



The Fort Huachuca Scout



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December 11, 2003

Scout reports

e-mail: thescout@hua.army.mil

Flu shots available

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have indicated this will be a bad year for the flu and there have been several deaths due to flu this year.

This vaccine will protect you from three different strains of the flu and should lessen the flu if you are infected by strains that are not in this year's vaccine.

The flu shot makeup day for active duty members is Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Murr Community Center. Bring your yellow shot book.

All other health care beneficiaries will receive their flu shots at the Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center. Children, 6 months to 5 years: walk-in the Pediatric Clinic on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. You must bring the military I.D card and medical record.

For all others: walk-in the Allergy and Immunization Clinic on Mondays between 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. or 1:30 and 4 p.m.; also on Wednesdays between 1 and 4 p.m. or Thursdays between 7:30 and 11:30 a.m. You must bring the military I.D card and medical record

Department of the Army civilians must pick up their medical records and report to Occupational Health to get an order to get the flu shot. Please call 533-9139 if you have any questions.

Blood drive Friday

There will be a post blood drive from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at Eifler Gym.

Scout deadline

The last Fort Huachuca Scout for 2003 will be published Dec. 18.

If you have submissions you need in the paper prior to 2004 you must send them to the Scout, thescout@hua.army.mil, not later than close of business Friday. For more information call 533-1987.

INSIDE

Building underway

The Unmanned Aerial Vehicles facilities are growing. The expansion begins today.

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AFAP is hot

Army level AFAP issues reviewed, as well as what's tops on the list here.

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Bucks savers

Cost Warriors recognized, they save big bucks for this community.

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Holiday hours set

All Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities holiday hours are available.

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Photo by Elizabeth Harlan

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Lohr, Company A, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion was one of the hundreds of mourners who attended the memorial ceremony for Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Nason last week. He was the usher who assisted and comforted Nason's sister, Gena Nason, through the military ceremony.

Greatest sacrifice

Warrant Officer dies in Iraq, post honors Army linguist at ceremony

BY
SPC. MATTHEW CHLOSTA
SCOUT STAFF

Many Soldiers from many posts have lost their lives in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, but Fort Huachuca seemed to be a little bit different, until 18 days ago.

Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Nason, Company A, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, died in a traffic accident between Mosul and Dihok, Iraq on Nov. 23.

Nason was honored Dec. 3 during a memorial service at the Main Post Chapel at 2 p.m.

Before the memorial began, people whispered in hushed tones and tears flowed amongst the mammoth sea of green and waves of somber, stoic-faced soldiers from Nason's MI unit.

The first deployed soldier lost in OIF from the Military Intelligence family here on post was also a little bit different.

According to Gena

Nason, his sister, Nason collected comic books in his free time, but was deployed to Iraq as an expert Arabic speaking Army linguist, grasping one of the hardest languages to learn on earth.

Nason volunteered for assignment in Iraq, even though his father was gravely ill.

Nason's father passed away on Oct. 9, while Nason was serving in OIF.

"He felt he could do the job and it would be a tremendous experience for his future," Gena Nason said.

"He was really loving, really kind. He was a really fun person, a caring person."

Nason's fellow brothers in arms felt the same way about him.

They showed their compassion for him through their kind words during the ceremony and by packing the chapel with a standing room only crowd, "the largest memorial service I have ever seen in my many years of service," said Army Chaplain Capt. Anthony

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Reserve, Guard may shop with unlimited commissary benefits

SCOUT REPORTS

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 granted Army Reserve and National Guard members, along with their families, unlimited access to commissaries.

Guard and Reserve members were authorized only 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year until the president signed the National Defense Authorization Act Nov. 24. The bill contained provisions eliminating the restrictions. Commissaries have immediately

adopted the new provisions, which means Guard and Reserve members will no longer have to present a Commissary Privilege Card when they shop.

The new provisions have been adopted at the Fort Huachuca commissary according to Store Director Judy Mendez. "I suppose our sales will go up a little bit," she said. "More importantly we've been hoping they'd get privileges all along. Instead of coming twice a month, they (Reservists and Guardsmen) can come every day and save up to 32 percent."

"Instructions have gone out to all continental U.S. stores informing them that reservists now have unlimited shopping and telling store managers how to welcome members of the National Guard and Reserve to the full use of the commissary benefit," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency. "Commissary shoppers will begin to see banners saying 'Welcome Guard and Reserve to Full Time Savings,' along with other events recognizing these new full-time shoppers."

Nixon noted that special thanks should go to Charles Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. Abell acted immediately to provide interim authority for the Reserve component to have full-time commissary shopping just in time to take advantage of holiday savings.

Unlimited commissary benefits have been extended to:

— Members of the Ready Reserve

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Auto smashed, Soldier hurt

BY
SGT. KRISTIE JAEGER
SCOUT STAFF

One Soldier was injured at 2:30 p.m. Friday in a one-car accident at the East Gate entrance onto post.

The Soldier, with the 40th Signal Brigade, struck the wall around the first guard shack while driving too close to the median, said Sgt. Stephen M. Ferree,

traffic accident investigations noncommissioned officer in charge with the 18th Military Police Detachment.

The Soldier was released from Sierra Vista Regional Health Center with minor injuries.

"If she did not wear her seatbelt, she probably would have gone through the windshield," said Ferree.

In order to prevent accidents like this from occurring,

units can stress the importance of attentive driving and not multitasking while driving, said Ferree.

In addition, the MP detachment provides driver's training for those soldiers who wish to improve their driving skills, said Ferree.

"Driving is the top priority," he said.

An investigation is being conducted to determine the cause of the accident.



Photo by Elizabeth Harlan

Driver awareness is important to safety on the road.

TeamTalk

Holiday season

safety, relaxation urged



BY
MAJ. GEN. JAMES
"SPIDER"
AND MARTY
MARKS

Well, if your home is anything like the Marks household, it's a beehive of activity and preparation for the holidays. Be sure to take some time to relax and enjoy the events of the season – religious observances, community events, and simply time with family and friends.

I need to remind you, though, to be safe and act responsibly. If you're driving somewhere over the holidays, use seat belts and be a safe driver. Keep force protection in mind at all times. Drink responsibly and use a designated driver. We want you all back here safe and sound after the holiday exodus.

A neat community event coming up here is Saturday's Army Family Team Building "Reindeer Stampede."

This free 10 km. race and a 3 km. fun run/walk are being held to celebrate the 10th anniversary of AFTB. The action starts and ends at Youth Services, Building 49013 (near the corner of Cushing and Smith Streets).

This super activity is open to all members of our Army family. Registration will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. Saturday. The 10 km. race begins at 9 a.m., and the 3 km. fun run/walk starts at 9:15 a.m.

For more information, you can call Shirley Pettaway at 533-5719 or Pam Allen at 533-5919. Sounds like a fun way to enjoy AFTB Day!

A real treat is headed our way Monday at 7 p.m., when the 36th Army Band takes the stage at the Buena Performing Arts Center for its annual holiday concert. This is always a wonderful musical event, so you might want to get there a little early to make sure you can get a seat.

Our thanks to all these talented musicians for the quality entertainment they bring to us throughout the year.

Our exemplary environmental programs and outstanding record have again garnered national honors. Maj. Dan

Ortega, Director of Public Safety, John Ruble, director of Installation Support, and Bill Stein, energy coordinator, Directorate of Installation Support accepted the 2002 Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Award Dec. 3 in Washington D.C. on behalf of the installation.

By being nine percent below Army and federal energy goals, Fort Huachuca saved U.S. taxpayers approximately \$850,000 from Oct. 1, 2001, through Sept. 30, 2002. Let's all follow that super example and keep up the great work. Hooah!

I appreciate all of you who participated in Monday night's live town hall, "Feedback." Whether you emailed a question to the public affairs office ahead of time or called in with your input during the show, I thank you for taking the time and showing your interest in helping us make this great installation even better.

In addition to all the added hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays remain a time for us to stop and reflect about the values that give our lives meaning. They are also a time to reach out to those in need.

The stresses of this year have affected us all very deeply, both professionally and personally. Deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the casualties our country has suffered have made burdens difficult to bear.

Remember, you are part of a larger, caring family. If you need help, we're here for you. And, if you know someone who needs help, be there for them and help them get the assistance they need.

To all the military, civilians, contractors, and family members here on Fort Huachuca, Marty and I send our sincerest thanks for all your hard work, dedication and for – truly – a job well done. It is because of you that Fort Huachuca consistently strives to improve its already great living and working environment.

You are why we continue to be "always out front" in our diverse training and operational missions. I truly hope this holiday season will give us all the chance to reflect on the past, honor the present, and rejoice in the future.

From the Marks family to you – Happy Holidays!

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain bids farewell

BY CHAPLAIN (MAJ)
DENNIS R. NITSCHKE

DEPUTY COMMAND CHAPLAIN, NETCOM

"Happy trails to you, until we meet again..." - Roy Rogers and Dale Evans

"And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matthew 28:20b

Well good reader this is it, my last column for the Scout as a chaplain. I'm "transitioning into the civilian sector" (retiring) on Dec. 31. Time to hang up the olive drab green and start making fashion choices every morning.

As friends and coworkers got the word that I was retiring, most said, "Man, aren't you glad? No more (fill in the blank) from the Army. Who needs it," and other phrases like that.

In many ways, I'm going to miss the military. The friends and relationships I've built in the Army would never have happened on the "outside," nor would I have gained as many skills as I have by just maintaining a job or staying in a parish for years and years. I owe the Army a debt of thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve soldiers and their families. Through stretching my limits I found that I'm pretty good at quite a few things. I honed my leadership and ministry, gifts so I can go "outside" and do some great things for the people of God.

I don't think it is right to say I'm glad to leave because the Army has been "family" to my family and me. My wife, Diana, and I will never forget how the family at Fort

Carson rallied around our family at a very stressful time. We will never forget how the family at Fort Huachuca (and basically around the world) rallied around our family when our son, Justin, almost died in a motorcycle accident. I will never forget the people who humble me by making it a point to tell me that in some way I impacted their life.

But, it is time to move on and that is just as important. We can't be in the Army forever and stand still - moving on is what we do. However, I believe those serving in the military "move on" much better than those outside the military because we know we have made it through a way of life that few choose because of the hardships. I never went to combat, but I've served three tours in Korea (with another aborted early on), gone to National Training Center, Penyon Canyon, tank tables, multiple temporary duties and seen too many moving vans in front of our homes. Not stuff for the weak or common person.

As I leave the Army, I want to thank you, as a fellow warrior and traveler. You reflect the best there is in America - you are what leaders are made of - you are the future of our freedom. I will continue to depend on you - and to pray for you - as you serve. I'm staying in the area - I was called to be the pastor of San Pedro Evangelical Free Church in Sierra Vista. I'm going to have so much fun that I can hardly stand it! I'll be seen just about everywhere and I welcome you to come and visit - either for coffee or for worship. So, thanks for allowing me to serve you. Happy trails! May God bless you always!

Letter to the Editor

The volunteers of Fort Huachuca Fire Department, Station One are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They eat and sleep and basically live at work during their shifts, which I can definitely relate to. But, I don't think that anyone's ever appreciated my long, difficult hours spent on the newspaper as much as I appreciated their long, difficult hours on Friday night.

I was at the Military Intelligence Holiday Ball and having lots of fun, until I went out to my car to drive home. I felt awful and I itched all over. Before I knew it, I couldn't

breathe and I didn't know what to do. I knew I was having an allergic reaction to something, but didn't know what.

Luckily, my editor was with me, and had done an article on the EMTs of Station One.

We showed up at the fire station door step at about 10:30 p.m. and I could barely stand.

The firefighters and paramedics took us inside and calmed me down before putting me in their ambulance and pretty much saving my life.

They administered intravenous lines and medication en route to the hospital.

The doctor at the hospital said if everyone, the paramed-

ics, my editor and I, hadn't reacted quickly, I could have died and that's not a really nice thought.

I'd like this letter to serve as a thank-you to the paramedics who reacted quickly and used their amazing medical skills to help me Friday night and to my editor who kept calm and cool under pressure even though I was breathing heavily and swelling up in the seat next to her.

Thank you all for helping me stay calm and get help just in time.

Pfc. Joy Pariante,
Scout staff writer

Scout on the Street

What is the worst gift you've received during the holidays?



"A jigsaw puzzle. It was one of those ones that were four pieces and I was like 6 years old."

2nd Lt. Ron C. Underwood,
304th Military Intelligence
Battalion



"My worst gift was a belt, some socks and some drawers. That was it. I was 13 years old and that was it."

Michael King,
MILPO human resource
assistant



"If it ever happens it would be being without my children."

Sivli Leutele,
Sales Associate,
Post Exchange



"Nothing. I've gotten nothing before."

Cpl. Patrick Riley,
18th Military Police
Detachment



"When I was 6 years old I got some socks. I didn't want any socks. I wanted a ninja turtle action figure."

Spc. Carey B. Eaglin,
40th Signal Battalion



"A stick of gum from my wife. She asked me what I wanted and I said anything."

Manuel Ramirez,
MILPO human resource
assistant

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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Health care big fort AFAP issue

Conference focuses on 2003's recommendations

SCOUT REPORTS

Personal financial concerns are this year's top priority for Soldiers and their families, according to the votes of 103 delegates to the 2003 Army Family Action Plan Conference. The top five new AFAP issues directly relate to pay benefits and personal expenses.

According to Marty Marks, volunteer chairperson for Fort Huachuca's AFAP, money related issues are always a hot topic. "They never go away, they are always on the table."

However, on Fort Huachuca, the primary concern for AFAP is health care and dental, according to Linda Moseley, Army Community Services representative to AFAP.

Survivor Benefit Plan offset headed the list of new issues—ahead of mortgage relief for mobilized reserve-component service members and death benefits for stillborn infants (tied for second), lodging and subsistence for family members of hospitalized service members and weight allowance for permanent change of station moves.

Delegates worked 24 issues

During the 20th annual Department of the Army AFAP conference Nov. 17-21 in Alexandria, Va., delegates representing every demographic segment of the Army worked in eight groups addressing 24 issues in areas such as family support, force support, logistical support, employment, entitlements and medical/dental.

After the issues were briefed, delegates voted for the top five from the conference and the six most critical active AFAP issues.

Help for surviving spouses of retirees was

the focus of the number one issue: Survivor Benefit Plan offset. Spokesperson Tracey Dougherty, Fort Polk, La., explained that SBP, a voluntary, annuity-type plan paid monthly by military retirees, provides 55 percent of the service member's retirement pay to the surviving spouse when Social Security is not yet payable and a 35 percent benefit when it is (at age 62).

Entitlements II spokesperson Capt. Chris Moore, Fort Jackson, S.C. made impassioned pleas for his work group's issues through compelling storytelling, of which two resulted in a tie for the number two new issue: mortgage relief for mobilized reservists and death benefits for stillborn infants.

Mobilizations affect pay

Moore explained that approximately one-third of mobilized reserve-component service members suffer a significant decrease in pay, which impacts their ability to meet mortgage obligations. The work group made the recommendation that the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act be amended to allow Soldiers to defer the difference between the existing mortgage obligation on the family's primary residence and the Basic Allowance for Housing for the duration of mobilization.

In briefing death benefits for stillborn infants, Moore illustrated the issue with an emotional comparison of two families experiencing the joy of pregnancy and birth but which then undergo the heartbreaking loss of a child. But while a child who dies even shortly after birth is covered under Family Supplemental Group Life Insurance, a stillborn child is not, compounding the Soldier's and family's emotional trauma with financial hardship. The work group recommended that this could be ad-

dedressed by changing the FSGLI to include a death benefit for stillborn infants.

Lodging, subsistence

Dougherty also briefed the number four issue: lodging and subsistence for family members of hospitalized service members. Current policy authorizes transportation costs for two family members when a Soldier is hospitalized. Dougherty explained that Congress has

authorized per diem for families of Soldiers injured in Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, but when a Soldier is seriously ill or injured in circumstances other than war, family members must incur the costs of lodging and food expenses. The work group recommended travel and per diem be provided to families of all Soldiers hospitalized with serious illness or injury.

Permanent change of station

Facilities and Relocation spokesperson Maj. Nora Marcos, Yongsan, Korea, whose husband is an Army lieutenant colonel, briefed the number five issue: weight allowance for Permanent Change of Station moves. Marcos explained that failure to review and adjust weight allowances has resulted in the application of out-of-date weight tables that have not increased since the 1980s, resulting in Soldiers having to dispose of personal items or paying out of pocket to cover moving expenses. The work group recommended weight allowances periodically be reviewed and adjusted based on modern-day households.

Allowing all Soldiers with at least 10 years of service to distribute their Montgomery GI Bill benefits to their dependents was voted the top active issue, followed by in-state college tuition status for military family members, which was the number one 2002 AFAP conference new issue. This would allow for military family members residing in a state on military orders for the last and current duty assignment to be eligible for in-state tuition and to retain in-state tuition status once established.



Courtesy photo

The Army Family Action Plan encourages members of the 'Army family' to help shape the service's future.

See AFAP, Page

'Click It or Ticket': Army enforces s

SCOUT REPORTS

Drivers and passengers who get caught on Army posts not wearing seatbelts during the holiday season can expect harsher penalties, according to officials at the U.S. Army Safety Center.

The Army is aggressively enforcing seatbelt use by joining the nationwide "Click It or Ticket" campaign. Military police will issue tickets to drivers and passengers who are not buckled up. Along with the ticket, offenders at some installations can expect other penalties, such as suspension of their on-post driving privileges.

The "Click It or Ticket" campaign will run from Dec. 21 through Jan. 3 and over all of the 2004 national holiday weekends.

According to Sgt. Stephen Ferree, traffic accident investigations, 18th Military Police Detachment, "The penalty for a driver and passenger caught on post not wearing a seatbelt during the holiday season is a fine of \$10."

The penalty for civilians will be the same, but indi-

vidual units may handle military personnel differently, Ferree added.

"I think the current program is not effective or aggressive enough," Ferree said. "With 'Click it or Ticket,' enforcement measures will be greater and more effective. The fine amount may not be a lot, but the point system and possibility of having driving privileges revoked will be a greater deterrent."

"The Army can and must take positive action to save the lives of our Soldiers and civilian employees," stated a message released to all Army activities Nov. 26 by Director of the Army Staff Lt. Gen. James Lovelace. "We must increase seat belt use both on and off the installation."

"From what my investigators have seen is that those who have been buckled up have less severe injuries than those without seatbelts," Ferree said.

Over the past three years the Army has lost 318 Soldiers in privately owned vehicle accidents, and a signifi-

cant number of those Soldiers were not wearing seatbelts, according to the message.

According to National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration, research has found that lap/shoulder safety belts, when used, reduce the

risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld formed the Defense Safety Oversight

Council early this year. The council has challenged agencies to reduce the number of accidents recorded in 2003. In fiscal year 2005.

Commenting on the challenge, Ferree said, "The Army's seatbelt enforcement policy and safety features on cars, injuries can be reduced, but there will still be accidents. We may have a decrease of accidents one year, but the next may increase. It is too hard to predict."

One way the Army is hoping to decrease its accident numbers is by displaying zero tolerance when people disregard seatbelt laws during holiday weekends.

The MPs on post will be stepping up enforcement during the period of the "Click it or Ticket" holiday period.

"Instead of just warning about seatbelt use, citations will be issued for those offenders," Ferree said. "The level of enforcement will increase; we will proactively pursue seatbelt violations."

U.S. Army Europe has already initiated the program, and



implement campaigns Army wide," stated the message.

Currently Ferree does not know if the MPs will follow the lead of USAREUR and revoke driving privileges. But, he did say, "All citations that are issued are tracked by the post vehicle registration office and points are assessed according to the violation. Once so many points are assessed, driving privileges will be revoked."

One recent example of the direct impact and importance of wearing seatbelts happened Friday, when a Soldier struck the wall surrounding the first guard shack at the East Gate.

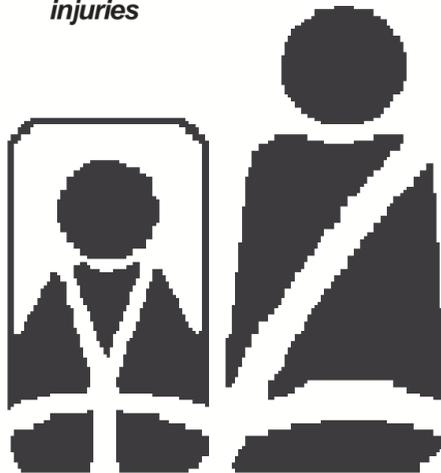
According to Ferree, the Soldier minimized their injuries because they were wearing their seatbelt.

(Editor's note: portions of this article were written by Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs from Army News Service.)

Seat belt usage saves lives

50%
decrease in
moderate to critical
injuries

45%
decrease in
fatalities



Information graphic by Pfc. Joy Pariante

\$10.4M UAV facility expansion underway today

BY PFC. JOY PARIANTE
SCOUT STAFF

The United States Army Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Training Center will begin excavations for their expansion today with a groundbreaking ceremony at Black Tower.

The training center is home to Company E, 305th Military Intelligence Battalion, which trains all Army UAV operators and maintainers, said Mark A. Farrar, director of the UAV training center.

Farrar has been with the UAV program since it began in 1986 with a task force of five noncommissioned officers. The group based the program out of Fort Huachuca and they've been here ever since, Farrar said.

The expansion was proposed after the Army found it necessary to train

UAV operators with both the Shadow and Hunter UAV systems, Farrar said.

"The Army had originally wanted us, pre-Sept. 11 [2001], to phase out the Hunter UAV and to teach the Shadow UAV," Farrar said. "Except after Sept. 11, the Army decided to keep the Hunter and field Shadow."

The Army chose to keep the older Hunter system, for the time being, because of its farther flying capabilities than the newer Shadow system. The Hunter can fly up to 125 km., while the Shadow can only travel 75 km., Farrar said.

However, the Shadow proves to be valuable in the future because of its automated landing capabilities. The Hunter relies on an external pilot to land the plane, and the pilots are few and far between, Farrar said. Fewer than 40 external pilots have successfully

completed training since 1986.

Since the training center will now be instructing students on both systems, they will need more room. And that, Farrar said, was what prompted the training center expansion.

The training center created a presentation to show to Maj. Gen. James "Spider" Marks, commanding general, U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, so he could forward the request through Congress, Farrar said.

The project was given a Congressional Line Add for out of cycle funding for military construction.

Then the \$10.4 million dollar expansion was underway.

More than a year was spent planning the construction with the Sacramento Corps of Engineers. The new addition will include mission planning rooms, simulation bays and a new op-

erations ready building, Farrar said. The expansion will add another 25,000 square feet, bringing the center's space up to 100,000 square feet of training space.

The new training space may prove necessary in the future, as innovations in the UAV world appear every day.

Currently the Army is developing an "extended range, multi-purpose UAV...to exceed Hunter" due out in 2009, Farrar said. Also, the Army is working in conjunction with the Navy on the Firescout, a UAV helicopter.

UAVs, made out of radar deflection composite materials, such as fiberglass and Kevlar, have proven their usefulness in a number of ways, Farrar said. UAVs can be used to take pictures of holes in the ozone, test for nuclear, biological or chemical components in battlefields, shoot, bomb and

serve as a link on communication lines.

The UAVs used for training at Fort Huachuca are primarily for imaging, Farrar said. The UAVs are equipped with video cameras and far looking infrared cameras which pick up heat and record them in 10,000 varying shades of grey.

"We can look through camouflage and find vehicles on the ground and we can see if it's been running or if it is running," Farrar said.

And UAVs are valuable as force amplifiers, said Farrar. It only takes a crew of two operators to control the UAVs, where it would take many more to actually control a manned aircraft.

The expansion groundbreaking ceremony will be at 10 a.m. today at the Black Tower. Special guests in attendance will include Maj. Gen. Marks and Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.).

'Let there be light'



Photos by Spc. Matthew Chlosta

The post holiday tree is lit up during the annual holiday tree lighting ceremony in front of the Main Post Chapel, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. The tree has more than 2,500 lights on it.

BY SPC. MATTHEW
CHLOSTA
SCOUT STAFF

The Main Post Chapel was the scene of the post's annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 4 at 6 p.m.

United States Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca Commanding General, Maj. Gen. James "Spider" Marks, led the festivities.

He began with brief remarks before having all the children come forward and help him throw the switch illuminating the huge tree.

The tree has approximately 2,500 shimmering lights, and is in front of the Main Post Chapel.

As Marks and the chil-

dren shouted, "Let there be light," the display of colorful lights on the big green conifer blazed awake.

The chaplain in charge of the Holiday Tree Lighting, Chaplain (Capt.) Richard Winchester, 86th Signal Battalion, said, "The tree lighting is held the first week of December every year."

Winchester commented on the tree lighting, "It reflects one community of many traditions coming together in support of one another seeking peace in a time of chaos."

After the tree was lit, the crowd of children rushed forward, followed by their parents, to gawk at the twinkling bulbs.

"Religious freedom is one of the things we fight for," Winchester said. "This cer-

emony is not only a celebration of faith, but also for religious freedom."

The celebrants milled around for a few minutes of "shock and awe," then retired inside the Main Post Chapel activity room for a prayer and short sermon by Mike DeRienzo, youth director.

This was followed the story of Hanukkah read by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bonnie Koppell, Army Reserves and the closing comments and prayer by Dan DeVeney, director, religious education.

As a finale to the evening's festivities, the children were given brown paper lunch bags filled with gifts, treats and candy canes.

The parents were able to munch on cookies and drink coffee from tables in the courtyard filled with holiday fare.



Brian Simmons Jr., 2, and many other children had fun hanging ornaments during the holiday tree lighting ceremony in the Main Post Chapel activity room, Dec. 4.

A season for sharing fire safety

Holiday Fire Prevention

BY MARCA DAVIS
FIRE INSPECTOR

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,000 people and cause over \$500 million in damage.

There are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday.

By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

Preventing holiday tree fires

Live Christmas tree can become fully engulfed in flames.

Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house.

A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.

Selecting a holiday tree

Needles on fresh trees should be

green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for your tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree.

Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of your tree

Never put tree branches or

needles in a fireplace or woodburning stove.

When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Holiday lights

Maintain your holiday lights. Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and

excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Don't overload outlets

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.

Do not leave holiday lights on unattended

Holiday decorations

Use only nonflammable decorations.

All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

Never put wrapping paper in a fireplace.

It can throw off dangerous sparks and produce a chemical buildup in the home that could cause an explosion.

Artificial holiday trees

If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Candle care

Avoid using lit candles. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Never put lit candles on a tree. Do not go near a holiday tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times.

Know when and how to call for help.

Remember to practice your home escape plan.



Tax statements available on myPay Saturday



The Defense Finance and Accounting Service recently released the schedule of dates when U.S. military service members, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through myPay (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>).

The myPay Web site provides an easy, secure method for managing pay account information for America's military service members, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilians. Available around the clock, customers can conveniently make changes online, avoiding the hassles of an office visit.

Military members and Department of Defense civilian

employees will once again have access to view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. For assistance, myPay users can call customer support at 1-800-390-2348.

"During 2003, more than 1.2 million users viewed their tax statements on myPay, and we continue to encourage users to view and print their statements online," said Pat Shine, director of DFAS' Military and Civilian Pay Services business line.

"Timely access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information."

Fort doctor helps teens in need with state project

BY KAREN WEIL
SCOUT STAFF

Families with at-risk teenagers have a resource when things get too hectic, said a clinical psychologist at the Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center.

Arizona Project ChalleNge, operated by the Arizona National Guard, is a military-style program for teens ages 16-18, and is free and available to parents who are Arizona residents, said Dr. Samuel R. Caron.

"Our youth are the future of this country," Caron said. "A lot of young people have problems transitioning from childhood to adulthood. Some don't make it. This program helps them make that transition."

The program caters mainly to risk teenagers might include those who have dropped out of high school. In turn, those students may also be dealing with substance abuse or possible gang affiliation.

The program, which runs for 18 months and is located in Queen's Creek, Ariz., emphasizes voluntary community work and education.

Supporters said that teens learn to work as a group, mediation, life and leadership skills, how to manage money, public speaking and how to take orders. Many go on to complete their graduate equivalency diploma, and even college credits and, in the long run, head off to college, the work force or the military.

"The program is incredible," Caron said. "The recidivism rate [for graduates] is reportedly very low."

Although such a program can seem intimidating Caron stressed that Project ChalleNge is voluntary, and a teenager may leave at any time.

Sue Buford, of Scottsdale, is a big fan of Project ChalleNge.

"This program is an absolute miracle," said Buford, president of the Arizona-based Parent's Association, which acts as a support system for parents and students and gives scholarships to several students who finish the program.

"My own son went through it, and they've done such a fantastic job," Buford added. "Parents who come to Project ChalleNge are desperate to help their children."

She said that when her son, before he entered Project ChalleNge, had completed just classes in high school. He left the program with a GED, and a positive attitude change.

"He's bought his own home, and owns his car. He learned that if he worked hard enough, he could do just about anything," Buford said. "I see this with so many who go through the program."

Earlier this year, a parent from the Four Corners area testified before the Arizona State Legislature on how much the program helped his child, "and there wasn't a dry eye in the house," Buford said.

"He was totally amazed by the change of his son. It's just a win-win-win all the way around."

Arizona's Project ChalleNge began in 1993, and receives

both federal and state money. Project ChalleNge's goals, according to a flyer, are "to challenge each participant academically, physically, psychologically and emotionally so that they can function productively in our community."

It is a two-part program, which includes a residential phase and post-residential phase, where students face mental and physical challenges.

At the end of this period, staff members evaluate each student and decide which students meet the ChalleNge requirements and will continue in the program. The students who make the cut continue for a five-month residency, building skills to become successful and then be placed into a post-residential or mentoring, phase, which lasts one year.

Students team up with an adult mentor from their home community. The mentor guides, and helps keep the post-residential students "on track."

Caron was invited to facilitate a workshop for parents with teenagers in Project ChalleNge. Before a teenager graduates from the program, Caron will work with parents to ensure that their home life "isn't the way it was before."

"It also involves [a change in environment and attitude], so they recognize their child has succeeded in something," he added. Caron said he asks parents to list preparation ideas that will make for a smoother transition process.

For more information on Project ChalleNge, call (480) 988-4100, extension 200; or toll free at (800) 296-8110. The Web site for Project ChalleNge, www.azpc.org.

Kazarnowicz.

"They changed their schedules just to be here. They are here to honor Chief Nason," Kazarnowicz added.

"I think it is wonderful that so many people want to be part of his burial," Gena Nason said.

"My reaction was one of disbelief," said Lt. Col. Mark Costello, battalion commander, 306th MI Bn.

"After hearing the name CW2 Chris Nason, I realized this was a member of the 306th family. He gave his life for a cause much greater than he will ever know, a fight for freedom.

"He was always up to accomplishing the mission," Costello said. "He volunteered for this assignment. He made others feel at ease around him. He was known for his care and concern for others."

"It has been said, 'No man has greater love than to lay down his life for his friends,'" Kazarnowicz said.

Nason and Costello e-mailed back and forth, while Nason was stationed in Iraq.

Costello remarked how Nason struggled with the circumstances in Iraq being less than ideal, but told Costello, "I guess I'll just do the best I can."

"He was a simple man," Capt. Thomas Dorrel, company commander, Company A, 306th MI Bn. "He never made things complicated. Our grief will turn to joy as we remember Chris."

"He was a Soldier," Costello said, "a member that will be missed by the 306th family."

"Thank you all for honoring this American Soldier," Costello added.

The service ended with roll call by Sgt. 1st Class Timothy McCarthy, first sergeant, Company A, 306th MI Bn, followed by a firing of volleys by the post Honor Guard and the playing of taps.

Afterwards, Gena Nason spoke to the local press in the Main Post Chapel court-

yard, reflecting on her brother's life, the last time she spoke to him, the last time she saw him and what she will miss most about him.

"The last time I saw him was after our father's funeral," Gena Nason said. Nason told her, "I'll see you soon," when she dropped him off at the airport.

The last time they spoke was after Nason heard about "freak" snowstorms in Los Angeles and he called his sister.

"He called me about a week before he died," Gena Nason said. "He left a message on my phone, 'I love you, see you soon.'"

Gena Nason summed up her brother for the gathered local press by saying, "He was just pure. He was my big brother. We always supported each other. I really need him. I still do. I always will."

Nason was posthumously awarded the Military Intelligence Knowlton Award, the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit by his unit during his funeral in Los Angeles, Friday.



Photo by Elizabeth Harlan

A traditional tribute to a fallen soldier.

AFAP, from Page 3

In-state tuition status

In-state tuition status tied with pay table reform for second in the top six critical active issues, followed by modification of the Permanent Change of Station weight allowance table, retirement Dislocation Allowances and shipment of household goods.

Plan is 'grassroots'

The Army Family Action Plan is a "grassroots organization that starts at every installation all over the world and brings up issues of soldiers and families to the command," said Ransom Schwerzler, Fort Huachuca delegate to the Department of the Army's AFAP conference.

On Fort Huachuca, delegates of every demographic are needed, especially more retirees, National Guard and Reserve members, said Schwerzler. "There's a great emphasis on National Guard and Reserve

members because we have so many mobilized."

Schwerzler and Marks also stressed that rank is not an issue in being an AFAP delegate.

AFAP, which started in Fort Belvoir, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. "It grew out of a need," Schwerzler said. "You can't do something about it until you know there's a problem."

Fort's big issue: health, children

The biggest issue that Fort Huachuca's AFAP is dealing with is health and children, said Moseley.

"Every year, they want Raymond W. Bliss Medical Center to become a hospital again. People want a hospital, people want a physician and pediatrics."

According to Marks, the number one topic in the teenage forum has been the Teen

Center. "It's been two years," said Marks, "but they have been working to open it and Friday's the grand opening."

"You see change," said Marks. "People get involved and stay involved because they see change."

Family Readiness Groups and Morale, Welfare and Recreation teams are involved in AFAP.

About 80 percent of issues are taken care of at the local level, Schwerzler said. Policy and legislative changes go to DA level. More than 80 legislative changes, 140 policy changes and 500 different issues have been solved through AFAP.

The Fort Huachuca Army Family Action Plan is looking for delegates from every demographic. "It's a great experience," Marks said. "You get to talk to and listen to people coming from very different perspectives."

For more information, call ACS at 533-2330. (Editor's note: Victoria Palmer, Army News Service, contributed to this article.)

FOOD, from Page 1

(which includes members of the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve and National Guard) and members of the Retired Reserve who possess a Uniformed Services Identification Card.

— Former reserve-component members eligible for retired pay at age 60 but who have not yet attained the age of 60 and who possess a Department of Defense Civilian Identification Card.

— Dependents of the members described above who have a Uniformed Services Identification Card or who have a distinct identification card used as an authorization card for benefits and privileges administered by the Uniformed Services.

Community Updates

New library hours

Beginning Dec. 28 the library will be open Tuesdays – Fridays, 10:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Range closures

Thursday – AC, AD, AF, AH, AK, AL, AM, AR, AU, AW, T1, T1A, T2, T3

Friday – AD, AF, AH, AK, AL, AR

Saturday – AD, AF, AH, AK, AL, AR

Sunday – AD, AF

Monday – AC, AD, AF, AP, AU, AW, AY, T1, T1A, T2

Tuesday – AD, AF, AM, AP, AU, AW, AY

Wednesday – AD, AF, AP, AU, AW, AY

For more information, call Range Control 533-7095.

Thrift Savings Plan

The Thrift Savings Plan Open Season ends Dec. 31. During the open season, you may begin contributing to TSP or change the amount of your TSP contribution by logging on to <https://www.abc.army.mil>. Do not submit a TSP-1 Form to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center office. It cannot process these forms. To make Interfund changes, use the www.tsp.gov Web site. For further information contact, Eva Dixon at 533-5735 or Kelly Garland at 533-5273, Monday through Friday, between 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. or stop by Civilian Personnel Actions Center.

Child care training

Fort Huachuca Family Child Care is now accepting applications for our January training class. Family members 18 and older interested in earning an extra income by caring for children in their home should plan to attend our next scheduled training.

The training is scheduled to begin Jan. 12. Training is Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The training is free of charge to all interested parties. Class sizes are limited, therefore interested parties are urged to begin the enrollment process as soon as possible.

Prior to attendance in this training, interested personnel should contact the FHFCC Office for an application. For further information, please contact the FHFCC program at 533-2498 or stop by and visit us in Murr Community Center. The FHFCC Office is opened Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Further information may also be obtained from the FCC Director via e-mail at fcc@hua.army.mil.

Recruit the Recruiter

United States Army Recruiting is seeking highly motivated and dedicated noncommissioned officers to assist in providing to the strength of America's Army. Take the challenge and learn how you can become a member of the recruiting team. For more details, visit our Web



site: www.usarec.army.mil/recruiter or DSN 536-0215, 539-0465, 539-0210 or 536-0457.

Warrant Officer Statement

The United States Army is looking for highly motivated soldiers to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in all 45 specialties if you qualify. Soldiers with less than 12 years active federal service are encouraged to apply. For more information, contact the Warrant Officer Recruiting Team at www.usarec.army.mil/warrant or DSN 536-0484, 536-0458, 536-0488, 536-0478, 539-1860 or 536-0271.

Kubs

Volunteer for the Month for October was Master Sgt. Matthew Miller. Miller volunteers for the Boy Scouts, for whom he has volunteered more than 700 hours since 2002.



Office Closures

Public Affairs Office

The Public Affairs Office will be at minimal staffing, to handle emergencies only, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday for an office holiday celebration. If you do need to contact PAO during that time, you can reach us by calling the pager at 452-2040.

Passports

The passport office will be closed on Dec. 19th, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. for the Adjutant General's Organizational Christmas party.

ID cards

The ID Card Section, Bldg 41420, will be closed for the annual holiday gathering on Friday afternoon from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Cochise College

Cochise College offices will close for the holidays Dec. 20 through Jan. 4. Students who wish to register for the spring semester may do so through Dec. 16 or beginning Jan. 5. Spring 2004 classes start Jan. 12.

Volunteering: What do you get out of it?

BY STACI KIEFER AND KIM BRIDGES

SPECIAL TO THE SCOUT

This is the time of year we count our blessings, reflect on all the good things we have in our lives and think of those who are less fortunate.

This is the time of year when we look for ways to reach out to our community and help others.

Fort Huachuca has many opportunities for people interested in reaching out and giving back to the community.

The Installation Volunteer Coordinator can match your time, talents, and interests with an organization or program in need of volunteers.

What's in it for you? Besides the heartfelt satisfaction that you have helped people in your community, there are several volunteer recognition incentives.

Army Community Services offers up to 10 hours a week free childcare for those registered with the Installation Volunteer Service office and who work with any of these ACS programs:

- * Parent-Tot Playgroup
- * Kids on the Block
- * First Steps
- * Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy Program
- * Consumer Affairs and

Financial Assistance Program

* Information, Referral and Follow-up Program

* Installation Volunteer Program

* Employment Readiness Program

* Relocation Assistance Program

* Army Family Team Building

* Army Family Action Plan

There are several other places to volunteer such as the Red Cross, the Scouts, the mayoral program, the Giving Tree, and Youth Services and other programs off-post. A complete list is available at the IVC's office

As a military spouse, it can be difficult to find a new job after every move. Volunteering can give you experience, learn new skills, make new contacts and expand your resume. More and more businesses are looking at volunteer time as valuable experience. You can easily continue these activities when you move to a new post, since these organizations are usually located at each installation.

You set a wonderful example of selfless service for your children and co-workers to witness and model. You can share your experiences and knowledge with the younger generation. It gives you something to do outside the house, help others, make new friends and

give back to the community.

If you are a teenager, volunteering opens several doors for you as well. There are scholarships available for youth volunteers. By contributing your time to different organizations, you might find a career path that you never thought of before, or eliminate one that you later find out you don't want after volunteering. Some colleges are looking at volunteer activities when considering applicants. You can also get a head start on your resume with experience obtained through volunteering.

For military volunteers registered at the IVC, you can earn the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. Permanent party soldiers need to volunteer 150 hours and military students need 100 hours to be eligible for recommendation.

For civilian volunteers, the volunteer program has awards as well. After 100 hours of service, a mug is given. After 250, 500 and 1000 hours a pin is given that states the amount of hours volunteered.

Each month an organization is chosen for Volunteer of the Month. From that organization, a volunteer is randomly chosen from all the volunteers that have registered hours for the month. They are given a trophy and recognized at Round Up the following month.

For the military units, the unit with the highest amount of regis-

tered volunteer hours (weighted by troop strength) is chosen as the Unit of the Quarter. They are given a trophy for that quarter and are recognized at the quarterly awards ceremony.

For each category of volunteer; teenager, spouse, military, civilian and retiree, the one with the most volunteer hours will be chosen as Volunteer of the Year.

There are national level awards given within the military community to our volunteers.

One of these awards is the Emma Marie Baird Award, given to ACS volunteers that contribute outstanding service to the organization. Some criteria for this particular award are contributing a minimum of 3,750 hours to ACS, volunteering at least five years and demonstrating leadership and initiative.

Other awards include, but are not limited to, the Dr. Mary E. Walker Award, Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Award and the President's Youth Service Award, given during the volunteer program's quarterly and annual awards ceremonies.

If you are transferring from another post, we do accept 50 hours of volunteer service to be applied toward service hours at this installation, if documentation is provided.

The Installation Volunteer Coordinator's office is located at Murr Community Center.

Cost Warriors



**Sgt. Darel Eudy,
Range Control**

He repaired and tuned all of our weed whacker and most of our lawn mowers, plus shopped diligently for the best prices on parts. He saved approximately \$10,000, which would have had to be contracted out for the repair and tune-up



**Ken Robinson and
Sgt. Jeff Lacap (Photo
Unavailable)
Public Affairs Office**

Robinson and Lacap have installed an audio editing suite downstairs in PAO. This allows PAO personnel to record radio spots and lets users such as the commanding general and garrison commander record audiopublic service announcements and messages in the PAO studio and provide the message electronically to the radio stations to air. PAO personnel do not have to make weekly trips downtown to record messages and commanders do not have the time. This is a productivity and timesaving initiative which totals to \$3,064.88 a year.



**Martha Aoki
Equal Employment Office**

She suggested that EEO obtain their own checking account to pay for court reporters during the Office of Complaint Investigation hearings. This will allow quicker payment for court reporters. The EEO office is now receiving training on how to issue these checks and reporting purposes.



**Heidi Malarchik
New Beginnings Child
Development Center**

The Child Development Center has changed many of the staff working shifts from six to four hours eliminating the need for a 15-minute break after four hours of work. The staff member taking the break had to be replaced in the room by another staff member to maintain the staff/child ratios. Malarchik initiated shift changes at the center which will amount to a labor cost savings of approximately \$29,000 a year.