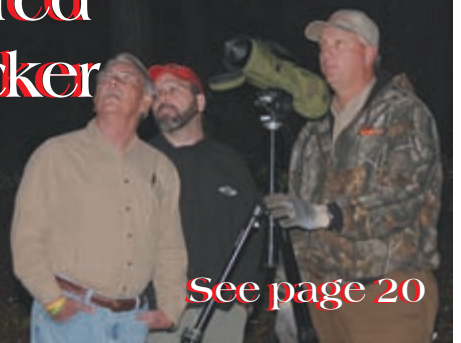


Endangered woodpecker search



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The Signal



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News UPDATE

Warrior in Transition campus opening

An open house and ribbon cutting Ceremony for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center Warrior in Transition Campus and Fort Gordon's new Soldier and Family Assistance Center will be held 10 a.m. **today** in front of Building 327.

Tours will be available in all of the new buildings that now house the Warrior Transition Battalion cadre and staff.

In addition to the open house, there will be a Purple Heart ceremony 2 p.m. **today** in the medical center auditorium.

For information call Jennifer Chipman at (706) 830-4157.

Signal Conference coming

Approximately 800 attendees that include general officers and other senior military service members, senior civilians and communication network architects are expected at the 2008 Fort Gordon Signal Conference on **Dec. 2-5**.

The Signal Conference theme is "Building the Team, Shaping the Future." The purpose of the conference is to inform selected worldwide members of the war fighting community on emerging technologies and how communicators will conduct business in the new Warfighter Information Network – Tactical environment.

A golf tournament is scheduled at the Gordon Lakes Golf Course on Dec. 5.

For more information contact Capt. John Sanders, at (706) 791-8035.

Christmas House opening

The 42nd Annual Fort Gordon Christmas House opening ceremony will be 10 a.m. **Nov. 24** in Gym 6, Building 21711. For information call (706) 791-3880.

Financial Education

Financial experts will visit Fort Gordon to offer free management and much more. They will present information from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. **Dec. 10** at Alexander Hall, noon to 2 p.m. **Dec. 11** in the break room of the Active Duty Rehabilitation Unit at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center; and from 9 to 11 a.m. and again at 1 to 2:30 p.m. **Dec. 12** in the first auditorium of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center. The programs are free.

For more information contact Sonya McCaw at (706) 791-2147 or visit the website: www.SaveAndInvest.org.

Fort Gordon focuses on Families

Year of accomplishments highlights Family Covenant signing anniversary

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

Fort Gordon's Army Community Service office has done its part in seeing the Army Family Covenant fulfilled over the past year.

"There's probably not one person, regardless of branch or company, whose life was not touched through the Army initiatives that were employed and implemented by the signing of the Army Family Covenant," said Vanessa Stanley, ACS chief.

ACS programs have expanded to meet the pledges of the Army Family Covenant to standardize and fund existing Family programs and services, increase the access to and quality of health care, improve Soldier and Family housing, ensure excellence in schools, youth services and child care

and expand education and employment opportunities for Families.

One of the biggest and newest programs falling under the ACS umbrella is the Soldier and Family Assistance Center, which cares for the Warrior in Transition and Family.

About a dozen employees staff the center which provides one-stop shopping to the wounded warrior – whether it be finding child care or providing financial counseling, the SFAC has a multitude of services to assist.

Another program which helps Families of active duty, National Guard and the Army Reserves is the Army Family Integrated Support Network which was streamlined into the Army One Source program.

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Photo by John Vannucci

Kayla Yoesting, daughter of Sgt. William Yoesting, Co. A 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion enjoys all of the attention she received at the Army Family Covenant Anniversary Ceremony for the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon at the Gordon Club on Nov. 19. Kayla's mother Johanna and sisters Bridgett, 3 and April, 2 are busy with pen and paper.

Medal of Honor Soldier shares heroic story

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

The medal on Sammy Davis' chest tells a story of its own.

"I'm not a hero. I'm a Soldier. I did my job. That's what Soldiers do," said Davis, who received the Medal of Honor for his actions in saving his fellow Soldiers in Vietnam in November 1967 and spoke at Alexander Hall on Nov. 14.

Davis' story was used in part in the film Forrest Gump. The footage of actor Tom Hanks receiving the medal from President Lyndon Johnson was the actual footage of Davis with Hanks' head superimposed. The

Forrest Gump character's military bravery was also based on Davis' story, but it only told part of what Davis actually did.

Wounded and with mortar fire raining down upon him, Davis risked his life to cross a river to save his fellow Soldiers.

The welcome he received when he returned was not that of a hero, however.

Arriving in San Francisco, Davis and his fellow Soldiers had to walk through a group of war protestors under the scrutiny of television cameras in order to board their airplane. These protestors hit the Soldiers, jeered at them and threw trash and manure on them.

Davis said they held their heads high as they passed

through the gauntlet. Bleeding and dirty, they boarded the plane where they were quickly taken care of by the aircraft's crew. They were given clean shirts, placed in first class and given champagne.

"The promise we made to each other was that there would never be another troop treated the way we were treated," he said. As Davis spoke, he passed his Medal of Honor through the crowd of Soldiers in attendance.

"I'm the caretaker," he said. "This medal belongs to you. It is so important that each one of you should hold it and feel it."

It was seeing someone from his hometown receive the Medal of Honor which spurred Davis' interest in serving in the military. His father was in World War II and was trained at Fort Gordon.

Davis often takes the medal to the hospitals where he meets with wounded Soldiers. They show the same resiliency as Davis.

"They say they can't wait to get back to their fellow Soldiers," he said.

Davis had to receive special permission to return to duty after his injuries.

Seeing that medal up close was a thrill for the servicemembers in the audience.

Pvt. Cisco Johnson and Pvt. Vance Dunn took photographs of it with their cell phones to remember the occasion.

"It's an honor just to hold it," said Johnson. "It's inspiring."

"This is the highlight of my day," said Dunn.



Photos by Charmain Z. Brackett

(Above) Medal of Honor recipient Sammy Davis speaks to service members in Alexander Hall, Nov. 14. (Right) Pvts. Cisco Johnson and Vance Dunn admire Davis' Medal of Honor.



New construction gets underway

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

A little rain didn't dampen the spirits of officials breaking ground on a new ordnance facility Nov. 13.

"We've been waiting for this building to be considered for six years," said Lt. Col. Edward Buckner, director of the Ordnance Electronic Maintenance Training Department.

The new Radome building will house the air traffic control repairman's course currently taught at Brant Hall.

The facility will bring all the ordnance training together in a centralized location.

About 36 Soldiers are trained in that specialty each year at Fort Gordon. The course is 37 weeks long.

The building will be 6,000 square feet with 24-foot tall walls.

"The building got the name RADOME from the original re-



Photo by Charmain Z. Brackett

(From left) Breaking ground Nov. 13 at the new Radome building are Phillip Payne, with the Army Corps of Engineers; Lt. Col. Sean McKenney, 73rd Ordnance Battalion commander; Command Sgt. Maj. Roland Pechie, 73rd Ordnance Battalion command sergeant major; Lt. Col. Edward Buckner; John Curry, deputy garrison commander; and Command Sgt. Maj. Clarence Brooks, OEMTD sergeant major.

quirement, which was a need to be able to train the ATNAVICS (Air Traffic Navigation, Integration and Coordination System) in a controlled environment. The system transmits an active radar

signal which is harmful to Soldiers or metal surfaces if exposed directly to the radar dish," according to Buckner. Buckner said construction should be completed by July.

Network computer security increases

U.S. Army Chief Information Office

Due to the presence of a malicious software, Commander of CDR STRATCOM has banned from all systems the use of removable media such as Universal Service Bus thumb drives, memory sticks, and flash drives until further notice.

The Department of Defense is engaged in a worldwide inventory of information technology assets. This inventory includes computers, servers, and some types of removable media.

To better enhance information security, a policy of greater controls has been implemented on the use of removable devices on Department of Defense systems. Anti-virus scanning of removable media, as well as other information assurance controls are to be completed as soon as possible. All personnel are required to cease using USB removable storage media on government computers until further notice. This effort is supported by all commands and agencies within the Army. This is critical to the protection of our DoD networks and our information security.