



HAWG WASH



“WARHAWG PRIDE”

June 2009 Edition



Commanders Corner



Greetings to Task Force Warhawg Soldiers, Family Members, and Friends.

The battalion's execution of its mission in support of the 32nd IBCT post mobilization training and preparation for deployment to OIF was outstanding. The leaders and Soldiers superbly planned, prepared, and executed numerous Short Range Marksmanship/Advanced Arms Marksmanship ranges, Small Arms Weapon Qualification ranges, and Close Quarters Combat/Urban Operations training. The 32nd IBCT leadership provided laudatory comments about our training and the professionalism of the Observer Controllers/Trainers (OC/Ts) on our training lanes. During Suicide Prevention Phase I/II training, TF Warhawg aggressively tackled the challenge to re-enforce the Army's philosophy that it is OK to ask for assistance. TF Warhawg briefed suicide prevention and domestic violence tips to the Warhawg Family during its quarterly FRG briefing that was held at the Fort Bliss Officers Club on 20 May 2009. Another significant accomplishment was the close-out of School Year 2008-2009 Partners In Education (PIE) events with Collins Elementary School, which culminated with a school wide Reading Literacy Day and Sports Activities Day during the month of May.



Task Force Warhawg is continuing to conduct reset/refit for all Soldiers over the next two months. I encourage all Soldiers and Family members to take some time off from work to spend quality time with each other during the next two months. Soldiers and family members should conduct proper risk management procedures in all vacation activities and celebrations during the summer months. Remember, Task Force Warhawg cannot effectively accomplish its mission without the firm support of our Soldiers' family members.

Task Force Warhawg Family Readiness Group is completely operational. I encourage all of our Soldiers, family members, and friends to join a winning FRG team that is completely committed to Soldiers and family members! I also want to thank our FRG Leader/Advisor (Shanee' McElveen), FRG Secretary (Nicole Berlin), and FRG Fundraiser Chairperson for July '09 (Jessica Foerster) for volunteering their personal time to support our Soldiers and family members.

Finally, we extend a warm welcome to SGM and Mrs Riley Woodworth and their children to the Warhawg Family. We are excited to have them joining the team and are certain that they will contribute to our efforts in taking Task Force Warhawg to the next level. Additionally, we also want to welcome our new Soldiers and Family members who recently reported to Fort Bliss, to include a special welcome to COL and Mrs William Schafer into the Dagger Brigade.

Thanks for your continuous support and hard work. I remain extremely humbled, blessed, and proud to serve as your commander.

Warhawg 6

WARHAWG PRIDE!



SGM Corner



To the Soldier's, families and friends of the Warhawk Battalion, It's hard to believe I've been here for over two months already. In this time period we have seen many changes occur within our Battalion, and the 5th Armored Brigade. COL Sherman relinquished his command to COL Shafer, the new 5th AR Brigade Commander on June 8, 2009. CSM Stout, the 5th AR Brigade Command Sergeant Major, will soon follow with his Change of Responsibility Ceremony scheduled for 7 July, 2009. CSM Baldwin will be his replacement, and should be on the ground here shortly.

I hope everyone had a chance to take advantage of some of the "Year of the NCO" events that were scheduled in June. Our thanks to all of the Sponsors and Team Bliss officials that made this happen for our outstanding Soldier's and their families. I truly enjoyed the Post Ball, and the NCO led run on the 11th of June. Quality time with friends and loved ones is sometimes hard to come by. I encourage all Warhawk Soldiers to take advantage of these and other events with their families, and whenever opportunities arise.

I would like to personally thank all the Warhawk spouses and family members for supporting their Soldiers. I know that work schedules can sometimes be very demanding here, and your understanding helps this Team to properly conduct, prepare, and train units to fight the War on Terrorism. Without your support, we the Warhawk Battalion would not be an effective Team. Thanks again.

Summertime is here with a vengeance, and I would like to take a moment to address some points on Safety. Texas is on pace with breaking an all time record with children drowning. Please don't ever leave small children around any kind of water, not even for a few seconds, that's all it takes. Also, a twenty year old Soldier was just killed here this month, and it was later discovered that he was not wearing his seatbelt. My heart goes out to his family, and this was more than likely, a tragedy that didn't have to happen. I have a hard time understanding the why's of this and other similar tragedies involving Soldiers and family members that were not wearing seatbelts involved in accidents. It only takes a few moments to click a seatbelt. Please, take the time to protect our most valuable resources, our Soldiers and their families, and properly buckle those seatbelts and car seats.

The 1/360th Infantry Regiment express is once again beginning to pick-up some momentum heading into the next couple of months. Continue to do the right things, and always strive to improve your fighting position. The new Brigade CDR was very impressed with the level of competence shown during his in-brief conducted by our Battalion. I am very proud to be your Battalion SGM because of it, and everything you do on a daily basis that contributes to "Warhawk Pride".



Warhawk 7



Greetings Warhawg FRG!

I just wanted to take a brief moment to thank all of the Warhawg Soldiers and family members for their grand support of the Bratwurst Fundraiser! I have had the most distinct pleasure of working with some of the finest Soldiers and volunteers in the Army, which was evident in the support and enthusiasm demonstrated at the fundraiser. It was truly a success and was the highest fundraiser dollar amount in the history of the Warhawg FRG! WARHAWG PRIDE!



We are gearing up for our next fundraiser on July 1st (the first of many over the next few months). It will be a bake sale out at 1-360th INF BN Headquarters from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. If you have any baked good recipes that you would like to prepare for this event, please contact me or Jessica for the details. Additionally, I would like to thank Mrs. Jessica Foerster for chairing this event. As usual, I am sure that it will be a “Warhawg Success.” Please remember that we are always happy to have volunteers. So, if you have a fundraiser idea that you would like to see come to life, please contact me so that we can develop it and make it happen! All monies raised are going toward our next Holiday Social. Last year, we were able to raise enough money for everyone to attend the social gratis. Our hopes are to do likewise this year!

On June 18, 2009, we will be having our quarterly FRG Meeting at the Golden Corral off of Transmountain at 6:00 p.m. Hope to see you there, your ideas are welcome! The 1-360th INF Battalion Hail and Farewell will follow immediately after the Family Readiness Group meeting!

To all of our hard working spouses that support the mission, it is time for our “Warhawg Spouses Coffee”. Come join us for rest and relaxation on Thursday, June 25, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Touch Discount Day Spa. It is located at 9584 Dyer Suite A. There will be door prizes and complimentary food and beverages will be served. Also, you do not have to purchase a spa service in order to attend. The only requirement is that you relax!!!

Don't forget to log on to the vArmy FRG Website! We will have most of the events posted on the calendar. There is also some very informative information ranging from jobs to recycling. BN shirts can also be ordered at the online store! Take the easy steps below to access the 1-360th Infantry Battalion's Family Readiness Group's website.



vFRG directions to the 1-360th INF BN's Website:

1. Go to www.armyfrg.org
2. On the right hand side under Log In or Register Here, Click on Register Here on the right hand side. (The next time you log in, click on to Log in to vFRG)
3. Click on TX on the map
4. Under Military Community click on Fort Bliss, Texas
5. Under Fort Bliss select: 1st Battalion, 360th Infantry RGT
6. Fill in step 3: Add a Service Member Information

Fill in all requested information

Soldiers - please be sure to complete the section on sponsored users. If you do not sponsor a family member by name, they will not be able to access the site without approval from the vFRG administrator.

Once your registration is complete, you will be able to access the website by going to www.armyfrg.org and signing in. Please select the unit from the drop down box in the upper right.

If you have any questions, please call me. I am the 1-360th vFRG Site Administrator and am always happy to assist. Thank you for your time!

My contact information:

Shanee' McElveen

1-360th INF BN FRG Leader/Advisor

e-mail: shamac_03@yahoo.com

hp: 915-855-6788

cell: 915-241-4406

Again, many thanks to all of you for all that you do!

WARHAWG 6 WHISKEY (WH 6W)

“WARHAWG PRIDE”



FRG Fund Rasier



"One of the things that I liked most about the event was an opportunity to work along side the Soldiers and experiencing the support and meeting so many in the Army community. It goes without saying that I really liked being apart of such a successful event!"

– Mrs. Shanee` McElveen



Photos by—Staff Sgt. Alyn Macleod



On the Web



Project Sanctuary recognizes the importance of offering military personnel an opportunity for a quality leisure experience to reconnect with family and loved ones. As part of their visit agreement, guests and their family members will be encouraged to participate in group "benchmark" activities centering on:

Teambuilding
Family Dynamics
Coping Strategies
Anger Management
Positive Lifestyle Choices
Parenting Skills
Relationship Skills

Project Sanctuary is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to provide therapeutic, curative, supportive and recreational activities to veterans, active military personnel, their spouses and children in a leisure environment. We are dedicated to providing an environment by where individuals and their families who have been affected by their service in the military may spend both leisure and structured time with their families and fellow service personnel in an effort to diminish the wearisome impact of returning home after a considerable period away while serving the interests of the country.



Combining medical and psychological services with group dynamics, team building, personal care, and coping practices, Project Sanctuary strives to offer fun, enjoyable, constructive opportunities for service personnel to reacquaint themselves with their loved ones, while providing supportive avenues for positive reintegration into civilian society. Though the structured opportunities at the sanctuary are available to all personnel and their families, only a very select number of activities will be mandated by their visit agreement. Project Sanctuary will be more focused on providing an accessible method for visitors to spend quality leisure time with the family members that have been affected by a loved one's service work. Additionally, at prescribed times, the Project Sanctuary organization will attempt to provide support services to the surviving family members of those individuals who have lost a family member in the line of service duty and will attempt to offer adaptive programs for those persons who have suffered a disability while serving the interests of the country.

The beautiful Rocky Mountains will play host to both summer and winter activities including; Hiking, Fishing, Horseback Riding, Skiing and Snowmobiling.

Scheduled for 2009-2010 completion, the Recreation and Rehabilitation Center will be constructed complete with swimming facilities including hot tub and therapy pool, fitness facilities, rehabilitation and physical therapy space, and spa, steam room, dry sauna and message center.

<http://www.projectsanctuary.us/>

Free entry to 147 U.S. national parks will be available three weekends this summer: June 20-21, July 18-19 and Aug. 15-16. The National Park Service typically waives entry fees for everyone on National Public Lands Day (the last Saturday in September) and for military service people and veterans on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. But, this is the first time in 20-plus years that the fees being waived for entire weekends for the public. For more information,

visit the National Parks Service website. <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm>





Credit Card Rules



What the New Credit Card Rules Mean to You

by Kimberly Lankford, Contributing Editor, Kiplinger's Personal Finance

The Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009, which President Obama signed on May 22, bans many of the nasty credit-card practices that have irked borrowers for years. Most of the new rules take effect in February 2010. Here's what's in it for you:



- * No rate hikes on existing balances. Credit-card companies won't be allowed to raise rates on existing balances unless your minimum payment is at least 60 days overdue. Your previous rate will be restored if you pay on time for the next six months.
- * Better notice of rate increases. Card companies can still increase fees and raise rates on new purchases, but they'll need to disclose the changes at least 45 days before they take effect (rather than today's 15-day notice).
- * One-year rate fix. Your interest rate won't rise for one year after you open a new account, unless the rate increase was disclosed from the beginning. Card companies can still offer low promotional rates, but they must last at least six months and the rules must be clearly disclosed.
- * Highest rate counts first. Card companies must apply any payment above the minimum to your highest-rate balance first. This will be particularly helpful for people who take advantage of low-rate balance-transfer offers. Card companies often entice customers with low rates on balance transfers but charge higher rates on new purchases (say, for example, 0% on balance transfers and 11.99% on new purchases). Unless you paid the balance in full, your payments would be applied first to the low-rate transfer and then to the higher-rate portion of the bill - paying off the 0% rate while accruing interest on the balance at 11.99%, for example. Now they'll be required to reverse that practice and give you more time to benefit from the lower rate.
- * Bans universal default. This had been a particularly hated credit-card practice: in the past, you may have had a stellar record with your credit-card company and always paid your bills for that card on time, but the card company could still jack up your rate if you missed another lender's deadline. The new law prohibits credit-card companies from raising your rate if you make that card's payments on time.
- * Prohibits double-cycle billing. Another despised practice, double-cycle billing enabled card companies to charge interest on balances that you actually paid on time the previous month. They won't be able to do that anymore, either.
- * No surprise over limit fees. Card companies won't be able to charge fees for exceeding your credit limit, unless you agree in advance to pay a fee in return for being allowed to exceed that limit. Otherwise, charges that are over your credit limit will be denied, and no fee will be charged.
- * Tougher for under 21 to get cards. You'll only be able to get a card under age 21 if a parent, guardian or spouse co-signs the application, or if you can provide proof that you have enough income to repay any credit extended.
- * Longer mailing time. Credit-card companies must mail bills to customers at least 21 days before the due date, rather than 14.
- * Better disclosure. People are always shocked when they see how long it would take to pay off their balance - and how much they'd pay in total interest - if they only made the minimum payment every month. Credit-card companies will finally need to reveal those totals. Card companies will also need to disclose the payment dates and late payment penalties clearly.
- * Fewer gift-card cutbacks. In the past, many gift cards shrank in value if you didn't use them quickly. After August 2010, gift cards cannot expire for at least five years, and can't charge inactivity fees until more than a year has passed.

The downside. Banks have been earning big money from many of these practices and will be looking for other ways to boost their profits.

Expect to see more cards start charging annual fees, especially for rewards cards, and keep an eye out for other new fees. Card companies can still jack up interest rates on new purchases, as long as they give you the required notice, so you still need to monitor your bill carefully. If you find a rate or a fee you don't like, it's worth a try to call your card company and ask for a break to keep your business. And you won't need to worry about the interest rate at all if you pay your balance in full every month.



News around the Army



Reenlistment Option Eligibility

Effective 27 June 2009, the eligibility for reenlistment options are changed as shown below:

Soldiers are restricted to the Regular Army Reenlistment Option.

Soldiers may reenlist for **2 years only**. New ETS must exceed current ETS by at least one year. **The following exceptions apply:**

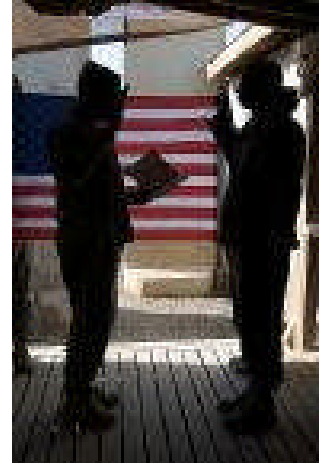
(1) Soldiers that are scheduled to redeploy from support of Overseas Contingency Operations; to include, Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM prior to 31 Oct 09 (regardless of ETS date) are entitled to all reenlistment options otherwise qualified IAW AR 601-280.

(2) Soldiers in an over-strength (N/Y) MOS may reenlist for a period of 3 or more years in order to meet minimum SRR for new MOS and follow-on assignment.

(3) SSG and above with 10 or more years of active federal service on date of discharge are required to reenlist under the provisions of the Indefinite Reenlistment program.

(4) Soldiers participating in the BEAR program and have completed training are entitled to reenlist and receive a SRB IAW their BEAR program agreement.

Career Counselors may continue to process Soldiers for reenlistment options via RETAIN IAW Policy Message 09-02(C2), Option eligibility with an effective reenlistment date of 1 October 2009 and beyond.



Army Partners with Temporary Employment Firm to Find Jobs for Veterans The Army is partnering with temporary staffing agency Kelly Services, Inc., based out of Troy, Michigan, to help Reserve Soldiers and veterans find jobs. The alliance with Kelly Services, Inc. will help the Army connect with about 300 public and private employers. About 15 percent of the nearly 206,000 Reserve Soldiers are expected to seek employment under a program known as the Army Reserve Employer Partnership Initiative. This service is also available to retirees and veterans.

To learn more, go to <http://www.myarmyonesource.com/News/2009/06/FindJobs>.





Biggs 5K Fun Run



**Warhawg Soldiers participated
in the Biggs Army Airfield 5K
Fun Run on 10 April 09**



Photos by—Staff Sgt. Alyn Macleod



Task Force Warhawg Supports Student Literacy

By — Staff Sgt. Alyn-Michael Macleod

FORT BLISS - Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 360th Infantry Regiment “Task Force Warhawg” participated in the Collins Elementary School “Around the World in 36 Weeks: Reading is Fundamental (RIF) Distribution” on 15 May as part of the Partners in Education (PIE) Program.

The PIE program, which is designed to enhance, enrich, support, encourage and offer expertise to students. Fort Bliss partners with the El Paso Independent School District as one of more than 2,330 volunteer organizations in the community.

“We are having our RIF book distribution for the end of the year,” explained James Horan, principal of Collins Elementary School. “We do three distributions a year and at the end of the year we do something a little extra special because the kids have been reading all year.”

Elizabeth Jones, librarian for Collins Elementary spearheaded the idea for this year’s theme: “Up, Up, and Away.”

“The whole point is to help improve their [the students] literacy,” Jones said.

According to Elizabeth Keith, Collins Elementary School Science teacher, students had to read books throughout the year to collect points. Once a student had collected enough points, they would be able to “visit” a different country using a hot air balloon.

Jones and Keith designed the events of the day so that every student from over 34 classrooms could participate. Designing for students from pre-kindergarten to 5th grade had its challenges, but in the end the stations were able to appeal to all ages of students.

Students were able to go to the RIF station, the Hot Air Balloon Story station, the Hot Air Science station, the Parachute Fun station, and the Paper Mache project station.

At the RIF station, the students were able to choose their two free books as a reward for all of their hard work, while at the Hot Air Balloon Story station they were able to relax and listen to the “WarHawg” Soldiers read books about hot air balloon adventures out loud to them.

The Hot Air Science station appealed to the academic importance of the day.

“With this [theme] we thought they needed a little science background so we did a quick video clip and some examples,” Keith explained. “The whole thing should make them understand science and hot-air and how hot air balloons work.”

After checking in on the practical side of hot air ballooning, the students were able to have some more fun as they participated in Parachute Fun where they played with a real parachute, and then went on to the Paper Mache Project where they were able to make and decorate hot air balloons to hang in the school cafeteria.

According to Keith, the biggest challenge was the limited amount of time the students had available. Her goal was to have activities that were quick enough to be done in about 10 minutes per station so the entire school could have time to go through each one.



WARHAWG in action around El Paso



"It was amazing," said Staff Sgt. Pasitale Lupeamanu, "It was nice to do this for the kids...I love it!"

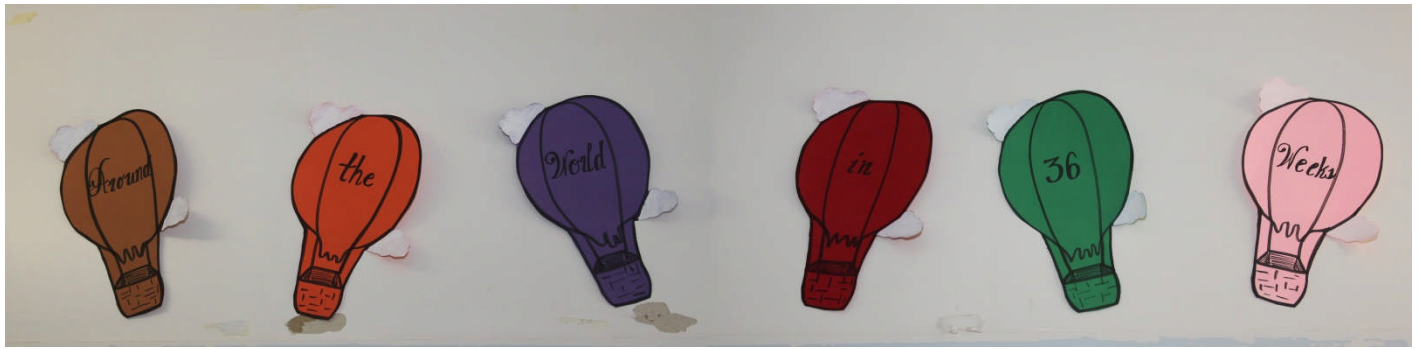
When asked, Aedro Espinoca and Juan Hernandez, both 5th graders at Collins elementary said they liked to read fiction and fantasy and that their favorite station of the day was the parachute station because it was "fun" and they got to run around.

"We are committed to our Partner In Education Program with Collins Elementary School. It affords a unique opportunity for our Soldiers to interact with their local communities by spending quality time with elementary students, which are our nation's future leaders and future Armed Force's members. I truly enjoyed every minute of this day" said Lt. Col Christopher McElveen.

"I think it went well," commented Warhawg SGM Riley E. Woodworth who is new to the Partners in Education Program. "Anytime the Army can be involved with young people and help out the community at the same time to promote education and awareness for such an important program [RIF] everyone is a winner."



Photos by—Staff Sgt. Alyn Macleod



Reading is Fundamental !

<http://www.rif.org/>



Partners in Education - Field Day



Photos by—Staff Sgt. Alyn Macleod



**Warhawg Soldiers participated in
the annual Field Day Event at
Collins Elementary on 29 May 09**





EL Paso Clean Up Day



Warhawg Soldiers had the opportunity to help out the community on the El Paso Clean Up Day on June 10, 2009

“We really want to embrace the Soldiers from the local community because we are very fortunate to have them here”

Steve Marshall – Zoo Director





Brigade Commander Visits the Warhawg



Col. Schafer spent the morning with the Warhawgs as he toured our training lanes.



Photos by—Staff Sgt. Alyn Macleod



Warhawk Colors *UNCASED*

Photos by—Staff Sgt. Alyn Macleod



Task Force Warhawk uncased its colors during the Brigade Change of Command ceremony on June 8, 2009. The uncasing and presentation of the colors is to represent the presence of the command and the reassumption of that command's authority.





REDBALL 2nd Annual Golf "X"

31 JULY 2009

\$35 a person entrance fee/ Cart included

4 person teams

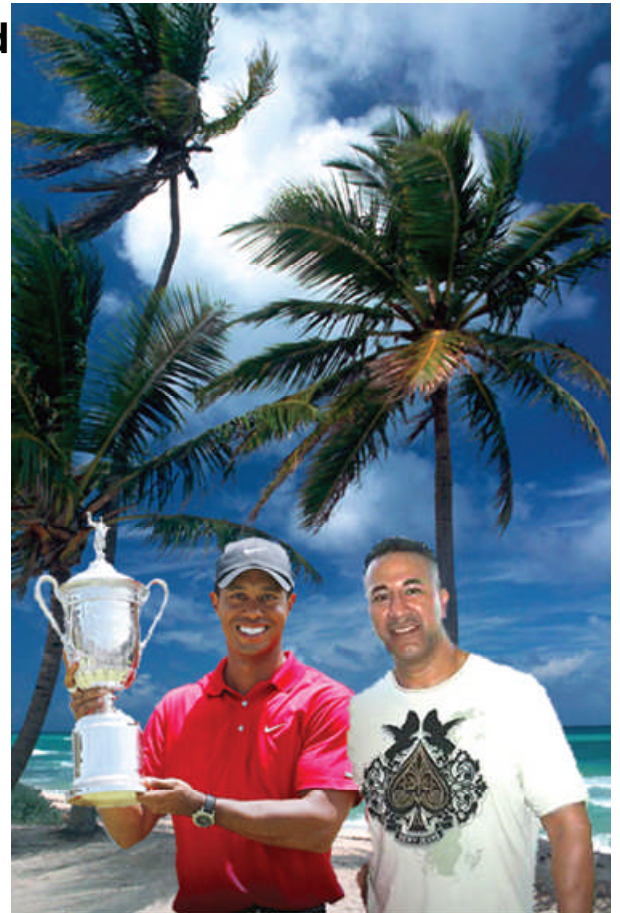
Longest Ball & Closest to the pin

Free small bucket of range balls

Free Refreshments

Door Prizes for every Golfer

Ties will be decided by the scorecards



**Monies needs to be in on the 16th July 2009 POC is
MSG Avila Cell # 915-238-0810**



Don't Forget Task Force Warhawg has its own flickr account for the Soldiers and family members of this great battalion! Site is updated on a regular basis !

<http://www.flickr.com/people/tfwarhawgpao/>

Don't forget to add us to your contacts to get up to the minute updates

Battalion Commander
LTC Christopher McElveen

Battalion Sergeant Major
SGM Riley Woodworth

PAO/Visual Information Specialist
SSG Alyn Macleod

Please send all submissions and PAO support requests to:

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The *HAWG WASH* is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper published monthly under provisions of AR 360-1 . Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions from readers are solicited, but publication depends on judgment of the editor. No payment will be made for contributions. Submissions made by the 10th of the month will be added to the next issue. Any questions or comments email alyn-michael.macleod@usar.army.mil

Published by the 1/360th Infantry