

Great Strides for Barracks Living

Privatization initiatives help pave the way for improvements and modernization.

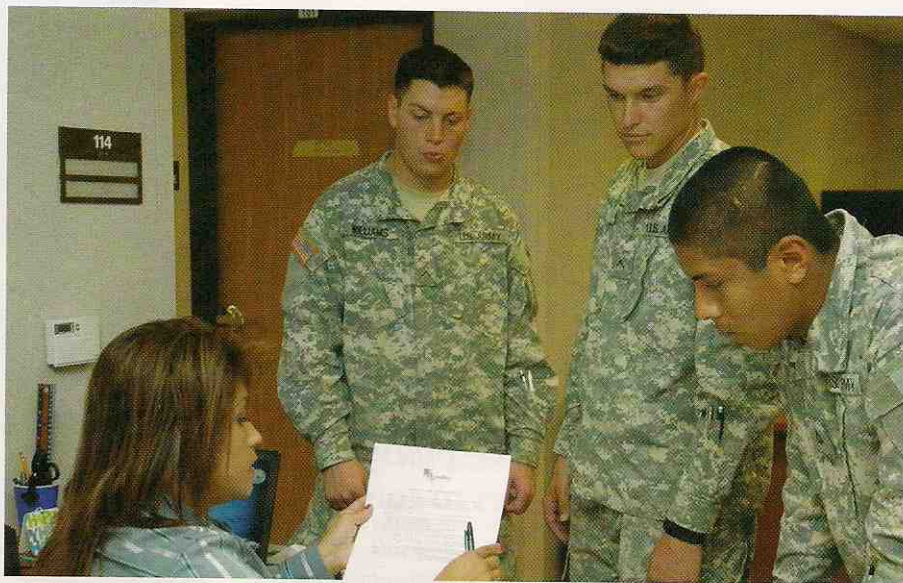
By Gia McKenzie

“When I entered the Army some 26 years ago, a large percentage of the barracks were World War II and Korean War-era facilities,” says CSM Charles Durr of IMCOM-SE, based at Fort McPherson. “Many of these facilities had open bays and gang latrines.”

The Army barracks of today, with a worldwide inventory of close to 530,000 spaces, is moving toward 100 percent implementation of the 1+1, defined as a permanent-party barracks module with two private, 183-square-foot bedrooms (or one large semi-private bedroom), one bathroom, a service area/kitchenette, living room, larger closets, and optional washers and dryers. Wi-Fi and exercise facilities are also on tap for some installations.

“The barracks experience today is considerably different in terms of space, amenities, and overall quality,” says CSM Durr.

According to CSM Durr, a large driver of that increased quality is the First Sergeants Barracks Initiative (FSBI) Program, currently in place at Forts Bragg, Stewart, and Campbell. Durr characterizes this ongoing FSBI implementation as a “partnership that has proven to be very



The First Sergeants Barracks Initiative (FSBI) transfers operations and management from military personnel to civilian or contract staff.

successful at our first three garrisons.”

Civilian support

FSBI is designed to manage permanent-party barracks by transferring the responsibility of the day-to-day barracks operations and management away from military personnel. Civilian and contract staff are responsible for all room assignments, terminations, barrack spaces inventory, occupant accountability for

losses and damages, sustainment funding, and managing maintenance programs.

“Units now realize that service and work orders are being processed more efficiently and that damaged furnishings are being replaced nearly instantly. Single soldiers are starting to feel that their quarters are separate from their training areas and that the focus of their quality of life is just as important as the married

