



HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

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www.irwin.army.mil

March 4, 2010

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

Operation New Dawn

The Department of Defense has announced the name change of Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn effective Sept. 1, 2010. The name change aligns with the change that U.S. Forces are operating under a new mission. This also presents an opportunity to reinforce U.S. commitment in honoring the Security Agreement and to recognize the evolving relationship with the government of Iraq.

Spelling Bee Winner

Fort Irwin Middle School 4th grader JM Malana won the Barstow Spelling Bee contest and will represent the city of Barstow in upcoming Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. Earning high honors are Tiefert View Elementary School's 5th grader Andrew Rodriguez who earned 3rd Place and JM Malana's brother, FIMS's 6th grader JD Malana who took 2nd Place.

Red Cross Classes

The Fort Irwin American Red Cross Station will host its monthly Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Class on March 27, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and Mar. 28, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Classes cost \$60 per person. If you are a registered Red Cross volunteer and volunteer at least 20 hours per month, the fee is \$10. Active-duty Soldier's fee is \$45. Family members pay \$22.50. To participate in this life saving course, contact Fort Irwin Red Cross Station at 380-3697.

Non-competitive Appointment

Are you married to an active duty service member or a widow or widower of a service member killed while on active duty? Are you the spouse of a retired or separated service member with a disability rating of 100 percent? If you answered "YES" to any of the questions above, you may qualify for a non-competitive appointment in the Federal Civil Service! Call 380-5165 for more information.



Lt. Dan Band in Concert

Gary Sinise, bass guitarist for the Lt. Dan Band, will hold a FREE concert at Army Field for the Fort Irwin community on March 12. The Lt. Dan Band covers everything from Springsteen to Linkin Park, from Aretha Franklin to Jimi Hendrix. The band is known for a character Sinise portrayed in the 1994 Academy Award winning film, Forrest Gump. Sinise received an Oscar nominated for Best Supporting Actor. For more information, call 380-9275.



Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, Installation Management Command commander, and spouse Sarah, listen to Fort Irwin spouses' concerns and issues during Fort Irwin visit, Feb. 28-March 1.

IMCOM commander visits Fort Irwin

BY CHARLES MELTON
Community Information Manager

When Installation Management Command (IMCOM) commander, Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, and his wife, Sarah, visited Fort Irwin on Feb. 28-March 1, the couple took time to sit down with more than a dozen Fort Irwin/National Training Center spouses to discuss life in the High Desert.

"Of the 163 installations every place has different conditions and Fort Irwin has a unique condition in terms of geographic separation," Lynch told the group.

Even with budget cuts being made across the Army, Army Chief of Staff, Gen.

George Casey, said families will come first, Lynch said.

"Even though there are budget constraints this year and there will be in the future, the priority is to fulfill the Army Family Covenant," he said.

The Army spends \$200 million each year on marriage retreats as part of the Strong Bonds program, he said.

"The issue these days, with these deployment cycles that we're on, is we're straining marriages," he said. "Since 9/11, the Army has 200,000 broken marriages. We had 27,000 broken marriages last year."

As the commander at Fort Hood, Texas, Lynch said he ordered that the entire Corps

be home for dinner by 6 p.m. and not work on weekends.

"We were proud of our family programs," he said, noting that effective communication of those programs across the Army is important, because many people might not be aware of those programs.

One spouse asked Lynch about the policies directly pertaining to employment ... of giving military spouses hiring preferences.

"Gen. Casey's charge to me is to fulfill the Army Family Covenant, part of it which is taking care of spouses, part of it which is their employment opportunities," he said. "At the end of the day, it comes down to

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MAR.-APR. 2010

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

ROTATIONAL SOLDIER USE OF POST FACILITIES

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FORT IRWIN SOLDIERS
CURRENTLY DEPLOYED

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

ICE Program Gives Customers a Voice

ICE Year-To-Date Report
Oct. 1, 2009–Feb. 21, 2010

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	4	●	75
AAFES	122	●	24
Commissary	33	●	30
Fort Irwin Garrison	3336	●	88
Veterinary Services	34	●	50
DENTAC	331	●	96
MEDDAC	454	●	80

ICE Weekly Report
Feb. 15, 2010–Feb. 21, 2010

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	0	[NOT RATED]	—
AAFES	6	●	17
Commissary	4	●	25
Fort Irwin Garrison	162	●	77
Veterinary Services	0	[NOT RATED]	—
DENTAC	10	●	90
MEDDAC	21	●	62

Fort Irwin Garrison Organizations

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
Fort Irwin Garrison	172	●	77
Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation	57	●	68
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center	2	●	50
Equal Employment Opportunity	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Human Resources	78	●	97
Information Management	5	●	25
Legal	1	●	100
Logistics	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Pinnacle Housing	17	●	63
Plans, Analysis & Integration Office	1	●	0
Police/Provost Marshall	3	●	50
Public Affairs	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Public Works	3	●	0
RCI Housing	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Religious Support (California)	1	●	0
Resource Management Office	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Safety	0	[NOT RATED]	—
NTC HQ Adjunct General Office	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Soldier Arrival, Orientation, and Briefing	1	[NOT RATED]	—
American Red Cross (Bldg 577)	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Armed Forces Bank 1 — Main Branch	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Armed Forces Bank 3 — PX Branch	1	●	0
Community Information Manager	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Landmark Inn (Bldg 39)	2	●	50
Military Family Life Consultants	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Plans, Training, Security (Bldg 286)	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.

Barracks Management

Customer Comment: I live in the barracks. It is 85 degrees in my room right now, with no way for me to control the temperature. I can't sleep at night,

and the dry hot air is causing me to have severe nose bleeds. My computer has also been overheating and shutting down. Can we please turn the heat off? **Agency Response:** Customer was contacted by the barracks manager in Public Works, as well as the Garrison Command sergeant major. A crew was dispatched to investigate malfunction.

Commissary

Customer Comment: The Commissary

needs to make some changes to the milk coolers. My husband bought two gallons of milk with the expiration date March 1. They were warm to the touch, but bought thinking it might be okay. He made the five-minute drive home and they were put directly in the fridge. The milk was spoiled though. So to replace the milk, I went back tonight to get two more. All the milk was semi-cool. Although the bottom row of

See ICE, page 12

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

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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. Items submitted to the High Desert Warrior are always subject to editing. HDW welcomes photo contributions from unit training, recreational activities, family support or work functions. Submissions should include subject's names, ranks and work affiliation (unit or organization) of everyone in the photograph. Group photos of four or more people don't require individual names. Submissions should include a contact phone number and e-mail address. Submissions may be e-mailed to the editor at chicpaul.becerra@us.army.mil.

NEWSPAPER AWARDS

2nd Place, 2009 U.S. Army IMCOM-West
Newspaper Competition — Tabloid Category

2008 Dept. of the Army
Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware
Newspaper competition — Tabloid category

3rd Place, 2007 U.S. Army IMCOM-WEST
Newspaper Competition — Tabloid Category

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

NCO, Soldier of the Quarter set right example

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GUSTAVO BAHENA

Warrior Staff Writer

"We are the greatest Army in the world, because of the caliber of Soldiers like Sgt. Martinez and Sgt. Diaz, winners of the Non-commissioned Officer and Soldier of the Quarter," said Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Harvey, Fort Irwin U.S. Army Garrison command sergeant major. "Obviously these Soldiers are winners."

That statement summed up the celebratory atmosphere at a ceremony Feb. 24 on Fort Irwin that recognized Sgt. Miguel Martinez as the Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter for the second quarter of fiscal year 2010 at the National Training Center and Fort Irwin. The other winner was Sgt. Michael Diaz, who won the distinction as Soldier of the Quarter for the same quarter.

Both sergeants earned the recognition after winning several boards, beginning at the company level. They worked their way up to a post-wide board that included a competitive pool of Soldiers and NCOs.

Diaz, a squad leader with F Troop, 3rd Platoon, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, is a native of California, having been born in Modesto. He lived in Arwater as well and enlisted in the Army in 2005 at the age of 17. His first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Casey McFall, introduced him to the audience during the luncheon. McFall described Diaz as a quiet professional who he is proud of. However, two years ago he was close to being removed from the Army, McFall said.

"He decided one day that was not going to be how things would turn out for him," McFall said. "He is living proof that if you just decide you're going to succeed, then that's what's going to happen. He is the best team leader in my troop. I wish all my team leaders were as professional and had as much heart and dedication to the profession."

Diaz, who supervises three Soldiers, said that his success in the initial boards motivated him to continue in the board competition. He said the board process has helped overcome some of his shyness and helped his communications skills.



Sgt. Michael Diaz, a squad leader with F Troop of 3rd Platoon, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, receives the Army Achievement Medal from National Training Center and Fort Irwin commander, Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, Feb. 24. Diaz received the award for achieving the title of Soldier of the Quarter at the NTC and Fort Irwin for the second quarter of fiscal year 2010.

Martinez, movements NCO in the Rail Section of Movement Control Company, was introduced by Staff Sgt. Bridget Richardson, his platoon sergeant. She described him as an NCO of action not just words, and mentioned that he scored 300 points on his physical training test and achieved expert on his weapons qualification.

"I can rely on him to do the 'hard right over the easy wrong,' whether I'm there or not," Richardson said. "Sgt. Martinez, I



(Right) Sgt. Miguel Martinez, movement noncommissioned officer, Rail Section, Movement Control Company, receives the Army Achievement Medal from National Training Center and Fort Irwin commander, Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, during a ceremony Feb. 24. Martinez received the award for having won the title of Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter at the NTC and Fort Irwin for the second quarter of fiscal year 2010.

am proud and privileged to have you as a noncommissioned officer in my platoon."

Harvey echoed Richardson's words of morality. He provided words of wisdom by saying that NCOs should never be afraid to take a moral or ethical stand in something they believe is right.

"Be a good person — a person of character and strength, and you will always be a good Soldier," Harvey said.

Commander, from page 1



Fort Irwin spouses listen as Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch and spouse Sarah thank them for taking the time to meet with them.

that individual CPAC who is implementing the policy."

Lynch told the spouses that he is a 'starfisher' as he related the story of the boy on a beach who threw individual starfish back into the water to make a difference.

"We're committed to helping out military spouses, because if the Soldier can focus on the fight, while we're focused on the family, then we're exponentially more effective," said.

The Army will never break because of its Soldiers, Lynch said, noting that in the Third Division, which he commanded, his Soldiers re-enlisted in record numbers in the heat of battle.

"The Army may break because of families," he said.

The cost of living is higher at Fort Irwin than other installations, many spouses told Lt. Gen. Lynch, as they explained how many drive to Barstow, which is 37 miles away and even to Victorville, which is 65 miles away to buy groceries.

"I'm on the DECA board and this is the first time I've heard different prices for things in the Commissary," he said.

As the discussion concluded, Lt. Gen. Lynch and his wife thanked all of the spouses for sharing their thoughts on life at Fort Irwin and promised to take their suggestions back to D.C. and begin working on them to improve the quality of life for all families Army-wide.

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

Adopt-a-pet

Name: Frank
Breed: Chihuahua
Gender: Male
Age: 2-years-old
Frank 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



TRICARE tools tame tax time

BY TYLER PATTERSON
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Love it or hate it, there's no denying it: tax season is here. Do you see yourself digging through piles of paper looking for last year's forms and receipts? There's a better way — TRICARE West Region beneficiaries can find TRICARE out-of-pocket costs online through their secure www.triwest.com account.

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well as fees for eye exams, eyeglasses and contact lenses. You should always check with a tax professional for your allowable deductions. You can contact a tax advisor at a military base tax preparation center near you, or visit www.militaryonesource.com. Special tax provisions exist for members of the military and are listed at www.irs.gov; click on "Individuals" along the top of the page and then follow the "Military" link for specific information.

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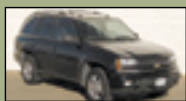
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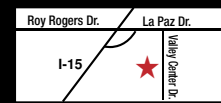
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Worship Services/Chapel Activities

CATHOLIC

Holy Mass	Sunday, 9 a.m.	Center Chapel
Daily Mass	M, T, Th, & F 11:45 a.m.	Center Chapel
Rosary	20 Min before Mass	Center Chapel
Confession	30 Min before Mass	Center Chapel
Choir Rehearsal	Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.	Center Chapel
LifeTeen	Thursday, 6:30 p.m.	Center Chapel
EDGE	Sunday, 10:15 a.m.	Center Chapel

PROTESTANT

Liturgical	Sunday, 9 a.m.	Blackhorse Chapel
Sunday School	Sunday, 9:30 a.m.	Center Chapel
Chapel NeXt	Sunday, 11 a.m.	Center Chapel
Traditional (LAR)	Sunday, 11 a.m.	Center Chapel
PYOC (Youth)	Monday, 7 p.m.	Center Chapel
PWOC, Morning	Tuesday, 9 a.m.	Center Chapel
PWOC Evening	Tuesday, 6 p.m.	Center Chapel
Worship Service,	9 a.m., Sunday,	Blackhorse Chapel

GOSPEL

Gospel Service	Sunday, 11 a.m.	Blackhorse Chapel
Prayer Warriors	Wednesday, 6 p.m.	Blackhorse Chapel
Children's Church &		
Choir Practice	Thursday, 6 p.m.	Blackhorse Chapel
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

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

MUSLIM

Prayer	Friday, 1 p.m.	Bldg 317
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JEWISH

Jewish Service	Friday, 6 p.m.	Black Horse Chapel
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CHAPEL ACTIVITIES

AWANA (3 yrs.-6th grade)	Wednesday, 4 p.m.	Center Chapel
HS Bible Study	Wednesday, 6 p.m.	Bldg 320
MOPS	2nd and 4th Wed, 9 a.m.	Center Chapel
<i>Note: For more information on chapel activities, contact the Center Chapel staff at 380-3562 or the Blackhorse Chapel staff at 380-4088.</i>		

AWANA:	Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed (2 Tim 2:15)
CWOC:	Catholic Women of the Chapel
PEWS:	Protestant Evening Worship Service
PWOC:	Protestant Women of the Chapel
PYOC:	Protestant Youth of the Chapel
CFLC:	Chaplain Family Life Center, Bldg 320
MOPS:	Mothers of Pre-Schoolers, Bldg 317
Childcare services for ages 5-years-old and under are provided free of charge for all scheduled chapel services.	

**Protestant Liturgical
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• Waste disposal fee extra Most Cars
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Community Happenings

OCSC Scholarship Campaign

The OCSC's Fort Irwin Spouses Club 2010 Scholarship Campaign is now underway. Applications are being accepted for scholarships to be applied towards the Fall 2010 Semester. Applicants must be a family member of a service member stationed at Fort Irwin on active duty status or must be a civilian member of the OCSC's Fort Irwin Spouses Club or one of his or her family members. Applicants must be enrolled or intend to enroll in an academic institution on a part-time or full-time basis in undergraduate or post-graduate studies. Applications will be evaluated based upon academic achievement, community service/school-sponsored extracurricular activities, an essay and letters of recommendation. All applications must be postmarked by March 23, 2010 and/or received by March 26, 2010. Incomplete applications or those received after the scholarship campaign deadline will not be considered. For eligibility guidelines and a complete application packet, access the OCSC website at www.ftirwinocsc.org under the heading "Welfare and Scholarships" or contact Melissa Karlberg, OCSC 2nd vice president, at melissakarlberg@aol.com.

1916th Support Battalion

Battalion Ball

Place: Monte Carlo Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

Date and Time: Apr. 1 at 6 p.m.

POC: Company 1SG

Battalion Fundraiser:

Movie Night

Place: Sandy Basin Community Center

Date and Time: Mar. 5 at 6 p.m.

This event is open to all in the community please come out and enjoy a free (double feature) movie. Food will be available for purchase. Keep an eye out for the flyer listing the titles that will be shown.

POC: gilbert.draughon@us.army.mil

2nd HET, 1916 SB

FRG Meeting

Place: Sandy Basin Annex

Date and Time: Mar. 9 at 5 p.m.

POC: 2tcfrg@gmail.com

Fundraiser: Drive-Up Spaghetti Dinner

Place: Sandy Basin Annex

Date and Time: Mar. 4th 4-8 p.m.

Tickets are \$5; includes: Spaghetti, breadstick, side salad and a brownie for desert.

POC: Chelsey at 954-881-9711 or contact the FRG via email 2tcfrg@gmail.com

557th Maintenance

FRG Meeting

Place: Chapel Bank Bldg (bldg 317)

Date and Time: Mar. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

POC: 557thfrg@gmail.com

HHC, 1916th SB

FRG Meeting

Place: Crackerjack Flats CC

Date and Time: Mar. 11 at 6 p.m.

POC: hhccssbfrg@gmail.com

171st/MCC, 1916th SB

FRG Meeting

Place: Bldg 828

Date and Time: Apr. 22 at 5 p.m.

POC: 171st.mccfrg@gmail.com

699th Maintenance

FRG Meeting

Place: Sandy Basin Annex

Date and Time: Mar. 16, 6 p.m.

POC: frg699th@yahoo.com

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

Dental Assistant Week

Join Fort Irwin Dental Activity Command by celebrating Dental Assistant Week during the March. Sick Call hours will be observed TODAY, from 1 to 5 p.m. Children's Dental Sealant Day will be held on Saturday for children ages 6 and up. Call Staff Sgt. Stevich Joseph at 380-3173 for more information.

Blood Drive

1916th Support Battalion will host a Post Blood Drive at the Ingalls Recreation Center, 3rd Street, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., TODAY. Donors will receive Cipotle restaurant (located in Bear Valley Road in Victorville) meal coupon. For more information, contact 1st Lt. Gadd, 380-4356 or Sgt. DaJuan Jackson, 804-931-2676.

Band at Shockwave

Come here Gooding, an alternative band, will play at Shock Wave, TONIGHT, 8 p.m.-10 p.m. Check out their sound at goodingmusic.com. Call 380-8646 for details.

At the Movies

Thursday, Mar. 4

7 p.m. Closed (PG-13)

Friday, Mar. 5

7 p.m. When in Rome (PG-13)

7 p.m. The Spy Next Door (PG)

9:30 p.m. Legion (R)

9:30 p.m. Daybreakers (R)

Saturday, Mar. 6

7 p.m. When in Rome (PG-13)

7 p.m. The Spy Next Door (PG)

9:30 p.m. Legion (R)

9:30 p.m. Daybreakers (R)

Sunday, Mar. 7

4 p.m. The Spy Next Door (PG)

7 p.m. Daybreakers (R)

7 p.m. Legion (R)

Monday, Mar. 8

7 p.m. When in Rome (PG-13)

7 p.m. Legion (R)

Tuesday, Mar. 9

7 p.m. Closed (PG-13)

Wednesday,

Mar. 10

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.

OCSC Spring Welfare Campaign

As a response to the needs of the military and civilian community, the OCSC's Fort Irwin Spouses Club is currently accepting requests for charitable donations. Spring welfare requests must be postmarked by March 9, 2010 or hand-delivered by March 12, 2010. The purpose of OCSC's Fort Irwin Spouses Club is to promote opportunities for cultural, educational and creative pursuits and to support worthwhile service and community projects. Community events, such as the annual Mardi Gras celebration held last week, raise funds to be distributed during the spring welfare and scholarship campaigns. For information on how to submit a welfare request, access the OCSC website at www.ftirwinocsc.org under the heading "Welfare and Scholarships" or contact Melissa Karlberg, OCSC 2nd vice president, at melissakarlberg@aol.com.

Nominate Volunteers Now

Army Community Service is accepting volunteer nominations for the upcoming Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. Nominate a Soldier, adult, child or family that has improved the quality of life at Fort Irwin by volunteering. Nomination packets can be picked up at ACS Bldg. 548 or by visiting www.fortirwinmwr.com. You can also call Silky Isaak, ACS volunteer coordinator, 380-8422. Nominees must be registered at www.myarmyone-source.com and must have logged their volunteer hours in the tracking system. Deadline for nominations is March 12. Winners will be announced at the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on April 14, 6-7:30 p.m., at Reggie's. The theme for this year's event is "Old Hollywood." The event will be like the Academy Awards,

but Fort Irwin style, because volunteers are like superstars. Walk the red carpet starting at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy cake and other refreshments. This is a free and semi-formal optional event.

Education Center Open House

Education Center will host an Open House for high school students and parents, from 6 -8 p.m., March 16. Representatives will be available to discuss ACT/SAT testing, college and career choices, scholarships and financial aid, GI Bill transferability, ROTC, on post colleges, and more Door prizes, pizza, and soft drinks will be available. The Education Center is located in Bldg. 1020, corner of Third St. and Ave. F. For more info or to RSVP, contact Carolyn Stimpson at 380-2392 or e-mail carolyn.stimpson@us.army.mil.

Family Resiliency Training

Fort Irwin families are invited to 916th Support Brigade-hosted Family Resiliency Training at Sandy Basin Community Center, 3-4:30 p.m., March 17. Learn how to help your family 'bounce back' and understand what your Soldier is learning about resiliency. Families will receive Resiliency Training Module 1 certificates. Presenters include master resiliency trainer, Fort Irwin librarian, Elmo and Big Bird. There will be FREE snacks and children activities. For more information, contact Angie Parreno at 380-7545.

Fort Irwin Pageant

Register for the 2010 Little Miss/Mister Fort Irwin Pageant at Ingalls Recreation Center, Bldg. 361, until March 19. The pageant is scheduled for March 27, 6 p.m. Open to ages 2-18. Pageant theme is Hawaiian Luau. Registration fees are \$30/child. Contact Leslie or Debbie at 380-3585 or e-mail leslie.weston1@us.army.mil

School Events

Silver Valley Unified School District

Mar. 12: End of 3rd Quarter

Lewis Elementary School

Mar. 5: Spring Carnival

Fort Irwin Middle School

Mar. 18: 9th grade registration at FIMS 8:30 a.m.

Silver Valley High School

Mar. 6: Softball at Victor Valley Christian Tourney (Eva Del Park) vs. Excelsior 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Mar. 8: All day Softball at Victor Valley Christian

Mar. 10: Parent Teacher Conferences, 12:30-2 p.m.

Mar. 11: Track at Desert, 3 p.m.

Mar. 11: Baseball vs. Vasquez, 3:30 p.m.

Youth and School Activities

Middle School Activities

Thursday: Photography Club, Good Luck Keychain

Friday: Kids' Choice technology lab, Cooking Club
Cinnamon Breadsticks

Monday: Fleece St. Patrick's Day Pillow, technology
typing games

Tuesday: Make your own Calendar, Leprechaun Bucket
Community Service Project

Wednesday: Smart Girls, Ultimate Journey, 4-H Confetti Eggs

Teen Activities

Friday: X-Box Tournament

Saturday: Fiesta Night!

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.

Send Community Happenings briefs at least two weeks in advance of event to the editor, chicpaul.becerra@us.army.mil



Fort Irwin Community Calendar



Thu., Mar. 4

Blood Drive
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Ingalls Recreation Center
1st Lt. Gadd, 380-4356

Sat., Mar. 6

Give A Smile Day
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Shuttleworth Dental Center
380-3173

Fri., Mar. 12

Lt. Dan Band Concert
7 p.m.
Army Field
380-9275

Wed., Mar. 17

916th Family Resiliency Training
3-4:30 p.m.
Sandy Basin Community Center
380-7545

Fri., Apr. 9

Fort Irwin Women's Conference
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Reggie's
380-6716/5111

Wed., Apr. 14

Volunteer Recognition Ceremony
6-7:30 p.m.
Reggie's
Silky Isaac, 380-8422

Sat., May 15

Food & Wine Festival
5-9 p.m.
Sandy Basin Community Center
380-7144

Check out these upcoming activities at Fort Irwin

Fort Irwin breaks ground on new barracks, company HQ

STORY AND PHOTO BY CHARLES MELTON

Garrison Command
Community Information Manager

A nondescript lot with a few tumbleweeds and sage bushes out in the High Desert will soon become a hub of activity for Soldiers at the National Training Center and Fort Irwin as leaders at Fort Irwin broke ground on an \$18 million unaccompanied enlisted barracks and company operations facility on Feb. 25.

The projects, which are being spearheaded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will provide state-of-the-art housing for 88 single soldiers and administrative space for two companies, with both being built to LEED Silver certification.

"We don't often get to do things for our single Soldiers," Fort Irwin garrison commander, Col. Jim Chevallier said. "What we do want to do is provide world-class facilities for all of them, because our Soldiers deserve it."

While families have benefitted from more than 1,000 new homes that have been built at Fort Irwin as part of the Army's privatized housing initiative, the new barracks facility is designed at improving the quality of life for single Soldiers at Fort Irwin. Some of these Soldiers are living in barracks facilities that range from 50 years old to relatively new, Chevallier said.

"Our goal is to make Fort Irwin as great a place to live as it is to train, serve and deploy from," Chevallier said.

Capt. Tiffany Maraccini, deputy resident engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Irwin, said the Corps is committed to providing Soldiers with world-class living spaces.

"We will help provide premiere accommodations for the world's premiere Soldiers at the world's premiere training center," Maraccini said.

The barracks facility will include a CQ station, day room and centralized laundry room along with full kitchens in each of the rooms, Maraccini said.

Jim Mills, a representative from the contractor that will build the barracks facility, Mortenson Construction from Minneapolis,



Minn., said the project is the company's first opportunity to work at Fort Irwin.

"We are very excited to be doing this project," Mr. Mills said, noting that the company has a group specializing in military construction.

The company's goal is to build a quality product that is on-time and on-budget, he said.

"One of the interesting parts of this project is the shade

structure for the picnic area, which will be solar hot water heating panels," Mr. Mills said, adding that the project is being built with sustainable features and its exterior landscaping will blend in with the surrounding area.

The company operations facility, which is being built by RQC, is expected to be completed by November, while the barracks facility is expected to be completed in early 2011.

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

Army Emergency Relief campaign begins

BY J.D. LEIPOLD
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The annual Army Emergency Relief campaign kicks off March 1 and will run through May 15.

During the campaign this year, AER officials want to promote awareness to Soldiers and their families that donations generate interest-free loans to fellow Soldiers and families in times of need.

Founded in 1942, the AER has provided more than \$1.2 billion in assistance, and in the last five years alone has distributed nearly \$300 million to more than 280,000 Soldiers and families for unforeseen cash flow problems, said Andrew H. Cohen, AER deputy director for finance.

"This is about 'Soldiers helping Soldiers' because most of the money was donated by Soldiers to help other Soldiers and their families," Cohen said. "Most assistance is given as a loan and paid back to the fund so Soldiers can continue to help the next Soldier in need."

Generally, AER interest-free loans have been under \$1,000 for terms of between 12 and 24 months but in the case of larger loans, extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

"Not only are extensions possible, but if repaying a loan creates an undue hardship, a

Soldier can convert the loan to a grant," Cohen said. "There's no boiler plate solution to take care of a Soldier and his family."

Cohen said the loan process has become easier for requests under \$1,000 due to the command referral program whereby company commanders and first sergeants have the authority to approve a loan. Local installation AER sections can approve cases up to \$3,500. For more than \$3,500 in emergency funds, the local AER will forward the case to AER headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

It's not uncommon for an emergency fund request to be dropped off at the local base AER office in the morning, then return at lunch to pick up their assistance checks. Cohen said it's much quicker and easier than going outside the gate and having to pay a huge interest rate.

In 2009, AER provided \$79 million in assistance to more than 71,000 Soldiers and their families and 90 cents of every donated dollar goes to Soldier and family programs.

The retired Army colonel said the top reason Soldiers borrow emergency funds is for rent or housing. He added Soldiers and their families may show up at a new duty station and be short on deposits for utilities and apartments and that constitutes an emergency.

Essential car repair, such as a transmission replacement or a new set of tires can be funded through the AER as well as emergencies involving temporary problems with pay, medical insurance issues and last-minute travel to be with a sick or dying family member.

"We don't fund experimental medical or pay fines, tax liens, or buy cars, but all those things we don't do, we have done as an exception to policy," Cohen added. "If it's in the best interest of the Soldier, the family and the Army to make a loan, we'll do it."

The one thing I would like to get out to the Fort Irwin community and surrounding area is AER is also here for retired military personnel and families, too," said Barry Foster, Fort Irwin AER officer/Financial Readiness Program Manager. "I have met with a lot of retirees that didn't know AER could help them. If they need help, I will figure the best way to help them."

For more information on how AER benefits Soldiers and their families and how to contrib-

ute, contact Barry Foster at 380-3513, visit AER at Bldg. 548, or check the AER website at: <http://www.aerhq.org/>.



PHOTO COURTESY
ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

Since it's founding in 1942, Army Emergency Relief has helped financially-strapped Soldiers and their families by making interest-free loans totaling more than \$1.2 billion.

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Fort Irwin Middle School girls, boys varsity basketball teams play tough opponents

High Desert Athletic League tournament — both Wildcat teams advance to semifinals

STORY AND PHOTO BY GUSTAVO BAHENA
Warrior Staff Writer

The Fort Irwin Middle School varsity basketball teams for boys and girls faced tough opponents in the Silver Knights from Riverside Preparatory during games at the FIMS gymnasium on Feb. 25.

The FIMS girl's team succumbed to the team from Oro Grande, a community just north of Victorville, by a score of 28 to 16. Just after halftime, the game was still close, with the Wildcats trailing by only 3 points. The Knights were able to pull away and keep the lead, but the loss was not devastating to the Irwin girls. Because of their 4-1 record, the team will still get to play in a semifinal game of the High Desert Athletic League tournament at Serrano High School on Saturday.

In the last game of the evening, the boys Wildcat team was able to come back after halftime to surpass a deficit of 5 points. They took the lead with almost 5 minutes remaining in the last half with a shot from Donell Imari Lewis, number 25. His team never lost the lead after that, and triumphed with a score of 44 to 39. The 12-year-

old, 7th grader Donell said his team has a lot of heart and does not allow itself to "feel down."

"We played with motivation and confidence," Donell said. "We have fun on the court and love to win."

Donell added that his team's motivation comes from teammates, parents, teachers and their coach.

The coach, Mike Meyer, said his team picked up the effort in the second half. He adjusted his strategy by dropping another player back to cover and shut down the Silver Knight's big player.

"They hustled all over the court," Meyer said about his players. "These guys really wanted it. A lot of it is their heart. They just wanted to be out there and work hard."

The boys team will be the Number 1 seed team at Saturday's tournament at Serrano High, said Meyer. They will first play the number 4 seed team in a semifinal and have a chance to be crowned champs of the High Desert Athletic League during the single-game elimination contest. The boy's first game is scheduled for 11 a.m. The girls will play at 10 a.m.; they also have the opportunity to advance to the final game scheduled for noon.



Kealani Williams, Fort Irwin Middle School girls' varsity basketball team, has no problems speeding down the court while maintaining control of a basketball at the FIMS gymnasium Feb. 25. Her team, the Wildcats, played the Silver Knights from Riverside Preparatory.

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Mardi Gras revelers party f

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAROLINE KEYSER

Warrior Volunteer Writer

Fort Irwin let the good times roll Saturday night at the Fort Irwin Spouses Club's annual Mardi Gras celebration.

Reggie's was transformed into a New Orleans-style party room for the event, which featured casino games, food and drinks, live and silent auctions, and a "jail" where partiers could imprison friends who then had to wait for bail. The silent auction included themed gift baskets, such as "Wine Survival" donated by the spouses of the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, with 14 bottles of wine, and an "It's a Chick Thing" basket donated by spouses of Tarantula Team that included bath salts and a "Sex and the City" DVD. All proceeds went to the OCSC's Fort Irwin Spouses Club's scholarship and welfare funds.

Heather Telley, first vice president of the Spouses Club and Mardi Gras co-chair, called Mardi Gras one of the best social events on Fort Irwin.

"It's really great because everyone, regardless of rank or unit, gets together to have fun for a good cause," she said.

The Spouses Club scholarships are open to families of Fort Irwin Soldiers, civilian members of the Spouses Club, and families of civil-

ian club members pursuing a Bachelor's or Master's degree. The club's welfare funds benefit community organizations, which have included the Fort Irwin chapter of the Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Fort Irwin schools in the past.

Telley said she was pleased with the turnout for Mardi Gras, especially given the wind, rain and hail that bombarded Fort Irwin Saturday night. At 8 p.m., approximately 250 people arrived out of an expected 300 for the celebration that lasted until midnight.

Many revelers came dressed in beads, masks, hats, and other New Orleans-inspired costumes.

"My favorite parts of the evening are seeing everyone dressed up and the jail," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bill Buchanon, Headquarter and Headquarters Company, 1916th Support Battalion.

Amy Peterson, who attended with her husband, Lt. Col. Greg Peterson, General Support Aviation Battalion, said the best part of the evening was putting him in jail.

"I ended up paying \$5 to get him out," she said. "We're having a great time."

Lt. Col. Dave Davidson, Cobra 07, said the best thing about Mardi Gras was the atmosphere.

"People are really enjoying themselves," he said. "I'm absolutely having fun."



Lt. Col. Jeff Broadwater, B attendees. Blackjack was Mardi Gras.



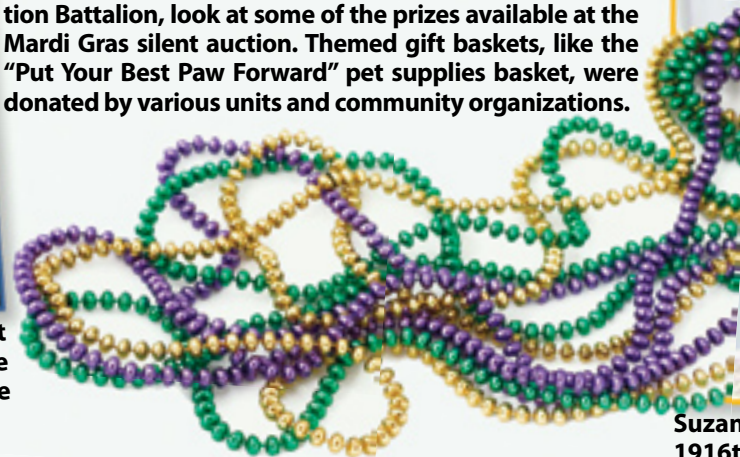
Heather Telley poses with a New Orleans-style street sign at the Fort Irwin Spouses Club Mardi Gras celebration Saturday. Telley, first vice president of the club and Mardi Gras co-chair, said she loved all of the events at Mardi Gras.



Amy and Lt. Col. Greg Peterson, General Support Aviation Battalion, look at some of the prizes available at the Mardi Gras silent auction. Themed gift baskets, like the "Put Your Best Paw Forward" pet supplies basket, were donated by various units and community organizations.



Suzanne and Chief Warrant Officer 4 B 1916th Support Battalion, help them featured New Orleans-inspired food s



or good cause



Bronco 07, deals blackjack for Mardi Gras one of many casino games featured at



Sgt. 1st Class Rudy Parreno, Scorpion Team, Operations Group, waits to be bailed out of the Mardi Gras "jail." Parreno, along with many other revelers, were put in the jail by friends and had to stay there until a bail price was paid. The jail helped raise money for the Fort Irwin Spouses Club scholarships and welfare funds.



(Left) More than 250 members of the Fort Irwin community came to the Fort Irwin Spouses Club Mardi Gras celebration Saturday at Reggie's. The restaurant was turned into a New Orleans-themed celebration hall for the event, which benefited the Spouses Club scholarships and welfare funds. Many attendees came wearing purple, gold, and green beads, masks and hats.



ill Buchanon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, serves appetizers at the Mardi Gras buffet. The event includes such as "Po Boy" sandwiches.



(Below) Capt. Mark Fraser, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 11th ACR, calls the Mardi Gras live auction Saturday at Reggie's. Some of the live auction prizes included gift certificates.

milk had expired on Feb. 13. It's Feb. 20 today, obviously some of the milk on shelf was expired. Not the first time I have noticed expired products throughout store or the milk has been more warm than cool. I was very disappointed with this Commissary. **Agency Response:** No response on file as of publication date.

Frame Shop at Arts and Crafts

Customer Comment: Diana is great at her job. She is extremely professional and great at assisting with all my frames. The EEO office gets a frame just about once a month, and Diana always creates an outstanding plaque. The cutback on hours is inconvenient. I had to come in on Sunday to pick up a plaque which hinders the mission. **Agency Response:** First, thank you so much for your kind remarks regarding Diane and her superb skills in our framing shop. We do understand your concerns regarding recent change of hours, but hope you have heard about the recent severe budget cuts all MWRs Army-wide have been hit with which has resulted

in some very tough decisions. Many MWR facilities on Fort Irwin have cut back on operation hours in order to meet our smaller budget requirements. But, again, thanks for recognizing Diane and her great work.

Freedom Fitness Center

Customer Comment: I wasn't really sure who to send this ICE complaint through, so I just used this location. Freedom Fitness Center does an awesome job! Every morning, Soldiers do PT across the street on the softball field park at the Fitness Connection parking lot. When they leave, they often violate the traffic signs posted showing the entrance and exit from the parking lot. These signs have been there for about 2-3 weeks now. As I confronted a driver this morning, his response was "We always go out this way when we leave from PT." I corrected him, but had to move on as I was holding up traffic. As I parked my car, I watched others leave out the parking lot going against the one way sign. Many Soldiers and NCOs from those units just

watched it happening with no regard to safety. Please have MPs present to enforce the traffic signs as the Soldiers and NCOs are blatantly disregarding safety and traffic rules. **Agency Response:** Sorry for the delay in the response. I have reported the constant infractions to the Department of Emergency Services (DES), and they are going to monitor it more frequently.

Reggie's

Customer Comment: My husband and I went to Reggie's for Valentine's Day. We really appreciated their efforts to make the holiday menu different from every other day. We were however, very disappointed with the food we ordered. We were kind of disappointed with the food to cost ratio, but if the food had been good, we would have gladly paid the price for the food, no matter how little or how much there was. We left Reggie's very dissatisfied with our meals. I normally love Reggie's, so this was really disappointing to be so unhappy with our food. The server we had was very nice, but she was

spread too thin due to the lack of other servers there, which kept everyone from getting timely service. **Agency Response:** First off, let me thank you for using the ICE system. Reggie's does try to make menu for Holidays such as this that are different. I am sorry that it was not to your expectations. Could you let me know what you had so that on the next one, we can try to make it better for all. I am glad that you are a regular of Reggie's and hope that you will continue to be. Please feel free to call me at anytime with any issues that you may have. As always we strive to make Reggie's better for all the Soldiers and their families. **Customer Reply:** My husband had the New York strip and scallops, and I had the lobster tails. My husband thought the steak was pretty good, but he wished there were more scallops on the plate. I actually had him eat my lobster tail because I really didn't care for it, I am not sure why. My husband and I both really enjoyed how you decorated each table, it was very nice! Thank you for getting back to me!



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Building resiliency in families

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GUSTAVO BAHENA

Warrior Staff Writer

The 916th Support Brigade hosted a Family Resiliency Training conference for families on Fort Irwin that provided information about Comprehensive Soldier Fitness, dental services and medical appointment procedures on post, Feb. 17.

The family-oriented briefing was kicked off with an introduction by the 916th Support Brigade commander, Col. David Gaffney.

He spoke to an audience of family members and said that when he and his wife, Dawn Gaffney, first arrived to Fort Irwin they made it a goal to find ways to make families stronger. His aspiration is that when families leave here, that they feel being stationed at Fort Irwin has been a benefit to them. Gaffney mentioned Army Family Covenant as an example of how the Army has moved towards improving quality of life for families. The conference could be considered an extension of that philosophy of strengthening families.

"This is a big deal, because if you go back 10, 15, 20 years, this was not [available]," Gaffney said. "It was about basically shooting bullets and going to the field and figuring out, 'how do you get more training out of the day' and less about our families."

Sgt. 1st Class Bryon Yeager, master resiliency trainer with 916th Support Brigade, explained Comprehensive Soldier Fitness as a program not just for Soldiers, but families and Department of Army civilians as well. Yeager said the program helps build resiliency so Soldiers and families can bounce back from adversities.

"Comprehensive Soldier Fitness represents the Army's investment in the readiness of the force and quality of life of our Soldiers, family members, and civilians by giving them the same emphasis of psychological, emotional and mental strength that we have previously given to physical strength," Yeager said.

Yeager said a goal of CSF is to increase resiliency and enhance performance by developing the five dimensions of strength — physical, emotional, social, family and spiritual.

Conference speakers from U.S. Army Dental Activity and Managed Care on Fort Irwin provided information to give families understanding of DENTAC's concern about preventive dental care and understanding that Managed Care has a system for scheduling medical appointments.

The preventive dental care briefing seemed to illicit a lot of interest from the audience. Capt. Gregory Le, company commander of Shuttleworth Dental Clinic and dentist, provided a brief with slides that showed dental problems and stressed the importance of proper dental hygiene and preventive dental care.

"Prevention is the number one thing for me," Le said. "I always say prevention, prevention, prevention. As it turns out, a lot of those big problems that occur later, we can cut those out with a good ounce of prevention. That includes brushing at least twice a day, flossing at least once a day and coming in for your regular exams and your cleanings."

Le stressed the importance of eliminating fear of the dentist. He said that nowadays dental treatment is conducted in a gentler manner.

"If you're gentle, the patients are going to be more compliant and are not going to be afraid to show up, so we can put that prevention into practice, rather than doing full mouth extractions and dentures — especially when it's perfectly avoidable," Le said.

A young family who took advantage of the briefing was the Marvins. Pfc. Robert Marvin and his wife, Shadeya, attended the event after hearing about it during a brigade run that morning. Fort Irwin is the first duty station for Marvin, who arrived here after completing his initial Army training.

"The brochures are really extensive and the presenter gave a lot of useful information," said Shadeya who is expecting the couple's first child in April. "It's definitely a lot to think about and digest."

Shadeya said everyone on post has been really nice. She said spouses and Soldiers here are a tight-knit group and agree that the post has a "family feel" to it.

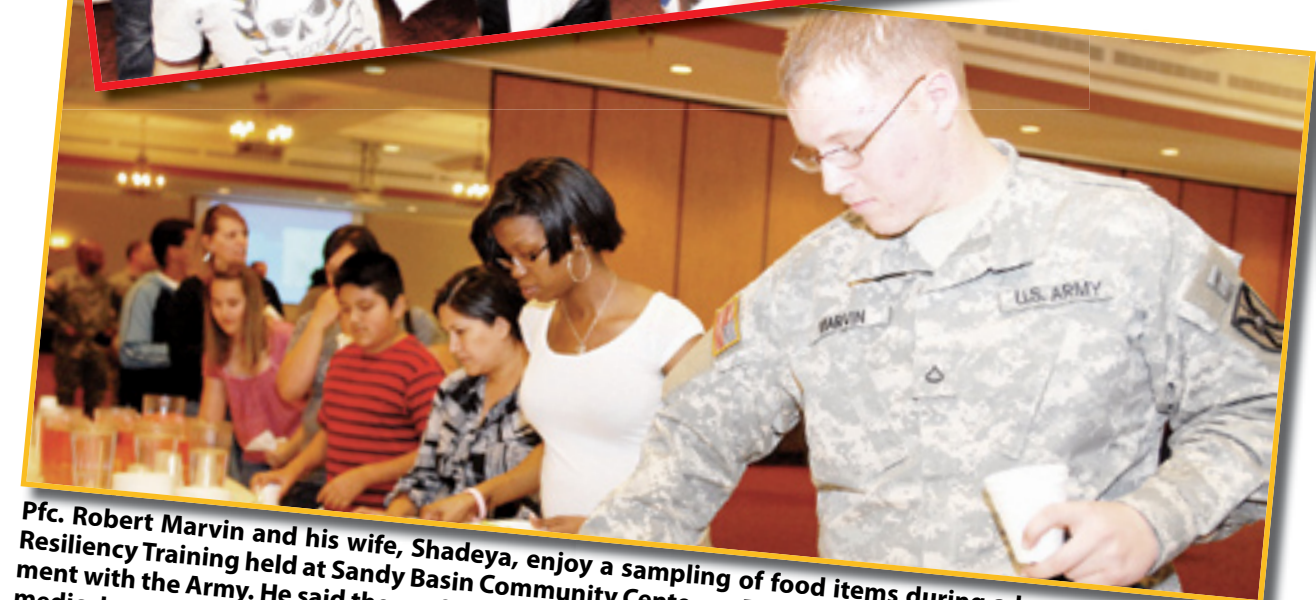
Angie Parreno, 916th Support Brigade Family Readiness Group assistant, said the conference was targeted to families, so that they become more informed. She said the brigade plans to host a conference once a month — on the third Wednesday.

"Our whole intent is for family awareness," Parreno said. "The lectures are geared to families. They not only benefit our Support Brigade families, but they benefit the whole community, because they are open to all."

Elizabeth Gruchaz, 5, waits patiently as Valencia Barnes, with Family Advocacy at Army Community Service on Fort Irwin, completes a face-painting design. Elizabeth's mom, Sue, was attending the Family Resiliency Training conference at Sandy Basin Community Center on Fort Irwin.



Denise Cruz, an orthodontist assistant at Shuttleworth Dental Clinic on Fort Irwin, portrays the Tooth Fairy during a Family Resiliency Training held at Sandy Basin Community Center, Feb. 17. She passed out free dental hygiene items to children to emphasize the importance of proper tooth care.



Pfc. Robert Marvin and his wife, Shadeya, enjoy a sampling of food items during a break at the Family Resiliency Training held at Sandy Basin Community Center on Fort Irwin. Marvin is here on his first assignment with the Army. He said the conference was a good venue for receiving information about dental and medical topics.

Help for Haiti

Runners and walkers do their part to assist victims of Haiti's earthquake at Tiefert View Intermediate School's sports field. Tiefert View Intermediate School's Running Club and Student Council hosted a Run/Walk for Haiti event on Feb. 25. Students were joined by their friends, families, teachers and the Fort Irwin community for a beautiful sunny afternoon of running and walking. Participants were asked to donate a minimum pledge of \$1 to run and the community generosity was amazing. Students raised \$854 for the American Red Cross — Haiti Relief and Development Fund. All runners received free water bottles, pencils or rulers from Fort Irwin American Red Cross volunteers. The event's special guest appearance was Fort Irwin veterinarian, Capt. Elizabeth James. Go Timberwolves!



JANE SCHULTZ

5 Things Everyone Should Know About Identity Theft:

1. You're Only as Safe as Your Weakest Link.

The challenge in protecting your identity is that your personal information is everywhere. Even if you shred your private documents, or use secure websites and strong passwords, what about everyone else who has your Social Security number — like your doctor, dentist or the 17-year-old clerk handling your credit application at the electronics store? The problem quickly becomes obvious: you may be doing everything right, but what about everyone else who has your information?

2. Once Your Social Security Number is Out, It's Staying Out.

If your credit or debit card is stolen, you can replace it, but what happens when non-changing information like your Social Security number is stolen? The fact is, once it's out, it's out. Identity thieves buy, sell and trade stolen information, using it over and over again for years. Is your Social Security number really secure?

3. Anyone Can Be A Target.

Recent news reports revealed that even the chairman of the Federal Reserve¹ was one of the 9.9 million Americans who were victims of identity theft in 2008.² Other reports describe how one identity theft ring was responsible for two of the largest thefts in history, resulting in the theft of more than 130 million credit and debit card numbers.³ Think you could be at risk? (See #1.)

4. How Protected Are You?

You may think you're protected, but are you really? Your credit card may be safeguarded, but that won't help if thieves open new lines of credit. Credit monitoring will only alert you once something bad has already happened. Neither method will help prevent identity theft, nor resolve problems once you've become a victim.

5. There is Help.

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Staff Sgt. Don Meredith, acting as defense attorney, calls into question a detail regarding Spc. Katherine Crawford's actions on a traffic stop.

Military Police receive ... Courtroom demeanor, testimony training

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAPT. JASON KIM

MP Company Commander

On Feb. 25, the National Training Center Staff Judge Advocate Courtroom was the site for a unique training opportunity for Fort Irwin military police. The training revolved around the key skills and techniques required to properly appear as a law enforcement officer and testify in court.

"Courtroom demeanor training is imperative for MP Soldiers to ensure the successful prosecution of any legal or criminal matter," said Sgt. 1st Class Lorenzo Dominguez, MP Company liaison.

This is an area where many younger MPs, especially those whose first duty station is Fort Irwin, have little to no training. In addition, court is often the proving ground for an officer's actions while on duty, and it is the legal process that police cases are processed through for successful prosecution.

The training was conducted by members of the California Army National Guard State Military Reserve, who operate a training detachment directly supporting the Military Police Company. Highlighting this event was primary instructor, Capt. William Chidsey, who is also a full-time Superior Court Judge for Los Angeles County. Capt. Chidsey's extensive experience, not only as a judge but also attorney, allowed MPs to receive the best training possible in the courtroom.

Fourteen MPs were trained in all aspects of courtroom demeanor, such as answering questions from the defense attorney and prosecutor, properly stating one's qualifications, and specifically describing details of a case or incident in which they were the responding officer.

Physical appearance, self confidence, and tone of voice were also areas that Soldiers were instructed and could be key areas where the jury may draw their conclusions as to the competency of a law enforcement officer. The morning portion consisted of classroom instruction on criminal procedure, followed by a practical exercise in the afternoon.

Adding to the realism, the MPs were instructed to bring a current case they were working on so that it could be used to generate questions and develop a courtroom scenario. The prosecutor role was played by Sgt. Christian Buado, a full-time police field train-



Capt. William Chidsey explains the strong points of Spc. Crawford's response to the MPs observing her testimony.

ing officer with Los Angeles County Hospital Police, while Staff Sgt. Don Meredith, the current commissioner of the Los Angeles County Probation Department, played the role of defense attorney. Capt. Chidsey played his role as the judge, but also narrated and explained the testimony process and highlighted key areas where testifying officers could improve on after each scenario.

"It's not every day you have a Superior Court Judge personally instruct the basics of courtroom testimony and demeanor for our Soldiers. It is a rare event made possible by our partnership programs," said Capt. Jason Kim, Military Police company commander.

Courtroom testimony is one area where MPs, especially junior ranks, have almost no exposure. Yet, here on Fort Irwin, they are often called upon to testify in court or to appear before a judge due to a contested citation or to follow through on suc-



Staff Sgt. Don Meredith, acting as a defense attorney, questions Sgt. Michael Scott while on the witness stand.

cessful prosecution of criminal cases. The training they received that day will ensure that MPs' courtroom skills will be equally effective as their police enforcement techniques on the road.

"It was great training, very educational on what an MPs' role is when he or she needs to go to court. The instructors were very knowledgeable and helpful," said Sgt. Michael Scott, MP Company team leader.

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

HIGH DESERT WARRIOR CLASSIFIED AD POLICIES AND FORM

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The **ONLY** personnel eligible to place free ads in the High Desert Warrior are:

• **Active Duty Military and DoD personnel Stationed at Fort Irwin NTC and their dependents, and retired military.**

The **ONLY** Classified ads that are available as free ads to above listed personnel are:

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- Roommate Wanted
- Lost & Found
- Cars & Trucks (Except RV's)
- Furniture & Appliances
- Misc. For Sale
- Garage & Yard Sales
- Motorcycles
- Misc. Wanted

All other categories are paid.

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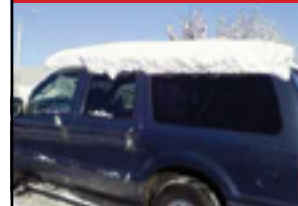


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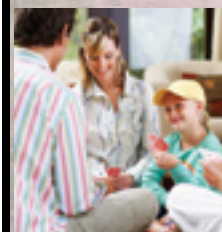


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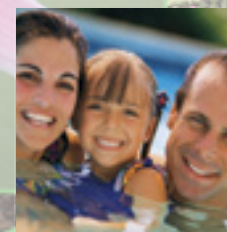
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