

# HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

Volume 6, Number 35

September 2, 2010

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

### **Donated Leave Request**

A Fort Irwin employee has requested donated leave. If interested in donating leave to the following individual please fill out form OPM 630 A. When donating leave you may only donate annual leave. E-mail the form to laurie.ann.sheats@conus.army. mil or you may drop it off at Building 571. If you have any questions please contact Laurie Sheats at 380-2560.

### Recruitment briefing

Asymmetric Warfare Group (similar to Special Forces) recruiters, from Fort Meade, Md., are seeking enlisted and officer personnel to attend its recruitment briefings at the Fort Irwin Education Center, today, at 10:30 a.m., 1:30 and 3 p.m. For more information, contact Greg Melcher at (301) 768-5481 or email at gregory.a.melcher@us.army.mil.

### **Customer Service Assessment**

The Customer Service Assessment survey is open from Aug. 30 through Sept. 26 to rate the importance and performance of Garrison services. The survey can be found at http://www.mymilitaryvoice.org and is open to all eligible patrons. For more information about the survey, contact Customer Service Office Meredith Storm at either 380-7639 or meredith.storm@us.army.mil.

### **Operation Battle Blackout**

Operation Battle Blackout-Fort Irwin, through its partnership with itselectricity provider (Southern California Edison), is calling everyone to voluntarily reduce its peak electricity usage during the critical period of 12 noon to 8 p.m. to support and aid in averting a possible energy emergency. Do your part: conserve energy by cutting down on lighting, electrical, and power usage in your work area or in your home. Encourage your fellow Soldiers, co-workers, and family members to conserve energy every day.

### **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 Wetzel, 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 Wetzel, 380-3284.

### **Motorists Advisory**

On Aug. 30, a stop sign was installed at the intersection of Outer Loop and Barstow roads. Yesterday, stop signs were installed at the intersection of Barstow Road and Fifth Street. Motorists are advised to take note of these changes and drive accordingly.



National Training Center and Fort Irwin commanding general, Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, signs Suicide Prevention Month proclamation.

# Suicide Awareness, Prevention Month

Brig. Gen. Abrams signs proclamation, awareness

### STORY AND PHOTO BY CHARLES MELTON

Fort Irwin U.S. Army Garrison **Community Information Manager** 

"We are engaged in a war, and the third leading cause of death is suicide," National Training Center and Fort Irwin commanding general, Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, told those gathered at the Aug. 23 Community Services Council meeting as he prepared to sign a proclamation, declaring September as "Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month" at Fort Irwin and the NTC.

In July, there were 32 suicide deaths reported Army-wide, which is more than one a day and more than the number of Soldiers killed in combat in Iraq, Brig. Gen. Abrams said, adding that "We didn't have any at the NTC thankfully."

Even though September is Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month across the Department of Defense, it is something that leaders need to focus on throughout the year, he said.

We salute, honor

See Suicide, page 2

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### **SEPT./OCT. 2010**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				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	1	2
ROTATIONAL SOLDIER USE OF POST FACILITIES						

■ HEAVY USE I = MEDIUM USE I = MINIMAL USE

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

# Never give up on Ilfe



Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams

This month our community will observe "Suicide Prevention Month." Our theme this year is: "Shoulder to Shoulder — I Will Never Give up on Life." We should all be accustomed to the fact that observances occur monthly for one topic or another. I understand that we're all very busy and that participation can vary. Suicide Prevention Month is one observance that can save a life..... We all need to pay attention.

Did you know that suicide is the third leading cause of death in our Army? That's astounding considering that we're an Army at war. To put this in perspective for you, it was very much publicized that there were 32 suicides in our Army this past June — the highest monthly rate on record. Not only does that equate to more than one suicide per day, but it's also more than the total number of U.S. casualties for 4 consecutive preceding months in Iraq (March-June).

Now that I have your attention ... this year's activities are designed to both prevent individuals from committing suicide and to increase awareness so that we all recognize the signs and are equipped to intervene before it's too late. It's also geared to breaking the stigma that seeking help is a sign of weakness. To the contrary; seeking help is the ultimate sign of strength. ... and I'm not just talking about our Soldiers. Consider these facts before you bypass a display table with useful information.

Many who attempt suicide never seek professional care.

80 percent of those who attempt suicide talk about it before taking action.

Suicide attempts are among the leading causes of hospital admissions in persons under 35.

For every 2 people killed by homicide, 3 people die of suicide.

Suicide is the fifth leading cause of death among youth 5-14 years old.

Among young people aged 10-24 years, the rate of suicide has doubled in the last decade.

Look at the first 2 bullets above ... many who attempted suicide did not seek professional help, but they are talking to others about it. Think of the positive affect that we all could have on our community and in our Army by just educating ourselves enough to recognize the warning signs — it could help someone in trouble ... it could save a life.

I encourage all of you to take a few minutes out of your days during the observance to participate in the planned activities and become familiar with some useful information. Then, apply that information throughout the year to increase the awareness of those around you and possibly help someone in need.

Let's stand Shoulder to Shoulder Fort Irwin and make a difference in our community and in our Army.

"TRAIN THE FORCE"

Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams Commanding General National Training Center and Fort Irwin

Brig. Gen. Robert B. Abrams
Commanding General
Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez
Post CSM

**WHO WE ARE** 

**Col. Jim Chevallier**Garrison Commander

Command Sgt. Maj. Mark A. Harvey
Garrison CSM

Chicpaul Becerra, Acting NTC PAO Director

### **High Desert Warrior Staff**

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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 chicoaul.becerra@us.armv.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

life..... We all need to p

Suicide, from page 1\_

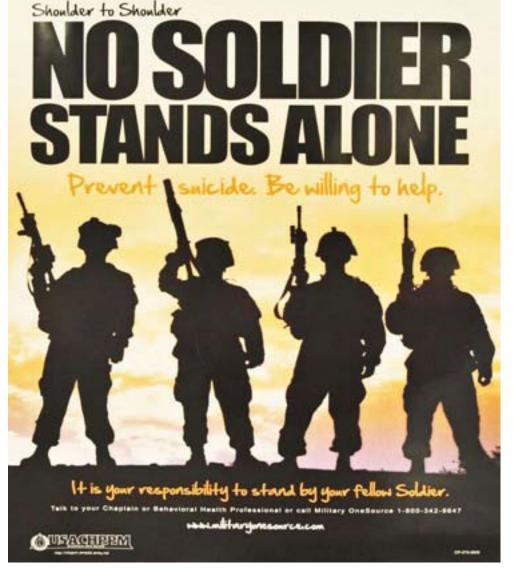
Leaders need to help reduce the stigma associated with seeking help for those who need help, he said.

"Soldiers and family members need to know it is not a sign of weakness to seek it. It is a sign of strength," Brig. Gen. Abrams said. "It's okay to seek help."

At least one suicide at Fort Irwin was prevented in the past six months because the Soldier's chain-of-command was well-informed and identified the Soldier as high-risk, he said, adding that a call from the Soldier's lawyer to the installation's Emergency Operations Center led to the Soldier's life being saved after a suicide attempt.

"The chain-of-command has to be turned on and paying attention," Brig. Gen. Abrams said. "The challenge is: 'Are you going to take action or are you going to pretend it doesn't exist?'" Each one of us is worth the effort."

The list of Suicide Awareness and Prevention efforts for September are as follows: Sept. 1 — Information Table at Dining Facility No. 2, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Sept. 2 — Information Table at Dining Facility No. 1, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Sept. 8 Information Table at Mary Walker Clinic, 1-2 p.m.; Sept. 22 — Information Table at Mary Walker Clinic, 1- 2 p.m.; and Sept. 29 — Information Table at Post Exchange, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.





2010 Fort Irwin and NTC NCO of the Year, Sgt. Nicholas Carducci, left center, and Soldier of the Year, Spc. Blake Bainter, right center, stand alongside National Training Center and Fort Irwin commanding general. Brig. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, right, and Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez, left, after being presented an Army Commendation Medal and a slew of additional swag from other agencies on post recognizing their accomplishment.

# NCO and Soldier of the Year

Soldiers distinguish themselves at installation level

### STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ

NTC Public Affairs NCO

"It's a really big deal" exclaims guest speaker, Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez, at a luncheon recognizing the National Training Center NCO and Soldier of the Year. He went on to explain both Soldiers distinguished themselves in impressive ways in their Army careers, and that he had faith in the progress of the U.S. Army because it has Soldiers like Sgt. Nicholas Carducci and Spc. Blake Bainter representing the future.

Sgt. Carducci is a Las Vegas, NV native with only a little over 5 years in the Army. Yet during that time, he's deployed to Afghanistan twice earning two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star, and now is the 2010 Fort Irwin NCO of the Year. He's got many Army schools under his belt, but as any good leader will, he still strives to improve by going to the Advanced Leaders Course as well as enrolling in college courses working towards an Associate's degree in Marketing.

K Troop 2/11 ACR is the first duty station for Spc. Blake Bainter, an in-

fantryman who hails from Macomb, Illinois. Far from home, his duties have him helping train rotational units by role-playing an insurgent. His effectiveness earned him several awards for exploits including a Battalion Command Sergeant Major kill and an assault where he killed six Rotational Training Unit Soldiers. Another Soldier with lofty goals, Spc. Bainter intends to be the Distinguished Honor Graduate when he attends the Warriors Leaders Course, and after completing his college degree, he eventually wants to retire as the Sergeant Major of the Army.



Guest speaker for the 2010 Fort Irwin and NTC NCO and Soldier of the Year ceremony, post Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez speaks to the audience on the values and numerous accomplishments of Sgt. Nicholas Carducci and Spc. Blake Bainter.

# Medics on a roll

### **BY SGT KELLI BROWN**

301st Public Affairs Detachment

In the scorching heat and combat-like environment of Fort Irwin, U.S. Army medics prepare for some of the most common war-time accidents. One in particular is humvee rollovers.

At the National Training Center here, medics are being trained on how to react and recover injured Soldiers from vehicular accidents.

The training consists of medics learning about recent techniques and tools, from how to properly use tourniquets to how to calm an injured Soldier.

"(It) gives the medics training as relevant to what they are going to be doing in combat," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Schenck, a medical instructor assigned to the lead team for medical training at the Medical Activity center.

Schenck said part of the training is to keep Soldiers' interest level high. For that reason, they came up with the HEAT, which is a humvee that simulates a rollover accident and stands for "Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer." For the exercise, Soldiers ride in the rotating vehicle to learn how to escape once upside down. They also use a dummy as a casualty so they know how to extract victims, too.

Most common injuries that come from vehicle roll-overs impact the airway, external hemorrhages and head injuries, making them focal points of the training.

Schenck said that by emphasizing those injuries and doing regular tasks, this program will produce better medics.

During the training, the medics face challenges such as weather and Soldier safety. There are numerous benefits to the training.

"I don't want them to have to figure out how to open a humvee while upside down or have to extract a patient while in combat ... Do it here in the training environment so that they are familiar with how to react in the combat zone," said Schenck. Other benefits include Soldiers having the opportunity to train with people with actual amputations. The amputees act as role players so that the medics can apply tourniquets and train on other medical needs. This gives them the experience feeling of being out there.

"Most Soldiers are open and enthusiastic about the training," said Schenck. The end results are recognizing the value of having well-trained medics and Soldiers. The scenarios and role playing are not only challenging but rewarding because the Soldiers are better equipped while in theater.

"Its better to have more training because of the unknown," said Pfc. Jacob Cummings, a medic assigned with the 22nd Infantry Division in Fort Knox, Ky.

"It was a good experience and good training," he added.

During the training, Cummings played the role as an aid station medic. Cummings was able to experience what it would be like to take care of a humvee roll over victim with multiple injuries.

"It's good for every Soldier in the Reserves to learn and operate a humvee. A humvee rollover class should be taught for every Soldier in the Reserves. We need to know how to function in the event we encounter a vehicle accident," said Spc. Ashney Simpson, a Soldier who has done the training in the past, now a supply specialist with the 850th Transportation Unit in Mississippi.

NTC covers rotations that include training active duty components, Reserve components and the National Guard components vear round.

"It's an invaluable asset for those getting ready for war. We can find the little things they don't do well and practice the things that they do well and exercise," said Schenk.

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

# **Crime Watch**

### Information provided by **Provost Marshal Office**

Non-injury traffic accident. Location: Parking lot Bldg. ###. Police investigated the report of a non-injury fender bender.

Possible fight in progress. Location: Freedom Fitness Center. Police investigated the report of a fight. The report was unfounded.

Domestic disturbance. Location: Sage Brush housing district. Police investigated the report of a family domestic disturbance.

Domestic disturbance. Location: Mojave Desert housing district. Police investigated the report of a family domestic disturbance.

Stray animal. Location: Chinook Animal control responded to the report of a stray dog. The dog was captured.

Domestic disturbance. Location: Bitter Springs housing district. Police responded to the report of a family domestic disturbance.

Larceny of private property. Location: Calico Estates housing. Victim reported that the victim's bike was stolen from the victim's yard.

Possible DUI / failure to provide identification. Location: Main Gate. Police responded to the Main Gate regarding the report of an intoxicated driver.















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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	-
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	S) Sunday, 11 a.m.	Center Chapel
PYOC (Youth)	Monday, 6 p.m.	Center Chapel
PWOC, Mornin	g Tuesday, 9 a.m.	Center Chapel
PWOC Evening	Tuesday, 6 p.m.	Center Chapel

### GOSPFI

USPEL		
Gospel Service	Sunday, 11 a.m.	Blackhorse Chapel
Prayer Warriors	Wednesday, 6 p.m.	Blackhorse Chapel
Children's Churc	h &	
Choir Practice	Thursday, 6 p.m.	Blackhorse Chapel
Adult Bible Stud	y Wednesday, 7 p.m.	Blackhorse Chapel
Prayer Men Of I	ntegrity Women of Ex	cellence
2nd Wednesday	Blackhorse Chapel	

### LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

### MUSLIM

Prayer Bldg 317 Friday, 12 p.m.

### **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 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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6

# **Community Happenings**

### Family Housing Extravaganza

Join Pinnacle Family Housing for the 2010 Extravaganza on Oct. 8, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Multi-Purpose Field, located on the corner of Inner Loop and Barstow Road. Wear your favorite soccer team jersey. Food, entertainment, games, face painting, jump houses and much more will be provided. It's a fun-filled free event for the whole family. For more information, call the housing office at (888) 419-6499.

### **Basketball Tryouts**

Fort Irwin Men's Basketball Team tryouts will be held at the Freedom Fitness Gym, from 6 to 8 p.m., Sept. 7 and 9. Fort Irwin Women's Basketball Team tryouts will be held at the Freedom Fitness Gym, from 6 to 8 p.m., Sept. 8 and 10. For more information on both tryouts, contact Scoop at 380-3457 or Sgt. 1st. Class Brody, (832) 579-8769.

### **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.

### **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 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.

### **Pet Grooming Available**

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

### **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.

### **Weight Watchers**

Weekly meetings are on Thursdays, at 12 noon, Bldg. 317 (2nd Street and Avenue E). Sign-up and weigh-in start at 11:30 a.m. Public is free to check out the meeting. More information: call Christine at 98-3438 or getfit@ww-Christine.com.

### 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 pinsetters 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.

# At the Movies

### Thursday, Sept. 2

7 p.m. Closed

### Friday, Sept. 3

Ramona and Beezus

7 p.m. The Sorcerers

Apprentice (PG) 9:30 p.m. Salt (PG-13)

### 9:30 p.m. Syrus (R)

Saturday, Sept. 4 Ramona and Beezus

7 p.m. Salt (PG-13)

9:30 p.m. Syrus (R)

### Sunday, Sept. 5

Ramona and Beezus

7 p.m. The Sorcerers

Apprentice (PG) Salt (PG-13) 7 p.m.

### Monday, Sept. 6

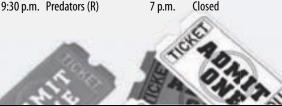
7 p.m. Syrus (R) Predators (R)

### Tuesday, Sept. 7

7 p.m. Closed

### Wednesday, Sept. 8

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.

### Adopt A Pet

Come and visit Fort Irwin's Pet Shelter, open from 2-4 p.m., Monday to Friday. For more information, call 380-3025 or visit fortirwinfmwr.com and click on the Adopt a Pet Banner for actual pictures of the animals up for adoption.

### 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.

### **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.

### **DUI Free Zone**

The Fort Irwin Garrison Safety Office reminds everyone to be safe when consuming alcoholic beverages and plan ahead. Fort Irwin and the National Training Center is a DUI Free Zone and everyone is encouraged to do their part to prevent

### 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 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.

### **School Events**

Sept. 6: No School

### Fort Irwin Middle School

Sept. 1: CC Meet at Bradach Adelanto, 4 p.m.m.

### Silver Valley High School

Sept. 2: Senior Night, 6p.m.

Sept. 2: Picture Day

Sept. 3: Football team vs. Citrus Valley, 4-6 p.m.

### **Youth and School Activities**

### **Middle School Activities**

Thursday: PC Basketball, Cooking Club-Watermelon Cake

Friday: Homemade Masks, recycling Monday: CLOSED for LABOR DAY

Tuesday: Photo Club, Design your Own Shirts Wednesday: Ultimate Journey/Smart Girls, 4-H,

PC Rebuild

### **Teen Activities**

Friday: Movie Night

Saturday: Cupcake Decorating

\*\* 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**

### Sat., Sep. 2

**AWG Recruitment Briefing** 

10:30 a.m.

**Education Center** 

Greg Melchor, 301-768-5481

### Sat., Sep. 2

Hellhorse Change of Responsibility

Jack Rabbit Park

380-4710/3499

### Fri., Sep. 3

Family Movie Night

7-9 p.m.

Oasis Pool

380-3046

### Thu., Sep. 9

Spouse Battlemind Training

6-8 p.m.

The Forum, Bldg. 1200

380-2399

### Wed., Sep. 15

Teen AFAP Conference

4:30-8 p.m.

The Forum, Bldg. 1200

380-2382

### Thu., Sep. 30

**GSAB-HHD FRG Meeting** 

6 p.m.

Bldg. 507

Cpl. Sparrow, 380-5485

### Sat., Oct. 2

Oktoberfest

5 p.m.-1 a.m.

Reggie's

380-3084

### Wed., Oct. 13

**WOA Golf Tournament** 

12 noon

Spring Valley Country Club CW2 Brian Miller, 380-4168



### Check out these upcoming activities at Fort Irwin

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# September 2, 20

### **BY VALENCIA R. BARNES**

Army Substance Abuse Program
Employee Assistance Program Coordinator

September is Suicide Prevention Month and it is recognized nationally by the US Armed Forces and the civilian sector. For fiscal year 2009, suicide was the third leading cause of death for the Army (Army Health Promotion Risk Reduction & Suicide Prevention Report), and remains the eleventh leading cause of death for Americans (Center for Disease Control). Unfortunately, suicide does not limit itself to a particular age, gender or ethnicity. Over the next few weeks I will be providing more information on suicide statistics, warning signs, protective factors, etc.

One protective factor for suicide prevention is strong connections to family and community support. To this end, our campaign for Suicide Prevent Month is focused on "Battle Buddy" pledges. Join the Army Substance Abuse Program throughout the month as we solicit the Fort Irwin community to sign up to be "Battle Buddies."

# **Suicide Prevention Month**

Come visit the ASAP information tables to get a pledge card. When you sign a pledge card to the person of your choice, you sign on to listen to them in their time

of need, and help them seek assistance if they feel suicide is the only option for them. The dates and times for the information ables are:

**Sept. 2:** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Dining Facility #1

Sept. 8: 1-2 p.m.

Mary Walker Clinic

Sept. 22: 1-2 p.m.

Mary Walker Clinic

**Sept. 29:** 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Post Exchange

In addition for the month of September, suicide facts will be posted daily on the Fort Irwin Facebook and Twitter. We are also starting the Assisted Suicide Intervention Skills Training program. This training will prepare individuals from all backgrounds to provide suicide first aid to those

persons at risk of suicide. For more information please call 380.4153. Let's not make suicide an issue in September. According to the American Association of Suicidology,

during the year 2007, there was a suicide in the United States every 15 minutes. As a society we can longer put our heads in the sand or ignore this problem.





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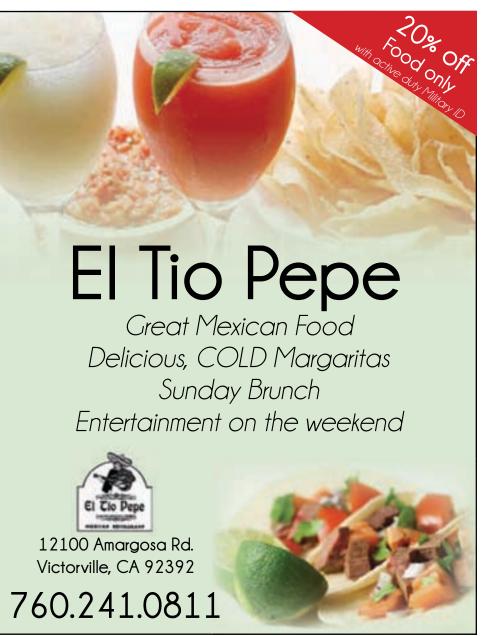
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# **Battle Staff Course graduates**



Graduates of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy Battle Staff Course Class 29-10 gather together as they graduated on Aug. 13.





# MPs sharpen active shooter skills

BY SGT. BENJAMIN ROBINSON

Company Training NCO

On August 19, NTC Military Police Company Soldiers participated in a California P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards of Training) certified Active Shooter Training Course. Hosted by the San Bernardino Police Department SWAT Team, Soldiers were taken through various scenarios in an abandoned three-story shopping mall in downtown San Bernardino.

The 10 Military Police Soldiers that certified were given classroom history on previous active shooter incidents that occurred at locations such as Columbine High School and Virginia Tech, which proved that more aggressive police action is required during

active shooter situations in order to quickly neutralize the threat and save lives. Instruction on tactical formations, special room clearing techniques, and civilian considerations unique to active shooter incidents were covered in great detail.

The training also focused heavily on practical exercises involving anywhere from a single active shooter to a team of four. Training in the most realistic environment was made possible by use of SESAMS (Special Effect Small Arms Marking System), which consist of modified weapons barrels and pressurized gas projectiles filled with paint to simulate full weapon recoil but with lower velocity rounds for safety. Using this system, Soldiers received instant, realistic feedback

during training. In addition, the training facility, a three-story shopping mall close to 200,000 square feet used by the SWAT Officers provided an enormous footprint in which an active shooter scenario could evolve and tested the Soldier's coordination and communication skills to quickly and effectively neutralize the active shooter(s).

"Outside exposure results in internal growth," said Capt. Jason Kim, MP company commander. "We train to the Army standard but continually expose ourselves to tactics used by other agencies and add them to our kit bag. San Bernardino Police Department is one of our Interagency Partners through our Law Enforcement Excellence Program, and their SWAT Officers are top-tier, each

having encountered numerous shootouts and gun battles. They know what they are doing."

"Today's training was phenomenal," said Sgt. 1st Class Starsky Smith, MP platoon sergeant. "The San Bernardino Police Department SWAT Team runs a world class operation." Sgt 1st Class Smith is also the NTC MP Company's certified instructor on active shooter.

MP Company Soldiers have trained over 100 hours in active shooter response in various conditions and settings on and off Fort Irwin. They are well versed in active shooter doctrine and response and will continue to sharpen their skills in order to ensure the safety and security of the Fort Irwin Community.

\_See MPs, page 11







COLURTES V PHOTO

Soldiers from the National Training Center Military Police Company prepare and practice active shooter skills in a downtown San Bernardino abandoned shopping mall.

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NTC Military Police Company Soldiers gather together with their trainers, San Bernardino Police Department police officers, at the conclusion of their active shooter skills training. This training will sharpen their skills to ensure a safe and secure Fort Irwin community.



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# Playing their role is no game

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. MICHEL SAURET

354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

As Soldiers entered the village of Ertebat Shar, market vendors roamed the street shouting at one another in a foreign tongue, selling fruit, oil lamps, even goats.

Various market shops stretched the length of the main avenue into the village center. Ahead, an overhead pass framed a woman's statue on one side and a mosque with a blue dome and a crescent moon on the other.

An explosion went off, leaving behind a smoking shell of a humvee, carrying a boom that Soldiers felt in their chest. Two Soldiers went down, shrieking for help; each missing a leg and covered in blood.

Within seconds, chaos took over, making it hard to distinguish innocent bystanders from insurgents.

The blood that flowed from the amputees on the ground was fake. The shots fired were blanks. The villagers and terrorists are just role players in costumes. But for this training exercise, every element was orchestrated to build a world of realism.



Role-playing villagers originally from Iraq hang out between training exercises in the mock town of Ertebat Shar at NTC, Fort Irwin, Calif., on Aug. 10.

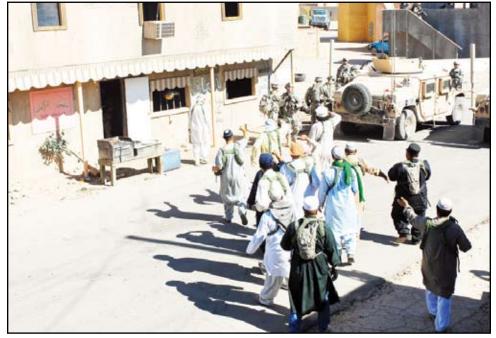
"The Army's goal is to make this as realistic as possible ... When you go out to the (villages) ... there are insurgents, there are (explosives) planted, there's just a lot of people ... How do you sort all those out?" said Lt. Col. Burk Voigt, an assistant contracting officer's rep for the U.S. Army Intelligence & Security Command.

Voigt currently works on Fort Irwin, Calif., to provide linguists and role players to train with Soldiers.

To bring realism to the max, the National Training Center here built a miniature Afghanistan in the middle of the Mojave Desert. This pretend Afghani world features a handful of small villages with mosques, market places, hotels and nearby combat bases plotted along the map.

These villages provide Hollywood-quality stages complete with pyrotechnics to prepare troops for combat, but they also bring U.S. Soldiers face-to-face with the culture they will encounter overseas.

Cultural challenges include anything from using common courtesies, understanding gender roles, showing respect, what hand gestures to avoid and the importance of Islam in the Middle Fact.



Role-playing villagers of Ertebat Shar shout angrily at U.S. Soldiers coming through their town during an insurgent attack while going through a training exercise at NTC, Fort Irwin, Calif., on Aug. 10.

To accomplish that, NTC employs roughly 400 actors to inhabit their mock villages around Fort Irwin. Roughly half are Iraqi and Afghani natives who split the role of mayors, police officers, Soldiers, villagers and even insurgents.

NTC populates between six and eight villages much in the way Hollywood casts a movie set. Some linguists play the leading roles while others act as "fillers."

Every role works to create an extra layer of realism for training.

"Even the generic role players are taught lines of (the local language), so when you go out, they're going to ... start squawking at you, and you don't have a clue what they're saying," said Voigt. "Are they saying something hostile? Are they saying, 'Hey Soldier boy, there's an IED right around the corner'? Are they saying, 'Buy my bread'? You don't know," said Voigt.

That's why it's so important for deploying Soldiers to get that experience here.

"We try to help the U.S. military to get better and better (for) when they go to Afghanistan and also for the people of Afghanistan who live in the villages, to make it easier for them," said one of the linguists who goes by the name of Jamal.

Because of security reasons, some role players prefer their full names not be disclosed. Many of the major players go through strict background checks to work and train with the U.S. military.

"When (Soldiers) know about our culture, (they) go over there and mingle and get along," Jamal said.

To push the realism to the max, NTC planners hire a lot of Iraqi and Afghani role players, rather than using just Americans in middle-eastern clothes who barely know the language.

"Clearly the military is directing most of the scenarios, but the whole realism that NTC is striving for ... would be defeated if the whole insurgency was white Anglo-Saxon Protestants walking around," Voigt said.

When playing their role, linguists are not allowed to speak any English with the Soldiers. Sometimes they like to have some fun with the troops to make their interaction harder.

"We play dumb, stupid sometimes (when playing the role of Afghani forces) like we don't know nothing. We're supposed to play lazy and see if they react to that," said Jamal.

In turn, some Soldiers will lose their patience with their Iraqi or Afghani counterparts. That's part of the learning curve, to keep their cool and work through these struggles. Some of these Soldiers will deploy overseas and train Afghani and Iraqi forces directly. The goal is for those forces to safeguard their own land without the help of the U.S. Military. They will need to overcome the cultural barriers and find a way to make the training stick.

"There's a language gap, a cultural gap, and there is a training gap," said Jamal. "We're supposed to (act) like ... the U.S. Army is in our country, and we're asking them to help us ... so we can be side by side fighting the enemies."

When a training cycle begins, role players work for NTC for about four weeks and then move on to other training bases. At NTC, they live in villages for two weeks or longer, sometimes cooking their own food, brewing their tea and making themselves at home. Voigt said that some will even invite Soldiers over to their 'homes' to offer them tea or food, which is how hospitable Iraqis and Afghans truly are overseas.

"We teach them the language, some words, so when they go over there, they know how to communicate somehow," said Jamal.

As the Soldiers interact with the actors, they get a first-hand experience of what it will be like to negotiate with community leaders, train their security forces and build strong relationships with the people.

"At the end of the mission, they always come shake our hand saying, 'Thank you for doing this,' and sometimes they even speak Farsi with us," said Sal, another of the contracted linguists.

In most cases, Soldiers live out in the combat bases out in the desert for two weeks and interact daily with the nearest village. By the final week, the real world and the pretend world begin to mesh. Village mayors come to company and platoon leaders with needs: water, fertilizer, food, protection ... and in turn the Soldiers work to build trust and gain information on enemies in the area.

"It just shows that we did okay on the mission, because before they walked in, they didn't know nothing, and now in the end they speak a little bit of our language or culture ... so when they're out there, they know at least what to do," he said.

Like many other linguists at NTC, Sal and Jamal were born in Afghanistan. Unfortunately for them, they had to leave the land they called home at an early age.

Sal escaped Afghanistan with his family in 1983 when he was just five years old. He doesn't have fond, childhood memories of growing up. What he remembers is a state of warfare: a country invaded by the Soviets and a fiveday and five-night walk from his hometown of Kabul on his escape to Pakistan with his family. There, they lived in hope that freedom might return to their homeland, but even as the communist invasion crumbled, what followed wasn't any better: a state of civil war and eventually a Taliban takeover.

"It's a hard life over there," he said.

Sal lived in Pakistan only a few years until he moved again with his family to the U.S. at the age of nine. Eventually he made it to California. In college he studied medicine in hope to become a paramedic, travel around the world and hoped to visit Afghanistan again. But because he didn't have field experience in California, law restrictions thwarted his plans.

Then a friend told him about linguists working for the U.S. Military. It gave him the opportunity to play the role he never had a chance to live out as an adult: an Afghan citizen, or police officer ... even an Afghan Soldier.

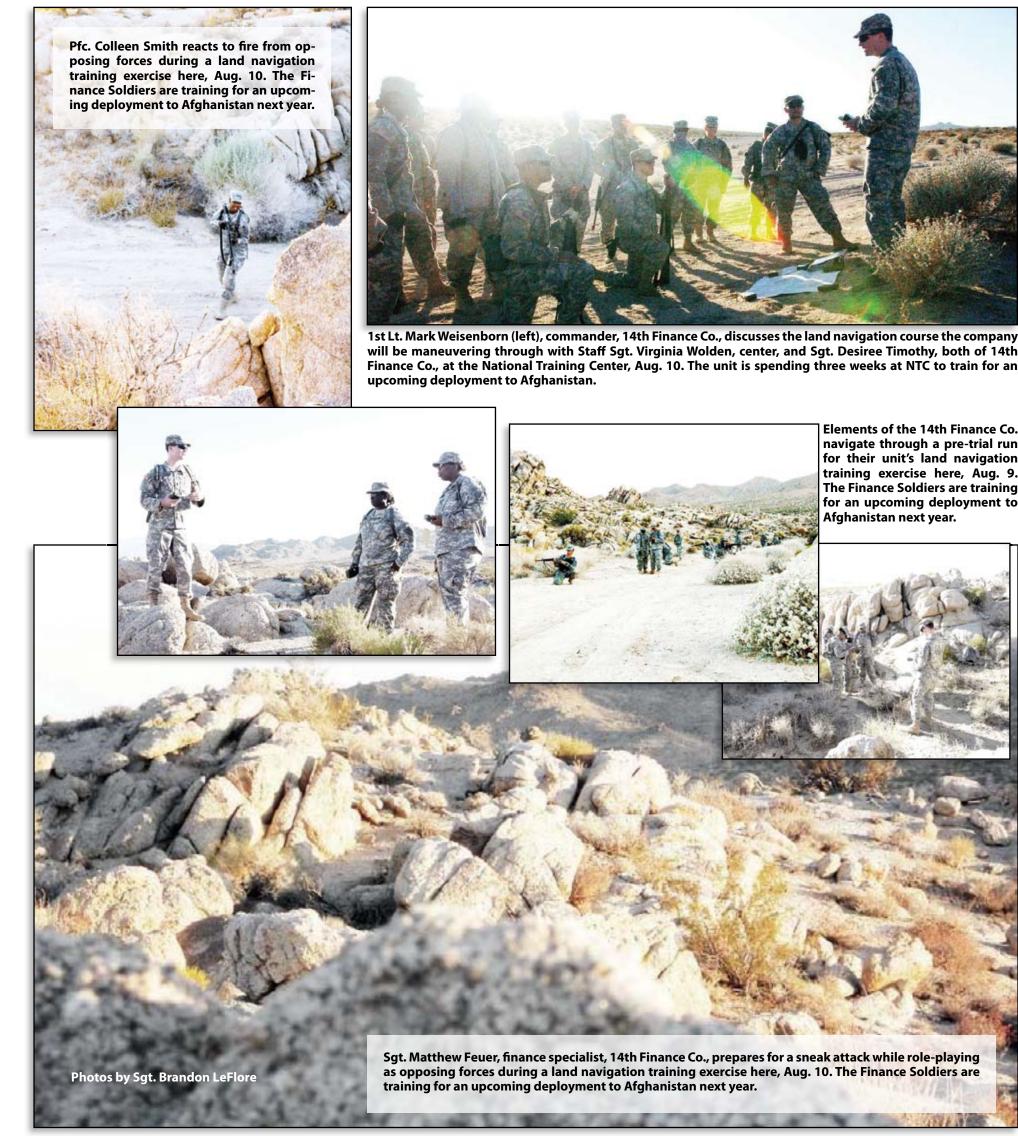
Much like Sal, Jamal also remembers his five-day walk to Pakistan with his family. He was 14 at that time, and eventually immigrated to the U.S.

"Before this war thing got started, before the Russians came in, we loved it. We were happy. We were living a low budget life, but we were happy ... At least we were free. We didn't have to worry about not walking across the street ... The only choice left to us was to get out of there," said Jamal.

Both role players are now U.S. citizens, but they still consider Kabul part of their home. Now they serve in the same virtual Afghan Army, something they were never able to do in real life as war pushed them away. Their hope is to prepare Soldiers deploy to restore freedom in their land because they were not able to do so themselves.

"We're doing this to help the U.S. military and make a difference, and make it the way it was 30 or 40 years ago. And if that will happen, man, we'll do whatever it takes," Jamal said.

# **Rotation 10-09 / Land Navigation**



# Tiefort View Intermediate School's barbecue

Tiefort view Intermediate School held a Back to School Night barbecue, on Aug. 18.



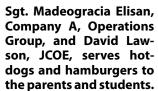
Spc. Ryan Davis, Company A, Operations Group, setting up a water buffalo for the event.



Spc. William Elgin, Company A, Operations Group, serves hotdog and hamburger buns to parents and students.



Parents and students listening to Mrs. William introduce the teachers and staff.







Parents and students wait to receive Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, and drinks from volunteers.

# Sesame Street/USO Experience performs at Fort Irwin

BY STEPHANIE CRAWFORD

FMWR Marketing Specialist

Since 2008, the Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families has been delighting military children and their parents. So far, the Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families has traveled more than 50,000 miles to 90 bases in nine countries and 27 states, performing 237 shows for military families. In 2010, the show hit a milestone of reaching out to over 150,000 military families. The Sesame Street experience has been the longest running tour in USO history.

On Aug. 18 and 19, the Fort Irwin community was thrilled to host this record setting show. For two shows each day, Elmo and friends entertained military children and their families with songs and dancing. Over 400 eager children and their families filled the Freedom Fitness Gym each show. Admission was free to all military families.

During each show, Freedom Fitness Gym was transformed into 123 Sesame Street. The show is especially tailored to address the concerns of military children as they deal with the hardships of deployments and separation. The show opened with Elmo singing a song about how sad he was when his dad deployed, but how he remembered his dad's stories to cheer himself up. The characters also sang songs about dancing and making music. Jamel Edmund, an MWR employee, saw firsthand the positive effect of the show on the attendees. "It was amazing seeing the kids' faces light up when Elmo and Cookie Monster stepped on stage," Edmund stated. The families left with special gifts from the USO, including USO bandanas and Elmo light up toys. David Reese, a retired staff sergeant, took his wife and

17-month-old daughter to one of the showings. When asked about the experience, he said, "It was a once in a lifetime experience that I was so thankful my family was able to be a part of."

The Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families

wrapped up their final performance on Aug. 19 and performers were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Fort Irwin community. The show will be heading to Fort Lewis, Washington next. The tour will end in September, visiting 105 bases total.





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# **Coyote Activity Center**

### BY SANDY CLARK

Coyote Activity Center Fitness Coordinator

As a child I would find all kind of excuses to quit everything I did. I never seem to follow through with anything; sports, dancing, piano; whatever the activity may have been at the moment. I guess I was easily bored or maybe just plain out lazy. My parents never pushed me into anything, if Sandy wanted to quit, Sandy quit. Guess that's a perk to being an only child.

When I was young girl in elementary school, I was very active. I was always picked first to be on any sport we were playing; kickball being my favorite. I was the only girl who could kick it over the fence. I loved playing games and sports during recess and P.E, but I hated to run. I might have been first picked on the kickball team, but I was dead last usually running those laps at the old

West End. I remember my friend Cindy and I were looking at her older sister's high school year book. We were look at the best of the best. She said "I'd rather be best dressed or most popular than most athletic, hadn't you?" I remember thinking "not" I would have loved to be most athletic, although I would have taken best looking.

The street I grew up on was a bit male dominated. I was the only girl. We were always playing something, kickball, basketball, tag; something. I was always into something. I hit junior high and that all slowed down. Didn't do anything in 7th grade but 8th and 9th grade I played basketball. I really enjoyed that and did not quit! On into high school had a steady boyfriend so sports or any other activities were top on my list. I did decide to try out for basketball team my junior year. Guess what...yes I quit. Half way through the year. I look back at that time and could kick myself. For now good reason...my excuse — the coach didn't like me...blah blah blah.

It does seem like a lifetime ago. As I now approach the big 4-0, I could kick myself at all the missed opportunities. What I could have done if I only had the determination to follow through with things that I started. I really have struggled with that my entire life. I'd rather quit than fail at something. Now there are a few things I have completed but not by lack of trying to talk myself out of them. While I was in Korea, I did complete my black belt training in Tae Kwon Do. I also have several fitness certificating under my belt, but believe me I tired more than once to weasel out of finishing. I hate to fail. I don't want to be last, guess it's just childhood memories. Luckily I've had excellent support system. I've had friends travel with me to get certification, friends that

I can call just when I'm about to fall off the wagon for a little extra peep talk. My family has always been supportive with things I have wanted to do. It's just my fear of failure that keeps me second guessing myself.

I have come to realize the only failure is not to try. I believe that's actually a quote by someone other than myself:0) I am going to complete this marathon even if I have to crawl across that finish line — not because running makes me look better. The fact is that runners usually carry more body fat, but that's another post. It's merely a goal that I am determined to accomplish.

The older I get, the more I realize just how important taking care of yourself is. I see my Mother struggle with all her health issues and so I am determined to stay as healthy as possible for as long as I can. There's no other option for me.







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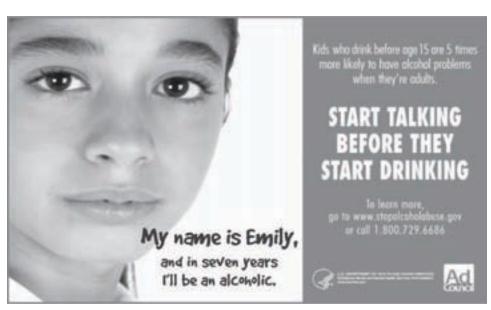
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# **TRICARE** Coverage for College Students

### BY TYLER PATTERSON

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Now that your children are going to college, if you're like most of us, you've got some new houseguests to take their place: pride and paranoia. What if something happens to them while they're hundreds — or even thousands — of miles away? Who is looking after their health?

The good news is, whether they're staying in state or heading across the country, it only takes a few easy steps to ensure TRICARE coverage wherever they go.

### 1) Maintain Eligibility

An up-to-date record in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) is the key to your child remaining eligible and avoiding unnecessary out-of-pocket costs and claims issues. Visit www. tricare.mil/deers to learn how to update addresses and other important information.

As long as your children are enrolled as full-time college students and you supply more than 50 percent of their income, they will remain TRICARE-eligible until age 23 or until they graduate, whichever comes first.

Parents should be aware that eligibility for TRICARE does not automatically continue; no matter which TRICARE plan you use, you will have to submit paperwork to DEERS before your children are 21 to continue coverage until age 23.

Your children should also have valid uniformed service ID cards.

### 2) Check Availability

If your children are moving away from home, the TRICARE program they used at home may not be available in their new location.

Students enrolled in TRICARE Prime should use their benefits in TRICARE Prime Service Areas, usually near a military clinic. In the TRICARE West Region, you can confirm TRICARE Prime availability by checking "Prime Eligibility" in TriWest's Military Clinic Locator (www.triwest.com/locator). Students can transfer their Prime enrollment to the new location or start a new Prime enrollment there, and will access their care through a local primary care manager (PCM).

If Prime is not available, students can still access care through TRICARE-authorized providers using TRICARE Standard and

Extra. There is no enrollment requirement to use TRICARE Standard and Extra. However, if your children previously had Prime coverage, they will have to disenroll from Prime. You can download a disenrollment form at www.triwest.com.

### 3) Split Enrollment: Don't Pay Two Enrollment Fees

For retiree TRICARE Prime families, when a child attends college in a different TRICARE region, there won't be two enrollment fees. TRICARE allows you to "split" the enrollment and only pay one family enrollment fee to your region. Contact the TRICARE contractor in your family's region and the contractor in your child's new TRICARE region to set up the split enrollment; find the regional contact information at www. tricare.mil/contactus.

### 4) Plan for Vacations

If your child travels or returns home, TRICARE coverage follows. Prime students will have to coordinate non-emergency care with their PCM. For trips back home to the family's region over 30 days, temporarily transfer enrollment to the new regional

contractor. Students traveling outside of their region with Standard and Extra coverage don't need to transfer enrollment, but will still be responsible for their deductibles and cost-shares. Complete and file any claim paperwork with the region where the student lives.

### Impact of Health Care Reform

As the parent of a college student, you are likely very interested in how the new Health Care Reform Act will impact your college age children. Current age limits (21 or 23 if the dependent is a full-time student) are set by statute, therefore separate legislation would be required to change them. Legislation to extend TRICARE benefits to dependents up to age 26 is still pending, therefore the benefit remains unchanged at this time.

### Need more info?

Visit www.triwest.com/beneficiary and click the "Life Changing Events" link for more details, including pharmacy and dental coverage for college students. Rules for maintaining coverage while attending school overseas may be different. Visit www.tricare. mil/overseas for more information.

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# Finance crew goes tactical

### BY SGT. BRANDON LEFLORE

363rd Public Affairs Detachment

The California sun beamed down on a group of Army National Guard finance Soldiers from New York as they hiked through sand, rocks and brush to find four plotted points on their land navigation course here, Aug. 10.

The land navigation course was a little different from a traditional training scenario, with opposing forces and simulated improvised-explosive devices, Soldiers from the 14th Finance Company from New York City moved with skill and agility to accomplish their goal.

"The objective here was to advance tactically through enemy territory using the (Defense Advanced G.P.S. Receiver) systems," said Sgt. Matthew Feuer, finance specialist, 14th Finance Co.

The DAGR system is a relatively new satellite G.P.S. It's more powerful and a quarter of the size of the old Precision lightweight G.P.S. Receiver systems, more commonly known as PLGRs, and allows Soldiers to see terrain maps as opposed to simply grid coordinates.

The 14th Finance Co. doesn't normally have the opportunity to conduct dismounted land navigation or driver's training in a desert terrain, but the National Training Center at Fort Irwin offers the proper climate and training resources to train this unit for a future deployment.

"The environment here is drastically different from what we are used to," said Staff Sgt. Lisa Neely, Detachment Sgt., 14th Finance Co. "We don't have the opportunity to do much land navigation training back home, but we were able to actually get out there, plot points and try not to get lost."

Instead of skyscrapers and paved road, the New York-based finance Soldiers are met with rolling hills and sandy trails which offers them a chance to practice their basic Soldier skills in a desert environment.

"The land navigation course is something we can't do in the city," said Feuer. "The National Guard has places to train in upstate N.Y. and N.J., but the biggest difference here is the climate and the terrain."

This land navigation course is not unlike something the unit would experience while deployed. If for instance, there is a forward infantry unit, the finance company might have to move cash out to that unit through rough terrain, said 1st Lt. Mark Weisenborn, commander of the 14th Finance Co.

The finance company doesn't routinely have the chance to train in a tactical environment and in addition to conducting land navigation training the unit has also participated in a combat lifesaver's course, nine-line medical evacuation, convoy operations, radio procedures and driver's training while at NTC.

The National Guard is limited as far as resources go and we don't have the newest Humvee's (or) as many resources as the active Army but the unit has been able to adapt, said Feuer. "Here Soldiers have access to up-armored Humvees and have a chance to drive-off road as opposed to around the block in a place like Queens."

"There's no driver's training noncommissioned officer back at our company so we normally have to seek out other units to conduct driver's training," added Neely.

While all the training the unit receives during their annual training here is not necessarily essential to their role as a finance company, it provides an opportunity for the unit members to hone their core competencies in a field environment.

"The training is not necessarily central to our mission because we don't typically run convoys or plan logistical routes, but in the event that we have to assume control we have to rely on the basic Soldier tasks we've been training on here," said Feuer.

In addition to training tactically, Soldiers from 14th Finance Co. have trained with the finance office here at Fort Irwin.

"Here we have access to a finance office and active duty pay and active duty Soldier's pay problems. We have exposure to a lot more training resources and hands-on training than we would ever get at home in our armory," said Feuer.

The finance training offered here is unique in that Soldiers have the resources available to process actual pay inquiries for active duty Soldiers stationed here at Fort Irwin, which is particularly useful for Soldiers who have not deployed yet.

Many of the Soldiers in the 14th Finance Co. have recently finished basic training and (advanced individual training), so they haven't really seen the system applied to real-world scenarios, but here they have a chance to work with someone who uses it routinely, said Sgt. Desiree Timothy, Finance Specialist with the 14th Finance Co.

"At home ... there is a lot of paper or field manual training making it a little harder to train adequately, but here the Soldiers have access to the systems and get a chance to really get hands-on training," added Timothy.

With a slew of new Soldiers, training here at NTC will be paramount to the unit's readiness as they look forward to an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan next year.

"The training here is extraordinary," said Staff Sgt. Virginia Waldon, Senior Financial Management Specialist, 14th Finance Co. "The Soldiers have a chance to see what they'll face when they go down range."



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- Garage & Yard Sales
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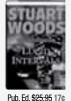
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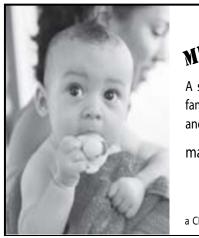
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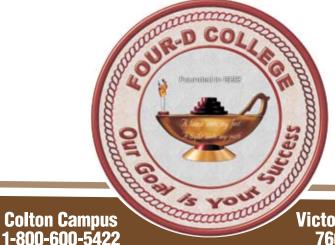


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