

# The Morning Calm Weekly

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June 4, 2004

## Troops gather to honor fallen Soldiers 'Never leave a fallen comrade' takes on new meaning

Story, photo by Pfc. Stephanie Pearson  
Area I Public Affairs Office

**YONGSAN** — Eight caskets draped with the United Nations flag stood as silent reminders of the cost of freedom to the servicemembers, civilians and dignitaries gathered at Knight Field May 27.

The caskets contained remains, believed to be those of servicemembers killed in the Korean War, recovered from North Korea and finally making their way home after more than 50 years. The event was marked with a repatriation ceremony in Yongsan.

The ceremony began with a Memorial Day message from Gen. Leon J. LaPorte, U.S. Forces Korea commander, after which the official party placed flowers on the "Books of Remembrance," several volumes listing the 33,870 Americans who died in battle during the Korean War.

"Let us remember all those brave warriors who have died defending our way of life and the ideals we hold dear," said LaPorte. "Our powerful (Republic of Korea)-U.S. alliance looks to you, America's sons and daughters, to defend liberty on the peninsula. The cost of liberty is high, but we are willing to pay it with

deep reverence and thanks to all of those who have sacrificed their lives for freedom's ring."

After repatriation remarks from Lt. Gen. Charles Campbell, U.S. Forces Korea chief of staff and 8th Army commander, and the Honorable Jerry D. Jennings, deputy assistant Secretary of Defense and director of the Defense Prisoner of War and Missing Personnel office, the crowd bowed their heads in a prayer of blessing for the fallen.

The crack of rifles broke the stillness with a 21-gun salute as the delegation of honor guard pall bearers marched onto the field and took their positions next to the caskets.

With the lonely strains of "Taps" filling the air, the caskets were marched off the field and loaded into the waiting hearses, which then drove off with their precious cargo.

From Yongsan, the remains were taken to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, to begin the forensic identification process.

The remains were part of recovery missions that have taken place in North Korea since 1994. The Joint POW/MIA command will conduct four more searches for American remains through November.

E-mail [stephanie.a.pearson@us.army.mil](mailto:stephanie.a.pearson@us.army.mil)



U.S. and Korean Honor Guardsmen carry a casket containing the remains believed to be American servicemembers killed during the Korean War.

## Soldiers face new challenge: buckin' bulls

Story, photo by Spc. Nicole Robus  
2nd Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

**CHEONGDO** — Soldiers and airmen from around the peninsula gathered together May 22 and 23 for a weekend of competition at the 2004 Cheongdo International Bullfighting Festival.

The servicemembers took part in a rodeo demonstration that was held at the festival. Bull riding, calf roping and steer dressing were the three events in the demonstration. The festival has been going on for more than 1,000 years.

The servicemembers had different levels of experience in rodeo competition. For some of the participants this was their first time



Two bulls ram into one another as their owners shout at them. Bullfighting has been a tradition for more than 1,000 years at the Cheongdo festival.

on the back of a bull or even at a rodeo as a competitor.

"I am doing this to say that I have done this, and I wanted to be able

to say that I rode a bull in Korea," said John DeHut, who placed third in the bull riding event.

There are steps that are taken to

ensure all the men remain safe during a rodeo said Joe Copeland, Professional Armed Forces Rodeo Association president.

"There are usually three or four cowboys to help another out with his bull ride," said Copeland. "There is the flank man, who is responsible for tying a flank strap on the bull and in turn makes the bull buck a lot better. The strap doesn't hurt the bull.

"Two other men help the rider get his rope set," said Copeland.

The rider drops his rope on the right side of the bull, another cowboy take a hook and brings the rope up to a point where the rider can grab it. The rider brings the end

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MP Blotter

Commentary

Good intentions, bad execution

The following entries were excerpted from the past several week's military police blotters. These entries may be incomplete and do not determine the guilt or innocence of any person.

■ A female U.S. servicemember was observed via closed circuit television placing one DVD box set in her personal bag. The troop then exited the main exchange without rendering payment. She was then detained by Army and Air Force Exchange Service security until the arrival of military police, which apprehended and transported the Soldier to the Provost Marshal Office. She was then advised of her legal rights, which she waived, rendering a written sworn statement admitting to the offense.

■ An investigation by the military police revealed that two U.S. servicemembers deliberately damaged another servicemember's privately owned vehicle by dropping a filing cabinet off a dolly onto it while the vehicle was parked, secured and unattended. Damage to the vehicle consisted of a dent on the rear driver's side door about 13 inches in length and three other scratches about 1-inch in length. Both offenders were apprehended and advised of their legal rights, which they waived, rendering a written sworn statements admitting to the above incident.

■ Two U.S. servicemembers were passengers in a Korean taxi when one of the two grabbed 47,000 won from the front console of the taxi, which was unsecured and exited the taxi. Both troops then fled the scene and were pursued on foot by the cab driver. The Korean National Police were notified and later apprehended one of the Soldiers near an off-post hotel. He was then transported to the KNP station, processed and turned over to the U.S. military police at which time he waived his rights, rendering a written sworn statement denying the offense of larceny and admitting to the offenses of curfew violation and underage drinking. The following morning, the second servicemember was apprehended and detained by his unit when he attempted to return to post and was transported to the Provost Marshal Office where he was advised of his legal rights, which he waived, rendering a written sworn statement denying the offense of larceny and admitting to the offense of curfew violation. An investigation continues by military police investigation.

I read your article concerning driving under the influence of alcohol and, hopefully, it will make some Soldiers stop and think. Unfortunately, a lot won't even let it change anything about their drinking pattern.

I did want to ask why prevention counselors don't focus on telling soldiers, and anyone else for that matter, to just not drink and drive at all.

This is a point of contention for many women and their husbands, as well as countless water cooler conversations. The guys say that a DUI means driving drunk, so they can drink until they think they are too drunk to be driving.

My point has always been that any alcohol in the system makes a difference in your abilities to be aware and to be driving a vehicle, which is dangerous in and of itself. A lot of people are not even aware of the factors about how much a person weighs and how that affects how much alcohol they consume.

It seems to me that money would be well spent to focus on whoever drives, DON'T drink. The people can take turns, or take a taxi, or let a friend drive, or their wives, etc..., instead, it seems programs are focused on telling people not to drink TOO MUCH.

Not to male bash, but you know a lot of guys will not

admit they can drink several beers and fail the criteria for alcohol in their blood tests.

They want to get people, and themselves, to think they can handle their beer. Pleas from others not to drink alcohol and then drive fall on deaf ears; and this comes from those who should know better, as well as the younger ones who feel invincible.

Whether it is in Korea or somewhere else, drinking and then driving a car don't mix, are NOT a good idea, and should not be allowed.

Lives are lost or damaged, and money is spent on this issue that could be better used elsewhere.

We only have to look around to see there are other problems to address. I sincerely hope that others will read your article and take it to heart.

Tina Marzan  
19th Theater Support Command

*"...a lot of guys will not admit they can drink several beers and fail the criteria for alcohol in their blood tests."*

E-mail commentary submissions to [morningcalmweekly@usfk.korea.army.mil](mailto:morningcalmweekly@usfk.korea.army.mil). Please keep submissions about a page in length and include your name, rank and duty station. The Morning Calm Weekly reserves the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

Morning Calm Weekly Soundoff:  
Why is professional development important?



**"It provides the tools that are necessary for Soldiers to grow."**  
— Staff Sgt. Brent McGlothlin, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Area I



**"Today's mission demands complete and dedicated professionalism."**  
— CW2 Christopher Kelley, 532nd Military Intelligence Battalion, Camp Humphreys



**"It allows me to sharpen skills that I already have."** — Pfc. Craig Meeks, United Nations Honor Guard Company, Yongsan



**"It helps ones performance in the workplace."** — Spc. Aime Tchapda, 34th Support Group, Yongsan

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SUBMISSIONS OR COMMENTS:

Phone: DSN 738-3355

Fax: DSN 738-3356

E-mail: [MorningCalmWeekly@usfk.korea.army.mil](mailto:MorningCalmWeekly@usfk.korea.army.mil)

Morning Calm

Installation Management Agency-Korea Region

Director/Publisher

Brig. Gen. John A. Macdonald

Public Affairs Officer

Stephen Oertwig

Editor

Sgt. Andrew Kosterman

Area I

Commander  
Public Affairs Officer  
CI Officer  
Staff Writer

Col. Jeffery T. Christiansen  
Margaret Banish-Donaldson  
David McNally  
Pfc. Stephanie Pearson

Area III

Commander  
Public Affairs Officer  
CI Officer

Col. Michael J. Taliento  
Susan Barkley  
Steve Davis

Area II

Commander  
Public Affairs Officer  
Staff Writer  
Staff Writer

Col. Timothy K. McNulty  
John A. Nowell  
Cpl. Kim Hee-jin  
Pfc. Park Jin-woo

Area IV

Commander  
Public Affairs Officer  
CI Officer  
Staff writer

Col. James M. Joyner  
Kevin Jackson  
Galen Putnam  
Pfc. Oh Dong-keun

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Commercial Advertising

Telephone: 738-5005

Fax: (02) 790-5795

E-mail: [oppress@kornet.net](mailto:oppress@kornet.net)

Mail address: Oriental Press, PSC 450, Box 758, APO AP 96206-0758

Support and Defend

## NEWS & NOTES

### Inspector General Assistance Visit

The 8th United States Army Inspector General Office will be conducting its quarterly visit to installations that do not have IG offices. The purpose of the visits is to provide assistance to Soldiers with IG questions.

June 11 10-11:30 a.m. Yongin Multipurpose room, building S-10

### DA recruiter team coming to Korea

The Department of the Army Recruiter Team is looking to recruit sergeants through sergeants first class for recruiting duty. The team will brief NCOs on the benefits, challenges and qualifications of being a recruiter. Personal interviews will be after the briefing to determine qualifications. NCOs are encouraged to attend the briefing in their area. Career counselors are asked to attend the briefing in order to get the latest information.

June 14 2 p.m.

Camp Henry, 20th Area Support Group conference room

Camp Casey movie theater

Camp Hovey movie theater

June 15 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Yongsan Moyer Community Activity Services Center

Camp Gary Owen Saber Club

June 16 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Camp Humphreys movie theater

Camp Red Cloud movie theater

June 17 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Yongsan Moyer Community Activity Services Center

Camp Stanley movie theater

June 18 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Yongsan Moyer Community Activity Services Center

Camp Greaves movie theater

### Voting Assistance Officer Workshop

A Voting Assistance Officer workshop will be conducted 9 a.m. June 24 at the multipurpose training facility on Yongsan South Post.

Call Tech. Sgt. Gregg Jordan at 723-4293 for more information.

### CIF Closure

Customer Service Points in all areas will be closed June 18 for an organizational day. CIF will reopen on June 21.

### U.S. Forces Korea Sexual Misconduct Survey

The U.S. Forces Korea Inspector General is conducting a Web-based survey on sexual misconduct.

The information provided will be used to assess the effectiveness of sexual assault and harassment programs within U.S. Forces Korea. The survey is open all USFK military personnel and will only take 20 minutes to complete, according to USFK officials.

The survey will be available today - June 30 on the 8th U.S. Army Intranet.

All information will gathered from this survey will remain anonymous and only group statistics will be reported.

To take part in the survey, visit <https://www-eusa-1.korea.army.mil>.

## Why Korea is the Duty Assignment of Choice



Patrons hit the dance floor May 28 at the reopening of the Hilltop Club on Camp Walker. More than 300 revelers jammed the club that had been under renovation since March 1. "This is just another example of MWR returning money to the community and providing quality entertainment," said Gary Larose, chief of Community Operations Division, Directorate of Community Activities.

## Individual Ready Reserve Soldiers to be screened for possible assignment to Army Reserve units

### Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army's Human Resources Command - St. Louis, is identifying Individual Ready Reserve Soldiers with a statutory Military Service Obligation remaining for possible assignment to an Army Reserve unit.

These Soldiers may be assigned to position vacancy requirements within designated Reserve units based upon the needs of the Army.

At this time, there have been no involuntary assignments of IRR Soldiers to any Army Reserve units.

The HRC-STL is identifying IRR Soldiers for possible assignment. HRC-STL is responsible for the management of all Army IRR Soldiers and has

standard business processes in place.

The Individual Ready Reserve consists of more than 118,000 trained Soldiers who may be called upon to fill vacancies in Army Reserve units and may replace Soldiers in Active and Reserve Units.

Part of the Army's Ready Reserve, the IRR involves individuals who have had training, served previously in the Active Component or the Selected Reserve, and may have some period of military service obligation remaining.

Unlike new recruits, these are seasoned, experienced Soldiers who can contribute significantly to Army readiness.

All Soldiers have a statutory eight-year military service obligation, which is established at the time of entry into

military service, either active or reserve duty.

The IRR is mandated by Congress under Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

In accordance with implementing instructions contained in Army Regulation 135-91, Service Obligations, Methods of Fulfillment, Participation Requirements, and Enforcement Procedures, members of the IRR can be required to join an Army Reserve unit if they are statutorily obligated and have a skill needed by the Army.

If a member of the IRR desires to volunteer to join a Reserve unit, they may call 1-800-318-5298.

More information, additional questions and answers regarding the IRR is available on the HRC-STL Web site, [www.hrc.army.mil](http://www.hrc.army.mil).

## Army on track to meet recruiting, retention goals

### Story by Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — One of the Army's most deployed divisions is on schedule to meet its retention goals for fiscal year 2004, and the rest of the Army appears to be on track as well.

Media coverage, not always favorable of the war, has apparently not deterred America's youth from enlisting in the armed forces. Recruiting numbers so far have surpassed expected quotas.

Last week 15 Soldiers re-enlisted at Fort Drum, N.Y., boosting the numbers for the 10th Mountain Division this fiscal year to about 200.

"Retention is a priority because if you don't keep skilled Soldiers in boots, you can't go to war and fight

as effectively," said Sgt. 1st Class Randall Goodine, a Fort Drum career counselor.

The Army and Army Reserve retention goal for fiscal year 2004 is 28,201, and the Army remains guardedly optimistic that it will achieve all retention goals for this fiscal year, said officials from the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

The active Army has achieved 98 percent of its year-to-date mission, the Army Reserve has achieved 96 percent of its YTD mission. The National Guard has retained almost 130 percent of its YTD mission.

A percentage of the Army Guard retention numbers include involuntary extensions due to stop loss, National Guard officials said.

In order to continue to meet retention missions, it  
See **Retention** on Page 4

**Bull**

from Page 1

through the loop and rotates the rope until the hand hold is on the top of the bull's back.

Once the hand hold is where the rider wants it, the rope is tightened then placed into the rider's hand. The whole time there is one man holding onto the rider to pull him out if there is a problem.

"As soon as the rider is open another man opens the gate and the rider begins what he hopes to be the most thrilling eight seconds," said Copeland.

Once the rider is out in the arena, it is the job of the clowns to keep the riders safe.

"The best feeling of being a clown out here is when your friends say thank you for keeping them safe," said Copeland. "The cowboys know when I am out in the arena I will do anything it takes to save them from the bull. My partner, Aron Virden, is one hell of a cowboy. He won the bull riding competition today. After his ride he was out there helping me keep the remaining riders safe."

The cowboys who were clowning to make sure the riders were safe went to the crowd to get them to cheer and the response was phenomenal, said J.W Rutledge, a rider in the competition.

"The response was unbelievable," said Copeland. "We were treated like kings the whole time. We felt really appreciated for being part of their festival. I shook more hands today than I ever have in my life. Mr. Lee and his brother J.J. were awesome hosts. I would

love to return the favor at the World Finals Rodeo in October."

Other events were steer dressing. This is where three cowboys worked together to get a total of six flags on a steer. The time limit was three minutes. Whoever got the most flags on before the time ran out was the champion.

The cowboys ended with calf roping. One by one the cowboys waited for the gate to open and the calf to be released out of the chute. Once the calf was released the cowboy had to flank the calf, which is to get it on its side. After the calf was flanked, the cowboy had to tie its legs together.

"These calves were larger than a normal roping calf," said Copeland.

For the grand finale of the event Copeland rode a horse and attempted to rope a calf off the horse.

"This was very hard to do. The horse I was riding was a jumping horse, not a roping horse. Also it was hard to ride, in roping a person uses a western saddle and this was an English saddle," said Copeland. "It was a great experience."

Once the event was finished the cowboys were presented award by the vice governor of Cheongdo.

"I loved it. It was my best experience in Korea," said Copeland.

E-mail [nicole.robus@us.army.mil](mailto:nicole.robus@us.army.mil)

**Retention**

from Page 3

is important that the Army fund advertising, marketing, well-being programs and incentives at the highest possible levels, personnel officials said.

Drum Soldiers have deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, and Goodine said back-to-back deployments haven't deterred Soldiers from re-enlisting because "We have a lot of professionals that enjoy what they're doing and are here to protect America's freedoms."

One of those professionals is Spc. Elton Thomas who has been to Afghanistan twice since the Global War on Terrorism began in 2001.

"I like the Army," said Thomas, who recently re-enlisted for three years. "I like what it represents. It's life for me."

There is no one reason why Soldiers re-enlist. A Soldier from Fort Myer, Va., said he re-enlisted for professional development.

"I'm currently a male administrative specialist, and I'm afraid when I go back in the civilian world there won't be very many jobs I can fill," said Spc. Marques Washington.

The next move for Washington is changing military specialties and becoming a medical equipment repairer. "I've been around a lot

of great people who have helped me along the way, and if I can help anyone it would be to say, 'if you re-enlist give 100 percent and never regret your decision.'"

The announcement of the fiscal year 2004 Present Duty Assignment Targeted Selective Re-enlistment Bonus, for personnel assigned to units in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait, where Soldiers received a bonus of \$5,000 along with updates to the regular Selective Reenlistment Bonus program, have helped improve

retention results, personnel officials said.

All Army components are working to preserve power and improve readiness,

officials said, by developing and implementing new initiatives to enhance retention efforts.

Legislative revisions are being monitored to provide greater flexibility in the types and amounts of incentives that can be given to Soldiers deploying to or returning from supporting GWOT, officials added.

While career counselors and personnel officials work at retaining qualified troops, recruiters continue to scout out potential recruits to put in fatigues.

***"I like the Army. I like what it represents. It's life for me."***

— Spc. Elton Thomas,  
10th Mountain Division

*Commanding General takes to airwaves*

# Warriors prepare to deploy

## *Indianhead Division to send brigade combat team to Iraq*

Story by David McNally  
Area I Public Affairs Office

**CAMP FALLING WATER** — The commanding general of the 2nd Infantry Division spoke on American Forces Network Korea radio May 27 to address deployment issues.

The U.S. Army announced last month a brigade combat team from the 2nd Infantry Division will deploy to Iraq in midsummer.

“This is a significant deployment,” said Maj. Gen. John R. Wood. “It is the first time in our history we’ve been asked to deploy off the peninsula to do this kind of work.”

The general used the radio talk show as a way to tell his Soldiers, “it couldn’t be a greater division or greater group of Soldiers who’ve been asked to do this job.”

Wood answered questions and discussed deployment details during the one-hour call in show.

Pfc. Christina Mee, the talk show host, asked Wood if the deploying Soldiers would have an opportunity to take leave and see their families.

Wood said they were scheduling a block leave period, where Soldiers would take leave simultaneously, and include this in the deployment timeline. He said the Army had allocated \$11 million with the directive to make it happen.

Wood said if a Soldier was 10 months into a tour of duty in Korea, and now ready to go for another 12 months, “our Soldiers, in my opinion, deserve this.”

Wood said the plan was to move Soldiers to two different hubs in the United States. He said it would be up to the Soldier to purchase a ticket to their final destination.

Over the Memorial Day Weekend, commercial ticket office workers pulled extra shifts to accommodate the deploying Soldiers. Some Soldiers already departed for the two-week leave, said 2nd Infantry Division officials.

The talk show host, Mee, asked Wood why these forces could not be taken from any other place in the world.

“The Pentagon announced that the combined recommendation of military planners was the 2nd Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division was the best suited to meet the mission requirements in Iraq while still maintaining U.S. commitments to the region and to the world,” Wood answered.

Wood said they were closing in on 100-percent notification to Soldiers targeted to deploy.

“Obviously the brigade combat team force has been notified,” Wood said. “It’s just remarkable to see the teamwork from the G-1 to the S-1 to the sergeants major of the unit on down, the willingness and spirit has brought the number of questions in the area of personnel deploying down to very small numbers.”

Wood said a 2nd Infantry Division team, headed by Brig. Gen. Thomas Jordan, the assistant division commander for maneuver, departed for Iraq May 27.

“They’re the advance party,” Wood said. “They will be talking to the commander and be literally on the ground in the places where we’re going to be.”

The general acknowledged many Warrior Division Soldiers have volunteered to be part of the deployment.

“There are opportunities to volunteer,” Wood said. “If it is something you would like to do, I would say your chain of command is the best source to go to and certainly, consideration will be given. You’ll find the predominant spirit is that the Soldiers in the brigade combat team are ready to go.”

Wood said one of the reasons for his appearance on the radio talk show was to dispel rumors. Mee said one rumor was the division would deploy 4,000 to 10,000 Soldiers.

“I would just simply say that the brigade combat team, as our Soldiers would understand it, will deploy,” Wood said. “The number right now is not determined but it certainly equates to what our Soldiers would understand the brigade combat team to be.”

Wood addressed his concerns about families during the mission. He said there are three groups, both noncommand and command-sponsored families here on the peninsula, and family members left in the United States.



PHOTO BY MAJ. TAMARA PARKER  
Maj. Gen. John R. Wood, commanding general, 2nd Infantry Division (right) speaks to his troops at the Warrior Radio studio at Camp Falling Water May 27.

“We are bringing together the professionals here on the peninsula that handle the installation and family support activities,” Wood said.

Wood announced his plan to conduct a noncombatant evacuation-like exercise, to bring together the professionals and family members, both sponsored and nonsponsored.

“This is significant,” Wood said. “This is not something we’ve done here in Korea before in which we’ve had to support a force that had deployed off the peninsula.”

Wood said he hopes to get a U.S. State Department team there to talk about visas and passports, as well as the official status of the military family members.

E-mail [david.mcnally@us.army.mil](mailto:david.mcnally@us.army.mil)



COURTESY PHOTO  
Above: A Camp Red Cloud commercial ticket office worker makes flight arrangements Saturday.

Left: 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers purchase tickets for their two-week block leave.

## NEWS &amp; NOTES

**Home Schooling in Area I**

IDEA International provides resources and support to military parents who have elected to educate their children in the home. Enroll on the Internet at <http://www.intidea.org/enrollment.htm>. For more information, go to <http://www.intidea.org>.

**Stanley Exchange to Open**

The new Camp Stanley post exchange will open its doors for the first time 9 a.m. June 14 with a grand opening ceremony. There will be a live band and a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by cake and coffee.

**Tree-planting Ceremony**

Area I Better Opportunities for Single and Unaccompanied Soldiers will celebrate World Environment Day 1:30 p.m. Saturday with a tree-planting ceremony at the Camp Red Cloud pavilion.

**Tax Center Closing**

The Camp Casey tax center's last day of operation will be June 15, the deadline for overseas Soldiers to file their tax returns on time. Battalion commands are invited to call the center to arrange for a mobile team visit to their area at no cost to the Soldiers. The tax center is open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and 1 - 7 p.m. Thursday.

**Army Birthday Block Party**

In celebration of the Army's 229th birthday, the Camp Stanley Better Opportunities for Single and Unaccompanied Soldiers will host a block party June 12 at the Community Activities Center and commissary parking lot. There will be food and beverage sales, games, live entertainment, and prize drawings.

**Mitchell's Club Closure**

Camp Red Cloud's Mitchell's Club will be closed for dinner Monday for maintenance.

**Camp Red Cloud Bowling Center**

The Camp Red Cloud Bowling Center is now open for breakfast 8:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday mornings.

**Warrior Division Biathlon Championship**

The Warrior Division Biathlon Championship will begin at 9 a.m. June 12 at the Camp Hovey fitness center. Race-day registration begins 7:30 a.m. Call 730-2322 for more information.

**Report of Survey Class**

Area I Department of Logistics will hold a report-of-survey class 9 a.m. June 22 in the Area I conference room. The course covers conducting proper property inventories and how to fill out a Department of the Army form 4697, Report of Survey form. Those primary hand-receipt holders or supply sergeants interested in attending this course need to call 732-7332 to reserve a slot, as space is limited.

**Area I Entertainment**

■ The band "Primal Urge" will play at Camp Stanley's Reggie's 8 p.m. Tuesday, Garry Owen's Saber Club 8 p.m. Wednesday and Camp Greaves' NOTRI Club 7 p.m. Thursday.

■ The band "Inspired to Succeed" will play at Camp Page's Community Activities Center 8 p.m. Tuesday, Camp Stanley's Reggie's 7 p.m. Wednesday, and Camp Giant's Gator Club 8 p.m. Thursday.

**Military police deter possible suicide**

Story, photo by Pfc. Stephanie Pearson

Area I Public Affairs Office

**CAMP CASEY** — Two Soldiers thousands of miles away saved a Tacoma, Wash. resident who attempted to commit suicide recently.

The Camp Casey 911 center received a call at 5 p.m. May 11 from Pak Sung-ku, the local Dongducheon Fire Department communications officer, said Jerry Epperson, U.S. Army Garrison, Camp Casey fire chief. Pak told the 911 operator that a Korean national living in Tacoma had called a long-time friend in Dongducheon, saying that she had intentionally taken an overdose of medication and wanted to say goodbye before she died, Epperson explained. Panicked, the friend here in Korea called the Dongducheon Fire Department, who in turned called the Camp Casey 911.

Since the Red Cross office was already closed for the day, the 911 operator called the MP desk for assistance in contacting the local Washington police.

When Cpl. Jang Sun-wook, a dispatcher with the Camp Casey military police, answered the telephone that evening, he wasn't expecting to play a part in saving a life.

"We get a lot of calls for larceny, assault and disorderly conduct," Jang explained, "but this is the first time I've had to deal with a possible suicide."

Jang said he was told a woman in Washington had tried to commit suicide, and the local Koreans didn't know how to get in touch with anyone stateside. The friend who called the Dongducheon Fire Department had provided them with



Jang

a telephone number for the woman's ex-husband, who lives in Lakewood, Wash.

"They had a telephone number for the woman's ex-husband, but no way to contact him or anyone to speak English," Jang explained. "I got all the information, and gave it to my desk sergeant."

Sgt. Thomas Chiles was the desk sergeant on duty that night. He had only been in country for about two months, and never had to deal with this type of situation before.

"I was confused at first, because they kept saying she was in Washington," Chiles said. "I had a number for the ex-husband, so I called him."

Since the Camp Casey MP station does not have a direct line to the United States, Chiles had to use his personal telephone card to make the call, but he didn't think twice about doing it.

"I thought it was important, because if she had died and there was something I could have done, but I did nothing, it would have been wrong," Chiles explained. "When I talked to her ex-husband, he said she had tried to do this before, and then I knew it was a serious threat."

The ex-husband immediately called the local police, who were able to reach the woman in time to save her life.

Lt. Col. Murray, U.S. Army Garrison, Camp Casey commander, is proud of the partnership the garrison has with the local community that made this possible.

"What outstanding and timely teamwork by the Dongducheon and Camp Casey Fire Departments and our military police to relay information to save a life back in the United States," Murray said.

Both Soldiers are glad to have been able to help.

"It's easy to take a life," said Jang, "but to save a life...that's a very precious thing. It can't be compared to anything else."

E-mail [stephanie.a.pearson@us.army.mil](mailto:stephanie.a.pearson@us.army.mil)

**Military Intelligence troops get new leader**

Story, photo by David McNally

Area I Public Affairs Office

**CAMP ESSAYONS** — The 102nd Military Intelligence Battalion, known across Korea as "The Stalker Team," changed leadership in ceremonies at Camp Essayons Wednesday. The commanding general of the 2nd Infantry Division presented the unit colors to Lt. Col. Bridget Rourke.

"She knows well this fight and certainly understands this enemy," Maj. Gen. John R. Wood told the assembled Soldiers and civilians.

The Soldiers of the 102nd Military Intelligence Battalion stood in formation with the 2nd Infantry Division Band on Stalker Field.

Wood told Rourke, "Your task is to lead these Soldiers well, and continue to transform this diverse force, which is already respected by our friends and greatly feared by our enemy."

"To all the Soldiers and families of the Stalker battalion, it is with great pride that I join your ranks," said Rourke. "I will strive everyday to be the leader that you deserve, and to be ready to fight tonight."

Rourke was last assigned to the U.S. Joint Forces Command, J-2, where she worked on the Army's transformation efforts.

Rourke is no stranger to the Indianhead Division. She previously



Lt. Col. Bridget Rourke (left) receives the unit colors of the 102nd Military Intelligence Battalion and the mantle of leadership from Maj. Gen. John R. Wood, commanding general of the 2nd Infantry Division.

served as the chief of the 2nd Infantry Division G-2 Plans Office, and then as the intelligence officer for the 1st Brigade.

Wood lauded out-going commander, Lt. Col. Jim Stockmoe for his accomplishments. He said, "I think of him as a caring and enthusiastic leader who helped renovate five barracks facilities here with the help of our great installation management team."

Wood also cited the renovation of the theater and gymnasium as examples of Camp Essayons well-being initiatives during Stockmoe's tenure in command.

Stockmoe departs Korea to become the assistant chief of staff for intelligence for the 1st Infantry Division, with service in Iraq. He served two years as commander of the 102nd Military Intelligence Battalion.

See **Leader** on Page 8

## Claims offers advice for departing Soldiers

By Capt. Theodore Houdek  
2nd Infantry Division Judge Advocate

Permanent change of station moves are an inevitable part of life for military personnel and their families.

Taking a few precautions can help alleviate some of the anxiety of the move and ensure you will be fairly compensated if your property is lost or damaged.

Document your ownership and the condition of your property: Before the movers arrive collect receipts and appraisals for valuable items and take photographs or make a videotape of your property. This will establish what you own and its condition before the move.

For compact discs and digital video discs, take pictures of both the CD/DVD jackets and the CD/DVD itself. Do not ship receipts, appraisals, photographs and videotapes with your household goods. Leave this evidence with a relative or mail it separately to your new address.

Consider purchasing insurance: The Claims Service is not a substitute for insurance, as in many instances they will only be able to pay you the depreciated value of your property.

When property is depreciated, the replacement value of the item is devalued by a set percentage per year. So, a two-year-old item with a value of \$1,000, which is depreciated at 10 percent a year is actually valued at \$800. Therefore, the Claims Service may only reimburse you \$800 for the damaged item.

Additionally, the claims office has maximum amounts it can pay for certain items. For example, the maximum amount payable for stereo equipment is \$1,000 per item and \$4,000 per shipment. If the property value exceeds these amounts, you should consider obtaining private insurance.

Although movers offer insurance for shipments in the United States, they generally do not offer it for overseas shipments. However, some private insurance companies offer coverage for household goods shipments. Before you purchase insurance make sure it applies to your specific situation.

Before the movers arrive, set aside any items you do not want shipped.

You should personally carry small valuable items such as jewelry or portable electronic devices. Cash and coin collections should never be shipped and you will not be compensated if they are lost or stolen.

Watch how they pack your property and pay attention to the inventory. Ensure that electronic and valuable items are specifically and accurately listed on the inventory.

The movers will list pre-existing damage to your furniture at the top of the inventory, using a special code. If you disagree with the description of damage, note your disagreement at the bottom of the inventory.

Do not sign the inventory until you have carefully reviewed it and don't be afraid to make your own notations. It's your property, so be particular.

Taking a few precautions before a move can save a great deal of aggravation later. Contact the 2nd Infantry Division Claims Offices, either at Camp Casey, 730-1448, 730-1910, or Camp Red Cloud, 732-6099, 732-6017.

## Warrior NCO takes ethnic honors

Area I Public Affairs Office

**CAMP RED CLOUD** — A top Warrior Country noncommissioned officer recently represented the U.S. Army May 19 at a Department of Defense ethnic competition in San Francisco.

Sgt. Maj. Yong K. Park, sergeant major of U.S. Army Garrison, Camp Red Cloud received the award at the 2004 Asian-Pacific Americans in the Federal Government conference.

"All humans must live with an open mind in order to truly understand the multicultural experience," Park said.

Park, a Christian, said he has committed himself to improving civil rights and race relations not only in the Korean community, but throughout the military as well.

"If I have a chance to influence the military in any way, even after I am out of this uniform, it is that we must work together to build a clean society," Park said. "That is the message I want to take to military leaders, not just at Camp Red Cloud, but in Washington, D.C., as well."

Park, born in Kwangju, Republic of Korea, started his involvement with cultural diversity programs while stationed in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1998. There he coordinated a multicultural friendship day attended by more than 2,000 people.

Last year Park helped to host the first Korean-American friendship day at Camp LaGuardia. More than 5,000 people attended the event.

"I am humbled, and I don't think I deserve this,"



PHOTO BY DAVID McNALLY

Sgt. Maj. Yong K. Park, the top noncommissioned officer for U.S. Army Garrison, Camp Red Cloud, holds an orphan at a 2003 Christmas party.

Park said. "I just did as I was supposed to as a human being, but it is my honor. Maybe this will be my once-in-a-lifetime experience."

The council is the oldest organization of Asian-Pacific Americans in the federal government. The group promotes equal opportunity and cultural diversity within the U.S. federal government.

This council featured job fairs, training workshops and seminars for government and civilian agencies. More than 1,000 people attended the event.

## Area I NCO leads by example, wins board appearance

Story, photo by Pfc. Stephanie Pearson

Area I Public Affairs Office

**CAMP RED CLOUD** — "I've always believed if you desire to do something, you should do it to the best of your ability."

That attitude has brought Staff Sgt. Robert Trujillo, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Area I quality control inspector, to the top of his class: he was just named Installation Management Agency-

Korea Region noncommissioned officer of the year.

"It all started with my E-6 promotion board," Trujillo said. "After that board, First Sergeant (Douglas) Smothers said he thought I would be competitive in the noncommissioned officer of the month board. That's what got it going, first sergeant telling me he would like me to start competing in those boards. So I did, and I eventually won the Area I NCO of the quarter, and went on to compete

for the IMA-Korea Region Office NCO of the quarter. I won that, too, which led to competing for the IMA-Korea Region Office NCO of the year for 2004."

So what kind of NCO does it take to make it this far? In addition to having mastery of essential soldier skills, such as rifle marksmanship, physical fitness and common-task proficiency, the noncommissioned officer of the year must also have

See NCO on Page 8



Staff Sgt. Robert Trujillo, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Area I (left), conducts training. Trujillo is the Installation Management Agency-Korea Region noncommissioned officer of the year.

**Leader**

from Page 6

"The 102nd Military Intelligence Battalion has 525 of the best and brightest, most disciplined Soldiers," Stockmoe said. "These great Soldiers in front of you fly unmanned aircraft, jump out of airplanes, operate sensitive and complex intelligence systems; they are all physically fit, train endlessly in all kinds of weather, and shoot every weapon system imaginable."

Stockmoe went into great detail to describe his former Soldiers.

"I had the privilege to serve as their commander," Stockmoe said. "I woke up every day inspired by their

motivation, dedication and commitment."

Stockmoe said he was sure Rourke would take the battalion to new heights.

"I look forward to working with and getting to know each one of you, American and Korea defenders of freedom," Rourke told the Soldiers.

Rourke was commissioned as a second lieutenant after her 1986 graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

E-mail david.mcnally@us.army.mil

**NCO**

from Page 7

good leadership skills, a great work ethic, professionalism, and above all, the ability to exceed the standards, said Command Sgt. Maj. Yolanda Lomax, Area I sergeant major.

"Staff Sergeant Trujillo has shown that potential since his arrival here," Lomax said, "and has the dedication to place himself on a higher level than his peers."

Trujillo attributes that dedication to wanting to be the best he can.

"I went into this board with the attitude that if I didn't win, I wouldn't embarrass the command or myself by giving a poor performance; at least I would go in there and know that I had done my best," Trujillo said, adding, "That's the way I look at everything. If I'm going to do it, I'm not going to do it halfway."

Trujillo is going all the way to Washington, D.C., to compete in the Installation Management Agency and Military District of Washington NCO of the year board July 26 - 30.

"I believe he will go to the IMA-MDW board, win it, and go on to compete in the Department of the Army-level board. I think he'll win it, too, because he has his priorities straight as far as where he wants his military career to go," said Lomax.

"My motivation is to make it to the top, not only for myself but for my

family," Trujillo explained. "If my wife didn't support me, I wouldn't even be in the Army. Another thing I look at, when competing or doing anything is the example I set for my children. I try to teach them that when they do something, they need to do their best at it. We all know that actions speak louder than words. I can tell them to do their best, but I have to be able to live up to that."

Those who know him are confident he will.

"He is committed to the military and being the professional he is," Lomax said. "Aside from being a Soldier, I see his professionalism as total person. I pray that through continued positive leadership and guidance, he will be able to reach whatever goals he has set for himself. He's a Soldier's Soldier."

Trujillo credits his success to his wife of four years, Jennifer, and the senior leadership of Smothers and Lomax.

"I have to thank them for supporting me, believing in me and seeing something in me I didn't see in myself. If it hadn't been for all of them, I probably would not have pursued this."

E-mail stephanie.a.pearson@us.army.mil

**Take me out to the ballpark!**

PHOTO BY SGT. JEREMY ALLEN

Staff Sgt. Shane Baxter, Company D, 122nd Signal Battalion, puts one in the gap in a losing effort against the Analysis and Control Element of the 102nd Military Intelligence Battalion May 27 at Camp Red Cloud.



## AFSC visits women's rehabilitation center

Story, photo by Pvt. Park Yung Kwi  
Area II Public Affairs Office

**YONGSAN**—The Area II Chaplain's Office coordinated a visit to the Mal Kun Tuh Rehabilitation Center located in the Mapo-gu area of Seoul by members of the Armed Forces Spouses Club Korean Social Welfare Project Committee to deliver sanitary items and clothes May 25.

Items were collected from the South Post Chapel, Dragon Hill Lodge and the Yongsan Commissary May 3–23.

"This program was at the direction of Brigadier General (John) Macdonald to give soldiers and family members an opportunity to donate certain items of clothing to local charities and organizations," said Chaplain (Maj.) Stanley E. Whitten, Area II Family Life chaplain. "The goal was giving people an opportunity to participate in a good neighbor program and exercise their spiritual fitness muscles."

Macdonald is the director of the Installation Management Agency- Korea Region.

The rehabilitation center was first established in 1988 for women who suffer from mental retardation.

There are about five teachers and three volunteers helping students in the center, according to Mal Kuh Tuh Rehabilitation Center officials. The center has more than 30 students 15–25 years of age with mental retardation. They not only provide a place to stay but educate these women with various programs.

The programs consist of three main projects. These projects are educational rehabilitation, job-training rehabilitation and life rehabilitation.

"The place that we went is one of the very model organizations," said Haing J. Choi, chairperson of the Korean Social Welfare Project for the American Forces Spouses Club. "They have been working really hard so that they go through the job training and life skill training. Their mission is to live together as a group, but eventually be independent so they can live their own lives and be self-sufficient and contribute to society like every other normal person."

Students learn job skills through the job-training program



PHOTO BY PVT. PARK YUNG KWI

Volunteers from The Korean social welfare projects committee and Maj. Stanley Whitten, second from right, with his staff members visit the Math class at Mal-Kun-Tuh rehab center which is one of the educational programs they support.

taught at the center. They also get the chance to make small handmade products such as pillows, purses and many other types of handmade accessories. These products will be sold at local charities. The profits from selling those items go back to the center budget, said center officials.

Mal Kuh Tuh is a nonprofit organization.

"We get funds from the Chosun Gift Shop and the members of AFSC work as volunteers there to generate the funds," said Choi. "Fifty percent goes to American projects and the other half goes to the Korean projects after basic maintenance funds for the operation of the Chosun gift shop are deducted. The funds are

distributed to many places where and when they need assistance."

The ultimate goal of Mal Kun Tuh is to develop students' potential and teach them self respect.

"I thought they were doing a wonderful job," said Melba A. Barry, a volunteer from the Korean Social Welfare Project Committee. "The facility was very clean and the children were happy and learning. The director of the center has a desire for these children to be self-sufficient."

E-mail parkyungk@usfk.korea.army.mil

## Yongsan-ku hosts annual Citizen's Day



PHOTO BY JOHN A. NOWELL

Col. Timothy K. McNulty, commander, Area II Support Activity and 34th Support Group, along with 19 members of the 34th Support Group struggle in a tug-of-war competition with Mayor Park Jang-kyu, Yongsan District, and 19 Korean government officials representing Yongsan-ku's 20 townships to determine the winners at the annual Yongsan-ku Citizen's Day celebration. From left Cpt. Anterio C. Gainwell, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 34th Support Group, Pvt. Melvin Campbell and McNulty pull together. The 'Tug' ended in a draw. The 8th U.S. Army band also participated and played several musical numbers while marching in a parade held on the Yongsan Boys High School in Huamdong, adjacent to Camp Coiner Sunday.

## NEWS & NOTES

### SAHS Graduation of the Class of 2004

Seoul American High School will celebrate the graduation of the class of 2004 10 a.m. Saturday at Falcon Gym. For more information, call 02-797-366.

### Notice of Relocation

The Area II Law and Order Office and the Ration Control office in Building 4305 have relocated from Rooms 106 and 109 to Room 104 starting Thursday. The office will be closed Wednesday for the move. Telephone numbers and operating hours remain the same.

### Area II Live Radio Town Hall Meeting

There will be a live radio town hall meeting 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Tuesday on 102.7 Eagle FM. For more information, call 738-7040 or e-mail at Townhallareaii@usfk.korea.army.mil.

### Army Birthday Ball

The 229th Army Birthday Ball will be 6 p.m. - midnight June 18 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Seoul. For more information, call 723-8256 or 723-9040.

### Area II Town Hall

There will be an Area II town hall meeting 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. June 22 at the Army Community Service conference room. For more information, call 738-7453.

### Language Classes

■ English as a second language class meets 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday at Building 4106, Room 124.

■ Korean language class meets 10 - 11 a.m., 11 a.m. - noon, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., and 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday at Building 4106, Room 124. These classes are open to all ID card holders. To register, call 738-7505.

### Voter registration

Voter registration has begun in Area II. For more information, contact a unit voting assistance officer.

### ACAP Briefings

Army Career and Alumni Program briefings usually last about one-half hour depending on unit participation. They are held 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. Other times and dates can be arranged. For more information or to schedule a briefing, call 738-7322.

### Seoul Hot Jobs

The Army Community Services Employment Readiness program provides Korea-wide job listings. The program also assists with resume writing. Computers are available for job search. Appointments are preferred. For more information, call 738-8977.

### American Red Cross

The American Red Cross offers a variety of classes to include a babysitting course. For more information, call 738-3670.

### Field Sanitation Team Training

The 38th Medical Detachment provides a 40-hour field sanitation team training course July 12 - 16. For more information, call 724-6276 or e-mail at Charles.Morrise@kor.amedd.army.mil.

## Falcons finish off year with award ceremony

Story, photo by Linus Lee

Area II Public Affairs Office

The Seoul American High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps finished off the 2003-2004 school year with an award ceremony May 19. The morning started off with 8th United States Army band's sound to attention.

The honored guests were Rear Adm. Fred Byus, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea; Sgt. Maj. Joseph Terry, Air and Missile Defense Division, U.S. Forces Korea, J-3; Charles Toth, Department of Defense Dependent Schools-Korea superintendent; Keith Henson, SAHS principal, and Bernard Hipplewith, SAHS vice principal. The guest speaker was Col. Timothy K. McNulty, commander, Area II Support Activity.

"Congratulations cadets for having a successful year," said McNulty. "I want to especially recognize those cadets who received military-scholarship acceptance. It is an honor and privilege to be involved with the JROTC program."

McNulty also thanked the parents of JROTC student for allowing them to participate in the program.

"The superintendent's award is a very prestigious and honorable award," said Alvin Wilkins, regimental cadet commander. "Surely I couldn't have received the award without the aid of the Falcon Regimental and Battalion staff. Together we have earned the award and I am humbly thankful."

Lt. Col. Samantha Kleckner, SAHS cadet, said being awarded the Daughters of the American Revolution medal was a true honor.

"It was a special medal, along with my other JROTC



Col. Timothy K. McNulty, commander, Area II Support Activity and 34th Support Group, presents the Superintendents Award to cadet Col. Alvin Wilkins, Falcon Battalion regimental commander, at the Seoul American High School soccer field May 19.

achievements," said Kleckner. "Hard work and dedication is the key to success."

The ceremony was concluded with remarks from the SAHS senior JROTC instructor.

"Today's award ceremony honored some of the most outstanding cadets of SAHS," said retired Lt. Col. Donald R. Hedgpath. "There were more than 51 awardees and 27 scholarship recipients which is a snapshot of SAHS."

Hedgpath offered his congratulations to those who took part in the class and this year's graduates.

E-mail linus\_lee861986@hotmail.com

## Area II lists the top five high risk behaviors

Story by Earle Chase

Area II Safety Office

Of the 14 high risk behaviors listed in the Area II Risk Reduction Plan, five are occurring at a significantly higher rate than the others, according to statistics tracked by the Area II Army Substance Abuse Program Counseling Center.

Listed in order of highest rate of occurrence, the top five are: traffic

violations, alcohol offenses, crimes against persons, sexually transmitted diseases and crimes against property.

In some cases one individual can commit several high-risk behaviors at the same time, such as the person who chooses to operate a vehicle after having several alcohol drinks or people who allow their disagreement to become physical and damage property during a fight.

A recent article in the Korean Herald

newspaper indicates that Korean police have placed increased emphasis on traffic violations starting June 1.

As summer approaches, the Area II Safety Office officials said they would like to remind the community that the best beverages to cool off with do not contain alcohol.

Having a plan before going out can help to reduce the pains that could be suffered from drinking and driving, said safety officials.

## Yongsan expands bowling lanes



PHOTO BY PVT. PARK YUNG KW

People enjoy the newly installed 16 lanes at the Yongsan Lanes. There are 32 lanes at the bowling center. As a part of the grand opening ceremony, Area II Support Activity provided free food and bowling games.

Experience  
Greater Seoul

## Cultural Events, Tours and Entertainment

### USO Tour

- Seoul City Night Tour – 3:45 p.m. - 10 p.m. Saturday.
- Korean Folk Village – 8 - 4:30 p.m. Sunday.
- Panmunjom (DMZ) and Tunnel – 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday.
- Insadong Night Tour – 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Thursday.
- Cultural Tour – 8:40 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Friday

For more information, call the Seoul USO office at 02-792-3380.

### Royal Asiatic Society Free Lecture

- “Through the Ginkgo’s Prism: Perspectives on Collaborative Art in Korea” given by Al Zaruba – 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at The Auditorium of Daewoo Foundation Building, eighth floor.
- “Korean Sources and References in Jack London’s The Star Rover” given by Chang Young-Hee – 7:30 p.m. June 23 at The Auditorium of Daewoo Foundation Building, eighth floor.

### Royal Asiatic Tour

- Soyangho Boat Ride: Paroho and Ch’unch’onho Scenic Tour – 8:30 a.m. Sunday.
- Inner Sorak and South Sorak Rhapsody Tour – 8 a.m. June 12 - 13.
- Chindo and Wando Island Tour – 7 a.m. June 19 - 20.
- Kangnung Tano Festival – 8 a.m. June 26 - 27.

Call 02-763-9483 for more information about Royal Asiatic Society events.

### Entertainment

- Great Mountain Music Festival will be at Yongpyong Ski Resort July 24 - Aug. 8. For more information, call 02-724-7781.
- Sarah Brightman will be holding a performance at the Olympic Park Gymnastics Stadium 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information call 02-3141-3488.
- The Emerson String Quartet will be performed at the LG Arts Center 8 p.m. June 25. For more information, call 02-2005-0114.

## HV reviews pet policy

By John A. Nowell  
Area II Public Affairs Office

There is currently a no-pet policy at Hannam Village. This policy has been in effect for a number of years, because there is not sufficient green space available for pet care coupled with the sanitary issues associated with numerous pet owners not properly caring for their pets.

The Area II commander recently sought community input to determine resident support for allowing pets at Hannam Village.

“The majority of those that provided feedback were in favor of maintaining the

existing no-pet policy,” said Col. Timothy K. McNulty, commander, Area II Support Activity. “The issue will be reviewed within the year with an eye to establishing ‘pet-runs,’ with-in funding parameters that are severely restricted at this time.

“We realize that pets are a significant quality of life issue for many families, but at the same time, given the population density at Hannam Village, the needs and desires of the total community must be considered. If there are any ideas concerning this issue, we would welcome input. Provide comments to Linda Green at 738-3211,” said McNulty.

### Gate 7 on Yongsan Garrison Main Post to close Saturday through June 11

Gate 7 on Yongsan Garrison Main Post will be closed to pedestrian and vehicle traffic starting midnight today to finish major renovation of the roadway. It will reopen midnight June 11 when the construction project will be completed. Vehicle operators going between Main and South Posts should use alternate routes during this period. Gate 3, located on the east perimeter wall of Main Post (vicinity of the Navy Club) will be

temporarily open 24 hours to allow vehicles alternate entry and exit from Main Post as follows: Inbound vehicles – 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. and outbound vehicles – 4 p.m. to 5 a.m.

There is insufficient space to operate two-way vehicle traffic at Gate 3. Gates 3 and 7 will return to normal operating hours at midnight June 11.

For more information, call 723-5172.

# Military shoplifting: not worth the risk

Army and Air Force Exchange Service  
Public Affairs Office

**VICTORY BASE, Iraq** — More than 120 Soldiers were apprehended for shoplifting from Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities in Iraq between Jan. 1 and March 31. These shoplifting cases equated to more than \$34,000 of lost merchandise and an incalculable loss in integrity, careers and respect.

The worst part, according to David Drake, AAFES Iraq loss prevention area manager, is that most of the Soldiers apprehended had enough money on hand to pay for the items they stole. They just didn't think they'd get caught.

"Most of our stores have some kind of surveillance, whether it's cameras, detectives or both," said Drake. "My estimation is that on any given day, we catch at 10 percent of the people who steal from AAFES. If you shoplift repeatedly, you will eventually get caught. I wonder if those Soldiers ask themselves if their military career is worth a one in 10 shot of getting caught?"

Drake and Baghdad Loss Prevention Manager Rich Cabbage said they have heard all kinds of reasons and excuses as to why Soldiers steal, but the one they hear the most is, "I forgot I had it." "I was going to pay for it later," is another, said Cabbage, who has frequently caught more than one person a day.

"I've detained everyone from privates to majors," he continued.

The things people steal make Cabbage and Drake raise their eyebrows. They said once they caught a coalition soldier who stole four pairs of gloves, each on separate occasions, but only took the left-handed glove. Recently, said Cabbage, it was light bulbs.

"They were stealing the light bulbs out of the mini-Mag-

Lites," said Drake. "They left the flash light and stole the bulb.

Even if someone only takes a part of the item, it's still shoplifting, said Drake.

"Shoplifting," defined Drake, "is stealing any item or part of an item, or changing the price to pay less than it is marked."

When Drake, Cabbage or the many loss prevention specialists throughout AAFES facilities observe someone shoplift, they will watch the person until they exit the building.

Then they will stop them, identify themselves, ask for an ID, explain why they stopped them and escort them to their office. Once there, they call the military police and wait for them to arrive and take control of the individual.

"We start our paperwork and for the most part, they sit quietly. Most realize it will make the situation worse if they get belligerent. But some do," said Cabbage.

The loss prevention specialist also explained the civil recovery act.

"We charge all U.S. military and their supporters a \$200 fee per shoplifting incident. They can pay that on the spot, which some do, he said or they can make payments in an allotted amount of time," said Drake.

When the MPs arrive, they will take statements, recover the items and release individuals back to their unit for Uniform Code of Military Justice action. Whatever action the unit takes, "they're going to lose a heck of a lot more in pay than what the item was worth. Add to that the loss of their career, and it's just not worth it," Drake said.

Cabbage listed their most shoplifted items as CDs, video games, electronics, DVDs, sunglasses and Soldier-accessory items like head wraps and Buttstock ammunition holders.

In addition to the cameras and detectives, Cabbage said the locally-hired workers also watch out for shoplifters.

"We lock the high-ticket stuff up and train the entire work force to watch and ask questions," said Cabbage.

Associates at contingency operations are trained to look for more than just shoplifting. The workers also stay on the look out for counterfeit bills.

"In my 17 years as loss prevention, I've had maybe three cases of detaining people passing counterfeit money. Here (in Iraq), I got three people in three days. All three knowingly passed the money," Drake said.

"Our cashiers are very good at catching counterfeit bills. Most can tell by touch," Cabbage said. "We've had at least 15 instances in the Baghdad area. We hand those Soldiers and the money directly to the Criminal Investigation Command who hands them to the Secret Service for investigation. That's an instant felony."

In addition to shoplifting and passing counterfeit bills, AAFES Loss Prevention has detained Soldiers for trying to return shoplifted items for refund at a later date, for passing bad checks and for credit card fraud.

"Our job is loss prevention. And knowing that we catch 10 percent of all shoplifters, I'd rather deter the other nine from stealing," Drake said. "You might get away once but eventually, you're going to get caught. It's not worth the risk. There's nothing in that store worth risking your military career."

"AAFES gives all customers a chance to pay for merchandise. After they leave the store, it's too late. AAFES has a 100 percent prosecution rate. It's up to the military police to determine the reality of if they stole, not us," said Cabbage. "We have to turn everyone in," said Drake. "We prosecute them all," Cabbage emphasized.

Now showing at AAFES Reel Time Theaters

For additional listings or  
matinees call respective theater or  
see [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com)

AT THE  
MOVIES

June 4-10



Location Phone No.	June 4	June 5	June 6	June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10
<b>Casey</b> 730-7354	Jersey Girl	Jersey Girl	Troy	Troy	The Prince and Me	The Prince and Me	The Ladykillers
<b>Essayons</b> 732-9008	No Show	Taking Lives	No Show	Never Die Alone	Van Helsing	No Show	Scooby Doo 2
<b>Garry Owen</b> 734-2509	No Show	Van Helsing	The Passion of the Christ	The Passion of the Christ	Scooby Doo 2	No Show	Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
<b>Greaves</b> 734-8388	Van Helsing	The Passion of the Christ	Van Helsing	No Show	No Show	The Passion of the Christ	Scooby Doo 2
<b>Henry</b> 768-7724	Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind	The Prince and Me	Van Helsing	The Ladykillers	No Show	No Show	No Show
<b>Humphreys</b> 753-7716	Troy	The Prince and Me	The Prince and Me	The Ladykillers	The Ladykillers	Jersey Girl	Jersey Girl
<b>Hialeah</b> 763-370	Van Helsing	Scooby Doo 2	Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind	No Show	No Show	No Show	No Show
<b>Hovey</b> 730-5412	Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind	Troy	The Ladykillers	The Ladykillers	Troy	The Alamo	The Alamo
<b>Howze</b> 734-5689	Taking Lives	Never Die Alone	Never Die Alone	No Show	No Show	No Show	Troy

The Ladykillers



Goldthwait organizes a gang of double-crossing thieves to rob a riverboat Casino. They set up shop by renting a room in the house of unsuspecting, church-going little old lady named Mrs. Munson. When she figures out what they're up to, the robbers decide she must be eliminated. The bigger problem: they all have seriously underestimated their upstairs host.

R



FREE TO IDENTIFICATION  
CARD HOLDERS  
(On U.S. Army Installations Only)  
Schedule subject to change



The Prince and Me



Paige is on the fast track toward her lifelong goal of becoming a doctor. Edward, the Crown Prince of Denmark, trying to escape from his royal life, poses as a college student. Now, Edward is in line to become King. Paige has to choose between two dreams — becoming a princess or a doctor.

PG-13

Location Phone No.	June 4	June 5	June 6	June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10
<b>Kunsan</b> 782-4987	Man on Fire	Man on Fire	The Prince and Me	No Show	The Ladykillers	Jersey Girl	Jersey Girl
<b>Long</b> 721-3407	Walking Tall	No Show	Dawn of the Dead	Taking Lives	No Show	No Show	No Show
<b>Osan</b> 784-4930	Shrek 2	Shrek 2	The Prince and Me	The Ladykillers	The Ladykillers	Jersey Girl	Jersey Girl
<b>Page</b> 721-5499	No Show	No Show	No Show	No Show	No Show	No Show	No Show
<b>Red Cloud</b> 732-6620	Troy	Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind	Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind	The Ladykillers	Jersey Girl	No Show	Shrek 2
<b>Stanley</b> 732-5565	Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind	The Ladykillers	The Ladykillers	The Prince and Me	No Show	The Prince and Me	Jersey Girl
<b>Yongsan I</b> 738-7389	Shrek 2	Shrek 2	Shrek 2	Shrek 2	Shrek 2	Jersey Girl	Jersey Girl
<b>Yongsan II</b> 738-7389	Shrek 2	Shrek 2	Shrek 2	Dawn of the Dead	Dawn of the Dead	The Ladykillers	The Ladykillers
<b>Yongsan III</b> 738-7389	Shrek 2	Shrek 2	Shrek 2	The Ladykillers	The Ladykillers	Never Die Alone	Never Die Alone

## Chaplains's corner: Being powerless leads to strength

By Chaplain (Maj.) Jeffery Bruns

2nd Infantry Division Support Command Chaplain

It is good when we realize how powerless we are.

Four days earlier I was traveling back to Sapper Base from Dahran, Saudi Arabia. We were traveling on the infamous Tapline Road, a two-lane main supply route that was a constant stream of vehicles. I road in the back of a cargo configured High-Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle that was loaded with gear.

There was just enough room to sit on the bench. It was Sunday and as I rode I was preparing the sermon for that night. While I studied, I drifted off to sleep.

Unfortunately, I was not the only one who apparently drifted off to sleep. So did the troop commander and the driver. Consequently, the vehicle veered off the road, the left side of the road. That apparently woke the driver who immediately attempted to correct the path of the vehicle. He didn't notice the oncoming vehicle. We collided, passenger side to passenger side.

I spend the next three days in the 5th Fleet hospital at Jubal, waiting for evacuation to Germany where they planned to do the surgery to repair my broken arm. Late on the third day they loaded several patients and me on to a C-130 Hercules for the short flight to Bahrain. That was the evening of January 16, 1991.

At 4 a.m. January 17, 1991, I was rudely awoken by the warning siren and nurses scurrying among the beds of patients in the medical hold facility. They were waking and directing everyone to put on their nuclear, biological and chemical protective mask.

My mask was lost in a vehicle accident a few days earlier so I did not have a mask to put on. In place of a mask, they draped a wet towel over my head. Then I was left to sit and

wonder what would happen next.

I do not know if I have ever felt so helpless. There was nothing I could do. There was no place to hide. I could not run away. I could not find a mask. I could not take one from another person. I could not hold my breath. I realized I was powerless to change anything about my situation.

Now I had been a pretty good Christian up to that point in my life. Not perfect, but overall I did pretty well. I was a

***“We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us.”***

***— 2 Corinthians 1:9 (LB)***

minister and the son of a minister. That should count for something. I went to church and studied the Bible. I prayed. I didn't drink or cuss and I worked hard. I tried to help people and show them God's love. So I never expected anything like this to ever happen to me. God was my savior and my protector. This kind of stuff should not happen to me.

Many live with the expectation that if they do all the right things, if they are a good person, if they love God, tragedies are not suppose to happen to them. If God loves them it means that he will not let anything bad happen to them. But there I was, broken and powerless with no escape.

Maybe you feel powerless today to change your situation.

In the midst of the excitement and uncertainty around me I just wanted peace. I wanted everything to stop and be still. I wanted control.

I suspect there are many in our community today who

are suffering. They are asking the question, why is this happening to me? What have I done to deserve this? Why would God put me, my family through this kind of situation? It's not right. It's not fair. Try as they might, they are unable to affect their situation. They find themselves powerless, with no escape.

In his book the "Purpose Driven Life," Rick Warren writes, "God develops real peace within us, not by making things go the way we planned, but by allowing times of chaos and confusion. Anyone can be peaceful watching a beautiful sunset or relaxing on vacation. We learn real peace by choosing to trust God in circumstances in which we are tempted to worry or be afraid."

In that moment of uncertainty as to my future, I prayed a simple prayer, "God, I don't know what the next few minutes hold but I trust you with my life and I trust my family to you." In that moment I felt the greatest

since of peace I had ever experienced.

The secret to peace when everything is out of your control is realizing that I must first trust God with my life.

It was a difficult time, but a great lesson. It was a scary time but a life changing, some might even say a character building time.

In the days that followed I asked God why. I believe the answer to be, "I want your trust."

Let me personalize 2 Corinthians 1:9 just a little. "We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us." 2 Corinthians 1:9

It is good when we realize how powerless we are so that we put everything into the hands of God. It is then that we find the peace and the strength to face all that life challenges us with.

'Many call him a

# War Hero

however I just call him grandfather'

Story by Sgt. Andrew  
Kosterman

Korea Region Public Affairs Office

The Korean War was a trying time for many. For some members of the United Nations force, it meant another war just over five years after finishing one some say was the worst the world had seen. For Koreans, it was also another war, but this time it was a civil war. Through the tough times emerged heroes that forged modern-day Korea into existence. One of those heroes is the grandfather of Sgt. Min Kyung-nam, a photojournalist serving with the 8th Military Police Brigade in Seoul.

Until recently, Kyung-nam knew little of his grandfather's experiences during the war. It wasn't until then that he started to realize how difficult the conditions were for those who fought then.

These realizations humbled Kyung-nam and helped him to gain a new respect for his grandfather Min Sung-chae.

"My grandfather remains a very strong and tough man," said Kyung-nam. "He is my height and can still hike up mountains faster than I can."

Min Sung chae attended and graduated from the Korea Military Academy and was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1948. Even before the June 25, 1950 invasion by

the north, marking the official beginning of the Korean War, Kyung-nam said his grandfather already found himself in combat.

"He and his unit had been tasked to find and kill North Korean agents known to be operating in the Jiri Mountain region," said Kyung-nam. "These agents were already deep inside South Korea well before the main invasion."

Sung chae led 3rd Company, 19th Regiment, of the 6th Army Division, said Kyung-nam. For his hard work and mission success, he was awarded the prestigious Hwarang battle award. It is the third highest combat award given by the Republic of Korea Armed Forces.

Following the onset of major hostilities during the summer of 1950, Sung chae commanded the same company during the fierce Soyang River battle, an area located just south of the current demilitarized zone. In this battle he

was shot in the mouth, taking out most of his front teeth.

"I was lucky. I might have died that day and you might not exist," said Sung-chae to his grandson.

He later received his second Hwarang battle award for his leadership during that fight.

Because of the initial success of the North Korea invasion, Sung-chae said he and his unit had to rapidly relocate south to the Kyungsan province near Daegu.

Following a series of bloody engagements, Sung-chae and his Soldiers were again forced south where they participated in the legendary Nakdong River battle.

During this fight he was again shot, getting hit directly in the chin. He also lost his brother-in-law and his second platoon leader holding the "Pusan Perimeter."

"This battle was one of the most brutal and fierce fights during Korean War," said Sung-chae. "Both South Korean and North Korean forces used up all their ammunition. We fought with our fists. And some of those that fought were only middle school students."

Following the breakout, Sung chae was taken to a nearby Army hospital to be treated for his wounds.

Later in 1951, Sung-chae was promoted to the rank of major and was assigned to the 11th Division as a logistics officer.

In October 1952, Sung-chae's unit found itself isolated near Gansung, along the South Korean east coast with ammunition and food supplies exhausted.

Sung-chae was able to depart by air, arriving at a U.S. base in Okinawa, Japan. There he worked with other allied planners to prepare an emergency supply drop by parachute into the Gansung region.

The drop was a success. For



Min Sung-chae, seated to the left, as a captain in 1950. Next to Sung-chae is a fellow officer.



Min Sung chae with his medals today.

his part in the planning and execution of this resupply, Sung-chae said he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and received the Chungmoo battle award, the second highest combat award.

Unfortunately, the pain from his previous wounds continued and Sung-chae was forced to return to an Army hospital for additional treatment, said Kyung-nam.

It wasn't until Sung-chae was 77 years old that he went to a government-sponsored veteran's hospital and had all of his teeth changed.

These days Sung-chae still remarks on the benefits provided and the support he continues to receive. "The government treats me very well," he said.

The Min family has returned the favor. Sung-chae's son served as officer in the Korean navy and both his grandsons, including Kyung-nam, currently serve in the military. Kyung-tae, Kyung-nam's brother, serves in the ROK Marine Corps as the leader of an airborne infantry platoon.

Kyung-nam says he looks up to his grandfather for inspiration while he is serving his country.

"Many call him a war hero, warrior or a patriot, however I just call him grandfather," said Kyung-nam.



### Camp Red Cloud Fitness Center offers classes

■ The Camp Red Cloud Fitness Center is offering Indoor Cycling Classes every Monday and Wednesday 7:30- 8:30 p.m. For more information call 732-6309.

■ The Camp Red Cloud Fitness Center is offering an aerobic class every Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m. For more information call 732-6309.

### Track and Field Championships

■ Carey Fitness Center will be hosting the 2004 Warrior Division Track and Field championships. For more information contact Jim Williams at 730-2322.

### Comedy ROKs - Part III

MWR is bringing the third Comedy ROKs session to Korea. Stop by a local club to check out the 90-minute shows.

7 p.m. Today	Camp Stanley	Reggie's
7 p.m. Saturday	Camp Kyle	Eedwa Club
7 p.m. Sunday	Camp Page	Community Activities Center
7 p.m. Tuesday	Camp Howze	Brown's Grill
7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday	Camp Hovey	Borderline Cafe
7 p.m. 11 June	Camp Casey	Warrior's Club
7 p.m. 12 June	Camp Casey	Primo's
7 p.m. 13 June	Camp Garry	Owen Saber Club
8 p.m. 16 June	Camp Walker	Hilltop Club
8 p.m. 17 June	Camp Carroll	Hideaway Club
9 p.m. 18 June	Camp Hialeah	Pusan Pub
9 p.m. 19 June	Camp Henry	Henry's Place

### Pool Tournament

Yongsan will be having an 8-Ball Tournament at the Community Activities Building July 10-11. Call 725-6070 for more information.

### Battle of the Bands Contest

Camp Humphreys will be the site of a battle of the bands contest July 24. Call 725-6070 for more information.

### Road Crew on tour

Classic rock, southern rock, blues, country, heavy metal. All can be used to describe Road Crew. This band prides itself in keeping the art alive with real instruments and real talent. Check them out on their tour of Korea.

7 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursday	Camp Humphreys	Tommy D's
8 p.m. 11 June	Camp Eagle	Eagle's Nest
8 p.m. 12 June	Camp Humphreys	Tommy D's

# Units to make profit at July 4 festivities

Story by Mike Mooney

Area III Morale, Welfare and Recreation Marketing Chief

**CAMP HUMPHREYS** — Military units running game booths in the upcoming Camp Humphreys July Fourth Festival are going to be guaranteed winners this year, with each participating unit assured a minimum contribution of \$50 added to its unit funds for agreeing to operate either a carnival or blow-up game during the festival.

The annual Independence Day Festival is planned for the Nitewatch and Strike Zone parking lots from 3-11:30 p.m. July 4.

Area III Morale, Welfare and Recreation turned food and game operations over to military units three years ago, allowing units to generate additional dollars for their unit funds in the process. MWR maintains exclusive sales of all beverages, ice cream, snow cones, popsicles, popcorn and cotton candy.

"In some cases, units have made hundreds of dollars during the one-day festival," explained Dave Watson, director of community activities. "But in the case of some of the smaller carnival games, there were units that barely broke even. This year, we've decided to guarantee every unit booth a minimum profit of \$50."

Unit fund money generated through the July Fourth Festival is used to augment unit activities such as organizational days, holiday parties and unit trips. MWR provides each unit funds based on the strength of the unit. However, commanders are always looking for additional funds in order to offer their Soldiers bigger and better unit activities.

Two major commands, the 23rd Area Support Group and the collective military intelligence community stationed

at Camp Humphreys, will be operating hamburger and hot dogs booths at the festival.

Other units are invited to sell additional food items such as watermelon, nachos, pretzels, corn on the cob, ethnic foods and desserts.

"Only the designated units can sell hamburgers and hot dogs," Watson said. "Giving it to 23rd ASG and the MI units assures that food revenue will benefit the largest number of Soldiers."

Available games include such activities as sumo wrestling, an obstacle course and dozens of other games and toys. These items are normally rented to the units for their special activities, but are provided free of charge for the festival.

"We'll even deliver the games to their respective spots," Watson said. "All the units have to do is blow them up, set up their tables and operate the game, collecting money in the process."

In addition to the \$50 unit fund guarantee, Camp Humphreys MWR will also repeat its booth decorating contest, offering \$100, \$75 and \$50 prizes to the three units that do the best job of decorating their booths with a patriotic theme. The prize money will also be added to the Unit Funds of the winners.

Units interested in running a booth during the festival may sign up at the Camp Humphreys Community Activities Center. Units may call 753-8825 to register or get more information.

"You can't lose this year," Watson said. "Every participating unit is guaranteed a profit just for showing up and running a booth."

E-mail MooneyM@usfk.korea.army.mil

## Crafts contest paints pretty picture for servicemembers

### Korea Region Morale, Welfare and Recreation Marketing Branch

**YONGSAN** — A recent stroll through the Yongsan Arts and Crafts Center might have confused individuals wanting to work on their latest project, because during May the facility assumed the role of "museum" for the 2004 Korea Region Morale, Welfare and Recreation Arts and Crafts Contest.

Contest entries were displayed for two weeks followed by an awards presentation on May 12.

Servicemembers, family members and civilians gathered at the Yongsan Arts and Crafts facility for the awards presentation to acknowledge those individuals who submitted entries into this year's contest.

More than 80 entries were received from across the peninsula representing the traditional studio arts including drawing, painting and sculpture, and handcrafted arts.

From these groups, 30 pieces in 11 categories were identified as being winners.

"It is exciting and gratifying to see how both the quantity and quality of entries has dramatically increased year after year, said John Downie, chief, KORO MWR Community Recreation Branch. "This year's entries were truly the best ever.

The entries showed such a wide diversity of styles and techniques and showed the entire community the benefits of using the MWR Arts and Crafts Program to develop and nurture the wide scope of unique creative abilities that each of us possess,

added Downie.

Combining the studio and handcrafted arts, this year's contest was unique, said John Lavender, KORO MWR Community Recreation Program manger.

"The consolidation of events seemed like the logical step because it enabled the artists to participate every year versus every other as was done in the past," said Lavender. "The two separate communities were also given the opportunity to come together and discuss a shared passion for their creative crafts."

All participants benefited from the event, thus qualifying it as a success, added Lavender. Artists were given the chance to display their artwork and obtain public response. Attendees were able to explore the different types of media and enjoy its aesthetics.

Awardees are provided with the opportunity to receive additional recognition through the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center's Department of the Army competition later this month.

The winners in each category were as follows:

#### Ceramics

Artist: Mi Sook Hayes  
Item/Title: "Spring"

#### Wood

Artist: Irina V. Roman  
Item/Title: Korean Tea Table

#### Fiber

Artist: Irina V. Roman  
Item/Title: Christmas Flourishes

#### Glass

Artist: MSG Colleen M. Powers  
Item/Title: U.S. Flag

#### Drawing

Artist: Paul S. O'Leary  
Item/Title: Pencil Sketch Harley Davidson

#### Oil Painting

Artist: Atsuko Kato Fameli  
Item/Title: Mapo Bridge Sunset

#### Water Color

Artist: Atsuko Kato Fameli  
Item/Title: Sunset in Key West

#### Mixed Media (2 - dimensional)

Artist: Evan Q. Garr  
Item/Title: Robotic Dragon

#### Mixed Media (3 - dimensional)

Artist: Kaylyn Kim  
Item/Title: Paper Mache

#### Water Base Painting

Artist: Sgt. Scott D. Gaines  
Item/Title: Blue Daze

#### Drawing

Artist: Holly A. Awbrey  
Item/Title: Untitled Tree II (Aspen White)

# New commander takes charge of Area III

*Afghan campaign veteran to pilot busiest helicopter base outside of U.S.*

Story, photos by Steve Davis

Area III Public Affairs Office

**CAMP HUMPHREYS** — Soldiers, staff and guests of the United States Support Activity, Area III gathered at Freedom Field Thursday as Col. Michael J. Taliento Jr. took command of Area III and Camp Humphreys.

The U.S. Army Support Activity, Area III provides force protection and base support activities for U.S. military installations in the central region of the Republic of Korea, including Camp Humphreys, Camps Long and Eagle in Wonju and U.S. Army facilities at Suwon Air Base and a remote mountaintop communication site. It is one of four areas that comprise the Installation Management Agency Korea Region, headquartered at Yongsan Garrison in Seoul.

Taliento replaces outgoing commander Col. Mike Clay, who is taking a Pacific Command staff assignment in Hawaii.

Most recently director for plans and design for the Afghan National Army while assigned to the Office of Military Cooperation in Kabul, Afghanistan, Taliento — a helicopter pilot rated in the UH-1, AH-1, OH-58, UH-60 and the MH-6 helicopters — assumes command of what is considered to be the busiest helicopter base outside of the United States. Area III and Camp Humphreys facilities support attack helicopter, air ambulance and heavy lift helicopter units, along with more than 80 other tenant units.

After passing the organizational colors to the new commander, IMA Korea Region Director Brig. Gen. John A. Macdonald addressed those gathered for the change of command ceremony.

“A change of command is a time-honored military tradition to recognize the outgoing commander for his efforts and successes in mission accomplishment, in providing for his Soldiers and in improving his command,” said Macdonald.

Macdonald cited the “zealousness” in which Clay presided over improvements at Camp Humphreys during the past two years, including a new post exchange, an Army lodge, the first Army funded



Col. Michael J. Taliento Jr. speaks to Soldiers, civilians, family members and guests at the Area III change of command.



Far left: Tamela Taliento receives a bouquet of yellow rose buds from Pfc. Baek Sun-woo, Area III Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army Soldier of the Quarter. Gifts were also presented to daughter Emily and son Christian during the change of command ceremony.

Left: IMA-Korea Region Director Brig. Gen. John A. Macdonald presents the Area III colors to Col. Michael Taliento.

family housing in Korea, a kindergarten through sixth-grade elementary school and groundbreaking for a new commissary, among other quality of life and community relations improvements.

“You leave a great foundation for Colonel Michael Taliento Jr. to continue on making Camp Humphreys and Area III the hub of Korea,” Macdonald told Clay.

“Colonel Taliento, welcome to Freedom Country,” Macdonald continued. “You come with great credentials and with a tremendous reputation for having a passion for Soldiers and soldiering. The next two years will be great as we watch Camp Humphreys continue to grow as the centerpiece of Korea.”

Following Clay’s remarks,

Taliento made his first speech as Area III commander as his wife Tamela, son Christian and daughter Emily proudly watched along with tenant unit commanders and Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians, family members and guests, including local Korean community and business leaders.

“I am extremely grateful for the warm reception you have provided my family. You have made our arrival here in Korea truly something special,” Taliento told the crowd.

“I am extremely grateful for the warm reception you have provided my family. You have made our arrival here in Korea truly something special,” Taliento told the crowd at the ceremony.

Following the change of command ceremony, Taliento and his family greeted well wishers at a reception at the Camp Humphreys Community Activities Center.

Among the local Korean civilian and military dignitaries and community leaders were Pyeongtaek City Council Chairman Yi Ik-chae, Chief of Police Choe Sang-myong, Paengsung Eub village chief Yu Chinha, and 7th Republic of Korea Air Force Air Communication Service Group commander, Col. Baek Kye-kun.

The 51st Republic of Korea Army Band provided ceremonial music during the change of command.

E-mail [davisst@usfkorea.army.mil](mailto:davisst@usfkorea.army.mil)

**NEWS & NOTES**

**Adult Swimming Lessons**

Adult basic swimming lessons are offered from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the indoor pool in the Camp Humphreys Community Activities Center. Classes begin Tuesday and will run for four weeks. Cost is \$20 per person. For information, call 753-8810 or 753-8811.

**Camp Adventure**

Youth Services is offering a summer camp from June 14 - Aug. 20 for children ages 6-12 years old. Camp is run in one-week blocks. Camp Adventure fees are based upon total family income. To enroll or to obtain more information, contact Youth Services at 753-8507.

**Veterinary Clinic visit**

The Osan Veterinary Clinic will visit Camp Humphreys from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday. The clinic will be set up outside between the Community Activities Center and the gym or, in the event of rain, in the activities center ballroom. For information, contact the Osan Veterinary Clinic at 784-6614.

**Army Birthday and Flag Day Five-Kilometer Run**

The Army Birthday and Flag Day five-kilometer run will be June 12 at the Camp Humphreys post gym. Registration begins at 7 a.m. Race begins at 8 a.m. Free flag pins will be presented to all participants. For information call, the gym at 753-8810 or 753-8811.

**Learn New Skills at Camp Humphreys**

■ Ballet lessons for ages five and up are now offered at the Camp Humphreys Youth Center. For information, contact 753-7057 or 011-9785-0965.

■ Racquetball lessons are available at the post gymnasium. For information, contact 753-8810 or 753-8811.

■ Learn Korean Pocketless Pool at the Camp Humphreys Community Activities Center June 19 at 2 p.m. For information, call 753-8825.

**Actors, Stage Hands Needed**

Korean and American Soldiers, civilians and family members interested in helping stage an upcoming country "Hee Haw" theatre production may call 011-9685-0028.

**Zoeckler Station Annex**

The Zoeckler Station Fitness Annex, located across from the Flaming Dragon Mess hall at Zoeckler Station, offers a different place to work out. The gym is open from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. For information, call 753-5824.

**Newcomer's Orientation**

The Area III Newcomer's Orientation will be presented from 7:45 a.m.-noon Tuesday at the Community Activities Center. For more information, contact Army Community Service at 753-8401.

**Employment Assistance**

Get ready for that important job interview by taking the Interview Techniques class at 9 a.m. June 15. To register, call 753-8321.

**Augusta West, Strike Zone Offers Family Days**

A group of four of any age may bowl one game or play a round of miniature golf for \$5 any Sunday at the Strike Zone Bowling Center or the Augusta West miniature golf course.

**Outgoing commander says farewell**

**Colonel salutes, thanks Area III community**

Story, photo by Steve Davis

Area III Public Affairs Office

**CAMP HUMPHREYS** — Well known for brevity and determined insistence on giving credit to others rather than to himself, outgoing Area III Commander Col. Mike Clay wasted no words during his farewell speech at the change of command June 1 at Freedom Field.

"I'm not going to list accomplishments," said Clay. "Those of you who have been here know how far we have come in the past two years. Camp Humphreys is getting better every day and we are maintaining what we have at our other installations. I'd like to thank my directors and their staffs for their outstanding support of our communities."

Clay also thanked supporting organizations including the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Far East District Army Corps of Engineers, the Defense Commissary Agency, Korea Service Corps, Provost Marshal Office, the Republic of Korea Army Area III staff, the Criminal Investigation Division, Personnel Support Battalion, Contracting Center Korea, Training Support Activity-Korea, and finance, medical and dental

professionals throughout Area III.

"I also appreciate the support we received from tenant unit commanders, to include our U.S. Air Force and Republic of Korea units," said Clay. "Many thanks to the Pyeongtaek city government and to the Pyeongtaek and Wonju offices of the Korea National Police."

Clay noted the support of local Korean business and community leaders.

"On behalf of all of us stationed here at Humphreys, I'd like to thank Mr. Kim of the K-6 Merchant's Association and Mr. Lee of the Korea Special Tourist Association for their efforts to protect this installation, for taking care of our Soldiers when they are in the 'ville,' and for their friendship," said Clay.

The outgoing commander also thanked the Installation Management Agency-Korea Region staff and personal friends for their support.

In a ceremony before the change of command ceremony, Clay presented the Department of the Army Commander's Award for Public service to Gina Frace, wife of Area III Command Sgt. Maj. Robert R. Frace.

Gina Frace served as Area III's senior spouse during Clay's two-year unaccompanied tour.

"Mrs. Frace has had a positive impact on virtually every aspect of life for our Soldiers, civilians and family members," said Clay. "I couldn't have gotten along without her."

On behalf of U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Leon LaPorte,



Outgoing Area III Commander Col. Mike Clay gives a salute during his change of command.

Installation Management Agency-Korea Region Director Brig. Gen. John A. Macdonald decorated Clay with the Legion of Merit medal for "untiring efforts" to improve the quality of life for all personnel in Area III.

E-mail davisst@usfk.korea.army.mil

**Area III Soldiers observe Asian-Pacific Heritage Month**

Story, photo by Susan Barkley

Area III Public Affairs Office

**CAMP HUMPHREYS** — The warmth of the Pacific islands was felt during the Asian Pacific Heritage Month Observance held at Camp Humphreys May 18.

In addition to food, photos and items representing various cultures, Soldiers were treated to a traditional Western Samoan dance performed by an unlikely dance troop.

The dancers, led by Capt. Salamasinaleilani Strokin, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Support Activity Area III, assembled only the evening before and learned the dance very quickly. The company consisted of Staff Sgt. Rufus, Caffee, Sgt. Leroy Clarke and Spc. Matthew Oleson all of Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Brigade and Pfc. Jordan Wallace, Pfc. Terrance Jackson and Pfc. Francisco Pizarro all of A Company, 527th Military Intelligence Battalion.

"When I showed up I saw a group of guys," Strokin recalled.



Cpt. Salamasinaleilani Strokin, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USASA Area III, (right) leads dancers in a traditional Western Samoan dance during the Asian-Pacific Heritage Month observance at Camp Humphreys May 18.

Some were told to attend a meeting and take notes and others just knew volunteers were needed.

"I didn't know it was going to be a dance," said Wallace.

In spite of a little nervousness and apprehension, the team completed their number to the applause of the crowd.

"I got hyped," said Clarke.

Strokin said it is always a privilege to be able to share her culture with others. She noted during her speech that "As our society evolves, so does the mixture of ethnicities."

E-mail barkleym@usfk.korea.army.mil

# Memorial Day run attracts 139

Area III Public Affairs Office

**CAMP HUMPHREYS** — Four babies, a few dogs and 139 runners took part in the Memorial Day five-kilometer and 10-kilometer runs May 31 at Camp Humphreys. The five-kilometer run had 59 runners, the 10-kilometer had 28 and the 10-kilometer unit run had 52.

**Five-kilometer results were:**

**Women seniors:** first, Diana Juergens, 24:34; second, Tongmal Kim, 26:45; Robin Brown, 30:17.

**Women open:** first, Faydrinne Walker, 21:33; second, Patience Curtis, 24:06; third, Elizabeth Juergens, 24:39.

**Men master:** first, Noel Cabis, 24:37; second, Michael Lowry, 25:26; third, Russell Gehrlen, 27:57.



Timekeeper Pak Sang-pon logs runners as they cross the line during the Memorial Day run. Four babies, several dogs and 139 runners took part in the runs.



Runners dash at the start of the Memorial Day five- and 10-kilometer runs May 31 at Camp Humphreys.

**Men senior:** first, Richard Morrison, 19:05; second, Javier Torres, 20:46; third, Anthony Mitchell, 20:56.

**Men open:** first, Steven Denham, 18:33; second, Kyle Slotta, 18:53; third, Omar Antuna, 19:31.

**10-kilometer run results were:**

**Women senior:** first, Christine Fellow, 52:42, second, Lola Cohen Ashley, 53:46; third, Gloria Taylor, 1:03:07.

**Women open:** first, Alyssa Fellows, 54:28; Brittany McNanos; 1:09:31.

**Men master:** first, Craig Clark, 47:01; second, Richard Martinez, 51:07; Steven Buchanan, 52:39.

**Men senior:** first, Marquez Fernando, 42:44; second, Larry Rdiall,

43:13; third, Greg Fellows, 48:14.

**Men open:** first, Rande Rodrigues, 42:08; second, Brian Heisey, 42:09; third, Zachery Stublasky, 43:05.

**10-kilometer Male/Female run:** first, Lola Cohen-Ashley and Zachery Stublasky, 1:36:51; second, Christine and Greg Fellows, 1:40:56; third, Gloria Taylor and Stanley Rivers, 2:06:09.

**10-kilometer unit run:** first, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 194th Maintenance Battalion, 51:28; second, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, 58:12; third, 520th Maintenance Company, 1:09:17.



Area III Sports Director Jim Howell explains the route and rules before the start of the Memorial Day five- and 10-kilometer runs.



With a little encouragement from friend Stephanie Deyo, mom Andrea Hahn pushes son Michael, 1, toward the finish line.



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 194th Maintenance Battalion, finish the Memorial Day 10-kilometer run as a unit.



## Hialeah salutes good neighbors

Story by Kevin Jackson

Area IV Public Affairs Office

**CAMP HIALEAH** – Several organizations and people were formally recognized for their efforts to forge strong ties between the Republic of Korea and the United States during the Good Neighbor Awards Reception held at the Pusan Pub May 28.

The Area IV Support Activity – Busan Good Neighbor Awards Reception was held to honor and recognize Korean citizens for their outstanding contributions to promote friendship and strengthen the ROK-US alliance. Organizations and people selected to receive the Good Neighbor Award were praised for making a significant difference in the lives of U.S. Forces Korea members in Busan.

Good Neighbor Awards were presented to the Association of

Quartermasters Busan Chapter; Korea Freedom League Busan Chapter; and Kim “Marie” Hyong-hui, Dongeui Medical Center. Area IV Support Activity commander Col. James M. Joyner and Camp Hialeah garrison commander Lt. Col. Jeffery K. Ludwig presented each of the recipients with a framed “Good Neighbor Award” certificate, which included a 19th Theater Support Command Good Neighbor coin.

Accepting the award for the Association of Quartermasters Busan Chapter was Kang Chang-jin. The Association of Quartermasters Busan Chapter was formed Sept 12, 2001, to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the ROK and U.S., and to show appreciation to American service members for their contributions to peace and freedom on the peninsula.

The Korea Freedom League Busan Chapter has maintained a close

relationship with the Camp Hialeah since its creation. The Korea Freedom League was formed to protect and empower freedom and democracy in the ROK, as well as to strengthen ties with nations of the free world. Each year the Busan Chapter holds a Korean War Memorial Ceremony at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan to honor fallen Soldiers from the Korean War. Busan Chapter Vice President Kim Jae-soo accepted the award.

Kim is a career nurse who manages Dongeui Medical Center’s International Clinic in Busan. In that capacity, she facilitates interaction between Korean medical staff and foreign patients. She lived in the United States for 10 years and has served the American communities in Jinhae and Busan since her return to Korea in 1994.

“While these awards are presented this year, in many instances the honorees

have been long-time and even lifelong supporters of not only the U.S. Army in Busan, but also the Republic of Korea and United States alliance,” Ludwig said. “Our alliance is what it is today in no small part because of their goodwill and generosity.”

Ludwig also presented Camp Hialeah certificates of appreciation to Go Bong-soon, People-to-People Busan Chapter; Han Myeong-ho, Korea Freedom League Busan Chapter; and Kim Soo-il, People-to-People Busan Chapter for their goodwill to the USFK community in Busan.

Among the dignitaries in attendance was Wang Sang-eun, president of the Korean American Friendship Association. He is a 2004 U.S. Forces Korea Good Neighbor Award recipient and was honored as a Camp Hialeah Good Neighbor last year.

E-mail [jacksonke@usfk.korea.army.mil](mailto:jacksonke@usfk.korea.army.mil)

## 20th Support Group ‘carries the load’ during exercise

Story, photo by Pfc. Oh Dong-keun

Area IV Public Affairs Office

**CAMP HENRY** – A group of heavily laden Soldiers bolt from a C-130 Hercules upon landing at Gimhae Airport. On the ground, far from their home base, they need food, quarters and myriad other necessities.

In this case, however, the C-130s were buses and Camp Henry substituted for Gimhae Airport as the Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 20th Support Group played their wartime role of receiving, in-processing and supporting incoming soldiers during a field training exercise May 10-14.

The intent of the week-long simulation was to familiarize personnel with the critical actions associated with their wartime mission execution and give them a clear understanding of their specific responsibilities and required actions should the real situation arise, according to Capt. Rolf Achauer, Jr., company commander.

“Our Soldiers truly have an important job to do,” said Achauer. “They are not as small as they think they are. They are very significant pieces to the overall operation of the 20th Support Group’s wartime mission.”

The exercise began May 10 with an alert. Soldiers participating in the exercise were then broken into five nodes, each led by a node officer-in-charge. All nodes were given separate, specified missions involving in-processing and providing services to the Soldiers along the different phases during the exercise. One node was designated each day to execute their mission while Soldiers from the other nodes simulated incoming Soldiers.

“The purpose of the exercise was to actually see it through, to have Soldiers get their hands on their job, instead of just talking about it because we have done enough talking in the past to get the concept down,”



*Spc. Luis Calixto in-processes during a field training exercise conducted May 10 – 14, by Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 20th Support Group.*

said 2nd Lt. Isaias Zamora, company executive officer. “So this exercise was planned to give everyone a chance to actually go through the motions to see what it is that will be required of them when the real situation arises.”

Lots of planning was done in developing and preparing for this exercise, according to Zamora.

“We had several In Progress Reviews, meaning a lot of planning went into the exercise,” Zamora said. “At those IPRs, we decided that the planning would be done in two different levels. The company

coordinated logistics for the exercise. At the node level, the actual training was written up and conducted by node officers-in-charge. I think that was a great move, because no one knows the mission better than the author of the mission.”

Soldiers who participated said the exercise equipped them with more knowledge and they gained confidence.

“I feel more confident about what we are going to be doing in the event of a war,” said Spc. Christian Watson, who worked at the personnel holding area during the exercise. “I feel good about the fact that everybody got a chance to participate in the exercise which was simulated as if it was a real thing.”

“Most of the Soldiers felt much more comfortable and secure with their work,” said Achauer. “Because now they know what’s expected of them. They are not as fearful about what may happen in the future, because now they are familiar with their wartime mission, and they feel very confident in their work. When Soldiers feel confident, they feel secure. When they feel secure, their esteem is at 100 percent when they come to work.”

The 516th Personnel Services Battalion Soldiers also participated in the exercise by in-processing Soldiers during the initial phase of the simulation.

The 20th Support Group is one of three area support groups operating under the direction of the 19th Theater Support Command. Headquartered at Camp Henry in Daegu, the group’s armistice mission is to perform support operations for the Area IV Support Activity. Its wartime mission includes providing in-processing and other support for troops coming into the country and while they prepare to move up the peninsula. The group motto is “Carrying the Load to Win.”

E-mail [ohdk@usfk.korea.army.mil](mailto:ohdk@usfk.korea.army.mil)

## NEWS & NOTES

### Red Cross Station Closed

The American Red Cross station in Daegu will be closed until further notice. All emergencies and casework will be handled by the Kunsan Red Cross. For more information and assistance, call Jocelyn Townsend at 782-4601.

### Hail & Farewell

A hail and farewell for Daegu Enclave and Camp Carroll personnel will be held 6:30 p.m. Saturday at Camp Walker's Evergreen Community Club. The event is open to sergeants first class and above, GS-11 civilians and above, and their spouses. Tickets are \$11 each and will be sold first-come, first-served at the ECC and Henry's Place cashier cages. Each unit will hail and farewell its own personnel. For more information, contact Gary Larose at 768-7716 or Bud Rader at 768-7996.

### Commissary Case Lot Sale

The Daegu Commissary will hold a case lot sale 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday - Sunday. Stop by the Commissary to pick up a case lot sale shopping list. For more information, call Kim Han-su at 764-4551.

### Field Sanitation Training

The 154th Medical Detachment (Preventive Medicine) is conducting field sanitation team training 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. June 14-18 at the detachment headquarters, Building 328, on Camp Walker. All company-sized units are required to have a trained field sanitation team. For more information or to sign up, call Sgt. Dennise Cortez or Spc. Tim Meditz at 764-4486 or 764-4618.

### Change of Command

The 16th Medical Logistics Battalion will host a change of command ceremony for outgoing commander Lt. Col. Jeffrey Unger and incoming commander Lt. Col. William Ackerman 9 a.m. June 15 at Kelly Field on Camp Walker. A reception will follow at the Evergreen Community Club. For more information, call 1st Lt. Kendal Kettle at 765-8015.

### 8th U.S. Army Ball

The 8th U.S. Army Ball will be 6 p.m. June 18 at Grand Hyatt Hotel in Seoul. Uniform for the event will be mess dress, dress blues, or formal class A uniform for Soldiers. Transportation will be provided from Yongsan Garrison. For more information, contact unit representatives.

### AAFES Organization Day

Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities in Daegu and Camp Carroll will be closed for AAFES organization day June 21. Exceptions are Burger Kings and Shoppettes at Camps Walker and Carroll and the K-2 Air Base snack bar. For more information, call Kim Chu-song at 768-7384.

### Veterans Affairs Seminar

A Busan/Chinhae area Veterans Affairs seminar will be held 9 a.m. June 22 at Army Community Services, Camp Hialeah. Steve Tucker, a Veterans Affairs representative from Yongsan will give a presentation followed by one-on-one counseling. For more information and to sign up for individual appointments, call Brenda Conner at 763-7470.

### Boxing Coaches Needed

Taegu Sports and Fitness is looking for boxing coaches. For more information, call Darryl Chandler at 764-4225.



PHOTO BY CHO PONG-SUNG

A C-130 Hercules from the 374th Airlift Squadron drops eight Container Delivery Systems onto Miryang Drop Zone.

# Pallets from heaven

## 4th Quartermaster Detachment trains with U.S. Air Force, ROK Army Special Forces

Story by Galen Putnam

Area IV Public Affairs Office

**CAMP HIALEAH**—David Letterman drops objects from rooftops for comic effect. When the 4th Quartermaster Detachment (Airborne) from Camp Hialeah prepares objects to be dropped, the last thing they expect to see is debris scattering like a piano from a 10-story building.

To ensure such mishaps don't happen and to sharpen its skills, the unit conducted a wide-ranging field training exercise May 17-22 that included joint service and interoperability components.

Not only did the outfit get in six days of drops, courtesy of the 374th Airlift Squadron from Yokota Air Base, Japan, they also had the opportunity to share their rigging expertise and a combined airborne operation "friendship jump" with Soldiers from the Republic of Korea Army's Special Forces Detachment.

During the exercise, the unit rigged 52 Container Delivery Systems, five 8-foot Mass Supply Loads and a High Mobility Multi Purpose Wheeled Vehicle.

It was the first time in more than two years that a HMMWV had been dropped on the peninsula according to detachment commander Capt. Michael G. Summers.

"Having the 374th Airlift Squadron for a week allowed us to do a lot of things we don't normally get to do," Summers said. "We usually only have one day a month for jumps and to drop loads."

Summers pointed out that training with the ROK Army benefited Soldiers from both countries.

"(The Koreans) are accustomed to rigging smaller 'door bundles' that are pushed out of the paratroop door. This gave them the chance to see the benefits of being able to drop larger loads," he said. "It was also a good opportunity for our soldiers to help train their Korean counterparts."

Feedback from exercise participants was enthusiastic.

"This was a very good experience. Working with the Korean Special Forces was a big plus," said Chief Warrant See **Riggers** on Page 27

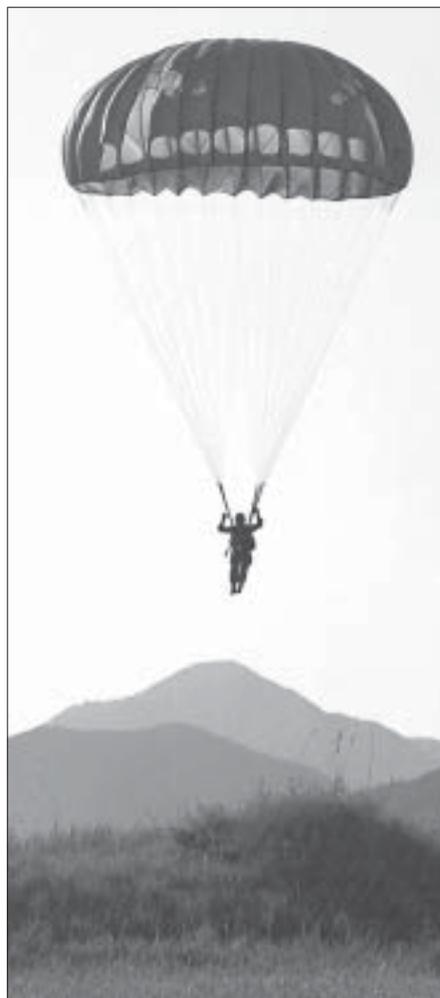


PHOTO BY TIMOTHY W. STORY

A Republic of Korea soldier jumps onto the Miryang Drop Zone using an MC1-1 parachute.



PHOTO BY TIMOTHY W. STORY

A Republic of Korea soldier attempts to take the air out of his MC1-1 parachute after jumping onto the Miryang Drop Zone.

# Riggers

from Page 26

senior airdrop technician. "Most of our Soldiers have not rigged to this extent since they were at school. This gave them firsthand experience on conducting their wartime mission."

Others agreed.

"This was a great opportunity for the new Soldiers who haven't done this before," said Staff Sgt. Weston W. Wade, Rigging Facility non-commissioned officer in charge. "It was an opportunity for them to see different aspects of the rigging field and to learn how to work together as a team."

Also participating in the exercise were elements of the Republic of Korea Air Force's 51st Air Wing from Gimhae Air Base who provided C-130 Hercules and CN-235 Casa aircraft, the 61st Chemical Company from Camp Hialeah, who helped with drop-zone recovery efforts, and the 20th Support Group assisted with exercise planning and coordination. Members of the ROK Marine Corps and U.S. Army Special Forces Detachment - Korea also participated.

The mission of the 4th Quartermaster Detachment (Airborne) is to, upon order, establish detachment rigging operations, rigging 50-100 tons of selected supplies and equipment per day for aerial resupply, and to and conduct airdrop support operations in support of U.S.,



*Spc. Stanley Tanyhill, 4th Quartermaster Detachment (Airborne), attaches a G-12 parachute to a Container Delivery System.*

Republic of Korea, and United Nations forces. The unit also packs parachutes and provides temporary storage for rigging supplies and equipment for aerial delivery, and inspects, classifies and maintains Parachute Equipment-Korea contingency stocks.

E-mail [putnamg@usfk.korea.army.mil](mailto:putnamg@usfk.korea.army.mil)



PHOTO BY CHO PONG-SUNG

*U.S. and Republic of Korea forces inspect a Container Delivery System after it was dropped from a ROK Air Force CN-235 aircraft onto Miryang Drop Zone.*

# Nemechek races with flag patch for Memorial Day

Story by Spc. Lorie Jewell

Army News Service

**CONCORD, N.C.**— Flying around a racetrack at speeds pushing 200 miles per hour, NASCAR driver Joe Nemechek paid special tribute to fallen Soldiers and those still serving.

On the dash of Nemechek's Army-sponsored 01 Chevrolet was an American flag patch, placed there by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Mounce of the U.S. Army's Accessions Command minutes before the start of NASCAR's Coca-Cola 600 race at the Lowe's Motor Speedway Sunday. Nemechek finished the race in 14th place, while Jimmy Johnson took first.

Nemechek said it was "cool" to drive with the patch, especially for the Memorial Day race. Riding shotgun was a G.I. Joe doll dressed in a desert camouflage uniform, strapped into the passenger seat.

"Anytime we can do something to honor Soldiers, I definitely want to be a part of it," Nemechek said.

In a pre-race ceremony on the main stage of the track, Special Forces Capt. Doug Legan handed the patch he wore on his desert camouflage uniform while serving in Iraq to Mounce, who quick-marched across the infield to the 01 racecar. After saluting Accessions Commander Lt. Gen. Dennis Cavin, who stood at attention at the rear of the car, Mounce reached in through the passenger window and fastened the Velcro-backed patch to the dash.

"It's just fitting that Joe carry this around the track for Memorial Day," Cavin said.

The hood of the black-and-gold Army race car now features the Time Magazine cover naming the

American Soldier as its Person of the Year. Just before the race started, Cavin playfully polished the hood with a napkin for Nemechek's mother, Martha, who captured the moment with her camera.

NASCAR and Coca-Cola celebrated the race's tie to Memorial Day by featuring the military, and the Army especially, in activities leading up to the moment the drivers peeled out of the pit area to start the 600-mile race. The 82nd Airborne Chorus sang, the Golden Knights Skydive Team jumped into the infield, and Soldiers with the 3rd Special Forces Group from Fort Bragg, N.C., fast roped to the track from UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and set up a perimeter for the arrival of a Blackhawk that delivered country singer John Michael Montgomery to the infield.

Montgomery, dressed in a desert camouflage uniform, performed his hit song "Letters From Home" with Soldiers flanked behind him.

A crew from the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division's Stryker Brigade Combat Team, made a lap around the track in the infantry carrier. A 4th Infantry Division Color Guard presented the colors just before Chief Warrant Officer 4 Charlie King of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment sang "Amazing Grace."

A 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment Rifle Team gave a seven-gun volley as Staff Sgt. Shelby Barber of the 82nd Airborne Division Band played Taps. Five Blackhawks flew over the track in a missing man formation, followed by a B-2 Stealth bomber, as finalists from the television talent show "American Idol" sang the National Anthem and Special Forces

Soldiers raised the American flag in Victory Lane.

Maj. Gen. Charles Swannack Jr., former commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, greeted the crowd of 100,000-plus as grand marshal of the race, drawing thunderous applause as he thanked them for their patriotism and paid tribute to those "who have made the ultimate sacrifice for you and I" to enjoy the freedoms of a democratic society.

Swannack deferred the honor of starting the race to a group of Soldiers from the 1st Armored Cavalry Division currently serving in Iraq. A video of the Soldiers issuing the traditional command, "Gentlemen, start your engines," was broadcast on giant screens around the track.

Soldiers involved in race activities were impressed and grateful with the lengths organizers went to in recognizing Memorial Day and the military.

"It's pretty surreal," said Staff Sgt. David Hughes, a member of the Stryker crew. "We've gotten a lot of thank-yous from everyone. It's nice to know people believe in what we're doing."

Staff Sgt. Matthew Brandt, of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment Rifle Team, first experienced the patriotic embrace of a NASCAR crowd last year after returning from Afghanistan. The patriotism hasn't diminished one bit, Brandt said.

"For Soldiers who love NASCAR, this is an awesome experience," said Brandt, pausing as he toured the garage area before the race. "You just can't beat it. Everyone keeps saying they appreciate what we do, but we want them to know that we appreciate everything they do for us."