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## Operation Hickory Sting underway

By Christie Vanover, Staff Writer



Airmen with the 118th Air Support Operations Squadron out of North Carolina arrive at the Manhattan Regional Airport for Fort Riley's Operation Hickory Sting. The North Carolina Air National Guard supported the mission by flying the airmen and other soldiers in on C-130s. *Photo by*

“Live with, train with, fight with the Army,” are words that the 118th Air Support Operations Squadron lives by. The Air Force unit out of North Carolina deployed to Fort Riley July 21 to train with the Army's 30th Enhanced Separate Brigade during Operation Hickory Sting.

The 118th ASOS will control A-10 fighters, designed for close air support of ground forces, and other Air

Force aircraft for the joint services exercise.

“As a whole, our career field, both Active Duty and Guard, is less than 1,000, yet we support mechanized, light, Ranger and Special Forces units,” said Tech. Sgt. Craig Ramsey, public affairs officer and training noncommissioned officer in charge, 118th ASOS.

In addition to close air support, the Air Force plays a role in Fort Riley's mobilization capabilities.

“Probably 50 percent of our deployments during the course of the year are run with Air Force aircraft,” said Dick Wollenberg, Fort Riley's transportation officer. “Last year we deployed soldiers to Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Cuba...all over the world.”

“For Hickory Sting, we have over 100 aircraft that are both due in and out, so about 16,000 personnel are going to get moved by air through Manhattan Regional Airport and into Forbes Field,” he added. “Small aircraft, the 737s and all the C-130s will come into Manhattan, where as larger aircraft will go into Forbes Field.”

As both operations ran simultaneously this past weekend, approximately 15 aircraft flew in and out of Manhattan, with the remainder flying into Forbes Air Field in Topeka. Air National Guard units out of North Carolina and West Virginia flew the C-130s that brought numerous soldiers to Kansas.

“In addition to the people coming in on the aircraft, there also are about 200 commercial trucks that are coming in with various types of cargo, and there were 650 railcars that came in last week that we downloaded down at Camp Funston in preparation for these soldiers arrival,” said Wollenberg.

*See Hickory Sting, p. 2*

## To First Army soldiers and civilians

Although two months remain in this training year, I have already witnessed the outstanding results of thousands of hours of hard work by soldiers and civilians in all areas of First Army. Your concerted efforts are force multipliers when it increases our Army's readiness and more vitally adds to our national security. As Secretary of the Army Thomas White reminds us:

*"There are moments in history when events suddenly allow us to see the challenges ahead with a degree of clarity previously unimaginable. The events of 11 September created one of those rare moments..."*

First Army has superbly met the challenges of mobilizing tens of thousands of soldiers for Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, Stabilization Force missions in Bosnia and other missions throughout the world.

While meeting our operational requirements, our War Fighter Division is hard at work training the leadership of National Guard divisions in exercises and our Weapons of Mass Destruction team is staying on the road training National Guard civil support teams.

Annual training support didn't miss a beat as the 85th Division trained Tennessee National Guard's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment at the National Training Center, 87th Division trained Florida's 53d IN Bde for their JRTC rotation next summer and the 78th Division trained North Carolina's 30th IN Bde for their NTC rotation next year. Each training event has involved thousands of soldiers and hundreds of OC/Ts in an effort akin to a major deployment. And this is only the tip of our training iceberg. By October we will have evaluated more than 1,300 units during their annual training, another Herculean effort aided by our eleven Active Component Control Headquarters throughout our area of operations.

Although this is only a snapshot of our activities, I hope that you will realize the importance of your contributions to the Army and Nation. We could not do it without your collective efforts.

Please convey my best wishes to all of your families. Thank you for your hard work and professionalism.

Lt. Gen. Joseph R. Inge  
Commanding

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## Hickory Sting (con't)

"It's a pretty complicated move, but we run deployments out of Fort Riley all the time, and we run deployments out of Manhattan throughout the year. Over 50 percent of the aircraft that we deployed last year came out of Manhattan," he explained.

Although mobilizations are routine for Fort Riley, Operation Hickory Sting is one of the largest in the post's history. "We usually run one or two National Training Center deployments during the course of the year that we end up deploying approximately 3,000 soldiers for, but this one is about twice that size," said Wollenberg.

Wollenberg has been impressed with the operation so far. "Everybody has cooperated. It's run extremely well. I don't think we could ask for anything better than what we've had."

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## Million users download Army game

by Denà McClurkin

From home or elsewhere, the average American can now defend the Alaskan Pipeline, experience basic training and be a part of the 172nd Separate Infantry Brigade - with the help of the Army's new computer game, "America's Army." Since its launch July 4, more than one million Americans have downloaded the game for free.

"America's Army" actually includes two separate games: "Soldiers," a role-playing character-builder based on the Army's values, and "Operations," a first-person shooter game that takes the player on missions to attack enemies.

The idea is to give young men and women a taste of battlefield tactics and soldier professionalism, Chambers said. The game is online, so players can log onto the [www.americasarmy.com](http://www.americasarmy.com) and use team strategies to achieve their objectives.

## Command Sergeant Major's Message



**Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey J. Mellinger**

### Mentoring

No matter how smart or accomplished we think we are, every one of us needs a mentor. None of us can make our way through this world without the advice, coaching or example of others. Mentor, of Greek mythology, was Odysseus' trusted counselor. Mentors are really wise counselors or advisors, and sorely

lacking in the Army today. The fact is that many leaders fail to knowingly, regularly and thoughtfully mentor others, and if they will only listen, they'll hear those needing it most asking for mentoring in so many ways.

Mentoring is not about hanging onto the coattails of a successful person, or trying to gain wisdom or status through osmosis, nor dragging along promising subordinates. Neither is it hoping that by standing in someone else's limelight you can get the light to shine on you. It is about taking and giving advice and wise counsel, about taking the time to share ideas and experiences with others. It is simply part of one of the basic leader responsibilities – taking care of soldiers.

There is no substitute for experience and time, or the knowledge, foresight and wisdom gained through trial and error or pain and mistakes. Mentoring provides beacons and checkpoints, provoking and stimulating thoughts and ideas, vision and goals, as well as azimuth adjustments, all in an effort to steer and guide. Each of us as citizens, soldiers and leaders has a responsibility to serve as a guidepost -- directly or through example -- for those around us. As soldiers, we carry cards and tags printed with the core principles necessary for us to provide our example -- the Army Values. Army Values provide a basic guide for how we should conduct ourselves, but they do not charge us with passing anything to fellow soldiers or fellow man.

Mentoring is occasionally provided to general officers through Graybeards, or retired general officers. These wells of knowledge are brought in periodically and assigned to mentor and coach a specific officer performing a specific task. What a brilliant program. But what about the other 99% of the Army family? What about the colonels, captains, lieutenants, sergeants major, first sergeants, sergeants and privates? Who mentors them?

What about our civilian work force? Don't they need to learn and grow? What about our children? Yes, the children, but why? In a word – Columbine. We often say our soldiers are reflections of their society, so shouldn't we have a hand in that society as well?

As we think back on our lives and careers, each of us can recall and share stories of those people who, likely as not, unwittingly left their mark on us. Every sergeant major can name and relate tales of their drill sergeants. Every general officer can tell you about their first platoon sergeant or company commander (the CSA surely remembers Ernie Kincaid). We can all remember a favorite caring, demanding teacher or coach. Many of us have a mentor whom we call on for advice, guidance or simply to sound out our latest brilliant idea. We all need a mentor or we are doomed to muddle and flounder our way through mistakes that others have made.

Serving as a mentor is one of the easiest things you can do as a leader. All it takes is that you demonstrate care and concern for the well-being and development of others. Getting involved with the future of those who will follow you is the surest way to know your own efforts will not be in vain, and that the legacy you've inherited will pass to succeeding generations. Tomorrow's Chief of Staff of the Army is in PLDC or a commissioning program right now, a future command sergeant major is in AIT or struggling through a SASO lane, and the AIDS vaccine discoverer is in a recruiter's office, so we cannot afford to neglect the development and growth of a single soldier.

Where should you start? Start first with those immediately around you – your fellows and subordinates. Make yourself available to them, and set an atmosphere conducive to frank discussions and open dialogue. Care enough to spend your most valuable resource – time. Our young leaders and soldiers are starved for your attention, guidance and counsel. And, quite frankly, they need to know that you care.

In a recent survey, young officers were asked what made them decide to make the Army a career, and the answer was often that they received frequent feedback and guidance from their senior NCOs and company and battalion commanders. So what difference could that possibly make, you ask? Well, these young officers (like all of us) need to know that what we are doing is important, that we matter, and that we

*See Mentoring, P. 5*

## Deployed troops return home

By Amber Sasso Army Flier Staff Writer

The first team of soldiers from F Company, 58th Aviation Regiment to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom returned home to Fort



Rucker July 12 after a six-month rotation. This six soldier team included team leader Staff Sgt. Scott Hatfield, Sgt. Patrick Antoine, Spc. Christopher Montgomery, Pfc. Benjamin Hearne, Spc. Claudia Gutierrez, and Spc. Sam Boone. They were the first Special Repair Activity Team to deploy from Fort Rucker to Afghanistan to support an entire Theatre of Operation, in and outside of Afghanistan.

Their mission was to provide direct support, general support and limited depot level maintenance support for all tactical Air Traffic Services equipment. Being the first ATS team to deploy into that area, they had the daunting task of setting up the initial work site area with all of F Company's equipment and adjusting to the temporary living conditions which, each of them admitted, was a real challenge. "Dealing with the initial set up was difficult," said Antoine. "But, the biggest challenge for us was readjusting ourselves to a totally new environment." When the team arrived in Afghanistan back in February, temperatures ran down in the low teens, which was a huge climate shock coming from the warm weather of southern Alabama.

And overnight, the climate seemed to jump from winter into summer with temperatures climbing to as much as 120 degrees. As increasing temperatures started drying everything out, the team began to face an even bigger discomfort - sand. "You can't escape the sand over there. It's everywhere," explained Hatfield. "Even if it's not a windy day, there's sand on everything. It's always in the air. You walk across the flight line and by the time you get from one end to the other you've got a mouth full of sand." Hatfield said the sand made staying clean impossible.

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Troops would wait up to three and four hours in line to use one of the few showers provided for the hundred plus troops deployed in the area. "By the time you were done taking a shower you felt like you needed another one. It was nasty." The support the team received through letters sent from people across the United States made their mission and the days of dust and heat a little more bearable. "The support from people was phenomenal," Montgomery said. "We got care packages and letters from school kids across the country. It gave us something to look forward to. It was a small escape for the reality around us."

The feelings these soldiers experience upon their return were those of pride in their accomplishments as a team, and a new found joy in the comforts of their homeland. "It was raining when we landed and the air felt wonderful. I started feeling the grass, feeling the ground. I was just so ecstatic to be back," Antoine said. "It was almost overwhelming too because we had all these people coming up to us at one time and we had gotten so use to just being around the six of us." Teammate Boone expressed a sense of pride in being one of the first teams to deploy into the area. "We were over there doing something good that not many people get to go do. I am pretty proud of our team." For Hearne, the experience left him with different feelings from those he felt before the deployment. "I began to have mixed feeling about it," said Hearne. "On one side you're proud to be serving your country."

After September 11, I remember thinking I hope I get to go to Afghanistan and be part of the retribution. But at the same time you're in a war-zone and you find yourself thinking about your wife, kids and family back home." Fellow teammate Gutierrez agreed with him saying, "It was exciting to be over there for a while, but it's good to be home." The soldiers were each presented with a Certificate of Service and an Army Commendation Medal for their bravery and dedication throughout their mission during a welcome home ceremony July 17 at Knox Army Airfield.



## DOD announces merger of U.S. Space Command and Strategic Command

United States Department of Defense

As part of the ongoing initiative to transform the U.S. military into a 21st century fighting force, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced the intention to merge two unified commands whose missions include control of America's nuclear forces, military space operations, computer network operations, strategic warning and global planning. The intended merger of U.S. Space Command (SpaceCom) and U.S. Strategic Command (StratCom) will improve combat effectiveness and speed up information collection and assessment needed for strategic decision-making.

"The missions of SpaceCom and StratCom have evolved to the point where merging the two into a single entity will eliminate redundancies in the command structure and streamline the decision making process," said Rumsfeld.

U.S. Strategic Command, located at Offutt Air Force Base in Neb., is the command and control center for U.S. nuclear forces. U.S. Space Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., commands military space operations, information operations, computer network operations and space campaign planning. Both commands are charged with countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

"StratCom and SpaceCom have successfully provided the capabilities to meet the nation's defense needs for many years," said Rumsfeld. "The merged command will be responsible for both early warning of and defense against missile attack as well as long-range conventional attacks."

The intended merger is scheduled to take place in October 2002, and the preferred location for the command headquarters is Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

### Flag Program Sends 'Piece of Pentagon' to Field Units

By Gerry J. Gilmore

DoD officials expect to mail 1,000 U.S. flags to military installations worldwide as part of a Sept. 11 terrorist attack observance initiative.

Read Complete Article:

[http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Aug2002/n08072002\\_200208072.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Aug2002/n08072002_200208072.html)

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### Mentoring (con't)

are doing what we should to accomplish our missions and prepare for the future. But we also need to know that we are headed in the right direction.

What should you do to be an effective mentor? As I've stated, be there when your soldiers need you. Don't be a leader who stands around watching things happen. Care more about your soldiers than yourself and your personal goals. Be the leader who injects guidance at the proper moment, who makes corrections before catastrophe or failure strikes, and be the leader who soldiers can come to for advice or simply to air concerns. Be the leader who leads, not pushes, but always prepared to take corrective action when standards aren't being met or corners are being cut.

COL Nick Rowe, a prisoner of war during the Vietnam war, related a lesson from his first team sergeant who, with a piece of string, asked Rowe to push the string anywhere. Of course, the string didn't go far or where Rowe wanted it to go. The sergeant then told Rowe to grab the string and pull, and see if it didn't go anywhere Rowe led it. This was a great lesson in leadership, but is also applicable to mentoring. You, too, can get your soldiers to go anywhere you coach, train, lead and mentor them.

If we aren't careful, we will create a generation of leaders who do not know how to lead, care and train. We must make a change, and that change can come through a strong, positive mentoring program. We have to show the future SMA and CSA, through our own example, how to truly care for soldiers and their training, growth and development.

So get out there, get your hands dirty, put your hat on the back of your head (figuratively), and talk to your soldiers and leaders. You can make a bigger difference. Teach your soldiers to think, not what to think. Teach them to act with foresight, purpose and vision, not react after the world has passed them by.

Be a mentor.



## Total force effort

### Improving Army readiness through innovative training

Capt. Mike Klein, 5th Bde/87th Division

*Welcome to the place you will die.* The greeting, spray painted by local resistance forces across a large plywood board, blocks the dirt road. Five Humvees, elements of the U.S. 53<sup>rd</sup> Enhanced Separate Infantry Brigade (eSB), easily skirt around the sign. They are headed for the small village of Carnis a few kilometers down the road.

From the vehicle turrets, American infantrymen scan for targets. Some mount machineguns, others anti-tank weapons. Carnis, one of the larger cities on the island of Cortina, is a suspected staging area for anti-government resistance forces. The U.S. contingency intends to take them on. The 53<sup>rd</sup> eSB is in for a fight.

They are here by order of the U.S. President to restore regional stability, support Cortinian internal defense and development efforts, protect the Cortinian government from aggression by the PDRA, protect U.S. national security interests, and demonstrate U.S. resolve in promoting the democracy of free nations. The Americans face a highly trained formidable force which will conduct operations 24 hours a day.

Slowing, the column pans out to form an advancing line, edging behind a berm, just out of sight of the village. Several tanks and an armored personnel carrier, or APC, pull up right of the team.

In a few minutes, the tactical radio net cackles with life. The order is given to advance on Carnis. A tank and the APC begin across an open field, 500 meters to the village edge. Within seconds, two explosions rock the air. The tank has been disabled by a mine; the APC destroyed, its crew killed at impact. The Americans quickly respond, pulling casualties from the APC. Covering teams move into position to prepare for the extraction.

“Halt”. An Observer/Controller, or OC, calls an end to the attack. The casualties have been simulated; the destroyed vehicles disabled by laser tag-like devices. The training, however, is as real as it gets. Short of going to war, the soldiers of this Florida National Guard unit have just completed one of the most real, combat-like experiences of their lives.

#### ***A Total Force Effort***

Earlier this summer, some 4,000 soldiers from the 53<sup>rd</sup> eSB Florida National Guard traveled to Fort Stewart, Georgia for their Annual Training. An additional 3,000 men and women, soldiers from 14 states, arrived to

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support the training exercise. Army Active Component, Army Reserve and National Guard, as well as Air Force and Marine elements, assembled for one purpose: to prepare the 53<sup>rd</sup> eSB for combat.

“This was a ‘Total Force’ effort,” relates COL Kenneth Crowe, Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Training Support Brigade (TSB), 87<sup>th</sup> Training Support Division, which spearheaded the multi-component task force whose mission was to provide the environment to help the 53<sup>rd</sup> eSB train for its wartime mission.

Labeled REHAT '02 (Rehearsal Annual Training), the exercise presented the 53<sup>rd</sup> eSB with a realistic joint and combined arms scenario designed to assess the Brigade’s technical and tactical readiness at all levels.

Preparing RC units, such as the Florida National Guard 53<sup>rd</sup> eSB, to be able to capably fight alongside AC combat units poses the most difficult of tasks. Unlike the AC units, RC forces are comprised largely of part-time citizen-soldiers. On average, RC units have only 38 days available for training each year: Two days a month and two-weeks each summer. Maximizing training opportunities, particularly the summer Annual Training (AT) period, therefore is a key objective for RC leadership.

“Through this exercise, we have made the 53<sup>rd</sup> eSB a better unit,” COL Crowe said. “We just maximized their learning experience in 14 days – by putting a combat arms team in a mock combat field environment – an environment conducive to learning from top to bottom.”

BG David Godwin, Commander of the 53<sup>rd</sup> eSB, agreed. “From the individual soldier to the unit leadership, this exercise was a confidence builder. Tough and realistic, we improved our combat skills at every level,” he said. “This was the best AT we have ever had.”



# First Army NCO and Soldier of the Year Winners Declared

By Karen Bradshaw

“You are all winners,” declared First Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Mellinger to the NCOs and soldiers who had participated in the 2002 First U.S. Army NCO and Soldier of the Year competition. Fourteen top-notch soldiers were winners in their commands before coming to the August 3 trials at First Army. “This year’s competition included common task testing in a field environment, and a written essay in addition to the typical grilling by the board,” said Mellinger.

The Army’s top soldier, Sergeant Major of the Army Jack Tilley, attended the awards breakfast to congratulate each soldier who participated. Tilley spoke to them of seeing American soldiers in Afghanistan on the front in the war on terrorism. “I visited wounded soldiers and each one said, ‘patch me up, send me back out’ That’s the kind of soldier we have in our Army...our Army family; that’s the level of their commitment. Tilley went on, “Of the 183 that died in the Pentagon last September, 75 were Army...75 were our family.” .... I firmly believe we are here to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. You must keep your focus on the importance of your job. Don’t back off on standards or don’t allow complacency set in,” said Tilley.

First U.S. Army NCO of the Year for 2002 - Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Antonio Valentin Jr., 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion/315<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Training Support) (Field Artillery), 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 78<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support). *Valentin is a First Army field artillery observer controller/trainer.*

First U.S. Army Soldier of the Year for 2002 - Specialist Anna Gurrera, HHD, 1st Brigade, 85<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support) *Gurrera is a chemical operations specialist and Army Reservist.*

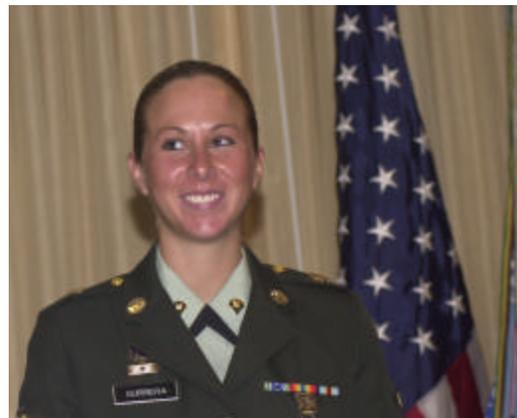
Runner-up: NCO of the Year - Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gregory Millard, Co. D, 1-128<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Wisconsin Army National Guard)

Runner-up: Soldier of the Year – Specialist James Schmitz, 64<sup>th</sup> Rear Operations Center (Wisconsin Army National Guard) *Both represented 1A West - Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan*

*See Winners Declared, p. 8*



Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Valentin, 78th Division (Training Support), completed the land navigation course in 40 minutes. He won the First Army NCO of the Year Competition and the FORSCOM competition as well.. Photo by Karen Bradshaw



Specialist Anna C. Gurrera, 85th Division (Training Support), First Army Soldier of the Year. (photo by Karen Bradshaw)



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley congratulate the NCOs and soldiers who competed in the First Army NCO/Soldier of the Year competition. (photo by Karen Bradshaw)

## Expedited Naturalization of alien and non-citizen nationals

New Citizen Application Policy  
MILPER Message 02-208

By Executive order of the President, all non-citizen soldiers with honorable federal military service since 11 September are now eligible to apply for citizenship without the need to meet residency or time in the military service requirements.

All fees and other requirements for applying for citizenship remain in effect.

All procedures for applying for citizenship under the military facilitated program remain the same except for the waiver of the three year service requirement. These procedures are explained in the Soldier's Guide to Citizenship Application, which is available from <https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/TAGD/>.

Click on the letter "C" in "A-Z Search," scroll down and click on the word "Citizenship" to access the guide.

According to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), it is now more important than ever for the PSBS/PSCS/MPDS to ensure that the word "honorable" is placed in the character of service block on the form N-426 (Certification of Military or Naval Service). Omission of this item from this form will cause an unnecessary delay in the processing of a soldier's application for citizenship.

Because of the expected surge in the number of applications for citizenship from military personnel, soldiers can expect to wait longer for their application receipts from INS and for their interviews than has been the case during the last year. These delays will last until INS can work through the backlog caused by the surge.

The PERSCOM POC for this action is Mr. Lord, DSN 221-4052 or commercial (703) 325-4052. [Lordl@hoffman.army.mil](mailto:Lordl@hoffman.army.mil).

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## Winners Declared (Con't),

All of the following tied for third place in the two categories: NCO and Soldier.

NCO: Staff Sgt. John Welch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 338<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Training Support), 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 85<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support)

NCO: Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Charles H. Williams Jr., 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 345<sup>th</sup> CS/CSS Regiment, 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 87<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support)

NCO: Staff Sgt. Stephen Soucy, 11<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team (Maine Army National Guard)  
Soldier: Corp. Frank Quintana, HHC, 107<sup>th</sup> CSG (New York Army National Guard)  
*Both represented 1A North - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont*

NCO: Staff Sgt. Carl Glover, Det. 1, Co E, 130<sup>th</sup> Aviation (North Carolina Army National Guard)  
Soldier: Specialist Joseph Gonzalez, Co. B, 1/175<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 29<sup>th</sup> Division (Maryland Army National Guard)  
*Both represented 1A East - Delaware, D.C., Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia*

NCO: Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard Crisler Jr., HHC, 3-124<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (Florida Army National Guard)  
Soldier: Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class Arcenio Cruz, Company D, 260<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion (Florida Army National Guard) *Both representing 1A South (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Virgin Islands)*

NCO: Sgt. Letisha Robinson, HHC, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Polk, La.

Soldier: Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class Keith Kozal, 51<sup>st</sup> chemical Company, 83<sup>rd</sup> Chemical Battalion, Fort Polk, La.  
*Both represented FORSCOM units on Fort Polk, La.*

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## NATO appoints General Jones to be SACEUR

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization appointed Gen. James L. Jones, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps, to succeed Gen. Joseph W. Ralston, U.S. Air Force, as supreme allied commander, Europe.

## TV ad to feature Stryker, strong Army teammates

by Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

"In the Army, there are no weak links," is the underlying message creators of the upcoming "Army of One" commercial want to get across to their targeted audience.

The new recruiting commercial to air in September is



currently being shot outside of Fort Lewis, Wash., and will feature soldiers from the Interim Brigade Combat Teams.

"The commercial will focus on the power of every individual within that team, and stress that the strength of the individual soldier is critical to the success of the entire Army," said Lisi Davis, acting director for advertising agency Leo Burnett.

There will be a hero in the commercial, Davis said. A single person that will be on point, but it will also be obvious that it was a team effort, she added.

"We have a standard strategy for all of our commercials, and it stems from 'Army of One'," said Amy Palmer, planning director with Leo Burnett. "That slogan has dual meanings - it's the strong individual in the team, and it's the force of a unified team."

The commercial highlight what's actually going on in the Army, Palmer said. That is why Fort Lewis, the heart of Transformation, is being spotlighted in the upcoming commercial, she added. The IBCCT soldiers will be taped flying inside a Black Hawk and Apache and operating the Stryker, the Army's interim armored vehicle.

### **TRICARE Prime Remote Pre-enrollment begins for active duty family members residing with their sponsors in remote locations**

Active duty family members, who reside with their sponsors in remote locations, may pre-enroll in the TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members (TPRADFM) program Aug. 1 to 20, 2002. To pre-enroll, family members must submit a TRICARE Prime enrollment application to their regional managed care support contractor by Aug. 20. For more information, click: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/newsreleases/2002/news0219.htm>

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## Upcoming changes make TSP more user friendly

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem, USA  
American Forces Press Service

Upcoming improvements to the Thrift Savings Plan for both military and federal civilian employees will make the program easier to use.

Lt. Col. Tom Emswiler, an Army lawyer who directs the Armed Forces Tax Council in the Pentagon, said the most significant change will be that accounts will become daily valued, instead of the current monthly valued. All transactions will be updated daily, he said.

Other changes include better online access to accounts and participant statements expressed in shares and dollars, instead of just dollars as the current statements are. All changes are due to be implemented Sept. 16.

Emswiler said no action is required from participants. However, he cautioned, there will be a two-week period from the end of August until Sept. 16 during which participants will be unable to make certain changes to their accounts or make withdrawals.

"For that two-week period when they're actually transferring accounts into the new record-keeping system, there's going to be a pause in your ability to do certain things," he said. "But otherwise, this is basically going to be seamless."

TSP participants will gain the ability to make changes daily, "but this isn't meant to make you a day trader," Emswiler said. "Think about your long-term investment needs and don't move your accounts simply based on short-term market fluctuations."

He noted the Thrift Savings Plan is intended to be a retirement investment plan. "That means it's a long-term investment, you don't want to just jump around based on short-term needs," he said. "You want to develop your investment strategy based on what level of risk you're willing to accept, whether your needs are long-term or short-term, and then stick with that plan."

For more information on the Thrift Savings Plan, visit <http://www.tsp.gov>. A chart outlining the upcoming changes is available online at [www.tsp.gov/forms/tsplf11.pdf](http://www.tsp.gov/forms/tsplf11.pdf).

# A LOOK BACK AT JULY



**The Battle of Gettysburg  
July 1-3, 1863**  
"The turning point of the Civil War and the rebirth of a nation"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA



**The first dusty footprints left  
by MEN ON THE MOON**  
July 20, 1969

GROUND ZERO of the atomic age is marked by a modest lava stone obelisk, where the world's first nuclear device was exploded on July 16, 1945.



# First U.S. Army Area Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army (CASAs) observe training during recent site visit

Gayle Johnson, First Army Public Affairs Office  
Photos by Public Affairs Staff



Recently, 28 Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army from the First U.S. Army area visited Fort Lewis to attend briefings and observe training. Fort Lewis has long been a leader

in putting innovative tactics and equipment to practical use.

The Civilian Aides attended several briefings that included a Squad Strategic Training Exercise (SQD STX) VIP brief, ROTC National Advanced Leadership Camp brief, and an I Corps Mission brief. They observed SQD STX Training in the dense forest and rugged terrain of Fort Lewis. They also observed demonstrations of the Multiple

Integrated Laser System (MILES). The civilian aides toured the Mission Support Training Facility (MSTF). The MSTF is a highly sophisticated simulation and training center that uses more than 400 computers to replicate battle environments. Its primary purpose is to train staffs how to use new information technology within the framework of warfighting.

Before leaving the MSTF, the civilian aides viewed the Stryker Squad display and participated in a question and answer session with soldiers.



## Pentagon memorial design competition draws global interest

By Linda D. Kozaryn  
American Forces Press Service

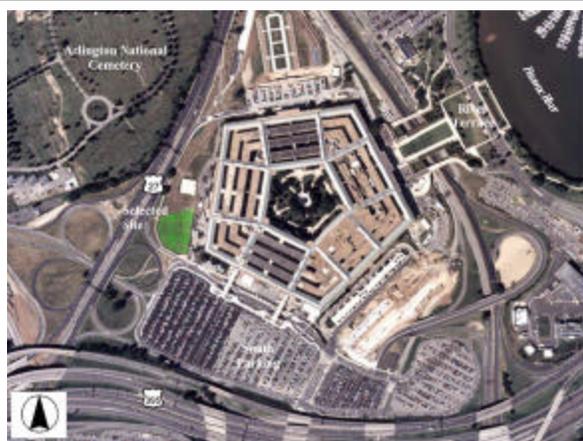
Artists, architects, sculptors and students from 43 states, a dozen prestigious academic institutions and two dozen countries are interested in designing the Pentagon Memorial. Students at Columbia, Harvard, Princeton and Yale Universities, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of California want to create a lasting, physical tribute to those who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack. International inquiries so far have come from Canada, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Panama and the West Indies.

The competition is open to all, and to individuals and teams, according to Anderson-Austra. "They don't have to be professional designers or in related fields," she said. "We're getting the word out as much as we can."

Information for the contest will be on the web at <http://pentagonmemorial.nab.usace.army.mil>. Rules and information can also be obtained by writing: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District, Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, MD

First In Deed

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The green shaded area in this aerial photo marks the proposed site of the Pentagon Memorial. It abuts the section destroyed Sept. 11, 2001, when terrorists slammed a hijacked airliner into the building and killed 184 persons. (DoD photo)

The deadline for the contest is Sept. 11, 2002.



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