

Commentary

Editor: Dustin Perry dustin.perry@bliss.army.mil

Troop Talk

Army Emergency Relief belongs to the Soldier and their family members. It exists solely to help us take care of our own. AER has given in interest free loans and grants throughout the past year in excess of \$1.6 million dollars.



Summit Group are included. **Traffic at the intersection of Carrington and Cassidy Roads is consistently backed up due to the timing of the traffic light. It routinely takes multiple light changes for a vehicle traveling in Carrington to turn in either direction onto Cassidy. Can something be done to rectify this problem?**

The MPs have observed the traffic light and are in the process of submitting a work order to DPW to expand the time for light changes for those on Carrington.

What is the construction project that is visible to the North as you enter the Robert E. Lee Gate (it looks like a running track)?

The construction project just to the North as you enter R.E. Lee is an 88M drivers training single lane paved road as per on-going efforts to provide more realistic 88M driving instruction.

Can future post-wide yard sales be scheduled closer to payday, i.e. at the end of the month or first of the month? When is the next post yard sale?

The annual post wide yard sale is scheduled for Saturday after the week-long post wide clean up. The event was originally created to help community members get rid of unwanted items they collect throughout the week. This year, the yard sale is set for April 29 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is on a payday weekend. In the future, all yard sales will be scheduled for a payday weekend.

AER is there for Soldiers who are called upon to serve our nation. AER is there when Soldiers are victims of a natural disaster. But even more importantly, AER is there for those common everyday emergencies that affect our Soldiers when moving from one location to another, i.e., changes in pay status, family emergencies that require travel, and many other reasons that may require some immediate short term assistance from AER.

The Global War on Terrorism continues and our Soldiers are committed to this mission. Soldiers know during a deployment that if their families are in need, AER is there to assist. We can all be thankful that each year during the AER campaign we are all doing our part to assist our fellow Soldiers as we all support and defend freedom, democracy and our American way of life.

The 2006 AER campaign began Tuesday and will continue through March 12 with a post goal of only \$140,000. I want to ensure that each Soldier knows how to obtain assistance when needed, and that their contributions will help other Army personnel and families in time of distress and misfortune. This is the only campaign which is designed and designated to directly assist Army personnel and their families in time of need.

I urge each of you to give your generous voluntary support to this worthwhile organization, "Soldiers Helping Soldiers."

I ran with 3-2 ADA and received the following questions; also, answers to additional questions received from the

Brig. Gen. Robert P. Lennox
Fort Bliss Commanding General

African-American contributions in history

CATRINA FRANCIS

Monitor Staff

African-American History Month is upon us and some of us are starting to hear the grumbings of completely doing away with the celebration.

Many are saying we should stop celebrating this month because it brings about separation instead of togetherness.

Morgan Freeman, a well respected African-American actor, said "You're going to relegate my history to a month?"

Many are saying he is taking the celebration out of context because African-American history is not taught to our children in mainstream society.

This topic was debated on national TV Feb. 1 and some scholars are saying there is a need for this celebration. As I was listening to the debate, I had to ask myself if this month is necessary. I found my answer by asking my daughter if she had been taught about the contributions African-Americans made to our country. Her response told me this month is needed to keep this celebration in tact.

Acknowledging the contribution of BHM does not bring about division, it enlightens those who do not know African-American history.

The African-American history celebration was created in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Woodson started a week long celebration that coincided with the birthday of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

According to African-Americans.com, it was Woodson's hope through special observances, all Americans would be reminded of their ethnic roots, and togetherness between ethnic groups in the U.S. would develop out of a mutual respect.

The week long celebration became a month-long celebration in 1976.

Dr. Charles Drew is an example of a pioneering physician. Drew researched blood plasma and transfusion. During this research he discovered how blood could be preserved.

According to inventors.about.com, Drew made the discovery by separating the liquid red blood cells from the near solid plasma and freezing the two separately, he found that blood could be preserved and reconstituted at a later date. This discovery would save lives on the battlefield during WWII.

Another pioneering inventor created what has become the traffic light. So the next time you are riding in your car, and you encounter a red light, thank Garrett A. Morgan who invented the early traffic signal. When you see someone using a sewing machine you have to once again thank Morgan. He invented a zigzag stitching attachment for manually operated sewing machines.

When educators start teaching our children and identify all contributions made by every ethnic group it will no longer be their story, but our story.

Provost Marshal Office Update

The Provost Marshal Office would like to remind vehicle operators (civilian and military) that it is illegal to use radar detectors on military installations. Per DoD Instruction 6055.4, the use of radar or laser detection devices to indicate the presence of speed recording instruments or to transmit simulated erroneous speeds is prohibited on DoD installations. Violators are subject to punitive action for failure to comply with this directive.

1st Lt. Sean M. Joyce
Provost Marshal Office

★ OPERATION ELUSIVE CONCEPT ★



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