



The Fort Huachuca Scout



Vol. 49, NO. 22

Published in the interest of Fort Huachuca personnel and their families. View online at huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO.

June 5, 2003

Scout reports

e-mail: thescout@hua.army.mil

Road construction

As part of the Treated Effluent Phase II irrigation project, Smith Avenue will be cut in two places: between Rhea Avenue and the traffic circle and at the intersection of Smith Avenue and Johnson Road.

The contractor will close Squier Avenue between Cushing Street and Winrow Avenue. Incoming traffic can be routed to Irwin Street or Cushing Street.

The work is scheduled for Saturday.

Water outages

A water outage is scheduled Wednesday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. to replace a main water valve, which will affect all of the Henry Circle housing area.

Ceremony scheduled

The National Guard farewell and welcome ceremony will be held at Chaffee Field tomorrow at 7 a.m.

Rehearsal will be today. Both the rehearsal and ceremony may cause traffic problems near Chaffee Field.

School uniforms discussed

There will be a school board meeting Monday, 3 p.m., at the Smith Middle School library. School uniforms will be discussed.

Drivers fined for ash disposal

Military police are giving fines to drivers who flick ashes from their vehicles.

If driver or occupants are smoking in the vehicle, windows must be rolled up.

Army Family Team Building marathon

A free, one-day marathon, Level I Professional Development Conference will be held Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Murr Community Center. For more information, call 533-3686.

INSIDE

Share your talents

Installation volunteer coordinator can help you find your niche.

Page 3

Military steps into help stop SARS

A military team of doctors and researchers are joining the hunt for a cure for SARS.

Page 5

EPG makes road useable

Engineer takes to the hills to fix washed-out road.

Page 7



Let's play!

New center for children is now open. See Page 4 for more.

Photo by Elizabeth Harlan

NETCOM takes SecArmy award

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS ERIC HORTIN
NETCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Winning awards is starting to become a habit for some organizations within U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Army Signal Command here.

The Department of the

Army announced May 8 that the Force Integration Division, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, NETCOM/9th ASC, won the Organizational Excellence Award in the 2002 Secretary of the Army Awards for Improving Manpower and Force Management. This award specifically recognizes manpower and force management

organizations at division level or higher that make a significant impact in manning and equipping the organization. Not coincidentally, members of this division were partially responsible for the NETCOM Transition Team winning the American Society of Military

See AWARD, Page 7

TRADOC \$\$\$ extend tuition assistance

BY ERIC CRAMER
THE SCOUT STAFF

Thanks to additional funding from Training and Doctrine Command, tuition assistance will remain available on Fort Huachuca through at least the end of July.

The program was endangered after using up its entire 2003 budget before the end of June.

Dennis Sherrod, edu-

cation service director for Fort Huachuca, said the fund emptied more rapidly when more students enrolled after tuition assistance began to pay for 100 percent of a student's tuition last year.

He said TRADOC has provided an additional \$129,000 for the tuition assistance program on Fort Huachuca.

See Bucks, Page 7

Civilian personnel system 'not cutting it'

BY JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

The civilian personnel system in the Defense Department "is not cutting it," said Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld Tuesday.

Rumsfeld, who spoke at the National Press Club, said that the department is handcuffed by its reliance on an antiquated personnel system. He called today's civilian personnel system "an industrial age organization struggling to perform in an information age world."

DoD has proposed changes to the civilian per-

sonnel system designed to make it more flexible and responsive, Rumsfeld said. It cannot happen too quickly.

"The system for recruiting, retaining, managing the federal workforce on the civilian side is clearly not working well," he said.

President Bush has proposed the creation of a new national security personnel system that would be merit-based. It would give the department more flexibility and agility as to how it manages the roughly 700,000 civilians in DoD.

More than one-third of the federal workforce is in the Defense Department. Rumsfeld said that manag-

ers cannot use this personnel resource effectively, given the current rules. The secretary pointed to the flexibility Congress gave managers in the new Department of Homeland Security as an example.

In addition to the Homeland Security example, Rumsfeld would like to capitalize on the more than two decades worth of pilot projects the department has sponsored to increase workplace flexibility and reward top-notch employees.

"The task of fighting the global war on terrorism certainly forces us to recognize that the time has come to bring those same kind of in-

novative practices to the work of the Department of Defense," he said.

Part of the reform package would allow DoD to turn over about 320,000 jobs now being performed by military personnel to civil service or contractor employees.

"This is 2.5 times the number of troops in Iraq when Baghdad fell," he said.

Managers use military personnel in these jobs because it is easier than navigating the shoals of the civil service bureaucracy. He said these 320,000 military personnel in civilian jobs is an unnecessary strain on uniformed personnel. He said it is not right, especially when

DoD is calling up the reserve components and invoking the Stop Loss program.

He said it is also demoralizing for civilian employees. DoD civilian employees want their skills to be used in a crisis. But this doesn't happen because of the outdated rules that make it difficult to shift personnel, Rumsfeld said.

"For example in Operation Iraqi Freedom, 83 percent of civilians in theater were contractors," he said. "Only 17 percent were civilian federal workers."

See CIV, Page 7

Tracking big cats on Fort Huachuca

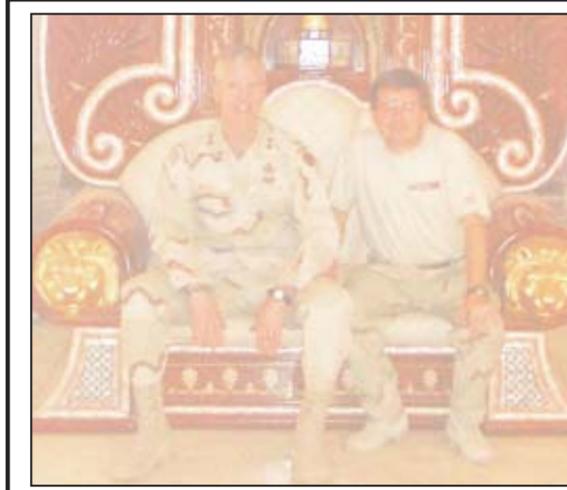
BY TANJA LINTON
MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICER

In the 1880s cavalry soldiers in Arizona served as the first trained naturalists in the territory, collecting specimens and detailed information about the flora and fauna here and sending the data East to expand America's scientific knowledge of the West.

Today, Fort Huachuca is training an army of volunteers who collect data on mountain lions and other carnivores in the Huachuca Mountains.

The 13th annual Mountain Lion Track Count took place here this weekend. A record number of teachers, biologists and interested lay people at-

See CATS, Page 7



Iraqi meeting

Maj. Gen. James Marks, J2, Coalition Forces Land Component Command, and Dave Nelson, manager, Fort Huachuca Army and Air Force Exchange met for a few minutes in Baghdad. Both are deployed to that region in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. See next week's Scout for more on Nelson's support of troops in the desert.

Courtesy Photo



BY CHAPLAIN
(MAJOR) DENNIS
R. NITSCHKE

This past week I attended an assembly for my church synod (district) in Scottsdale, Ariz. It was a "mixture" of business, worship, and fellowship opportunities. The "business" had to be done, not only financial issues, but receiving reports and other news of the church. It was interesting to witness, and take part in, the discussions over church policy and finances.

There were several times the discussions became "heated." At one point our bishop had to "remind" attendees not to applaud following speeches for or against a particular action. The reason? Applause, in that setting, would insinuate a disagreement or a particular bias by the "crowd" toward a position. The "rules of engagement" in Roberts' Rules of Order clearly set a standard of equality for any view on an issue.

One of the resolutions was particularly "potentially divisive." It became heated and tabled for later. In the hallways and other rooms members of the assembly either came

together or sought out "opposition" in order to sway them to the "other side."

I was particularly touched by a skit done following this session and in it there were presented ten "rules" for respecting the views and feelings of others. The one that I believed was particularly poignant for us as a group was "agree to disagree."

While there are times I "want to win" an argument or issue, this "rule" of "agree to disagree" is by far one of the greatest we can learn as we go through life. Working with a diverse group of people as we do in the Army, whether military or civilian, we are going to come to a time of disagreement that can either cause harm or growth. By "agreeing to disagree," we can work together for a solution or come to a compromise much quicker, and remain much more healthy - physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually, than digging in for combat and lobbing in emotion filled grenades and waiting to see who survives - and hoping it is us.

This is important for families as well. When we have a difference of opinion between husband and wife, or child, it is much easier to figure out who the alpha dog is and have him/her rule the pack. However, there isn't much growth in that and it makes for a breeding place for resentment, anger and distrust.

In "agreeing to disagree" we can, as spouses or family members, place on the table our desires, wants, dreams, or whatever and not have to first worry about an attack from the flank or rear!

It's like "no fault insurance." I believe this; you believe that. As long as no broken bones or blood are involved, we have the opportunity to speak our mind on the matter and be assured that we will maintain our dignity and respect, as well as protect the dignity and respect of the person we are in discussion with at the time.

In psycho-babble terms, it is a "win-win" situation. We may also learn through the discussion a better way to handle the issue than what we originally supported.

So, in matters of the heart, of finances, of family, and even the church, I offer you a way to come closer together than you may have believed could be possible. "Agree to Disagree," place your "cards" on the table and look at the "hands" dealt to each member in the discussion. Respect the views of others, as they will respect yours. Come to an agreement - which may not always be the "final answer," but at least points you in the right direction - and then act on whatever part of the agreement is possible, making adjustments as necessary.

You may not only learn to solve the problem better, but also learn that other people have much to offer which will free you of the need to control and worry over a problem. You may also discover that part within you which is Christ-like in that you are more concerned with the value of the "other" than of your "self." And in releasing your "self" you and the "other" grow more closely together for the good of everyone involved. Who knows; if everyone listened to each other the world may grow to be a true place of peace and harmony - at least the part in your area of operation!

The chaplain can be reached by e-mail at dennis.nitschke@netcom.army.mil.

See it in color on the
web at [huachuca-
www.army.mil/USAG/
PAO!](http://huachuca-
www.army.mil/USAG/
PAO!)

Letter to the Editor

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the residents on Fort Huachuca. During the recent family housing construction phases, residents have periodically been without water, without gas, without cooling or heat, no landscaping, endured blowing dust and disruptive noises, road detours, delayed move-in dates or uprooted to vacate quarters for the next phase of construction. Through out all of this, you have shown exceptional patience, perseverance, humor and flexibility. I am amazed and appreciative to all of the families that have faced these circumstances. Although we have tried to keep you informed of projects, changes and outages, the unknown circumstances that occur in any construction project continue. Thank you again for your enormous support and patience.

As part of our continuing commitment to keep you informed, we want to tell you about the current and projected housing projects. Bonnie Blink, a senior NCO community, is in the final phases of construction. Residents in that area will receive letters at 90, 180 and 360 day intervals requesting feedback about the different components of their house. This feedback will improve our opportunity to enhance future

projects and also ensure we get all warranty work completed before the warranties expire.

Pershing Plaza, a junior NCO community, is now in the early stages of construction with a contract completion date of the end of October. These 65 houses are single dwelling units, with garages, patios, courtyards and three to four bedrooms.

The next phase of housing construction will be an FY04 project in Miles Manor 1-3. We will be demolishing 222 units and rebuilding 220. It will also be a junior NCO community. The requirement for these homes will also be 3-4 bedrooms, garages and combination single and duplexes. It is anticipated award for that project will be spring 2004.

From FY 04-FY 07 there will be extensive housing construction or rehabilitation on Fort Huachuca. We will again be asking residents for patience, cooperation and flexibility as we build a future for our current residents and those fortunate enough to be stationed at Fort Huachuca in the decades to come.

Grace White
Chief, Family Housing Branch

Speak out: guest editorials sought

Page 2 of the Fort Huachuca Scout each week is set aside for the sharing of opinions.

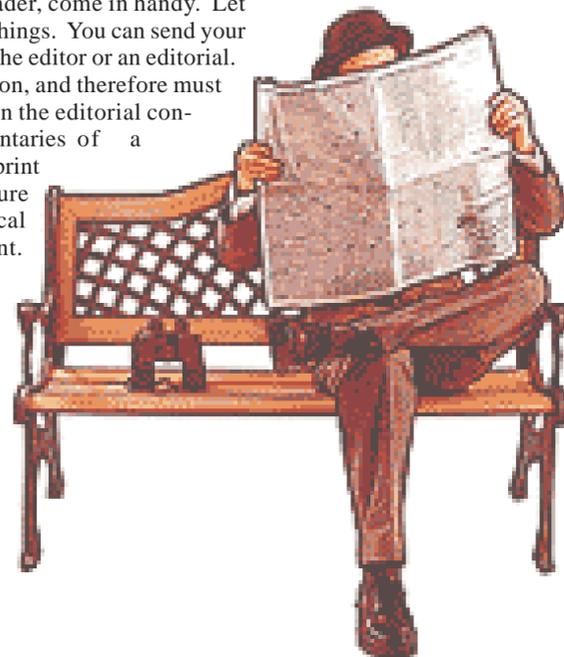
Typically there is a Scout on the Street where a reporter from the paper staff asks several members of the community for their opinion on one question. Also, there is usually a Chaplain's Corner, where a post chaplain shares "words of wisdom." Often there is room for one or two more commentary type pieces.

This is where you, the reader, come in handy. Let us know how you feel about things. You can send your comments to us in a letter to the editor or an editorial.

We are an Army publication, and therefore must establish some restrictions on the editorial content. We cannot print commentaries of a political nature. We will not print anything of a derogatory nature concerning the Army, the local commanders or the president. We will not print anything that implies endorsement of a commercial entity. Of course, we will not print anything that is racist, sexist, lewd or in what we consider poor taste.

We reserve the right to reject commentaries and letters we feel are inappropriate or do not concur with Army standards.

Send your opinions to thescout@hua.army.mil.



Scout on the Street

How do you protect yourself from heat stroke?



"Stay in the shade."
Pfc. Brenton Bulrice
Headquarters and
Headquarters Company
40th



"I guess drink
water."
Erin Heaney
Civilian



"Drink a lot of
water."
Pvt. Aaron Kelly
HHC 40th



"Put on sunscreen
and drink lots of
water."
Bianca Sontiago
Civilian



"Don't stay out in
the sun for long
periods of time."
Pvt. John Sims
HHC 40th



"Drink plenty of
fluids and stay
indoors."
Maggie Vanze
Civilian

Photos by Beth Harlan

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of *The Fort Huachuca Scout* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of Army or the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca.

It is published weekly, except Christmas and New Years, using desktop publishing by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613-7027. Printed circulation: 8,200.

All editorial content of *The Fort Huachuca Scout* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the PAO. *The Fort Huachuca Scout* is printed

by Aerotech News and Review, 8607 N. 59th Ave., Suite C-3, Glendale, AZ 85302, a private firm in no way connected with DA, under exclusive written contract with the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca. The civilian printer is responsible for all advertising.

Editorial material for publication should be submitted to USAIC&FH Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 21115, The Fort Huachuca Scout (AZTS-PA), Fort Huachuca, AZ, 85613-7027. The PAO reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity

policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Army or Aerotech News and Review, of the products or services advertised.

Copies of *The Fort Huachuca Scout* are available to members of the commander's internal audience for monthly postage and handling fees upon approval of the PAO.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Aerotech News and Review, 8607 N. 59th Ave., Suite C-3, Glendale, AZ 85302.

To submit stories or inquiries, call (520) 533-1987, DSN 821-1987 or fax (520) 533-1280. For advertising,

call (520) 623-9321 or toll-free 1-877-925-8281.

Command Staff
Publisher/ Acting Commanding General.....BG John M. Custer
Garrison Commander...COL Lawrence J. Portouw
Public Affairs Officer.....LTC Marian R. Hansen
Command Information Chief.....Angela Moncur
NCOIC.....SFC Donald Sparks
Editorial Staff
Managing Editor.....Nell Drumheller
Time Out Editor.....SSG Sharron Stewart
Photographer.....SSG Robert Hyatt
Printer's Staff
Co-owners.....Paul & Lisa Kinison
Regional Manager.....Diane Hasse
Production Assistant.....Angelica Pequeno
Photojournalist.....Beth Harlan

MPs keep guard on fort's environment

BY ERIC CRAMER AND STAFF SGT.
SHARRON STEWART
THE SCOUT STAFF

The mountainous terrain of Fort Huachuca is home to a great deal of wildlife of both the four-legged and two-legged varieties.

Six military police have a responsibility for that wildlife, and although they focus on wild game, they also catch the occasional undocumented immigrant slipping into the United States from the nearby Mexican border.

Maj. Dan Ortega, director of the Division of Public Safety here, said he has six soldiers assigned to the Fort Huachuca Environmental Protection Office.

He said the EPO's primary mission is environmental protection for the entire installation, their secondary mission is making sure all hunting regulations are abided on post and their third mission is to monitor and prohibit trespassing on post. The EPO soldiers are augmented by 10 other MPs when necessary, Ortega said.

The EPO team monitors the post's bat caves and archeological sites at least three times per shift and have also received training on environmentally protected species, Ortega said.

The team patrols Fort Huachuca in all terrain vehicles, on horses and on four-wheel drives.

"They specifically focus on the range areas and by that I mean anything outside of the main cantonment," Ortega said. They also patrol Fort Huachuca's fence lines and are always in two-person teams.

Capt. Mike Shands, who heads the EPO unit, said soldiers working there have to meet specific criteria in order to be a part of the team.

"The specific criteria is that they have to have at least one year in the military, be from E-3 to E-5, and have a demonstrated knowl-

edge of hunting and fishing," Shands said. "We'd also like them to have experience working with animals."

He said they also must have a clean driving record, as they frequently operate vehicles off road. The soldiers receive special training to operate ATVs, and some also learn to patrol on horseback.

Shands said the noncommissioned officer in charge of the EPO's MPs interviews potential candidates to determine their outdoor skills and knowledge.

He said the soldiers then receive a month of on the job training.

"It's focused on being an MP in the field. They go over hunting and fishing laws, the protected species, both animal and plant, in the area, and learn about handling animals to return them to the environment," Shands said.

Returning animals to the environment can be tricky. Problems range from black bears that have ranged into housing areas, to deer stunned after being hit by cars.

"They're also trained to protect artifacts," Shands said. This too is a critical mission at Fort Huachuca, which is home to prehistoric pictographs and other evidence of pre-Columbian native cultural activities.

Fort Huachuca provides habitat for more than 500 species of mammals, birds, fish and reptiles in the Huachuca Mountains. It includes range for both mule and whitetail deer, and javelina. It is also home to several protected species, including three protected rattlesnakes, the Ridge-nosed, Banded Rock and Twin-spotted.

Fort Huachuca has the only breeding population of Gould's turkey in the North American continent, and is also home to the endangered short-nosed bat.

Shands said it is his soldier's job to protect these species, and to ensure all game laws are followed, as the fort is popular with area hunters.

Ortega said the soldiers are responsible



Photo by Elizabeth Harlan

Sgt. Gabriel Negrete, 18th Military Police Detachment, is one of the soldiers who guard the post from horseback, ATV or on foot.

for patrolling the 70,000 acres that make up Fort Huachuca.

"They specifically focus on the range areas and by that I mean anything outside of the main cantonment," Ortega said. They also patrol Fort Huachuca's fence lines and are always in two-person teams.

This effort brings them into contact with another troublesome species - Homo sapiens. So far during the first quarter of this fiscal year, 89 undocumented immigrants have been apprehended compared to 153 UDIs in fiscal year 2002 and 181 in fiscal year 2001. The number of UDIs apprehended this fiscal year is 73 percent of the total number apprehended in fiscal year 2002 and 61 percent in fiscal year 2001.

The soldiers of the EPO work hand-in-hand with other on-post and off-post agencies such as the U.S. Border Patrol, the U.S. Forest Service, and Range Control. When the UDIs are apprehended they are immediately turned over to the U.S. Border Patrol.

After an UDI is apprehended, the EPO team has a series of steps they must follow. The teams also carry shotguns with them while on patrol but Ortega said none of the apprehensions have been violent and none of the UDIs have had weapons. "The closest we have come to apprehending anyone with drugs is when we came across a plastic bag filled with powdered milk," Ortega said.

Learn to volunteer: all types, talents, ages sought

BY ELIZABETH HARLAN
THE SCOUT STAFF

Do you have extra time on your hands? Would you like to make a difference in the community? Fort Huachuca has a great volunteer program. The program is geared towards military members, civilians, and youth alike.

Some 200 volunteers made the concert that was held May 17 on Libby Army Airfield possible. "There really wasn't any place that we did not use volunteers, they could not have opened the gates had it not been for the volunteers," said Jo Richter, Installation Volunteer coordinator on Fort Huachuca. The post is dependant on its volunteers for many special events

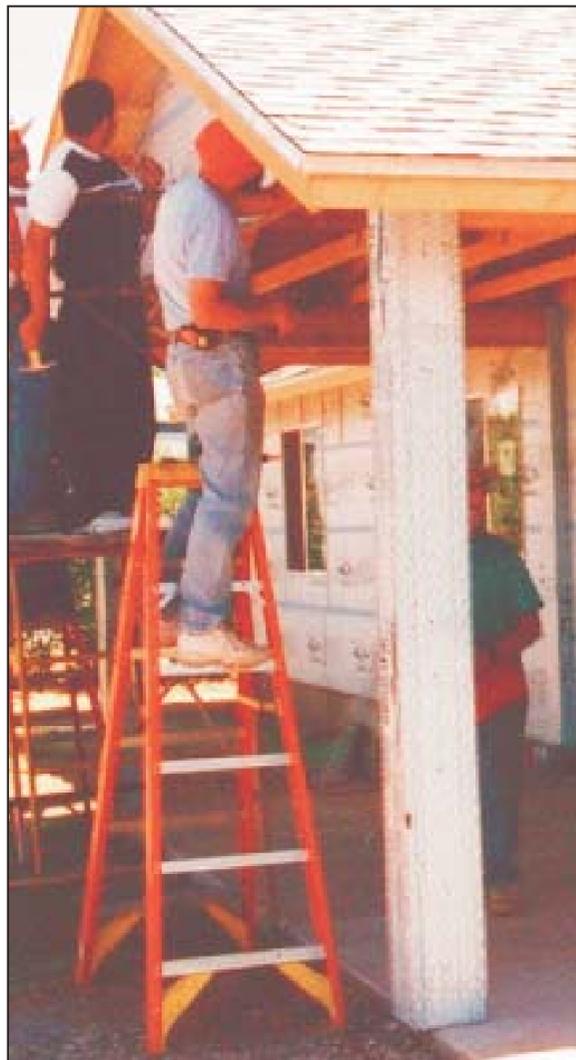


Photo by Elizabeth Harlan

Don Tucker and other volunteers spent part of Saturday helping with a Habitat for Humanity project in Sierra Vista.

and activities. There are currently about 1,100 volunteers on the fort but according to Richter, there is always a need for more.

"The best way to get started is to come down to the office and talk about what you are interested in," explained Richter. The Murr Recreation Center is where the volunteer office is located. At the office you will find a book that is filled with job descriptions from many different groups and organizations looking for volunteers. You will find many different ways that you can give back to the community. Some examples are:

Parent and tot play group

This group holds weekly playgroups for toddlers and their parents. They are looking for a volunteer to take on these responsibilities:

- Organize appropriate activities for children
- Act as a facilitator for the playgroup
- Make phone calls to playgroup members as needed
- Fill out required paper work

The American Red Cross

The Red Cross is looking for volunteers for the pharmacy. In order to volunteer you must be at least 14 and go through the orientation. The responsibilities include:

- Assembling refill bags
- Assembling prescription forms
- Restocking vials
- Issuing refills
- Looking up prescription information

Human intelligence/counterintelligence volunteer program

This program is looking for role players for the Human Intelligence Collection trainees. You will have the opportunity to:

- Learn what it is like to be an enemy prisoner of war and be interrogated
- Participate in mock riots
- Learn anti-terrorism tactics
- Learn counter-interrogation and deception techniques

Turn around point

This organization is looking for volunteers to help run their facility. The requirements for this position are as follows:

- Have a desire to learn more about working with military families
- Be able to look around and see what needs to be done
- Be a self-starter

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit housing ministry that

seeks to eliminate poverty' housing and homelessness from the world. Through volunteer labor and the donations of money and materials they build simple, decent homes for low-income families. A house is currently under construction in the Sierra Vista area. Anyone who would like to help with this effort is encouraged to contact the volunteer office. "We depend heavily on the military, they have been here since the day that we pored the slab. We appreciate their support," said Don Tucker, Site foreman and board member for Habitat for Humanity.

Mayor's program

The garrison is looking for volunteer mayors to be a liaison between the residents and the command. Anyone who is interested in volunteering for this program can call Sgt. Maj. Robert Voss at 533-1100

Youth programs

The youth volunteer program has just started. There are several ways the youth can get involved with the community. Here are a few:

The Buffalo Corral

Youth that who interested in volunteering at the corral this summer can look forward to many exciting responsibilities, such as:

- Feeding, cleaning and saddling the horses
- Helping keep the stables and pens clean.

Kids on the Block

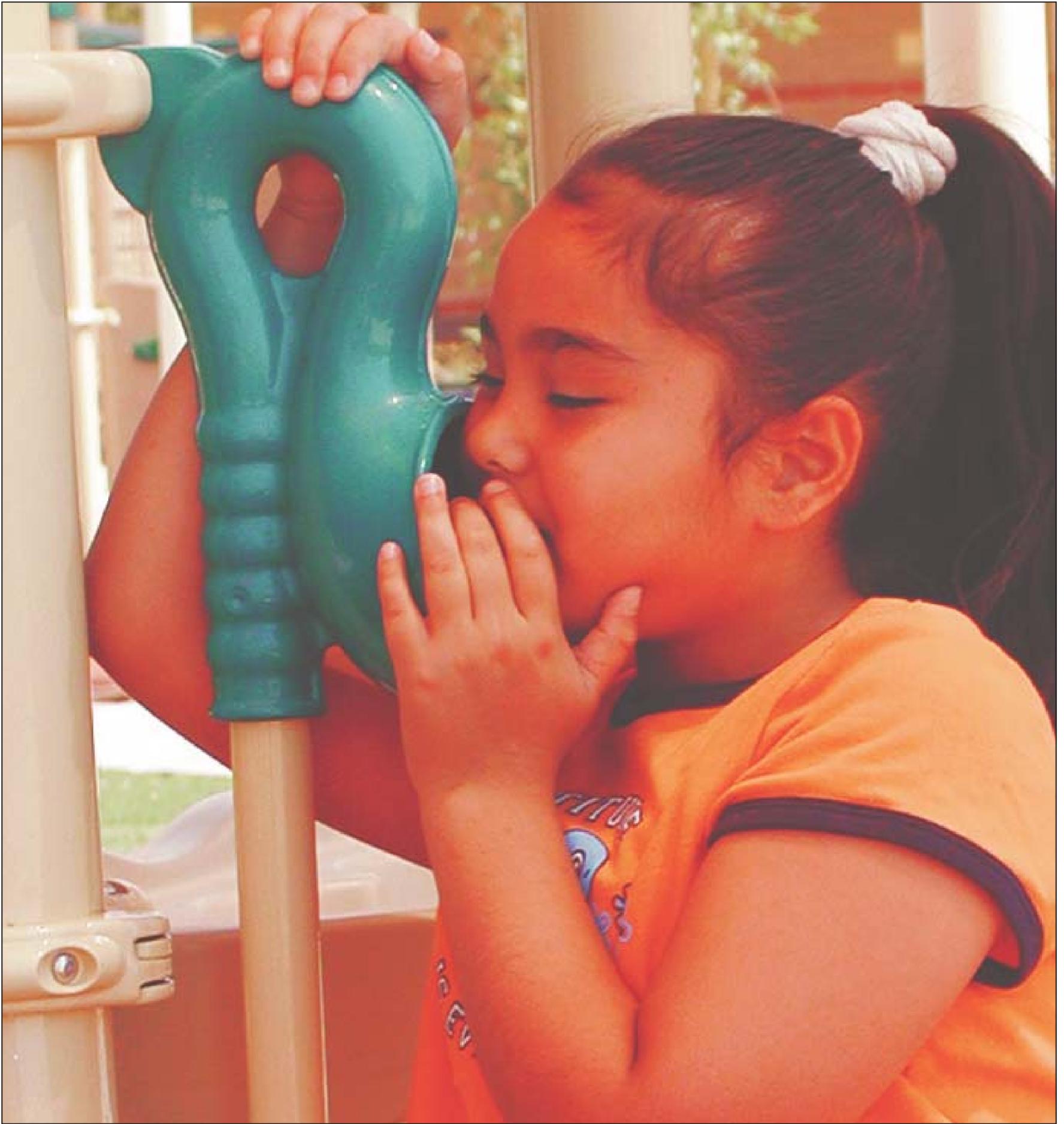
Kids on the Block is an organization that travels to different schools and other groups to perform educational puppet shows. The requirements to volunteer for this group are as follows:

- Memorize short scripts
- Handle three to four foot hand and rod puppet
- Acquire basic puppetry skills
- Perform at area schools and organizations
- Be at least 13
- Have transportation to and from rehearsal

Any young people who want to participate in the youth volunteer program are required to have a face-to-face interview with the organization with which they wish to work. Anyone under 10 must have a parent or guardian on site at all times.

Military members can earn the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service medal. Permanent party service members must complete 150 hours; military students must complete 100 hours to receive the medal.

For more information on volunteering call Richter at 533-4823.



Photos by Elizabeth Harlan

Jasmine Gonzales, 8, whispers a very important message to her playmate at the other end of the playground.

New center 'oodles of fun' for kids

BY ERIC CRAMER
THE SCOUT STAFF

Children using Fort Huachuca's School Age Services now have a new home thanks to the completion of construction for the program.

The new facility opened Monday. Jennifer Lotten, director of the pro-

gram, said last week that the new facility provides more room and better equipment for children in grades one through five.

"Our goal is to provide a safe and healthy environment for children while their parents are at work," Lotten said.

The new \$3.8 million facility, located near the intersection of Healy Avenue

and Hatfield Street, was funded by a congressional add-on to military spending sponsored by Rep. Jim Kolbe. Lotten said the building was slated for completion in November 2002, but design changes delayed its opening.

The new School Age Services Center comprises 15,000 square feet. Lotten said this is an improvement over sharing the 26,000-square-foot Youth Center with other youth services programs.

"We also have a computer center that is currently at the Murr (Community) Center, and we're moving it into the new building," Lotten said. "We have a computer instructor to teach kids how to use computers. We also have a homework teacher who can help them with their homework."

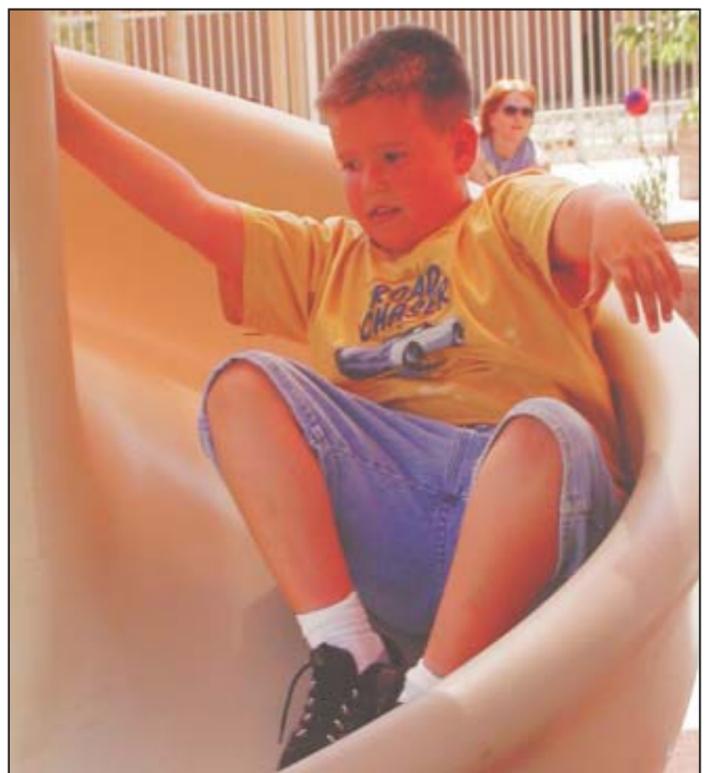
She said the new facility includes a full service kitchen.

"We have eight child modules. That is where the children receive instruction," Lotten said. "We bought a standardized design, but it was originally designed for infants through kindergarten age, and it was modified to suit our needs for grades one through five. They were able to change the interior to accommodate us."

Lotten said the most visible feature of the new facility is its two extensive playgrounds.

"They each have their own equipment, and they're equipped with sun shades," Lotten said.

She said there are currently 135 students enrolled in the School Age Services program. "The new building can



Alec Schiltz, 7, comes around a corner on the new curvy slide.

accommodate 150, so we have some room we can grow," Lotten said.

Although the facility is now up and running, Lotten said a formal ribbon cutting will not be until August, when Kolbe can attend.

School Age Services is open from 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the summer

months. During the school year, the facility operates as a before-and-after-school program, in the morning from 5:30 a.m. to 8 a.m., and in the afternoon from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.



Cecil Anderson, 9, explains the rules of a board game to his fellow game players.

AmyNews

Military joins civilian medical teams to counteract SARS

SGT. 1ST CLASS DOUG SAMPLE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

The military has joined a worldwide effort to find a cure for the sometimes-deadly SARS virus.

At the request of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a small team of scientists at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, Fort Detrick, Md., has trained its microscopes on severe acute respiratory syndrome.

"This [research] does in fact fit into our overall mission in that although we have not had an outbreak in the military yet, if we were operating in an area where the SARS virus was in fact transmitting, this would be a significant military problem," said John Huggins.

An expert in viral research and chief of the laboratory's viral therapeutics branch, Huggins' major concentration has been on screening drugs against viral agents, including Ebola, Marburg, smallpox and now SARS.

Scientists at the Army institute normally work to develop strategies for protecting military personnel against biological warfare threats and naturally occurring infectious diseases.

"Because SARS poses a global health problem for the military and civilians potentially, we were asked to participate in this effort also," he said.

As of May 29, according to CDC, the vi-

rus had caused 750 deaths worldwide, although no SARS related deaths have been reported in the United States.

For years, the institute has been part of a government consortium of research facilities that includes the CDC, the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The Fort Detrick institute and CDC have existing collaborations on smallpox virus, Huggins said. He noted that because CDC is the only repository of smallpox virus in the United States, USAMRIID scientists routinely travel to Atlanta to conduct smallpox research.

"When the SARS virus came along, it was pretty straightforward to call the people who work with pretty high hazardous viruses at bio containment levels to start working to find an anti-viral drug," he said. "We knew each other's capability and we knew each other's expertise."

Inside a tightly controlled Biosafety Level Four laboratory at Fort Detrick, some of the world's most dangerous viruses — such as Ebola — are studied. (The SARS virus is handled at Biosafety Level Three.) Huggins said scientists have been working long hours searching for a SARS cure.

He noted that a team of seven scientists at the lab is directly testing drugs; about 20 researchers are working on the entire SARS effort.

Already, 40 FDA-approved drugs currently

used to treat a variety of viral infections such as HIV, herpes, flu and hepatitis have been sent to the lab for evaluation by independent pharmaceutical companies. Thousands more will also be tested as scientists investigate whether these drugs, although not designed to be effective against SARS, could prove to have a "cross-reacting" ability to fight the virus, Huggins said.

The strategy, he explained, is to find a "quick fix," to first see if there are any drugs currently marketed that might work against the virus.

"We developed a test tube assay to see if a drug was capable of stopping the virus from reproducing itself, the first step to stopping someone from being infected," Huggins said.

"We used that assay to begin screening drugs currently on the market to treat other viral diseases. Now we're working at a broader area to look for other potential drugs that might have activity ... sort of hoping you'd find a quick fix.

"It doesn't look like that there is a quick fix, although we're still working on some of those."

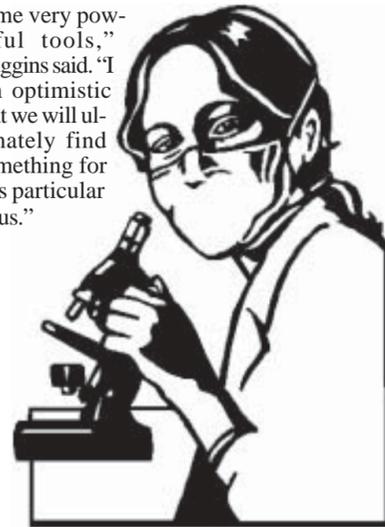
However, one promising drug, interferon, is still being looked at, said Huggins, adding that USAMRIID scientists have been studying a large collection of interferon compounds to see if any can stop the virus.

Some interferon does, he pointed out. "What we have more work to do on is to see if they can inhibit the virus at concentrations that would be clinically relevant — that is concentrations of interferon you could give to a patient," he

explained. "That is work which is underway and we don't yet have the answer to that question."

Although many questions about SARS remain unanswered and more research and testing must still be done, Huggins said thus far, the institute's research into the virus is encouraging. He said he is hopeful a cure can be found.

"We are working with some pharmaceutical firms that have some very powerful tools," Huggins said. "I am optimistic that we will ultimately find something for this particular virus."



Washed-out road gets facelift

BY TYWANNA SPARKS

ELECTRONIC PROVING GROUND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

At a steep incline more than 6,800 feet above sea level on the northern end of the Huachuca Mountains, a washed-out road that leads to communication facilities on TV Hill was in need of repair. Gerry Campbell, NewTec — Electronic Proving Ground's Facility and Range Maintenance section leader, was given the mission of reconstructing the road and making it safe for EPG employees who use it.

As the sole Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control Expert on Fort Huachuca, Campbell used technology that is not routinely used for this type of project, explained Patrick White, section leader, quality assurance, safety health and environment, NewTec EPG.

The end result was a successful project crucial to EPG's mission and also impressive from an engineering standpoint, Campbell explained.

"Because of the communication work that goes on, we really can't afford to have anything hinder the mission because that supports other ongoing tasks," Campbell said. "If we don't have our communication capabilities, it can affect other ongoing missions. It's a pretty crucial piece of support."

"As far as engineering is concerned, this was a project that took a lot of thought and planning to implement," White said.

"This is an opportunity to implement the quality assurance concept of 'benchmarking,' or

'industry best practices.' This open forum allows for an exchange of professional experiences regarding project successes and lessons learned.

"For industry best practices, we wanted to see if anyone else has ever done this before and we wanted to know what they thought about what we were doing. We brought in some civil engineers from downtown Sierra Vista and we explained our mission to them. They were impressed by the size of the project and when they saw the end result, they were very impressed.

"Looking back on the visit, it was evident that Mr. Campbell had previously considered all facets of the project and his planning was key to its success."

What makes this project different is that the design of the road is normally used for boat ramps, Campbell explained.

"I looked at different designs and considered what would be best for our project. We designed these flexible concrete-block mattresses joined together by stainless steel cable. The purpose of this design is it will bend and take the contour of the road, because we didn't want an even straight run. We deliberately wanted it to rise and fall so the vehicles could maneuver up there while at the same time slowing down the stormwater run-off."

"The area that needed the most work is an incredibly steep incline. The top of TV Hill is 7,003 feet above sea level. The area worked on was between 6,638 feet and 6,845 feet



Courtesy Photo

The crew worked at more than 6,800 feet above sea level.

above sea level with a distance of approximately 900 feet," he explained.

"The project took about 12 weeks to complete. Because of safety concerns, we started immediately in the winter. We ran into a lot of weather problems which included snow, ice and 60-mile per hour winds. There were times we had to stop working because of inclement weather conditions."

Not only was the end result a success, but the project operations were successful as well, Campbell explained.

"The main thing I would say about this project is that it was a big money saver by

doing it all in-house. Other engineers that looked at this told us it couldn't be done and we were successful," he said.

Now the road that leads to TV Hill is no longer a concern for Dennis Oster, EPG motor pool supervisor.

"Before, it was extremely hard to get out there. You just couldn't get any traction," Oster said.

"It was very steep and the one place that was repaired was just shell rock. It got down to the point where we had to take the Hummer. Now with the repairs complete, we can take a pickup there without any problems."

'Stop Loss' lifted for some Operation Iraqi Freedom soldiers

U.S. ARMY
NEWS RELEASE

The Army has lifted "Stop Loss" for active-component units involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom and for soldiers in about half of the specialties that had been required to stay on active duty.

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Reginald J. Brown approved the partial lifting of Stop Loss May 27.

This lifting of Stop Loss will allow about 16,000 active-component, 4,900 Army Reserve and 675 National Guard soldiers to leave active duty if they want between now and October, personnel officials said.

These soldiers, as they begin their transition from the Army, will be provided time to complete transition and career counseling, along with demobilization activities, officials said. They said the Army's Stop Loss exit strategy will normally allow 180 days to transition soldiers returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Personnel strength managers from all Army components will regulate separation dates to ensure no adverse impact on Armywide readiness, officials said.

The Army lifted its "stop movement" order earlier this month to allow many OIF soldiers to report to their next assignments.

Soldiers in the following specialties are now no longer subject to Stop Loss:

Officers with specialties: 15C35 (Aviation Intelligence); Ad-

ditional Skill Identifier (ASI) K4 (Special Operations Aviation), K5 (MH-60K Pilot), and/or K6 (H-47E Pilot); 18 (Special Forces); 38 (Civil Affairs); 39 (Psychological Operations).

Warrant Officers with specialties: 153E (MH-60 Pilot); 154E (MH-47 Pilot); 155E (C-12 Pilot); 155G (O-5A/EO-5B/RC-7 Pilot); Pilots with ASI K4 (Special Operations Aviation), K5 (MH-60K Pilot, and/or K6 H-47E Pilot); 180A (Special Forces); 350B (Intelligence Technician); 351C (Area Intelligence Technician); 352G (Voice Intercept Technician).

Enlisted soldiers with Military Occupational Specialties: 00Z (Command Sergeant Major with Special Forces (SF) background); 18B (SF Weapons Sergeant); 18C (SF Engineer Sergeant); 18D (SF Medical Sergeant); 18E (SF Communications Sergeant); 18F (SF Operations and Intelligence Sergeant); 18Z (SF Senior Sergeant); 37F (Psychological Operations Specialist); 38A (Civil Affairs Specialist); 67U (CH-47 Helicopter Repairer); 98C (Signals Intelligence Analyst).

The Stop Loss policy was initiated in four separate increments to allow the Army to retain soldiers — who were determined to be essential to the national security of the United States — on active duty beyond their date of retirement or separation for an open-ended period. It began with Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom Nov. 30, 2001. The fourth and last increment, announced Feb. 14, was for units supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Stop Loss does not affect most involuntary separations or retirements, officials said, nor does it generally limit laws, regulations, or policies that lead to involuntary separations, retirements, or releases from active duty.

Reserve-component Unit Stop Loss, which affects Reserve soldiers assigned to alerted or mobilized RC units, remains in effect.

The following skills for all components remain affected by the Army's 12-Month, Skill-Based Stop Loss Program:

Officers designated: 30 Information Operations, 31 Military Police, 34 Strategic Intelligence, 35 Military Intelligence, 45A Comptroller, 48G FAO (Mideast/N Africa), 51C Contract & Industrial Management, 53 Information Systems Management.

Warrant Officers: 152C OH-6 Scout Pilot, 153D UH-60 Pilot, 154C CH-47D Pilot, 311A CID Special Agent, 351B Counter Intelligence Technician, 351E Human Intelligence Collection Technician.

Enlisted: 52E Prime Power Production Specialist, 55D EOD Specialist, 74B Information Systems Operator, 92M Mortuary Affairs Specialist, 95B Military Police, 95C Correctional Specialist, 95D CID Special Agent, 96B Intelligence Analyst, 96U UAV Operator, 97B Counter Intelligence Agent, 97E Human Intelligence Collector, 97L Translator (Minus Russian and Spanish), 98G Voice Interceptor (Language Specific).

Community Updates

Critical information hotline

Fort Huachuca has a new community hotline. The information line will contain critical information such as road closures, fire dangers, or force protection update. The 24-hour hotline number is 538-INFO.



have any questions regarding this event, call Eva Dixon at 533-5735 or Linda Shelman at 533-5273 at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

Low rates for servicemembers

Interest rates for mortgage loans remain at a low not seen in decades. If you are a servicemember or veteran thinking about purchasing a home, or you are interested in refinancing your current mortgage at a lower interest rate, you can find valuable information online at Military.com.

In addition to providing free information on Veteran Affairs loans and conventional loans, Military.com has a short online form servicemembers can fill out to receive more information. The service is free, and the form can be accessed at the VA Loan Center.

Plan for fall courses

Servicemembers who are interested in pursuing their associates, bachelors or masters degree are encouraged to begin planning for fall classes now.

Universities with flexible programs for the military community are now accepting new students for late summer and fall programs.

Servicemembers may already have earned credit toward their degree through military service, shortening the length of time it takes to complete a degree program.

To request free information on educational opportunities from military-friendly schools, complete a short request form at <http://tracking.military.com>, or www.military.com/Education.

Change of command

Medical Activity will be having a change of command ceremony. The ceremony will be held June 20 in front of the hospital at 7:30 a.m.

Blood drive

There will be an Armed Forces blood drive June 24-25 at Eifler Gym from 10 a.m.-8 p.m.



Army Birthday Luncheon

There will be a luncheon for the Army's 228 birthday at La Hacienda June 13 at 11:30 a.m. The tickets are \$10 and are on sale at the MWR box office. Dr. Randy Groth, the new Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, will be the guest speaker.

Burn permits suspended

The Sierra Vista Fire Department will no longer authorize open burning within the Sierra Vista city limits and will not issue burn permits.

The fire department will continue to monitor weather conditions, but it is expected that

the suspension will continue until the area gets significant rainfall, which is anticipated in midsummer.

The fire department urges everyone in the Sierra Vista area to respect the fire potential by being extremely cautious with materials or activities (such as cigarette smoking) that might lead to an accidental fire.

Morale calls

Family members of deployed soldiers have a new way to keep in touch with loved ones.



Deployed soldiers and civilians can call back to Fort Huachuca via DSN at the following numbers: 821-7111 and 879-7111.

The other Morale Calls telephone numbers are 879-0111/1110. For more information, call Chris Lyons III at 538-5966 or e-mail at lyonsc@hua.army.mil.

Range Closures

Range closures through Wednesday are as follows:

Today - AC, AD, AH, AK, AL, AM, AP, AQ, AR, AU, AW, T1, T1A, T2
Friday - AP, AQ, AU, AW, AY
Saturday - AP, AU, AW, T1, T1A, T2
Sunday - AW
Monday - AC, AD, AQ, AW
Tuesday - AC, AD, AU, AW, AY T1, T1A, T2
Wednesday - AH, AK, AL, AR, AW, AY

For more information on Range Closures, call Range Control 533-7095.

Thrift shop hours

The Fort Huachuca Thrift Shop will be open Saturday 9:30 a.m. through 1:30 p.m. for shopping, and consignments will close at 1 p.m.

On Tuesday evening from 5 until 7:30 p.m. the shop will be open for shopping, and consignments will close at 7 p.m. This will be the last evening opening for the shop due to lack of interest from the community.

The Fort Huachuca Thrift Shop will be closed July 5 due to the 4th of July holiday. For more information call Lois Shuttleworth at 458-4606.

Immunization DTAP available

The pediatric clinic now has the immunization DTAP available. If your child is receiving day care at the child day care center, he/she will need it to continue services. DTAP is now available at the Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center after the nation experienced a shortage.



Call 533-9165 for more information and come to the pediatric clinic during regular immunization hours.

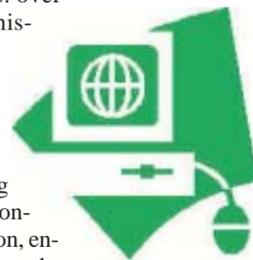
Turn Around Point helps soldiers

The Turn Around Point, sponsored by the Chaplain's Office, and operated by volunteers, is a place where you can get almost anything for nothing. All items in the Turn Around Point are donated and are free to customers on a first come, first serve basis. The Turn Around Point is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and is located in Building 52406, across from the Armed Forces Bank.

New Web site for unit manning

Army News Service reports that the Unit Manning Task Force now has a dedicated Web site that can be accessed via Personnel Command On-line and Army Knowledge Online. The new site at <https://www.unitmanning.army.mil> provides unit manning information in five broad categories: overview, research/history, current events, products, and discussion/feedback.

Unit manning will support Personnel Transformation, enable unit rotations, and provide cohesive Army units that will excel in the uncertain environment faced today, personnel officials said. Task force members are encouraging soldiers to check the Web site often and provide suggestions.



Health insurance Q and A session

A representative for the Mailhandlers Benefit Plan will be available to answer your questions pertaining to health insurance benefits Wednesday, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Room 5, at the Murr Community Center.



If you have any questions regarding this event, call Eva Dixon at 533-5735 or Linda Shelman, 533-5273, at Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

459th Signal Battalion reunion

The 459th Signal Battalion, 1962-1971, is holding a reunion in Tucson, June 17-20.

The reunion is open to all former battalion members and their families and will include a trip to Fort Huachuca, former battalion home station. For information, call Howard Bartholf, Reunion Coordinator at (804)364-2603 or via e-mail at howardsp5@aol.com.

Blue Cross, Shield representative

A representative for the Arizona Blue Cross/Blue Shield will be available to answer your questions pertaining to health insurance benefits June 18, from 2 - 4 p.m., in Room 5, at the Murr Community Center. If you



Kudos

Kudos deadlines

The Kudos section will be in the first issue of the Scout each month. The deadline to get items in the Kudos section is noon on the last Friday of the month. The deadline for the July Kudos section, which will highlight all awardees for June, is June 27. For more information on what types of items will be featured in the Kudos section, call 533-1987.

Submit your items for the Kudos section by e-mail to thescout@hua.army.mil. Items submitted throughout the month will be held for the next Kudos section.

MOVSM awards

The following soldiers have qualified for the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal in May:
Spc. John P. Rivera, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 111th Military Intelligence Brigade
Warrant Officer Encarnacion M. Ramos, HHC 111th MI Bde.

Staff Sgt. Carl J. Cunningham, HHC 111th MI Bde.
2nd Lt. Titus C. Brown, Co. C, 304th MI Battalion
Pfc. William C. Tanton, Co. A, 305th MI Bn.
Pfc. James A. Gulyas, Co. A, 305th MI Bn.
Capt. Darrin L. Smith, Co. A, 306th MI Bn.
Pvt. Calvin J. Andrews, Co. C, 305th MI Bn.
Sgt. Genevieve G. Hamric, 36th Army Band
Pvt. Carolina Perez, Co. A, 305th MI Bn.
Pvt. Cristina C. Hernandez, Co. A, 305th MI Bn.
Pvt. Frances Terwilligier, Co. A, 305th MI Bn.
2nd Lt. Kiley Q. Laughlin, Co. C, 304th MI Bn.
2nd Lt. Emilia M. Fernandez, Co. C, 304th MI Bn.
2nd Lt. Karen J. Blake, Co. C, 304th MI Bn.
2nd Lt. Raines E. Warford, Co. C, 304th MI Bn.
Sgt. Ryan D. Carter, 69th Signal Company
Spc. Daniel I. Beverly, 69th Signal Co.
Pvt. Joseph A. Hinton, Co. C, 305th MI Bn.
Staff Sgt. Cisco L. Johnson, Drill Sergeant, Co. C 305th

MI Bn.

VIP volunteer award

VIP volunteer for the month of May is Bethany Totoris. Totoris is a three-year volunteer and has more than 400 volunteer hours with the Kids on the Block program at Army Community Services.

Totoris excels in her abilities as a puppeteer as well as possessing a keen ability to communicate with young children. She is a sophomore at the Omega Alpha Academy. In addition to school and ACS, Totoris finds time to volunteer at the main post chapel.

Civilian of the month

Fort Huachuca's civilian of the month for May 2003 is George J. Flora.

Flora serves as a safety technician in the Installation Safety Office. He is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Occupational Safety And Health Act (CFR1910) by post activities.

Flora was the individual who first identified the possible hazard of arsenic contamination in wood products at the Child Development Center and Youth Services Facility. This is just one major example of the way Flora accepts his responsibilities and performs his duties.

For his winning nomination Flora 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 MWR certificate for lunch or dinner from a Fort Huachuca establishment; a wall plaque from the Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce; and his name, as civilian of the month, posted at the Main Gate.

Other nominees included Luther J. Bowman, Marjorie Eyle, Carloman A. Flojo, Lester J. Gordy, Fidencio A. Salinas, Ollie J. Shears, and William J. Webster.

Nominate your deserving employee for Fort

Get your brief in the Scout



Community updates are for any event involving Fort Huachuca and its residents. To get your upcoming event listed, send it to

the Public Affairs Office Scout newspaper staff at thescout@hua.army.mil.

Remember to include who, what, where, why and how the event is to take place.

Briefs will run for three weeks prior to the event or the event's registration.

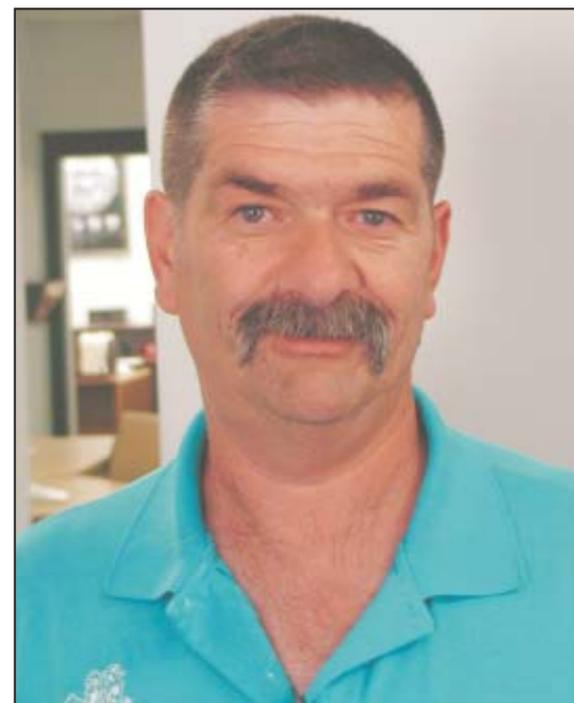


Photo by Elizabeth Harlan

Civilian of the month
George Flora

House approves national defense authorization act supporting Department of Defense, Energy

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
PRESS RELEASE

The U.S. House of Representatives has approved H.R. 1588, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, on a bipartisan 361 to 68 vote. The legislation authorizes \$400.5 billion in budget authority, matching the president's request, for the Department of Defense and the national security programs of the Department of Energy.

Some highlights of H.R. 1588 include: - A 4.1 percent average pay raise; - Over \$6 billion for new housing, child care centers, schools and other construction - Increased funding for air lift and aerial refueling - \$9.1 billion for missile defense programs - Research and de-

velopment funds for a new deep strike bomber - \$10.8 billion for maintenance of equipment and weapons - Establishment of a TRICARE beneficiary outreach program - \$7.3 billion to fight terrorism including \$75 million to develop new technologies - Reform of DOD policies and practices - from personnel to acquisition - Increases in active component end strengths to meet high priority manpower shortfalls - Initiatives to facilitate and enhance the service of reserve and National Guard personnel - \$119 million for B-1B bomber modifications to begin the regeneration process for 23 aircraft - \$726.8 million in upgrades for M3A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M1A2 Abrams tanks - \$3.7 billion for ammunition replenishment and industrial base upgrades. More information on this act can be found at <http://armedservices.house.gov>.

BUCKS, from Page 1

"That will take us through the end of July. We are projecting that it will take another \$186,000 to get us through the end of the fiscal year in September," Sherrod said.

Sherrod told The Scout TRADOC asked for \$10 million in additional funding to help tuition assistance. "They funded, I think, about 83 percent of that," he said.

Sherrod has requested the additional \$186,000 from TRADOC via the Southwest Region of the Installation Management Agency. He said he doesn't know if the request will be funded.

"I don't have a good read on that," he said.

"We're hoping to get it."

Sherrod's office wouldn't close without additional funding for the rest of the fiscal year, but services would be curtailed.

"Most of the schools would limit the number of courses they'd offer on post," Sherrod said. "It would just mean fewer classes are available."

Even without the tuition assistance program, there are a number of ways soldiers can get educational assistance, according to Sherrod. "We hope they'll come to the education center and talk to a guidance counselor."

He said options available to students include

using the Montgomery G.I. Bill to pay for classes, applying for Pell Grants, and taking advantage of the Defense Activity for Non Traditional Education Support, also known as DANTES.

"Most service members fall under the Montgomery G.I. Bill, which provides them with 36 months of assistance. If they use it while they're serving, a proportional amount is taken out of that 36 months when you get out," Sherrod said. "If you're just needing one class to finish your associate's degree, that may not be such a bad idea. That's a decision they can make after they talk to a guidance

counselor."

DANTES offers students the option of taking accredited classes via distance learning. "DANTES operates from its own pot of money. They distribute about \$18 million a year," Sherrod said. He said the program requires students to pay for the course, but they receive total reimbursement after completing a course successfully.

Pell Grants, which need not be repaid, are another option for some soldiers. Sherrod said they are awarded based on need, and that need is determined based on the previous year's adjusted income.

AWARD, from Page 1

Comptroller's Meritorious Team Achievement Award.

During the period between June 1, 2001, and May 31, 2002, the Force Integration Division was involved in planning and implementing several force structure changes throughout the world. First, and most notable, was reorganizing NETCOM/9th ASC to support the Army transformation initiatives. The division's work during this time laid the foundation for what NETCOM/9th ASC would become and how it would operate in the future.

"It's been a challenge," said Mike Stephany, Force Integration Division chief. "We worked on the MTOE (Modification Table of Organization and Equipment), manpower positions, and the Augmentation TDA (Tables of Distribution and Allowances). The RCIOs (Regional Chief Information Offices) in line with the IMAs (Installation Management Agencies) - it was this division that actually developed that concept.

"And all the time we were doing this - transforming NETCOM from a subordinate command of U.S. Army Forces

Command to a DA direct reporting unit - we were still working to support Signal forces fighting a war."

In fact, the events of Sept. 11, 2001, delayed planning the NETCOM/9th ASC reorganization for nearly three months. Between December 2001 and August 2002, the team completed a process that usually takes up to three years.

At the same time all this was going on, years of developing and planning culminated when the 518th Signal Company (Tactical Installation and Networking), 93rd Signal Brigade was activated at Fort Gordon, Ga., as were two detachments in Korea and one in Europe. The redesign of the 7th Signal Command in Germany was also the result of the members of the Force Integration Division.

"We took two battalions (under the 7th Signal Brigade) with specific functions and combined them into two multi-functional battalions," said Robert Plante, Force Integration Division team leader. "This redesign better utilizes existing force structure because they're multi-functional."

While many look at reorganizing units as "doing more with less," the Force Integration Division takes a more positive approach, looking to the future as the Army proposes more changes to its current force structure.

"We're trying to show how Signal units' increasing capabilities support the reduction of the combat service support 'footprint,' passing more data and communications with less," Stephany said.

Reorganizing the force structure of echelons-above-corps Signal units in the Force Integration Division is ongoing, with new initiatives on the horizon. Some of these initiatives will affect the way Signal conducts business, and some will expand the capabilities and resources of units supported.

Possibly more awards are on the horizon, as well.

(Author's note: The NETCOM Transition Team mentioned in this article was the second runner-up for this same award.)

CATS, from Page 1

tended.

The seed for the idea was planted in 1988 when a post wildlife biologist, Sheridan Stone, attended a mountain lion conference in Prescott, Ariz. It was during discussions with other biologists that the idea first sprouted.

"The timing was right; the Arizona Game and Fish Department had been doing a great deal of mountain lion research in northern Arizona and was looking for a good place to test survey methods and collect more data on the big cats," said Stone.

The first Mountain Lion Track Count took place in June 1989. Although a year was skipped, for the most part a count is held every first weekend of June.

The count brings together a broad range of biologists; animal protection groups, conservationists and interested volunteers. The Phoenix Zoo and the Sky Island Alliance in Tucson, Ariz., support the annual event. "These are people who might not normally cross paths or sit down at the table with the Army to discuss conservation, but during the track count they all gather in camp to discuss a common interest," said Stone.

The count is not only important because of the mountain lion data collected, but also because it serves as a great community outreach program. The count is a training ground for new volunteers to help on projects on post or in their own areas of interest around the country.

The event also gives conservation groups a chance to understand Fort Huachuca's training land uses, along with its environmental stewardship programs.

Over the years, many repeat participants have seen their own involvement with the fort's conservation activities go from being volunteers or science students to their developing careers as wildlife biologists and educators with various organizations. One volunteer who served an enlistment in the Army is now finishing a degree at Arizona State University and has started a job with Arizona Game and Fish. She has used her leadership skills to organize fellow wildlife students to help on track counts as well as on antelope habitat improvements off post. Her initiative, field skills and enthusiasm helped motivate others and enhance safety along the survey routes.

Seeing an Army reservation with an active natural resources department is a first for many of the volunteers and serves as an eye-opening experience. The volunteers in turn serve as a force multiplier - they are additional eyes and ears for biologists.

"The more people understand Fort Huachuca's landscape, the more they want to help conserve it," said Stone. "Their sense of community will be broader and extend beyond their property lines to include public lands," he added.

The Mountain Lion Track Count is a mutually beneficial relationship. Bi-

ologists doing research need to partner with an established organization to receive Heritage Fund grants from Arizona Game and Fish. The working relationships between scientists and Fort Huachuca have supported research of other carnivores on the post and surrounding areas.

About two dozen mountain lions use the Huachuca Mountains as part of their range. Their range transects the fort. Six to eight mountain lions can be using Fort Huachuca as part of their range at any given time. An adult male mountain lion needs up to 200 square miles of land for his range. Because they are ambush predators, rough country provides the best habitat for a stealthy approach to prey such as deer. They need lots of space.

The big cats' primary food source is white tail deer, although they also eat javelina, coati, skunks and rabbits. They are not a threatened or endangered species and their numbers have actually gone up in the last few decades in the country. This is the result of an increased deer population in some areas, and changes in human attitudes about killing the cats.

Mountain lions are frequently called panthers, catamounts or cat of the mountains, pumas and cougars. They are native to most of North America. Biologists attending this year's count will take the volunteer training techniques back to Vermont to educate volunteers in that state, as well as other spinoff efforts in California and Wyoming. Fort Huachuca was first in put-

ting together a collaborative brain trust on mountain lion monitoring and research. The annual Mountain Lion Track Count serves as a model for other communities.

"Fort Huachuca has been ramping up research on a larger scale," said Stone. Although biologists had heard reports of mountain lion travel and activity along the San Pedro River, the post led the way in documenting it.

The track count is open to anyone

interested in participating every first weekend in June. The Sky Island Alliance conducts volunteer training and lectures on surveying mountain lions and other wildlife species throughout the year. To learn more about their educational programs click on www.skyislandalliance.org. The Fort Huachuca Wildlife Section at 533-7083 can also provide information and contacts for our conservation partners in the region.

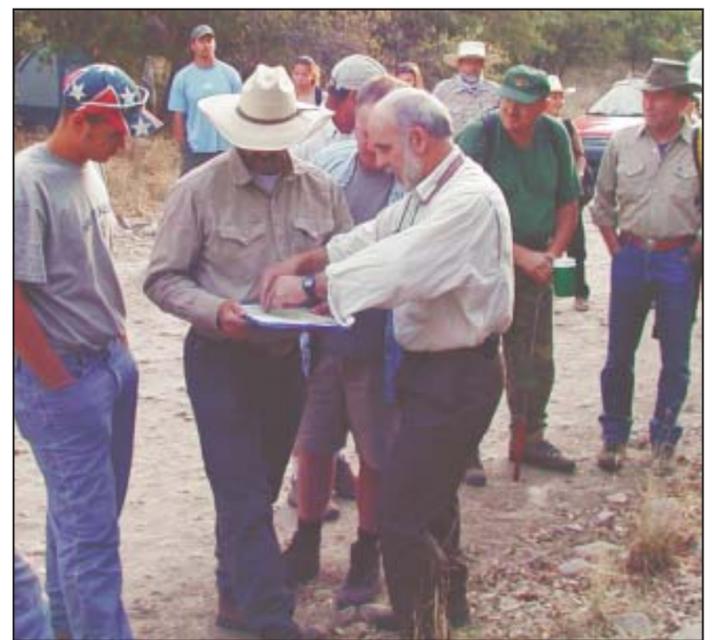


Photo by Tanja Linton

Post wildlife biologist Sheridan Stone outlines a plan of attack during the 13th annual Mountain Lion Track Count on Fort Huachuca. More than 70 volunteers hit the trail in search of signs of the big cats.

CIV from Page 1

The complex web of rules and regulations prevents us from moving DoD civilians to new tasks quickly. So managers turn to military or contractors instead of civil service civilians."

DoD also has a problem in hiring new workers.

He said private firms can size

up a prospect at a job fair and offer them the job immediately.

"When DoD interviews the same people, all we can do is offer them a ream of paperwork and promise to get back to them in three to five months," he said. "It should not be surprising that the most talented folks end up work-

ing someplace other than the DoD."

The bureaucracy manifests itself in strange ways. DoD must deal with more than a thousand local unions.

The secretary said one example of the inefficiency of this is with abuse of government credit cards.

"With military personnel we can garnish their wages and recover the stolen funds," he said. "Not so with civilian personnel. In fact, DoD has been negotiating now for more than two years with more than 1,300 separate union locals for the right to garnish wages of those who use govern-

ment credit cards for personal purchases - and we still have 30 more unions to go."

Rumsfeld's proposed changes would allow the department to negotiate with national offices instead of locals.