



The Fort Huachuca Scout

Vol. 49, NO. 34

Published in the interest of Fort Huachuca personnel and their families. View online at huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO.

August 28, 2003

Scout reports

e-mail: thescout@hua.army.mil

Teen lounge opens

The new Teen Lounge, Bldg. 49013, will be open for business Wednesday after normal high school hours, according to Dan Valle, director, Directorate of Community Activities.

The center is located on Cushing Avenue directly across from Smith middle school.

The teen lounge is a product of the 2001 Army Family Action Plan conference.

The lounge will be open as a free trial for the first two weeks, when high school age young people with high school identification cards can use the facilities without paying the annual fee. At the end of the first two weeks parents will need to register their children to use the facility. Registrations will be accepted at the youth center. The cost per year is \$15 per teen or a maximum of \$35 per family.

The lounge is open to young people grades 9 - 12 who have a military affiliation, as well as their guests. The lounge offers an entertainment room with a big screen tv and surround sound, a game area with a futsal table and video games, a music area with instruments and a computer room.

Hours of operation are: Monday: after school until 6 p.m., Tuesday - Thursday after school - 8 p.m., Friday - after school until 10 p.m. and Saturday 1-10 p.m.

For more information call 533-7038.

Soldiers return

More than 100 soldiers from the 11th Signal Brigade will be returning home to Fort Huachuca from Operation Iraqi Freedom Saturday.

The soldiers will fly into Libby Army Airfield and after some initial processing will be reunited with their families and friends. The flight is scheduled to arrive at 9:30 p.m. with the processing taking about an hour after the arrival.

MI Library opens

The Military Intelligence Library grand opening will be at 11 a.m. today. The library caters to people seeking information on military intelligence mission and offers services to soldiers, students and civilians. The library is located in Bldg. 62723.

INSIDE

Little spider, big bite

Less than an inch long but able to down large bodies in a single bite, it's the Brown Recluse. Learn more about this spider whose bite rots flesh. Page 3

Up at dawn

They're not fitness freaks, just fit. Best conditioned non-commissioned officers competed for the title of Iron NCO. Page 7



Photo by Spc. Matthew Chlosta

Former Marines and Navajo Code Talkers, Samuel Smith, left, and Bill Toledo represented the elite group at a building dedication ceremony yesterday.

Their words won a war

Code Talkers honored with building dedication

BY SPC. MATTHEW CHLOSTA
SCOUT STAFF

The Joint Interoperability Test Command dedicated their Key Management Infrastructure Building to the Navajo Code Talkers Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Maj. Ken Lenig, staff director and executive officer for the JITC introduced the two former Navajo Code Talkers, who attended the ceremony, and then gave a statement of Navajo Service to America.

During World War II, a special group of Navajos was formed called the Navajo Code Talkers. The Code Talkers used a special code based on the Navajo language to transmit messages, making it futile for the enemy to decipher American battle messages about the time and place of attack.

After Lenig spoke, Air Force Col. Victoria Velez, commander of the JITC, said in her remarks, "The building was named after the Navajo Code Talkers because of their legacy. "They had an unbreakable

code," added Velez.

"We're honored to be honored with a building," said Samuel Smith, Sr., former Navajo Code Talker, 4th Marine Division. "It will not only increase enthusiasm. I will know that my people are safer."

The two Navajo Code Talkers, who attended the ceremony, served with combat units in many battles during their careers, including Iwo Jima and the Marshall Islands.

Both Navajo Code Talkers have also received many med-

als and commendations including the Congressional Silver Medal of Honor, the Presidential Unit Citation and the Defense of Iwo Jima Ribbon.

"We love our country," said Bill Toledo, former Navajo Code Talker, 3rd Marine Division. "We love our land. We go out and fight for our country."

Eerily similar to today's soldiers joining the military to defend their country after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Smith said,

"I lied about my age to join

the Marines. After the attack on the USS Arizona, I was motivated to join. That wasn't right sinking that ship with a sneak attack."

Another part of the Navajo Code Talkers legacy is that, "the language itself was coded," said Smith. "We had names for certain words to speed up the communication."

"A Marine Corps. signal officer said after the war, 'Were it not for the Navajo Code Talkers, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima,'" said Lenig.



Photo by Elizabeth Harlan

William Pakinkis and Norma Cabazos re-enact a picketing session to fight for woman's right to vote. The equal opportunity office on Fort Huachuca put on a play in honor of national woman's equality day on Tuesday at the Lakeside.

West Nile virus

one human case in Arizona, low risk on fort

State health officials today reported an increase in West Nile virus activity, including the first case of an Arizona resident contracting the virus this year.

The adult male, a resident of Graham County, likely contracted the disease while visiting Colorado or Wyoming, states with considerable West Nile activity. He does not pose a health threat to other residents. West Nile virus is not spread from one person to another.

Also, a third horse has tested positive for West Nile virus in Arizona. The equine case was reported in Navajo County, approximately halfway between Winslow and Joseph City. This case represents the first West Nile virus positive report for Navajo County. The first two equine cases were reported in Apache County in the Nazlini and Many Farms area, respectively.

Two more mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus in Cochise County. These new samples were collected in the San Simon area, where West Nile virus was first detected in a mosquito pool earlier this month. In addition, three mosquito pools from Yuma County and two mosquito pools from Graham County were confirmed positive today for West Nile.

Craig Levy, manager of the Arizona Department of Health Services' Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Disease Section, expects to see an upswing in West Nile activity across the state. "We now have five counties (Apache, Cochise, Yuma, Navajo and Graham) with confirmed West Nile cases."

Bruce Heran, installation safety officer says the chances of West Nile virus infection on Fort Huachuca is low.

More than a holiday stay safe this Labor Day

BY MAJ. GEN. "SPIDER" MARKS
COMMANDING GENERAL

Labor Day provides us an opportunity to recognize the toils of all those who have made our nation great.

From our forefathers to the troops now stationed overseas, we have reaped the benefits of their many sacrifices.

The heroic acts surrounding September 11 and the liberation of Iraq are current examples of a proud and lengthy heritage.

History shows us that we are a nation of workers, and we

should be proud of our accomplishments.

As we celebrate the holiday with family and friends, we must continue to be responsible for our own well being.

Throughout the weekend, keep safety and force protection awareness in mind.

We must not allow accidents to turn our celebrations into tragedies.

Exercise good judgment, make sensible travel plans, practice moderation in all activities, and assist others in making wise choices.

My goal is to ensure our sol-

diers, civilian workers and family members return safely after the Labor Day holiday. Command and leader involvement will make the difference.

Marty and I wish everyone an enjoyable and safe holiday weekend.

Spend a few moments reflecting on our history and future, and remember the toils and sacrifices of many that have made this great nation.

Let us renew our commitment to work and strive for excellence in all we do.

Be safe and enjoy the holiday.

Better than equal

Single mother carries load of both parents

BY JACK L. GILLUND

STAFF WRITER, WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER'S STRIPE NEWSPAPER

I was 4 years old when my father died. To this day, I have few, if any, memories of him.

What I do remember about my childhood is my mother's never-ending determination. She made sure my three brothers and I never needed anything.

Raised in a small, mid-western town, I grew up in the 1960s and '70s. Surrounded by farmland, it was 50 miles to the nearest small city.

Daily my mother was out of bed at 4:30 a.m.. She packed our school lunches, made our breakfast and ensured we had clean clothes before she got in a car and traveled an hour to that city to work on a factory assembly line.

When she got back home, she cooked our dinner and made sure our schoolwork was done correctly. Her weekends were spent baking, taking care of our garden, doing laundry, cleaning the house, shopping, and going to church.

I grew up understanding that women can do anything men can. Historically, this wasn't a common feeling.

Throughout time, women have been fighting to obtain the respect and equal rights they deserve. Even with the passage of the 19th Amendment in

1920, American women have had to fight for their voice to be heard.

Women have always been a part of America's military force. During the Civil War they put aside the suffrage movement to stand beside their men. Women volunteered as nurses and ran hospitals. One, Sally Tompkins, even used her own funds to equip a hospital for Confederate soldiers.

Since then, the U.S. Army has seen an ever-increasing number of women soldiers. Their role as nurse has continued, but they have added almost every other military occupational specialty.

Despite their proven duty to the country, it wasn't until 1972 that women gained eligibility to participate in Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs - 52 years after they gained the right to vote.

They weren't allowed admittance into the United States Army Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. until 1976. Since the inactivation of the Women's Army Corps in 1978, female soldiers have seen action in virtually every military operation America has undertaken.

Throughout their struggles for equality, women have proven they are as capable as men in every way - from the small Minnesota town I grew up in to America's fighting, peacekeeping and humanitarian forces in counties throughout the world.

Tuesday was Women's Equality Day and the anniversary of the signing of the 19th Amendment. Hopefully, everyone throughout the world will take the time to thank the women they know for the strength they contribute to humanity. One day isn't enough, but it's a start.

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



"...His horses are swifter than eagles..." - Jeremiah 4:13b

I saw the movie, "Seabiscuit," this weekend. Not only is it based on truth, it is an outstanding story on character, motivation, becoming more than you thought you could be and true friendship - among other good qualities in the movie. I loved the ending - and it had much more to do than with just the horse.

Charles Howard, the owner of Seabiscuit, was a self-made man. He rose from being a bicycle maker to a top automobile dealer. Not to give away the movie, I'll just say he faced extreme hardships and again rising over them, purchased Seabiscuit, a no-account racehorse of dubious qualities.

The trainer, Tom Smith, was a cowboy who saw worth in just about every horse. When talking about a horse he saved he said something about everything has some worth inside and should not be abandoned. He saw in Seabiscuit a spirit and a power that was much larger than the horse's size.

Red Pollard, the jockey, was said to have a gift in riding from a young age. He was too tall to be a jockey, but he also fought the odds against him - figuratively and literally. He was insightful about what Seabiscuit needed.

Seabiscuit himself was thought to be a lazy good-for-nothing horse and was cruelly treated. By the time he got into the hands of the men mentioned, he was almost worthless.

Without giving away the movie, let it be known that the four of these figures come together in a way that healing takes place for all of them. Emotional healing. Physical healing. spiritual healing. Not only does Seabiscuit reach his potential - twice - but so do each of the men in his life.

Why do I tell you this? Because each of us hold potential far greater than we know. Some of us look at our life through our job and do not realize there is much more to us

than work. We look at our life through rank and do not realize that rank does not always recognize true value. We look at our life through what we have and do not realize that real wealth goes beyond money and material things.

The owner, trainer, jockey and we would never have heard about them. But they all reached for the future and saw themselves larger than they were - that they were in the world to make a difference - and they did.

I'd say they saw their lives as more than just living, more than jobs. They saw their work together as a vocation - a particular state of action coming together for a greater good. They lived during the Great Depression and they brought the people hope.

We live in times of uncertainty as well. The economy is still recovering, terrorism dominates the news, many in our military remain overseas and in hostile places, and every day there is something happening that ensures even more uncertainty.

Now, we can live in fear of that uncertainty or we can rise above it, pull ourselves up, gain hope and faith and understand the vocation given

to us. For each of us has within us a "particular state of action for the greater good." It's a God-given action to be exercised in his creation for His people.

Friends, I invite you to see "Seabiscuit" (I have no financial interest in it) in order to see for yourself what gifts and power each of us has that impacts in the world.

My prayer is that none of us stay satisfied with what we are today, that none of us let the measure of the world satisfy us tomorrow and that all of us reach for the future.

I believe that in so doing we will come to a point of healing, a point of grasping our potential and a point of understanding the vocation we were chosen to bring to the world. Everything has a purpose and worth in the world. I invite you to find your future and reach for your limits.

Send your letters to the editor and commentaries to
thescout@hua.army.mil

Scout on the Street



"It takes heart and motivation."

Sgt. Jose Alvarez, former Iron NCO Basic Noncommissioned Officer's Course, NCO Academy Operations



"Hard work, personal time and dedication."

Sgt. 1st Class William Benning, BNCO, small group leader



Determination and self-discipline."

Sgt. 1st Class Deborah Hunter, S2 Security, NCO Academy



"Professional pride, personal motivation. Motivation and dedication to physical perfection. The last thing is endurance."

Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Reed, chief instructor Advanced NCO



"Dedication and true belief in the Army values."

Sgt. Lacey Enyart, S1, NCOIC, NCO Academy



"Pride, honor and self-discipline. Pride in being a soldier. A lot of heart. Knowing we can exceed the standards as NCOs."

Master Sgt. Alex Burden, former Iron NCO winner, chief, ANCO and BNCO Stand Alone Common Core

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of *The Fort Huachuca Scout* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of Army or the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca.

It is published weekly, except Christmas and New Years, using desktop publishing by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613-7027. Printed circulation: 8,200.

All editorial content of *The Fort Huachuca Scout* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the PAO. *The Fort Huachuca Scout* is printed by Aerotech News and Review, 8607 N. 59th Ave.,

Suite C-3, Glendale, AZ 85302, a private firm in no way connected with DA, under exclusive written contract with the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca. The civilian printer is responsible for all advertising.

Editorial material for publication should be submitted to USAIC&FH Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 21115, The Fort Huachuca Scout (AZTS-PA), Fort Huachuca, AZ, 85613-7027. The PAO reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication.

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

shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Army or Aerotech News and Review, of the products or services advertised.

Copies of *The Fort Huachuca Scout* are available to members of the commander's internal audience for monthly postage and handling fees upon approval of the PAO.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Aerotech News and Review, 8607 N. 59th Ave., Suite C-3, Glendale, AZ 85302.

To submit stories or inquiries, call (520) 533-1987, DSN 821-1987 or fax (520) 533-1280. For advertising, call (520) 623-9321 or toll-free 1-877-925-8281.

Command Staff

Publisher/ Commanding General.....MG James A. Marks
.....MG James A. Marks
Garrison Commander.....COL Lawrence J. Portouw
Public Affairs Officer.....LTC Marian R. Hansen
Command Information Chief.....Angela Moncur
NCOIC.....SFC Donald Sparks

Editorial Staff

Managing Editor.....Nell Drumheller
Staff Writer.....SPC Matthew Chlosta

Printer's Staff

Co-owners.....Paul & Lisa Kinison
Regional Manager.....Diane Hasse
Photojournalist.....Elizabeth Harlan
Production Assistant.....Karen Weil

Bad mix: Stormy weather, stormy driving

BY SPC. MATTHEW CHLOSTA
SCOUT STAFF

With the seasons changing from summer to fall and then winter, the Installation Safety Office is emphasizing several different personal operational vehicle precautions and safety tips.

"Weather is definitely a factor in our vehicle accidents here," said Bruce Heran, Installation Safety officer.

When it rains here the roads get slick for the first two minutes, said Heran. All year long the roads are dry, road oils build up on them, particularly the concrete roads.

During the first rainstorm it gets slick like a Teflon fry pan, said Heran. He added, "If you go into a slide with your car, steer out of it and let your foot off the gas."

"During the first snow storm, I almost dread to bring my scanner in," said Heran. "Because, you hear countless calls as if nothing had changed and then wondering how they ended up in the ditch."

"Flagstaff has snow and ice," said Heran. "A lot of folks don't know how to drive on snow and ice. We see it on Fort Huachuca during the winter."

"My suggestion to folks, if the weather is inclement," said Heran, "spend the extra few minutes, take the time, either wait for it to clear or call into your office. Tell them 'I don't know how to drive on snow.'"

"I'm sure they would much rather have you be an hour late than not arrive at all," added Heran.

According to Heran, a factor in vehicle safety that isn't normally covered is pedestrian and bicycle safety as a consequence of POV op-

eration.

"We've had a number of both close calls and actual injuries because POVs have hit people," said Heran.

"Vehicle operators don't always see you," said Heran, "and if they do see you, they don't always understand whether they should yield or not and how they should yield."

So if your out there doing something that might cause you to be a target, one example is wearing dark colored clothing, watch what you're doing, added Heran. "Assume they don't see you!"

Another increasing problem with POV safety is aggressive driving and road rage, said Heran. It used to be that aggressive driving or road rage

was generally only seen in cities. Now, it is everywhere.

"The actual technical term for state law is aggressive driving," said Heran. "Aggressive driving is defined as any three violations in a relatively short period of time. It is becoming a problem. We see it."

The violations include unsafe passing, reckless driving, tailgating, excessive speed and failure to signal.

"They don't have to gesture for it to be considered road rage," said Heran. "The recommendation is that if someone is engaged in that behavior around you, ignore them. Don't engage with them in any way. Don't pull over. Don't shake your fist at them. Don't make any other gestures. Isolated parts of the road are the worst place to stop. Don't stop."

"If you can let them get by, then let them get by," said Heran. "If you have someone who doesn't want to go by, pull into a police station."

Fatigue is a factor in many POV accidents. "Arizona is great, hundreds of miles of straight roads," said Heran. "The tendency is to plan on driving a long, long way on them. But, because they're straight and because many of them don't have a lot of scenery, people get fatigued, a sort of road hypnosis."

"People tend to fall asleep, drift over into the opposite lane, wake up in a ditch," said Heran. "It is a problem."

"Plan your trips. Plan the length. Plan stops. If it is an official trip for military business,

you have to have a rest break, and you can't drive more than eight hours at a shot.

"On your own time there is no restriction."

"I suggest stopping every few hundred miles, at most every couple of hours, for gas, soda, or a cup of coffee. Then proceed," said Heran.

The final, ever increasing problem for POV driving is distractions and inattention, said Heran.

"One of the things we're seeing now is cell-phones," said Heran.

"Cell phones are a great thing to have if your break down. Probably the number one thing I would carry in my car after water," said Heran. "If something happens you can almost always reach help."

"People drive down the road with the cell-phone stuck on one ear trying to drive and talking to someone," said Heran. "It is the number one problem in the future. A number of states are trying to pass laws prohibiting cell phone use in your car. Arizona hasn't followed suit yet, but they probably will."

Anything that takes your mind off of driving reduces your capability to drive safely or take evasive action if necessary.

Some of the states, that prohibit cell-phones while you're driving, still allow a headset, said Heran. "A headset is not as distracting, but still distracting in my way of thinking. I don't see any need."

"If someone calls me on my cell-phone or pages me while I'm out on the road I'll pull over and answer it," said Heran. "I'm not going to answer it while I'm driving. Hand it to a passenger if you need to."



Photo by Spc. Matthew Chlosta

Road rage, combined with inclement weather, can make the driving situation extremely dangerous.

Nothing itsy bitsy about brown recluse spider's bite

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

In the classic children's nursery rhyme The Itsy Bitsy Spider, the eight-legged arachnid tries to climb up the water spout before being washed away. What we don't know in the rhyme is if the spider is a brown recluse trying to get into the house; if so, the repercussions can be painful.

"You have to really go out of your way to get bit by a brown recluse spider," said Lt. Col. Sandra Smith, chief, Preventive Medicine Wellness and Readiness Service, Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center. "These spiders are non-aggressive; however, they will bite when provoked or disturbed."

During the past six weeks there have been five reported spider bites on

Fort Huachuca.

The brown recluse is one of six poisonous spiders in the United States. It has long, skinny legs and is about one-half inch long overall. These spiders are most commonly found in Midwestern and Southern states and they usually hang out in dark places.

Normally they are outside and like to spend time in piles of rocks, wood or leaves, yet if they come inside a house, they hang out in dark closets, attics or basements.

Smith cautioned that homeowners who have trees with limbs that hang over the house or vegetation that touches the building are in jeopardy of inviting spiders into their homes.

"The limbs serve as a point of entry into your house for the spider," Smith said. "You want to make sure your shrubs are away from your door or windows. Also, you want to make sure there are no piles of trash near those ar-

eas as well."

Smith recommended the best way to eliminate the chance of the spider entering a residence is to clip back vines and tree limbs from the side of buildings and to inspect window screens for holes.

In most cases, people who get bitten may not know it because usually they're cleaning out things and feel debris touching their skin. "But four to six hours later, the bite is going to start to sting and turn red," Smith said. "It really

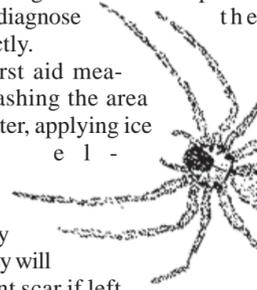
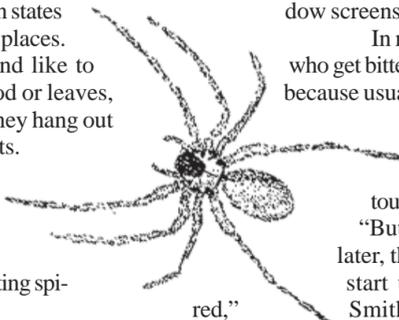
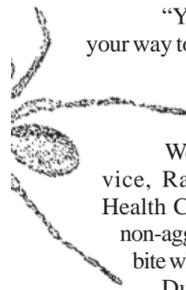
does look in- As an inten- Smith has seen many patients who have been bitten on the hands and arms, and admitted the bite can be mistaken for a minor bruise.

"But then the toxin starts to destroy the tissue around the bite and there is no mistake it's a brown recluse spider bite," she said. "It will turn black or brown within a few days and it will hurt. It can get pretty nasty."

Smith advised if you think you've been bit by a brown recluse to tell someone immediately. She added if it's possible; catch and bring the spider to the hospital to diagnose the spider bite correctly.

Immediate first aid measures include washing the area with soap and water, applying ice on the bite, and evaluating the area bitten.

"They rarely kill people, but they will leave a permanent scar if left untreated," Smith said.



Viral meningitis cases soar on fort

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

In the past two months Cochise County has reported 30 cases of viral meningitis, with three of those cases on Fort Huachuca.

Because of the higher than average reported cases, the Preventive Medicine Wellness and Readiness Service staff at Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center is educating both parents and soldiers about the disease.

"There are two kinds of meningitis - viral and bacterial," said Lt. Col. Sandra Smith, chief, PMWARS. "The one that usually causes death is the bacterial, but you still can survive it. The one we're mostly concerned about here at Fort Huachuca is the viral meningitis or aseptic meningitis."

Viral meningitis is a viral infection caused by a family of viruses commonly known as enteroviruses that can cause fluid around the spine and brain. Enteroviruses are spread by hand-to-mouth contact, coughing, and

to a lesser extent by contact with fecal matter.

In Arizona, meningitis is usually seen in the late summer and early fall. Normally Cochise County has an average of four cases.

Some of the signs and symptoms include headache, fever, stiff neck, sore throat, drowsiness, abnormal sensitivity to light, rash, muscle pain and nausea and vomiting. Usually the symptoms last from seven to 10 days and the person recovers completely.

Smith mentioned her daughter had a mild form of viral meningitis when she was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas.

"She had a high fever, had the nausea and vomiting, had the headache, and suffered dehydration," Smith said. "You have to give palliative measures to treat it - something for the fever and hydration, and especially for babies."

Risk factors for aseptic meningitis include exposure to someone with a recent virus infection, exposure to children in a day care setting, being a health care worker, or having a suppressed immune system.

According to Smith smaller children are particularly more at risk of

contacting viral meningitis because they're in close proximity social settings such as schools and daycare centers. But the risk isn't limited to small children - soldiers are susceptible as well.

"Our young AIT [Advanced Individual Training] soldiers that frequent the dining facility and don't wash their hands before eating are at risk," Smith said. "Also they need to make sure after using a Kleenex to throw it away and wash their hands."

Although there is not specific treatment for viral meningitis, patients who contract the disease usually recover on their own with bed rest, fluids and medicine to relieve fever and headache.

The best way to prevent the disease is good hand washing, and other general 'good health' measures which may reduce the risk of developing an infection that can progress to meningitis.

"Also parents want to wash shared toys with diluted bleach solution," Smith said. "One capful of chlorine-containing household bleach with one gallon of water should suffice."

High scoring

DoD school students
do well on national test

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS
DOUG SAMPLE

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

The 2003 tests results show Defense Department school system students scored consistently higher than the national average on a standardized test. But Joseph Tafoya, director of the Department of Defense Education Activity, is already looking at ways to improve the upcoming school year's curriculum for even better results in the future.

"We're trying to be a leader. We're trying to look at programs and try to make them better so that our students are more successful," Tafoya said. "And so our efforts to improve test scores continue; our efforts to have kids have more access to challenging courses continue. We know that every kid in our system needs to take algebra and geometry, and not only do they need to take it, they need to be successful. So we're putting (in) a lot of time and effort to do that."

Results from the 2003 TerraNova 2nd Edition standardized test revealed

DoD students in grade levels 3-11 scored higher than the national 50th-percentile average in the United States.

The TerraNova is a nationally standardized achievement test in which students are evaluated in reading language arts, math, social studies and science. Results from the tests are compared with those of students across the nation and show how well students are mastering skills in those subjects.

Test results showed DoD students consistently scored 10-20 points above the national average of 50 percent in 37 of the 45 subtests, and 21-25 points higher in five subtests. They scored seven to nine points higher than the 50th-percentile average in three subtests.

Tafoya said he hopes curriculum changes in the upcoming school year at DoD high schools will result in even better test results. He said this year's high school curricula were standardized to focus on skills in literacy and algebra, along with language support and computer-oriented instruction in math. Some of the high school level curriculum changes will be considered for elementary and middle schools in the future "to ensure that all kids are getting the same curriculum and the same opportunity," he said.



Photos by Spc. Matthew Chlosta

Air Force Staff Sgt. Kenneth Sutton, Detachment 2, 607th Weather Squadron, Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea, demonstrates the Army's Integrated Meteorological System during the Staff Weather Officer test pilot course Aug. 20.

Army, Air Force train together, learn Weather affects everything

BY SPC. MATTHEW CHLOSTA
SCOUT STAFF

A joint test pilot Staff Weather Officer course was completed by a joint team, made up of Army and Air Force servicemembers, today.

The first official interoperability SWO course will be taught by Companies A and B, 304th Military Intelligence Battalion this October, here.

The SWO course is designed to teach Air Force weather forecasters, who will be assigned to Army units, Army 101, said retired Air Force Forecaster, Bill Simcox, SWO course administrator.

"The Air Force forecasters are baptized into Army organizations, Army equipment and field skills," said Simcox. "The Air Force forecasters go through Air Force basic training, then their technical school. After that they go on to do forecasting with an Air Force operational weather squadron for three to four years. If the forecaster is assigned to an Army unit, they will come here to train for four weeks in Army field skills, tactics, and organizations."

The Army and Air Force met in 2000 to explore the possibility of setting up the course, said Simcox. The decision was made to teach the course at Fort Huachuca based on several factors including the post's ability to fulfill the teaching requirements.

To decide on the curriculum, added Simcox, Fort Huachuca sent out surveys to Army major commands, who have Air Force forecasters assignex, that asked, "What Army skills would you like your airmen to know to succeed in the field during a forward deployment or exercise?"

"The Army is teaching the Air Force," said Capt. Vikki Severn, company commander, Company B, 304th MI Bn. "We give the Air Force forecasters a common baseline in Army tactics by training them ourselves. When they come here, they learn the basics, so when they get out in the field and are forward deployed, they are ready."

When a unit is deployed into a combat atmosphere it is often too late to train them, added Severn.

The course will be taught eight times a year, with a maximum of 120 students each year.

The test pilot SWO course has 14 students, with a mixture of mostly Air Force veterans, who have served in high-tempo combat and training environments, including Afghanistan and Iraq.

"The war veterans are here to give us input and knowledge," said Simcox.

Their constructive criticism will enhance

and improve the course when it officially starts in October, added Simcox.

"It has gone well because of input from the students," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Hines, SWO training noncommissioned officer in charge. "They are here to critique the training; to improve instruction for the course."

"The course will only get better and more streamlined with their help," said Hines. "We've created a good foundation to build on."

"This knowledge is going to benefit the SWOs, especially in the new world order," said SWO test pilot course student, Air Force Master Sgt. Jonathan Morris, NCOIC Combat Detachment 5, 7th Weather Squadron, Ansbach, Germany. "My unit supports the Army's 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. I wanted to have an influence, impact on the future."

"I'm a SWO, 'the weather guy,'" said Morris. "I know what they will need out in the field. This course will help an Air Force SWO who goes into combat with a forward Army unit. The important thing to have is a lot of the combat skills."

"It can be kind of intimidating going to an Army unit from the Air Force culture, when you don't know what is going on or what to expect," said Morris.

Some of the skills the SWOs learned were land navigation, how to react to indirect artillery fire and defending themselves during an ambushed convoy attack similar to what happened to the 507th Maintenance Company, Fort Bliss, Texas, in Iraq, said Simcox. This is real world training for real world scenarios.

This is a joint course that exploits the high capabilities of joint interoperability in a constantly changing and modern joint military environment, added Morris.

The other 20 percent of the forecasters have never been to an Army unit before, said Simcox. They are in the SWO course to learn Army skills before they go on to their Army assignments.

"This is a good way to equate the ways that the Army and Air Force are different," said Senior Airman Michael Bliss, 15th Operational Weather Squadron, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. "It has been a good learning experience. I get to see how important my job is and what the Army needs for operations."

"It's great getting information from so many seasoned veterans from the field," said Bliss. "This training is more operational for me. I get to see how my forecasts will provide the conditions for an operation. I get to see what my impact is hands on, face to face, in the dirt."

"The forecasts will have impact on equipment, troop movement and basically everything," said Bliss. "It's fun and I wanted to

learn how to do all the movements. The SWO course is good training, especially with real world glimpses of what may happen and what needs to happen. It was good instruction. I feel confident in what I've learned."

"The SWOs' mission is to assist the Army units they are assigned to by reporting upcoming weather conditions. The forecasts can influence each Army unit commander's decisions, which help coordinate air cover and troop movements," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Tom Hakes, primary IMETS instructor, SWO with 101st Air Assault unit, Fort Campbell, Ky.

"This can include atmospheric visibility ceilings for helicopters and how to best tie down equipment in the face of oncoming dust storms like in Iraq."

"Sometimes in the past, the Army has marched soldiers to a rally point rather than flying them through inclement weather based on the SWO's forecasts," added Hakes. "The SWOs are part of the tactical team. Most missions are checked off by the SWOs. An Army unit that has good, smart leadership uses the SWO's information tactically for mission planning."

"The SWO is so important to tactical operations," said Severn. "They are a vital piece of the mission."

"The Air Force weather forecasters use an Army system called the Integrated Meteorological System to forecast weather," said Simcox. "IMETS is a weather system that produces a great deal of weather products and information. The SWO analyzes the data and interprets it. Then the SWO helps the Army unit commander sort through the information and decide what is pertinent to the mission."

"The Army is the Air Force's customer, in terms of supplying weather information," said Severn. "All Army units are supposed to have an SWO when they are deployed to the field."

One recent example where the SWOs were instrumental was in the initial stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom, said Hakes. Because of accurate weather predictions, theater operations were curtailed for three days due to the SWOs' ability to track winds, walls of dust, and major sandstorms in Iraq for the Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

"Weather affects everything," said Simcox.



Air Force Master Sgt., Jonathan Morris, NCOIC of Combat Detachment 5, 7th Weather Squadron, Ansbach, Germany, directs the SWO convoy with Air Force Tech. Sgt. Robert Hayes, United States Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C. during a training exercise on how to react to a convoy ambush attack.

Armynews

High flying!! Golden Knights take big leaps helping Army recruiting

BY SPC. BILL PUTNAM
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The Army's Golden Knights aren't fighting the War on Terrorism.

But they do have a fight on their hands.

"We understand there's a war on," said Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Deveault, the Golden Knights' sergeant major. "But we have our own war — it's called recruiting."

Members of the Army's parachute demonstration unit flew from Fort Bragg, N.C., for a week of tandem jumps with soldiers and civilians who work at Personnel Command and the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison.

The Knights normally have about 30 soldiers try out for the team annually, Deveault said. This year that number was 11 and four of them were National Guard or Army Reserve soldiers, he said.

With the current deployment tempo around the world — especially of the Army's Airborne and Special Forces units — that's understandable, he said.

But a lot of the guys on the team are near the end of their tour at the Knights and their own branch managers are asking for them back, Deveault said. The normal tour on the Knights is three years and extensions are possible, he said.

To help keep the veterans and bring replacements for those that are leaving, the Knights wanted to show people what they do best 230 days, and in front of almost 12 million people, per year — jump out of airplanes, he said.

"Nothing beats this," said Master Sgt. Billy Van Soelen, a nine-year veteran of the team, after a jump. "It's pretty cool when at night, especially when you do a stadium jump. The lights are unreal."

The Knights normally do tandem jumps for media or dignitaries, once or twice a year, said Cpl. Mike Scott, a member of the Knights.

Scott has been jumping on his own since 1993 and completed 5,000 jumps before enlisting in the Army in 2000. Since joining the Knights after parachute rigger school, he's completed another 2,000 jumps.

The Knights wanted to build relationships with the Army's career branch managers, and the day of their jumps will be a day seven members of PERSCOM will never forget.

Before the jump the seven new jumpers made jokes about their upcoming experience. Only a couple had been through airborne school at Fort Benning, Ga. One of them was Lt. Col. Darrell Todd, who works at PERSCOM's Office of the



Photo by Spc. Bill Putnam

Three jumpers leap into the air at 14,000 feet during a tandem jump over Orange, Va., Aug. 25.

Deputy Chief of Staff Operations.

The parachutes the Knights use are different than the regular chutes the Army uses, so the experience of opening the Knights' chute is totally different, he said.

"You really feel it in your shoulders," he said. "It feels like a jolt."

But no one expected to jump from almost 14,000 feet.

A collective gasp went through the group when Staff Sgt. Bryan Schnell, a member of the Knights, briefed them before they suited up.

The descent would last about four minutes, with the free fall lasting one minute and three more once the canopy opened, Schnell said.

The rate of descent would be about 120 miles per hour, said Schnell. A drag chute would be deployed after they left the aircraft. Without that, the rate of descent would be about 190 miles per hour.

Jumping from that height was a little daunting for the group,

though. Most everyone joked around with more than a hint of nervousness before the first four jumpers boarded the DHC-6 Twin Otter plane.

The plane then took off into the clear sky and those left behind waited. It took about five minutes for the plane to reach the jump altitude. Then, before anyone knew it, two chutes opened up, with others following every eight seconds or so.

A Knight wearing a helmet with a video and still-camera also jumped to record the experience for the first-time jumper.

Using special, competition-grade parachutes, the tandem teams could steer and land anywhere they wanted on the Drop Zone. The chutes made tight turns to the left and right after they opened up at 4,500 feet. The air was so still on the DZ that yelling from the teams could be heard from that height.

Some of the teams skidded in on their feet, and a couple skidded in on their behinds. There was a lot of laughing after everyone landed. Most of them said were happy they jumped, but happier they jumped from such a high altitude.

A normal tactical jump in the Army is made at 1,200 feet, Todd said. So jumping from 10 times that height was unreal, he added.

"This beats jumping tactically any day," Todd said. "It's like night and day."

The force of descent was so fast that impressions were visible from the wind goggles around everyone's eyes. Their faces were also a little wind

burned.

Perhaps Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Glover, the branch manager for enlisted reclassification at PERSCOM, best summed up the experience. The first-time jumper kept saying, "That was amazing" after she landed with Van Soelen. "That was amazing."

Each of the jumpers had a chance for two jumps that day. Predictably enough, only three took the Knights up on the offer.

The flight up to the drop off was a little looser than the first. Everyone joked around about looking forward to the rush of leaving an airplane at nearly 14,000 feet.

"The second time around was much better", said Maj. Daniel Davis, who works with Todd at PERSCOM, "because you knew what to expect."

For more information about the Golden Knights' season, visit their website at www.armygoldenknights.com or contact Golden Knights media relations at (910) 396-7423.

Community Updates

Meeting at La Hacienda

A "roundup," focusing on upcoming Fort Huachuca events, will be held 10-11:30 a.m. on Tuesday at La Hacienda. For more information, call 533-1143.

Parent University will be Tuesday

The Parent University, sponsored by Army Community Service, will be held from Tuesday through 12. For more information, call 533-6879 or 533-2330.

Living Values Days

The 111th MI Brigade will present Living Army Values Day, Wednesday and Sept 4. Events include a motivational speaker, breakfast and a religious service. Call 538-1252 for more information.

Blood drive in September

The Red Cross will hold a blood drive, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Sept. 12 at the Murr Community Center.

Family Readiness training

Family Readiness Group training will take place at the Murr Community Center on Saturday, starting at 9 a.m.

An intermediate Family Readiness Group workshop will be offered Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. and again Sept. 17 at 9 a.m., at Murr Community Center.

The workshop will be comprised of three Army Family Team Building classes, on personality traits, building a cohesive team

and conflict management. These insightful classes will assist the FRG leader and volunteers in making their FRG excel.

Please register for either session of the workshop no later than Sept. 12 by calling ACS at 533-2330 or 533-5919.

Holiday refuse collection adjustment

In observance of Labor Day, the post refuse collection contractor will adjust the pickup schedule as follows. Family housing occupants with a regular pickup on Monday will be picked up on Tuesday. Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday. Post pickup of dumpsters and roll-offs normally emptied on Monday will either be dumped on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Questions concerning refuse service may be directed to the contract inspector at 533-3574.

Passport Office hours notice

Fort Huachuca Passport Office hours will be, 8 – 11 a.m., and 1-3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Thrift shop hours change

The Fort Huachuca Thrift Shop will be open Sept. 6 from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. for shopping. Consignments will be taken until 1 p.m. The Thrift Shop is open to the public for sales. For more information call 458-4606.

POW luncheon/walkathon Sept. 17

The Chaplain's Activities Office will host a prisoner of war/missing in action commemorative luncheon from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Sept. 17 at La Hacienda. The event, featuring music

and a presentation of the national colors and POW/MIA flag, is open to the public. A POW/MIA walkathon, also open to the public, will be held starting at 6 a.m. on Sept. 17, at Chaffee Field. For more information, call 533-3185.

School workshop for parents

Professional educator Mary Keller is overseeing two workshops for parents with school-aged children on Wednesday.

One offers advocacy training and skills to parents of school-age children first through fifth grade from 9-11 a.m. at the School Age Services building on Fort Huachuca.

Parents with children in middle or high school are also invited to learn to plan a "successful journey through high school and beyond," from 6-8 p.m. at the Lecture Pod in Buena High School Performing Arts Center.

Keller, executive director of the Texas-based Military Child Education Coalition, served as a public school educator for almost 21 years. She has also written several publications. For more information, call 533-1133.

Spanish test offered

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

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

Construction closes roads Wednesday, Sept. 4

Starting on Wednesday, there will be a series of road closures on post to do final asphalt repairs in conjunc-

tion with the Effluent Reuse Project. The schedule is as

follows below.

Wednesday:
 • Mizner Avenue between Wright and Grierson Avenue
 • Smith Avenue between Johnson Road and Whitside Road
 • Whitside Road between Johnson Road and

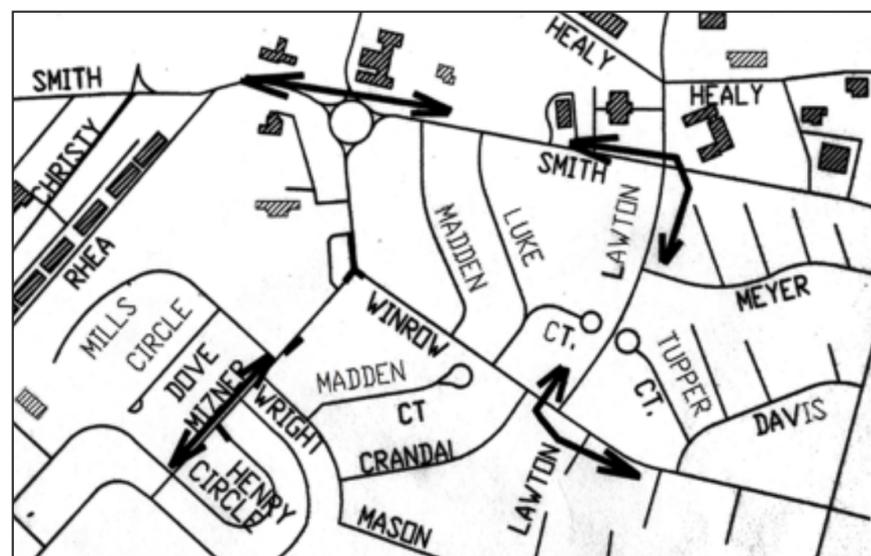
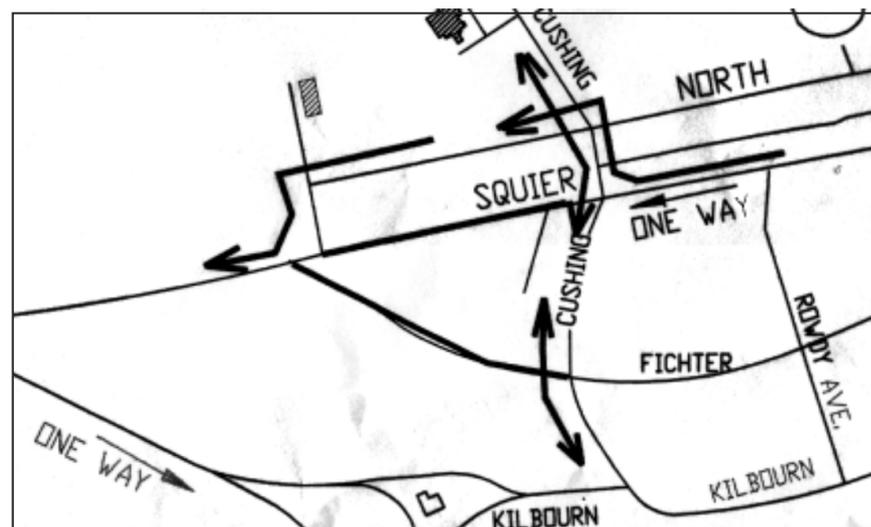
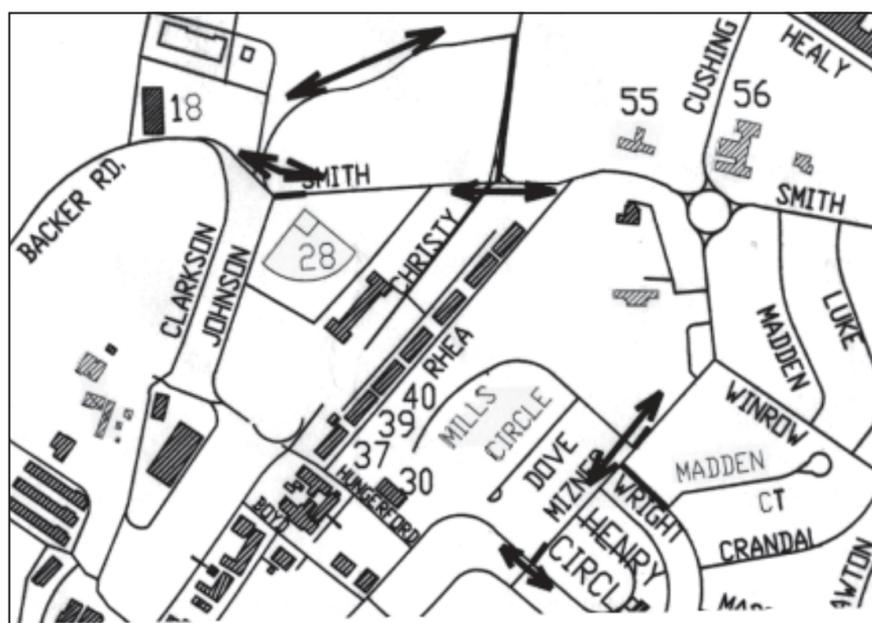
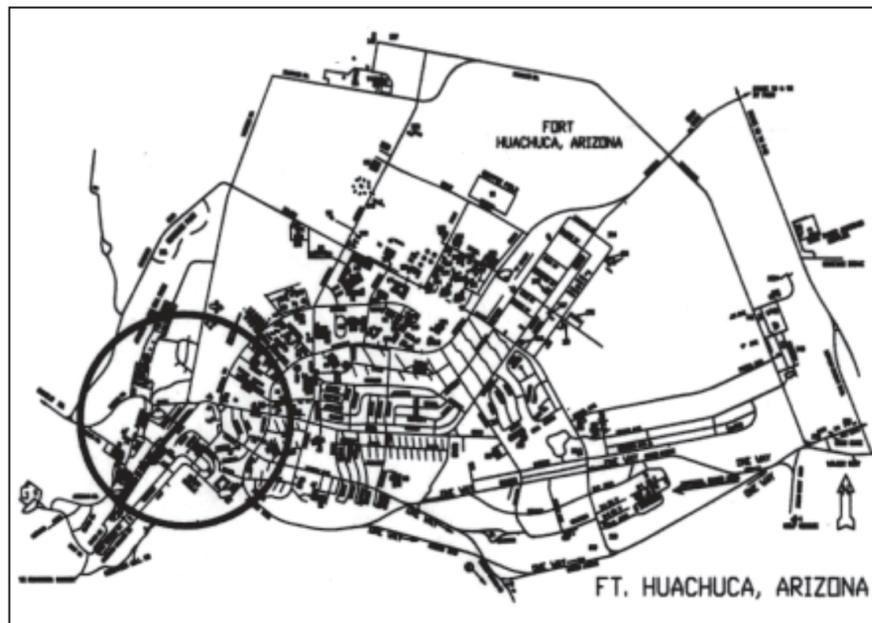
Smith Avenue

September 4:
 • Squire Avenue between Cushing Street and H Avenue
 • Fichter Avenue between Cushing Street and Squire Avenue
 • Mizner Road between Henry Circle and the traffic

circle

• Henry Circle

These road closures will begin at approximately 6 a.m. and will last approximately six hours each. The detour routes will all be well marked per Arizona Department of Transportation and Corps of Engineers Safety Regulations.



Wednesday road construction

Environmental Beat

Fort Huachuca wages war on trash

BY JOAN B. VASEY

MEDIA RELATIONS SPECIALIST

The Fort Huachuca garrison will soon be going to war and Fort Huachuca residents are asked to join in.

This will not be a war on terrorism, but a war on trash - that left behind by undocumented immigrants as they make their way north from Mexico. Like other public and private lands along the border, Fort Huachuca land is the repository of trash from border crossers.

"When hiking, bicycling or horseback riding everyone can help by packing out more trash than they pack in," said Fort Huachuca Garrison Commander Col. Lawrence J. Portouw at the quarterly Fort Huachuca Conservation Committee meeting Aug. 20.

"If enough people and volunteer groups join in

the effort, it can really make a difference on Fort Huachuca. This also is a good project for units on the installation who are seeking community service projects," Portouw added.

The Bureau of Land Management recently received a \$700,000 grant from the federal government to clean up UDI trash in Southern Arizona.

Approximately \$400,000 was awarded to the Tucson field office, while \$300,000 will be used for cleanup projects in the Safford area. Labor for these projects will come from a variety of sources, including volunteers, a BLM official stated. Fort Huachuca plans to seek out similar funding for UDI trash cleanup projects, Portouw announced at the Aug. 20 meeting.

Water data released

The water pumpage for July is 55,401,000 gallons or 170 acre-feet and is equivalent to 1.8 mil-

lion gallons per day.

The July pumpage is 17.7 percent more than that pumped in July 2002 (140 acre-feet); however, July's pumpage is 33.6 percent less than the 21-year (1982-2002) July average (256 acre-feet).

Total water pumped year to date (January-July: 934 acre-feet) is just less than 1 percent less than that pumped in 2002 (943 acre-feet).

July 2003 water usage at the U.S. Forest Service Tanker Station on Libby Army Airfield is 103,188 gallons (0.32 acre-feet), used primarily to fight the Aspen Fire and the fire within the BLM's San Pedro conservation area. Year-to-date water use is 637,769 gallons (1.96 acre-feet).

Treated effluent reuse for July was 43.2 acre-feet. This is water that did not have to be pumped from the groundwater aquifer (a water and energy savings) to irrigate the golf course and Chaffee Parade Field/Prosser Village.

The increase in water pumpage in July is due to several factors. Water use increased due to dust/fire control in conjunction with the effluent reuse construction project and the family housing demolition/construction project in Pershing Plaza-West. Another factor was the water use involved with the establishment of sod-turf areas associated with the family housing project in Bonnie Blink and Cavalry Park.

(Mason/Crandal/Wright area). Part of the increase is also attributed to the fire suppression efforts by the U.S. Forest Service originating from LAAF.

Another significant factor for the increased usage is due to the prolonged drought and its affects on the vegetation within the cantonment area. To support this effect, the use of sprinklers was extended into the month of July for the first time since the restricted watering policy was implemented in March 1994.

Road construction areas for Sept. 4

Competition shows NCOs are made of iron

BY SPC. MATTHEW
CHLOSTA

SCOUT STAFF

It could have been early bird gets the worm or survival of the fittest, both clichés were appropriate as the Iron Noncommissioned Officers Competition kicked off Aug. 14 at 5 a.m. in the sky blue light of dawn at Apache Flats.

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Lemaster, general support company, 7th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, N.C. took top honors in the male's competition and Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Altwater, Headquarters and Headquarters Operations Company, 742nd Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Mead, Md., won the female side.

The Iron NCO competi-

tion pits the most-fit female and male soldiers in the Advanced NCO's Course against one another. Seven NCOs competed last week, six males and one female.

"I enjoyed the camaraderie," said Lemaster. "The competitors were stronger than I thought they would be. I felt tested. It was pretty challenging, but a lot of fun."

To compete for the Iron NCO title students had to score 270 points or above on their final physical fitness test, including 90 points in all three events.

The events for the Iron NCO competition consisted of pull-ups, dips, a one-mile run and a 10K ruck march with 25 percent of each competitor's body weight.

"We chose exercises that are different than the APFT," said 1st Sgt. Bill Hedges, NCO Academy. "We test them physically with exercises that are closer to real world movements that we would do in the field."

"The Iron NCO is an excellent perspective, benchmark, identifier for fitness," added Hedges.

"The competition isn't for everybody," said Iron competitor Sgt. 1st Class Rick Paulson, Company A. 902nd, Military Intelligence, Rock Island, Ill. "It is really demanding and a good motivator for elite NCOs that do PT. I'm glad to be a part of it."

As each soldier competes, they are not told how many repetitions they per-

formed nor how fast they completed the run and ruck march, said Hedges, which heightened the intensity of the competition.

By keeping the overall scores secret, it allows the competitors to compete against each other and themselves, added Hedges. The winners, who had their name placed on the Iron NCO plaque at the NCO Academy, were announced at the ANCO dining in/graduation ceremony on Wednesday.

"This competition is a good opportunity to bond and compete," said Sgt. Maj. Charles Goodman, Commandant of the NCO Academy. "I emphasize PT. They are all champions."



Photo by Spc. Matthew Chlosta

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Lemaster encourages Sgt. 1st Class Michelle Altwater at the end of the 10k ruck march.

System upgrade changes DEERS enrollment, family SSNs needed

Due to a recent system upgrade, the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System now requires that valid Social Security numbers be entered on all dependents enrolled in DEERS.

When a sponsor's DEERS account is opened for any reason, and if there is a dependent in the system without an SSN entered, the system will establish a 90-day suspense for the sponsor to bring in proof of the dependent's SSN. Upon expiration of the 90-day suspense, direct care for family members will be automatically suspended; which means that medical access and treatment for the sponsor's family members will be denied, until SSN verification is met. This is a Department of Defense DEERS system-wide upgrade and is not governed by the

Fort Huachuca ID Card Section.

By regulation, official documentation must be physically viewed by the verifying official prior to entering the SSN in the system. SSNs can be verified with a Social Security card, passport, letter from the Social Security Administration, or driver's license. Documentation must be brought to

the Fort Huachuca ID Card Section, Bldg 41420.

Sponsors who are deployed overseas do not need to be concerned with this requirement until they return from deployment and are advised by the ID Card Section of a 90-day suspense to provide dependent SSN verification. For all other sponsors, there is no urgent need to bring in the required documentation until the next time they require update of their DEERS account, or have been notified by the ID Card Section that a 90-day suspense has been imposed to verify dependent SSNs.

All sponsors who received a Common Access Card since April need not concern themselves with this issue unless they were told by the clerk who issued their card that documentation was required.



160th Signal Brigade will activate while deployed

The 160th Strategic Signal Brigade will conduct their activation ceremony in Arifjan, Kuwait, Sept. 3.

This new brigade will facilitate the U.S. Army Central Command's requirement for communications support in the Southwest Asia area of responsibility. The brigade will also provide command and control of echelons-above-corps Signal elements permanently assigned in the theater.

The brigade will consist of a headquarters company, two Signal battalions with two companies each - the 25th Signal Battalion with the 550th Signal Company and 580th Signal Company, and the 54th Signal Battalion with the 228th Signal Company and 519th Signal Company - located in Saudi

Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait. One separate company - the 385th Signal Company (assigned to the 11th Signal Brigade) - will be under the operational control of the 160th Signal Brigade.

The 160th Strategic Signal Brigade is a subordinate command of U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Army Signal Command (NETCOM/9th ASC), but will be under the operational control of ARCENT.

In December, the Department of the Army approved the concept to create a new signal brigade, and authorized NETCOM/9th ASC to issue permanent orders to activate the 160th. NETCOM/9th ASC issued those orders Jan. 31.

