

Fallen comrade

B Troop ceremony pays homage to Goliath with full military honors - Page 4



Crunch

Gladiators slug it out in the ring to make All Army Boxing team, advance to Armed Forces tourney. - B1

The Fort Huachuca Scout



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January 30, 2003

Scout reports

e-mail: thescout@hua.army.mil

Gate Update

Construction on the Main Gate is completed and the traffic flow has returned to normal.

On Friday and Feb. 7 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., the East Gate will be down to one inbound and one outbound lane for gate improvements.

Personnel using the East Gate may want to use the Main Gate during peak times to avoid delays.

Awards ceremony

Fort Huachuca will host an awards dinner banquet to recognize the following: the civilian of the year, sailor of the year, Marine of the year, Air Force (airman and noncommissioned officer) of the year, drill sergeant of the year, instructor of the year and soldier and NCO of the year.

This is the first year that these individual awards have been combined into one event.

The dinner will be held Friday at La Hacienda. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and dinner at 6:30.

Dress is casual and tickets are \$18 per person. For tickets, contact Sgt. 1st Class Lisa White at 533-6385 or the Fort Huachuca Protocol Office at 533-1218 or 533-1231.

Retirement ceremony

Fort Huachuca will host its quarterly retirement ceremony Friday at 4 p.m. on Brown Parade Field.

Retirees are Command Sgt. Maj. Stacy Smith, 309th Military Intelligence Battalion; Sgt. Maj. Steven Manigault, 304th Military Intelligence Battalion; Master Sgt. Mark Kerchief, U.S. Army Network Enterprise and Technology Command; and Sgt. 1st Class Velda Townsend, U.S. Army Medical Command.

The event is open to the public. For more information, call Master Sgt. Mary D'Amico at 533-2294.

INSIDE

Passport Office gives tips for timely service

Soldiers and family members needing passports should not wait until the last minute. Having key documents can save hassle, aggravation for timelier service. Page 3

Rate changes for TRICARE subscribers

Servicemembers will notice a slight increase for their TRICARE Dental Program. See how much you'll be paying for dental care. Page 3

Distant lovers

Spc. Ryan Bolsture, 385th Signal Company, thought his wedding plans were on hold due to deployment. Modern technology changed that. Page 5

Stop movement stabilizes deploying unit readiness



Photo by 1st Lt. Traci Gift

Soldiers assigned to units that have received orders to proceed to a theater of operation, such as the 11th Signal Brigade, pictured above, will not be allowed to undergo permanent change of station moves in the latest U.S. Army Personnel Command message.

BY STAFF SGT. SHARRON STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

According to the Total Army Military Personnel Command MILPER message 03-074, dated Jan. 22, individuals assigned to units that have received orders to proceed to a theater of operation, will not be allowed to undergo permanent change of station moves.

This stop movement does not affect the total force and is not connected to the Army's current stop loss policy. The intent of the stop movement is to maintain personnel operating strengths and readiness in order to provide cohesion and stability within affected units stateside and overseas.

"The previous rules that applied to stop loss are still in affect," said Daniel Gibson, post adjutant general. "The same military occupational specialties that were previously affected by stop loss are still in affect. Under stop movement there aren't any new MOS' that have been included.

"Soldiers who are not under stop loss will still be allowed to leave military service and retire. Under the stop movement, separations will still be continued for those soldiers who are not affected by the current stop loss."

Gibson added, "This brings stability to deploying units and allows commanders to keep the right personnel in the right jobs should they be called upon to fight our nation's battles. That's the purpose of a stop movement."

He said the entire instillation is supporting this effort, but the majority of Fort Huachuca soldiers affected belong to the 11th Signal Brigade.

He continued by noting that soldiers who are due to leave military service will be returned from deployment to their home station 60 days prior to their separation date.

Gibson said all of the soldiers who are

See STOP, Page 3

2003 AFAP conference set

AFAPRELEASE

This year's Fort Huachuca Army Family Action Plan Symposium is set for March 11-13, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel.

About 120 delegates will participate in workgroup discussions to review problems and develop recommendations for quality of life issues affecting the total Army family. The top priority issues will be provided to the senior leadership to be worked for resolution.

Commanders and directors should ensure their subordinates and family members are aware of the upcoming conference and encourage their participation.

"The system does work," said Karla Grosinsky, AFAP services coordinator. For example, AFAP representatives in previous years identified a need for a center for Family Support Group and other community meetings.

Murr Community Center is now available for FSG meetings, unit activities and other community events.

A cross-section of community volunteer participants are needed for the conference to succeed, said Grosinsky.

To complete an effective community profile, units have been asked to provide a list of delegates in each of the following categories: field grade officer spouse, company grade officer spouse, company or field grade officer, noncommissioned officer, junior enlisted soldier, enlisted spouse, single soldier (without children), single parent, dual military couple, youth, Department of Army civilian and DA civilian spouse.

Workgroup topics will include: consumer services, family support, housing/transportation, medical/dental, soldier support, youth services and education, benefits and entitlements, employment/civilians, retirement services and Reserve/National Guard.

Six fort NCOs selected for sergeant major, to attend course

MI Corps select rate higher than Army-wide stats

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

Six Fort Huachuca senior noncommissioned officers will be adding a star to their chevrons and rockers after being selected on the latest Sergeant Major/Command Sergeant Major/U.S. Army Sergeants

Major Academy promotion list. Of those six, four were Military Intelligence Corps NCOs.

The selection board results, released Jan. 23, listed Master Sergeants Margaret Baldez, Raymond Bauldry, David Tyler, Joseph Renn, Bill Johnson, Kelly Hunter and Mark Myers.

Nearly 4,000 senior NCOs Army wide were considered for promotion but only 699 were selected for an average of 17.6 percent.

However the selection rate for MI Corps NCOs was

higher, with 40 NCOs selected from a pool of 174 at 23 percent.

The news was welcome with pride by Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Haubrich, U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca command sergeant major.

"First, I would like to say congratulations to the newly selected sergeants major, command sergeants major designee, and those master sergeants selected for attendance

See SGM, Page 3

Summary of board actions for promotion to sergeant major

Total Army-wide considered:	3,962
Total Army-wide selected:	699
Total Army-wide percentage:	17.6%
MI Corps considered:	174
MI Corps selected:	40
MI Corps percentage:	23%



DoD instituting short-term enlistments to attract new troops

BY JIM GARAMONE
AMERICAN FORCES
PRESS SERVICE

A new military short-term enlistment program will begin Oct. 1 aimed at expanding the opportunities for all Americans to serve the country. Congress authorized the National Call to Service enlistment option as part of the fiscal 2003 National Defense Authorization Act.

Bob Clark, assistant director in DoD's accession policy directorate, said the program would allow the military services a new option to reach a group of young Americans

who otherwise might not serve due to the length of traditional enlistment options.

The program will work like this: A recruit enlists for the option and incurs a 15-month active duty service obligation following completion of initial-entry training, for a total active duty commitment of about 19 months.

Following successful completion of active duty, servicemembers may reenlist for further active duty or transfer to the selected reserve for a 24 month obligation.

Once this is completed, servicemembers may stay in

the selected reserve or transfer to individual ready reserve for the remainder of their eight-year commitments.

"The unique piece of this legislation is that while in the individual ready reserve, these young people will be given the opportunity to move into one of the other national service programs, such as AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps, and time in those will count toward their eight-year obligation," Clark said.

While the Army and Navy already have a limited two-year enlistment program, this is the first time the Air Force

and Marine Corps will offer the option.

Clark stated that the option would be limited to high-quality recruits — those with a high school diploma and scores in the top half of aptitude tests. Officials hope this will make the military more attractive to college-bound youth who might volunteer to take a short period out between high school and college, but would not take off that three- or four-year period.

He feels the option may also attract college graduates interested in serving their country before attending graduate

school. But perhaps the largest potential pool for the option is with community college graduates who might serve the country for a short time and use available incentives to enter a four-year school, Clark said.

There are four incentives under the option. The first is a \$5,000 bonus payable upon completion of active duty service.

The second is a loan-repayment option also paid at the end of the active duty portion. The legislation allows for repay-

See ENLIST, Page 6



**MARTY MARKS
SPOUSE,
MAJ. GEN. JAMES A. "SPIDER" MARKS**

Since introducing the "Yellow Ribbon Corner" last month, many more spouses have joined our ranks as deployments from Fort Huachuca continue. We hope the information and ideas presented here help spouses of deployed soldiers and soldiers on hardship tours to handle the challenges that face them over the next several months.

We have looked into some of the most current issues affecting families of deployed soldiers. There are many questions, but a couple of topics seem to be particularly pressing.

The first subject area deals with legal issues concerning Powers of Attorney and taxes. Talking with our client services specialist at the Judge Advocate General's office, we picked up some information that should help answer some frequently asked questions.

Q. What exactly does a general power of Attorney do for me, and do I really need one while my spouse is deployed?

A. A general POA authorizes the named person, usually the spouse, to manage and conduct any and all affairs in the name of the signator, which will be the soldier. This includes banking transactions, buying, selling and leasing of any property, executing and filing tax returns, making all transportation and clearing of quarters arrangements, etc. The name says it all; a general power of attorney is very broad. JAG would recommend any Army spouse have a current POA on file. Make sure you and your spouse understand the complete intent of such a signed, legal document.

Q. When do I need a special POA?

A. If a spouse expects to pick up a Leave and Earnings Statement or have any other business transactions with the Finance Office, a special Power of Attorney will be needed. Finance will not accept a general POA for any transactions. You can download your spouse's LES from the website, www.dfas.mil, if you know the soldier's "my pay" password.

If you know you will carry out a specific business transaction such as buying a car or buying or selling a house while your spouse is deployed, make sure you have a special POA.

If any other family member or friend will be responsible for your children at some point during your spouse's deployment, a special medical POA for them is a must. The Health Center will not accept a general POA.

Have all these documents prepared prior to

deployment. Call client services at JAG for information on POA's and any other legal matters at 533-2009.

Q. Do I need to prepare and file our tax return while my spouse is deployed?

A. Any soldier deployed to a combat zone receives an automatic six-month extension to file taxes from the time he/she leaves the CZ area.

A soldier serving overseas in a non-combat zone has a two-month extension from April 15 to June 15. Further extension may be granted. However, any soldier who owes taxes must estimate and pay those taxes by June 15.

Q. If I want to file our family's tax return, what forms do I need?

A. To prepare and file your family's joint tax return, you will need a copy of the soldier's W-2 form from your unit's S-1, your power of attorney and any other pertinent tax documents for 2002. Go to the Tax Center on Christy Road and have them review your paperwork in order to properly file your return. The number for the Tax Center is 533-1070.

Another area of great interest and many concerns is how the deployment of a parent affects the children in a family. We have had many inquiries about what the schools are doing to help ease the stress of having a parent deployed.

Q. How does the school know if a soldier is deployed and should teachers have that information?

A. It is the responsibility of the parents to inform the guidance counselor at the school attended that a parent is deployed. Units cannot distribute lists of names of deploying personnel for privacy reasons. It is strongly recommended that you inform your child's school of the change in your family's situation. Teachers can be better prepared for any changes in a student's behavior if they have this information as soon as a parent learns of an upcoming deployment.

Q. What will the school do for children with deployed parents?

A. The Fort Huachuca Accommodation Schools have planned special activities for teachers to do in the classroom to address the issue of deployed parents and to help children share their feelings about deployment. The guidance counselors have taken the lead on this and are working very hard with our School liaison officer to incorporate in the classroom some of the Army's great resources for children and

See RIBBON, Page 6



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

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

I'm writing this on Monday and this morning I noted at a command briefing that the 28th was an important day in history. Seventeen years ago, on this date in 1986, the space shuttle, Challenger, exploded 73 seconds into her flight. All seven astronauts on

board were killed. Later, a former commander of what is now NETCOM, Lt. Gen. T.D. Rogers, married astronaut Dick Scobee's widow.

On this same date in 1945, 121 rangers (a new type of unit in the Army at the time) freed 513 American and British Prisoners of War from the Japanese POW camp in Cabanatuan, Philippines. Over 8,000 Japanese were in the area at the time. Only two Rangers and one POW died in the raid that is vividly retold in the book "Ghost Soldiers". At least two of the surviving POWs live in the Sierra Vista area today.

This Sunday at 2 p.m., I get the honor of taking part in an annual memorial remembering the four chaplains of the USAT Dorchester, which was sunk by a German U-Boat on Feb. 3, 1943. The ceremony will be at the Four Chaplains Memorial across the street from Electric Park in Tucson. I will be speaking about Chaplain Lt. Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed Chaplain. The other three chaplains were Lt. George Fox (Methodist), Lt. Alexander Goode (Jewish) and Lt. John Washington (Roman Catholic).

After torpedoes hit the Dorchester, it sank within 27 minutes. During that time there was great panic on the ship. Eyewitness accounts recorded that during this time, the four chaplains went from point to point on the deck bringing hope in despair and light in darkness. The chaplains prayed for the dead and dying and encouraged the living. They yelled encouragement to those in the water; one survivor said, "I could hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

Rabbi Goode gave his only gloves to a petty officer. Soon the chaplains were all at the storage locker handing out life jackets. When there were no more jackets, engineer Grady Clark witnessed the four chaplains taking off their life jackets and giving them to four frightened young men.

The altruistic action of the four chaplains constitutes one of the purest spiritual and ethical acts a person can make. When passing out life jackets, Rabbi Goode didn't call out for a Jew, nor father Washington for a Catholic, nor reverends Fox and Poling for a Protestant. They simply gave the life jackets to the next man in line.

With "rumors of war" (and movement in that direction on our own post), it may do us well to think of these historical events and wonder what we would do. The crew of the Challenger was looking for adventure, but also exploring for a better life for all of Mankind. The rangers who freed Cabanatuan were not only doing their duty, but looking for friends in former units and had "there but by the grace of God, go I" going through their heads. The four chaplains "practiced what they preached" and died in order that others may live. They also showed a faith in God that transcended religious denominational lines.

May we, in the coming days, keep the faith for those we serve. May we encourage one another and free those around us. May we live up to our faith and in moment(s) of crisis, live up to the standard we have set for ourselves — as we serve others.

I pray God watches over those deployed, those "in the door," those serving behind, and the families of all members of the Armed Forces. May we continue to watch out for each other.

Chaplain (Maj.) Dennis R. Nitschke can be reached at Dennis.Nitschke@netcom.army.mil.

Have we got news for you!
Read it online, click on huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO

Scout on the Street

What do you like or dislike about doing your taxes?



I don't mind doing them, but it's just waiting for the refund and all of the paperwork that makes it more of a hassle than anything.

Beth Kelley,
family member



I like the new credits they have with the new tax laws that helps taxpayers to get more money back.

Robin Cronkite,
family member



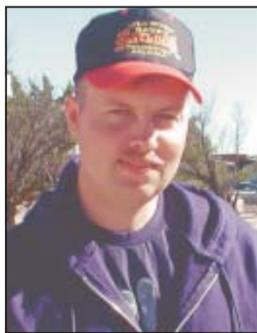
I dislike doing my taxes. I don't like to part with my hard earned money; but it is the price I have to for living in the land of the free.

Marvin Welch,
ASRC Communications



I like the TurboTax program. My wife uses it to do our taxes. It is very convenient and gives quick refunds.

Staff Sgt. Meril Branch,
309th Military Intelligence Battalion



Taxes are time consuming but other than that I really don't mind doing them.

Sgt. Dale Roberts,
2nd/142nd Field Artillery



While I am here in Arizona I go to a service to get them done. I am from New Hampshire and there are no taxes there.

Adam Woodbury,
304th MI Bn.

Photos by Angelica Pequeño

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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Avoid hassle, save time when applying for passports

BY STAFF SGT. SHARRON STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

According to Nina Sanchez, passport agent for the Adjutant General Directorate's Passport Office, deploying soldiers can save time and aggravation if they have the proper documents when they apply for a passport.

Passports provide permission to travel outside of the United States in some countries.

Many soldiers don't have their birth certificates and have to request them from their parents or order a certified copy from their state of birth.

Sanchez said if they have to pay for a certified copy of their birth certificate, they can claim it on their travel voucher and get reimbursed since it is mission related.

She said in order to get a passport, the Department of State requires that soldiers must produce proof of citizenship.

Proof of citizenship can be an original birth certificate or a certified copy of the birth certificate from the state of birth or a previous U.S. passport.

Soldiers must also have orders that provide their destination, the duration of their time overseas and the date of departure.

If orders are not available, an exception letter can be used in lieu of orders.

Sanchez has sample letters of the Exception letter. She said the passport office provides a sample form letter from the Department of State that their unit can retype and include their information.

Their letter must be signed by an O-6 or above or a director of a directorate.

Passport processing usually takes six to eight weeks. If an individual must leave within the next 30 days, they will require an expedite letter that must be signed by an O-6 or above, or a director of a directorate.

She said the expedite letter cuts the passport processing time down to two and a half weeks but if the applicant requires a visa then you add the two and a half weeks to the additional time it takes to apply for a visa.

For instance Korea takes two days to process a visa and Saudi Arabia takes eight to ten days to process one. Expedite letters are used

for servicemembers and civil service employees.

The passport office also provides government no-fee passport service to family members and civil service employees. The passport office does not handle tourist passports for retirees or contract workers.

They can apply for a tourist passport at the Superior Clerk of Court building in Sierra Vista.

An adult tourist passport costs \$85, and a child's costs \$70. To get it expedited, it costs an additional \$60.

On average Sanchez usually processes 50 to 60 passports a month, now that total has increased to an average of 75 - 80 a month.

The passport office is located in Building 41421 and is open from 8 - 11:30 a.m. and from 1 - 3 p.m., Monday - Friday.

For more information, call Sanchez at 533-3905 or visit www.dp.hq.af.mil (click on Passport Matters, then click on Passport/Visa Requirements, then click on the country you are interested in) or visit http://travel.state.gov/passport_services.html.

STOP from Page 1

here for training will continue on to their current assignment unless diverted by PERSCOM.

He further explained that officers who are on orders to attend a temporary duty school enroute, or a permanent change of station within 60 days of their unit receiving an alert, will continue to comply with their PCS orders and report to their new unit of assignment. Commanders may request an exception to this policy based on operational requirements.

For enlisted soldiers with assignment instructions or TDY school start dates prior to Feb. 28, they will proceed to school or their new assignment.

He said the stop movement also further impacts Fort Huachuca because soldiers currently assigned to deploying units who were on orders to come here will now be deleted from assignment to Fort Huachuca.

"Our projected inbounds to Fort Huachuca will be adjusted and we may see a decline in our projected officer and enlisted assigned strength due to the stop movement," Gibson said.

The entire message can be viewed by visiting <http://perscomnd.04.army.mil/milpermesages.nsf>.

SGM from Page 1

to USASMA," Haubrich said. "Our Military Intelligence Corps did very well on this past year's Sergeants Major board.

"This is two consecutive years where the Sergeants Major board has been very successful for our corps."

Reaching the rank of sergeant major was a personal goal for Hunter, currently serving as a first sergeant at the NCO Academy. She wanted to make sergeant major with 20 years service and she successfully met her goal.



1st Sgt. Kelly Hunter

But nearly 10 years ago she almost gave up on that goal as she debated whether or not to attend Warrant Officer School. Today she's glad she stayed enlisted.

"I was happy upon finding out I made the list. I was pretty optimistic of being selected this year before the board convened because I had a variety of assignments, held different positions at staff level, military education and civilian education," Hunter said. "You want to represent yourself as well rounded to the board because every panel that convenes a board have to establish what their standards are."

Hunter mentioned that one panel might think awards are important or another panel might reward higher for Noncommissioned Officers Evaluation Reports, so it's imperative that NCOs diversify their career and take on different challenges to aid in promotion.

"I tell younger NCOs to look for the hard jobs, try to find leadership positions and to make sure their records are squared away," Hunter said. "Finally, they can't wait for someone to take care of them, they need to be proactive about setting themselves up for success in their career."

Haubrich added the NCOs the sergeants major are the generals of the NCO Corps because of the responsibility, duty and traditions associated with the rank.

"I have said this before, 'take care of our soldiers for they are our sons and daughters, on the point of the bayonet, an investment in our Army and defense of this great nation of ours,'" Haubrich said. "I thank you, the sergeants major for being the generals of our NCO Corps and taking care of our soldiers, our Military Intelligence Corps, and our Army."

TRICARE Dental Program monthly premiums increase

UNITED CONCORDIA NEWS RELEASE

TRICARE Dental Program enrollees will notice a small increase in their monthly premiums beginning Saturday.

The new rates are effective Saturday; however, since premiums are collected one month in advance, TDP enrollees will notice the change in their January 2003 billing statement, payroll allotment or deduction.

The new monthly premium rate for active duty family members, members of the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve (special mobilization category), and family members of Reservists who are on active duty for more than 30 consecutive days will be \$8.14 for a single enrollment and \$20.35 for a family enrollment.

Members of the Individual Ready Reserve (other than special mobilization category) and their family members, and the family members of the Selected Reserve (those not on active duty) will pay a new monthly rate of \$20.35 for a single enrollment and \$50.88 for a family enrollment.

(See chart below for monthly premiums applicable to each category of enrollee).

Tom Harbold, United Concordia's TDP senior vice president said, "The 2003 TDP premium increase of about 3 percent is

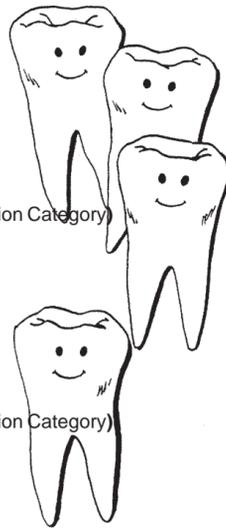
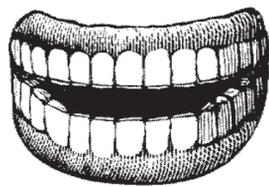
less than the annual increase in the dental services component of the Consumer Price Index. The TDP continues to provide excellent value for members of the military community."

United Concordia Companies, Inc. has administered the TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan and the follow-on TRICARE Dental Program for the Department of Defense since 1996.

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

In 2001, the company processed more than 10 million claims and paid more than \$700 million in dental benefits.

Coverage Type	TDP Monthly Premiums		
	Active Duty	Seleres & IRR (Mobilization Category)	
IRR (Non-Mobilization Category)			
Sponsor Only	N/A	\$ 8.14	\$ 20.35
Single (One Family Member)	\$ 8.14	\$ 20.35	\$ 20.35
Family (Two or More Family Members)	\$ 20.35	\$ 50.88	\$ 50.88
Sponsor & Single Family Member	N/A	\$ 28.49	\$ 40.70
Sponsor & Two or More Family Members	N/A	\$ 59.02	\$ 71.23
IRR (Non-Mobilization Category)			
Sponsor Only	N/A	\$ 8.14	\$ 20.35
Single (One Family Member)	\$ 8.14	\$ 20.35	\$ 20.35
Family (Two or More Family Members)	\$ 20.35	\$ 50.88	\$ 50.88
Sponsor & Single Family Member	N/A	\$ 28.49	\$ 40.70
Sponsor & Two or More Family Members	N/A	\$ 59.02	\$ 71.23



Fort's Army Family Action Plan addresses quality of life issues

SCOUT REPORTS

According to Karla Grosinsky, Army Family Team Building and Army Family Action Plan program coordinator with the Army Community Service, Fort Huachuca is aggressively trying to improve the quality of life for the members of the fort's community.

As a result the following issues have been updated:

ISSUE: 02-1.1: Coordination between Child and Youth Services, Education Services and the Exceptional Family Member Program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Allocate funding to fill existing Army Community Service EFMP coordinator position.
2. Assign EFMP caseworker to each military unit.

Youth Services/Education

Update: An Army Community Service staff member has been detailed into the EFMP Coordinator position.

A recruit action has been initiated to permanently fill the position. Once properly staffed, second recommendation will be addressed.

Status: Active

ISSUE: 02-4.2: Housing maintenance contractors

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Add customer survey to work orders to be signed by occupant upon completion of job.

Housing/Transportation

Update: Recommendation has been adopted. Contractor now conducts customer satisfaction surveys and evaluations on all completed work orders. AFAP steering committee will review results at next meeting.

Status: Active

ISSUE: 02-4.3: Proactive-versus-Reactive Appliance Replacement Program

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Implement a five-seven year appliance replacement program. Programmed replacements would permit purchase of appliances in bulk, saving on cost per unit.

Housing/Transportation

Update: Current process for replacing appliances provides best cost, delivery and warranty available.

Approximately 84 appliances have been found to be in excess of 15 years old. \$70,000 has been spent in response to issue, replacement is proceeding as funding allows.

Committee will track replacement rate and cross check life cycle versus failure rate

Status: Active

ISSUE: 02-5.1: Child care

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Extend CDC operating hours from 5 a.m. - 8 p.m. and increase appropriated funds to support additional hours.
2. Conduct utilization survey of CDC to determine appro-

priateness of converting to a cost based system to provide care from 5 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Soldier support

Update: Senior leaders on Fort Huachuca were surveyed to determine best hours of operation. All respondents agreed to work within center hours between 5:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Center can open for special functions outside normal duty window with prior coordination with director.

Status: Completed

ISSUE: 02-5.2: In/out processing system

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Establish a one-stop in/out processing facility that ensures Department of Defense personnel arrive/depart the installation mission ready.
2. Mandate the facility to in/out process all family members.
3. Prohibit assignment of active duty personnel to units until fully processed and mission ready.

Soldier Support

Update: Funds are not available for new facility. A smaller footprint has been established; new procedures have been implemented to expedite process. A single checklist will be created. Several facilities now deliver soldier records to Whitside hall three days prior to final out-processing. Only two mandatory stops outside of processing footprint remain. Maps are currently available at ACS and will be made available at the main gate indicating where new arrivals sign in.

Status: Active



Photo by Mary Villarreal

Juan Villarreal, B Troop, 4th U.S. Cavalry (Memorial), shares his final moments with Goliath before he was retired to rest. Villarreal rode the horse for seven years.

GOLIATH

remains 'on line' forever as a cavalry horse should

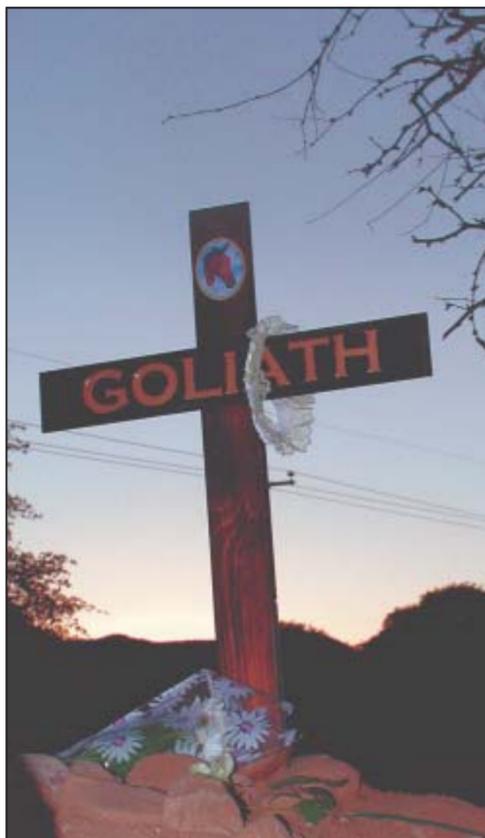


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Goliath's cross at his gravesite was made by members of cavalry. He is buried next to his pals Chino and Commander in the horse graveyard at Buffalo Corral.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Maj. Paul Zimmermann, B Troop, 4th U.S. Cavalry (Memorial) commander, sits alone to reflect on his words for Goliath's eulogy prior to the memorial ceremony.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Mary Villarreal, left, and Debbie Cunningham try to hold back tears during the memorial ceremony. Villarreal described losing Goliath as losing a member of her family.

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

According to cavalry mythology there is a place called Fiddlers' Green where the souls of departed cavalrymen go to drink cool water in a shady meadow.

Friday "the waters were sipped" by one of B Troop, 4th U.S. Army Cavalry's (Memorial) own as one of its horses – Goliath came for a drink.

In traditional and symbolic Army fashion, the beloved horse garnered full military honors during a memorial ceremony held Tuesday at Buffalo Corral.

"We honor our horses the same as we honor our troopers," said Maj. Paul Zimmermann, B Troop commander. "They're just another trooper as far as we're concerned."

Goliath served in the Troop for more than 10 years, and according to Zimmermann, he was the favorite of many who had the chance to ride him.

In recent months his health began to falter because of a lacerated heart valve.

When it was discovered that Goliath's heart was damaged, 1st Sgt. John Tooley, B

Troop first sergeant, mentioned the troopers wanted to take it easy on him.

"But I think taking it easy with him took a lot of his drive out," Tooley said. "It was like putting a soldier on a profile. That's what we did, we put him on a no running profile so he wouldn't get stressed."

Zimmerman told the audience a cavalryman sees his horse as a partner in a dangerous endeavor. They both have to trust each other not to make a false step that can ruin both of them.

He also compared the bond that soldiers have in a foxhole similar to the bonding of a horse and its rider.

"In the old days when the captain of the troop assigned a horse to a cavalryman, no one else was allowed to ride that horse without his permission," Zimmermann said. "That bond was so important for what they were doing. If you ever see a man try to ride a horse he hasn't bonded with, there's all kind of problems."

For the past seven years Goliath's bond was with his rider, Juan Villarreal. As the only military retiree in B Troop, Villarreal was by Goliath's side during his final hours.

He remained with his horse until Goliath drew his final breath and heart beat for the last time.

"We hit it off right away and became a team," Villarreal said. "There was no apprehension at all in our early encounter. It's a great bond we had. A guy and a horse – we'd get together and we'd talk to each other."

Just as Zimmerman felt pain when losing a soldier when he commanded troops as a company commander, the loss equally stings his heart for losing a horse.

"That's part of why we go through this to help the healing process so we can move on," he said.

The cavalrymen of B Troop must indeed move on. But in their hearts and minds, they know Goliath remains 'in line,' as a cavalry horse should—somewhere in Fiddlers' Green.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Goliath was treated with full military burial honors including a 21-gun salute from members of the B Troop and Taps performed by Spc. John Zinck of the 36th U.S. Army Band.

Community Updates

Troops to Teachers Briefing

Military veterans have established a solid reputation as excellent teachers and exemplary role models for today's students. Troops to Teachers is a program that helps eligible military personnel to transition to a new career as kindergarten-12 public school teachers in "high-need" schools.

If you're interested in becoming a teacher and need information about certification, finding a teaching position, and funding, please come to a Troops to Teachers briefing at the ACAP/QTC Building 22420 today at 10a.m. This is a change of location from what was previously published.

Call the Education Technician, Pat Puhlman, at 533-3010/2255 for more information.

MAC luncheon

The Military Affairs Committee luncheon is Wednesday at the LakeSide Activity Centre. For reservations or more information, call 458-6940.

DCA open forum

Outdoor Recreation Planning Meeting - The Directorate of Community Activities will hold an open forum Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Barnes Field House to discuss recreational use of installation property. This includes hunting, birding, biking, hiking, and horseback riding. Attend to voice your area of concern.

Dental after hours care

For dental emergencies (severe pain, facial trauma, swelling or uncontrollable bleeding) after normal clinic hours, call 508-9700 or pager number 533-3500, access code 306. Family members and retirees should seek help from a personal dentist.

Cake auction

The San Pedro Kiwanis/Just Kids Foundation hosts their 8th Annual Cake Auction Feb. 22 at the Buena High School cafeteria. The proceeds benefit children and youth organizations in our community and donations are tax deductible.

The auction is 2 - 9 p.m. Watch it in on Channel 7 and call in your bids - or come to the high school and get involved in the live bidding action. Homemade goodies will be received beginning at 9 a.m. and judging takes place at 1 p.m. Cakes and other goodies are judged on creativeness, beauty or originality.

Ribbons are awarded in the following categories: children, teens, adults, seniors (55+), public servants, service organizations and professional bakers.

For more information, call 378-0345.

DOIM form 3938 submission guidance

Effective immediately, the Directorate of Installation Management Network Operations Center help desk will accept signed copies of the DA Form 3938 (Local Service Request) via fax, at 533-8369, or hardcopy format.

For more information call Chief, Kathi Spradling, at 533-3155.

PX and Commissary advisory Council

Do you have ideas or suggestions that would improve Fort Huachuca's Commissary and the post exchange? Then come to the next meeting Feb. 25, at 1 p.m. in the Murr Community Center, Room 3.

For more information email James Chambers at james.chambers@hua.army.mil.

New privacy act

On April 14 the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act will take effect. The goal of this act is to protect the privacy and confidentiality of stored medical information regardless of the methods used within the health center. TRICARE began mailing information regarding HIPAA in December of 2002, with ongoing efforts to inform the entire TRICARE beneficiary population about HIPAA.

The pharmacy will no longer accept copies of patient's military ID cards. In order to comply with the HIPAA standards, the pharmacy must physically see the military member's ID card when requesting medications.

There will be strict enforcement of this new policy and service will be denied if the patient's military ID card is not presented upon request of medications.

Technical communicators to meet

The Society for Technical Communication will meet with technical writers, editors, graphic artists, web designers Feb. 6, at 6 p.m. at the Gateway Studio Suites, 203 S. Garden Rd.

Networking, a light meal, and a presentation on increasing visibility and demand for technical communication skills will be featured. The event is free.

To reserve your place, phone 538-4909 or email Lora.Langworthy@epg.army.mil by 4 p.m. Monday.

DAV transportaion volunteers

The Disabled American Veterans need volunteer drivers to transport Cochise County veterans to their appointments at the VA Medical Center in Tucson. If you're interested in volunteering, call 458-5776 or visit the Main Gate house 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Scholarship program

The 2003 Scholarships for Military Children Program has started. These are \$1500 scholarships sponsored by the Defense Commissary Agency. Applications can be downloaded at www.commissaries.com, www.fisherhouse.org or picked up at any commissary. Deadline is Feb. 20. For more information, call 533-5540.

Assessment survey

The Education Center is looking for people who might be interested in taking aviation related courses. These courses will be for college credit. Part of the curriculum will be in instruction in ground school leading to a Private Pilot License. This will include



Fort Huachuca Tax Center

The Fort Huachuca Tax Center is now open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Tax Center can file taxes electronically and answer tax questions for all eligible active duty soldiers, dependents and retirees.

To avoid any complications with electronic returns, the last day to e-file is April 7 although the Tax Center will be open to do hard copies until April 15.

The Tax Center is located in De Rosy Cabell Hall, Building 22324 on Christy Avenue. Call 533-1070/1080/1314 for more information.

11th Sig. Bde. priority

Due to current operational requirements, every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon through Feb. 15 the Fort Huachuca Tax Center will give priority for servicemembers of the 11th Signal

flight time.

This program is in the beginning stages of developing and the education center would like to know if the interest is out there. If you are interested in obtaining additional information on this program email Dennis Sherrod at Dennis.Sherrod@hua.army.mil.

Include your full name, your work phone number and let us know if you're active duty or civilian.

Range Closures

The range closures for today through Feb. 6 are:

Today-AG, AH, AK, AL, AM, AU, T1, T1A, T2

Friday- AH, AK, AL, AR, AU

Saturday- AL, AU, AW, T1, T1A, T2

Sunday- AL, AU, AW

Monday- AC, AD, AH, AK, AL, AM, AR,

Tuesday- AC, AD, AH, AK, AL, AM, AR,

T1, T1A, T2

Wednesday- AC, AD, AH, AK, AL, AM, AR,

T1, T1A, T2

Feb.6- AA, AD, AC, AH, AK, AL, AM, AR,

AV, T1, T1A, T2

For more information on range closure contact range control at 533-7095.

Cultural writer entertainment

La Hacienda presents Tureeda Mikell, African American poet, storyteller, world historian and writer, Feb. 21, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. There will be food samplings, cultural exhibits, entertainment and storytelling. Cost for this event is

Brigade and in particular those individuals who are deploying.

In addition, the Fort Huachuca Tax Center will be open Feb. 8 from 8 a.m.- 12 p.m. and on Feb. 14 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

W-2's now available online

W-2's are now available online. If you have access to myPay (formerly called emss) you will be able to print your leave and earning statement and be able to print your last 5 W-2's. If you do not have access to myPay, call 1-800-390-2348 or access the following website: <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

DITY move information

The military pay office is currently mailing W-2's for soldiers who made a do it yourself move during the months of Jan. 1 - Sept. 30, 2002. These W-2's will be sent to your mailing address or to the unit S1/PAC. If you do not receive a W2 for a DITY move you made by Jan. 31, call the military pay personnel at 533-1122 or 533-3388.

If your DITY move was made from Oct. 1 - December 2002, your W2 will be mailed from Indianapolis, IN. These W-2's will be mailed directly to you or to the military pay office. Once the military pay office receives any W-2's, finance will forward them to you.

\$5. Mikell's performances are described as spell-binding, gifted and magical.

Unit sponsorship training

Good sponsorship is the key to the successful transition of relocating soldiers and family members. Sponsorship reflects upon the unit. It builds morale and assists in Mission Readiness. Army Community Service has the tools to make any sponsorship program be the best it can be. Call Pamela Allen at 533-5919/2330 for unit training or email pamela.j.allen@us.army.mil.

FAP recruiting volunteers

The Family Advocacy program is recruiting volunteers. Take part in any of their programs. Military and their family members are entitled to ten hours of approved childcare per week while volunteering for the FAP.

Volunteers are needed to help organize the Parent-Tot Playgroup. Call 533-6873 to sign up. Kids On The Block volunteers are needed to act as puppeteers. No previous experience with puppets is necessary. Call 533-2993 for more information. The First Steps program volunteers must meet with new parents in the hospital after the birth of their baby to provide information on parenting, child development and community resources. Call 533-3986 for more information.

Volunteers are needed to work with victims domestic violence by supporting their rights and helping to preserve their integrity and autonomy. Call 533-3986 for more information.

For general information call Army Community Services at 533-2330.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Community Events Calendar</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">To add items to the calendar, call the Central Community Coordinator at 533-6870.</p> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <h3 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Military & Civilian Annual Awards Banquet</h3> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Friday at the La Hacienda beginning at 6 p.m. Cost is \$18. Contact Commang Sgt. Maj. Voss at 533-1100</p> </div>						
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">GROUND HOG DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">3</p> <p>* San Pedro Kiwanis meets at noon in the Crystal Room of Thunder Mountain Inn. Call Nilda Townsend at 458-9647. * Thunder Mountain Bridge Club meets at 12:30 p.m. at Thunder Mountain Inn. Call Dianna Smith at 432-3883. * Hummingbird Stitcher's Quilt Guild meets at OYCC at 7 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">4</p> <p>* Rickety Rockettes meets at OYCC at 10 a.m. * Huachuca Round-Up at La Hacienda beginning at 10 a.m. * National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC. * SV Parks & Leisure is sponsoring a Caregiver Workshop on "Family Difficulties" at the Ethel Berger Center beginning at 2 p.m. Call 417-6980 for more info. * Army Family Team Building Level II from 5:30 - 9 p.m. at MCC. Call Karla at 533-3686 to register. * Cochise Toastmasters meets at Landmark Café from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call Toni Reeves at 538-7502. * Cochise Chordsmen (SPERSQA) meets at SV Methodist Church at 7 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">5</p> <p>* MAC Luncheon at the Lakeside at 11:30 Call 458-6940 for details. * La Salida Del Sol Lions meet at Thunder Mountain Inn at 6:45 a.m. Call Lee at 378-1399 for details. * Army Family Team Building Level II from 5:30 - 9 p.m. at MCC. Call Karla at 533-3686 to register. * SV Chess Club meets at Peter Piper Pizza at 7 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">6</p> <p>* SV Optimist Club meets at 6:30 a.m. at the Landmark Café. Call Robert Atkinson at 459-2711 * National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC. Call 378-6605 for details. * Huachuca Area Retired Teachers Association meets at OYCC at 10 a.m. * Early Release for Fort Huachuca Schools. Myer, Kindergarten @ 1:20 p.m. Grades 4 & 5 @ 1:30p.m. Johnston, grades 1 - 3 @ 1:15 p.m. and Smith, Grades 6-8 @ 1:40 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">7</p> <p>* Rollin' Thunder Skate Park 5 - 9 p.m. for teens only. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public. * Rollerskating at Youth Services, Bldg. 49013 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 533-3205 for details.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">8</p> <p>* Youth Services, Bldg. 49013 has open recreation from 1 - 8 p.m. Call 533-3205 for info. * Rollin' Thunder Skate Park is open 1 - 6 p.m. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">9</p> <p>* The 36th Army Band will be in concert with "Swinging Woodwinds" at the Ethel Berger Center beginning at 3 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">10</p> <p>* San Pedro Kiwanis meets at noon in the Crystal Room of Thunder Mountain Inn. Contact Nilda Townsend at 458-9647. * Thunder Mountain Bridge Club meets at 12:30 p.m. at Thunder Mountain Inn. Call Dianna Smith at 432-3883. * Fort Huachuca Accommodation School Board Meeting at the Smith Middle School library at 3:15 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">11</p> <p>* Rickety Rockettes meets at OYCC at 10 a.m. * Huachuca Round-Up at La Hacienda beginning at 10 a.m. * National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC. * Cochise Toastmasters meets at Landmark Café from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call Toni Reeves at 538-7502. * Cochise Chordsmen (SPERSQA) meets at SV Methodist Church at 7 p.m. * Society for Creative Anachronism meets OYCC at 7 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">12</p> <p>* La Salida Del Sol Lions meet at Thunder Mountain Inn at 6:45 a.m. Call Lee at 378-1399 for details. * SV Chess Club meets at Peter Piper Pizza at 7 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">13</p> <p>* SV Optimist Club meets at 6:30 a.m. at the Landmark Café. Call Robert Atkinson at 459-2711 * National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC. Call 378-6605 for details. * Huachuca Area Retired Teachers Association meets at OYCC at 10 a.m. * Early release for Fort Huachuca Schools. Myer, Kindergarten @ 1:20 p.m. Grades 4 & 5 @ 1:30p.m. Johnston, grades 1 - 3 @ 1:15 p.m. and Smith, Grades 6-8 @ 1:40 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Happy Valentine's Day</p> <p>* SV Parks & Leisure is hosting a Valentine Dinner Show at the Ethel Berger Center. Diner is at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 8. Cost is \$20 per person (21 years & older) * Rollin' Thunder Skate Park 5 - 9 p.m. for teens only. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public. * Rollerskating at Youth Services, Bldg. 49013 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 533-3205 for details.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">15</p> <p>* Youth Services at Bldg. 49013 has open recreation from 1 - 8 p.m. Call 533-3205 for info. * Rollin' Thunder Skate Park is open 1 - 6 p.m. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public. * SV Parks & Leisure is hosting a Youth Basketball Bonanza Competition at the Sierra Vista Middle School. This event is open to boys and girls ages 9 - 17. Call 458-7922 for info.</p>
<p>MCC = Murr Community Center MPC = Main Post Chapel OYCC = Oscar Yrun Community Center</p>						
<p>Army Family Team Building classes and information at Murr Community Center, 533-3686 or 533-2330</p>						

Distant lovers brought together through technology, across the ocean

BY SPC. BOBBY MILLER

19TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Spc. Ryan Boisture, 385th Signal Company, Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and Susie Berry, Sierra Vista, Ariz., planned on getting married in December, but when Ryan's unit deployed, it looked like the marriage was going to be put on hold until Ryan arrived back home.

He arrived at Camp Doha, Kuwait, two months ago, while she was left behind in Arizona.

However, the couple did not let 7,000 miles stop them from getting married.

With the help of technology, the couple was joined in holy matrimony, before God and the Army, during a video teleconference, Dec. 30.

"I am just glad to be getting married," said Ryan, 22, from Fredonia, Ky., before the wedding. "I do not care how we do it, I just want to get married."

According to Sgt. Robert Nantz, 385th Signal Company, this was the first-ever video teleconference wedding.

The couple laughed and joked with each other

before the ceremony began, while watching through the televisions set-up in their separate VTC rooms.

The ceremony began at 8:15 p.m. in Kuwait and 10:15 a.m. in Arizona, with the Reverend Shawn Buchanan officiating.

Susie, a 20-year-old Cochise College student, said that there were a lot of emotions surrounding the wedding.

"Right before the wedding, I was overwhelmed with feelings," Susie said. "I was happy I could see Ryan, and hear him, but I was sad that I could not touch him. I have never felt regret and still have not. I feel that Ryan is my soul mate and that we are going to have a wonderful life together."



Photo By Staff Sgt. Sharron Stewart

Susie Boisture stands in front of a camera screen showing her husband Spc. Ryan Boisture. The couple was wed thanks to today's video technology.

Ryan waited patiently in the Army Central Command-Kuwait Headquarters building on a couch opposite his fiancée, Susie, who was on the television screen in the VTC room at Fort Huachuca with her mother for the wedding.

The VTC allowed them to see each other via a television monitor and camera, and hear each other through a microphone and speaker. Susie said that seeing Ryan was upsetting and joyful at the same time.

"When I first saw Ryan I stared to cry. I miss him so much and it was so good to see him," she said. "I wanted to jump through the screen and hug him. As the wedding went on I was crying because I was so happy that I was blessed with such a wonderful man. I'm so happy that I going to

get to spend the rest of my life with him."

The VTC has about a five second delay, but it had no effect on the wedding. Tears were shed and Susie said it was tough not being physically with him.

"Well it was somewhat sad, not the kind of wedding I had dreamed of," she added. "It was better than the phone so it was ok.

"It was great to see Ryan, but I could not hug or kiss my groom. Other than not being able to touch him, it was great. We made history and that is something we can tell our children one day."

According to Susie, the wedding preparations took a little more than a month because the time it took mailing the marriage paperwork back and forth from Arizona to Kuwait.

"I am not sure what Ryan had to do on that side, but his unit did a great job in getting it on a roll," Susie said.

Ryan said that he was glad to be able to get married in Kuwait.

"I am still excited," he said. "We had planned on (getting married) anyway, but I was sent over here. But we were not going to let that stop us."

ENLIST from Page 1

ment of up to \$18,000 of qualifying student loans.

The final two incentives are tied to - but not part of - the Montgomery G.I. Bill. One gives 12 months of a full Montgomery G.I. Bill stipend - currently about \$900 a month.

"This should attract college graduates looking to go to grad school," Clark said.

The other incentive offers 36 monthly payments at one-half of the current Montgomery G.I. Bill stipend.

"We look at this as being an incentive to both high school graduates or maybe college students who are financially strapped who may need to sit out for a period, serve the country, learn,

see the world and then go to school," he said.

The services will set the enlistment criteria. Military specialties that involve long-term training will not be offered. Basic medical specialties, some engineer skills, and personnel, administration and combat specialties will be part of the mix. The first members who opt for this program will go into the delayed-entry program beginning Oct. 1.

Clark was adamant that service members in this program would not be "second class citizens." He said although they will serve shorter periods of time, they would be treated the same way as those with longer-term enlistments.

Traditional enlistment terms are three, four, five and six years, he said.

The program will start with a small number of inductees; there is no set number that will indicate success.

As the program ramps up, DoD will work with national service organizations to ensure recruits under this program understand all their options. Clark said the department is coming off its most successful recruiting year ever.

"The department does not need this program to fill the ranks," he said. "But we are excited about offering the chance to serve the country to young men and women who ordinarily might not."

RIBBON from Page 2

dealing with deployments. Each school is forming a parent support group to provide an avenue for parents of school-aged children to get together and share thoughts, ideas and feelings.

Our Sierra Vista Schools are following suit and will adopt similar programs. Again, the guidance counselors will be leading these efforts.

The schools ask that if you are deploying or leaving, please update your family's emergency information card in the office. Allow the school staff three days to prepare records for you to hand carry if you are moving children to another school district.

To inform your student's counselor of parent deployment, call Javier Barron, at 533-1133 or e-mail Javier at: Javier.barron@hua.army.mil.

Family readiness in 2003 is full of challenges. Families who thrive

beyond survive follow a few basic principles for personal readiness:

Embrace change. Whenever stress arises and emotions become conflicted, change occurs to allow people to handle the new situation. Realize that change can be a good thing. Expect the unexpected; learn how to manage change.

Be positive. Maintain a positive personal atmosphere mentally, physically and spiritually.

Remain connected. Know whom to call, where to go, how to respond and what to expect. Build your resources now. Stay connected with each other and the community around you.

Find time to laugh and play. Next month, look for special activities on post planned in support of families of deployed soldiers. Our Fort Huachuca community is working hard to help you handle the stress and loneliness of separation. If you do not

belong to a readiness/support group, would like to get connected with one, or start your own, please contact our family services program manager, Pam Allen, at ACS at 533-6871 or pamela.j.allen@us.army.mil.

And finally, we welcome your questions, thoughts and ideas as we all go through these challenging times together. Please contact us through the commander's hotline at commanders-hotline@hua.army.mil, with subject line Yellow Ribbon Corner, to share your inquiries and thoughts.

We would love to include your children's notes and other creative writings to their parents who are deployed, too. Be assured, only one person receives the messages sent to this address, no one's identity will be divulged unless expressly requested. Until next time, keep smiling.