



O-Day
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The Fort Huachuca Scout



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Scout reports

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Women's Equality Day

Fort Huachuca will celebrate Women's Equality Day in an observance starting at 11:15 a.m. Aug. 29 at the La Hacienda.

The theme for this year's program is "Celebrating women's right to vote" featuring Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bonnie Koppel, the Army's first female Rabbi, as the keynote speaker.

The event will feature a buffet and tickets are \$8. Tickets are available by calling the following Equal Opportunity Offices: Post 533-1717/5305, Army Signal Command 538-0909, 112th Military Intelligence Brigade 538-0533, 111th Military Intelligence Brigade 533-3672, and 11th Signal Brigade 533-5202.

PX/Commissary meeting

The members of the Post Exchange and Defense Commissary Agency Council will meet Aug. 27, at the Murr Community Center, with representatives of the Command Group, units and other interested groups.

The PX and Commissary Council meetings are held every three months on the last Tuesday of the month in the Murr Community Center. Management personnel from the Post Exchange will be available from 1-2 p.m., followed by management personnel from the post's Commissary from 2-3 p.m.

The meetings are open to all active duty, DoD civilians, family members and retirees, and all units and activities on Fort Huachuca are invited send a representative to these meetings.

Pershing Plaza road closure

Fort Huachuca has a new major construction project. The Pershing Plaza West 1 housing project was awarded to Lend Lease Actus Aug. 5.

The contract is for the demolition of 88 existing housing units and the construction of 65 junior noncommissioned officer houses. To prepare the site for the construction, fencing has been erected around the perimeter of Crawford to Stanley and Smith to Burns Streets.

Access from Smith down to Crawford will be blocked by the construction fencing. The residents of Pershing Plaza are encouraged to use Stanley, Rucker or White Streets when entering from Smith Ave.

Change of command

The 11th Signal Brigade will conduct a change of command ceremony 8 a.m., Aug. 28 on Brown Parade Field. The outgoing commander, Col. Mark S. Bowman, will relinquish command to Col. Brian R. Hurley.

For more information, contact 11th Signal Brigade at 533-5646/8550.

Road closure

In order to continue to the next phase of construction in the Bonnie Blink housing area, Andrews Road leading to the Post Cemetery will be closed Monday for approximately three weeks. Burt Road will be open during that time for access to the cemetery.

POW/MIA Walkathon

The U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca will conduct a POW/MIA Walkathon, 6-8 a.m., Sept. 20, at Chaffee Parade Field to commemorate POWs and MIAs from America's Armed Forces. This event is open to the public.

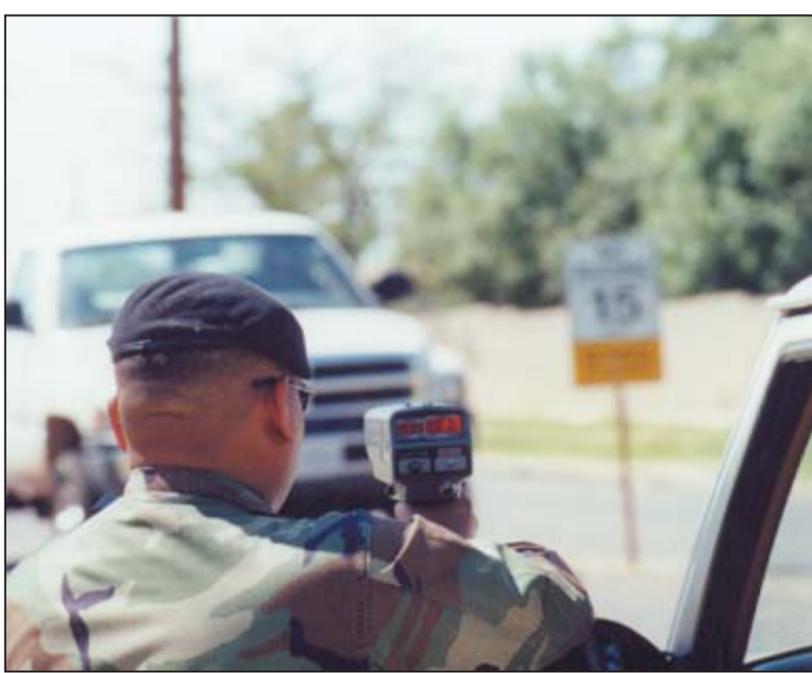


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Armed and ready

Fort Huachuca Military Police will be ready to give speeding motorists tickets if caught speeding through school zones. Regardless of driving one mile or 10 miles per hour over the 15 mph speed limit, drivers will be cited with a minimum \$50 fine. The safety of Fort Huachuca's school children is a top priority on the installation.

Deadline approaches for high school stabilization program

Army News Service release

Soldiers with high school juniors who graduate in 2004 should start talking to their assignment branch now if they wish to be stabilized at their present duty station for their child's graduation, said personnel officials.

More than 1,300 soldiers, non-commissioned officers and officers have signed on to this program since its inception in April 2001.

"My family has made great sacrifices for me and my military career," said Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Almendarez, medical operations sergeant in Camp Casey, Korea. "So, it is only fitting that the military and I should reward my son by allowing him to finish his senior year."

Almendarez was one of 1,380 soldiers who have applied for the stabilization program. So far 1,155 enlisted personnel have applied for stabilization. Of these, 1,153 were approved.

"Approximately 48 percent of the requests came from the sergeant-first class rank," said Lt. Col. Patrick Sedlak, Enlisted Personnel Management Division at the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command. "We did, however, have command sergeants major through privates first class apply as well."

More than 225 officers have applied for the program as well. Of these, 220 were approved.

Soldiers must submit requests not later than 12 months prior to the beginning of the senior school year. For example, if the student's se-

nior year starts in September 2003, the request must be submitted to PERSCOM not later than September 2002.

Soldiers may initiate a request for stabilization by submitting a DA Form 4187 listing the family member's name and social security number.

The family member must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility and Enrollment Reporting System, better known as DEERS. A letter from the high school stating when the family member is projected to graduate must be attached to the 4187.

Soldiers stationed overseas must state on the form that they will extend their foreign-service tour to meet the stabilization requirement.

Enlisted soldiers must also list any scheduled training, such as schooling or temporary duty enroute, on the 4187. Officers with scheduled training should contact their branch assignment officer to reschedule that training.

Stabilizing Army families with high school seniors to reduce turbulence was among the top recommendations of an Army Education Summit held in July 2000. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki heard the summit's outline and promised attendees to move forward quickly on the recommendations.

PERSCOM remains the approval authority for all stabilization requests.

(Editor's note: This article was released to ARNEWS by PERSCOM.)

AGD streamlines in/outprocessing procedures

AGD news release

The Adjutant General Directorate recently implemented several changes to streamline soldier in/out-processing procedures. These efficiencies are more soldier-friendly and have reduced the time required for soldiers to process in and out of Fort Huachuca.

The new procedures for inprocessing allow soldiers to tailor their processing to meet their individual and family needs.

Some mandatory stops (Personnel, Finance, MEDDAC, CIF, Army Substance Abuse Program) still exist.

However, many of these mandatory stops are within a small footprint and within walking distance. Also within the footprint are several optional stops, depending on soldiers' needs/interests.

To expedite the process further many agencies, which previously required long informa-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Rich Biccum, military pay technician, inprocesses a soldier at the Finance Office. The Adjutant General Directorate has new changes to make in/outprocessing easier.

tion briefings, have condensed their information into customer hand-outs/fact sheets that

Town Hall addresses community issues

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, USAIC&FH PAO

Fort Huachuca's Commanding General, Brig. Gen. James "Spider" A. Marks and Garrison Commander, Col. Lawrence J. Portouw led a panel of post representatives in responding to questions from the community members during the live TV Town Hall broadcast on the Commander's Access Channel Monday.

"The 'live' TV Town Hall meeting on Channel 97 is another innovative way to keep our military and civilian communities informed about issues relating to Fort Huachuca," Marks said addressing the audience.

Viewers were able to call in and ask questions on a variety of topics ranging from the new civilian gate guards, Fort Huachuca accommodation school issues and improvements taking place at the Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center.

Portouw particularly used the forum to introduce himself to the residents of the installation and provide an update on the status of major construction projects on the fort.

Those projects included the whole neighborhood revitalization of Cavalry Park and Bonnie Blink housing areas and the new Child Development Center.

During the hour-long segment, Marks reminded the community the leadership is concerned about making quality of life here better on Fort Huachuca and the Town Hall provides a means for their voice to be heard.

The rebroadcast of Feedback, Fort Huachuca's live TV Town Hall will begin airing today at 2 p.m. and will air through Aug. 22, excluding weekends on the Commander's Access Channel. Also readers can look for answers to concerns and issues in upcoming editions of *The Scout*.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Maj. Dan Ortega, director of Public Safety, left, Col. Lawrence J. Portouw, garrison commander, center, and Brig. Gen. James "Spider" A. Marks, Fort Huachuca commanding general, listens to a caller's question during the Live TV Town Hall.

are available at Whitside Hall.

A soldier's first stop to in-process remains his/her unit of assignment. Soldiers must sign in from leave at their unit. The unit then performs unit-specific processing in conjunction with Post Security and Directorate of Information Management.

The unit prepares a duty position assignment memorandum and makes the soldier an appointment to inprocess, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m., at Whitside Hall.

Soldiers inprocessing must have the following items in their possession: MPRJ; Finance, Medical, Dental, and Education records; duty position assignment memorandum; ID card and tags; unit in-processing checklist; DA Form 31; assignment orders, to include amendments and endorsements; latest NCOER/OER (E5 and above); and promotion packet (if on the E5/E6

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Photo by David Arnot Smith

White Sands CG visits desert sands

Brig. Gen. William F. Engel, commanding general, U.S. Army White Sands Missile Range, visited Fort Huachuca during a command visit to the Electronic Proving Ground July 24. Engel also spoke at the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association luncheon. Col. Hugo Keyner, the local AFCEA chapter president, presented Engel with a Buffalo Soldier statue as a token of AFCEA's appreciation. Engel's speech was on the mission and challenges of WSMR in today's missile program environment.

Kudos Korner

By Sandra Sanders
Chief Child and Youth Services

Jennifer Lotten is Fort Huachuca's July Civilian of the Month. Lotten was commended in a recent surprise inspection by the TRADOC Military Child and Youth Evaluation Team for enterprising and creative learning environments in each classroom. To achieve this she continually rearranges the rooms and develops new projects. She enrolled the program in the 4-H Club system and Girls and Boys Club to take advantage of their training and curriculum. Programs were further enhanced through partnering with other MWR activities such as the bowling center and pools. Swimming lessons were offered during the summer and bowling lessons on an on-going basis.

Due to an unforeseen absence of a training specialist for the school-age program during a six-month period, Lotten took it upon herself to provide staff training in addition to her normal duties. Through this effort, the program was able to meet DOD and DA requirements and receive national accreditation. If this wasn't enough, plans were underway for a new School-Age Center. Lotten played an active roll in pre-construction and design meetings, meeting weekly with engineers and architects to ensure the new center would meet not only DOD and DA standards but local requirements as well. She acted as a liaison between TRADOC and DA, and the architects. Mean-



Photo by Angelica Pequeño

while, she had resources to manage. Juggling the ball, she kept her revenue and expenses in check and exceeded budget goals, maintaining the school-age program in the black. Lotten kept the program filled to capacity with her innovative programming. Within the past twelve months she conducted two self-studies of the program in addition to the TRADOC inspection. She involved proponents from fire, safety, and health to inspect her program and make recommendations for improvement. Very few deficiencies were found and those were minor. Lotten immediately made the corrections. She is continually inspiring her staff to excel and as a team they promote excellence for the Fort Huachuca youth.

Check it out!

Submitted by Natalie Danforth
Administrative Librarian

"THE UNKNOWN is the governing condition of war." Ferdinand Foch in Principles of War, c1920. Cited in your library's copy of Dictionary of Military and Naval Quotations by Robert Debs Heinl, Jr., c1966.

THE GREAT GAME: The Struggle for Empire in Central Asia by Peter Hopkirk c1992. You might call this spooky foundation reading for current world events. Also recommended by Washington Post foreign correspondent Peter Baker: Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia, c2000, and Holy War, Inc: Inside the Secret World of Osama Bin Laden, c2002. All are available in your Ft Huachuca Library.

SLEEPING AT THE STARLITE MOTEL and other adventures on the Way Back Home by Bailey White. 1995 Random House Audio.

You'll find yourself slowing down to 50 in a 65 mph zone as you laugh and cry your way down the highway. Four hours of instant recognition for anyone with eccentric friends and relatives, dead or alive, in the rural South or Midwest. Read by the author in a mesmerizing Georgia accent.

CANNIBALISM IN THE CANYON is a 60 minute PBS video, c2000. Around 1200 A.D. something caused the Anasazi culture of the Southwest to disappear. Anthropologist Christy Turner believes it was cannibalism. Others are not so sure. See the evidence. You be the judge. Videos are checked out for a week.

If you're reading this, you are very likely an authorized user of the Fort Huachuca Library. Visitors are welcome. The library is open six days a week: Mondays and Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call 533-3041 for further information.



Readers' comments on Sept. 11 sought

Sept. 11 left an enduring mark on our nation.

The Fort Huachuca Scout is compiling comments from our readers on how they remember that day and how they feel America has changed since the attacks.

To offer your comment, send it by mail to the Public Affairs Office, Attn: Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks, 21115 Adair Ave., Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613-6000 or e-mail it to sparksd@hua.army.mil. Please include your name, where you live and a daytime phone number.

Your comments may be edited and chosen to appear in our special Sept. 12, 2002 edition. Comments will be accepted through Aug. 30.

Scout on the Street

What's the best part about being in B Troop ?



We do a lot of public performances and the most thrilling part is when you're doing the 15-second charge. That's when we're riding right at full gallop and firing our pistols as we go.

Maj. Christopher Zimmerman, Capt. of the Troop



The best job is when you get to ride the number two position. The greatest honor is to carry the unit's memorial colors.

Sgt. 1st Class Ernie, B Troop member



I enjoy working with the horses and the camaraderie.

Martina Peters, Ladies Auxiliary



The best thing is representing the history of the United States cavalry and what cavalry men did in the 1880's. It keeps me still giving back to the Army after retiring.

Juan Villarreal, B Troop member



Being able to share horsemanship, living history and experiences with the community.

Vaughn Laganosky, B Troop member



Photos by Angelica Pequeño

I love being part of the team.

Sometimes the troopers get out of hand, then it's my job to calm 'em down. They're a rowdy bunch, those B Troopers.

Goliath, B Troop member

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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Days of straining to view microfiche are gone, official records now online

By Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Time Out Editor

Servicemember's Official Military Personnel Files can now be accessed through individual Army Knowledge Online accounts.

The Army has done away with keeping official records on microfiche to become more efficient, according to Pam Singer, director, Military Personnel Services.

Though these changes have not specifically affected Fort Huachuca, every servicemember can now, more easily, review what is on their official records. The automated format not only is more convenient, but also saves the Army a considerable amount of money.

"The microfiche was \$1.40 for each file made, which added up to a lot of money," Singer said, since servicemembers made a yearly ritual of reviewing their OMPF when being considered for promotion by the Department of the Army level boards. "Basically the files have been moved to online service, allowing imme-

diacy when getting files and allowing [servicemembers] to know exactly what is officially on their records."

Immediacy is the most important factor with the change, according to Singer. "It allows access to records at any time."

More importantly, servicemembers can ensure all noncommissioned officer and officer evaluations are listed, as well as any schools, prior to any records review.

In the past, officers visited the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command in Alexandria, Va., and enlisted soldiers went to the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center in Indianapolis, Ind., to make sure their careers were reflected correctly on the microfiche copy of their OMPFs.

In November 2001, EREC decided to put an end to microfiche and moved to the OMPF online. Now, officers and enlisted members can review and update their records through AKO by going to "Frequently Used Links," selecting "PERSCOM Online" and clicking on the ap-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Soldiers now can go online to review their military records rather than using microfiche.

propriate link under "PERSCOM Major Activities."

Records on OMPF Online are divided into three categories – Performance, Service, and Restricted. Performance has subdivisions for evaluations, education and training, and commendatory and disciplinary remarks. Service is divided into general and administrative.

Singer said the future looks even brighter for records automation. Upcoming plans involve

all Army records to be automated, including medical records.

"This will save a lot of time in the end for my people," Singer said. "In the future, changes can be made with the S1 directly into the official records. We just have to make sure soldiers are educated, so they will know how to help their S1 update their records."

Currently only the OMPF is online through the AKO account. Other records are still to come.

Sgt. Audie Murphy Club members take selfless service to heart



Photo by Sgt. Donald Vess

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Whitney, Sgt. Audie Murphy Club member, clears brush on the Parr Obstacle Course as part of the Huachuca Chapter of the SAMC community project. The NCOs are clearing the brush so soldiers on the fort will have an alternate PT training site.

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, USAIC&FH PAO

To be selected as a member of the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club, noncommissioned officers must be of the highest caliber and also personify all of the Army's seven core values. Of these seven values selfless service rates as one of the top when it comes to the members of the Huachuca Chapter of the SAMC.

Several noncommissioned officers of this prestigious club have been devoting their Saturday mornings to the restoration of the old Parr Obstacle Course so it can be utilized by the installation as a physical fitness site. The soldiers have been clearing years of brush that have grown on the trail within the course.

"This is not the first time that the organization has done something to help the community," said Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Miller, president, Huachuca Chapter. "One of our members, Sgt. 1st Class Sean Fry, was trying to figure out what we can do here for the soldiers of Fort

Huachuca. Master Sgt. Daniel Green suggested redoing the Parr Course. So this became a really good project for us to do."

The members ran the idea by Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Haubrich, post command sergeant major, early in the summer for approval.

Haubrich blessed the project but insisted the soldiers take all safety and precautionary measures because of the extreme drought conditions at the time.

"A safety concern was the use of weed eaters and the chance of causing a fire from an electrical spark," Miller said.

The members were forced to do much of the cleanup using old-fashioned muscle, grit and sweat.

"At one point we didn't even know where the trail was because there was so much growth," Miller said. "Once we're done clearing all the brush off the running trail, we're going to need DIS to provide supplies and the Safety Office to conduct an inspection."

The Parr Obstacle Course was originally created in the late 1980s when the Signal companies used to have barracks down in that area. After those barracks were torn down in 1993, the area became overrun with wild brush and the obstacles began to fall apart.

"This is an excellent training area for the soldiers here," said Sgt. Maj. Michael Roberts, former president, Huachuca SAMC. "It beats running Apache Flats everyday and provides some variety which is part of a good PT program."

Miller forecasts the running trail to be open for use by mid-September and the obstacles along the trail available for use by next January.

Roberts wants to break down the myth that NCOs who are selected into the club just get their accolades and drive on. He has instilled into club members the true meaning of membership – taking care of soldiers.

"After induction it doesn't mean you ride off into the sunset, it doesn't stop," Roberts said. "We're trying to change that mindset."

Although SAMC members have done the cleanup only, Miller and Roberts are urging all soldiers and NCOs of the community to be a part of the project and the reason is twofold.

"We get a chance to talk about the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club to a soldier or NCO who's interested in the program," Roberts said. "What it also fosters is NCO professional development. During the everyday duty of taking care of the mission, we don't get a chance to talk to each other like we'd like to."

"This gives us a great time to talk about things that are happening on post as well."

Miller said the attitude of the members sacrificing their Saturday mornings have lived up to the value of selfless service.

"This is great opportunity for a bunch of NCOs to get out and help their community," Miller said. "Without a doubt when it comes to the emotion out there, it's a lot of camaraderie displayed by the NCOs for a good cause."

Paying attention to detail, proper planning key to shipping POV

By Katherine Goode
Scout Staff

One of the most important parts of your overseas move is protecting your privately owned vehicle from damage or loss.

According to the Transportation Office on Fort Huachuca, moving your POV successfully is not a matter of chance; it is the result of careful preparation and planning - not just by the contracted agencies that will move your vehicle, but also your proactive involvement.

Time limitations require POVs to be delivered to the port within 90 days for an overseas tour of duty lasting longer than a year, or 30 days after departure of service-member for a tour of duty lasting one year or less.

Maintaining personal automotive insurance that will cover an overseas move is very important, and this will require some shopping around as many insurance company's coverage stops as soon as the vehicle leaves the United States.

Besides recovery from your automobile insurance, the Personnel Claim's Act can compensate servicemembers up to \$20,000 for loss or damage to their vehicle based upon depreciated value. If warranted, the servicemember may wish to purchase more insurance, but the following limitations will apply: \$20,000 for loss or damage to the vehicle; \$750 for all audio equipment to include car alarms and cellular phones; and up to \$200 in tools/toolboxes.

White said that there are other personal items that may be left in the vehicle. These include: jacks, tire irons, portable cribs,

car seats, a spare tire, two spare tires, and speakers in the trunk as long as they are bolted down.

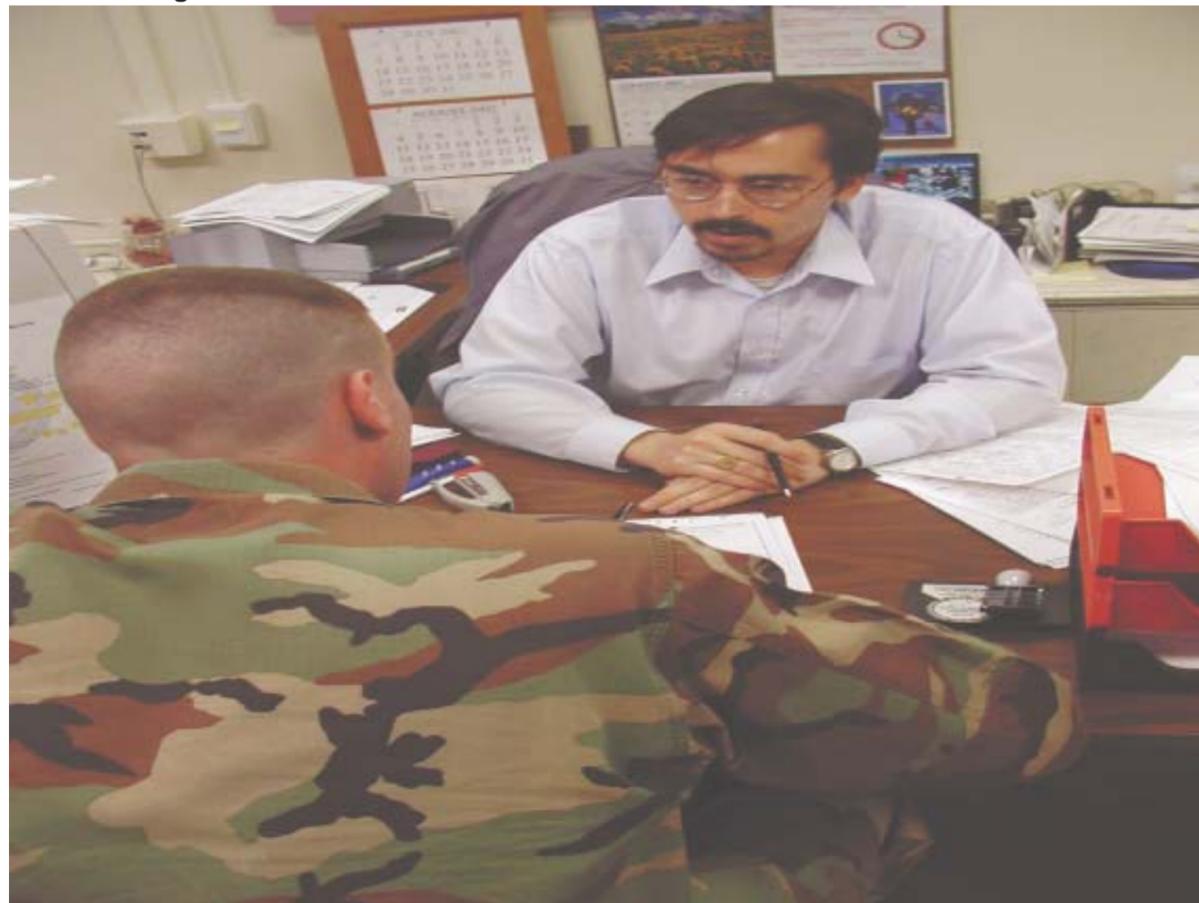
"What we will not cover is TVs and VCRs unless they are factory installed, CBs, flammable or hazardous substances, or other accessories that are not permanently installed," said Tom Sochan, Installation Transportation officer.

According to the Transportation Office, non-compliance could cause a vehicle to be held over with any ensuing charges put on your account, or the POV processing center could even refuse your POV for shipment.

At the point of origin, make sure all documentation is ready to include seven copies of orders, plus a certified copy and two

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Soldiers in/outprocessing on Fort Huachuca can use the map above as a guide to expedite their transition.

promotion list).

The only other mandatory stops are at Central Issue Facility, MEDDAC, and Murr Community Center, where soldiers will receive mandatory briefings on TRICARE and PPIP (Put Prevention into Practice) on the first Tuesday after arrival on post.

The new out-processing procedures also save soldiers considerable time. The key to the time saving is the Department of the Army Installation Support Module system.

This program allows agencies to electronically pre-clear departing soldiers up to 160 days prior to PCS, ETS, or retirement. If an activity does not indicate a need to see a soldier, then AGD will clear soldiers and allow them to depart Fort Huachuca.

Soldiers can help this process work for them by ensuring that open business accounts with agencies (such as books checked out of the library) are closed out once they receive their official orders.

The Education Center, DENTAC, and the Veterinary facility are also helping to reduce mandatory out-processing stops by delivering soldier records to Whitside Hall three days prior to the final out-processing appointment.

These streamlined procedures leave only two mandatory stops (CIF and MEDDAC) outside of the processing footprint.

The AGD's next effort to consolidate in/out-processing will be the movement of Vehicle and Weapon Registration back to Whitside Hall. This move is expected to take effect within the next 30 days.

Don't get trapped in government credit card delinquency



Photo illustration by Angelica Pequeno

By Sgt. 1st Donald Sparks
NCOIC, USAIC&FH PAO

During the month of July, Fort Huachuca had the highest delinquency rate within the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command on Government Travel Cards. The rate of delinquent accounts increased to 10.02 percent (an increase of 2.1 percent from June).

According to Theresa Fuimanono, installation Government Travel Card coordinator, the rate fluctuates from month to month and although the fort was at the bottom of the list in July, this is not an alarming trend.

Although TRADOC is definitely concerned with the dollar amount attached to the delinquent accounts, it is the number of delinquent accounts that raise the eyebrows of GTC coordinators.

"We were doing pretty well as an installation until the month of July," she said. Fuimanono reported the fort had 66 delinquent accounts more than 60 days old. The Aging Analysis report only shows those accounts more than 60 days old or more. Bank of America sends the report monthly to the Department of the Army and is filtered to the major commands, such as TRADOC.

The percentages are calculated by dividing the number of accounts delinquent from the total number of accounts open for the entire installation. In July's case, 66 of 659 accounts were delinquent.

"We must continue to strive to reach the Army goal of 4 percent by diligently monitoring and managing our accounts," Fuimanono said. "We also have to inform commanders and leaders of delinquent accounts and assisting with soldiers and employees with travel voucher processing."

Fuimanono stressed it is imperative that commanders are active in monitoring their soldiers with government travel cards. She has been diligent in trying to get her message and the Army's message across.

"We need the commanders, directors and leaders involved to help us manage, monitor and control the program. This coincides with the messages coming down from the Department of the Army."

"At the 30-day mark, commanders need to be on top of the program, not at 60 days when their cardholders come out on the Aging Analysis report," Fuimanono said. "That way they can talk to those individuals and see if they have a problem paying their account. This is the time to help them or give a slap on the hand to pay their account."

Fuimanono's advice to the members of the fort who uses the GTC is simple. "File your

interim vouchers and set up some type of procedure to do that with their parent unit to get their vouchers filed on time."

She also advised for cardholders to file a split disbursement. A split disbursement allows a soldier to place a check mark on their travel voucher and identify a specific amount of their settlement to be paid directly to Bank of America.

For example if a cardholder goes TDY and \$200 is spent for a rental car and \$600 for lodging, the full \$800 can be sent directly to the bank while the cardholder collects their per diem and meals.

"That \$800 does not belong to the cardholder. That is the money the Army loaned you for your rental car and lodging," she said. "There is no reason for the money to come back to the cardholder at all. So that's what the split disbursement option is all about. It tells DFAS [Defense Finance and Accounting Service] to do an electronic fund transfer to the bank."

Fuimanono said it would be very helpful if supervisors, when checking and initialing their subordinate's travel voucher, to identify if the cardholder has checked the split disbursement option.

"It's not mandatory yet," she said. "But as a supervisor if you notice Spc. John Doe's split disbursement option wasn't checked, you can steer him in the right direction to pay off the bank and he'll still get what's entitled to him."

One of the contributing factors leading to delinquency is when soldiers deploy or go TDY for more than 60 days, such as to advanced schools such as the Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course. The soldiers aren't able to pay their bill until completion of the school, yet the account is being reported delinquent.

"The installation is working with those soldiers in those schools who are gone more than 60, 90 or 120 days to help them file interim vouchers. By filing those interim vouchers they know when they come back to their parent unit their settlement can't be claimed until they get a signature by their supervisor.

Fuimanono said fortunately there isn't widespread abuse of the GTC on Fort Huachuca, but there have been a couple of instances of abuse, which has led to disciplinary action.

Since taking over the program last year, she's been notified twice by Bank of America of suspected abuse of the card. She attributes the command's involvement to keeping abuse from becoming prevalent.

"Everyone is pretty much using the card for what it's intended for," she said. "There may be more out there abusing the card and it may be more prevalent than what we're thinking, but eventually people will get caught."

Frequently asked questions about the government travel card

Q1: What is the Government Travel Card?

A1: The Government Travel Card is used by government employees for travel and lodging related expenses while on Temporary Duty.

Once the travel period is complete, the individual must file a travel voucher with his command to be reimbursed for those expenses.

The individual is personally billed by Bank of America (the vendor for the travel card), and he or she must pay them directly.

Individuals also have the option to do a split disbursement on their travel voucher where the government will pay Bank of America directly and pay the remainder of the funds (if any) to the employee.

Q2: What disciplinary actions are taken on individuals who are delinquent in payment, or make unauthorized purchases?

A2: Actions taken on the government employees responsible for the fraud range from basic administrative actions (Article 15s) to individuals being charged and arrested, reduced in rank, dishonorably discharged, fired from civilian employment, and possibly incarceration.

There was one instance of the use of the purchase card to obtain escort services during fiscal year 2001.

The soldier responsible for that action repaid the government, was demoted and placed

on extra duty and eventually discharged from the service.

Q3: What are the latest figures for charge-offs (debt written off by the bank), and delinquency rates for the Army?

A3: The net cumulative charge-offs (from Nov 98-Mar 02) is \$20.6 million dollars. The delinquency amount as of 31 March 2002 is \$8.4 million.

Q4: What steps has the Army taken to reduce delinquencies and charge-offs?

A4: The Army has taken a number of positive actions to address its high delinquency and charge-off rate, and results from the first half of FY 02 show a significant drop in charged-off accounts.

Most of this reduction may be attributable to a salary and military retirement payment offset program-similar to garnishment. This program began to offset amounts from delinquent cardholder's salaries and military retirement benefit payments in Nov 2001.

Other actions include a limited split disbursement plan (described in question number 1), and increased management attention and focus on the delinquency issue.

Q5: What is the Army doing to strengthen up the management controls of the program?

A5: In response to the excessive delinquency rate, in October 2000, the Vice Chief

of Staff of the Army issued a directive to cut the Army's delinquencies by 50 percent by the end of March 2001.

Further, the Vice Chief of Staff established a goal of a delinquency rate of no more than 4 percent of active cardholders as soon as possible and ordered commanders throughout the Army to provide additional attention to the government travel card program.

Army officials emphasized setting goals, monitoring results, providing feedback, providing training, and coordinating efforts with DoD and Bank of America.

Further the DoD Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) created a travel card task force to address management issues related to DoD's purchase and travel card programs. The Task Force issued its final report on 27 June 2002.

Q6: What actions has the government taken to restrict use of the card by employees who may be possible credit risks?

A6: In July 1999, Bank of America began obtaining credit checks on DoD travel applicants and used the credit history obtained as a basis for determining the type of account-restricted or regular-it would provide to new DoD travel applicants.

Q7: What is the Army's reaction to the GAO report?

A7: The Army is in complete agree-

ment with DoD's goal to reduce delinquencies and unauthorized purchases. We will fully cooperate with the DoD task force that has been established, and continue to refine internal management controls of the program.

Q8: What is the Army Criminal Investigation Command doing to investigate this issue?

A8: The Army is aggressively pursuing those who break the law by using the Army Purchase Card illegally.

A joint working group led by the Army Criminal Investigation Command, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the FBI, and others have been pursuing cases involving purchase card fraud since November 2001, long before this issue started receiving widespread media attention.

To date, we've helped secure ten convictions and recovered more than \$1 million dollars and we're not done yet.

If employees of the Army entrusted with a purchase card use the card illegally or for personal gain, we're looking for them, and will hold them accountable for their actions.

It's important to remember that those abusing the system make up only a tiny portion of the card holders, and the purchase card program saves taxpayers millions of dollars annually.

Regardless, we find any improper usage unacceptable and will pursue the issue vigorously to enforce the law.

Community Updates

CIF closure

The Central Issue Facility will be closed Sept. 18-20 for inventory. In case of emergency situations, please call Dan Berry, 533-5828 or Cliff Hensley, 538-8771.

New DOIM training enrollee contact

Effective immediately the Directorate Of Installation Management help desk will be assuming the responsibility for enrolling requesting individuals into the DOIM provided training classes. Therefore, if any U.S. Army Intelligence Center & Fort Huachuca employee wishes to sign up for DOIM provided office suite and/or Access data base software classes, please call 533-1212 to enroll.

As a reminder, the DOIM training schedule can be found on the Ft. Huachuca web page under the TRAINING category, by clicking the option: 'DOIM Computer Classes.'

Conservation committee

The quarterly meeting of the Fort Huachuca Conservation Committee will be held Wednesday in the Greely Hall Auditorium in Room 1215 of Building 61801, from 10-11:30 a.m. The Fort Huachuca Installation Commanding General, Brig. Gen. James "Spider" A. Marks, will speak at the Conservation Committee.

This quarterly meeting will provide updates on several local natural resources and conservation programs including current activities on Fort Huachuca, the Upper San Pedro Partnership, U.S. Forest Service activities, and Bureau of Land Management SPRNCA activities.

The program for this meeting will be a presentation on Endangered Fish Management at San Bernardino and Leslie Canyon National Wildlife Refuges, which are located in Cochise County. The Program speaker will be Bill Radke, Refuge Manager for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For additional information, call Robert Bridges at 533-1863.

BSEP Class

The Education center will sponsor a Basic Education Skills Program class which will begin Sept. 9 and end Sept. 20. The class will run from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily with emphasis placed on English and math skills. A pre-test will be administered at 7:15 a.m., the first day of class.

A post-test and general/technical predictor will be given Sept. 19 and an Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test will be administered Sept. 20. This is a great opportunity to participate in a class that is rarely given due to budget constraints. Raise your GT score and increase your re-enlistment possibilities!

For more information e-mail Bob Campbell robert.campbell@hua.army.mil or call 533-5690.

ASMC luncheon

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold its monthly business luncheon Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in the La Hacienda Com-

munity Club. The featured speaker is Lt. Col. Carey who will speak on Enduring Freedom.

Carey is currently assigned as the Officer In Charge of the Headquarters Department of the Army CIO/Commanding General Operations Cell at USA Network Enterprise Technology Command-NCR. Prior to this assignment, he was the 504th Signal Battalion commander. During this presentation, he will share his knowledge and experience on the current military deployment, Enduring Freedom.

The lunch menu will be buffet and salad bar. Cost is \$9 for ASMC members and \$10 for non-members. To make reservations and purchase tickets, ASMC members and guests should contact organizational representatives or buy them at the door. Members of the public are welcome to attend. For further information contact Linda Guinter at 456-2961.

Scholarships available

The Naval Science Historically Black Colleges and Universities National Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship program has 120 scholarships available that need to be filled!

The scholarships are no longer race based. Everyone is invited to participate. If you know of any young men and women who might be interested, please get the word out at churches and any other organizations you affiliate with. This is an opportunity for a four year scholarship!

All HBCU's that host NROTC units will provide these scholarships.

The schools are:

Southern University
Morehouse College
Spellman University
Morris Brown University
Hampton University
Norfolk State University
Florida A&M University
Savannah State University,
and Prairie View A&M.

There are 120 scholarships available in all, but they must be filled prior to the end of August 2002. Only two are filled, 118 scholarships remain. Contact Craig Krusemark, educational advisor for the Fort Huachuca Educational Center at 533-2047 for more information.

PWOC fall kickoff

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invite all women to join us for a special Fall Kickoff Program on Sept. 3. Our theme is "Moving into PWOC".

Invite a friend and come join us for fellowship, fun and food. The program runs from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Main Post Chapel.

Nursery care is provided for children ages 6 months - 5 years old for all military ID card holders.

Our regular weekly meetings complete with praise and worship, Bible Study and fellowship begin the following week. Our Bible studies this fall will be: "The Book of Acts" taught by Chaplain Dickson; "Know What You Believe" taught

by JoAn Daggett; "Creative Counterpart" taught by April Arnold; and "A Woman after God's Own Heart" taught by Christine Henry. The last class is a "Mommy and Me" class where mothers are welcome to bring their babies to class.

Summer gospel revival

The Fort Huachuca community is invited to attend the Kino Gospel Protestant Service Summer Revival, Wednesday through Aug. 23 and 25. Pastor Felix Gilbert, senior pastor of Restoration Christian Fellowship, in Aurora, Colo. and former senior pastor of Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Sierra Vista, will be the guest speaker and teacher. The theme is "Step back and let God do it."

The revival begins at 7 p.m., Wednesday through Aug. 23 and 9:20 a.m., Aug. 25 at Kino Avenue Chapel on Fort Huachuca. Each service will be preceded by musical selections from community choirs.

For more information, contact Chaplain (Maj.) Garry Dale at 533-2366.

Jewish High Holiday services

Jewish High Holiday services are scheduled as follows:

Rosh Hashana: Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. and Sept. 7 at 9 a.m. at the Main Post Chapel. Yom Kippur is scheduled for Sept. 15 (Kol Nidre), at 6:15 p.m. and Sept. 16 at 10 a.m. at the Main Post Chapel, Main Post Chapel.

For more information contact Chaplain Lt. Col. Bonnie Koppell at 533-6570.

Language lab has moved

The Military Intelligence Foreign Language Center, commonly referred to as the Language Lab, is in its new home and open for business.

The Language Lab moved from its past location in Alvarado Hall to O'Neil Hall (Building 61809), room 175. Video Conferencing language classes will be conducted in the Fort Huachuca Distance Learning Center in room 1046, Classroom 1 at Greely Hall (Building 61801).

All Defense Language Proficiency Testing will be conducted at O'Neil Hall in room 230 every Monday and Thursday from 7:30-11:30 a.m.

The point of contact for any questions pertaining to the movement of the language lab is Sgt. 1st Class Mark Stephens at 533-2360. Stephens can be located in room 253 at O'Neil Hall. The VTC classes in Greely Hall contact is Kermit Robinson at 533-9476.

DCA relocation

The Recreation Services Division and the Marketing Division of Directorate of Community Activities have relocated to temporary offices in the Jack Rabbit room of the Murr Community Center from MWR Rents.

All of the phone numbers will remain the same, as well as email. To visit us, please use the Cushing Street entrance, there you will find two large double doors with MWR Logos on them.

The following employees are located there: Lewis Onley, chief, Recreation Services Division, 533-2374; Paula German, DCA Marketing Director, 538-0836; Sue Higgins, RSD Admin, 538-1690; James Thomas, Special Events, 533-3354; Wendell Hurlock, DCA Commercial Sponsorship Manager, 533-1351; Spc. Erika Pueschold (Rigdon), Special Events, 533-2947; June Bishop, DCA Marketing, 533-4471.

WANTED:

Children for military contest

We invite the children of active duty and retired military personnel, National Guard and Reservists, law enforcement officers, fire and rescue personnel, Department of Defense and federal workers to submit their original artwork to the 2002 Reflections on Hope and Courage Art Contest for Children and Young Adults.

The contest, sponsored by the DoD's Deployment Health Clinical Center at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, is being held in conjunction with a national conference on risk communication and terrorism and activities to commemorate the anniversary of Sept. 11.

Hurry, the deadline for submitting entries is Aug. 23. If your child is between 6 and 18 years of age, have them enter and compete for wonderful prizes and the chance to receive national recognition for their work. For more information and to obtain an entry form, visit www.PDHealth.mil or call (202) 782-6563; DSN: 662.

Mirage:

Call for literary, arts submissions

Cochise College is now accepting submissions for the 2003 *Mirage* literary and arts magazine. The deadline is Sept. 1.

Submissions of artwork, photographs, short stories, poetry and essays are sought from Cochise County residents and Cochise College students. Contributors will take part in a reception upon publication of the 2003 issue. Past issues of the *Mirage*, as well as submission guidelines, may be viewed online at www.cochise.edu.

The *Mirage* will be produced this fall by students enrolled in Journalism 257/English 257 - Literary Magazine Production. To obtain detailed submission guidelines or to find out more about serving on the *Mirage* staff, call 515-0500 or (800) 966-7943.

Stress reduction class

The next stress reduction class will be presented on the following Wednesdays: Aug. 21, and 28, from 1:30 to 4 p.m. These three sessions make up one class. The class is open to active duty, dependents, retirees, and civilians. It's held on the second floor of the Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center in the conference room.

If interested, call 538-0625. Leave your name, duty phone, and message regarding the class on our voicemail, or with the person who answers the phone.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Community Events Calendar

To add items to the calendar, call the Central Community Coordinator at 533-6970.

Officer & Civilian Spouses Club Fall Membership Drive
from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday at the LakeSide Activity Center.
For information call Deborah Durazo de Appointe at 378-3564

• **The Wild Bunch at the OK Corral in Tombstone at 2 p.m.** 18

• San Pedro Kiwanis meets at noon in the Crystal Room of Thunder Mountain Inn. Contact Nilda Townsend at 458-9647.
• Thunder Mountain Bridge Club meets at 12:30 p.m. at Thunder Mountain Inn. Call Dianna Smith at 432-3883.

• **PWOC Bible Study from 9:30 - 11 a.m. at MPC. Childcare is available for children 5 and under on a first come basis to ID card holders. Class is also available for school age children.** 20
• **Put Prevention Into Practice (PPIP) & Health Promotion Class meets from 2 - 3:30 p.m. at MCC. Call 533-2246 for additional info.**
• Cochise Toastmasters meets at Landmark Café from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call Toni Reeves at 538-7502.
• Cochise Chordsmen (SPERSQA) meets at SV Methodist Church at 7 p.m.

• La Salida Del Sol Lions meet at Thunder Mountain Inn at 6:45 a.m. Call Lee at 378-1399 for details.
• SV Chess Club meets at Peter Piper Pizza at 7 p.m.
• **Protestant Youth Program "Teen Desert Disciples" meet at 7 p.m. Call Chaplain Jesse King at 533-6731 for details.**
• **SV Parks & Leisure is sponsoring Air Hockey Tournament at the YC beginning at 3 p.m. This event is free and open to youth ages 11-17 years of age. Call 459-4377 for info.** 21

• Early release for Ft. Huachuca schools. Myer Kindergarten at 1:20 p.m., grades 4&5 at 1:30 p.m. and Johnston grades 1-3 at 1:15 p.m. and Smith grades 6-8 at 1:40 p.m.
• National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC. Call 378-6605 for details.
• Huachuca Area Retired Teachers Association meets at OYCC at 10 a.m.
• The Employment Assistance Program of Army Community Service is sponsoring a "Interviewing Workshop" from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Call ROberta Sipes at 533-6870 for info and to register. 22

• **Rollerskating at Youth Services, Bldg. 49013 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 533-3205 for details.** 23

• **Youth Services at Bldg. 49013 has open recreation from 1 - 8 p.m. Call 533-3205 for info.** 24

• **The Vigilantes at the Heildorado Set in Tombstone from 1 p.m.** 25

• San Pedro Kiwanis meets at noon in the Crystal Room of Thunder Mountain Inn. Contact Nilda Townsend at 458-9647.
• Thunder Mountain Bridge Club meets at 12:30 p.m. at Thunder Mountain Inn. Call Dianna Smith at 432-3883.
• **Army Family Team Building Level II Training offered at the ACS Conference Room from 5:30 - 9 p.m. This course is only offered once a quarter. Contact 533-33686 to register.** 26

• National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC.
• **Put Prevention Into Practice (PPIP) & Health Promotion Class meets from 2 - 3:30 p.m. at MCC. Call 533-2246 for additional info.**
• **Army Family Team Building Level II Training offered at the ACS Conference Room from 5:30 - 9 p.m.**
• Cochise Toastmasters meets at Landmark Café from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call Toni Reeves at 538-7502. 27

• La Salida Del Sol Lions meet at Thunder Mountain Inn at 6:45 a.m. Call Lee at 378-1399 for details.
• **SV Parks & Leisure is sponsoring Movies at the YC all day. This event is free and open to youth ages 11 - 17 years of age. Call 459-4377 for info.**
• **Army Family Team Building Level II Training offered at the ACS Conference Room from 5:30 - 9 p.m.**
• **Protestant Youth Program "Teen Desert Disciples" meet at 7 p.m. Call Chaplain Jesse King at 533-6731 for details.** 28

• SV Optimist Club meets at 6:30 a.m. at the Landmark Café. Call John Schirmer at 378-1062.
• National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC. Call 378-6605 for details.
• **Women's Equality Day Celebration at La Hacienda beginning at 11:30.**
• Early Release for Fort Huachuca Schools. Myer, Kindergarten @ 1:20 p.m. Grades 4 & 5 @ 1:30 p.m. Johnston, grades 1 - 3 @ 1:15 p.m. and Smith, Grades 6-8 @ 1:40 p.m. 29

• **Rollerskating at Youth Services, Bldg. 49013 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 533-3205 for details.** 30

• **Youth Services at Bldg. 49013 has open recreation from 1 - 8 p.m. Call 533-3205 for info.** 31

MCC = Murr Community Center

MPC = Main Post Chapel

OYCC = Oscar Yrun Community Center

Army Family Team Building classes and information at Murr Community Center, 533-3686 or 533-2330

1, 2, 3, BOOM!

Fort Huachuca Select Honor Guard maintains precision through training

By Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
NCOIC, USAIC&FH PAO

Confidently approaching the nervously awaiting new members of the Fort Huachuca Select Honor Guard, Cpl. Everett Baines isn't short on words bragging about his skills with the 75mm Howitzer cannon.

"Cannon number one never misfires," said the Marksville, La. native. "I mean never."

As the top cannoneer on the Honor Guard, Baines knows all eyes are upon him and his fellow comrades when the battery performs at official military functions on the installation or ceremonial functions off post.

"If you miss your cue from the officer in charge, you throw off the entire team," Gaines said. "That can be pretty ugly."

To maintain their precision and drill, the Honor Guard performed opportunity training Tuesday at Range 10. The training provided key hands-on instruction to several new soldiers recently assigned to the Guard.

"We had a big changeover of personnel and we also had some extra rounds, so we decided to take advantage of the training opportunity," said Sgt. 1st Class Lynn Burns, noncommissioned officer in charge, Fort Huachuca Select Honor Guard. "The new soldiers have to be able to perform in ceremonial salutes. To do this they must be able to load, be able to fire and know the procedures of firing."

Burns particularly wanted the new soldiers not to be afraid of the cannon. He explained the biggest challenge is for them not to be gentle with the trigger mechanism.

Elaborating on the trigger mechanism, Baines said the cannon is an intimidating piece of equipment.

"We go over all the safety measures because they are scared," Baines said. "However they see that I'm one of the smallest guys out here and I can handle it, so it makes them a bit more comfortable."

During the training Baines, as the primary instructor, went over Preventive Maintenance

Checks and Services and how to assemble and disassemble the breach. The breach contains the firing pin, firing retainer pin, and the handle.

One of the problems soldiers first encounter when firing the cannon is they don't pull the handle hard enough causing a misfire.

"It takes 45 pounds of pressure to pull the breach handle," Baines said. "So you can't be weak on your push ups and then come out here. You can't be all gingerly trying to pull the handle."

For many of the new soldiers, they thought being a part of the Honor Guard meant just marching with rifles and performing traditional drill and ceremonies. They did not expect D&C to include being part of a very important function of the Guard - battery salutes.

Spc. Andre Richardson recalled watching the Salute Battery fire off rounds at ceremonies. On this day he would both fire a live round for the first time.

"I'm a little nervous because I don't want it to backfire," Richardson said. "I know I'm going to jump the first time we fire, but I know if this is done right it will look good."

As the NCOIC, Burns primary role during ceremonies is to cue each firer, but a big part of him wishes he was on the line.

"I don't get to fire the cannon," Burns said. "I wish I could be out there. I remember during the 4th of July celebration, right before we were to do the Salute to the Nation, a huge gathering came just to watch them. I was proud of my soldiers."

Burns sometimes has to put some boot in the butt to enforce the strict discipline that is required as a member of the Honor Guard.

He knows that all eyes are upon his soldiers each and every time they are on the field. He knows there is absolutely no room for error.

"These soldiers expect perfection and they put a lot of pressure on themselves," Burns said. "I just want to show them what a true soldier can be."



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Above: Cpl. Everett Baines, Fort Huachuca Select Honor Guard, left, cues Pfc. Steven Ball when to fire during a dry rehearsal. Left: Spc. Braylon Jones gives proper instruction to Spc. Brandon Rivera on how to pull the breach handle so the round will go off.



POV from Page 3

facsimile copies of the vehicle title. Other documentation needed is a letter of approval for the vehicle to leave the country if the vehicle is leased, or if recently paid off, a letter of release. As it is very hard to inspect a dirty vehicle, make sure the vehicle is washed and dried by the Vehicle Processing Center, advises White.

"This way when Form DD 788, the joint inspection form is filled out, you and the contractor's agent will be able to properly inspect the vehicle

for any damages incurred during shipment." List any loss and all damages to your vehicle in item 13 on DD Form 788, making careful inventory of all items shipped in vehicle, including checking the interior of your vehicle for any transit damages to upholstery or headliner. It is also important to check your tires and the undercarriage of your vehicle to ensure your vehicle was properly tied down. After you feel comfortable with your inspection, signing the inspection form acknowledges the condition of

the vehicle. This part of the move is not much different than working with the other contractors who have moved your personal belongings.

If you feel uncomfortable with any part of the inspection, or the contractor's agent, it is important that you report your problem and do not depart from the VPC until you have spoken to the contracting officer's representative. The COR may offer to settle your claim, but according to the transportation office, you can hold

off and file with your military claims office.

Also, if you should discover additional damage after you have submitted your claim and before the claim is paid out, an amendment must immediately be filed. All in all, this is your POV. It is up to you to take a proactive and protective role so that your POV moves as smoothly as possible. For more information contact the Shery White at the Transportation Office at 533-5811.

Pets of the Week



Hi! My name is Tawny. I am a sweet little grey and orange female cat, who just wants to love someone. I love people and other animals. I would love to live in your house and be adored by you. My adoption fee is \$42, and with that I get microchipped, my annual vaccinations, a leukemia test, spayed, and dewormed.



My name is Falcor, and I am a big orange male tabby mixed with white. I would really like some children to play with because I am so tolerant of them. Please come and visit me at the vet clinic, or better yet give me a nice new home to go to. My adoption fee is \$42, which includes neutering, microchipping, deworming, leukemia testing and my annual vaccinations.



I am a big fluffy, black and white female Akita mix named Tia. I love to go on walks, or just cuddle after a hard days work. I would be an excellent companion for your kids, even little ones because I am so gentle. All you need is \$52, and I get vaccinated, dewormed, a spay and a heartworm test.



Want a new puppy? I am a black lab mix puppy named Kate. I'm not all that hyper and am already potty trained. I am friendly with other dogs, and just want a family to love me. I have already been spayed, microchipped, and been given my vaccines. All I need is a heartworm test and a deworming, so I am only \$22.

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.

In our own backyard: Keep a watchful eye to protect our children

By Katherine Goode
Scout Staff

Samantha Runnion's body found a day after her abduction, Cassandra Williamson kidnapped from her bedroom and killed, survivor Erica Pratt taken off the street corner from in front of her home, Danielle Van Dam kidnapped and murdered, Elizabeth Smart disappearing from her home, and now brave teen survivors Jacqueline Mariss and Tamara Brooks—when will the violence stop?

President George W. Bush said in a press conference on Tuesday Aug. 6, "America's children and parents are facing a wave of horrible violence from twisted criminals in our own communities."

He added, "The most recent statistics available tell a terrible story. More than 58,000 children are abducted by non-family members annually. Many of these children are returned home quickly, but some are not. Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies work every day to find these missing children, and to punish severely those who have committed crimes against them."

Now with summer over, parents face an even greater concern with their children traveling back and forth to school.

Spc. Stephen Ferree of the Fort Huachuca 18th Military Police said there will be a concentrated effort to detect "suspicious activity" as MPs will be looking out for the "welfare of our children." He explained that there will be both patrol cars and bike patrols watching over children on their way to and from school.

Nationally, the welfare of our children has led Bush to take part in a joint effort with the Department of Education, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Resources, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to focus on preventing crimes against children.

As a collaborative effort between these agencies a handbook has been designed that is available to parents online at www.missingkids.com.

As another measure to help protect our children, the Department of Education will distribute the handbook to every public and private school in the country.

Connie Johnson, principal for General Myer Elementary School said some measures have been in place for a long time. "We teach children to never talk to strangers. We also teach in the kindergarten program that if there is a problem to call 911 in emergency situations only."

We encourage kids to go directly home, to walk with someone else, to not take candy from strangers. If the parents or someone else pick the kids up we make sure that the person who picks the child up is whom the parents have listed on the [emergency contact] card. We also encourage children that if someone ever tries to approach them they should immediately report it."

But the disappearance of Smart from her Salt Lake City home



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Dana Scott walks hand in hand with her daughter, Elissa Scott on Elissa's first day of kindergarten at Meyer Elementary school. Safety is a top priority on the fort.

in June and last weeks terrifying 12-hour ordeal of teenage survivors Brooks and Marriss, who were abducted from a popular hang-out, tied up, held at gunpoint and raped, shows us that it is not just our younger children we need to focus upon.

"Safety is of utmost importance at Buena," said Elaine Carlson, assistant principal for Buena High School. "Anyone that comes into the building that is not staff or student must sign in and if a they are a legitimate visitor then they will be given a badge. Otherwise they will be stopped by security and removed from the property."

Explaining Buena High School's closed campus she added, "Every student leaving Buena has to have a valid pass, which means they must have parental permission to leave. We also have five security guards, and all day there are guards monitoring the perimeter of the grounds, the outside of the buildings, as well as within, with security guards at all entrance and exit gates. We want to ensure the safety of all of our students."

This summer the horrific stories seem to be coming one after another and during these "recent months, we have prayed and worried with parents as their children have been kidnapped, and in some cases, even murdered," said Bush.

Back-to-school means kids can get exams, shots

If you schedule a comprehensive health-promotion and disease-prevention examination for your children, you can send them back to school this fall knowing that they are healthy and well protected against disease. The exam is covered as a TRICARE clinical preventive service.

At the same time, have your children's immunizations brought up to date. This is important for health reasons and is now required by many school districts around the country as a prerequisite to a child registering for school.

Immunizations are also regarded as clinical preventive services, and age-appropriate dosages and vaccines—according to current guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Practice, and American Medical Association—will be provided for the following diseases:

- Diphtheria,
- haemophilus influenza type B,
- hepatitis A,
- hepatitis B,
- influenza,
- measles,
- mumps,
- pertussis,
- pneumococcal disease,
- poliomyelitis,
- rubella,
- tetanus, and
- varicella.

These services do not require care approvals. If you are a TRICARE Prime beneficiary, you must use a provider assigned by your primary care manager or use a network provider. If neither a PCM-approved nor a network provider is available under the TRICARE Prime access.

Although it seems there have been more children abducted this year, experts say this summer isn't very different than others in concern to child abductions. Annually, the number of cases hasn't been increasing, but national media attention has grown.

"Parents are hyper-vigilant," said Nancy McBride, director of prevention education for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. "We're having a terrible summer. There's been one right after the other. The media is covering these cases, and the perception is that the cases are on the rise, even though that's not true."

Bush said that is what parents need to be hyper-vigilant. Parents need to be the ones that ultimately teach their children about stranger danger, perhaps even setting up neighborhood safe houses.

But knowing all the instruction in the world may not help our children, he ended his conference with, "May God continue to protect America's children."