



Inside The Voice



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photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

Staff Sgt. Latisha Holmes, career counselor, 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 704th MI Brigade, gets her new distinctive unit insignia (DUI) pinned on by Staff Sgt. Aurora Rodriquez, personnel non-commissioned officer in charge, 742nd MI Battalion. The battalion pinned on the DUI during a ceremony at McGill Hall on Fort George G. Meade, Md., Dec. 15.

742nd dons distinctive battalion unit insignia

by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt
Editor, The Voice

The next time you see a 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion Soldier, you might notice something different about each and every one of them. Are they wearing a new shade of green on their uniforms? No. Have they had their work hours reduced since the capture of Saddam Hussein? I think not. Is there something they know that we don't know? Probably, they are MI, but that's not it either. It's their new distinctive

unit insignia (DUI) the battalion donned at a ceremony held at McGill Hall on Fort George G. Meade, Md., Dec. 15.

"We are one of the very few battalions in the Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) to have our own DUI," said Lt. Col. Lisa Bennett, commander, 742nd MI Battalion, 704th MI Brigade. "He (Ronnie Guimond) was instrumental in the design and implementation of our battalion DUI."

A DUI is worn on all enlisted Soldiers' berets to signify the unit they are assigned to. Officers wear their rank on the berets and all

Soldiers wear DUI's on each shoulder of their Army dress green uniforms.

"It started in the spring of 2001 when then commander of the 742nd, Col. Sharp, announced a contest would be held for a new design of the battalion DUI," said Guimond, who worked in Company A, 742nd MI Battalion, but recently retired from the Army. "I found out in April of 2001 I had won, and my design was submitted to the Department of the Army's Institute of Heraldry."

The Institute of Heraldry is the only organization within the —(go to battalion DUI, page 12)

Military makes a difference in national elections, 'It's your future, vote for it'

by 2nd Lt. Gayla Scully
HHC, 704th MI Brigade

The voting season is almost upon us again. In the upcoming year there will be the Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections, 34 U.S. Senators elected, 435 U.S. Representatives elected and 13 state Governors. If you are interested in voting in any of these elections via absentee ballot please contact your unit voting representatives. If you would like to research the voting procedures, visit www.fvap.gov. You will be able to access information regarding your county and who your voting action officer is. "It's your future, vote for it."

Unit Voting Representatives

704th MI Brigade
Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Valenti
(301) 677-0738

HHC, 704th MI Brigade
2nd Lt. Gayla Scully
(301) 677-0184 or
Sgt. 1st Class Colleen Colson
(301) 677-0018

741st MI Battalion
Capt. Veronica Carroll
(301) 677-0167

742nd MI Battalion
Staff Sgt. Aurora Rodriguez
(301) 677-0083

743rd MI Battalion
Capt. Darcy Lewis
(303) 677-6698



Soldier reflects on Chaplain horseback riding adventure

by Pfc. Kathryn L. Jackson
743rd MI Battalion

Stop for a moment, if you would, and picture yourself at the mercy of a strong-willed, free-spirited Stallion running wildly with the wind at your back and nothing but excitement and unknown adventure before you. At your feet lies the road to happiness untouched by misfortune and discomfort. You are free and nothing stands in the way of an immaculate journey.

Soldiers of the 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 704th MI Brigade, dreamt dreams like this the night before their horseback riding adventure. A group of more than 35

Soldiers along with Chaplain (Maj.) David Causey, brigade chaplain, 704th MI Brigade, took a journey in the breathtaking mountains of Estes Park, Colo., on the backs of strong-willed horses. These horses were not quite Stallions, but they were, nonetheless, fantastic. Without a doubt, it was an unforgettable journey.

Somewhat shaded by the mixtures of trees, brush, and assortments of Evergreens, the Soldiers toured over pathways of rock and dust that "poofed" when tread upon leaving lungs hacking and eyes watering continuously down the trail. Simple conversations of not much importance made their ways down the quiet line of travelers. The Soldiers found ways to entertain themselves they never would've

thought of before such as passing sticks down the trails via trees and other lodgings with the miniscule pleasure of seeing how far the stick would go before being dropped. And yet, though the pleasure seemed small, its meaning gained value over a short time. Other amusements were employed like singing whatever songs fit the mood, telling jokes, or simply laughing until teary-eyed at those whose horses, who remembered the way home or who smelled food, took off without hesitation towards the "rainbow's pot of gold" leaving their unsuspecting riders clinging to the reigns for dear life. All to be seen through the tears of laughter were arms and legs being juggled through the air by hungry, homesick, and seemingly harmless beasts that were five-times the size of their passengers.

Those were sights no one will soon forget.

There were so many sights and sounds—everything was so beautiful and breathtaking! As the journeymen continued, things remained calm and peaceful...until the horses smelled dinner prepared by the ranch-hands. The horses lurched towards the rising aroma of the flame-grilled steaks, smoldering beans, toasting garlic bread, and cool, refreshing lemonade. They carried the Soldiers ever-so-hurriedly to the food where the riders then dismounted and ate until even their souls were content. Immediately following dinner, Causey graced the group with heartfelt words reminding all that to make mistakes is human and to pick themselves up with God's help is to learn from their mistakes.

Thanks, Chaplain Causey!



The Voice is published for Soldiers of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade like: Capt. Ivan Palacios, 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion.



The Voice is an authorized unofficial publication under the provisions of AR 360-1. Reproduced by 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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The 704th Military Intelligence Brigade's mission is to conduct 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.

It's focus is 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.

We are Here and Everywhere

Junior enlisted beat up on other teams at Big Dog Bowl



photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt/ text by Spc. Angela Williams

On the cool and crisp Friday morning of Nov. 21, the 'Big Dogs' of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade went out and had a Turkey Bowl of their own. Even though it was cold, the 'Big Dogs' had football fever. There were three teams and they were divided up by rank; junior enlisted, junior non-commissioned officers and the third team consisted of senior enlisted and officers.

The first game was pretty rough with the junior enlisted taking on the senior enlisted and officers. The senior enlisted and officers whipped up on the lower enlisted by taking their first and final victory of 12-0. The next game consisted of the junior NCOs against the junior enlisted. The game was a tight race between the two but in the end the junior enlisted came out with a victory of 18-12 and was on to take another swipe at the senior enlisted and the officers for first place. This time the junior enlisted whipped up on the seniors and officers and brought home the gold. Last but not least was the exciting battle for second place, the junior NCOs took on the senior enlisted and the officers. The junior NCOs took home the silver with a 12-0 win.

Justice Served

UCMJ action around 704th

The following are the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) actions within the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade from Nov. 22, 2003, through Jan. 5, 2004.

A private first class in HHC, 704th MI Brigade, received a summarized Article 15 for the following violations: Making a false official statement and failure to report. The Soldier received extra duty for seven days and restriction for seven days.

A staff sergeant in Company A, 741st MI Battalion, received a company grade Article 15 for the following violations: Making a false official statement and disrespect towards a superior commissioned officer. The Soldier received forfeiture of \$560 and oral reprimand.

A private first class in Company A, 741st MI Battalion, received a company grade Article 15 for the following violations: Failure to report, disrespect towards a superior commissioned officer, assaulting or willfully disobeying a superior commissioned officer, insubordinate conduct towards warrant officer, or noncommissioned officer, or petty officer. The Soldier received reduction to private, forfeiture of \$268 pay per month for two months, extra duty for 45 days and restriction for 45 days. The Soldier elected to appeal to the brigade commander. The appeal was denied.

A private first class in Company B, 741st MI Battalion, received a company grade Article 15 for the following violation: Wrongful use, possession. The Soldier received reduction to private (E2), extra duty for 14 days, restriction for 14 days and oral reprimand.

A specialist in Company B, 741st MI Battalion, received a company grade Article 15 for the following violation: Failure to report. The Soldier received reduction to private first class, forfeiture of \$356, extra duty for 14 days and restriction for 14 days.

A specialist in Company C, 741st MI Battalion, received a company grade Article 15 for the following violations: Two counts of failure to report. The Soldier received reduction to private first class, extra duty for 14 days and restriction for 14 days.

A specialist in HHC, 704th MI Brigade, received a company grade Article 15 for the following violation: Failure to report. The Soldier received reduction to private first class, extra duty for ten days and oral reprimand.

A specialist in Headquarters and Operations Company, 742nd MI Battalion, received a field grade Article 15 for the following violations: Failure to obey a lawful order and fraud against the United States. The Soldier received reduction to private first class, extra duty for 45 days and oral reprimand.

A specialist in HOC, 741st MI Battalion, received a field grade Article 15 for the following violation: Adultery. The Soldier received reduction to private, restriction for 45 days and extra duty for 45 days. The Soldier elected to appeal to the brigade commander. The appeal was denied.

First families of brigade move into new Meade Housing

by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt
Editor, *The Voice*

Soldiers of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade and their families are now enjoying something Fort George G. Meade, Md., hasn't seen in a long time; Brand new housing.

Picerne Military Housing has embarked on a ten-year construction project that will give residents of Fort Meade a total of 2,748 new homes and renovate 112 historic homes at a cost of more than \$400 million. There will be nearly 930 acres that will be used to build five new neighborhoods. The average age of the current homes at Fort Meade is 42 years.

"I wanted to really move on post, because I've never lived on a post before," said Cheryl Chafos, resident of the first newly constructed neighborhood built on Fort Meade.



photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

Soldiers and family members of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade have started to move in to the new housing under construction on Fort George G. Meade, Md. The ten-year project will give Fort Meade 2,748 new homes to replace its current 42 year old housing.

"My husband has always had special assignments where there wasn't a post to live on."

"We were committed to living on post," Cheryl Chafos added. "I was more determined to live on post

with the new housing going up."

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act, which allowed the Department of Defense to work with private sector contractors to build and renovate military housing. By partnering with private sector companies, the DOD can improve the quality of life for members of the U.S. military and their families faster and at a lower cost to American taxpayers.

Today, Department of Defense agencies and activities account for most of the work done on Fort Meade. The National Security Agency is by far the largest employer of military personnel on Fort Meade. Because of the nature of their skills and because Fort Meade is a national center for their military specialties, there is a high probability that personnel will return to Fort Meade again and again.

_____ (go to *Housing*, page 4)

Chaplain's Corner: It seems we'll never bounce back

by Maj. David Causey
Brigade Chaplain

Sometimes we can fall so far that it seems we'll never rise again. As Hugh Herr, a man who lived and breathed rock climbing, looked down at the ghastly, bloody stumps of what were once his legs – he was sure he'd never rise again.



Hugh Herr scaled one stony sentinel after another, up and down the Appalachian Mountain range. Climbing the sheer granite cliffs of the Catskills, the Adirondacks, the Alleghenies and the White Mountains consumed all his waking moments. One of the most challenging cliffs on the East Coast, reserved only for the most proficient climbers, was a route in New Hampshire's White Mountains named *Stage Fright*. Conquering this giant was Hugh Herr's goal.

Then it happened. In January 1982, while ascending the sheer face of Mount Washington, the site of some of North America's most severe weather, Hugh Herr and a companion became hopelessly lost in a storm. Three days later they were rescued, but only after frostbite had done its wicked work on Hugh's feet. Gangrene set in and doctors had to amputate both his legs below the knees.

For months after the operation, Herr struggled with despair and anger. He was racked with

phantom pains in his absent limbs. He was tortured by the symptoms of withdrawal from the morphine doctors used to control his ferocious pain. But gradually, he came to grips with his sorrow and rage and began to imagine himself regaining strength – and even, one day, climbing.

"Rock climbing? Look, Hugh, with prosthetic devices you might walk again, even drive a car – but there is no way possible you can ever climb again." Doctors saw his scars but not his heart. Hugh Herr steadily trod the agonizing path of rehabilitation and recovery. He pushed himself through brutal workouts and improved his walking skills with newer, less painful artificial limbs.

Finally the day came in 1985. He stood at the base of a towering stone giant and began to climb. Upward Hugh went, probing the tiniest cracks and ledges with fingers and the pointed "toes" of his prostheses. Finally Hugh Herr reached the summit of one of the most technically challenging climbing routes in North America – *Stage Fright!*

But Hugh Herr was not finished with this ascent. He was determined not to let his pain be in vain. Hugh graduated Summa cum Laude from Millersville University, near Lancaster Pennsylvania. Then he earned his Masters degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Finally, Hugh Herr received his Ph.D. after graduating Harvard University in 1998. His field of study? Hugh Herr works in the leg laboratory at MIT in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation – helping others who feel they'll never bounce back after an amputation. Hugh Herr has truly turned his scars into stars (Adapted from *Above and Beyond*).

704th Unit Ministry Team at Fort Meade "The God Squad"

Chaplain (Maj.) David Causey (301) 677-7513
Spc. Robert Apper (301) 677-7521
Bldg. 9828, Rm. 152

Contemporary Protestant Worship Service
Cavalry Chapel, Corner of 6th Cavalry & Simmons
Sundays, 10:45 a.m.

Bible Study, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

Pastor: Chaplain (Maj.) Dave Causey

704th MI Brigade Bible Study
Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Free Anthony's Pizza, soft drinks, fellowship and study of the Bible

743rd MI at Buckley Air Force Base
743rd On-Site Chaplain

Chaplain (MAJ) Bruce Kite (303) 677-6411
Mod #1, Bldg. #T-10 & Rm. 1356-A in ADF

Religious Services

Protestant

Sunday Bible Study, 9 a.m. in Mod#1, Bldg. #T-10

Sunday Worship, 10 a.m. in Mod #1, Bldg. #T-10

Singles Wednesday Bible Study, 5 p.m. in

Mod#1 Bldg. #T-10

Wednesday Bible Study in ADF, 6 p.m. in ADF

Conference Room C

Catholic

Saturday Confession, 2:30 p.m.

in MOD #1, Bldg. #T-10

Saturday Mass, 3 p.m. in MOD #1, Bldg. #T-10

Visit us at:

<http://m704sqls.ftmeade.army.mil/704/704Chaplain/>

or for unrestricted visit us at:

<http://chaplaincausey.tripod.com/>

In the Scriptures a deeply discouraged psalmist wrote: "Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence." (Psalm 42:5)

Housing from page 3...

Improving the quality of life for this group is an important factor in increasing retention rates, according to a Picerne spokesman.

"It (the move) was a fully paid government move," said Timothy A. Chafos, operations and training officer, 704th MI Brigade. "We were authorized partial dislocation allowance (DLA) in which I received over \$500 while the movers moved us. We got full DLA because the company grade officers on post moved into field grade housing, which we were living in at Argonne Hills West, and the field grade officers moved into the new housing."

"We thought the process was great getting a new house," added Chafos. "They called us when we were eligible for the new housing. It wasn't us calling them."

Neighborhood one, which the Chafos family enjoys, sits on 45 acres and is located near the 5th fairway of the golf course on the east side of Cooper Road. Seventy percent of all the new homes will be town homes and the balance will be detached single family homes.

In addition, each neighborhood will have its own Neighborhood Center, which will contain a swimming pool, indoor basketball area, lounge

area, community room, fitness center, tot-lots, picnic areas, mail drops, maintenance facility, computer lab, business center and other open spaces for community activity.

"The Urban Neighborhood Center is still under construction, but it will be nice to be able to work out in the gym and still be able to watch my kids play at the same time," added Cheryl Chafos. "The day care center will be right across from the gym."

"Also, the house is at an ideal location on the golf course," said Cheryl Chafos. "It's beautiful and in a prime location. My Mom, who is from New Jersey, said a house in this location on a golf course would be worth between \$700,000 and \$800,000 in New Jersey just because of the location."

The new home which the Chafos and their two young sons enjoy is a two-story town home with a two-car garage. The house has four-spacious bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, a breakfast nook, dining room, state-of-the-art kitchen and appliances and is set off by giant vaulted ceilings.

"They are all four bedroom houses," added Chafos. "Everyone gets a four bedroom regardless of how many children you have."

"This is the nicest house we will ever have in the Army," added Cheryl Chafos.

Chaplain's Spiritual Fitness Training

Colorado Skiing Trip

Feb. 12, 2004, Breckenridge, Colo.
No cost to Soldiers and family members

Liberty Mountain Ski Trip

Feb. 26, 2004, Liberty Mountain, Pa.
No cost to Soldiers and family members.

Aquarium Visit

March 11, 2004, Baltimore Aquarium.
No cost to Soldiers and family members.

Breckenridge Ski Trip

March 18, 2004, Breckenridge, Colo.
No cost to Soldiers and family members.

Contact Chaplain (Maj.) David Causey at (301) 677-7513 for more details.

NCO reflects on reasons for reenlistment

by Sgt. Ronald Schirmacher
741st MI Battalion

Soldiers, in today's Army of One, are faced with countless decisions concerning their military career. They are given numerous opportunities to advance in their education, technical skills and professionalism.

These opportunities force a Soldier to decide whether they want to pursue a military career or utilize the skills they've acquired in the civilian workforce. I, as a newly crowned non-commissioned officer, have decided to advance my military career.

Not only will the Army give me great opportunities to advance mentally and physically, but also give me a sense of pride, worth and self respect.

At one point in my military career I had come to a time when I had to make a decision that would most likely effect the rest of my life. Should I stay Army or should I create a resume and work as a civilian?

I wrote down all the positive things about staying Army. They included professional development, technical skills, travel and so on. I weighed the positives and negatives of both the Army and civilian jobs and still could not decide what I wanted to do.

It wasn't until I experienced an act of kindness and respect which enabled me to make my final decision.

Recently, I took my girlfriend, Jennie, to dinner at Baltimore's Inner Harbor. We decided

on a very nice restaurant called Phillip's. I had just received my pay and decided there was nothing on the menu that could be too much to ask for.

That night, Jennie and I splurged on shrimp cocktails, Surf-n-Turf and mixed drinks.

The mixed drinks required an ID, so I flashed my military ID card and sparked up a conversation about what I do in the military with the waiter.

He went on about waiting on other tables around us and Jennie and I continued our splurge. After stuffing ourselves with all our food and drinks, we asked the waiter for the check.

The waiter was a little hesitant and responded, "Your check has already been picked up."

"Picked up? What do you mean?" The waiter told me the family sitting behind us had overheard I was in the military and wanted to show their appreciation by picking up our check and did not want me to know until after they left, so I wouldn't refuse the offer.

This was the third time someone had shown me their appreciation for our profession.

Acts of kindness, hearty handshakes, and just a casual thank you are what ultimately made up my mind to stay Army.

It's a great feeling to know what you do for a living effects the lives of so many people and you're appreciated for it.

If you have a special article pertaining to a reenlistment, whether from a Soldier or spouse perspective, please forward to Master Sgt. Willene Orr at willene.orr@us.army.mil.

As always, "It's an honor...it's an honor to serve!"



photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Collins

Sgt. Ronald Schirmacher, signals intelligence analyst, Company C, 741st Military Intelligence Battalion, 704th MI Brigade, is congratulated by Col. Marcus Kuiper, commander, 704th MI Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. Randy Wilson, command sergeant major, 704th MI Brigade, at the brigade retention luncheon at the House of Four Hats Dining Facility on Fort George G. Meade, Md., Sept. 8., as Master Sgt. Willene Orr, brigade career counselor, 704th MI Brigade, looks on in the background. The brigade holds a luncheon every month for Soldiers of the brigade who reenlist, and at the luncheon they receive the brigade commander's retention coin of excellence, the luncheon itself and various door prizes.

704th MI Brigade Career Counselors

704th MI Brigade

Master Sgt. Willene Orr
(301) 677-0164

741st MI Battalion

Staff Sgt. Joseph Collins, Jr.
(301) 677-0157

742nd MI Battalion

Staff Sgt. Latisha R. Holmes
(301) 677-0117

743rd MI Battalion

Staff Sgt. Shelly R. Demetrelis
(303) 677-5048

Brigade Retention



Employee Benefits:

Brigade Coins of Excellence
Brigade Retention Luncheon
Reenlistment Promotional Items
School Option for 1 or 2 semesters
Honorable Service to Army and Nation
4 -Day Pass on behalf of Commanders
Best Corporate Benefits - Bar NONE!

704th Military Intelligence Brigade

Here and Everywhere

See your Career Counselor Today



An Army of One
704th Military Intelligence Brigade Retention

Reup Now...not LATER!

☑ Bonuses

- ☑ Cap remains at \$20,000.00 except for 31S - \$30,000.00/98G KP - \$40,000.00
- ☑ No increase for remainder of FY 2003

☑ Options

- ☑ Initial termers receive all options as prescribed in AR 601-280 provided all qualifications are met
- ☑ Mid-career receive Regular Army, Current Station, CONUS Station-of-Choice (must meet certain criteria), and Overseas Assignment; if MOS is overstrength, only Army Training available

☑ Reserve Component

- ☑ Option to choose your unit or go where the IRR needs you most



Soldiers of Brigade enjoy formal night out, Christmas at annual Holiday Ball

by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt
Editor, *The Voice*

On a frigid Maryland evening, Soldiers of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade dressed up in their best duds to enjoy military tradition and camaraderie at the brigade's annual Holiday Ball held at the LaFontaine Bleu in Glen Burnie, Md., Dec. 11.

With more than 400 Soldiers, civilians, family members and friends of the brigade attending, guests enjoyed a delightful dinner choice of roast top round of beef, breast of chicken Monterey and flounder Chesapeake.

In addition to the dinner, attendees made toasts, sang holiday songs, danced and listened to a short, powerful, but to the point speech made by Col. Marcus Kuiper, commander, 704th MI Brigade.

"We are an Army and nation at war," said Kuiper. "We've been at war for a while and we will be at war for a long time."

"The rest of your careers will be defined by the Global War on Terrorism," he said. "The people we are confronting thought nothing about flying an airplane into a building and killing 3,000 innocent people."

"Everyone here is here to serve and your level of commitment is what keeps the war away from America," continued Kuiper. "I want to thank each and every one of you for keeping the war out of our home."

"We have people deployed all over the world keeping the war away from our home. Most of America doesn't know what you do, but I do," he explained. "We have people in this brigade who risk their lives everyday who are directly involved in stopping terrorism."

After the riveting speech, guests of the ball watched as the 704th MI Brigade Honor Guard moved in perfect precision as they retired the colors and ended the formal portion of the ball. After the colors were retired and the jackets came off, everyone enjoyed a night of dancing, socializing and just plain enjoying themselves.



photos by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

Santa and his two elves gave presents out to lucky raffle winners and entertained the crowd at the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade Holiday Ball held inside LaFontaine Bleu in Glen Burnie, Md., Dec 11.



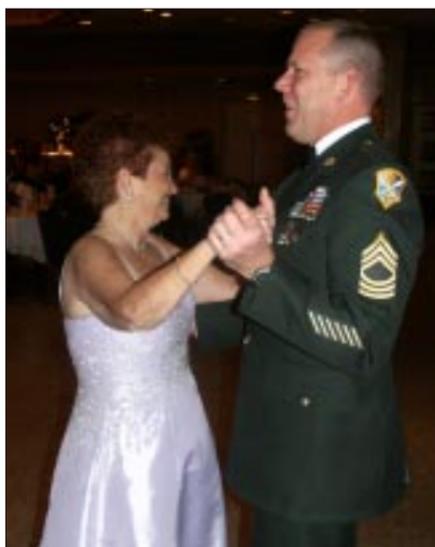
Staff Sgt. Amy Brinker, intelligence non-commissioned officer in charge, 741st Military Intelligence Battalion, 704th MI Brigade, along with members of the 704th MI Brigade Honor Guard post the colors at the 704th MI Brigade Holiday Ball.



Col. John Ives, garrison commander, Fort George G. Meade, Md., and Spc. Alex Hernandez, command language manager programmer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th MI Brigade, cut the cake as the oldest and youngest Soldiers at the Holiday Ball. Hernandez is a ripe 18 years old as Ives is a more experienced 49.



Col. Marcus Kuiper, commander, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, gave an inspiring speech to guests of the 704th Brigade Holiday Ball, Dec. 11.



Ann Kepler, executive officer, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, and Master Sgt. Robert Hamden, plans and operations non-commissioned officer in charge, 704th MI Brigade, dance the night away at the Holiday Ball.



From left, Staff Sgt. Christopher Rudy, platoon sergeant, Spc. Robert Beresford, signals intelligence analyst, and Spc. Alex Hernandez, command language manager programmer, all from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, pose for a picture at the Holiday Ball, Dec. 11.

Above the Rest Company holds FTX, trains Soldiers in realistic field setting

by 1st Sgt. Michael Henderson
743rd MI Battalion

The newest company in the 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 704th MI Brigade, conducted a field training exercise (FTX) at the Buckley Air Force Base Training Area, Colo., from Sept. 12 through Sept. 13. Did you hear me right, an FTX?

Company A Soldiers started the day by getting a fragmentary order from their respective platoon sergeants on training occurring during the day. The training started with each platoon being transported to an undisclosed location several miles from the training site. Soldiers were then told they were in enemy territory and had to navigate to an assembly area some distance away.

While moving tactically to their destination, Soldiers of the company encountered a patrol of the Casual Militia and suffered various casualties. Quick reaction and training allowed them to call for an immediate extraction via helicopter and treat the wounded.

Two Hueys and one Blackhawk from the Colorado National Guard heard their call and quickly landed to extract the wounded and the rest of the platoon. They were then airlifted to their bivouac site to continue their mission where all injured Soldiers were miraculously healed of their injuries.

After arrival at the operations site, Soldiers of the company discovered several tents and cots that



courtesy photo

Soldiers of Company A, 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 704th MI Brigade, called in for an immediate extraction via a Blackhawk from the Colorado National Guard at the Buckley Air Force Base Training Area, Colo., Sept. 12 through 13. The company got a taste of real field training as they conducted common task training, set-up an operations site and held a company auction.

had to be erected. They needed to be put up so they had a place to stay dry because storms appear at random from the Rocky Mountains.

Once their site and accommodations had been established, Soldiers continued to accomplish their

mission. Their mission was to receive the best training in the battalion on this year's CTT and any other training that can only be realistically done in the field.

Soldiers had to navigate from station to station only being given an azimuth and distance. Once they found themselves in an unmarked mine field they had to navigate out of.

After training was complete, a company auction was held to raise funds for the unit. The most important auction was Soldiers bid on being the company commander and first sergeant for a day. Of course, Soldiers bid on the importance of the two positions. The first sergeant brought in \$70 while the company commander brought in a mere \$60. Enough said.

As evening approached, questions were abound. The most prevalent questions were, "What kind of buffalo has water in it and what fire are we guarding?" Of course, many others aren't listed here.

After an evening of answering questions and getting to know each other, morning dawned over the company. Soldiers quickly recharged with some great chow, meals ready to eat, and the end of the exercise was called. The site tear down and recovery quickly occurred, because Soldiers sensed the end of training.

No injuries occurred during the exercise and everyone had great comments at the After Action Review (AAR). I also have to say it was the best and last FTX for me in the Army.

Alpha Eagles are ABOVE THE REST.



courtesy photo

Soldiers of Company A, 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 704th MI Brigade, get ready to set-up a tent during a field training exercise they held at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo., Sept. 12 through Sept. 13.

Around the Army

AAFES employee wins \$1 million jackpot as Soul Survivor of 'Survivor: Pearl Islands'

FORT LEWIS, Wash. (Army News Service) - A Fort Lewis, Wash. woman was awarded a \$1 million prize and the title of "sole survivor" after outplaying, outwitting and outlasting her competitors on the reality TV show "Survivor."

Sandra Diaz-Twine, a Fort Lewis Army and Air Force Exchange Service employee and former Soldier, just took home the top award from the blockbuster CBS show.

"I thought, 'I'm going all the way,'" Diaz-Twine said. "I was always a 'Survivor' fan, but it is always easier watching from your living room."

"I believe Sandra has the true gift that is expected of a Soldier and Soldier's wife—to do what it takes to get the job done," said Julie Cosby, Diaz-Twine's boss. "Her spontaneity is refreshing and sometimes shocking, but she is such a value that all of us (at AAFES) wanted her to win as much as if it had been ourselves."

Diaz-Twine was one of 16 people who were stranded in a remote location for this season's show. The contestants were also under constant watch from camera crews and had to build shelter, find food, battle the elements and win the support of their fellow castaways as one by one they are voted off.

The last two on the island, Diaz-Twine and a middle-aged Scoutmaster, Lillian "Lill" Morris, faced a jury of their former island mates to determine the winner.

In a six to one decision, Diaz-Twine was named champion.

"It was wild. I didn't see it coming," said Staff Sgt. Marcus Twine, 1st Corps Material Evaluation Team. He said because Lill was one of the most popular castaways, he and his wife were resigned to taking second place before the winner was announced live on TV Dec. 14.

While Soldiers were battling terrorists in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, Diaz-Twine was battling nature in Central America for the show's seventh season. The show was filmed on the Pearl Islands, a chain located approximately 40 miles from the Pacific coast of Panama. The islands are lush with vegetation, surrounded by crystal clear ocean water and fixed in a tropical paradise.

Although the contestants were marooned in a beautiful place, they were not immune to plot twists. This season, they were left on the island with only the clothes on their back.

Additionally, two players who had been previously voted out, including Morris, were given the opportunity to re-enter the game, throwing a kink in Diaz-Twine's plans.

On one of the final days on the island, the remaining castaways were given letters from people close to them. Much in the way that a positive letter from home raises the spirits of a deployed Soldier, reading that her children — Tatiana, 8, and Alanna, 6 — and husband were well, allowed Diaz-Twine to focus on the game and emerge as the winner.



courtesy photo CBS

Sandra Diaz-Twine, who was named the sole survivor on the 7th season of the CBS reality show "Survivor," leads the cast of "Survivor: Pearl Islands."

"All I had to think about was, 'Are (my children) at the pool today? Are they having fun? What are they doing?' Silly stuff," said Diaz-Twine.

"I knew the kids were okay because they were with dad and grandma."

Twine gained an appreciation for spouses who stay at home while their Soldiers are deployed overseas. Having spent a year in Korea away from his wife and children, the tables were now turned on him. He had to wear the dual hat of Soldier and parent for the 39 days his wife was filming the show.

Diaz-Twine admits that some of her experience in the Army came into play while on "Survivor." She said the Army helped teach her "the discipline to follow through, attention to detail and spying techniques."

"You don't need to be fit to compete," said Diaz-Twine. "You just need a strong mind and a strong head on your shoulders."

Diaz-Twine said she is pleased with how the show portrayed her — an honest, upfront and call-it-like-it-is person. She said winning \$1 million would not change that.

"They caught her in her rare form, from when she is nice and sweet to when she gets angry," Twine said.

"I am still the same person, still the same Sandra," Diaz-Twine said. "I still go to the AAFES 99 cent shows."

"Hopefully after cashing the Survivor check, Diaz-Twine will continue to dress like a million bucks by shopping at the local exchange," said Cosby.

Around the Army

Old Guard deploys to Africa to engage in missions

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti (Army News Service) — Army Old Guard Soldiers, from Fort Myer, Va., arrived at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti Dec. 17, and have begun engaging in training and tactical missions.

Soldiers from B Company, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) have been deployed in support of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa and the Global War on Terrorism.

This is the first time this Army ceremonial unit has deployed since the Vietnam War. While it may be best known as the guard of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, it is primarily a tactical unit, and orders to deploy in support of the war on terrorism are in keeping with The Old Guard's training, capability and tradition.

The Old Guard continues to take part in missions such as providing force protection for civil affairs personnel and engaging in joint operations with American and regional militaries, said Capt. Michael J. Trotter, commander, Company B, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard.)

"That training alone is huge for us to be able to link into other agencies on post and in the region for training," Trotter said.

Part of the unit departed base camp for a mission in rural, mountainous Djibouti only a few days after arriving here.

The mission began in early December and will continue on for several weeks. The Old Guard Soldiers will be providing security to reservist engineers from the 916th Engineering Unit, based out of North Dakota, who will be drilling water wells for local citizens.

Staff Sgt. Michael D. Wilson, Company B, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) is the leader of the squad protecting the engineers. Wilson said he is impressed with the impact the well has had on natives in the village.

"Before the engineers arrived, the well was capped. When they removed the cap and installed a hand crank they noticed right away, everyday when they went by the well, people were using the crank and getting water," Wilson said.

In addition to this mission, the company has zeroed and fired on local ranges and engaged in training such as Marine-instructed egress and ingress helicopter drills on the airfield here.

Training in Djibouti is a continuation of the combat rehearsals the company participated in prior to leaving the U. S.

Trotter said after three months of intense tactical training and combat readiness in preparation for the deployment, the company was primed to operate at CJTF-HOA. Trotter led the company on a number of training exercises at Fort A. P. Hill, Va., and the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., including convoy security and urban military operations.

"It was a relief arriving. There was a bit of anxiety but it doesn't really hit you until you arrive,



courtesy photo

The Army's Old Guard, best known for guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, has deployed to Africa in support of the Global War on Terrorism. This is the first time the unit has deployed since the Vietnam War.

and the whole company falls out of a plane in desert combat uniforms," Trotter said.

Prior to learning about the deployment, the unit engaged in tactical exercises supporting The Old Guard's mission as a contingency force in the Military District of Washington. The Old Guard Soldiers were among the first to respond to the terrorist attack at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

Looking past the historic aspect of arriving in Djibouti, Co. B, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) 1st Sgt. Michael J. Coleman said he will continue to worry about the needs of the company's Soldiers as they face combat in a climate over 60 degrees warmer than Washington, D.C.

"It's not about me. It's about the other men in Bravo (Co. B) as we condition our minds and bodies trying to get acclimatized to the extreme weather change," Coleman said.

Coleman, along with several Soldiers from the company, spent Christmas day holding and feeding babies at a local infants' orphanage, an experience Coleman said he will always remember.

"There is no other place I would have rather been Christmas Day than assisting locals at the infants' orphanage," Coleman said.

In the coming days, other elements of the guard will leave base camp to participate in CJTF-HOA regional missions.

The Old Guard replaced a unit from the 10th Mountain Division, which spent several months working with the CJTF-HOA, and The Old Guard unit is scheduled to stay in Djibouti at least six months.

News Shorts

Commissaries respond to reports of 'mad cow' disease

FORT LEE, Va. (Army News Service) — In response to news reports concerning an incident of "mad cow" disease, the Defense Commissary Agency has issued a response.

"We are always very concerned about our customers' safety," said Col. Mark Wolken, chief of public health, safety and security for DeCA. "We are taking every action to make sure our stores and customers are informed about the situation, but I can't emphasize enough that we will continue to follow the USDA lead on any further action to insure the beef in our stores is safe."

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced Dec. 23 that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has diagnosed a presumptive positive case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in an adult Holstein cow in Washington state. BSE is also known as "mad cow" disease.

"Despite this finding, we remain confident in the safety of our beef supply," Veneman said.

"All beef sold in commissaries is USDA inspected, and all commissaries follow USDA guidance," Wolken said. However, customers who wish to return products they purchased in a commissary for a full refund may do so without question.

Customers should check the food-safety link at www.commissaries.com for the latest news on the situation as well as links to fact sheets and the latest information from the USDA.

Army announces retention program update

On Dec. 17, 2003, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, approved the Present Duty Assignment Targeted Selective Reenlistment Bonus (PDA TSRB) Program for Soldiers serving in the Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility. With this program, eligible Soldiers will receive no less than \$5,000 for reenlisting Present Duty Assignment for a minimum of three years.

Our Army is serving a nation at war. The Army Retention program deals with our greatest asset, our Soldiers. The Active Army has achieved overall retention missions since fiscal year 2000 and is prepared to face future challenges in a demanding environment. The PDA TSRB program directly supports Army strategies for resetting the force, our evolving Army Force Stabilization initiative, and is a tangible means to reward Soldier service and stimulate retention.

This program has proven successful. The Army announced a similar PDA TSRB for deployed Soldiers the last two weeks of September 2003 that was a resounding success.

In addition to the efforts culminating with the PDA TSRB, the Army has other Selective Reenlistment Bonus funds to use towards successful completion of the fiscal year 2004 Retention mission. The Army has \$51.6 million for new reenlistment contracts. Soldiers in military occupational specialties (MOS) from a total of 27 career management fields will receive the benefit of these Selective Reenlistment Bonus dollars. Additionally, \$3.8 million of the money for new contracts is intended as payment for Critical Skills Reenlistment Bonus. Highly critical MOS's are specifically included in the Fiscal Year '04 Critical Skills Reenlistment Bonus.

Around Town

Arlington: Home to Americas heroes

by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt
Editor, *The Voice*

Here rests in honored glory an American Soldier known but to God. That's the immortal phrase inscribed on the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington. Arlington National Cemetery pays tribute to more than 260,000 of America's fallen heroes and visiting it is only a short drive away from the gates of Fort George G. Meade, Md.

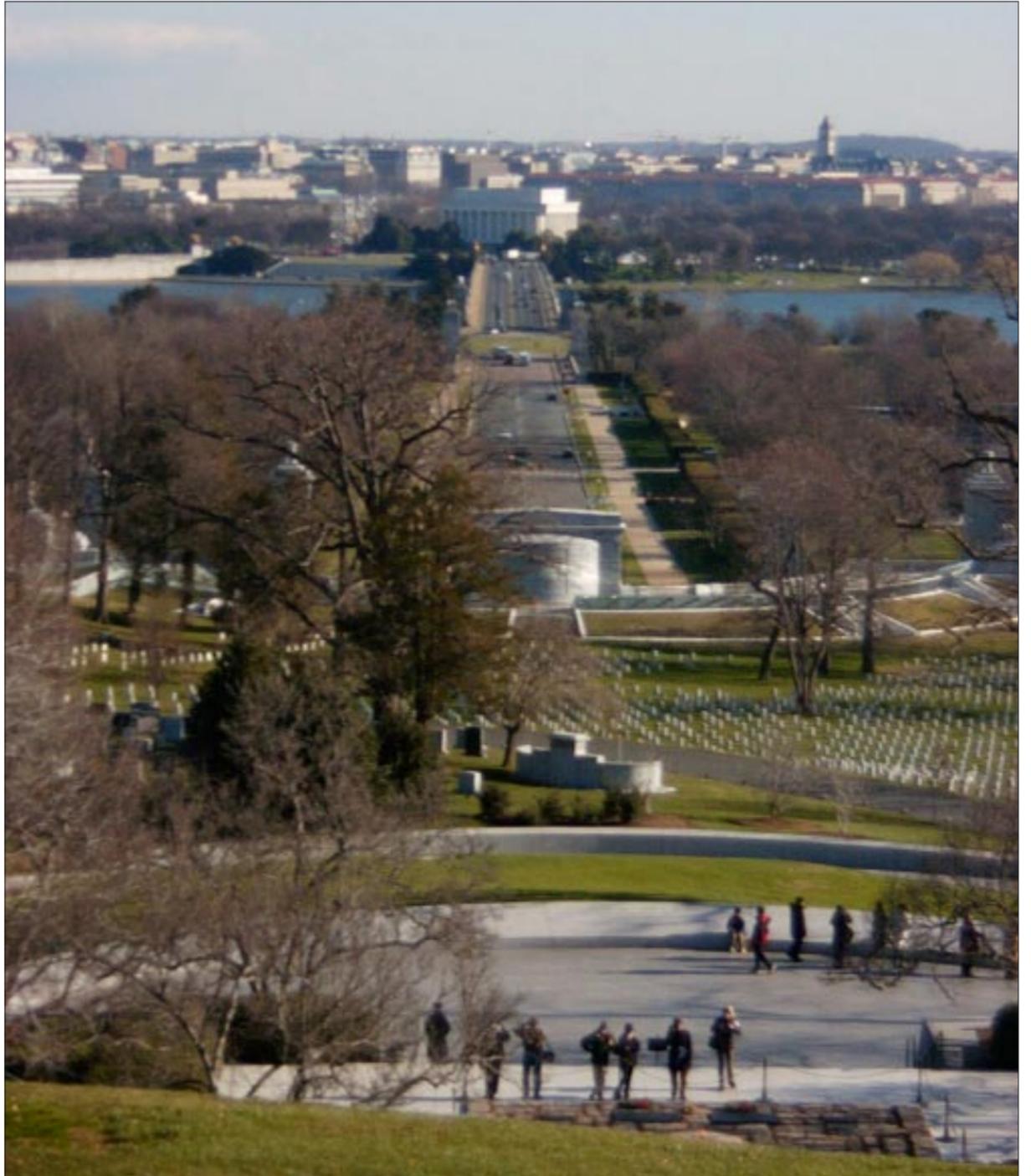
Resting at Arlington National Cemetery lie veterans from all the nation's wars from the American Revolution through Operation Iraqi Freedom. Tiny, three-foot tall, white, marble headstones pepper the grassy hillside overlooking our nation's capitol representing the gift of freedom these fallen heroes gave to our country.

There are many sites to see at Arlington, but the most popular is the Tomb of the Unknowns or also known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There are three unknown servicemen buried at the Tomb of the Unknowns. One from World War I, World War II and the Korean Conflict are each represented at the monument, and the Army's 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) guards the tomb 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In addition to the Tomb of the Unknowns, there are many other memorials to see at Arlington National Cemetery. President John F. Kennedy's grave site, the USS Maine Memorial, the Challenger Memorial and the Confederate Memorial are just to name a few.

So, if you feel like taking an hour road trip and seeing a remarkable tribute to the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for this country, Arlington National Cemetery is your best bet.

To get to Arlington National Cemetery from Fort Meade, take SR-295 South towards Washington. Get on US-50 (New York Avenue) and take that for about five miles. Turn left (South) onto I-395 and at exit 11B, take the ramp (right) onto George Washington Memorial Parkway



courtesy photos

Arlington National Cemetery, overlooking Washington, is the final resting place for more than 260,000 of America's fallen heroes from the American Revolution to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Also featured at the cemetery is the Tomb of the Unknowns, President John F. Kennedy's grave site and the Challenger memorial.

(Arlington Cemetery). Keep on the left onto the ramp (US-50 West/ Arlington Cemetery). At the roundabout, take the second exit onto Memorial

Drive (VA-110/US-1 South/ Arlington Cemetery). Turn left onto Eisenhower Drive and then turn right onto McClellan Drive.



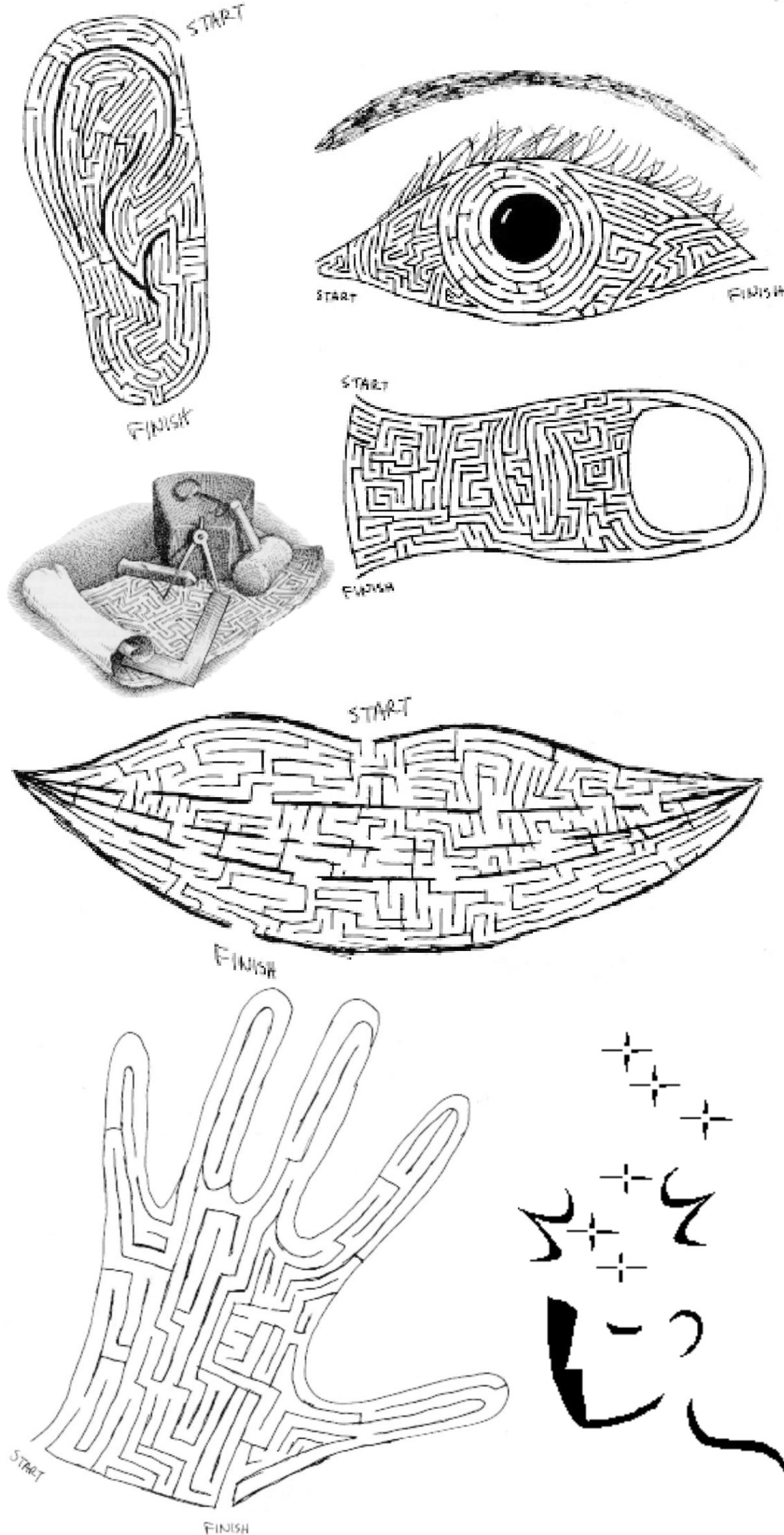
The Challenger Memorial, located in Arlington National Cemetery, pays tribute to the men and women who lost their lives at the hands of the space shuttle disaster.



The Army's 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) guards the Tomb of the Unknowns 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Mind Scramblers...

Maze Time: With this being the first issue of the Voice for 2004, I thought I would give you a few little games to test your sense of direction. Solve these body part mazes if you can.



Upcoming BOSS Events



Feed the Homeless
Last Friday of every month. Meet at building 2417, the ACS building, at 6 p.m. Estimated time back is 9 p.m.

Habitat for Humanity

A day off work to help those in need. Volunteer to work with Habitat for Humanity the last Friday of each month.



Scotts Elementary School

Volunteer to help out at our local school one Friday morning a month. Our upcoming dates are Feb. 6, March 5, April 23 and May 14. We also collect Box Tops for Education for this school. They can be dropped off at the BOSS office or submitted to building 9828, room 187. For more information contact Spc. LaShawn Stadford or Spc. Sharon Minter at (301) 677-0885.

For more information on the BOSS program contact the 704th MI Brigade representative, Spc. Sandra Cosby, at (301)677-0745

Let your friends and family know what you've done, fill out a Hometown News Release

Just got promoted? Won Soldier of the month? Let your friends back home know what you're accomplishing. Stop by the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade Public Affairs Office and fill out a Hometown News Release Form (DD2266). It's fast and it's simple. Any questions contact Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt at (301) 677-0173.

November/December Mind Scrambler answers

1. Fred Flintstone (Flintstones)
2. Homer Simpson (Simpsons)
3. Bamm-Bamm Rubble (Flintstones)
4. Hank Hill (King of the Hill)
5. Cheetara (Thundercats)
6. Tweety (Looney Tunes)
7. Bubbles (Powerpuff Girls)
8. Yosemite Sam (Looney Tunes)
9. Smurfette (Smurfs)
10. Johnny Bravo
11. Tazmanian Devil (Looney Tunes)
12. Apu (Simpsons)
13. Elmer Fudd (Looney Tunes)
14. Stewie (Family Guy)
15. Yogi Bear
16. Barney Gumble (Simpsons)
17. Leela (Futurama)
18. Goku (Dragonball Z)
19. Scooby Doo
20. George Jetson (Jetsons)

Battalion DUI... from page 1

government devoted to the science and art of military heraldry and other official symbolism. They are responsible for the research, approval, design and development of distinctive unit insignia, shoulder sleeve insignia (patches), flags, medals, seals, coats of arms and other heraldic items for the Army.

“They (the Institute of Heraldry) made some minor modifications, but the integrity stayed in tact,” Guimond continued. “After their approval it was just a matter of time until the 742nd came up with enough funds to give everyone in the battalion their own set of DUI’s.”

The DUI is decorated in oriental blue and silver gray which are colors traditionally used by MI units. A golden eagle is positioned in the middle representing vigilance, strength and military readiness. Below the eagle on a black scroll is inscribed “Might through Vigilance” in gold.

“Seeing the battalion don the new DUI gave me a sense of immortality,” added Guimond. “The symbol of the 742nd and this unit will always have a part of me in it. A lot of units have no idea who designed their unit insignia, patches or anything distinctive about their unit because it was designed so long ago. This unit got to see first hand where their unit distinction came from.”

“It was a fun process,” explained Guimond. “It was an honor for me to take part in the process.”



photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

Ronnie Guimond is pinned an honorary distinctive unit insignia (DUI) by Lt. Col. Lisa Bennett, commander, 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 704th MI Brigade. Guimond designed and implemented the new DUI for the brigade, which has the distinction of being the only battalion in the 704th MI Brigade with its own DUI.



photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt

1st Sgt. Bruce Eike, first sergeant, Headquarters and Operations Company, 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion, pins on the new distinctive unit insignia on his commander Capt. Gregory Keeney, Dec. 15.



The 742nd MI Battalion DUI is oriental blue and silver gray. The embattlement represents the battalion’s ability to observe and defend against all enemies, and the stars signify its worldwide capability. The pile reversed and the stars allude to day and night operations. The polestar symbolizes direction and its support to the four corners of the world, and the golden eagle represents vigilance, strength and military readiness.

704th Military Intelligence Brigade Vision Statement

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

