



The U.S. Army Combat Support Training Center  
*The Army Reserve's Premier Training Center for the Western United States*

# The Golden Guidon

www.liggett.army.mil

Winter 2007

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Photo by H. Carpenter, FHL

## CSTC COMMITS TO ARMY FAMILY COVENANT



*(From L to R behind table) MG Bruce Casella, the CSTC's Senior Mission Commander, and COL Kevin Riedler, CSTC Commander signs Covenant document as Soldiers and their Families witness.*

By Amy Phillips, CSTC PAO

The Combat Support Training Center (CSTC) held signing ceremonies at Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL) and Camp Parks (CP) in November signifying its commitment to Families and Soldiers at the two garrisons.

In recognition of the increased burden on Families while Soldiers are mobilized

or deployed and the importance of taking care of its troops, the Army has recently programmed \$1.4 billion to all family programs. This translates to new on-post child care facilities, new and renovation of barracks, new commissaries, and expanding education and employment opportunities for Army Family members.

The CSTC is slowly but surely seeing some of the

funds trickle to its garrisons which allowed for a 59% increase in Family Child Care Homes and child care provider positions at FHL and 100% increase in those positions at CP; expansion of on- and off-post youth programs; enhancement of fitness facilities; and hiring

*(Continued on page 18)*

# Happy Holidays!



**POST**

**TREE LIGHTING CEREMONIES**

**FORT HUNTER LIGGETT**

4 Dec  
 across from  
 Recreation Center  
 1710 hrs

**CAMP PARK**

7 Dec  
 Flag Pole / 1730 hrs

*Family-friendly activities scheduled!*

By SSG Jason Hudson, 91<sup>st</sup> Division Public Affairs Office

**FORT HUNTER LIGGETT -** The CSTC and the 91<sup>st</sup> Division held a groundbreaking ceremony on Nov 18<sup>th</sup> which signifies the beginning of a new chapter of the Division's long history.

"This is a great day for the 91<sup>st</sup>," said CSM James Wilkinson, "It's a new chapter in our long legacy and a new beginning at Fort Hunter Liggett."

Currently based at Camp Parks, the 91<sup>st</sup> Division is in the process of transforming into the 91<sup>st</sup> Operations Group, which will continue to have a major role in training units and Soldiers in the Army Force Generation model process but will now have a more direct

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## CSTC/91<sup>st</sup> Division Breaks New Ground



Photo by LTC M. Gordon, 91st Division

*(From L to R) CSM Wilkinson representing the 91st DIV, COL Riedler and SGM Graham representing the CSTC, break ground at site for the new building scheduled to be completed by Dec. 2008.*



**Colonel Kevin R. Riedler**  
CSTC Commander

*Holiday greetings to friends, families, and perhaps most importantly, all those who continue to make the Combat Support Training Center the success story that it is becoming.*

While we remain in the midst of change-induced turmoil, improvements are being realized on multiple fronts, and the Army appears to be recognizing the gem they have entrusted to our care here in Central Coastal California.

#### **Changes Everywhere**

Personnel moves seem inevitable in our business. Most notable have been the retirement of CSM Rock Orozco, and the arrival of his replacement CSM Connie Commenia-Hill at Camp Parks (Parks). While one never can replace the corporate knowledge that departs with seasoned leaders such as CSM Orozco, CSM Commenia-Hill brings renewed vibrancy and energy to the command, infusing those around her with verve.

This year has seen new directors arrive for MWR, Public Works, Logistics, Plans and Analysis, Human Resources, and in the near future, Emergency Services and Information Management. The Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL) Chaplain, MAJ Dann Ettner will depart shortly, and two new chaplains are en-route

## CSTC COMMANDER UPDATE

(one north, one south). A new CSM is in-bound for FHL, officially arriving in early 2008. FHL will also have a public affairs officer. That type of turnover is huge ... but it also portends for the growth we are currently undergoing and the several hundred new employees anticipated for the next couple years.

While the CSTC remains the two "full garrisons" at FHL and Parks, with portions of Moffett Field and B.T. Collins appended, command changes are now official with the Headquarters at FHL, and LTC John Cushman officially designated as the Garrison Commander at Parks. For the first time in many years, both locations have a commander on site, with the capability to make decisions befitting the respective installations.

#### **Groundbreaking Moves**

In late November, SGM Graham and I teamed with CSM Wilkinson, "breaking ground" for the new 91<sup>st</sup> Training Division building at FHL. While certainly not the first nor the

last "new" unit heading that way, it was a monumental event nonetheless. BRAC '05 directs the move of the Division from Parks to FHL to orchestrate warrior exercise operations.

November also saw the first of many iterations of pre-mobilization training hosted by the new Regional Training Center. As this is the prototype for the Army Reserve, to be emulated at Dix and McCoy, the USARC dubbed it "Task Force Genesis". It is the intent that those deploying units described by the 1<sup>st</sup> Army Commanding General, LTG Honore, as "IBUs - Itty, Bitty Units", be trained at Hunter Liggett. TF-Genesis brings over 200 mobilized cadre to FHL, and year-round activity on the ranges and Tactical Training Bases.

As of this writing, the Department of the Army has not announced the fielding plan for the six new Brigade Combat Teams. FHL has been designated a "finalist" during the selection process. Regardless

of the determination, growth at FHL and the entire CSTC is a given.

The Army Reserve Command has also decided that having a "Senior Mission Commander" 2,000 miles away is somewhat cumbersome. With that in mind, they have asked the Commanding Generals of the new Regional Sustainment Commands to assume that role for Army Reserve installations within their geographic footprint. For the CSTC, that means MG Bruce Casella, 63<sup>rd</sup> RSC at Moffett Field takes on that responsibility. The decided benefit is having a General Officer close by, who advocates specifically for the command, and is able to bring flag officer presence to numerous activities, such as ...

#### **Commitment to Family**

On 31 October at FHL, and 6 November at Parks, the CSTC reiterated their commitment to the backbone of the Army, the spouses and children who

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Fort Hunter Liggett SGM Message

The holiday season is upon us. Make sure you take time to express your gratitude to your family for all their support. Assignments come and go, as does our status in the military but the family will always be there. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the Families of our Soldiers - without your support, it would be impossible for us to complete our tasks to the high standard we presently hold. THANK

YOU.

As in all holiday messages, safety is the number one aspect. Plan your events with safety in mind. Ensure you place controls within your activities that alleviate unnecessary risk. If you plan to travel, make sure you complete a risk assessment. If you are planning to travel by privately owned vehicle, complete the POV Risk Assessment at [https://crcapps2.crc.army.mil/ako\\_auth/TRiPS/default.aspx](https://crcapps2.crc.army.mil/ako_auth/TRiPS/default.aspx)



**Sergeant Major**  
**Kevin Graham**  
Fort Hunter Liggett SGM

before departing.

Have a safe and blissful holiday season.

## Online Holiday Shoppers Should Stop, Think, Click

*CID Offers Tips for  
Army Community to Avoid Swindlers  
During Height of 'Rip-Off' Season*

FORT BELVOIR, Virginia, November 20, 2007 – The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command's Computer Crime Investigative Unit (CCIU) has teamed up with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to help Soldiers, family members and Army civilians stay safe while shopping online this holiday season.

As increasing numbers of consumers do the majority of their holiday shopping online, swindlers have taken notice and devised a wide range of schemes to capitalize on the relative anonymity of cyber space. The CCIU and FTC offer the following tips to help thwart these online humbugs:

**Check out the seller:** If you have not used a particular online shopping site, do some independent research. Call their phone number to verify that you can reach them if issues come up with your purchase. If they don't have a phone number, you should take your business elsewhere. Also, search the Internet to see if anyone else has had positive or negative experiences with the shopping site.

**Read return policies:** Make sure the online shopping site has

*The Band of the Wild West*  
**91ST DIVISION BAND**

*A Winter Celebration  
Concert*

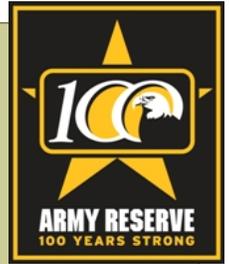
Sunday, Dec. 16th, 2 pm

Pleasanton Senior Center  
5353 Sunol Blvd  
Pleasanton, CA 94566

**FREE NON-TICKETED ADMISSION**

*Please be seated 15 min. prior to the concert.*

## INSTALLATION OPEN HOUSE To Commemorate Army Reserve Centennial



**FHL - March 15  
CP - April 19**

The CSTC will open its doors to public to showcase the Army Reserve, CSTC and tenant organizations. Lots of fun and interactive activities scheduled. Everyone on and off post are invited - **HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!!!** More info will be posted on CSTC website next year. Contact the Public Affairs Office for more info: 925-875-4298.

policies that meet your needs and expectations. Some sites charge shipping and handling for returns, as well as a restocking fee. Sites with unclear or questionable policies should be avoided.

**Know what you're getting:** Read the product description

closely. If name-brand items are sold at an extremely low price, they could be counterfeit or stolen.

**Don't fall for a false e-mail or pop-up:** Legitimate companies do not send unsolicited e-mail messages asking for your password, login name, or financial information, but scammers do. Delete these e-mails without clicking on any links, since doing so could install spyware or other malicious programs on your computer.

**Look for signs a site is safe:** When you are ready to buy something from a seller you trust, look for signs that the site uses a secure connection - such as a closed padlock on the browser's status bar - before you enter your personal and financial information. When you are asked to provide payment information, the beginning of the Web site's URL address should change from http to https, indicating that the purchase is encrypted or secured.

**Secure your home computer:** At a minimum, your computer should have anti-virus and anti-spyware software and a firewall. Security software must be updated regularly to help protect

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## New Regional Training Center Established at FHL

Photo by Lt. A. Billies, RTC



By Amy Phillips, CSTC PAO

**FORT HUNTER LIGGETT** - The US Army Reserve Command (USARC) is continually developing more missions and streamlining its efforts to prepare Army Reserve Soldiers for their increasing role in the Total Force. One of several new missions is the establishment of four Regional Training Centers (RTC) to be stationed across the nation.

Task Force Genesis was activated at Fort Hunter Liggett (FHL) to establish the very first RTC. The Task Force hit the ground running and has already conducted its first rotation with more than 200 Soldiers.

The RTCs at Forts Dix and McCoy are scheduled to be up and running in the Spring; a fourth location has not been determined.

The new RTC training concept is designed to host individual and small unit training. Their mission is to train and certify Soldiers before they arrive at their mobilization site which reduces training time spent during actual mobilization period and allows for units to deploy quicker and get more "boots on the ground" time in theater. This concept was developed from lessons learned by leaders who witnessed flaws in recent mobilizations for Operations En-

during Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The ever increasing importance of the Reserve's role to provide combat support and combat service support units to the war effort is clearly visible in today's War of Terrorism. Units going through the CSTCs and RTCs will not only gain valuable training experiences but also develop unit cohesiveness.

In the last couple of years, USARC has directed four missions to be stationed at the first ever Combat Support Training Center (CSTC) (others are planned at Forts Dix and McCoy to cover Reserve training at other regions of the country):

The CSTC mission: established in 2005 to provide a training site for Reserve units to conduct large scale collective training during Year 3 of 5 in the Army Reserve rotational deployment concept; approximately 4,000 Soldiers are trained per rotation with the Army Reserve gearing up to two rotations per year. Ft. Hunter Liggett (FHL) and Camp Parks (CP) has already hosted many large scale exercises such as Pacific Survivor 2006, Pacific Warrior 2007, Essayons 2006 and 2007, and Golden Medic 2006 and 2007. The Army School System Training Center (TTC): insti-

*Realistic training at the FHL Convoy Training Course included encounters with real Iraqis hired to portray villagers engaging with Soldiers and scenarios with Improvised Explosive Devices.*

tutional/school house training operated by the 80th TTC at FHL and 104th Division at CP; at least 500 Soldiers are trained at any given time throughout the year at each garrison.

Training Readiness Platform (TRP): collective unit training/Warrior exercises operated by the 91st Division; approximately 4,000 Soldiers are trained per rotation with the Army Reserve gearing up to two rotations per year.

Regional Training Centers (RTC) mentioned earlier in this article.

These new missions are driving a flurry of activity to support the increased Army training at FHL. One organization seeing a significant increase in activity is the Equipment Concentration Site (ECS 170) at FHL who has received almost 1,600 pieces of equipment in 2007, putting their current equipment total to more than 4,000. According to the ECS Supervisor, Gregg Charvoz, 1,000-2,000 more pieces of equipment are scheduled to arrive in 2008. Ultimately, by 2009 ECS-170 should have about 7,000-8,000

pieces of equipment to manage. Like the Installation, the ECS has an urgent need to hire more personnel and fast.

It is no secret that things are booming at the CSTC. In FY07, FHL had 550,000 training days and that number is expected to increase to 700,000 in FY08; at CP, there were 98,000 training days in FY07 and 107,800 is expected for FY08.

In addition to all of the above training, the Navy is using the CSTC/FHL for their Sea Bee Readiness Rotations which consists of three 30-day rotations, each bringing about 1,500 Sailors. CP will also have new National Guard tenants sometime in 2008. Many other military and government agencies also use both garrisons routinely for their training activities.

"We are excited to welcome another mission that will make our Soldiers ARMY STRONG. The CSTC stands by to SUPPORT AND DEFEND those working, training and living at our installation," said COL Kevin Riedler, CSTC Commander.



Photo by LTC D. Phillips, CSTC



## HOLIDAY SEASON SAFETY



The National Safety Council offers these suggestions to help make your holiday season merry and safe:

**Decorations:** Wear gloves while decorating with spun glass "angel hair" - it can irritate your eyes and skin. A common substitute is non-flammable cotton. Both angel hair and cotton snow are flame retardant when used alone. However, if artificial snow is sprayed onto them, the dried combination will burn rapidly. When spraying artificial snow on windows or other surfaces, be sure to follow directions carefully. These sprays can irritate your lungs if you inhale them.

**Candles:** Never use lighted candles near trees, boughs, curtains/drapes, or with any potentially flammable item.

**Toys and Gifts:** Be especially careful when you choose toys for infants or small children. Be sure anything you give them is too big to get caught in the throat, nose or ears. Avoid toys with small parts that can be pulled or broken off. If you are giving toys to several children in one family, consider their age differences and the chances that younger children will want to play with older kids' toys.

**Plants:** Small children may think that holiday plants look good enough to eat. But many plants can cause severe stomach problems. Plants to watch out for include: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry, and amaryllis. Keep all of these

plants out of children's reach.

**Food and Cooking:** The holidays often mean preparing large meals for family and friends. Wash hands, utensils, sink, and anything else that has come in contact with raw poultry. Keep in mind that a stuffed bird takes longer to cook. For questions concerning holiday turkey preparation and cooking call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555. Refrigerate or freeze leftovers in covered shallow containers (less than two inches deep) within two hours after cooking. Date the leftovers for future use.

**Alcohol, Parties and Driving:** Being a smart party host or guest should include being sensible about alcoholic drinks. More than half of all traffic fatalities are alcohol-related. Use designated drivers, people who do not drink, to drive other guests home after a holiday party.

**Stress:** The holiday season is one of the most stressful times of the year. You can't avoid stress completely, but you can give yourself some relief. Allow enough time to shop rather than hurry through stores and parking lots. Only plan to do a reasonable number of errands. When shopping, make several trips out to the car to drop off packages rather than trying to carry too many items. Take time out for yourself. Relax, read, or enjoy your favorite hobby at your own pace.

*Source: The National Safety Council, www.nsc.org*



### Useful web sites to help you stay safe over the holidays:

<http://www.nsc.org> The National Safety Council site provides excellent overall safety tips for the holidays and vehicle safety checklists.

<http://www.cpsc.gov> The Consumer Products Safety web site list the latest recalls and product safety information.

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>. The National Highway Transportation Safety web site provides great information on traffic safety. A just recently published article, [Comparison of Insurance Costs](#), is available at this web site. It is a great article to read before you purchase a new car or truck.

<http://cad.chp.ca.gov/>. Traveling in and around the State of California? Use this site to check on traffic conditions.

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo/> Use this site to check on road conditions.

## FY 2007 CSTC Safety Incidents In Review

**More than 300 safety related incidents were reported to the CSTC Safety Office from Oct. 2006 - Sept. 2007.** More than 200 of those incidents involved injuries. Individuals performing physical training and field training exercises incurred most of these injuries. Injuries involving twisted ankles, knees, and lower extremities accounted for 60 of 201 reported injuries. Back injuries from improper lifting techniques accounted for 24 injuries. Twenty-six reported injuries involved vehicle accidents - a slight increase of two from the previous year. On the plus side, there were no fatalities or long term injuries. A major contributing factor to preventing fatalities and severe injuries was the use of seat belts. **Seatbelts Save Lives!**

Reporting incidents to the CSTC Safety Office helps to identify what type programs need to be developed and what areas of guidance/training should be emphasized. From the statistics listed above, the Safety Office will stress Composite Risk Management to unit leaders training at the CSTC which will enable Soldiers to take responsibility for training safely.

*Source: CSTC Safety Office*

## CSTC CDR

(Continued from page 2)

make-up our families. Presided over in each case by MG Casella, the CSTC followed suite with every installation in the Army, echoing the Army Chief of Staff's message that we will do all within our power to make certain Army Families are taken care of, whether heads of household are there in person, or deployed to the far reaches of the Earth, supporting our country's aims. We remain committed to this end, as those families are indeed key in making us Army Strong.

One very visible way this support is growing is our increased MWR staff, and activities. For the first time in years, both Parks and FHL now have approved family child care providers ... just a small step of the many in the works.

### Holiday Times – Safety Too

The Holiday Season is definitely upon us. We all paused to give "Thanks" for those who have gone before, and those currently permitting us to enjoy the freedoms we have as Americans. Christmas and New Years are shortly upon us, and our thoughts turn to previous times spent with our families and friends in many other places. For my part, and echoed by my bride and children, I am both thankful and grateful to be engaged in our mission with the likes of each of you. We have an incredible "CSTC Family". My wish for the new year is a prosperous one for each of you as you may choose to define that prosperity, and safe travels wherever you be go.

2008 will be a time of continued growth. Be ready. Be sharp. Be safe.

### Support and Defend



For millions of families, the holidays are the perfect time to embrace new and old traditions, and reconnect with relatives and friends. Military families, however, face unique challenges during the season, especially when a loved one is away.

Dealing with deployment can be difficult during the holidays. When everyone else seems to be talking about giving thanks and counting blessings, many service members and their families end up feeling lonely, angry and sad. While they are proud of their service to the country, military families also deal with unique financial and emotional challenges. Often, the pressure to have the "perfect" holiday can aggravate anxiety and cause stress.

Take advantage of the free, anonymous, online and telephone mental health self-assessments available year-round for military personnel and their families. The self-assessment contains a series of questions that, when linked together, help create a picture of how an individual is feeling and whether they could benefit from talking to a health professional. Once the self-

## Overwhelmed by the Holiday Season?

Free, anonymous  
mental health self-assessments  
available for military service members  
and their families at  
[www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org](http://www.MilitaryMentalHealth.org)  
and 1-877-877-3647

assessment is completed, the individual receives information on how to get help including services provided through the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs. The program, funded by the DoD, is available to families in all branches, including the National Guard and Reserve. Questions included in the online self-assessment are:

- \* Have you lost pleasure in things you used to enjoy?
- \* Do you have trouble sleeping or eating?
- \* Does your mood fluctuate between overly "high" to sad and hopeless?
- \* Are you keyed up and anxious all the time?
- \* Are you having nightmares about something that happened in the past?
- \* Do you suffer from unexplained aches and pains?

The self-assessment is the first step to caring for those you love by helping yourself.

The Mental Health Self-Assessment Program (MHSAP) is offered to more than 1.5 million military families affected by deployment in all branches, including the National Guard and Reserve. It is designed to help families and service personnel identify their own symptoms and access assistance before a problem becomes serious. The tests available address depression, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder and alcohol use. After an individual completes a self-assessment, s/he is provided with referral information including services provided through the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs. The program, part of DoD continuum of care, is fully funded by Force Health Protection and Readiness, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs.

Source: Military Mental Health

## CSTC POLICIES

Are you aware of proper procedures to follow while on post?

CSTC policies, phone directory, services available, newsletter, tenant organizations, and much more are posted at: [www.liggett.army.mil](http://www.liggett.army.mil)

Contact the webmaster if you have any questions concerning the website.

WASHINGTON, DC - Severely wounded, injured and ill Soldiers and their Families who are affected by the devastating wildfires can count on The U.S.

Army Wounded Warrior program in their time of need.

When the fires first hit California, AW2 responded quickly by proactively engaging their Soldier Family Management Specialists (SFMSs) located throughout the country. The SFMSs initiated contact with AW2 Soldiers and Families to ensure they were safe, accounted for and have access to critical resources. Ensuring wounded, injured and ill Soldiers and their Families are taken care of is AW2's mission.

"We've been in constant communication with our Soldiers and their Families

## The U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program Helps Wounded, Injured and Ill Soldiers Affected by Devastating California Wildfires

in the area affected by the wildfires," said COL Jim Rice, Director, U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program, "Soldier Family Management Specialists are on the ground providing hands on support to our most vulnerable population."

Within the first 72 hours, the Soldier Family Management Specialists contacted more than 94% of AW2 Soldiers in affected areas to ensure they were all accounted for. We continue to try to reach each and every Soldier in California. Robert Gomez, an AW2 Soldier from California stated that he was happy AW2 took the initiative to

contact his family during this stressful period of time.

AW2 assists and advocates for wounded Soldiers and their Families throughout their lifetimes, wherever they are located. "AW2 promises to 'never leave a fallen comrade' and continues to help severely wounded, injured and ill Soldiers and their Families in their times of need, no matter how long it takes," affirmed COL Rice.

For AW2 Soldiers who need assistance, please contact your Soldier Family Management Specialist or AW2 headquarters at 1-800-237-1336. If you are not an AW2 Soldier and need assistance, contact Military One Source at 1-800-342-9647.

The Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) embodies the Warrior Ethos "I Will Never Leave A Fallen Comrade." First established in April, 2004 as the Army responded to the needs of the most severely wounded, injured or ill Soldiers who were returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), today AW2 serves over 2300 Soldiers and their Families. The focus of AW2 is on serving the most severely injured Soldiers and their Families.

**For more information about AW2 visit our web site at: <https://www.aw2.army.mil/>**

Photo by LTC M. Gordon, 91st Division



### Ground breaking

*(Continued from page 1)*

role at Fort Hunter Liggett.

The Division's new mission is to plan, coordinate and execute pre-mobilization collective training for

Reserve Component Combat Support and Combat Service Support units (MPs, Engineers, Transportation, Medical, etc.) from platoon to brigade levels to improve the force and prepare Soldiers and units for success on any future battlefield. One of their primary missions will be to plan, coordinate and direct large scale Army Reserve Warrior Exercises.

Pacific Warrior 2008 will be the first major exercise for the newly named operations group and is scheduled from 7-28 June 2008. The annual exercise hosts thousands of Soldiers from across the nation.

Following Pacific Warrior 2008 the 91<sup>st</sup> Operations Group will continue to increase the number of exercises that are planned and conducted at Fort Hunter Liggett and make full use of the expansive training areas of the post.

"We look forward to the new building, our new mission and our future at Fort Hunter Liggett," said Wilkinson.

## POLITICAL ACTIVITY

As a matter of long-standing policy, DoD personnel acting in their official capacity may not engage in activities that associate DoD with any partisan political campaign or election, candidate, cause or issue. Political activity by members of the armed forces are governed by DOD DIRECTIVE 1344.10, POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON ACTIVE DUTY. Political activity by federal civilian personnel are governed by 5 U.S.C. 7321-7326, THE HATCH ACT OF 1939, As AMENDED IN 1993 and 5 C.F.R. PARTS 733-734, POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES. Use of Installation facilities by any candidate for political campaign or election events, including: public assemblies or town hall meetings, speeches, fund-raisers, press conferences, post-election celebrations, and concession addresses is prohibited.

Inquiries from political campaign organizations must be forwarded to a public affairs officer (PAO) for awareness and appropriate action. Only info available to the general public is releasable.

National Guard units should also be aware of State regulations governing political activities by Soldiers.

*Source: June 6, 2007 Message from Secretary of Defense*



# Notes from the SJA

Lt. Col. Vivian Shafer

## HOLIDAY GUIDANCE For Federal Personnel

*Abbreviated version of DoD Standards of Conduct Office document, published by the Office of General Counsel, November 28, 2005*

The holiday season is traditionally a time of parties, receptions, and exchanging gifts. However, even at the Holiday Season, the Standards of Conduct apply. To ensure you don't unwittingly violate the standards, a brief summary of the applicable rules is set out below. If you have any questions, please contact your organization's ethics counselor (925-875-4384).

### General Rule:

Federal personnel may not accept gifts offered because of their official positions or offered by a "prohibited source." A prohibited source is any one who: (a) seeks official action by the employee's agency (b) does business or seeks to do business with the employee's agency (c) conducts activities regulated by the employee's agency (d) has interests that may be substantially affected by the employee's performance of duty (e) is an organization composed of members described above.

### Parties, Open-Houses, and Receptions Hosted by Non-

Prohibited Sources: Federal personnel may attend social events sponsored by non-prohibited sources if no one is charged admission.

### Parties, Open-Houses, and Receptions Hosted by Prohibited Sources Including Contractors:

The general rule is that Federal personnel may **not** accept gifts from prohibited sources, including contractors and contractor personnel.

### Parties, Open-Houses, and Receptions Hosted by Other Federal Personnel:

Invitation from your subordinate: You may accept personal hospitality at the residence of a subordinate that is customarily provided on the occasion. Invitations from your boss or a co-worker: No restrictions.

### Gifts and Gift Exchanges Between Federal Personnel:

General Rule: Supervisors may **not** accept gifts from subordinates or Federal personnel who receive less pay. Exception #1: During holidays, which occur on an occasional basis, supervisors may accept gifts (other than cash) of **\$10 or less** from a subordinate. Exception #2: Supervisors may accept food and refreshments shared in the office and may share in the expenses of an office party. Exception #3: If a subordinate is invited to a social event at the supervisor's residence, the subordinate may give the supervisor a hospitality gift of the type and value customarily given on such an occasion.

### Gifts and Gift Exchanges That Include Contractor Personnel:

Gifts from contractors, even during the holidays, may not exceed \$20. Gifts to contractors: Check with the contractor,

since many contractors have codes of ethics that are similar to Federal rules and therefore may preclude the acceptance of gifts.

### Other Important Information:

You may not solicit outside sources for contributions for your party. This includes funds, food, and items. Generally office parties are unofficial events, and you may not use appropriated funds to pay for them. Beware that door prizes or drawings could involve gambling, which would require compliance with state statutes and Federal regulations. DoD regulations prohibit gambling in the Pentagon and on Federal property or while in a duty status. GSA regulations ban gambling in GSA owned or controlled buildings.

You may not use appropriated funds to purchase and send Greeting cards. As a general rule, participation at holiday social events is personal, not official, and therefore use of government vehicles to/from such events would not be authorized. However, there may be very limited circumstances in which a senior official or officer is invited to attend because of his official position and where he will be performing official functions at the event as opposed to being invited because he or she is an important person. In these situations, use of a government vehicle may be authorized, subject to normal "home-to-work" transportation restrictions. Note, however, that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to justify the use of a government vehicle when a function involves one's immediate staff/office or events comprised of personal friends. All requests for use of a government vehicle to attend holiday social events should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

## Are You Road-Wise?

Take the Traffic Safety's Quiz and test your knowledge of the road:

1. True or False? Yellow lanes on the road separate traffic traveling in the same direction
2. Do you know what a yellow EXIT ONLY panel below a green freeway guide sign means?
3. What does a FLASHING DON'T WALK or a don't walk symbol tell you?
4. Are you ever permitted to cross a double solid yellow line?
5. What does a pentagon-shaped sign mean?
6. What do the familiar red, white, and blue shields tell drivers?
7. What is the purpose of the green and white "mile markers"?
8. What are the orange diamond signs used for?
9. In a "weaving section" where traffic is entering and exiting a freeway interchange, who is required to yield the right-of-way?
10. What direction are you traveling if you're on an interstate highway numbered I-494?



*Answers on last page.*

## CSTC Suicide Awareness/Prevention Training

Photo by Amy Phillips, CSTC



CAMP PARKS - CSTC Chaplain Major Ettner provided Suicide Awareness/Prevention Training in September at Fort Hunter Liggett and Camp Parks. "We all have stress, the key is how we handle it. We should all watch out for our battle buddies and be alert of those around us - be aware of behavior changes. Don't be caught with the thought "I should have reached out to help - just do it. Reach out," said Chaplain Ettner.

### **For more info:**

**DoD Suicide Prevention Hotline:  
1-800-273-health**

[www.behavioralhealth.army.mil](http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil)

[www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide.asp](http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide.asp)

## Motorcycle Safety Training

To operate a motorcycle on a military installation, all riders must meet the requirements of the Motorcycle Safety Foundation course. The military provides this course to Soldiers and Department of Defense civilians, FREE OF CHARGE. For information on the Motorcycle Safety Program 'Basic' and 'Experienced' Rider courses, consult the CSTC Safety Office:

Fort Hunter Liggett

Harriet Grindstaff / 831.386.2105

[Harriet.grindstaff@liggett-emh1.army.mil](mailto:Harriet.grindstaff@liggett-emh1.army.mil)

Camp Parks

Allan Graff / 925.875.4681

[Allan.graff@usar.army.mil](mailto:Allan.graff@usar.army.mil)

## Chaplain's Message

Major Dan Ettner



By the time you read this article I will have already completed my PCS move to Ft. Carson, CO. At Ft. Carson I am serving as the "Chaplain Trainer" for the Western Division of First Army. My task will be to ensure all chaplains and chaplain assistants get appropriate training while at their MOB station before going into a war zone.

I will miss all of you in the CSTC. I do recognize that I was unable to minister to everyone in any effective way given the distance between the installations. The good news is that with my change in duty stations the CSTC will be getting new chaplains at both installations.

Chaplain (MAJ) Alexander will be arriving in December, and is assigned to Camp Parks. He will hold chapel services at both the chapels on Camp Parks and Moffett. Before he can begin however, we need to wait for Chaplain

(LTC) Langenhough to report to Ft. Hunter Liggett in March. Chaplain Alexander will be at Ft. Hunter Liggett until Chaplain Langenhough's arrival.

We are being told that another chaplain will be assigned to Moffett sometime in FY09. This will allow a constant ministry of presence in 3 of the 4 sites in the CSTC. With these positions we will also get matching chaplain assistants to help with this ministry. With the exception of B.T. Collins, you will all have easy access to a chaplain or a chaplain assistant to help during times of stress, crises or even joy.

I know that these chaplains will be greeted with the same respect and enthusiasm that I was greeted with. I, therefore, would like to thank you all for the support I received while I was part of the CSTC. If you are ever at Ft. Carson I invite you to look me up.



Photo by Amy Phillips, CSTC

## FHL Halloween Festivities

*Almost all of FHL showed up for the Halloween Festivities! Residents gave out treats from the back of their vehicles, children had a blast in the bouncy houses and dozens competed in the costume contest.*



# Updates

## All MWR Facilities will be closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

### FORT HUNTER LIGGETT

**Library**- Closed until Dec. 29 due to Librarian taking use or loose leave

**Bowling Center** - December 17 to January 4 hours:  
Mon. to Thu./noon to 1800 hrs  
Fri. to Sat./Noon to 2100 hrs

December 26, 31 and January 2

**Recreation Center** 1300-1600 hrs  
**Sports Center** 0530-1600 hrs  
**Hacienda Club** 1700-2400 hrs  
*New Years Party Reservations required*

December 31

**Library** 0830-1730 hrs

### CAMP PARKS

**Community Club** - The MWR Office will take control of the Community Club in Camp Parks effective 30 Nov and will reopen for limited operations on 7 Jan. Hours of operation will be posted. For any rental requirements in December please contact 925-875-4657 or -4679.

December 24, 26, 31 and January 2

**Recreation Center** 0500-1600 hrs  
**Sports Center** 0500-1600 hrs

For more information: 925-875-4392

### LODGING

December 24, 26 and 31

Camp Parks 0730-1200 hrs  
Fort Hunter Liggett 0600-1200 hrs  
BT Collins 0730-1200 hrs

December 25 and January 1 - Closed

For more information:

Camp Parks (925) 803-5326  
Fort Hunter Liggett (831) 386-2511  
BT Collins (916) 381-1258

## Army Reserve Child & Youth Services Teen Deployment Classes

The Teen Deployment Class was developed to increase understanding of what to expect during a deployment. Participants will learn tips for managing stress, understand how deployment may affect their family and about the programs available for Army Reserve youth. This program is for youth ages 12 and older, as well as adults working with military youth. Classes are taught on-line and over the phone.

**View the training schedule and register online at:**

*[www.arfp.org/teenclasses](http://www.arfp.org/teenclasses)*

After registering, you will receive an email with a toll free number to call at scheduled time.



### Online Shopping

*(Continued from page 3)*

against the latest threats. Set your security software and operating system to update automatically.

**Consider how you'll pay:** Credit cards generally are a safe option because they allow buyers to seek a credit from the issuer if the product is not delivered or is not what was ordered. Also, if your credit card number is stolen, you usually will not be liable for more than \$50 in charges. Do not send cash or use a money-wiring service because you will have no recourse if something goes wrong.

**Keep a paper trail:** Print and save records of your online transactions, including the product description and price, the online receipt, and copies of any e-mail you exchange with the seller. Read your credit card statements as soon as you get them to make sure there are no unauthorized charges.

If a member of the Army family believes they have fallen victim to an online shopping scam, CID advises to notify the appropriate law enforcement agency as soon as possible. For crimes occurring on an Army installation, contact the local CID office. For crimes occurring elsewhere, contact the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) online at <http://www.ic3.gov>. IC3 is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National White Collar Crime Center and serves as a clearinghouse for Internet crime complaints.

**To learn more about online safety, visit the FTC's OnGuard Online site at <http://onguardonline.gov>.**

**To learn more about the CCIU and CID Cyber Lookout, visit <http://www.cid.army.mil/CCIU.htm>.**

## CSTC FAMILY CHILD CARE PROGRAM

The Army has three inter-related child care programs: Army Child Development Centers (CDC), the Family Child Care (FCC) program and Outreach Services (OS). The three systems work together to provide child development services that meets the needs of installation families.

Outreach Services is flexible and designed to respond to installation needs. Some services include: Parent Education, Volunteer Services, Resource and Referral (off-post child care options, certified babysitter's list), Central Registration (one-stop service & enrollment point for all CDS patrons, School Liaison Services (student transition assistance), and instructional classes for children.

The Family Child Care (FCC) system offers quarters-based child care provided by authorized military Family members operating as special Army independent contractors who are insured by the Army.

Providers establish their own fees (unless they accept Army fee subsidies), determine how many children they wish to enroll (within required ratios) and set their own hours of operation. The CYS staff provides a comprehensive training program and providers also have access to the FCC Resource Library Providers to borrow age-appropriate materials.

Currently the CSTC does not have a CDC, but it has been funded for 10 FCC homes (60 child care spaces) and 15 Outreach Services child care spaces. To date, CSTC has four certified providers (two at Camp Parks, two at Moffett Field). CSTC has two pending candidates at Fort Hunter Liggett; they should be operational in January 2008. There are 19 available child care spaces remaining. CYS is funded and staffed by spaces which are determined by demographics, continuous needs assessments

and marketing. Until CSTC child care needs and utilization meets Army CYS metrics, CSTC CYS funding, staffing & services are limited.

CYS Family Child Care Providers charge approximately \$600 per month per infant (0-18 months), \$560 per month per toddler (18-36 months), \$520 per month per pre-schooler (3-5 years), \$500 per month per K-5<sup>th</sup> grader for the same accredited care with an \$18 annual registration fee. In comparison - the least expensive child care in Dublin is found at \$760 per month per child with an \$85 annual registration fee; NASA Ames CDC located at Moffett Field charges \$1280 per month per child with a \$125 annual registration fee.

For more info call (925) 875-4678 for CP and Moffett, and (831) 386-2605 for FHL. The CSTC website also has info for your reference: <http://www.liggett.army.mil/sites/mwr/mwr.asp>

## Departments of Defense and Labor Announce New Career Advancement Accounts for Military Spouses

November 14, 2007 - The Departments of Defense and Labor announced plans to jointly provide military spouses with opportunities to pursue portable careers in high-demand, high-growth occupations. This two-year demonstration project, offered at 18 sites in eight states with large military populations, will enable military spouses to develop the skills needed to successfully enter, navigate and advance in the workforce. The military lifestyle calls for portable careers.

"The Department of Defense has long been committed to helping military spouses pursue rewarding careers and

removing barriers to employment," said Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. "Spouses are called on to pack up and relocate the family often at the cost of their own careers. This makes it difficult to navigate the career licensure and certification requirements that go with most professions."

These career advancement accounts will target nationally identified high-growth, portable occupations such as education, health care, information technology and financial services.

Military spouses may apply at the state one-stop career centers at participating installations' voluntary education

centers.

Eighteen initial installations identified to participate in the project include: San Diego Metro and Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Fort Carson and Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.; Jacksonville Naval Air Station, Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field, Fla.; Fort Benning, Ga.; Hickam Air Force Base, Naval Base Pearl Harbor Schofield Barracks, and U.S. Marine Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; Naval Air Station Brunswick, Maine; Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base N.C.; and Fort Lewis, McChord Air Force Base, and Naval Station Kitsap, Wash.

For more info:  
[www.MilSpouse.org](http://www.MilSpouse.org)

### CSTC Family Child Care (FCC) Program

**Would you like to get paid while watching children in your home?** Receive government subsidies and get free training through the Department of the Army Child & Youth Services Division.

For more info contact (925) 875-4678 for CP and Moffett, and (831) 386-2605 for FHL.

### SPONSORSHIPS FOR EVENTS ON POST

According to the AR 215-1-(11-7), sponsorship from external organizations can be either unsolicited or solicited BUT **authorized only for MWR programs and events and NAF component of Army Community Services** (AR 608-1), to include Army Family Team Building (AR 608-48) and Army Family Action Plan (AR 608-47), which are closely associated with MWR programs. Please call MWR before you accept or establish contact with external organizations!

FHL (831) 386-2910  
CP (925) 875-4657



**LTC John D. Cushman**  
Camp Parks Commander

I would like to take this time to wish all of you the warmest of Season Greetings and wish you all a happy and safe holiday. This time of year is meant to be spent with family and friends. Please keep in

## CAMP PARKS COMMANDER UPDATE

your thoughts, the many Soldiers and service members who cannot enjoy these holidays with their own families and loved ones.

I want to thank the Camp Parks workforce of Soldiers, Civilians and Contractors that make Camp Parks a safe environment for all our customers to work on. Without you, nothing could be accomplished.

I also want to thank all our customers, the units and people who make the Army Reserve Army Strong while conducting their missions. Thank you for the patience you display when things are not as you may like them. Please

know that my number one concern is to provide all our customers the best support possible and I think we are making great strides to accommodate your requirements as best we can.

It's important for me at this time to discuss the Army Family Covenant that was recently signed by MG Casella, the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regional Support Command Commanding General/CSTC Senior Mission Commander and myself. This Covenant is vitally important to our Army Families. It demonstrates on behalf of the Army and Army Reserve how dedicated we are to provide the best possible ser-

vices to the Families who have to endure so much at times. They should receive the services commensurate with the service that their husbands, wives, fathers and mothers provide for this great country of ours.

Finally, please be safe during this holiday season. I am sure most of you will want to travel to other places and enjoy the surrounding communities and activities the season provides. Keep in mind traveling in adverse weather, get plenty of rest before long drives and always consider Risk Management in all your planning. Let's start off the New Year Army Strong.

## WELCOME NEW CAMP PARKS CSM

I consider it a privilege and honor to be here at Camp Parks. I have had the privilege to meet a great number of you especially the NCOs who attended my first NCO Call and the leaders who attend the Brown Bag Lunch hosted by LTC Cushman, Garrison Commander. I believe that this is just the beginning of a great relationship with all of you. We had our Family Covenant Signing with our families which we hope will foster better relationships with the Camp Park community as a whole. It is my intention to continue to build relationships with the Camp Parks community as well as the surrounding civilian communities.

I ask as the winter season and holiday approaches that you all will have SAFETY at the forefront of whatever you do. Each and everyone of you are important to me as well as the units you support. I wish each of you a safe and enjoyable Holiday season as well as

a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Let us continue to pray for our service members who are defending this great nation as well as their families.

Here is a snapshot of me and my past assignments:

### CSM Commenia-Hill Bio

Born in Chamberlain, Louisiana, CSM Commenia-Hill is the eldest daughter of the late George and Louise Commenia. She enlisted on November 6, 1974 in the Army Reserve under the Women Army Corps (WAC) as a Medical Specialist with the 245th Engineer Company, and attended Basic Training at Fort Jackson, SC in April 1975 graduating with honors.

During her reserve tenure, CSM Commenia-Hill served in various administrative and supervisory positions with Detachment 1, 4013th United States Army Garrison and the 321st Material Management

Center (MMC). She transferred to the Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Program in September 1983 serving at the 321st MMC. Her subsequent assignments include the 87th Maneuver Area Command in Birmingham, AL; the 87th Division Training Support Division; the United States Army Reserve Command (USARC), Fort McPherson, GA; the 303rd Adjutant General (AG) Postal Company, Devens, MA; the 80th Division (IT) Individual Training, Richmond, VA; and the 828 Transportation Battalion located in Livingston, AL.

While assigned to the 828th Transportation Battalion she was mobilized for twelve months to Arifjan, Kuwait.

Some of her professional military education include Personnel Senior Sergeant Course, USAR Administrative Course, Master Fitness Trainer Course, Small Group Instructor Course, United States Sergeants Major Academy



**Command Sergeant Major**  
**Connie F. Commenia-Hill**  
Camp Parks CSM

Course, Command Sergeant Major Designee Course, and the Garrison Pre-Command course.

She holds a Master of Science Degree in Public Administration from Troy State University, Atlanta, GA; Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Faulkner University, Montgomery, AL.

*(full bio on the CSTC website)*

# Camp Parks-Alameda County Pandemic Influenza Exercise

By Alan M. Brown, CSTC Security Manager

A Pandemic Influenza Exercise was conducted on Camp Parks on 06 November 2007. The exercise was jointly conducted with the Alameda County Public Health Dept. and provided the opportunity for Camp Parks personnel and family members, 15 yrs. and older, to receive their seasonal flu vaccine injections. The exercise was performed and set-up as a Point of Dispensing (POD) unit which was located in the RTS-MED hospital tent exercise area. The POD was staffed with personnel from several Camp Parks organizations which included: 91<sup>st</sup> DIV; 104th DIV; 75<sup>th</sup> BDG; 63<sup>rd</sup> EOC; RTS-MED; and the CSTC. The organizations combined to provide 45 personnel to run the processing stations within the POD. Alameda County Public Health contributed equipment which was required for the POD operations. The County also staffed a robust evaluation team of nursing students who provided incidents to test the reactions of the POD personnel to simulated personnel emergencies.

One of the key values gained from this exercise was the coordination with a local government agency and the combined cooperation of several Camp Parks tenant units with the CSTC. According to LTC Dave Phillips, the CSTC Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, a future goal is to use this exercise as a baseline to conduct other emergency response exercises involving the entire Camp Parks community.

Some sources for more info on influenza and how to prepare for a pandemic: [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov); [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu); [www.oes.ca.gov](http://www.oes.ca.gov); [www.getimmunizedca.org](http://www.getimmunizedca.org); [www.prepare.org](http://www.prepare.org); [www.ready.gov/america](http://www.ready.gov/america)



Photos by LTC D. Phillips, CSTC

*“Patients” were screened for symptoms and personal data collected prior to going through the four-step process to get a vaccine seen being prepared below by professional health practitioners.*



## U.S. Welcomes Saudi Officers Participating in Earnest Leader 2008

Photo by A. Phillips, CSTC



*(L to R) MG Abdullah Saleh Al Amri, RSLF; BG Nickolas Tooliatos, 5/75 CDR; and BG Norman Andersson, DCG, 1st Army DIV-W*

On Oct. 30 the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 75<sup>th</sup> Division, United States Army Reserve, in conjunction with the First Army Division West, hosted a Welcome Ceremony to the first of three groups of Saudi Arabian Soldiers of the Royal Saudi Land Forces (RSLF) participating in the Earnest Leader exercise.

The purpose of the overall exercise is to enhance the relationship between Saudi Arabia and the US through military to military engagements. The purpose of the training at Camp Parks is to execute a brigade level, computer assisted, command post exercise (CPX) in order to train a Saudi Arabian brigade on selected training objectives. This year’s exercise is the eighth Earnest Leader since its inception in 2000.

Earnest Leader is an annual U.S. Army Central (USARCENT) sponsored and Third Army executed exercise conducted with the RSLF. USARCENT’s Military Training Mission, First Army Division West and the 5/75 will serve as liaisons, advisors, and Observer-Controller/Trainers.

The 5/75 based at Camp Parks conducts training for the Army Reserve and Army National Guard units in 12 western states to improve combat readiness and prepares Soldiers to win the Global War on Terrorism.



## Welcome Home Warriors

### 4th Brigade 104th DIV Honors Returning Soldiers

Photo by Amy Phillips, CSTC



By Amy Phillips, CSTC  
PAO

**CAMP PARKS** - On 2 Dec. the 4th Brigade 104th Division honored 32 Soldiers that served in Iraq or Afghanistan during the period 2003-2006 as Family, friends, fellow Soldiers, and media witnessed.

"Welcome home Warriors! You are the true American heroes of this generation," said the 104th Division Commanding General, BG Eldon Regua. He also thanked Families for standing by their Soldier, enabling them to focus on their duties overseas. "I salute you for your strength, patience and courage."

BG Regua reminded all not to forget those still in harms way, especially SSG Matt Maupin who remains the only Army Reserve Soldier captured since his convoy was attacked in April 2004.

He informed Soldiers and Families that the Army has many programs to help them to transition back into their lives at home and at work, and encouraged them to have patience as they try to readjust and reconnect with each other.

"It was very difficult at first," said MSG Veronica Tayo, explaining that she was one of the first Army Reserve units deployed in support of OEF.

Mayo is an Administrative Specialist and was assigned to the 3/394 Postal Co. based in Longbeach, Calif. as a postal auditor during the period Feb. 03 through June 04. She inspected postal operations in Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and Africa.

"We have made significant strides...I see leaders trying to make things better for us while deployed," said Mayo.

Army Reserve Ambassadors in attendance read a letter from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger which personally thanked and acknowledged that it is because of brave Americans like the Soldiers being honored that he was able to lead a free life here in the U.S. as an immigrant.

Each Soldier was presented an encased American flag, a specially-designed commemorative coin and certificate, a lapel pin set for the Soldier and spouse, and a 'Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen' flag.

## The 95th CST Conducts Anti-terrorism Training

Story and photos SGT Les Taranto, 75th Division Public Affairs Office

**CAMP PARKS** -- The 95th Civil Support Team (CST), a unit consisting of twenty-two Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Soldiers, conducted an anti-terrorism training exercise at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) Site on 13 September.

The exercise started at 0600 hours when the 95th CST Operations Center received a call from the California Joint Operations Center requesting assistance and reported a possible presence of biological contamination at Camp Parks. The post security guards who did the initial investigation complained of labored breathing, skin burns, and profuse sweating. The guards reported several unidentified individuals fleeing the scene and two unidentified vehicles in a deserted area near the MOUT Site.

The advance party arrived on the scene to set up communications and taped off the area; fifteen minutes later the unit's main body arrived and

went about setting up their equipment. You can feel the intensity of the team as they work - everybody has a job and they go about it as quickly and efficiently as possible. Two Soldiers suited up in their fully encapsulated level A Chemical Protective Suit with compressed air to breathe, in case any biological hazards are present, and have radios for communications back to Operations.

They proceeded to ride down to the area while a third member spool-fed communication wires off the back of the vehicle, stopping to connect wires to biological hazard meters every 200 feet. Just outside the building they placed two additional meters. Next they took readings with handheld meters as they circled the building and discovered the presence of nerve agent just outside the building door.

A biological lab setup was also discovered on the second floor and tests are conducted to document the findings. When their tasks were complete, the Soldiers drove back to the Decontamination Sta-



(L to R) Recon NCO SSG Marston Roberts assists Survey NCO, SGT Eulizes Montalvo to prepare suit-up before entering the hot zone.

# Camp Parks and the Dublin Unified School District Form Partnership to Help Military Children

By Catherine Classe-Friend,  
Child & Youth Services Director

Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) became a new signatory for the Army Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in September 2007.

LTC John D. Cushman spoke at the DUSD School Board, October 9, 2007, discussing the Memorandum's significance and how the Combat Support Training Center (CSTC) can partner with DUSD to improve the transition of military children between frequent moves within the military.

By becoming a MOA signatory, DUSD is committed to assist military students and their family's transition smoothly into and out of Camp Parks. Regular, ongoing meetings between the Command, CYS School Liaison Officer, Community and Parents maintain a communication link that creates an open forum to resolute issues.

For example, typically, DUSD tries to send all Camp Parks elementary students to Dougherty Elementary School. When capacity is reached, overflow students are sent to one of the other six elementary schools. Since DUSD does not provide bus transportation, this poses difficulty for working parents who have more than one child attending more than one school. In addition, Camp Parks provides bus transportation for residents living on-post.

Negotiations continue between DUSD and Camp Parks to limit the number of schools the buses travel to, which in turn is more cost-effective for

Camp Parks.

The MOA also allows the CYS School Liaison to attend the DUSD school board meetings and provide feedback to the Command. All of the DUSD school information and website links are now added to the CSTC website for parents to contact prior to moving to Camp Parks.

The MOA was derived from a team of educators and commanders who analyzed the U.S. Army's Secondary Education Transition Study (SETS) findings. The agreement is between and among school systems that support military families worldwide and provides a common structure for information-sharing and reciprocal processes.

School districts sign the MOA and commit to developing or improving systems for transition predictability for military-connected and other highly mobile students. The guiding principles outlined in the MOA apply to not only military-connected students, but all students who transfer between schools during their elementary and secondary academic careers.

The SETS findings indicated nine areas concerning school administrators and students: Improvement of the Timely Transfer of Records, students transferring mid-year required schools to transfer records before they could register for classes. The MOA ensures other methods of delivery, including hand-carrying or temporary records so that students are not delayed timely enrollment in their new schools. When surveyed, it was discovered that military students would eat

lunch under stairwells or in bathrooms instead of in the cafeteria with other students. The MOA ensures student sponsorship programs (Student to Student) that assigns a trained student to escort new students. Also, many students face not making sports teams or other extracurricular activities because they haven't attended the same school all their lives. The MOA promotes practices which foster access to extracurricular programs by sending video or trying out for teams before arrival. The MOA establishes procedures to lessen the adverse impact of moves for Middle and High School students, for example, if a student takes Texas State history for credit and moves to California before graduation, then the student does not have to re-take State history, but graduates from California with a Texas diploma. Additional principles include: Communi-

cating Variations in the School Calendars and Schedules; Creating and Implementing Professional Development systems; Continuing Strong Child-Centered Partnerships between the Installation and the Supporting School's); Providing Information concerning Graduation (Promotion) Requirements; and Providing specialized Services for Transitioning Students When applying to Colleges and Finding Funding for Post-Secondary Study.

Parents, Command, Students or school representatives can contact the CYS School Liaison Officer at 925-875-4287 to receive information or assistance with any school related issues.

Updated information about new programs and initiatives can be found on the CSTC CYS website: <http://www.liggett.army.mil/sites/services/cys.asp>



New & unwrapped items only!  
Camp Parks drop-off points:  
Main Gate & Fire Station  
(last date to donate 12/20)

For more info:  
Bill Loconte (925) 875-4902  
Dave Reading (925) 875-4903  
[www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org)

# Army-Marines Command Post Exercise

## 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade 75<sup>th</sup> DIV supports the 23<sup>rd</sup> Marine Regiment

By MSG Michael J. Lacuesta, 5/75 Division

**CAMP PARKS** - On 13 October 2007, the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade 75<sup>th</sup> Division conducted a Command Post Exercise (CPX) with the 23d Marine Regiment. The exercise was to incorporate command post operations for the San Bruno base Marines.

The 23d Marines Regiment commanded by COL Richard C. McMonagle is part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, which is composed of Marine Reserve units. Units of the Regiment are located throughout the United States which operations throughout the world supporting the Global War on Terrorism. Some locations

the units have been deployed to Iraq, the Horn of Africa and Djibouti, just to name a few.

The 5/75 has a world class simulations center at Camp Parks in which units can plan and conduct simulated operations anywhere in the world. 75<sup>th</sup> Soldiers assisted the Marines in operating the workstations to simulate the battle.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Bde incorporated media training into the CPX. Role players from the brigade portrayed media with the help of the Combat Support Training Center Public Affair Officer, Amy Phillips. They replicated news operations within the Middle East Theater of operations during a media briefing. LTC Keith Canevaro, Regimental Execu-



Photo by MSG M. Lacuesta, 5/75 Division

*Marine Radio Telephone Operators (RTO) manning the SINGAR radios in a Tactical Operations Center (TOC) during the CPX.*

utive Officer and LTC Mark Miner, Regimental S-3, were asked real world questions about events that were happening in Iraq. This key training enhanced the ability of the Marines to interviewed by the press while deployed.

SSGT Marc Guest, 23d Marines Future Ops Specialist, was also interviewed to give

him a taste of what to expect as if he was on assignment in Iraq. The training benefited both units. The 5<sup>th</sup> Bde will incorporate this training into their future exercises and the 23d Marines said they would like more of this training in the future.



## A Real-world Army Strong Soldier

Story and photo by MSG Michael J. Lacuesta, 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade 75<sup>th</sup> Division

**CAMP PARKS** - SGT Merrill Simon is a force to be reckoned with standing at an impressive 6 feet 11 inches. A Nevada resident who commutes to Camp Parks for battle assemblies, Simon is looked up upon not only by his height but with respect and dignity for his duty to country and his family.

Simon and his wife are proud parents of 16 children, with one more on the way. Early in their marriage, the couple

learned they would not be able to have their own children so they decided to look at Special needs adoptions. Each one of their children has severe emotional and/or physical special needs, ranging from fetal alcohol syndrome to more severe medical needs such as blindness, deafness, tracheotomy, Cerebral palsy, wheelchair dependent and many require 24 hour care.

These dedicated parents do everything they can to provide a loving and nurturing home for these children and are committed to the lifetime care many of these children require. Due to their medical conditions, two of these children have passed away, each having left this world long after their doctors had predicted they would pass. While the family dearly misses these two little ones, they feel their mission has always been to provide the best possible home, with as much love and care for as long as they can.

Simon has served a total of over 33 years, to include 25 years of commissioned service in the Army Reserve and Army National Guard, and is an IT Technician with the Nevada Department of Transportation at his home town. He is a man who has dedicated his life to help others and is truly an Army Strong Soldier. The 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade is proud to call him one of their own.

# Community Relations



## THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

Rose Martinez (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) with the Directorate of Public Works collected donations from Soldiers and Civilians on post which were given to Veterans during the Stockton Stand Down in October.

## CAMP PARKS VETERANS LUNCHEON

(middle photo) On Nov. 9 the Association of the US Army (AUSA), MG Dean Chapter servicing the East Bay, hosted a luncheon for Veterans that served at Camp Parks. Approximately 30 Veterans living in the surrounding communities attended the event and got a chance to swap “war stories”, catch up with old buddies and make new friends.

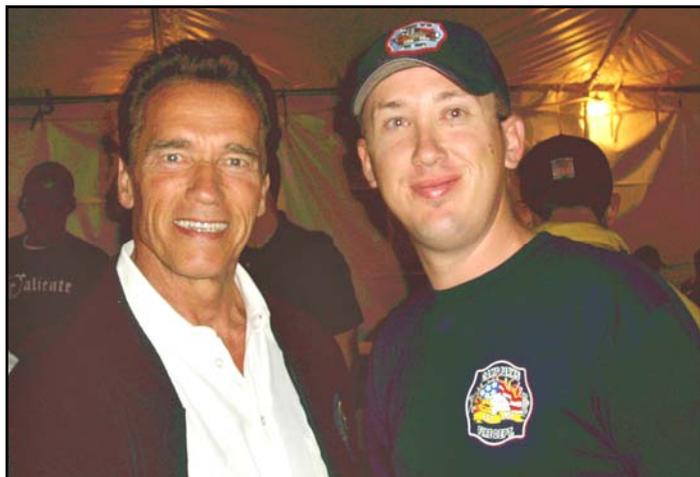


Photos by Amy Phillips, CSTC



## THE BIG READ PROGRAM

A National Endowment for the Arts initiative with public libraries, the Big Read Program brought local children's author Bruce Hale to read one of his “Chet Gecko Mysteries” books. Participating children were captivated by the story - they giggled, they laughed and had many questions for the author. Mr. Hale even taught the children how to draw cartoon characters - everyone's favorite was Bart Simpson. The program also provided free books to adults and children to encourage reading - contact MWR to get your books!



*Camp Parks Firefighter Joshua Huston got a chance to meet Governor Schwarzenegger during one of the many southern California fires in which he and fellow firefighters from Fort Hunter Liggett routinely provide support.*

*For up-to-date info on fires in California:  
[www.inciweb.org/state/5/](http://www.inciweb.org/state/5/)*

### Family Covenant

*(Continued from page 1)*

of more staff to establish and manage programs that Soldiers and their Family are entitled to.

The Army has steadily increased funding to family programs in the past several years as deployments have increased. In fiscal year 2007, the Army in partnership with private developers, have created 79,000 new homes at installations throughout the nation; established 19 new Post Exchanges (\$170 million investment); and established 40 new Child Development

Centers (\$171.5 million investment) to name a few. Since 2001, 85,000 barracks have been upgraded or replaced.

The CSTC provides much needed housing for military service members in its surrounding communities: FHL has 85 homes on post; CP located in Dublin has 114 homes; and also 316 homes at the Army Complex at Moffett Field, Mountain View.

As a relatively new organization established in 2005, the CSTC continues to grow as funding permits and is committed to enhancing and expanding services to the military and its Families.

## Army Family Covenant

*We recognize the commitment and increasing sacrifices that our Families are making every day.*

*We recognize the strength of our Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families.*

*We are committed to providing Soldiers and Families a Quality of Life that is commensurate with their service.*

*We are committed to providing our Families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive.*

*We are committed to building a partnership with Army Families that enhances their strength and resilience.*

*We are committed to improving Family readiness by:*

- \* Standardizing and funding existing Family programs and services
- \* Increasing accessibility and quality of health care
- \* Improving Soldier and Family housing
- \* Ensuring excellence in schools, youth services, and child care
- \* Expanding education and employment opportunities for Family members

*Camp Parks Police Chief Stephen Morningstar who is also a Master Sergeant in the Army Reserve 381st MP Detachment based in San Jose, got a chance to meet the Multinational Force-Iraq Commander General David H. Petraeus recently while deployed on his third tour in Iraq. "I'm extremely proud, if not honored to be serving among service members that continue to excel under these unfavorable conditions within Iraq and Afghanistan in a manner that is nothing short of heroic," said Morningstar.*

**For latest info on Operation Iraqi Freedom:**  
[www.mnf-iraq.com](http://www.mnf-iraq.com)



## FORT HUNTER LIGGETT

*South Monterey County*

### AAFES - Building 80

**PX** (831) 385-4585  
MTWF, Sat 1100-1900 hrs

**BARBER** (831) 386-2825

**CLEANERS** (831) 385-4585  
*Drop off Mon/Pickup Thu*

**BILLETING/LODGING**  
**Building 229** (831) 386-2511  
7 days 0600-1800 hrs

**BOWLING - Building 121**  
(831) 386-2194  
Mon- Thu 1100-1900 hrs  
Fri 1100-2100 hrs  
Sat 1300-2100 hrs

**CABL CAFE** (831) 386-2047  
7 days 1100-1900 hrs

**CAR WASH FACILITY**  
**Bldg 82** OPEN 24/7

**CHAPEL - Building 190**  
(831) 386-2465  
Counseling: Mon-Thu  
0800-1630 hrs  
Wed. Bible Study 1900 hrs  
Sunday Chapel Service:  
Protestant 1100 hrs  
Gospel 1800 hrs  
Chapel open 0830-1600 hrs

**COMMISSARY - Building 182**  
(831) 386-2181  
Tue-Fri 1100-1900 hrs  
Sat 0900-1600 hrs

**DINING FACILITY - Bldg 206**  
(831) 386-2402  
Breakfast 0600-0730 hrs  
Lunch 1130-1300 hrs  
Dinner 1700-1830 hrs

**HACIENDA - Building 101**  
*Call MWR for more info:*  
(831) 386-2900

**HUNTING AND FISHING**  
(831) 386-3310

**ID CARDS - Building 238**  
(831) 386-3009  
Mon-Fri 0800-1600 hrs  
Closed for lunch 1200-1300 hrs

**LIBRARY - Building 191**  
(831) 386-2179  
Sun-Thu 0830-1700 hrs

**MEDICAL CLINIC - Bldg 210**  
(831) 386-3133  
Mon-Fri 0800-1700 hrs

**POST OFFICE - Building 79**  
(831) 385-3812  
Mon-Fri 0730-1230, 1330-1530 hrs

**REC CENTER - Building 287**  
(831) 386-2406  
Mon-Sat 1300-2100 hrs  
Sun 1200-2000 hrs

**SAN ANTONIO MISSION**  
(831) 385-4478  
7 days 0900-1700 hrs  
Sunday Catholic Svc 0900 hrs

**SERVICE STATION -Bldg 116**  
(831) 386-6032  
Mon-Fri 1000-1700 hrs

**SPORTS CENTER - Bldg 219**  
(831) 386-2784  
Mon-Fri 0530-2200 hrs  
Sat 1100-2300 hrs  
Sun 1200-1800 hrs

**THEATRE - Building 81**  
(831) 386-2645 Fri - Sat Only  
Doors open 1800 hrs

## MOFFETT HOUSING

*Mountain View*

**HOUSING OFFICE**  
**Building 587** (650) 965-1754

**COMMISARY** (650) 603-9980  
Tues, Wed, Fri 0900 - 1800 hrs  
Thurs 0900 - 1900 hrs  
Sat 0800 - 1700 hrs  
Sun 0900 - 1700 hrs

## CAMP PARKS - Dublin

**PX - Building 670**  
(925) 829-7780  
Wed-Sat 1000 - 1800 hrs  
Sun 1000-1600 hrs  
*Laundry Service (ACUs only) in Wed  
out Fri*

**BARBER - trailer by PX**  
Wed-Sat 1000-1800 hrs

**COMMUNITY CLUB**  
MWR managing under limited hours  
beginning Jan. 7 January 2008. For  
any rental requirements in December  
please contact 925-875-4657 or -  
4679.

**FITNESS CENTER &  
RECREATION CTR - Bldg 303**  
(925) 875-4392  
7 days 0500-2200 hrs

**HISTORY CENTER - Bldg 620**  
Tue & Wed 1000-1400 hrs

**ID CARDS - Building 312**  
(925) 875-4918

**LODGING - Building. 1151**  
(925) 803-5326  
Mon-Thu 0800 - 1730 hrs  
*Battle Assembly weekend Fridays the  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week-ends: 0800 - 2300  
hrs; Non- Battle Assembly weekend  
Fridays, open 0800 - 1730 hrs*  
Sat, Sun, Holidays 0800-1530 hrs

## MWR SERVICES

*Camp Parks & Ft. Hunter Liggett*

**Army Community Services**  
(925) 875-4370  
**Child Youth Services**  
(925) 875-4678

## B.T. COLLINS - Sacramento

**LODGING - Building 650**  
(916) 381-1258

**Check website for complete phone directory: [www.liggett.army.mil](http://www.liggett.army.mil)**

## CAMP PARKS POLICE

### Special Saturday office dates & hours:

Dec. 8 ❖ Jan. 19 ❖ Feb. 23  
0900 to 1600 hours

*We will not close for lunch!*

## TRAFFIC SAFETY QUIZ ANSWERS

10 correct      A true road warrior  
8-9 correct     A roadway survivor  
6-7 correct     A roadway explorer  
4-5 correct     A roadway scout  
1-3 correct     Surrender Your Keys!

- False, yellow lines on the highway, whether solid or dashed, generally separate traffic going in opposite directions.
- A yellow EXIT ONLY panel below a green freeway sign means that the lane under the panel becomes the exit ramp. If you remain in the lane, you must exit.
- A FLASHING DON'T WALK or a don't walk symbol tells pedestrians already in the street that they should continue across; but tells pedestrians still on the curb not to start walking.
- The only time you are permitted to cross a double solid yellow line is when you are making a left turn into a driveway or business entrance.
- The pentagon shape with the point to the top warns us to watch for school children.
- The familiar red, white, and blue shield tells drivers they are traveling on an Interstate Highway. Even-numbered roads with 2 digits run east-west; north-south interstates have odd numbers with 2 digits. Interstate routes with 3 digits are beltways, loops or spur routes.
- The green and white "mile markers" help us gauge how far we've driven, or how far we need to drive through a state.
- Construction signs are orange diamonds.
- One of the most hazardous lane-management situations occurs when freeway traffic is exiting and entering in the same area. Vehicles entering the freeway have to yield the right-of-way to through-traffic and exiting traffic.
- If you're on an Interstate highway with the number I-494, you may be traveling in a circle. Three-digit Interstates beginning with an even number are often loops or connect to other major highways. If the first of the three digits is an even number, the highway usually connects to another interstate at both ends, in a loop. If the first of the three digits is an odd number, the highway usually connects with an Interstate at only one end.)

**Source:** [www.trafficsafety.org](http://www.trafficsafety.org)



Photo by SGT L. Tarranto, 75th Division

*Physician Assistant MAJ David Dominguez of the 95th CST setting up Wet Bulb and temperature gauge.*

tion to get sprayed down and washed with soap and water to remove any biological agents.

"We have 4-6 operations like these every year as part of our training schedule," said the CST Commander LTC Gregory Potter. "This tells us what areas we need to work on to get ready for our official evaluation in November."

The exercise scenario was developed by John Branum, US Army North based in San Antonio, Texas. He and other members of the US Army North observes and critiques the unit's performance, and is

responsible for testing Civil Support Teams in the western part of the US. "This Civil Support Team is one of the best I have ever worked with," said Branum.

The creation of the Civil Support Teams was in response to a Presidential request to protect its citizens from chemical, biological and terrorist threat. Declared operational on 10 December 2001, the 95th CST located in Los Alamitos, is one of 55 Civil Support Teams nationwide, and covers Northern California.

## "The Golden Guidon"

Commander - Col. Kevin R. Riedler  
Public Affairs Officer - Amy Phillips

*"The Golden Guidon" is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. The contents of this Newsletter are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U. S. Government, or the Department of Defense. The "Golden Guidon" is a quarterly email publication with limited hard copy distribution. Publication can be found on command website listed below. All queries and submission must be in electronic format and should be sent to:*

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Tel: (925) 875-4298  
Email: [pao.parks@usar.army.mil](mailto:pao.parks@usar.army.mil)  
**Website: [www.liggett.army.mil](http://www.liggett.army.mil)**