

INSIDE



Surge

4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division arrives in Baghdad.

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Joint ops

Soldiers from 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division continue clearing operations in Baghdad

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Local winner

The Fort Lewis Commissary is named the best "super store" in the Department of Defense, for the second year in a row.

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Pose off

The gym set gathers at American Lake for the annual Fort Lewis Body Building Championships.

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ON THE WEB

Video news

For the latest video news about Fort Lewis Soldiers, see the Northwest Guardian's Web site, nwguardian.com.

NOTICES

Reader input

We want your opinions. Please complete the survey at <https://ft.lewis.army.mil>. Click on "I Corps Public Affairs, Home" and then on "command information survey," or go to www.lewis.army.mil for the survey.

6 Soldiers die in IED attack

Northwest Guardian

Six Soldiers assigned to 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, part of 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, were killed Sunday, when their vehicle was the target of a large improvised explosive device. A Russian journalist embedded with the unit was also killed in the attack.

A memorial ceremony for the Soldiers is scheduled for Tuesday at 3 p.m. in Soldiers Field House. Please arrive early to find parking and ease traffic congestion.

Departure runs smoothly

For the first time, Army makes use of Grays Harbor to ship out equipment for deploying Fort Lewis unit

By Don Kramer
Northwest Guardian

The first time was the charm for loading 4th Squadron, 6th Air Cavalry Regiment helicopters and equipment onto a ship in Aberdeen. Unit and Port of Grays Harbor officials said things couldn't have gone more smoothly.

A tiny but bellicose group of protesters outside the port grounds had no effect, despite extensive local coverage.

A handful of local organizations mobilized to protest in Aberdeen, but only a ragtag group of 40 arrived, made up of locals from Aberdeen and organizers from Olympia, Tacoma and one from Eugene, Ore.

They missed the arrival of the ship on Saturday as well as the subsequent loading of military equipment onto the vessel.

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Kiowa Warriors from B Trp., 4-6 Air Cav. take off from Gray Army Airfield en route to the Port of Grays Harbor May 1.

DRAGON'S PEAK | Units hold annual competition for NCO, Soldier of the year honors

A battle for respect



Photos by Sgt. Leah R. Burton

Sgt. Donald Randall, 62nd Chem. Co., 23rd Chem. Bn., completes his first mile of the Army Physical Fitness Test April 24, as part of the annual Dragon's Peak competition, the Fort Lewis Chemical Corps NCO and Soldier of the year competition.

Annual event takes place over three days

By Sgt. Leah R. Burton
I Corps Public Affairs Office

Twenty Chemical Corps Soldiers sweated and grunted through three days of intense competition for the annual Dragon's Peak event April 24 to 26.

Dragon's Peak is the Fort Lewis Chemical Corps NCO and Soldier of the year competition.

"This competition is fairly new to the Chemical Corps," said 1st Sgt. Aaron Jackson, 61st Chemical Company first sergeant. "Unit's have always identified their best NCOs and Soldier within their units, but as far as an Army-wide chemical Soldier competition, this year is the third."

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Ceremony celebrates new unit's activation

Latest Stryker brigade looks forward to training

By Rachel Young
Northwest Guardian

The Destroyers of 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division uncased their colors in an activation ceremony at Soldiers Field House May 4.

Led by Brig. Gen. William Troy, commanding general for I Corps and Fort Lewis, 5th Bde., 2nd Inf. Div. unveiled the brigade and company flags in front of a crowd of Soldiers, veterans and community members.

"This is a very special occasion," Troy said. "It is the historic birth of our military's newest fighting force: 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Stryker Brigade Combat Team."

The Army's Stryker brigades are known for the professionalism of their leaders and the grit of their Soldiers, Troy said. "You are now part of that heritage," he told the Soldiers assembled before him.

The newest of the seven Stryker brigades, which officially activated April 16, is at about 60 percent strength with approximately 2,300 Soldiers. The brigade hopes to be at 90 percent by September, said Maj. Howard Kirk, brigade executive officer.

The predecessors of the new brigade arrived at Fort Lewis last fall and began planning for the creation of the unit. In November 2006, the brigade began to take shape. That month, battalions began to form. By January, there were enough Soldiers to begin creating companies. Since then, each new wave of Soldiers that arrives is filtered into platoons.

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MP killed in Iraq served unit with 'smile on his face'

By Don Kramer
Northwest Guardian

The 504th Military Police Battalion said farewell May 2 to a model Soldier, Pfc. Jeffrey A. Avery of Colorado Springs, Colo. Avery died April 23 when a bomb detonated near his checkpoint in Muqdadiyah, 60 miles north of Baghdad. He died within a month of his 20th birthday.

Avery came from a military family.

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Spc. Matthew Chaison slides down the rope on the obstacle course during the Dragon's Peak competition April 26.



Tunnell



Avery