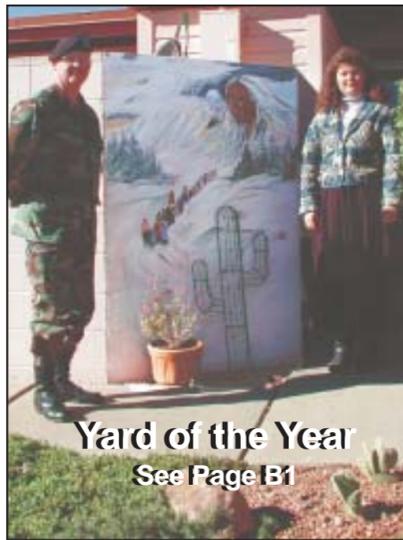


The Fort Huachuca Scout



Vol. 48, NO. 44 Published in the interest of Fort Huachuca personnel and their families November 7, 2002



Yard of the Year
See Page B1

Scout reports

e-mail: thescout@hua.army.mil
website: huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO

CFC deadline extended

The 2002 Combined Federal Campaign deadline has been extended until Nov 29. If you have not contributed, see your CFC representative to donate for this worthy cause.

Library reduces hours

Due to a staff shortage, effective immediately and until further notice, the Main Library will reduce its hours to the following schedule: Monday through Friday 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and will be closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. For more information, call the Director of Education Services, Dennis Sherrod, at 533-3010.

Flu shot

The flu shot hot-line number is 533-2997. Call to get current information regarding when the shot will be available.

More information will be placed on the Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center's placard.

Marine Corps Ball

The Marine Corps Ball will be held Saturday, 6 p.m. at La Hacienda. The cost of \$30 is payable to the Marine Corps Ball fund. For more information, call 533-6778/6961.

AUSA Veterans' luncheon

The Association of the United States Army will host a Veterans' Recognition Luncheon today from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at La Hacienda. The guest speaker will be Ret. Gen. John Wickham, Jr., former Army Chief of Staff.

The lunch is \$10. For reservations, call 458-6940.

Ramadan begins

The Holy Month of Ramadan began Wednesday and continues through Dec. 5. Ramadan is the month of fasting during which Muslims, who are physically able, do not eat or drink from the first sign of dawn until sunset.

Ramadan services are scheduled every Friday from noon to 1:30 p.m., at the Main Post Chapel, in Room 24.

For more information contact Jo Moore, Main Post Chapel, 533-4748. Point of contact for religious services is Bilal Ali, 452-8630.

Commissary scholarships

The 2003 Scholarships for Military Children Program opened Nov. 1. These are \$1,500 scholarships sponsored by the Defense Commissary Agency and administered by the Fisher House Foundation.

Applications can be downloaded for the 2003 program at:

www.commissaries.com or www.fisherhouse.org. They can also be picked up at any commissary.

The program is open to dependent unmarried children (under the age of 23) of active duty personnel, reserve, Guard and retired military. The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2003.

Deadline for returning applications by hand or mail to a commissary is Feb. 21.

Point of contact is Judy Mendez, commissary manager, at 533-5540.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Lt. Gen. Robert W. Noonan, Jr., deputy chief of staff, G2, shares a laugh after pinning on the star of newly promoted Brig. Gen. John M. Custer, commander, U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, Tuesday at Brown Parade Field.

Custer: 'The luckiest man in the world'

Commander of U.S. Army Intelligence Center promoted to brigadier general

By Staff Sgt. Sharron Stewart
Scout News Editor

Col. John M. Custer, commander of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, was promoted to brigadier general Tuesday, during a ceremony held on Brown Parade Field.

The newly promoted commanding general asked, "Could today be any more perfect? A parade ground steeped in the history of our nation's expansion, surrounded by friends and family, on a perfect autumn afternoon."

"To be honest, and this is hard for a con-

firmed Orioles fan to say, I feel just like Lou Gehrig in 1937... Today, I am the luckiest man in the world," Custer continued.

He was promoted by Lt. Gen. Robert W. Noonan Jr., deputy chief of staff for G2, Custer's wife Audrey and other family members.

"You can't get this far without a strong family to support you," Noonan said. "As a commander, there are three things that are a pure joy — awarding soldiers, reenlisting soldiers and promoting soldiers. I'm truly honored to participate in today's ceremony. I've known John Custer for many years. He has served in all the tough jobs,"

Noonan said. "It's always a delight to return to Sierra Vista and Fort Huachuca, the home of Army Intelligence. Let me tell the civic leaders here: we appreciate everything you do for our soldiers and our families. I get to travel a lot and not everybody gets it right (takes care of soldiers) like you do," Noonan said.

After Custer was pinned, he shared with the audience his first impression of the Army. "I entered the Army 28 years ago today, on election day Nov. 5, 1974.

See CUSTER, Page 7

Suicide attempt thwarted by post law enforcement

Scout reports

A Sierra Vista woman was detained by Sierra Vista Police Department officers after she entered Fort Huachuca illegally at the East Gate Tuesday night.

Elizabeth Summers, 38, failed to stop at the East Gate checkpoint. A military police unit followed her 1983 Mazda to Dove Avenue, where Summers locked herself in her vehicle and brandished a revolver.

According to Directorate of Public Safety officials, Summers displayed signs of incoherence, was extremely distraught and mentioned wanting to kill herself.

Post law enforcement officials rapidly responded to the scene and evacuated residents from the immediate vicinity of the scene.

As military police responded to the situation on post, the MP desk received a call from the Sierra Vista Police dispatch that they were attempting to locate the same 1983 Mazda; after receiving a call that Summers had attempted to injure herself off post.

Military police were able to successfully negotiate with Summers to leave her

See MPs, Page 7

Study could reduce Anthrax shots, decrease side effects

By Karen Fleming-Michael
Army News Service

A study to decrease the required number of Anthrax shots and its accompanied side effects is being conducted at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Maryland.

"We want to use our stores of vaccine wisely and we want to immunize people effectively and minimize side effects," said Col. Janine Babcock, principal investigator for the study.

The study's goals are twofold. The first is proving the anthrax vaccine, manufactured by BioPort Corp in Lansing, Mich., is still effective when subjects are given fewer doses than the normal regimen of six shots delivered at one, two and four weeks and then at six, 12 and 18 months, with annual boosters.

"The (current vaccination) schedule is extremely cumbersome," Babcock said. "It is expensive to implement, and it is very difficult to support from a vaccine production



U.S. Army photo

Army researchers are trying to reduce the side effects of Anthrax to properly immunize soldiers effectively.

and logistical point of view."

Decreasing the number of doses will also increase patient acceptance, she said. "If you have your choice between six shots and three, we'd all pick three."

The second goal is to change the way the shots are given, which should reduce the side effects of redness, tenderness, swelling and

See ANTHRAX, Page 7

Commentary

Comments from a Muslim neighbor

By Bilal Y. Ali
Special to the Scout

I have been a member of the Fort Huachuca/Sierra Vista community now for over five years. Being a concerned citizen as to the religious climate of our community, I felt the need to address certain issues. Since the tragedy that shocked our country on September 11, there has been a growing concern as to just what the religion of Islam is. The purpose of this article is to perhaps close the gap of misunderstanding and misconception and to promote cohesiveness amongst all people of God.

Islam is basically a way of life or culture which is to submit to the will of the Creator. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was a messenger of God and the one whom God chose to receive the revelation of the Quran which is our sacred scripture.

Muslims believe in Articles of Faith which are: 1. belief in God, 2. belief in Angels, 3. belief in the prophets of God, 4. belief in the books of God, 5. Belief in life after death (heaven and hell) and 6. divine ordinance.

Most of you have Muslim friends and or co-workers and are familiar with the five pillars which are 1. Shahada, the declaration of faith, 2. salat, daily prayers, 3. zakat, your charity, 4. fasting during the month of Ramadan if one is able and 5. Hajj which is your pilgrimage to Mecca.

One of the misconceptions about the religion of Islam are the meanings or misuse of some words. Jihad is one I would like to address. What does this word mean to you? Most would probably say "holy war" but that is not correct. Jihad is literally a word that means struggle. Struggle is something many of us deal with several times a day. With some of us it is finances, work,

school, relationships, etc. The misconception of that word can be attributed to the hype surrounding it in today's public forums.

What we need to bear in mind is that people should be judged by the religion, not the religion by the people. We can not fault entire nations, races or religions by the actions of a few. Every major religion has had someone take advantage of good people, rise in its name and cause death and destruction yet we don't fault those religions, just the people that committed the crimes.

Islam nor Muslims should be slighted by the tragedy that struck our country. We are just as sad and affected by the attack on our country as any other American. Some Muslims were even working in the building when it was struck, so we see this was a loss for all people.

There is a common enemy here regardless if you are a Jew, Buddhist, Christian, or Muslim and that enemy is evil. That is where we need to focus our attention and energy because that is the thing that will destroy us as a people, a country, or even as a planet if we turn our backs to it. This is the true Jihad or struggle.

The call is to be more spiritual, not so religious. If we see each other as we want to be seen perhaps we can end this before it ends us.

I believe in the United States of America, its Stars and Stripes; I believe in the red for the blood that has been shed for our freedom and the white for the victories won; I believe in the stars; the infinity of what lies ahead for this country; endless and has no boundaries. I believe in our Constitution and those who defend it; I defend it.

I would defend, fight and die for my country. I am an American. I am a Muslim.



Chaplain (Maj.) Dennis R. Nitschke
Deputy Command Chaplain, NETCOM

"I submit to you that if a man hasn't discovered something he will die for, he isn't fit to live." – Martin Luther King Jr., Detroit, Mich., June 23, 1963

Retired Maj. Gen. John Stanford was born Sept. 14, 1938 in Darby, Pa., graduated high school as the class president in June of 1957 and on June 10, 1961 graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor's of Art in political science. He joined the Army on June 11, 1961, serving a variety of tours, including two tours in Vietnam as a fixed-wing aviator and battalion commander. He served as the commanding general of Traffic Management Command, director of plans, where he oversaw transportation plans and programs for Operation Desert Storm. He retired as a major general in July, 1991 and started work as the county manager in Fulton County, Georgia (including Atlanta).

His story doesn't end there. The best part was yet to come. In July, 1995 he was recruited as the new Seattle School District superintendent. He raised eyebrows when he told crowds he "...never failed at anything." His first day on the job he proposed central-office staff spend one day a week helping in schools and that poor customer service became a firing offense. Seattle schools were among the worst in test scores in America – during his tenure test scores raised every year. He made principals of schools Chief Executive Officers. Major businesses donated millions of dollars to the schools. He pushed for a four-day school week with Friday being a day for teachers to plan, train and conduct parent-teacher conferences. He contracted with the teacher union to give principals the ability to control teacher hiring – regardless of seniority.

On April 2, 1998 he announced he had leukemia. April 19 of the same year he took an unauthorized two and a half mile walk toward home, but was picked up by the Seattle police before getting there. On May 6, 1998 he was released from the hospital and reported to work the next day. His cancer went in and out of remission until 1:35 a.m., Nov. 28, 1998, retired Maj. Gen. John Stanford, dies.

I live by a paraphrase of a comment made by retired Maj. Gen. John Stanford which is: "I'll fight for those I love 'til hell freezes over... then I'll fight for them on the ice." It is my "place" to give all I have for my family, my Army, and those in my care. It is the role of all people, I believe, to do the same. If we were more about that business we'd have less evil in the world – we'd have more care for one another regardless of our differences because we'd be focused on what we can do for each other.

While on my second tour in Korea, I produced a Fourth of July program using songs and parts of speeches by President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. One was the quote above. As the voice of MLK spoke those words, a slide of a soldier coming home from Desert Storm hugging his daughter was on the outdoor screen. I believe that soldier discovered something worth dying for – better yet, worth living for.

John Stanford knew his priorities. On this upcoming Veteran's Day, I ask you to take the time to think about what it took for our forefathers, and foremothers, in terms of giving of life and liberty to build this great country of ours. Take the time to thank them for the legacy they left us. It is good for all of us to do some introspection and find our legacy as well. Together, our comrades-in-arms of the past made a difference for millions. One man, retired Maj. Gen. John Stanford, made a difference in the lives of thousands. It is in our hands to make a difference as well. One person reaching out to another has the energy to impact thousands as well. Have a blessed Veteran's Day holiday.

Two salutes on Veterans Day



On Veterans Day, we pay tribute to the American men and women who have served in our nation's armed forces. Through their sacrifices, they have purchased for us the privileges of freedom, democracy, and unmatched opportunity that we enjoy in the United States today, and they have set the conditions for the United States' place as global leader, with the

world's strongest economy, and the most respected and feared military in the world.

And as we celebrate the contributions of our veterans, we also take this opportunity to salute and to honor you, the soldiers serving in the Army today. Your determination and your readiness to go where you are needed whenever you are called are potent symbols of liberty, justice, and hope for freedom-loving people the world over.

Today, soldiers build upon the 227-year legacy established by veterans who have gone before. From the first battle of the American Revolution to our ongoing war against terrorism, in conflicts around the globe and in humanitarian missions at home and abroad that have saved countless lives, soldiers have provided the sword and shield that protects our nation. And they are doing so today-over 190,000 soldiers deployed and forward stationed in 120 countries around the world.

Each day you serve, you voluntarily forego comfort and wealth, willingly facing hardships and deployments away from family and loved ones. Sometimes you confront danger and face death in defending the nation's security. To all of you on point for the nation, whether far from home or here in the United States, thank you for your contributions and your countless sacrifices. It is an honor to serve with you.

And so on Veteran's Day, a day of reflection and tribute, we salute you, and we pledge to you our tireless efforts to ensure that the Army remains the world's preeminent warfighting land force-the most esteemed institution in the nation, and the most respected Army in the world.

Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
Thomas E. White, Secretary of the Army

Scout on the Street

Did you vote; why is it important to vote?



If you don't vote you don't have a say, therefore you can't complain. I didn't get a chance to vote on Tuesday.

Spc. Bret Zellner,
Headquarters and
Headquarters Company,
86th Signal Brigade



I'm not registered in Arizona so I didn't vote. Though I would have because that's how to best run your government and keep everything right.

Pfc. Kyle Baker,
Headquarters and
Headquarters Detachment,
93rd Sig. Bde.



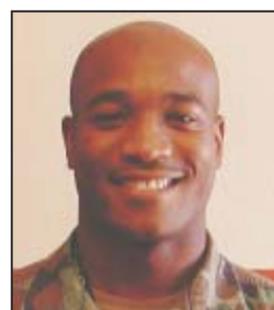
I'm a Democrat and I voted Tuesday. It's important because we need better leadership.

Staff Sgt. Johnny James,
Company A,
86th Sig. Bde.



I did not vote on Tuesday, I'm not a resident of Arizona and failed to put in an absentee ballot. I would have if I was where I am from, Colorado, because I do feel it is important.

Staff Sgt. Michael Simco,
Theater Special
Operations Detachment



It's important so you can have a say in how the government works. I didn't get a chance to vote Tuesday.

Sgt. Clifford Price,
18th Military Police
Detachment



I voted on Tuesday. It's important because it's one of the ways to get the right people in the right places.

Pfc. Kenneth Nix,
Headquarters and
Headquarters Company,
306th MI Bn.

Photos by Angelica Pequeño

The Fort Huachuca Scout

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VFW phone cards say 'thanks' to service members, veterans

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

In time for the holidays, the Veterans of Foreign Wars' annual free phone card program is gearing up for active-duty, Guard and Reserve military members serving overseas, and for hospitalized veterans.

Both corporate and individual contributors fund the program, which began in the mid-1990s, noted Ron Browning, assistant adjutant general for development at VFW headquarters in Kansas City, Mo.

He said the prepaid phone card program kicks off during the Veterans Day weekend. The cards, he added, will be offered in increments of at least 10 minutes of calling time, up to 30 minutes. The paper cards feature directions for use and include space for user comments, Browning said.

"It's a way of saying 'thank you,' not only from the VFW, but from the donors who promote the cards and provide the cards to these people who are really doing so much for America — especially today," he emphasized.

In fact, since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America, the VFW and its volunteer network have distributed almost 600,000 prepaid phone cards to service members and veterans, Browning said. That card count repre-

sents almost six million calling minutes, he added.

About 25,000 phone cards were issued in the program's first year, he noted. This year, he estimated, about a million will be distributed.

He recalled a note written to the VFW by a card recipient: "When no one else cares, I know you folks will be there. For that, I am eternally grateful. I'll use this card to get in touch with my family, whom I haven't heard from in number of years."

"Anyone who has ever been away from home on a holiday — especially serving overseas — knows how difficult that period can be," Browning said. "To know that we've made a difference in people's lives is huge, even if it's just a 10-minute phone call."

Historically, people such as parents, spouses, other relatives and military commanders have requested the phone cards for servicemembers and veterans, he remarked. To request a phone card on behalf of a servicemember, visit www.vfwkc.org/marketing/PhoneCard.asp. To make a donation toward the purchase of cards for distribution, visit www.vfw.org/uplink/donation.shtml.

The VFW attempts to fulfill every legitimate request for phone cards and to get the cards into the hands of service members and veterans, Browning said.

The VFW program "has a pretty extensive volunteer network that makes it work," he said. And this year, he added, the National Football League and Department of Defense have partnered to get the word out about the free phone card program.

"The NFL has selected this particular project as a major part of its salute to veterans on Veterans Day," he said. That effort, Browning noted, will kick off during the Sunday and Monday night football games at NFL stadiums across the country.

Fans at the games will receive flyers explaining the program and suggesting how to contribute, Browning continued. Program information also will appear on various NFL Web sites, he said.

The VFW and its sponsors, he pointed out, are also involved in other support projects for service members. One example is a pilot program that has provided military family assistance centers around the country with about \$1.6 million of merchandise and assistance over the past year, he said. That assistance, he noted, should double this year, and triple next year.

"We think now, more than ever, that the military family needs to know that the civilian family really cares about it," Browning concluded.

Senior NCO promotions slowing down, more staying in

By Dan Hassett
Army News Service

The Army will promote fewer mid-level noncommissioned officers in November than it did in the last two months because more sergeants first class chose to stay in the Army.

The Army projects 2,541 promotions to the ranks of sergeant through sergeant major Nov. 1, down from nearly 4,800 in October and more than 5,100 in September.

"Promotions are down because we are retaining more E-7s," said Lt. Col. Jenelle Roberts, chief of the Enlisted Professional Development Branch at the Pentagon.

"The enlisted strength is up at that grade, so we don't need to promote into that grade," Roberts said. "When that happens, we don't get the 'pull-through' effect on the next lower grades."

Roberts explained the "pull-through" effect as the creation of promotion slots at lower levels by promotions to higher ranks. A slowdown at one of the higher grades suppresses advancements in lower grades.

"We strictly promote to requirements," Roberts said. "That's why we have the roller coaster effect from month to month."

"December also looks low (for promotions)," Roberts said, "but as we go into the new year, they start to creep up. We'll be back

on track by mid- to late winter."

Promotion projections are made on an annual basis, Roberts said, based on loss pro-

jections of the previous year. She said the annual rate of promotions is about on target despite monthly fluctuations.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sharron Stewart

Senior noncommissioned officer promotions are down for the month of November. More sergeants first class are deciding to stay in the force.

New 80-passenger van systems replace old 'cattle cars'

By Jim Caldwell
TRADOC News Service

A new Army transportation system for soldiers in basic combat training on display at Fort Monroe this week had veterans shaking their heads and smiling, thinking how easy troops have it today.

Called a personnel carrier van, the system consists of a tractor and an 80-passenger trailer that can be air conditioned or heated and has several different safety features.

Vans will replace decades-old "cattle cars" used to transport soldiers at Training and Doctrine Command training centers at Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Fort Sill, Okla.

Far from being a luxury item, the vans are a necessity in BCT and one station unit training, according to the Army Drill Sergeant of the Year Staff Sgt. Randy Cheadle. Cheadle is assigned to the Army Accessions

Command at Fort Monroe.

"Training ranges can be 15-30 miles away from training barracks," he said. "You can't march new privates that far. You have to condition them before they can take long road marches."

"Training schedules are so tight that sometimes you don't have the time to march to a range. The vans will save time and money to distant ranges and time and money are what drill sergeants need most to carry out their duties."

Cheadle said three of the new vans can move an entire training company. Such a move would require at least four cattle cars or four buses.

He was impressed with the safety features, including two-way communications with the driver.

"The only way you can get a driver of a cattle car to stop is to open a window and yell and hope that he hears you," he said. "Or have the privates make a whole bunch of noise that'll get his attention."

The trailer has a steel frame with five roll bars along its length. If the trailer should roll over on one side, the windows on the up side allow soldiers to escape. There are two escape hatches in the ceiling.

Two doors make loading and unloading troops go much quicker than in cattle cars, which have one door.

"The air conditioning is great," Cheadle said. He recalled transporting trainees in cattle cars when he was a drill sergeant at Fort Leonard Wood.

"In the middle of the summer the temperature got in the 90's and 100's. The heat would really build up in the cattle cars because the ventilation is

poor. Some trainees got sick. There were two or three times there that it was really hard for me to stick it out."

Fort Leonard Wood was provided a prototype of the van in June 2001 to use and to shake out any bugs. Since then it has been used to move troops to locations on and off post, with some trips up to 75 miles one way.

The opinions of some drill sergeants at Fort Leonard Wood are mixed, according to Charles Vess, Trooplift Supervisor.

"Some believe the trainees should use the old vans to get used to the 'hard life,' and yet they appreciate the comfort and safety factors of the transit," Vess said.

Fort Leonard Wood has 15 of the cattle cars, with the newest being 30 years old.

"We have 2 to 3 in shop each month for a week or more," he said. "Some have been in the shop for months being rebuilt to maintain safety and utilization."

Features about the prototype van that impress Vess and Motor Officer Joan Houser are only one driver is required for off post trips, one van can carry the same amount of soldiers as two buses and the intercom that links the trailer and the tractor driver. The highest safe operating speed for the van is 65 miles per hour speeds.

"At Fort Leonard Wood the new transport has proven itself on rough roads and highways to be more effective in moving large numbers of soldiers than anything we have had in years," he said. "While the prototype has undergone some adjustments, overall it has outperformed anything else we have use for transporting passengers."

"Fort Leonard Wood worked hard to find alternative ways to replace the cattle cars," Houser said. "Ultimately TRADOC and TACOM (Tank Automotive and Armaments Command) formed a team to develop the new vans."

"Fort Leonard Wood was awarded the testing of the prototype due to the multitude of different terrains covered by vehicles. The team that developed this vehicle should be commended for the efforts made for safety and comfort of the passengers."

Lifeline Shelter Systems, with subcontractors, Dado Trailer Corp., and ALLVAN, Nashville, Tenn., built the vans.

Civil service retirement system buyout a hoax

NARFE release

It's that time of year again, when "buy-out" rumors start circulating. Recently, there have again been rumors about two bills in Congress to buy out Civil Service Retirement System employees.

There is no basis for these rumors. The following news article from the National Association for Retired Federal Employees is quoted for your information:

"News of interest: two bills currently moving through Congress both have a common goal" to insure that all CSRS employees are retired by the end of fiscal year 2003. The Senate version is the long waited "50-50" bill which includes five years years no penalty time added to tenure and age with a fifty thousand dollar incentive bonus.

The House version is a new approach which includes the same five years addition to tenure and age but will include a 75 percent of basic pay plan that will be hard to refuse for most workers.

The final version will most likely include portions of both bills when the final draft is considered in House/Senate negotiations."

Does this "news" item sound too good to be true? It is!

There is no truth at all to this recycled rumor, which periodically makes the rounds anywhere more than two federal employees are gathered.

There are no bills in this Congress to give bonus years in age and/or service along with big dollar buy-outs. Nor are there likely to be such generous proposals in the foreseeable future.

And do you think all CSRS-covered employees will be retired in the next couple of years? No way!

According to the Office of Personnel Management's own projections, there will be more than a million federal workers retiring between now and 2010.

And 68.7 percent of those retiring will be CSRS employees. In the year 2000, 76,827 people retired from federal service.

Eighty three percent of them were CSRS employees. In 2004, they project 92,931 retirements, of which 75 percent will be CSRS workers.

And even in 2010, when 100,444 people are expected to retire, 53 percent of them—still more than half—will retire under the CSRS.

In short: Congress isn't planning a "get out and get rich" plan for federal workers; and there will be plenty of CSRS-covered workers around for some years yet.

CSRS employees:

- Congress is not planning a "get out and get rich" plan for employees.
- There are no bills in this Congress to give bonus years in age and/or service along with big dollar buy-outs.
- Nor are there likely to be such generous proposals in the foreseeable future.



U.S. Army photo

The new personnel carrier van consists of a tractor and an 80-passenger trailer that can be air conditioned or heated and has several different safety features.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Retired Lt. Col. Joseph V. Guerrissi shares some of his wartime experiences with Staff Sgt. Flynn Edmundson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Army Signal Command, during the Veterans Visiting Veterans event Monday in Sierra Vista. Guerrissi served 26 years as a Signal officer.

A SENSE OF DUTY

Servicemembers salute, lift spirits of veterans in Sierra Vista, Tucson

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

The elderly gentleman taps his feet and hands to the sounds of the Army Song and reminisces of his days in uniform. Moving steadily to the beat of music, he holds a long stare at the rows of ribbons on the young staff sergeant sitting beside him.

His face soon reveals a smile of adoration for this soldier, a soldier he'd never known until this day, but he's proud. He is proud because he knows the Army he left years ago is in good hands because of the soldier right next to him.

"This is one of the most patriotic things a soldier can do for us veterans," said Retired Lt. Col. Joseph V. Guerrissi. "I was almost in tears listening to the music and looking at the soldiers here."

Guerrissi, a 26-year Army veteran and Signal officer who served in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War, Monday was a special day for him and other veterans in Sierra Vista.

More than 20 soldiers from Fort Huachuca volunteered to be a part of the Veterans visiting Veterans event, which brought them to the community to visit veterans and widows of veterans in health care facilities. The two-day event was held Monday in Sierra Vista and Wednesday in Tucson.

"This event helps us to recognize and honor veterans who are not in the mainstream of the community and therefore, are unable to participate in Veterans Day observances held in their honor," said Ginny Sciarrano, community relations officer. "The soldiers on the fort answered the call to volunteer and without them this wouldn't have been a success."



Spc. Margo Pitzer, Company B, 304th Military Intelligence Battalion and Pfc. James Rumble, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 111th Military Intelligence Brigade, greets Annaelse Johnston at the Prestige Assisted Living in Sierra Vista.

Monday the soldiers visited veterans at the Life Care Center of Sierra Vista, the Hacienda Rehabilitation and Care Center and Prestige Assisted Living.

During their visit to Wednesday, the soldiers went to the Southern Arizona Veterans Administration Health Care System in Tucson.

At each care center, a quintet from the 36th Army Band conducted a mini-concert for the veterans playing a medley of songs ranging from swing jazz to classic military tunes.

Moved emotionally from her experience Monday with several veterans, Spc. Margo Pitzer, Company B, 304th Military Intelligence Battalion, held back tears throughout the day.

"It's been very touching," Pitzer said. "This is a tiny way for me to give back to these veterans."

Pitzer volunteered to participate in the event because she hasn't had too many volunteer opportunities after graduating Advanced Individual Training. She admitted after visiting the veterans, she was going to volunteer more of her personal time to visit more veterans.

Also volunteering was French Army Liaison Lt. Col. Martin Renard, who represented his country of France and whose countrymen fought with Americans in both World Wars in the past and today in Afghanistan.

"Many of the veterans here probably served alongside with the French during World War II," Renard said. "The embassy didn't call me to do this, I volunteered to share my country's appreciation of these men."

The event gave Staff Sgt. Flynn Edmundson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Army Signal Command a better way of instilling Army Values to his soldiers. Not only did he volunteer, but three of his soldiers volunteered as well.

"I felt this was my duty to be here and a great way to show my appreciation for these great Americans," Edmundson said. "Without them, the Army today wouldn't be what it is. I told my soldiers it would be a disservice to their legacy by not coming out and thanking them."

Edmundson said it was equally important for his soldiers to hear firsthand the stories from the veterans of their experiences from various wars and the military from their tenure.

As the visit came to a close and the soldiers exchanged hugs, it was evident on their faces they were proud to be representing the military.

"These soldiers will never know how much this meant," said Guerrissi. "This is something we'll never forget."



Staff Sgt. Milton Taylor, Company A, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, listens as World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War veteran retired Lt. Col. Paul L. Wolff tell his experiences during his service in the Air Force.

Origins of Veterans Day

Scout reports

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe).

These memorial gestures all took place on Nov. 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., Nov. 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day."

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action.

If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "the War to end all wars," Nov. 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe.

Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

Armistice Day changed to honor all veterans

An answer to the question of how to pay tribute to those who had served in this latest, great war came in a proposal made by Representative Edwin K. Rees of Kansas: Change Armistice Day to Veterans Day, and make it an occasion to honor those who have served America in all wars.

In 1954 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming Nov. 11 as Veterans Day.

On Memorial Day 1958, two more unidentified American war dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I.

One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1973, a law passed providing interment of an unknown American from the Vietnam War, but none was found for several years.

In 1984, an unknown serviceman from that conflict was placed alongside the others. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, the 3d U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October.

It soon became apparent, however, that Nov. 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans.

Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

National ceremonies held at Arlington

The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns.

At 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays "taps." The rest of the ceremony takes place in the amphitheater.

Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington and elsewhere are coordinated by the President's Veterans Day National Committee. Chaired by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the committee represents national veterans organizations.

Governors of states and U.S. territories appoint Veterans Day chairpersons who, in cooperation with the National Committee and the Department of Defense, arrange and promote local ceremonies.

Community Updates

Military eat free at Golden Corral

On Veteran's Day, from 5 - 9 p.m., the Sierra Vista Golden Corral restaurant will offer veterans and retired and active duty military members a free dine-in dinner buffet plus beverage. The offer includes members of the Reserves and the National Guard. To receive the free dine-in buffet, military guests should state their military status when coming through the ordering line the night of the event.

MP fund-raiser

The Military Police Company will have a Family Support Group fund-raiser Nov. 14, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the MP Station, Building 22336. Hotdogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks will be sold. For further information call 533-5342.

Troops to Teachers briefing

The Troops to Teachers program has been successful in producing quality teachers, a high percentage of whom are men and minorities. In addition, they have experience beneficial to successful teaching in high-demand fields, such as mathematics, science, and special education, and are teaching in high-demand areas, such as inner cities and outlying rural areas. To learn more about TTT, including some background information, goals and objectives, current status, eligibility and how to register, come to a briefing in Room 2 of the Education Center, Building 52104 today at 1 p.m.

The Arizona TTT director, Sue Collins, will be conducting this briefing. Contact Dennis Sherrod, education services officer at 533-2393 for more information.

Chaplain assistance

The Installation Chaplain's Office announces openings for non-personal services contracts for a musician and watchcare providers. For more information, call Chap. (Maj.) Patricia Dickson at 533-4753.

ASIST hosts two-day workshop

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training is holding a two-day workshop Nov. 20-21 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the Main Post Chapel Activity Room.

Anyone who works with persons at risk (Supervisors, Commanders, Military Police, Drill Sergeants, First sergeants, school teachers and administrators, chaplains and chaplain assistants, mental health workers, youth workers, MWR personnel) is encouraged to attend. Civilian clothes will be the uniform for both days.

ASIST provides practical help for caregivers seeking to prevent the immediate risk of suicide. The interactive program includes teaching, discussion, videos and skills practice. Attendance at the full two days is essential.

There is no cost, but registration is limited to 30 participants, so sign up early by contact-

ing Chaplain (Maj.) Garry Dale at 533-4911 or garry.dale@hua.army.mil.

Mac luncheon

Former Chief of Staff of the United States Army, Gen. John A. Wickham, Jr. is the guest speaker at the November Military Affairs Committee luncheon.

The event is scheduled for today, at 11:30 a.m. at La Hacienda Club.

This special event, sponsored by the Association United States Army, will honor our military veterans. This event is open to the public. The cost of the buffet lunch is \$10. For reservations call the Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce, 458-6940.

American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month celebration

The U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca will host its Native American Indian Heritage Month Celebration at 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m., Nov. 14 at the Murr Community Center.

The theme for this year's observance is "Honoring Life, Honoring Elders, Honoring Heritage." The keynote speaker is Catherine Ohrin-Greipp, founder and director of Healing Connections, located in Sierra Vista, the only American Indian owned business in Cochise County. A wide variety of displays, free food sampling and entertainment will fill the ceremony.

For more information call Post Equal Opportunity at 533-1717/5305; 111th Military Intelligence Brigade at 533-3672; Army Signal Command at 538-0909; 112th Military Intelligence Brigade at 538-0533; 11th Signal Bde. at 533-5202 or 533-3672.

PX and commissary council

If you have ideas or suggestions that would improve Fort Huachuca's Commissary and the Post Exchange come to the next meeting Nov. 26, at 1 p.m. in the Murr Community Center, Room 6.

For more information call Jim Chambers chambersj@hua.army.mil or Virginia Heaney at 803-6739.

Volunteer recognition ceremony

The Murr Community Center will be holding a quarterly volunteer recognition ceremony in the Jack Rabbit Room at 4:30 p.m., Nov. 18.

Awards will be presented to all non military volunteers with more than 100 recorded hours of community service. All volunteers are invited to attend. All commanders of Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal qualifiers are invited to attend and present their soldiers with this award. Soldiers who have received the MOVSM previously are also invited to attend. A traveling trophy will be presented to the military unit with the highest total number of recorded volunteer hours. Cake, coffee and juice will be served immediately follow-

ing the ceremony.

Brig. Gen. John M. Custer, Col. Lawrence Portou, and Dan Valle will be giving short speeches/presentations. Call Jo Richter to RSVP at 533-4823, MCC, Room 14 or email jo.richter@hua.army.mil.

The Installation Volunteer Coordinator's office will be closed until Friday.

Floor resurfacing at Alvarado Hall

The floors at Alvarado Hall are being resurfaced through Nov. 29. During this time it will be necessary to block one of the entrances, but signs will be available to guide you into the building.

Fitch Auditorium will remain open for usage and command group offices will maintain normal operating hours. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Kids on the Block Puppets training workshop

A Deployment/Reunion Skills Training Workshop presented by the 11th Signal Brigade Chaplains and featuring the "Kids on the Block" puppets will be held at Kino Chapel Sanctuary and Activities Room, Monday from 6-7 p.m.

This program is designed to inform and help soldiers and their families understand the stresses that come from deployment separation. The program is designed for soldiers, spouses, and children, ages 3-12, who are going through a deployment-reunion experience or will be in the near future. This includes those separated due to unaccompanied one year assignments. For more information call Kino Chapel at 533-9507 or 533-2388.

Veteran's appreciation at Clothing Store

The Military Clothing Sales Store located at Building 80503 in the Prosser Village will host a Veteran Appreciation Day today from 1-3 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Reward: \$250

The Fort Huachuca Criminal Investigation Division is investigating the theft of a Dell laptop computer, latitude C600, serial number HWTJX01 property of the United States government. The computer was stolen between July 26-Sept. 26 in Rowe Hall, Building 63847. A \$250 reward is being offered for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the theft. If you have any information concerning the theft, call the Fort Huachuca CID at 533-5202 or the military police at 533-3000.

This reward offer expires Oct. 18, 2003 (reward will be paid IAW PARA 3-20B (1-6) AR 195-4.)

Range closures

Range closures for today through Nov. 14.

Today- AK, AM, AN, AQ, AU, AV, T1, T1A, T2

Friday- AU, AY, T1*, T1A*, T2*

Saturday- No Closures

Sunday- No Closures

Monday- AU*

Tuesday- AM, AU, AV*, T1*, T1A*, T2*

Wednesday- AM, AP, AU, T1, T1A, T2

Nov. 14- AM, AU, AW, AX, T1, T1A, T2

* Changes from last weeks Range Closures.

Note: The time after a training area means the area is open for hunting etc. Training will be conducted later in the day or night. Military police should make note of the times and inform hunters of time limits in a specific area. The time input will show on the Range Closure schedule during hunting seasons only. Hunters must be out of the training area at the designated time(s). Night training does not interfere with the hunts as hunts cease at night fall.

This information is subject to change week to week. For more information, call Range Control 533-7095.

Chapel Community Angel Tree

The Fort Huachuca chapel community is sponsoring the Angel Tree. The purpose is to provide gifts to the needy children of our military community during the holiday season.

Volunteers are needed to man the Angel Tree table at the post exchange during the following Fridays and Saturdays: Nov. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29 and 30. The hours are from 10 a.m. -12, noon-2 p.m., 2-4 p.m. and 4-5 p.m.

Call Chaplain (Maj.) Gary Dale at 533-4911 or email garry.dale@hua.army.mil to donate two hours of your time on any of these days.

Gift wrap fundraiser opportunity

Army and Air Force Exchange Services is pleased to announce their support of the subject fundraising program this holiday season. The Post Exchange will supply all of the materials to participating organizations to wrap gifts in the PX Mall for members of the Fort Huachuca community. It is a great fundraising opportunity for post organizations since they provide this service for tips and without any expenses.

Interested organizations can sign up at or direct questions to the PX Customer Service department or by calling 458-7830 extension 107. The PX will begin taking reservations Nov. 8 to give organizations time to recruit volunteers. The PX staff asks that you submit one primary date and as many secondary dates as you would like for providing the gift wrapping service.

If you have any questions or comments, stop by the PX Customer Service department or give them a call at 458-7830 ext. 107.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h2>Community Events Calendar</h2> <p>To add items to the calendar, call the Central Community Coordinator at 533-6870.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Native American Heritage Month celebration Nov. 14 11:15 a.m.-1 p.m. at MCC celebrity Food drive at the Commissary Nov. 15 from 2-6 p.m., Nov. 16 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.</p> </div>						
<p>• The Vigilantes at the Helderado set in Tombstone at 1 p.m. 10</p>	<p>Veteran's Day (Armistice Day) Federal Holiday 11</p>	<p>• Rickety Rockettes meets at OYCC at 10 a.m. 12</p> <p>• National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC.</p> <p>• Put Prevention Into Practice (PPIP) & Health Promotion Class meets from 2-3:30 p.m. at MCC. Call 533-2246 for additional info.</p> <p>• Cochise Toastmasters meets at Landmark Café from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call Toni Reeves at 538-7502.</p> <p>• Cochise Chordsmen (SPERSQA) meets at SV Methodist Church at 7 p.m.</p> <p>• Society for Creative Anachronism meets at OYCC at 7 p.m.</p>	<p>• La Salida Del Sol Lions meet at Thunder Mountain Inn at 6:45 a.m. Call Lee at 378-1399 for details.</p> <p>• SV Parks & Leisure is sponsoring Air Hockey Tournaments at the YC. This event begins at 3:30 p.m. This event is free and open to youth ages 11-17 years of age. Call 459-4377 for info.</p> <p>• SV Chess Club meets at Peter Piper Pizza at 7 p.m.</p>	<p>• SV Optimist Club meets at 6:30 a.m. at the Landmark Café. Call Robert Atkinson at 459-2711</p> <p>• National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC. Call 378-6605 for details.</p> <p>• Huachuca Area Retired Teachers Association meets at OYCC at 10 a.m.</p> <p>• Early Release for Fort Huachuca Schools. Myer-Kindergarten @ 1:20 p.m. Grades 4 & 5 @ 1:30p.m. Johnston, grades 1-3 @ 1:15 p.m. and Smith, Grades 6-8 @ 1:40 p.m.</p>	<p>• Rollin' Thunder Skate Park 5-9 p.m. for teens only. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public. 8</p> <p>• Rollerskating at Youth Services, Bldg. 49013 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call 533-3205 for details.</p>	<p>• Youth Services at Bldg. 49013 has open recreation from 1-8 p.m. Call 533-3205 for info. 9</p> <p>• Rollin' Thunder Skate Park is open 1-6 p.m. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public.</p> <p>• Marine Corps Birthday Ball at La Hacienda Club at 7 p.m.</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>• San Pedro Kiwanis meets at noon in the Crystal Room of Thunder Mountain Inn. Contact Nilda Townsend at 458-9647.</p> <p>• Thunder Mountain Bridge Club meets at 12:30 p.m. at Thunder Mountain Inn. Call Dianna Smith at 432-3883.</p> <p>• SV Parks & Leisure is sponsoring Table Tennis Tournaments at the YC. This event begins at 3:30 p.m. This event is free and open to youth ages 11-17 years of age. Call 459-4377 for info. 18</p>	<p>• Rickety Rockettes meets at OYCC at 10 a.m. 19</p> <p>• National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC.</p> <p>• Put Prevention Into Practice (PPIP) & Health Promotion Class meets from 2-3:30 p.m. at MCC. Call 533-2246 for additional info.</p> <p>• Cochise Toastmasters meets at Landmark Café from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call Toni Reeves at 538-7502.</p> <p>• Cochise Chordsmen (SPERSQA) meets at SV Methodist Church at 7 p.m.</p> <p>• Society for Creative Anachronism meets at OYCC at 7 p.m.</p>	<p>• La Salida Del Sol Lions meet at Thunder Mountain Inn at 6:45 a.m. Call Lee at 378-1399 for details.</p> <p>• SV Chess Club meets at Peter Piper Pizza at 7 p.m. 20</p>	<p>• SV Optimist Club meets at 6:30 a.m. at the Landmark Café. Call Robert Atkinson at 459-2711</p> <p>• National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC. Call 378-6605 for details.</p> <p>• Huachuca Area Retired Teachers Association meets at OYCC at 10 a.m.</p> <p>• Early Release for Fort Huachuca Schools. Myer-Kindergarten @ 1:20 p.m. Grades 4 & 5 @ 1:30p.m. Johnston, grades 1-3 @ 1:15 p.m. and Smith, Grades 6-8 @ 1:40 p.m. 21</p>	<p>• Rollin' Thunder Skate Park 5-9 p.m. for teens only. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public. 22</p> <p>• Rollerskating at Youth Services, Bldg. 49013 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call 533-3205 for details.</p>	<p>• Rollin' Thunder Skate Park 5-9 p.m. for teens only. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public. 23</p> <p>• Rollerskating at Youth Services, Bldg. 49013 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call 533-3205 for details.</p>
<p>MCC = Murr Community Center MPC = Main Post Chapel OYCC = Oscar Yrun Community Center</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Army Family Team Building classes and information at Murr Community Center, 533-3686 or 533-2330</p>						

Easier than ever new myPay online means more convenience for soldier

By Sgt. 1st Class Todd Shorts
NCOIC, DFAS

Employee/Member Self Service makes way for the improved myPay.

myPay puts you in control. For a while now, soldiers and civilians have been able to access their pay accounts using E/MSS.

In an effort to provide greater customer service in a timely fashion, DFAS has greatly enhanced E/MSS and created myPay.

myPay offers enhanced services, security, accessibility and reliability to all customers of DFAS.

With myPay, you can:

1. View, print and save leave and earning statements.
2. View and print tax statements.
3. Change federal and state tax withholdings.
4. Update bank account and electronic fund transfer info
5. Manage allotments.
6. Edit contact information.
7. Purchase U.S. Savings Bonds
8. Control Thrift Savings Plan enrollment (military only).
9. View and print travel vouchers

myPay is easier than ever

myPay's new design helps you find the information and complete the transaction you want in just three clicks.

Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, myPay means no waiting in lines or on the phone.

With clear confirmation messages, myPay means confidence in knowing your pay is going where it should, when it should.

How to start using myPay in three easy steps:

1. Log on at myPay.dfas.mil
- 2a. Active Duty – Photocopy both sides of government ID, write down your name, social security number, phone number, and signature on the sheet of paper and fax it to: DFAS Cleveland at (216) 522-5800.
- 2b. Civilians, active Air Force, all reservists, and retirees will receive PINs by mail. If you need a new PIN, just click "need new PIN."
3. When you have received your new PIN,

log on to myPay.dfas.mil to manage your pay.

The switch to myPay was effective Oct. 15. If you fax your request, your new temporary PIN will be set up to the last five numbers of your social security number.

You must wait at least two business days before attempting to use your temporary PIN (allow additional time if you mailed your request).

You will not receive any notification that your temporary PIN has been reset.

myPay saves money

Encouraging members and civilians to use myPay can save millions of dollars translating into reduced costs for the Department of Defense.

By eliminating costs associated with printing and mailing leave and earning statements, myPay can save 34 cents per employee, which generates \$6 million in savings for civilian employees alone.

By providing better online customer service, myPay will reduce up to 17 percent of costs associated with traditional customer service activities now performed in person.

(Information compiled from DFAS press release.)



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Sgt. 1st Class Todd Shorts says myPay helps soldiers myPay offers enhanced services, security, accessibility and reliability to all customers of DFAS.

Water wise, energy smart tips for autumn

By Ginger Maxey
University of Arizona release

Now that the monsoon season is over, and autumn weather is here, you can take advantage of some water and energy saving tips for the home and garden.

You probably don't have to run your evaporative cooler now as much as you did during the summer, as the autumn mornings and evenings are cooler. Take advantage of the early morning and evening coolness, and open up your windows and screen doors. Use ceiling fans if you have them to help circulate the air. When you do turn on your cooler, try running it on the "vent" setting to blow cool outside air into your home. The "vent" setting does not activate the water pump in your cooler, and this saves water. Setting the dial to "low cool" instead of "high cool"

may also be sufficient to keep you comfortable.

Now is a good time to check your doors and windows to see if they are properly insulated. Can you feel a draft coming in from outside? You can get caulking and weather stripping from the Self Help Store. Call Self Help at 533-2049. Remodeled housing units have dual pane windows to help the post save on energy costs. If you live in an older unit with single pane windows, you can reduce heat loss in your home by installing draperies or window blinds at the windows. Close them at night to keep heat in and cold out, and open them during the day to let solar energy warm your home.

For more Water Wise and Energy Smart tips for your home call Ginger Maxey or Tonya Randolph at the Water Wise hotline, 538-SAVE (7283).

History project captures veterans' stories

By Courtney Brooks
Army News Service

The great wars are usually remembered for their bloodiest battles, most decorated brass and historic treaties - rarely do the soldiers and civilians on the homefront have an opportunity to voice their individual experiences.

The Veterans History Project is giving soldiers a chance to relay these personal stories. Project organizers are encouraging Americans of all ages to participate in a mission to capture and chronicle oral histories from America's war veterans. The stories will become a collection in the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center, located in Washington, D.C.

Volunteers interview veterans, collect letters, photographs and journals from former servicemembers of World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars, as well as the civilians who supported them.

Most importantly, the project seeks to honor the individual's experience, said Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, director of the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress.

"We're not attempting to patch together a complete history of every war," said McCulloch-Lovell. "We're trying to let people talk about their experiences and what meant the most to them."

The personal wartime accounts have preserved history that may have otherwise been

forgotten, said Charlie Mendoza, vice president of membership and member services for the American Association of Retired Persons, a founding sponsor of the project.

"In New York, I witnessed an interview with a young man from a college interviewing a man who used to use Navajo code [a Navajo code talker] with the Marine Corps in World War II," Mendoza said. "I thought, 'That's terrific.' That's something that might have been lost."

Mendoza said the U.S. is losing 1,600 veterans a day and before long, there won't be any memory to collect. Wartime accounts are an important part of America's history, he said.

"Not only does war change a lot of countries; it changes nations, it changes people," Mendoza said. "With every war that has taken place, changes take place on the home front."

Mendoza not only encourages members of the AARP, but all Americans to become involved with interviewing veterans. He believes everyone, particularly youth, have a lot to benefit from the project.

Eleven-year-old Edward Litten has taken it upon himself to interview some 20 veterans since April. He said that young Americans should participate in this program because they don't know what they're missing.

The "young Marine" has conducted the interviews at the Southeastern Michigan Veterans Service Center near his home in Monroe, Mich.

Kubs Komer



Photo by Angelica Pequeño

Civilian of the Month

Deborah Wambach is Fort Huachuca's civilian of the month for October. She is the recreation specialist and teen coordinator for the youth service. Her supervisor is Sandra Sanders.

Wambach implemented the first teen program at Fort Huachuca. She started by gathering teens who "hung out" at the youth center and asking them what they would like to see in a program geared just for them. She took their suggestions and worked them into a wholesome program that also met Department of the Army requirements for youth. She instituted the first summer camp solely for middle school teens.

This gave the youth in grades 6-9 a wholesome place to spend their leisure time during the summer. Through her efforts, youth who often roamed the streets looking "for something to do" that wasn't always acceptable now had worthwhile projects to participate in. Participation in the Middle School Teens program has

become increased each year until beyond capacity.

She ensures each age group has its own time and that each youth goes home with something. On weekends, she organizes field trips for the teens who are not enrolled in the after school program.

She established a teen volunteer and community service group. At Christmas the teens earned their own money to purchase gifts for the children at the Cochise County Children's Shelter. She was instrumental in obtaining funds for scholarships for military youth to play sports when their parents could not afford the registration fee. She also provided odd jobs for teens to earn credits or money toward trips, dances, special events, and skating. These youth would not have had the opportunity to participate if it were not for Wambach's ingenuity.

As a result of her winning nomination, Wambach will receive the use of a car for one month from Lawley Chevrolet; gift certificates from Sierra Vista merchants; a desk plaque from Civilian Personnel Advisory Center; an Morale Welfare and Recreation certificate for lunch or dinner from a Fort Huachuca establishment; a wall plaque from the Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce; and her name, as civilian of the month, posted at the Main Gate.

Other nominees for this award include Yon Gault, Ruth Krasnosky, Azalee Leigh Henderson, Jolynn Krall, and William A. Platt.

Nominate your deserving employee for Fort Huachuca's Civilian of the Month award.

Per Fort Huachuca Regulation 690-5, all permanent appropriated fund and nonappropriated fund employees are eligible with the exception of employees officially assigned as supervisors (GS-10 and above) and senior executive service personnel. Contact Sheila Chaney of CPAC at

533-5282 for further information.

ASBO awards certificate

The Association of School Business Officials International has awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for excellence in the preparation and issuance of the fiscal year end 2001 school system comprehensive financial report to Fort Huachuca accom-

modation school district #00.

The ASBO International, founded in 1910, is a professional association, which provides program and services to promote the highest standards of school business management practices, professional growth, and the effective use of educational resources. For more information call Pam Geswein, professional recognition coordinator at (703) 478-0405.

Pets of the Week



My name is Sis and I am a pitbull/lab mix. I am housebroken, get along with other animals, and am always ready to spend time with kids. I am 5 months

old, and have short black hair. My adoption fee is \$42. I have been vaccinated and microchipped, so all I need is a heartworm test, deworming and a spay.



My name is Sassy and I am a lovable grey and white seal point siamese mix with blue eyes. I am great with children, housebroken, and love to be held. My

adoption fee is \$22, since I have already been vaccinated, spayed, microchipped, and only need a leukemia test and a deworming.



I am a wonderful 8 month old german shepard puppy named Jenny. I love kids, and am very playfull. My adoption fee is \$42, which includes my

spay, microchip, heartworm test, and deworming. Please come on in and see me today!



My name is Lucy, and I am a beautiful brown and black female tabby. I am an adult, but still very playfull. My adoption fee is \$42, which

includes my spay, microchip, vaccinations, leukemia test, and a 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.

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That was the first election after Richard Nixon resigned. National politics hardly mattered to me, because at about four o'clock on the afternoon of that Nov. 5, I was arriving at Fort Ord, Calif., for basic training.

The intervening quarter century has passed in a flash; but an enduring sense of good luck has remained constant because the nation I love has seen fit to pay and promote me for doing the very things I love the most," Custer said.

"You know when something good happens in your life, the first thing you want to do is thank the people who made it possible. You don't have to be a genius to realize I'm not standing up here today solely on my own merit," he said.

Custer went on to thank those in his past who made an impact on him.

"There are others who need to be thanked, but no matter how many names I mention, some of the most important will always be left out... Throughout my career, I have been blessed with a pantheon of great bosses, and senior non-commissioned officers, each exposing me to a different way of thinking, a new method of leading soldiers, and each allowing me to synthesize their words and techniques into a

strategy I thought would work for me. I am a product of their endeavors," Custer said.

Custer went on to give special thanks to his family for their love and support. He said the most unforgettable character of his life is his mother.

"She raised a nuclear engineer, a professor, a doctor and a soldier. I want to thank her for not giving up on me, for always keeping me close, and giving me the extra push that a son who was very curious about life needed. In short, she taught me the basis of what true values are all about," Custer said.

"I will close by saying life, though sweet, is painfully short. I have come to understand that people are the strongest influences in our lives and in the Army they are our only hope for a legacy. The capability to change the future of something as big as the Army resides in our ability to influence those around us, to act as a role models and mentors and to subsequently shape the thoughts and actions of those around us in ways we would approve," Custer said.

Sierra Vista Mayor Thomas Hessler, and other local civic and Fort Huachuca dignitaries attended the ceremony. "I sim-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Brig. Gen. John M. Custer, post commander, addresses the crowd following his promotion.

ply can't imagine how an Army installation and surrounding community could have a more mutually supporting relationship," Custer said.

ANTHRAX from Page 1

discomfort sometimes associated with the vaccine.

Currently, the shot is given subcutaneously, which means the needle is inserted just between the skin and muscle.

"When you give vaccines (like the anthrax vaccine) subcutaneously, they work very well stimulating the immune system in a very powerful way, but they can cause more local side effects," Babcock said.

Serious reactions remain statistically rare. However, of the 2,120,594 doses given to 528,015 service members, 11 people reacted severe enough to result in hospitalizations that were "certainly or probably caused" by the vaccine, according to a May 2002 Anthrax Vaccine Expert Committee report.

By the mid-1970s, most vaccines were given by intramuscular injections because they produce fewer side effects and they are easier to administer.

The anthrax vaccine, which was developed in the 1950s and 1960s and licensed in 1970, remained a subcutaneous injection because only a few hundred people, mostly veterinarians, received it each year, and no one approached the Food and Drug Administration about changing it.

"When we now vaccinate hundreds of thousands of people, we want to use it as well

as we can," said Col. Alan Magill, deputy division director for Communicable Diseases and Immunology and also a study associate investigator.

The study hopes to show that intramuscular shots are the best way to deliver the vaccine, which will make it more tolerable for service members who must receive it.

The clinical study is based on preliminary results Dr. Phil Pittman found in a study conducted at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md., from 1996 to 1998.

"In his study (of 173 subjects), the people who got the fewer doses intramuscularly had levels of antibodies that were not inferior (to the subcutaneous injections) and the reactions were much fewer," Babcock said.

The study, funded by Congress, has three parts: Part A is a human study, Part B is a primate study and Part C is a basic science study.

WRAIR is participating in Part A, which involves testing the change from subcutaneous to intramuscular injection and decreasing the number of doses. Part B will test the changed regimens against an aerosol challenge in primates to show whether they are protected from getting anthrax.

Part C will go a long way in helping de-

velop new generations of the anthrax vaccine. Researchers will examine blood samples from people and primates taken at the same times, such as before a dose and after a dose, to find the key things in the immune system that predict protection.

"We want to find out what the best marker of protection is. Once we've found that, researchers can use that to help develop the next generation of vaccines and validate them," Babcock said.

The study will last for 43 months. Of the five centers in the United States hosting the trials—Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas; Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.; University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota — WRAIR is the only military site.

Three hundred of the study's 1,560 subjects will participate at WRAIR. None will be active-duty military because service members need to receive the shots under the current FDA license.

"We believe that optimal use of the anthrax vaccine is important for the daily lives of our soldiers, and we wanted to be part of that solution, not five years down the road reading a report on it," Babcock said.

(Editor's note: Karen Fleming-Michael is a staff writer for the Standard.)

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vehicle after distracting her and took her into custody without injury. No shots were fired during the apprehension.

Summers was treated by Fort Huachuca EMT personnel and taken to Sierra Vista Hospital.

Summers faces possible charges for federal trespassing, reckless driving and brandishing a loaded weapon.

Following the incident, Maj. Dan Ortega, director of public safety, remarked on the efforts of both post and local law enforcement officials and the fort's Special Reaction Team.

"I was extremely impressed with the level of cooperation to resolve this incident without bringing further harm to the individual and no harm to other law enforcement personnel," Ortega said. "The outcome of this incident is indicative of the intense training the Fort Huachuca Special Reaction Team undergoes. I'm proud of our efforts."

The incident is under investigation by Fort Huachuca officials.