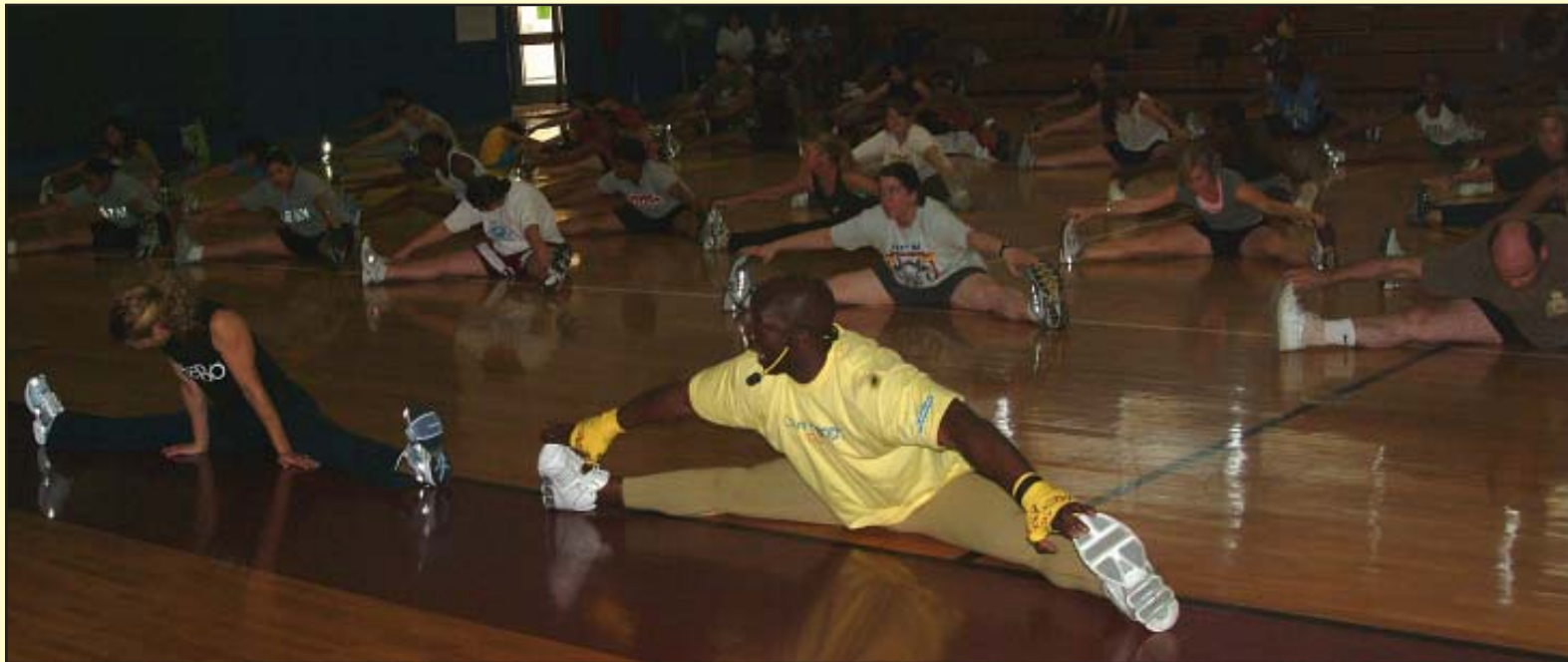




# THE Outlook

July 26, 2005

Visit the Outlook online at [www.22asg.vicenza.army.mil](http://www.22asg.vicenza.army.mil)



Billy Blanks (in yellow) and his daughter, Shelli Blanks Cimarosti (left) take a class through warm up exercises prior to starting up a basic Tae Bo class in the fitness center gym Wednesday. Blanks visited Caserma Ederle as part of IMA-Europe's Summer Shout Out program. For more on the class, see page 8. (Photo by Diana Bahr, Outlook editor)

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## Determination, trust, humility is formula for battlefield success

Story and photos

By Pfc. Jon Arguello

Task Force Bayonet Public Affairs

QALAT—With only a few months in theater, one company has battered anti-Coalition forces throughout southern Afghanistan in a series of historic battles demonstrating to the enemy they have only two choices, fight and die – or reconcile.

Task Force Rock's Chosen Company has proved extremely effective in eradicating any hopes anti-coalition forces have of disrupting Afghanistan's central government. Any possibility of the insurgents regaining power has died along with several hundred enemy combatants on the battlefield as the Chosen Few make huge strides to eliminate all threats to the young democracy's stability.

As equally intriguing as the huge losses Chosen has inflicted on the enemy in battle is the amount of humility with which paratroopers view their accomplishment. These Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne) consistently pass the credit of their achievements onto each other as they explain why they are so successful, making it obvious how proficient each of the Chosen Few are in their war fighting capabilities.

"It's a testament to the aggressive spirit of the individual Soldier that we can find the

enemy, fix the enemy and lay on them all the firepower that coalition forces can provide," said Chosen Company's commander Capt. Dirk Ringgenberg, who masterfully maneuvered his elements into two of the largest victories since the Taliban was removed from power. "We get better every time and the enemy gets dead every time."

Ringgenberg passes on much of the credit to his platoon leaders and non-commissioned officers for their excellent reactions to the Afghan environment and tactics.

"The platoons understand the terrain, how the enemy can use it, and only bold action will force the enemy to fight," said Ringgenberg. "We excellently adapted to take on this offensive role."

The victories, said Ringgenberg, are also shared by the battalion's intelligence, operations and other support sections that not only paint a good picture of the situation before Chosen arrives at the scene but also allow the company to bring the fight to the enemy and sustain it once it begins.

First Sgt. Scott Brzak credited Ringgenberg for his reaction time during the engagements.

"He's a very quick thinker," Brzak said. "He was able to position people in key locations using aircraft and control the fight. He has great battlefield awareness."

Brzak also emphasized how well every



A Chosen Company element leaves the battlefield June 23 after another victory with a wounded enemy combatant. This was the second large scale victory by Chosen company 2-503rd Inf (Abn) in as many months. Below: Chosen Company headquarters calls in for close air support June 23 as they receive effective fire from enemy forces in the mountain behind them. More than 75 enemy combatants were confirmed killed.

Soldier performed basic infantry tasks and how disciplined they were under fire.

"Everybody did the basics," he said. "We're successful because everybody was doing what they were supposed to. They did awesome."

It was obvious that the first sergeant was more than satisfied with his paratroopers - he had a genuine respect for their determination.

"It was a tough situation out there," he said. "The heat was incredible, the Soldiers were under fire, and when we told them to maneuver, they just said, 'roger, we'll be there,' and sure enough, they were."

Chosen's commander and first sergeant weren't the only Soldiers crediting the team for the success, the praise went in both directions as NCOs thanked their troops and those troops in turn credited their leadership for having come away with such astounding victories after being in Afghanistan for such



a short time.

"It's good when you like your commander and first sergeant," explained Pfc. Joshua Klingman, one of Chosen's combat engineers. "And it's good when they trust you enough to do an infantryman's job."

Klingman, along with a team led by combat engineer squad leader, Staff Sgt. Jesus Nerio, were used as an infantry element during the June 21 battle.

See Chosen Company on page 3



Sgt. Josue Valle, a combat engineer attached to Chosen Company 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne), fires on anti-coalition forces as an Afghan National Policeman spots their location.



## Death benefits, insurance increase for servicemembers

By Sgt. Sara Wood  
American Forces Press Service

Compensation for the survivors of servicemembers who die in combat zones and insurance coverage for servicemembers will both increase significantly this year, a military pay official said today.

An increase in death gratuity benefits from \$12,500 to \$100,000 already has taken effect, and Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance maximum coverage will increase to \$400,000 starting Sept. 1, said Air Force Col. Virginia Penrod, director of military compensation.

The increase in death benefits took effect May 11 and is dated retroactively to Oct. 7, 2001, Penrod said. This means that survivors of servicemembers who died between Oct. 7, 2001, and May 11, 2005, will receive the increased benefits, as will survivors of servicemembers who die from May 11 on, she said.

The increased benefits are for survivors of servicemembers who die in combat zones, combat operations and combat-related situations, she said. Combat-related situations can include airborne duty, combat training, demolition duty and training exercises, among other things, she said. A policy designating combat areas and situations was given to the individual services in June, and each service is now reviewing

cases. Payments already have begun, but the process of identifying and paying all eligible survivors could take several months, she said.

When the increase in SGLI coverage takes effect Sept. 1, it also will be dated retroactively to Oct. 7, 2001, she said. Survivors of servicemembers who died in a combat zone, combat operations or combat-related situations between the October date and Sept. 1 will receive \$150,000 in transitional insurance, which will bring them to the \$400,000 level, she said.

In addition to the increased coverage, DoD will pay premiums of \$150,000 for servicemembers involved in combat operations or deployed to a combat zone, Penrod said.

The increase of these two benefits came about as a result of a 2004 study evaluating the adequacy of death benefits for servicemembers, she said. The study found that benefits were adequate, but didn't recognize the unique sacrifice made by servicemembers who die in combat situations, she said.

"There was concern that we weren't recognizing direct sacrifice of life in service to our nation," she said. "That's how the increase was made for those particular situations."

### Vicenza Dental clinic treatment information update

The Vicenza Dental Clinic will be receiving reserve dentists to help out until the new dentists arrive on post.

If for some reason a family member cannot get an appointment and would like to go off-post for dental treatment, they will need to go to the Tricare Service Center (Room 160) in the Vicenza Health Clinic to get a statement of non-availability.

Packets are available for clients to fill out for reimbursement. Overseas reimbursement

is 100 percent for everything except prosthetics (I crowns, dentures).

However, clients must be enrolled in the United Concordia Tricare Dental Program to be reimbursed.

The Vicenza Dental Clinic has a list of local dental clinics that have been visited by the command.

This list is located in the waiting room, or ask the front desk personnel at the dental clinic and they will assist you.

## Worship that pleases God

*The 22nd Area Support Group Chaplain's Family Life Office, in partnership with deployed SETAF and 173d Airborne Brigade chaplains, is writing a series of devotional articles based on the best-selling book, "A Purpose Driven Life," by Pastor Rick Warren.*

*The intent of these articles is to offer deployed Soldiers and their family members a devotional meditation which they can use for weekly discussion and to hopefully deepen their spiritual connection during the separation.*

Chaplain (Maj.) Leon G. Kircher  
22nd ASG Family Life Chaplain

"Give me what you've got..."  
—God

One of the most difficult elements in the lives of people who believe in God is the proper or "correct" way to worship God.

I've heard it said over and over, "You have to do this during worship, if you don't then it's not 'true' worship."

And then, of course, there is the other church down the block that says you have to do it their way, read this version of the Bible only, cut your hair a certain way, wear only "Sunday clothes" to church and if you don't you're branded a heretic and left to your own devices.

It's all baloney!

Pastor Warren hits the nail on the head when he states that the kind of worship that pleases God has four characteristics.

It is **Accurate**, based firmly on the Scriptures and the teachings of the Church.

Secondly, it is **Authentic**; in other words, you mean what you say and

worship God genuinely and sincerely, recognizing that many times the way you worship has more to do with your personality and cultural upbringing rather than a "one size fits all" mentality. God just wants you to be yourself.

Don't try and be someone you're not – God didn't make you that way – we're all different on purpose.

The third is that worship must be **Thoughtful**. It must engage your mind and senses and at the same time be done fittingly and in order. It must not be a thoughtless series of "vain repetitions."

Lastly, and one I will spend a little more time on, is that worship must be **Practical**.

We can worship God in many ways; through thanksgiving, praise, humility, repentance, offerings of money, prayer, and serving the needy.

But real worship costs. It costs your self-centeredness. You cannot exalt God and yourself at the same time. The focus is not you! It takes time and effort and is not always convenient, comfortable or entertaining.

Those of us in the west, particularly the United States, have made worship a show. People expect to be entertained or to receive words of wisdom from the Bible as if it's just another self-help book. If they aren't satisfied, they just go shopping for another Church that "really ministers to me."

That's not sacrifice. That makes it all about you. Worship involves loving God when we don't feel like it, when we're tired, when we don't feel like getting up to go to Church and do anyway.

Or, even if exhausted, you still go work at the shelter because you promised you'd be there. That's true worship of God, and that pleases God.

Warren closes this chapter with some fine words: "The heart of the matter is a matter of the heart."

Make it a matter of **your** heart this week!

## Community Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues that affect the community.

If you have an issue that you wish to submit, visit the 22nd Area Support Group Web site at [www.22asg.vicenza.army.mil](http://www.22asg.vicenza.army.mil) and click on the Community Action Council link.

This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies. There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed. If you have questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post.

The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$2.50 per hour, per child for children ages 6 weeks through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required. Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, Building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration.

Call 634-7219 or stop by their new location in Davis Family Readiness Center.

The next CAC is Wednesday at 9 a.m. in the Ederle Theater.

**Issue:** *I have been hearing from many other people that packages being sent downrange to loved ones are being opened and items removed.*

*I realize that the packages may need to be opened for customs purposes, but I am curious to know what is being done to ensure that items in packages are not being stolen and the packages are getting to the intended*

*recipient as a whole.*

*And, if items are stolen, can we be reimbursed for those items, or are there recommendations for safeguarding items sent in packages. It isn't fair to the Soldier, or the sender for someone to take these items just because they want them.*

**Response from the 510th Postal Detachment:** When mailing a package downrange, there are certain considerations to keep in mind.

First, make sure it is properly packaged and wrapped. If a customer has any problems with this, please come to the Post Office and we will assist you.

Secondly, it is standard procedure for the finance clerks to ask all customers if they want to insure the piece of mail they are sending. If the item is of high value, this is recommended. Items mailed downrange do travel MPS—which is a free service. However, in order to take advantage of the insured service, local-rate postage and the insured fee is applied. This is a small price to pay to ensure that you can possibly be reimbursed if anything happens to your mail on its way to its destination.

MPS correspondence is not U.S. mail and no claims will be honored by the U.S. Postal Service. MPS mail is a privilege of being stationed overseas. It allows you to send mail from APO to APO within theater for free. According to the United States Postal Service, MPS is not mail, it is personal correspondence.

Like all mail MPS items are treated like mail and provide the same protection and security against theft and depredation, service standards, search and seizure procedures, and customs requirements.

However, no claims will be honored by

the MPS for the loss, miscarriage, or negligent transmission of correspondence sent without postage.

As for mail being received open and rifled downrange: we at the Army Post Office have not had any formal complaints of mail arriving downrange opened. Please note that it is the responsibility of the recipient to fill out a PS Form 1510 with their APO downrange in order to initiate any inquiry into opened and missing mail.

Without proper documentation to support the fact that mail is being received opened, there is nothing that can be done.

**Issue:** *Today my son shut the car door before I pulled my purse out. I called the Military Police desk and explained to them I had been locked out of the car.*

*I was told that because there were no children or pets in the car it was not an emergency and they could not help me.*

*I was on post at the time, and my cell phone, all my phone numbers, wallet, to include military id, bankcards, etc., were in the car.*

*Essentially I was abandoned on post with my two children, ages 3 and 5. What options do I have in this situation?*

*An Italian company cannot come on post, to my knowledge, and I had no way of contacting anyone. I did have a spare set of keys, but I live in Grisignano, which is about a 15 minute drive depending on traffic.*

*I couldn't call my husband (I do know my cell number and my home phone) as he is in Afghanistan again.*

*I couldn't take a bus, as my money was in the car, and even if I did, I wouldn't be allowed back on post, as my identification was in the car.*

*This is a situation I do not wish on*

*anyone, nor do I wish to repeat, especially with the stress of a deployment and the added responsibility of two small children, I really didn't need the pressure of trying to find my way home while my car was right in front of me.*

**Response from the Office of the Provost Marshal:** The Military Police and Fire Department are not trained to open locked car doors for people who have locked themselves out.

If an emergency arises (small child locked in the car on a very hot day), the MP/FD will respond and attempt to gain entry utilizing a 'slim jim.'

If the MP/FD is unsuccessful with the slim jim (only one officer has received basic training with this tool), other more drastic measures are employed (e.g., breaking a window). Again, this is in emergency type situations.

The incident outlined in this CAC issue did not involve an emergency situation. The caller notified the MP desk of the situation (locked out of car) at approximately 6 p.m.

She was told in non-emergency situations the MP/FD would not respond to attempt to open the car. The MP Desk did ask if she had another set of keys or a friend to call. She wasn't abandoned. The caller notified her Rear Detachment and was in her car within the hour.

There is alternative to calling the MP/FD or Rear Detachment. An Italian towing company can in fact come on post (signed in at gate) in the event an individual requires professional locksmith service. The company (Faccine Towing) is located in Longare and can be reached at 0444-953-280. The charge for this service is approximately 70 Euro.





Lt. Col. Stephen J. Sicinski (right) receives the flag representing the unit colors from Col. Donald G. Drummer, 22nd Area Support Group commander in a ceremony held on Camp Darby July 20.

## Sicinski takes command of Camp Darby

Story and photo  
By Chiara Mattiolo  
Camp Darby Public Affairs Office

A new chapter in the history of Camp Darby began July 20 when Lt. Col. Stephen J. Sicinski assumed command of the installation from Lt. Col. Charles Leaming in a ceremony that took place on the Camp Darby Chapel field.

Sicinski, a native of Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, comes to Camp Darby from the Coalition Forces Land Component Command at Fort McPherson, Ga.

Sicinski is a veteran of deployments to Camp Doha, Kuwait, and Baghdad, Iraq, where he worked as the chief of plans and was the deputy of Civil Military

Operations respectively.

"When I got back from my [most recent] deployment, my boss called me and asked me how would I feel about Italy, and I thought, who in the world can feel bad about Italy? My family and I were thrilled just thinking about this new assignment," Sicinski said.

Lt. Col. Charles Leaming, the outgoing commander, is retiring from military life.

"As I go into retirement, I'm not leaving anything, I am merely turning a page in the book of life, excited to see what's on the next page," said Leaming in his speech during the ceremony. "As I do so, I take with me great memories of a great place, of great people, and of great experience."

## New civilian personnel survey period extended

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

Response to a survey about the new National Security Personnel System has been "enthusiastic," so defense officials have extended the survey period through July 27 so civil service employees get more opportunity to participate.

In addition, a recent switch to a new computer server will allow more respondents to access the survey, log on and begin filling out the survey with little wait time, said Sharon Stewart, chief of human resources for the program. Some initial respondents complained that the online survey took too long to access before the server change, Stewart explained.

The new National Security Personnel System Factor Survey gives general schedule employees the chance to register their views about several performance factors identified for inclusion in the new personnel system.

Response has been "enormous," Stewart said, and many civil service

employees have requested an extension of the survey period.

Gordon England, acting deputy secretary of defense, emphasized the survey's importance and urged employees to participate in a June 29 memo.

"We need your assistance to ensure that these performance factors are relevant and reflect work

Stewart urged employees to participate in the survey, which takes 15 to 20 minutes to complete, and to report their experience with the survey process through the survey Web site.

"Your responses will make a difference, so please take this opportunity to let us hear from you about the relevance of performance factors in your job," she said.

The survey is posted at [www.pfsurvey.net/nsp](http://www.pfsurvey.net/nsp).

The survey period began July 6 and was initially scheduled to continue through July 20. Officials said the one-week extension, through July 27, will give more employees an opportunity to weigh in their views.

Views expressed in the survey will have long-term

implications, Abell said. The results will help program implementers determine what factors will be used to evaluate employees' job performance for the next 15 or 20 years, he said.

"It's an opportunity for (employees) to have a voice in the system that they are going to be living under and to make sure that we get it right," said Mary Lacey, program executive officer for the NSPS. "And we want to get it right. We want to hear what employees have to say, and we want them to be a part of our design process."

Lacey said system designers are particularly interested in hearing

*"We want to get it right. We want to hear what employees have to say, and we want them to be a part of our design process."*

—Mary Lacey  
NSPS Program Executive officer

that you personally perform on your job," he wrote.

Participation is voluntary, and all responses are confidential. Stewart explained the protections in place to ensure that confidentiality: Employees access the survey through a secure system, and their passwords are used only to control access and provide data for statistical analysis.

Login information is transmitted through the Internet using a secure encryption system. Direct access to the database is limited to approved users only. And once the data is collected, all password information will be destroyed.

### The Outlook

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## American Red Cross seeks volunteers

The American Red Cross at Caserma Ederle is in desperate need of volunteer translators. Red Cross volunteer translators perform a unique service to new parents in the Vicenza community.

The first step for any new parent in Italy is to register with the local municipal government. Nothing else can happen until his has occurred – including getting an American birth certificate, enrollment in DEERS, and getting the baby's passport. This must happen in the first 10 days of birth.

Most new American parents will need to take along a translator. Even if one of the parents speaks Italian, a third party translator will need to verify that any documents written in English (marriage certificate, passport, military ID card) have been translated accurately.

If you are bilingual and able to go to the Vicenza *comune* Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. with a parent every once in a while, please contact the American Red Cross at 634-7089, or stop by room 47 in the Davis Family Readiness Center and sign up.

## Soldiers trust in leadership, each other helps win wars

Chosen Company from page 1

Nerio explained how important trust is in his squad: "It's beyond important. If you don't have trust, you don't have a squad. But it goes both ways, if the chain of command inspires you, especially in this case from the privates to the team leaders, your squad will do anything."

Another unit sharing the victory was Task Force Storm whose Apache helicopters played a vital role in the June 21 battle as they provided close air support with their 30mm guns and 2.75" rockets in support of the engaged paratroopers.

"Close air support was our biggest help out there," said Chosen fire support officer 2nd Lt. Brad Mercier. "Besides killing and wounding enemy, they kept them hiding in rocks so our guys could move without getting shot up."

The combined efforts of the Soldiers of Chosen and those who support them have raised the standard for all. It is clear every Soldier involved in the victories Chosen Company has had on the battlefield deserves some credit and that their performances have earned the respect and trust of their leadership and to camaraderie within the company that is rarely seen.



# 173d Brigade doctor helps deliver premature Afghan baby

Story by Staff Sgt. Jacob Caldwell  
Combined Task Force Bayonet  
Public Affairs

LASHKAR GAH, Afghanistan – During her first visit to a civilian hospital in Afghanistan, Capt. Jacqueline Naylor got more than just the standard tour she was expecting.

Naylor witnessed, and participated in, the birth of a premature baby in the Lashkar Gah Hospital's Labor and Delivery Ward.

But there would be yet another surprise in store for her during this special delivery.

"There was one lady that had already delivered a baby and I pretty much just sat back and watched the midwives because I wanted to see exactly how they manage

labor," said Naylor, a Family Practice physician with Charlie Company, 173d Support Battalion (Airborne). "I was impressed because they gave the medicines that stop bleeding after the placenta is delivered as well as managing the baby. The difference though is they don't have an incubator. So the baby is pretty much just lying there wrapped in a blanket and cold. Then they wrap the baby in decorative clothing and gave it to the mom. I thought that was pretty cute."

On their way out, they stopped by the door and there was another lady waiting who didn't look pregnant. Naylor asked the midwife why the woman was here and they said "oh... we haven't examined her yet, but we think she is in labor."

Naylor asked the pregnant woman if she could feel her belly. Naylor said she could tell by examining her that she was only about 32-weeks pregnant. The nurse said the woman was in labor and all Naylor said she was thinking was that it would not be a good outcome for a baby if this is premature.

"Also during my exam, I noticed the baby was in breech position, so I asked the midwife if they deliver breech babies and the midwife said 'no.'

I said, 'This lady is breech. Why don't we take a look?'"

Naylor quickly realized the urgency of the situation when she discovered that the baby's feet were already protruding and decided that the baby had to be delivered immediately.

"The baby was purple and the cord was prolapsed, which means the cord was also

coming, meaning the baby is basically dead. So I told them, 'This baby needs to be delivered right now.'"

"We went and got the doctor who was a male and the patient was very disturbed about that, so she covered her face. I said, 'No, no, I'll do it,' because I wanted to make her more comfortable, but the doctor insisted."

"He pretty much yanked the baby out by the feet," said Naylor. "The head got stuck, which usually happens during a breech delivery."

"All I did was warn my medics that the baby would not be alive," she said. "I didn't want them to be disturbed by a still-born baby. They delivered the baby and everyone thought the baby would be dead so they just laid her down and worried about the mother. Then the baby looked at me and kind of rolled its eyes," she continued.

"I yelled, 'Oh my goodness! That baby is alive!' They gave me gloves, I ran over, picked up the baby, went over to the area where I saw suction, and tried to crank the suction with my foot. I ran the suction down the baby's throat trying to stimulate its breathing. As soon as I did that, it started to cry. I patted the baby and it started to turn pink"

The original purpose of the visit to the hospital was to review all of the projects that had been instituted by the Provincial Reconstruction Team, according to Naylor, but she got the chance to do more than assess the needs of the hospital; she helped bring an Afghan baby girl into the world, something she says she'll never forget.



Dr. (Capt.) Jacqueline Naylor, a physician with Charlie Company, 173d Support Battalion, holds the premature infant girl she helped deliver during her tour of the Lashkar Gah Hospital's Labor and Delivery ward. (Photo by Sgt. Erin Maynard, Charlie Company)

## Congressional delegation visits 1-508 Soldiers

Story and photos

By Spc. Laura E. Griffin

Task Force Devil Public Affairs

SHARANA PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM, Afghanistan – House Representatives from Georgia, Guam, Kentucky and Texas came to visit the Sharana Provincial Reconstruction Team July 11, as part of a congressional delegation.

Representatives Lynn Westmoreland from Georgia, Madeleine Bordallo from Guam, Geoff Davis from Kentucky, and Mike Conaway and Kenny Marchant from Texas had spent the previous day touring Iraq and paid a visit to Kabul earlier in the day before coming to Sharana to finish their tour.

They were given a quick tour of the PRT and then ate a kabob lunch while being briefed on operations in Paktika province by Lt. Col. Timothy McGuire, 1st Battalion,

508th Infantry (Airborne) commander.

"Here, so close to the Pakistan border, our community projects help to counter terrorism by empowering the local government and people," McGuire told them. "One thing that is so important to making our overall mission successful is ensuring that the upcoming elections are safe and fair; that the people – all the people – can know that their vote will count."

To ensure that the upcoming elections are secure, McGuire's men are continually pushing the anti-coalition militants out of Afghanistan.

"We're taking the fight to the border," said McGuire. "Keeping the ACM out of Afghanistan lets the people inside the border prosper. This is important here in the Paktika province; because of its isolation, there are many fence-sitters."

"But the best weapons system that I have

are projects," said McGuire.

Evidence of the success of their projects in this region is best shown by the life-saving act of one small Afghan boy.

"We had a convoy coming here from Orgun-E about a week ago," said McGuire. "It's normal to see children running up to greet the passing convoys, but one boy was running faster than the others and trying to get our attention. I stopped the convoy and asked the boy what was the matter."

"He told us that there was an IED (improvised explosive device) planted on the road ahead of us," continued McGuire. "We sent a team to check it out and there was in fact one there. I asked the boy why he told us about it. He said, 'I know that you are



Lt. Col. Timothy McGuire, Battalion commander, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry Brigade (Airborne), welcomes a visiting congressional delegation to Sharana PRT. The delegation consisted of members of the U.S. House of Representatives from Georgia, Guam, Kentucky and Texas. Representatives Lynn Westmoreland from Georgia, Madeleine Bordallo from Guam, Geoff Davis from Kentucky, and Mike Conaway and Kenny Marchant from Texas had spent the previous day touring Iraq and paid a visit to Kabul earlier in the day before coming to Sharana to finish their tour.

bringing schools to this area. Right now I sit under a tree for class, but soon I will have a school."

McGuire, in his final remarks, summed up his feelings about the importance of the mission.

"This is every bit as important as World War II," he said. "This is our generation's call to arms, and we are fighting this battle now so that our children will not have to in the future."

When the briefing was finished, the representatives were led outside where they had a chance to talk to some of the Soldiers from the states they represent. Rep. Davis, a 1981 West Point graduate, had the chance to visit with a family friend stationed in Forward Operating Base Orgun-E who had come to Sharana to see Davis.

Capt. Joe Geraci, Company A commander, 1-508 Inf (Abn), whose father knows Davis from volunteering at the West Point Society, was pleased to be able to see Davis and personally tell him about

his company's role in the re-raising of an Afghan flag in the Bermel district.

"The district had been without any government presence for the past 15 months," said Geraci. "We went in with the Afghan National Army April 27 through June 2 and successfully restored the overthrown government there."

Davis was moved by the work going on here and echoed McGuire's sentiments about the historical significance of this war.

"This is a testament to the rule of law," said Davis. "We were able to drive the Taliban into political irrelevance; it's a revolutionary thing to see. Getting to come here and see this is one of the high points of my service."

"We are such a small part in the wash of history," he said. "We've got to make a difference while we have the opportunity."

When the visit was over, the representatives boarded the Chinook with a better sense of the difference the Sharana PRT, and the other PRTs in Afghanistan are making to better the lives of the Afghans and ensure security for the upcoming elections.



Capt. Joe C. Geraci, Company A commander, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry (Airborne), greets Representative Geoff Davis, from Kentucky, July 9 at Sharana Provisional Reconstruction Team, Afghanistan. Davis was part of a congressional delegation that toured Iraq and Afghanistan. Geraci is a family friend of Davis and is stationed at Forward Operating Base Orgun-E, Afghanistan.



# SETAF ceremony honors Soldier, NCO of the Year

Story and photo

By Kelli Covlin

22nd Area Support Group  
Public Affairs Office

Taking an Army Physical Fitness Test at 4:30 in the morning can be a grueling task all on its own, but follow it up with a timed road march from Caserma Ederle to the top of Monte Berico and back, and then an appearance in front of a board consisting of senior NCOs and you have the makings of this year's SETAF Soldier and NCO of the Year competition – a competition to test only the most physically, mentally and emotionally tough Soldiers in this Area of Operation.

Coming out on top to win this year's competition in SETAF is NCO of the Year Sgt. Jose Rios-Reyes, Chosen Company, 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne), and Soldier of the Year Spc. Jenny Sanders, Headquarters Company, 173d Airborne Brigade.

"Sometimes there is a stereotype about troopers who are 'board' Soldiers and cannot hack it in reality," said Sgt. Maj. Richard Weik, SETAF Rear Detachment Command Sergeant Major, during the ceremony to recognize the achievements of these two Soldiers July 15 at the Ederle Theater. "That is not the case with these two."

Weik went on to comment about the Soldiers, noting specifically that Rios serviced in northern Iraq with the brigade and that Sanders, who recently returned from two months in Afghanistan, is serving at her first duty station.

"It is important for good NCOs and

Soldiers to be showcased," Weik said later about Army boards. "We as leaders need to push our stellar warriors to represent our commands – to show others that we truly are fantastic, in both deeds and words. This not only includes NCO and Soldier of the Year boards, but the Sergeant Audie Murphy and Sergeant Morales Clubs as well."

Preparing for the board was almost as tough a task as competing. The Soldiers were told less than a week out that they would be competing.

Rios, an infantryman who is currently serving as the Rear Detachment NCOIC for his company, has been serving in the Army for six years, but this was his first NCO of the Year competition.

"It was a little hard being the Rear-D NCOIC and at the same time having to set some time aside to study," said Rios, who did most of his studying at home having his wife, Erika, ask him questions. Erika also has her hands full with their 1½ year old daughter, Naomi.

"I was really nervous at the beginning of the competition, but then everything calmed down," said Rios. "I was proud of just thinking that I was running for the SETAF NCO of the Year and the chance that I had to be the one selected for the USAREUR competition."

Sanders, who is a signal support system specialist with the brigade, used her knowledge of Army technology to get ready.

"I prepared by studying online on AKO and on the Army study guide online," said Sanders. "I also read board and Army knowledge and leadership texts that I bought."

Sanders also received helping hands from her NCOs.

"I was also questioned by my NCOs to see how much information I was retaining. They helped me prepare by running practice boards and physical fitness tests," said Sanders.

"I'm very proud of Specialist Sanders winning the SETAF Soldier of the Year," said Staff Sgt. Normando Gallardo, Automations NCOIC for the 173d Brigade (Rear) S6 and Sanders' supervisor. "Sanders is very dependable on any tasking given to her. She always strives to do her best or reach perfection."

"I'm very proud of myself," said Sanders about competing with such short notice. "I have learned that I am the best Soldier that I can possibly be, and no one can ever take that away from me. I have accomplished something that I never thought I could. I am strong and smart enough to accomplish more – whether it's in the Army or not."

Rios echoes the sentiments of Sanders, saying, "Now that I am the SETAF NCO of the Year I feel very proud of what I have accomplished," said Rios. "It also makes me think about when I first came in the Army and dealing with all sorts of things like trying to learn the language [Rios is from Puerto Rico] and getting used to the American way of life. I can see all the knowledge that I have gained over the years and how far I have come."

In preparing for the competition, Rios realized some things about the Army.

"A Soldier, no matter if his or her rank is sergeant major or private, should think that he or she is a student – not a master. That's

the way to learn in life – draining people's knowledge and not trying to make people do it your way because you think you know everything. Listen to people on what they have to say and you will learn a lot from them," said Rios.

The competition is not over yet for these two Soldiers. They will move up to the next level, USAREUR, and compete against Soldiers from other commands that fall under USAREUR.

The USAREUR Soldier and NCO of the Year competition will be held Aug. 1-3 in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

"I feel that, even with the short notice SETAF had, these Soldiers will 'cowboy up' and represent the command well," said Weik about Rios and Sanders competing at the USAREUR level.

"Competing has made me even more patriotic and proud than before and has transformed me into a braver, stronger person," said Sanders. "I am honored to be a part of this time-honored organization we know as the United States Army."

"I've learned that I can prepare myself for anything really important and challenging even when given only a short time," said Rios, who is now devoting three hours a day to a different subject preparing for the USAREUR competition, as well as road marching once a week and running three times a week to prepare for the physical portion."

The two Soldiers received over \$3,000 in cash and prizes from local sponsors including the Commissary, AAFES, AUSA, New Car Sales, Edelweiss Lodge, USAA and GEICO.



Actor Stephen Lange performs in "Beyond Glory" at the Ederle Theater July 14.

## "Beyond Glory" brings war stories to life

Story and photo

By Carlos Lazo

Special to the Outlook

The stories of eight Medal of Honor recipients, told in their own words, came to the stage of the Ederle Theater July 14 and held the audience spellbound for 90 minutes.

"Beyond Glory", a one-man show, directed and performed by accomplished actor and playwright Stephen Lang is based on the book, "Beyond Glory: Medal of Honor Heroes in Their Own Words," by Larry Smith.

In the play, Lang portrays veterans, who have various ethnic backgrounds, from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

Lang brought to life the eight men's account of what happen one after the other, at times using only a change of wardrobe to change from one character into the next but

captivating the audience nonetheless.

After the show, Lang had a question and answer period with the audience and said that this performance was one way in which he could serve his country.

"I thought the play was wonderful," said Spc. Kendrick Kees, a Soldier with SETAF Headquarters Support Company. "The way he dove right into different people minds with the different ethnic background, showed his acting range.

"It was as if he got into the mind of these brave men, and showed us a little of their souls and the story of war. I felt like I was right there with those supermen at the time of the action. For 90 minutes, I could almost taste, smell, see, taste and hear their pain and sadness," said Kees.

Beyond Glory is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and is part of their Operation Homecoming program.

# Out & About

By Dorothy Spagnuolo

## Sagra in the Veneto region

Sunday, the traditional *fiera degli uccelli* (bird exhibition) takes place in the small town of *Sant'Angelo di Piove di Sacco*, province of Padova from 10 a.m. till the late evening hours.

There will also be a market, food stands and an animal exhibition.

Piove di Sacco is 48 km from Vicenza.

Others local events include:

Saturday in *Dueville* find food stands and music.

Saturday and Sunday in *Monte S. Lorenzo di Gambugliano* find food stands and rides.

Sunday in *Valeggio-Parco*, located in the province of Verona, you'll find a covered area for dining, also music and rides; designated parking areas can be found in all the towns.

## Achensee foot race

Austria's most scenic footrace, the *6th International Achenseelauf 2005* (Achensee Race 2005) takes place Sept. 4 at 10 a.m.

The distance of 23.2 km starts at Karwendel gondola and finishes at the bathing beach both located in town of Pertisau.

All participants who finish the race before 2 p.m. are listed in the official result list.

Cost of registration before Sunday is 26 Euro; if you register before before Aug. 21, the cost is 30 Euro; registering on race day costs 35 Euro.

For several years a group from SETAF has participated in this footrace with outstanding results. For details contact Hussein Kara at 634-3919 or 340-819-5825.

## Ravenna blues festival

Visitors to the town of *Ravenna* Saturday or Sunday can see what was the seat of the Roman Empire in the 5th century and then of Byzantine Italy until the 8th century.

Then, after visiting the town's buildings of early Christian mosaics and monuments, enjoy a 'Blues' evening Saturday at 9 p.m.

Music from Italian groups and two bands from New Orleans

'Wonderbrass' and 'Funk Off' will perform.

Sunday at 9:30 p.m. hear the 'Louisiana Brass Band' and the 'DLF Dixieland Band' perform.

The performances will take place in the squares of the historical town's center.

Ravenna is 200 km by car from Vicenza; by train, it takes three hours with one change in Bologna, a one way ticket costs 18 Euro. Check out schedules and fares on [www.trenitalia.it](http://www.trenitalia.it).

## Visit a maze

Several mazes can be found in the Veneto area and visiting one of them can turn out to be an enjoyable and educational day out with the children.

The first to be found in the gardens of *Villa Pisani*, in the town of Stra', was created in 1720.

The maze is formed of a thick hedge and the route is about 500 meters long.

In the center of the maze is a small panoramic tower that has a spiral staircase on the outside of it, that is topped by a statue of Minerva. Going to the top you will be able to plan your route out again without running into 'thick hedge.'

The villa is open everyday from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. closed on Mondays. Entrance fees are: Visit the villa and gardens costs 5 Euro; to visit the garden only costs 2,50 Euro.

The maze in the *Giardino Giusti* in Verona was designed in 1786. It is 400 meters wide, geometric in style and is formed of a thick hedge which is over a meter in height.

The gardens, which are located ten minutes from the Arena, are open everyday from 9 a.m.-7p.m.

Entrance fees are 5 Euros for adults and no charge for children under ten years of age.

Apart from the maze, which is considered to be one of the most ancient in Europe, visitors can also enjoy *grotte acustiche* (echo cave), mythological statues, fountains, the flowers and trees. The gardens can take over two hours to visit.

In the gardens of *Villa Arvedi*, which were designed in 1650, the maze is in the shape of a butterfly formed with a thick hedge about 20 centimeters in height.

In the gardens you'll also find

an aviary with a fountain where birds drink from; a lily pond; statues, and a cave.

The villa, which can also be visited is located nine kilometres from Verona's city center, in the town of Grazzana.

Appointments have to be made to visit the gardens or the villa. For an appointment or more information, e-mail [arvedi@sis.it](mailto:arvedi@sis.it).

The garden in the town of *Valsanzibio*, in the province of Padova, ranges among the most important and unspoiled gardens in the world.

The garden was planned in 1669 by Venetian nobleman Z. F. Barbarigo, and his son Gregorio (who was a cardinal and is now a saint).

In the gardens visitors will find fountains and fishponds, a large maze, the 'rabbits island,' statues galore, lots of trees and more.

The garden is open everyday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and from 2 p.m.-sunset.

Entrance fee is 8 Euro for adults; children 6-14 years of age pay 5 Euro.

There is also a store in the gardens that is open in the afternoon but closed on Tuesdays.

Valsanzibio is located 36 km from Vicenza, before you visit the gardens check out the map and get directions from the Web site: [www.valsanzibio.giardino.it](http://www.valsanzibio.giardino.it).

## Gardens of Italy online

You can find out more about the many beautiful gardens of Italy that are open to the public at the site [www.grandigiardini.it](http://www.grandigiardini.it), which is available in Italian and English.

The Website offers a short description and a photograph of each of the 31 gardens in the association, and is a useful tool to help you plan your itinerary around the peninsula.

The north of Italy is better represented than the south, though you can enjoy Villa Tritone near Sorrento and "Il Biviere" in Lentini (near Syracuse) in Sicily.

The Italian section offers details of events being held at the gardens, ranging from concerts to exhibitions.

The contact names and numbers are also on the Web site.

# Now Showing

## Caserma Ederle Theater

July 26	Harry Potter: Prisoner of Azkaban (PG)	3 p.m.
July 27	Home on the Range (PG)	5 p.m.
	House of Wax (R)	7 p.m.
July 28	XXX: State of the Union (PG13)	7 p.m.
July 29	Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (PG)	7 p.m.
	Kingdom of Heaven (R)	10 p.m.
July 30	Monster-in-Law (PG13)	7 p.m.
	Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (PG)	10 p.m.
July 31	Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (PG)	2 p.m.
	Monster-in-Law (PG13)	7 p.m.
Aug. 1	Closed	
Aug. 2	Monster-in-Law (PG13)	7 p.m.

## Camp Darby Theater

July 29	The Longest Yard (PG13)	7 p.m.
July 30	The Interpreter (PG13)	7 p.m.

## Movie Synopsis

**HOUSE OF WAX** - *Elisha Cuthbert, Chad Michael Murray.*

A group of friends on their way to a college football game falls prey to a pair of murderous brothers in an abandoned small town. They discover that the brothers have expanded upon the area's main attraction... the House of Wax, and created an entire town filled with the wax-coated corpses of unlucky visitors. Now the group must find a way out before they too become permanent exhibits in the House of Wax.

**XXX: STATE OF THE UNION** - *Ice Cube, Samuel L. Jackson.*

NSA Agent Augustus Gibbons, fresh off the success of his last renegade recruitment, once again finds himself in need of an outsider. Gibbons and his new agent, also code-named "XXX," must track a dangerous military splinter group led by Willem Dafoe that is conspiring to overthrow the U.S. Government in the nation's capital.

**THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS**

*Amber Tamblyn, America Ferrara.* Four best friends, Tibby, Lena, Carmen and Bridget spend their first summer apart from one another, they share a magical pair of jeans. Despite being of various shapes and sizes, each one of them fits perfectly into the pants. To keep in touch they pass these pants to each other as well as the adventures they are going through while apart.

**THE INTERPRETER** - *Nicole Kidman, Sean Penn.* Silvia alleges that she has overheard a death threat against an African head of state, in an instant, Silvia's life is turned upside down as she becomes a hunted target of the killers. Placed under the protection of federal agent Tobin, they must depend on one another, as the danger of a major assassination on U.S. soil grows. Silvia and Tobin play out a gripping dance of evasion and revelation that keeps them both guessing as they race to stop a terrifying international crisis before it's too late.

**KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** - *Orlando Bloom, Eva Green.*

Balian is mourning the deaths of his wife and baby when his father arrives and asks him to join the Crusades in Jerusalem. Balian agrees, and embarks on the perilous journey. Along the way, he reveals his gifts of inherent goodness and fair treatment of all human beings. Upon reaching Jerusalem, a city where his meager beginnings no longer matter, Balian earns respect.

**THE LONGEST YARD** - *Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Burt Reynolds.*

Paul "Wrecking" Crewe was a revered football superstar back in his day, but that time has since faded. But when a messy drunk driving incident lands him in jail, Paul finds he was specifically requested by Warden Hazen, a duplicitous prison official well aware of Paul's athletic skills. Paul has been assigned the task of assembling a team of convicts, to square off in a big football game against the sadistic guards. With the help of fellow convict Caretaker, and an old legend named Nate to coach, Crewe is ready for what promises to be a very interesting game. It's only the warden and the guards who have no idea who or what they're up against, with Paul the driving force behind the new team.

**MONSTER-IN-LAW** - *Jane Fonda, Jennifer Lopez.* Unlucky in love, beautiful 'Charlie' has finally met the man of her dreams, Dr. Kevin Fields. There's just one problem - his mother Viola. Overbearing and controlling, not to mention volatile, she has recently been canned from her job as a star news anchor. Fearing she will lose her son's affections as she has her career, Viola decides to break up the happy couple by becoming the world's worst mother-in-law. Helping her with her crazy schemes is Viola's long-time assistant, Ruby. The gloves come off when Charlie finally decides to fight back and it looks like Viola has finally met her match.

Admission: Adults age 12 and over \$4, children \$2.

The Ederle Theatre box office opens one hour prior to show time. Tickets to blockbuster shows are presold at Baskin Robbins.



## Tae Bo creator brings class, encouragement to Caserma Ederle

Story and photos  
By Diana Bahr  
Outlook Editor

He starts off every morning with 1,000 push ups and 1,000 sit ups as part of his hour and a half work out *before* going to the gym where he teaches. His name is Billy Blanks, creator of Tae Bo, and he's a fitness guru to many – including the U.S. Armed Forces.

Accompanied by his incredibly-fit daughter, Shellie Blanks Cimarosti, Blanks gave a short class on Tae Bo in the Fitness Center gym Wednesday to about 75 people, as part of IMA-Europe's Summer Shout Out series.

Watching Blanks warm up before giving the class gave participants a sneak preview of what was to come. Blanks effortlessly performed splits—but not just on the floor, that would be too easy—he had one leg on the floor and the other leg four tiers up on the bleachers. That was followed by sit ups, push ups and stretches.

Then the class began. "Intense" was the word used by participant Kristy Bellemore, as she swigged from a water bottle and took a breather during the class. "We need a class like this on post," she said wiping sweat from her brow. Even the 'gym rats' were perspiring freely and a few were seen jogging in place during some portions of the class.

Blanks is the creator of Tae Bo, a combination of dance, boxing and Tae Kwon Do moves. Born the fourth of 15 children, he had few opportunities on the mean streets of Erie, Pa. His early years were complicated as Blanks was afflicted with undiagnosed dyslexia and suffered a problem in his hip joints, which impaired his movement, resulting in a clumsiness that caused his teachers to think he would never amount to much.

However, he took his first martial arts class at age 11 and soon began to gain a mastery of the sport and himself. In 1975 he became the first Amateur Athletic Union Champion, a title he would earn five times. He ascended to become a seventh-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and gained black belts in five other forms of martial arts. He became a seven-time world karate champion, captained the U.S. karate team, won 36 gold medals in international competition and earned admission to the Karate Hall of Fame in 1982.

Blanks uses his life story when he tours to encourage others to never give up and gathered the group around him and talked about what being fit meant to him.

The two biggest enemies getting and staying fit are the eyes and ears, he said. When the group seemed confused, he told them, "You need to separate your 'senses' from your mind. Your eyes see a photo of a fit person, and your ears hear about getting in shape by exercising two minutes a day. This is unrealistic and people get discouraged when they don't see results fast enough and they quit working out."

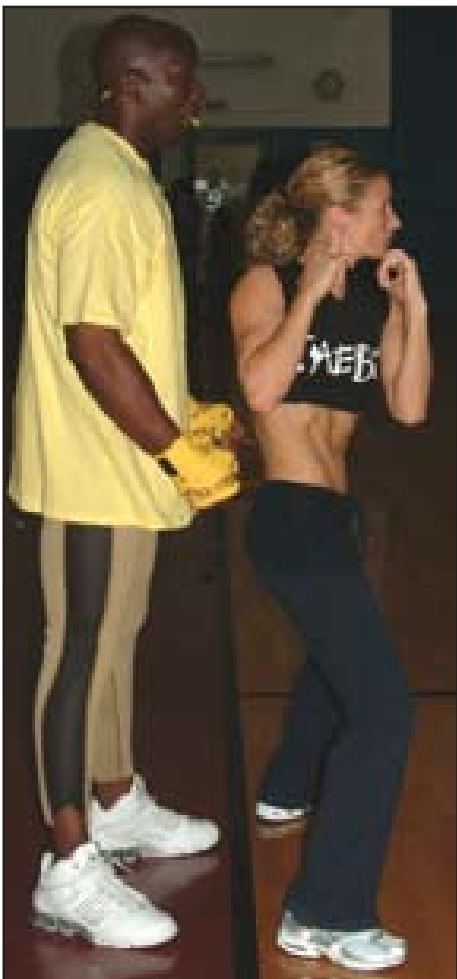
You need to realize that you are unique and your body is unique, said Blanks. What works for one person may not work for another, you have to find what works for you and stick to it.

What keeps Blanks on the fitness straight-and-narrow? "People motivate me," he said. "When I don't feel like working out I go to my gym and see how motivated my clients are about their own fitness. It energizes me."

But he confesses to a weakness: Pepsi and O'Henry candy bars. "I haven't had a Pepsi in seven weeks...and counting," he said with a laugh.



Billy Blanks (front) puts a Tae Bo class participants through some moves Wednesday. Blanks visited Caserma Ederle as part of IMA-Europe's Summer Shout Out series. After the intense workout, Blanks spoke to the class and signed autographs.



Billy Blanks (left), creator of the Tae Bo fitness program, has his blood pressure taken by Dr. (Col.) Bradley Harper, commander of U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza, as part of the Wellness Wednesday event held at the food court. (Photo by Anna Vallery, Outlook staff)

At left: Blanks uses daughter, Shellie Blanks Cimarosti, to demonstrate the proper way to turn the body when making the punching motions. Cimarosti is also a Tae Bo instructor and a former Junior Olympics gold medalist in Jiu Jitsu.



Shellie Blanks Cimarosti (left) and her father, Tae Bo creator, Billy Blanks, lead a group of participants from Caserma Ederle in a Tae Bo class Wednesday. Blanks came to post as part of IMA-Europe's Summer Shout Out program. After the intense workout, Blanks gave an inspirational talk to the group and then signed autographs.