

Inside The Voice



704th soldier given chance of a lifetime
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photo by Spc. Brian Murphy
Sgt. Clayton Matsunobu, 741st Military Intelligence Battalion, poses for a photo with Chris Simon after practice April 10.

704th soldiers meet the Caps

BY **SPC. BRIAN MURPHY**
Editor, The Voice

The acquisition of superstar Jaromir Jagr was supposed to be the missing piece to the Washington Capitals' Stanley Cup puzzle. The addition of one of the greatest offensive players in the universe to a team known for stellar goalie play and tough defensive play was said to be all that was needed to create a dominant force in our nation's capital.

Unfortunately, the season didn't unfold that way. A serious rash of injuries to many of the Capitals important role players kept the team from really being able to show how well they were capable of playing. Instead of capping the greatest season in the organization's 28-year history, the season will be memorable for all the wrong reasons. In a season where little seemed consistent, one aspect of the Washington Capitals remained constant – their love of their fans.

A small group of soldiers from the

704th Military Intelligence Brigade were invited to attend a Washington Capitals practice at Piney Orchard April 10. This was the second straight year that the Capitals have welcomed soldiers from the 704th MI Brigade; a handful of soldiers visited the team at their practice facility last February.

The soldiers arrived as the players were taking the ice for an afternoon practice session and then visited with the players as practice finished.

"It's not every day soldiers get to do something like this," said Spc. Franklin Pipes, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th MI Brigade. "Hockey is still fairly new to North Carolina, where I'm from. I knew of several of the Capitals players though. Just watching practice up close was a cool experience for me. And then to be able to talk to a bunch of the players after practice and to see how down-to-earth they were was even cooler."

Pipes wasn't the only 704th MI Brigade soldier to walk away from the experience more than pleased. Sgt. Clayton Matsunobu, 741st MI Battalion, got the chance to meet one of his favorite National Hockey League players, in Chris Simon. Matsunobu has been a fan of the rugged winger since his days with the Colorado Avalanche. When Simon came over after practice, Matsunobu quickly asked him to take a photograph with him.

Sgt. Jennifer Eaves, 741st MI Battalion, used the day as a chance to get many of the players to autograph cards from her hockey card collection.

But the biggest winner from the brigade would have to be Sgt. Mariah Genco, 742nd MI Battalion. As Capitals center Andrei Nikolishin was leaving practice, she jokingly asked him for his hockey stick. Nikolishin not only gave her his hockey stick, he later autographed it for her in the parking lot.

Because of their kind gestures dur-

see Caps page 5

Reenlistment: mission accomplished

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS WILLENE ORR
Brigade Reenlistment

Have you ever watched the television show "It's a Miracle?" Well, I have and I certainly believe in them. A miracle, milestone, history, or whatever one may desire to call it; but a phenomenal feat has been achieved throughout the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade! For the first time since 1998, the 704th MI Brigade not only achieved mission across the board, but exceeded it! The final statistics for second quarter, Fiscal Year 2002 were as follows:

Initial Term - 113 percent
Reserve Component - 100 percent
Mid-Career - 117 percent
Career - 117 percent
Fiscal Year 2002 ETS - 360 percent

No one person can take the credit. It was a collective team of individuals who contributed to the overall success of this epic event and great milestone that has not been achieved for several years. Noteworthy of honorable mention, without question, are the Command Retention Teams, the leaders, officers, and noncommissioned officers who engaged this fight with all intensity. Together, as an Army of One team, we can overcome any obstacle if we put forth the effort and the energy it requires to complete the task. No doubt, soldiers will desire to stay with a great corporation, like the Army, as long as they know they are a part of the team and have a significant role to play in achieving the mission. Like Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Army chief of staff, once stated, "Make soldiers feel apart of the team and they will stay with the team."

Kudos are extended to every leader, officer, noncommissioned officer, and soldier who contributed any effort in support of the 704th MI Brigade retention objective. This task could not have been accomplished without the concerted efforts by all! The Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) and the 704th MI Brigade Command Retention Teams applaud everyone for attaining a goal that once seemed out of reach or quite frankly, just impossible to achieve.

Below are just a few of the highlights from 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2002:

- Mission was accomplished without any exceptions to policy!
- 44 total reenlistments during second quarter.
- Two warrant officer candidates were accepted.
- Options soldiers reenlisted for:
 - 17 soldiers reenlisted for Regular Army,
 - 19 soldiers reenlisted for Current Station,
 - One soldier reenlisted for Army Training,
 - Six soldiers reenlisted for Overseas Assignment,
 - One soldier reenlisted for CONUS Station-of-Choice,

Total Selective Reenlistment Bonus monies were \$175,198, A total of seven soldiers maxed out their Selective Reenlistment Bonuses at \$20,000,

Two Bonus Extension and Retraining Program (BEAR) Applicants were processed.

To ensure success for the upcoming quarter, we must continue to have active and energetic involvement from all leaders, officers, and noncommissioned officers. Commanders must conduct required Retention Counselings 15-16 months prior to End of Time in Service. Moreover, Career Counselors must process options for all eligible soldiers on the Army RETAIN system 13 months prior to ETS. Soldiers can review their reenlistment options prior to their 12 months from ETS.

Without a doubt, success is a direct indicator of the quality of leadership exhibited by commanders, officers, and NCOs. One of the measurements of success include achieving mission with the fewest numbers of waivers and exceptions. Now that a new quarter is upon us, we will excel again as we work together as One Team of professionals to achieve a common goal – "Mission Accomplishment!"

Special thanks to all for "Keeping Our Soldiers in Bootz!" Sincere gratitude is extended to everyone who chose to remain with the premier fighting force – the U.S. Army! We look forward to even greater milestones during the third quarter, Fiscal Year 2002!

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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742nd MI Battalion
Staff Sgt. Collins (301) 677-0117
743rd MI Battalion
Staff Sgt. Pringle (303) 677-5048

Around the Brigade

The 704th Military Intelligence Brigade and Fort Meade Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers programs have a new president. Spc. Nancy Gonzalez officially took over for Spc. Michael Caves in April. The next planned event for the BOSS program is a white-water rafting trip scheduled for July 13-14. Those interested can contact Gonzalez 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.

704th officers dine in style



photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

704th Military Intelligence Brigade Commander Col. Deborah J. Beckworth (center) and friends salute the grog bowl during the Officers' Dining-in at Club Meade April 12. In all, more than 80 officers from the 704th MI Brigade gathered for the annual event. Highlights from the Dining-in always include the preparation of the grog bowl and the individual skits performed by each of the battalions after the meal.



(Above) Members of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade Select Honor Guard show their respects to the commander during the posting of the colors.

(Right) Lt. Col. Diana A. Raynor, battalion commander, 741st Military Intelligence Battalion, uses a unique method of transportation to get to the Officers' Dining-in.



Local talent heads to Soldier Show

BY JENNIFER SICILIANO SHAYNE
SoundOFF!

Keeping personnel morale high is a top priority for the Army, and their tried-and-true method of cheering the troops is the Army Soldier Show.

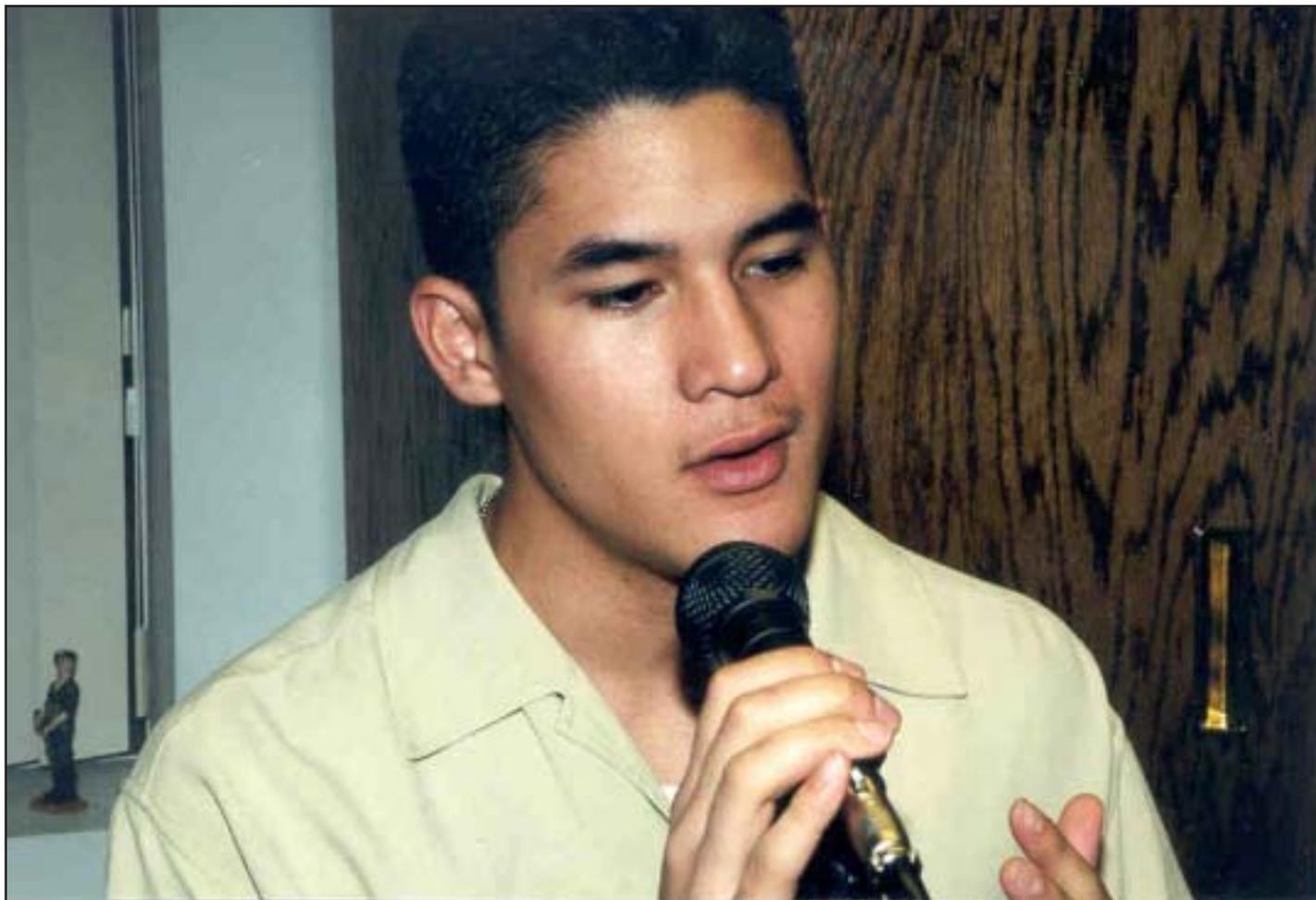
One of Fort Meade's own, Spc. Randy Batarao of B Company, 741st Military Intelligence Battalion here, has been chosen to perform with the 18-member cast of the 2002 U.S. Army Soldier Show.

"He's a great addition to the show," said Army Show Director Victor Hurtado. "We have such a huge wealth of talent this year," Hurtado added. Hurtado is a Soldier Show alumnus.

The process was "nerve-racking," according to Batarao. The audition process began with a videotape audition, and from that applicants' pool, 25 soldiers were chosen to come in for a live audition, which lasted for a week, according to 1st Sgt. Victor Garcia of the Army Entertainment Detachment.

"It was strenuous," said Batarao, noting that in addition to the talent portion of the audition, the soldiers were tested on their teamwork skills, attitude and a Class A uniform inspection was also conducted.

Batarao, who has performed as a vocalist since he was a child, is now adding dancing to his repertoire. "It's opening up a new door," he said, adding that he is considering dancing classes once the tour ends.



photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

Spc. Randy Batarao, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, was one of 18 soldiers selected to join this year's Soldier Show. He relishes the opportunity to hone these new talents, noting, "Every aspect of the show is vital."

Now, the 18 chosen performers and six backstage technicians work seven days a week preparing for their estimated 110-show traveling schedule. Opening night for the show is May 15 at the Wallace Theater, Fort Belvoir, Va.

The soldiers are now assigned to the Army Community and Family

Support Center Army Entertainment Detachment for duty with the U.S. Army Entertainment Division for 179 days, according to the Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Web site. The soldiers continue to earn their regular paychecks, in addition to a stipend for incidentals, said Batarao.

The traveling show is tentatively scheduled to come to Fort Meade June 1 and will also travel to Ger-

many, Italy and Eastern Asia among other destinations. "The show will tour all over the world, and at almost all installations in the U.S.," said Garcia. The free show lasts about an hour and 20 minutes, he added, and it runs through November.

The show includes singing and dance numbers, ranging from current musical hits to Broadway showtunes, and solo performances as well as ensemble dance numbers. The entire cast and crew are responsible for dismantling and reassembling the stage set at each new tour location.

Batarao is thrilled "to wake up and have music be my job," he said, noting that the experience is made better by working with "a lot of people that are good at what they do."

"The U.S. Army Soldier Show is important. It's a tour to lift morale, especially of the troops overseas," said Garcia, adding that the troops really like the show, and appreciate the efforts of their fellow service members.

Batarao agrees, "Although we're here to perform, we're soldiers first."

The first Army Soldier Show, Yip Yip Yaphank, played on Broadway in 1918 and was conceived and directed by Sgt. Irving Berlin, known today for composing the well-known musicals *White Christmas* and *Annie Get Your Gun*. The Soldier Show was revived in World War II under the title, *This is the Army*.

For more information about the 2002 U.S. Army Soldier Show, visit the Army Entertainment Web site at www.armymwr.com.



Prior to joining the Soldier Show 2002 talent roster, Spc. Randy Batarao performed at various ceremonies within the brigade.



Sgt. Jennifer Eaves, a longtime Washington Capitals fan, gets back-up goaltender Sebastien Charpentier's autograph after practice at Piney Orchard April 10. photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

Caps from page 1

ing the final few minutes at the end of an April practice, the Capitals won over the group of soldiers.

"This has been a tough season for the Caps," Pipes said. "They weren't even sure if they were going to make the playoffs, but you couldn't tell. They were happy to sign some autographs and a few of the players even asked us where we were from and thanked us for being in the mili-

tary. It was really nice for them to do something like this for the fans."

This season has indeed been a difficult one for the Washington Capitals. Their first practice of the year was on Sept. 11.

"It was the opening of training camp," said Capitals goalie Olaf Kolzig. "It seemed more like a Hollywood movie. A few games into the season, we went up to New York for a game and flew by it and you didn't see the two towers anymore and it sank in.

Hockey didn't really seem important at the time."

Unfortunately, the injuries and inconsistent defensive play kept the notoriously slow-starting team from ever gaining momentum. By the time the Capitals got most of the players back to full health, the season was coming to a close.

"The way we've played the last month," said Kolzig, "is the way we should have played all year long. But it shows we have a lot of character and a lot of pride. Maybe when we traded away Adam Oates people gave up on us, but we didn't give up on ourselves. And we ended up playing the best hockey of the year. We made a valiant run. We'll take the lessons learned and apply them to next year realizing that every game is important."

Off the ice, however, there were many highlights during Washington's season. Following Sept. 11, the Caps had a military appreciation night and also invited servicemembers, firefighters and police officers to attend a two preseason games for free.

"I think it's too bad that an event like Sept. 11th had to occur for us to really appreciate law enforcement, firefighters and the Armed Forces," Kolzig said. "I think they're a little under appreciated and we take it for granted that you guys are there. I wouldn't be against having an appreciation night every year for the people who protect our country."



The Washington Capitals were awarded a National Hockey League expansion team in 1974.

In the 1974-75 season, the Caps set a record for futility, with a record of 8-67-5. That same season, the Capitals won only one road game out of 40.

Things have gotten better for Caps' fans though - during the 1997-98 season, Washington made it all the way to the Stanley Cup Finals, before losing to the Detroit Red Wings.

Coming into this season, the Caps had also managed to capture two straight Southeast Division titles.

For more information on the Caps or to find out how to get tickets, check out their award-winning website at:

www.washingtoncaps.com



Sgt. Mariah Genco, 742nd MI Battalion, smiles after Capitals center Andrei Nikolishin gave her his hockey stick, which he later autographed.

Soldiers face challenge of a lifetime

BY SPC. BRIAN MURPHY
Editor, *The Voice*

Some couples shared the moment with a kiss. A few teams celebrated with cigars in mouth and an ice-cold beer in hand. One female even did a cartwheel.

When the members of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade's four teams each crossed the finish line, signaling completion of the 26.2-mile Bataan Death March, they simply smiled, grounded their gear, and rested in the shade.

"I am very proud of the soldiers that participated in this year's march," said Cpt. Mark Lessman, officer in charge of the Fort Meade Bataan Death March teams. "For some of them this has been the first time they have attempted anything as remotely challenging as the Bataan Death March. Each of them had their own reasons for doing this, and each of them conducted themselves with honor and pride before, during and after the march."

More than 4,100 military and civilian marchers participated in the 14th annual Bataan Death March at White Sands Missile Range, in New Mexico April 14, which commemorated the 60th anniversary of the surrender of American and Filipino troops to the Japanese in the Philippines during World War II.

Last year, more than 3,500 military and civilian marchers competed in the largest military memorial march in the country. Unfortunately, only six 704th Military Intelligence Brigade soldiers participated. This year, the brigade sent a total of 24 soldiers to the commemorative event.

Teams from 741st MI Battalion and 742nd MI Battalion competed in the male military heavy (with 35-pound rucksack) category, while the two teams and four individuals from 743rd MI Battalion, out of Buckley Air Force Base, in Colorado, all competed in the male military light category.

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

"After the first 12 miles it becomes more of a mental challenge than physical," said Sgt. 1st Class Todd Harger, 741st MI Battalion team member, referring to the challenge of an extended march. "I told my guys to think about the original Bataan Death Marchers. They went a lot further than 26.2 miles, and didn't get to stop or receive medical care. If they stopped moving, they were killed. They did it, and they didn't even have all of the equipment, luxuries and time to train like we have. Some didn't even have shoes to march in. But they made it. You just have to put your mind to it."

Each of the 704th MI Brigade teams began training for the event in late February. Team 741st MI Battalion started marching at a distance of nine miles and eventually worked their way up to a "March Off" of 22 miles at the end of March. Team 742nd MI Battalion chose to do some of their training off post, using local trails to train at a distance of 15 miles, while 743rd MI Battalion soldiers enforced a standard of 15-minute miles while readying for the event.

No matter how they trained, for many of the soldiers who participated, the Bataan Death March was



Sgt. 1st Class Todd Harger takes care of his feet prior to participating in the Bataan Death March April 14.

photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

the most difficult challenge they'd ever been a part of.

"Last year's march was the toughest thing I've ever done," said Spc. T.J. Curry, 742nd MI Battalion team member, who was participating in the Bataan Death March for the second straight year. "But I wanted to do it again this year. To prove to myself that I could still do it and also to pay respects to those who were involved 60 years ago."

Curry competed in the Bataan Death March last year with member of his advanced individual training's command and staff out of Fort Huachuca, Az. Once he heard his new unit, 742nd MI Battalion, was sending a team, he jumped at the chance.

"My hips are a little sore and I have a few blisters on my feet," said Curry, the day after the Bataan Death March. "But I'll probably do it again next year, if I can."

After the event ended, Lessman thanked the brigade's participants with a simple message.

"It is true that the best always rise to the top, and each of these soldiers that participated in this year's Memorial March are indeed the best of the best of this battalion. I am privilege to have had the opportunity to have walked with them, and welcome the opportunity to do so again in the future," Lessman said.

Active and reserve component and retired members, ROTC cadets and civilians competed in light and heavy divisions as individuals and team. All heavy division marchers carry a 35-pound rucksack; light division entrants do not.

Teams carried five individuals and had to cross the finish line together within 10-yards. Team categories include male civilian light, female civilian light, male military light, female military light, male military heavy, female military heavy, Junior ROTC military light, coed civilian light, coed military light, coed military heavy, ROTC light, ROTC heavy, National Guard light and National Guard heavy.

Who competed

Below are the names of the soldiers who participated in this year's Bataan Death March. The 741st and 742nd MI Battalion teams competed in the Heavy Division, while the 743rd soldiers competed in the Light Division.

741st MI Battalion

Cpt. Mark Lessman
Sgt. 1st Class Todd Harger
Staff Sgt. Aaron Hickenbottom
Sgt. William Stout
Sgt. Wilson Trabal

742nd MI Battalion

Staff Sgt. Jeffery Rausch
Staff Sgt. James Raley
Sgt. Russell Berkheimer
Spc. T.J. Curry
Spc. Patrick Robertson

743rd MI Battalion (Team #1)

Cpt. William Zielinski
Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Coon
Sgt. Brady Manteufel
Spc. Michael Brady
Spc. Hurley Thomas

743rd MI Battalion (Team #2)

Cpt. Alexander Braszko
Staff Sgt. Jason Hunt
Staff Sgt. Jose Bobo
Spc. Nathan Provence
Spc. James Hall

743rd MI Battalion (Individuals)

Staff Sgt. Eric Newman
Staff Sgt. James Breaux
Spc. Eric Rector
Spc. John Miller



The members from the 741st Military Intelligence Battalion and 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion Bataan Death March teams gather for a photo just prior to the march.



Cpt. Mark Lessman, officer in charge of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade Bataan Death March teams, flexes his muscles at one of the water points during the march in White Sands, New Mexico April 14.



One of the 4,100 participants in the 14th annual Bataan Death March grabs a cup of water at the 8-mile marker. There were numerous check points throughout the march. At each of the points, volunteers passed out water to the runners and marchers, while some points, such as this one had 30 local medics on hand to help treat any problems the participants might have encountered.

Around the Army

Recruits now enlisting into Special Forces

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (Army News Service) — A new Army program that lets recruits enlist directly into rigorous Special Forces training here is currently underway and receiving a favorable response from civilians interested in earning the coveted Green Beret, according to officials from the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Ky.

“Since we restored the program, the results have been extremely positive,” said Capt. David P. Connolly, a Public Information Officer at the U.S. Army Recruiting Command. “We anticipate achieving mission success well before the end of the fiscal year.”

Revived in mid-January, the Special Forces Recruiting Initiative is a return to the original Special Forces recruitment process, which began in 1952 and allowed both civilians and servicemen to sign up for the nearly two years of training necessary to become a Green Beret.

“I think this program is the best thing to happen to Special Forces in years,” said Col. Charles A. King, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) commander. “It will allow us to recruit the right kind of guy off the street, train him, prepare him and mold him right from the start.”

The training group is responsible for the training of all Special Forces recruits.

In 1988, the recruiting process was adjusted to allow only soldiers already in the Army to become Special Forces qualified.

“The Army at that time had three-quarters of a million people in it, and Special Forces was about 20 percent smaller than it is right now,” King said. “With the Army being bigger and Special Forces being smaller, we discontinued the (recruiting) program. Things have now evolved to a point where we’re down to a 480,000-person Army with significantly larger Special Forces groups.”

“We are restoring a program which we used to have, in order to meet our current operational requirements,” King said. “We have the added benefit of having looked back and studied the (pre-1988) program. We’re going to improve on it (with the Special Forces Recruiting Initiative).”

As of March 28, Army recruiters have already filled 140 of the 400 slots allotted for civilians enlisting into the Special Forces Recruiting Initiative, according to Connolly. He said since the initiative’s pilot program was started in January, it has met with much interest among those interested in the military.

According to data provided by the recruiting command, the first 56 Special Forces recruits shipped out during the first week in April to begin the nearly



file photo

two years of training required to earn the Green Beret.

Among the 140 Special Forces hopefuls recruited so far, Connolly said 22 possess undergraduate degrees, three have a master’s degree and two have earned a doctorate degree.

“We are seeing a great deal of quality in these applicants,” Connolly said.

Recruits who begin training under the new program will enter the Army as a private first class, eventually earning the rank of sergeant when they complete training, King said.

“This program is not about putting privates on Special Forces teams. A soldier that comes in (the Army) under this program will join a team as a noncommissioned officer,” he added.

Capt. Joe Martin, a 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Abn.) training detachment commander, said the new recruits will have a slightly different initial training process that will result in a higher success rate than past Special Forces hopefuls going through the Special Forces Assessment and Selection process.

Special Forces Assessment and Selection is designed to advance only highly qualified soldiers to the next levels of Special Forces training, officials said.

Martin said traditional in-service recruits go straight to Special Forces Assessment and Selection from their unit when they volunteer for Special Forces training. To prepare those recruited under the new recruiting initiative for success in the assessment process, the 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Abn.) has created the Special Operations Preparation and Conditioning course.

“A soldier coming through (the course) will be better prepared for getting through assessment and selection than one who didn’t,” Martin said. During the class, veteran Special Forces soldiers conduct intensive training in land navigation, physical training and other soldier skills with recruits.

In just four weeks, a class of soldiers who volunteered for Special Forces training from infantry training at Fort Benning, Ga., improved their average score on the Army Physical Fitness Test by 30 points at the conditioning course, from 229 to 259, Martin said. The recently enlisted soldiers were used as training prototypes for the civilians recruited under the new initiative.

King said the initial Special Operations Preparation and Conditioning courses’ successes were outstanding - out of 39 soldiers, only 3 didn’t meet the assessment and selection standard.

King also said another advantage of enlisting civilian volunteers directly into Special Forces training was the fact they would be able to provide more years of service than someone recruited in-service, who typically already has about eight years of service in the Army when they volunteer. Civilians recruited under the Special Forces Recruiting Initiative will on average have slightly more than two years in service when they complete their training and are assigned to a team.

“They will be able to give us a full career,” King said.

Chris Crain, a retired Special Forces master sergeant, enlisted directly into Special Forces training in 1969. He said the return to “off-the-street” recruiting

is something he feels will help bring highly qualified individuals into the Green Berets’ ranks.

“I think there’s going to be a select part of our youth that will see this as an opportunity to do something they might not otherwise have an opportunity to do,” Crain said.

Crain said when he entered Special Forces training, it was tough and designed “to weed out the weak.” He said he was glad to see the current prerequisites for training were created with the same purpose in mind - to produce the best-qualified soldiers possible.

“With these kind of qualifications (for the recruits), they are really going to help the force,” Crain said.

Despite the program’s popularity with the recruits, some have characterized it as a move to quickly inflate the ranks of busy Special Forces teams, de-emphasizing high standards. King said criticism was aimed at the program because of its creation during the heavy use of Special Forces soldiers in Operation Enduring Freedom was unfounded.

“There is some misconception that we are doing this because of Sept. 11. We have been working on an initial-accession program for quite some time - what Sept. 11 did was merely cause us to move up the timetable,” King said.

“People have to understand that we have been training Special Forces soldiers for 50 years,” he said.

“There is nobody in this organization that is interested in taking shortcuts or compromising how we train. But everybody in this organization is absolutely confident in our ability to train these young men to standard,” King said.

Around the Army

Army wrestles Armed Forces crown away from Marines

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — Led by the final-bout heroics of heavyweights Dremiel Byers and Paul Devlin, the All-Army wrestling team captured the Armed Forces Wrestling Championship March 31.

Byers capped the soldiers' emotional dual-match victory over the Marines by posting a 13-0 technical fall victory over Timothy Taylor to give Army a thrilling 13-12 Greco-Roman victory on Saturday.

"Coach told me not to give up any points," said Byers, 27, a native of Kings Mountain, N.C., competing for his fourth year in the Army's World Class Athlete Program. "A tech or a pin, and it would be ballgame. I have a job to do. I just went out there and completed the mission."

The victory served as redemption for Byers, who was named Outstanding Greco-Roman Wrestler of the Year by USA Wrestling before finishing a disappointing third in the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials. He then rejoined his Army unit and served a year in the field before returning to the mat.

During Byers' down-range time in 2001, Army lost the Armed Forces crown to the Marines for the first time since 1989.

"When I found out that we lost Armed Forces, that just killed me because I knew it was because I wasn't there," Byers said. "Armed Forces always comes down to the heavyweights. That's the way it's always been."

Sure enough, Freestyle competition on Easter Sunday came down to Marine Frank Workman needing a victory over Army's Paul Devlin to lift his team from a 13-11 deficit to victory in the final match of the two-day tournament. On this weekend, however, the wrestling fates smiled upon the Army.

Devlin, 20, of Livingston, N.J., posted a 6-2 victory over Workman, 27, of Vinita, Okla., to secure Army's 16-12 Freestyle victory over the tired Marines, most of whom had wrestled Greco-Roman the day before. The soldiers, on the other hand, sent eight fresh wrestlers to the mat for Freestyle competition.

"Not making excuses at all, but you notice that my lineup is almost exactly the same [as in Greco-Roman]," Marine Corps coach Jay Antonelli said. "We only changed one person. We're splitting time while they're coming with a fresh eight guys. It's that competitive spirit that makes us Marines."

"My hat's off to the Army," Antonelli continued. "They have a good program and a good system. It's obviously working."

Army Greco-Roman gold medalists included Glenn Nieradka at 60 kilograms; Keith Sieracki at 74 kilograms; and



Sgt. Keith Sieracki lifts T.C. Dantzler during the 167.5-pound Greco Roman finals at the World Team Trials in Cincinnati, Ohio, last June. Sieracki was one of the reasons the All-Army Wrestling Team was successful during the Armed Forces Championship.

Byers at 120 kilograms. In Freestyle, Jeffrey Bedard at 60 kilograms; Maxwell Shingara at 66 kilograms; and Devlin at 120 kilograms struck gold for the Army.

Marine Duaine Martin won the 55-kilogram class in both Greco-Roman and Freestyle, as did Marine Dan Hicks at 96 kilograms.

On Saturday, Hicks posted a 4-0 Greco decision over Army's Jason Loukides. On Sunday, he held on for a thrilling, 6-5, decision over Army's Franklin Lashley to give the Marines a chance to upset the soldiers for the team title in the final bout of the weekend.

"That was a tossup," Marines coach Jay Antonelli said of Hicks' victory over Lashley. "We knew Lashley is tough, but Danny is such a competitor. That's what makes him so successful. You've got to love that."

All-Navy wrestling coach Rob Herman was pleased with his team's progress in the tournament. Although the sailors finished third in Freestyle competition behind Army and the Marines

and fourth in Greco-Roman behind Air Force, Herman appreciated his team's effort.

"I came into this tournament not looking for results but for performance," said Herman, 45, head coach of the 1996 U.S. Olympic team and assistant at the 2000 Sydney Games. "Every guy I bring is not ranked, and every guy they're wrestling against is ranked in the top five in the nation, especially in Greco."

"Even the Air Force has a nucleus of four guys who've been wrestling the last six or seven years for them," Herman said. "We used to have that, too, but I only have one guy back from last year's team. So all this stuff is new to them."

Neal Rodak of Oak Forest, Ill., finished third in both Greco-Roman and Freestyle at 55 kilograms to lead the Navy. He dropped an encouraging, 5-1, decision to Army's Anthony Gibbons.

Aaron Sieracki was the lone gold medalist for Air Force, whose wrestling program is in a rebuilding phase.

photo by Douglas Ide

"We have a small, small corps of a main group of guys, and our focus is Greco-Roman," said coach Rich Estrella, 45, now in his 15th season of leading the Air Force team, which is based at Colorado Springs, Colo. "And our main corps did very well in Greco."

Air Force's team recently placed second to Army in the international Dave Schultz Tournament at Colorado Springs.

Sieracki, brother of Army wrestling star Keith Sieracki, won the Armed Forces gold medal at 84 kilograms in Greco-Roman. A reservist from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., Sieracki's biggest victory was a 1-1 referee's decision in overtime against Marine Kenneth Owens. He also posted the Air Force's lone victory in a 21-4 loss to Army with a 3-0 decision over Isaac Wood.

Jacob Hey of Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., placed second in Greco-Roman at 60 kilograms. Steve Woods of Luke Air Force Base, Ariz., wrestled up a weight class and finished third in Greco at 74 kilos.

Around Town

Baltimore Harbor

One of Charm City's featured attractions

COMPILED BY **SPC. BRIAN MURPHY**
Editor, The Voice

Baltimore's Inner Harbor is one of America's oldest seaports - and one of the world's newest travel destinations. Since the 1600's, the Baltimore Harbor has been welcoming people, ships and goods from all over the world.

One of the most infamous events to take place in the area is the Great Baltimore Fire. On Sunday morning, Feb. 7, 1904, a spark ignited blankets and cotton goods in the firm of John E. Hurst and Company. Flames burst out of control from building to building due to high winds. A total of 1,231 fireman and 400 volunteers sprayed 20 million gallons of water on the flames. By the time the fires were under control Monday evening, it had consumed 1,500 buildings over more than 140 acres. Many people sustained material loss. Damage was estimated to be more than \$125 million. However, there were no serious injuries and only one death reported.

The leaders of Baltimore decided to use this tragedy as a way to improve their city and make it more appealing.



photos by Spc. Brian Murphy

More than five million people from around the globe come to visit the historic Baltimore Harbor every year.



The Baltimore Harbor is about more than just water. Also located at the harbor is the Maryland Science Center, which has the Davis Planetarium and an IMAX movie theater.

SAFETY BRIEF

BY **PATTI SHELLEY**
SAFETY OFFICER

I took up running about 7 years ago to combat the "after 40 spread." You know, that propensity we all have to pack on extra weight around age 40.



Running is good for the bones and muscles, it's great for the heart, it builds up endurance, and it boosts my spirits, keeping me positive about life. I also like the fact that it doesn't require reserving a court, getting a partner, an instructor, etc., and it is something I can do all alone.

I would describe myself more as a jogger than as a runner. I shuffle my feet at a steady pace, snort, grunt, and sweat profusely. It's not a pretty sight! Walkers on the trails can hear me coming for a good quarter mile, but I don't care. I keep on plugging along with the pitter-patter of my big feet. Although I

don't move in graceful, gazelle-like motions, I enjoy jogging and sure do miss it if I don't get a few jogs in each week. Because of my enthusiasm for this exercise, I've learned a thing or two that might help others interested in checking out this sport. The following personal experiences and considerations are a great place to start the Personal Risk Management (PRM) process for yourself:

Consult a doctor before beginning any exercise regimen. It is important that you know your physical and health limits and not exceed them in your drive to get into shape.

Keep a journal of your jogging schedule. I do this for a couple of reasons. It is a good way for me to track my results (i.e., times and distance). I also annotate what the weather was like, whether or not I felt I had a good run, any problems I encountered, etc. It also provides a history I can look back on to check my progress.

Always carry identification with you. I always keep identification and my health insurance card with me. I do this because I am new to the area, and it will help identify who I am to any pass-

erby in the event that I am injured.

Get a pair of good running shoes. The condition and health of your feet are very important. They get you where you need to go whether you are driving, walking, jogging, biking, hiking, skiing, etc., so invest in them by buying a pair of good running shoes. Over the years I have tried several different brands. I have liked some better than others, but the really crucial thing to remember about running shoes is to buy a new pair when the old pair begins to wear out or breakdown. Preserving healthy feet is priceless compared to the cost of running shoes.

Know your limits. Don't run three miles the first time you go running. Slowly build up to a distance you can comfortably handle. When I first began to jog, I couldn't run around the track one full lap. This is where the sixth consideration is important.

Understand that running is not only a physically demanding sport, but it is one that has a mental twist to it. I wasn't able to run one lap when I started because I didn't believe I could. Now there are days when I tell myself that I am only going to run three miles. As I

set out on my run, I consider how I'm feeling and, if I am feeling pretty good, I tell myself that I can run five miles instead of three. It's an ongoing conversation in my head. If it's too humid, or too cold, or too windy, I sometimes have to talk myself into sticking it out instead of cutting my run short.

Consider the weather conditions you will have to face. I admit it; I am a wimp when it comes to cold weather. I like the conditions to be perfect, but since I prefer to run outside, I try to be prepared for everything. In the winter, I make sure I know the wind chill factor and usually lightly layer my clothing so I can peel off layers if I get too hot. Clothing that wicks the moisture away from the body is also essential. In the summer, I make sure I know the heat index and humidity levels before setting out.

Be sure to stretch, warm up, and cool down. I stretch for 10 minutes before and after I run. This is important for the tendons and helps me avoid tendonitis. Warming up the muscles by waking before my run is also important to prevent muscle pulls. I cool down after my run to help stop any muscle cramping that might occur.

CIVILIAN'S CORNER

BY **SAM JONES**
BRIGADE SENIOR CIVILIAN

Senate Budget Committee Approves Military, Civilian Pay Parity



Following the lead of the House, the Senate Budget Committee has included language in its budget resolution calling for pay parity again next year between military and federal civilian employees. President Bush's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2003 budget included a 2.6 percent pay increase for federal civilian employees and a 4.1 percent pay raise for military personnel. However, in mid-March, the House Budget Committee rejected the President's proposal of a lower raise for federal civilian employees. Instead, the House committee accepted a proposal to amend the non-binding FY 2003 House budget resolution to reflect a 4.1 percent federal civilian pay raise, matching the raise proposed for the military. We'll keep you updated.

TSPG Funds are safe, says TSP Board

Federal employees need not worry about their money invested in the Thrift Savings Plan's G Fund, says the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB), the board that administers the TSP for federal employees. The issue caused some concern recently when Congress failed to raise the national debt ceiling before leaving for a two-week recess. Absent legislation to raise the debt ceiling, the Treasury Secretary may determine that portions of the money in the G Fund cannot be reinvested in Treasury securi-

ties because doing so would exceed the present Federal debt limit. The FRTIB says, however, that all of the G Fund money would still be on account with the Treasury, and the interest that would accrue if the G Fund were fully invested would still be credited to the fund. Specifically, the "make-whole" provision of the Thrift Savings Fund Investment Act of 1987 means that TSP participants who have invested in the G Fund will not lose anything - the account balances would be just the same day-to-day as if they were invested in Treasury securities; disbursements of TSP loans and withdrawals would not be delayed; and the amount of those payments would not be reduced. In short, "G Fund investments are safe and will continue, by law, to accrue earnings. The integrity of the G Fund would not be compromised. TSP participants' accounts would not be affected as a result of any suspension of issuance of Treasury securities to the G Fund," reports the FRTIB. The Administration is under fire on this issue from some groups, such as the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), which recently wrote to OPM Director Kay Coles James to say that "federal employees and retirees deserve to know what plans the administration has to borrow their hard-earned money without their permission." NTEU President Colleen Kelley acknowledged that under present law, money shifted from the TSP must be repaid in full with interest, but criticized how the matter was handled, stating the issue underscores that "communication between this administration's top officials and front line workers has been minimal, at best."

Need to Publicize the Intelligence Training Available on SIPRnet and JWICS Through the Joint Intelligence Virtual University (JIVU).

JIVU has the potential to revolutionize civilian training for the DOD Intelligence Community. It is less

than one year old with courses still limited generally to DIA's, but it will be significantly growing each year and will eventually include a wide range of courses from every Intelligence "school house." It has both intelligence and non-intelligence courses. The major categories of Intelligence and Intelligence Related courses are: Asymmetric Threat; Collection; Counter Drug; Country and Regional; Force Protection and CI; General Intelligence; Imagery Intelligence; Intelligence Systems and Applications; MASINT; and, SIGINT. The non-intelligence courses that are available are commercial off-the-shelf courses from "FasTrac." There are 500+ professional development topics on SKILLSOFT and 800+ information technology related topics on NETg. JIVU can be found on both JWICS/INTELINK-TS at <http://shady1.diac.jol.ic.gov> and the SIPRNet at <http://206.36.151.210>.

1. Aggressive Marketing Required. Careerists and their supervisors should be aggressive in using this new resource. It provides many training opportunities without having to leave the office! Managers, military as well as civilian, should take every opportunity to bring JIVU to the attention of their employees and include appropriate courses within the training and development objectives established in their subordinate's TAPES Support Forms. Managers should also be establishing a norm for their organizations that duty time on the computer for completion of job and career related course work is encouraged.

2. Military and Contractors with the Intelligence Community May Also Utilize JIVU. JIVU is open to military (active and reserve), civilians and contractors who have access to either the SIPRNet or INTELINK-TS/JWICS. (IPMO POC can be reached by e-mail at DCIPS or by phone at DSN329-1569).

743rd soldiers hit the slopes

BY SGT JODY NEASBITT
743RD MI BATTALION

The highlight of the quarter's adventure training was the battalion ski trip to Breckenridge Ski Resort, in Breckenridge Colorado, on April 3rd. Fifty-two people from the 743rd MI Battalion in Aurora, Colorado, attended the all expense paid trip. Thanks go to Maj. David Causey, brigade chaplain, for the money allocated for the exciting day.

The expression, "You're never too old to try" prevailed – since 12 people skied or snowboarded for the first time. The skiing lessons proved helpful for the rookies.

"For an old man like me, who has never skied before, I had a blast," said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Drayton, a first time skier.

Everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves or at least appreciated the day off from the regular work schedule. For all who attended, please share your experiences with those who could have, but chose not to attend.

Thank you also to Staff Sgt. Becky O'Bryan, schools noncommissioned officer; Sgt. Kimberly Heinz, training NCO for Headquarters and Operations Company; 1st Sgt. Darin Watkins, first sergeant, Company B; 1st Sgt. Michael Henderson, HOC first sergeant; and



courtesy photo

(From left to right) Staff Sgt. Becky O'Bryan, Sgt. Kimberly Heinz, and Sgt. 1st Class Elisabeth Wells gear up for a day of skiing.

each of the platoon sergeants for their behind the scenes work on this event to make it a success.

Why did we choose to spend our day skiing at Breckenridge? That's

easy. Where else can you stand on top of a 12,998-foot summit without having to climb it first! In addition, the 25 lifts took us to more than 2,000 acres of skiing terrain where

skiers could ski above the treeline! Breckenridge also has one of the best learning slopes for the large number of beginners we had in our group.



VISION STATEMENT

704th Military Intelligence Brigade

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