



Golfing fame
See Page B1

The Fort Huachuca Scout



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Scout reports

e-mail: thescout@hua.army.mil
website: huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO

DOIM closed today

The Directorate of Information Management will be minimally staffed today after 11 a.m. so its employees may attend the directorate picnic. Emergency calls may be made to extension 533-1111, Maj. Singer at (520) 909-0413, or Mr. Ron Miller at (520) 507-8405.

Asthma education class

Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center will hold its monthly asthma education class at 2 p.m. July 13 in the 3rd floor classroom. For information, page 2nd Lt. Heather Debe at 533-3500, extension 420.

Ed Center shortage

Due to a severe staffing shortage and the current hiring freeze, there will be occasions when the Army Education Center has limited counseling services available. Where possible, the center will attempt to give you advance notice of days when services will be limited.

For the month of July, there will be no mandatory transition counseling, no DD 295 completions, and no formal career counseling today, July 20, 23 and 24. There will be no VEAP to MGIB conversions on those dates, either (This is especially important information for drill sergeants who have AIT students appearing before MED Boards.) Tuition Assistance will still be available on those days.

Foster parents meet

Devereaux foster information meetings are set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at St. Andrew's Parish and 6:30 p.m. July 18 at Landmark Plaza, Suite 11. RSVP is appreciated, and the public is welcome.

BOSS volunteers sought

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is still seeking volunteers to help park cars during the Miller Genuine Draft Army Concert Tour July 14 at Libby Army Airfield.

Contact Spc. Erica Ridgon at 533-8687 for more information.

Commissary Focus Group

The Fort Huachuca Commissary will host a Focus Group Meeting at 10 a.m. July 18 in the conference room at the store.

Refreshments will be served and Commissary Logo gratuities will be given to each attendee with the possibility of winning a Fruit Basket, Insulated Back Pack and a Street Speed Scooter. Our Focus Group meeting is open to all who wish to attend.

Mandatory POSH training

The U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca Equal Employment Opportunity Office will be conducting mandatory Prevention of Sexual Harassment Annual Refresher training for Garrison employees and supervisors from 10-11:30 a.m. July 18 and 25 in the Greely Hall Auditorium.

The one and a half block of training is designed for employees and supervisors who have attended Basic DA POSH training.

All new Department of the Army employees and supervisors are required attend DA POSH training. Employees and supervisors who have met the requirement for DA POSH training must attend a refresher POSH training class annually.

For information, contact Joan Street, EEO specialist, at 538-0276, for further information or if special accommodations are required for attendance by persons with disabilities.



Photos by Spc. Jessica Espinosa

Good clean fun

Capt. Karen Chambers, HHC, USAG company commander (at left) and Capt. Mary K. Mancini (right) get in their licks with Garrison Commander Michael W. Boardman at a company pie throwing fundraiser. The company hosted the fundraiser to collect money for company T-shirts.

The company raised over \$1098 in bids and donations. Whipped cream pies were auctioned off to the highest bidder. Sgt. 1st Class Laurie Williams, S1, took a pie in the face worth \$125. Other headquarters company members raised the following amounts: 1st Sgt. Charles Arnone, \$120; Chambers, \$100; Sgt. Frank Ketcham III, \$100; Master Sgt. Rodolpho Rodriguez, \$90; Boardman, \$80; 1st Lt. Vanessa Holden, \$75; Koch, \$70; Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Lumpkins, \$70; Staff Sgt. Daryl Kline, \$55; Staff Sgt. Efrain Diaz, \$20; and Spc. Robert Sargent, \$10.



Capt. Mary K. Mancini, G3 officer in charge, and Mitchell Arnone fill pie tins with whipped cream in preparation for big spenders at fundraiser for company T-shirts. Mitchell is the son of 1st Sgt. Charles Arnone, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison first sergeant.



Sgt. Maj. David L. Koch, garrison sergeant major, is not modeling the new Army headgear, but attempting to do his part in a U.S. Army Garrison fundraiser.

SETS agreement aids mobile teens

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Transferring between high schools among school districts surrounding or on nine Army installations may be getting a little easier — thanks to an Army-sponsored study of mobile Army teens.

Results of the Secondary Education Transition Study, which were released to the public today, led school officials who participated in the study to develop and implement a memorandum of agreement which lays out guiding principles for assisting transitioning military students. The MOA was signed last May.

Current participating school systems are: Muscogee County Public Schools by Fort Benning, Ga.; El Paso Independent School District by Fort Bliss, Texas; Cumberland County Public Schools by Fort Bragg, N.C.; Killen Independent School District by Fort Hood, Texas; Clover Park School District No. 400 by Fort Lewis, Wash.; Lawton Public Schools by Fort Sill, Okla.; and Department of Defense school systems at Fort Campbell, Ky.; Baumholder, Germany; and Korea School District.

"The Army is committed to reducing turbulence in the lives of our soldiers and their family members and to doing the things that enhance their well-being and quality of life" said Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White. "The agreement between these nine school districts will improve predictability and enhance the quality of life for our soldiers and our families. We want to ensure no military child is left behind."

An Army education team began collecting anecdotal experiences of transiting Army students to help senior leaders better understand the effects of turbulence in 1997. Based upon the team's findings, the Army partnered with the Military Child Education Coalition, a non-profit organization, in 1997 to conduct an intensive two-year qualitative research project into the challenges Army teens face in transiting from school to school and to provide recommendations to ease those challenges.

Specific SETS findings includes:

—Military-connected students move from school system to school system about three times as often as other students.

—Records transfer and interpretation systems are neither consistently efficient nor effective.

—Variations in school calendars add to the challenges of transition.

—Variations in school schedules increase the probability of transition challenges.

—Problems with clear and timely informa-

tion exchange, understanding/interpretation, coherent articulation of courses and credits, redundancy, and the lack of formalized reciprocity have compounded to produce frustrations for parents, schools and youth.

—Extracurricular experiences are important to the "fitting in" process.

—Vigorous and dynamic partnerships make a real and additive difference for both military and school organizations.

—It is tough, regardless of circumstance and the age of the student, to be the "new kid" over and over.

—Professional development and adequate staffing are an on-going need to provide students the caring and sensitive adult educators they deserve.

—Army installations, parents and school systems need to work together in effective partnerships to keep each other informed and ease students' transitions.

Fixes to the majority of these problems are identified in the MOA.

These include:

—Allowing parents to hand carry student records from one school system to another.

—Developing virtual orientation tours of schools for posting on school and installation web pages.

—Posting current and accurate extracurricular activities on school and installation web pages.

—Communicating high school requirements for enhanced or alternate diplomas, options and opportunities for earning graduation credit, information about required state testing and opportunities available to senior students in transition to graduate from the sending high school through reciprocity.

—Modeling what should be in a student portfolio.

—Including senior-level military representation from the supported installation as an ex-officio member or adviser to the district school board/advisory council.

SETS examined 39 high schools in nine school districts on or surrounding selected Army bases, according to the study's executive summary. More than 420 military students who had transitioned at least once during high school and more than 230 educators participated in structure interviews to gather research data.

After the research was gathered and analyzed, school board officials, high school principals and installation commanders from the studied areas were brought to Washington to hear the results, said retired Lt. Gen. H.G. "Pete" Taylor, MCEC chairman.

"The meeting allowed the educators to see

beyond just their schools into a much broader community," Taylor said. "As they talked, they saw they had common transitioning student problems with school districts across the nation. The memorandum of agreement they developed was just a natural progression to address those problems."

Dr. Bill Harrison, superintendent of Cumberland County Public Schools, was one of the participants throughout the research collection and MOA processes.

"The research data gave us clear evidence mobile youngsters face serious issues as they move from school to school," Harrison said. "I think sometimes we have the tendency to miss the obvious. The meeting the Army hosted allowed us to focus on the obvious and work toward making life a little easier for transitioning students and their families."

The MOA is likely to include many more school districts in the near future, according to Maj. Becky Porter, a special assistant to the chief of staff of the Army for education.

"The agreement has enormous potential for growth to hundreds of other school districts," Porter said, "not only to those by Army and other military installations but to ones without a military connection, because the research it is based upon speaks in a language educators readily understand. Another reason it will grow is because it makes sense to society at large which has become increasing mobile over the past 20 to 30 years."

One thing to note, the memorandum of agreement is not between the Army and the school districts; it is an agreement between the districts themselves, Porter pointed out. Other school districts may join the agreement on a voluntary basis, she added, as long as they join without requirements to change the basic MOA.

While the SETS agreement establishes a framework for the successful transfer of mobile youth, it does not guarantee it, said Dr. Mary M. Keller, MCEC executive director and the study's primary researcher.

"Parents need to be intimately involved throughout the transition process from one school to another," Keller said. "They need to be academic advocates for their children. Basically that means being the best guidance counselor their children can have, coming up with a well thought out plan and following through."

Copies of the SETS executive summary and MOA, as well as an academic advocacy guide for parents, are being distributed to all Army installations commanders and school liaison offices, Porter said. The executive summary will be posted on the World Wide Web in mid-August.

Employees make TSP elections online

By Sherry Smith
Manpower & Reserve Affairs

The Employee Benefits Information System, accessed through the ABC-C website at www.abc.army.mil may now be used by employees to make on-line Thrift Savings Plan elections.

Employees have two automated systems available to make a TSP open season election, the EBIS and the Interactive Voice Response System.

Over 15,000 elections have been made to date via the IVRS, which has been available from the beginning of the TSP open season May 15. In the first two days of availability, 2,971 elections were made over EBIS, the EBIS TSP module was finally provided in an acceptable format from the contractor and put into production June 15.

Employees may also complete a hardcopy TSP-1, Election Form and submit it to their servicing Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, an option that will be available until open season ends on July 31.

Employees should be cautioned not to duplicate elections, if an electronic election has been made a hard copy form should not be submitted. If a hard copy form is submitted employees should not duplicate the action through the electronic automated systems.

Changes to LES for TSP information

The Leave and Earnings Statement will continue to display the employee percentage contribution in Block 22. However, Block 22 of the LES will no longer reflect TSP Fund Allocations as this function is now performed by employees directly with TSP.

DFAS has also made an internal decision to no longer reflect the earnings for TSP calculation on the LES. The absence of fund allocations and earnings calculations from the LES will be effective with the pay period beginning June 3.

The LES will also continue to reflect the actual amount of TSP deductions withheld current and Year to Date in the deductions block of the LES. There has apparently been some incorrect information dissemination about this change, please disregard any e-mail or other document providing information that the LES will no longer display any TSP data.

TSP participants will continue to be able to access TSP data on website <http://www.tsp.gov> as well as the ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 to:

- Review the account balance as of the end of the previous month
- Request, change, or cancel the allocation of future contributions
- Request, change, or cancel an interfund transfer
- Review the loan amount available to and

the current loan interest rate

- Review the status of a loan application
- Review the status of a withdrawal payment
- Replace or customize the four-digit TSP Personal Identification Number.

TSP-50, Investment Allocation Form

As of May 1, TSP Fund Allocations must be made on TSP-50, Investment Allocation form directly with the Thrift Savings Plan. Employees may make a fund allocation using the Thrift Savings Plan web site, www.tsp.gov and selecting "account access" or via the ThriftLine at 1-504-255-8777.

Employees may also mail a hardcopy TSP-50 to the address provided on the form. Personnel offices may not accept a TSP-50. A hard copy TSP-50 may not be downloaded from the web site because the hard copy version is encrypted so that it may be scanned at TSP. However, as stated, employees may use the electronic version of the TSP-50 on the TSP web site through the "account access" option to make a fund allocation or change to fund allocations.

When the Thrift Investment Board made the decision to allow the use of hard copy TSP-50's they did not anticipate the numbers of participants who would chose to use a hard copy form rather than electronic media.

Because the TIB felt most employees would utilize electronic media they only distributed TSP-50's based on 10 percent of employee strength. We ordered an additional 10 percent distribution of TSP-50's and have been told by the United States Army Publications Agency that this distribution will be made to organizations with publications accounts soon.

We also made arrangements to have an additional 15,000 TSP-50's stocked at the United States Army Publications Agency. That supply has been depleted.

We were able to obtain yet another supply of TSP Form-50's from TSP and they are currently being mailed to the US Army Publications Agency distribution point in St. Louis. USAPA anticipates that they will be able to accept orders for these forms after June 25.

This is the third shipment of TSP-50's to USAPA from TSP this open season and will most likely be the last we will be able to obtain until TSP has more of these forms printed. We will continue to order as many TSP-50's as the TIB will allow and have them stocked at USAPA.

To obtain additional TSP-50's, USAPA may be contacted at 314-263-7305, press 4 for customer service. Wait until after June 25 to make resupply requests as the current stocks are depleted. If your organization does not have au-

See Thrift, Page 4

Lifelong Learning

Education services answers TA questions

DES release

With reference to several frequently asked questions about the Tuition Assistance Top-Up program, the Directorate of Education Services provides the following answers:

What is it?

Using military Tuition Assistance to pay 75 percent and your Montgomery GI Bill to reimburse you for the remaining 25 percent you have to pay the school.

Who can use it?

- Anyone meeting the following conditions:
 - Have the MGIB CH30
 - Have served 24 months on active duty
 - Have approved TA form(s) for course(s) that began on or after Oct. 30, 2000

Can I apply for Top-Up on a course I already completed?

Yes, providing the course began on or after Oct. 30, 2000.

How does it affect my MGIB?

PL 106-398 (Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for FY01) was enacted on Oct. 30, 2000. This law indicated the use of Top-Up would affect your monthly rate, but not your months of entitlement.

However, on June 25, 2001 the Army Education Center received notice that PL 107-14 was enacted on June 5, 2001 and amended PL 106-398. PL 107-14 indicates use of Top-Up affects your months of entitlement.

To compute months of entitlement used, divide the total number of Top-Up dollars used by your monthly full-time rate. For example, if your monthly full-time rate is \$650 and you have used \$1000 of Top-Up, you have used 1.54 months of eligibility (\$1000 divided by \$650 = 1.54). PL 107-14 is effective as if it was part of the original legislation, which means it af-

fects all Top-Up cases, even those already paid.

What are the limits on Top-Up use?

You are limited to 36 total months of Top-Up use. On an individual course, Top-Up pays up to but not to exceed what you would have gotten if using the MGIB by itself to pay for your course.

Should I use it or not?

This is an individual decision and should be made after careful consideration of your long-range education goals and how much education you plan to pursue after separation from service.

How do I apply?

Obtain copies of your fully processed TA Forms (DA 2171). Write Top-Up in the Footnote Section at the bottom of the TA Form. Obtain a VA Form 22-1990 from an Army Education Counselor.

Complete the VA Form 22-1990 and write Top-Up under Item 1A of the VA Form 22-1990. Attach the TA copies to the completed VA Form 22-1990 and mail all to: Veterans Administration Regional Office, P.O. Box 8888, Muskogee, OK, 74402-8888.

After the initial application for Top-Up, just mail copies of any additional TA forms to the same address. You should not have to complete additional VA Form 22-1990s unless your address or financial institution information changes.

Recommendation

Keep a copy of all TA forms you submit to the Veterans Administration for Top-Up so you know how much Top-Up you have used and how much it has affected your months of entitlement.

(Editor's note: This article was prepared by Jackie Lewis at Fort Eustis, Texas.)

Library holds best selling titles for fort readers

Library release

The Fort Huachuca Library has the following New York Times Best Sellers in its holdings:

Fiction

The Bonesetter's Daughter
"P" is for Peril
A Painted House
On the Street Where You Live
Dreamcatcher
May There Be a Road
Death in Holy Orders
A Common Life
The Last Time They Met

Nonfiction

Ghost Soldiers
In Harm's Way
Seabiscuit
Founding Brothers
Stolen Lives

Children's

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Commander's Hotline

Active-duty caller questions purpose of family care plan

This call was received over the Commander's Hotline (533-BOSS).

Call

I would like to know what is the policy for family care plans? Is the family care plan for the short-time as used for urinalysis and early formations, even though child care is not open so I have to pay for someone to watch my children just for that short amount of time, or is family care plan, per regulation, used for deployments, or FTX, or NTC, or things like that?

Because, if I have to use my family care plan everyday to go to a urinalysis or to go to a 5 a.m. formation, then I'll be paying money for child care and also paying money for short-term care. Needless to say, the Army doesn't pay me that much. My concern is — what is the family care plan indeed intended for? Is it to help the soldiers?

Also, early morning formations — trying to get things done prior to PT and prior to training, even though child care is not open or readily available at the time. This is an ongoing thing for everybody on post.

I am in 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, and I prefer to

remain anonymous, because it is not my first time calling, and I know the procedures and I know what has happened to me in the past. I just wanted to bring this to someone's attention.

Response

Many soldiers are confused by the requirements for the Family Care plan detailed in AR 600-200, Army Command Policy dated July 1999.

Paragraph 5-5 a (2) states, "DA Form 5305-R (Family Care Plan) is the means by which soldiers provide for the care of their family members when military duties prevent the soldier from doing so. It will include proof that guardians and escorts have been thoroughly briefed on the responsibilities they will assume for the sponsor/soldier and the procedures for accessing military and civilian facilities and services on behalf of the family members of the sponsor/soldier. It will attest that the guardian and escort agreed to provide care and have been provided all the necessary legal authority and means to do so."

Paragraph 5-5 c clearly states when the Family Care Plan will be implemented. "Soldiers must arrange for the care of their family members so as to be — (1) Available for duty when

and where the needs of the Army dictate. (2) Able to perform, assigned military duties without interference of family responsibilities."

Military child care is available as a service to military families, not a military entitlement.

In accordance with AR 608-10, Child Development Services dated July 1997, paragraph 4-9a states, "No more than 12 hours of continuous care per child should be provided in any CDS program with the exception of services provided in FCC homes authorized to provide extended hours or long term care, or under circumstances approved by the CDS coordinator."

In order for the child development center to maintain reasonable fees, a minimum of 10 children must be in care at any one time. The center is open from 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. A needs assessment survey conducted in June 2001 indicated these hours fully meet the needs of 88 percent of the families responding to the survey.

Being in the military is a 24 hour a day, seven day a week commitment; the Family Care Plan is designed to ensure soldiers can provide care for their family members when they are called to perform military duties. This is ultimately a readiness issue for the commander.

The inability to implement the Family Care Plan or the affordability of care may become a reason for a military member to assess their ability to be able to perform assigned military duties without interference of family responsibilities.

Heidi M. Malarchik
Child Development Center

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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Funds for post housing areas unfrozen

By Stan Williamson
Scout Staff

An old Army motto, "the Army takes care of its own" has been hard pressed in some areas over the last ten years or so due to the draw down in the authorized active duty strength. Along with a smaller military, there have been smaller annual operating budgets, which have had an effect across the board, especially in the area of family housing maintenance and improvements.

Some of those maintenance problems may be changing, especially in the area of enlisted housing and facilities at Fort Huachuca.

John Ruble, director of Installation Support recently reported that Army Family Housing funds previously frozen by Department of Defense and Department of Army, have been released for local use. Fort Huachuca has approximately \$1.5 million in funds earmarked for family housing maintenance and improvement projects.

According to Grace White, family housing officer, DIS, there are two major types of funding projects. The first is Military Construction-Army for family housing. This covers both officer and enlisted family quarters. These are the renovation projects seen on post to include the Fiscal Year 2001 project for the demolition and replacement of 110 sets of family quarters in

the Bonnie Blink and Cavalry Park areas.

White said these projects are completed Army-wide, taking about five years to work their way through the proper channels and are finalized with funding by special appropriations approved by both houses of Congress.

The second type of funding involves the projects to repair or improve housing and funded through local installation housing funds.

White explained that all the Fiscal Year 2001 local projects were put on hold from January to May because of the increase in utility costs, not only here, but throughout the Army. In late spring, Congress approved a special appropriation to pay these rising costs.

This special appropriation by Congress freed up local funds originally slated for housing repair or improvement projects. With the local funds available again, the Directorate of Installation Support is once again moving ahead with the identified repair and improvement projects.

The list of these projects being considered is long and in different stages of approval. Some of the projects being considered are:

— Continue vinyl siding and increased insulation for Hall Circle houses.

— Continue replacement of doors and windows for Hall Circle.

— Replacement of sliding glass doors with French doors or glass blocks for Mott Circle.

— Continued exterior painting projects throughout the installation.

— Sewer replacement project for Miles Manor area.

— Removing primary overhead electrical lines and putting them underground for DeAnza Village.

— Improvements to the roads and paving requirements throughout the installation's housing areas.

— Continued installation of the privacy block walls around housing areas.

— Installing identification signs at the entrances for housing areas to create a neighborhood environment.

Sylvia M. Pete, housing officer, DIS said "each year a new listing of special projects for the on-post family residents is submitted and evaluated. This listing ranges from repairs, renovations, and replacements. The cost for some of these projects will range from \$500,000 to \$1 million, and will be done as funding and priorities allow, however, we still have to pay our utility bills for the rest of the year and that will also affect some of these funds."



Photo copyright Dreamworks SKG

Shrek supports Giving Tree

Chapel release

The Army, Air Force Exchange Service joins with the Chaplains' Giving Tree to sponsor a feature film for children of military families at Fort Huachuca.

The movie Shrek will play at 2 p.m., Sunday at Cochise Theater.

Volunteers of the Giving Tree work with AAFES to provide hope and joy for military families. The price of admission on Sunday is \$.99 plus a toy. Those who donate a toy for children receive a free AAFES movie pass to a future movie. Chaplains collect the donated toys at the theater door before the film starts.

The Giving Tree is a volunteer program at Fort Huachuca to demonstrate and express concern for neighbors. The program originated at Fort Huachuca to brighten the holiday season at Christmas. Volunteers collect gifts for military families throughout the year to distribute to eligible families in mid-December. Experience the joy of giving by supporting and attending Giving Tree program initiatives throughout the year.

For more information about the Giving Tree program or if you would like to volunteer, call the Installation Staff Chaplains' Office, Chap. (Maj.) Garry R. Dale, at 533-4647.

Desert climate requires increased fluids within limits

By Fred Reamer
Safety Office

It is unnecessary to find yourself in the hospital emergency room, a victim of dehydration. Dehydration results from the lack of adequate body fluids for the body to carry on normal functions at an optimal level.

Less than five percent loss is considered mild dehydration. Losses of 10 percent are considered moderate and up to 15 percent severe. Severe dehydration could cause cardiovascular collapse or death if not treated quickly.

Parents of young children may first encounter dehydration when their babies become ill and develop fever, vomiting and diarrhea. Drinking larger quantities of fluids can normally resolve mild dehydration. Intravenous fluids and hospitalization may be needed for moderate to severe dehydration.

Smaller children and athletic teens can become dehydrated much quicker than adults. Depending on age and level of activity, they should be drinking some water every hour. Since our normally dry climate evaporates moderate sweating without soaking our clothing, we sometimes don't realize we are perspiring. Strenuous physical activity creates a demand for more fluids.

Coffee, tea or alcoholic drinks are diuretics and will increase the elimination of body fluids. Water is recommended as it will

relieve thirst best and can be found almost anywhere.

Don't wait to drink until your mouth becomes dry or you observe unusually dark urine. Have a plan to consume water at frequent time intervals. If driving to a trailhead for hiking, drink lots of water before leaving the car.

Plan to have additional water available in the car for your return. While hiking, you should be halfway through your hike when half your carried water is consumed.

While dehydration is the major concern here, it is also possible to consume too much water. Three years ago the Army revised its recommended fluid replacement policy for warm weather training. It looks at three things; the heat category, type of work being performed with work/break intervals and the suggested water intake per hour. This revision was a result of some soldiers being encouraged to consume too much water, resulting in one death.

There have been other cases of over hydration recently as well. We are advised to limit fluid intake to less than 1.5 quarts per hour for the highest category, with the normal intakes between one-half to one quart per hour. Daily fluid intake should not exceed 12 quarts. Those involved in training should become familiar with current policy guidance on fluid replacement. A copy of the revised guidance can be downloaded from the Fort Huachuca Safety Office Public Folder.

Post thrift shop is open to public for shopping, consigning

By Tanja M. Linton
Media Relations Officer

The Fort Huachuca Community Thrift Shop located right inside the main gate, is open to the public for shopping.

Personnel with a valid military ID card as well as retired military, Department of Defense civilians, retired civilians, AAFES employees, reserve personnel and their family members, Red Cross employees and anyone with a post-related ID card, can consign items in the shop.

The thrift shop retains a 25 percent commission with 75 percent going back to the consignor. The commission is used for salaries and expenses with more than 50 percent of it going back to community.

Eight paid employees, with the generous help of approximately 60 volunteers run the thrift shop.

The thrift shop is open Tuesday and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. for shopping and from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for consignments. For more information call 458-4606.

Fort, seven TRADOC units recognized for contributions to Transformation

By Jim Caldwell
TRADOC News Service

FORT MONROE, Va. — Training and Doctrine Command headquarters and many of its centers and units, including Fort Huachuca, have been awarded the Army Superior Unit Award for helping to get Army Transformation underway.

The award, from former Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera, was official in January. The public announcement was made in TRADOC when the award citation was read at opening ceremonies of the command's annual Organization Day activities June 29.

"During a uniquely dynamic period in the

Army's 225-year history, Headquarters, TRADOC, and numerous other organizations and commands developed and implemented a comprehensive campaign plan to dramatically transform the Army to better fulfill its role in the National Security Strategy for the 21st century," the citation reads.

"Members of this command were faced with significant challenges to support Army Transformation initiatives while at the same time accomplishing worldwide operational missions."

Fort Huachuca units that received the award were the 112th Military Intelligence Brigade, 304th MI Battalion, Noncommissioned

Officers Academy and the 306th MI Battalion before it became part of the 112th MI Bde.

Forces Command, Army Materiel Command and TRADOC along with their organizations were also recognized for their part in making Transformation a viable program.

"Award of the Secretary of the Army's Superior Unit Award on this scale is a rare event," said Angie Saucier, team leader, Personnel Actions in TRADOC's adjutant general organization. "Normally unit award applies only to TO&E and TDA organizations of battalion size or equivalent."

Centers and units at seven other TRADOC installations have also won the award. They

are Forts Benning, Ga.; Rucker, Ala.; Knox, Ky.; Sill, Okla.; Leonard Wood, Mo.; Leavenworth, Kan.; and Gordon, Ga.

Soldiers who were assigned to those units for at least 30 consecutive days during the period between Oct. 1, 1999, to Oct. 1, 2000, are eligible to permanently wear the ASUA ribbon. Civilians meeting the criteria are entitled to permanently wear a lapel pin. Personnel assigned after Oct. 1, 2000, may wear ribbons and pins for the duration of their assignments.

Saucier said that anyone unsure whether they are eligible for the award should contact their local AG.

Law changes in passport issuance to minors

AG release

Effective July 2, Public Law 106-113, Section 236 establishes new procedures in the acceptance of passport applications for children under the age of 14. There is no exception for members of the Armed Forces. Any application executed on or after July 2 will be subject to the new law.

Requirements of the law

The new requirements reflect three major procedural changes in the acceptance of passport applications for minors under the age of 14. They are as follows.

— The age at which a minor must execute his or her own application is raised from 13 years to 14 years.

— Both parents or guardian(s) (if any) must give their consent to passport issuance to a minor under the age of 14, unless sole custody or guardianship is established by the applying parent.

— Documentary evidence listing the minor's name, date and place of birth, and the names of the parents or guardians must be submitted with a passport application for a minor under the age of 14.

When both parents or legal guardian(s) are available and able to appear in person to apply for the passport for the minor then, they must be able to establish three things:

- Their own identity.
- Their relationship to the child.
- The child's US citizenship

When only one parent is available to apply, the parent who appears in person must submit documentation to explain the absence of the other parent. One parent may sign the application if he/she can provide one of the following:

- Death certificate of the other parent.
- A non-notarized, signed statement from the absent parent consenting to the issuance of a passport for the minor.
- The child's certified birth record (US or foreign) which lists only the name of the parent making the application for the minor.
- The child's "Report of Birth Abroad" or "Certification of Birth Abroad" which lists only the name of the parent applying for the passport.
- A court order granting sole custody to the parent who is making the application and which does not contain restrictions on the minor's travel.
- An adoption decree, which lists the name of only the parent making the application.
- A judicial declaration of incompetence of the absent parent.
- A copy of the commitment order or other comparable document for the incarcerated parent.

For more information, call Nancy Williams, Adjutant General Directorate, at 533-0484.

Kudos Korner

Fort grads receive degrees

The following Fort Huachuca graduates received their degrees from Western International University in commencement services on June 2.

Bachelor's degrees: Vicky Blankenship, Marvin Brown, Albert Burgess, Suzanne Cline, Lori Fauver, Charlotte Fisher, Debra Hawkins, John Hines, Lena Hollingsworth, Michael Jackson, Kenneth Kimmel, Sandra Landers, Roger Lee, Robert Miles, Tamrah Pehrson, Mary Ann Taylor, Yom Terrazas and Catherine Williams.

Master's degrees: Marlene Garner, John Hamilton, Alice Jones, Willard Posko, Wallace Ricks and Robert H. Williams.

Army Signal Command gets new commander

By Sue McKinney
ASC PAO

Brig. Gen. James C. Hylton will take command of the U.S. Army Signal Command here during a silent change of command ceremony July 11 at 8 a.m. on Brown Parade field here.

Now commanding ASC, Maj. Gen. William H. Russ will depart to assume command of the U.S. Army Communications Electronics Command, Fort Monmouth, N.J.

Hylton comes to ASC from the Office of the Director of Information Systems for Command Control, Communications and Computers in Washington, D.C., where he was the director of programs and architecture.

The silent ceremony will be conducted with semaphore flags. Instead of vocal commands, semaphores will be used to silently transmit directions to the assembled troops. Widely used in the 1800's, this form of communications contrasts with the high-tech voice and data equipment operated by ASC today.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved to Barnes Field House.

40th Signal Battalion hooks up Hood for exercise

By Staff Sgt. Tim Volkert
NCOIC, 11th Signal Bde. PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas — Sticky mud and extreme heat and humidity are the only things that challenged soldiers from the 40th Signal Battalion as they set up shop for the brigade's summer exercises.

About 90 soldiers deployed to a remote site near North Fort Hood to help create a worldwide network and communications support for two exercises.

The primary exercise the unit is involved in is Grecian Firebolt, a worldwide, annual signal exercise testing the communications capabilities of all signal units, including Reserve and National Guardsmen, said Capt. Melissa Miles, Fort Hood site commander and commander of Company A, 40th Sig. Bn.

The second exercise the 40th Sig. Bn. is involved with is providing communications support to Reserve quartermaster units for their annual POLEX exercise, she said. At Fort Hood, they are directly supporting the 363rd Quartermaster Battalion.

The 40th Sig. Bn. is the most-deployed battalion in the brigade for the summer exercises. The battalion has teams deployed to Washington, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Iowa and Virginia, Miles said.

After rolling into Fort Hood June 6, the soldiers faced hard rains that turned the stone-hard ground into thick mud. Although it made for a little slower movement, Miles said the soldiers still got their equipment up and running quickly.

"It was more challenging," said 1st Sgt. David Thompson, site noncommissioned officer in charge and Company A first sergeant. "It got slippery up here at first. Then it got muddy, like gumbo mud that sticks to the bottom of your soles."

"It was wet, but other than that, it wasn't too bad. Everything went up pretty easily," said Sgt. Robert Dawson, a team chief from Company B, 40th Sig. Bn. He said it was good to see how the equipment reacted to the rain.

After the rain subsided, the next and continuing challenge the soldiers face is the extreme heat. After several days of high temperatures and humidity, preventing heat injuries became a major role in the unit's mission on site.

"It's a big factor when we're working outside. We're not used to the humidity and it saps your strength real fast," Dawson said.

Thompson said the unit is taking the heat issue very seriously and has altered the work and rest schedule as needed to keep soldiers from overexerting themselves.

The soldiers have also been preventing themselves from becoming heat casualties by drinking plenty of water. The unit went through more than 500 gallons of water in the first five days they were on site.

Aside from the weather and change in climates that have hindered some training the unit would like to do, Miles said that just



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Volkert

Pfc. Kontar Francis, a wire systems installer from the 69th Signal Company, 504th Signal Battalion, digs a foxhole for force protection at Fort Hood, Texas. Some soldiers from the 504th Sig. Bn. were attached to the 40th Signal Battalion for Grecian Firebolt.

deploying into a different area is good training for the soldiers.

"It's always good for us to go somewhere different and experience a new climate and surroundings because that's exactly what happens when you deploy (for a real-world mission)," she said.

The soldiers said deploying for these exercises is what they need to do to be ready for a deployment.

"When you're out here, and this is an actual field environment, you do everything that you do as if you're going to war," said Spc. David B. Brock, a multichannel communications specialist from Company B, 40th Sig. Bn., who is cross-training with a tactical satellite team during these exercises. "You're away from every-

thing. You're in this environment and this is all you have to deal with."

Having the opportunity to train with the other military branches makes this exercise even more valuable, said Thompson.

"We've trained up and we know how to communicate. Now it's time to hook up to an outside unit and see if we can provide the support they need," he said.

"This allows us to work with other branches that we normally don't get to, [including] other units in the brigade," said Dawson. "In case a war breaks out, you need to know that other units are training just as hard as you are."

From Counsel

Thrift Savings Plan available soon as retirement alternative for military members

By Capt. Benjamin Kinsley
Claims Judge Advocate, OSJA

Ahh, yes. Retirement. That distant (or not too distant) light at the end of the tunnel. Well, stop daydreaming of that glorious day and start planning for it.

Will your military retirement pay be enough? If you leave the military, will your civilian retirement be enough? If not, you need to read this article and consider what the Thrift Savings Plan can do for you.

Established in 1986, the TSP is a retirement savings and investment plan for Federal employees. Think of it as our very own 401(k) plan. Historically, it has not been available to military members, but that's about to change.

On Oct. 30, 2000, former President Bill Clinton signed an act that allows members of the uniformed services to enroll in the TSP.

Enrollment starts on Oct. 9, 2001 and ends on Jan. 31, 2002. Soldiers who enroll may begin contributing in January 2002.

The TSP is what is known as a combined contribution plan. That means the retirement income you receive will depend on the amount of money you have contributed over the years, and the amount of earnings on those contributions.

It is different from the military retirement plan in several ways. The military retirement plan is a defined benefit program. Basically, the benefit you receive from military retirement is based on years of service and rank at the

time of retirement. TSP payments are going to be based on how much you contributed and how much those contributions earned over the years. This means you have a certain amount of control over how much you will be eligible to receive. Additionally, if you are in a "critical" MOS, it is possible that the government will match your contributions. Military members who serve in these "critical" specialties must agree to serve for six years to be eligible for the matching program. Matching contributions apply only to contributions made from your basic pay.

You may contribute up to 7 percent of your monthly basic pay every month. You may also contribute all or any percentage of any special or incentive pay (including reenlistment bonuses).

Income taxes on your contributions are deferred until you withdraw moneys from the plan. Total contribution amounts are only limited by the Internal Revenue Code's elective deferral limit for that year. For 2001 the limit is \$10,500. This amount is recalculated every year and may be higher in 2002.

One caveat to the contribution rule is that you have to be contributing from your basic pay before you can contribute special or bonus pay. Because of that rule, if you are anticipating a reenlistment bonus that you want to contribute, it may be a good idea to consider joining during the initial enrollment period. That way you can start contributing from your basic

pay before you get the bonus, making the bonus eligible for contribution.

Also, you can't just send a check to TSP as a contribution. All contributions have to be deducted from your paycheck, so make sure you sign up if you want to participate.

You may contribute to the plan if you received income earned in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area. These contributions are treated differently for tax purposes. You are still limited to the 7 percent per month basic pay limitation, but the elective deferral limit does not apply.

Contributions from tax-exempt income will not be taxable when withdrawn. Unfortunately, earnings on these contributions will be taxed. Ordinary contributions are not taxed until the funds are withdrawn from the TSP.

This means that contributions made during the year are not considered part of your federal income and are thus not taxed. These contributions are taxed later when you withdraw funds.

Contributions to the plan are invested in up to five investment funds. Those funds are:

- Government Securities Investment (G) Fund
- Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund
- Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund
- Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment Fund (S) Fund
- International Stock Index Investment

Fund (I) Fund

As new participants, your contributions will initially be invested in the G Fund. Later, you may submit a contributions allocation request instructing the TSP which of the five you wish to invest in.

Contributions to TSP may only be withdrawn early under certain circumstances. The first is an age based withdrawal for participants who are 59 1/2 or older.

The second is for financial hardship cases where the hardship can be documented. There are penalties for early withdrawal, so you should plan ahead to avoid these situations.

The good news is that TSP has a loan program. This program allows you to borrow contributions and their earnings from your account for either a general purpose loan or a loan to finance your primary residence.

These loans can be anywhere between \$1,000 and \$50,000. These loans must be repaid with interest, but the loan repayment and the interest go into your TSP account.

When you separate from the military service you have several options. You may simply leave your money in the TSP, or you may request an annuity.

You may also receive a lump sum single payment, transferring all or part of your account balance to an IRA or other retirement plan.

If this sounds good, and you want to know more, visit the website at <http://www.tsp.gov/>.

Thrift from Page 2

thorization to receive blank forms contact your Publications Control Officer to request authorization or to obtain information on how you may obtain blank forms. PCO's may be located on USAPA's web site, www.usapa.army.mil/gils/appdxal.html and locating your MACOM PCO.

Why so many problems?

Many changes that have been sought out for years in the TSP program were passed under the previous administration at the end of 2000, for example the increase in allowable employee contributions from five to six percent for CSRS employees and 10 to 11 percent for FERS employees.

Final decisions about these changes and procedures were not provided until January of 2001. TSP procedures had to be provided by the TIB before agencies could formulate internal agency procedures and make necessary system changes.

Congress made new employee eligibility

complicated by allowing immediate employee participation, but continuing to delay agency contributions by 6 to 11 months after an employee is hired. Complicated procedures create complicated system changes.

The Department of Defense was not the only agency to experience delays in implementing system changes to accept these changes in TSP. The decision by the TIB to change passed procedures for fund allocation at the same time as the other changes taking place this open season has further complicated this matters this open season and caused considerable confusion to employees.

All participants received a TSP account statement that included the TSP newsletter "Highlights" that explained these changes and the new S and I funds.

This has been a challenging open season, but one in which many positive changes have taken place. The Thrift Savings Plan, like other Federal benefits will continue to expand and change

to meet the needs of employees.

A chart that provides information about the changes that have taken place may be viewed and downloaded from http://www.tsp.gov/curinfo/tsp_changes_2001.html.

Direct rollovers available in July

Public Law 106-361, signed Oct. 27, 2000, allows direct rollovers from qualified retirement plans established by an employee's previous employer. These plans are limited to pension, profit-sharing, and stock bonus plans, and include 401(k) plans.

Public Law 106-361 also allows rollovers from conduit IRAs that were set up to accept distributions from qualified retirement plans. However, employees cannot roll over money from a regular IRA, a mutual fund, or savings account. This benefit will be available to participants in July 2001.

The TIB has not yet announced a precise date for rollover options. More information may

be obtained from the TSP web site at <http://www.tsp.gov/features/chapter02.html#sub12>. Rollover forms will be available on the TSP web site.

Rollovers will be performed directly with TSP as agencies have no authority to determine qualified plans or approve rollovers.

Increase in IRS elective deferral limit

The recently passed Tax Relief Bill provided for a graduated increase to the IRS elective deferral limit that caps TSP contributions for some "highly compensated" employees.

The current \$10,500 IRS elective deferral limit will increase to \$11,000 effective Jan. 1. The limit will continue to increase by \$1,000 each January through 2006 at which time it will, under current law, be set at \$15,000.

(Editor's note: Sherry Smith is from the Policy & Program Development Division of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army.)

Pets of the Week



"Heidi" is a three-month-old female black and rust shepherd mix puppy. She is very playful and would make a good family pet. Her adoption fee is \$52 which includes a spay, microchip, heartworm test, vaccinations and deworming.



"Leon" is a big, orange and white male tabby. He is 1.5 years old and is a little shy. His adoption fee is \$27 which includes a neuter, feline leukemia test, microchip, all vaccinations and deworming.



"Bear" is a one-year-old black male chow who is good with kids. He has been in the stray facility for five months and would love a new home. His adoption fee is \$42 which includes a neuter, microchip, heartworm test, all vaccinations and deworming.



"Snowball" is a young adult female white domestic short-haired cat with a black tail. Her adoption fee is \$42 which includes a spay, microchip, feline leukemia test, all vaccinations and deworming.

Vet Clinic photo

These and several other dogs and cats are available at the Fort Huachuca Veterinary Treatment Facility from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call 533-2767. The facility is now open through lunch.

Some missing luxury POVs recovered

USTCNS release

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Four of six missing late-model BMW motor cars that were part of a Military Traffic Management Command cargo have been recovered.

The four luxury vehicles belonging to Department of Defense service members were found in North Charleston, S.C. — not far from the Port of Charleston where they were reported missing.

The 2001 BMW vehicles were found within a few days of the incident by local law enforcement agencies, said Bill Antonelli, Vice President, American Auto Logistics, Inc.

An investigation by Charleston Police and the Port of Charleston continues.

The vehicles suffered some minor damage and their ignition keys were gone, said Antonelli.

The six vehicles were originally reported missing June 13. They were delivered June 9 to the Port of Charleston from Europe by the

Tanabata, operated by American Roll-on Roll-off Carriers, of Montvale, N.J.

The vehicles were being moved from Europe on behalf of American Auto Logistics, Inc., of Monroe, N.Y., the prime contractor of MTMC's Global Privately Owned Contract.

The firm moves an average of 75,000 privately owned vehicles a year.

Vehicle owners have been notified of the incident by the Charleston Vehicle Processing Center, which was awaiting delivery of the vehicles.

The six owners include three soldiers, two airmen and a sailor. They ranged in rank from an Army major to a Navy petty officer second class.

MTMC has notified the Army, Air Force and Navy claims offices of the incident.

(Editor's note: This article is from the Military Traffic Management Command Public Affairs Office.)

DA begins alignment review of headquarters

U.S. Army PAO release

The Army has initiated a review of the Army Secretariat and the Army Staff to determine how best to align the missions and functions of its headquarters. The goal of the review is to achieve maximum efficiency, while continuing to ensure appropriate civilian oversight.

Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White directed the review as part of an overall effort to incorporate better business practices and improve efficiency throughout the Department of the Army.

"No successful corporate headquarters in the world today is organized the way we are in Headquarters, Department of the Army. We currently have two separate Army-level staffs, often performing some of the same or similar functions. The level of individual performance and dedication is

very high but we need to ensure those great individual efforts yield the best results. My goal is to reshape the two staffs into a more fully-integrated headquarters that maintains civilian oversight and runs much more efficiently," Secretary White said.

"This review will further empower the headquarters and enable us to increase our momentum for our transformation and achieving the Objective Force this decade," said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki.

The findings of the review will be briefed to Secretary White in the fall of 2001.

John W. McDonald, Deputy Under Secretary of the Army (International Affairs), will lead the review. He will have a staff of about 30 people from key headquarters' components to assist with the review.

Community Updates

Youth fishing fee change

The fishing fee for youth, ages 13 and under, has been eliminated for on-post fishing. All personnel, age 14 and older, are still required to obtain a fishing license. This change in policy, effective Sunday, brings the fort's fishing regulations into conformity with the Arizona State requirements.

USAWOA meets

The Arizona Silver Chapter, U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association, meets at 11:30 a.m. July 17 at La Hacienda, Fort Huachuca. For information, call Paul Angelo at 459-4932.

Dental sick call times

Effective Monday, soldiers who go on dental sick call must report to Runion Dental Clinic between 7 and 7:30 a.m. This allows the staff to treat patients with urgent conditions who cannot wait for a scheduled appointment.

DOIM computer classes set

The Directorate of Information Management is conducting several computer classes during the month of July. All classes start promptly at 9 a.m. and class size is limited to 14 students. It is mandatory to sign up for a class prior to attending. It is beneficial to sign up as early as possible, as classes fill up quickly. The classroom is located in De Rosy Cabell Hall (Building 22324) on Christy Avenue.

Classes start today with Creating Web Pages with HTML. Classes continue next week with Outlook 2000 on Monday, Form Flow on Tuesday, PowerPoint 2000 on Wednesday, Basic Excel 2000 on July 12 and Intermediate Excel 2000 on July 13. The last half of the month includes Basic Database Structure and Design on July 16, Basic Access 2000 on July 18, Intermediate Access 2000 on July 19, Advanced Access 2000 on July 20, The Practical PC on July 25, Introduction to the Internet (part one) on July 26, and Introduction to the Internet (part two) on July 27.

Get sports physicals now

The Medical Activity Command has appointments available for sports physicals. Appointments can be made with your health care team by calling 533-9200. MEDDAC encourages people to get sports physicals before Aug. 1 to ensure availability of appointments.

Veterans' Benefits briefing

A Veteran's Benefits Representative of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Phoenix Re-

gional Office will give briefings from 8 a.m.-noon July 19 at the Army Career and Alumni Program Center, Building 22420.

The representative covers such veteran's benefits such as educational, home loan, disability entitlements, medical care, life insurance, burial, and vocational rehabilitation.

Additional briefings are scheduled for Aug. 23, Sept. 20, Oct. 12, Nov. 2 and Dec. 20.

Passport procedure slowdown

Between July 17 and Aug. 10, the time it takes to process passports will slow down, due to upgrading procedures at the Special Issuance Agency in Washington, D.C.

The agency is converting to a photo-digitization process and the new equipment arrives next month. Those slated for temporary duty or permanent change of station where passports are required should process immediately.

For more information contact Kellie Kipp McGuire at 3-0484.

Severe weather presentation

The Fort Huachuca Safety Office invites the public to a severe weather presentation by the National Weather Service at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. July 24 at Murr Community Center. For more information, call 538-SAFE.

Federal jobs workshop

The next federal jobs workshop is from 8-10 a.m. July 13 at the Army Career and Alumni Program Center, Building 22420 here. These provide general information on how to find out where the jobs are, how to apply for a federal job, employment benefits, looking at and understanding a federal pay scale, dissecting a federal job announcement, looking at a federal application, understanding veteran's preference, types of appointments, and how selections are made. The workshop also covers specifically how to understand the RESUMIX process of applying for a job at Fort Huachuca.

Future workshops are scheduled Aug. 17, Sept. 14, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 7.

POW, MIA Walkathon

The 2001 POW/MIA Walkathon is scheduled for 6 a.m. Sept. 14 on Chaffee Parade Field here. Everyone is invited to attend.

Organized participants such as teams, groups, offices, activities, organizations and units must notify the Installation Operations G3 Office of their intent to participate by July 16. Individual participants are not required to notify the Installation Operations G3 Office.

Notification must include name of the group and number of individuals. For more information, contact Robert Bass Jr. at 533-2293 or Sgt. 1st Class Zella English at 533-2294.

Preschool screening set

The Fort Huachuca Accommodation School District will be conducting a preschool screening Aug. 23 for all 3-, 4-, and non-kindergarten 5-year-olds residing on Fort Huachuca.

The screening instruments the schools will use are designed to survey gross- and fine-motor skills, communication skills, cognitive development and socio-emotional development. Also, they will be testing hearing and vision.

Through the screening process, schools hope to identify children in need of any type of early childhood special education services.

If you suspect a disability in your preschool age child, call the FHAS district office at 458-5082 before Aug. 16 to make an appointment.

Vickie Winans in concert

Vickie Winans, award-winning gospel vocalist is scheduled to appear at 5 p.m., July 14 at the Buena High School Performing Arts Center, 5200 Buena School Blvd. Tickets are \$20 each or \$18.50 each if purchased in groups of 10 or more. Tickets are available at Sierra Vista churches, Sageway and Gospel Supplies in Tucson. The performance is sponsored by Sierra Vista's First Church of God in Christ.

Christmas in July Bake Sale

The post chapel is hosting a Christmas in July Bake Sale from 10 a.m.-1 pm. July 26-27 in the post exchange mall to support its Chaplain's Giving Tree Program.

Needed are: Margarine, chocolate chips, peanut butter, brown sugar, frosting mixes, flour, walnuts, pecans, sliced pineapple, cup cake wrappers, sugar, eggs, maraschino cherries and cake mixes. If you're departing Fort Huachuca this summer, you can donate your partial containers of ingredients, instead of throwing them away.

Bakers are also needed. If you can help, contact Jo Moore at 533-4748, and let her know what you would like to bake. For more information, call Chaplain Amezcua at 533-4751.

Combat engineer reunion

The 547th Engineer Battalion (Combat) Association and its attached units (552nd and 1328th) are holding its 15th annual reunion in Durham, N.C., Aug. 2-5. For hotel reservations, call the Radisson Governors Inn in Re-

search Triangle Park, N.C. at (800) 333-3333. For reunion preregistration, contact John Joyner, 2114 Baltic Ave., Durham, N.C. 27707 or (919) 596-7940; or Ursula Allen, 9111 Forest Ave. SW, Lakewood, WA 98498 or (253) 582-4649.

AIAA conference

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics/BMDO Technology Conference and Exhibit is July 23-26 in Williamsburg, Va. This conference promotes the free exchange of classified information between engineers and scientists in the missile defense arena.

The conference begins with a plenary session followed by three days of classified technical sessions on developments in surveillance technologies, discrimination and kill assessment, weapon technologies, lethality and testing.

The conference is aimed at scientists, design and test engineers, technical managers, and program managers from government, sensor and weapon manufacturers, suppliers, developers of subsystems and piece-part components, and academia.

The final day includes tours of technical interest in the area. For more information about this event, call (800) 639-2422 or go to www.aiaa.org.

Check LES online

Electronic Leave and Earnings Statements are now available for active duty soldiers via the Employee/Member Self Service Internet site (<http://emss.dfas.mil>).

For more information, call Nina Sanchez at 533-2011.

Clinic hours change

As of Friday, the Consolidated Soldier Care Clinic hours of operation were changed to 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. The Consolidated Soldier Care Clinic serves permanent party, active-duty soldiers.

Signal SDO moves

The 11th Signal Brigade Staff Duty Office has moved from the Brigade Headquarters (Building 52111) to Murr Community Center (Building 53101).

Operating hours are: 4 p.m.-9 a.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 2 p.m.-9 a.m. Thursdays; and 24 hours on weekends. The staff duty office can be reached at 533-1339 during these times. All soldiers reporting to the 11th Signal Brigade will report to the staff duty office after the normal duty day ends.