

# HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

Volume 6, Number 14

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

#### **CG Talk Radio**

Turn your radio dial to 88.3 FM this morning, from 8 to 9 a.m. today. Brig. Gen. Robert 'Abe' Abrams, National Training Center and Fort Irwin commanding general, will be on the air during Newsmakers Radio Show with 'Electric' Etric Smith on KNTC 88.3 FM to talk about Sexual Assault Prevention.

#### **Sex Offender Web site**

Here's a web site to protect families of local Soldiers and civilian employees. San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department announced to the public that its web site www.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/ can be used to identify registered sex offenders in their neighborhood. On the website, click the OFFENDER WATCH button on the left side of the screen and input your address to find names, photographs, addresses of registered sex offenders in your area.

#### **Earth Day Fair**

Everyone is invited to celebrate and participate in Fort Irwin's Earth Day Fair at Sandy Basin Community Center, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 23.

Highlights of the fair includes opening remarks by Col. Jim Chevallier, garrison commander, environmental education displays by government agencies and contractors, children's live tortoise viewing and education area, children's hands-on archaeological dig area, community yard sale area, household hazardous waste and electronic waste turn-in area, food and drink vendors, fire safety trailer, energy savings trailer, and recycle sculpture contest. Community participation enhances environmental awareness, so Soldiers, civilians, and family members become good stewards of Fort Irwin lands and aide in meeting sustainment goals. For more information, contact Elisa Sanchez, DPW Environmental, 380-5290.

#### Water Outage

Clark Construction, with contractor CH2MHILL, has scheduled a water outage Monday/April 12, 8 p.m. to Tuesday/ April 13, 8 a.m. This outage will affect all buildings between 1st Street and North Loop Rd. and from B Ave. to Barstow Rd. Work will be conducted at night to minimize the inconvenience to Fort Irwin Soldiers. Although the domestic water will be shut down, RO water will still be functional throughout the installation. Work is needed to improve the water system here at Fort Irwin. For more information, call Bill Ramo, 380-2777.

# **Spring Fling Event**



Brandi Allen, 699th Maintenance Company Family Readiness Group leader, left, and other FRG members, set up their popcorn machine booth to sell popcorn and other goodies. On March 27, a Spring Fling fundraiser was held for family readiness groups of 699th Maintenance Company and 557th Maintenance Company at the Sandy Basin Community Center. Darci Fluit, family member, Operations Group Eagle Team and event coordinator, and family readiness group members, organized the fair that showcased vendors wherein the Fort Irwin community can get to know and see what businesses are available on post. The fundraiser is going to be a recurring quarterly event on post to help organizations raise money as well as help in-home businesses on post. The next fundraiser is for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's Family Readiness Group and is scheduled for June. It will be a family fun day, with games for all ages, so kids can come and have a good time. The fall fundraiser will have a hay ride, pumpkin carving, and fun games for the kids to play. If interested in being a vendor or have an organization that is in need, please contact Darci Fluit at darcivdb@hotmail.com.

# Handling 'For Official Use Only' (FOUO) information

**BY BOB LUCAS** 

Freedom of Information Act/ **Privacy Act Officer** 

Are we current on the procedures and are we protecting our unclassified mission — and people-oriented information? The protection of information through the Privacy Act and the

Freedom of Information Act Programs start with the words "For Official Use Only."

During duty hours, reasonable steps should be taken to minimize risk of access by unauthorized personnel. Use the DA Label 87 Form (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY) to place on top of FOUO work located on desks and filing cabinets, charts on walls and other unclassified sensitive information during the work day. After working hours, FOUO information can be stored in unlocked containers, desks or cabinets if U.S. Government or U.S. Government-contract building security is provided, or in locked desks, file cabinets, bookcases, or similar items.

We salute, honor

See FOUO, page 15

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

ROTATIONAL SOLDIER USE OF POST FACILITIES

■ HEAVY USE | ■ MEDIUM USE | ■ MINIMAL USE

National Training Center and Fort Irwin

# **ICE Program Gives Customers a Voice**

ICE Year-To-Date Report Jan. 1, 2010 – Mar. 28, 2010

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	5	•	60
AAFES	96	•	28
Commissary	27	•	41
Fort Irwin Garrison	2295	•	89
Veterinary Services	54	•	81
DENTAC	194	•	96
MEDDAC	247	•	82

#### ICE Weekly Report Mar. 22, 2010 – Mar. 28, 2010

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	0	[NOT RATED]	_
AAFES	8	•	13
Commissary	3		33
Fort Irwin Garrison	180		89
Veterinary Services	1	•	0
DENTAC	8	•	100
MEDDAC	25		80

#### Fort Irwin Garrison Organizations

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
Fort Irwin Garrison	198	•	89
Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation	80	•	91
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center	2	•	100
<b>Equal Employment Opportunity</b>	1	•	0
Human Resources	72	•	93
Information Management	6	•	80
Legal	3	•	100
Logistics	1	[NOT RATED]	_
Pinnacle Housing	19	•	94
Plans, Analysis & Integration Office	4	[NOT RATED]	
Police/Provost Marshall	1	[NOT RATED]	
Public Affairs	0	[NOT RATED]	_
Public Works	2	•	0
RCI Housing	2	•	50
Religious Support (California)	0	[NOT RATED]	
Resource Management Office	0	[NOT RATED]	<u>—</u>
Safety	0	[NOT RATED]	_
NTC HQ Adjunct General Office	0	[NOT RATED]	_
American Red Cross (Bldg 577)	0	[NOT RATED]	<del>_</del>
Armed Forces Bank 1 - Main Branch	1	•	100
Armed Forces Bank 3 - PX Branch	0	[NOT RATED]	<u> </u>
Community Information Manager	0	[NOT RATED]	_
Landmark Inn	4	•	25
Military Family Life Consultants	0	[NOT RATED]	<u> </u>
Plans, Training, Security	0	[NOT RATED]	_
WIC (Woman, Infants, and Children)	0	[NOT RATED]	<u>—</u>

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.

#### **Legal Affairs**

**Customer Comment:** Could someone please explain the reasoning behind the Tax Center hours of operation. I just called

and spoke with a private on the telephone, and I was told the hours are 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. When I asked why close so early and what do they do to accommodate Soldiers that work later hours and cannot get off before that time, I was told, well when the Soldiers are off and out of the box, we are still here at work. That is not what I asked, I asked about the daily hours of operation. And by the way, when those Soldiers are out in the field working on the weekend,

the Tax Center Soldiers are off. **Agency Response:** Contacted customer to clear up miscommunication between customer and Tax Center. Customer will take advantage of the free tax assistance soon.

#### HR Reassignments

Customer Comment: I can't say enough goodness about the staff in the passport/reassignment section. Very im-

\_\_\_ 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, NTC PAO Director

#### **High Desert Warrior Staff**

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#### **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

# **Improving** communication across Fort Irwin community

BY CHARLES MELTON

**Community Information Manager** 

Several command information and community information tools are available to the Fort Irwin community, along with a couple that are still in the works. The community information manager, under the Garrison Commander, facilitates the use of many of these tools.

Here are what's available:

Facebook: The Fort Irwin/National Training Center Facebook page had 1,270 fans as of March 16. The link to the page is http://www.facebook.com/#!/ pages/Fort-IrwinNational-Training-Center/186307408734. It provides emergency updates, photo albums, calendar of events, etc. and targets everyone wanting to know more about Fort Irwin and the NTC

Twitter: The link is http://twitter. com/NTC\_UPDATE. It provides realtime updates on emergency situations, event updates, links to other information sources targeting those wanting information about Fort Irwin and the NTC.

InFocus e-mail list: Go to www. irwin.army.mil and click on the InFocus link on the left side of the page and sign up for the service. It is aimed at family members and others without army.mil e-mail addresses.

Postmaster: This e-mail list covers FORSCOM and IMCOM Outlook addresses on Fort Irwin. Others, i.e. AAFES, JIEDDO, DECA, MEDAC, can be added by contacting the Fort Irwin webmaster at 380-2031. Information is limited by regulations.

Marquee: Currently there is one electronic marquee at the soccer field, but two more are in the works. Submit information about installation wide events, unit events, family readiness group (FRG) events and Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation events to the community information manager (at 380-7724) for placement on the marquee. The general rule of thumb is events will be publicized no more than two weeks in advance.

High Desert Warrior (Fort Irwin's command information weekly newspaper), 88.3 FM KNTC (Fort Irwin's radio station), and Cable Channel 18 (Fort Irwin's command information channel): These command information media (in compliance with Army Regulation 360-1, Public Affairs Operations) are handled by the Public Affairs Office staff and can be reached at 380-4511.

# Top Army leaders focus on preventing sexual assault

STORY AND PHOTO BY **JESSICA MAXWELL** 

**Army News Service** 

Beginning the second day of the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention conference, Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general of Army Materiel Command noted the Army is fully engaged in preventing sexual harassment and assault.

"We have critical work left to do though," Dunwoody said. "We want our Army to be an example for the rest of the country."

Later in the morning, Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., chief of staff of the Army, spoke to the crowd about the progress made since 2007. Recently, Casey and Secretary of the Army John McHugh spoke to Congress about the budget needs of the Army for 2011. With the proposed 2011 budget, Casey said he believes it will be possible to finish regaining balance in the Army.

"We have loose ends to tidy consolidate, assess and refine to create an environment and

ourselves and this great Army we have built."

Casey said Soldiers and families are the most important element of the Army and their support must be sustained.

"Sexual assault eats away at this support," he said. "We cannot tolerate it."

Originally focused on after-thefact care, Casey and Army leadership are striving to change the culture and environment. Casey said it starts with small steps and committed Army leadership. Prevention must not only be pushed from the top down through the ranks, it must also come from company ] commanders, first sergeants and up from the platoon level.

"I am not focused on numbers up," said Casey. "We need to right now," said Casey. "We need



Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general, Army Materiel Command.

culture which rejects assault, where someone feels comfortable in coming forward (to report assault)."

Casey said he believes by placing more visibility on sexual harassment and assault, the problem will be fixed faster. By using the Army structure in place, training can be pushed down through

"Every leader needs to see sexual assault as fundamentally counter to the warrior ethos," said Casey. "It's all about leadership and leaders setting the right examples."

Casey said the Army needs to approach sexual assault from an offensive mindset, which includes focusing on the enemy and being opportunistic in solutions.

Dunwoody added that every unit needs to be a high-performing organization.

"These are people that care about individuals, units that are trained and ready and they have respect for each other," said Dunwoody.

Closing his talk, Casey asked the audience to think about three things: building conviction to fight sexual assault, sustaining momentum for the fight and changing the culture to stamp out assault and harassment.

"I appreciate the energy in this room," said Casey. "Now carry that energy back with you (to your

# Summit challenges Army leaders

Urge commanders to eradicate sexual assault, harassment

With an end goal of achieving cultural

BY ALEXANDRA HEMMERLY-BROWN

**Army News Service** 

WASHINGTON — The Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program began its third annual summit in Arlington, Va., Monday, with Army leaders urging commanders to help stop the crime.

"Sexual assault not only hurts its victims physically and emotionally, it tears at the moral fiber that gives our Army, our team, its strength," said Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, deputy chief of staff of the Army for personnel, G-1. "The crime of sexual assault is fundamentally against our warrior ethos."

Begun in 2008, the SHARP program held its first summit that year, with a focus on gaining Army leadership commitment and an introduction to the "I. A.M. Strong" campaign. "I. A.M." in the SHARP slogan stands for intervene, act, and motivate calls to action the Army hopes Soldiers will follow if they witness a sexual crime or inappropriate behavior.

Now in its second strategy phase, the focus of the program has shifted to educating Soldiers about their moral responsibility in reporting

"We can and we will succeed in this effort, because Soldiers take care of Soldiers," said Secretary of the Army John McHugh. "As an institution, we will only get better when every one of us considers this initiative his or her

change and greatly reducing the percentage of sexual assaults that occur, the Army recognizes that sexual assault is a national problem, and is doing something about it.

During the 2009 SHARP summit, former Secretary of the Army Pete Geren explained why the Army is taking steps to reduce the presence of sexual crimes.

"It's a problem that we in the Army are going to address because in the Army we are different," Geren said last year. "We're going to eradicate sexual assault from the life of our Army, and we are going to do it because we are a values-based organization. That's what sets us apart from the rest of society."

The Army is leading an attempt to reduce sexual assault within its ranks, to a level that Sut Jhally, a professor of communications and presenter at the summit, said has not been attempted by any other organization.

For example, the Army launched its I. A.M. Strong campaign by populating bases with SHARP posters and banners, hired a duo of actors for a tour called "Sex Signals," to travel to Army installations and engage Soldiers in a tough topic through comedy, and boosted its Criminal Investigation Command resources by hiring and training additional sexual assault investigators.

Carolyn Collins, chief of the Army's SHARP program, said the goal for the conference was to bring together Soldiers that represent a cross-section of the Army, so they can take what they've learned back to

"All of our campaign is about preventing the crime before it occurs," said Collins. "We're looking at the influence of society, both in music, in TV, and the Internet and other areas on this crime."

Bostick said that all members of the Army should have at their core a gut-reaction against sexually offense language and gestures as well as assault.

"We must educate our Soldiers not only to adhere to the law, but to believe that it is their duty to prevent this crime before it ever

Bostick said he needed the help of Army leaders in order to make the program successful, and that he wanted to maintain the campaign's

Think about this over the next several days," challenged Bostick. "How will you hold your units accountable to gain ownership of this sexual assault prevention phase? How will you measure? How will you know that you've achieved ownership?"

Throughout the next few days, summit participants will hear from the Criminal Investigation Command, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Army Center for Substance Abuse, a subject-matter expert panel, and will take part in training sessions.

# **Crime Watch**

Information provided by Provost Marshal Office

Larceny of Private Property. Location: The Desert subdivision playground. Police responded to the report of a stolen cell phone.

**Burglary.** Location: Granite housing. Police responded to the report of a burglary. Unknown persons entered the residence and removed items of high value.

**911 Hang Up.** Location: Coyote Springs Emergency Services responded to a 911 hang up. Occupants admitted to dialing 911 accidentally.

Larceny Of Government Property. Location: Training area (The Box). Police responded to the report of stolen copper from a construction site in The Box.

**Possession of stolen property.** Location: Auto Craft Service Center. Police responded to the report of recovered stolen property. Subject was taken into custody.

**Attempted suicide.** Location:Barracks Emergency Services responded to the report of an attempted suicide.

**Drunk In Public.** Location: 5th Street adjacent to Inner Loop. Police found a subject laying face down in the street. The subject was detained and released to his unit.

**Possession of Marijuana.** Location: 5th Street adjacent to Ave. E . Police effected a traffic stop for speed on 5th Street. During the stop, a small quanity of marijuana was found in the subject's vehicle.

**DUI.** Location: Barracks parking lot. Police stopped a vehicle for loud music. Investigation revealed that the driver was under the influence of alcohol.



### **News Briefs**

#### **New Access Numbers**

New standardized dialing prefixes on all government telephone switches have been activated. 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.

#### \$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 Calvary Regiment, RSS at 213-999-7611 or e-mail: eddie.boquilla@us.army.mil.

#### **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.



# **Worship Services/Chapel Activities**

#### **CATHOLIC**

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

#### **PROTESTANT**

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

#### **GOSPEL**

Gospel Service Sunday, 11 a.m. Prayer Warriors Wednesday, 6 p.m. Children's Church & Choir Practice Thursday, 6 p.m. Adult Bible Study Wednesday, 7 p.m. Prayer Men Of Integrity Women of Excellence 2nd Wednesday of the Month, 7 p.m.

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#### **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, 12 p.m. Bldg 317

#### **JEWISH**

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

#### 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

Note: For more information on chapel activities, contact the Center Chapel staff at 380-3562 or the Blackhorse Chapel staff

at 380-4088.

Blackhorse Chapel

Blackhorse Chapel

Blackhorse Chapel

Blackhorse Chapel

Blackhorse Chapel

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 sched-

uled chapel services.

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# **Community Happenings**

#### 1/11 ACR FRG events

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

- **Apr. 12:** FRG Steering Committee Meeting, 5 p.m., Squadron Conference Room
- **Apr. 13:** HHT, FRG Meeting, 5 p.m., Squadron Conference Room,
- **Apr. 14:** I Battery, FRG Meeting, 6 p.m., Squadron Conference Room
- Apr. 14: B Troop, FRG Meeting, 5 p.m., Squadron Conference Room
- **Apr. 15:** D Company, FRG Meeting, 5 p.m., Squadron Conference Room (please note new meeting time)

More information: Joan Morschel at 380-5749 or joan. norschel@us.army.mil.

#### **VA Clinic Open House**

Victorville Veterans Affairs Clinic will hold an Open House tomorrow, starting at 1 p.m. at its location St. 120, 12138 Industrial Blvd. Free H1N1 flu vaccines are available to Veterans. For more information, contact (909) 583-6193.

#### **DAV Mobile Service Office**

Attention all military veterans and retirees: A fully-equipped Disabled American Veterans (DAV) National Service office-on-wheels will make a stop at Barstow Community College parking lot, 2700 Barstow Road, Barstow, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 21. DAV membership is not required. An officer will be available to counsel you about your rights and benefits, claim filing assistance. Bring your claim number, social security number, and other pertinent documentation. For more information, call Paul Varela, DAV supervisor, (310) 477-2539.

#### **Empowering Women**

Register now for the 2010 Fort Irwin Women's Conference, to be held tomorrow/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 Fair and Fitness**

Celebrate the Month of the Military Child at the Fort Irwin Children's Fair and Fitness Challenge, at the Coyote Activity Center, Saturday. Register at Bldg. 1323 or call 380-2257 for more information.

#### **Red Cross Classes in April**

Fort Irwin American Red Cross Station will host its April 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 380-6140 or visit Bldg. 571.

#### Family Resiliency Training

916th Support Brigade will host Family Resiliency Training at Sandy Basin Community Center, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., April 21. Highlights of the event include: how you can affair-proof your marriage by strengthening bonds of affec-

tion, re-commitment bracelets to Soldiers and spouses, teen forum – 'Programs for a Better Fort Irwin,' safety, security and transitions assured, and more. Smokey the Bear and McGruff the anti-crime dog will be there. Free snacks and free children activities will be offered. For more information, contact Angie Parreno, 380-8386 or email her at angie. parreno@us.army.mil

# **At the Movies**

#### Thursday, April 8

7 p.m. Closed

#### Friday, April 9

7 p.m. Percy Jackson And The Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) 7 p.m. The Crazies (R) 9:30 p.m. Shutter Island (R) 9:30 p.m. Cop Out (R)

#### Saturday, April 10

7 p.m. Percy Jackson And The Olympians:The Lightning Thief (PG) 7 p.m. The Crazies (R) 9:30 p.m. Shutter Island (R) 9:30 p.m. Cop Out (R)

#### Sunday, April 11

4 p.m. Percy Jackson And The Olympians:The Lightning Thief (PG) 7 p.m. The Crazies (R) 7 p.m. Shutter Island (R)

#### Monday, April 12

7 p.m. The Crazies (R) 7 p.m. Shutter Island (R)

#### Tuesday, April 13

7 p.m. Closed

#### Wednesday, April 14

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.

#### **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 Tiefort, 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.

#### **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., Monday/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.

#### **Cooking Competitions**

Join one or all the various cooking competitions, including salsa and cupcake baking, during the Fort Irwin Food and Wine Festival on May 15, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Sandy Basin. You can pick up a registration form at Bldg. 550 MWR Marketing or by visiting our web site www.fortirwinmwr.com. Registration is free. Winners get bragging rights and food supply or restaurant gift cards. For more information, call 380-7144. The deadline is May 1.

#### **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.

#### **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 child care is provided. Space is limited and children must be enrolled at Central Enrollment. For more information, call 380-2258.

#### **Skeet and Trap 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.

#### **Sewing Classes Begins**

Sewing Classes will begin at the Arts and Crafts Center, April 16. For more information, go to the www.fortirwinmwr web site, and click on Arts and Crafts Sewing Class in the Upcoming Events section or call 380-3431.

#### **Weight Watchers**

Weekly meetings are on Thursdays, at 12 noon, Bldg. 317 (2nd Street and Avenue E). Signup and weigh-in start at 11:30 a.m. Public is free to check out the meeting. More information: call Christine at 298-3438 or getfit@ww-Christine.com.

#### **Youth and School Activities**

#### **Middle School Activities**

Thursday: Cooking Club Cupcakes, Photography Club

Friday: Marble Painting, Mini vase

Monday: Colorful Notebook, Typing skills Tuesday: Pencil/Pen holder, recycled paper beads

Wednesday: Ultimate Journey Archery!, Smart girls, Paper

Mache Fish

#### **Teen Activities**

Friday: Movie Night

Saturday: Rock Band/Guitar Hero Tournament

#### **Hours of Operation:**

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

Teen Center: Friday: 6-11 p.m.

**Saturday:** 3:30-11 p.m.

Sundays and Holidays: Closed

More information: Kristin Morgan at 380-3732.

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



# **Fort Irwin Community Calendar**

#### Thu., Apr. 8

WeightWatchers 12 noon Bldg. 317 Christine, 760-298-3438

#### 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 Fitness Fair 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Coyote Activity Center 380-2257

#### Mon., Apr. 12

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

#### Tue., Apr.13

Grad Night Informational Meeting MST Center, Bldg. 1313 Kristin Morgan, 380-3732

#### Wed., Apr. 14

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

#### Thu., Apr. 15

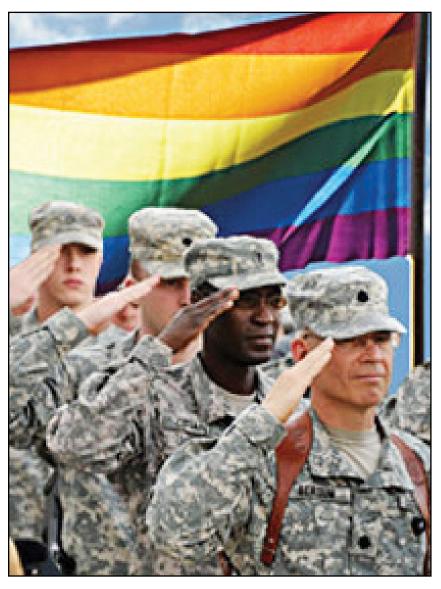
HIRED, Pizza & Wings Party 4:30-6:30 p.m. Starz Acadamy, Bldg. 128 Kim, 562-298-2727

# Fri., Apr. 16



#### Check out these upcoming activities at Fort Irwin

# DoD revises 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' policy



#### BY ALEXANDRA HEMMERLY-BROWN

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Pending a congressional decision on the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law, the secretary of Defense implemented changes to current regulations to ensure a "fairer and more appropriate" enforcement of the law.

Effective immediately, law 10 U.S. § 654 will see changes in how military separation investigations are conducted and what kind of information can be used as "credible information" in homosexual conduct discharges.

"I am determined that we in the department carry out the president's directive on 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' in a professional and thorough way," said Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, during a press conference Thursday.

For example, information given to lawyers, clergy, psychotherapists or medical professionals in confidence will not be used for the purposes of discharging

The military will also be more cautious in examining facts before initiating an inquiry, taking into consideration that hearsay or falsified information could be presented by someone who wants to do the service member harm. For example, investigators will require accusations made by third parties to be given under oath and will ignore most anonymous complaints.

The new changes also raise the rank of officers who are authorized to initiative fact-finding inquiries or separation proceedings to generals or

The revisions apply to all open and future cases,

and all branches of the military must modify their regulations within 30 days. Passed by Congress in 1993, the law allows homo-

sexual service members to stay in the military as long as they hide their sexual orientation. President Obama urged Congress to repeal the law in his Jan. 27 State of the Union address, and since then the possible effects of letting homosexuals serve freely in

the military have been under examination. Gates has asked the commander of U.S. Army Europe, Gen. Carter F. Ham, and the Pentagon's chief legal counsel, Jeh C. Johnson, to issue recommendations by Dec. 1 on how to integrate openly gay service members into the armed forces. A working group will spend the next several months traveling to military installations to learn how service members might react to a potential repeal.

Gates said he didn't recommend a change in the law before completing an internal study and the Army's chief of staff agreed.

"I do have serious concerns about the impact of the repeal of a law on a force that's fully engaged in two wars, and has been at war for eight and a half years ... we just don't know the impacts on readiness and military effectiveness," said Gen. George W. Casey Jr., chief of staff of the Army, during a Senate hearing.

Gates said that every case currently open will be re-evaluated under the new regulations.

However, the variations are not retroactive and do not apply to service members who have already been discharged. Department of Defense officials said they do not foresee any further changes to the law before

Last year, 428 service members were discharged from the military under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law.

# Asa Boy! Asa Girls

#### BY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENCE SECTION

Patient Administration Division Weed Army Community Hospital

**Lyla Brianne,** girl, 6 lbs., 9 oz., 18.9 inches, born to Shannon and Austin Conley, March. 6, at 6:02 p.m.

**Yaretzi Cruz Juarez,** girl, 5 lbs., 15 oz., 19.3 inches, born to Katia Juarez and Ixtlilxochitl Cruz, March. 8, at 8:44 a.m.

**Maribelle Rosary**, girl, 6 lbs., 11 oz., 19 inches, born to Amanda and Abraham Bitolas, March. 10, at 7:48 p.m.

**Sheila Marie Rose,** girl, 6 lbs., 3 oz., 18 inches, born to Candy and Thomas Jones, March. 12, at 6:52 a.m.

**Lilian Alexis,** girl, 6 lbs., 8 oz., 18.9 inches, born to Lorraine and Alex Thompson, March. 15, at 5:09 p.m.

**Nathanael Wallace,** boy, 7 lbs. 10 oz., 20.7 inches, born to Lena and Robert Schmor, March. 21, at 7:23 a.m.

**Ella Mae Catherine,** girl, 9 lbs. 3 oz., 21.1 inches, born to Opal and Nathaniel Schell, March. 22, at 6:08 p.m.

Jozsua Jozsef, boy, 6 lbs. 14 oz., 18 inches,

born to Danyell and Jay Homoki, March. 24, at 8:48 a.m.

**Celia Hazel,** girl, 8 lbs. 2 oz., 20 inches, born to Erin and Mickael Waldron, March. 24, at 6:37 a.m.

**Natalya Alexandria,** girl, 8 lbs. 10 oz., 20.9 inches, born to Maribel and Rudy Salas, March. 26, at 6:28 a.m.

**Xavier Orlando,** boy, 7 lbs. 7 oz., 21 inches, born to Monica and Daruies Graves, March. 26, at 7:48 a.m.

**Layla Alivia,** girl, 8 lbs. 12 oz., born to Jacquelyn and Patrick Rouse, March. 26, at 8:42 a.m.

Any questions concerning this matter please contact Medical Correspondence Section, Patient Administration Division, 380-3165.



To advertise in the next issue, call 877-247-9288





#### Strike Zone Bowler Scores 299

# 'Pin wobbles, but won't fall down'

#### STORY AND PHOTOS BY JACKIE HOGGINS

Fort Irwin MWR Marketing Marketing Chief

On March 24, an extraordinary thing happened at the bowling center, Strike Zone, which hosts a lunch time "Fun and Fitness" bowling league every Wednesday. A typical Wednesday lunch league turned into a memorable day for bowler Robert "Bobby" Hoerr.

Week Three of the league was underway, and bowlers were preparing for their usual good time. Robert Hoerr was on Lanes 11 and 12.

"After his first game, he had scored a 228. When he started his second game and started throwing strikes, the staff came and got me. I hid in the kitchen and watched the other bowlers stop their games and watch him bowl. In the 8th frame, he hit a beautiful pocket strike, and the facility went crazy, encouraging him and cheering him on," said Sherry Hoerr, Strike Zone manager, who is also Robert's mother.

"Spectators started to notice his score displayed up on the bowling monitor. I had to leave, and I was spying through the crack in the door of the kitchen, shaking like a leaf, tears rolling down my cheeks. I wanted it so badly for him," she added.



**Bobby Hoerr prepares to bowl.** 

In the 8th frame, Hoerr threw another strike. Suddenly, in the 9th frame, and the realization of a perfect 300 game within reach, tension showed on Hoerr's face. Robert started to think as he prepared to roll the bowl into

"This could actually happen!" Robert's mind was saying. "I was trying to relax, I was fixated on my mark to make sure I release the ball properly. My nerves were getting the better of me."

People fixated their attention on Hoerr in Lane 11. Just like the pros, Hoerr was left alone to concentrate. Hoerr set up to make

his final throw, the 16 pound ball had a slight tremor. The crowd watched as the ball rolled down the alley in the 10th frame. First one pin, then another, and another with one pin left standing. One pin remained to rob Hoerr of a perfect game.

"The relief on Bobby's face was clear. Sure he was disappointed to have missed the elusive 300 game, but he knows, a 299 is as close to perfect as you can get," said Sherry Hoerr.

"I am more than pleased with the 299," Bobby Hoerr said. "The only other thing I could have done was be perfect, and I plan to experience the feeling of bowling the perfect game. I will continue to strive for it. I know I have it in me. I have signed up for some scratch tournaments down the hill and plan to compete on a higher level. My mom says it will make me a better bowler. It was a great day!"

The Strike Zone Bowling Center will present Bobby with a Hoodie sweatshirt, with the Strike Zone Logo, and with the words, 'I bowled a 299 at the "Strike Zone" on March 24, 2010.' The bowling center also posts award scores of 250 or better on the masking units over the lanes in which the game was

"I have never been prouder to be the manager of the Strike Zone Bowling and Entertainment Center. I look forward to some of our other excellent bowlers to post award scores," said Sherry Hoerr.

For more information about Strike Zone leagues, call 380-5150.

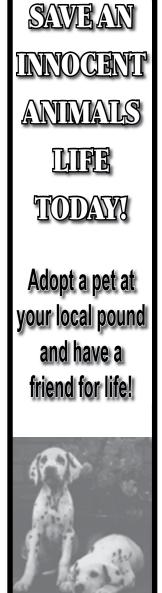


Bobby Hoerr swings back hard with bowling ball in hand.











#### Alcohol Awareness Month

# How do I know if I have a problem?

#### BY VALENCIA R. BARNES

Employee Assistance Program Coordinator Army Substance Abuse Program

"I don't have a problem. I can stop drinking when I want to..." How many times have you heard this when talking to someone you believe has an alcohol problem? Many people don't realize they have a problem controlling their drinking. Although family and friends might complain about their alcohol use, most people with problems rationalize their alcohol problem or deny it. Here are common signs and symptoms of alcohol abuse and dependence (alcoholism).

#### Common signs and symptoms of alcohol abuse include:

Repeatedly neglecting your responsibilities at home, work, or school because of your drinking.

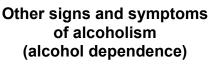
Using alcohol in situations where it's physically dangerous, such as drinking and driving, operating machinery while intoxicated, or mixing alcohol with prescription medication against doctor's orders.

Experiencing repeated legal problems on account of your drinking. For example, getting arrested for driving under the influence or drunk and disorderly conduct.

Continuing to drink even though your alcohol use is causing problems in your relationships. Getting drunk with your buddies, for example, even though you know your wife will be very upset, or fighting with your family because they dislike how you act when you drink.

# Signs and symptoms of alcoholism (alcohol dependence)

Tolerance means that, over time, you need more and more alcohol to feel the same effects you used to with smaller amounts. Withdrawal happens when your body gets used to the alcohol and experiences negative symptoms if it's taken away. Alcohol withdrawal symptoms include: Anxiety or jumpiness; shakiness or trembling; sweating; nausea and vomiting; insomnia; depression; irritability; fatigue; loss of appetite; headache.



- You've lost control over your drinking.
- You want to quit drinking, but you can't.
- You have given up other activities because of alcohol.
- Alcohol takes up a great deal of your energy and focus.
- You drink even though you know it's causing problems.

If you or someone you know feels that they might have a problem, please call the Fort Irwin Army Substance Abuse Program at 380-4035/4074 or call Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647.



# Coyote Activity Center

#### Fitness Class Schedule

#### Monday, April 12 Morning

8:30 Spin/Sandy 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, April 13 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 Zumba/Robin 6:30 Yoga/Sandy

#### Wednesday, April 14

8:30 Cardio Craze/Tamara 9:30 Belly Dancing C/Tamara 11:45 Cardio craze/ Tamara \*30 Min Express

#### Afternoon

12:15 Bottom Line/Robin \*30 Min Express 3:00 Yoga/Michell 5:30 No Class 6:30 Power Spin/Sandy \*1 hour

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.

Don't wait until it's too late

# File your taxes today!

#### BY STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

News Release

The end of the tax season is quickly approaching. April 15 is the official deadline for filing your 2009 tax return. Your paper return is considered filed-ontime if it is postmarked by the due date. If you do not file your return by the due date, you may have to pay a failure-to-file penalty and interest. If for some reason you cannot file your taxes on time, you can request an automatic six-month extension by completing and filing Form 4868. Keep in mind, however, that even if you are granted an extension-to-file, interest will accrue on any amount you owe the IRS.

Additionally, if you served in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area, the deadline for filing your return, paying any tax you may owe, and filing a claim for a refund is automatically extended. The extension is 180 days after the later of:

- 1) The last day you are in a combat zone, or
- 2) The last day you were hospitalized due to an injury you received in a combat zone.

In addition to the 180 days, your deadline is extended by the number of days you would have had left had you not entered the combat zone. This extension also applies to spouses as long as you are filing jointly.

The Fort Irwin Tax Center would like to remind you that our services are only available until April 15. If you are an active duty service member, Reservist on active duty orders, National guardsman on Title 10 status, military retiree or a dependent of one of these individuals, we would love to prepare your taxes for free! Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday mornings are for appointments only, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Service is provided at all other times on a walk-in basis.

When you come, don't forget to bring the following required documents:

- Military Identification (whether in uniform or not)
- Social Security cards for yourself, your spouse, and all dependents
- Employee Identification Number for day care providers, etc.
- Wage and Earning Statements (e.g. W-2, WG, 1099-R)
- Interest and Dividends Statements
  (Forms 1099)
- Last year's (2008) tax return
- Bank routing numbers/ account numbers for direct deposit of refund
- IRS Power of Attorney (if signing on behalf of spouse)
- Records of alimony payments/receipts, charitable contribution, and child care receipts
- Documents substantiating any tax credits/deductions

For more information, visit www.irs.gov or contact the Fort Irwin Tax Center at 380-3604. We urge you to take advantage of this free service.

# Sikh Soldiers allowed to serve, retain their articles of faith

STORY AND PHOTO BY STEVE ELLIOTT

**Army News Service** 

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — For the first time in 23 years, the U.S. Army is allowing a pair of Sikh Soldiers to keep their hair and beard intact and wear a turban.

More than 60 years ago, President Harry Truman desegregated the U.S. armed forces, declaring "there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed forces without regard to race, color, religion or national origin."

But during those same six decades, the Army's policy and how it was implemented changed from time to time.

From 1948 to 1984, men of the Sikh religion were permitted to serve while maintaining their articles of faith. In 1984, Gen. John A. Wickham Jr., then Chief of Staff of the Army, eliminated the exception for Sikhs and others who wore "conspicuous" items of faith.

Sikhs who were previously serving on active duty were grandfathered in by the Army. Two Sikhs in the medical field, Col. Arjinderpal Singh Sekhon, a doctor, and Col. G.B. Singh, a dentist, continued to serve until their retirements in 2009 and 2007, respectively, according to the Sikh News Network Web site (http://www.sikhnn.com).

Capt. (Dr.) Tejdeep Singh Rattan, a dentist, and Capt. (Dr.) Kamaljeet Singh Kalsi, a doctor, were assured by their recruiters at the time of enlistment several years ago that their articles of faith wouldn't pose a problem. But after completing four years of studies, both men were told to remove their turbans and cut their hair and beards for active duty.

It took action by several Sikh organizations and a letter to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, signed by 43 members of the House of Representatives and six U.S. senators, to change the Army's mind. A pair of special exceptions to Army Regulation 600-20 were allowed so Rattan and Kalsi could wear their dastaars (turbans) and keep their unshorn hair and beards as part of their uniform, and also retain their other articles of faith.

"Based on a review of these standards and the specific facts of your case, I am granting your appeal to wear a beard, uncut hair and turban in keeping with the tenets of your faith," wrote Maj. Gen. Gina Farrisee, acting deputy chief of staff for Army personnel, in a Dec. 1 letter to Rattan. "Your beard, uncut hair and turban will be neat and well maintained at all times."

The Army does allow personnel to request waivers for practices that may conflict with current Army regulations and policies and are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Considerations include the impact on the health, safety and welfare of all Soldiers; and impact on order and discipline of the force. The Army decided in these two cases that the Sikh articles of faith would not affect "unit readiness, individual readiness, unit cohesion, morale, discipline, safety and/or health," according to Farrisee's letter.

Rattan completed the nine-week Basic Officer Leadership Course at Camp Bullis,



Rattan joins his graduating class in singing "The Army Goes Rolling Along" during the Basic Officer Leadership Course graduation ceremony, March 22, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Texas, March 19, and graduated with his class at Fort Sam Houston, March 22. He'll report to Fort Drum in upstate New York April 12 for an assignment as a dentist. Kalsi, who attended Rattan's graduation begins the BOLC course in July, after completing an emergency medicine fellowship.

But the story behind Rattan's journey through the military Health Professions Scholarship Program and into the Army's corps of officers sheds light on a little-known change in Truman's promise that has virtually prevented an entire generation of Sikhs from serving in the United States armed forces.

Practicing Sikhs have served in the armed forces since World War I, and the ruling in 1984 which effectively disallowed Sikhs to join was due to alleged health and safety hazard of their turban and uncut hair.

Aided by the Sikh Coalition (http://www.sikhcoalition.org), Kalsi and Rattan appealed the Army policy because of religious convictions. They were joined by the Sikh Council on Research and Education, Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund and United Sikhs. Thousands of Sikhs and other sympathetic supporters signed petitions on their behalf.

To put their faith into perspective, there are 25 million Sikhs worldwide, making it the fifth largest religion after Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism, and has been in existence for more than 500 years.

"History portrays Sikhs as warrior-saints and I believe that is what Sikhs are. That's what our life is all about," said Rattan, who proclaimed, "I am a Sikh warrior!" after he exited the gas chamber during nuclear, biological and chemical phase of his training. "It is what the Holy Book (the Sri Guru Granth Sahib) teaches us."

"There is a line in the Sri Guru Granth Sahib that translates to 'Good for all,' which means that all men are my brothers. If something happens to them, I must go and protect them," Rattan explained.

"That's what a lot of the Sikhs did after the events of Sept. 11, 2001. They left their jobs - many were doctors and dentists - and went to ground zero and they helped. But people looked down upon them because they thought they looked like Muslims. That's something which I am here to remedy, and to educate and to serve."

Organizations like the Sikh Coalition, which has offices in New York and San Francisco, were founded in response to bias and prejudice against Sikhs in the aftermath of 9/11.

Many Sikhs have been misidentified as Muslim extremists because their dress is similar to those who follow Osama bin Laden, according to the United Sikhs Web site (http://www.unitedsikhs.org).

Many Sikhs have been harassed, assaulted, or even killed, said Harsimran Kaur, the Sikh Coalition's legal director. Sikhism bears no resemblance to fanatical Islamic sects, and Sikhs believe in the equality of all human beings, regardless of gender, religion, race, or social status, she said. Many Muslims have also been victimized in North America and Sikhs strongly denounce any violence or discrimination towards others of different faiths, she added.

"We absolutely applaud the Army's decision to grant the exceptions. We look forward to the day all Sikhs can serve their country without any exceptions for their articles of faith," Kaur said. "There have been instances of private and government law enforcement agencies justifying the refusal to hire Sikh applicants because the military didn't accept them."

"The exceptions are a step in the right direction. It's an indication that they are open to Sikhs to serve," she added. "The impact of this decision is huge. We hope we can turn things around and show that we're not secondclass citizens."

Sikhs wear the articles of faith to unify and bind them to the beliefs of the religion and to remind them of their commitment to the Gurus at all times, according to the Sikh Coalition Web site.

"Sikhs have served in the Army in World War I and II, in Korea and Vietnam with incredible distinction," Kaur said. "The articles of faith have never been an issue before. The principles of our religion are democracy and freedom, just like those of the United States."

Observant Sikhs have a long history of serving in armed forces throughout the world, according to the Sikh News Network Web site. During World War I, Bhagat Singh Thind was the only Sikh Soldier in the U.S. Army to serve in combat duty. More than 80,000 Sikh soldiers died fighting for the Allied Forces during the World Wars. Today, Sikhs serve in the militaries of India, England, Canada, Austria and the United Nations, among others.

"In the recent history of the U.S. Army, there were two Sikh gentlemen - Cols. Sekhon and Singh - who were allowed to serve with their articles of faith, and just retired as full colonels last year," Rattan said. "These gentlemen were able to achieve some of the highest ranks in the U.S. Army. If they were able to do it for all this long time, I felt I should be able to as well."

While Rattan was in training, even instructors and classmates who were skeptical at first were won over by his drive and will to do his best.

"As a commander, I knew someone was coming to me with an exception. I was curious how it would fit with the standards of the regulation," said Capt. John Lopez, commander, Company A, 187th Medical Battalion. "From Day one, Captain Rattan has been an ideal individual. He has spent hundreds of dollars in finding or creating headgear that conforms with his exception."

"He has done everything in his power to keep within the regulation (AR 160-1), and I sometimes have a hard time getting other Soldiers to follow it," Lopez said. "Rattan is going leaps and bounds beyond what others have had to do to keep within the regulation. There have been other people here who have had to be counseled or threatened with being removed from the course to get them to comply."

"Officers should be the standard bearers for the regulation and the Army," Lopez added.

"Sometimes you get those in the medical field that think they are privileged and think they are above the regulation. But then you get officers like Rattan who try their hardest and go above and beyond. I wish some other Soldiers had the personal pride and willingness to go the extra mile as he does, so those young Soldiers have someone to look up to, rather than have someone they talk about behind their back."

#### ICE, from page 2\_

pressive, unlike other PCS moves I have made. at publication date. Agency Response: Thanked the customer for the feedback via e-mail.

#### Commissary

Customer Comment: I am just curious if the commissary has a problem with ordering quantities of products that are needed. Every time I go to the store, it never fails that an item or items I need are out of stock. One day, 2-percent fat milk was completely out, provolone cheese slices were out, cottage cheese was out, and a few other items. Today, ground beef was completely out. Also, why does the store keep raising prices of items around pay day? A day before payday, on payday, and a few days after, Coke products are always about a dollar more expensive than when not around payday. I feel like I am getting ripped off. It is not like we live near other grocery stores. We are stuck with shopping on base during the week. **Agency** Response: Management reviewed comment, but a response to the customer was not on file

#### MWR Johnny Tsunami's **Chinese Express**

Customer Comment: I would like to comment on the great food this establishment has to offer. I was very happy with the taste of my order and so was my husband. The staff was friendly and the food was ready in no time. Keep up the good work. Agency Response: I am glad that you liked the food and that the staff was customer-service oriented. I will definitely pass this kudos to the manager/ owner. Once again thank you for using the ICE system, and we look forward to serving you in the future.

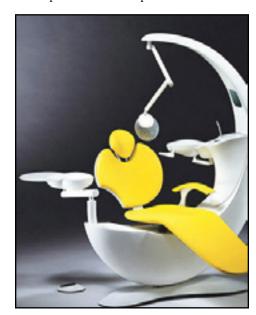
#### Freedom Fitness Center

Customer Comment: I come to use this facility on this post mainly for the fact that the treadmills have a feature that, if I bring my USB stick, I can record my run. Awesome! The bad thing is unlike Fitness Connection

and the Memorial Gym, there are no clean water outlets, like the 5-gallon jugs of clean Sparkletts-brand water at Memorial. Instead, you have to use a spigot, full of spit and dirt to refill your water bottle with. How safe and sanitary is that? How hard would it be to install a few water coolers? Agency Response: First let me apologize for any unsanitary conditions you found at Freedom Fitness Center. I can assure you that this will be rectified immediately. The Directorate of Public Works approves the locations for bottled-water dispensing and since Freedom has a water fountain, it is not approved for a bottled-water dispenser. Please know that the water fountain will be cleaned and maintained. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

#### **Shuttleworth Dental Clinic**

Customer Comment: Once again Lt. Col. Gregory and his team have provided outstanding service ... a "dental Picasso." Agency Response: Thank you so much for using the ICE system. Your feedback is valuable and very important to us. We are so pleased that you had such a pleasant dental experience.





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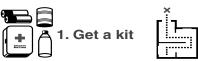
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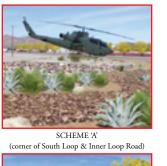
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# QUESTIONNAIRE Directorate of Public Works need your help to design, build Fort Irwin Landscape

MW Services Inc. & DPW are working together to landscape various area's of Fort Irwin. We want to know what YOU want to see. How would YOU like Fort Irwin to look? Please take a few minutes to look at the photos and questions below and choose the concept designs YOU like the most. YOUR input is very important to us! Please send your choices via Email to youchooseftirwin@yahoo.com. Everyone who lives and works at Fort Irwin is encouraged to participate.



Question 1 Which of the proposed landscape schemes is most appealing to you?

Question 2 Would you like to see more desert trees? (refer to list of vegetation).

Do you like the idea of creating colored bands utilizing different rock types? Yes/No (as reflected in schemes). Question 3

Question 4 Do you like the assorted rock with boulder look? (as reflected in schemes).

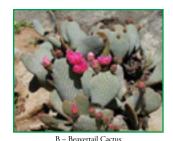
Question 5 Please choose from the list of vegetation and rocks from the photos.

Which ones from each category are most appealing to you?

Thank you for your participation, we look forward to enhancing Fort Irwin's beauty. Send your choices to youchooseftirwin@yahoo.com.



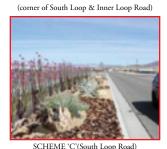












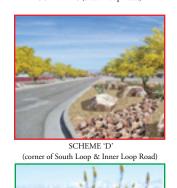




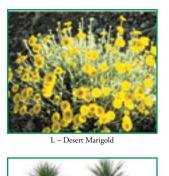




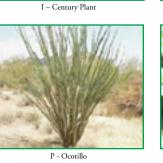








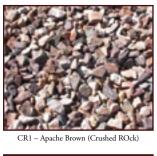


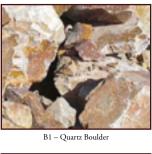


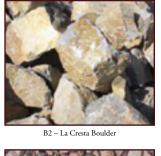


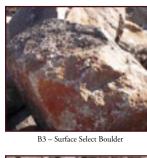




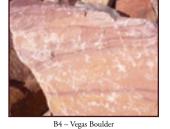


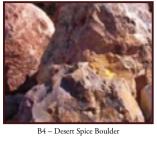


















# IRS tax tips can save Soldiers money, time

BY KELLY SCHLOESSER

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides additional tax refunds for some servicemembers and their Families.

Internal Revenue Service spokesman Mark Hanson shared tips, facts and recommendations to help Soldiers and Families get the most back on their return as they file from both home stations and overseas.

"Soldiers should pay close attention to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that was passed last year," said Hanson. "[There are] lots of new tax provisions that could impact their returns."

More often called the "stimulus package," the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act includes a first-time homebuyer

HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

No more fizz COLA changes coming

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credit, a "making-work pay" credit and a sales-tax deduction for new vehicles.

"If [Soldiers] purchased a new vehicle in 2009 they also may be able to deduct state and local sales and excise taxes they paid on that vehicle," said Hanson.

Hanson said.

To fully understand tax benefits, Hanson suggested downloading or

Additionally, if Soldiers were deployed more than 90 days in 2009, they may be eligible for an extension on the first-time homebuyer credit,

ordering "Publication 3 — Armed

Forces' Tax Guide," which is available on the IRS Web site at: www.irs.gov/ pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf.

"This will give [Soldiers] all the information they need for specific military information that could impact their taxes," Hanson said.

How to file while deployed

Hanson recommended that all Soldiers, especially those deployed, use electronic filing.

"It's fast, it's accurate, and more than 70 percent of taxpayers use this method now and many can do it for free," he said.

The IRS e-file is free for anyone that made less than \$57,000 in 2009.

"For Soldiers deployed to combat environments, taxes may not be the first thing on their mind right now," Hanson said. "Soldiers need to know that they can get an extension to file their taxes at least 180 days after they return from deployment."

Hanson also recommends that Soldiers ensure that their combat pay is designated as tax-free income.

#### IRS quick tips

- Keep good records save all receipts of major transactions.
- Download Publication 3 -Armed Forces Tax Guide at www. irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf.
- When itemizing deductions — uniform cost may be eligible for a tax deduction.
- Look into the American Opportunity credit that is up to \$2,500 in credit for higher education.
- Watch out for an e-mail scam claiming to be from the IRS — the IRS does not send out unsolicited e-mail messages to taxpayers asking for information.

For more information, visit www.irs.gov.



When filing taxes this year, Soldiers should pay special attention to changes in the tax law that can help save them money.

Stay up to date - subscribe today!

# HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

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

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# Save money with TRICARE mail order pharmacy

#### BY TYLER PATTERSON

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Some say stress can make you sick and having too much to do certainly contributes to stress. If your to-do list overfloweth, consider saving yourself some time and some of your hard-earned cash by filling your prescriptions through TMOP, the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy.

Using the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy is easy, but how to get started depends on whether you're submitting a new or a refill prescription.

To order a new prescription through TMOP, do one of the following:

- Have your doctor call Express Scripts toll-free at (877) 283-3858
- Have your doctor fax your order form and your written prescription to Express Scripts at (877) 895-1900
- Complete an Order Form (print a blank Order Form at
- www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE) and mail the completed form and your written prescription to: Express Scripts, Inc PO Box 52150 Phoenix, AZ 85072

To refill a prescription you already receive through TMOP, do one of the following:

- · Order your refill online at
- http://www.express-scripts.com/members/TRICARE/
- Order your refill by phone by calling the toll-free number on your prescription bottle
- Complete and mail back the refill form that came with your current prescription

TMOP can fill and deliver prescriptions anywhere in the United States and its territories, including APO/FPO addresses. The prescription is sent to the address of your choice. It could be your office, your home, or anywhere.

Not only is the service convenient, it will save you money. Using TMOP, you can order a 90-day supply of your medication and save up to 66 percent.

Although the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy is a cost-savings over retail, remember that filling prescriptions at a local military clinic pharmacy remains the least expensive option for TRICARE beneficiaries. Additionally, refrigerated medications cannot be ordered through TMOP.

TriWest does not administer the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy program; it is administered by Express Scripts, Inc. For more information, contact Express Scripts, Inc. at 1-877-363-1303 or visit www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE.

# **CID** warns of Internet romance scams

#### U.S. ARMY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION COMMAND

**News Release** 

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — Special agents from the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command are warning the American public to be vigilant of Internet scams and impersonation fraud — especially those promising true love, but only end up breaking hearts and bank accounts.

According to Army agents, CID is receiving frequent reports of various scams involving persons pretending to be U.S. Soldiers, who get romantically involved on the Internet with female victims and prey on their emotions and patriotism.

"We are seeing a number of scams being perpetrated on the internet, especially on social, dating-type websites where females are the main target," explained Chris Grey, Army CID's spokesman.

The criminals are pretending to be U.S. servicemen, routinely serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. The perpetrators will often take the true rank and name of a Soldier who is honorably serving his country somewhere in the world, marry that up with some photographs of a Soldier off of the internet, and then build a false identity to begin prowling the internet for victims.

The scams often involve requests for money from the victim to purchase "special laptop computers," international telephones and transportation fees to be used by the "deployed Soldier," so their fictitious relationship can continue. The scams include asking the victim to send money, often thousands of dollars at a time, to a third party address so the phone or laptop can be purchased for the Soldier.

Once hooked, the criminals continue their ruse.

"We've even seen instances where the perpetrators are asking the victims for money to "purchase leave papers" from the Army or help pay for their flight home so they can leave the war zone," said Grey.

These scams are outright theft and fraud and are a grave misrepresentation of the U.S. Army and the tremendous amount of support programs and mechanisms that exist for Soldiers today, especially those serving overseas, said Grey.

Army CID is warning people to be very suspicious if they begin a relationship on the internet with someone claiming to be an American Soldier and within a matter of weeks, the alleged Soldier is asking for money or marriage.

Many of these cases have a distinct pattern to them, explained Grey. "These are not Soldiers, they are thieves."

The perpetrators often tell the victims that their units do not have telephones or they are not allowed to make calls or they need money to "help keep the Army internet running."

"We've even seen where the crooks said that the Army won't allow the Soldier to access their personal bank accounts or credit cards," said Grey.

All lies, according to CID officials.

"These perpetrators, often from other countries, most notably from Ghana, Angola and Nigeria, are good at what they do and quite familiar with American culture, but the claims about the Army and its regulations are ridiculous," said Grey.

To date there have been no reports to Army CID indicating any U.S. servicemembers have suffered any financial loss as a result of these attacks. Photographs and actual names of servicemembers have been the only thing utilized. On the contrary, the victims have lost thousands.

The U.S. has established numerous task force organizations to deal with this and other growing issues; unfortunately, the personnel committing these scams are utilizing untraceable email addresses on "gmail, yahoo, aol," etc., routing accounts through numerous locations around the world, and utilizing pay-per-hour Internet cyber cafes, which often times maintain no accountability of use. The ability of law enforcement to

identify these perpetrators is limited, so individuals must stay on the alert to protect themselves.

What to look for:

- If you do start an Internet-based relationship with someone, check them out, research what they are telling you with someone who would know, such as a current or former servicemember.
- Be very suspicious if you never get to actually speak with
  the person on the phone or are told you cannot write or
  receive letters in the mail. Servicemen and women serving
  overseas will often have an APO or FPO mailing address.
  Internet or not, servicemembers always appreciate a letter
  in the mail.
- Be extremely suspicious if you are asked for money for transportation costs, communication fees or marriage processing and medical fees.
- Many of the negative claims made about the military and the supposed lack of support and services provided to troops overseas are far from reality — check the facts.
- Be very suspicious if you are asked to send money or ship property to a third party or company. Often times the company exists, but has no idea or is not a part of the scam.
- Be aware of common spelling, grammatical or language errors in the emails.

To report the theft to the Federal Trade Commission, call 1 (877) ID-THEFT (438-4338) or contact the FTC online at www.ftc.gov/idtheft. Or contact the CID at www.cid.army. mil or the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov/default.aspx.

#### FOUO, from page 1\_

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the front cover (if there is one), the title page (if there is one), the first page, and the outside of the back cover (if there is one). Pages of the document which contain FOUO information will be marked "FOUO" at the bottom.

Each part of electronically transmitted messages containing FOUO information will be marked appropriately. Unclassified messages containing FOUO information will contain the abbreviation "FOUO" before the beginning of the text.

Any document that contains personal information such as name,

social security number, home phone, cell phone, home address, and other Privacy Act or Freedom of Information Act data should have a cover sheet attached to the document.

Reports and investigations of individuals also fall under this category. DD Form 2933 (Privacy Act Data Cover Sheet) should be used for this purpose and placed on top of the documents in file baskets, bookcases, on the desk and when couriering the documents to other locations.

The form is used on all docu-

ments containing personal information. The form reads: "Contents shall not be disclosed, discussed, or shared with individuals unless they have a direct need-to-know in the performance of their official duties. Deliver this/these document(s) directly to the intended recipient. DO NOT DROP OFF with a third-party." Protecting the information of DoD, the Army, Fort Irwin and our community is important and should be taken seriously.

For more information, contact Bob Lucas, 380-4540 or e-mail: Robert.c.lucas@conus.army.mil.

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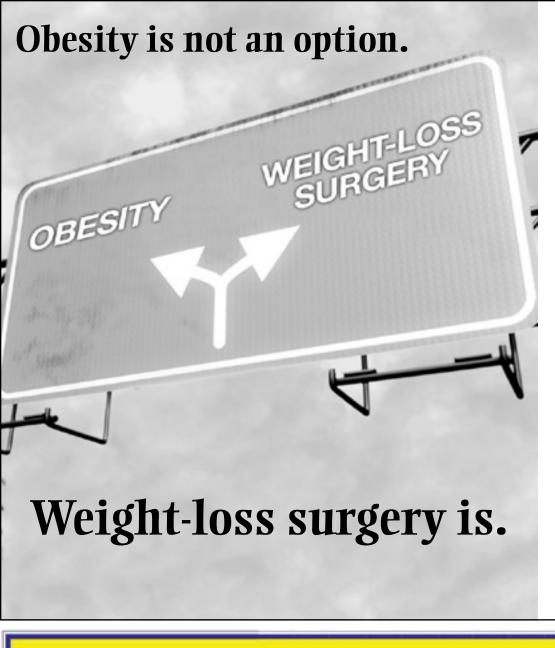
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- Lost & Found
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- Furniture & Appliances
- · Misc. For Sale
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- Lost & Found
- · Cars & Trucks (Except RV's)
- Furniture & Appliances
- Misc. For Sale

- Garage & Yard Sales
- Motorcycles
- · Misc. Wanted
- · Roommate Wanted
- · Rooms For Rent

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HOTELS & MOTELS	FARMS & RANCHES
COMMERCIAL RENTALS	☐ MISC. FOR SALE
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- **⊙ Top-tier faculty**—JIU instructors work in the fields they teach and are experts in online instruction.
- Classes start monthly—No need to wait for the semester to start.
- Online courses designed to accelerate learning—Courses have been designed, tested and proven to optimize online learning.



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