



HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

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www.irwin.army.mil

May 27, 2010

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

NTC Welcomes 3rd ACR

Troopers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Hood, Texas, began flowing into the National Training Center on May 8 for a Training Rotation 10-07 in preparation for deployment to Iraq later this year. The Regiment will focus their training efforts on advising and assisting Iraqi Security Forces to prepare itself for a role in responsibly transitioning authority to the Iraqi government. The new training will be in sharp contrast to previous training that was primarily geared toward full spectrum combat operations, a concept which is consistently winding down in Iraq. Troopers throughout the regiment will train to advise and assist the ISF, aiding in their assumption of both civil and political governance. "The Regiment is preparing itself for the current climate in Iraq," said Col. Reginald E. Allen, regimental commander. "I believe that our training and invaluable experience will lead to a successful partnership by, with, and through the Iraqi government."

Newcomer Spouses Brief

The Spouses Newcomer's Welcome will be held at Reggie's, 8 a.m.-12 noon, June 2. Childcare will be provided with reservations. For more information, call 380-4784/3598 or visit www.fortirwinmwr.com

Meet the Chief

The Fort Irwin community is invited to "Coffee with the Chief" at Starbucks from 7:30-8:30 a.m., June 10. Opportunity to speak with Chief of Police Jaime Madrigal is part of the Police Department's effort to improve communications with the community.



Sustainers Warrior Challenge



SGT. 1ST CLASS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ

Staff Sgt. Jerrell Matlock evaluates Sustainers Warrior Challenge Soldiers at a checkpoint on two tasks that include reacting to indirect fire and call-in a medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) request. The challenge was conducted as a series of checkpoints with various challenges being evaluated at each one. See page 10-11 for story and more photos.

Personal Security unit trains to protect

BY SGT. JES L. SMITH

16th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

One of the biggest blows an enemy can inflict on U.S. Armed Forces is to hurt or kill an American commander.

"It's great propaganda for the enemy should one of [the command] get hurt," said 1st Lt. Alayham M. Al-Awaj, a platoon leader with the Regimental Personal Security Detachment, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

To reduce the threat, 3rd ACR developed a RPSD to protect their command element.

"We want to ensure they don't become targets of opportunity," Al-Awaj, a Lincoln, Neb., native said when referring to the regimental command element.

"You have to have senior leadership or there is chaos on the battlefield," said Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Bailey, a native of Greensburg Ky., RPSD, 3rd ACR platoon sergeant.

Four months ago, 3rd ACR started building up and training its RPSD, and now the element's strength has reached approximately 40 Soldiers plus the command element.

The main part of the command element consists of the regimental commander, the regimental command sergeant major and the regimental executive officer.

RPSD trains to provide 360-degree security wherever the command group travels, said Spc. Michael Dinwiddie, a gunner with RPSD, 3rd ACR.

"Wherever they go, we go," said Dinwiddie, a Kansas City, Mo., native.

Training started at their home base of Fort Hood, Texas, with firing ranges and specialty classes that focus on protecting the command group.

Now that they have moved out to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., they continue to train and prepare for their upcoming deployment.

The focus for the RPSD at NTC will be to integrate the standard operating procedures they developed in garrison, and put them to the test in real world combat simulations.

"This is our first opportunity to sit down with the command group as opposed to gar-

See Security, page 15

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MAY-JUNE 2010

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

ROTATIONAL SOLDIER USE OF POST FACILITIES

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

Lead 6 Sends

Be safe, enjoy leave, come back ready



**Brig. Gen.
Robert "Abe" Abrams**

They say that time flies when you're having fun. I'm not sure who "they" are, but I must be having a blast because this past year sure did go by quickly. Here we are just beginning Rotation 10-07 and block leave is less than a month away. And while you can't really tell by the weather that we've all been experiencing lately, summer is bound to be here soon ... I hope.

With summer around the corner and all the typical things that go along with it, I have to use this opportunity to talk to you all about safety. Now I know that leaders across this installation talk

safety at every opportunity, so take this as an additional reminder that there are increased risks associated with summertime activities.

Last year, in this same column, I urged everyone to apply common sense to their summertime activities. Realizing that common sense isn't always common, I'll use that same mantra this year ... USE COMMON SENSE! Please. It really won't take much effort for us all to have a safe summer if we use common sense, and apply just a little thought to what we're doing — before we do it.

Privately owned vehicle (POV) and privately owned motorcycle (POM) accidents continue to be a great threat to us all. Our remote location contributes to the risk our Soldiers, family members and civilian employees experience when leaving and returning to post. Simple things such as speeding, driving while fatigued, seat belts, cell phones (without a hands free device) and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs can not only ruin your day, but could result in death or serious injury to

you or a loved one. Motorcycle riders — your skills are perishable. By all means don't jump on your bike for the first time this season and ride like there's no tomorrow ... there may not be. Wear your personal protective equipment (PPE) to include bright clothing during the day and reflective garments during limited visibility. Don't assume that motorists see you ... they usually do not.

Water sports such as swimming, waterskiing, and boating bring additional risks of drowning and other injuries. Watch out for your loved ones and each other while you're having fun and know and understand the dangers involved in these activities. Again, think and apply common sense while enjoying these activities. Know that water and alcohol don't mix. Consuming alcohol and participating in water activities is extremely dangerous and can be deadly. Don't mix the two!

Why is it that we're all so aware of the dangers associated with high temperatures while we're training during a rotation, but often

forget to apply the same principals while off-duty? Clearly the knowledge is there ... ensure you are hydrated and use sunscreen when participating in outdoor activities. Remember that prior heat injury predisposes you to a future heat injury.

I've said many times that our people are our greatest resource. Clearly, without our Soldiers, family members, DA civilian employees and contract employees, our mission would be degraded, and we, the Fort Irwin military community, would not contribute what we do to our rotational units or our Army. It takes all of us to do that.

Enjoy your summer, take block leave, apply common sense and think about what you're doing so that we all make it home safely.

"Train The Force!"

**Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams
(Lead 6)**

**Commanding General
National Training Center and
Fort Irwin**

WHO WE ARE

Brig. Gen. Robert B. Abrams
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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

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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

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2. ICE (Interactive Customer Evaluation)
3. CG's Hotline: 380-5463

ICE Program Gives Customers a Voice

**ICE Year-To-Date Report
Jan. 10, 2010 – May 16, 2010**

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	8	●	50
AAFES	147	●	29
Commissary	43	●	47
Fort Irwin Garrison	3767	●	90
Veterinary Services	61	●	84
DENTAC	348	●	96
MEDDAC	432	●	80

**ICE Weekly Report
May 3, 2010–May 16, 2010**

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	0	[NOT RATED]	—
AAFES	13	●	23
Commissary	2	●	50
Fort Irwin Garrison	397	●	93
Veterinary Services	0	[NOT RATED]	—
DENTAC	29	●	97
MEDDAC	48	●	83

Fort Irwin Garrison Organizations

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
Fort Irwin Garrison	441	●	93
Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation	167	●	94
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center	2	●	100

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

See ICE, page 13

Bob's Corner

Remembering why we have Memorial Day

BY BOB LUCAS

Commentator

Here is some really cool information that you might enjoy! On the 5th of May 1868 as commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, Gen. John A. Logan established Memorial Day, or Decoration Day, as it has been also called, as a nationwide observance. Two years later, in May of 1870, at the now famous Arlington Cemetery, Gen. Logan uttered "Let us revive our patriotism and love of country by this act, and strengthen our loyalty by the example of the noble dead around us..." His historic "General Order Number 11" established the practice of decorating veterans' graves all over the United States. At that same time, Gen. Logan named this special day as National Memorial Day, and it was to be celebrated on May 30 of each year.

Now what? Well, you should know the Ladies' Memorial Association started the ball rolling on a Memorial Day due to the Battle of June 9, 1864. The ladies wanted "to devise a means to perpetuate their gratitude and admiration for those who died defending homes and loved ones." After World War I, Memorial Day was extended to include all men and women, who died in any war or military action. After World War II, Memorial Day used to be held on May 30, regardless of the day of the week, on which it fell. Then, in 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed as part of a move to use federal holidays to create three-day weekends.

Wow, they must have thought about us by creating three-day weekends.

Seriously, though, this is a day where many people and States observe the holiday. People visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day, and it is traditionally seen as the start of the summer season. Many of our families throughout the United States hold picnics, sporting events, and family gatherings. All non-essential Government offices are closed, as are schools, businesses and other organizations. It is truly a time to respect those who have died in military service for the United States.

I ask that we each reflect on the values of serving one's Nation and ask ourselves one question: "Who would value our lives above their own?" You will clearly see that our American way of life often call us to duty when the war or wars are unpopular. Nevertheless, it is our Nation and for those of us who continue to serve or have served before them ... we still love what we stand for and who we are defending.

Take time out during this three-day holiday to honor those who have served before us and who have honored us with their own blood. It is important we continue to remember the purpose of Memorial Day. Also, "Thank you" to those who are still serving in harm's way. It is a very important and honorable mission to protect America from terrorists, both domestic and abroad. A sincere "Thank you" goes out to family members who endure the loss of their loved ones throughout time. The losses are hard to handle sometimes, but there is no more of an honorable calling than serving one's country. Have the picnics and family gatherings, but reach out to those less fortunate than us who have served and are still here to talk about their service.

Editor's note: You can reach Bob Lucas at barstow-bob2@verizon.net



Gen. Charles C. Campbell



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES COMMAND
1777 HARDEE AVENUE, SW
FORT MCPIERSON, GEORGIA 30309-1062

24 May 2010

AFCS-PA

MEMORANDUM FOR All Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members of United States Army Forces Command

SUBJECT: 2010 Memorial Day Message

1. This Memorial Day, 31 May 2010, represents our time of national remembrance for the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation and its values. This solemn holiday stems from a tradition started in 1866 after the Civil War, when communities came together to decorate graves as a tribute to the Soldiers who sacrificed all for their country. Today, we continue to pay our respects to service members from generations past, and to the modern Warriors whose recent sacrifices in Afghanistan and Iraq remind us that freedom is never free.
2. The freedom Americans enjoy today continues at a precious cost, paid not only by our Soldiers, but also by the Families they left behind. We reverently extend our gratitude and prayers to those special Army Families during this annual time of remembrance. I remind you to stop for a minute Monday, May 31, at 3 p.m. local time as the nation pauses for The National Moment of Remembrance. This annual observance allows all Americans to unite in national reflection and profound appreciation.
3. As we gather with Family, friends and neighbors this busy holiday weekend, please be safe at home and on the road. Pause together to remember our nation's heroes, past and present. It was their sacrifice that continues to secure the liberties we enjoy today. May God bless you, your Families and the United States of America. Army Strong!

CHARLES C. CAMPBELL
General, USA
Commanding

Memorial Day 2010



Memorial Day, which falls on the last Monday of May, commemorates the men and women who died while serving in the American military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, at least, it marks the beginning of summer.



Memorial Day Ceremony celebrations on Monday (May 31)

Mountain View Cemetery, Barstow

11 a.m.: The commanding general of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin, Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, will be guest speaker at the ceremony and Chaplain (Col.) Dennis Newton will perform opening prayer. The ceremony will feature a Fort Irwin rifle team and bugler.

No Greater Love Memorial Cemetery, Yermo

10 a.m.: The National Training Center and Fort Irwin will support the ceremony with a speaker, rifle squad, and electronic bugler. The ceremony begins at 11 a.m., but a flag pole-raising will occur at approximately 10 a.m.

Desert View Memorial Cemetery, Victorville

10 a.m.: The National Training Center and Fort Irwin will support the 10 a.m. ceremony with a speaker, chaplain, rifle squad, and electronic bugler. The ceremony is located at 11500 Amargosa Road in Victorville.

Crime Watch

Information provided by Provost Marshal Office

Stray animal. Location: Cactus Cove housing. Police responded to the complainant of a stray dog. The dog was captured and transported to the Veterinarian Clinic.

Child Protective Service follow-up. Location: Granite Canyon housing. Police responded to the county's request for a CPS follow-up. Residence checked okay.

Traffic accident. Location: Inner Loop and Barstow Roads. An east bound driver, on Inner Loop, fell asleep and ran off the road, striking a street sign causing minor damage.

Shoplifting. Location: 24-hr. Shoppette. An unknown male stole a bottle of Jack Daniels and fled.

Loud noise complaint. Location: Desert Winds housing. Police responded to the report of loud and obscene music. Residents were advised and complied.

Found UXO. Location: Outter Loop, adjacent Desert King. Police and Explosive Ordnance Detachment responded to the report of unexploded ordnance. EOD secured the UXO.

Traffic accident. Location: Parking area of Bldg. 172. Investigation disclosed that vehicle No. 1 was parked and unattended without the parking brake set, when it began to roll backwards colliding with vehicle No. 2 which was parked and attended.

Credit card fraud. Location: Unknown, Western Union, California. Victim reported that in April 2010, unknown person made an unauthorized transaction on the victim's credit card account through Western Union.

Adopt-a-pet



Breed: Domestic
Gender: 4 Males 5 Females
Age: Approx. 6-8-weeks-old
Kittens 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

Information Training Set

Personal Identifiable Information Training, mandatory for all service members, DoD employees, and contractor personnel will take place June 3, July 22, Aug. 5, and Sept. 2 in Bldg. 552, Avenue G, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. For more information, call 380-4540/5337.

Mandatory Assessment

All Soldiers are reminded to take the Global Assessment Tool assessment, part of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program, by May 31. Click on Army website at www.army.mil/csf

Radio Broadcast Streaming

Public Affairs Office is streaming radio broadcast on KNTC 88.3fm. The link can be accessed at the Fort Irwin home Web page. Listeners can click on the KNTC logo, located at the top right of the home page, which will open the media player and play the broadcast. If anyone has questions about the stream, call 380-3450. KNTC broadcasts live: Mondays to Fridays, 6-9 a.m. and is on automated broadcast the rest of the day and night.

Community, Police Meet

The Fort Irwin community is invited to attend "Coffee with the Chief" at Starbucks, June 3, from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to speak with Chief of Police Jaime Madrigal. This is part of Irwin's Police Department effort to improve communication with the community.



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Worship Services/Chapel Activities

CATHOLIC

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

PROTESTANT

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

LATTER DAY SAINTS

Sacrament Meeting	Sunday, 1 pm.
Sunday School	Sunday, 2:15 p.m.
Priesthood/RSE	Sunday, 3:10 p.m.

MUSLIM

Prayer

JEWISH

Jewish Service

CHAPEL ACTIVITIES

AWANA
(3 yrs.-6th grade)
HS Bible Study
MOPS

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

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Government Rates Available

Community Happenings

Youth Sports Camps

Sign up now for Youth Sports Summer Camps. For more information, call 380-7044. Youth must be registered with Parent Central to participate.

Rhythm and Blues

Reggie's will host an old School R&B Extravaganza, June 4, 9 p.m.-midnight. Listen to old school hits like Vanilla ice, Dr Dre, and Snoop Dog D.J. Willy will be mixing the greatest oldest hits.

Land Sailing Adventure

Join Outdoor Recreation on a Land Sailing Adventure at China Lake. Cost is \$17.50 per person. Transportation and land sailing equipment is included. The trip will leave Bldg. 976, 1:30 p.m., June 10. Participants must wear closed toe shoes, long pants, and sunglasses for sun protection. Bring water/sports drink and a sack lunch or money for food. Registration for the event ends June 3. For more information, call 380-4327.

College Graduation Ceremony

Fort Irwin Army Education Center will hold its 14th Annual Consolidated College Graduation Ceremony at the Main Post Chapel, 6-7 p.m., June 10. A reception will follow at Sandy Basin Community Center. The graduation will honor graduates from the on-post colleges: Barstow Community College, Park University, and Webster University. Family and friends of the graduates will be in attendance.

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.

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 Ms. Hunter at 380-7781 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.

Rock Climbing

Outdoor Recreation is offering a Rock Climbing/Bouldering trip at Joshua Tree National Park, July 31. The cost is \$11 for transportation and \$25 (in cash, the day of the trip) for Rock Climbing. The tour will leave Bldg. 976 at 6:30 p.m. The minimum age for participation is eight-years-old. Bring plenty of water/sports drinks and a sack lunch and snacks. Dress in layers appropriate for weather, wear sunscreen and bring a camera. Registration deadline is July 23. For more information, call 380-4327.

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

Car Design Competition

Military and Army civilian employees are invited to a car design competition. For more information, rules and guidelines, go to Battle of the Builds Web site <http://battleofthebuilds.com/> or call 380-9275. Win bragging rights for Fort Irwin and do the installation proud.

Airport Shuttle Available

If you have plans for Block Leave, stop by Tickets and Tours for discount tickets or schedule a shuttle to the airport. Tickets and Tours staff has a lot of great travel ideas to suit your needs.

At the Movies

Thursday, May 27

7 p.m. Closed

Friday, May 28

7 p.m. The Last Song (PG)

7 p.m. Oceans (PG)

9:30 p.m. Kick-Ass (R)

9:30 p.m. Date Night (PG-13)

Saturday, May 29

7 p.m. The Last Song (PG)

7 p.m. Oceans (PG)

9:30 p.m. Kick-Ass (R)

9:30 p.m. Date Night (PG-13)

Sunday, May 30

4 p.m. Oceans (PG)

7 p.m. Date Night (PG-13)

7 p.m. The Last Song (PG)

Monday, May 31

7 p.m. Oceans (PG)

7 p.m. Kick-Ass (R)

Tuesday, June 1

7 p.m. Closed

Wednesday, June 2

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.

Pet Grooming Available

Sgt. Fuzzbuddy's Kennel does pet grooming on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. It's convenient and very affordable. Check them out.

Naturalist Religious Group

A small group of earth-based naturalists, at Fort Irwin, are 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.

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., 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.

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.

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 Watchers

Weekly meetings are on Thursdays, at 12 noon, Bldg. 317 (2nd Street and Avenue E). Sign-up 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.



EDGE! For Children

Check out June classes at www.fortirwinfmwr.com and program descriptions. Read Santa Monica Pier trip Information and let your children know what is available for them at the end of the school year. Register your children now for fun EDGE! programs. For more information about EDGE! programs, contact Angela Austin, MWR partnership specialist, Child Youth and School Services at 267-5067.

Youth and School Activities

Middle School Teen Center Summer Camps 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Bldg. 1313

Week 1 *May 24-28 — Experience 4H Week (sock puppets, scavenger hunt, kickball, nerf dodge ball, relay race, turn MST into a restaurant)

Week 2 *June 1-June 4 — Amazing Race Week (paintball, game show day, capture the flag, amazing race)

MST 1-6 p.m.

Learn to play spades, badminton, tie die pillow cases, painting, patriotic wreath, guitar tournament, dodge ball, and much more.

Cooking Club: Banana Pudding, Chicken Salad, Peanut butter cornflake cookies, Cinnamon toasties

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 in advance of event to the editor, chicpaul.becerra@us.army.mil



Fort Irwin Community Calendar

Sat., May 29

UFC 114

7 p.m.

Shock Wave

380-8646

Fri., June 4

Old School R&B Extravaganza

9 p.m.-12 a.m.

Reggie's

380-6717

Thu., June 10

Land Sailing Adventure

1:30 p.m.

China Lake

Bldg. 976, 380-4327

Thu., June 10

GSAB/HHD-FRG Meeting

6 p.m.

The Forum, Bldg. 1200

Ms. Hunter, 380-7781

Fri., June 11

EDGE Trip to Santa Monica Pier

6:15 a.m.-7 p.m.

Teen Center, Bldg. 1313

380-5816

Fri., June 18

White Water Rafting Trip

4:30 a.m.

Tickets & Tours, Bldg. 976

Outdoor Recreation, 380-4327

Sat., July 31

Rock Climbing/Bouldering Trip

6:30 a.m.

Joshua Tree National Park

Bldg. 976, 380-4327



Check out these upcoming activities at Fort Irwin

FREE WEIGHT LOSS SURGERY SEMINARS

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Thursday, June 10

6:00 to 7:00 pm

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Thursday, June 17

6:00 to 7:00 pm

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Co-Director, Metabolic and
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Sgt. Fuzzbuddy's Dog Park opens



(LEFT) Fort Irwin Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Harvey leads the ribbon cutting ceremony, along with other attendees during the grand opening of the New Bark Park dog park, located across the street from the soccer field.



(RIGHT) On the 11th of May, Garrison Commander, Col. James Chevallier speaks at the grand opening of New Bark Park dog park, and acknowledges that funds are largely generated by Fort Irwin's recycling program, as well as contributions from sponsors Sgt Fuzzbuddy's Kennel, Barstow Walmart, AAFES, and labor efforts several garrison groups.



Fort Irwin CG, Robert "Abe" Abrams and Garrison Commander, Col. James Chevallier meet with Chief Warrant Officer Michael Blain and "Romeo", a Bull Terrier, and other dog owners attending the opening of New Bark Park. Chief Blain has actually been visiting the dog park during the construction process and says it's a great way for energetic dogs (and kids) to burn energy.

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CAPT. JENNIFER MCFALL

Members of the award-winning Blackhorse Food Service team stand with their trophy during the Phillip A. Connelly Award Presentation at Reno, Nevada, April 16. The team represented Army Forces Command at the Department of the Army-level competition and was recognized as the best Active Army Field Kitchen.

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916th Support Brigade Warriors put to the test

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS
RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ
NTC Public Affairs NCO

The purpose was to determine how well the squads within each company were performing while reinforcing warrior tasks.

Col. David Gaffney, commander, 916th Support Brigade and Command Sgt. Maj. Nathan Buckner, tested their support Soldiers warrior skills in the 2010 Sustainers Warriors Challenge.

"On the range, Soldiers were evaluated on movement to contact drills and incorporated a live fire aspect as well. Overall it went really well, all the feedback from participating Soldiers including the Soldiers on

various details, and the evaluators was that it was well received," said 1st Lt. Jeffrey Cook, officer-in-charge of coordinating the Sustainers Warriors Challenge said.

"The most challenging aspect of the training was trying to incorporate all pieces throughout the brigade," Cook continues. "A support brigade is very diverse entity, for example, we have Soldiers who are pilots so they don't do much work on the ground at all, we have transportation, mechanics, cooks, basically every support MOS you can think of is in our brigade and trying to get them back to the basic Soldier tasks that they might not engage in on a daily basis is a pretty challenging thing."

"I think the training today was really good, the road march was a killer though!" said Spc. Frank Galindo, a mechanic in the 699th Maintenance Company, Bravo MST, and part of the second place team, rated the challenge this way. "Next time, it would be nice to be able to conduct the training in the actual NTC training area with a few more scenarios. My favorite part of the training was the team participation, because we communicate well we had no issues what so ever."

His squad leader, Staff Sgt. Samuel Mitchell sums it up saying, "I think the training is excellent because it gave our Soldiers a challenging pace and doing these battle tasks and drills prepares Soldiers for what they might expect during real-world missions."



"I think the training today was really good, the roadmarch was a killer though! I would have liked to be able to use blanks at all the checkpoints instead of voicing "bang-bang" but overall it was good training. It would be nice to be able to conduct the training in the actual NTC training area with a few more scenarios. My favorite part of the training was the team participation, because we communicate well we had no issues what so ever."

Spec. Frank Galindo part of the second place team 699th Maintenance Company, Bravo MST mechanic





(ABOVE) Prior to the final dismounted stress fire, 1916th Support Battalion Soldiers tactically marched upwards of nine miles through three checkpoints, each receiving fragmentary orders and sending them through a course of action leading to tasks they would be evaluated on at the next.



SSG Jerrell Matlock evaluates HHC 1916th Support Battalion Soldiers performing, "react to indirect fire" and call in a nine-line medevac request at checkpoint two of the Warriors Sustainers Challenge.



1916th Support Battalion Soldiers, with guidance from Special Forces instructors, lay down a blanket of live fire prior to an assault through their objective during 2010 Sustainers Warriors Challenge "Stress Shoot" at Fort Irwin.



Soldiers are refreshed on ready firing positions and movement techniques during the dry-fire portion of the stress fire lane at range 1. After a practice run through the course, they repeat the process with live fire.

"I think the training is excellent because it gave a challenging pace for all of us. Doing these battle tasks and drills prepares Soldiers for what they might expect during real-world missions."

Staff Sgt. Samuel Mitchell, 699th Maintenance Company, part of HHC 1916th Support Battalion

ACAP successfully transitions Soldiers, families

BY MFON UMOREN

Army Career and Alumni Program
Transition Services Manager

The Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) is a transition service to assist service members and their family members when they are transitioning out of the Army.

ACAP services include:

- Pre-Separation Counseling
- VA Benefits Briefing
- VA Claims Filing
- Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Workshop
- Individual Transition Planning
- Resume Assistance and Cover Letter Assistance
- Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Medical Records Review
- Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP) Briefing
- Job Fairs

- Job Listings
- Automated Tools- Resume and Cover Letter Template
- Practice Job Interview Techniques Video
- Job Applications

It is important that leaders give their Soldiers time to attend ACAP.

Regardless of rank or type of discharge, Soldiers must receive a Pre-Separation Briefing at least 90 days prior to retiring or separating (ETSing) from the military.

ACAP rules and regulations does allow retiring service members to start ACAPing at least 24 months from their retirement date and those just separating to start 12 months out.

What happens when Soldiers are encouraged to ACAP early is that they have time to meet their military obligations and they also have time to:

- Receive VA benefits information
- Obtain Disabled American Veterans (DAV) information
- Get Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP) information

- Work on their civilian and Federal resume
- Acquire job search skills and information
- Receive transitional counseling

The post's transition services manager believes ACAP is important for both the Soldier and the Army.

"Timeliness lowers unemployment rate and informs Soldiers of their benefits before it's too late or after the fact," said Mfon Umoren. "There are many opportunities for Soldiers getting out of the Army. Unfortunately, due to various reasons, many Soldiers do not receive the information they need to transition out of the military."

"The Army pays more than \$100 million in unemployment benefits to service members every quarter (every three months). We at ACAP believe we can decrease this if the transition process is started early," he added.

Editor's note: For more information on ACAP services, contact Mfon Umoren, ACAP Interim Transition Services Manager. He is located at Bldg. 577, Rm. N, call him at 380-5648/5644, or contact him by email at mfon.umoren@us.army.mil.



A special wellness program for military families before, during and after pregnancy. Created by the March of Dimes, the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary VFW. marchofdimes.com/vfw

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ICE, from page 2

Fort Irwin Garrison Organizations

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
Equal Employment Opportunity	1	●	0
Human Resources	174	●	98
Information Management	2	●	50
Legal	1	[NOT RATED]	—
Logistics	5	●	67
Pinnacle Housing	33	●	87
Plans, Analysis & Integration Office	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Police/Provost Marshall	4	●	50
Public Affairs	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Public Works	1	[NOT RATED]	—
RCI Housing	1	[NOT RATED]	—
Religious Support (California)	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Resource Management Office	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Safety	26	●	100
NTC HQ Adjunct General Office	0	[NOT RATED]	—
American Red Cross	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Armed Forces Bank 1 — Main Branch	3	●	33
Armed Forces Bank 3 — PX Branch	2	●	100
Community Information Manager	2	●	0
Landmark Inn	11	●	82
Military Family Life Consultants	3	●	100
MWR, Recreation, Leisure Travel Services	1	●	100
Plans, Training, Security	1	[NOT RATED]	—
Military Family Life Consultants	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Plans, Training, Security	0	[NOT RATED]	—
WIC (Woman, Infants, and Children)	0	[NOT RATED]	—

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.

MWR Leisure and Travel Services

Customer Comment: The trip to the LA Garment District was great! When will the next one take place? Hopefully, it will be soon. I would also like to say the driver we had was very nice. This was the first trip I have been on and will definitely be going on other trips. Thanks! **Agency Response:** Thank you very much for your ICE comment. Virginia (your driver) will be very pleased to hear that you had a good time. She always does her best to make sure your trips are enjoyable from start to finish. Have a great day!

Public Works/Pinnacle

Customer Comment: I would like to mention again that the landscapers are continuing to weed wack in the rocks right next to vehicles. I had brought this issue up with my community manager and the Valley Crest maintenance safety person with no success. This has been going on for since the beginning of April.

Agency Response: Thank you very much! I will pass this on to our housing office as the areas in Cracker Jack Flats are maintained by our housing privatization partner and not DPW. Have a super day!

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BY DALE DOMEK

In the last 20 years, the legal system has created serious consequences for anyone driving under the influence of alcohol. However, the idea of driving a motorcycle under the influence is even more dangerous for a number of reasons.

Garrison Safety Office
presents the
SAFE
Summer
Campaign
thru September 2010

For more information call the Ft. Knox Center and Safety Office at 260-4131

Lastly, operating a motorcycle requires much more coordination than driving a passenger vehicle.

Editor's note: For more information on Motorcycle Safety, contact the Garrison Safety Office at 380-7708.



Motorcycles sit in front of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence Headquarters Building May 10 just prior to the start of a ride to Panama Beach, Fla., as part of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month activities at Fort Rucker.



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Celebrating Asian Pacific Heritage Month



Col. Kha Vo, commander, U.S. Army Dental Command at Fort Irwin, tells the audience in attendance of Asian Pacific Heritage Month of his own humble beginnings, including a humorous story about overcoming adversity and language challenges to become the proudest employee at a small supermarket chain when he was a child.



RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ

(ABOVE) Audience applauds and laughs after hearing Col. Kha Vo's story of childhood challenges he faced as an Asian Pacific Islander-American.



Local Asian Pacific Islander traditional dance troupe performs as audience shows their appreciation with applause and a shower of "good fortune."



Security, from page 1

risson operations to perfect our procedures prior to deployment," said Al-Awaj.

After NTC, they'll have a limited amount of time before their deployment, but the RPSD is still going to send Soldiers to the International Training Institute in Dilley, Texas, where they will receive additional training on the protection of the command group.

"I love all the training we get," said Dinwiddie. "If you're

going to be working outside of your (military occupation specialty), this is the position to be in." Dinwiddie is an armored crewman by trade.

Al-Away said the RPSD is made up of six different military occupational specialties to include: armored crewman, cavalry scouts, combat engineers, health care specialists, wheeled mechanics and one systems support specialist.

The variety of skill sets allows the unit to handle most

issues with equipment and personnel without help from outside the detachment.

"We are made to be a self-sustaining platoon," said Al-Awaj.

Soldiers weren't selected for their occupational capabilities alone, but for prior experience and recommendations from leadership within 3rd ACR.

"You have to be hand picked to be a part of this," said Bailey. "It's an honor to be picked."

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This will tell you whether or not your child understands your expectations.

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