

Commentary

Troop Talk

I received some additional questions about more items of interest to Soldiers and families for this week's column.

Is there a plan to improve the hourly daycare capabilities by adding more spaces?

Flooring replacement projects in the Child Development Centers limited our capability to take care of more children. The floors at the Main CDC are complete and hourly care is available there. The floors at the Logan CDC will be completed within 30 days. Once complete, there shouldn't be any problems with accessing hourly care.

Is there a plan to improve transportation for the daycare facilities so that they can have more field trips?

The Child Development Centers provides field trips for older children enrolled in summer camps. The first grade camp participates in more



field trips than the kindergarten camp. The preschool children participate in field trips to Kelly Park and to the Water Park. The outings are planned according to the age of the children. We do not take the younger children to the pools, but this is a great field trip for the first graders. We do set up water activities for the younger children at the centers and at Kelly Park. To make summer special, the caregivers have established a variety of summer fun activities for the children to participate in at the centers.

Are there plans for more family parks?

As far as MWR, no additional parks are projected at this time, but we are planning on adding more playgrounds, restrooms and pavilions at Biggs Park. GMH Military Housing construction will include several parks in the new housing areas.

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

Deputy commanding general sends summer safety message

A second lieutenant attending the Army Engineering School and an Installation Management Command civilian employee at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. drowned during the same weekend at Lake of the Ozarks, Mo.

The lieutenant had been swimming with friends at Anderson Hollow Cove, commonly known to locals as "Party Cove." The group got ready to leave at approximately 6 p.m. and noticed the lieutenant was not with them. Missouri Water Patrol divers using sonar later found the Soldier in 12 feet of water. The Water Patrol determined the victim could swim, but it was not known if he was wearing a personal flotation device.

The following day, a 21-year-old Army civilian was found drowned approximately 10 feet from the dock where he was last seen. He had been playing cards with two men who left him alone at 1 a.m. The victim's body was recovered by divers using sonar later that day. The Water Patrol determined the victim was not a capable swimmer, and was not wearing a personal flotation device.

A Missouri Water Patrol officer told local media reporters there was evidence both victims had consumed alcohol prior to drowning.

In both cases, alcohol and water did not mix. We

do not know the exact details of either accident, yet local law enforcement stated there was some evidence both victims had been drinking alcohol prior to drowning. Alcohol is a chemical depressant which affects judgment, caution and inhibitions. Alcohol slows motor skills and reaction times and causes loss of balance. Simply stated, alcohol takes away all of the defense mechanisms an individual needs to stay alive in, on or around recreational waterways.

Soldiers and civilians should be careful around waterways and look out for their buddies. Exercise caution and care. One word of warning or one extra check could lessen the chance of a tragic loss that leaves an organization stymied and in shock.

Remember, alcohol impairs the ability to be responsible. Whenever practical, wear a personal flotation device or life vest.

Let's do our best to keep our Soldiers, civilians and Army Family members safe throughout the remainder of the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

Brig. Gen. John A. Macdonald
Deputy Commanding General
Installation Management Command

Letter To the Editor

Dear Editor,

I'm sending this e-mail in hopes that a wonderful person reads my praises.

July 4 my two young daughters and I were stranded at the access road near Sean Haggerty. The steering wheel on my silver Mazda van locked and the vehicle was overheating. A wonderful man, by the name of Clark, driving a white truck, with government plates stopped to help us. He made sure we arrived at the Western Refinery fuel station safely and he proceeded to inspect the vehicle to assess the problem. He found the problem and fixed it. He stayed with us until a relative arrived. I am so grateful he took the time to help me and my daughters. I didn't know what to do and thank God he did. I hope he reads this and knows how thankful I am he was so gallant. It is inspiring to know that "guardian angels" can disguise themselves as men from time to time. I hope to meet our guardian angel again someday to thank him personally.

"Clark, thank you again from the bottom of my heart, gentlemen like you are few and far between and we were blessed by having met you.

Sincerely,
Lisa Barrio

Some young marriages never get old

JACEY ECKHART
CinCHouse.com

NORFOLK, Va. – Every time I went through the line at Starbucks, someone was asking Lacie about her upcoming wedding. She was marrying a 22-year old Marine between his college graduation and his orders to Quantico.

That wasn't enough of an event to make the regulars quiz a worker about her personal life. I think we just liked to watch this particular girl float. Because Lacie seemed to float a little every time she mentioned the name of her fiancé. Do you know what I mean? She was the kind of future bride whose happiness seemed to change her body's molecular structure so the laws of gravity didn't apply to her anymore.

Until one afternoon when someone asked how old she was. "I'm 20," she admitted. "Everyone tells me that's young to get married."

Everyone nodded in agreement. But I just shrugged. "That's not too young. I was 21 when we got married and Brad has been in the Navy the whole time. We'll be married 20 years next Wednesday."

"Wednesday? We're getting married that Saturday!" she said. Then she stopped. "Your name is Jacey. My name is Lacie. You're

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2007 DWIs by brigade/unit

DATE	6th BDE	11th BDE	31ST BDE	108th BDE	4/1 CAV	1st AR DIV	GARRISON	WBAMC	FM/CIV	OTHER TENANT UNITS	OTHER MIL	TOTAL
JAN - MAR	HBB 6 BDE	1/44 AMD X 4	13TH MAINT CO	108th BDE	2-12 CAV	1-36 INF BN	MRB GARRISON X 2			402 FA X 3	63RD REG CMD	33
	HBB 2/6 BDE	HBB 11TH BDE	HBB 3/2 ADA	1/7 ADA X 2		1ST BDE						
	1/56 BN	5/52 ADA		2/43 ADA X 2		HBB FA 5-1 AD						
APR - JUN												
		1/44 AMD X 2	1/44 AMD	1/7 ADA X 2		1ST BDE	MRB GARRISON			402 FA	61ST CHEM CO	26
		5/52 ADA	31ST BDE X 2			3-36 INF REG				204TH MI		
JUL - SEP												
TOTAL	3	11	5	7	1	5	3	0	18	2	60	

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