



HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

Volume 6, Number 18

www.irwin.army.mil

May 6, 2010

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

10-Miler Team Tryout

The Fort Irwin 10-Miler Team tryout is scheduled for May 11 at the Coyote Activity Center. Registration starts at 5:30 a.m. and the run begins at 6 a.m. For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Catherine Harris, 380-6222.

Protocol on Twitter

NTC Protocol now has a Twitter page "NTCProtocol." The page has been set up to keep the Fort Irwin community and others around the world updated on distinguished visitors, ceremonies and other significant events that are coordinated through the Protocol office. We will post pictures and news stories about these events.

Veteran's Relay Race

Association of the U.S. Army will hold its 15th Annual Veteran's Home Relay Race from Fort Irwin to the Barstow Veteran's Home, Saturday. This year's theme is "America's Army, Strength of the Nation." Entry fee is \$20 per person. For more information and entry forms, contact Darrell Kemp, 380-7532.

Bone Marrow Drive

A member of the DoD family needs help as a bone marrow recipient. A Bone Marrow Drive will be held at the 24-Hour Shoppettes and Class Six store from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., May 10 -13, and at the Post Exchange and Commissary, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., May 14. This drive is open to all service members, spouses and DoD civilian employees who are in good health and ages of 18-60. For more information, contact Michelle Murphy, 386-3358.

LAPD Written Test

Los Angeles Police Department is hiring and will hold a Written Test at Fort Irwin Education Center, Bldg. 1020, 4:30 p.m., May 19. LAPD is offering applicants with a higher starting pay for military experience with honorable discharge. For more information, call (866) 444-LAPD or web site: www.joinlapd.com



SGT. 1ST CLASS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ

557th Maintenance Company Soldiers make their way up into the plane that will send them to a year-long journey to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. More photos on pages 11, 12, 13, and 14.

557th Maintenance Company deploys

'Renegades' spend time with family, friends before deployment

BY GUSTAVO BAHENA
Warrior Staff Writer

Families and friends bid farewell to the 557th Maintenance Company as they departed Fort Irwin on April 28 to Afghanistan for a year of duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Soldiers of the 'Renegade' company received hugs, kisses and handshakes during the few early morning hours they spent at Freedom Fitness Gym processing and manifesting for a flight to the other side of the world. As Soldiers

waited to receive weapons and be weighed with their gear, they spent time with spouses, children, friends and fellow service members. At last, the time came for the warriors to board buses that took them to Southern California Logistics Airbase in Victorville, Calif. By 5 a.m., a more than 200 Soldiers had departed and would increase the total of deployed service members from this desert installation to approximately 452.

At a casing ceremony two days before the maintenance company deployed, the unit 'cased' its colors at an afternoon, public cer-

emony. The Renegades sealed their unit guidon, a red-colored flag, for the trip as they stood in formation on a grassy field here. Families and the community had the opportunity to approach the formation and spend time with Soldiers. Fort Irwin leadership attended the ceremony and shook every Renegade's hand.

Spc. Kevin Kliem, training assistant and guidon bearer for the 557th, stood steady at the front of the formation while National Training Center and Fort Irwin Commander Brig. Gen.

See Deploys, page 14

Inside

Horse Detachment Change..... 3

TriWest Goes Green 8

AAFES News 10

557th Deployment Breakfast ... 11

Get in Shape..... 16

MAY-JUNE 2010

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

ROTATIONAL SOLDIER USE OF POST FACILITIES

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452

**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 — April 25, 2010

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	8	●	50
AAFES	123	●	28
Commissary	38	●	47
Fort Irwin Garrison	3227	●	90
Veterinary Services	61	●	84
DENTAC	287	●	96
MEDDAC	355	●	80

ICE Weekly Report April 12, 2010 – April 25, 2010

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	1	●	0
AAFES	12	●	33
Commissary	3	●	67
Fort Irwin Garrison	548	●	92
Veterinary Services	1	●	100
DENTAC	70	●	96
MEDDAC	60	●	78

Fort Irwin Garrison Organizations

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
Fort Irwin Garrison	611	●	92
Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation	165	●	86
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center	5	●	80
Equal Employment Opportunity	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Human Resources	346	●	99
Information Management	5	●	60
Legal	4	●	0
Logistics	5	●	100
Pinnacle Housing	38	●	81
Plans, Analysis & Integration Office	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Police/Provost Marshall	6	●	0
Public Affairs	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Public Works	3	●	100
RCI Housing	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Religious Support	3	●	100
Resource Management Office	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Safety	17	●	100
Soldier Arrival, Orientation and Briefing	1	●	100
American Red Cross	1	●	100
Armed Forces Bank 1 — Main Branch	2	●	100
Armed Forces Bank 3 — PX Branch	1	●	0
Community Information Manager	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Landmark Inn	8	●	75
Military Family Life Consultants	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Plans, Training, Security	0	[NOT RATED]	—
WIC (Woman, Infants, and Children)	1	●	100

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.

AAFES Military Clothing/Troop Store

Customer Comment: Veronica, an employee at the troop store, was very efficient

in helping me with my needs while I was in the clothing and sales store on Thursday, April 22, 2010. I appreciate the people that put the needs of the customers above the business of stocking and organizing. I hope these employees are appreciated and praised for their hard work. Thank you Veronica!
Agency Response: Thank you for the comment concerning Veronica. She is an asset to the facility and her primary task is to assist the customer. I am pleased that she was able to

assist you. Her manager has been forwarded the comment and will talk to Veronica on it. Thank you again — Chester Hires, general manager, Fort Irwin Exchange.

Multiple Service Providers

Customer Comment: This is a comment not unique to the Commissary, but I've encountered the same problem at numerous facilities on post. I am writing

See ICE, page 15

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
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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

Grabbing hold of the reigns

Horse Detachment gets new commander

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GUSTAVO BAHENA
Warrior Staff Writer

The Horse Detachment of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment welcomed its new commander during a change of command ceremony on Fort Irwin, April 15.

Capt. Jason Phillips took hold of not only the guidon to his new unit, but also the symbolic reigns of a unit that represents the tradition of the cavalry.

According to its Web page, the Horse Detachment functions as a living and historically accurate depiction of the mounted cavalry Soldier and preserves the Regiment's heritage. The Detachment serves as a mounted color guard and performs at official ceremonies, unofficial functions and regional community events. The unit promotes goodwill through community relations, supports Army recruiting, and fulfills community outreach objectives.

Lt. Col. Andrew Cooper, commander of Regimental Support Squadron, 11th ACR, in addition to handing over the guidon to Phillips, spoke about the significance of the Detachment in the last year. The 'Packhorse' has

worked through superb execution of parades, ceremonial events, cavalry skill demonstrations, and other activities between California and half-way across the United States, said Cooper. He credited the quality of leaders and Soldiers of the unit.

"Our Horse Detachment has been fortunate in the last few years with the caliber of leaders and troopers we've been able to serve beneath this guidon," Cooper said. "They have continuously raised the bar and proved the level of professionalism, performance and expectations to lofty heights."

Phillips, who is a native of Georgia and no stranger to horse-riding, gave thanks when he addressed the audience. He thanked his wife, Danielle, and his son. He also appreciated the Regiment leadership for the command opportunity.

"I'd like to thank you for giving me this chance to command the Horse Detachment," Phillips said. "I look forward to serving with you in the coming months. To the troopers of the Horse Detachment — you look great. I couldn't have asked for a better group of guys to lead."



Capt. Jason Phillips, commander of the Horse Detachment, Regimental Support Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, receives the guidon from Lt. Col. Andrew Cooper, commander of RSS, during a change of command ceremony April 15 on Fort Irwin.



The mounted color guard of the Horse Detachment, Regimental Support Squadron under the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, held the nation's colors and the guidon of the 11th ACR during a change of command ceremony April 15.



Danielle Phillips, wife of Capt. Jason Phillips, receives the traditional yellow rose's bouquet during a change of command ceremony for her husband — who became commander of Horse Detachment, Regimental Support Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, on Fort Irwin, April 15.

Crime Watch

Information provided by
Provost Marshal Office

Assault. Location: Bldg. xxx Barstow Road. Victim reported that while walking back to the barracks room, the subject punched the victim to the ground. Appropriate action was taken.

Damage to private property. Location: Parking lot adjacent Bldg. 226. Person(s) unknown broke the rear window of the victim's parked vehicle.

Domestic disturbance. Location: xxxx 1st Street. Husband and wife began pushing and shoving and then punching each other.

Traffic collision. Location: 3rd Street and Ave. G. Subject failed to yield and collided with the victim, who was operating a motorcycle.

Possession of marijuana- unsuccessful job interview. Location: Main Gate. Subject was on the way to a job interview at Fort Irwin, when he came through the Access Control Point and was caught with marijuana in his vehicle.

Domestic disturbance. Location: 4431A Rhineland Ave. Husband choked his wife. The wife pushed the husband away and he fell down through a coffee table.

Incident — possible arson. Location: Calico housing. Witness observed two juveniles attempting to set a bush on fire.

Adopt-a-pet



Name: Mammoth
Breed: Domestic Medium Hair
Gender: Male
Age: Approx. 18-months-old
Mammoth 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

EDGE! (Experience, Develop, Grow, and Excel)

The EDGE! Program Framework provides Child, Youth and School (CYS) Services-funded extracurricular enrichment options in Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) program settings for child and youth in grades 1-12.

Youth experience, develop, grow, and excel by participation in "cutting edge" art, fitness, life skills and adventure activities, known as Art EDGE!, Fit EDGE!, Life EDGE!, and Adventure EDGE!.

ART EDGE! promotes learning-by-doing and focuses on the development of lifetime skills while exposing participants to the arts. ART EDGE! activities increase creative development while building self-esteem. Programs in the art area might include ceramics, computer graphic design, digital photography, drama, drawing, dance, theatre arts, and scrapbooking.

FIT EDGE! educates and encourages children and youth to incorporate a healthier lifestyle through physical activity and nutritional awareness program. Programs in the fit area might include adventure sports, aerobics, body sculpting, bowling, fitness programs, nutrition programs, golf, strength training, stress management, and weight training.

LIFE EDGE! imparts upon children and youth the skills needed for life-long growth as well as the exploration of future career fields. Programs in this area might include: basic cooking, baking and culinary art activities, auto maintenance and repair skills, computer skills, consumer skills, money management, pet care, study skills, and time management.

ADVENTURE EDGE! encourages children and youth to embrace the outdoors and nature while being exposed to activities that stimulate relaxation. Programs in this area might include bowling, fishing, golf, hiking, skiing, swimming and rock or wall climbing.



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5 AT THIS PRICE



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NET COST
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MILITARY REBATE*\$500
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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 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
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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

Note: 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.



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'TIL THEY ALL COME HOME
a tribute to our military

SATURDAY, MAY 15 @ 7P
SUNDAY, MAY 16 @ 10A & 7P

Guest Speaker:
Former Chief of Naval Operations
Admiral Vernon Clark, USN (Ret.)
(May 16 @ 10a only)



crossroads assembly

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Community Happenings

Naturalist Religious Group

A small group of earth-based naturalists at Fort Irwin, is seeking out their sisters and brothers for mutual encouragement and empathetic fellowship. The intent is to see if there is interest enough to establish a recognized group, schedule ritual and celebrations at cross quarters, high days, and other significant seasons. We would also be actively involved in supporting our deployed kindred. Anyone interested, contact Bruce O'Dell, 694-3627 or e-mail him at NatureNTC@gmail.com.

Dueling Pianos

Get ready for the most unique entertainment at Shockwave as it presents Dueling Pianos, May 14. Submit your song request and listen to great music like "Piano Man," or "Baby got back" is always a crowd favorite. May 14th dueling piano — Shockwave.

Ultimate Fighting Championship

Shockwave presents UFC 113, highlighting Machida vs. Shogun for the world Light heavyweight championship, 7 p.m., May 8. Cover charge is \$10.

Mother's Day Brunch

Treat your spouse or mother to a Mother' Day Brunch at Reggie's, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday. Enjoy wonderful Smoked Salmon Lox's on a Bagel and Grand Marnier French Toast. Don't forget the kids menu with great eats starting at \$6.95.

GSAB FRG Events

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

HHD, GSAB

June 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

AAD FRG meeting has not been scheduled as of yet. 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, contact Robin Stewart at 252-7592 or email: acanrobin@yahoo.com.

11th ACR FRG Event

May 12: RHHT Family Day at Fritz Field, 1 p.m. More information: Kimberly Mulig at 380-41819 or kimberly.mulig@us.army.mil.

1/11 ACR FRG Events

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

May 18: HHT, FRG Meeting, 5 p.m., Squadron Conference Room,

May 19: I Battery, FRG Meeting, 6 p.m., Squadron Conference Room. Topic: Family Care Plan

May 18: D Company, FRG Meeting, 6 p.m., Squadron Conference Room (please note new meeting date and time)

May 17: FRG Steering Committee Meeting, 5 p.m., Squadron Conference Room

May 19: B Troop, FRG Meeting, 5 p.m., Squadron Conference Room, Topic: OPSEC

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

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

Santa Monica Trip

EDGE! program will host a trip to Santa Monica Pier on June 11. Bus will leave at 6:15 a.m. and return at 7 p.m. Enjoy Pacific Park, the Aquarium and the Beach. The cost is only \$30 (includes admission fees and one meal voucher). The trip is Open to Child, Youth, and School Services' registered youth in Grades 6-12. Register at the Parent Central-Bldg. 1323. Registration closes 1 June. Call 380-5816 for more information or the EDGE! web site at www.fortirwinfmwr.com.

At the Movies

Thursday, May 6

7 p.m. Closed

Friday, May 7

7 p.m. Diary Of A Wimpy Kid (PG)

7 p.m. Alice In Wonderland (PG)

9:30 p.m. Hot Tub Time Machine (R)

9:30 p.m. Repo Men (R)

Saturday, May 8

7 p.m. Diary Of A Wimpy Kid (PG)

7 p.m. Hot Tub Time Machine (R)

9:30 p.m. Bounty Hunter (PG-13)

9:30 p.m. Repo Men (R)

Sunday, May 9

4 p.m. How To Train Your Dragon (PG)

7 p.m. Diary Of A Wimpy Kid (PG)

7 p.m. Alice In Wonderland (PG)

Monday, May 10

7 p.m. Hot Tub Time Machine (R)

Tuesday, May 11

7 p.m. Closed

Wednesday, May 12

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.

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/May 10, June 14, and July 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.

Spouse Shopping Trip

Tickets and Tours will have a Military Spouse Appreciation Shopping Trip at the Los Angeles Fashion District, tomorrow/ May 7. Participants will depart from Tickets and Tours, Bldg. 976, 8 a.m., with pick-ups in Barstow and Victorville. Transportation cost for adult is \$20, Child is \$15, and military spouses get 50 percent off with ID (\$10). Stop by Tickets and Tours to reserve your seat. For more information, call 380-4767 or check it out at www.fortirwinmwr.com.

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.

Weight Loss Challenge

Be a loser and win during Fort Irwin Spring Weight Loss Challenge is April 12-June 12. The Freedom Fitness Center can help motivate you to lose weight for nine weeks.

Contestants, both men and women, can try to lose as much weight as safely as possible. All results are individually based. This is NOT a group challenge. Prizes will be awarded to the top individuals who lose the most. Call 380-7720 for more details.

Military Tribute Event

Barstow Crossroads Assembly will host a military tribute event, 'Till They All Come Home — A Tribute to Our Military' at Crossroads Assembly, 501 Ave. A in Barstow, May 15, 7 p.m., and May 16, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Guest speaker is Former Chief of Naval Operations, Retired U.S. Navy Admiral Vernon Clark, who will speak at the May 16, 10 a.m. event. For more information, click www.barstowassembly.com.

Food Distribution

USDA Surplus Food Commodities distribution dates for residents of Barstow, Hinkley and Lenwood will be held at the First Congregational UCC Church, 220 N. 2nd Ave., Barstow, 9:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m., May 4-20. You must be low-income to qualify for commodities and must bring your ID. For more information, call the Desert Manna office at 256-7797 or desertmannaoffice@yahoo.com

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.

Family Resiliency Training

916th Support Brigade is hosting Family Resiliency Training highlighting "Understanding the Effects of Deployment on Families," May 12, 3-4:30 p.m. Family members will learn the five dimensions of resiliency. There will be a puppet show, teen forum, and story-telling time. Teen Center, Behavioral Health, Army Community Service, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, and other agencies will be there. The event will have free snacks, and children activities. For more information, contact Angie Parreno, 380-8386.

Bike Night

Fort Irwin motorcycle community is invited to Armed Forces Bike Night at Victorville Harley Davidson, 14522 Valley Center Drive, Victorville, 6 p.m., Saturday. Active and retired service personnel will receive a special gift and there will be live music. For more information, contact Jose Olvera, Diakonos Motorcycle Ministry, 881-0368.

Youth and School Activities

Middle School Activities

Thursday: Cooking Club: Spanish Rice

Friday: Cascarones: Confetti Eggs

Monday: Pony Beads Keychain

Tuesday: Stars in a Bottle

Wednesday: Ultimate Journey, Smart Girls, 4H

Teen Activities

Friday: Jewelry Making

Saturday: Cooking Taquitos

Hours of Operation:

Middle School: Mon.-Fri. 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., May 6

ASAP Civilian Training
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Bldg. 573
Fernando Delgadillo, 380-4153

Mon., May 10 -13

Bone Marrow Donor Recruitment
& Registration
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
24 hr. & Class 6 Shoppettes
Michelle Murphy, 386-3358

Tue., May 11

10-Miler Team Tryout
5:30 a.m.
Coyote Activity Center
SFC Harris, 380-6222

Fri., May 14

Marrow Donor Recruitment &
Registration

10 a.m.-6 p.m.
PX and Commissary
Michelle Murphy, 386-3358

Sat., May 15

Tour de Irwin
8 a.m.
Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. 4100
380-4966

Fri., Jun. 11

EDGE Trip to Santa
Monica Pier
6:15 a.m.-7 p.m.
Teen Center, Bldg. 1313
380-5816

Fri., Jun. 18

White Water Rafting Trip
4:30 a.m.
Tickets & Tours, Bldg. 976
Outdoor Recreation, 380-4327

Check out these upcoming activities at Fort Irwin



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BY MIKE WALBERT

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

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In search of enemy force



PFC. DAN RANGEL

Specialist Nicholas McDaniel, a member of the personal security detachment for the 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, scans for the opposition force at Abar Layla, a staged Iraqi town at the National Training Center, April 24. Soldiers with the 4th IBCT are preparing for an upcoming deployment to Iraq at the National Training Center.

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Available to Entire Military Community

Varying levels of Exchange support

BY TANYA SELDERS

Army and Air Force Exchange Services
Public Affairs Representative

Bring a contractor, family member, Department of Defense (DoD) civilian or other visitor onto Fort Irwin, and the first words out of their mouth typically are, "who can shop the exchange?"

While authorizations governing who can buy merchandise and services at the Post Exchange (PX) often apply to a chosen few, the doors to Army and Air Force Exchange Service' fast food and convenience stores, including Chorley's and Anthony's Pizza at the PX food court, as well as the Taco Bell and Manchu Wok located in Bldg. 21, are open to virtually anyone looking for a quick bite to eat. In fact, DoD policy allows all federal government employees, and even installation visitors, to dine at AAFES restaurants as long as their orders are consumed on the installation. Furthermore, anyone can purchase single-serve consumables from the Shoppette, an option that is especially valuable late

at night considering the Shoppette (in Bldg. 34) is open 24 hours.

"The 'Snack Avenue' inside most AAFES Shoppettes offers a robust selection of single-serve consumables," said General Manager Chester Hires. "Candy bars, soft drinks, and soon, hot dogs can be picked up by just about anyone with business on the installation."

Exchange service authorization begins with the House Armed Services Committee and ultimately ends with the NTC, Fort Irwin commander. The guidelines, as prescribed by Army Regulation 215-8/Air Force Instruction 34-211 (I) and the Armed Services Exchange Regulations, Department of Defense Instruction 1330.21, require proper identification of authorized customers, including uniformed personnel and members of the Reserve Components and family members, applicable DoD civilians, exchange associates, retirees and their dependents who possess a basic exchange purchase privilege authorization card.

Anyone who believes they may qualify for exchange benefits, including access to the main PX, can contact AAFES General Manager Chester Hires at (760) 380-1500 or hires@aafes.com for additional guidance as well as information regarding possible exceptions at NTC, Fort Irwin.

Editor's note: The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is a joint command and is directed by a Board of Directors which is responsible to the Secretaries of the Army and the Air Force through the Service Chiefs of Staff. AAFES has the dual mission of providing authorized patrons with articles of merchandise and services and generating non-appropriated fund earnings as a supplemental source of funding for military Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs. To find out more about AAFES' history and mission or to view recent press releases, visit our web site at <http://www.aafes.com/pa/default.asp>. For more information or to schedule an interview with an AAFES representative, contact Tanya Selders 380-2060 ext. 110 or seldersta@aafes.com.

It pays to be 'green' at Fort Irwin

BY TANYA SELDERS

Army and Air Force Exchange Services
Public Affairs Representative

The Fort Irwin Post Exchange is rewarding military shoppers who are doing their part for the environment through its new "Use a Bag, Save the Planet" initiative.

Instead of using traditional plastic bags, retail facilities at Fort Irwin are encouraging shoppers to bring their own reusable bags. Beyond helping the environment, shoppers that "Use a Bag, Save the Planet" will get five cents back for every reusable bag used.

"The Army and Air Force Exchange Service desires to be an environmentally responsible retailer and a 'green' place to shop," said the General Manager Chester Hires. "By rewarding the use of environmentally-friendly bags we hope to begin changing behaviors today to put us on a path for a cleaner tomorrow."

The five cent credit applies only to shoppers who bring in and use reusable shopping bags (plastic bags do not apply) at the Exchange and all other retail facilities at Fort Irwin. As such, customers who simply decline a plastic bag, but do not utilize a reusable bag, will not qualify for the five cent credit.

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557th Deployment Prayer Breakfast



PHOTOS BY GUSTAVO BAHENA



Sgt. Michael Hilgen-dorf, a machinist with the 557th Maintenance Company, receives two plates — one for him and the other for his daughter, Waileia, 5 (bottom left). Dad and daughter were attending prayer breakfast held on the behalf of the unit in advance of its deployment to Afghanistan.



(ABOVE) Soldiers of the 557th Maintenance Company attend a prayer breakfast event a week before deploying to Afghanistan. Family members also attended the breakfast organized by the Family Readiness Group, who will be instrumental in supporting the families during the deployment.

(RIGHT) Spc. Jonathan Timmons, a mechanic with 557th Maintenance Company, receives a serving of waffles during prayer breakfast for his unit, April 20. The breakfast was organized as a family event and attended by leadership from the Family Readiness Group, the 1916th Support Battalion, and the 916th Support Brigade.



Chaplain (Col.) Dennis Newton, installation chaplain, reads Psalms 42 from the Bible during prayer breakfast for the 557th Maintenance Company on Fort Irwin, April 20.

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557th Maintenance C



Col. David Gaffney, 91st
Brigade because 557th M
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complete their mission and
"It's been a great oppo
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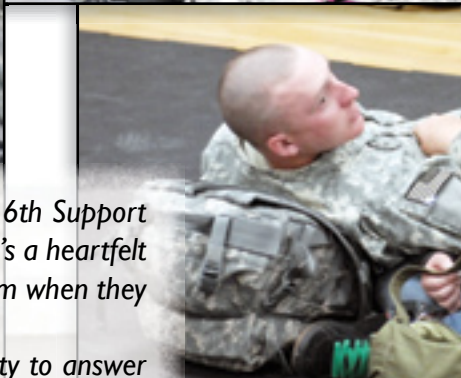


Soldiers and
their last mo

A Sgt. 1st Class, maintenance control
sergeant, with 557th Maintenance Com-
pany: "We've done a lot of preparation, getting
our Soldiers trained up and ready on various
types of unit equipment."

PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ

Company deployment



6th Support Brigade commander: "This is a special deployment for the 916th Support Maintenance Company is the first 916th unit to go to Afghanistan, and for me, it's a heartfelt at I'm seeing these Soldiers off, knowing I won't have the honor to receive them when they'd come home."

portunity for me as I think the Soldiers truly deserve all the credit in their ability to answer rt the Global War on Terrorism. These Soldiers will go over and do a phenomenal job and port Brigade, Fort Irwin, and the United States of America, and what greater honor could



Pvt. 1st Class Daniel Bryant, machinist:
"A little anxious ... We trained for a long time
for this, so I'm ready to go."

loved ones treasure
ments together.

The airplane stands ready as 557th Maintenance Company "Renegades" Soldiers stand by at Southern California Logistics Airport, Victorville, as they await movement on the first part of a deployment that will take them on a year-long tour of Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

557TH Maintenance Company cases its colors



PHOTOS BY GUSTAVO BAHENA

(ABOVE) Soldiers of 557th Maintenance Company, also known as the 'Renegades,' huddle for a group photo after the conclusion of a 'casing' ceremony, April 26. Two days later, the unit had deployed to Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom for a year.



Sgt. Ramon Troya, generator mechanic, 557th Maintenance Company, spends time with wife, Evelyn, and children during 'casing' ceremony for his unit, April 26. He and the unit deployed two days later to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The youngest child is 11 months and the oldest is 11-years-old.



(RIGHT) The 557th Maintenance Company stands at 'parade rest' during casing ceremony on Fort Irwin, April 26. The unit rolled up its guidon for the trip to Afghanistan, where it is spending a year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



(ABOVE) Capt. Jeffrey Foster, left, commander, 557th Maintenance Company, and 1st Sgt. Jimmy Quemado, unit first sergeant, roll up the unit guidon before 'casing' it for the trip to Afghanistan. The unit performed the ritual in front of the Fort Irwin community and families at a ceremony, April 26.

Deploys, from page 1

Robert "Abe" Abrams spoke to him. The general told him to "keep his head down and stay safe," and to keep in touch with people back home. Kliem, who got married a few weeks ago, said the general's words were good advice and that he would 'take them to heart.'

Another family man saying goodbye that afternoon was Pfc. Jose Jimenez, an armaments repairer for the Renegades. Jimenez is on his first deployment from his first duty station, having enlisted about a year ago. His confidence level is high, because his platoon has been well trained, Jimenez said.

"I am confident with the training and am prepared to be deployed," Jimenez said. "The morale of my platoon is high and everybody is motivated."

Jimenez feels that the Family Readiness Group is doing a good job and that his family will have a lot of support at Fort Irwin. His wife, Rose, has given him "100 percent support" even though there is some anxiety, Jimenez said.

"Emotionally, I am affected by the year deployment, having to be separated from my husband," Rose said in Spanish. She, her husband, and two daughters are originally from Puerto Rico. The family is relatively new to the Army and Fort Irwin. Rose said the Army has its benefits, but the deployment could be difficult for her.

"However, I am at ease being on Fort Irwin," Rose said. "I will dedicate a lot of time to my daughters and keep studying English as my second language."

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

Pamela, 9, the youngest Jimenez, said she will be sad to see Dad go.

"I love him very much, I will miss him, and I wish him well over there," Pamela said. "He's told me to take care and to behave well with Mom."

Evelyn Troya, wife of Sgt. Ramon Troya, plans to use family as support for herself and the couple's four children while dad is deployed. They have been on Fort Irwin two years, and have been an Army family for seven years. Evelyn said she wants to stay busy during the deployment, perhaps by getting a part-time job or taking college courses. Her caring attitude was demonstrated by the message she had for the unit:

"I want to wish everybody a safe trip and for the unit to come back home safely," Evelyn said. "I hope time goes by really fast."

Troya, a generator mechanic for the 557th, has served nine years, having been a Marine before joining the Army. Troya has suggested to Evelyn that she use the FRG during the deployment. The FRG was instrumental in the recording of a DVD of himself for his children that they will see when he's deployed. His six-year-old daughter has created a shoebox for items from home that the family will mail to him in three months, and then every three months afterwards. Troya said he will be writing and sending emails to stay in touch with his family. He hopes his family stays busy and goes out.

"Hopefully, they'll get to go to Disneyland and do things like that," Troya said. "Hopefully,

the FRG will have things going on as well to keep the families occupied and help pass the time — [so] they're not sitting at the house, counting the days down."

A week before the 557th deployed, the unit held a prayer breakfast, at which families sat down to share a meal with their deploying warriors. Chaplain (Col.) Dennis Newton, installation chaplain, led the group in prayer and read a verse from Psalms 42. His message to Soldiers and family was that of having trust.

"Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God," Newton said. "Sometimes we're taken to places where we're just overwhelmed, and there is only reply, that is, I trust in God. When I'm not sure what's going on — I know one thing — I turn to God. Now that you guys are going off to Afghanistan — it's an interesting place — its developing. We can't tell you what it's like, but I can give you one assurance — God will be there with you."

That April morning, Sgt. John Henderson, a communications sergeant, said the event was a way to create cohesion. He appreciated the FRG for having made the prayer breakfast possible.

"I grew up with religion in my household," Henderson said. "Sometimes when people hear a prayer, it shows that there are a lot of people out there who are [united]. This is an easy opportunity to bring the families together."

Henderson and his wife, Jaclyn, brought their baby girl, Nita, to the breakfast. Henderson carried the precious 10-month-old as he went through the food serving stations.

"I'm glad my family was able to be here with me to enjoy this great morning," Henderson said.

Another couple with young children attending the breakfast was Maria Gomez and husband Sgt. Jose Napoles, a quartermaster and equipment repairer with the Renegades. Maria said the occasion allotted good family time and provided an opportunity for families to network.

"It allows Soldiers to feel more comfortable knowing that their family has a support system here and are not left alone, even if their immediate family is not here," Maria said. "This FRG is really good. It's really united. If you need anything, you just call them. They'll give you the information you need and if they can't give it to you, they'll look for it."

Maria also appreciated the prayer aspect of the function. She liked the sermon by Newton and felt it was refreshing and spiritually rewarding.

"It brought everything together," Maria said. "It basically put our Soldiers in God's hands."

An entire battalion will be placing its maintenance requirements in the hands of the 557th. The mission of the 557th in Afghanistan will be to conduct force sustainment operations under the 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from Fort Stewart, Ga.

The 557th Maintenance Company can fix most of what the Army fields in Afghanistan, said the company's first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Jimmy Quemado. They will be repairing track and wheel vehicles, communications equipment, and weapons.

ICE, from page 2

to voice my exasperation over being hounded by specific vendors at various places, including the Commissary, Post Exchange, and both gas stations here on post. For several weeks, there have been people peddling windshield products at these locations, and it's really a pain to be hassled by these people. I have no problem with the booths at the PX, as long as people don't come up to me unsolicited and take up my time. I am completely uninterested in products being thrown in my face at these places when I'm trying to run errands. These pitches come at me with all the charm of an internet pop-up or telemarketer, and I'd like to think that a perk of living here might be to avoid having to deal with these people. If they've been given a deal to allow them to be here and harass patrons of these highly populated places, then I'm extremely disappointed. If these vendors continue, then my patronage will steeply decline. No one that I know wants to be chased down in parking lots and hassled with a sales pitch about windshield products (and that is quite literally what these vendors are consistently doing). If these people are in violation of post rules by being here, then someone please



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Customer Comment: Hello. Yes, I am really impressed by the gym and especially after you installed the two platforms and rubber plates because I train as an Olympic-style weightlifter (snatch, clean, and jerk). On the other hand, I don't like to see this equipment getting ruined. Some Soldiers/persons do use the metal plates on the platforms which is not correct. These platforms are only made for rubber plates. I try to tell them but no one listens; in fact, they ignore me. I try to tell the staff, but

get rid of them! I'm not interested in politely brushing people off anymore. I just want to get to my car, or the PX or Commissary — or wherever — in peace. Honestly, I can't stress how annoying these people are. They've got to stop! **Agency Response:** Sorry for the delay in getting back to you regarding your comment. We do appreciate you taking time to provide feedback to help leaders make the best decisions possible in providing services. I am searching for the best person to respond to your comment. If you do not hear back from myself or someone at another Unit/Command in the next three business days, please contact me. Thanks again for helping to make NTC and

some of them don't know nor do they care, I guess. Therefore, would you please teach/tell the gym staff to keep their eyes on these platforms and don't let anyone use the metal plates while they are using the platforms. One more thing, some Soldiers/persons also do not put the plates back after being used, and those persons are mostly Soldiers. They stack the weight on the machines, train, and leave. Please make it happen because it is important to keep everyone satisfied at the gym. Thank you. **Agency Response:** Thank you for bringing this issue to our attention. I will ensure the management of Memorial trains the staff on these issues, and we will do our best to encourage the customers to use the equipment properly and with respect. We DO appreciate your support and your efforts to help other users understand the importance of the equipment and how to use it properly. Please don't hesitate to speak directly to the managers at Memorial regarding these issues. Again, thanks for letting us know how we can serve you better.

Public Works

Customer Comment: I, and other employees/family members, cross the street at Inner Loop Road from the PAO/CID buildings toward the Burger King/Popeye's building and PX. It is a safety hazard to cross this busy street. Can a pedestrian cross walk and cross walk sign be placed for pedestrians? In the vicinity between the Arts and Crafts building and the Burger King/Popeye's building, there is a need for a sidewalk to be built on both sides of the road leading to the PX. I saw a family member with a stroller almost side swept by a vehicle because the family was walking on the road (that has no sidewalks). **Agency Response:** Customer comment was reviewed by Public Works but as of publication date customer has not yet received a response.

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No excuses!

BY SANDY CLARK

Coyote Activity Center Fitness Coordinator

It's amazing how many excuses we can come up with for not working out; not trying to live healthy. Believe me, I have heard a lot of them say, "I will go to the gym when I lose weight." This is my favorite. Seriously people?

We all have busy lives. We work, we have kids, we are constantly on the go, but making the time to work out seems to always be last on the list. We are full of excuses. Stop it!

I was talking with a lady at the CAC the other day. I see her there every day on the bike, treadmill, lifting weights, but this day, we talked a bit more than normal. She gave me a bit of her medical background and boy did she open my eyes. This lady's heart is failing her. She has been told that her heart is getting weaker, that one day, she may need surgery, maybe even a transplant. Despite that, she is in the gym every day, working out. Doing everything she can to keep it as strong as she can. She is eating healthy and is setting a wonderful example for us all. She truly inspired me to think about the choices I make with exercise and nutrition.

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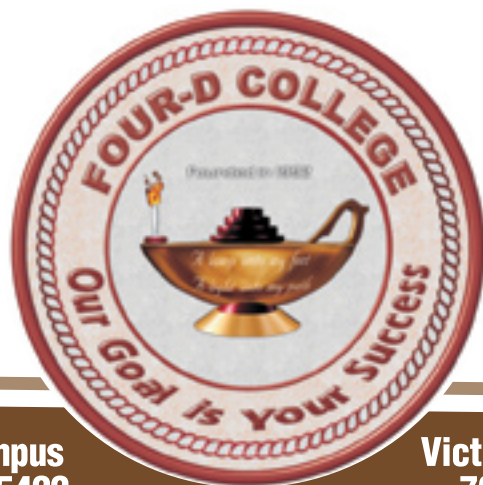


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More than third of equipment now out of Iraq

BY C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army is now 35 percent complete in its effort to move equipment and materiel out of Iraq as part of the withdrawal from that country.

Lt. Gen. William G. Webster, commander, Third Army, spoke April 2 during a press briefing at the Pentagon, about the status of the drawdown in Iraq, and the buildup in Afghanistan. The Army began pulling equipment out of the country in May 2009.

"When we started this operation we had about 2.8 million items of equipment in Iraq, along with 88,000 containers containing some of that equipment," the general said.

The Army has also retrograded more than 11,000 pieces of rolling stock — that is tracked vehicles, wheeled vehicles and trailers. Additionally, more than 21,000 troops have redeployed from Operation Iraqi Freedom. In all, more than 1.25 billion dollars worth of materiel and equipment have left Iraq.

"We're about 35 percent through with that now," Webster said.

Nearly half of the equipment coming out of Iraq has been marked to go to Afghanistan for the buildup there, Webster said. Other equipment will go back to the United States to



SPC. MONTE SWIFT

Thousands of vehicles and equipment that have returned from Iraq wait to be retrograded in a Third Army lot at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Not limited to rolling stock, the base receives hundreds of trailer-sized containers a week filled with everything from medical supplies to ammunition. The round-the-clock process of repairing the battle-worn equipment remains a top priority for Third Army as it pushes the repaired and usable equipment into other areas of operation.

be reintegrated into the Army, sold to foreign militaries, or disposed of. But much equipment the Army will keep, including that for buildup in Afghanistan, needs to be modified before going into the new environment, or repaired, due to excessive wear from use in Iraq.

"The equipment we have has been ridden hard," the general said.

Equipment is now being reset and repaired in Kuwait, Webster said. If it can't be reset there, it may go back to the United States to be repaired in depots.

"We have a large team of experts from Army Materiel Command and the Defense Logistics Agency that looks at all of this equipment in Iraq where it currently sits," he said. "If the equipment is not fully mission-capable or it doesn't have enough life in it ... they will pass that equipment back to us."

Webster said if the Army determines the overall cost to repair equipment is more than the operational cost, it might be scrapped.

While equipment needs to be cleaned up and refurbished before going into Afghanistan,

other equipment needs to be modified for the different operational environment found there, Webster said.

"Some of the equipment we'll get out of Iraq does not have the latest armor on it," he said. "We may also have to change engines, suspensions, transmissions as well as adding on the latest armor before we push it forward. We're trying to get it to our troops in the best condition possible before they realize they need it."

To move that equipment around in theater, the Army is depending heavily on the Northern Distribution Network set up by the U.S. Transportation Command. About 50 percent of supplies are being moved that way, Webster said.

"Those northern routes have given us a great deal of relief and additional capacity if any of the routes are blocked by weather or enemy action," he said.

The general said through efficiencies he expects the Army can beat its initial time estimates for moving necessary equipment into Afghanistan.

"The president told us he wanted to move in there (Afghanistan) as quickly as possible," he said. "Initial estimates were that it was going to take as much as 18 months. Through the efficiencies we found and the hard work of the entire DoD team and our allies too, with all these other networks, we now will be able to move the 5,000-plus vehicles that are needed for the buildup by the end of the summer."

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Stryker Brigade helps with footbridge for Iraqi children

BY SPC. LUISITO BROOKS

Army News Service

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq — In the neighborhood of Abu Ghraib in Baghdad, the journey to school for children means crossing a treacherous road, but the U.S. Army may help change that.

Capt. Talgin Cannon, a member of the joint project management office from 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, traveled to the area to discuss a project to rebuild a footbridge with a local construction company manager April 6.

The footbridge was destroyed by an improvised explosive device about two years ago, he said, explaining that rebuilding the footbridge would allow safe traveling for the locals in the neighborhood trying to cross the busy road.

"The most important thing is the safety of the children here," said Cannon. "The bridge will help get these kids to school safely without getting hit by a speeding car."

According to several sources, including local Iraqi Police and

District Area Council members, at least five children have been killed while trying to cross the busy road this year alone.

"For these kids it's like playing a game of leap frog with their lives

every day to go to school and then return home," said Cannon, an Elkin, N.C., native.

For this very reason, reconstruction of the footbridge was the number one project nominated by the council

members for completion in the area, which will be funded through the U.S. Army's Commander's Emergency Response Program, he said.

A local construction company was contracted to build the bridge, which

will span 25 meters across the two-way road. The cost of the footbridge is estimated at \$84,000 and will take several months to complete.

This most recent meeting between Cannon and the contractors was more or less a formality, ensuring that everything was on track in getting the project up and running.

"We didn't stay out there long because the construction company knew what needs to be done," said Cannon, after his meeting with the contractors was complete. "All they really needed was the 'OK' from us."

Many Soldiers that conduct missions in this area say that the need for this bridge is evident.

"I do a lot of traveling on this road, and it really concerns me to see small kids run across this road," said Sgt. Reginald Chretien, a team leader with the Military Police platoon, Headquarters Company, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, from Beaumont, Texas. "There are vendors on the sides of the road, and it attracts a lot of people walking across this busy road, and there is a school right there."



SPC. LUISITO BROOKS.

Pfc. Alejandro Munoz, a military policeman with Headquarters Company, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, stands underneath a once-useful footbridge, ensuring that the traffic through the area is clear during a meeting with local contractors April 6. The Commander's Emergency Response Program will fund the rebuilding of the footbridge, which was destroyed two years ago by insurgents.

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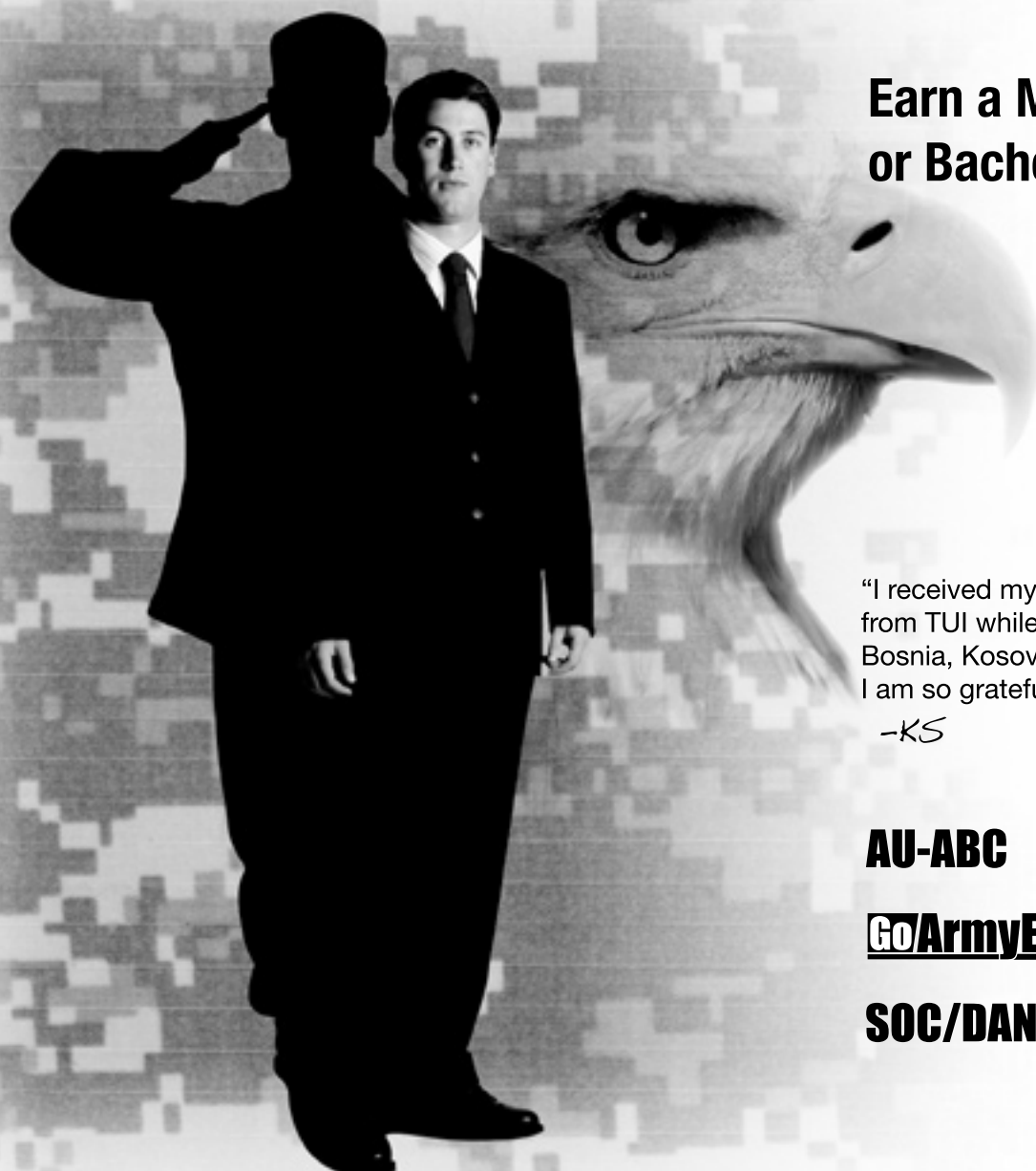


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