

Guilty or not?

Fort Huachuca pupils learn how the justice system works during a mock trial as part of Law Day activities. - Page 3



Southwest Fest

Weekend wrap up of the annual Southwest Fest held for the first time on Fort Huachuca. - Page B1

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May 8, 2003

Scout reports

e-mail: thescout@hua.army.mil

Inspector General visit

The Department of the Army Inspector General will visit Fort Huachuca Monday through May 15.

The DAIG will hold an open Inspector General Assistance session, on Wednesday, from 2-4 p.m. in the Garrison classroom, Building 31044.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Salter at 533-2647/1144.

Power outage slated

There will be a scheduled power outage, which will affect all 355 homes in Pershing Plaza East and West.

This is from Hughes to Stedman and Stanley to Stedman. The outage is scheduled Wednesday - May 15, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. each day.

Although it is an inconvenience to the residents, the outage will ensure continued power to these homes in the future and a safe workplace for the construction workers.

It is recommended that residents limit the number of times they open their refrigerator or freezer, or not open the appliances at all during this outage in order to prevent spoilage of cooled items.

It is also suggested that residents consider this outage when they plan their commissary or food shopping trips to reduce the amount of affected foods.

For more information, call Kevin Blackwell, 533-3404 or Bob Ramirez, 533-5698.

INSIDE

Embedded media

What happens when civilian journalists meet Army drill sergeants? Drop down and give me 10, and we're not talking dollars either. Several journalists learned first hand what day in the life of a soldier is like. Page 3

Taking care of families

May family members left at home due their spouse's deployment are faced with tasks of juggling finances, doing car and home repairs, cooking, and raising children. The Department of Defense recognizes this challenge is trying to help family members cope. Page 5

Justice long overdue

Then Sgt. 1st Class Wanda Blount-Albury had her retirement papers in hand and was ready to leave the Army. Monday she was promoted to master sergeant after a five-year long battle to change a wrong done upon her. Score a victory for the NCO Corps. Page 7

Thunderbirds new digs

The 11th Signal Brigade has a new home in one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces. Page 8



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Tilley visits home of Intel

Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley shares a laugh with soldiers during his visit Thursday to the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operators Course. Tilley, the 12th Sergeant Major of the Army, made his first ever to trip to Fort Huachuca and had a red carpet tour of the installation. He was able to talk to both junior soldiers and noncommissioned officers in separate forums to discuss issues and concerns. See related story on Page 4.

One killed, two injured in POV accident off-post

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

One soldier was killed and two were injured in a vehicle rollover accident Saturday near Apache, Ariz.

All of the soldiers are assigned to Company E, 305th Military Intelligence Battalion and students in the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operator's course. Pvt. Leland Wickerham, 19, was pronounced dead while in flight to University Medical Center in Tucson from injuries related to the accident.

Injured were Pvts. Christopher Davis, 18, and Arthur Myrick, 18. Both were transported to South East Regional Hospital in Douglas, Ariz.

Davis sustained minor cuts, scrapes and bruises and Myrick sustained bruises, a laceration on the leg requiring eight stitches and minor head injuries.

Davis, the driver of the vehicle, was traveling west on Highway 80 when he lost control of the vehicle causing it to roll off into a ravine. Wickerham, the front seat passenger, was thrown from the vehicle.

"Private Wickerham was a highly valued member of our team,"

“Private Wickerham was a highly valued member of our team.”

Lt. Col. Michael Joiner,
305th Military Intelligence
Battalion commander

said Lt. Col. Michael Joiner, 305th MI Bn. commander. "He always had a smile on his face, and he was a positive motivator to all the soldiers. His loss is felt all throughout the battalion, but even more a greater loss to his family back home in Ohio."

Joiner added the unit is working closely with the soldier's family to help them through the period of grief and said, "We're going to make sure his legacy is treated with dignity and respect."

Wickerham is survived by his parents who reside in Edgerton, Ohio.

A memorial service is set for 3 p.m. today at the Main Post Chapel.

Arizona Department of Public Safety officials have not determined the cause of the accident, and are working with the Criminal Investigation Division to conduct a joint investigation.

West Nile Virus surveillance aimed at early detection

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

The Preventive Medicine Wellness and Readiness Service (Environmental Health) staff at Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center began a West Nile Virus surveillance program Tuesday.

"We want to let the post community know that we are being proactive concerning West Nile Virus and we're looking out for the well being of the people on this installation," said Staff Sgt. Albert Oliver, PMWRS noncommissioned officer in charge.

"We're not going to wait until it's too late and react when someone gets infected with the virus."

The PMWRS staff is working jointly with the Sierra Vista Public Health Department and Cochise County Health Department, by sending mosquito specimens to each department's laboratory for testing.

In the United States, West Nile virus is transmitted by infected mosquitoes, primarily members of the *Culex* species.

West Nile virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. The virus can infect

people, horses, many types of birds, and some other animals.

According to the Center for Disease Control, most people who become infected with West Nile virus will have either no symptoms or only mild ones.

However, on rare occasions, West Nile virus infection can result in severe and sometimes fatal illnesses.

There is no evidence to suggest that the West Nile virus can be spread from person to person or from animal to person.

Last year there were 4,156

See WNV on Page 5



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Staff Sgt. Albert Oliver, Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center, sets up a mosquito trap at the Wastewater Treatment Facility as part of early detection of the West Nile Virus.



Photo by Michael Dukas

A soldier is immunized against smallpox at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. More than 400,000 servicemembers have been vaccinated since the program began in December.

DoD's smallpox immunization program 'a real success' for servicemembers

BY GERRY J. GILMORE
AMERICAN FORCES
PRESS SERVICE

The Department of Defense's smallpox immunization program for servicemembers "has been a real success," DoD's senior medical official declared.

DoD has vaccinated more than 400,000 servicemembers against smallpox since the program began on Dec. 13, 2002.

Only 18 troops developed serious complications from the shot, and no deaths have resulted from vaccination, Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, told Pentagon reporters here

April 29.

"We believe the program has been a real success and our experience would support that conclusion," Winkenwerder remarked, noting that DoD's military vaccine office has worked closely with the services' medical departments.

DoD's experience with the vaccine, he said, has been documented in a report submitted to a leading U.S. medical journal slated for eventual publication.

That report, Winkenwerder explained, "will describe adverse event rates that are lower than (those that) have been seen historically."

He pointed out there have been "no deaths" attributable to administering the smallpox vaccine to the military.

Winkenwerder did cite a case where a 55-year-old National Guardsman had died of a heart attack five days after receiving the smallpox vaccine.

However, a review of the guardsman's medical history and a post-mortem examination determined that the servicemember already had "significant heart disease," he noted.

The conclusion, Winkenwerder emphasized, was that the Guardsman's death "was not related to the vaccine."

Statistically, "some proportion" of any given group of people is "going to have a heart attack," he said. And in that group will be people who've received vaccines - including smallpox - even though their heart attacks are unrelated to the vaccines, he concluded.

Proclamation

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, 2003 By the President of the United States of America

America is strengthened by the rich cultural diversity of our people, and we are blessed to be a nation that welcomes individuals of all races, religions, and cultural backgrounds. The values and traditions of the Asian/Pacific-American community — love of family, entrepreneurship, excellence in education, and community service — have strengthened us as a nation. During Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, we celebrate the contributions of these talented and hard-working citizens and recognize their rich legacy of ingenuity, perseverance, and achievement.

Many Asian/Pacific immigrants came to America to discover the promise of our nation and to realize their dreams. Their contributions were critical in establishing a robust economy. Asian/Pacific Americans also worked tirelessly to build our national railroad infrastructure, paving the way for our western expansion and growth as a world leader. Generations of Asian/Pacific Americans have proudly served our nation with honor and courage in wars and conflicts, including most recently in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Today, as in the past, their dedication and service to advancing peace in a troubled world upholds the values that make our country strong.

Asian/Pacific Americans are also helping to shape America's future. As entrepreneurs, artists, educators, public servants, scientists, and explorers, they challenge the minds of our next generation, expand commerce and innovation, probe the frontiers of space, and search for cures for the world's diseases. Our children are also inspired by the contributions and sacrifices of dedicated individuals such as inventor An Wang, experimental physicist Chien-Shiung Wu, Challenger astronaut Ellison Onizuka, Columbia astronaut Kalpana Chawla, and sculptor Isamu Noguchi.

Since the earliest days of America, people from all cultures have traveled to our nation seeking the promise of freedom, opportunity, and justice. As an integral part of our society, Americans of Asian and Pacific heritage share in the pursuit of this American Dream. I join with all Americans in celebrating this rich and diverse culture, and I encourage every citizen to recognize the role of Asian/Pacific Americans in building and sustaining our Nation.

To honor the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans, the Congress by Public Law 102-450 as amended, has designated the month of May each year as "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 2003 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. I call upon our citizens to learn more about the history of Asian/Pacific Americans and how they have contributed to the culture and heritage of our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Commentary

Soldiers have been "on point for our nation" for nearly 228 years now - courageously fighting and winning our wars, securing our liberty, and defending the freedom and privilege we all enjoy. But the American Soldier has never soldiered alone - Army spouses have always been making their own, unique contributions to the well-being of the force, through ten wars and all the periods of restless peace in between.

The dedication and support of our Army spouses is never more important than during the times of war. Since 11 September, the days have been marked by incredible emotion -the toughest days when our sol-

diers were lost, and the jubilant highs of battlefield victories. We have witnessed our Army's magnificent moments -here at home and in faraway places like

Afghanistan, the Philippines, Kuwait, and Iraq - and all of them continue to be delivered by our people: soldiers, civilians, retirees, veterans, and their families.

The Army family remains strong and vibrant. For that, we owe a tremendous amount to our Army spouses who rely on their own remarkable personal courage, indomitable strength, and great resolve to sustain our families. Over long months of separation from their soldiers, they have served as both mother and



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

One of the most celebrated holidays in the U. S. takes place this Sunday. Phones will be ringing and postmen will be bringing cards while florists will be bringing flowers. Because everyone has a mother. So, every second Sunday in May, we make sure they get thanked.

Mother's Day is so important that people who keep records on such things say that over three times the phone calls are made and four times the cards are sent for Mother's Day than on Father's Day. I've heard it said that if you don't have a dad, you've lost a friend, but if you don't have a mom, you're an orphan. Having lived through the deaths of both of my parents, I believe that is true.

There are so many cliches about God creating mothers and what mothers do that I think you've probably heard or read them all (most of them are attributed to Erma Bombeck). So I'm not going to reprint one here. But I do know that God gave parents, and particularly mothers, great honor with the fourth commandment: "Honor your father and mother." The first three commandments deal with God and then bam! the next one hits as close to god as one can get - Mom and Dad.

Moms are the ones who carry us from conception and nurture us until they die. My son said he'd be 80 before his mom lets him live on his own. Her response? "What's wrong with that?" The point is, moms everywhere never forget how it was to hold the baby they "made" and never quit dreaming about a better life for that baby no matter what his/her age. And they never stop in their attempts to make those dreams true. Moms care.

However, not everyone has/had a mother who cared. Hopefully someone else made the effort to care and the impact on your life, like an aunt or neighbor. I had a great mom, 5 feet 1, both ways, who took care of five boys. During the summer she worked shifts in a cannery and was gone odd hours. But Mrs. Callahan was two doors down and while playing with her kids, she continued to guide me on the right paths.

Moms also discipline, clean and feed their children. But a mom's discipline is out of love and hope so that the child can recover and try to do the right thing again. Moms forget things too - like what you did wrong, bad grades, dented fenders, coming home late. Moms give us room to stretch our limits, yet they keep an eye on us all the time.

Moms will lay down their lives for their children. There are stories about moms protecting their children, but my favorite comes not in human form, but from the animal kingdom.

There was a forest fire and as the fire crews went through to put out hot spots, they found a bird at the base of a tree. She was burned to death. The firemen wondered why a bird, able to fly above the flames and reach safety, stayed at the base of a tree. One picked up the bird's carcass and from underneath a bunch of chicks hopped out. The mother bird had given her life in order for the chicks to live. She could have escaped for another day, but she sacrificed herself for what she believed was important - her children.

I don't know if the story is truth or fiction, but the point is: mothers are awesome individuals. I don't know how they work, but they do, and we are better for it. So, this Mother's Day, take time to call, hug, feed, and/or thank the mothers in your life. And you husbands, please do the same for the mother of your children - because she's working hard to make life better for you and them. May God continue to bless us all with mothers who show us signs of his love.

Chaplain (Maj.) Dennis R. Nitschke can be contacted via email Dennis.nitschke@netcom.army.mil.

Scout on the Street

How do you show your children you love them?



"My son earns stars on a weekly basis and when he earns enough stars, we go swimming."

2nd Lt. Aaron L. Hoffman
Company C,
304th Military Battalion



"I give them lots and lots of hugs and kisses. And I show up to school when they least expect it."

Michelle M. Ivey,
Department of Defense,
civilian and family
member



"We tell them we love them, hug them and try to be there whenever they need us for any events in their lives."

Starleen Bair
Non Appropriated Funds
civilian



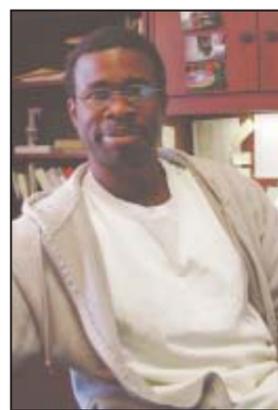
"My kids are grown now with their own children. I just try to be there when they ask for advice and I tell them I love them each time we talk."

Gwen Davies,
DoD Civilian



"Talk with them, spend time with them and make surprises for them. It's the little things."

Cheryl Miller,
DoD Civilian



"I give them a big hug."

Steve Peterson,
DoD Civilian

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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Civilians learn to be soldiers at Media Day

BY NELL DRUMHELLER
SCOUT STAFF

Fort Huachuca soldiers opened the eyes of the media Monday when television, radio and print journalists spent the day learning about the Army.

The day began just as the sun was rising in a fenced section of Chaffee field, where drill sergeants, Staff Sgts. Julie Morales and Anthony Anderson, put six media representatives through a quick physical fitness formation. Getting their hearts pumping, the soldiers introduced the civilians to slice of life on the fort.

Throughout the day the media representatives learned first hand a bit about Army life. Following breakfast at Yardley Dining facility they were transported to Garden Canyon where Sgt. 1st Class Scott Hale and Staff Sgt. James Ulbrich introduced them to repelling.

"At first I thought it would be really hard," said Ginger Allen of the Dallas CBS affiliate. After conquering the 85 foot cliff she scrambled up to the next level and quickly descended.

Newspaper journalist Greg Miller of the *Los Angeles Times* covers military intelligence out of Washington, D.C., "this is great," he said of the experience. "After reporting on the soldiers who have been trained here it was great to be able to see there they are from."

After repelling the media team was marched higher into the hills to the clearing near the Boy Scout cabin where they were served Meals Ready to Eat. Col. Michael Flynn, commander, 11th Military Intelligence Brigade and Garrison Commander Col. Larry Portouw settled into the grass along side the reporters and explained the mission of Fort Huachuca.

Speaking of the students here Flynn said, "The day they graduate they're ready to do what they

"After reporting on the soldiers who have been trained here, it was great to be able to see where they are from."

Greg Miller,
Los Angeles Times

are trained to do."

After lunch the group was transported to Site Uniform where they were escorted through the village, observing both a team in action in the village and the students interrogating locals and analyzing data. Though they didn't interact with the soldiers, the escorts answered their questions.

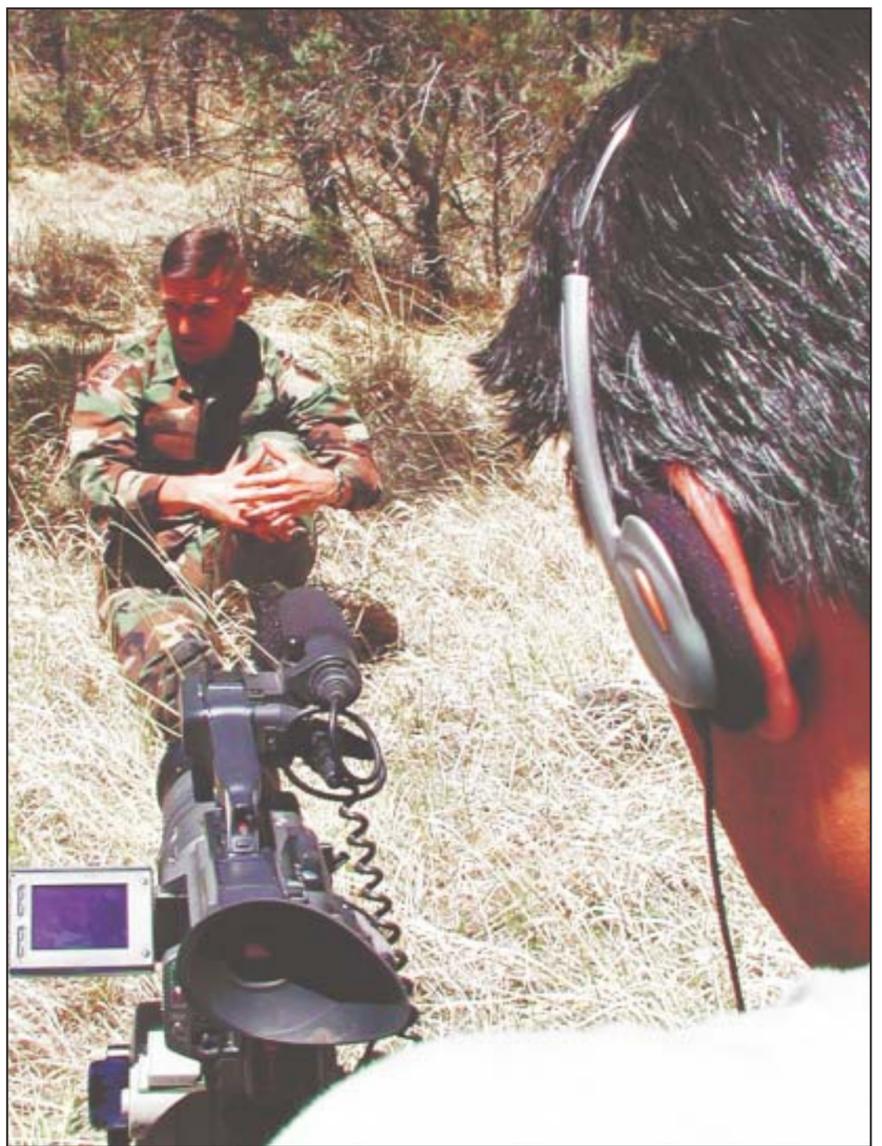


Photo by Nell Drumheller

Justin Levesque, left, gets his Swiss seat adjusted by Sgt. 1st Class Toni Santoro, Company C, 305th Military Intelligence Battalion at the base of the repelling cliff. Levesque is a photographer with the *Sierra Vista Herald*. Col. Michael Flynn, 11th MI Brigade commander, fields questions from media representatives during lunch.

Mock trial introduces law to young people

BY NELL DRUMHELLER
SCOUT STAFF

Using the story line of the fairy tale, "The Princess and the Pea," soldiers from the Staff Judge Advocate office on Fort Huachuca introduced the court system to pupils at Smith Middle School and Myer Elementary School Friday.

At the middle school a jury was selected to determine the guilt or innocence of Delphinia Rose Sweetpea. Sweetpea was charged with two crimes, forgery of a birth certificate and falsely pretending to be a public official.

Staff members from the SJA office dressed in costumes they felt depicted their characters and presented the case including testimonies, evidence and conjecture.

"I've done a couple of these in Germany and the kids really seem to enjoy it," said Col. Anthony M. Helm, who portrayed the judge in the mock trial.

The jury at Smith found Sweetpea guilty on both counts.

"I voted for guilty," said Joshina Holmes, an eighth grader and jury member. "It didn't seem like she (Sweetpea) had her story straight."

Two other jury members agreed. "The other side (the prosecution) presented their story better. I was watching the lawyers and believed the prosecution," Sofi Bieranowski, eighth grader, added.

"Overall, they had a better case," Eighth grader Samantha Cobb said of the prosecution.

Done the street at Myer Elementary the same production resulted in a different decision. The group of pupils was asked to vote by a show of hands, and this time Sweetpea was found not guilty.



Photo by Nell Drumheller

District Attorney Christian Diechert, a captain and lawyer with SJA, insists on the truth from Princess Delphinia Rose Sweetpea, portrayed by Spc. Heather Reep, as the bailiff, Capt. George Meritnew watches.

SARS impact on DoD 'almost nil' according to senior health official

BY GERRY J. GILMORE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

So far, the mysterious respiratory illness that's killed almost 400 people worldwide has had a negligible effect on the U.S. military, Department of Defense's top civilian health official said April 29.

Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, characterized the severe acute respiratory syndrome's impact on DoD health care beneficiaries as "almost nil." He cited just one possible case involving a retiree at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

"I don't want to give a great deal of credence to this report yet, because it's still being evaluated," Winkenwerder cautioned reporters during his meeting with them at the Pentagon.

The individual - who has recovered - had reportedly traveled to Asia, Winkenwerder pointed out, where most SARS cases have been reported. He added that to the best of his knowledge, no one in close contact with that individual came down with the disease.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, SARS begins with a fever greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit. The fever is sometimes associated with chills or other symptoms, including headache, general feeling of discomfort and body aches. Some people diagnosed with SARS may experience mild respiratory problems, the CDC said, noting that after two to seven days, some patients may develop a dry cough and have trouble breathing.

The CDC also reports that SARS appears to spread by close person-to-person contact, such as when an infected person sneezes on or near another, uninfected person.

Medical researchers believe that the corona virus causes SARS, Winkenwerder remarked.

"That is the same family of viruses that causes the com-

mon cold," he pointed out, adding there is a diagnostic test being developed to detect the disease.

SARS is "a disease about which we're still learning" more about every day, Winkenwerder emphasized, noting that DoD is working closely with CDC and the World Health Organization.

According to CDC documents, as of April 28, there are 52 reported probable cases of SARS within the United States, including two in Hawaii. Thus far, there have been no deaths in the U.S. attributed to SARS.

As of April 30, according to WHO, the total number of SARS cases reported worldwide was 5,663, a number that includes 372 deaths.

CDC Director Dr. Julie L. Gerberding noted at an April 24 briefing that the SARS "is an atypical pneumonia" with a death rate "running beleaders are receiving daily reports on the SARS situation.

DoD's Global Emerging Infection Surveillance organization has been actively searching for possible SARS cases, Winkenwerder noted.

Also, he continued, researchers at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md., are currently involved in testing anti-viral agents that might be effective against SARS.

DoD is endeavoring "to be as supportive as we can to the U.S. civilian health authorities and others around the world," Winkenwerder asserted. He added that DoD has issued health affairs guidance about SARS to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and military commanders worldwide. That guidance, he added, is slated for updates.

The Defense Department recently directed that its military and civilian personnel make only mission-essential trips to China and Hong Kong.

SARS was first diagnosed in rural China last November and then spread to Hong Kong. More than 25 countries have reported cases.

Water conservation top priority in housing

DIRECTORATE OF
INSTALLATION SUPPORT
RELEASE

Fort Huachuca's water usage continues to decline. This is due in a large part to the strict water policy for watering lawns in family housing areas. You can take great pride in the accomplishment over the past several years.

Remember, watering is only allowed in May and June each year by sprinklers. If you reside in Bonnie Blink you may water on Wednesdays and Sundays from 6 - 8 p.m. However, most residents do not have any lawns

to water. All other family housing areas on post may water on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 6-8 p.m. This policy is mandatory for all residents of Fort Huachuca.

As a desert environment, water is a critical issue to Fort Huachuca and, therefore, enforcement of this policy is strict. The first violation of the policy brings a warning through your company commander; if there is a second offense, the brigade commander of the sponsor's unit is notified. If there be a third offense, the Housing Division recommends to the Garrison Commander that that soldier and

family be terminated from the quarters. Although rare, it has been necessary in the past to recommend termination of soldiers from quarters for a third violation.

Although the policy is strict, you can water by using a hand-held hose anytime throughout the year. In fact, you are encouraged to use this method to keep our valuable trees and shrubs alive.

In the construction areas of Dove and Bonnie Blink, the construction contractor will water the yards. This will occur after the yards have been accepted and grass seed planted. This is a contractual requirement of the construction

project and, therefore, they will not be held to the normal installation watering guidance.

In addition, the Yard of the Month program has started again at Fort Huachuca. The judges will be looking at beautification of the yards with an eye to introducing desert perennials and low water usage plants.

The greenest yard is not necessarily going to win the award.

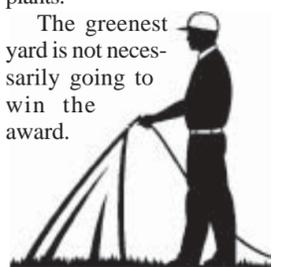




Photo by Spc. Annie Belle Murphy

Above: Sergeant Major of the Army Jack Tilley gets a demonstration on the flight simulator at the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle site. Below left: Spc. Richard Hanley, Company E, 305th Military Intelligence performs a Tilley favorite - one-arm push ups. Hanley challenged the SMA to a push-up contest and performed 21 repetitions earning a coin from the Army's senior enlisted soldier.



SMA Tilley embraced by 'Team Huachuca'

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

For the hundreds of noncommissioned officers gathered in Cochise Theater, the assembly resembled an old-fashioned high school pep rally as they were treated to motivational remarks from Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley.

Making his first appearance to Fort Huachuca since his tenure as the 12th Sergeant Major of the Army, Tilley inspired the NCOs with his lighthearted demeanor and his passion for the NCO Corps.

During his two-day visit, Tilley was given a red carpet tour of the post and observed various Military Intelligence training soldiers are learning here.

He spoke to Advanced Individual Training students attending Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operators Course, Human Intelligence Collector Course and the Counterintelligence Agent Course.

"The technology our Army has is what separates us from the rest of the world," Tilley said, obviously impressed with the MI training assets. "The information the military intelligence gives us is what saves soldiers lives on the battlefield."

But mostly during his visit, Tilley enjoyed talking to soldiers about the seriousness of their jobs as professionals-at-arms, reminding them of his experiences from a recent trip at Baghdad and Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"Every since this War on Terrorism began, we have had 150 plus soldiers killed and 300 injured," Tilley said. "So we won't allow ourselves to forget what we stand for. And what we stand for is to protect the Constitution of the United States."

Tilley mentioned that visiting wounded soldiers who came back from Operation Iraqi Freedom left him in tears at times, but praised their commitment to the Army and the Nation.

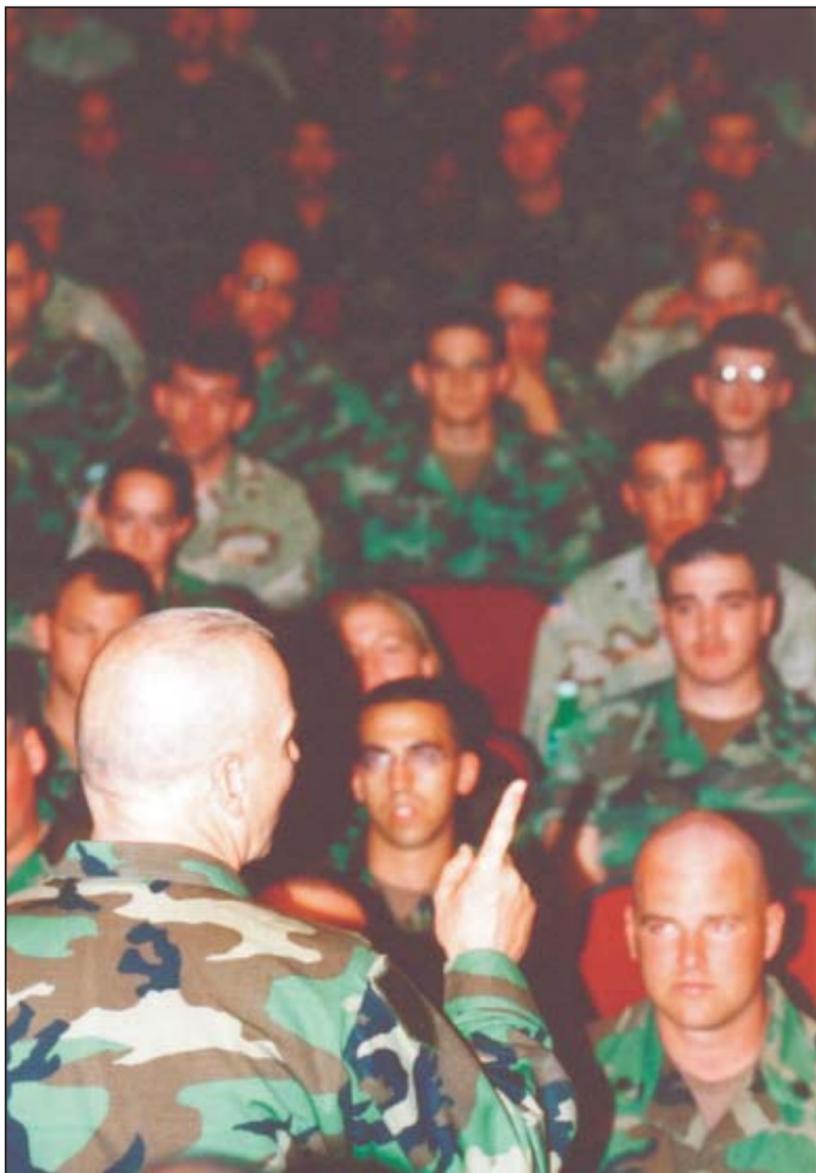
"Not once did they say, 'the Army owes me anything,'" Tilley said. "That's when you know it's about training. It's about being disciplined and staying focused. It's about our country."

Throughout his stops, whether at Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Clinic or Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Army Signal Command, Tilley expressed his appreciation for what they do for the nation.

"There are nearly 300 million people in our country and only one percent of that number serves in our armed forces," Tilley said.

As the senior enlisted advisor to the Army's Chief of Staff, Tilley travels all around the world to listen to soldiers' thoughts and concerns. He also testify on behalf of all the Army's enlisted soldiers to Congress to make the quality of life better.

"I love being a soldier," Tilley said. "I like what I do and I'll continue to work just as hard as I can until I retire. What keeps me driving - soldiers. I want to continue to make life better for them and their families."



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks



Above: SMA Tilley addresses the audience of soldiers, specialists and below, Thursday at Cochise Theater. He also talked to the noncommissioned officers of the installation in a separate forum. Right: Tilley takes time to joke with Spc. Nicholas Patsaros, Company E, 305th MI Bn.

Twin brothers never far apart

Return visit to fort takes fifty years

BY NELL DRUMHELLER
SCOUT STAFF

After a fifty-year break members of the 9470th Technical Unit Military Police Detachment #7 returned to Fort Huachuca Friday.

In early 1954, the 200 soldiers and officers reopened Fort Huachuca. The fort had been inactivated eight months earlier following the Korean War.

The enlisted members of the MP detachment were closely knit, having attended basic training together and then shipped, as a unit, to Fort Huachuca.

James Hutchins of Raleigh, N.C., was one of the soldiers here fifty years ago, "We left in our 20s and returned in our 70s," he said with a smile.

Many of the soldiers were in the Army for 22 months, released two months early of their two-year commitment by an order from President Eisenhower according to Hutchins.

"We patrolled, manned the main gate and manually turned on the street lights each dusk," he described their typical du-

ties. A unique responsibility for the soldiers was the herd of buffalos that lived on the post.

"They'd come up to the main gate at night and push against it. It was pretty scary," Hutchins said.

Hutchins was stationed at Fort Huachuca along with his twin brother, John, who enlisted with him. "We've never lived more than a mile apart," James said.

Their memories of Fort Huachuca are fond. On one occasion the two Hutchins were raising the ceremonial flag, "It's 20 feet by 40 feet," James began. John was holding one end off of the ground as James ran the flag up the pole. "A gust of wind grabbed the flag, but John didn't let go." The flag parachuted out, carrying John off his feet and into the air. "He was half way up the pole before he let go," James reminisced.

The brothers are now 70, but the days they spent in Arizona are fresh in their minds.



Photo by Nell Drumheller

Twin brothers James and John Hutchins recently visited Fort Huachuca after fifty years. They were here when the fort opened and had duties including manning the front gate and warding off buffalos.

They hope to return again, and not wait 50 years to make the trip.

Team Talk DoD reaches out to help families during wartime deployment

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS
DOUG SAMPLE

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

The Defense Department is working to lessen the burden that deployments are having on family members left at home.

Many are faced with tasks of juggling finances, doing car and home repairs, cooking, and raising children.

John Molino, deputy under secretary of defense for military community and family policy, said the Defense Department is doing what it can to help families meet those needs and to ease the hardships of deployments.

"We are community and we want to provide for our families to the best extent we can," Molino said during a recent interview.

"We can't replace their loved ones at this time, but we can try to do all we can to ease the burden of separation."

Molino said that all military services have "solid" programs in place to help families, however,

DoD is looking at ways to expand existing services at childcare facilities and family assistance centers.

Molino said military installations have added to the operating hours at many childcare facilities and family assistance centers are working extra hours to support families.

Also, DoD has set up a toll-free help line at installations most heavily impacted by deployments that allows family members to call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to get answers for just about any problem, Molino said. Many commands and installations are in the process of implementation.

Effective February 1, 2002 the service was available Marine Corps-wide (active and reserve) across the United States and overseas.

Molino said the help line allows family members to call and talk to a "master's degree level individual" who can help them with



Photo courtesy of www.freedomcorps.gov

President Bush in Florida during the USA Freedom Corps launch tour.

virtually anything. "They can call and get a referral with just about any day-to-day requirement in life with which they may be having trouble," he said.

In addition, he said that USA Freedom Corps is also partnering with DoD to lend support for military families. The organization, set up by President Bush in 2002, calls on Americans to get involved through community service. One initiative is called "On the

Homefront," an interactive Web site, at www.freedomcorps.gov.

The initiative helps to channel individual, corporate and community aid to deployed Service members and their families. Local chapters of national organizations such as the chambers of commerce or veteran service organizations, match the skills of volunteers with the needs of military families. That way, families can get help with everyday chores and such things as repairs, yard work, financial planning, or mentoring of children, Molino said.

"The Web site also makes it easy to support our troops, to send an e-mail message to deployed troops, to sign an online thank you card, and to make a contribution for a care package," he noted.

During deployments, Molino suggests that families stay in con-

tact with spouses through mail and the Internet. In an effort to bring families face to face with deployed spouses, Molino said that many installations can provide video teleconferencing.

"If you're in a high-tech area where you have access to a computer, you may be able to do more of that," he said. "If you're on the front line you might not have access to that type of technology, but every opportunity you get, we try to accommodate."

Molino said the biggest challenge for DoD is trying to meet the needs of all military families. For families that remain on or near the installation, the help comes easily, he said.

But for those families who have moved home with relatives while the service member is deployed, Molino said, "it's more difficult to reach out to them."

"This is why the toll-free number is important to us, because no matter where you are in the country you can call in and get support if you need it."

When we've said all we could say to enforce safety guidelines

COMMENTARY BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DONALD SPARKS

NCOIC, USAIC&FH PAO

Tuesday afternoon as I struggled to write the front page article about the death of Pvt. Leland Wickerham, I had to go back to my roots of journalism.

The fact of the matter is that I hate writing about the death of our soldiers. Fortunately throughout my career I haven't had to write too many articles about soldiers dying, but Tuesday was particularly tough.

In school we learn how to write the "accident" story which pretty much sums up the five W's listing the facts for the reader in the opening paragraph.

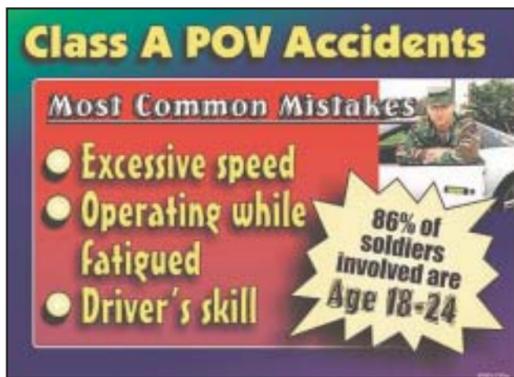
What the "accident" story doesn't mention is acquiring attribution from a source related to incident, however,

it is a necessary means.

After calling 305th Military Intelligence Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Michael Joiner, I was initially excited to get quotes to accompany my story so that way it made the article more personalized.

Yet later I was saddened because I knew he, Wickerham's company commander and drill sergeants must be going through a living hell of denial of how the life of a soldier, make that a teenager, under their watch, ended so tragically.

And it didn't have to happen. According to the U.S. Army Safety Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., the Army loses more soldiers age 18-24 in Class A privately owned vehicle accidents than any other age group.



Class A POV accidents are those that result in fatality or permanent total disability.

Before this past weekend there were 54 POV fatalities Army-wide. Wickerham made number 55.

His Noncommissioned Officer Support Channel did the right things

to prevent him becoming the latest statistic. There were safety briefings, a vehicle inspection and a written counseling statement.

The blocks were checked, however the drill sergeant couldn't be the guardian angel behind the wheel.

We can only do so much and in our mind, and hearts, we knew we did the right thing. But the right thing doesn't bring back a Pvt. Wickerham and we're left to ask ourselves, "What more could I have said? What more could I have done?"

As leaders it's one of our primary missions to ensure our soldiers follow the safety guidelines given to

them.

Not just the 'don't drink and drive' speech, but realistic lessons of soldiers whose lives were tragically cut before they could show their potential.

That's why writing Wickerham's story was definitely not one of my favorites.

I'd much rather write about the specialist that prevented thousands of pounds of drugs entering the country illegally, but for this day, I write about a soldier I've never met nor will cross paths with.

He could have easily been someone I'd interview down the road. But today, I write in sadness about a soldier no longer in our ranks.

On that note, I'll close my journalism handbook and hope the day comes far and long before I open it again to look up the "accident" story.

WNV from Page 1

laboratory positive human cases leading to 284 deaths.

There were zero cases and deaths in Arizona, but Oliver warned that doesn't mean there is no need for worry.

"Right now people don't think it's a threat because of the dry weather, but all it takes is a small amount of standing water for mosquitoes to breed," Oliver said. "People think it takes months for mosquitoes to become adults. It doesn't take long for the larvae to hatch."

Oliver set up mosquito traps at four different locations on post - at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, the Lakeside Activity Centre, Buffalo Corral and Wetland Pond #1.

He mentioned the traps would be checked once weekly depending on the population trapped inside. Once monsoon season begins the traps will be inspected more frequently.

After collecting specimens, the PMWRS staff sends identification results to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality for testing.

The staff doesn't have the capability to test for West Nile Virus, but can identify the type

of mosquitoes known to carry the virus.

Specimens are also sent to the Center for Health Promotions and Preventive Medicine at Fort Lewis, Wash., for further identification and testing of the West Nile Virus. The results are then returned to Fort Huachuca.

"In the event we have a positive result for West Nile Virus, we immediately put out precautionary guidance to the community," said 1st Lt. George Deguzman, chief of Environmental Health, RWAMC said. "We also coordinate with the Post Pest and Rodent Control office."

Oliver mentioned although the staff can't test for the disease, they could monitor the mosquito population.

"Say for instance if I put a trap out in the evening and come out the next morning to inspect it and find a thousand mosquitoes, then I'd say, 'Wow, we have a mosquito problem here.'"

The 13-year veteran mentioned he's still learning a lot about mosquitoes and is amazed by their development.

"They keep advancing," Oliver said. "When I first came in, we didn't hear such thing as West Nile Virus, only malaria."

West Nile Virus prevention measures

To avoid mosquito bites:

- Apply insect repellent containing DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) to exposed skin whenever you are outdoors.
- When possible, wear long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors. Treating clothes with repellents containing permethrin or DEET will give extra protection, since mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing. Do not apply repellents containing permethrin directly to skin.
- The hours from dusk to dawn are peak mosquito biting times. Consider avoiding outdoor activities during these times — or take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing during evening and early morning.
- Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by getting rid of items that hold water.

Around the house:

- Dispose of or turn upside down tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or other water-holding containers.
- Remove all discarded tires because tires are a common mosquito breeding site.
- Drill holes in the bottoms of all recycling containers that are outdoors.
- Make sure roof gutters drain properly and clean clogged gutters.
- Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Change water in bird baths, pet dishes and flower pots at least twice a week.
- Clean vegetation and debris from the edge of ponds.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs.
- Drain water from pool covers.
- Eliminate any standing water that collects on your property.

Community Updates

Public Notice

To an individual or place of business that may have a claim against or have possessions belonging to the estate of Pvt. Leland Wickerham may contact the Summary Court Marshall Officer at 533-7605.

Range Closures

Today - AC, AD, AU, AY, T1, T1A, T2
 Tomorrow - AL, AM, AU
 Saturday - AB, AD, AF, AL, T1, T1A, T2
 Sunday - AB, AD, AF, AU
 Monday - AC, AD, AQ, AU
 Tuesday - AC, AD, AM, AU
 Wednesday - AC, AD, AU, T1, T1A, T2
 For more information on Range Closure call, 533-7095.

MOAA May dinner planned

The Coronado Chapter, the Military Officers Association of America, will hold its monthly dinner meeting for members, spouses and guests at Fort Huachuca's Lakeside Activity Center on May 15 at 7 p.m. Featured guest for the evening will be Dan Valle, Director of Community Activities/MWR for the Fort Huachuca Garrison. For more information contact Chapter Secretary Chief Warrant Officer, ret, Joe Gill at 520/458-4099 or e-mail joegill@c2i2.com.

Youths sought for state commission

The Governor's Youth Commission is currently accepting applications from high school students who will be sophomores or juniors during the 2003-2004 school year. The primary purpose of the Governor's Youth Commission is to advise the governor and the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families on issues affecting youth in Arizona.



Youth Commissioners must attend quarterly meetings, participate in committees, be aware of and involved with community and youth organizations in his/her community and serve as a role model.

Applications must be postmarked by May 16 and faxed applications must be received by 5 p.m., May 16.

For more information regarding the Governor's Youth Commission or to request an application, call Jeff Ranby, in the Governor's Division for Community and Youth Development at (602) 542-3422.

OPM Scholarship Program

Parents may be interested in advising their aspiring college students of this new OPM program, "Scholarship For Service," that offers college funding in return for a period of employment by the student after graduation.

The program is funded through grants awarded by the National Science Foundation.

The program has been designed to increase and strengthen the cadre of federal information assurance professionals to bet-

ter protect the government's critical information infrastructure. It provides scholarships that fully fund the typical costs that students pay for books, tuition, and room and board while attending an approved institution of higher learning.

Additionally, participants receive stipends of up to \$8,000 for undergraduates and \$12,000 for graduate students. While still in school, students funded for more than a year will also serve a paid internship at a federal agency.

The agency may offer students other paid employment while they are on scholarship if it does not interfere with their studies. Information on this program is available at www.sfs.opm.gov

Turn Around Point helps soldiers

The Turn Around Point, sponsored by the Chaplain's Office, and operated by volunteers, is a place where you can get almost anything for nothing. All items in the Turn Around Point are donated and are free to customers on a first come, first serve basis. The Turn Around Point is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and is located in Building 52406, across from the Armed Forces Bank.

Outstanding volunteers named

The following soldiers have qualified for the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal in April:

- 2nd Lt. Steve Kwon, Company C, 304th Military Intelligence Battalion
- CTM1/SS John C. Worsley, USN Detachment
- Pfc. Wayne D. Maranda, Co. A, 305th MI Bn.
- Pfc. Stacie N. Trennepohl, Co. E, 309 MI Bn.
- Spc. Jolynda L. Westbrooks, Headquarters and Headquarters, 504 Signal Bn.
- 2nd Lt. Andrew J. Ready, Co. C, 304th MI Bn.
- Spc. Michael A. Naujelis, HHC 111th MI Brigade
- SPC Paula Authorlee, Co. E, 305th MI Bn.
- Sgt. Xavier M. Argueta, Co. E, 305th MI Bn.
- Capt. Eddie L. Perry, Co. C, 304th MI Bn.

VIP Volunteer for April is Dorothy Dietz. Dorothy has been a Red Cross volunteer for more than 50 years, 32 of them spent at Fort Huachuca medical center.

Bisbee garden tour Saturday



The second annual Bisbee Garden Tour is Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Eight of Bisbee's finest gardens will be on display during the self guided tour in historic Old Bisbee.

Eclectic in style, much like the former Copper mining town itself, the tour gardens reflect homeowner's preferences and experiments rather than landscape architects planned perfec-

tion. There is much practical knowledge and affordable advice to be gained through the tour.

The gardens reflect a range of landscaping including Xeriscape, natural state, water features, traditional, and sunlight mitigation. Visitors will find fruit trees, lily ponds, roses, roses, low water use plants, high water use plants, native high desert plants, water features, bonsai shrubs, and many different varieties of trees, bushes, vines, perennials and annuals.

Tickets for the tour are \$8 and shuttle bus tickets \$1. Tickets may be purchased at the Visitor Center, 35 Subway Street, in Old Bisbee. Call 432-5421 for more information. Or visit www.bisbearizona.com.

Farmer's Market each Saturday



The seasonal Bisbee Farmers Market is open each Saturday through October, 8 a.m. to noon.

The farmers market offers fresh local produce including pecans, pistachios, apple cider, honey, pickles and jams, a wide variety of hand crafts from aprons, visors, hand-blown glass beads, to bird houses and feeders, bath products, soaps and lotions.

There are a variety of plants to pick from including herb and vegetable starts, bedding plants, natives, ornamentals and house plants.

New at the farmers market this year is grass-fed beef grazed in native grass pastures in the Chiricahua Mountains, as well as legs of lamb and chops and emu meat all locally raised without chemicals.

Included at the market is roasted coffee beans, and ground mesquite pod meal. There is a booth where knives and scissors can be professionally sharpened.

This year the Bisbee Farmers Market is licensed under the Arizona Farmers Market Nutrition Program so that authorized growers will be accepting W.I.C. checks for fresh produce. This state-wide program provides locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables to W.I.C. recipients.

The Bisbee Farmers market is located in the Warren section of Bisbee in the Vista Park across from the ball park. Take the Bisbee Rd. exit from the traffic circle and follow it to the end.

Carr House open to visitors

Carr House Visitor Information Center is now open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through mid-October. Carr House is located 2 1/4 miles up Carr Canyon Road off Highway 92 in Hereford.

Guided bird walks are offered at Carr House at 8 a.m. on the first and third Saturdays of each month through October. For Information, visit Carr House on weekends or contact Rosemary Snapp at 378-9351.

School board meets

The Fort Huachuca Accommodation Schools school board will be at the Smith Middle School library

May 12 at 3:15 p.m. The school uniform policy is on the agenda for review and a possible vote. According to Smith principal Casey O'Brien, "The results from last year's parent survey, 80

percent of parents indicated approval for pursuing school uniforms."

If uniforms are approved, parents will be contacted immediately with policy information and specific details about school uniforms, O'Brien said.

Office move set for Garrison C.O.

On May 29 and 30, the Garrison commander and his staff will temporarily relocate from building 41402, Rodney Hall, to the second floor of building 41412. Building 41412 is located in old post on the corner of Hungerford and Rhea Avenue.

This temporary relocation is to allow for necessary renovations in building 41402. All phone and fax numbers for staff members will remain the same.

The office will be closed for all non-essential action on May 29 and 30. Full operation will resume June.

For more information call Suzette Krusemark, cell 507-6789 or page her at 803-4444.



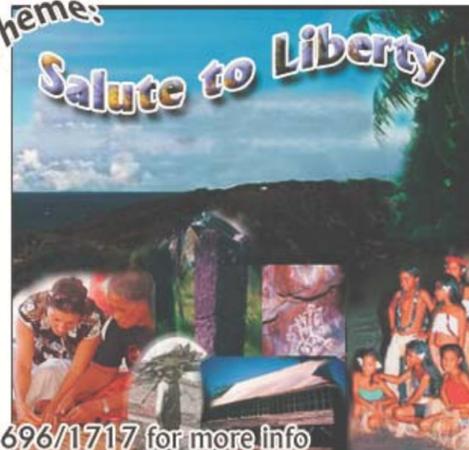
National Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Month

**Murr Community Center
Wednesday
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Free to the public!**

**Theme:
Salute to Liberty**

**Featuring:
Polynesian and Micronesian
Entertainment, Thailand Dance,
Karate Demo, Cultural Displays
and Food Samplings!**

Call 533-5305/3696/1717 for more info



Pets of the Week



My name is Princess. I am a 5-month-old brindle female mixed puppy. I am a very playful and loving pup. I was given up for adoption from my previous owner because they did not have time to train me. However, I am really smart. I get along with other dogs. My adoption fee is only \$52 and includes a spay, microchip, vaccination, heartworm test and a deworm.



My name is Chip. I am a 6-month-old brown male mixed puppy. I am very playful and energetic pup. I was found stray on post and need a good home. My adoption includes a neuter, microchip, vaccinations, heartworm test, and a deworm and only is \$42.



My name is Sylvester. I am a young male black and white domestic shorthair cat. I was found stray in a tree but I love to cuddle and appear litterbox trained. If your interested in a wonderful new cat, please come adopt me. My adoption fee includes a neuter, microchip, vaccinations, leukemia test, and deworm for only \$42.



My name is Tiki. I am a four-year-old tortoiseshell domestic longhair cat. I am already spayed, vaccinated and microchipped. I am litterbox trained and good with children. I was put up for adoption because my owner developed an allergy to me, but would absolutely love to go home with you. My adoption fee is \$42 and includes a leukemia test and deworm.

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 information, call 533-2767.

Resilient NCO gets promoted after five-year battle

BY STAFF SGT. SHARRON STEWART
TIME OUT EDITOR

"Not only so but we rejoice in our sufferings because we know that sufferings produce perseverance, perseverance, character and character hope. And hope does not disappoint." Romans 5: 3-5, New International Version.

The triumph of Master Sgt. Wanda Blount-Albury, a trainer/developer for imagery analyst, gave the backbone of the Army, and the Noncommissioned Officer Corps, a reason to stand a little taller and to feel a little prouder. She

was promoted Monday at the Noncommissioned Officers Academy with hoops, hollers and tears, to the rank of master sergeant five years after her promotion should have went into effect.

When asked by a former supervisor to conduct an act that violated her integrity and Army ethics, Blount-Albury flat-out refused. As has been fully substantiated, her former supervisor forged several counseling statements and appeared before her master sergeant board to have her name removed from the promotion list without her knowledge and without proper cause.

"When I took over at OCMI, I had asked her when she came into the zone for master sergeant. Never in my wildest dreams did I believe an injustice of that magnitude could be committed against a soldier," retired Sgt. Maj. Antonio Moreno said. He is currently a defense contractor based in New Jersey, and the former sergeant major of the Office of the Chief of Military Intelligence.

"It is truly an honor to be here," said Moreno, who flew to Arizona to pin on Blount-Albury's rank. He said it took him two months to read through all of her paperwork and after he did he was left dumbfounded and couldn't believe her name had been taken off of the list in the first place.

Moreno said they went through a lot of bureaucracy to set things right, and at times their hope got dashed, but Blount-Albury stood fast during it all. "I'm overjoyed that a year and half after I got out, justice has been served. You would have never even guessed by the professional execution of her mission that she was even facing this sort of problem," Moreno commented.

Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Haubrich, command sergeant major Fort Huachuca and the United States Army Intelligence Center, presented her cause to the Sergeant Major of the Army Jack Tilley. "When I first heard about this, my reaction was there are three sides to every story, his, hers and the truth. She was telling the truth the entire time and never gave up. I'm glad she let me be her mouth piece," Haubrich said.

"Sergeants major Moreno and Haubrich were my pitbulls. They were relentless because they are NCO warriors. Sgt. Maj. Moreno went out the door and was still making phone calls on my behalf. As for Command Sgt. Maj. Haubrich, you don't want to mess with one of his soliders," Blount-Albury said shaking her head laugh-

"*It was a long road to get to this point, but finally justice has been done.*
"

Capt. James Ford,
Staff Judge Advocate lawyer



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sharron Stewart

Tametka Blount, daughter of Master Sgt. Wanda Blount-Albury, reads a poem she wrote in honor of her mother. Blount-Albury's (center) rank was pinned on by retired Sgt. Maj. Antonio Moreno (left) and her husband William Albury.

NETCOM Transition team wins award designated for group with specific task

BY CAROL CONNER

NETCOM/9TH ASC PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Army Transformation is not just about new weapons systems; it's about restructuring how the Army does business. A team of 19 Department of the Army civilians knows first-hand how much work restructuring can be.

The U.S. Army Network Enterprise and Technology Command group, known as the NETCOM Transition team, are all employees of the newly created U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command at Fort Huachuca. They will receive the American Society of Military Comptroller's Meritorious Team Achievement Award at the ASMC Professional Development Institute in New Orleans, May 30. This award is presented annually to a Department of Defense team brought together temporarily to perform a specific task.

Nominated by NETCOM's assistant chief of staff, G-8 (resource management), the NETCOM Transition Team is being honored for developing the organizational constructs for the headquarters, Army Signal Command, portion of the secretary of the Army's directive to restructure information management.

NETCOM, the Army's first Direct Reporting Unit, was created from elements of the Army Signal Command, elements of the Chief Information Office/G6 (command, control, communications, and computer systems staff office) and additional manpower resources identified for transfer from other information technology organizations throughout the Army.

"It was December 2001 before we got to sit down and get started with the very tedious and very detailed work of analyzing manpower spreadsheets, identifying authorizations and dollars to create the new enterprise-level command," said Debbie Pool, a team member.

"A lot was accomplished in a little bit of time. The operation was originally scheduled to begin in September 2001," said John Gonzalez, who was part of the National Capital Region team element. "This would have given the members of the team a whole year to complete the daunting task of identifying IT manpower authorizations and associated dollars Armywide. It would have allowed more time for negotiating with the appropriate major commands to transfer these authorizations to NETCOM and it would have made the whole process of

documenting and receiving approval on these actions from DA less stressful."

"It would have also benefited the Fort Huachuca based team members who were developing comprehensive concept plans.

The scope of the task was very broad and required a lot of networking, said Cheryl Griego, another team member. "It included the transformation of the Army Signal Command headquarters and reorganization of one of its major subordinate commands, U.S. Army Networks Engineering and Technology Activity. We were tasked with using these assets to create a superstructure that met the dictates of the secretary of the Army's reorganization guidance," she added.

"Other operational missions took priority after 9-11," said Elizabeth Patten, who was also a member of the team. "We were intensely involved in fighting the war on terrorism in the fall of 2001 so we ended up with only about 10 months to actually make everything happen. Normally changes like this spend years in the planning phases. We took the senior leadership's vision for NETCOM and with input from the entire staff, and lots of hard work by the team, we designed the new organization."

"Regional offices were planned in the continental U.S. to collocate with the Army's new installation management regional directors. Staffing documents for all major Army commands were reviewed to identify the spaces needed to staff these new regional information offices," said Mike Stephany, another team member.

"Every authorization in the ASC headquarters was reviewed and evaluated. We reassigned office space and people. We formed a new subcommand called the Enterprise Systems Technology Activity," said Team Leader, Larry McKenzie. "The new NETCOM began emerging from all this analysis and planning. It was crafted from the core organizations of the Army Signal Command, the IT authorizations garnered from other major Army commands and the operational directorates transferred from the CIO/G6."

"It really started coming together last summer," McKenzie said. "We had enough authorizations and funding to begin imple-

menting the plan. The mounds of forms and information papers the NETCOM transition committee generated and pushed to headquarters DA were getting approved. We saw light at the end of the tunnel. Then, Aug. 13, 2002, a general order was signed creating NETCOM. The team had done its job. We were official."

"Hours were long and it was quite different for me," said team member Marie Hayward. "It was the first time I worked at that echelon. It was a great time to learn about teamwork and be able to do something for the Army."

"I've been here thirteen years," said team member Linda Howard. "The information technology arena has been in transformation the whole time. For me, this mission was just another 'new pair of tap shoes.' I expect I will see more changes before I retire."

For team member Marybeth

Slauenwhite, it was a demanding time. "We were working 60-70 hours per week," she said. "But like Linda, we all look forward to the next challenge."

Team member Cheryl Griego summed it up this way: "Last October, during the official ceremony redesignating Army Signal Command as the core organization of NETCOM, I felt some deep emotion. I knew it meant something very different to me than it would have if I had not been a member of this team. I knew what kind of teamwork - what kind of effort - had gone into the creation of this new command. It was a good feeling."

"We owe a debt of gratitude to every employee who worked on this transition," said Maj. Gen James C. Hylton, NETCOM's commander. "I am thrilled that this transition team is being honored for the outstanding contribution they made to this effort."



NETCOM/9th ASC photo

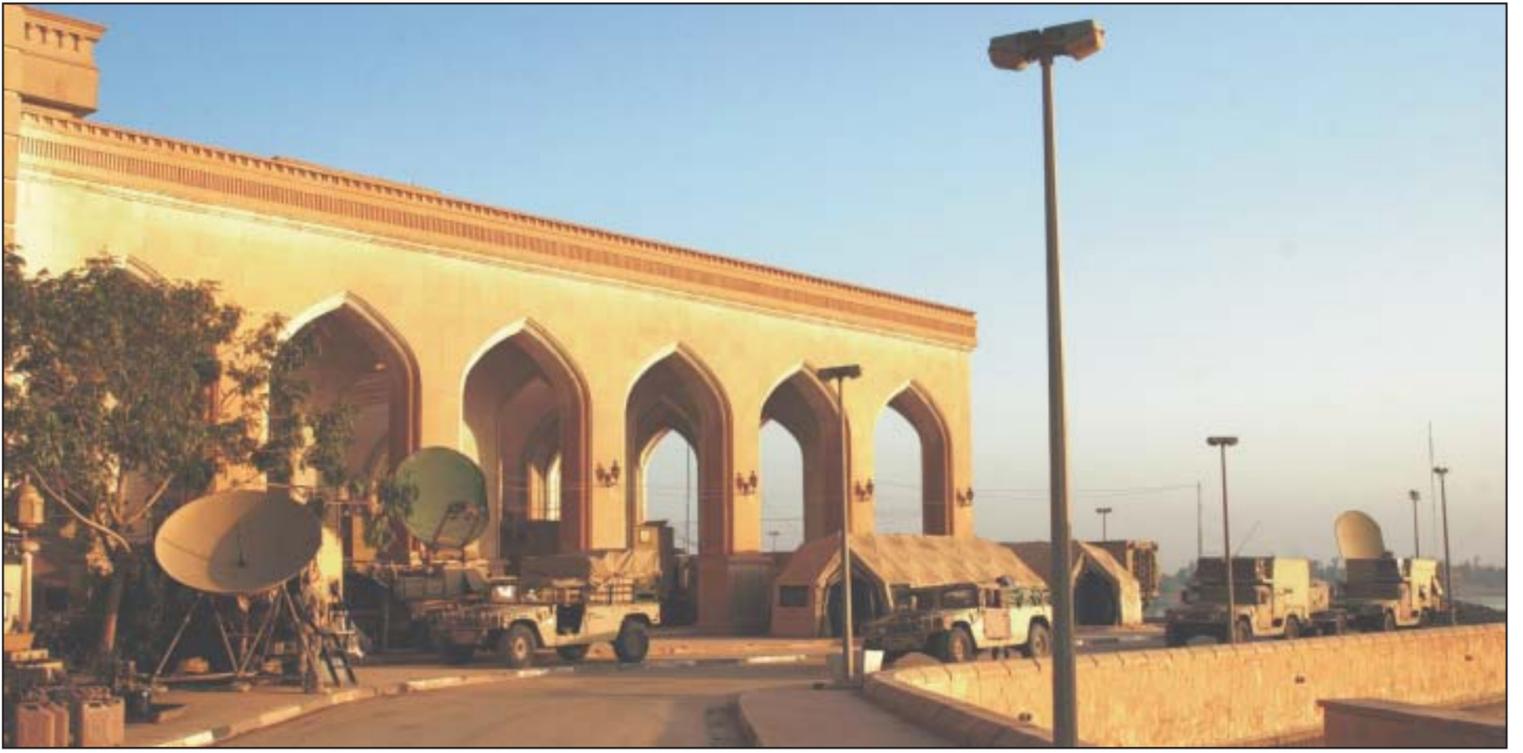
From Left to right: Tom Skinner, Marie Hayward, Linda Howard, Marybeth Slauenwhite, Cheryl Griego and Joe Griego, members of the NETCOM Transition Team, discuss personnel positions within the command during a meeting.

Awardees

NETCOM Transition Team members receiving the award include:

Larry McKenzie (G-8), Elizabeth Patten (G-3), Steve Saway (G-8), Michael Stephany (G-3), Neil Hains (G-3), Joe Griego (G-8), Cheryl Griego (G-8), Debbie Pool (G-8), Tom Skinner (G-8), Linda Guinter (G-8), Mary Holte (G-8), Hanna Hooper (G-8), Marybeth Slauenwhite (G-3), Marie Hayward (G-3), Linda Buetow (G-3), Linda Howard (G-3), John Gonzalez (G-8), Belinda Stoll (G-8), and Victoria Kiser (G-8).

See it in color on the web at [huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO/!](http://huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/PAO/)

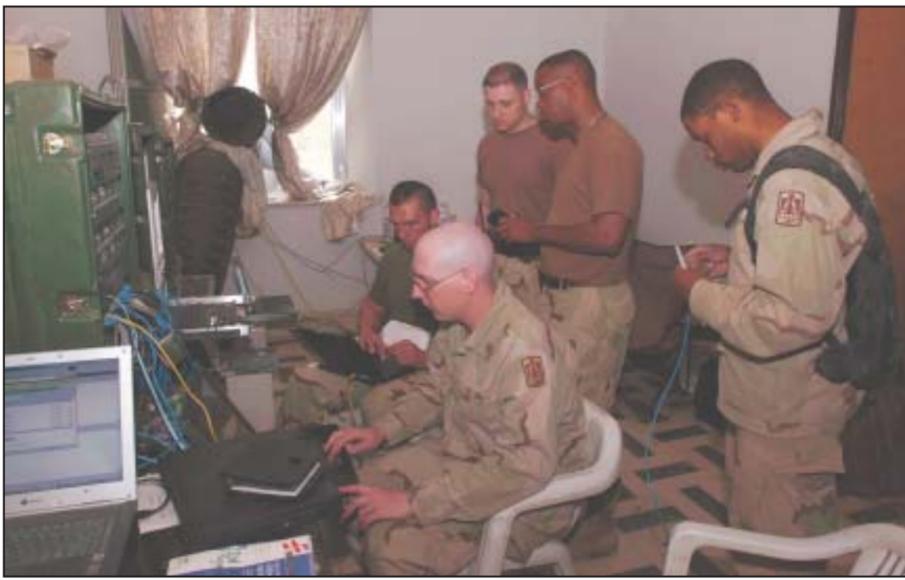


Photos by Staff Sgt. Robert Hyatt

Soldiers from the 11th Signal Brigade, provide satellite communications support for U.S. forces operating in Iraq from a former presidential palace near Baghdad, Iraq, on April 24.

Welcome to Thunderbird Palace

11th Signal Brigade's new digs in Iraq



Soldiers from the 11th Sig. Bde. install communications equipment to provide secure voice and data communications for U.S. forces in Iraq at a former presidential palace near Baghdad, Iraq, on April 27.



Col. Brian Hurley, right, 11th Sig. Bde. commander, and Col. James Van Patten, 335th Theater Signal Command, look over downtown Baghdad from the roof of the Baghdad Convention Center on April 27.