

MARC

MAGAZINE

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DUTY,
SERVICE:
WE
STAND
READY"

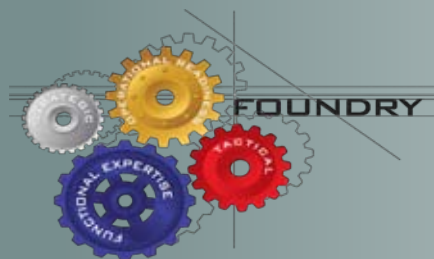


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SUBMISSIONS • The MIRC Magazine invites articles, story ideas, photographs and other material of interest to members of the MIRC. Manuscripts and other correspondence for the editor should be addressed to MIRC, Attn: Public Affairs, 8831 John J. Kingman Road, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060, telephone 703-806-6126. All e-mail submissions should go to mirc_news@usar.army.mil. All articles must be submitted electronically or on disk or CD. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will not be returned. Query by letter.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS • Do not write the magazine. TPU soldiers should notify their Unit Administrator or Unit Clerk. Members of the IRR and IMA should contact their Personnel Management Team at HRC-STL, 1 Reserve Way, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200.

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ON THE COVER • Clockwise: Maj. Gen. Gregory Schumacher administers oath of office to Brig. Gen. James V. Young, Jr. during Nov. 2009 promotion ceremony, 648th RSG Soldiers don MIRC patch during October 2009 Patch Ceremony and Cpl. Christopher Coffland (Soldier on the right) and fellow Soldiers in Afghanistan.

ON THE BACK COVER • The Army Reserve Recruiting Assistance Program (AR-RAP) makes every Soldier a potential recruiter

From the Commanding General

It has been a very good and exciting first six months for me as the MIRC CG; it brings new meaning to the phrase "time flies when you are having fun". I have spent a good deal of time traveling to our units - with many more still to see - and I have to tell you how universally impressed I am with the caliber and quality of Soldiers and civilians we have in our force. I am truly proud to serve with you.

The headquarters recently completed the first MIRC strategic plan. My intent was to use this as a way of making sure our macro priorities were aligned across the MSCs and the headquarters and to focus the staff on a few new initiatives, some of which I will outline below. The end result of this process (partially published on the MIRC Web Site) has resulted in a restated mission and vision statement (one a bit more current, focused and aligned with the USARC vision/mission) and articulating the Guiding Principles for our Command and main Strategic Objectives.

These are as follows:

MIRC Vision

The MIRC is recognized and resourced as the Army Reserve's military intelligence command, providing trained and ready intelligence forces in support of Combatant Command and National Intelligence Community requirements

MIRC Mission

Military Intelligence Readiness Command provides trained, equipped and ready Soldiers and Units to meet the operational intelligence requirements of Combatant Commands and the National Intelligence Community.

Guiding Principles for our Command

- The Army Values Serve as our Foundation
- Standards Based and Results Focused
- Administratively Disciplined
- People are our Most Important Assets - Soldiers, Civilians, and their Families
- Thoroughly Engaged Throughout the Intelligence Community
- Recognized as the Army Reserve's Experts for Military Intelligence
- Forward Looking yet Grounded in Reality
- Operational Intelligence Support is a key method of Training and Achieving Readiness as an Operational AR MI Force
- Mutual respect - empathy for the field, responsiveness to the staff

Key Strategic Objectives

- Develop Combat Ready Units and Soldiers
- Execute Military Intelligence Support Operations
- Lead the AR MI Force
- Grow Processes to Improve Organizational Support to Units, Families and Employers
- Shape the Future of AR Military Intelligence

The staff and MSCs are taking these items and "drilling down" to create specific action plans that align to each strategic objective and

that will serve as our operational goals for 2010. These action plans include a few exciting new initiatives, some of which you will hear more about in the coming weeks:

VOFORGEN - or "Volunteer Force Generation" is a methodical way of soliciting volunteers for key deployments that are not part of standard RFFs, to include AGR officers and NCOs who may not have had the opportunity to deploy. This will be a way of aligning volunteers in high volume MOSs/grades to requirements that some of our supported commands have. If you want to deploy and are not slotted to go in an ARFORGEN rotation, this could be your chance. A CONOP and OPORD will follow within the month.

Two Star Command - The MIRC has initially been approved to "upgrade" to a Two Star Command, most likely sometime in 2011. Final approval is possible soon. Also, we are near formal approval on the expansion of the TSC and CSC headquarters staff, also expected to be implemented in 2011 or 2012.

TPU Officer Career Management - some of you have heard me talk about this before. We aim to create an "Assignments Office" at the MIRC, initially targeted to TPU Officers and hopefully expanded to NCOs in the near future. Our special project officer has been approved by OCAR and she will start around January 1st. We have included the initial structure for this section in the most recent, 2 Star Command Organization, so that it is institutionalized. We have a fully developed plan that we will begin to implement in early 2010. We are currently looking for former company commanders, interested in being assignments officers; if this sounds interesting to you, contact me directly. Stay tuned for more.

MIRC Facebook and Strategic Communications Plan. The MIRC has a Facebook page. Type in "Military Intelligence Readiness Command" and become a "fan". We have a task force to finalize the page design and internal SOP. Expect us to start using this as a platform to "tell the MIRC story" and expand our ability to communicate across and throughout the force in the near future. If you have suggestions for how it should look and work, post them on "the wall". We are just getting started. A command video will follow later this year - might be your chance to become a movie star!

Community Outreach - We want to expand on this and find three or four other companies who might be interested in making modest donations to the MIRC, to support programs that go to help and recognize Soldiers. If you think you know of any organizations we should approach, please contact CSM Murrin directly. These new initiatives are exciting and should serve to make us a more well-rounded operational force in the coming years. However, make no mistake, our primary tasks continue to be to prepare units and Soldiers for combat deployments and provide military intelligence support to our supported commands.

Thank you for all your hard work. The MIRC is widely recognized as one of the USARC's best commands and it is due to your efforts.

Brig. Gen. James "Boe" Young
Commanding General of
the Military Intelligence
Readiness Command



Remembering Cpl. Coffland

by Maj. Monica Womack,
Military Intelligence Readiness Command
Public Affairs Officer

“

*We have become
stronger because
of you...with more
resolve...more
determination.
We will continue
what you started
and we will complete
your mission.*

”

—Col. Monica Harwig

Cpl. Christopher James Coffland died November 13, 2009 in Wardak Province, Afghanistan when enemy forces attacked his Weapons Intelligence Team (WIT) with an improvised explosive device.

Those who knew Cpl Coffland describe him as a selfless person, an individual that loved life and was passionate about helping others and championing causes greater than that of his own.

While accepted to several of the finest institutions of higher learning in the United States, Cpl Coffland opted not to contribute to life as career man or top executive but rather to contribute as a member of the armed forces.

Cpl Coffland joined the Army Reserve to serve his country, just one month shy of his 42nd birthday. His response to the attacks of September 11, 2001 was to help his country as an Intelligence analyst— a silent warrior on the battlefield with the mission of providing combat commanders with critical information to help them get ahead of the enemy's decision cycle.

A silent warrior that was passionate about life and about his mission, Cpl Coffland gave his all as a football coach in Australia, as a volunteer Africa, as a bartender in Baltimore and as a Soldier in Afghanistan.

There is so much more to say about Cpl. Christopher James Coffland and about all of the men and women who have given their lives in the service of our country. Now is a time to honor their memories and pay tribute to them for their tremendous sacrifice and dedication to our nation. We will not forget you.



Cpl Coffland (Soldier on the right) with two fellow Soldiers in Afghanistan.

From the Command Executive Officer

Ms. Loretta S. Cox

Army Civilians have a 230-year record of service and are a critical component of the Total Army Force Structure. I'm honored to join the Military Intelligence Readiness Command Team as the Command Executive Officer and I look forward to serving the Soldiers of this fine organization.



Ms. Loretta Cox, MIRC
Command Executive Officer

648th RSG Joins Team MIRC

by Maj. Monica V. Womack,
Military Intelligence Readiness Command, Public Affairs Office

"We're a team," proclaimed Col. (P) James "Boe" Young Jr., commander of the Military Intelligence Readiness Command (MIRC) while addressing Soldiers from the 648th Regional Support Group (RSG) during the group's Patch Ceremony. The ceremony, conducted during the Saturday Battle Drill Assembly at the Sverdrup Reserve Center located in St. Louis, Mo., was brief but memorable. Former 648th commanders filled front row seats as witnesses to the latest derivative of Army Reserve transformation. Although the patches have changed, some responsibilities will remain the same.

The 648th RSG has provided Command and Control (Battle Command) over a wide variety of units including Quartermaster, Engineer, Chemical, Transportation, Maintenance, Military Police, Public Affairs, and Garrison Support stationed throughout the state of Missouri and at Fort Riley, Kansas. While aligned under the MIRC, the 648th will have command and control (C2) over the 301st Military Intelligence Battalion (MI Bn), 321st MI Bn, 338th MI Bn, 368th MI Bn and the 373rd MI Bn.

The 648th RSG officially transferred from the 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command to the MIRC on Oct 1, 2009. Command and Control of 648th RSG subordinate units also transferred on that date. The Patch Ceremony symbolized the formal transfer of command and control.

There was an air of excitement and anticipation as Col. Steven W. Ainsworth, Commander of the 648th RSG, challenged his Soldiers to continue to excel as members of the MIRC. With new patches and new ideas, commanders and Soldiers enjoyed the possibilities that the future has to offer over MIRC cake and fruit punch.



648th RSG Soldiers don new MIRC patch during Ceremony.

A Visit From the Chief

Deployed Reserve Soldiers Get Holiday Guest
by U.S. Army Master Sgt. Mark Ligget, Task Force Dark Knight

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan (December 10, 2009) – A young Bagram Pfc. from Harker Heights, Texas took advantage of an opportunity to ask questions and get answers directly from the top general in his chain of command at dinner last week.

Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, Chief of the Army Reserve, met with Soldiers here on a holiday visit. Pfc. Patrick Mendoza, a 2002 graduate of Harker Heights High School, along with a number of other Soldiers were selected to have dinner with the general.

To hear him tell it, Pfc. Mendoza expected the general to be at the head of the table where "they had fancy little name tags for him and everyone in his staff." Instead, Stultz strode in, picked up his name tag and announced that he was going to sit where he wanted to sit. "He looked around, looked at me and placed his patrol cap right across from me" said Mendoza. "I just remember looking at it and thinking, wow! That patrol cap sure looks different with those three stars on the front of it."

When the general asked, "I am going to sit here, is that okay with you, Pvt. Mendoza?" The youngster said he snapped back to reality, and didn't miss a beat replying, "Of course, sir!" The private and the three-star general talked about a wide range of subjects over their meal. As inspiration to ambitious Soldiers everywhere, the Chief revealed the secret of his selection as commanding general – "the job", he admitted, "just kind of fell in his lap." "Even generals, he continued, experience stress trying to adjust back to civilian life after a long deployment." He shared a story of how after his first tour of duty in Iraq, he returned to his job at Procter and Gamble. Shortly after settling into his work, he was in one of those interminable meetings and "everyone was arguing about how they were going to package toilet paper. I was so fed up," said the general, "and didn't understand why they were making such a big fuss about it. I stood up in the middle of the meeting and shouted, its toilet paper—who gives a rat's ass!" All in all, Mendoza marveled, the general seemed like a regular guy with a regular job when he wasn't on Active Duty.

Stultz also addressed questions from other Soldiers. The General acknowledged the sacrifices made by the reservists, and underlined the fact that the Army Reserve is no longer a 'strategic reserve,' called upon only in times of war, but is now needed to sustain current deployment operations. These changes demand changes in the Reserve structure itself, as an example the requirement for the civilian Unit Administrators to be Reservists also to retain their day jobs. Since Unit Administrators are always busy, often these Soldiers get only minimal training in their 'Reserve' job but, when the unit mobilizes they may now be expected to contribute to the unit in that position. The General vowed to change this and other unrealistic situations.

In addition to visiting Bagram, Stultz also traveled to the 321st Military Intelligence Battalion's Company Team Reaper at Forward Operating Base Salerno, where he was briefed by a number of Soldiers on current intelligence operations.

Task Force Dark Knight conducts full-spectrum intelligence collection operations throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area to enable the Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) the ability to disrupt and defeat anti-Afghan forces.

Following the dinner, the general stayed around for photos. According to Mendoza, "it was an experience I will not soon forget".



Pfc. Patrick Mendoza from Harker Heights, Texas, talks with Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, Chief of the Army Reserve, recently at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (Courtesy photo by Task Force Dark Knight Public Affairs)



Sgt. Fatimah Leday and Sgt. Lynnette Collier from Task Force Dark Knight talk with Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, Chief of the Army Reserve, recently at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Ligget, Task Force Dark Knight Public Affairs)



Maj. Maria Emery, Task Force Executive Officer, talks with Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, Chief of the Army Reserve, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Ligget, Task Force Dark Knight Public Affairs)



Lt. Gen Jack Stultz promotes Tara Conroy, Company Team Longbow Executive Officer, to the rank of 1st Lieutenant as Capt. Marjorie Eastman, Company Commander, looks on, recently at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. (Photo by Master Sgt. Mark Ligget, Task Force Dark Knight Public Affairs)

Not Your Father's CSI

by Sgt. 1st Class Harris R. Asbeil

This is not CSI Miami or CSI Las Vegas. However, this is biometrics for the Army. The 2600th Military Intelligence Group's 2nd Detachment has just undertaken a new mission in the Reserve Intel arena.

This mission involves a relatively new military concept called Biometric Enabled Intelligence (BEI). As the name implies, it utilizes biometric data to match or link people to events. The analysis portion incorporates biometrics derived contextual information into all-source products for tactical, operational and strategic customers.

When asked to participate in this role, Lt. Col. Christopher Bentsch, Detachment Commander, said that he was excited at the thought of being part of new technology for the Army and particularly the Army Reserve. The answer was a resounding, "YES!"

Several members of the unit work law enforcement in their civilian jobs. They understand the concept of fingerprinting people during the booking process and dusting for latent prints at a crime scene, but how does this work for military intelligence?

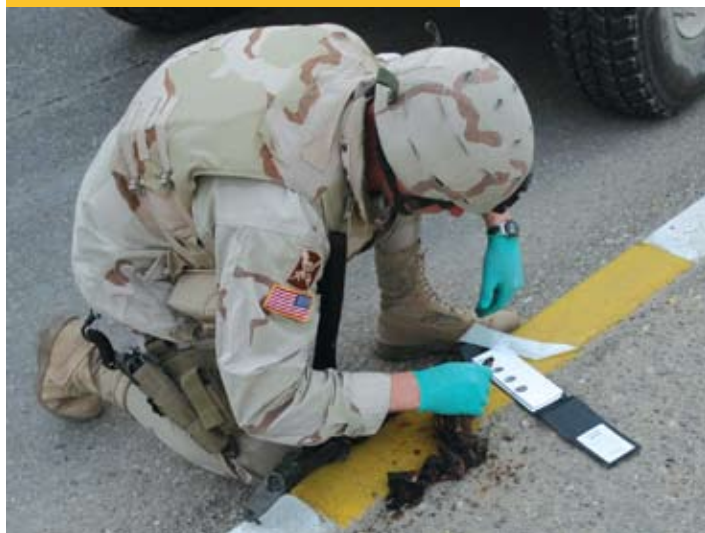
The keys to why using Biometrics is important:

- The enemy is not wearing uniforms
- One can change their appearance and produce false ID paperwork
- One CANNOT change their fingerprints or retinal pattern

Biometric data can be obtained by enrollment through a number of devices, such as the Biometric Automated Toolset (BAT). They could be members of the Iraqi Army or Iraqi Police registering for a weapons card, or someone obtaining an on-base ID card for work, passing through a checkpoint or being detained for a variety of reasons. Positive identification through biometrics is essential.

From a force protection perspective this is critical. An insurgent or insurgent sympathizer working on base could obtain crucial intelligence that could threaten many lives. History tells us that this technique was used in Vietnam, but we now have tools to help prevent such events.

The red flag that initiates a report is the biometric match. That occurs when the Biometrics Task Force, located in West Virginia, matches two or more distinct events. The matches are not limited to enrollment-to-enrollment matches, but can also include latent fingerprint-to-enrollment matches. That means that a dusted or latent print obtained from evidence at an IED incident or other criminal activity is examined for matches. Hopefully, regardless of the type of match, it becomes a case of, "you can run, but you can't hide."



A member of the 203rd Weapons Intelligence Team retrieves fingerprints from a suicide bomber.



A member of the 203rd Weapons Intelligence Team documents fingerprints during pre-deployment training.

The report that follows from that is the Biometric Identification Analysis Report (BIAR). The match reports are placed in a queue with emphasis on matches containing at least one derogatory event for a BIAR to be written. The analyst then performs a "deep-dive" into a plethora of resources to paint a complete intelligence picture of the individual. The BLUF (bottom line up front) aspect of the final product will determine the potential threat and intelligence value of that person. This leads the way to make operational decisions on how to handle that person during "casual" encounters, such as restricting base access or specifically targeting him (or her) as a threat or source of intelligence.

In order to succeed in this mission, the 2600th converged on the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC) for this year's annual training to receive instruction on this process. The first 2-3 days were absolutely overwhelming, with most of the members leaving at the end of the day's classes shaking their heads. "Can we remove this one from the active database?" they asked.. A member of TBE 203N1 MRS WIT Team D retrieves fingerprints saying, "How are we gonna get a suicide vehicle bomber to handle this? The range of resources is mind-boggling." Being the outstanding Soldiers that they are, after the third day, things began to gel. The relationships between the various resources were making sense. This also included examining family members and "known associates." In this manner, the analysts of the 2600th could derive the most complete assessment possible.

After the first week, students received their own individual BIAR to write. With some trials and trepidation ... and the assistance of two outstanding NGIC instructors ... every member produced a complete BIAR to share valuable information with the Intelligence Community. There is still a learning curve to deal with, before reaching maximum proficiency; but the 2600th is well on its way to contributing to the biometrically enabled battle.

The members of the detachment consider themselves very fortunate, as reservists, to have a live mission each and every battle assembly. These Warrior-Citizens are proud to contribute to force protection, detainee management, intelligence operations, general military operations and Homeland Security.

The Global War on Terrorism has been described in many ways. It has been referred to as unconventional, asymmetrical, guerilla warfare and ever changing. Throughout the military, people are changing and adapting to this constant state of flux. As this fight is indeed evolving, the members of Det 2, 2600th Military Intelligence Group are riding the Darwin Express.



345th TSB FY09 Annual Training

by Spec. Eva McBride



The 345th TSB successfully conducted annual training (AT) from 10-26 July 2009 in multiple phases at two locations: Fort Gordon, Ga. and Clarks Hill, S.C. Approximately 160 Reserve Soldiers from four companies in three states took part, travelling to Fort Gordon and Clarks Hill by tactical vehicles.

The first stage of training, weapons qualification for M16 and M9 small arms, took place in a two-day period at ranges located on Fort Gordon. During the same period, B and C Co attended CHARTs training in classroom sessions. Students were trained on deployable reporting systems currently in use in Afghanistan and Iraq. A second group of 30 students conducted Combat Life Saver (CLS) training. The second stage of training involved a HUMINT Collection Team (HCT) field training exercise (FTX) at Clarks Hill. Soldiers from B and C Co participated in an HCT FTX focused on a series of lanes designed to incorporate critical skill sets for 35Ms and 35Ls in a real world scenario. Personnel from the South Eastern Army Reserve Intelligence Support Center (SE ARISC), Fort Gillem, Ga., supervised the event. The Headquarters Detachment and A Co Soldiers linked up with B and C Co five days later to conduct Army Warrior Tasks, to include combatives, certification for M1114 up-armored vehicles, lanes training for convoy operations, crew served weapons, and communications equipment.

A Co Soldiers were assigned specific tasks during the FY09 AT. In addition to weapon's qualification on the range, A Co conducted 4 lanes of training at Fort Gordon over a six-day period. The training included Distributed Common Ground System- Army (DCGS-A), MASINT, SIGINT, and GEOINT training.

The final stage of the FY09 annual training included mandatory briefings and an award ceremony at the Fort Gordon Reserve Center. The ceremony included Soldiers of 345th TSB bidding farewell to those departing for new units or transitioning into retirement. Sgt. 1st Class Randy Gruse from HHD will be assigned to the 5-108th Civil Affairs Bn at Fort Bragg, NC effective 3 August 2009. 1st Lt. Carrie Gianotti will be assigned to the 81st RRC Command Group at Fort Jackson, S.C. as the Deputy Commanding General's Aide effective 15 August 2009. Chief Warrant Officer Robert Dettmer, a plank owner for the 345th who works in A Co, will be assigned to the EUCOM JAC. Staff Sgt. Douglas Rauber of B Co retires after the completion of 20 years Army service.

What is Yellow Ribbon?

submitted by the MIRC Family Programs Office

Deployments have become a way of life for Army Reserve Soldiers and their Families. Whether single or married, Soldiers must ensure that their Families are aware and prepared for the unique challenges that deployments bring. Family readiness is key to a smooth deployment and successful mission. The Yellow Ribbon Program was created to assist in making sure Soldiers and their Families are prepared during all phases of deployment.

The Yellow Ribbon Program consists of several events throughout the deployment cycle designed to prepare Soldiers and Families for deployment, sustain Families through separation, and reintegrate Soldiers with their Families, communities, and employers upon their return. Each Soldier may bring up to two guests (spouse, children, parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, significant others, etc). Those guests will be authorized Invitational Travel Orders to attend, published by the Soldier's Command.

The Yellow Ribbon Program is the result of a pilot program from the Minnesota National Guard. In July of 2008, Congress expanded the program to all Reserve Components, giving us the Yellow Ribbon Program as it exists today. Yellow Ribbon is offered to Soldiers and Families facing deployment of 90 days or more. There are seven events that make up the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

Event 1 Alert Phase/Pre-deployment: This training is a one day training event for Soldier and Family intended to take place 30 to 60 days prior to deployment.

Event 2 Pre-deployment: This training is a one day training event for Soldier and Family intended to take place 30 to 60 days prior to deployment.

Event 3 Deployment: This training is a one day training event for Family members only that takes place 30-60 days after the unit has deployed.

Event 4 Re-deployment: This training is a one day training event for Family members only that takes place 30-60 days before the unit re-deploys.



For the second consecutive year, the MIRC was nominated to receive the Secretary of the Army's Command Team Quality of Life Award, a relatively new award that recognizes teams or individuals responsible for improving the quality of life at Army garrisons. The MIRC's Yellow Ribbon program is a proponent of the Quality of Life Award

Event 5 Post Deployment: This training is a two day training event that takes place on or about 30 days after the unit re-deploys and includes the Soldier and Family.

Event 6 Post Deployment: This training is a two day training event that takes place on or about 60 days after the unit re-deploys and includes the Soldier and Family.

Event 7 Post Deployment: This training is a two day training event for Soldiers that takes place on or about 90 days after the unit re-deploys.

The Family Programs Office works directly with Commanders, Soldiers, Chaplains, Family Readiness Groups, and community resources to provide legal, education, employment, finance, relationship and other information that is critical in the deployment cycle. All events include information on current benefits and available resources to help overcome the challenges of deployment and reintegration.



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A Yellow Ribbon to Remember

by Maj. Monica V. Womack,
Military Intelligence Readiness Command Public Affairs Office



Writers Trish Holland (left) and Christina Ford (right) read "A Soldier's Night Before Christmas" to 321st MI BN Soldier's children during phase III of Yellow Ribbon.



Following story time, Holland and Ford sign copies of their book for family members.

Dallas, Fort Worth-- Husbands, wives, parents, and grandparents of 321st Military Intelligence Battalion Soldiers, sat quietly as Child and Youth Services Coordinator Hamaria Smith introduced a litany of child and youth programs available to children of deployed Soldiers during phase III of the Yellow Ribbon program. Children waited in anticipation of another introduction-- the introduction of Sgt. McClaus during story time.

Authors, Trish Holland and Christina Ford took center stage with their children's book *The Soldier's Night Before Christmas*.

Children gathered around the authors as Sgt. McClaus came to life on the big screen. Ford began reading, "Twas the night before Christmas when all through the base." Their eyes widened as Ford's voice brought the story to life. Curious faces gave way to smiles as Ford described the gifts delivered by Sgt. McClaus. As the story reached its pinnacle Holland began reading, "As I drew in my head and was turning around, through the tent flap the sergeant came in with a bound."

The children were enthralled by Sgt. McClaus, the simulated Soldier sleigh and all of the enchantment that *The Soldier's Night Before Christmas* had to offer. For these 321st children, this was a Yellow Ribbon to remember.

Both Ford and Holland stayed after story time to sign individual books for each child and family. When asked what inspired them to write *The Soldier's Night Before Christmas*, Ford had this to say, "My son was in Iraq and it was coming up on Christmas and I had the idea that it would be a good idea to write for a Soldier and I shared it with my good friend Trish and she suggested that we write the story."

When asked how difficult it is to write for children, both authors replied, "It's very difficult." Holland recommended that aspiring writers check out their local Society for Children Writers and Illustrators.

The next stop for Ford and Holland is Fort Hood, where they will read *The Soldier's Night Before Christmas* to children during story time at installation's day care centers. When asked why they do what they do, the authors had this to say, "We can't not, writers are who we are."

Quick Hire of Military Spouses

submitted by the MIRC Family Programs Office

The Federal Quick Hire of Military Spouses took effect 11 September 2009. This personnel rule allows some military spouses to be quickly hired for federal jobs without following the usual competitive process. The guidelines are posted in the Federal Register under the title: "Noncompetitive Appointment of Certain Military Spouses." The intended effect of the rule, according to documents listed in the Federal Register, "is to facilitate the entry of military spouses into the federal civil service as part of an effort to recruit and retain skilled and experienced members of the armed forces and to recognize and honor the service of members injured, disabled, or killed in connection with their service."

The availability of jobs for military spouses contributes to the sustenance of the all-volunteer force according to a recent survey in which employed military spouses reported that their work income constitutes about 48 percent of total Family income. However, frequent moves often make it difficult for military spouses to maintain employment.

Eligible individuals include spouses of active-duty Soldiers who have been called on to relocate. This includes spouses of Guardsmen or reservists who've been called up for more than 180 days of active service other than training. Eligible spouses must be moving to another duty station accompanied by their Soldier. Visit www.usajobs.gov to apply.



Sgt. 1st Class Henry Arevalo and wife Irina Arevalo who was hired as a Budget Analyst for the MIRC within four weeks.

MIRC Wins at 2009 Army 10 Miler

by Maj. Monica V. Womack,
Military Intelligence Readiness Command Public Affairs Office

Washington, D.C. -- Over 36,000 runners converged on the nation's capitol to participate in the 25th Army Ten Miler (ATM), the largest 10 mile race in America. Most of the runners were filled with dreams of winning; others had dreams of competing, and a few, simply dreamed of finishing. By noon, runners were awakened to the reality of triumph, contention or defeat.

For one Army Reserve team, defeat and contention were not an option. Finishing with a team time of 4:26:52, the Fort Hunter-Liggett/Camp Parks (FHL/CP) team led by Capt. Jeffery Bott, took home the team trophy for the Army Reserve "Mixed Division."

Bott, a Production Manager assigned to the Western Army Reserve Intelligence Support Center (WARISC), organized the team at the Camp Parks facility in July. Due to geographical constraints, team members for the most part, trained on their own. They motivated each other across the miles through a series of text messages, e-mails and phone calls.

When asked how he felt after the race, Bott had this to say, "I felt really, really good. I was able to complete the second half of race much faster than I expected." Bott is now training to compete in a 100 mile race in Phoenix at the end of October.

Teammate Capt. Timothy Hisa enjoyed the race as well, "I felt really good. It was really motivating to see the wounded warriors. I'm running with two legs, some of those guys only have one— makes you really grateful to be here."

While Bott organized the team, Mr. Charlemagne Tertulien, former U.S. Army Combat Photographer, and current MWR Director for the California region, organized the funds to support the team trip to the 25th ATM. According to Tertulien, budgets are submitted a year out. Requests for additional funding and resources to support events such as the ATM, require ingenuity, imagination and expertise. Tertulien exceeded all three requirements, acquiring funding for travel, lodging and subsistence for all six FHL/CP team members.

When asked why he supported the team, Tertulien had this to say, "I wanted to do something to help the Soldiers. I want to continue to help Soldiers and family members. That's all I know."

The ATM winners of the Army Reserve Mixed Division team FHL/CP included Capt. Jeffery Bott, WARISC; Capt. Timothy Hisa, 1-363 7SBN; Sgt. 1st Class Wendy King, A Co. RTC-W; Sgt. 1st Class James Davis, C Co. 3/518 RTC-W; Staff Sgt. Brian Hoffman 9th Bn, 4th Bde, 100th Div (OS); and Staff Sgt. Arthur Odgers, B Co. RTC-W.



Winners of the Army Reserve Mixed Division Team FHL/CP from L to R standing: Staff Sgt. Hoffman, Sgt. 1st Class James Davis, Staff Sgt. Arthur Odgers, Capt. Jeffery Bott, Capt. Timothy Hisa, Charlemagne Tertulien, and (kneeling) Sgt. 1st Class Wendy King.



Winners of the Army Reserve Mixed Division Team and US Army Military District of Washington and Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region staff members Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Williams and Brig. Gen. Karl Horst.

Initiative

by Master Sgt. Jodi M. Gaston,
Southeastern Army Reserve Intelligence Support Center

"No One is More Professional Than I," "Backbone of the Army," "LTMTA*," "LDRSHIP," these catch phrases and acronyms have been etched in our minds as those that best describe an Army's Non Commissioned Officer.

As a former "Bragger" (a Soldier who begins his or her career at Fort Bragg), each Soldier was taught from Day One that taking and showing initiative is what sets a great Soldier apart from an average Soldier.

Name me any good leader and you will find someone who professes to be a fan of those who take initiative. Those individuals who demonstrate initiative by their actions (seen and unseen) truly understand and live by those words within the NCO Creed.

Taking initiative is not for everyone. Some use the word as "eye candy" when writing their evaluation. Then there are others who use it as a "do as I say, not as I do..."

Nowhere on the NCO Evaluation Report is initiative spelled out. Is initiative less important than other qualifiers? Do leaders think of initiative less than the Army Values? What is it about the word initiative that makes senior leaders inquire about a newly assigned Soldier prior to their arrival? "Does this Soldier show initiative?" Think about it. When was the last time you signed into a unit without anyone knowing anything about you? I would guess those instances are extremely rare.

As I write about initiative, I would like to cite a recent example of a Soldier who took the initiative—without expecting to receive recognition.

This past June, Staff Sgt. Joaquin Nava, a Military Intelligence Soldier assigned to Charlie Company, 345th MI TSB, stationed at Fort Gillem, Georgia, took initiative to the next level.

A few weeks prior to an event commemorating the Year of the NCO, Nava emailed every NCO within his area to inform them of the "Who, What, Where and When..." Okay, nothing out of the ordinary. A day before the event I received an email with yet another reminder. Again, nothing out of the ordinary. Finally, about 15 Minutes prior to the event, me and several other Senior NCOs made our way to the event area at Building 900 on Fort Gillem. We were the first to arrive and upon entering the event area, we noticed military protocol at its finest. We truly expected to find a General Officer in the area. Chairs were dress-right-dress in perfectly spaced unity in front of a large viewing screen. The speaker's podium was within a few feet of the chair formation with the Army Colors standing tall to the rear right of the podium. Refreshments and trays were evenly spaced on two tables (I couldn't help but to continue to look around for a General Officer). At a separate table, just left of the podium, was a scene that captured it all: a beautifully decorated cake with the words "Year of the Non-Commissioned Officer", and the Soldier in dress blues standing at parade rest directly behind the table was Staff Sgt. Nava. Nava had made all these impressive arrangements through his own initiative; in fact, he also funded the refreshments and cake himself.

Note: Although Staff Sgt. Nava is not a "Bragger"; I would like to nominate him as an honorary one.

* **L** = Leads by example;

T = Trains from experience;

M = Maintains and enforces standards;

T = Takes care of Soldiers;

A = Adapts to a changing world.

~ SMA Kenneth Preston



Staff Sgt. Nava is assigned to the 345th MI TSB, Charlie Company located at Fort Gillem, Ga.

Hispanic Heritage Celebrated at Mosby Reserve Center

by Paul Bello
Belvoir Eagle staff writer



Chief Warrant Officer Israel Gonzalez and Sgt. Hoori Khandani move to the music before the start of the Military Intelligence Readiness Command Hispanic Heritage Celebration at the Mosby Reserve Center Sept. 30.

Members of the Military Intelligence Readiness Command teamed up with Fort Belvoir's 55th Sustainment Brigade Sept. 30 for a celebration marking National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated across the U.S. from Sep. 15 to Oct. 15.

Amid the flags and booths decorated to honor Mexico, South America, Central America, Spain and the Caribbean, was plenty of music and salsa dancing. A cultural food sampling, featuring trays of miniature quesadillas to enchiladas, also caught the curious eye of many Soldiers attending.

Col. April Vinson, deputy chief of staff for MIRC, said the ceremony was a great opportunity to recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans everywhere.

"Hispanics come from a variety of nations and they all carry a commitment to the American dream," Vinson said during her opening remarks. "They have shown a good heart and are important members of communities across the country."

Retired Sgt. Maj. Venus Negron-Carpenter, the ceremony's guest speaker, works as a human resources specialist for the U.S. Army AW2 Wounded Warriors Program in Alexandria. She was recently recognized by National Latino Style Magazine for contributions to her local community, as well as the armed forces.

According to her, many common threads can be found between Hispanics and individuals from other backgrounds.

"The culture and language is what unites Hispanics. I believe that's the case for any group of people," she told her audience. "Hispanics believe in equal opportunities. That's also an Army value and there are many other commonalities that can translate into advancing our communities. We need to be mindful that we're a lot alike."

Carpenter added this was a historical time to be living in, citing the election of President Barack Obama and the appointment of Sonia Sotomayor – the nation's first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice. However, she would personally like to see more Hispanics in leadership positions within the military.

"There are many more Hispanics who are enlisted than there are officers. There's a big disparity between the two groups and I would like to see that number change," Carpenter said. "That would be a great accomplishment and mean so much to a lot of people."



Brig. Gen. Young presents guest speaker Sgt. Maj. (ret.) Negron-Carpenter with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Foundry

submitted by Mrs. Skye Irion

Foundry was created in 2006 to provide funding and training opportunities for Active Component, Reserve Component, or Army National Guard Military Intelligence (MI) Soldiers or Soldiers filling an MI billet. Foundry assists commanders in developing and maintaining highly trained intelligence Soldiers and teams through continuous access to advanced MI skills training. This training can be received in the classroom presented by mobile training teams, or achieved through live environment training. Foundry allows MI Soldiers at all echelons to remain actively engaged in the Intelligence fight and deployment ready with regional expertise.

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In "General"

by Maj. Monica V. Womack,
Military Intelligence Readiness Command, Public Affairs Office

There was standing room only as guest after guest, filed in to be seated at the third commander of the Military Intelligence Readiness Command's (MIRC) promotion ceremony.

Col. (P) James V. Young, Jr. was promoted to Brigadier General at the MIRC Headquarters, Fort Belvoir, Va. on November 19, 2009. Keeping with tradition, Maj. Gen. Gregory Schumacher, Assistant Deputy G-2 of the Army, administered the oath of office following the pinning ceremony.

The Young family filled several rows as the Army Reserve's newest incoming commander and general reflected upon his career as an Army officer. Young drew both laughs and applause as he described the many obstacles he successfully negotiated as he convoyed his way to command. He especially thanked his family, NCOs and friends, who were credited for his success as a husband, father and commander.

Brig. Gen. Young formally took command of the MIRC on July 9, 2009.



Maj. Gen. Schumacher administers the oath of office to Brig. Gen. Young



Staff Sgt. Kelly Green with Iraqi children.



Sgt. Dabbour, Staff Sgt. Kelly Greene, Sgt. Shannon Lemaster, Staff Sgt. Gordon, Maj. Raheem (Iraqi Scouts leader), Lt. Col. Shwartz from I-Corps I, Col. Brain Pugmire(IO officer MNC-I), Maj. Cheryl Hanke (St. Louis, Mo.) and Lt. j.g. (Navy) Jon Angle.

Proof of Change in Iraq

by 1st Sgt Tina Kennedy, A/301st MI BN

Photo- Staff Sgt. Kelly Green with Iraqi children

Most Americans are oblivious to the everyday struggles that face the Iraqi people; but one organization seeks to breach that divide and improve the quality of life in Iraq: the Iraqi Boy and Girl Scouts (IBGS). The Scout program was resurrected in 2004 by Americans, Chip Beck and Michael Bradle (Coalition Provisional Authority employees), after decades of neglect and misuse under the Baathist regime. One of the goals of the Scout program in Iraq is to breed a positive climate from which Iraqi children can grow and develop. Since its rebirth, the IBGS has changed from a way for off duty US Soldiers to pass their time to a fully sponsored US military program that offers Iraqi children from ages five to sixteen a chance to participate in games, sporting events, and classes. In addition to helping foster IBGS, US Commanders realized that the program allowed Soldiers an opportunity to participate in civilian community-based activities, which lent a bit of normalcy to their deployment.

Alpha Company (CO), 301st Military Intelligence (MI) Battalion (BN) arrived at Camp Victory, Iraq in September 2008. Almost immediately, several Soldiers volunteered in their off time to help out a local chapter of IBGS. This small group grew to about 17 Soldiers from A CO, who donated a lot of their time to mentoring and participating in the program. Two standout participants in the program were

A CO Supply Sergeant, Staff Sgt. Kelly Greene (an elementary school teacher in her civilian capacity), and Sgt. Marcel Dabbour, another supply Soldier (who happened to be an Arabic speaker).

The Iraqi Scout Leaders started meeting with members of A CO and several other units every week in the evenings and derived a schedule of events for every Saturday afternoon. What started as four Soldiers, an Iraqi Scout Leader, two Iraqi teachers, and around 10 children grew into a program of 20 US Soldiers and four Iraqi Scout Leaders, who help managed and teach over 100 children every Saturday.

A CO Soldiers started showing the children basic camping skills, arts and crafts activities, and American children's games. By the end of the mobilization in June 2009 the attendance at these weekly events had grown to over 200 Iraqi adults and children.

The off duty dedication of Alpha's Soldiers and the courage of local Iraqis to participate in IBGS, highlights an often overlooked relationship in Baghdad between the US military and Iraqi civilians: improving a child's future. This relationship continues to grow from a wealth of diversity that spans cultures, creeds, and faiths; it seems to move forward on a sense of hope resurrected in 2004 and nurtured along by people in their spare time. The Iraqi Boy and Girl Scouts Program seems to have transcended the sectarian violence and political unrest in Iraq, through teaching each others children to be productive, positive members of a global community with an eye toward a peaceful Iraq.

Strategic Industry Intelligence Training in New Jersey

by Maj. Jean Lewis

Soldiers of Detachment 7, 3100th Strategic Intelligence Group take pride in their ability to look at strategic industries and make intelligence assessments. Det 7's Soldiers drill monthly at the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) on Bolling Air Force Base, Washington DC. Many of the Soldiers already work in the Intelligence Community in their day jobs, but Strategic Industry Intelligence is a different field for most of the Soldiers.

"Technical intelligence is one of the most difficult fields to be in, and there is a constant, ongoing need to stay aware of the new technology", stated Lt. Col. Thompson, the Detachment Commander. Getting a better understanding of the big picture is what strategic intelligence is all about. One way to do this for Det 7 is to visit local industry facilities related to the Det's mission. During their Annual Training, a group from Det 7 made their way up the New Jersey Turnpike from their home station in Washington, DC in June 2009 to visit the Conoco Phillips Refinery, more commonly known as the "Bayway Refinery," in Bayonne, N.J.

The site visit was facilitated by Col. (Ret) Paul Dietrich, the Senior Manager for the refinery, and a former member of the 352 Civil Affairs Command, who gave the unit and several civilian analysts an unparalleled opportunity to visit the refinery, speak to industry experts, and learn one of the methods of petrochemical production. "Remember to leave anything that can cause a spark back on the bus," stated Dietrich, "even the battery from your cell phone or camera can cause these hydrocarbon vapors to ignite". These protective suits will prevent any stray vapors from absorbing into your clothes."

The refinery provided fireproof protective suits for the Soldiers to wear during the tour. "This reminds me of MOPP gear," commented Sgt. Hanson, who came to the unit from active duty less than a year ago.

The Bayway Refinery, one of the oldest in the US, receives crude oil from barges and 'cracks' it into fuels and petrochemicals, which we often take for granted. One of the petrochemicals, propylene, is further processed into polymers (plastics) that are used in a wide range of materials such as plastic bags, fibers, and numerous commodities. It is considered a strategic industry, with applications that extend to the military. "Wow, seeing this process is amazing," said Sgt. 1st Class Pajak, the Detachment 1st Sgt.

Assessing foreign capabilities in the production of petrochemicals is one of the many strategic intelligence tasks of Det 7. "You can read about a production process all day, but actually seeing it performed really puts it all in perspective", commented Maj. Tejera, one of the imagery analysts assigned to Det 7.

The trip was extremely successful and provided a wealth of information to the analysts of Det 7. "This trip was extremely beneficial to me. I feel more confident and certain that my assessments of foreign facilities are accurate. We are better analysts because now we can visualize the production process, the equipment, and manpower required.," said Sgt. Bruckner, one of the analysts assigned to Det 7.

The Soldiers returned to home station determined to support DIA with quality intelligence reports, and look forward to their next field trip to another strategic industry.



Staff Sgt. Fletcher discusses technical aspects of the polypropylene process with Conoco Phillips senior engineer.



Soldiers from Det 7 and guests pose for a quick photo in front of the Bayway Refinery in Bayonne, NJ.

Camp Parks Wins 2008 JRIC of the Year!

by Maj. Michelle Lee, USAFR

Camp Parks Joint Reserve Intelligence Center (JRIC) won the JRIC of the Year 2008 at the Joint Reserve Intelligence Program Annual Conference held at Wright Patterson Air Force Base 11-13 August 2009. The coveted JRIC of the Year Award was presented by Congressman Steve Austria, representing the 7th Congressional District of Ohio. The Military Intelligence Reserve Command (MIRC) selected JRIC Camp Parks earlier in the year from eight sites to represent the Army at the Service-wide competition. Camp Parks edged out 19 other sites hosted by the Navy, Air Force, Marines to take the top honors last week. Sites were assessed for their specific accomplishments in promoting the joint environment, maximizing reserve component intelligence, optimizing site management, and demonstrating commitment to the JRIC. Camp Parks excelled in these areas and received strong endorsements from supported Commands and tenant leadership for the nomination. The emphasis on service, supply, and support by the Western Army Reserve Intelligence Support Center (WARISC) and JRIC staff, the launch of several initiatives to increase the production capability, the vision of tenant unit leadership, the hard work and dedication of the intelligence analysts and professionals at the site, and depth and breadth of intelligence production generated top-notch results and high honor to JRIC Camp Parks. Kudos to all at Camp Parks for their part in earning this award and well-deserved recognition.

Camp Parks Joint Reserve Intelligence Center (JRIC) is one of 28 JRICs in the Joint Reserve Intelligence Program (JRIP) and is hosted by the Western Army Reserve Intelligence Support Center (WARISC). Camp Parks JRIC is a joint intelligence production activity that provides infrastructure, resources, and program guidance to link Reserve Component Intelligence Elements (RCIE) with the Combatant Commands, Services, and Combat Support Agencies to meet operational intelligence needs. The JRIC enables a broad range of intelligence professionals to support a diverse customer base on both a full-time and drill weekend basis and is capable of 24-hour contingency and exercise support as necessary.



090810-F-5223A-001 Camp Parks JRIC of the Year Cutline-Mr. Lumas, Maj. Michelle Lee and Col. Lynch accept the JRIC Award. Photo taken by Airman First Class John M. Albea, Photographer, NASIC/SCVS

203rd Military Intelligence Battalion

Gets a Pie in the Face for its FRG by Staff Sgt. Jason R. Cunningham

On October 18, 2009 the Soldiers of the 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion gathered in Victory Hall, the auditorium within their building located on Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md. The Soldiers had just completed a long two days of training during their monthly Battle Assembly. During this particular weekend the Soldiers were placed under the watchful eyes of the senior leadership of both the Military Intelligence Readiness Command and the National Ground Intelligence Center while they conducted their annual TECHINT Day. The TECHINT Day is an opportunity for the Soldiers of the 203rd MI BN to tout their skills as the only multi-component Technical Intelligence Battalion in the United States Army.

Based on the reactions and great responses of all the guests who attended, the day was a success and the hard work and dedication of the Soldiers who were involved was clearly evident. But as they sat in their seats, late on that Sunday evening, you could see in each of their eyes that they needed something to lift their spirits.

Lt. Col. Troy V. Heskett, Commander of the 203rd MI Battalion, marched down the aisle of the auditorium as each of his Soldiers stood at attention. He approached the podium in the center of the hall and asked all to be seated and to "relax". He gave his customary motivational speech, getting his Soldiers back into the right state of mind for their long treks home that evening. He would occasionally let an expletive slip during his "fire side chat" with his Soldiers, which always received a hard to hold back chuckle from the group. His words were straight and to the point, which his Soldiers have come to respect, as they know they are getting the ground truth.

As he finished his oration he didn't conclude the weekend's events as usual. Rather than dismiss his Soldiers he called Capt. David Salazar, Commander of HHC, to the front of the auditorium. In his arms Salazar carried a bag of pie tins, whipped cream and cheese whiz. Behind the podium where Lt. Col. Heskett had been speaking, stood a lone chair with plastic liner underneath it. The scene should have raised initial suspicions, but the long weekend had taken it out of the Soldiers and they didn't know what was coming.

Salazar took the microphone and began to explain what was about to occur. The Battalions Family Readiness Group (FRG) was planning several events in the coming holiday

months and we were going to be helping with a fund raiser. After a long weekend of Senior Officers and NCO's demanding perfection from each of their Soldiers, an opportunity for a taste of retribution was being offered. Salazar explained that the fundraiser was called "Pie in the Face", and it gave everyone the opportunity to pie the senior leadership of the battalion in the face with an auction. One stipulation was that the person in the seat could bid themselves out if they so wished.

The crowd was immediately at the edge of their seats as the first victim, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Downing, the acting 1st Sgt. of Bravo Company made his way to the chair. The bidding process developed into a back and forth struggle between Soldiers pooling money and Downing. The Soldiers ultimately prevailed, raising enough money to win them the right to smear the pie in the face of their 1st Sgt.

In the end no one was safe from being pied in the face, and the Battalion raised enough money to support the Battalion's family holiday events. These events include the Battalion's holiday party, where Soldiers bring their families and have a sit down dinner and the kids receive gifts from a jovial Santa Claus. A formal dining out will also be held at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, a premier waterfront location, featuring catered food and skits performed by each Company in the Battalion.

The 203rd MI Battalion's FRG has taken on a new face as of late. There are currently 83 Soldiers deployed from the battalion in Iraq serving as Weapons Intelligence Teams as well as eight Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan conducting Document and Media Exploitation. The Battalion Commander has made the FRG a priority, placing Soldiers and their families as a key to success on his Commander's Priorities list. Salazar has been leading the charge by expanding the FRG. "Without the support of the families, the Soldiers have an added stress that could deter them from completing their mission. It is both our duty and pleasure to ensure we take care of the families which will ultimately take care of the Soldier."

Special U.S. Flag Adorns Restaurant Wall

by Carol Hopkins Of The Oakland Press

Often the smallest gesture makes a tremendous impact.

James Lee, a 57-year-old Army Reservist serving with the Military Intelligence Readiness Command in Iraq, would agree.

For the past three years, Lee and his wife, Denise, both of Waterford Township, have been regular customers at Village Place Restaurant on Cooley Lake Road.

We would go almost every Saturday, said Denise. We got close to the morning waitresses. Its like our Cheers, you know, where everybody knows your name.

James, a master sergeant, was deployed to Iraq Feb. 21. Besides Denise, he also left behind his daughters, Jennifer Rose and Stacey Rose.

After he was gone, Denise would still go out to eat at Village Place, a cozy neighborhood restaurant.

It was hard to go by myself at first, she said.

The staff was used to seeing Denise with her husband. They asked her about James, and Denise explained where he was.

One weekend in July, they gave her a paper doily covered with well-wishes for James.

The notes said things like miss your smiling face, said Denise. I mailed it to him. James appreciated the note, Denise said.

He purchased an American flag which is accompanied by a certificate with the waitresses names.

Its a little thank-you for their support of the troops and Iraqi freedom, said Denise, who works in medical billing in Troy. The folded flag and the certificate now hang near the kitchen.

She hears often from her husband, and she and her daughters have also received their own flag.

But the one at the restaurant is special.

It makes me feel good, she said.

Carol Klein, one of the restaurant managers, said people notice the flag, which is folded into a triangle and framed.

Everyone stops to look at the flag and certificate and wants to know the story, said Klein. Were touched that he thought of us and every time we think about him, we cry.

Denise still eats at the restaurant.

Its just little things like that that make a big difference, she said. It shows support. Just having them be friends now is really nice.

When James comes home in late February, said Denise, I'm taking him to Village Place.



women (left to right) Debbie Klein, Brooke Klein, Carol Klein, Paula Atkinson and Denise Lee stand under a U.S. flag sent to the Village Place in Waterford by Lees husband, Jim, who is serving in Iraq.



Lees husband Jim, who is currently serving in Iraq. Photos taken by the Oakland Press

Veteran Waits Nearly 40 Years for Purple Heart

By SHARON LONGMAN Special Thanks to The Oakland Press

U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran Richard Kelts earned a Purple Heart in 1970, but he didn't receive it until just recently. Kelts, 58, was formally presented with his medal in a surprise ceremony attended by family and friends at Selfridge Air National Guard Base near Mount Clemens. The Rochester Hills vet served in the U.S. Army Armored Corps for seven months in Vietnam when his M113 APC armored personnel carrier hit a mine, severely wounding him with life-threatening injuries. The hatch door of the carrier he was in hit his jaw so hard he had to undergo surgery to remove a tooth from his right lung. He was evacuated to Japan and later to Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., for treatment. Kelts suffered a skull and jaw fracture, as well as a severe brain concussion and neurological complications. He was unconscious for weeks and suffered some memory loss. He was medically retired from the Army in July of 1971. He and his wife have three daughters and two grandchildren. Kelt's wife and daughters petitioned the Army for his medal, and in March 2008, the permanent order was issued, awarding him his Purple Heart. The medal was mailed to his house in April. Daughter Amanda came up with the idea of doing something special to honor her dad, and their neighbor, U.S. Army Reserve Capt. David A. Kerr, helped to make it happen on July 25. "Rick has always been a proud veteran," Kerr said. "Proud of his service and supportive of mine. I thought we need to do better for this soldier. "My concept was to have his family join our unit at our Unit Family Day picnic, where we would formally present him with his Purple Heart and welcome home an old warrior. Rick is 100 percent disabled and has dealt with the effects of his closed-head injuries for 39 years." Kelt's wife, Cheri, said it was not hard to get her husband to go to Selfridge. He thought they were taking the grandchildren to the family picnic and would be able to see the airplanes with them. When they got there, she told the guard who they were, and Kelts was very confused when the guard told them their escort was there.

She looked at Kelts and said, "This is your day, and well deserved." Veteran waits nearly 40 years for Purple Heart -The Oakland Press He did not know what to expect. When they walked into the building, a group of people was standing there with a flag, and men in uniform were standing in formation for him. He overwhelmed, and proud. Kerr is a member of the Joint Reserve Intelligence Support Element-Detroit. The Director of Joint Operations for his unit, Col. Fred Schwarz, presented the Purple Heart medal and certificate to Kelts. "Even though Rick had a very bad experience, he has been very proud of his journey through the army," Cheri said. "He does not think of himself as a hero at all. My children know the things Rick has gone through, and is going through because of the effects of what his war injuries did to him then. And now and we are very proud of him." Kelts always has said he was very lucky. He was badly wounded and was able to come home. A lot of other people did not get to come home. "I am so proud and thankful of my family's persistence in getting my Purple Heart," Kelts said. "If it were not for my daughter's idea and my neighbor, Dave to put it all together, the ceremony would not have happened. I never expected this day of honor in a million years. It makes me proud. My heart goes out to all of the uniformed men and women." Cheri said she is thrilled that her husband had been recognized for his service. "I am very happy we were able to see this happen and my children were able to share this important time with him," she said. "Rick finally received the welcome home that he so deserved." Daughter Tammy Kelts said it was a proud day for all of them. She arrived early to greet people. "Thanks to Capt. Kerr, it became an event more special than my family imagined," she said. "When my dad was escorted in, he had a smile on his face and he looked so happy. I was so proud to be able to see him get honored the way he deserves. He truly is the kindest and most loving man, husband and father. "He means the world to me. He is a hero."

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Online or Over Video, TRICARE Reaches Out With Expanded Behavioral Health Care Services

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – November is the Month of the Military Family, but military families face stress all year long. It doesn't hurt to get help.

From deployment worries to strained relationships to dealing with a tragedy, TRICARE is testing a new video counseling service to help military members and families see "eye-to-eye" with their problems. The TRICARE Assistance Program (TRIAP) is just one of several ways to get convenient, confidential help through a licensed behavioral health counselor.

Services are available to any active duty service member (ADSM) in the United States, their spouse, and other eligible family members 18 years of age or older. All that's needed is a computer, Webcam and the associated software.

TRIAP "visits" are unlimited and include assessments, short-term counseling and, if the TRIAP counselor determines more specialized care is necessary, referral to a more comprehensive level of care. Get details and get linked up to the appropriate TRICARE region at <http://www.tricare.mil/TRIAP>.

The program is also open to those military members in the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) or to members of the Selected Reserve who are in the TRICARE Reserve Select plan.

Help is also available to military families through dozens of other options: online, phone and face-to-face. Click to <http://www.tricare.mil/mentalhealth> for additional TRICARE mental health benefits information, links, programs, assistance phone numbers and downloads, including the comprehensive "A TRICARE Guide: Understanding Behavioral Health Care."

Assistance with other behavioral health services and appointments is also available by phone. In the South Region, ADSMs and family members should call the Humana Military Behavioral Health Provider Locator and Appointment Assistance Line at 1-877-298-3514. All other South Region beneficiaries can call 1-800-700-8646.

In TRICARE's North Region, ADSMs and family members can call Health Net's Behavioral Health Provider Locator and Appointment Assistance Line at 1-877-747-9579 during business hours. All other North Region beneficiaries should call 1-877-TRICARE (1-877-874-2273).

In the West Region, all beneficiaries can call TriWest's Behavioral Health Contact Center at 1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378) for appointment assistance 24/7.

Other counseling resources include Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647, or check <http://www.militaryonesource.com> for more information, including a listing of phone numbers worldwide. The Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury help-line is available at 1-866-966-1020 or <http://www.dcoe.health.mil>. Live chat is available at <http://www.realwarriors.net/livechat>.

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