

## DRAGON PULSE



What type of recreation could the Fort Bragg area use?



"Off roading, because it's hot."

— Billie Buchanan  
Family Member



"An activity center where people can go, hang out, play sports and eat."

— Traci Cole  
Civilian



"A place to go four wheeling or a place to take your trucks off roading."

— Pvt. Justin Silvey  
Echo Company, 1st  
Battalion, 325th Airborne  
Infantry Regiment



"More concerts and live shows."

— Evette Smith  
Family Member



"Leap frog because people need to get the ego out of their heads and get down in the mud."

— Pvt. Pedro Valerio  
Echo Company, 1st  
Battalion, 325th Airborne  
Infantry Regiment

# Guarding information is everyone's responsibility

by Ed Beemer

Army Office of Information Assurance and Compliance

It's really very simple. If we keep our information and communications secure, lives will be saved. Operational security and information assurance are not just Army programs. They are a mindset that requires the constant attention of every Army officer, enlisted Soldier, civilian employee, contractor and family member.

It was easier to keep a secret when Soldiers carried muskets and marched onto open fields in tight formation. You deployed patrols to ward off scouts, you armed and escorted your messengers and you kept your Soldiers out of taverns and away from pretty faces. Today it's a little more complicated.

Technology has given us great communication capabilities. It has also opened the door to eavesdropping and spying opportunities where the enemy can be half a world away and reading or listening in as if he was seated right next to you. Technology has also given us great capabilities in securing our information flow. Firewalls, encryption and public key infrastructure have taken over the jobs of patrols and armed messengers on the networked Army of today. There are those who would tell you that technology is the ultimate answer to any security challenges the Army might have. The fact is, in an open environment, that's simply not the case. There is, and always will be, the human factor.

It's easy to fall victim to the pressures of deadlines, pres-

sure from higher ranks and civilian leaders. It's faster to cut corners and bypass policies and procedures. It's easy to justify actions that happened "just once." But no break in the IA/OPSEC perimeter is justifiable. There's too much at stake.

If Army personnel ranging from general staff to raw recruits don't follow IA/OPSEC policies and procedures, we will remain vulnerable. The enemy is smart, technically able and, if given an opportunity, will exploit our mistakes. Our cyber and communication defenses are being probed every nano-second from a wide variety of sources: state sponsored intrusions, terrorists and even little Billy next door. The only true protection is human vigilance, and the only person who can ensure that happens is you.

# Proud wife inspired by Soldier's hard work

Dear Paraglide Editor,

My cell phone rang while I was sitting in line at the bank drive-through. "Hey, honey," my husband said in his usual upbeat tone. "What are you up to?"

"Just running some errands," I said, inching forward in line, irritated that it was taking longer than I had expected and the kids were hungry and the baby needed a nap.

I needed to stop by Target too, or could that wait until tomorrow?

My thoughts were a million miles away when he said, "I'm at the range right now. I can't believe how hot it is out here." I said "Yea, I know. It's miserable, huh?"

But what did I know about the heat? I'd only briefly experienced it that day on my way from the house to the van.

We chatted for another minute, then he said he had

to get back to work. I said I had to stop by the commissary to pick up diapers.

I wondered if Paris Hilton ever had to run errands. I was quite certain that if she did, they wouldn't include picking up diapers and doing her own banking in a minivan.

I got back out into traffic and found myself behind a car with one of those stickers that says, "Army wife, toughest job in the Army." I got to thinking about that sticker, how true those words once were. But are they still true? Or are those stickers now obsolete and passe?

Toughest job in the Army? I don't think so, not anymore.

The tough job belongs to the Soldier, the one who signed his name on a dotted line, giving up years of his life to do something he believes in. The sheer bravery of that act alone made them all heroes in my eyes.

The tough job belongs to the guy who is out at the range, in the 100 degree heat, lying perfectly still in his red, dirt-stained ACU's in full body armor while sweat trickles into his eyes, stinging. Looking out onto the horizon ahead of him, all he can see are a thousand pine trees shimmering in the noonday heat.

Maybe a mosquito buzzes by his ear, humming crazily.

And maybe it is at that precise moment that he loves his job but also hates it so much he could just throw down his weapon and run away to Antarctica to escape the oppressive heat. But he doesn't.

He sticks it out and tells himself that at the end of the day, he can enjoy the three B's of life: beer, bath and bed — and in that order too.

The tough job belongs to the Soldier who has to go home to his wife and tell her that he's deploying. Again.

And hopes that she will stand by him this time as she has in the past. Maybe he worries that she won't want to go through it again.

And while he's deployed, he worries that she will find another life without him in it. That the e-mails will taper off and he will come home to an empty house and see divorce papers on the granite counter top they picked out together when they first built that house, in happier days.

It's not a pretty picture, but it happens.

Some Army wives just stop being able to handle what the Army throws at their husbands, and they move on to greener, more stable pastures.

The tough job belongs to the Soldier who goes to work long before the sun comes up and comes home long after it's gone down. There are days when he doesn't get to see his kids at all because he gets home

too late. He misses birthdays, anniversaries, special occasions and doctor appointments when his wife gets to see the tiny baby kicking around on the ultrasound for the first time. Sometimes he misses the baby's birth altogether, through no fault of his own, and he alone has to live with that guilt. But he does what he can, when he can, and hopes that his wife will understand.

So what was so tough about my job as an Army wife?

Not too much, when you put it in that perspective. Did we even have a right to put those stickers on our cars anymore, in the days where there are whole Web sites, chat rooms, and support boards devoted to us?

When magazines are created just for us (so that we can read the same old articles over and over again, such as "How to survive a

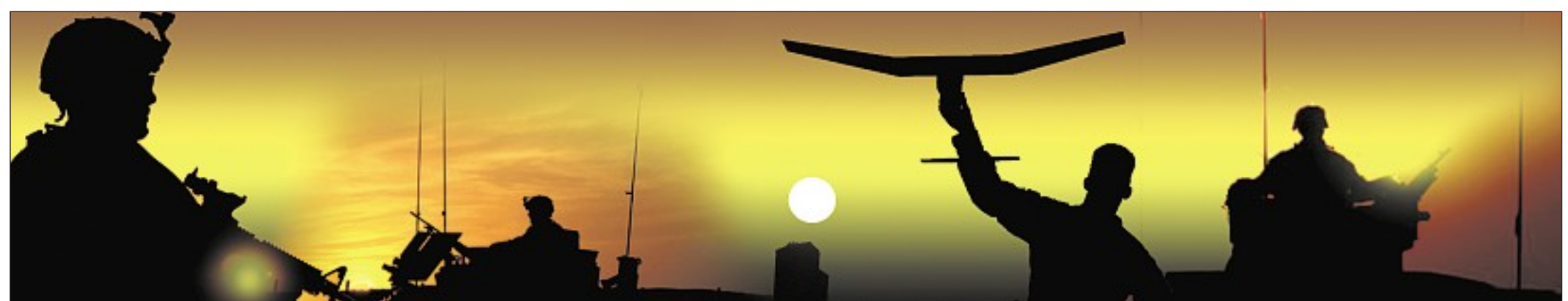
PCS move!" or "How to decorate your house on a budget!")? Even Oprah does shows about us, showering us with gifts, checking her block to say that she too supports the Army wife.

Or did we just want to have a say in it all, a voice that said "What about me?" Somewhere along the line, I think we forgot who we are here for. The Soldier. The one with his life on the line — sometimes literally. It's not about us.

It's about the man we married. Maybe the new sticker should read, "Army wife, just along for the ride." Because, in the end, that's all we're really doing. Enjoying a sometimes wonderful, sometimes terrible, and oftentimes lonely ride on the Army train of life.

May as well sit back and try to enjoy it.

Tammy Dominski  
Fort. Bragg, NC



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