

## Combat ready

Soldier creates Combat Casualty Reaction course, combines first aid with MOS skills - **Page 10**



## Combat run

Runners of all ages compete in the grueling Combat Medic Memorial 10k run Saturday. - **B1**

# The Fort Huachuca Scout



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March 6, 2003

## Scout reports

e-mail: [thescout@hua.army.mil](mailto:thescout@hua.army.mil)

### AFAP issues still needed

There is still time to submit issues for consideration at the Fort Huachuca Army Family Action Plan symposium.

The AFAP symposium has a history of forming recommendations for real resolutions.

Download your AFAP issue sheet at <http://huachuca-www.army.mil/afap/index.htm> and return or fax to Army Community Service at 533-3778.

For more information about AFAP and how you can be involved, call AFAP Coordinator, Karla Grosinsky, at 533-3686 or e-mail [huachucaafap@hotmail.com](mailto:huachucaafap@hotmail.com).

### FRG training

Family Readiness Group Training will be on Saturday from 9a.m. - noon at the Murr Community Center.

This training will assist family members of deployed spouses. To register, call 533-5919.

### Commander's hotline

Don't be frustrated if you have an issue, get a formal response to your issues and concerns in just 10 working days by calling the Commander's Hotline. Call 533-BOSS (2677) or email: [commanders-hotline@hua.army.mil](mailto:commanders-hotline@hua.army.mil)

## INSIDE

### Will you be ready for bio-terrorism attack?

Cochise County officials hold first-ever conference on fort to discuss bio-terrorism. The threat is real and isn't going away. **Page 3**

### New digs for CID agents

Criminal Investigation Division moves into their new workplace. The yearlong, \$1.9 million project greatly improves the quality of life and enhances the organization's mission. **Page 3**

### DoD cracking down on government credit card abusers

Secretary of the Army Thomas White was told by Congress to fix credit card abuse in the ranks. Commanders and supervisors need to educate cardholders of consequences of abuse. **Page 4**

### New program offers jobs to soldiers leaving the service

The unemployment rate among military veterans is three times higher than the national average. New program entitled "Helmets to Hardhats" helps find jobs for soldiers in construction industry after exiting the military. **Page 7**



Photo by Jeff Porter

The Tethered Aerostat Radar System deflates and falls to the ground after tearing at the aerostat site Feb. 25.

# Aerostat ruptures

## Strong winds may be cause of accident, tear

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DONALD SPARKS  
NCOIC, USAIC&FH PAO

The Tethered Aerostat Radar System, commonly known as aerostat, experienced a sufficient fabric tear to cause a complete loss of lift Feb. 25, according to Stan Zduniak, TARS Program Manager.

The aerostat was moored to the tower and was fully inflated prior to the incident. Although the accident is under

investigation by the Air Force's Safety Investigation Board, strong winds are the early determination for causing the rupture.

Surface winds before the incident were running 35-40 knots with variable gusts over 40 knots.

Zduniak reported the aerostat had crouched and touched the air cushion located on the rear of the mooring platform several times before tearing.

"As the aerostat settled on the air cushion, the tail section

started twisting back and forth from the turbulent, gusty winds," Zduniak said. "The aerostat appears to have failed at the upper, forward part of the windscreen assembly and the fabric tore fore and aft from that spot on the bottom of the aerostat."

Immediately after the aerostat crashed to the ground, Fort Huachuca environmental specialists were called to the scene to clean up fuel spillage.

See AEROSTAT, Page 8



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

An aerostat employee takes a look at damaged radar component following the aerostat accident.

## Prompt action by fort officials derails possible health hazards

BY NELL DRUMHELLER  
SCOUT STAFF

On Feb. 12 the Consumer Product Safety Commission released a notice that most wood playground equipment now in use has been treated with the pesticide chromated copper arsenate.

The same wood has been used to make the playground equipment at the New Beginnings Child Development Center and the Youth Services Center.

To address the concerns of parents whose children play at those facilities, a community forum was held Feb. 27 at the La Hacienda as Fort Huachuca leaders and health experts were

"My concern is with small children. I've raised a couple and I know what they eat."

Col. Lawrence Portouw,  
U.S. Army Garrison commander

on hand to answer questions.

"We received a notice that pressure treated woods can have high concentrates of dangerous elements, including arsenic," Col. Lawrence

See WOOD, Page 5



Photo by Nell Drumheller

Directorate of Installation Support personnel remove wood containing chromate copper arsenate from the New Beginnings Child Development Center after discovering the wood was contaminated.

## AER

Fund raising campaign aimed at taking care of Army's own

BY NELL DRUMHELLER  
SCOUT STAFF

We've all been there - when something happens so suddenly, and is so overwhelming that it feels as if you have been sucker punched.

It leaves your head spinning and you feeling desperate, alone and in need. Help may be no further away than Army Emergency Relief.

AER was incorporated as a private nonprofit organization in the 40s, and its sole mission is to help soldier and their eligible family members who are experiencing financial emergencies.

AER is the Army's own emergency financial assistance organization and is dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of its Own."

Since its birth AER has always been where soldiers are stationed when they needed help.

"You can take pride in the fact that your Army Emergency Relief remains well positioned to continue its support of our soldiers," retired general E. C. Meyer, president of AER said. "While active duty soldiers receive the bulk of our assistance, we continually help

See AER, Page 8

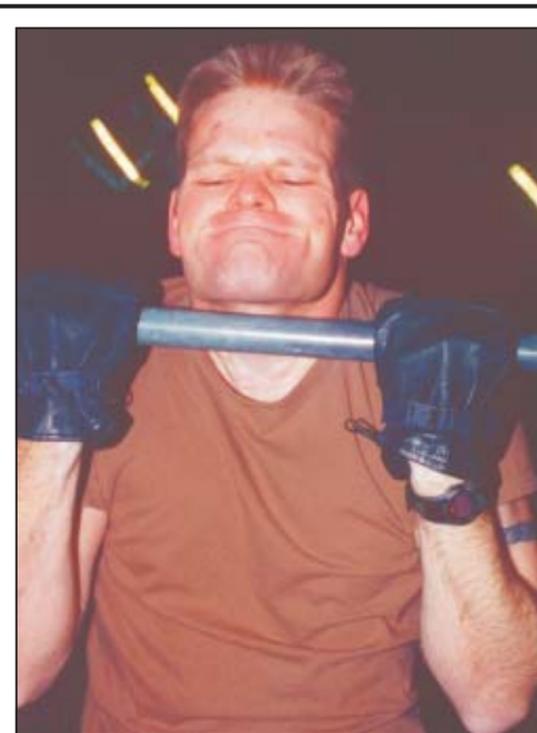


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

### Get a grip

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Henle, Noncommissioned Officer Academy student, holds on tightly to the pull-up bars during the Iron NCO competition. See related story and photos on Page 7.

### Live TV town hall

Tune to Fort Huachuca's Channel 97 on March 25 at 6 p.m. for the live Town Hall Meeting.

Viewers may submit questions to be discussed in advance by fax at 533-

1280 and e-mail to [PAO-WATCH@hua.army.mil](mailto:PAO-WATCH@hua.army.mil).



# Commentary

## Mr. Rogers

### The true inspiration of Army values

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DONALD SPARKS  
NCOIC, USAIC&FH PAO

Last Thursday like so many of you, I was stunned and saddened by the death of perhaps the greatest children's television personality - our good neighbor Mr. (Fred) Rogers. As a journalist I try to capture things I see everyday and put it on paper for a way readers can recognize, understand and relate to.

Ironically enough, I used Mr. Rogers as an analogy when comparing a dentist here I followed during a story because his mannerisms were as eloquent as Mr. Rogers. The day the article came out on print, so came the news of Mr. Rogers' death.

I called the dentist and told him of the news and he'd just found out the news at the same time I did. Here I am nearly 35 years old and I felt as if I'd lost a favorite uncle and mentor. I tried to put in perspective how his genuine goodness affected my life and as I was driving home that day it hit me.

Long before the Army had its seven core values, my generation had Mr. Rogers. Through Mr. Rogers we learned how to treat our neighbors (which included everybody we meet each day) with respect. Respect, by the way, is one of our values.

He made us smile and reminded us to be honest to our parents and to ourselves. Let's see, Honesty, another Army value.

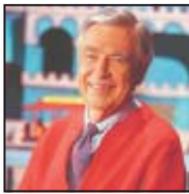
Mr. Rogers, a Presbyterian minister, dedicated himself to appreciating the goodness not just in children but also in all people. If that doesn't sound like Duty, then what does?

Perhaps the best value I believed he instilled was Personal Courage. During the Persian Gulf War, Mr. Rogers told youngsters that "all children shall be well taken care of in this neighborhood and beyond - in times of war and in times of peace," and he asked parents to promise their children they would always be safe.

This is the same man who made me unafraid to walk to school each day and not be worried about getting jumped on for my lunch money. Because of those values, along with my mother's belt and her bible, I am better off as a person.

I can go on and describe each value and personify them with Mr. Rogers, but my point is that he represented loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honesty, integrity and personal courage to the utmost.

The Army's Seven Core Values, created by former Chief of Staff Gen. Dennis Reimer, are just an extension of everything Mr. Rogers taught millions of Americans. Who knows, maybe Reimer himself consulted him. Whether or not, I am one of Mr. Rogers' loyal admirers and one American who appreciated what he done for treating all of us as his neighbor.



CHAPLAIN (MAJ.) DENNIS R. NITSCHKE  
NETCOM, DEPUTY COMMAND CHAPLAIN

*Lent: We encounter God who makes and keeps covenant with us*

Wednesday was Ash Wednesday that started a 40-day period on the Church calendar called Lent. While some may not come from a Christian background, I believe it is important enough for the community to speak about the "season of Lent" this week because the themes of Lent are ones that can strengthen family, faith and fellowship.

Anyone 45 years old or older, who attended worship during Lent, will probably remember that services were dark and somber. Hymns sung were mournful and the whole time reminded the worshipper of attending a funeral. The end of Lent, Holy Week, was like a week-long funeral for Jesus.

Thanks be to God (no pun intended) in the last 25 years Lenten services have received a facelift and there is a renewed emphasis that returns to the basics of faith. Lent is a return to preparation for baptism and a time of retreat. Retreats are times of getting away and having people look at themselves, with the help of Scripture, and asking questions in reference to spiritual relationships.

Being on a retreat - whether away at a campground or a virtual one with a book - gives the person(s) on retreat the opportunity to learn - about self, creation, God and others. It is a time of personal reflection. In reflecting during Lent, one gets to ask him/herself about sin and wrongdoing in creation, from self to the cosmic, if you will. It also brings forgiveness, the purging of those wrongs from the body and spirit, much like walking into a crystal clear pool all muddy and soiled and stepping out squeaky clean. Lent is a time to be restored to spiritual health.

A few years ago I attended a retreat in the Miller Canyon area. We were given a few passages on the Sabbath (rest of God) and told to simply walk out into the natural surroundings. After three hours, I returned and found a new vitality in my spirit as well as in my mind. Those three short hours gave me a new focus that I will not forget. I received new spiritual insight to go on with my walk with God.

I hope you are able to use this 40-day season of Lent to go on a retreat - either with a church group, friends, or by yourself. A retreat where you can renew your faith, your focus, your relationships with God, creation and others. Lent is an important time to learn about faith and trust - in a multitude of ways.

Ash Wednesday started the season of Lent, Easter Vigil, a dark time of waiting for Easter, ends it. But even in the darkness we celebrate because in our "retreat" we have learned that the darkness is only a short time. That the glory of God has cleansed us, encouraged us and welcomed us into the newness of life. Lent is God's promise to us that He loves us - always.

## Do you know who you are connected with on the Internet?

BY PATRICK SWAN  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Loose lips sink ships, but will errant e-mails strafe soldiers and their families?

It may all depend upon whom soldiers trust with information about themselves and their families when surfing the vast, anonymous, unsecure locale called the Internet.

We'd be rightly skeptical if we linked to a Web site offering support for U.S. military families with emergency notifications - but which was run by Osama bin Laden's operatives.

But what if the Web site with such a service seemed innocuous enough - with good, red-blooded American names and addresses listed in its "Contact Us" button?

And what if the organization offering this service couched its request in noble-sounding, patriotic, rally-around-the-flag sentiments? You know the kind: "We help

our dedicated military people and their concerned loved ones stay in touch in uncertain times as these."

You just might be persuaded to submit your soldier's name, address, social security number - or your family member's names and addresses and other Privacy Act Information.

Such an Internet-based organization may or may not be legitimate. But to borrow a phrase from a typical site's pitch, in these "uncertain times," why take the chance?

After all, any information provided to such sites could be used for identity theft, intelligence gathering by foreign nations or terrorists, or pose other threats to service members, their families and their privacy.

Indeed, why take any such chance when the Army is already offering a Web site to keep soldiers and families connected when separated by a deployment. That place is Army Knowledge Online,

www.us.army.mil. AKO allows family members the ability to rapidly access general-level knowledge about the Army and their soldiers across a secure communications channel. Translation: It keeps the bad guys from getting your personal information while it helps you keep in touch with those you love in uniform.

AKO is a cyber-space example of its familiar credo: The Army takes care of its own. Hence, every family member of a soldier is eligible for an AKO account/e-mail address. All family members have to do to get one is sign in as a new user and requests a guest account. Soldiers serve as the sponsors and once they approve the family member's request, they are reconnected in a trusted sector of cyber space. They can exchange e-mail, chat online, engage in instant messaging. They can even post photos or personal information in a secure individual knowledge cen-



ter on AKO that only the soldier and family can access.

A soldier from the Oklahoma Army National Guard recently wrote that a friend at

See INTERNET, Page 8

## Scout on the Street

### Where do you go to get away for the weekend?



*I like to work on my house and spend time with my family.*

1Lt. Matthew Baack,  
United States Air Force,  
79<sup>th</sup> Rescue Squadron



*I like to go to California, my family is all there.*

Jennifer Miranto,  
AAFES employee



*I like to go to Patagonia Lake and relax.*

Erika Kellerman,  
AAFES employee



*I go to Nogales and go shopping.*

Spec. Oscar Carballo,  
Meddacc



*I like to travel to nearby communities like Tombstone and get a sense of history.*

Sgt. Rudolph C. Will,  
USMC/JITC



*My fiancé and I like to explore historical sights.*

Master Sgt. David Casenove,  
Southeast Air Defense Sector,  
Florida Air National Guard,  
Tyndall AFB, Florida

Photos by Staff Sgt. Sharron Stewart

## The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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# Cochise health officials bio-terrorism conference held on fort

BY NELL DRUMHELLER  
SCOUT STAFF

Bio-terrorism was first used as a weapon in the United States before we were a nation. The British deliberately infected communities with smallpox to destroy the fighting spirit and ability of the revolutionaries.

Two years into the fighting General George Washington established inoculation of recruits and effectively stopped the British effort to defeat our nation's forefathers through the disease.

"The threat of bio-terrorism is here to stay," said Dr. Gary H. Spivey, at the one-day conference on bio-terrorism last week at the Lakeside Activity Center here.

More than 180 people participated in the eight-hour conference focusing on issues concerning both health care professionals and government officials.

Jesus Kataura, program coordinator with the Southeast Arizona Health Education Center from Nogales explained, "We have participants from various hospitals, fire departments, paramedics and emergency services here today."

The SEAHEC has jurisdiction over southeastern Arizona including Cochise, Pima and Santa Cruz counties.

"This is the first conference of its kind in Cochise County," he added.

Carol Moore, the bio-terrorism preparedness coordinator for Cochise County Health Department added, "We hope the participants will go away from this conference confident in our staff and how we are prepared."

"We are focusing on health care professionals," she said.

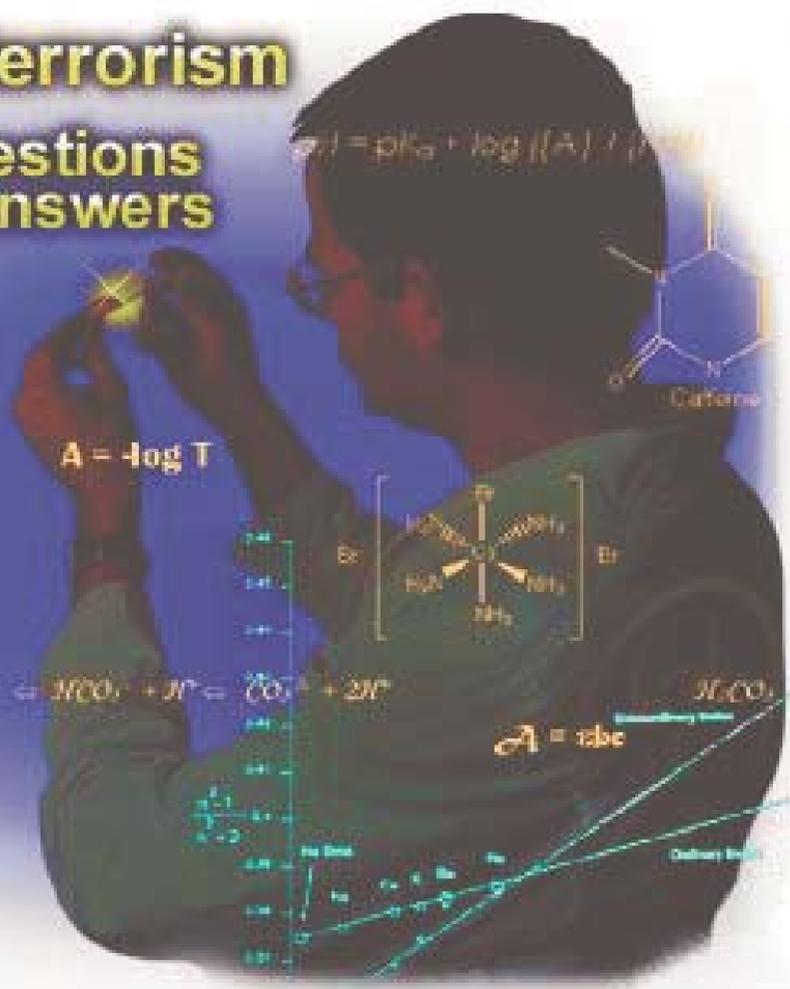
A goal of the conference was to help health care professionals recognize symptoms of biological or chemical warfare and make the correct assessment quickly.

The conference material was offered in English and Spanish, with interpreters available to assist the nearly 40 participants from Mexico" Kataura said.

"We have health care professionals and emergency services representatives here from Agua Prieta, Naco and Nogales, Mexico."

"I'm very happy to see how receptive local emergency services people are to working with the fort," Maj. Darryl Veret, commandant U. S. Army Garrison, said of the conference. "We understand their level of preparedness and they understand what we can do."

## Bioterrorism Questions & Answers



# New facility improves CID workplace quality of life, enhances mission

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DONALD SPARKS  
NCOIC, USAIC&FH PAO

When soldiers hear the buzz phrase "quality of life," often what comes to mind are improved living conditions or recreational facilities. However quality of life also applies to the workplace and Feb. 27 that phrase took on spe-

cial meaning as the Fort Huachuca Resident Agency, 6<sup>th</sup> Military Police Group (Criminal Investigation Division) had their ribbon-cutting ceremony opening their new facility.

The \$1.9 million, 6,200 square foot facility culminates a yearlong construction project improving the quality of life for CID agents to better perform their mission on the installation.

"This definitely has improved the quality of life at the workplace," said Marty Smith, special agent in charge. "We were working in the old two-story World War II building. Because the organization was moving into a new building, there were limited funds being put into the old facility to maintain the office."

Smith said the old facility didn't represent the best working environment for the agents, and because CID agents are often inconspicuous to the public, the previous office space didn't provide much privacy for the agents to carry out certain tasks.

He said the new facility provides a more "User-friendly environment for CID's customers and it's easier for us to be found."

The building is co-located near other installation law enforcement counterparts such as the Directorate of Public Safety, the Inspector General's office, the Military Police station and MPI.

"We have a great law enforcement community here on this side of the post," Smith said. "All of the organizations are not strung out throughout the installation."

The new facility has state-of-the-art amenities such as a polygraph room, training room, an impound car lot for stolen vehicles, and an enclosed temperature controlled inspection bay so they can search vehicles for illegal contraband.

"The most important asset the new facility offers is that it allows the agents to either have their own office or they share a much bigger office with a divided cubicle," Smith said. "That in itself is quality of life. These guys have work-

"We have a great law enforcement community here on this side of post."

Marty Smith,  
Special agent in charge

days that begin at 6:30 a.m. and end around 7 p.m. five days a week, and are on call every weekend, so they're here a lot."

Smith believes the new facility speaks volumes for the Army recognizing the value of CID's mission.

He mentioned that most people are familiar with the mission the organization has at the garrison-level, which includes investigating felony-level crimes, but there is another important function of the organization.

"One of our other investigative missions is logistical security," Smith said. "That is especially key right now because we're getting ready to go to war. For example 11th Signal Brigade, when they deploy it is CID's job once their equipment leaves the front gate to make sure it gets to them on the frontline."

He added CID agents check the outbound and inbound equipment at any airport or seaport. As the equipment is in transient, CID agents in each state the equipment travels through, inspect the load to make sure everything is still there and that Army property isn't stolen.

"That is one aspect of our mission that people don't know about," Smith said.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

The new \$1.9 million, 6,200 square foot Criminal Investigation Division facility is now open for use and enhances the organization's mission.

# New TRADOC PAMs compile info on trainee abuse, homosexual policy

BY JIM CALDWELL  
TRADOC NEWS SERVICE

New Training and Doctrine Command pamphlets on the command's home page are single references for soldiers and leaders on trainee abuse and homosexual conduct policy.

They are Pamphlets 350-36, TRADOC Trainee Abuse Prevention Program, and PAM 00-26, Homosexual Conduct Policy.

"What we're trying to do with the PAMs is provide the leadership and provide soldiers with the resources to know what to do," said Lt. Col. Cheryl Lewis, chief of Military and Administrative Law for the TRADOC Staff Judge Advocate.

"Whether it's a trainee abuse situation or whether it's a homosexual misconduct situation, the important thing is to keep soldiers from being faced with a situation and not know where to go, not have the tools at their disposal to

either investigate, or resolve or to help someone else."

"The trainee abuse PAM specifically provides that trainee abuse is unacceptable," Lewis said. "Incidents of trainee abuse are not examples of good leadership or conducive to the training environment."

"The PAM gives you some legal guidance, but it also provides training scenarios so the local commander, from the company commander to the brigade commander, can train their cadres and offices on how to properly train, some situations to avoid and what to do if they find themselves in those potentially bad situations."

"Incidences of training abuse may be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice," Lewis said.

The PAM also explains how to report a trainee abuse occurrence.

In 1993 Congress added "Policy Concerning Homosexuality in the Armed Forces" to Title

10, United States Code 654. Since then the Department of Defense, the Army and TRADOC have each published documents on implementing the homosexual conduct policy. There are several Army regulations that discuss homosexual misconduct, but there is no single AR that covers the policy.

Pamphlet 600-26 is the only single reference, containing all the various policy statements and references in regulations.

"It is important to ensure that all commanders have ready access to all applicable documents and that the homosexual conduct policy is implemented in an informed manner," Lewis said.

"So if you're a commander or if you're a soldier, there is now one source on the TRADOC home page to let you know what the policy and guidance are if there's a violation of the policy."

She also pointed out that since the PAMs are web-based publi-



cations, they can be easily updated if new information is available.

The URL for the TRADOC home page is [http://](http://www.monroe.army.mil/)

[www.monroe.army.mil/](http://www.monroe.army.mil/). Select "Publications." Pamphlets are among "Administrative Publications" under "Command Publications."



Illustration by Angelica Pequeño

## Congress orders DoD to clean up credit card misuse, delinquencies

BY NELL DRUMHELLER  
SCOUT STAFF

If asked to define the purpose of a Army travel charge card you might respond with "sounds fairly self-explanatory: a charge card issued to Army soldiers and civilians to be used for travel." Apparently for more than three percent of authorized users the purpose of this Bank of America Visa card is unclear; as well as how and when the monthly bill should be paid.

Secretary of the Army, Thomas E. White said, "Recent congressional hearing and audits identified abuse of the Army charge cards."

According to the secretary these include: numerous cases of card misuse and potentially fraudulent activity; travel card delinquency; the failure of commanders and supervisors to take disciplinary action; and inadequate command emphasis and oversight.

Locally, Sharon Williams, Support Services supervisor as well as MI, USAIC and Fort Huachuca Agency Program Coordinator encourages supervisors and commanders to help educate their soldiers and civilians on the proper use of the Army travel charge card.

"Supervisors need to make sure the travelers understand what charges are authorized," she said.

She oversees 3,400 card users with the assistance of

13 APCs across the fort. "We need more continuity with the APCs," she said. Many of the soldiers are assigned APC responsibilities as an additional duty and are only in that position for a short time, she said.

"Commanders and supervisors who assign the APC duties need to ensure the person is enthusiastic about the job," she added.

An Army travel card can be issued to a soldier or Army civilian when they are scheduled to travel for official purposes. According to Williams, the supervisor directs the traveler to the APC to apply for a card.

"The first thing I do is ask to see their travel orders," she said. Army travel cards will not be issued until the applicant has travel orders.

It is the responsibility of the APC to educate the traveler on how to use the card and how to understand the bill when it comes. But it is the responsibility of the supervisor to educate the traveler on what is authorized purchases with the government card.

"Just because someone's travel orders say they have a certain amount of money for the trip," Williams said, "doesn't mean they can spend that amount on unauthorized items."

Williams recalled an incident when a traveler had read on his orders that he had \$200 authorized for "other". The traveler then used his Army travel charge card to

purchase \$200 in clothing from a mall while he was on his trip. When the bill came due, and the Army refused to reimburse him for the unauthorized purchases. He was amazed that he did not have the choice as to how he spent the "other" funds.

"We are here to advise the card holder, supervisor or commander on the administration of the card," she said. However, it is not within the APC's purview to discipline card users who misuse the Army credit cards or who are delinquent in making payments.

Once a traveler has returned from their trip they have five days to fill out the paperwork and fax it in for payment, according to Williams. The credit card bill comes due 30 days after issue, and can be extended under unusual conditions such as if the holder is still on temporary duty.

As part of the fiscal year 2003 Appropriation and Authorization Acts, Congress enacted several legislation changes to further control government charge cards and to ensure they payment of account balances. These include: requiring the DoD to develop a comprehensive policy on taking disciplinary action and authorizing mandatory salary offset to satisfy delinquent travel charge card debt.

"We need communication, cooperation and education to make this program work," she said.

## Frequently asked questions about the government travel card

### Q1: What is the Government Travel Card?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The soldier responsible for that action repaid the government, was demoted and placed on extra duty and eventually discharged from the service.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A5: In response to the excessive delinquency rate, in October 2000, the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army issued a directive to cut the Army's delinquencies by 50 percent by the end of March

2001.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A7: The Army is in complete agreement with DoD's goal to reduce delinquencies and unauthorized purchases. We will fully cooper-

ate with the DoD task force that has been established, and continue to refine internal management controls of the program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Lieutenants can get waiver for college degree, allows two more years for completion

## ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Lieutenants who graduated from Officer Candidate School can now submit a waiver to gain an additional two years to obtain their baccalaureate degree.

Title 10 of the U.S. Code (Section 12205) states that no officer can be appointed to a grade above first lieutenant in the Army Reserve, or be federally recognized above first lieutenant in the Army National Guard, unless awarded a baccalaureate degree from a qualifying institution.

The provision applies to active-component officers as well. The Secretary of the Army, however, may temporarily waive

the baccalaureate degree requirement on a case-by-case basis for any officer who was commissioned through Army OCS.

The waiver may be in effect for no more than two years after the waiver is granted, according to a U.S. Army Personnel Command message.

Deployments could be used as a reason for not being able to complete the college degree in time, according to personnel officials. With the large number of current deployments, the PERSCOM promotions branch posted a message about the waiver process online Feb. 21.

Upon completion of the baccalaureate degree, officers must provide documented proof to their branch assignment officer.

Documented proof of a baccalaureate degree must be an official college transcript.

Lt. Col. Doug McCallum, the Infantry branch chief at PERSCOM, said there are at least a dozen Infantry lieutenants that require the waiver. Other branches have lieutenants who need to submit the waiver, as well, personnel officials said.

"We're working on their waiver paperwork for them and notifying these officers accordingly," said McCallum.

Many of the lieutenants that the two-year waiver applies to are currently deployed. Information about the waiver process can be found at: [www.perscom.army.mil/select/CivEdRequirements.htm](http://www.perscom.army.mil/select/CivEdRequirements.htm).

## WOOD from Page 1

Portouw, garrison commander said. "We immediately tested our equipment and found it contaminated."

Chromate copper arsenate is a chemical preservative that is used to protect wood from being destroyed by microbes, termites or other wood-boring insects.

It is largely used to pressure treat lumber intended for outdoor uses such as home, school, and community playgrounds, desks, and landscape timber.

CCA is a mix of three chemicals: arsenic used to repel insects; copper, used to kill molds and fungi and retard rot; and chromium, used to fix the other two chemicals.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, CCA-treated wood does not pose any unreasonable risk to the public or the environment. Arsenic, a component of CCA, is a known human carcinogen and, thus, the agency believes that any reduction in the levels of potential exposure to arsenic is desirable.

The CCA-treated wood products have been around for more than 40 years, and 90-95 percent of pressure treated wood contains CCA.

According to Lt. Col. Sandra Smith, Preventative Medicine Wellness and Readiness Service chief, there are three ways for arsenic to get into your system, through inhalation, ingestion or absorption.

An example of how you could be exposed through inhalation is by burning CCA-treated wood in fireplaces or inhaling sawdust.

Unless a child ingests large amounts of the CCA-treated wood or continuously rubs their hands on the wood and then places their fingers in their mouth, exposure is highly unlikely.

To be affected by way of ingestion a child

would have to eat more than three handfuls of contaminated soil in a week.

The risk to children playing on CCA-treated playground equipment depends on the amount of available arsenic in the wood surface, and absorption on the skin; how and if children may be exposed to the arsenic, and if exposed, what length of time was the exposure.

"My concern is with small children," said Portouw, "I've raised a couple and I know what they eat."

Parents whose children may have been exposed to the wood either at either the New Beginnings Child Development Center or Youth Center or in their own backyard on CCA-treated wood products and are concerned should contact their primary care provider.

Smith said that arsenic naturally leaves the body within three days of exposure. Effects of mild poisoning from CCA include loss of appetite, nausea and diarrhea.

Effects of more severe exposure to arsenic include pins and needles tingling in the palms or cramps in the calf muscles; heat and irritation in throat and stomach, a garlic odor on breath, or a metallic taste in the mouth; vomiting, purging with very loose stools and neurological effects including restlessness, chronic headaches, apathy, fainting, dizziness, delirium, somnolence, convulsions or coma.

Inhalation does not mean breathing the air around dry wood or soil, but inhaling smoke from burning contaminated wood in a confined space over a long period.

Armed with the information found in testing the CCA-treated woods on the fort, the garrison commander determined to remove the possible risk.

Last weekend all CCA-treated wood at the two centers was removed. Prior to that, as soon as the level of contamination was determined, the area had been cordoned off to ensure young people would not have access to it.

Tom Cochran of the Environmental and Natural Resources division said, "We are taking random samplings of soil across post to determine the levels, if any, of contamination. Right now we're doing exploratory testing to see if there is more than allowed by residential soil standards. If we have more than residential limits, we'll have to remove it."

Arsenic leaches from the wood via wind and rain and can end up in the soil, however, nature removes most of it through erosion. When the poles were placed at the two facilities, they were put in several inches of concrete for stability.

This has had a side effect of keeping the CCA in direct contact with the soil.

Personal playground equipment, fencing and decking may be made with CCA-treated wood according to Portouw and he recommended that families check what's in their backyard.

The EPA does not recommend the removal of the treated wood, but says you can seal the CCA into the wood and protect your family by painting or staining it with oil-based, semi-transparent stains or paints. This should be repeated each year, or every-other-year depending upon wear and weathering.

According to Smith, "The risk to children playing on CCA-treated playground equipment depends on the amount of available arsenic that is left on the wood surface, and how and if children may be exposed to the arsenic."

Overtime the arsenic is leached out by wind

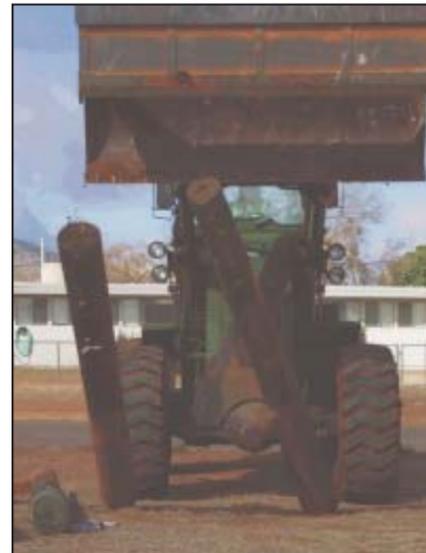


Photo by Nell Drumheller

**Logs from the New Beginnings Child Development Center are removed as a safety precautionary because they contain chromate copper arsenate.**

and rain.

Smith added, "All of us grew up around CCA-treated wood."

She added that by January 2004 consumers will not be able to buy CCA-treated wood for personal use. Limiting risk of exposure to CCA-treated wood is simple, according to Smith.

"Wash your hands after coming in contact with the wood; don't eat food that has touched the wood such as on a picnic table and don't burn the treated wood."

# New program to help soldiers find 'hardhat' jobs

BY MASTER SGT. BOB HASKELL  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

A new program called "Helmets to Hardhats" was launched in January to help soldiers find commercial construction jobs.

The intent of the program is to help those with military experience get hired in civilian construction trades that the program's organizers claim are facing a critical labor shortage.

Soldiers who leave full-time military service, as well as current members of the National Guard, the Army Reserve and the four other reserve components, are eligible for assistance from the federally-funded program.

"The construction industry needs to recruit 1.6 million new workers over the next five years to replace those people who will be leaving the labor force," said officials from The Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment and Veterans, citing several federal and industry projections. "Over 40 percent of the work force will retire in the next 10 years."

The center launched Helmets to Hardhats in January after a \$3.4 million appropriation for the pilot program was approved by Congress as part of the 2003 Defense Appropriations Act.

Matthew Caulfield, a retired Marine Corps major general, and his son Dan, a former Marine Corps officer, who served during the Per-

"They join the service when they're 18 and single, and they leave three or four years later married and with a couple of kids. Johnny doesn't need a training program. Johnny needs a job."

Dan Caulfield,  
Helmets to Hardhats program principal organizer

sian Gulf War, are the program's principal organizers.

"We need people to maintain our infrastructure, our roads and bridges and dams," the general said. "The way we're going, in 10 years we won't have enough iron workers. What better source of people to bring into the construction industry than those who have already been trained in the military?"

Helmets to Hardhats officials hope to recruit 23,000 people into the industry during its first year and 166,000 during the next two years.

The program emphasizes jobs that offer higher than average wages and benefits. A recent national survey indicates that union workers earn an average of \$4.08 more per hour than do other construction workers.

It is also a way for the construction industry to find new workers who have already acquired the discipline and dependability as well as the leadership skills and the safety training

that is stressed by the military.

"This is a match made in heaven, but the construction and military organizations don't know each other very well. We have to educate employers about what the military does," Dan Caulfield explained. "We believe that Helmets to Hardhats can do that."

The 16-member staff, including five field recruiters and many more field trades consultants, is currently carrying some key messages to 15 unions, with more than 7,000 locals that form the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Department.

One message is that veterans want work. The unemployment rate among military veterans is three times higher than the national average.

That included a 14.8 percent unemployment rate among veterans between 20-24 years old during the first quarter of 2002.

Another is that former soldiers offer the

construction industry a stable work force, looking for good jobs and careers without having to go to college or enroll in a training program.

"They join the service when they're 18 and single, and they leave three or four years later married and with a couple of kids," Dan Caulfield pointed out. "Johnny doesn't need a training program. Johnny needs a job."

Union apprenticeship programs make it possible for veterans and reservists to learn a trade while they're earning a good living, the Caulfields stressed.

And the lessons they learned while in uniform could make it possible for the new workers to begin their apprenticeships at a higher level than people who have never worked before, they added.

Helmets to Hardhats can also help recruiting, its advocates believe, by ensuring people who are thinking about joining the military that they will be able to use their training to get a good job when they return to the civilian world.

"This puts a market place value on military skills, and we're here for you when you're ready," Dan Caulfield said.

More information about the program and on-line registration can be found at [www.helmetstohardhats.org](http://www.helmetstohardhats.org).

(Editor's note: Master Sgt. Bob Haskell writes for the National Guard Bureau.)

# Army changes policy for AGR extensions, board selection in place

## All officers eligible for extension will go before retention boards

BY DAPHNE HART  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The Army has changed the process for extending Active Guard and Reserve officers beyond 20 years of active federal service.

As of Feb. 11, eligible AGR officers and warrant officers will go before extension boards to determine whether or not they can stay on active duty.

The change was made after a study on the overall AGR program found a perception among those in the field that the old extension process might have been unfair as only some

soldiers were considered for extension.

Following that study, Reginald Brown, the assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, asked the G1 to form a working group and decide upon possible solutions.

The solution ultimately agreed upon was a board selection process adhering to Department of Army standards and to be managed by the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G1.

The largest change from the previous system is that extensions are no longer reviewed on a case-by-case basis. All soldiers eligible for extension will now automatically go before retention boards without having to submit an application.

"Everything is automatic, but that doesn't relieve them of responsibility for ensuring that something is not missing

from their file," said Col. Lynda Parsons, the assistant deputy for Reserve Personnel and Policy.

Prior to each board, the needs of the Army will be assessed and extensions will be granted based on those needs, Col. Parsons said.

No AGR officer will now be extended without being considered before a board, Parsons said. She added the appropriate approval authority will then grant that extension in increments of up to three years, though most will likely be two years or less.

The chief of the National Guard Bureau and the chief of the Army Reserve may approve extensions for up to 22 years of active federal service for their respective components.

The assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and reserve affairs will approve all extensions between 22 years and the soldier's mandatory removal date.

# Community Updates

## Applications accepted for spouses club activity

The Fort Huachuca Officer and Civilian Spouses Club is accepting applications for its spring disbursements. Applications may be obtained by calling Ellen Grombacher at 458-1880 or Jim Coffman at 459-6262. Applications will be accepted through March 14.

## Huachuca Art Association hosts guest photographer

Huachuca Art Association's general membership meeting will be held at 10 a.m., March 15 at 3816 Astro Road in Sierra Vista. Nationally known photographer Pat Anderson will present a duo-slide show titled "Nature's Adagio." Images of plants, animals, landscapes, and florals dissolve into each other using a unique technique Ms. Anderson developed.

She has a masters degree in Biology and has had many nature photographs published in textbooks, field guides, calendars, and museum displays. For more information call Sue Thatcher at 378-2000.

## Women's History Month luncheon set for March 26

The Fort Huachuca Women's History Month Luncheon will be held on March 26 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at La Hacienda. This year's theme is: "Women Pioneering the Future". Command Sergeant Major Maureen N. Johnson, of the 112th MI Brigade, will be the guest speaker.

Tickets are \$8.25. Tickets will not be sold at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets contact your unit Equal Opportunity representative or the Military Equal Opportunity Office at 533-1717/5305/3696.

## Troy State representatives will visit education center

Representatives of Troy State University will be available for academic counseling at the Fort Huachuca Education Center, Bldg. 52104 on March 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

TSU offers three graduate business programs at Davis Monthan AFB in Tucson: Master of Science in Management, Master of Science in Human Resources Management, and Executive Master of Business Administration. In addition, they have graduate and undergraduate degree programs online through their Distance Learning Program.

Visit the TSU Website at [www.tsufl.edu](http://www.tsufl.edu) for additional information and meet with their representatives on March 26. Contact Pat Puhlman, 533-3010 for more information.

## German exhibit at U. of A.

## celebrates relationship with U.S.

*Evolution of a Friendship*, an exhibition celebrating German-American solidarity, will make its only Arizona appearance at the University of Arizona South, Sierra Vista, Friday-March 19.

The exhibition, sponsored by the Military History Research Institute of Potsdam, Germany, was devised to express Germany's gratitude for U.S. support of German unification. It has been traveling the U.S. for more than a year.

According to Lt. Col. Helmut Schaefer, Germany Army Liaison Officer at Ft. Huachuca, "the exhibition commemorates the close relations that exist between both of our countries. The people of Germany know how much their country owes to America and to the American people."

The exhibit documents the common past shared by Germans and Americans, from 1507 to the present day. It will be on display in the Learning Resource Center at the University of Arizona South, 1140 N. Colombo. The hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, Saturday and Sunday hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



## Spouse Appreciation Night at Thunderbird facility

The new dining facility hours for the Thunderbird Dining Facility are as follows; Breakfast 7- 8:45 a.m.; Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Dinner will no longer be served.

Soldiers on meal card may eat at Yardley Dining Facility located in Prosser Village. These hours remain until further notice.

Also, on March 19 there will be a Spouse Appreciation Night at the dining facility from 5 - 7 p.m. Price for E-1 and above is \$3.25; family members for E-4 and below is \$2.75 and family members for E-5 and above is \$3.25. For more information call Spc. Richie Simpson at 533-2823.

## March child care training scheduled for families

Fort Huachuca Family Child Care is now accepting applications for their March Training Class. Family members (18 years and older) who would like to earn extra money by taking care of kids should attend. Class sizes are limited. For more information, call 533-2494.

## Lunch planned to teach improved presentations

The Special Emphasis Program Committee sponsors a lunch and workshop on "Polishing Your Presentations and Briefs" on tomorrow at the La Hacienda. Cost is \$7.50. Seats are limited. For reservations, call 538-0276.

## Green to Gold briefing is tomorrow at 11 a.m.

Green to Gold Briefing - Are you interested in becoming an officer? The next Green to Gold Briefing takes place tomorrow at 11 a.m. at the Education Center. For more information, call 533-2390.

## Range Closures

Range closures for today through March 12

Today - AC, AD, AM, AU, AW, T1, T1A, T2, T3

Friday - AH, AK, AL, AR, AU, AW, T1, T1A, T2, T3

Saturday - AM, AN, AU, AW, T1, T1A, T2, T3

Sunday - AM, AN, AU, AW

Monday - AC, AD, AH, AL, AR, T1, T1A, T2, T3

Tuesday - T1, T1A, T2, T3

Wednesday - AU, T1, T1A, T2, T3

For more information on range closures contact range control at 533-7095.

## St. Patrick's Day Dinner

The Ladies Auxiliary to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10342 in Huachuca City will hold a St. Patrick's Day dinner March 17 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Dinner will include corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, rye bread and coffee or ice tea. All for only \$5. Dessert will be available for an additional cost.

For more information call Stephanie Morris, President, Ladies Auxiliary 10342 at 533-3352.

## Wanted CID information

The Fort Huachuca Criminal Investigation Department is investigating the theft of four dexadrine capsules from the Raymond W. Bliss Health center pharmacy.



The capsules were stolen between Jan. 16-20, from the pharmacy vault. Information provided will remain confidential. If you have any information concerning the theft, please call the Fort Huachuca CID at 533-5202 or the military police at 533-3000.

If you have any information and wish to remain anonymous call 533-0914 and leave a message.

## Road closures

The contractor, Macro-Z Technology, is installing Treated Effluent Irrigation pipe to all of the ball parks and parade grounds on Fort Huachuca. These repairs are being performed to reduce exfiltration and increase available effluent for recharge and irrigation.

There will be street closures and re-routing of traffic at the following locations and times:

Jeffords and Cushing St.	March 19
Carter St. and Cushing St.	March 25
Smith Ave. and Cushing St.	March 31
North Ave. and Cushing St.	April 2
Squire Ave and Cushing St.	April 4

(Depending on progress, these dates may vary by a day ahead or a day after the scheduled times.)

For more information call the Directorate of Installation Support point of contact Tom Campbell at 533-3472.

## Want to become a Warrant Officer?

A Warrant Officer Recruiting Team from Headquarters, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky will brief on qualifications and application procedures to service members interested in becoming U.S. Army Warrant Officers.

The program is open to all services and the recruiting team is seeking applicants for both the Warrant Officer Technician and Aviator programs.



More information can be found on the Internet at:

[www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant](http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant)  
or E-mail [Troy.Davis2@usarec.army.mil](mailto:Troy.Davis2@usarec.army.mil).

### Briefing schedule:

Today - 9:30 a.m., 1:30 and 6 p.m. Tomorrow - 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Location: Murr Community Center

Local point of contact is Rosalie Monge at 533-1503

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

## Community Events Calendar

To add items to the calendar, call the Central Community Coordinator at 533-6870.

**Army Family Action Plan Conference**  
**at Main Post Chapel March 11-13.**  
**Call 533-3686 to be a delegate.**

9

\* Friends of the San Pedro Bird Walk departs at 8:30 a.m. from the Hereford Road bridge. Call 459-2555 for info.  
\* The 38th Army Band will present a "Dixieland Afternoon" at the Ethel Berger Center at 3 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

10

\* San Pedro Kiwanis meets at noon in the Crystal Room of Thunder Mountain Inn. Contact Niilda Townsend at 458-9647.  
\* Thunder Mountain Bridge Club meets at 12:30 p.m. at Thunder Mountain Inn. Call Dianna Smith at 432-3883.  
\* The Air Force Jazz Band will be at Buena H.S. Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Call 417-6960 for details.

11

\* Ricketty Rockettes meets at OYCC at 10 a.m.  
\* National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC.  
\* Cochise Toastmasters meets at Landmark Café from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call Toni Reeves at 538-7502.  
\* Cochise Chordsmen (SPERSQA) meets at SV Methodist Church at 7 p.m.  
\* Society for Creative Anachronism meets at OYCC at 7 p.m.

12

\* La Salida Del Sol Lions meet at Thunder Mountain Inn at 6:45 a.m. Call Lee at 378-1399 for details.  
\* SV Chess Club meets at Peter Piper Pizza at 7 p.m.  
\* SV Middle School Concert begins at 7 p.m. at the Buena H.S. Performing Arts Center

13

\* SV Optimist Club meets at 6:30 a.m. at the Landmark Café. Call Robert Atkinson at 459-2711  
\* National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC. Call 378-6605 for details.  
\* Huachuca Area Retired Teachers Association meets at OYCC at 10 a.m.  
\* Early Release for Fort Huachuca Schools. Myer, Kindergarten @ 1:20 p.m. Grades 4 & 5 @ 1:30 p.m. Johnston, grades 1 - 3 @ 1:15 p.m. and Smith, Grades 6-8 @ 1:40 p.m.  
\* All City Concert begins at 7 p.m. at the Buena H.S. Performing Arts Center. Call 515-2820 for info.

14

\* Rollin' Thunder Skate Park 5 - 9 p.m. for teens only. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public.  
\* Rollerskating at Youth Services, Bldg. 49013 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 533-3205 for details.

15

\* Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Dress in green and join others waving shamrocks parading down Fry Blvd.  
\* Youth Services at Bldg. 49013 has open recreation from 1 - 8 p.m. Call 533-3205 for info.  
\* Rollin' Thunder Skate Park is open 1 - 6 p.m. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public.  
\* SV Youth Center is sponsoring a Groovy Green game day from 1 - 4 p.m. This event is free and open to all 11 - 17 years olds.

16

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

17

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21

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22

\* SV Parks & Leisure presents a Spring Craft Bazaar from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Ethel Berger Center. Call 417-6980 for details.  
\* Youth Services at Bldg. 49013 has open recreation from 1 - 8 p.m. Call 533-3205 for info.  
\* Rollin' Thunder Skate Park is open 1 - 6 p.m. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public.  
\* 20th Annual Mr. & Mrs. Copper Classic Bodybuilding & Fitness Championship at Buena H.S. Performing Arts Center beginning at 6 p.m. Call 378-2461 for details.

MCC = Murr Community Center

MPC = Main Post Chapel

OYCC = Oscar Yrun Community Center

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

# Iron NCO competition highlights physical fitness, esprit de corps

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS  
DONALD SPARKS  
NCOIC, USAIC&FH PAO

It might be easy to misinterpret the meaning of the 'An Army Of One' slogan as soldiers being selfish and not team-oriented, however the students in the Advanced Noncommissioned Officers course will tell you teamwork is what the phrase is all about.

The students cheered and rallied six of their comrades in the NCO Academy's annual Iron NCO physical fitness competition Feb. 25 at Apache Flats.

Although they were missing pom poms and bullhorns, the students brought their sense of teamwork and spirit to the event, creating a pep rally atmosphere.

"We've been classmates for eight weeks so we're here to root for each of them and give them support," said Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan Pious. His roommate Sgt. 1st Class Joe Patton was one of the NCOs in the competition. "I'm proud of him. He's a solid guy."

The Iron NCO competition awards the top female and male soldier for physical fitness in the class.

To compete for the award students had to have scored 270 points or above on their final physical fitness test, including 90 points in all three events.

However, the events for the Iron NCO competition consisted of pull-ups, dips, a one-mile run and a 10K ruck march with 25 percent of each competitor's body weight.

"Just qualifying for this competition speaks highly of the NCOs that are competing," said Sgt. 1st Class Tom Jones, NCO in charge of the event. "Then to watch the effort put



Sgt. 1st Class Rito Salas cheers the competitors from his platoon.

forth, it renews our pride in the NCO Corps."

Jones was particularly proud of the enthusiasm and teamwork shown by the NCOs who weren't competing in the event. He said they are the driving force behind their classmates who are grinding it out in the competition.

"These NCOs put forth a 100 percent effort to win, and are still cheering for their fellow competitors also," Jones said. "It's really great to watch this level of camaraderie in action."

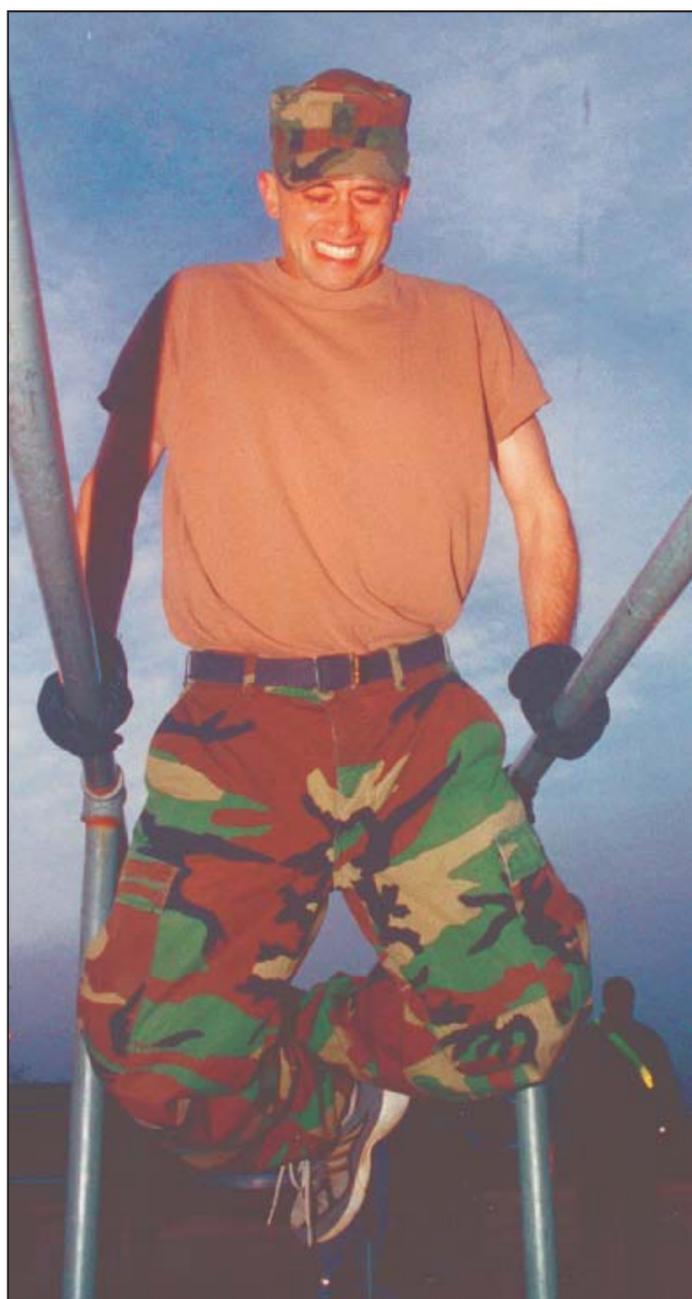
As each soldier competed, they were not told how many repetitions they performed nor how fast they completed the run and ruck march. According to Jones, the goal was to keep the winners a secret until graduation day.

"It wasn't just about watching other people, it was about cheering for friends and colleagues who were strong enough to put themselves on the line for pride's sake," said Staff Sgt. Glenn Louk, ANCOIC student.

"As some of our colleagues prepare to join fellow soldiers on the front lines, we just want to express our feelings of pride and solidarity," said Sgt. 1st Class William Dwyer, ANCOIC student.

The winners were Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Amenson and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Shea.

"I wish that I had trained harder," Amenson said after the competition. "I really appreciate the support of my entire platoon. We finished the ruck march together, and I felt it was a symbol of teamwork of our class."



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Sgt. 1st Class Joe Patton, Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course student, tries to add to his number of repetitions on the dip bars. Patton, along with five other NCOs, competed in the NCO Academy's Iron NCO competition given to the top male and female physical fitness performance in the class. Sgt. 1st Class Christie Amenson and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Shea won respectively.

## Soldier creates combat casualty reaction course

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS  
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As a private assigned to the 501st Military Intelligence Battalion in Germany, Spc. Robert Daniels was sent to the Combat Lifesaver's Course. Before going to the course his knowledge of first aid was primarily everything he learned in basic training.

After graduating the course, Daniels now assigned to Company B, 304th MI Bn., was so intrigued with his new found knowledge that he wanted to combine his new training with his everyday military occupational skill.

As a result he created a combat casualty reaction course and trained soldiers of his unit during Sergeants Time Training held Feb. 27 at Heritage Park.

"This is what we would have to do on the battlefield," Daniels said. "You never know what might happen if someone gets injured or dies, so this course helps to teach us how to react."

As a ground surveillance systems operator, Daniels is often a member of a six-soldier team who are forward of main battlefield elements.

If a member of the team is wounded, he said it's important soldiers understand how to react to evacuate the casualty and move on with the mission.

Daniels came up with the idea of the course because he thought it would be cool to take his CLS training to a higher level.

"When I came here from Germany, I was planning on how I can come up with a course that was realistic, so I combined my field experience with the stuff I learned in CLS," said the native of Jackson, Miss.

Some of the training measures Daniels incorporated in his course included how to transport casualties, calling a medical evacuation request, treating injuries, and preparing a landing zone.

Although they didn't have pyrotechnics, smoke or blank ammunition, the unit did create simulation lanes for the soldiers to go through.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Sgt. Michael Farr, left, Spc. Dezerie DeBose, center, and Spc. Jason Ninneman, treat a casualty during the Combat Casualty Reaction Course during Sergeants Time Training at Heritage Park. The soldiers assigned to Company B, 304th Military Intelligence Battalion trained on how to transport injured personnel, call for a medical evacuation and preparing a landing zone.

To make the training realistic, Daniels and noncommissioned officers of his platoon came up with scenarios for the teams to simulate. As the soldier teams conducted their mission, snipers would attack the team and force the team to take reactive measures.

Following each mission, an after action review was conducted to explain the team's successes and failures.

"He is real high-speed and he always wants to train," said Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Keys as he praised Daniels' efforts to come up with the training concept.

Keys, currently Daniels' platoon sergeant, was stationed in the same battalion with him in Germany and remembered how enthusiastic he was as a young private.

"He takes training to heart and he's committed to teaching soldiers what they need to

know on the battlefield."

As the soldiers frantically tried to perform first aid and transport casualties, it was evident making quick and timely decisions on the battlefield was different than just being in a classroom.

"The best part of this training was we were able to apply what we learned right away rather than repeating what someone just said to you," said Sgt. Michael Farr, Company B, 304th MI Bn. "Learning to react under pressure isn't as easy as it might seem, and carrying someone isn't easy as well."

That's the way Daniels intended it to be. For him it reinforced his devotion to training. "We're out there all alone. If we don't



Spc. Robert Daniels, Company B, 304th MI Bn., conducts an after action review following a team's engagement on the course he developed.

know what to do to take care of ourselves, then we won't survive."

AEROSTAT from Page 1



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

**The aerostat one day later lies on the ground after rupturing. High winds in the area are suspected of causing the tear.**

All Star clean up crews were able to clean approximately 15-20 gallons of fuel. There were 80 gallons of fuel in the tank at the time of the incident.

"Fuel also spilled onto the concrete pad beneath the balloon," said Tom Cochran, chief, Environmental and Natural Resources division. "We have as yet to determine the amount of fuel on the concrete below the remnants of the balloon until the Air Force conducts their investigation."

No injuries were reported at the incident and Zduniak said the extent of the damage to the aerostat, payload and airborne support equipment are unknown at this time. He also mentioned spare aerostat; radar and ancillary equipment items are available.

"We expect that the site will return back to full operations by March 31, weather permitting," Zduniak said.

The first aerostats were assigned to the United States Air Force in December 1980 at Cudjoe Key, Fla. An additional site was constructed and operated by the USAF at Cape Canaveral, Fla. in 1983. This site was deactivated a few years later.

During the 1980s, the U.S. Customs Service operated a network of aerostats to help counter illegal drug trafficking. Their first site was built at High Rock, Grand Bahamas Island, in 1984. The second site was built at Fort Huachuca in 1986.

Prior to 1992, three agencies operated the TARS network to include the USAF, U.S. Customs Service and the U.S. Coast Guard. Congress transferred management of the system to the Defense Department in 1992, with the Air Force as executive agent.

INTERNET from Page 2



a friend at work has a son who just joined the Army.

"She didn't know how to contact him via e-mail," said 1st Lt. Benjamin J. Weiss. "I was able to go onto the white pages in AKO and find his e-mail address. He's at Fort Carson, Colo., getting ready to head overseas."

And because his mother only has to know one, lifetime e-mail address for her soldier-son, she can stay in touch, even when he is far away. That makes her very happy when she could be heartsick and worried. Clearly, not every Web site claiming to "support the troops" is a security risk for the soldier and family member. But thanks to AKO's ability to keep the Army family connected, we don't ever have to find out, either.

That's worth a world of piece of mind.

*(Editor's note: Patrick Swan is a public affairs liaison with the Army's Chief Information Office/G-6 in the Pentagon.*

## Pets of the Week



**Alize is a white female german shepherd. She is about 2 yrs old and would love to be a part of your family. Her adoption fee is \$52, which includes shots, heartworm test, deworming, a microchip, and last but not least the spay. Please make her the new addition to your family.**

**These and several other dogs and cats are available at the Fort Huachuca Veterinary Treatment Facility from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. For information, call 533-2767.**



Veterinary Facility photos

**Spice would love to cuddle up and watch a movie with you and your family. The good part is her adoption fee is only \$52, which includes shots, deworming, a leukemia test, microchip, and my spay. She also want to mention that she's already litter box trained too.**

AER from Page 1



retired soldiers and widows/widowers also.

As many of you know, we also have a robust education scholarship program that provides financial support for both dependent children and spouses."

Last year Army wide more 52,000 people were assisted with more than \$38 million, on the fort 450 active duty soldiers, 28 retirees and seven widows were helped in 2002 with more than \$290,000.

In a campaign running through May 15, AER representatives across post are soliciting donations to help make the AER possible.

"Our goal is to have 100 percent contact with the soldiers and military civilians on Fort Huachuca," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Patrick Gross, campaign coordinator. The monetary goal for the fort is \$65,000.

Post AER officers are: Randall Lewis, AER officer, 533-5972; Gross, 533-6608. Other key personnel for the campaign are: Dental Command – Sgt. Doris J. Rio, 533-8721; U.S. Medical Command – Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Matthew Kirsner, 533-3958; 11<sup>th</sup> Signal Brigade – Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jennifer Hector, 533-1528; 111<sup>th</sup>/112<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Brigade – Staff Sgt. Monte Kaiser, 533-4538; U. S. Army Garrison – Staff Sgt. Ferrel Bonner, 533-4587; Electronic Proving Ground – Sally Martinez, 538-4860; Intelligence and Security Command – Capt. Brian Gruchacz, 538-7623 and Operational Test Command – Sgt. Alex Acebo, 533-3737.

If you or your family have benefited by AER and you'd like to share your story please call *The Scout* staff at 533-1987/2622.