

A byte for Spike
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The Fort Huachuca Scout



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Scout reports

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

MLK celebration

The Fort Huachuca Equal Opportunity Office will host the Martin Luther King Jr. ceremony Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel.

Chaplain (Col.) Juan Loya will be the featured speaker in an event that will include recitals, singing, and voter registration.

The theme for this year's observance is: Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on...not a day off!

For more information, call the EO office at 533-5305/3696.

Tax center opening

The Fort Huachuca Tax Center will open Jan. 21 to help all military identification card holders with their 2002 tax returns.

Office hours are 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. Monday - Friday and 9 a.m. to noon on selected Saturdays. The Tax Center is located in De Rosy Cabell Hall, Building 22324 on Christy Avenue.

Casting call

The Fort Huachuca Public Affairs Office is looking for volunteers to appear in a commercial on the Army's core values.

Candidates must be available all day Tuesday and should come to the PAO Building 21115 (across the Brown Parade Field gazebo) before 10 a.m. that day. It is open to all soldiers.

For more information, call 533-1284.

Green to gold briefing

The next Green to Gold briefing will be held Friday from 11 a.m. - noon at the Army Education Center, Building 52104.

For questions or information for eligibility requirements call 533-2390/3010.

AFTB Level I classes

Come and find out what Army Family Team Building is all about. AFTB is having Level I training Monday and Tuesday from 5:30 - 9 p.m.

For more information, call 533-3686.

All Army Boxing

Bouts for this year's All Army Boxing contenders begin Jan. 21 at Barnes Field House. Bouts will also be held Jan. 22 and 24.

Winning contenders will advance to the Armed Forces Championships.

The event is open to all Morale, Welfare & Recreation authorized patrons and their guests. The ticket prices are: general seating for Jan. 21 and 22, \$5; championship night, \$8; three-night package, \$15; children 10 years and under, free.

Tickets are available at the MWR Box Office, MWR Rents, Eifler Fitness Center, Barnes Field House, Desert Lanes and at the Sierra Vista Safeway.

Fort Huachuca Scout

The Fort Huachuca Scout newspaper will be available in an electronic version until further notice at <http://huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO/scout.html>.

If you've got news for us, e-mail The Scout at thescout@hua.army.mil.

Commander's hotline

Get a formal response to your issues or concerns in just 10 working days with the Commanders Hotline.

Call 533-BOSS (533-2677) or e-mail commanders-hotline@hua.army.mil.

Suspicious letter forces housing evacuation



Photos by Staff Sgt. Robert A. Hyatt

Fort Huachuca emergency response personnel took precautionary measure in the event there was a biological hazard at the scene of the incident on Stedman Street. Five families were evacuated and the road was closed to travel.

Parcel determined no threat by FBI, CID

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

Five families were evacuated from Stedman Street in the Fort Huachuca housing area Tuesday after a resident notified the Directorate of Public Safety of a suspicious package that was received in the mail.

Subsequently an additional package was located at the Military Police Station. As a precautionary measure emergency response teams quickly responded to the area and closed off the street.

The FBI was notified and dispatched agents to determine if there was a potential hazardous material situation.

The agents determined there were no biological, verbal or written threat of the package and cleared the incident.

According to FBI officials, the letters appear to be part of a mass mailing campaign of anti-government propaganda. The agency advised they are currently following leads continuing to investigate the origin of the letters.

All of the families returned to their homes nearly an hour and a half after the incident began.

"This is the third or fourth letter received on the installation in the past several days," said Maj. Dan Ortega, director of Public Safety.

According to Marty Smith, special agent in charge, Criminal Investigation Division, residents have received the parcels through routine mail deliveries to their quarters.

The parcels have been addressed to residents at the quarters, but in each incident the recipients were unfamiliar with the sender's name and California address.

"We're providing this information to everyone to alert the Fort Huachuca community of these anti-government propaganda mail parcels, and to provide proper reporting procedures if in receipt of this type of parcel," Smith said.

Smith advised if anyone has received, or receives in the future, any mail parcel with an unfamiliar address from California, to not open it, and immediately contact CID at 533-5202 or the Military Police at 533-3000.



A Fort Huachuca fireman seals the letter that was sent to a housing resident on the installation. FBI personnel on the scene determined there was no biological threat from the package.

What to do in the event of a suspicious letter or package

- Do not open
- Do not shake
- Do not throw away
- Do not panic
- Do not notify CID at 533-5202 or the Military Police at 533-3000



Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert A. Hyatt

Permanent protection

Construction workers at the Main Gate prepare to build permanent barriers to better protect the safety of the Fort Huachuca community. Construction is scheduled to continue until the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Visitors are asked to use the East Gate when at all possible and vary arrival times to avoid backed up traffic at the gates. Also, ensure to slow down while driving past the construction zone. This is just one of the many projects anticipated for the gates this year.

Military healthcare information stolen

Army News Service release

Thieves made off with computer equipment and files from the office of a military healthcare contractor in Arizona Dec. 14, and the culprits now have access to social security numbers and other information about clients, according to TRICARE officials.

The contractor, TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp., provides services to military beneficiaries in the TRICARE Central Region. That region includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming and part of western Texas.

TriWest indicated the stolen data may include medical procedures, diagnostic codes for medical services, and locations and dates of services. TriWest will be mailing letters through Jan. 31 to inform all affected beneficiaries, officials said.

Beneficiaries may also obtain information from the TriWest Web site, <http://triwest.com>; or call toll-free the TriWest information line, (888) 339-9378; or e-mail TriWest at computertheft@triwest.com.

The identity and motive of those who committed the crime are not known, officials said. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service and other law enforcement organizations are investigating the incident. DoD has required all contractors working with the TRICARE system to assess current physical and electronic security

to ensure such theft does not occur again.

If you suspect that your personal information has been misused, officials recommend taking the following steps: Contact the fraud departments of each of the three major credit bureaus; close or suspend any accounts known or believed to have been tampered with or opened fraudulently; file a police report with local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.

If you suspect fraud and contact the credit bureaus, you should request that a "fraud alert" be placed in your file. You should also request a statement be placed in the file that asks creditors to call before opening any new accounts or changing any existing accounts, officials said.

The credit bureau fraud departments are listed below. Their normal operating hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

TransUnion
www.transunion.com
 Fraud Victim Assistance Department
 P.O. Box 6790
 Fullerton, CA 92834 800-680-7289,
 fax (714) 447-603434
 Equifax Credit Information Services
www.equifax.com
 Consumer Fraud Division
 P.O. Box 105069
 Atlanta, GA 30348 800-525-6285
 Experian
www.experian.com
 Experian's National Consumer Assistance
 P.O. Box 1017
 Allen, TX 75013 888-397-3742

The Social Security Administration, www.ssa.gov, is a source for information about social security number theft or misuse. If you suspect your SSN has been misused, officials recommend you call the SSA Fraud Hotline at (800) 269-0271.

The following SSA resources are available on the Internet:

SSA Fraud Hotline for Reporting Fraud: www.ssa.gov/oig/guidelin.htm; the Social Security Administration Publication No. 05-10002: www.ssa.gov/pubs/10002.html; and When Someone Misuses Your Number (SSA Pub. No. 05-10064): www.ssa.gov/pubs/10064.html.

If you suspect that you are the victim of identity theft, officials recommend you file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at (877) IDTHEFT (438-4338) or direct dial to (202) 326-2502. Also write the FTC at:

Identity Theft Clearinghouse
 Federal Trade Commission
 600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
 Washington, DC 20580

The FTC Web site is www.consumer.gov/idtheft. There is a free comprehensive guide there to help guard against and recover from identity theft.

One of the best ways individuals can catch identity theft is to regularly check their credit records, officials said.

(Editor's note: This story was compiled from American Forces Press Service, TRICARE Management Activity and TriWest news releases.)

credit bureaus and request that a fraud alert be placed in your file. The three major credit bureaus are TransUnion, Equifax Credit Information Services, and Experian (Credit Data Southwest), and may be reached at 800-680-7289, 800-525-6285 and 602-528-7785, respectively.

Why should you be concerned about identity theft?

- The Federal Trade Commission states that identity theft is the fastest growing crime today.
- The Secret Service estimates that in 1997 consumers lost more than \$745 million due to identity theft.
- A Florida Grand Jury estimated that the average identity theft crime costs the business community about \$17,000 per victim.
- A Government Accounting Office report discovered that the 10 states with the highest incidences of reported iden-

entity theft are Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin.

Where should you go for more info and help?

There are enormous amounts of Web sites currently available online that are dedicated to providing information on identity theft and how you can protect yourself from becoming the next victim. In addition, the Legal Assistance Office can help you coordinate an effective approach in battling against this fast-growing crime. Don't be the next victim – call for an appointment with a Legal Assistance Attorney.

The Soldiers' Lawyer is provided by your JAG Legal Assistance Office. Visit us on the Web at <http://huachuca-www.army.mil/usag/sja/la.html> or contact us at 533-2009 for an appointment. Legal advice may not be given over the phone.

The Soldiers' Lawyer

ABOUT THE TRIWEST COMPUTER THEFT

You've recently received a notice from TRICARE's Central Region health contractor, TriWest Healthcare Alliance, informing you of a recent break-in at one of its corporate facilities that resulted in the theft of some computer files – what should you do?

First, carefully read Attachment #2 contained within the notice. This page specifies what steps you can take to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft. It also explains what you can do if you suspect that your personal information has been misused to commit identity theft.

Second, act quickly. You must be proactive and take measures to protect yourself before thieves steal your identity. As TriWest suggests, start by contacting each of the three major

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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85613-6000. The PAO reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

To submit stories or inquiries, call (520) 533-1987, DSN 821-1987 or fax (520) 533-1280. For advertising, call (520) 458-3340 or fax (520) 458-9338.

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Tax Center to open

Legal Assistance Office release

The Fort Huachuca Tax Center will be open to assist with the preparation of 2002 income tax returns beginning Jan. 21.

Office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. - noon on select Saturdays.

The Fort Huachuca Tax Center is located in De Rosy Cabell Hall, Building 22324 on Christy Avenue. By being prepared, you can ensure that your taxes will be done correctly and quickly.

Here are some items you should bring with you to the tax center:

- **Your military ID card.** Eligible clients include active duty personnel and their family members and retired personnel and their family members. Please ensure to bring proof of status otherwise, we may not be able to assist you.

- **Social Security cards.** The number one reason the IRS rejects our e-file returns is because a name submitted on a return did not match the name in the Social Security database for the corresponding social security number, either because of errors or due to a name change such as by marriage. To avoid this problem, make sure to bring social security cards for you and all of your dependents or at a minimum some written documentation that contains the social security numbers at issue.

- **A voided or cancelled check.** This type of documentation will allow us to verify your account information if you choose to receive your refund by direct deposit.

- **Your 2001 tax return.** If you have access to or a copy of last year's return, please bring it as it will help facilitate fast and efficient service, especially if your return includes complex tax issues.

- **All tax documents that reflect income received for 2002.** This includes W-2 forms from all your employers, 1099R forms for retirement or pension, 1099 DIV forms for stock or mutual fund dividends, 1099INT forms for bank or bond interest, W-2G forms for gambling winnings and 1099-B forms for the proceeds from the sale of stock. An LES is not a W-2. If you sold stock — to include day trading — in 2002, please make sure to organize one single document that shows when you purchased each stock, how much you paid for it, when you sold the stock, and the sale price. If you do not have this information organized, we will not be able to organize it for you.

- **Any tax documentation that shows interest you paid during 2002 that is deductible.** This would include interest on mortgages (Form 1098) or student loans (Form 1098-E).

- **Other documents for possible tax deductions or credits.** This includes traditional IRA contributions (Form 5498) and receipts or other documents for the following: charitable donations; education expenses for books or tuition; child care expenses; unreimbursed business or moving expenses; alimony paid to name a few.

We look forward to helping you with your taxes, but please wait until you have received all of your tax forms before coming in. The bottom line is, the more organized you are, the better we can assist you.

If you have any tax questions prior to the opening of the Tax Center, call 533-2009 to make an appointment.



Nicholson Hall gates reinstalled

The gates in front of Nicholson Hall have been reinstalled. The gates are secured 24 hours a day, seven days a week with the exception of 5-7:30 a.m., Monday-Friday for physical fitness training. For emergency access through these gates, call the 111th Military Intelligence Brigade at 533-3631 or the 304th MI Bn. at 533-6511.

Warrant officer transformation

The United States Army Intelligence Center and School's guest speaker's program will feature beChief Warrant Officer 5 John Sparkman. He will discuss warrant officer transformation Monday. Briefings are at 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Fitch Auditorium. This brief is unclassified and open to all.

Main library hours extended

The Main post library will be open Monday-Thursday 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., and Friday-Sunday, 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. It will be closed on federal holidays.

For more information, call Natalie Danforth at 533-3041 or Anita Lewis at 538-4101.

AFAP needs volunteers

The Army Family Action Plan Conference Planning Committee is looking for volunteers. They are needed to be a part of the planning committee and subcommittee and assistance during the conference. AFAP is also looking for volunteers experienced in facilitating and issue development.

For more information, call 533-3686.

DOIM offers January classes

The Directorate of Information Management classes for January include the basic, intermediate and advance Access class, the basic and intermediate Excel class, the basic Word, Outlook, Practical PC and Form Flow classes. All classes are free and open to the Fort Huachuca community including spouses. New classes coming up include the advance Excel, the intermediate and advance Word and the advance Power Point.



For scheduling and details call 533-1111. Or look at the Web site Huachuca-www.army.mil/classes/index.htm, for more information.

Scholarships for military children

The 2003 Scholarships for Military Children Program has started. These are \$1,500 scholarships sponsored by the Defense Commissary Agency. Applications can be downloaded at www.commissaries.com or www.fisherhouse.org or picked up at any commissary. Deadline is Feb. 21. For more information, call 533-5540.



Volunteers needed

Interested in volunteering? Are you interested in volunteering on Fort Huachuca? Have a special skill or area of interest you'd like to share with others? Call the installation volunteer coordinator at 533-4823 or 538-4823 for more information.

Christmas tree recycling

The forestry section on the fort is recycling Christmas trees. Drop off your Christmas tree at one of the nine locations around post. Christmas trees from off post are also welcomed. No trees will be accepted after Jan. 31.

SEPC meeting

The Fort Huachuca's Special Emphasis Program Committee is having its next meeting Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. in the Equal Opportunity Office classroom, Building 22328. All Fort Huachuca personnel are invited. For more information, call 538-0276.

Spring Youth Fest

The Directorate of Community Activities, Child and Youth Services and Recreation Services Divisions will sponsor the annual "Spring Youth Fest" April 26. The Family Rediness Group vendor applications for this event are available now through March 20. Applications may be picked up at the Child and Youth Services Registration Office, or the Murr Community Center.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert A. Hyatt

Safe holiday season for all

Advanced Individual Training soldiers prepare to leave during the recent Exodus holiday period. During the two-week period all soldiers assigned to the installation that went away for the break returned safely. Also, the fort reported no DUI incidents making the period a safe holiday for all.

For more information, call Marty Johnson at 533-8437.

SV Special Olympics athletic events

The start of the Special Olympics Basketball season is almost here.

Practices will be held at the Huachuca Mountain Elementary School Gym on St. Andrews Street, off of Buffalo Soldier Road. Practice times will be 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The City Parks and Recreation services will not be able to pick up or deliver our athletes so it is placed upon the parents/guardians to bring the players.

Special Olympics Track and field practices is scheduled to start on Saturday, at the Barnes Field House and adjacent track.

Practice will be from 10 a.m.- noon. Medical forms will be required before any participation in scheduled track practices.

For more information, call Tom Whipp at 378-1927, Ray Roberts at 459-2553, Pat Sartain at 459-4975.



Free midday variety training

On Monday and Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Barnes Field House will sponsor midday variety training.

A healthy combination of high and low impact aerobics will be offered in addition to body sculpting, sports conditions, strength and circuit training.

All classes are taught to accomodate all fitness levels. A consent form is required to participate.

For more information, call Kathy Gray at 533-3180/5031.

Strength training offered

Start the new year off right. Barnes field House will offer strength training, and an equipment orientation program Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

The instructor is a certified personal trainer, a certified biomechanics of resistance training instructor and a certified nautilus instructor. One on one training sessions are available.

For more information, call 533-3180.



Uncontrollable pets will be micro-chipped at owners expense

By Sgt. Jessica Inigo
Time Out Editor

As of this fiscal year an update to Fort Huachuca regulation 40-116 Control and Care of Pets, Horses and Transient Animals has been made for vicious or repeatedly impounded pets.

Pets on post that have been identified for biting incidents, that have been impounded more than twice in a 12-month period, or for any other instance determined to be appropriate by the Veterinary Branch Chief must be micro-chipped at owner expense, according to the updated regulation.

Owners who refuse the mandatory micro chipping will be subject to immediate bar of the animal from the installation.

Micro-chipping a pet is a simple procedure that can cause a little blood shed, but helps in innumerable ways, according to Sgt. Gerard Galindo, noncommissioned officer in charge of the post Veterinary Clinic.

As its name implies, a microchip is implanted under the skin of the animal, usually between the shoulder blades, and is coded with a number.

This number is contained within a database with pertinent owner information, according to Capt. Dale Beebe, a post veterinarian.

Once a pet is micro-chipped veterinarians can always obtain owner information with a universal scanner for all types of chips.

Repercussions will be brought against owners who have uncontrollable pets.

Because these pets have already been identified as problematic, once micro-chipped pets become repeat offenders, owners will either have to remove the pet from post quarters or move off post with their pet.

"It's a responsibility issue," Beebe said. "Micro-chipping helps enforce the leash law and get those who are not being responsible to start acting more responsible."

Currently military police bring pets for impoundment three to four times a week, according to Galindo. These owners will be tracked through micro chipping and held accountable for loose animals on post. Repeated offenses will result in the loss of animal keeping privileges by order of the garrison commander.

"I think it's a good idea for all owners to get their pet micro-chipped. It gives the owner piece of mind when a pet is lost," Galindo said. "It's a universal retrieval system that can easily return a pet back home."

Interested pet owners can have animals micro-chipped for \$13 by calling 533-2767 for an appointment.



Photos by Sgt. Jessica Inigo

Spike's microchip was checked by a universal reader to ensure matching numbers. His chip was inserted in the case he gets lost or stolen.



Sgt. Gerard Galindo, noncommissioned officer in charge of the post Veterinary Clinic, installs a microchip into Spike. Spike belongs to Lynn Klemiski.



Pets on post that have been identified for biting incidents, or that have been impounded more than twice in a 12-month period must be micro-chipped at owner's expense.