



724th Transportation Company Family Readiness Group

Jan/Feb 2009
Volume 2, Issue 1

What's Inside:

- Commander's Corner
- From 1SG Haines
- EO Message
- SSG Bell - Supply
- FRG News
- FRG Contact Info
- Welcome to New Soldiers
- Battle Assembly Schedule
- Military Humor
- Army Acronyms
- Web Sites

COMMANDER'S CORNER

We will have a very busy weekend starting with IED training on Friday for our leadership and moving into individual Platoon training the following days. Make sure our Soldiers are busy and not just standing around drawing attention from BN.

We initially started off the Pre-Mob tasks as a Company and just recently had found out that someone or several of you had taken it upon yourself or themselves to let the Platoon Sergeants handle their Platoons in the accomplishment of the tasks. I have already seen some issues with this and needs to be rectified ASAP. When these classes are being conducted there will be sign in sheets with the class being conducted listed on it. It will be only the sign in sheet provided by training. It will also have the instructors listed. Once the class is completed the sheets need to be turned into training ASAP. Make as many copies for whoever else you want just make sure training gets the original. Doing these classes separately

as a Platoon has some benefits but it also has a lot of issues to go along with it. Issues that it creates are issues such as taking three to four times the instructors to complete the one task, having multiple sign in sheets for one class, and reducing the chances of having a good and qualified instructor for the classes. The most important thing to think about is when we get to the MOB station—Do we want to be doing those tasks all over again???? Do it right the first time.

All Soldiers having supply issues get with SSG Bell to get them fixed now. You don't want to be going to schools, RTC or MOB station without your uniforms or gear because you waited until the last minute to try and get it taken care of.

Remedial PT needs to be a must. We have way too many Soldiers in this unit that can not pass the APFT. Remedial PT may be the step forward for some of the Soldiers that can't pass the APFT to get motivated to start doing more to get into shape at home.

Check the XFFROST Platoon Sergeants and make sure that if you or any of your Soldiers are on it that they are notified well in advance so they can attend and complete their needed training. There is no excuse for Soldiers wanting to pull out of it at the last minute for any other reasons but emergencies.

CW2 David Heady
724th Company Commander

Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.

John F. Kennedy

FROM THE TOP

Hope everyone had a good New Year's Eve and got recharged for the New Year. We're on the back stretch and training is picking up. Individual training and prep for RTC, along with MOSQ and NCOES schooling, are on the front burner right now. For January, the NCOs will be in IED training. Junior enlisted has driver's training and weapons familiarization. For February, 1st PLT will be going to Quincy to train with 3rd PLT (fuel card willing). As usual, remedial PT on Saturday and Sunday, make up APFT on Sunday. Formation times: Friday is 0730; Saturday: remedial PT 0600, formation 0730; Sunday: remedial PT 0600, APFT 0630, formation 0730.

There is a "Elvis" concert on Saturday night at 5 Points in Washington. Tickets are \$13 in advance to Military Personnel. Contact me for tickets. Transportation from Unit has been arranged.

1SG Christopher Haines

FROM THE EO OFFICER

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR –
January 15th

Twenty years after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. proclaimed to the world his dream for equality, Public Law 98-144 was enacted, designating the third Monday in January as a Federal holiday commemorating Dr. King's birthday. The King Holiday honors the life and contributions of America's greatest champion of racial justice and equality, the leader who not only dreamed of a color-blind society, but who also led a

movement that achieved historic reforms to help make it a reality. George Washington is the only other American whose birthday has been designated as a Federal holiday.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH –
February

The Civil Rights Acts of the 1960s were great breakthroughs. Not only did they afford African-Americans legal rights that every American should have, they provided for enforcement of the anti-discrimination laws of the federal government. By the early 1970s, the military had instituted directives, policies, and training on race relations and equal opportunity.

SFC Tom Brown
EO Representative 724TC

Family Readiness Group News

What fun our holiday celebrations were! I've put some of the Santa photos in the newsletter. Unfortunately I lost the list of names for the photos taken with Santa but I've printed all the photos and will have them at the January drill for distribution. If you had a child whose photo was taken with Santa and want to see the photo(s) sooner, email me and I'll send them to you.

2009 will be a busy year for the 724th, including of course, deployment to Iraq in August. We'll have another Family Day just before the unit deploys. I've been contacted by some family members of the 724th Quincy Detachment (Thanks Brenda Goehl and Bryan and Jackie Dooley) who are interested in getting some FRG activities started in Quincy. We'll be working out some of those ideas at our January meeting on Saturday, January 24 at 10 a.m. We'll also have a bake sale at that time for the soldiers and anyone else who wants to come

by. All family members are welcome to attend our meeting.

In Jan/Feb, we will also be developing a phone tree to keep family members updated and to share information. Remember: All 724th soldiers and their family are automatically members of the 724th FRG; participation is a choice.

Mary Mullen
FRG Co-Leader

FRG Contact Info

Co-Leaders:

Mary Mullen

(217) 377-4564

mullenmarm@yahoo.com

Amanda DeValkanaere

(309) 852-0830

acsentene@gmail.com

Secretary:

Leslie Nell

(309) 346-2175

Lnell_1955@hotmail.com

Treasurer:

Jennifer Brown

(309) 444-2367

jennifer_brown_87@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor

Mary Mullen

(217) 377-4564

mullenmarm@yahoo.com

Fundraising Chairman

LaReese Ballmer

(309) 261-2034

Shoelace90@yahoo.com

DISNEY WORLD Military Discounts

Go to this website for more info:

<http://www.wdwinfo.com/discounts/discounts-military.htm>



WELCOME TO NEW SOLDIERS!

Please welcome to the 724th:

Sgt. Miguel Castaneda, Racine WI

SSG Thomas J. Holt, Palo Heights, IL

Danny L. Leyva, Chicago, IL

Anner Aldana, Chicago, IL

BATTLE ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

Annual Training

UTA/MUTA	DATES
6	23-25 Jan 09
4	21-22 Feb 09
4	21-22 Mar 09

ARMY ACRONYMS

WLC	Warrior Leadership Course
-----	---------------------------

Military Humor

How to Prepare for Deployment to Iraq

Wash only 15 items of laundry per week. Roll up the semi-wet clean clothes in a ball. Place them in a cloth sack in the corner of the garage where the cat pees. After a week, unroll them and without ironing or removing the mildew, proudly wear them to professional meetings

and family gatherings. Pretend you don't know what you look or smell like. Enthusiastically repeat the process for another week.

Go to the worst crime-infested place you can find, go heavily armed, wearing a flak jacket and a Kevlar helmet. Set up shop in a tent in a vacant lot. Announce to the residents that you are there to help them.

Demand each family member be limited to 10 minutes per week for a morale phone call. Enforce this with your teenage daughter.

Shoot a few bullet holes in the walls of your home for proper ambiance.

Sandbag the floor of your car to protect from mine blasts and fragmentation.

(Watch for Final Tips in Next Months Edition)



ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF



"Helping the Army Take Care of its Own"

Army Community Service
#1 Rock Island Arsenal
Rock Island, IL 61299-5000
(309) 782-0815/0829
DSN: 793-0815/0829
Toll Free (877) 882-0523

Email: ROCK-ACS@conus.army.mail

WHAT IS ARMY EMERGENCY

AER is a private nonprofit organization that was incorporated in 1942 by the Secretary of War and the Army Chief of Staff. The mission of AER is to provide emergency financial assistance to soldiers.

WHO DOES AER HELP?

- **Active duty** soldiers, single or married, and their eligible family members.
- **ARNG** and **USAR** soldiers on **active duty** for more than 30 consecutive days and their eligible family members.
- Soldiers **retired** from active duty for longevity or physical disability, and their eligible family members
- **ARNG** and **USAR** soldiers who **retired** at age 60, and their eligible family members.
- **Surviving spouses** and orphans of soldiers who died while on active duty or after they retired

WHAT CAN AER DO?

Help with emergency financial needs for:

- Food
- Rent/mortgage payment
- Clothing
- Utilities
- Emergency transportation & vehicle repair
- Funeral expenses
- Medical/dental expenses
- Personal needs when pay is delayed or stolen
- Give undergraduate-level education scholarships, based primarily on financial need to children of soldiers.

WHAT CAN'T AER DO?

- Help pay for nonessentials (telephone/cell phone)
- Finance ordinary leave or vacation
- Pay fines or legal expenses
- Help liquidate or consolidate debt
- Assist with house purchase or home improvements
- Help purchase, rent or lease a vehicle
- Cover bad checks or pay credit card bills

WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE CAN BE EXPECTED

- ✓ An interest-free loan
- ✓ A grant (an outright gift of funds) if repayment of loan will cause undue hardship
- ✓ Or, part loan and part grant

WHAT IS NEEDED FOR ASSISTANCE?

Military ID card

Leave & Earnings Statement

Leave/PCS Orders

Substantiating documents (car repair estimate, rental

Agreement, utility bill, etc.)

Filled out DA Form 1103 - you can download this form at website listed below

For active duty personnel, on the back on the back of the form, the commander fills out blocks 17 and 18 and signs the form.

Filled out budget form that supplements the DA Form 1103 - download from website below

CAN A SPOUSE GET AER ASSISTANCE?

YES. Spouse will need to provide

- Power of Attorney
- Military ID Card
- Substantiating documents of need

IS THERE A DOLLAR LIMIT ON AER?

NO. AER assistance will meet the emergency need

DOES AER GET MONEY FROM THE GOV'T?

NO. AER does not receive any appropriated or non-appropriated government money.

HOW DOES AER GET ITS FUNDS?

- Voluntary contributions from active & retired soldiers & Army civilians.
- Repayment of AER interest-free loans.
- Investment income
- Unsolicited contribution

HOW TO GET AER WHEN NEEDED

- First, see your unit commander

 - Then, go to your AER Section
 - If there is no AER Section, to any of the following:
- American Red Cross
 - Air Force Aid Society Section
 - Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Auxiliary

Go to this website for more info:

<http://riamwr.com/ACS/AER.htm>

Including:

2008 AER Pocket Guide.pdf

DA Form 1103

Watch the AER Video!