



HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

Volume 6, Number 12

www.irwin.army.mil

March 25, 2010

Published in the interest of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin community since 1981

Legal Assistance Hours

Fort Irwin Legal Assistance Office hours have changed. The new schedule is as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Thursday: 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Notary Services: 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Everyday, walk-in basis. Appointment calendars open: Fridays at 1 p.m.

New Access Numbers

New standardized dialing prefixes on all government telephone switches will be activated tomorrow. DSN access is changed from '8' to '94' (i.e., 94-xxx-xxxx); local and long distance access is changed from '9' to '97' (i.e., 97-1-760-386-xxxx); international access is changed from 9-1-011-various digits to 97-011-various digits. There are no changes to internal station-to-station access with five digit dialing, i.e., 4-4082.

Battle Staff Graduation

Fort Irwin community is invited to attend graduation ceremony of noncommissioned officers who will graduate from Battle Staff Class 14-10 at the Post Theater, at 9 a.m., March 26. For more information, call 380-3880.

Medical Accreditation

The Joint Commission will conduct its tri-annual medical accreditation survey of Weed Army Community Hospital today and tomorrow. To contact the Joint Commission team, call Maj. Keith Holliday at 380-2606/3108.

Force Protection Tips of the Week

- For military, DoD employees
- Be unpredictable:
 - Change routines
 - Don't exercise at the same time, place
 - Don't shop, refuel, eat at the same place, time
 - Vary route to and from work
 - Alter arrival, departure times
 - Control access:
 - Maintain security at access control points
 - Safeguard computer passwords; lock or log-off when not in use
 - Properly dispose of sensitive information; trash is valuable to adversary
 - Don't talk about work in public places
 - Report suspicious activity



Lt. Col. Richard Mullins, senior live-fire trainer with Dragon Team, Operations Group, second from left, briefs National Training Center and Fort Irwin commander, Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, right, about a new urban operations training site March 16.

'Shoot 'em up'

NTC will be site of largest urban operations training complex

STORY AND PHOTOS BY

GUSTAVO BAHENA

Warrior Staff Writer

Most bullets usually go right through walls, but not through the walls at a new urban operations training facility at the National Training Center.

And actually, with these walls, bullets from an M-16 rifle or an M-60 machine gun will remain embed — allowing for Soldiers to train in close-quarters with live ammunition.

The new urban operations range is undergoing a final construction phase, which when complete will include 16 buildings designed to be used during training for rotational units. The buildings consist of rooms, entry ways and windows. Some buildings will have two stories and there is one called the "garage," which is more of an open-type structure.

The new range is expected to be completed by the end of May. It is located at the live-fire area beyond Granite Pass, a northern, desolate area of this military installation.

National Training Center and Fort Irwin commander Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams toured the location on March 16 and received a briefing from Operations Group leaders and contractors who have joined to build the site. Abrams appreciated what he saw and proposed a ribbon cutting when the project is complete.

"I like it," Abrams commented. "It's going to be great."

Abrams offered some recommendations during the tour. He would like to see access

See Shoot, page 12

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MAR.-APR. 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				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	21	22	23	24

ROTATIONAL SOLDIER USE OF POST FACILITIES

■ HEAVY USE ■ MEDIUM USE ■ MINIMAL USE

We salute, honor



249

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 Jan. 1, 2010 – Mar. 14, 2010

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	5	●	60
AAFES	79	●	32
Commissary	23	●	39
Fort Irwin Garrison	1897	●	89
Veterinary Services	52	●	85
DENTAC	161	●	96
MEDDAC	196	●	82

ICE Weekly Report Mar. 1, 2010 – Mar. 14, 2010

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	1	●	0
AAFES	22	●	55
Commissary	7	●	86
Fort Irwin Garrison	352	●	92
Veterinary Services	4	●	75
DENTAC	17	●	94
MEDDAC	34	●	88

Fort Irwin Garrison Organizations

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
Fort Irwin Garrison	388	●	92
Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation	97	●	83
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center	1	g	100
Equal Employment Opportunity	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Human Resources	147	●	99
Information Management	5	●	100
Legal	3	●	100
Logistics	7	●	57
Pinnacle Housing	63	●	93
Plans, Analysis & Integration Office	1	[NOT RATED]	—
Police/Provost Marshall	1	●	0
Public Affairs	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Public Works	11	●	88
RCI Housing	1	●	0
Religious Support (California)	3	●	67
Resource Management Office	1	●	100
Safety	38	●	100
NTC HQ Adjunct General Office	0	[NOT RATED]	—
American Red Cross	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Armed Forces Bank 1 - Main Branch	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Armed Forces Bank 3 - PX Branch	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Community Information Manager	1	[NOT RATED]	—
Landmark Inn	6	●	67
Military Family Life Consultants	1	●	100
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.

Library

Customer Comment: It would be nice if the WiFi internet was back up. It has

been down for a week. The staff has called in the problem, but the tech support is still not here. Why? Agency Response: Andrew, The Army Recreation Machine Program (ARMP) is responsible for these repairs and is working this issue. They are working with Colorado-based staff to try and fix this problem. We completely share your frustration and are elevating these concerns to try and get the computers back on line.

Fitness Connection/ Coyote Activity Center

Customer Comment: Michelle told a man to leave the workout room during the 8-11 time period being the first employee to do so while I was there. I appreciated it because I do go to the gym at the Fitness Connection for the all female workout time. Michelle, thank you. Agency

See ICE, page 14

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, NTC PAO Director

High Desert Warrior Staff

Chicpaul Becerra
Editor
Gustavo Bahena
Staff Writer
Agustin Rodriguez
Editorial Assistant
Caroline Keyser
Volunteer Writer

Aerotech News

Tammi Haynes, Graphic Designer

HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

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SUBMISSIONS

Story and photos 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. 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 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
Honorable Mention, 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

Warrior Brigade executes field training at NTC

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC. ROBERT M. ENGLAND

25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Soldiers from 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Warriors", 25th Infantry Division arrived in California for pre-deployment training in early February. The unit has been gearing up for this training for approximately five months, as there is much planning and coordination needed to prepare a unit of nearly 4,000 soldiers for six weeks of training at a location more than 2,500 miles away.

The unit began preparing for its rotation at the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin in November 2009. A "Warfighter" simulation training exercise was conducted at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii at the beginning of December in which brigade leaders and staff established communications and conducted key leader engagements with simulated Iraqi officials as part of the advise-and-assist role the unit will play in the upcoming deployment to Iraq.

As the time for training drew near, the brigade prepared its soldiers and equipment for movement to NTC. Countless bags were packed and loaded into overseas containers, which were then blocked and braced before being sealed to ensure minimal shifting during the trip to California.

The first soldiers arrived at the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Santa Fe at NTC on February 8. Soldiers from the brigade headquarters, as well as key staff from each battalion, arrived ahead of the main body in order to receive and conduct accountability checks of equipment and establish the bare essentials required to support the brigade for the duration of the field training exercise.

"The first Soldiers to arrive at NTC were mainly supply and logistics Soldiers preparing to receive the equipment coming off the ports in San Diego," said Capt. Denis M. Wagner, the



Soldiers from the 66th Engineer Company, attached to 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division conducts mounted gunnery and small arms training at Fort Irwin's Desert King Range, Feb. 24. Weapons proficiency is a crucial part of preparation for the brigade's upcoming deployment to Iraq in order to advise and assist Iraqi Security Forces.

Assistant Operations Planner for the Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "They were establishing life support; getting tents set up, the showers, the latrines, all the logistics necessary to support the brigade."

Once the brigade had arrived in full at NTC, the battalions began conducting California Operations, various training exercises that allowed each unit to practice essential skills that will be crucial to the success of the brigade's upcoming deployment to Iraq.

"For the battalions, it was an opportunity to conduct Stryker gunnery, lanes training, flat ranges and interaction with key leaders," Kim said. "The brigade support battalion did a lot of convoy training, including some convoy live-fire exercises utilizing their gun trucks."

"The units conducted their pre-rotational training such as marksman training with small arms systems, Stryker gunnery with weapons mounted on the Strykers, and situational training exercises allowing them

to do platoon and company maneuvers," Wagner said.

Strategic Operations, Inc. (STRAT OPS), a special effects company in Los Angeles, assisted the brigade with simulation training exercises by providing realistic scenarios in simulated Iraqi environments with simulated IED explosions and injuries using professional make-up artists to give soldiers an enhanced training experience.

"We hired a special effects crew, STRAT OPS, to simulate what it feels like to interact with Iraqis, especially with the language barrier," Kim said. "It was a good experience, especially for soldiers who have never been deployed."

Every unit within the brigade had a chance to utilize every asset within their skill set. Food service specialists in particular were hard at work almost 20 hours each day.

"Our food service specialists were serving two meals a day for close to 4,000 people," Kim said.

The various training exercises that the brigade conducted allowed each unit to assess mission execution methods and make necessary adjustments to ensure success during the next phase of training at NTC, as well as the brigade's readiness for the upcoming deployment to Iraq.

"It allowed us the time away from garrison activities to establish the processes and systems to conduct training in a more realistic environment," Wagner said. "The field training exercise set the initial pieces in place to eventually roll into the Advise and Assist Brigade construct that will be in place when we deploy."

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



Crime Watch

Information provided by
Provost Marshal Office

Dog bite

Location: Colin Powell. Police were notified that a stray dog had bitten an unknown person on the foot. The dog was detained and taken to the vet clinic.

Medical emergency

Location: Shockwave. Fire department responded to the report of medical emergency at the Shockwave.

Domestic disturbance (physical)

Location: Desert Winds housing. Husband and wife were involved in a verbal argument that turned physical. Husband was apprehended.

Found child

Location: 3748 Fredricksburg. Police responded to the report of a child wandering the street. Parents found the child and took him home.

Traffic accident

Location: Fort Irwin Road. Northbound 5/10 mile of Outer Loop Rd. police responded to a report of a vehicle that ran off of the roadway. Damages.

Possession of drug paraphernalia

Location: Bldg # barracks. A K-9 search of a barracks resulted in the discovery of drug paraphernalia, which was later seized.

Larceny of private property

Location: Cactus Cove housing. Police responded to the report of a stolen baby stroller.

Adopt-a-pet



Name: Gypsy
Breed: Domestic medium hair

Gender: Female

Age: Approx. 1-year-old

Gypsy 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

\$3,500 Scholarship

Fort Irwin-based Martin H. Cesana Chapter of the Army Engineer Association is offering scholarships up to \$3,500, with preference to those seeking education and training in an engineer field. Applications are open to Soldiers and their family members, Barstow area high school seniors, and current university or community college students enrolled in 6 units or more and a PGA of 2.5 and above. Application deadline is April 28. For more information, contact AEA Scholarship committee chairman, Spc. Eddie Boquilla, 58th Combat Engineer Company, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, RSS at 213-999-7611 or e-mail: eddie.boquilla@us.army.mil.

Red Cross Classes

Fort Irwin American Red Cross Station will host its March Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and First Aid class on Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. It is \$45 for Soldier or family member and if an additional person attends from the same household, cost is \$22.50. For active Red Cross volunteers with 20-plus hours-per-month, cost is \$10. For all others, cost is \$60. To participate in this life saving course, contact Fort Irwin Red Cross Station at 380-3697 or visit Bldg. 571.

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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, 6 p.m.	Center Chapel
PWOC, Morning	Tuesday, 9 a.m.	Center Chapel
PWOC Evening	Tuesday, 6 p.m.	Center 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 p.m.	Blackhorse Chapel
Sunday School	Sunday, 2:15 p.m.	Center Chapel
Priesthood/RSE	Sunday, 3:10 p.m.	CFLC/Bldg 317

MUSLIM

Prayer	Friday, 12 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:</i> For more information on chapel activities, contact the Center Chapel staff at 380-3562 or the Blackhorse Chapel staff at 380-4088.		

AWANA: Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed (2 Tim 2:15)

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.

Holy Week Schedule

March 28/Sunday:

Palm Sunday (Regular Services)
Chapel NeXT Worship Service
Potluck, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

March 29/Monday:

Jewish Passover Service
(6:30 p.m./Black Horse)
Jewish Passover Meal (Black Horse)

April 1/Thursday:

Liturgical Protestant Service-Soup and Salad Dinner (5 p.m./Black Horse)
Liturgical Protestant Maundy Thursday Service (6 p.m./Black Horse)
Catholic Mass of the Lord's Supper (7:30 p.m.)

April 2/Friday:

Catholic Good Friday Liturgy (12 p.m.)

April 3/Saturday:

Catholic Easter Vigil (7:30 p.m.)

April 4/Sunday:

Easter (Regular Services)
Irwin Easter Sunrise Service (6:30 a.m.)
Catholic Easter Egg Hunt (Jack Rabbit Park, 10:30 a.m.)
BOSS Easter Egg Hunt (Black Horse Chapel, 2 p.m.)

— **CRAIG W. DRUMMOND** —
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Community Happenings

Spring Fling

699th Maintenance Company and 557th Maintenance Company Family Readiness Groups will co-sponsor Spring Fling at the Sandy Basin Community Center tomorrow, 1-6 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Various vendors, including Arts and Crafts, Mary Kay, Keith McKern Photography and more, will be available during the event.

Shock Wave Double Header

UFC111 will air at Shock Wave, 7 p.m., Saturday. Cover charge is \$10 for this event. Enjoy Shock Wave's restaurant, Primo's, while watching the show. At 10 p.m., "Aces & Eights," playing southern rock music, will perform live after the UFC111 Fight. Cover charge is \$5. Call 380-8646 for more details.

GSAB Family Readiness Group Events

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

HHD, GSAB

Jun. 10: HHD FRG meeting; Time: 6 p.m., Location: Bldg. 1200 Forum. Topic: TBD. If you should have any questions, contact Ms. Hunter at 380-7781 or email: hhdfrg507@gmail.com.

AAD, GSAB

Mar. 25: AAD FRG coffee; Time: 6 p.m., Location: Reggie's. If you should have any questions, contact Sherry Martin at (207) 664-8021 or email: aadfrg@gmail.com.

AVCO, GSAB

AVCO FRG meeting has not been scheduled as of yet. If you should have any questions, please contact Ms. Hunter at 380-7781 or email: avcofrg@gmail.com.

1916th Support Battalion Events

Battalion Ball

Place: Monte Carlo Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

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

POC: Company First Sergeant

HHC, 1916th SB

FRG Meeting

Place: The Forum (Bldg. 1200)

Date and Time: May 13 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

2nd HET, 1916 SB

FRG Meeting/Easter Egg Event

Place: Jack Rabbit Park

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

POC: 2tcfrg@gmail.com

557th Maintenance

FRG Meeting

Place: Chapel Bank Bldg. (Bldg. 317)

Date and Time: Apr. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

POC: 557thfrg@gmail.com

699th Maintenance

FRG Meeting

Place: Sandy Basin Annex

Date and Time: Apr. 7, 4:30 p.m.

POC: frg699th@yahoo.com

Co-Hosting 557th/699th

FUNDRAISER — SPING FLING — VENDOR FAIR

Place: Sandy Basin Community Center

Date and Time: Mar. 26, 1-6 p.m.; Mar. 27, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

POC: frg699th@yahoo.com or 557thfrg@gmail.com

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

1/11 ACR FRG events

Following are upcoming 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Family Readiness Group events:

Apr. 13: HHT, FRG Meeting, 5 p.m., Squadron Conference Room

Apr. 14: I Battery, FRG Meeting, 6 p.m., Squadron Conference Room

Apr. 15: D Company, FRG Meeting, 5 p.m., Squadron Conference Room (please note new meeting time)

Apr. 12: FRG Steering Committee Meeting, 5 p.m., Squadron Conference Room

Apr. 6: C Troop, FRG Meeting, 4:30 p.m., Squadron Conference Room,

Apr. 14: B Troop, FRG Meeting, 5 p.m., Squadron Conference Room
More information: Joan Morschel at 380-5749 or joan.morschel@us.army.mil.

At the Movies

Thursday, Mar. 25

7 p.m. Closed

Friday, Mar. 26

7 p.m. The Tooth Fairy (PG)

7 p.m. Dear John (PG-13)

9:30 p.m. Valentine's Day (PG-13)

9:30 p.m. From Paris With Love (R)

Saturday, Mar. 27

7 p.m. The Tooth Fairy (PG)

7 p.m. Dear John (PG-13)

9:30 p.m. Valentine's Day (PG-13)

9:30 p.m. From Paris With Love (R)

Sunday, Mar. 28

4 p.m. The Tooth Fairy (PG)

7 p.m. Dear John (PG-13)

7 p.m. From Paris With Love (R)

Monday, Mar. 29

7 p.m. Dear John (PG-13)

7 p.m. Valentine's Day (PG-13)

Tuesday, Mar. 30

7 p.m. Closed

Wednesday,

Mar. 31

7 p.m. Closed

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.

Aquathlon 2010

Sign up for Saturday's 7 a.m. Aquathlon 2010, to be held at the Oasis Pool, and consists of 800 meter swim, followed by a 5K run. The event is open to the entire community and surrounding areas. Registration forms are available at Freedom and Memorial Fitness Centers, Coyote Activity Center (formerly Fitness Connection) and the Oasis Pool. For more information, call 380-3457.

Multiples Support Group

New Parent Support Program will host a Multiples Support Group meet at the Army Community Services Conference Room, 9 to 10 a.m., Apr. 12, May 10, Jun. 14, and Jul. 12. Multiples Support Group is for parents of twins, triplets or more children. Group provides emotional support and a means of discussing experiences associated with having multiple children. Call 380-8344/4021.

Empowering Women

Register now for the 2010 Fort Irwin Women's Conference, to be held on April 9, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at Reggie's. The event will be hosted by the Fort Irwin Officers and Civilians Spouses Club and MWR. Enjoy creative workshops, and hear luncheon guest speaker Tanya Biank, author of "Army Wives." Her book inspired the hit Lifetime series Army Wives. Child care is available. Please contact FortIrwinWomensConference@gmail.com or visit www.fortirwinocsc.org for pricing and more information.

Children's Free Classes

During April, Month of the Military Child, EDGE! Program will honor our youth with free EDGE classes. April is packed with a number of fun, engaging, and educational programs to include: golf, jewelry making, teen job readiness, mosaic art, and bowling. Classes are open to youth in grades 3-12 and take place at various MWR facilities on base. Transportation from Tiefert, School Age Services and the Middle School and Teen Center is available. Register at Parent Central (Bldg. 1323) or through <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/irwincyms.html>. Spaces are limited, so register today. For more information, call 380-5816.

New Parent Support

New Parent Support is a program designed to assist you every step of the way with raising your children in a nurturing, safe, and healthy environment. Childcare is provided for all New Parent Support classes offered. Infant care classes offered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays by appointment only. Classes are held in the Army Community Service conference room. Point-of-contacts are Kahalia Anderson, 380-8344 and Shawn Robinson, 380-4021.

Tickets and Tours

Plan a private trip for your unit, group, family readiness group, or family. Check out what Tickets and Tours have to offer in March. Go to www.fortirwinfmwr.com under the recreation tab and Tickets & Tours, click on 'March Events.' For more information call Tickets and Tours at 380-4327.

Village Mayors Wanted

The mission of the mayoral program is to enhance the quality of life and to provide information and referral to Fort Irwin residents. If you're interested, contact Army Community Service at 380-3776.

Spouses' Orientation Tour

Are you new to Fort Irwin? Check out the 2-day Spouses' Tour — attendance required for both days of the tour. Participants must be military ID card holders. The tour is free of charge and childcare is provided. Space is limited and children must be enrolled at Central Enrollment. For more information, call 380-2258.

Skeet and Trap now open

Skeet and Trap's hours of operation are Mondays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. while Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Operation closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Range closes half hour before dark. For more information, call 380-4327.

Youth and School Activities

Middle School Activities

Thursday: Tissue paper daisy, photography club

Friday: Technology Lab Kid's Choice, Cooking Club Mac and Cheese

Monday: Lego Robotics, Soap Making

Tuesday: Let's Make Snow!, Pom-poms and luminaries

Wednesday: 4-H, Smart Girls, Ultimate Journey

Teen Activities

Friday: Open Mic Night

Saturday: Keystone Club

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.25

Weight Watchers
12 noon
Bldg. 317
Christine, 298-3438

Thu., Mar. 25

Discovering Keys to
Loving Relationships
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Center Chapel Annex,
Bldg. 317
380-3421/4664

Fri., Mar. 27

Little Miss/Mister
FI Pageant
6 p.m.
Ingalls Recreation Center
Leslie//Debbie, 380-3585

Fri., Mar.27

Red Cross CPR &
AED Class
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Red Cross Station
380-3697

Fri., Apr. 9

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

Sat., Apr. 10

10-Miler Team Tryout
7 a.m.
Fitness Connection
SFC Harris, 380-8386

Sat., Apr. 10

Fort Irwin Children's Fair
8 a.m.

Coyote Activity Center
380-2257

Mon., Apr. 12

Multiple Support
Group
9-10 a.m.
ACS Conference Room
380-8344/4021

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

Employee Assistance Program

When life gives you too many lemons

BY VALENCIA R. BARNES

Employee Assistance Program Coordinator

Work, family problems, illness and financial problems are stressors that most of us deal with on a daily basis.

In addition, we are feeling the negative effects of a downward economy, high unemployment rates and of course the war. With all this going on, it is not difficult to understand why we are overwhelmed.

So what can we do if we need help?

The good news is the Fort Irwin Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is here to help. EAP provides free, confidential, short term counseling. If needed, referrals to other agencies and facilities will be made in order to further assist individuals. The goal of EAP is to assist clients with life issues that affect their well being and ability to perform work duties. EAP is designed to provide professional assistance for a wide range of personal and family concerns including but not limited to: stress management, relationship and family concerns, career and work related problems, substance abuse and depression.

EAP services are available to military family members, civilian employees, retirees and their family members. To make an appointment, contact EAP coordinators Valencia Barnes and Ron Hester at 380-4153/1366. Their offices are located in Bldg. 573 on Third Street. Operation hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and are available for lunch hour appointments.

The Fitness Connection Fitness Class Schedule

Thursday, March 25

Morning

6:30 Spin/Sandy
8:30 Body Shop/Sandy
11:45 Spin/Sandy

Afternoon

5:30 Cardio Circuit Mix/Robin
6:30 Pilates/Robin

Friday, March 26

Morning

8:30 Step/Tamara
9:30 Pilates/Cara
11:45 Boot Camp/Sandy

Afternoon

3:00 Yoga/Michell

Monday, March 29

Morning

8:30 Spin/Tamara
9:30 Pilates/Cara
11:45 Step/Tamara *30 min express

Afternoon

12:15 Upper Cuts/Sandy * 30 min express
3:00 Yoga/Michell
5:30 Spin & Core/
Sandy *45 min spin 30 min core

Tuesday, March 30

Morning

6:30 Spin/Sandy * Free Class
8:30 Body Shop/Tamara
9:30 Belly Dancing B/Tamara

11:45 Kickboxing/Sandy

Afternoon

5:30 No Class
6:30 No Class

Wednesday, March 31

Morning

8:30 Cardio Craze/Tamara
9:30 Belly Dancing C/Tamara
11:45 Cardio craze/
Tamara 45 min Express

Afternoon

12:15 No Class
3:00 Yoga/Michell
5:30 Power Spin/Sandy *1 hour
6:30 Kickboxing/Sandy

Fitness Class Pass: \$30 Unlimited monthly pass; \$20 10-class punch card; \$3 per single class

Classes during PT hours are FREE!

Check our new class schedule. We've added many new classes to help you reach your fitness goals.

For more information about fitness classes at the Fitness Connection, call Sandy Clark, fitness coordinator, at 380-7242.

Zumba is here

The Fitness Connection's fitness program is happy to now offer Zumba!!!

Zumba is one the hottest fitness crazes around. Burn up to 600 calories in an hour and trim your waistline. Join the party! Dance away the calories in this dynamic 60 minute cardio class using

Latin and hip hop music. Basic dance steps along with simple aerobic moves make this work out great for all fitness levels. Zumba will be offered on Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., with our newest team member Robin Horsley. Robin has over 18 years experience in the fitness instructor and

has a passion for teaching. She is certain to get you moving in this high energy class. Come on, dance your way to a stronger leaner body and have some fun! For more information, contact Sandy Clark at the Coyote Activities Center 380-7240 or email sandy.clark70@yahoo.com

Thank your doctor on National Doctors' Day

BY SHARI LOPATIN
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

They answered the higher calling to serve those who serve our nation. They go above and beyond the Hippocratic Oath, just from their desire to fulfill a greater need. They are heroes serving heroes.

They are our TRICARE doctors. March 30 is National Doctors' Day — A day to recognize and appreciate what TRICARE doctors do, why they do it and how they make a difference.

Some wear a uniform and work on military installations, treating those on active duty. Others are civilian doctors, working in communities throughout the country, taking care of service members, retirees and family members. But regardless of where they work, or what specialty they practice, these TRICARE doctors share a common trait:

Their choice is to take care of those who protect our Nation.

As part of the Doctor's Day commemoration, TRICARE ben-

eficiaries from across 21 western states have shared personal stories and expressions of gratitude for their TRICARE physicians.

"I have never in my entire life met a provider that genuinely cares for his patients as much as (my doctor)," said one TRICARE patient. "He is so good about following up and making sure we have the best possible care we can get."

Other stories touched on personal accounts of survival. "Since I was diagnosed with colorectal cancer in October 2007, (my physician) has been there with and for me every step of the way, through the MRIs, CT and PT scans, weekly blood panels, surgery, chemotherapy, and adjunctively with radiation."

On this distinctive day, take the time to thank your TRICARE doctor. And hear what others had to say. Visit www.triwest.com/drday to see why these special doctors stand out from the crowd. Or fan the Facebook page, "Salute Your TRICARE Doctor 2010," and post your own "Thank you" on the wall.



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Family Resiliency Training



SPC. TONI JUAREZ

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) volunteers Spc. Adam Jackson and Spc. Nicholas Esparza, both of Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, dressed up as Elmo and Ernie, interact with children during the 916th Support Brigade's Family Resiliency Training, March 17. The training taught family members how to "bounce back." Families who completed the course received Resiliency Training Module 1 certificates.



CAPT. LOUMAN CHEUNG

Post Librarian Al Potthoff gets ready to read a book to a couple of children.

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Operations Group Riders



PHOTOS BY RENITA WICKE

Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Nay, Bronco Team chaplain, says a prayer for a safe ride while bike riders bow their heads.

STORY BY RENITA WICKES AND DAVID KEY

Operations Group Vultures Team

Although May is designated Motorcycle Awareness Month, the rumble of motorcycles were heard across Fort Irwin on March 1.

Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Vogl, Cobra 40, and senior motorcycle mentor, wanted to ensure Soldiers and civilians, who share a passion for riding sport, dirt, and cruiser and ATV bikes in Operations Group, were safety-focused for the 2010 riding season.

The Group Ride event started

with a short safety meeting, detailing the route of travel, speeds, road hazards, weather, and meal stops. Other information identified the ride leader, sweep and trail riders as well as proper hand and arm signals.

As soon as all questions were answered, riders got down to business of checking out their individual bikes using the T-CLOCS pre-ride Inspection checklist. T-CLOCS is an acronym used by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, referring to checks of Tires, Controls, Lights, Oil, Chain, and Stands. Once riders completed checks, Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Nay, Bronco Team

chaplain, gave a short benediction, asking for a safe riding season. Before setting off, the 39 participating riders received individual blessings and separated into two staggered-formation groups. A staggered formation is used to make the group more visible to drivers and to allow an adequate safety space around the riders.

The first group drove out and was headed up by the senior motorcycle mentor, and 10 minutes later, Command Sergeant Maj. Rodolfo Beltran, Lizard 40, led the second group to the Slash X Café, located on Highway 247 about halfway between Lucerne and

Barstow. The Slash X Café was chosen to allow riders to relax and grab a bite to eat before heading back or continuing on in smaller group rides. Slash X Café was used briefly for a scene in the movie "Erin Brockovich." It has long been a favorite of the off-road and motorcycle community.

The event well and was beneficial to all riders.

"The whole ride was a huge success," Command Sgt. Maj. Vogal said, after all riders returned safe and sound. When asked what was gained by the ride, he stated three things: "One, we as leaders were able to talk

to all riders about the upcoming riding season, emphasizing safety and what the standards are while riding. Two, we also have some new riders and were able to watch them ride and give them pointers on how to ride safer. Three, we were able to make sure that the bikes were safe by doing the T-CLOCS inspection on the bikes that were risen on the run."

The Operations Group commander took note of the unit's event.

"What a great way to promote safe riding; this is what the Motorcycle Mentorship program is all about!" said Col. Theodore Martin.



Operations Group riders gather before heading out of Fort Irwin.

Umbie through the desert



Operations Group motorcycle riders head out towards Fort Irwin Road.



Soldiers gather at meeting point.



Operations Group Soldiers prepare to do safety inspection and check their driving route.



Operations Group bikers chat a few minutes before riding their motorcycles.



An Operations Group Soldier does a safety check on his motorcycle as other Soldiers arrive for the ride.

Shoot, from page 1

points for the site from various directions, and he wants to ensure the area is safe from impact by live-fire projectiles from other ranges.

The site will be the largest complex incorporating the unique material for urban operations training, said Lt. Col. Richard Mullins, the senior live-fire trainer with Dragon Team at Operations Group. Mullins explained that the 18-inch walls allow M-16 rifle rounds to be absorbed four inches into the material.

The wall material is known as shock absorbent concrete and was provided by the contractor Ballistics Technology, Inc. Jim Sigurdson, president of Bal-

listics Technology, Inc., said his company shares a patent with the Army Corps of Engineers for the material. His company has built similar training sites at Fort Bragg, N.C., and for the Marines at Twentynine Palms, Calif. The walls of the structures at NTC are designed so repairs can be made after bullets have become embedded. This capability gives the training structures more longevity.

Before the range is open for rotational units, it must be prepared for use and assessed. During the tour, it was suggested to Abrams that perhaps testing could be performed by the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.



National Training Center and Fort Irwin commander, Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, left, tours a structure that is part of a new urban operations training site at NTC, March 16. Accompanying Abrams were Operations Group leaders and contractor Ballistics Technology, Inc. representatives. The site is scheduled to be complete by the end of May.

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The Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area is a United States Army Corps of Engineers Facility and a unit of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation System.

ATEC teams assess combat systems effectiveness

BY MIKE CAST
Army News Service

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — The Army Test and Evaluation Command has been deploying teams to the Iraq and Afghanistan theater to assess new systems under combat conditions.

Included among the most recent systems that ATEC Forward Operational Assessment Team 13 has assessed are the Mine-Protected Ambush-Resistant vehicle, along with a variety of mine-roller systems and unmanned aerial systems.

One of the systems assessed by the team was the Self-Protection Adaptive Roller Kit, or SPARK, which is used in front of tactical vehicles to set off a buried improvised explosive device before the vehicle is on top of it. SPARK rollers have saved numerous lives in theater, according to T.R. Masino, the Developmental Test Command's coordinator for the FOA program.

This team also recently assessed the Sky Warrior Extended Range Multi-Purpose UAV and the Hunter Viper Strike.

"The feedback from FOA Team 13 has been well received by troops in theater, although they found some things that needed improvement," Masino said. "The FOA teams continue to be relevant and have been right at the forefront in evaluating the latest things the Army needs to know about."

The first such team deployed to Kuwait in the early stages of the war in Iraq, to assess the performance of Army vehicles that Soldiers were driving more rapidly in theater than expected when tested, to keep from becoming easier targets than they would be at slower speeds. Since then, 13 ATEC forward operational assessment teams have deployed to the area of operations for both Afghanistan and Iraq, with the critical mission of assessing the performance of everything from counter-IED technologies to unmanned aerial and ground systems that can gather intelligence on enemy



COURTESY PHOTO

Maj. Melinda Kalainoff, left, a member of the Army Test and Evaluation Command's Forward Operational Assessment Team 13, gets a briefing on the Puma unmanned aerial system from Spc. Josh Coryell at Forward Operating Base Kalagush in Afghanistan.

team members said they don't mind the rigors of the mission because they know how crucial it is to the Soldiers facing the threat of serious injury or even death, day in and day out.

ATEC's Col. Brian Dosa, commander of the 13th FOA at Camp Victory, emphasized the importance of FOA team members working as the "mouthpiece of the Soldier." In that role, they have obtained critical feedback from Soldiers and Army units that can lead to weapon-systems improvements; changes to tactics, techniques and procedures; and adjusted test-and-evaluation procedures back in the United States at ATEC's various test facilities and ranges.

One result of the team's deployment is a stateside test-and-evaluation program that as

to capture what the maneuver commanders see as a relevant force enabler and what is not. Ultimately, it's the Soldiers that pay the price of the good idea guy with no experience of ever being on the ground."

Some of the systems under assessment during ATEC's 13th FOA team rotation include mini-robots for clearing explosive ordnance; systems designed to protect Soldiers or to support intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations; enhanced armor protection for various heavy wheeled vehicles used regularly in the combat theater; along with a variety of unmanned aerial systems.

"Generally speaking, Soldiers are pleased with the equipment they have received," said Maj. Melinda Kalainoff of the Op-

erational Test Command of her stint with one of the teams in Afghanistan. "They were eager to tell us about their equipment, and they are never at a loss about their opinions and recommendations."

"To get the ground truth, you need to get on the ground and talk directly to the user, the Soldier, and that is what we do. We were speaking with a captain about how fast the acquisition system has to work to meet the needs of the Soldiers, and he said, 'The Army really tries to make things better.' He gave the example of the Puma (unmanned aerial system) as well as all the cold-weather clothing items that Soldiers have received," Kalainoff said.

The data FOA team members collect from Soldiers includes written feedback, face-to-face recorded interviews, telephone interviews and slide presentations. Some participants in the forward operational assessment program have gone on missions with units in their area to get a real-time look at how systems are operating.

Kalainoff said there were times when problems with equipment in theater surfaced while testing was taking place simultaneously back in the United States. That made it possible to modify the test plan to address the emerging issue, she said.

"In other cases, the problem may be such that additional testing is initiated by a theater-level concern," Kalainoff added. "The FOA team can serve as a liaison to link the combatant commander in theater with the tester in the continental United States and facilitate information flow."

"We were providing data no less than on a weekly basis as part of an assessment," added Sgt. 1st Class Dedrick Waterford, one of Kalainoff's colleagues from ATEC's Operational Test Command. "Our efforts there directly affect the test-and-evaluation process by gathering additional information that maybe was omitted during rapid fielding initiatives that brought new equipment to Soldiers sooner."

(Mike Cast writes for the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command.)

Army approaches million unmanned flying hours



SGT. AMANDA JACKSON

Pfc. Kyle J. Matlack, an infantryman with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, holds a the Raven prior to launching it in the air. Soldiers have flown nearly a million hours in unmanned aerial systems such as the Raven.

BY C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army is fast approaching one million hours of unmanned aviation flight with its unmanned aerial systems.

"Right now it looks like we'll hit probably 1 million total hours sometime next month," said Col. Christopher Carlile, director, U.S. Army Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center of Excellence. "But it'll take us to around September or October before we'll hit one million hours in support of combat operations."

The colonel said about 90 percent of the Army's unmanned flying hours are in support of combat. The Army aviation community will recognize the milestone in late May with displays at the Pentagon and the Smithsonian Museum in Washington.

Speaking to an audience of Soldiers and defense-industry professionals last week during the 2010 Association of the United States Army's Institute of Land Warfare Winter Symposium and Exposition in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Carlile said the Army is prepared for growth in use of unmanned aerial

systems and for broadening their mission sets.

"Today we are probably 99 percent-plus for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance roles for UAS," he said. "Though in the future, there will be new roles."

The colonel said those new roles could include communications relays, sustainment and cargo, for instance.

Training is ramping up for more UAS support as well. Out at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., the Army runs a joint training installation for

See Unmanned, page 15

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

ICE, from page 2

Response: Comment card was reviewed by management, but customer did not request a response.

MEDDAC/HR Army Substance Abuse Program

Customer Comment: I am a Soldier that recently completed ASAP, and with the help of my counselor and his excellent staff, Dr. Crawford is remarkable at what he does. For him, I have turned my life around. I would like to also commend his front staff of Lisa and Shirley when I had a really bad day. They both always greet me with a few kind words, and of course a smile. **Agency Response:** Comment card was reviewed by management, but customer provided no contact information nor requested a response.

MEDDAC

Customer Comment: The nurses and staff at the OB unit are wonderful. I'm told that 30-40 children are born at Fort Irwin in a given month. These women stay very, very busy with all the expecting moms on post. These women are also doing a great

job at informing the community of all the services that are offered to Soldiers and family members on post. Sgt. Bennet gave me a packet filled with information about infant care classes, family advocacy classes, as well as other resources on post ... so that someone could have an idea of ALL of the resources on post. This packet of information has by far been one of the most useful tools I've received here on post. Thank you. **Agency Response:** Comment card was reviewed by management, but customer provided no contact information nor requested a response.

Commissary

Customer Comment: I would like to thank Ms. Hendrix for the efficiency that she displayed over a WIC issue. After the third day of not having any WIC-approved soy milk in the refrigerator, my husband asked Ms. Hendrix, while checking out, when the next shipment would be in. Since the response from the backroom was taking several minutes, she got our contact information, so that we could load up our babies and told us that she would call us as soon as she knew the answer. Within five minutes of leaving the Commissary,

Ms. Hendrix called to let us know that the milk was in and that she had set aside the amount that we are to receive with our WIC stamps, since we had already left. I will be honest in saying that in the past, I have been less than impressed with the staff and accommodations that the Commissary has, but my husband and I sure appreciated this. **Agency Response:** Comment card was reviewed by management, but customer did not request a response.



Burger King

Customer Comment: I know most people use this system for negative responses, but occasionally there is an opportunity for praise. Tonight, for dinner on March 10, my family had what might be the single greatest experience at Burger King in the three years we have been stationed here. We decided to eat inside based on the length of the drive-thru line. The restaurant was busy, but you could hardly tell because the usual long-lines at the registers inside were non-existent. The drive-thru had that long line, but we could see through the windows that the cars were moving rapidly. Our food was ready before our drinks had even been filled. What's amazing is that the food was hot and fresh. The team member also paused at the tray to ensure the order was accurately filled. A small error in the kid's meal was quickly remedied. I don't know if it is different employees, or a new manager, but the change is noticeable. The normal sluggishness wasn't there this evening. Bravo AAFES BK. **Agency Response:** Comment Card was reviewed by management, but customer did not request a response.

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March is National Brain Injury Awareness Month

TBI injuries in the military

BY DONNA SCARBOROUGH LCSW

WTU Clinical Social Worker

In observance of National Brain Injury Awareness Month in March, Weed Army Community Hospital will sponsor a seminar at the Post Theater, on Mar. 30, 9 a.m., to highlight the most common types of brain injuries that affect Soldiers and families, and the services available in our community, to mitigate the impact of these illnesses and injuries. The following article on Traumatic Brain Injury highlights one of these diseases.

What is traumatic brain injury?

TBI is a concussion that is caused by a direct hit to the head, causing the brain to receive blunt trauma. Recent focus has been brought to the type of TBI caused in blast events. In this case, the body can be affected in a number of ways, and can cause damage to the brain. In addition to the different injuries to the body and the brain, this type of injury can interact and result in more impairment over a prolonged period of recovery.

There are four types of blast injuries addressed below.

- A primary blast injury is the result of exposure to the over pressurization wave or the complex pressure wave that is generated by the blast itself. This blast over-pressurization wave travels at a high velocity and is affected by the surrounding environment. For example, the effects of the blast wave may be increased in a closed environment such as a vehicle. Air-filled organs such as the ear, lung, and gastrointestinal tract, and organs surrounded by fluid-filled cavities — such as the brain and spinal cord are especially susceptible to primary blast injury. The over pressurization wave dissipates quickly, causing the greatest risk of injury to those closest to the explosion.
- A secondary blast injury is the result of energized fragments flying through the air; these fragments may cause penetrating brain injury.
- A tertiary blast injury may occur when the individual is thrown from the blast into a solid object, such as an adjacent wall, or even a steering wheel. These



types of injuries are associated with acceleration/deceleration forces and blunt force trauma to the brain — similar to that seen following high speed motor vehicle accidents.

- And finally, a quaternary blast injury can occur in the presence of severe blast related trauma. This type results from significant blood loss associated with traumatic amputations, or even from inhalation of toxic gases produced by the explosion.

According to DVBIC - TBI & The Military, a TBI resulting from a blast exposure can result in a more complex injury as compared to a TBI from other causes. It is very challenging to differentiate blast-related TBI and/or concussion from other conditions. It is also difficult to estimate the course of recovery in these cases, as it may vary wildly depending on the circumstances of the blast injury (i.e., size of the blast, location of the blast and other traumatic events causing the injury). Because of these issues, the evaluators in the field and in the hospitals may have difficulty evaluating the degree of injury.

Symptoms that may indicate a blast injury

Symptoms, resulting from a closed brain blast injury, may include a range of physical, emotional, cognitive and behavioral symptoms. However, these symptoms are non-specific; that is, they occur with other conditions such as depression or combat stress and post traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD), due to

the trauma experienced. It requires an experienced clinician who is familiar with the many variables involved in blast injury and has an understanding of how these variables can affect recovery, and ultimately impact return to everyday activities.

Unlike a severe or even moderate TBI, a concussion or mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) may not be readily identified. Recognizing the importance of early detection, the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have established system-wide screening and assessment procedures to identify concussion/mTBI in service members and veterans at the soonest opportunity, and through multiple points of care.

In theater

Ideally, screening should occur immediately following the injury event, as soon as operationally feasible. The MACE (Military Acute Concussion Evaluation) is a screening tool developed by DVBIC in 2006 that allows medics/corpsman and front line providers to quickly measure four cognitive domains; orientation, immediate memory, concentration, and memory recall. The MACE alone does not diagnose concussion/mTBI, but can give basic functional results that will allow the injured soldier to receive more advance care.

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center screens significant injuries or non-battle medical conditions that require evacuation from theater. This process identifies any history of previous brain injury (combat or non-combat related) and access for the presence or absence of a current TBI.

Post-deployment

Because concussion/mTBI is not always recognized in the combat setting, screening of active duty service members also now occurs post-deployment, through the post deployment health assessments (PDHA). This process has assisted military personnel to self-disclose injuries or symptoms of PTSD and TBI and receive the medical assistance they need when they return home.

Returning home

It is important for the family of the returning military person to know that someone who

has experienced a life changing event may appear different. As a trauma therapist, Clinical Social Worker Donna Scarborough has heard from so many family members that their family member is no longer the same. They have changed, and they just want the “old” or “pre-deployment” person back.

It is important to not push or insist that your family member respond quickly to the family needs. Your family member has changed, and so have you, over the long months of deployment. It is now about going forward and adjusting to all the changes that have occurred over the time of deployment, and the separation and possible serious injuries your family member has undergone.

Mild TBI has been shown to heal over time. PTSD or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder often accompanies any injury or emotional and traumatic events experienced during deployment. Research has shown that both conditions can be helped with therapy and assistance for each condition. DoD and VA are working closely to close the gap between the military medical care and the medical care received once the Military Member leaves the service.

In 2007, The Department of Defense also initiated the Warrior Transitional Units throughout the United States and in Germany to assist our Soldiers coming from theater to have on-going care while waiting to return to their units, or to receive a medical discharge from their military service. This is a new approach to care for our Soldiers, and is the step between the military and care-at-home, through the VA system of care. It is the goal of the Warrior Transitional Unit that no Soldier is left behind.

If you are a service member or veteran and believe you may have sustained a concussion TBI, DVBIC can help. Call 1-800-870-9244.

Editor's note: In 1992, Congress created the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) — originally known as the Defense and Veterans Head Injury Program (DVHIP) — during the Persian Gulf War to integrate specialized TBI care, research and education across military and veteran medical care systems.

Unmanned, from page 13

UAS operators and maintainers. There, they train Soldiers, Sailors and Marines. Carlile said the Army is expected to see an increase in Soldiers that need to be trained at the facility.

“Today we will train, in Fiscal Year 2010, about 800,” he said. “By 2018, our requirement is over 3,000 operators.”

Unlike other services, the Army finds placing enlisted servicemembers at the controls of a UAS to be most effective, and Carlile said that is not likely to change.

“Army enlisted UAS operators are fully capable and well trained to do anything you give them to do, and it’ll shock you when you hear how many hours of operation they have,” he said.

Carlile said the Army puts aircraft like the RQ-7 Shadow and the Raven in the lowest units, keeping their ISR capability close to the commanders who will need it.

“One of the greatest things we did was place the Shadow platoon in the brigade combat team in the

early days,” he said. “It allowed our infantry and our armor officers to realize the potential and know they owned it and know they were going to get it when they asked for it.”

Aviation is a complex business, prone to mishap, Carlile said, and the Army has found ways to minimize that by allowing technology in the UAS to do “what it does best.”

“What we found is that when the Army adapted that methodology to go toward an automated method to let the equipment do what it does best

— let it come up with automated take off and landing strategy — what we have seen, it would shock you.”

The colonel said that human error accidents and incidents are now nearing the single-digit mark now.

Despite successes of UAS in Iraq and Afghanistan, late in 2009 it was reported in the press that the Defense Department had confirmed that insurgents could intercept unencrypted video feeds from UAS.

On Capitol Hill, Secretary of the Army John McHugh was queried

about UAS security by Senator Richard Shelby of Alabama. McHugh said he felt confident about the current status of Army systems.

“The Army greatly values, and commanders feel very strongly, about the Army’s need to have these capabilities particularly at a strategic level,” the secretary said. “All the services recognized that potential vulnerability early on and have reacted aggressively to it, and we feel comfortable with the systems in place.”

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

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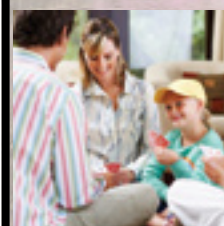
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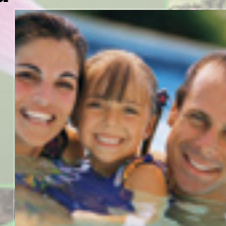
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