Soldiers Online

Briefings

Compiled by SFC Lisa Beth Snyder

THIS Independence Day we rightly pause to remember and honor the millions of Americans whose dedication and personal sacrifice have secured our independence, preserved our liberties and protected our way of life. Throughout our nation's history, proud men and women in uniform have secured the rights and freedoms we cherish most dearly, those guaranteed by our Constitution. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, the uniforms and colors of our services, bear witness to the bravery and selfless devotion of countless American men and women who have risked their lives to defend our country and our freedoms.

Today the Army continues to stand on point for the nation, as it has for 225 years. In this year alone, we have been an essential part of America's efforts to provide sanctuary from violence for the weak and the oppressed, and to bring hope to Bosnia, Kosovo, the Sinai, Macedonia, Korea, Haiti and East Timor. America's leadership, advanced by soldiers' "boots on the ground," provides inspiration to millions who seek better conditions and better opportunities for themselves and for their children.

Whether honored veteran or new recruit, by their bravery and selfless service America's soldiers have been instrumental in the success of this experiment in democracy, which has so convincingly stood the test of time.

America's Army has a covenant with the American people — when called, we will win our nation's wars and preserve our way of life. It is a covenant that millions of men and women have proudly lived up to for more than 200 years. To you, the soldiers who have made and continue to make today's celebration possible, we owe our gratitude and our promise to remember and honor you. Liberty and freedom are your gifts to the nation. We salute you.

General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Secretary of the Army

Washington

DOD Simplifies PCS Moves

DOD is revamping and simplifying its permanent-change-of-station process to make it easier, faster, less expensive and less stressful for service members and family members who move around the world each year.

The initiative is targeted at scrapping mountains of paperwork, eliminating out-of-pocket expenses and creating a user-friendly, Internet-based, personalized relocation system.

When the new system is implemented, service members will save hundreds of dollars in out-of- pocket expenses, spend less time filling out paperwork and visit fewer offices to in- and out-process, said Stephen Rossetti, director of the Defense Integrated Travel and Relocation Solutions Office in Arlington, Va.

Rossetti said service members would be offered no-receipt-required, lump-sum payment for temporary lodging expenses, temporary-lodging allowances and even a monetary incentive not to ship "junk" cars overseas.

Rossetti noted that revamping and simplifying the PCS system is a key aspect of DOD's effort to reform business processes.

The new system will be a "stress reducing," user-friendly process that reduces waiting time. "It will also have a personalized Web page outfitted with instructions and 'prepopulated' forms showing the service member's name, family members, entitlements and answers to questions," Rossetti said.

Preparing for household goods shipments through Internet connections will be made easy and take the guesswork out of figuring weight allowances, Rossetti said. All service members will have to do is click on a piece of furniture and its approximate weight will be shown and automatically added to the inventory and stored on a personal web page. All the service member has to do on the return trip is delete and add items.

Several projects are under way concerning household goods moves, including the Full Service Movement Project and the relocation section of the Air Forces Crossroads website.

"The website will be up for use this summer," Rossetti said. "It will be a virtual moving experience. If we can't be like Star Trek and beam you to your new location, we hope to come close." — *American Forces Press Service*

Washington

Communities of Excellence Announced

CALLING quality a journey rather than a destination, the commander of the Army's top installation for 2000 accepted its award at a Pentagon courtyard ceremony. In all, the Army recognized 26 of its installations as Communities of Excellence.

At the 12th annual ceremony, the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., received the Commander in Chief's award as the Army's top installation. In addition, 13 others were named Chief of Staff winners and another 12 were named finalists.

ARDEC is a subordinate activity of the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command.

"TACOM-ARDEC, and the other winners here today, understand that quality is a journey and not a destination. And while we look forward to the challenges ahead, we thank you for this recognition of our record so far on our journey to excellence," said COL William Lenaers, the commander at Picatinny.

The Army Communities of Excellence awards program recognizes those installations that have improved their overall performance and have demonstrated excellence in delivering high-quality products and services to their customers.

The Commander in Chief

winner this year received $500,000, whereas next year it will be $3 million. And there will be nine major command winners, going from $200,000 this year to $500,000 next year.

The following year — the "off-year" in a new, two-year cycle — the CINC winner will receive $1 million and one runner-up will receive $250,000. Then the cycle will repeat.

The Chief of Staff of the Army winners were Fort Stewart and Hunter Airfield, Ga.; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Rucker, Ala.; 279th Base Support Battalion, Bamberg, Germany; Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.; Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Ala.; 10th Area Support Group, Okinawa, Japan; Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pa.; 100th Division, Ky.; 34th Support Group, Korea; White Sands Missile Range, N.M.; Maryland Army National Guard; and Fort Belvoir, Va. — *Army News Service*

Washington

New Stamps Honor Army Heroes

OMAR Bradley. Alvin York. John Hines. Audie Murphy. The names are familiar to most Americans — not just to those in the Army. The U.S. Postal Service recently recognized these soldiers by issuing stamps bearing their names and likenesses.

The four 33-cent, first-class postage stamps feature black-and-white photographs of the men, with a color depiction of their unit patches.

"If there's a common thread for these uncommon men," said Einar Dyhrkopp, chairman of the Postal Service Board of Governors, "it might be summed up best by the words uttered by GEN Douglas MacArthur 'Duty, Honor, Country.'

"By doing their duty, they brought honor to us all and helped preserve this country that we love. Now it's time for this nation to do its duty and honor these distinguished soldiers."

GEN Omar Bradley graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1915 and ultimately became the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He commanded a force of 1.3 million during the Normandy invasion of World War II — the largest field command in the history of the Army.

SGT Alvin York came from the hills of Tennessee to earn the Medal of Honor in the Battle of the Argonne Forest during World War I. York captured 132 German soldiers and silenced 35 machine guns.

GEN John Hines served in the Spanish-American War, during which he took part in the Battle of San Juan Hill. One of his benchmark achievements was his advancement from major to major general in sixteen months during World War I. After the war, he eventually became the chief of staff of the Army.

1LT Audie Murphy started as an enlisted soldier, gaining a battlefield commission. Murphy received a Medal of Honor for his World War II actions near Holtzwihr, France, where he stopped an enemy attack.

"The Post Office commemorative stamp program helps our nation recall its proud heritage," said Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera. "This program visually and daily reminds Americans of the precious human and natural resources of our country, of its unparalleled beauty, and of the pioneers and visionaries who helped make this country what it is today.

"It is fitting that our nation honor these American heroes," Caldera said, "for through their service, in no small part, they helped shape and forever change our national character and experience. ... They are true treasures of our nation." — *ARNEWS*

The four new postage stamps feature black-and-white photographs of the heroes, with a color depiction of their unit patches.

Entertainment News

Dog Days Concerts Announced

THE 2000 Dog Days of Summer Army Concert Tour is under way, with events scheduled at 12 installations. This year's featured artists include Alabama, Foreigner, Trace Adkins, John Michael Montgomery, Tracy Lawrence and Def Leppard. Check with local MWR officials for venues, times and ticket information.

July	
7 Fort Sill	Alabama/Trace Adkins
14 Fort Leonard Wood	REO Speedwagon Eddie Money
22 Fort Jackson	Not determined at press time
30 Fort Lewis	John Michael Montgomery Kenny Chesney/Ty Herndon/ Jerry Kilgore
August	
5 Fort Carson	Commodores/Sinbad
23 Fort McCoy	Def Leppard
September	
8 Fort Stewart	Tracy Lawrence Mindy McCready
23 Fort Hood	Not determined at press time

— *U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center*

Washington

New Anthrax Education Products Coming

DEPARTMENT of Defense anthrax experts are increasing their efforts to get service members and their families credible information on the disease and its prevention.

COL Randy Randolph, director of the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program Agency, said his organization is currently doing four things to improve the vaccine-education program.

Perhaps the farthest-reaching step is a 23-minute video that was scheduled to be distributed in May.

Randolph said the video includes information about the threat anthrax poses to U.S. service members, the lethality of anthrax and the vaccine's safety. It also addresses information circulating and damaging the program's credibility, Randolph said.

The second action, a toll-free information line, (877) GET-VACC, began in the summer of 1999. Program experts man it Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Eastern time. Randolph said the agency could staff the line on evenings, weekends and holidays if the demand warrants, but that hasn't been necessary so far.

The third action, a new Internet site at **www.anthrax.osd.mil**, is already up and running. Randolph said the site is an improvement over previous ones because it incorporates visitors' feedback and suggestions. He said his team is constantly adding information that people request on the site.

The agency's fourth step is to add an e-mail address to contact program officials. Individuals can e-mail comments, questions and concerns to **avip@otsg.amedd.army.mil**. The website has a direct e-mail link for visitors.

Randolph was quick to emphasize these products are additional steps in what has been an aggressive education process since the immunization program began in 1998. Previous products, still updated and used, include educational pamphlets and a troop-education briefing available to commanders on the website.

"We are going to continue a very aggressive education effort until everyone understands what this program is about," Randolph said. "There is a very real threat. This disease, if contracted in an unprotected population, is very lethal." — *AFPS*

Alexandria, Va.

White House Fellows Program, 2001

THE President's Commission on White House Fellows annually selects exceptionally promising individuals from all sectors of American life to serve as White House fellows. Fellows write speeches, help review and draft proposed legislation, answer congressional inquiries, chair meetings, conduct briefings and otherwise assist high-level government officials. They are assigned to work with senior White House officials, cabinet secretaries or other deputies. In the past, fellows have worked for the vice president, the White House chief of staff and the National Security Council.

Noncommissioned officers must be managed by PERSCOM and meet the following eligibility criteria: be a U.S. citizen; have potential for future military service; not have more than 22 years of active Army service as of September 2001; not be serving in recruiting duty, drill-sergeant duty or active/reserve component duty by the start of the fellowship; have com-

Awards News

Kosovo Campaign Medal Approved

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton has approved the Kosovo Campaign Medal and campaign streamers to recognize the accomplishments of military service members who participated in or directly supported Kosovo operations within established areas of eligibility.

Service members who participated in operations Allied Force, Joint Guardian, Allied Harbor, Sustain Hope/Shining Hope, Noble Anvil, or in Kosovo Task Force Hawk, Task Force Saber or Task Force Hunter, within the Kosovo Air Campaign or Kosovo Defense Campaign area of eligibility, are eligible for the medal.

The Kosovo Air Campaign began March 24, 1999, and ended June 10, 1999. The area of eligibility is the total land area and air space of Serbia (including Kosovo), Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, Italy and Slovenia, and the waters and air space of the Adriatic and Ionian seas north of 39 degrees north latitude.

The Kosovo Defense Campaign began June 11, 1999. The area of eligibility is the total land area and air space of Serbia (including Kosovo), Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia, and the waters and air space of the Adriatic Sea within 12 nautical miles of the Montenegrin, Albanian and Croatian coastlines south of 42 degrees and 52 minutes north latitude.

Service members must have served or be serving in a unit participating in or directly supporting the operation for 30 consecutive days in the area of eligibility or for 60 nonconsecutive days, provided this support involves entering the operations area of eligibility or meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Be engaged in combat or duty that is equally as hazardous as combat, during the operation with armed opposition, regardless of time in the area of eligibility.
- While participating in the operation, regardless of time, be wounded or injured and require medical evacuation from the area of eligibility.
- Be a regularly assigned aircrew member flying sorties in the area of eligibility in direct support of the military operation. — *Defense News*

pleted appropriate NCO education programs for grade and years of service; must be able to complete full fellowship and a two-year follow-on assignment; not have any pending Uniform Code of Military Justice action; not be competing for any other Army-sponsored program, fellowship or scholarship; meet Army height and weight requirements; hold the rank of sergeant first class or higher; and have a graduate degree. Eligible soldiers should submit the following to Commander, PERSCOM, ATTN: TAPC-EPM-A, 2461 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22331-0454: DA Form 4187, signed and approved by a chain-of-command colonel; current DA Form 2A and 2-1; last five evaluation reports; college transcripts; current military photo; current DA Form 705; and a statement from Retention NCO/officer stating your eligibility for retention through September 2004, if ETS is prior to that date.

Officers must be managed by PERSCOM and meet the following eligibility criteria: be a U.S. citizen; have potential for future military service; have at least three and not more than 19 active federal commissioned service years as of September 2001 (Regular Army warrant officers must have no more than 24 active warrant officer service years and other than Regular Army warrant officers must have no more than 16 active federal service years as of September 2001); not be competing for any other Army sponsored program, fellowship or scholarship; be able to complete full fellowship and a two-year follow-on assignment; be branch qualified at current rank; have no adverse actions pending; not serving in or owe an Army Educational Requirements System obligation; meet Army height and weight requirements; and have a graduate degree. Eligible officers should submit DA Form 4187, signed and approved by a field-grade supervisor and the active-duty service obligation statement to your career branch at PERSCOM.

Eligible Army officers and NCOs who are managed by PERSCOM must request and receive permission from PERSCOM prior to competing. PERSCOM's Functional Area Management and Development Division will forward applications directly to those granted permission.

Those interested must request permission to compete before Oct. 27, 2000. The final selection of fellows by the White House Commission is scheduled for June 2001. The fellowship year begins in September 2001 and ends in August 2002. Personnel selected will move to the Washington, D.C., area. — *PERSCOM Public Affairs Office*

Leadership News

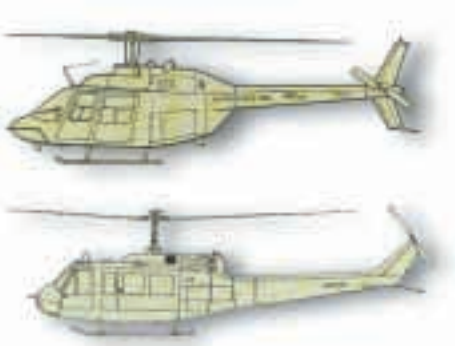
New SMA Sworn In

CSM Jack L. Tilley succeeded SMA Robert E. Hall as the 12th sergeant major of the Army at a Pentagon ceremony in June. He had been command sergeant major for Headquarters, U.S. Central Command, at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., since January 1998.

SMA Jack L. Tilley

As sergeant major of the Army, Tilley is the Army chief of staff's personal advisor on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas affecting soldier training, noncommissioned officer leader development, and soldier and family well-being. As the Army's senior enlisted representative, he will visit enlisted soldiers and their families Armywide, listening to their concerns and providing feedback and recommendations regarding improvements to their quality of life. The sergeant major of the Army also sits on a variety of councils and boards making decisions affecting soldiers and their families, and routinely testifies before Congress.

Tilley is a 32-year veteran who served one combat tour in Vietnam as an armor crewman and scout driver in A Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, from 1967 to 1968, and has been an armored cavalryman for more than three decades. He enlisted in the Army on Oct. 1, 1966, at Fort Lewis, Wash. Following a two-year break in service, he re-entered on Sept. 2, 1971. Tilley has spent the majority of his career serving either in Germany or at Fort Knox, Ky. — *SGM Phillip R. Prater, CSA/SMA*



The UH-1 *(above)* and early Kiowas *(top)* are to retire.

Washington

Army Helicopters Approach Retirement

THREE types of Army helicopters will be retired in the next four years, and aviation battalions will be reorganized as part of the Army's 2000 Aviation Force Modernization Plan, which was unveiled in April. AH-1 Cobras will be divested by October 2001, said BG Craig Hackett, director of requirements in the Office of the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans — Force Development. UH-1 Iroquois and A and C model OH-58 Kiowas will be retired by 2004.

According to the plan, the UH-1s will be replaced by UH-60 Black Hawks. The Cobras and Kiowas will be replaced by AH-64D Apaches and eventually by RAH-66 Comanches, the new reconnaissance and attack helicopter scheduled to begin joining the Army in 2008. Later-model Kiowas are scheduled for retirement in fiscal year 2013, according to the plan.

The modernization plan also affects the model D and F CH-47 Chinook cargo helicopter. The CH-47Ds will be modified to become CH-47Fs, and existing F models will be upgraded with digital technology, Army officials said. — *Army News Service*