A passage from pages of Army newspapers

“The Forgotten War — Korea — and the war many would like to forget — Vietnam — have memorials on the National Mall. Saturday the participants in the greatest war ever fought, finally had their memorial dedicated.”

— Dennis Ryan, Pentagram, June 4
(The World War II memorial dedication.)

Arikka Johnson is the PAO.

Discussing real-world issues is standard fare for Fort Rucker’s ARMY FLIER. Every issue contains a “hot” topic aimed at not only informing and entertaining its readers, but also educating them about the stark realities of life — inside and outside the main gate. Alzheimer’s is a real-world issue. It can affect men and women regardless of their station or occupation in life. And as we’ve all witnessed during the past months, the disease can wreak havoc on the mind and body. Studies continue to show that men and women in Army BDUs turn to their post and unit newspapers for news and information that can affect them, their families and service. The FLIER is one of only a few Army newspapers that provides openly and frankly a wide-range of contemporary issues. The article on Alzheimer’s, written by Arikka Johnson, is an excellent example of educating the readership. Ken Holder is the PAO.
“The final muster”

Why did he have to die? I’ve asked that question many times, and I’ve heard others who lost comrades in combat ask the same question. As gruesome as this may sound, it is a fact of life in war: someone we know is killed. And the most difficult aspect of such death is facing reality — the loss of a “combat buddy.” No partnership, no bond among men is stronger or closer than the friendship forged in combat.

You need not be told about race relations in combat. Color plays no role. We all laugh together, cry together and hug each other. We share canteens, mess kits, forks, spoons; we share sleeping bags. And we often share blood, and we shed blood. You feel secure knowing your buddy is nearby, seeing him, hearing his voice. He’s looking out for you, and you for him. Band of brothers is not an understatement!

When a friend is killed, part of you goes with him. He was a mere stranger a few months ago; today, he’s your brother, your combat kin. And when he dies, the so-called guilt feeling immediately comes into play. Could you have saved him from harm, from death.

I underwent very strong guilt feelings when my “best friend” was killed in November 1951. I was wounded; he was killed. It could have been the other way. The incoming shell couldn’t have cared less. I was told later, the shell landed behind me, struck the logs we had gathered to fortify our “naked” gun emplacement. Most of the blast went to my right in the trench, where my friend stood firing the machinegun. Why did he have to die?

During a fierce battle in early 1952, I came across a Soldier who had suffered a severe belly wound. His squad leader was holding him in his arms while a medic tended the wound.

The wounded man kept begging to be saved, pleading to his friend, the squad leader, to stay with him and to comfort him. I stayed by them both for a while, consoling, helping where I could by assuring the wounded Soldier he’d be alright. The medic said nothing; he looked up into my teary eyes.

And then I heard something that has haunted me since. The Soldier whispered: “No one will cry for me when I die. Stay with me.” He was an orphan, I learned later; the Army was his family; the squad leader, his adopted brother.

The wounded man had a “sucking wound,” a gunshot to the abdomen. You could hear a sucking sound every time he took a breath. A half dozen bandages, constant pressure on the wounded area, helped little. The hole was too large; blood was gushing out. He was struggling, and so were we. Everyone tried to save him.

He died there on the spot. And a few weeks later, during another battle, so too, his adopted brother. Both were men in their late teens or early twenties. It’s the young who carry burdens of battle. The young die too young in all wars! It was a death of a family. It was a death in a family.

Looking north at the enemy through protective wire — 1952
Hill 350 had another name, and if you were to ask the
rain to look up at them. It was an overwhelming hunk of ter-
pasang. Huge does little to describe it.

Of one of the biggest hills in the area of the Iron Triangle. The
Enemy soldiers looked down on us, and we had to
peace would come soon. We would have to wait.

In May 1953, Co. F moved to Hill 350, in the shadow

During the spring of 1953, the CCF, Chinese Commu-
nist Forces, were becoming edgy. Talk of an armistice satu-
 rated the air. We kept our fingers crossed, we prayed that

During an attack in 1951, Co. F, my ma-
machineguns were attached to his company most of the
time I served during both tours in Korea. I
met him in 1951, a few months after he accepted
a BC, Battlefield Commission, and shed his first
sergeant stripes for a gold bar.

When he became a platoon leader, a
section of my machinegun platoon was assigned
to his platoon. From the first time I met him, I
knew who was in charge and what was on the
table. He pulled no punches. He had his act to-
gether. I was in the presence of a true Soldier!

During an attack in 1951 on Hill 395,
White Horse Mountain, his platoon led the way
and took the hill with few casualties, but left
plenty of enemy lying on the ground. Our ma-
achineguns gave him support.

Word spread about this “ultimate warrior” with gold bars on his shoulder. The word
was nothing but praise. Soon members of my
platoon requested to be attached to Gardenas’
platoon. The enemy wouldn’t dare attack F
Company. Gardenas was in charge.

He left Korea and returned a year later
and I within six months. Word was that Gardenas, now a first
lieutenant, would take over his old company, and I had orders
to return to my same company, H, even in the same position I
had left months earlier.

We met several times during the winter of 1952-53.
The weather was severely cold as usual. He asked me why I
returned. When I told him I had requested a transfer from
Camp Rucker, he laughed. “You’re in a much better place,” he
said. “You’re a Soldier again. And this is where you Soldier.”

During the spring of 1953, the CCF, Chinese Commu-
nist Forces, were becoming edgy. Talk of an armistice satu-
rated the air. We kept our fingers crossed, we prayed that
peace would come soon. We would have to wait.

In May 1953, Co. F moved to Hill 350, in the shadow
of one of the biggest hills in the area of the Iron Triangle. The
hill known to almost every Soldier in the area: Hill 1062.7, Pa-
pasan. Huge does little to describe it.

Enemy soldiers looked down on us, and we had to
strain to look up at them. It was an overwhelming hunk of ter-

Hill 350 had another name, and if you were to ask the

1st Lt. R. Gardenas, right, CO,
Co, F, on Hill 350,
Boomerang, June 1953.
A ‘really’ short-course in journalism grammar

By Sgt. Maj. Gary G. Beylickjian (Ret.)

S
omeone wrote decades ago that the only grammar writers needed to know was how to identify nouns, pronouns and verbs. In a way the statement makes some sense. I’d say the three parts of speech are the very least a careful writer must know about grammar.

After reviewing of good number articles in Army newspapers, magazines and newsletters, I’ve concluded that some writers appear to know little or nothing about the use of nouns, pronouns and verbs.

That those high-school and college English courses lacked spark and interest can be understood. English grammar does little to spark interest. Nonetheless, a journalist, whose livelihood depends on words, usage, syntax and semantics would do well refreshing himself with a few very basic rules of grammar.

Should we all abide by the recognized conventions that describe word order, use of modifiers and the relationships between nouns/pronouns, subjects/verbs, the very basics of writing? If writers expect their words and phrases to affect readers, writers have to follow the accepted conventions of grammar.

Below are just a few of the many flaws found in news and feature articles published in the first two weeks of July. Most of these examples were written by good journalists concerned with accuracy, clarity and conciseness, and expressing their thoughts on paper. What causes more concern is that these mistakes passed though editors, most known for their critical eye. That’s indeed worrisome. Here are six flawed statements from among the many.

“Where can a child get a tour of a Bradley Linebacker, a hayride in the back of their playground, see a Military Police Dog attack... .”

“The infantry always has and always will be a deciding factor in battle.”

“Children should not play with pets on the way to school.”

“An Abrams tank, together with three squads of infantrymen, were preparing to make a sweep.”

“Supply sergeants are responsible for issuing supplies, maintenance of records and keeping stock updated.”

These are a few of the numerous errors in grammar found in post and unit newspapers. What is surprising is that writers allow these errors to reach the editor’s desk. Repeat: What is even more alarming is that editors permit these mistakes to appear in print.

If one error in grammar can be singled out as the most glaring, it is the one that centers on antecedents. The word comes from Latin and means, “going before.” Most grammarians today speak of noun/pronoun antecedents, but subject/verb agreements can also fall into the antecedent category. An example of a faulty agreement is among the examples.

In the first sentence above, “their” obviously refers to “child.” The pronoun/noun agreement is faulty. “Child” is singular and “their” is plural. If “child” were replaced by “children,” or if “their” were replaced by “his” or “her” the sentence would have been grammatical. This type of error appears often in print. It indicates sloppy writing and editing.

Here’s another example of noun/pronoun disagreement. This was taken from a June 18 tabloid newspaper published in Germany.

“How can you think you’ve got it all locked in, another person steps up and adds their two cents in.” Surely, the writer and editor know that “person” is singular and “persons,” plural. Yet, the obvious error appeared in print and ignored by the editor.
The example in the second sentence has a verb part missing. This is another common error found in writing. The verb part “been” should have followed “has” as in: “The infantry always has been and always will be a deciding factor in battle.”

In the third sentence, a phrase is misplaced; this is known as a misplaced modifier. The sentence as stated reads that the “pets” are on the way to school. The phrase modifies “children” not “pets.” A possible correction: “On the way to school, children should not play with pets.”

“An Abrams tank, together with three infantry squads, were preparing to make a sweep.” Here’s an example of a subject/verb agreement problem involving an intervening phrase. The subject of the sentence is “tank” — singular. Grammar tells us that verbs must agree with their subject, at least in person and number. The phrase “together with three infantry squads,” is a parenthetical (intervening phrase, not a joint subject with tank). It has no relation to the main verb. Remove the intervening phrase, the subject/verb agreement becomes obvious. The verb should have been “was” agreeing with tank,” not “were.”

The final example involves parallelism. The guide is: express parallel ideas using the same grammatical structure. One of the responsibilities as cited in the sentence is not the same constructed as the other two, thus the statements in the sentence are not parallel. Corrected the sentence should read: Supply sergeants are responsible for issuing supplies, maintaining records and keeping stock updated.

This we know about our field: A journalist’s ability to express himself in writing can have an important effect on his job and assignment in the Army. An effective writer is always in demand, and the best person for the job is almost always selected.

Grammar merely provides SOPs, standards, codes, rules, whatever we want to call them, with which we communicate orally and in writing. To effectively share our thoughts and ideas, we all have to be on the same wavelength or channel. We’ve all studied English grammar during our formative years, and most of us have followed the same guides.

This is not to say that a writer must be proficient in all aspects of English grammar that would be asking far too much. And in most cases, that would be overkill. The point here is that journalists should follow a handful of the simple rules enough to make good writers into better ones.

Here are a few general guides on the use of pronouns (other shortcomings will be discussed in later issues) —

**When referring to singular antecedents, use singular pronouns.** (Note: The following common words are singular and require singular pronouns — each, either, neither, anyone, anybody, everyone, nobody).

Example — “Anyone can enter his (her) photo in the contest.”

**If nouns or indefinite pronouns are used as antecedents, use pronouns in the third person.** (Note: The following are indefinite pronouns — anyone, anything, anybody, someone, something, somebody, nobody, nothing, everyone, everybody, everything, one, neither.) Parts of the third person: he, she, it, they, his, her, hers, its him, their, theirs, them.)

Example — “Everyone knows the rules he should follow.” or “Somebody forgot his map.”

In most instances, when the antecedent is everybody, everyone, somebody, grammarians suggest “his” be used as the referencing pronoun.

**When two antecedents are used, the pronoun must agree with the closest antecedent.**

Example — “Either the platoon or the squads will forfeit their (not its) right to participate.”

**If a group — such as a squad, platoon, company, battalion, brigade, etc — is considered a singular unit, use a singular pronoun. If the group is considered comprising individual Soldiers, use a plural pronoun.**

Example — “The platoon of riflemen deserved its hard fought victory.” or “The artillery battalion was divided in their achievements.”

There’s much more that can be written about pronouns, an important part of speech. Some grammarians define a pronoun as “a word that stands for nouns.” If this is true, how can they defend: “Somebody sounded the alarm!” or “Who called me?” “Who” and “somebody” are technically pronouns, not nouns.

Let’s say that pronouns are substitute words for nouns and words that serve as nouns, a definition offered decades past by Paul Roberts, former professor and grammarian. Let’s leave it there — for now.
We’re often reminded that every photograph must say something and that each carries a message. Most photos do.

As viewers, we can conclude at a glance whether a scene is indoors or out, whether the background indicates night or day. We can easily deduce whether men or women are shown in a photograph and in general, what the action depicts.

But, what does all this actually tell readers? Very little on face value. There are many things a photo can’t say, not that it doesn’t want to, but because it can’t.

It needs words!

We’ve known through research that we need words to “see” with. As youngsters, we learned names of things by first identifying them in pictures. It’s a process we carry in varying degrees of sophistication into adulthood. We’ve come to think of words and pictures as inseparable.

The point is that a photograph can say just so much — not always as clearly as we might hope. A photo may capture the essence of an event, an action or an instant of time, and it may mirror an expression or an emotion. By itself, this is saying a lot for an art form built on two dimensions. But, all this isn’t saying enough.

Photographs need words to do their talking

A picture, some say, is less visually ambiguous or even nebulous than words. It’s obvious when a subject in a photo is sitting, standing, running, crawling, laughing or waving at someone and waiting to be introduced as shown in the photo at left or using a World War II flamethrower shown in the photo above.

That information is frozen in silver, used in film, or as zeros and ones, used in digital formats. But, what of the so-called “meat” of the photo? What are the names, titles and units of those participants in the photo? What occasion prompted the president to visit Topeka, Kan., or the Soldier to demonstrate the flamethrower? When was the photo taken and under what circumstances?

A photograph can’t reveal this information. It needs words, compiled into what is known as a cutline.

Some years ago, Wilson Hicks, noted photojournalist and author said this: “The point is not whether photographs can get along without words, but whether, with words, they can perform their own function better. The duty of words is to provide the facts before and after. The camera can go just so far. Words go the rest of the way.”

Cutline language

The photo-cutline combo can best be described by the formula — photograph plus cutline equals a story.
Cutline writing is similar in some ways to news writing — that is, the basic questions need answers. These are: Who, What, When, Where, Why and How. And both require that the language be clear, simple and direct. Like the introduction to a news story, cutlines rely also on their opening words.

The obvious difference between a cutline and a news story is that the cutline must boil down the information into a concise paragraph, sometimes even to a single sentence.

Four elements must be addressed when writing a cutline:

• explaining the action; use the present tense.
• identifying persons, place and things in the photograph.
• clarifying additional details in the photo, and
• crediting the photographer.

Persons in a photograph should be identified starting from left, back row then front row. There’s a tendency to identify the ranking person in the photograph first, regardless of his or her position in the photo. Use the so-called “stage-left” ID technique — go from left to right.

Like news stories, develop an effective opening sentence. Avoid clichés; many cutlines are loaded with them.

Avoid starting a cutline with an array of unit designations. Remember the introduction is an important lead-in.

Let’s look at the cutlines in the examples accompanying this discussion. We’ll begin with the top photo on this page —

“Staff Sgt. Jim Garcia, 1st Platoon, A Company, 329th Infantry Regiment, ‘encourages’ one of the 210 initial entry Soldiers who started training June 4.”

The cutline does not focus on the action shown. Instead, the sergeant and his unit is ID’d and that tends to take the spotlight off the action. And, is “encourages” the proper verb? Hardly! It’s an abstract verb. Open to many interpretations.

Left, “A veteran is remembered with a simple touch Monday. Once known as Decoration Day, the nation celebrated Memorial Day to remember and commemorate the sacrifices of veterans who die for their country.”

The photo composition is excellent. Was the fallen veteran remembered Monday? Placement of the time element is important. The cutline begins by describing the action, and adds a bit of background information on Memorial Day. As for the subject ID. In this case, it’s the symbol that is identified.

Below, “Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment fire a blank round from a 105mm howitzer during the playing of Tchaikovsky’s ‘1812 Overture’ at Thompson Park, Thursday.”

Why not begin by stating that Soldiers fired 105mm … during the playing of the overture rather than backing into the intro with a unit designations. Many Army newspapers insist on identifying units right off in news stories and cutlines. Describe the action! Unit IDs can always come later.

Previous page photos: “Larry McLean demonstrated the power of a World War II-era flamethrower during the July 4 military reenactments staged by Patton Museum. The flamethrower was first used in 1944 in Guam and Iwo Jima, and eventually in Korea. The tank’s 4.8 gallons of flammable fuel, which can be diesel, gasoline, jet fuel or napalm provide a total of 10 seconds of continuous flame.”

You’ll notice right off the past tense of the action verb, “demonstrated.” INSIDE THE TURRET is the only Army newspaper to use past tense because the paper’s parent commercial newspaper does the same. It’s the TURRET’s style, and it’s consistent. This cutline is good example of a photo and cutline equaling a story.

“President George W. Bush and Cheryl Brown Henderson wave to a crowd of more than 5,000 as they mark the grand opening of the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka, Kan.”

To the point, short and concise with a qualifier attached after the persons are ID’d and the action described.

Too many facts in cutlines are often restated and overstated, points that should be avoided. Get to the peg. Tell the reader who’s in the photo and what’s happening.
Brig. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, Dep. OCPA

You saw and heard him on television. He was the spokesman for U. S. Central Command in Qatar during early days and weeks when the U. S. Army moved from Kuwait into Iraq. He was then CENTCOM’s Deputy J-3, Chief Operations.

Brig. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, a West Point graduate, is now the deputy chief of Public Affairs, DA. And he brings with him a wealth of combat arms and staff experience. He has been in nearly every position of staff and command.

He began his career as a weapons platoon leader with the 82nd Airborne Division; served as Company commander and later as an adjutant in the 1st Inf. Div.; has served as battalion commander in the 2nd Inf. Division and later as brigade commander in the 3rd Infantry Division. He has had assignments as an Operations Officer at many command levels, several with the 1st Cavalry Division.

His education, besides West Point, includes the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the John F. Kennedy School of Government, as a Senior Service College Fellow, at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Before coming to OCPA, Gen. Brooks was the deputy director for War on Terrorism, with the Joint Staff, Wash., D.C.

Credit where due

Besides locally developed news most Army newspapers use material from several other news sources, among them ARNEWS, the Army’s so-called wire service. News from Department of the Army covers the “big picture,” allowing post and unit newspapers to run news and informational pieces generated around the world. Many of these come from the “war zones.” A review of several post newspapers reveals that ARNEWS articles are used, but some Army newspapers are not crediting the source. In fact, one paper merely notes, “Special to the …”; you fill in the paper’s nameplate.

Credit should go to ARNEWS and the reporter, just as a writer or photographer receives recognition for material submitted to ARNEWS. Crediting the source is not only the proper thing to do, but also the professional thing to do.

Getting the news out

Gathering and writing the news are not the only important aspects of producing a newspaper. The paper has to get into the hands of readers, a final and most vital last step.

Some PA shops call the process circulation; other refer to it as distribution. If a newspaper doesn’t get to the readers, it can’t be read. And, if the paper isn’t read, there’s really no sense publishing it. It’s that simple.

Unfortunately, some post and unit newspapers aren’t getting into the hands of readers. A copy or two can be seen at post and unit headquarters, and plenty of copies can be found in PA shops.

But, what about areas where Soldiers frequent: dining facilities, barracks, day rooms? And what about
areas where Soldiers and their families spend some time: Post Exchanges, commissaries, on-post auto shops, dental and medical facilities? Chances are you and everyone else will have a difficult time finding the post paper at any of these facilities.

Some PA shops lack a clear distribution plan for their publications. A good rule of thumb is that the post or unit newspaper should go where troops go — even to the field, if need be.

Perhaps now is a good time to review your distribution plan and make adjustments. Here’s a list of possible locales you may want to consider. Some of these may require approval by those in authority.

And, if these bases are covered, consider this list merely as a reminder —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Post library</td>
<td>NCO club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company lounges</td>
<td>Post laundromat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post theaters</td>
<td>BEQs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snack bars</td>
<td>Post museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outpatient clinics</td>
<td>USO office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post gym</td>
<td>Commissary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Officer’s club</td>
<td>Thrift shops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft shops</td>
<td>Sporting events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling alley</td>
<td>EM club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post taxi stands</td>
<td>BOQs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eye clinics</td>
<td>Post auto repair shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post hospital</td>
<td>MP station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post bus terminal</td>
<td>Post chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Seasons store</td>
<td>ID registration office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest houses</td>
<td>Post auto registration office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dining facilities</td>
<td>And at places where people do to meditate, contemplate and anticipate!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing centers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post exchanges</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental clinic</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Weights of paper

You’ve seen the designations on wrappings of copier paper, and you may have heard your printer refer to paper as 20 pound, 50 pound or 70 pound.

And, curious as you are, you’d like to know what these designations mean.

Let’s slip into a printer’s back shop where the presses are housed and nearby where the warehouse is located.

A word about presses. Some printers use a variety of printing processes. Some shops still use the old standby, the letterpress. The so-called up-to-date shops use offset printing. Depending on the system, you can find printing shops using the sheet-fed presses, the sheet-fed Perfecting presses, the web offset presses, the rotary kind.

Most newspapers, magazines, business forms, books and other publications calling for large numbers of copies are most often printed on web offset.

The point is that certain presses use sheets, the sheet feds, or rolls of paper, the webs.

It’s in the warehouse where the various paper stocks are kept and when needed, are hauled to the presses for printing.

When dealing with paper or stock as it is called, printers consider two factors: the Basis Weight and Basic Size. Terminology may vary. Most paper manufacturers produce paper grades in various Basic Sizes:

- **Bond**: 17” x 22”
- **Book**: 25” x 38”
- **Cover**: 20” x 26”
- **Index**: 25.5” x 30.5”
- **Newsprint**: 24” x 36”

Others include Bristol, offset, coated, tag and lightweight papers such as manifold, the onion skins. Some carry the same sizes as above, but Basis Weights vary.

If we were to weigh 500 sheets of any of these paper sizes, using the basic size shown, the weight would be considered the Basis Weight.

For example, 500 sheets of 25” x 38” coated Book could weigh 80 lbs. Thus the designation “80-Pound Book.” Book paper comes in various finishes such as antique or smooth and has a wide range of weights and bulk. These influence weight as well as paper and printing costs.

The wrapping on copier paper may state that the paper inside weighs 20 lbs. because most likely that paper is Bond or writing paper. Some inkjet papers may weigh up to 24 pounds. Take 500 sheets of the 17” x 22” paper put them on a scale and the weight would be about 20 lbs.

Obviously, the 17” x 22” is cut to 500 8.5” x 11” or 11” x 17” sheets to fit copier machines. Bond is also used as letterhead paper. By the way, the printing term for 500 sheets is “ream.”

Newsprint finish is chiefly ground-wood pulp with some chemical pulp thrown in. Depending on other additives, newsprint can weigh from 28 to 35 pounds and in many shops, the most frequently used weight is 30. This may or may not cover recycled paper.

Many variables are considered when dealing with paper. Besides those mentioned, there is gloss, brightness, smoothness, opacity, refractiveness and color. We’ll delve into these some other time.
**Oxymora (that’s the plural of Oxymoron)**

An oxymoron is usually a two-, sometimes, a three-word combination whose individual words usually have opposite meanings. “Front end” is a good example. Here is list of oxymora, plural of oxymoron, found in Army newspapers. Writers should avoid them if possible:

- Accidentally on purpose
- Larger half
- True lies
- Tragic comedy
- Accurate stereotype
- Build down
- Calm storm
- Deliberate mistake
- Growing small
- Live recording
- Paid volunteer
- Peace force
- Real magic
- Slow speed
- Cat fish
- Demanding patient
- Full-time hobby
- Friendly argument
- Mobile station
- Open secret
- Organized chaos
- Partial conclusion

**Using the passive voice**

You may remember the relentless admonition by teachers of English composition: *Avoid using the passive voice. Use only the active voice. Write so the subject acts, rather than being acted on. Sound advice!* But not always practical. The master playwright, William Shakespeare used the passive voice in many of his plays. In Julius Caesar, Shakespeare wrote, “The ambitious ocean swells and rage and foam to be exalted with threatening clouds ….” And in Hamlet’s soliloquy which begins, “To be, or not to be … ‘tis a consummation devoutly to be wished…” There is a place for the passive voice in writing — the point is not to depend too heavily on its use. When a Soldier is recognized for his performance by a high-ranking person, the action should be on the recipient, not on the person pinning on a medal or handing a certificate. “Sgt. John Doe is awarded the Bronze Star Medal for ….” Not, “Maj. Gen. … pins on the Bronze Star Medal….” The point is, in certain conditions use of the passive voice rather than the active voice, may be the better choice. But, another admonition: *don’t overuse it.*

**Avoid tautologies — needless repetition**

Tautologies, sometimes referred to as pleonasms — that is, needless repetition or redundancies — appear often in writings, military and civilian. Here are a few that have popped up in Army newspapers —

- advance warning
- co-equal partners
- completely destroyed
- frozen ice
- unexpected surprise
- wall mural
- total destruction
- widow woman
- invited guests
- live witness
- personal autobiography

**Avoid expletives — not the four-letter kind ; personalize**

Expletives in grammar refer to words such as “it” and “there” when they are used as subjects or objects of verbs. Here’s an example found on page one of a post newspaper —

“It might surprise some people to learn that many of the men and women who serve in the military and defend our country are not American citizens.”

Our focus here is not the need to rewrite the statement, but on the use of “it” and what it represents. In almost all instances, an “it” or a “there” is not the true subject of the sentence; it merely fills in for the true subject: hence the term, *expletive.* The true subject of the sentence in the example is “some people.” Thus, one way to avoid the useless and wasteful expletives is to restructure the sentence: “Some people would be surprised to learn that many men and women in the military are not American citizens.” Another rewrite: “Many men and women who serve in the military and defend the nation are not American citizens.” There are alternatives.

**Thinking points:** Personalize where possible. Expletives are wasteful; readers can’t focus on the true subject when a filler is used. Write simply and directly.


PARAGLIDE (Fort Bragg) for “WWII Veteran, ASOM Volunteer Shares D-Day Experience,” by Spc. Ryan Smith, published June 3.

MONITOR (Fort Bliss) for “Ghosts Of The Past -- 1st Bde. Leaders Visit Gettysburg,” story and photos by 1st Lt. Victor Hoffer, illustration by Susan Laven, published May 27.


HERALD UNION (104th ASG, Germany) for “Bonds That Endure — USAREUR Honors Kontakt’s Ongoing Efforts To Nurture German-American Friendship,” story and photos by Karl Weisel, published June 8.

NEW YORK DISTRICT TIMES (COE, New York) for an excellent March-April issue. Vince Elias is editor.

GRAFFON (107th Div. (IT)) for “Discharged,” by Maj. Marie A. Boughen, PAO and editor and published in the Spring issue. (A feature on illegal drugs use.)


CANNONEER (Fort Sill) for the commentary “Ask Not What The Garrison Can Do For You; Ask What You Can Do For The Garrison,” by Col. Keith Herring, Garrison Commander, published July 8.

RIVERSIDE (COE, New Orleans) for an attractive, informative and readable May/June issue. Eric Lincoln, editor.


ARMY FLIER (Fort Rucker) for the feature “Bloom Where You Are Planted,” by Arikka Johnson, published July 8.


WARRIOR (Army Soldier System Center) for another informative and interesting July/August issue. Curt Biberdorf editor.

SCOUT (Fort Huachuca) for the double truck “New MP Guard Unit Hones Police, Soldiering Skills — Phoenix MPs Look To Post In Preparation For Deployment,” story and photos by Pfc. Joy Pariente. Also for the full page devoted to “Fit For Life — Weight Loss For Active, Fit People,” by George R. Colfer, Ph. D. Both published June 24.


BENELUX METEOR (80th ASG, Belgium) for its coverage of student dependents’ graduation from American high schools in Belgium. Writers include F. Neil Neeley, Rick Raverinen, and Jackie Cash. The articles appeared in the June 18 issue.


**BELVOIR EAGLE** (Fort Belvoir) for “New Missions, New Look — Needs Of Soldiers Shape Evolution Of Army Uniforms,” by Jennifer Brennan, published July 1.

**CASEMATE** (Fort Monroe) for “2004 Army Drill Sergeant Of The Year,” articles by Patrick Buffett and Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Rogers; photos by Buffett, published June 25.

**MONMOUTH MESSAGE** (Fort Monmouth) for “It’s In The Genes — Military Service Is A Family Affair,” by Renita Foster, published July 1.

**SOUNDOFF!** (Fort Meade) for “Healthy Kimbrough Kids: Eat Right And Keep Active,” by Felicia Watkins and photos by Steve Ruark, published July 1. (Kimbrough is the name of the post’s medical facility.)

**WHEEL** (Fort Eustis) for “Resolving Interoffice Conflict: The ADR Solution,” by Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett (ADR is the abbreviation for Alternative Dispute Resolution.) Also for the layout in “Soldiers Dive Into Challenge,” story and photos by Spc. Jacob Boyer. Both published July 1.

**MONITOR** (Fort Bliss) for “Driving Safely Home — Army Targets #1 Killer Of Soldiers,” by David Crozier (USAMA), published July 1.

**FLAGSHIP** (COE, Seattle) for an informative and interesting April/June issue. Dave Harris is PAO and editor. Quality articles by Patricia Graesser, Andrea Takash, Steve Cosgrove and Dave Harris.

**PRAIRIE SOLDIER** (Nebraska NG) for an outstanding June issue. Articles by Senior Master Sgt. Vicky Cerino, Dave Nore, Spc. Lynn Welland and Capt. Kevin Hynes.


**STRIPE** (Walter Reed Army Medical Center) for “A Safe Summer? Alpha-Bet On It!” by Barbara West, published July 9.

**HERALD-UNION** (104th ASG, Germany) for “There’s History In Your Own Backyard,” by Dennis Johnson. Also for “Rothenburg Ob Der Tauber,” by David Ruderman. (A feature about a town located above the Tauber River in Germany.) Both published June 22.

**MONMOUTH MESSAGE** (Fort Monmouth) for “Hunting For The Enemy And Souvenirs,” by Renita Foster, published June 25.

**HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY** (Schofield Barracks) for the layout in “Taking The Mt. Tantalus Challenge,” photos and story by Sharee Moore, published June 18.

**MOUNTAINEER** (Fort Carson) for “Koshare Indian Museum — One Of Nation’s Finest Indian Collections,” by Nel Lampe, published June 4.

**TORII** (Camp Zama, Japan) for “Minor Offenses — The Laws In Japan And What To Do If Your Child Is Caught Breaking Them,” by Spc. Matthias Chiroux, published June 25.

**HAWAII ARMY WEEKLY** (Schofield Barracks) for “Schofield Post Cemetery Has Intriguing Post,” story and photos by Joy Boisselle, published July 2.

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**Those prolific Army writers**

You see their bylines atop of two, three or even more articles in every issue. They not only write well, but also write in volunmes, Among those whose byline appears often include — (post and large unit newspapers)

Capt. Kevin Hynes — PRAIRIE SOLDIER (the most prolific— often up to 10 or more articles an issue)

Sgt. Kim Dooley — BAYONET

Jennifer Brennan — BELVOIR EAGLE

Karl Weisel — HERALD UNION

Barbara Sellers — NORTHWEST GUARDIAN

David Ruderman — HERALD UNION

Dennis Ryan — PENTAGRAM

Denise Allen — SIGNAL

Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo — LIGHTNING

WARRIOR DISPATCH

Spec. Ryan Smith — PARAGLIDE
Sgt. Neil Jones, (Camp Zama), has given up his editor’s chair to become the post’s Command Information NCO. Sgt. Christina O’Connell, formerly the assistant editor, will edit the weekly tabloid. Sgt. Ryan Gehrke will become assistant editor.

Connie Smalls, editor of Fort Monroe’s CASE-MATE, has retired after 16 years in the editor’s seat. Pat Buffett, who has extensive experience as an Army journalist will take the editor’s position. Patricia Radcliffe remains on board as the assistant editor. Buffett and Radcliffe were recognized as outstanding Army writers in Post-30-.

Sgt. Jorge Gomez, editor of Fort Lee’s TRAVELLER, is on six-month TDY to Honduras, Central America, to edit the bi-weekly newsletter, THE IGUANA, published by Joint Task Force Bravo. Jamie Carson, Fort Lee’s CI chief is doing some of the TRAVELLER’s editing, writing and photography chores. Carson won a Journalist Award while on active duty as editor with the same newspaper.

Sgt. Maj. Carol A. Sobel, FORSCOM’s Sergeant major, has retired with 30 years of service. Sobel has made numerous contributions to Army Public Affairs and to Army journalism. She was one NCO who was admired and respected. Sgt. Maj. Ruben Maestas succeeds her.

Janice Burton, a top-notch writer with Fort Bragg’s PARAGLIDE has moved to another position on post. Ali Leone has taken Burton’s place as editor of the paper’s Lifestyle section.

Spc. Alejandro Licea, formerly editor of WATCHDOG, a weekly newsletter published by the 8th MP Brigade, Korea, is on his way to FORSCOM after nearly 15 months in the Land of the Morning Calm. Licea was the start-up editor of WATCHDOG which also included a monthly insert, the BLOTTER. His replacement, Sgt. Katherine Robinson arrived at the unit, but had to return stateside.

Another transition from Korea to CONUS: Spc. Nicole Robus, who wrote for and later edited the INDIANHEAD, 2nd Inf. Div., twice-monthly tabloid, and also edited MORNING CALM WEEKLY, a weekly tabloid published by IMA-Korea, is now at Fort Gordon’s PA shop writing for the SIGNAL.

Jayme Loppnow, formerly with the DAGGER, a newsletter published by an MI group, Germany, and later covered the 130th Engineers when the unit went to Iraq, has been back in Germany for a while writing for the HERALD-POST, 26th ASG tabloid. Loppnow is the reporter for the Darmstadt-Babenhausen area.

Lt. Col. Steven Boylan has departed Korea where he was 8th Army’s Public Affairs Officer and is headed to Iraq. Lt. Col. Thomas Budzyna, PAO, Fort Carson, 8th Army’s PAO.

A large number of Corps of Engineer members are also serving in combat zones. In Iraq, for example, COE Public Affairs members are supporting Public Affairs objectives in the Gulf Region Division by producing ESSAYONS FORWARD, a twice-monthly magazine. Among the crew are Steven Wright, PAO, Thomas O’Hara, deputy PAO and editor, and Maria Or, staff member. Mitch Frazier, PAO of the COE, Kansas City District, has joined in the effort. He arrived there in early July.

While on the subject of deployment. Several members of Fort Hood’s PA shop, some on the SENTINEL staff, received their overseas orders. Among them: Capt. David Olson, Sgt. 1st Class Nancy Morrison, Sgt. Brianne Pippin, Spc. Crista Birmingham, Spc. Nicole Welch (formerly Poppe) and Spc. Phil Kiver. Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt, editor of VOICE, published by an MI group at Fort Meade, will become the SENTINEL’s editor.

REFLECTIONS, a graphically dynamic tabloid published by the COE, Jacksonville, Fla., District, has undergone a change name. It’s now the JACKSONVILLE JOURNAL and will be published quarterly. Preston Lockridge is editor.
Master Sgt. Richard Puckett, Public Affairs Adviser to Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, is off to Fort Bliss to attend Class 55 at the Sergeants Major Academy. Master Sgt. Jose Velazquez is now on board and has assumed duties as the enlisted PA adviser. Puckett also served as adviser for retired Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley.

Another top-notch senior NCO is about to take the Sergeants Major Course. She’s Master Sgt. Lisa Hunter, head honcho of the NCO JOURNAL. Master Sgt. Sue Harper will take the helm of a magazine that now ranks among the best.

PG NEWS said farewell to one staffer and welcome to another. Diane Burrier went to work for the Army Environmental Center in the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. And the welcome mat went out to Blake Voshell who joined the staff June 28. Voshell is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, with a bachelor’s degree in visual arts and a minor in art history. He was part of the Artistic Scholarship program and an inductee into the Imaging and Research Center’s Fellowship Program. He has done book layouts for such publications as Mind Readers, Masters of Deception, which holds a place in the Library of Congress, and for the Philadelphia/New Jersey State GOLF Magazine.

Fred W. Baker, assistant editor of Fort Sill’s CANNONEER, and a prolific writer, has left the paper for another position on post. No word when assistant’s position will be filled. The CANNONEER, whose staff is dwindling, is edited by multi-award winning journalist, Tonya L. Riley.

Spc. Tara Sherlock, staff writer for SETAF’s OUTLOOK, was named SETAF Soldier of the 3rd Quarter. She received the Army Commendation Medal, pinned on by SETAF’s CG, Brig. Gen. Jason K. Kamiya.

The August issue of SOLDIERS magazine devotes a series of articles to the medical specialists at Army hospitals who are providing world-class care to wounded and injured Soldiers. The best of these stories, and the photos that support them, come from local reporters who submitted material they first provided to their post newspapers. Here are some of them:


Jeremy O’Bryan, is the new editor of Cadet Command’s WARRIOR LEADER and GOLDBAR LEADER. O’Bryan, who was selected from a field of 29 applicants for the GS-09 position, is a retired USAF photojournalist with 20 years experience. He succeeds Bob Rosenburgh who has become PAO of the 4th ROTC Region is Washington state.

Sgt. Rhonda Lawson is on her way to DINFOS for an assignment as an instructor. Lawson was editor of SANDPAPER, a magazine published by a multinational force stationed in Egypt. She is a veteran editor, having served on several post newspapers and NCOIC of another while deployed in Afghanistan.

Spc. Christopher Fincham is heading to Fort Knox and a spot on the post’s PA staff. Fincham, previously the editor of SUSTAINER, published by a COSCOM in Germany, also served as editor of the Fort Bliss MONITOR. He’s a recognized writer and editor.

The COE, Baltimore District, has a new PAO. Roberto “Bob” Nelson, a Navy environmental public affairs specialist from Jacksonville, FL., succeeds Lucy Lather who has moved on. The shop publishes an excellent newsletter, the CONSTELLATION.
From left, top — A creative center spread produced by Staff Sgt. Eric Brown, managing editor of the DESERT VOICE. Brown is a member of the 13th PAD, which served in Kuwait. A unique photo of a trumpeter taken by Spc. Lewis Hilburn appeared on page one of Fort Bliss’ MONITOR. The band member was playing “God Bless The U. S.” in a ceremony saluting Independence Day. IQUANA, a newsletter published by Joint Task Force—Bravo, in Central America, is edited by Sgt. Jorge Gomez, editor of Fort Lee’s TRAVELLER, on a six-month deployment. The July 23 issue is shown. An eye-arresting cover leads readers of RIVERSIDE, produced by the COE, New Orleans, into an attractive, informative and interesting May/June issue. Eric Lincoln is the editor. Fort Huachuca’s SCOUT offered its readers tips on ways and means to keep fit and, in turn, healthy by George R. Colfer, Ph. D. Newspapers must strive to educate readers with well written, authoritative articles. The photo at left is one of many taken by Elizabeth Harlan of Memorial Day activities at Fort Huachuca. The Soldier photo appeared on page one of the June 3 issue of the SCOUT.

From left — An excellent example of a two-page spread or double-truck that appeared in the May 27 Fort Lee TRAVELLER. Note the dominant photo and its size relative to those around it. Text is set as a module and not wrapped in and around photos, producing a disjointed spread. And, cutlines are set with their photos. Story and photos by Spc. Jason B. Cutshaw. The TIEFORT TELEGRAPH, weekly tabloid produced by Fort Irwin, featured a photo spread — that is, a layout depended solely on photographs with no copy block. The spread has cutlines, but not for all pictures. All photos need cutlines. Spc. Jacob A. McDonal took the photos. SCIMITAR, a weekly newsletter published by the Multi-National Force — Iraq, is chock full of informative and interesting information, well edited, written and attractively packaged. It’s edited by Staff Sgt. Christopher Land, a veteran of Army newspapering. The CI officer is also a familiar name: Maj. Patrick Swan. At right, the old over the new. A major makeover of Fort Bragg’s PARAGLIDE involved the body type (text type), headlines, nameplate and position of the opinion page. Previously, it was located on the last page of the “A” or first section: it’s now on page 2A. Inside-page designs continue to be dynamic, bold and innovative; the PARAGLIDE’S photography has always ranked at the top of the scale. Column width continue to vary from 10- to 12- to 16-or more picas on some news pages. Column widths of 14- to 18—picas were standard in Army newspapers for decades. Spc. Jessica Cosner is editor.
From left — An article about lifeguards vying in a nine-event competition was made more attractive and certainly more readable by merely adding creative graphics. Story and photos, which appeared in the July 1 Fort Eustis WHEEL, are the works of Staff Sgt. Russell Bassett. Shoplifting has become a serious concern on many posts and it’s a subject that should be discussed in post and unit newspapers. Unfortunately, only a handful of papers have addressed the problem — which is a crime. The article above appeared in the June 24 ARMY FLIER, written by Spc. Matthew Roe, editor, and won Roe a Journalist Award. Reverse type, collages, montages and a host of other typographic oddities rarely accomplish the well-intended goal of making readers comfortable. “Dazzling” layouts have limits. The text in double truck, upper right, is difficult to read, and the visual logjam is distractive. Clean and simple layouts — some shown on the previous page — work the best. The INDIANHEAD, a twice-monthly produced by the 2nd Inf. Div., Korea, paid its respect to the nation’s 40th president with a page-one tribute. Pfc. Robbie McCarty, is editor.

From left — Artwork integrated into a feature can add sparkle to a presentation if the artwork is well prepared and supportive of the feature’s theme. The June 25 BAYONET, Fort Benning’s weekly broadsheet, used artwork cleverly to support the Independence Day article by an up-and-coming writer, Spc. Nikki St. Amant. CITIZEN, published by the 6th ASG, has published a series of outstanding features and visual displays during the past several months. The page-one photo was one of several taken by Hugh McBride to support his feature, “Normandy Never Forgets,” published June 15. McBride’s writings and photography have made the CITIZEN not only a 4-Star Publication, but also an award winner. ESSAYONS FORWARD, an informative and well-written magazine, is produced by the COE, Gulf Division, Iraq. It’s published by a crew of Public Affairs pros: PAO is Steven E. Wright, editor is Thomas O’Hara and staffer, Maria Or. The issue shown is dated May.
From left — Structure of an effective layout is shown in this July 1 display published in the Fort Eustis WHEEL. Keep copy block and headlines in a block; establish a dominant photo and make it much larger than the other photos; place cutlines with their photos. Do not gang or block them in one group. The story and photos were produced by Spc. Jacob Boyer. GUARDIAN EAST, Camp Bonds teel, Kosovo, whose issues contain creative and dynamic designs, and a professional crew of writers and photographers to boot, remembered those who served in the June 16 issue. The story (the feature continues for two more pages, is the work of Sgt. 1st Class Rob Bishop and photos by Spc. Rob Barker. Both are members of the 29th MPAD. The GRIFFON, a quarterly product of the 108th Division (IT), is one of the Army’s largest tabloid. The issue at right has 72 pages. The cover theme is “Discharged,” a feature by Maj. Marie A. Boughen, editor, and focuses on illegal drug use and the consequences of such abuse. These topics should be repeated often to ensure the message reaches and is understood by unit members. Redundancy if correctly applied, can be most effective in getting the message across.

From left — SOUNDOFF! Fort Meade’s weekly CE tabloid, created a double truck in which the text was set in the “L”-shape, a design technique for layouts used years ago before modular design was adopted. The layout has a strong dominant element, cutlines are properly placed and overall, the layout is appealing. The story was written by Felicia Watkins and photography support was provided by Steve Ruark. The feature appeared in the July 1 issue. Fort Richardson’s ALASKA POST published a photo spread June 4 accompanied by a poem, “A Quiet Place,” by Ron Siebels that served as a copy block. The layout is good as is, but design-wise, it could have used a clearly defined dominant photo. The tossup is between the center photo or the one in the lower left. Both are strong symbolically. Four photos are the works of Gary L. Martin; the one at the lower left was taken by long-time Army journalist, Linda Douglass. Symbols can help define and re-enforce a theme and clarify statements as shown in the June 25 issue of Camp Zama’s TORII. The badge and cuffs tells readers what’s meant by “Minor Offenses,” and the readout below the headline focuses on the specifics. The article is by Spc. Matthias Chiroux.
INDIVIDUAL AWARDS
Two Awards
Tim Hipps; Sandy Riebeling; Bridgett Siter; Benjamin Etzioni; Harry Noyes
One Award
Larry Barnes; Tonya Riley; Nel Lampe; Dave Snyder; Jean Offutt; Wayne V. Hall; Adriene Foss; Michael Meines; Lucille Anne Newman; Monica Garreau; Mindy Anderson; Kim Rieseling; David Ruderman; Irene Brown; Karl Weisel; Michael Mower; Fred-Otto Egeler; Barbara Sellers; Jim Fox; Mark Heeter; Melody Fields; Alexandra Williams; Neil C. Jones; Jamie Carson; Christie Vanover; Chris Walz; Fred W. Baker III; Mollie Miller; Elaine Nicholas; Dennis Ryan; Akilah C. Clarke; Stacey A. Robinson; Mike Tharp; Edward C. Starsnes; Yvonne Johnson; Michael E. Dukes; Lisa Jendry; Brett MacMillan; Russell Bassett; Kathie Bullard Harris, Matthew Roe; Michelle Helms-Dodge; Kim Dooley; Jennifer Brennan; Hugh C. McBride

PUBLICATION AWARDS
Four Awards
Courier, Pentagram; Army Flier
Two Awards
Inside the Turret; Casemate; Herald Union; Frontline; Guardian; Fort Riley Post; Monitor; Castle; Cannoneer; Indianhead; Scout; Connecticut Guardian; Riverside; Training Times; Paraglide; Leader; Banner; Lamp; Fort Hood Sentinel; Fort Carson Mountaineer; Countermeasure; Guardian East; Desert Voice; Soundoff!; Citizen
One Award
Guidon; Belvoir Eagle; Fort Dix Post; Desert Voice; Herald-Post; Pointer View; Torii; Talon; On Guard; Prairie Soldier; Redstone Rocket; Castle Comments; Mercury; Alaska Post; Phoenix Rising; Bulletin; Bayonet; Benelux Meteor; Tobyhanna Reporter; Tiefot Telegraf; SETAF Outlook; Signal; Kwajalein Hourglass; Buckeye Guard; Tower Times; Triad; Warrior Leader; Mountaineer (Madigan Army Med. Cent.); Engineer Update; Recruiter Journal; Yankee Engineer; New York District Times; Blue Devil II; Missile Ranger; Northwest Guardian; Standard; Constellation; Freedom Watch; Translog; Warrior; RiverWatch; Pacific Connection; Flagship; Feedback; Environmental Update; Shield; Outpost; Corps'spondent; Reflections; Wildcat; Grizzly; Intercom; Guard Times; At Ease; SMDC Eagle; Wheel

The J-Award listing above began November 1998.

Lori Egan — Bayonet
Carolee Nisbet — Fort Dix Post
Larry Barnes — Inside the Turret
Irene Brown — Pointer View
Karl Weisel — Herald Union
Lisa Reape Albrecht — Blizzard
Jerry Harben — Mercury
Olivia Feher — Crusader
Tony L. Riley — Cannoneer
Bernard Tate — Engineer Update
Skip Vaughn — Redstone Rocket
Wayne V. Hall — formerly with Belvoir Eagle
Beau W. Hittington — Pentagram

Bernard Little — Stripe
Lucille Anne Newman — Paraglide
David Ruderman — Herald Union
Sandy Riebeling — Redstone Rocket
Pearl Ingram — Recruiter Journal
Anthony Ricchiazzi — Tobyhanna Reporter
Donald Sparks — Scout
Bob Rosenburgh — Goldbar Warrior
Mollie Miller — Fort Hood Sentinel
Michael Meines — Madigan Mountaineer
Eric Pilgrim — Courier
Fred-Otto Egeler — Newcastle