

Casualty assistance

Correct information on the Record of Emergency Data form is pivotal when collecting entitlements. - Page 3



Special athletes

Hundreds of volunteers came out to donate their time to support the Special Olympics held Saturday on post. - B1

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Scout reports

e-mail: thescout@hua.army.mil

Road closures

Beginning on March 20, the contractor will be repairing the sewer line on the North side of Mott Circle.

Repairs will be in the back yards of these housing units and will take approximately two weeks.

Residents are urged to keep children and pets out of the construction area. Any disturbed fencing and landscaping will be restored by the contractor.

In the Miles Manor housing area, the contractor will install treated effluent irrigation piping along Cushing Street during the daytime. There will be street closures and re-routing of traffic at the following locations and times:

Jeffords and Cushing Streets - Wednesday; Carter and Cushing Streets - March 25; Smith Avenue and Cushing Street - March 31; North Avenue and Cushing Street - April 2; Squire Avenue and Cushing Street - April 4.

(Depending on progress, these dates may vary by a day ahead or a day after the scheduled times.)

Beginning Monday sewer lines will be repaired along Cushing Street between Arizona Street and the traffic circle.

These repairs will require road closures at Laguardia and Tindell Streets, which will create traffic delays on this section of Cushing Street. If at all possible motorists are urged to avoid this area during the day.

For more information, call Tom Campbell at 533-3472.

Live CG town hall

Tune to Fort Huachuca's Channel 97 on March 25 at 6 p.m. for the live Town Hall Meeting.

Viewers may submit questions to be discussed in advance by fax at 533-1280 and e-mail to PAO-WATCH@hua.army.mil.

INSIDE

Women's History Month celebrated

Women have played an important role in American History. Dating from the Revolutionary War to the present, follow along in the first of a series of articles devoted to the contributions of women in building our nation. Page 5

TRICARE mail order pharmacy now available, in use

On March 1, the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy program went into effect as the prescription mail order pharmacy benefit for Department of Defense Military Health System beneficiaries. The TRICARE pharmacy benefit and co-payments remain the same. Page 9

Uncle Sam doesn't want all of you

Retention changes meant to keep best troops in uniform

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

Fort Huachuca has been a great place for soldiers to reenlist since 1878, but new changes in the Army's retention policy will make staying in uniform more competitive to keep the best troops.

Last month reenlistment options were limited to prevent the Army from exceeding end-strength numbers authorized by Congress.

The Army is authorized 480,000 troops and Congress has mandated that the Army stay within 1 percent of that number according to Master Sgt. Larry Pitts, Post Retention noncommissioned officer in charge.

"The first thing soldiers need to realize is that this is not a draw-down," Pitts said. "It's just that the retention rates are so good now because everybody wants to stay in the Army. Because of the end-strength, Congress has said, 'Somebody has to go.'"

Pitts said retention division at Army G1 level had to come up with a discriminatory measure to eliminate soldiers who weren't of high caliber and dissuade those who no longer wanted to serve.

"We now have a couple things in place where a soldier can be disqualified," Pitts said. "If you have soldiers who are flagged because they have a hard time meeting weight stan-

See REENLIST, Page 8



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Joseph Rodwell III, Company B, 304th Military Intelligence Battalion, repeats his oath of enlistment from Capt. Karl Neal, commander, during his reenlistment ceremony Nov. 19. Changes in the retention policy set by the Department of the Army will put more responsibility on soldiers to remain competitive to reenlist.

Take care of your sight picture



Graphic by Angelica Pequeño

March is National Save Your Vision Month

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

Imagine sitting in a foxhole and aiming at a target downrange, but try as you might, you can't focus on the target. The more you stare, the blurrier the target gets until your total sight picture becomes a blur.

This is what happens when soldiers have difficulty seeing and not taking care of their eyes on a routine basis.

Although the old cliché states, 'your eyes are the window to your soul,' soldiers need to also realize they are also the best 'window to your health.'

March is National Save Your Vision Month and was started in 1927 by members of the American Optometric Association to remind the public about the impor-

importance of vision and professional eye care.

According to Capt. Chris Rockwell, chief of optometry, Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center, comprehensive eye exams are the best way to determine the health of one eye's and vision.

"Your eyesight and eye health deserves to be monitored," Rockwell said. "Keep in mind vision problems aren't always apparent. Regular comprehensive eye exams by an optometrist can help you be certain that your eyes are functioning properly and are healthy."

Rockwell added part of soldier readiness includes making sure those who wear glasses prescriptions are up to date.

To educate and inform soldiers on the benefits of eyecare, *The Scout* is featuring several articles to highlight Save Your Vision Month. See related articles on page 4.

Franks: Forces ready for military action in Iraq

BY KATHLEEN RHEM
AMERICAN FORCES
PRESS SERVICE

The U.S. Army general who would lead any troops into battle in Iraq said last week that America's forces in the region are trained, ready and capable.

"If the president of the United States decides to undertake military operations ... there is no doubt we will prevail," said Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of the U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Fla. on March 5.

Franks and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld were quick to caution during a Pentagon media briefing that President Bush has not yet decided to use military force to disarm Iraq.

The media have speculated that the United States is not ready to go to war in Iraq because Turkey has been reluctant to allow U.S. troops to be based in that country.

Turkey shares its southern border with Iraq, so a cooperative Turkey could provide a valuable route into northern

Iraq.

Rumsfeld refused to criticize the NATO ally, saying Turkey is a democracy and entitled to make its own decisions.

"What they may ultimately decide remains to be seen," he said. "In any event, ... we have 'work-arounds.'"

Franks assured that the U.S. military could respond to any mission required of it — even if Turkey doesn't allow the staging of several thousand troops on its soil.

If military action is called for, Franks said, "we are in a position to provide a military option."

Rumsfeld also thanked the government of Pakistan for its continued assistance in the war on terrorism, particularly the capture of senior al Qaeda terrorist leader Khalid Shaikh Mohammed.

"Any who suggest that a determination to disarm Iraq would distract us from the global war on terror would be wrong," Rumsfeld said.

He said that just because the war on terrorism isn't in the headlines doesn't mean it's not a priority.

Academy U! NCOA, Cochise College team up

NCO ACADEMY RELEASE

The Noncommissioned Officers Academy began working in partnership with Cochise College to offer college credit to every NCO who attends either the Basic or Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course at Fort Huachuca.

"The end result could be that a soldier receives his or her Associates degree in Intelligence Operations," Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Soliz, BNCOC first sergeant. "And it won't cost an arm and a leg or any

extra time to do it."

Eight BNCOC students have graduated in the past two weeks and received up to 23 college credits, simply by completing the military training necessary to become a staff sergeant.

Soliz said so far, more than 60 students in the senior BNCOC class have signed up with Cochise College, while a new BNCOC class started this week with 76 NCOs who will have the opportunity to take advantage of the college credit offer.

The amount of credit re-

ceived for a BNCOC student will depend on the NCO's military occupational specialty. For example, the 97B (counterintelligence) NCO who graduates BNCOC will earn 22 credits in such areas as psychology, English and computer information systems.

"Currently, the training development section of the NCO Academy is working with representatives of Cochise College to determine just how many credits will be awarded for each and every MOS in

See CREDIT, Page 7



DoD photo by Helene C. Stikkel

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld (left) and Commander, Central Command Gen. Tommy Franks, U.S. Army, listen to a question at the close of a Pentagon press conference on March 5. Rumsfeld and Franks gave reporters an operational update and fielded questions on the possible conflict in Iraq.



MARTY MARKS,
WIFE,

MAJ. GEN. JAMES A. "SPIDER" MARKS,
POST COMMANDING GENERAL

Do you have your Spouse Readiness Packet prepared and accessible? Do your children know what to do in case of an emergency if you are sick or injured? Is your power of attorney for medical care and temporary guardianship for your children ready and easily accessed should someone else have to care for them? Are you registered with the Child Development Center in case an emergency arises and you need unexpected child care? Do you have your emergency phone numbers card containing the numbers of the Military Police, Family Assistance Center, Red Cross, etc., with you at all times?

All these questions are not meant to overwhelm; they are questions that should be answered with a resounding "Yes!"

Planning ahead can help you avoid unforeseen problems in the future while your spouse is deployed. In the last few months, we have seen several examples of Fort Huachuca families where the single parent, due to deployment, has become either too sick to care for his or her children or has been injured and is unable to care for them. Each of us must have a plan in writing that states clearly what the action plan is for our children should we become incapacitated. Your rear detachment commander should have a copy of your parent care plan for the duration of your spouse's deployment.

Pam Allen at Family Services, Army Community Services, 533-5919, is working with our chaplains, social services, family advocacy, medical personnel, and the Child and Youth Services directorate to formalize the Spouse Readiness Packet. This packet is to be completed by you, the stay behind spouse and parent to ensure you are ready for any unforeseen emergencies including those requiring your children to have temporary care. Be proactive and put your own readiness packet together now.

The Judge Advocate General will assist you in preparing powers of attorney for medical care, temporary guardianship and financial matters.

One of our very real scenarios involved a mom, functioning as a single parent, who was injured in a car accident in Tucson. As a result of the accident, she was taken to the hospital in Tucson while her children were in school on Ft. Huachuca. She had no plan prepared in case of such an emergency. No designated emergency care giver had been named, no money set aside should she have to buy a plane ticket for a family member to fly in

and help, no phone numbers with her that would facilitate someone calling the rear detachment or an emergency child care provider.

Don't let this happen to your family, prepare for any unforeseen emergencies that would affect your family. Make sure your children and your neighbors/friends are well informed about what would happen in an emergency such as the one described. If we plan ahead, we can prepare in a matter-of-fact manner, without alarming our children, our family and our friends. Remember, the key word with Army families is "readiness". Are you ready for any situation? Your Family Readiness Group and our Family Services program at ACS is ready to assist you in any way they can to prepare for the unforeseen. Look for information from them in the near future about building your Spouse Readiness Packet.

In the meantime, keep these phone number's handy:

Family Assistance Center 24 hour,
after-hours emergency number answered
by ACS:(520) 678-9697
Staff Duty on call, 24 hours:
11th Signal Brigade: 533-2160/1339/8599
11th Military Intelligence Brigade:
533-6838
Nurses' Hotline: 1 (888) 874-4111
Red Cross for funding emergency travel:
1(877) 272-7337

Some upcoming events planned with our families of deployed soldiers in mind are:

Crab Night at the Thunderbird DFAC on March 19 from 5-7 p.m., \$3.25 per person, open to everyone.

Messages for deployed soldiers will be videotaped at Youth Services on April 19 from 1-5 p.m. AAFES will provide the tapes; you provide the mailing! Groups such as FRG's can reserve a half hour time slots for taping. Richard Brown at Youth Services is the point of contact. He can be reached at 533-3027.

"Spring Youth Fest" is coming up on April 26 from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. at Geronimo Field, next to Youth Services - fun for the whole family. FRG's and Parent Teacher Organization's are welcome to operate fundraising booths.

Marty Johnston is your point of contact. She can be reached at 533- 8437.

Remember to send any questions, comments or inspirations to: commanders-hotline@hua.army.mil, subject: Yellow Ribbon Corner.

Until next time, keep smiling, and hang in there.



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

Friends and neighbors, sometimes you receive a "gem" in all the e-mail traffic. I thought I'd share one of my favorites with you this week:

The Mule in a Well

A parable is told of a farmer who owned an old mule.

The mule fell into the farmer's well. The farmer heard the mule "braying," or whatever mules do when they fall into wells.

After carefully assessing the situation, the farmer sympathized with the mule, but decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth the trouble of saving. Instead he called his neighbors together and told them what had happened...and enlisted them to help haul dirt to bury the old mule in the well and put him out of his misery.

Initially, the old mule was hysterical. But as the farmer and his neighbors continued shoveling and the dirt hit his back...a thought struck him. It suddenly dawned on him that every time a shovel load of dirt landed on his back. He should shake it off and step up. This he did blow after blow. "Shake it off and step up...shake it off and step up, shake it off and step up." he repeated to encourage himself. No matter how painful the blows, or distressing the situation seemed the old mule fought "panic" and just kept right on shkaing it off and stepping up.

It was not long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, stepped triumphantly over the wall of that well. What seemed like it would bury him, actually blessed him...all because of the manner in which he handled his adversity. That's life. If we face our problems, respond to them positively, and refuse to give in to panic, bitterness or self-pity. The adversities that come along to bury us usually have within them the potential to benefit and bless us.

So, my friends, don't let a little (or a lot) of dirt get you down because within your reach is freedom from your problems. Keep calm, ask for help and move on with your life. Like the old mule in the story, whatever is trying to "bury" you, shake it off - and step up.

You can contact Chaplain (Maj.) Dennis R. Nitschke by emailing Dennis.Nitschke@netcom.army.mil.

Women's History Month Commentary

The women of America shaped our past

BY NELL DRUMHELLER
SCOUT STAFF

Let's face it, we are all different. We all have our strengths and weaknesses, your joys may seem insignificant to your neighbor, and my delight in spending the afternoon in a jumping castle with my granddaughter might be pure torture for someone else. Because of these differences, because we are from different cultures, religions, nations, and backgrounds America is diverse and great. In appreciation of these differences our leaders in local, state and federal positions have enacted days, weeks and months to recognize our uniqueness.

March is National Women's History Month. American women throughout history have contributed to the growth and strength of our nation, but have not always been recognized for their contributions.

When I was in high school in the 70's women's history was not a part of the curriculum, or even a topic of conversation. We learned of the accomplishments of our forefathers regularly, but almost nothing of our foremothers.

I was raised in the Northwest, so the saga

of Lewis and Clark was a big part of our history. Sacajawea was discussed for her courageous part of the success of America discovering and mapping the westward passage. I knew who Amelia Earhart was, but didn't learn any details of her life and of course there was Betsy Ross. That's about it. When I look back on those days I realize how docile and accepting I was of my teachers as they taught me the male version of our history.

Now, nearly 30 years later I am a sponge, soaking in the bits and pieces of data I can find on the women who settled, led and shaped America.

According to information I found on the National Women's History Project Website, I wasn't alone in my frustration and lack of knowledge when it came to women's history.

To address this situation, the Education Task force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration for 1978. March 8th, International Women's Day, was selected as the focal point to ensure that the events and celebration would include a

See **WOMEN**, Page 5

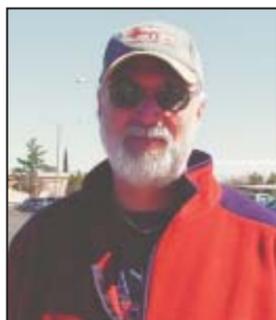
Scout on the Street

How does nutrition fit into your health plan?



It's something I don't have to think about because nutrition has always been a part of my life.

Maj. Mitch Brooks,
U.S. Air Force 79th Rescue Squadron



I have to watch my fat intake because I suffer from high cholesterol.

Paul Dunn,
Family member



We've scaled back a lot of our junk food. We have kids and we ensure we have a balanced everytime we eat.

Sgt. Adrian Allen,
Headquarters and Headquarters Company
40th Signal Battalion



I have to watch what I eat. I count the calories and see how many I use and try to balance them.

Master Sgt. Matthew Pederson,
355th Wing Safety,
Davis Monthan Air Force Base



Being a drill sergeant I have learned the importance of nutrition for myself and my students. It is important for everyday life as well as the physical fitness test.

Sgt. 1st Class Vincent S. Shepherd,
Drill Sergeant,
Company A, 309th Military Intelligence Battalion



Being fit is a big part of being in the military. Nutrition is important to stay in shape and pass the physical fitness test. Also, I'm pregnant and know how important proper nutrition is for myself and child.

Pvt. Nikki Brinkman,
11th Signal Brigade

Photos by Nell Drumheller

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

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Current data helps ease grief, ensure entitlements

BY NELL DRUMHELLER
SCOUT STAFF

"Now that I've had to go through the drill of trying to find the families," Mike Barber, casualty officer at Fort Huachuca said of making contact with a deceased soldier's next of kin, "I know how important proper information is."

A military retiree and now a civilian working for the Army, Barber can speak with authority on what it's like to be in uniform and have to complete the myriad of forms required by the Department of Defense.

"When I was in the Army I didn't pay attention to it," he said, speaking about the next of kin information on his DD Form 93.

Now, however, he is adamant about how important correct information on the Record of Emergency Data form is.

That document, along with the Servicemember's Group Life Insurance form, the SGLV-8286, are the two most important papers in a soldier's file, according to Barber.

A soldier completes both forms when they enter the Army, reviews them at each change of station and is expected to update them when there is a change in beneficiaries or next of kin.

"If a soldier dies, we will notify their primary next of kin within four hours," Barber said. An Army member, in uniform, notifies the family member in person. But that is only possible if the DD Form 93 is complete and current.

"Having the paperwork done right lets us help the family members," he added. If the primary next of kin, spouse, child, or parent is unreachable, then the next step is to contact the secondary next of kin, which could be sib-



File photo

Family members who lose a spouse need to be familiar with current next-of-kin information and forms required by the Department of Defense.

lings, or adoptive parents.

Having paper work properly completed not only allows the casualty officer to provide the deceased loved ones with prompt notification, but is also necessary for the lump sum gratuitous payment beneficiaries of a member on active duty receive.

According to Barber, the death gratuity, a one-time payment of \$6,000, is given only to a next of kin. It will not be paid to a non-relative, such as a boy or girl friend. However, the Servicemember's Group Life Insurance will be paid to whoever is listed as the beneficiary.

"We've had a situation where a soldier put his

girlfriend on his insurance, and then years later married someone else but did not think to update the beneficiary on the policy," Barber said.

When the soldier died, the insurance money went to his ex-girlfriend instead of his widow and children.

Within 24 hours of notification of death, the casualty officer is required to contact the deceased next of kin and make arrangements to sit down with them and explain their benefits and options.

The death of a loved one is a difficult time; according to Barber having your records in order can ease the grief considerably.



Tax relief for home sales

LEGAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE RELEASE

For many soldiers, buying a home is a momentous event. Nevertheless, with soldiers often moving from one place to another due to changes in duty stations, the sale of a home is a common occurrence.

Under certain circumstances, you can exclude the gain of the sale of this home from your federal income tax return. These rules apply retroactively to home sales occurring on or after May 7, 1997, creating the potential for significant tax savings not only for this tax year, but for past years as well.

For sales on or after May 7, 1997, a taxpayer need not report the gain of such sale if it is under \$250,000 (or \$500,000 if married filing jointly) and the home was the taxpayer's principal residence.

The general rule for determining whether the house in question is a principal residence is whether you have both owned and occupied the house for at least two years within a five-year time period before selling.

The periods of ownership and occupancy normally are concurrent, but they are separate requirements and do not have to overlap.

The two-year occupancy need not be continuous, but the amount of time in the house must add up to two years within the five-year period. Short temporary absences, such as vacation, TDY, or deployments, do not count against your period of occupancy.

Generally, this exclusion can only be used once every two years, due to the two-year ownership and occupancy requirements.

However, if you do not meet those requirements, you may still be able to exclude a portion of the gain on the sale of your home.

If you are forced to sell your home due to a change in place of employment, such as a PCS, health reasons or unforeseen circumstances before the two-year ownership and occupancy test is satisfied, your excludable gain is prorated.

For example, if you owned and occupied your home for 18 months, then sold it due to a PCS, you would be able to exclude your gain up to 75 percent of the maximum excludable amount.

If you have any questions as to whether or not you qualify for this exclusion, call the Fort Huachuca Tax Center at 533-1314.

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

To avoid any complication with electronic returns the last day to e-file is April 7, although the Tax Center will be open to do hard copy filing until April 15. The Tax Center is located in De Rosy Cabell Hall, Building 22324 on Christy Avenue.

'Smart card' to be new standard ID

SCOUT REPORTS

Fort Huachuca is streamlining along with the rest of the uniformed services to become a better, more efficient force.

Soon the Identification Card Section will begin issuing Common Access Cards, the new standard ID card, to all active duty personnel in each military department, selected reserve, Department of Defense civilian employees, and eligible contractors.

The CAC, known as the "smart card," will replace the current ID card and will have the same functions, give the same value and provide the same benefits.

The CAC will be issued to Fort Huachuca populace through rotating unit scheduling.

Pam Singer, director, Military Personnel Services, will release unit appointment times toward the beginning of the year to help issuance move along smoothly.

"We're being flexible. Originally we heard it takes 15 minutes per card, but there have been some horror stories that it can take up to 30 minutes per card," Singer said. "We're going to begin with 20-minute scheduling per card. If things seem to be going well, we might push up the scheduling. We'll just have to play it by ear."

Singer stresses that appointment times are crucial in getting the CAC out to everyone. She asks that appointments be kept on time.

For the appointment, existing military and civilian employees need to bring a picture ID, work e-mail address, and a four-digit personal identification number, said Singer. New employees and eligible contractors should also bring an additional picture ID and a completed and signed DD Form 1172-2.

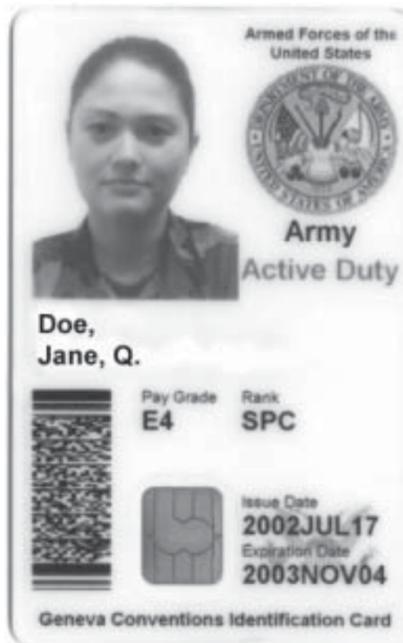
The CAC contains an integrated circuit chip, bar codes, and a magnetic stripe. Also, the signature block was eliminated from the card.

The card will contain information on blood type, demographic data, duty status, rank, date of birth, medical benefits, and organ donor status, just to name a few. Personnel and medical records will not be carried on the CAC.

In the future the CAC will also be used for physical access to buildings and controlled spaces, and access to computer networks and systems. Additional component-specific uses may be added as well.

The current ID cards, DD Forms 1173, will be valid until they are either phased out or expire. Family members will not be issued the CAC at any time.

For more information call the ID Card Section at 533-3267.



(Editor's note - Article reprinted from Nov. 14, 2002 edition of the Fort Huachuca Scout and written by Sgt. Jessica Inigo. Not all soldiers have the CAC, but the card is a valid identification for those personnel who possess it. Read the Scout as more information on CAC issue scheduling is released.)

Electronic Proving Ground recognizes top engineers of the year for '02

Douglas, Kipple honored during National Engineers week last month

BY TYWANNA SPARKS

ELECTRONIC PROVING GROUND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Everyday across America millions of workers punch in at the time clock to perform their jobs at the workplace. Some do their jobs in anonymity not seeking reward or recognition, but for two U.S. Army Electronic Proving Ground employees, praise has come their way.

Johnny Douglas, chief, Blacktail Facility, and Allison Kipple, electromagnetic engineer, were awarded the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Fort Huachuca Section 6, Engineer of the Year Award Feb. 20 during National Engineers Week.

Douglas, never imagined receiving an award for the work he does on a daily basis and Kipple, never thought she would receive recognition after being with the organization for only a year, but their branch chief, Robert Weeks Radio Frequency Test and Mea-



Allison Kipple, electromagnetic engineer, has only been with Electronic Proving Ground for one year, but has already made an impact on the organization.

surement Branch, thought they were worthy of the IEEE award.

The purpose of the IEEE is to promote excellence and professionalism in Electrical, Electronics and Computer Engineering and to share advances and innovations with each other and with the world, explained Charles Rutherford, chairman, IEEE Fort Huachuca Section 6.

"We ask for nominations and we go to supervisors of various organizations on post or in town," he said. "We were looking for an engineer that has done outstanding work this past year."

When Weeks was faced with the task of making nominations for the award, it was an easy decision to make, he explained.

"It's always important to be recognized and it's also important to recognize everyone for the things that they do. When an opportunity like this comes up, you have to take the people who jumped out at you the most over the last year. Allison and Johnny fit that description," he said.

Although they were nominated for very different reasons, they both made a great impact on the organization, Weeks explained.

"Johnny Douglas is doing the job of about three people," he said. "He's been running the test facility at Blacktail Canyon which is pretty close to a full time job. He's been acting as a project officer because he lacks government staff there, and most notably, he's EPG's lead on a major project, issued by the Army Test and Evaluation commander.

"He's gone way above and beyond and he's put in lots and lots of extra hours, weekends and TDY."

Weeks mentioned there are several employees that put in extra hours at EPG, but Douglas has done it for an entire year.

While Douglas did the work of three individuals, Kipple has hit the ground running since her arrival to the organization.

"She's been with us a little over a year. She's a part time

employee and she's finishing her Ph.D. in electromagnetic engineering at the University of Arizona," Weeks said. "She is here three days a week and has taken over a job as a test officer; a job that takes several years to train other people to do.

"She's a high performer, a go-getter and of course, technically superb."

Kipple has also conducted studies for EPG and has done work on modeling and applications packages which have more than accomplished the mission at EPG, and according to Weeks, "She has expanded our capabilities."

Both Douglas and Kipple were surprised they were named Engineer of the Year, but were also both humbled by the experience.

"Well I was surprised because with what I do, I'm not out to try and get any awards, I'm just trying to get the job done," Douglas said.

"I've only been here one year but it was nice of them to think of me. I enjoy working here, it's a great place to work," Kipple said.



Photos by Tywanne Sparks

Johnny Douglas, chief, Blacktail Facility, was surprised for getting an award for what he described as simply coming to work every day.

National Save Your Vision Month

Eye exams help curb blindness from diabetes

SPECIAL TO THE SCOUT

Thousands of people will lose their sight from diabetic eye disease this year. A simple eye examination could reduce that number by half, according to Capt. Chris Rockwell, chief of optometry, Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center.

Diabetic eye disease is a group of eye disorders that afflicts people with diabetes. These eye diseases are: diabetic retinopathy, which occurs when the tiny blood vessels that nourish the retina weaken, break down or become blocked; cataract, the clouding of the eye's natural lens; and glaucoma, which develops when a fluid buildup within the eye damages the optic nerve.

"According to Prevent Blindness America, approximately 14 million people in the U.S. have diabetes," Rockwell said. "Unfortunately, many of them will develop one or more of these eye disorders."

Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center is urging people with diabetes to visit their eye doctor for a comprehensive eye exam that includes dilating the pupil.

This procedure enables the eye doctor to check the back of the eye for damage caused by eye disease. According to PBA, nearly half of all blindness can be prevented.

"Diabetic eye disease offers no symptoms during the early stages," Rockwell said. "By the time people notice changes in their eyesight, a significant portion of vision may have already been lost permanently."

As part of Diabetic Eye Disease Month, PBA is offering free information about diabetic eye disease. People can obtain the materials by calling PBA at 1-800-331-2020.



U.S. Army photo

'The eyes are more than the window to the soul, they're also the window to good health'

Eye disease facing baby boomers looms closer

SPECIAL TO THE SCOUT

As the turn of the century approaches, 76 million baby boomers born between 1946 to 1961 face the prospect of age-related macular degeneration, a potentially blinding eye disease affecting many older Americans.

Already, more than 13 million Americans, age 40 and older show signs of the disease, according to Prevent Blindness America. While signs of AMD begin to appear among some individuals age 40 and older, the disease most often strikes those over 60.

AMD is an eye disease that attacks a small but very important part of the eye called the macula, which is responsible for the most sensitive central part of vision. People affected by the disease often have trouble with many daily tasks such as reading and driving.

There are two forms of AMD that affect older Americans. In "dry" AMD, the tissues in the macula break down or become thin. While there is currently no effective treatment for this common form of AMD, vision loss tends to be moderate and slow.

In "wet" AMD, the more severe form of the disease, tiny blood vessels begin to grow and proliferate under the macula. These weak vessels often break and leak blood and fluid into the surrounding tissue, damaging vision. In approximately 20 percent of the cases diagnosed early, laser treatment can prevent further loss of vision from "wet" AMD.

Research centers across the country are experimenting with additional different methods to stop the growth of these blood vessels, such as delicate surgery to remove the new blood vessels or drugs to prevent their growth.

Very preliminary research suggests that a diet rich in antioxidants found in dark green, leafy vegetables may lower a



U.S. Army photo

Army Dr. (Lt. Col.) Kraig S. Bower examines Sgt. 1st Class Carla Stewart's eyes during a follow-up visit after laser surgery. "It's outstanding," Stewart said after having LASIK.

person's risk of developing "wet" AMD.

"It may be many years before such measures can be proven effective in preventing AMD," said Capt. Chris Rockwell, chief of optometry, Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center. "In the meantime, people with AMD can also be helped to use their remaining vision more effectively with the use of low-vision aids and effective training. It's also important for older Americans to learn all they can about eye disorders affecting their age group."

During the February observance of AMD Awareness Month, people can obtain free information about this eye disease and how to live with AMD by calling PBA at 1-800-331-2020.

Sports eye safety a must for adults, children

SPECIAL TO THE SCOUT

According to Prevent Blindness America, more than 40,000 eye injuries occur annually in sports and recreational activities. More than half of these injuries are to children, yet only a handful of sports organizations mandate the use of eye and face protection for young athletes.

"Children are often injured in sports because they are not as fast, as accurate, or as experienced as their adult counterparts," said Capt. Chris Rockwell, chief of optometry, Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center. "When youngsters are under pressure to react quickly, they may throw wild, dodge the wrong way, or kick in the wrong direction."

Sports eye injuries may include bruises around the eyes, shattered facial bones, retinal detachment, and even permanent vision loss.

Not surprisingly, basketball is now the leading cause of sports eye injuries for both children and adults. Baseball follows at a close second. Swimming pool sports are ranked third.

"Within the next decade, the number of sports eye injuries could increase because more Americans are moving toward a more active lifestyle," Rockwell said. "And as Americans become more active, sports eye injuries will continue to climb if people do not take the necessary steps to protect themselves."

Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center advises parents and coaches to encourage their children's coaches to require eye and face protection by their youngsters.

Safety tips to protect children from eye injury

SPECIAL TO THE SCOUT

to play with hairspray, brushes, and combs.

Each year, nearly 250,000 Americans are treated in hospital emergency rooms for product-related eye injuries. Of these, nearly 60 percent occur in or around the home. In fact, household products cause more than 32,000 serious eye injuries each year.

Adults who wear eye protection reinforce the lessons they teach their children. Prevent Blindness America offers the following home safety tips to keep children safe and prevent accidents from occurring.

Bathroom and kitchen

- Teach children not to run around with forks or knives.
- Place detergents and other cleaning supplies behind locked doors or away from children's reach.
- Set a good example by wearing eye protection when cleaning the oven or using cleaning solutions that are ammonia based.
- Encourage children not to run around with their toothbrushes.

Bedroom

- Make sure clothes hangers stay in the closet.
- Don't allow children to play with small or pointy toys in bed.
- Young children should not be allowed

Play area

- Teach children to put toys away after playtime.
- Keep toys intended for older children away from younger ones.
- Remind children not to throw toys or objects at each other.
- Repair or throw away toys with broken parts.

Yard and garden

- Keep children away from the area when using lawn equipment, such as lawn mowers, or weed and hedge trimmers.
- Inspect the lawn for rocks, sticks, or other debris before mowing.
- Always wear safety eyewear when using lawn equipment, fertilizers, and pesticides.

Workshop

- Place nails, glue, screwdrivers, or other tools away from a child's reach.
- Keep young children away from the area where power tools are being used.
- Set a good example by always wearing eye protection when working around equipment.
- Encourage others who enter the workshop to wear eye protection.

Cigarette, cigars can cause serious damage to children's eyes through unsafe childplay

SPECIAL TO THE SCOUT

Here's a warning smokers might not know about. Smoking products, such as cigarettes or cigars, can cause serious damage to children's eyes, according to Capt. Chris Rockwell, chief of optometry, Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center.

These products rank as the second leading cause of injury to children under five years of age and affect more than 3,000 youngsters annually.

Eye injuries associated with cigarettes or other smoking products occur because of children's natural curiosity.

Youngsters often grab ashtrays placed above their eye level. In many instances, the smoking materials in these ashtrays are still burning.

According to Prevent Blindness America, most accidents that occur among young children are associated with common products found in the home, such as clothes hangers, toys, and cleaning solutions.

"The home can be a mine field for many young children," Rockwell said. "Potential hazards can lurk where people least expect them. That's why it's so important for parents to child proof their house."

Eye injuries for children age five and older have also been linked with school supplies, out-

door activities, and guns.

"Older children tend to be more active and more 'inventive,'" Rockwell said. "They find many more uses for pens and pencils than writing."

According to Prevent Blindness America, more than 83,000 eye injuries strike children each year. Approximately 90 percent could be prevented through safety practices and use of proper eye protection.

PBA recommends that parents child proof their home by going through each area of the house at youngster's eye level.

"They'll find the danger zones more easily this way," Rockwell said. Older kids can be taught and encouraged to follow simple eye safety rules. Safety rules that children help create have a greater chance of being followed.

"Eye safety begins with the grownups," Rockwell added. "Parents, teachers, and other adults need to teach our young that when it comes to their eyesight, they need to play it safe."

During the September observance of Children's Eye Health and Safety Month, Prevent Blindness America is distributing a free eye safety checklist that parents can use at home.

People can obtain the eye safety checklist by calling Prevent Blindness America at 1-800-331-2020.

America's history: women who helped build our nation

COMPILED BY NELL DRUMHELLER
SCOUT STAFF

March is National Women's History month. In respect to the contributions made by women in America the follow experts offer a small sampling of the many women who have shaped our past and our future.

The birth of a nation

Nancy Morgan Hart

As befits a legend, Nancy Morgan Hart is said to be related to pioneer Daniel Boone,



Revolutionary War General Daniel Morgan, and by marriage to Senators Henry Clay and Thomas Hart Benton. As also befits a legend, her physical appearance was both dramatic and imposing: red hair, freckles, six feet tall, cross-eyed, and scars of small pox evident on her face. Nephew Thomas Hart Benton described her as muscular and erect at sixty. She was a hard swearer and a sharpshooter who could handle a rifle as well as any man. Hart was a loyal patriot who often disguised herself as a man to spy on the British. One day, six British soldiers paid a visit to her home. They insisted that she cook them a meal. Noticing that the men had set their guns to the side, she discreetly removed them from the room, one by one. When the British soldiers realized what Nancy had done they jumped to their feet. She raised a gun to her shoulder and warned them to stand

back. When one of the soldiers charged at her, Nancy shot and killed him. Nancy's husband and neighbors quickly arrived and hung the other men. The neighboring Cherokees called her "Wahatchee" or War Woman, and named a creek after her.

Lydia Darragh

When the British occupied Philadelphia on September 26, 1777, Lydia Darragh was a housewife living on Second Street. Shortly after the British arrived, Major John Andre knocked on Darragh's door and ordered her to move out of the house so that British officers could use it. However, she was allowed to stay in her home as she had two small children requiring care and no place to go. She had to keep a room available for British officers to hold meetings.

So it was, on the night of December 2 that her house served as a conference center for top British officers. The officers listened attentively as Howe fine-tuned his plans for a major offensive against Whitemarsh on the 4th. General Howe, acting on information from his spies, heard that the Americans were moving to a new camp. He wanted to catch the Americans out in the open.

Also listening attentively was Darragh, in a linen closet abutting the meeting room. Among those at Whitemarsh was Darragh's oldest son, Charles, who was serving with the 2nd Pennsylvania regiment. As the meeting was breaking up, Darragh sneaked back to bed and feigned sleep.

Darragh had two days to warn the Americans. She concocted a ruse. She went to British headquarters and requested a pass to go and get flour at a mill in Frankford. The request itself was not that unusual, as the poor were frequently given passes to purchase goods in the countryside. Darragh set out early on the morning of the 3rd carrying an empty flour sack. She walked several miles through the snow before heading toward the Rising Sun Tavern, which was north of the city. Shortly before she reached the tavern she ran into Thomas Craig, a member of the Pennsylvania militia and acquaintance of her son Charles. She passed on her news of the British plans to Craig, who promised he would take it to General

Washington himself.

It was obvious to the British that the Americans had been well prepared for their attack and further knew when they were coming. Somebody had leaked word and the British were looking for the source. Several suspects were questioned including Darragh.

On December 9th, Andre, the spy master who would recruit Benedict Arnold to the British side, knocked on Darragh's door once more. He asked Darragh if anyone had been up on the night of the 2nd. She told Andre that everyone had been asleep early. Andre believed her. He left saying, "One thing is certain the enemy had notice of our coming, were prepared for us, and we marched back like a parcel of fools. The walls must have ears."

Deborah Samson

Schoolmarm Deborah Samson was never mentioned among the beauties of her day; but Private Robert Shurtliff was always recalled in glowing terms as being one of the toughest, strongest, and most patriotic soldiers in the Massachusetts Fourth Regiment at the 1782 and 1783 campfires and taprooms of what is now known as West Point, New York. Shurtliff's physical endurance was legendary.

What no one suspected for quite a while was that Deborah and Robert were one and the same person.

When Deborah was not quite six her father died, her mother could not provide for her children and it became necessary for her to "bound out" some of them. Deborah was taken to the daughterless home of a Middleborough farmer, Deacon Jeremiah Thomas, the proud father of no less than ten sons.

There Deborah spent about ten years, growing to be almost five foot eight inches tall, almost a foot taller than the average woman of her day, and taller than the average man. Hours of strenuous farm work broadened her shoulders and hardened her muscles. Being an intelligent, spirited person she obtained an education by having the Thomas boys review their



studies with her each evening after they returned from school.

When Deborah was eighteen, she got a job as a schoolteacher and supplemented her income by spinning and weaving at various homes and at Sproats Tavern, a gathering place for the men who discussed the battles of the Revolutionary War.

Patriotism and the love of adventure finally got the best of the tall schoolmarm, and on Monday, May 20, 1782, a young man identified as Robert Shurtliff stated he wanted to join the army for the balance of the war. His signature was bold, legible and still exists in Massachusetts's records.

Although the last major battle of the Revolution had been fought the previous October when Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, determined Tories who refused to give up were still savagely fighting desperate guerilla warfare in some areas.

One of the Tory units was a feared and specially trained band led by Colonel James DeLancy, and several merciless hand-to-hand struggles took place. In these wild skirmishes Shurtliff demonstrated his courage, strength, loyalty and fighting skill over and over again. Shurtliff suffered a forehead wound from a saber slash and then was felled by a musket ball in the upper left front thigh. At a field hospital a French doctor bound up the head wound, but was not advised of the thigh injury. When the doctor began to attend another wounded soldier, Deborah limped out of the hospital, and later, with iron nerve, using her knife, managed to extract the musket ball in her thigh.

Eventually it was discovered that Robert Shurtliff was in reality a woman, and because of 'his' heroic services, an Honorable Discharge was awarded to Robert Shurtliff on October 23, 1783.

Deborah journeyed to the Stoughton home of her aunt, Alice Waters, the wife of farmer Zebulon Waters where she met her future husband farmer Benjamin Gannett.

On January 19, 1792, the legislature granted Deborah thirty-four pounds with interest from October 23, 1783, the document bearing a well-known signature, John Hancock, who was the Governor at the time.

Editor's note: The history of women in America will continue next week.

WOMEN from page 2

multicultural perspective, recognize the connection between and among all women, and celebrate the important role of women in the paid labor force.

In 1979, Molly Murphy MacGregor, then the Director of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women, was invited to a Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College to discuss the importance of using Women's History Week as a focal celebration to recognize and celebrate women's historic

accomplishments.

The conference was for leaders of women's and girl's organizations throughout the country. The participants decided unanimously to promote the idea of a Women's History Week within their own organizations, school districts, and states. They also agreed to work toward securing an official Congressional Resolution that would declare the week of March 8th as "National Women's History Week."

In March of 1980, President Jimmy Carter

issued a Presidential Message to the American people, encouraging the recognition and celebration of women's historic accomplishments during the week of March 8th, Women's History Week. By the end of 1980, then Representative Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) had co-sponsored the first Joint Congressional Resolution that declared the week of March 8th in 1981 as National Women's History Week.

In 1987, at the request of women's organi-

zations, museums, libraries, youth leaders, and educators throughout the country, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the national celebrations to the entire month of March. A National Women's History Month Resolution was quickly approved with strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.

Since 1992, a Presidential Proclamation has carried the directive for what is now a major national and international celebration.



Congratulations to the Smith Middle School pupils who placed in the Computer Olympics competition sponsored by Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association and held at Cochise College on Friday. The Smith Middle School students had an impressive showing earning eight Gold medals, five Silver medals, and two Bronze medals in the different events in which they competed.

Various middle schools, with over 100 pupils from across Cochise County, participated in the Olympics. Pupils from Smith placed in the following events:

Computer Keyboarding:	Samantha Ottinger Shawn O'Keefe Zoe Bieranowski Christina Epley	1st place 2nd place 3rd place 6th place
Word Processing Application:	Emily Mohoroski Jocelyn Willis Samantha Ottinger	1st place 3rd place 5th place
Advanced Word Processing App.:	Amber Watkins	1st place
Powerpoint:	Samantha Cobb Jessica Creager	2nd place 5th place
Spreadsheets Application:	Kate Kosowiec	4th place
Desktop Publishing Application:	Shawn O'Keefe Myriah Clay Amber Watkins	2nd place 4th place 6th place
Home Page Design:	Kate Kosowiec	1st place
Word Processing Theory:	Shaun Huntley Emily Mohoroski Myriah Clay	1st place 2nd place 4th place
Applications Theory:	Shawn O'Keefe	1st place
Desktop Publishing Theory:	Myriah Clay	1st place
Powerpoint Theory:	Zoe Bieranowski Amber Watkins Emily Mohoroski	2nd place 5th place 6th place
Internet Theory:	Samantha Cobb Christina Epley	1st place 6th place

Kubs Korner



photo by Angela Moncur

Curtin is Civilian of the Month

Theresa Curtin, a Child and Youth Services classroom leader, was the Civilian of the Month for February.

According to her supervisor, Heidi Malarchik, Curtin is an exceptional classroom leader. "She knows the children as unique individuals and spends time cultivating one-on-one relationships with each child," she said.

Other nominees for this award were: Carol Ramage (112th Military Intelligence Brigade), Fidencio Salinas (Directorate of Information Management), Berta Bustamante (Medical Activity Command), Sandra Perry (Directorate of Civilian Activities, Business Operations), Elizabeth Conley (Communications Electronic Command Software Engineering Center), Evelyn Cole (111th MI Bde.), Paul Godlewski (304th MI Bn.), Ruben Zuniga (Futures Development and Integration Center), Stephen McFarland (306th MI Bn.), and Randall Gale (304th MI Bn.).

Curtin will have the use of a car for one month from Lawley Chevrolet; gift certificates from Sierra Vista merchants; a desk plaque from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center; an Morale, Welfare and Recreation certificate for lunch or dinner from an

Fort Huachuca establishment; a wall plaque from the Sierra Vista Chamber of Commerce; and her name, as Civilian of the Month, posted at the Main Gate.

Nominate your deserving employee for Fort Huachuca Civilian of the Month. Per FH Regulation 690-5, all permanent appropriated fund and nonappropriated fund employees are eligible with the exception of employees officially assigned as supervisors (GS-10 and above) and senior executive service personnel. Contact CPAC, 533-5282, for further information.

Volunteers named

Soldiers who qualified for the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal in February are:

- Sgt. 1st Class Patricia Tucker - Company A, 304th Military Intelligence Battalion
- 1st Lt. Deborah DeRienzo - Company A, 305th MI Bn.
- Capt. Thomas Williams - Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 86th Signal Bn.
- Sgt. Heath Gunter - United States Army Garrison
- Pfc. William Chan - Company E, 305th MI Bn.
- Pfc. Rene McRae - Company A, 305th MI Bn.
- Sgt. 1st Class Toni Santoro - HHC, 111th MI Brigade
- 1st Sgt. David Sargent - Company A, 309th MI Bn.

VIP Volunteer for February is Mary Owen, coordinator for the Army Community Services Playgroup.

Pet of the Week

My name is Max. I am a black domestic long hair 1-year-old kitty. I have already been neutered and am up to date on my vaccines. I love kids and know how to use my litter box. I would love to be a part of your family!! My adoption fee is only \$42.

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.



Community Updates

Applications accepted for Spouses Club activity

The Fort Huachuca Officer and Civilian Spouses Club is accepting applications for its spring disbursements. Applications may be obtained by calling Ellen Grombacher at 458-1880 or Jim Coffman at 459-6262. Applications will be accepted through tomorrow.

Women's History Month luncheon set for March 26

The Fort Huachuca Women's History Month Luncheon will be held March 26 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at La Hacienda. This year's theme is: "Women Pioneering the Future." Command Sergeant Major Maureen N. Johnson, of the 112th Military Intelligence Brigade, will be the guest speaker.

Tickets are \$8.25 and will not be sold at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets contact your unit Equal Opportunity representative or the Military Equal Opportunity Office at 533-1717/5305/3696.

Troy State representatives will visit education center

Representatives of Troy State University will be available for academic counseling at the Fort Huachuca Education Center, Building 52104 on March 26, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

TSU offers three graduate business programs at Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson: Master of Science in Management, Master of Science in Human Resources Management, and Executive Master of Business Administration. In addition, they have graduate and undergraduate degree programs online through their Distance Learning Program.

Visit the TSU Website at www.tsufl.edu for additional information and meet with their representatives on March 26. Call Pat Puhlman, 533-3010, for more information.

German exhibit at U. of A. celebrates relationship with U.S.

Evolution of a Friendship, an exhibition celebrating German-American solidarity, will make its only Arizona appearance at the University of Arizona South, Sierra Vista, through Wednesday.

The exhibition, sponsored by the Military History Research Institute of Potsdam, Germany, was devised to express Germany's gratitude for U.S. support of German unification. It has been traveling the U.S. for more than a year.

According to Lt. Col. Helmut Schaefer, Germany Army Liaison Officer at Fort Huachuca, "the exhibition commemorates the close relations that exist between both of our countries. The people of Germany know how much their country owes to America and to the American people."

The exhibit documents the common past shared by Germans and Americans, from 1507 to the present day. It will be on display in the

Learning Resource Center at the University of Arizona South, 1140 N. Colombo. The hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, Saturday and Sunday hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

March child care training scheduled for families

Fort Huachuca Family Child Care is now accepting applications for their March Training Class. Family members, 18 years and older who would like to earn extra money by taking care of kids should attend. Class sizes are limited. For more information, call 533-2494.

Range Closures

Range closures for today through Wednesday are:

Today – AA, AC, AD, AM, AU, T1, T1A, T2, T3

Friday – AA, AC, AD, AH, AK, AL, AR, AU, T1, T1A, T2, T3

Saturday – AC, AD, AL, AM, AU, T1, T1A, T2, T3

Sunday – AL, AM, AQ, AU

Monday – AH, AL, AM, AN, AR, AU, T1, T1A, T2, T3

Tuesday – AH, AL, AN, AR, AU, T1, T1A, T2, T3

Wednesday – AH, AL, AM, AN, AR, AU, T1, T1A, T2, T3

For more information on range closures contact Range Control 533-7095.

Saint Patrick's Day Dinner

The Ladies Auxiliary to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10342 in Huachuca City will hold a Saint Patrick's Day dinner Monday from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Dinner will include corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, rye bread and coffee or ice tea. All for only \$5. Dessert will be available for an additional cost.

For more information call Stephanie Morris, President, Ladies Auxiliary 10342 at 533-3352.

National Prayer Breakfast set

Retired Maj. Gen. John Thomas, former commanding general of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, will speak at the National Prayer Breakfast set for 6 a.m. March 25, at the La Hacienda Club.

The event follows the tradition of the National Prayer Breakfast started by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1953. The program gives people an opportunity, regardless of religious affiliation, to come together in the spirit of peace.

Tickets are available for \$3 from unit chaplains, the Installation Staff Chaplains Office, unit first sergeants and command sergeants major.

For more information about the event, call the Installation Staff Chaplain Office at 533-4748.

Scholarship applications

The Fort Huachuca Education Association

is now accepting scholarship applications from graduating seniors at Buena High School. Those seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence and have a financial need may apply at the Buena High School counseling office. Deadline for applying is April 4.

For further information call Jan Camps, Scholarship Chairperson, at 459-8986.

AOC luncheon

The Cochise Chapter, Association of Old Crows will host its monthly luncheon March 20, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., in the Geronimo Room of the La Hacienda Club. The public is invited to attend.

Col. Kevin Peterson, Training Doctrine's system manager, is the guest speaker. The topic is the Prophet Program Update. RSVP to Cochise Chapter website at <http://www.cochisecrows.org/>, Bill Meyer 458-7070, or Gene Frantz at 533-2331. The cost is \$8.50.

Retiree Activity Day

Fort Huachuca will host the Retiree Activity Day March 21 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Murr Community Center Ballroom. John Radke (Col., U.S. Army ret.), of the Chief of Army Retirement Services, Personnel Command will be the keynote speaker.

No reservations are necessary. For more information, call Tammara Foss at 533-5065 or Ted Hartman at 533-5733.

Osteoporosis volunteer training

A two day training on Osteoporosis that will include topics such as calcium, non-dairy calcium, supplements, weight bearing exercises, screening and treatment-will be presented for a registration fee of \$50, by Evelyn B. Markee, Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences, The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension.

The training is March 21 from 1-4:30 p.m. and March 22 from 8:30 a.m.-4:00p.m. at the University of Arizona South Campus. Everyone is welcome. For more information and a registration packet, call the Cooperative Extension office at 458-8278, extension 2178.

Fort Huachuca Lent/Holy Week Services

Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service

April 20, 6 a.m.

Main Post Chapel

Keynote Speaker: Father Greg Adolf, Saint Andrews Catholic Church

Catholic - Lent

Service	Day	Time	Location
Stations of the Cross	Every Thursday	5 p.m.	Main Post Chapel
"Poor Man's Meal"	Every Wednesday	Noon	Main Post Chapel
"Poor Man's Meal"	Every Thursday	6 p.m.	Main Post Chapel
Penitential Service	April 11	7 p.m.	Main Post Chapel

Catholic - Holy Week

Palm Sunday Mass	April 13	9:30 a.m.	Main Post Chapel
Palm Sunday Mass	April 13	11:30 a.m.	Kino Chapel
Holy Thursday Mass	April 17	7 p.m.	Main Post Chapel
Good Friday - Stations of the Cross	April 18	11:30 a.m.	Main Post Chapel
Service of the Cross	April 18	3 p.m.	Main Post Chapel
Holy Saturday Mass	April 19	7 p.m.	Main Post Chapel
Easter Sunday Mass	April 20	9:30 a.m.	Main Post Chapel
Easter Sunday Mass	April 20	11:30 a.m.	Kino Chapel

Protestant - Holy Week

Palm Sunday	April 13	9:20 a.m.	Kino Chapel
Palm Sunday	April 13	9:30 a.m.	Prosser Village
Palm Sunday	April 13	11 a.m.	Main Post Chapel
Maundy Thursday	April 7	7 p.m.	Kino Chapel
Good Friday	April 18	11:30 a.m.	Kino Chapel
Easter Service	April 20	9:20 a.m.	Kino Chapel
Easter Service	April 20	9:30 a.m.	Prosser Village
Easter Service	April 20	11 a.m.	Main Post Chapel

Jewish

Shabbat Service	Every Friday	7 p.m.	Main Post Chapel
Passover Seder	April 16	6:30 p.m.	Main Post Chapel

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Community Events Calendar

To add items to the calendar, call the Central Community Coordinator at 533-6870.

Ed SciEffEl in'S TerriTorial dayS at TombSTonE.

Hose cart races and Fireman's ball Saturday and mining competition, prospecting displays and parade Sunday.

Spring Break March 17-21

for all Accommodation and Sierra Vista schools

16

* The Wild Bunch at the OK Corral in Tombstone at 2 p.m.

17

Happy Saint Patrick's Day
* San Pedro Kiwanis meets at noon in the Crystal Room of Thunder Mountain Inn. Contact Nilda Townsend at 458-9647.
* Thunder Mountain Bridge Club meets at 12:30 p.m. at Thunder Mountain Inn. Call Dianna Smith at 432-3883.

18

* Rickety Rockettes meets at OYCC at 10 a.m.
* National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC.
* Cochise Toastmasters meets at Landmark Café from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call Toni Reeves at 538-7502.
* Cochise Chordsmen (SPERSQA) meets at SV Methodist Church at 7 p.m.
* Society for Creative Anachronism meets at OYCC at 7 p.m.

19

* La Salida Del Sol Lions meet at Thunder Mountain Inn at 6:45 a.m. Call Lee at 378-1399 for details.
* SV Chess Club meets at Peter Piper Pizza at 7 p.m.

20

* SV Optimist Club meets at 6:30 a.m. at the Landmark Café. Call Robert Atkinson at 459-2711
* National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC. Call 378-6605 for details.
* Huachuca Area Retired Teachers Association meets at OYCC at 10 a.m.
* Early Release for Fort Huachuca Schools. Myer, Kindergarten @ 1:20 p.m. Grades 4 & 5 @ 1:30p.m. Johnston, grades 1 - 3 @ 1:15 p.m. and Smith, Grades 6-8 @ 1:40 p.m.

21

* Rollin' Thunder Skate Park 5 - 9 p.m. for teens only. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public.
* Rollerskating at Youth Services, Bldg. 49013 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 533-3205 for details.

22

* SV Parks & Leisure presents a Spring Craft Bazaar from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Ethel Berger Center. Call 417-6980 for details.
* Youth Services at Bldg. 49013 has open recreation from 1 - 8 p.m. Call 533-3205 for info.
* Rollin' Thunder Skate Park is open 1 - 6 p.m. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public.
* 20th Annual Mr. & Mrs. Copper Classic Bodybuilding & Fitness Championship at Buena H.S. Performing Arts Center beginning at 6 p.m. Call 378-2461 for details.

23

* The Vigilantes at the Helderado Set in Tombstone at 1 p.m.

24

* Newcomer's Orientation at MCC at 9 a.m.
* San Pedro Kiwanis meets at noon in the Crystal Room of Thunder Mountain Inn. Contact Nilda Townsend at 458-9647.
* Thunder Mountain Bridge Club meets at 12:30 p.m. at Thunder Mountain Inn. Call Dianna Smith at 432-3883.

25

* National Prayer Breakfast at La Hacienda at 6 a.m. Cost is \$3
* Rickety Rockettes meets at OYCC at 10 a.m.
* National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC.
* CG's Town Hall from 5 - 6 p.m. on the CAC Channel 97
* Cochise Toastmasters meets at Landmark Café from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call Toni Reeves at 538-7502.
* Cochise Chordsmen (SPERSQA) meets at SV Methodist Church at 7 p.m.
* Society for Creative Anachronism meets at OYCC at 7 p.m.

26

* La Salida Del Sol Lions meet at Thunder Mountain Inn at 6:45 a.m. Call Lee at 378-1399 for details.
* SV Chess Club meets at Peter Piper Pizza at 7 p.m.
* The Art Discovery Series presents the "Glenn Miller Orchestra" at the Buena H.S. Performing Arts Center beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets in advance at \$15 and \$18 at the door. Children are \$5 at all times. Call 458-7922 for info.

27

* SV Optimist Club meets at 6:30 a.m. at the Landmark Café. Call Robert Atkinson at 459-2711
* National Association of Retired Employees Chapter 1400 meets at 11 a.m. at OYCC. Call 378-6605 for details.
* Huachuca Area Retired Teachers Association meets at OYCC at 10 a.m.
* Early Release for Fort Huachuca Schools. Myer, Kindergarten @ 1:20 p.m. Grades 4 & 5 @ 1:30p.m. Johnston, grades 1 - 3 @ 1:15 p.m. and Smith, Grades 6-8 @ 1:40 p.m.

28

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* Rollin' Thunder Skate Park is open 1 - 6 p.m. Call 533-3205 for information. Open to the public.
* Huachuca Astronomy Club Public Star Party at the Junk Bond Observatory in Hereford at 7 p.m. Call 366-5788 for directions

MCC = Murr Community Center

MPC = Main Post Chapel

OYCC = Oscar Yrun Community Center

Army Family Team Building classes and information at Murr Community Center, 533-3686 or 533-2330

Graphic by Angelica Pequeño



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY
IN A WORLD FULL OF 3 LEAF CLOVERS,
YOU'RE A FOUR

History of a shamrock

The first reference to the Shamrock in written English dates back from 1571; in written Irish, as a "seamrog" from 1707. Referred as a badge to be worn on the lapel on the saint's feast day, it can be traced for the first time as late as 1681.

As a symbol of Ireland it has long been integrated into the symbol of the United Kingdom, along with the Rose, the Thistle and the Leek of England, Scotland and Wales. So today, on St. Patrick's Day, a member of the British Royal Family presents Shamrock to the Irish Guards regiment of the British Army.

The magic shamrock

Three is Ireland's magic number. Numbers played an important role in Celtic symbolism. Three was the most sacred and magical number. It multiplies to nine, which is sacred to Brigit. Three may have signified totality: past, present and future or behind, before and here or sky, earth and underworld. Everything good in Ireland comes in threes. The rhythm of story telling in the Irish tradition is based on threefold repetition. This achieves both intensification and exaggeration. Three accomplishments well regarded in Ireland: a clever verse, music on the harp, and the art of shaving faces.

The Leprechaun

The Leprechaun is an Irish fairy. He looks like a small, old man (about 2 feet tall), often dressed like a shoemaker, with a cocked hat and a leather apron.

According to legend, leprechauns are aloof and unfriendly, live alone, and pass the time making shoes. They also possess a hidden pot of gold. Treasure hunters can often track down a leprechaun by the sound of his shoemaker's hammer. If caught, he can be forced (with the threat of bodily violence) to reveal the whereabouts of his treasure, but the captor must keep their eyes on him every second. If the captor's eyes leave the leprechaun (and he often tricks them into looking away), he vanishes and all hopes of finding the treasure are lost.

Editor's note: information derived from www.theholidayspot.com.

Fort Huachuca wildlife and you: answers to FAQ's

ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL
RESOURCES DIVISION,
DIRECTORATE OF INSTALLATION SUPPORT
RELEASE

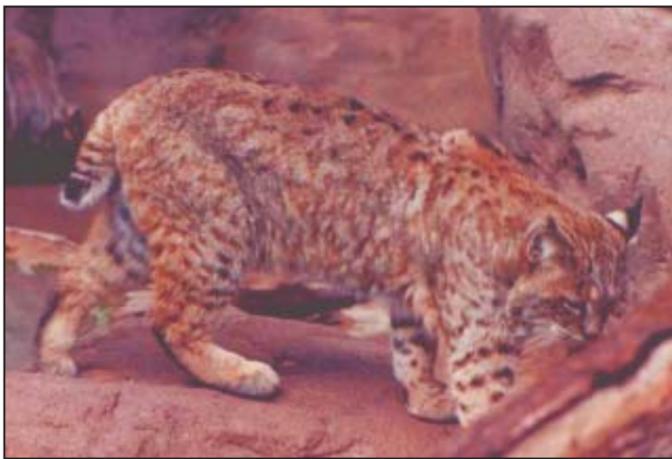
The Environmental and Natural Resources Division receives calls daily from soldiers, civilians, and family members asking for help concerning wildlife coming into contact with them at home and at work. For the past few years winter rains have been sparse, and therefore water and food sources for wildlife in the Huachuca Mountains and grasslands have been severely reduced. As a result we can expect to see increased wildlife and human encounters within the cantonment areas and specifically the Bonnie Blink area due to its close proximity to the mountains. The purpose of this article is to answer some of the more commonly asked questions about urban and wilderness wildlife situations that occur at Fort Huachuca.

Question: I've got deer, javelina, rabbits, and coyotes coming into my yard all the time and eating my flowers, shrubs, or vegetable garden, what can I do?

Answer: In desert environments animals often have a tough time finding sources of food and water and are constantly competing with each other for what nature provides. When people come along and build communities in wildlife habitat we often provide these animals with an easy source of food and water which is not natural to the environment. So our presence is the problem and at least partially the solution. Don't leave open sources of food and water out in your yard or around the workplace. If you have pets, bring their water and food dish indoors at night. Also, empty your bird feeder at night as this is a good source for attracting bats and other animals. If you're into landscaping your yard ask your sales person at the local garden shop about plants that will not be attractive to wildlife as a source of food.

There are alternatives to those plants that you may be more familiar with for yard decoration. Erecting a physical barrier around the plants that you wish to protect is also a good idea. The key is to keep your yard free of litter and sources

of food. Above all, don't leave your trash out overnight (bears and other wildlife will love you for it) but rather place it out on the street the morning of pick-up. These steps may not eliminate the problem in one day but once the animals find out that the "free meal program" is over, they will likely go elsewhere.



DIS photo

Question: A bird, a bat, or a snake has entered my quarters, how do I get it out?

Answer: Birds and bats usually aren't a problem, just find something to wave at them and guide them to an open doorway or window. The trick is to figure out how they got indoors in the first place. Check your quarters in detail and if you find an opening 1/2 inch or larger submit a work order if you aren't able to close the opening yourself. You should also be very cautious of a bat found on the ground (alive or dead) as this could indicate that the bat is rabid. Rather than attempting to dispose of the bat yourself call ENRD (538-0492 or 533-1867) or the Military Police Desk, 533-3000. If someone has had physical contact with the bat inform medical personnel as soon as you can. Do not touch a live or dead bat!

Snakes can be a little trickier to handle. Again, unless you have a concern that the snake may be poisonous get a stick or a branch and gently nudge or pick up the snake and move it outdoors. The snake will be more than grateful for your assistance. After removing the snake wash your hands thoroughly with a disinfectant. If you have a concern that the snake may be venomous call either the MP desk or the ENRD immediately. Do not

attempt to approach the snake yourself if you have any concern for your safety. If you're finding mouse droppings or other signs of rodent activity around your quarters or place of work set traps and get rid of them. Again, it's a question of food and the mice are the likely cause for attracting snakes.

Question: What do I do if I'm bitten by a scorpion or a snake, or some other "critter" that got me when I wasn't looking?

Answer: Easy answer, if you're bitten by something, and you see what bit you, try your best to remember what it looks like. Knowing what type of snake, scorpion, or spider will assist the doctor greatly in treating you. Clean the wound with anti-septic and wrap with a loose, clean bandage and seek medical help immediately. Do not cut the wound and try to suck out the poison, this will only cause infection and make matters worse.

Question: These birds are building their nests outside of my quarters and causing me to lose sleep and their droppings are making a mess, what can I do?

Answer: Call the ENRD and we'll come out and make a determination concerning nest removal. Do not take matters into your own hands and remove the nest, eggs, or harass the bird. Many birds and their nests are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and therefore can not be tampered with until the chicks have left the nest. Violations of the MBTA can result in fines and/or imprisonment. If the nest and birds are protected the nesting period is usually no more than a few weeks and after the young have left the nest ENRD personnel can remove it.

Fort Huachuca is a great place to live and work and one of the greatest benefits of being here is the opportunity to experience the great diversity of wildlife. Your children have the benefit to learn about wildlife not just in books or television, but in their own front yards. Additionally, we have an opportunity to experience many diverse environments from desert scrub to evergreen forests here on Fort Huachuca. In doing so, there are a few things that should be understood while recreating outdoors, which when followed, will ensure an enjoyable and safe experience.

TRICARE mail order pharmacy in effect, benefits remain intact

TRICARE NEWS RELEASE

As of March 1, the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy program replaced the National Mail Order Pharmacy program as the prescription mail order pharmacy benefit for Department of Defense Military Health System beneficiaries.

The TRICARE pharmacy benefit and co-payments remain the same — only the program name and benefit manager have changed.

Express Scripts Inc., a leading benefit prescription manager in the United States, is the new TMOP benefit manager.

To be eligible for the new pharmacy benefit, the sponsor and family member must both be enrolled and eligible in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

Members of the National Guard and Reserve and their family members are also eligible for TMOP if the sponsor is on federal (Title 10 or Title 32) active duty orders for more than 30 days and their DEERS information is up-to-date.

TRICARE eligibility for sponsors and family members is effective on the date of activation on the sponsors' orders.

"Under TRICARE, beneficiaries have three options for filling their prescriptions. They can use a military treatment facility, a TRICARE retail network pharmacy, or TMOP," said Army Col. William Davies, director, DoD Pharmacy programs.

Prescription medications filled under TMOP cost \$3 for a 90-day supply for generic medications, and \$9 for a 90-day supply for most brand-name medications. Prescriptions filled using a retail network pharmacy cost \$3 for a 30-day generic supply and \$9 for a 30-day supply for most brand-name medications.

"We want beneficiaries who have long-term medication needs to consider using the mail order program. It provides up to a 90-day supply of most medications for a single co-payment, whereas they only receive a 30-day supply for a single co-payment in the retail network pharmacy system," Davies said.

Before a prescription can be filled, each beneficiary must complete a one-time Express Scripts Registration Form and return it to Express Scripts for processing.

The registration form is available online at

www.express-scripts.com, or may be picked up at any military treatment facility or regional TRICARE Service Center.

The TMOP registration form, new prescription and payment (by credit card, check or money order) should be returned to the address provided on the registration form.

The beneficiary's name; the sponsor's Social Security number, address, and telephone number; and the provider's name, address and telephone should be clearly written on each prescription submitted.

Express Scripts can mail prescriptions to any U. S. postal address or APO/FPO address (except a private foreign address) overseas.

Sponsors and family members assigned to an embassy without an APO/FPO address must use their official Washington, D.C., embassy address to receive prescription medications.

Prescriptions for beneficiaries residing overseas must be prescribed by providers who are licensed to practice in the U. S.

Deliveries for locations within the U. S. require approximately 5 to 7 days to process. Additional time may be required for prescription

medications delivered overseas.

Beneficiaries covered by a pharmacy benefit under other health insurance may only use TMOP if their OHI does not cover the medication they need, or if the pharmacy benefit under the OHI plan has been exhausted.

If the medication required is covered under TMOP, Express Scripts will fill the prescription as long as the beneficiary has no other pharmacy benefit available or until the beneficiary's pharmacy benefit is renewed under the OHI.

Beneficiaries may check the status of their new or refill prescription orders anytime at www.express-scripts.com or by calling toll free, (866) DoD-TMOP (866) 363-8667.

Active duty sponsors may verify or update DEERS information for themselves or their family members by contacting or visiting their local military identification card issuing facility.

Sponsors may locate the nearest military personnel office or ID card facility on the DEERS Web site at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs1/ to verify DEERS eligibility. Sponsors may also verify DEERS eligibility by calling DEERS toll free at (800)-538-9552.

CREDIT from Page 1

BNCOC," Soliz said.

Sixty-seven ANCO students will graduate today with 19 college credits from Cochise College.

The next ANCO class starts their training on April 1, and up to 96 senior NCOs could sign up for the college credit.

All NCOs who complete both phases of ANCO training at Fort Huachuca will earn 19 credits, eight in Phase 1 and 11 in Phase 2. Credit is earned in subject areas such as physical fitness, communications and business management.

"Non-MI soldiers who will attend only our 12-day Stand Alone Common Core, or Phase 1, of a two-phase course (the second phase is branch specific) will also qualify to receive college credit," Soliz added. "Students who complete Phase 1 will earn eight college credits if they sign up for the program."

Students pay only a \$35 application fee to Cochise College to take part in this pro-

gram. There will be no other costs associated, such as buying books or paying lab fees.

Once a soldier has earned at least 16 credit hours, he or she has met the residency requirements for Cochise College.

"The soldier can then work with the college to develop their degree plan, and that can be from anywhere in the world, thanks to the Internet," Soliz said.

The new venture between the NCOA and Cochise College took effect on March 4, and accordingly to Soliz, "Unfortunately, it does not have a grandfather clause."

Cochise College recently started working with units such as the 309th Military Intelligence Battalion to give college credit to initial entry soldier trainees for the training they receive in Advanced Individual Training upon graduation.

In theory, an MI soldier could attend AIT, BNCOC and ANCO and eventually end up with over 60 college credits.

"Many soldiers complain that they can't find



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Donald Sparks

Students attending the Noncommissioned Officers Academy, pictured left, are eligible to receive college credit towards a degree from Cochise College as part of a new partnership between the two schools. Basic NCO course students can receive up to 23 credits, and Advanced NCO course students can receive up to 19 credits, with a \$35 application fee.

time to attend college because their unit operational tempo is such that they're often times in the field or deployed," Soliz said. "Some complain that even though they may receive full tuition assistance, they still can't afford to buy books or pay other expenses associated with

obtaining a college degree.

"Well, Fort Huachuca and Cochise College are doing something to help them overcome those frustrations with a plan to offer credit to soldiers who must be here anyway. It is definitely a win-win situation for the soldier."

REENLIST from Page 1

dards, failing PT standards or receives action under UCMJ [Uniformed Code of Military Justice], then it's going to play a part when they're up for reenlistment."

Pitts mentioned unlike in the past, if a soldier failed his PT test during the reenlistment window, but later retested and passed, all he needed was a waiver from his immediate chain of command to reenlist.

However, under the new policy, the soldier is automatically ineligible to reenlist unless he gets a waiver from the first general officer in his chain of command.

"Again, there has to be some kind of discriminating factor. We have a lot of soldiers who want to reenlist," Pitts said. "Waivers should be only submitted for exceptional and meritorious cases, which means that soldiers must have done something to justify the waiver and have done something to set them apart from everybody else."

Career counselors have to be the honest broker for the needs of the Army and Pitts said standards are written in black and white for soldiers.

"A lot of the responsibility ultimately falls upon the soldier," Pitts said. "Also it falls upon the soldier's leadership and first-line supervisors when they're doing their counseling to let the soldiers know, 'this is what you need to do to stay competitive.'"

Soldiers should compete in soldier and NCO of the month boards, go to college to build their civilian education, and exceed course standards at Noncommissioned Officer Education schools.

Another incentive that has been cut is the Selective Reenlistment Bonuses, which are monetary incentives given to soldiers in jobs that are short and have inadequate retention levels.

"All soldiers like to get the bonuses," Pitts said. "I think in the short term by losing bonuses, it's not hurting Fort Huachuca at this time. But later on if the bonuses don't go back up, it could affect us down the line."

He mentioned Military Intelligence soldiers are very attractive and marketable to civilian companies outside the gate, so the bonuses are attractive in keeping them in uniform.

Another popular option, overseas and state-side assignment of choice, has been affected under the new guidelines.



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Brian Brewer, Company B, 304th Military Intelligence Battalion, repeats his oath of enlistment from Capt. Karl Neal, commander, during his reenlistment ceremony. For mid-term soldiers such as Brewer, the retention policy affected reenlistment options such as bonuses and station of choice. Korea is the only overseas choice now.

Korea is the only option mid-term soldiers serving on a second or subsequent enlistment period will have if they want to reenlist for an overseas assignment.

Pitts understands many soldiers reenlist to try to be closer to home, but said the needs of the Army is the first priority when assigning soldiers to duty stations.

"The majority of soldiers don't want to go to Korea," Pitts said. "I was briefed that in order to get one soldier to report to Korea, a branch manager has to put eight soldiers on orders because of deferments or declination of assignment."

"Even though we try to reenlist soldiers for the option of their choice, it also has to be consistent with what the Army needs. Soldiers have to realize reenlistment is a privilege, it's not a right."

There are alternatives for soldiers Pitts said if they want to reenlist.

"For mid-career soldiers who want to reenlist, the best thing to do is reenlist for stabili-

zation. The options and qualifications can change as they've done before and as it has this time," Pitts said. "Something else to consider is to reenlist to go to Korea with a follow-on assignment back to a CONUS location. That way they know where they're going to be going. We can do that."

Pitts expressed the importance of soldiers not waiting until the last minute to reenlist as well. Soldiers have to reenlist before they have three months left in service.

When it comes down to three months or less, it requires Department of the Army to approve reenlistment.

"They're approving very few," Pitts said. "And it also applies to soldiers who sign a declination of continued service statement and later on change their mind to get it removed. It's almost impossible because you've already made up your mind once that you didn't want to go on the assignment. The Army is taking you for what you said."

Despite the new changes, Pitts doesn't see

"The majority of soldiers don't want to go to Korea. I was briefed that in order to get one soldier to Korea, a branch manager has to put eight soldiers on orders...Even though we try to reenlist soldiers for the option of their choice, it also has to be consistent with what the Army needs. Soldiers have to realize reenlistment is a privilege, it's not a right."

**Master Sgt. Larry Pitts,
Fort Huachuca Retention Office
Noncommissioned Officer in Charge**

the measures etched in stone. He compared the current policy to the Army's drawdown policy in 1992 to which he said retention managers had a reenlistment cap authorizing so many reenlistments per quarter, but he doesn't see the Army going back in that direction.

Not only have incentives been taken away, some soldiers in over-strength military occupational specialties will be forced to reclassify into MOSs with shortages, especially those specialties with a shortage of soldiers in the ranks of sergeant and staff sergeant which have become known as the STAR MOSs because they are typically marked with an asterisk or star on personnel lists.

According to Sgt. Maj. James Vales, G1 retention sergeant major at DA, an early out option is being considered and will be available to soldiers in over-strength MOSs this calendar year.

Once approved, soldiers will be able to separate from the Army 90 days before their end-of-service date, he said.