



HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

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June 10, 2010

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

Memorial Service

A memorial service will be held for 'Electric' Etric Smith, NTC media relations officer and KNTC radio station host of 'Wednesday Newsmakers' at the Post Chapel, 2:30 p.m., Friday/tomorrow. Smith, who is also a U.S. Army veteran, passed away at Silver Lakes/Helendale on June 5. Read page 3 for commanding general's comments and more on Etric Smith.

Army Birthday Celebration

Today, Fort Irwin will celebrate the U.S. Army's 235th birthday celebration with a post run and cake-cutting ceremony. The run will begin at the Multi-purpose Field at 7 a.m. Cake-cutting ceremony will be held at Dining Facility No. 1 at 12 noon. Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, commanding general, National Training Center and Fort Irwin will speak at both events. Come celebrate as Fort Irwin's youngest and oldest Soldier cut our Army's birthday cake.

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., today. 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.

Civilian Job Openings

The Fort Irwin Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) has been piloting a new software program and because of this, some Fort Irwin job vacancy announcements are ONLY posted on www.usajobs.gov and not on the CPOL Web site. CPAC is using USAJOBS to announce the following types of positions: 0203-Human Resources Assistance, 0346-Logistics Management, 0301-Miscellaneous Administration and Program Series, 0560-Budget Analysis, 0671-Health System Specialists, 0679 Medical Support Assistance, 2005 Supply Clerical and Technician Series, and 2210 Information Technology Management. CPAC currently has several announcements on the USA Jobs Web site. These announcements can be located by searching by title and/or by searching Fort Irwin or San Bernardino County as the locations. For more information, contact Brian Bennett at brian.j.bennett1@us.army.mil. Share the news on using USAJOBS.

Memorial Service

Memorial service was held for Pvt. 2nd Class Verjilla Beasley, 21, at the Post Chapel, June 3. The Soldier, assigned to Supply and Transportation company, Regimental Support Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, died from injuries she sustained when she was hit by a car last month. Beasley joined the U.S. Army in February 2009 and was stationed at Fort Irwin since July 2009.



Sgt. Giancarlo Casim

The incoming U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Fort Irwin, commander, Col. Michael Kiefer, left, receives the guidon from Maj. Gen. Philip Volpe, the Western Regional Medical Command commanding general, during a change of command responsibility between Kiefer and the outgoing MEDDAC commander, Col. Judith Bock, right, on Fort Irwin, Calif., June 4.

MEDDAC holds change of command

BY LORRAINE SANDERS

Logistics Support Team
Supply Management Specialist

United States Army Medical Department Activity held its change of command ceremony, with Col. Judith Bock relinquishing command to Col. Michael Kiefer, at the parade field, June 4. Maj. Gen. Philip Volpe, commanding general, Western Regional Medical Command, handed over the guidon from Bock to Kiefer, officially handing over the command to the new commander.

Col. Kiefer entered the U.S. Army in 1986 and served five and a half years at Fort Ord in various positions including medical platoon leader for 5th Battalion, 21st Infantry, 7th Infantry Division (Light) where he was deployed to the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt as part of the Multinational Forces and Observers monitoring the provision of the Camp David Accords. Col. Kiefer was an administrative branch chief in the Clinical Support Division, and company commander at Silas B. Hayes Army Community Hospital, Fort Ord, Calif. After attending the Army Medical Department's Of-

ficer Advanced Course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, he attended graduate school.

Col. Kiefer completed the didactic phase of the U.S. Army-Baylor University Graduate Program in Healthcare Administration in 1993, and performed his administrative residency at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. After completing residency, Kiefer spent the next years the Administrator, Department of Surgery at Tripler. He was reassigned as the executive officer at the 43rd MASH in South Korea. After Korea, Kiefer served two years as

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JUNE-JULY 2010

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

ROTATIONAL SOLDIER USE OF POST FACILITIES

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We salute, honor



452

FORT IRWIN SOLDIERS
CURRENTLY DEPLOYED

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



Sponsorship: Start Strong to Be Strong

I have moved many times in my career, within the United States and overseas. I have deployed several times, leaving my wife to pull double duty at home. I know the good, the bad and the ugly of moving firsthand from my Family's experience and the stories shared by other Soldiers, civilians and family members. Every move brings new opportunities but also challenges and stress that can have a negative impact on work and home life.

I also know from personal experience that sponsors can be the determining factor between a good or bad move. An excellent sponsor plays a key role in making a positive first impression and helping the new person and Family integrate into the unit, workplace and community.

During the past several years, the Army has been experiencing a high volume of transition due to Army Force Generation, modularity, Grow the Army, Base Realignment and Closure and troop mobilization. Now more than ever, we need effective sponsorship to mitigate the stress of transition; however, Soldiers, civilians and families continue to express frustration with the Army's Sponsorship Program.



Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

Sometimes, our personnel and family members have an exceptional sponsor — someone who truly makes them feel welcome and gets them off to an excellent start — but that is not always the case. There may be sponsors who are not well-equipped or motivated to provide the needed assistance or, even worse, no sponsorship at all. These experiences make sponsorship a pressing Army Family Action Plan issue. I am taking this opportunity to improve on our Total Army Sponsorship

Program (TASP) to enhance the readiness of our Soldiers and Civilians, and deliver on our promise to take care of Families.

The Army's Sponsorship Program, as prescribed in AR 600-8-8, The Total Army Sponsorship Program, requires every first-term Soldier have a sponsor. The sponsor acts as a big brother or sister and helps the Soldier learn Army standards and develop a sense of responsibility and teamwork. After that initial assignment, TASP offers sponsors for every Soldier, private through colonel, and likewise for every civilian in grades up to GS-15. A vital part of the Sponsorship Program that is often forgotten or overlooked is the rear detachment support provided to family members of deployed Soldiers and civilians.

So we have in our regulations a Sponsorship Program that covers all members of our community. I want to make sure that what is outlined on paper is also happening in our communities. Soldiers, civilians and family members will have a sponsor to provide information and support before, during and after transitions, mobilizations and deployments.

See Strong, page 9

ICE Program Gives Customers a Voice

ICE Year-To-Date Report Jan. 10, 2010–May 31, 2010

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	9	●	44
AAFES	166	●	31
Commissary	50	●	44
Fort Irwin Garrison	4160	●	90
Veterinary Services	64	●	81
DENTAC	379	●	96
MEDDAC	495	●	80

ICE Weekly Report May 17, 2010–May 31, 2010

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	1	●	0
AAFES	18	●	44
Commissary	7	●	29
Fort Irwin Garrison	393	●	88
Veterinary Services	3	●	33
DENTAC	32	●	100
MEDDAC	63	●	81

Fort Irwin Garrison Organizations

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
Fort Irwin Garrison	438	●	88
Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation	125	●	85
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Equal Employment Opportunity	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Human Resources	154	●	100

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

See ICE, page 13

WHO WE ARE

Brig. Gen. Robert B. Abrams
Commanding General
Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez
Post CSM
Col. Jim Chevallier
Garrison Commander
Command Sgt. Maj. Mark A. Harvey
Garrison CSM
John M. Wagstaffe, NTC PAO Director

High Desert Warrior Staff

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

Aerotech News

Tammi Haynes, Graphic Designer

HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

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SUBMISSIONS

Story and photos may be sent to the High Desert Warrior at least two weeks prior to the desired publication date. Items submitted to the High Desert Warrior are always subject to editing. Submissions should include subject's names, ranks and work affiliation (unit or organization) of everyone in the photograph. Group photos of four or more people don't require individual names. Submissions may be e-mailed to the editor at chicpaol.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

Lead 6 Sends

In Memory of: "Electric" Etric Smith



**Brig. Gen.
Robert 'Abe' Abrams**

Team, it's with great sadness that I report that the National Training Center and Fort Irwin recently lost a truly great person and one of our key members. Mr. "Electric" Etric Smith passed away unexpectedly last weekend.

Most know Etric as the "voice" of the National Training Center through his morning radio shows on KNTC — The Heat. What you perhaps don't know is what I personally want to honor him for in this column.

Etric's official job in our Public Affairs Office was as our Media Relations Officer. As you can imagine, this was often a thankless job involving long hours in dealing with reporters and media outlets covering everything from blotter reports and rotational unit training to resource conservation and stories stemming from new DA and DoD policies.

What differentiated Etric Smith from the many Media Relations persons that I've personally dealt with is Etric handled each media outlet with great pride in balancing

the professional needs of the represented organization with the needs of the person or the personality of each individual reporter. It's through his "Golden Rule" approach to media relations that lead not only to his personal success, but to the success of the National Training Center and Fort Irwin as portrayed in the media.

Etric was one of the good guys. He made everyone around him better. Etric believed in the saying that "People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." Etric Smith believed in our mission with the same enthusiasm and conviction as his ACU wearing counterparts. He cared about everyone around him and he showed it everyday. Etric went the extra mile to do things "right" and he never looked for the credit. Dedicated and selfless, Etric made an impression on everyone he came in contact with. His infectious smile, that put meaning to the name "Electric," and his passion made the world a better place, and better aware of what we do to train America's war fighters for combat.

Those of us who dealt with Etric on a routine basis may remember that he often signed his e-mails with "Best Effort"... and most recently, "Proudly Serving." His signature was a gentle reminder to all of us to do our very best everyday and be proud to serve our country as he was.



GUSTAVO BAHENA

Electric Etric interviews Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, during a 'Wednesday Newsmakers' radio program.

Best Effort achieved Etric Smith! Rest in peace my friend. You will be missed and forever remembered by all of us whose lives you touched both personally and professionally. I ask all of you to remember Etric and the Smith family in your prayers this week. I break the tradition of ending this

column with "TRAIN THE FORCE" and simply say:

"Proudly Serving"

Brig. Gen. Robert 'Abe' Abrams
Commanding General
NTC & Fort Irwin



GUSTAVO BAHENA

Etric Smith speaks during NTC Community Relations Officer Kelsy Husted's farewell luncheon last month.

We'll dearly miss you Etric

Long time NTC employee, friend, family man, passes away

BY GUSTAVO BAHENA
Warrior Staff Writer

You heard his soothing voice on the radio three times a week. You saw him escort media to "The Box," time and time again. And you could always count on him to lift your spirit. These are just a few of the great memories he has left us with since his passing.

Etric Peron Smith, 44, passed away Saturday near his home in Helendale, Calif., on June 5. He is survived by his wife, Leslie, and three children — Erica, Genesis, and Gianna. Etric was originally from Bogalusa, La. He joined the Army and served for less than a decade, having completed all of his

enlistment time at the National Training Center and Fort Irwin. He lived in Barstow for many years, becoming active in his community and church. It wasn't until recently that he and his family moved to Helendale to enjoy a resort lifestyle in the small community of Silver Lakes.

John Wagstaffe, public affairs director here, remembers Etric as a friend of 22 years. Etric actually served as a Soldier under, then Maj. Wagstaffe, at the Public Affairs Office from 1989 to 1992. Wagstaffe assisted in getting Etric reassigned, who was a wheel-vehicle mechanic, to write for the post newspaper. Etric eventually progressed to becoming station manager of KNTC, the radio station for Fort Irwin and the NTC, said Wagstaffe. Wagstaffe

recalled that ever since knowing Etric, he always had a positive outlook on him.

"He was never down," Wagstaffe said. "I never saw him down a day in his life. He could be upbeat about anything. Everything that he dealt with, he took a positive attitude towards. And that was also true with all the people he dealt with. He dealt with everybody with dignity and respect. I don't believe he has an enemy on this post."

In 2008, Etric began serving as the NTC and Fort Irwin media relations officer. After an initial training period, Etric took full charge of the media relations duties, Wagstaffe said. He coordinated and facilitated visits by the media to this post and

See Etric, pages 4 and 5

MEDDAC, from page 1

congressional liaison to the Surgeon General, Wash., D.C. In 1999, Col. Kiefer was selected to participate in the Training with Industry Post Graduate Fellowship with Inova Health System's Medical Group Practice.

Upon completion of TWI, Kiefer spent two years at Medical Command as chief, Analysis Branch in the Program Analysis and Evaluation Directorate. He served in four successive positions as deputy commander for administration for

USA MEDDAC, Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; USA MEDDAC, Fort Drum, N.Y.; Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center, Fort Hood, Texas, and Tripler Army Medical Center.

Col. Kiefer's recent assignment was as Chief of Staff, Pacific Regional Medical Command and Deputy Commander for Administration, Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii.

Col. Kiefer's numerous awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with six oak

leaf clusters and Army Commendations Medal with two oak leaf clusters.

Col. Bock's next assignment will be as Regional Nurse Executive, Pacific Regional Medical Command and Deputy Commander for Nursing, Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii.

Editor's note: Lorraine Sanders is currently cross-training at the Public Affairs Office as part of the Army Materiel Command's Journey to Leadership program.

Eric, from page 3

then onwards to the training area. He facilitated visits by CNN, ABC, NBC, CBS, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, local broadcast affiliates, small town newspapers, and documentary filmmakers. Those media outlets and countless others reported on the training and community life of this military installation. Eric's work promoted the mission of NTC and the U.S. Army to world-wide audiences. His personality and work ethic made the media relations program a huge success.

"He developed the [media relations] program himself and turned it into an amazing program," Wagstaff said. "I personally believe he was the best media relations officer in the Army, but I'm not the one who says that. All the public affairs officers who come out with rotational training units, and all the media, all make that same comment — that he is the best media relations officer that they've dealt with. And that played a tremendous impact on getting the NTC story out."

Eric also was known as "Electric Eric" on KNTC, the radio station of Fort Irwin and NTC. He was on the air three times a week, playing popular tunes, taking on-air phone calls, and providing command information to the community. He hosted the show "Newsmakers" on Wednesdays, interviewing a wide range of guests from the commanding general to Fort Irwin school children.

Jackie Hoggins, marketing director for Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation here, attested to Eric's character as the key to positive media relations and successful radio interviews.

"Eric just had that magic — whoever he touched, he made you feel like he was your best friend," Hoggins said. "It didn't matter how hurried he was, or how busy, he took a minute. He never talked about himself. He was always asking about you and how your family was. I think people just felt good to be in his presence. He had good energy."

Before joining the Public Affairs Office, Eric served with various contractors on post supporting the NTC mission. With Raytheon, he advanced to a lead position for a system repair support team working on the technical aspects of after action reviews during training rotations. In that capacity he supervised Ernie Dutton, who is now a technician with Tybrin. Dutton described Eric as a mentor who helped him during his early 20's when he was starting a family.

"He helped me out in a lot of situations — just in general life," Dutton said. "He helped me through the 19, 20, 21-age period. I had a new daughter at the time, a new wife, and he helped me through all of that by just being a big brother."

Always treating others as a brother — that's how Chicpaul Becerra, editor of the *High Desert Warrior* newspaper, also remembers Eric.

See Eric, page 5



COURTESY PHOTOS

(ABOVE) Eric Smith with his wife Leslie, second from left, and three children, Erica, 21, Genesis, 13, and Gianna, 5.

(RIGHT) Eric Smith escorts broadcast media reporter at one of NTC's training box villages.



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Eric, from page 3

"I'm going to miss Eric, because he treated you like a brother," Becerra said. "He treated you like a friend and family member. I'll miss his smile and his energetic, soft-spoken, humble lifestyle."

Becerra described Eric as a very caring and sincere individual.

"His personality hadn't changed since I first met him in 1988," Becerra said. "He was a very caring and loving husband and father to his three children."

As Soldiers, both Becerra and Eric were assigned to the Public Affairs Office in the late 1980s. Eric served as a photojournalist for the post newspaper, then called The Combined Arms Monitor. Becerra recalls Eric being introduced to and performing the different aspects of public affairs, including media relations and media escort duty at the NTC during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Agustin "Auggie" Rodriguez, office administrator for PAO, talked about Eric's respect and support of others.

"He always tried to make you feel at ease and comfortable," Auggie said. "He was always supportive and tried to make you feel good. He was always complimenting people instead of criticizing them."

Auggie especially remembers the time Eric took him to the training area. He was probably one of the few non-media to receive an introduction to "the Box" by Eric. He also remembers Eric as completely redesigning the look of the public affairs office when he began working there two years ago. Auggie recalls that Eric "was on fire" during his mission to give the shop a patriotic, NTC ambiance.

"Eric was always looking for things that could be better — not only in the office, in general, but individually, as a person as well," Auggie said. "He always saw that a person could do better in a certain area. He tried to somehow help get that improvement for that person. We'll remember him for the rest of our lives, because he was the kind of person that makes an impact on other people."

Kelsy Husted, new media specialist, Strategic Communications Office at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., remembers Eric as a kind, patient, and caring friend and colleague. He appreciated folks for who they were and saw the best qualities in everyone he encountered, said Husted, who worked with Eric.

"I am fortunate to have known him, served with him and to have had him as my personal battle buddy," Husted said. "Eric provided balance to the team and was truly admired. His spirit for the team, the mission, and the United States Army encouraged me."

Husted also said that Eric often reminded her that life experiences, good or bad, served to shape us as individuals.

"This week, I was having a really tough time understanding why this happened," Husted commented. "Another friend shared a special quote with me that helped put things in perspective: 'To have touched so many lives and left us all better for it, is an unbelievable act by an amazing friend.' Eric was that amazing friend for me, and for so many others. Thank you for positively influencing my life. Rest in peace Eric."



GUSTAVO BAHENA

'Electric Eric' with garrison commander, Col. Jim Chevallier, and Fort Irwin school children do a live broadcast inside the KNTC, 88.3fm, radio station.



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Community Happenings

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 please 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 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.

Bowling Tournament

Strike Zone will host a 7-8-9 No Tap Tournament from June 10-July 10. Contact the bowling alley for more information.



Skeet, Trap Clinic

Outdoor Recreation and EDGE are teaming up to provide a free Skeet and Trap Clinic for teens, ages 16-18, every Thursday in July from 5:30-7 p.m. The clinic covers firearm safety, firearm handling, and skeet shoot. Teens must be registered at Parent Central, Bldg. 1323. For more information, contact 380-5816.

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.

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., today. 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. For more information, call 380-4327.

Santa Monica Trip

EDGE! Program will host a trip to Santa Monica Pier on tomorrow. 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

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

is Open to Child, Youth, and School Services' registered youth in Grades 6-12. Register at the Parent Central, Bldg. 1323. Call 380-5816 for more information or the EDGE! Web site at www.fortirwinfmwr.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.

At the Movies

Thursday, June 10 9:30 p.m. The Losers (PG-13)
7 p.m. Closed

Sunday, June 13
4 p.m. Closed

Friday, June 11
7 p.m. Furry Vengeance (PG)
7 p.m. Death at a Funeral (R)
9:30 p.m. A Nightmare on Elm Street (R)

Monday, June 14
7 p.m. Closed

9:30 p.m. The Losers (PG-13)

Tuesday, June 15
7 p.m. Closed

Saturday, June 12
7 p.m. Furry Vengeance (PG)
7 p.m. Death at a Funeral (R)
9:30 p.m. A Nightmare on Elm Street (R)

Wednesday, June 16
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.

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.

Pet Grooming Available

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

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., on Monday 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@www-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.

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.

Youth and School Activities

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

Week 3 *June 7-11: Train the Force Week (Soldier for a day, outdoor scavenger hunt of Fort Irwin, paintball, healthy living)

Week 4 *June 14-18: Cooking Around the World (commisary trip, preparing dips and snacks, Mexican Cuisine, Filipino Cuisine, Italian Cuisine, French Cuisine)

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 toasts

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

Thu., June 10
Land Sailing Adventure
1:30 p.m.
China Lake
Bldg. 976, 380-4327

Thu., June 10
Safety Day
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Army Field

Thu., June 10
FI Consolidated
Graduation
Ceremony
6 p.m.
Fort Irwin Post Chapel
Education Center
380-4218

Thu., June 10
Coffee with the Chief
7:30-8:30 a.m.

Starbucks
Chief of Police
380-3869

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

Wed., July 14
Coping with
Deployments
Course
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
FI Red Cross
Station
Heather Adams
380-3697

Sat., July 31
Rock Climbing/
Bouldering Trip
6:30 a.m.
Joshua Tree
National Park
Bldg. 976, 380-4327

Post Exchange Facilities Block Leave Hours of Operation

MAIN STORE PX
Mon.-Sun., June 14-July 2 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

MCSS & FURNITURE STORE
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat./Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

DUST BOWL TROOP STORE
June 13-27 CLOSED

BURGER KING EXPRESS
Mon.-Sun. 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

POPEYE'S
Mon.-Sun. 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

DUST BOWL BURGER KING
June 13-27 CLOSED

**ANTHONY'S PIZZA AND
CHARLEY'S STEAKERY**
Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

ROBIN HOOD
Sat./Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sun. CLOSED

BASKIN ROBBINS
Mon.-Sun. Noon-5 p.m.

STARBUCKS
Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sat.-Sun. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

THEATER
Sun.-Sat. One Showing

EINSTEIN BAGEL:
Mon.-Fri, Sat./Sun. 7 a.m.-Noon
CLOSED

TACO BELL:
Mon.-Sat. 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
Sun. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

MANCHU WOK:
Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sat./Sun. Noon-6 p.m.

CLASS 6
Sun.-Thu. 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Fri./Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
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**24 HOUR SHOPPETTE
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Mon.-Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sun. CLOSED

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Soldiers in Combatives Level III Class trains, graduates

STORY AND PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS
CATHERINE HARRIS
NTC/Fort Irwin Operations

The first NTC and Fort Irwin Combatives Level III class graduated on May 20. Students had to have successfully trained and received certification in Level I and II prior to attending Level III.

Fort Benning, Georgia is the only authorized program to train and certify Combatives level III.

Mr. Carl Arias, Sgt. 1st Class Sartain and Staff Sgt. Trivitt worked very hard to bring this training to Fort Irwin. Thousands of dollars were saved having the training conducted here instead of sending 43 Soldiers on temporary assignment to receive this training. The training was conducted at Bldg 828 next to MCC in the Fort Irwin Fight house.

Three instructors, Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Dunleavy, Staff Sgt. Troy Cochran, and Spc. Scott Burton came from Fort Benning, Georgia's Modern Army Combatives School to train our Soldiers. A fourth instructor, Staff Sgt. Bobby Trivitt is stationed here at Fort Irwin.

See COMBATIVES, page 9



Fort Irwin graduates are: 1st Lt. Gilbert Draughon, Sgt 1st Class Catherine Harris, Staff Sgt. Terik Ocasio, Staff Sgt. David Jarquin, Staff Sgt. Adam Sahlberg, Staff Sgt. Shelton Stansbury, Staff Sgt. Miguel Martinez, Sgt. Mario Yarbrough, Sgt. Ignacio Cruz, Sgt. Raul Doss, Sgt. Erick Martinez, Sgt. Damon Dunavan, Sgt. Andrew Montano, Cpl. Jeffery Cornett, Spc. Nathan Loyola, Spc. David Aziz, Spc. Feliciano Castilliano, Spc. Leonides Magallonmata, Spc. Christopher Sleister, Spc. Carlos Luna, Pfc. Alfred Geron, Pfc. William Rogers, Pfc. David Sanchez, Pfc. Daniel Leos, Pfc. Harold Bruno, Pfc. Rahmel Nelson, Pfc. Zachery Carlson, Pfc. Dean Weaver, and Pvt. Zachary Resar.

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Strong, from page 2

We must make sure sponsors are well-equipped for their important role. Sponsors must understand their role and have the necessary information and resources to fulfill it. Even more so, sponsors must be willing to reach out and make human contact, especially with new Soldiers, first-time civilian employees, and family members who are unfamiliar with the Army way of life.

Above all, I want to ensure that commanders are invested in the success of the Sponsorship Program within their community. TASP is a commander's program. Its success is contingent upon the commander's involvement and support. It is leadership's responsibility to send the message that sponsorship is something important to do and to do it right. At the most basic level, that means having an adequate pool of sponsors to meet the needs of the community and supporting those sponsors with reasonable time and resources to do a good job.

I have asked Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola to lead a working group to review sponsorship from a holistic perspective

and to update the program to meet the needs of Soldiers in today's Army. Two important aspects of the Sponsorship Program under examination are integration and tracking. We must have a means to collect, transmit and follow up on their needs and issues. We do not want Soldiers carrying unresolved issues from assignment to assignment. We do not want families to fail to connect or to become disconnected from their community, especially if their Soldier is deployed. We are looking at the feasibility of using current systems to integrate and track TASP processes Army-wide, among other possible improvements. I anticipate that new recommendations, guidance, and requirements will be forthcoming as a result of our review.

We are approaching summer, the traditional moving season for the military. Most of us in an Army environment, Soldiers, civilians and family members alike, know what it is like to relocate. We know what a difference it makes to have a helping hand along the way.

Leaders, your direct experience alone, whether good or bad, should be enough incentive to make the Sponsorship Program in your sphere of influence as effective as possible.

With a successful sponsorship program, we can treat every one of these moves as an opportunity to show that we will do right by Soldiers, civilians and families. The time and effort invested up front will pay big dividends in the satisfaction, commitment, and increased cohesion and mission readiness of Army units. All Soldiers, civilians and family members must be provided with quality programs and safe communities that meet their needs while enabling them to thrive and maintain resiliency. We will keep our promise.

Support and Defend.

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch
Commanding General
Installation Management Command

(Lt. Gen. Lynch is also Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management).

Combatives, from page 8

The class was conducted from April 26 to May 21. The class graduated 34 students out of the initial 46 Soldiers from Fort Irwin and Fort Richardson, Alaska: 24 Soldiers from Regiment, five Soldiers from 916th Support Brigade, two Soldiers from MEDDAC, and three Soldiers from 58th Engineer Company.

Day One consisted of in-processing while Day Two consisted of a Level 1 entrance exam and a record Army Physical fitness test. The next 28 days were 6-8 hour days of boxing and advance Modern Army combatives techniques in accordance with AR 3-25.150. The training was extremely physical and challenging. The class conducted three fights per Soldier each Friday to ensure proper technique,

News Briefs

Personal ID Training

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

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Kilo goes deep during grenade launcher qualification

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT GIANCARLO CASEM**

11th ACR Public Affairs

A Soldier looks down his sights. He looks up to recheck his target's distance and lowers his face onto his weapon and looks down the sights, aligning his target, an old armored vehicle, with the notches on the sight post once again.

With a quick squeeze of the trigger, a swift "thwoomp" sound emanates from his weapon. As the round flies through the air, the Soldier intently follows its arch. A few short seconds later, a cloud of orange paint rises from the vehicle and the Soldier lets out a satisfied sigh.

This scene was repeated numerous times throughout the day as Soldiers from K Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment conducted an M203 qualification range at the National Training Center on Fort Irwin, Calif., May 25.

The noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the range, Sgt. 1st Class Roger Ordish, said that training on the M203 weapons system helps his Soldiers

be better-rounded in their overall Soldier training.

"We need to be familiar and competent on all weapons systems," said Ordish, a native of Peck, Mich., who now serves as the 1st Platoon Sergeant of K Troop. Ordish said that even though all his Soldiers may not necessarily be assigned M203s with his unit or their next, it is still an important training to possess.

"You have to be trained and proficient before you go to combat, you train as you fight," he said.

To qualify, the Soldiers had to hit various targets at different ranges and from a myriad of positions. Some targets required them to shoot a grenade round through a window, while some required them to hit enemy personnel or vehicles. Orange paint marked where the Soldiers had hit their targets. The rounds used were training rounds that resembled those used in paint ball matches.

For junior Soldiers like Pfc. Max Harris, a native of Janesville, Wis., they considered the range good training, albeit a fun one.

"The best part was firing the grenade launcher itself, it was kind of fun."



A cloud of orange paint rises from behind a simulated window during K Troop training through the window.



Pfc. Austin Cox, K Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and a native of Pikeville, Ky., takes aim with his grenade sights for his M203 grenade launcher during a live-fire qualification range, May 25.



Spc. Jesus Gonzalez, K Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, aims his M203 grenade launcher during a live-fire qualification range, May 25.



's M203 grenade launcher qualification range, May 25. The Soldiers were required to fire a grenade round



Sgt. 1st Class Roger Ordish, a platoon sergeant with K Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and a native of Peck, Mich., aims down the sights of his M203 grenade launcher during K Troop's M203 live-fire qualification range, May 25

Pfc. Max Harris, K Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and a native of Janesville, Wis., watches his grenade's flight during an M203 live-fire qualification range, May 25



P'ive of Pikeville, Ky., takes aim with his grenade sights for his M203 grenade launcher during a live-fire qualification range, May 25.



Pfc. Harden, K Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, gauges the distance of his target during an M203 live-fire qualification range, May 25.



1th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and a native of Glendale, Calif., takes aim with his grenade sights for his igation range, May 25



Pfc. Brian Jones, K Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, and a native of Hanford, Calif., loads a training grenade during K Troop's M203 live-fire qualification range, May 25.

Bob's Corner

Flag Day is For Everyone!

BY BOB LUCAS
Commentator

Why is our American flag so controversial to so many people? It would be great if those folks joined other patriotic Americans in celebration of the flag. I guess that is what makes us a diverse society ... the ability to make one's own decisions. Nevertheless, the flag is for everyone.

This is the Day to celebrate and show respect for the flag. The flag celebration is always on June 14th. Flag Day, although not an official holiday, and commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States. The day was created by a resolution of the Second Continental Congress in 1777. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that established 14 June as Flag

Day; National Flag Day was established in August 1949 by an Act of Congress.

Our flag is representative of our independence and unity as a nation. The flag has been at the forefront of every battle fought by Americans, even standing proudly on the surface of the moon years ago. Now, here are the basics for flying our great American flag: It is normally flown from sunrise to sunset; should not be flown in rain or inclement weather; should not be flown at night without a light on it; raise the flag quickly in the morning and at sunset, lower it slowly. After a great tragedy or death, the flag is flown at half staff for 30 days. The American flag is flown at the top of the pole with the state and other flags flown below it. Never let the flag touch the ground...never! The union is always on top. When displayed in print, stars

and blue field are always on the left. When flown vertically on a pole, the stars and blue field, or "union", is at the top and at the end of the pole (away from your house). Fold the flag when storing. Don't just stuff it in a drawer or cabinet.

When the flag is old or tattered, it is time to retire it. Old flags should be burned or buried. Do not throw them in the trash. Wow! That was a rushed synopsis of the flag. Now you know everything about our flag, go out and watch it wave gently in the wind as sunrise and sunset approaches.

Two other tidbits: Francis Scott Key penned the lyrics to our National Anthem while our American flag flew in the breeze as the British bombarded Fort McHenry and Betsy Ross was the seamstress who made clothes for George Washington. In June

1776, Washington approached Betsy to make the country's first flag.

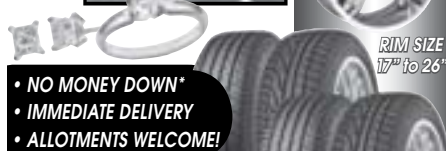
Symbolic thoughts: The flag consists of 13 horizontal stripes, seven red alternating with six white to represent the 13 colonies. Red symbolizes hardness and valor and white symbolizes purity and innocence. The blue symbolizes vigilance, perseverance and justice.

Lastly, if you like to study flags, then you are a Vexillologist! Thank goodness I do not study flags. Also, thank you to everyone who has served or continues to serve our Nation whether they be veterans, retirees, civilian, military, and our families. Honoring the flag is a good thing, and everyone should be proud to be an American.

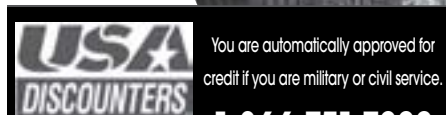
Editor's note: Bob Lucas can be reached at barstowbob@yahoo.net

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ICE, from page 2

Fort Irwin Garrison Organizations

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
Information Management	5	●	100
Legal	2	●	50
Logistics	4	●	75
Pinnacle Housing	49	●	84
Plans, Analysis & Integration Office	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Police/Provost Marshall	2	●	0
Public Affairs	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Public Works	6	●	100
RCI Housing	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Religious Support	2	●	100
Resource Management Office	1	●	100
Safety	16	●	100
NTC HQ Adjunct General Office	0	[NOT RATED]	—
American Red Cross	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Armed Forces Bank 1 - Main Branch	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Armed Forces Bank 3 - PX Branch	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Community Information Manager	1	●	100
Landmark Inn	2	●	100
Military Family Life Consultants	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Plans, Training, Security	0	[NOT RATED]	—
WIC (Woman, Infants, and Children)	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Plans, Training, Security	0	[NOT RATED]	—
WIC (Woman, Infants, and Children)	0	[NOT RATED]	—
WIC (Woman, Infants, and Children)	0	[NOT RATED]	—

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

The following are a sampling of ICE submissions at Fort Irwin in the past three weeks. If the customer requests a response, service providers are expected to respond to the customer within three business days and post follow-up notes in ICE.

AAFES-Car Center

Customer Comment: I recently saw the opening of the smog center on post. This is excellent! This service will greatly help Soldiers on post and prevent long trips into Barstow. I wanted to pass along a recommendation to see if the post has looked into trying to get the DMV to come here on post. They won't come permanently, but even once or twice a month would help troopers and keep them at work instead of having to waste a day or ruin a comp weekend. **Agency Response:** Thank you for the comment. I am glad that the smog machine is a desired item for the installation. We have been working with DMV for the past two months in trying to get them onto the installation. But with all of the budget problems with the State Government, it has been a struggle to get them to commit to coming to the installation. We are in contact with them (weekly) to see if they have gotten the final verdict on whether they will come out or not. Our point-of-contact this past week was not very positive on this occurring. There is a possibility of another option, and we will begin start heading in that direction within the next couple of weeks.

Freedom Dogs



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Red Cross Station needs volunteers

Put your professional, administrative skills to use

BY HEATHER ADAMS

Fort Irwin American Red Cross Station
Publicity Chairwoman

Are you looking to put your professional and administrative skills to use? Do you have some spare time and want to contribute towards the lives of the Soldiers and families of Fort Irwin? If so, you might be a good fit for one of the vacant leadership positions with the Fort Irwin Red Cross Station. Stephanie Luce, Red Cross Station manager, is currently looking to fill three chair positions: Hospital Chair, Volunteer Chair and Station Chair, and other key volunteer positions.

Currently, the Fort Irwin Red Cross Station has approximately 35 volunteers. The Volunteer Chair manages these volunteers and recruits, trains and develops new volunteers to effectively use their skills and talents. This Chair works with the Station Management Team to develop a volunteer staff to support the community in delivering Red Cross Services.

Nationwide, the American Red Cross has its greatest representation of volunteers in hospitals and medical clinics, and Fort Irwin is no different. The primary function of the Hospital Chair is to liaise between the Red Cross Station and MEDDAC

regarding Red Cross services, particularly concerning volunteers. A medical background isn't necessary for this chair position, but strong communication and administrative skills are important.

The Fort Irwin Red Cross Station also needs a Station Chair. This position partners with Station Manager Stephanie Luce and directs, guides, and implements Red Cross programs and services at Fort Irwin. This position appoints and supervises all station leadership volunteers, participates in developing station objectives and action plans and participates in the budget process. This is a very important position and therefore requires strong leadership, administrative, communication, and management skills.

The Red Cross Station also needs additional CPR and AED instructors. The Station offers these classes just about every month, but the number of instructors is limited. If you are certified to instruct this class, your help is needed.

If you would like to learn more about any of these opportunities or if you would be interested in volunteering one or two days a week to answer phone calls, stop by the Fort Irwin Red Cross Station in Bldg. 573, call 380-3697, or e-mail Station Manager Stephanie Luce at luc@susa.redcross.org.



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PHOTOS BY LINCOLN MARIN

Shooter, Sgt. Burke of the Military Police Company, gives specific instructions to the hostages.

Emergency responders participate in Active Shooter Exercise

BY MARK LAURY

DPTMS

Post Anti-terrorism Officer

Sirens blared, two individuals lie fatally injured in a parking lot off of B Avenue on Apr. 21. This nightmarish scene imitated a real incident, providing training for emergency responders. Post emergency responders participated in a Active Shooter attack as part of a force protection exercise. Fort Irwin Antiterrorism Officer Mark L. Laury said the situation mimicked some intelligence the FBI provided installation staff.

"The training reflects what we might be looking at," he said.

At about 8:30 a.m., emergency personnel responded to a call of a shooting incident, at the intersection of B Avenue and First Street. When they arrived, they found 2 simulated casualties – fatally wounded by gunshots.

Fort Irwin Firefighters and Police first tried to determine what caused the shootings to occur. After an investigation, it was determined that an argument started between a husband, wife and a male associate of the wife, which fueled the tension between the couple.

Military police officers manned the emergency call center and directed traffic around the scene, and military working dogs and their handlers ensured no other threats existed in the area.

In order to coordinate all the activities, directorate leaders determined they needed

to establish an incident command post near the site.

The exercise culminated training staff members undergo daily, CPT Weiner said.

"They do little bits of this every day. It's not as intense, but they get trained every day doing their jobs," he said, adding military police direct traffic and medical responders treat people every day.

Weiner thought all parties involved performed well, something outside evaluation teams also concluded, Laury said.

"The team auditing us was very impressed. They had nothing but kudos," he said. "They took away some ideas they want to implement at other installations."

Post staff conducts smaller force protection exercises quarterly, events that Laury believes contributed to this exercise's high marks. He added the team noted emergency response personnel's cohesiveness as an exercise strong point.



(ABOVE) Hostage Donna Vernon of Plans, Analysis and Integration Office (PAIO) sits and waits patiently to be rescued.

(BELOW) Role playing shooter shouts out instructions to his hostages, and tells them, if anyone does anything other than what he says, they will be killed.



Law enforcement and paramedics come together to gather important information pertaining to the wounded hostages and the shooter.



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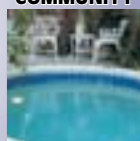
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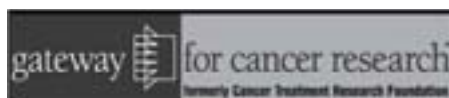
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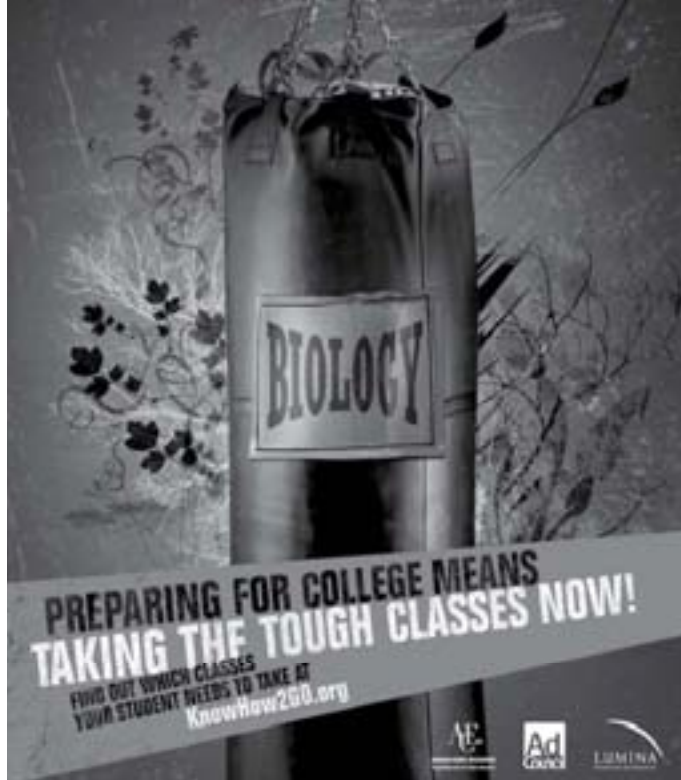
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