

Navy beats Army
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The Fort Huachuca Scout



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Scout reports

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Last Scout of 2001

The last issue of *The Fort Huachuca Scout* newspaper for the year 2001 will be published on Dec. 20. The deadline for submissions remains one week prior to desired publication date. Items for the Dec. 20 issue must be received by close of business Dec. 14. The first issue of 2002 will be Jan. 10. Items for that issue must be received by Jan. 4. For more information, call Managing Editor, Angela Moncur, at 533-1987.

OSJA expands hours

Effective immediately, the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Legal Assistance Division, has expanded hours for notarizations and powers of attorney. These services are now available at any time during normal business hours on a walk-in basis, with two exceptions. These services will not be available Tuesdays before 1 p.m. due to Sergeant's Time Training and Wednesdays after 11:30 a.m. due to will executions.

ASC G8 closed

The U.S. Army Signal Command Assistant Chief of Staff office, G8, will close at 11 a.m., today for its annual holiday party. The office will be minimally staffed during this time.

Military Appreciation Night

Every Friday is Military Appreciation Night at the Steak Out Restaurant and Saloon in Sonoita, Ariz. (The Steak Out is located at the southeast corner of Highway 82 and 83 intersection.) Patrons associated with the military receive a 25 percent discount on food. This includes all active duty-soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, Guard and Reserve forces, Department of Defense civilians, retirees and contractors working for the military. Present an ID to the waitress. Reservations encouraged. For reservations, call (520) 455-5205.

Central registration closed

The Child and Youth Services Central Registration Office will be closed all day on Friday and Dec. 14. The office will be reviewing and updating all children's health assessments, immunizations, social security numbers and family care plans. For more information, call Marty Johnston at 533-0738.

MEDDAC memorial service

There will be a public memorial service on Friday 1 p.m. at the main post chapel for Dr. Allen Crosby, MEDDAC physician. The Adult Family Care Clinic will be closed during this time for staff to attend.

Holiday lighting celebration

The annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony and Concert, under the theme "Celebrate Hope" and hosted by the Installation Staff Chaplain's Office, is scheduled for today at the Main Post Chapel.

The tree and menorah lighting will be conducted on the front lawn at 6 p.m., and the 36th U.S. Army Band will conduct their Holiday Concert in the Chapel Sanctuary from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

For information, call Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Willard M. Richardson at 533-9507 or Jo Moore at 533-4748.

Green to Gold briefing

Interested in becoming an officer? Attend the next "Green to Gold" Briefing on Friday, 11 a.m.-noon at the Post Education Center (Building 52104).



Photo by Sgt. Sharron L. Stewart

Hua holiday

Students from Sierra Vista Middle School showed their patriotic pride and holiday spirit in Saturday's Christmas parade in Sierra Vista. Their float, "Remember the Heroes," honored the country's military. For more photos from the parade, see Page 5.

Fort wins initial A-76 decision

By Frank Shirar
USAIC&FH Deputy PAO

The initial outcome of a three-year long study of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca Adjutant General functions will not eliminate any of the civilian jobs of this office, according to fort officials Nov. 29.

A congressionally directed Commercial Activities (A-76) Study was conducted to determine whether these functions should be contracted out to private industry or remain as government operated functions using an in-house workforce.

Commercial Activities studies are intended to determine the most cost-effective method of obtaining services that are available in the commercial market.

The study decision resulted in the AG functions remaining in-house. This is a tentative decision subject to review of any appeals that may be submitted.

According to Judy Max, Adjutant General, the government's bid of \$8.8 million was nearly half that of the winning contractor bid. Resource Consultants, Inc. of Vienna, Va. submitted a bid at just over \$16 million.

Max added the work put into preparing the government bid was a "matter of protecting the government workforce that has worked so hard for us."

She cited an innovative restructuring of the Adjutant General as one of the aspects that allowed the government bid to be selected.

The Fort Huachuca study is part of the Training and Doctrine Command's command review of many functions and directorates at Army installations. This particular study was announced to Congress in November 1998.

The in-house decision is tentative and is subject to appeals by competing contractors. Contractors who wish to appeal the decision must address costing issues and noncompliance with OMB Circular A-76. All appeals must be submitted in writing to the contracting office at TRADOC Acquisition Center, ATTN: ATAC, Building 2798, Fort Eustis, VA 23604-5538.

If all appeals are denied and the decision is upheld, Fort Huachuca will implement its "Most Efficient Organization," after conducting any necessary reductions or realignments to meet its MEO end state. If appeals are sustained and the decision is reversed, a contract operation could commence approximately 150 days after the appeal resolution.

The installation will assist any employees affected by the MEO reductions or realignment who wish to continue working for the government through priority placement consideration for vacancies and retraining. In addition, employees will receive advice on separation incentives, severance packages, retirement options, job counseling, and other transition programs.

Questions about the Commercial Activities or Competitive Sourcing program can be answered at the following Web site: <http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsimweb/ca/cal.htm>.

ASIST, a new approach to preventing suicides

By Jim Caldwell
TRADOC News Service

FORT MONROE, Va. — A new approach to preventing suicide places the responsibility with coworkers and friends. It's called ASIST — Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training.

"Suicide tends to be one of those things where a person gets into it because they think they have no options," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mike Punke, information, resource and logistics manager for Training and Doctrine Command's Unit Ministry Team. "ASIST is a way of giving any individual enough skills to can help a person get through that crisis and get them to professional help beyond that."

Punke said the goal is to train two people on every TRADOC installation as ASIST instructors. They can train soldiers, family members, civilian employees and caregivers of any background to put ASIST intervention principles to use.

"Most of the persons who have completed ASIST experienced an immediate increased sense of competency and confidence in engaging suicidal persons," he said.

Occasionally, people from off-post, usually professionals who are exploring other avenues, attend the courses. They pay a fee to replace the materials they receive, although course ma-



Photo by Jim Caldwell

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mike Punke, a TRADOC chaplain, teaches an ASIST class. Conducted informally, about 30 people attend each class to learn about a new approach to preventing suicides that places responsibility on individual coworkers and friends.

terials are free for students from the Army and other Department of Defense agencies.

ASIST was developed and copyrighted by LivingWorks Education, Inc., of Calgary, Canada.

The principles can be used on anyone from a neighborhood to a co-worker, Punke said.

"We're not going to make you a certified

counselor. We don't expect you to be," he said. "But if you're a good friend with somebody, this is enough information to get you through the crisis stage."

People who are considering suicide give out verbal and nonverbal clues that they're de-

See Suicide, Page 9



Photo by Sgt. Sharron L. Stewart

Operation Clean Sweep

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison soldiers participated in post clean up Tuesday. Pvt. Bobby Polite, Spc. Sadiki Harriot, Spc. Kenji Davis, Spc. Jason Post and Spc. Albert Edwards, who all work at the Directorate of Information Management, gather leaves along Christy Avenue.

Have we got news for you!

Don't miss these upcoming stories in future editions of *The Fort Huachuca Scout* newspaper:

Fort meet needs of handicapped customers
How to avoid the holiday "spread"
Wildlife office tags wild turkeys

Soldiers' Lawyer

Do I need a private attorney?

At the Legal Assistance Office, we often see clients in need of retaining a private attorney, but unwilling to do so. The unwillingness is understandable given the costs to retain private counsel, as well as most individuals' unfamiliarity with the legal system. Nevertheless, while the unwillingness may be understandable, it can also be foolish and quite shortsighted.

Whether or not you need a private attorney depends upon weighing the costs of retaining an attorney with the expected benefit or potential risks your court case involves. For example, a court case involving disputed issues of child custody and support can profoundly affect an individual's life well into the future. When you weigh the far-reaching consequences of an adverse judicial decision in such an area versus the financial costs of an attorney, it is likely better to err on the side of caution, and retain an attorney to represent your interests.

JAG attorneys generally cannot represent your interests in the civilian court systems. We can offer general advice and assist you in evaluating whether or not you need to retain a private attorney. Should you decide to seek the services of private counsel, our office also can provide a list of local attorneys with a listing of particular practice areas.

(Editor's note: *The Soldiers' Lawyer* is provided by your JAG Legal Assistance Office. Visit us on the Web at <http://huachuca-www.army.mil/usag/sja/legalassistance/> or contact us at 533-2009 for an appointment. Legal advice may not be given over the phone.)

Team Talk

By Brig. Gen. 'Spider' and Marty Marks
USAIC&FH Commanding General and wife

Since arriving at Fort Huachuca, we have been blessed with the wonderful support from the military and civilian communities. Following the attacks against America on Sept. 11 and our ongoing war against terrorism, our lives have changed. We see the obvious changes with regard to our installation's force protection measures, but we're also changing the way we think about our military community.

We want to increase a "sense of community" for our service members and their families. The way to do this is by keeping every service and family member informed, enhancing the quality of life, and getting people involved in activities.

In the past three months, units have made great strides in establishing Family Readiness Groups. Families are a crucial part of our mission readiness. We must ensure they are kept informed so that they can in turn keep all members of the team informed. FRGs provide a network of communication among



family members, the chain of command, and community resources. They also provide training so families can learn to be self-confident and self-reliant.

The monthly Post Round-Up has been very successful. There are more and more family members attending each month. For those that may not know, we have a meeting at the LaHacienda Club on the first Thursday of each month beginning at 10 a.m. The goal of the meeting is to provide community information about activities and all on-post facilities - the Garrison, health clinic, PX, commissary, MWR, ACS, schools, and the chaplain. It is a great community forum. For more information, contact your FRG leader.

Quality of life for our service members and families is a huge reason many of us choose to remain on the Army team. We are committed to working with you to make this community — the place where you work, live, and play — an installation of excellence!

You may have noticed some of the many changes being made around post. We're building walls around dumpsters so they're not such an eyesore; we're getting more gym equipment to support the demand; over the next year, we'll be spending about \$27 million for construction and improvements to our facilities; and we're getting ready to demolish the old Bonnie Blink and Pershing Plaza housing areas so we can begin construction of new housing for our soldiers and their families.

We have also implemented a new Unit Sponsorship Program for our government family housing areas. Unit commanders will be in touch with the residents of all our housing areas and will begin the work of promoting a "sense of community." Units will seek out volunteers to be area coordinators.

Each unit will establish programs and assign personnel to ensure area coordinators have what they need so families can maintain their homes according to regulations and policies. Primarily, area coordinators will facilitate neighborhood activities and represent the residents' interests during post town hall meetings and to the command. We want to build neighborhoods, not just have houses.

This week, everyone has been very involved with Operation Clean Sweep, our fall clean-up program. Thank you for all your hard work in cleaning up our community. The post is looking great.

Change takes time. After three months, we've settled into a new way of doing business with force protection and we're on our way to improving our post's facilities and developing a more active community.

We urge everyone to participate in making our homes, neighborhoods and installation the best possible place for all of us to live. Nature continues to do her part to provide the incredible beauty we see around us everyday. Now it is up to us to do our part to help her out.

Lifelong Learning

ACAP encourages continued service

By Tara McNealy
ACAP

By now we have all seen the National Guard at the gates of Fort Huachuca. Deployed here from California, they are serving their country in a different capacity than the traditional forces.

Like them, many soldiers who depart the Army have also decided to continue their service to our great country through their decision to join the Reserves or National Guard Forces. A soldier's ETS date or decision to leave the Army does not mean his or her service to the U.S. has to end.

Annually, large numbers of soldiers leave the active Army for the Reserves and National Guard. Not only is this a great way to continue national service, but more and more civilian employers recognize the merits of former soldiers who are continuing their service in the Reserves or National Guard. Commitment, integrity and dedication to duty are highly sought after characteristics that are all but a given in today's soldiers.

Many former soldiers have said that they miss the camaraderie and challenges they enjoyed in the Army. The transition to the "civilian world" can at times be daunting as a soldier recognizes that life outside of the Army sometimes lacks the teamwork and fulfillment that can be found in the Army.

Yet the transition out of the active Army can be easier when a soldier continues to serve in the National Guard and Reserves, knowing that similar camaraderie and challenges will be there during their drills and training.

Retirees play a large role in shaping and affecting how civilian employers perceive employees who are members of the National Guard and Reserves. The leadership traits, team member skills, and commitment to the organization serve as examples from which employers craft their perceptions of former military.

If an employer's work experiences with military retirees has been positive, then he or she is more likely to support former military especially if the employee has decided to continue to serve the U.S. in the Reserves or National Guard. As civilian organizations grow and expand, new businesses develop and older industries expand, today's retirees who enter the civilian workplace will always impact the perceptions of employers and the public at large.

The ACAP Pre-Separation Briefing and the ACAP Three-Day Workshop provide additional information on continuing your service in the U.S. Army with the Reserve and National Guard. All personnel retiring or separating in the next twelve months should schedule their Pre-Separation Briefing by calling 533-5764 today.

UofP launches new major in criminal justice

UofP release

TUCSON, Ariz. — In response to an increasing need for well-educated and trained professionals in municipal, state and national public safety agencies, the University of Phoenix is introducing a new program this fall: a bachelor of science in criminal justice.

Beginning in January of 2002, University of Phoenix will offer the criminal justice degree program at all of its Southern Arizona campuses, including Tucson and Yuma.

The criminal justice degree was developed to give students the job specific training necessary to advance professionally in the police force, court systems and corrections institutions. Not only is this degree a practical step toward career advancement, but it can also help newcomers gain a promising position in the criminal justice field.

According to the Occupational Outlook Handbook published by the Department of La-

bor, "...demand for most protective service occupations will grow faster than average, spurred by rising demand for law enforcement and correctional officers to oversee the increasing population of convicted offenders."

"There is a great need for people with an educational background in criminal justice," said Dr. Malcolm Gray, criminal justice programs administrator.

"The demand for competent workers is increasing, and University of Phoenix is utilizing their expertise in building and delivering a relevant educational program designed for adults in the workforce."

For information on this program, call an enrollment counselor at (520) 881-6512.

The largest private, accredited university in the country, University of Phoenix serves over 3,000 working adult students from campus locations throughout southern Arizona.

...demand for most protective service occupations will grow faster than average, spurred by rising demand for law enforcement and correctional officers to oversee the increasing population of convicted offenders.

Occupational Outlook Handbook

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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Air Force squadron continues successful training record

By Staff Sgt. Chris Stagner
355th Wing Public Affairs

The cadence rang through the crisp southern Arizona air. A flight of airmen marched back to class from lunch through a maze of soldiers, sailors, and Marines. The airmen of the 314th Training Squadron are in a training environment not very well known to a large majority of Air Force members.

Located approximately 70 miles southeast of Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Sierra Vista, Fort Huachuca houses the training schools for all Morse intercept operators in the military. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines alike, share training classes, chow halls and even compete against one another in intramural sports.

The Morse interceptor course is a self-paced course that delegates all responsibility to the airmen to learn and utilize all information related to the career field. The course is separated into two classes at Fort Huachuca and one class at Corry Naval Air Station, Fla.

There is no instruction involved in the basic course, it is a completely self-paced course involving only a student and a computer terminal in which they are introduced to all Morse codes and expected to learn them. The advanced course requires a top-secret clearance and is another self-paced course.

Once the trainees complete their class at Fort Huachuca they go temporary duty to Corry NAS for a five month follow-on school. In total, all three portions of the Morse intercept operator course lasts about a year.

A year though, is nothing for the airmen to be at joint assignments. Outside of four Air Force bases, three of which are overseas, these airmen will spend their entire careers living with, working with and supporting Army installations.

Since rules are different depending on the branch of military, there are sometimes misunderstandings between members of the branches.

According to Tech. Sgt. Lisa Vane, a military training leader of two years, the airmen usually don't have too many problems acclimating to the environment at Fort Huachuca, outside of the occasional run-ins with an Army drill sergeant. The most common conflicts between the drill sergeants and the airmen occur when an airman has the misfortune of not following an Army regulation.

The majority of the misunderstandings involve airmen not saluting while in physical training gear, or setting their headgear on the table during chow. When asked about being stationed at an Army post, a recent basic training graduate, Airman Crystal O'Brien, of Gettysburg, Pa., "I was surprised at the environment being so friendly."

Thanks to an intensive physical training program in which the airmen muster at 4:45 a.m. Monday thru Friday, not only do the airmen at Fort Huachuca participate in interservice sports programs, they excel at them. At one point, the airmen won seven straight brigade runs, an event in which they run as a squadron and are only as fast as their slowest member. Currently, heading into the playoffs, the airmen are undefeated and

ranked number one in flag football and ranked second place in bowling.

For the permanent party members at Fort Huachuca, outside of the orderly room, it is a volunteer station. There are six military training leaders stationed at Fort Huachuca, all of whom take a great deal of pride in the jobs and relationships with the airmen they mentor.

According to Vane, the most difficult part of being an MTL is not being able to help a trainee adjust to military life and having to watch them separate themselves from the Air Force. She said, "A piece of me is lost when I watch them walk out the door."

Capt. Brent Crider, 314th Training Squadron commander, has nothing but praise for his environment at Fort Huachuca and he has an immense amount of pride in his MTLs.

Crider said of MTL's "They are all really good at what they do and it makes my job easier."

That could very well be an understatement as the MTLs at Fort Huachuca have been rated the best in 2nd Air Force, and the airmen of the 314th TRS received best graduate assessment surveys in Air Education Training Command.

For those interested in the possibilities of becoming an MTL, the only requirement to apply is to be at a minimum a senior airman who has completed Airman Leadership School. It is a three year controlled tour. To apply, visit www.afpc.randolph.af.mil and look under the enlisted assignments page.

Commissary director clarifies 'designated agent or guardian' rules for shopping

By Stan Williamson
Scout Staff

"A designated agent or guardian of an authorized commissary patron may enter the commissary on their own or with the authorized patron if they have a letter of authorization identifying the agent or guardian of the patron," said R. D. Fisher, Defense Commissary Agency store director.

A designated agent or guardian is someone authorized to shop in the commissary for an authorize patron who is either permanently or temporarily disabled and unable to visit the store.

The designated agent or guardian must present a letter of authorization along with a picture I.D. to gain entry to the commissary store. The same letter can be used for shopping in the Post Exchange.

The letter of authorization can be obtained from Fort Huachuca's Identification Card Section (533-1608) located in building 41420 on Rhea Avenue and Hungerford Avenue.

To obtain the letter of authorization, a memo or letter is required from the patron's physician stating there is a continuing hardship and the individual needs assistance in shopping at the commissary store.

Finally, these letters of authorization are only issued to individuals who do not possess a military I.D. card which authorizes shopping in the commissary or PX.

These individuals will also have to obtain a one-year temporary vehicle pass to enter the installation from the Provost Marshal's office.

Those individuals with a valid reason to access or transit Fort Huachuca on a recurring basis must provide specific details about their need.

Applicants are encouraged to provide as much information as possible to support this request so as to allow a thorough and complete review before a final decision is made.

Individuals requesting a pass must possess and provide copies of the following: a valid state driver's license; a valid state registration; and proof of vehicle liability insurance.

Requests for temporary passes should be mailed to:

Commander, USAIC&FH
ATTN: ATZS-PS
Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613-6000

For more information about the temporary vehicle pass, contact the Military Police at 533-1840.



EPG photo

EPG winners

The Electronic Proving Ground Organizational Day picnic began at Veteran's Park. Coffee, fruit and donuts were served for all the early bird arrivals. The morning was filled with golf, horseshoes and a bowling tournament. The afternoon activities included a barbecue dinner, award presentations, board games and casual conversation. Family and retired EPG employees participated in the day's events. Golf tournament gross winners were Col. Hugo Keyner, Bonnie Keyner, Bob Malone and Pat White. The golf net winners included Dan Searls, Grady Taylor, Susan Young and Rick Errhalt. Horseshoe winners, 1st place Andy Anderson and 2nd place Ken Van Karsen. 1st place for bowling was Ken Huber and 2nd place Margaret Curry.

TRICARE explains health care benefits for guard, reserve; announces new demo project

TRICARE release

Members of the Reserves and National Guard who are called to active duty under Executive Order 13223, in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks are eligible for the same health care and dental benefits under TRICARE as other active duty service members.

Moreover, for their eligible family members, TRICARE is offering newly enhanced health benefits under the TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Project. The demonstration supports continuity of health care for Reserve and Guard family members.

The demonstration applies to all covered health care services provided on or after Sept. 14, 2001, and before Nov. 1, 2003.

The demonstration project does not change eligibility requirements for health benefits — family member eligibility begins on the effective date of the orders to active duty, provided the orders are for more than 30 days. Health care will be provided by uniformed services military treatment facilities, and by authorized civilian health care providers.

New under the demonstration are the waiver of deductibles; authority for TRICARE to pay above the TRICARE allowable rates for care provided by non-participating providers; and waiver of the requirement for a non-availability statement for inpatient care.

Families of Reserve and Guard members who are called to active duty for 179 days or more may enroll in TRICARE Prime, if they live where Prime is offered. The Prime benefit remains the same, with no enrollment fees or co-payments for medical care for active duty family members.

Enrollment forms must be completed and

military treatment facilities and/or TRICARE Prime network providers must be used. There are no pharmacy co-payments at military hospitals or clinics, but there are modest pharmacy co-payments associated with the use of retail pharmacies and the National Mail Order Pharmacy program.

Reserve and Guard families who have continuing relationships with providers who aren't in the TRICARE networks may find that enrolling in TRICARE Prime (and thereby having to use only providers who are part of the TRICARE Prime network) is not the best choice for them. Under these circumstances, using TRICARE Standard may be a better option.

Families of activated Reserve and Guard members become eligible for TRICARE Standard or Extra on the first day of the military sponsor's active duty, if the sponsor's orders are for a period of more than 30 consecutive days of active duty.

For active duty families, TRICARE Standard pays 80 percent of the TRICARE maximum allowable charge for covered health care services that are obtained from authorized, non-network, civilian health care providers. TRICARE Extra offers discounted cost shares (15 percent of negotiated fees) when TRICARE network providers are used.

Under the demonstration, three things are improved for family members. First, the annual deductible was waived for family members who use TRICARE Standard or Extra. The deductibles were waived to avoid undue financial hardship for families who may have already paid an annual deductible under their health insurance provided by their non-military employer.

Second, family members who receive care

from "participating" or "non-participating" providers pay the same amount: 20 percent of the allowable charge.

Family members are not legally responsible for the balance above the TRICARE allowable charge that some non-participating providers charge.

TRICARE will pay up to 15 percent above the TRICARE allowable charge for eligible Reserve Component families.

Third, the requirement to obtain non-emergency inpatient care from a military treatment facility was waived. This waiver allows continuity of health care by the families' civilian provider.

Family members, however, are not prevented from using military treatment facilities and are encouraged to inquire about local military facility specialty capabilities.

Persons who are covered by other health insurance (such as a civilian employer's health plan) should be aware that TRICARE pays after those plans have made their payments for health care services.

The only time TRICARE is not second payer is when Medicaid (a public assistance program) is involved, or if the patient has a health care insurance policy that is specifically designated as a TRICARE supplemental policy. In those cases, TRICARE pays before the other insurance.

TRICARE Standard users should make sure that the provider from whom they seek health care has been certified by the regional TRICARE contractor as an authorized provider of care for TRICARE patients (check with the provider, or with the regional TRICARE contractor).

If they receive services from a provider who is not authorized, the cost of services — even though they might otherwise be covered by the program — will not be shared by the government.

Activated Reserve and Guard members should update their information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database by visiting their local military ID card issuing facility. They should bring proper documentation to update their family file, such as a marriage certificate, birth certificate or divorce decree.

Incorrect information can result in delayed claims processing, problems with the use of retail pharmacies and the National Mail Order Pharmacy benefit, and other difficulties.

Beneficiaries may go online to find the three closest personnel offices or ID card facilities at <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs/>.

For more information about DEERS enrollment, beneficiaries may contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office Telephone Center at 1-800-538-9552.

Activated Reservists or National Guard members may get more information about their family's TRICARE Standard benefits from the TRICARE Standard Handbook.

The handbooks are available at the nearest uniformed services hospital or clinic, or any TRICARE service center, or by writing to the TRICARE Management Activity, 16401 E. Centretch Parkway, Aurora, CO 80011-9043.

Information is also available on the TRICARE Web site <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>, from the Reserve Affairs Web site <http://www.defenselink.mil/ra>, or by calling the worldwide TRICARE Information Center toll-free at 1-888-DoD-CARE (1-888-363-2273).

All active duty service members are provided with dental benefits at no cost through military dental treatment facilities.

Reservists and National Guard members called to active duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive days who are enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program, will have their individual coverage discontinued during their period of active duty.

They are eligible for dental care in military treatment facilities. In addition, activated reservists whose family members are not currently enrolled in the TDP may enroll them for the period of time the member is on active duty.

Also, TDP-enrolled family members of activated reservists will receive the same 60 percent discount off their TDP monthly premium payment as active duty family members.

For more information about the TDP, call United Concordia Companies, Inc., toll free, at 1-800-866-8499, or visit the Web site <http://www.ucci.com>.

Khanukka holiday celebrates military victory

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bonnie Koppell
Installation Chaplaincy

The holiday of Khanukka occurs each year on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev, and lasts for eight days. Corresponding to the Gregorian calendar, this means that the holiday begins anywhere from the end of November to the end of December.

The word "Khanukka" in Hebrew means "re-dedication." It can be transliterated into English any number of ways — Chanukka, Channukah, Hanukkah, Hanukka, Khanukka. None of these is more correct than another.

Khanukka is the only Jewish holiday which celebrates a military victory. King Antiochus Epiphanes outlawed the practice of the Jewish religion. He installed Greek idols in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and forbade circumcision, observance of the Sabbath and the study of the Torah.

In the year 168 BCE, a priest in the town of Modiin, Mattathias, and his five sons, rose up

in rebellion. One son especially, Judah, known as Judah the Maccabee (hammer) emerged as the leader. Many zealots joined with them, and, at the end of three years of warfare, they were successful in recapturing the Holy Temple.

Legend has it that they found only enough oil with which to light the menorah, the candelabrum, to last for one day, but, miraculously, it lasted for eight days. Thus the eight days of the holiday.

It is because of this association with oil that it became traditional to eat foods cooked in oil for Khanukka, most notably, potato pancakes or latkes and jelly doughnuts.

Each night another candle is added to the nine-branched khanukkia, the special candelabrum used for the holiday. It is most commonly known as a menorah, though khanukkia is the correct term.

One candle is the "shammash," or helper candle, and it is used to kindle the other candles. Traditional blessings accompany the lighting,

followed by the singing of Khanukka songs and the exchange of gifts.

A traditional game called dreidle, played with a four-sided top, is also part of the fun. On each side of the dreidle is a Hebrew letter — nun, gimmel, hey, shin. This stands for "Nes gadol haya sham," "A great miracle happened there." In Israel the dreidles say, "A great miracle happened here."

The story of Khanukka is recounted in the books of the Maccabees, which occurred too late to be included in the Jewish Biblical canon. They can be found in the collection known as the Apocrypha. There we discover the true reason for the eight days of the holiday.

The Biblical harvest festival, Sukkot, should have taken place during the time of battle. As soon as the Temple was reclaimed, plans were made for the belated celebration of Sukkot. The holiday of Khanukka was originally known as "Sukkot sh' b' Kislev," the holiday of Sukkot in the month of Kislev.

The rabbis were clearly uncomfortable with the military aspect of the holiday. They shifted the emphasis away from the successful battle to "the little jar of oil that could." Their choice of Haftarat, the prophet reading assigned to this holiday, is taken from the prophet Zekharya. Zekharya teaches, "Not by might, and not by power, but by My spirit, says God."

This reflects an ideal state of affairs. In today's world, it has become ever more apparent that a strong fighting force is a necessity if we are to protect our freedom.

The holiday of Khanukka is ultimately about our freedom to worship as we choose. It is a very appropriate time to acknowledge the crucial nature of our military forces, and to express our gratitude for the sacrifice of the soldiers who guarantee freedom of worship for all Americans.

The community is invited to a Khanukka Service and children's party at 7 p.m., Dec. 14 at the Main Post Chapel.

Holiday Lighting Ceremony, concert tonight

Chapel release

The annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony and Concert, hosted by the Installation Staff Chaplain's Office, is scheduled for tonight at the Main Post Chapel.

The lighting ceremony will start on the front lawn at 6 p.m., followed by the concert in the Chapel Sanctuary from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

This year's theme is Celebrate Hope.

"We want to communicate to the military community that there is still a future to hope for. The seasons of Christmas and Hanukkah, to which we call attention at this ceremony, communicate that message," said project officer Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Willard Richardson.

The 36th Army Band, Regimental Band of the Military Intelligence Corps, directed by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gary Dorrell, will offer a concert of seasonal music celebrating both seasons. The band will play both secular and religious music. Additionally, a brass quintet will provide selections for the lighting ceremony.

Santa Claus is scheduled to arrive at the beginning of the concert. He will go to the Chapel Annex where the children will be dismissed by rows to visit him during the concert.

After the concert, there will be a time for fellowship for all in the Annex.

36th Army Band holds holiday concert

By Tanja M. Linton

Media Relations Officer

The 36th Army Band will present their holiday concert on Monday at 7 p.m. in the Buena High School Performing Arts Center. The concert is free and open to the public.

Musicians from the Sierra Vista community will also be assisting in this concert, including members of the Buena High School Choir.

The 36th Army Band is the only active duty military band in Arizona and is in great demand for parades, concert, fairs, school clinics, and other community functions, as well their normal support for military functions. The band travel over 30,000 miles per year, mainly throughout the southwest United States, fulfilling their busy musical schedule.

College chorus presents holiday concert

Cochise College release

The Cochise College chorus will perform its 2001 holiday concert in Benson, Sierra Vista and Bisbee in December.

"'Tis the Season" features holiday music, ensembles and a trumpet fanfare. The chorus, which includes 36 men and women, will be directed by Sunny Fichtl and accompanied by Judy Wilkins.

The first performance takes place at 7 p.m., Friday at Community Presbyterian Church, 590 S. Huachuca St., Benson. The second concert is set for 3 p.m., Saturday at Sierra Vista United Methodist Church, 3225 S. St. Andrews Drive. The final performance will be at 3 p.m., Sunday at St. Patrick Catholic Parish, Higgins Hill, Bisbee.

All performances are free and open to the public. Call 515-5112 for more information.

Have we got news for you!

Read it online, click on huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO

AAFES supports Operation Enduring Freedom

AAFES release

DALLAS — Once again U.S. service members have answered the call to travel to a foreign land in service to their country. And once again AAFES volunteers have traded in their business suits for battle dress uniforms and Kevlar in an effort to ensure our deployed troops are all provided a piece of home away from home. This time around, AAFES' volunteers are providing much needed goods and services in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Shortly after AAFES-Europe officials got the word from the senior military leadership in Europe that its contingency expertise was needed to support troops headed for Southwest Asia, AAFES moved quickly to establish seven tactical field exchanges, all within a two-week period. The TFEs are currently located in six countries spread across the western region of SW Asia.

Because it is currently operating 25 businesses in over 30 countries, it's easy to see why AAFES it has become so proficient when it comes to serving deployed U.S. service members. Many soldiers newly assigned to SW Asia, having never experienced a deployment before, have been amazed at how quickly AAFES personnel have been able to deploy and establish "field" exchanges.

One commander at a site in Oman was heard commenting, "within twelve hours of stepping off the plane I was shopping in an AAFES exchange."

At this point in time, AAFES either has or soon will have sites located in Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan and Uzbekistan, all of which are providing necessary moral-boosting goods and services to soldiers and airmen serving in these remote locations.

The first of these tactical field exchanges was in place and operational in less than two weeks after commanders on the ground had asked AAFES for assistance.

These TFEs offer a range of basic goods to customers and are normally operated from a tent supported by a solid frame, called a "California medium," or another tent that's supported with collapsible walls, called a "clamshell." Other exchange personnel operate from a building or an established "hard site."

Among the more popular items being provided are books, magazines and music. Barber shops; food facilities; and other support activities will be added based upon command requests as well as more site exchanges as the need arises.

"Right now, we're responding to individual needs as well as those of local command," said AAFES-Europe Senior Vice President Karen Stack. "And with the holidays coming up, we're working hard to make sure that seasonal merchandise will be available and that our military customers will have access to catalogs, on line greeting cards, and other support through the AAFES Web site: www.aafes.com."

Setting up these sites in so many different countries in-

involved the full support of the AAFES team and cooperation from the military units responsible for the airmen and soldiers stationed in these countries.

"As has been the case with other deployments in the past, AAFES managers at every location have been met with a vast contingency of soldiers and airmen eager and ready to do all they can to assist in AAFES' efforts to get the field exchanges up and running," said AAFES-Europe Commander Col. William H. Taylor III.

"This cooperative relationship with command has also been instrumental in addressing a variety of logistical issues that both AAFES and the military have faced in supplying these faraway sites with goods.

Additionally, many of our vendors and logistics partners have bent over backwards, working night and day to ensure that we've been able to provide the troops everything they've needed."

Lt. Col. Cruz Acevedo, AAFES' Chief of Contingency Planning, has nothing but praise for the various commands whose cooperation has made AAFES' mission in SW Asia so much easier to accomplish.

"The support from our military commands has been overwhelming," said Acevedo. "From the folks at CINCOM J-1 (MWR) and J-4 (Logistics) and the ARCENT Liaison office, to our commercial air carrier, Emory, and CENTAF Forward for helping us to identify potential sites for field exchanges — their help has been invaluable to us. And a special thanks to our AAFES command group in Europe; with their assistance, we've been able to pull it all together."

At this time, 17 associates from all over the world have joined AAFES' "all-volunteer" team and are living and working in the trenches alongside the troops they serve to become an important part of the "American team" serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

By Mid-November, 10 more AAFES volunteers are expected to join this exclusive group when three more sites will be established in two additional countries within that region.

"I'm very proud of the speed, as well as the depth of the response, of AAFES as a corporation, but mostly the response of its associates who have really leaned forward to go with the deployed troops and continuously provide a major quality of life service wherever our service members are sent," said AAFES Commander, Maj. Gen. C.J. Wax.

"So far, more than 250 AAFES associates have volunteered to work in a variety of unnamed places for an uncertain period of time — all to be a part of a mission of support for our service members deployed to Southwest Asia," added Mike Beverly, AAFES' Chief Operating Officer.

"This tradition of dedication and service spans a period of over 106 years and is testimony to the fact that in every case, when we were needed, we were there...AAFES truly does believe in its motto...We go where you go."

I'm very proud of the speed, as well as the depth of the response, of AAFES as a corporation, but mostly the response of its associates who have really leaned forward to go with the deployed troops and continuously provide a major quality of life service wherever our service members are sent.

Maj. Gen. C.J. Wax

Kmart salutes military

Kmart release

TROY, Mich. — For the first time in the company's history, Kmart Corporation will salute the men and women who defend American values and show its thanks by extending a special discount to military personnel and their families during a special holiday shopping Saturday and Sunday.

Throughout the Kmart "Military Appreciation Weekend," active and reserve military personnel, retirees and their families will receive a 10 percent discount on eligible merchandise at more than 2,100 Kmart stores and Super Kmart Centers nationwide.

"Holiday seasons are a time to reflect, a time to give thanks and a special time to be close to our families and friends, yet this year many military families will be separated," said Charles C. Conaway, Kmart Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

"Kmart joins all Americans in recognizing our service men and women who defend the values that we all hold so dear, and we want to publicly express our gratitude for the sacrifices they make."

To receive the special discount, Armed Forces' families need to show a Kmart "Military Appreciation Weekend" shopping pass sent to their homes or bases. Military identification cards also can be used to obtain a shopping pass at all Kmart locations.

Kmart, which began as the S.S. Kresge Company, has been serving the American people for 102 years. Today, 85 percent of the U.S. population is within 15 miles of a Kmart and stores are located near all domestic military bases.

"Many of our associates are part of military families themselves and proudly serve or have served in our Armed Forces," added Conaway. "In times like this, we must all support one another and come together as one American family."

Kmart Corporation is a near-\$40 billion company that serves all 50 states, the Caribbean Islands and Asia Pacific with more than 2,100 Kmart and Kmart SuperCenter retail outlets.

Kmart gives back to the communities it serves through Leaders in Learning, an aggressive corporate giving and community outreach initiative focused on supporting diverse education programs and promoting lifelong learning.

Kmart associates also provide their most valuable resource — time — every day in their local communities. More information about Kmart is available at the company's e-commerce shopping site www.bluelight.com under the "About Kmart" section.

Star Card interest rate drops

AAFES release

DALLAS — The good news continues for Military Star card holders.

With the latest announcement by the Federal Reserve, key interest rates were lowered by a half percent. As a result, the Military Star card reduced its interest rate from 10.25 percent to 9.75 percent, effective Dec. 1.



Photos by Sgt. Sharron L. Stewart

Col. John Custer, deputy post commander and wife Audrey, greet the thousands who lined Fry Boulevard Saturday.

Fort Huachuca soldiers display holiday spirit

By Sgt. Sharron L. Stewart
Scout Staff

Fort Huachuca soldiers greeted thousands of Sierra Vista community members Saturday along Fry Boulevard, during the city's annual Christmas parade.

Brig. Gen. James Marks, commanding general, was in the lead car and was followed by Col. John Custer, deputy post commander; Col. Michael W. Boardman, garrison commander; the Fort Huachuca Honor Guard; the 36th Army Band; and B Troop 4th Cavalry.

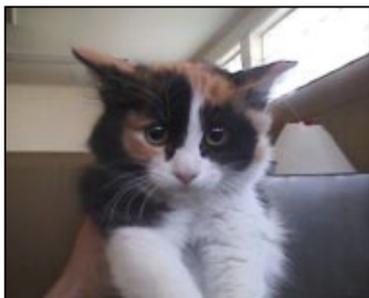


The Awana Cubbies of First Baptist Church display patriotism and Christmas spirit.



A horse of a different color. Patriotic pride was visible virtually everywhere at the Sierra Vista Christmas Parade. This horse wore the red, white and blue proudly as he marched down Fry Boulevard.

Pets of the Week



"Shakers" is a three month-old female domestic short-haired calico kitten. She is very cute and cuddly! Her adoption fee is \$42, which includes a spay, vaccinations, a feline leukemia test, a microchip and deworming.



"Sheba" is a one year-old female domestic short haired tortoiseshell cat. She is very beautiful. Her adoption fee is \$42, which includes a spay, vaccinations, a feline leukemia test, a microchip and deworming.



"Crimson" is a four month-old female red Shetland sheepdog ("Sheltie") mix. She is very sweet and loves to play. Her adoption fee is \$52, which includes a spay, vaccinations, a heartworm test, a microchip and deworming.



These seven puppies are shepherd/Bernese mountain dog mixes and are 8 weeks old. Some black and white, some are brown and white. They are all adorable and would make great early Christmas presents! The females are \$52, and the males are \$42. Their adoption fees include a spay or neuter, vaccinations, a heartworm test, a microchip and deworming.

These and several other dogs and cats are available at the Fort Huachuca Veterinary Treatment Facility from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. The facility is now open through lunch. For information, call 533-2767.



Photo by John C. Keenan

(From left) Raymond Hart, Col. Hugo Keyner, Dr. Claudia LaClair, Charlie LaClair, David LeClair, Chip LeClair and Tony Ortega. Charlie and Claudia LaClair are Co-Advisers for the Southern Arizona AFCEA Chapter. All others featured are AFCEA Student Chapter members.

AFCEA luncheon emphasizes goals

By John C. Keenan
Vice President for Publications, AFCEA

Southern Arizona Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association Chapter President, Col. Hugo Keyner, opened the November meeting by congratulating Pamela Hand on her winning the AFCEAN of the Month Award.

He also thanked Wayne Sittler and the Chapter Board of Directors for winning the Model Chapter Award and recognition for best Chapter Recruiting and Retention Award this past year.

The featured speaker was the Chief Executive Officer for AFCEA International, retired Vice Admiral Herbert A. Browne who gave an overview of his goals and aspirations for the upcoming years.

He emphasized that after discussion with several senior AFCEANs, he is convinced we do three things very well:

— Provide an ethical forum for bringing the Department of Defense and industry together,

— Signal Magazine is a first class publication, and

— Place continued emphasis on education, noting that AFCEA grants over \$1 Million in scholarships. His most immediate challenges in his view, are to bring the organization into a favorable financial posture and develop a strategic plan covering the next 18 to 36 month period.

He stressed that we should all work to achieve the following goal: AFCEA should be the number one Information Technology Professional Association of choice.

Browne made specific thanks to the efforts of Dr. Claudia LaClair, President of the Cochise College Sub Chapter, for her continued outstanding support of our joint programs. Keyner presented Browne with a replica of "Emmett," the famed Buffalo Soldier, as thanks for his informative talk.

For more information on the Southern Arizona Chapter of AFCEA visit www.afcea-southaz.org.

Have we got news for you!

Read it online, click on huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO

Community Updates

FCC applications accepted

Fort Huachuca Family Child Care is now accepting new provider applications. FCC Providers are adult family members that offer childcare in their quarters. All FCC Providers must be certified by Child and Youth Services.

FCC will offer training Jan. 7-18, 2002 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. The training is free of charge. Interested family members should contact the program director at 533-2494 or 533-2498.

First Aid, CPR instructor class

The American Red Cross in Sierra Vista will be conducting First Aid, CPR AED Instructor class. This class will instruct students how to teach CPR and First Aid classes as well as how to teach the automatic external defibrillators. The class will be held at the Red Cross Office, 1939 S. Frontage Road on Thursday and Friday, and Dec. 13 and 14. For more information about the class or to sign up, call the Red Cross office at 458-4858.

The Red Cross will be conducting and orientation for new volunteers on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Anyone interested in becoming a Red Cross Volunteer is welcome to attend.

Range closures

Today	AF, AG, AL, T1, T1A, T2
Friday	AG, AL, T1, T1A, T2
Saturday	AG, T1, T1A, T2
Sunday	No Closures
Monday	AF, AG, AV, T1, T1A, T2
Tuesday	AA, AB, AC, AD, AF, AG, AM, AU, AW, T1, T1A, T2
Wednesday	AF, AG, AL, AU, AW, T1, T1A, T2
Dec. 13	AF, AG, AL, AM, AU, T1, T1A, T2
Dec. 14	AF, AG, AU, AW, T1, T1A and T2
Dec. 15	T1, T1A, T2
Dec. 16	No Closures

For questions regarding the closure of ranges please call Range Control at 533-7095.

DOIM classes scheduled

The Directorate of Information Management offers several computer classes for the upcoming weeks, including: Intermediate Access today, and Advanced Access on Friday.

The December classes continue with Word 2000, Monday; Form Flow, Tuesday; Internet I, Wednesday; Internet II, Dec. 13; PowerPoint 2000, Dec. 17; Basic Excel 2000, Dec. 20; Intermediate Excel 2000, Dec. 21; Outlook, Dec. 27; and Practical PC, Dec. 31.

All classes start promptly at 9 a.m., and class size is limited to 14 students. It is mandatory to sign up for a class prior to attending. It is beneficial to sign up as early as possible, as classes fill up quickly.

The classroom is located in De Rosy Cabell Hall on Christy Avenue, Building 22324. For more information or to register for a class, call Pfc. Megan Thacher at 533-3283.

Parish coordinator needed

The Installation Staff Chaplain's office announces the availability of a non-personal service contract position. A volunteer parish coordinator for all services performed at all chapels is needed.

The contract period is Dec. 15, 2001 through Sept. 30, 2002. Contract award and execution is subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

For information on this appropriated fund contract, call Chap. (Maj.) Ira Houck, chaplain resources manager, at 533-4753.

Applicants must have two photograph, valid forms of identification to enter the fort during force protection enforcement. This advertisement of availability is valid from the period of Nov. 8 to Dec. 8. The offer for this contract will close on Saturday.

Federal Jobs Workshops

Federal Jobs Workshops are offered to explain subjects such as What is Federal Government Employment, How To Use the Internet To Find Out Where Government Jobs Are Located, Federal Jobs Benefits, Federal Pay Scales, Interpreting a Federal Job Advertisement, Federal Applications, How to Apply for a Government Job, Veteran's Preference, The Selection Process, RESUMIX Procedures, and Outlook on Opportunities.

The public is invited to attend. All Federal Jobs Workshops are held in Building 22420 from 8 to 10 a.m. No reservation required. The public is invited to attend. The last workshop for this year is set for Friday. Workshops for 2002 are set for Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 7, July 12, Aug. 16, Sept. 13, Oct. 18, Nov. 15 and Dec. 6. For more information, call Thomas L. Hapgood at 533-7314.

Special Forces recruit here

Interested in becoming Special Forces? The Special Forces Recruiting Team will be at Murr Community Center, Monday-Dec. 13. They will give briefings at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. daily and at 6 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday.

You can apply as a private first class, but cannot start training until you are a specialist up to junior sergeant first class. You can attend Special Forces assessment and selection at anytime, but cannot start the Special Forces qualification course until you have one year on station.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Osborn at DSN 833-1461/1462. Your Fort Huachuca point of contact is Sgt. Jeanette Newell at 533-1705.

Military Pay Office closed

The Defense Finance and Accounting Services, Defense Military Pay Office will be closed Tuesday for its Organizational Day.

Free parenting class

Tombstone School District is offering a free Common Sense Parenting class for the first 10 that sign up. The class is designed as a practical approach to help parents be more positive with

their children and to use more effective discipline. This class is intended for parents with children in the age group 3-16.

This class consists of three sessions from 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 13 and Dec. 18 at Huachuca City School in Huachuca City. Babysitting and dinner will be provided. To sign up, call Bill Wright at WJ Meyer School at 457-3371.

DIS closed

The Directorate of Installation Support will be closed Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This closure is so the employees can attend organizational holiday activities. For emergencies call 533-3151 or 533-2003.

Sgt. Maj. Assoc. holiday party

The Fort Huachuca Sergeants Major Association will hold its annual holiday party at LakeSide Activity Center on Dec. 14. Social hour is 6-7 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m. Price is \$16.35 per person. RSVP to Jo Taylor at 459-0173, Alan Pederson at 378-2823 or Sgt. Maj. Scarlett Williams at 538-6947.

DOIM closed

The Directorate of Information Management will be temporarily closed from 10 a.m. to close of business on Dec. 14 for its holiday celebration. For emergencies, call pager numbers 378-7448 or 378-5461. Happy Holidays from the DOIM.

Flea market Christmas schedule

The Sierra Vista La Salida del Sol Lions Flea Market will operate its annual Christmas schedule. The flea market will open its gates Dec. 17-Jan. 4. Weekend rates apply. The days of Dec. 17-21, Dec. 24-28 and Dec. 31-Jan. 2 will be at no charge for our clients. For more information, call Lion Lee Hinzman at 378-1399.

CG meets with unit commanders

Brig. Gen. James A. Marks, commanding general, U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, and his wife, Marty, will host an off-site meeting with commanders, directorates, and their spouses on Dec. 18-19 at the LakeSide Activities Centre.

The purpose of the meeting is to achieve a shared vision for the intelligence school and Fort Huachuca, from which goals and objectives will be established. For information call Capt. Brad D. Fenske, event project officer at 533-8877.

Self-help store partial closure

The self-help store will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. only on Dec. 19. This partial closure will ensure the employees have an opportunity to participate in their company's holiday party. The normal duty hours will resume the next day.

EEO closed

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office will be closed from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 20 for the office holiday celebration.

Dec. 11 event will show Americans won't forget

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — American leaders take every opportunity to tell the world why the United States is fighting a war against global terrorism.

On Dec. 11, President Bush is asking the citizens of the world to show they, too, understand the need to stand up against terror.

Bush is asking countries to hold remembrance events and play their national anthems at the exact moment the first airplane struck the World Trade Center in New York: 8:46 Eastern time.

U.S. service members at installations around the world are urged to participate.

Pentagon attack mementos saved for future display

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — On the last day of November, a wind-swept, sullen sky tossed raindrops upon the wreaths, flowers, photographs, handwritten letters and red, white and blue flags gathered on a knoll overlooking the Pentagon.

As workmen repaired the building's west wall about a half mile away, Army Col. David D. Phillips stood atop the hill and eyed the mementos placed by people from around the world to honor the 189 people killed at the Pentagon during the Sept. 11 terrorist attack.

Phillips said the mementos at this site near Arlington National Cemetery and others nearby would be packed and transported to the Pentagon's remote delivery site to be catalogued and stored.

"We're doing it so they aren't destroyed by the elements," said Phillips, the Army Staff's director of security. He noted the items would be displayed in a planned permanent memorial.

The public began placing mementos near the

PAO closed

The Public Affairs Office will close at 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 20 for its holiday celebration. In case of emergencies, page 452-2040 or call 508-1479. The office will reopen for normal hours on Dec. 21.

VA Benefits briefings set

Veterans Benefits Briefings are given by representatives of the VA Regional Office, The VA Hospital, The Tucson Vet Center, and the Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center.

Representatives cover VA Benefits such as education and training, health care, home loan guarantees, disability compensation, pensions, life insurance, burial, and vocational rehabilitation. It is important for all soldiers who are submitting claims for medical conditions to come to this briefing. The forms necessary for the submission and an explanation of how to complete the forms is provided.

The public is invited to attend this briefing. All VA benefits briefings are held in Building 22420, from 8 a.m. to noon. No reservation required. The last briefing of this year is set for Dec. 20. Briefings for 2002 are set for Jan. 25, Feb. 14, March 21, April 18, May 23, June 20, July 18, Aug. 21, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21 and Dec. 19.

ASAP closed

The Army Substance Abuse Program will be closed Dec. 20, 11 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. For emergency situations, use of the Prime Time Clinic and Sierra Vista Regional Hospital is recommended. ASAP telephone number is 533-3604, Mondays through Fridays, 7:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

Be a foster parent

Thinking about becoming a foster parent? Come learn how... 'tis the season to be giving, give from the heart! Attend an information meeting Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. in Suite 11 at the Landmark Plaza in Sierra Vista. RSVP 458-2761 as soon as possible. Families are needed.

Commissary holiday hours

The Fort Huachuca Commissary will have some special hours during the holidays. It will be open Dec. 24 from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., closed Dec. 25 and 26. Re-open regular hours on Dec. 27. It will be open Dec. 31 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed on Jan. 1 and 2, 2002. Re-open regular hours on Jan. 3, 2002. The Commissary Staff wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Tax Center opens Jan. 7

The Judge Advocate General office will begin manning and operating the Fort Huachuca Tax Center from Jan. 7, 2002 through April 15, 2002.

The hours of operation will be Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and will be located at the rear entrance of Building 21115, the Public Affairs Office. The services provided by the Tax Center will be available to all personnel with valid military ID cards.

Kudos Korner

Educator of the Month

Vincent Ramirez, teacher at Smith Middle School, Fort Huachuca Accommodation Schools, has been selected as Educator of the Month by Phi Delta Kappa. Ramirez was honored on Wednesday morning the Rustic Rail Restaurant.

Guillermo Zamudio, superintendent of the Fort Huachuca Schools, and Casey O'Brien, principal of the Smith Middle School attended in support of Ramirez.

Ramirez has been employed by the Fort Huachuca Schools since Aug. 19, 1987, as a classroom teacher, Title I Reading/Math teacher and coordinator. During his tenure he has also served as Interim Principal due to the regular principal's illness, or extended absence.

Ramirez is admired and respected by his students and co-workers, throughout the district, as a patient and caring teacher, and mentor to those needing assistance. He truly makes a difference in the lives of those students he serves, and the Fort Huachuca Accommodation Schools are proud and fortunate to have him among our staff.

Soldier of the Month

Pvt. 1st Class Thai Kov is Fort Huachuca's Soldier of the Month for November. Kov is a personnel administrative specialist with Company A, 305th Military Intelligence Battalion. Kov enlisted June 16, 2000 and attended Basic Training at Fort Sill, Okla. He then attended Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, S.C. The Garland, Utah native attended and graduated high school at Bear River. His hobbies include basketball and being an outdoorsman. His plans include becoming a member of the 3rd Infantry Old Guard.

Noncommissioned Officer of the Month

Sgt Michael Works is Fort Huachuca's Noncommissioned Officer of the Month for November. Works is an electronic system repairer with Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 111th Military Intelligence Brigade. Works enlisted Aug. 13, 1997 and attended Basic Training at Fort Leonardwood, Mo. He then attended Advanced Individual Training at Fort Huachuca. The Spokane, Wash. native graduated from Shadle Park High School. His main extra curricular activity is hockey. Works' future plans are to receive his MCP certification.

Have we got news for you!

Read it online, click on huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO

Chalk Talk

Johnston Elementary School

Students of the Week for Nov. 26-30 were: Kiara Crawford, Roberto Ramos, Tiffany Rivera, Justin Graham, Joshua Lee, Kiara Tillman, Joshua Crawford, Santana Meza, Baticia Johnson, Mary McCarthy, Ian Parker, Mary Bulger, Larry Chambers, Kassandra Zufelt, Zach White, Joseph Guerrero, Ian Kemp, Sierra Ward and Jason Liu.

Johnston students are writing their own chapter books. The book will be called Silly Stories From Johnston Elementary. The students recently read a book called Sideways Stories from Wayside School. The children have to come up with their own characters, plot and setting. They developed a problem and solution with a beginning, middle and ending.

When the students are finished they will publish their work using a computer program and also they will post their chapters on the class web page.

The Johnston School Parent, Teacher, Student Organization meeting for the month of December will be held at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday in the cafeteria. We invite all parents to attend; then stay and enjoy the Third-Grade Choir Program following at 7 p.m.

The classes of Janice Benavides, Parry Corella, Evelyn Harris and Sylvia Pender have been recycling cans. Money from the recycling project was used to purchase ingredients for making pumpkin pies. Parents from the classroom helped the children roll out the dough for pie crusts and mix the filling. The 20 pies were donated to the Salvation Army for their annual Thanksgiving dinner.

Myer Elementary School

Regina Chesleigh's class completed their unit of study on Native Americans with Native American Day. They listened to traditional music, made wampum, winter counts, totem poles and sand paintings.

Bonnie Burleson's class has been studying about plants and their adaptations to different environments. They started a new novel unit with a book entitled Caddie Woodlawn because they just completed Sign of the Beaver. They have continued to keep the Magellan Running Club ribbon for fifth grade for 13 consecutive weeks.

Audrey Mapoles' class is studying about photosynthesis and Early Colonial America. The students will finish their Early Explorer hyper-studio presentation and share with their

classmates what they have learned.

Myer Parent Teacher Organization is having a Holiday Gift Shop. Parents bring your children and let them buy gifts for the family. The 'shop' will be open Dec. 11-14 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 5-7 p.m. on Dec. 14.

Desiree Madarangs' class has written their letters to Santa, and they are now ready for the holidays. Their plants are doing well that they transplanted during science. They hope to start their classroom garden soon!

Magellan Running Club: Top fourth-grade girl was Rachael Jones from Jan Barnes' room with 48 points. Top fourth-grade boy was Bill Ray Ware from Jan Barnes' room with 56 points. Top fourth-grade class was Lynn Tompkins class with 518 points. Top fifth-grade girl was Gabby Jackson from Bonnie Burleson's room with 75 points. Top fifth-grade boy was Ryan Morris from Kim Tomlin's room with 79 points. Top fifth-grade class was Bonnie Burleson's 1,009 points. Myer students ran 1,207 miles last week and a grand total of 12,526 miles for the year.

Cowboy Poetry fourth-grade winners from Myer School were: 1st place was Adam Griffin from Tom Crawford's room; 2nd place was Raven Driskell from Jan Camps' room. Fifth-grade winners were: 1st place was Jessica Creager from Audrey Mapoles room and 2nd place was Ralph Harris also from Audrey Mapoles room. Adam Griffin also won Honorable Mention and will take place in the Cowboy Gathering in February.

Val Quarto's class has received their adoption certificate for "Flame" the humpback whale. They are looking forward to keeping tabs on Flame as they study the ocean ecosystem for the next seven weeks.

Kim Tomlin's class has begun studying holiday traditions from around the world. They are looking forward to some wonderful parents coming in to share their holiday traditions with them. Kim Tomlin would like to congratulate the newly elected class officers. They are Dean Iacavone, president; Sema J King, vice president; Denise Cox, treasure; and Corina Wise, secretary.

Picture re-takes will be on Dec. 17.

Lynn Tompkins' class just completed a study on reptiles. Students selected a reptile to study and, using a variety of resources - books, encyclopedias, videos, and Internet - developed a probe and essay.

Kathy Bergman's students are learning how



Smith School photo

Eighth-grade students studying American history sailed through a crash course in WWII at breakneck speed and examined the movie "Tora! Tora!" all in preparation for the arrival of a replica of the USS Arizona. The Arizona was on display as part of a Fleet Week tradition "Sailors and community united."

to use Hyper Studio to do their biography reports. They will present their reports using the Smart Board in the computer lab before Christmas. Congratulations to Khalil Muhammed for being student of the month for November.

Tom Crawford's class has been studying about sound. They are currently drawing diagrams of the human ear. They are also working their way through their basic multiplication review. In social studies, they are learning about the three branches of the federal government.

In Jan Barnes' class, the students will be creating their own addition to the animal kingdom in science. They have just started the social studies unit on the southwest and have been working hard on multiplication and division. They are a busy group of fourth graders.

Jan Camps' students are learning how to multiply two-digit factors. They are studying plant growth and adaptations in science. In social studies, the students have been learning about their ancestors. They enjoyed sharing about their heritage by bringing in food, clothing, and other items from their culture.

Suzanne Buchanan's kindergarten students

have started their plant unit and are growing flowers from seeds. The students water the plants daily and then discuss new things they have discovered. For their Thanksgiving feast, they made their own applesauce and corn muffins.

Allison Spencer's kindergarten class is progressing through in depth letter/sound study in ABC order. The students are learning about main characters in stories and facts from non-fiction material. They're creating shape and color patters. They have been reading classic stories, such as Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood and Little Red Hen. The children have brought in copies of these books from home so we can compare and contrast different versions.

Kathy Haakenson's kindergarten class has been very busy for the month of November. The children learned the story of the Pilgrim's First Thanksgiving and talked about all the things to be thankful for.

Betty Davis' kindergarten kids also made treats for their Thanksgiving feast. They also played games the Pilgrim children played.

Suicide from Page 1

pressed, the chaplain said. A gregarious person suddenly becomes withdrawn, or the loner suddenly becomes the life of the party. A fat person suddenly becomes thin or a thin person suddenly becomes fat.

"These events are not necessarily indications a person is suicidal, but they usually do have problems," he said.

"Even in today's society, suicide is not that freely talked about. A person won't walk up to you and say, 'You know, I think I'm going to kill myself.' But they will often pick somebody to talk to about it."

Occasionally, they will pick "targets of opportunity" to keep them from following through. Punke describes such a person as one who prepares to jump off a bridge just in time for a passerby to stop them. That type of person may also tell somebody they see as a confidant about their suicidal tendencies.

"More often than not, they're looking for

human contact. In a lot of cases, people want to be talked out of suicide. They really wish there was something else they could do about it," he said.

On the other hand, some people will refuse to talk about their problems. But if they're displaying symptoms of a suicidal person, the person trying to help them should not give up.

"The worst thing that can happen if you ask a person if they're suicidal is they're likely to say no and be a little offended, perhaps a bit angry with you," Punke said.

"They may also realize the situation they've gotten themselves into is silly and stop it."

"The worst thing that can happen if you don't ask is they will kill themselves."

He said various issues trigger suicide in people but suicide is rarely a spontaneous action. Rather, a person gets so drowned in perceived problems that suicide is the only escape.

For instance, a person with financial problems may pile onto that imagined marital problems, job conflicts, and other real or perceived problems. That takes some period of time.

"What often happens is that something allows all those pressures to push them over the top of the dam," Punke said. "Most of us carry with us some sort of a dam, or a block. It could be a set of values, spiritual values, internal alarm clock, self image, a variety of internal things that keep us from getting into that."

A misconception among many people is that suicides increase over Christmas and New Year holidays, according to Punke. More suicides occur during the spring, but they could be related to those holidays, he said.

Punke said the emotional trigger that leads people to consider suicide may be as simple as not getting what they wanted for Christmas. But debt incurred because of the holiday is a stress factor, as well.

He said causes of suicide include deaths of loved ones, including pets, and breakups in relationships. Job demotions and even job promotions, which might trigger a fear of inadequacy, are also events that lead to depression.

Suicide is usually not the result of a mental illness, however. Under some kinds of mental illnesses, people may be dangerous, but not sui-

cidal. Then, too, people suffering mental illnesses usually exhibit clear signs they are sick, which makes it easier to find help for them.

"It's simple enough, once you've been trained, and you can turn things over and look at the backside," Punke. "You'll start asking the right questions at the right time."

"It's something we do all the time. We establish contact with a person, we ask questions. It's basically conversation skills."

Simply talking to a person giving off signals of a possible suicide can change their mind. They suddenly realize that such thoughts are silly, and are over it, he said.

With others a long-term relationship might be required. That's when the support system — psychiatrist, chaplain, financial advisor and other professionals — that you've established can help you to continue providing contact and help with a depressed person.

Often, the person contemplating suicide can be referred to that support system to find another solution to their problems.

"You do make a bit of a commitment," Punke said. "The point of doing this is if you can stop a person, then it's much better to go in the next morning and see the same person at the desk. You could have gone in and seen an empty desk."

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Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Mike Punke