ROK, U.S. female Soldiers bond

Soldiers save women in fire

That’s when the Soldiers looked elsewhere for help. “There was a Korean Police booth right outside the gate, so I ran over to them and told them there was a fire and that we needed assistance over at New York Sub,” McCanless said.

“We realized when we came back that there was an apartment upstairs and tried ringing the buzzer,” Erickson said.

“Finally an elderly lady came downstairs and she didn’t speak English at all. The only thing she could say is ‘Come in! Come in!’ She was pretty frantic about it, so we ran upstairs,” Erickson said.

“The smoke was so thick you couldn’t see a foot in front of you. It was black. We ran upstairs and got the elderly lady out,” Erickson said. “She pointed toward the bedroom and her daughter came crawling out of the bedroom. She was paralyzed.”

Caught off guard by the fire, the woman and her daughter didn’t have time to react on their own.

“I opened the door and she looked right up at me. I knew right off the bat that something wasn’t right. She wasn’t able to walk out on her own,” Erickson said.

“By the time we got downstairs, the paramedics and fire department had already arrived. Everybody was there waiting. I just laid her on the stretcher,” McCanless said.

The Soldiers exited the apartment via an external stairwell on the side of the building. “I went back in and showed the firemen where they could enter the building,” Erickson said.

To many people, the two Soldiers demonstrated to the fullest extent the meaning of selfless service and honor. Both Soldiers were humbled about their actions. “It was about being in the right place at the right time with the right mentality,” Erickson said.

Regardless of any fear they may have felt, they didn’t hesitate to help others in need. “In basic they taught us to react to contact,” McCanless said. “Plus, I was in the Boy Scouts and they taught us to always do the right thing.”
Professional leaders engage, educate

By Command Sgt. Maj. James A. Benedict

Everyday you find yourself talking to another Soldier or someone about your experiences in the military.

In a lot of cases you make comments about the professional organization you come from or those you have been to prior to Korea.

All this is a great way to generate professional discussions to establish ways to make yourself and/or your unit better.

Nobody likes to have someone correct them or tell them that they are doing something that is in violation with policy or regulation. Remember, the whole goal is to make it right.

We as leaders need to do just that! We need to be out there leading and executing professional discussions that will develop Soldiers.

If you see something wrong, do something about it. We, as leaders, have to know what we are talking about before we can make those on the spot corrections or try to professionally develop our subordinates through those professional discussions.

What I would recommend to leaders and all those Soldiers in the great 2nd Infantry Division area is to get into the publications, regulations, manuals and policy letters.

We need to read and understand books, newspaper articles, regulations and policies, the Internet and any other material that could help us to better develop ourselves and our subordinates.

Great Soldiers must know what we are talking about. Our professional standing in the military is important and as ambassadors to our country we are doing a great job here in the 2ID area of operations, and we need to keep doing that.

As Soldiers, all Soldiers, it’s our job to take care of one another and our family members. There is a lot of information available regarding our great Army, it’s just a matter of reading and complying.

We all know that information and communication is key to our success.

The last comment I will make is to ask leaders at all levels to get engaged with Soldiers and their families.

Get engaged with the Soldier discipline within your units, get in the barracks and enforce standards. Influence your Soldiers so they know we are here to take care of their families.

Korea is a unique assignment. But if you get engaged in this great community you will soon see that Korea can be one of the most memorable tours in your career.

Continue to stay focused on the mission and continue to have those professional discussions.
501st Sustainment Brigade shows down in field dining competition

Story and photo by
James Cunningham
Area I Public Affairs Office

NORTH STAR RANGE – When the 501st Sustainment Brigade fielded its kitchen and dining facilities June 20 to compete in the Phillip A. Connelly competition for food service excellence, they didn’t send any Soldiers squirrel hunting.

Army chefs spend a lot of time preparing for the Connelly competition.

“It takes about two months to prepare step by step on how things need to be done,” said Warrant Officer Martha Longino of the 501st Sustainment Brigade.

“The evaluators look at overall dining facility operations, food preparation and presentation, and sanitation standards, among other issues,” she said.

“We are here to evaluate the field category of the competition,” said Warrant Officer Uriel Amev, 2nd Infantry Division field category judge. “We look for things like site selection and layout, food preparation and production, and how the Soldiers are fed under field conditions. That’s basically what the Phillip A. Connelly competition field category is all about.”

“We sample all the products of the kitchen as part of the judging,” Amev said. “From what I see, overall, the Soldiers are doing a great job out here. They are competing against the 143rd Air Defense Artillery in Suwon.”

Longino explained that the Connelly program focuses command attention on the Army’s food programs and improves the food on Soldiers’ plates in garrison and field environments. This improvement stems from better kitchen equipment, dining areas and local training programs, she said.

“The competition is very tight and the Soldiers put forth their all every single time we set up,” Longino said. “That is what makes the team so good at working together. We want to give the Soldiers the best food and nutrition every time.”

Food service Soldiers have to be team players, she said. It’s a fact. In the Army, Soldiers change duty assignments, but the core of what we do remains the same. Teamwork is essential for food service Soldiers to be able to come to a new environment and maintain the same level of standard.

Winners are notified by 8th Army. They let the competitors know what field team has won. That unit then advances to the DA level of competition.

Warrior News Briefs

Vocalist Needed

The 2nd Infantry Division Band is looking for male and female vocalists.

Requirements for consideration include being in the rank of Sgt. or below, have diverse vocal experience, have six months left before DEROS and have your unit be willing to release you for duty with the band.

For more information, call 732-6695.

SGLI Increase

Effective July 2006, the Service members Group Life Insurance rates will increase from 6.5 cents per $1,000.00 to 7.0 cents per $1,000.00. If you previously had $27/month deducted out of your LES, effective in July 2006 your deduction amount will be $29/month. The new premium cost includes an additional dollar per month for Traumatic Injury Protection coverage, which is mandatory.

Battle of the Bands

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is hosting a Battle of the Bands contest July 22 at 7 p.m. at Moyer CAC, Yongsan.

You can pick up an entry form at any CAC and fax or email the form to Gene Gerth at raymond.e.gerth@korea.army.mil or John Lavender at john.lavender@korea.army.mil. The Area I POC is John Antes at 732-6766.

Sgt. Audie Murphy Club

If you’re interested in becoming a member of the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club or are currently a member looking for activities to get involved in with the club, call the new 2ID SAMC Chapter president, Master Sgt. Thomas Ricks at 732-7638, or by email at thomas.ricks@korea.army.mil.

On the DMZ

Soldiers put Connelly competition food to the test. Mitch Daniels, the governor of Indiana, and his staff take a tour of the Joint Security Area June 25 at the DMZ.
DONGDUCHON – Soldiers traded M16 rifles for paint brushes and gloves June 20 to clean up a nursing home located on a small hill near Camp Hovey.

Five Korean Augmentation To United States Army Soldiers and seven U.S. Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry, visited Bethlehem House of Love, the nursing home, to help clean up the surrounding areas and paint the hallway walls.

This visit was coordinated by United Service Organization staff, Sally Hall, the manager of USO, and Sophie Kim, the program coordinator.

“We were looking for some good neighbor programs and Sally came up with this great idea of visiting a nursing home,” said Staff Sgt. Malcolm White, the program noncommissioned officer in charge. “This kind of activity helps the Soldiers to better understand the surrounding community and we are more than happy to do this.”

As the Soldiers arrived at the nursing home, they unloaded the food they brought. The food was for a small lunch party they held to entertain the nursing home residents.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and sandwiches were prepared for the lunch meal. While the nursing home personnel were busy setting up the table, White sang a happy birthday song in Korean for the elders who celebrated their birthday in June.

When the table was all set, the Soldiers and the residents all gathered around. Before they start eating, Reverend Lee, Hyun Jung, the manager of Bethlehem House of Love, offered the lunch prayer. Everyone put their hands together and prayed with him.

After the prayer, the luncheon started and the Soldiers visited with the residents. As the Soldiers sat beside and tried to talk to them, most of the elders first reacted with awkward smiles, but, as the time went by, they felt more comfortable and showed genuine, full smiles.

“In this installation, there are 29 elders, who suffer from dementia, palsy and other senile infirmities, and there are 10 volunteer workers to help them get along well with their daily lives,” Lee said. “This is the first help we got from any military units and we feel very thankful about this.”

The meal was over and the Soldiers started to get on with the work. Five Soldiers were picked to paint the hallway walls. While some of the Soldiers had a hard time getting used to the paint brushes, one U.S. Soldier showed off very adept painting skills.

“My uncle builds houses, and I helped him a lot, so I am very used to this kind of work,” said Spc. Joshua Gaudetta, HHT, 4-7 Cavalry. “I like helping other people, and I am glad to be here to help beautify this place.”

There were not only U.S. Soldiers but also KATUSA Soldiers who volunteered to come and help, making this visit a ‘combined-force’ program.

“Although I had engaged in some volunteer activities when I was in middle and high school, doing one with U.S. Soldiers is very new and interesting,” said Pfc. Shin Hyan Suk, HHT, 4-7 Cavalry.

While the Soldiers were painting the hallway, the other seven Soldiers were busy beautifying the outside surrounding areas.

They started out organizing all the leftover bricks lying around the ground. They also dumped the garbage bags that needed to be carried to the dumping ground.

As they dumped all the trash, Lee found some wooden boards beside the dumping area which seemed very useful. The Soldiers used a trolley to carry the wooden boards to the storehouse.

It was a hard work, but the Soldiers smiled all day.

After they had finished carrying the boards to the storehouse, the Soldiers spread out and picked up the trash. It was after about six trash bags were full and the wall painting job was nearly done the Soldiers started to finish up and get ready to go back home.

“This is a day of delight and happiness,” Lee said. “There is no way to describe how grateful I am for all these Soldiers to come out and help us. Thank you.”

“We enjoyed today, helping out such a wonderful installation,” White said. “We are planning to make this visit monthly or at least bi-monthly, to help out this nursing home.”
Local children visit CRC

Story by Pfc. Kim, Sang Pil
Staff Writer

CAMP RED CLOUD - Thirty four children from Rainbow Community Juvenile Center visited Camp Red Cloud with their teachers June 29 for a day of fun, education and relaxation.

The children, who were guests of the Special Troops Battalion, were excited to take part in the day’s events.

These children, who are mainly raised in single-parent households, live under such severe financial strain that their parents must work long hours in order to bring them up.

So they come home from school to find their parents working late. This is where the RCJC, located in Jakeum-dong, Uijongbu, steps in to take care of them.

“Jakeum-dong office invited our kids who are under-privileged and need the government’s financial support in order to carry on their lives,” said Ji, Jung Seon, the manager of RCJC. “Some of the kids do not receive support because they are just over the status that fits into the category where they receive support from government. Since they get no protection from home after school, we take care of them by the help of Uijongbu City and the Jakeum-dong office personnel.”

It’s not just the RCJC and the community that work hard to take care of these children, their teachers also play a large role in their day to day lives. Among the teachers were six college students who work at RCJC from June 1 to June 30, taking care of the children after school, helping with study and meals.

“We give guidance to kids with their study in school and also prepare fun programs for them such as treasure hunt and cooking,” said Jang, Hui Jung, a second-year in Department of Care and Education for Young Children of Kyungmin College.

Making an effort to educate and entertain these children, the RCJC and city officials often reach out to the local community. “Jakeum-dong has been a good neighbor of 2nd Infantry Division because there used to be Camps Essayons, Kyle, and Sears,” said Jang, Hui Jung, a second-year in Department of Care and Education for Young Children of Kyungmin College.

The visit wrapped up with a lunch at the Mitchell’s club. The children practiced brushing their teeth properly, and they were given a class on how to brush their teeth properly.

Today was another example of community relations as the 34 children, with their teachers, arrived in Camp Red Cloud via chartered bus and started the tour by visiting the 2ID Museum.

After the museum tour, the children played soccer on the Village Museum.

“Jakeum-dong office invited our kids who are under-privileged and need the government’s financial support in order to carry on their lives.”

“This was a nice day for them to learn what fire fighters do and get to look at the fire truck so close. The best part was learning to know the existence of U.S. Soldiers in our community.”

Community

Show times:
Fri.-Sat. 7 & 9 p.m., Sun. 6.30 & 8.30 p.m., Mon.-Thur. 7 p.m.
Jul. 14: Click; RV
Jul. 15: RV; Poseidon
Jul. 16: RV; Poseidon
Goal! The Dream Begins
Jul. 17: Goal! The Dream Begins
Jul. 18: RV
Jul. 19-20: Superman Returns
Jul. 21-22: Just My Luck
Jul. 22-23: Mission Impossible 3
Jul. 23: Scary Movie 4
Jul. 24: Just My Luck
Jul. 25: Mission Impossible 3
Jul. 27: Pirates of Caribbean; Dead Man’s Chest
Jul. 28: Pirates of Caribbean; Dead Man’s Chest

Camp Casey
Show times:
Fri.-Sat. 6:30 & 8:30 p.m., Sun. 6:30 & 8:30 p.m., Mon.-Thu. 7:30 p.m.
Jul. 14: RV; Poseidon
Jul. 15: Poseidon; Scary Movie 4
Jul. 16: Click; Goal! The Dream Begins
Jul. 17: Click
Jul. 18: RV
Jul. 19: RV; Poseidon
Jul. 20: RV
Jul. 21: RV
Jul. 22: Mission Impossible 3; Just My Luck
Jul. 23-24: Superman Returns
Jul. 25: RV
Jul. 26: RV
Jul. 27: Just My Luck
Jul. 28: X-Men The Last Stand

Camp Hovey
Show times:
Mon.-Fri. 7 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 3 & 7 p.m.
Jul. 14: United 93
Jul. 15: Stay Alive; Click
Jul. 16: Larry the Cable Guy; RV
Jul. 17: Goal! The Dream Begins
Jul. 18: Click
Jul. 19: RV; Poseidon
Jul. 20: RV; Poseidon
Jul. 21: RV
Jul. 22: Shiloh; Superman Returns
Jul. 23: Mission Impossible 3
Jul. 23-24: Just My Luck
Jul. 25: Superman Returns
Jul. 26: Goal! The Dream Begins
Jul. 27: RV
Jul. 28: Poseidon

Camp Humphreys
Show times:
Mon.-Fri. 6:30 & 9 p.m., Sat. 9:30, 6:30 & 9 p.m.
Jul. 14: Click
Jul. 15-16: Hoot
Jul. 17-18: Just My Luck
Jul. 19-20; Mission Impossible 3
Jul. 21-23: Superman Returns
Jul. 23: RV
Jul. 24-25: Lucky Number Steve
Jul. 26-27: X-Men; The Last Stand
Jul. 28: Pirates of Caribbean; Dead Man’s Chest

For more information on movie schedules or to see if there are any changes, visit www.aafes.net.
SOLDIERS
from page 1

only event because she’d never met female American Soldiers before, but was concerned about American participants possibly not enjoying the activities.

“I worried that the American females might not have as much fun as the rest of us because they’ve never played our Korean games before, but it’s been better than I expected. Through the laughter, I hear their enjoyment and excitement,” she said through an interpreter.

Kim went on to say that “a friendship between the two country’s women would be valuable and there should be more opportunity to do this in the future.”

Spec. Barbara Saunders of B Company, Special Troops Battalion initially had some of the same concerns, but said meeting female ROK soldiers “was awesome.”

“They seem just like us,” Saunders said. “It was surprising by the female ROK Army soldiers being like us. I thought they would be stern, quiet and so forth, but they were talkative, friendly and joking.”

In addition to learning Korean games like Chae-cha-gi, and Nul-tui-gi, similar to a playground teeter totter, (but you stand instead of sit), the soldiers participated in a Hanbok fashion show, where the American soldiers paraded across the stage in various versions of traditional Korean clothing.

“I got to experience more of the Korean culture, Saunders said. “I enjoyed the palace, the food and how friendly everyone was.”

Kim said it was important for women soldiers who serve on the peninsula to spend time together so that “they can feel what others think about them as soldiers and as women.”

“The job of first sergeant is very important, but events like this are also very important, so it’s worth being away from work for a day,” Kim said.

“This was only one day, but the hope is that the friendship will continue and deepen the cultural exchange between the two nations in the future,” she said.

SAF recognizes servicemembers for work

By Pfc. Amanda Merfeld

SEUL, South Korea – Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors gathered at the Grand Hyatt Hotel to recognize servicemembers who have significantly contributed to Korean communities and celebrate the unity between South Koreans and Americans June 22. One person from each service was awarded the Korea America Friendship Society Award for their contributions and actions.

Army Capt. Jayme Hansen, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 121 Medical Command, was recognized for his contributions to the enrichment of Korean American relations by recruiting, training and certifying Korean Red Cross volunteers at the 121 General Hospital.

“Every little bit that you can do does so much for the community, and we all can do a little bit for the greater good,” Hansen said.

Air force 1st Lt. Rebecca Giacalone, 51st Fighter Wing Command Post, received her award for leading and inspiring her Airmen to improve community relations between Korean and American residents. Her selflessness was showcased as she performed CPR for 25 minutes on a Korean civilian until medical personnel could arrive.

Navy Lt. j.g. Jessica Gandy, Commander, Naval Forces Korea, is a participant in CNFK’s primary sponsorship of the Hy-e-shim Won orphanage and has been the driving force in expanding CNFK’s engagement activities with Korean youth in public schools and guest lectures at local universities.

Marine Corp Sgt. Ty Ryan, Marine Forces Korea, has immersed himself in activities to enhance his knowledge of Korean language, customs and traditions. Ryan has become a cultural asset to the U.S. Marines by serving as translator, tour guide and instructor on Korean customs and traditions.

Awardees and guests were treated to a night of high-class food and entertainment. Cheon-go, the narrative musical dance based on Korean traditional

Girls catapult through the air during their one-on-one entertainment to a Korean game called nul tiggy.

U.S. Soldiers participate in a ‘fashion show’ displaying traditional Korean garb. They dressed in everything from traditional wedding clothing to Hanbok.

Self-sacrifice is like everything else you do. It can become a part of every Soldier. It falls under self-sacrifice,” said Hansen. “Self-sacrifice is like everything else you do. It can become a part of every Soldier. It changes not only one person, but whole communities.”
The 177th Finance Battalion inactivated during a ceremony at Carey Fitness Center on Camp Casey June 21. The ‘Diamond in the ROK’ was inactivated in order to retain residual force structure.

During the Division Chaplain Change of Stole ceremony July 7, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Francis Belue relinquished his spiritual leadership and supervision of the Division’s Ministry Teams to Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Thomas (Mike) Durham.

Maj. Gen. James A. Coggin, 2ID commander, passes the colors to Col. Chris Queen during the 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team Change of Command ceremony June 29 at Indianhead Field, Camp Casey. Col. Michael Feil left 1HBCT after two years of command to assume his new role as 2ID Chief of Staff.

Left to right: Col. William H. Morris, incoming commander, Col. Benjamin H. Williams, deputy commander and Col. Peter W. Foreman, outgoing commander, review the troops during the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade change of command ceremony at Camp Humphreys June 23.
Summer program promotes reading

CAMP CASEY - The library smelled of popcorn and was filled with excited children who, on cue, all roared like lions.

Nearly 20 children gathered around the two “storytellers” of the day - Donna Coggin and Cindy Newton - at the start of the “Choose your Adventure” summer reading program at the Camp Casey library, July 6.

“I saw summer reading programs at different libraries, and I thought it was a good program to introduce here at Camp Casey,” said Lt. Col. Terry Hodges, Camp Casey garrison commander. “We are ready to support family members here,” he said, adding that he thought it appropriate to have the 2nd Infantry Division and Area I commanders’ wives as key readers for the event.

Steven F. Toepper, Camp Casey and Hovey library director said, “I wanted to bring an American library atmosphere here to Camp Casey with this program, and I hope everybody can have fun in the library.”

The summer reading program started as Coggin read Roar!, by Pamela Edwards.

Before she began reading, she told the children how she loved to read to her own children and her favorite story to read to them when they were young was, “Are You My Mother?”

“I think it is important to read books with your children and spend time together,” Coggin said.

“Children grow so fast. This kind of program is a unique opportunity.”

Newton then read the story, “Rainbow Fish and the Sea Monster’s Cave,” by Marcus Pfister.

Newton also reminisced about reading to her daughter and said, “It was an honor to participate in the opening of this great program.”

“Reading is a doorway to the future,” she said.

“You just have to open the door for your children.”

“I think it was quite fun and slow reading for the children to understand,” said Ah-Hyun Decicco, the mother of one girl who participated in the program.

“I’m looking forward to come to next week’s program also.”

Camp Casey library will continue the summer reading program every Thursday at 10 a.m. through Aug. 10.

Story and photos by
Cpl. Lee, Seung Hyub
KATUSA Editor

Independence Day in Area I

Celebrities from the United States flew into Warrior Country to celebrate the Fourth of July weekend with 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers.

Pam Tillis, a country singer, sang in front of 2ID audiences at her concert at Camp Red Cloud Gym July 2. Juvenile, along with DJ DemP, Partners N Crime from the center UPT label that Juvenile owns, and Skip (another UPT member), moved the crowd at Camp Casey Hanson Field Center July 4. Juvenile’s new album, ‘Reality Check,’ hit number one in the billboard chart this year.
CAMP RED CLOUD – Every year Korea experiences seasonal rains. These monsoons bring heavy rain, low visibility and low cloud ceilings. For U.S. Forces Korea Service members, June to September is the time of year to be on the lookout for rainfall’s severe impact on operations. “Some seasons are heavier than others,” said William Kapaku, the civilian executive assistant for U.S. Army Garrison, Camp Red Cloud. “Over a period of time people tend to forget, and with the turnover of our troops, some have never experienced monsoons.” In Korea, it is possible to have more than 20-inches of rainfall in a 24-hour period. Officials say Soldiers have good reason to respect monsoon season. Four U.S. soldiers, and more than 300 Korean civilians were killed during monsoon season in 1998. USFK suffered $242 million in lost or damaged property. In 1999, a 2nd Infantry Division soldier died in a flash flood in Warrior Country and the rains of 2000 caused floods at Yongsan Army Garrison in Seoul.

Damage was extensive. A typhoon in August 2003 caused $4 million in damage across the republic. “The key is awareness,” said Jeff Holbrook an operations officer for Installation Management Agency, Korea Region Office. “Many people come to Korea that have never been here before and know nothing of the dangers caused by a storm.”

Monsoons and typhoons, during a 30-40 day period account for more than 50 percent of annual Korean rainfall. However, U.S. military officials have an extensive plan and people on installation staffs have parts to play. “We execute the plan in phases,” Kapaku said. “Phase one is preparation and planning. We have been doing that since April.”

In phase one, workers clear debris from ditches on the sides of roads and streambeds on installations. They fill sand bags, and store them - just in case. Commanders conduct periodic risk assessments, and identify potential problem areas. Key staff members update alert rosters, so they can react when the weather turns sour. “If there is any lesson the flood of 1998 taught us, it was to do everything humanly possible to prepare for monsoon season.”

Weather advisories or warnings trigger the warning phase. In Seoul, the Installation Management Agency-Korea Region forms a destructive weather response team. Area commanders go into action. Heavy rains create hazardous conditions. There are dangers from lightning, reduced visibility when driving, and hydroplaning. However, possibly the most serious danger comes from flashfloods.

During emergency conditions, the action phase of the plan goes into effect. Area commanders account for their people, and respond to conditions. This means manpower placing sand bags, controlling traffic, relocating equipment, performing search and rescue operations, and evacuating and sheltering victims.

“In 1998 we had a major catastrophe at Camp Stanley,” said Kapaku. The infamous 1998 floodwaters weakened part of the mountain that overlooks Camp Stanley. The terrific weight and power of the water sent mud, rocks and large boulders crashing down the mountain. “It was very humbling to see part of the mountain collapse,” Kapaku said.

“The boulders blocked the upper ammunition holding area.” The 2nd Infantry Division reacted immediately by sending a Camp Howze engineer platoon to clear the debris and reopen access to the ammunition. Monsoon season, Kapaku said, can have a big impact on the division’s readiness. In the post-destructive weather recovery phase, officials assess damage.

Area commanders integrate key staff members to assist in disaster assistance. Units immediately move to clean up the aftermath and minimize health hazards. “We know the power of what happened in 1998,” Kapaku said. “That was when we were unprepared that we suffered the most damage.”

Kapaku said his people are now constantly prepared for the worst. This is because of lessons learned from past disasters - lessons that were hard learned.

Debris piled up around the Medal of Honor memorial next to the division museum after a massive flood in 1998.

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Korean college students bring the passion of the World Cup to 2ID

Story and photos by
James Cunningham
Area 1 Public Affairs Office

CAMP CASEY — Fires Brigade’s Thunder bested All for One Korean college team 4-1 in the first ever June 24 Friendship Cup soccer game. The idea for the game came from the enthusiasm for the World Cup soccer series, said Col. Matt Merrick, commander of the 2nd Infantry Division Fires Brigade.

“This is an outreach program presented by the USO to spread some culture awareness among Korean students who have never been exposed to the U.S. Army, from four colleges in Seoul and U.S. Army Soldiers,” Merrick said.

“We thought it was a great opportunity to do a strategic outreach program, and have a thrilling game of soccer and present a Friendship Cup at the end.” The idea for the friendship game came to Sally Hall, director of Area 1 United Service Organization, by a telephone call.

“We are always out there looking for good opportunities for Good Neighbor Programs,” Hall said. “We have done English language classes for schools, visited orphanages and centers for children with special needs, and nursing homes for the elderly, so this Friendship Cup is a unique program.”

The coach of the All for One team called Hall and proposed a game of soccer with the Soldiers, so she said ‘why not’ and called Merrick. Hall called Merrick and said, “I have an opportunity to bring some college students up here to Camp Casey who have never had any exposure to the U.S. Army.”

“I said I would do it in a heartbeat. This is exactly what we want to do to broaden the Good Neighbor Program, so we immediately signed up for it,” Merrick said.

Before the game began, Merrick announced that not only did the USO support the event, but Han, Kyong Nan, manager of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army snack bar at Camp Casey, provided hamburgers and hot dogs to everyone in attendance at no charge.

The competition was fast and furious from the beginning. The All for One Team, so named by the Korean student athletes, was the first to score; however, the Thunder, so named by the Fires Brigade, scored four points quickly thereafter. For the spectators, it was exciting.

“This was terrific,” said one Soldier spectator. “The time just flew by, what a game.”

“This is the Friendship Cup,” Merrick said. “We will repeat this again next year with a different team from four different colleges and a different Fires Brigade team. This game will strengthen the Republic of Korea and the United States alliance and build friends for life.”

No one expected the game to end the way it did.

“I predicted a tie in this game,” Merrick said. However, when the game ended some were surprised.

“It was a win regardless of who lost. Both teams won. We are very proud of this and will make this event better next year,” Merrick said. “I just can’t say enough about the USO for sponsoring this and opening doors for us to bring college students up here to join in the friendship with U.S. Soldiers so they can understand what we do and how we operate. Overall it was a great event.”

On The Mat

The Independence Day weekend brought out some of the best athletes on the peninsula to compete in various sporting events. Left: Body-builders show themselves off in front of Mitchell’s at Camp Red Cloud July 1. Right: Boxers from Camp Casey and Camp Red Cloud duke it out at CRC’s block party.