A look ahead

By COL. STEVE PARMAN
CSJFTC Commander

With the holidays over and the sound of busses rolling through our gates loaded with troops, it is time to take a look ahead and get focused on the 2011 Mobilization Cycle.

This year Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center will be welcoming large units such as the 116th Military Police Company of the Alabama Army National Guard for their mobilization preparation and training.

They will be followed soon by the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

Just behind the Oklahoma troops will be the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from the Ohio Army National Guard.

Don’t forget the specialized teams preparing for mobilization at CSJFTC such as the 118th Chaplain Detachment from Iowa, the 115th Signal Corp Detachment from Ala., the 136th Chaplain Detachment from N.C., the 1394th Navy Transportation Company Detachment from Camp Pendleton, Calif., the 1937th Acquisition Team from Ohio and the 1957th Acquisition Team from Tenn.

These are just a snapshot of the specialized units that will all be mobilizing through CSJFTC by the start of the summer months.

During the bulk of the mobilizations this coming year, CSJFTC will also be welcoming home various units such as the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Idaho and the 2/34th Infantry Brigade Combat team from Iowa as well as various other units as they complete their demobilization process in the latter part of the year.

It is very important that every member of Camp Shelby’s team welcomes home our heroes with honor and respect.

The start of the New Year is also an opportunity to look ahead at professional development for all members of your team.

As leaders, it is important that you continue your military education and continue to pursue higher education goals. Encourage your team to

See AHEAD, Page 2
The road ahead...

Welcome back after a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I hope that each of you had a nice break surrounded by Family and friends.

Now that our batteries are charged it is time to regain our focus toward the road ahead. Thanks team for your hard work ensuring that members of the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from the Louisiana Army National Guard were processed to standard and made it home safely just in time for the holidays with their Families.

Get ready for a busy time as we prepare to welcome the 1165th Military Police Company of the Alabama Army National Guard for their mobilization preparation and training. They will be followed soon by the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Oklahoma Army National Guard.

Stay diligent during the cold weather months. The roads can be deadly when covered with patches of black ice or sleet during the early morning hours on your way to work.

Take extra precautions on the road by wearing your seatbelt, staying off of the cell phone and allowing yourself plenty of time to make it to your destinations without speeding. Ensure that you continue your safety briefs for your troops and every member of your team should have an alert roster in their vehicle.

Stay motivated for your physical fitness. It is very important to keep up with your PT and make it a part of your daily routine.

As leaders, you should set the example in everything that you do, including your fitness discipline.

Thank you, team for your continued hard work and dedication to the CSJFTC.

Soldiers First!

Continued from Page 1

AHEAD

seek educational opportunities for career enhancement as well as an opportunity to complete a degree program. Talk to your Soldiers and discuss opportunities available to them through local available resources.

Sometimes we do not pursue an opportunity simply because we are unaware that it is available to us.

During your quarterly counseling sessions is a great opportunity to discuss personal and professional goals for your team.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill is a great way for Soldiers and Family members of Soldiers to continue the pursuit of higher education.

The Education Office at CSJFTC is a great resource to start the process. CSJFTC is growing by leaps and bounds. In addition to the work load, we can look forward to a brand new PX and a multipurpose center around the start of the New Year.

Boundaries. In addition to the work load, we can look forward to a brand new PX and a multipurpose center around the start of the New Year.

The Department of Public Works has stayed busy with projects in 2010 and can look forward to the completion of several of those projects in 2011. The barracks renovations are moving along as planned and will be completed and ready for use just in time to welcome the summer surge of troops.

The New Year is an exciting time to start anew with goals, dreams, plans and projects. There is no time like the present and 2011 is a bright star on the horizon for a prosperous New Year. God Speed and God Bless!

Continued from Page 1

REVIEW

Airmen® visited the Armed Forces Museum.


JULY

- Capt. David M. Lowery assumed his first command July 14 during a ceremony in the courtyard of the Armed Forces Museum.

Lowery, who has been active at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center for more than three years as a medical liaison officer, relieved Capt. Lakett Cannon as commander of the 61st Medical Detachment (HHD) Camp Shelby.

- For the first time at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Soldiers in need of uniform items, accessories or tactical gear can go shopping in a building exclusively for that merchandise with the grand opening of the Military Clothing and Sales Store (MCSS) July 20.

AUGUST

- Members of the 1192nd Deployment Distribution Support Battalion (DDBS) of Louisiana gathered at Camp Shelby’s Dogwood West Pavilion to enjoy one last night with Family and friends before departing for Contingency Operations in the Middle East.

- Soldiers who are now deploying to Afghanistan will receive the new camouflage pattern uniform.

- It’s called the Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern (OCP) uniform, which uses a Multicam camouflage pattern and is designed to blend in with their environment better.

- The 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 34th Infantry Division of the Iowa National Guard, became the first unit of its size in the Army, and the first unit in the National Guard to be fitted and receive the latest equipment at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center.

SEPTEMBER

- The 158th Infantry Brigade “Warriors” received the official welcome as a new unit at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center and the Greater Hattiesburg area during an unceremonious ceremony Monday, Aug. 23, at the Parade Field. The 158th Infantry Brigade recently moved to Camp Shelby from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

- The Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Education Center celebrated its one-year on Sept. 15.

- After opening its doors last year, Camp Shelby’s education center has been booming with military personnel seeking educational assistance.

The Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Education Center recently moved to Camp Shelby from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. It is the 158th Infantry Brigade’s home for education.

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Dr. George Arthur Applewhite is a native of Osyka, Miss. He is currently employed as a contract physician at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center’s Troop Medical Clinic.

Applewhite attended high school at South Pike High School located in Magnolia in 1968. He obtained his Bachelor’s degree in Zoology from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1972.

Applewhite said that he was inspired to become a doctor because of his local small-town Family physician.

Immediately upon completing his B.S. degree, he attended medical school at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. He graduated with his Doctorate of Medicine degree in 1975. After that, he took an internship at Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital in Columbia, S.C. from 1976 to 1977.

He later completed his preventative medicine residency, which included his Master of Public Health degree at Tulane University located in New Orleans in 1980. During that time, he served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1977 until 1982 as a preventative medicine officer, flight surgeon and epidemiology instructor as the U.S. Army Academy of Health Sciences at Fort Sam Houston, Texas and Fort Sill, Okla.

Applewhite has 33 years of experience doctoring patients, and speaking the phrase “Rock n’ Roll” when he is ready for his next patient. He started to work at the Troop Medical Clinic in December 2008.

“I describe my work as rewarding, and not just because of the money,” he said. “I like knowing that I may be making a difference.”

In his spare time, he enjoys fishing with friends at lakes near Wiggins. He enjoys spending time with his two grown children, Summer and Glen and his seven grandchildren. He is currently married to his wife of four years, Debbie, who is a certified professional coder for medical records.

Dr. George Arthur Applewhite
It’s that time of year again. Perhaps you didn’t pay cash for all those shiny holiday gifts and, consequently, the credit card bills have started to arrive much sooner than you thought.

In the unfortunate event you fall behind in paying these bills and you’re unable to negotiate a payment schedule with the creditor, the obligations might be referred to a debt collector.

If that happens, you should be familiar with your rights under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA), 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692-1692p (as amended in 2006). The FDCPA is enforced by the Federal Trade Commission and prohibits debt collectors from using abusive, unfair, or deceptive practices in their collection efforts.

Under the FDCPA, a debt collector includes collection agencies, lawyers who collect debts on a regular basis and companies that buy, and then collect, delinquent debts. The debts covered by the FDCPA include personal, Family, and household debts like credit cards, auto loans, medical bills, and even mortgages. The FDCPA does not cover debts incurred for operation of a business.

Unless you agree to it, a debt collector may not contact you at inconvenient times or places. For example, calls before 0800 or after 2100 are not permitted. Also, if you notify a debt collector verbally or in writing, calls at your place of employment are not allowed. A debt collector may not harass you by using threats of violence or harm or use obscene or profane language.

Debt collectors may also not make false statements when trying to collect the alleged debt and are prohibited from saying you will be arrested for non-payment. The FDCPA outlines other prohibited debt collection practices.

As a practical matter, you may want to speak with the debt collect-
A new creation

By CHAPLAIN (Capt.) STEPHEN YARBER
Camp Shelby Staff Chaplain

There is nothing like the smell of a new car. I love it. A vehicle whether it is new to us or brand new off the show room floor has a special feeling for most of us. We want to keep it looking new as long as possible.

We wash it each time it gets a speck of dirt on it. We vacuum it regularly and wipe down the console and dashboard. With the new car you may even come up with some new rules for those who ride in it, like no feet on the dashboard or no food or drink in the car. If your feet are dirty, keep them on the floor mat. But over time the new fades and the rules are forgotten.

We don’t notice as quickly when it gets a little mud on it. Dust accumulates on the dashboard and the floor mats need cleaning.

Very similar to life isn’t it? As the New Year approaches some make resolutions; to counter the frustration of failed resolutions, some decide to not make resolutions at all.

No plans for improvement. Sounds harsh doesn’t it? No plans for improvement. Rather than fail, we decide not to try. Does that mean we decide to accept mediocrity in areas we know can be better? Maybe so, but there is a solution.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!” Our hope for change can’t come from inside ourselves contrary to popular philosophy. According to Scripture, we can’t “fix” ourselves. It isn’t in us. That fact is evident in human nature from the beginning.

For example, we don’t have to teach children to be selfish. We come into the world saying “mine, mine, mine.” Our hope for change must come from an outside source, and the best source I can think of is the One who created us.

After all, who can know us better than He? Before we think following Him will lead to a perfect life with no dust on the dashboard, no pings or dents in the bodywork think again. The disciples had a hard road in being Christ-followers. They were beaten, stoned, thrown in prison, exiled and killed for their faith. These experiences are hardly an advertisement for the easy life.

However, they had something which enabled them to proceed through difficult times, the knowledge that they were not alone. The abiding presence of Jesus in their lives was a purpose bigger than themselves. Remember, these were men who had seen Him beaten and crucified. When they decided to follow the Him, their eyes were open to the harsh reality of what faith could bring.

Our hope for change must come from an outside source, and the best source I can think of is the One who created us. So what would cause people to follow Christ? I would suggest it is the knowledge that no matter what is in their past, the eternal destiny is sure. It is sure because we may ask for and receive God’s complete forgiveness.

Psalm 103:11-13 says. “For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him, as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.” We see the goal in front of us. We can sustain the drive to improve when we know we are forgiven for the pings, dents, and dust.

Someone once said, “It isn’t my past which defines me.” My past is checkered with failed resolutions, but my future is full of hope because “in Christ I am a new creation.”

Scripture quotations are from the New International Version, ©2010 (NIV)

The following worship opportunities are available through Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center.

ON POST
General Protestant
Sunday, 9 a.m., Greer Chapel
Sunday, 12:30 p.m., Greer Chapel
Sunday, 2 p.m., Greer Chapel

Catholic Mass
Saturday, 2 p.m., Greer Chapel
Sunday, 9 a.m., Greer Chapel
Sunday, 12:30 p.m., Greer Chapel

Episcopal
Sunday, 12:30 p.m., Trinity Episcopal, 509 West Pine St., 601-544-5551
Sunday, 8 a.m., St. John Lutheran Church, 2001 Hardy Street, 601-683-4898

Catholic Off Post
Sunday, 10 a.m., Catholic Church at Biloxi Naval Air Station]

Episcopal Off Post
Sunday, 8 a.m., Trinity Episcopal, 509 West Pine St., 601-544-5551

Catholic Services
Sunday, 9 a.m., Greer Chapel
Sunday, 10 a.m., Catholic Church of the Holy Cross, 4238/ Hall: 601-268-9706. Contact the Post Chaplain for assistance at 558-2378.

Jewish
Sunday, 12:30 p.m., Jewish Services, 2438 Hall: 601-544-5551

Episcopal
Sunday, 8 a.m., Trinity Episcopal, 509 West Pine St., 601-544-5551

Latter-day Saints
Sunday, 9 a.m., Latter-day Saints Meeting House, 1618 Broadway Dr., 601-268-2408/ Hall: 601-268-9708. Contact the Post Chaplain.

Area Worship Opportunities:

For example, we don’t have to teach children to be selfish. We come into the world saying “mine, mine, mine.”

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My past is checkered with failed resolutions, but my future is full of hope because “in Christ I am a new creation.”

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Sgt. Latoya Kenice Spencer is a native of Silver Creek. She is a member of the Headquarter’s Headquarters Company, 106th Brigade Support Battalion located in Monticello. She is currently assigned to Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center’s Individual and Medical Replacement Battalion as an administration Noncommissioned Officer.

Spencer graduated from Lawrence County High School in Monticello in 2000.

“When I graduated from high school, my mother said I had two choices—join the army or go to college. So being that I had just graduated, the military it was,” she said.

Spencer served at Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C. for three years while on army active duty. There, she served as a supply specialist under her Military Occupational Specialty. Her duties were to ensure that the training company had everything they needed to train the Soldiers. Spencer decided to join the National Guard after her tour of active duty in order to stay connected to the military.

Spencer attended Pearl River Community College from 2006 to 2007 and Copiah Lincoln Community College from 2003 to 2004 where she concentrated on general studies. She also attended vocational schools and became a certified welder and phlebotomist in 2007. She also holds a MOS as a military cook. She also has experience as a civilian cook for M&B Catering, a catering company at Camp Shelby.

Spencer was deployed with the 106th BSIB in Iraq from 2009 to 2010 where she served as a work order NCO.

Spencer has been working at CSJFTC for only four months. She enjoys her job, especially when she is able to attend functions with her Army Family. Her favorites include the Replacement Company’s Halloween Carnival, the November canned goods food drive and December’s fundraising efforts for Toys for Tots.

At home, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Glenisire Spencer and three children, Ja’Daria Barnes, 6, Tyson Spencer, 6 and Jaidence Spencer, 3. Together they enjoy participating in kid-friendly activities like playing Wii games and eating out at Gatti Town or Chuck E Cheese. Spencer also volunteers as a cheerleading coach for her daughter’s junior cheerleading squad at Oak Grove Primary School located in Hattiesburg.

When Soldiers return home after their deployment here at Camp Shelby, more than just the Soldiers and military vehicles will be on the roads. Give extreme caution as you travel down the roads and especially during the times when Soldiers are conducting PT.

Speaking of PT, when you are running along the roads of Camp Shelby, no headphones are allowed in your ears when running. That is a huge safety hazard.

As you may know, there are still a lot of construction projects going on. Adding to that, we will begin paving the side roads between Lee and Forrest Avenues.

This will take place in a few months. Also, the South Gate entrance is still under construction. I thank you for your patience as they continue to finish up that construction project. The PX is nearly complete and soon we will have a revamped Post Exchange.

So in closing, I wish to thank everyone a Happy New Year. The year 2011, let’s stay focused and purpose driven. NCO’s and junior NCO’s, lead by example, take care of your Soldiers and set the standard. Remember, someone is always watching you.

Just like someone is watching what we do down here as a mobilization station and the result of that is we are the premiere mobilization station because you are doing the right thing.

Keep up the good and hard work and I guarantee your dedication is not going unnoticed. May God continue to bless each of you and your Families.

SOLDIERS FIRST!
By DANA ELISE SMITH
Camp Shelby Public Affairs

1st Lt. Cory Martin is a native of Pearl and a member of the 185th Theater Aviation Brigade. He is currently serving as the S1 Personnel Officer of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center’s Individual Replacement Medical Transition Battalion. He has a Military Occupation Specialty as an Air Defense Artillery Officer.

He attended West Monroe High School in West Monroe, La. At the start of his junior year, he took a placement equivalency test which allowed him to start college immediately at Jones County Junior College.

Martin said that shortly after starting college at JCJC, he decided to join the Army National Guard.

“I was a college freshman and I needed more maturity and I figured the military would work for that. I chose the National Guard because I liked the benefits of being home instead of traveling the world.”

During the pursuit of his military career, he continued his college education. He attended Hinds Community College in Jackson before opting to take college courses online with Vincennes College, American Military University and Ashford University—all based out of the state of Illinois. He plans to finish his Bachelor’s Degree of Operation Management with Ashford University very soon.

This January he will be celebrating his 18th year in the Mississippi Army National Guard. Martin was a member of Alpha Co. 186th Brigade Support Battalion from 1993 until 1999. Then, he took an Active Guard Reserve position with the 31st Rear Operation Center from 1999 to 2004.

He deployed to Iraq from 2003 to 2004 with the 31st ROC where he aided in establishing and monitoring new bases. Martin became a member of the 184th Transportation Brigade from 2004 to 2005.

He attended Officer Candidate School at Camp Shelby from 2005 to 2006.

Martin resigned fully from his civilian occupation as an office manager when he took his commission in 2007 and served at Joint Force Headquarters located in Jackson.

Later that year he transferred to the 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense Artillery, serving in both B and C batteries until 2009. During that time, he deployed with the 204th ADA to Washington D.C. from 2008 to 2009. He became a member of the 185th TAB in 2009 and was mobilized at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center on April 23, 2009.

In his spare time, he enjoys weapons, bow and primitive hunting methods for deer and other wildlife. Lately, he prefers to go bow hunting with his compound bow.

Martin found maturity in Army National Guard. He attended West Monroe High School in West Monroe, La. At the start of his junior year, he took a placement equivalency test which allowed him to start college immediately at Jones County Junior College.

Martin also finds time to keep up with his college studies and practices his skills at the acoustic and electric guitar.

JAG
Continued from Page 5

tor at least once to determine the details of the collection action.

Within five days of first contacting you, every collector must send you a written “validation” notice saying how much you owe.

If you subsequently decide, for whatever reason, that you don’t want the debt collector to contact you further, you must inform the debt collector in writing.

Sending this letter via return receipt will be proof that the debt collector has been notified.

Author: DANA ELISE SMITH
Camp Shelby Public Affairs

1st Lt. Cory Martin

Upon receipt, the debt collector may not contact you again unless it’s to inform you that (1) there will be no further contact or (2) they or the creditor intend to take specific action, e.g. file a lawsuit.

If you believe a debt collector has violated aspects of the FDCPA, you have the right to sue in state or federal court within one year from the date the law was violated.

If you prevail, the collection agency may be required to pay for damages due to the illegal collection practices, including lost wages and medical bills. Even if actual damages cannot be proven, the judge may still require the collection agency to pay you up to $1,000.

You may report potential violations of the FDCPA to the Federal Trade Commission (www.ftc.gov) and your state Attorney General’s office (www.naag.org) and to the Federal Trade Commission (www.ftc.gov).

Though a debt collector may have violated the FDCPA, remember that the debt does not go away if you legitimately owe it. The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA), 50 U.S.C. App. §§ 501-596, may offer some protection if your military service materially affects your ability to pay.

Notwithstanding protections afforded by the SCRA, a lawsuit is filed against you to collect a debt, respond to the lawsuit, either personally or through your attorney, by the date specified in the court documents.

Finally, unpaid debts and/or adverse creditor judgments, including filing for bankruptcy, may jeopardize your military security clearance.

Failure to pay just debts is a violation of military regulation (AR 600-15) and can be a violation of Article 92 or Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. As many military jobs (and all commissioned officer positions) require security clearances, failure to resolve credit problems can become a career-ending experience.

For more information and direct assistance, the Camp Shelby Family Assistance Center can access trained financial counselors available free-of-charge from the Army.

For additional legal guidance, service members and other eligible persons can contact the Legal Assistance Section of the Office of the Command Judge Advocate. Both the Family Assistance Center and the Legal Assistance Office are on the first floor of the Camp Shelby Headquarters Building located at 1001 Lee Avenue.
Reveille (CS)

COMICS

Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas

Beatle Bailey by Mort, Greg and Brian Walker

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

Mama's Boyz by Jerry Craft

Beatle Bailey by Mort, Greg and Brian Walker

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

R.F.D. by Mike Marland

Beatle Bailey by Mort, Greg and Brian Walker

They'll Do It Every Time by Al Scaduto

Beatle Bailey by Mort, Greg and Brian Walker

Laff-a-Day

Hubert - By Dick Winger
ACROSS
1. Home — (‘90 film) 54. Big bang
2. Faithful 55. Distress
3. Elated 56. Terror
4. Tighten the belt 57. Exhibition event of 1900
5. Nigerian city 58. Solidarity
6. Act of kindness 59. Wildon or Wray
7. And others 60. Way
8. Utah city 61. Utah city
9. Go 62. Go
10. Doi-suzumi’s “L’Estir d’
11. Favorite 70. Quaker or Arden
12. Terrier 71. Heavenly hunter
13. Mustage 72. 100th event of 1900
15. Favorite 74. Coach, Parshaghan
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61. Favorite 120. Coach, Parshaghan
62. Favorite 121. Coach, Parshaghan
63. Favorite 122. Coach, Parshaghan
64. Favorite 123. Coach, Parshaghan

This Week’s ANSWERS

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

Wishing Well®

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HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It’s a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♀) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. REVEME becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fill each string’s word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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A STRANGE EFFECT on 120 is 120, as you might suspect. But the effect on 132 can be quite astonishing.
For Rent - 114

Village, Nice, 2br, 1½ba, Townhome
2002 Lincoln LS, auto, air, power, $16,995. 866-999-9241.
2006 Hummer H3, auto, air, power, $8,995. 866-999-9241.
2000 Toyota Mr2, 6spd, air, power, $19,995. 866-999-9241.
2008 Mini Cooper S, auto, air, power, $18,495. 866-999-9241.
2010 Chevrolet Malibu LT, auto, air, power, $14,995. 866-999-9241.
2006 Chrysler 300 Touring, auto, air, power, $16,005. 866-999-9241.
2009 Ford Fusion, auto, air, power, $26,995. 866-999-9241.
2010 Chevrolet Camaro LT, auto, air, power, $18,969. 866-999-9241.
2008 Chrysler Sebring Convertible, auto, all power, $8,337-233-0024.

Shots, Trained, Supplies & Guaranteed.
& Ragdoll Kittens, $300 up. Registered,
CatsByFrancy.com Himalayan, Persian

Regional Classifieds - 135


Sec. Truck Driver Training. CDL and Refresher classes start every Monday. Free tuition if you qualify. Jobs available now! Call 1-877-245-8261 Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 5 pm CST.

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Divorce with or without Children $125.00. With FREE name change documents and marital settlement agreement. Fast and easy. Call us 24hrs. /7days: 1-888-709-0198. www.CourtBrowncarizona.com


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Married couple deployed together

By SGT. KENNETH HATEN
Joint Sustainment Command
Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan - Overseas deployments affect many married couples, especially during the holiday season, but two married Mississippi Army National Guard Soldiers have found a way to keep their marriage healthy throughout their deployments.

Sgt. David Nelson and his wife, Spc. Tamara Nelson, both of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command live and work together as part of Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, based at Kandahar Air Field.

“We’re still newlyweds; we were married July 1st,” said Tamara.

“This deployment is our honeymoon,” said David. “Not every couple gets an all-expense paid vacation to an exotic location like this. It’s actually pretty cool.”

David works as an automated logistcian, tracking essential food shipments across Afghanistan, and Tamara is the Admin NCO (Administrative Non-Commissioned Officer) for HHC (Headquarters and Headquarters Company). She maintains unit records and processes incoming and outgoing mail.

David has served more than 12 years in the Guard. Tamara has 11 years of service. When not deployed, the Nelsons both work at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop at Camp Shelby.

“Both said that being deployed together is definitely better than deploying separately.”

Both said that being deployed together is definitely better than deploying separately.

“Please don’t think I’m complaining,” said David. “It’s just part of the job, and it’s actually pretty cool.”

For the Nelsons, deployment has been a little more difficult because David is a commissioned officer.


While they admitted that being deployed together has many advantages, the Nelsons said that it was very hard to leave their two children, 3-year old Lilli and 6-year old Kenzie.

“It was very hard to leave,” said Tamara.

“Kenzie is an amazing big sister and she is helping take good care of her little sister,” said Tamara.

“KAF is really not that bad,” said David.

“Stephanie Dillon, the Sexual Assault and Response Coordinator for Camp Shelby and CSUFTC Commander Steve Farhaim.

Camp Shelby receives proclamation for its support of domestic violence issues

By SGT. MICHAEL WILLIAMS
Camp Shelby Public Affairs

One of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center programs received a prestigious award that sets them apart from the rest.

Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program received the National Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation for their dedication and support to the Soldiers of Camp Shelby and the Families who have experienced domestic violence.

This proclamation will assist the SAR program in finding the help and healing resources needed for victims so they will become survivors.

To receive the award was Stephanie Dillon who is the Sexual Assault and Response Coordinator for Camp Shelby and she says that the office’s intent is to connect battered women and advocates across the nation who was working to end violence against women and their children.

“It’s an honor and privilege to receive this award,” said Dillon. “With the support of Camp Shelby’s command and mission, they help us educate our Soldiers dealing with domestic violence and sexual assault.”

To present the award was the Mayor of Hattiesburg, Johnny Dupree. Dillon said that she felt noble to receive the award for the office’s commitment.

The honor of receiving this award portrays how Camp Shelby values the awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault. I’m glad that Camp Shelby is being recognized for all the hard work and dedication we put into the program,” says Dillon.

The Proclamation reads: In the 16 years since the passage of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), we have broken the silence surrounding domestic violence to reach thousands of survivors, prevent countless incidences of abuse, and save untold number of lives. While these are critical achievements, domestic violence remains a devastating public health crisis when one in four women will be physically assaulted by a partner at some point in her lifetime. During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we recognize the tremendous progress made in reducing domestic violence, and we recommit to making everyone’s home a safe place for all.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month was first observed in October 1987. That same year marks the initiation of the U.S. National domestic violence toll-free hotline. In 1989, the U.S. Congress passed Public Law 101-112 designating October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.