



Indianhead



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December 4, 2009

CG unveils transformation vision at FRG event



Command Sgt. Maj. John Fortune of the 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team and his wife Janet consult hand-outs and follow the proceedings as speakers discuss upcoming events during the FRG Round-up conducted Nov. 24 at the Dragon Hill Lodge on Yongsan Garrison.

Story & photo by
Master Sgt. Michael Pintagro

2nd ID Public Affairs Chief

Around 150 commanders, senior staff, senior enlisted advisors and Family Readiness Group leaders of the 2nd Infantry Division plotted the way ahead during an FRG Round-up held Nov. 24 at the Dragon Hill Lodge on Yongsan Garrison.

Maj. Gen. Michael S. Tucker, the Division com-

manding general, emphasized transformation issues during his inaugural "FRG Round-up." The commander outlined a robust vision for Division transformation including greater freedom, responsibility and opportunity for Warriors and Family members.

The CG unveiled plans to encourage Warrior education through flexibility in scheduling and bi-weekly early release from duty for student-Soldiers and to explore changes in Division disciplinary policy. The changes would encourage greater individual responsibility and rely more on education and accountability for actual misconduct than strict regulation of all

behavior. Another initiative would replace "Family time" on regular duty Thursdays with monthly three-day weekends.

The CG also announced plans to combat identification card losses and thefts with inspectable card holders Warriors attach to their persons with straps or cords and bring Division physical fitness training schedules into line with the remainder of the Army by moving reveille from 6 to 6:30 a.m.

"We've got to fix the culture in Korea because we're normalizing," Tucker said in summation. "We're bringing Families to Korea in large numbers and it's a wonderful thing."

Transformation within the Division "footprint," education, veteran's benefits and planned activities dominated much of the agenda.

Col. Michael A. Coss, the Warrior Division chief of staff, welcomed the brigade commanders, battalion commanders, FRG representatives and staff personnel to the event. Organizers, he noted, "want to ensure we're all oriented on the same azimuth so we can work together in taking care of Families throughout our area." Hence, the "Round-up" began with a review of issues carrying over from the last event and an informative overview of upcoming activities.

Irby L. Miller, the district superintendent for Department of Defense Education Activity Schools-Korea, discussed the evolving DODDS presence and mission on the peninsula.

"The mission of the Korea district is to provide leadership and support that will enable school communities to implement challenging educational programs," he said. "Our commitment is to programs that are differentiated and designed to empower every student with leadership, wisdom and compassion to contribute to a global community."

Attendance and funding policies associated with the planned establishment of a DODDS facility on Camp Casey provoked questions and lively discussion among participants.

Kevin Nelson discussed educational benefits, emphasizing changes in eligibility and transferability in the post-9-11 GI Bill. Provisions of the new bill, he pointed out, allow unprecedented flexibility in Families' employment of educational benefits.

Lt. Col. Ki Pak, the Division resource management officer, outlined FRG fundraising policies – a subject near and dear to the hearts of many FRG volunteers and key leaders alike. A lively discussion of fundraising opportunities, limitations and regulations followed.

Col. Larry A. Jackson, the Area I garrison commander, and Col. David W. Hall, the Area II commander, delivered concise presentations on key initiatives and upcoming events in their respective regions. The colonels covered key initiatives, planned events, facility construction and upgrade projects, Better

See **FRG ROUNDUP**, Page 6



VOICE OF THE WARRIOR:

Who do you think
will win the CFA
championship?



*"Florida (12-0) is going
to be number one. Tim
Tebow is so amazing."*

Pvt. David Cimino
HHC, 2-9th Inf.

*"It's going to be
Alabama (12-0). Roll
Tide!"*

Pfc. Brandon Bell
A Co., 2-9th Inf.



*"I think Alabama (12-0)
will win. They played a
tougher schedule than
Florida or Texas."*

2nd Lt. Julian Crawford
HHC, 2-9th Inf.

*"The Florida Gators (12-
0), no doubt. They will
blowout Alabama and
demolish Texas."*

Staff Sgt. Dennis Gogel
HHC, 1st BSTB



*"The Tennessee Volunteers
(7-5)."*

Spc. Geordan Bowen
A Co., DSTB

*"The North Carolina
Tarheels (8-4)."*

Staff Sgt. Yulanda Holm
HHC, DSTB



WARRIOR 7 NOTES

Soldiers, Families, readiness top priorities

By **Command Sgt. Maj. Peter D. Burrowes**

2nd ID Command Sergeant Major

The Warrior Division welcomed Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Tucker as "Warrior 6" and "Warrior First Lady" Oct. 22. Their credentials are impeccable, and their leadership will help take this great Division closer towards modernization and normalization for Soldiers and Families. The Division's Soldiers, Airmen, civilians and Family members are the focus of their energies and I can confidently state that you are their top priority.

As the Division continues on this path of change and development you will see the introduction of a campaign of initiatives that will enhance our "Fight Tonight" readiness, build resiliency and responsibility in our Warriors, and improve the quality of life for all. These initiatives make sense! And they are legitimized by the sobering truth that leaders must trust their Warriors to be responsible, and ensure Warriors take responsibility for their actions. This is the necessary "next step," and we must take it in order to keep pace with the vast strides we've already taken in so many areas.

The Soldiers of our Division are Warriors prepared to fight – and win – tonight. We are also representatives of America in a foreign country. As such, our conduct as good neighbors and cultural ambassadors is as important in times of peace as our combat skills are vital to victory in times of war.

Indiscipline has a direct and negative impact on both missions. Assault against anyone tears them down on numerous levels – that's what we do to our enemies, not to our fellow Warriors. Unfortunately, negative incidents involving Soldiers and Korean civilians strains the relationship between the military and the community, a relationship that is vital to our combat mission. Our Warrior pride, conduct and standards must be exemplary.

A group of leaders, analysts, junior Soldiers, and military and civilian subject matter experts have assembled to research and analyze data on Soldier conduct; they report relevant information to the Division commander. This process ensures the "old man" is well informed and counseled as he lays out the strategy to navigate through this cultural transformation – which is indeed a paradigm shift.

Each new policy or program, along with already established ones, will contribute substantially to the overall plan. Suffice to say that some initiatives are

within the authority of the Division commander to change while others are not. Some big ones will require the pen of senior leaders above Division level.

Some will be easy decisions and a few will spur intense debate at multiple echelons. The important thing at this point is that these topics are being seriously addressed – with positive results.

Some internal policies have already been adjusted: the "3 Strike Rule" is in effect – Soldiers who conduct themselves irresponsibly off the installation will get some time away from the "ville" to reflect and consider their future, and reveille now sounds at 6:30 a.m. (start time for PT). More adjustments will follow: plans for the Warrior University are almost complete. Warriors will soon be able to attend college classes during three protected hours two days per week. The .10 blood alcohol level policy is under review and the weekly "Family time" held Thursdays is about to become the "Family three-day weekend."

Other bold initiatives, including review of the curfew and drinking age policies, will be proposed to key 8th Army and USFK leaders soon. These are only a few steps toward the creation of an environment in which Warriors enjoy greater opportunity and exercise greater responsibility. There are widespread examples across this Division demonstrating that "responsibility nourishes maturity." Our junior Warriors are embracing the challenge and doing great.

Leaders can plan and strategize all day but "make or break" action occurs at the team, crews and squad levels. Individual Warriors and junior leaders must recognize this time for what it is – a significant tipping point – and make the extra effort needed to achieve the transition. This is a team effort involving every Soldier, Airman, KATUSA and Family member, each doing a part. Take advantage of the opportunities. Make the extra effort to be a good neighbor and steer away from negative incidents. Represent our country in a positive light. And let our motto ring true in all conversations: "2nd ID Warriors are Second To None!"



Indianhead

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Safe Soldier solicits Santa

By Staff Sgt. Danice Keathley

2nd ID Safety Office

Sung Tan Chuk Ha (성탄 축하), Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year. The holiday season is a great time to be with Family and friends.

As we celebrate the holidays and enjoy some well-earned free time, let's bear in mind safety is not inconsistent with fun – in fact, it's a requirement. A catastrophic accident or incident imperiling safety is the most efficient way to destroy the holiday spirit and transform joy into sorrow. This year, you too should think safety and give Santa a little help. After all, Santa is really in a high risk business and could use a little help with his risk management. Does he have skis on his sled that are rated for the icy conditions he'll likely encounter when he lands on top of houses?

Santa moves quickly, but since he travels mostly by air, does he always take the time to conduct preventive maintenance checks and services on his sleigh before, during and after takeoff, just like we all do for our tactical vehicles. Does he complete a comprehensive risk assessment before departing the North Pole and each subsequent stop? Does he provide his reindeer and passengers a thorough safety brief prior to departure? We must ensure he does so.

We know that Santa dresses for the cold, but does he plan ahead for less common but potentially more

perilous contingencies? Who is his battle buddy? This year I want to recommend that he take his top elf with him. Of course, his elf should be light-weight so that Santa will have plenty of room for gifts; and let's make the elf a designated driver. That way, the sleigh has a safe and alert driver regardless of what Santa's hosts leave by the fire place for him.

Now if you do not have a fireplace, then Santa will need to enter through a door or window. Just leave a small light on for him – no candles, not while you are sleeping. And if you live in the barracks, you need to follow safety standard operating procedures, ensuring the safety of you, your fellow Soldiers and guests like Santa. If you want to leave Santa warm refreshments, ensure you turn off all appliances before retiring for the evening in your nightcap. Don't greet Santa, or any other guest, with a fire hazard.

What is Santa going to bring you for Christmas this year? I asked him for a big surge protector so that any major surges of electricity would not endanger my household electronic appliances and entertainment devices. If the stores in the North Pole are running specials, I told him, I could use another one for the office to safeguard our computers.

Another outstanding gift would be a "multi-meter," which is used in case of a live wire hanging out of its socket. You simply place one lead (the hot lead) on the live wire, and attach the other lead to a "ground." The current will display on your meter. It takes an automatic equipment operator to appreciate this gift.

I wanted a new red, fully charged, fire extinguish-

er, that is, until I could not decide what kind to get. There are water, dry powder, foam, CO2, vaporizing liquid, and wet chemical red fire extinguishers. Although they're all red, they also bear red, blue, off white, black, green and yellow color codes. Bear in mind you should only employ a fire extinguisher if you know what you're doing. If you take a water fire extinguisher and try and put out an electrical fire you could make the fire worse and hurt yourself in the process. You may want to consider training before handling a fire extinguisher; in any case, you're always wise to keep fire department emergency contact information handy and contact professionals in case of an emergency.

Perhaps instead of a fire extinguisher I'll ask Santa for some slip mats for the bathtub/shower and floor, ice scrapers for the office vehicle, and a new first aid kit. Or maybe I'll ask Santa for a small hand-held touch computer/phone loaded with all my favorite safety Web sites and points of contact. That could help me learn how to safely light a fire place, how to safely change a flat tire, how much to drink at a party without drinking too much and myriad other safety tips. Home and office computers are great safety resources, but it's hard to beat a portable safety reference library that travels with you!

Maybe this will help you complete your Christmas wish list. I'm sure Santa will appreciate the gift advice and the safety tips. Most importantly, let's keep ourselves, our Families, our leaders, our colleagues and our Soldiers safe throughout the holiday season.

A star is borne



Yu Hu Son

Brig. Gen. Terry R. Ferrell, his wife Robbie and mother Anna smile in appreciation as his brigadier general flag unfurls. Ferrell became a general officer during a ceremony conducted the afternoon of Nov. 30 at the 2nd Infantry Division Museum on Camp Red Cloud. The wife and mother of the Army's newest general officer joined around 130 2nd ID key leaders, Warriors, distinguished and local Korean officials in a standing-room-only crowd assembled for the ceremony. Tucker, who conducted the promotion and presided over the ceremony, noted that Ferrell began his career at Camp Casey and now runs Camp Casey, provoking appreciative applause and laughter. Ferrell said he "fell more and more in love with the military" during his tenure with 2nd Battalion, 72nd Armor Regiment in the mid-'80s, thus launching his career. He thanked fellow Warriors, leaders and colleagues for their guidance and support. The brigadier general has served in his capacity as assistant deputy commander for maneuver and support since his arrival in Warrior Country last May.



Warrior NCO Spotlight

Top NCO 'takes care of his Soldiers'



By Master Sgt. Michael Pintagro

2nd ID Public Affairs Chief

When 1st Sgt. Steven R. Rieches first served at Camp Hovey as a junior noncommissioned officer with 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment more than a decade and a half ago "all we had was a gym and a barber shop."

He can point to the precise location of old unit buildings and facilities; but the man and the base have developed enormously if the grounds remain familiar.

During his first assignment to the Warrior Division, Rieches led a team of infantrymen. Now the top NCO of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team he leads nearly 250 Soldiers of around a dozen different occupational specialties.

Rieches takes pride in running an HHC – particularly within the unique 1st BSTB. He consciously sought an opportunity to lead such an organization and got all he bargained for. Perhaps more. The 42-year-old native of the central Illinois town of Hoopston manages a bewildering array of assets, ranging from heavy infantrymen manning Bradley fighting vehicles and reconnaissance teams to communications specialists and military policemen.

"There's always a mission, always something going on," he said. "I have five platoons and they're all doing something different. We have everything from Bradleys to cooks, MPs, mechanics, commo to Bradleys and a couple Foxes for recon."

"Life was simpler the last time I was here," he noted with a smile. "Back then, I just had to worry about work. After that I could think about sleep and chow. Now the day doesn't end. There's always something – a Soldier, a platoon, a mission – it definitely keeps me busy."

The journey toward senior enlisted Army leadership in the Warrior Division and a rewarding if frantic mission on Camp Hovey began nearly two decades ago in the American heartland. Then a restless 22-year-old student at Southern Illinois University, Rieches pursued his studies, worked odd jobs and served part time in the Illinois National Guard. An "outdoors guy" with a "take charge" personality, he gravitated naturally toward the military but initially stopped short of a life commitment. Inspired by the Army's "Be All You Can Be" campaign, Rieches decided to transition from the Illinois National Guard to active service in 1990.

"I wanted to do more," Rieches said. He did.

While relatively "simple," Rieches' first tour of Camp Hovey yielded enormous professional benefits. He grew from a young Warrior to a promising junior leader. Leaving Warrior Country and Korea as a corporal, the young 11B developed into a solid infantry sergeant. Rieches served as part of the famed 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment opposition force at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. He performed training and mobilization missions at Fort Lewis, Wash. and Fort Benning, Ga., and taught the Primary Leadership Development Course at Grafenwier, Germany.

Rieches forged his senior leadership skills in the fiery deserts of Kuwait and Iraq under the most trying of circumstances. While serving as a platoon sergeant



Staff Sgt. Dennis Gogel

HHC, 1st BSTB 1st Sgt. Steven R. Rieches provides instruction on marksmanship fundamentals to Spc. Mark Gerow of HHC 1st BSTB as Pfc. Chance Tall of the same unit takes aim Dec. 1 at Camp Hovey.

with 2nd Platoon, B Company, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, Rieches and his men attached to the 3rd Infantry Division for Intrinsic Action. After eight months in Kuwait, the battalion returned state-side. Promptly ordered back to Mesopotamia for Operation Iraqi Freedom, the battalion remained "home" only "a couple weeks," with most of that short time devoted to field training.

Already detached from its higher headquarters, the 1-41st Infantry supported a variety of higher headquarters as slice elements. Rieches and his men supported the 101st Airborne Division and 82nd Airborne Division in addition to the 3rd ID and Ranger units. Eligible to wear any of four combat patches, Rieches accepted an invitation from the 101st and the "Screaming Eagle" adorns his right shoulder to this day.

Higher headquarters typically divided the battalion's Soldiers at the company and platoon levels, "so we were 'the company,'" Rieches recalled with a smile. With nothing but each other to rely on, Rieches, his platoon leader – an armor officer trained in no small part by his platoon sergeant – and the Soldiers developed into a close-knit family. That "family's" achievements included notable battlefield successes, including participation in the initial U.S. thrust into Baghdad. "We were the first platoon to clear Babylon," Rieches said. The platoon suffered many injuries but miraculously no deaths during a year of maneuver and stability operations.

After nearly 20 months of operational deployment with only the briefest of respites, the embattled battalion returned to its home base of Fort Riley, Kan. Slated to return to Iraq with the 1-41st, Rieches – along with his family – was spared another rotation by the arrival of permanent orders for Fort Drum, N.Y.

Assigned to 1st Battalion, 74th Infantry Regiment, Rieches and colleagues conducted training and mobilization missions.

Rieches made master sergeant and immediately sought an opportunity to serve as a top company NCO. The opportunity arrived promptly; and Rieches soon departed for Fort Jackson, S.C. to serve as first sergeant of a basic combat training company.

Many leaders influenced Rieches along the way – sometimes perhaps not in the way they envisioned. "I always try to take some of the good ideas from all the first sergeants and sergeants major I've worked for," he said. "I stole a lot of things from a lot of good NCOs. But even the bad ones gave me an example, an example of what to avoid."

Rieches identified his current battalion command sergeant major as one important mentor. "I learned from (Command "Sgt. Maj. William Hunter) always to think of the next move, to stay a step ahead and think of ways to improve things, to think outside the box," the first sergeant said. "Anytime I need advice I can go to him."

During his 17-years of service as a noncommissioned officer, Rieches has developed a unique leadership style blending confidence, humility and understanding, commitment to standards and compassion for Soldiers.

"I want Soldiers to know the standard and uphold the standard," he said. "There's no leeway – we stick to our guns. We don't accept a lower standard – if formation is at 0900, the Soldier needs to be there a little early, not at 0901 or 0905."

At the same time, his Soldiers invariably describe Rieches as reasonable and understanding. He also cultivates a family atmosphere, playing basketball with

See Rieches, Page 6

WARRIOR NEWS BRIEFS

Holiday mail

All Army post offices are offering extended hours through Dec. 18 in order to accommodate holiday mail traffic. In order for mail to reach loved ones by Christmas, the post office recommends mailing by the below dates. Note the priority mail expiration date is Dec. 7. Post office officials also recommend customers mail early and avoid the last-minute rush.

Bear in mind firearms, intoxicating liquors, switchblade knives and other sharp objects, animal parts, eggs and meat products are among the prohibited items that may not be mailed from the post office.

Space-available mail:

Nov. 30

Priority mail:

Dec. 7

Letters, first-class mail:

Dec. 7

Express mail:

Dec. 14

Banking centers closing

All banking centers in Area I will be closed on Dec. 25 for Christmas Day. For more information, call DSN 721-7792.

Knitting class

A knitting class for all skill levels will be held every Wednesday at Community Activity Center on Camp Red Cloud. Feel free to bring your

lunch and join the class any time between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. For more information, contact Sarah Colby at 010-4813-0109 or DSN 732-6246.

Incoming CALL

A lessons learned integrator now serves on the Division staff. Nicholas Spade of the Center of Army Lessons Learned, located at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., works to disseminate the latest in Army doctrine, publications, and tactics, techniques and procedures. He circulates throughout Indian Country and can be reached at DSN 732-7840, 010-8070-2584 or nicholas.spade@korea.army.mil. He hopes to interact with as many Warrior as possible and invites anyone with questions or feedback to contact him.

School bus schedule

Students enrolled in Yongsan Department of Defense Education Activity schools are provided round-trip transportation free of charge.

The school buses, which make the round-trip circuit daily during school days, transport students from kindergarten through 12th grade from departure points located on Camp Red Cloud and Camp Casey to the Seoul American Schools located on Yongsan Garrison.

Students should arrive at the departure points at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled departure time. The transportation service is meant for

current and newly enrolled students attending Seoul American Schools.

Sponsors requiring bus transportation for their children must bring a copy of Form 600, Student Registration, to the Seoul American School Student Transportation Office to register for bus transportation.

All students must possess a school bus pass issued by the Department of Defense Education Activity Student Transportation Office in order to ride the bus. Parents are responsible for bringing children to and picking them up from bus stops. Children in kindergarten through 2nd grade must be accompanied by a parent or guardian when they're dropped off at or picked up from the bus stops. The schudule is provided below. For more information, call DSN 732-7359.

Camp Casey to Seoul American Schools

Leave Casey: 6:10 a.m.
Arrive SAS: 7:40 a.m.
Leave SAS: 3 p.m.
Arrive Casey: 4:30 p.m.

Camp Red Cloud to SAS

Leave CRC: 6:30 a.m.
Arrive SAS: 7:40 a.m.
Leave SAS: 3 p.m.
Arrive CRC: 4:10 p.m.

Activity bus

Leave SAS: 6 p.m.
Arrive CRC: 7:30 p.m.
Arrive Casey: 8 p.m.

Movies

Camp Casey

Show times: Fri.-Sun. 6:30 & 8:30 p.m.,
Mon.-Thur. 7:30 p.m.

December 4...Surrogates, The Twilight Saga: New Moon
December 5...Love Happens, The Twilight Saga: New Moon
December 6...Planet 51, Zombieland
December 7...The Twilight Saga: New Moon
December 8...No Showing
December 9...Planet 51
December 10...No Showing
December 11...Cloudy with A Chance of Meatballs, Fame, The Blind Side
December 12...The Blind Side, Jennifer's Body
December 13...The Invention of Lying

Camp Red Cloud

Show times: Fri. 7 & 9 p.m.,
Sat.- Thu. 7 p.m.

December 4...2012, Halloween II
December 5...Jennifer's Body
December 6...The Invention of Lying
December 7...Fame
December 8...Surrogates
December 9...No Showing
December 10... The Twilight Saga: New Moon
December 11...The Twilight Saga: New Moon, Zombieland
December 12...Pandorum
December 13... Couples Retreat
December 14...Cloudy with A Chance of Meatballs
December 15...Love Happens

Camp Hovey

Show times: Mon.-Sun. 7 p.m.

December 4...Zombieland
December 5...Surrogates
December 6...The Twilight Saga: New Moon
December 7...No Showing
December 8... Love Happens
December 9...No Showing
December 10...The Blind Side
December 11...Zombieland
December 12...Fame
December 13...The Blind Side
December 14...No Showing
December 15...Jennifer's Body

Camp Stanley

Show times: Sun- Mon. & Thu. 7 p.m.,
Sat., Wed. & Fri. 7 & 9 p.m.

December 4...Planet 51, Halloween II
December 5...2012, Zombieland
December 6...2012
December 7...Love Happens
December 8...No Showing
December 9...The Blind Side
December 10...The Informant
December 11...Surrogates, Zombieland
December 12...The Twilight Saga:New Moon, Fame
December 13... The Twilight Saga:New Moon
December 14...The Invention of Lying
December 15...No Showing
December 16...Old Dogs

Camp Humphreys

Show times: Mon.- Fri. 6:30 & 9 p.m.,
Sat. - Sun. 3:30, 6:30 & 9 p.m.

December 4...The Twilight Saga:New Moon
December 5...Planet 51, The Twilight Saga:New Moon
December 6...Planet 51, The Twilight Saga:New Moon
December 7...Love Happens
December 8...Love Happens
December 9...Jennifer's Body
December 10...Old Dogs
December 11...Old Dogs
December 12...Fame, Old Dogs
December 13...Fame, Old Dogs, The Invention of Lying
December 14...The Invention of Lying
December 15...The Invention of Lying
December 16...Couples Retreat

CHAPEL SERVICE TIMES

Camp Red Cloud

Protestant:
11 a.m. Sunday
Catholic:
9 a.m. Sunday
KATUSA:
7 p.m. Sunday
COGIC:
12:30 p.m. Sunday

10 a.m. Sunday
Catholic:
Noon Sunday
11:45 a.m. Tuesdays
and Thursdays
LDS Bible study:
6:30 p.m. Thursdays
Jewish:
6:30 p.m. Friday

Camp Hovey

Camp Casey
Stone Chapel
Protestant:
10 a.m. Sunday
Memorial Chapel
Gospel:
11 a.m. Sunday
KATUSA:
6 p.m. Tuesday
West Casey Chapel
Protestant:

Hovey Chapel
Catholic:
9:30 a.m. Sunday
Protestant:
11 a.m. Sunday
KATUSA:
6 p.m. Tuesday
Old Hovey Chapel
Bldg. 3592
Orthodox:
10 a.m 3rd Sundays

Crusader Chapel
Protestant:
11 a.m. Sunday

Camp Stanley

Protestant:
10 a.m. Sunday
Gospel:
12:30 p.m. Sunday
Catholic:
11:30 a.m. Sunday
KATUSA:
7 p.m. Tuesday

Camp Castle

Protestant:
10 a.m. Sunday
KATUSA:
6 p.m. Tuesday

Castle Chapel

KATUSA:
6 p.m. Wednesday

Protestant:
10 a.m. Sunday

Points of contact

USAG-Red Cloud:
732-6073/6706
CRC Catholic:
732-6016
Hovey Chapel:
730-5119
Memorial Chapel:
730-2594
West Casey:
730-3014
Stanley:
732-5238
Humphreys:
753-7952
Castle:
730-6889
LDS chaplain:
010-5337-0872

A Warrior Thanksgiving



Pfc. Robert Young

Officers and senior noncommissioned officers of the Division Special Troops Battalion deliver traditional American fare to 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers Thanksgiving Day at the Kilbourne Dining Facility on Camp Red Cloud. The 2nd ID Band serenaded the dining Soldiers with jazz numbers and holiday favorites throughout the early afternoon meal. Family members and civilian employees joined Warriors for the feast. Dishes included turkey, ham, roast beef, shrimp cocktail, cornbread stuffing, mixed vegetables, hot rolls, mashed potatoes and gravy, and desserts including cookies, cakes and pies. Festive decorations punctuated by an ice sculptured cornucopia adorned the DFAC. DFACs throughout Warrior Country celebrated Thanksgiving in similarly festive fashion.

Rieches

From Page 4

the Soldiers and even “I want them to have some fun too,” he said. “Everything doesn’t need to be real serious. And I try to get to know the Soldiers. It’s hard when you have well over 200 of them, but I don’t want to wait until a guy’s in trouble before I get to know him. I try to know them all.”

It’s an approach junior leaders and Soldiers alike seem to embrace.

“His leadership style is active,” said Sgt. Alfredo Mier, “He’s understanding – he always gets the facts from everyone before he comes to a solution. One lesson I definitely learned from him is that everyone makes mistakes but the most important thing is to learn from them.

“He believes nothing is more

important than Soldiers,” added the California native. “If you take care of them, they’ll take care of the mission.”

“He leads by example,” said Pfc. Chance Tall, a 21-year-old administrative specialist from McKinney, Texas. “He looks into issues and takes all factors into account before making a decision.

“When we’re in the field or at the MOUT site, he doesn’t just sit in the truck – he jumps out and gets involved,” the McKinney, Texas native added. “He’ll help the Soldiers set up tents. He’ll serve chow. He participates in everything.”

Uniquely active in Soldiers’ missions and lives, Rieches develops Soldiers from the earliest stages. “You have to have confidence in your Soldiers,” he said. “Don’t start developing a platoon sergeant as an E-7,

start developing him as an E-5. And start developing your junior Soldiers into future NCOs – if you have privates and specialists functioning like NCOs you’ll have a great company.”

Soldiers return their first sergeant’s trust.

“He’s a good first sergeant,” said Spc. Mark Gerow, a 21-year-old administrative specialist from Rochester, N.Y. “He takes care of his Soldiers. A lot of things that aren’t his job he does anyway to make sure the Soldiers are taken care of.”

Rieches takes his status as a role model for his Soldiers very seriously.

“I try to uphold a good image for them, to give them an example if they need one,” he said. “I try to conduct myself as a decent, upstanding person.”

While Jill, his wife of 20 years, 6-year-old son Charlie and 12-year-

old daughter Sam remain in Columbia, S.C. he stays in touch with them via social media and devotes much of his infrequent spare time to communication with them. Himself a geographical bachelor, he nonetheless enthusiastically supports Division leaders’ vision for transformation of the 2nd ID footprint.

“I’m glad they’re trying to improve things for Families and for the Soldiers too,” he said. “The quality of life is much better, and they’re starting to attract more Families. It’s come a long way, and I’ve seen a lot of the progress.”

Rieches reaches 20 years of service next August, but seems in no hurry to leave the Army. “I’m still on the Army bandwagon,” he said. “Joining the Army was the best decision I ever made. As long as they want to keep me I’ll stay.”

FRG Roundup

From Page 1

Opportunities for Single and Unaccompanied Soldiers and youth programs and tour normalization efforts within their respective communities.

Event organizers described the event as informative and successful.

“Taking place in November, this coincided with national military family appreciation month, which was appropriate,” said Lt. Col. David Hater, the Division personnel officer. “And this time we focused not only on Families in general, as we always do, but on the schools opening up on

Casey, a DODDS update and the transferability of GI benefits as well as the third presentation on FRG funding. It was a good opportunity to take some time out of our schedule to focus on the things that are really important like our Families.”

“It went very well,” he added. “This was the CG’s first FRG Roundup as the Division commander and he gave some of his ideas on support to our Families. His comments were very well received, as were the presentations on education and veteran’s benefits. There were a lot of questions and a lot of interaction, so I’d say this event was very well done.”

Participants apparently shared

organizers’ enthusiasm for the Roundup.

“I think it’s very informative,” said Sabrina Jackson, the station manager of the Yongsan American Red Cross facility and wife of the garrison commander. “I like how they’re putting things together for the Families coming in. They’ll know a lot of things we didn’t. They’re listening to the Families’ concerns and actually doing something about it.”

“It’s fun and informative,” added Oh Wonsil, wife of Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Herron of 4th (Attack) Battalion, 2nd Aviation Regiment, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade. “The specialists came in and explained a lot of

important things with details. I like to attend these because I learn something new every time.”

Tucker’s message in particular resonated powerfully with many participants.

“I think it went wonderfully,” said Sun De Santiago, a family readiness support assistant based at Camp Casey. “I love how the CG talked about new ideas and new policies. I’m looking forward to the changes. I’m very excited about the direction we’re going as we move forward.”

The next FRG Round-up is slated for Camp Casey during the second quarter of the fiscal year.

Warriors honor American Indians

By Pfc. Robert Young

Staff writer

Around 200 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers honored the heritage of Native Americans who lent their image to the famed "Indianhead patch" during a luncheon held Nov. 22 at the Warrior's Club on Camp Casey.

The luncheon featured a spread of New World cuisine such as salmon, sweet potatoes and corn fritters that the Soldiers ate while waiting for the event to begin.

The capacity, enthusiastic crowd was eager to hear an account of American Indian history and Native Americans' contributions to U.S. military history.

Spc. Patricia Blackhorn of A Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, who is of Navajo descent read the proclamation that designated November Native American History Month.

The featured speaker for the event was Pfc. Aaron Medlock of B Battery, 6th Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 210th Fires Brigade, who is a member of the Chickasaw nation. He talked to the often bloody antagonisms between Native Americans and European settlers.

"Differences in culture can lead to many misunderstandings. An acceptance of difference and cross-cultural outreach is key to avoiding problems," Medlock said in his speech.

His speech cited the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor as a key event in Native American relations with other Americans. The attack was felt by all Americans and caused many men to join the military, regardless of tribe.

Medlock went on to recount the heroic deeds that Native Americans have performed in the American



Yu Hu Son

Pfc. Aaron Medlock of B Btry., 6-37th FA and the Chickasaw nation speaks to attendees of a Native American Heritage Month event held Nov. 22 at the Warrior Club on Camp Casey.

armed services. Among the notable American Indian service members he highlighted was Cpl. Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr. a member of the Ho-Chunk tribe from Wisconsin, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Korean War and ultimately lent his name to a major U.S. base in Korea.

Medlock, whose Chickasaw name is "Wannatubby," or Little Bear, closed his speech by noting Native Americans continue to serve the U.S. in large numbers. Many Native Americans describe the military as a place of integration and acceptance.

"I am constantly meeting other Soldiers with Native American roots. Sometimes I'm just hanging out with other Soldiers and they mention that they have some Indian blood and I'm like wow, I'm meeting more Indians in the Army than I grew up with,"

said Sgt. Arlando Harvey of 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, a member of the Navajo Nation.

The sergeant read a poem entitled "What is a Warrior?" – a meditation on the place of the American Indian in history.

The observance helped those in attendance to gain an understanding of an often over-looked part of American history and those whose experiences are shaped by that history.

"I thought this event was really interesting. It showed me where other soldiers are coming from. Even though his and my own experiences and upbringing are quite different we still faced many of the same challenges," said Pfc. Kristopher Price of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd ID.

Division pianist strives for musical, cultural harmony



Spc. Elliot Chodkowski performs for special guests from 2nd Provincial Office of Gyeonggi Province Nov. 24 at 2nd ID Band headquarters.

Story & photo by
Pvt. Lee Hyun Bae

Staff writer

Encouraged by a proactive pianist, members of the 2nd Infantry Division played a special concert for some special guests from the 2nd Provincial Office of Gyeonggi Province Nov. 24. These guests were invited by Spc. Elliot Chodkowski, a 2nd ID Band pianist. Chodkowski has been teaching his guests English for one year. He asked

his students to visit Camp Red Cloud to show them the place where he works and introduce the band he is a member of.

Students arrived at 2nd ID Band headquarters 7 p.m. the evening of the event. Once they were seated, Chodkowski introduced the band members to them one by one.

Then the band started the concert, playing Christmas carols and jazz music. They also played a Korean folk song, "Qezina-ching-ching-na-ne," as well as "May I love you" by the Korean popular music group Yurisangja.

The students seemed to enjoy the concert. They kept taking pictures of the band throughout the show and gave a big round of applause afterward.

After the concert was over, the band members and students took group photos. Chodkowski said he is pretty sure his students enjoyed themselves at the concert.

After looking around Camp Red Cloud, students and teacher went to the Mitchell's Sports Bar and Grill to have dinner together. They chatted eagerly while eating.

The students gave him generous praise after the show. Jung-Hee Ryu, an administration intern, said the concert was fantastic. Ryu is one of Chodkowski's students. She said she liked "Red Clay" the most.

"My favorite one was the last one they played. The solo part was very impressive. I was also impressed by the band's talent," said Ryu.

Chang-Hoon Kim, who works at the military and government cooperation division, said this program began two years ago when he asked the 2nd ID civil affairs office for volunteer. The purpose was to improve the English skills of workers at the provincial office. Kim also praised Chodkowski's teaching skills.

"Chodkowski is a great teacher with charisma. He communicates with students and leads the class well. He also has a great skill in writing. More than 20 students participate in his class," said Kim.

"I have volunteered for this job," he said, adding that he had taught the students English in 90-minute sessions for a year.

"I gave assignments such as writing journals," he continued. "One day, I asked students to write about what they would do if they get one day off, and I was very surprised. More than half of them wrote that they would just stay at home rather than going out."

Chodkowski's colleagues also recognize and appreciate his tutorial efforts.

"I'm very proud of Chodkowski," said Spc. Steven Fulir, 2nd ID Band flugelhornist. "He worked very hard for his class. I think his volunteer work improved the relationship between Korea and the United States."

There was always smile on Chodkowski's face, when he chatted with his students. Chodkowski said he plans to teach his students until August 2010.

"I'll do my best to improve my student's English skill and also teach American culture to them. I'm very proud of my students," said Chodkowski.



The sun never sets on the 2nd ID *Warriors train to recover Strykers*



Pfc. Christopher Lambert, a welder with B Co., 702nd BSB, 4th SBCT, sets blocks underneath an MRAP during an Interim Stryker Recovery System training class conducted Nov. 15 at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

Story and photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks

4th SBCT Public Affairs

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – When Warriors from the 702nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division go out to recover a 52,000-pound

damaged Stryker in some of the world's toughest terrains, they're going to need more than just a tow truck.

After conducting hands-on training with the Interim Stryker Recovery System Nov. 12-17, the Soldiers have just the tool for the task.

"I have been anxious to get my Soldiers trained because of what this brings to the fight," said Capt. James McConnell, the B Company, 702nd BSB, com-

mander.

Before the ISRS, there was really nothing in the Army's inventory that was specifically designed to retrieve a Stryker if it was severely damaged, said Michael A. Sawyers, the ISRS system acquisition manager.

As the 40-hour, week-long training began, many Soldiers could instantly see how useful the equipment and training can be.

"I could understand right away the strength of the ISRS when it just lifted the vehicle with no problem," said Sgt. James Smalley, who also serves with B Co., 702nd BSB.

The Soldiers trained on the handling of and received familiarization on each of the system's three components: the fifth-wheel towing and recovery device, high mobility recovery trailer and the heavy expanded mobility tactical truck.

"The Interim Stryker Recovery System provides recovery, towing, winching and evacuation capabilities for disabled Stryker vehicles operating in varied terrains of Southeast Asia," said Sawyers.

In addition, the ISRS can also be used to move other large vehicles, including the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, or MRAP, which the Soldiers also trained with.

The training pushed the Soldiers everyday to grasp the information and apply it immediately.

"What was great about it was that we learned what problems may occur in recovering a vehicle and we learn how to approach the situation and try to solve the problem right there," said Pfc. Christopher Lambert, a welder serving in the unit.

"The Raider Brigade has (new) assets and training now," said Sawyers. "This will allow them to maintain a higher level of combat effectiveness with their Strykers."

2nd ID Soldier carves savory niche in Iraq

By Capt. Jen Patterson

702nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th SBCT

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Two weeks before Thanksgiving most Americans were preparing for the holiday by completing their grocery shopping lists or making restaurant reservations; but Spc. Christian Colon of the 702nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, was busy spreading butter.

He did not just spread butter, but carefully molded it, designing a life-sized statue of a Native American warrior.

The project, called "Butterman" by most Soldiers privy to it, began two weeks before Thanksgiving in an icy-cold, refrigerated container with a rebar stand, aluminum foil, and of course, lots of butter.

"I wanted to sculpt something that would be significant to the unit. The Native American warrior is symbolic of

the Indianhead, on the 2nd Infantry Division patch, worn by the unit," said Colon.

The project began with a rebar stand welded by 702nd BSB mechanics and aluminum foil used to form the shape. Once the base was formed, he brought out the butter.

For several hours each day he added butter and molded it into the shape of the Native American, careful not to forget any details such as teeth, muscles and the elaborate headdress.

When the dining facility on Camp Liberty opened its doors on Thanksgiving Day, thousands of Soldiers streamed in to enjoy their meals. The buttered warrior impressed all and was the center of attention throughout the day.

"We are all motivated by the hard work the cooks put into the displays. Although we can't be with our Families it is fun to enjoy the food and art," said Capt. Wendy Stull, the 702nd Brigade Support Battalion intelligence officer.

After the Thanksgiving festivities, Butterman was melted and stripped

down to the frame.

When asked what he will do next Thanksgiving, Colon responded that he

already has plans.

"I'm going to save the frame and make him out of chocolate," he said.



Spc. Luisito Brooks

Spc. Christian Colon of the 702nd BSB, 4th SBCT applies the finishing touches to a six-foot tall warrior statue made of butter Nov. 26. The statue was displayed during the Thanksgiving Day meal at Camp Liberty dining facility.