

The Connection



Employee News from Fort Bragg Morale, Welfare, & Recreation

“Praise” Performs for Celebrated Gospel Artists

by: Emily Anzalone

Members of the gospel group “Praise” comprised mostly of CASBC employees participated in an MWR sponsored event, featuring renowned gospel recording artists Shirley Caesar and Evelyn Turrentine-Agee, at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md., on July 18.

Thirteen “Praise” members funded their own travel costs to Aberdeen on a volunteer basis. The group departed Fort Bragg on Saturday, July 17 and returned on Monday, July 19. CASBC employees used annual leave to travel on Monday.

Due to rain, the outdoor concert, “An Evening of Worship with Shirley Caesar with Special Guest Evelyn Turrentine-Agee,” was canceled. Instead, “Praise” had the opportunity to meet Caesar and Turrentine-Agee and perform solely for the legendary artists. According to Sondra McMillan-Jones, the experience was “even more awesome” than if they had performed for thousands of people.

Caesar, a North Carolina native, has recorded more than 40 albums since beginning her professional singing career in the mid-1960s. Her credits feature numerous awards, including 11 Grammy Awards, 13 Stellar Awards, 18 Doves and an Essence Award. Turrentine-Agee has been singing since age three. She was the first gospel artist to sign with Platinum Entertainment/GCI Records in 1990. Later, she formed her own record label, WOS Records.

Stephanie Miller, Sondra McMillan-Jones and Vicky Russell formed “Praise” in September 1999. They wanted to offer people a “break from the humdrum,” according to McMillan-Jones. Originally, “Praise” included employees of Child Development Services, but the group now includes retirees, civilians and members of other government agencies. The group has consisted of 13 to 18 members. During the group's early years, practices were held during employees' lunch times. Today, “Praise” practices in the evening.

The choir performs at churches and installation events, during Black History programs, and every fifth Sunday at the Veteran's Hospital. The group

welcomes new members who have the same mission. If you're interested in joining “Praise,” contact Sondra McMillan-Jones or Vicky Russell.



The Praise Members are: (L to R) Bobby Dixon, Faye Toles, Jackie Key Joann Thomas, Rose Autry, Verlease Nichols, Vicky Russell, Darryl Washington, Sondra Mcmillan-Jones, Peggy Johnson, Joyce Lacewell and Stephanie Miller. Shirley Caesar is in the middle wearing black and white and Evelyn Turrentine-Agee is behind her wearing orange.

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TEAM OF THE MONTH

FEbruary:

Deployment and Mobilization Team - *Rute Belanger, Ellen Bowman, Carolyn Brown, Edward Martin, Georgette McLaughlin, Carolina Rodriguez, Trent Stanfield, Laurie Taylor, Christina Vine, and Angela Yates.*

The Deployment and Mobilization Team answered the call to duty in preparing soldiers and their families for deployment. Due to the number of units returning from lengthy deployments as well as many units gearing up for deployment, our team conducted a total of 74 briefings with attendance of 1,793 during the month of February. Seven of those briefings were done on Saturdays. Our team conducted an ORA Inspection for AFTB, Family Advocacy Program, Financial Readiness Program, and Family Readiness Groups. And although the training was snowed out in February, the first ever FRG Leader Workshop took place at the end of March. In addition to the regular tasks at hand, the Deployment and Mobilization team participates in assisting the various ACS programs in many different ways. Five of our team members are AFTB Instructors and take part in teaching classes. We also put together flyers to promote events such as the Spanish Budgeting class, the Foreign Born Spouse Orientation, Immigration Workshop, EFMP, and the New Parent Support Program. We are not only a team within our own program, but our collaborative efforts show our commitment to the success of ACS as a whole. Because of the outstanding efforts of our team, requests for briefings and attendance at training have increased, and we are reaching more units than before. As a team, we meet the needs of the Fort Bragg community as well as National Guard and Reserve units geographically isolated, and as a result, we have yet to turn down a briefing request despite having three team members with spouses deployed. As individuals, each team member exemplifies the flexibility, dedication, and esprit de corps needed in working with commanders, community leaders, soldiers and their families.

MARCH:

Graphic's Team, Marketing Services Branch: *Steve Blackmon, Richarda Gilbert, and Kim Hoel*

Steve Blackmon, Richarda Gilbert and Kimberly Hoel have done an outstanding job juggling several large projects. They effectively handled the numerous last minute requests for printing for the Tiger Woods visit, most of which needed to be completed within one to two days. They printed 33 sandwich board posters, created 12 mounted, "Tiger Drive" signs, laid out the seven different badge designs, created golf cart VIP signs, printed lottery signs and forms within three days and designed and printed last minute seating signs. They did all of this without complaint, faster than expected and while working on various other MWR routine and large print jobs such as the MWR in Motion, Officers' Club wedding brochure and the MWR pocket guide. They are truly the epitome of teamwork and deserve to be recognized as CASBC Team of the Month for their extraordinary efforts.

APRIL:

ACS Team: *Henry Berry, Geri Bourne, Chris Brown, Sandi Farrington, Shirley Johns, Cathy Mansfield, Tomas Manso, William McKay, Beth Nelson, Stacy Williams*

The ACS Team showed the true spirit of "team" when they pulled together in April for Child Abuse Awareness Month, and the Installation Volunteer Month. Staff members worked tirelessly on the Child Abuse Run and Candlelight Vigil that recognized statewide abuse during the past year and hopefully shed more light on a serious issue. During the same month, staff organized and implemented a workshop on child abuse, and a planning workshop for installation and community agencies to determine how we could work together to address child abuse issues. In addition to the Family Advocacy programs, April was also the Installation Volunteer Month. Staff once again pulled together for the best volunteer recognition that Ft. Bragg has ever had with over 1000 people participating in all events.

April was an extremely busy month for these programs with the very limited staff that ACS has, but they all pulled together and made the programs a huge success and a remarkable one that many will remember no matter what program they participated in. The ACS Team members are very deserving of this award for going above and beyond in providing quality services for Ft. Bragg during this month.

Employees of the Month

Compiled by Kari Hubmer



FEBRUARY

Debbie Nixon

Program Support Assistant, Army Emergency Relief, ACS

For her outstanding performance compiling the training for the Fort Bragg Installation Army Emergency Relief (AER) Fund Campaign. At the last minute we were made aware that things had not been done to get the information ready for the campaign due to the two employees in charge of the program being out sick. Ms. Nixon did everything that she needed to do to get the program ready for training on 1 March. She only had 1 week to prepare for a major installation campaign. Not only did she prepare for this, she has had to do the campaign training three times due to soldiers not attending the training when they were supposed to. Ms. Nixon gave briefings and taught the greatest portion of the training. She worked long hours to gather all necessary information and materials. This speaks highly of Ms. Nixon's commitment to the Fort Bragg AER Campaign in lieu of the many obstacles she faced. Ms. Nixon deserves recognition for her excellent performance above and beyond the requirements of her current position as the Army Emergency Relief Technician.

Hometown: Fort Myers, FL **Time with MWR:** 2 years, 9 months

View on Customer Service: I view the customer as being on the top of the pyramid. In my job as a program support assistant, I strive daily to bridge the gap between the customer's needs and the support we can render to satisfy those needs.

Best part of her job: The handshake of gratitude, the smile on the face and the sigh of relief, that's the best part of my job.



MARCH

Avery Richey

Operation Assistant, Resource Management Branch, Support

Mr. Richey did an outstanding job of administering the biennial disinterested inventory of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Fund fixed assets. He was very proactive in preparing for the inventory. Mr. Richey processed a request to AcofS, G3 to obtain the inventory teams and then set up and conducted the briefing of the team. He worked with NAF Financial Services to obtain all necessary fixed asset reports. He coordinated the scheduling of the inventories with all hand receipt holders. He worked closely with the inventory teams and followed up to ensure all assets were inventoried. Mr. Richey was providing guidance to the team during the entire process. Mr. Richey worked late, delayed and/or missed lunch breaks and rescheduled time off in order to make himself available to the team at all times. Mr. Richey's professionalism, "can do" attitude, dedication, and positive outlook ensured the fixed asset inventory was accomplished as efficiently as possible.

Hometown: Mobile, AL **Time with MWR:** 19 Years

View on Customer Service: I believe in treating customers the way I expect to be treated. With respect and the best possible service I can give.

Best part of her job: I really enjoy working with all of my customers. They all make me smile.



APRIL

Lisa Exum

Volunteer Coordinator, ACS

Ms. Exum was the cornerstone of Fort Bragg's ACS annual volunteer appreciation ceremony during April. Ms. Exum picked up the ACS volunteer program as additional duties because a volunteer had been doing the program, but things were not getting done correctly. The prior year ACS had only 9 volunteers, this past April Ms. Exum had increased ACS volunteers by 75. Due to the fact that ACS is short about 15 staff members, these volunteers really helped in the staffing of getting things done. In addition to her getting ACS more volunteers, she planned and orchestrated her first ACS volunteer recognition ceremony. This ceremony required coordination with the club, ordering supplies, making arrangements with organizations, and printing of certificates. All of this was new to Ms. Exum. The entire community is more aware of types of volunteer activities that ACS offers because of her dedication. In addition, Ms. Exum partnered with the local schools finding volunteer ACS jobs for disabled young people. This built a great working relationship with local schools as well as gave the young people a trade for self-reliance.

Hometown: New Jersey **Time with MWR:** 2 Years

View on Customer Service: Customer service is very important because the soldiers and their family members come first. We provide love, care, patience and kindness to all our soldiers.

Best part of her job: Helping people

Think that your accomplishments are going unnoticed? Ask your supervisor to nominate you or someone from your area. Contact Christine Matthews or any administrative assistant in the headquarters building for nomination formats and monthly deadlines. Call 396-7529, ext. 132.

Employee Profile



Tara Grimes
Operations Assistant
Stryker Golf Course

Hometown: St. Marys, GA

Family: I am married to PFC James Grimes USA and we have two dogs (my babies) a Great Dane, Duke and a Basset Hound, Ladybug.

Experience/Time with MWR: I have been working at Stryker Golf Course since October 2003. I have also worked for the MWR in Kings Bay, GA as a lifeguard for 3 years.

Job Responsibilities: I am the Operations Assistant at Stryker Golf Course. I do a little bit of everything involved in operating a golf course.

View on customer service: Customer Service is something we should all try to set a high goal to meet and exceed. It is so important to just be nice and friendly to everyone you encounter in and outside of work.

Best part about my job: The people I work with, not only employees but I also have the best customers!

Manager Profile

Hometown: Jeannette, Pennsylvania

Experience/Time with MWR: 15 years, 2 in Hanau Germany and 13 here at Fort Bragg

Job Responsibilities: Marketing Director for MWR. I oversee the commercial sponsorship and advertising programs, marketing and advertising initiatives for MWR facilities, graphics, media relations and marketing research.

View on customer service: Everyone deserves to be treated with respect. Providing good customer service is not only a great way to keep customers coming back, it's also a nice way to let people know that they're important.

Best part of your job: The people I work with everyday! I've never worked with a more professional, team-oriented group of people.



Lori Bruschi
Marketing Director
for Fort Bragg MWR



*Pictured (L to R) Shirley, Steve and Henry Miller,
Chief of Technical Services*

Retirements

Steve and Shirley Stewart both retired this past June after 20+ years of service each! Steve started out with Lodging and moved to Tech Services in 1986 where he retired as an electrician. Shirley worked at Lodging since 1981 and was their employee of the year in 2003. She was the Foreman at Normandy Guest House. Many thanks Mr. & Mrs. Stewart! You will be missed and we all hope you enjoy your retirement.

The following new employees were caught on camera! If you are a new employee, or have a new employee join your team, send us an email and a photo and we'll include them in the next Connection!

Employee News



Welcome **Sabine Bryant**! She joins us from Fort Leonard Wood where she was the Business Manager in the Community Club System. Sabine is originally from Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. She and her husband Steve have 3 children, Steve-Wane, Shawn-David and Shannon-Marie. She also has a cat nicknamed KiKi which is short for Killer Kitty! Sabine is the Administrative Assistant for the Support Division.



We would like to welcome **Jeff Johnson** who was recently hired as the new Golf Pro at Stryker Golf Course. Jeff joins us from Countryside Golf Course in Roanoke, VA. He is a Dunn, NC native and was the assistant Golf Pro at Ryder Golf Course in 1997. He comes highly recommended by our much missed Dave Yates!



We welcomed **Kathy Dillinger** into the MWR family this past January. She and her husband Patrick moved to Fort Bragg 2 years ago from Fort Gordon, GA. Kathy is a native Texan, and she has 3 children, Bryan, a college student, Alicia, 11 and Kylie 16 months. Kathy was actually born at the old Womack “back in the day!” Welcome back to Fort Bragg Kathy!



Ms. Mae Harrington received her 30 Years Service Certificate and pin in July at the Soldier Recreation Center. Ms. Harrington's career began at the Fort Bragg NCO Club, and for the past 2 years she has been assigned to the Soldier Recreation Center. Congratulations Mae!



PET OF THE QUARTER



Kara Carrier, Marketing Media Relations, was caught cat-napping with her cat Nala! Special thanks to her husband Shannon for sending this one in! Kara also has a tabby named Simba. She claims she let her 7-year-old daughter, Maya, name the cats!



Congratulations to Cleland's **Dennis and Robin Quigley** on the birth of their daughter Erin! She was born on June 21st, and was 19.5 inches long and weighed 7lbs. 3 oz.

Information Technology's **Jennifer Hall's** son, Shaun Hall, graduated in early August from Little yellow to Big yellow at COOK CDC and he turned 1 on Saturday, Aug 7th. They also celebrated their 12th wedding anniversary on the same day, Aug 7th! "Guess I have no excuse now for forgetting my wedding anniversary," says Jennifer!



BRAGGIN' BOX



My granddaughter, Erin McCoy, and Eric Blaesing were united in marriage May 15, 2004. She is a student at Campbell University and will graduate in the spring of 2005 with a Bachelors of Science degree in elementary education. The groom is a 2004 graduate of Campbell University with a bachelors degree in pharmaceutical sciences and is employed with Wyeth Pharmaceutical in Sanford as an Associate Scientist.

Erin & Eric Blaesing, Larry & JoAnn Clark, RMB, are the proud grandparents in the picture.

RECIPES

Gudrun's Secret Family Recipe for Zucchini Quiche

-Gudrun Blackmon, CYS

Actually, it isn't secret but it's a yummy recipe. Really good for a breakfast or brunch. (Even if you don't like zucchini.)

5 eggs (slightly beaten)	1/2 cup Oil (Crisco)
1 cup. Bisquick	1/2 chopped onion
1/2 cup Parmesan Cheese	1/2 cup Shredded Cheddar Cheese
1/2 tsp. each salt and pepper	1/2 cup chopped parsley
Garlic (to taste)	3 cups zucchini, sliced thin and quartered

- Mix together all ingredients. (Do not use a mixer.)
- Bake in greased 9x13" pan at 450 degrees for 20-25 minutes.
- Allow to cool. Cut in squares.

Meat Loaf Surprise

-Danny Sutton, Sports

For 6 servings:

3 lbs of ground sirloin	1/2 cup onions very finely cut
1/2 cup bell pepper very finely cut	Seasoning of choice
2 large eggs	One 12 oz can of tomato sauce
Black Pepper	Breadcrumbs (1/2 cup for every pound of meat)

- Knead ground sirloin, mixing 2 egg whites with meat, until meat is in a very smooth ball shape.
- Add onions and bell peppers gradually.
- Continue kneading until all contents are absorbed and meat is a smooth texture.
- Select casserole dish to match size of meat lump, add to dish and shape to choice.
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees, cover dish and place in oven.
- Cook meat loaf until brown on top, approximately 30 minutes, Note: best to check every 10 minutes of so.
- When meat has 10 minutes until done, open can of tomato sauce and pour on meat loaf ensuring fully covered and sprinkle black pepper on top(quantity of choice)



Welcome Home to all of our MWR Spouses who were deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and other deployments throughout the globe! We're glad you are home safely. We wish a safe return for all MWR spouses and customers who are currently deployed.

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

Compiled by Patricia Morález

Army Emergency Relief (AER)

AER is a great help to me and others.

ASAP - Army Substance Abuse

I thought that this class was going to be boring, but it was really good. I actually learned a lot.

Information Technology

Ms. Hall is a pleasure to conduct business with. Her efforts are tireless when it comes to getting the job done.

Mark was very helpful, courteous and prompt with his service. He appears to have a positive impact on the automation team. Thank you for a job well done Mark.

CYS Registration

Ms. Matos is to be commended for her excellent service! She was very patient and able to address all questions.

Tickets and Tours

Visited the office on 6 July 04 at about 1030 to purchase tickets for Carowinds. Had family members from out of state with me. All of us were impressed with how friendly and helpful the staff was. I was happy to have my family see a part of Fort Bragg so well represented.



Prager CDC

The staff here is one of a kind and there hard work shows. Please know that Marilyn is a bright smile in a hectic world!

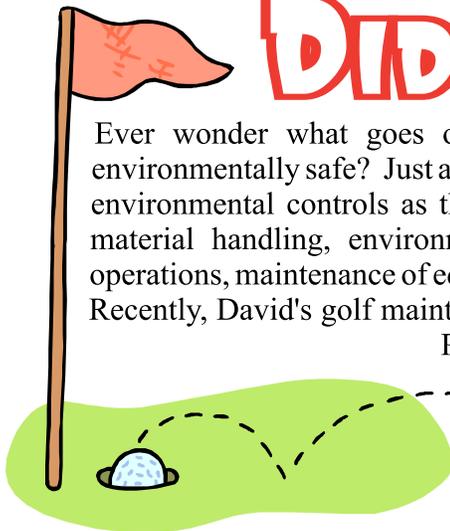
Installation Volunteer Services

Best staff that I have worked with since returning to the 82d Airborne Division. Great work!

Stacy Williams always makes sure we are well informed in a timely manner, assuring us the opportunity to participate, attend, and take advantage of all community events and services. We are lucky to have her serving us, she does it very well and with compassion and respect. Thank you.

DID YOU KNOW?

by Bob Helmick



Ever wonder what goes on behind the scenes in order to keep a golf course operational and environmentally safe? Just ask David Royal, the Greens Manager at Ryder Golf Course. There are as many environmental controls as there are holes on the golf course, such as petroleum handling, hazardous material handling, environmental compliance, hazard communication, oil/water separators, tractor operations, maintenance of equipment, and yes there are also individual safety measures just to name a few. Recently, David's golf maintenance operation became a topic of discussion with Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). Both of the agencies showed up, no notice, well almost no notice. We received a call at 9:30 a.m. and a team of 5 from the agencies was on site at 11 a.m. The inspectors, looked everywhere and put several questions to Mr. Royal concerning all aspects of his operation. As part of the exit brief, I asked the representative from EPA what comments she had. Her reply was, "I inspect all of the golf course maintenance operations in Florida, and I wish this one was there." This is a great credit to Mr. Royal. Thanks David.

We bid a fond farewell to **Terri Wallace!** She and her family have PCSed to Fort Leavenworth. Terri was with the Fort Bragg MWR family since 2000. We'll miss you Terri!

Farewell to **Dave Yates!** He was the golf pro at Stryker Golf Course since 2001. Dave moved back to his home state of Georgia to be closer to his family. Best of luck Dave!

Ms Jocelynn Davis departed Fort Bragg on August 8 for her new job as a Contract Specialist for SERCCO, Fort Campbell, KY. Jocelynn has a total of 23 years with MWR, which includes 6 years in the military. Her last position with MWR was as a Clerk at the Yntema Club. Jocelynn is married to SFC Kenneth Davis, who works for Fort Bragg's Dragon Brigade, G4 and our 82d Auto Craft Shop, and has a daughter, Tyson, who is a junior at UNCG. And let's not forget Trixie, her toy poodle! Jocelynn would like to extend her appreciation to all that have always been willing and able to assist her. She will be missed by her Fort Bragg family.

Kari's Corner

by Kari Hubmer

With fall comes extra duties that should be done around the home, and until we bought a house, we never realized how much needed to be done. I thought I would share a partial list of basic annual fall items that www.thisoldhouse.com recommends. Happy raking!

- 🍁 Flip switch to reverse ceiling-fan rotation to circulate warm air.
- 🍁 Use dust brush attachment on your vacuum to clean your refrigerator's condensing coils.
- 🍁 Vacuum heating grills and registers.
- 🍁 Inspecting washing machine hoses. Replace if cracked or stiff, and consider upgrading rubber hoses to braided stainless steel.
- 🍁 Add insulation to attic floor.
- 🍁 Clean and lubricate garage door hardware; follow manufacturer's instructions.
- 🍁 Clean smoke detectors and replace their batteries. Check manufacturer's recommendations on cleaning.
- 🍁 Check that fire extinguishers are fully charged.
- 🍁 Install a carbon dioxide detector.
- 🍁 Remove and clean window and door screens.
- 🍁 Cover or store patio furniture.
- 🍁 Hose down siding and scrub problem areas with a medium or soft brush
- 🍁 Power-wash and seal patios and walkways.
- 🍁 Weather strip windows and exterior doors (including garage doors).
- 🍁 Trim away any tree limbs or branches that overhang the roof, especially if they touch the shingles.
- 🍁 Change oil in lawnmower, grease engine, and inspect spark plugs.
- 🍁 Clean and oil gardening tools.
- 🍁 Apply herbicide to lawn so weeds won't return in the spring.
- 🍁 Mulch flowerbeds, trees and shrubs and cut back faded perennials.
- 🍁 Move pots and potted plants indoors.
- 🍁 Aerate the lawn.
- 🍁 Fertilize lawn, trees, and shrubs.
- 🍁 Reseed bare spots in the lawn.

Guess Who?



This quarter's guess who LOVES to wear hats, pink hats, fuzzy hats, hats with bows! She's pictured here with one of her first favorite hats and many Christmas presents. Do you think she planned it that way?

Do you think you know who this little girl is? Take a guess and send it to [moralezp@bragg.army.mil](mailto: moralezp@bragg.army.mil) or call 396-1024.

Congratulations to last issues' winners! Toni McDaniel from Youth Sports correctly guessed Dave Magee was the little boy in the picture and Jenniffer Hall correctly guessed the little girl was Cathy Mansfield! They both received an MWR Prize Pack!