



# The Fort Huachuca Scout



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September 11, 2003

## Scout reports

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

### Conference next week

The All Source Analysis System Users Conference, hosted by TSM ASAS, will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday. The conference is open to all interested personnel.

There is a \$10 registration fee. For information and registration, call Capt. Jake Crawford at 538-7218 or [crawfordj@hua.army.mil](mailto:crawfordj@hua.army.mil); Diane Rabb at 533-3504, [rabbd@hua.army.mil](mailto:rabbd@hua.army.mil) or Maj. Eva Branham at 538-8316, [branham@hua.army.mil](mailto:branham@hua.army.mil).

### Town Hall Tuesday

Residents of Hall Circle, and Hanna, Patch, Fuller streets (Gatewood Community) are encouraged to attend a town hall meeting, 6-7 p.m. on Tuesday at the Murr Community Center.

The 306th Military Intelligence Battalion is the sponsoring unit.

For more information, call Sgt 1st Class Randy Flores at 533-2626 or 249-7863.

The meeting will address housing area issues, projects and improvements.

### SILC set

The Senior Intelligence Leaders Conference will take place from Sept. 22-26. All information regarding the conference can be found on the Web site at: <http://www.intel.army.mil/events/silc2003/home.asp>.

### Move rescheduled

The Garrison Commander and his headquarters staff's move planned for today and Friday to building 41402, Rodney Hall on Boyd Avenue has been postponed until mid-October.

## INSIDE

### A trip to Iraq

A widow of Sept. 11, 2001 relates her experiences in Iraq. She and two others traveled there to thank the soldiers.

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### Gen. Byrnes visits

TRADDOC commander comes to Fort Huachuca and sees close-up how the Military Intelligence schools teach their students.

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### Patriot's day

After the soot and dust settled on Sept. 11, 2001 many lives were changed.

One of the casualty's of the attack on the World Trade Center was Fire Marshall Ronald B. Bucca.

His son is now a soldier and talks of that day, his decision to join the Army and his future.

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Meet two soldier's who joined the Army with a resurgence of patriotism following the attack on America.

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# We remember, we honor, we celebrate our freedom

## Sept. 11, 2003



Photo illustration by Elizabeth Harlan

## We are America

Americans, left to right, Kirsten Dillingham, high school senior; LaMeta Benford, mother, wife and teacher; Jianna Legaspi, 4; Sgt. Luis E. Espinal, Company A, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, Ken Bowles, Department of the Army civilian with the Army Substance Abuse Program; Susan L. Johnson, disabled Army veteran and James C. Benford, 10, student.

## Two years have passed; memories still strong

Two years have passed since the terrorist agents of hatred and fear committed their attack on America on Sept. 11th, 2001.

On this second anniversary of that day, we pause to remember and honor the innocent men, women, and children who perished in those senseless acts of terrorism in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.

Our observances on Sept. 11 also serve as a reminder of the heroes—soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines—who have lost their lives in operations in the war against terrorism.

We will not forget, and will long honor, their devotion to this country and the principles we hold dear.

Soldiers are fighting today on behalf of our Nation—they are a critical component of the Joint Team, prosecuting the war on terrorism.

In 120 countries around the globe, our soldiers are serving bravely on the frontiers of freedom, and they and their families set the



Courtesy photo

Sept. 11, 2001

standard every day for selfless service. For more than 228 years, the Army has never failed the American people, and it never will.

We can all be justifiably proud of the Army's achievements in fighting terror and bringing liberty to the oppressed. The Taliban and al Qaeda are no longer terrorizing the citizens of Afghanistan. The brutal regime of Saddam Hussein has been forcibly removed. Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Free-

dom are vital parts of this Nation's unyielding campaign to destroy international terrorism and to restore global stability.

We pause today to honor those lost two years ago, those lost in the long days since Sept. 11, and all of their families.

The war on terrorism has demonstrated that our Nation and our Army are up to the task thrust upon us. We acknowledge the enduring contributions of the Army during the past two years, and our commitment remains constant. When the Nation calls, we will fight and win decisively.

We are proud of you, our Army family—soldiers, civilians, retirees, veterans, and your families, and you are al-

ways foremost in our prayers and in our actions.

Thank you for your service, for your sacrifices, and for your steadfast devotion to duty. Your courage, dedication to duty, and selfless service to the Nation are the hallmarks of the U.S. Army.

God bless each and every one of you and your families, God bless our magnificent Army, and God bless America.

**PETER J. SCHOOMAKER**  
GENERAL, UNITED STATES  
ARMY  
CHIEF OF STAFF

**LES BROWNLEE**  
ACTING SECRETARY OF THE  
ARMY

## Commentary

# 'When do I return?'

## Widow travels to Iraq to thank troops

BY CHRISTY FERER  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

When I told friends about my pilgrimage to Iraq to thank the U.S. troops, their reactions were underwhelming at best.

Some were blunt. "Why are you going there?" They could not understand why it was important for me, a widow of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, to express my support for the men and women stationed in the Gulf today.

But the reason seemed clear to me. Two hundred thousand troops have been sent halfway around the world to stabilize a culture that breeds terrorists like those who I believe began World War III on Sept. 11, 2001.

Reaction at home was so politely negative I began to doubt

my role on the first USO Tribeca Institute tour into newly occupied Iraq where, on average, a soldier a day is killed. Besides, with Robert De Niro, Kid Rock, Rebecca and John Stamos, Wayne Newton, Gary Senise and Lee Ann Womack, who needed me?

Did they really want to hear about my husband, Neil Levin, who went to work as director of New York Port Authority on Sept. 11 and never came home? How would they relate to the two other widows traveling with me?

Ginny Bauer, a New Jersey homemaker and the mother of three who lost her husband, David, and former Marine Jon Vigiano, who lost his only sons — Jon, a firefighter, and Joe, a policeman.

As we choppered over deserts that looked like bleached bread crumbs, I wondered if I'd feel like a street hawker, passing out Port Authority pins and baseball caps as I said "thank you" to the troops.

Would a hug from me mean anything at all in the presence of the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders and a Victoria's Secret model?

We arrived at the first "meet and greet." It made me weep. Armed with M16s and saddlebags of water in 120-degree heat, the soldiers swarmed over the stars for photos and autographs.

When they heard a trio of Sept. 11 family members was also in the tent, it was as if a psychic cork on an emotional dam was popped.

Soldiers from every corner of New York, Long Island and Queens rushed toward us to express their condolences. Some wanted to touch us, as if they needed a physical connection to our sorrow and for some living proof for why they were there.

One mother of two from Montana told me she signed up because of the terrorist attacks. Dozens of others told us the same thing. One young soldier showed me his metal bracelet engraved with the name of a victim he never knew and that awful date none of us will ever forget.

In fact, at every encounter with the troops a surge of re-servists — firefighters and cops, including many who had worked the rubble of Ground Zero —



Courtesy illustration

came to exchange a hometown hug.

Their glassy eyes still do not allow anyone to penetrate too far inside to the place where their trauma is lodged; the trauma of devastation far greater than anyone who hadn't been there could even imagine.

It's there in me, too. I had forced my way downtown on

that awful morning, convinced I could find Neil beneath the rubble.

What I was not prepared for was to have soldiers show us the World Trade Center memorabilia they'd carried with them into the streets of Baghdad. Others had clearly been holding in stories of

See WIDOW, Page 5



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

"...Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in your master's happiness!" **Matthew 25:21**

This week Chaplain (Col.) Rees Ryder Stevens retires after 24 years of service in the military. He served as an enlisted Marine and later as a chaplain at Fort Bragg (N.C.), Fort Bliss (Texas), Germany, three combat zones and Fort Huachuca. He did what needed to be done by a chaplain — he cared for soldiers and their family members. He's now off to do great and wonderful things as he "transitions to the civilian sector" in Washington State.

Stevens sees his position as a chaplain as a vocation, a call from God, to do God's work in the world. I submit to you, dear reader, that the military itself is a vocation, because no one really sees this as "a job" and lasts long. If you are to have an impact on others in the military you have to see it as a calling.

Notice I didn't say, "be successful" because success is more than rank and status. Serving in a vocation, success is measured by lasting impact on others. Stevens' impact is measured by how many soldiers from all over the Army (and even members of other services) call on him for assistance or remember his ministry to them from years ago.

As he prepared for "transition," the phone and e-mail were busy with messages of thanksgiving and remembrances. His short time with NETCOM raised the bar for his followers because he set a high standard of work, integrity and cooperation. Truly he served as a "good and faithful servant" and will be missed. We ask God's blessings on him, Beverly and Eric as they start another ministry together.

How about you? Can you see the "vocation" in your life? Can you see how your position in the military, the household, or in the family is a "vocation" — a calling from God to do your best in creation and leave an impact?

What you do is important; what you do means something. A "mom" is a vocation, as is a "dad," "brother" or "sister." Being a "sarge" can be a vocation as young privates and captains look to you to lead them and train them to do the right things.

Being the "Old Man," (notice the Army doesn't have "Old Ladies") in the unit can be a vocation as people look up to

you to set the standard.

Living your fullest, doing the best you can at what you are called to do is your vocation. I ask you to look at yourself in a new way — that you not only matter, but that your being in the world has purpose — a Godly purpose — to make the world that much better; to have an impact where no one else could. And somewhere, sometime, someone will recognize you as "a good and faithful servant" and invite you to "share in your master's happiness."

I would be remiss if I did not memorialize the tragedy of Sept. 11 two years ago. It is my prayer, as I'm sure it is yours, that the people who died rest in peace, that the families who lost loved ones find peace through the love of God, that those responsible come to justice and that those of our Armed Forces who are fighting for freedom remain safe and return home soon.

It is also my prayer that we remember Sept. 11 not as an event for anger, but as a symbol of what the United States of America stands for — peace, liberty and justice. That we gather as a people to mourn and honor our dead, to grace the lives of the living, to comfort one another and to strengthen those in the fields of battle by our resolve to trust them, stand with them and ask God to protect them. Amen.

## Scout on the Street

## What is the most important Army value?



"Integrity, because if you don't have your integrity, you can't live up to the other values. They're all based on integrity."

1st Lt. Mia Clements,  
Company B, 304th  
Military Intelligence  
Battalion



"Integrity. Because, if you don't have your word, you don't have anything."

Pvt. Daniel Flick,  
Headquarters and  
Headquarters Company  
U. S. Army Garrison



"Respect. Respect for yourself. Respect for your fellow soldiers and respect for your command. If you've got respect, everything else just falls into place."

Pvt. Aaron Lillemo,  
Company A, 309th MI Bn.



"Integrity. Because when you have integrity you know that it's right to follow all the Army values. That way none of them get left out."

Pvt. Christina Nelson,  
Company A, 309th MI Bn.



"Integrity. Without integrity in the Army we couldn't function at any level. No unit can function without integrity from combat service support to infantry."

Sgt. Anthony Burford,  
Company B., 304th MI Bn.



"Honor. Because it encompasses all the Army values."

Spc. Elmer Flores, HHC  
and USAG

Photos by Spc. Matthew Chlosta

## The Fort Huachuca Scout

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# Army Values Days

## Reverend David Roever speaks at 111th MI

### Bde.celebration

BY SPC.

MATTHEWE. CHLOSTA  
SCOUT STAFF

The 111th Military Intelligence Brigade Chaplain's office hosted Living Army Values Days, for soldiers of the unit, Wednesday and Thursday.

The events were kicked off with an Inspirational Breakfast at La Hacienda at 6:30 a.m., featuring the Rev. David Roever as guest speaker.

"The purpose of the event is to instill Army values in our soldiers," said Chaplain Kenneth Hancock, 111th MI Brigade chaplain. "Soldiers will get a chance to see these values lived

out."

After breakfast and an introduction from Hancock, inspirational speaker and Vietnam veteran Roever spoke to the packed room for almost 45 minutes.

"I really appreciate all the sacrifices you make for me and our country," said Roever. "No one here is unfamiliar with the horrors of war."

At the height of the Vietnam conflict, Roever received his draft notice and joined the Navy as a riverboat gunner.

Eight months into his tour of duty in Vietnam, Roever was burned beyond recognition when a phosphorous grenade he was poised to throw exploded in his hand. He was hospitalized for 14 months, where he underwent 15 major surgeries.

"It's not important what you don't have," said Roever. "It is important what you do have. The first words I said after I got burned where, 'God, I still believe in you.'"

Roever turned tragedy into triumph by accomplishing his pre war goal of becoming a preacher.

According to his Web site [www.daveroever.com](http://www.daveroever.com), "Roever's message is one of hope. Using his war experience of

loneliness, peer pressure, disfigurement and pain, Roever talks about solutions to problems such as drug and alcohol abuse, drinking and driving, suicide and low self-esteem."

Since 1976, Roever has spoken face-to-face with more than six million students in public schools.

The seven Army values are loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

During his talk at LaHacienda, Roever spoke about one of the seven Army values, loyalty, including his experiences in wholesome relationships with his parents, wife and children.

"This odyssey never stops," said Roever. "I'm going to help America remember. We will never forget, what your doing."

Roever concluded with, "I love you all. I really do. God bless you."

Wednesday evening and early Thursday morning Initial Entrance Training students from the 305th MI Battalion and 309th MI Bn. attended motivational classes at Eifler Fitness Center.

The Living Army Values Days finished Thursday evening with a religious service at Kino Chapel.



Photo by Spc. Matthew Chlosta

Vietnam vet Rev. David Roever inspires listeners at the Living Army Values Days breakfast.

# Byrnes impressed with MI soldiers, leaders

## TRADOC commander educated on MI training program during first visit to Fort Huachuca

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

In his first visit to the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca during his tenure as the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Center commander, Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes left the historic post impressed with the Intel Corps' soldiers and leaders.

Byrnes, who became TRADOC's 11th commanding general last November, toured the installation Friday. The trip culminated his appreciation of the role and importance of what military intelligence soldiers bring to the battlefield.

"I've always been thoroughly impressed with what our intelligence soldiers do for the operational commander," Byrnes said. "That's why I've come here. I wanted to see how we grow these great soldiers into intelligence specialists that contribute so well. And I also wanted to see how those soldiers train and what the environment looks like here at the training base. I was very impressed with what I saw here."

During his visit he toured the Black Tower training facility and observed Unmanned Aerial Vehicle training - something he particularly looked forward to.

"I had the opportunity today to take a look at Hunter and Shadow UAV training," Byrnes said. "I've sat in the TOCs [Tactical Operation Centers] and watched the pictures and I've been able to manipulate what it's [UAV] looking at and where the target sets are. I've always been fascinated by what that allows me to do as a commander."

Byrnes also had the opportunity to visit the Military Intelligence Captain's Career Course and the MI Officer Basic Course. There he was given briefings on the quality, depth and rigor of the training doctrine future MI leaders are given in the classroom.

Maj. Gen. James "Spider" A. Marks, USAIC&FH command-

ing general, accompanied Byrnes during his visit and was honored to exhibit how the Intel Center supports TRADOC's mission of training the Army for war, developing leaders, establishing standards, and building the Army of the future.

"Having General Byrnes come out to see our wonderful Military Intelligence soldiers and leaders speak volumes for the MI Corps," Marks said. "Fort Huachuca is one of the Army's premier training centers within TRADOC and I'm extremely proud for our leadership to see first hand our commitment to TRADOC's mission."

Marks added, the dedication of MI soldiers to the Army's mission is exhibited every day across the globe.

"It's apparent we continue to highlight what we do and bring to the total Army mission," Marks said.

Speaking on the importance and tying the Intelligence Center's mission to TRADOC's mission regarding transformation, Byrnes was adamant about what role intelligence has in future doctrine.

"It is absolutely critical," Byrnes said. "To me, intelligence is the very first vital ingredient of getting any job done. It's getting the read on the enemy. If we go in and have to figure it out for ourselves on the ground - then we're going to pay the price with blood."

Byrnes continued adding, "TRADOC has to be plugged in to an information field that can supply commanders the Intel picture from any source - whether it is national, sister service or coalition forces.

"That Intel picture has to be broadcast to the commander on the ground that needs it at any level - regardless if it's at battalion or company level," Byrnes said. "It's absolutely criti-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Gen. Kevin P. Byrnes, TRADOC commander, and Maj. Gen. James "Spider" A. Marks, commander general Fort Huachuca, discuss the Military Intelligence mission and the training practices here.

cal. Otherwise we'll have to do things the way our ancestors did it and its nudging it out, fighting for intelligence."

He also highlighted its important the Army leverage the technologies that are available to soldiers and leverage the capability of our soldiers.

"We've often said it's not about the caliber of the weapon, but the caliber of the soldier," Byrnes said. "And in the future we're going to have a lot of extra gadgets and capabilities, but unless we have top quality, well-trained, confident soldiers, then we'll lose that edge as an Army. Our intent here at TRADOC is to keep that edge. Our motto is 'Where tomorrow's victories begin.' We're going to keep that alive."

# It's free: Feed your brain 24 hours a day

BY JOAN KRAAK  
COMPUTER SPECIALIST

Are you aware that Army Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves, and Department of the Army civilians have access to 1500 courses in Business, Interpersonal Skills, and Information Technology at not cost to themselves? It is available through the U.S. Army e-Learning partnership license with SmartForce. This partnership has been around for a few years now. The courses are offered over the Internet and are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Just go to <http://usarmy.smartforce.com> to see what this program can offer you.

This new initiative is e-Learning. e-Learning is a developmental tool that you can utilize in your own time and at your own pace. e-Learning is not intended to replace instructor-led training courses, it is designed to supplement traditional methods and pro-

vide greater opportunity for skill development.

The goal is to support your 'educational curve' through innovative online software. With online learning, you can look forward to accessing online programs that are capabilities-based and highlight organizational skills. These online courses can be utilized as reference tools to help answer your day-to-day questions or for your training development.

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These courses are two to four hours in duration and do

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Registration for this training software has been automated

with the Army Training Requirements and Resources System. ATRRS will verify your eligibility for the program and it will also post successfully completed courses to the user's official ATRRS training record. To register, go to the web site of [http://](http://usarmy.smartforce.com)

[usarmy.smartforce.com](http://usarmy.smartforce.com). Look for the box that is marked Register for a US Army e-Learning CBT Account. Follow the instructions in this box. You do need an AKO account in order to register for SmartForce.

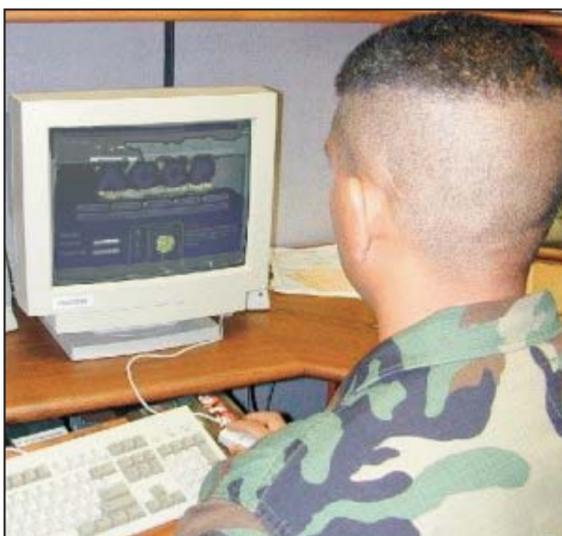
If you want to see a catalog of what courses SmartForce offers, go to <http://usarmy.smartforce.com> and look for the box titled Getting Started Guide. At the bottom of this box is a tab called Catalog. Click on the word Catalog and a document will open listing the different courses that you can take with SmartForce.

To get credit for a course completion, students must obtain a score of 70 percent or higher to pass. The nice thing is there is no penalty if a student fails a test. This means that you can take the test again if you do not make 70 percent the first time.

You can also receive Promotion Points. Promotion points are valid under military

education for completion of Vendor-based e-Learning courses. Course completion with credit/course hours must be reflected in ATRRS prior to awarding promotion points. Promotion points are awarded under the same guidelines as correspondence course (five credit hours = one promotion point). These courses were previously listed as SmartForce e-learning courses. Once you have completed a course it will be put into your ATRRS record.

You can find more information about this program on the Army Knowledge Online Web site at <https://www.army.us.mil>. Once you are into AKO, go to the Self Service section on the left hand side of the web page. Click on My Education. This will open the Education Portal. Once you are in the Education Portal, click on Army CBT AKO Portal Page link. This will take you to a section that has all kinds of information about SmartForce.



Army photo

On line education is available around the clock.

# The attack on a nation, the loss of a father: One son's journey to the Army

BY SPC. MATTHEW E. CHLOSTA  
SCOUT STAFF

Two sticks, a dash and a cake with a stick down, was the code lead hijacker Mohammed Atta phoned to co-conspirators in Germany announcing the attack date, 11-9, which is now known to be 9-11.

Billions of people around the world woke up to a crisp and beautiful late summer day on Sept. 11, 2001.

They ate breakfast and went to work like they would do on any other normal day, at any other time of the year.

They thought it would be a typical day. That day would not be typical. That day would be a photographic freeze frame in history.

That year would never seem to have an end. That year would last forever and change a country's future, its destiny and its place in the world.

There would be two ways of looking at the world from now on for Americans.

Now there was before 9-11 and after 9-11.

3,125 lives would be changed forever that day, by people they had never known - people they had never heard of - people they had never seen - people they never would.

3,124 of those people woke up Sept. 11 entering the last day of their life.

Person number 3,125, Spc. Ronald L. Bucca, Company D, 309th MI Bn. was getting ready for class during his senior year at Tulane University, La., Sept. 11, 2001.

After Spc. Bucca heard about the attacks in New York City, he called home, because he knew his father, Fire Department of New York Fire Marshal, Ronald P. Bucca, Manhattan Base, was working that day.

Spc. Bucca's mom, Eve Bucca, told him his father had called.

Bucca had called her that morning and said, "A plane went into the trade centers and I'm on my way down there."

Eve was on her way to the hospital to set up a triage unit to help with blood donations, because there would be a lot of casualties.

Spc. Bucca was told by his mother to stand by and wait for news about his father's whereabouts.

Friends and relatives in NYC told him, "As they got it they would let me know," said Spc. Bucca.

Spc. Bucca and his family were also worried about his sister, Jessica, who was working at her office near Grand Central Station in Manhattan that morning.

"She was actually at her office," said Spc. Bucca. "After the attacks, since none of the transportation was working, she actually walked to my uncle's house. He is retired, so he was home. He was able to let her in and look after her. They were able to contact my mother and let her know that she was OK."

"I'm sure that was another concern on my father's mind when he went down there," said Bucca, "to make sure she was safe."

Bucca made it up to the 78th floor of the South Tower that day. He scrambled up the stairwell with his boss, Supervising Fire Marshal Jimmy Devery trailing a few steps behind.

Devery fell behind the fleet-footed Bucca and he stopped on the steps of the 51st floor as Bucca continued up to the fire floor, where he heard screams.

Devery then helped a badly burned woman maneuver down ten flights of steps, then into an actual working elevator, near the fortieth floor.

Devery led his injured victim through the South tower lobby and outside to an ambulance. FDNY radio transmissions showed later that Bucca had hooked up with another firefighter on the 78th floor, Battalion Chief, Oriole Palmer.

Palmer and Bucca fought the fire with a water hose, while alternately helping people escape down the stairwells and protecting injured survivors, who had been strewn around the 78th floor lobby area from the jet's impact.

The first irony of that day was Eve had actually gone to high school with Palmer.

At about 10 p.m. that same night, Spc. Bucca called his father's firehouse, Manhattan Base, to see if they had any

new information on his dad's whereabouts.

"They said that 'he was still missing,'" said Spc. Bucca. "At that point I tried to find a way back home. But, all the airports were shut down for security reasons, so I couldn't book a flight."

"So I wound up grabbing two of my roommates," said Spc. Bucca. "We hopped in a car and drove straight up to New York. It took 17 hours to get up from New Orleans."

Spc. Bucca arrived in NYC in the late hours of Sept. 12. He checked in with his mother first and then tried to get down to "the pile."

In the hours after the trade centers had fallen, volunteers, firefighters, police officers, construction workers and others all started digging, as they desperately looked for survivors. They called the site "Ground Zero" or "the Pile."

"By the 14th I was down on 'the Pile,'" said Spc. Bucca. Spc. Bucca said there was a lot of chaos early on down at "Ground Zero."

"Security was very tight so at times I had trouble getting down to the pile," said Spc. Bucca.

But some of the firefighters, who knew Spc. Bucca's father, helped him get down to "the Pile," so he could help dig and search for his father.

"One of the first times I got down there, there [were] about three stories of debris and ash and twisted metal," said Spc. Bucca. "Everybody was trying to do what they could. They had the buckets and everything going."

"I don't know how helpful I was, but it was more so for me," said Spc. Bucca. "I felt the need to do something and to be involved. I couldn't sit around at the house. It was good for me to get down there."

Spc. Bucca said the search operation was organized within five days of the towers collapse.

They had a decent system set up and they had people on shifts, so they could work around the clock digging for survivors, added Spc. Bucca.

Spc. Bucca's uncle, who is a NYC cop, and about a dozen other various family members, including two cousins of Spc. Bucca's, who were firefighters, were down on the pile helping search for his father.

"I was down there for a month and then my dean called," said Spc. Bucca. "He said I had to return to school if I wanted to finish the semester."

"My parents were really the ones who pushed me to go to college," said Spc. Bucca. "So I had a talk with my mother. She told me to go ahead and go back to school and finish up the semester, because I already had a job lined up for when I graduated."

"So I went back to school," said Spc. Bucca. "Then two weeks later, they found [my father] by one of the stairwells with six other civilians. Luckily for the most part he was intact. We were pretty thankful for that, because a lot of families were not able to recover any remains, or they only found a small fragment of their loved ones."

After analysis of FDNY radio transmissions from that day, it was found that Bucca and Palmer had made it higher than other firefighters in either tower on 9-11.

Spc. Bucca said it was the best of the worst situation. That six weeks leading up to finding his dad's body caused a lot of anxiety and anticipation, added Spc. Bucca.

"Is he around? Is he not?" said Spc. Bucca. "He had a lot of military experience."

Spc. Bucca's father had spent two years active duty with the 101st Airborne Division, but most of his military career was as a Green Beret with the Army Reserve's 11th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and later on as a military intelligence analyst with the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Another reason to hope for his father's survival was, "He also fell in 1986 from a five-story building and sur-



Photo illustration by Spc. Matthew Chlosta

**Spc. Ronald L. Bucca joined the Army in January. His father's death on Sept. 11, 2001 was a factor in his change of career. Below, during happier times the senior Bucca is photographed with his son and daughter.**

vived that fall," said Spc. Bucca.

While a member of Rescue 1, the New York Fire Department's version of Special Forces, Spc. Bucca's father fell five stories in an attempt to rescue a fellow firefighter, severely injuring himself. He returned to full duty within a year and was nicknamed, "The Flying Fireman."

The expectation was according to Spc. Bucca, that if anybody could survive the fall of the towers, his father would.

"We had a lot of faith in him," said Spc. Bucca, "but there is only so much the human body can do."

Another irony in his father's story, was that he helped the FDNY investigate the first WTC bombing in 1993.

He had warned the FBI and many others based on his own Army Reserve MI background and personal investigation of several theories in the 1993 case, that the trade centers were vulnerable to a devastating attack.

Spc. Bucca and his father were very close. He even got an exact replica of his father's "little devil" tattoo on his left shoulder, just like his dad. The caption read "born weird."

After his fall 1986, Bucca became a U.S. Army Reserve Warrant Officer. He worked for the Defense Intelligence Agency as a military intelligence analyst, assigned to the 800 MP Brigade, 3413 Military Intelligence Detachment Reserve Unit, Uniondale, N.Y.

Bucca started to open up more to his two children about his thoughts on his intelligence and fire investigation work, after his fall.

"I always admired it," said Spc. Bucca.

Being steeped in his father's background, led to a natural progression for Spc. Bucca in his next decision.

Spc. Bucca graduated from Tulane in May 2002 and kicked around the idea of joining the Army for about six months.

Spc. Bucca said he liked the military, but he had a finance degree and was working at a brokerage firm in NYC.

After 9-11, "He had a new appreciation for the type of work that his father was doing," said Eve.

Spc. Bucca was going to become a stockbroker, but felt different after Sept. 11th. After much thought, he said that at this time, defending the country should be his emphasis.

First, Spc. Bucca made sure his mother, sister and grandparents were going to be OK with his decision.

Spc. Bucca's mother and grandparents initially were a little anxious and nervous that something could happen to him, added Spc. Bucca.

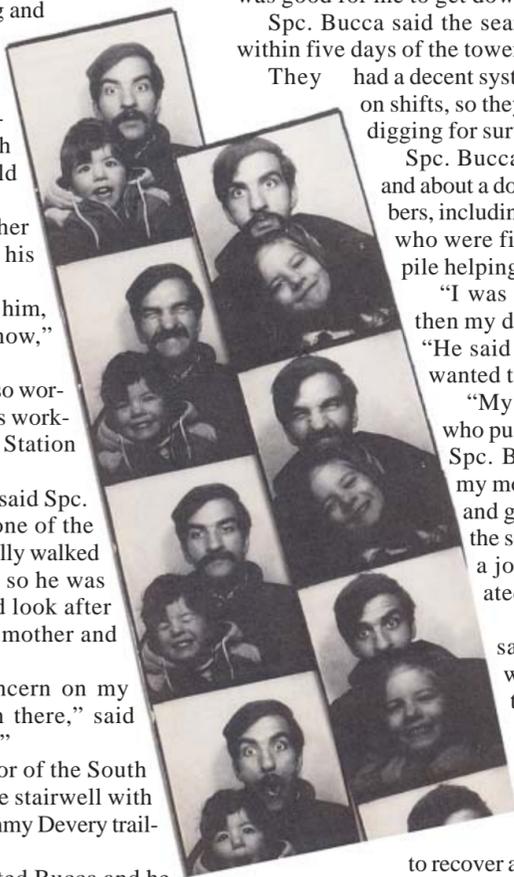
"But, at the same time, they know me," said Spc. Bucca. "They knew this was something I needed to do. So they are pretty supportive of it."

"My mom always says, 'I'm my father's son,'" said Spc. Bucca. "She kind of expected it out of me after everything happened."

In January 2003, Spc. Bucca went to a recruiter's office in NYC, sat down and enlisted. March 3, 2003, he went to Fort Jackson, S.C. for Basic Training.

After the attacks and his father's death, Spc. Bucca said he felt some anger, but more so a concern.

"After what I went through I really don't want this to happen to anybody else," said Spc. Bucca. "So I'm going to do the best I can to try to prevent this. I felt the need to



# The towers came down; patriotism rose two men become soldiers in terror's wake

BY SPC. MATTHEWE E. CHLOSTA  
SCOUT STAFF

Sept. 11, 2001 began as another beautiful fall day, when all of a sudden the world as we knew it became a very frightening place.

Many Americans felt helpless in the face of pure evil. But, slowly and surely a resolve and fighting spirit started to grow across the country.

A deep well of reserve the terrorists didn't anticipate started to call out to many Americans in all walks of life, to learn how to fight back.

These citizens never wanted to feel the way they felt on Sept. 11, 2001, ever again.

Spc. Matthew Portonova, Company E, 309th Military Intelligence Battalion was working on Capitol Hill in his second year as a legislative aide when he heard about the attacks on the World Trade Center towers from co-workers and television newscasts.

Spc. Alex Vershinin, Company E, 309th MI Bn. was at work as vice president of production for an apparel manufacturing company, at the corner of 36th and Broadway in New York City when he heard about the attacks on the WTC towers from co-workers. He went up to the roof of his office building and saw the towers in flames. Less than two hours later, he saw the towers fall.

"I felt helpless," said Vershinin. "I tried to call everybody I knew. The phones were work-



Photos by Spc. Matthew Chlosta

Spc. Alex Vershinin

ing sporadically. I couldn't get in touch with anybody.

"I knew two people who worked in the towers, college friends," said Vershinin. "They both worked in the North Tower. They both made it out."

"I was working on Capitol Hill," said Portonova. "I was working for congresswoman Diane Watson; she represents the 33rd District of Los Angeles."

"I was on Capitol Hill and I watched on TV, the second tower get hit by a plane," said Portonova.

Soon after there were reports that there was a plane headed for either the Capitol building or for the White House, said Portonova. At that time many people started to evacuate the Capitol Hill complex.

Portonova evacuated along with everyone else, including Congress.

"There wasn't much of an evacuation plan," said Portonova. "It was sort of people taking it upon themselves to get out. So I went to my apartment. I lived on Capitol Hill at that time."

"I walked to my apartment with some of my other co-workers," said Portonova. "And then I watched the rest of the events on TV."

Not to long after the plane hit the Pentagon, Portonova evacuated.

Portonova described the scene as he evacuated, "We heard 'after explosions' [at the Pentagon] from Capitol Hill and saw smoke."

A couple of days later, Portonova and his wife drove by and saw the damage to the Pentagon first hand.

With the attacks on Sept. 11 as his primary motivation,

Vershinin said he signed up for the Army as soon as he had an opportunity.

"I joined in November 2002," said Vershinin. Portonova said his decision to join the Army, "was an ongoing process."

"I definitely joined because of September 11th," said Portonova. "I wanted to do something to help the country and to help national security."

Sept. 11 and the anthrax attacks were double motivators for Portonova.

"The anthrax attacks on Capitol Hill, I was involved in that," said Portonova. "I had to take

Cipro and things like that, because I frequented the building where the anthrax was found.

"I realized I wanted to do something for my country," added Portonova. "I wanted to devote my life to national security."

"America did not feel that there was a threat out there," said Vershinin. "In America, because of the geography, I felt that we had a false sense of security, because we were across the Atlantic, that nobody could reach us."

Portonova said another motivation behind his decision to join the Army came from being from central New Jersey and going to New York City all the time as a kid. He said this gave him the feeling that both places he considered home had been attacked.

"It was the first time since Pearl Harbor that our shores were attacked," said Portonova.

"I didn't think that was a good thing," added Portonova. "So I joined."

"I signed up in June of 2002," said Portonova. Vershinin said his family was surprised when they heard about him joining.

"Now they support me 100 percent and are very proud of me," said Vershinin.

Portonova's family had a similar reaction to the news their son was leaving Capitol Hill to join the Army.

"My wife Emily was my biggest supporter actually," said Portonova. "She was the one who helped convince me that I should go ahead and make this decision. My parents were somewhat shocked. But, they came around to the idea finally."

Since joining the Army, Vershinin said he feels like he is a lot more useful if any sort of attack happens in the future.

"I feel like I can do something versus the way I felt that day," said Vershinin, "which is complete, utter helplessness."

"If I had decided to do something, I couldn't," said Vershinin. "I did not know how. I did not have any skills. I was not useful at all."

Portonova said he definitely feels like he is contributing, referring to how he sees himself now, more than a year after his decision to join the Army.

"I feel like I'm helping and I'm doing something that could have a positive impact for Americans," said Portonova. "Definitely more so than



Spc. Matthew Portonova

when I was working on Capitol Hill."

"I feel like I am contributing to the security of the U.S., 100 percent," said Vershinin. "I feel very good about myself for joining the Army."

Portonova said he would encourage other people to join the military.

Vershinin is a native of Kiev, Ukraine and has been a U.S. citizen since 1991.

"My whole family came to America in 1991," he said. Vershinin now calls Cherry Hill, N.J. home. "We moved here for various reasons, including economic instability, because the [Ukraine] was falling apart."

There was a lack of freedom, lack of opportunity, and a lack of educational opportunity in the Ukraine, said Vershinin. There was an increasing atmosphere of anti-Semitism developing there.

"I am forever grateful that my parents made the decision that was very hard for them to come here in their age," said Vershinin. "I'm definitely very grateful for everything that I was able to accomplish here. I went to university here in the United States right away. I had a great job."

The attacks really changed a lot of lives,

See TOWERS below

## TOWERS, from above

said Vershinin. In the whole perspective of things, a lot has changed.

October 2001, the United States launched an attack of its own, Operation Enduring Freedom, on the Taliban government in Afghanistan.

The country's government, the Taliban, had been harboring the Sept. 11 mastermind Osama Bin Laden.

They had been allowing him to train terrorists, including some of the ones involved in the attacks on Sept. 11.

"I think people realized that terrorism can easily come to this country, as any other place in the world," said Vershinin.

People are a lot more security conscious, which is great, added Vershinin.

In March 2003, the U.S. launched a pre-emptive war, Operation Iraqi Freedom, against the dictator in Iraq, Saddam Hussein, to free the Iraqi people and protect the U.S. from any future biological, nuclear or terrorist attacks originating from Hussein's regime.

Vershinin cited that many countries in war-torn Europe, like his native Ukraine, grew up wary of conflicts and war, in and outside their borders.

Vershinin said it is normal to be security conscious in places overseas. When asked what he will do for Sept. 11 this year, Vershinin said, "I'll probably go to New York City. I still have a lot of friends there."

Vershinin said he is also very interested to see what the city is doing for the rebuilding at "Ground Zero."

"When I was leaving they were making final decisions about how they were going to be rebuilding downtown," said Vershinin. "I'm

very interested in how that is shaping up. It is going to make downtown a lot more livable and a lot more interesting."

"I've had a good experience," said Portonova about his decision to join the Army. "I think it's a good thing. It makes you a more active citizen and appreciate the freedoms that you do have."

"I consider all of the people serving with me [to be] patriots," added Vershinin.

Vershinin and Portonova will graduate next Thursday from their Advanced Individual Training, here. Portonova will be stationed in Germany with the 64th Replacement Battalion. Vershinin is assigned to the same unit, U.S. Army Reserve 800th Military Police Brigade, 3413 Military Intelligence Detachment, Uniondale, N.Y., as Spc. Ronald L. Bucca's father, who was a New York city fire marshal killed in the trade centers on Sept. 11.

Two years after the attacks on the U.S., the country has won two wars in two different countries in its "War on Terrorism."

Sept. 11, 2003 Osama Bin Laden is on the run and suspected to be in hiding somewhere along the Afghanistan/Pakistan border, after the U.S. military defeated the Taliban government and began rebuilding Afghanistan. His Al Qaeda terrorist organization is in shambles with most of the senior leadership either dead, on the run or in custody.

Sept. 11, 2003, in Iraq, American soldiers are helping the Iraqi people rebuild their country after the defeat of Iraq's oppressive and brutal dictator Saddam Hussein, and his two sadistic sons.

Today the soldiers who joined because of Sept. 11, 2001 don't feel "helpless" anymore.



Photo by Spc. Matthew E. Chlosta

## Scrub a dub

From front to rear, Sgt. Anthony Burford, Sgt. Jamie Catherman and Spc. Daryl Perry, all members of Company B, 304th Military Intelligence Battalion, wash a car Friday at the post main gate. Their company used the car wash to raise money for their unit's Family Readiness Group fund and for the company's booth at the Fun Festival. The Fun Festival takes place Sept. 19-21 at Veteran's Memorial Park in Sierra Vista.

## WIDOW, from Page 2

personal Sept. 11 tragedies. USO handlers moved us from one corner to the next so everyone could meet us. One fire brigade plucked the group from the crowd, transporting us to their firehouse to call on those who had to stand guard during the Baghdad concert. It was all about touching us and feeling the reason they were in this hell.

Back at Saddam Hussein

airport, Kid Rock turned a "meet and greet" into an impromptu concert in a steamy airport hangar before 5,000 troops.

A captain from the Bronx tapped me on the back. He joined the Army after some of his wife's best friends were lost at the World Trade Center. When he glimpsed the piece of recovered metal from the towers that I had been showing to a group of soldiers he grasped for

it as if it were the Holy Grail.

Then he handed it to Kid Rock who passed the precious metal through the 5,000 troops in the audience. They lunged at the opportunity to touch the steel symbolizing what so many of them felt as the purpose of their mission.

Looking into that sea of khaki gave me chills even in the blistering heat. To me, those troops were there to avenge the

murder of my husband and 3,000 others.

When I got to the microphone I told them we had not made this journey for condolences, but to thank them and to tell them the families think of them every day.

They lift our hearts. The crowd interrupted me with chants of "USA! USA! USA!" Many wept.

What happened next left no

doubt the troops drew inspiration from our tragedies. When I was first asked to speak to thousands of troops in Qatar, after Iraq, I wondered if it would feel like a "grief for sale" spectacle.

But this time I was quaking because I was to present the recovered World Trade Center steel to General Tommy Franks. I quivered as I handed him the icy gray block of steel. His great craggy eyes

welled up with tears.

The sea of khaki fell silent. Then the proud four-star general was unable to hold back the tears which streamed down his face on center stage before 4,000 troops. As this mighty man turned from the spotlight to regain his composure I comforted him with a hug.

Now, when do I return?

# Community Updates

## Parenting class on Tuesday



Colonel Johnston Elementary will be hosting a parenting class on Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in room 214. The topic will be "Discipline with Love" with Ida Pedrego, counselor, as instructor.

This class is free and open to the public. Free childcare and refreshments will be provided. For more information or to register, please call 459-8884 and leave a message.

## Case lot sale Sept. 19-21

The Commissary Case Lot Sale will be held on Sept. 19-21, during normal commissary hours. Along with food items, household products and dog food will also be available. For more information, call 533-5540.

## Blood drive in Eifler Gymnasium

There will be an Armed Forces blood drive 10 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sept. 23 and 24 in Eifler Gymnasium. For more information, call 533-4723.

## Spanish test at center

A Spanish college-level examination program test is being offered at the education center. The test is free to active duty military, who must call to schedule the test. Family members may take the test for \$56.

The recommended credit hours are between six and 12; Cochise College grants 15 semester hour credits for the test, which involves audio and reading (all multiple-choice questions). For more information, call 533-2390/2047/5690/1701.

## Range closures listed for this, next week

Range closures for Sept. 11-17:

Today - AA, AB, AC, AD, AH, AI, AK, AL, AM, AN, AR, AU, TI, T1A, T2

Friday - AA, AB, AC, AD, AH, AI, AK, AL, AM, AN, AR, AU, AW, AY, T1, T1A, T2

Saturday - AB, AH, AI, AK, AL, AM, AR, AU, AV, AW, AY, T1, T1A, T2

Sunday - AH, AI, AK, AL, AM, AR, AU, AW, TI, T1A, T2

Monday - AH, AI, AK, AL, AM, AR, AU, AY, T1, T1A, T2

Tuesday - AI, AL, AM, AN, AY, T1, T1A, T2

Wednesday - AG, AH, AI, AK, AL, AM, AN, AR, AU

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

## MOAA dinner on Sept. 18

The Coronado Chapter of The Military Officers Association

of America, formerly The Retired Officers Association, will hold its monthly dinner meeting for members, spouses and guests at Fort Huachuca's LakeSide Activity Centre on Sept. 18. This will be the first meeting subsequent to the summer recess.

No host cocktails are from 6-7 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m. The guest speaker for the evening will be Marie Wurth, vice president for human resources at the Sierra Vista Regional Health Center. The topic of her talk will be changes going on at the hospital and the impact on the community.

For more information contact Chapter Secretary Chief Warrant Officer (Ret.) Joe Gill at 458-4099 or email joegill1@cox.net.

## Training on Sept. 19

The 2003 Combined Federal Campaign for Fort Huachuca and Cochise County is set to run from Sept. 29 - Nov. 7. Training for all unit representatives and unit key workers will take place Sept. 19 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and again from 1:30-3:30 p.m., in the Greely Hall Auditorium.

Unit representatives and key workers may choose a time that best suits their schedule. For information, or questions about this training, please call 2nd Lt. Cheryl Reese, 538-6782, or email cheryl.reese@netcom.army.mil.

There is a kick-off luncheon for the Combined Federal Campaign on Sept. 29, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the La Hacienda Ballroom. The 36th Army Band will be providing music.

The cost is \$8 per ticket. Cash or checks, payable to La Hacienda, are accepted.



## Calling all recruiters

United States Army Recruiting is seeking highly motivated and dedicated non-commissioned officers to assist in providing the strength of America's Army.

Anyone interested is encouraged to "take the challenge" and learn how they can become a member of the recruiting team. For more details, visit our Web site: <http://www.usarec.army.mil/recruiter>.

## Hispanic luncheon Oct. 2

"Honoring Our Past, Surpassing Our Present, Leading the Future" is the theme of a special luncheon commemorating Hispanic Americans 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oct. 2 at La Hacienda here.

The buffet-style luncheon will feature Spanish cuisine and is open to the public. Several military and civilian speakers will speak on their perspective of what Hispanic heritage means to them.

The cost of the luncheon is \$8.50. Tickets may be purchased through Sept. 29 through several Equal Opportunity offices on post. For ticket information, call: Fort Huachuca EEO at 533-1717; 111th Military Intelligence Brigade EEO at 533-3672; U.S. Army Garrison and 11th Signal Brigade EEO at 533-3672; and Network Enterprise Technology Command EEO at 538-0909.

## Command and general staff officers course

Majors still have an opportunity to enroll in the required officer professional development course here at Fort Huachuca. Both phases I and III of the command and general staff officer's course will start in October and meet one weekend each month.

The classroom option has numerous advantages over the correspondence version, including:

- Both a higher graduation rate and higher grade average;
- Workload sharing and interaction with active and reserve component students;
- Professional and structured learning environment, and;
- Instructor support.

There are both a minimum and maximum number of students allowed in each class, so if interested in enrolling, please contact Bill Purciello, purciellow@hua.army.mil, or 533-6514 (work) or 803-1129 (home).

## Inventory Sept. 25, 26

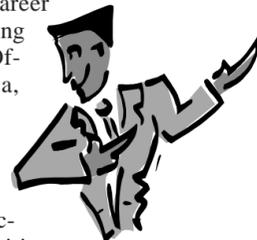
The Installation Ammunition Supply Point in Building 13522 will be closed for quarterly inventory Sept. 25-26. Emergencies need to be directed to Manny Bringas, ASP, at 533-2512 or Jose Fierros at 533-3617.

## Career seminar Sept. 25

The Fort Huachuca Army Career and Alumni Program is sponsoring a presentation by the Military Officers Association of America, titled "Marketing Yourself a Second Career," 1-3:30 p.m., Sept. 25 at the Cochise Theatre.

It is free to both senior non-commissioned officers and officers who are considering a transition from the service in the future.

Col. (Ret.) Dick Crampton, deputy director of MOAA's placement services, will make the presentation, which will include the realities of civilian job competition, networking, salary negotiations, civilian perceptions, how to strengthen a resume, preparing for an interview and salary and benefit packages. For more information, call Nolan Cook at 533-7314.



# School News

## Myer Elementary School

*Editor's note: Myer School information was submitted by Diana Beatty.*

Kathy Bergman's fourth grade class has been working together to learn the class procedures and rules. They are working on memorizing a poem to present at the first school assembly. The class congratulates Jordan Mahanke and Gus Hedges, the students of the week.



Jan Camp's fourth grade students have been busy reviewing place value, sequencing, map skills and kinds of sentences. In health, the students are learning about their individual traits that make them unique and special. Congratulations to the student of the week, Cory Beatty.



Jan Barnes' fourth grade class has already started its first writing project, reviewed place value and numbers to a million, and some students have earned accelerated reading points. In science they will be studying plants and animals this quarter. They are all working on their literature series, "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing."



Lynn Tompkins welcomed her class and everybody to a new school year. Presently her fourth grade class is studying the digestive system and proper nutrition. The have just finished reading "Bunnicula," by James Howe, and they recommend the book for all ages.



Priscilla Mendoza's fourth graders are getting back into the full

swing of things, according to the school.



The "Magellan Running Program to Youth Physical Fitness" began on Sept. 2. Fourth and fifth graders were allowed to walk/jog or run up to 1 mile. The next week a mile and a half, next week up to 2 miles.

The goal is for everyone to be able to run or jog 1 mile and pass the mile run portion of the Presidential Youth Fitness test. On Sept. 26 at 8:30 a.m. Myer School will host its annual faculty/staff/parent mile fun/walk challenge. Students will watch as the adults demonstrate that fitness is a lifetime commitment. The public is invited to attend; students will be comparing their mile times.



Maureen Brady's fourth grade art students started this year with a unit on color. They made color wheels by mixing together the three primary colors of red, yellow and blue and creating 12 different colors to paint stenciled shapes for their wheels.

When the paint was dry, they cut out these shapes and glued them on black paper in the shape of color wheels. They are now working on creating pictures in the style of the French painter, Georges Seurat, who developed "pointillism," or painting with dots of color.

Brady's fifth grade art students started this year with a printmaking unit. They started with crayon etching and are now working on designing foam printing plates with a "genre" theme and including pattern in the scene. They will print three prints and choose the best to mat and write a haiku about. They will also learn how to sign and number their prints correctly.



Peer mediation interviews have taken place, and peer mediators for the 2003-2004 school year have been selected. Fourth grade mediators are: Kaitlyn Mannis, Daniel Madarang, Kriztofer Cole, Caitlin Bosse, Megan Connelly, Christina Waller, Audrey Liepis (alternate), Heather Mahfoud, Jacob Deinhardt, Christopher Staggers, Anthony Claderon, Taylor Robinson, Jemlynite Mejias, Leana Sams (alternate), Deandre Cave, Marie Allen, Tyler Gordon, Simone Weaver, Francesca Dibiasio, Jasmine Gonzales, Derrick Gene, Robert Sanchez and Madison Byrd.

Fifth grade mediators are: Hanna Platt, Kathryn Swafford, Alyssa Navarro, Phillip Shulsky, Nyyah Robinson, McKenzie Frisbie, Samatha Kolyer, Holly McNabb, Austin Rider, Natalee Zufelt, Malinda Archuleta, Gabby Buensalido, Natalie Fife, Chad Davis, Gabriele Lesieur, Chantel Johnson, Daniel Harney, Oralnder Anderson, Zachary Bomar, Octavia Bentley, Benjamin Arbino, Justin Graham and Denise Cowherd.

These students will receive training after which they will have duty once a week at recess time. The peer mediation program is about "kids helping kids." This addresses students who may have problems with peers, have questions or need any type of help. Lorrie Griffin, Myer School behavior coach, will be working with these students throughout the year to make this an effective program.



The Myer School Choir, under the direction of Linda Dailing, will begin a year of songs on Monday from 2:40-3:25 p.m. The choir is open for performance requests. Song requests are welcomed, but should be turned in early for those special times, especially Christmas and other holidays. For more information, call Dailing at 459-8986.



In Terri Aguon's resource room class, kindergarten students are working on their readiness skills. Fourth and fifth graders are taking their pretest on brigance. This year the students will be encouraged to read AR books in class and in their spare time. Erika Taylor's resource room class is filled with star students who want to learn.



Myer School Library, under the direction of Marsha Hamric and Katrina Wheelock, will be having its fall book fair, starting Sept. 25, and running through Oct. 7. Clifford the Big Red Dog will make an appearance after school on Sept. 25. Students have been refreshing their memories on the location of books and the order they go in. The students have also been checking out AR books to earn points for the first AR auction.



The Magellan Running Club started this past week, and there were five fourth-grade girls who all had the maximum of 21 points. Fourteen fourth-grade boys had the maximum points. The top fourth grade class was Jan Camps' room with 79 miles. Sixth fifth-grade girls had the maximum 21 points. Ten fifth-grade boys had the maximum points. Top fifth grade class was Val Quarto's room with 87 miles. Last week the kids ran 779 miles. This week the kids can earn six fitness points for the week.

Teacher conferences will be held Sept. 15-17. Kindergarten will release at 11:30 a.m., and fourth and fifth grades at 12:30 p.m. on these days.

## Odds 'n' ends

The new Sierra Vista Public

Schools calendar is posted at their new Website. The address is: [www.sierravistapublicschools.com](http://www.sierravistapublicschools.com). The Buena High School calendar is posted as well.

A new home school information network will be forming on Fort Huachuca.

Parents who home school, or are just interested in establishing a "welcome wagon" for arriving home school families, may call Barron for more information.

According to the school liaison officer, parents who home school a child who is 6 as of Sept. 1, or less than 16, should proceed with the following:

- File with the County School Superintendent's office an affidavit of intent and a copy of the child's birth certificate within 30 days of starting home schooling.
- Notify the County School Superintendent within 30 days of terminating home school.

For information call Javier Barron, school liaison officer at 533-1133 or the County Superintendents Office at 432-8952.

School Age Services has invited WaterWise to provide monthly classes for kindergarten, fourth and fifth grades and for the middle school's 4H program.

The classes start on Sept. 17, from 2:30 - 3 p.m. for kindergarten at CDC; Sept. 18, from 2:45-3:30 p.m. for the fourth and fifth grades at SAS; and Sept. 25, from 3:30 - 4:30, for the middle school at Youth Services.

WWES will be providing a class and presenting the groundflow model to Quarto's fifth-grade class at Myers Elementary on Sept. 15 at 9:30 a.m. On Sept. 16, WWES will present the Enviroscape to the same class.

The Enviroscape is a hands-on model of a town, which shows children how pollutants can get into the water supply, and how people can prevent it.

## BUCCA from Page 4

do something.

"I think it is one of the noblest things a human can do, joining a cause because of a personal tragedy," said 1st Sgt. James Broun, first sergeant, Company D, 309th MI Bn.

"I decided to take a proactive measure," said Spc. Bucca. "So I decided to sign up as a 96B."

According to Spc. Bucca, he feels as a 96B (intelligence analyst), he can help the country the most. His father taught him a lot of information that Spc. Bucca said he can put to use in the field.

In a search for a noble cause and something that inspires other citizens to become soldiers, this is the best one he has seen in his 17 years of service, said Sgt. 1st Class Jarrod McNabb, Company D, 309th MI Bn.

"It makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up," said McNabb.

"I think he joined because he truly felt a calling to it, to the work," said Eve. "I'm very supportive and very proud of him."

When talking about what his dad might think of him joining the Army, Spc. Bucca said, he and his father had actually talked about Spc. Bucca joining the military, a few times before.

"His concern was that because he was in, he didn't want me to go in at the same time," said Spc. Bucca, "in case a war was to break out or something was to happen."

Throughout Spc. Bucca's life he has been known as "Lil' Ronnie" and his father was called, "Big' Ronnie."

"Also, he had worked hard," said Spc. Bucca. "I had worked hard to get to college. He kind of wanted me to pursue that avenue."

But, I think he'd be proud of me," added Spc. Bucca. "I kind of look to him for support a lot. I'm sure I have an extra angel up there."

"I think he would have been very proud of his decision," said Eve, about what her husband would think of Spc. Bucca's decision to join the Army.

"His father and I tried to raise Ronnie and his sister as independent thinkers," said Eve.

"I'm still in the training phase," said Spc. Bucca. "I'm kind of anxious to get out there, in the real life and start to make a difference."

"Hopefully, I will make a difference, make the world a little safer," said Spc. Bucca. "My main goal is to do something in the Global War on Terrorism. I'm trying my best to make sure it doesn't happen again."

Spc. Bucca signed up for four years and isn't

sure if he will make the Army a career.

"A lot is going to depend on the current situation when my contract is up," said Spc. Bucca. "If I feel that somehow the nation as a whole is a little bit safer, that there has been changes in the intelligence system and if the feeling of safety has returned. Then I'll probably get out."

"If there is still a lot to be done out there, I'll probably stay in and continue," added Spc. Bucca.

It can't go back to the way it was, added Spc. Bucca.

"By no means is this war over," said Spc. Bucca. "It is going to be awhile before we have the security we enjoyed before Sept. 11th."

Anyone can help out, said Spc. Bucca. Just be more aware of your surroundings and report suspicious activity.

"We still have a long ways to go, especially in our intelligence community," said Spc. Bucca. "As far as taking preventive measures, we were successful in Afghanistan, and we seem to be successful in Iraq."

Spc. Bucca said he thinks people who joined because of Sept. 11th are great.

"It is great that they joined," said Spc. Bucca.

"I'm very grateful to them," said Eve. "My heart is with every single family that has someone in service."

"For me, there is a personal tie to it," said Spc. Bucca. "They also have personal ties, but not as immediate. So for them to step up and join, I think is even more remarkable in some ways."

"That is great that were still as patriotic as we are," said Spc. Bucca. "They're willing to give up some of their time and their freedom to help defend others."

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Spc. Bucca's father's last Army Reserve Unit, the 800th MP Brigade named their Iraqi prisoner of war facility in southern Iraq after him, call-

ing it Camp Bucca.

"It was very significant to us," said Eve. "We were very honored. My husband would have thought it was an honor."

Each of the soldiers who worked at Camp Bucca received a laminated Army values card with a picture of Bucca in his firefighter uniform on the front and in his Army uniform on the back.

Today at 8:30 a.m., NYC will hold a citywide moment of silence. Spc. Bucca will be at Ground Zero, with NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg and other surviving children of victims from the attacks.

At 8:46 a.m., the exact time the first hijacked plane struck the North tower, Spc. Bucca will be one of the surviving children reading names of victims. Families will descend the ramp to lay flowers on the lowest level of the World Trade Center site.

Later this afternoon, Spc. Bucca will attend a ceremony honoring firefighters, including his father, lost in the trade centers, at his father's Manhattan Base firehouse.

Both the military and the FDNY were really great when everything happened, said Spc. Bucca.

"So I got pretty close to all of them, especially the guys in the firehouse," said Spc. Bucca. "It will be good to see them again."

Monday, Spc. Bucca graduates from Advanced Individual Training here.

After the ceremony he leaves for Airborne training at Fort Benning, Ga., and will then be assigned to 5th Special Forces Group, Fort Campbell, Ky., his father's former active-duty unit.

Spc. Bucca's father was a true hero and patriot. He was the type of guy who faces the enemy on the battlefield as others scramble and duck for cover. He was one of the firemen running up the stairs in the World Trade Center towers, while other people ran down.

He had the personality that said, "This is not right. I must do something. I must act. I must

try to save lives."

He did just that before Sept. 11 with his investigative work for the NYFD and during Sept. 11 as he helped badly injured people escape down the stairwells behind him, as he and another firefighter battled the overpowering blaze of burning jet fuel on the 78th floor of the South Tower.

Eve said she understood why her husband ran up those 78 flights of steps.

"It's like everything in Ronnie's life got him ready for that, day," she said. "The fellas don't wait. They go in. That's their instinct. There's a problem in there. We need to go in and get these people out."

When they found his body six weeks later, Big' Ronnie' wasn't alone. They found him in a stairwell surrounded by civilians. He was helping them escape as the concrete walls of death cascaded all around them.

He died as a hero. He is gone but his heart still beats inside his son, who carries on his work.

Spc. Bucca is cut from the same cloth as his father. That cloth is made up of seven red stripes, six white stripes, fifty white stars and a blue square. That cloth symbolizes patriots and Americans. Spc. Bucca and his father are both.

A single thought sums up America's response to the attack on Sept. 11.

This thought echoes and reverberates through American citizens and soldiers anywhere in the world.

That thought caused many people to join the military. People signed up for military service, who never would have dreamed or could have ever pictured themselves in uniform.

That thought caused millions to go to their local banks and donate money to the Red Cross and many Sept. 11 funds.

That thought caused thousands of citizens to drive to NYC on Sept. 11 and for weeks afterward, to help look for survivors.

That thought caused millions of people to send so much food and supplies to NYC, that it had to be stored in Giants Stadium at the Meadowlands, N.J.

That same thought flowed through Spc. Bucca's father as he ran up 78 flights of stairs, jumping two or three steps at a time in the South tower that morning.

That same reoccurring thought caused Spc. Bucca to join the Army after his father's death, "I just had to do something."



Courtesy photo

**Ronald P. Bucca, a New York city fire marshal, lost his life in the World Trade Center towers on Sept. 11, 2001. He was the first New York city fire marshal to die in the line of duty.**