



# Garrison News



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## MISSION

- U.S. Army Garrison provides and maintains the installation infrastructure to:
- support power projection and training of III Corps units/soldiers;
  - provide a quality living and working environment for soldiers, families, retirees, and authorized civilians;
  - sustain an effective partnership with our surrounding communities;
  - and support the III Corps / Fort Hood transformation process.

## VISION

The Army's model power projection platform, training installation, and community. A great place to train, work, and live.

I came across this poem that was read at the 1999 Corps Christmas Ball and thought everyone might enjoy it, as adapted for the current Corps team. Happy Holidays to all – Cathy.

## **TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS (III Corps Version)**

"Twas the night before Christmas,  
when all through the Corps,  
Not a soldier was working, not a sole  
through G4;  
The war plans were laid out in the  
basement – G3,  
Although the planners assure me  
they're not much to see!  
The car lot was empty – they all had  
gone home,  
Yet I was still in the office working  
hard on this poem!  
My secretary, Pat, had gone home  
for the day –

And Generals Simmons and  
Natynczyk had long gone on their  
way.  
Suddenly Tim with the cell phone,  
and I straight ahead,  
Started out in the van and across  
post we sped;  
While out on the tank trails we felt a  
jolt with such force,  
That we quickly came out just to  
discover the source.  
We dropped to our knees and laid  
low in the dirt.  
I admit I'm out of practice – I almost  
got hurt!  
Then suddenly – the noise came  
again from afar.  
And we jumped up and hollered and  
made a start for the car.  
There I looked down the road, round  
the bend, near a tree.  
And, though I could hardly believe it,  
it was the III Corps G3!  
"Tim", I called back, "What's going  
on? Get on the phone!"  
Then I realized all of a sudden that  
Dennis wasn't alone!  
Right beside him was Pat, Tim,  
Chris, Bob, Bill and Christine.  
I couldn't believe it – it was my staff  
making the fuss!  
I called them – "Hey, G1, G2, and  
G3! Now G4, my XO and my  
Protocolee!  
Stop making so much noise and  
come over to me!!!"  
I could tell all of a sudden that they  
knew they'd been caught,  
And I waited with arms crossed  
wondering why they had fought.  
So, finally, with heads hung they  
trudged up the hill,  
Led from the front by both Jim and  
Walt!  
You could tell they had agreed on a  
standard reply,  
So I settled down to listen with a  
frustrated sigh –  
As I listened intently and nodded my  
head,  
I watched as they fumbled excuses  
and as their faces turned red!

Finally, I interrupted and said, "What  
the heck's caused this fight?  
Tim and I came out for a quick post  
ride and came upon this here sign!"  
CSM Gainey answered -- this trip  
had started as his OPD,  
He was always teaching them how to  
"Be all you can be!"  
"Sir, the MPs have taken Santa –  
they've locked him away –  
And when they read him his rights he  
had nothing to say."  
"But sir, it's Santa! Saint Nicholas!  
Father Christmas!", some said.  
"If you put him in jail the Christmas  
holiday is dead."  
Finally, I interrupted, I had a few  
questions to toss,  
Why on earth had they handcuffed  
the Big Jolly Boss?  
"Sir, he's traveling through III Corps  
without his reflective vest!  
We saw him, and warned him, as he  
headed out west!"  
He thinks he's above policy – he  
thinks he can do his own thing,  
But we quickly reminded him that  
around here you're king!  
We can't have Ol' Santa flying all  
over the "Great Place!"  
Without abiding to the rules that've  
been established for the base."  
Okay, I agreed, I've heard all that  
you've said –  
But it's late now, it's cold here, and  
I'm ready for bed.  
Let Santa go free – he's got all our  
town's toys.  
And we'll have a mess on our hands  
with all the sad girls and boys,  
But remind him with a warning as he  
heads back to his sleigh,  
If he's caught again with no vest,  
then he'll definitely pay.  
Oh, and give him a star note and  
have the thing say --  
**Merry Christmas to all  
and have a Phantom  
Day!!!!**

## **Keep Fort Hood Beautiful!!**

Outdoor advertising for various events on the installation should be secured so it doesn't blow away, and it should be removed immediately upon close of the event. This includes banners displayed to welcome home our soldiers or while awaiting returning flights.

Thanks for helping make Fort Hood a beautiful place!

## **\*\*\*\*FSA MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH CARE FSA INCREASED and FSA OPEN SEASON EXTENDED TO 15 DEC\*\*\*\***

Good news for Federal employees! The maximum contribution that employees can elect under the FSAFEDS Program for a health care flexible spending account has increased to \$4,000. The decision to raise the limit was prompted by the recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announcement that over-the-counter (OTC) medicines may be reimbursed under a health care FSA. In addition, to allow employees more time to consider how much to elect, the **FSAFEDS Open Season has been extended one week. It now ends on December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

While employees can change their FSAFEDS elections as many times as they wish during open season, we strongly encourage people not to delay making their elections. This will ensure that allotments are taken from the first pay date in January.

Enrollment is not automatic. Employees must elect a health care and/or dependent care FSA account each year, if they wish to participate in this important program. Enrollments do not carry over from year to year.

To enroll, visit [www.FSAFEDS.com](http://www.FSAFEDS.com) or call 1-877-372-3337. (CPAC)

**Do not miss out on this very important benefit!**

## **Volunteer of the Year Nomination Writing Workshop**

It's time to start thinking about Volunteer of the Year. If you want to learn to write a winning nomination, join us for our Nomination Writing Workshop.

- 17 Dec 03- 1000-1045
- 5 Jan 04- 1730-1815
- 8 Jan 04-1500-1545
- 14 Jan 04-1000-1045
- 20 Jan 04-1500-1545
- 26 Jan 04-1730-1815

For more information or to register, please call Mari Gonzalez at 286-5913 or Doris Arnett at 287-(VOLS) 8657. All workshops are held at the Lane Volunteer Center, Corner of Hood Rd & Old Ironsides Ave. (DCA)

## **ACAP Center**

**The ACAP Center will be open on Dec 26 and Jan 2,** Ill Corps training holidays, and closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. This is a great time for clients and their family members to take advantage of services to better prepare for both their transition and the January ACAP Center Job Fair. Call 288-ACAP or 288-JOBS for information.

The next community job fair will be conducted on Jan 21 at the Fort Hood Officers' Club from 1000.-1500. Approximately 90-100 employers will be represented. The job fair is open to the public! (AG)

## **Army Performance Improvement Criteria (APIC) Training 13 - 15 Jan 04**

- Contact your training coordinator for more information. (SPO)

## **FISH! Training**

Eighty-one employees attended FISH! training 28 October 2003 at the Soldier Development Center. The purpose of the training was to show how the simple principles of FISH! Philosophy can be applied to make work a more

interesting, playful, profitable, and energetic place to be. FISH! is centered on the Pike Place Fish Market in Seattle, where everyone chooses to bring energy, passion, and a positive attitude with them each day. The environment is where people are truly connected to their work, their colleagues, and their customers. Training includes Fish! Fish Sticks, and Fish Tales video presentations with supporting lecture.

FISH! will be offered on a quarterly basis at the Soldier Development Center, or you can arrange a special presentation of FISH! for your organization by contacting Mrs. Robinson at 618-7351/7359. (SPO)



## **TWO GARRISON DIRECTORATES TAKE TOP UTCPE AWARDS!**

The University of Texas at Austin Center for Performance Excellence presented two Fort Hood directorates with awards for performance excellence during the 2003 Awards Banquet, which was held in Austin on 3 Nov 03. The **Directorate of Logistics (top photo) received the top UTCPE award** as an organization demonstrating significant

achievement in their commitment and practice of performance excellence principles. The Directorate of Community Activities (second photo) was also recognized for adopting and promoting performance excellence in their business processes and practices. Each organization submitted a detailed organizational self-assessment, which was supported with an intense UTCPE site visit in order to compete for the award. A total of ten Central Texas organizations from corporate, government and academic communities competed for the UTCPE awards.

UTCPE award principles are based on the use of Malcolm Baldrige Performance Excellence/ Army Performance Improvement Criteria to recognize performance excellence in business, academia, government, and health care.

Colonel Robert Hauser accepted the UTCPE Level III award for DOL, and Mr. Lorenzo Westbrook received the UTCPE Level I award on behalf of DCA at the awards ceremony and banquet. Also in attendance at the banquet and awards ceremony, were many DOL, DCA, and Garrison Command/SPO employees who have played a key role in helping each organization attain its individual strategic goals for performance excellence. (SPO)

### **Army Community Service, EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM (EFMP)**

Army Community Service and the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) would like you to join them. The "Sea Dragons" meet every Thursday, 1800-1900, at the Abrams Fitness Center. Families of a special needs child can enjoy a fun filled evening of swimming at no cost. On 17 December, 1230-1430, Comanche (Post) Chapel, EFMP will conduct their monthly Orientation for newly assigned and newly identified soldiers who have family members with special needs. On 19 December, EFMP will have an EFMP Christmas Party from 1300-1500 at the Lane Volunteer Center, building

16005, Hood Road and Old Ironside Drive. Come join us as we celebrate the holiday festivities. Bring the kids to talk to Santa Claus, enjoy door prizes, and a gift for the children. Please RSVP NLT 15 Dec at 287-6070. This event is open to any family enrolled in the EFMP. A web site has been set up for military families with special medical or educational needs - <http://mfrc.calib.com/snn>. Check it out and discover the resources that are available for you. The Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is a mandatory enrollment program which works with other military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive and coordinated medical, educational, housing, community support, and personnel services to families with special needs.

For more information, please call the EFMP office at 287-6070/1673, or come visit us at ACS, Albee Hall, building 9001, 20<sup>th</sup>/Battalion. (DCA)

### **HOOD HERO 2004**

Post your calendar so you don't miss the fun! The Hood Hero Awards Luncheon dates for 2004 are:

**3 Feb** (nominations due 9 Jan; rehearsal 2 Feb, 1300)

**12 May** (nominations due 9 Apr; rehearsal 10 May, 1300)

**4 Aug** (nominations due 9 Jul; rehearsal 2 Aug, 1300)

**5 Nov** (nominations due 8 Oct; rehearsal 3 Nov, 1300)

All rehearsals and luncheons are in the ballroom at the Officers' Club. Luncheons are 1130-1300.

For more information on the Hood Hero Awards Program contact Cathy Davis, Strategic Planning Office, 618-7357. (SPO)

### **Thrift Savings Plan**

**OPEN SEASON**

**15 Oct - 31 Dec**

For more information, visit the following websites:

<https://www.abc.army.mil> or

<http://www.tsp.gov>

### **Army Family Team Building- Help Us Help Others**

It is time to train volunteers to become AFTB Instructors. We are in need of volunteers who are willing to help others who are seeking more information about the Army, the Army way of life, community resources, becoming a leader in the community and seeking to improve their interpersonal skills. AFTB Instructors are taught all the information they will need to speak in front of groups and work with interactive students. All Instructors will be given the materials needed for instruction to include lesson plans. A mentorship program is in place for new instructors to feel comfortable in the program. Be part of the helping hand that is extended to family members new to the Army. Sign up to be an AFTB Instructor. Call 286-5913 or 286-6600 for reservations.

**If you are interested in a rewarding volunteer opportunity that can enhance your resume, please call our office. (DCA)**

### **Mobilization and Deployment Classes**

Army Community Services offers a Spouses of Deployed Soldiers Support Group and Waiting Families of Soldiers Serving On Unaccompanied Tours classes. Family members of deploying Federal civilian employees and civilian contractors are also welcome to attend

Spouses of Deployed Soldiers Support Group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at Lane Volunteer Center, Bldg 16005. The support group offers a forum where family members can share their experiences and expectations.

- Social Service representatives from Army Community Service, Family Advocacy and Relocation Assistance Program will be available at the support group to assist family members.

- Future support group meetings will include workshops on coping with loneliness, marriage enrichment, care package

construction, reunion training, childrens' activities, Learn a Craft Night, etc.

- Childcare is provided for free!

**For dates and times of classes, to RSVP, or for additional information, contact Army Community Service, Soldier and Family Readiness Branch at 288-5155 or e-mail [David.Gretsch@hood.army.mil](mailto:David.Gretsch@hood.army.mil).**  
(DCA)



**Hooah and Heartfelt Congratulations to the Directorate of Public Works for their tremendous accomplishments in the technology arena! DPW has been declared a 2003 winner of the prestigious Grace Hopper Government Technology Leadership Awards (GTLA)!!!**

In a 10 Nov 03 letter to Fort Hood Garrison Command, Timothy Clark, Editor and President of Government Executive magazine, wrote: "On behalf of Sandra Bates, Commissioner of GSA's Federal Technology Service, the 2003 selection panel, the Academy of Technology Leadership and Government Executive magazine, I would like to congratulate you and your team for winning a 2003 Grace Hopper Government Technology Leadership Award!"

"The nomination you submitted for the **"Son of Snoop on Steroids" Project** was considered outstanding by a distinguished panel of government experts in the area of federal technology advancement. Of the 130 nominations submitted in this year's contest, your entry is one of the 12 projects chosen to receive an award. Your project will be recognized and honored in Category #4: **Leadership in the innovative application of information technology that demonstrates leadership in addressing privacy and security concerns.**"

To win a "Gracie," as the awards have come to be known, an agency or organization must show

why its idea challenged conventional thinking about a problem and how it used technology to solve it in a new way. DPW developed a program that strikes a balance between having a highly secure computer network and having flexible PC configurations that support getting work done.

The DPW team will receive the award on 10 Dec in Washington, D.C., and their program will be featured in the December issue of *Government Executive* magazine. Hooah! Check it out!!!

SPO also submitted a 2003 nomination for **DOL's Transportation Coordinators Automated Command and Control Information System (TCACCIS) / In-Transit Visibility (ITV) Team** who ensured deployed equipment and material could be transported faster, safer, and with exceptional tracking capability, demonstrating real commitment to improving service to deploying units and transporters, through the use of technology.

Our 2003 nominations can be found in Public Folders; drill down to All, Fort Hood, Garrison, Strategic Planning Office, Awards, Government Technology Leadership Award. The GTLA website is <http://www.govexec.com/gtla/>.

Has your organization conquered a work challenge with an innovative technology solution? If so, contact Kathy McPherson, 618-7352, Garrison, SPO, Government Technology Leadership Award POC. (SPO)

## **LEARN HOW TO LEAD CHANGE THROUGH APIC!**

**Are you interested in improving your organizations' effectiveness?** Your opportunity is just around the corner. How? APIC! What is APIC? APIC is the Army Performance Improvement Criteria (APIC) based on the principles of the Malcolm Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence. APIC simply rewords the Malcolm Baldrige Criteria to fit the unique nature of the Army Mission. APIC is an effective methodology to manage your organization through improvement of business processes and practices

and delivering continuous value to customers. How does APIC support change? By providing a systematic approach of dealing with the dynamics of change, raising an organizations' performance expectations and standards, and by establishing common performance criteria to facilitate sharing and communication of best management techniques and strategies.

If you want to meet the challenge of changing times, you have a great opportunity! The Strategic Planning Office is sponsoring an APIC Workshop onsite 13-15 Jan 04. Here is your chance to make a difference! Contact your training coordinator to make your reservation. This training is open to both military and civilian employees who are involved in applying the APIC/Baldrige principles within your organization or anyone who is responsible for conducting a unit/organizational self-assessment. Ms. Pat Ellis, ALMC, will serve as the Workshop Director.

For more information, contact Ms. Robinson, Strategic Planning Office, 618-7359. (SPO)

## **Success Begins With YOU!!**

To succeed today in this very competitive world requires everyone to do their part in making improvements, to reduce costs, to improve quality, to improve safety, to improve customer service, and to eliminate every possible waste. In order for our military to train and to accomplish it's mission with the very best of equipment, each of us needs to do our part in making that happen.

One excellent way to accomplish that is to submit your ideas to the **Army Suggestion Program**. Not only will you be supporting Fort Hood, soldiers and civilians, but you may be rewarded for your initiative with CASH MONEY\$\$\$\$.

Call today for information, 618-7359 or e-mail [Eloise.Soliz@hood.army.mil](mailto:Eloise.Soliz@hood.army.mil) for details. (SPO)