

# The Penn Pal

Published in the interest of personnel at the Harrisburg U.S. Army "Red Hawks" Recruiting Battalion

VOLUME 13 NO. 3

MARCH 2003

## USAREC's paperless management system affects recruiting at all levels

By Sonya Forbes Patterson  
Public Affairs Specialist

As each new year begins, the Army moves one step closer to the automation age. During February, the Guidance Counselor Redesign took effect impacting recruiting at every level from the recruiter through USAREC.

The Guidance Counselor Redesign or GCR is a paperless management system. Under the new system, all enlistment applications are electronically submitted through ARISS (Automating Recruiting Business Practices) from the recruiter to the Military Entrance Processing Station. GCR alerts the user of any errors and will not allow the

application to forward to the next level until the errors are corrected. The system electronically stamps the date and time and annotates every entry and correction and the name of the individual performing the action. Station commanders and company leadership teams electronically perform quality control checks and review the electronic enlistment record on the recruiter work station before it is submitted to MEPS.

As with all new programs and systems, GCR is not glitch-free. During RSM February, in addition to some other problems, users stated the system was too slow and kept jamming. USAREC issued a back-up contingency plan

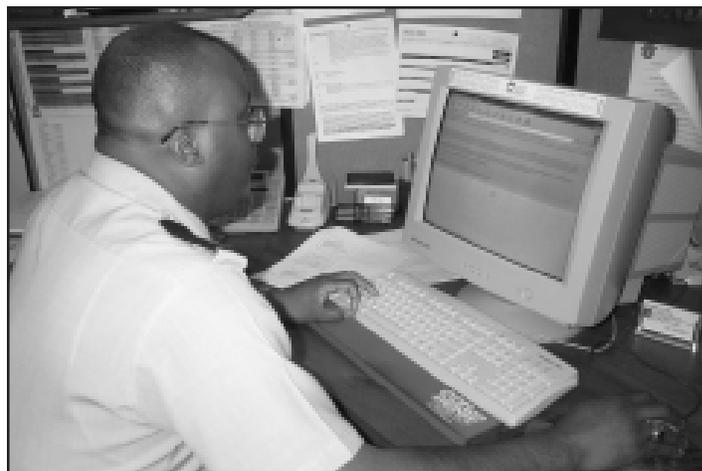


Photo by Sonya Forbes Patterson

**Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Roy, assistant operations NCO, logs onto USAREC's new enlistment system, the Guidance Counselor Redesign.**

when errors were discovered with the new system. As part of the contingency plan, recruiters were required to

print and sign each form and turn in enlistment packets as they did under the old system,

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## Leadership team changes battalion logo

By Sonya Forbes Patterson  
Public Affairs Specialist

The adage, "out with the old and in with the new," brings to mind the start of a new year. The beginning of the battalion's fiscal year was to bring about a change for the battalion, but it wasn't until February when the change occurred.

The battalion's leadership team changed the battalion's logo from "Blue Ribbon" to "Red Hawks." The decision to change the logo was made jointly by the battalion leadership.

According to battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Gordon, the battalion needed a

change of venue.

"Things had to change to get better," Gordon said. "We want to bring the battalion to a new level and to do this, we needed a new identity to rally behind. We chose the Hawk, which according to Native American tradition is said to be a sign of good fortune and protection, but this is not the reason for the change."

"The hawk is not an enormous bird and neither is the battalion. However, it shares the same unique characteristics as the eagle, and most notably, it is vigilant and majestic. It is a warrior bird of prey, and like us, a force to be contended with," Gordon persisted.

The color red represents "mission box" just like the red tab behind the recruiting badge. It also represents the blood, sweat, and tears it took us to get where we are today. Additionally, it represents our fallen comrades, said Gordon.

Hawk pairs remain together for years in the same territories. They are known to be very aggressive and territorial, especially around the nest and when it comes to territorial boundaries.

During the 1980s, the estimated population of red-tailed hawks in North America was 350,000, and today it

**See Logo, Page 3**

# VIEWPOINT

## March- busy month for battalion

The BLT has developed quite a few new incentives for recruiters and the battalion staff. What we are offering is listed below.

USAREC's new enlistment processing system started Feb. 10.

The Guidance Counselor Redesign or GCR is a paperless management system. What this means is that all enlistment applications are now electronically submitted to the Military Entrance Processing Station.

As with all new procedures, errors were discovered, but USAREC is working to rectify them. This is great system and a great way for us to do business. I'm asking that everyone be patient with the new system until all the bugs are worked out of it.

Congratulations to the

A&PA staff for winning several journalism awards in USAREC's annual Jacob Jennings Brown journalism competition.

We have a lot going on in March. The MEV is touring the Wilkes-Barre, Jim Thorpe and Harrisburg Companies until March 14. The MEV is an excellent asset for recruiters to use in hard to penetrate schools. Use it to its full potential and you should receive many leads.

The Jim Thorpe Company is holding a mega-DEP event at Lehigh University in Bethlehem. Also at Lehigh University, we are supporting another Gears, Games and Gadgets promotional event on the 8th with the rock climbing wall. Also on the 8th we have an Army/Harrisburg Heat Boys

### Commander's Comments



By Lt. Col. David R. Smith

Soccer Tournament at the Harrisburg Farm Show Complex; a monster truck jam scheduled for March 21-23; and Army Nights with the Harrisburg Heat Soccer Team and the Harrisburg Horizon Basketball Team, both scheduled for the 22nd.

The York Recruiting Station is holding a DEP function on the 28th and also participating in Radio Station 105.7X's snow blast on the 8th. We have two more radio remotes scheduled

for March, one in Altoona and the other in State College.

All the services this month will recognize Women's History Month with celebrations to observe the accomplishment of women. Let's take this time to reaffirm women's contributions and their important role in history.

Try to observe this month by attending ceremonies and activities and remember women's contributions not only during March, but also throughout the year.

## Incentives available to recruiters, battalion staff

To recognize and reward the recruiting force for their diligent efforts and achievements and spark over-production, the battalion commander and the command sergeant major are offering the following incentives:

- Any recruiter that nets six GSCA enlistments during the second quarter of the fiscal year, will attend the Best of the

Best Conference with the battalion leadership team.

- Any recruiter that exceeds six GSCA net enlistments in the second quarter will also receive a battalion commander's special recognition award.
- Any staff member that refers three individuals, receives a battalion Certificate of Achievement. Referrals resulting in a

Quality enlistment receives a battalion chip or coin and a Certificate of Achievement.

- Any recruiter achieving one Quality and one other net enlistment will not work any weekends until the end of the RSM.
- Any recruiter that achieves two

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## Penn Pal

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This newsletter is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Penn Pal are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of the Army; or the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion-Harrisburg. It is published monthly, using docutech reproduction by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, 54 M Avenue, Suite 11, New Cumberland, Pa., 17070-5099, (717)770-7252. Printed circulation: 425.

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Former life insurance policyholders eligible for payments

More than 110,000 current and former service members may be eligible to payments as part of a settlement reached after the Justice Department filed a civil complaint against Academy Life.

Thousands of Academy Life policyholders received notices and payment applications during February.

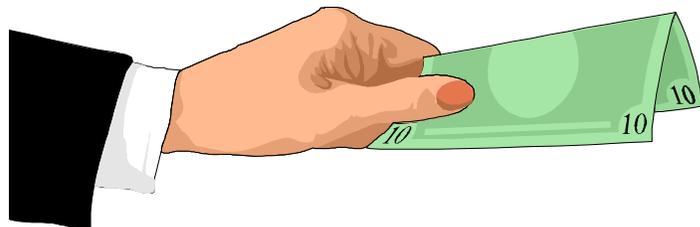
The company will pay more than \$2.7 million to individuals that purchased policies between 1991 and 1998.

The Justice Department complaint alleged the insurers

sold more than 92,000 policies of a particular life insurance plan to service members between 1993 and 1998, reaping more than \$200 million in premiums. The payments of up to \$200 per policy are part of a \$160 million settlement.

Eligible service members have until June 24 to file the payment application. Applications received after the June 24 deadline will not be considered.

Former policyholders must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible for payment from



the settlement fund:

The person was the last owner of a Genesis Series policy issued from January 1, 1991 through December 31, 1998; the policy terminated before September 30, 2002; no death benefit was paid under the policy; the person was

living on September 30, 2002; the person accurately completes the payment application and mails it to Academy Life by June 24; and Academy Life verifies eligibility.

For more information call Academy Life, at 800-523-5625.

## Special offers for military personnel

Militarylifestyle.com was created for active and retired military men and women, Reserve and Guard, and their family members.

The web site publishes the latest military news, what's on sale at

commissaries and post exchanges, valuable coupons, special offers, and resource information.

The service is free to military members and their families. To register, go to [www.militarylifestyle.com](http://www.militarylifestyle.com).

## Education counselor schedules visits

An Army education counselor is scheduled for March at the following locations:

March 12 - New Cumberland Army Depot, Bldg. 54, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., TSB area  
March 19 - Fort Indiantown Gap,

EAATS Headquarters, Bldg. 19-126, Room 213, 10 a.m. to noon; and from 1 - 3 p.m., NCO Academy, Room 219

Soldiers who have specific requests or need specific information, may call Bob Cronin, at 717-245-3943.

## Logo Continued from Page 1

continues to make a remarkable comeback from the days when it was drastically hunted.

The Harrisburg District Recruiting Command was established in 1972 with the introduction of the all-volunteer Army. That same year the command established

itself as a major recruiting command in the northeast region and earned the title of "Blue Ribbon" because of the high quality of recruits enlisted.

The battalion's new logo with the Army's Army of One logo was designed by a vendor in Oklahoma

## Free assistance for military taxpayers



Don't spend a lot of money on commercial tax preparation fees before you check out the free services on an installation.

Army Legal Assistance Offices help Army taxpayers file 2002 federal and state income tax returns. Electronic filing of federal and state income tax returns continues to increase. By filing electronically you will probably have a refund check in-hand within 10 days.

For more information about free tax assistance, contact a local Army Legal Assistance Office or Army Community Service Center.

For more information, log on to [www.aflo.org](http://www.aflo.org).

**St. Patrick's Day  
March 17**

# Army sponsors NASCAR driver

The Army's black and gold Pontiac made its racing debut at the 45th running of the Daytona 500, on Feb. 16.

The Army's newest partnership with MB2 Motorsports puts veteran driver Jerry Nadeau behind the wheel of the Army's Pontiac Grand Prix. Nadeau showed a strong performance in the season openers, but finished 28th in Sunday's rain-shortened Daytona 500, completing 109 of 200 laps.

The Army teamed up with MB2 Motorsports on the Winston Cup racing circuit during December last year. The Army is the primary sponsor on the MB2 car at 27 Winston Cup circuit races with nine races as the associate sponsor.

Inspired by the tag line "An Army of One," Nadeau's Army

Winston Cup car will carry the No. 01 during the 2003 NASCAR season.

"We chose the number 01 to reinforce our slogan 'An Army of One,' said Lt. Gen. Dennis Cavin, commanding general, U.S. Army Accessions Command.

"The individual talents of each soldier are melded to create a single-minded team. NASCAR fans understand that kind of teamwork, because they see it in action every weekend in the pits. I firmly believe through our participation in NASCAR, they'll begin to understand that the U.S. Army lives it everyday."

The No. 01 replaces the No. 36, which was the MB2 car number since the team joined the NASCAR Winston Cup circuit in 1997.



In five career Daytona 500 starts, Nadeau's record is: 1998, started 26th, finished 21st; 1999, started 25th, finished 11th; 2000, started 20th, finished 35th; 2001, started 5th, finished 32nd; and 2002, started 8th, finished 28th. Nadeau will race the Pontiac

for the next two years in the Winston Cup series.

"I'm really excited to join the guys at MB2 and to work with them and the group at MBV," Nadeau said. "I feel like this is one of the best opportunities I have ever had." Credit to [NASCAR.com](http://NASCAR.com)

## Paperless

Continued from Page 1

but packets were not accepted at MEPS without an electronic projection. GCR eliminates the need to duplicate forms and documents.

"Right now there are problems with the system and we are submitting applications both in paper and electronically. We have to back up everything in paper in case the system goes down," said Sgt. 1st Class John Amsbary, commander, Mechanicsburg Recruiting Station.

"In a perfect world it would be great because there is no paperwork," he said.

USAREC stated that the paper packets are a temporary requirement as part of their contingency plan.

Sgt. 1st Class Jack VanGorder at MEPS, said the system works if you process a basic applicant.

"It's a little frustrating right now because the system is running extremely slow," VanGorder said.

He said during RSM February, it took MEPS twice as long to process an applicant because they had to do it the old way and also electronically.

"This is costing us double the time and adding time to process applicants," he said.

"It is going to be a good system once it is completely in place and the bugs are worked out," VanGorder exclaimed.

Currently, MEPS prints the entire enlistment packet in paper copy for the applicant to take with him to basic training.

In the future, when the Department of the Army is fully online with the system, an applicant's enlistment packet and all information will be accessible electronically at every level up through to the soldier's permanent duty station unit.

Users will be required to obtain a military identification card to access areas

of the system that are pertinent to their specific function.

GCR eliminates the need for storage cabinets. The storage cabinets are replaced by a multi-million dollar computer located at USAREC and specifically designed for the GCR.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Roy, assistant operations NCO, police and court checks are still being run and interviews are still in the paper format.

"I fully support the system and I think once we get the bugs worked out, it will be a much better way for us to do business," said Roy.

"Within 90 days we will be fully paperless," he added.

According to Roy, the system will eventually eliminate the need for the Operations Section to maintain files.

USAREC's new enlistment processing system was effective Feb. 10.

# PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

## Hails and Farewells

### Arrivals:

Maj. James Gaffney - Battalion Headquarters  
Staff Sgt. William Coulter - Stroudsburg Recruiting Station  
Sgt. 1st Class David Johnson - State College RS  
Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Bowe - Recruiter Trainer Shop  
Sgt. Darlene Smith - State College RS  
Sgt. James Hollyfield - Supply  
Sgt. Gregory Koskey - Hanover RS  
1st Sgt. Edward Langford - Carlisle Recruiting Company  
Capt. Philip Skevinal - Wilkes-Barre Recruiting Company

### Departures:

Sgt. Thomas Rowlands - MEPS, Boston, Mass.  
Pvt. Peter Saylor - Fort Bliss  
Staff Sgt. David Yunniger - Fort Gordon  
Sgt. 1st Class Gary Moyer - 99th Regional Support Command  
Staff Sgt. Matthew Miller - 99th Regional Support Command  
Staff Sgt. Jose Ramos - 99th Regional Support Command  
Sgt. 1st Class Corey Deal - AMEDD  
Sgt. 1st Class Harry Sowers - Retiring

Staff Sgt. Kirk Rogers - Retiring  
Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Bonaparte - Retiring  
Staff Sgt. Joseph Brignola - ETS  
Staff Sgt. Carlinton Dobson - Atlanta Battalion  
Sgt. 1st Class George Pickett - Atlanta Battalion  
Staff Sgt. John Smith - Tampa Battalion  
Staff Sgt. David Jaramillo - Fort Campbell  
Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Williams - First Brigade  
Staff Sgt. Liashonda Bains - Jacksonville Battalion  
Staff Sgt. Brian Shaw - Mid-Atlantic Battalion  
Staff Sgt. Brian Scott - Germany  
Staff Sgt. Joseph Jackson - Fort Wainwright  
Sgt. Cheyenne Barber - Korea  
Staff Sgt. Kenneth Curnutte - ETS

## Promotions

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Fullen

## Awards

Sgt. 1st Class David Clark - Meritorious Service Medal  
Capt. Shawn Hebert - Army Commendation Medal

## A&PA staff receives journalism awards

Two individuals in the battalion's Advertising and Public Affairs office were awarded several journalism awards.

The battalion's monthly newsletter, the *Penn Pal*, took second place in USAREC's Jacob Jennings Brown competition.

Sonya Patterson is the *Penn Pal's* editor. Patterson also took first place in both the news article and photo-

journalism categories.

Bill Irwin, received a first place in the commentary category, and honorable mentions for the story series and stand-alone photograph categories.

First place winners in each category of the Jacob Jennings Brown competition are forwarded to compete in the Department of Army's Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Journalism Awards competition.

## Civilian recruiter's niece enlists



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. J.P. Innerst, U.S. Marine Corps, gives the oath of enlistment to Jessica Gonzalez. She enlisted on Feb. 18, for six years as an information systems operator. Gonzalez leaves for basic training Sept. 9. Gonzalez is Carlos Bonaparte's niece. Bonaparte, left, is a civilian recruiter in the Reading Recruiting Station.

## Incentives

Continued from Page 2

Quality enlistments receives a battalion chip or coin, and will not work weekends.

- Recruiters achieving three Quality enlistments receive a three-day pass, a battalion coin or chip, and will not work weekends.
- Stations that overproduce two Quality enlistments above

their volume mission for RSM March, will receive a battalion chip or coin, awarded to all contributing members in addition to existing incentives. An additional chip or coin may be earned for every two Quality enlistments above their over production.

- A battalion chip or coin

will be given to any recruiter who writes two GSCA or achieves station mission box.

- A rotating "battle axe" will be awarded monthly to the top LPSC or OPSC. The team that earns the award the most during the fiscal year will be awarded the axe at the Annual Training Conference.

The battalion chip or coin equals a day off or can be used to redeem items from the Battalion Recruiter Store.

The following items are available in the Battalion Recruiter Store: battalion mugs; polo shirts, long sleeve pullover jackets, garment bags; gym bags; and sweat suits.

# LIFESTYLES

## Car maintenance tip

Consumer expert Des Toups says that if you own a vehicle that is three or more years old, it's a good idea to set aside \$50 a month for maintenance and future repairs.

"A rebuilt transmission costs \$1,500; replacing timing belts runs to \$600," he says. "Even if you've paid off your vehicle, it's smart to have the savings to cover emergency repairs. If you're lucky enough never to use that money, you can apply those funds toward the next car."

## Saving on wine

Wineries generally will give a 20 to 30 percent discount when wine is bought by the case at the site.



If you can't get to a winery, check with your local liquor store. Most will special order your request and pass much of the savings on to you.

## Unusual job titles

The U.S. Department of Labor's Dictionary of Occupational Titles lists thousands of real world, but little known, job titles.

Here are some of the more unusual entries:

- > Bed rubber
- > Bologna lacer
- > Chicken fancier
- > Crown pounder
- > Devil tender
- > Egg smeller
- > Marshmallow runner
- > Nibbler operator
- > Pickle pumper
- > Retort forker
- > Seed potato arranger
- > Smearer
- > Worm bed attendant

**"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."**

-- Milton Berle

## The death of common sense

Today I am mourning the passing of an old friend by the name of Common Sense. Common Sense, lived a long life, but died from heart failure at the brink of the millennium. No one really knows how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He selflessly devoted his life to service in schools, hospitals, homes, factories and offices, helping folks get jobs done without fanfare and foolishness.

For decades, petty rules, silly laws and frivolous lawsuits held no power over Common Sense. He was credited with cultivating such valued lessons as to know when to come in out of the rain, the early bird gets the worm, and life isn't always fair. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (the adults are in charge, not the kids). A veteran of the Industrial Revolution the Great Depression, and the Technological Revolution, Common Sense survived cultural and educational trends including feminism, body piercing, whole language and "new math."

But his health declined when he became infected with the "If it only helps one person it's worth it" virus. In recent decades his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of overbearing federal regulation. He watched in pain as good people became ruled by self-

seeking lawyers and enlightened auditors. His health rapidly deteriorated when schools endlessly implemented zero tolerance policies, reports of 6-year-old boys charged with sexual harassment for kissing classmates, a teen suspended for taking a swig of mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student.

Finally, Common Sense lost his will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, criminals received better treatment than victims, and federal judges stuck their noses in everything from Boy Scouts to professional sports. As the end neared, Common Sense drifted in and out of logic, but was kept informed of developments, regarding questionable regulations for asbestos, low flow toilets, "smart" guns, the nurturing of Prohibition Laws and mandatory air bags. Finally when told that the homeowners association restricted exterior furniture only to that which enhanced property values, he breathed his last.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by three stepbrothers, Rights, Tolerance and Whiner. Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

*Author Unknown*

## St. Patrick's Day

This day celebrates the saint who brought Christianity to Ireland. He was born Maewyn Succat in Britain around 385 C.E. to British-Roman parents. He was captured by pirates when he was 16 years old and sold into slavery in Ireland. After working as a shepherd for six years, he escaped and traveled to France, where he became a priest and

changed his name to the Christian Patricius (Patrick). In 432 he was made a bishop. Patrick returned to Ireland to spread the Christian faith, traveling throughout the country for 30 years and converting thousands of pagans. He died on March 17, 461. He is the patron saint of Ireland. His feast day, March 17, is celebrated throughout the world.

# SOLDIER & FAMILY ASSISTANCE

## Claritin now available 'over the counter'

Beginning March 1, the Department of Defense National Mail Order Pharmacy Program changed to the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy Program with a new provider, Express Scripts. TRICARE beneficiaries can now pre-register and expedite future prescription orders, at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy/default.cfm>.

### Claritin

The popular, non-sedating antihistamine Claritin, is now available "over the counter." "Over the counter" means drugs that can be obtained without a doctor's prescription. Some popular OTC drugs are Tylenol, Benadryl, Sudafed, and Advil.

Claritin became available in many pharmacies beginning December 9, 2002. This includes all forms of Claritin that were previously available only by prescription. They include Claritin tablets, reditabs, syrup, and Claritin-D, and Claritin-D, 24-hour tablets.

The Food and Drug Administration does not allow pharmaceutical companies to sell the same drug at the same strength as both a prescription drug and an OTC drug. So, when Claritin became available, the manufacturer could no longer sell prescription Claritin.

The military pharmacy benefit does not pay for medications that are available over the counter, except in rare circumstances, such as insulin.

Patients who previously

filled prescriptions for Claritin at a retail pharmacy and paid a \$9 co-pay for a 30-day supply or 90-day supply through NMOP, will no longer be able to do so.

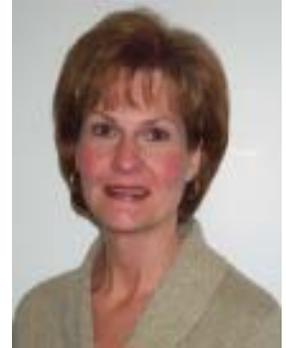
If you have been obtaining Claritin from a retail network pharmacy, you will be able to continue to obtain Claritin there; however, it will be on the shelf with all the other allergy medications that are available, such as Benadryl.

You will also be required to pay the full price for the medication because TRICARE will no longer "cost share" prescriptions for this medication, just as they do not cost share other OTC drugs, such as Tylenol, Sudafed, and Advil. This also includes any refills that may be left on a prescription.

If you have been receiving your prescription Claritin from a mail order pharmacy, you will no longer be able to do this either.

A few alternatives are available. One, you can obtain Claritin as outlined above, or you can go back to your provider and request that your prescription be changed to one that is still available by prescription. Allegra is an example of another non-sedating antihistamine that is still available by prescription only. Allegra is on the DoD Basic Core Formulary and is available at all MTF pharmacies and the NMOP. DoD has a contract with the manufacturer for this product,

### Soldier & Family Assistance Program Manager



By Barb Davie

which allows them to provide the medication at a favorable price.

The decision how to handle the Claritin change is one you should make after consulting with a health care provider.

### Saving on Prescriptions

When you are outside of your TRICARE region, the following guidelines apply:

- \* Bring along enough of your prescription medications to last for your entire trip. You will have to pay the entire amount of the prescription if you fill the prescription outside the region and then seek reimbursement from TRICARE when you return home.

- \* If you are enrolled in Prime, you may be assessed a point of service charge unless you call the health care finder at 1-888-333-4522 and obtain an authorization.

- \* When traveling within your region, pay only the co-payment by using a network pharmacy.

### EAP Services

The U.S. Army Accessions Command contracted with EAP

Consultants, Inc., to provide services to soldiers and their family members. The web page for EAP services is <http://www.eapconsultants.com>.

Each battalion has a different "user name." The user name for Harrisburg Battalion is "RC14." The password is "RCEAP," which stands for Recruiting Command Employee Assistance Program. The toll-free telephone number for consultations and counseling appointments is 1-800-869-0276.

### Discount Childcare Program

USAAC contracted with Caliber Associates to provide a directory of childcare providers who offer discounts to military families within the U.S. Army Cadet Command and USAREC.

USAAC has used this service for several years for ROTC cadre.

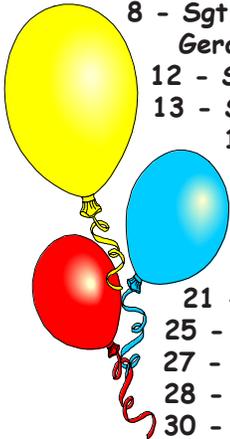
An updated directory will soon be available. Caliber Associates has a list of more than 2,000 zip codes to add to the updated directory.

Call me at 1-800-790-0963, ext. 14, if you need more information on the current listing.

## April Birthdays



- 2 - Sgt. 1st Class John Amsbary
- 3 - Staff Sgt. Michael Noll
- 6 - Sgt. 1st Class Jack VanGorder
- 8 - Sgt. Larry Taylor & Staff Sgt. Gerald Kibler
- 12 - Stephen Sebastian
- 13 - Sgt. Craig Tomlinson
- 14 - Capt. Ingrid Parker & Cpl. Richard Putnam
- 16 - Sgt. John Voorhees
- 18 - Gary Veza
- 19 - Sgt. Robert Donmoyer
- 21 - Sgt. 1st Class David Ressler
- 25 - Staff Sgt. David Lebo
- 27 - Staff Sgt. Pernell Bowersox
- 28 - Sgt. Tony Chapman
- 30 - Sgt. David Jentsch & Sgt. 1st Class Terrance Brailsford



## First day of Spring, March 20

On the vernal equinox, the sun rises due east and sets due west everywhere on Earth (except near the poles). The amount of daylight - 12 hours, eight minutes - is virtually the same everywhere too.



# International birthday celebrations

Years ago, people in ancient Europe feared that evil spirits were particularly attracted to people on their birthdays. To protect them, friends and families would gather around the birthday person and bring good wishes and gifts. This tradition launched the modern-day birthday party. Here's a look at how some countries celebrate birthdays:

**Denmark** - Flags are flown outside the home to indicate that one of the residents is having a birthday. Presents are placed around the bed so the honoree will see them upon awakening.

**Germany** - The candles of birthday cakes are lit at sunrise and left burning until after dinner.

**Japan** - The birthday person wears all new clothes to mark the occasion and bring good luck for the coming year.

**Russia** - Instead of birthday cake, pies are served with a birthday greeting carved into the crust.

**Nepal** - A mixture of rice yogurt and food dye is dotted on the birthday person's forehead for good luck.

**China** - Noodles, which represent long life, are served for lunch.



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# FIRST CLASS