



## Scout reports

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### Commissary closed

The Fort Huachuca Commissary will be closed on Sunday for Easter.

### New name

The U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command System Manager for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles/Aerial Common Sensor is now the TRADOC System Manager for Aerial Common Sensor/Air Sensors.

The new office symbol is ATZS-ACS-AS. The point of contact is Gayle Olson, 533-3932.

### Meeting cancelled

The San Pedro Chapter #95 of the Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association will not be having their monthly meeting. The meeting was scheduled for April 10. Instead the WAC veterans will be at Wal-Mart for a bake sale to raise money for their scholarship which will be awarded in May.

For more information, call 458-3446.

### Liberators sought

The Military Equal Opportunity Office will host a memorial service to commemorate Yom Hashoah, or Days of Remembrance, at 1:15 p.m. April 28 at Cochise Theater.

As part of that service, Holocaust survivors would like to recognize and personally thank personnel involved with the liberation of concentration camps. The EO office is looking for anyone who helped liberate survivors from any of the concentration camps throughout Europe during WWII. Individuals involved with the liberation can call the EO at 538-0533 or 533-1717.

## INSIDE



### Gangs

Negative social issues combated in Army. - Pages 4 and 5



### Batter up

Commander's Cup softball is in full swing. - Page B1



Photo by Elizabeth Harlan

Brandon Lopez, 2, may soon be joined by some new friends as the Child Development Center expands to include more slots.

# Room made for more tykes

## CDC's expecting

BY PFC. JOY PARIANTE  
SCOUT STAFF

Due to the lengthy waiting lists for child-care for children two and under, the Child Care Center has begun to reconfigure their existing facilities to make room for new additions to their day care family.

A 2000 Department of the Army survey indicated that the

space in facilities provided for Army projects to operate out of was not being properly utilized, said Heidi Malarchik, CDC director.

At that time, the CDC reviewed and created a reconfiguration for their facilities, but put it on the back burner because funding for additional children wasn't yet available, she added.

The CDC adopted the new configurations when funding began this year. "We know there's an extreme need for child-care right now," Malarchik said. The center will add space for 53 little ones without sacrificing the level of care that parents expect, Malarchik said. Things will be a little more crowded, Malarchik said, but, "the Army truly believes that we can still provide the same quality of care."

To maintain the current adult to children ratio, staff will in-

crease from 75 to 85 and current child-care providers will get more work hours, Malarchik said.

The new set-up will not only provide more child-care slots, but a better care configuration as well, Malarchik said.

The conversion will move in three phases, Malarchik said. For phase one, which began on April 1, spaces for children from infants up to one-year-old were added. In phase two, being implemented in May, more in-

fant and one-year-old spaces will be added along with more two-year-old spaces. Finally in phase three, being implemented in June, more toddler spaces will be available and the changes will be complete.

CDC provides hourly, half-day and full-day care for children of any military member or civilian who lives or works on Fort Huachuca, Malarchik said.

For more information on child-care or for registration, call the CDC at 533-0738.

# New Reserves' DCG tours training, meets with reservists, guardsmen

BY PFC. JOY PARIANTE  
SCOUT STAFF

Brig. Gen. Warner Sumpter, assistant adjutant general of the Maryland National Guard and the new deputy commander of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca (Reserves) visited post Friday and Saturday to see mobilized Maryland and Pennsylvania Reserve and National Guard Soldiers who are training in various military intelligence occupational specialties.

Sumpter's last visit to Fort Huachuca was in the mid-'90s and "it's a great improvement from the last time," Sumpter laughed. He said the post appears to be able to meet the Soldiers' needs, so they can concentrate on their training.

Reserve and Guard Soldiers on post are training in jobs such as unmanned aerial vehicle operators and

maintainers, interrogators and human intelligence collectors.

Sumpter told a class of UAV pilots that, as their training goes on, they should play it for real. They should train to fight for survival.

He thanked the East Coast Reservists for their service and said they were making both Maryland and America proud.

"I'm so proud of the National Guard and U.S. Reserve Soldiers who are here training," Sumpter said. "They've been taken from their homes, jobs, civilian education and they've not said a negative thing about it."

Sumpter also made it a point to ask the Soldiers if all their needs were being met, issues taken care of and if they were keeping in touch with family.

Also during his visit to the UAV pilot classroom on Friday, Sumpter presented Spc. Greg Lietz, 629th Military Intelligence Battalion, Maryland National

Guard, with an Army Achievement Medals for work with the unit in support



Photo by Elizabeth Harlan

Brig. Gen. Warner Sumpter is the new deputy commander of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca (Reserves).

of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Lietz is at Fort Huachuca training in a new military occupational specialty. Sumpter also presented four coins to Soldiers from the Maryland Guard who were going above and beyond in their studies.

As for being the new deputy commanding general, Sumpter said his first and foremost mission is to make sure Soldiers' needs are squared away. "Soldiers are always first in everything we do," he said. Also, equipment issues, MOS qualification issues and training issues are at the top of his and the commanding general's to-do list, he said.

As the deputy commanding general, Sumpter will act as the personal representative for the commanding general for all National Guard and Reserve matters, said Maj. Vaughn

See DCG, Page 3

# AER donations add up, goal in reach

## Money helps Soldiers, families with needs

BY PFC. JOY PARIANTE  
SCOUT STAFF

Contributions for the Army Emergency Relief campaign are flooding in across post.

This year's post goal is \$80,000, and \$68,000 has already been collected via cash, check and payroll deductions, said 1st Lt. Francisca M. Clements, post AER coordinator. More than \$98,000 was collected on post last year.

AER is a private, non-profit organization established in 1942 by the Secretary of War and

the Army Chief of Staff to provide emergency financial assistance to Soldiers in need, Clements said.

AER funds are available to assist Soldiers with food, rent, utilities, emergency leave travel, vehicle repair, medical or dental expenses and personal needs when pay is delayed or stolen, said Randy Lewis, post AER officer.

AER funds cannot be used for ordinary leave or vacation, to pay fines or legal expenses, help liquidate or consolidate debt, assist with house purchase or home improvements, to help purchase, rent or lease a vehicle or to cover bad checks or to pay credit card bills, Lewis added.

Last year alone, Fort Huachuca used more than \$255,000 in AER interest-free loans, Clements

said.

Since its establishment, AER has helped more than 2.9 million Army personnel with more than \$870 million in funds.

Active duty Soldiers, dependents, widows, orphans, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers on Active duty status and their dependents, Guard and Reserve members who retire at 60 and their dependents and retirees in need of financial aid can benefit from AER.

This year's AER drive ends May 1.

The post AER office is located in the Army Community Services building and open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, call the AER office at 533-5972 or contact your unit representative.

# Chaplain's Corner

## Deciding how to run life's race

BY DAN DEVENY

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION,  
MAIN POST CHAPEL

Does anyone remember the 1981 movie, "Chariots of Fire?" I've seen it several times simply because it has such a lasting quality that goes beyond most of today's movies. And I am challenged every time I see it. The movie speaks to important issues that each of us has to confront from time to time and it does that without being stuffy.

The film takes place in the countries of England, Scotland and France. The main characters

are Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams, both short distance runners about to embark on the 1924 Olympic Games in France. Abrahams is very fast, but Liddell is faster.

The plot thickens when the men's Olympic track schedule of events is announced. Liddell, who is a devout Christian, is scheduled to run his first race on Sunday. Liddell remembers the Ten Commandments and especially the one that declares: "remember the Sabbath

day, to keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8) His decision is firm: he will not participate in any Sunday Olympic races. Despite many who tried to convince Liddell to run the Sunday race he remained steadfast in his refusal. His refusal to run on Sunday disqualified him from

that race altogether.

What does it take to let go of something you have dreamed about for a long time? And especially when many of the people around you are encouraging you to let your ethics slide 'just this once.' The slope seems very slippery once you have crossed the line and compromised your belief. But Liddell was not about to give up his belief. I see people in real life make those same kind of hard decisions. And never once did it look easy. But each one that comes to my mind was satisfied at the end of the day that they were able to stand by their decision and

keep their integrity in tact.

This movie offers a great opportunity to review personal ethics. How often do we make vows and promises only to break them when pressure is applied? How important is a promise? What if it is just a small promise? What if you're pretty sure no one will get hurt? What if you're positive nobody will ever know?

Here is the answer for me. My truthfulness is nonnegotiable...it's not for sale. And the same for my promises. Once

you are willing to negotiate and allow for a half-truth you have entered the arena of the lie. Any part of a lie, no matter how small, spoils the truth. When you feel like you have to tell a lie or break a promise, think about Liddell and know that you are not alone.



Courtesy photo

**Runner Eric Liddell didn't compromise his beliefs for the sake of competition.**

## Letter To The Editor

### Thanks for honors

A detachment from Fort Huachuca provided military graveside services for my father, James P. Owen, a World War II veteran, and resident of Glendale, Ariz.

The service was very professionally done, and

it was truly touching for the family to receive such an honor.

I hoped to be able to thank your folks personally after the ceremony, but they left before the following conventional closing ceremony was over.

I sincerely convey our

family's deep appreciation for the services of your troops in this ceremony.

It had a double meaning to me, as a Vietnam veteran.

Thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

Jan M. Owen

## Commentary

### Passover opened my eyes

BY SPC. SUSAN REDWINE

SCOUT STAFF

Having been raised as a Christian, I am safely among the vast majority of Americans. I'm probably lucky that I don't have to contend with being in a religious minority. I don't know what it feels like to be surrounded by people whose fundamental spiritual belief system is unlike my own.

Although I consider myself Christian, I have always valued learning about other cultures and religions and was therefore eager to attend the Passover Seder on post Monday. Not only could I learn about something new, but I might gain insight into my own religion because the roots of Christianity lie in Judaism. Jesus was a Jew, and his Last Supper was, in fact, Passover.

Even though I knew a little bit about the traditions of Passover, this was the first time I was able to participate and I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. What I found was incredible hospitality.

The tradition of Passover is grounded in the flight of the nation of Israel out of Egyptian slavery. The remembrance of the time spent by their forefathers in slavery has led to an identification with persecuted and oppressed people everywhere. Because of this, part of the Seder is to keep the door open to "all who are hungry or in need." This great compassion arises out of a historical, communal memory. And because of this compassion, I, a Christian, was made wholly welcome at a traditional Jewish ritual.

Another thing I learned was that Passover is a casual affair. Traditionally,

folks at the Seder sit on cushions and lean back while they eat. The leader at Monday's Seder commented that he probably shouldn't have worn a tie because it was too constraining. These are traditions reflecting the celebration of freedom that is Passover. The Jews were delivered out of Egypt. Not only is it a time to remember the suffering of those people, but it is a time to celebrate the freedom that we have.

I was impressed by the depth of hospitality, but I was also impressed because, even though the celebration includes unfamiliar elements, like the type of food served, sitting with a group of people and enjoying a meal together is something universal. Even though I didn't know what to make of the fishmeal with horseradish, I felt at home with a bunch of strangers, most of whom I will never see again. It really felt like a funky Thanksgiving dinner, complete with grandparents, nieces and nephews.

What this says to me is that people are more alike than we often admit. People spend so much time picking apart the differences between each other that we forget how well we can get along.

Passover is a unique combination of remembering who you are, celebrating freedom, and welcoming strangers. If you keep the description, but take out the word "Passover," it probably sounds like you're talking about the United States. Maybe the Army has really taught me to put country first, or maybe Passover is really a wonderful embodiment of ideals that we usually think of as American.

## Scout On The Street — What's the hardest part of being in a military family?



*"Balancing your time and ensuring quality time with your kids."*

Staff Sgt. Cindy Ashford  
Company A, 309th Military  
Intelligence Battalion



*"The deployments. Deploying is very hard."*

Spc. Aracely Gonzalez  
Company A,  
40th Signal Bn.



*"Balancing my responsibilities to the Army and my family. Time."*

Sgt. Maj. Roger Gilson  
Headquarters and  
Headquarters Company,  
111th MI Brigade



*"Not being together."*

Kim Bridges  
Military spouse



*"The deployments - leaving your children. Trying to keep stability in the family."*

Staff Sgt. Alonda  
Manriquez  
Directorate of Plans,  
Training, Mobilization and  
Security,  
U.S. Army Garrison



*"Fluctuation of hours. Sometimes you have to do training at six a.m. - you have to change your routine once in awhile."*

Sgt. Mike Pezeshki  
Company A, 305th MI Bn.

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# Students excel at Point

## Buena grads learning Soldier skills, earning commissions

BY SPC. SUSAN REDWINE  
SCOUT STAFF

How many youngsters are driven enough to curb adolescent rebelliousness in favor of hard work and determination? Maybe not the stereotypical teenager, but it's not just anyone who makes it into the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Only a select, talented, determined few make it into the prestigious military academy. To be among the 1,150 to 1,200 young men and women who are admitted to West Point each year, a student must demonstrate academic and leadership abilities as well as physical fitness, according to the USMA Web site, [www.usma.edu/admissions/startyoung.asp](http://www.usma.edu/admissions/startyoung.asp).

"We didn't think he was going to make it," said Ae Sun Robles, mother of Angel

looking for people who are seeking to always improve themselves." "It takes a strong application



Photo by Maj. Wayne Marotto

with lots of community service events, sports, leadership positions, high GPA [grade point average] and class rank, and most of all, an attitude that nothing can deter you from the end goal or bring you down," said Richard Cole, a Buena graduate in his first, or "plebe" year at the USMA. "And finally, it takes hard work to train physically and mentally for the West Point experience."

Both Robles and Cole were influenced during their upbringing into going into the USMA.

"My father was an officer in the Army," said Robles. "He is a person I look up to and I wanted to follow his example."

The ultimate decision to attend the academy was made when others impressed upon him how prestigious a West Point education was, said Al Robles, Angel's father.

"It's been the highest priority of mine to attend the best college in the country and learn the valuable tools essential to being a good leader and war fighter," said Cole.

Cole said he was not only influenced by the prestige of the institution, but also by growing up next to Fort Huachuca.

"Having the resources to train on Fort Huachuca during JROTC and get a taste of the Army life gave me a good impression of the Army and helped me decide that being in the Army was what I wanted

to do," he said.

Getting into West Point is a comprehensive process that takes years of planning.

"It's no last minute decision you can make and go there," said Joe Cole, The cadet's father.

school, I probably would have dropped out," Robles said.

"West Point has greatly helped me mature and develop a sense of integrity, honor and pride."

"It really helped him [Angel] to have four years of JROTC because he knew what to expect," Al said.

"It's much more difficult than I would have imagined," said Joe, observing how much his son Richard has had to go through already. "The first year is tough. They almost give you too much to do to see if you can handle it. Just when you think you have your head above water, they pile more on."

"It's a lot of work and I can't wait for plebe year to end," Cole said.

"Everyone that goes there has to be driven," said Joe.

Robles and Cole's parents are tremendously proud of their sons, not only for having been accepted to West Point, but also for the hard work and dedication the two cadets are showing in their studies.

"The paperwork is very hard," Ae Sun said. "You have to prepare the paperwork for about two years. You have to do every little detail."

Kimberly Cole, Richard's mother, said all of the admission paperwork has to be turned in by the applicant's junior year of high school and includes a nomination from a member of congress.

The nomination is just the beginning, said Kimberly. Some people think getting the nomination is one of the last things to do, but there is much more paperwork that follows, she said.

"The application process probably eliminates people because there are so many things you have to go through," said Joe.

Ae Sun added that if parents don't help with the paperwork, it would be very difficult for the student to be accepted.

Once in, life doesn't get easier; the academy is demanding on its students.

"It is tough, and I will admit that it has its good days and its bad days," Robles said. "I look at the Soldiers in the Army and it just motivates me more to stay with it and graduate."

"A lot of kids drop out at the beginning because it's not what they dream about," Ae Sun said.

"If I went to any other



Courtesy Photo

### Cadet Richard Cole

"We know he's [Angel] busy, but we call him every night and talk to him," Al said. "I support him one hundred percent, whatever he does. We are very proud of the kid and we encourage him to continue."

"We really admire him that he is enduring there," Ae Sun said.

"We're proud of him [Richard] and all the kids that can stick that out," said Joe.



Courtesy Photo

### Cadet Angel Robles Jr.

Robles Jr., a Buena High School graduate who is now in his third, or "cow," year at the USMA, of the difficulty of admission into the academy.

Robles was a capable student in high school, as evidenced by the scholarship he was offered to attend The Ohio State University.

"It takes more than brains to get in here," said the cadet. "You need to be in good shape and involved in sports, church and the community. They are

# Stabilization means steady stations

BY SPC. SUSAN REDWINE

SCOUT STAFF

Two complementary manning strategies were introduced by the Army in early February as initiatives to increase predictability in the Continental United States-based force.

The initiatives, Home-basing and Unit Focused Stability, will be implemented beginning 4th quarter of fiscal year 2004.

The Home-basing policy will stabilize the Soldier with his family at one installation for six to seven years.

The Soldier may deploy with his unit during the Home-basing period, but he will redeploy back to the home unit.

Additionally, once Soldiers climb the ranks into leadership positions such as squad leader for non-commissioned officers, or, for officers, qualify as a leader at company-level, the Soldier may be reassigned.

If a Soldier cannot remain in his current organization because of change in unit structure, that Soldier will be reassigned on the installation if possible.

Unit Focused Stability will allow Soldiers to arrive, train and fight together in a unit operational cycle of approximately 36 months. Soldiers under this program can expect to complete an operational deployment or rotation of six to 12 months.

The idea behind Force Stabilization, which is one of Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker's 16 focus areas, is to allow Soldiers and their families a chance to plan for the long-term.

Spc. Aaron Menshouse, an intelligence analyst with the 11th Signal Brigade, has been to five duty stations since joining the Army three and a half years ago. Menshouse, 22, has a daughter who was born while he was deployed last year.

Menshouse said moving around has been good because he's seen parts of the world that he might not have otherwise seen, but that moving so much has been hard on his family.

"It's so frequent, it's been tough," Menshouse said.

"I think this whole new initiative sounds like a good thing because it gives families a chance to settle in," Menshouse said.

Menshouse said a lengthier assignment time would benefit combat arms units because they would have a longer time to train together.

"They're more apt to know what each person's going to do and what they have to do," Menshouse said. Menshouse has been deployed twice to Kuwait while stationed at Fort Huachuca, and is getting ready to move again to Fort Belvoir, Va., in May.

He said the new stabilization initiative crossed his mind when thinking about re-enlistment.

"I would probably do another three years after this enlistment if I knew I'd stay at Fort Belvoir," Menshouse said.

In the 12 and a half years he's been in the Army, 1st Lt. Sean Passmore, platoon leader in Company A, 86th Signal Battalion, has had at least seven duty stations.

Passmore said he'll miss the traveling that he's done in the Army and that would be one downside to the new stabilization initiatives.

"I've never had a bad assignment," Passmore said. "All the places I've been have been amazing."

Although he may miss the traveling, Passmore points out the duty Soldiers have to support command initiatives.

"Whether you agree or disagree with it, like it or don't, we're all serving a purpose greater than ourselves," Passmore said. "The Army will be able to better accomplish the mission, and that's all that matters."

### DCG, from Page 1

Laganoksy, assistant Chief of Staff, National Guard, USAIC and FH.

"He will ensure that the reserve components are fully integrated in the planning processes, staffing considerations, force structure, doctrinal development, resource management, training requirements, and operational

execution by all USAIC and FH command and staff elements."

"I'm going to look at the Reserve and National Guard issues in the MI community," Sumpter said.

The position of deputy commanding general was established in 2001, as a way to ensure that reserve component issues were addressed at the

highest level. Sumpter will work being directly with Maj. Gen. James "Spider" Marks, commanding general, USAIC and FH, as part of the USAIC and FH command group.

He will continue his leadership with the Maryland Guard. As the assistant adjutant general and commander, he is responsible for the readiness and de-

ployment of the 7,200 Soldiers of the Maryland National Guard.

Sumpter will operate out of his Maryland home and will visit Fort Huachuca frequently. He said he will also be going to pertinent meetings and functions and visit Reserve and Guard troops getting ready to deploy.



## Service News

### USMC commandant visits his Marines

General Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, visited Marines and Sailors of five Marine units currently serving in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Monday.

Accompanied by Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Hagee visited with Marines and Sailors from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment; Headquarters Company, 6th Marine Regiment; and 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), all based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., in addition to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-769 and Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron-769, both from 4th Marine Aircraft Wing.

These units are serving in various areas of Afghanistan disrupting and destroying terrorist organizations and infrastructure while supporting national stability to assist in the accelerated growth of Afghanistan.

During the visit, Hagee and Estrada answered various questions and commended the Marines and Sailors on their activities in the region.

### Marines shut down Fallujah

Two Marine battalions shut down access to the Iraqi city of Fallujah by early Monday morning in an effort to isolate and root out terrorists in Iraq.

By Tuesday, five Camp Pendleton Marines from the 1st Marine Division were killed and an unknown number of anti-coalition forces were dead. Firefights erupted after Marines came under mortar and rocket-propelled grenade attacks during the first two days of the operation.

Marines from 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment and 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment surrounded the tumultuous city, known for being a hive of enemy activity.

The mission, dubbed Operation Vigilant Resolve, started when forces with Regimental Combat Team 1 moved to the outskirts of Fallujah and is expected to last into the coming days.

The latest set of violence sparked after masked Iraqi gunmen ambushed and killed four U.S.-contracted security personnel in what appeared to be a coordinated attack. Terrorists launched grenades into the security's convoy, setting their two sports-utility vehicles ablaze. Their bodies were dragged through the streets and hung from a bridge over the Euphrates River.

### Obsolete warship slated as artificial reef

The Navy announced Monday that it will transfer the former aircraft carrier ex-USS Oriskany to the State of Florida for use as an artificial reef.

The Navy was granted authority to transfer obsolete warships to states for artificial reefing purposes under the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 108-136).

After a thorough Navy/MARAD review and analysis of applications from Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi and Texas, the Navy concluded that the State of Florida proposal for using ex-Oriskany as an artificial reef provides the best value to the U.S. government.

Before transfer of ex-Oriskany can occur, the Navy's contractor will perform work necessary to environmentally prepare the ship for sinking as an artificial reef. Once this work and other details are complete, the Navy will execute a transfer agreement with the State of Florida and expects the ship to be sunk for use as an artificial reef before the end of the summer 2004.

### Academy celebrates 50th anniversary

Two honors were presented to the Air Force Academy in Colorado on April 1 in a ceremony commemorating its 50th anniversary.

The U.S. Postal Service unveiled a commemorative 37-cent stamp, and the U.S. Department of the Interior bestowed the National Historic Landmark honor to the academy. It was 50 years ago when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Air Academy Act authorizing the academy to be built.

### Naval transformation underway

The Navy is "moving out smartly" on its transformation journey, the commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command said at the Annapolis Naval History Symposium April 1.

The framework for naval transformation is set with Sea Power 21, Adm. William J. Fallon told those assembled in the Naval Academy's Alumni Hall.

"This vision is a network of a jointly integrated, sea-based power-projection force capable of assuring coalition and joint force access in protecting America's interests throughout the world," he added.

Fallon said he believes transformation centers on three areas - people, hardware and organizational processes.

The Navy is implementing several initiatives to maximize the potential of sailors and fundamentally change the way "we assess, empower, educate and train our people," said the admiral.

The Navy has undertaken "dramatic initiatives to employ resources more efficiently," he said. The integration of Navy and Marine Corps tactical aviation has resulted in a more capable naval strike force and saved billions of dollars, he added.

The objective, said Fallon, is to transform the Navy to "ensure its basic relevancy, its viability and capabilities for the 21st century."

# GANG

## Societal problems cross over into military life

Army leaders fight gangs with education, training, positive influence

BY SPC. MATTHEW E. CHLOSTA  
SCOUT STAFF

*Editor's note: A former gang member from a major metropolitan city and current member of the Army went on the record to talk about his experience growing up as a gang member, the allure of the gang culture, how he got into his gang and how he got out.*

In Dec. 9, 1995 three Soldiers stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. were charged with a racially motivated killing in Fayetteville, N.C.

Even though the Soldiers were not part of a formal extremist group, the tragedy was a "wake up call" for Fort Bragg's leadership and the Army about how to combat the enemy within, extremist organizations, known in Army regulations as "security threat groups."

"We obviously have a problem in society," said Robert Williams, Fort

criminal intelligence coordinator here, "but I don't think we have as much prevalence in the military. The military has a zero tolerance for security threat groups. We cannot tolerate security threat groups because it can threaten military operations and law and order.

"Some security threat groups are: street gangs; extremist hate groups; militias and patriot groups and outlaw motorcycle gangs," Williams said.

"You gotta be realistic, it's in the Army," a former gang member said. "Even when I was in Germany I was reppin' [representing a gang] a little bit at my first duty station. Went over there and wanted to be part of the crew, part of the in crowd. People bring baggage. You bring baggage wherever you go."

"Fort Huachuca has not had any problems for [the] past several years involving security threat groups," said

Maj. Dan Ortega, director of public safety. "Military members must reject

about gangs] that came out were during the EOR [equal opportunity representative] courses," said Viera.

"Some of the students in the class would ask us if we [EO] were the components to deal with gangs. We told them no, that MPI [Military Police Investigations] would be the proponent for that type of issue."

"I used to be a car stereo thief," the former gang member said. "That was my specialty stealing car stereos and cars. Everybody in my neighborhood knew how to hot-wire a car - all the kids my age, [13]. I started because all my family members were involved with gangs.

"Middle school wasn't too bad," he added. "But, when I turned a freshman in high school, I was

thirteen going on fourteen, I walked across the street and got jumped by the Latin Kings. Our side of the street was the Spanish Cobras. I walked across the street and just went over there to get some groceries, minding my own business, turned around walked out, and there was four guys out there waiting on me. They asked me, 'What you doing over here? We see you across the street.' I said, 'I'm just getting groceries and I'm going back home.'

"They said, 'No, you're not. You gonna give us your groceries, give us all the money.' I said, 'Look, I got groceries here, whatever.'"

"A guy hit me from the back with a lead pipe. And then the guy in front of me hit me in the face with a brick. I got thirty-two stitches in the back of my head and I got about fourteen on my eye. After I got back to the house, after the hospital, my cousins were waiting on me. [They were] saying which ones was it, let us know, we'll go get 'em. I said I want in, too. I was minding my own business. I want in. So two weeks later I got jumped in and went on a rampage. Went out looking for the guys that jumped me. We ended up finding them and we beat 'em up pretty good."

### Symbols of gangs

What about graffiti? Does it signify gangs? People in the EOR classes brought up the graffiti they saw around post, Viera said.

"We [Viera and Sgt. 1st Class Suzanne Sueing, equal opportunity advisor, installation, United States Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca] went around and took pictures of some of the graffiti

### Cities and gangs

\* All U.S. cities with populations greater than 250,000 have reported gang activity. That's 69 major cities including New York City, Baltimore, Boston, Memphis, Tenn., Honolulu, and Anchorage, Alaska.

\* 85% of U.S. cities with populations of 100,000 to 249,000 have reported gang activity. That's 173 major cities including Green Bay, Wisc., Hartford, Conn., Knoxville, Tenn., Savannah, Ga. and Orlando, Fla.

active or passive participation in extremist organizations and activities per the regulatory requirements [Department of Defense Directive 1325.6 and Army Regulation 600-20]."

"They [United States Army] consider gangs an extremist group," said Sgt. 1st Class Armando Viera, equal opportunity advisor, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, United States Army Garrison. Included in the equal opportunity extremist training education is information about gangs.

The allure of a gang is, "being a part of something, protection, social status, a person who has a lot of nice things, [including] money, power, respect," the former gang member said. "Some gang members are very secluded, but they are the worst ones."

They are the ones called lieutenants, always in the background, the former gang member said. They are the ones with the most power, he continued. They were always the ones taking stuff from the lower gang members, selling it, making money from it, taking their own cut.

"The only things [concerns and questions

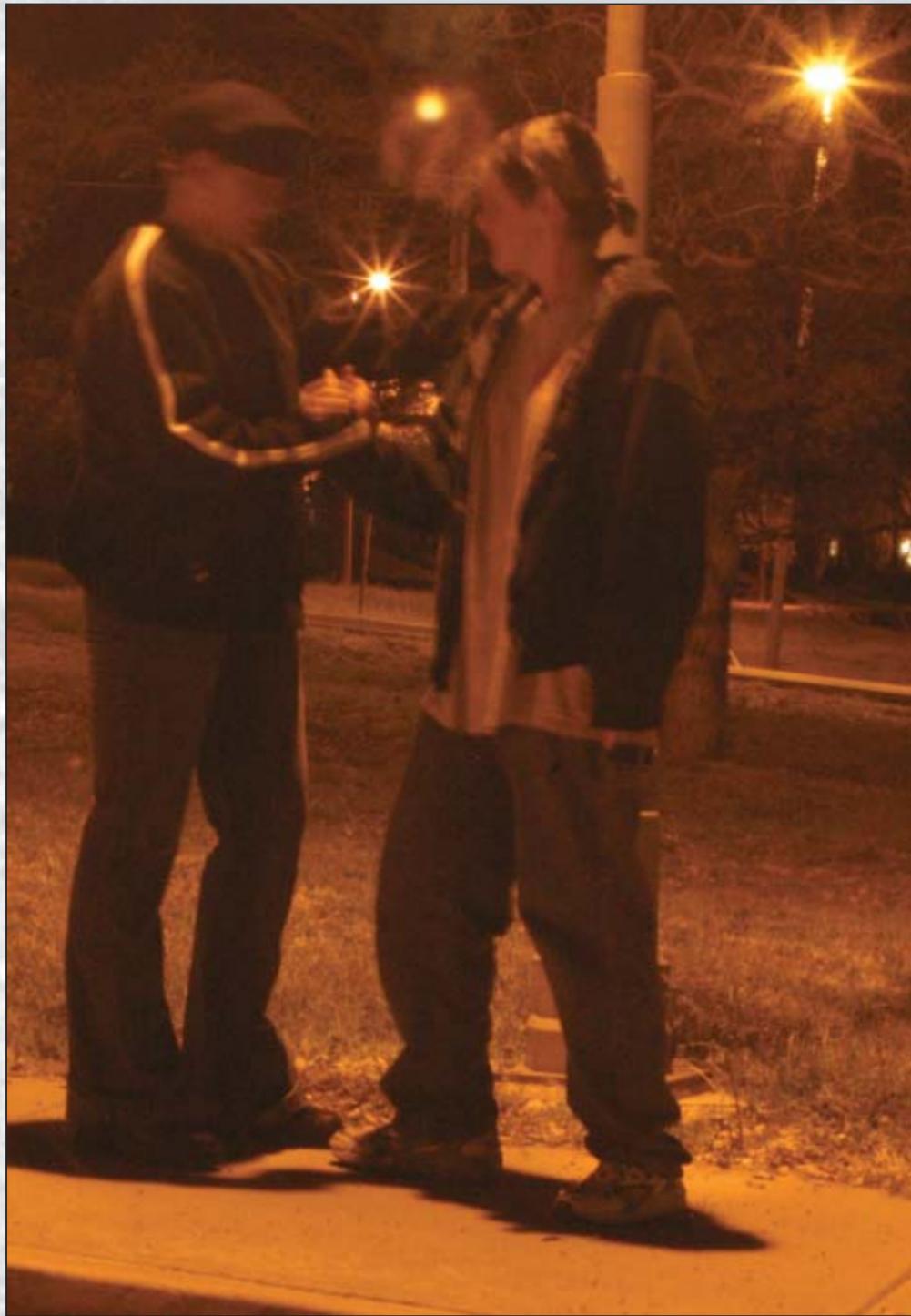
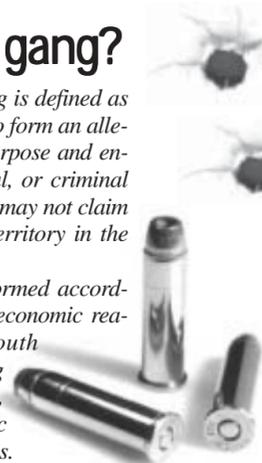


Photo by Elizabeth Harlan

### What is a gang?

A criminal street gang is defined as three or more people who form an allegiance for a common purpose and engage in violent, unlawful, or criminal activity. A gang may or may not claim control over a certain territory in the community.

Gangs are usually formed according to ethnic, racial or economic reasons. Traditionally, youth gangs structured along ethnic lines include black, Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islander, and white gangs.



# RELATED

that's on post," Viera said. "We keep them on file and if a problem arises then we have that information to fall back on. We can pass it to the proper people, which would be MPI, and let them conduct the investigation. That's all we do is fact gather.

"Some of it does match some of the significant gangs throughout the United

given a briefing by DPS [Directorate of Public Safety] on Security Threat Groups at the Company Commander's [First Sergeants'] course. The same briefing has been given twice over the past year at the garrison commander's senior leaders' luncheon; therefore they are versed on what to look for and regulatory requirements."

"My father saw where I was going and we moved to Ohio," the former gang member said. "When we moved to [Ohio], he said, 'Leave everything behind. Do what you gotta do to leave everything behind and move.' He gave me a week. So, I got jumped out that week [let out of the gang]. I got my ass kicked because I was leaving. But, that was me cutting ties.

"My cousins were pretty high up there and they knew what my father was trying to do," the reformed gang member said. "And, out of respect for their uncle, which is my dad, they let me out. Otherwise, I don't know if I could've got out."

The former gang member's father made the right decision, "The move to Ohio showed me that sports was a lot more fun than banging, you got the same celebrity status," the former gang member said. "It was the same type and it was clean. I played football and baseball. I thought sports were a lot better than risking my life. There is no future in it. There is nothing that the United States provides you more than opportunity and you've given up the opportunity by letting the gang influence your life.

"To me the Army is a big gang," the former gang member said. "But, a big gang where you're getting paid and they take care of you and stuff like that. The positive stuff [from the gang] was the friendships that we made. It goes back to the Army, the relying on someone covering your back wherever you're at no matter what."

### Guardian at the gate

Another controversial issue involving gangs revolves around tattoos and Soldiers attending the Primary Leadership Development Course at Fort Bliss, Texas.

"We have been having a problem with that [Soldiers with inappropriate tattoos] for PLDC, [and initiated] having tattoo inspections for PLDC," Viera said. "The noncommissioned officer in charge of the PLDC in Fort Bliss wants everybody to be professional. So they [the cadre at PLDC] conduct tattoo inspections to ensure that they don't have any racist or extremist tattoos on their body. If they do, they need to get that waiver from medical saying it is going to be removed or they won't go to class. Ultimately it was decided it is up to the [Soldier's] commander. The commander must inspect here, prior to sending a Soldier off to PLDC."

The DoD regulation on how to inspect tattoos is still very vague, Viera said. "There is still nothing concrete yet," Viera said. "They say it is but it's not. They're still going back and forth. Us and IG are getting together and trying to figure out exactly how to go about doing this.

"We don't want Soldiers to miss school for something they did when they were fifteen or sixteen years old," Viera said, "and the recruiter forgot to get the waiver and let them join the military. So we're trying to do what is best for the Soldier by all the proponents working together."

"I hope, I hope, I hope, the decision will be made this year," Viera said.

"Awareness is the key. People come from different backgrounds and were raised differently," Viera said. "Awareness that it is not a good way of life; it is very dangerous. Professionally, in my opinion, it is not good. It is not feasible to be leading Soldiers and to be affiliated to an extremist group or gang."

"Be realistic, it's gonna happen, dealing with it is the hard part," a former gang member said. "Positive influence will stop gangs from forming. If kids know they can rely on their parents and can rely on the inner core family, they don't have to worry about gangs. Their kid will be smart enough not to join. They'll find it

will be positive enough that they don't need to join. So, always do what's best for your kids.

"Support your kids in sports, support your kids in checker tournaments and school, music, whatever they do," a former gang member said. "And, if they find a niche that is really good for them, jump on it full steam ahead. Help them. Make them think that they are important, because they are.

"I knew love from my gang," a former gang member said. "I didn't know how important my folks were. I didn't know how to manage the two. But if one of my parents had been there, and I'm not blaming it on my parents at all, to say look, 'this is the wrong way to do things, this is the right way to do things,' that might have made a difference. But, they were doing the best they could for the family. Especially in today's age where all the parents are working, mother and father. It's hard to get good guidance, especially inner city."

The Soldiers are not the only people on post to be educated on the dangers of security threat groups, extremist groups and gangs.

Sgt. James Holly, DARE noncommissioned officer in charge, gives the DARE briefing, which is a graduation require-

## Starting young

*\* According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, killings by juvenile gang members increased 500 percent between 1980 and 1994, making this one of the fastest-growing crimes in the United States*

*\* 37% of gang members are juveniles*



States," Viera said. "It was sporadic, kids trying to make a mark. It was probably local kids."

"If you do this [gang sign] in a certain neighborhood it might mean something different in California than it is in Chicago," the former gang member said. Gangs "go back to the fifties. In our neighborhood there was a lot of paid protection. It's like somebody coming overseas from Europe to the United States. You aren't going to get overseas without somebody knowing. It was the same thing in our neighborhood. You ain't going to cross the street if you're Latin King. You're not going to cross the street and come over to the [Spanish] Cobra side and think you're going to break into somebody's house. They'll know before you even get over there. If you didn't pay protection [to the gangs], nine times out of ten somebody would be robbing your house.

"Drugs got big when I was on my way out," he admitted. "Everybody smoked weed, everybody was dealing weed. I never did a hard drug in my life. It's all about money, power, respect. A well-know gang member signs autographs. Like being a celebrity in the neighborhood, a lot of social status there, it's respect."

### Stopping the involvement

In the Army, leadership takes a firm stand against security threat groups.

"If violations of regulations or laws are encountered, enforcement efforts are undertaken in accordance with DoD [Department of Defense] Directive 1325.6 and AR 600-20," Ortega said.

"The single most critical person(s) to ensure prevention are installation leaders and parent(s). Unit commanders and [first sergeants] are

### Training, support are available

Williams said "I cover the entire gamut of groups." "I give the hour and a half briefing quarterly to new incoming commanders and first sergeants. The gang problem is not going away. The best way to counter gangs is enforcement plus information dissemination."

"As a result of this effort, proactive 'policing' and appropriate information provided to our students at the elementary schools through the DARE [Drug and Alcohol Resistant Education] program there are no problems on Fort Huachuca," Ortega said.

"It has proven to be beneficial because we don't have a gang problem on Fort Huachuca," Williams said. "It is so important to address the problem. Gangs can disrupt the military discipline and organization."

With larger installations there are more people and more problems, Williams said. "Maybe our remoteness, our smaller population contributes to the lack of gangs on post. We don't have a gang problem on Fort Huachuca because of the caliber of this installation."

## Stats

*\* 97 % of gang members are male, 6 % are female*

*\* 39 % of gangs have female members*

*\* 2 % of gangs are comprised entirely of females*

*\* 47 % of gang members are Hispanic, 31 % are black, 13% are Caucasian, 7 % are Asian and 2 % are other*



ment for the fifth graders on post in which he talks about security threat groups amongst other things.

There is an entire lesson plan on school violence that the DARE officer talks to the kids about, Holly said.

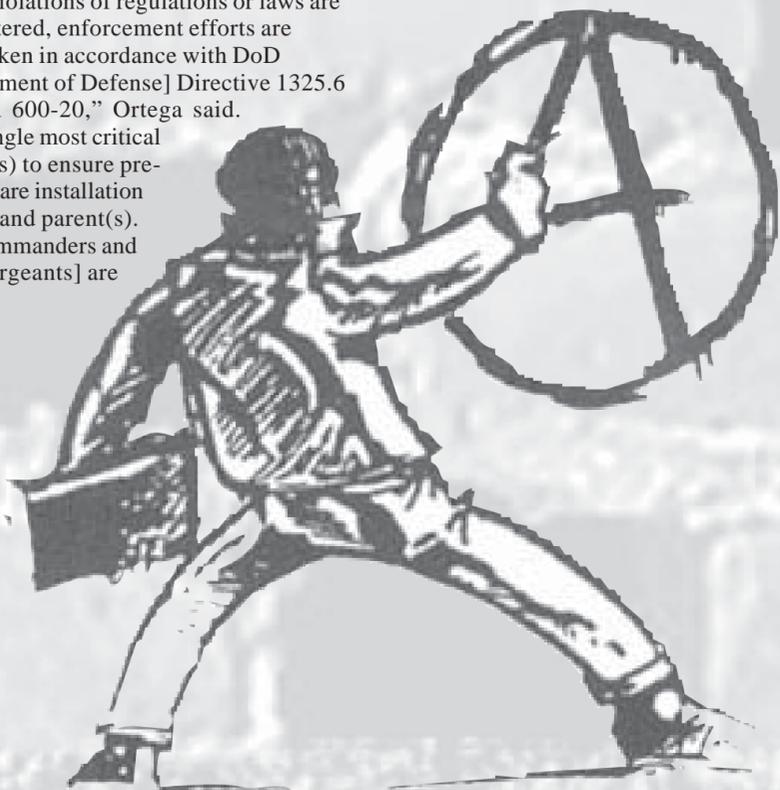
"DARE officers talk in the classroom about bullies, school violence and gangs," Holly said. "We talk about how to recognize gang members and where to hang out. Kids know people, or know people who know gang members. Everybody knows somebody who was in a gang.

"We talk about what a gang really is," Holly said, "what they really do. Nowadays, there is a more realistic approach. We ask them about their experiences. Localities where DARE exists have a lower rate of drugs and violence.

"One of the steps we teach to the kids in how to say no to something is, know the consequences of your actions," Holly said.

"There is no future in gangs," the former gang member said. "All the glamour and the glory eventually go away. You got to grow up and be mature. I think that is what helped me, being a little bit more mature, growing up and actually seeing the big picture and where I was going wasn't the right place to be. All that glory is going to go away one day and you're gotta have something to fall back on even more important. And it's starting a family, doing something better for my life. And I ended up joining the Army."

For more information, or to report any security threat group activity, call Holly at 538-0092.



## Community Updates

### Range closures

Today – AA, AC, AD, AF, AH, AK, AL, AR, AU, AW, T1, T1A, T2  
 Friday – AC, AD, AL, AM, AU, T1, T1A, T2, T3  
 Saturday – AM, AU, T1, T1A, T2  
 Sunday – AC, AD, AU, T1, T1A, T2, T3  
 Monday – AC, AD, AH, AK, AL, AQ, AR, AU, AV, AW, AX, AY, T1, T1A, T2  
 Tuesday – AC, AD, AH, AI, AK, AL, AP, AR, AU, AW, AY  
 Wednesday – AC, AD, AH, AI, AL, AP, AR, AU, AW, AY  
 For more information, call 533-7095.

### Road work

The Contract Management Division of the Directorate of Installation Support is repairing driveways in Deanza Village and repairing Meyer Street between H Avenue and Rucker Street. Construction is expected to be finished by Friday. Housing occupants will be able to have vehicular access to their quarters during construction.

For more information, call 533-1443.

### Controlled burns on ranges

Prescribed burns began March 12 and will last until Sunday on live fire ranges 5, 8 and 9 in Training Area T-2. These burns will decrease the potential for fire by reducing fuel loads and will help support live-fire exercises on the South Range. Approximately 730 acres will be burned. Specific dates for the burns will depend on weather conditions and use of the ranges.

### AFTB Level I class to be offered

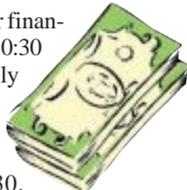
Army Community Service will present Army Family Team Building Level I classes 5:30 - 9 p.m., Tuesday through April 15 at Murr Community Center, Building 51301.

Register by calling ACS, 533-2330, or for more information, call Christine Bachand, 533-6884.

### Financial readiness classes

Army Community Service will offer financial readiness classes in April. From 9 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, budgeting and family supplemental subsistence allowance will be offered, both at the ACS Building 50010.

Register by calling ACS, 533-2330. For more information, call Christine Bachand, 533-6884.



### Financial readiness classes

Army Community Service will offer lunch-time financial readiness classes Wednesdays in April, noon - 1 p.m. at Murr Community Center. The upcoming topics will be: Wednesday, thrift savings plan; April 20, checkbook management (this class will end at 1:30 p.m.); and April 28, budget/family supplemental subsistence allowance.

You are invited to bring your lunch to these classes and listen.

### Doolittle Tokyo Raiders 62nd Reunion

The Doolittle Tokyo Raiders will hold their 62nd Reunion, Wednesday through April 18, in Tucson. Members of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders reunite each year to support worthy causes.

This year, many of the 17 surviving Raiders will make public appearances to raise money for The Arizona Aerospace Foundation, the Community Food Bank, and SciEnTeK-12 – a non-profit organization that supports the Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair. The Raiders will also present a \$5,000 scholarship to a deserving local student.

Public events during the reunion include a charity luncheon, dinner and Western dance, "Meet the Heroes" BBQ, gala reception and dinner, book signings and sales. For more information, go to [www.doolittle62.com](http://www.doolittle62.com) or call 520-546-6975.



### Child-care training

Fort Huachuca Family Child Care is now accepting applications for the next training class that begins April 19. The training is from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Family members 18 and older interested in earning an extra income by caring for children in their home should plan to attend. Training is free and class size is limited. For more information, call 533-2498 or send an email to [fcc@hua.army.mil](mailto:fcc@hua.army.mil).

### Fellowship in Washington, D.C.

The International Foundation for Election Systems is accepting applications for the 2004 William and Kathy Hybl Democracy Studies Fellowship Program, which was designed to bring outstanding graduate students to Washington, D.C., for research in democratic development, elections administration and civic participation in the political process. Hybl Fellows receive a stipend of \$1,800.

Application information may be found online at [http://www.ifees.org/research\\_comm/hybl.htm](http://www.ifees.org/research_comm/hybl.htm).

All applications must be received by April 22. Fellowships shall be awarded in June.

For more information, go to <http://www.ifees.org> or call Jeff Brady, IFES Fellowship Coordinator, at 202-872-4806 or e-mail at [jbrady@ifees.org](mailto:jbrady@ifees.org).

### Leave donation requested

Leave donation is being requested for post employee Caren Weeks, who had neurosurgery Feb. 20. The recovery time is 6-8 weeks, and her leave time is exhausted. Those who can donate leave time to Weeks should come by Hitt Hall, Bldg 81401, Room 113 (across from the mini-mall) and fill out a 630-A leave form. Forms can also be filled out and faxed to 3-2553.

For more information, call Patsy Gentzler at 533-6645 or e-mail [gentzlerp@us.army.mil](mailto:gentzlerp@us.army.mil).

### Scholarship for JROTC

The San Pedro Chapter #95 of the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association wants to remind senior JROTC students at Buena High School to get a scholarship application from their counselor as soon as possible. The scholarship will be awarded in May.

### ASMC luncheon

Mr. Jack Blair will speak to the Cochise Chapter of American Society of Military Comptrollers on the Sierra Vista School District Override in a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. April 22 at LakeSide Activity Centre in the Skyler Room. Cost is \$9 for ASMC members and \$10 for nonmembers. To purchase tickets, ASMC members should contact organizational representatives.

For more information, call Linda Guinter at 456-2961.



### Scholarship honors local soldier killed in Iraq

A new scholarship fund held by the Cochise College Foundation honors Sgt. M. Matthew Merila, a Buena High School graduate who died recently while serving in Iraq.

The Sgt. M. Matthew Merila Memorial Scholarship was established by an anonymous donor. It will award \$1,000 per year – or one \$500 scholarship per semester – to a Buena High School graduating senior who demonstrates financial need, holds a 3.0 or higher grade point average and plans to attend Cochise College.

To contribute or apply for the Sgt. M. Matthew Merila Memorial Scholarship, call the Cochise College Foundation at 417-4100.

# Passover celebrated at post chapel

BY SPC. SUSAN REDWINE  
SCOUT STAFF

The Jewish holiday of Passover began at sundown Monday with a traditional Seder held at the Main Post Chapel.

Monday was the anniversary of the day that the Jews first left Egypt out of slavery, said Tovah Coonfield, coordinator of the dinner.

Coonfield said Monday's Seder on post was one of the largest in quite some time. Usually there are about 40 people and she said she was expecting about 70 this year.

"Jewish people in the Army are a minority," said Spc. Heath Blumberg, who is in advanced individual training on post. "To have this many people is quite surprising."

Blumberg said he hadn't been to a Seder in about 20 years and he came to this one because he was inspired by his Army values.

"The Army values helped me decide to come back and relive my faith a little bit," Blumberg said.

Rena Harp, a Sierra Vista resident, said she went to the celebration because she read about it and wanted to know more about what Jews believe. She and her family ended up helping put the dinner together because there's no better way to learn than to help, she said.

Harp, a Protestant, said she'll probably get into the Old Testament more as a result of her participation in the Seder.

The Passover service is the oldest continually observed ritual in the world, having been celebrated without interruption since the exodus from Egypt more than 1,000 years B.C., according to the Haggadah, the book used at the Seder.

Seder means "order" in Hebrew, referring to the sequence of rituals at the dinner. Those gathered take turns reading out of the Haggadah, or "telling," which contains scriptures, lessons, stories and songs. The history of the Jews

being led out of Egypt by Moses is told as a reminder to current and future generations at the dinner.

In turn, symbolic foods are eaten by the group, including Matzah, unleavened bread that the Jews made in their haste to leave Egypt; Karpas, parsley dipped into salt water that represents tears shed during Egyptian slavery; Maror, horseradish, representing the bitterness of slavery; Charoset, an apple, nut and spice mixture that looks similar to the mortar used by the slaves in Egypt to build Pharaoh's structures; and Zeroa, the shankbone of a lamb representing the sacrifice made during the first Passover.

"You can fully appreciate what they went through, eating something they ate over two thousand years ago," Coonfield said.

Coonfield said preparing for the dinner was a challenge because of the

lack of Kosher resources locally, but the celebration was successful because of the help of volunteers.

The importance of observing traditions can be helpful to Soldiers and their families.

Coonfield said the op tempo in the Army right now is high, and that can be demanding on families. By celebrating with the Seder, everyone is able to touch God in his of her own way, and that will help them deal with hardships, she said.

Blumberg expressed his gratitude to the Army for the acceptance of the many different faiths Soldiers have.

"I'm appreciative that the Army works to accommodate all religions and creeds and allows them to express it in a positive way," Blumberg said.

However, the most important theme for the evening may have been that of freedom from slavery, of all people, everywhere.

The Haggadah says, "This year men are enslaved; may next year see them free."



## Pumpage report – as temperatures rise, post water use increases

BY JOAN VASEY  
MEDIA RELATIONS SPECIALIST

Approximately 38,275,000 gallons, or 117 acre feet, of water were pumped here during March, and is equivalent to 1.2 million gallons per day. Last month's draw is 12.5 percent more than the 104 acre feet pumped in March 2003, although it amounts to 40.5 percent less than the 22-year March average

of 197 acre feet pumped from 1982 through 2003.

The increase in water usage during March is most likely due to the record breaking high temperatures, which prompted outdoor activities such as hand-watering of lawns, shrubbery and trees, washing cars and other vehicles, and other warm-weather activities, according to Mike Shaughnessey real property manager, Directorate of Installation Support.

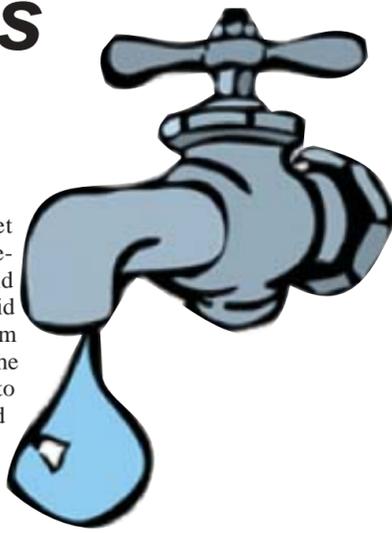
Pool maintenance contributed to about 40 percent of the increase. Both outdoor pools were emptied and refilled during March, Shaughnessey said.

The total water pumped from January through March was 311 acre-feet, approximately three percent less than the 312 acre feet pumped in 2003.

March water use at the USDA Forest Service Air Tanker Base was six gallons; the first time the base

has used water this year.

Twenty-three acre feet of treated effluent was re-used in March, a water and energy savings because it did not have to be pumped from the groundwater aquifer. The treated effluent was used to irrigate the golf course and Chaffee parade field / Prosser Military Intelligence Village.



## Heat off, cool on – changeover of equipment planned in May

DIRECTORATE OF INSTALLATION SUPPORT  
NEWS RELEASE

The Directorate of Installation Support has scheduled the changeover to cooling equipment to begin May 1.

Completion dates are projected to be May 30 for both post facilities and family housing units. Any facility that has not been completed by then should call the operations and maintenance contract work control section

at 533-5457 or 533-5459 for assistance. Additionally, call-backs for coolers that have been turned on should be referred to work control until June 15.

After these dates, service orders should be placed with

the Directorate of Installation Support service order desk at 533-3151/2003 (post) or 533-2030 (housing).

In most facilities, this changeover requires the heater to be disconnected before the cooling unit can be

activated. Occupants waiting to have their changeover performed are urged to open windows and doors on warm days. To assure a smooth and quick changeover, the O&M contractor has established a schedule for family

housing starting at Mott/Hall Circle housing area and finishing at the Grierson/Bonnie Blink housing area.

The weekly schedule will be run in the Scout one week prior to the changeover for each area.

Army News

# Opening floodgates?

## Army surveys confirm retention concerns

BY SPC. LORIE JEWELL  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

Recent surveys tell of broad concern that the Army faces potential challenges in retaining Soldiers when their enlistments are up.

An Army Research Institute survey of 3,399 enlisted personnel, conducted from October through January, found that among Soldiers who have not deployed and are still deployed, plans to stay in the Army until retirement are on par with what's been reported over the last three years.

Junior noncommissioned officers who have deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom are less likely to remain until retirement, however.

Of 10,620 Army Reserve Soldiers surveyed as of Jan. 30, 35 percent said they plan to leave or transfer to the Inactive Ready Reserve when their enlistments end, while 28 percent said they aren't sure what they'll do, and 27 percent said they intend to re-enlist.

The most common reason reserve Soldiers gave for leaving was that their service was too stressful on their family.

Among 5,274 National Guard Soldiers surveyed in 18 states, the survey showed a 12 percent drop in the number that plan to stay in the Guard until retirement, a 6 percent drop in those who said they will re-enlist and an 8 percent increase of Soldiers who intend to leave when their enlistment is up.

Historically, the Guard has had a loss rate of 18 percent annually. That rate currently stands at 17 percent, with a 13 percent loss rate for Soldiers who have demobilized since Sept. 11, 2001, and a 3 percent loss rate among Soldiers who have demobilized in the current fiscal year, the survey said.

A recent poll by The Washington Post, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University of 1,053 spouses of active-duty Soldiers found a majority believe the Army is heading for a major problem with retention.

Of those spouses who have loved ones deployed, 38 percent said they don't believe their spouses will re-enlist when the time comes, while 35 percent said they are certain they will stay in the Army.

Army officials aren't surprised by the results of the Post/Kaiser/Harvard survey.

"There was no blinding flash, it didn't tell us anything new," said Maj. Kevin Napier, chief of enlisted professional development, adding that much of the information is similar to what internal surveys have found.

One of the things the Army is looking at to counter potential retention problems is offering re-enlistment bonuses in jobs with anticipated shortfalls, or to Soldiers who re-enlist and agree to stay in certain units for at least

three years, Napier said.

Officials also expect transformation efforts, which include force stabilization plans that will reduce the amount of moving Soldiers and their families go through give better predictability for deployments, will help convince Soldiers to stay in the Army.

Reserve and Guard officials are also working on reorganization plans that should give Soldiers and their families better advance notice of deployments with unit rotations schedules.

Those who work in departments or programs that offer support to Soldiers and their families with services aimed at improving quality of life also said the Post/Kaiser/Harvard survey did not contain any surprises.

They are encouraged that more spouses than not said they were satisfied with the support and concern the Army shows for families.

"Are we perfect? No," said David White, chief of the Army's Well-Being Liaison Office. "But we're doing this better than we've ever done it before."

Every Army installation has family assistance centers that operate through Army Community Service Centers. Additionally, the National Guard has 387 such centers in place throughout the country, White said.

Spouses also stay connected through family readiness groups, which offer a support network and a way to get information quickly. Throughout the on-going operations, White and others have been impressed with the number of family members that have donated their time to help one another.

Army One Source is another service. It's a toll-free line that connects Soldiers, family members or deployed civilians with live consultants who hold master's degrees in social work or psychology and are available to help with issues like parenting, child care, elder care, education, legal and financial, medical benefits, and household challenges. The number is (800) 464-8107. From outside the United States dial the appropriate access code to reach a U.S. number and then (800) 464-81077 — all 11 digits must be dialed. Hearing-impaired callers should use (800) 364-9188, and Spanish speakers can dial (888) 732-9020.

Technology helps as well. Not only does it keep them in touch with Soldiers overseas, but most Army support agencies have Web sites that keep families informed. Well-being is located at [www.wblo.org](http://www.wblo.org) and the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center is at [www.armymwr.com](http://www.armymwr.com).

Deloras Johnson, director of family programs for CFSC, said the agency is currently

working on developing list servers that will deliver information in more consistent ways.

"Any time the Army goes to a different scenario, we find things that we can improve on," said Johnson. "One of our biggest challenges is getting information out better and faster."

When it comes to helping children, CFSC's Child and Youth Services has several options available to families. One project is a cooperative effort with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's extension service and 4-H program.

Getting involved with 4-H keeps youths busy and connects them to peers, which helps them adjust to moving to new communities. For children of reserve-component Soldiers who don't move around, the agency is working to find them and invite them to 4-H, said Sherrie Wright, who works with the extension service and 4-H.

"Wherever they go, they can always find a 4-H club," Wright said.

Another program is Operation Military Kids, which debuted at the recent national 4-H conference. It offers a speaker's bureau that sends teens out into their communities to garner support for military kids. Several Army teens also shared what military life is like with the 350 youths who attended the national conference, Wright said.

The youths also put together 'hero packs' with a variety of 4-H products and useful items to take home, where they will give them to military youths in their communities.

"We're trying to build awareness and build support systems in local communities," Wright said.

In addition, Child and Youth Services has restructured its Army Teen Panel to include youths from families of Army Reserves, Accessions Command and National Guard Soldiers. The panel is made up of teens giving input on behalf of their peers on issues affecting them, which makes its way to Army leadership. The panel also helps teens develop leadership, community outreach and citizenship skills.

The agency is also piloting a School To School project that connects kids who are moving to a new location with other kids in the school they'll be attending. It's a youth sponsorship of sorts aimed at having a support network in place before a child arrives, said P.K. Tomlinson, deputy director of Child and Youth Services.

All of the services offered are aimed at helping children, but they also have a further-reaching impact, Tomlinson said.

"We want to help reduce loss of duty time and improve readiness," she said. "We do that when we help Soldiers take care of their families."



## First Stryker brigade proving its worth in Iraq

BY JOE BURLAS  
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

A year after conducting its Initial Operational Capabilities testing, the Army's first Stryker Brigade Combat Team is fairing well in Iraq, according to senior Army procurement officials.

Members of the Pentagon press corps got an update Monday on successes of the Army's first fielded SBCT — 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, based in Fort Lewis, Wash. — and the Army's fielding plan for the remaining planned Stryker brigades.

"The 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division is performing extremely effectively in combat in Iraq," said Col. Nick Justice, acting assistant deputy for Acquisition and Systems Management for the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology. "The SBCT has effectively used speed and situational understanding to kill and capture dozens of enemy fighters."

That speed and quietness of the wheeled Strykers, compared to armored track vehicles, has earned the 3-2nd a nickname among many Iraqis, Justice said. Iraqi citizens around Samarra gave the brigade Soldiers the nickname "Ghost Riders" as the Stryker

vehicles arrive and deploy their infantrymen with little noise or warning.

Citing that no Soldiers have been killed due to rocket-propelled grenade or improvised explosive device attacks while riding in a Stryker vehicle since the 3-2nd arrived in Iraq last fall, Justice said that Army leaders are very pleased with its survivability in combat.

The most serious injury due to an RPG attack against a Stryker vehicle to date has been a broken ankle.

The brigade has suffered casualties in Iraq — chief among them, three Soldiers were killed in a Stryker rollover when a roadway embankment gave way in December.

Strykers in Iraq are augmented with add-on slat armor that is proving effective against RPG attacks.

Despite the effectiveness of the slat armor against the current threat in Iraq, the Army is still pursuing the development of reactive armor.

"Slat armor is successful, but we don't want to be locked into it as there are other threats out there where reactive armor is needed," Justice said.

The Army plans on building enough Stryker add-on reactive armor kits to equip several brigades. Those brigade sets will be drawn from a pre-positioned site and used when a mission requires it,

according to Army officials. The first brigade set of reactive armor is scheduled to be fielded in March 2005, with another set ready the following year.

Stryker operations in Iraq have given Army procurement officials some lessons learned that will be implemented in the near future. Among those lessons, there is a need for greater sensor range and greater reach back communications capability. To address the sensor issue, the Army plans to make the sensor mast on the Stryker Reconnaissance Vehicle taller; and for the communications issue, replace the 44 Near-Term Digital Radios in the brigade with 53 satellite radio sets capable of operating in a joint environment over greater distances.

On the logistics side, the 3-2nd is proving that having a common chassis for its combat vehicles means a smaller logistics tail. The brigade is carrying about 160 lines of spare parts, compared to an armored brigade that carries about 300 lines of parts, Justice said.

Having a common family of vehicles within the brigade also means a common set of skill sets among brigade Soldiers to keep the vehicle maintained, he said.

Stating that a year of combat operations equates to about seven years of normal operational use of a combat ve-

hicle, Justice said the operational readiness rate of the Stryker is about where he expected it to be — above 90 percent.

There are two variants and eight other configurations of the basic Stryker Infantry Carrier. The Mobile Gun System and the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Reconnaissance and Survey Vehicles have yet to be fielded due to several human engineering issues that are being worked, according to officials. Low rate production of the MGS is expected to start late this summer, Justice said.

The Army's second SBCT — 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division — is currently undergoing its Initial Operational Capabilities evaluation. It is expected to be certified by the Department of Defense as operationally ready sometime this summer.

The next brigade to transform to a SBCT will be 172nd Infantry Brigade (Separate), Fort Richardson, Alaska. The 172nd will start getting its Stryker vehicles in May, Justice said.

A February Defense Acquisition Board decision has funded the fourth Stryker brigade — 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (Light), Fort Polk, La.

DoD has recently directed the Army to include the remaining bri-

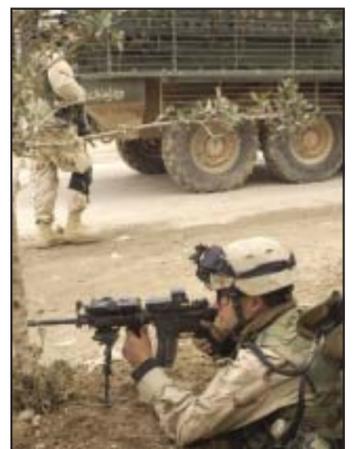


Photo by Spc. Clinton Tarzia

**Soldiers of Battle Company, 5th Battalion - 20 Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) conduct route reconnaissance, a presence patrol, a civilian assessment and combat operations contributing to the stability of Samarra, Iraq.**

gades for Stryker conversion — 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and the 56th Brigade of the 28th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Pennsylvania Army National Guard — in its budget planning process.