

America rejoices

Seven Army prisoners of war found safely and returned to coalition forces. **Page 4**



Horse play

Elementary pupils and their parents visit Buffalo Corral, learn to groom horses. - **Page B1**

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Scout reports

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Traffic interruptions planned

The Directorate of Installation Support has announced a construction project will affect traffic on Brainard Road and Winrow Avenue near the Main Gate Monday through Wednesday.

On Monday a sewer line will be installed across the right turn off lane from Winrow Ave. to Brainard Rd. Main traffic flow will not be interrupted. However, right turns onto Brainard Rd. can be made at the intersection.

On Tuesday Winrow Ave. will be closed from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Incoming traffic will be diverted to Brainard Rd.; then, a left turn onto Kelsey Road and a right or left turn onto Irwin Street. Off post traffic will be diverted onto Wilcox Gate Rd.

Traffic patterns will resume to normal Wednesday.

Holocaust symposium

In observance of "Days of Remembrance," Fort Huachuca will host a Holocaust Survivor Symposium on April 29, from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel.

This is an opportunity to learn about the tragedy of the holocaust from the perspective of those who survived it.

For more information, call the Equal Opportunity Office at 533-1717.

ACS to establish FRG

The first meeting of an Army Community Service family readiness group for families of deployed soldiers, civilians and contractors will be held April 30 from 6-8 p.m. at the Fort Huachuca Child Development Center.

ACS will provide free childcare to those attending the event. Those who wish to participate in the event must register by April 28. To register, call the ACS office at 533-2330/5919.

INSIDE

A father's nightmare

Vietnam veteran Charles Light wanted his son Aaron to follow in his footsteps as a soldier. But not close enough to get a Purple Heart medal like he did. He tells his story about receiving word that his son been injured in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. **Page 3**

Awaiting mail call

Deployed soldiers of the 11th Signal Brigade will be receiving a host of goodies from pupils at Smith Middle School. **Page 5**

Pennies from heaven

Parishioners of the Fort Huachuca Chapels have poured more than their prayers for family members of deployed soldiers. They've also opened up their wallets. **Page 10**

'Major combat' over

Troops not to be in Iraq longer than necessary

BY GERRY J. GILMORE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

American troops will be in Iraq "as long as required and not one day longer," the U.S. military's senior officer said Tuesday.

Saddam Hussein's regime is history and "the process of returning Iraq to the Iraqi people has begun," Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Arab and Muslim journalists at the Foreign Press Center.

And Iraq's global coin of the realm - oil - has been secured for the future of all Iraqis, Myers pointed out.

The general asserted that oil revenue will be harnessed by newly freed Iraqis "to develop their country after decades of neglect" by Saddam's despotic regime.

Myers pointed out, however, that while major combat operations are finished in Iraq, U.S. and coalition forces continue to run into pockets of regime diehards.

In fact, President Bush noted Tuesday during a Rose Garden press briefing that victory in Iraq isn't complete.

See MYERS, Page 6



Photo by Marine Sgt. Paul L. Anstine II

Marines from the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom detain suspected members of the regular Iraqi Army. The Pentagon announced Monday only small pockets of resistance are left from loyalists to Saddam Hussein and the former Iraqi regime.

Iraqi regime is at its end

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

Department of Defense officials said the Iraqi regime is at its end and its leaders are either dead, surrendered or on the run during a briefing at the Pentagon Monday.

"But the progress did not come without great sacrifices," said Pentagon spokeswoman Torie Clarke. Since the conflict began 118 American service members have died in the liberation of Iraq.

Participating in the briefing with Clarke was Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, vice director for operations, J-3, Joint Staff. He gave an update on current combat operations in the theater.

"I would anticipate that the major combat engagements are over because the major Iraqi units on the ground cease to show coherence," McChrystal said. "Tikrit was the last area where we anticipated seeing major combat formations, if in fact they were there."

McChrystal mentioned air sorties in the region had decreased over the past few days and Monday was the last day that aircraft from all five carrier battle groups would fly missions into Iraq.

However on the ground, coalition forces will continue patrols throughout Iraq.

See REGIME, Page 6

Piestewa given full honors by Fort Huachuca's Honor Guard

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

Soldiers of the Fort Huachuca Honor Guard preserved the Army tradition of taking care of one of its fallen comrades by providing full ceremonial honors for Spc. Lori Piestewa Saturday in Tuba City, Ariz.

Piestewa was a member of the 507th Maintenance Company that was ambushed by Iraqi soldiers March 23, killing nine soldiers.

The 23-year-old soldier, a member of the Hopi Tribe, is the first Native American woman in the U.S. Armed Forces to die as a result of combat.

Her body, and the remains of eight other soldiers, was recovered from a hospital in southern Iraq when Special Forces stormed the hospital to rescue Pfc. Jessica Lynch.

In a statement released to the media on behalf of the U.S. Army by Tanja Linton, Fort Huachuca media relations officer said, "The entire Army family mourns the loss of Spc. Lori Ann Piestewa, a woman warrior and hero.

"Our hearts, thoughts, prayers and support go out

to the Piestewa family, Lori's friends and her fellow soldiers during this time of grief and pain."

Piestewa is survived by two children, a 4-year-old son and a 3-year-old daughter.

Although his soldiers have conducted military burial honors before, Sgt. 1st Class Francisco Ramirez, Honor Guard noncommissioned officer in charge, said the Piestewa ceremony affected his soldiers prior to rendering honors.

"She was only 23 years old and most of my soldiers, including my NCOs, are between 19 and 25-years-old," Ramirez said. "But it was definitely an extreme honor for us to be a part of her honors. She was one of our own and it meant a lot to us."

A scholarship fund has been set up at Wells Fargo Bank to receive donations on behalf of Piestewa's life. Checks can be made out to the Lori Piestewa Memorial Fund, account number 0464633783.

Piestewa will be honored on Memorial Day as rose petals are placed in the reflecting pool of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.



Courtesy photo

Spc. Lori Ann Piestewa poses for a picture before deploying to the Middle East with her unit, the 507th Maintenance Company.

Army blood drives will be held to help deployed soldiers

BY TANJA LINTON
MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICER

The William Beaumont Army Medical Center Blood Donor Center at Fort Bliss, Texas, will conduct monthly blood drives on Fort Huachuca to provide blood for U.S. soldiers deployed to Southwest Asia for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

There will be no Red Cross blood drives on Fort Huachuca in order to support

the requirements of the Military Health Services System.

Red Cross blood drives on post will resume once contingency or wartime requirement for blood is no longer needed.

"We have a long tradition of supporting the Red Cross here, and will continue to do so, but blood is a national medical resource that we must make available to our servicemembers taking part in current operations," said

Col. Lawrence J. Portou, garrison commander.

All eligible donors are encouraged to donate blood to help build the blood supply.

Army blood drives are currently scheduled to take place monthly through October. An Army blood drive is scheduled for April 29-30.

In January, the Department of Defense directed all military donor centers to increase collections in support of the Global War on Terror-

ism.

Thirteen U.S. Army Reserve Blood Donor Centers were activated to support this effort.

The William Beaumont Army Medical Center is one of 24 DoD Blood Donor Centers whose mission is to collect blood for military medical treatment facilities during peacetime and war.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense of Health Affairs policy (HA 96-044, May 1,

1996), states that civilian blood collection agencies access to military installations may be suspended to meet contingency or wartime blood requirements.

Residents outside the gates are encouraged to support local Red Cross blood drives.

For more information on when local blood drives are scheduled in the community, call the Sierra Vista Service Center of the American Red Cross at 458-4858.

The thanks of a grateful nation

BY TANJA LINTON
MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICER

It was a different time and a different place - Tuba City, Ariz., a small, dusty town on the Navajo Nation that observes daylight savings time and abuts the Hopi Reservation. It is a community that has lost a lady warrior, Spc. Lori Ann Piestewa.

I was honored when asked by the Piestewa family to provide public affairs support to them in the face of the media's intense desire to report on the funeral arrangements for the first Native American servicewoman killed in combat.

I had a great deal of time to reflect on how I was going to accomplish this mission during the eight-hour drive from one end of Arizona nearly to the other. The Piestewa family members were explicit in requesting the media respect their privacy. I knew the news media would be just as firm in trying to exercise what they felt was their right to cover the funeral and memorial service. I had a tough job ahead of me and I had no idea what to expect in Tuba City.

I checked into my motel Friday night and noticed the desk clerk scrutinizing my public affairs shirt, which has my name and title, media relations officer, embroidered on it. I told her I was with the U.S. Army and was here to help the Piestewa family by keeping media away from the funeral service and prevent them from covering the memorial service. I was surprised when she let out a sigh of relief and thanked me profusely for helping the family.

I realized later, as I drove through Tuba City, I shouldn't have been surprised at all. It seemed that every pole in Tuba City bore a yellow ribbon, the library across the street from the hotel had a sign honoring Lori the Lady Warrior, and Basha's Diné Market had a huge picture of Piestewa wreathed in flowers in its entryway. At daylight Saturday morning, I saw even more evidence of a community coming together to mourn a hero. Signs were in every business establishment. Yellow ribbons adorned lapels.

I went to the funeral service steeling myself to support a grieving family and perhaps fending off hostile media. Fortunately, the media was not there to cover the service. But, once again, I was surprised as friends and family of Piestewa took time out from their grieving to thank me and members of the Fort Huachuca Select Honor Guard, 36th Army Band and other Army representatives for being there.

It was amazing to see a community frequently divided by a history of grudges between the Navajo and Hopi come together to honor and pay tribute to an American hero. When asked by the media if they knew Lori, community members acknowledged they did, but politely yet uniformly refused to talk about her out respect for the family's wishes for privacy.

Servicemembers from every branch of service were at the memorial service in uniform. Navajo and Hopi veterans wore bits and pieces of their old uniforms or their veterans' regalia to show their affiliation and support. Native American groups from as far away as South Dakota came to pay final tribute to a lady warrior.

From the elderly Hopi woman who expressed her thanks in her native language to the proud war veterans, the Tuba City community made it a point to come up to thank Fort Huachuca for representing the Army.

The thanks of a grateful nation is not just a clichéd phrase printed on a placard hanging in a storefront. It is the spirit that inhabits a small town in northern Arizona. That spirit and the gratitude of the residents of Tuba City in the time of a great loss make me proud to support the Army.



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

I received this as an e-mail from one of my friends the other day. I believe it is an awesome message for us facing Easter and Passover. It is an awesome message by a chaplain in the field in Kuwait for those who have loved ones and fellow soldiers in the Iraq area. So, this week, we have a "guest writer," Chaplain, (Lt. Col.) Lance Kittleson, U.S. Army Reserve, 3rd COSCOM, Camp Virginia, Kuwait (from Zion Lutheran Church, La Grande, Ore.)

A can of Folgers

It's amazing what a can of Folgers coffee can do. Oh, sure, for us "old" soldiers (anyone over thirty is "old" in the Army today) who were raised on strong, almost brutal coffee as young officers and non commissioned officers, there is the joy of tasting its fortitude early in an Army morning. But the Camp Chapel here in the desert of Kuwait has no "fellowship hall" or such coffee brewing. So our morning taste of Folgers is short-lived, found only in the mess hall.

Folgers cans still have a life in the Army after the grounds are gone. Usually they end up being butt cans for the far too many young soldiers who still smoke in this day and age.

The chapel uses these cans as well, but not for the "remains" of cigarettes. Ours has a plastic lid on it with a slot cut in the middle and has a hand-printed sign taped to its side that says, "PRAYER REQUESTS." A pad lies next to this emptied coffee can that says, "FOR PRAYER REQUESTS ONLY."

On the spur of the moment one day, I found the can, putting the sign on it that made it a "prayer request receptacle," doubting that "rough, tough" soldiers would take the time to write out anything.

But I discovered otherwise. Soldiers in desert camouflage and full "battle rattle," as the troops call all their weighty field and chemical gear, shuffle in and out of the chapel all day. It is on the way to the "mess hall" tents and sometimes they come in to talk, or to look for more Bibles because they have lost theirs elsewhere, or occasionally they seek temporary shelter from the biting wind bearing the airborne sand which stings at all exposed skin.

They take the Bibles and rosaries and devotionals, and then some glance at the coffee can, pause and stoop over in their Kevlar helmets and slung weapons, take the pen, write a prayer request and drop it in the slot. Often with a "thanks, sir" they stoop to exit through the low tent flap and head down the concertina wire-lined dirt and sand streets of Camp Virginia propelling a puff of dust with each step of their desert boots. As the camp pastor and as an Army chaplain, I later gather these requests to pray myself and to make sure that other chaplains have access to them for corporate times of worship.

As I sift through them I am amazed at the selflessness of the petitions. We "older ones" lament the self-centeredness of so many young people of America who care, we are told, only for their own personal pleasure and satisfaction.

But these requests do not bear that notion out. Here are young Americans far from home in a combat zone. Some are close to danger and occasionally are "very close" to danger other than the occasional SCUD aimed at us in "the rear areas," but the overwhelming concerns found within the Folgers prayer can is not for themselves, but surprisingly for those struggling, and in danger and in pain back home.

I am astounded as I read through them: "The mom who recently lost her father in death and a son lost to prison and now a son somewhere in Kuwait and places unknown for her to be

strengthened," the agonizing prayer of a soldier thousands of miles away from his wife and young son that his wife's heart might be softened to give their dying relationship another chance; the soldier's friend terminally ill with five brain tumors and awaiting her time to be ushered into the presence of God; a son with a growth on his leg and in need of surgery; a general prayer for safety for their spouses and children back home.

These are not the prayers of narcissistic youth and hard, uncaring soldiers that Hollywood produces and proclaims that American kids are... These are soldiers far from home who have and are discovering that their safety is a concern far down the list of worries worthy to be laid before their God; their safety in battle is nothing compared to the well-being of those they love and care for.

There are many prayers for their comrades, too: "for my fellow soldiers fighting," "for teams back from a mission and for those going out on missions that they be strengthened and protected," or a generic prayer for "a whole battalion."

There is also the prayer request that sounds much like one our Lord prayed as he struggled for strength in His own battle in Gethsemane. A soldier writes, "pray for my strength in the Lord. I want to do everything in his will for me to do."

And then there are the sad requests for the fallen and their loved ones. How clearly this is not just another exercise or training mission and they know it. This is real war, with real casualties and not just in some anonymous place on TV halfway around the world.

The realization on the minds and souls of these new American warriors is that the latest casualty may have been a soldier who shared a joke with them in the long chow line, or who taught them new and unique ways to curse the Army system while waiting for another anthrax shot, or who fell huffed and puffed next to them donning a gas mask inside the SCUD bunker after the latest siren, or who after the long wait for a free 15-minute phone call shared his joy at hearing his daughter call him "daddy" despite being deployed in far away lands for three quarters of her young life.

The price of freedom, theirs, ours, and others dawns on them and they pray not for themselves, but for those back home.

Gently I knock the omnipresent and thickening dust off these amazing requests and after the final one I silently intone, "Lord, hear our prayer" and automatically flow into words I had spoken hundreds and hundreds of times at the altar in my civilian parishes and in ministry, "Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

"Trusting in your mercy," Yes, Lord, trusting in your mercy.

Again, gently I replace these holy petitions of fellow soldiers half my age back in the old red Folgers can on a dusty, crudely constructed table more reminiscent of an old table in the back shed than for a chapel in the United States Army.

I think that these young troops really ought not say "thank you, sir" to me ever again; for it is I who ought to say "thank you" to them; for I stand in awe of their selfless spirits and praying hearts.

Glancing one last time at their requests the words of Saint Paul come into focus through my increasingly sand-scratched bifocals. They are imprinted on the pad from Philippians 4:13. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

And I know that the God who created them to know his love will be with them wherever this 'operation' takes them and this loving God will answer their selfless petitions for the sake of the one who also was selfless for the sake of others, for me and for you and for a lost and perishing humanity, even Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen savior.

Like I said, It's amazing what a red can of Folgers can do especially when the coffee is long gone.

You can contact Nitschke by e-mail at: Dennis.nitschke@netcom.army.mil.

Scout on the Street

What message do you have for our troops in Iraq?



"We're very proud of them, they're in our prayers every single day. We're keeping it real in training if they need us there."

Staff Sgt. Vache Brooks
Noncommissioned
Officer's Academy
Basic NCO course



"Keep up the good work, we are definitely supporting them and they are definitely in our prayers."

Sgt. Dawne L. Frisby
NCOA BNCOC



"In my 19 years in military service this is the proudest I've ever been to wear the uniform."

Staff Sgt. Sid Johnston
U.S. Army Medical Activity



"We stand behind you fully, no matter what any other groups may say."

2nd Lt. Brad A. Martino
Military Intelligence
Officer's Basic Course



"As long as you keep God first, you will be okay. He won't put us through anything we can't handle."

Pfc. Phoebe Porter
Company A, 309th Military
Intelligence Battalion



"I support the operations in Iraq. I'm behind every soldier, if I could be there, I would. Stay alert, stay alive!"

Sgt. Daniel J. Raymond
Headquarters and
Headquarters Company,
111th Military Intelligence
Brigade

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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Legacy of heroism:

Purple Heart recipient, son of DOIM employee, scheduled to return home

STAFFSGT. SHARRON STEWART
TIME OUT EDITOR

"I'm not going to feel complete until I get to put my hands on him and hug him," said Charles D. Light. His son, Pfc. Aaron Light, 20, was hit by a bullet in the neck March 30 in Kuwait and has been awarded the Purple Heart. At press-time Aaron was scheduled to return to Arizona Wednesday in order to convalesce at home for 45 days.

His father works for the Directorate of Information Management and is a Vietnam War veteran. During his time in the Army as a Special Forces soldier he served two tours in Viet Nam. "I got three Purple Hearts, I wasn't looking for them, I guess I forgot to duck three times," said Light.

"I wanted him to follow in my footsteps, but not that closely," he said shaking his head.

"You never think it will be one of your kids, but now I know how my parents felt. It's easier being on the other end because you know how you are doing. The parents on the other hand are worried sick," he added quietly.

After being injured Aaron was transported to the hospital ship the U.S.S. *Comfort* where it was positioned in the Persian Gulf. From there Aaron was flown to Landstuhl, Germany and then on to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. Light and 47 others were transported to Walter Reed along with Pfc. Jessica Lynch, the female POW that was captured in Iraq and recently rescued by U.S. Special Forces soldiers.

"He turned 20 on March 10 and 20 days later was shot. Thank the good Lord that it wasn't worse. He's a strong kid, they called him the 'Miracle Child' on the ship he recuperated on," Light said. "I got the call right here, on the first of April," Light said, indicating his desk at work. "After I got off the phone, I lost it. Thank God for my compassionate co-workers. As a parent, it's your biggest fear to lose a child. I was scared to death," Light said.

Light freely and openly admits that faith in God is the only thing that got him through the emotional ordeal. "It took an enormous amount of faith. I was raised in central Texas and I'm what you call a deep-water Baptist," he said laughing.

"If it wasn't for the Man upstairs I wouldn't have made it. My girlfriend has been a rock and my coworkers have been invaluable, but Almighty God brought me through this. He gave me strength and kept me going. I lost a lot of sleep those first four or five days, but He kept me going through those dark hours

of the night," Light said.

"I give 100 percent credit to Him for Aaron's recovery. After that, everything began to kick into gear and I've been running on adrenaline ever since. I bet I've lost 10-15 pounds," Light said.

Light went on to say his son has always been a fighter. "He's not a straight A student, he's always had to fight for his grades," Light said. He went on to recall how while Aaron was in high school, he and a friend had to restrain his son from going back onto the football field after he was diagnosed with a concussion. Light said they had to physically put Aaron into an ambulance.

"He was profoundly affected by 9-11. He's compassionate and felt the need to defend and serve his country. The day after it happened, he went to the recruiting office and told them he wanted to be Airborne Infantry. He was supposed to go to Ranger School later on this year, but that's not gonna happen now," said Light.

Aaron is stationed with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., and will be part of the rear detachment until his brigade gets back from Iraq. Light said it's up to the brigade commander to determine his son's future. He believes his son will get reclassified. "He can't keep jumping because of the bullet fragment lodged in his neck. He also has a problem with the pupil in his right eye, but they think it might be short term," Light said. He went on to say he would like to see his son reclassify and become a Military Intelligence soldier.

Aaron can eat solid food even though he can't open his mouth too wide. "The hole in his cheek is about the size of a dime or smaller. He might have a bragging scar, but not much else," Light said smiling briefly.

Light is planning a welcome home celebration for his son April 26 at the Tombstone High School football stadium where Aaron played before graduating in 2001. Aaron has lived in Huachuca City and Sierra Vista also. "From six-months-old, to sixth grade, he lived in Sierra Vista," Light said.

"I'm profoundly proud of him. He's pretty humble and very patriotic," Light said.

"I know what I went through after returning from Viet Nam, and I'm determined that he won't have to face that," Light said. He went on to recall how an airport ice cream shop refused to serve him because he was in uniform. "I was spit at and everything else. It was pretty bad. I don't want any servicemembers to have to put up with any of that sort of nonsense," Light said.

Light, Aaron, and his other son Chris who serves in the Air Force, has a proud military lineage that dates back to the Civil War.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sharron Stewart
Charles D. Light, Directorate of Information Management, displays his intense pride in his son Pfc. Aaron Light, Aaron, 20, whom was awarded the Purple Heart after receiving a neck wound during a fire-fight in Kuwait.

Aaron's grandfather was a survivor of Pearl Harbor, his uncle is a Korean War veteran, he has another uncle who is a Viet Nam veteran, and an uncle who was a veteran of the 1959 Dominican Republic Revolt. "Every single one of us have a Purple Heart," Light said.

"I'm intensely patriotic and not ashamed to say so," Light said.

Volunteers save fort's taxpayers more than \$430K

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

There are more than two things certain in life besides taxes and death. Military servicemembers can also be certain each year volunteers are trained and ready to file their federal and state income taxes.

From Jan. 21 to Tuesday, volunteer tax preparers at the Fort Huachuca Tax Center helped prepare nearly 3,000 income tax returns saving the fort community more than \$430,000 in fees and services they would have paid off post.

"The Staff Judge Advocate office compares the services provided by tax offices downtown," said Sgt. Matthew Edwards, non-commissioned officer in charge, Fort Huachuca Tax Center. "If a soldier decides to get one of those 24-hour rapid refunds, they're going to get their money faster, but at a price. Here it takes almost a couple of weeks, but they keep every cent of the refund that's coming to them."

This was Edwards' first time working as a tax volunteer and he found it to be a very enlightening experience.

"I now can understand how my refund is coming back, what I'm qualified for and some of the exemptions that I never knew that are available," he said.

Although the volunteers consisted primarily of soldiers with no tax experience, Edwards also had civilian volunteers who'd brought years of income tax experience to the table.

He said the soldiers benefited because the civilians were able to show them many short cuts that wasn't taught in the one-week tax course in December.

He particularly praised Matthew Willis for his contributions and tax knowledge he shared with the soldier volunteers.

"He is the most knowledgeable person I've ever met concerning tax rules and laws," Edwards said. "He helped the soldiers understand a lot of the different exemptions available for taxpayers and other laws that specifically apply to servicemembers."

Willis was volunteering for his second consecutive year at the Tax Office after serving for four years as the tax advisor for U.S. Army Japan at Camp Zama.

"Basically I just did a lot of supervising and answering questions the soldiers had when preparing some of the more difficult tax returns," Willis said. "I wanted them to work it out on their own so they could be more confident as a tax preparer."

Willis added initially the soldiers were nervous, but eventually they got into a comfort zone and were able to assist the customers with few problems.

The Tax Office not only assisted soldiers,



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks
Pvt. Natalie Smith, Fort Huachuca Tax Center volunteer, helps a soldier file his taxes before the April 15 tax deadline. Volunteers prepared nearly 3,000 income tax returns while saving its customers more than \$430,000.

"We're not certified public accountants, we're not professionals doing this. We're just regular 'Joes' doing this service. But we always did our best to try to get the job done for the customer."

**Sgt. Matthew Edwards,
Fort Huachuca Tax Center noncommissioned officer in charge**

but retirees, family members and Department of Defense civilians on tax matters ranging from 401Ks, retirement plans, mutual funds and stocks and bonds.

Edwards mentioned some days were more hectic than others especially when a customer arrived without all the documentation needed to prepare their tax form and recalled several customers coming to the office with shoeboxes containing receipts.

"We're not certified public accountants, we're not professionals doing this," Edwards said. "We're just regular 'Joes' doing this service. But we always did our best to try to get the job done for the customer."

However on some occasions Edwards and his staff had to turn away some customers because of complicated items that were better suited for professional income tax offices.

"We didn't want the customer to end up owing more than what they possibly were going to pay the government," he said.

According to most of the customer satisfaction survey forms filled out by tax clients, the Fort Huachuca Tax Office volunteers were praised for their service and support. Comments lauded the volunteers for taking care of them in a quick

and friendly matter.

"We didn't waste a lot of the customers' time by keeping them here waiting," Edwards said.

Edwards said it always made his staff's day when they were able to help a customer make a little more money than what the customer thought they'd have owed to them by the government.

"I really enjoyed being here and helping the soldiers," said Pvt. Natalie Smith, tax volunteer. "This was a great opportunity to gain some valuable experience on federal income taxes."

Volunteers included: 1st Lt. Alisha Williams, Sgt. Michael Fiechter, Sgt. Garrett Davison, Staff Sgt. James Gilbertson, Pvt. Howard Desper, Sgt. Brian Hawkins, Spc. Courtney Marcus, Tech. Sgt. John Wyatt, Pfc. Jonathon Long, Staff Sgt. Donald Hogan, Staff Sgt. Mireille Gaynor, Master Sgt. Frank Hiergeist, Sgt. 1st Class Cindy Pring, Kimberly Carter, Dieter Lauterman, Ernest Stewart, Wendy Seals, and Susan Deyette.

(Editor's note: The Scout will feature articles in future editions related to deployed soldier upon their return back to Fort Huachuca.)

VA reduces SGLI rates for military, families

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DOUG SAMPLE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that premiums for the Service members Group Life Insurance will be reduced, handing military members a few extra dollars in their pockets each month.

Beginning in July, the cost for a \$250,000 policy — the maximum coverage — will drop from \$20 to \$16.25 monthly, a \$3.75 savings. The Department of Veterans Affairs reports that rates for Veterans Group Life Insurance will not change.

Tom Tower, Department of Defense's assistant director for military compensation, welcomed the reduced premiums, adding that anytime you put "more money in the pockets of military members, it's always a good result."

Premiums will also be reduced for SGLI family coverage, with rates varying among age groups.

The largest saving will go to spouses between 35 and 39 years old, whose premiums will be nearly cut in half. Service members currently pay \$13 for a \$100,000 family policy. That policy will cost \$7.50 beginning in July — a \$5.50 savings.

The reduced rates means a military family will save an average of \$100 a year. The VA estimates that service members collectively will save about \$96 million annually in premiums, and \$42 million in family coverage premiums each year.

Tower said the reduced premiums are a result of an ongoing process to keep costs down for military members.

"The VA regularly checks to see how much is paid out versus how much is collected in premiums, and whenever it seems like they have built up premium reserves, they like to reduce premiums to keep the cost to a minimum for the member," Tower said. "Its part of the objective of the program: to provide the lowest cost possible."

SGLI began in 1965 to meet the insurance needs of Vietnam-era service members. Before SGLI, the military provided \$10,000 policies to service members, and policies were available to active-duty military only.

Today the SGLI program provides coverage of \$250,000 to active duty service members and most Reservists. Coverage of \$100,000 has also been provided for spouses of participating members with free coverage of \$10,000 for dependent children. Reduced levels of coverage may also be elected.

Information about the change in SGLI premiums can be found at www.insurance.va.gov, or call the Office of Servicemembers Group Life Insurance toll-free at 1-800-419-1473.

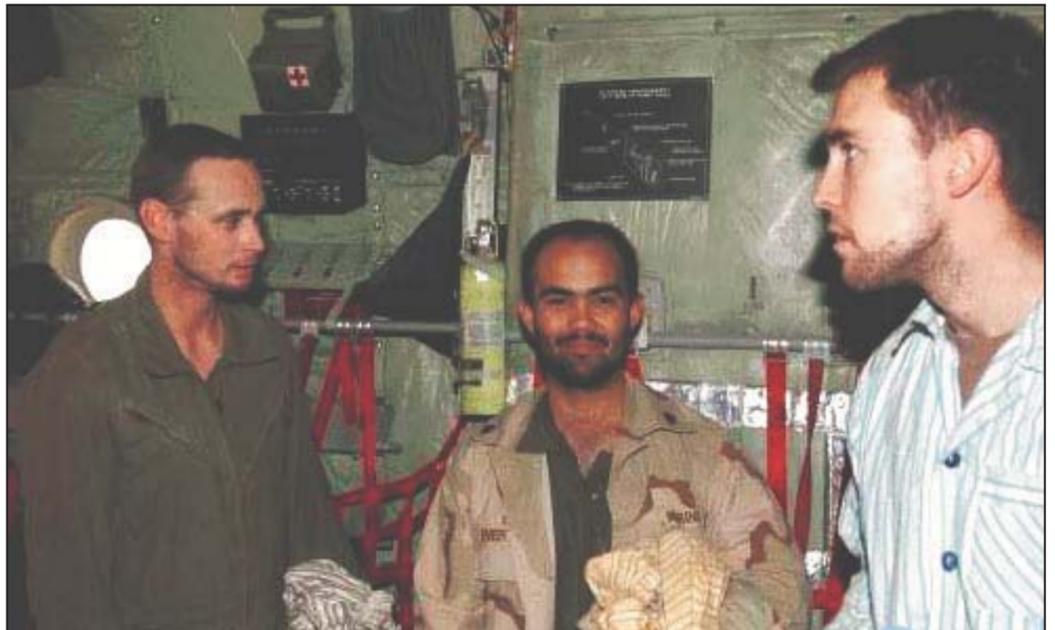


Photos by Gunnery Sgt. Shannon Arledge

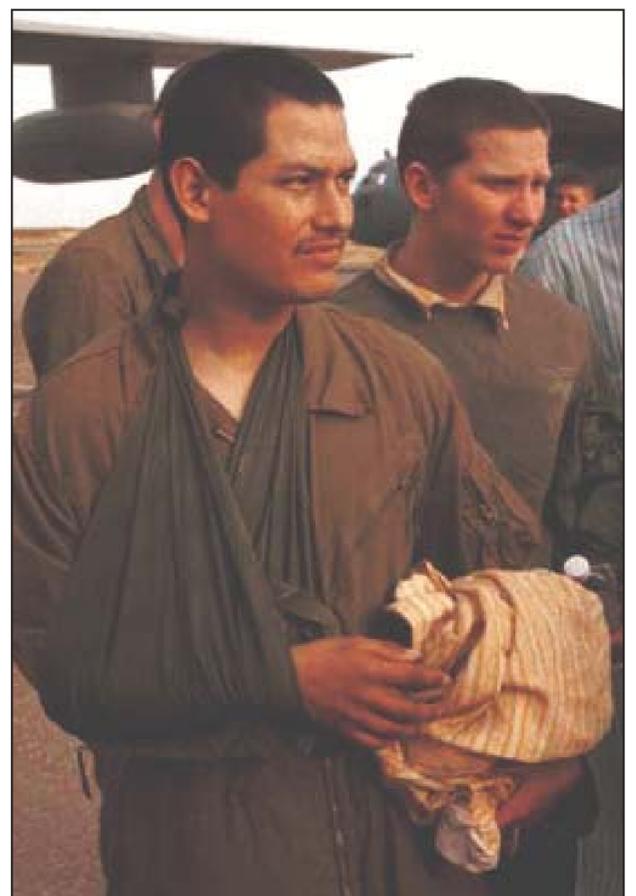
Spc. Shoshana Johnson receives a hug from Chief Warrant Officer David Williams after landing in Kuwait City Sunday. The two soldiers along with five others have been held captive by Iraqi forces since March 23. All were safely rescued Sunday.

Jubilation, freedom for seven POWs

Nation wakes up Sunday morning to news of missing soldiers returning to safety



Sgt. James Riley, Spc. Joseph Hudson, and Chief Warrant Officer Ronald Young stand inside the KC-130 transport aircraft after departing an airfield south of Baghdad. They were three of seven prisoners of war rescued by Marines from the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. The POWs were found after Iraqis gave Marines information that the American POWs were nearby.



Left: Pfc. Patrick Miller, 23-year-old Wichita, Kansas native, leaves an ambulance and boards a KC-130 transport aircraft on an airfield a few miles south of Baghdad. Miller was one of seven prisoners of war rescued Sunday in Sammara, Iraq. Above: Spc. Edgar A. Hernandez stands on the flightline in Kuwait. Hernandez received a bullet wound to the arm when his vehicle convoy came under heavy enemy fire March 23 in Nasiriya, Iraq. He and four other members of the Army's 507th Maintenance Company were taken as prisoners of war. The other two POWs were downed Apache helicopter pilots.

Community Updates

Spirit of Service Award

The Department of the Army announces its participation in the American Legion's Spirit of Service award. This award will recognize a member from each of the Armed Forces of the United States, Sergeant and below, for their outstanding military performance and volunteer service in a local community.

Nominations must be submitted to Headquarters, Training and Doctrine Command, Attn: ATBO-BPS, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-1048, no later than May 14. Each nomination packet must be submitted through the nominee's chain of command and include a narrative and biography.

Tuskegee Airmen Award

The Department of the Army announces its participation in the 2003 Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Military award. This program recognizes outstanding military members (Active, Reserve and Guard) from each of the military services, who epitomize the pursuit of excellence in their chosen career fields.



Nominations must be submitted to Headquarters, Training and Doctrine Command, Attn: ATBO-BPS, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-1048, no later than May 7. Each nomination packet must be submitted through the nominee's chain of command and include a narrative and biography.

Army blood drives planned

The William Bliss Army Medical Center will conduct Army blood drives on the last week of each month at Eifler Gym from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. This month's blood drive will be April 29-30.

Retired officers meeting scheduled

The Coronado Chapter of The Military Officers Association of America will hold its monthly dinner meeting for members, spouses and guests at Fort Huachuca's Lakeside Activity Center today beginning at 6 p.m.

For more information contact Chapter secretary Chief Warrant Officer, retired, Joe Gill at 458-4099 or e-mail joegill@c2i2.com.

USAWOA luncheon tomorrow

The United States Army Warrant Officer Association, Arizona Silver Chapter, Monthly Professional Development Luncheon will be tomorrow at the Boots and Saddles Room of La Hacienda at 11:30 a.m. Guest speaker will be Chief Warrant Officer Al Myles, chief, Military Intelligence Warrant Officer Training. You do not have to be a current USAWOA member to attend.



For more information contact Warrant Officer Wilmer Acevedo at 538-6842 or e-mail waceved@msn.com

Range closures

Today – AL, AM, AU, AV, T1, T1A, T2

Tomorrow – AL, AM
Saturday – AL, T1, T1A, T2
Sunday – No Closures
Monday – AC, AD
Tuesday – AU

Wednesday – AC, AD, AM, AQ, AR, T1, T1A, T2

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

GIPC Web site activated

The Global Information Security Partnership Conference 2003 Web site is now available for complete registration and information access. Log on to www.gipcsl.com to find the tools to register for the conference, register for workshops and on-line payment options.



The US Army Communications-Electronics Command Communications Security Logistics Activity is hosting its 12th annual Global INFOSEC Partnership Conference also known as GIPC, May 6-8 on Fort Huachuca. The conference theme is, "Cryptographic Modernization: Securing the Modern Battlefield."

Commissary will close for Easter

The Fort Huachuca Commissary will be closed April 20 for Easter Sunday.

No school tomorrow and Monday

There will be no school tomorrow and Monday at the Fort Huachuca Schools.

Estate planning class offered

Col. Jerry Erhlich, a judge advocate reservist specializing in estate planning, will present two Estate Planning Seminars on May 1. There will be one briefing from 10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. at Fitch Auditorium, Alvarado Hall, and a second briefing from 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. at Greeley Hall. The seminars will provide comprehensive legal and practical information to soldiers and families about estate planning; topics will include wills, trusts, tax ramifications, and related topics such as medical directives and powers of attorney. For more information contact 1st Lt. Holly Bryant, 533-0624.

Garrison retirement ceremony

U.S. Army Garrison will be hosting the Installation Retirement Ceremony April 25, at 7 a.m. at Chaffee Parade Field.

The soldiers who are retiring are Chief Warrant Officer David James, Network Enterprize Technology Command and from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Military Intelligence Brigade Sgt. First Class Michael Naujelis and Sgt. First Class Robert Fye.

New shuttle bus schedule

released

The Sierra Vista Public Transit System shuttle bus for Fort Huachuca new schedule includes a bus, which circulates around the post Mondays through Saturdays from 6:30 a.m. to 7:35 p.m. Also in the new schedule is seven-day service from post to commercial areas downtown. The Monday- Friday fort to mall express runs from 4:48 p.m. – 7:21 p.m. with the first on-post pick-up being at the military village. On Saturdays the first on post pick-up point is military village and is at 11:01 a.m. The last returning bus on Saturdays leaves the Sierra Vista transfer center at 8 p.m. On Sundays the first pick-up on the fort, at the military village, is at 12:21 p.m. and the last return leaves the mall at Sierra Vista at 5:35 p.m. Off post stops include the transfer center, the mall and Wal-Mart.

One-way rides are \$1. For more information on this service go to the Web site at: www.ci.sierra-vista.az.us.

JITC conference scheduled

The Joint Interoperability Test Command is holding their 13th Annual Interoperability Conference Monday through April 24 on Fort Huachuca. This year's theme is "The Interoperability Challenge of Military Transformation".

Visit the Conference Home Page for information and registration at http://jitc.fhu.disa.mil/iop_conf/2003/iop_conf.htm.



Dental emergency numbers

For dental emergencies occurring after normal clinic hours, please contact the following:

Dental Charge of Quarters, cellular telephone 227-5563 or, DCQ Beeper 533-3500-digital access code - 306. Family members should seek emergency care from their Tricare Dental Plan personal dentist. Retirees should seek emergency care from the Tricare Retiree Dental Plan personal dentist. Examples of true dental emergencies include: jaw fracture, lacerations, knocked out teeth, severely fractured or displaced teeth, oral swelling that interferes with breathing, fever more



than 101 F from oral infection, uncontrollable hemorrhage, or severe acute toothache pain not controlled by medication. Call Staff Sgt. Paul Orozco at 533-3147 for more information.

Fort Huachuca Lent/Holy Week Services

Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, 6 a.m.

Main Post Chapel

Keynote Speaker: the Rev. Greg Adolf, St. Andrews Catholic Church

Catholic - Lent Service

Service	Day	Time	Location
Stations of the Cross	Today	5 p.m.	Main Post Chapel
"Poor Man's Meal"	Today	6 p.m.	Main Post Chapel

Catholic - Holy Week

Service	Day	Time	Location
Holy Thursday Mass	Today	7 p.m.	Main Post Chapel
Good Friday - Stations of the Cross	Tomorrow	11:30 a.m.	Main Post Chapel
Service of the Cross	Tomorrow	3 p.m.	Main Post Chapel
Holy Saturday Mass	Saturday	7 p.m.	Main Post Chapel
Easter Sunday Mass	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Main Post Chapel
Easter Sunday Mass	Sunday	11:30 a.m.	Kino Chapel

Protestant - Holy Week

Service	Day	Time	Location
Good Friday	Tomorrow	11:30 a.m.	Kino Chapel
Easter Service	Sunday	9:20 a.m.	Kino Chapel
Easter Service	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Prosser Village
Easter Service	Sunday	11 a.m.	Main Post Chapel

Jewish

Service	Day	Time	Location
Shabbat Service	Every Friday	7 p.m.	Main Post Chapel

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Community Events Calendar

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

"Blessing of the Vines"

April 26 at the Sonoita Vineyard. Cost is \$10 and includes a souvenir wine glass, wine tasting, winery tour and live music.

Info at www.sonoitavineyards.com

13th Annual Children's Activities Festival

April 26 at the Ethel Berger Center from 10 a.m. - noon. Enjoy Petting Zoo, hayrides and more.

20

* Easter Sunrise Service begins at 6 a.m. at the Main Post Chapel.

21

* San Pedro Kiwanis meets at noon in the Crystal Room of Thunder Mountain Inn. Contact Nilda Townsend at 458-9647.
* Thunder Mountain Bridge Club meets at 12:30 p.m. at Thunder Mountain Inn. Call Dianna Smith at 432-3883.

22

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

23

* La Salida Del Sol Lions meets at Thunder Mountain Inn at 6:45 a.m. Call Lee at 378-1399 for details.
* SV Chess Club meets at Peter Piper Pizza at 7 p.m.

24

* SV Optimist Club meets at 6:30 a.m. at the Landmark Café. Call Robert Atkinson at 459-2711.
* National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC. Call 378-6605 for details.
* Huachuca Area Retired Teachers Association meets at OYCC at 10 a.m.
* Early Release for Fort Huachuca Schools. Myer, Kindergarten @ 1:20 p.m. Grades 4 & 5 @ 1:30 p.m. Johnston, grades 1 - 3 @ 1:15 p.m. and Smith, Grades 6-8 @ 1:40 p.m.
* The Amazing Arizona Series will continue with "The Coronado National Forest with Joan Vessey. Program begins at 7 p.m. at the Ethel Berger Center. Call Tracy Adkins at 417-6980 for info.

25

* Rollin' Thunder Skate Park 5 - 9 p.m. for teens only. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public.
* Rollerskating at Youth Services, Bldg. 49013 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 533-3205 for details.
* Cochise College Choir will perform at the Benson Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m.

26

* Youth Services at Bldg. 49013 has open recreation from 1 - 8 p.m. Call 533-3205 for info.
* Rollin' Thunder Skate Park is open 1 - 6 p.m. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public.

MCC = Murr Community Center

MPC = Main Post Chapel

OYCC = Oscar Yrun Community Center

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

Retirees ask for better health care, communication

ARMY NEWS SERVICE RELEASE

The Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council closed its 43rd meeting Friday with a report citing health care and communication as the two primary concerns of retirees Armywide.

The CSA Retiree Council, co-chaired by retired Lt. Gen. John A. Dubia and retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Robert E. Hall, is made up of 14 members: seven retired officers and seven retired enlisted soldiers.

Prospective members are nominated by their installation retiree councils and approved by staff.

At its annual meeting — held April 7-11 this year — the council reviews issues forwarded by installation councils and determines which should be reported to the chief of staff and which can be addressed at the installation level.

Of the 65 issues submitted this year, 21 concerned health care.

The council also urged the chief of staff to support:

(a) concurrent receipt of military retired pay and disability compensation and quick implementation of Combat-Related Special Compensation;

(b) elimination of the reduction to the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity at age 62 to the maximum extent allowed by law and legislative language and acceleration of the start date of the paid-up provision of the plan;

(c) a study group reviewing retirement benefits for the National Guard and Reserve; and

(d) continued full-funding of TRICARE for Life.

The council stated that TRICARE for Life and TRICARE Senior Pharmacy have met many beneficiaries' expectations, but that other improvements need to be made.

The council's suggestions include raising TRICARE reimbursement levels; eliminating TRICARE Prime co-payments for retirees and family members under 65; ex-

tending TRICARE Prime and retiree dental insurance to retirees outside the continental United States; expanding TRICARE information campaigns; waiving late enrollment fees for Medicare Part B; and improving the relationship between DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs health care departments.

The council's communications goals include both facets of the Retirement Services mission — preparing soldiers and families for retirement and continuing to support retirees and families as part of the Army after retirement.

One communications goal is quarterly funding of Army Echoes, the Army's bulletin for retirees and the only communications link that reaches all retirees, families and survivors.

The other goal is using a variety of media — Internet, videotape and CD-ROM — to educate active-duty soldiers and families about retirement.

This communications effort targets not only those who are about to retire, but also those making military career decisions.

The technology would help Retirement Services Officers communicate with more soldiers and families with information on topics such as the Survivor Benefit Plan and the Career Status Bonus, officials said.

They said this information would also enhance professional training programs for commanders and senior non-commissioned officers, most importantly those attending installation command and management courses.

The council presented its concerns to Gen. John M. Keane, Army vice chief of staff, since Shinseki was unable to attend April 11 because of commitments related to the war in Iraq.

The co-chairmen of the council said they will meet periodically with the chief of staff during the year to discuss the progress that has been made on issues.

(Editor's note: Information provided by Laura Paul, G1 Retirement Services.)



Photos by Staff Sgt. Robert Hyatt

Sand troopers

Above: Sgt. John Buscher of B Company, 86th Signal Battalion, uses an air drill to dig holes in order to sink anchors cables that will anchor a heavy tropo antenna at an undisclosed location in Iraq on April 1. Left: Pfc. Heather Brown of B Company, 86th Sig. Bn., assembles components of a heavy tropo antenna amid sand and dust in the Iraqi desert.



DoD advises SARS precautions, concern for military personnel

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DOUG SAMPLE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

The Department of Defense is advising military and civilian personnel to take precaution against the potentially deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. The advisory is especially for those traveling in the Far East, where the flu-like virus is believed to have originated.

SARS has killed more than 79 people worldwide and raised concerns within DoD about the potential impact to deploying forces and current operations.

However, Dr. David Tornberg, deputy assistant defense secretary for clinical programs and policy, emphasized that no component in DoD, to include the military services, had a SARS problem. He indicated there have been no reported cases of SARS in DoD.

Tornberg said, however, DoD is "taking precautions" because of concern for military personnel being exposed to the virus and someone subsequently catching the disease.

"Health risk communications have gone out to the force, the combatant commanders are aware of the threat, they're following the disease closely, and they are taking initiatives to protect the troops," Tornberg said.

"It's prudent to be very wary of any communicable disease, or any disease that adversely affects our service personnel, that decreases their efficiency and their combat readiness," he said.

SARS is a mysterious respiratory illness that has flu-like symptoms. Researchers studying the disease have yet to determine its exact cause or origin. Symptoms include fever, body aches, headaches, sore throat, dry cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the syndrome may be associated with other symptoms, including headache, muscular stiffness and loss of appetite, malaise, confusion, rash and diarrhea.

Tornberg said 90 percent of the people who have SARS-related infections recover uneventfully. "It's only 10 percent [of people] that have severe trouble, and consequences in the worst cases can lead to death," he noted.

As of April 10, the World Health Organization reported 2,781 probable SARS cases in 19 countries. According to CDC, the United States had 166 suspected cases, as of April 9.

Tornberg said that DoD is working with WHO and the CDC to track SARS and reduce the risks for catching the disease.

In doing so, Tornberg said that DoD is discouraging travel to certain Far East countries and asking personnel to follow State Department and CDC travel advisories. He said only "essential travel" should be taken in countries that have high concentrations of SARS cases.

For example, Pacific Command, which includes the area where the virus has been most active, said Defense Department personnel may make only mission-essential trips to China and Hong Kong because of the disease's threat.

SARS is spread by contact with respiratory droplets from people ill with the disease. Despite its easy transmission, the virus appears to have a "relatively low" communicability, Tornberg said.

"To get the disease, you have to be in close contact with someone who has the condition, either an immediate household contact and be in contact with that person on a sustained basis," he said.

Tornberg said regular hand washing and avoiding people who are ill with flu-like symptom dramatically reduces the risk of transmission.

"Frequent hand washing is critical to eliminating the threat of disease. If people were to do this five times a day, particularly before meals, they'd be a lot safer," he said.

He cautioned everyone to also avoid people who are sick and those who have traveled to Far East countries that have reported the disease. Tornberg said people who feel sick, have flu-like symptoms and have associated with someone who's been to the Far East should see a doctor.

"I wouldn't wait to seek medical attention — the sooner, the better," he said.

More guidance on SARS can be found on the DoD Health Affairs Web site at www.ha.osd.mil. Information is also available on the CDC site at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars.

MYERS from Page 1

"There is more to do," Myers agreed, including finding and eliminating any weapons of mass destruction, expanding humanitarian relief and assisting Iraqis to get their infrastructure — to include the country's police and fire departments — back on its feet.

And "we must help the Iraqi people create the conditions for a rapid transition to a representative self-government that is not a threat to its neighbors," Myers continued, "and is committed to ensuring the territorial integrity of that country."

U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf region are drawing down, Myers pointed out,

noting that two of the five aircraft carriers deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom — the USS Kitty Hawk and Constellation — are slated to soon head home.

And B-2 stealth bombers, F-117 stealth fighters and other aircraft, Myers added, are also returning home.

"We have begun transitioning from combat operations to working with local Iraqis to stabilize and secure Iraq's cities and towns," the general pointed out.

Myers emphasized that the U.S. military and its coalition partners are in Iraq to "support the Iraqi people as they rebuild their nation."



Photo courtesy Joint Combat Camera Center

Soldiers serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom will stay as long as required but not one day longer according to Gen. Richard Myers, chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

REGIME from Page 1

"As I've said before, there's still more difficult and even dangerous work to be done," McChrystal said. "We're working to create an atmosphere in which the Iraqi people can begin to govern themselves."

Clarke also reminded the reporters of the eight objectives that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld laid out at the onset of the war.

First end the regime of Saddam Hussein. Most of the entire country is largely free of the former regime's influence.

Second, capture or drive out terrorists sheltered in Iraq. Clarke said with the end of Hussein's regime, terrorists have lost their chief sponsor and ally in Iraq.

Third, collect intelligence on terrorist networks.

Fourth and fifth are to collect intelligence on weapons of mass destruction and to oversee their destruction. "We've begun the long process of exploring sites, sifting through documents and encouraging Iraqis to come forward with information," Clarke said.

Sixth, secure Iraq's oil fields and natural resources. Coalition forces have secured both the northern and the southern oil fields.

Seventh, end the sanctions and immediately deliver humanitarian relief. Clarke said President Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair have asked the United Nations to lift imposed sanctions so more aid can flow into Iraq.

Finally, the eighth and final goal is to help the Iraqi people transition to a representative form of self government.

Pennies from heaven



photo by Nell Drumheller

Giving is non-denominational. Parishioners at the Fort Huachuca Main Post Chapel donated nearly \$6,000 in one weekend with the money going to help family members of deployed soldiers.

Local lifesavers are Red Cross Real Heroes

BY NELL DRUMHELLER
STAFF SCOUT

On April 25 18 Arizonans will be recognized by the American Red Cross as Real Heroes. Lyn Farbo and Trish Blake, both Joint Interoperability Test Command contract employees on Fort Huachuca will be among the honorees.

On Sept. 16, 2002 Farbo and Blake saved the life of their co-worker Ralph Handley. Suddenly without warning, Handley stood up and sat down before passing out. He learned later he had suffered from intestinal hemorrhaging.

"It just came on very sudden, it happened so fast, it all took place just in a couple of minutes," Handley said.

"I tried to pull him up and was calling for help. In the past my response to everything had been to panic, but this time I was happy with myself. I prayed, 'Dear God, please help me to do something' and He did," Blake said.

That's when Farbo, who worked in a daycare center in the past where she had to get her cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification on an annual basis, entered and started to immediately clear his airway and perform CPR because he wasn't breathing and had started to choke.

Handley came to as Farbo was clearing his airway. "It took the two of us," Blake said.

He was transported to the Sierra Vista Hospital emergency room and from there he was transported by helicopter to the University Medical Center in Tucson.

According to the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Red Cross "as a community leader

in emergency preparedness, prevention and response, the American Red Cross honors individuals whose extraordinary acts of courage and kindness make them Real Heroes."

For more information about the event or about the nomination process, please call the American Red Cross at (520) 318-6740 out of Pima County, call 1-800-341-6943.

Proceeds from the American Red Cross Real Heroes Breakfast will provide emergency shelter, meals, and clothing for 100 local families who are victims of a disaster.

Editor's note: portions of this article were taken from one written by Staff Sgt. Stewart and run in the Oct. 10, 2002 issue of the Scout



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sharron Stewart

Lyn Farbo, Becky Bazan and Patricia Blake all are thankful that coworker, Ralph Handley is back at work. Their quick actions saved Handley's life.

Colorectal cancer is second highest killer of men and women

BY CAPT. CHERITA ECHOLS
RWBACH NUTRITION CARE

Although colon cancer is not as publicly discussed as some the other illnesses, it is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States, and the second highest killer of both men and women. Colon cancer has also been touted as being one of the cancers that can be prevented, and also easily cured if it is diagnosed in its early stages.

It was estimated that of the 148,300 persons that were likely to be diagnosed with colon cancer last year, 56,600 will indeed die from the disease. Colorectal cancer involves the colon and the rectum, hence the name. The development of this cancer usually begins with the growth of non-cancerous polyps on the lining of the colon and rectum. These polyps often reproduce in an unhealthy manner and as a result develop into cancer. Some cancer related symptoms that may raise a red

flag include:

- Blood in or on the stool
- Rectal bleeding
- Change in bowel habits
- Diarrhea, constipation or feeling that bowel does not empty completely
- Unexplained weight loss
- Frequent gas pains and general stomach discomfort

These things are not definite indicators of colon cancer; however, they should alert one to seek further medical attention.

In addition to these symptoms, one should be wary if they have certain risk factors related to an increased incidence of colon cancer. These risk factors include: family history of colon cancer, colon polyps, diets high in fat/low in fiber, high alcohol consumption, and lack of physical activity. Having a combination of any of the symptoms/risk factors should be a cause for concern, yet anyone that is 50 years or older should be regularly screened

for colorectal cancer. Catching the disease early in its developmental stage seems to be the biggest preventive measure associated with this illness. Sadly enough because many do not receive the necessary screening, this cancer seems to be more prevalent among African-Americans than any other ethnic group.

In addition to all of the physical factors related to colorectal cancer, there are also some nutritional factors that have been thought to influence the growth or lack of growth of cancer cells.

Diets that are high in fat and or low in fiber and calcium tend to increase the risk of developing the cancer when risk factors are present. Most recently, researchers have discovered that for women who have a family history of colorectal cancer, taking the daily recommended level of 400 micrograms of folate folic acid and limiting alcohol intake seems to cut the incidence rate by about 50 percent.

Parishioners donate to help families of deployed soldiers

BY NELL DRUMHELLER
SCOUT STAFF

While soldiers who are parents are deployed, the total responsibility of the children rests on the shoulders of the adult left with their care.

Sometimes this responsibility can become overwhelming, especially when health issues crop up and interrupt the daily schedule.

When this happens the stress can be lifted through respite services at the Army Community Services, according to Marjorie Loya, acting Family Advocacy Program manager.

"The urgent need is an outcry of family members of deployed soldiers," she said. "They don't have a spouse at home to relieve them."

However, they do have a family of sorts in the parishioners on the Fort Huachuca Main Post Chapel. On a recent weekend when the donation plate, specifically responding to the need of the respite program, was passed at both the Catholic and Protestant services more than \$4,600 was collected. A few days later a soldier came into the chapel with a donation. His aunt had died and left him \$10,00 in an inheritance. The soldier, who wishes to remain anonymous, chose to donate \$1,000 and asked that his donation be given to the respite program for family members of deployed soldiers.

A total of \$5,663.69 was donated to the

program, according to Loya.

"The money will be used to pay for child care providers," she said. She explained that alternative care is often needed when the parent left at Fort Huachuca is waylaid by health issues, or sometimes by stress.

"Especially medical needs of special needs children," she added.

"The nature of these services is in an emergency situation," she explained. Sometimes ACS will receive three or four calls each week requesting information on the respite program, but other times, according to Loya, "there are maybe three or four a day."

Referral for respite care can come from any source she said, including a Family Readiness Group, a commander or self-referral.

If the primary care giver is hospitalized, according to Loya, the respite program will step-in for around the clock care of the children. Typically the children will go to the Child Development Center during the day and ACS will work with a Family Child Care provider at night.

Though the chapel donation was specifically for respite care for family members of deployed soldiers, there is also support for soldiers who are not deployed.

"We consider these on a case by case basis," Loya said. She recognizes that the soldiers who have not deployed often have to work additional hours and take on extra duties in support of the mission.

For more information on this service call ACS at 533-2330.

Pack out more than you pack in

Due to the untidiness of undocumented immigrants, who traverse the open spaces of Fort Huachuca, trash has accumulated in the mountains and rangelands. To keep the Fort clean Garrison Commander Col. Lawrence J. Portouw recommends all hikers and bikers pack out more than they pack in, picking up any objects that don't belong.

The undocumented immigrants often

leave behind drinking containers, articles of clothing and various other items.



Earth, wind and water

Teaching young people to respect the land

BY NELL DRUMHELLER
SCOUT STAFF

The ancient stewards of the fertile lands of southern Arizona knew to balance their respect of the animals, the rains and the soil. For hundreds of years the long stretches of rolling hills, the grassy valleys and the steep, rocky inclines that are now Fort Huachuca were under the purview of nomadic tribes who knew that without care and respect the earth could not support them.

The modern day keepers of the land on Fort Huachuca take their responsibilities just as seriously and are passing on the knowledge to the young people of the post.

This spring an environmentally friendly garden was planted at Johnston Elementary School in cooperation with represen-

tatives of the 304th Military Intelligence Battalion, staff and pupils of the school, and the folks at the Water Wise and Energy Smart Program.

"We called the battalion and asked if they had anyone who could help," Ginger Maxey of the WWP recalled. She said that they sent students from Company A who were attending the military intelligence school.

Volunteers from Company A were ready to help. Students from the military intelligence course provided the labor for the garden using plans developed by the WWP staff.

"We used about 20 plants," Maxey said. The garden was planned and planted with a goal to make the garden attractive to humans, butterflies and birds as well as incorporate plants native to the desert.

This stems from the fact that folate provides energy for the body process which helps to produce normal functioning genes that control the way in which cells reproduce; inversely, alcohol has the opposite effect on these genes.

Because cancer is usually attributed to abnormal cell growth and reproduction, folate consumption is very important. It is important to note that a diet high in calcium alone does not automatically prevent one from getting colorectal cancer; however, evidence supports that persons who are at risk have a lowered incidence of colorectal when low fat calcium foods are consumed.

Available research suggests that a diet that consists of about 30 - 35 grams of fiber (including soluble and insoluble) daily also helps to greatly reduce the risk and incidence of colorectal cancer. Both forms of fiber are beneficial to the digestive system; however

soluble fiber (the part that is broken down or somewhat digested) provides additional heart healthy benefits. Surprisingly, the average American consumes less than 20 grams of fiber daily. Foods that contain the greatest and most available sources of dietary fiber include fruits and vegetables, preferably those with skin (majority of fiber contained in skin), whole grain products, nuts, and legumes. Certain dietary supplements also provide fiber; however, the actual food products are preferred because they provide beneficial nutrients other than fiber.

When it comes to colorectal cancer the following facts can be deduced: colorectal cancer is one that is very prevalent, very curable (if caught early), and very preventable (with appropriate screening, diet, and exercise). If there are any questions, or if you would like to have a class taught to your group or unit, call Echols at 533-5133.

Teleconference links deployed soldiers with pupil pen pals

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

Although it wasn't an episode of "Kids say the darndest things," the atmosphere in the 11th Signal Brigade's conference room resembled the television show without Bill Cosby as the host.

Pupils from Smith Middle School were able to ask questions to their pen pals, 11th Sig. Bde. soldiers currently deployed to Kuwait, via teleconference.

Questions ranging from "Do you have showers over there, do you have toilets, are you homesick and do you like Archie comic books?" were posed to the soldiers.

Cecilia Gross, Fort Huachuca Accommodation Schools, created the pen pal program as a way to link deployed soldiers with school pupils to help boost their morale.

For Gross, who has a son stationed in Korea, this was her second time piloting the pen pal program. She did the same thing more than 10 years ago when soldiers from the installation were deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

"I do realize the value of having contact with people back in the States and at home," she said. "All of the e-mails indicate they're upbeat over there."

She also added the pupils' benefit because it makes them feel good talking to the soldiers about their day-to-day activities and interests. Whether discussing how they did in a track meet or their latest grade on a test, the pupils looked forward to shar-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

From left to right, Brent Roberts, Zoe Bieranowski, and Dan Mock, laugh and talk to 11th Signal Brigade soldiers whom they've been pen pals with since Operation Iraqi Freedom. The students were able to see them via teleconference on Monday.

ing their accomplishments to the soldiers.

"The students really look forward to receiving the e-mails from the soldiers," Gross said. "They were discouraged when they didn't hear from their pen pals for a while, but now the e-mail comes regularly."

"I've asked my pen pal how boring is it over there. I wanted to know just in case I go there one day, so I want to be prepared."

**Brent Roberts,
sixth grader, Smith Middle School**

Before leaving Fort Huachuca, the soldiers came by Smith Middle School and the pupils drew names of which soldier they were going to be pen pals with. Since then they've been e-mailing each other nearly every week.

"I've asked my pen pal how boring is it over there," said Brent Roberts, sixth grader. "I wanted to know just in case I go there one day, so I want to be prepared."

For sixth-grader Zoe Bieranowski interacting with her pen pal, 2nd Lt. John Green, was a coincidental experience.

"His middle name is Caleb, which is the same as one of my brothers and his son's name is Zachary, which is the name of my other brother," Bieranowski said. "I couldn't believe it."

As the soldiers smiles lit up on screen, it was evident to the pupils their e-mails provided a small linkage of home.

"This is just my way of supporting our troops," said Jessica Clemmer, eighth grader. "I realize they are far away from home and it must be tough."

Deployed 11th Sig. Bde. soldiers to receive boxes with lots of love inside



Photo by Eric Cramer

Seventy packages filled with plenty of goodies

BY ERIC CRAMER
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

It was pandemonium with a purpose Wednesday morning in Cecilia Gross's Challenge Class at the Johnston Elementary School.

The class was creating care packages for deployed soldiers with the 11th Signal Brigade, currently serving in the Central Command area of operations.

"Where are the emery boards?" came from one side of the room. "Does anyone need more sunscreen?" from the other.

The Challenge Class, for gifted students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades, has been conducting an e-mail "pen pal" exchange with soldiers from the 11th Sig. Bde., and Gross said this is an extension of that program.

"We have about 50 packages that will go out today, and I'm getting another 20 empty boxes on Friday that we'll send out next week," she said.

The class filled the boxes with items both utilitarian and recreational, including razors, emery boards, sunscreen, lip balm, disposable cameras and paperback books.

The packages included oriental noodles, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and wet wipes for field use.

Gross said the care package contents, and the money to purchase them, came from several sources.

"My daughter-in-law works at the Joint Interoperability Test Command and when she told them about it, we got more than \$200 donated from people there," Gross said.

She also said Horizon Moving donated boxes for the effort, and there have been numerous donations from both individuals and businesses throughout the community.

First Lt. Rebecca Tucker, 11th Sig. Bde. public affairs officer, said the unit is helping

move the packages to the soldiers.

Gross said the packages can be sent as they are going to specific addresses, and not anonymously which would cause security concerns.

Tucker said the books included in the packages would be especially welcome. "Once our guys have set up their equipment, all they have to do is pull their shifts," she said. "There's usually a recreation tent set up where you can go see movies, but after a while you've seen all the movies."

"They can rotate the books among each other," she said.

Eighth grader Emily Mohoroski said sending the packages is the right thing to do.

"I think it's great. I know I'd like to get something if I was a soldier," she said.

Her classmate Charlotte Meador agreed.

"I think it's really good. The soldiers are help us out and helping the Iraqis," Meador said. "They're fighting for us by getting rid of Saddam Hussein."

Jessica Clemmer sorts through items to be sent to deployed soldiers of the 11th Signal Brigade.