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Covenant

Schweinfurt kids kick off Month of the Military Child



From left, Mathew Guerrero, Trent Walters and Keevon Bove blow bubbles as the Schweinfurt Child Development Center kicked off the Month of the Military Child April 2. The bubble launch is one of many activities planned throughout the Schweinfurt community during April to ensure the selfless youth of the community are recognized.

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'Reach Out and Read' now reaches military Families

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Annual symposium improves quality of life at Camp Zama

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Wounded warrior finds miracle on mountainside

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Healing over coffee, veterans speak

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Vice president welcomes XVIII Airborne Corps back from Iraq

Vice President Joseph Biden and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden, joined 1,200 Fort Bragg Soldiers and several hundred spectators to welcome the XVIII Airborne Corps back to Fort Bragg April 8. Biden, who served as guest speaker, joined XVIII Airborne Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III on the stand



at the post's parade field following the unit's return from a 15-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The event marked Biden's first visit to Fort Bragg as vice president. He said he was impressed with the Soldiers that stood before him. "I have been incredibly impressed," he said to the crowd and more directly, Austin. [Article](#)



First Swing program inspires wounded warriors to retain active lifestyle

Six summers ago, Sgt. Roy Mitchell was a 2-handicap golfer who earned a tryout for the All-Army Golf Team. Now he's a disabled golfer

"I think this is one of the best programs the Army has come up with as far dealing with Soldiers' physical and psychological injuries."

with an 8 handicap, striving to regain his form on a prosthetic leg and tinkering with a specialized golf cart. On Nov. 23, 2003, Mitchell was riding in the front passenger seat of a Humvee that drove upon an anti-tank mine near the Pakistan border in Afghanistan. Mitchell, 37, of Fort Drum, N.Y., survived the blast but lost three-quarters of his left leg, four teeth and some jawbone, suffered third-degree burns on his right leg, shattered his left elbow, caught shrapnel in his midsection and right eye, and sustained a concussion. [Article](#)

Commentary: What does sexual assault cost?

Most rape victims are too embarrassed to report their assault to the proper agencies because they know their perpetrator and are worried about repercussions. The military sees that phenomenon quite a bit when dealing with clients through the Army Community Service Family Action Plan Victim Advocacy Program. Most of our victims know their offenders and the fear of being shunned or not being part of the team anymore makes them reluctant to report. It is easier for most victims to report a sexual assault if the assailant is a stranger rather than the nice guy that Soldiers at work respects. [Article](#)



NCO of the Year

CSA emphasizes Army 'Year of the NCO' [▶ Article](#)

Livorno transportation Soldiers compete to be named NCO of the Year



[▶ Article](#)

IMCOM-Europe's senior NCO says sexual assault, harassment betrays bonds of trust

While U.S. troops battle al-Qaida and Taliban forces, the Army is waging war against another enemy - the problem of sexual assault. While sexual assault and harassment prevention has been an Army focus for years, the Army's I.A.M. Strong campaign is a major change in strategy.

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Camp Zama celebrates its greatest treasure



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Year of the NCO event speaker honored for actions during 2005 Iraq deployment [▶ Article](#)

Soldiers participate in memorial run for Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith



[▶ Article](#)

West Point NCOs volunteer counseling skills to cadets [▶ Article](#)

Drill Sergeants debunk myths

For years Hollywood has presented Army drill sergeants as gruff, in-your-face, yelling, and spitting Mad Max machines. And perhaps once-upon-a-time its stories portrayed an image that was partly deserved. But like

“To give these kids the values they came to learn — a lot of them come here just to be a Soldier, that is the easy part ... The hard part of the job is to teach them how to be a better person, how to be a better member of society.”

all stories that include once-upon-a-times, this one too has more than one version. “I think the biggest misconception about drill sergeants is that we are paid (to be) mean — which completely isn't true,” said Staff Sgt. Stephanie Rodriguez, a drill sergeant from Fort Jackson, S.C. “It's more of a tough love-type story. There is a time for discipline and a time for praise, and where I am from, everyone gets both.” Rodriguez, who was originally a chemical operations specialist, said that her main role as a drill sergeant is as a mentor. [▶ Article](#)



Staff Sgt. Jeremy Beals, a drill sergeant stationed at Fort Knox, demonstrated instructor technique during a recent media campaign. Beals was one of four drill instructors picked from among his peers to appear at various events across the U.S. to answer questions about basic training.

Fort Sam Houston revives historic structures for BRAC arrivals



Some of the oldest structures in the U.S. Army's inventory are gaining new life and uses under the Base Realignment and Closure construction and renovation program on Fort Sam Houston. Construction of the post began in 1876, and Fort Sam Houston has more historic structures than any active military installation in the United States.

[▶ Article](#)

Apaches find new home at Carson

An AH-64 Apache attack helicopter with the 1st Battalion, 2nd Aviation Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, enters a hangar at Fort Carson's Butts Army Airfield April 6. Twelve of the 1-2nd AVN's 24 Apaches arrived at Fort Carson as part of the unit's restationing to the Mountain Post from Camp Eagle, Wonju, Republic of Korea. When the move is complete, the unit will bring about 350 Soldiers and 100 contractors to Fort Carson.

[▶ Article](#)



Fort Riley Soldiers dominate Bataan memorial march

Fort Riley teams took first in the heavy and light divisions at the 20th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March held at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., on March 29. The team from Irwin Army Community Hospital finished first in the heavy division, while the team from 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, finished first in the light division. Both teams participated in the 26.2-mile march through the arid, high desert terrain at White Sands Missile Range. [▶ Article](#)

Operational control of IMCOM's information management functions expected to be invisible to employees
▶ [Article](#)

Yongsan Soldiers teach English to local youth



English Volunteer teacher Spc. Jason Adolphson gets to know one of his fourth-grade students, Lee Ji-soo, 9, during a good neighbor event April 2 at Shinyongsan Primary School in Seoul. ▶ [Article](#)

Schofield Barracks warriors sign wall of fame, graduate from Warrior Transition Clinic ▶ [Article](#)

New senator pays visit to Fort Drum
▶ [Article](#)

Yongsan looks to improve customer service ▶ [Article](#)

Junior leaders get certified at Republic of Korea's Warrior Base



A Soldier from from 1st Battalion, 72nd Armored Regiment engages targets on a rifle range while taking part in the Leader Certification Program at Warrior Base in the Republic of Korea. The training was designed to help teach young leaders some of the necessary skills to help teach Soldiers and lead them into combat. ▶ [Article](#)

Fort Carson serves as backdrop for reality show

Fort Carson recently found out that invasions don't necessarily involve tanks, artillery and other forms of military might. Boots to Suits LLC, a company contracted by the Army to produce a reality TV show, executed a mini invasion in which Fort Carson and its Soldiers played a starring role. ▶ [Article](#)

Eustis, Story service members, Families get preview of Sesame Street show ▶ [Article](#)

Officials break ground on new Defense Media Activity headquarters
▶ [Article](#)



Pond Security: Aiming to protect lives through training, professionalism

Germany's deep snow, rainy days and hot summers don't deter a group of men and women from braving the elements daily to protect the U.S. military communities where they serve. The 3,400 Pond Security officers and support personnel who guard 25 sites throughout Germany take their job seriously and have the training and authority to fulfill their mission. Each officer receives 136 hours of initial proficiency-based training, which incorporates situational training exercises and firearms training. All of the training is conducted during a four- to five-week resident training session at the Pond Academy located in Freigericht-Bernbach, near Hanau. ▶ [Article](#)

Harlem Ambassadors entertain fans, send message of living drug-free

The Harlem Ambassadors kicked off the Month of the Military Child on Fort Drum by staging a youth assembly April 1 with the theme, "Stay in School, Stay off Drugs." The special presentation was geared towards military Families with elementary and middle school students



to show the value of an education and a drug-free life. After the program, more than 1,000 fans came out to witness the Ambassadors take on the Fort Drum Mountaineers in a basketball game for the ages. To even the playing field before the game started, the visiting team spotted the home team 50 points. ▶ [Article](#)

Watervliet Arsenal makes being a tanker cool

Price of the Abrams tank — \$4.3 million.
Price of a Stryker vehicle — \$4.1 million.
The price of a U.S. tank crew in Iraq being able to comfortably operate this summer when the



outside temperature is more than 110 degrees — priceless. Whether one is a tanker or an artilleryman, the one thing all

servicemembers have in common during their tour in the Middle East is dealing with the intense heat. For example, the average temperature in Kuwait during August, where Soldiers and units first deploy prior to their onward movement into Iraq, is 112 degrees, according to weatherbase.com. ▶ [Article](#)

Polk engineers test skills, strength during Sapper Stakes



Soldiers train daily to prepare mentally and physically for deployment and the time when missions become reality. It's what they do. But how do commanders really know if Soldiers are absorbing their training? Simple. They test them. That's just what Fort Polk's 814th Multi-Role Bridge Company, 46th Engineer Battalion, 1st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, did when it conducted Sapper Stakes training March 24-26 at locations including Castor Training Area and Honor Field. ▶ [Article](#)



2009 Army Emergency Relief Campaign ▶ [Video](#)

Force Protection



Watch out for tiger teeth!

Improving safety and security around Yongsan, officials are in the process of installing one-way, tire-puncturing "tiger teeth." The two-inch, spring-loaded spikes will damage tires if a driver backs over them. Garrison officials recommend that drivers exercise extreme caution when driving over the teeth. ▶ [Article](#)

Korean guards target excellence

▶ [Article](#)

Don't trust - ask

- ▶ Don't take uniforms for granted
- ▶ Know your team
- ▶ Require identification
- ▶ Awareness is your best defense

Safety

Rucker officials urge drivers to slow down when post floods ▶ [Article](#)

Sexual Assault Awareness Month: the SHARP program ▶ [Article](#)

Installation Paper of the Week



U.S. Army Garrison Benelux
[Current online issue](#)

Momentum increases for going green at Schofield Barracks

Cars pass James Jefferson as he putts along at 20 mph down the East Range's Higgins Road, but he doesn't mind. "It's kinda fun to drive," said Jefferson, chief, Transportation Division, Directorate of Logistics. Although Jefferson's golf-cart-sized "neighborhood electric vehicle" is slow by most gas-powered standards, it's gaining momentum. As part of an Armywide initiative to "go green" by reducing carbon emissions and dependence on fossil fuels, the Army will acquire 4,000 NEVs by 2011. ▶ [Article](#)



Grafenwoehr chaplains offer suicide counseling confidentiality

During a 12-day span in March, Grafenwoehr experienced five suicide situations. One of these cases ended tragically, something garrison leadership is determined will not happen again. "We are focused on recognizing the signs and intervening with others, but we must eliminate the stigma associated with seeking help for mental health issues," said Col. Chris Sorenson, commander of Grafenwoehr. "Regardless of rank, we need to say it is OK to discuss mental health, and that OK will not disadvantage one's career, or one's position in an organization," he said. For those individuals who are still hesitant about seeking medical attention, another option to consider is their Army chaplains. According to Chaplain (Maj.) Darin Nielsen, chaplains are a great resource for help with dealing issues surrounding suicide or other stressful concerns. ▶ [Article](#)

Oklahoma firefighters train at McAlester

In the midst of a dry season more than 400 volunteer firefighters from 90 communities descended on McAlester Army Ammunition Plant March 6-8 to learn how to handle nature's untamed beast -- wild fire. The three-day event was the 9th Annual Bob Jones Wildland Fire Training Program sponsored by the Fire Training Department of the Oklahoma



State University and the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant. Two days of classroom instruction culminated in an on-hands exercise the final day of the event. Controlled

burns were ignited in an isolated part of the plant while volunteer firefighters exercised various methods of fire attack and control using fire hoses. ▶ [Article](#)



Family member wins international environmental art contest

The color blue often equates to the ocean. Different shades of this simple color can stimulate thoughts of different times of the day. Aqua blue appears as the morning sun reflects off the water; then pale blue emerges as the sun slips beyond the horizon, while midnight blue settles within the depth of the underwater world. For 10-year-old Family member Jessica Hibler, however, blue is more than her favorite color. This color ignites a compassion within her to express her devotion to keeping the oceans clean. ▶ [Article](#)

