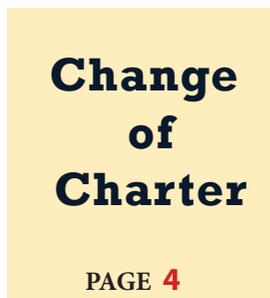




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**Here,
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THE PICATINNY VOICE



Vol. 24 No. 12

<https://www.pica.army.mil/evoice>

Published in the interest of the Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., community

July 1, 2011

Soldiers benefit from lighter, easier to maintain mortar systems

BY AUDRA CALLOWAY

Picatinny Public Affairs

Mortar crews have started receiving new lightweight 60mm mortar systems that are approximately 20 percent lighter than previous versions.

The Program Executive Office for Ammunition fielded the Army's first M224A1 60mm Lightweight Company Mortar Systems to the 4th Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group in Fort Lewis, Wash., on June 13-14.

"At the beginning of operations in Afghanistan the average load for a 60mm assistant gunner was 122 pounds," said Peter Burke, PEO Ammunition's Deputy Product Manager, Guided Precision Munitions and Mortar Systems. "Our program goal was to reduce the weight of mortar systems as much as we could to take some of the weight off of his back.



Lightweight 60mm Bipod Design

Features

- Greaseless gears
- A-Frame design to maximize commonality
- Self-locking legs for transport
- Cross-level bubble built into bipod

User Benefits

- Increased mobility
 - ✓ 11 percent cross country
 - ✓ 17 percent obstacle course
- Less crew fatigue
- Lower maintenance

"These Soldiers are carrying all this weight around and are still expected to fight at the end of the day, so anything we can do lighten their load we've got to

do," said Burke.

Mortar systems are an indirect firing capability used to defeat enemy troops, materiel, bunkers and other infantry-type

targets. The M224A1 fires the complete family of 60mm ammunition, such as high explosive, smoke, illumination, infrared illumination and practice cartridges.

The 60mm's first major redesign since the 1970s has reduced the overall weight by 20 percent or 9.3 lbs.

"This new 60mm delivers improved portability while maintaining the existing rate of fire, range and tube life of the former system," Burke said. "The Soldier is still carrying the same capability, it just weighs less."

The M224A1 consists of the following components: M225A1 cannon (tube), M170A1 bipod assembly, M7A1 baseplate, M8 auxiliary baseplate and the M67 sight unit.

A mortar crew of three members distributes the mortar load with a different

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Picatinny spouse shares skills for saving money

BY ERIC KOWAL

Picatinny Public Affairs

If someone said you could purchase \$150 worth of groceries and walk away only paying \$3, would you believe it?

While you may have some doubts, the proof is in the pudding. Pun intended.

Jody Jarrell, a Picatinny Arsenal employee, a former Soldier and spouse of a currently deployed Soldier, knows how to save and save immensely. Not only does she do it for herself, but she is willing to show other consumers how to attain the same savings.

It all started about four and half years ago when she was still on active duty. Jarrell was a sergeant just returning from an eight-month deployment to Afghanistan when one of her Soldiers wanted to borrow \$20 to buy baby formula for her child.

"I vowed to never be put in that situation again," Jarrell said. "I wanted to learn how to help people save money.

"It made no sense to me that two people who were raising a child—and both had jobs—couldn't afford baby formula," she remembers.

"There is a huge issue with the way people spend their money," she added.

At 26, Jarrell has learned how to save significant amounts of money. How many

people in their 20s own a home that is completely paid off?

Jarrell said that she and her husband live virtually debt-free except for a vehicle loan, which is more than 70 percent paid off.

What's her system? Coupons.

MORE THAN CLIPPING COUPONS

Jarrell started researching how to save money on her grocery bill with coupons. Now, she saves so much that she is often able to donate food and hundreds of dollars to various charities, churches, homeless shelters and animal shelters.

One time, her two small children were helping to lay out food items on the table when one of them asked, "Mommy, who are we giving this food to today?"

Saving money has become a family affair. Jarrell prints the coupons from sites such as coupons.com, redplum.com, and smartsources.com. Her two sons, Blayke, 2, and Jayden, 4, help their mother load the shopping cart at the store.

On average, Jarrell said that she saves at least 70 percent off the regular price per shopping trip. She avoids making purchases without a coupon or a coupon overage (where the value of the discount is greater than the actual price of the item).



Savvy shopping trips have become a regular fixture in the Jarrell family. From left, Jayden, Jody, and Blayke on a typical shopping trip. Photo by Erin Usawicz.

"It really is a science," Jarrell said. "Sundays are my days to plan."

Every Sunday, as new circulars are delivered in the newspaper, Jarrell spends the day clipping and matching with other manufacturer coupons.

"Every store has a policy, and each of those policies is different so you have to research them. Most place their policies online or in the store," she said.

Jarrell shops at different stores for dif-

ferent items because each store has its own unique rewards system, identified by the store-branded plastic cards often seen on key rings. "I buy all personal hygiene items at drug stores," she said.

The coupons are often paired with reward-point coupons to keep the cost down.

Jarrell said that she often gets a manufacturer's reward coupon from Walgreen's

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Coupon clipping for big savings requires planning, strategy

Continued from Page 1

that can be used for purchases at the Picatinny Arsenal commissary.

“Everything revolves around those policies you need to check. I use the Walgreen’s card for higher end products such as proteins at the commissary.”

FAMILY LIFE

While her husband, Brian, 27, is deployed, Jarrell spends her days working as a security assistant for the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

Although their house is in Watertown, N.Y., the couple qualified for on-post housing while she works here and Brian is overseas.

Just shy of six years on active duty, Jarrell decided to hang up her uniform and serve the Army in other areas.

After earning an associates degree in liberal arts, she chose to advance her education by working toward a bachelor’s degree in homeland security and emergency management, a degree more relevant to her occupation.

HELPING OTHERS THROUGH SAVVY SHOPPING

After getting settled into her job and housing, Jarrell approached the manager of the Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program with the idea to create a new program.

In April, with the assistance of the Army Family Readiness Team and Army Family Team Building, Jarrell created a group called “The Savvy Shoppers at Picatinny.”

By expressing her interest to save and publicizing a Facebook page for the group, new members continue to join.



Above, Jody Jarrell describes various types of coupons and what they are really worth at the Savvy Shoppers at Picatinny meeting in early June. At right, Blayke, 2, and Jayden, 4, hold a family photo with their mother Jody Jarrell at their home. Her husband, Brian, is currently deployed to Afghanistan. Photos by Erin Usawicz



“I always keep about three months worth of food in my house,” Jarrell said. “If I have extra I donate it.”

Jarrell holds one meeting a month with the group as well as one coupon swap. At the meetings, members discuss topics like store policies on couponing, how to organize coupons and online shopping.

Jarrell became curious about how much members were actually saving. She started using a tracking sheet that shows impres-

sive results. Since the end of April, more than 68 percent savings off regular prices has been recorded.

Members spent \$460.04 while saving more than \$1,400 at the register.

At the most recent meeting, the Savvy Shoppers were able to prepare a large shipment of extra hygiene products and food for the victims of the tornados in Joplin, Mo.

“I always keep about three months

worth of food in my house,” Jarrell said. “If I have extra I donate it.”

To join the Savvy Shoppers group visit <http://www.facebook.com/TheSavvyShoppers>.

The next coupon swap is June 22 from 12 – 1 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 119. Bring lunch.

The next workshop is July 6 at 5 p.m. at ACS. Food and childcare are provided.

THE PICATINNY VOICE



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For matters about business, advertising and subscriptions, contact the printer, North Jersey Community Newspapers, 100 Commons Way, Rockaway, N.J., 07866 at (973) 586-8195/8197.

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Due to space limitations, the editor reserves the right to edit submitted articles. Contributions can be sent by e-mail to picavoic@conus.army.mil.

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