



July 4th insert
See Time Out section

The Fort Huachuca Scout



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Scout reports

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website: huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO

Scout published July 6

The next issue of *The Fort Huachuca Scout* will be published July 6, which is a Friday, instead of Thursday because of the 4th of July holiday.

Deadline for submissions remain at 4 p.m. Friday before publication date. The Scout will resume publishing on Thursdays July 12.

PAO closed Fri. afternoon

The U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca Public Affairs Office will be closed after 10 a.m. Friday. It will resume normal business hours Monday.

Contact Master Sgt. LaToya Sizer at 533-2622 for information.

Dental sick call times

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

Get sports physicals now

The Medical Activity Command now has appointments available for sports physicals. Appointments can be made through your health care team by calling 533-9200. MEDDAC is encouraging 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 Regional 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.

Passport procedures

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 the new photo-digitization process and will be getting the new equipment next month. Anyone scheduled for temporary duty or permanent change of station to locations where passports are required should process immediately.

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

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.

WCPOC may increase personnel

By Tanja M. Linton
Media Relations Officer

The Department of the Army's decision to close two of its seven Civilian Personnel Operations Centers could increase the workload and staffing of the West CPOC at Fort Huachuca.

The two CPOCs slated to close are the National Capital CPOC at Fort Belvoir, Va., (September 2001), and the Southeast CPOC at Fort Benning, Ga., (March 2002).

Plans are currently being evaluated to realign the Army's civilian personnel customer base among the five remaining CPOCs, to include the West CPOC.

Any proposed action to increase personnel at the West CPOC would include full water mitigation as part of the compliance process with the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Proposals currently under consideration could bring approximately 100 new personnel spaces to the West CPOC, 50 of which would probably be local hires.

When the realignment decisions are finalized, it is anticipated the CPOCs could begin to take on new workload and personnel later this year.

There will be no new construction associated with this action.

Army to close operations at two regional CPOCs

U.S. Army PAO release

The Army will begin closing operations at its National Capital and Southeast Civilian Personnel Operations Centers this year.

The closings will affect a total of 368 employees at the National Capital CPOC at Fort Belvoir, Va., and the Southeast CPOC at Fort Benning, Ga. Employees will be surveyed to determine their relocation preferences. Efforts will be made to reassign them to the CPOC of their choice within the United States. Those who do not take the reassignment offer will be registered in the Priority Placement Program.

As a result of a November 1993 directive from the Secretary of Defense, the Army regionalized the delivery of personnel services by establishing ten CPOCs, seven located in the continental United States, and three located overseas. The regional CPOCs achieved economies of scale by performing automation-intensive functions that do not require face-to-face interaction. The Army reduced its civilian personnel workforce as it streamlined civilian personnel operations through 1999.

Several outside review agencies have recommended that the Army consider further consolidation of personnel servicing. Since regionalization began in 1994, Army civilian

strength has been reduced by approximately 62,000. With such a large reduction in serviced population, the Army must reduce its service centers.

In making the decision to close the Army National Capital and Southeast CPOCs, the Army also considered productivity and staff turnover issues. The five remaining continental United States CPOCs have the best vacancy fill time and customer satisfaction. Of particular concern is the fact that the Army National Capital Region has the highest employee turnover of any CPOC — 45 percent during the last year. Recruiting and retaining a high quality staff in the Washington, DC area has been difficult.

The two-phased plan will involve closing and moving personnel operations at the National Capitol CPOC to the Northeast CPOC at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and the North Central CPOC at Rock Island, Ill. During the second phase, the Southeast CPOC will close and its operations will be absorbed by the South Central CPOC at Huntsville, Ala. The closings are expected to be complete by the third quarter of 2002.

Employees may find more information about the CPOC closures on Civilian Personnel on Line at www.cpol.army.mil. They may also call 1-866-748-4636.

Fort agrees to preserve, replace family housing

By Angela Moncur
Scout Staff

In accordance with an agreement signed June 21, Fort Huachuca will demolish 1,561 Army Family Housing units between now and Fiscal Year 2013.

These units will be replaced with 1,165 new homes.

Post officials determined that this undertaking may have an adverse affect on the Fort Huachuca National Historic Landmark District and began consultations with the Arizona State Historical Preservation, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the National Park Service.

The fort along with the above state and federal agencies signed a programmatic agreement providing for specific stipulations in the demolition and reconstruction phases.

"Lots of former [installations] are now state and federal parks," said James Garrison, State Historical Preservation Officer. "Having an active [installation] makes it worthy of preserving a part of our past for the American people."

Demolition will include 1,561 houses before 2013, but will not include the 19 Capehart International Style units located in Cavalry Park at the southwest end of Grierson and Hines roads.

Fort Huachuca intends to continue to use these buildings for their original purpose; i.e., single family housing, and agrees not to significantly alter the integrity of the original design of these buildings.

Renovation or modification of these buildings will not take place until after the State Historical Preservation Office agrees that changes will not significantly alter the integrity of the original design.

The fort has also agreed to take all reasonable steps to maintain and protect the existing landscape in and around these buildings.

The Army has included requirements in its request for proposals to potential developers to retain the live oak trees in the Bonnie Blink area.

Additional provisions in the RFP encourage the retention of all mature trees located in this area. Potential developers will be more favorably evaluated by the Army if they propose to retain the alignment of Burt Drive between the Fort Huachuca National historic Landmark and the cemetery and retain much



Photos by Angela Moncur

Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Lt. Col. Kevin Luster (center) directs State Historical Preservation Officer, James Garrison and Commanding General, Maj. Gen. John D. Thomas Jr. where to sign the programmatic agreement for the historic preservation and replacement of Army family housing on Fort Huachuca.

of the existing topography and secondary street layout.

Housing density will not be substantially increased in this area, but housing may also be constructed on the site of the former WWII hostess houses.

According to Charlie Slaymaker, post archeologist, the fort has not systematically surveyed the areas of demolition and replacement housing, but has determined that the areas have a low potential for historic properties.

Previous construction has altered the ground surface to the extent that possible surface deposits of historic properties are not discernible.

The fort agreed to monitor the areas of demolition and replacement housing to ensure that no historic properties are affected by this undertaking.

All contracts awarded for demolition, construction, or landscaping as part of this undertaking will include provisions requiring contractors to suspend work and notify the contracting officer and archeologist if subsurface historic properties or human remains are discovered.

The contracting officer and installation archeologist will examine the property as soon



The programmatic agreement provides for the historic preservation of 19 flat-top houses along upper Grierson and Hines.

as possible and require the contractor to stop construction in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the property.

Fort Huachuca is required to notify the State Historical Preservation Office to consult about the appropriate treatment of discoveries.

If appropriate, the fort will consult with Native American representatives.

"We're all here for the same reasons," said Commanding General, Maj. Gen. John D. Thomas Jr. "The fort along with these state and federal agencies are genuinely concerned about the environment, historical integrity and Native American concerns to keep this post a viable asset to southeastern Arizona."

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

Army, nation celebrate independence

(Editor's note: The following is a joint message from the Honorable Thomas E. White, Secretary of the Army; and Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, Army Chief of Staff; for all Army activities and Army family members.)

This Independence Day, our nation celebrates its 225th year. The ideal of liberty — of freedom from tyranny and oppression — has from the first inspired patriots to pledge themselves selflessly to serve in uniform and defend our nation.

Today, we pause to remember and honor the millions of Americans whose dedication and personal sacrifice have secured our independence, preserved our liberties, and protected our way of life. Throughout our Nation's history, proud men and women have fought bravely for the rights and freedoms we cherish, many giving the last full measure of devotion to ensure that future generations could live the American dream.

Even before we had gained our freedom, our Nation relied on The Army to stand "on point" for its vital interests, and it has continued to do so in such far-reaching places as the beaches of Normandy, the deserts of Iraq, the jungles of Vietnam and the hillsides of Bosnia-Herzegovina. For America, Soldiers have been the constant — the cornerstone of America's presence in the world, helping to provide sanctuary and hope for the weak and oppressed, and raising high the light of liberty wherever it is threatened. Our Soldiers' "boots on the ground" continue to inspire millions who seek to achieve the prosperity and high standards of the United States of America. That our experiment in democracy has weathered the storms of history to see yet another birthday is a silent testament to the bravery and selfless service of all those who have ever served "on point" for the Nation.

For over 226 years, millions of Soldiers have proudly lived up to a simple but powerful covenant with the American people: When called, we will win our Nation's wars and preserve our way of life. Soldiers have made today's celebration of independence possible. We thank you, and we salute you.



Transforming military is no magic trick, not easy

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — "Transforming the military" is an amorphous phrase. What it means depends on what you do, where you sit or how you currently do your job.

"Transforming" sounds like magic: Say a couple of words over a top hat and pull out a rabbit. It looks easy.

But transforming the military is not magic and it won't be easy.

Why is transforming the military even necessary? After all, the U.S. armed forces are the strongest and best equipped in the world. If there is any doubt about the effectiveness of the U.S. military, then ask Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein or former Serb president Slobodan Milosevic.

The military needs to transform because the times have changed, DoD officials said. The end of the Cold War signified a change in the world environment. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld calls the period we are in "the era of Globalization." New threats face the United States and its allies. Terrorism, cyberattacks, nuclear, chemical and biological attacks and other asym-

metric threats are growing. America must prepare to meet them.

Upon his confirmation, Rumsfeld initiated a strategic review of the U.S. military. "This review will be aimed at making certain that we have a sound understanding of the state of the U.S. forces and their readiness to meet the 21st century security environment," he said during his January confirmation hearings. "We need to ensure that we will be able to develop and deploy and operate and support a highly effective force capable of deterring and defending against new threats. This will require a refashioning of deterrence and defense capabilities."

But even before the Rumsfeld Review, the transformation of the U.S. military had begun. Right now, it is based upon Joint Vision 2020. This is the handbook for what the U.S. military should look like in 2020, according to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army Gen. Henry Shelton.

All the services are actively working on transformation. The hub of DoD transformation efforts is U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Va. "Regardless of the mission, tomorrow's U.S. armed forces have to get there quicker, dominate

Lifelong Learning

'Discover' your career potential

By Joan Kraak
Computer Specialist

Do you know what you want to do when you grow up? Or when you get out of the Army? Do you want to change jobs and you are not sure what you want to do?

At the Army Education Center, we have a computer program that can help you decide what career you might be interested in or help you look for a school that offers what you want to study. The program is called Discover.

The Discover program offers help in four different areas. Each area is placed in a different hall. Hall 1 is Learn about Self and Career. Hall 2 is Choose Occupations. Hall 3 is Plan My Education. Hall 4 is Plan for Work. There are also several multimedia shorts designed to explain items more completely.

If you are not sure what you want to do, try Hall 1. Under the Learn about Myself section you can check out your job interests, work-relevant abilities or values and their related job characteristics and receive a summary of these items. Or you can Learn about Career by checking out life roles or transitions.

If you are wondering what kind of occupations there are, try Hall 2. Here you can find occupations by inventories, World-of-Work map, characteristics or just look up.

Do you need some guidance on planning your education? Check out Hall 3. You can Find Majors by occupations, World-of-Work map, or just look up. You can Find Schools by

characteristics or look up. If you need help with financial aid, the Financial Aid section checks out federal programs, need analysis, characteristics or just look up.

Hall 4 deals with Plan for Work. You can look up apprenticeships, internships or military under the Earn and Learn section. The section of Define Ideal Job lets you look it up by values or by your MBTI (Myers-Briggs) results. The Prepare for Job Search section helps you deal with contacts and leads, job application, resume and cover letter. There is also a section called Interview that gives samples and tips.

In order to use this program, you check in at the front desk. There we will have you read the rules and regulations for using government computers. After reading the rules and regulation, you sign in and we place you on a system. From there you click on the Discover icon and log into the program. If you want to print out any of your results or information, please bring your own paper. Or you can save your results to diskette. If you bring a diskette, we will need to scan it for viruses.

There are two maps of the Discover program up on the walls in the computer area. If you need some help looking for something, these maps can help. One of the maps is the World-of-Work center directory and the other map is a World-of-Work map. We will be happy to help you get started, or the education counselors can help you interpret the results.

Commander's Hotline

Reader questions milk prices

Call

I find it appalling that AAFES rapes the soldier.

Last Tuesday I purchased a pint of milk from the Snack Wagon for .90 cents. This Tuesday, the Snack Wagon did not have the pint of milk for sale. Instead, it had a 12 oz milk for the same price as the pint.

I called AAFES concerning the matter. The response received was it costs Shammrock Dairy more to produce a 16 oz container then it does a 12-ounce container and the 16-ounce container has been discontinued.

I really find that hard to believe. Doesn't anyone monitor the prices that AAFES charges? I really feel sorry for the lower enlisted, they are the ones truly being raped.

Response

Our dairy supplier has discontinued the 16 oz bottle of milk leaving us no alternative but to switch to a new size. Our choices are now a 12-ounce or 20-ounce bottle. We will be carrying the 12-ounce bottle because the 20-ounce size is too large for most of our customers.

At the same time, our distributor did raise our cost price, and we are now paying more for the 12-ounce bottle of milk than we did for the 16-ounce size.

Operating a food business is labor intensive and is much more expensive to operate from a personnel cost perspective

than a retail store. Our mobile units only compound the matter because in addition to preparing the food we are now paying to transport it around the installation. While we understand the customer's frustration, the .90 cent price for a 12-ounce bottle of milk is really an excellent price. We found milk outside the gate for .89 cents for only eight ounces.

David Nelson, General Manager
Fort Huachuca Exchange

Reader concerned about potholes

Call

Yes, I'm wondering why we still have potholes on H Street, also Railroad. It's on the way to the school, and it's really a danger spot to have so many holes.

The last time I saw in the Commander's Hotline and The Fort Huachuca Scout newspaper when someone had complained about it, the word was that we didn't have any money here on post to fill those holes. But, we're putting up this new brick fence around the housing area, and that must cost money, too, but we still have the holes.

This is at the bottom of Myer Avenue. It's behind the daycare center. It's on the way to Myer School and Johnson School. We have so many holes that people are paying attention to driving around the holes and not to the little children who are walking across the street. This is very dangerous, and I would like to know why they don't do something about those holes.

Response

In response to the customer concerns provided to the DIS, we will attempt to get these holes filled as soon as possible. As stated before on the subject of road repairs, we do not have the adequate funding to properly repair or maintain the roads on Fort Huachuca. With the budget deficit and cuts set forth from TRADOC, this was one area that we in the DIS are seriously under funded.

However, if customers will call in areas of concern to the DIS Service Order Desk, we will attempt to get the holes, temporarily repaired as funds and time allows. With the coming of the Monsoon season, we expect these nasty holes to multiply and with the help of the customers on the installation, we may be able to preclude serious tire or front end damage to vehicles.

Although there are several projects going on at present, such as the housing fence project, this type of work was funded with year-end funds from the previous fiscal-year dollars. Housing funds are specific and must be used for housing maintenance and repair projects. These funds cannot be used for items such as road repair, out side of housing areas.

H Avenue is not classified as a housing road, so operation and maintenance funds need to be used on this road.

We appreciate the note from this customer and hope that others will assist us in calling in needed road repairs. We may not be able to work them all but will try our best.

Jim Cresto, Executive Officer
Directorate of Installation Support

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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Magistrate Court collects \$650 in fines, issues warrants

OSJA release

On June 19, the Special Assistant United States Attorney, who is appointed from the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and represents the government in United States Magistrate Court for offenses committed on Fort Huachuca, met with a dozen people who had received citations for violations on post.

The government collected \$650 in fines. Although 25 people had been notified to appear before the SAUSA, only 12 showed up. The U.S. District Court in Tucson will issue Federal Arrest Warrants for the remaining thirteen, because of their failure to appear.

On June 20, the SAUSA represented the Government in the United States Magistrate Court in Tucson. Two civilian offenders pled guilty to alcohol-related driving offenses. One offender was sentenced to a \$500 fine and one year of probation. The Court will rule on the sentence for the second of-

fender at a later time.

The cases handled by the SAUSA are not limited to traffic citations. If the Military Police cite you for offenses such as theft, shoplifting, damage to property, and assault, and issue you a DD Form 1805 (US District Court Violation Notice), then you must appear before the SAUSA when notified to do so.

If you fail to appear, a warrant for your arrest is issued and your name is entered into the National Computer System that there is an arrest warrant issued on you. If you are stopped by a police officer anywhere in the United States, your arrest warrant will appear during the police officer's check and you will be taken into custody until you get the original violation cleared up by appearing before a Federal Magistrate Judge.

The SJA office gets calls weekly from people wanting to know why they have been notified that there is an arrest warrant issued on them. People often say things like "it was only

the Military Police who gave me the ticket, and I am not Military or in the Army," or "I am going to the field or on temporary duty. I will take care of it when I get back."

The top portion of the citation states "UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT VIOLATION NOTICE." So it does not matter if you are not in the military, these tickets must be taken care of.

Do not "blow off" the notification to appear before the SAUSA or go TDY, on leave, or to the field unless you contact the SJA office first to reschedule your appearance date.

Additionally, according to Fort Huachuca Regulation 190-5 paragraph 8 c (3), persons who receive a DD Form 1805 (U.S. District Court Violation Notice) and fail to pay designated fines or appear in court will have their installation driving privileges suspended until the matter is resolved.

For more information, call Mick Douthit at 533-5313

Local artist shows mixed media art at post library

By **Natalie Danforth**
Admin. Librarian

Barbara Sisneros of Sierra Vista is exhibiting her artwork throughout July in the Main Library, Fort Huachuca. Included in her exhibit will be works in watercolor, mixed media, print media including monoprint and etching, and some small painted wood pieces.

After retiring to Sierra Vista in 1983, she took classes from local artists Mona Puzzi and Eva Arenas. She credits them with starting her watercolor work. She says Mina Tang introduced her to the fun and possibilities of etching and the monotype process.

"Like many artists I have always enjoyed using pens, pencils, brushes, and even my fingers to apply color to paper and create images. I studied art in college, with an emphasis on serigraphy," Sisneros said. "After college, life took me in other career directions, but I always had time for visual expression: designing posters and cards for use by the various groups in

which I was active, painting scenery for amateur stage productions, and playing with offset press plates to produce original graphics."

Sisneros has exhibited and sold her work and has been recognized with awards. She says she paints primarily for pleasure and hopes people find pleasure in viewing the pieces.

This is the seventh in a series of art exhibits scheduled for Fort Huachuca Library display throughout the year. You do not need to be a Fort Huachuca resident to visit the library. Stop for a visitor's pass at the Main Gate with your car registration, driver's license and proof of vehicle insurance.

The Fort Huachuca Library is located on the corner of Smith Avenue and Arizona Street, next to the Main Post Chapel, down the street from the Burger King. Hours of operation are Mondays and Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For more information or directions on how to find the library, call 533-3041.

New Home Decor catalog now available in exchanges

AAFES release

DALLAS — Feeling cooped up? Wake-up your home with items from the new Home Décor catalog. The Home Decor catalog is full of inspirational ideas to help organize and beautify your home, plus ideas for your patio and garden. It offers 100-pages of bed and bath coordinates, table settings, home office furniture, storage solutions, window treatments, carpets, decorating accents and much more.

Look for the catalog in exchanges worldwide beginning July 9. Anyone with exchange privileges can order from this catalog until Dec. 26, so be sure to pick-up a copy at an exchange near you. For extra convenience, you can also order from the Exchange online store via the Internet by visiting www.aafes.com, www.usmc-mccs.org, www.navy-nex.com or www.cg-exchange.com.

\$500,000 in Economic Strength grants approved for Snowflake, Sierra Vista, Avondale

ADOT release

Three Economic Strength grants totaling \$500,000 have been approved by the State Transportation Board to facilitate economic development projects in Snowflake, Sierra Vista and Avondale.

The board, which met June 15 in Phoenix, approved the grants for road projects in three communities that will serve large new developments. The three communities will provide nearly \$3 million in local matching funds.

The combined state and local funds will foster private investment totaling nearly \$100 million.

The Economic Strength grants were authorized by the Legislature in 1989. One million dollars are set aside annually from the state's Highway Users Revenue Fund for the grants which are made in two phases.

A description of the project for Sierra Vista follows:

A grant of \$200,270 will be used to construct 1,300 feet of Hospital Boulevard between the new Sierra Vista Regional health Center and the Cochise County Juvenile Detention Center.

The road project, which will start in July and end in October, will provide access to the new hospital, medical office building and ambulatory surgical center.

Additionally, it will furnish access to the Juvenile Detention Center. Construction of the Regional Health Center has started and will be completed in 18 to 20 months.

The health center project will generate 280 construction jobs and 124 new fulltime positions. It also will retain 567 jobs.

The City of Sierra Vista and Cochise County will provide \$270,000 in matching funds and make infrastructure improvements (drainage/sewer/street/lights) totaling \$49,000. The private capital investment is estimated at \$16.2 million.

Bees swarm airmen on base water tower

56th Fighter Wing PAO

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — Two airmen assigned to the 56th Civil Engineer Squadron received multiple bee stings at about 10 a.m., June 15 when a swarm overtook them on one of the base water towers, located by Luke's main gate on Litchfield Road.

Senior Airman Ernest Mallard and Airman 1st Class Terrell Barnard, assigned to the squadron's entomology branch, responded to a call about 9 a.m., June 15 to eradicate a bee hive found on the north water tower on Luke.

The team located the hive inside of a four-foot square electrical box accessible from the catwalk 100 feet from the tower's base.

Mallard and Barnard covered the entrance to the hive with tape and backed away from the hive to let the bees settle. The tape came loose, allowing the bees to exit the hive and attack the airmen.

Mallard received 12 to 15 bee stings on the hands, face and head as he proceeded down the ladder to safety.

With the bees swarming between Barnard and the ladder, he moved to the far side of the water tower away from the hive. When the

bees followed, he lay flat on the catwalk, covered his exposed neck and head and called 911 from his cellular phone.

The phone generated mutual aid from emergency response teams from the cities of Glendale, Avondale, Goodyear and Peoria fire departments who came to Luke to assist the base firefighters. A local contractor, AR Utility Specialists, Inc., on base to repair the ballpark lighting along the flightline, also aided the on-scene rescue teams by providing their man-lift truck used to rescue Barnard from the catwalk.

Mallard was taken to the Luke Air Force Base Emergency Room where he was treated and released. Barnard was assisted into the man-lift bucket by six firefighters, two from Luke and four from Avondale.

Barnard was also treated and released from the Luke hospital after receiving about 25 stings.

The beehive is still intact.

Support from Luke's community response teams is a testament to how well the west valley mutual aid works. The cooperation of fire and rescue demonstrated the joint training of all the area fire and rescue teams.

Fort veterinarian discusses risk of rabies, reported cases in Arizona

Vet Clinic release

Arizona is experiencing a rabies endemic year. There have been over three times the normal number of confirmed cases of rabid animals in Arizona this year.

The highest concentrations of rabid animals are in Flagstaff and Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz County is just to the west of Cochise County.

So far this year, Arizona has confirmed 75 cases of rabies in animals. These include 49 skunks, 18 bats, 3 foxes, 1 badger and 4 coyotes. Twenty-nine of the rabid skunks were found in Pima, Santa Cruz and Cochise counties.

Summer and early fall usually have the high-

est number of confirmed rabies cases. Bats migrate north from Mexico and get exposed to rabies in the area. A high number of rabid bats is expected in Arizona this summer.

What can you do to protect your family and pets from the threat of rabies? The most important thing is to educate family members, particularly children, about the danger of rabies in wild animals.

Make sure your children know to never approach a wild animal that is acting strangely or that is not afraid of people.

Often rabid animals will act "friendly" towards people, and kids will try to pet the animal. Rabid bats commonly flop around on the ground or lay still as if injured. These types of

situations are often irresistible to children and pets.

It is also very important to report any wild animals that you see acting strangely. Bats and wild animals are not normally active during the day. Any that are seen during the daytime should be reported.

Any bat found in a room with an infant, sleeping or incapacitated person should be reported because of the inability to determine if the bat has bitten or scratched the person/infant in the room. These incidents should be reported to the Military Police at 533-2181.

Dogs and cats should be vaccinated against rabies. The family pet often has the first contact with rabid wild animals. Cats have an in-

creased risk of coming in contact with rabid bats because they are hunters and are likely to attack a rabid bat that is flopping on the ground.

Rabies vaccinations are required by regulation for any dog, cat or horse residing on post. Your dog or cat can get vaccinated at the Fort Huachuca Veterinary Treatment Facility. To make an appointment, call 533-2767.

The importance of rabies education and prevention cannot be stressed enough. Remember that rabies is a fatal disease and should not be taken lightly. Education, reporting wild animals that may have rabies, and vaccination of pets is the cornerstone of rabies prevention in people during this endemic year of rabies in Arizona.

White says Army needs better business practices added to Army Vision, Transformation

By **Joe Burlas**
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White plans to add business practices to the Army Vision's current pillars of people, readiness and Transformation.

Just shy of two weeks into his new job, the retired Army brigadier general and former corporate CEO made that "on-the-record" announcement during his first meeting with Pentagon correspondents June 12.

"I spent 11 years in corporate America with Enron Corporation, an energy company," White said. "...It is very, very clear to me that there is enormous potential to improve the basic business practices of this department."

To make that improvement, the Army needs to determine what its core responsibilities are and then outsource non-core activities to contractors who can give the Army a better-value proposition and improved service, he said. "We're not just going to study it — we're going to do it," White told the reporters.

While praising the Army's successful efforts to privatize family post housing, White gave other

examples where the Army has been slow to contract out. One Army non-core activity he asserted is installation utilities. Congress gave permission to the Department of Defense to privatize its gas, electric, water and sewage plants in 1997. Only one Army post, Fort Hamilton, N.Y., has turned over all its utilities to the corporate world in the ensuing four years, he said.

"Any business that was that slow in taking advantage of an opportunity would not be in business very long, he said. "I see no reason whatsoever why the Army is in the energy business ... It's a stupid business practice for the Army to be running itself that way."

Another Army practice White questioned is that of having two Army staffs working at the Pentagon — one working for the secretary of the Army and the other for the chief of staff.

"My view is that we ought to step back and say there's got to be a better way to run this railroad — to combine these things so that we have one integrated staff that is still under civilian control of the military, but more efficiently uses the people we have than it has in the past," he said.

On the issue of the Army adopting the black

beret, White said he fully supports the chief of staff's efforts and related how his armored cavalry infantry platoon wore them in Vietnam.

"There is a long tradition, not only in our Army, but in virtually every NATO army and a lot of other armies around the world, that heavy forces wore black berets," White said.

The secretary continued that he would like to see brass plaques on textile mills around the country that state they make berets for the finest Army in the world. Further, he would like to send young soldiers wearing the black beret out to those mills from time to time so all could take pride in the Army's symbol of Transformation.

Comparing the Army's current Transformation efforts to the Army changing after the Vietnam War, White said today's Army is starting at a much higher readiness level with a more lethal force. A disadvantage is that the Army today faces less certain threats than the Army of the '70s and '80s.

"What I am demanding of the Army is that we have the same total commitment to Transformation that we had back in '72 and '73 — that is not optional," he said. "...If there are any disbe-

lievers or people that don't quite see it that way, then they need to get on board."

Asked about his position on the need for another Congressional Base Realignment and Closure study, White said that he believes there currently is too much infrastructure to support the size of today's Army.

However, he warned that the decision for another BRAC should not be made until the Quadrennial Defense Review is complete and the services have time to determine the force structures they need to support its findings. The QDR is expected to be complete by mid-July, he said.

On the subject of technology, White said the Army is behind the civilian sector in applying it to the organizational structure.

The secretary said he can envision the possibility of the Army doing away with divisions 10 to 15 years from now. Instead, he said the Army might have brigades reporting directly to corps or through small mobile corps command posts.

White accepted the fact that his views will likely cause a lot of people to get excited but said that was fine by him, as long as it also caused them to think.

11th Signal Brigade

Soldiers join forces with other branches for exercise

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

FORT BLISS, Texas — Joint operations is now a way of doing business in real-world missions, and to be prepared, the 11th Signal Brigade is joining forces with all military branches for two major summer exercises.

Brigade soldiers teamed up with active duty personnel from all military branches, Army Reserve and National Guard units for Roving Sands, an annual Air Defense Artillery exercise and Grecian Firebolt, an annual, worldwide signal exercise.

Working with other servicemembers during these missions is a good training opportunity for the soldiers because they know that if they are called upon to deploy for a real mission, it won't only be the Army they will join forces with, said Staff Sgt. Frederick Dalton, the operations noncommissioned officer from Company C, 86th Signal Battalion.

"In a real-world situation, it's not just going to be an Army operation. We're going to be doing a lot more joint stuff than this in a full-scale deployment," he said.

"We might have an Air Force, Marine or Navy joint end [to link to] and right now, I'm learning some of the capabilities of [Air Force] equipment and maybe in the future, if a real-world mission pops up and I have to work with the Air Force, I'll know a little more about it," said Spc. Douglas Trenk, a satellite communications operator and maintainer from Co. C, 86th Sig. Bn.

Trenk and more than 80 soldiers from Co. C, are working with Air Force and Marine signal teams from their Site Pershing, New Mexico, location on Fort Bliss. They are directly supporting the Marine Air Control Wing 38 stationed out of California and are also linking to Air Force units across the United States and using some Air Force equipment during the exercise.

Working with the Air Force equipment was a little challenging to set up, but the Air Force personnel worked with them and showed them how to get it operational, said Spc. William E. Ricker, a tropospheric operator from Co. C, 86th Sig. Bn.

"I think we had a pretty good rapport," Ricker said. "Everybody worked really well together and I think there was a good amount of respect between us."

Dalton said that their dealings with the Marines and Air Force have been very positive.

"It has gone real smooth. The Air Force guys came out here and helped our soldiers put up these antennas and the Marine Corps switch we're working over here, they've been real good to work with. No headaches, no problems."



Photos by Staff Sgt. Tim Volkert

Spc. Anthony Johnson, a switch systems operator and maintainer from Company A, 86th Signal Battalion, answers a question about a signal control unit from Spc. Jeffrey Yi, a wire systems installer from the 820 Signal Company, a Reserve unit stationed in Mesquite, Texas. The unit is training with the 86th Sig. Bn. at Roving Sands during their annual training.

After struggling through some minor challenges in learning the other service's jargon, everything went smoothly and the equipment seems to be working well together, which builds confidence in the ability of soldiers to work with other military branches, Dalton said.

"It boosts the guys' confidence. You can't get that [type of] confidence boosted doing a battalion or brigade exercise back at Huachuca," he said. "Coming out here and working with different people gets everybody a little more motivated."

"In terms of knowing that our systems are going to work together, I think it's good," said Ricker. "You get out here and interact and I think it shows that everybody is wearing the same uniform, just different patches."



A tropospheric shelter sits among the desert vegetation at Site Pershing on Fort Bliss, Texas, during the Roving Sands. The equipment and team, from the 86th Signal Battalion, is supporting Marine Air Control Wing 38 from California during the exercise.



(Above) Pfc. Randy Sawyers, a tactical satellite system operator and maintainer from Company A, 40th Signal Battalion, tightens the outrigger to help stabilize the tactical satellite dish.

(At left) Spc. Edgar Oullette, a tactical satellite systems maintainer and operator from Company A, 40th Signal Battalion, hooks up the dehydrator to the wave guide on a tactical satellite dish. Oullette and his team were part of the 40th Sig. Bn.'s operations at Fort Hood, Texas for Grecian Firebolt.

Exercise provides communication network with Virginia, Puerto Rico

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

FORT HOOD, Texas — It's about 6:30 a.m., June 11 and the sounds of humming generators are broken up as soldiers begin arriving on site.

After going to their work areas to report in, the night shift emerges from the camouflage netting to attend the morning shift change brief, grab a quick bite to eat and head back to the barracks to get some sleep.

With a breakfast, hot out of a mermite, the day shift moves to the cover of the nets and begins their daily routines.

For a signal team, the days can range from routine to hectic, depending on the equipment and if the signals are coming in loud and clear.

After getting the brief from the night crewmembers, Spc. Chad Varney and Spc. Sandra Pohl, tactical satellite team members from Company A, 40th Signal Battalion, prepare their site for the day ahead.

Pohl heads off for guard duty at the site's main entrance and will be standing on point for the battalion's force protection for two hours.

Varney does preventive maintenance, checks

and services on the team's vehicles, fuels up the generators and checks over the equipment.

Once the morning routine is finished, one member of the team must remain in or nearby the satellite truck at all times, just in case one of the alarms go off, signifying a problem with the network.

The tactical satellite team's mission during Grecian Firebolt and POLEX is to send and receive signals from the battalion here to AP Hill, Va., the Northwest Standardized Tactical Entry Point facility in Virginia, and Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

With the equipment up and running, the only sound on Varney's site is the humming of the generator and the buzzing and whining of the network equipment lining both walls of the satellite truck.

Most people would look in the truck and become dazed by the dozens of wires, the digital readings on the equipment and all the buttons and switches.

The job is definitely more mental than physical, said Varney, who has been on various communications teams for three years.

"The biggest challenge is when the system goes down," he said, "but I enjoy fixing things and figuring out what's going on."

As the day rolls on, Pohl and Varney sit in the truck, making sure all the systems are running properly and answering the occasional phone call from the nodal operations center or battalion operations checking on the status of the links.

It can be tough keeping the communications going because their team's equipment is only one piece of the network, said Pfc. Randy Sawyers, another member of the team.

He said they have to keep a close eye on the links because if they go down, then the phones will start ringing from people wanting to know what is happening.

Most problems, however, are solved in a short amount of time and then the machines go back to their usual humming and the soldiers can relax.

On this exercise, the teams have the luxury of having two members on shift together, said the team's chief, Sgt. Tom Davis.

Usually, teams only have one person per shift, said Varney. Having a team member around really helps to keep the shifts from seeming too long,

Varney said.

As 6 p.m. nears, the night shift teammates show up on site and the morning scene repeats itself and the process of briefings and updates gets the refreshed soldiers back in the loop.

However, Davis' teammates from the day shift don't just grab their dinners and run, the entire team sits in the shade provided by the truck and talk, laugh and seem to enjoy being around each other.

Communication is "crucial because when coming on the shift, you have to know what that person did and if there's not good communication on the team, then you're lost inside the van because you don't know what happened that shift and what links are up or down," Sawyers said.

When the soldiers enjoy being around each other, it makes the team a great asset to the company, Davis said.

"The best thing about our team is that we complement each other," he said. "Now, we are just like one big, strong net. Anything that happens — between the four of us — we can handle it without a problem. I've got the best team in the world."

From Counsel

Owning your own home: American dream or nightmare?

By Capt. Eric Strong
OSJA

For soldiers, buying a residence is a decidedly unpredictable endeavor. "What if there is a permanent change of station?" "How can we sell when we move?" "What if we choose a post-military dream property then change our mind?"

These are just a few of the many anxious questions those in the Army and their families ask themselves when considering owning real estate.

Owning your own home heralds the truest fulfillment of the American dream. Unfortunately, for those serving America, that dream is more difficult. The primary obstacle is the inherently transient nature of a military career.

The decision to invest in your own home is hard enough when an individual or a family intend to remain in an area indefinitely. When you know that you will move away in time, deciding whether to buy a home becomes even more difficult.

Disadvantages

For many, deciding not to purchase property while active-duty is the correct choice. Among the world's Armies, we have perhaps the finest quarters available for our soldiers. As people advance in rank and families grow, the Army strives to provide improved accommodations.

If soldiers wish to live off-post or if provided quarters are temporarily unavailable, they receive an allowance to acquire rental housing. Uncle Sam attempts to make the process as easy as possible.

In contrast, buying a home requires an enormous amount of work, hassle, and commitment.

And of course, horror stories abound regarding home-buying dreams gone bad. Some end up in foreclosure because of changed income or economic conditions.

Other stories feature soldiers owning houses dotting the globe because of an inability to sell

them when desired.

Despite all the potential problems, soldiers and civilians alike have taken the plunge countless times. So why go through the process? Because, in the long run, the rewards often dramatically outweigh the risks.

Advantages

One of the most obvious benefits is the tax deduction the federal government (and most state governments where you have to file returns) allows for mortgage interest payments. This is especially true at the beginning of a loan. When a loan is amortized, it means interest and principal are spread in differing percentages of the same total payment through the course of a note.

For a typical, 30-year home loan, the interest is front-loaded to the extreme. While it means you are unfortunately not gaining equity (equity is money value you'd receive from a home sale minus current loan balance) quickly, the good news is, all the interest is fully tax deductible.

For example: Let's imagine the Jones' buy a \$165,000 home with \$15,000 down and a \$150,000 loan. In today's loan market, a 7.5 percent fixed mortgage interest rate is very realistic. Their monthly payment of principal and interest would be about \$1050. It could be more since some lenders require you to pay extra and then use those funds to directly pay homeowners' insurance, property taxes and other fees. Annually, their payments total about \$12,500. In the first year of the loan, about \$11,200 of that amount is interest.

The Jones', under most circumstances, can deduct this amount from their taxes entirely. If the Jones' leased a home, paying less in rent might not better their finances. Lease payments can't be deducted. Nor does paying rent build any equity. Some people think of owning a home as a sort of savings account. Throughout the course of the mortgage loan, they pay more and more of the loan principal down and when they sell, that equity has value, plus any hoped for

increase in value, also called appreciation.

Another benefit of home-ownership is as an inflation hedge. In recent years, inflation has been relatively manageable. However, that has not always been the case. Even today in some parts of the country, housing prices have climbed faster than other goods and services.

When purchasing a home, a fixed rate loan not only locks in the amount you pay for housing, but also turns increasing home prices from a blight to a benefit. Instead of confronting a brutal, climbing rental market, the homeowner sees the value of his home increase with no increase in mortgage payments.

Naturally, the potential disadvantage is a declining market where home values decrease. While less common, this does happen.

Another benefit unique to service members and veterans is the Veterans' Affairs loan program. Most active duty soldiers and honorably discharged former active duty soldiers are eligible for this special financing.

Most lenders' VA loans allow borrowers to get a home loan with no money down up to \$203,000. The lenders can do this because the federal government, in recognition of veterans' service, guarantees a portion of these loans in the event of default.

The Jones' with VA financing could borrow the entire \$165,000 cost of their home. This means not having to wait to save the \$15,000 for a down payment, or, if they already have the money, investing it somewhere else.

An important reminder about VA loans is the government does not actually lend the money. Private mortgage companies loan the money while the VA guarantees and regulates the mortgages. For potential homebuyers who have sufficient income to make regular payments, but no cash to put down, the VA program is a great start.

The least quantifiable but perhaps greatest benefit to home-ownership is the personal satisfaction gained from being landlord-free. The

headaches of having a leaky faucet or repairing an old fence are eased when you are fixing YOUR faucet or YOUR fence. The old phrase "a man's home is his castle" has real meaning when living on your own property.

Alternatives

As discussed earlier, the traditional home-buying process can be problematic for active-duty service members. Because of this, soldiers should consider alternative approaches toward property ownership.

One approach is to purchase a vacation home. The federal mortgage interest deduction is allowed for a secondary residence as well as a primary one. The active-duty family can pick a location near family or recreational areas and have a "home away from home" which has appreciation potential and conveys a tax break as well.

Also, an Army family can pick a residence with the intent of making it an investment when they change station. This is an especially attractive option if the location is a potential after-service home.

After evaluating the market, the purchasers can find a place with good rental value. After living in the home, the family rents it out. Hopefully the home's value appreciates and costs of upkeep can be deducted as business expenses. Many find using a professional property manager is worth the fee for this arrangement.

This article gives only a broad overview of the benefits and pitfalls of owning a home. Every situation is unique. Dealing with real estate professionals alone is worthy of an entire article. Hard work and financial risk come with buying and owning real estate. With some planning though, personal satisfaction and other rewards can also spring from a home purchase.

(Editor's note: Capt. Eric Strong is a U.S. Army Reserve judge advocate from the 78th Legal Support Organization, 63rd RSC, attached to Fort Huachuca Staff Judge Advocate's Office.)

Community Updates

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.

Range closures

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| Today | AA, AB, AD, T1, T1A, T2 |
| Friday | AA, AC, AD, AM, AW, T1, T1A, T2 |
| Saturday | AB, AM, AU, AW, T1, T1A, T2 |
| Sunday | AM, AU, AY |

For questions regarding the closure of ranges, call Range Control at 533-7095.

Flea market at mall

The Sierra Vista La Salida del Sol Lions Club members and Jim Huff, general manager of The Mall in Sierra Vista will offer 60 spaces in front of the main entrance of the mall to conduct a one-day flea market on Wednesday. Size of the spaces will be nine feet by 20 feet, and hours of operation will be 9 a.m.-6 p.m. The mall will mark off the spaces one day prior to the event. For information, call Lee at 378-1399.

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.

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 working in the missile defense arena.

The conference begins with a plenary session followed by three days of classified tech-

nical 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 of the conference will be tours of technical interest in the area. For more information about this event, call (800) 639-2422 or go to www.aiaa.org.

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.

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 Research 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.

Savings Bond campaign

The Directorate of Resource Management is preparing another Savings Bond Campaign for 2001. This year's theme is "Making Dreams A Reality - Pay Yourself First." Authorization for the campaign is provided in Executive Order 11981, which is implemented by DoD Directive 5035.6. The campaign continues through Saturday. A formal letter and more information will follow. Visit the treasury web site at <http://www.savingsbonds.gov> or Army's site at <http://www.asafm.army.mil/fo/fod/fincom/sbp/sbp.asp>.

Vehicle registration hours

The vehicle registration office hours are now from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mondays through Friday in Alchesay Barracks, Building 31122 on Christy Avenue.

Upper Garden Canyon closed

Post environmental officials have announced that Upper Garden Canyon will be closed to vehicles and foot traffic during weekdays so repairs may be made to the roadway.

The damage was caused by heavy rains and runoff during the fall season. Restoration is necessary to allow access for firefighting.

The canyon will reopen for weekday visitors July 7. Until then, visits may still be made on weekends between 4 p.m. Fridays and Sunday evenings.

As always, Upper Garden Canyon is closed during hours of darkness.

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). The office is open 4 p.m.-9 a.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The office is open 2 p.m.-9 a.m. Thursdays and 24 hours on weekends. The staff duty can be contacted 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.

Vanpool commuters

The federal government mass transportation subsidy program is now available to vanpool commuters. The vanpool that serves Fort Huachuca has five vans and is considering an additional van if enough federal workers apply for membership. For further information, contact Ken Van Karsen at 533-8200 or 615-1866.

Recycle glass jars

The Sierra Vista Plant Sciences Center needs clean baby food, pint-size and quart-size glass jars without the labels and with lids for their seed collection. If you would like to recycle your jars, please call 458-8278 ext. 2141 or drop them off at the center, 1140 N. Colombo, Sierra Vista (on the University of Arizona South campus behind Cochise College.)

Combat Lifesaver Courses

Due to recent changes, all Combat Lifesaver Courses must be taught by medical personnel. To accommodate unit requirements, one course will be held each quarter by Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center. Each course will

have 20 slots.

Request for slots should be sent to Staff Sgt. Daniel Traver, METS Division, at 533-3727 or fax to 533-2704. Request should include soldiers standard name line and unit point of contact and be sent six weeks prior to start date.

Course dates available are Aug. 6-8. These courses are for new Combat Lifesavers. For re-certifications, contact Traver to arrange for recertification course.

Foster families needed

Thinking about becoming a foster parent? Learn how by attending an information meeting at 6:30 p.m. tonight in Suite 11 at the Landmark Plaza in Sierra Vista. To RSVP, call 458-2761 as soon as possible.

FHAS seeks input

The Fort Huachuca Accommodation Schools have been informed by the Arizona Department of Education that funds will be available for Individuals with Disabilities Act and Extended School Year. These funds will be used during the 2001-2002 school year to supplement the district budget.

Public input for expenditure of these funds is encouraged. Anyone interested in viewing the applications and providing input, can do so by contacting Sally Holcombe at 458-5082.

Corrections

The photo of Joan Street, Special Emphasis Program manager, appearing on page one of the June 7 edition of *The Fort Huachuca Scout* was taken by Meg McKay of Cochise College Catalyst. It was not an Equal Employment Opportunity photo as indicated.

Also, the photo of 11th Signal Brigade soldiers who moved into Site Boston in the June 21 issue of *The Scout* (page 8) was misidentified. The cutline should have read Sgt. 1st Class Scott Kantner, 19th Signal Company, 504th Signal Battalion, hands tent poles to soldiers while unloading a truck at Site Boston.

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.

Items 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 leaving the area this summer, you can donate your partial containers of ingredients to the program.

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.

Pets of the Week



Vet Clinic photos

"Princess" is a young adult female tan/black pit bull mix. She is medium sized and very sweet. Her adoption fee is \$50, which includes spaying, all vaccinations, a microchip, a heartworm test and deworming.



"Happy" is a one year-old female rust and black shepherd mix with a beautiful coat. She is extremely good-natured, house broken, good with kids and loves to play. Her adoption fee is \$7, which includes a spay, all vaccinations, a microchip, a heartworm test and deworming.



"Harley" is a male, neutered, 3 year-old domestic long-haired cat. He gets along with most other cats and is very cuddly. His adoption fee is \$7, which includes a feline leukemia test and deworming. He is already microchipped and up to date on his shots.



"Jordan" is a cream colored young adult female short-haired cat with beautiful blue eyes. She is a little shy, but would love a new home. Her adoption fee is \$40, which includes spaying, all vaccinations, a microchip, a feline leukemia test and deworming.

To see these and the many, many other dogs and cats for adoption, come to the Fort Huachuca Vet Clinic or call 533-2767.

Flash flooding is real danger in desert southwest

By Fred Reamer
Safety Office

Television news coverage of flooding in our country typically looks at flooding of major river systems or floods due to excessive rains or snow melt.

Here in the desert southwest, floods occur as well. They can occur so swiftly that drivers must be ever vigilant during monsoon times or when the large cumulonimbus clouds with the dark undersides are anywhere in sight.

We are accustomed to seeing our rivers and washes in their dry or empty state 99 percent of the time. Yet flash flooding is the number one weather-related killer in the U.S. killing about 200 people each year.

More than half of these are vehicle related. Because the rains and resulting flash floods are so infrequent here, we have not built bridges or water run-off controls for each and every possible flooding location.

In the majority of cases, driving decisions are within our control. A decision to drive through a small amount of moving water assumes that your vehicle will not flood out and that the water will not rise to unsafe levels within the seconds it would normally take to cross.

Both of these possibilities are in fact out of your control. Only six inches of fast moving water can knock you off your feet. Two feet of water can sweep even the heaviest vehicle possibly miles downstream. Some drivers and vehicles are never found.

To plan for flash flooding situations while driving, consider the following:

— Mentally plan alternate routes if roads you normally drive are subject to flash flooding.

— Maintain adequate fuel in your tank allowing you to take alternate routes if necessary.

— Make a conscious decision NOW that if encountered, you will NEVER enter a flooded area, no matter how small.

— Taking a chance in a flooded roadway could result in



Photo by Angela Moncur

Carl Cheatum, Fort Huachuca firefighter, rescues the youngest victim in a flash flood in Garden Canyon last year. (At left) Marc Davis, fire inspector, keeps a tight grip on the safety line.

ruining your car or endangering the lives of your family and yourself.

— It is illegal to drive around barriers that have been placed

on flooded roadways to protect you.

— For some, the worst outcome is to be seen being rescued on the six o'clock news.

DoD servicemember vehicles destroyed in mid-ocean ship fire

USTCNS release

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — As many as 175 vehicles belonging to Department of Defense service members have been destroyed or damaged in a mid-ocean ship fire.

The vehicles were aboard the Tellus, an American Roll-on/Roll-off Carriers vessel, which docked June 14 in Bremerhaven, Germany.

Investigators have been inspecting the destroyed and damaged vehicles for the past week.

At this point in the investigation, it appears about 21 cars have been destroyed, said Bill Antonelli, vice president, American Auto Logistics, Inc., MTMC's prime contractor for moving privately owned vehicles.

Another 154 vehicles have varying amounts of damage, he said. Some of the vehicles have light damage — typically caused by smoke or ash.

Unaffected were 168 other privately owned vehicles and other MTMC cargo such as M-1 tanks. The 168 vehicles have been inspected, found to be damage free, and have discharged for release to their owners.

"We're in the process right now of identifying the owners of the affected vehicles, said Antonelli. "Prompt extinguishing of the fire is believed to have limited substantially the damage to cargo and vessel."

The heat and intensity of the fire destroyed many Vehicle Identification Numbers, he said.

The cause of the fire remains under inves-

tigation, said Antonelli.

The fire was first reported June 9, when the Tellus was three days' sailing distance from the United States. Automatic carbon dioxide fire extinguishers automatically extinguished the flames. The fire did not impact the seaworthy condition of the ship. The vessel was rerouted from its original destination of Radicatel, France to Bremerhaven.

An owner notification and compensation process is underway, said Antonelli. Each vehicle is now being inspected by Dekra, an approved agent of the German government, to determine damage.

"For unaffected vehicles," said Antonelli, "Dekra will issue America Auto Logistics a certificate for each vehicle stating that it is safe for the road."

The following compensation will be available for owners of lost or damaged vehicles, said Antonelli:

— Claims will be settled using the Kelly Blue Book retail values.

For members who possess clear titles to a totaled or destroyed vehicle,

American Auto Logistics will issue settlement check upon receipt of signed transfer of original title and settlement release.

For members who have liens on their vehicles, American Auto Logistics will issue settlement check(s) upon receipt of member signed release and lien holder guarantee confirming release. In the case where liens on cars exceed the Kelly Blue Book value, American

Auto Logistics will seek settlement with both the member and lien holder.

— Contractual \$20,000 limit of liability will be waived for this specific incident.

— American Auto Logistics will provide a rental car for up to 30 days from date of settlement, or required delivery date, whichever is sooner.

— Members not requiring a rental car will be offered \$1,000 in lieu of a rental car at settlement date.

— Classic/antique vehicles' will be settled at appropriate market value.

— The ocean carrier, American Roll-On Roll-Off Carriers, Inc., along with American Auto Logistics, will provide free transportation of a second vehicle, replacing the vehicle that was destroyed or determined to be a constructive total loss, from the original origin to destination vehicle processing center.

Contact your origin vehicle processing center or Irene Markoglu, at Logistics Coordinators Limited, (201) 505-4002, e-mail imrkoglu@wlhinet.com. This option will expire Oct. 1.

— American Auto Logistics has arranged for reduced pricing with Overseas Military Sales for members to purchase replacement vehicles for those units that have been destroyed or determined to be a constructive loss.

Safety, health related damages

Prior to the delivery to the member, American Auto Logistics will repair, replace or clean

any damaged or soiled parts or components that are determined to affect the safe operation of the vehicle or health of the member.

— Rental cars will be provided for members who do not have repairs completed by the required delivery date.

— Upon completion of repairs for cars that have exceeded the required delivery date, the member, after being contacted, will have up to three days to return the rental car and pick up their vehicle at the destination vehicle processing center.

Non-safety related damages

For all other damages and to expedite the claims settlement process, it is recommended that the members file directly with American Auto Logistics' agent, Logistics Coordinators Limited, Montvale, N.J., or use the site/expressed claims option available at the destination vehicle processing center.

Additional information is available from: Rich Holland Moritz, 011 49 6107 9440; facsimile, 011 49 6107 8691; toll-free within Germany, 00800 87267227; e-mail, Rmoritz@wlhinet.com.

Overseas Customers: Evelyn Dullaghan, Transcar, 011 49 6107 944116; facsimile, 011 49 6107 8691; toll-free within Germany, 00800 87267227; e-mail, Edullaghan@transcargroup.com.

Continental United States Customers: Greg Wellstead, (201) 505-4375; facsimile, (201) 505-0634; e-mail, Gwellstead@wlhinet.com.

Top drill sergeants for 2001 enjoy support of families, training soldiers

By Jim Caldwell

TRADOC News Service

FORT MONROE, Va. — "I'm actually starting to think, man, I'm good at this stuff," said Sgt. First Class Debra Thorn about two hours after being named the active component 2001 Army Drill Sergeant of the Year.

Also pretty good at training new soldiers is Sgt. First Class Wayne McPhillips, reserve component Drill Sergeant of the Year.

Just after the ceremony Friday morning in which she became a top drill sergeant, Thorn said she realized that the title was the first thing she had ever won. Her ability on the clarinet was good enough to win a music scholarship to college, but she wasn't the best. Her 5:30 mile placed her sixth in her high school district.

"I applied myself in a whole bunch of areas," she said. "My Mom always used to say, 'Why don't you concentrate on one thing.' Since I became a drill sergeant I have found this is one of my things to really do."

Thorn is the fourth straight noncommissioned officer from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to win the Army title.

"How we both won, it's divine," said McPhillips, a drill sergeant with the 84th Training Division, headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis. "I want to give credit to God. I think it's just great."

McPhillips and Thorn have been calling themselves "battle buddies" since he trained for a week with Thorn at Fort Leonard Wood's Alpha Company, 795th Military Police Battalion, 795th MP Training Brigade.

The top two drill sergeants were interviewed about two hours after the ceremony in which they claimed the drill sergeant of the year awards. They talked about what the award means to them, their jobs and their families.

During the interview, each one frequently nodded in agreement when the other talked.

They had just finished three days of competition with 19 other drill sergeants from Training and Doctrine Command installations and training divisions around the country. Counting McPhillips and Thorn, there were 14 active duty NCOs and seven reserve component.

Not only did the week in May lead to a bond between them, but also to a friendship between families, both of whom accompanied the sergeants to Fort Monroe for the week.

Thorn and McPhillips carried on their training long distance in the weeks leading up to the Drill Sergeant of the Year competition.

"She'd shoot (e-mail) 10 questions to me and I shoot her 10 questions," McPhillips said.

They continued to train together at Fort Monroe with some extra "supervision" from Thorn's husband, Lee, who left the U.S. Marine Corps in 1989 after eight years in force reconnaissance.

"Man, he's tough," McPhillips said.

After he was satisfied with their performance in teaching demonstrations, Lee and McPhillips' wife, Michelle, babysat their children. The two NCOs studied to prepare for their appearance before a board of sergeants major, the last obstacle in the competition.

Both spouses were credited with supporting them in their jobs as trainers at the winning NCOs' home stations.

Thorn says Lee makes sure she's completely squared away before she leaves the house to train new soldiers. Even their little daughter, Samantha, wants to play drill sergeant with her.

"She knows front, back and go," Thorn said. "She's all the time saying, 'Mom, march me around. March me around.'"

McPhillips said his three-year-old daughter, Abigail, does the same. She does push-ups and sit-ups with him when he works out at home. In fact, she thought she was supposed to do them with him during the Army Physical Fitness Test early in the week.

"I got down there at the PT test to knock out my push-ups," McPhillips said. "I didn't know this until afterwards, but Abigail, she's like, 'Mommy, I do push-ups, too, now?' 'No, Sweetheart. Daddy's turn.'"

The McPhillips also have a four-month old daughter, Sarah Elizabeth.

While Thorn and McPhillips share a lot in common in the family arena, they became drill sergeants for different reasons.

For Thorn it was a practical decision. She was promoted



TRADOC photo

Sgt. First Class Wayne McPhillips, reserve component 2001 Army Drill Sergeant of the Year, his wife, Michelle, and Sgt. First Class Debra Thorn, active 2001 Army Drill Sergeant of the Year, greet well-wishers along with the 19 other active and reserve drill sergeants who competed in the annual event.

to staff sergeant when she had four years, eight months in the service. There were too many other staff sergeants senior to her for her to become a squad leader in an MP unit. And, if time in grade as a sergeant first class is a factor, she probably will face difficulty becoming a platoon sergeant after she reaches eight years in service in September.

"I wanted to be in a leadership position and the best way to do that was to be a drill sergeant," she said.

With her husband's backing, she volunteered while stationed in Germany, and was selected.

McPhillips said his motivation is the "book answer."

"I liked my drill sergeants," he said. "They are the reason why I wanted to be a drill sergeant."

He became a drill sergeant five years ago after serving four years as an airborne infantryman with the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C. He said it was a toss-up whether he'd stay in or get out to go to college. College won.

While attending Maranatha Baptist Bible College, Watertown, Wis., he signed on as a drill sergeant with the 84th Division. Doing reserve duty while in college allowed him to attend an active duty drill sergeants academy for nine weeks in the summer. There was no job to consider when he did his annual two-week active training in the summer, either.

After graduation last year, he went to work for TSYs, a credit card processing company in Columbus, Ga. He does his monthly training with the 119th Training Brigade at nearby Fort Benning. A special rule allows McPhillips to live in Georgia and still be a member of the 84th Division.

While he doesn't have the freedom for reserve time that he did in college, McPhillips said his employer is very understanding of his commitment and allowed him plenty of time to prepare for the Drill Sergeant of the Year competition.

He joked that he had a lot of pressure on him this week, because of his employer and his father, Gerald W. McPhillips in Sandusky, Wis., a retired Army sergeant major. His father was the first person he called after the ceremony, his employer the next.

Both drill sergeants said the best way to train new soldiers is to lead by example.

"It amazes me how much the soldiers look up to you ... and that's sometimes overwhelming," Thorn said. "You really have to watch what you do and say because they're hanging on every word."

She said it's important for drill sergeants to remind them-

selves now and again that not everyone shares their drive to exceed the standards.

"I didn't graduate from basic training with a 300 on my PT. As a drill sergeant you want everyone to be so good you don't realize that sometimes it takes time with some people," Thorn said.

Despite being excitedly animated Friday, Thorn says she can do a pretty good "stone face" in front of the trainees.

"The privates will do and say the funniest things sometimes and you can't help but crack a smile now and then and they'll catch you and you'll say, 'Oh, they got me,'" she said.

For McPhillips it's living the seven Army values — leadership, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

"You can't teach the values, you have to live them and I believe that," he said, or privates will quickly catch on that you're not sincere.

McPhillips and Thorn both said they love being around soldiers.

The competition afforded them that opportunity, especially McPhillips, as both drills had to demonstrate their ability to teach a basic skill to soldiers. Soldiers in training at nearby Fort Eustis were their subjects.

McPhillips said he talked to them as much as he could before the demonstration began.

"Maybe that's because being in the reserves I don't get to see soldiers much," he said. His expression said he enjoyed that portion of the competition.

After Thorn completes MP advanced NCO academy in September, she'll be assigned to TRADOC headquarters for a year where she will advise on drill sergeant and basic training issues.

McPhillips will perform similar duties for the 84th Division through the next year.

Thorn said she came to Fort Monroe happy to represent Fort Leonard Wood in the competition, not because she's the first woman from the post to do so. Nor is being the fourth woman drill sergeant to win at Army level hugely significant to her.

"I know I gave it 110 percent and I just feel great," she said. "I'm glad a female won, but I don't think it would matter."

"I mean, ask him (McPhillips). He's feeling good and he's not a female."

Conditional promotions not fully utilized

Lack of information may be a problem

By Jennifer Wingfield

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Since the provision for conditional promotions was first announced in May, less than 1,000 soldiers have been promoted under the new policy inclusive through June 18th.

"We thought we would get a higher response with this program," said Sgt. Maj. Franklin Raby, outgoing personnel policy integrator for the Army's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

"This is a program that all the major command sergeants majors signed up for."

Apparently word hasn't gotten down to the unit levels as well as it should have. The information is supposed to be pushed down the command channels to the sergeant majors who are ultimately and deeply involved in this, said Raby.

They in turn recommend to the com-

mander or the first sergeant the names of the soldiers that fall in the conditional promotion category.

"There are three categories of conditional promotional," said Raby. "Deployment to an operational area, such as Bosnia or Kosovo, in which the soldier has met the cutoff but cannot attend the Primary Leadership Development Course; having a temporary profile; or having been scheduled for attendance at PLDC are all reasons for early promotion."

"The object is to get them promoted if warranted," he said.

The initial policy change was submitted by way of a military personnel message sent out to the field personnel offices and support battalions at the different installations. Yet there are still some commanders and senior non-commissioned officers who do know that this policy exists.

The delay in promotion ultimately contributes to the readiness of the units, Raby said. Correct soldiers need to be placed in the correct military occupational specialty, and of course, at the correct grade. If there is a shortage of sergeants, this is a means to correct the shortage.

"If a soldier falls into one of these categories and not promoted, it is costing him time in grade that applies to his eligibility for his next promotion and ultimately his/her pay," added Raby.

But not all the news is bad. The breakdown for the July's pending 4,483 NCO promotions includes 15 sergeant major's, 317 master sergeant's, 498 sergeant's first class, 1,153 staff sergeant's, and 2,500 sergeant's.

"There are only 36 STAR military occupational specialties for July," said Raby's replacement, Sgt. Maj. Gerald Purcell. "There are only 1586 vacancies in that area."

Raby commended the field for doing an excellent job in getting those figures down

continuously for the last four months.

Raby will soon bid farewell to his position in the Pentagon and "Aloha" to his new one awaiting him as senior enlisted adviser of the Pacific Command.

His replacement, Purcell, is a recent graduate of the nine-month Sergeant Major Academy at Fort Bliss.

Purcell is not a stranger to the personnel field. He was formerly assigned to the Personnel Command in Alexandria in the enlisted personnel management division.

Under his direction, he hopes to eliminate some of the workload on those in the personnel system and make it easier for soldiers to compete for the E-5 and E-6 positions.

"The advancement up through E-4 is pretty much automatic — and the senior promotion system is probably as good as it is going to get," said Purcell.

"There are a lot of people out there with good ideas and we should be able to think outside of the box."

Have we got news for you!

Read it online, click on huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO

TRICARE enhanced for lower enlisted

TRICARE release

Active duty family members of E-1 through E-4: Are you aware that enrolling in TRICARE Prime increases your access to care at a military treatment facility, and reduces your potential out-of-pocket costs?

Were you aware the one-year lockout provision for early TRICARE Prime disenrollment for you is eliminated? Did you know effective April 1, 2001, copayments (except for civilian pharmacy) were eliminated for TRICARE Prime enrollees?

Read on, the news from TRICARE Management Activity regarding your health care benefit gets even better.

Beginning June 2001, sponsors of family members E-1 through E-4 who have not enrolled in TRICARE Prime will receive a letter from TMA. It will encourage them to contact or visit their nearest TRICARE service center representative to discuss their individual family members' health care needs and benefit options.

"While the vast majority of active duty family members, E-1 through E-4, have already enrolled in TRICARE Prime, some may not be. There may be exceptions, but we believe TRICARE Prime is the best option for most of these families," said Thomas F. Carrato, executive director, TMA.

Benefits of TRICARE Prime enrollment include priority access at the military treatment facility, timely access to a designated primary care manager, minimal out-of-pocket costs and no claim forms for family members to file. Family members of E-1 through E-4 sponsors can also elect to disenroll at any time and are not subject to the one-year lockout for early disenrollment.

"Our goal is to ensure that these families have the most up-to-date information available to them, so that they can make an informed decision to

enroll in TRICARE Prime, or decline enrollment and continue using the TRICARE Extra/Standard benefit," said Carrato.

After the initial mailing of the letter from TMA, the primary means of identifying these families will occur during in-processing.

"We hope to identify these families as the sponsor reports to his/her new duty assignment," said Air Force Lt. Col. Loretta Bailey, enrollment project officer, TMA.

"We will depend on the support of unit commanders, first sergeants and local installation support services who have direct contact with these families to refer non-enrolled family members, who are not identified during in-processing, to the TRICARE service center for assistance," according to Bailey.

Family members who elect TRICARE Prime will complete an enrollment application. The application will document the family member's enrollment information and preferences related to selection of a primary care manager.

Once enrolled, the family member's enrollment is portable and can be transferred an unlimited number of times between TRICARE regions as the family relocates.

Enrollment in TRICARE Prime for individuals other than those on active duty is voluntary. Family members retain the right to decide which of the three options — TRICARE Prime, Extra or Standard — best meet their health care needs, and may terminate their enrollment in TRICARE Prime at any time.

To disenroll, the sponsor or the family member must notify their regional managed care support contractor.

Additional information on TRICARE Prime enrollment is available on the Military Health System/TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil, or by contacting the local service center.

BAH increase for E-1s through E-4s

By Nicholas J. Carter
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Service members in pay grades E-1 through E-4 who have families and live off base will see an increase in their allowance for housing Sunday.

The boost is the result of legislation aimed at helping junior enlisted families.

"One of the reasons was to take the E-1 to E-4 with dependents (family members) and have them receive the same basic allowance for housing rate," said Maj. Leslie Gerald, manager of the compensation and entitlements division of the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

"The other initiative was to increase the housing standard that the E-4 with dependents (family members) currently had prior to July 1."

On average, those in the E-1 through E-3 grades will receive a monthly increase of more than \$50. E-4s will see a smaller monthly boost of about \$11. Rates will remain the same for single service members.

Housing allowances are based on rental costs, so the actual increase will vary, depending on the cost of living in that particular area.

In most cases, those living in high-cost locations will see larger increases, while allowances will be lower for those living in more affordable housing.

Each year the military is required to determine community off base housing costs. Those figures are used to calculate the basic allowance for housing rate.

Significant changes in the housing mar-

ket will be reflected in the BAH rates for that year, according to Gerald.

"Some housing markets are more volatile than others," said Gerald. "It just depends on the location and the conditions of that housing market."

A two-bedroom town house is the off-base housing standard on which the BAH is built for E-1s, E-2s and E-3s with families, according to Pentagon policy. For E-5s, a two-bedroom town house or duplex is the standard.

Under the new plan that begins Sunday, servicemembers in pay grades E-1 thru E-3 who live in the Sierra Vista, Ariz., area will receive \$572, which is \$72 more than last year's allowance of \$500. A \$16 increase will go to an E-4 who lives in the same area.

Service members stationed overseas receive housing allowances under a different system and are not affected.

The new junior enlisted BAH rates were added by Congress to the fiscal year 2001 Defense Authorization Act. The addition was one of several initiatives designed to aid low-income military families.

Lawmakers and Pentagon leaders have been addressing the financial concerns of low-income service members for the past three years, according to a report in *Army Times*.

Last year, Congress passed legislation aimed at getting military families off food stamps by offering extra money to those who qualify, and former Defense Secretary William Cohen developed a plan to eliminate out-of-pocket expenses by 2005.