of these enlistees will go through 80 weeks of training. This program was in the works before Sept. 11, said Army officials.

President George W. Bush has said Americans are coming together following Sept. 11. They are.

The increased interest in the military is just one example of the phenomenon.

ìPatriotism is a motivator in getting people into the military,î said the Navyís Mueller. ìBut so is training, and so is college money, and so is improving your situation. The military has to continue to offer these benefits.î

photo by Senior Airman Will Hoy

Why become a warrant officer?

BY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER
STAN WILLIAMS
743rd Military Intelligence Battalion

Those of you looking for increased responsibility, job satisfaction, pay, and benefits please read on, all others please return to your blissful state.

Becoming a warrant officer provides all of the above and much more. Choosing this career path offers many rewards, benefits, and challenges but it is not for everybody. All I ask is that you consider it when planning you career path, for it is an excellent opportunity for those who accept the challenge.

Some of you may ask, ìWhat is a warrant officer?î Army Regulation 611-12 describes a warrant officer as: An officer appointed by warrant by the secretary of the Army based on a sound level of technical and tactical competency. The warrant officer is a highly specialized expert and trainer who, by gaining increasing levels of expertise and leadership, operates, maintains, administers and manages the Armyís equipment, support activities, or technical systems for an entire career. Translated, that means a warrant officer is a specialist in a particular area who provides advice, guidance, and training to all levels of the unit.

One of the first areas we look at when making any career path decisions is our potential for promotion. When comparing promotion rates between non-commissioned officers and warrants, I believe the rate for warrants is much better. Recent USAREC statistics (published last year) show the promotion rate to sergeant first class was 30.50 percent, master sergeant was 15.50 percent, and sergeant major was 24.7 percent. Warrant officer rates for the same year were: 67.0 percent to chief warrant officer 3, 64.6 percent to chief warrant officer 4, and 49.2 percent to chief warrant officer 5. The selection rate for chief warrant officer 2 was 95 percent but that is a local promotion and does not go before a board.

Another significant consideration is the length of time it takes to get to promoted. Once you have been selected for the warrant officer program, you are normally promoted to warrant officer 1 in about five to seven months and two years later you are promoted to chief warrant officer 2. From here on you, every four (minimum) to six (maximum) short years you will be eligible for promotion to the next higher grade until reaching chief warrant officer 5, which is the highest rank a warrant can obtain (and by this time, you will be too old and tired to want another promotion.)

Perhaps the single most important consideration (at least for some) when considering career paths is earnings potential. The Army wants to target NCOs with five to eight years time in service for selection to warrant officer. Using the Jan. 2002 pay chart and comparing a staff sergeant to warrant officer 1, the warrant officer 1 pay looks pretty good. That staff sergeantís base pay would be $2254.50 and the warrant officer 1 would make $2624.70. That is a difference of $370.20 per month and increases again two years later when the soldier is promoted. That chief warrant officer 2 at 10 years is now making $647.10 (base pay) more per month than that E-6 at ten years. If that same staff sergeant is a fast burner and is selected for E-7, the pay difference is still $339.30 less than the chief warrant officer 3. Over the length of a normal career, these differences add up and continue to add up after retirement.

As I mentioned in the beginning, these are not the only advantages of becoming a warrant officer offers. Warrants normally perform their core duties and responsibilities more often and for a longer period than do NCOs. Warrant officers are a small elite corps that is highly respected.

If becoming a warrant officer appeals to you and you want more details, approach a warrant officer and let them know you are interested in joining their ranks. They can provide you with the necessary information to get the process started. The earlier in your career you establish your goals, the better the chance of you reaching them. One of the first NCOs to take me under his wing gave me some excellent advice that everybody can live by. No matter what your rank is, you should be working to obtain the rank two grades higher.

photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Faulisi

The *exceptional* family member program

BY CARESSA BOLDEN
The SoundOFF!

For service members with the respon sibility of a family, the militaryís of ten transient lifestyle can prove challenging. But, add to the equation responsibility for a family member with a disability, and it could impact the soldier in ways that some people cannot imagine.

The Armyís Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), a mandatory enrollment program since 1986 that is based on public law and Department of Defense (DoD) mandates, assists military families that have family members with special needs.

An exceptional family member is a child or adult family member with any physical, emotional, developmental or intellectual disorder that requires special treatment, therapy, education, training or counseling. A special need can range from a medical condition to a learning disability.

In conjunction with other military and civilian agencies, the EFMP provides comprehensive and coordinated community support, educational, housing, personnel and medical services to military family members with special needs.

The program requires active duty Army personnel, U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) soldiers in the USAR-Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program; other USAR soldiers on active duty exceeding 30 days and Army National Guard members serving under Title 10 of the United States Code to enroll. However, some soldiers are hesitant to enroll in the program fearing enrollment will negatively impact their promotions, school selections or travel availability.

Nevertheless, if the service member does not institute enrollment through the local EFMP manager, enrollment can be facilitated through a referral from the school system or a medical screening, such as during a well-baby check, performed by a physician or community health nurse.

ìA referral often depends on who did the screening and how the special need came about,î said Jennifer Hensley, EFMP program manager here.

ì With a youngster, some parents notice something, and they go to a physician or an early intervention service such as Child Find in Anne Arundel County. Or, a child is in school and the teacher notices something.î

Hensley said the EFMP program here functions in two parts. On the medical side of the house, the community health nurse completes the enrollment documents and handles any updates or changes in a diagnosis.

The paperwork is checked to ensure that a physician sees the individual, and the documentation is forwarded to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where the person is given a diagnostic code, based on the family memberís disability. The records generally are updated every three years.

On the EFMP side of the house, the EFMP manager handles anything dealing with resources, referrals or support services.

Hensley said that although the goal of the program is to get help for people, there is a stigma that exists among service members that participation in the program will affect their military careers.

ìThe program was started so that military family members will receive the services they need wherever they go,î Hensley said.

> ì You think no one is in the same position that you are, and you feel alone. But, the EFMP is there with a Rolodex of resources to help.î
>
> *- Cheryl McGee, who has actively participated in the EFMP here since 1997*

ìFor example, if a family member has severe asthma or needs a neurosurgeon, the sponsor has orders to Germany, and there is no medical treatment facility that can accommodate the individualsí needs, U.S. Total Army Personnel Command (PERSCOM) does not want to send them to Germany. î

Hensley said that when a military member who has dependents receives overseas orders, family members are required to complete an overseas screening through the community health nurse. At that point, family members present the physician with a form that screens for any special needs.

Hensley said enrollment enables assignment managers at Army personnel agencies to consider the medical and special education needs of exceptional family members during the assignment process. And, when possible, service members can be assigned to areas that can accommodate the special needs of the family member.

More than 1,000 families are enrolled in the EFMP here. Through the programís information and referrals services, families can locate such resources as the Parentsí Place of Maryland, Child Find, the Kidsí Circle, respite care and the Maryland Disability Law Center. The EFMP manager functions as a special needs advocate and also provides assistance with Supplemental Security Income documentation and Tricare information.

Additionally, EFMP sponsored support groups and recreational activities provide a forum for families with like situations and concerns to meet and share their experiences.

Cheryl McGee and her family participated in the EFMPís annual holiday party Dec. 13. Families and their special needs family members gathered at Burba Lake Cottage here to enjoy holiday fun, food and crafts, including a visit from Santa Claus.

McGee, whose family has three special needs children, said the family has actively participated in the EFMP here since 1997. McGeeís son, Adam, 7, is autistic. Eric, 5, and Clint, 4, both require speech assistance. However, McGee refers to her oldest child, Heather, 8, as plain, because she has no special need.

ìMany people donít understand what the EFMP is,î McGee said. ìThey donít understand that any information they provide is kept confidential and only used to meet their needs.

photos by Kurt Fattic

Shanice Daugherty, 5 gives Santa a hug after he arrived at the Exceptional Family Member Programís (EFMP) holiday party at Burba Lake Cottage.

ìItís (EFMP) not just for the special needs family members, itís for the whole family. Whatever the concern is, they are there to help,î said McGee.

ì You think no one is in the same position that you are, and you feel alone. But, the EFMP is there with a Rolodex of resources to help,î she added.

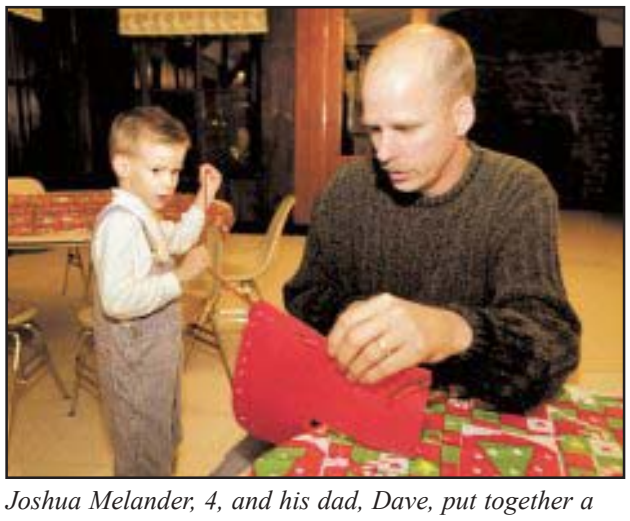
Additionally, McGee said that stress relief has been one of the most helpful, added benefits she receives from attending the programís meetings and activities.

Government statistics show that approximately 54 million Americans have some degree of disability. And, 70 percent of the disabilities occur after birth.

This could mean that more people have disabilities than is commonly realized, particularly since many disabilities are hidden, such as arthritis, diabetes, minimal hearing, vision, mental or mobility impairments.

The EFMP provides the advocacy, information and assistance to enable service members with special needs family members to make choices that benefit them, their families and the Army.

EFMP upcoming events include a Valentineís Day party in February, Lunch and Learn Workshops in April and monthly Parent Support Group meetings the second Tuesday of each month, 6 to 8 p.m. at Army Community Services, 4217 Roberts Ave. Events, dates and times will be announced in Soundoff! For more information on the EFMP program, call 677-5590.



Joshua Melander, 4, and his dad, Dave, put together a Christmas stocking during the Exceptional Family Member Programís (EFMP) Christmas party.

Edward Tyre, 3, tells Santa what he wants for Christmas during the EFMPís seasonal party here.

courtesy photos

The Bataan Death March team poses with the 743rd Military Intelligence Battalionís guidon at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

743rd: not your average battalion

COMPILED BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

The 743rd Military Intelligence Battalionís mission is to support continuous signals and technically derived intelligence operations to satisfy National, Joint, Combined and Army information superiority requirements. The daily operations of the 743rd MI Battalion are classified in nature and cannot be discussed openly, but at the unclassified level, the 743rd MI Battalion supports non-conventional signal intelligence operations and leverages national systems to support warfighters and national command authorities from the most technologically advanced joint and combined sites in the world.

ì We are a strategic-intelligence battalion,î said Maj. David May, executive officer, 743rd MI Battalion. ìWe use different collection methods than the other battalions to gather our information.î

Whatever the unit is doing, it is working. Within the last 18 months, the 743rd MI Battalion earned two national intelligence meritorious unit citations from the director of central intelligence. The battalion also earned the Travis Trophy, awarded by the director of the National Security Agency.

The 743rd MI Battalion was also the recipient of the Intelligence and Security Command commanderís plaque for operational acheivement. Not to mention, INSCOMís career counselor of the year is Staff Sgt. Shelley Pringle, from the 743rd MI Battalion.

ì We routinely conduct real-world missions,î May said. ìSince Sept. 11th, weíve provided intelligence to Operation Enduring Freedom, as well as many other theaters during the same time.

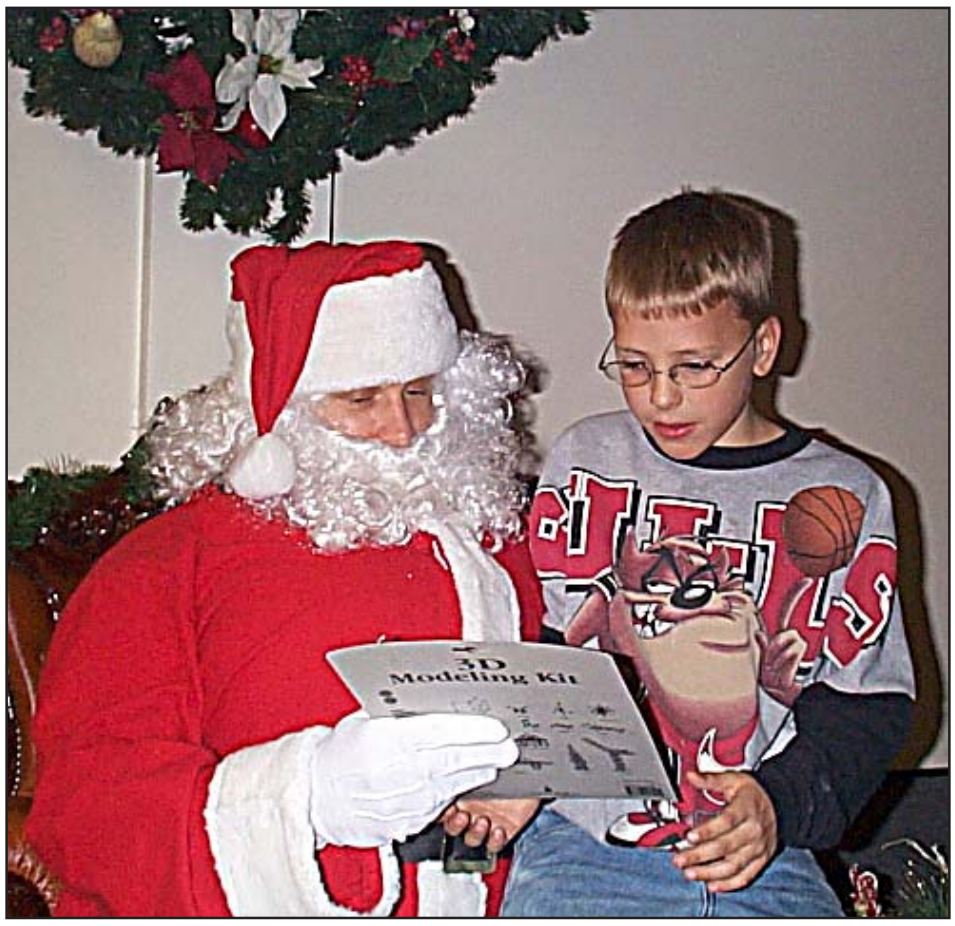
ìOur goal is to be the foremost strategic intelligence battalion. Period,î May said. ìWe donít want to knock any other battalions, but that is the goal we set for ourselves.î

The 743rd MI Battalion is also the 704th MI Brigadeís executive agent for the National Tactical Partnership Program (NTP2). As the executive agent, the 743rd MI Battalion executes NPT2 three ways: Field Assistance Visits, an Annual Warfighter Seminar, and formal briefings to certain courses at the United States Army Intelligence Center and School (USAICS). The goals of the program are to enhance Army requirements under the National Signal Intelligence Requirements system by leveraging subject matter experts within the national system and to educate the warfighter (focusing at Corps level).

Much like at Fort Meade, day-to-day security has tightened since Sept. 11 for the servicemembers stationed at Buckley Air Force Base.

Field Assistance Visits (FAV): Several times each year the battalion sends out a select team of experts to educate warfighting commands at the Corps level on how to better leverage national systems to improve their overall intelligence capability. Functions for the team visits are tailored for individual consumers and generally consist of education on current operational systems, requirements review and updating, discussions on the correct process to vet requirements, future and R&D systems, and working groups to teach tools such as national systems web pages.

743rd MI Battalion soldiers move tactically during a training exercise last summer.



Santa talks with a local child during the 743rd MI Battalion Christmas party.

Soldiers from the 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion evaluate a casualty during Condor Crest, a three-day force protection exercise conducted quarterly.

Around the Army

ëBlack Hawk Downí reflects Army values

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) ó The values of valor and self-sacrifice demonstrated by actors playing Delta Force troopers and Army rangers in ìBlack Hawk Downî are the same values being shown by soldiers around the world today, Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White said.

White made those remarks at a special screening of the movie for military uniformed and civilian leaders in downtown Washington, D.C., Jan. 15.

ìBlack Hawk Down,î based upon a book with the same name by Mark Bowden, dramatizes a military operation that went wrong in Mogadishu, Somalia in 1993 and resulted in the deaths of 18 U.S. servicemen and more than 500 Somalis. It opens in theaters Jan. 18.

ìWho would have believed a year after the script was approved for production that this country would be at war,î White said. ìThe movie has a tagline, ëLeave no man behind,í which is extremely important today. That tagline could easily be used by the Army because it reflects the values of valor and self-sacrifice that we have been seeing in our soldiers these past four months as we combat terrorists and terrorism. In fact, those values have been an integral part of the Army during the entire 226 years of its existence.î

Producer and director Ridley Scott told screening attendees that he and co-producer Jerry Bruckheimer decided to make the movie to set the record straight. He said there was an apparent public misperception that the military messed up in Somalia, when in fact it was heroic in a very unstable part of the world. ìWe thought those soldiers should be remembered for their courage,î he said.

Actor William Fichtner, who played Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Sanderson in the film, said he has always appreciated what the military does for the country, but after working on the film, that appreciation has significantly increased.

ìBefore reading the script, all I knew about what happened in Somalia was from CNN sound bites ó that we had gone in there to help feed the starving people there and then something went wrong so we left,î Fichtner said. ìIn preparing for my role, I made a number of real friends in the Army down in Fort Bragg (N.C), not just acquaintances but friends. I am proud of what my new friends do on a daily basis in defending this country. î

Following the film, Command Sgt. Maj. Alex Ray Lackey, the Army Reserve command sergeant major, said he hoped employers and others who may not understand what mobilizing reservists are about go see the movie. ìThere is no doubt in my mind that they will come away with a better appreciation of the sacrifices our soldiers make on daily basis,î he said.

For Staff Sgt. Mark Erwin, public affairs NCO for 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment at Fort Myer, Va., the movie was the most intense he had ever seen.

ìI donít know how it could get more closer to real than was shown,î Erwin said. ìI never related more emotionally with what was happening on the screen than I did with this movie. It showed soldiers doing their job and taking care of one another, despite the odds against them.î

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley said the gruesome combat scenes depicted in the movie were so realistic that it brought back vivid memories of the carnage he witnessed when his armor platoon was overrun in Vietnam.

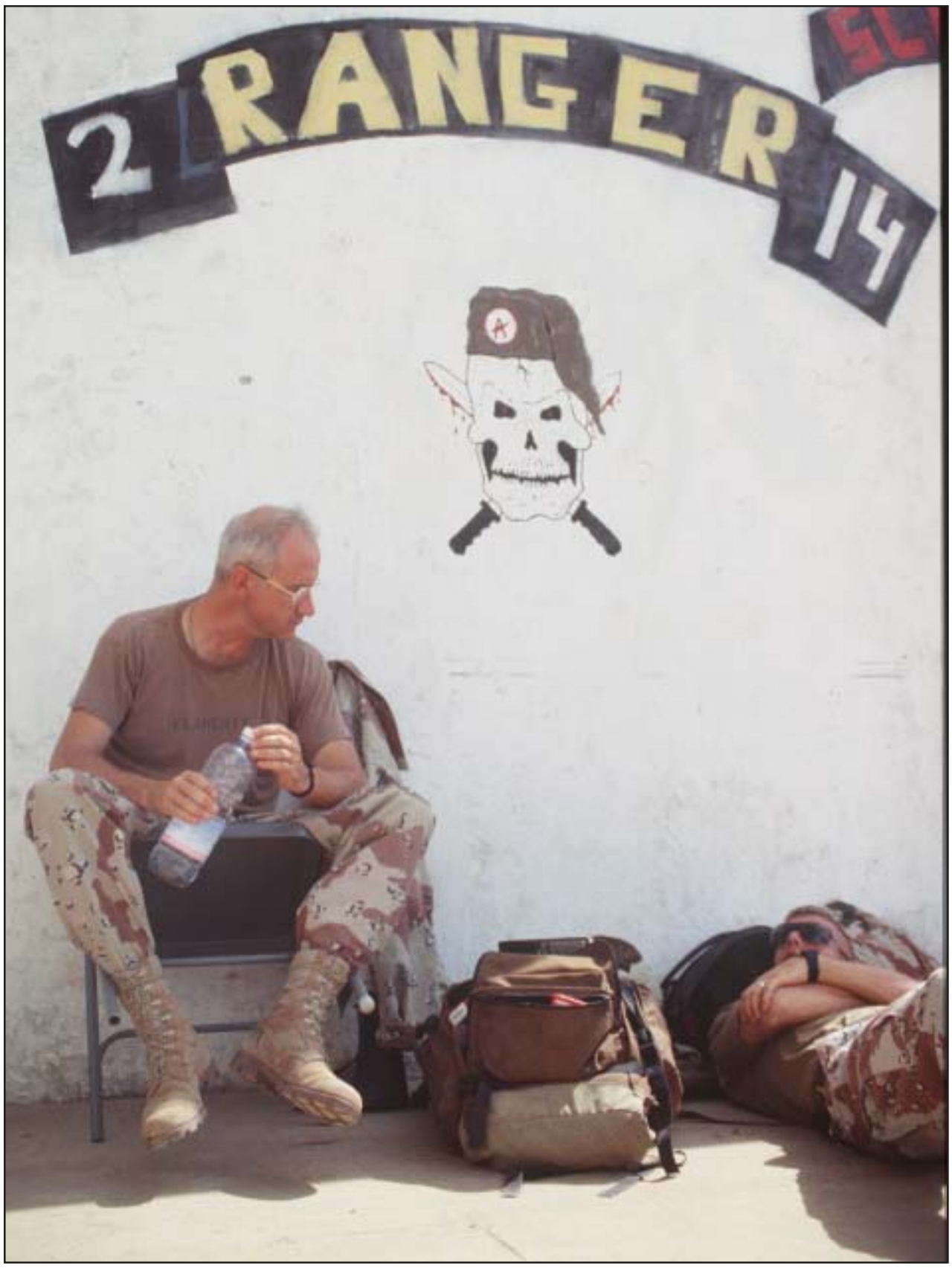


photo by Pvt.2 Andrew McGalliard

Soldiers from 2/14th Infantry Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY, rest in the shade while waiting to go to the airport. The battalion recently departed Somalia after being there in support of UNOSOM II.

First Sgt. Bruce Moore, a ranger now and during the Somalia operation, was one of several Somalia veterans who were brought to Washington to view the special screening. He rated the film as being 90- to 95-percent accurate with what he witnessed as a staff sergeant during the 1993 operation.

ìWhat I particularly liked was the way the movie portrayed how young most soldiers are who fight our countryís battles,î Moore said. ìMost of the soldiers I served with then, and those in my company today, are 18 or 19 years old. As shown in the movie, they are not out trying to be heroes, but end up doing some pretty heroic stuff.î

Lt. Col. Walt Pjetraj, an Army Special Forces officer assigned to the Joint Staff Operations section at the Pentagon, however, believed the movie only scratched the surface of what the soldiers endured in Somalia.

ì You have to remember that we just sat through a little more than two hours of a depiction of what happened, when those soldiers were in a very hairy situation for more than 18 hours,î Pjetraj said. ìWe watched it in Class Aís (uniforms), while they were in it hot and sweaty in (Battle Dress Uniforms) ó locked and loaded. After the movie was over, here we are relaxing with adult beverages; when it was over for them, they buried their dead.î

Among other distinguished screening guests were Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, recently retired Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry Shelton, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, actress Linda Carter and former Marine officer and political analyst Oliver North.

Around the Army

Website online for anti-terrorism training

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) - A force-protection Web site to assist anti-terrorism officers is now getting more than 12,000 visitors a day.

The Web site, which can be accessed at www.at-awareness.org, helps soldiers meet their annual level-one anti-terrorism, force-protection training. The training is mandatory for soldiers annually and must be taken before traveling overseas.

Not just anyone can log onto the site. It requires an access code that has to be issued by an installationís force protection officer.

ì We sent out a message early September telling installations to use the site, and to give us some feedback,î said Kris Cline, senior security specialist for the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. ìHowever after Sept. 11 everybody went to the Web and the server couldnít handle all the people who were trying to use it.î

Currently the contractor is trying to increase availability and major improvements have already been made, said David Rudd, a force protection action officer for ODCSOPS. At one time the server would crash with 2,000 users, he said. Now there is up to 6,000 people using the Web at one time, Rudd added.

One way to eliminate the problem of having so many people trying to get on the site is to create a product that would allow installations to load the training program on their post Web page, said David Williams, a force protection officer at Fort Gordon, Ga.

Williams said he has not been able to log onto the site because he keeps getting a message that says the site is full, and to try again later. ìThe site isnít readily accessible for our troops, but if each installation was responsible for their own Army directed training site, the servers could go from handling 3,000 troops to 300 troops.î

Suggestions like the one Williams made are openly accepted at the Pentagonís Army Anti-terrorism Branch, Rudd said.

The traditional way of giving the required training has been a slide presentation approved by the Training and Doctrine Command, Cline said.

The Web-based training is a multiple-choice test that puts soldiers in the middle of deadly scenarios, and gives immediate feedback when the soldier chooses the wrong answers.

The training begins with a statement explaining three ways on how not to be a target of terrorism by retired Gen. Henry Shelton, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He said by keeping a low profile, being unpredictable and being vigilant, soldiers can deter terrorist from striking. Sheltonís advice in the beginning of the training session will lead soldiers to make a number of right decisions while taking the 32-question test.

One scenario that requires soldiers to be vigilant places a soldier overseas TDY staying at a local hotel. When a stranger starts probing the soldier on why heís there, the soldier gets suspicious. After dinner the soldier then notices the stranger following him as he heads back to his room.

With the foundation laid, the question is what route should the soldier take to get back to his room? Instead of getting on the elevator and going directly to his hotel room, the soldier takes the elevator to the wrong floor and then uses the steps to get to his floor. That was the correct response, but there were two other wrong choices the soldier couldíve chosen.

At the end of each scenario the soldier is given the correct answers, and after completing the training a certificate is issued that should be printed as proof of the training.

ìThe Web site was created to eliminate some of the work for anti-terrorism officers so they can concentrate more on their primary mission,î Kline said. ì Training officers are spending two to three days a week on classroom instruction. With the Web site, they can concentrate on the anti-terrorism plan for their installation, battalion or brigade.î

An anti-terrorism plan is a document that outlines what an installation is to do in the case of an emergency, Williams said. It encompasses terrorist attacks, natural disasters, physical security, chemical attacks and bomb threats to name a few scenarios, he said.

More changes to the Web site are being made, Kline said. Family members will also be able to access the site within a year, he said. They will not be required to use the site, only strongly encouraged, Rudd said.

The wording and pictures on the Web will be toned down,î Kline said. ìThere will not be any terrorists holding guns to peopleís heads, and military terminology will not be used. We donít want to scare or confuse family members. We just want to remind them to look for signs and pick up on things that are not normal, and report it.î

Soldiers and family members need to realize that force protection is not just the police or intelligence communityís problem, Kline said

Green Berets awarded for heroism in Afghanistan

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (Army News Service) ó Twelve Bronze Star medals and 15 Purple Hearts were awarded to 19 Special Forces troops Jan. 15 for their combat in Afghanistan.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki presented the medals in a ceremony that included remarks by Maj. Gen. Geoffrey C. Lambert, commander, U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne).

Lambert said after the terror attacks of Sept. 11, the task to find disparate Afghan rebel groups and meld them into a coordinated fighting force that would sweep the Taliban out of power fell to the 5th Special Forces Group, ìthe men who wear the green beret.î

ìThe men raised their hands and went in,î Lambert said. ìThey had to conquer isolation ... a lack of shelter, and adequate food and water and medical support ... differences in language and culture and religion and ... tactics and weapons used by Afghan warriors.

ìFinally, they had to conquer one last thing ó the Taliban ó and theyíve done it,î Lambert said.

The 12 Army special forces soldiers who received the Bronze Star medal included Capt. Jason Amerine, Sgt. 1st Class Michael McElhiney, Sgt. Gilbert Magallanes Jr., Sgt. 1st Class Ronnie Raikes, Staff Sgt. Bradley Fowers, Sgt. 1st Class Vaughn Berntson, Staff Sgt. Wesley McGirr, Co. A, 3rd Bn., 5th SFG (A), Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Pickett, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 5th SFG (A), Capt. Kevin C. Leahy, Capt. Paul R. Syverson, 1st Sgt. David B. Betz and Sgt. 1st Class Paul Beck, HHC, 3rd Bn., 5th SFG (A).

U.S. Army photo

Four soldiers, Amerine, Magallanes, McElhiney and McGirr received the Bronze Star with the V-Device for valor in combat.

Eight of the 12 Bronze Star recipients were also awarded the Purple Heart at the ceremony (the other four received the honor in December) along with Capt. John Leopold, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Terry Reed, Staff Sgt. Hamid Fathi and Spc. John Menefee, HHC, 2nd Bn., 5th SFG (A), and Sgt. 1st Class David Kennedy, HHC 2nd Bn., 5th SFG (A).

Two Air Force Special Operations members were also presented the Purple Heart at the ceremony: Staff Sgt. Craig Musselman and Staff Sgt. Alan Yoshita, Detachment 2, 10th Combat Weather Squadron.

Sgt. 1st Class Gilbert Magallanes Jr. was unable to attend the ceremony because he was still recovering at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Bethesda, Md.

Tap the Rockies

Exploring the city of Denver and more

photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

One of the state's most recognizable buildings is the state capitol building, located in downtown Denver. The city of Denver is home to more than a half of million people.

COMPILED BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

First visited by Spanish explorers in the 1500s, the territory was claimed for Spain by Juan de Ulibarri in 1706. The U.S. obtained eastern Colorado as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the central portion in 1845 with the admission of Texas as a state, and the western part in 1848 as a result of the Mexican War.

Colorado has the highest mean elevation of any state, with more than 1,000 Rocky Mountain peaks over 10,000 ft high and 54 towering above 14,000 ft. Pikes Peak, the most famous of these mountains, was discovered by U.S. Army lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike in 1806.

Breathtaking scenery and world-class skiing make Colorado a prime tourist destination. The main tourist attractions in the state include Rocky Mountain National Park, Curecanti National Recreation Area, Mesa Verde National Park, the Great Sand Dunes and Dinosaur National Monuments, Colorado National Monument, and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument, and one canít forget the Coors Brewery.

Two of the trademarks of Colorado - beautiful mountains and the Coors Brewery - located in the town of Golden.

Safety Brief

BY PATTI SHELLEY
SAFETY OFFICER

Winter driving can be inconvenient, annoying, even infuriating. There are almost as many opinions as to how to drive safely on ice or snow as there are automobiles. Most crashes occur when you donít expect the surface of the road to be slippery.

Itís amazing how many of us quickly forget our winter driving skills. But you can offset those aggravations and minimize the special risks of winter driving. Not only do you have snow and ice to deal with, but there are fewer hours of daylight as well. For example, we all should know that you cannot stop as fast on an icy or snow-covered road as you can on dry pavement, and that often the most slippery surfaces do not appear hazardous, like on bridges, overpasses, and under passes. At intersections the moisture emitting from the exhaust off cars waiting at a traffic light quickly freezes on the pavement and can be especially hazardous. Early morning hours are especially dangerous as the moisture has had an opportunity to sit on the cold pavement and freeze. Donít be overly confident if your vehicle has anti-lock brakes; they are no substitute for using caution when traveling on slippery roads.

Some other basic safety tips for winter driving include allowing extra time to arrive at your destination. Slow down and be alert for other vehicles around you that may lose control, and allow at least 4 seconds between vehicles. Also allow no less than a car-length in front of you when you are stopped behind another vehicle at a slippery intersection, and then watch your rear-view mirror for cars that may approach you too fast from behind. Often this extra margin of safety will allow you to pull forward in the event that an approaching vehicle begins to slide. If the intersection is slippery you can signal other drivers to the danger by turning on your hazard flashers.

If you find yourself beginning to slide on snow or ice, DONíT PANIC. Take your foot off the gas and DO NOT hit the brakes. Steer the front of your vehicle into the skid (the same direction you are sliding). This technique is used in both front- and rear-wheel-drive vehicles. If you must use the brakes, do not allow them to lock up; gently pump the brake pedal, unless your car is equipped with anti-lock brakes. If your car has anti-lock brakes, use a firm, steady pressure without pumping. The grinding noise you hear and the surging you feel in the pedal is normal and indicates the brakes are working properly, allowing you to continue to steer and control the vehicle. And for you 4-wheel-drive enthusiasts, always remember that a 4-wheel-drive vehicle provides additional traction that is useful for going through deep snow, but it does <u>not stop</u> any faster.

Just as important as good driving skills, however, are some commonsense issues that could save your life in the event you become broken down or stranded. A good place to start is with some ìpreventive maintenanceî

Make sure your car is in good mechanical condition. Temperature extremes always bring out the worst in your car, like dead batteries, soft tires, gasoline freeze, and carburetor and heating problems. Make sure that your anti-freeze is at the proper level and youíre your wiper blades are new and your washer reservoir is full.

Prepare an emergency kit for your car. Include things that prepare you for the unexpected ñ what would you need if you found yourself stranded miles from help during a snow storm? Include things like warm clothing, boots, stocking cap, gloves or mittens, flashlight with fresh batteries, flares, small shovel, sand or kitty litter, blankets, and fresh first-aid supplies. You may also want to include candy bars or other nutritious snacks, as will as a supply of small candles and matches to light them with. A single lit candle in your vehicle can provide warmth that will help you survive for many hours, and with precautions is much safer than letting the engine run.

During inclement weather let people know where you are going, your route of travel, and when you expect to arrive. Cell phones are a great safety insurance against breakdowns and getting stranded ñ but they do little good if you donít know where your are! Stay alert and know precisely where you are at all times, in the event you need to call for help.

Winter driving requires motorists to be extra careful and alert, use caution and always plan ahead. Keep your eyes on the road, never drink and drive and always wear your safety belt.

The most important tip for winter driving is: **Slow down.**

Civilianís Corner

BY SAM JONES
BRIGADE SENIOR CIVILIAN

As we start the New Year, I feel itís important to look back on the past year and see what took place and what we accomplished. It was just a year ago when I told you that the TSP contribution limits were on the rise. As of today, you can contribute up to 12 percent FERS and 7 percent CSRS. However, I think I would have had more luck trying to grow hair than making much money in my TSP. Overall for the year 2001, the C, S, and I funds lost 24-25 percent, while the G fund gained five and a half percent and the F fund gained 14 percent. Even though some of these losses seem a bit extreme, I can tell you that the TSP is still by far one of the best retirement investment plans you can have. Just as history has always shown, the market will bounce back and you will be seeing great rates again. But for now, Iíll just keep trying to grow hair.

MEASURING UP?

How did you measure up to your performance plan? In my position I get to see all the performance plans as they come in with the end of year ratings. I must tell you, I did not see much significant change in most of the plans. This is an area we all can continue to work during this year. Some of you will be forced to change performance plans as you change positions. New requirements are also forcing some changes such as the requirement now for all CP35 (Intelligence) employees to be evaluated on a minimum of two training events each year. This must be on the performance plan and in order to get an excellent, you must complete two events. The brigadeís transformation efforts will require some folks to readjust their performance plans to reflect new requirements and areas of responsibility. There were fewer performance cash awards given than in the past however most of them were significantly higher. The competition is getting tough for these awards but good performance plans continue to be the key to success.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Transforming the 704th MI Brigadeís culture, our organization, and our procedures for addressing current and emerging Army requirements, is paramount in our goal of transforming to the Armyís Objective Force. Throughout 2001, we reviewed every civilian position in the command and their associated job descriptions. Some of our positions were found to be exactly what we were looking for and will not change while others lacked what we require in order to advance our position as the SIGINT experts for the U.S. Army. Several of our civilian position job descriptions have already been changed and in some cases resulted in an increase in grade while others are being transformed to meet new and emerging requirements. Our goal is to have everything completed and in place by the end of the quarter.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

We had an excellent year for civilian training. We were able to send over 15 personnel to various training events and spent our entire civilian training budget prior to the end of the 3rd quarter. Many other local training opportunities were also taken advantage of. I am also happy to tell you that 2002 will bring even better results. We have been able to take advantage of the many training events offered at places like the Western Management Development Center, Colorado, the Eastern Management Development Center, West Virginia, and the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, Virginia. These centers are dedicated to building the special brand of leadership required by Americaís dynamic and diverse democracy. Their goal has always been to keep pace with the changing needs and aspirations of public sector leaders and the society we all serve. The programs form a comprehensive set of services for those embarked on the leadership journey. We also have two individuals selected to participate in the Intelligence Community Officer Course in 2002. It should be a great year for training.

PERSONNEL

Changes in our environment and our lives are never ending and changes within the 704th civilian work force will always be part of that cycle. During the year 2001 we saw three employees leave us to go on to bigger and better things. Mr. Scott Atwood, Ms. Daisey Fryer, and Ms. Paula Monroe are no longer part of our great work force and we will miss them as well as their incredible expertise. However, additions to our small family of civilians include Ms. Patricia Davison, Mr. Craig Eckenrod, Ms. Patti Shelley and Mr. Scott Vanacker. We are all happy to have you as part of the Brigade. Also, this month we have Mr. Ismael Rodriguez joining the team and Mr. Steve Muessig will join us in the late spring.

photo by Yu Hu Son

Best of the best

For the last 19 years, the best the U.S. Army Rangers have to offer have come together and competed in the Best Ranger Competition. The competition is an intense and arduous competition held annually at Fort Benning, Ga. The Competition pits Ranger Teams, comprised of two Airborne and Ranger qualified competitors each, who struggle through 60 continuous hours of military skill and extreme fitness events. Merely completing the competition is an accomplishment in itself. Traditionally, over 50 percent of the teams who enter the competition complete it.

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