

BRIDGING THE

GAP

Through Knowledge, Education, Understanding & Insight

June / July 2008, Issue 10



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The SEP Group provides opportunities for positive exchange among diverse groups through community outreach, education and cultural diversity awareness.

DIVERSITY AND THE 360 DEGREE APPROACH

By Colonel Richard J. Evans III

We are regularly confronted by numerous problems and challenges related to the complexity of our military activities as leaders and members of the Nebraska National Guard.

In each case, there are usually multiple complicating factors that make finding a solution or choosing the right course of action anything other than routine. As I deal with matters that make it to my level, I'm fond of taking a "360 degree approach" to each issue. I am interested in getting as much information as possible and having multiple options available to resolve the matter and move forward.

While it's not always possible to see every issue from all angles, that should not stop us from getting as many perspectives as possible. That's where diversity comes into play and can help us find the best course of action to pursue.

Diversity is certainly more than numbers and demographics. Diversity is about valuing and empowering our members and promoting basic human dignity. When an organization understands the strengths of each member and also the differences between members, it can harness these assets to make the organization, as a whole, supremely effective and successful.

Successful business teams and military units are those which use their diversity as an asset



to tackle the most pressing problems that keep them from getting the job done efficiently and effectively. What makes a team diverse? In my opinion, it's the "360 degree approach" - having as many differences as possible within the team, so they can approach any challenge from a variety of perspectives.

Diversity focuses on using the uniqueness of each team member to make the team as a whole stronger. When

a diverse group of individuals act together as a team, their differences lead to creative and innovative solutions that individuals acting alone may not come up with. A team lacking diversity of background and viewpoints might fail the same challenge.

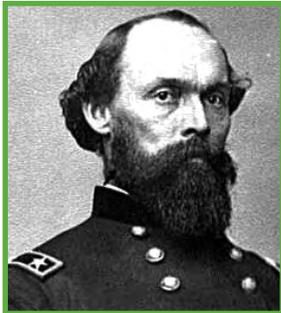
If diversity is a good thing, how do you get it? From an organizational perspective we shouldn't put our emphasis solely on setting numeric goals. Instead, we should focus on ensuring our officer and Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) leaders are knowledgeable on how diversity can help them get the mission done. Our leaders must be willing to do all in their power to nurture and inspire diversity within their organization. We must recruit and mentor to ensure we can put diverse teams in place. Our members must clearly understand that each is valued for the background, experience and perspective they bring to the team as a whole.

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JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

By Kari Holman

What will you be doing on June 19th? Many people throughout Nebraska and the United States will be celebrating "Juneteenth," even though many Americans have never heard of this important cultural celebration. What is Juneteenth?



Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union Soldiers, lead by Major General Gordon

Granger, landed in Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. This was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops available to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Later attempts to explain this two and a half year delay of the receipt of this important news yielded several versions that have been handed down through the years. Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom. Another is that the news was deliberately withheld by the slave owners to maintain the labor force on the

plantations. And still another is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. All or none of these stories could be true. For whatever reason, conditions in Texas remained status quo well beyond what was statutory.

One of General Granger's first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3, which began most significantly with:

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

The reactions to this profound news ranged from pure shock to immediate jubilation. Some former slaves continued to work for their owners, while others fled the plantations

immediately. Even with nowhere to go, many felt that leaving the plantation would be their first grasp of freedom. North was a logical destination and for many it represented true freedom, while the desire to reach family members in neighboring states drove some into Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma.



Settling into these new areas as free men and women brought on new realities and challenges. Recounting the memories of that great day in June 1865 and its festivities, would serve as motivation as well as a release from the growing pressures encountered in their new territory. The celebration of June 19th was coined "Juneteenth" and grew with more participation from descendants of freed slaves. The Juneteenth celebration was a time for reassuring each other, for praying and for gathering remaining family members. Juneteenth continued to be highly revered in Texas decades later, with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date.

Over the years, Juneteenth festivals have evolved into day long events which

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Bridging the Gap welcomes your submissions of article ideas and written articles.

To have your upcoming event published in Bridging the Gap, please notify us by July 7, 2008 for the August/September 2008 issue.

All submissions will be considered for publication. We reserve the right to edit submitted material.

Please send your submission to Mary Schmidt-Rodriguez at m.schmidtrodiguez@us.army.mil

Juneteenth Celebration Continued from Page 2



include picnics, parades, music, dancing and baseball. A range of activities were provided to entertain the masses, many of which continue in tradition today. Rodeos, fishing, barbecuing and baseball are just a few of the typical Juneteenth activities you may witness. Juneteenth focuses on education and self improvement. Guest speakers are often brought in and the elders are called upon to recount the events of the past. Prayer services are also a major part of these celebrations. In Kansas City for example, events include a parade, a festival at Swope Park, karate and golf tournaments, a baseball game, a theatrical play and the crowning of Mr. and Mrs. Juneteenth.

Certain foods became popular and subsequently synonymous with Juneteenth celebrations such as strawberry soda pop. More traditional and just as popular was the barbecuing, through which Juneteenth participants could share in the spirit and aromas that their ancestors - the newly emancipated African-Americans - would have experienced during their ceremonies. Hence, the barbecue pit is often established as the center of attention at Juneteenth celebrations.

Food was abundant because everyone prepared a special dish. In early celebrations, meats such as lamb, pork and beef, which were not readily available everyday, were brought to this special occasion. A true Juneteenth celebration left visitors well satisfied and with enough conversation to last until the next.

Dress was also an important element in early Juneteenth customs and is often still taken seriously, particularly by direct descendants who can make the connection to this tradition's roots. In many areas during slavery, there were laws on the books that prohibited or limited the dressing of the enslaved. During the initial days of the emancipation celebrations, there are accounts of former slaves tossing their ragged garments into the creeks and rivers to

adorn themselves with clothing taken from the plantations belonging to their former masters.

Juneteenth has continued to enjoy a growing and healthy interest from communities and organizations throughout the country. Twenty-nine states officially recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday (currently, Nebraska is not one of those states; there is a push for Nebraska to be the thirtieth state to do so). Institutions such as the Smithsonian, the Henry Ford Museum and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth-centered activities. In recent years, a number of

National Juneteenth Organizations have arisen to take their place alongside older organizations - all with the mission to promote and cultivate knowledge and appreciation of African-American history and culture.

Today, Juneteenth celebrates African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month, marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long overdue. In cities across the

country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to fully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, only then can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society.

Information for this article was found at:

www.juneteenth.com

www.juneteenth.us

http://www3.kumc.edu/diversity/ethnic_relig/juneteenth.html

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ref/abouttx/juneteenth.html>

Juneteenth celebrates African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS IN NEBRASKA

Clyde Malone Community Center Lincoln

At the time of this publication, the event is still in the planning stages. Please contact the Center at 402-474-1110 for more information.

June 14 11:00am - ?
Pentzer Park

North 27th Street between Potter and Fair
**Mayhew Cabin and Historic Village
Nebraska City**

www.mayhewcabin.org

Juneteenth Celebration Omaha

June 14, 2008

Parade from 24th and Hamilton to Miller Park starting at 10:00am
Health and Wellness Festival
Activities include: health screening, face painting, clowns, water activities for youth, dance routines, fashion show and door prizes.

12:00pm-4:00pm
Charles Drew Health Center
2915 Grant Street

THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

By the President: Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of State: William H. Seward

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on September 22, 1862, immediately following the Union victory at Antietam, and took effect January 1, 1863.

Whereas on the 22d day of September, A.D. 1862, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing among other things, the following, to wit:

“That on the 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for actual freedom.

“That such executives will on the 1st day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State or the people thereof shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such States shall have participated shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed

conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof are not then in rebellion against the United States.”

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this 1st day of January, A.D. 1863, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days from the first day above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof, respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana (except the parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terrebone, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the city of New Orleans), Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia (except the forty-eight counties designated as Elizabeth City, York, Princess Anne, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth), and which excepted parts are for the present left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power and for the

purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States are, and henceforward shall be, free; and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defense; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed services of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.”

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh. 

360 Degree Approach Continued from Page 1

How will we know when we achieve diversity in our organization? Achieving a diverse organization is clearly an ongoing challenge. When we're on the right track some things should stand out to our members and outside observers. Each member has an equal chance to show what they can do and is included as an active participant on the team. Our members are comfortable around other

members who have backgrounds different than their own and are able to freely discuss their differences. Our members don't cluster only with people who look and think like themselves, but instead they think and act as one big team. Our organization is known as one where everyone can succeed, regardless of an individual's background.

The “360 degree approach” to problem-solving has diversity at its core. If we

recruit, mentor and lead our members with this in mind, we give ourselves the best chance to succeed in any endeavor we face. Make no doubt about it, we will succeed as an organization only if we commit to using the full potential of each unit member. If we are known as an organization where all members have an equal chance to contribute and succeed, we will continue to attract the people we need to fuel our long-term success as an organization. 

732ND EXPEDITIONARY SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON IN IRAQ

By First Sergeant Jim Morbach

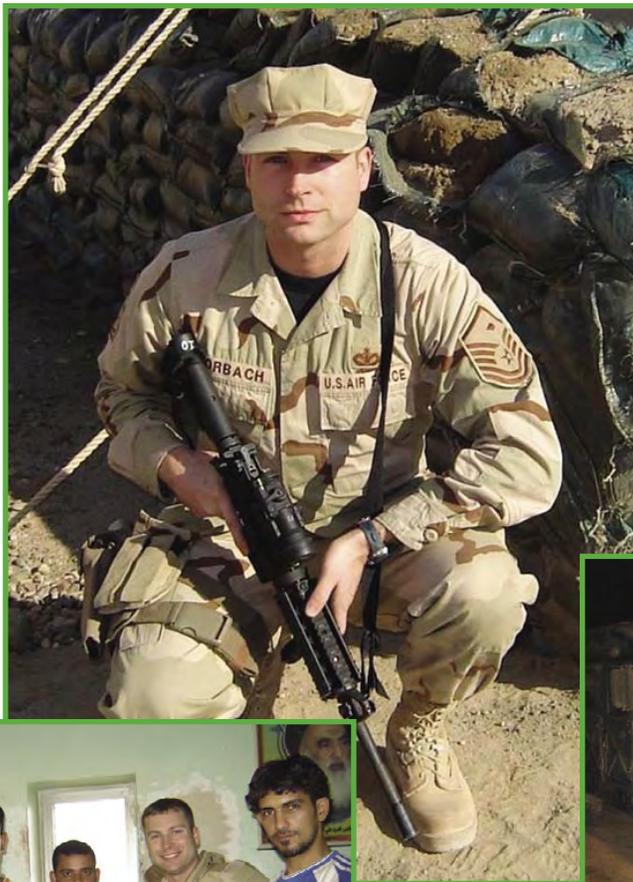
In late December 2006, I deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As the First Sergeant for the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron (732nd ESFS), I knew I would be faced with numerous challenges and diversity issues during my deployment.

Upon arriving at Camp Anaconda, I was informed I would be responsible for over 400 Air Force Security Forces Airmen, working at over thirty locations throughout Iraq. These 400-plus Combat Airmen were performing missions alongside Army, Marines, Navy, British and Iraqi police and military.

Diversity issues arose weekly as the Air Force and other services have their own way of doing things. One such incident involved an Air Force Military working dog handler assigned to an Army Battalion.

He was one of two Airmen attached to a unit of over 200 Army Soldiers. The Army had tactical authority over the Airman, but the Air Force had administrative authority. The Army unit moved him from one location in Iraq to another without notifying the 732nd ESFS Headquarters. The Airman relocated with his Army unit after Air Force and Army Leadership communicated and gained an understanding of each other's standards and culture.

The dining facilities, billeting and



matter are negative without knowing all of the facts. Many of my Airmen responded to suicide attacks within the cities of Iraq. These attacks were initiated by extremists who develop strong prejudices based on religion, race, ethnic background and culture. The extremists do not believe in equal rights for all people, and use prejudice to build on their personal views to justify killing innocent people. The Airmen continued to do their job every day, knowing that their presence and desire to help the Iraqi people will some day bring peace and stability to the nation.



general base maintenance were operated by foreign nationals. Airmen needed to adjust to the foreign national's customs and

cultures when having contact and talking to them. When a patrol would go outside the wire and meet up at an Iraqi police station, a female was not allowed to be the first person to greet the Iraqi Commander. Another example of a specific custom is that it is offensive to sit in the presence of an Iraqi and have your feet crossed, while showing the bottom of your shoe.

Often with different cultures comes prejudice, which is developed when one person's opinions on a specific



By understanding diversity and culture, people of all nations can work together and work to build a tolerance for each other, which will enable them to accomplish their missions, goals and future livelihood without animosity. 



NATIONAL DIVERSITY AWARD PRESENTED TO SGT ADRIAN VELEZ

By *LaVonne Rosenthal*

Each year National Guard Bureau (NGB) solicits nominations for individuals and organizations that have had great impact in the area of diversity, to be considered for the Excellence in Diversity award. The 2007 winner is SGT Adrian Velez, Nebraska Army National Guard. SGT Velez received his award at the 2nd Annual NGB Diversity Conference in Denver, Colorado, on 18 March 2008.

SGT Adrian Velez has been assigned as Hispanic Liaison for the Nebraska Army National Guard since 2005. One of the requirements for a Hispanic Liaison is to assist recruiters in matters of the Hispanic community. A key aspect of his job is to accompany recruiters when they meet with potential recruits and their parents. Utilizing bilingual skills, SGT Velez fluently bridges the communication gap between recruiters and Spanish speaking individuals either through verbal or written communication.

SGT Velez has taken personal initiative to study and research immigration laws to become fully informed on the often confusing wording. An example is clarification of the phrase, "one year honorable service" to meet citizenship requirements. For National Guard



soldiers, time on active duty, Active Duty Special Work (ADSW), or in training status must be accurately calculated to meet the law's one-year requirement. Another complicated area is the different types of residency status. In that area, the residency of one Nebraska Soldier expired during his enlistment. Due to SGT Velez's actions, a temporary stay was obtained on his residency so that he could apply for citizenship. His understanding of the different types of residency allowed SGT Velez to assist the Soldier in completing the necessary paperwork to remain within the United States. You may also recall SGT Velez's presentation at our Hispanic heritage event in 2007, where he shared some of his expertise on

immigration laws.

As a member of the Multicultural Coalition of Grand Island, SGT Velez assisted with the organization of an immigration clinic. In addition to SGT Velez and other Multicultural Coalition members, two immigration officers collaborated in conducting a clinic where individuals were invited to ask any question concerning the immigration process. Immigration status of the 400 individuals who attended was not questioned, so all individuals felt safe asking their specific questions. Following one-on-one meetings, the written citizenship test was offered to those who were eligible. During this clinic, over 150 people passed the written test. SGT Velez along with the Multicultural Coalition assisted individuals in completing their citizenship applications at no cost, saving 36 individuals between \$1,000-\$3,000 each.

As the minority population increases throughout Nebraska and the United States, SGT Velez's talents in cutting across cultural boundaries continues to be a great asset to the Nebraska National Guard.

Congratulations, SGT Velez, on this well deserved award! 🌐

WEBSITE REVIEW: WWW.APPLES4THETEACHER.COM/FOREIGNLANG.HTML

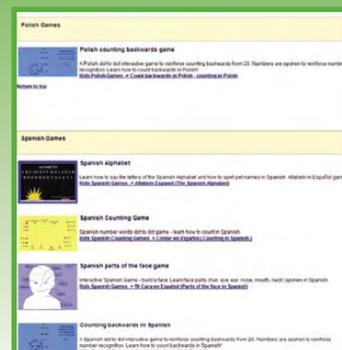
by *Denise Anderson*

How many parents would like their children to learn another language? In other parts of the world, many families speak more than one language in their homes but in most American homes only one language is spoken.

I recently moved my daughters to a

new day care facility where they teach the children basic sign language and Spanish words (e.g. colors, months of the year and common courtesy words). Society is much more diverse than when I was a child and I would like to give my girls the ability to learn more and be prepared as they grow into adulthood.

I recently found this great website which includes information on American Sign Language, Gaelic (Irish), Polish and Spanish. You can create flashcards of the letters in sign language, learn to count backwards in Polish and Spanish and even hear Gaelic readings. There are also additional links to other websites for additional information and learning. Enjoy! 🌐



BOOK REVIEW: BAND OF SISTERS: AMERICAN WOMEN AT WAR IN IRAQ

Written by Kirsten Holmstedt; Stackpole Books, July 2007; Nonfiction

Book Review by COL Roma Amundson

When Desert Storm began in the 1990's, I was the commander of the Selective Service detachment and Acting State Director for Selective Service. As such, I was interviewed by both newspapers and television stations about the probability of the draft being reinstated, and following that, about the appropriateness of women in combat. I remember one question in particular – "How will Americans react when their daughters, wives, mothers and sisters come home in caskets?"

My answer was: "The same way they react when their sons, husbands, fathers and brothers come home in caskets."

Even after a decade and a half during which the percentage of women in the military has significantly grown in all combat, combat service and combat service support roles, the questions still remain. The questions may be more muted, as it is evident that women are essential in the war fight.

Much of the remaining debate surrounding the issue of women at war is directed to the question of whether women have the stamina, courage and fortitude to engage in war-fighting. Others mull over whether the "weaker sex" should be allowed to be on the battlefield where the potential exists to be killed or captured.

Kirsten Holmstedt tackles these questions by discussing the roles that twelve women have played in Operation Iraqi Freedom. These twelve women represent all components of the U.S. military – the Marines, Army, Navy and Air Force. *Band of Sisters* presents twelve of these groundbreaking and often heart-wrenching stories of American women in combat in Iraq, including:

- *The United State's first female pilot to be shot down and survive,*
- *The military's first black female pilot in combat,*
- *A 21-year-old turret gunner defending convoys,*

- *Two Marine lance corporals in a firefight, and*
- *A nurse struggling to save lives, including her own.*

Several have been wounded, each has had friends killed and many have combat awards for valor.

Holmstedt deals with each woman, discussing the reasons they joined the military, their roles and their experiences and the effects that combat had upon them and their careers after their return from deployment. While many have remained in the military, several have left to pursue civilian careers. Each woman is very clear that the war has had a dramatic impact upon her psyche and thinking.

What is clear after reading the account of each woman is her dedication to completion of the mission and the bravery demonstrated by each under fire. What is also clear is that the men within their respective units viewed them as essential within the unit and treated them as equals. Each woman fulfilled her responsibilities, and in fact, was able to bring added value to the missions by the very fact that, as women, they could deal effectively with the Iraqi women. Marine Gunnery Sergeant Yolanda Mayo realized that the U.S. military and coalition forces were helping the Iraqi people, especially the women. She knew they were changing lives and giving Iraqi women opportunities which up to now they had only dreamed of.

Another woman, Lieutenant Estella Salinas, part of a surgical company, said that she was willing to go back to the desert because, "no matter how much it sucked over there – and it did suck – I'd go through all that crap again to be able to hold one person's hand and provide a little bit of comfort.... Millions of



Americans do the right thing, and...I'm just one person in that million."

A member of our own Nebraska Army National Guard 313th Medical Company, Ground Ambulance, is featured in *Band of Sisters*. Specialist Rachel Spors, now a teacher in the Omaha Public Schools, tells Holmstedt of her experiences as a driver for a ground ambulance vehicle. As many Nebraska Soldiers know, she was

wounded when an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded.

Once you begin reading, it's difficult to put the book down. The author talks about the pace of events, the dangers and the raw emotions of fear and anger that combat generates. She describes the sadness of learning about the combat deaths of friends and the feeling of guilt for taking human lives. Finally, she discusses the changing relationships between the warriors and their family members back home and the manner in which the war still affects the Soldiers who have returned home.

What makes this book truly unique and inspiring, is that along with the factual telling of events, there is also an undertone of wonder and appreciation for the courage and accomplishments of the women in combat. At the completion of the book, the reader truly understands that all Soldiers realize that "we're all in it together!" – male or female.

I recommend reading this book – not only for the stories of the women involved, but also to gain a sense of what the war in Iraq requires from the deployed Soldiers. Every story is different, and those of you who have been deployed will surely have your own perspectives and interpretations to add to the impact of Holmstedt's presentations. 

RESTAURANT REVIEW: MR. LENO'S BREAKFAST BURRITOS

7040 'O' Street, Lincoln, Nebraska; 402-484-0408

By Mary Schmidt-Rodriguez

Ever since I moved back to Lincoln, I have been in search of a good breakfast burrito (when I say good, I'm comparing them to breakfast burritos I have eaten in Denver, Colorado and Albuquerque, New Mexico). So, when

I discovered that a Mexican fast food restaurant was opening up in the vacated KFC building on 71st and O Street (just a few blocks from my home), AND that they served breakfast burritos 24 hours a day seven days a week, I was hesitant and excited at the same time. I was hesitant because I've been disappointed before and I was skeptical at a Mexican restaurant named Mr. Leno. Then I read a review in the local paper and learned that the owner named it Mr. Leno in honor of her father - *the restaurant is named for Becerra's father, Magdeleno, who is known for his bushy white mustache.**

I decided to give it a try and was pleasantly surprised! I do believe I have found in Mr. Leno's breakfast burritos what I have been hungry for since



moving back to Lincoln (from Denver).

I first tried their bacon burrito with my three-year-old son, Joshua. We both loved it. It is full of eggs, bacon, cheese and sauce (just the right amount to add flavor and not overtake the other ingredients in the burrito). I was a

bit disappointed that none of the burritos include potatoes, but Mr. Leno makes up for that in flavor, and I'm not sure where they would put them in these very full tortillas anyway!

Joshua likes to eat the burrito open faced so he can just pick up the insides with his fingers and not have to hassle with the eggs and bacon falling out of the tortilla when he picks it up whole. Then he eats some of the tortilla separately. Just a side note – I think it would be great if Mr. Leno added a child-sized breakfast burrito to their kid's menu where the kids could choose any of the adult-sized burritos in a more manageable kid-sized portion.

My next visit included bringing some other members of my family including my mom, sister and nephew. The bacon burrito is popular, as three of our group ordered this (sister, nephew and son). My mom ordered the regular breakfast burrito that has ham instead of bacon and I

had the machaca (shredded beef). After sampling each burrito I have to say that not one of them disappointed me. My two favorites, at this point, are the bacon and the machaca. We also sampled their cinnamon chips. They are excellent. I was full and I couldn't stop eating them.

I plan on going back and trying other flavors which include: chorizo, sausage and steak (which I tried recently and was a bit disappointed). They also serve huevos rancheros, steak ranchero and chilaquiles on their breakfast menu. I have yet to try their lunch and supper menu, which includes but is not limited to tortas, burritos, tacos, enchiladas and tostadas. They also have a small kids menu, and combination plates which include rice and beans.

The prices are reasonable for fast food, ranging from \$3.39-\$5.59 for breakfast. The lunch/supper menu ranges from \$2.19-\$7.19.

The food is fresh as the burritos are made after you place your order. It is fast food, but the extra few minutes you wait while they prepare your food is well worth your time.



The restaurant décor is very simple. Not much has been done to decorate the eating area. Plain tables and chairs, and the floor is still that from the previous tenant. Don't let the "hole-in-the-wall" atmosphere stop you from enjoying some truly delicious food. Some of my favorite places to eat in New York City and Denver are small locally owned holes-in-the-wall. Nothing fancy, just folks focusing on bringing you good food at affordable prices.

*(<http://www.journalstar.com/articles/2008/04/09/living/gz/dining/doc47be0a9a8b695830250953.txt>)



2008 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION RECAP

By Pam Makovicka

This year's celebration was a wonderful mix of honoring women for their accomplishments. We started with a great lunch served by The Blend, a local woman-owned business. We greatly appreciate all the time and planning The Blend provided to make the lunch so special.



Girl Scout Troop 500 assisted in planning the event with the goal of earning their Gold Badge. They had tables of Girl Scout memorabilia and each had chosen an outstanding woman to showcase. They

Kirkland spoke on the history of women in the military and the two-and-a-half million female veterans.

Women were participating in the military as early as the 15th century, when Joan of Arc lead the French Army. There were 1,500 women who participated in the Spanish American War; over 33,000 in World War I and 500,000 in World War II. During the

Vietnam War, 7,000 women were deployed; the first time women were deployed to the war theater. At this time women make up 20% of the Armed Forces. MajGen Kirkland explained how

women, as far back as the Revolutionary War, were disguising themselves as men to provide themselves the opportunity to fight for their country.

MajGen Kirkland's military career began

in 1973 when she enlisted in the Navy. She explained that it was not something many women did but she had decided that the military benefits would provide a way to further her education. Her first assignment was on the Island of Guam where seven female Sailors and 5,000 male Sailors were stationed. She was met with many obstacles, and changing the perceptions of why she had joined the Navy was the first order of business. The seven female Sailors became involved in family programs and became friends with the male Sailors' wives, making the wives and Sailors more comfortable about having female Sailors in the unit.

In 1982, MajGen Kirkland joined the Nevada National Guard. Again she was

faced with the fact that male Soldiers felt uncomfortable having females working with them in the Guard. She had to make them realize she was not the competition but a comrade in arms. In 1988 she became the first female



commander in the Nevada National Guard and in 2000

she was appointed Nevada's first female Adjutant General, one of three in the nation. MajGen Kirkland expressed a hope that the changes allowing female Soldiers in almost every field in the military will make our children and grandchildren wonder why there is a need for celebrating Women's History month.

MajGen Kirkland ended her presentation with her three goals for success. The first is passion, making sure you love what you do. The second is preparation, planning for your future. Third is integrity and commitment, making good decisions because they are the right thing to do. Her last words of wisdom for the young people attending the celebration were

"Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something. With perseverance you can accomplish anything you desire."



had posters of information for each woman. The Girl Scouts decorated the tables with centerpieces and home baked

cookies, using the original Girl Scout cookie recipe. This proved to be a great setting for the presentation. Brownie Troop 284 posted the colors. They also did a wonderful job of leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem.

Our guest speaker was Major General (MajGen) Cynthia N. Kirkland, Adjutant General for the State of Nevada. MajGen



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DIVERSITY CONFERENCE RECAP: 2008 – DENVER, COLORADO

By Pam Makovicka and LaVonne Rosenthal

The third annual Army National Guard diversity conference was held in beautiful Denver, Colorado, 17-20 March 2008. Several Nebraskans were able to attend the conference, with each of us gaining new insight and perspectives on diversity.

A number of military dignitaries addressed the group at the beginning of the conference. Statistics were flashed on the screen, showing the gap between current Guard demographics and where the Guard hopes to be in the future. The increase in force structure can only be fulfilled through recruiting and retaining exceptional Soldiers of all races and genders. MG James Nuttall, Deputy Director of the Army National Guard, stated that the National Guard's view on diversity is to ask ourselves: "are



we doing absolutely everything we can do for our Soldiers in advance?" He also stated that "diversity makes us strong and heritage is something to draw upon."

The Army National Guard is striving to create a culture of diversity competence. To be able to accomplish this goal we must understand the three aspects of diversity:

1. Ethical Diversity is the respect of all people of all cultures,
2. Practical Diversity is recognizing and accepting the differences and
3. Functional Diversity is the mentoring and training to make it work.

For diversity to thrive we must first focus on achieving a healthy culture. We must create meaning by making diversity relevant to the unit members

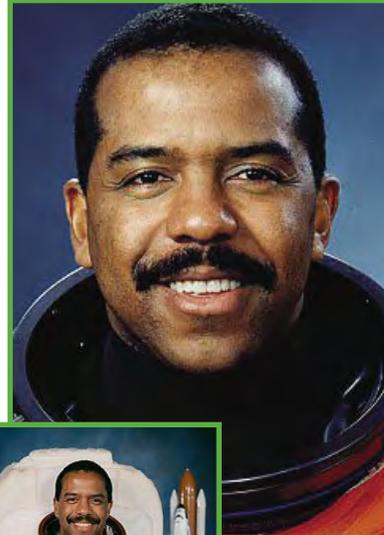
and create opportunities for members of the organization to connect. It is critical that we be authentic and avoid self-deception.

One of the keynote speakers was Bernard A. Harris, Jr., MD, who was the first African-American to walk in space. His talk was titled "Strategies from Space and Beyond." Dr. Harris was raised in Temple, Texas on an Indian reservation. His father abused alcohol and his mother worked for the Federal Indian Program. Dr. Harris spent many evenings standing out on the plains looking up at the stars and dreaming of getting into a spaceship. His dreams turned into goals as he set to one day be part of the U.S. space program. His strategies for success are as follows:

- 1) Dreams are the reality of the future.
- 2) Education is the key to fulfilling dreams.
- 3) Execution is critical to success.
- 4) Success begins with the will (it is all a state of mind).
- 5) Be inspired.
- 6) Do something challenging.

Dr. Harris spoke of overcoming many prejudicial obstacles to become a member of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He is also the founder of The Harris Foundation, which enables youth to develop and achieve their full potential through the support of social, recreational and educational programs for kindergarten through twelfth grade. His final statement spoke volumes: "There are three kinds of

people in the world, those who watch things happen, those that make things happen and those who wonder what happened."



Pam attended the workshop, Diversity Management 101 in which they spoke about the Army National Guard working on a Diversity Strategic Plan. At this time National Guard Bureau (NGB) is devising a new program called Pamphlet 600-XX which will outline how states will manage diversity issues. The plan

will require a State Diversity Manager to provide guidance to shape and drive forward diversity initiatives on cultivating and maintaining best practices in the area of inclusiveness. The goals for every state will include policy creation, education and training, community outreach/partnering, recruitment, retention, career management and mentoring/coaching. NGB stressed the importance of a strong Special Emphasis Program (SEP) in each state, and Nebraska is one of only a few states that has an active SEP. Within the next year we should be hearing much more on this initiative.

One of the workshops LaVonne attended was titled "Beyond Awareness." The message from this guest speaker was that there are four causes of diversity failures. They are:

- 1) Blink – an unconscious bias.
- 2) Link – poor relationships.
- 3) Sync – poor alignment of systems.
- 4) Wink – lack of authenticity.

We have a tendency toward self-deception when we justify our actions as we deal with situations we don't agree with. This causes cognitive dissonance and can result in damage to your reputation as those around you see a disconnect in words and

Continued on Page 11

Diversity Conference Continued from Page 10

actions.

“Illusions of Inclusion” was another workshop that was offered. This workshop emphasized the misnomer that in diversity one size fits all. Just as there are many possible selections on a restaurant menu, there are many possibilities of diversity and how to manage it.

There are three ways to move beyond awareness. The first is to resist the urge to use the one-size-fits-all approach. Be comfortable with the fact that we're all different. Second, understand your own biases. That's something that can't be accomplished in 90 minutes. It's important to accept the fact that it's okay to treat people differently. Third, maximize strengths and balance weaknesses. This is done by getting to know people and their strengths.

One of the keynote speakers for the

conference was Joe Gilliam, also known as “Coach Joe.” This dynamic gentleman shared his enthusiasm for coaching,



mentoring and leading. According to Coach Joe, there are three things a leader does to make diversity happen:

- 1) Clarify your expectations of people.
- 2) Train the people (put new information into their “computer,” aka their brain).
- 3) Hold people accountable.

The highlight of the entire conference was the awards luncheon, where winners of the 2007 Excellence in Diversity awards were announced. We are proud to announce that SGT Adrian Velez, Hispanic Liaison for Nebraska Army National Guard (ARNG) in western Nebraska, won the ARNG individual award. His accomplishments include being involved in community events, translating important documents for recruits and their families, as well as working with government organizations dealing

with immigration issues. Congratulations SGT Velez!! (For more information on this award and SGT Velez, see page 6). 

Women's Celebration Continued from Page 9

Each year the Special Emphasis Group honors one of our Nebraska National Guard women for her unique accomplishments. Previous awardees were LTC Georgia Kroese and SMSgt (retired)



Peggy Brown. This year's recipient was COL Roma Amundson. She has made great contributions to the Nebraska National Guard and is well known for her leadership in various military endeavors. COL Amundson was also a Girl Scout Troop leader for Troop 164. From Daisies in 1991, to Senior Girl Scouts in 2004, she always encouraged each individual girl to accomplish her goals. COL Amundson is the leader of the Special Emphasis Program group and has inspired the group to achieve numerous accomplishments. As her record of achievement shows, COL Amundson is a mentor and model for all.

Girl Scout Troop 500 performed a skit on the history of Girl Scouts and its founder, Juliette Gordon Low. Girl Scouts began in March of 1912 and is still going strong over 90 years later. The Girl Scout mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character. Upon completion of this celebration, Troop 500 will earn the Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. Brownie Troop 284 then retired the colors. The Special Emphasis Group wishes to thank the Girl Scouts and Brownies for making this year's celebration unique and a great success. 

HERITAGE LUNCHEONS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

European American Heritage Celebration

July 23 or 24

Entertainment and food. More details to follow.

Hispanic American Heritage Month Fiesta

September/October

Native American Heritage Month Celebration

November

Grundlovsfest (Danish Days)

Dannebrog

Aebleskiver (Danish pancakes) followed by a parade, melodrama, games, crafts, duck race, Danish dancers and more.

June 7-8

9:00am-9:00pm

Downtown

308-226-2237

<http://www.dannebrog.org>

South Central Czech-Slovak Festival Hastings

Accordian jamboree, baked goods, Czech dancers, heritage displays, Ostry Family Czech Singers, Polka dance and more
June 7 11:00am-10:00pm
VFW Club 1053 Wabash Avenue
308-384-7355

<http://www.nebraskaczechs.org>

Ninth Friends of the Intertribal Gathering at Fort Robinson State Park Crawford

Exciting cultural festival with authentic Native American arts and crafts along with traditional powwow dancing, drums and songs. Park permit required.

June 13-15

11:00am-10:30pm

3200 U.S. Highway 20 308-632-1311

<http://www.panhandlercd.com>

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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW NEBRASKA?

[HTTP://WWW.NEBRASKASTUDIES.ORG/](http://www.nebraskastudies.org/)

Compiled by Peggy Brown

1. Which Nebraska city was originally named Grand Lake?
 - a. Grand Island
 - b. Alliance
 - c. Ogallala
2. This Nebraska city is named Nebraska's Swedish capital.
 - a. Stromsburg
 - b. Gothenburg
 - c. Stockham
3. Nebraska is an Otoe word meaning?
 - a. "sand hills"
 - b. "flat water"
 - c. "flat land"
4. North Platte is home to the world's largest _____.
 - a. feed lot
 - b. grain bin
 - c. railyard
5. What city is the oldest city in Nebraska?
 - a. Bellevue
 - b. Plattsmouth
 - c. Falls City
6. What does the word Omaha mean?
 - a. "flat lands"
 - b. "those going against the wind or current"
 - c. "those seeking the good life"
7. This city is Nebraska's Czech capital.
 - a. Wilber
 - b. Prague
 - c. York
8. What town is the birthplace of former University of Nebraska football coach and Congressman Tom Osborne?
 - a. Lincoln
 - b. North Platte
 - c. Hastings
9. What is Nebraska's state flower?
 - a. daisy
 - b. clover
 - c. goldenrod
10. Nebraska also has a Danish and Irish capital. What are they, respectively?
 - a. Dannebrog, O'Neill
 - b. Beatrice, St. Edward
 - c. Valentine, O'Neill
11. This Nebraska city is the birthplace and home to many notable politicians, actors and cultural leaders such as Gerald Ford, Fred Astaire, Marlon Brando and Malcolm X.
 - a. Lincoln
 - b. Omaha
 - c. Grand Island
12. What year did Nebraska become a state?
 - a. 1876
 - b. 1867
 - c. 1865
13. What year did the first African-American settle in the Nebraska Territory?
 - a. 1855
 - b. 1876
 - c. 1900
14. Who is the founder of Arbor Day?
 - a. Edwin Perkins
 - b. Susan La Flesche Picotte
 - c. J. Sterling Morton
15. The Nebraska Sandhills is the largest sand dune formation in North America. Approximately how many square miles does it cover?
 - a. 20,000 square miles
 - b. 30,000 square miles
 - c. 15,000 square miles

*Nebraska Trivia Answers on
Pages 15-16*

Special Events Continued from Page 11

German Day **Omaha**

Celebrate old-fashioned traditions with German folk dancing, singing, great ethnic foods and plenty of German history.

June 14 11:30am-12:00am

German-American Society

3717 S. 120th St. 402-332-3440

<http://www.germanamericansociety.org>

Swedish Midsommar Festival

Stromsburg

Plenty of free entertainment for everyone! Swedish dancers, arts and crafts, smorgasbord, parades and more.

June 20-22 see website for times

City Square 402-764-0252

<http://www.stromsburgnebraska.com>

Celebrate Lincoln Ethnic Festival

Lincoln

Experience the world as the downtown streets are transformed into a colorful, bustling world market. Discover food, music, dancing and activities from around the world.

June 20-21 11:00am-10:30pm

Downtown 402-434-6902

<http://www.celebratelincoln.org>

Central Nebraska Ethnic Festival

Grand Island

Ethnic foods, street bazaar, education pavilion, beer garden, dancing and multicultural entertainment.

June 27-29 see website for times

Downtown 308-385-5444

<http://www.grandisland.com/ethnic>

Annual Czech Festival **Clarkson**

Entertainment for all ages including ethnic foods, music and dancing.

June 27-29 10:00am-12:00am

Pine Street 402-892-3210

<http://www.ci.clarkson.ne.us>

Native American Month **Kearney**

Exhibits and live re-enactments. Learn about the Native American tribes of Nebraska.

July 1-31 9:00am-6:00pm

Great Platte River Road Archway

3060 E. 1st St. 308-237-1000

<http://www.archway.org> 

RECAP OF FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN & FEDERAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL TRAINING DAY - 24 APRIL 2008

By Pam Makovicka

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Agricultural Research and Development Center (ARDC) was a wonderful setting for a day of soaking in training. This is a world-class facility equipped with state of the art data and computer equipment. The auditorium provides a comfortable and efficient work area. I highly recommend the use of this facility for training.

This year's training day was co-sponsored by the Federally Employed Women and Federal Women's Council. The goals of the day were to provide affordable training, networking, as well as earning money for scholarships given to federally employed women who are actively pursuing advanced education. This group has awarded more than thirty scholarships, with many of them supporting women working for the Nebraska Military Department.

The first presenter was our own Graphic Art Specialist, Mary Schmidt-Rodriguez on the topic of "Building Blocks of Creating a Successful Newsletter." Mary has a vast knowledge on this subject as creative director for two newsletters for the Nebraska Military Department. She

dazzled the group with all the behind the scenes preparation required to publish a newsletter of high quality.



The next presenter was another Nebraska Military Department employee, Auditor, Denise Wald, on Nifty Tips and Tricks Computer Training.

Denise is a dynamic presenter and very knowledgeable in Word and Excel and everyone left with an enhanced understanding of each.

During our lunch break we watched the video "The Joy of Stress," by Loretta LaRoche. You can find a series of videos by Loretta LaRoche in the public library and I highly recommend them. This particular topic was about "hardening of the attitude." LaRoche is great at bringing humor into her message. In fact, the attendees were laughing so hard that many were crying.

The presentation on "Who Gets Grandma's Pie Plate" was given by Debbie Way from Roper and Sons. She explained



the importance of planning for the future. Providing your family with a will and detailed list of all your wishes could assist

your family during a very difficult time.

Our final speaker of the day was Dr.

Jean Krejci, who presently works at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, in the Healthy Homes Program,



as the Community Health and Diversity Educator. Jean has conducted over 700 workshops with over 16,000 participants. Her message on a healthy and happy workplace was filled with humor and numerous practical ideas to improve your workplace settings.

This was a great day for federally employed women (and men, too) to have a day away from their normal routine to receive valuable training on a variety of topics. 

DIVERSITY DATES

JUNE/JULY 2008

June 1..... Children's Day (China)
June 1..... Gawai Dayak (Malaysia)
June 1..... Independence Day (Western Samoa)
June 2..... Republic Day (Italy)
June 5..... Ascension Day (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 5..... Red Earth Native American Cultural Festival (U.S. - Native American)
June 5..... World Environment Day (International)
June 6..... D-Day (U.S.)
June 6..... Flag Day (Sweden)
June 6..... Memorial Day (South Korea)
June 8..... Race Unity Day (Baha'i)
June 8-9..... Shavuot (Jewish)
June 8..... Tuen Ng (China)
June 11..... King Kamehameha Day (U.S. - Hawaii)
June 12..... Independence Day (Philippines)
June 14..... Flag Day (U.S.)
June 14..... Queen's Birthday (U.K.)
June 15..... Father's Day (U.S.)
June 15..... Pentecost (Coptic and Eastern Orthodox Christian)
June 16..... Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev (Sikh)

June 17..... Independence Day (Iceland)
June 19..... Juneteenth (U.S. - African-American)
June 20..... Solstice (International)
June 21..... Ligha (Celtic, Pagan)
June 23..... St. John's Eve (Christian, International)
June 24..... Feast of St. John the Baptist (Christian, International)
June 26..... United Nations Charter Day (U.N.)
June 26..... Independence Day (Madagascar)
June 27..... Independence Day (Djibouti)
June 28..... Versaille Treaty Day (International)
June 30..... Independence Day (Zaire)
July 1..... Canada Day (Canada)
July 1..... Foundation of the Republic (Somalia)
July 1..... Liberation Day (Suriname)
July 1..... SAR Establishment Day (Hong Kong)
July 1..... Tirgan (Iran)
July 4..... Fil-American Friendship Day (Philippines, U.S.)
July 4..... Independence Day (U.S.)
July 5..... Independence Day (Venezuela)
July 6..... Jan Jus Day (Czech Republic)
July 9..... Aid Chebeb (Morocco)

July 9..... Independence Day (Argentina)
July 10..... Independence Day (Bahamas)
July 11..... Naadam Day (Mongolia)
July 13..... O-Bon (Japan)
July 14..... Bastille Day (France)
July 17..... Constitution Day (South Korea)
July 18..... Asalha Puja (Buddhist)
July 19..... Liberation Day (Nicaragua)
July 20..... Independence Day (Colombia)
July 21..... Liberation Day (Guam)
July 21..... National Day (Belgium)
July 21..... Umi-no-Hi (Japan)
July 23..... Birth of Haile Selassie I (Ethiopia, Rastafarian)
July 23..... Revolution Day (Egypt)
July 24..... Constitution Day (Puerto Rico)
July 25..... Americans with Disabilities Act Signed (U.S.)
July 25..... Independence Day (Liberia)
July 25..... National Day (Cuba)
July 27..... Barbosa Day (Puerto Rico)
July 31..... Feast of St. Ignatius Loyola (Spain)



SEP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Ann Reicks - Family Readiness Assistant for the State of Nebraska (contracted through Military Personnel Services Corporation)

I think many of you will be able to identify with my story. I haven't patented any great inventions (I actually don't have any patents or patents pending), I have not held political office (unless you count senior class president), I haven't made a significant scientific discovery and the list goes on and on. It is very easy to think of all of the things in life we have not accomplished and dreams we have not fulfilled, but it is very important to think about everything we have accomplished!

I graduated from Waukee Community High School in Waukee, Iowa. At that time, Waukee was a small town of approximately 2,000 people and my graduating class had 72 graduates. Now the graduating classes in Waukee (located just west of Des Moines) have several hundred students. Small town living in Iowa did not expose me to much cultural diversity.

I received much more than a degree while attending Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. It was during my time in college I developed an interest in other cultures, especially the people and cultures of Asia. I studied Japanese for a semester and Mandarin Chinese for two years. In addition to my language studies, I also took many other courses which focused on the history, religion, geography and politics of Asia. Unfortunately, I have not had the opportunity to travel to Asia but hope to take a trip to China and Korea within the next few years.

My degree in Political Science and International Studies brought me to Lincoln, Nebraska and the Export Department at Pfizer. I worked with Pfizer customers throughout the world coordinating the production of their demands for animal health products. I had the opportunity to work with



*Photo by Susan Ranta of JS Photography
www.JSPhotographyLLC.com*

people from over 65 countries. I did very little travelling, but enjoyed meeting my international colleagues when they had a chance to visit Lincoln and tour the facility. During my thirteen years at Pfizer, I received numerous gifts from my international colleagues including a handmade blanket from Thailand and silk scarf from Japan. I also received a gown from Malaysia but I have not yet found the right occasion to wear it.

One of my fondest memories of spending time with my international colleagues was a visit to Panda Garden in Lincoln (233 North 48th Street – between Super Saver and Target). The director of Pfizer Korea's animal health division brought several key customers to the United States on a promotional tour which included a stop in Lincoln to visit the manufacturing facility. This was my first experience with traditional Korean food (but not my last). The food was served family style and was delicious. My husband and I now visit Panda Garden at least once a month and order from the Korean menu. Of course, he knows exactly what to order since he spent three years in South Korea where he

was stationed at Camp Greaves for one year, and K-16 Air Base in Seoul for two years. It turns out my favorite dish is Bibimbab which consists primarily of vegetables, rice and Korean hot pepper paste.

I began working with the Nebraska Army National Guard as a Family Readiness Assistant in March 2007. My primary function is to coordinate Family Readiness Group development and sustainment by working with Family Readiness Group volunteers, military points of contact and Rear Detachment Officers to provide training and hands-on assistance for establishing and maintaining an effective Family Readiness system within each unit.

After attending several Special Emphasis Program (SEP) luncheons and events, I decided I wanted to be a member of an organization dedicated to promoting diversity inside and outside of the Nebraska National Guard. My short time with the SEP group has been very rewarding. I have met a variety of people in the Guard community and have had several interesting discussions at our Lunch and Learn. I believe achieving diversity within the Nebraska National Guard is a difficult challenge and I want to try to be a part of the solution.

I am a proud military wife, married to CW3 Gregory Reicks. Greg works full-time for the Nebraska Army National Guard. He has over twenty years of service and began his military career with the Army upon graduating from high school. He spent five years with the Army and joined the Nebraska Army National Guard after leaving active duty. Greg is currently a member of the 267th Ordnance Company (Direct Support) Maintenance and deployed with the unit to Iraq from January 2004 to February 2005. 🌍

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW NEBRASKA? - ANSWERS

[HTTP://WWW.NEBRASKASTUDIES.ORG/](http://www.nebraskastudies.org/)

Questions on Page 12

Compiled by Peggy Brown

1. b. Alliance was originally known as Grand Lake. When the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad came to Grand Lake in 1888, the railroad superintendent, G. W. Holdrege, wanted to change it to a simple one-word name closer to the beginning of the alphabet, which he thought would be better for business. The U.S. Post Office gave Holdrege permission and he picked "Alliance" for the new name of the town.
2. a. Stromsburg. On the third weekend of June each year everyone in Stromsburg becomes Swedish at heart. Citizens don their Swedish garb and welcome thousands of visitors to experience true Swedish food and celebration. The Swedish Midsommar Festival acknowledges Stromsburg as the "Swede Capital of Nebraska."
3. b. The Otoe tribe gave this state its name, but they were not native to the region. "Nebraska" is an Otoe word that means "flat water." Like migrant groups before and after, the Otoe immigrated to the Central Plains from the east, just ahead of the Europeans.

4. c. North Platte is home to the world's largest railyard, Bailey Yard. Union Pacific Railroad's Bailey Yard is the largest railroad classification yard in the world. It was named in honor of former Union Pacific President Edd H. Bailey. If the University of Nebraska Cornhusker football team were to play there, they'd have enough room for 2,800 football fields. This massive yard covers 2,850 acres, reaching a total length of eight miles, well beyond the borders of North Platte, a community of 25,000 citizens. Put end-to-end, Bailey Yard's 315 miles of track would reach from North Platte in western Nebraska east past Omaha on the Iowa border along the Missouri River. Every 24 hours, Bailey Yard handles 10,000 railroad cars. Of those, 3,000 are sorted daily in the yard's eastward and westward yards, nicknamed "hump" yards. Using a mound cresting 34 feet for eastbound trains and 20.1 feet for those heading west, these two hump yards allow four cars a minute to roll gently into any of 114 "bowl" tracks where they become part of trains headed for dozens of destinations. Together, these two yards have 18 receiving and 16 departure tracks.



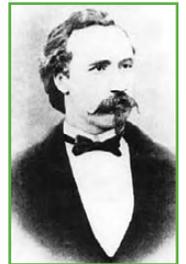
5. a. Bellevue was incorporated in 1855 and is the oldest city in Nebraska. The City of Bellevue began as a fur post established by the Missouri Fur Company in 1822, to serve as a central trading point with local Omaha, Otoe and Pawnee tribes.

6. b. The name "Omaha" is generally interpreted to mean, "those going against the wind or current." It is speculated that the Omaha Indians were referred to as such due to their earlier, northward movements against the current of the Mississippi River. The first Native American groups included the Pawnee, Otoe and Sioux. By the early eighteenth century, the Omaha Indians, a group of Indians who shared cultural traditions with the Pawnee, had moved into the vicinity of present-day Omaha. The Omaha and Ponca Native American tribes are closely related. Both tribes speak a language called the Dhegiha division of the Siouan linguistic stock. Their language is similar to that spoken by several tribes who lived further south during the historic period: the Osage, Kansa and Quapaw tribes. These language facts and historical stories told



7. a. Wilber is Nebraska's Czech Capital. Wilber is in Saline County, which has the largest Czech population of any county in Nebraska. The Czech pioneers came to Saline County in the 1850s and 1860s. Most of the early pioneers lived in dugouts which were dug into a bank. Some of the first pioneers were Jelinek, Sestak, Duras, Herman, Sadilek, Simonek, Rychtarik, Stejskal, Vaclav, Beck, Borecky, Prucha, Mallat, Safranek, Synovec, Stepanek, Bartos, Bohacek, Vilda, Jiskra, Svoboda, Kohel, Fritz, Senfeld, Chmelir, Zajicek, Salda, Saljs, Rezabek and Kastanek. Wilber hosts a Czech festival each year during the first full weekend of August. There are three parades, starting with the children's parade on Friday night. The small community of Wilber and the surrounding area are host to 20,000 to 30,000 visitors who come to the community to celebrate the Czech heritage and eat traditional Czech foods such as roast duck, roast pork, potato dumplings, kraut, rye bread and kolaches.
8. c. Tom Osborne's birthplace is Hastings, Nebraska.
9. c. Goldenrod is Nebraska's state flower.
10. a. Dannebrog and O'Neill. Each June, the village of Dannebrog (named from the Danish Flag), hosts a weekend celebration honoring its heritage, during which the citizens of Dannebrog commemorate the anniversary of the signing of Denmark's Free Constitution in 1849 by King Frederik VII. Dannebrog also hosts a Danish Christmas celebration in December.

The city of O'Neill was founded by John O'Neill in 1880. General John O'Neill, for whom the town of O'Neill is named, was born in Ireland. He fought for the Union during the Civil War. After having been briefly imprisoned for his participation in the so-called Fenian invasion of Canada, General O'Neill began his trek to what we know today as O'Neill, Nebraska. On St. Patrick's Day 1969, Governor Norbert Tiemann officially proclaimed O'Neill the Irish Capital of Nebraska.



11. b. Omaha is the birthplace of many notable individuals.
12. b. On March 1st, 1867 Nebraska became the 37th state.
13. a. In 1855, Sally Bayne arrived in Omaha and is counted as the first free African-American person to settle in the Nebraska Territory. Before that, both slaves and free Blacks had traveled through on the Oregon Trail and settled on the west coast. Gradually, along with Whites, Blacks stopped and settled in Nebraska. There were 25 African-Americans recorded in the 1860 territorial census. In addition, the Homestead Act provided another incentive for settlement. In 1870, Robert Anderson, a former slave, became the first Black to homestead in Nebraska.
14. c. J. Sterling Morton was born April 22, 1832 in Adams, New York. Morton, along with Robert Furnas, was the co-founder of Arbor Day. He also served as the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture from 1893 to 1896. In 1872, the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture adopted Morton's resolution to create Arbor Day. This day was to be set aside to plant trees. Prizes were offered to counties and individuals for properly planting the largest number of trees on that day. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted in



Continued on Page 16

SEP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Captain Dale L. Burrage - Movement Control Officer – United State Property & Fiscal Office Logistics



I was born 30 May 1967 in Dayton, Ohio and graduated from John Henry Patterson Cooperative High School in Dayton in 1985. A high school all-American in Track and Field, I received a full athletic scholarship to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). While at UNL, I was a three time Big 8 champion in the 110 meter hurdles and 400 meter hurdles, and I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Consumer Science and Education and Broadcast Journalism.

I enlisted in the Nebraska Air National Guard in November 1992 in the Security Police field. While a member of the Air National Guard I deployed to Italy in support of Operation No Fly, and to Atlanta in support of the 1996 Olympic Games. In January of 1998, I made the decision to go from Air Force blue to Army green and enlisted in the Nebraska Army National Guard as an Armored Crewman with the 1-167th Cavalry Squadron. I attended Nebraska State Officer Candidate School beginning in April 1998 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in August of 1999.

I have served in the following assignments: Assistant S2 (Intelligence), and Support Platoon Leader with the 1-167th Cavalry; and Transportation Officer and Detachment Commander for the 867th Quartermaster Battalion. Following that assignment, I was deployed to Iraq with the 1057th Transportation Company as the 2nd Platoon Leader and Executive Officer from January 2003 to February 2004. Post deployment, I rejoined the 867th as the Transportation

Officer. I then served as the Aide DeCamp for MajGen Roger P. Lempke, Adjutant General for the Nebraska National Guard. Most recently I served as the first commander of the 623rd Engineering Company.

My military education includes Desert Warfield Training while in the Air National Guard, Transportation Officer Basic Course, Transportation Officer Advance Course, Combined Logistic Services Staff School, Multifunctional Combat Service Support Course and Combat Service Support Pre-Command Course, Search and Extraction Course, Search and Extraction C2 (Command and Control) Training and phase 1 of CERF-P (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear High Yield Explosive Enhance Response Force Package) qualifications.

I have four children: son, Nathan (19), daughter, Tara (17), son, Jordan (15) and a one-year-old son, Derek with my girlfriend, Theresa. 🌍

Nebraska Trivia Answers Continued from Page 15

Nebraska on the first Arbor Day. Nebraska celebrates Arbor Day on the last Friday of April. All 50 states celebrate Arbor Day, although the dates may vary in keeping with the local climate.

-Susan LaFlesche Picotte was born on the Omaha reservation in northeastern Nebraska in 1865. She was the first Native American woman to earn a medical degree.



-Edwin Perkins would become the inventor and promoter of Kool-Aid — an affordable and favorite drink of children nationwide.

15. a. The Nebraska Sandhills is one of the most unique areas in the world. Spanning almost 20,000 square miles (almost 1/4 the area of Nebraska)



the Sandhills is the largest sand dune formation in North America. The sand was thought to have been brought into the area originally by water and blown into dunes by wind (think of the Sahara Desert).

<http://www.stromsburgnebraska.com/festival.asp>

www.nebraskastudies.org

www.thenebraskasandhills.com

www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/nebraska

<http://www.uprr.com/aboutup/facilities/bailey/index.shtml>

<http://www.historicomaha.com/hstrypag.htm>

<http://www.barnasdrug.com/history.html>

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

<http://cityofoneill.com/index.html>

Editorial Note: After detailed research, we were unable to determine the historical difference between the spellings of "Oto" and "Otoe," and their different meanings or interpretations. For the purposes of this article, we have chosen to use the word "Otoe" to refer to the tribe of Native Americans who lived in Nebraska during the 1800s. We apologize that we are not able to be more accurate, and welcome any reader's response for clarification. 🌍

With summer fast approaching, I thought it would be fun to do an easy recipe that didn't require a lot of time spent in the kitchen. Additionally, with May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, I wanted to make something Hawaiian.

There are many interesting recipes, both online and in a cookbook published by the Maui Extension Homemaker's Council. However, I had no way of getting many of the indigenous ingredients. I finally found two recipes that bring the taste of Hawaii and the ease I was looking for. These recipes are courtesy of the Aloha Joe website.

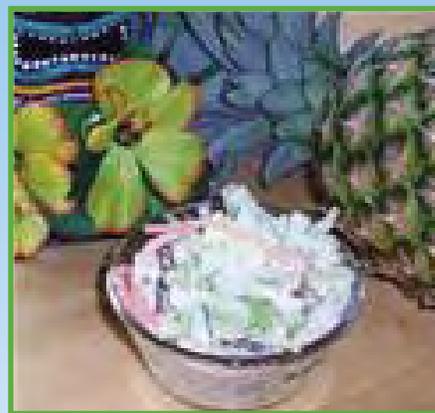
These recipes could be put together in the morning and when you come home from work or from a day outdoors, dinner is all but ready for you.

Hawaiian Coleslaw

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 4 cups cabbage, shredded (or buy cabbage already shredded in a bag) | 1/2 cup mayonnaise |
| 1/2 tsp. sugar | Dash of pepper (or more to taste) |
| 1 cup crushed pineapple (drained) | 1 Tbs. milk (mix with the mayonnaise) |
| 1/4 tsp. salt | Dash of paprika |
| | 1 Tbs. vinegar |

Put cabbage into a large mixing bowl. Combine remaining ingredients in a medium bowl and whisk together. Pour dressing over cabbage and mix thoroughly. Refrigerate.

Makes 8 to 10 servings.



Super Easy Crock Pot Kalua Pig

- Pork butt and shoulder (4 or 5 lbs, depending on the size of your crock pot)
- 2 cups apple cider
- 1/2 cap Liquid Smoke (can normally find in the aisle with the BBQ sauce)

Put pork, apple cider and liquid smoke into a crock pot. Turn crock pot on low and cook for 8 – 10 hours. Take meat out of the crock pot and shred. Salt and pepper if desired. The pork can be served alone or as a sandwich.

<http://www.alohajoe.com/recipes.htm> 

THE NEBRASKA MILITARY DEPARTMENT VALUES DIVERSITY

The purpose of the SEP Group is to work with leadership and management in carrying out their joint responsibility to identify barriers to the recruitment and advancement of special emphasis groups, devise solutions and draft plans to implement the solutions.

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