

POV accidents

Number one killer of soldiers is privately owned vehicle accidents. In most cases seatbelts aren't being worn. - Page 3



Paint warriors

Combatants battle for paintball supremacy. Recreational activity available on post for enthusiasts. - Page B4

The Fort Huachuca Scout

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Scout reports

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SV schools delayed

The Sierra Vista School Board has decided to delay opening all schools in their district until Sept. 2, following Labor Day.

The district will be coming out with a revised calendar as soon as possible. The delay does not affect Fort Huachuca Accommodation Schools at all. All post schools will start on schedule Aug. 13.

For more information, call Javier Barron, the fort's school liaison officer at 533-1133.

Conservation meeting

The next Conservation Committee meeting will be held Aug. 20 at 10 a.m. in Fitch Auditorium in Alvarado Hall.

The Fort Huachuca Conservation Committee is a quarterly meeting hosted by Maj. Gen. James "Spider" A. Marks, commanding general, U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca.

The purpose is to establish a forum between the post and surrounding communities for the interchange of information, facilitation of new ideas, and education regarding the fort's stewardship of environmental and natural resources. The meeting is open to the public.

VI Division relocating

The Visual Information Division will be closed from Aug. 18 until Sept. 1, relocating to Greely Hall, Room 1615.

VI will be taking photos until Aug. 15 and will continue making appointments for photos throughout the move.

For further information, call the Visual Information work order desk at 538-7129.

Fiscal Year end cutoffs

Cutoff dates for year-end processing of supply requisitions have been established for the installation. Dates are as follows:

Supply Support Activity Creditable Turn-Ins: Noon, Sept. 22 (Turn-ins accepted at the SSA after Sept. 22 are not ensured to receive current FY turn-in credit).

SSA Routine Requisitions: Sept. 26

SSA High Priority Requisitions: Sept. 30

Fuel Purchases (Carter or Libby Army Air Field Fuel Points): Sept. 30

Local Purchase (Simplified Acquisitions): Sept. 2 (\$25K to 100K); Sept. 15 (less than \$25K)

For more information, call Pat Quintana, SSA/Fuel, 533-5610, or Dan Berry, SSA, at 533-5828.

INSIDE

Back-to-school safety

Those familiar 15-mile-per-hour signs will be back on the roads as the fort's schools prepare to open their doors. The military police are urging parents and motorists to increase safety measures. Page 3



Photo by Spc. Matthew Chlosta

Burn baby burn

Fort Huachuca Fire Department firefighter Peter Bidegain ignites a blaze in preparation for testing of the Army's newest Tactical Fire Fighting Truck. The TFFT was tested on Fort Huachuca at Range 6 Friday. The fort was selected as the testing site because of its multi-platform firefighting facilities. See related story and more photos on Page 4.

New chief of staff takes office

BY STAFF SGT. MARCIA TRIGGS
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

In a small, inconspicuous Pentagon ceremony, Gen. Pete Schoomaker came out of retirement Friday and swore to uphold the duties as the Army's 35th chief of staff.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld was the first to make remarks during the ceremony, which was held in the office of Les Brownlee, the acting Army secretary. More than once Rumsfeld thanked Schoomaker and his wife, Cindy, for returning to duty.

"I'm absolutely delighted that General Schoomaker is going to undertake this responsibility," Rumsfeld said. "It's an enormously important one — not just for the Army but for the country."

See CHIEF on Page 5

Fiori: "You live in a beautiful place here"

ASA (I&E) praises fort for environmental stewardship

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

Many installations boast of being an excellent community where soldiers live, work and play, but Fort Huachuca was validated as one of the Army's best by one of the Department of the Army's top civilian leaders.

Dr. Mario Fiori, Assistant Secretary of the Army (In-

stallations and Environment), visited the historic installation July 30-31 and personally commended the fort's overall team effort for its outstanding record of environmental stewardship.

"It's totally obvious Fort Huachuca exceeds the total Army standard for environmental stewardship," Fiori said. "I attended the White House Closing the Circle award which the fort earned in water conservation, so I know firsthand of the fort's efforts."

As the ASA (I&E), Fiori has overall responsibility for the design, construction, operations, maintenance and management of Army instal-

lations; privatization of Army family housing, real estate and other infrastructure programs; environmental conservation, compliance, clean-up and site disposal programs and for management of the Army's safety and occupational health programs.

During his visit he met with various military and civilian leaders including Maj. Gen. James "Spider" A. Marks, Fort Huachuca commanding general, Col. Lawrence Portouw, garrison commander, and Dr. Randy Groth, Arizona Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army.

Portouw viewed the visit

See FIORI on Page 5

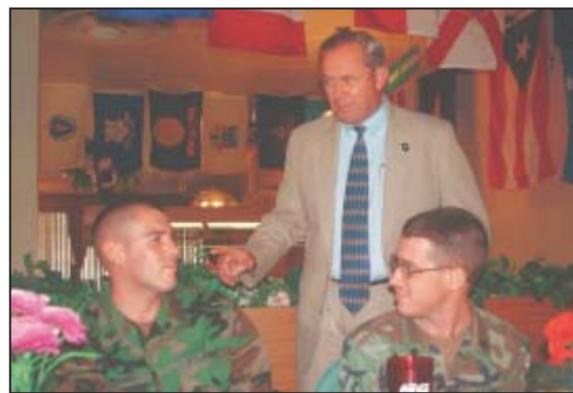


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Dr. Mario Fiori, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Environment), center, shares a word with Sgt. Jason Thomas, left, and Spc. James Rumble, both of 111th Military Intelligence Brigade. Fiori had lunch with both married and single soldiers and discussed future Army housing and barracks initiatives as part of his visit to Fort Huachuca July 30-31.

Open window gives captains career options

BY STAFF SGT. MARCIA TRIGGS
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

When a transportation officer was told that after working 14 years in his field that he was going to have to take a different career path he was not surprised or upset.

"I asked for it," said Maj. Dennis McCallum, a force management officer.

Now a 90-day window is open to give 27,000 captains the chance to ask for their second career field. Junior captains in the 1998 year group have from Aug. 1 to Nov. 1 to submit their preference www.us.army.mil, the Army Knowledge Online Web site.

For the first time, the officers can choose their branch career field, which was assigned to them after they were commissioned into the Army.

"If you don't make a selection, that doesn't mean that you're choosing to stay in your branch career field, said Maj. Jason Lerner, the chief of Military Schools Section at the Total U.S. Army Personnel Command. "No selection means that you don't have a preference, and can be assigned based on Army requirements."

Most officers never work in the second field that they opted for, Lerner said. However, it's a decision that shouldn't

be taken lightly, McCallum said. "If they're only looking ahead four to five years, they're off target. Considering factors in making the decision should be experience, background and where they want to be in future."

McCallum said he's very content in his current field. He manages equipment and makes sure that soldiers get what they need to do their job. While mentioning peers of his that are unhappy with their career-move decision, he shook his head.

"They're still in those jobs," he said.

The decision to choose a second career path is given to junior captains after five or six years of service. It's referred to as functional area designators that are technical or skill-based jobs such as public affairs, foreign area and nuclear research operations.

Lerner will continuously keep track of how many captains have submitted a functional area preference. Any officer who does not comply should expect a phone call or e-mail message from his branch manager, Lerner added.

More information on the Army's 18 functional area designators and step-by-step instructions on how to submit preferences can be found on the PERSCOM homepage at www.perscom.army.mil/opfamd/FAD_Upcoming_Boards.htm.

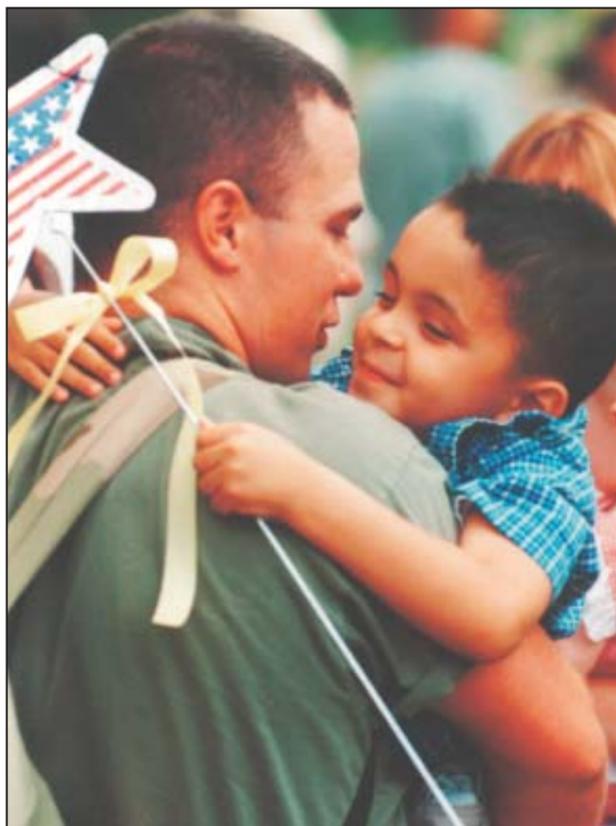


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Daddy's home

Sgt. Sean Burke, 19th Signal Company, hugs his five-year-old son Felix after returning to Fort Huachuca Friday following his deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Nearly 50 11th Signal Brigade soldiers returned in all.

TeamTalk

BY MAJ. GEN. JAMES "SPIDER" AND MARTY MARKS
USAIC&FH COMMANDER & SPOUSE

It's hard to believe summer vacation is just about over! Can you believe that schools will be back in session next week?

Marty and I hope these summer months have been a chance for you and your family to spend quality time together so you can head into the fall recharged and ready to go.

The start of a school year is always challenging, and especially so for students of military families.

Our frequent moves can make what are often already traumatic teen-age years even more difficult.

Transitions from one community and school to another involve the difficulties of leaving friends and having to find a place in a new neighborhood and school.

For our teens, though, these transitions can be even more critical because of varying graduation requirements levied by different states.

The military has made great strides in the last several years in

working to standardize graduation requirements so our high-school students are not penalized academically for being part of a mobile, military family.

If you have any questions about schools or student transition issues, Javier Barron, our school liaison officer, is here to help. Call him at 533-1133.

We encourage all parents to start off this school year by being truly involved in your children's education.

Keeping up with school activities can sometimes be a daunting task for busy families, but take the time to get to know your children's teachers, attend school open house, and make sure you're digging through your kids' backpacks to find all the notes coming home from school.

The Academic Booster Club – just started last year – is a super program designed to help Buena High School provide an academic environment that is second to none.

It encourages parents to get involved in their high-schoolers' education and makes more academic opportunities available to students by



providing volunteers and supplemental funding for special academic programs.

Projects so far have included an SAT preparation class, a school improvement forum (Building a Better Buena – B³) and a scholarship program.

This is an excellent way for all of us parents to contribute to our kids' positive academic experience at

Buena High School.

If you want to get involved in the Academic Booster Club, there will be a sign-up table at Buena's open house Aug. 28.

You can also call Mr. Barron or visit the Buena High School Web site at sierravistapublicschools.com/bhs/bhsnews.htm.

This is one way you can do your part to ensure your children get the quality education they need and we expect.

We also have great programs here on Fort Huachuca for our kids.

Our brand-new, state-of-the-art facility for our school-age children (grades one through five) allows plenty of room for these kids to play, study, and take part in a whole host of before and after school activities.

The new School Aged Services (SAS) building is located directly across from the main post chapel.

The move of the younger school-aged children to this new building has now allowed the older kids (grades six through 12) to have more room at their "home away from home," the youth services building.

The Youth Services building is located across the street from Smith Middle School.

In fact, right now we're in the middle of construction of a technology center (a new computer center where the kids can do their homework or have supervised Internet access) as well as a teen lounge.

The lounge will be a great place for these kids to hang out, listen to music, play games, have snacks, and watch TV – all in a safe, supervised setting.

The only cost to use this facility is a \$15 per year (\$35 per family maximum) after-school program fee, and the youth center is open every weekday after school (Monday until 6 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday until 8 p.m.; Friday until 10 p.m.) and Saturday (from 1 to 10 p.m.).

See MARKS, Page 3



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

*"If you watch a game, it's fun.
If you play it, it's recreation. If you
work at it, it's golf."*

Bob Hope

Bob Hope, an icon of laughter and goodwill, died last week. He was quietly buried last Wednesday morning, but there are plans for a big memorial celebration commemorating his life on Aug. 27. The world lost a good man.

Three comments on Mr. Hope's life stick in my mind and I want to share those with you.

First, one of the television shows broadcast a story of three soldiers who saw Bob at USO tours. The interesting thing was that they were a grandfather, father and son/grandson who saw him during World War II, Vietnam and the Gulf War - about a 50-year span. As an ambassador of goodwill in times of war, Bob Hope brought a glimpse of home and "normalcy" to those on the battlefield.

Second, our local paper had a tribute to Mr. Hope stating, "Hope was the best name for this man because that's what he brought to so many - hope." Thinking about that, I believe there are several dynamics to how he did that.

He gave hope to entertainers. He failed as a boxer, but did well in Vaudeville, later in stand-up, radio, movies and television (62 years with NBC!). He made it possible for others to see they could achieve more and set the standard for comedy.

He gave hope to the military, again by his being himself amid combat and hardship. A standard line he used when shots were heard while he was entertaining was, "Gee, I wonder which one of my movies they saw."

He gave hope to family life being married to Dolores for 69 years, and adopting four children. He inspired others to understand what matters in marriage and what it is to share life with children.

Third, a radio commentator noted that Bob Hope, Milton Berle and George Burns lived long lives. He attributed that to laughter. Thinking about it, I believe there is much to that. Have you ever noticed that as people age, the real "fun" ones are always finding something good about life, even as gets rough and contains hardship?

"You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake" and "I went to play golf and tried to shoot my age, but I shot my weight instead" are two of Bob's quotes on aging. It made him, and George, laugh past 100 years - Uncle Milty almost made it too.

I believe the world is going to miss Bob Hope for a long time to come.

But he left us a legacy: to care, to hope and to laugh. I believe these to be wonderful gifts to the world. I also believe that Bob could leave us such a legacy because he knew he was cared for by other people and through his relationship with God.

He hoped because he understood God's hope for the world. He laughed, because he knew God created the world as good and there is nothing better than a good laugh.

We all leave a "legacy" every time we PCS, ETS, move, leave home, or die. Maybe it would be a good thing for us to review "our being" and ensure we leave behind what we want to, as people will remain to remember us.

Maybe it would be good to review "our being" and see the care, hope and laughter in our lives - from within ourselves, from relationships with others and through the relationship we have with God and his creation.

6
Days left
until
Fort
Huachuca
Schools
open



Scout on the Street

Why is safety important?



*"Safety is ongoing.
As soldiers we
need to always
figure out the best
plan using risk
assessments and
continue the
mission."*

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Long
Company A,
306th Military Intelligence
Battalion



*"Because an ounce
of prevention is
worth a pound of
cure."*

Sgt. 1st Class Fredrick
Warren, Headquarters and
Headquarters Company,
111th Military Intelligence
Brigade



*"To ensure the well-
being of soldiers,
family members
and all of the
Army's resources"*

Sgt. 1st Class Alan
McKinney, HHC, 111th MI
Bde.



*"Because
everybody gets out
of hand sometimes.
Thinking safety
helps keep
everyone in the
right mindset."*

Pvt. Wesley Eitel,
Headquarters and
Headquarters Company,
U.S. Army Garrison



*"Safety is critical to
any training event
particularly in the
high operational
tempo we're in
today."*

Capt. John Luker,
Company A, 304th Military
Intelligence Battalion



*"Because it keeps
the Army more
effective to perform
our mission."*

Sgt. Arkorn Singhaseni
Company A, 306th MI Bn.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

The Fort Huachuca Scout

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POV accidents continue to kill soldiers at alarming rate

BY SPC. MATTHEW CHLOSTA
SCOUT STAFF

More soldiers died in Privately Owned Vehicles in 2002 than has been killed by enemy fire thus far in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, according to United States Army online safety magazine *Countermeasure*.

"POV accidents are the biggest cause of fatal injuries in the Department of Defense," said Bruce Heran, installation safety officer, here. "The amount of POV accidents are the highest in a decade, as is the non-use of seatbelts across the U.S."

"Roughly, across the DoD, 60 percent of all its fatalities are in POVs. It is the leading cause of death by far for the military."

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation 2002 highway fatality statistics, the number of crash-related injuries are at an all-time low. The number of fatalities reached the highest number in 12 years."

"The more serious accidents are occurring more frequently," added Heran. "Forty-one percent of the automobile fatalities are alcohol involved, roughly two out of five. Last year 43,000 people died in automobile accidents."

Heran highlighted that in 60 percent of the fatal accidents, passengers did not wear seatbelts, and most of the deaths occurred when vehicle

occupants were ejected from the vehicle.

"If you stay within a vehicle during an accident, your odds of surviving are 25 times greater than if you are ejected from it," Heran said.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta spoke about traffic safety July 17, saying, "I personally urge states to pass tough laws prohibiting drunk driving and requiring the use of safety belts."

"Once and for all we must resolve the national epidemic on our highways," added Mineta.

"We kill more soldiers on our streets here, than we lose over in OIF and OEF overseas," said Heran speaking about the needless deaths from POV accidents in the Army.

The leading causes for Army POV fatalities are alcohol, speed, fatigue, and failure to wear seatbelts, added Heran.

"Seatbelts are required by Army regulation," said Heran, "on and off post for active-duty military, seven-days-a-week, 24-hours-a-day."

And, civilian employees of DoD must use seatbelts while they are in the pursuit of government business."

Many states also require drivers and passengers in the front seat of a POV to wear a seatbelt, including Arizona, added Heran.

"The failure to use seatbelts is almost inexcusable," said Heran.

"If you drink and drive or fail to wear your safety belt, taking those risks may cost you your



File photo

According to Department of the Army Safety Center statistics, privately owned vehicle accidents are the number one killer of soldiers Armywide. The soldier involved in the accident above survived due in part to wearing his seatbelt. In most cases, soldiers don't wear seatbelts, often leading to fatalities.

life," said Jeffrey Runge, NHTSA administrator. "On the other hand, driving sober and wearing a belt will significantly increase your chance of

survival on the highway."

(This is the first of a two-part series on POV safety).

DPS encourages back-to-school safety

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY RELEASE

It's time to start wiping the dust off the backpacks and sharpening the old number twos again because school is right around the corner.

With that comes a whole host of concerns not seen during the lazy days of summer, to include enforcement of school rules and regulations.

For the first several weeks of school the military police will be heavily enforcing school zones, with zero tolerance for anyone exceeding the posted speed limit.

"The speed limit is 15, not 16, miles per hour. There will be zero tolerance," said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Ransford, Law Enforcement Operations NCOIC. "In the school zone a driver going 16 miles per hour will be issued a citation."

A school zone speeder can expect to pay \$50 and up, depending on how fast the driver was going.

Military police vehicular patrols, as well as walking patrols, will monitor all three schools on post.

"In and around schools, there are 5-year-old to 14-year-old kids just being kids," Ransford said. "They're not paying attention when they're walking. Even at 15 miles per hour a driver may not have enough time to stop for a child."

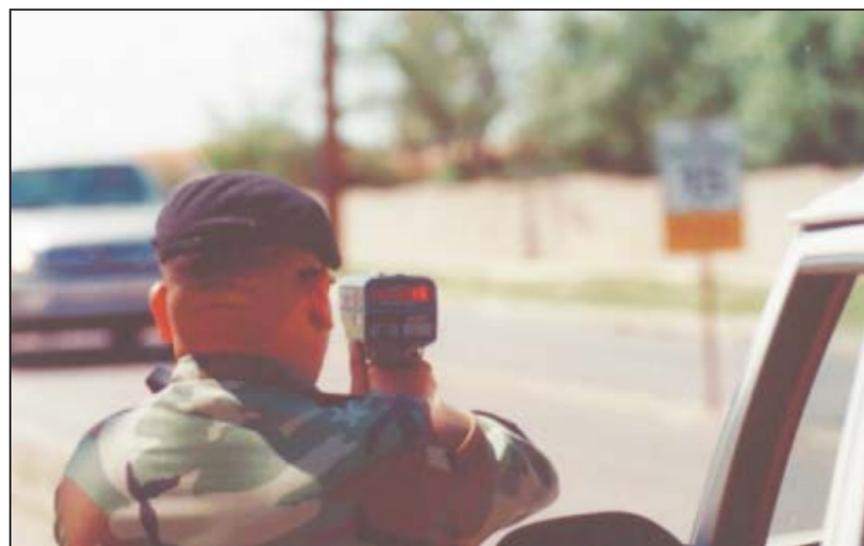
Speed enforcement is put in place to make the post a safer place for children walking or biking to and from school. Ransford also stressed drivers should not double park when dropping children off.

"You must find legal parking or you will be issued a citation," Ransford said.

Regardless of how your child gets to school, there should be a plan of attack for each new school year, especially for children who recently relocated or changed schools.

When a child is involved in an accident or incident, they should already know what to do. This means teaching children who are "good" and "bad" strangers, providing them with phone numbers to call, and knowing what to do to get out of a dangerous situation.

The following is a guideline to minimize back-to-school problems:



File photo

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

- Plan a route to and from school well in advance, to avoid a child getting lost and frightened.
- Teach children to obey all traffic laws, signs, warnings, and patrols.
- Warn children against playing with cats, dogs and stray non-domestic animals.
- Use the buddy system. Groups are less likely to be involved in incidents than individuals. Groups also can send someone to call for help.
- Give children work, home and cell numbers, as well as emergency numbers, such as 911. Also, provide change for pay phones.
- When dropping a child off, don't leave until the child has made it all the way inside the school grounds.
- Tell children to trust their instincts.
- Ask the school to contact you when the child is absent.

For bike riders 5-14 years old, head injuries are a leading cause of death. Wearing a helmet significantly reduces the risk of serious injury on a bicycle.

Parents should be aware that one of the

safest ways to get to school is the school bus. School buses are one of the safest motor vehicles on roadways.

All drivers should be aware that school buses have a danger zone. If children have accidents or injuries, such as falling down, it usually occurs within 10 feet of every direction from the bus and any distance behind the bus.

Children must be taught to get on and off the bus safely, then move away from the bus. If the driver's face can not be seen in the mirrors, then the driver cannot see you.

Motor vehicle operators are also reminded that drivers must stop in every direction when there is a school bus stopped on the roadway.

"Remember that it's back-to-school time and there are going to be hundreds of those little guys and girls out there," Ransford said. "Pay attention and help everyone have a safe school year."

Editors note: This is a continuation of Directorate of Public Safety articles to make the community aware of DPS missions and issues involving public safety.

MARKS from Page 2

What a great opportunity for our kids! The youth center also offers nifty, low-cost, all-day school break programs (for example, during spring vacation).

If you want more information, just call the youth center at 533-3027/3212.

A smooth back-to-school transition is definitely a team effort – students, parents, schools, and our Fort Huachuca staff.

The resources are here to help; take advantage of them. Marty and I thank you all for your help and support on behalf of our most precious resources – our children.

Have we got news for you!

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



Major promotion

William Albury pins on his wife's rank, Sgt. Maj. Wanda Blount-Albury, during her promotion ceremony to sergeant major Friday. She was promoted to the highest enlisted rank after wearing master sergeant stripes for only 72 days. In May she was promoted to E-8 five years after her promotion should have gone into effect.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

New program to prevent children from being left alone in cars

SPC. MATTHEW CHLOSTA
SCOUT STAFF

Fort Huachuca Safety Office personnel have begun an initiative on post where members of the organization will walk through parking lots looking for children locked in cars.

The proactive program was started after hearing about problems in Tucson with people leaving children and pets locked in cars on hot summer days, according to Bruce Heran, post safety officer.

"We thought it would be a good thing to start looking in cars in parking lots," Heran said. "My folks are routinely all over the post looking at other stuff. So, what I have asked them to do when they go through various parking lots, including the post exchange, Barnes Field House, the commissary and other places they have to walk through, is to look in cars for kids and pets."

Heran added his staff would advise violators that leaving children locked in cars is not a safe thing to do, and they are also trying to develop a handout to give to people warning them of the dangers.

There is a specific law in Arizona against leaving your pet locked in your car. However, there are no laws for leaving children in locked cars, said Herran. The closest penalty is child endangerment for leaving children in locked cars.

According to Heran, many people don't realize that in as little as 10 minutes the temperature inside a car can go up 50 degrees or more in the hot sun. If it is already 90-100 degrees outside, this can become life threatening to a child or a pet in a very short period of time.

"When we find a situation like this," continued Herran, "we try to identify whose car it is, where it is and contact the owners."

So far, Safety Office personnel have found two vehicles on post where this has occurred. One of the vehicles had several children in it, said Herran. The doors in both cases were not locked.

"The children could get out, but they had been told by their parents not to," Heran said.

"So far at this point we aren't writing tickets yet," Heran said. "We are trying to educate people. We expect to continue this throughout the summer. Depending on the results, we will make some sort of formal program or policy guidance for the command. We want to protect your children."

If you see a car with children locked inside, see if you can identify the owner or the occupant of the car, added Herran.

If the car isn't locked, continued Heran, get the kids out right away. If the car is locked and the kids look like they are in distress, call 911 and have the military police come to the scene.

"Use common sense. It is best to err on the side of caution," Heran said.

Army's newest fire truck gets first test on fort's terrain

BY SPC. MATTHEW CHLOSTA
SCOUT STAFF

The United States Army Operational Test Command put the Army's new Tactical Fire Fighting Truck through a wild land firefighting test-burn Friday at Range 6.

The mission for the two TFFT's and their crews led by Sgt. 1st Class Gary Miller, an Army active-duty fire chief and non-commissioned officer in charge, 4th BDE, 91st Div., 3/364 Eng., Fort Lewis, Wash., was to extinguish, contain and control a wildland fire using the TFFT's.

"The mission was successful," said Miller. "The crews did a great job. They responded well."

The TFFT test burn began when Peter Bidegain, lead firefighter, Fort Huachuca Fire Department and Ronnie Castro, engineer, FHFDD ignited the dry grass, brush and straw with a diesel gasoline drip torch.

The wildfire measured approximately five-acres across. The wind caused the blaze to crackle and spit flame upwards of six feet in the air.

The air had become heated and thick with smoke when Miller radioed over his walkie-talkie to his TFFT crew to drive in and extinguish the blaze. The military firefighters were waiting about a half-mile away at a staging area.

Once Miller's call went through, the firefighting convoy including two TFFT vehicles, two regular Army Humvees and a crew of 17 Army Reserve firefighters, from various Regional Readiness commands, sped to the burn-site. Reserve firefighters were used because most of the active duty units are deployed.

At the top of Range 6 awaited two fire trucks from the FHFDD Fire Station 2 at the ready just in case the blaze went out of control.

At a pre-test coordinating meeting, Alan S. Urkov, a lieutenant with FHFDD said, "The fire department will monitor the area and the fire to make sure it won't get away. The fire department will surround the area."

Once the vehicles and firefighting crews arrived, the two TFFT's split up to tackle the fire from two different directions. One TFFT and a Humvee went to the north end of the range and one TFFT and Humvee went to the south end.

The two sets of Army firefighters attacked the blaze using various hoses, axes, hoes and the water cannon, which was positioned on the front of the TFFT under the windshield.

Another unique feature of the TFFT is a roof turret where a two-man team turned a torrent of water on the inferno.

The fire was extinguished after about an hour and left the maize-colored brush charcoal black. The exercise concluded as several firefighters walked over the scorched patch of Range 6 and sprayed down "hot-spots" with water from flexible water backpacks. They also covered smoldering spots with dirt.

Jerry W. Morris, test officer with the Army's Combined Arms Support Test Division, Engineer/Combat Support Test Directorate, Fort Hood, Texas, coordinated the testing of the TFFT.

"We give equipment to soldiers and collect data on how it works in an operational environment," said Morris. "We perform tests on any new Army equipment, including boots, tanks, trucks and rifles. Once testing is complete we send the data we collect to the Army Evaluation Center for evaluation. They provide a fielding recommend to the Army."

The TFFT received kudos and praise from the firefighters at the conclusion of the training exercise.

"The TFFT is more versatile and is multi-workable across many different scenarios," Miller said. "It can go from point A to point Z relatively easy. It is a great all-terrain vehicle."

Comparing the new fire truck to its older counterpart, Miller



A firefighter sprays down a hot spot towards the end of the training exercise on Range 6. The firefighters tested the new Tactical Fire Fighting Truck's capabilities on Fort Huachuca because of the rugged terrain.

"We give equipment to soldiers and collect data on how it works in an operational environment. We perform tests on any new Army equipment, including boots, tanks, trucks and rifles."

Jerry Morris,
Test officer,

Army Combined Arms Support Test Division

said the TFFT outfits six firefighters, while the previous truck could only handle four.

"This vehicle has a lot more bells and whistles and will be more reliable long term," Miller said.

According to <http://www.oshkoshtruck.com>, the TFFT is a multi-functional vehicle that's ready to deploy whenever needed for aircraft rescue, fuel storage protection, structural firefighting, wild-land firefighting and rescue extrication in almost any terrain.

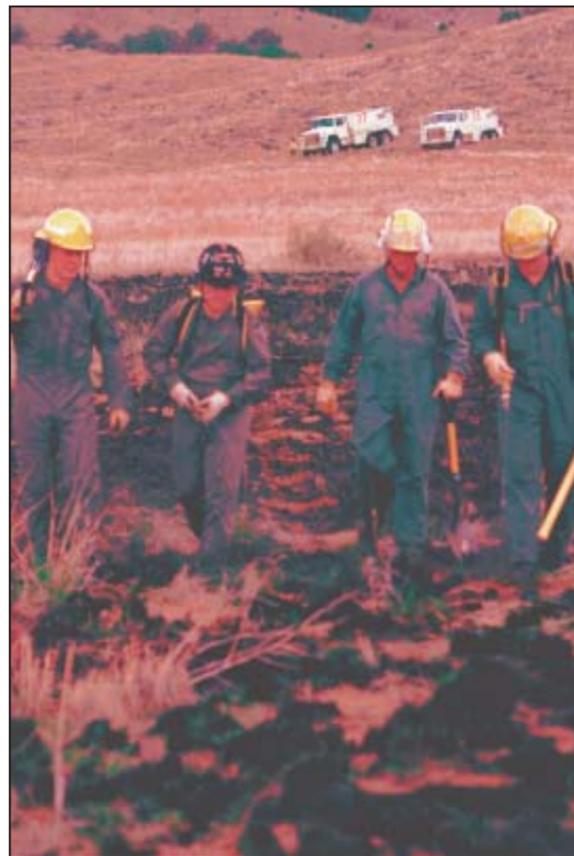
Fort Huachuca was chosen as the testing facility for the TFFT because of the post's multi-platform firefighting training facilities, said Urkov. The vehicle is meant as an all-purpose firefighting vehicle.

At Libby Army Airfield there is a structural training tower and a training aircraft that are both being used by the TFFT team. But more importantly, Fort Huachuca provided the best terrain according to Miller.

"We wanted a high-heat climate," Miller said. "We are preparing for deployments to desert type theaters these days, so we wanted to test the TFFT on various types of rough terrain. And, we wanted to train in isolation so we could focus solely on our mission."

The TFFT wildland fire test was the culmination of two weeks of the military firefighting crew's testing, said Morris. The team rested over the weekend and began their final week of testing the TFFT's capabilities, Monday.

Morris said, the Army Reserve firefighters will repeat the same rescue scenarios including structural firefighting, aircraft emergencies and vehicle extraction.



The firefighters examine the area for hot spots before leaving Range 6.

But, they will now perform the missions at night. The wild land burn will not be repeated as a night scenario.

"There are four TFFT's built so far, said Morris. "The fielding date is being targeted for late summer 2004. Fort Rucker, Ala. and the Army Fire Fighting school at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas are the only active-duty units scheduled to get the TFFT's. The remainder will go to Army Reserve firefighting units."



Photos by Spc. Matthew Chlosta

Army Reserve firefighters uses hoses attached to the Tactical Fire Fighting Truck to extinguish hot spots during testing of the new fire truck. The testing, supervised by the Army's Combined Arms Support Test Division, Engineer/Combat Support Test Directorate, Fort Hood, Texas, provides feedback on the equipment to see if it fits soldiers needs in the field.

CHIEF from Page 1

Before retiring in August 2000, Schoomaker served 31 years in the military. He said that he knows this Army is very different from the one he entered.

"I truly feel blessed to be part of the Army's future," Schoomaker said. "I have the opportunity to contend and help the Army as it becomes more relevant and ready."

Schoomaker will lead the Army on the heels of retired Gen. Eric Shinseki, the former Army chief of staff. Shinseki started the move toward Transformation and later oversaw an Army transforming while at war.

The War on Terror is not a new war, according to a statement Schoomaker released shortly after his swearing-in ceremony. Twenty-three years ago in the Iranian desert during Operation Desert One, Schoomaker said he lost eight of his comrades.

Schoomaker said he knew grief, but he didn't know that he was in the opening en-

gagements of this country's long struggle against terrorism.

"Our enemies have been waging [this war] for some time, and it will continue for the foreseeable future," according to the statement. "As the president has stated, 'This is a different kind of war, against a different kind of enemy.' It is a war we must win, a war for our very way of life."

Schoomaker's vast experience in both conventional and special operations, along with his genuine care and concern for soldiers and their families qualifies him to lead the Army at a very critical time in history, Brownlee said in a press release.

The Army's newest chief of staff is the first retired four-star officer ever to be called back to serve as the U.S. Army chief of staff. He and his father are also one of the few father-and-son teams to serve in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army.

His father, Fred Schoomaker, who also had a long-standing military career, was the assistant to Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold Keith Johnson from 1964-1968.

Schoomaker comes from a household of career military men. His younger brother, Brig. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, is the chief of the Southeast Regional Medical Command.

Before hanging up his uniform in 2000, Schoomaker spent three years as commander-in-chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Prior to that he commanded the Joint Special Operations Command, United States Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C. Then he became commanding general of



Photo by Jerome Howard

New Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker is sworn in as the 35th Chief of Staff by Les Brownlee, acting Army Secretary, in the Pentagon Friday. Schoomaker's wife, Cindy, is holding the Bible.

the United States Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg until October 1997.

FIORI from Page 1



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Dr. Mario Fiori, Assistant Secretary of the Army (installations and Environment) praised Fort Huachuca for its environmental track record during his visit.

“Fort Huachuca has done a super job. The water and wildlife conservation efforts speak that you're good neighbors and good stewards of the environment.”

**Dr. Mario Fiori,
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Installations and Environment)**

as great opportunity to share the fort's scenic beauty and proven environmental track record with leaders at the Department of the Army level.

"Our visit with Dr. Fiori was both enjoyable and informative," Portouw said. "Fort Huachuca is a model installation and we enjoy showing our senior Army leadership our missions, history, and quality of life."

One of the highlights of his tour was a chance to sit down with soldiers and discuss their concerns about family housing and barracks.

He shared his thoughts with the mix

of both married and single soldiers on future Army initiatives and expressed his satisfaction with the ongoing construction of housing on the installation.

Since Fiscal Year '98, Fort Huachuca has built 235 new family housing units at more than \$32 million. Last fiscal year 88 old homes were demolished to make way for new housing construction that is currently taking place on the installation.

Earlier this year the fort was named "Best Housing and Facilities," in the second *Army Times* "Best Post" competition.

"What we're doing is looking at first – improving the housing," Fiori said. "We have budgeted through time to replace the old housing."

"We're also looking at ways to improve our barracks. The barracks aren't the newest barracks in the world, but we have a program in the Army to tear down and rebuild new barracks."

He added the Army is looking at other initiatives such as allowing single soldiers options that they didn't have in the past, like being allowed to move off post.

Fiori was given a tour of a home in the new Bonnie Blink housing area and walked away impressed.

"This place is great. I'm ready to move in," Fiori said. "You live in a beautiful place

here."

Overall Fiori was also impressed with the progress Fort Huachuca has accomplished from an environmental standpoint and tied the fort's efforts with the total Army effort of protecting the environment.

In the past year the installation has garnered the White House Closing the Circle award for the post's water resources management process system; a 2002 Secretary of the Army Environment Award for natural resources conservation and a 2002 Secretary of Defense Annual Environmental Award for its natural resources conservation program.

Additionally the fort was recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency as a Champion of Green Environment for reducing environmental pollution.

"We [the Army] are excellent stewards of the environment and we're all proud of what we do to protect it," Fiori said. "Throughout the Army we're doing a superb job of watching the environment and training our soldiers and civilians how to be environmental friendly."

"Fort Huachuca has done a super job. The water and wildlife conservation efforts speak that you're good neighbors and good stewards of the environment."

Community Updates

MI Library ceremony on Aug. 28

The Military Intelligence Library will conduct a ribbon cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. on Aug. 28 in order to hold a grand reopening by the commanding general, futures directorate and chief librarian. With the recent USAIC reorganization, the MI Library moved to the north side of the TMSB building (62723), adjacent to Sisler and Alvarado Halls.

Parent-student info night

High school students: You can take college courses at reduced tuition! Learn more 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12, at Cochise College, Sierra Vista Campus Library Commons. For more information, call 515-5347.

Aviation program at college

Cochise College will start offering its Aviation Program at Fort Huachuca beginning fall term/August 2003. Classes will begin Aug. 18.

The following courses will be offered:

PFT 101: Private pilot ground school, Monday-Wednesday, 5 - 9:30 p.m.

PFT 204: Instrument rating ground school, Tuesday-Thursday, 5 - 9:30 p.m.

PFT 103: Private pilot review.

All students will be required to enroll in Cochise College for the flight and/or ground training. Eligible active duty service members may use tuition assistance dollars to cover the \$55 per semester hour charge. PFT 101 and PFT 204 are both worth five semester hours each. PFT 103 is worth one semester hour, plus flying time.

Approximate total cost for the private pilot course, ground school and flight training is currently \$5,400. However, the total cost varies based on student progress and flight time required to demonstrate the minimum skills required by the FAA.

Eligible active duty service members and veterans may also use their Veterans Administration Educational Benefits.

The availability of VA funding for this program varies individually, and prospective students must talk to a Ft. Huachuca Education Center education services specialist (533-2047/5690/2390) or to a representative from Cochise College (533-2391/2395).

All classroom instruction will take place on the fort in the Education Services Directorate's education annex, bbuilding. 21112. Flight instruction will take place at the Sierra Vista Airport. Registration starts July 28 at the Education Center, building 52104. Call any of the above numbers to obtain more information on this or any other Cochise College program.

information on this or any other Cochise College program.

College offices closed on Monday

All Cochise College offices will be closed Monday when faculty and staff gather on the Douglas campus for convocation.

The following day, the college will resume regular hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students who wish to register early for fall classes are encouraged to visit campus before Aug. 16 or to register online at www.cochise.edu. Classes begin Aug. 18; late registration ends Aug. 25.

MEDDAC closed Friday

The Medical Activity Command, including the main PX pharmacies, will be closed on Friday at 11:30 a.m. in support of Organizational Day.

Suffrage play Aug. 26

The Equal Opportunity Office is hosting a luncheon and the presentation of a women's suffrage play entitled, "Failure is Impossible," Aug. 26 at 11:30 a.m. at LakeSide Activity Centre in celebration of Women's Equality Day.

The play chronicles some key events in the women's suffrage movement and paints a portrait of some of the personalities in the movement.

In 1971, Congress designated Aug. 26 as Women's Equality Day. The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution granting women the right to vote.

Tickets for the play and buffet luncheon cost \$8.25. Lunch includes baked chicken, meatloaf, whipped potatoes, vegetable du jour and baked rolls.

Contact your unit equal opportunity representative or call the post EO office at 533-1717.

Insurance questions

A representative for Arizona Blue Cross/Blue Shield will be available to answer your questions pertaining to health insurance benefits Wednesday, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in Room 5 at the Murr Community Center. If you have any questions regarding this event, please contact Eva Dixon at CPAC, 533-5735.



Kids on the Move classes

Army Community Service is offering a Kids on the Move class Aug. 19, 1:30 p.m., at ACS, building 50010.

Get tips that help children make their permanent change of station move more exciting and less stressful. This class provides parents the opportunity to learn some techniques to help children adjust to moving.

Registration is mandatory and must be completed by Aug. 15 by calling ACS at 533-2330. For additional information, contact Pamela Allen at 533-5919 or 533-2330.

Smooth Move

Smooth Move is a relocation workshop for first-termers and their family members. It will be held Aug. 19, 1 p.m., at Army Community Service, building 50010. The workshop is designed to help ease the stress of making the first military move. During the event, basic information on relocating will be covered, including relocation benefits, a moving checklist and a question and answer session.

Registration is mandatory and must be completed by Aug. 15 by calling ACS at 533-2330. For additional information, contact Pamela Allen at 533-5919 or 533-2330.

USAWOA monthly luncheon

The USAWOA Arizona Chapter will be conducting its monthly professional luncheon Thursday, Aug. 14, in the Peperoni Room at La Hacienda from 11:30 to 1 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Col. Michael Flynn, commander 111th MI Bde. He will be providing us with important and interesting information about his recent trip to Israel.

USAWOA welcomes all active, guard, reserve or retired Army warrant officers, their spouses and guests. You do not have to be current USAWOA member to attend. For more information contact WO1 Wilmer Acevedo at 520/538-6842 or e mail waceved@msn.com.

Banquet for wild turkey conservation

The Wild Turkey Super Fund Auction and Dinner, hosted by the Huachuca Gould's Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), will be held Aug. 16 at the Windemere Hotel and Conference Center off Highway 92 in Sierra Vista. The doors open at 5 p.m., for a social hour. Dinner will follow.

The banquet is \$75 per couple or \$50 per person. A year's membership is included.

Kudos Korer

The following soldiers have qualified for the MOVSM in June:

Sgt. 1st Class Todd S. Comprosky, 309th MI BN

Capt. Christian Deichert, 306th MI BN

Tech Sgt. Robert J. Blankenship, 314th Training Squadron

Staff Sgt. Edgil N. Hector III, HHC 111th MI BDE

Staff Sgt. Parrish S. Henderson, HHC 111th MI Bde

Staff Sgt. Jerry F. Jones, 306th MI Bn

Capt. Eddie L. Perry, 304th MI BN

CW4 Encarnacion M. Ramos, HHC 111th MI BDE

Spc. John P Rivera, HHC 111th MI BDE

CTM/SS John C. Worsley, US Navy Detachment

Pvt. Brian Gonzalez, C Co 305th MI BN

Pfc. Ryan Fairweather, C Co 305th MI BN
Capt. David M. Bornn, 304th MI BN

Sgt. 1st Class Wilda Smith, 306th MI BN.

VIP Volunteer for June is Bill "Willie" Turner. Turner retired from the U.S. Army after 22 years and then retired from civil service after 16 years. He has been a dedicated and caring volunteer for the Turn Around Point for three years, amassing almost 1,500 hours.

Turner is a father of five - all who serve in the military, either in the reserves or active duty.

Ft. Huachuca range closures, Aug. 7 - 13

Today Aug. 7 - AD, AE, AH, AK, AL, AR, AU, AV, AY, T1, T1A, T2
Friday Aug. 8 - AD, AE, AL, AM, AU, AY, T1, T1A, T2 T1, T1A, T2, T3
Saturday Aug. 9 - AD, AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AY, T1, T1A, T2
Sunday Aug. 10 - AD, AE, AU, T1, T1A, T2
Monday Aug. 11 - AD, AE, AK, AU, AW, T1, T1A, T2
Tuesday Aug. 12 - AD, AE, AK, AL, AM, AN, AU, AW, T1, T1A, T2
Wednesday Aug. 13 - AD, AE, AK, AL, AM, AN, AU, AW, AY, T1, T1A, T2

For more information on range closures, contact Range Control 533-7095.

Cost Warriors



Bruce has worked with the Education Services Directorate and has come up with numerous initiatives during this fiscal year. His MOS credentialing program is saving over \$5 million in tuition assistance monies and he has also developed a NO COST Basic Skills Education Program which entitles service members and their adult dependents to go to basic academic refresher courses for free. This saves the directorate \$1,800 for each course offered during the year. Estimated savings are approximately \$10,000 per year.

-Bruce Richardson



Proposed a preschool summer camp from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. daily during the summer. Every week she presented a different summer camp theme. Families could sign children up for one week or all 11 weeks. Due to the overwhelming response of our customers, children were placed on waiting lists during the first week of the program registration. An afternoon class was added to meet the demand. In June 2003 the hourly care revenue increased by 33 percent over June 2002.

-Helen Sites



Automated contract closeout initiative which he is exploring for future implementation. In our ACA Southern Region Contract Management Review, our inability to keep up with the backlog of contract closeouts was mentioned as a finding. Dave went to training and found that there is an automated way to do certain closeout of actions (those without excess funds). This initiative will potentially close out hundreds of actions automatically, saving manpower for more productive activities.

-Dave Freshour



Salinas led a report of survey that recovered \$390,000 of misplaced property. By tracking down the lost items, he averted reimbursement to the government by two employees. Salinas also located two extreme switches valued at \$50,000. His discovery may have avoided the cost of purchasing new switches.

-Bruce Salinas



During the time that a formal complaint is accepted by the EEO Officer for investigation, a request is forwarded to the Office of Complaints Investigation (OCI) in Sacramento, Calif. (our servicing office), costing OIC (a federal agency) anywhere between \$13- \$27 in mailing charges to return the file. Buhl, suggested that OCI shred the file at their location and only send us a 37 cent letter indicating that the file was closed for our records.

-Ann Buhl



Initially the range 9 project was projected to cost \$250,000; we received \$160,000. To accomplish this project, Mr. Miller essentially became the general contractor foreman. The largest projected cost was for a large dirt protective berm that was to be built between ranges 8 and 9, for safety reasons. By doing some research and splitting up the work between contractors, DIS and military, Miller was able to get our portion of the range done for less than \$100,000, so far.

-Scott Miller

Pets of the Week

“Midnight” is a male domestic short-haired all black cat. He came to the stray facility after being hit by a car. He has been recuperating at the vet clinic for four months and now is ready for a new home. He is litterbox trained and loves affection. Adoption fee is \$40 which includes neutering, all vaccines, microchipping and a feline leukemia test.

Veterinary Facility photos

“Bear” is a male Australian shepherd mix. He would be excellent with children and has a wonderful, sweet personality. He has been in the stray facility for five months and would love to find a new home. Adoption fee is \$40, which includes neutering, all vaccines, microchipping, and a heartworm test.

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.

 **Medical Activity Command**
