Push button

Temporary Duty Travel gets easier - **Page 3**

Home builders

Students make edible abodes - **Page B2**

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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Scout reports

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The following is a list of holdiay hours for offices on Fort Huachuca.

Commissary

Monday-Open 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Dec. 25-Closed

Dec. 26-Closed

Dec. 29-Open 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Jan. 1--Closed

All other days are regular business hours.

On Monday a $25 Gift Certificate will be given away every half hour.

Dental

Runion Dental Clinic will be closed for the DENTAC's Holiday Party on Friday, 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Dental sick call will be held as usual at 7 a.m. on Friday.

Dec. 24

Dec. 25

Dec. 26

Jan. 1

Jan. 2

The clinic will be open 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. all other duty days during the Christmas Exodus.

Soldiers experiencing a dental emergency during non-duty hours should call the dental charge of quarters at 227-5563.

Museum

The museum will be closed on Dec. 26.

Thrift Shop

The Fort Huachuca Thrift Shop closed Wednesday through Jan. 2. The shop will reopen , Jan. 3 at 9:30 a.m.

IG's Office

The Inspector General's office will be closed on Friday, from 11 a.m. to close of business for Christmas party activities.

Passport Office

The passport office will be closed on Friday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the Adjutant General's Organizational Christmas party.

Cochise College

Cochise College offices will close for the holidays Saturday through Jan. 4. Students who wish to register for the spring semester may do so Jan. 5. Classes start Jan. 12.

INSIDE

Next generation

Grant helps school students advance technology.

Page 3

Can you hear me?

Teleconferencing hooks up local units with world-wide leaders.

Page 5

Honored

Nurse recognized for meritorious service, receives Bronze Star.

Page 5

Photo by Elizabeth Harlan

A precious holiday gift!

Staff Sgt. Angel DeJesus, 40th Signal Battalion, returns to Fort Huachuca culminating a six-month deployment to the Iraqi theater. His daughter, Alexander, 2, holds on tight. For more on the redeployment see Page 4.

MI digs out Saddam

Marks: Oh how mighty have fallen

THE SCOUT REPORTS

The images of a powerful dictator living in gilded palaces have forever been replaced by those of a tired, bearded and humbled Saddam Hussein who was captured Dec. 13 in the small Iraqi farming village of Ad Dawr, due in part to the military intelligence training Soldiers received at Fort Huachuca.

Before the Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division and Task Force Ironhorse could physically apprehend the dictator in hiding, intelligence sources were used to identify his location and success of the mission.

Fort Huachuca is designed to train all the intelligence specialists, voice intercept operators, interrogators, intelligence analysts and unmanned aerial vehicle operators.

Intelligence leads operations," explained Maj. Gen. James "Spider" Marks, commanding general, U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca and added that intelligence is the foundation for executing operations.

Military intelligence is a vital part of any war. MI Soldiers are responsible for getting leaders the information they need.

Soldiers on the ground in Iraq have given valuable feedback to assist in improving MI tactics, techniques and procedures. Marks, who recently returned from Iraq, coined the phrase "Fighting ISR," to refer to the driving force behind intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. Those three factors are the assets that must be managed in order to build a picture for the ground forces' commanders.

The driving force behind them is an "aggressive warrior spirit." Soldiers have to put their "hearts, minds and physical beings" into every endeavor.

The capture of Hussein was a culmination of that spirit.

"Here is a guy, who for 30 years lived a life of brutality, terror and deceit, he said. "He managed for eight months to avoid us [allied forces], to hide out and you saw the images that were brought forward Sunday. It's just amazing, oh, how the mighty have fallen. When you look at this guy, totally disheveled, without sleep, every hair out of place, lice in the scalp, terribly exhausted, cowardly, frightened; it is amazing to think that this guy was at one point the leader of a nation called Iraq.

"It was a magnificent victory [the capture of Hussein] for our Army and our armed forces. But we still have to stay the course. I can tell you, without overemphasizing, what was accomplished was a tremendous victory. But I also need to tell you that though you can't overestimate the success, we still have a lot of work to do."

Photo courtesy Department of Defense

Paul Bremer, U.S. ambassador to Iraq, watches the video of Saddam Hussein going through his medical examination shortly after his capture while it was being briefed to the media gathered at the Iraqi Forum in Baghdad, Sunday.

New center provides post teens outlet

BY PFC. JOY PARIANTE

SCOUT STAFF

The Fort Huachuca Youth Services celebrated the grand opening of its new Teen Center additions Friday night with a ribbon cutting, food and lots of teens looking to have fun.

The Teen Center features an outdoor skate park for skateboarding and rollerblading, a full gymnasium with skating on Friday nights, a television area with DirecTV and a game room for children in grades 5-12, said Richard Brown, director of Youth Services.

The center has tae kwon do and other planned activities during the school week, Brown said. Some nights, however, are "open rank" where the children get to choose their own activities.

The center has been operating for quite a while, Brown said, but the opening was for the new teen lounge and technology center.

The Fort Huachuca Army Family Action Plan held a teen forum in 2002 and the issue of teens in grades 9-12 not having a place to call their own where they aren't bothered by the younger children was broached.

"The most significant thing about the Teen Center is that we listened to the community and the teens indicated that they wanted a teen center," said Maj. Gen. James "Spider" Marks, commander, U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca. "We said you've got it, help design it."

After designing their addition to the Youth Center, the teens needed a location to add on to, Brown said. When the new school age center opened to accommodate grades 1-5, the issue was solved.

The new additions include the Teen Lounge and Technology Center which is for grades 9-12. The lounge has video games and karaoke. The Technology Center has 12 internet accessible computers with headphones for music and games, Brown said. There are also desks for teens to work on homework on their own or in small groups.

"We're thrilled to be able to provide a state-of-the-art facility to the teens of Fort Huachuca," said Col. Lawrence J. Portouw, commander, U.S. Army Garrison.

The Technology Center is utilizing a whole new approach to computer access, said Tom Doyle, director of Information Management. Due to the large amount of users without clearances, Doyle came up with the idea to use the government's fiber optic cables and data materials, but have a commercial service provider off-post. Through AT&T, the Technology Center, Murr Community Center, post libraries and the Education Center will have internet access for unaffiliated users, Doyle said.

"We had a need, figured out a solution and implemented it," Doyle said. To Doyle's knowledge, Fort Huachuca is the first post in the Army to attempt this.

Between wiring, furniture and other equipment and miscellaneous fees, the renovation at the Youth Center has cost $80,000, Brown said.

The Youth Services Teen Center is located across the street from Smith Middle School on Smith St.. The center is opens every weekday immediately after school and stays open until 6 p.m. on Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 10 p.m. on Friday. It is also open Saturday from 1-10 p.m. For more information, call Youth Services at 533-3025.

To the Soldiers and families of Fort Huachuca,

The holidays are a joyful time. Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukkah, the winter solstice, New Year's Eve – all are occasions to celebrate and spend time with family and friends. I want to encourage each one of you to take the holiday exodus time to enjoy the season and reflect on a job well done. I am proud of you and so is your country.

Our theme this year is *"Home and Back Safely."* As you travel during exodus, you may have the opportunity to talk to some of those people who are so proud of what you're doing to protect this nation and the freedoms that make this holiday season so special. If you're traveling in uniform, don't be surprised when strangers approach you and want to shake your hand and say thank you. Each and every one of you are an ambassador for the Army and for Fort Huachuca.

Since 1989, the annual Harris Poll has reported that public confidence in the military is higher than in any other American institution. You are your fellow citizens' link to a greater understanding of the dedicated men and women who train, deploy and face the challenges that threaten our national security every day. We have the best-trained, best-equipped and most powerful military in the world.

Being a Soldier or a military family member is not without its own stresses, especially during our support of the Global War on Terrorism. The Department of Defense leadership acknowledges the hardships and sacrifices of our Soldiers and their families and is aggressively pursuing means to lessen that strain by training the Iraqi military, civil defense and police forces, integrating multi-national peacekeepers, off-loading requirements on commercial contractors and developing financial compensation packages for deployed Soldiers. Here at Fort Huachuca, we have a robust support structure. Our chains of command and family readiness groups help ensure families are taken care of.

War is a tough, dangerous business, and the troops fighting it and those supporting the warfighters are doing a great job.

I encourage you to talk about your job and the great things you're doing at Fort Huachuca in support of our nation. Be honest, but be aware of safety and security. Don't discuss specific numbers, locations and/or future or postponed operations. Don't discuss where a deployment is going, the length of the mission or flight schedules.

Keep in mind that the folks you might be talking to do not live, eat and breathe the military lingo on a daily basis. Forget the acronyms and speak in easily understandable terms. Talk about your personal experiences, but stay in your lane. Don't speak for the command or your friends, or speculate about an issue you're not involved in.

In addition to thank you's and questions from family, friends and those you meet along your travels, you may have the opportunity to talk to the media about how the nation can confidently depend on its Army for national security. I hope you'll take every opportunity to tell your personal story. Assume that everything you say is "on the record" and never say, "no comment." Tell the reporter if you don't know the answer to a question or why you can't answer it. Remember, you're the Army's best spokesperson.

Be proud of what you do for the Army and your country; I know I am. Have a very happy and safe holiday exodus, and get *"Home and Back Safely."*

Enjoy the holidays but above all be safe... our nation needs you.

Sincerely,

James A. Marks

James A. Marks
Major General, US Army
Commanding General

Chaplain's Corner
Appreciate life's gifts

BY CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.) JAMES R. STEPHEN
INSTALLATION CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE

One woman remembers a simple, yet significant moment in her life.

As a student, she recalls living in cramped quarters on practically no money and spending a lot of time making plans for the future. Once she graduated, she dreamed of finding a job, purchasing a car, getting married, moving into a big house, starting a family, and buying a shaggy dog. Her dreams of a bright tomorrow helped her through the discomforts of a gray present.

Then, one day, while studying for an exam in her tiny apartment, a moment of significance came. Curled up in a tattered old afghan, she noticed how good the amber shafts of autumn sunlight coming through a nearby window made her feel.

"They warmed me from the top of my head to the soles of my feet," she recalls, "and I enjoyed the most incredible sense of well-being. It hit me then how many things there are about my life I loved, but that I often overlooked in my hurry to catch up with my exciting future."

A Chinese proverb has it that "people in the West are always getting ready to live." Throughout the years, poets and philosophers have noted our very human tendency to overlook the value of the present in anticipation of the future. It is as though we sometimes put ourselves on hold until our lives are the way we want them – the way we've planned for them to be.

And yet, life goes on. It has been observed that "life is what happens to us while we are making other plans." Indeed, the raw material of life is the present – the present hour, the present moment, the present second.

At times, we may find the present a difficult, even painful place to be. But taking note of the things we genuinely enjoy right now can help us cope.

We can, in fact, cultivate that frame of mind which, in spite of our troubles, allows us to take a deliberate and thoughtful pleasure in something as beautifully ordinary as autumn sunlight streaming through the window.

During the holiday season this year please take the time to appreciate life, family, friends, and co-workers. Make some space in your busy schedule to truly appreciate what is good about living in the world today, America, and the cause of freedom. Do not wait until the New Year, or until your time in your present job is over. Appreciate and enjoy what you have – today.

See it in color on the web at huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO!

The first Scout of New Year hits stands Jan. 8 Don't miss it!

Scout on the Street — How do you think the capture of Saddam Hussein will affect the war on terror?

"It makes the Soldiers feel better while they're out there, that part of their mission is complete."

Spc. Alberto Diaz, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 111th Military Intelligence Brigade

"All the little terrorist incidents will go down and be reduced. The Iraqis will back down because one of their main leaders is gone."

Spc. Jenuane Johnson, 69th Signal Company, 504th Signal Battalion

"It's good. Maybe they'll send the troops back here. I was over there for six months in Kuwait."

Spc. Alejandre Mancilla, 69th Signal Company, 504th Signal Battalion

"It is my hope it will be a stepping stone to a more stable environment. It will allow the Iraqi people to begin to focus on the future instead of the past."

2nd Lt. Amy Torguson, Company C., 304th MI Bn.

"I don't think it will. I think they have their own agendas. They might be using him as a martyr. I think it will continue."

Kevin Townsend, barracks manager, post housing

"It may not have a lot of affect if the recent hostilities are a result of militants outside Iraq. That's more an issue for the entire Middle East, than of just Iraq."

2nd Lt. David Walker, Company C., 304th MI Bn.

The Fort Huachuca Scout ®

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TDY vouchers, orders go electronic

Defense Travel System phased in on post

BY SPC. MATTHEW E. CHLOSTA
SCOUT STAFF

The Defense Travel System will be completely installed, uploaded and begin its live process verification phase Jan. 5.

The DTS testing will be completed by Jan. 8 and come online by Jan. 9, with Initial Operational Capability.

DTS is the Department of Defense-wide system for processing temporary duty travel orders and vouchers.

"DTS will soon provide all DoD travelers with an efficient and flexible means for electronically arranging travel, changing travel plans as necessary, completing the voucher process and receiving timely payment-all from the Web browser on the traveler's computer," said Mo Faber, director of communications and media relations for the Program Management Office for the Defense Travel System. "The bottom line, quite simply, is that DTS speeds up travel processing, reduces cost and provides superior customer service.

When a DoD civilian or servicemember goes on TDY, currently they have to have fill out a travel request by hand and walk it around the post to the various people who have to sign off on it, meanwhile making multiple copies for everyone.

When they get back from their travel, they calculate their receipts, fill out their travel voucher and fax or mail it to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

Sometimes it can take three weeks or more to get reimbursed for travel and expenses and for the government travel cards to get reimbursed.

Courtesy photo

With the new system, your office will have a designated computer workstation with a Common Access Card reader.

If your office doesn't have a CAC reader, you will go to a designated kiosk for your office on post with a CAC reader.

You scan your card in, your profile pops up on the computer screen. A traveler follows the prompts, fills out the form electronically, it is then routed electronically to the required signatores.

"We have personnel data as well as finance information in the person's profile," Gregory said. "DTS builds their profile, accounts voucher. All of the approvals are routed electronically, with electronic validated signatures for the DA Form 1610, travel request."

Once one signs off electronically, the completed form is forwarded automatically to the approving or reviewing official until the travel request is completed.

When you return from TDY, the process is the same for the travel voucher reimbursement. You go to your designated office computer with the scanner or your designated kiosk and follow the electronic prompts and forms all over again.

"The voucher is processed electronically, payment is forwarded into your account," Gregory said.

The expedited process and signatures all happens electronically again and wham! You receive your reimbursement in your bank account electronically within 2-3 business days, once it's approved by the official authorities.

"No longer do you have to run around and go from building to building getting signatures to have someone sign off on the TDY, same for the payment," according to 1st Lt. Alicia Gregory, site fielding lead, Fort Huachuca fielding team.

"DTS is now the official DOD TDY travel system and will be deployed to more than 11,000 DOD sites worldwide over by the middle of this decade," Faber added.

According to the Web site www.defensetravel.osd.mil, the vision of the defense travel system is to: "Reengineer defense travel to a seamless, paperless, automated system that meets the needs of individual travelers, force commanders, and process owners (such as finance and accounting services).

The new system will reduce costs to the government, support defense mission requirements, and provide superior customer service to the traveler and to the command according to the Web site www.defensetravel.osd.mil. DTS makes the travel process faster, easier and better than ever before.

"DOD travelers report that the system is intuitive, easy to use and they like getting travel claims paid electronically in a few days," Faber said. "As with any new automated system, DTS has had some growing pains and continues to evolve and improve based on user feedback and increased experience as system usage expands.

But, "there is multi-level 24/7 Help Desk support available to address problems and effect real-time solutions," Faber added.

"We are using a phased approach here to fielding the system to Fort Huachuca," Gregory added, "bringing the organizations into the system, over an approximately two month period."

The testing of the DTS on post will start today, break for the holidays and run until Jan. 8, Gregory said.

"We will work hand in hand with DFAS to track the live transactions," Gregory said.

"But because we will be watching, we can move in and makecorrections, if we see problems surface," Gregory said.

"We will give an outbrief to the Chief of Staff on January ninth, explaining to him what we came here to do, what we've done and what the future holds, Gregory said.

Alice Hoselton is the fort site point of contact and her alternate POC is Melissa Terry. They can be reached at 533-5874. Mo Dotson is the lead Army's PMO of DTS.

School goes 'Mr. Roboto' over grant

BY SPC. MATTHEW E. CHLOSTA
SCOUT STAFF

Smith Middle School's vocational technology lab was awarded a grant by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association on Nov. 14.

The money, $630, will be used to enhance the vocational technology lab program through the purchase of autonomous robots.

"This is an exciting endeavor allowing students to learn programming in a fun, competitive environment," said Tracy Hale, vocational technology teacher, Smith M.S.

Hale was notified of the grant award on Nov. 20.

"The whole idea behind it is to consider introducing students to some kind of career in programming computers," Hale said. "It's an a fun and engaging way to experience programming."

"It's great to experience things like this," said Viona Miller, seventh grade student in the vocational technology class. "We didn't have computer labs like this at my old school."

According to Hale, this is the first grant she knows of for the vocational technology class.

Hale forwarded the grant request to the AFCEA to seek, "money available for a suitable purpose."

The autonomous robots purchased with the money will help the students with their skills and challenge them to create original programming, Hale added.

"The students program the robot to stay in a circle," Hale said "The two robots fight, sumo wrestling style based on how the students program them to move and react."

Smith is very grateful for the opportunity to expose students to an additional strain of technology training and to elevate interest in the tech program, Hale said.

"This, in addition to the recent procurement by the district of another module covering Web development, attests to the Fort Huachuca Accommodation Schools' commitment to providing Fort Huachuca students with a wide and diverse array of educational experiences," Hale said.

Photo by Spc. Matthew Chlosta

Left, Jessica Creager, and right, Ayla Kinter, both seventh graders in Smith Middle School's Vocational Technology Class work with controls and sensors as they build a traffic light and turntable.

Cochise College wins credentialing program award

BY SPC. MATTHEW E. CHLOSTA
SCOUT STAFF

Cochise College was awarded this year's Council of College and Military Educators Institution Award for Excellence on Dec. 10.

Cochise College will be presented the CCME award officially at the closing banquet on Feb. 5 at the CCME's annual conference being held in Santa Barbara, Calif.

"I nominated them for the MOS[Military Operational Specialty] Credentialing Program and the cost avoidance that it involves," said Dennis Sherrod, education services director. "A committee of military branch education chiefs, CCME board members vote on nominations."

The MOS program was developed between Cochise College and the 111th Military Intelligence Brigade, Sherrod said. All instructors of the MI MOS schools are evaluated and become adjunct faculty members of Cochise College.

According to the information paper about the program, on Jan. 6, Cochise College, Fort Huachuca Education Center, initiated a program where young servicemembers attending military intelligence Advanced Individual Training schools, including MOSs (96R, 96B, 97B, 98H and 97E) could receive 16-21 hours of resident college credit.

This is a voluntary program where each individual has to pay a $35 registration fee. By doing so, on AIT graduation day, the individual also will receive an official college transcript and Servicemember Opportunity College Associate Degree program agreement.

Seven other MOSs have been evaluated and will soon be part of this program. All AIT instructors have met the qualifications to be adjunct faculty members with the school, but receive no salary or other compensation from Cochise College.

"The students have the opportunity to enroll with Cochise College," Sherrod said. "If they do that, when they graduate they receive 15-22 semester hours of college credit."

By establishing residency credit (16) the soldier can go anywhere in the world and transfer the remaining degree requirements back to Cochise. This can be achieved by taking examinations, on-line courses, or other school's courses (fully funded by tuition assistance while on active duty).

The information paper also states that, as of March 14, 240 servicemembers out of a possible 455 have enrolled. A cost avoidance is generated when one considers that these enrollments represent 4,796 semester hours.

If one uses an unofficial national average of $180 per semester hour, this represents a cost savings of $863,280, the information paper added.

Cochise College is also working with the Army career and Alumni Program (which falls under ESD) in developing a similar opportunity for ACAP clients.

Efforts are also being made now to contact the U.S. Army Recruiting Command to make them aware of this program for possible use as a recruiting tool for individuals interested in the MI career field, the information paper added.

Sherrod added that it started with a few MI MOSs and now includes all the MI MOSs, including 33Whiskey (electronic warfare intercept systems repairer), basic noncommissioned officer course, and advanced noncommissioned officer course.

"Over 75 percent of those eligible choose to enroll," Sherrod said.

The NCO Academy started the program Jan. 10 for their ANCO and BNCOC courses. 254 out of a possible 364 students have signed up.

"The award is given to recognize outstanding initiatives and programs that schools provide to military services," Sherrod said. "University of Maryland won last year."

Cochise College won this year's award, "because they developed the program," Sherrod said, "to my knowledge this is the first in the Army. It is a win-win situation. Cochise is the best school I have ever worked with in getting things done."

The young soldiers get a jump start on education, they get promotion points and the education centers save millions of dollars on cost avoidance of not having to use tuition assistance dollars, Sherrod added.

"Bruce Richardson[director of Cochise College military programs at Fort Huachuca] and I have been asked to do a presentation at this conference on the program."

CCME, which is more than 25 years old, is one of the largest organizations made up of all counselors and education services officers from all the military services, school representatives as well as the four military education chiefs, Sherrod added.

Commenting on what winning this award does for Fort Huachuca soldiers, Sherrod said, "The soldiers are already winners, award or no award. It gives the base some recognition. Cochise College and ESD[Education Services Directorate]/USAG[United States Army Garrison] do some great partnering initiatives. It shows what we all can do if we work together."

For more information on the program, contact Dennis Sherrod at 533-2393 or Bruce Richardson at 533-2391.

Home for holidays

Signal Soldiers return to cheers, tears

BY SPC. MATTHEW E. CHLOSTA
SCOUT STAFF

Soldiers from the 11th Signal Brigade returned home as an early Christmas gift to their families on Dec. 10 and Friday.

The redeployment flights touched down at 2 p.m. on Dec. 10 and 10:30 p.m. Friday at Libby Army Airfield.

Following their disembarkment from their planes and a quick inprocessing, the Soldiers were bussed to Barnes Field House for a raucous welcome home celebration, where they were reunited with family and friends.

Photo by Elizabeth Harlan

Karla Kinter lets Santa and everyone else know her Christmas wishes

"This couldn't be better, we did our best to get them home before Christmas," said Col. Brian Hurley, commander, 11th Signal Brigade. "The Soldiers returning are true heroes. We're so proud of them, we can't put it into words."

Many of the soldiers scrambled down the tarmac to the waiting crowd of Signal Soldiers, with face wide smiles and shouts.

One soldier, who had been looking forward to his return home from the first day of his deployment 13 months ago, was 1st Lt. Michael Tiso, 40th Signal Battalion.

As Tiso exited the plane and walked down the steps to the tarmac full of 11th Signal's welcoming officers and noncommissioned officers, he set off an exploding bottle of non alcoholic champagne in celebration of the Signal Soldiers' return.

But, the bottle of champagne had a deeper backstory, since it was a memento that Tiso had received during a Thanksgiving breakfast in Kuwait with Democratic Sen.Hillary Clinton of New York.

"It was amazing to see her," Tiso said. "We met and ate breakfast with her."

Tiso saved the bottle of non alcoholic champagne, from the Clinton breakfast, to open once he hit the ground back home.

Reflecting on his homecoming, Tiso said, "This is the best thing to happen in a long time."

"I'm most looking forward to seeing my fiancée above all," Tiso added.

A female Soldier deployed during the infamous 11th Signal Brigade's Valentine's Day deployment, Spc. Darlene Nelson, 40th Signal Battalion, also commented excitedly about her feelings on coming home and what she was looking forward to the most upon arriving back on post.

"I feel great," Nelson said. "I'm very happy to be home. I'm most looking forward to going to school, spending time with family for Christmas and the holidays and going on vacation."

Nelson added, that she was able to talk to her mom and aunt by phone or e-mail pretty frequently from the Middle East, but "I could've talked to them everyday if I wanted."

After the 11th Signal Soldiers walked into BFH, which was plastered with "Welcome Home," signs, they received an earpiercing standing ovation from the crowd of friends, family and loved ones as they assembled into their final formation.

Before the 11th Signal Soldiers were released into the overflow crowd that would envelope the sea of dry river-bed brown clad Soldiers, Hurley and NETCOM Commanding General, Maj. Gen. James Hylton gave brief remarks from the podium.

"Your guys are all heroes," Hurley said. "You did a great job over there."

"Add this to the Brigade's great history," Hylton said. "We're proud of you. You're absolute heroes."

Photo by Elizabeth Harlan

Sgt. Terrance Mobley cuddles Brianna, 8 months.

Speaking in a one-on-one interview, after the welcome home ceremony on Dec. 10, Hylton added, "This is truly a great day for the unit, a great day for the families. These Soldiers put together the most complex technical setup ever assembled. They faced technical challenges and they overcame them."

One final comment about the redeployment came from Staff Sgt. Raymond Smith, 40th Signal Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, who returned from deployment at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait and said, "This was an experience I won't forget. It made me feel proud that we actually served our country."

Photo by Sgt. Kristi T. Jaeger

Soldiers from the 11th Signal Brigade celebrate being home. The Soldiers proceeded to greet their families before heading home for some much needed rest and relaxation.

Health center's own receives bronze star

BY SGT. KRISTI T. JAEGER
SCOUT STAFF

The bronze star medal is awarded to any person, serving in the U.S. Army, who distinguishes themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement or service in connection with military operations against an armed enemy or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party, according to Army regulation 600-8-22 (military awards), chapter three.

Lt. Col. Kathy K. Prue-Owens, project officer for the chief nurse at Raymond W. Bliss Health Center, received the bronze star Dec. 2 as a result of her actions while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Prue-Owens originally deployed with the 10th Combat Support Hospital out of Fort Carson, Colo., she said. Upon her arrival to Dogwood, Iraq, which is south of Baghdad, she was attached to 28th Combat Support Hospital out of Fort Bragg, N.C.

"I was initially assigned as the head nurse of the only Burn Intensive Care Unit in theater. My main duties were to assign the nurses patient assignments and if we had more patients then staff, then I would take a patient myself," she said.

The unit moved to Baghdad two months after arriving in country, Prue-Owens said. They set up in Saddam Hussein Hospital. Prue-Owens is proud to have been the first critical care nurse in the hospital.

"I was selected by the chief nurse to go forward and set up the ICUs in Saddam's old hospital," she said.

It was in this hospital that active duty Soldiers, Iraqi civilians caught in crossfire, and Iraqi police were treated, she said. An enemy prisoner of war ward was established to treat Iraqi soldiers. Patients received the best medical attention the Army could give, said Prue-Owens.

After the unit moved in to the hospital at the end of August, Prue-Owens became the section supervisor for the Intensive Care Units.

"I was responsible for ensuring we had enough nursing staff, and a major part of the job was managing the beds. I would assign the sick patients to each unit," she said.

Before leaving Baghdad, Prue-Owens became the night supervisor for all the nursing and support personnel working during the night. She also worked closely with the S3 operation center to ensure the safety of the unit.

"This job was interesting because you never knew what would come through the door," she said.

Mentoring between Prue-Owens and the young nurses was done on a daily basis, she said. "We talked about caring for the enemy prisoner of war patients and treating them with respect."

Every day was an opportunity to talk about family, careers and nursing, although the main topic of interest to the young nurses was leadership, said Prue-Owens.

"The young nurses just wanted the senior leaders to be engaged in every aspect of nursing and make rounds like the old days."

"It was incredible what we were seeing," Prue-Owens said of watching the young nurses perform their duties. "They saw a lot of trauma."

Majority of the concerns Soldier patients who came through the hospital had were in regards to their injuries, although that wasn't the only concerns they had, said Prue-Owens. You could see their commitment and dedication when they showed concern for their buddies and getting back out there with their units, she said.

Everyday duties consisted of waking up at 4:30 a.m., getting dressed and walking to work to check the status of the unit, Prue-Owens said. The day would begin with the nursing care, such as giving baths, dressing changes, (which could take up to three hours to do depending on the burns), giving medications, meetings, making sure soldiers completed their tasking, visiting with family members and answering questions.

"In the Intensive Care Units you could be doing vital signs on patients every hour, so it gets busy with all the nursing care that has to be done," she said.

Conditions in Dogwood were severe, Prue-Owens said. The average temperature was 120 degrees.

Initially water was rationed and each individual Soldier had to sign for it, Prue-Owens said. Eventually it was placed in a box and every one only took what they needed. The Soldiers were considerate about the needs of others, she said.

Prue-Owens, who has been in the military for 17 and a half years, said this was her first deployment. She has always wanted to deploy, she said.

"There's a sense of actually serving your country," Prue-Owens said of her experience in Iraq. "I felt like now my career was complete."

After her return to the U.S., Prue –Owens, originally from Rosebud Native American reservation in South Dakota, visited her old elementary school where her nephew is in first-grade. With the first-graders she shared stories, talked about Iraq and showed them where the country is located on a map, she said.

Prue-Owens said there is a sense of guilt when you get to come home and everyone else is still out there (Iraq). She is proud of her recognition, which she feels represents what nurses are doing in Iraq.

"I just want to remember the Soldiers out there. The nurses are doing an awesome job," she said. "I am very proud for getting the award simply for the fact of what nurses are doing out there."

"This is a very unique award which is only given for people who do things during times of conflict," said Col. Thomas W. Smith, medical department activity commander at Raymond W. Bliss Health Center.

UAVs, Fort Huachuca put on show for SECNAV

BY PFC. JOY PARIANTE
SCOUT STAFF

Fort Huachuca's Joint Interoperability Test Command, in conjunction with several other organizations on post, assisted in a Silver Fox unmanned aerial vehicle demonstration for the Secretary of the Navy on Friday morning.

JITC was responsible for providing connection to a high bandwidth infrastructure to show the UAVs video reach-back capabilities to multiple destinations, said Lt. Col. Ross Holley, Chief of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance at JITC.

The Silver Fox is designed to provide low cost aerial surveillance imaging. It was previously used by the Navy to observe whale migrations so they wouldn't interfere with naval operations from a safety standpoint.

The UAV has an interchangeable design to allow for easy changing of wingspans and other equipment.

The military's goals for the Silver Fox include moving with convoys and doing reconnaissance to prevent ambushes, Holley said.

The Silver Fox's video equipment will allow imaging to be sent to a home station and broadcast to multiple other locations, Holley explained.

"This will allow conference capability and real-time analysis to various echelons of personnel," Holley said.

During the demonstration, UAVs flew out of Hubbard Field in the East Range. Their images were sent to the JITC compound and then to the Naval Research Lab. It was then broadcast to 11 different time zones, Holley said.

The video conference allowed participants to see each other on one side of the screen and the UAV imaging in the other frame. This allowed for a good simulation of the possible battlefield usage of this technology, Holley said.

"Fort Huachuca came together on very short notice to provide support to multiple elements of this demonstration," Holley said.

"This was a target of opportunity for Fort Huachuca's C4ISR Center of Excellence to assist the Office of Naval Research by helping with this war fighter development," Holley said. "It also can lead to future tech support to ONR and other agencies."

The C4ISR Center of Excellence is Command, Control, Communications, and Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance. The C4ISR COE refers to the cooperative efforts of JITC, the Electronic Proving Ground, Network Enterprise Technology Command, Communications and Electronics Command, the Intelligence Center and U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command.

There are currently 18 Silver Fox units deployed. They were initially fielded with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and then transferred to Navy's special operations unit.

Public notice: Total coliform bacteria levels released

In accordance with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality R18-4-105, this notice is to inform customers of Fort Huachuca water system, PWS # 02078, that the water system violated the maximum contaminant Level for total coliform bacteria for the month of November. This is a non-acute violation, meaning that there is no immediate risk to public health.

Total coliforms: "Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems."

The water system does not anticipate any additional problems; all repeat samples tested negative for Total Coliform, as well as December's first round of samples. Please call Physical Science Technician, Chris Higgins at 538-0606 for any additional information.

Fort's water use, pumpage decreases during November

BY JOAN VASEY
USAIC&FH PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

November's water use, 33,002,000 gallons or 102 acre-feet, was one percent less than that pumped on the installation in November 2002. In addition, the amount of water pumped during November is 40.7 percent less than the 21-year November average of 172 acre-feet (based on the 1982-2002 average). The 21-year figure is from usage during the years of 1982 through 2002.

The total water pumped from January through November, 1,445 acre feet, is 1.4 percent more than the 1,425 acre-feet pumped during 2002. There was no water used during November at the U.S.D.A. Forest Service Air Tanker Base at Libby Army Airfield. Earlier this year, 637,769 gallons or 1.96 acre-feet were used to support fire suppression activities in southeastern Arizona.

Approximately 20.1 acre-feet of treated and reused effluent were used during November. This is water that did not have to be pumped from the groundwater aquifer, and represents both a water and energy savings.

"Water usage was less in November due to the cessation of irrigation used to establish turf sod and the switch from demolition to construction in the Pershing Plaza-West family housing area", said Mike Shaughnessey, Real Property manager, Directorate of Installation Support.

Community Updates

Range closures

Today – AD, AF, AW, T1, T1A, T2
Friday – No closures
Saturday - No closures
Sunday – No closures
Monday – AC, AD
Tuesday – No closures
Wednesday– AV
Dec. 25 – No closures
Dec. 26 – No closures
Dec. 27 – No closures
Dec. 28 – No closures
Dec. 29 – AC, AD
Dec. 30 – No closures
Dec. 31 – No closures

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

New library hours

Beginning Dec. 28 the library will be open 10:30 a.m.- 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays – Fridays and 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Saturdays.

Thrift Savings Plan

The Thrift Savings Plan Open Season ends Dec. 31. During the open season, you may begin contributing to TSP or change the amount of your TSP contribution by logging on to https://www.abc.army.mil.

Do not submit a TSP-1 Form to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center office. It cannot process these forms.

To make Interfund changes, use the https://www.tsp.gov Web site. For more information call, Eva Dixon at 533-5735 or Kelly Garland at 533-5273, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or stop by Civilian Personnel Actions Center, Building 22320.

Child care training

Fort Huachuca Family Child Care is now accepting applications for our January training class.

Family members 18 and older interested in earning an extra income by caring for children in their home should plan to attend our next scheduled training.

The training is scheduled to begin Jan. 12. Training is from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The training is free of charge to all interested parties.

Class sizes are limited; therefore interested parties are urged to begin the enrollment process as soon as possible.

Prior to attendance at this training, interested personnel should contact the FHFCC Office for an application.

For further information, please contact the FHFCC program at 533-2498 or stop by and visit FHFCC in Murr Community Center. The FHFCC Office is open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Further information may also be obtained from the FCC Director via e-mail at fcc@hua.army.mil.

MLK Breakfast

The Fort Huachuca Martin Luther King Commemoration Breakfast will be held from 7 to 8:15 a.m on Jan. 15 at the LakeSide Activty Centre.

Chaplain (Maj.) Kenneth Hancock will be the keynote speaker. Tickets are $8. Call the Military Equal Opportunity Office, 533-1717/3696 for more information.

Suicide prevention

Suicide prevention is a commander's program but we are all responsible for one another.

Each one of us must be alert to potential warning signals such as: feelings of worthlessness; hopelessness and helplessness; withdrawal from family and friends; increased time spent alone; alcohol or drug abuse; loss of interest or pleasure in usual activities; changes in appetite or weight; talk of suicide; giving away possessions; obsession with death and changes in sleep habits.

Points of contact in our community for help include: the Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Clinic, Behavioral Health Services at 533-5161 or 533-7030; Sierra Vista Regional Health Center, Emergency Room at 417-3060; the Family Life Chaplain at 533-4748 for suicide awareness and prevention training to assist commanders with the identification of at-risk personnel and the Army Substance Abuse Program/Risk Management and Employee Assistance Services at 538-1286.

Save your organization money

The Hazardous Material Control Center, Logistics Management Division, has an inventory of hazardous materials available for issue at "no charge."

A listing of material is located on the Fort Huachuca Intranet http://fhintranet.hua.army.mil.

Material is issued on a first-come, first serve basis. Authorized customers may obtain material. Call Larry Brooks at 533-1263.

Soldier's Lawyer

JAG reminds employees to plan an 'ethical' holiday celebration

We are at the time of the year when Fort Huachuca Soldiers and civilian employees plan and enjoy holiday season celebrations.

The following rules will keep all on the straight-and-narrow, though in many cases, the issues involve the application of sound judgment.

Government time

The first issue is whether employees may participate in a celebration during government time/duty hours.

The answer is "yes," but only up to a point.

Employees may enjoy a "potluck" in the office, or a more formal luncheon at a restaurant. However, ethics issues normally arise during the preparation of the celebration.

The key to resolving these issues is judgment.

Committees planning a celebration should limit their planning to a few short telephone calls to party shops, with visits to and purchases made from the party shops after duty hours.

It is permissible for the committee to make phone calls and to receive faxes from restaurants.

However, preparing the holiday celebration should not become a significant part of an employee's duties and employees may not use government funds to purchase greeting cards. Appropriated funds may be used to purchase holiday decorations for an office entry way, but the expenditure must be for items that can be used in future years, and the expense must be kept to a minimum.

Fundraising

Employees may want to conduct fundraisers to pare down the cost of their celebrations. The general rule is no fundraising.

However, there are exceptions to this rule.

Some of the prohibited types of fundraising include:

Soliciting outside sources (local car dealerships, department stores, restaurants, and other business) for donations, to include door prizes.

If employees of an organization want to raise money, they may run a bake sale (or other event like a silent auction) in their organization's building to raise money for buying door prizes or reducing the cost of a dinner at a restaurant.

However, the directorate/commander needs to approve the plan after consultation with the Ethics Counselor. Here is what the Ethics Counselor will advise:

- Keep the fundraising event low key. The fundraiser should not be the sole occupation of the employees' week leading up to the event, or during the day of the event.

-Do not use official government e-mail to announce the event. Do not announce the event to all addressees on the Fort Huachuca Global Address List. "No government e-mail announcements."

- Use minimal government time. No duty time to bake orpurchase cakes, cookies, etc.

However, some minimal time may be used to plan the event.

- Employees actually conducting the bake sale should do so primarily on their personal time.

The fundraising event should not become a significant part of anyone's duties.

- Use of government resources requires judgment.

It would be permissible to use the government computer to make a few flyers to post on bulletin boards.

- Do not solicit from outside sources (such as employees of a support contractor) to contribute to the fundraiser.

- Contractor employees, and other non-Government workers may purchase items at a bake sale. However, employees may not personally solicit them to purchase the items.

Gifts

Employees may exchange gifts among themselves during the holiday season. But again, there are limits.

- The highest value gift that employees can give to a superior during the holiday season is $10, and employees may not solicit contributions from other employees.

- Employees may not accept a gift from anyone who makes less money than themselves, unless there is no superior-subordinate relationship, and there is a personal relationship that would justify the gift.

Again, a primary exception to this rule is when the value of the gift does not exceed $10, but even then no soliciting of contributions from a superior is permitted.

- When holding an anonymous type gift exchange among employees, itis important to establish a reasonable dollar limit for the individual gifts.

Gifts not to exceed $10 are certainly appropriate.

In summary, it is permissible for government employees to plan and participate in celebratory events during the holiday season.

However, apply common sense and use good judgment.

If you have any questions, contact one of your Fort Huachuca Ethics Counselors, Tom King at 533-3197 or Greg Lund at 533-5634.

In the meantime, have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

TRICARE dental premiums change in January

1.7 million receive dental benefits through government-funded program

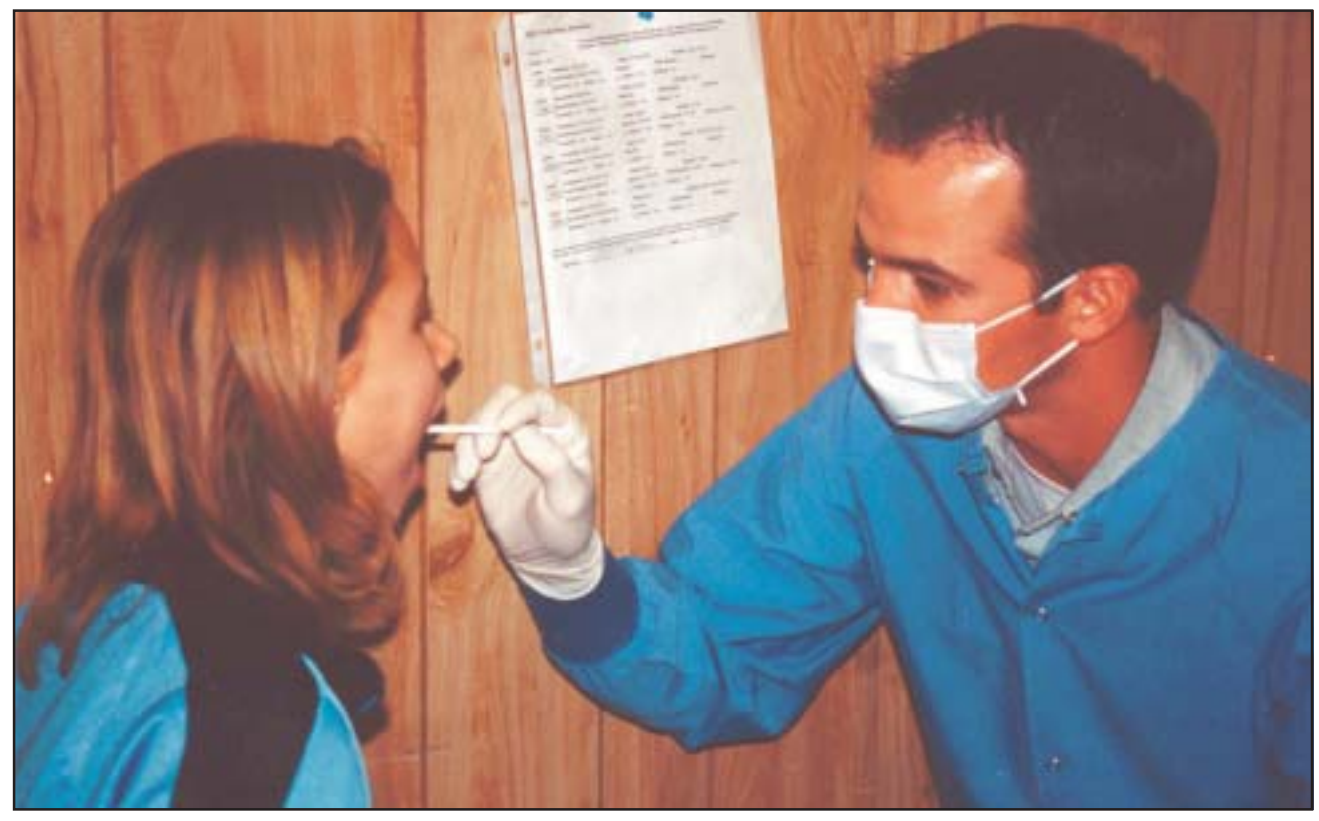

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Capt. Justin Bordlemay, dentist, examines Crystal Gonser's teeth as part of National Children's Dental Health Month.

TRICARE RELEASE

TRICARE Dental Program enrollees will notice an increase in their monthly premiums beginning in January.

The new rates are effective on Feb.1; however, since premiums are collected one month in advance.

TDP enrollees will notice the change in their January 2004 billing statement, payroll allotment or deduction.

The new monthly premium rate for eligibleactive duty family members and family members of active duty, and reservists, who are on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days, will be $9.07 for a single enrollment and $22.66 for a family enrollment.

Premiums for members of the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve (Special Mobilization Category) will be $9.07 for a single enrollment.

Members of the Individual Ready Reserve (Other than Special Mobilization Category), their eligible family members, and the eligible family members of the Selected Reserve (not on active duty) will pay a new monthly rate of $22.68 for a single enrollment and $56.66 for a family enrollment.

"Despite the 2004 premium increase, the TDP continues to provide excellent value for members of the military community," said Tom Harbold, United Concordia's TDP senior vice president.

More information about 2004 rates is available at www.ucci.com, or by phoning the TDP Enrollment and Billing Department at 1-888-622-2256.

United Concordia Companies, Inc., headquartered in Harrisburg, Pa., is the fifth largest dental insurer in the country with more than six million members worldwide.

The company has administered the TRICARE Dental Program and its predecessor, the TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan for the Department of Defense since 1996.

In 2002, the company processed almost 11 million claims and paid more than $760 million in dental benefits.

The Fort Huachuca Scout staff wishes everyone a happy Holiday Season and a joyous New Year.