Volume 6, Number 3

www.irwin.army.mi

Jan. 21, 2010

Published in the interest of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin community

H1N1 VACCINE AVAILABLE

Preventive Medicine Clinic has received 3,000 doses of H1N1 vaccine for all active duty Soldiers and DoD employees. Soldiers and DoD employees may receive their vaccine at Preventive Medicine (Bldg. 172) Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Groups larger than 20 people are asked to coordinate with the Preventive Medicine Clinic in order to minimize wait times. 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment units will receive vaccine at their regimental aid station. For more information, call Preventive Medicine Clinic, 380-3235/3053.

DEFENSE TRAVEL CLASSES

Defense Travel System classes are available, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday to Friday. Learn how to input your temporary duty assignment authorizations/orders and vouchers. If you are going to be a person of authority in DTS as an organizational defense travel administrator, reviewer, or approving official, take a one-on-one class. Contact Peggy Westfield, lead defense travel administrator, at Bldg. 569, or call 380-6528.

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Commanding general's National Prayer Breakfast is Feb. 1, 6:30-8 a.m., at Reggie's. Ticket donations: Sgt. and below - \$4; Staff Sgt. and above, including civilians – S8. See your Unit Ministry Team for tickets. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Strachan, Installation Chaplain's Office, at 380-4213.

Force Protection Tip of the Week

Remember: S5I
"See Something Suspicious,
Say Something Immediately!"

NTC hosts Canadian Task Force rotations

Brigade-size force to train for mission in Afghanistan

BY GUSTAVO BAHENA

HDW Staff Writer

"We are quite frankly taking advantage of what is a superb training facility," said Canadian Army Brig. Gen. Jean Collin, commander, Canada's Land Force Central Area and Joint Task Force Central.

The general was referring to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., which is currently facilitating training for a Canadian Army Task Force. The training at the NTC helps prepare the Task Force before a sizeable portion of it deploys to Afghanistan this spring.

"There's the training area that replicates Afghanistan quite well, simply because of the nature of the terrain," Brig. Gen. Collin said. "But, there's also...the skills and the people of the National Training Center who also make this a unique experience for the Canadian Soldier."

The unique experience will last six-and-a-half weeks, because Canadian Soldiers will conduct two training rotations, back-to-back. It's the first time the NTC has hosted a brigade-size element from a coalition partner in the war in Afghanistan for a full training rotation, let alone two. The U.S. military facilitates training of coalition partners, but not to the extent that the NTC is currently performing.

"We conduct training for coalition partners at combat training centers routinely, primarily at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels, Germany, but not to this magnitude," said NTC and Fort Irwin commander, Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams. "This is the first time we've had an allied brigade come and train at a combat training center. So, it's a first for the combat training center program. It's a first for the National Training Center."

Canadian military conducts NTC-style trainings for battalion-level rotations at its Canadian Maneuver Training Center (CMTC), near the town of Wainwright in Alberta, Canada. The area is covered in several feet of snow at the moment, and because the NTC had an opening this month and the next, the opportunity to train here was not passed up the Canadian Army.

"Unlike a normal U.S. rotation that only



CAROLINE KEYS

Canadian Soldier positions himself at corner of building in the village of Medina Wasl as American observer-controller notes his position.

shows up here for the culmination of its training – its final three weeks – we're doing that, we're also doing a lot of the preliminary [parts] that we can't hope to do very well in Canada because of climate," Brig. Gen. Collin said.

The Task Force arrived at Fort Irwin just

after the new year, and by early February, its Soldiers will have spent 26 days trainin in "the Box," as the training area here is called. A four-day comp period, or rest, is scheduled for

_See Canadian, page 8

What's Inside

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Golden Hammer Award......Page 8

Guardian Awards Pages 12-13

NCO Induction..... Page 14

JAN.-FEB. 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	-11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
ROTATIONAL SOLDIER USE OF POST FACILITIES						

Source: Directorate of Human Resources National Training Center and Fort Irwin

■ HEAVY USE | ■ MEDIUM USE | ■ MINIMAL USE

ICE Program Gives Customers a Voice

ICE Year End Snapshot Jan. 10, 2009-Jan. 10, 2010

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	8	•	88
AAFES	442	•	25
Commissary	75	•	37
Fort Irwin Garrison	8239	•	89
Veterinary Services	50	•	28
DENTAC	1888	•	98
MEDDAC	737	•	63

ICE Weekly Report Jan. 4, 10-Jan. 10, 10

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	0	[NOT RATED]	0
AAFES	9	•	11
Commissary	2	•	0
Fort Irwin Garrison	180	•	91
Veterinary Services	1	•	100
DENTAC	26	•	100
MEDDAC	18	•	89

Fort Irwin Garrison Organizations

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
Fort Irwin Garrison	197	•	91
Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation	73	•	85
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center	0	[NOT RATED]	_
Equal Employment Opportunity	0	[NOT RATED]	_
Human Resources	96		97
Information Management	1		100
Legal	2		100
Logistics	1		100
Pinnacle Housing	15		86
Plans, Analysis & Integration Office	4	[NOT RATED]	_
Police/Provost Marshall	2		0
Public Affairs	0	[NOT RATED]	_
Public Works	0	[NOT RATED]	_
RCI Housing	0	[NOT RATED]	_
Religious Support	0	[NOT RATED]	_
Resource Management Office	0	[NOT RATED]	_
Safety	0	[NOT RATED]	_
American Red Cross	0	[NOT RATED]	_
Armed Forces Bank	1	•	100
Landmark Inn	2	•	100
Military Family Life Consultants	0	[NOT RATED]	
Plans, Training, Security	0	[NOT RATED]	
WIC (Woman, Infants, and Children)	0	[NOT RATED]	

Rating Key: ● = 86%-100% Satisfied | ● = 65%-85% Satisfied | ● = 0%-64% Satisfied

The following are a sampling of ICE submissions at Fort Irwin in the past three weeks. If the customer requests a response, service providers are expected to respond to the customer within three business days and post follow-up notes in ICE.

Burger King

Customer Comment: My husband and I went through the drive-thru at Burger King on 12/09/09. Our order number was 3272. The girl who took our order wasn't very friendly, but was nice enough. The girl handing out food was rude. Apparently she didn't know what we ordered and rather than asking us to confirm our order wanted to see our receipt and rudely said "Let me have your receipt" or something along those lines. I gave her the receipt and after waiting long enough we finally got our food. After we drove away and dug in. We noticed there were no straws for our drinks, and the fries were stone cold. When waiting that long, with no one in front of us, our food should have at least been warm and common sense would dictate that people going through the drive-thru need straws

for their drinks. It was just a reminder why we very rarely frequent your establishment. **Agency Response:** Thank you for the Ice Comment concerning the drive-thru at Burger King. I apologize for the service that you received from the associate handling the order. There was not a reason for the order to take as long as it did. The associate in question was informed of the proper way a bag is to be given to the customer. She was also informed that we do not ask for the receipt, but to repeat the order to the

See *ICE* , page 10

WHO WE ARE

Brig. Gen. Robert B. Abrams Commanding General Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez..... Post CSM Col. Jim Chevallier Garrison Commander Command Sgt. Maj. Mark A. Harvey ... Garrison CSM John M. Wagstaffe Director, NTC PAO **High Desert Warrior Staff** Chicpaul Becerra chicpaul.becerra@us.army.mil Gustavo Bahena..... . Staff Writer gustavo.bahena@us.army.mil Charles Melton..... Staff Writer charles.melton3@us.army.mil Agustin Rodriguez... Editorial Assistant agustin.rodriguez1@us.army.mil Caroline Keyser......HDW Volunteer Writer caroline.gotler@us.army.mil

Aerotech News

Tammi HaynesGraphic Designer

HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

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SUBMISSIONS

Story and photos not pertaining to commercial advertising may be sent to the High Desert Warrior at least two weeks prior to the desired publication date. Submissions may be e-mailed to chicpaul.becerra@us.army.mil

NEWSPAPER AWARDS

2008 Dept. of the Army Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Newspaper competition—Tabloid category 3rd place, U.S. Army Installation Management Command-West 2007 Honorable Mention, Dept. of the Army

SEND US FEEDBACK

Send your questions, suggestions, or problems to:

- 1. Your chain of command
- 2. ICE (Interactive Customer Evaluation)
- 3. CG's Hotline: 380-5463



An M1A1 tank from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, fires at a target at the Range No. 1 facility, Jan. 7.

'Cold Steel' welcomes New Year with a bang

BY SGT. GIANCARLO CASEM

11th ACR Public Affairs

The hills around Fort Irwin echoed with the loud cannon roar from the tanks of "Cold Steel."

Troopers from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, conducted Tank Table 6 live-fire qualification gunnery at the Range 1 facility, Jan. 4-8.

"Live-fire events such as these are irreplaceable," said Capt. Christopher Kane, commander of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th ACR.

"There's nothing you can do to replace that, I don't care what simulator or virtual training you do, there's nothing like the real thing," Capt. Kane said. "You're on cloud nine as a 19K (M1 Armor crewman), it's by-far, the peak season for C Troop."

With the busy and high operational tempo of the Blackhorse Troopers, gunneries and ranges are squeezed in between rotations. The live-fire gunneries are an opportunity for C Troop, nicknamed "Cold Steel," tankers to keep their skills sharp, skills that, with current overseas contingency operations, are not being fully utilized.

"It is a perishable skill," he said. "In the armor corps, we're not able to execute our mission in the current fight. Any opportunity to be on a tank is a blessing, especially given our dual mission here."

The captain also said that having trained and proficient Soldiers here may also strengthen the armor corps as a whole.

"I understand that there are people who will go on permanent change-of-station from here and go on to units that are deploying or go to units that are going to be on tanks, so any opportunity to train on that specific skill is



An M1A1 tank from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, fires at a target from a firing position at the Range No. 1 facility, Jan. 7.

a good thing," Capt. Kane said. "We owe that to those units who get these Soldiers to get the best trained Soldier possible. We get guys here out of Advanced Individual Training who have never fired a tank and even some NCOs who have never been on a tank their whole career; they were in Strykers."

To ensure that all Soldiers receive adequate training, the Cold Steel command turned to their veteran NCOs. 1st Sgt. Jim Fulford said mentoring and training junior Soldiers is one of the most important tasks that they do.

"Our NCOs must train and mentor the junior Soldiers during gunnery to ensure we remain safe while reinforcing our deadly skill set," 1st Sgt. Fulford said. "The training they receive in OSUT (One Station Unit Training) sets the

foundation, but the experience and expertise imparted to them by their NCOs builds the knowledge-base that shapes their career.

C Troop met a few challenges during their week of gunnery. For some Soldiers, it was their first time qualifying in certain jobs.

"We worked slow and worked safe," he said. "We had seven first-time commanders, six first-time gunners; and seven crews qualified. We operated safely, and no one got hurt. It was a success, two thumbs up, no one got hurt, everybody had fun, and everybody had specific training. You couldn't trade that for the world."

As Soldiers and their family members spent the week adjusting to life back on Fort Irwin, the tankers of Cold Steel welcomed them back rattling windows in the housing area and filling the quiet hills around Fort Irwin with echoes from the tanks' 120 mm. main gun.

"It was tough to go back, but the guys were fresh, it was a way to celebrate the time off from the monotony of doing the rotations," Capt. Kane said. "But I tell you, I sat back with my troop watching the sun set on Teifort, smoking a cigar - a victory for Tank Table 6, and I hear my boys just talking. I've never heard morale so high, and if that's all it takes, a tank gunnery to be that motivated, then I'll do that every month if I can. It was definitely a good experience. The Soldiers loved it; I wish they could do it every day of their life."



An M1A1 tank from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, engages a target while moving from one firing point to another during qualification live-fire gunnery at the Range No. 1 facility, Jan. 7.

For more information go to www.irwin.army.mil

Crime Watch

Information provided by Provost Marshal Office

Police respond to a report of an assault in a barracks area. Soldiers were turned over to their unit.

Police respond to a report of damage to private property near a contractor's facility.

Police respond to a report of theft of property at the PX. One person was charged with shoplifting.

Police respond to a report of damage to a POV in a barracks area parking lot.

Police initiate a traffic stop on a vehicle with expired registration over six months. The owner was charged with No Proof of Insurance and Expired registration and the vehicle was impounded.

Police respond to a report of a license plate being removed from a vehicle in the RV storage lot.

Police and Fire units respond to a structure fire in the Coyote Springs housing area. The fire was ultimately contained and there were no injuries.



Adopt-a-pet



Name: Sage

Breed:

Domestic short hair

Gender: Female

Age: Approx. 8 months

Sage is available for adoption at the Fort Irwin Vet's Clinic. Call 380-3025 for more information. You can also check out the Fort Irwin section on www.petfinder.com

News Briefs

LAPD IS HIRING

Los Angeles Police Department will hold an LAPD written test for applicants interested in joining the LAPD police force on Feb. 10, 4:30 p.m., at the Fort Irwin Education Center, Bldg. 1020. LAPD offers higher starting pay based on education, military, and prior law enforcement experience with honorable discharge.

COR COURSE REGISTRATION

A Contracting Officer Representative (COR) course is scheduled for Feb. 16-19 at the Distributed Learning Center (DLC), Bldg. 284. Soldiers and Civilians must register for the COR course (ALMC) by logging into Civilian Human Resource Training Application System (CHRTAS) and completing the registration form. Contact Ernest Hill, Mission and Installation Contracting Command, 380-8311, to register.





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Only 5/60

None

Only 3/36

Only 5/60

None

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For more information go to www.irwin.army.mil

\$15,800

Chapel Services

CATHOLIC

Rosary	20 Min before Mass	Center Chapel
Holy Mass	Sunday—9 a.m.	Center Chapel
Daily Mass	M, T, Th, & F—11:45 a.m.	Center Chapel
Confession	30 Min before Mass	Center Chapel
Choir Rehearsal	Wednesday—6:30 p.m.	Center Chapel
CWOC	Thursday—9 a.m.	Center Chapel

PROTESTANT

Lutheran	Sunday—9 a.m.	Center Chapel
Sunday School	Sunday—9:30 a.m.	Center Chapel
Chapel Next (SANC)	Sunday—11 a.m.	Center Chapel
Protestant (LAR)	Sunday—11 a.m.	Center Chapel
PEWS (Contem)	Sunday—6 p.m.	Center Chapel
PYOC (Youth)	Monday—7 p.m.	Bldg 317
PWOC Morning	Tuesday—9 a.m.	Center Chapel
PWOC Evening	Tuesday—6 p.m.	Center Chapel
Praise Team Rehearsal	Wednesday—7:30 p.m.	Center Chapel
Protestant-Liturgical		

Worship Service, 9 a.m., Sunday,

GOSPEL

Sunday School	Sunday—9:30 a.m.	Blackhorse Chape	
*Sunday School is hel	d every Sunday except the first	t Sunday of the month	
Worship Service	Sunday—11 a.m.	Blackhorse Chape	
Prayer Warriors	Wednesday—6 p.m.	Blackhorse Chape	
Children's Church	&		
Choir Practice	Wednesday—5 p.m.	Blackhorse Chape	
Adult Bible Study	Wednesday—7 p.m.	Blackhorse Chapel	
Prayer Men Of Integrity/Women of Excellence			

2nd Wednesday of the Month—7 p.m. Blackhorse Chapel

Blackhorse Chapel

Jewish Service	Friday—6 p.m.	Black Horse Chapel
Jewish Gervice	1 11day 0 p.111.	Diack Florise Chaper

LATTER DAY SAINTS

Sacrament Meeting	Sunday—1 pm.	Blackhorse Chapel
Sunday School	Sunday—2:15 p.m.	Center Chapel
Priesthood/RSE	Sunday—3:10 p.m.	CFLC/Bldg 317

SAMOAN

Worship Service 1st Sunday—9:30 a.m. Blackhorse Chapel

MUSLIM

Bldg 317 Friday—1 p.m.

CHAPEL ACTIVITIES

AWAI	NΑ	
(3vrs-	6th	σı

(3yrs-6th grade)	Wednesday—4 p.m.	Center Chapel
Life Teen	Wednesday—6:30 p.m.	Bldg. 320
MOPS	2nd and 4th Wed—9 a.m.	Center Chapel
Edge	Sunday—10 a.m.	Center Chapel
Note: For more infor	mation on chapel activities cont	act the
Center Chapel staff	at 380-3562 or the Blackhorse	e Chapel staff at
380-4088. See back	cover for addresses and teleph	one directory.
AWANA: Approved	Workmen Are Not Ashamed	(2 Tim 2:15)
CWOC:	Catholic Women Of the Cha	apel
PEWS:	Protestant Evening Worship	Ŝervice
PWOC:	Protestant Women Of the C	hapel
PYOC:	Protestant Youth Of the Cha	pel
CFLC:	Chaplain Family Life Center	, Bldg. 320
MOPS:	Mothers Of PreSchoolers, Bl	dg. 317

Childcare services for ages 0-5 yrs are provided free of charge for all

scheduled chapel services.

Barstow Baptist Temple Pastor A.D. Hampton

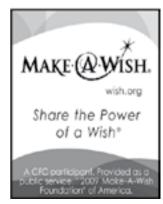
Service Times **Bible Study**

Hours:

Sunday • 10 am Worship Hour Sunday • 11am & 6pm

Wednesday • 7pm Children's Program Wednesday • 7pm

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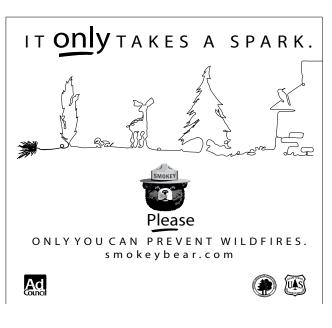
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Community Happenings

GSAB FRG ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following are upcoming General Support Aviation Battalion, Family Readiness Group events:

HHD, GSAB

6

Feb. 18: HHD FRG meeting; Time: 6 p.m., Location: Bldg. 1200 Forum, Topic: TBD. If you should have any questions please contact Ms. Hunter at 380-7781 or email: hhdfrg507@gmail.com.

AAD, GSAB

Jan. 21: AAD FRG meeting; Time: 6 p.m., Location: Starbucks. If you should have any questions, please contact Sherry Martin at (207) 664-8021 or email: aadfrg@gmail.com.

AVCO GSAR

AVCO FRG meeting is scheduled to be in February but no time, date or location has been set. If you should have any questions, please contact Robin Stewart at 252-7592 or email: acanrobin@yahoo.com.

COCKTAILS AND CATWALK

Purchase your tickets now for Cocktails and the Catwalk at Reggie's on Saturday. Tickets are only \$20. Enjoy the Martini Bar, Dessert Buffet and Forever 21 Fashion Show. Designated drivers get a special soft drink special. Call 380-7144 for more information.

YOUTH BOWLING LEAGUE

Sign up for the Youth Bowling League and the Healthy Bowling League now at the Strike Zone. For more information, call 380-4249.

ROCK BAND

Shock Wave presents rock band Another Dying Breed on Jan. 30. Cover charge is \$3 between 8 and 10 p.m. and \$5 after 10 p.m. Call 380-3045 for more information.

WATCH FIGHT NIGHT

Watch Ultimate Fighting Championship Night at Shock Wave on Feb. 6, 7 p.m., with "Relentless" Couture vs. Coleman. The pizza buffet costs \$5 and \$10 cover. Call 380-3045 for details.

WEIGHT WATCHERS

Come and make your New Year's resolution happen in 2010 by attending weekly meetings on Thursdays, at 12 noon, Bldg. 317 (2nd Street and Avenue E). Signup and weigh-in start at 11:30 a.m. Public is free to check out the meeting. More information: Call Christine at 298-3438 or getfit@ww-Christine.com.

MILITARY CAREER EXPO

Military.com and NCOA will co-host a Military Career Expo at Camp Pendleton's South Mesa Club, located at 202850 San Jacinto Road, Camp Pendleton, California 92055, from 10 am to 2 pm, Feb. 16. Military.com hosts the largest veteran job board in the world while NCOA has been a leader in hosting military job fairs around the country.

COOKIE SALE

The annual Girl Scout cookie sale will begin Jan. 24 and ends March 14. For more information, contact Penny at 386-4717.

PX TO CLOSE EARLY

Army and Air Force Exchange Service will conduct inventory on Jan. 29-30. The Main Exchange will close early on Jan. 29, 5 p.m. All other facilities will remain open during normal hours.

VOLUNTEER COACHES NEEDED

The youth sports program needs volunteer coaches for the youth indoor soccer and youth football teams. Four volunteers are needed for each program. The practice dates began on Jan. 19. The first games will be held on Jan. 30 and the final games will be played on March 6. Contact Tom Gilbert, director, CYC Sports for information, 380-7044.

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Shock Wave will host a Super Bowl Party on Feb. 7. The party starts at noon and kick off starts at 3:30 p.m. Enjoy food, fun, games and a plasma television giveaway. Watch the game on oversize screens. Call 380-8646 for details.

STRIKE ZONE'S SUPER "BOWL"

The Strike Zone will have Super Bowl fun on Feb. 7. Enjoy \$1 food specials at half time and special giveaways. Also, featured is a special menu, featuring dishes from regions of the two competing teams. Stop by during game day. Call 380-4249 for more information.

REGGIE'S VALENTINE MENU

Fall in love with our Valentine's menu at Reggie's on Feb. 14, from 5-9 p.m. Enjoy menu items like Roasted Red Pepper Gouda Bisque, New York Strip with Seared Bay Scallops, Cream Poached Lobster Tail and more. Call 380-6717 for details.

At the Movies

Thursday, Jan. 21

7 p.m. Closed (PG-13)

Friday, Jan. 22

7 p.m. The Princess and The Frog (G)

7 p.m. Everybody's Fine (PG-13) 9:30 p.m. Brothers (R)

9:30 p.m. Brothers (K)

9:30 p.m. The Blind Side (PG-13)

Saturday, Jan. 23

7 p.m. The Princess and The Frog (G)

7 p.m. Everybody's Fine (PG-13) 9:30 p.m. Brothers (R)

9:30 p.m. The Blind Side (PG-13)

Sunday, Jan. 24

4 p.m. The Princess and The

Frog (G)

7 p.m. Brothers (R)

7 p.m. Everybody's Fine (PG-13)

Monday, Jan. 25

7 p.m. The Princess and The Frog (G)

7 p.m. Brothers (R)

Tuesday, Jan. 26

7 p.m. Closed (PG-13)

Wednesday, Jan. 27

7 p.m. Closed (PG-13)

This schedule is subject to change at the last minute to accommodate changes in movies and free showings. ID cards are required from all personnel not in uniform when purchasing movie tickets. For more information and movie updates, call 380-3490.

GRAFFITI ART CONTEST

Submit your entry to Arts & Crafts through Jan. 27. Judging will be held on Jan. 29. Categories include: Lil' Taggerz, 8-10 years; Crazee Sketchaz, 11-13 years; Sonic Scribblaz, 13-16 years; and Master Mindz, 17-22 years.

DEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications for dependent children of Soldiers who are on active duty, retired, or deceased are now available until March 1. Online applications, information, and details for the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program can be obtained at the Army Emergency Relief website: www.aerhq.org. The program was established in 1976 as a secondary mission to help Army families with undergraduate college expenses for their dependent children. Applicants will be notified by mail in the first week of June if they have or have not been awarded a scholarship.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Fort Irwin community is invited to the Black History Month Celebration at the Sandy Basin Community Center, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 2. The guest speaker is Mr. Michael Fosberg, who will conduct a one man play titled "Incognito." Soldiers and officers of the Regimental Support Squardron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment is sponsoring the event. The event is open to all Soldiers, civilians, and family members. Anyone that is interested in contributing to the event is encouraged to contact the Equal Opportunity Office. For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Ramon Guiets, equal opportunity advisor, NTC/11th ACR, 380-4963.

UFC NIGHT

UFC Night starts again on Feb. 6 at 7pm with "Relentless" Couture v. Coleman. The pizza buffet is only \$5 and there is a small \$10 cover. Save money. Watch this fight at Shock Wave. Call: 380-3045 for details. Shock Wave, your new choice for UFC!

PRINCESS PARTY

Arts and Crafts is hosting a Princess Party at the stroke of 12 noon, on Jan. 23. Prince charming will be in attendance to crown all the princesses. Cost is \$15 per princess.

CHILD AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Middle School Activities

Thursday — Photography Club, Torch Club and Cooking Club Marshmallow

Popcorn Balls, Brain Teasers

Friday — Valentine Love Bug Rock Painting, Kids Choice Computer Lab,

Graph Art

Monday — Claymation, Tissue Paper Bear, Word Search

Tuesday — Light Bulbs Computer Lab, Friendship Bags, Graph Art

Wednesday — Make your Own Calendar, Smart Girls and Passport to

Manhood, 4-H, Real Life Money Math

Teen Activities

Friday — Teen Night- Rock Band

Saturday — Teen Night- 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

Hours of Operation:

Middle School: M-F until 6 p.m.

Teen Center

Friday — 6-11 p.m.

Saturday — 3:30-11 p.m.

Sundays and Holidays — Closed

More information: Kristin Morgan at 380-3732.

Fort Irwin Community Calendar

Thurs., Jan.21

Weight Watchers

12 noon

Bldg. 317

Christine, 298-3438

Sat., Jan. 23

Cocktails and the Catwalk

6 p.m.

Reggie's

380-3227 Or 380-7144

Sat., Jan. 23

Princess Party

12 noon

Arts & Crafts

380-4767

Sat., Jan. 30

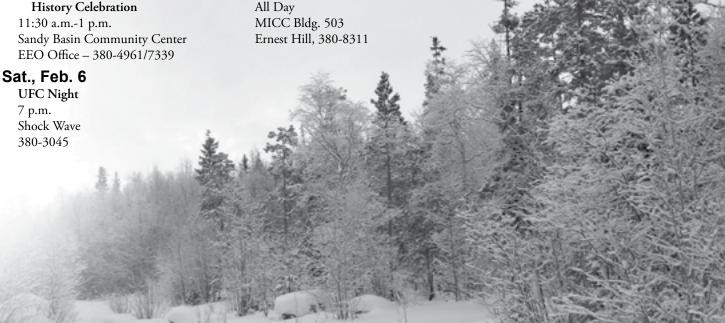
Another Dying Breed rock band

8 p.m.

Shock Wave

380-3045

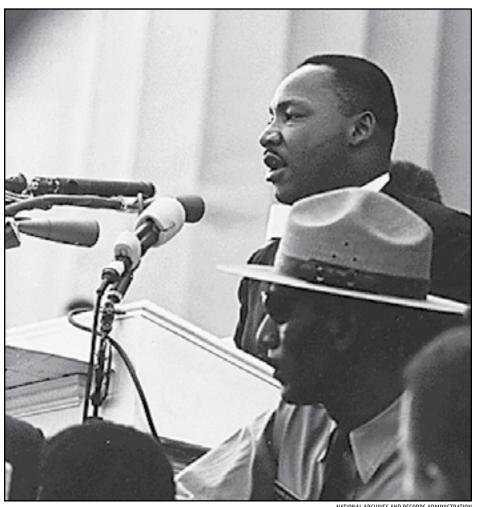
Tues., Feb. 2 Tues., Feb. 16 African American Black COR Certification Training by ALMC



Check out these upcoming activities at Fort Irwin

Commentary

MLK's legacy deserves more than day off



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speaks to the crowd during the Civil Rights March on Washington, Aug. 28, 1963.

BY DAVID W. KUHNS SR.

Army News Service

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — We Americans easily lose touch with what our holidays are supposed to mean.

When Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the first official Thanksgiving, it was a day for sober reflection in the midst of the most terrible of all our wars. Now, for most of us, it is a celebration of gluttony and sloth.

Memorial Day and Veterans Day were both proclaimed at times when deaths in combat and uniformed service touched most of the population. Now, despite a few parades and ceremonies, for most Americans they are just days off from work.

Labor Day was created to commemorate the rise of the common man from under the heel of wealthy oppressors - a celebration of the legitimate influence of organized labor. Now it just marks the last "official"

Martin Luther King's birthday, the newest of our national holidays, seems to already be passing down the same path to trivialization. That seems especially

Martin Luther King Jr. made Americans come to grips with how they felt about race and how all races were treated in our country. His oratory was stirring, his courage inspiring, but it was the self-examination he forced on all of us that was most important.

Only by getting Americans to look inward in that manner was he able to drive change. We are losing that valuable introspection.

King's legacy strikes at the very roots of who we are as Americans. Nothing has so profoundly affected how our nation developed as have the relationships between races. But we have always tried to avoid that

We speak in analogies, we generalize, we use grand

but vague phrases, but we don't like to get down close and think about race and how it affects each of us.

About a hundred years ago, leading American historians developed a school of thought that said the frontier was the primary source of all that was uniquely American. What they were really talking about was the 250 years of ongoing warfare between expanding American settlement and the native peoples who were already living on the land. That is 250 years spent in racial conflict of the most brutal nature.

How we dealt with race in another way was the greatest threat to the existence of our nation for its first century, too. Slavery tore the country apart, literally. But many Americans turn away from that reality. You can still find history teachers who say that the Civil War wasn't about slavery; it was about "state's rights."

Rights to do what? To hold humans in bondage because of the color of their skin, that's what.

Everyone, from every race, tends to generalize and label others - based on what they have been taught and based on what they have seen in their own narrow experiences. It is only human to do so. But we all need to keep an eye on our attitudes if we are to make sure our actions don't drift into habits we know

That was the gift of Martin Luther King Jr., I think - he made us look at ourselves. Sometimes we didn't like what we saw, but the country ended up better for the process.

Monday should be a time for the nation to pause and take inventory, on a personal level, of how we think about and treat those around us.

It shouldn't just be another day off.

(David W. Kuhns Sr. serves as editor of the Northwest Guardian newspaper at Fort Lewis, Wash.)

For more information go to www.irwin.army.mil

Enlisted married Soldiers can choose deployment cycle preferences

BY CAROLINE KEYSER

HDW Volunteer Writer

Enlisted married Army couples have a new resource available to help coordinate their deployment cycles.

On Dec. 3, the Army's Human Resources Command implemented changes to the Married Army Couples Program that allow enlisted couples to indicate a preference for simultaneous or separate deployment cycles. Couples enrolled in MACP can submit their preference through the Assignment Satisfaction Key on the AKO portal.

"The changes will help give Soldiers a better quality of life because they have some say now," said Carlos Proano, chief of Fort Irwin's personnel actions branch.

There is a three-month window for deployments of married Soldiers who are on simultaneous deployment cycles. That means that the spouse of a Soldier who deployed in January would deploy by March, Proano said. Those on separate

deployment cycles will not deploy until a currently deployed spouse returns.

Although enlisted Soldiers may now submit preferences, there are no guarantees whether the Army will be able to honor them, Proano said. The changes to MACP include a provision that allows the first colonel in a Soldier's chain of command to waive simultaneous deployment cycle preference for mission support.

HRC also raised the level of approval needed to break joint domicile from a Soldier's branch sergeant major to the director of Enlisted Personnel Management. Army policy states that married Soldiers should be stationed within 50 miles of each other. Soldiers are still able to voluntarily break joint domicile by contacting their career branch in writing. More than 81 percent of Soldier couples enrolled in MACP are currently serving in joint domicile assignments.

"HRC is doing this to reinforce the fact that they really care about Soldiers," Proano said.

Canadian, from page 1.

Feb. 4-7, followed by the second training rotation. Two rotations, as NTC veterans can attest, should cover many training objectives for the Canadians.

"This is enabling them to train their forces to a high level and put it as close to their deployment as possible, so they're razor-sharp when they leave here," Brig. Gen. Abrams said. "and ultimately, it will save lives because they're able to train during a time period when they couldn't train at home."

Hosting the training is a clear reaffirmation to the Canadian government, the Canadian armed forces, that we are equally committed to them as they are to us, said Brig. Gen. Abrams.

"They have been committed with us side-by-side in Afghanistan since the beginning," Brig. Gen. Abrams said. "Their Army has stood right next to us. They have a very small Army. They have invested and sacrificed as much blood and treasure as we have sacrificed on the battlefield. Their number of casualties, both wounded and killed in action, are pretty significant."

Almost 30 years of 'Training the Force' at the NTC and Fort Irwin contributes to the training of the Canadian Task Force, said Brig. Gen. Abrams. Fort Irwin and NTC capabilities such as medical evacuations, medical treatment, logistics and sustainment resources support the training mission.

"It's not just one thing," Brig. Gen. Abrams said.
"That's what makes this place so great. It's all the people who are here, who do this day in and day out, that's their mission. That's what we bring to training

the Canadians. We're going to train and treat the Canadian brigade as good as, or better than our own, and up to this point, clearly have exceeded that."

The Canadian general said the support his Army has received at the NTC and Fort Irwin has been exceptional.

"Everybody that we have encountered here on post is willing to help us accomplish what we need and that is – train the Task Force to get to Afghanistan," Brig. Gen. Collin said. "Everybody is focused on that. And it's not that they're just doing their job, they're doing more than their job, and they're going the extra mile in order to help us. It is my sincere appreciation for everything that is going on to help prepare Canadian Soldiers for Afghanistan."

The training process here will be similar to what Canadian Soldiers see at their CMTC, since the Canadian facility is actually modeled after the NTC, said Brig. Gen. Collin. The Canadian Army has even brought their own observer controller trainers (OCTs), who are the equivalent of American observer controllers at the NTC.

The Canadians have fewer OCTs, so they have augmented their OCT teams with Canadian leadership, said Maj. Clint Tracy, a U.S. Army officer who serves as an American exchange officer at the CMTC. Operations Group here is providing observer controllers as well. Both OCTs and OCs observe and analyze the visiting unit as it executes or reacts to training scenarios. The CMTC staff and Operations

See Canadian, page 18





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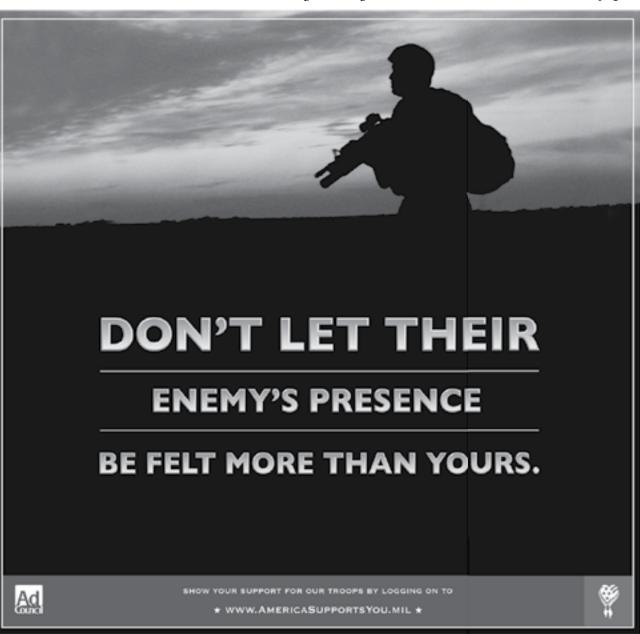
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ALISIA CHAVEZ

Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, commanding general, National Training Center, and Fort Irwin, front center-right, presents the Golden Hammer Award to Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Hammersky, Rail Section Liaison, 171st Movement Control Company, along with other 171st Movement Control Company's Rail Section Soldiers.

Earning the Golden Hammer Award

171st MCC's Rail Section reduces costs by \$846K

BY 1ST LT. RICHARD BARKER

916th Support Brigade

The Golden Hammer Award was presented to 916th Support Brigade individuals who implemented cost effective techniques and/or streamlined working procedures. The National Training Center and Fort Irwin's commanding general, Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, presented the Golden Hammer Award to Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Hammersky and 15 Soldiers who exemplified their achievements in government problem-solving, streamlining

government, and saving money for the unit on January 12. These individuals always look for ways to make 916th Support Brigade and Fort Irwin work better, cut costs, and get results. The 171st Movement Control Company's Rail Section executed careful logistical planning to reduce the total amount of rail cars needed to move equipment, effectively reducing transportation cost by \$846,080.

1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, from Fort Stewart, arrived at Fort Irwin with five trains consisting of 300 railcars carrying a total of 848 pieces of equipment. MCC was tasked

with planning and supervising the loading of this same equipment for return transportation to Fort Stewart, including an additional 89 pieces for a total of 937 pieces.

If the equipment was loaded to the same standard it arrived, five trains and 332 railcars would have been required to transport the equipment back. The total transportation bill for 332 railcars would have been \$3,574,976 at the contracted rate of \$10,768 per railcar.

The execution of skilled logistics planning on behalf of the MCC Rail Section reduced the requirement to 4 trains and 272 railcars.

The reduction in railcars caused 1/3 ID to pay \$2,928,896, creating a savings of \$646,080 in rail car costs. The reduction of one full train also saved crew and operation an estimated cost of about \$200,000 per train. This brought the total savings of 1/3 ID to about \$846,080.

In a period of one week, 16 NTC Soldiers saved the government \$846,080, simply by taking the time to plan and think before moving into action. Any unit, if taken the time to plan, can find solutions that will save money for the units, other units, and above all the government.

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ICE, from page 2

customer. I will see about getting coupons to assist you for the incorrect way your order was handled and to regain your patronage.

Outdoor Recreation

Customer Comment: Outdoor Rec needs more advertising. My family always learns about activities after they are over. Please put more in the paper (High Desert Warrior) and give the customers more time to learn about the activities. Agency Response: MWR uses every means possible to advertise their activities: InFocus, High Desert Warrior, Marquees, emails, flyers, word of mouth, and announcements at many high profile meetings, notification to mayors and FRGs, etc. Our events are planned a year in advance and marketing goes out at least 2-3 weeks in advance. We continue to hear the customer's state they didn't hear about an event and we share your frustration on how better to promote our events. Please sign up for InFocus and you will receive emails headlining any Upcoming events sponsored by MWR.

HR DEERs, ID card Section

Customer Comment: Ms. Julia and others were up to date on regulation, plus change. Outstanding customer support. Agency Response: Thank you for taking the time to let me know about your visit to the DEERS/ID Section at Fort Irwin. It is always a pleasure to hear about our customers' positive experiences. Our verifying officials take great pride in providing knowledgeable and professional service. Again, thank you for your comments.

Shockwave

Customer Comment: Kimmy and Dave did an excellent job serving as bartenders. They were timely and created a fun and exciting atmosphere! The hours should be extended even under block leave. Agency Response: I called customer and thanked him for utilizing Shockwave's ICE comment card system and the compliment to our bartenders. I also informed him that Shockwave was on limited hours during block leave to accommodate the Soldiers and families on post during block leave.

Memorial Fitness Center

Customer Comment: I am very upset that they have changed the hours at this gym. I work until 6 p.m. every night. By the time I come home, feed my family dinner and get my kids in bed it is well after 8 p.m. Now the gym is closing at 8 p.m. instead of 10 p.m. The hours of operation need to stay the way they were for those of us that do work late and have a family to take care of. The other gym does not have nearly the same cardio equipment and it is so much smaller!!! Agency Response: We do appreciate your concerns, and we took all those issues into consideration as we looked at more efficient and cost effective ways to run our facilities. As you may or may not have heard, MWR across the Army have been hit by huge budget cuts, and Fort Irwin was hit very hard. We had to examine all issues, and we honestly felt that keeping one Fitness Center open later met the needs of the majority of our customers. The reason Freedom Fitness Center was chosen to stay open later because it has the gym/basketball courts, and it is heavily used every night. We fully understand that customers do not want to hear about budget cuts and funding issues, but it is a reality of doing business anywhere. We sincerely hope you will give Freedom a chance to prove it is a world class facility. Please feel free to contact me for further discussion or information. Thanks for letting us know your concerns.

Mary Walker Clinic

Customer Comment: I was seen in Optometry by Dr. Hales and technician Spc. Smith. They were an outstanding team that helped me greatly. Agency Response: It is always our intent to provide our community with the very best health care and service available. Thank you for taking the time to contact us about your positive experience. We will pass your comment on to these personnel.





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Ceremony honors Soldiers, civilians

Guardian award recipients acknowledged

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GUSTAVO BAHENA

HDW Staff Writer

Several dozen civilian employees and two Soldiers of the Fort Irwin U.S. Army Garrison received recognition for their service at an awards ceremony at Sandy Basin Community Center, Jan. 13.

The commander and command sergeant major for Fort Irwin U.S. Army Garrison, Col. Jim Chevallier and Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Harvey, presented various length of service awards and certificates of appreciation to individuals. They also bestowed five 2009 Guardian Awards to two Soldiers and three Department of Army employees.

Col. Chevallier said that the Fort Irwin Garrison, as an organization, accomplishes two fundamental things: it provides services that allow the National Training Center to accomplish its mission of training military units, and it offers services that provide a safe and secure home for Soldiers and their families in an Army that is entering a ninth year of continuous combat operations.

"To accomplish these two critical functions... requires lots of resources," Col. Chevallier said. "But most importantly, it requires people, because services don't deliver services – people deliver services."

One of those persons being recognized that day with a 2009 Guardian Award was Sgt. Enrique Villareal, a military policeman with the Fort Irwin Military Police Company. He was granted the accolade for exceptional meritorious achievement during a Soldier of the Year board, which led to his selection as Garrison Soldier of the Year for fiscal year 2009.

Veronica Hale, a contract and fiscal law attorney with Directorate of Staff Judge Advocate, received the 2009 Guardian Award for having been named 2009 Employee of the Year (category two for non-supervisory employees in the GS-9 through GS-14 pay grade). Her award citation indicated her leadership and dedication to achieving results are indicative of here drive for excellence.

"It feels awesome," Mrs. Hale said about having been recognized in front of her peers.

Mrs. Hale has been instrumental with supporting the contracting command on post with legal matters concerning contracts for services on post. She previously served in the Army as a major and



Col. Jim Chevallier, commander, Fort Irwin U.S. Army Garrison, greets Donovan Hale, 6, during an awards ceremony at Sandy Basin Community Center. Donovan's mother, Veronica Hale (center), had just a received a 2009 Guardian award for her work as an attorney at Directorate of Staff Judge Advocate.

was stationed here as well. Her husband, Darrell and two sons, Darrel Jr., 11, and Donovan, 6, attended the ceremony and joined her on stage while she was being presented the award.

"She spent nine years in the Army, and she loves the Army so much that she continued to work for them," Mr. Hale said about his wife's dedication. "She is still working for the country, but in a different capacity."

Also receiving 2009 Guardian Awards that day were: Sgt. Matthew Squires, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Absent Without Leave Apprehension section with the Provost Marshall Office, for having achieved the distinction of Garrison NCO of the Year for fiscal year 2009; Christopher Queen, with

Physical Security at the Directorate of Emergency Services, for having been named 2009 Employee of the Year (category one for non-supervisory employees in the GS-9 through GS-14 pay grade) and; Laurie Love, chief of Military Personnel Division at Directorate of Human Resources for having been named 2009 Employee of the Year (category three for supervisory employees in the GS-11 through GS-14 pay grade).

Employees of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation who received Length of Service awards included: Trina Young, five years; Ranette Reveles, five years; Anna Anaya, five years; Patsy Tait, five years; Daisy Fleener, five years; Donna Dixon, five years; Vetonia Stanley, five years; Stacey Korves, 10 years; Angela Quixchan, 10 years; Sherryl Black, 10 years; Janet Lambert, 10 years; Puchi Zuchowski, 10 years; Manuel Silvia, 15 years; Barry Pinsky, 20 years, and; Silvia Berglund, 20 years.

At Directorate of Resource Management, three employees received Length of Service awards. They were: Lohmi Perez, five years; Dreen Dennis, 10 years, and; Kathleen Borruel for 20 years.

Directorate of Logistics employees receiving Length of Service awards that days were: Jennifer Jackson, five years; Junn Novicio, five years; Jessica Adkisson, five years; Mario Marrero, five years; Gerald Dombirgue, 10 years; Lori Travnick, 10 years; Juan Perez, 10 years; Charles Willyard, 10 years; Juan Alvarez, 15 years; Helen Simmond, 15 years; David Wellman, 15 years; Trudy Monson, 20 years; Stephanie Jeffrey, 25 years; William Fraser, 25 years; Victoria Wagstaffe, 25 years; Ross Sinclair, 25 years; Joan Wilson, 30 years; Patrick Hagerty, 30 years, and; Ronald Elliot, 35 years.

The following people from their respective directorates received Length of Service awards as well: Kelsey Hustead of Public Affairs for five years of service; Nadia Figueroa from the Office of the Garrison Commander for five years, and; Wayne Taylor from the Office of the Garrison Commander, for 30 years.

Steven Hailey and Maribel Garcia-Yili, both with Directorate of Human Resources, received Length of Service awards for 10 and 15 years, respectively.

Equal Employment Opportunity employees, Rebecca Burger and Monique Jennings, received Certificates of Appreciation for their service.



Fifteen employees with Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation receive their length of service awards at an awards ceremony held at Sandy Basin Community Center. The length of Federal service for this group ranged from five years to 20 years.



Veronica Hale, contract and fiscal law attorney at Directorate of Staff Judge Advocate, receives her 2009 Guardian Award from Col. Jim Chevallier, the commander, Fort Irwin U.S. Army Garrison.



Trudy Monson, with supply at Directorate of Logistics, is congratulated by Col. Jim Chevallier as she receives her award, recognizing her 20 years of service with the Federal government.



Puchi Zuchowski, an employee with Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, shakes hands with Col. Jim Chevallier during an awards ceremony where she was presented a Length of Service award for 10 years of service.



Dree Dennis is all smiles while she receives her 5-year Length of Service award from Col. Jim Chevallier, commander, Fort Irwin U.S. Army Garrison.



Col. Jim Chevallier attaches an Army Commendation Medal on Sgt. Matthew Squires, noncommissioned officer-incharge of the Absent Without Leave **Apprehension section with the Provost** Marshall Office, for having achieved the distinction of Garrison NCO of the Year for fiscal year 2009. In addition to the ARCOM, Sgt. Squires received a 2009 **Guardian Award.**



Civilian employees and Soldiers of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin attend Fort Irwin U.S. Army Garrison awards ceremony at Sandy Basin Community Center on post.



(Center) Sgt. Enrique Villareal, a military policeman with the Fort Irwin Military Police Company, receives the 2009 Guardian Award and Army Commendation Medal for achieving the title Soldier of the Year for fiscal year 2009 at Fort Irwin U.S. Army Garrison. By his side is wife, Ashley, and daughter Kaylie, who is 3 months old.



Ten employees with Directorate of Logistics receive their length of service awards. The length of Federal service for this group ranged from 15 years to 35 years.

"There is no greater honor than leading Soldiers"

End of year induction ceremony brings on board 142 sergeants to Army's noncommissioned officer corps

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GUSTAVO BAHENA

HDW Staff Writer

By raising their hands and reciting the creed of the noncommissioned officer, 142 sergeants at Fort Irwin and the National Training Center were ceremonially inducted as NCO's on Dec.

The ceremony held at Ingall's Recreation Center was attended by Fort Irwin and National Training Center Commander Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams and presided over by the post's top NCO, Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez.

During his address to the audience that included fellow Soldiers and Family of the inducted NCO's, Command Sgt. Maj. Martinez stressed the importance of the role that the NCO's would have with their Soldiers. He said that as NCO's they would have a life-long impact on the Soldiers they oversee.

"As sergeants, you are without a doubt in the best position to make a significant difference in your Soldiers' lives...it is the first line leaders who know the Soldiers and should know what's going on in their lives," Command Sgt. Maj. Martinez said. "I am confident that each of you can and will leave an indelible mark on them."

The NCO induction ceremony for new sergeants is similar to a rite a passage. It serves as a celebration of the recently promoted who are joining the ranks of a professional noncommissioned officer corps. Noncommissioned officers are considered the backbone of the United States Army, which is a modern, all-volunteer force. The ceremonial event recognizes the importance of the NCO corps to the success of the Army. The event also serves to honor the memory of men and women of the NCO corps who have served with pride and distinction. Most ceremonies, such as the one held at Ingall's, showcase sergeants wearing uniforms of past military eras. Today's sergeants build upon the groundwork laid by past NCO's.

"As noncommissioned officers you not only form the foundation of our Army, but you also carry on your shoulders a large measure of the burden for developing tomorrow's NCO corps,' Command Sgt. Maj. Martinez told the new NCO's at the ceremony. "That is a heavy and sobering responsibility, especially in this war-time environment, but is one that you must willingly accept and successfully follow through."

Sgt. Angela Jackson, a medic at the Regimental Aid Station at Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop under 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, understands that she is responsible for ensuring the well being and training of her Soldiers. She was promoted to sergeant in May 2009 and currently supervises five Soldiers.



Fort Irwin and National Training Center Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez speaks during a noncommissioned officer induction ceremony at Fort Irwin on Dec. 15, 2009. He spoke to 142 NCO's and an audience of Family and Soldiers in attendance for the rite of passage for the new sergeants. He told the sergeants: "I want to challenge each of you to strive to be exceptional, because in the pursuit of excellence there is no finish line."

"I made it my utmost priority to lead Soldiers and placed all my effort into earning the right to be called a noncommissioned officer," Sgt. Jackson said. "The professionalism and expert care my Soldiers deliver depend heavily upon my ability to lead. Furthermore, I ensure that they know what is expected of them and keep them informed at all times."

Sgt. Tracy Daken, a legal NCO with 2nd Squadron, 11th



Armored Cavalry Regiment, said it was a good feeling to have been part of the ceremony. He added that the ceremony allows sergeants to receive a "briefing" of what is expected of them. 'The induction ceremony is very good for that," Sgt. Daken

said. "It lets us know how big of a responsibility we have," Sgt. Daken said. "Leadership is about taking care of Soldiers. If you take care of the Soldiers, they're going to take care of the

Noncommissioned officers are charged as keepers of standards, said Command Sgt. Maj. Martinez. Enforcing standards is critical to developing Soldiers, and in combat, adhering to the standards assists in accomplishing the mission and can ultimately save lives. He concluded with the following statement:

"There is no greater honor than leading Soldiers, and as you lead Soldiers that is something that I guarantee you will be proud about and that you will remember for the rest of your lives. I congratulate you for being inducted in today's ceremony. Train the Force."



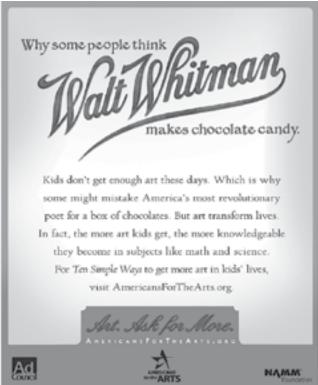
Staff Sgt. Franklyn Taveras, assistant scout platoon trainer, Operations Group's Cobra Team, leads the recital of the creed of the noncommissioned officer during an NCO induction ceremony at Fort Irwin on Dec. 15, 2009. The creed begins with "No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of Soldiers." That day, 142 sergeants recited out load and in unison the creed that is published by the Army in field manual 7-22.6 and Department of the Army pamphlet 600-25.



Sgt. Angela Jackson, a medic at the Regimental Aid Station at Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop under 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, is congratulated by Fort Irwin and National Training Center Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez. She had just received a certificate during a noncommissioned officer induction ceremony at Fort Irwin on Dec. 15, 2009.



Sgt. Luis Maciel, a cavalry scout who served with K Troop in 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, walks past an audience of noncommissioned officers to receive his certificate during an NCO induction ceremony at Fort Irwin on Dec. 15, 2009.







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'Real Warrior' describes post-traumatic stress

STORY AND PHOTO BY ELAINE WILSON

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- When Staff Sgt. Megan Krause returned home from a deployment in Iraq in 2006, she thought the scariest moments of her life were over.

At her homecoming, "I ran to my mother in that hangar; we both cried tears of joy," said Krause, now an Army Reserve medic attached to a combat engineering unit in Pennsylvania. "I told her it was over and I was fine."

"Boy, was I wrong."

Krause later found herself waging a terrifying war with post-traumatic stress disorder. She described the battle and her road to recovery here today during the Real Warriors Campaign session at the 2010 Suicide Prevention Conference sponsored by the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

Krause said she hit rock bottom while a student at Penn State University about two years after her deployment.

"It was when I found myself face down in the mud pit, in the middle of a pigpen in State College, Pa., running from the insurgents that I thought were chasing me, that I realized I had not yet survived," Krause said. "I might not have been having suicidal ideations, but I was well on my way to killing myself."

Krause said she drank a bottle of red wine every night just to get to sleep.

"It's scary because you know you party harder than the average college kid and then get behind the wheel of your car because you just don't care anymore," she said. "It's scary because you know you're not going to class or work and you're throwing your life away."

"And you don't know how to stop the cycle."

Her nights, she said, were filled with nightmares of explosions and friends she couldn't save in time.

"I didn't want to die, but I wasn't leaving myself with many other options - until I asked for help," she said.

Help came in abundance, she said. "My [Reserve] unit wanted nothing more than to help me. They encouraged me to talk to the VA, talk to them." Her first sergeant admitted he, too, was seeking help for post-traumatic stress and told Krause it was the best decision he ever made.

"His words were ringing in my head that scary night as I rolled over [in bed] and called [the VA] for help," she said. "I knew I couldn't keep going down the path I had chosen." Two "battle buddies" showed up at 3 a.m. to drive her to the hospital.

Through the VA, Krause found the help she needed and, despite her initial embarrassment, "I discovered there was no shame in admitting that I was in trouble and needed help," she said.

"In fact, I earned more respect for seeking help and facing



Jill Herzog, of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, comforts Staff Sgt. Megan Krause after her speech about her battle with post-traumatic stress disorder. Krause spoke during the 2010 Suicide Prevention Conference sponsored by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C., Jan. 11, 2010.

my problems head on than I ever had while failing to be the [noncommissioned officer] I wanted to be."

Wanting to help others waging similar psychological battles, Krause volunteered to share her story through the Real War-

This initiative, launched by the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, features stories of servicemembers who have sought treatment and continue to maintain successful military or civilian careers, according to the campaign's Web site. These efforts are aimed at combating the stigma associated with seeking psychological health care and treatment.

Krause appears in several public service announcements on the campaign's site at realwarriors.net. The response to her coming forth with her story has been amazing, she said.

A short time ago, Krause said she received a late-night call from a college friend, also a veteran, who had seen her PSA.

He "was driving his Mustang down the back roads of Pennsylvania at 70 mph, drunk, willing himself to turn into a tree," she said, fighting back tears.

Her friend was the same "battle buddy" who had driven her to the hospital a year prior, "and now he needed a return favor."

He asked her to tell him her story and she poured forth every detail -- the sleepless nights, drinking, terror, stress and that "moment of clarity, all the while begging him to pull over to the side of the road."

He did pull over and, like Krause, sought help for his posttraumatic stress.

"He said, 'Promise me you will keep doing what you're doing because there are people out there who need to hear it," she said.

Krause encouraged conference attendees to use the Real Warriors site, which includes links to resources, a live chat room, and information about the Defense Centers of Excellence Outreach Center, a 24/7 call center staffed by health resource consultants. The Outreach Center can be reached toll-free at 866-966-1020 or via e-mail at resources@dcoeoutreach.org.

Krause said coming forth takes courage, but it's well worth

'Our stories need to be shared with anyone who has struggled or may struggle in the future, so they too can win this terrifying battle," she said.

"I'm winning the battle with PTSD and you can too."

Soldiers see through walls

BY MATTHEW HICKMAN

U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command

SAN ANTONIO — Entering a building and clearing rooms may become much safer for Soldiers in combat as Army scientists continue to develop Sense-Through-the-Wall technology to increase situational awareness.

Research, Development and Engineering Command technicians demonstrated Sense-Throughthe-Wall radar imaging and many other high-tech gadgets at the Army Strong Zone outside the Alamodome during the buildup to the 2010 All-American Bowl Jan. 9.

The Army Strong Zone gave visitors a glimpse of career opportunities and futuristic Army equipment and vehicles.

The radar imaging device emits an electromagnetic wave that penetrates physical barriers. The wave records Doppler movements and sends information to the receiver antenna. The imager then displays the range and general direction of all targets for the Soldier.

Officials said the technology may be useful in urban areas where many of today's battles occur. Building clearing procedures take a priority in city streets and back alleys. A device that would allow Soldiers to recon a house and determine enemy locations would certainly save lives.

"This is giving Soldiers more awareness," said

John Cua, Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, Fort Monmouth, N.J. "They have an extra piece of information to use in room clearance missions that would help them make the right decision."

The technology has been in continuous development for 10 years, but the device has entered into a bidding process and Cua said testing continues

We have contacted Battle Labs at Fort Benning, Georgia. We gave them this equipment and asked them how they could integrate this technology into their strategies," he said.

Although the bidding process has started, RDECOM continues to make improvements to the device, and Cua said Soldiers shouldn't treat it like a silver bullet.

"The Soldiers obviously want an increased range and we're definitely trying to get the equipment lighter," he said. "We don't want to burden the Soldiers with a piece of heavy equipment that replaces another piece of equipment that could

The device is user friendly and it takes less than two days of new equipment training before Soldiers become effective at using the technology. The graphic user interface is easy to read, and Cua said the feedback has been very positive.

"Soldiers would love to have this capability at hand," he said. "If it's something that would help save their own lives and others then they're definitely welcoming it."



Anthony Naia, from the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, demonstrates how to use Sense-Through-the-Wall technology to Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh (right) and Research, Development and Engineering Command Commander Maj. Gen. Nickolas G. Justice.



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Canadian*, from* page 8₋

Group staff have been integrated across OCT teams in a partnership for these rotations.

"The role of an observer controller is to provide feedback to [the training unit] that is unbiased and allows them to have an observation of their operations that is unbiased," Maj. Tracy said.

It truly is a cooperative venture between Canadian OCTs and OCs from the NTC to the point where both groups will debrief on observations and lessons learned, said Brig. Gen. Collin.

"Either one of them will engage with the chain of command and offer recommendations," Brig. Gen. Collin said. "It's becoming almost seamless. I know that the blending is happening and that the cross-pollination and exchange of ideas is happening between those two organizations. It's working very well."

NTC and Fort Irwin is supporting everything the Canadians want to do during the rotation, said Brig. Gen. Abrams.

"It's very much a Canadian driven exercise on top of our architecture," Brig. Gen. Abrams said. "It's a testament to the professionalism of all our teams here at the National Training Center because everybody has put their ego aside, everybody has put their own personal opinions and desires aside, and we're doing everything we can to support the Canadians to achieve their training objectives."

Training objectives include spending time on basic Soldier skills, said Brig. Gen. Collin. If basic Soldier skills are good, then Soldiers can adapt to different circumstances, the Canadian general said.

The Canadians are also emphasizing training on counter-insurgency scenarios to prepare them for what they will be exposed to in Afghanistan, said Brig. Gen. Collin. Included in the counter-insurgency importance is the cultural awareness aspect that the NTC provides, because of role players and the replication of the Afghan theater.

"You have villages in the desert in the maneuver areas that are very representative of what these guys will see in Afghanistan," Maj. Tracy said. "There are narrow streets, low hanging wires, people moving around, and vendors. There's a populace that is maybe not necessarily interested or disinterested, but they're there and it's something that Soldiers have to learn to deal with. So, from that perspective, there are few places where you can get that type of realism in your training."

The staff and agencies at the NTC provide a level of expertise that can't be found elsewhere, said Maj. Tracy. The Army Center of Excellence, the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, and Operations Group staff are able to provide various training opportunities such as training on the latest tactics, techniques and procedures; counter IED operations; key leadership engagements, and; dealing and integrating with host nation security forces. The training helps them with their real-world mission of development of the Afghan National Security Forces and on reconstruction.

The Canadian Task Force is comprised of approximately 3,700 Soldiers, from which 3,000 will deploy to the Kandahar province of Afghanistan, said Brig. Gen. Collin. The Task Force is made up of three groups that will go out and conduct operations. The Battle Group is battalion-reinforced to conduct combat operations in assisting with humanitarian operations. The Mentoring and Liaison Teams Group will focus on training the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police. A third group is the Provincial Reconstruction Team, which will concentrate on redevelopment work.

"But of course they can't do it alone," Brig. Gen. Collin said. "There are a number of tactical enablers such as engineers, electronic warfare, etc. Then there is a very robust medical organization as part of the Task Force. There's also a robust National Support Element to look after all the logistics and administrative considerations."

Canada's role in Afghanistan begun in 2002 with a more kinetic function focused on combat operations, said Brig. Gen. Collin. The initial fight involved lethal fire in order to close with and destroy the enemy.

"That still occurs when and if required, but we have evolved beyond that to more of a focus on all of the other aspects of counter-insurgency as well, and that is everything from nation-building to humanitarian aid and the like," Brig. Gen. Collin said.

News Brief

FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

On May 15, from 3 to 10 p.m. Fort Irwin will host its first Fort Irwin Food and Wine Festival. The theme for the inaugural event is "Tastes, Sights & Sounds of the World." The festival will feature fine cuisine, wine, entertainment, merchandise vendors and art from local and regional areas. There is a need for interested entertainers, food, beverages and merchandise vendors in all parts of California to display and sell their best work to enhance the event. The festival needs vendors that have a unique item or cuisine which reflect one of the following world regions: America, Canada, Asia, the Pacific & Polynesian, Islands, Europe and the Mediterranean, Latin America, Caribbean, and Africa. For more information, call 380-7144.





Spouse can claim same home state as service member

BY C. TODD LOPEZ

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — New legislation, signed by the president in November, allows military spouses to establish a permanent residence and carry it with them though each change of station.

The Military Spouses Residency Relief Act enables military spouses to do what their service-members have long been able to do — claim and maintain residency in one home state, pay income taxes only to that state, and vote as a resident of that state, for the duration of their military career, without regard to where they are stationed.

"The purpose was to allow the spouse to maintain the same domicile as the servicemember," said Mary M. Benzinger, senior attorney, Pentagon Army and Air Force Legal Assistance Office.

The benefit of having both husband and wife be able to establish and maintain domiciliary status in the same state — and carry that status wherever they go as a result of military PCS — is two-fold.

First, it simplifies paperwork. In the past, spouses would have to re-establish residency in whatever state they moved to as part of a PCS. They had to pay income tax to that state if they worked, register their vehicle there, and get a driver's license there. Additionally, if their servicemember maintained permanent domiciliary status in another state, the two might have to file state income taxes separately.

"It allows them to establish a domicile, and carry it with them, every time they PCS, and not do what you hear a lot of: where the servicemember stays a resident of Texas his whole career, and she (the spouse) has to be a domiciliary of every place the servicemember is stationed," Benzinger said. "That's what happened before this. You could never have a constant domicile. You had to be a resident of whatever state you were living in."

Second, in many cases, military members have opted to continue to maintain domiciliary status in one of the states that do not have state income tax: Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, Wyoming, New Hampshire and Tennessee. Those servicemembers do not

pay state income tax. The new act would allow military spouses who have been present in one of those states — and established domiciliary status there — to maintain that status along with their servicemember spouse, and to then also not pay state income tax.

What the act does not allow, however, is for a spouse to "pick" a state where they can claim domiciliary status. Establishing domiciliary status in a state, in nearly every case, requires that the spouse has lived in the state.

"You cannot pick," Benzinger. "You have to synch up, by physical presence and intent to remain."

Being able to adequately defend a claim of residency of one state — especially if doing so to avoid paying income taxes in the state where a spouse is currently living and working — might require more than prior residence. It could also require, among other things, showing intent to return there, land ownership, driver's licenses, car registration or having voted there.

Additionally, the act does not mean military spouses do not need to pay state income tax. If the

state where a spouse maintains domiciliary status under the new act requires civilian residents to pay state income tax, then they must as well. This includes those states where the requirement to pay state income tax by a servicemember changes if a servicemember doesn't actually live in the state while serving. The MSRAA, a federal law, does not convey to civilian spouses the benefits extended to servicemembers by individual states.

The MSRRA amendment applies retroactively to tax year 2009. This means that for some spouses — those that can show they met the requirements for domiciliary status for a state they did not live in during 2009 — those spouses may be able to get back tax withholdings from the state where they lived and worked.

The MSRRA is relatively new, and many states have yet to figure out how to deal with military spouse taxpayers who may want refunds, Benzinger said. Additionally, she said while states have in the past been relatively forgiving when considering for tax purposes the claims of non-state residence by uniformed servicemembers, they might not be so forgiving of civilian spouses.



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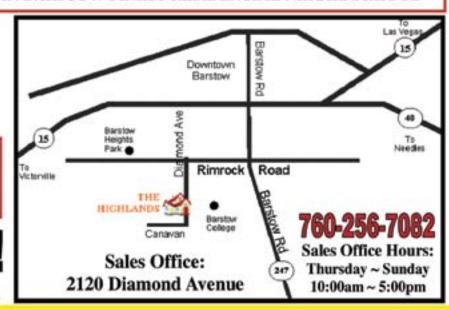
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