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The Signal



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News UPDATE

Correction on CG's departure

The Public Affairs Office wishes to clarify and correct erroneous information that was published in the March 11 edition of *The Signal*.

The article entitled 'CG leaves soon,' incorrectly stated that Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks would be joining Augusta Preparatory Day School as head of its Upper School on July 1.

Hicks will actually be joining the school's faculty following a change of command ceremony tentatively scheduled for mid- to late-July.

The PAO sincerely apologizes for this error.

Living Last Supper

A living portrayal of the Last Supper, produced by the Protestant Women of the Chapel, is 7 p.m. **Wednesday and Thursday** at Bicentennial Chapel. Admission is free. For details, call 791-3959.

Red Cross dance

The American Red Cross presents "A Musical Journey Through Time" canteen dance from 6-10 p.m. **Saturday** at the Reserve Center.

Tickets cost \$10 and are available at the Red Cross office and include door prizes, food and beverages, and dancing. Proceeds will go to the American Red Cross Volunteer Program. For details call 787-6311.

Off limits list

Effective Aug. 3, 2004, the Fort Gordon Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board imposed off-limits sanction against Knights Inn, 210 Boy Scout Rd., for illegal drug trafficking and use occurring on the property.

In accordance with AR 190-24, military personnel are prohibited from entering this establishment as long as this order is in force.

This restriction will remain in effect for an indefinite period. Violations by military personnel of this order may result in disciplinary action under UCMJ. For information, call 791-2572.

DSOY award

The Fort Gordon Drill Sergeant of the Year award ceremony is 10 a.m. **today** in Alexander Hall. For information, call Sgt. 1st Class James Young at 791-9095.

Yard sale

The Great American Yard Sale will be held from 8 a.m. to noon **Saturday** in the four housing areas on post. For information, call 791-9536.



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

Afghan visit

Members of a delegation of Afghanistan officers, escorted by Lt. Col. Wade Sokolosky, 73rd Ordnance Battalion commander, take a look at computer components and are briefed by David Brasch, contracted computer instructor (far right), on computer components and repairs, at Stansell Hall Friday. (From left to right) Brig. Gen. Mehrab Ali, chief of Afghanistan National Army, G-6, the delegations' translator, Col. Mohamad Karim Abdullah, chief of plans and operations section, G-6, and Col. Abdula Rahim Said Farooq, chief of maintenance and repair, G-6. The briefings were held to give the delegation a glimpse of what Soldiers taking the 35F (special electronic devices repairer) course do, how they train, troubleshoot and repair.

Deputy commander reflects on war game

Spc. Armando Monroig
Signal staff

Following the successful LandWarNet2 games, many who took part in organizing the massive event took the message on the road to Army leadership.

Fort Gordon held the war games Jan. 31 to Feb 4 at the Reserve Center to test and develop the Army's portion of the Global Information Grid, or GIG.

About 300 people – contractors, civilians and military – attended, with 15 general officers participating representing various Army branches such as Engineers, Infantry, Armor, Intelligence, Aviation, Air Defense Artillery, and Combat Service Support.

A key player in orchestrating the LWN2 games was Col. Jeffrey Smith, U.S. Army Signal Center and post deputy commander, who took the findings from the games to other commands.

"This was the first time we had ever laid out a time frame (2008), of all the units that may find themselves on the forward edge of the battle space, in a real scenario," said Smith.

He said all proponents were represented on the battle space (map) used during the games, in a joint environment, adding that "the games became a useful means of everyone visualizing the complexity of that battle space," he said.

"One of the conclusions we drew from the fight was that if you are not joint at the core in at least four areas, this is a very difficult network-enabled battle," said Smith.

Those areas are sharing a common joint doctrine allowing operational interoperability, using the network in a similar manner, having common organizations, and common nomenclature.

See LWN, page 6



Photo by Spc. Armando Monroig

Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and post commanding general, thanks Marlene Thompson, a photographer with the Training Support Center, for her help in the LandWarNet 2 war game. Hicks thanked and awarded about 65 people, military and civilian, for their part in making the LWN2 game a success during an awards ceremony held at Alexander Hall March 9.

EAMC phone service

Jennifer Chipman
Eisenhower Army Medical Center

A disruption in phone service may affect Eisenhower Army Medical Center employees Thursday.

At about 6 p.m. Thursday, EAMC will experience a short period of time where phone service in and out of the medical center will be disrupted. According to Maj. Robert Curee, chief of Information Management, a new switch will be installed that could cause a 15 to 30 minute disruption in service throughout the building. There will be no disruption to 911 service.

"Additional personnel will be stationed throughout the medical center with radios and cell phones to provide whatever assistance is needed to the staff and to the patients during this time period," Curee said, add-

ing that people will be on hand to act as "runners" to pick up and deliver medications and to pick up and deliver any lab results.

"We have planned this so carefully, that our patients should not even realize this is going on," he said.

Curee went on to say that the new switch will enhance phone service at Eisenhower. It will provide a new voice mail system and expand the automated call distribution capabilities in several areas of the medical center including the information desk, the Health Benefits Advisors Section and the Information Technology Help Desk.

This will reduce the number of busy signals people calling into the medical center will get.

For more information about the short disruption of service, call Robert Prior at 787-5178.

Study examines development

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

A joint land-use study focusing on the impact of development around Fort Gordon should be completed by the end of April.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the use of training areas by active duty, Army Reserve components and National Guard units has drastically increased. Side effects of that include increased noise.

As that has increased, so has growth and development on the boundaries of the post.

Construction of roads such as the Fall Line Freeway and Jimmy Dyess Parkway and improvements to Gordon Highway have taken place over the

past few years. "New roads mean they are going to have growth," said Pat Buchholz, the installation's strategic management officer. "We are making sure we don't impact our neighbors, and our neighbors don't impact us."

The land-use study "is the ideal thing to do," she said.

Plans for the study were initiated years ago; however, events such as the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the development of the Installation Management Agency pushed them to the background.

Efforts were renewed and the first meeting was held about a year ago, said Buchholz.

Officials with the Department of Defense were "surprised so much happened at

that meeting," said Buchholz.

Fort Gordon has about 56,000 acres and borders four counties in Georgia including Richmond, Jefferson, Columbia and McDuffie. Input has been sought from the municipalities in those counties.

Buchholz said that when completed the study won't just be a document that sits around collecting dust.

"It will develop into a plan to take action on. It will be a living document," she said.

It will be used to develop policies and zoning guidelines to ensure that Fort Gordon can continue to do its mission without detrimental impact on the community outside the gates.

'Can Do' infantrymen distribute shoes to Sadr kids

Spc. Ben Brody
Army News Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Operation Happy Feet brought smiles to children of Sadr City as Soldiers of B Company, 3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry distributed sneakers at Marakah al-Taf Elementary School Feb. 28.

Working in conjunction with Civil Affairs, Soldiers purchased 500 pairs of shoes from a local vendor to give out at the northeastern Baghdad school, according to Capt. Timothy Terese, B Co. commander.

"We go around to lots of schools in the area, basically every day, to make sure they have the proper equipment to function," said 1st Lt. Jason Rocks, B Co. fire support officer and effects coordinator. "Blackboards, pencils, paper – we check that they are able to function on a day-to-day basis."

Rocks, of Puyallup, Wash., said the missions help foster support for coalition forces in an area once considered firmly under insurgent control.

"Right now, (Operation Happy Feet is) immediate gratification," Rocks said. "But everything we do for them helps them and their families realize that the Iraqi government and coalition forces care about the Iraqi people."

In addition to the company of 'Can Do' infantrymen present, a squad of Iraqi Army soldiers helped provide security and translations during the visit.

The school is coeducational, meaning girls have class in the morning and boys in the afternoon.

"We're trying to get the kids of Sadr City some new shoes, and hand out copies of Baghdad

Kids," said Spc. Brandon Wise, 307th Psychological Operations Company, Team 1033, a Missouri Reserve unit. "It's a fun magazine for kids – it's got stuff about dinosaurs, outer space, the Olympics – things kids like. It's got some important safety and hygiene messages too, like 'remember to brush your teeth' and 'don't point toy guns at Soldiers.'"

Wise, of Greenville, Ill., and Staff Sgt. Travis Butler, also of the 307th, handed out bags of school supplies, coloring books and issues of Baghdad Kids.

"It's really important for us to make a good impression on these kids before they grow up," Butler, of St. Clair, Mo., said. "The kids are the future of Iraq, and fostering a better relationship now will make for better relationships later."

The morning's classes of girls lined up to get their feet measured, and receive the white tennis shoes. The girls quietly giggled as Soldiers passed the shoes forward to Chaplain (Capt.) Steven Hommel, 3/15 chaplain, who handed them out. Several Soldiers remarked at how well-behaved the girls were.

"The American schoolkids back in the states don't realize how lucky they are, when you look at someplace like Iraq," 1st Sgt. Donald Rangel, B Co., first sergeant, said. "We passed out these shoes just so the kids here can get from home to school without hurting themselves."

"It makes me feel good to do this for the kids here," the San Antonio native continued. "I've got six kids of my own, three of them in elementary school."



Courtesy photo

Capt. Steven Hommel, 3/15 Inf. chaplain, hands a pair of sneakers and a coloring book to a student at Marakah al-Taf elementary school in Sadr City, Iraq. Soldiers distributed about 250 pairs of shoes at the school, in Northeastern Baghdad, Feb. 28.

The Soldiers distributed about half of the 500 pairs of shoes to the girls, and will give the rest to the school's boys later in the week.

"This is one of many missions we have, providing aid to Sadr City residents,"

Terese said. "We come out here every day. We're also working right now to get a functional sewage system installed in the neighborhood, which will make for a much safer neighborhood for these kids to grow up in."

These four walls

Chaplain (Maj.)
Victor Richardson
116th Military Intelligence
Group chaplain

These four walls greet me. Everyday, I get off work, go home and these four walls greet me.

They seem to call my name.

I know what you're thinking. Get a life, or get a friend. Well, I've got two friends, the remote control and the computer.

I know what you're thinking. I should get another friend to talk to about my problems or concerns.

Well, I picked up a friend the other day named Gin. Gin met my other friend named tonic and we had a party. I sat on the sofa and talked about concerns with my friends and another night faded away.

How can we be surrounded by people, and still be lonely? How can some people be married and still be lonely? Sometimes what people do to rid themselves of loneliness is comical.

Party until there's no party left, drink until they can't stand up, get so high there's no need for an airplane; and of course they can marry someone having only known them for a few short months.

Look at our post; so many people and many are lonely because loneliness lives within the heart.

Being lonely, who needs it! Webster defines being lonely as without companions, marked by aloneness, unfrequented by people, dejected. It also means God forsaken. As I talk to people I have come to view this empty and hollow feeling called loneliness as separation from those who

love you or those you want to love you. Separation by time, location, distance, or in some cases emotional pain and philosophical differences.

We all get lonely at times. We long for a relative or a friend we have not seen in a while. We search for a friend or companion to stand with us especially in hard times. Have you heard this, "I'll be with you, you can count on me." You look around and poof like magic they are gone. Perhaps you have been told, "I will back you 100 percent." Yea, they are back there, a long way back there.

Loneliness is a condition of the heart that can only be soothed by someone's love and care for us. May I introduce you to some one who loves you?

It may sound impossible but the person who is in love with you loves you more than a mother or father. He is closer than a sister or a brother and not separated from you by distance, time or location. In fact, we can say like Paul in Romans 8, "What shall separate me from the love of Christ, shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness, or peril or sword."

"NO! For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor things present, nor things to come, neither height, nor depth nor any other creature, shall separate us from the love which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

These four walls need not stress you out. So, you think you are alone. Remember, God is always with you. For he promised he would never leave us, never leave us alone.

Distance education offers new opportunities to military students

Special to the Signal

Sgt. Mathew Bartley, 67th Signal Battalion, recently returned from a six-month deployment in Iraq and Kuwait. The deployment was not quite what he'd imagined, he said, but it was better than he'd expected.

"We were able to avoid any major combat, and returned with zero combat casualties," he says. "I can't hope for anything better than that. Our unit provided communications to units around Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait."

"The majority of the people of Iraq and Kuwait seemed very grateful that we are over there, helping spread democracy and freedom. The U.S. military and civilian workforce have done so much to help Iraq, and I was glad to be a part of it," he said.

Bartley has been in the Army since his senior year of high school.

"I wasn't sure what I wanted in life, and my only plan so far was to continue working at K-Mart. I left school one day and a recruiter approached me with his offer. I accepted reluctantly at first, but knew soon that that was a great decision," he says.

While Bartley is happy with his military career and has never regretted his decision to join the Army at such a young age, he gradually realized that if he was going to achieve his professional and personal goals, he needed a college degree.

He knew that a college degree would allow him to advance within the military, and would help him in the civilian world after he retired from the Army. However, with unpredictable career obligations and the constant possibility of deployment or relocation, he felt that he'd never be able to succeed at a traditional university.

Then Bartley found a solution to that problem. In 2003, he enrolled as an Information Systems major at Grantham University. Bartley was deployed to Cuba at the time, and Grantham is located in Slidell, La.

Luckily, Grantham is a distance learning institution, and all of Bartley's educational needs – from completing coursework to consulting professors – can be met online and at his convenience.

Now less than a year away from earning his degree, Bartley has been able to keep up with his studies no matter where his military career has taken him.

Like many distance education institutions, Grantham is self-paced, so if Bartley needs to set aside his coursework from time to time to handle pressing career obligations, that's not a problem. He can pick up right where he left off.

Bartley is one of about 28 Grantham

students stationed at Fort Gordon, and he's part of a larger trend in distance education. A U.S. Department of Education study found students enrolled in nearly 2.9 million college-level distance education courses in 2000-01, more than double the enrollment of 1997-98.

This new distance learning model is ideal for military personnel who are deployed, move frequently because of temporary duty assignments, or whose duty schedules make it difficult to attend traditional evening classes.

"I think distance education is a great option for military members," said Bartley. "It gives you the flexibility to balance your education and work however you want. There are times when, as Soldiers and Sailors, we are unable to do anything but focus on our mission."

"Grantham allows us to put the book down for a week, and only focus on what is important at the time. Afterwards, you can pick up your book and continue at your own pace again. During extended field exercises, a few Soldiers are unable to get permission to go to a class off base," he said. "I don't have that problem. I pack my school books right in my rucksack or duffle bag and work on it whenever I get the chance."

Sgt. Malik Meadows, another Grantham student at Fort Gordon, agrees with Bartley about the benefits of distance education.

"I think distance education is a great option for military members."

Sgt. Matthew Bartley
67th Signal Battalion

Meadows, who has been in the Army for 12 years, is nearing the end of his military career. Saturday is his official last day as a battalion reenlistment NCO in the 93rd Signal Brigade. He's a father of two young children, and like Bartley, has been a Grantham student since 2003. He'd tried to complete coursework at several traditional universities in the past, but scheduling conflicts always caused him to drop out.

"It's hard to go to a traditional college when you're in the military, because every two or three years you have to move," says Meadows. "Even if you stay in one place for a while, you've got other responsibilities. With distance education, you can take your books everywhere. I get a lot of my schoolwork done on my lunch

break."

As he neared the end of his military career, Meadows started to think about the skills he would need in the civilian world. He knew that the Army had given him all of the career skills that he would need to be successful, but he knew that he'd need to work on a degree as well.

"In today's world, you need that piece of paper, period," says Meadows. "Education is important to me – I watched my mom work in a factory for years, and she would always get laid off. Finally, she got tired of it and went back to school. It took her six years, but she got an MA in Social Work."

"I was so proud of her, and I want to set that kind of example for my two kids. I know that with the skills I developed in the Army and my degree from Grantham, I can walk in the door anywhere and be successful," he said.

In addition to the benefits of an education flexible enough to accommodate their unique situation, Bartley, Meadows and their fellow students are able to take advantage of another benefit – a full scholarship which takes care of all educational expenses not covered by the military.

Their education is funded through Grantham's military scholarship program, which is available to all servicemen and women. The military scholarship covers all books, software and tuition not covered by the Department of Defense after tuition assistance or Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support is applied.

Grantham University is offering an unlimited number of scholarships to all of the nation's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. These scholarships are available to reserve members and to active duty military personnel. Grantham has additional scholarship programs for veterans and military families.

Both Bartley and Meadows have a few words of advice for any soldiers at Fort Gordon who want a college degree.

"Definitely do it," says Bartley. "A college degree is a lifetime achievement. It is a goal that is worth every day, hour and minute that you spend trying to achieve it. It is never too late to start a degree program."

"It's a hard road, but keep your eye on the prize," adds Meadows. "Once it's over, it will pay off."

To learn more about distance education, contact the education center at 791-2000. More information about Grantham's programs and scholarships can be found at www.grantham.edu or by calling (800) 955-2527.

(From a Grantham University information release.)