

Fort Hood grieves losses

BY HEATHER GRAHAM-ASHLEY
Sentinel News Editor

A shooting incident April 2 claimed the lives of four Fort Hood Soldiers, including the

alleged gunman, and injured another 16.

As the investigation into the shooting continues, III Corps and Fort Hood Commanding General Lt. Gen. Mark Milley said

his focus is on those killed and wounded and their Families.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to each of those injured and their Families and the killed and their Families,” Milley said a few

hours after the shooting. “Our focus now is to focus on the Families of the injured and focus on the Families of the killed, (and) ensure that they have the best care and counseling available.”

To assist with the healing for the Fort Hood community at-large, a behavioral health hotline has been established and certain

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FORT HOOD SENTINEL

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Remembering our fallen

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OUTREACH ASSISTANCE

Behavioral Health Hotline

A behavioral health hotline has been established for anyone who has been affected by the April 2 shooting incident at Fort Hood and who requires assistance locating behavioral health assistance at Fort Hood or in the surrounding communities.

The newly established hotline number, 535-2748.

For assistance in the aftermath of the April 2 shooting, Soldiers and Family members can call the Family Assistance Center Hotline at 288-7570 or (866) 836-2751 for updates.

Additionally, urgent and routine behavioral health resources that are normally only available for TRICARE beneficiaries, are now also being made available to all Army civilians and contractors who are associated with the shooting incident. For assistance, proceed to the Resilience and Restoration Triage Center.

For more information on behavioral health, visit the website at <http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil/>

Chaplain Assistance

The Chaplains have also setup family counseling centers on and off post. Counseling is available beginning at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Training Center at the Spirit of Fort Hood Chapel on 31st Street and Tank Destroyer Blvd. The 13th ESC Chapel on 67th St. will be open all night for those who want to pray.

For immediate assistance, call (254) 287-CHAP.

Military OneSource

Confidential services, including non-medical counseling and specialty consultations, are available through Military OneSource. Eligible individuals may receive confidential services at no cost.

For more information, visit the Military OneSource website at <http://www.militaryonesource.com> or by calling the Military OneSource Crisis Intervention Line at (800) 342-9647.

Suicide Prevention Office

The Army Suicide Prevention Office is available to help improve readiness through the development and enhancement of the Army Suicide Prevention Program policies designed to minimize suicide behavior; thereby preserving mission effectiveness through individual readiness for Soldiers, their Families and Department of the Army civilians.

For more information, visit <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide/>.

The Army Suicide Prevention Office is not a crisis center and does not provide counseling services. If you are feeling distressed or hopeless, or, if you are concerned about someone who may be suicidal, please contact Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

Army Strong Bonds program

Strong Bonds is a unit-based, chaplain-led program which assists commanders in building individual resiliency by strengthening the Army Family. The core mission of the Strong Bonds program is to increase individual Soldier and Family member readiness through relationship education and skills training.

Strong Bonds is conducted in an off-site retreat format in order to maximize the training effect. The retreat or “get away” provides a fun, safe, and secure environment in which to address the impact of relocations, deployments, and military lifestyle stressors.

For more information on Strong Bonds, visit <http://www.strongbonds.org>.

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Photos by Daniel Cernero, Sentinel Staff

President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama pay their respects in front of the Fallen Soldier Memorials for the three Fort Hood Soldiers – Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ferguson, 49th Trans. Bn., 13th SC(E); Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazaney-

Rodriguez, 21st CSH, 1st Med. Bde.; and Sgt. Timothy Owens, 154th Trans. Co., 49th Trans. Bn., 13th SC(E) – killed in the April 2 shooting during a memorial ceremony Wednesday at III Corps Headquarters.

Hood finds strength as lives honored

BY HEATHER GRAHAM-ASHLEY
Sentinel News Editor

Faced with another tragedy, the Fort Hood community again showed its strength as Soldiers and Families joined the nation Wednesday in mourning and honoring the lives lost April 2.

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ferguson, Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazaney-Rodriguez and Sgt. Timothy Owens were killed in last week’s on-post shooting.

The three were remembered and honored during a memorial ceremony attended by President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama, Army Secretary John McHugh, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno and other national and state dignitaries and leaders.

The president spoke about love – love in the midst of joy and sorrow, and love that inspires Soldiers to serve.

“It was love, tested by tragedy, that brings us together again,” Obama said, referencing a similar

memorial service held Nov. 10, 2009, following the shooting at the Soldier Readiness Processing Center on Fort Hood that killed 13.

Love, the president said, led Ferguson, Lazaney-Rodriguez and Owens to serve.

“It was love for country that inspired these three Americans,” Obama said, noting that the three had nine deployments among them. “They lived those shining values – loyalty, duty (and) honor that keep us strong and free.”

With their different backgrounds and with varied interests, their service bound the Soldiers together, III Corps and Fort Hood Commanding General Lt. Gen. Mark Milley said.

“They were united by a single desire,” Milley said, “the desire to serve their country.”

Lazaney-Rodriguez came from a close-knit family in Aquadillo, Puerto Rico. He enlisted in the Army at 18 and served three deployments in his 19 years of service.

Lazaney-Rodriguez was months away from retirement when he was killed April 2, Milley said.



President Barack Obama delivers his remarks during the memorial ceremony honoring the lives of the three fallen Soldiers.

“Carlos, said a friend, was the ‘epitome of what you would want a leader to be in the Army,’” Obama said.

Owens loved baseball, football, wrestling and taekwondo. He was a black belt in taekwondo and taught martial arts before joining the Army in 2004. Owens arrived at Fort

Hood in 2011 and had served one deployment in 2005.

He often counseled other Soldiers.

“He was always the person you could go to talk to,” Obama said, relaying the words of one of Owens’ friends.

Ferguson, a Bronze Star medal recipient, was an “outstanding” high school athlete who excelled at football, baseball and basketball, and ran track. He deployed to Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

His fiancée said that being in the Army was his life, Obama said.

They all lived with and knew the inherent dangers that come with being Soldiers, McHugh said.

“These men were not just Soldiers,” McHugh said. “They were comrades. They were friends. They were leaders. ... They will rightly be long remembered, mourned and forever celebrated.”

Acts of love were the last actions of two of the fallen.

“It was love for their comrades, for all of you, that defined their last moments,” Obama said, noting that Owens, ever the counselor, was killed while walking toward the shooter and trying to calm him down.

Ferguson died a hero April 2.

“He was shot as he held a door closed to protect a roomful of other Soldiers,” Milley said. “He put



Family members and friends of the victims are filled with emotion during the playing of Taps during the memorial ceremony for Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ferguson, Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazaney-Rodriguez and Sgt. Timothy Owens.

See **Honor**, A7

Local community pulls together in spite of tragedy

BY SGT. CHRISTOPHER CALVERT
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

As Fort Hood comes together to grieve as a Family in the aftermath of the April 2 tragedy, individuals and organizations within the local community have pulled together to help those in their time of need.

"Something as tragic as this incident brings out the best of the people in the local community," Laura Read said. "People want to show their compassion and help out in any way possible."

Read, the senior station manager of the Fort Hood American Red Cross chapter, has witnessed an outpouring of support as residents and Soldiers within the area have called around the clock in efforts to help those affected by the events of April 2.

"We've relied heavily on the local (American Red Cross) chapter, and the community has been there for it," she said. "The support has been amazing. The camaraderie and the work of all entities helping out within the emergency operation center have been stellar."

"We're all here to take care of Soldiers and their Families," she added. "Even when we're dog tired, we push through and don't give up."

Within a week, hundreds of meals and thousands of snacks and bottles of water have been provided by the local chapter and received by those in need.

From the moment the incident happened, help was already on its way, she said.

"The first thing I was told Wednesday night is that we needed 200 meals for witnesses," she said. "The Red Cross was there to meet their needs without any hesitation."

Besides supplying staple foods and water, the Red Cross has also housed Families of victims at no expense to them and provided resources to Families seeking information about the welfare of their loved ones.

"We've fielded a lot of questions



A forklift unloads pallets of water from an American Red Cross disaster services truck parked at III Corps Headquarters Monday at Fort Hood. Within a week of the

tragedy here, hundreds of meals and thousands of snacks and bottles of water have been provided by the local ARC chapter and received by those in need.

from concerned Family members," she said. "They all want to know the same thing, 'Is my son or daughter OK?' We've opened up the Red Cross website, www.safeandwell.org, to ensure Family members that their Soldiers are safe and taken care of. We want Families to know we're looking out for their troops."

Stacye Downing, the garrison gift and donations coordinator with Fort Hood's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said she's also witnessed an outpouring of citizens around post who have reached out to help in any way possible.

"We've had local restaurants calling around the clock to help by donating food," Downing said.

"We've also had numerous Soldiers ask about raising funds to help. Everyone wants to do their part to assist the healing process."

As Soldiers, Families and friends of Fort Hood continue to mend, Downing said the local community seems stronger now than before.

"The level of compassion and caring that has come forth as a result from this incident testifies to the importance of the military and the lives of our fellow citizens," she said. "This community is resilient, and it's shown it will always be there for those who need its help."

For more ways to help, visit the local American Red Cross' Heart of Texas chapter at www.redcross.org/tx/waco or call 523-4985.

Photos by Sgt. Christopher Calvert, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs



An American Red Cross disaster services truck parks outside III Corps Headquarters Monday at Fort Hood in preparation to deliver pallets of water to those in need.



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Photos by Erin Rogers, Sentinel Staff

The 13th ESC Chapel is one of two chapels open 24/7 for the counseling service following the April 2 shooting on Fort Hood. It is located across the street from 13th SC(E) Headquarters on Support Avenue.

Chaplain provide support, care during crisis, all times

BY ERIN ROGERS
Sentinel Staff

The Chaplain Corps of the United States Army has a simple mission and single goal, but that mission and goal comes with a complex variety of circumstances. The mission and goal: to take care of Soldiers and their Families, whatever it takes.

While this is a top priority for every military occupational specialty in the Army, the chaplains take on a bigger part by being everything from a counselor to a spiritual teacher, in helping Soldiers and Families morally and spiritually – being approachable, regardless of rank, for Families and Soldiers to feel comfortable enough coming to them with any issue or problem they may be having.

During a crisis, chaplains play a large role that may go unnoticed by some, but to others, their care, approachability and availability is invaluable.

“If you want to know what we do, the bottom line is the Chaplains Creed,” said Chap. (Col.) Bill Phillips, Fort Hood Garrison chaplain. “Nurture the living, care for the wounded, and honor the fallen; that’s our creed and that’s what we do.”

On April 2 at around 4 p.m., Fort Hood as a community began to feel the stress and anxiety happening as a shooting unfolded on the installation. Even while the initial chaos was still happening, the chaplains were already carrying out their plan to provide support.

Phillips said they have a plan in place for emergencies, which they alter to fit to the emergency happening at the time – in this case, a shooter.

“When something like this happens, we put a chaplain in the main EOC (emergency operating center), and then we also run our own chaplain EOC here (Spirit of Fort Hood Chapel) as well, because the guys in the actual EOC are going to be very overwhelmed with everything that’s going on there,” Phillips said.

“We have a time sequence for when things like this happen ... garrison and III Corps run the EOC, and they’re very busy and answering to (III Corps and Fort Hood Commanding General Lt.) Gen. (Mark) Milley and the III Corps staff, so we have our own EOC to help out on our end as much as possible,” said Chap. (Lt. Col.) Grant Johnson, deputy garrison chaplain for operations.

“We have this wonderful homogeneity of great people and resources to show up where we’re needed,” Johnson continued. “We coordinate for other Administered Resources through the III Corps Chaplains Office and across post so that we become one huge (group of) 106 chaplains, plus chaplains assistants and others – reservists and others.

We have a great capability to surge and do things across the whole post and outside of the post, we’re ready-to-go.”

Johnson was actually off post when the shooting took place and the installation went under Phantom Seal, the postwide lockdown. After checking in with his team, it was determined that he’d go straight to Scott & White in Temple to be with the Families and victims coming in from Fort Hood. He arrived around 5 p.m., very shortly after the incident, and stayed until the next day – going into a 24-hour operation to help the Families and the Soldiers that were medically evacuated to Scott & White.

“We had a role everywhere,” Johnson said. “From where the scene was, to gyms, to off-post hospitals, all the way to the chapels, there were chaplains there to help. Whatever it took to take care of people.”

Another chaplain on lockdown at the Spirit of Fort Hood Chapel April 2 was Chap. (Maj.) David Montgomery, resource manager chaplain. Montgomery was the on-call chaplain for the Chaplain Crisis Hotline, something that runs at all times. Montgomery said his phone was ringing off the hook from everyone on and off post who was worried.

“People just wanted to know their Family members were alright,” Montgomery said. “Some of the calls were very short, and some of them you have to take more time

to calm them down and help them find out where they can get the info they’re wanting. But that’s what we’re here for.”

Phillips said their emergency plan, overall, is simple, “We identify where people are, and then have them tell us where the needs are; then we surge the people there, doing what needs to be done to help. We take care of our Soldiers and Families, wherever they are.

“So we got the call (April 2) that they needed someone at Greywolf (Physical Fitness Center) because there were witnesses there at the time, and people being processed,” he continued. “We immediately sent David over there.”

Montgomery said the installation was still locked down when he went to Greywolf Gym.

“There were a lot of folks over there,” Montgomery said. “I started mingling with the people there, just making sure they were okay, to have a ministry presence.”

“Part of the other thing in the plan that’s important is patience. The first thing is you don’t run to the sound of the guns. It would be a normal thing for chaplains to swamp the hospital and swamp the incident site, but then you’re just in the way,” Phillips said. “So what we do is keep contact with everyone and send chaplains out as we need to. People went to Greywolf (Gym), Keishnick (Physical Fitness Center), and as that was going on, the decision was made to open up the 13th ESC Chapel and the

“Nurture the living,
care for the wounded,
and honor the fallen.”

— Chaplains Creed



The Spirit of Fort Hood Chapel, located on Tank Destroyer, is holding counselings beginning at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Training Center throughout the week. Chaplains are also always available through the crisis hotline at 287-CHAP.



The Spiritual Fitness Center is open 24/7 for counseling services.

Family Assistance Center, 24/7. It all happened rapidly.”

Phillips, along with his team, in the middle of the chaos of the lockdown happening on post, decided quickly to open up a 24-hour counseling service for anyone who needed it – and it opened before midnight on the night of the shooting.

“This is important; it’s part of the mission of helping Families and Soldiers at all times,” Johnson said. “Even the most senior level on post, as soon as this happened, the first words out of his mouth were, ‘Where are my chaplains?’”

At the Spiritual Fitness Center and at the 13th ESC Chapel, Soldiers and Family members can call the Family Assistance Center hotline at 288-7570, (866) 836-2751 or visit at any time, as there are chaplains available 24/7 for assistance at both chapels.

Counseling is also available beginning at 9 a.m. in the Family Life Training Center at the Spirit of Fort Hood Chapel, and for immediate assistance, the crisis hotline is always open at 287-CHAP.

“There are (nearly) 200 extra caregivers that have surged to help

Fort Hood during this crisis, from medical people and others,” Johnson said.

Phillips said where the emphasis has been for people needing help is at the 13th ESC Chapel. They’ve put a team of non-13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) chaplains – people who normally don’t run that chapel – working over there 24 hours a day so that the people who are in the 13th aren’t tied up.

“Those chaplains have no responsibilities at all other than taking care of their people,” Phillips said. “That’s one of the surges we’ve done.”

While the Fort Hood chaplains have stepped up immensely to help out in any way they can for the community in this time of crisis following the shooting April 2, their mission remains the same all the time: to be a calm voice in the midst of chaos.

“We don’t add to the fear, exasperation, anxiety or apprehension of the people who call us; we help them get through bad times,” Johnson said. “It’s a deliberate thing we do.”

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Stanley Allen, deputy garrison chaplain community pastor, shed light on the value of chaplains to the community in times of crisis and in times of peace.

“As a chaplain, I’ve been deployed three times. I’ve seen a lot of chaos, I see death, I see them die, and trying to provide a moment of peace, support, care, ministry, is why we’re here,” he said. “To provide God’s grace, that’s the important thing for me. If it were not for being able to provide grace, then being a chaplain does not make sense.

“If we cannot provide God’s grace, it becomes a job instead of a ministry,” he concluded. “That’s why I love what I do.”

All four chaplains agreed that because Fort Hood is such a large installation, working through a chaotic event such as April 2’s incident, can be complex, but it becomes simple when sticking to the goal of taking care of Soldiers and their Families, whatever it takes.

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Phantom 6 Sends

Remembering the fallen Milley: 'No words can fill the void'

BY LT. GEN. MARK MILLEY

III Corps and Fort Hood Commanding General

On April 2, the entire Fort Hood and Central Texas community was devastated by the loss of Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Michael Ferguson, Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazaney-Rodriguez, and Sgt. Timothy Wayne Owens. To their bereaved Families and friends – we want you to know that our hearts and prayers go out to each and every one of you in this time of sorrow. Although no words can fill the void left by their passing, please know that we mourn with you, and that we will never forget these Soldiers, who answered their nation's call and made the ultimate sacrifice.



To the Soldiers, civilians and extended Family of the Fort Hood and Central Texas community – all of your efforts to care for the victims and their Families over the past week have once again demonstrated what a special place Central Texas really is. In particular, we want to extend a special thanks to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, and to Scott and White Hospital in Temple, for the tremendous support you have provided to the Fort Hood Team.

Members of the III Corps and Fort Hood community have made tremendous sacrifices during the past 13 years: in Iraq, Afghanistan and – tragically – here at home. These terrible losses have left scars that do not fade, but they have also brought out the best in our community. Again and again, the Soldiers, Families and civilians have faced tragedy with solemn fortitude and a determination to carry on. Yesterday, we came together with our nation's leaders to mourn and to honor the Soldiers we lost. In the weeks



Photo by Daniel Cernero, Sentinel Staff

Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, III Corps and Fort Hood commander, speaks Wednesday during the memorial service for the three Soldiers that died during the April 2 shootings at Fort Hood.

and months ahead, we will remain united in our unwavering support for the wounded and for the Families of the fallen.

Our top priority now is to care for the survivors and to make sure that our community is safe. We encourage everyone who has been affected by the events of April 2 to take advantage of Fort Hood's outstanding health and wellness resources. We have brought in additional behavioral health professionals to accommodate everyone who may need assistance. And, as always, take care of yourselves, look out for each other,

and remember that asking for help is a sign of strength.

At the same time, we are also reviewing all policies and procedures that affect the security of Fort Hood. The Army has initiated an investigation that will identify the factors that contributed to this tragedy and help us ensure that nothing like this ever happens again.

As Soldiers, we will carry on, as a team and as a Family. We will continue to get the mission done. But, even as we look forward to the future, we will never forget the fallen.

Phantom 9 Sends

'You are the embodiment of the warrior ethos'

BY COMMAND SGT. MAJ. SCOTT SCHROEDER

III Corps and Fort Hood Command Sergeant Major

The tragedy last week has struck each and every one of us. Our hearts and prayers go out to the Families of those directly impacted. We will never forget.

To our Soldiers, you are the embodiment of the Warrior Ethos. Despite the incredible trauma we have suffered, we will not be defined by this event. We will be defined by how we respond. We will respond to this with commitment to the Families of the fallen and care to all victims, the character as displayed by the many heroic acts of placing others needs and safety above our own, and the competence to ensure we act to create an environment in which this doesn't happen again. We will do this with the same intensity and mission focus the Army, Fort Hood, and the surrounding communities are known for.

We cannot dwell in the sadness that has been surrounding us. We must return to our routines and, more importantly, our missions. Many of



Photo by Daniel Cernero, Sentinel Staff

Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Schroeder, III Corps and Fort Hood command sergeant major, and his wife Marla Schroeder pay their respects Wednesday at the Soldiers' Crosses of the three Soldiers that died during the April 2 shootings at Fort Hood.

our Fort Hood units have deployments in the near future. They must be prepared before they deploy to ensure the safety of our formations and the success of the mission.

We should never feel alone in pain or loss. Asking others for help is a sign of incredible inner strength – not a sign of weakness – as is the

courage to intervene to assist others who show signs of needing help. There are many resources available to assist us at Fort Hood and in the local community.

I would like to thank you, and your Families for what you do every day for our troopers, Fort Hood, our Army and the Nation.

Garrison Commander's Corner

Elledge: 'We offer our thoughts and prayers'

BY COL. MATTHEW ELLEDGE

Fort Hood Garrison Commander

The loss of four Soldiers is never a good day for any unit or installation. That one Soldier took the lives of three other Soldiers only compounds the sorrow we feel as a community. On behalf of the entire garrison, we offer our thoughts and prayers to those who lost loved ones.

As we sift through the event to attempt to understand what prompted this tragic incident, there are other factors we need to consider. The events of April 2 showed just how resilient the Fort Hood community is and how much we have learned from the shootings on Nov. 5, 2009.

First of all, the emergency response was almost immediate. Police were on the scene in 4 minutes following the first 911 call. The Installation Operations Center activated our response plan



and Big Voice announcements to shelter-in-place were broadcast, just as we have rehearsed numerous times. Additional law enforcement and emergency medical teams throughout the local community converged on the crime scene, as installation-wide protective measures were initiated. Fort Hood was "locked down" in order to insure the safety of the general population and facilitate first responder efforts. When the lockdown was lifted at 8:40 p.m., the lessons learned from 2009 and all that we have practiced since that event helped us work through the first few hours of this tragedy.

Second, the tragic act of one individual does not mean that all that we have done in Ready and Resilient training, and emergency response is in-vain or wasted effort. We need to continue our efforts in training our Soldiers and Families to be more ready and our military to take on the challenges of being in the military because it's the right thing to do for our Soldiers.

Third, despite the two shooting events on Fort Hood in the past five years, our installation is still a safer place to live and work than many civilian

communities. The discipline of Soldiers and their Family members contributes to our collective security. To continue being successful, we all need to be aware of our environment and report if you see or hear anything that doesn't seem quite right.

Remember that our emergency response training worked and we continue to make it better. As we take time to remember those who were wounded and those who fell, please also remember our first responders who, without any reservation for their own lives, rushed to the incident site and prevented further loss of life.

My personal thanks to the many individuals, units, and federal, state and local agencies, who responded on scene, helped to clear the area, provided immediate first-aid and post evacuation care and assistance to the victims. These prompt, professional acts contained the event and saved further loss of life. Further thanks to the many local businesses and volunteers who supported the installation response team. Collectively, they remind us that through triumph and tragedy, Fort Hood remains the Great Place.

Fort Hood medical teams spring into action, save lives amid tragedy

BY SGT. KEN SCAR
7th MPAD

Evil reared its ugly head on Fort Hood again April 2, and once again the everyday heroes of the Great Place rose up to meet it head-on. At the tip of that spear, as always, were the emergency responders who charged into the disorder and confusion to save lives.

Dawn O'Connell, the emergency room triage and charge nurse at the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, said she heard the mass casualty alarms go off throughout the hospital and thought it was a drill, until the casualties started coming in.

"We practice for incidents like this all the time," she said. "I said, 'not today, not today.'"

She knew it was not an exercise when a group of Fort Hood emergency medical technicians burst into the emergency room ahead of the first wave of casualties.

"Within one minute, a car came in and dropped the first victim off. We had maybe three minutes to get ready for the rest ... and we were ready."

With three killed and more than 10 wounded from the gunshots, the injured were coming in one after the other, and the staff of CRDAMC was ready for them.

Meanwhile, Fort Hood Emergency Medical Services teams were driving ambulances right into the middle of a developing active shooter situation to rescue the wounded.

For several hours, it was unknown if the shooter was still at large, or if there was more than

one.

Frederick Reed, the Fort Hood Emergency Medical Services chief, said that six ambulances rushed to the scene carrying teams of two or three medical technicians, every one of them a veteran of the Nov. 5, 2005, shootings that left 13 dead and 32 wounded.

"The lessons learned from (2009) absolutely helped the response to this incident," he said, pointing out that, unlike their comrades in nearby cities like Austin, San Antonio and Dallas, the emergency medical technicians at Fort Hood are not issued body armor. None of them hesitated to rush in unprotected to rescue Soldiers.

Outside the gates of the installation, CRDAMC Emergency Department officer-in-charge Maj. (Dr.) Michael Simpson and many of his staff had finished work for the day.

"I was on my way home, in Florence getting gas. My staff called and texted me immediately and told me exactly what was going on. I sent out a brief text saying, everybody get back – but be careful."

Like the EMTs, Simpson and his staff rushed into harm's way before the shelter in place order had been lifted.

"I want to publicly commend all of my staff, because everybody knew it was an active shooter scenario, and they all came charging through the gate and reported to their place of duty without a thought of personal safety, with no worries of if they had the shooter contained. I've been wearing a uniform for 30 years, and for me that was really inspiring to see."

“
Within one minute, a car came in and dropped the first victim off. We had maybe three minutes to get ready for the rest ... and we were ready.”

– Dawn O'Connell



Photo by Sgt. Ken Scar, 7th MPAD

From left: Frederick Reed, Fort Hood Emergency Medical Services chief; Dawn O'Connell, Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center triage and charge nurse; Lt. Col. (Dr.) James Lucas, Carl R. Darnall chief of the Department of Surgery; and Maj. (Dr.) Michael Simpson, Carl R. Darnall ER officer-in-charge, stand next to the emergency bay in which ambulances delivered the casualties from the April 2 shooting on Fort Hood. All four pictured here and their teams treated every casualty hurt in the incident, in many cases saving lives with only minutes to spare. Four people were killed and 16 injured in the tragedy.

Lt. Col. (Dr.) James Lucas, the CRDAMC chief of the Department of Surgery, said he wasn't sure what to think at first.

"At first you're just thinking, is this real?" he said. "I've seen plenty of trauma, but I've never been involved in a mass casualty like this, other than drills. The response by everyone was extremely impressive. One of my surgeons almost got into a confrontation with a gate guard trying to get (back onto the post). He showed every credential he had and was eventually able to get in."

Lucas said the victims had various degrees of wounds; from cuts, scrapes, punctures and mild concussions, to severe gunshot wounds.

"Every single person wounded in this incident came through this hospital," Simpson said. "As the patients came in, we had to make joint determinations of which person was in the most grave danger, which had to stay here so we

could save their life. Credit goes to Col. Lucas's surgical staff – they absolutely saved the most critically wounded patients and made sure they were stabilized before getting sent to Scott & White." (Baylor Scott & White Memorial Hospital in nearby Temple is a level 1 trauma center, better equipped to tend some of the most serious wounds than CRDAMC, which is a level 3.)

The two men described a frantic scene of organized chaos as doctors and nurses efficiently treated the arriving wounded, leaving no doubt that as many as eight critically wounded patients owe their lives to Fort Hood's emergency responders that day.

"One of the neck injuries, specifically, had he not arrived here when he did he probably had another ten minutes to live," Lucas said.

Lucas also made a point to single out the CRDAMC cleaning crew, who jumped into action alongside everyone else.

"They probably didn't really sign up for this type of event," he said. "These housekeepers were in there just doing an amazing job. The minute we wheeled one patient out, they were in there cleaning blood off the floor as fast as they could, ready to receive the next patient. They weren't just sitting there in shock – they seized the moment and did their thing. I was extremely impressed."

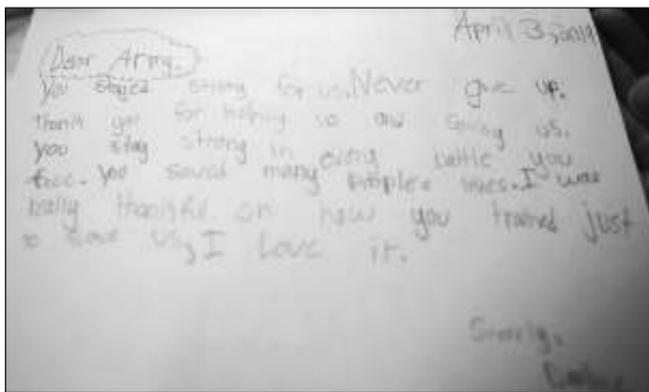
Not surprisingly, even more stories of heroism began to emerge from the injured that were able to talk as they were treated and stabilized.

"I saw some wounds that I would say were suffered rather heroically, getting other people out of the way," Simpson said. "There were people who injured themselves saving others, and then went back for more."

All 16 survivors of the shooting rampage are expected to live. That one statistic says it all about Fort Hood's medical professionals.



Photos by Daniel Cernero, Sentinel Staff



Children's cards offer encouragement to Fort Hood Soldiers during current time of crisis

A Soldier looks through the set of thank you cards made by children from Teravista Elementary School in Round Rock for Fort Hood Soldiers.

Phantom Voices

FORT HOOD LEADERS HAVE CALLED FORT HOOD RESILIENT.
HOW RESILIENT DO YOU THINK FORT HOOD REALLY IS?



"We are resilient. I think Fort Hood is the model for the Army. What we do here, day in and day out, is remarkable."

Rick Keagle,
retired



"I think Fort Hood is more resilient than most places because of what we endure; not only with tragedies, but with deployments, as well."

Jeff Orlando,
civilian



"Very resilient, because of everything we go through – deployments and more. Our Soldiers deploy to warzones and back; we have to be resilient."

Lisa Rogers,
civilian



"Very. We're military Families. We're no strangers to these kinds of sorrows – life goes on for us, and we will get through this like we get through everything else."

Amy Morter,
civilian



"I think we're extremely resilient, especially in cases like these, because military Families and Soldiers are conditioned to react to emergencies."

Heather Allen,
civilian



"I think Fort Hood is an extremely resilient community and will get through this incident together. Unfortunately, bad things happen to good people."

Jarred McLaurin,
retired

Hood shooter: Grey details timeline of events, investigation continues

Continued from A1

behavioral health resources have been made available for anyone who has been affected by the April 2 shooting, Col. Paul Reese, III Corps and Fort Hood chief of current operations, said.

"Anyone who wants assistance locating behavioral health professionals in the local area, please call this hotline, and the number is (254) 535-2748. We do request that the hotline is only used for behavioral health purpose," Reese said. "Moreover, urgent and routine behavioral health resources, normally only available for TRI-CARE beneficiaries, have now been made available to all Army civilians and contractors who are associated with this incident here at Fort Hood. For assistance there, please contact the Fort Hood Resilience and Restoration Center."

At a press conference Friday, Milley identified the fallen Soldiers as Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ferguson, Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazaney-Rodriguez and Sgt. Timothy Owens.

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ferguson



Ferguson, 39, from Mulberry, Fla., entered active-duty service July 1993 as a transportation management coordinator. He was assigned to the 49th Transportation Battalion (Movement Control), 4th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), where he served as a transportation supervisor. Ferguson's deployments include serving in Kuwait, from January to August 2003, and from October 2004 to September 2005; Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, from September 2009 to May 2010; and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, from June 2012 to March 2013.

Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazaney-Rodriguez



Lazaney-Rodriguez, 38, of Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, entered active-duty service in February 1995 as a unit supply specialist. He was assigned to the 21st Combat Support Hospital, 1st Medical Brigade, since February 2012, where he served as a unit supply sergeant. Lazaney-Rodriguez deployed to Kuwait, from December 1998 to April 1999. He also deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, from April 2007 to April 2008 and from July 2009 to July 2010.

His awards and decorations include four Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, Army Superior Unit Award, six Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, two Overseas Service Ribbons, U.S. Army Basic Recruiter Badge-Silver with

two Gold Achievement Stars, Combat Action Badge, U.S. Army Parachutist Badge, and Driver and Mechanic Badge.

Sgt. Timothy Owens.



Owens, 37, of Effingham, Ill., entered active-duty service in July 2004 as a motor transport operator. He was assigned to the 49th Trans. Bn., 4th Sust. Bde., 13th SC(E), where he served as a heavy vehicle driver. Owens deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, from January 2005 to December 2005 and to Kuwait, from January 2010 to December 2010.

His awards include three Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, two Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge and Driver and Mechanic Badge.

Of the 16 injured in the April 2 incident, 12 have been released and returned to duty. Four remain hospitalized at local hospitals in stable condition. Two are at Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center and two are at Scott & White Hospital in Temple.

The alleged shooter, identified by Fort Hood officials as Spc. Ivan Lopez, 34, a motor transport operator with the 49th Trans. Bn., 4th Sust. Bde., 13th SC(E), shot and killed himself following a confrontation with a female military police officer, Milley said.

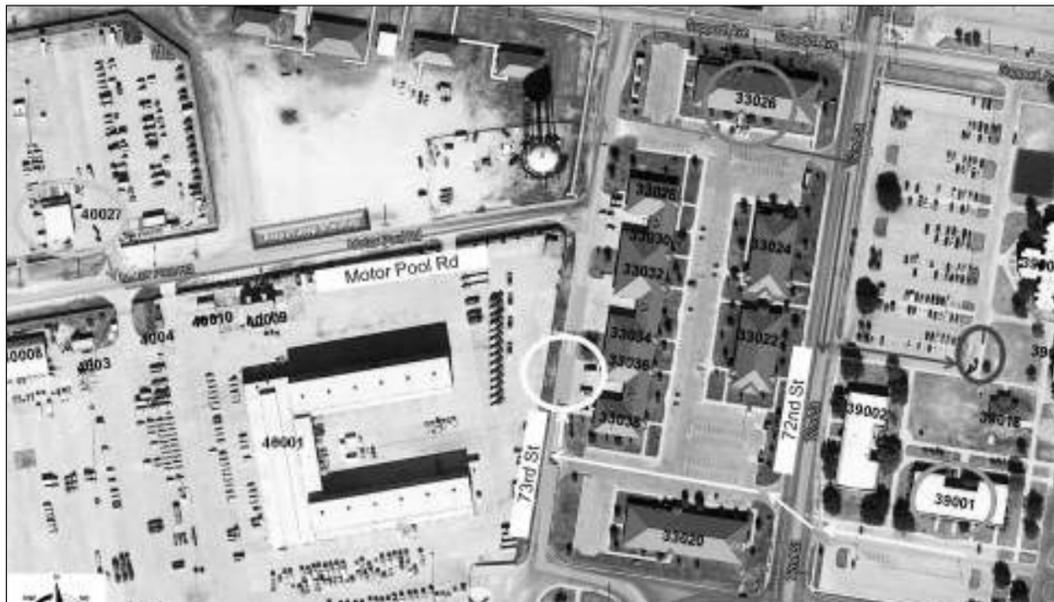
Lopez reported to Fort Hood in February, after previously serving at Fort Bliss.

In the midst of the tragic events of April 2, there have been stories of heroism emerging.

"There were several instances here of clear heroism," Milley said, noting the as-yet unidentified female MP who confronted the alleged shooter, an unnamed chaplain who broke a window to help fellow Soldiers escape a building during the shooting and a Soldier who shielded others from gunfire.

Milley said he is confident the Soldiers, Families and civilians in the Fort Hood community will rally together to get through this, as they have done in the past.

"Events in the past have taught us many things here at Fort Hood," Milley said. "We know the community is strong. We know that the community is resilient. We know the Soldiers and the civilians and the Families of this fort who have served



An aerial view of the April 2 shooting timeline that took place on Fort Hood. The incident began with a verbal altercation inside the 49th Trans. Bn. Headquarters, Bldg. 39001, continued to Bldg. 40027, the unit motor pool, and Bldg. 33026.

so bravely in combat over the last 13 years, in both Iraq and Afghanistan, are strong and will get through this."

More than 150 law enforcement officials representing local, state and federal agencies have been investigating the incident, Milley said Friday.

During press conferences April 4 and Monday, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command spokesman Chris Grey detailed the timeline of events.

Grey noted the information has been obtained from witness interviews, witness statement analysis, forensics, bullet-trajectory analysis, and an extensive crime scene examination and re-creation.

The initial 911 call came in at approximately 4:16 p.m. April 2, Grey said, noting that law enforcement officers from Fort Hood Directorate of Emergency Services, military police officers from the 89th Military Police Brigade, CID and area police departments responded.

"Numerous reports of gunfire and wounded personnel were received and it continued at various locations which contributed to the chaos and confusion associated with the initial reports," Grey said, in reference to the initial reports of two shooters.

"The alleged shooter, Spc. Ivan Lopez, initially open fired with a Smith & Wesson .45-caliber semi-automatic handgun near the intersection of 72nd Street and Tank Destroyer Boulevard," Grey said. "The entire crime scene encompasses almost a two-city-block area."

The CID spokesman noted that law enforcement has credible information that Lopez was involved in a verbal altercation with Soldiers from his unit just prior to the incident.

"At this point in the investigation, we can confirm that the

alleged shooter, Spc. Ivan Lopez, was involved in a verbal altercation concerning his request for leave, and the processing of that request, at his unit's administrative office," Grey said Monday.

The verbal altercation occurred at Bldg. 39001, located at the intersection of 72nd Street and Tank Destroyer Boulevard, Grey said.

Within minutes of that altercation, Lopez allegedly brandished a .45 caliber, semi-automatic handgun and fired multiple rounds, killing one Soldier and wounding 10 others, the CID spokesman said.

The deceased Soldier, and at least one of the wounded Soldiers, had been involved in the verbal altercation with Lopez prior to the shooting.

Lopez then exited the administration building through a door on the south side, and got into his privately owned vehicle, that was also parked on the south side of the building, according to the official. He then drove his vehicle and turned north onto 73rd Street.

"According to witness statements, the subject was traveling very slowly northbound in the southbound lane," Grey said on Monday. "Along the way ... the subject fired his weapon from his moving vehicle at two Soldiers who were standing behind a building, wounding one of them."

He then continued to Bldg. 40027's parking area. Lopez exited his vehicle and entered the building, which encompasses the unit's motor pool office and the vehicle bay area.

"This is also where Spc. Lopez was assigned and worked," Grey said.

There, Lopez shot one Soldier in the motor pool office. That Soldier died later of his wounds, Grey said.

Lopez then moved to the motor pool's vehicle bay area and began shooting, wounding two more

Soldiers. He then returned to his vehicle and began driving toward 73rd Street, Grey said.

While driving, Lopez allegedly fired into the front windshield of a moving westbound privately owned vehicle that was occupied by two Soldiers, striking and wounding the passenger. He then turned into the parking lot of the 1st Medical Brigade, Bldg. 33026. There, Lopez fired at and wounded a Soldier who was walking outside the building, Grey said.

The subject then exited his vehicle and entered the main entrance where he allegedly shot and killed a Soldier who was on duty at the main entrance desk and wounded another.

At this point, officials do not know why Lopez entered that building, and they may never know why, Grey said.

Lopez exited the 1st Med. Bde. Headquarters building, re-entered his vehicle and drove south on 72nd Street and turned east into the front parking lot of Bldg. 39002. He then exited his vehicle and walked eastbound across the parking lot where he approached a responding Fort Hood MP and the two had a verbal exchange.

When Lopez brandished his weapon, the police officer drew her service weapon and fired, Grey said, noting autopsy results of the alleged shooter from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner have confirmed that the subject was not struck by the military police officer's fire.

"Following the confrontation with the female police officer, Lopez allegedly placed his .45 caliber handgun to his head and took his own life," Grey continued.

"At this time, we have the one alleged subject connected with these shootings and all evidence at this point in this investigation indicates that the subject acted alone in the actual shootings," Grey added. "We have no evidence thus far that contradicts that finding but it is critical to point out that we are not ruling anything in or out at this early stage of the investigation and we will continue to aggressively pursue any and all credible leads and information associated in this case."

Grey said the entire scenario described lasted approximately eight minutes from when the first 911 calls were received until the shooter allegedly took his life and DES received calls that the shooter was down.

At this point in the investigation, law enforcement officials have collected more than 235 pieces of evidence, including three spent shell casings from inside Lopez's vehicle and 32 shell casings from throughout the crime scene area, Grey said.

"The evidence recovered in the commission of these crimes is being processed at the Defense Forensic Science Center's, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory in Atlanta, Georgia," he added. "I can also confirm that we have completed processing of the crime scene, and have released the entire area back to Fort Hood officials."

He said no links have been found to any terrorism or extremist groups, but nothing has been ruled out at this point. The investigation is ongoing.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to each of those injured and their Families and the killed and their Families.

- Lt. Gen. Mark Milley



Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, III Corps and Fort Hood commanding general, and Senator John Cornyn, Texas, speak to the press April 3 about the April 2 shootings that took place on Fort Hood. The shootings claimed the lives of three Soldiers that were stationed at the post.

Photo by Sgt. Ken Scar, 7th MPAD



Photo by Staff Sgt. Gregory Sanders, 85th CA Bde. Public Affairs

ABOVE, 3rd Cavalry Regiment Soldiers prepare for the firing of volleys at the end of the memorial ceremony. TOP LEFT, Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno leans forward after being seated for the memorial ceremony Wednesday at III Corps Headquarters. BOTTOM LEFT, Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, III Corps and Fort Hood commanding general, with his wife, Hollyanne, by his side, pays his final respects at the Fallen Soldier Memorials for the three Fort Hood Soldiers killed in the April 2 shooting.

Honor: 'We are all here for you'

Continued from A1

himself in the line of fire to save them."

Many noted the troubling circumstances by which these Soldiers lost their lives.

Odierno said the loss of any Soldier is terrible, but a loss at home is even more distressing.

"The loss of any Soldier, in any circumstance, is a tragedy for a unit or a Family," the Army chief said. "That these Soldiers were lost on American soil at the hands of one of our own makes this tragedy heart-breaking and inexplicable."

Odierno also offered words of support and comfort, for the Families, the wounded and the Fort Hood community.

He pledged the support of the entire Army Family for those affected by the shooting.

"Today we are all here to tell you and show you that our Army and our nation are here for you," Odierno said. "But we must come together as an Army, as a community and as a nation to learn from Wednesday's tragic events and support and heal one another."

Odierno said the Fort Hood community is no stranger to loss and grief, but also knows full well about strength and resilience in the face of adversity and will continue to come together.

"We will lift each other up with our compassion, our strength and resilience because that's who we are," Odierno said.



Photos by Daniel Cernero, Sentinel Staff

Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, III Corps and Fort Hood commanding general, with his wife, Hollyanne, greet President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama after the arrival of Air Force One Wednesday at Robert Gray Army Airfield.

“Today we are all here to tell you and show you that our Army and our nation are here for you.”
- Gen. Ray Odierno

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PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

LBJ

Lyndon B. Johnson



Photos by Erin Rogers, Sentinel Leisure Editor

An animatronic display of LBJ and some of the satirical political cartoons drawn of him while he was president of the U.S. surround him. LBJ said political cartoonists were the "most influential journalists in America."



A photo of LBJ as he listens in anguish to a tape sent home from Vietnam by his son-in-law, who was a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps. This photo and many others are on display in the LBJ Museum and Library.

Johnson's legacy: An act that's 'hard to follow'

BY ERIN ROGERS
 Sentinel Leisure Editor

AUSTIN — While I have a general respect for all of the past presidents of the USA, I have to admit, I don't know everything about all of them.

Upon arriving at the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library and Museum this past week, I was immediately overcome with an incredible feeling of respect for this past president while I learned about his life and presidency, which he held from Nov. 22, 1963 to Jan. 20, 1969.

The following LBJ quote greets guests when they walk into the building: "I hope that visitors who come here will

achieve a closer understanding of the presidency and that young people will get a clearer comprehension of what this nation tried to do in an eventful period of its history."

I quickly found out that LBJ — 36th President of the U.S., a position he assumed after his service as the Vice President of the U.S. under John F. Kennedy, after Kennedy's assassination — was a president who left a legacy few other presidents can match, and his legacy still touches our lives today.

His mission as president was simple: "To right wrong, to do justice, to serve man."

The museum starts with an ode to a list of Americans who

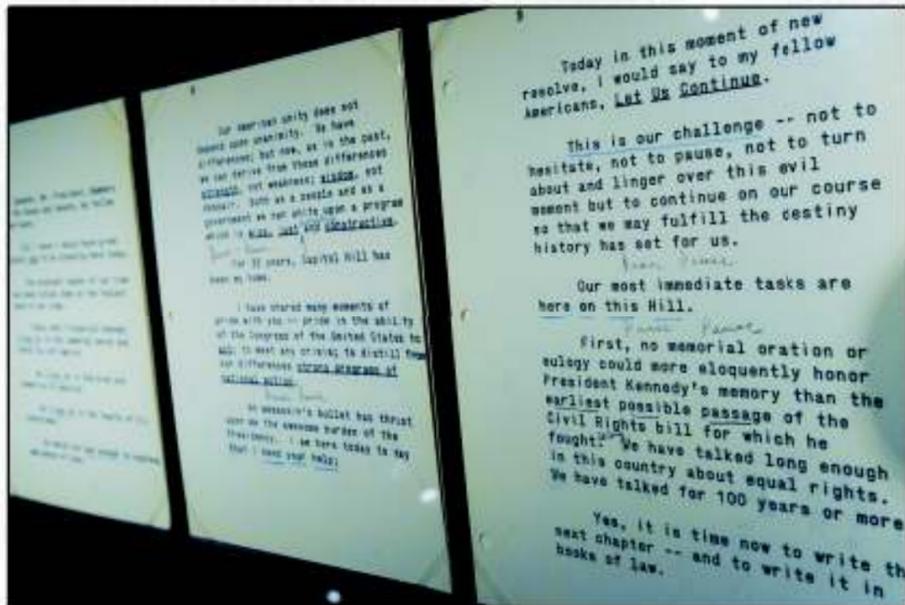
influenced our society in a big way in the 1960s. "Sixty from the 60s" is what the room is called, and its point is to tell the story of the impact of that decade on America and the world. It's filled with amazing artifacts and items from people like Ladybird Johnson and her dresses, to Bob Dylan and his original handwritten song lyrics.

A personal favorite of mine from this room was a giant photo of Curt Flood wearing a St. Louis Cardinals baseball uniform — my favorite team. He spent most of his major league baseball career with the Cardinals, breaking all kinds of

See LBJ, B7



LEFT, These are the actual cards LBJ read from during the speech he gave to console the nation five days after Kennedy's assassination. The marks on the cards are made by his own hand. ABOVE, This photo of LBJ was taken on Jan. 24, 1966; it shows him taking a break from his presidential schedule to gaze out the window of the Oval Office at the White House. BELOW, Election buttons from Johnson's run for president in the 1960s are on display at the LBJ Library and Museum in Austin.



Cav unit builds camaraderie among Ironhorse teens

BY SGT. BAILEY KRAMER
1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Thirty-five "Ironhorse" teens built esprit de corps and camaraderie during the Ironhorse Teen Spur Ride March 29 at Fort Hood.

In order to promote high morale and a better understanding of the cavalry tradition of earning spurs to the teens, the 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division completed an afternoon of archery, medical lanes, the engagement skills trainer and a nine-obstacle adventure as part of the spur ride.

Hope Jeffers, daughter of Maj. Nicholas Jeffers, the intelligence officer for the 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., said the spur ride allowed her to overcome things in her life that were personal challenges.

"I thought the obstacle course was interesting," Hope said. "It was pretty challenging, but helped me face my

fears, and I did it." Nathaniel Miseli, son of Lt. Col. Jay Miseli, commander of the 1st Squadron, 7th "Garryowen" Cavalry Regiment, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., said he liked the experience and was glad he took the opportunity while it presented itself.

"It was a lot of fun and a good experience," Nathaniel said. "I am glad I got to do it, because I might not be able to do it again. I would have been upset if I had not done it."

Hope echoed Nathaniel's thoughts and said she felt that a person could learn from the event, as well.

"It was a lot fun and a lot of exercise," Hope said. "It has a lot of events that can educate you."

Before the spur ride began, the teen troopers began the day with physical readiness training, which included team-building exercises allowing them to interact with each other.

"I thought the obstacle course was interesting. It was challenging and helped me face my fears and, I did it."

– Hope Jeffers

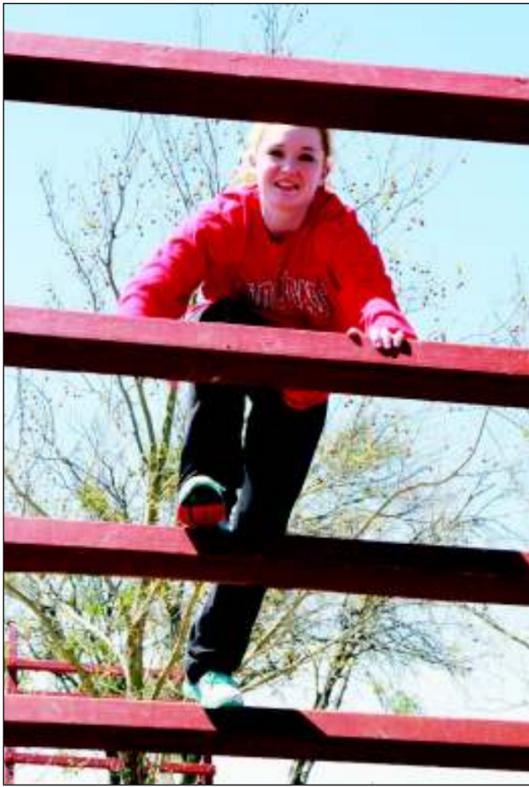


Photos by Sgt. Bailey Kramer, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

The members of the winning team of the Ironhorse Teen Spur Ride proudly display their certificates after completing the friendly competition March 29 at Fort Hood.



Isaiah Garcia, son of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Yvonne Ralph, the human resources manager for the 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., prepares to discharge his bow during the archery portion of the Ironhorse Teen Spur Ride on Fort Hood.



LEFT, Taylor Swift, daughter of Lt. Col. Bradley Swift, commander of the 115th "Muleskinner" Brigade Support Battalion, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., climbs a ladder during the obstacle course of the Ironhorse Teen Spur Ride. ABOVE, Hope Jeffers, daughter of Maj. Nicholas Jeffers, the intelligence officer for the 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., jumps from post to post on the obstacle course.



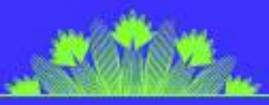
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FORT HOOD

calendar of events



Sentinel file photo

Fort Hood Annual Postwide Yard Sale

All Fort Hood Family Housing neighborhoods will be taking part in the Fort Hood Annual Postwide Yard sale from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.

The event supports the installation's Net Zero Waste 2020

initiative as the post strives to divert usable items from the Fort Hood landfill site. Organizers note that the yard sale is a great opportunity for Fort Hood Family Housing residents to clear out unwanted items and sell them for cash. In

addition, three nonprofit organizations – Goodwill, Refuge Corporation and the Fort Hood Thrift Shop – will accept unsold items that residents wish to donate.

The public is invited to the yard sale.

APRIL 12**Spring Easter Festival**

Apache Arts and Crafts Center will host its 11th annual Spring Easter Festival from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday.

The event will include piñata popping every half hour beginning at 11 a.m. There will be 12 piñatas popped throughout the day for children to put plenty of candy in their Easter baskets.

Other free activities include inflatables, sidewalk chalk drawings, games and more. There will be an opportunity to paint ceramic eggs, bunnies and animals, as well as photos with the Easter Bunny. For more information, call 287-0343.

Fabulous Food Truck Challenge

The Fort Hood Exchange will host a Fabulous Food Truck Challenge from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday at the Clear Creek Exchange parking lot.

The public is invited to follow up their Postwide Yard Sale experience by stopping by and voting for the best food truck experience outside the main exchange.

In addition to six gourmet food trucks offering lunch for sale, several other vendors will be on hand with free giveaways, and Burger King will have its "Whopper Hopper" bounce house open for youngsters.

APRIL 14**Jewish Passover Seder**

There will be a Jewish Passover Seder at the Spirit of Fort Hood Chapel beginning at 6:30 p.m. Monday.

There is a suggested donation of \$20 for adults and \$10 for children.

The event is open to everyone. Registration for the event is online at www.eventbrite.com/edit?eid=10489687939 or by calling 646-981-3032 or 732-672-1425.

APRIL 15**3rd ABCT Scramble**

The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team will host the inaugural "Greywolf" Sexual Assault Awareness Month Golf Scramble to raise awareness about sexual assault in the Fort Hood community.

The event will take place Tuesday at Fort Hood's Courses of Clear Creek. Registration for the event begins at 7:45 a.m., and golfing begins at 9 a.m.

There will be a \$30 entry fee for individuals and a \$120 entry fee for teams. Three mulligans will be allowed at \$5 per mulligan. Tee boxes will be available at \$2.50 per person. Prizes will be given to first-, second- and third-place teams, as well as closest to the pin and longest drive.

For more information, contact Sgt. 1st. Class Jeffrey Branom at jeffrey.b.branom.mil@gmail.com.

THROUGH APRIL 15**Tax Center**

The Fort Hood Tax Center is open through Tuesday. The hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday from 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The center is located on 52nd Street and 761st Tank Battalion Avenue, Building 13. The service is free for all active-duty military, Family members and retirees.

For more information, call 288-7995 or 287-3294.

APRIL 17**Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt**

It's almost time for the annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt at Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area.

The event will take place April 17 with park gates closing at 8:10 p.m. and the egg hunt beginning at 8:30 p.m.

More than 65,000 candy-filled eggs will be hidden across three fields. All age groups hunt for eggs at the same time, and adults are required to hunt with children 2-7 years of age.

A variety of pre-hunt activities begin at 6 p.m.

Admission to BLORA will be \$6 per vehicle, \$10 for 12/15-passenger vans and \$20 for 24-passenger buses.

For additional information, call 287-2523 or visit www.hoodmwr.com.

APRIL 17 - 20**Fort Hood Easter Events**

There will be a variety of easter services and events across Fort Hood April 17-20.

There will be a Catholic Holy Thursday Mass and Foot Washing at the Spirit of Fort Hood Chapel beginning at 6 p.m. April 17.

There will be an Anglican, Lutheran, Episcopal Maunday Tuesday and Foot Washing at the Spiritual Fitness Center beginning at 6 p.m. April 17.

There will be Roman Catholic services at the Spirit of Fort Hood Chapel at noon and 6 p.m. and the Live Stations of the Cross at 5 p.m. April 18.

There will be an Anglican, Lutheran, Episcopal Good Friday service at the Spiritual Fitness Center beginning at 6 p.m. April 18.

There will be an Anglican, Lutheran, Episcopal Vigil of Easter service at the Spiritual Fitness Center beginning at 6 p.m. April 19.

There will be Roman Catholic services at the Spirit of Fort Hood Chapel at 8:30 p.m. April 19.

There will be an Easter Sunrise service at the Spirit of Fort Hood Chapel at 7 a.m. on April 20.

There will be a Spanish Catholic Easter Mass at the Spirit of Fort Hood Chapel at 1 p.m. on April 20.

APRIL 26**Prescription Drug Take Back**

There will be a prescription drug take back at the Clear Creek PX Pharmacy and Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center (main lobby) from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 26. All unused prescription drugs can be dropped off at this time, with no questions asked.

Be sure to remove all identifying information from the labels before turning the prescription drugs in. For more information, call 287-7575.

ONGOING**PTSD support group**

Those who have or are experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder, and their caregivers, are invited by the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care to join in on the new PTSD Support Group.

Meetings are from 10-11 a.m. every Tuesday in the CRDAMC chapel. The chapel is located on the lower level across from the cafeteria inside CRDAMC. For more information or to sign-up, call 288-8849/8850.



Sentinel file photo

Sgt. 1st Class Lemakius Gardner (right), and Master Sgt. Kesha White (left), walk together during the SHARP 5K Run/Walk April 23, 2013.

SHARP 5K Run/Walk

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and the Fort Hood Sexual Assault Awareness proclamation has just been signed.

In support of this, there will be a Sexual Harassment/Assault, Response and Prevention 5K from 6-8 a.m. Friday.

Assembly for the run will be at Sadowski Field in front of the

III Corps Headquarters at 6 a.m. with the run beginning at 6:35 a.m.

Participation in the walk/run is open to all service members, retirees, Family members and Department of Defense civilians.

For more information, contact Fort Hood SHARP office at 287-9487.

**Calendar**

The Army Career and Alumni Program center is in the Copeland Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 18010. The ACAP office and its Computer Lab is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, but closed from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursdays. Appointments are required for seminars and workshops.

For updates or scheduling, call ACAP at 288-2227 or 288-5627. The center is open on training holidays, but closed for federal holidays. For more information, visit the website at www.acap.army.mil.

SEMINARS

April 10: Being Your Own Boss

April 16: Federal Resume

April 17: Small Business Mentorship

April 21: Resume/Application Development

April 24: Bankrolling Your Business

May 5: Resume/Application

May 7: Federal Resume

May 8: Business Plan Basics

HIRING EVENTS

April 29: A CTC Community Job Fair is scheduled for 10

a.m.-3 p.m. at Killeen Civic and Conference Center.

April 29: A NCOA Career Expo is scheduled for 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Club Hood.

BRIEFINGS

Special Programs: Warrior Transition clients can take advantage of federal internship positions. Positions are available through the Operation War Fighter and Coming Home to Work programs. Typical intern positions are with organizations such as the Exchange Service, Homeland Security, Treasury Department, Fish and Wildlife and more.

To learn about qualification requirements for the program, contact the WTU transition coordinator at 553-4811.

For more information about resume formats and job descriptions for the programs, call 288-9766.

Pre-Separation Briefing: Required for all separating military members of all services 12 months prior to separation or retirement. Complete the briefing online at www.acap.army.mil.

For more information, call 288-

Weekend Easter celebration is 'hopping' good time for WTB, CRDAMC Families

BY GLORIA MONTGOMERY
WTB Public Affairs

The threat of rain didn't dampen the spirits of Warrior Transition Brigade and Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center's Families who hopped over to WTB campus last Saturday for the 5th annual Easter Egg Hunt.

More than 300 joined in the USO-sponsored festivities, which included Easter egg hunts, bean bag toss, ladder golf, a bouncy house, pizza and guest appearances by the Easter Bunny and his two sidekick pups.

Opening the event was Col. Patricia Darnauer, CRDAMC commander, who praised the event as "unifying" for the Family and the community in response to last week's Fort Hood tragedy.

"That's why we are here today," she said, "and to celebrate the season and to celebrate each other."

One Family member, Ariel Sanchez, said the event offered an opportunity for bonding.

"This is just a great time to get together as a Family," she said, adding that it was very important to hold the event despite what happened April 2. "We all need the time to get together and reconnect as Families."

The WTB/CRDAMC party was a first for 1st Sgt. David Cardenas, Company B, CRDAMC, who brought his two children.

"I heard last year how much fun it is, so I decided to bring my kids out here," he said. "We're having a great time."

Sgt. Jean Cox, Company B, 1st Battalion, WTB, said her two children, ages 4 and 6, especially loved the bouncy house.

"Most units don't have a bouncy (house) during events like this," she said, "so my kids were really excited when they saw it."

This was Charles Parker's second time to join in the Easter egg celebration.

"We were here last year," said the training coordinator for CRDAMC, who added that he



Competition is fierce in the race for eggs, the highlight event during the annual WTB and CRDAMC Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday on the WTB campus.

was glad the party wasn't canceled. "Life has to go on because the mission still has to be accomplished."

Col. John Kolessar, WTB commander, paid a special tribute to the numerous volunteers who braved the chilly morning temperatures to transform the WTB campus into a bunny haven for

kids by hiding 1,200 prize-filled eggs for the three age-group hunts.

"Without your volunteering, this would not have been made possible," he said, adding another big thank you to the Fort Hood USO for their continued support and sponsorship of morale-boosting events for the WTB's wounded, ill and injured Soldiers.



Col. John Kolessar (right), WTB commander, presents USO rep Isabel Hubbard (center) with an appreciation award as Col. Patricia Darnauer (left), CRDAMC commander, looks on Saturday at the WTB campus. The award was for the USO's continued support for the command's wounded, ill and injured Soldiers.



Photos by Gloria Montgomery, WTB Public Affairs

Mr. Easter Bunny admires the bunny-hopping dancing of two of the children enjoying the WTB and CRDAMC Easter celebration Saturday at the WTB campus. This is the fifth year for the event and was sponsored by the USO.



More than 100 children, including 2-year-old Joseph Parker, were in the hunt for one prize-filled egg during the WTB and CRDAMC Easter Egg Hunt, held Saturday on the WTB campus. Volunteers dotted the WTB campus with 1,200 of the candy-filled plastic eggs.



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"Morning Show with Lu and You,"

each weekday from 9 a.m. to noon.
Hosted by Sgt. Jason Luong



Fort Hood Radio brings the latest hits and the latest news about the "Great Place."

WHAT'S GOING ON

Across Central Texas



Courtesy photo

Celebrate Killeen Festival set for April 24-26

The 2014 Celebrate Killeen Festival begins with a Kick-Off Party at 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on April 24. The festivities continue into the weekend from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. April 25-26. Activities include a carnival, KidFish, a live

step competition, other live entertainment, an Auto Dealer car show, a barbecue cook off, the Celebrate Hornsby 5K run, craft and food vendors, petting zoo, a children's fun zone, arts and crafts, hay rides, static displays, an out-

door movie, KISD Wellness Fair, a Lemonade Day competition and much more. For more information, contact Volunteer Services at 501-7878 or go to <http://www.killeentexas.gov/index.php?section=288>.

AUSTIN



Battleship Texas

Battleship Texas celebrates the legacy of the USS Texas, the most powerful naval weapon at the time of its debut. The Texas is the only surviving USN vessel that fought in battles in both World War I and World War II, including Operation Overlord/Neptune, also known as D-Day, Operation Detachment at Iwo Jima and Operation Iceberg at Okinawa. The exhibit runs now through Sunday in the 3rd Floor Rotunda Gallery at Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin.

For more information, visit thetoryofstexas.com/exhibits/battleship-texas.



Austin Steam Train

The 66-mile round trip aboard the Hill Country Flyer is the area's original and most popular train ride.

The train, pulled by the 1960 Alco diesel locomotive, departs from the Cedar Park depot at 10 a.m. and travels to Burnet through the Texas Hill Country, crossing the wooden trestle bridge over the South San Gabriel River and traveling through Short Creek Canyon.

Guests will enjoy lunch on their own, a leisurely stroll around the square and the wild west gunfight during the 2.5-hour layover in Burnet. The train returns to Cedar Park in the afternoon at around 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.austinsteamtrain.org.

KILLEEN

Bible Study Fellowship Class

The Temple-Killeen Bible Study Fellowship Women's Day Class will have a welcome session for ladies interested in registering for next year's study on The Life of Moses.

Registration is Wednesday at 9:10 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Killeen, 3310 South W.S. Young Dr.

For more information, contact Nancy Goodnight, class administrator, at

nancygoodnight@gmail.com.

Easter Eggs'travaganza

Grab an Easter basket and hop on over to the Killeen Athletic Complex for an egg'stra special time as Killeen Parks and Recreation hosts Easter Eggs'travaganza April 19. Plenty of activities are planned, including arts and crafts, face painting, games, music, food, photos with the Easter Bunny and much more.

Egg hunts begin at 12 p.m. for kids up to 3, 1 p.m. for kids ages 4-5, and 2 p.m. for kids ages 6-8.

Children must be registered to participate. Registration dates are Monday through April 17 and April 19.

Registration is free. For more information, call Killeen Parks and Recreation at 501-8889.

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt

Killeen Parks and Recreation will hold its first Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt at 6 p.m. April 19.

Kids between the ages of 9 and 12 will be using flashlights to search for glow-in-the-dark eggs hidden by the Easter Bunny. Participants are encouraged to register ahead of time because space is limited.

Registered participants will check-in the night of the event and receive a goodie bag, complete with their very own mini flashlight.

Check-in is from 6:30-7:30 p.m., and the hunt begins at 8 p.m.

Space is limited to the first 250 participants. Registration begins Monday and is \$5 per child.

For more information, call Killeen Parks and Recreation at 501-8889.

TEMPLE



Friday Night Live

Friday Night Live, a teen night, is 7-10 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at the Wilson Park Recreation Center.

Activities include Gaga ball, pickleball, basketball, volleyball, arts and crafts and much more. Each month is a different theme, participants that dress up will get a \$1 off at the door. Parents are required to sign their child in and out.

For more information, call 298-5740.

WACO

Celebrate Waco

Mark you calendars for Celebrate Waco, presented by Waco Symphony Council Saturday in downtown Waco. There will be a Gatsby-themed Preview Party, a Downtown Diva Dash, Loft Tours, vendors, a photography contest, music, food and a children's area.

For more information on times of each event, contact 754-0851 or visit www.wacosymphonycouncil.com/celebrate-waco.php.



Toughest N' Texas Trail Runs

The Toughest N' Texas Trail Runs is 7 a.m. on Saturday at the Redwood Shelter in Cameron Park.

Runners can chose from four distances comprising of 31.1 miles (a 50k), 20 miles, 10 miles and 5 miles. Participants will run through Cameron Park on the banks of the Brazos and Bosque Rivers, which is a rocky, hilly, rooty, (but fun) trail.

The 31.1-mile (50k) run starts at 7 a.m. and has a 10-hour time limit.

The 20-mile run starts at 7:30 a.m. and has a 10-hour time limit.

The 10-mile run starts at 8 a.m. and has a 9-hour time limit.

The 5-mile run starts at 8:30 a.m. with no time limit specified.

For more information, contact race director Tim Neckar at 713.724.2611 or tim@runnerone.com. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/1rMFuq>.

HARKER HEIGHTS

Sights in Heights Photo Contest

The Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Department invites all amateur photographers to share their best original photos taken at any Harker Heights Parks and Recreation facility, event, sport, program or class. All photos submitted have the possibility of being used in Parks and Recreation publications and promotions, along with photographer acknowledgement when feasible. Photos must be taken and submitted before May 1.

All photos will be on display at the Activities Center, 400 Indian Trail, from May 1-10 for public voting.

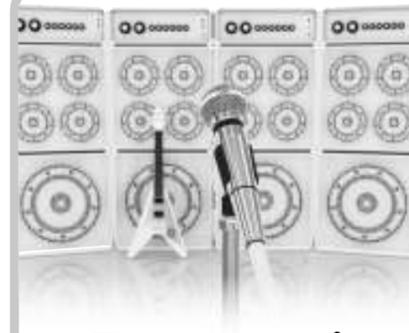
The winner of each age division will receive an engraved photo frame for their winning photo and will be featured in the Spring 2015 Recreation Guide.

For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/1rGVQuT>.

Easter Egg Hunt

Harker Heights is hosting its 19th annual Easter Egg Hunt from 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. April 18 at Harker Heights Community Park Ball Fields.

Children 8 and under are invited to hop along with the Easter Bunny. Participants need to bring their Easter basket or bucket to collect the eggs. Special prizes will be awarded in each age group. The Easter Bunny will be available for photos so please bring a camera. In case of rain, call 953-5660. Admission is free.



Concert

Connection

April 10

Crashkings

Crashkings will perform at 10 p.m. tonight at Stubb's BBQ in Austin.

April 11

The Mavericks

The Mavericks will perform at 8 p.m. Friday at Moody Theater in Austin.

April 15

Authority Zero

Authority Zero will perform at 8 p.m. Tuesday at Stubb's BBQ in Austin.

April 16

Pet Shop Boys

Pet Shop Boys will perform at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Moody Theater in Austin.

Flume

Flume will perform at 10 p.m. Wednesday at Emo's in Austin.

April 23

HAIM

HAIM will perform at 7 p.m. April 23 at Stubb's BBQ in Austin.

April 24

Sheryl Crow

Sheryl Crow will perform at 9:30 p.m. April 24 at Moody Theater in Austin.

April 24-25

Vampire Weekend

Vampire Weekend will perform at 7 p.m. April 24-25 at Stubb's BBQ in Austin.

April 25

Bastille

Bastille will perform at 9 p.m. April 25 at Emo's in Austin.

April 28

Alice in Chains

Alice in Chains will perform at 8 p.m. April 28 at Moody Theater in Austin.

May 1

Billy Currington

Billy Currington will perform at 8 p.m. May 1 at Moody Theater in Austin.

May 2

Tom Jones

Tom Jones will perform at 8 p.m. May 2 at Moody Theater in Austin.

May 18

Jimmy Eat World

Jimmy Eat World will perform at 9:30 p.m. May 18 at Stubb's BBQ in Austin.

June 14

The Toadies

The Toadies will perform 7 p.m. June 14 at Stubb's BBQ in Austin.

July 11

Lindsey Stirling

Lindsey Stirling will perform 7 p.m. July 11 at Stubb's BBQ in Austin.

July 2

DEVO

DEVO will perform at 8 p.m. July 2 at Moody Theater in Austin.

July 19

Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds

Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds will perform at 8 p.m. July 19 at Moody Theater in Austin.

For more information, visit

www.ticketmaster.com

www.uterwincenter.com

www.acl-live.com

Wrangler Day offers reprieve to Soldiers

BY SGT. ADAM ERLEWEIN
4th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

Wranglers' work hard day-in and day-out, but during Wrangler Day, it's a time for the Soldiers to sit back, relax with a bowl of nachos and cheer on their company softball teams at Sgt. Rodney Evans Softball Complex.

Wrangler Day, held March 28, provided Soldiers a break from the average work day to participate in the morale-boosting softball tournament or to sit back and watch the game with fellow Soldiers and Family.

Wrangler Day started with all the battalions participating in brigadewide physical training — each battalion in formation preparing to go on a run.

Col. Timothy Luedeking, the 4th Sustainment Brigade commander, was at the front of the formation running with his Soldiers, and at the end of the run, he dismissed them to get ready for the softball games.

The 12 teams were made up of Soldiers from the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 49th Transportation Battalion, and Soldiers from the brigade staff. Each team competing was not only trying to win bragging



Photos by Sgt. Adam Erlewein, 4th Sust. Bde. Public Affairs

Soldiers from the 4th Sust. Bde. played in a softball tournament during Wrangler Day to help build esprit de corps at Sgt. Rodney Evans Softball Complex March 28.

rights for their unit, but also for the Wrangler Day Softball trophy.

But before they threw the first pitch, all of the Wranglers were gathered together in either their summer physical training uniform or baseball attire for a brigade formation where they sang "Take Me Out to the Ball Game."

Soldiers were able to cheer on their company teams in some

close games while the Family readiness group provided nachos, drinks, cookies and other snacks to help complete the softball experience.

Spc. Ricardo Kowalchuk, the 4th STB third baseman, said that when an activity like this goes on, Soldiers want to be involved.

"Everybody wanted to participate, was enthusiastic about it and not only on my team, but for other teams, as well," Kowalchuk said.

Soldiers made the Wrangler Day environment come alive by being involved in the game like softball fans would, and even had some fun by doing the "wave" in the stands.

1st Sgt. Patrick Patterson, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of preparing the softball event, said that events like these are important to help build morale and develop team building.

"They did a lot of cheering for their team, and even some chanting against the other teams, all in good fun of course," Patterson said. "It was good to have the whole unit there to watch each

game, that way they could support their teammates during the games, as well as everyone else."

As teams were eliminated, it came down to the final two, the Brigade Support Operations Team and 602nd Ordnance Company from the 553rd CSSB.

During the final, SPO took an early lead and seemed to be in control until the 602nd came up to bat in the middle of the game. Then much like a movie, with the bases loaded, the next batter hit deep into the outfield for a grand slam. The balance then tipped into the 602nd's favor and they eventually went on to win a hard-fought game.

Soldiers then fell into formation to watch the presentation of the trophy to the 602nd and Luedeking's final remarks for the day before they were released to start their weekend early and enjoy time with Family and friends.

"These events are important because it builds esprit de corps and camaraderie amongst Soldiers," Patterson said, "and just gives them a bit of down time and a fun day."



Sgt. Adam Small, a health care specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th STB, 4th Sust. Bde., slides into third base during the final game of the Wrangler Day Softball Tournament March 28.

EXCHANGE

Palmer Theater

MOVIE TIMES

SATURDAY
3 Days to Kill, PG-13
7 p.m., (2*)

FRIDAY
Captain America: The Winter Soldier, PG-13
7 p.m., (4*)

SATURDAY
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3-D, PG-13
2 p.m., (3*)

Captain America: The Winter Soldier, PG-13
6 p.m., (4*)

SUNDAY
Captain America: The Winter Soldier 3-D, PG-13
2 p.m., (3*)

Captain America: The Winter Soldier, PG-13
6 p.m., (4*)

ADMISSION		4*	3*	2*	1*
Adult	2D	\$7.50	\$5.50	\$5.00	\$3.00
	3D	\$9.50	\$7.50	\$7.00	\$5.00
Child (6-11)	2D	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$2.50	\$2.50
	3D	\$7.00	\$5.00	\$4.50	\$4.50

Children under 5 are admitted free

Palmer Theater is located in Bldg. 334 at the corner of 31st Street and 761st Tank Battalion Ave. For a recording of all upcoming features, call 287-3851

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Photos by Erin Rogers, Sentinel Leisure Editor

This photo shows LBJ signing bills as president. Each bill has to be signed with a separate pen, and hundreds of the pens are at the museum, as well.

LBJ: Explore 36th president's history

Continued from B1

MLB records in the 60s, enough to get his name into the LBJ museum.

Outside of the 60s room, there is a massive timeline wrapping around the walls of the building, laying out events leading up to Johnson's presidency, and the major things that happened during those times, all accompanied with genuine items to help tell the stories – like actual pages from Ladybird's diary. Here, I learned that after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Johnson was the first member of Congress to volunteer for active duty in the U.S. Navy.

Before heading upstairs, I checked out a room dedicated to LBJ's humor, which he is pretty well-known for. He made fun of himself

and even called political cartoonists the "most influential journalists in America."

The upstairs is all dedicated to his life and influence while president. I learned that he grew up in a home with no electricity, running water, radio or television, he lived through two world wars and the Great Depression, and still made it to the presidency.

Upstairs is a massive, four-stories-high archive with more than 45 million items made available to the public. It's full of papers, photos and more from Johnson's life in politics, from congressman to president.

The most emotional part of the museum is learning about Johnson becoming president after Kennedy's assassination. At the time of his death, Kennedy had proposed many things that he wanted to see achieved – civil rights and more – that Johnson carried out for him as president. Johnson drew on the nation's love for Kennedy and the grief following Kennedy's death to push legislation forward, and then followed his own agenda, furthering his own vision for civil rights, education, the arts, anti-poverty programs and more.

My favorite part of this area is the

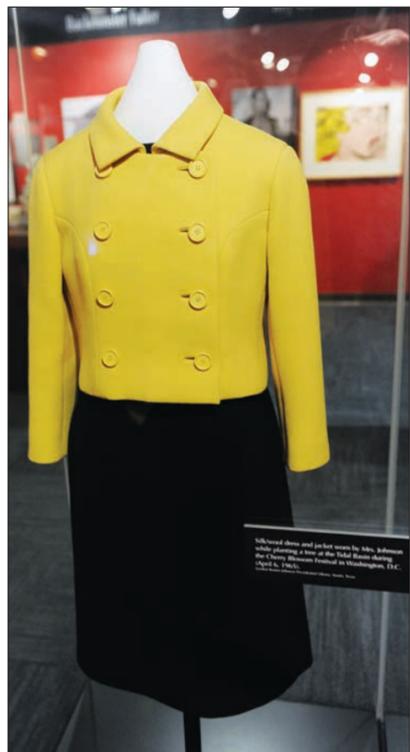
actual cards Johnson read from five days after Kennedy's assassination, as he consoled the nation and the world during a speech before Congress.

"An assassin's bullet has thrust upon me the awesome burden of the Presidency," the cards read. "I am here today to say that I need your help."

Learning about Johnson's decision not to seek re-election was a sad and interesting lesson for me. He was convinced he could win, but decided not to due to heart problems – he thought he wouldn't live through another term. He believed that staying out of the running race would allow him to concentrate on ending the Vietnam War and strike down any accusations that his decisions on the war were used to help him with the election again. It's said that he hoped refusing to run might even speed up peace talks. In his last address to the nation as president, he urged the country to support Richard Nixon as the next president.

I could go on about this museum, but I don't want to give it all away before readers have a chance to visit (and I'm out of room!).

Visit www.lbjlibrary.org to learn more about pricing and hours.



ABOVE LEFT, A dress worn by Ladybird Johnson while she planted a tree at the Tidal Basin during the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C., on April 6, 1965, sits on display. ABOVE RIGHT, The "Sixty from the 60s" room at the LBJ Museum.



This is an exact replica of LBJ's limo he ordered after his presidency.

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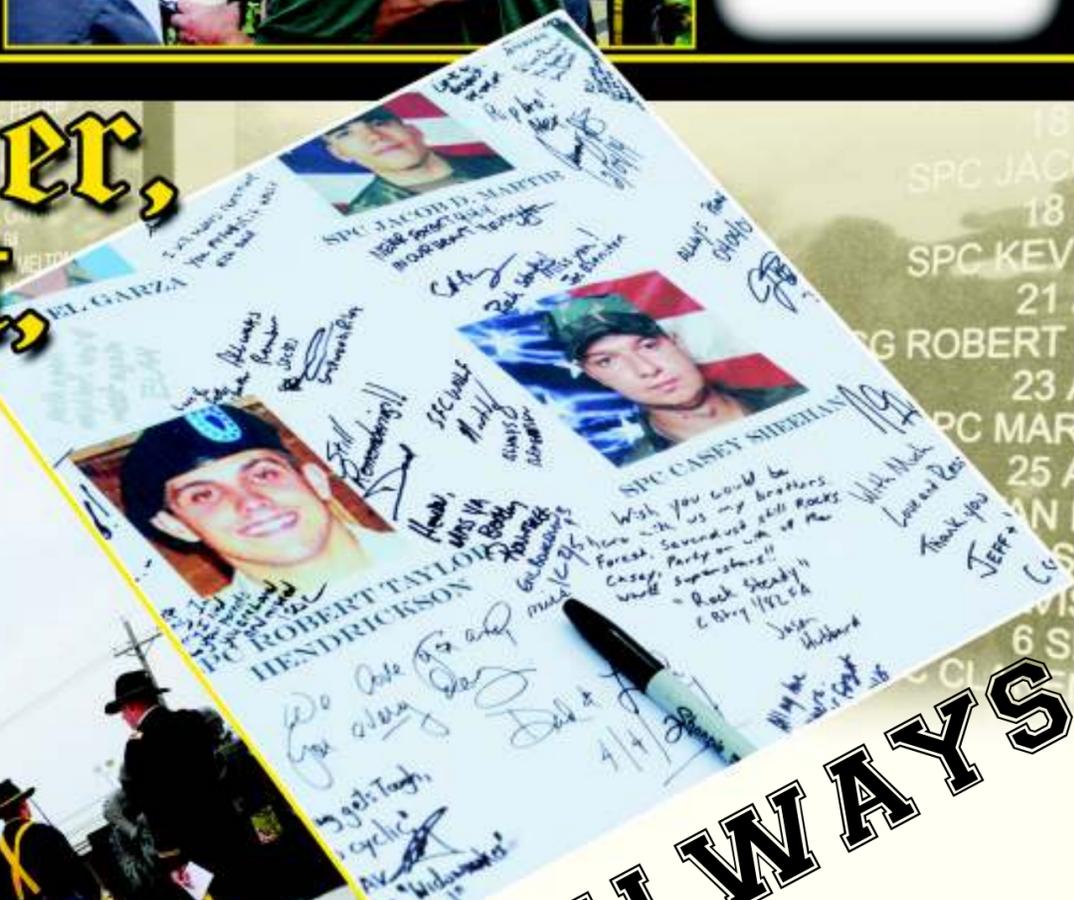




Veterans from the 1st Cav. Div.'s 2-5 Cav. Regt. embrace during the Lancer Battalion reunion, Saturday at the 1st Cav. Div. Memorial. The Soldiers, who endured a tough deployment to Sadr City, Iraq, during OIF II, 2004-2005, greeted each other as Family even though many have not seen each other or spoken in nine years.

Remember, reconnect, honor

on In
edom
ad, Iraq



2-5 BROTHERS ALWAYS

BY HEATHER GRAHAM-ASHLEY
Sentinel News Editor

Even 10 years later, the memories still seem fresh for the men of 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment.

As they came together Saturday to reconnect, remember and honor, words such as "Family" and "brother" flowed as freely as the hugs and tears, though many had not seen each other or spoken in nine years.

Saturday marked 10 years and one day since that collective Family was cemented on the streets and alleyways of Sadr City, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom II as members of Task Force Lancer.

"They lost some of their best buddies and they

still went out in the streets every day," said Maj. Gen. Gary Volesky, who was the 2-5 Cav. commander during the deployment. "You still have that bond today."

The 1st Cavalry Division's 2-5 Cav. Regt. had only been in Sadr City for a few days on what was believed to be a peacekeeping and humanitarian mission to the Baghdad suburb, when all hell broke loose on the men of the Lancer Battalion.

"It's been 10 years, it's hard to believe," Maj. Chris Brautigam, who now serves as deputy public affairs officer for the 1st Cavalry Division, said. "Some of it is like yesterday; some is like a different lifetime."

In 2004, Brautigam was a young lieutenant staff officer with 2-5 Cav. All of the information the division had at the time was that the sort of event that happened in Sadr City would not happen. "We were not expecting a large-scale attack," Brautigam said, "especially not one that would last 70 days."

Many stories of heroism that day and throughout 2-5's deployment have been

See 2-5, C7



Family members create chalk rubbings of the names of lost loved ones on the 1st Cav. Div. Memorial April 5 following the TF Lancer Memorial Service.

Ironhorse Families, friends, veterans honor fallen Soldiers

BY STAFF SGT. JOHN COUFFER
1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Imagine how it might feel to go before a crowd and speak about the lasting memories of a late loved one.

That's exactly what some Gold Star Family members had the courage to do in keeping the memory of their Family members alive.

To honor those Soldiers who gave their all on April 4, 2004, during the Siege of Sadr City, Iraq and throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom II, the 2nd "Lancer" Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment,



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Couffer, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

Families, friends and veterans honored their fallen loved ones by placing roses at the base of the 1st Cavalry Division's Memorial April 5, at Fort Hood.

1st "Ironhorse" Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, held a memorial ceremony Saturday at

the 1st Cavalry Division Memorial. 1st Lt. Joshua York, a veteran of

Task Force Lancer, spoke to the audience about that day in 2004 while fighting through the tears.

"Ten years ago, yesterday, all of our lives would significantly change forever," York said mournfully. "Soldiers from Comanche Red Platoon found themselves immobilized in the middle of Sadr City engaged in a fight for their lives."

York described how the task force responded immediately by mounting every vehicle available, from Bradley fighting vehicles to lightly-armored humvees, in order to reach the 19 members of the pinned-down platoon.

"I can tell you, as the 20th Soldier, I wanted nothing more than to get to my brothers in their most desperate time of need," York said.

York said this weekend is all about reconnecting, honoring and remembering all the members who paid the ultimate sacrifice on April 4, 2004.

Lt. Col. Carter Price, the Lancer commander, also spoke to those in attendance about how the battalion's 73 campaign streamers, on an ash-wood staff,

See Memorial, C6

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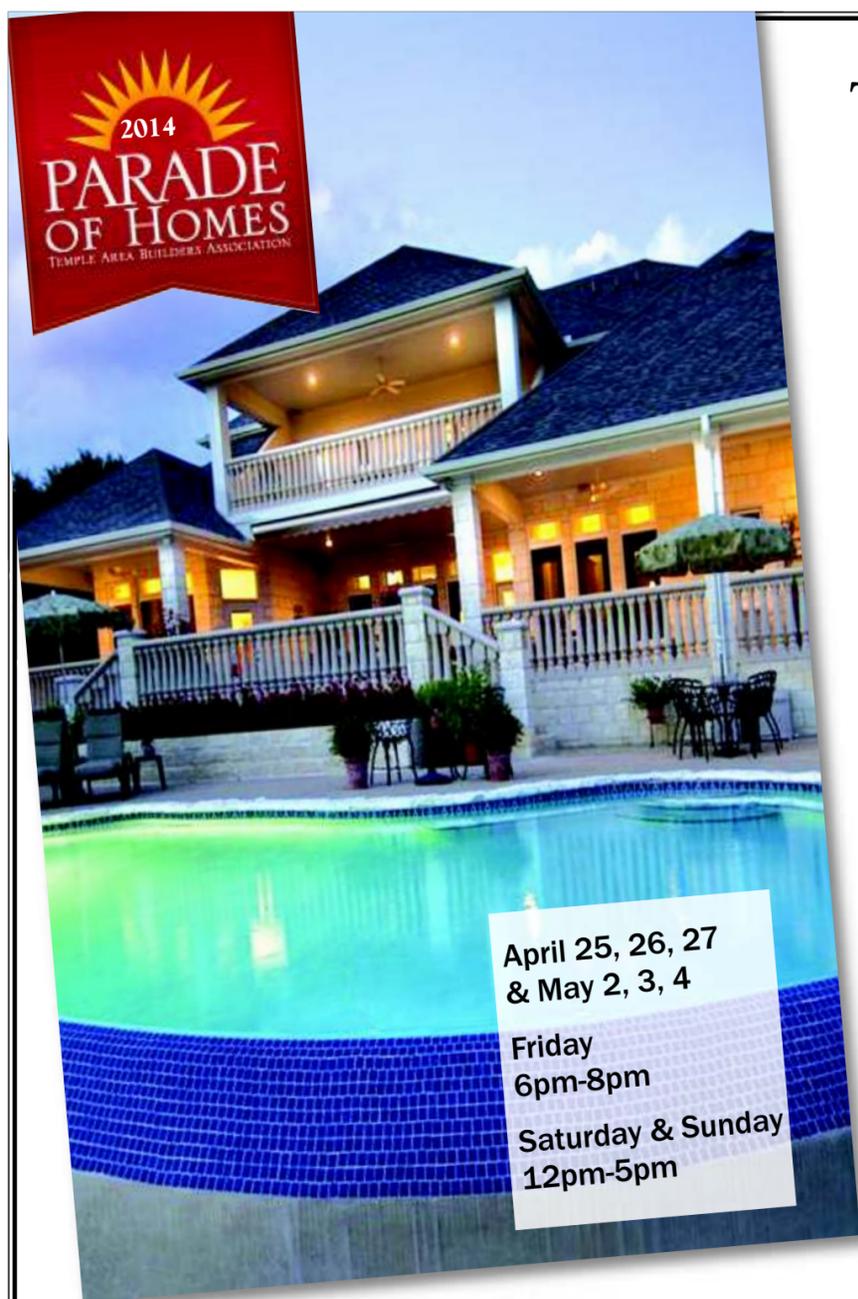
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Black, terrier mix, female. Ref.#14-276



2 years

Black and tan, Yorkie, male. Spayed. Ref.#14-294



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TEMPLE DAILY TELEGRAM

60-plus academic providers gather at college fair

BY DANIEL CERNERO
Sentinel Staff

Fort Hood held a college fair April 1-2, to assist Soldiers in adapting to a changing force and a new normal.

With the help of the Education Services Division, more than 60 academic providers and military programs were available to Soldiers and retirees inside the Soldier Development Center.

In selecting the schools that attended the fair, Mike Engen, Fort Hood's Education Services officer, said academic diversity was a focus. "We looked at needs assessments, we looked at enrollment trends," Engen said, noting that the program's counselors meet with about 300 Soldiers, listening to what they are asking for. "We take a close look at their needs, and then we invite the schools accordingly."

Due to the nature of the academic population within the Army, Engen pointed out that 76 percent complete their academic endeavors via distance learning, something possible in part because of the advances in technology.

As the workplace environment changes and adapts, the importance of an education grows,

retired Command Sgt. Maj. Archie Davis Jr. said.

"What I've experienced as I've been out is that if you don't get the right education and the certifications, you're not going to get the jobs out there for the businesses that need you," he said.

Davis complimented the college fair, adding that it's occurring at just the right time.

"As the budgets are getting smaller and as the force is getting smaller and as the workforce is getting filled with Soldiers and prior military people, we have to make sure that these guys are taken care of," he said.

While looking at academic opportunities, these Soldiers, some who have endured close to 13 years of persistent combat and war, possess numerous intangibles — leadership, discipline and experience, among others — Fort Hood Garrison Deputy Commander Andy Bird said.

The college fair was a chance for Soldiers to add to their professional military education.

Engen noted two types of Soldier communities that his staff attempted to cater to at the college fair.

"One is Soldiers that are trying to become more competitive to



Photos by Daniel Cernero, Sentinel Staff

Lori Poe, a representative with the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, speaks with Pfc. Joseph Lewis, 15th Military Intelligence Battalion during the Fort Hood Education Services College Fair April 1 inside the Soldier Development Center.

stay in (the) Army," he said, "and the other is those that might be impacted by the downsizing, and this will help them have a leg up on their peers when they make the transition out."

"The first decade of a Soldier's life goes very, very fast," Bird said. "And in that, they have to make certain decisions. I think the culture of the Army, the younger groups coming up, they understand that more so than the previous generation, because there was room for everyone."

"We're very selective," the garrison's deputy commander added. "Now, we're looking for a quality force. I call it putting the right Soldier in the right place. And they have to be educated. There's not a skill in the Army that's not very specialized now."

Even within the Army rank structure, specifically promotion requirements, education has become more prominent over the years, Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Berry, 85th Civil Affairs Brigade command sergeant major, said.

"I tell younger Soldiers, 'You can't look at me on how to be a sergeant major,'" Berry said. "This

changed significantly. The Army has changed, and what you're going to need to be is a whole lot different than what I've had to become to get where I'm at. The path is changing behind me."

"Education is much more important now than it ever was," he added.

Representing one of the military programs present at the college fair, Capt. Jamie Rodriguez, U.S. Army health care recruiter with the Army's Medical Recruiting Center Dallas, agreed with Berry's sentiment that more and more education is needed as a way for Soldiers to set themselves apart.

"They're here because they realize how competitive they have to be," Rodriguez said. "They realize that you need to have a diversified military and civilian portfolio in order to maintain and improve where you are. It's not necessarily wanting to do something else or change jobs. It's how can I be better and how do I diversify my own portfolio."

At the fair, Rodriguez sought Soldiers, not necessarily ones with a medical military occupation specialty, interested in the AMEDD

program.

"If you have that kind of drive and desire and you've met those (prerequisite) courses, you're eligible," she said. "You meet the initial time of service qualification and walk away with a commission, longevity in service and a degree that does translate well on the outside."

The college fair has passed, but those interested in a place to begin their academic pursuit should look no further than the Education Services Division's higher education track, said Katherine Walsh, counseling chief.

During the two-day program, with classes offered every Tuesday-Friday, the counselors clear the air and start from the beginning, comparing net cost versus advertised cost, how much the GI Bill will cover, and looking at job availability for certain degrees.

"They might come in with a plan, but we show how much it is really going to cost," Walsh said. "And we help them fill out the application."

Registration for this program is available on site or online through the Army Career and Alumni Program.



Andy Bird, Fort Hood deputy garrison commander, offers opening remarks at the Education Services College Fair April 1 inside the Soldier Development Center.

Fort Hood Chapel Services

COMANCHE CHAPEL
TANK DESTROYER BOULEVARD

Protestant Gospel, 11 a.m., Sun.
Protestant Gospel Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.,
Tutoring, 5:30 p.m., Wed., all ages
Joshua Generation Youth Fun Night, 7 p.m., Wed.
Bible Study, 7 p.m., Wed.
Intercessory prayer, 8 a.m., Sun.
Roman Catholic CCE 6-7:15 p.m., Wed

SPIRIT OF FORT HOOD CHAPEL
TANK DESTROYER BLVD. AND 31ST

ROMAN CATHOLIC
Sunday Mass, 9 a.m.
Daily Mass, noon, Mon.-Fri.
Military Council of Catholic Women contact 288-6545
Catholic Youth Ministries,
(8th-12th grade), 4 p.m., Sun.

JEWISH, EGALITARIAN SHABBAT
Service followed by light snack, 7 p.m., Fri.

PROTESTANT
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Sun. contemporary service, 11 a.m.
Awana 3-4:30 p.m., Sun.
PWOC, Tues. 9:30 a.m. and Thurs. 6:30 p.m.
Bob's Diner Youth Program
Arts Program, 6 p.m., Tues.
Middle School, 7 p.m., Tues.
High School, 6:30 p.m., Wed.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS
Community Connections, 5:30 p.m., Thurs.
Mothers of Preschoolers/Military, 1st Thurs. 9:30 a.m.

15TH STREET CHAPEL
NORTH FORT HOOD CHAPEL
15TH STREET AND HEADQUARTERS AVENUE

Service times may change based on mobilization schedules. Call the Garrison Chaplain's Office for more information, 288-6545.
Catholic, 2 p.m., Sat.
Protestant, 9 a.m., Sun.

Protestant, 7 p.m., Wed.
Latter Day Saints, 11 a.m., Sun.

19TH STREET CHAPEL
"THE OHANA PLACE"

Islamic (Jumah Prayers), 1 p.m., Fri.
Open Circle (Wiccan), 7 p.m., Wed.

25TH STREET CHAPEL
ID MEMORIAL CHAPEL
25TH STREET AND BATTALION AVENUE

Eastern Orthodox, 11 a.m., Sun.
Call 768-7649 for further details and schedule.

33RD STREET CHAPEL
SPIRITUAL FITNESS CENTER

Liturgical, 9 a.m., Sun.
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Divine Service, 5 p.m., Sun.

58TH STREET CHAPEL
OIF VETERANS CHAPEL

Catholic Confession, 4 p.m., Sat.
Catholic Mass, 5 p.m., Sat.
Spanish Catholic Mass, noon, Sun.

67TH STREET CHAPEL
13TH ESC CHAPEL
CORNER OF 57TH STREET AND SUPPORT AVENUE

F3 Protestant, 10 a.m., Sun.

73RD STREET CHAPEL
1ST CAV. MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Protestant, 10 a.m., Sun.

76TH STREET CHAPEL
IRONHORSE CHAPEL

Traditional Protestant Service, 10 a.m., Sun.
Protestant Samoan, noon, Sun.
Messianic Jewish, 7 p.m., Fri.

CRDMC CHAPEL
ROOM 507, HOSPITAL CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE
Protestant (General), 11:30 a.m., Wed.

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Wednesday Bible Study 6:00PM
Thursday Choir Practice 6:00PM
Saturday Morning Prayers 5:00AM

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Proclamation signing recognizes MoMC, child abuse prevention month

BY DANIEL CERNERO
Sentinel Staff

As members in the Fort Hood community gathered April 3 for the Month of the Military Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation signing, Maj. Gen. Anthony Ierardi, III Corps and Fort Hood deputy commanding general, said the sight of children entering III Corps Headquarters' east atrium brightened the day of those in attendance, one day after the shooting incident April 2.

"It's a time for Soldiers, commanders, civilians, parents, providers and an entire community to pool our efforts to protect and care for all of our children," Ierardi said of the month of April. "It's an opportunity for all of us to come together for one goal: ending child abuse and honoring the sacrifices that military children make every day."

This month celebrates strength and resilience, the general said, as they look for ways to build a bright future for all military families.

"Every child deserves a safe, nurturing home to grow up in," Ierardi said. "When children are abused, especially by those closest to them, it can lead to scars that last a lifetime. For the future of our nation, we need to protect our children from abuse and exploitation."

Mike Gentry, Harker Heights police chief in attendance at the ceremony, said preventing child



Photos by Daniel Cernero, Sentinel Staff
Maj. Gen. Anthony Ierardi, III Corps and Fort Hood deputy commanding general, meets with children of Meadows Child Development Center April 3 during the 2014 MoMC and Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation ceremony.

abuse and honoring military children takes a community effort.

"As the chief of police for one of the cities near Fort Hood, there's not any division between what occurs on Fort Hood and what occurs out," he said. "We're a military community and one big community."

"The fact is that if we don't work to identify (potential situations) early in the process, then they will more than likely manifest themselves," Gentry added, speaking of how to prevent child abuse. "What we want to do is try to frontload the issue as best we can, and we do that by collaborating through other disciplines – law enforcement, social services, family advocacy, everybody – to try to frontload that information so that we're all queued up to try to get into the process."

Billy Floyd, the manager of one of those disciplines, Fort Hood's Family Advocacy Program,

referred to children not as the warriors in the front but as the push from behind.

"They are woven into the military family fabric," she said.

By helping children with the activities going on in their life and working on readiness, Floyd said, it helps with parents and their readiness.

"Because if the kids are doing well, the parents will do well," she said, "and they can do their job much more effectively."

"Our services are doing an excellent job of supporting (the kids and their families)," Floyd added.

Raising awareness, like at events such as the proclamation signing, helps to stem the problem of child abuse, Gentry said.

"People who suffer in their homes do so thinking they're all by themselves," he said. "And events like this, with the command group's attention to this



Maj. Gen. Anthony Ierardi, III Corps and Fort Hood deputy commanding general, greets children of Meadows CDC during the 2014 MoMC and Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation ceremony April 3 inside III Corps Headquarters.

sort of thing, should remind everybody that this is on peoples' radar, people who have the ability to affect policy."

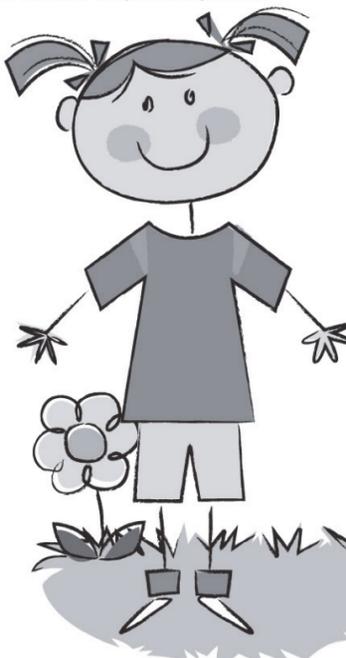
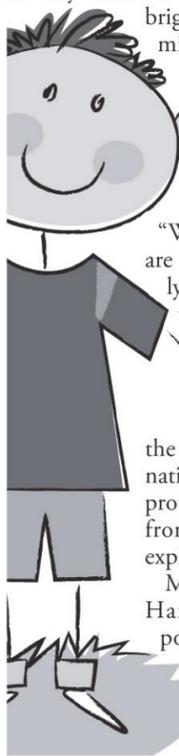
Gentry added that it's about making certain that people understand that if they're suffering in their home, there are solutions out here for them.

Honoring the children contributes to a healthy family unit, he said.

"If we don't look at it holistically, we're missing the point," Gentry said.

"They understand what's going on in the home," Floyd said of military children. "The younger ones might not understand cognitively what's going on, but they can tell about mood and feel if there's stress and tension."

"If we honor them," she said, "we want to keep them safe."



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Health Works

'Take back your Army' from sexual predators, SecArmy implores

BY DAVID VERGUN

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — "Take back your Army from those who harm or assault our Soldiers. Take back your Army from those who ignore the values and who stain our honor. Take back our Army from those who fail to lead," Secretary of the Army John McHugh said.

The stain to which he referred is sexual assault and harassment.

The secretary, along with Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler III, were the featured speakers at a Pentagon ceremony marking the start of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, observed in April.

This year's theme is "Speak Up! A Voice Unheard is an Army Defeat."

With the secretary's call to action, victims are feeling more confident and are reporting these crimes more often, ensuring that their commanders will follow up and act, McHugh said.

Soldiers stepping up is not merely anecdotal.

Survivors have had the courage to come forward and report the crimes against them, Odierno said, citing a 51-percent increase in reported sexual assaults from 2012 to 2013, with about 10 percent of those reports



Courtesy photo

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno speaks at a Pentagon ceremony marking the start of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, observed in April.

citing trauma, which occurred more than a year earlier.

"I believe that's starting to show confidence that the Army is taking this seriously, that the chain of command is taking this seriously," he said.

McHugh credited the rise in victim reporting with a number of factors, including increasing the number of victim advocates and sexual assault response coordinators, and

prosecutors and investigators are receiving better training.

Additionally, there is now a requirement for mandatory comments on officer and noncommissioned officer evaluation reports, detailing how they are fostering climates of dignity and respect and adherence to the Sexual Harassment / Assault Response and Prevention program, known as SHARP.

Besides better training and report-

ing requirements, Odierno said the culture is changing at the small-unit level, and that's where change is most effective.

"We won't succeed at this with PowerPoint slides or briefings in large formations and mandatory training," as was the case with training in the past, he said.

Rather, he challenged leaders at every level to get their Soldiers together in small groups and talk

about the problem.

"Every leader needs to take ownership of this problem," Odierno said.

Odierno referred to sexual assault and harassment as an "insider threat," affecting the "credibility of our institution."

Dealing with this insider threat, he said requires using the chain of command and, when necessary, the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"The UCMJ, when implemented properly, is the best tool possible to prosecute offenders and protect survivors because it allows the commander to take actions beyond that of civilian courts, to prosecute both sexual assault and harassment, on or off post," he explained.

Odierno implored Soldiers to take this problem head on and intervene when harassment is observed at its earliest stage.

"It's reprehensible that anyone who wears this uniform threatens or assaults a member of the Army family," he said. "These crimes destroy the lives of individuals, degrade the readiness of our force for war and threaten the very core of our institution and the Army profession."

He added that the issue is about trust and that every act of sexual assault or harassment violates that trust.

"The American public expects the Army to get this right," Odierno said.



MARCH 26

A son, **Joshua Lamar**, to John and Devora Alston, 1st Cav. Div.

A daughter, **Abigail Elizabeth**, to Richard and Rachel Iversen, 3rd Cav. Regt.

A son, **Alistair Ray Albritton**, to Stephan and Havin Crowley, 1st Cav. Div.

A daughter, **Isabelle Dawn**, to Christofer and Victoria Starbuck, 3rd Cav. Regt.

A son, **Elijah Hunter Toro**, to Robert Toro and Rachel Foster, 69th ADA Bde.

A daughter, **Anastasia**, to Davie and Priscilla Diaz, III Corps.

A son, **Hudson Kash**, to Dusty and Haley Humphrey, 1st Cav. Div.

A daughter, **Kenna Kay**, to Kenneth and Kristi Hill, Jr., 1st Cav. Div.

A daughter, **Isabel Marie**, to Michael and Kimberly Walter, 206th MI Bn.

MARCH 27

A son, **Jedidiah Frederick**, to Justina and Reshard Songer,

of Fort Hood.

A son, **Brantley William**, to Matthew and Britney Lewis, 36th Eng. Bde.

MARCH 28

A son, **John Alan**, to Robert and Kaitlyn Erb, 1st Cav. Div.

A son, **Jaleel Zaire**, to Stephen and Shari McCallum, III Corps.

A daughter, **Sue-Sie**, to Jungsoon and Sung Min Park, 1st Cav. Div.

A daughter, **Everly Renee**, to Joshua and Cory Lynn York, 61st MMB.

MARCH 29

A son, **Re'Chet Pisith**, to Suonpisith and Cheyenne Chhim, 1st Cav. Div.

A daughter, **Kaylor Jae'**, to James and Kia Middleton, 1st Cav. Div.

MARCH 30

A son, **Wyatt Christopher**, to Christopher and Carissa Boehne, III Corps.

MARCH 31

A daughter, **Daphney Ann**, to Lloyd and Heather Daniel, 1st Cav. Div.

A son, **Max Arias**, to Jason and Ida Liderbach-Vega, 1st Cav. Div.

A son, **Kinnon Scott**, to Charles and Kristen May,

1st Cav. Div.

A daughter, **Pennelope**, to Byron and Lacy Montgomery, OTC.

A daughter, **Rayleigh Cherie Annalise**, to Aaron and Vanessa Moyer, 504th BfSB.

A daughter, **Lunzee Jade**, to Eric and K'Lee Reynolds, 1st Cav. Div.

A son, **Gabriel Joseph**, to George and Christine Salonga, 3rd Cav. Regt.

APRIL 1

A son, **Carlos Alexander**, to Jan and Cassy Adan, III Corps.

A son, **Damian Perez**, to Odlanier Perez and Iris Herrera-Vilkto, 1st Cav. Div.

APRIL 2

A son, **Lincoln Marc**, to Marc and Katie Austin, 3rd Cav. Regt.

A son, **Josiah Christian**, to Christopher and Geraldine Figueroa, 80th MCT.

A daughter, **Alyssa Michelle**, to Adam and Dina Grass, 1st Cav. Div.

A son, **Logan Tyler Paul**, to Mark and Felicia McCulley, 1st Cav. Div.

APRIL 3

A son, **Elliot Hawkins**, to Spencer and Brandy Lynn Harris, III Corps.

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Memorial: Reunion connects unit past with present

Continued from C1

symbolize something far greater than the campaigns written on them.

“Together, they represent the tens of thousands of Soldiers who served under them,” Price said. “Their weight is the physical manifestation of the (missions) this battalion has borne for this Army and its nation. Today, we honor our brothers who bore this burden most.”

Price said he sought to connect the history and lineage of the Lancer Battalion with the Soldiers currently in its ranks.

“Toward this end, we have sought to connect the past with the present, to bring the lineage to life,” Price said. “Today, as you remember your fallen, your enduring commitment to your brothers, (you) forge that mission in great detail.”

Later in the ceremony, York and retired Capt. Lucas Cioffi, the former executive officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the Lancer Battalion in April 2004,

read the names of 26 Soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice during Operation Iraqi Freedom Two.

Inscribed on a wall at the memorial are the words of former president George W. Bush, “Their sacrifice will always be remembered by a grateful nation,” as he stated April 12, 2005.

The Siege

The Siege of Sadr City was a collaborated blockade between the governments of the U.S. and Iraq of the Shia district of northern Baghdad to stifle the efforts of the center of power for the Mahdi Army in Baghdad.

Just a few weeks prior, the Lancer Battalion had arrived to relieve elements of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment of the responsibility of Sadr City.

In defiance of the Coalition Provisional Authority, the Mahdi Army started an uprising against the Coalition powers in early April 2004.

The Sacrifice

The morning of April 4, 2004, a day Soldiers would come to call



The names of the 26 fallen Soldiers that gave their lives to protect their brothers-in-arms during the siege of Sadr City, Iraq.

“Black Sunday,” started like every other day for Soldiers assigned to Task Force Lancer at Camp War Eagle in the northeastern area of Baghdad, also known as Sadr City.

While completing a mission an element from the task force came under heavy fire from insurgent forces. The unit was ambushed and pinned down.

The element received rocket propelled grenade and small arms fire from street-level and rooftop enemy positions manned by members of the Mahdi Army. The unit from Lancer immediately took casualties.

The unit called for support and Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st BCT, and units from the 2d CR responded with a quick reaction force. Two Soldiers from 1-82 lost their lives in the fighting.

After hours of fighting, eight Soldiers were lost and approximately 50 were wounded.



Roses lie at the foot of a statue as people walk around viewing the names of Soldiers who have passed, at the 1st Cavalry Division's Memorial April 5, at Fort Hood. The 2-5 Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div., held a ceremony in honor of those who died on April 4, 2004, during the Siege of Sadr City, Iraq and Operation Iraqi Freedom II.



Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Fragoso, the senior noncommissioned officer of the 2nd “Lancer” Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st “Ironhorse” Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, respectfully waits for the memorial ceremony at the 1st Cavalry Division Memorial Saturday at Fort Hood.

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Left turn



Slow down



Staggered riding



Right turn



Speed up



Time for a pit stop

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



A BAND OF BROTHERS & SISTERS

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo FROM END TO BEGINNING

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 With a leg on either side of</p> <p>8 “What — thou?”</p> <p>14 Curt</p> <p>20 Be afraid to</p> <p>21 Stock market worker</p> <p>22 Pasta piece</p> <p>23 Province capital on the Yellow River</p> <p>25 Over there</p> <p>26 Old-time actress</p> <p>27 Countless years</p> <p>28 Aves. and bivds.</p> <p>29 — Jima</p> <p>31 See 50-Down</p> <p>32 Tasty tidbit</p> <p>35 Director of the Humphrey Bogart film “Sahara”</p> <p>38 Reduces to bits, as a potato</p> <p>41 Chief ore of lead</p> <p>43 Luau necklace</p> <p>44 Foofaraw</p> <p>45 Chair part</p> <p>48 Winner’s sign</p> <p>49 “So long!”</p> | <p>51 The Beatles’ “— Be”</p> <p>56 Greek philosopher known for paradoxes</p> <p>59 “Avatar” actress</p> <p>61 Ribald</p> <p>62 Word after church or film</p> <p>63 Of the back</p> <p>64 Cotton machines</p> <p>65 Yale alum</p> <p>67 “La Loge” painter</p> <p>69 Penguin of Antarctica</p> <p>71 Me, to Mimi</p> <p>73 European country capital</p> <p>78 Piloted</p> <p>79 Not hidden</p> <p>81 Without delay</p> <p>82 — Lanka</p> <p>84 Stadium row</p> <p>85 Kia sedan</p> <p>89 Stare open-mouthed</p> <p>91 Eagerly excited</p> <p>94 Animal-filled attraction in Georgia</p> <p>96 Israel Philharmonic director</p> <p>98 Extrapolate</p> | <p>99 Euro divs.</p> <p>100 Deep blue</p> <p>101 Subpar mark</p> <p>102 Gridder</p> <p>Tebow</p> <p>103 Put a question to</p> <p>105 Alma — (home schools)</p> <p>108 Spacek of the screen</p> <p>110 Sorority founded at Howard University in 1920</p> <p>115 Rigid beliefs</p> <p>118 Flubs up</p> <p>119 Party game</p> <p>120 Managed care gp.</p> <p>122 Luc’s “yes”</p> <p>123 Word-of-mouth</p> <p>127 London native, e.g.</p> <p>129 Shooter allowing for an adjustable focal length</p> <p>133 Altman of film</p> <p>134 Taking Rx drugs</p> <p>135 Natural abilities</p> <p>136 Warnings</p> <p>137 Hi-fi setup</p> <p>138 Big hawks</p> | <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Carving tool</p> <p>2 Funny Mort</p> <p>3 Very, in Paris</p> <p>4 Label again</p> <p>5 Gerund suffix</p> <p>6 One napping</p> <p>7 Communal character</p> <p>8 Erwin of film</p> <p>9 Parabolas’ paths</p> <p>10 Game with five dice</p> <p>11 Thomas who founded GE</p> <p>12 VIP in D.C.</p> <p>13 Attribute</p> <p>14 “— home?”</p> <p>15 Jeering shout</p> <p>16 Sonata movement</p> <p>17 Cow dangler</p> <p>18 Appeal earnestly</p> <p>19 On — firma</p> <p>24 Blood type, informally</p> <p>30 Polish labor leader Lech</p> <p>33 Major city of Norway</p> <p>34 Shirley’s sitcom friend</p> <p>36 Toil away</p> <p>37 “To — a Mockingbird”</p> <p>38 Motorola cellphone</p> <p>39 Inking</p> <p>40 Imagine</p> <p>42 Meadowland</p> <p>46 String after D</p> <p>47 Maestro Solti</p> <p>50 With 31- Across, hubby’s assent</p> <p>52 Verge</p> <p>53 Red braking signals</p> <p>54 Many a navel</p> <p>55 Stunned with a gun</p> <p>57 Olive loved by Popeye</p> <p>58 Lustful look</p> <p>59 Storied masked swordsman</p> <p>60 Jai —</p> <p>63 Formal fiats</p> <p>66 Suffix with final or moral</p> <p>68 Romney’s 2012 rival</p> <p>70 “— Kapital”</p> <p>71 Actress Gaynor</p> <p>72 Kitchen bulb</p> <p>74 Mil. truant</p> <p>75 Vigilant</p> <p>76 Hail — (cry “Taxi!”)</p> <p>77 Slightly warm</p> <p>80 “Dies —” (hymn)</p> <p>83 “Norma —”</p> <p>86 Wolf down</p> <p>87 Grenade filler</p> <p>88 “Open up!” follower</p> <p>90 Propyl ender</p> <p>92 Rending of song</p> <p>93 Like slightly spoiled meat</p> <p>95 Ensnare</p> <p>96 Closing letter</p> <p>97 Little plateau</p> <p>100 Talk like</p> <p>104 Railroad switches</p> <p>106 In the house</p> <p>107 Before long</p> <p>109 Related compound</p> <p>110 Bicolor beast</p> <p>111 Flynn of film</p> <p>112 Family group</p> <p>113 Daisy cousin</p> <p>114 Clowns</p> <p>116 Enthusiasm</p> <p>117 Minerals in thin layers</p> <p>121 Aged, once</p> <p>124 Descartes of philosophy</p> <p>125 Culturally pretentious</p> <p>126 Maiden</p> <p>128 Meal scrap</p> <p>130 Ottawa loc.</p> <p>131 That, to Juan</p> <p>132 High, snow-capped peak</p> |
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2-5: Shared tough times, good times tie Lancer Families

Continued from C1

retold and some valor medals were awarded, but there are countless others that did not receive notice outside of the unit.

"There were so many you'll never know," Volesky said. "There weren't a lot of valor awards presented."

He recalled a cook from the unit that could not be located during an accountability formation during the initial fight. The battalion commander was informed that the cook had jumped into a Bradley fighting vehicle to help his brethren who were trapped under fire in Sadr City. The cook, Volesky said, was not alone in his willingness to step into the fight and save his brothers.

"That attitude permeated the entire battalion and the entire deployment," he said. "I'd give them all valorous awards, but what's more important is our bond."

Josh Rountree, an infantryman with 2-5 Cav. during OIF II, attended the reunion because of the bond, which he described as

"baptism by fire." It was the shared bond among the men that kept them going out into the fight every day.

"The real reason was to protect the guy on your left or right," Rountree said. "We went out to protect each other."

Clay Spicer, who was the executive officer for Company C, 2-5 Cav. in 2004-2005 and helped organize the reunion, agreed.

"We relied on each other. We looked after each other," Spicer said. "Everyone sacrificed."

That sacrifice was evident, not only from visible wounds, but in the way the men greeted each other with hugs and tears.

"There's not a day that goes by that I don't think about you," 1st Lt. Josh York, who was a staff sergeant with TF Lancer, said.

The veterans and Families were there to reconnect and remember, as well as honor the fallen.

Gold Star Family members in attendance were another visible reminder of the sacrifices made by not only Soldiers from 2-5 Cav.,

but also those from other units who stepped up to help the Lancer Soldiers.

Those Families are forever a part of the larger Lancer Family.

Angel Munoz, sister of Spc. Robert Arsiaga, who gave his life on April 4, 2004, honored all of the fallen from that day, but also honored those who came home from the fight.

Munoz said she found some measure of comfort that her brother died with his best friend, Spc. Israel Garza.

"There is a peace in knowing that they died protecting each other," she said.

Munoz also reminded the veterans that, "your destiny remains to be seen."

Steve Hendrickson, son, Spc. Robert Taylor Hendrickson, served with 2-5 Cav. and died in February 2005 in a vehicle rollover in Baghdad, weeks before he was scheduled to come home. The elder Hendrickson said the night before the reunion it occurred to him that he is part of the Lancer Family.

"I realized I have some brothers out there, I have sons," he said. "I have a Family here and thank you very much for making us part of your Family."

Former 1st Cavalry Division Commander and retired Gen. Peter Chiarelli, who led the division during those tough days 2004-2005 and retired in 2012 as the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, shared a story about how his father, a decorated World War II veteran who never shared any of his experiences in the war, would attend reunions every few years for his unit, the 756th Tank Battalion.

The former Cav commander said he now understands more about why his father would go to the reunions.

"April 4 (2004) was a terrible day," Chiarelli said. "There were many terrible days in Iraq, but seeing all of you yesterday, standing back and watching you throw your arms around each other and tell your stories, not just about the tough days; but there were a couple of good days."

That bond of brotherhood that held the Lancer Soldiers together in the tough times is the same bond that holds them together now, Chiarelli said.

The 2-5 Cav Soldiers and their Families were a team then and remain a team.

"Their legacy isn't just a battle in Iraq," Volesky said. "Their legacy is commitment, dedication and loyalty to the team."



Courtesy photo

In this 2004 photo, Lancer Soldiers from 2-5 Cav. Regt. dismount a Bradley fighting vehicle in Sadr City, Iraq, during their deployment in support of OIF II. Just days into their deployment, the Soldiers met with a fierce uprising in Sadr City that lasted 80 days.



Photo by Heather Graham-Ashley, Sentinel News Editor

Black granite tablets bearing the names of the 1st Cav. Div. fallen are surrounded by long-stemmed roses Saturday, following a memorial ceremony held in remembrance of those 2-5 Cav. Soldiers who gave their lives in OIF II.

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Honoring the Red, White, Blue



A formation of Soldiers with III Corps and Fort Hood fold the American flag after lowering it during a retreat ceremony March 27 at III Corps Headquarters.



Photos by Sgt. Ken Scar, 7th MPAD

A formation of Soldiers with III Corps and Fort Hood salute the American flag as they lower it during a retreat ceremony March 27.



A formation of Soldiers with III Corps and Fort Hood bring in the American Flag during a retreat ceremony March 27 at the III Corps Headquarters flagpole.



Sgt. Edward Salas carries the American flag into the III Corps Headquarters building March 27 after the retreat ceremony.



Army Spc. Garrett Gilmore holds the folded American flag as Spc. Thomas Gardner straightens it after a retreat ceremony March 27 on Fort Hood.



Soldiers with III Corps and Fort Hood stand at attention under the garrison flagpole March 27 during the retreat ceremony.

SPORTS BRIEFS

APRIL 10

Golf scramble
Division West's 120th Infantry Brigade will host a golf scramble today on post at the Courses of Clear Creek.

Played as a four-person, 18-hole scramble, the event costs \$35 per person, with proceeds benefiting the unit's organizational day.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start following at 10 a.m.

Prizes will be awarded to the first-place finisher, the top two longest drives and the top two closest to the pin.

For more information, contact Heath Kleck at heath.e.kleck.mil@mail.mil or at 287-9497.

APRIL 11

SHARP 5K

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and in support of this, there will be a Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention 5K from 6-8 a.m. Friday.

Assembly for the run will be at Sadowski Field in front of the III Corps Headquarters at 6 a.m. with the run beginning at 6:35 a.m.

Participation in the walk/run is open to all service members, retirees, Family Members and Department of Defense civilians.

For more information, call the 287-9487.

ONGOING

Yoga classes

Free yoga classes are available on Fort Hood at a selection of times throughout the week inside the Applied Fitness Center.

Classes are held Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays from 7:30-8:30 a.m., 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

A beginner's yoga class is held Thursdays from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

For more information, call 287-5586.



Courtesy photos
Scales hang at the finish line of the Bataan Memorial Death March in White Sands Missile Range, N.M. Participants were required to carry a pack or ruck weighing a minimum of 35 pounds for the 26.2 mile event, or they were disqualified.

'Death March' survivors motivate CA Soldiers

BY STAFF SGT. GREGORY SANDERS
85th CA Bde. Public Affairs

Following the surrender of nearly 75,000 troops during the battle of Bataan, the arduous five-day, 65-mile Bataan Death March in 1942 began and ultimately resulted in the deaths of 7,000 to 10,000 men.

The annual Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., honors those men, and five Soldiers assigned to Bravo Company, 81st Civil Affairs Battalion, 85th Civil Affairs brigade, tested their mettle at the event March 23.

The team overcame the desert, steep elevation changes and exhaustion as they carried

rucksacks weighing 35 pounds or more across 26.2 miles of the New Mexico Desert to place second within the Male Military Heavy category.

Staff Sgt. Jose Ledee, a CA non-commissioned officer with 81st CA Bn., applied experiences from his participation in 2012 to this year.

"The first time I did it was for the physical challenge," Ledee said. "This time, at least physically, I thought it was easier. I learned from my first time simple things like wear your PC when the sun is hitting you, drink a lot more water - I was very dehydrated in 2012," Ledee said.

Ledee managed to convince four 81st CA Bn. cohorts to participate in the event and

See *Bataan, D4*

Sgt. 1st Class Diego Pina, a civil affairs team sergeant assigned to 81st CA Bn., 85th CA Bde., leads his team during a portion of the Bataan Memorial Death March in White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

Soldiers ready for World Cup on home range

BY MICHAEL MOLINARO
U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Seven Soldiers from the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit joined members of the U.S. National Shooting Team to compete in the International Shooting Sports Federation World Cup, which ran from March 28-April 2 at the USAMU's Pool International Range Complex and Phillips Range on Fort Benning.

Enthusiasm surrounding the match has been amplified by Team USA's home field advantage.

"It is very nice to be able to compete on our home range," said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Parker, rifle team coach. "Hosting the World Cup on Fort Benning allows us to continue with our normal routines, and gives our Families a rare opportunity to come out and watch us compete on the world stage."

More than 400 competitors from 50 nations competed in the



Photo by Michael Molinaro, USAMU

Sarah Scherer from the U.S. National Shooting Team competes in the Women's Three-position Rifle March 31 at Pool International Range Complex on Fort Benning, Ga. Competitors from 50 countries came to Fort Benning for the International Shooting Sports Federations first Rifle and Pistol World Cup of the 2014 season. Scherer won a bronze medal in the event, claiming Team USA's first medal of the World Cup.

first of three scheduled World Cup rifle and pistol events leading up to the ISSF World Shooting Championships in September.

Leading the way in the rifle event were 2012 Olympians Sgt. 1st Class Eric Uptagrafft and Staff Sgt. Michael McPhail.

The duo competed against a stacked field in the Men's Rifle Prone event April 1. Included in the field were the 2012 Olympic Silver and Bronze Medalists from London, Lionel Cox of Belgium and Slovenia's Rajmond Debevec.

"World Cups are significantly more competitive than some of the other competitions we attend," Parker said. "Countries from all over the world send their best athletes to win medals ... making a World Cup an extraordinary event."

Also competing in rifle were



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Piper, USAMU

Sgt. 1st Class James Henderson fires for Team USA in the Men's 50 Meter Pistol during the 2014 World Cup at USAMU's Pool Range April 1 on Fort Benning, Ga.

Staff Sgt. Joe Hein in Men's Three-position rifle; Staff Sgt. George Norton, Air Rifle; and Sgt. Erin Lorenzen, Women's Three-position rifle. Hein is a past World Cup gold medalist, while Lorenzen made her first appearance at a World Cup.

Two pistol shooters were part of the U.S. team - Sgt. 1st Class James Henderson and Staff Sgt. Brad Balsley. While Balsley went for gold in Men's Rapid Fire, Henderson was looking to build on a strong performance at the U.S. World Cup selection match in Colorado Springs in February.

The eight-time Interservice Pistol champion and 2009 National Pistol champion turned his attention to Olympic-style pistol shooting over the past year and looks to continue his

progression in Men's Free Pistol. Henderson said he was excited to begin his quest for the 2016 Olympics in comfortable surroundings.

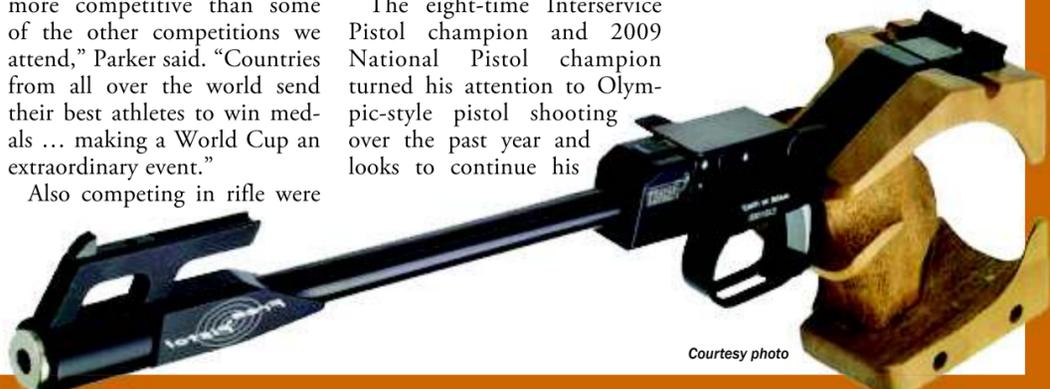
"I'm really looking forward to competing in front of the home crowd," Henderson said before the event. "I've had a good start to the year thanks to hard work, dedication and input from my teammates. Now I have to go out and perform on the big stage."

The World Cup kicked off March 28 with the Men's Air Rifle and Women's Air Pistol events and concluded April 2.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Piper, USAMU

More than 60 competitors representing countries from around the world fire Men's Three-Position rifle March 30 during the International Shooting Sports Federation 2014 Rifle and Pistol World Cup at Fort Benning, Ga.



Courtesy photo

NEXT UP...

SPRINT CUP
Race: Bojangles' Southern 500
Where: Darlington Raceway
When: Saturday, 6:30 p.m. (ET)
TV: FOX
2013 Winner: Matt Kenseth (right)



NATIONWIDE SERIES
Race: VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero 200
Where: Darlington Raceway
When: Friday, 8 p.m. (ET)
TV: ESPN2
2013 Winner: Kyle Busch

CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS
Race: SFP 250
Where: Kansas Speedway
When: May 9, 8:30 p.m. (ET)
TV: FOX Sports 1
2013 Winner: Matt Crafton



Joey Logano emerges victorious in rain-delayed Duck Commander 500 at Texas Motor Speedway

Joey Logano sped away from Jeff Gordon on a green-white-checkered-flag run to the finish of the Duck Commander 500 at Texas Motor Speedway on Monday to become the Sprint Cup season's seventh different winner in the first seven races.

It was his fourth career Cup victory, and it all but assures him of a berth in the Chase for the Sprint Cup.

Logano, in his No. 22 Team Penske Ford, emerged as the dominant driver late in the 500, which was pushed to Monday because of persistent rain Sunday afternoon. But as he was cruising at the front with a little more than a lap to run, Kurt Busch blew a tire, and the shredding tire tore pieces of metal from his car. The flying metal caused NASCAR to display the caution flag.

Logano's crew, among others, elected to change four tires for the two-lap run to the finish, but the crews of Jeff Gordon and Brian Vickers took just two, and that allowed them to start on the front row for the final restart.

Logano lined up third, and was set to start beside his teammate Brad Keselowski, but Keselowski was sent to the rear of the pack for speeding on pit road, and that put Kyle Busch in fourth for the restart.

Gordon took the lead on the drop of the green flag, but Logano overpowered him and went on to victory with Gordon second over Busch, Vickers and rookie Kyle Larson, who continues to impress with his performances in the No. 42 Chevrolet owned by Chip Ganassi.

Logano, who led three times for a race-leading 108 laps, said he came to Texas with very high expectations.

"I felt very confident about this race," he said. "For some reason, I told [crew chief] Todd Gordon, 'We're going to win this week,'" he said. "I was mad when we didn't get the pole, but I felt like we had a car that could win this thing. At the beginning we didn't, and then Todd and the guys made good adjustments and had good stops all day."

Logano said he's a bit surprised it took him seven races to get his first win of the season.

"I feel like the Shell/Pennzoil Ford could have been to Victory Lane a couple times so far, and we're finally here," he said. "I feel like we gave away a couple already this season, so this car is fast. 'We're here to be a force all year.'"



Joey Logano becomes the seventh different Sprint Cup victor in seven races this season with win at Texas.

Keselowski, who dropped to 15th in the finishing order because of his speeding penalty, said the risk was one he felt he had to take. "We're in it for wins," he said. "We're not in it for finishing second. Second or 15th is the same for us, so you've got to go for the win."

After starting the season with a Daytona 500 win and three other finishes of third or better in the first six races, Dale Earnhardt Jr. was the first driver out of the Duck Commander 500.

On Lap 12, Earnhardt dipped low on the track and into the grass between the frontstretch and pit road, then shot back across the track into the outside wall. His No. 88 Chevrolet began trailing flames, but he was uninjured.

Earnhardt shouldered the blame for the incident, which also collected his Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jimmie Johnson, whose No. 48 Chevrolet suffered damage to its windshield from debris stirred up by Earnhardt.

"Just didn't see the grass," Earnhardt said. "With the way the A-post is on these cars, you can't really see that good to that angle. I just didn't have a good visual of where the apron and the grass was, and got down in there pretty good."

"You can't run through there the way they have these cars on the ground like that. Just a mistake on my part. I just didn't know I was that close to the grass, and made a mistake."

"It tears the car up pretty good when you run through the grass." Earnhardt was credited with 43rd, while Johnson soldiered on to finish 25th, two laps behind the leaders. Earnhardt entered the 500 with the Sprint Cup points lead, but dropped to sixth place behind new leader Jeff Gordon.

Earnhardt wasn't the only 2014 race winner to have early troubles at Texas. Phoenix winner Kevin Harvick dropped out on Lap 28 with an apparent blown engine in his No. 4 Chevrolet. He finished 42nd.

"It's frustrating," Harvick said, adding that the Hendrick Motorsports engines used by his Stewart-Haas Racing team generally are quite reliable. "We'll take it back to the shop and figure out what happened. But that's a disappointing end to the day."

Despite his 2014 win, Harvick enters this weekend's Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway 26th in the standings, 121 points out of the lead.



Dale Earnhardt Jr. dropped from first to sixth in the Sprint Cup standings after his performance in the Duck Commander 500.

Chad Johnston deserves credit for Duck Commander 500 pole, according to his driver, Tony Stewart

Tony Stewart won the pole for the Duck Commander 500 at Texas Motor Speedway, the 15th of his Sprint Cup career, and his first since the fall of 2012 at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Stewart, who is better known for winning races — 48 in Cup alone — than poles, said his crew chief, Chad Johnston, deserved much of the credit for his success at Texas in the three-round "knock-out" qualifying session. Stewart was 16th-fastest after the first round, second-fastest after the second round and won the pole in the final round.

"The good thing is Chad Johnston made a really big change there to try and make it better," Stewart said. "Like he said, 'I was either going to make you quick, or I was going to make you 12th.'"

"I'm glad he made the change. He's got a lot of confidence and I really like that."

Stewart also said his pole is another sign of progress for Stewart-Haas Racing, which expanded from three to four teams since last year. Already this season, the team's two newest drivers — Kevin Harvick and Kurt Busch — have race victories, and Harvick set a new track record in the first round of qualifying at Texas.

"The good thing is, it's not just one team," Stewart said. "The whole organization is having really good starts as far as qualifying is concerned."

"I think the atmosphere at our shop is really good right now. It has been ever since the end of the season last year. Just a lot of new faces, and with that has come a new excitement around our shop and it seems to be transferring to what we are seeing on the race track as well."



Tony Stewart won the 15th pole of his Sprint Cup career in the Duck Commander 500 at Texas Motor Speedway.

NUMERICALLY SPEAKING

632 Laps led by Greg Biffle in the past nine Sprint Cup races at Darlington Raceway, tops among all drivers.

0 Laps led by Brad Keselowski in five career Cup starts at Darlington.

563 Green-flag passes by Tony Stewart in the past nine Cup races at Darlington, the most of any driver. But he's only led 12 laps.

6 Drivers in the top 10 in Nationwide Series points without a top-5 finish this season: Ty Dillon, Brendan Gaughan, Brian Scott, Dylan Kwasniewski, James Buescher and Ryan Reed.

Chase Elliott gets his first Nationwide Series victory at Texas Motor Speedway in his sixth rookie start

Plenty of people in racing circles have assumed for some time that Chase Elliott, the son of former Sprint Cup champion Bill Elliott, would one day be winning races on the same grand stage his father once did.

Few figured it would happen so quickly. Before he was old enough to drive on the high-way, he'd won many of Late Model racing's top events, including the biggest of all, the Snowball Derby at Five Flags Speedway in Pensacola, Fla.

Last year, at age 17, Elliott ran nine Camping World Truck Series races, winning a pole in his fifth start, at Bristol Motor Speedway, and a race in the next, on the road course at Bowmanville, Ontario, Canada.

This year, just six races into his rookie season, he won the O'Reilly Auto Parts 300 at Texas Motor Speedway, outrunning Cup veterans Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch at the end, and took the Nationwide Series points lead in the process.

Like his father back in the day, Elliott shows poise and maturity on and off the track, although Chase is much more comfortable dealing with media and fans than his father was in his early NASCAR years.

Chase Elliott's car owner, Dale Earnhardt Jr., like many others, sees a lot of Bill in Chase, as he pointed out during the winner's interview at Texas when asked who young Elliott brings to mind.

"His daddy," Earnhardt said. "They're similar in personality."

"You had to really work him over to get him upset. He was normally just concerned with his car, getting his car faster. Back in the mid-80s, when Bill and his brothers just focused on what they were doing and they would show up and

whup everybody, they weren't arrogant and cocky; they just showed up and ran. That's what [Chase] reminded me of."

Earnhardt said that even though Chase Elliott is still in high school, he's wise far beyond his years, and he's figuring out NASCAR racing pretty much on his own.

"He's got so much ability and composure, and he's just years ahead of guys normally of that age, and he's learning so fast on the fly," he said. "People ask me if I talked to him or tutored him or anything, but he's learning faster than you can teach him what's going on."

And Earnhardt sees even more success in the immediate future.

"I'm sure he's enjoying himself and Bill is happy, and whole team is excited," he said. "We've got a whole year ahead of us; great opportunity to get more."

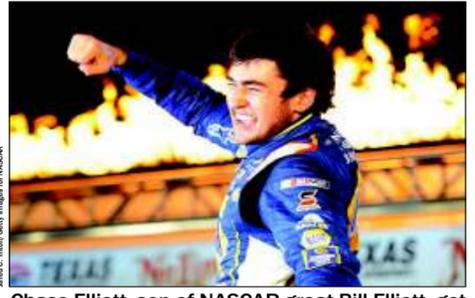
Earnhardt did say that Elliott — like him, the son of a giant in the sport — will have some adjustments to make as he continues to climb the NASCAR ladder.

"Earlier [Friday] we were qualifying, and our cars were side by side," he said. "When qualifying was over, he hopped the fence and walked toward the garage, and nobody asked him for his autograph."

"I was thinking to myself, 'It ain't going to be long until he's going to be swarmed with attention.'"

But he's confident the youngster can handle it.

"He's just really humble and very understanding of what's happening to him," Earnhardt said. "He grew up with his father as a racer and saw how popular Bill was. I know he made a lot of fans [at Texas], and he'll make some more throughout the season."



Chase Elliott, son of NASCAR great Bill Elliott, got his first Nationwide Series victory in the O'Reilly Auto Parts 300 at Texas Motor Speedway.

For his part, Chase Elliott said his demeanor and maturity is just who he is.

"That's just kind of how I've grown up, and I don't know if that's the right or wrong way to be, but that's how I am, and hopefully it will work out for us," he said.

And if he needed any help staying grounded after such a significant race victory, there's class on Monday morning.

"Nobody likes Mondays, so I'm sure it will be the same ol' deal — go and have a bunch of homework to do," he said.

Then comes his next racing challenge — taking on "The Track Too Tough to Tame" — Darlington Raceway — for the first time.

"This [Texas] race is over with," he said. "It's definitely something to enjoy, but at the same time, we got another race next Saturday night, and we've got to make sure we get prepared for that."

SPRINT CUP STANDINGS

1. Jeff Gordon, 259
2. Matt Kenseth, 255
3. Carl Edwards, 247
4. Joey Logano, 235
5. Kyle Busch, 231
6. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 228
7. Jimmie Johnson, 228
8. Brad Keselowski, 218
9. Brian Vickers, 205
10. Paul Menard, 203



UConn clears room in trophy case, wins another national championship



BY DANIEL CERNERO
Sentinel Sports Editor

Connecticut and Kentucky ended the runs of Florida and Wisconsin, respectively, creating a No. 7 vs. No. 8 championship game Monday night.



For the second time in four years, the UConn Huskies were crowned national champions, defeating the Wildcats 60-54 in a game that went down to the wire.

The Huskies forced turnovers as Kentucky players drove to the lane and countered in transition, opting for an up-tempo pace.

In addition to a stout defensive effort, UConn's guards – player

of the tournament Shabazz Napier and Ryan Boatright – carried the Huskies. What stood out to me most was both guards' ability to create room to get off a clean shot. Napier, standing at 6-foot-1, still rises above his defenders. CBS announcer Steve Kerr said it best on the broadcast: Napier can shoot over anybody. Boatright, on the other hand, creates space with a killer step-back move to juke his defender and create a window to put up the jumper.

And with the size of Kentucky's backcourt, specifically the freshman Harrison twins, Aaron and Andrew, the Wildcats were able to deny Napier the ball at times, increasing the importance of the Huskies having other options. Napier and Boatright combined for 36 of UConn's 60 points.

For Kentucky, and for another John Calipari-coached team a few years ago, poor free throw shooting played a huge role in the title game. In Memphis' 2008 finals loss, the Tigers missed seven of their 19 free throws. On Monday, the Wildcats managed to go 13-for-24 from the charity stripe. In fact, Kentucky missed more free throws – 11 –

than UConn even attempted – 10 – and the Huskies didn't miss a single time.

While the championship game didn't provide a buzzer-beating shot or a crazy overtime, as a fan I can be thankful that it was close and competitive throughout. And it sure came with its own set of memorable moments – Napier's circus layup and Kentucky James Young's show-stopping slam in traffic.

The Wildcats played solid defense throughout, typically resisting the urge to bite on UConn's head fakes – and Kentucky should have been well-versed on ignoring the head fake

after playing Wisconsin to reach the finals. However, on the crucial defensive stand, as the Wildcats chose to play straight-up defense rather than foul to extend the game, Kentucky forward Alex Poythress

fell for the head fake to end all head fakes at a time in the game Kentucky absolutely couldn't take a foul.

“
And in my bracket, I had UConn losing its opening to St. Joe's ... woops.

– Daniel Cernero

”

et, I had UConn losing its opening to St. Joe's ... woops.

I don't blame myself too much, considering this UConn team lost to Louisville by 33 points at one point in the season. Oh, and the

Huskies lost twice to SMU, a team that narrowly missed the tournament altogether.

Kentucky, despite lofty expectations each and every year, can still consider this year a success, in my opinion. Just look at the bigger picture for how this season progressed: Throughout SEC conference play, the Wildcats lost six games, and nearly everyone, including myself, had written the year off as a failed iteration of the one-and-done experiment. As a result, the preseason No. 1 team was a No. 8 seed in the tournament – roughly the 33rd-best team.

And then these young 'Cats went on a run – they dispatched of Kansas State, survived previously undefeated Wichita State, snuck by the defending national champions, Louisville, eluded last year's runner-up in Michigan and nipped another Big 10 team in Wisconsin.

While their margin of victory never reached double digits, Kentucky blazed an incredible trail just to reach the finale.

Glasses up to nine months' time when we return to Cowboys Stadium for the football national championship game.

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PRO GOLF TIP

From Chuck McPhilomy, assistant golf professional at the Courses of Clear Creek.

Align your putter before you align yourself

Set your putter down behind the ball and check to see that it is square to your intended line. Then take your stance according to where the putter is aligned. You and your putter are now square to the line.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"I would much rather be hitting the driver and a nine-iron out of the rough than hitting a driver and a four-iron out of the fairway."

– Jack Nicklaus

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Members of the 81st Civil Affairs Battalion, 85th Civil Affairs Brigade, negotiate an obstacle known as The Sand Pit during the Bataan Memorial Death March held in White Sands Missile Range, N.M., March 24. The team completed the 26-mile memorial march, finishing second among 33 teams in the male military heavy category.

Bataan: Soldiers endure memorial 26.2-mile ruck march

Continued from D1

developed a three-month training regime that would ultimately lead to their success. Even though there were 32 Male Military Heavy teams, he remained confident in his team.

"I knew the guys here were capable of finishing in the top three," Ledee said.

There was more to the event for Ledee beyond the physical aspect.

"It's a great experience," Ledee said. "If you read into the history of the Death March, not only is it a great story, but we also had survivors talk about their experiences and what they went through."

Upon arrival to White Sands, the

team joined nearly 6,500 participants and were broken down into small groups, each group with a survivor telling their Death March story.

"That made it more motivating and throughout the course of the 26 miles, you are thinking about that, reminding yourself and saying, 'OK, I'm not going to fall out.' Those stories kind of keep you going," Ledee said.

During the Bataan Death March, Soldiers were placed into groups of 100 with four guards assigned to each group. Along the route, Soldiers were beaten and stabbed, sometimes out of sheer malice of the Japanese troops. If they were to succumb to exhaustion, dehydration, or sickness, they would be summarily executed

unless another Soldier could pick them off the ground and provide support.

"It's pretty amazing – those Soldiers did it (while) getting beat up, (with) little or no water at all, and if they couldn't make it, they were killed on the spot," Ledee said.

The relative ease of this 26-mile memorial march was not lost on Sgt. 1st Class Diego Pina.

"All I'm doing is 26 miles for fun. No one is beating you up, degrading you, torturing you – its minimal compared to what the (Death March) survivors went through," said Pina, a civil affairs team sergeant assigned to 81st CA Bn. "These Soldiers are our forefathers. They paved our way; they left that legacy. It's

important to keep that alive."

Staff Sgt. Angel Irizarry, another CA noncommissioned officer with 81st CA Bn., was reluctant at first but saw an opportunity in the challenge.

"I wasn't thinking about going until Ledee approached me about the idea of marching 26.2 miles with a rucksack to honor those Soldiers that survived and died (during) the actual march," Irizarry said. "It was a great opportunity for me to go with a team and learn more history and military heritage."

At the finish line, Irizarry reflected on his experience.

"After we went through the 26 miles, you feel very grateful how God can give you the strength to

go through something like that," Irizarry said. "And then how he can give you the happiness to say I made it and I finished in 2nd place. I actually feel grateful because I actually proved to myself that I could do it and we did it as a team."

The 81st CA Bn. team finished second with a time of 7 hours and 6 minutes, two hours behind the first-place team.

According to the Bataan Memorial Death March website, the Army ROTC Department at New Mexico State University began sponsoring the event in 1989. In 1992, White Sands Missile Range and the New Mexico National Guard joined in the sponsorship and the event was moved to the missile range.



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O'Neal sets bar sky high for 'Young Lives, BIG Stories'

BY TIM HIPPS
IMCOM

SAN ANTONIO — "Young Lives, BIG Stories" is the theme of the 2014 Month of the Military Child, which will be celebrated throughout April on all United States Army installations.

One of the world's biggest self-professed Army brats, Shaquille O'Neal, enjoyed a 19-year career as a "larger than life" character in the NBA.

It did not hurt that O'Neal entered the NBA standing at 7-feet, 1-inch tall, and weighing 301 pounds, yet he considers Army upbringing the key to his success.

"It all started here on this Army base," O'Neal said March 7, when Cole High School retired his jersey, No. 33, on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

"A lot of people ask me, 'How do you do it, how do you stay sane with all the things that are going on?' It's the military life. Military life, and I wouldn't have had it no other way."

Since 1986, Army installations around the world have recognized the sacrifices and applauded the courage of military children by celebrating the Month of the Military Child.

The Month of the Military Child typically creates awareness of the sacrifices military children make and the service they provide. This year's theme, "Young Lives, BIG Stories," also highlights the unique lifestyles and contributions military children make to the nation.

One would be hard pressed to find a bigger self-professed "Army brat" than O'Neal, who bounced



Photos by Tim Hipps, IMCOM

Shaquille O'Neal playfully requests a spanking from Dr. Gail Siller, superintendent of Fort Sam Houston Independent School District, during O'Neal's jersey retirement ceremony March 7 at Cole High School on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. O'Neal, perhaps the world's largest self-professed Army brat, encouraged the students to live their dreams. April is Month of the Military Child and this year's theme is "Young Lives, BIG Stories."

from Newark, N.J., to Germany to Texas while growing up in an Army Family.

Always the class clown, O'Neal credited his military upbringing for keeping him grounded. The four-time NBA champion, three-time NBA Finals MVP and 15-time NBA

All-Star, who won Olympic and World championships, appeared in more than a dozen movies, recorded more than five rap albums and had his own reality television shows, never outgrew his military roots.

"The Shaq character was created here," he said. "There was a

time when I thought I was a little bit arrogant, and the school and the post let me know that, 'Hey, you didn't do it by yourself.' They taught me to be humble, taught me to remain humble."

It is difficult for men and women in uniform to focus on military missions if they are worried about their children at home. Providing a safe, nurturing environment for military children creates a stronger more resilient fighting force.

The Month of the Military Child reinforces this concept, reminds the nation that the service members' children also serve, and gives communities an opportunity to share their gratitude for the service of military children during the "Young Lives, BIG Stories" campaign.

O'Neal learned the value of compassion for humanity as a teenager on Fort Sam Houston and exhibited it throughout his career.

"Things that I do in the community now as a professional player (turned television analyst), I was doing it on post — me and my father and my team were passing out food to other houses and collecting toys from people who didn't want their toys and taking them up to the children's hospital," he said. "Everything that I've learned, I've learned from growing up in the military."

A military upbringing also helped make O'Neal color blind.

"Believe it or not, when he first

brought me here, I hated him for it," Shaquille said of his late step-father, Army Reserve Sgt. Philip Harrison, who recently passed away. "I know hate is a strong word, but growing up in Newark, N.J., where it's predominantly all African-American, and then we moved to West Germany, and I was like, 'What the (heck) is this?' And then when I came here and saw my first Spanish guy, I was like, 'I don't know where I'm at.'"

The first Spanish man O'Neal ever met, however, wound up clearing the gym so the youngster could get extra practice time.

"He saw something in me that I didn't even see in myself," O'Neal said.

Asked if he felt exceptionally fortunate to have become such a rich man from such a modest childhood, O'Neal replied, "It makes me appreciate it more because I was rich back then, too. I was mentally rich. The only thing money does for me is give me toys I don't need."

O'Neal shared his secret to success with the military kids at Robert G. Cole High School on the day they retired his jersey.

"It's just all about cultivating your dream, loving your dream, and just following your dream," O'Neal said. "This was the place where I cultivated my dreams. It all started here on the little Army base at Fort Sam Houston."



Shaquille O'Neal poses for photos and signs autographs for classmates and current students just outside the gymnasium at the rear of his Shaq Soda bus parked at Cole High School March 7, the day the Cougars retired O'Neal's No. 33 jersey on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

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STAND-TO!

Key Army issues identified
Each week, the *Sentinel* will pull key issues from the Army's Stand-To! and highlight them here to better inform Soldiers and Families on top issues from Washington, D.C. For more on these topics visit www.army.mil/standto.

Senior leader messages April 2

The U.S. Army and the nation are deeply saddened by the tragedy that has taken place again at Fort Hood. This has reopened the pain of the shootings that occurred at Fort Hood 4.5 years ago. Our hearts go out to the victims, their Families and the whole Fort Hood community for this tragic loss and their suffering.

President Barack Obama:

"We're heartbroken that something like this might have happened again. The folks there have sacrificed so much on behalf of our freedom. Many of the people there have been on multiple tours of Iraq and Afghanistan, they serve with valor; they serve with distinction. And when they're at their home base, they need to feel safe. We don't yet know what happened tonight, but obviously that sense of safety has been broken once again. And we're going to have to find out exactly what happened."

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel:

"My thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their Families. And my sympathies go out to this strong and resilient community, which has experienced this kind of senseless violence all too recently. There is nothing more important to us as an institution than the safety and well-being of our people."

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin Dempsey:

"Thoughts and prayers of the greater military community are with those at Fort Hood. Many questions remain, and our focus is on supporting the victims and their Families. This is a community that has faced and overcome crises with resilience and strength."

Secretary of the Army John McHugh:

"Anytime the Army loses its Soldier, we all mourn. When that loss comes in hands of another Soldier and indeed when that event occurs in the very place that has suffered so much pain and so much anguish just 4.5 years ago, it only adds to the sorrow and the all consuming sense of loss that the Army is feeling this day. Our first responsibility is to the Families of the fallen, also to those who have been wounded and to those close to them - their friends, their Family, their loved ones, as they make their ways to the road of recovery."

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno:

"We talk a lot of the Army - that we have an Army Family - we have lost young people who are part of our Army Family, we take that incredibly seriously. For me it's close to home, I have spent a lot of time in Fort Hood personally ... I was a brigade commander, a division commander, and the Corps commander at Fort Hood. I understand the resilience of that community the resilience of the people there, how proud the Soldiers are of what they do, and we will do everything we can to ensure that they continue to move forward. ... We have an incredibly talented resilient Army ... we will continue to be incredibly resilient and move forward. ... Our thoughts are with the victims."

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler III:

"Our hearts go out to the injured Soldiers, their Families, and especially the Families of the victims who died in this terrible tragedy. We are committed to each of them. We will do what is necessary to ensure we understand why and how this happened, and then make adjustments so this does not happen again."

Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, commander of III Corps and Fort Hood:

"Events in the past have taught us many things here at Fort Hood. We know the community is strong, we know that the community is resilient, we know the Soldiers and the civilians and the Families of this fort who have served so bravely in combat over the last 13 years in both Iraq and Afghanistan are strong, and we will get through this. Thanks to all who have supported us, thanks to the local community that has supported us over the last several hours and many years."

Obama: Soldiers were American patriots

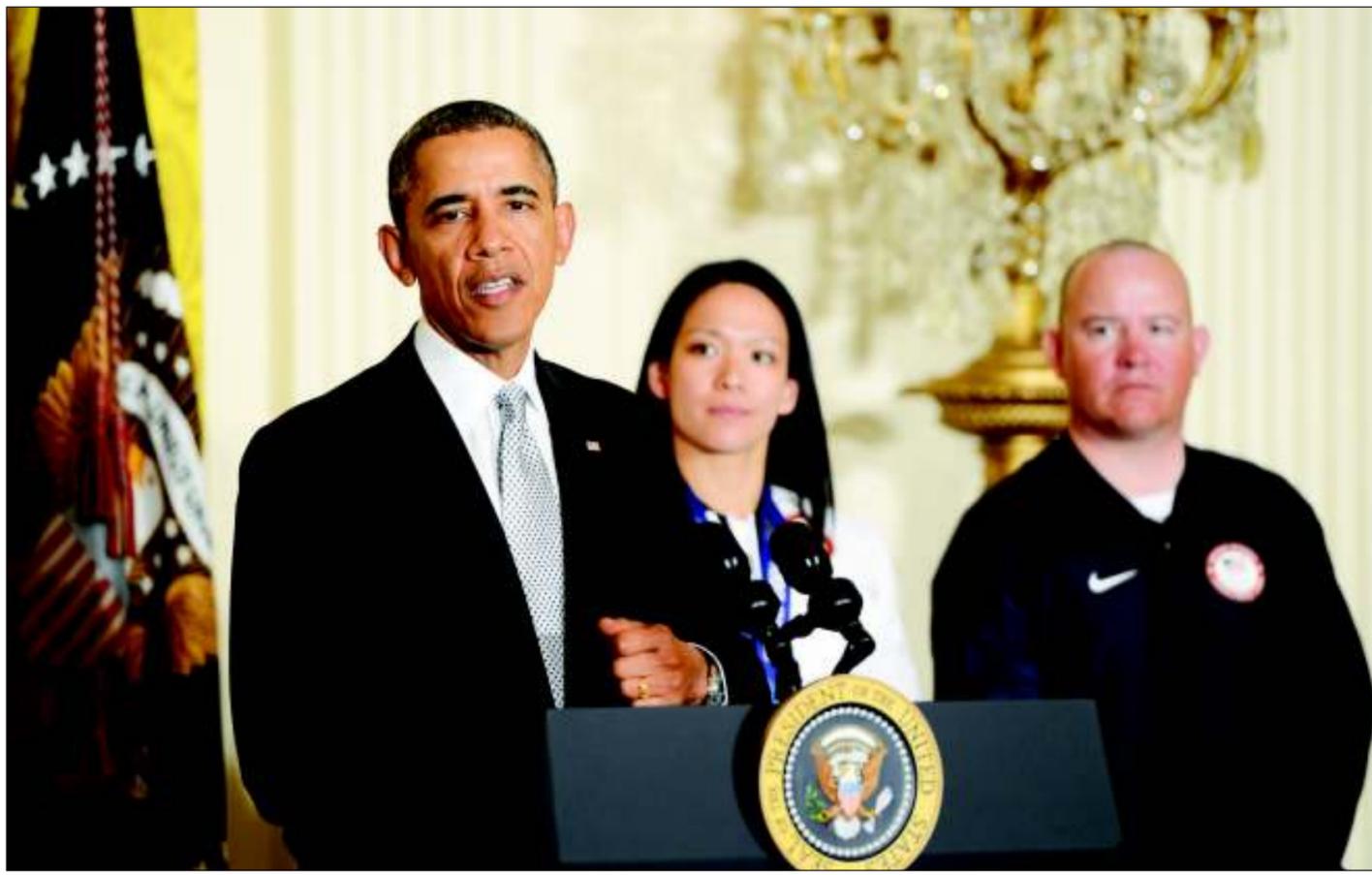


Photo by Lisa Ferdinando, ARNEWS

President Barack Obama pauses at the White House April 3 to pay tribute to the Fort Hood shooting victims. "We stand with their Families and their loved ones

as they grieve. We are thinking about those who are wounded. We're there to support them," he said.

BY LISA FERDINANDO

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama paused at the White House April 3 to pay tribute to the shooting victims at Fort Hood.

"We join that entire community in honoring those who lost their lives. Every single one of them was an American patriot," said the president at the start of an event for Sochi Olympic and Paralympic athletes.

"We stand with their Families and their loved ones as they grieve. We are thinking about those who are wounded. We're there to support them," he said.

The Soldiers at Fort Hood have already made "extraordinary sacrifices for us each and every day for our freedom," the president said.

"During the course of a decade of war, many of them have been on multiple tours of duty. To see unspeakable, senseless violence happen in a place where they're supposed to feel safe, home base, is tragic," he said.

As the nation learns more about what happened and why, "we're going to make sure that we're doing everything in our power to keep our troops safe and to keep our

troops strong, not just on the battlefield but also when they come home," he said.

Service members are an inspiration that makes the nation proud, the president said.

"They put on the uniform, and then they take care of us, and we've got to make sure that when they come home we take care of them," he said.

The first lady said the shooting was "yet another devastating tragedy" for the Fort Hood community, which saw a shooting rampage in 2009, in which 13 people were

killed and a number of others injured.

"We just want to make sure that folks there know that our thoughts and prayers are with all of those who lost loved ones and friends, as well as those that were injured," she said.

Many of the Olympic athletes being honored at the White House event are veterans themselves, she said, and "when something like this happens, it touches all of us."

She said she and the president are "torn apart" over tragedies such as the one at Fort Hood.

"Today, as we celebrate the Olympic spirit, we remember that the same spirit - the spirit of hard work and teamwork - is shared by our military men and women, and we stand with them today and every day," she said.



Army mourning loss of Soldiers at Fort Hood

BY DAVID VERGUN

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — To the Fort Hood community and the Army Family worldwide, "this is a time once again to come together, to stand as one as they have so many times before, drawing strength from each other," Secretary of the Army John McHugh told lawmakers April 3.

Both McHugh and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno appeared before a Senate Armed Services Committee posture hearing that was supposed to focus on readiness, manpower, modernization and the budget. But after the hearing opened, the focus quickly shifted to April 2's tragedy at Fort Hood, where a Soldier allegedly killed three other Soldiers and then killed himself.

Sixteen other Soldiers were injured, three critically, but the rest are in stable condition. The gunman then killed himself when confronted by a female military policeman, McHugh said.

Odierno told lawmakers: "We lost people who are part of our Army Family, and we take that incredibly seriously."

The chief said he spent a lot of time at Fort Hood as a commander at various levels and understands the "resilience" and the "community" and that the Soldiers there are incredibly proud of the jobs they do.

Odierno said he's confident of the leadership of the Fort Hood com-

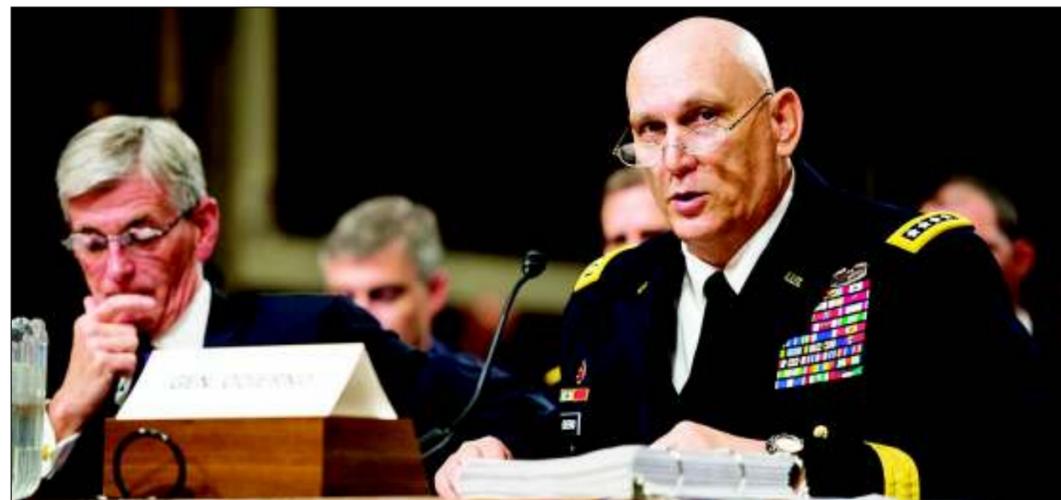


Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Cortez, U.S. Army

mander, Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, who just returned from Afghanistan.

Four-and-a-half-years ago, in November 2009, Fort Hood suffered a similar shooting incident. Then, Army Maj. Nidal Hasan killed 13 people and injured others. Odierno said he believes the alert procedures developed after that shooting as well as the training provided to Soldiers, may have helped prevent yesterday's tragedy from developing into something "much worse."

The FBI, Department of Veterans Affairs and the state of Texas are all providing valuable assistance, he said.

McHugh then went on to provide facts about the tragedy that lawmak-

ers requested, describing the investigation as still "fluid."

The alleged shooter, a specialist, joined the Army in June 2008, as an infantryman, McHugh said. He deployed to the Sinai with the Army National Guard for a year, then became a truck driver. In 2011, he deployed to Iraq in the active component during the final four months of the U.S. presence there.

His records show no wounds, no direct involvement in combat and no injury that would warrant further investigation of a battlefield traumatic brain injury.

He was undergoing a variety of treatment. He had diagnosis for mental health conditions ranging from depression to anxiety to some sleep disturbance, McHugh continued. He was being prescribed a number of drugs to address those, including Ambien.

Last month, he was seen by a psychiatrist. There was no indication or sign of likely violence to himself

or others and no suicidal ideation, McHugh said. The plan forward was to continue monitoring and treating him as deemed appropriate.

His service record is clean in terms of major misbehaviors, McHugh said.

The alleged weapon was a .45-caliber pistol he recently purchased, McHugh said. The weapon wasn't registered on Fort Hood, and when he brought it on post, it was there illegally.

In conclusion, McHugh said:

"Our first responsibility is to the Families of the fallen, those who have been wounded and those close to them.

"We have ordered all possible means of medical and investigatory support as well as added behavioral health counselors.

"Any time the Army loses a Soldier, we all mourn. When that loss comes at the hands of another Soldier ... it just adds to the sorrow and the all-consuming sense of loss the Army is feeling this day."

“We lost people who are part of our Army Family, and we take that incredibly seriously.”

— Army Gen Ray Odierno



Army secretary notes challenges of detecting insider threats

BY DAVID VERGUN

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army has done a great deal since the tragedies at Fort Hood in 2009 to track the insider threat, “but something happened, something went wrong, and we need to know what that was,” Army Secretary John McHugh told lawmakers April 3.

McHugh was responding to questions from the Senate Armed Services Committee regarding the April 2 shootings at Fort Hood that left four dead, including the alleged gunman, Army Spc. Ivan Antonio Lopez.

Behavioral health screenings done at least annually and more often when Soldiers deploy are among the proactive measures the Army uses to detect possible insider threats. Those screenings could point to tendencies toward violence, McHugh said.

McHugh explained to lawmakers that there are several types of behavioral health assessment “touch points.” Assessments are conducted for Soldiers 180 days prior to deployment, within 90 days when they get to the deployment theater, 30 days after redeployment, and then 90 days after redeployment. All Soldiers also get an annual screening, irrespective of their deployment status.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno, who also testified at the hearing, added that the number of behavior health counselors and screenings has increased by about 150 percent over the last five years.

“We’ve made some really good progress here,” he added.

McHugh pledged that Army officials will examine the latest tragedy and learn from it.

“If we failed in some way against our current policies, we need to be honest with ourselves and with you and hold ourselves accountable,” he told the Senate panel. “But if we identify new challenges, new threats we hadn’t recognized before, we have to put into place programs to respond to them.”

Odierno agreed that finding insider threats is challenging, and he pointed out what he called “the big-



Photo by John Martinez, ARNEWS

Secretary of the Army John McHugh and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond Odierno testify about the Fort Hood shootings, which took place

April 2, during a Senate Armed Services Committee posture hearing, April 3.

gest problem we have.”

That problem, he said, is balancing the need to share information with commanders and the chain of command, while also protecting an individual’s right to privacy.

“It’s a real dilemma,” the general said.

Without knowing about insider threats, commanders and others in the chain of command don’t know when a problem exists, Odierno added.

“So the secretary and I are really doing the best we can to come up with processes that allow us to share information,” he said, “because in a lot of cases, that’s the problem. There is some limitation to what we can do. And we’re trying to do the best we can.”

Soldiers might not come forward with mental health problems if they know their privacy concerns are not going to be addressed. This attaches a stigma to the notion of seeking care.

“We are doing everything we can to de-stigmatize seeking help,” McHugh said.

Odierno held out a solution, suggesting that the Army, along with members of Congress, can work together on creating ways for better information sharing to have “the ability to really understand when Soldiers are having problems,” while also addressing the need for confidentiality. He pointed out that the alleged shooter was screened and was receiving counseling.

“So in a lot of ways, the system worked,” the general said. “But obviously, it didn’t work completely, because in the end, he made some decisions that obviously cost other people’s lives.”

McHugh added: “We’ve really increased our behavioral health encounters in the Army and we view that as positive. Folks are reaching out more. They’re asking for help more voluntarily. But then, sometimes things happen, like happened

April 2, during a Senate Armed Services Committee posture hearing, April 3.

(April 2), that we fail to understand.

“So we’re trying to keep as close a watch on our Soldiers as we can,” he continued, “but clearly, we believe there are more things we can do to identify problems in the earliest stages of their development.”

Odierno added that the Army has recently put behavioral specialists into brigades, something not done before. However, he noted, some Soldiers would rather get behavioral health treatment off-post to avoid

the possibility of being identified by their unit as someone with a mental health issue.

Funding off-post behavioral health could be something the Army will look into, he added.

Behavioral health issues are “something we’re going to have to deal with for a very long time, and that’s a consequence of 13 years of war,” Odierno said. “And so, we’re going to have to make sure that we have the systems in place to do this.”



We are doing everything we can to de-stigmatize seeking help.

– Army Secretary John McHugh



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Deputy SecDef says transition, uncertainty make budget request important

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE RELEASE

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense fiscal year 2015 budget submission is the most important budget proposal in a very long time, acting Deputy Defense Secretary Christine Fox told airmen April 3 at the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Before her remarks on the budget, Fox offered condolences to the victims and Families affected by the April 2 shooting at Fort Hood.

"As (Defense) Secretary (Chuck) Hagel said last night, our thoughts and prayers, as well as those of all the senior leaders in the Army and across the department, are with the victims and their Families," she said.

Fox then explained why she believes the fiscal 2015 proposal is a "really, really important budget."

"In my view, it is one of the most important budgets that the department has submitted in a very long time," she said. "This budget is based on strategic imperatives that recognize a time of continued transition and uncertainty for our U.S. military in terms of its role and its missions and its available resources."

After a decade dominated by protracted land wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, she said, the military's focus is on preparing to counter a variety of security threats and embracing opportunities on all points of the compass. President Barack Obama recognized America was getting close to that "historic inflection point" two years ago, she added, and issued strategic



Photos by Glenn Fawcett, DoD

A student of the Air War College asks a question of Acting Deputy Deputy Secretary Christine Fox as she delivers remarks on Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala., April 3.

guidance to the Defense Department.

"These priorities," she said, "as the recent 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review states, reflect our strategy of protecting the American homeland, building security globally by projecting U.S. influence, and deterring

aggression and remaining to prepare to win decisively against an adversary should deterrence fail."

Fox noted that the tenets of the strategic guidance weigh heavily in recent budget choices, and she revisited each point of the guidance before

continuing.

"The world has not gotten less dangerous," she said. "It has not gotten less turbulent. And it is not in less need of American leadership. In this budget, and in this drawdown, there is no pretense of a peace dividend, something that has always accompanied our previous drawdowns in the past."

At the same time, she said, there's a strong possibility of a return to sequester-level funding in fiscal 2016, and resources for national defense may not reach the levels envisioned to fully support the president's strategy.

Fox said DoD leadership's "stern warning" appeared to fall on deaf ears, giving Hagel "no choice but to prepare the department for an era when defense budgets could be significantly lower than expected, warranted or needed."

Obama's budget request would provide \$115 billion over the next five years more than sequester-level funding would provide, Fox said. "The president and the secretary simply could not send a budget to (Capitol) Hill that did not support the nation's strategic needs," she added.

And the sequester-level budget does not provide a force large enough, ready enough or modern enough to meet those needs, Fox said. The

current budget proposal provides a realistic request that would provide a sustainable path toward shaping a balanced force, she said, "a force able to protect the nation and fulfill the president's strategy, albeit with some additional risk."

The Defense Department seeks balance through a force that is sized with the available resources to keep it ready and modern, the acting deputy secretary said.

"To achieve a balanced force with this fiscal outlook, we really have no choice but to reduce the force structure, and we need to do that starting yesterday," she said, acknowledging that shrinking the military contains real risks, because no matter how ready, modern or technologically advanced, it can go to fewer places and do fewer things.

Fox said this budget submission is guided by history and past drawdowns following World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Cold War, where force structure retained was outside of the defense budgets. "This forces the department to disproportionately cut into accounts that fund readiness and modernization, and therefore, (create) a hollowed force," she explained. "This is why Secretary Hagel has chosen to reduce capacity."



Acting Deputy Defense Secretary Christine Fox delivers remarks to students and faculty of the Air War College on Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala., April 3.

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Face of defense: Marine paratroopers take to skies

BY MARINE CORPS LANCE CPL. CHRISTOPHER MOORE
1st Marine Division

PARKER, Ariz. — Marines entered the aircraft with their heads bowed against the whipping winds of the propellers as the plane ascended to approximately 6,000 feet in the air.

The paratroopers diligently watched the jumpmaster call out in a voice barely heard over the engines of the C-130 Hercules.

“Two minutes,” he yelled.

The Marines stood up, walked to the back of the plane, and waited for the signal to jump. What followed was a series of hand gestures that culminated in a double-bag static-line jump for 24 Marines with Company B, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, held here March 24.

A static line is a cord attached from one end of the aircraft to the other. When the Marine jumps from the plane, the line pulls the deployment bag out of the pack on the Marine’s back causing it to inflate.

“It’s the first time for a lot of these guys to take this course,” said Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Mickey Eaton, the assistant operations chief with Company B. “It’s quite a bit of new information they have to learn and understand, because this is a very maneuverable parachute, at a high altitude and a lot of emergency procedures.”

The Marines started the training with several days of classes and practical application before stepping onto the plane. Their first jump was with minimal gear, which allowed them to familiarize themselves with the parachute before progressing to full combat equipment.

They were required to have a total of 16 hours of packing the parachute throughout the course. During the packing process, each Marine checked for holes, rips and frays in the canopy. They checked the suspension lines for twists, turns and tangles to ensure the parachute was not damaged.



Photos by U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Christopher Moore

Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Mickey Eaton performs a front flip out of a C-130 Hercules aircraft during a double-bag static-line course conducted March 24 in

Parker, Ariz. Eaton, an assistant operations chief, is assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion.

The Marines used parachutes designed for pinpoint landings as well as backup chutes in case the main one fails to deploy properly.

Jumping out of a plane from thousands of feet in the air can be a terrifying experience, said Marine Corps Sgt. Douglas Bobo, a team leader with Company B.

“I was pretty confident when I first went up in the air,” Bobo said. “But when I stood up, my legs started shaking really bad. I almost had to close my eyes just to get out the door. Ever since then, there’s no other feeling like it. I love it.”

The Marines taking the course were evaluated on their jump form, their formation in the air and their landing. They conducted both day and night jumps and were required



A Marine waits for his turn to jump out of a C-130 Hercules aircraft during a double-bag static-line course conducted in Parker, Ariz., March 24.

to jump a total of 12 times to pass the course.

“It was a challenge for the

Marines to learn to fly in a formation,” Eaton said. “This parachute has the potential to go extremely

fast, so if they land going with the wind, they’re going to come in way to hard. They have to think about everything that could go wrong and overcome it.”

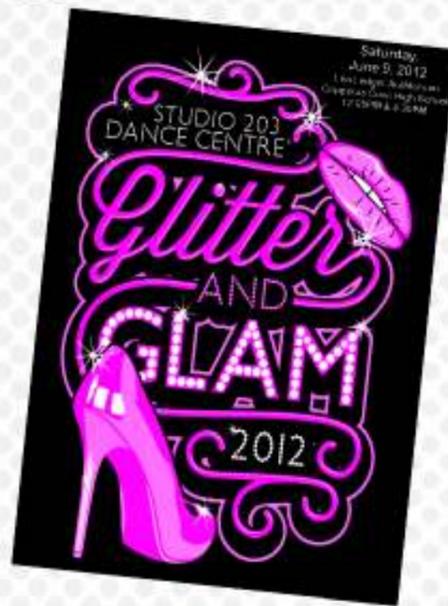
The Marines performed beyond the instructor’s expectations, Eaton said. He could tell they’d rehearsed and studied. He added that the Marines worked hard and well during the course.

Eaton said being qualified on the double-bag static-line course broadens the spectrum of missions the Marines can conduct and helps them remain a premier force.

As they continue to hone their abilities with the parachute, the company will continue to prove 1st Reconnaissance Battalion is a capable and effective fighting force.

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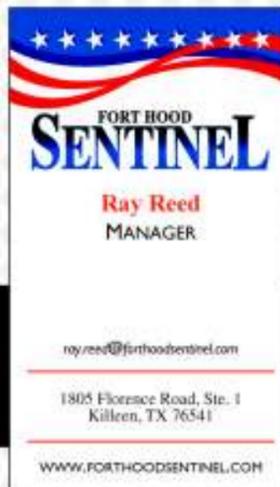
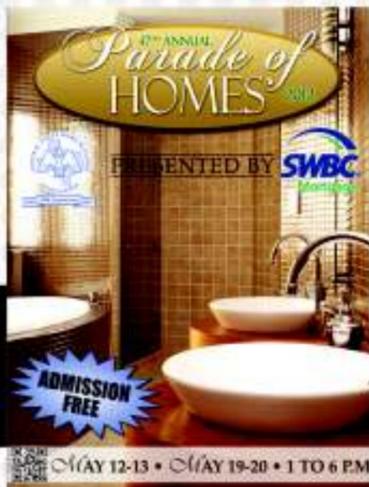
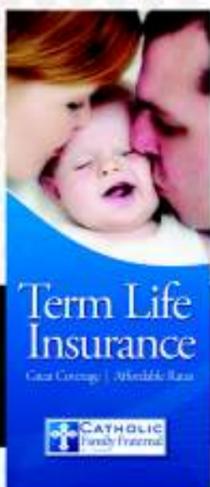


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