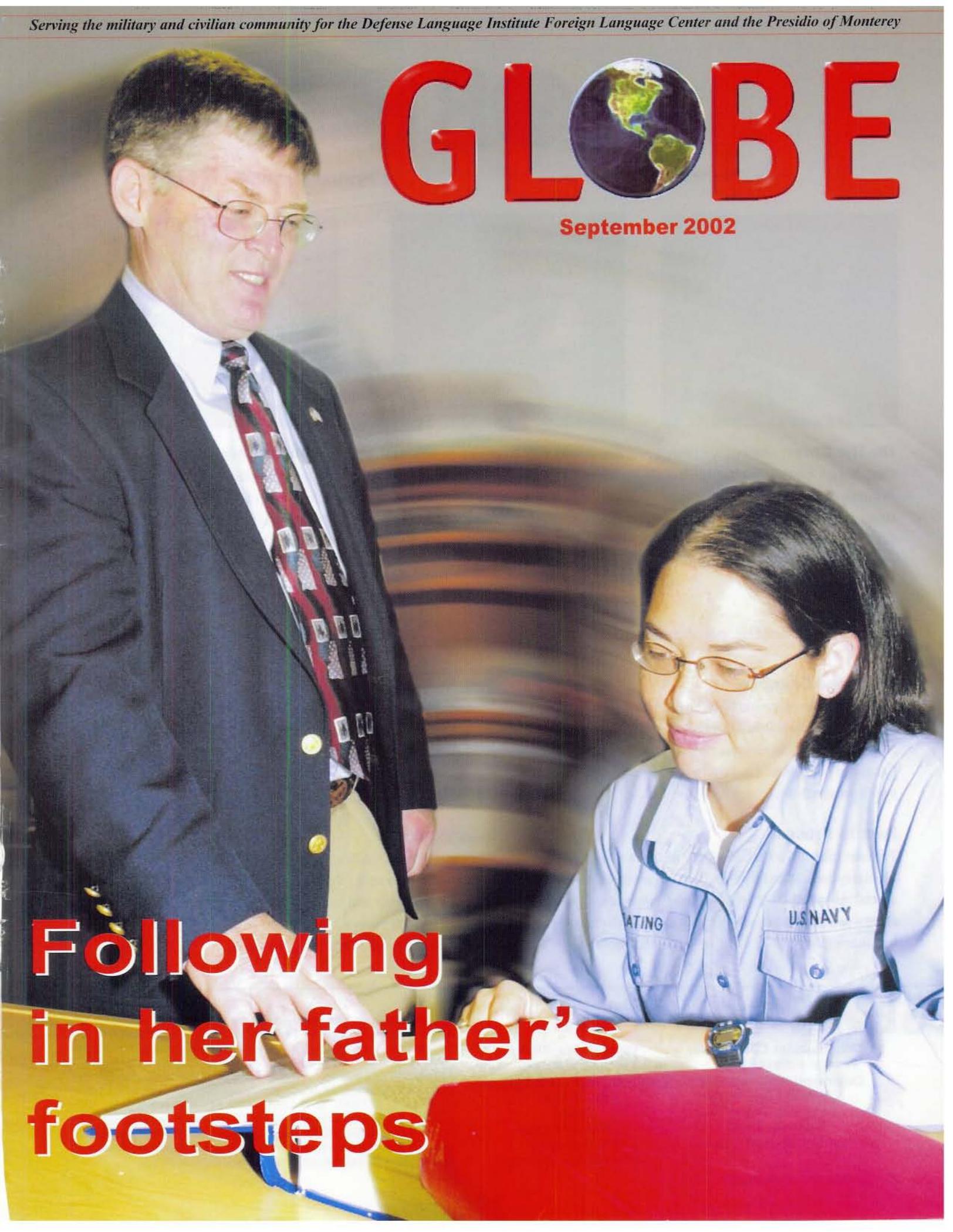


GLOBE

September 2002



**Following
in her father's
footsteps**

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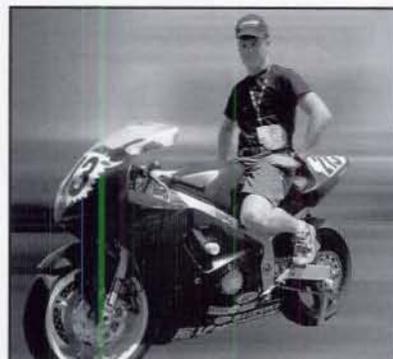
September 2002



On The Cover: Retired Air Force Capt. Robert Keating and his daughter Seaman Kimberly Keating review language materials. Keating graduated from the Institute in 1969, setting the precedent for his daughter to follow more than 30 years later. **4**



Students say thanks: Nearly 80 college and university students from Korea perform native dances and entertainment as they tour California in honor of Korean War veterans. The group performed at the Monterey Conference Center July 10. **8**



Racing leatherneck: Former Marine Corps officer Brian Lowe finds himself atop a 600cc street bike at Laguna Seca in a battle of machine and skill rather than of military combat. Lowe tells his tale of competing with the factory teams. **16**

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Language Olympics

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Past to Present

Thirteen former Air Force Russian linguists returned to Monterey June 28 to July 1 for their 50-year reunion from a special six-month Air Force Russian Course here. The alumni saw and heard what life is like for students at the Institute today. *By Bob Britton* **12**

Still Serving

Military retirees and their families learned the fate of TRICARE for Life, retired pay, pending legislation and the proposed former Fort Ord cemetery during the annual Retiree Appreciation Day at the General Stilwell Community Center June 15. *By Bob Britton* **10**

Straight talk

Ray Lane Aldrich, the Army's military foreign language program manager at the Pentagon, sheds some light on the linguist community and answers questions from linguists in the field. Aldrich unravels the mystery about FLPP, test scores and a myriad of other linguist issues. **14**

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Proficiency pay undergoes overhaul

DAN O'SHEA

Many soldiers have been receiving Foreign Language Proficiency Pay over the last two years. The Department of the Army has completed its review of the program and has issued changes which will have an impact on soldiers and their pocket books throughout the Army.

In an official message published in April, the Army modified the Critical Language List for payment of FLPP II. This list identifies the languages that can be used to receive proficiency pay by soldiers who are not designated as career-linguists.

Career linguists are those soldiers who hold MOSC 97E, 98G, 351E, 352G and officers in MOS series 18 or having a functional area designation of 39 or 48. All other soldiers, with few exceptions, are considered non-career linguists.

Since the Army has met or exceeded its requirements in many of the Category I and II languages contained in AR 611-6, figure 6-1, many of those languages have been deleted for the list.

The only languages which now qualify for receipt of FLPP II are the following: Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese-Mandarin, Estonian, Finnish, French, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Latvian, Persian-Farsi, Pashto, Russian, Serbian-Croatian, Singhalese, Slovenian, Thai, Turkish, Urdu and Uzbek.

Soldiers who have a current language score (less than 12 months old) and who tested April 8, 2002 and earlier are still allowed to receive FLPP II for the entire 12-month entitlement period based on the former critical language list contained in ALARACT Message dated April 2000. At the end of the qualifying period, the pay will be terminated.

For example, if a soldier tested in the Tagalog language on March 31, 2002 and received a passing score (minimum of a 2/

2 rating on the Defense Language Proficiency Test), that soldier would be authorized FLPP II until March 30, 2003. After that date the pay would terminate.

FLPP II can be paid for only one language per year and is capped at \$200 per month. Non-career linguists cannot take multiple language tests to try to maximize the FLPP II payment.

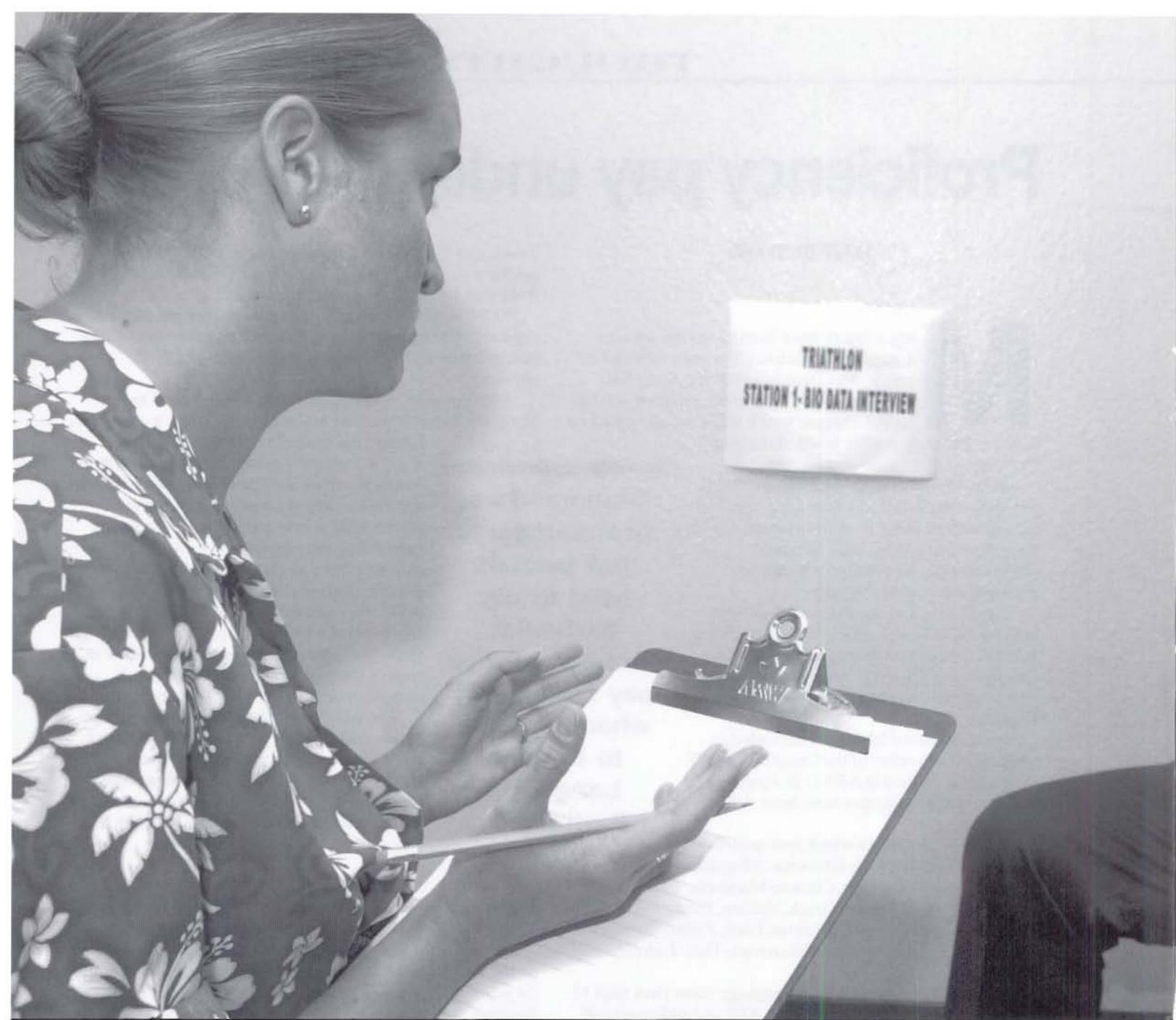
Commanders, first sergeants and soldiers need to pay particular attention to their pay statements when it comes to Foreign Language Proficiency Pay.

The Defense Finance Accounting System cannot put in an automatic termination date for this entitlement and local finance offices cannot enter a future stop date. The orders authorizing the payment have a termination date on them and must be hand-entered to stop the pay. The unit commanders finance report does not indicate FLPP as one of the special pays which requires "hand-screening," those pay statements for soldiers entitled to receive the pay, to ensure that the pay is started, correct, continuing or stopped.

For additional information on the change please contact your servicing PSB. Soldiers are still encouraged to take the Defense Language Proficiency Test as college credit can be awarded based on the scores attained. To schedule an appointment to take this test, contact your local Education Center.

**Commanders,
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Proficiency
Pay**

Editor's Note: *O'Shea is the Command Language Program Manager for III Corps and Fort Hood, Texas. He is a graduate of the Basic and Intermediate Russian courses at DLI and is rated as a Master Instructor by the Air Force Technical Training Command. He has over 24 years of experience in mentoring, training and caring for linguists, both on active duty and in civil service. He has no opinion on anything, enjoys cooking lousy barbecue to annoy his neighbors and their dogs, and plays golf on weekends that are sunny. If you would like to contact him with a good barbecue recipe or tips on how to improve his golf game, please wait until you get to Fort Hood. Make sure you have your 330 with you.*



worldwide

Language Olympics

BY BOB BRITTON



Speaking Success: Sgt. Tracy Sanders, 125th Military Intelligence Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, interrogates Korean instructor Kenny Lee during the Triathlon event of the Worldwide Language Olympics.

Nearly 150 two-person military linguist teams challenged each other in Triathlon, Gisting, Impromptu, Showdown and Jeopardy during the resident phase of the Worldwide Language Olympics May 6-10 at the Presidio of Monterey. The teams put their language listening, reading, writing and speaking skills to work in Arabic, Chinese-Mandarin, Korean, Persian-Farsi, Russian and Spanish in hopes of coming away with gold, silver or bronze medals or team trophies.

"The Worldwide Language Olympics are great for the field units who send their teams to compete against their peers," said Air Force

Tech. Sgt. Forist Babcock II, the primary coordinator for this year's resident WLO games and the academic training advisor for Asian languages in the 311th Training Squadron. "Unit first sergeants and language coordinators do appreciate the good job their linguists do in the field and send them here to represent their units. Linguists also get reacquainted with their friends and teachers. Many field linguists start planning well ahead of the WLO to keep up their language abilities and skills to compete in the WLO."

One team member had to be a Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center graduate, though the other team member could be a native speaker of the language. Also, competition directors implemented a new rule this year barring last year's gold medallists from competing in this year's games.

"This was done to level the playing field and give more people a chance to win," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. John Morash, the Jeopardy coordinator and noncommissioned officer in charge of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency office at the Presidio of Monterey. He and his teammate captured first place in the Russian WLO in 1997 to 1998. "If you keep having the dominant teams return each year, they keep decimating the field. Some competitors might say since a certain team is coming again, why should I even play in the games. So I'll just come and enjoy Monterey again. This year's gold medal winners won't compete next year."

The DTRA duo of Senior Master Sgt. William Leaf and Staff Sgt. Andrew Patrick earned top honors as the best overall single-unit team in the competition. Both work in the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty office in Washington, D.C. Leaf, a Russian linguist for 21 years, has competed in the WLO since 1992. Patrick earned a gold medal for the first time after three years of competing at the WLO.

"We took gold medals in the optional Scrabble event and first place in Jeopardy, Gisting, and Impromptu and won the bronze medal in Showdown," Leaf said. "The Jeopardy game was our most difficult event, and the entire WLO was good competition."

Linguists from the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Meade, Md., earned the top honors as the best overall multi-team unit. Their teams competed in more than one language during the competition.

"Our team won gold in the Spanish

versions of Impromptu and Gisting and bronze in Jeopardy and Showdown. Impromptu was our hardest event," said Staff Sgt. Fernando Flores, a Spanish linguist for 10 years. "It's good to learn other cultures, and we're proud of being the best in our unit. All events were well run and all competitors had good language abilities."

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Randall Rogers, 102nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Republic of Korea, helped his team win gold in the Korean Impromptu, Jeopardy and Gisting. He graduated from the DLIFLC Basic Korean Course in 1986 and competed previously at the WLO. He works as a liaison officer with the Republic of Korea army.

"Over the years, WLO organizers made the events fair and weeded out unfair events," said Rogers. "Impromptu was the most difficult event since you can't prepare for it and must perform instantly. To prepare for the WLO, linguists should get with someone before the Monterey games, learn from previous experiences, plan a good strategy for the games, and know the games and the competition."

In the Showdown competition, team members answer automated computer questions, describe passwords in the target language and answer questions together.

Impromptu is one of the most difficult events for linguists to master. There is no advance preparation. Teams enter a room, pick a subject card, prepare key words on that topic and one member gives a 2-4-minute speech in the language. Meanwhile, their partner must translate the speech sentence by sentence into English. In later rounds, the roles of the team members are reversed. Teams are judged on grammar, presentation, vocabulary and timing.

Triathlon consists of several mini events over a two-mile course at Price Fitness Center. Besides the running, events include listening to a native speaker, reading documents, listening for numbers on audiotapes, obtaining some navigation information and making a report of all intelligence material gathered through the different phases, Morash said.

Jeopardy is similar to the television program, but competitors must ask questions in the target language instead of English.

Gisting tests linguists' listening and reading skills, based on the Defense

Group works to improve quality of life for military

The 2002 Presidio of Monterey Armed Forces Family Action Plan Symposium was held March 13 and 14 at the Weckerling Center. Ninety-seven delegates and seven facilitators staffed five workgroups: medical, entitlements, family support and MWR, housing, public works and relocation. All branches of service in the Monterey community participated in this symposium and 31 subject matter experts representing various agencies and offices provided information and clarification to the workgroups.

Each workgroup brainstormed and prioritized issues they felt needed to be addressed, either locally or globally. A total of 14 issues were developed at the Presidio of Monterey 2002 AFAP symposium. The issues were presented to the chain of command and to the participants of the symposium. Global issues beyond the scope of the installation commander requiring a higher level of authority were forward to the major Army Command. Nine global issues have been forwarded to the Army's Training and Doctrine Command. The five remaining local issues listed below are being addressed by members of the Installation Family Action Plan Steering Committee working with proponent agencies to review the issues and monitor them until they are resolved.

Presidio of Monterey Army Health Clinic Staffing

SCOPE: POMAHC does not provide accessible, timely and

comprehensive medical care to service members and their families. Although the ratio of POMAHC providers-to service members and their families is within regulatory standards, the staffing is inadequate to meet the needs of DLI's unique population. The extended IET status of 6 to 24 months and accelerated course load contribute to excessive levels of stress, and the higher ratio of females to males creates a need for more maintenance-related health care.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Increase staffing to meet the needs of DLI's unique population.
2. Extend POMAHC hours to create and provide more appointment times before and after class hours.
3. Provide more specialty staffing, to include OBGYN, pediatrics and orthopedic care.

STATUS:

1. The POMAHC commander has been successful in obtaining the additional staff positions of one civilian RN, a nursing assistant, a Chief Nurse (Army), a Physician Assistant (Air Force), and early hires of Occupational Health and Informatics technicians. They are pursuing the option of obtaining a Navy provider as well.

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Olympics

Continued from Page 5

Language Proficiency Test and the Final Learning Objectives.

"I think the two events that bring the most bragging rights are Impromptu and Jeopardy," said Morash. "When you walk out of Jeopardy as a gold medal winner, you feel pretty good. You know you are a good listener, reader and speaker or you wouldn't be here. You've taken the DLPT so many times and work with your language daily. Listening is a daily step, and speaking is the next step to increase your language ability. That's where Impromptu comes in, providing the ability to practice all language skills together."

Marine Gunnery Sgt. John Durish, a Russian military language instructor, was the chief coordinator for the five nonresident games this year. Linguists in the field received three games to do under a proctor's supervision. The results were sent back to DLI for final

grading and scoring. The other two events were conducted through the Video TeleTraining studios.

"Power Word and Spot Report were done in the VTT studios at staggered sessions, so you would have a separate morning and afternoon session," Durish said. "It was basically one team at a time competing, such as all Korean teams from the same unit in the morning and Arabic in the afternoon. For Spot Report, teams had a time constraint on listening, reading, writing and speaking and answering a 20-question videotape."

For Spot Report, the split TV screen showed the DLI people in the studio and a picture in the other half. One team member described the picture to his partner facing away from the TV screen, who took notes and had to identify the picture. Then roles were reversed.

"All events we have are based on the Final Learning Objective skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking the foreign language," said Babcock.

"We have the most teams in Russian, Korean and Spanish, which are followed in numbers by Arabic, Persian-Farsi and Chinese-Mandarin. We had people from private to captains competing against each other."

Master Sgt. Lucinda Tims, the Presidio's garrison commander, was the chief MLI program manager during this year's competition.

"This is the first time I've had to see the overall aspect of the WLO since I never competed before," said Tims. "I see the ability to master the language within all the services and our giving linguists the opportunities to be challenged in areas that may never have been challenging for them. I see the competitive blood out there among the different units and teams."

The Worldwide Language Olympics title will be changed to something else next year. The International Olympic Committee objected to using the word "Olympics" for the annual language games and has asked for the competition to be renamed.

Seaman Kimberly Keating's

love for learning languages

pushes her to follow . . .

In her father's Footsteps

Like father, like daughter. Retired Air Force Capt. Robert Keating studied Korean at the Defense Language Institute – West Coast Branch from 1968-1969. His daughter, Navy Seaman Kimberly Keating from the Naval Technical Training Center Detachment, is studying Korean now.

Kimberly thought the Navy's language program might be better than the Air Force's, so she became a sailor. She chose the Korean course because her mother is Korean and her father studied the language.

"Speaking is the hardest part for me to learn," Kimberly said. "I can speak a little bit slowly now. I try to think in English and then translate that into Korean.

"We have 10 students per section and 30 students in a class. Our Korean teachers keep us motivated, and we want to learn the language. We also have area, cultural and geographic studies on Korea a few times a week. Our goal is learning Korean and making as few mistakes as possible, but mistakes are part of learning."

Robert Keating enlisted as a Korean cryptologist for 11 ½ years before he was commissioned and retired in 1994 as a captain.

Robert studied the basic Korean course from 1968 to 1969. The course currently lasts 63 weeks. Classrooms, of 10 students per section, were located in

Building 637, and his barracks were in the present 311th Training Squadron's billets. At that time his unit was Company C. The class, evenly divided between Army and Air Force male students, had no female students.

"When I was a student, speaking was the most difficult part for me to learn," said Keating. "I didn't have any problems with listening or reading. To speak as or emulate a Korean, you have to learn to speak fast. That takes a lot of practice.

"We didn't have tape recorders back then," he said. "As I recall, we had dialogs to study and memorize. My two roommates were also Korean students, so we all practiced our dialogs from our books. During the first period of the next class day, we knew that we were going to recite the dialog from the previous day."

After graduating from DLI in 1969, Keating went to Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas for follow-on cryptologic training. He returned there later in his military career to teach similar courses. Joe Betty, who is now



the chief of programs in the School for Continuing Education, was one of his instructors. They have been friends since those early days.

"I owe my career as a military linguist to two people: Joe Betty and his supervisor, Terry Tilman," said Keating. "Those two had more influence on my career than anybody else. Through Joe's instruction and when I left Goodfellow, motivation, I knew that was exactly where I wanted to be in my military career when I left Goodfellow. About a year and a half later, Joe came to Osan Air Base in Korea where we had a chance to serve together operationally.

"After I left Korea, Joe brought my future wife on base at Osan Air Base, and through a long distance phone call, I asked her to marry me. That tells you how much Joe and his wife Tina have been a major part of my life.

"Joe also has a Korean wife, and I have known him and his family since 1970," said Robert. "His wife helped my wife-to-be get to the United States, so we could get married in Tulsa, Oklahoma after I left Korea.

Capt. Keating spent two tours in Korea, mostly at Osan Air Base listening electronically to Korean conversations and keeping up with the Korean and international situations. He spent part of his second tour stationed at Pyongtaek with the Army.

"These Korean tours were my two best tours in my Air Force career," said Keating. "While in Korea, I left base frequently to meet and talk with the Korean people and learn about their country and culture. I would go downtown, get on a Korean bus, ride it to a nearby town to spend the day and then return to base. That's a good way to assimilate into the Korean society. One semester I taught English at a Korean junior high school near Osan."

After Keating retired from the Air Force in 1994, he kept up with his Korean language skills and knowledge. He is a government contractor working at Goodfellow.

"Our company is in the process of converting much of the cryptologic language training to a computer-based training or CBT-deliverable system. We do that for all the languages, but because of my background in Korean, I make sure that I am directly involved with any of the Korean course transfers to CBT. I visit all the Korean classrooms at least twice a week and keep in close contact with all of the Korean instructors who are my friends."

Korean Students say



Celebrating Sacrifice: College and university students from Korea perform at the Monterey Conference Center July 10 to show their appreciation to Korean War veterans.

Thanks

The Korean American Cultural Foundation from Seoul, Korea, honored Korean War veterans at the Monterey Conference Center in the DoubleTree Hotel July 10.

Nearly 100 Korean War veterans and their family members received special appreciation medals from the visiting entertainment group of about 80 Korean college and university students.

Dr. Young Jack Lee, chairman of the KACF and chaired professor at Hanyang University in Korea, was one of the guest speakers.

"Had it not been for the Korean War veterans and those soldiers who died during the Korean War, I would not be alive today," Lee said. "I am grateful to them and to all of you. It all happened more than 50 years ago. Yet, you are not forgotten, and those who died in the Korean War are not forgotten at all. The 'Forgotten War' is no longer forgotten throughout the United States and South Korea. We recognize and honor Korean War veterans, their families, especially those who lost loved ones and are aware of their contribution toward the peace and freedom enjoyed today in the Republic of Korea."

The Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's Joint Service Color Guard presented and retired the colors. DLI's Korean School sponsored the Korean American Cultural Foundation visitors.

Lt. Col. Richard Coon, DLI chief of staff, told the audience the Institute has 600 Korean language students and 150 teachers. Asian School II and III, which teach the Korean language, are the largest schools at DLI.

The KACF group of craftsmen, entertainers and martial

arts students are touring all over California this summer. Members are thanking Korean War veterans for their assistance in defending their country 50 years ago. Last year the group toured the American Midwest, and next year it plans to tour the eastern United States.

The show began with a costume show of a royal court. A brass quintet from Yonsei University in Seoul played the "Star Spangled Banner," the Korean national anthem and a medley of American service songs.

College students from Sunghwa College sang Korea's southern folk songs as they accompanied themselves on the Kaya-keum, a 12-string Korean harp played horizontally instead of vertically.

Dancers from Kyunghee University performed Korean dances, including the famous and graceful fan dance. Ja-Kyung Yoon, from the Haedong Kumdo League, ballet performed a sword dance, which combines skills of swordsmanship with physical body movements.

Students of the martial art of Soo Bahk Do demonstrated their prowess with defensive hand and foot movements and breaking wood blocks held by other students.

Julie Webster, president of the Association of the United States Army General Joseph Stilwell Chapter, said Americans are grateful for the support and friendship of Koreans. AUSA and Military Order of the Purple Heart chapters throughout California helped defray some tour expenses and publicized the event.

Retired Republic of Korea Brig. Gen. Joa Soo Kim was another guest speaker honoring Korean War veterans and their families. He is a former Ambassador to the Vatican, Thailand and Bulgaria.

"The Korean War is not forgotten, and the Korean people don't forget the war to fight communism," said Kim. "Thank you for supporting Korea and its people."

BY BOB BRITTON

Still Serving

Retirees from the Monterey area learn the status of retired pay, health care and the proposed cemetery on the former Fort Ord

BY BOB BRITTON

Nearly 600 military retirees and family members learned about TRICARE for Life, retired pay, pending legislation and the proposed cemetery on the former Fort Ord during the annual Retiree Appreciation Day at the General Stilwell Community Center June 15.

Retired Maj. Gen. William Gourley, chairperson of the Fort Ord Area Retiree Council, hosted the event that enlisted guest speakers Presidio Garrison Commander Col. William Dietrick, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Villar, Jeff Meyers from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Cleveland and retired Maj. Gen. Richard Murray, president of the National Association for Uniformed Services.

Murray introduced participants to the National Association for Uniformed Services organization that presently boasts a membership of nearly 165,000 retiree members from the different military services. The umbrella service

organization represents a myriad of veterans associations and unites them by speaking with one voice, Murray said.

Until last year, retirees' biggest concerns were about Congress providing health care for military retirees over the age of 65 and getting a mail order pharmacy program. Previously, retirees over age 65 didn't qualify for any TRICARE medical benefits. They could use Medicare and private health insurance, but not TRICARE.

That situation drastically changed last year.

"You have all made a great life because you've given a lot more than you have received," said Murray as he addressed participants. "The military retirees, veterans and their spouses, until this past year, were at the bottom of the totem pole in benefits for their service to our nation, compared to all other federal employees.

"For two years, we asked Congress to fund military medical care in the mandatory entitlements just like they

fund our military retired pay," he said. "Last year, TRICARE for Life was passed in the mandatory portion of the budget — \$68 billion over the next 10 years have been set aside for our medical care. This tremendous achievement is the biggest victory for the military retiree in our history."

Congress also passed legislation last year establishing a new mail order pharmacy prescription program for retirees that became effective in April.

"This new pharmacy program is saving retirees and veterans money they would otherwise pay out of pocket," Murray said. "These bills came through grassroots efforts from retirees and family members sending messages to Congress."

Benefits like the new pharmacy program and pay have consistently found their place in discussion among retirees and their families.

Guest speaker Jeff Meyers from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Cleveland shed some light on retiree's pay.

Meyers is with Affiliated Computer Services, a company that took over the contract for retiree and annuitant pay services for DFAS earlier this year.

"Retired pay services will remain in Cleveland, while the annuitant pay function services will be moved from DFAS-Denver to Cleveland later this year," he said. "We currently pay about

two million retirees and about 300,000 annuitants.

"We pay all the military services except the Coast Guard to the tune of about \$3 billion a month, and we receive about 136,000 pieces of mail a month."

Meyers also mentioned retirees should keep their accounts up to date with Social Security numbers, current addresses and current spouses. If retirees have been divorced and remarried, they should list their current spouse as the beneficiary. Otherwise, all accrued money in the retiree's account will go to the former spouse when the veteran dies.

"Unfortunately, we can't talk to your spouse unless the retiree is dead," said Meyers. "We can only talk to the actual retiree. Spouses can't get information about their living retiree spouse due to the Privacy Act."

If a retiree dies midmonth, it takes about 30-45 days for the surviving spouse to get that pay arrears, he said. For Survivors Benefit Plan participants, that time could increase up to 60 days for the survivor to get the first SBP check, which will only be about 55 percent of the full retired pay benefit normally received by the retiree.

"Be sure to contact ACS if you're enrolled in SBP and your designated beneficiary predeceases you," Meyers said. "Retirees would need to send ACS a copy of their spouse's death certificate with a written request to suspend SBP payments as soon as possible. Also, if the retiree and his or her spouse divorce, forward a copy of your divorce decree with a written request to suspend the SBP payments."

Once a retiree remarries, he or she has three choices for SBP: elect to reinstate SBP for the new spouse, increase your coverage or elect to stay out of SBP.

Meyers also talked about pending Congressional legislation that will affect future SBP payments. Effective in 2008, if retirees over age 70 paid SBP premiums for 30 years, their SBP account will be considered paid in full and no more SBP payments will be made.

Another issue for retirees is Dual Compensation, which allows retirees to receive earned retired pay and Veterans

Affairs compensation for service-connected disabilities. Currently, the VA disability amount is deducted from a retiree's pay dollar for dollar. Congress passed the Dual Compensation Act or concurrent receipt law earlier this year to pay both fees without the offset.

Although the act was passed retirees shouldn't expect to see the extra money in the paychecks because Congress failed to fund the concurrent receipt law.

Reducing or eliminating commissaries is also an issue retirees brought forth during discussion. The Defense Commissary Agency leaders convinced their board and the Defense Department that they can reduce

"Last year, TRICARE for Life was passed in the mandatory portion of the budget — \$68 billion over the next 10 years have been set aside for our medical care."

managing by 15 percent and give up over 10 percent of their billion-dollar budget which could cause the loss of service to military retirees and active duty service members.

Gen. Murray and NAUS oppose the drastic changes.

"We at NAUS say this is without adequate testing," he said. "Commissary store managers throughout the country say the proposed DeCA cuts would be too deep, too fast and without sound validation and workload measurements. Before any drastic changes are made to the commissary system, we want full studies made."

Retirees also asked leaders the status of the proposed cemetery on the former Fort Ord.

The closest VA cemetery is located about four hours away from the Monterey area. For many families, that distance, retirees said, is unacceptable.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Villar told retirees about the proposed Central Coast Veterans Affairs Cemetery at Fort Ord.

The federal government, he said, has set aside 100 percent funding to construct the cemetery; however, the problem financing the maintenance of the facility after it is constructed still continues. The California Department of Veterans Affairs will be responsible for annual maintenance costs, estimated between \$400,000 and \$500,000. To help defray these expenses, the Monterey County veterans associations have created a foundation to raise money for the maintenance of the facility.

"The planning for the cemetery will be sometime in 2003," Villar said. "We look for the initial bid to build the cemetery around 2004, and the project completion date will be sometime around 2006. We are trying to get the five counties in Central California to be involved in this cemetery, so they can share some of the costs."

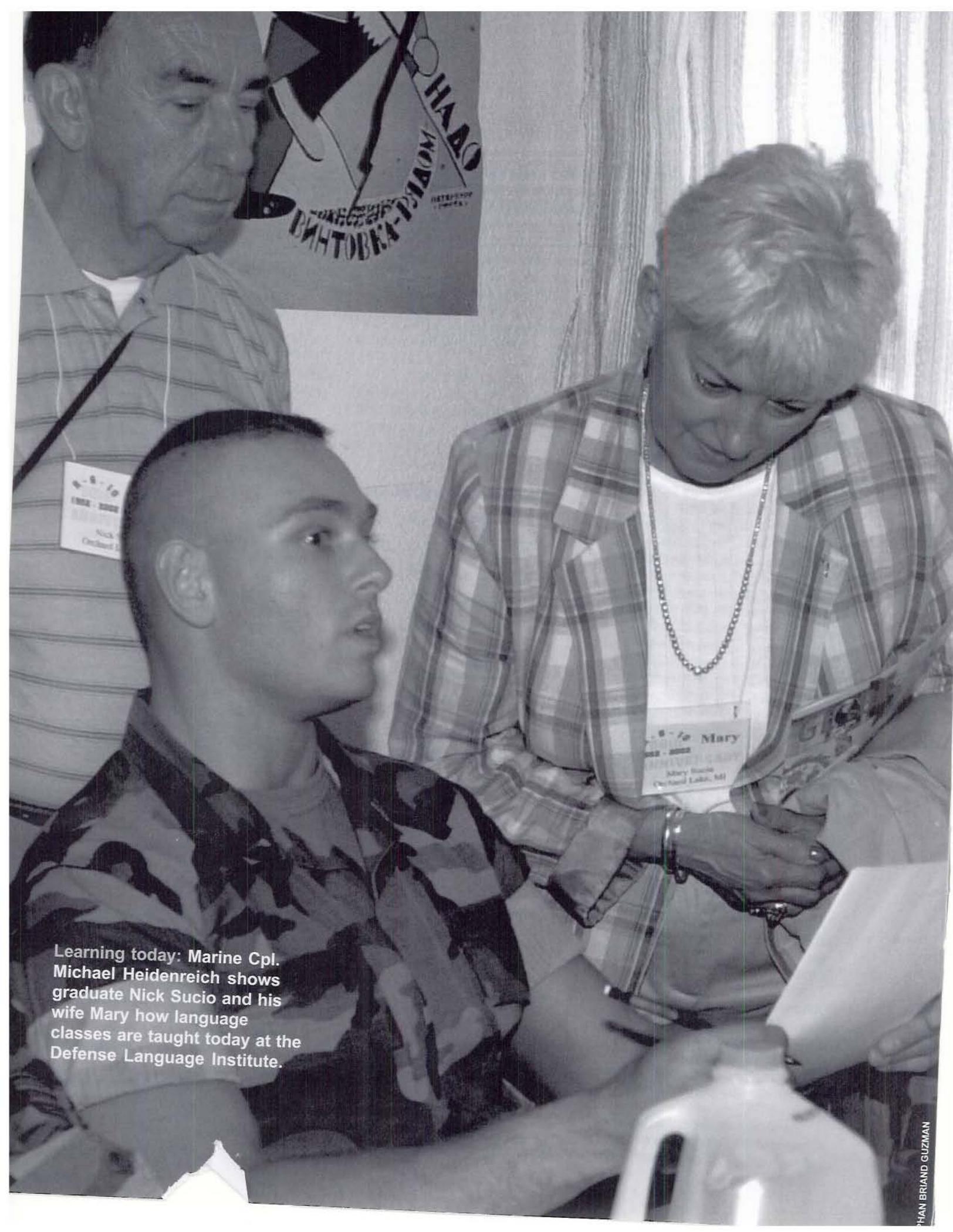
According to plans, the final resting place for veterans and retirees will be on 170 acres of hills between Eucalyptus Road, the water tower and the old hospital on the former Fort Ord. Facilities will include an administrative building, a maintenance building, a columbarium, a water shed and a place to have services.

"This cemetery is not just for California and the five local counties, but it is for every veteran in the United States who wants to be buried in this area," Villar said.

After the speeches, Dick Darvey from the Monterey Bay Retired E-9 Association presented a \$1,000 check for the Army Emergency Relief Fund to Col. Mike Dietrick, garrison commander.

Attendees enjoyed a barbecue lunch prepared by Junior Finona and his staff at the General Stilwell Community Center and cakes provided by the commissary.

The Fort Ord Area Retiree Council and the Military Personnel Division of the Presidio of Monterey sponsored the event.



Learning today: Marine Cpl. Michael Heidenreich shows graduate Nick Sucio and his wife Mary how language classes are taught today at the Defense Language Institute.

from Past to Present

BY BOB BRITTON

Thirteen former Air Force Russian linguists reunited in Monterey June 28 to July 1 50 years after they graduated from a special six-month Air Force course in basic Russian here.

The alumni saw and heard the Russian- language choir from European School I, visited classrooms and toured the Presidio of Monterey.

Forrest St. Aubin, from Leawood, Kans., and his wife, Barbara, organized the 50th reunion. After ALS graduation, he was assigned to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

"For many years I had the idea of pulling our class together for a reunion," said St. Aubin. "About 30 years passed without any reunion. Then three years ago, I told my wife that if we didn't do something for our 50th anniversary, we could forget it. I contacted a fellow classmate, and we found old sets of military orders to track our classmates and where they came from originally. We then reached out, made phone calls and e-mailed our original class."

The Airmen first met after basic training in 1952, when they took a special six-week pre-language course at Brook Air Force Base in Texas to determine if they had an aptitude to study Russian. This training eliminated the non-linguists before they ever arrived in Monterey, said graduate Elmer Brune from Golden, Colo.

"During the Korean War, it was not general knowledge, but classified information, that all the Russian MiG fighters were being flown by Russian pilots," said Grafton "Grif" Cook from Niles, Mich. "Only during the later

stages of the Korean War were there any North Korean pilots flying those MiGs. What the Air Force needed were people who could tell what was going on within the MiG cockpits from pilot to pilot and from ground to air. So, the Air Force needed Russian linguists to translate and interpret these Russian conversations during the Cold War and the Korean War."

Classrooms in 1952 were in the same buildings where European School I teaches classes today. They had no proficiency requirements, but they received training in listening, reading, writing and speaking.

"We had no tapes or sound equipment, just pencils and papers. Sometimes, we saw old Russian movies with subtitles in the post theater," Brune said.

The Russian language course at ALS emphasized vocabulary learning since ALS graduates went on to receive additional training in crypto-analyst and cryptology training at Brook and Kelly Air Force Bases in Texas.

"We had to learn to intercept Russian messages on a daily basis," said Cook. "Our basic requirement was to learn to take 20 words a minute, translate them and write them out longhand. Instructors started off every day with dictation which got faster and faster each day and week. Almost to this day, I can write Russian faster than I can write English. After six months, we

had a strong camaraderie among us.

"Instructors worked us very hard," said Cook. "Our teachers, mostly people in their 60s, were educated and extraordinary with experiences like I have never seen. Many instructors had been badly treated by the Red Army in Russia. When we finished our course, we knew about as much Russian as soldiers had learned in a year."

After their Russian graduation, many of the airmen were assigned overseas to Scotland, Alaska and Japan.

Cook went to Alaska as a radio printer or radio-teletype intercept operator, who monitored Russian conversations around the maritime area of Kamchatka.

"That work got me into the National Security Agency in Washington," said Cook. "We intercepted Russian messages, told NSA where the pilots were and gave them other information, but NSA didn't believe us until they verified it 72 hours later. We ended up with several commendations for our intelligence work in Alaska."

When his Russian class graduated, Brune was assigned to a Royal Air Force air base in Scotland, where he did crypto-analyst and traffic analyst work for 1 1/2 years. After the service, he earned a geology degree and worked mostly in real estate.

Members of the Air Force Russian class of 1952 have advice for young or future linguists

"Do whatever you have to do to maintain and practice your language skills," said St. Aubins. "Do not lose your fluency in the language. I think one of the problems in the world today is that we can't understand people from other countries and cultures."

Straight talk

The Army's
top talker answers
linguist's questions
from the field

BY RAY LANE ALDRICH

In March, a staff sergeant's e-mail had a familiar ring. I worked on answers for a month, and it finally hit me! I had asked the same questions for years when I was in service, and then tried to answer them for nearly as long as the Army's foreign language program manager.

The answers are mine, they are not official, and they're not the Army's answers. They are subject to change either as I learn or age or both. Disagreement, if it doesn't interfere with getting the job done, is healthy. Or at least that's my opinion. Send me an e-mail and we can talk it over, just don't get cranky if I don't answer your question immediately.

Question: There is not enough difference between the job performance of a soldier who received a DLPT score of 2 (achieved by a corrected score of 40) and one who received a DLPT score of 1+ (achieved by a corrected score of 39) to require the latter to attend additional training at DLI while his

classmates go on to MOS training.

Answer: The difference between a corrected score of 39 and 40 on the DLPT (and the resulting difference of a 1+ and a 2) is really a difference of more than one question on the DLPT. It is, after all, a "corrected" score, not a "raw" score. The difference between a 39 and a 40 on the DLPT is similar to the difference between a passing and a failing score on the PT test or at the rifle range. One passes and one fails. Another push-up, another bullseye, another right answer (or two or three) would make the difference.

The punishment, at least for Army linguists, is either a carefully considered waiver and shipment with

one's classmates or additional training at DLI or the "opportunity" to choose another MOS.

Question: A proficiency of 2/2 isn't good enough to really do the job.

Answer: True, 2/2 is NOT good enough to handle all facets of "the job." A 2/2 is an indication that the person involved has Apprentice-level skills. They aren't Journeymen and they sure aren't Masters. A 2/2 indicates a grasp of the major components of the language. The linguist CAN sustain his own skills and progress without additional formal training. It isn't easy, but it can be done.

Question: A 2/2 linguist needs the careful (and time consuming) supervision of a better linguist.

Answer: Yes. It's called "mentoring." It has gone by a number of other names from side saddle to apprentice. The concept is the same, training followed by practical experience. The next step SHOULD be to provide more training followed by more experience, etc. My personal preference would be 2/2 out of school, a practical tour, back to school for more language and (pay attention to this) more area studies, then back to work on more complicated targets.

**“The answers are mine. They are not official,
and they’re not the Army’s answers. They are subject to change
either as I learn or age, or both. ”**

Question: Why do we accept this standard, 2/2, when we know it is simply too low?

Answer: It’s not “too low,” it’s simply a place to start. As a matter of historical interest, before about 1990 the requirement to hold the 98G MOS was, I believe, a 1/1. The 2/2 standard was implemented in response to an NSA call for 2/2 as the minimal language proficiency level that was acceptable for processing SIGINT. DIA jumped on the bandwagon, said something to the effect of, “Yeah, right, that’s what we need for HUMINT, too.” A measurable portion of my time in the ODCSINT/ODCS, G-2, and a major portion of my concern, has been to protect the 2/2 standard from dilution by those senior personnel who found it difficult to achieve within their units. So, BLUF, yes, I know it’s not enough, but I consider it a personal victory to have been able to maintain the “standard” at 2/2.

Question: Why do we pay FLPP to mechanics and infantry lieutenants who score 2/2 in German? Is this not a waste of money that might be better applied to raising the skill levels of those linguists in the ranks, for whom a 2/2 simply isn’t realistically enough?

Answer: No, it is not a waste of money. I still maintain that the money is well spent and, given the uncertain nature of the threats we face, any language skill that can be identified and recorded is one step closer to improving our ability to respond. The German-speaking 2nd lieutenant is certainly at the far end of our need scale. At the other end of the scale would be the Somali-speaking tank turret mechanic who was never listed on anybody’s database.

This is one of those cases in which the theory works fine, but you can pick specifics apart till the cows come home. Some of the implementation problems can be blamed on the Army system (that’s the easy cop-out) or on a lack of vision, etc. DCS, G-1 issued an April 02 update to the FLPP message that

contains an amended list of languages for which FLPP I and FLPP II may be paid. The changes originated in our office, were based on studies of projected need, were blessed by Lt. Gen. Noonan, and were sent to the G-1. The mechanism for changes, though cumbersome, exists within the regulation. I anticipate, though I can’t guarantee, there will be continuing changes.

Question: As for awarding FLPP to those in non-language coded MOSs or duty positions, I have a few arguments as well.

In the event that we should determine a need for the infantry lieutenant with a 2/2 in German, or even Swahili for that matter, then there is likely a need for a security clearance. If the need is so critical as to require his being ordered into the mission as opposed to waiting on another to complete training, then there is little possibility his clearance would be even interimed by the time he began his contribution to the productivity of the mission.

Answer: Clearance is not as key as you might expect. A large number of the personnel we policed up for the Balkans really had little need for a clearance. The flip title for their job is “cabbage buyers.” SIGINT and HUMINT personnel certainly need clearances. Many of the contractors can supply that. The difficult decision some commander would theoretically face is judging whether the cost of compromising security is offset by the increase in productivity a 2/2 linguist would provide. I don’t believe there is a circumstance where the help a 2/2 could provide could possibly be worth that compromise.

Question: Personally, I can afford to be a little haughty, having achieved a 3/3 in multiple languages. I know how much better I am than I used to be. I know that as a 2+3 in Russian, I was barely prepared for the challenge. I know that the 1+1+ linguists I worked with in some places did more harm than

good, in spite of what I believe to have been the best of intentions. Any thoughts?

Answer: You are right. Part of our problem, as knowledgeable linguists, is how to educate the supervisors and decision makers. There is a real potential for misinformation. In some cases you are better off with no “Intelligence” than you are with bad “Intelligence.” I suspect there is a similarity to “The Prisoner’s Dilemma.” The best of intentions will never take the place of skill and knowledge.

There is a real potential for misinformation. In some cases you are better off with no “Intelligence” than you are with bad “Intelligence.” I suspect there is a similarity to “The Prisoner’s Dilemma.” The best of intentions will never take the place of skill and knowledge.

The problem is only magnified as you watch those with similar DLPT scores attempt to use their language skills in a conversation with a native foreigner, as is often required in force protection type missions and the like. I rarely offer any sympathy to my soldiers when they claim lack of training, or lack of resources, or lack of time to train, or anything short of a medical condition as an excuse for remaining at the 2/2 level. I try to

See QUESTIONS, Page 18

About the author



Ray Lane Aldrich manages the Army’s military foreign language program at the Pentagon. He has served as a linguist for 40 years studying both Russian and

German. He served 12 years in the Air Force and retired from the Army before moving to the Army Foreign Language Proponency Office as a civilian. Aldrich welcomes responsible questions and comments via email at Ray.Aldrich@hqda.army.mil.

Racing leatherneck

The story of David and Goliath is alive and well in U.S. Super Bike Racing. That's the perspective of Brian Lowe, a former Marine Corps officer and competitor at this year's AMA Superbike Championship held at Laguna Seca Raceway July 11-14, 2002.

Factory teams like Yamaha and Kawasaki arrive at the racetrack with two or three 40-foot semi-tractor trailers filled with a fleet of new racing bikes, an army of mechanics, and all the toys money can buy.

Brian, who competes in the 600cc Super Sport Class, is one of several "privateer" racers who face off several times a year against these racing Goliaths. Brian arrived at the race track with a few of his friends who got the day off to help out as the pit crew and his 600cc Suzuki loaded in the back of his truck.

"There isn't anything I would rather do," he said as he shrugged off good-natured ribbing from his "pit crew," a motley team led by a local machanic who donates his time to help Lowe. "It was tough out there. I was hit on the last lap by one of the race leaders."

"At least I didn't dump it."

Lowe has always loved motorbikes and racing.

As a student at UC Berkley he juggled school, work and racing. "It

wasn't easy, but it was worth it."

Upon graduation from UC, Brian attended the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School at Quantico, Va.

He was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant, and served four years on active duty with the Marine Corps Air Wing at Pensacola, Fla, and later with the 12th MCP in Alameda, Calif.

Lowe said the four years of uniform service were demanding and often required long hours, but they were the best four years of his life.

"The Marine Corps taught me I couldn't just quit because the going got tough. I had to always do my best in the Corps," he said. "There are no excuses, you just have to keep trying and do your best."

During the first week of OCS Brian blew out his knee, but he didn't let that stop him. In spite of his injury, he completed the course and received his commission.

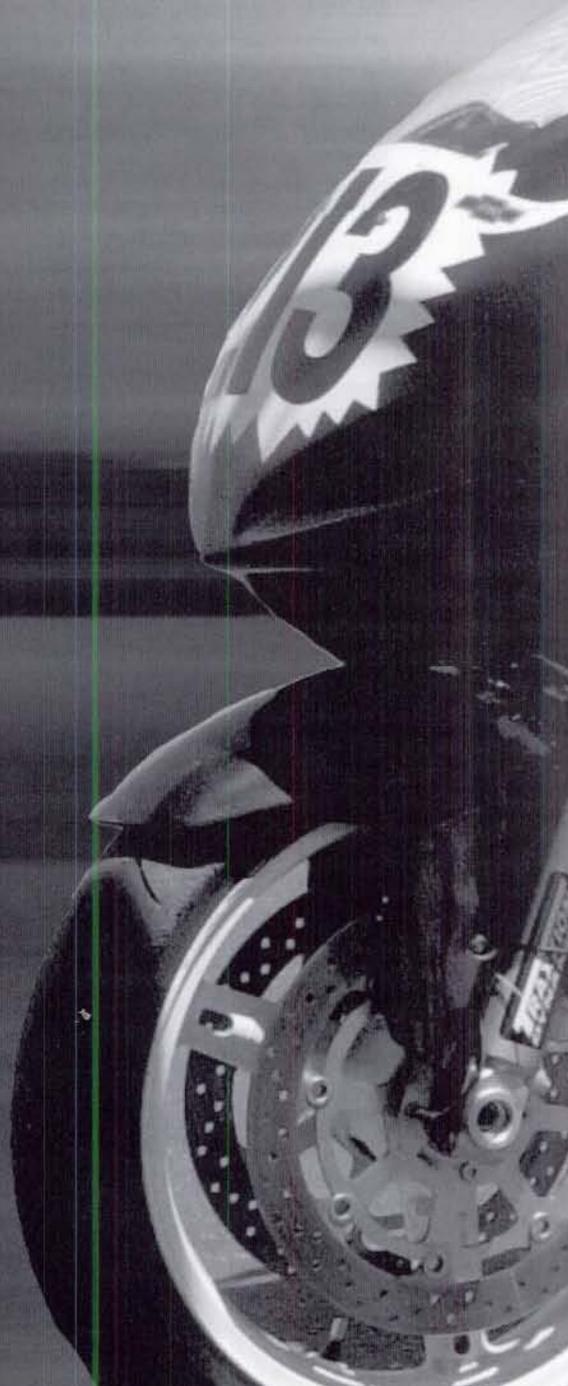
After leaving military service, Lowe continued to live by the Marine Corps' never quit approach to life.

He is Materials Analyst with Selectron in the Bay area and is currently enrolled in a masters program with American Military University.

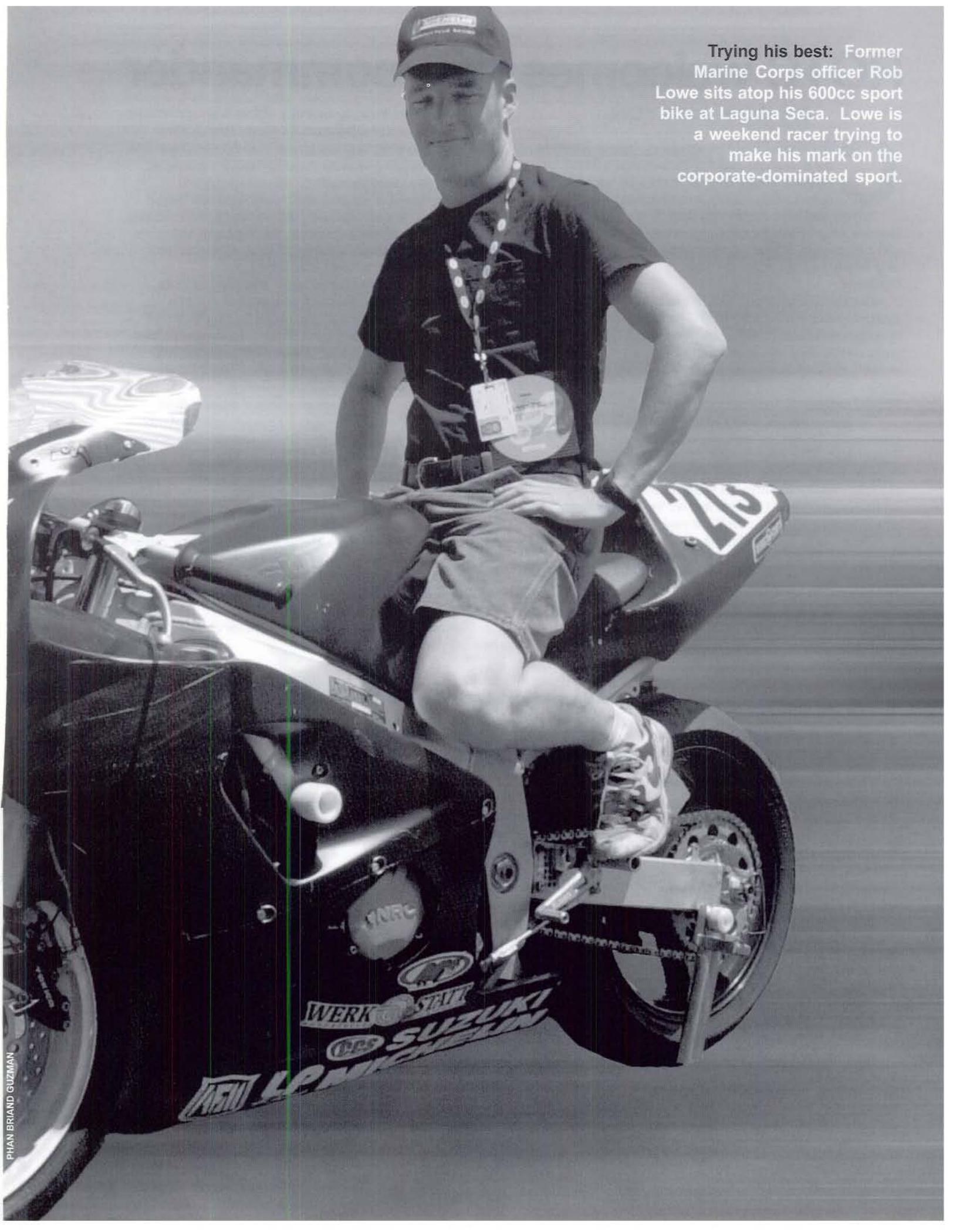
Once again he finds himself juggling school, work and racing. If anybody can make it all work, it's Brian Lowe.

"I've done it before. I can do it again."

BY CAPT ART DOUGLAS



Trying his best: Former Marine Corps officer Rob Lowe sits atop his 600cc sport bike at Laguna Seca. Lowe is a weekend racer trying to make his mark on the corporate-dominated sport.



ROTC welcomes new commander

BY BOB BRITTON

Col. Patrick Plourd replaced Col. Hector Topete as the new commander of Headquarters, Third Brigade, Fourth Region ROTC, during a change of command ceremony at Soldier Field July 17.

Topete had been the Golden Bear Brigade's top officer for the past three years and will move to his next assignment as the next Inspector General for the State of California.

The Third Brigade provides military leadership and guidance for ROTC and JROTC programs in Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah. Active duty noncommissioned officers and officers lead the college ROTC units, while retirees command the high school JROTC cadets.

"Everyone should take opportunities to promote ROTC in California and other places," Topete said. "The brigade staff runs the brigade, since the commander is on temporary duty most of the year visiting the different units. This region is responsible for nearly 2,000 ROTC cadets, and we've commissioned 712 new officers within the past three years."

The majority of today's Army officers are commissioned through the ROTC battalions at the nation's colleges and universities. Other officers graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point, the Citadel, Virginia Military Institute and Officer Candidate School.

Topete and Plourd have similar military careers. Topete graduated from the United States Military

Academy at West Point as an armor officer and later became an aviator. He received his master's degree from Central Michigan University and is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the Army's Flight Programs for rotary and fixed wing aircraft.

Topete served in several staff positions in the United States, especially at Fort Bragg, N.C. He also had assignments to the Pentagon and overseas and was a liaison officer to the government of Mexico.

Plourd graduated from Oregon State University as a Distinguished Military Graduate and was commissioned as an air defense artillery officer. Like Topete, he later switched to an Army aviation career and graduated from the Army's Flight Programs for rotary and fixed wing aircraft.

Plourd earned masters' degrees from Central Michigan University and the Army War College and graduated from the Command and General Staff College. Plourd served tours

at Fort Bragg and a few at the Pentagon and overseas. Before coming to Monterey, he served as a military liaison chief to the Government of Ukraine in the former Soviet Union.

Plourd has earned the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Army Achievement Medal.

He wears the Senior Aviator Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge and the Air Assault Badge.

Plourd and his wife, Kathleen, have four children: Jason, Seth, Alex and Sam.

"Everyone should take opportunities to promote ROTC. This region is responsible for nearly 2,000 ROTC cadets."

Questions

Continued from Page 15

Your plan sounds good, for you.

I have come to believe that DLI may be right about the existence of different learning styles. This difference certainly bleeds over to different maintenance styles. I can only ask that you keep this in mind when you are dealing with linguists who need additional skills.

If you're in charge, you're responsible for getting the job done and you may have to accept approaches that aren't the way you would do it.

Question: My greatest obstacle is the acceptance of 2/2 as the army standard. "If the army says that's enough, then it must be enough," is the attitude they have in many cases adopted. Is this right?

Answer: 2/2 is not enough. I'm not certain you agree with me that it's a

good place to start, but we can discuss this at length.

I just talked with one of the NCOs in the area, Marksman and a PT Pass are all Army standards. Is the ability to hit the enemy only 70% of the time adequate? No, particularly if he gets you. The percentage is immaterial. I love the comment that Low Intensity Conflict is somebody else's shooting match. I offer that 2/2, Marksman and Pass are the first acceptable rungs on the ladder.

Question: Sergeant Major of the Army Richard Kidd reportedly remarked, "If you're not demanding 100 percent from your soldiers, then you're tolerating mistakes; and you'll get what you ask for." I don't know if that applies to every aspect of soldiering, but I do think it applies directly to linguists of all ranks. What are your thoughts on this?

Answer: OK, clearly you need to demand 100 percent. If a particular linguist's 100 percent is only 2/2 you have no complaint. It then becomes

your responsibility, as a supervisor, to get the linguist up to the proficiency level you need.

Question: If we had the military linguists we needed serving in the Army, why would there be a need to contract the work?

Answer: Money. It's all about money and personnel strength. We do not have enough of either, so it is expedient to hire a contractor. In the long run, I suspect the cost is a wash.

I accept there are problems inherent in using contractors and foreign nationals as linguists. We need to understand the problems and figure out how to cope with them.

I hope to dissuade you from assuming that I'm self righteous or arrogant in these statements by reassuring you that I am interested only in the improvement of the Army language program itself, as well as the improvements I feel are important to our ability to conduct IEW.

Issues

Continued from Page 6

2. Trials of extended hours for the Active duty population have not proven to be attractive to the service members, so all resources are now consolidated to a 40-hour week, M-F 0730 to 1630. The Health clinic is open on most training holidays as well.

3. The POM Army Health Clinic has a mission to serve the Active Duty population only. Due to a need in the community, it has made space for pediatric care in the AHC by civilian providers. It has also contracted for some specialty medical services (i.e. Physical Therapy, Orthopedics, etc). All other care is available within the specified time/distance requirements under TRICARE. A clinic expansion project has been approved to enhance the services through more efficient organization of resources. The clinic hopes to receive funding which could mean designing and contracting actions would begin as early as October 2003. The project will add 12,000 square feet to the existing building.

Inadequate Parking at the Presidio of Monterey

SCOPE: Current parking inadequately supports the total student and staff population of POM. Students and faculty are being ticketed for improper parking.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Conduct feasibility survey to convert Rifle Range Road to one-way traffic and mark off the opposite lane for parking in order to alleviate the parking problem near Aiso library.

2. Construct parking lot at corner of 15th Inf. Street and Patton Avenue or Fitch and Stilwell to alleviate parking near the post theater.

3. Inspect student parking stickers to ensure on-post students and commuter students have appropriate stickers for current policy.

STATUS:

1. An evaluation of the Rifle Range Road suggested parking plan and it was deemed unsafe by safety officials.

2. New construction will result in 239 new parking spaces at POM in the following areas:

- Lower POM 280 area (75 spaces)
- Lower POM 220/223 (68 spaces)
- Building 618 "Tin Barn" (41 spaces)
- Building 800 area (55 spaces)

2. According to Law Enforcement Division, full implementation of vehicle ID stickers is in place.

Uninspected Housing Move-in

SCOPE: Houses, which are not adequately inspected prior to the potential occupants viewing, can result in emotional stress and/or financial burden on the service member, his or her family, and the military community as a whole. The housing office is the first and last point of contact for service members.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Ensure that a housing inspector conducts a thorough "move-in" inspection prior to placement of a home on the available list.

2. Reinspect all homes placed on the available list prior to showing.

3. Ensure that, following all contracted work, a "housing inspector", regardless of whether the home is occupied, inspects the homes.

STATUS:

1. The housing office will advise potential occupants of a house's status prior to being viewed. The service member will have a complete list of pending maintenance work to be done on the quarters they are looking at.

2. All housing work is inspected at completion by a housing inspector or the ROICC representative. ROICC representative is the officer in charge of Navy Contracting.

Centralized Maintenance Communication

SCOPE: There is no 24-hour single point of contact for all building and facilities maintenance, or customer follow-up method for house calls. This affects all personnel calling in a work order on POM and OMC. Persons calling in work orders should know its priority location on the list and should

be able to follow-up at anytime to eliminate the feeling that their problem is not important.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Establish single trouble desk to disperse all calls to respective agencies that is available 24 hours.

2. Standardize a priority system to allow the member to automatically receive a work order number, level of priority, and your standing on the list.

3. Develop a web-based work order tracking/input system, user friendly to make follow-up on status of work order available 24 hour online.

STATUS:

1. DPW is considering a one-line communication system. It would require additional staffing.

2. Customers are offered available information when they call in a work order. They are given a work order number and the representative does their best to indicate the timeline for maintenance to be completed.

3. There is a system in place called the "Hansen system" where at anytime DPW can look up projects contracted by the city of Monterey and view a status report. There are no provisions at this time to make this sort of information available to the public.

Adjustment of Facility Hours

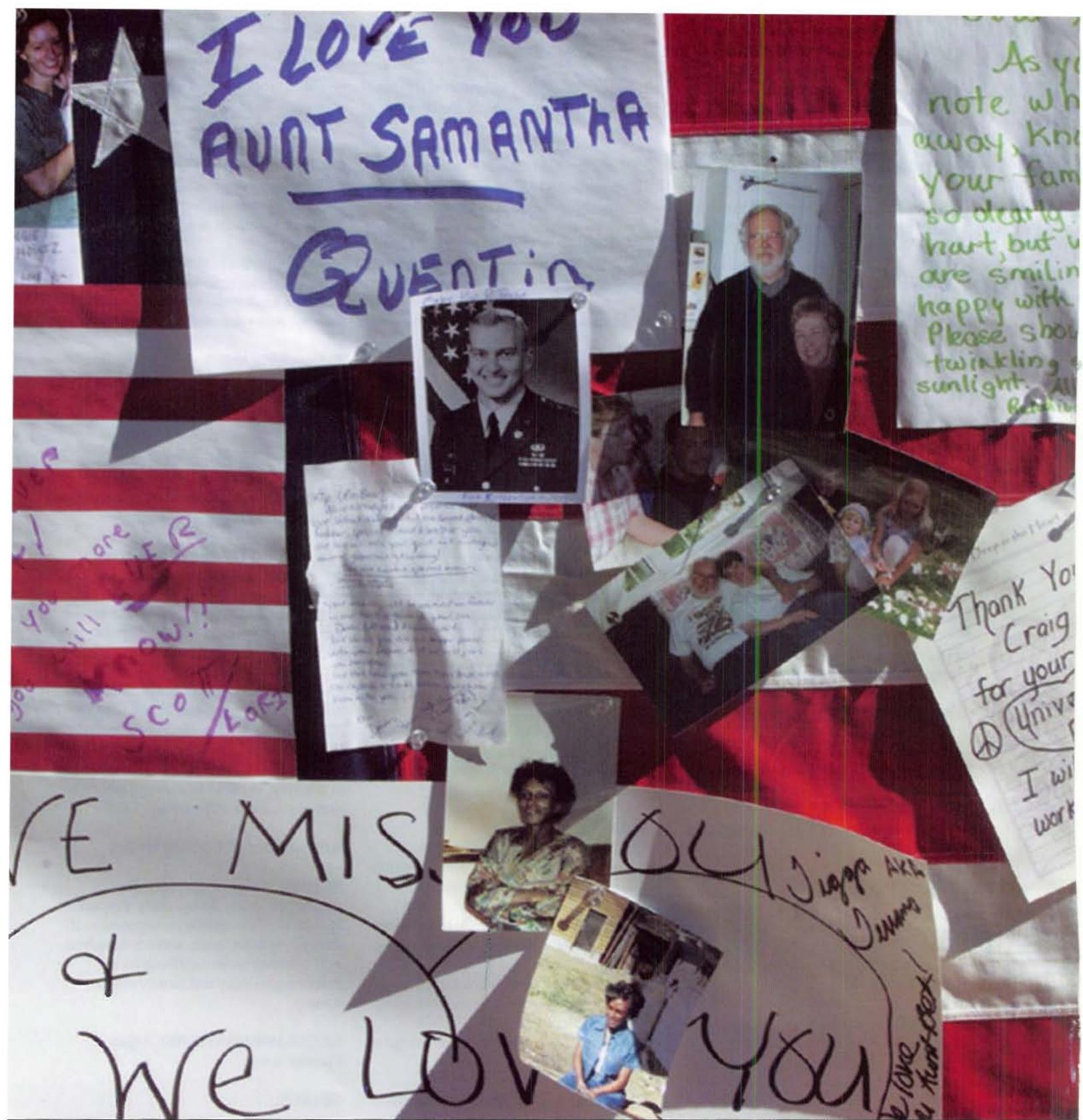
SCOPE: Hours of operation for support facilities do not fully support the needs of the military community. If changes are not made, service members will continue to face difficulties in balancing military and family obligations.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Adjust Facility hours.

STATUS:

1. Currently, the Director of Community Activities is conducting surveys with patrons to determine the feasibility of changing facility hours to determine if they would be utilized efficiently.

3. The AISO Library conducts periodic surveys to determine customer usage. At present, current resources are not available to change facility hours.



Not Forgotten

September 11, 2001

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