



HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

Volume 6, Number 26

www.irwin.army.mil

July 1, 2010

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

Independence Celebration

Celebrate Fourth of July at Fort Irwin's Army field, 5-10 p.m., ending with a Firework Extravaganza. There will be entertainment, contests, fun, food, activities, games, water slides, dunk tanks, monkey jumpers, face painting, and more. For more information, call 380-2194. There is absolutely free admission. No pets are allowed at Army Field.

Vendors Wanted

Food and retail vendors needed for the Fourth of July celebration at Fort Irwin. Attention all units and family readiness groups (FRGs): if you need a great opportunity to raise funds, come on out for the Fourth of July. Call 380-2194 for details.

Volunteers Needed

Civilian Work Force volunteers are needed for upcoming Community FIRST Focus Group. Fort Irwin needs your help to identify and resolve issues that address the well-being of the Army Civilian Work Force. Community FIRST focus groups supply leaders to hear the voice of the customer and to manage and improve installation services that are important to the installation. The Civilian Focus Group will meet at the Forum in Bldg. 1200, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., July 7. Refreshments are provided and reservations are needed due to limited seating. To reserve your seat to participate in this quarterly focus group, please contact Meredith Storm, Customer Service Officer at 380-7639 or meredith.storm@us.army.mil.



National Training Center and Fort Irwin commander, Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, center, leads ribbon-cutting ceremony that commemorated new emergency services capabilities at Fort Irwin, June 29.

New emergency services

Additions, upgrades allow partnership with San Bernardino County

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GUSTAVO BAHENA
Warrior Staff Writer

The National Training Center and Fort Irwin hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to recognize the introduction of new emergency services at this U.S. Army installation, June 29.

The ribbon-cutting was held at the parade field under a shade structure and featured Fort Irwin and NTC commander, Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, as guest speaker.

"Today's ribbon-cutting recognizes multiple new services that are long overdue for imple-

mentation at the National Training Center," Abrams said.

Fort Irwin and the NTC has procured new resources and provided upgrades to its emergency services system. Personnel have been hired, new communications equipment has been emplaced and software upgrades have been installed. The new personnel include 10 emergency medical dispatchers and nine paramedic firefighters. A new communications 800 MHz repeater has been installed to provide communications from Fort Irwin to trauma centers in the County of San Bernardino and

the state of Nevada. In addition, new emergency medical dispatch computer hardware and software has been incorporated into the existing Fort Irwin emergency dispatch center.

"Under the leadership of our garrison commander, Col. Jim Chevallier, and his team, we are constantly making improvements to our installation - some small, some big, but all part of our continuing effort to make life a little better for our Soldiers and families, who sacrifice so much in support of our country," Abrams said.

See Emergency, page 3

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JULY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				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	27	28	29	30	31

ROTATIONAL SOLDIER USE OF POST FACILITIES

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We salute, honor



454

FORT IRWIN SOLDIERS
CURRENTLY DEPLOYED

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

Letter to the Editor

In loving memory of Raymond Adams

It doesn't seem like it has been one year since my brother passed away ... on July 2, 2009. It only seems like yesterday we would be laughing and talking on our way to work together. I, at least, got to say goodbye to him, not knowing it was going to be the last time. I was having my lunch at his work that day. I will never forget you and I miss you so much.

I would like to thank the community of Fort Irwin for all the support they gave

me and also the donations given on behalf of my brother. There are three people I would like to specifically thank for what they did for me. One is Sherri — she is the manager of Strike Zone Bowling Center, where my brother worked. She put out a donation box and raised a lot of money for my brother. The second person is a lady that bowls at night there and dances to the music being played.

She made cup cakes and sold them in front of the Post Exchange as a fundraiser for my brother. The third person is Wes Campbell, my boss with Pinnacle maintenance. My family here helped me, too. All I can say is "Thank you." To everyone, I will never forget what you have done for me and on behalf of my brother.

Sincerely Michael Adams

ICE Program Gives Customers a Voice

ICE Year-To-Date Report
Jan. 1, 2010 – June 20, 2010

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	11	●	45
AAFES	198	●	34
Commissary	53	●	43
Fort Irwin Garrison	4597	●	90
Veterinary Services	66	●	84
DENTAC	447	●	96
MEDDAC	549	●	89

ICE Weekly Report
June 10, 2010–June 20, 2010

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	1	●	0
AAFES	25	●	44
Commissary	1	●	0
Fort Irwin Garrison	298	●	86
Veterinary Services	2	●	0
DENTAC	54	●	96
MEDDAC	35	●	63

Fort Irwin Garrison Organizations

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation	81	●	74
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center	2	●	100
Equal Employment Opportunity	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Human Resources	167	●	99
Information Management	1	●	100
Legal	1	●	0
Logistics	2	●	0
Pinnacle Housing	40	●	72
Plans, Analysis & Integration Office	5	●	100
Police/Provost Marshall	6	●	20
Public Affairs	1	[NOT RATED]	—
Public Works	1	[NOT RATED]	—
RCI Housing	2	●	0
Religious Support (California)	2	●	100
Resource Management Office	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Safety	10	●	100
NTC HQ Adjunct General Office	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Soldier Arrival, Orientation, and Briefing	0	[NOT RATED]	—
American Red Cross	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Armed Forces Bank 1 - Main Branch	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Armed Forces Bank 3 - PX Branch	1	●	100
Community Information Manager	1	●	0
Landmark Inn	4	●	33
Military Family Life Consultants	0	[NOT RATED]	—
MWR, Recreation, Leisure Travel Services	1	●	100
Plans, Training, Security	0	[NOT RATED]	—
WIC (Woman, Infants, and Children)	0	[NOT RATED]	—

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

See ICE, page 12

WHO WE ARE

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

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HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

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SUBMISSIONS

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

NEWSPAPER AWARDS

2nd Place, 2009 U.S. Army IMCOM-West
Newspaper Competition — Tabloid Category

Honorable Mention, 2008 Dept. of the Army

Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware
Newspaper Competition — Tabloid category

3rd Place, 2007 U.S. Army IMCOM-West
Newspaper Competition — Tabloid Category

SEND US FEEDBACK

Send your questions, suggestions, or problems to:
1. Your chain of command
2. ICE (Interactive Customer Evaluation)
3. CG's Hotline: 380-5463

Out with the old...

Demolition of old housing precedes construction of new units

STORY AND PHOTOS BY GUSTAVO BAHENA

Warrior Staff Writer

Reduced to rubble. That was the recent fate of the Cactus Cove housing area on Fort Irwin that had been originally constructed in 1963 on Fort Irwin.

The flattening by bulldozer of the single-story structures is the beginning phase of the continuing addition of new housing units for families at this High Desert military installation. The old housing was flanked by Sandy Basin and Cracker Jack Flats, two housing areas that were built in the last six years. It seemed only natural that Cactus Cove would eventually be replaced with new homes. Cactus Cove actually was the last sub-standard housing remaining on Fort Irwin, said Col. Jim Chevallier, commander of Fort Irwin U.S. Army Garrison.

The old 54 units on Cactus Cove will be replaced with 92 new homes. The 92 units were not part of the initial development plan for new privatized housing on Fort Irwin begun in 2004. This new construction is possible because of a one-time funding contribution from the Army, said Chevallier. The new housing is technically a continuation of Sandy Basin 2, which is one of the latest housing areas built on Fort Irwin, and was officially completed in January.

Rick Bailitz, development executive with Clark Realty Capital, said that once construction begins at the old Cactus Cove area, about 20 to 25 new homes could be built per month. The homes will be similar in structure to the homes in Sandy Basin. An estimated time of completion would be the Spring of 2011.

According to Chevallier, most Army installations in the continental U.S. have a planning factor that allows 30 percent of the military population to live on post and 70 percent to live away. Fort Irwin is an exception to that general rule.

"We are authorized a plan to build to a point where 100 percent of our population can live on the installation," Chevallier said.

New housing on Fort Irwin is the outcome of a development plan that included the construction of modern homes

and having a private company, Pinnacle, control the issuing and maintenance of housing units. The \$350 million construction project was realized by a team consisting of the U.S. Army Fort Irwin Garrison, Residential Community Initiatives,

Pinnacle, and Clark. The project initially produced 715 new family housing units on Fort Irwin that are part of a new standard in housing across the Army. The new units will bump that number past 800.

A bulldozer tears apart an old housing unit at Cactus Cove on Fort Irwin, June 1. The Cactus Cove units were built in 1963 and will be replaced with 94 new homes similar to the ones built at Sandy Basin.



Fort Irwin U.S. Army Garrison commander, Col. Jim Chevallier, gets a bulldozer operator's view of the demolition being conducted at Cactus Cove housing area, June 1.

Emergency, from page 1



Rex Moen, field representative for California State Senator Roy Ashburn, presents a certificate of recognition to National Training Center and Fort Irwin commander, Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams during ribbon-cutting ceremony, June 29. The ribbon-cutting recognized new emergency services established on Fort Irwin, which is situated in Ashburn's district (18th).

Abrams explained the history behind the improvements that have been implemented. He stated that the November 2009 death of Sgt. Maj. Matthew Stevens, 41, after an off-road accident at Fort Irwin, prompted a review of emergency services here. The results of subsequent investigations revealed that emergency procedures were followed correctly and that the severity of Stevens' injuries resulted in his death. However, the investigations also revealed that emergency management systems and capabilities needed to be upgraded.

The review showed that, despite being located in San Bernardino County, Fort Irwin was not part of the San Bernardino emergency services architecture, said Abrams. Fort Irwin is now a full member of the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA), which allows this post to leverage ICEMA capabilities and provide immediate support, within capabilities, to surrounding civilian communities.

Paramedic firefighters will be able to communicate by radio with trauma doctors and coordinate medical evacuations directly to trauma centers if necessary, said Mike Butolph, director of Emergency Services on Fort Irwin. Medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) assessment and coordination will follow protocol established by ICEMA. This new communications and coordination effort makes possible a direct MEDEVAC from an accident scene to trauma centers.

The new communications equipment will also allow emergency personnel from surrounding communities to maintain

or establish radio communications in remote areas north of Fort Irwin, said Butolph.

New 911 capabilities include the ability of emergency dispatchers to provide life-saving instructions to callers, so that immediate care can be performed while paramedics travel to the scene.

The new services and equipment expand an emergency service system already in place at Fort Irwin that includes: fire stations, hospital, basic life support-trained firefighters, military medical personnel and helicopter ambulances. These services support the residents of Fort Irwin, who include thousands of military family members and service members, and a civilian workforce unmatched in size anywhere else in the county. Emergency services also support the primary mission of the NTC, which is to train brigade-size military units before they deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan. The NTC has expanded its capability to provide immediate care even for those who are located in the remote areas of the training center, according to Butolph.

The introduction of this hardware is a "win-win" for Fort Irwin and the county of San Bernardino, he said.

The upgrade to the Fort Irwin emergency services has been possible through a collaborative effort with the office of San Bernardino County Communications and ICEMA. The funding for the Improvements is provided by the U.S. Army.

Crime Watch

Information provided by Provost Marshal Office

Credit card fraud. Location: California. Victim related that person(s) unknown, falsely purchased items with the victim's credit card number.

DUI. Location: North Loop . Police stopped the subject for failure to stop at a stop sign. Police determined that the subject was driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Larceny of private property. Location: Sandy Basin housing. Victim reported that person(s) unknown entered the victim's vehicle and stole the stereo face plate.

Damage to private property. Location: Coyote Springs victim reported that person(s) unknown broke the windshield of the victim's vehicle.

Larceny of private property. Location: Bldg. #### Victim reported that person(s) unknown stole the victim's cell phone from the victim's desk.

Stray animal. Location: Tiefert View housing . Neighbors reported two stray dogs. Animal control responded and captured the critters.

Disturbance. Location: Cactus Cove housing. Police responded to the report of a verbal domestic disturbance.

Child custody. Location: Bldg. ####. Police assisted in calming a family disturbance over child visitation.

Larceny of private property. Location: Sandy Basin housing. Victim reported that the victim's leaf blower was stolen from the victim's trailer.

Adopt-a-pet



Name: Bashful
Breed: Domestic short hair
Gender: Male
Age: Approx. 3-months-old
Bashful is available for adoption at the Fort Irwin Vet's Clinic. Call 380-3025 for more information. You can also check out the Fort Irwin section on www.petfinder.com

News Briefs

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, 8:30-10:30 a.m. For more information, call 380-4540/5337.

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 website. 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.

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.

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STK. V2415P
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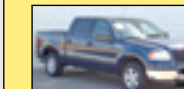
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STK. V2336P
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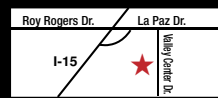


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Worship Services/Chapel Activities

CATHOLIC

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

PROTESTANT

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

GOSPEL

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

LATTER DAY SAINTS

Sacrament Meeting	Sunday, 1 pm.	Blackhorse Chapel
Sunday School	Sunday, 2:15 p.m.	Center Chapel
Priesthood/RSE	Sunday, 3:10 p.m.	CFLC/Bldg 317

MUSLIM

Prayer	Friday, 12 p.m.	Bldg 317
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JEWISH

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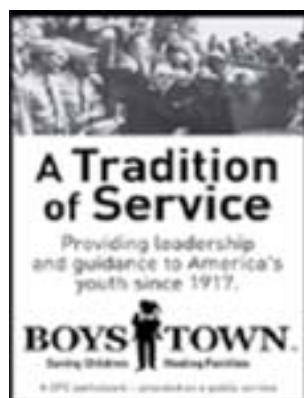
CHAPEL ACTIVITIES

AWANA		
(3 yrs.-6th grade)	Wednesday, 4 p.m.	Center Chapel
HS Bible Study	Wednesday, 6 p.m.	Bldg 320
MOPS	2nd and 4th Wed, 9 a.m.	Center Chapel
Note:	For more information on chapel activities, contact the Center Chapel staff at 380-3562 or the Blackhorse Chapel staff at 380-4088.	

AWANA:	Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed	(2 Tim 2:15)
PWOC:	Protestant Women of the Chapel	
PYOC:	Protestant Youth of the Chapel	
CFLC:	Chaplain Family Life Center, Bldg 320	
MOPS:	Mothers of Pre-Schoolers, Bldg 317	
	Childcare services for ages 5-years-old and under are provided free of charge for all scheduled chapel services.	

Chapel Activities Summer Schedule

June: No extra-activities scheduled for June
July: 29 — Army Chaplaincy 235th Anniversary
 Recurring Worship Services Center Chapel
Friday: Noon — Islamic Prayer Service (Center Chapel (317))
Sunday: 9 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Rosary Before) Sanctuary
 9:30 a.m. — Protestant Sunday school
 10:15 a.m. — The EDGE Catholic Middle School
 11 a.m. — Chapel Next, Contemporary Worship Service (Sanctuary)
 11 a.m. — Protestant Traditional Service (Activity Room)
 (Canceled during block leave)
 2:15 p.m. — Latter Day Saints Religious Education (Activity Room)
 3:15 p.m. — Latter Day Saints- Priesthood & Relief Society (Bldg 317)
 Recurring Worship Services Blackhorse Chapel
Sunday: 9 a.m. — Protestant Liturgical Service (Canceled during block leave)
 11 a.m. — Gospel Service (Canceled during block leave)
 1 p.m. — Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Worship Service
Wednesday: 6 p.m. — Intercessory Prayer; 1900 — Bible study
 Center Chapel Recurring Weekday Programs & Services
 Daily Catholic Mass — Mon., Tues., Thur., Fri. (11:45 a.m.)
 PYOC — Protestant Youth, Middle School Mon. (6-7:30 p.m.)
 PYOC — Protestant Youth High School Mon. (7-9 p.m.)
 PWOC — Protestant Women of Chapel Tues. (9 a.m.) and (6 p.m.)
 AWANA — Wed. (4 p.m.)
 MOPS — Mothers of Preschoolers 2nd & 4th Wed. (9 a.m.)
 LifeTeen — Catholic High School Students Mon. (6:30 p.m.)
 Operation Helping Hands Food Pantry —
 Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m. closed on main Holidays
 For additional information, call Center Chapel at 380-3562



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*Not valid holidays or event periods. Sunday/Thursday offer only. Must be at least 21 years of age, active military member, advance reservations required and subject to availability. Offer is non-transferable. Valid military ID and Players Club membership required upon check-in. Additional rules/regulations apply. Management reserves the right to cancel or alter this promotion at any time.

Community Happenings

GSAB FRG Events

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

HHD, GSAB

July 8: HHD FRG meeting; Time: 6 p.m., Location: Bldg. 507, Topic: Parent/Child Communication. If you should have any questions contact Ms. Hunter at 380-7781 or email: hh-dfrg507@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.

1/11 ACR FRG Events

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

- July 6:** FRG Steering Committee Meeting, 4 p.m., Squadron Conference Room
- July 6:** HHT, FRG Meeting, 5 p.m., Squadron Conference Room.
- July 6:** D Company, FRG Meeting, 6 p.m., Squadron Conference Room.
- July 7:** B Troop, FRG Meeting, 5 p.m., Squadron Conference Room.
- July 7:** I Battery, FRG Meeting, 6 p.m., Squadron Conference Room.
- July 26:** A Troop, FRG Meeting, 5 p.m., Squadron Conference Room.
- July 27:** C Troop, FRG Meeting, 4 p.m., Squadron Conference Room.

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

Thrift Store Community Workdays

In the past two years, the Fort Irwin Thrift Store, through the Officer and Civilian Spouses Club Welfare and Scholarship campaigns, has returned more than \$45,000 to the community. Recipients include numerous private organizations, individual college scholarship awardees, and the students, parents and teachers of public schools. The Thrift Store is closed during Block Leave and donations have piled up. The donation box is full and so are the storage buildings. Thrift Store needs the community's help to restock the store and prepare it for our July 2 store reopening. If your organization, club, or school has received money from the Thrift Store, this is your opportunity to help the Thrift Store continue to support you. Community workday is today/July 1, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information or to volunteer, call 380-4076 or stop by the store to help.

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.

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, 9-10 a.m., on 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.

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

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.

At the Movies

Thursday, July 1

7 p.m. Closed

Friday, July 2

7 p.m. Letters to Juliet (PG)

7 p.m. Just Right (PG)

9:30 p.m. Sex in the City (R)

9:30 p.m. Macgruber (R)

Saturday, July 3

7 p.m. Letters to Juliet (PG)

7 p.m. Just Right (PG)

9:30 p.m. Sex in the City (R)

9:30 p.m. Macgruber (R)

Sunday, July 4

4 p.m. Shrek Forever After (PG)

7 p.m. Letters to Juliet (PG)

7 p.m. Iron Man 2 (PG-13)

Monday, July 5

7 p.m. Sex in the City (R)

7 p.m. Robinhood (R)

Tuesday, July 6

7 p.m. Closed

Wednesday, July 7

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.

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.

Chaplain Activities

July 6: The Five Love Languages seminar, from 11:45 to 12:45 p.m. Bring your lunch. Bldg. 320, behind the Center Chapel. July 13: Anger, Stuff It, Spew It, or Study It, a mini-seminar on relationship issues. Bldg. 320, behind the Center Chapel. For more information, call 380-4664.

Relationship Workshops

The Chaplain Family Life Center, located in Bldg. 320 — behind the Center Chapel, will host a series of mini-workshops on a variety of relationship issues, from 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Tuesdays, beginning July 6 through Aug. 17.

Bark Park Closure

The Bark Park will be closed temporarily for improvements as of June 23. Improvements will be made so your experience at the park will be better. For more information, call 380-7387.

Thrift Store Reopens

The Fort Irwin Thrift Store reopens tomorrow, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All the donations dropped off during Block

Leave are processed and ready to sell. Don't miss all the new merchandise. All profits are returned to the community through the Military and Civilian Spouses Club Welfare & Scholarship campaigns. The store is located in the Desert Depot on Inner Loop Road.

Shockwave's July Lineup

Ultimate Fighting Championship: Watch UFC 116 on July 3, and witness the biggest heavyweight battle in history! At Shockwave, Lesnar and Carwin will fight for the heavyweight championship. Show starts at 7 p.m. Cover charge of \$10 will get you into Shockwave for the greatest UFC event of the year. As always don't miss out on the great food and drinks. For more details call 380-8646.

Unplugged: Check out Singer/Song writer Caleb Fritel. Starting July 9, Shockwave will be featuring acoustic nights every Friday during the month of July, from 5-8 p.m. Enjoy great music and appetizers. Visit fortirwinfmwr.com for a sound check of Unplugged Nights. Call 380-8646 for more details. Fridays in July have just gotten better, only at Shockwave.

Dueling Pianos: Dueling Pianos is returning to Shockwave on July 23. If you missed their last show at Shockwave, here is your chance. Show starts at 8 p.m. Opening for Dueling Pianos is Unplugged, so arrive early and listen to singer/songwriter Caleb Fritel boogie on the acoustic guitar from 5-8 p.m. Get your tickets early at Shockwave starting July 5, tickets are just \$10 each. Make sure you join FMWR Facebook page for Dueling Piano ticket giveaways!

Thrash Metal: Shockwave presents Damage Inc., Southern California's Metallica Tribute. Check out the band on July 24, 8 p.m. Remember songs like Enter Sandman & Master of Puppets? Revisit Metallica's greatest songs while chilling at Shockwave.

Family Resiliency Training

916th Support Brigade will host a Family Resiliency Training at Sandy Basin Community Center, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., July 21. Focus of the training will include: Learning the five dimensions of resiliency, alcohol choices, understanding the effects of deployments on families, learning what Outdoor Recreation has to offer this summer. Organizations that will be present include Army Community Service, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, and Dr. Seuss. Free snacks, free face painting, and free children activities will be available. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Sandoval, 380-3395.

Youth and School Activities

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

Week 6: June 28-July 2: If you build it (constructing items for the dog park, weave polls, jumps, teeter board, and water bowl holders). Please register your youth at Parent Central Bldg. 1322.

Week 7: July 5-July 9: Sports Week (Water Polo, Ultimate Frisbee, Frisbee Golf and Skateboarding)

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., July 1

Skeet and Trap Clinic
5:30-7 p.m.
Skeet & Trap
380-5816

Sat., July 3

UFC 116 Heavyweight Fight
7 p.m.
Shock Wave
380-8646

Sun., July 4

4th of July Celebration
5-10 p.m.
Army Field
380-2194

Tue., July 6

Relationships Mini-Workshop
11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
Family Life Center, Bldg. 320
380-4664

Wed., July 7

Civilian Workforce Focus Group
8-12 a.m.
The Forum (Bldg. 1200)
Meredith Storm, 380-7639

Wed., July 14

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

Thu., July 22

Safeguarding Personal Information Training
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Bldg. 552, Avenue G
380-4540/5337

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

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A great way for family time is ...

Eating dinner together

BY VALENCIA R. BARNES

Employee Assistance Program
Army Substance Abuse Program

With all that goes on in our busy lives, we forget the simple meaningful things. A good meal, paired with good conversation is a great way to relax and have fun with your family. Eating dinner together every night as a family is a good way to increase family connections. This is a time when parents get to check-in with their children and find out what is going on in their lives. Children of all ages (even though our teens might not want to admit it) enjoy spending time with their parents and enjoy knowing they will have this dedicated time. Everyone gets a chance to share their days and update family members on plans, activities, and so on. But for this to be a positive experience, you have to leave the discussions about discipline and problems with behavior for a different time.

In addition, family discussions at the dinner table can help children learn and improve their communication skills. Family members can take turns and allow

everyone to get a turn leading or starting discussions. Another positive finding from a Harvard study shows that children learn the importance of preparing their own meals and eating more healthfully if this is modeled by their parents. When parents try different types a food, children are more likely to try as well. Parents can also have children help with the preparation of meals by giving tasks that are age-appropriate. For example, setting the table or chopping vegetables for salad, and so on. The after dinner cleanup can be enjoyed family time as well. Dividing the cleanup so that one person isn't left with all of the responsibility gets the job done quickly while demonstrating the importance of teamwork.

If schedules don't permit a regular dinner, do breakfast or lunch, but commit to whatever meal you can. Children, who are able to understand your irregular schedule, will appreciate your commitment to eating with them when your schedule allows. Remember that quality time with your family is good way to "let go" the stress from the day.



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Coyote Activity Center Update

BY SANDY CLARK

Coyote Activity Center Fitness Coordinator

I am happy to report we are hanging in at the CAC. I am pleasantly surprised with our numbers these last two weeks. Although it's not the numbers we are used to, people are still participating in classes. For the week of June 18 thru June 24 we had 42 in the a.m. and 43 in the p.m.; total of 85. Our monthly count to date is 173 a.m. and 195 p.m.; total of 368.

I really think these numbers are good for June and block leave.

We have confirmed a date with AFAA for our Military Fitness Specialist Certification. The event will take place Sept. 24, 25, and 26. They are sending me out a packet to include flyers and other information. I plan on getting the information out to all of the gyms in the Barstow and Victorville area. My goal is have as many people as possible; soldiers and civilians. We have enough time to really get this information out to the community and make it a great learning experience.

We will be gearing up for our 2nd Aerobathon in August. We'll do it as a "back to school" event. Once kids are back in school, class sizes will pick up again so hold tight.

I'm also planning on doing a "mini" Aerobathon once a month, starting in September. This will be a free class and will showcase all of the classes that we offer. We will have them in 10-15 minute intervals so that the community can get a feel of all our classes and get to know our instructors.

Thanks so much for your support. Have a great weekend!

'What can I do to get rid of this?'

BY SANDY CLARK

Coyote Activity Center Fitness Coordinator

It seems like lately the question of the day is, "What can I do to get rid of this?" People ask me this as they are pinching their problem area, with a look of frustration on their face. "I do about 200 crunches a day, and I still have it," they say. I know I am about to bust your bubble but, you cannot spot train! Doing 200 crunches a day will not give you that six pack

abdomen you've been dreaming about. Doing 100 leg abductors will not give you those lean legs you so desire. It's a balance of all the components of fitness not just one. Cardio, weight training, flexibility and above all, nutrition! They all work together. One component cannot stand alone. If you think so, you'll forever be frustrated with your fitness progress. Don't do this to yourself; make a plan!

You have to decrease all over body fat. You cannot reduce fat in one area. Fat does

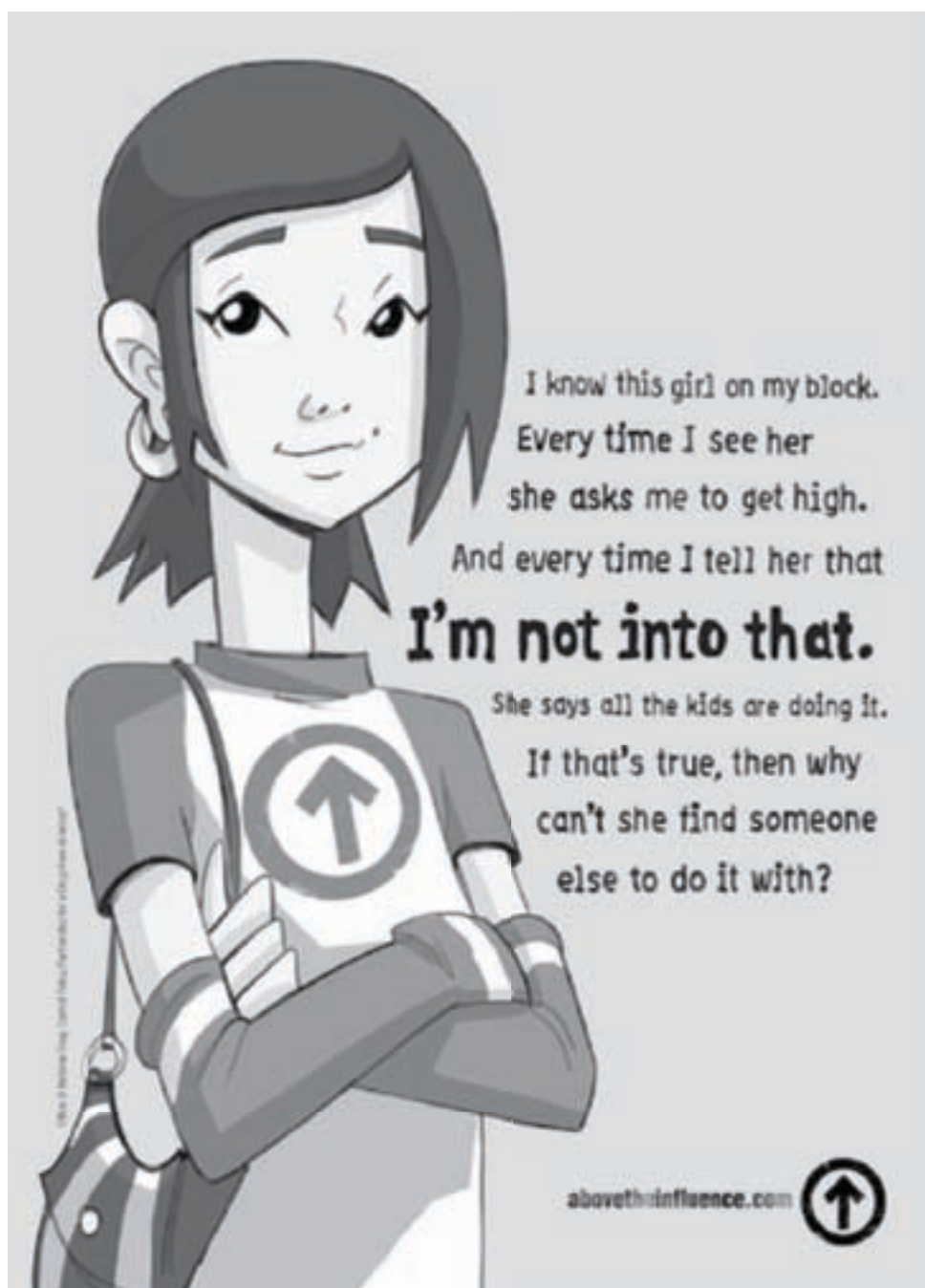
not discriminate, it deposits all over your body. Although, men do typically store fat in the abdominal area while women store the legs and glutes; the reduction will come from all over.

Go to the gym or wherever you workout prepared. Do your research. Make sure to incorporate all of the components of fitness. There is a lot of information out there about how to start and develop workout programs. Just beware of crazy fad diets and exercises.

Make sure you are doing exercises that are safe and have a purpose. Don't do something because you saw a cool picture in a magazine.

You have to stop thinking "What exercises will give me nice toned arms?" and start thinking cardio, weight training and nutrition! That's the key to those toned arms, tight abs, and cut legs. It's a process people; there are no short cuts. You can do anything you set your mind to!

Your partner in Fitness — Sandy



Recycling more than bottles

Fort Irwin set to reuse water

BY HOWARD BOOGLEY
Warrior Volunteer Writer

Fort Irwin and the National Training Center will take a wet step forward in their recycling efforts as the installation officially turns on the tap of its recycled water program.

The ceremony is set for the Four Plex Sports Complex, located at the intersection of 1st Street and Inner Loop Road, 11 a.m., July 6.

“Approximately 20 percent of the total drinking water supply is forecasted to be offset by recycled water,” explained CH2M Hill Fort Irwin UPP Engineering Manager Scott Boettcher, noting the importance of the effort.

Based upon current projections, the installation’s existing groundwater sources may support Fort Irwin for as long as 50 years or as little as 35 years, Boettcher said.

“Therefore, aggressive water management and conservation measures must be implemented to extend the existing sources of supply and to potentially develop alternative water sources,” he said. “Neither are simple or immediate actions, but both are vitally important to Fort Irwin.”

Recycled water is wastewater that has been processed through modern primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment for beneficial reuse following the strict standards of state and local agencies, he said.

Fort Irwin residents and businesses generate wastewater that flows through a network of pipeline to a wastewater treatment plant located at the end of 5th Street, where it undergoes extensive cleansing through primary and secondary treatment processes before it is discharged to evaporation and percolation ponds, he said.

“Water that will be recycled goes through an additional treatment step, a ‘tertiary’ stage that uses flocculation, filtration, and disinfection to further remove bacteria and viruses from the water,” he explained.

Recycled water is most commonly used for landscape irrigation of schools grounds, parks, and golf courses, and more recently, however, it also has been used for recreation purposes, habitat restoration, and commercial uses such as paper production, heating and cooling, he said.

“Initially, recycled water uses at Fort Irwin will be used for irrigating baseball and soccer fields, as well as dust control for construction activities,” he added.

Recycled water has been used safely in California for more than four decades, and although it frequently meets the same standards as drinking water, recycled water is not used or intended for consumption, he said.

“In fact, recycled water pipelines, which are colored purple, are entirely separate from drinking water lines,” he said. “State and local regulators strictly guide the use of recycled water to protect public health and safety.”

The Department of Public Health has developed Title 22, Division 4 of the California Code of Regulations, which establish the water reclamation health requirements and the recycled water produced by Fort Irwin’s tertiary treatment plant which meets the most stringent standards established by Title 22 and is safe for all human contact, except drinking, he said.

In the future, the majority of water for irrigating baseball and soccer fields, and roadway landscaping will be sprinkled with recycled water, Boettcher said. This will account for approximately 21 acres of turf irrigation

Army testing rugged, autonomous robot vehicle

BY KRIS OSBORN AND ANDREW KERBRAT
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — The U.S. Army’s Autonomous Platform Demonstrator, or APD, is a 9.6-ton, six-wheeled, hybrid-electric robotic vehicle currently undergoing developmental and mobility testing at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; the demonstrator vehicle represents the state of the art in unmanned ground vehicle mobility technology.

With its advanced hybrid-electric drive train, the 15-foot-long vehicle, being developed by the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center, or TARDEC, can achieve speeds of over 50mph.

When equipped with its autonomous navigation system, the APD is configured with GPS waypoint technology, an inertial measurement unit and computer algorithms which enable it to move autonomously at speeds up to 50mph while avoiding obstacles in its path.

“The vehicle has obstacle detection and avoidance technology,” said Dr. Jim Overholt, senior research scientist in robotics, Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center.

The mobility testing is aimed at advancing and developing the robot’s ability to maneuver at higher speeds while maintaining extreme terrain-ability at lower speeds.

“We’ve run it through courses, slope testing and brake testing,” said Chris Ostrowski, associate director for Vehicle Electronics and Architectures at TARDEC.

The APD is currently testing high-speed maneuverability, such as lane changing. “This is a challenging controls problem with a skid steer vehicle. We want the robot to be stable when performing maneuvers like this, but we also want it to retain the other mobility characteristics that it possesses at lower speeds,” said Ostrowski.

Other mobility characteristics include the ability to climb a

one-meter step, navigate a 60-percent slope, and pivot turn in place.

Being a series hybrid-electric vehicle, the APD is propelled by six in-hub electric motors and has a diesel generator which charges its lithium ion batteries.

“The state-of-the-art hybrid-electric drive train is just one of the mobility technologies we are demonstrating with this platform,” said Andrew Kerbrat, APD project manager, TARDEC.

Other technologies being demonstrated include advanced suspension systems, thermal and power management systems, robotic safety systems, and lightweight hull technologies.

“We’ve made a lot of progress with this platform in a short time period. From concept to wheels on the ground was just a shade over two years, and in the eight months since then, we’ve driven almost 3,000 kilometers and have demonstrated 95 percent of the metrics that we were trying to show with this platform,” said Kerbrat.

APD is the mobility platform being used by the Robotic Vehicle

Control Architecture, or RVCA Army Technology Objective, also out of TARDEC. Working with PEO-Integration, RVCA has integrated a suite of system control, display and sensing hardware and software onto APD that allow it to be controlled real-time by a Soldier, or operate in an autonomous mode.

“It uses a variety of sensors and a Ladar — a laser/radar scanning radar that can detect moving objects at distances,” said Overholt. Additionally, RVCA provides Reconnaissance Surveillance and Target Acquisition capabilities.

“It has a four-meter mast with a sensor ball on top so it goes up pretty high and can see out quite a ways,” said Chris Ostrowski.

“When you combine the autonomy and control capabilities provided by RVCA with the extreme mobility characteristics of APD, it allows the Soldier operator to quickly deploy a mission payload precisely where he wants it, and over some very tough terrain,” said Kerbrat.

“The bottom line is that we are providing the Soldier with a significant capability that will assist him in the performance of his mission, while keeping him safer in the process.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF ARMY AUTONOMOUS PLATFORM DEMONSTRATOR





SGT. JEREMY PITCHER

DIYALA, Iraq — An unmanned aerial vehicle departs from its pneumatic launcher to provide real-time surveillance high above the battlefield.

UAV pilots maintain awareness above battlefield

BY SGT. RICHARD ANDRADE

16th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) pilots maintain an “eye-in-the-sky” view providing real-time surveillance high above the battlefield in order to keep Soldiers safe from unexpected enemy attacks at the U.S. Army National Training Center.

Before putting Soldiers in harm’s way, military UAVs perform aerial reconnaissance, be it night or day. At night the UAV uses night-vision to find the point of origin of any attack, some even carry out attack missions. UAVs have many uses including safely scanning a large area and providing accurate information on potential enemies.

The ground data terminal antenna receives intelligence between the ground control station and the UAV up to 125 kilometers away. The GCS is where the pilots drive the UAVs and is located near the tactical operations center (TOC) providing vitally important real-time video.

“My Soldiers and I provide a ‘bird’s eye’ view situational awareness for the soldiers on the ground,” said Staff Sgt. Thomas Tichy, 66th Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. The 3rd ACR is stationed at Fort Hood, Texas.

“We provide valuable intelligence to our regimental TOC,” he said. “They decide what to do with our intelligence and put it into action.”

Pvt. Aaron Grumm, also of the 66th MI Co., said his mission at NTC is to provide reconnaissance using a wide array of tactical UAVs. The aerial vehicles cover a larger area than regular ground units would cover in the same amount of time.

“If for example, a Soldier would be lost, we would help find them,” said Grumm, “We can search from above covering a larger area faster than a ground team.”

“From high above the ground they can spot someone about to bury an improvised explosive device, or people who are engaging our ground forces,” Tichy said.

Tichy said some of the UAV operators in his company have combat experience using their real-time UAV feed to coordinate with Apache and Kiowa helicopter fire teams to engage anti-coalition forces.

Sgt. Joshua Peterson, also of the 66th MI Co., said his team has direct communication with the TOC and consequently his team is called upon the second there is mortar, artillery fire, or indirect fire directed towards coalition forces.

The vehicle uses a pneumatic launcher upon take-off and is recovered using an arresting hook and cable system similar to the ones used on aircraft carriers. At the conclusion of a mission, once the UAV lands, proper maintenance is conducted to prepare it for any future missions.

Peterson suggests that UAVs are a valuable asset that helps save lives in the combat zone.

“UAVs are the future of warfare,” Peterson said. “Hopefully there will be a time when we can actually go into war without sending any personnel.”



SGT. RICHARD ANDRADE

Pfc Mathew Green, a native of Rogers, Arkansas and Pvt Aaron Grumm of Sierra Vista, Arizona both Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operators, from the 66th Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas put together the ground data terminal antenna on top of a scissor lift 25 May. The GDTA provides data links between the ground control station and aerial vehicles. UAVs perform reconnaissance and even carry out attack missions from high above the battlefield.



Pfc Mathew Green, a native of Rogers, Arkansas, Pvt Aaron Grumm of Sierra Vista, Arizona and Staff Sgt. Thomas Tichy, a native of Kelliher, Minnesota all Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operators from the 66th Military Intelligence Company, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas, monitor their work station where they fly the RQ-7B Shadow 200 UAV 25 May.

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

ICE, from page 2

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 Shoppette

Customer Comment: I would like to say I went in to the Class Six the other day and was sad to see this lovely lady named Naomie being treated badly by a young lady. I wanted to hug her! She still smiled and said, "Have a good day!" As I work with the public everyday, I felt for her! However, I told her how sweet she was! She said to me they don't bother her. However, I DO KNOW it starts to get to you. I just wanted to say how amazing she is. We are all quick to complain, and not to say thank you. Thank you Naomie! Keep smiling! I

Agency Response: Thank you for taking the time to comment on Naomie. We are proud of her. Naomie is a credit to AAFES and a credit to herself

Firestone

Customer Comment: The station provides only basic maintenance. It does not even provide a basic tune-up. The Fort Irwin community deserves a full service car care provider since the closest town where maintenance can be provided is 45 minutes away.
Follow-Up Notes: Firestone is working the issue to provide better service.

Burger King

Customer Comments: I have been very dissatisfied with the Burger King on post lately. I have experienced three different poor service situations within three weeks. My first experience happened during a din-

ner service three weeks ago. I had ordered a Whopper Jr. in the drive through and when I recieved my order, the sandwich was put on regular large bun. I ended up having to tear away a large amount of excess bread to eat the sandwich. I was not told of this inconvenience at all when I was given the sandwich. Two weeks ago, a few co-workers and I stopped by Burger King for lunch. Again, we ordered Whopper Jrs. only to find they had put the sandwiches on halved hoagie buns, instead of regular Whopper Jr. buns. Again, there was no mention or apology for the inconvenience. Finally, a few days ago, a few co-workers and I stopped by Burger King for breakfast. We went inside and ordered breakfast at 10:10 am. By 10:30, we had not received our order yet. We asked what the hold up was at the counter and were told they had "run out of

eggs and would we like our order anyway?" I am not sure why they would not have told us sooner. Did they expect us to give up waiting and leave without an explanation? The level of service at the Burger King has not been up to par. The lack of explanation or apology when an order is not going to be correct is unacceptable. I am a spouse that lives on post, so I depend on AAFES facilities for fast food service. I am not sure my husband or I feel comfortable taking our business to Burger King anymore.
Agency Response: I apologize for the mistakes on your orders. There was a mix up on the bread from the delivery truck, and we were trying to take care of the customers, but we failed to meet your expectations. I do apologize for this incident and look forward to your continued patronage.

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Summer 2010 Operation Battle Blackout

Fort Irwin community partners in energy conservation

BY DAVID CANADY

Directorate of Public Works

The year 2009 was a successful first year for Operation Battle Blackout because more than \$90K in incentives were received and estimated \$1.7M cost was saved in the post's electrical utility bill.

As your household expenses and bills increase, so does our installation. Fort Irwin has been notified of an electrical rate increase which will be effective this summer.

As energy conservation partners, everyone can do their part.

Let us start participating in Operation Battle Blackout at least one day a week. We can start this energy conservation program as an Irwin life style. We can work together and show the State of California and NTC leadership that we can do it. Let's work together and take these efforts home with us and save energy costs. This is not about doing more with less. This

is about using smartly what we have as resources.

The following 15 major organizations have signed up for Operation Battle Blackout 2010, but as we all know, a leader is only as good as his TEAM. Let's make it happen; each person can make a difference.

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Operation Blackout Battle Drill

BY COL. JIM CHEVALLIER

Garrison Commander

Why should I care about blackouts? This is a federal Installation, and we are exempt! You would be correct, but how many NTC families and workers live in the Barstow area, Apple Valley, Victorville and down below Cajon Pass? When we reduce our usage during a critical event, it could save someone we know and care about from going through a blackout.

Standard Warning Notice-Due to the extreme heat storm conditions, the California Independent System Operator (State Projection System) is forecasting that on ____, ____, 20XX, a statewide demand for electricity in California could potentially become critically close to exceeding supply.

Operation Battle Blackout-Fort Irwin, through its partnership with our electricity provider (Southern California Edison) has been called upon to voluntarily reduce the installation's peak electricity usage during the critical period of 12 noon to 8 p.m. to support and aid in averting a possible energy emergency.

Battle Field:

Across NTC:

- Starting at 12 noon on the day of an event, through 8 p.m.
- Only use the electricity you require, avoid wasting electricity.
- Turn-off any unused lights, equipment, or appliances.

- Where possible, refrain from making demands on the electrical Sys.
- Work Place:
- Turn-off any unnecessary overhead lights / use task lighting whenever possible for your work.
- Completely turn off lights and equipment in unoccupied spaces.
- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees.
- Turn-off all personal desktop printers, use networked printers.
- Turn-off unnecessary LaserJet printers.
- Turn-off computer monitors if not in use.

Housing:

- Defer use of energy intensive appliances until after 2000 hours.
- Examples: washers, dryers, vacuums, dishwashers, etc.
- Set your air conditioning thermostat to 78 degrees.
- Turn off ceiling fans and lights in unoccupied spaces.
- Insure all your exterior lights are turned off.

With Fort Irwin's electricity bills averaging \$1.7M per month, our DEFENSE on this resource through wise usage is critical. We must do everything possible to eliminate waste and to use our electricity only when needed. Dollars saved in this manner stay at Fort Irwin to fund operational programs.

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Remember those special days in July

BY BOB LUCAS

Commentator

Here are some of the most interesting dates to remember for the month of July. Keep these in mind as you enjoy your summertime off of the Fort Irwin rotation schedule.

July 1 is Build a Scarecrow Day, International Joke Day, and National Postal Worker Day.

July 4 is our Independence Day, but it is also National Country Music Day and Tom Sawyer Fence Painting Day.

Keep in mind that it was also the day the first bus was built. July 6 is National Fried Chicken Day and also the day the first picture postcard was made.

July 7 is Macaroni Day. I guess you only need one significant event on July 7, since macaroni is a heavy meal for most of us. July 8 is Video Games Day and July 9 is National Sugar Cookie Day. July 11 is Barn Day and Cheer Up the Lonely Day. Guess we could all use some cheering during the hot month of July. July 13 is Go West Day and National French Fries Day and July 16, 1969 is the day of the Apollo 11 liftoff.

July 18 is Cow Appreciation Day and July 19 is Stick Your Tongue Out Day. Believe me when I tell you that I could not

make this up, even in my wildest dreams. One question, though. How can one appreciate a cow on "Cow Appreciation Day?"

July 20 is Chess Day, and in 1969 this day, Armstrong and Aldrin landed on the moon. This is also Ice Cream Soda Day for those not watching their calories.

July 21 is significant because it is considered National Junk Food Day. This is the day we ignore critics, and eat whatever we desire.

On July 23, 1904, the Ice Cream cone was introduced and this is also considered Mosquito Day for some odd reason. July 25 is Threading the Needle Day and July 26 is Sesame Street Character Bert's Birthday. It is time to hit 31 Flavors Ice Cream Parlor to celebrate Bert's milestone.

July 27 is Bugs Bunny's birthday. Bugs first debuted in cartoons in 1940. July 28 was when the first fingerprint was taken and July 29 is National Lasagna Day. Wow, Garfield would like that day.

July 30 is National Cheesecake Day, and to top off the month, the first U.S. patent was issued to Samuel Hopkins in 1790.

Now, what does one do with all of that information? Nothing, but you just might win something on the show Jeopardy

or impress your friends with your knowledge. To top off everything, there are a few "month long observances" that should be noted.

July is considered Anti-Boredom Month, National Baked Beans Month, National Blueberry Month, National Hot Dog Month, National Ice Cream Month, National Picnic Month, and National Recreation Month.

Have an enjoyable July. Remember, there are a lot of "special days" to remember.

Editor's note: To reach Bob Lucas, contact him at 380-4540 or e-mail him at barstowbob2@verizon.net



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Dragon Company, 3rd ACR conducts NTC convoy live fire

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. JES L. SMITH
16th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Dust rolls into the air as four Humvees race up to a small town in the desert. When they stopped, eight Soldiers in full-battle dress filed out with weapons in hand and lined up on the gate leading into the town.

The Soldiers are part of Red Platoon, Dragon Company, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, from Fort Hood, Texas, training at the U.S. Army National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

The training conducted May 22 was a company-level convoy live-fire exercise, which is part of their preparation for an upcoming deployment to Iraq.

"NTC is that culmination event where we get to put together all of our training right before the final plunge into Iraq," said 2nd Lt. Kevin A. Garcia, an armor officer with Dragon Co.

The 3rd ACR is scheduled to deploy later this summer to Iraq where their mission will be to advise and assist Iraqi Security Forces as well as support the Provincial Reconstruction Teams to improve civil capacity in the Ghazi and Laylan Provinces.

"Our mission is kind of hybrid," said Garcia, a Colorado Springs, Colo., native. "It's not all combat. The majority of it is assist and support."

Pfc. Sean D. Maxwell, an armor crewman with Dragon Co., said that sometimes assist and support means going in and clearing out a town of any anti-Iraqi government forces with the ISF.

The day's live-fire exercise was unique because it involved so many different battlefield assets. The exercise included: ground troops to clear buildings, mounted troops to encircle the villages, fire support observers to call in live artillery fire, medics to evacuate any casualties and two tanks to provide heavy fire power at ground level.

"Today's training will help us with the worst case scenario as far as us having to take the fight to the enemy," said Garcia.

The range was broken into two parts.

Red Platoon first cleared a small village and set up overwatch with a combat observation laser team (COLT).

"The COLT can call in indirect fire from our artillery should we start taking too many casualties or get overrun by the enemy," said Maxwell, a Bridgewater-Rariton, N.J., native.

The overwatch allowed the main body of the company to move down the range and clear a second, and larger village.

Dragon Co. conducted three full runs through the live-fire range during the daytime. The first two runs were with blank ammunition and the third was with live rounds.

"It's good training," said Maxwell. "I love being in the field."

At night, the unit went back onto the range and ran a fourth round using blank ammunition.

"Red Platoon performed admirably," said Garcia. "We're right where we need to be at this point."



Soldiers of Red Platoon, Dragon Company, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, from Fort Hood, Texas, breach the gate to a mock village during a company-level live-fire exercise May 22 at the U.S. Army National Training Center Fort Irwin, Calif. Red Platoon secured the village before moving onto an overwatch position.



Second Lt. Kevin A. Garcia, a Colorado Springs, Colo., native, and an armor officer with Red Platoon, Dragon Company, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, from Fort Hood, Texas, leads Soldiers out of a mock village during a live-fire exercise May 22 at the U.S. Army National Training Center Fort Irwin, Calif.



Soldiers of Red Platoon, Dragon Company, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, from Fort Hood, Texas, stack on a house while clearing a mock village of any anti-Iraqi government forces during a company-level live-fire exercise May 22 at the U.S. Army National Training Center Fort Irwin, Calif. Red Platoon secured the village before moving onto an overwatch position.



Second Lt. Kevin A. Garcia (right), a Colorado Springs, Colo., native, and an armor officer with Red Platoon, Dragon Company, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, from Fort Hood, Texas, braves the steep hillside, strong winds and the weight of an up-armored door to hold the door open for 1st Lt. Ryan Divine (left), an Olathe, Kan., native, also an armor officer with 1-3 ACR, to use a radio to communicate with other elements of Dragon Co. during a live-fire exercise May 22 at the U.S. Army National Training Center Fort Irwin, Calif. Divine trained Garcia to take over as Red Platoon leader prior to moving to the 1st Squadron tactical operations center as a day battle captain.



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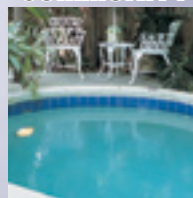
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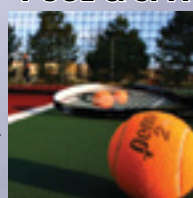
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