The Voice

Vol. 5, Issue 12 | Published in the interest of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade | June 2002

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photo by Spc. Brian Murphy

Many soldiers, like Sgt. 1st Class Todd Harger, chose to wear unique uniforms during the Tactical Dining-in May 10.

704th holds Tactical Dining-in

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

Soldiers with faces painted up with camouflage, eating food out of field containers. For the soldiers who sit at a desk in an air-conditioned office each day, this is a small taste of life in the field.

This was the scene as more than 300 enlisted soldiers from the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade attended the annual Tactical Dining-in at the Fort Meade Festival Tent May 10.

ìI had a ball,î said Sgt. Louisa Power, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th MI Brigade. ìI didnít really know what to expect. But from the stories Iíd heard from everywhere, I can honestly say I was excited to go.î

Other soldiers looked to the Tactical Dining-in as an excellent opportunity for soldiers throughout the unit to come together, learn about the history of this organization, and to have a good time.

ìThe Tactical Dining-in teaches us as soldiers to commemorate, uphold and enforce traditions that have been in effect for a long time,î said 1st Sgt. Bruce J. Eike, first sergeant, Company A, 742nd MI Battalion. ìThe Dining-in also goes a long way towards ensuring that a large group of NCOs and future NCOs have a common understanding of the proper conduct and behavior expected of us.î

Eike used the Tactical Dining-in as a chance to wear a military uniform that local soldiers otherwise wouldnít have the chance to see.

ìThe uniform I wore was typical of Regular Army NCO worn from around 1858 to 1874,î Eike said. ìThe harp insignia on the sword baldric and collar and green NCO trouser striping are correct for a first sergeant in the 69th New York Infantry of the First Irish Brigade (raised entirely of Irish-Americans from N.Y. City). The crimson sash was also indicative of a senior NCO, as was the Model 1840 NCO saber. î

Some of the highlights of the evening included the grog-bowl ceremony, individual unit skits and guest speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Terence R. McConnell, command sergeant major, Intelligence and Security Command.

The overall consensus of the night was that the top skit was that of HHC, 704th. For the skit, HHC chose to focus on ìwhat goes on behind the closed doors at the enlisted slate,î according to Power, who played brigade executive officer Ann Kepler.

In order to better prepare herself for the role of Kepler, Power stopped by her office and had an unusual request.

ìI asked her to yell at me,î Power said. ìI wanted to get a better understanding of the woman I was about to portray. From what Iím told, I wasnít too shabby. î

With entertaining skits and out-of-line soldiers being sent to the grog bowl, a fun and festive mood was set for the evening.

ìAll in all, from receiving line to closing speech, itís hard to think of a better way for the enlisted to interact, on all levels, and relax,î Power said.

743rd conducts Training Day

BY PVT LEE JOHNSON
743RD MI BATTALION

The troops assigned to743rd Military Intelligence Battalion, Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado gathered in preparation for everyoneís ìfavoriteî day, training day May 9. Gathering at the Army National Guard Armory, soldiers prepared to receive lessons in various Army-related topics, such as consideration of others training, anti-terrorism, safety, and accident avoidance. Many of these subjects are vital to the Army way of life and they serve as guidelines for living in general.

The 743rd MI Battalion does their training day once every quarter instead of once every month or weekly like many other units. They take all the areas that need to be covered and put them in an all-day schedule. This saves everyone the hassle of frequent training days. Every quarterly training day has to be held on 2 separate days in order to accommodate the four different crew schedules. By holding training day twice, it also minimizes the use of ìoffî duty days for all shift workers.

The classes that were taught were accident avoidance, COOP, fire safety, and the dangers of drunk driving. Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Hoke taught accident avoidance. He covered topics on weather conditions, road rage, and the Breaking Formula. The soldiers then took a five-minute break. After that, it was time for COOP with Sgt. 1st Class Hammie Session and Staff Sgt. Sean Jordan. This training started with a COOP demonstration. Then some ground rules were set: no cursing, listen to others, and donít beat a dead horse, just to name a few. After talking about the demonstration a little, they broke us up into groups of 4 to 5. They then gave every group a different scenario that led into group discussions about the various scenarios. After a 5-minute break we returned to the large classroom and watched a video clip. Another group discussion followed the video clip.

courtesy photo

Soldiers from 743rd MI Battalion take a break during the Training Day at Buckley Air Force Base May 9.

Around noon, the 743rd MI Battalion broke for lunch. As customary, the junior enlisted soldiers were first to eat. This particular training day, the soldiers were served sub-sandwiches which was a welcome change from the hamburgers and hotdogs usually served on training days. While we ate, Lt. Col. Mark Quantock, battalion commander, gave a very informative presentation. Quantock briefed the recent and upcoming events going on in the battalion. He let us know that the CIP and IG inspections both went well. He also mentioned the importance of the battalionís family members and keeping them involved and informed. An important message Quantock discussed was that of underage drinking. We completed lunch and returned to the classroom. Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Driscoll gave a class on drunk driving. He told us the tragic story of how he was a victim of a drunk driver. After a five-minute break, we proceeded outside for fire safety training. Jolly Britt came from the Buckley fire department and gave a lecture on fire safety and the barracks. He then instructed us how to use a fire extinguisher. Only three people took him up on the offer of actually doing a practical exercise of using a fire extinguisher. We went back into the classroom for an After Action Review and talked about the good and bad things that happened during training day. We then broke up into companies, HOC in one room and Company B in another room. At that point, each company commander conducted a commanderís call. Capt. Susan Wright, HOC commander, talked about the training day events and also about some important upcoming events. 1st Sgt. Michael Henderson, HOC first sergeant, talked about committing ourselves to what we promised we would do to our Platoon Sergeants (Referring to Squad Challenges). We then discussed the E Army U program. After all questions were answered, we were dismissed for the day. Overall, this quarterís training day was very informative and productive.

The Voice is an authorized unofficial publication under the provisions of AR 360-1. Reproduced by the the Defense Automated Printing Service, The Voice serves as an information medium for the soldiers and families of the Brigade. Circulation is 300 copies a month. Opinions expressed in the Voice do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or any of their commands, agencies or affiliates. Material selected for publication is subject to editing. Manuscripts and photos submitted for consideration should be sent to:

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704th MI Brigade Mission

The 704th Military Intelligence Brigade conducts synchronized 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.

Reenlistment: mission accomplished

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS WILLENE ORR
Brigade Reenlistment

The old clichÈ ìOne thing that is a constant is changeî is no doubt true when serving in the military. Recently, the Brigade bid farewell to Staff Sergeant Veronica Ingle, 741st Military Intelligence Battalion career counselor.

Ingle, a native of Troy, New York, was a part of this great brigade prior to becoming a career counselor. The longevity of her assignments has been here at Fort Meade and thus proved to be beneficial for our soldiers due to her MI background.

Ingle was no stranger to the Military Intelligence field. She enlisted in the United States Army as an Electronic Warfare Signals Intelligence Morse Code Interceptor - 98H. As a result of her vast knowledge in the intelligence arena, her skills and training as a 98H complimented her as a career counselor.

Prior to transitioning to the Retention Field, Ingle was Company B, 741st Military Intelligence Battalion company reenlistment noncommissioned officer. While serving as the company reenlistment NCO, she raised the bar in the companyís retention program by achieving above and beyond the total mission accomplishments for third and fourth quarter Fiscal Year 1997 and first quarter Fiscal Year 1998.

Ingle met the demanding challenge of retaining our highly skilled soldiers in the Active Army and the Reserve Component. She provided retention counseling to our soldiers and their families regardless of reenlistment intent. She consistently put soldiers first, ensuring that their needs were met. As noted by Lt. Col. Diana Raynor, commander, 741st MI Battalion, ìShe initiated a commanderís recruiters training packet to increase the battalionís leadership knowledge of the recruiting process and procedures.

Moreover, she is an expert in Retention. Her determination, enthusiasm, and thorough knowledge of Army policies and retention incentives resulted in the battalion meeting and exceeding its Initial Term objectives for second, third and fourth quarters of Fiscal Year 2001. A job very well done!î

While serving as the battalion career counselor, Ingleís efforts in overproduction of retention goals enabled the 704th MI Brigade and the Intelligence and Security Command to meet their assigned retention objectives. Ingleís retention prowess resulted in 741st MI Battalion achieving 108 percent Initial Termers for Fiscal Year 2001 and exceeding mission in all categories during second quarter Fiscal Year 2002. What a phenomenal milestone for the command to achieve!

A true professional, Ingle also appeared before the 704th MI Brigade Career Counselor of the Year Board for Fiscal Year 2001. She impressed the board members quite admirably with her knowledge of all aspects of the Army Retention Program.

In addition, Ingle has always held the motto ìSoldiers Firstî to heart. She sacrificed personal time to ensure soldiersí reenlistment ceremonies were memorable occasions they could treasure for a lifetime. She 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. To ensure soldiers received the necessary career counseling, she was directly involved with our soldiersí professional development by making contacts and visits with their branch managers. Ingle was also active in her community. She recently ran a Womenís New York City 10 kilometer race and she served as an Assistant Den Mother with her daughter for the Girl Scouts in Glen Burnie, Maryland.

> ìWhen I arrived at Fort Meade, I had no intentions of staying longer than two years ... six years later I have departed. I did not realize that this was a decision that would change my career, î
>
> *Staff Sgt. Veronica Ingle*
> *741st MI Battalion*

Ingle recently departed this command in April for a tour of duty in Harrogate, England. Currently, she is assigned to the 109th Military Intelligence Group. Below is her story in her own words offering thanks to the soldiers of 741st MI Battalion and those who have made a difference throughout her military career.

Thank you soldiers of 741st MI Battalion! When I arrived at Fort Meade, I had no intentions of staying longer than two yearsÖsix years later I have departed. I wanted to thank all the soldiers I met and served with while I was your career counselor. 741st is a great battalion and you, the soldiers, are what make it great.

courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Veronica Ingle departed the 741st Military Intelligence Battalion after six years of service. Ingle has since moved on to the 109th MI Group in England.

Retention has not always been an easy job but I enjoyed and loved talking to you all. In January 1997, I became Company Bís reenlistment NCO. I did not realize this was a decision that would change my career.

Retention was great. We had a ìHIPî team. The battalion consisted of three companies, but we all seemed to work well as a team. I liked that about the retention field.

When the decision was made to put me into the ìretention fieldî I had my doubts. Being 741st MI Battalion career counselor was the best thing I could have ever imagined. Some of you soldiers tested my abilities and some were able to move on, and somewhere is a few still wondering how they reenlisted.

Always remember ìBe careful what you ask forÖyou just may get it.î

We extend our best wishes to Ingle and trust she will continue to excel in her future endeavors. She will be missed. Sgt. 1st Class Kirkland Thomas now serves as the battalion career counselor. Please give him a warm and hearty 704th MI Brigade Welcome!

As always, special thanks to everyone for ìKeeping Our Soldiers in BOOTZ!î ìRetentionî is everyoneís business!

If you have a special article pertaining to a reenlistment, please forward to:

OrrW@meade-704.army.mil.

For more information on retention, please contact your career counselors listed below:

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Fort Meade hosts Armed Forces Week

BY SGT. DENNY COX
SoundOFF!

photo by Sam Friedman
Members of the U.S. Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon exchange rifles during a demonstration on McGlachlin Parade Field.

ìSince 1950, our nation has celebrated the third Saturday in May as Armed Forces Day, an occasion to reflect upon and recognize the devotion to duty and service of our men and women in uniform,î said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in a message to military service members.

The installation, the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Central Security Service (CSS) celebrated Armed Forces Day with a week-long program of events and activities. This yearís observance was themed ìUnited for Freedom.î

Armed Forces Week kicked off early May 13 with a ceremonial flag raising on the NSA compound. The services each performed the ceremony on the different days of the week designated to celebrate their contributions to national defense.

May 13 celebrated the joint services and the Coast Guard, May 14 honored the Army, May 15 recognized the Marine Corps, May 16 showcased the Navy and Friday was dedicated to the Air Force.

The highlight of the weekís events was May 15, the Joint Services Field Day, on McGlachlin Parade Field here.

The first event was a 5-kilometer run sponsored by the Civilian Welfare Fund (CWF).

The CWF is an organization dedicated to morale issues within the federal civilian workforce. The fund provides the workforce with opportunities to participate in trips and activities. It also provides assistance and funding for installation improvement projects.

Registration for the run started at 8 a.m., and the starting pistol echoed across the parade field an hour later.

The overall top male finisher was Mark Jones with a time of 17 minutes, 12.72 seconds. The top female runner, Vanessa Cox, crossed the finish line in 18:57:29.

At 10 a.m., the displays set up by each service were opened to the public.

The Army display, a coordinated effort between the Fort George G. Meade Museum and Columbia Company of the Baltimore Recruiting Battalion, provided visitors with a glimpse of the past and an opportunity of the present.

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Kucan, a military police soldier on recruiting duty with Columbia Company, was available to brief potential recruits on the benefits of joining the Army.

Books, brochures and a laptop computer featuring the ìGoArmy.comî Web site were on hand.

ìThe Web site is the best tool anyone can use. Potential recruits can watch a private go through basic training or chat with recruiters online,î said Kucan.

The museum lent the display a sense of history with vehicles from different periods. Museum exhibits specialist Barbara Taylor was on site to explain the jeeps and trucks.

Assisting her were volunteer re-enactors from World War II.

Capt. Lee Mudd, associate professor of military science at Johns Hopkins University and commander of the 52nd Military History Detachment, brought two cadets in World War II uniforms.

Cadet Christopher Davis, a senior in the ROTC program applying for an aviation commission, was dressed as an infantry captain from the European Theater. He carried a .30-caliber M-1 carbine, a typical weapon for infantry officers of the period, according to Mudd.

Cadet Ian Van Gorden wore the uniform of a lieutenant in the coastal artillery. He carried a .45-caliber M-1911 pistol. The college junior hopes to receive a commission in the artillery after graduation.

Mudd commanded the group in the uniform of a major from the 70th Tank Battalion, a unit fielded from Fort Meade.

Joining the group was Bob Bomback, a former Marine who served during the Korean War and retired from the NSA. Bomback was dressed as a sergeant with the 82nd Airborne Division. He carried an M-1921 Thompson submachine gun and an M-1911 sidearm.

The Coast Guard was represented by members of Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 15 and the Curtis Bay, Baltimore, Coast Air Guard Station.

The Coast Guardsmen set up a 21-foot Rigid Hull Inflatable boat for guests to examine. The boat is primarily used for search and rescue operations, according to Coast Guard Seaman Jason Shroyer from the Curtis Bay station.

It carries a minimum crew of three, has a top speed of 32 knots (about 40 mph) and uses radar to locate disabled vessels in need of assistance, he said.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary also brought ìCoastie,î a boat-shaped robot used for public relations events.

Coastie is controlled by remote control and can move about freely, blink her eyes, flash colored lights and sound a horn. A voice distortion feature allows the operator to interact with the public in a high-pitched, cartoon-character voice.

Coastie was controlled by Division 15 Flotilla Commander Leonard Barry.

The Air Force and Civil Air Patrol display was manned by members of the 317th Air Force Recruiting Squadron, Oxon Hill, Md.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Jessie Boyer and a team of three recruiters provided information on job opportunities with the service.

They also brought a miniature jet airplane to attract peopleís attention. The jet, which drives similar to a golf cart but does not fly, has room for one operator and is popular in parades, according to Boyer.

The Navy display included scale models of a variety of different vessels from the Navy Sea System.

The glass-encased models included aircraft carriers, hospital ships and amphibious assault ships.

The final display was set up by the U.S. Marine Corps Recruiting Serviceís Baltimore Recruiting Station.

The team, led by Marine Sgt. Victoria Gross, the stationís marketing and public affairs noncommissioned officer, provided visitors the opportunity to test their fitness and win Marine Corps paraphernalia.

The guestís performance on a pull-up bar in the shadow of a huge inflatable drill instructor could earn him or her bumper stickers, lanyards, D-rings, water bottles or T-shirts.

The Marine Corps team chose to center its display around physical fitness because, ìthatís what the Marine Corps is all about.î

ìCome on over and take the challenge,î Gross said.

Assisting Gross were two Marines recently graduated from boot camp home on leave.

The Joint Services Field Day also offered visitors the opportunity to see the Marine Silent Drill Platoon from Marine Corps Barracks, Washington, D.C.

The team performed intricate drill and ceremonies routines without spoken orders or cadences. They carried 10 1/2-pound M-1 rifles with fixed bayonets and perform hundreds of shows each year.

During the drill teamís performance, the U.S. Marine Corps Band, The Commandantís Own, provided music.

Cobras bring in the month of May

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

No one lives by the motto ëWork Hard, Play Hardí more accurately than the soldiers of Company C, 741st Military Intelligence Battalion.

When a mission is at hand, the Charlie Cobras know that their commander, Capt. Kenneth T. Redman, and the first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Xavier Walker, expect one hundred percent.

Along the same lines though, the soldiers know that at the end of the day when the mission is complete that their company will take care of them.

That takes us to May Day, an event orchastrated by Redman and Walker at Burba Lake May 2 as a way of saying ëthank youí to their troops.

The soldiers put on civilian clothes and met at the lake for a day away from their normal routine. Instead of worrying about accomplishing the mission, soldiers played football, volleyball and enjoyed food off of the grill.

The highlight of the day was the relay race, which was one by Redman and Walkerís team.

photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

One of the toughest challenges of the relay race was using a razor to shave a balloon without making it pop.

Spc. Rachel Giese balances an egg on a spoon while hurrying through the course.

To start off the competition, soldiers had to spin 10 times in each direction with their head touching the softball bat. Then, while dizzy, they had to run to the next point.

Spc. Michael Caves wraps toilet paper around Staff Sgt. Susan Baer, while she holds the teamsí banana in her mouth, during one of the May Day competitions.

courtesy photo

Led by tour guide Pinkie, the members of Team Caterpillar make their way down the New River during the chaplainís white-water rafting trip May 21-23.

Chaplain trip takes soldiers rafting

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

Religion can take you places you never dreamed possible. *Literally.*

This was never more evident as Maj. David Causey, chaplain, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, took 25 soldiers on a Spiritual Fitness Training trip to Oak Hill West Virginia May 21-23.

The highlight of the trip for many of the participants was an all-day white-water rafting experience on the New River.

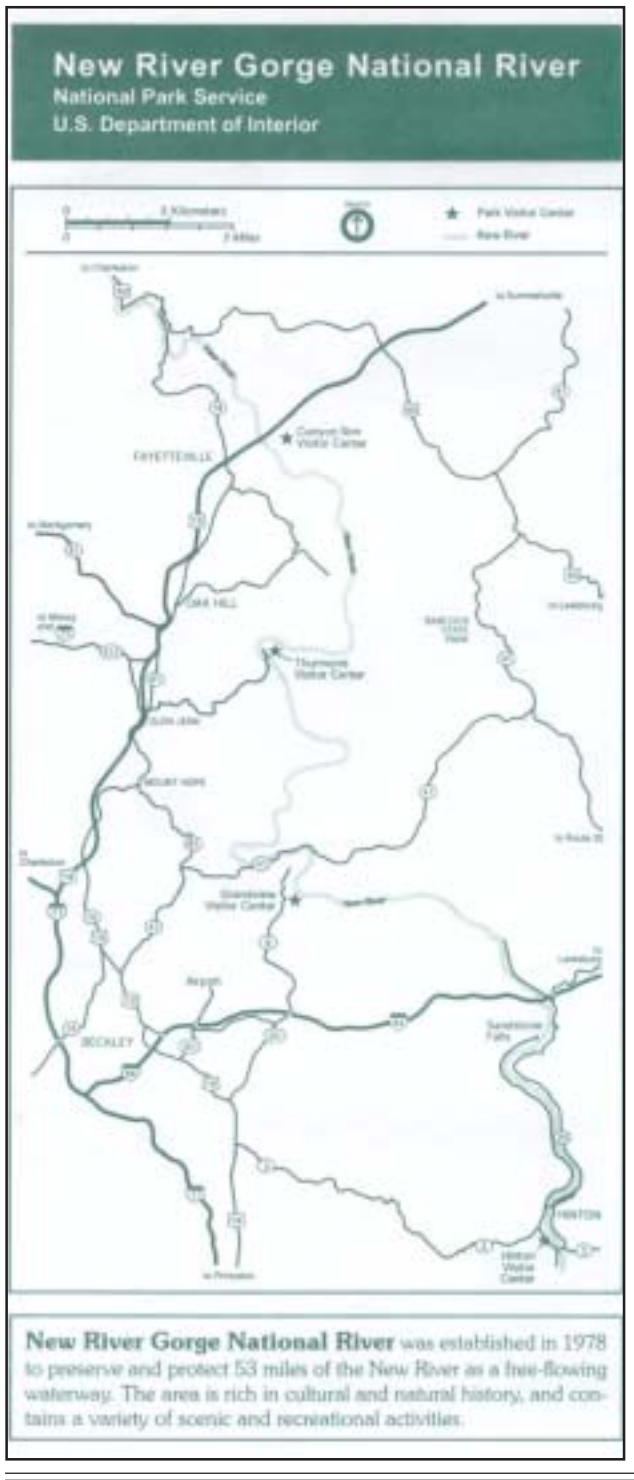
A rugged, white water river, flowing northward through deep canyons, the New River is among the oldest rivers on the continent.

ìThis was my first experience white-water rafting and it was truly surprising,î said Pfc. Melisa Duncan, one of the participants. ìI didnít realize the amount of physical exertion and team work it required. The scenery around the river in West Virginia was beautiful, and the more tranquil stretches of the river were relaxing.

ìThat, combined with the adrenaline rush from the rapids, made it an experience that I would love to repeat,î Duncan said. ìI was hesitant at first when I found out we were making two runs down the river, but after the first run I was more than ready to go again. The words of wisdom from Chaplain Causey were also insightful and timely. î

Two rafts full of soldiers watch as others venture ahead during the chaplainís spiritual fitness training white-water rafting trip May 21-23 at the Lower New River, New River Gorge, in West Virginia.

Participants take a moment to ësurfí on their way down the New River. To surf, the guides attempted to get to rafts caught in some of the larger rapids on the river.



photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

Not everyone managed to stay in their rafts during the chaplainís trip. Here, one of the participants sticks out their paddle to assist Pvt. 2 Mandy Mitchell and Spc. David Murphy in getting back into the raft.

Around the Army

Armyís best compete for ëBest Rangerí title

photo by Tech. Sgt. Richard Freeland

Only 12 out of the 47 teams that began the Best Ranger competition finished the grueling 60-hour test held at Fort Benning, Ga. April 28.

FORT BENNING, Ga. (Army News Service) - A captain and staff sergeant won the 20th annual Best Ranger competition here April 28, leading 12 teams that finished the 60-hour test of endurance.

Capt. Duane Patin and Staff Sgt. Daniel Jenkins from the 5th Ranger Training Battalion took the lead in the road march, held it through remaining events and never looked back.

Injuries on the hazard-wrought course kept many of the 47 teams from finishing, and more than one competitor crossed the finish line limping. Staff Sgt. Shane Jernigan finished with a broken ankle.

ìIt is a test of will,î said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, who presented the winners golden pistols and medallions April 29 at the Ranger Memorial. ìTrust and teamwork are demands of the Ranger Creed and you will all take these lessons learned back to your units.î

As the crowd watched the weekend competition, one ranger descended from a helicopter 1,500 feet above the drop zone and a gust of wind carried him into the trees. He hit the sharply pointed branches. At that moment spectators gasped, as they grasped a sense of the dangers involved with the contest.

The events are designed to put stress on the mind, joints, muscles and bones, a competition official said.

ì You know itís going to hurt coming in to it,î said 1st. Lt. Scott Wence, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

The competition is tough, said Gunnery Sgt. Keith Oakes, winner of last yearís competition with partner Sgt. 1st. Class William Patterson. He said it demands more than some can give.

ìAll these guys have had major lifestyle changes,î Oakes said. ìAll your free time goes toward training.

ì Your mindset starts to change,î Oakes said. ìYou watch what you eat. Your sleeping patterns change.î

The competitors are disciplined, said Capt. John Serafini, 11th Regiment.

ìThis is the most physically demanding thing Iíve ever done,î Serafini said.

ìThe challenges are just as tough mentally as they are physically, said Lt. Col. David Pound, Ranger Training Brigade executive officer. Each year the competition is changed to challenge the mental toughness of the competitors.

ìA lot of this competition is psychological,î Pound said. ìWe want to throw in enough twists to even the playing field. We try to take these guys out of their comfort zone.î

Experienced competitors have insight to the demands of the competition and so extending an event, like the road march, or adding an additional event tries to equal out the advantages an experienced competitor may have over a first-time competitor, he said.

This year the fitness test required the competitors do sit-ups immediately following their pushups, which didnít allow the participants any time to catch their breath and took them by surprise, Pound said.

The road march was also changed. Instead of marching 21 miles, a mark many of the competitors thought was the finish line, the march was extended an additional three miles.

ìIt threw the dynamics off the guys who thought they would stick with the pack,î said Sgt. Anthony Mayne, competitor from 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. ìWhen the pack didnít make it, it hurt a lot of the competitors.î

More than half the participants were knocked out of the competition during the road march event. Only 15 teams remained out of the original 47.

So, strategies paid off for a few teams who used the march to move up in the standings, Mayne said.

ì We moved up in the standings and ran our race,î he said. ìWe were not concerned about what the other teams were doing...î

After completing the event, many of the teams were worn down and not fully recovered by the second day.

ì You can recover from the first day of events,î Oakes said. ìThe road march is where it really starts. It will settle everything.î

On the final day, 12 teams were anxious to finish, Mayne said. Although Jenkins and Patin had pretty much sealed the deal to be dubbed the 2002 Best Ranger, the rest of the competitors lived by their creed and fought on to complete their mission.

The Armyís goal for the competition is to display some of the finest tactical and technical soldiers in the world and to allow the ranger participants to incorporate what they have learned in the competition and teach their platoons the knowledge theyíve gained, Pound said.

In a way, sharing their knowledge with their units is like contributing to a big family, said Maj. Gen. Paul Eaton, Fort Benning commanding general, who has known the second-place winners, Capt. Jeffrey Vanantwerp and 1st Lt. Lucas Vanantwerp, since they were kids.

ìThis competition is part of a great, big family, î Eaton said. ìThe family is part of the U.S. Army. Mothers, daughters, dads, wives, sons and girlfriends are all celebrating in this incredible competition.î

Around the Army

4 ID soldiers guarding Taliban detainees

FORT HOOD, Texas (Army News Service) - Soldiers from Fort Hoodís 4th Infantry Division deployed last week to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to provide external security for the camp that houses Al Qaeda and Taliban detainees.

The deployment April 6 of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, also known as ìTask Force Regulars,î marked the first time in 10 years that this unit from the 4th Infantry Division has deployed outside of the United States.

Being part of the Armyís ìdigital divisionî means the TF Regulars have some unique equipment to help them do their mission, according to Maj. Brian Reed, task force commander.

ìThe FBCB2, or Force 21 Battlefield Command Brigade and Below, is a system that allows us to have a comprehensive operational picture of the area,î Reed said. ìWe can track the progress of convoys and observation points and send secure communication information or traffic.î

The infantryman also have the Long Range Advanced Scout Surveillance System, or LRAS3, which is a long-range sensor with thermal capability. It has a powerful sighting system that can zoom in on objects more than 20 kilometers away.

photo by Master Sgt. Debra Bingham

Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas, practice the process of preparing detainees for transport.

The mission of the infantrymen in Cuba is to provide external security for Camp X-Ray through several different types of operations: fixed site security, patrols, quick reaction, force-reacting to disturbances, and escort and security when the detainees arrive in theater and are transported to the facility, Reed said.

Although some of the tasks are not normally associated with infantrymen, their expertise at patrolling and conducting security operations form a solid basis for the mission, according to Capt. Jason Westbrock, Company B commander.

ì Weíve been through an intense National Training Center rotation on combat operations. Now weíre transitioning to a nonlethal-based mission here. Itís a change of mindset, so weíve trained with the MPs [military policemen] on nonlethal means of controlling situations,î Westbrock said.

Before heading to Cuba, the TF Regulars took part in specialized training at Fort Hood with the 4th Military Police Company. Formal instruction and hands-on-training took place at the Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain Complex, or MOUT, giving soldiers an added touch of realism.

With city buildings and burned buses as a backdrop, the Regulars learned squad and platoon movements, self-defense tactics and riot-control techniques. They also picked up some new equipment - helmets, riot shields and batons.

Then they suited up and faced a group of bottle-throwing rioters. It gave the soldiers a chance to test themselves and their new skills.

Spc. John Neal, rifleman, said now that heís in Cuba heís doing a job that offers a different kind of challenge than the one at Fort Hood.

ìItís a job where I canít let my emotions or feelings get in the way. Iím going to do the job Iíve been sent here for, î he said.

The skills the TF Regulars learned will serve them well, according to Reed.

ìEleven years ago we had a Cold War focus. Weíve expanded our horizon of missions since then - with Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and Kosovo. Now, with the war on terrorism, we need to be able to respond to a different contingency. Weíre not purely war fighters, we also have to exercise restraint and focus on the humanitarian side,î Reed said.

ì We are taking part in the Presidentís war against terrorism. Weíre not just training anymore,î Reed said.

photo by Master Sgt. Keith Reed

In Afganistan, soldiers hurry to load ammunition onto a waiting CH-47 Chinook helicopter as the war against terrorism continues.

The Korean War Memorial, located on the west end of The Mall, consists of 19 larger-than-life U.S. ground troopers equipped for battle moving toward an American flag.

Korean War Memorial

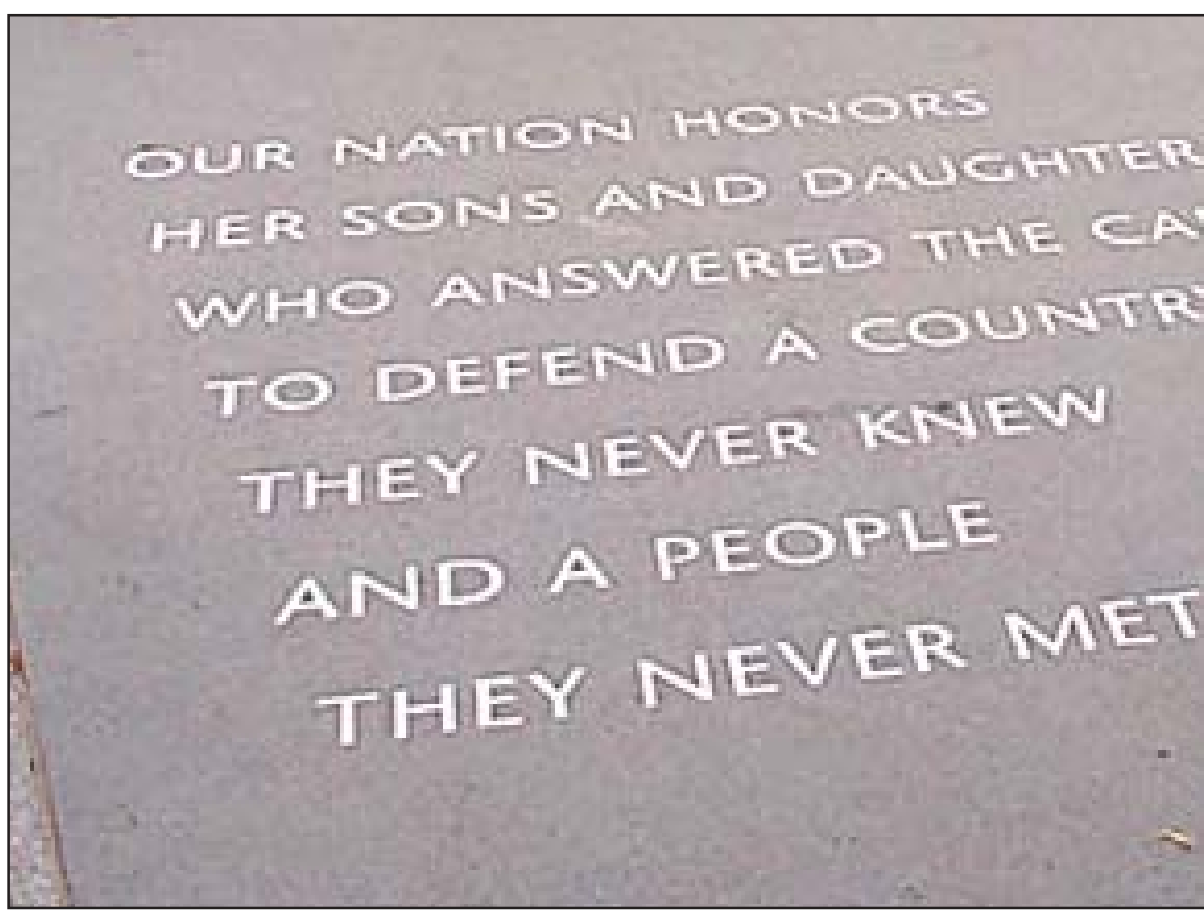
Paying tribute to servicemembers past

COMPILED BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, The Voice

From 1950 to 1953, the United States joined with United Nations forces in Korea to take a stand against what was deemed a threat to democratic nations worldwide. At warís end, a million and a half American veterans returned to a peacetime world of families, homes, and jobs - and to a country long reluctant to view the Korean War as something to memorialize. But to the men and women who served, the Korean War could never be a forgotten war.

The passing of more than four decades has brought a new perspective to the war and its aftermath. The time has come, in the eyes of the Nation, to set aside a place of remembrance for the people who served in this hard-fought war half a world away.

This memorial honors those Americans who answered the call, those who fought and who gave their lives for the cause of freedom.



photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

Near the memorial there is a message on the pavement honoring the participants in the Korean War.

Safety Brief

BY PATTI SHELLEY
SAFETY OFFICER

Get the swimming trunks out, dust off your boat, and pull out the grill because itís that time of the year again! Time for family gatherings, picnics, baseball, swimming, boating, vacations, parties, and loads of things to accomplish around the house. Itís the beginning of an endless list of many activities when the skies are blue and the sun shines like gold. We all want to have fun and enjoy life to its fullest.

Unfortunately, this particular period of time between Memorial Day and Labor Day, better known as ì101 Critical Days of Summer,î brings the increased risk of injuries, or possible even worse. Mishaps rise dramatically during this period compared to the rest of the year. Itís a time when fun can turn into terrible tragedies. However, we know it doesnít have to be that way. We can have fun and be safe at the same time. STOP and Think! No matter what the activity might be, always plan ahead.

The number-one cause of serious injuries and fatalities to people during this time of year is traffic mishaps. Many factors are involved in these mishaps, such as speeding, driving under the influence, not using seat belts, and driving when fatigued.

When planning a trip, whether it is a short or long one, take the necessary precautions for being safe. Make sure you are rested, obey the laws, ensure your vehicle is in good operation condition, check the weather, have an emergency kit in the trunk, and let someone know your destination with the travel route. It also wouldnít hurt to pack a variety of snacks to nibble in case of delays. But above all, remember to use safety belts! You never know what can happen, so be prepared.

The second major cause of fatalities is from drowning. Boating, swimming, scuba diving, and white water rafting mishaps have cost many lives. Most water safety trips involved common sense ñ wear Coast Guard-approved life preservers on boats and on the docks. Remember, STOP and THINK! When swimming, know your limits ñ donít swim beyond your capabilities and never swim alone. Never dive into shallow water or water of unknown depth. Supervise children at all times around water, including backyard wading and swimming pools.

If you are planning to serve alcoholic beverages at parties in your home, ensure your guest have designated drivers, provide non-alcoholic drinks, serve plenty of high-protein food, and watch out for salty snacks that speed up the absorption of alcohol into the bloodstream. You also might want to take everyoneís car keys as they arrive and return them only to designated drivers. STOP and THINK ñ friends donít let friends drink and drive.

The summer months should be fun memories versus tragic ones. These are times for families to reach out to each other, and to share magic moments with friends. Hopefully, everyone will include the ìwhat ifsî as they create a mental or written checklist of planned activities, and not just plunge ahead. There are many important questions to ask before tackling something. Are you physically fit? What is the condition of the equipment? What are the capabilities of other participants? What does the location look like? These details determine the atmosphere of safety. We learn from the mistakes of others only when we incorporate them into our own plans, preventing needless injuries and tragic loss of life.

Common sense plays a major role in safety. There are situations that require personal judgment to assess the risks and personal limitations. Everyone must accept responsibility for safety. No one lives or works entirely alone. We are involved with all people ñ touched by their accomplishments and marked by their failures. If we fail the person beside us, we fail ourselves, and both will share the burden of that loss. A true horror in life is the stark realization that we have caused a preventable mishap to ourselves, or even worse, to someone else.

Most mishaps are conceived by improper attitudes and born in moments of action without thought. Mishaps will be minimized only when informed personal awareness creates the right attitude that is strong enough to prevent or control the act. The prevention of mishaps is an objective, which should touch all people at all levels. A concerted effort by everyone to emphasize self discipline and common sense can help save a life. STOP and THINK ñ isnít a life worth saving?

Civilianís Corner

BY SAM JONES
BRIGADE SENIOR CIVILIAN

ENTIRE GS PAY SYSTEM NEEDS TO BE OVERHAULED, SAYS OPM

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has issued a white paper that says the entire General Schedule (GS) pay system - which covers 1.2 million federal employees - needs to be completely overhauled if the government is going to improve its strategic management of human capital.

OPM notes that the GS pay system suffers from numerous problems - itís antiquated; it does not reflect market pay levels; it does not encourage or reward individual achievement or results; its structure is better suited to the workforce of the 1950s, when the vast majority of federal employees worked as clerks; its structure is too rigid to allow agencies to tailor pay to fit their particular missions and labor markets; and, in light of the number of agencies given special pay authorities, it is disintegrating. While OPM doesnít offer specific proposals for changing the GS system, the white paper generally suggests greater agency flexibility in employee pay and a closer link between pay and employee performance. OPM does say that, in its opinion, ìÖbargaining pay should not be part of a new system, [but that] it is recognized that Congress would establish whether and to what extent that system will be subject to collective bargaining.î

Additionally, OPM criticizes the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act of 1990 (FEPCA), stating that ìFEPCAís Achilles heel is its inability to reflect pay differences across occupations at the same level of workÖî FEPCA was never fully implemented, says OPM, because its methodology was not ìplausible enough.î Specifically, OPM found that gaps in federal sector and private sector pay vary significantly by occupational group, so that ìÖsome occupational groups in some locations show little or no pay gap, while the gap is as much as 40 percent for other occupations in other locations.î The white paper suggests that the current GS pay system does not adequately address such differences.

American Federation of Government Employeesí (AFGE) President Bobby Harnage has been sharply critical of the report, stating, ìSimply put, merit pay invites favoritism and favoritism invites corruption. The civil service and its component compensation systems are designed to keep the federal service outside the sphere of politics, favoritism and corruptionÖ The federal government, as an employer, needs to be compared with other large, unionized employers, not the mythical, idealized small private firm. As such, OPM must recognize that the expansion in management rights they envision must be counterbalanced with an expansion in collective bargaining rights for federal employees.î OPM says the white paper is intended to begin a ìconversationî within the federal community about the possibilities for a modernized federal pay system. OPMís white paper, entitled ìA Fresh Start For Federal Pay: The Case For Modernization,î can be found at: http://www.opm.gov/strategiccomp/index.htm#whitepaper.

TSP OPEN SEASON REMINDER

Donít forget that Thrift Savings Plan open season dates are May 15th through July 31st. To enroll or change your contribution amount, you should submit Form TSP-1, Election Form, to your agency if you are in civilian service, or Form TSP-U-1 to your service if you are a member of the uniformed services. The forms are available on the TSP web site at http://www.tsp.gov or from your agency or service. Since some agencies or services may be using an electronic version of Form TSP-1 or Form TSP-U-1 (in Employee Express, PostalEASE, or Employee/Member Self-Service System (E/MSS), for example), you may want to check with your agency personnel office or your service TSP representative for guidance.

Summary of the Recent Senior Steering Group (SSG) Meeting on Revitalizing and Reshaping the Workforce Thrust.

An SSG was held on 2 May to prepare for a presentation at the up-coming Senior Military Intelligence Officerís Conference to be held on 21 May. LTG Noonan chaired the meeting.

The SSG obtained consensus that: Revitalizing and Reshaping the Workforce needs to remain a Thrust and be tracked by Senior Leaders; and that the SSG fulfills an important role as a champion. Additionally, action was recommended on a variety of subjects.

The IC Training and Education Board will be asked to review the current ìanalysisî curriculum. Another review of actions under the tenet ìTeaming with Academiaî should be considered. Additional initiatives should be planned to professionalize those in the Intelligence Specialist, GG-132 series.

photo by Spc. Brian Murphy

A lesson on women ...

Instead of conducting annual training in a mundane classroom environment, the soldiers of Headquarters and Operations Company, 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion headed to Arlington, Virginia to the Women in Military Service for America Memorial May 2. The Womenís Memorial is a unique, living memorial honoring all military women - past, present and future - and is the nationís only major national memorial honoring women who have served in our nationís defense during all eras and in all services. Above, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Rausch looks at the Hidden Daughter of the American Revolution exhibit.

VISION STATEMENT

704th Military Intelligence Brigade

HERE AND EVERYWHERE

Be the premier Army team providing dominant cryptologic and operational support to warfighters and national decision-makers ì*HERE AND EVERYWHERE*.î