



HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

Volume 6, Number 33

www.irwin.army.mil

August 19, 2010

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

Intermittent Closures

Fort Irwin's Main Gate will be closed intermittently for short periods between the hours of 8 p.m. today and 2 a.m. Friday.

Building Manager Class

The next Building Manager Fire Prevention/Safety Class will be held, from 8 a.m.-12 noon, tomorrow at Bldg. 1202, off Normandy Drive. This class is for building managers and their alternates as well as safety representatives. There are only 32 slots available, so register by calling 380-6024/6154.

Dental Clinic to open

Dental Clinic 1 (DC1), located in Bldg. 478, 3rd and G Street, will reopen Sept. 7. The clinic will be open for orthodontic and pediatric care. The officer-in-charge/orthodontist is Maj. Kevyn Wetzels, who will handle active duty and very limited family members while the pediatric dentist is Maj. Adam Bushell, who will handle children, ages birth-eight-years-of-age. For more information, contact Maj. Kevyn Wetzels, 380-3284.

Speed Limit Changes

The speed limit on Inner Loop Road between Barstow and Goldstone roads has been reduced from 35 mph to 25 mph. All motorists should take note of this change and adjust their speeds accordingly.

Red Cross is Moving

As of Friday, Aug. 6, the American Red Cross will be located in Bldg 566 (the old G8 building). The phone numbers will remain the same — 380-3697 or 380-6140. If you have an afterhours emergency please call the 24-hour hotline at 1-877-272-7337.

CPR/AED and First Aid

Want to learn how to save the life of someone who is choking, in cardiac arrest, or who has been in an accident? Now is the time. The Red Cross will be holding their monthly CPR/AED and First Aid class the weekend of Aug. 21-22. If you are interested in attending please contact the health and safety liaisons at ftiirwinarchealthandsafety@gmail.com or call the station for assistance 380-3697 or 380-6140. Seats are limited, enroll as soon as possible. See the attached flier for more details.

Personal ID Training

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

Celebrating renovated Soldier barracks



Fort Irwin and National Training Center Commander Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams (left) leads a ribbon cutting ceremony for Bldg. 98 on Fort Irwin, Aug. 2. The building's 24 rooms were renovated to serve as single-occupancy rooms for Soldiers of the Military Police Company from Fort Irwin U.S. Army Garrison. Read more on page 8.

GUSTAVO BAHENA

Becoming a U.S. citizen

Legal Assistance Office to assist service members

BY CAPT. MATT WRIGHT

NTC and Fort Irwin
Chief of Legal Assistance

If you are a service member, becoming a citizen has never been easier. No more trips to Riverside for fingerprints. No more trips to San Bernardino for your interview. No more trips to Los Angeles for your oath ceremony. You will not have to go anywhere, because the process will come to you. Beginning this fall, it will be possible for service members to become U.S. citizens in 90 days or less without ever leaving Fort Irwin. This is because agents from the San Bernardino Field Office of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), working in conjunction with the Fort Irwin Legal Assistance Office, have agreed to come to the installation. Here is how it works:

Step 1: Come to the Legal Assistance Office between now and September 24. No appointment is necessary; the point of contact is Mr. Enitima Lauulu. Bring your green card, and military identification card. Ensure a naturalization file is started for you. Pick up a "Fall 2010 USCIS Naturalization Outreach Packet" containing the required forms and instructions and have your passport photos taken at Bldg. 488 on 5th Street (the same location where DA photos are taken), or the Barstow Post Office. Complete the forms and bring everything back to the Legal Assistance Office, no later than October 8.

Step 2: Come to the Legal Assistance Office on October 12 (BRD 4, Rotation 10-10). USCIS Agents will be on site to review and accept your applications, answer any questions you may have, and take your finger prints.

Step 3: Report back to the Legal Assistance Office on Monday, November 22 (RSOI 1, Rotation 11-02). The Legal Assistance Office will inform you of your appointment time. USCIS Agents will be on site to interview you and administer the civics exam.

If your application is approved, the Legal Assistance Office will contact you and inform you of the date, time, and location of your oath ceremony. If you are a Soldier, who wants to be a citizen, the ball is in your court. Applying is free, fast, and has never been easier.

The Legal Assistance Office is located in Bldg. 288, on Barstow Road, across from the Main Post Chapel and MP Station. Naturalization assistance is available weekdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (Thursdays, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.). Please feel free to stop by or call 380-3257 with any questions you may have.

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AUG./SEPT. 2010

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

ROTATIONAL SOLDIER USE OF POST FACILITIES

■ HEAVY USE ■ MEDIUM USE ■ MINIMAL USE

We salute, honor



454

FORT IRWIN SOLDIERS
CURRENTLY DEPLOYED

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

Garrison calls for feedback about services

BY MEREDITH STORM

Customer Service Officer

Fort Irwin's annual Customer Service Assessment, sponsored by HQ IMCOM, begins Monday, 30 2010. Available online at www.mymilitaryvoice.org until Sunday, September 26, it collects feedback from Leaders, Soldiers, family members, civilians, retirees and veterans on garrison service delivery. This includes services from Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities, Housing, Military Personnel Services, Transportation, Religious Services and more. This is the opportunity for all customers of these services to let the garrison know what is important to them and how the garrison service providers have performed over the past year.

As well as rating service delivery, survey participants will have an opportunity to provide comments about what has been done and where there maybe opportunities for improvement. "The annual Customer Service Assessment is just one method for the garrison to get the "Voice of the Customer," said Meredith Storm, Plans, Analysis, and Integration Office, customer service officer. "It's essential that we capture feedback from senior leaders and junior enlisted Soldiers within the companies and units and get feedback from the family members, veterans, retirees, civilian employees, and contractors as well."

Survey results will be reported separately by the different constituent groups.

The best way the Garrison Commander and Directors can get an accurate picture

of customer satisfaction and expectations is from maximum participation. For this year's survey, we will be making a big push to get more feedback from all constituent groups. Their input will enable the Garrison Leadership to determine where improvements can be made.

For more information on the 2010 Customer Service Assessment, contact Meredith Storm at 380-7639 or via email at meredith.storm@us.army.mil. Let your voice be heard!

ICE APPRECIATION: The Garrison would like to congratulate Public Works. They have maintained a 4.65 respectively in employee/staff attitude out of a possible 5.0, over a 12 week period. This is outstanding performance in Customer Satisfaction! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

Bob's Corner

The White House

BY BOB LUCAS

Commentator

Here is some trivia for those history buffs. Did you know there is a place that has 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, 412 doors, 147 windows, 28 fireplaces, eight staircases, and three elevators? Where do you suppose this place is located? How about the Trump Towers, the MGM Hotel in Las Vegas, or maybe even Tiger Woods' home?

No, none of those fit this description. Well, it happens to be the residence of the President of the United States in Washington DC ... yes, the White House. On top of that, did you know there are six levels in the residence? This house of the people has five full-time chefs that are

able to serve dinner to as many as 140 guests and hors d'oeuvres to more than 1,000.

The White House requires 570 gallons of paint to cover its outside surface and for recreation, the White House has a variety of facilities available to its residents, including a tennis court, jogging track, swimming pool, movie theater, and bowling alley. Wow! That beats the heck out of "Motel 6" and the advertisements of Tom Boudette.

Considering the residence was called the President's Palace, the President's House and the Executive Mansion over the years, it took President Theodore Roosevelt to name it the "White House." Many of you probably also didn't know that the first occupant of the White House

was President John Adams and his wife, Abigail who moved in the year 1800.

Although President George Washington oversaw the construction of the house, he never lived in it. Construction started when the first cornerstone was laid in October of 1792. The White House also survived a fire at the hands of the British in 1814 (during the war of 1812) and another fire in the West Wing in 1929, when Herbert Hoover was President. Thomas Jefferson held the first inaugural open house in 1805. The people who attended followed him home from the swearing-in ceremony where he met them and welcomed them in the Blue Room. Eventually, the crowd got so large that Presidents could

not have their inaugurals at the White House anymore.

In 1829, over 20,000 inaugural attendees visited the White House, which forced President Andrew Jackson to seek the safety of a hotel. It is hard to believe more than 200 years ago, President George Washington signed an Act of Congress in December of 1790 which declared the federal government would reside in a district "not to exceed ten miles square...on the river Potomac."

I often wonder how many miles the federal government now occupies, since it is now the largest employer of all businesses in the United States.

Editor's note: You can reach Bob Lucas at barstowbob2@verizon.net



WHO WE ARE

Brig. Gen. Robert B. Abrams
Commanding General

Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez
Post CSM

Col. Jim Chevallier
Garrison Commander

Command Sgt. Maj. Mark A. Harvey
Garrison CSM

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HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

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SUBMISSIONS

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

NEWSPAPER AWARDS

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

Honorable Mention, 2008 Dept. of the Army
Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware
Newspaper Competition — Tabloid category

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

SEND US FEEDBACK

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

Blackhorse Troopers plunge into Pre-Ranger Course

BY SGT. GIANCARLO CASEM

11th ACR Public Affairs

After 72 hours of some of the toughest and most grueling challenges Soldiers may face, 21 Troopers from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment stood in formation reciting the Ranger Creed at a graduation ceremony at Fort Irwin, Calif., Aug. 5.

The course is designed to prepare Soldiers aspiring to go to Ranger School, said Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Diaz, the senior Ranger Instructor for the Pre-Ranger Course. Soldiers not only get a taste of what to expect from Ranger School, it is also a chance for them to find out what their weak points and improve on them.

"I learned that I can definitely push myself a lot harder," said 2nd Lt. Timothy Johnson, F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th ACR. "From day one, there was that voice in my head telling me to quit; I just kept telling it to shut up and pushed on until I made it."

In order to successfully complete the Pre-Ranger Course, Soldiers must first pass the Ranger Physical Fitness Test. Day 1 saw the course start with 48 names on the roster, by the end of the RPFT, that number would dwindle drastically. The RPFT is a modified version of the Army Physical Fitness Test. In order to pass the RPFT, Soldiers must perform at least 49 push-ups and 59 sit-ups. Instead of a 2-mile run, Rangers must run five miles in under 40 minutes. The final event of the test is the chin-up which they must do at least six repetitions.

After the RPFT, the Soldiers conducted one of the most physically challenging tests, the Combat Water Survival Test. Wearing the full Army Combat Uniform with boots and a load-bearing vest and carrying a training weapon, Soldiers walked off the high board into the pool below. While in the water, the Soldiers must remove the vest and then swim the length of the pool. After everyone had completed that phase of the test, they then had to tread water for at least 10 minutes.



SGT. GIANCARLO CASEM

A Soldier from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment swims the length of the pool as part of the Combat Water Survival Test portion of the Pre-Ranger Course at Fort Irwin, Calif., Aug. 3.

"After the water training we gave them classes on tactical leading procedures, ambushes and setting up patrol bases," Diaz said. "We gave them leadership classes all the way down from team leader all the way up to platoon level."

On the second day of the course, the Soldiers started the land navigation course at the early hours of dawn, well before the sunrise. The land navigation course tested the Soldiers skills at navigating at night as well as during the day. The Soldiers ended their long day at the obstacle course. The class was divided up into two-man teams and both Soldiers had to finish the obstacle at the same time. Teamwork and leadership played a big role in the obstacle course, a lesson that resonated with the Soldiers throughout the entire Pre-Ranger Course.

"I got a lot of good leadership classes from our RIs (Ranger Instructors) here," said Johnson, a native of Dublin, Calif. "They taught us

a lot about what it takes to be a Ranger and the difficulties that they each individually faced at Ranger School."



SGT. GIANCARLO CASEM

A spent shell casing sails through air as a Soldier from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment fires an M249 Squad Automatic Weapon while participating in the Pre-Ranger Course at Fort Irwin, Calif., Aug. 3. Soldiers were tested on their proficiency on the M249 SAW and the M240B machine gun.



SGT. GIANCARLO CASEM

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Beaudion, a Pre-Ranger Course instructor, watches as a Soldier plunges into the pool during the Combat Water Survival Test portion of the Pre-Ranger Course at Fort Irwin, Calif., Aug. 3.



SGT. GIANCARLO CASEM

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Beaudion, a Pre-Ranger Course instructor, gives last-minute instructions to Soldier before he walks off the high-dive during the Combat Water Survival Test portion of the Pre-Ranger Course at Fort Irwin, Calif., Aug. 3. Soldiers must walk off the high-dive into the pool, remove their load bearing vest and swim the length of the pool.



SPC. ZACHARY GARDNER

A Soldier clears a hurdle during the obstacle course portion of the Pre-Ranger Course at Fort Irwin, Calif., Aug. 4.



SPC. ZACHARY GARDNER

Spc. David Sanchez of Fury Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment bounds over an obstacle during the Pre-Ranger Course at Fort Irwin, Calif., Aug. 4. Soldiers cleared each obstacle as part of two-man teams. Sanchez was the honor graduate of the Aug. 3-5 Pre-Ranger Course.

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

Crime Watch

Information provided by
Provost Marshal Office

Indecent exposure. Location: RUBA. Military police investigated the report of indecent exposure in the RUBA.

Larceny of government property. Location: Bldg. #####. Military police investigated the report of a theft of government property.

Damage to government property. Location: RUBA. Military police investigated the report of damage to a government fence.

Gas leak. Location: Bitter Springs housing Fort Irwin Fire Department investigated the report of a gas leak.

Fire alarm activation. Location: Landmark Inn Fort Irwin Fire Department responded to the report of a fire alarm. The alarm was false.

Suspended drivers license. Location: Main Gate. Subject/driver attempted to enter the main gate with an expired driver's license.

Unattended children. Location: Sandy Basin housing. Military police investigated the report of unattended children.

Larceny of private property. Location: Bldg. #####. Victim reported that person(s) unknown, stole his laptop computer.

Adopt-a-pet



Name: Leon
Breed: Labrador retriever mix
Gender: Male
Age: 6-months
Leon 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

In-Processing Relocation

Military Personnel and Finance In-processing Sections have relocated to Bldg. 312, co-located with the AG Replacement. All other Military Personnel Functions remain in Bldg. 561. DEERS and ID Cards section remains in its current location — Bldg. 563.

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.

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 website. 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.

Sensational DEALS

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MSRP\$21,580
DEALER DISCOUNT.....\$2,092
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MILITARY REBATE*.....\$500

\$17,988

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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 p.m.	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

For information about Jewish activities, call 380-3562

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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Community Happenings

1916th Support Battalion FRG Events

The upcoming 1916th Support Battalion Family Readiness Group meetings are:
699 Maintenance Company: FRG meeting Sept. 1, 6 p.m., Sandy Basin Community Center. For more information, contact 1st Lt. Patrick Rogers at 380-4745.

GSAB FRG Events

Following are upcoming General Support Aviation Battalion, Family Readiness Group events:
HHD, GSAB
Sept 30. HHD FRG meeting at Bldg. 507. Time: 6 p.m. If you should have any
Questions, contact Cpl. Sparrow at 380-5485 or email: hhdfrg507@gmail.com.

AAD, GSAB

AAD FRG meeting has not been scheduled. If you should have any questions, contact Juli Cummings at (254) 630-2596 or email: aadfrg@gmail.com.

AVCO, GSAB

AVCO FRG meeting has not been scheduled as of yet. If you should have any questions, contact Ms. Hunter at 380-7781 or email: avcofrg@gmail.com.

Chapel Activities

Aug. 19-20, 4-6 p.m.: AWANA, a Chapel after-school program for kids ages 2 1/2 through high school, will hold a pre-registration for all students wishing to participate in AWANA this year. Cost: \$15 per child. Come to Main Post Chapel, and contact Juli Cummings for details 254-630-2596 or ftirwin.awana@gmail.com.
Aug. 25, 4-6 p.m.: First Night of AWANA. Join Bible-based program for kids. Contact Juli Cummings for details at 254-630-2596/ftirwin.awana@gmail.com

Mothers of Pre-Schoolers

Mothers of Pre-Schoolers (MOPS) will host its first meeting on Sept. 8, from 9-11 a.m. Food, childcare and friendship will be provided. MOPS will continue to meet the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. For more information, call the Chapel at 380-3562 or contact Tiffany Spicer or Terra Chew at ftirwinmops@gmail.com.

First Aid Classes

Fort Irwin Red Cross is offering CPR/AED and First Aid classes on a regular basis. For more information, contact the Red Cross at 380-3697, e-mail Stephanie Luce the Station Manager at stephanie.luce@us.army.mil, or stop by the Red Cross office in Bldg. 566.

Elmo at Fort Irwin

The Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families will perform at Fort Irwin today/Aug. 19. The free traveling USO show, which is exclusively for military families, is back in the U.S. after an around the world tour. Audiences will experience a 25-minute character performance, which includes Elmo and Friends, and receive promotional items and outreach materials. The Sesame Street Workshop/USO partnership debuted its first show in July 2008. It has traveled more than 50,000 miles to 95 bases in nine countries. More than 150,000 service members and families have been entertained during 237 shows.

Breastfeeding Support Group

Breastfeeding is an unequalled way of providing ideal food for the healthy growth and development of infants. For this reason, the Weed Army Community Hospital OB/GYN Clinic and Mother Baby Unit are committed to support and assist our breastfeeding mothers. Breastfeeding Orientation is offered

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

every last Monday of each month from 9-11 a.m. In this class, staff teaches basic breastfeeding techniques to help you prepare for your breastfeeding baby. As you continue breastfeeding, the Breastfeeding Support Group is there to provide you with ongoing assistance and support. BFSG is held every Wednesday from 1-2 p.m. Classes are held at the Mary E. Walker Clinic conference room. For more information, call 380-0613.

Race Tickets Available

NASCAR Tickets for the Pepsi400 are now available at the Leisure Travel Services, in Bldg. 976. Tickets are priced at approximately 50 percent off the gate price. You can also get pre-race pit passes at an even bigger discount. The Pepsi 400 will be held at Fontana, Oct 10. If you don't want to drive, let us do the driving for you. Sign up to catch a ride with Leisure Travel Services. For more information stop by Bldg. 976 or call 380-4767.

At the Movies

Thursday, Aug. 19

7 p.m. Closed

Friday, Aug. 20

7 p.m. Despicable Me (PG)

7 p.m. The Last Airbender (PG-13)

9:30 p.m. Inception (PG-13)

9:30 p.m. The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (PG-13)

Saturday, Aug. 21

7 p.m. Despicable Me (PG)

7 p.m. The Last Airbender (PG-13)

9:30 p.m. Inception (PG-13)

9:30 p.m. The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (PG-13)

Sunday, Aug. 22

4 p.m. Despicable Me (PG)

7 p.m. The Last Airbender (PG-13)

7 p.m. The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (PG-13)

Monday, Aug. 23

7 p.m. Despicable Me (PG)

7 p.m. The Last Airbender (PG-13)

Tuesday, Aug. 24

7 p.m. Closed

Wednesday, Aug. 25

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.

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.

Start a Bowling League

Strike Zone has started fall sign-ups for Mixed Handicap League, Scratch League, Youth/Tween and Teen League, Ladies League, and a Lunch League. Have a league that's not on this list? Start your own. Leagues are open to all Soldiers, family members, civilians, and contractors. The Bowling Center has state-of-the-art pro-comp synthetic lane beds and the best pin-setters money can buy. The Strike Zone is USBC-certified and is willing to start a Sport Shot League if the interest is there. Make some friends, enjoy the music, have a cool beverage and a great meal. For more information, contact Sherry Hoerr at 380-4249.

Soldier Show

The 2010 U.S. Army Soldier Show, a high-energy 90-minute live musical production that showcases the talents of active duty Soldiers, will be held at the Freedom Fitness Center, Saturday/Aug.

21, 7 p.m. They are amateur artists who have a passion for music, dance and performing and come from unit supply, medical and emergency, animal care, transportation and aviation, legal and law enforcement and other tactical units. The show is assembled in five weeks, and then tours for six months. Soldier Show is sponsored by the G1 Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention Program and the Army Comprehensive Fitness Program. For more information, contact Reggie Roberson, 380-2194.

Audie Murphy Club Meets

Sgt. Audie Murphy Club members and Sgt. Morales members will hold its monthly meeting at the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club Hall in the Museum, from 12-1 p.m., Aug. 23. For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Catherine Harris at 380-8950 or Sgt. 1st Class Crudup at 380-3319.

Club Super Sign Up

The Military and Civilian Spouses' Club (MCSC) of Fort Irwin will host its California Dreamin' Super Sign Up at the Sandy Basin Community Center, Aug. 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The California Dreamin' Super Sign Up will be a fun, casual introduction to this all-ranks community service organization. Join in the fun, learn about the club, shop from local crafters and home-based businesses, and enjoy free refreshments. If you have some funky flip-flops, wear them; and you might win a prize! For more information, visit our Web site at www.mcscftirwin.org; or call Elena at (562) 233-0442.

School Events

Lewis Elementary School

Aug. 23-27: Book Fair

Aug. 24: Kindergarten Back to School Night, 4-5:30 p.m.

Aug. 25: 1st Grade Back to School Night, 4-5:30 p.m.

Aug. 26: 2nd grade Back to School Night, 4-5:30 p.m.

Aug. 26: Fall Picture Day

Tiefert View Intermediate School

Aug. 18: Back to School Night, 4-5 p.m.

Fort Irwin Middle School

Aug. 17: Back to School Night, 4 p.m.

Aug. 24: Picture Day

Silver Valley High School

Aug 19: Back to School Night, 6 p.m.

Youth and School Activities

Middle School Activities

Thursday: Cooking Club Ice Cream in a Bag

Friday: Pool

Monday: Water Balloon Games

Tuesday: Create your own Jewelry

Wednesday: Smart Club Ultimate Journey

Teen Activities

Friday: Rock Band

Saturday: Cooking Club Fruit Smoothie

** We are currently revamping our facility, so we have temporarily moved to Bldg. 287. Please call 380.3732 for directions. Welcome to the new sixth graders!

Hours of Operation:

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

Teen Center:

Friday: 6-11 p.m.

Saturday: 3:30-11 p.m.

Sundays and Holidays: Closed

More information: Kristin Morgan at 380-3732

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



Fort Irwin Community Calendar

Fri., Aug. 20
Bowling Tournament
5 p.m.
Strike Zone
380-4249

9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Red Cross Station,
Bldg. 566
380-3697

Reggie's Ball Room
380-3509

Fri., Aug. 20
Fire Prevention/
Safety Class
8 a.m.-12 noon
Bldg. 1202
380-6024/6154

Sun., Aug. 22
First Aid
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Red Cross Station,
Bldg. 566
380-3697

Thu., Aug. 26
Military and Civilian
Spouses Club
Super Sign up
9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Sandy Basin
Community Center
Elena, 562-233-0442

Sat., Aug. 21
Fort Irwin Soldier Show
7 p.m.
Freedom Fitness Center
380-2194

Wed., Aug. 25
Women's History Month
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sandy Basin
Community Center

Wed., Sept. 1
FRG Meeting
6 p.m.
Sandy Basin
Community Center
1st Lt. Patrick Rogers,
380-4745

Sat., Aug. 21
CPR/AED

Wed., Aug. 25
Rising Star Audition
6-8 p.m.



Check out these upcoming activities at Fort Irwin

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Barracks get facelift

Fort Irwin Military Police Soldiers benefits from new, single-person occupancy rooms

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY
GUSTAVO BAHENA**

Media Relations Officer

They are definitely not your grandfather's Army barracks.

The renovations of the barracks at building 98 on Fort Irwin were long overdue and the new condition of the living quarters is a huge improvement over barracks of old. The building is comprised of 24 rooms that were updated with better electrical, plumbing and living amenities. The retrofits give the rooms a modern look and helps improve quality of life for Fort Irwin U.S. Army Garrison Soldiers, who will occupy the spaces.

At a ribbon cutting commemorating the opening of the barracks, Capt. Jason Kim, Fort Irwin U.S. Army Garrison Military Police company commander, spoke about the history of the building and the significance of the renovations. Kim said the building was actually constructed in 1965 as an Army lodging facility operated by Morale, Welfare, and Recreation. Years later, the building was used to house Soldiers – initially on a temporary basis, but that eventually became permanent. The recent renovations took approximately one year to

complete and during that time, MP Soldiers stayed in temporary modular housing.

"The modulars were never designed to be a permanent living facility, and I know my Soldiers

eagerly awaited the day their barracks renovation would be complete," Kim said. "It's an enormous morale booster knowing that when Soldiers have finished their long, duty day working law enforcement, they can rest and relax in large barracks rooms that were recently renovated."

The improvements include new flooring, new bathrooms, plus addition of a kitchenette with sink and counter space. New appliances include a refrigerator and microwave. The rooms have been converted to be used as single occupancy, giving them a larger feel and look. They will be designated for use by Soldiers in ranks no higher than sergeant.

The renovations cost about \$1.8 million, but Fort Irwin did not foot the bill. The funds to upgrade the quarters came from the American Economic Recovery Act, otherwise known as the 'stimulus bill,' said Col. Jim Chevallier, Fort Irwin U.S. Army Garrison commander. He also said that other barracks on post will be undergoing renovations and that new ones are currently being built.

"We hope to get at least three to four more over the next [fiscal year], focused on improving quality of life and meeting single Soldier expectations as they continue to serve in our great Army," Chevallier said.



Sgt. Matthew Squires, with Fort Irwin Military Police Company, shows his room to Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez, command sergeant major for Fort Irwin and the National Training Center, after a ribbon cutting on Aug. 2. Squires' room was one of 24 barracks rooms to have been renovated at Bldg. 98 on Fort Irwin.

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BY MIKE WISE

It's essential to keep kids safe when they are in or near the water with basic water safety for kid's tips. All it takes is a slip for a fatal accident to happen. Drowning is one of the major causes of death for children under 14. Kids can drown in a couple of minutes and in only a couple of inches of water. Taking the right precautions means that kids can have fun in the water while remaining safe. Here are some tips on water safety for kids.

Young children are the most at risk, as they are more likely to get into trouble and less likely to be able to swim. Toddlers aged one to three can drown in only a few inches of water, so you need to supervise them at all times. Flotation devices can be helpful, but these must conform to safety standards, and these are not a substitute for constant adult supervision. Even older children require active supervision so you can act as soon as it looks like they might be in trouble.

One of the best ways to keep your kids safe in the water is to make sure that they learn to swim. Young children can

follow programs to build their confidence in the water, while children over four can learn swimming skills. This doesn't mean that they will be able to use them in an emergency, so you still need to be vigilant. Keep toys out of the pool when it's not in use so that young children won't be tempted to go in without you.

A key tip when thinking about water safety for kids is that they should always swim with a friend, rather than swimming alone. This means that there will always be someone to notice if there is trouble. Children should swim in places where a lifeguard is on duty and should swim in water that is suitable for their skill level. New swimmers should not go into water that rises higher than the chest.

Pool rules are there to protect children, so they should obey them. Walk around pools rather than running, to avoid slipping and having an accident. The numbers painted around the pool, known as depth markers, show how deep the water is at certain points. Avoid diving unless it is permitted, as this could result in head or neck injuries.

Pay attention to weather conditions and avoid swimming in bad weather. Also be aware of any hazards near where you are swimming. This could include deep or shallow spots, rip tides or strong currents and pool drains and recirculation.

tors. Lifeguard flags will often indicate whether a body of water is safe for swimming. Never swim if a warning flag is up.

When swimming in lakes, aim for an area with clear water and as few obstructions as possible. Check for other signs that the area is looked after, such as clean restrooms, good changing facilities and well-maintained rafts and docks.

Do not allow children to swim under rafts and docks. At the beach, children should wear protective footwear if the surface is rocky or uneven. They should always face the waves so they will know what is coming towards them.

Observing water safety rules is also essential to keep kids safe at home. Children must also be supervised by an adult when in the bath to reduce the risk of drowning. If you have to leave the bath, then take your child out and shut the door. If you have a pond at home, cover it with a suitable mesh covering to prevent kids from accidentally falling in. Fence your pool and check that the gate latches securely.

Finally, both parents and older kids can improve their safety around water by taking first aid courses so that they will know what they need to do in an emergency.

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Two-year-old Sara Thompson plays with a piece of clay at the Ceramics Shop while her mother, Dawna Thompson, creates ceramic items. "It's our second time in here, and I like it," Dawna said. "It's very addicting."

Arts and Crafts Center offers plenty of recreation options

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAROLINE KEYSER
Warrior Volunteer Writer

Feeling bored on Fort Irwin? With all of the opportunities for entertainment at the Fort Irwin Arts and Crafts Center, there's no need to wonder what to do next. Located in Building 976, next to Burger King, the Arts and Crafts center is home to three different shops, each with its own unique services.

If you're looking to explore California and the areas surrounding Fort Irwin, Tickets and Tours can help. They offer discounted tickets to a wide variety of Southern California attractions, such as SeaWorld and Six Flags Magic Mountain, for active-duty Soldiers, Department of Defense contractors, retired military and family members.

Disneyland is the most popular attraction at Tickets and Tours, followed by Legoland, which has a military discount ticket price that is nearly half its regular price, said Nyhma Tramel, Tickets and Tours manager.

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

"We're trying to help people have an opportunity to see what's out there at a price more people can afford," she said.

Tickets and Tours also offers organized excursions nearly every weekend to various locations off-post, such as the San Diego Wild Animal Park, Ontario Mills Mall and Lake Mead. Or, if you prefer to organize your own outings, a van and driver are available for group rental at a flat daily rate.

If you'd like to preserve photographs of your off-post excursions, the framing shop can provide a custom-made frame and matting. With more than 500 molding options to choose from, customers can tailor their frame to fit their needs. The shop frames everything from photographs and certificates to sports jerseys, guidons, flags and coins. Customers can also bring in a frame they purchased elsewhere and have their item matted and placed in the frame.

"We're a lot cheaper than civilian frame shops," said Diane Pace, a recreation specialist who works in the framing shop. "We're here

for the Soldiers to save them some money."

While standard orders take two weeks to be completed, rush orders are available for an extra charge, and can sometimes be completed the same day. The shop also provides repair services for broken frame glass, as well as frames that have become unglued.

Personalized plaques, coin holders, and sculpted eagles and cobras are available at the counter next to the frame shop. Plaques range in price from \$14 to \$120, depending on size, and any image that can be captured on a compact disc can be transferred to a plaque's metal surface, said Dee Hayden, Arts and Crafts Center facility manager. Instead of engraving, the images are transferred using a process called heat sublimation, which causes ink to adhere directly to the metal.

"It will last forever, and it's very affordable compared with engraving," Hayden said.

Next to the plaque counter, the ceramics shop offers artistic ways to get creative and learn a new craft. Customers can purchase pre-made

ceramic items and paint them, or they can take a pouring class and learn to make their own clay creations. Pouring classes cost \$5.50, including materials, and are available daily before 2 p.m.

The ceramics shop has many loyal customers, some of whom visit several times each week.

"It gives people an affordable way to get creative, do something different, and grow in their craft," Hayden said. "It's also very soothing. You can come in and let the world go away for a little bit."

The ceramics shop offers a variety of adult- and kid-friendly art classes on topics including woodworking, jewelry making, candles and scrapbooking. One class, Sewing 101, has become so popular it now has a waiting list, Hayden said.

"There's just a lot to do here," she said.

Editor's note: The Arts and Crafts Center is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 12 to 7 p.m. For more information, call 380-4767.



A ceramic frog made by Arts and Crafts Center staff is one of many pre-made items for sale at the ceramics shop.



Nyhma Tramel, right, manager of Tickets and Tours, shows a Disneyland brochure to Fort Irwin residents Mikayla Sprague, 9, and Elizabeth Norris.



Lisa Choat, a resident of Fort Irwin and regular Ceramics Shop customer, cleans and scrapes a miniature casserole dish she made at the Arts and Crafts Center. "It's my down time, my me time," Choat said. "There's a little something here for everybody."



Anastasia Soullier-Newbury discusses ticket prices and options with Sgt. Patricio Arroyo, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.



The framing shop offers hundreds of options for custom-made frames. "Just bring it in, and I'll work with you," said Diane Pace, a recreation specialist who works at the framing shop.

Museum offers unique view of area history

BY SPC. ZACHARY A. GARDNER

11th ACR Public Affairs
and NEIL MORRISON, Museum Director

The National Training Center and 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Museum is home to many artifacts and exhibits. The museum's showcase includes many early Native American relics and period pieces from the Regiment. The museum's mission is to educate the Fort Irwin community about the rich history of the NTC, the Regiment and the Fort Irwin area.

The first inhabitants to this region were the Hokan and Uto-Aztec speaking tribes, some 12,000 years ago. Atlatl points, throwing spear tips, stone tools, sleeping circles and rock art (mostly petroglyphs) from the early Native Americans still exist and have been found here on post. Through the combined efforts of Fort Irwin and the U.S. Army, the museum hopes to help preserve such antiquities for future generations.



The museum is currently in the process of adding a scene from the 1st Constabulary Regiment, set in a World War II barracks in occupied Germany to its period piece collection. Other pieces include scenes and displays from the days of mounted Cavalry to today's modern battlefield.

The NTC and 11th ACR Museum is a Soldier's museum built by Soldiers, through the help of veterans and private citizens. The museum would like to invite everyone to come for a visit and take a tour. With interactive and personalized tours, the museum will make history come to life.

Hours of Operation:
11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Monday-Friday
Closed Saturday, Sunday and
Federal Holidays
Please call about groups or
special interest group
appointments.
NTC & 11th ACR Museum
P.O. Box 105029
Building 222, 1st St.
Fort Irwin, CA 92310-5029
Neil Morrison, Director
Rebecca "Becky"
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Join in the fun

Military and Civilian Spouses' Club excited, seeks new members

STORY AND PHOTO BY GUSTAVO BAHENA
Media Relations Officer

So you say you're proficient in social networking?

Well, on Fort Irwin, social networking takes on a whole new meaning when speaking about the Military and Civilian Spouses' Club. The newly revamped club is looking for members and, although you can sign up on their website, there is a great opportunity to see the club in action during their 'Super Sign Up' event next week.

The club's membership drive is scheduled for Aug. 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Sandy Basin Community Center on Fort Irwin. Michelle Garnica, club president, will be leading the way during the California-Dreamin'-themed event. The club will be holding a 'funky flip-flop' sandal contest and free breakfast burritos will be on the menu for morning attendees, said Sue Jones, publicity chair for MCSC. In the afternoon, free croissant sandwiches will be available.

The event provides the Fort Irwin community a chance to become informed about the club, which does much more than provide social and recreational opportunities for members, said Jones. The club provides scholarships and welfare grants to community members.



Amy Peterson, parliamentarian for Military and Civilian Spouses Club on Fort Irwin, holds up a card with the new logo for MCSC during a club function in May. Peterson is also lead for one of the sub-clubs of the organization. Her club is the "Lunch Bunch."

Funding is provided from proceeds generated at the FICA Thrift Store on post and other fund-raising events sponsored by the club, said Jones.

"In the past two years, the organization has provided more than \$70,000 to the Fort Irwin community in the form of scholarships and welfare grants," Jones said.

Members also have the chance to join smaller clubs within the organization. One such club is the 'Gourmet Lunch Bunch.' The new club is facilitated by Amy Peterson, who is a military spouse, mom and volunteer. She is looking for members who like to cook and are willing to create and share gourmet-style recipes. Once a schedule is created, the group will meet at the home of a member, who will serve as host and will provide the main course. Other 'Gourmet Lunch Bunch' members will bring additional dishes for taste-testing and socializing, said Peterson.

The 'Super Sign Up' will showcase other sub-clubs and also home-based businesses and crafters, said Jones.

Members of MCSC become part of a group that has a history of supporting the welfare and social well-being of this post. If you can't attend the Aug. 26 event, you can always go to the MCSC Web site, www.mcsctirwin.org, to get membership information. Membership dues are only \$25.

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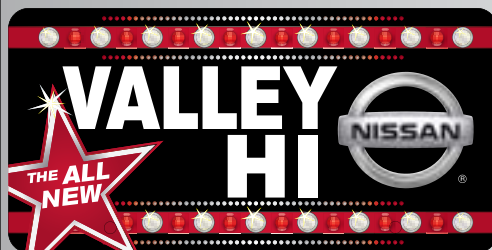
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Fitness Specialist Certification

BY SANDY CLARK

Coyote Activity Center Fitness Coordinator

Aerobics and Fitness Association of America will hold a Military Fitness Specialist Certification, which combines the knowledge and skills of personal fitness trainers and group exercise instructors at the Coyote Activity Center on September 24, 25, and 26.

Certification cost is \$489 while the military discount cost \$344.25 (military discount applies to active duty personnel, retired military members, DOD cardholders, and base fitness center staff). Cost includes: three day certification workshop, Military Fitness Specialist Certification study guide, written and practical exams, one year membership (\$69 value) to American Fitness magazine, and 15 CEU's toward previously achieved AFAA certifications. Book Cost: (2 textbooks) Regular Cost \$138 Military discount Cost \$ 110.40.

Current CPR is required before certificate is issued. Certificate is good for two years. Within two years, you must obtain 15 CEU's to keep certificate current. CEU's can be obtained through live workshops or online classes.

For more information, contact Sandy Clark at 380-7240 or email her at sandra.clark6@us.army.mil.

Coyote Activity Center Fitness Class Schedule

Thursday, August 19 Morning 8:30 Body Shop/Sandy 9:30 Belly Dancing C/Ranai Afternoon 12:00 Cycling/Sandy 5:30 Boot Camp/Robin Friday, August 20 Morning 8:30 Step/Ryndee 9:30 Pilates/Sandy Afternoon 12:00 Boot Camp/Sandy 3:00 Yoga/Michell	Monday, August 23 Morning 8:30 Turbo Kick/Ryndee 9:30 Yoga/Kimberly Afternoon 12:00 Body Shop/Robin 3:00 Yoga/Michell 5:30 Cycling/Ryndee 6:30 Body Shop/Sandy Tuesday, August 24 Morning 6:30 Boot Camp/Sandy *FREE 8:30 Body Shop/Ryndee 9:30 Belly Dancing B/Ranai	Afternoon 12:00 Step/Sandy 5:30 Dance Fusion/Robin 6:30 Yoga/Robin Wednesday, August 25 Morning 8:30 Cycling/Sandy 9:30 Yoga/Kimberly Afternoon 12:00 Pilates/Robin 3:00 Yoga/Michell 5:30 Cycling Core/Sandy 6:30 Turbo Kick/Ryndee
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HOWBATs train, prepare as combat multipliers

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. DEBRALEE P. CRANKSHAW
363rd Public Affairs Detachment

The towering hammer pulled back as the Soldiers stood waiting. As it slid forward it let loose an ear-shattering boom and the projectile arched toward its target.

Howitzer Batteries from Active Duty and National Guard have the opportunity to train as they fight at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. The center gives these Soldiers the chance to hone skills they use on the battlefield, but rarely get to practice outside a real-world mission.

"NTC gives the opportunity for units to conduct live-fire training and simulate combat operations in a full-spectrum environment," said Maj. David Smith, Operations Group, Wolf Team, artillery team operations combat trainer, from Santa Fe, N.M. "Our goal is for them to get better everyday and much better by the end of the rotation."

In Smith's two years as a trainer, he has only seen one National Guard field artillery unit train NTC. Based on his experience as a prior National Guard field artillery Soldier, he thinks National Guard units are missing out on a prime opportunity.

"For a (National Guard) artillery unit to come (to NTC) for (annual training) would be very productive," said Smith.

While Smith was in the National Guard, he said they only conducted live-fire twice a year and usually in the same areas, at the same targets. NTC gives a prime opportunity to change up that training and make it more realistic.

"The advantage of NTC is that it's focused solely on the mission and offers a lot of different targets so they can change it up," said Smith. "NTC allows offensive and defensive fires and moving and pop-up targets of tanks to shoot."

The targets aren't the only advantage Smith sees at the training center.

"NTC has an almost unlimited potential for live-fire. It offers a lot of training area versus

what a unit has at home station," said Smith. "It also provides better training because there are fewer restrictions and we can simulate combat operations much more easily here."

Currently, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, from Fort Knox, Ky., is training at NTC. Soldiers from this unit are preparing for a deployment to Afghanistan in the near future. Their purpose in attending NTC is to enhance their skills before they have boots on the ground.

"Our goal is to practice what we're going to be doing while we're deployed to Afghanistan," said Capt. Brian Adkins, Battery A commander, and a Pineville, W. Va. native. "What we're really doing here is coming together as a team. We've done our basic tasks back at Fort Knox and now, while we're out here, this is a great opportunity to get an outside resource to take a look at us ... so we can make sure we're really working as a team for this upcoming deployment."

This opportunity is not only providing a chance for team-building within the unit, but also with units they will work alongside and support.

"When we came out here to NTC, we could work as a platoon or as a battery, but more importantly our platoons are going to be working directly with our infantry battalion counterparts when we hit the ground in Afghanistan," said Adkins.

"When we're in Afghanistan providing artillery support to these guys on the ground, outside the wire, they can call, and we'll bring in the indirect fire to suppress the enemy so they can continue their mission and attack or break contact. We're just an extra asset that brings this ability to them. With this exercise, we can train alongside them and build the trust and confidence that they know how to use us properly," he said.

Members of the unit also believe the realism of the training will help prepare them for their mission in Afghanistan.

"NTC is geared toward the actual environment in Afghanistan. It replicates things as they change because the war is changing and NTC is

structured to change as the war changes," said Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Norwood, platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon, Battery A, and a Chicago native. "It's not a canned exercise that every time you come through here you have the same expectations. The training we receive here at NTC better prepares us for the current things we might encounter over there."

Another benefit members of the unit and trainers see is the feedback and critique the training unit receives from the combat trainers.

"You get to learn what you're doing wrong so you get your outfit working efficiently and a whole lot better than when you started," said Adkins. "It gives you that real-world simulated experience to the best that we can at this moment and it places you in a stressful environment to do so."

Smith also believes combat trainers contribute to the growth of the training unit.

"Because (combat trainers) are an external party, (they) look at a unit from the outside and get a more (comprehensive) picture of the unit — its strengths and its weaknesses. Some units will come in thinking they are at a certain level of training and find out that's not the case. (The Army is) a learning organization and there is always room for improvement," said Smith. "The CTs' mission is to help the unit get better; help them see themselves: see their dirty laundry ... CTs see pretty much everything so we can see when something is broken."

Members of Battery A appreciate the assessment provided by the CTs.

"We've evaluated ourselves and now we're getting that outside look," said Norwood. "Sometimes you tend to not criticize yourself enough. NTC gives us an opportunity to get a good, objective look."

Although they know they have room to improve, members of Battery A look forward to using their skills in Afghanistan as a counter-insurgency measure.

"Combat arms units such as field artillery and aviation are great combat multipliers," said Adkins. "We are an all-terrain, all-weather weapon system. We can provide indirect fire when the winds will not allow an Apache to go in, but we can still fire artillery into the area. When you have a weapon system that can range as far as ours ... the enemy knows it's out there so they have to watch what they're doing and they can't do it in an open area. It's a great deterrent."

The unit also believes their assistance is valuable to other units on the battlefield.

"We provide an important asset. We provide that long distance range — we can harm the enemy without getting in their direct fire range," said Adkins. "With that we can also provide indirect fire into an objective area and prepare it for an infantry or armor unit coming in to attack. You attack the enemy, keep their heads down, get them disorganized and it's a benefit to the ground movers when they come in to hit the direct target."

Norwood believes field artillery presents opportunities on the battlefield that make it an important asset to the fighting force.

"(Field Artillery) gives (the U.S.) a decisive advantage ... We provide something on the battlefield that is immediate and decisive and it can turn the tide of the battle based on people utilizing the artillery," Norwood said.



Sgt. Michael York, of Batt. A, gunner from Asheboro, N.C., views the sights of an M109, a 105mm howitzer to adjust the upper and lower limits in preparation of a live-fire calibration at NTC.



Pfc. Adam Saucier, of Batt. A, cannoner from Gulfport, Miss., hammers the stakes into the ground on either side of his team's M109, a 105mm howitzer, to be used for the left and right limits during calibration of the equipment.



Sgt. Michael York, of Batt. A, gunner from Asheboro, N.C., views the sights of an M109, a 105mm howitzer, as other Soldiers on his team wait to adjust the left and right limits. This was part of their training at NTC to prepare for their deployment to Afghanistan in the near future.

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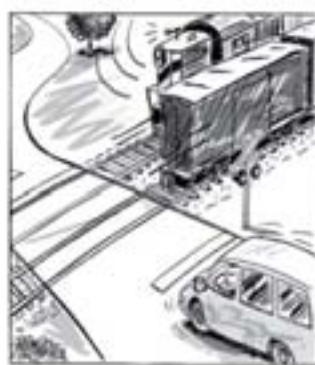
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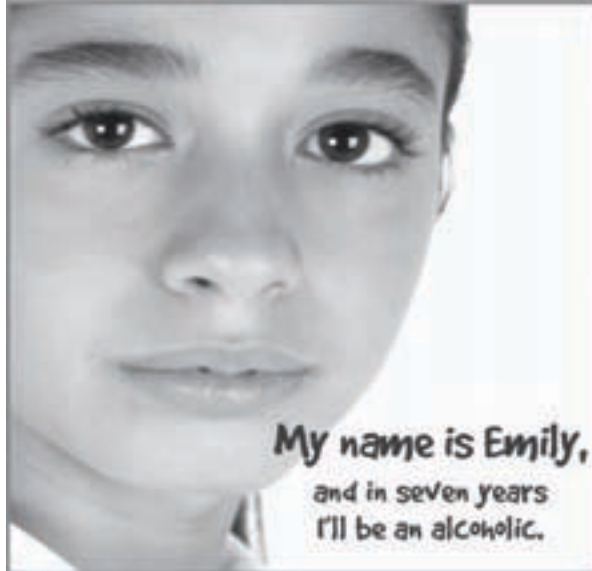
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LEASE AGREEMENT: Purchase of 24 consecutive months of any DIRECTV base programming package (\$29.99/mo. or above) or qualifying international services bundle required. DVR service (\$7/mo.) required for DVR and HD DVR lease. HD Access fee (\$10/mo.) required for HD and HD DVR lease. **FAILURE TO ACTIVATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EQUIPMENT LEASE ADDENDUM MAY RESULT IN A CHARGE OF \$150 PER RECEIVER. IF SERVICE IS TERMINATED EARLY, A CANCELLATION FEE OF \$20/MONTH REMAINING WILL APPLY. ALL EQUIPMENT IS LEASED AND MUST BE RETURNED TO DIRECTV UPON CANCELLATION, OR UNRETURNED EQUIPMENT FEES APPLY. VISIT directv.com OR CALL 1-800-DIRECTV FOR DETAILS. **INSTANT REBATE:** Second advanced receiver offer requires activation of an HD DVR as the first free receiver upgrade and subscription to Whole-Home DVR service (additional \$3/mo.). Advanced receiver instant rebate requires activation of the CHOICE XTRA package or above; MAS ULTRA or above (for DVR receiver, OPTIMO MAS Package or above); Jewworld; or any qualifying international service bundle, which shall include the PREFERRED CHOICE programming package (valued at \$38.99/mo.). Whole-Home DVR service requires a Plus HD DVR, an HD Receiver for each additional TV, DVR service and HD Access. **LIMIT TWO ADVANCED RECEIVER REBATES PER DIRECTV ACCOUNT.** Limit one remote viewing per DVR at a time. For more information, visit directv.com/wholehome. **INSTALLATION:** Standard professional installation only. Custom installation extra.**

*Eligibility for local channels based on service address. †To access DIRECTV HD programming, an HD Access fee (\$10/mo.) and HD television equipment are required. Number of HD channels varies by package selected. **Includes English-language broadcast channels with alternate Spanish-language audio and Sonic Tap Satellite Radio channels. Programming, pricing, terms and conditions subject to change at any time. Pricing residential. Taxes not included. Receipt of DIRECTV programming subject to DIRECTV Customer Agreement; copy provided at directv.com/legal and in first bill. NFL, the NFL Shield design and the NFL SUNDAY TICKET name and logo are registered trademarks of the NFL and its affiliates. NFL team names and uniform designs are registered trademarks of the teams indicated. ©2010 DIRECTV, Inc. DIRECTV and the Cyclone Design logo are trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc. All other trademarks and service marks are the property of their respective owners.