Casemate

Vol. 27, No. 8 | Published for the community of Fort Mo | April 15, 2005

Spotlight *Event*

Tribute To Freedom

The U.S. Continental Army Band will celebrate the spirit of a Soldier during an all new performance.

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What's *Inside*

An Army Success Story

Over the past two decades, the Army's Child and Youth Services program has grown by leaps and bounds.

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Desert Adventure

Monroe's MWR director has returned home after deploying in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

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Army Racers Win

The Army's NASCAR team scored its first top 10 win at Martinsville this week.

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Community Notice

Garrison HQs hosts Employee Town Hall

The garrison commander, Col. Perry D. Allmendinger, will host an Employee Town Hall Meeting at 2 p.m., April 27 at the Post Theater. Representatives from key staff agencies will be on hand to provide updates about their programs and other information employees should know. A question and answer session is scheduled toward the end of the event.

Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

Patricia Shinseki, the spouse of former Army Chief of Staff and retired Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, addresses an audience of 270-plus during a luncheon Thursday at the Bay Breeze Community Center. Shinseki discussed the evolution of family services and commended spouses on their dedication to "follow the ones they love who answer their calling" by faithful service in a military career. An avid volunteer, Shinseki also spoke highly of those who are tireless in their efforts to help out their community. Fort Monroe's Casemate Community Connection hosted the event.

Wallace nominated for TRADOC helm; other senior leaders to change

FORT MONROE, Va. (TRADOC News Service) – Lt. Gen. William S. Wallace has been nominated by President George W. Bush for his fourth star and assignment as Training and Doctrine Command's next commanding general.

The announcement was made April 5 by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Wallace is now serving as the commanding general for the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth, Kan. No date has yet been set for the change of command ceremony between Wallace and Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes, TRADOC's current commander. Wallace's promotion must yet be confirmed by the Senate.

Also, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker recently announced new jobs for several other TRADOC leaders.

Maj. Gen. Michael A. Vane, commanding general of the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, Texas, has been named as the new vice director for force structure, resources and assessment at the Joint Staff's J-8.

Brig. Gen. Robert P. Lennox, deputy commanding general and chief of staff of U.S. Army Accessions Command, here, has been named as Vane's replacement.

No date has been set for the change of command ceremony between Lt. Gen. William S. Wallace and Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes, the current TRADOC commander.

Promotable Col. Dennis E. Rogers, currently serving as assistant chief of staff, G-3, for III Corps at Fort Hood, Texas, has been selected to succeed Lennox.

Brig. Gen. Mark A. Graham, deputy commanding general/assistant commandant of the U.S. Army Field Artillery Center and School, Fort Sill, Okla., is leaving TRADOC for a new assignment as the deputy commanding general of Fifth U.S. Army, based at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Promotable Col. Donald M. Campbell Jr., deputy commander (West) at U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, Ky., is also leaving TRADOC. He has been named as the next chief of staff for V Corps, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany.

Holocaust Observance featuring David Katz at 1 p.m., May 3, Post Theater. See Page 3

Columns & Commentary

Visit the Casemate online at www.monroe.army.mil/casemate

All of us must accept the fact that change is inevitable. It's part of our lives.

Change is difficult, but God can help

Chaplain's *Corner*

Lt. Col. Barry M. White
IMA-Northeast Region Chaplain

A few years ago, I was the Religious Support Resources Officer at Fort Rucker, Ala., and I distinctly remember the day I was informed that I would be going to the Eighth United States Army Command Chaplain Staff in South Korea to do the same job.

I was petrified! I didn't know if I was ready for the new position, despite my experience at Rucker and other past assignments. I knew I would have oversight of five Chapel Tithes and Offerings Funds instead of one. I was not looking forward to this change one bit as it certainly meant much more responsibility.

I did, however, survive the job of two years and became more knowledgeable in the area of Religious Resources.

The moral of that story, you see, is that I don't like change very much. I'm always very anxious about every new move and every new job.

The same situation arose while I was in Korea and learned that my next assignment was Fort Monroe, Va., where I was to become the Religious Support Resources Officer for IMA's Northeast Region. Once again, I was very nervous and anxious.

Of course, I'd be doing the same thing as I had been doing in Korea for two years, but this time I'd be responsible for overseeing 14 Chapel Tithes and Offerings Funds in the Northeast Region along with each installation's Chapel Military Construction plans and projects and visiting each of these installations once a year to do an inspection.

Wow! I only have five Chaplain's funds and four Area Support Groups with various religious resources issues to worry about in Korea and now I was going to oversee 14 installations! What was I getting myself into?

I must tell you that I'm surviving quite well here at the Northeast Region. I really love the work and ministry I am providing in this job and in my volunteer time in the protestant congregation at the Chapel of the Centurion. But I still hate change. I'm already thinking about what will come next when I PCS in the summer of 2006.

All of us must accept the fact that change is inevitable. It's part of our lives.

We graduate from high school and some go out to begin working while others head off to college. Eventually, we all find ourselves "settled" in a career. Those in the military have change of duty stations to deal with and, if they stay in uniform, they will eventually face retirement.

Parents experience a constant flow of change. A whole different article could be written about the effect of children in our lives.

How do you deal with change? Do you internalize it and keep it to yourself? Do you externalize it by talking with your spouse, a parent, a friend, or someone else about your anxieties and fears?

When change becomes unbearable – or at the very least a nuisance – we only have to remember that God is just a prayer away. Prayer is a powerful tool for us to use when we are stressed, no matter what the cause. It is particularly helpful when that stress is caused by changes within our lives.

Our God who created us knows that we cannot always handle every situation or every change, without His help. Prayer is a tool that allows us to remove the stress from our own shoulders and place it directly on the shoulders of God.

Throughout the Holy Scriptures we see those men and women of God who also had lots of struggles and apparently, in some cases, did not handle change very well themselves. When we look at the Disciples of Christ we see varying reactions to the news that He would die. When He did die they scattered. Some struggled very much with this major change in their lives. Peter was one that we think of the most. He really struggled with Christ's death as he remembered that he had denied that he even knew Jesus.

I hope and pray that as each of us will rely on God to help us get through the changes in our everyday lives. Christ said "I will be with you even until the end of time." I believe Him.

I believe He is with us every day, and I believe that each of us can call upon Him when the changes in life are upon us.

Monroe retirement services office hosts 20th annual open house

A variety of guest speakers and support agencies are set to provide the latest information on quality of life issues at Fort Monroe's 20th annual Retiree Day/Open House Thursday at the Bay Breeze Community Center.

Doors open at 9 a.m. and registration begins at 9:15 a.m., followed by a breakfast and the official speaker's program starting at 11 a.m.

The public is invited and tickets are required for the luncheon.

Retired Coast Guard Capt. Bud Schneeweis, director of the Benefits Information Department, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), will address legislative and benefit issues affecting retirees.

Schneeweis researches and writes articles regarding military benefits, health care and survivors issues for MOAA, and travels widely to discuss these matters with retired military members, their spouses and families.

Another speaker, Kathlene Nelson, a TRICARE spokesperson, will address current concerns on military health care.

Military and local senior assistance support agencies will have handouts available on site.

Hampton Roads military retirees from all branches of the armed forces, their families and spouses of deceased retired military personnel are invited.

The cost of the breakfast buffet is $10.60 per person (includes gratuity).

The Bay Breeze Community Center, Building 185, is located on Fenwick Road. Call the Fort Monroe Retirement Services Office at 788-2093 for tickets.

Casemate plans annual tribute to graduates

The Casemate is planning a special tribute to graduating high school seniors of the Fort Monroe community for the June 10 edition, and we need your help identifying those individuals.

Names must be submitted in writing to casemate@monroe.army.mil no later than May 27. Include the name of the high school and any special achievements, i.e. valedictorian, salutatorian, special honors. You may also include the student's post-graduation plans (name of college and major, for example). The name of a parent or guardian and a phone number where that individual can be reached should also be included.

Photos are welcome, however, they must be in-focus, well lit and of high quality. Professionally shot graduation photos are preferred. If a digital image is not available, bring a hard-copy photo to the Casemate office (Building 27) to be scanned.

For more information, contact the Casemate staff at 788-3520/3531/3208.

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Casemate

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Monroe's 'Days of Remembrance' observance features Hampton-area Holocaust survivor

BY WAYNE KANOY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

A Hampton Roads survivor of Adolph Hitler's Holocaust will be the featured speaker at Fort Monroe's "Days of Remembrance" observance starting at 1 p.m., May 3, at the Post Theater.

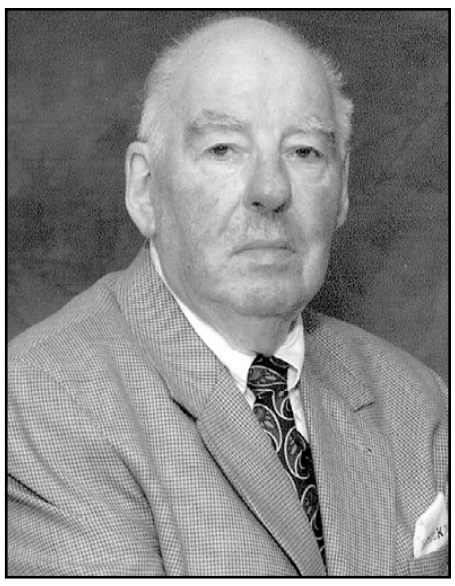
Chesapeake resident David Katz will give a presentation titled "A Lost Youth: A story of Survival During the Holocaust."

"I speak to honor my parents, grandparents, other murdered family members, and the six million Jewish martyrs who perished during the Holocaust," Katz said.

Fort Monroe will also welcome Rabbi Norman Golner of the B'nai Israel Congregation in Hampton who will give the program's invocation.

Free and open to the public, the observance also includes a pre-event exhibit of original Holocaust art, and a multimedia presentation of Holocaust photographs and music scheduled from 12:30 to 1 p.m. in the theater lobby.

Born in Germany and living in Leipzig, Katz and his family were doomed to persecution in 1933 when Hitler became Chancellor of Germany and elevated Aryan supremacy by declaring all Jews and others of non-Aryan races biologically inferior and unworthy of life. With his rise to power, the quality of life for Jews eroded progressively.



David Katz

Hitler convinced the German populace that Jews were responsible for their country's economic collapse and rising unemployment. Public hostility against them increased. At random and without fear of retribution, Jews became targets for German onlookers to shout racial slurs and throw objects.

Over the next several years, their persecution became more severe. Jews were disenfranchised, terrorized, forced into ghettos, their property seized; and finally, were sent to concentration camps.

As life in Germany became more unbearable, Katz and his parents decided to immigrate to the United States in 1937 by first making their way to The Hague in the Netherlands, leaving his mother's parents in Leipzig. While waiting for their immigration papers, however, Katz's mother became homesick for her parents, and the family decided to return to Leipzig. This proved to be a fatal mistake.

Conditions continued to worsen. On one significant November evening in 1938 known as Kristallnacht (night of broken glass), roving gangs of Nazis smashed storefronts of Jewish merchants and looted their stores, and all synagogues in Germany were burned to the ground. For the Katz family, life in Germany could no longer be tolerated and a second attempt to leave the country was in order.

Katz's personal accounts of his family's journey through Europe to escape capture and, eventually, his solo trek to experience freedom will be the focus of his remarks at Fort Monroe. As a member of the Holocaust Commission of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, Katz said he uses his experiences during the Holocaust as an example to tell people what happens when "indifference, intolerance, lack of respect and hate permeates our society."

At the conclusion of World War II, Katz learned that his father and mother were taken to Auschwitz, Poland in 1942, where they were murdered in Nazi gas chambers and that his grandparents were murdered in the Warsaw ghetto.

Germany's state-sponsored persecution system during the 20th century – acknowledged universally as the Holocaust – operated from 1933 to 1945. European Jews were the primary victims. However, gypsies, the handicapped and Poles were also targeted. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents suffered grievous oppression and death.

"The Holocaust is a horrifying chapter in world history, a period so offensive to mankind that we should never be able to forget it," said Robert Burns, Holocaust committee co-chair.

Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, deputy commanding general for Initial Military Training, TRADOC, and commanding general for the Army's Accessions Command, is the host of the observance.

Tickets are not required for admission.

A sign language interpreter will be on site.

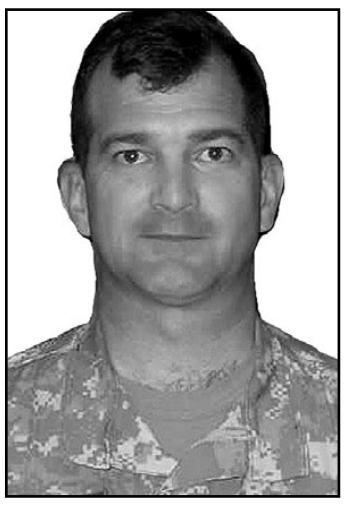
For more information, contact Robert Burns at 788-4936.

Post joins historic prayer observance

Continuing a tradition that predates the founding of the nation, Fort Monroe will observe the National Day of Prayer, May 5, with a luncheon starting at 11:30 a.m., at the post's Bay Breeze Community Center.

Col. Steven C. Sifers, executive officer to the Commanding General TRADOC, will be the program's featured speaker.

The Continental Congress issued a proclamation setting aside a day of prayer in 1775. In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, that law was amended, designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.



Col. Steven C. Sifers

Sifers will speak on this year's observance theme: "God Shed His Grace On Thee." The theme is based on Hebrews 4:16 NIV – "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

The public is invited to the buffet-style luncheon and tickets are required.

As an Army officer, Sifers has served at every level of command — from platoon through regiment. Prior to his current assignment, he served as the Commander of the 11th Infantry Regiment, Fort Benning, Ga.

Sifers has also performed Army staff duties from battalion to Department of Army level. Most recent among those was executive officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs, Department of the Army, at the Pentagon.

The colonel's military education includes the Army's Command and General Staff College, the School of Advanced Military Studies and the Army War College Fellowship Program at Harvard University.

Sivers' awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters.

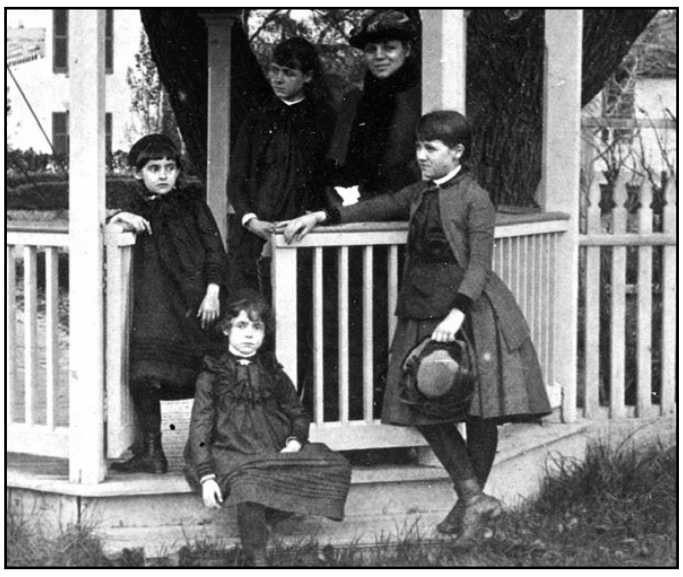
Soldiers E-5 and below are asked to give a $3 donation to receive a buffet ticket; all others – to include civilian employees, family members and guests – are requested to give a $6 donation. Donations for tickets should be made by May 3. Tickets are available at the Fort Monroe Chapel Center inside the moat.

The Bay Breeze Community Center, Building 185, is located on Fenwick Road.

A sign language interpreter will be on site.

For more information, contact the Post Chaplain's Office at 788-2611.

Images of the Past



A Family Moment

In conjunction with April's Month of the Military Child observance, the Casemate Museum contributed this family photo taken at a gazebo that was once located behind Quarters 1 inside the moat. The photo was shot around 1884, according to museum experts. Pictured are members of Maj. Gen. John Tidball's family. At the time, Tidball was commandant of the Fort Monroe Artillery School. Pictured from left to right are daughters Mora, Mabel (seated) and Sue, wife Mary, and family friend Philip Mills, wearing an outfit that defies description. In 1957, Mabel Tidball, who never married, returned to Fort Monroe for the first time since childhood.

New TUSCAB 'tribute' celebrates Soldiers

BY PATRICK BUFFETT
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Continental Army Band, Fort Monroe, will introduce an all-new musical tribute to Soldiers fighting the Global War on Terrorism, and all Americans who have served or are currently serving in uniform, May 6 at Roper Theater, Norfolk.

Titled "Tribute to Freedom," the event is free and open to the public. Tickets are required to guarantee seating. The performance starts at 7:30 p.m.

The new show replaces the "Spirit of Victory" concert that has been conducted annually since the mid-90s. "Over the years, that show was meant to draw attention to the mission of our parent organization, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command," said band commander, Maj. Andrew J. Esch.

"Now, the emphasis is on the Soldier who is serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and every other region where the fight continues against global terrorism," Esch said. "And it will also be a celebration of the profession. This is for every military member, whether they're still in uniform or retired."

"Tribute to Freedom" will also acknowledge America's support of the military – homecomings and everyday citizens standing up in the airport to applaud passing Soldiers in uniform. "This is our handshake … our salute," Esch said. "Its our chance to show the community of Hampton Roads that we appreciate their support."

Esch said the show should be a "noticeable departure" from other performances. The band won't overlook patriotic favorites like "God Bless the USA," but it will also explore the compositions of Paul Simon ("Bridge Over Troubled Water"), Aaron Copland ("Variations on a Shaker Melody") and John Williams ("Liberty Fanfare") among others.

"Some great narration accompanies the Liberty Fanfare piece," Esch said. "We've also added visuals to the performance that will depict Soldiers at home and deployed. It will be entertainment for every one of your senses."

"Nothing in this concert is going to be hard to listen to," the major added. "These will be melodies you'll be humming to yourself for days afterward."

The show will also include a segment in which veterans of each service will be asked to stand and receive recognition. To make that moment as spectacular as the rest of the show, Esch said he hopes members of all branches of service — and from all installations in the area — will plan to attend.

"Roper Theater seats 900, which is the sort of venue I like," the commander also noted. "It offers plenty of space for a large crowd while keeping us up close and personal. There shouldn't be a bad seat in the house."

The band is currently accepting requests for tickets by mail. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The U.S. Continental Army Band; ATTN: Tribute to Freedom tickets; 10 Bernard Road; Fort Monroe, VA 23651. Please specify the number of tickets desired (limit four per request).

Guests with tickets are encouraged to arrive early as any open seats remaining 15 minutes before show time will be filled by non-ticket holders.

The Army-wide "Tribute to Freedom" program began in 2003. Led by the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, the effort is meant to "connect" the American public with Soldiers fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

"Just as Soldiers vow to never leave a fallen comrade, Operation Tribute to Freedom refuses to leave a Soldier's story untold," read a narrative on the Army's Web site dedicated to the project.

For more information about OTF, visit www4.army.mil/otf. To see a schedule of other upcoming TUSCAB performances, visit www.monroe.army.mil/band.

Specialists Hu Li, left, and Robert Moody, center, and Sgt. Timothy Kerr perform with fellow members of The U.S. Continental Army Band during a recent ceremony at Fort Monroe. The TUSCAB members are currently preparing for their May 6 "Tribute to Freedom" concert.

Photo by Patrick Buffett

6X7
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Post, TRADOC welcome new EOA

BY PATRICIA RADCLIFFE
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

"Harmony." That's what the new equal opportunity advisor, Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Taft, endeavors to promote in the diverse Fort Monroe community.

"We are an Army of One — a team. The only way we can move forward is to work toward being a (cohesive) team by communicating with one another and understanding that we do have differences and to respect those differences," Taft said.

In his new position, Taft will assist the commanders of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, The U.S. Continental Army Band and the 233rd Military Police Detachment with their EO issues. He is also tasked with educating post and TRADOC personnel on EO-related programs and intiatives and helping promote diversity in the community as a whole.

"I like working with people. As an equal opportunity advisor, I get to hear what's on people's minds, find out what you can do to help them feel more comfortable within the community and, at the same time, I work to bring the community together," Taft said with an amiable smile.

Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Taft

The EOA embraces a proactive stance to fend off possible problems. He said that training provided by the EO office is a move toward accepting diversity and cited recent prevention of sexual harassment classes as an example. Observances are also a valuable tool for attaining harmony within the community, he said.

"The observances that occur within the community, I feel, are very important because they serve to open minds, create a better awareness between different ethnic groups and at the same time create better communication. A lot of times, just creating that communication (bridge) helps everybody else be more receptive and more understanding of differences," Taft said.

Taft worked on that communications bridge for three years as the Brigade EOA while stationed at the U.S. Army Field Artillery Training Center, Fort Sill, Okla.

He focused on presenting EO information to personnel in basic training and worked with EO representatives in batteries and companies to ensure permanent personnel received the required training. He also conducted ethnic and special observances throughout the brigade and installation to help establish cultural awareness training for the community and installation.

Taft's tours of duty also include that of personnel supervisor for 10th Mountain Division (G-1) and 1st Infantry Brigade, Fort Drum, N.Y.; and two deployments to Bosnia while assigned to 38th Personnel Service Battalion, Detachment B, Bamberg, Germany.

He administered tests to Soldiers and potential recruits while assigned to 378th Personnel Service Company, Frankfurt, Germany; handled Soldier reassignments at the U.S. Army Field Artillery Center, Fort Sill, Okla.; and worked with enlisted promotions at his first assignment at 15th PSC, 1st Calvary Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

"My predecessor — Sgt. (First Class) Walker — had an excellent program within the community. I expect to continue what he has done and try to promote some ideas I have also," Taft said. "When he got here, he saw one level and built upon it. I'll just keep working on that foundation, trying to promote diversity and make the public aware."

Post begins Yard of Month Competition

Judging dates for the 2005 Yard of the Month competition were announced recently by the Office of the Post Command Sergeant Major.

They are as follows: May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8 and Sept. 12.

One winner will be chosen within each of the seven housing areas on Monroe.

Residents are reminded that lawn-care items are avialable through Self Help. Lawn seed, fertilizer, topsoil and mulch are available during spring and summer months.

The Self Help hours of operation are: Monday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon; and the facility is closed Sunday and Monday.

For more information about Yard of the Month, call 788-2957/3785.

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MWR director recalls dramatic desert duty

BY BELINDA BAKER
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Paul Heilman grew up in the Army … sort of.

His father is an Army veteran of 28 years meaning Heilman is no stranger to the lifestyle. However, since he never actually served in the military he didn't have firsthand knowledge of what Soldiers go through until recently.

Back from nearly seven months in Kuwait, Heilman knows the deal now. For 179 days beginning last September, the director of Morale, Welfare and Recreation at Fort Monroe lived and worked alongside Soldiers serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Throughout his deployment, Heilman wore desert camouflage uniforms, or DCUs, just like everyone else. He endured the same long workdays as the Soldiers, ate what they ate, traveled like they traveled, shared the same "amenities," and endured the same conditions.

"I was wearing a uniform just like them. I blended in and felt like part of the team. I have a greater respect for Soldiers now especially after seeing them working and living in harsh desert conditions. I've got a flavor now from a civilian's point of view of what Soldiers are subjected to in their living and working conditions in a war zone," he said, noting that the experience left him 20 pounds lighter.

"The one thing I noticed most about the Soldiers was the amount of hours they have to work; they put in 13 to 15 hours every day. (And) most of them at Camp Arifjan, where I was assigned, live in eight-man tents.

"If you want to go to the bathroom you have to walk about 50 yards on the rocks and the sand to get to the port-o-john. It's the same thing to take showers. That was a bit hard, but you adjust."

The desire to help "improve the quality of life for Soldiers serving in a war zone" led Heilman to volunteer for deployment.

"I asked (garrison commander) Col. Allmendinger to identify my position as emergency essential about a year and a half ago. When the Installation Management Agency asked for volunteers, the first thing I did was ask my wife. After she said I was crazy, we talked about it … prayed about it … I was able to apply for it and was selected to go as the Southwest Asia MWR Manager," he said.

As part of Coalition Forces Land Component Command in a theater of operations that includes Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and Qatar, Heilman had a vital role. He ordered all of the theater's recreation equipment, coordinated donations, — anything from CDs and Christmas trees to baseball bats and cigars — oversaw MWR staffing, interpreted policy for MWR colleagues and managed a $230,000 blanket purchase agreement with AAFES, among other duties.

"The MWR coordinator for each camp throughout Kuwait would come and I'd meet them at the PX.

"They'd load up their baskets and take things back to their camps. I was like Santa Claus … and I could spend $2,500 a day for each camp. That was always a special time. I was a frequent customer of AAFES. The AAFES folks work really hard over there, too. They're right in there with the Soldiers," he said.

Speaking of Christmas, Heilman said one highlight came when an Ohio-based Christmas tree farm donated live trees to the Soldiers. At his urging Fort Monroe's MWR staff coordinated with the community here and sent decorations for the trees.

These Soldiers show off their Christmas gifts dropped off by Paul Heilman when he traveled to camps in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and Qatar while serving as Morale, Welfare and Recreation manager for Coalition Forces Land Component Command last year.

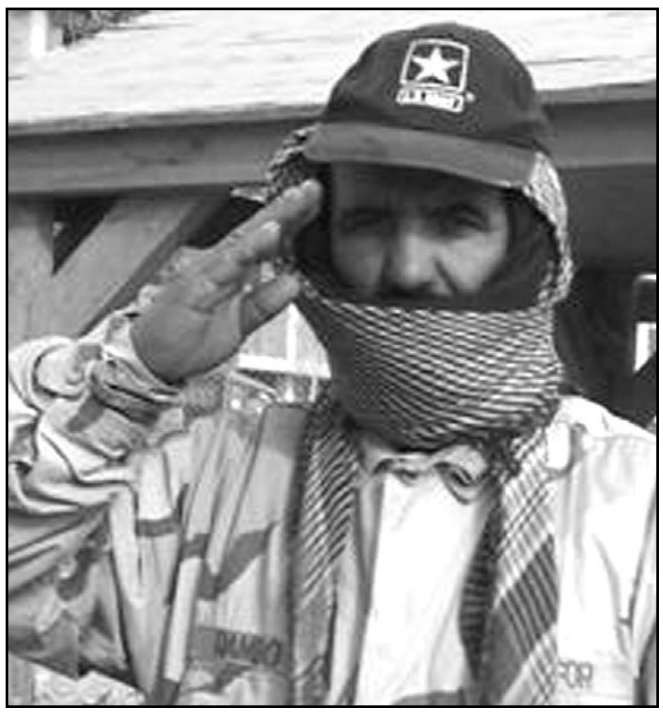


Photo above: Paul Heilman photographed this Afghani man who was called 'Rambo" by Soldiers at Camp Patriot in Kabul. Heilman was told that the widower salutes U.S. Soldiers at the camp's gate every day. Photo left: Heilman poses at a bazaar with a Kabul youth.

"I must have had about six huge boxes full of decorations. (So) I was able to travel to all of the camps with trees, decorations and gifts. That was the fun part," he said as a wide smile crossed his face.

Another memory Heilman recalled was coordinating the Combined Federal Campaign for the country of Kuwait. He was a natural for the job since he'd run CFC here at Monroe. "We collected over $178,000. I was proud of that," he said.

Although his job carried heavy responsibilities, there were a few rewards along the way. Seeing celebrities like John Elway, Angelina Jolie and Robin Williams at USO events was a big deal. Then there was travel.

"I got a chance to travel to every camp in Kuwait. I had the opportunity to fly in a Black Hawk three times. I spent most of my time in Kuwait but had an opportunity to go to Afghanistan for a week."

That week in Afghanistan provided Heilman's most harrowing encounter – one that was as frightening as being shot at or subjected to any type of bombing, neither of which happened during his deployment, he said looking skyward and releasing a thankful sigh.

"Probably the scariest experience for me was when we were leaving Kandahar to fly back to Oman. A dust storm came up and we were in a small plane. You could barely see the runway.

We got up to about 1,500 feet and couldn't see anything. When the sand blows and dust storms come in it's pretty dark. All of a sudden the plane drops a few hundred feet. I said, 'Oh my gosh, sand has gotten into the engines and we're in trouble.'

"It dropped again and then did it a third time. Now I'm sitting right behind the pilot – close enough to tap him on the shoulder – so I could see what he was doing. He got control and we finally rose above the cloud. That was a ride, I'll tell you … it was scary," he recalled.

Heilman came home in March leaving his desert adventure a distant memory. Given the opportunity he would go back but not right away, he said.

"I really did not know what to expect when I got off the plane at Camp Doha, Kuwait at 10 p.m. (on Sept. 12, 2004). The temperature was 102 degrees and the wind was blowing 25 mph. Sand got in my eyes, nose and ears. That was my first experience in the desert. It was a great experience, though … hard at times, but it really helps you put things into prospective and know what's really important."

News Clips

Fort Monroe Clean Sweep Walk, Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fitness Center
The event features free drinks and an MWR prize giveaway.

Suicide intervention training

Applied suicide intervention skills training will be held at the Bay Breeze Community Center on May 19 and 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This free training is open to active duty, retired military and DoD employees, as well as churches and other community agencies in the helping field. Participants must attend two full days to receive certification for this training.

Dress for all attendees is civilian casual. Free coffee, juice and pastries will be available in the morning and a light lunch will be served.

To make reservations, call 788-2611.

SOL info, tutor available

Youth Services tutor Franklin Scott can furnish Virginia Department of Education Standards of Learning computerized practice tests, study sheets or Web sites to students or parents.

He also provides one-on-one assistance to review SOL information with students. Scott tutors math and science but has SOL information for other courses for students in grades 6 to 12, only. He is available from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Community Activities Center. Walk-ins are welcome, but participation is limited to members of Youth Services.

Mother's Day Brunch

A Mother's Day brunch will be held at the Bay Breeze Community Center May 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is $16.95 for reservations made by May 4 and $18.95 afterward. Children 5 to 12 eat for half price and children 4 and under eat free. For reservations, call 788-2406.

Army mandates IA training

In an effort to protect data from internal and external threats, the Army established a directive requiring all computer users service-wide to complete information assurance training no later than June 4.

Users can satisfy their IA training requirement by logging onto the Army e-Learning Program. Army e-Learning helps streamline the process, and testing results are immediately reflected in the Army Training Requirements and Resources System (ATRRS).

For additional information on how to access Army e-Learning, logon to www.us.army.mil and follow the links for "My Education" and the "Army e-Learning" portal page. You must have an AKO account to access the system.

For more information on the Army e-Learning Program, or Distributed Learning System (program office for Army e-Learning), contact Meggan Kring at 369-2886 or www.dls.army.mil.

Toastmasters Club meeting

Members of the Fort Monroe community are invited to attend the next meeting of the Future Leaders and Thinkers Toastmasters Club. The sessions will help you improve public speaking and leadership skills through structured, self-paced programs.

The next meeting will be Monday on the 2nd floor of Building 10 in the ACA conference room at 11:40 a.m. Plan now to attend and bring a friend.

For more information, contact Janet Geisler at 788-2407, or Donna Satisfield at 788-3864.

Military poster competition

The Coordinating Committee for the 225th Anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown extends an invitation to all artists to submit entries to the Salute to the Military poster competition to honor those who have served our country from the Colonial times to present.

Submissions must be 18 by 24 inches in the artist's media choice. No computer-generated art will be accepted.

An official entry form may be obtained by visiting The Gallery at York Hall, 301 Main St., Yorktown, or by calling Sharon Owen 890-4490.

Cash prizes of $1,000, $500 and $250 will go to the first, second and third place winners, respectively. Entries must be received by 4 p.m. Sept. 15.

2005 Army Birthday Ball

Celebrate the Army's 230th birthday with a memorable evening that includes dinner, entertainment and dancing . The 2005 Army Birthday Ball is scheduled for June 18 at the Hilton Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C.

All Army Soldiers, family members, DA civilians, contractors, retirees, veterans and their guests are invited. Tickets for the ball are $60 each and include dinner and entertainment. A limited number of discount tickets at $20 each will be available for Army staff sergeants and GS-7 civilians and below.

Registration begins Monday. For tickets, visit Army Knowledge Online at www.us.army.mil and follow the link to the ball. Seats are limited.

More NEWS CLIPS, Page 18

6X7
AD

Jefferson Lab Web site helps kids prepare for SOLs

Jefferson Lab's Science Education Web site contains Virginia Standards of Learning Science, Math and Technology Practice Tests and the "Who Wants to Win $1,000,000? Math and Science Quiz," among other useful study tools.

The Web site has an archive of previously released tests going back to 2000. Test categories include: 3rd grade math and science; 5th grade math, science and technology; 8th grade math, science and technology; high school algebra I and II, geometry, earth science, and chemistry.

The site is set up so a person can request 10, 20, or 40 random, multiple-choice questions from a single category. Or, if desired, teachers and students can bring up nonrandom sets of questions.

To check out the Jefferson Lab Education Web page, visit education.jlab.org. To access the SOL practice tests or to play the $1,000,000 math and science quiz (does not award actual money), click on the Games & Puzzles icon.

'Operation Military Kids'

"Operation Military Kids," a community support network for school-aged children of deployed service members, was officially launched during a early April ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Several agencies — to include the Army Community and Family Support Center, the Boys and Girls Club of America and 4-H — are behind the effort.

The partnership identifies national, state and local agencies, resources and community assets to deliver recreational, social and educational activities to youth who suddenly find themselves amid the dilemma of deployed family members but don't have a military support network nearby.

"Being a military kid — all of a sudden — is plain and simple a tough situation for these young people to be in," said Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, during remarks made at kickoff event.

The program provides military children with a sense of structure and support that they may not have had before, he added.

For more information, or to participate in the program, visit the Web site at www.usda-army-ydp.org/omk.

MP Roll Call — March Incidents/Crime Statistics

The Fort Monroe Military Police responded to the following incidents in March:

Traffic accidents - 4
Illegal parking - 153
Suspended/revoked license - 4
Speeding - 7
Expired registration - 2
Failure to show proof of insurance - 1
Driving without valid license - 1
Failure to carry license - 2
Expired driver's license - 1
Defective equipment - 1
Failure to carry vehicle registration - 1
Failure to stop - 1
Fire alarms - 2
Building alarms - 6
Unsecured building - 2
Damage to government property - 2
Larceny of government property - 2
Larceny of private property - 1
Wrongful damage of private property - 1
Illegal aliens - 3
Suspicious package - 1

Lost & Found

1 hat - Fisherman's type with Dora the Explorer
1 fanny pack with USA Discounters
1 set of eyeglasses with case
1 set of car keys

5 X 10
AD

MP Roll Call

Special Presentation: Bicycle Safety

■ Bicyclists must obey the same rules of the road as motorized vehicles. For example, they must stop at all stop signs.

■ No bicycle shall carry more passengers at one time than the number for which it was designed and equipped. Small children may ride in permanently affixed, approved child carrier seats.

■ Adult cyclists will ride on the roadway – vice the sidewalk – of two-way traffic roadways, as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing stopped or parked vehicles.

■ Juvenile cyclists may ride on any available sidewalk.

■ Cyclists will ride single file when vehicular traffic is present and may not ride more than two abreast.

■ Cyclists should not carry any package or bundle that prevents the operator from safely operating the bicycle.

■ Cyclists operating upon a sidewalk will yield the right of way to pedestrians.

■ Cyclists will not attach themselves to any vehicle being operated on the roadway.

■ Every bicycle in operation from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise shall be equipped with and using a headlamp on the front and a red taillight or reflector on the rear.

■ No bicycle shall be parked on a street or sidewalk.

■ No bicycle shall be parked against a building in such a way as to obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

■ Off limits areas include the sidewalks along the seawall adjacent to Continental Park, Engineer Pier, Battery Irwin and Battery Parrott.

■ Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake that enables the operator to make the braked wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

■ All bicycles will be equipped with a bell or other device capable of giving a signal audible for a distance of at least 100 feet.

■ Children under the age of five not operating a bicycle, must be in an approved carrier.

■ All bicyclists are required to wear an American National Standard Institution (ANSI-Z) or Snell Memorial Foundation bicycle helmet.

■ All bicyclists will wear high visibility, reflective vests during the hours of darkness.

6 X 7
AD

Month of the Military Child

CYS fulfills vital Army requirement

BY PATRICK BUFFETT
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

The program was destined for success.

It grew up in a time when old Army sergeants found it counterproductive to refer to families as "issue items," and service leaders figured out that happy spouses and children typically resulted in more career-status Soldiers.

"When I joined the program in 1985, child care services was just daycare … nothing else," recalled Susan Searles, who now heads the significantly larger Child and Youth Services network at Fort Monroe. "We were literally governed by a single chapter in the ACS (Army Community Services) regulation.

"But there was always a waiting list," Searles added. "Military parents desperately needed a service that would keep their pre-school-aged children safe and happy during the duty day. That was the measure of our success, and it's the main reason why child and youth services has grown to the level it's at today."

In recognition of April's Month of the Military Child national observance, Searles and three other experienced child and youth services veterans sat down with the Casemate to explore the history of their program and the nuances of the existing network. The conversation raised many interesting points, to include their ability to run calmly in the background while moms and dads go about their business of defending a nation.

"We spend a lot of time with these kids and we take the responsibility handed to us by parents very seriously."

Susan Searles
DIRECTOR, CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES

"For us, the Month of the Military Child presents an opportunity to draw attention to our programs," Searles noted. "It's a chance to celebrate our excellent partnership with parents and other organizations on Fort Monroe and in the surrounding community."

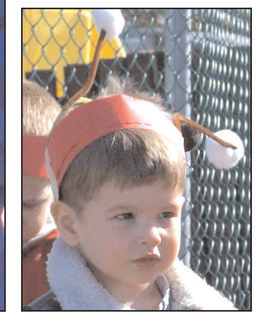
CYS kicked off the observance with an April 4 parade consisting of kids from the Child Development Center, parents and a Dixieland ensemble from The U.S. Continental Army Band. Other upcoming events include: the "Magic by Susan" show, scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday at the CAC and open to all children; a car seat safety check by the Fort Monroe Fire Department, which is set for Wednesday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the CDC; a YA Swim Day at the CAC at 4:15 p.m. on April 28; SAS Family Night on April 27 from 5:50 to 7 p.m.; and a CDC Parent/Child Field Day on April 28 for infant/toddlers and April 29 for 3 to 5 year olds.

'Latchkey' Kids

Participants in these events might notice something more than a well-structured youth development program that cares for kids as young as six weeks and offers guidance to school-aged students all the way up to their senior year.

Consider the facilities in which the activities take place … the "oldest" opened in 1993. Construction of the Youth Activities Center Annex was just completed in October. And you can't miss the new hourly care annex that's being added to the existing Child Development Center. All are signs of continuing progress and the Army's steadfast commitment to high quality family support programs.

"The facilities we have here are tremendous," said Donna Ballance, who joined the Army youth services team in 1990 and now heads School-Aged-Services at Monroe. "I still remember the Latchkey program that we would set up in school cafeterias or, in some instances, anyplace where space was available on an installation. We didn't really have a classroom like we do now, so there wasn't' much structure. We just did whatever we could to keep the kids busy."



Far left photo: Three-year-old Sara Giraldo drums to the beat during a parade at the post Child Development Center. The April 4 parade kicked off the center's calendar of events for the Month of the Military Child. Photo left: Jalen Nelson, 3, engages in some serious strumming on the old guitar during the day's event. Pictured below: Walter Winget, 3, is as cute a "bug" at the parade — donning his precariously flying antennae.

Photos by Belinda Baker

Photo above: Musicians from The U.S. Continental Army Band's Dixieland ensemble churn out some happy tunes for the audience's enjoyment at the CDC Month of the Military Child parade. Photo right: Pre-toddlers aboard the "Bye-Bye Buggy" get their kicks as part of the procession with help from CDC staffers Josie Augilar , left, and Donna Bell.

Today's SAS program caters to the same crowd — children in grades 1 though 5 — but it's far advanced. Activities include arts and crafts, cooking, science and math, a homework center with computers and field trips. The students also oversee a monthly character-building project like coats for kids, a fund drive for the local animal shelter, or the collection of canned goods for the peninsula-area foodbank. From time to time, officers from the Hampton Police Department also drop by to discuss issues like drug and alcohol abuse or bullying in schools.

"The emphasis of positive values throughout our program is so important," Searles interjected. "We spend a lot of time with these kids and we take the responsibility handed to us by parents very seriously.

"There are a lot of negative messages out there among television programs, video games and the music industry," she added. "But our kids are still the same … they're going to learn by example. And here they're going to experience teamwork, cooperation, fair play and respect."

Ballance continued the thought about negative influences: "Sometimes children find it easier to talk to one of us because we're neutral. And that's okay; because we might be able to help them sort things out in a way that will make it easier to talk to their parents or friends. Or we might identify a potential crisis that we can bring to the attention of the parents. It's part of that partnership."

'For All of Your Life'

Such a thought would have crossed few child and youth care providers' minds two decades ago. It was a simpler time, and the basic "babysitting" mentality prevailed. And it's unlikely that many would have even dreamed of a program that caters to military youth all the way through their teen years.

In the current system, an infant could start out at the Child Development Center, spend his elementary years in the SAS program, and complete high school while participating in Youth Services. The latter program includes a learning center / computer lab, preteen/teen councils, Youth Sports, the Boys & Girls Club, 4-H and group activities and trips.

Three years ago, CYS also added a School Liaison Officer to its network. Charlie French occupies the position. Through regular contact with each school district in the Hampton Roads area, the SLO promotes educational opportunities and transition support programs that benefit military students and families. The position has also built strong bonds between the Fort Monroe community and local schools.

"I think that completed the growth of the program," Searles said. "And it fits the new Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation motto adopted last year — 'For All of Your Life.' We've come a long way since those days when Fort Monroe's entire child and youth service program operated out of one single-story building."

Another plus of today's CYS program is that it doesn't slow down when school lets out for the summer. Between June 20 and Sept. 2, SAS offers "Camp Summerfun." Older students in grades 6 through 8 can also participate in "Camp X-treme," sponsored by Youth Services. A special registration session for both camps continues through 5:30 p.m., today at the Community Activities Center. For more information, call 788-3957.

A Sense of Community

But programs and infrastructure are only as good as the people who keep them puttering along smoothly. Each caregiver, program assistant, desk clerk and director within the Monroe CYS network shares a special bond, according to Susanne Elsass, director of the Child Development Center. "They're the sort who would jump at the chance to sit on the floor and play games with the kids.

"None of them view what they do as 'just a job,'" she said. "It's an art … a profession they care deeply about."

Her employees must also be detail oriented. Each task in the CDC program — which includes full-time care for infants, pre-toddlers, toddlers and preschoolers, as well as an hourly care service — is carefully structured in order to meet accreditation standards by the National Association for Education of Young Children and certification criteria set by the Department of Defense.

"Sometimes, it gets a bit intimidating," said Ruth Hughes, CYS training program manager. "We'll sit a new employee down and say, 'okay, here are the eight steps for changing a diaper,' and they'll look at us like we're crazy … there are how many steps? But they soon realize that the approach is necessary because it emphasizes other issues like safety and a clean environment."

Other training for CDC and Family Child Care employees includes: infant/child CPR, first aid, communicable diseases, child abuse prevention, and child development. FCC providers work out of their home, offering full or part-time care. The service was highlighted in the April 1 edition of the Casemate.

"Despite everything we throw at them, most stick around for a very long time," Hughes said. "These are skills they can take with them wherever they go and probably experience no problem whatsoever finding work at another CDC."

Curiosity is also a must for CYS employees, Ballance noted. And no "stuffy, school-mistress types" would be able to survive at the SAS and YS levels. "I find myself listening to all sorts of music," she said. "I watch all sorts of animated movies. And I'm pretty open-minded when it comes to food."

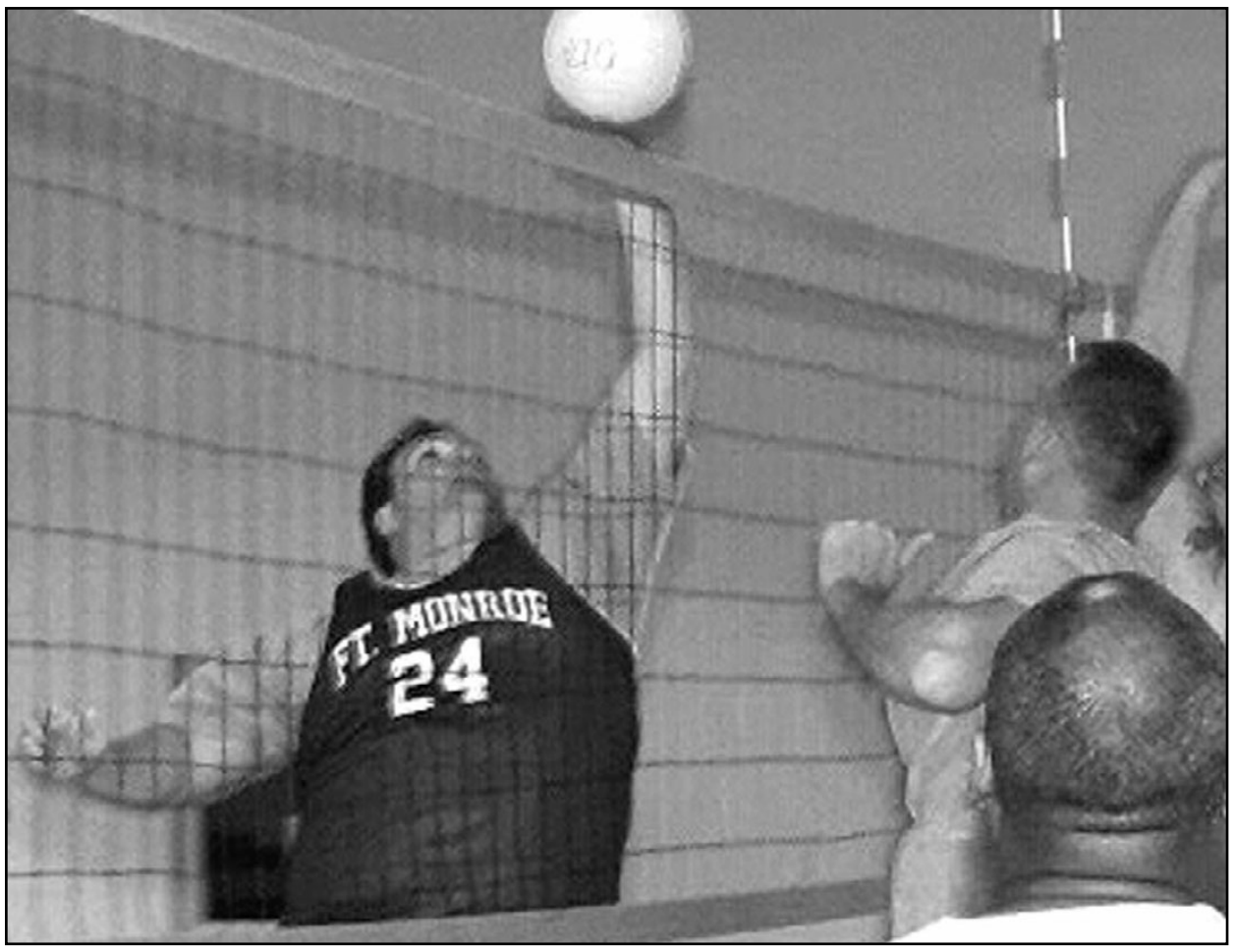
"In general, I think you also have to be comfortable with people," Searles said. "All of us here have experience as military family members, and one of the things I know I disliked about the pre-CYS days was handing my child over to a nursery attendant and being told 'I can't go back there' to see what they're doing with the kids.

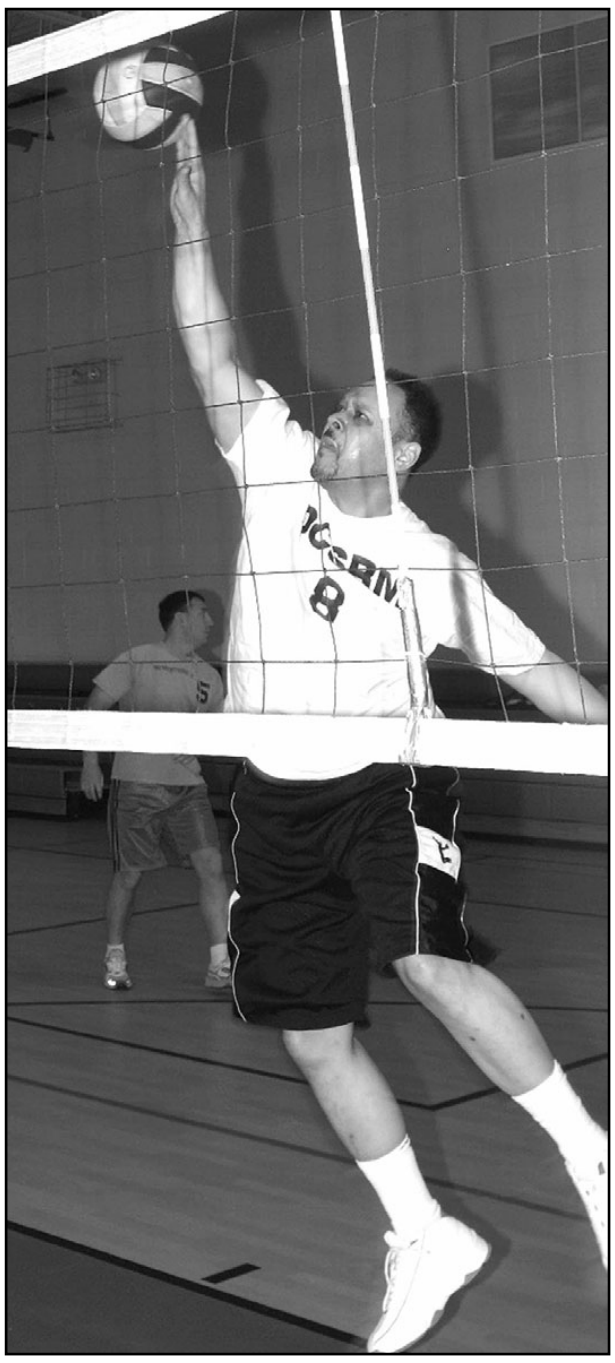
"That mentality no longer exists, as far as I know," she said. "We want our parents to know what we're all about, and to feel welcome to visit us whenever they want. This program is for them, and we should be running it according to their needs and expectations."

The Fort Monroe Child and Youth Services Program is an Army MWR sponsored activity

Sports & Health

Got any sports results?
Need to advertise an upcoming event?
Give us a call at 788-3208 or e-mail casemate@monroe.army.mil.





Photos by Patrick Buffett

ISA, Cadet Command win season opener

Photo above: Robert Spellman of HQs Accessions Command ISA stretches for the kill during the opening games of the 2005 intramural volleyball season Tuesday at the Community Activities Center. ISA was losing to IG/SJA, 12-6, early on in the match, but rebounded to a 16-14 victory. The second game ended in a 15-13 win for IG/SJA. And ISA concluded the contest with a decisive 15-4 win. Photo right: Chuck Brandon warms up for DCSRM in preparation for a match against HQs Cadet Command. Good communication and agressive plays at the net rocketed Cadet Command to a 15-3 win in the first game. DSCRM hit its stride in the second game and posted a 15-12 win. The final contest, however, ended in a decisive 15-7 USACC win.

Fort Monroe Bowl League Scores

Monday Night League: Officers & Civilians
Missy Brinsley
235, 225 - 630 series
Dennis Redmond
257 high game
Jeff Stewart
257 high game

Tuesday Night League: Officers (Bowled April 5)
James Owens
248, 238, 226 - 712 series
Dennis Redmond
222, 210 - 613 series
Ken William
226 high game
Chab Burchett
221, 202 high games
Mike Drake
213 high game
Rich Dietz
205 high game
Wayne Booth
202 high game
Larry Molna
202 high game

Ty Ryan
202 high game
John Jones
201 high game

Wednesday Night League: NASCAR
Chip Wikan
278, 268 - 702 series
Lee Davis
266 high game

Thursday League: USS George Washington
Devon Bowers
258, 253, 204 - 715 series
Brian Backes
260 high game
Sean Marshall
254 high game
William Crosby
251 high game

The High Rollers team rolled a league record of 1,255 pins, which breaks the old record dating back 27 years.

Sports Roundup

Open basketball

The Community Activities Center has scheduled open basketball sessions from 6 to 8 p.m., every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, starting next week. The courts are open to active duty military, family members over 18 and NAF or DoD civilians working on Fort Monroe. ID cards will be checked at the door. No children under 18 will be allowed. For more information, contact John Tutson at 788-2783.

Adult softball and golf teams

The Fort Monroe sports office is seeking male and female players for its upcoming intramural softball and golf seasons. If you have a team or are interested in joining one, call John Tutson at 788-2783.

George Washington softball

Softball teams from the USS George Washington are competing in league play every Tuesday and Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m., at Colonial Field on Patch Road. The leagues will continue through May 2, followed by a Captain's Cup tournament in mid May.

Flag football players sought

The Fort Monroe flag football team — Showtime — is looking for players. They compete in local tournaments in Suffolk, Norfolk and Virginia Beach and away in tournaments in Washington, D.C., Atlanta and Orlando, Fla.

The season continues for much of the year. This is a self-supported traveling team. Those interested in trying out for a position should contact team coach, Thomas Scott, at 303-4397 or via e-mail: thomas.a.scott@us.army.mil.

The next tournament is in Maryland from April 30 to May 1.

YS operating hours

Youth Services will change its hours of operations starting Monday. They will be as follows:

School year open recreation
Monday through Thursday — 3 to 6 p.m.
Friday — 3 to 9 p.m.
Saturday — 3 to 9 p.m.
(On days when school is out, YS opens at noon.)

Summer Camp X-treme/open recreation
Monday through Wednesday — 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
(Camp meets from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and open rec meets from 1 to 6 p.m.)
Thursday — field trip (YS closed)
Friday — 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Also 6 to 8 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Community Center Pool)
Saturday — 3 to 9 p.m.

Open recreation times may be temporarily suspended to support special activities.

More SPORTS CLIPS, Page 15

CYS Summer Camp

Fort Monroe Youth Services will conclude its registration session for their 2005 summer camps today at 5:30 p.m. within the Community Activities Center. The summer camps are open to dependents of military and civilian employees. For further information about Camp Summerfun (1st through 5th grade), call 788-3595. For further information about Camp X-treme (6th through 8th grade), call 788-3957.

Scholarship golf tourney

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Hampton Roads Chapter, will host its annual scholarship golf tournament on May 3. The scholarship fund benefits local high school seniors.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. The tournament will be held at the Pines Golf Course on Fort Eustis. The play will be captain's choice, scramble format. The cost is $35 per person, which includes snacks, a large welcome packet, greens fees, cart, range balls, door prize eligibility, prizes to the top three finishing teams and a buffet meal.

Either teams or individuals may enter. Mulligans will be sold during registration and beverages can be purchased on the course throughout the tournament.

Sign up and pay by April 29 to guarantee a spot. Contact John Prosch at 788-3040 or john.c.prosch@us.army.mil to register. Registration forms must be faxed to Prosch at 788-4222.

Free NMFA summer camp

The National Military Family Association and Sears, Roebuck and Co. recently announced the sites for the 2005 "Operation Purple" Summer Camps. The camps provide unique experiences to more than 2,000 children whose parents are deployed with the U.S. Armed Forces.

The 22 Operation Purple Camps provide fun and memorable opportunities to learn skills for coping with deployment-related stress. They are funded through the Sears American Dream Campaign, a $100 million commitment to strengthen families, homes and communities.

Applications for the camps are available through May 15 on the NMFA Web site at www.nmfa.org. Sears, Roebuck's funding enables children to attend the camps at no charge.

The camps last from five to seven days for kids ages 8 to 18. Interested children are encouraged to apply for the camp located nearest their home. A list of camp dates, sites and other information is available on NMFA's web site.

Contact Michelle Joyner at (703) 931-6632 or joyner@nmfa.org for more information.

Charity golf classic

The 14th Annual Better Business Bureau Golf classic is set for May 5 at Eagle Haven Golf Course on Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek. Proceeds go to Community Mediation's youth violence prevention/peer mediation and family mediation programs.

Contact Amanda Burbage at 480-2777, ext. 204 or amandadsc@hamptonroads.com for more information.

Race for the cure

The 2005 Komen National Race for the Cure® — an event to raise money for breast cancer research — will commence June 7. Interested team captains must register by April 29 at 5 p.m.

Call (703) 848-8884 or e-mail info@nationalraceforthecure.org for more information.

Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

'Charity Idols'

Director of MWR Paul Heilman and USO CEO John Gentile become quasi 'little teapots' to increase donations for child abuse prevention at the Hampton Child Protection Team Celebrity Luncheon held at the Omni Hotel Tuesday.

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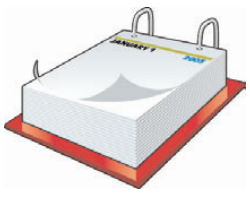
Moat Notes

Upcoming Spotlight Events

Clean Sweep Walk . . . . . April 19
Ethics Training . . . . . April 20
Volunteer Reception . . . . . April 20
Retiree Appreciation Day . . . . April 21
Post Run . . . . . April 26
Employee Town Hall . . . . . April 27

For more on these and other upcoming events, see calendar below or other stories and briefs in this issue.



April 15

Jazz social

The Tidewater Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen is hosting a Jazz Social at the Hampton History Museum today from 6 to 10 p.m.

Music will be performed by "The Good Life." There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres, a display about the Tuskegee Airmen, and an opportunity to meet and greet some of its legacy members.

The museum will be open throughout the evening to allow guests to visit other exhibits and its gift shop. Tickets are $20. For more information, or to purchase tickets by phone, call 225-2228 or 898-6993.

Ballet theater

With dazzling theatrics and awe-inspiring costumes, the St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre brings its 2005 production titled "In the Russian Season" to the American Theatre, Hampton, today at 8 p.m.

Hailed as "technical wizards" by "The Boston Globe," the St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre occupies a special place among the world's finest dance companies. Founded 25 years ago, it's the younger brother of the Kirov and Bolshoi ballets.

Tickets for the performance are $27.50 and $32.50, depending on seating location. Discounts are available for students, seniors and military. To make reservations by phone, call 722-2787.

Jazz concert

Take the sting out of tax day with a concert of cool jazz featuring modern master of the vibraphone, Joe Locke, and the John Toomey Trio today at 7:30 p.m., at the Williamsburg Library Theatre.

Before he was even out of high school, Locke had performed with such luminaries as Dizzy Gillespie, Pepper Adams and Mongo Santamaria. Since moving to New York more than 20 years ago, he went on to perform with such greats as Grover Washington, Jr., Rod Stewart, The Beastie Boys and Ron Carter, among others.

Tickets are $12 for adults, $10 for students with ID, and $6 for those under age 16. For more information, or to reserve seats by phone, call 259-4070.

April 16

Children's festival

Experience the sights, sounds and tastes of exotic places during the City of Hampton's International Children's Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday at Mill Point Park.

Representatives from more than 20 countries will showcase their respective heritages, creating a feast for your senses and a multicultural learning experience for children and adults alike.

Admission to the event is free. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Sponsors of the event include the Hampton Citizens' Unity Commission, Hampton Coalition for Youth, Hampton City Schools, WHRO-TV, Cox Communications, 2WD-FM, and Hampton Parks and Recreation. For more information, call 727-8311.

Casino night

Saint Mary Star of the Sea School, Hampton, will host its annual Casino Night celebration Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

Poker, blackjack, roulette and other games of chance will be the highlight of the evening. Other activities include silent auctions, a 50/50 raffle and door prizes. The admission cost of $15 includes food, drink and gaming chips.

The event will take place in the school's gymnasium. For more information, contact Linda Riggs at 827-8188.

Centuries of fun

Explore "Four Centuries of Fun" in just one day as the Hampton History Museum hosts a family-oriented festival showcasing games, activities and performances drawn from the peninsula area and beyond. The program runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday.

Magicians, puppeteers, storytellers, musicians and clowns will provide the entertainment during the event. Children and their parents can participate in crafts and games that highlight Native American, African and European pastimes of the past 400 years. This event is being held in conjunction with the City of Hampton's International Children's Festival at Mill Point Park.

The history museum is located at 120 Old Hampton Lane. Most of the activities during the event are free. Some games require a small fee. Food and beverages will also be available for purchase. For more information, call 727-1610.

Confederacy tour

Lee Hall Mansion, Newport News, is offering an in-depth exploration of famous landmarks of the confederacy during its Saturday van tour. Historian Michael Moore will lead the daylong excursion that begins at 9 a.m. and concludes around 5 p.m.

Guests are encouraged to wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a bag lunch. Advance reservations are required. The cost is $45. For more information, call 888-3371.

Children's theater

An original play titled "Living with the Land," will be presented by local actor Eric Price and the Portside Players from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, at Hoffler Creek Park, Portsmouth.

Written for children under 10, the production tells the story of a young Chesapean Indian who learns the importance of being a good steward of the land. The historical drama is set in the village of Skicoak, now known as Norfolk and Portsmouth.

Hoffler Creek foundation members can obtain two free passes each. Admission for non-members is $2.50 per child. Adults are free, although a donation would be appreciated. For directions and information, call 686-8684.

April 21

Western movies

Mosey on over to the Williamsburg Library Theatre each Thursday in April for its free western film series. All shows begin at 2 p.m. and reservations are not required.

Thursday's feature is "Destry Rides Again." This western comedy has James Stewart playing a gun-shy deputy who seeks the assistance of popular local saloon singer (Marlene Dietrich) to bring order to the lawless town of Bottleneck.

The April 28 show is "Open Range." Released in 2003, the movie focuses on two cowboys (Robert Duvall and Kevin Costner) who run into trouble with a powerful local rancher who is trying to fence in land that was previously used by everyone for open range grazing. The movie features some graphic gunfight scenes, and is rated R.

The films are part of the Williamsburg Regional Library's bimonthly film series. For further information, call 259-4050.

By the Book

Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

Angelita Hunter of the NERO Plans Division, left, and Sally Swan of the Post Library discuss available services during the Library Open House on Wednesday. This year's theme for libraries nationwide is "Something for Everyone at the Library."

April 22

Hoedown party

Kick off your weekend country-style during the Phoebus VFW Post 3219 "Hoedown Party" April 22 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tickets are $10 per person and can be purchased in advance or at the door. The VFW is located at 122 East Mellen Street. For more information, call 723-2667.

Owl walk

Take a break from your hectic schedule and enjoy a peaceful evening stroll during Beaverdam Park, Gloucester's Owl Walk, April 22 from 8 to 10 p.m.

A park naturalist will lead the expedition and focus on the lifestyle and distinctive calls of the nocturnal hunters. Participants should bring a flashlight and wear appropriate clothing for the one-mile hike.

The participation fee is $3 for adults and $2 for children under 10. It is not recommended for youth under age 5. Advance registration is required. For more information, call 693-2107.

TNCC Players

The Thomas Nelson Community College Players presents "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail," by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, April 22 through 24 at the Mary T. Christian Auditorium, Hampton campus. The Friday and Saturdays shows are at 8 p.m., and the Sunday show begins at 3 p.m.

The play is based on the life of Henry David Thoreau, and centers on an incident when the American author was arrested and spent a night in a Concord jail for refusing to pay his "poll tax." He later memorialized the incident in his famous essay on civil disobedience. The play also explores his relationship with Ralph Waldo Emerson and his time as a schoolteacher.

Tickets are $8, and will be sold at the door before each performance. For more information, call 825-2752.

April 23

Alpine Tower

From a foot off the ground to 50 feet in the air, the Alpine Tower at Grundland Creek Park, Hampton, features plenty of tough obstacles that will challenge your self-esteem and sense of adventure.

The tower and other park programs will be showcased during an open house, April 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participation is free. The park's paddling program at water's edge is also a popular offering. Instructors will show you the ropes and allow some to test their skills.

For more information, call 850-5134.

April 24

Gospel concert

Internationally known Gospel artist, Minister Earl Bynum, and his group As We Are will give a special performance at Bethel Manor Chapel, Hampton, on April 24 at 5 p.m.

For more than 16 years, Bynum and his group has toured the nation and traveled overseas to Denmark, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and other locales. Their CD "My Change Has Come," featuring the hit single "Open My Heart," is selling nationwide. Bynum is currently the minister of music at the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Virginia Beach.

The Bethel concert is free and open to the public. The event is sponsored by the Langley Air Force Base Gospel Service Choir. For more information, call 877-1874.

April 30

Ugly Duckling

The American Theatre, Hampton, presents a special performance of "The Ugly Duckling" April 30 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Theater IV acting company, Richmond, dresses up this timeless tale, by Hans Christian Anderson, with lively costumes and humorous sight gags.

While the play is geared toward small children, the entire family will find it fun and entertaining. Tickets are $6. To reserve seats by phone, call 722-2787.

Block Party

The City of Hampton continues its summertime Saturday Night Block Party Celebration from 6:30 to 11 p.m., April 30 along Queen's Way, downtown.

The event features rides, games, live music, food and beverages. Admission is free. For more information, call 727-1570.

Prairie Companion

America's foremost humorist and favorite storyteller, Garrison Keillor, returns to Chrysler Hall Theater, Norfolk, April 30 at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets are $65 per person. To reserve seats by phone, call 671-8100. Tickets are also available at the Virginia Arts Festival Box Office in MacArthur Center and the Scope Box Office.

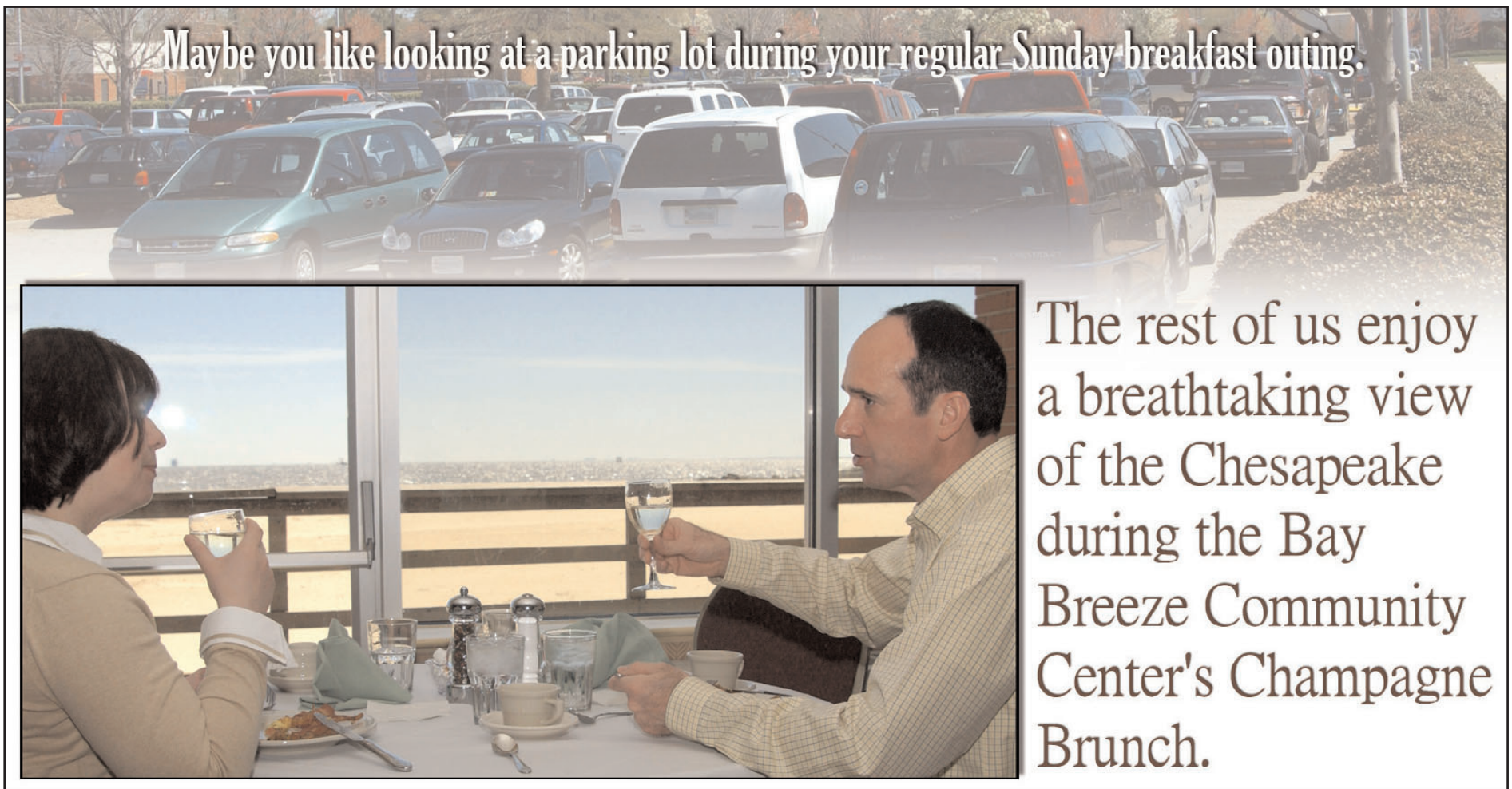
At The Movies

Showing at the Fort Eustis Theater

Friday, April 15
7 p.m. — Million Dollar Baby (PG-13)
Saturday, April 16
7 p.m. — Million Dollar Baby (PG-13)
Wednesday, April 20
7 p.m. — Diary of a Mad Black Woman (PG-13)
Thursday, April 21
7 p.m. — Be Cool (PG-13)
Friday, April 22
7 p.m. — The Ring 2 (PG-13)
Saturday, April 23
2 p.m. — Ice Princess (G)
7 p.m. — The Ring 2 (PG-13)
Wednesday, April 27
7 p.m. — Ice Princess (G)

*The Langley Air Force Base movie theater is closed for renovations.

Adults $2, children 6-12 years old $1.50 and children under 6 are free. If a child under 6 occupies a seat at a G-rated movie, admission is $1.50. Special movie showings are available. Contact John Low at LowJ@aafes.com or 766-1237 for details.



Join us every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The brunch is open to the public and its features include a waffle station, an omelet station and a wide range of desserts. Prices are $10.95 for adults and $5.95 for children ages 5-12 (under five free). Reservations are suggested, but not required. Call 788-2406.

U.S. ARMY MWR FOR ALL OF YOUR LIFE

NEWS CLIPS

Continued from Page 7

Military job fair

Members of all military services, including Reservists and National Guard, who will be leaving active duty in the near future, and military spouses, are invited to attend a job fair on Tuesday at the Chesapeake Conference Center, 900 Greenbrier Circle, Chesapeake from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Representatives of local, regional and national organizations will be there. Admission is free and there is no need to pre-register, just show up with several copies of your resume. For more information, contact Mary Hobson of RecruitMilitary.at.mary@recruitmilitary.com

Army OKs APFU wear

The Chief of Staff of the Army has authorized Army retirees to wear the physical fitness and improved physical fitness uniforms. Both are available at Army & Air Force Exchanges, MCSS locations and online at www.aafes.com.

Army officials recognize that throughout the year, retirees continue to show their support to an affiliation with the Army. "This authorization allowing retirees to wear the PFU or the IPFU is recognition of our retirees' commitment to continued fitness practices and membership within the Army's family," said MCSS Army Program Manager Maj. Rachel Danielson. "We are very pleased with this announcement and will continue to support our valued retiree customer base."

All personnel, including retirees, must follow the uniform wear policy prescribed in Army Regulation 670-1 Wear and Appearance of Army Uniform and Insignia.

Jewelry Catalog

The Spring/Summer 2005 Exchange Jewelry Catalog is now available. It features more than 30 pages of sparkling diamonds, brightly colored gemstones and multicolored cultured freshwater pearls, as well as trendy titanium, religious, patriotic and personalized pieces. A vast assortment of well-known, quality watches are also available in casual, dressy, contemporary and chic designer looks.

The Spring/Summer 2005 Jewelry Catalog is available for free at main stores and online at www.aafes.com, usmc-mccs.org, navy-nex.com or cg-exchange.com.

NSU courses

The Norfolk State University Career Services Office now offers a course designed to help enhance learning potential, get a permanent job, and learn resume, interview presentation and leadership skills. The title of the course is Career and Leadership Development: CED-250-01. It will benefit college students, civilian workers and military personnel ready to transition into the civilian workforce.

CED-250-01 is one-credit hour course for all students, regardless of academic discipline or major area of study. The course encompasses a semester of resume writing, interview techniques, goal setting, overcoming fear, presentation skills and job search strategies for internship, co-op and permanent placement.

CED-250-01 meets one hour per week on Mondays from 3 to 4 p.m. For more information, call retired Army Col. Benjamin F. Ellis, director of career services at 823-8462; or Gerald Tyler, coordinator of military programs, NSU at Dam Neck at 492-6145 or NSU at the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center at 368-4156.

USO raffles 'Fat Boy'

The USO of Hampton Roads, in partnership with the 2005 Virginia Beach Bike Classic, is selling raffle tickets to win a 2005 Harley Davidson Fat Boy. All proceeds will go to the USO of Hampton Roads.

Only 2,000 tickets will be sold at $20 each with a drawing to be held May 1. Purchase tickets at any USO center.

For more information, call 788-4984 or log on to www.usohr.com.

Beach Bike Classic

Three evenings of "must see" concerts are among the offerings of the 2005 Virginia Beach Bike Classic April 29 through May 1. The event is sponsored by the USO of Hampton Roads.

The lineup includes the Warren Brothers (April 29), Josh Gracin (April 30) and Travis Tritt (May 1).

Single ticket prices range from $10 to $20 in advance. To purchase tickets by phone, call Ticketmaster at 671-8100, or Departure Bike Works at (804) 231-0244. Tickets can also be purchased at Bayside Harley-Davidson, Iron Core, Chix Custom Cycles, Birdneck Cycles and Brickhouse Cycles.

Proceeds benefit the USO of Hampton Roads. For more information, visit the event Web site at www.vabeachbikeclassic.com.

3X8
AD

3X7
AD

Around the Army This Week

Army get season's first top ten finish at Martinsville

The Army 01 Chevrolet rounds turn two at Martinsville, Va., during Sunday's Advance Auto Parts 500. Driver Joe Nemecheck finished in 10th position. It was the team's first top 10 finish of the 2005 NEXTEL Cup Season, and a career best for Nemecheck at Martinsville.

Photo by Maj. William Thurmond

BY MAJ. WILLIAM THURMOND
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

MARTINSVILLE, Va. – Soldiers are quite familiar with the Warrior ethos that says, "I will never quit."

In Martinsville Sunday, the Army NASCAR team demonstrated that they, too, know how to battle through adversity and get the job done.

While Joe Nemechek finished Sunday's Advance Auto Parts 500 in the 10th position, the same spot where he started the race 263 miles earlier, it could have been a lot worse. All afternoon, mechanical and tire problems conspired to disappoint the team for the third weekend in a row.

The race victory belonged to Jeff Gordon, who posted his second win for the year. Following Gordon was Kasey Kahne, who for the fifth time finished second in NEXTEL Cup competition. Rounding out the top five were Mark Martin, Ryan Newman and Rusty Wallace.

"We ground our way to a top ten today," said Nemechek. "The Army car was strong early and then it got really loose and we went the rear of the field. Once we put on four new tires the car started to haul. We were on a move and then the right front tire went down and I got into the wall. That was another setback that we had to overcome."

"But we stayed patient. The guys did a great job in the pits and we managed to avoid any big trouble."

A caution at lap 493 led to a quick decision to pit for four fresh tires, a move that the team hoped would give them an advantage in the closing laps.

"We have fresh meat now, boys," Nemechek said over the team's radio. "We'll kick some butt right here."

With three laps to go, the Army car passed both Jason Leffler and Matt Kenseth, and was still moving to the front when the checkered flag fell.

Sunday's result was good news for team and a personal victory for Nemechek.

It was the team's first top 10 finish of the 2005 NEXTEL Cup season. And it was Nemechek's career best on the famed Martinsville short track, where in his previous 21 races his best finish was 14th place.

"It was our best finish of the year, but not our best race of the year," said Ryan Pemberton, the Army Chevrolet's crew chief. "We raced really hard. We battled through a lot of stuff, and it's good fun battling through all that. The team worked real well together. Everybody on the Army team had a big part on the whole weekend."

4 X 10 AD

2 X 3 AD

Around the Army This Week

President Bush rallies troops at Fort Hood

BY SPC. MATTHEW CHLOSTA
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Fort Hood, Texas — The president of the United States addressed the largest military crowd of his presidency Tuesday on Kenneth W. Cooper Field here.

Bush was given a rock-star welcome from an estimated 35,000 Soldiers and their families.

Just before the crack of dawn, the entire 4th Infantry Division marched from its headquarters to the field in preparation for the visit.

At 10:15 a.m., Bush, dressed in a grey and black Army Physical Training jacket stitched with "Commander in Chief" and emblazoned with a III Corps Caldron patch, made his way to the podium on a runway threaded through the throng.

The Soldiers and families that flanked both sides of the walkway clapped, hooted and hollered as Bush reached out into the crowd, smacking "high-fives."

Lt. Gen Thomas Metz, commanding general, III Corps and Fort Hood, introduced the president.

"Thank you for a job well done," Bush began.

"Others are preparing to head out (to Iraq) this fall; some for a second tour of duty," Bush continued. "Whether you're coming or going, you're making an enormous difference for the security of our nation and for the peace of the world. I want to thank you for defending your fellow citizens. I want to thank you for extending liberty to millions and I want to thank you for making America proud.

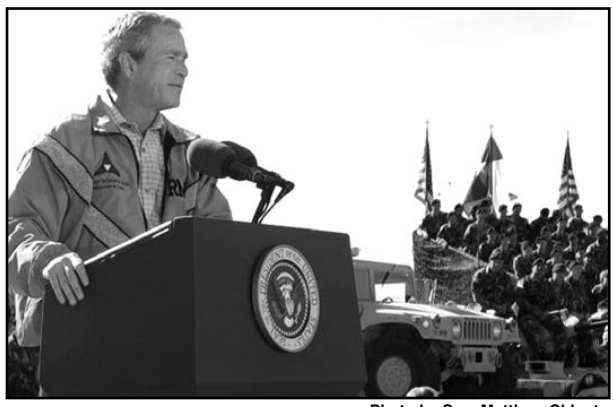


Photo by Spc. Matthew Chlosta

President George W. Bush speaks to Soldiers and their families Tuesday at Fort Hood, Texas.

"This weekend we marked the two-year anniversary of the liberation of Baghdad," Bush said. "The terrorists have made Iraq a central front in the war on terror. Because of your service, because of your sacrifice, we are defeating them over there where they live, so we do not have to face them where we live.

"The United States is determined to help the Iraqis succeed," Bush said. "Today, more than 150,000 Iraqi security forces have been trained and equipped. And for the first time, the Iraqi Army, police and other security forces now outnumber U.S. forces in Iraq."

During his 18-minute speech, Bush also highlighted the achievements of many Fort Hood units.

He thanked "The Ivy Division (4th Inf. Div.)," for its work in capturing Saddam Hussein during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"When Ironhorse Soldiers left for Iraq, Saddam Hussein was a brutal dictator sitting in a palace ... by the time they came home he was sitting in a prison cell," Bush said.

Bush also commended "The First Team (1st Cav. Div.)," for its ferocious fighting in the battles of Najaf and Fallujah, Iraq.

"When it came time to drive the terrorists and insurgents from Fallujah," Bush said, "Soldiers of the First Cavalry Division spearheaded the assault. The 'First Team,' was first in Fallujah."

Bush also recognized the contributions of military families in the Global War on Terror.

"I especially want to thank the military families here today," Bush said. "I want to thank you for your sacrifices on the War on Terror. It isn't easy being the one left behind when a loved one goes to war. Americans are grateful for your sacrifice and your service and so is your commander in chief."

After Bush finished his speech he plunged into the crowd to shake hands with Soldiers and he accompanied them to the Wagon Wheel Dining Facility for lunch.

"We talked a little bit about the great success of the elections, about the new government and how will be looking to structuring the forces in the future," Metz told members of the media later in the day.

He added that the president told him there will be good opportunities for units to come home early based on Iraqi successes in 2006.

6X7
AD

No kangaroos or macaws, no tarantulas or bats ...

Vet clinic just treats post dogs and cats

Four-month old chocolate lab Hunter is steadied by owner Tech. Sgt. Jason Pletcher while veterinarian Kathleen Novak examines his back on April 5.

Wide-eyed cats peek through vertical vents in their beige carriers and leashed doggies gaze curiously at other canines also awaiting their turn for a checkup at the Langley Air Force Base Veterinary Clinic.

The waiting room is occupied by a lot more fuzzy, four-legged Fort Monroe residents of the dog and cat persuasion these days. They were added to Langley's client list when the veterinary clinic here closed in December.

"Fort Monroe had a pretty big following," said Langley clinic manager Jane Isabelle. Her facility picked up a fair share of Monroe's business. She estimated that her patient database increased by roughly 25 percent. She expects it to increase even further during their "busy time" but anticipates that even doubling the case load during the summer will be transparent to the customers because a staff increase should handle the change.

"We're here to help them take care of their animals," the owner of at least five pets said and added that she welcomes more patients.

Adapting to a different clinic has been relatively easy for post pets and their people, partly due to a familiar face behind the scenes. Dr. Kathleen Novak provided veterinarian care at the Monroe clinic for about two years while also attending the furry patients at Langley.

Novak and clinic staffers provide basic services like well-puppy/kitten checkups, vaccinations and flea and heartworm prevention. They also place identification microchips beneath canine's and feline's skin for a nominal fee.

Microchips became mandatory for Fort Monroe resident animals in July 2002, according to Fort Monroe regulation 210-2.

"We enforce all policies and regulations at Fort Monroe," Spc. Richael Evans of the 233rd MP Detachment wrote in an April 11 e-mail. She went on to write that the MP desk has a scanner that is used to check pets for chips. If none is detected, the animal is taken to Fort Eustis and euthanized, if not claimed.

But, it doesn't have to be that way.

"Collars can be lost and tags can be lost and tattoos ... well, my corgi has a tattoo on the inside of one of his hind legs, but if someone didn't know it was there, and he's such a wiggle-butt, you'd never see it," Isabelle said.

"Microchips are put right in the scruff of the neck so even for not-so-nice (or rambunctious) animals, one person can hold it or just scan the chip from a distance," she said.

The services provided at the Langley clinic, like microchipping, are cheaper than the same services in the civilian community. An owner should realize a savings of about $50 per pet per year by using the clinic, according to Isabelle.

She re-emphasized that they only offer the basics in animal health care and that pet owners need to become acquainted with a civilian veterinarian.

"I tell people they need to have a civilian vet for those things we can't do – surgeries, grooming, boarding and emergencies," Isabelle said. "When it's an emergency, you're (likely to be more) worried about your 'baby' than (about choosing the right provider).

"So we tell customers to find an off-post vet before you need one. Friends, coworkers and neighbors are good sources for referrals. Ask in advance, like you would do for your kids," Isabelle said.

The Langley facility is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for sales. The doctor is in Tuesday through Thursday by appointment. Appointments can be made by calling 764-5678. The clinic is located at 37 Magnolia Street on the Air Force base.

Photo top right: German Shepard puppy Beethoven curiously checks out the Langley waiting room. Photo bottom right: Braveheart stands guard as owner Eugenia Evans completes paperwork. Evans, a Coast Guard spouse, said she appreciates that the clinic is very well maintained.

Story and photos by Patricia Radcliffe