

The WILDCAT



81ST REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND, FORT JACKSON, SC

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Chief Warrant Officer 3 Timothy Lyden conducts the 208th Army Reserve Band in a rendition of Russian Christmas music by Alfred Reed. The Dec. 18 holiday concert in Newberry, S.C. featured a slide show of Russian scenery photos taken by a member of the band, Sgt. Patricia Dew, shown at center.

208th Reserve band spreads holiday cheer

Story and photos by Gail E. Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist

NEWBERRY, SC – For about 90 minutes on the night of Saturday, Dec. 18, Chief Warrant Officer Timothy Lyden and his 208th Army Reserve Band, from Concord, N.C., played to another sellout crowd. This makes the fifth consecutive year that the band has performed traditional seasonal music here.

This year's concert performance, however, included a new addition in the bands' repertoire. Not only did they perform the usual holiday "classics," but they also performed a selection of Russian Christmas music which was enthusiastically accepted by the audience. Written in 1944 by North American composer Alfred Reed, his knowledge of military bands stems from the fact that during World War II, he served in the 529th Army Air Force Band.

To enhance the performance of the Russian Christmas selections, the audience was also treated to a visual accompaniment of authentic Russian scenery via a slide show presentation of photos taken by one of the band's clarinet players, Sgt. Patricia Dew. Dew took the photos during her trip this past summer to the Russian Federation.

She has now played her fourth concert at the Newberry Opera House and looks forward to coming back every year.

"I love these people," said Dew. "Newberry is a very close community. The Opera House community is wonderful; they're always an appreciative audience and it's a fun time. They treat us well and I enjoy performing for them."

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Command Corner

By: Command Sgt. Maj. James Wills

My fellow Wildcats, the stance of “we are at war” has been our headline now for more than nine years. As our leadership tries to gauge us toward prevention and successful preparation of what may be ahead of us, we must acknowledge the fact that we have hard times yet ahead.

I recently had the distinct opportunity to hear Gen. George Casey, the Chief of Staff of the Army, speak and he makes no bones about it; we have uncertain times ahead of us.

According to the chief, we need to focus on being good at our core skills. While we have focused our efforts on being an Army at war over the last nine years, we have allowed the train to drive us more often than we have been the operators of the lead car. We must get back to basics. Gen. Casey also mentioned the need to focus on resilience.

We have to invest in our people and ensure that we give back what has been given of our Soldiers, civilians and families. We need to focus on comprehensive Soldier fitness which is not just for the Soldier but for their families and our civilians as well.

And, we must find balance in our lives. Gen. Casey says it’s imperative as good Soldiers and leaders to find adequate time to read, sleep, exercise, and to think.

He wants Soldiers and leaders to read something more than emails, such as books, exercise 4-5 days a week, be demanding of your personal time, take a day a month for you just to regenerate the mind and make time for yourself to think and shape responses.

As I will continue to share my notes with you for the coming

months, I ask each of you, military, civilians, and family members alike, to help the CG and I, in focusing the steady state of the command and in developing our members of the team.

We need to ensure that our Soldiers and civilians are enrolled and scheduled to attend professional education courses that will help them to continue their journey as future leaders. The need to focus on core competencies is critical. We need to ensure that we are getting Soldiers to ranges, training areas, and access of systems to training them on marksmanship, Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills, etcetera. Basic military courtesy is something that we have pushed to the back of our thoughts and processes.

We need to push this to the forefront again as this is who we are.

Military customs and courtesies are basic fundamentals of what we are about as professionals.

Rendering the appropriate salute or calling the command to attention for a senior officer or room to “at ease” for a senior noncommissioned officer is a direct reflection of our own level of professionalism.

On another point, I see a trend developing when I am out and about visiting our units and shops in terms of some needed house-keeping. I ask for your help in cleaning up offices, work areas, storage cages, parking lots, etcetera. Regardless of who the area belongs to, please try and make an effort to communicate with units sharing space with us and encourage them to clean their areas as well. I would like to see the acronym “NCO” posted on billboards and signs spelled out as



Neat, Clean, and Orderly. A first impression is a lasting impression, so if your work area looks poorly, I challenge you with the task in getting things cleaned up and organized.

Finally, in closing, I want to bring to you the awareness of the importance of our Soldiers, civilians and families attending command events such as dining outs and gala events. Some of the best non-commissioned officer professional development events I have ever attended were during a unit dining out. The legacy and historical lineage and etiquette learned at these events can’t be gotten any where like attending the unit events themselves. I ask for you to mark on your calendar the plan to attend the Command’s gala event in February during our battle assembly. I want to see our Wildcat family supporting the CGs intent for our team to come together with our families and enjoy an evening as a family. I ask for 100% support and participation from all.

As always, each of you and your families are in Lisa’s and my thoughts and prayers. We ask for your continued support and commitment to taking care of our greatest commodity, the sons and daughters of the parents of America. Remember, you are a part of the largest professional organization in the world. Be proud of what you represent. Hooah!

The Wildcat



Maj. Gen. Bill H. Gerety
Commanding General

Brig. Gen. Mark C. Arnold
Deputy Commanding General

Mr. James P. Eggleton
Chief of Staff

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Recovering from the holidays

By: Donna Rhaney, Family Programs SOS Financial Counselor

The holiday season is an exciting time of year. It is so easy to get caught up in the excitement and over spend. Many people ring the new year in with piles of debt acquired during the holiday season.

In January, the credit card statements are a shock to many because they were not tracking their holiday spending. Many get overwhelmed and wonder what steps could be taken to pay off debt and to prevent uncontrollable holiday spending from happening again.

Review all of your credit card statements and bank statements to see the total amount used to make holiday purchases. Merely knowing how much credit card debt you have accrued is a step in the right direction.

Review your budget. If you don't have a budget, create one.

Avoid making minimum credit card payments and pay as much as possible.

Repay yourself by replenishing all funds withdrawn from your savings account.

To prevent from over spending next year, create a written plan that takes into account all birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and other special events for the entire year. When you have paid your credit card debt off, open a savings account or create a savings fund for special events and holidays.

Be creative when setting goals for next year's holiday season. Buying items in bulk and taking advantage of season end sales is very cost effective. If you have a particular talent such as baking, doing taxes, or sewing, use those talents as gifts. For example, bake a cake for your friend's birthday instead of purchasing a gift.

Using these simple tips may help you get back on track after the holidays. Remember small steps in the right direction will improve your overall financial outlook.

Don't let the holidays become something you dread. Instead, take steps to prevent over spending and the stress that comes along with it.

FORCE PROTECTION THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

10 KEY INDICATORS OF POTENTIAL TERRORIST ASSOCIATED INSIDER THREATS



9. Active attempts to encourage others to violate laws, disobey lawful orders or regulations, or disrupt military activities.

Did you know?

Wildcat Winter Gala

**Saturday, February 12th
6 p.m.**

**Fort Jackson Officer's Club
3630 Semmes Road**

Cost is \$26.50

**Military: Dress Mess/Dress Blues/
Dress Green w/Bowtie
Civilian: Business Suit/Cocktail Dress**

**Social Hour begins at 6p.m.
Dinner served at 7 p.m.
Cash Bar**

**Make checks payable to
81st RSC Informal Fund and
R.S.V.P. to Susan Swanson
before February 1.**

Military Spouse Scholarships are available?

The National Military Family Association recognizes the unique challenges today's military spouses face in pursuing additional training or education. Frequent moves make it difficult to complete programs and establish a career. They are there to help ease the financial obstacles that accompany pursuing a higher education.

The 2011 scholarship applications are available at www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/military-spouse-scholarships/scholarship-instructions.html for dates and important information.

The Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships are awarded to spouses of all uniformed services members including survivors, retirees, active duty and National Guard and Reserve Soldiers.

A valid military ID is the only requirement to apply for the program. Scholarship selection is based on your completion of some survey questions which will help advocate education changes on your behalf, short-answer questions and an essay question. The scholarship funds may be used for tuition, fees, and school room and board for GED or ESL, vocational training, professional certification, post-secondary, graduate school, in-class or on-line and full-time or part-time attendance.

Chaplain's Corner



January is the month we celebrate the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr. When we think of his life we think of the civil rights movement and the changes that he brought to our country in the respect and rights of those regardless of race, religion or country of origin. It was a fight that took over a decade but it brought us to the point that we are living up to the Declaration of Independence and the ideals we had set out at that time.

If you think about the rights and respect of people regardless of who they are and where they have come from is not only an army value that we are taught but also a value of our faiths also. In the Old Testament the Jewish people are taught not to treat foreigners as different than them and to allow them to be included in their celebration. In the New Testament book of James we are told not to treat people different because of their wealth or position in life. So from a perspective of our faith, the idea of respect should be there for all people.

As we go through this month we should not only reflect on the life of Martin Luther King and how he changed our country toward a more positive way. We should also reflect on our attitudes and what we may need to change in it. Also take this time to reflect on your faith and what your scriptures say about our attitudes towards others and how we should treat them.

Strong Bonds Upcoming Dates:

28 to 30 January – New Orleans, LA (40 couples and 40 singles)
4 to 6 February – Hilton Head, SC (40 couples)
25 to 27 February – Orlando, FL (40 couples and 40 singles)
4 to 6 March – Savannah, GA (40 couples and 40 singles)
25 to 27 March – Orlando, FL (40 couples and 40 singles)

CH (Lt. Col.) Richard Savage

BAND...

(continued from page 1)

Newberry residents and visiting concert goers from as far away as New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Canada also appreciated the vocal talents of Spc. Cherry Mashue, or as her fellow bandmen call her, "Mariah Cherry." That's because she performed several popular Mariah Carey holiday melodies.

"Members of the band, collectively, came up with her nickname off-the-cuff," said Lyden.

According to him, Mashue was selected for two reasons: "One, she has the talent and stage presence to do it, and two, she stepped up to the plate and volunteered to do it."

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BAND... (continued from page 4)

Normally an oboist, Mashue said, "I usually let Mariah be Mariah, but apparently Chief thinks that I'm up to par with her, so I accepted the challenge and practiced about 20 minutes every day, for a month."

"I practiced in the car, at work, in the shower, wherever I could," continued Mashue, a second-time performer at the Newberry Opera House. When asked what her personal favorite part of the concert was, Mashue echoed Dew's words of praise for the Newberry community.

"Here, we're really appreciated, people really enjoy it," said Mashue. "They come back every year and they always tell us 'I was here last year and we just love this band' and it's really nice to feel appreciated."

As every year, the audience was guided on a magical music tour of seasonal sounds by the band director's wife, Katrina Lyden. Her narration of the evening's performance culminated with her



Spc. Cherry Mashue, soloed on a variety of Mariah Carey holiday medleys during the 208th Army Reserve Band's Dec. 18 annual holiday concert at the Newberry Opera House.

introducing each branch of military service and inviting former service members and their families to stand at the playing of their respective service song.

Chief Lyden would then turn around and salute each former and current member of the armed forces, in a gesture of gratitude

and seasonal goodwill to men.

Immediately after the concert, the band members laid down their instruments and headed for the exits to greet the members of the audience and to answer questions about the band and the history of the 81st Infantry Division "Wildcats."

Newberry resident and second-year audience member, Charlie Gold, showed the band his appreciation when he summed it all up by saying, "I thought they were better this year than last year and I really liked the way they did the last song, God Bless America."

Gold's date for the evening, Carolyn Wicker, took it a step farther when she said, "I love this band and I love it when they play T'was The Night Before Christmas. We came last year, we'll come next year, and we'll come again every year I'm able. I wouldn't miss this for the world."



Spc. Rachael Davis plays her French horn during the 208th Army Reserve Band's annual holiday concert in Newberry, S.C., Dec. 18. This is the fifth consecutive year the band has performed at the Newberry Opera House.

IG team assists Soldiers, commanders

Story and photo by: Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell, Public Affairs NCO

For some, being the eyes and ears of any commander might be a difficult task.

Although supporting more than 49,000 Soldiers, their families and a large civilian workforce may seem nearly impossible, the 81st RSC's inspector general section handles the task with confidence.

Maj. Gen. Bill Gerety, the 81st RSC's commanding general, relies on his small inspector general staff to assist him and his senior military and civilian leadership to support the operational and functional commands to ensure they are mission capable.

Col. Kate Leahy, the Army Reserve Inspector General, said commanders are responsible for everything their command does or fails to do.

"Proper use of the chain of command is vital to the overall effectiveness of organization," she said. "Effective communication between leaders and subordinate Soldiers within the chain of command is crucial to the proper functioning of all units."

When this communication link breaks down, or perceives to break down, Ronald Johnson, the 81st RSC acting IG, said people could see themselves as insignificant members of a team.

"When Soldiers or Army civilian employees are not being cared for, it has a negative impact on their morale, job performance and families," said Johnson.

He said the IG staff has a major impact on ensuring the Army's most valuable resource, its military and civilian workforce, is mission capable and operating without distractions. This enhances the command's discipline, improves unit readiness and reinforces and bolsters the unit's chain of command.

Inspections, assistance, investigations, teaching and training are the four functions of the IG's mission to help enhance command's discipline, readiness and war-fighting capability, Leahy said.

At the Army Reserve's four regional support commands, Master Sgt. Kenneth Greene, the command IG non-commissioned officer, said the most common categories of cases involve bonuses, promotion, line of duty investigations and incapacitation pay.

During 2010, the command IG staff here handled more than 200 cases, said Johnson.

"With the array of knowledge the members of the IG team

possess we're able to resolve all types of cases," Greene said.

Each Army Reserve IG team's number one priority is to ensure each case is thoroughly analyzed and resolved fairly, and that the submitter of the case receives a complete and detailed response from the IG who worked on his or her case, Leahy said.

"Sometimes complainants may not like the 'final' resolution if it's not to their benefit, but at the end of the day our goal is for every Soldier to feel their issue was fairly resolved in accordance with regulatory guidance and policy," Greene said.

From reenlistment bonuses to command issues, the IG staff rewards come in something as small as a "thank you."

Louis Ramirez, an assistant IG, said Soldiers are very appreciative of the assistance provided.

At the end of the day, the IG's mission is all about taking care of the Army Reserve family and its Soldiers.



Master Sgt. Kenneth Greene, an inspector general NCO and Jeffery Johnson, an assistant inspector general, look through paperwork while deciding the next step during an inspector general inquiry.

Knightdale, N.C. gets new neighbors

Story and photos by: Staff Sgt. Toshiko Fraley, Public Affairs NCO



Army Reserve Col. John Strickland, commander for the 518th Sustainment Brigade, 143rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and state and federal leaders from Knightdale, N.C., break ground on a new Army Reserve facility that will eventually be home to more than 600 Soldiers.

Hundreds of Army Reserve Soldiers assigned to the 518th Sustainment Brigade, 143rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, will have a new place to hang their beret after construction is completed on a new facility near Raleigh, N.C.

Col. John Strickland, commander for the 518th Sustainment Brigade, and several community leaders used 10 gold-painted shovels to break ground during a Dec. 11 ceremony, leading the way for a new training building, maintenance facility and a storage building — totaling more than 22,000 sq. ft. on the 20-acre site. The 81st Regional Support Command, based at Fort Jackson, S.C., hosted the groundbreaking ceremony, which brought

representatives from throughout the Knightdale community and the Army Reserves.

Johnny Dwiggin, the Army Reserve Ambassador for North Carolina, welcomed the guests during a day that was wet and gloomy but marked not just the beginning of the construction project but the development of a long lasting friendship.

"I say Fort Knightdale because this will become the Army home to the 600 to 700 Army Reserve Soldiers, Families and support personnel who will serve here," Dwiggin said. "This is where they will train and stand ready, when called upon to defend the freedoms we all hold so dear."

Local and federal representative spoke briefly about the excite-

ment surrounding the construction of the Army Reserve Center in Knightdale. The project symbolizes a new beginning between the Army Reserves and the local community according to many of the speakers.

"This new Army Reserve facility represents a significant investment, by Congress and America's Army Reserve, in your community," Dwiggin said.

The initial investments of a \$25 million facility, along with utilities, maintenance, upkeep and spending by hundreds of Soldiers and their families who will serve here, make the construction of this Army Reserve facility a substantial investment in the community by the Army Reserve, he said.

Soldiers are scheduled to move into the facilities in late summer of 2012.



Army Reserve Col. John Strickland, commander for the 518th Sustainment Bde. talks with Knightdale community leaders, Dec. 11.



APPLY FOR THE ARMY RESERVE TEEN PANEL

Basic Qualifications

1. A Family member of U.S. Army Reserve Soldier or civilian employee
2. A member in good standing in the military or civilian community
3. Enrolled in the 9th - 11th grade for the 2010-2011 school term
4. Maintain a grade point average of "C" or better in school

Basic Responsibilities

1. Attend up to three meetings annually - all expenses paid!
2. At least eight hours/month with Military and/or community activities!
3. Work with fellow teens to develop innovative opportunities!
4. Inform Army Reserve Leadership about the needs of youth!

Visit www.arfp.org/cyssl or contact your
Child, Youth & School Services
Community Outreach Specialist



HURRY!

**Deadline to apply is
15 January 2011**

