

Indianhead

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Photo by Yu, Hu Son

'Gridsmashers' blast through Rocket Valley

Pfc. Giancarlo Casem
Indianhead staff

ROCKET VALLEY TRAINING AREA, Republic of Korea – Faced with new terrain, different weather and weapons systems, the "Gridsmashers" had their hands full, but still carried out their mission.

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, conducted a Return Staging Onward Movement and Integration live-fire exercise at the Rocket Valley training site, March 17.

"It is a great training opportunity," said Capt. William Daniel, commander, A Battery, 1st Bn., 27th FA. "Being in Korea is much more of a real world mission. It definitely gets our attention."

The Multiple Launching Rocket System unit from Babenhausen, Germany, called the 2nd Infantry Division their home during the RSOI exercise.

Each MLRS fired three rounds. The first round was a safety shot, to ensure that all safety measures were in effect. The second mission required the crews to fire on command while the third had them all hit the impact area at the same time. The Soldiers only had a matter of a week or two to get acclimated to their new weapon systems and be qualified to standard, Daniel said.

The operational tempo of the Warrior Division was noticeable to the "Gridsmashers." They also admired the Warrior Division Soldiers' fortitude.

"The op tempo here is much higher, has a faster pace," said Spc. Joey Correnti, 1st Bn., 27th FA. "The attitude is much higher, these guys are ready to go."

Correnti works in the supply section of the battery and was part of an advance party. He was tasked to inventory equipment his unit would be work-

ing with. The advance party was responsible for other logistical issues such as obtaining billets, food, weapons, vehicles, tools and, more importantly, the MLRS for the Soldiers.

"There were a lot of things we had to do before the rest of the Soldiers got here," Correnti said. "We had to make contacts and build relationships with new people."

This is Correnti's second time in Korea, the first time was as a tourist in 1997. The changes are remarkable, Correnti said.

"It is a lot different now," he said. "It is inspiring to see the Koreans building up their infrastructure. I am very pleased with the changes. It seems like they are getting healthier."

The advance party also performed reconnaissance on the mountainous terrain of Rocket Valley.

"There are some differences," Daniel

said. "The firing points in Germany are flatter with a few rolling hills, so we need different firing solutions."

With the firing points being so close together, the "Gridsmashers" had additional safety issues that would not be a factor back in Germany, said Staff Sgt. Larry Grijalva, 1st Bn., 27th FA, MLRS crew launcher chief.

"Safety is a big issue," he said. "There is more safety involved. The firing points are a lot closer."

During the morning of their live-fire exercise, the firing line was stopped due to the fog. The MLRS crews had to wait until the fog cleared up enough so that range control could actually see the impact zone miles away from the firing points. As soon as they were given the go ahead, the "Gridsmashers" did not take long to live up to their name.

See, SMASHERS, page 6



USO sponsors Easter Egg hunt

See story, Page 5



Soldiers cook Korean food for competition

See story, Page 8



Warriors go for the submission

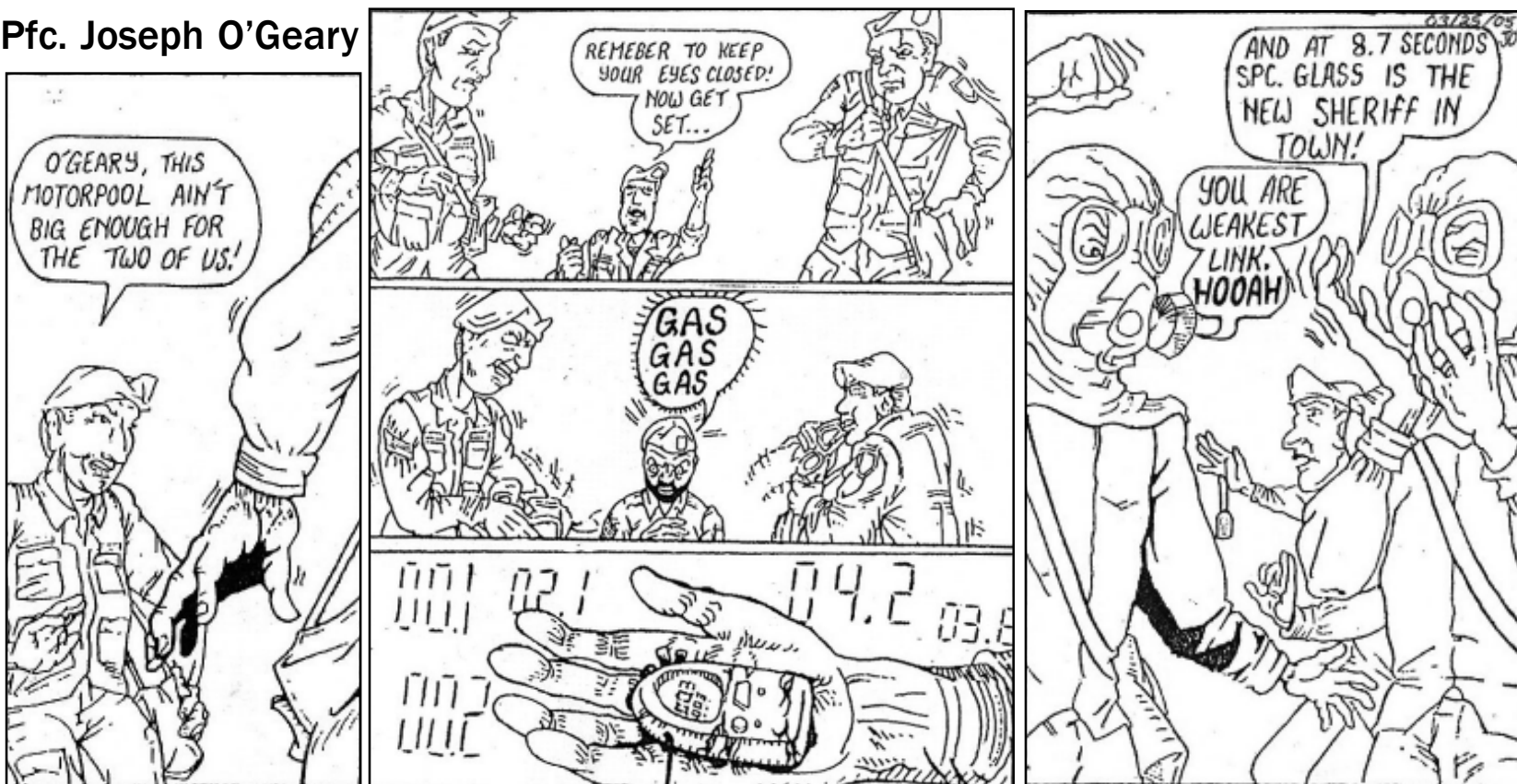
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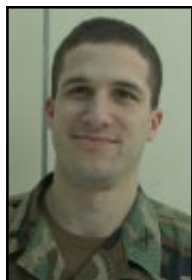
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1st Lt. Richard Watkins, HHC, 2nd Inf. Div.
"The Yongsan Drangon Hill Hotel. It's a good four-star hotel with great food."



Pfc. Melinda Coffell, HHC, 501st CSG
"Dobong Mountain because I love to hike and it's beautiful and has a great view."



Spc. Bud Hancock, 55th Military Police Co.
"Seoul Tower because you can see the whole city."



Pvt. Steven Hurd, 102nd Military Intelligence Bn.
"I like going out to the many restaurants in Uijeonbu. The food is good."



Where is your favorite place to go in Korea?



Pfc. Brittany Williams, 50th Multi-Role Bridge Co.
"CRC Bowling Alley because it's really close to Camp LaGuardia."



Spc. Kenneth Goodman, 55th Military Police Co.
"I like to go see the ocean at Busan."

Pfc. Kerry Mounts, HHC, 122nd Signal Bn.
"The E-Mart where I can pick up all kinds of high-tech stuff."



Spc. John Titus, HHC, 501st CSG
"Kyoungbok Palace because of its' architecture and the history behind it."



Staff Sgt. Jerald Johnson, HHC, 2nd Inf. Div.
"Apgujong because there is a lot of good shopping and a lot of people."



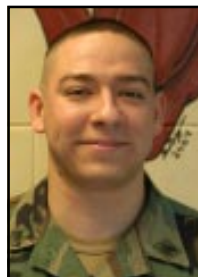
Pfc. Samuel Okunola, HHC, 2nd Inf. Div.
"Seoul Tower Restaurant because the view is nice and it rotates as well."



Spc. Elizabeth Ayala, HHC, 501st CSG
"Lotte World. It has a lot of games that distract you from everyday life."



Sgt. Ken Huguley, HHC, 2nd Inf. Div.
"The Uijeongbu train stations so I can see different environments."



Sgt. Armando Cantu, 55th Military Police Co.
"I like running around Lotte World because there are a lot of good rides there."



Pvt. Adriel Neal, 102nd Military Intelligence Bn.
"I like seeing the sites at COEX Mall."



Indianhead

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Warrior 66 ... Quality training through model

Brig. Gen.

Joseph Martz

Assistant Division Commander
(Maneuver)

Our Army's Eight-Step Training Model is found in several doctrinal references but most commonly in our Mission Training Plans (MTPs).

This simple model presents a superb organizing function to produce the realistic, quality training that our Soldiers deserve everyday.

The clearest demonstration that we do not fully understand the Eight-Step Training Model is that our Company-level training schedules typically list a continuous string of Step 6s (Execute the Training) with a few Step 7s (Conduct an AAR) added here and there. By moving from execution (Step 6) to execution (Step 6), we continually produce, and subsequently accept, substandard training.

For years we have been told by senior leaders "to do less better." The Eight-Step Training Model provides an outstanding method to achieve realistic, quality training to standard. If we devote the necessary time for Steps 1-5, then we must do less and we will do it better!

Step 1 – Planning the Training. The initial work

begins when Company-level commanders and their subordinate leaders write thirteen weeks of training schedules for the next quarter as part of the Quarterly Training Brief process. This deliberate process accounts for all available training time and logically details the resources required to achieve our training objectives for each event (e.g., Assembly Area Operations, Sergeant's Time Training, Physical Readiness Training, etc.). But Step 1 is a continuous process.

Each week during the Company-level Training Meeting, we review these training schedules and then, IAW FM 7-1 (Battle Focused Training), we lock in resources four weeks from the training event.

Steps 2-5 are accomplished in the final four weeks.

Step 2 (Train the Trainers) is the step that ensures the Leaders understand the Training Objectives and the resources (time, training aids and devices, etc.) required to achieve the Training Objectives.

Some common examples of Train the Trainer in our Division are PMCS Certification and Vehicle Commander Training.

Step 3 (Reconnoiter the Site) is critical for two reasons. First, this step

ensures the training site is appropriate for the Training Objective. Second, this step parallels the requirement to begin assessing Composite Risk for the training event.

Step 4 (Issue the Order) should occur at the weekly Training Meeting. This face-to-face meeting allows subordinate Leaders to issue their confirmation brief to the Company Commander to ensure these Leaders understand the order and are prepared to rehearse.

It also allows the Commander to provide his/her Composite Risk for the Training Event.

Step 5 (Rehearse the Training) is the most critical step in the process.

The Leaders, who will lead the training, use the rehearsal as their final check to ensure the right resources are available and the instructors/trainers are rehearsed to standard.

The biggest Training Management improvement we can make in our great Division is to ensure we detail Steps 2-5 on our Training Schedules. It is obvious that each of these steps takes time and should therefore be listed on our Training Schedules.

If we do not list them, then they will lose visibility and our Execution will not be to standard.

The first requirement for

Step 6 (Execute the Training) is the conditions check prior to the beginning of training. A conditions check is the simple checklist that ensures we are fully prepared to train as planned (e.g., have risk conditions changed due to weather, are medics on station for live fire operations, is the HAZMAT point open during Assembly Area Operations, is the far-station set and ready for long-range communications checks, etc.).

Without a well-developed conditions check, we will degrade the outcome of our Training Event significantly.

Step 7 (AAR the Training) occurs at a scheduled time after the Training Event and produces the tasks that require improvement and those that are sustained by achieving the Training Objectives.

Both outcomes will affect planned future training as reviewed at the next Company-level Training Meeting.

Step 8 (Retrain as Required) is the product of Step 7 and is scheduled based on priorities established by our Mission Essential Task List (METL). Since Step 8 Training Events typically occur after Training Schedules are approved by the Battalion-level Commander, that Commander must approve those changes.

Let me close by asking a



few questions to help you better understand the process. Our daily Physical Readiness Training (PRT) must address the needs of four distinct populations as we approach the hot weather portion of the year. These four categories of Soldiers conducting daily PRT are:

- * Special Population Soldiers (Overweight, Pregnant, or APFT Failures);
- * IAW 2nd ID Regulation 44-2 Soldiers on the two-week (ten-working days) acclimatization period;
- * Soldiers on Profile;
- * Soldiers conducting routine PRT.

Does your Training Schedule account for these four populations through all eight Steps of the 8-Step Training Model?

If it does not, then that is a good place to begin to fix our Step 6 (Execute the Training) throughout our great Warrior Division.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am wondering if a compassionate reassignment is for emergency purposes and is supposed to be helpful for the family, why does it take so long for them to get done and for the spouse to get back stateside at a military installation?

I thought it was supposed to be for the family in their time of need, but it seems like they are against this since we have been trying for this reassignment since January, 2005 after my husband returned to his unit after taking emergency leave to be home with us.

We're going through some family

problems dealing with one of our children and it is vital that he is home to help assist me in these efforts. Currently, our neighbors are helping with the problem, but it shouldn't be like that. That is my problem and I just want to know why reassignments take so long if they are for emergency purposes?

Sincerely,

A Concerned Military Wife

Dear Ma'am:

The compassionate reassignment program is there to support the needs of Soldiers and their family members in times of personal problems to include emergency situations.

As with most actions in the Army, particular steps need to take place in order to submit a compassionate reassignment packet to Human Resources Command, the approving authority.

Depending on the amount of time the Soldier, chain of command, and servicing Military Personnel Office takes to prepare and send the packet can delay the decision.

A panel of experts is selected to decide whether or not the Soldier should be approved for a compassionate reassignment. This board certifies the packet as legitimate.

This process provides this type of

reassignment to those who truly deserve it.

A Soldier has the option to resubmit the packet with additional paperwork to support it twice after the original has been denied. According to Army Regulation 614-200, there are two types of requests, temporary (which can be resolved in a year) and not expected to be resolved in a year.

The regulation outlines the reasons for filing a compassionate reassignment and those that may not be approved.

Sincerely,
Capt. Stacy A. Picard
509th PSB

Effective immediately, no tactical vehicles are allowed through Camp Casey's Gate 1. Instead, you must use Gate 2.



Photo by Spc. Chris Stephens

Sgt. James Bryant, left, and Spc. Dan Kessler go over paperwork prior to a Republic of Korea Appreciation function at the Commanding General's Mess.

A Day in the Life of ... Commanding General's Cook

Spc. Chris Stephens
Indianhead editor

CAMP RED CLOUD – It's 5:30 a.m. and Spc. Dan Kessler, is getting to work at the Commanding General's Mess on Camp Red Cloud.

His first order of business is to ensure the money and head count sheets are ready for breakfast, which is in a few hours.

"You have to be ready to go once you get in here," Kessler said. "There is no getting into the flow. A lot of my job includes paying attention to detail, so no matter what time of day it is, you have to be alert."

Kessler is a 92G (cook), but is assigned as an admin specialist at the mess.

His job includes making sure each meal's menus are squared away and to make sure the correct meal to be made is

put out to all of the cooks.

"If the menus aren't done, the meals aren't cooked. It's as simple as that," Kessler said. "I also have to ensure there is a recipe card out for any type of food that is being cooked. And what that does is make sure the food is cooked the same way consistently."

But, Kessler also said no matter what people think, there is no normal day at the CG's Mess.

"Everyday throws something different at you," he said. "Things change on a daily basis, and sometimes, on an hourly basis."

Kessler's supervisor, Sgt. James Bryant, considers himself lucky to work with someone who pays attention to detail and doesn't get stressed out in stressful situations.

"He's a very humble guy," Bryant said. "He doesn't get

stressed out. He takes it one thing at a time. And, by him doing that, it makes my job as an NCO a lot easier."

Kessler also brings something else to the team.

"Just because I finish my work early or I have a little down time, doesn't mean I can't help out the other cooks on the shift," Kessler said. "We're all on the same team with the same goal, so I'll do whatever I can to help."

But, when Kessler does have a lot of paperwork to complete, you'll find him sitting in his office going over his work three or four times.

"You have to make sure each box has the correct item or number entered in," he said. "If you don't then it could mess up the entire meal. There's no room for error."

Bryant describes Kessler's job as the front door of the CG's Mess.

"For people to come into the mess, food has to be there," Bryant said. "And, food is not there unless the menus are correct and the logistics portion is all taken care of. It's that simple."

Editor's Note: *The first paper of each month will feature the Day in the Life series.*

Dragon Hill hosts West Point Founder's Day dinner

Capt. Stacy Picard
509th PSB

YONGSAN GARRISON – United States Military Academy Alumnus and their guests, attended the 2005 West Point Founders Day Commemoration Dinner held at the Dragon Hill Lodge.

The dinner honored their founder, Col. Sylvannus Thayer, March 27.

This year, over 280 attendees were present from 32 class years making it the largest turn out in Korea for a Founder's Day dinner ever.

The Co-Chairmen of this year's committee was Brig. Gen. Steven M. Anderson (Class of 1978), U.S. Forces Korea J4 and Lt. Col Pat Kelly, USFK J4 WHNS.

"Once a year USMA grads throughout the world stop what they are doing to have a dinner and recognize the ideals of West Point - duty, honor, country," he said, "and pay homage to the thousands of the Long Gray Line that preceded us in serving selflessly in protecting our nation and promoting our values."

The evening began with the Benny

Havens Hour in Market Square for cocktails and conversation. From there, guests were seated according to class for dinner and the formal portion of the evening.

Capt. Ian Lynch (Class of 1999) served as the Master of Ceremonies. Remarks were given by the guest speaker Maj. Gen. George Higgins (Class of 1972), 2nd Infantry Division Commander, the youngest grad 2nd Lt. David Bryant (Class of 2004), executive officer, HHC, 2nd Inf. Div., and the oldest grad (Retired) Col. Art Parker '64.

"At the end of the speeches, all three get together to say that West Pointers may come from different generations, but we all stand for the same values," Kelly said.

Higgins focused on defining moments in his speech. The inspiration came from a line in the song "New Orleans" by country singer Toby Keith.

"The line reflects that in everyone's life, there is a defining moment when you know that what you have done is wrong or what you have done is right," Higgins said. "The pathways of our

lives are illuminated by a few defining moments so that when we look back in more pensive moments to consider where we've been."

Higgins also concentrated his words on the importance of the junior officers' responsibility to lead Soldiers by quoting from "This Platoon Will" by Maj. James W. Bellah, published in the Jan., 1943 issue of the Infantry Journal.

"No doubt his stirring words will help us all reflect on the significance of the ideals for which we stand and serve," Anderson said.

Parker took charge of the audience with a few amusing antidotes as the oldest graduate present at the dinner and in Korea, a title he's held for four years now.

As the youngest graduate, Bryant gave an informal update of the status of the corps since he attended and graduated last May. He also touched on how the events of September 11th changed their lives while attending West Point.

"We watched it live on television, physically sitting only 50 miles from the

horrific tragedy," Bryant said. "From that moment on, the green-suitors knew it was time to adjust curriculum and lifestyle accordingly. Instead of preparing cadets for peacetime leadership, the officers and NCOs now had to do what they could in two years to prepare us to lead an Army at war."

Bryant modestly boasted about accruing 240 walking tours, but there was another officer present who received 343 tours. Previously, there was only the century club for those who accrued 100 or more walking tours. Now the double century club exists at West Point.

After cutting the cake, the evening concluded with former members of the Glee Club leading attendees in the "Alma Mater", West Point's song. Their song echoed through the room as it did through the halls at West Point.

"And when our work is done, our course on earth is run, may it be said 'well done', be though at peace. E'er may that line of gray, increase from day to day - live, serve, and die, we pray, West Point, for thee."

The Black Market Hotline is 738-5118.

USO hosts community Easter egg hunt



Photo by Pfc. JeNell Mattair

Sophie Ratermann, 19-month-old daughter of Capt. Joe Ratermann and his wife Ivana, enthusiastically ran around the field collecting Easter eggs, Sunday March 27.

Pfc. JeNell Mattair

Indianhead staff

CAMP CASEY – Warrior Country children had an “eggcellent” time at the Camp Casey United Services Organization, Easter Sunday, March 27.

Children from the Second Infantry Division community were invited to attend the fourth annual USO sponsored Easter egg hunt.

Korean school children were also invited to share in the holiday festivities.

“Korean kids learn about Easter in class,” said Sally Hall, USO director. “Korean school officials called the USO to see if the Easter celebration could be shared with their children.”

The school children arrived in the morning and began playing American games like musical chairs, duck duck goose, and heads-up 7-up, said 2nd Lt. Isaac McCool, 4th Battalion, 7th Calvary Regiment.

“They were enthusiastic about the games the whole time,” he said.

The children also colored Easter eggs and spent some

time conversing with Soldiers in English.

Ten Soldiers from 4-7 Cav., came with McCool to share Easter with the kids. They spent the entire day with them, teaching them American traditions, games and language.

“It’s a good opportunity for everyone,” McCool said. “We are in a foreign country and have an opportunity to learn their traditions and show them ours.”

When the Soldiers showed up at the USO with their children, the Easter egg hunt was on.

The brightly colored eggs were hidden in bushes, trees and grass for the children to find.

The older children were let loose in the parking lot and surrounding areas and the younger kids ran around the baseball field gleefully picking eggs up off the ground.

Nineteen-month old Sophie Ratermann, daughter of Capt. Joe Ratermann, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Inf. Div., and his wife Ivana, had a spectacular time.

“She had a blast playing with the Korean kids and the other American children,” Ratermann said.

The Easter celebration at the USO is always a highly anticipated event, Hall said.

“About a week before Easter we start getting phone calls from people wanting to know about the Easter Egg Hunt,” she said.

The event was a good break from training to have some fun with the kids in the community and teach them about Easter, McCool said.

“I believe that these kinds of events are important because they show the U.S. Army’s commitment to families,” Ratermann said. “It helps to make life better for families in a sometimes difficult environment.”

After the Easter Egg Hunt the children were treated to pizza and juice boxes. They were also given plastic eggs filled with candy.

“It was really great that the community had a chance to get together like this,” Ratermann said.

The Legal Corner – How to find the right attorney

Capt. Jeffrey Bizon

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

Soldiers in the Second Infantry Division are often confronted with legal problems back home in the U.S.

Being in Korea, thousands of miles away, contributes to the difficulty of dealing with a legal problem. When confronted with a legal problem, Soldiers should make an appointment with the Legal Assistance Office to discuss it.

The officers who work in the Legal Assistance Office are all licensed attorneys and competent to provide legal advice on many issues. However, a Legal Assistance Attorney cannot appear in court on your behalf or represent you in any ongoing legal proceedings. Your legal problem may require you to have an attorney in the U.S. to represent your interests.

The Legal Assistance Office can advise Soldiers on when hiring a private attorney is a good idea.

Unfortunately, hiring an attorney can be difficult if a Soldier does not know where to begin. The following is a quick guide to hiring a private attorney.

Step 1: Find the Right Attorney

1. Ask family, friends, or other people you trust for personal recom-

mendations. Chances are that someone you know has used an attorney in the past and can give you a recommendation on whom to hire or to avoid. Your family and friends may also know local attorneys personally or by reputation.

2. The Legal Assistance Office keeps lists of attorneys in the U.S. who have agreed to take referrals.

3. Contact the county courthouse in the place where your case is pending.

4. Contact the state bar association or county bar association. Run an Internet search for your state’s bar association on a search engine to find the web site.

5. Search the web. There are other attorney referral services on line, but remember that not all information on the Internet is true.

Step 2: Ask Questions

Before hiring an attorney, you should ask some important questions. Ask about experience, specialty areas, how appointments are handled and office hours. It is also very important to make sure you have accurate contact information.

Step 3: How Much Will the Attorney Cost?

Perhaps the most important issue will be how much the attorney will cost. Lawyers may use several

methods to charge clients.

1. Hourly rate: The attorney keeps track of his hours and charges a set rate per hour.

2. Contingent Fee: The attorney charges a percentage of the amount recovered at trial or in a settlement. Typically there is no fee unless you win or settle.

3. Transaction Billing: The attorney charges a set amount for the work he performs.

You need to ask your attorney about other issues related to billing such as:

1. What kind of billing will be used?
2. What is the hourly rate, contingent fee percentage or cost for the transaction?
3. Are there additional fees or a different rate for court appearances?
4. Are you responsible for paying for the expenses of the court case incurred by your attorney?
5. Will you be billed for work done by paralegals, interns, or clerks?
6. How will filing fees or court costs be paid?
7. Is a retainer required? (a retainer is an amount paid up front to ensure the attorney is paid.)
8. How does the billing procedure work? Do you receive a monthly bill?
9. Ask for the fee agreement to be

set out in writing and keep a copy. Also ask for an itemized bill each month.

Ask as many questions as you need to feel comfortable about the fee agreement. If a lawyer is reluctant to discuss the billing process or refuses to set the fee in advance, you should find a different attorney.

Step 4: Beware of Potential Problems!

There are also several potential problems to be aware of when hiring an attorney.

1. Be proactive in your case. Do not sit back and just wait on your attorney to do everything. If your attorney asks you to provide documentation or papers to assist your case, then respond promptly.
 2. Be careful about advertising. Attorneys who advertise are trying to make money.
 3. Keep copies of documents you give your attorney and ask for copies of papers he prepares on your behalf. Ask to be copied on all letters he sends out on your behalf and keep your own file of the case.
 4. Keep track of your payments to the attorney and the fees charged.
- For more information on how to find an attorney or to pick up a list of attorney referrals, call your local Legal Assistance Office.

News Briefs

Junior Soldier Career Fair

The Second Infantry Division is hosting a junior Soldier career fair in order to promote career options offered to Soldiers in the ranks of E-6 and below.

It is also open to junior officers, (2nd Lt. to Capt.)

The fair will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Carey Fitness Center, Camp Casey.

A wide variety of booths, static displays and presentations from organizations such as Special Forces, Retention, Officer Candidate School, Green to Gold, drill sergeant, division retention, recruiting, warrant officer candidate school and others will be on hand to provide information and answer questions.

For more information, call Maj. Harriet Jackson at 730-4751.

Black Market Hotline

The Black Market Hotline number has changed to 738-5118.

If you notice a person purchasing numerous "like items" on a regular basis, call an investigator to report the situation.

If you make an observation which requires urgent attention, call the Camp Casey Provost Marshal's Office at 730-4417.

2ID Tax Centers

The tax program is a service offering tax preparation and assistance to all Soldiers, retirees, their dependents, and eligible DOD civilian employees.

The Camp Casey Tax Center is in Building 1876, and is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 1 to 6 p.m. Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

The Camp Stanley Tax Center is located at the Community Activities Center and is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, 1 to 6 p.m. Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays.

Service at Camp Red Cloud are offered on a limited basis by calling 732-6099 for an appointment.

Off-Limits Areas

Kwangdong AO – Camp Hovey

- * Joy Club
- * Grand Illusion
- * X Zone Club

Bosandong AO – Camp Casey

- * 777 Club
- * Pan Korea
- * New York

Uijongbu Ville – Camp Red Cloud

- * Texas Club

Off-Post Living Authorizations

Staff Sergeants are now authorized to move off post and receive BAH at the without dependent rate WHEN STATIONED IN THE U.S. The change was recently approved by the Secretary of the Army.

Wrestling Tournament

There will be a Warrior Invitational Wrestling Tournament April 16 at Camp Casey's Hanson Field House.

The event is open to all Soldiers in Area I.

Weigh-ins are from 10 to 11 a.m., with the matches scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m.

For more information, call 730-2322.

Eighth Army Marathon/Half-Marathon Championship

The 2005 edition of the Eight U.S. Army Marathon/Half-Marathon Championship will be April 30 at Camp Casey's Carey Fitness Center.

Registration is from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., with the course briefing at 7:45 a.m. and the race starting at 8 a.m.

For more information, call 730-2322.

Courageous Channel

Courageous Channel will be April 28 to May 1.

This is a non-combatant evacuation exercise run by U.S. Forces Korea.

For more information, call Maj. Janet Holliday at 732-8713 or email her at janet.holliday@korea.army.mil.



Photo by Cpl. Yeo, Joong Yeob

The Air Force Cadet Choir performed for Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division at the Camp Red Cloud Chapel and the Korean Training Center.

Choir performs for Warrior Soldiers

Cpl. Yeo, Joong Yeob

Indianhead staff

CAMP RED CLOUD – The U.S. Air Force Academy Catholic Cadet Choir performed for Soldiers on Camp Red Cloud March 24 at the Warrior Chapel.

The choir, a voluntary group of cadets that supports the Cadet Chapel programs, used their spring break and their own funds to come to Korea to perform for the Soldiers.

"We're here at our own expense," said Gary De Kler, U.S. Air Force Academy music director. "It's spring break for the cadets, and we decided to come to Korea.

For some of the cadets, nerves were building up prior to the performance.

"To be honest, I'm a little bit nervous (about performing)," said Cadet 1st Class Eric Laake, prior to the performance. "This is my first time here in Korea."

In addition to Camp Red Cloud, the choir performed for U.S. servicemembers, families and the Korean people at Yongsan Army Garrison, Osan Air Base and the Korean Training Center.

"A lot of people were delighted to see us wherever we went," Laake said.

Silent harmony echoed through the chapel as the concert began with the 24 cadets slowly stepping to the stage.

The group performed religious music as well as American folk songs and African-American spirituals.

"It is Holy Week, so we have performed at both masses and concerts," De Kler said. "We are very impressed with the Korean people and are deeply moved by the Americans serving here."

For one cadet, singing the "Army Song" was a different experience.

"I'm not sure how well we

sang the song," said Cadet 3rd Class Grace Anderson. "But, at the moment we were all singing the song together, I had a good feeling inside."

The choir also has a bit of a twist to it.

Not only is the choir comprised of 22 Air Force cadets, but there are also two U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen on an exchange program to the academy.

"Coincidentally, both (Midshipmen) have siblings in our choir," De Kler said.

De Kler said the choir members recognized that service in Korea is dangerous and difficult.

"You're far from home," he said. "We want you to know we're with you and appreciate your sacrifice."

Editor's Note: David McNally of the Area I Public Affairs Office contributed to this story.

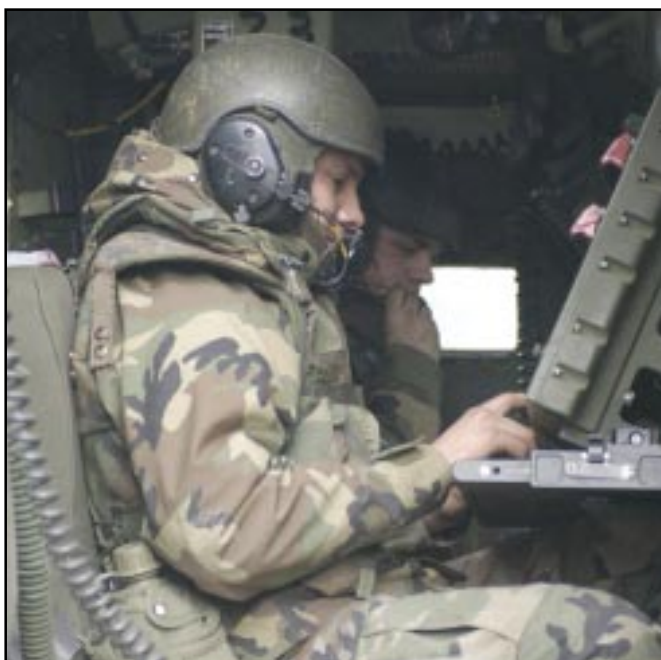


Photo by Pfc. Giancarlo Casem

Soldiers from 1st Bn., 27th FA, prepare for a live-fire exercise at the Rocket Valley live-fire range, March 17.

SMASHERS

from page 1

In a matter of minutes the training rockets blasted out of the MLRS and thundered through Rocket Valley at speeds up to mach two.

The "Gridsmashers" M270A1 MLRS were provided by Division Artillery and were a vast improvement over their own, older M270 MLRS back in Germany, Daniel said.

"The M270A1s are considerably much faster," he said. "Ours take two to three times longer – there really is no comparison."

The "Gridsmashers" also noticed the Warrior Division Soldiers' high level of morale.

"Both the Warrior standard and the motivation level is high," Grijalva said. "It is outstanding."

Warriors join community at Incheon Marathon



Courtesy photos

Thousands of runners from around the world join hands as a sign of unity prior to the start of the Incheon Marathon March 28

2nd Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

INCHEON, Republic of Korea – Hundreds of Soldiers from the 2nd Infantry Division participated in the Incheon Marathon/Half-Marathon March 28.

The event draws thousands of runners from around the world each year to see if they can complete the

course.

But, the Warrior Division didn't only represent itself with runners in the race – it also provided entertainment for spectators of the race.

Included in the event was the 2nd Infantry Division Band and Tae Kwon Do Team.

Crowds were very receptive to each group as both received loud ovations at the conclusion of their performances.



The 2nd Infantry Division Tae Kwon Do Team entertained the crowd at Moonhak Stadium during the marathon's festivities.

Court-Martial Results

Attempted Forcible Sodomy

On Feb. 25, a Private First Class assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, was convicted at a general court-martial of conspiracy to commit forcible sodomy, attempted forcible sodomy, false official statement, violation of a lawful general regulation for underage drinking, indecent exposure, and indecent acts.

After drinking large amounts of alcohol with his roommate, the accused fondled his own genitals in the presence of other Soldiers and placed his penis on his roommate's face and lips while being videotaped.

The roommate was asleep at the time and was unaware of the accused's actions but eventually learned of the videotape's existence. The accused denied involvement in the incident when questioned by his First Sergeant. The Court sentenced the accused to be reduced to E-1, to be confined for three years and to be discharged with a bad-conduct discharge.

In a related case tried at a general court-martial on March 14, a Sergeant from the same unit was convicted of conspiracy to commit assault consummated by a battery, assault consummated by a battery, maltreatment of a subordinate, and indecent act with another, for his participation in the above incident. He was sentenced to be reduced to E-1, to be confined for forty-five days, to forfeit all pay and allowances, and to be discharged with a bad conduct discharge.

feited all pay and allowances, and to be discharged with a bad conduct discharge.

AWOL and Military Star Card Theft

On Feb. 24, a PV1 from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, was convicted at a general court-martial of larceny and absence without leave (AWOL).

The accused found a Soldier's Military Star Card and bank card during a Javelin course in June, 2004 and used the Military Star Card to make approximately \$800 of unauthorized purchases at Military Clothing Sales and other AAFES stores. These charges were being investigated while the accused served a 30-day sentence pursuant to a conviction at a Summary Court-Martial for unrelated offenses. Upon release from confinement, the accused fled from the Republic of Korea. On Jan. 3, the accused was apprehended and tried for the larceny and AWOL offenses.

Upon conviction, he was sentenced to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined 24 months and to be discharged with a bad conduct discharge.

Barracks Theft

On Feb. 24 a PV2 from E Company, 702nd Main Support Battalion, pled guilty and was convicted at a general court-martial of wrongful appropriation, larceny, and housebreaking. In August

2004, the accused entered a fellow Soldier's barracks room and took a DVD and a diamond engagement ring without the owner's permission. The accused pawned the diamond ring in Tongduchon. In September, 2004, the accused again entered the victim's room, took his Gameboy, and went back to the room the following day to take the Gameboy manual.

The Court sentenced the accused to be reduced to E-1, to be confined for 18 months and to be discharged with a bad conduct discharge.

Drunk Driving in an Emergency Vehicle and Obstruction of Justice

On Feb. 25, a PV2 from A Company, 168th Medical Battalion was convicted at a general court-martial of making a false official statement, damaging military property, drunken operation of a military vehicle, wrongful appropriation of US property, and obstruction of justice. On Dec. 17, 2004, the accused took the Camp Red Cloud TMC's only ambulance and drove it off post, using the sirens and lights as if responding to an emergency.

The accused picked up another Soldier and a Korean national female and drove back on post after curfew, again using the sirens and lights, to avoid being stopped by gate guards. After returning to post, the accused drove the ambulance onto a stone wall near the 2ID Museum on Camp Red Cloud. After

being tested for blood alcohol content the accused switched his blood samples and made a false statement to his commander that he had not been under the influence of alcohol. The Court sentenced the accused to be reduced to E1, to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for 15 months, and to be discharged with a bad conduct discharge.

Credit Card Theft and Forgery

On Feb. 28, a PV2 from D Company, 702nd Main Support Battalion, was convicted at a general court-martial of larceny and forgery. In July, 2004, the accused stole another Soldier's wallet while the Soldier was playing basketball. The wallet contained a debit card and the accused used it to make unauthorized purchases. On Aug. 27, 2004, the accused stole two debit cards from two noncommissioned officers during unit organizational day at the Hanson Gym. In November, 2004, after the accused had confessed to the theft of the cards in July and August, the accused made unauthorized purchases on an AAFES employee's Visa Gold credit card that he found outside the Post Exchange. The accused falsely signed the signatures of the cardholders on the sales receipts.

The amount of the unauthorized purchases was approximately \$6,000. The Court sentenced the accused to be reduced to E-1, to be confined for 4 years and to be discharged with a bad conduct discharge.

Warrior chefs 'slice and dice' cultural gap



Photos by Pfc. Giancarlo Casem

Sgt. Eugenia Bradley, 1st Bn., 15th FA, cuts meat to be used for the Korean dish, bulgogi, during the Korean Food Competition at Camp Casey, March 23. Her team won the best bulgogi category.



Soldiers watch eagerly as Korean Master Chef Han, Choon Sup demonstrates some of his personal cooking secrets during the Korean Food Competition at Reggie's on Camp Casey.

Pfc. Giancarlo Casem
Indianhead staff

CAMP CASEY – Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division participated in the first-ever Korean Food Competition, March 23.

Camp Casey's Reggie's was the site of the cooking competition that pitted chefs from various dining facilities in the division against each other.

"Competition is good," said Brig. Gen. Charles Anderson, 2nd Inf. Div. Assistant Division Commander (Support). "... you get to demonstrate skills that you normally don't get to."

The competition also enhances the relationships between Soldiers and their Korean counterparts, Anderson said.

"With better Soldiers, come better neighbors," he said. "These Soldiers don't just learn how to cook Korean food, they also learn about the Korean culture."

Five teams participated in the event, 1st Headquarters Brigade Combat Team, Division Artillery, Aviation Brigade, Division Support Command and 302nd Brigade Support Battalion.

Each team was required to prepare three Korean dishes, beef bulgogi, sweet and sour pork, and thak boe keum stir-fry spicy chicken. The dishes were just three of the items that DFACs in the division have recently begun to offer.

"Soldiers will benefit from enhancing culinary skills in Korean cuisine," said Chief Warrant Officer Lena Tull, division food advisor. "We now offer Korean entrees in the division, this will help us better serve the Soldiers."

Before the start of the competition, the Soldiers were treated to a special treat. They received some last-minute instruction from Korean Master Chef Han, Choon Sup.

As he demonstrated some of his personal techniques in cooking food, the Soldiers eagerly jotted down notes.

Han, who has more than 20 years of culinary experience, said he appreciated the respect that the Soldiers paid him.

"They were listening carefully during the lecture," he said. "They are very eager to learn."

Soldiers were honored to have a Korean master chef take time to teach them. After Han's class, they also had the chance to sample some of his cooking.

"That was a cool experi-

"You're doing something different, not something within the box."

Pfc. Chris Cintron
1st Battalion, 38th Field Artillery Regiment

ence," said Spc. Tomicka Johnson, 302nd Brigade Support Battalion. "Who better to learn Korean food from than a Korean master chef?"

After the food sampling, the competition went underway.

Soldiers only had a matter of hours to complete the three-course meal. The Soldiers had to scramble hurriedly but still be precise and safe while working. They also had to overcome the challenge of being in a new kitchen.

"This is my first competition, so I'm learning," Johnson said. "I'll take the experience and just work with that. I'm just kind of winging it. You have to find everything as your working."

Competitors were judged on taste, color and texture. Additionally, they were judged on their uniform appearance and plate presentation. Judges included distinguished guests such as Anderson and senior ROKA staff members.

More importantly, the judges' panel included senior KATUSAs from various units in the division.

The addition of Korean cuisine at DFACs will help increase morale, especially for KATUSAs, Tull said.

"When we enhance skills in Korean cooking, we better prepare dishes," she said. "We provide them with a better quality product. American Soldiers love Korean food as well."

Following a lengthy food taste judging, which the judges enjoyed, the winners were announced:

Best Bulgogi – DIVARTY
Best Thak Boe Keum – DISCOM

Best Sweet and Sour Pork – Aviation Bde.

The Soldiers had fun during the event, despite the competitive atmosphere, said Pfc. Chris Cintron, 1st Bn., 38th Field Artillery Regiment. Cintron is part of the team that won best bulgogi.

"It was a lot fun," he said. "You're doing something different, not something within the box."

Alcoholism overcome by Soldiers

Spc. Chris Stephens
Indianhead editor

This is the first story in a two-part series on alcoholism.

Alcoholism is a problem many Soldiers face in the military and it can lead to problems both in military and in civilian life.

But for two 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers, facing their problem head on was something that changed both of their lives forever.

'Jessica' started getting drunk at 20 when a man in his 30's, highly respected in her religious organization, convinced her she needed to get sloppy drunk on a regular basis.

"I disregarded what I was taught in school and listened to this man instead because of his standing in the organization," Jessica said.

But for Jessica, things took a bad turn.

"He later sexually assaulted me," she said. "But, I didn't even care because I had discovered the complete euphoria of alcohol."

"I was also always getting fired from my jobs for being drunk," she said. "Once I started to drink I couldn't stop. So I would wind up drunk on the job. And with no job I had to have strange men pay for the alcohol because I had no money. Also I was continually sexually assaulted, but because it happened so often, nobody felt sorry for me anymore."

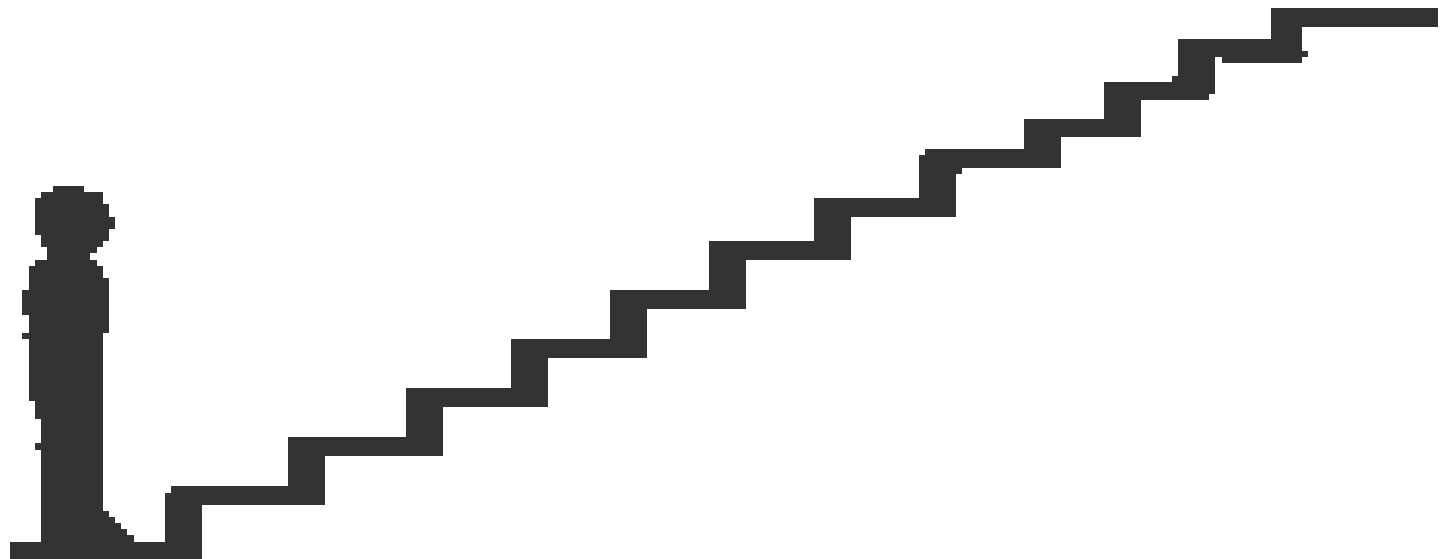
Her family resigned themselves to the fact that they would have to baby sit her for the rest of her life.

"They thought I would never be able to take care of myself, hold a job or stop drinking," she said.

Then one event happened that changed her life forever.

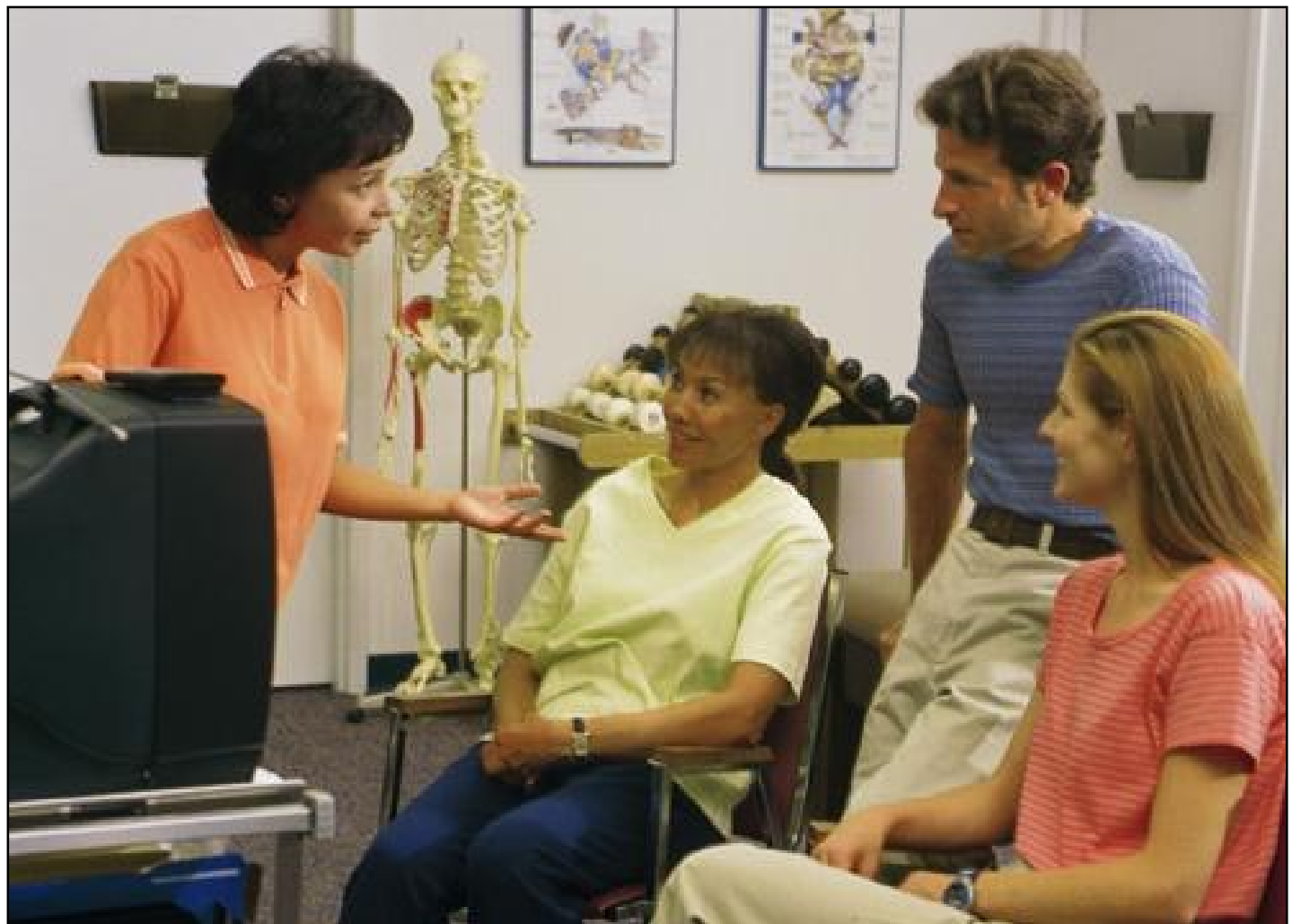
"One night I was trying really hard to get a buzz and it wasn't coming," Jessica said.

"So, I took some pills out of a guy's cabinet and tried to kill myself. He took me to the hospital to get my stomach pumped. This was the same guy who introduced me to drinking and drugs. At the hospital, they put me in detox and forced me to go to AA [Alcoholics Anonymous] Meetings. Trying to stay sober even in a locked ward was one of the hardest things I



Alcohol problems can't be overcome in one giant leap. Recovery takes one step at a time.

Courtesy photos



Having a strong support group is important to recovering from alcoholism. "You can't do it by yourself," Josh said.

have ever done."

Jessica said she then 'played around' in AA for about three years until she got a strong home group and a strong sponsor who made her change her sobriety date.

Today Jessica is proud of the change she has made.

"I have seven years of sobriety," she said. "I've paid back everyone I ever stole from. I don't owe anyone anything. I work to support myself and I have a good relationship with my family. Life is good."

For 'Josh,' drinking started at the age of 14.

"Drinking was a social lubricant for me and it was a fast solution to whatever

problem I was having," he said. "I drank because I liked the effect alcohol produced. No matter what was going on in my life, alcohol made it better."

During his ordeal of alcoholism, Josh dealt with a drug problem and had a Class A misdemeanor that landed him in jail for two weeks and earned him 12 months of probation.

"These were in addition to the numerous problems I had at work for not showing up on time [or] showing up so hung over that I would be useless the whole day," he said.

Josh continued to blame his drinking on his problems, instead of realizing that

drinking was his problem."

Then came the point where Josh decided to get help. But, that decision still came with feelings of uncertainty.

"I was terrified to get help," he said. "I didn't want someone to tell me I had a problem."

Josh's first step to recovery was to quit drinking.

"It was difficult at first, because I had to change my surroundings," he said. "It got easier when I realize that being sober does not mean you can't have fun."

"One of the first things I was told is that alcoholism is a lifelong desire," he said.

Josh has advice for those trying to get sober.

"If you're trying to get sober, remember that you can only do it one day at a time," he said. You have to be honest with yourself, and you have to find a power greater than yourself to help you."

And today, Josh lives a normal life and is sober.

"There are many reasons to get sober," he said. "You save money, have time to travel and work better."

"But, the best one is being able to experience a completely different way of life than I had ever experienced before," he said.

Editor's Note: *This is the first story in a two-part series on alcoholism.*

Women celebrate rich history

Pfc. JeNell Mattair
Indianhead staff

CAMP RED CLOUD – Women, along with their male counterparts, have given their lives in wars, documented as far back in history as the Civil War.

In 1948, several years after World War II, the Armed Forces Integration Act gave women a permanent place in the military.

Second Infantry Division Soldiers gathered to celebrate women's rich history with a luncheon, hosted by the 2nd Inf. Div. Equal Opportunity Office, at Camp Red Cloud's Mitchell's, March 22.

The 2005 theme for the luncheon was, "Women change America."

"You couldn't ask for a better topic of discussion than women in the Army," said Command Sgt. Maj. James Lucero, 2nd Inf. Div. Command Sergeant Major. "They are a magnificent group of people."

Highlighted in discussion were women such as Tony Morrison, the first black woman to receive the Nobel Prize in literature and Sally Ride, the first American woman in space.

"Although the list continues," said Marilyn Higgins, wife of 2nd Infantry Division Commander, Maj. Gen. George A. Higgins, "my audience contains the largest group of women who make contributions and changes every day.

Those are the women of the U.S. Army."

Historical records document that over 60 women were either wounded or killed in various battles during the Civil War.

Ellen May Tower was the first U.S. Army nurse to die on foreign soil in Puerto Rico, of typhoid fever. She was also the first woman to receive a military funeral in her home state of Michigan.

More than 400 military women lost their lives in World War II. In 1944, U.S. Army nurse, Aleda E. Lutz was the first military woman to die in a combat zone when her hospital plane went down.

Thirty-eight Women's Air Force Service Pilots gave their lives during World War II, and were not given full military status until many years later.

"Today there are numerous women serving in all kinds of roles," Higgins said. "When I see a woman in uniform I have the utmost respect for them.

"It is these women, it is you who change the world with courage and exceptional spirit," she said.

Women have struggled over the years to achieve the same rights as men, Higgins said. Now that women have those rights, they have decisions to make about what they want to do with their lives. When they make those choices, they need to stick to them and be the best that they can be, she said.



Photo by Pfc. JeNell Mattair

Staff Sgt. Tamiko Henry recites Maya Angelou's *And Still I Rise* during the Women's History luncheon.

About 350,000 women served in some capacity in World War II. They worked under temporary arraignments and inconsistent policies.

Those brave young women paved the way for women in the military today just as military women are still paving the path for future generations.

"You are paving the path for another generation of women," Higgins said. "I thank you for your courage, selfless service and for giving me the gift of freedom."

WRC officially opens during ceremony

Pfc. Giancarlo Casem
Indianhead staff

CAMP MOBILE – The Warrior Readiness Center opened officially during a ribbon cutting ceremony at Camp Mobile, March 22.

Distinguished guests from the city of Dongducheon, People to People International, the Association of the U.S. Army, and other local community members were present at the festivities.

"We recognize the improvements made," said Capt Star Hy, WRC commander. "We are proud to welcome everyone here."

The re-naming of the old Warrior Replacement Center to its new name was due to improvements made over the programs on instructions.

In the new five-day program, Soldiers are introduced to the culture of their host nation, Anderson said. Soldiers are trained in learning basic Korean phrases and history. The WRC not only integrates Soldiers

"We educate our Soldiers with the culture of our kind hosts, the Korean people," Anderson said. "This re-enforces the alliance created 50 years ago."

One of the new changes to the WRC's in-processing program is the addition of a one-day tour of the



Photo by Pfc. Giancarlo Casem

Brig. Gen. Charles Anderson, 2nd Inf. Div. Assistant Division Commander (Support), speaks during the ribbon cutting ceremony of the newly re-named, and renovated Warrior Readiness Center at Camp Mobile, March 22.

Gyounggi Province.

Other improvements around Camp Mobile were renovated barracks and facilities. As a first step for Soldiers new to the division, Soldiers receive additional training concerning the Warrior Standard and policy letters.

Anderson said that the new WRC program reflects the 2nd Inf. Div.'s investment in its Soldiers.

"When a Soldier departs the division," he said. "We want them to leave better developed personally and professionally."

The enhancement of the WRC training program further strengthens the U.S.-Korean alliance, Anderson said.

"The WRC illuminates the value of the alliance," he said. "It is enriched by Soldiers' experience in Korea."

In the future, division officials are also planning on adding a five-day safety course. The course will be open for junior leaders.

"As in everything in the Army, we can improve," Anderson said. "We want them not only to be good Soldiers, but good neighbors as well."

Movies

Camp Red Cloud

Show times: Mon.-Tues. & Thurs. 7 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 7 & 9 p.m., and Sun. 3, 6 & 8 p.m.

April 4-5 ... *The Wedding Date*

April 7-8 ... *The Ring 2*

April 9-10 ... *Are We There Yet*

April 11 ... *Boogeyman*

April 12 ... *Alone in the Dark*

April 14-15 ... *Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous*

Camp Casey

Show times: Mon-Thur 7:30 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 6:30 & 8:30 p.m. and Sun. 3, 6:30 & 8:30 p.m.

April 4 ... *The Wedding Date*

April 5 ... *Robots*

April 6 ... *Assault of Precinct 13*

April 7 ... *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*

April 8-9 ... *Boogeyman*

April 10-11 ... *The Ring 2*

April 12 ... *Pooh's Heffalump Movie*

April 13-14 ... *Are We There Yet?*

April 15 ... *The Aviator*

Camp Hovey

Show times: Fri-Sat. 7 p.m.

April 4 ... *Phantom of the Opera*

April 5 ... *Fat Albert*

April 6 ... *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*

April 7 ... *Pooh's Heffalump Movie*

April 8 ... *Are We There Yet?*

April 9 ... *Elektra; The Ring 2*

April 10 ... *Racing Stripes;*

Are We There Yet?

April 11 ... *Boogeyman*

April 12 ... *The Ring 2*

April 13 ... *Boogeyman*

April 14-15 ... *Son of the Mask*

Camp Stanley

Show times: Sun-Mon & Thur.-Fri. 7 p.m. and Wed. & Sat. 7 & 9 p.m.

April 4 ... *The Wedding Date*

April 6 ... *The Ring 2*

April 7-8 ... *Are We There Yet?*

April 9-10 ... *Boogeyman*

April 11 ... *Pooh's Heffalump Movie*

April 13 ... *Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous*

April 14-15 ... *Son of the Mask*

Camp Essayons

Show times: Sat., Mon.-Tue. & Thur. 7 p.m., Sun. 3 & 7 p.m.

April 5 ... *The Passion of the Christ*

April 6-7 ... *Alone in the Dark*

April 8-9 ... *Phantom of the Opera*

April 9 ... *White Noise*

April 10;12 ... *The Wedding Date*

April 13 ... *Are We There Yet?*

April 14 ... *The Ring 2*

April 15 ... *Are We There Yet?*



Check out the April issue of *In the Zone Magazine* to see what the USO or your local CAC is doing.



Photos by Capt. Stacy Picard

Capt. Stacy Picard

509th PSB

GANGCHEON RESORT, Republic of Korea – We went on a USO sponsored skiing trip to Gangcheon Resort, near the Camp Page area with a small group of Soldiers from Camp Casey.

It was an experience to remember and worth the price.

It was convenient since transportation, equipment rental fees and a lift ticket were included in the cost.

Upon arriving, we were issued our gear and passes for the day. There were free lessons offered, but everyone in our group had enough experience to feel out the groomed runs immediately.

The resort is made up of a ten run slope with the runs ranging in all categories of skill level from beginner to intermediate, and advanced.

With an area of over 7,000 meters, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Skiing, snowboarding and sledding are offered at the mountain.

We decided to go skiing for the first day and snowboarding the next.

We were fortunate enough to stay in one of the condo apartments for the night. It was

a traditional one-bedroom apartment complete with kitchen and all the essentials such as cookware and dinnerware.

The spacious living room had beautiful heated hardwood floors that led to a balcony view of the mountains slope, which was amazing.

The space would be more than adequate to allow a few guests to sleep on the mats provided in the closets. The room could easily accommodate four adults or a family of five.

The resort had all the amenities needed for a special weekend getaway, to include a sports therapy office, internet café, karaoke bar, and mini supermarket for supplies. We found enough items to make dinner for ourselves prior to going skiing again in the evening hours.

But first, we hit the sauna and pool to relax.

Although skiing is the primary sport of choice, snowboarding is picking up popularity in Korea as well.

There were as many snowboarders as skiers all around. The second day was a great opportunity for me to try out a new way of maneuvering down the mountain.

Snowboarding reminds me of a cross between surfing and



A skier goes down one of the intermediate slopes at the Gangcheon Resort. The resort offers 10 ski-runs on its slopes. However, ski season is officially over, but the resort does offer summer activities as well as golfing.

skateboarding. It requires balance and some technical knowledge. After three hours and a few falls, I was going along on my own and feeling pretty confident in my abilities.

Overall, I would definitely recommend taking a skiing trip with the USO.

Unfortunately, Gangcheon's ski season is officially closed, but they do have a golf course

and other summer activities.

Call the USO at 730-4812 about the resort accommodations as it is available for rent throughout the year.

Engineers conduct hand-to-hand combatives

Pfc. Giancarlo Casem
Indianhead staff

CAMP HOVEY – More than 20 Soldiers from the 2nd Engineer Brigade grappled each other into submission during a combatives training exercise at Camp Hovey gym, March 16.

The train-the-trainer event consisted mainly of junior non-commissioned officers and lieutenants.

“This training is important because it teaches Soldiers self-defense in combat,” said Staff Sgt. Felix Gonzalez, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 2nd Eng. Bde. “If the enemy is up-close, you need some form of defense.”

Soldiers spent their third afternoon of the five-day program squaring off and grappling each other into submission.

Soldiers spent three minutes against each other battling for position trying to put their newly learned skills to work.

During the last 10 seconds of each fight, Soldiers were allowed to lightly hit each other.

This was done to ensure that the Soldiers do not lower their guard, said Staff Sgt. Justin Carlisle, 50th Multi-role Bridge Company, combatives instructor.

“It gets you combat ready to the fullest,” Carlisle said. “It’s a full impact class. When these Soldiers go back to their units, we want them to have the same intensity.”

The class’ intensity was a challenge for the Soldiers.

“That was definitely the hardest part about it,” said Pfc. Adam Taylor, 4th Chemical Co. “The constant action takes a lot of energy.”

Many Soldiers could be seen sprawled-out on the blue wrestling mats during their brief 15-minute breaks in between each block of lessons.

The training regimen not only tasked their energy, but also their bodies.

“We get a lot of soreness, bloody noses and lips,” Carlisle said. “We use a lot of muscle and joints that you do not normally use.”

For the Soldiers though, the long strenuous day was worth it in the end.

“This program teaches Soldiers what they might encounter,” Taylor said. “It is your last resort and you have to be prepared if you have to use it.”

Although the combatives class took its toll on the Soldiers, the training was still a success, Carlisle said.

“It went well, they have shown a lot of progression since day one,” Carlisle said. “They have a lot of drive and motivation, that is what you need in this training.”



Photos by Pfc. Giancarlo Casem

Two Soldiers wrestle each other for the dominant position during a hand-to-hand combatives class at the Camp Hovey Gym, March 16. Combatants spent many grueling hours learning and implementing moves against each other.



TOP: Two Soldiers try to wrestle each other into submission.



A Soldier performs a “rear naked choke” hold on his opponent during a sparring portion of the train-the-trainer class at Camp Hovey Gym, March 16.

BOTTOM: Female Soldiers also participated in the class, which featured rigorous ground-fighting moves.



Some Soldiers used improvised techniques to gain the upper hand on their opponents.