



HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

Volume 6, Number 37

www.irwin.army.mil

September 16, 2010

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

Customer Service Assessment

The Customer Service Assessment survey is open from through Sept. 26 to rate the importance and performance of Garrison services. The survey can be found at 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 its electricity 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.

Recycling Survey

The Directorate of Public Works is seeking your input on recycling at Fort Irwin and the National Training Center through an on-line survey. The survey can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/s/QF8SW3G.

Dental Clinic Open

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

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.

Emergency Response Exercise

There will be an installation-wide emergency response exercise today. Please be advised that this is only a training exercise.

POW/MIA Ceremony

There will be a ceremony honoring POWs and MIAs at 10 a.m. tomorrow at Bldg 237. Mr. David Villafana will be awarded a Purple Heart for his service during the Korean War.



GUSTAVO BAHENA

Robby Gordon, NASCAR and off-road racer, speaks with several boys on Fort Irwin during a meet and greet with the public on Monday at the post exchange parking lot. The truck in the background is the vehicle he used at Terrible's Las Vegas Primm 300 race, held Sept. 10-12.

NASCAR driver says 'Thanks' to Soldiers

BY JACKIE HOOGINS
Public Affairs Office
Community Relations Officer

NASCAR Sprint Cup team owner/driver Robby Gordon is one of the busiest and most popular racecar drivers in the United States. Despite Gordon's hectic schedule, he wanted to say "Thank you" to America's Soldiers. Gordon is airing a new show this fall on the military channel called "Robby Gordon, Off Road with the Troops."

Robby Gordon's days involve dirt, endurance, racing, and a four wheel Trophy Truck. Gordon won the Primm 300 in Nevada in 2009. This year, Gordon showed up in Nevada

with a few extra pit crew members from the 916th Support Brigade Maintenance Company. Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Ray, Sgt. Ogburn and Spc. Marsh put their mechanic expertise to a different desert use last weekend.

When Gordon arrived at the NTC on Monday to shoot footage for his upcoming show, the southern California native, was issued Army Camouflage Uniforms. Sgt. 1st Class Catherine Harris, G3 operations noncommissioned officer, put the NASCAR driver through some basic training. Harris told Gordon, "I know you can handle race car endurance, but can you handle a Soldier's endurance?"

Gordon was strapped in the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT), tested his skills at

Expert Infantryman's Badge (EIB) training, and participated in a Tactical Combative Training. He also climbed aboard an M1 Abrams tank at the 211th Maintenance Shop. Gordon was so taken with our tanks and troops, that he now proudly displays the Black Horse logo on his race Trophy Truck.

"It was great to see appreciation expressed from Mr. Robby Gordon and his crew. The Soldiers all had a great time, and it was an awesome experience for Mr. Gordon to take time out of his busy schedule to stop and say thank you, letting us know we are doing the right thing and that the American public supports us. A thank you goes a long way," expressed Harris at the "Meet and Greet" for Fort Irwin Soldiers and Families.

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SEPT./OCT. 2010

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

ROTATIONAL SOLDIER USE OF POST FACILITIES

■ HEAVY USE | ■ MEDIUM USE | ■ MINIMAL USE

We salute, honor



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

Hot Topics

Instilling an installation culture of traffic and pedestrian safety

Fort Irwin and the National Training Center are unique in many ways. We have a critical mission of “Training the Force,” a diverse mix of military and civilian work force task organized to accomplish our mission, and a unique location in the High Mojave Desert. Unfortunately, we are also different in that we as an Army community routinely ignore basic traffic and pedestrian safety rules.

Army installations world-wide are typically known for adherence to basic traffic laws which is clearly evidenced by strict adherence to speed limits upon crossing an installation boundary, but for some reason Fort Irwin does not exhibit the same culture of traffic safety. Instead, Fort Irwin vehicle operators routinely ignore posted speed limits, prohibitions against cell phone usage and other forms of distracted driving and ignore the right of way for pedestrians using cross walks, and pedestrians tend to not use crosswalks that are readily available. In fact, our crossing guards who protect our children before and after school are sometimes verbally abused for “inconveniencing” drivers who are in a hurry; pedestrians do the same when asked to use crosswalks, and a reduction in a posted speed limit typically results in a wave of ICE comments. Personally, I find this attitude perplexing on an Army installation, especially an installation the size of Fort Irwin where speeding on our roads will only get you to your destination a few seconds earlier, a few seconds of travel time that is clearly not worth the potential for a tragic accident.

There are theories as to why our installation is this way. Some say our high density of civilian workers is to blame because they do not live on the installation. Some say it is a California thing or a problem with the younger generation. However, the demographics associated with the average total of 100 traffic citations per month do not confirm any single theory as the offenders are from all categories — active-duty military, dependents, civilians and of all ranks and all ages.

One fact is certain, that the primary ingredient in ensuring a safe community is you, the people who live and work on Fort Irwin whether active-duty, dependent, civilian, or visitor. As members of the Fort Irwin community we all have a stake in “Protecting our Community” by following the rules of the road and changing our individual actions will go a long way in ensuring our community remains a safe community. One additional technique for improving the safety of our community is to increase awareness. For that reason, during the coming weeks and months you will see a number of signs being posted at crosswalks throughout the installation. The intent of the signs is to provide one more visual reminder to slow down and protect the community.



While out and about on Fort Irwin, Col. Chevallier had the opportunity to gain situational awareness about many topics affecting life on Fort Irwin. Your feedback comes in a variety of ways, from your input via the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) Program, to the monthly Community Service Councils, other ‘Town Hall’ type venues, or just through being out and about as a resident of Fort Irwin. The purpose of this column is to address various topics that impact the Soldiers, families, and civilians who make up the Fort Irwin community.

Regards,
Col. Jim Chevallier
Garrison Commander
(Guardian 6)

ICE — Customer Service Corner

BY MEREDITH STORM
Customer Service Officer

Let Your Voice Be Heard — don't be left out!

Have we heard from you! Has your voice been heard on how Fort Irwin is meeting your needs in an array of services from on-Post Housing and heating/cooling to road maintenance and recreation facilities? The Customer Service Assessment survey is your avenue to have your voice heard and is currently being conducted on line at www.mymilitaryvoice.org until Sunday 26 September.

To make the survey meaningful, we need to capture a sufficient number of participant voices from Soldiers, Family Members, Re-

tirees, DA Civilians, and Veterans. We want to hear from everyone who lives, works or plays on this garrison. A review of last week's data shows we are really lacking participation from the Soldiers, Family Members, Retirees, Veterans, and Civilian constituent groups. If this garrison is to achieve a 90% confidence factor in the results Soldiers, Family Members, Retirees, Veterans, and Civilians must participate in greater numbers than achieved thus far. We only have a couple more weeks to get this done! Please take the survey, especially if you are a member of these constituent groups!

The survey is important as the Garrison Commander and Directors rely on this data to see how the post is meeting the needs of all constituents, including identifying what

areas need improvement to you and how the service providers are performing. If you don't tell us, we will not know your personal experience. It is like voting, you can't complain about the outcome if you don't participate!

Please log into the survey at www.mymilitaryvoice.org and spend less than 15 minutes online to tell us “How we are doing.” Your feedback is valued from the Garrison Commander on down. Thanks again for making your voice heard and helping the installation improve the services to you the customer.

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!

WHO WE ARE

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HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

High Desert Warrior, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the United States Army and Fort Irwin community. Contents of this newspaper are not necessarily official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Fort Irwin and the National Training Center. *High Desert Warrior* is prepared weekly by the Public Affairs Office, National Training Center and Fort Irwin, P.O. Box 105067, Fort Irwin, CA, 92310-5067. Telephone: 380-4511 or DSN 470-4511. FAX: 380-3075.

High Desert Warrior is distributed every Thursday 50 weeks per year. It is produced at Aerotech News and Review, 456 East Avenue K-4, Suite 8, Lancaster, CA, 93535, (661) 945-5634. Printed circulation is 6,500. Aerotech News and Review is a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army and is responsible for the commercial advertising found in this publication. Everything advertised in this publication will be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national orientation, age, marital status, physical handicap or political affiliation of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in refusal to print advertising from that source. The appearance of advertisements in this publication does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised.

Printed by Aerotech News and Review, Inc. (877) 247-9288, www.aerotechnews.com.

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

When wrenches go to war

BY SPC. MICHAEL CRAWFORD

354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Along a bumpy dirt road, a convoy of 17 vehicles moved over rolling hills, on the lookout for trouble. Four gun trucks were spread out amongst the convoy, scanning the horizon for signs of roadside bombs and insurgents. The mission: gather intelligence and reopen a main supply route.

An ear-piercing explosion blasted the front gun truck, and the five occupants died on impact, never knowing a roadside bomb lay just behind a small mound of rocks, as insurgents attacked the rest of the convoy.

"It's amazing," said Sgt. Douglas Bonness, a mechanic with the 758th Maintenance Company. "We rolled right over an (improvised explosive device) and didn't even realize it."

It's a revelation some don't live to voice, but at the National Training Center, Soldiers have an opportunity to learn from their mistakes before it's too late.

Outside the safe zone of Forward Operating Base Warrior at NTC, Soldiers equip themselves with the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System for simulated combat, which works similar to laser tag, allowing Soldiers to experience live-fire combat without using live ammunition. It also allows for simulation of explosions, like the roadside bombs frequently encountered in Iraq and Afghanistan.

So why is a company of mechanics running battle drills in the Mojave Desert?

"These missions help improve leadership, teamwork and unit cohesion," said Capt. Tawanda Short, commander of the 758th at NTC. "It improves lateral drills and the recovery process, and it helps develop junior leaders."

The 758th, based in Columbus, Ohio, provides recovery and maintenance support to the 319th Combat Support Sustainment Brigade at



SPC. MICHAEL CRAWFORD

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Scott, a convoy commander with the 758th Maint. Co., briefs Soldiers prior to a battle drill at NTC. The 758th, based in Columbus, Ohio, provides recovery and maintenance support to the 319th CSSB at NTC.

NTC, said Short, a native of Columbus, Ohio. While the focus of the training may not seem to fit into either category of support, the Soldiers of the 758th embrace the training as core competencies.

"We need it," said Spc. Karl Larew, a chemical and biological decontamination specialist with the 758th. "We go out on recovery missions overseas. If a vehicle crashes, we have to go and get it." The missions at NTC prepare Soldiers for the environment they will be in during a deployment, he said.

It can be easy for Reserve Soldiers to focus on their occupational specialties to the exclusion of warrior tasks and drills, but these Soldiers know their wrenches alone won't deter the enemy.

"This is my first and foremost job," said Pfc. Corban Beery, a mechanic with the 758th who manned one of the four gun-truck turrets in the convoy. "Many of us are just out of (advanced

individual training) and this gives us areas to improve upon and a chance to work with our unit as a team."

A convoy can take a lot of planning and offers an exercise in teamwork before the convoy leaves the FOB, said Staff Sgt. Jonathon Scott, a convoy commander with the 758th. "I've done several convoys in Iraq, and I take my experience from overseas to here. Having mentors and battle buddies listening to each other helps train based on reality."

Mentoring from outside the unit helps training as well. The combat trainers in charge of the training lanes thrive off feedback and positive reinforcement to help Soldiers make the most of their training.

"The instructors are well-informed and excited about the training," said 1st Sgt. Russell Toppin with the 758th.

"We try to get away from evaluating what you do wrong and try to make you better," said Capt. Devon S. Edwards, a planning officer with the 369th Sustainment Brigade serving as a combat trainer at NTC. "We try to sustain the good and improve on other things without negativity."

Soldiers learned more than reacting to enemy fire and roadside bombs. They learned to identify locals as not just potential enemies, but potential allies. During a simulated encounter with locals stopped on the side of the road, the all-too-common hurdle of the language barrier was avoided thanks to a friendly translator.

"This exercise was great," said Bonness, a native of Cleveland. Without a translator, a routine identification and vehicle inspection could have taken hours instead of minutes, he said.

In dealing with locals, Soldiers also learned how to make use of new equipment being used in theater. The Handheld Interagency Identity Detection Equipment, more commonly referred to as the HIIDE system, uses retinal and fingerprint scans to access FBI databases and confirm identities.

"This training session is very close to what's experienced overseas," Toppin said. The training gives Soldiers a jump start so they know what to expect while they are deployed, he said.

Soldiers had a chance to apply that jump start by running the lane a second time. After a dry run and an after-action review, the 758th regrouped for a second round and strived to outdo themselves.

"Security definitely improved when we were getting out of the kill zone," said Bonness. "It's beneficial for everyone on the convoy; someone might die and you need to react."

"Everyone did well," said Scott. "We still made mistakes, but we improved over all." The Soldiers improved their situational awareness and communications, he said.

"Everyone learned something today."

A pictograph can tell a thousand years

STORY AND PHOTO BY NEIL MORRISON AND SPC. ZACHARY A. GARDNER

Museum Director/11th ACR Public Affairs

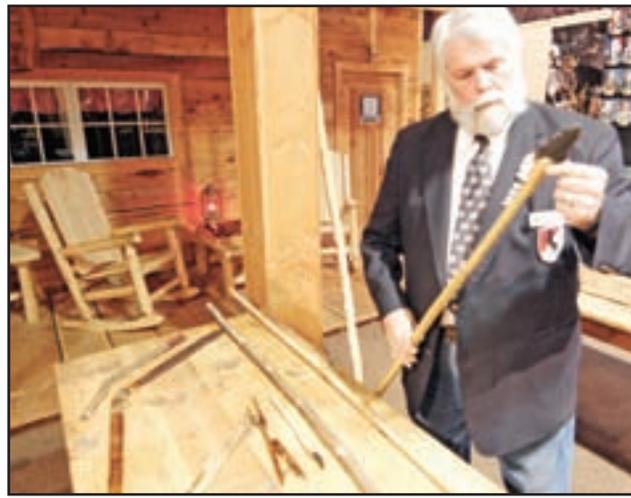
Today, the Fort Irwin landscape is harsh, dry and rocky full of venturesome wildlife and fauna, but this was not always the case. When early Native American tribes arrived in the area some 12,000 years ago there was no desert to be found. Instead, the Native Americans tribes found a lush and abundant Mediterranean-like ecosystem.

It wasn't until the beginning of the Altithermal Period some 8,000 years ago that the area was transformed into the Mojave Desert of today. It was also during this period that large animal populations started to migrate from the area and plant life began to disappear.

With the desertification of the region jeopardizing the survival of Native American tribes, competition over the available resources increased. The Hokan speakers of the North and Uto-Aztecan speakers of the South became more factionalized and warlike as a result of the changing climate. Areas like Red Pass, Red Pass Lake and Bitter Springs became flashpoints for the tribes, because of their proximity to water.

The Hokan tribes, through the use of the Atlatl, a tool that extends the throwing range of a spear, were able to drive

the Uto-Aztecan speakers from the area. The Atlatl allows the thrower to lob a spear up to 150 feet. The Hokan used their technological advantage to push the Uto-Aztecan tribes in all different directions. Because of the weapons range, the Uto-



Neil Morrison, director of the National Training Center and 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Museum, holds a replica of an early Native American spear on display at the museum.

Aztecan tribes decided to take refuge in the high grounds and other mountainous areas, out of reach of the Hokan artillery while the Hokan tribes roamed the lower regions.

Evidence of such conflicts can be found at sites such as Black Mountain in Hinkley, Calif. Archeological evidence has produced numerous findings in the way of petroglyph inscriptions and pictograph paintings. Carved and painted into the mountain, they tell the story of epic clashes between the Hokan and the Uto-Aztecan near openings in the mountain and on the sides of rocks.

Heavy fighting with the Hokan had taken its toll on the Uto-Aztecan. Because of the loss of so many men through combat, the Uto-Aztecan tribes began to steer more towards a matriarchal society. As time went on fighting amongst the tribes would die down, the Uto-Aztecan tribes would return to their ancestral home and rebuild their tribes.

The history of the Hokan and Uto-Aztecan tribes is just as harsh and rocky as the land they fought over. While certain details of their story may still be unknown, what is known comes from the pictographs that they left behind. Through the efforts of local archeologists and the archeology department at Fort Irwin, what is known will be preserved for future generations.

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

Crime Watch

Information provided by
Provost Marshal Office

Larceny of private property. Location: Coyote Springs housing. Victim reported that various electronic items were stolen from the victim's vehicle. Report was taken.

Suspicious package. Location: Dog Park. Police and fire units investigated the report of a suspicious package. EOD checked and cleared the package.

Domestic disturbance . Location: Bldg. ####, Room ####. Police investigated the report of a verbal domestic. No crime, parties advised to keep the noise down.

Vandalized military property: Location: Ghost Town Road, west of I-15 near Shell gas station. Deputy Halterman reported that two (2) shower mods were being vandalized in the vicinity of the Shell gas station on Ghost Town Road, west of the I-15. Halterman stated the residents claim the property has been there a couple months.

Verbal domestic: Location: Desert Winds housing. Police investigated the report of a family domestic disturbance. No evidence of a crime; both parties advised.

Assault: Location Skate Park. Police investigated the report of a youthful assault. Subject located and advised. No prosecution.

Drunk & disorderly. Location: Tiefert View housing. Police investigated the report of a drunk. Intoxicated Soldier was located and released to his first sergeant.

Adopt-a-pet



Name: Tink & her kittens
Breed: Domestic short hair
Gender: Females and Male
Age: Mom-8-months-old;
kittens approx. 6 weeks

All are 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

Spouses of Deployed Soldiers

A Spouses of Deployed Soldiers Focus Group at the Forum, 8 a.m.-11 a.m., Sept. 22. Families that need childcare will need to be registered with CYS. Reservations need to be made by tomorrow. Food and beverages will be provided.

Pinnacle Closure

Pinnacle Office will close for training on tomorrow. RCI offices will remain open on that day.

Irwin Facebook

The National Training Center/Fort Irwin Facebook page has changed and now can be found at www.facebook.com/pages/Fort-Irwin-CA/National-Training-CenterFort-Irwin/124941344210951 or by clicking on the link on the main page of the Fort Irwin Web site at <http://www.irwin.army.mil>.

Community Information Line

The Fort Irwin Community Information Telephone Line, which features emergency updates, facilities operating hours, a listing of special events and important phone numbers, is available at 380-8300.

Weight Watchers

Weekly meetings are on Thursdays, at 12 noon, Bldg. 317 (2nd Street and Avenue E). Sign-up and weigh-in start at 11:30 a.m. Public is free to check out the meeting. More information: call Christine at 298-3438 or getfit@ww-Christine.com.



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End of Summer Sale

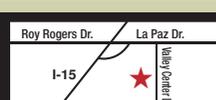
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<p>2010 OUTLANDER ES</p> <p>MSRP.....\$21,605 DEALER DISCOUNT.....\$2,617 CUSTOMER REBATE.....\$1,000 OWNER LOYALTY REBATE* \$1,000 Sale Price..... \$18,988</p> <p>\$16,988</p> <p>NET COST 5 AT THIS PRICE</p> <p><small>* Automatic</small></p> 	<p>2011 ECLIPSE GS</p> <p>MSRP.....\$20,744 DEALER DISCOUNT.....\$2,756</p> <p>\$17,988</p> <p>NET COST 5 AT THIS PRICE</p> <p><small>* Automatic</small></p> 	<p>2010 SPORTBACK LANCER GTS</p> <p>MSRP.....\$19,910 DEALER DISCOUNT.....\$2,617 CUSTOMER REBATE.....\$1,500 OWNER LOYALTY REBATE* \$1,000 Sale Price..... \$16,988</p> <p>\$14,488</p> <p>NET COST 5 AT THIS PRICE</p> <p><small>* Automatic</small></p> 

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<p>'04 FORD F150 SUPERCREW</p>  <p>STK. V2444P \$14,988</p>	<p>'06 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA GLI</p>  <p>STK. S4364A \$15,800</p>	<p>'05 NISSAN 350Z ENTHUSIAST</p>  <p>STK. V10224A \$17,988</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="color: red; margin: 0;">NO ONE OFFERS MORE!</h2> <p>Mitsubishi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Yr./60,000 Mi. Bumper-to-Bumper Warranty • 10 Yr./100,000 Mi. Powertrain Limited Warranty** • 5 Yr./Unlimited Miles Road Assistance** <p><small>**Excludes Raider, Lancer Evolution and Lancer Ralliart **See Dealer For Complete Details.</small></p> </div> </div>					<p>Honda</p> <p>Only 3/36 Only 5/60 None</p>	<p>Toyota</p> <p>Only 3/36 Only 5/60 None</p>	<p>Nissan</p> <p>Only 3/36 Only 5/60 None</p>

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Worship Services/Chapel Activities

CATHOLIC

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

PROTESTANT

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

GOSPEL

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

LATTER DAY SAINTS

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

MUSLIM

Prayer	Friday, 12 p.m.	Bldg 317
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JEWISH

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.

Camp PWOC

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invites everyone to its Camp PWOC at the Center Chapel on Sept. 21, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Childcare, food, and new friendship will be provided.



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Community Happenings

GSAB FRG Events

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

HHD, GSAB

Oct 21. HHD FRG meeting at Bldg. 507. Time: 6 p.m. If you should have any

Questions, contact CPL Sparrow at 380-5485 or email: hhd-frg507@gmail.com.

AAD, GSAB

AAD FRG meeting has not been scheduled as of yet. 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.

Spouses' Luncheon Set

Join the Fort Irwin Military and Civilian Spouses' Club for its monthly luncheon today at Reggie's. The doors open at 11 a.m., and lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. This will be a fun luncheon based on the popular TV show, "Minute-to-Win-It." Come see how you do competing against the clock. The Club will host the Stray Animal Clinic at the luncheon and invites you to bring a donation to support this charity. The Stray Animal Clinic is looking for items like collars, leashes, carriers, blankets, towels, water bowls and food dishes to help care for stray animals here on post. The fee for lunch is \$12, and you can pay by cash or check at the door. Register by Sept. 11 on the club website at mcsctfirwin.org. For more information, contact Elena Dunlap at (562) 233-0442.

Victim Advocate Training

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SAPRP) Unit Victim Advocate (UVA) training will be Sept. 13-16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Education Center, Building 1020. For more information, contact Christina Chavez at Christina.chavez@us.army.mil or 380-4474.

Chili Cook-off

The Fort Irwin Military and Civilian Spouses' Club (MCSC) is seeking competitors for its Rockin' Desert Nights Chili Cook-Off at Sandy Basin Community Center, Oct. 9, 6-9 p.m. This annual competition is open to both teams and individuals from across Fort Irwin. Registration forms and entry guidelines are now available on the MCSC website at mcsctfirwin.org. Registration is due by Sept. 24. New to the competition this year is a best-tasting salsa competition. Prizes will be awarded for Best Chili, People's Choice Chili, Best Decorated Booth and Best Salsa. Registration is free. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. Up to four members per registered team will receive free entry into the Chili Cook-Off. Proceeds from the Rockin' Desert Nights Chili Cook-Off will be used by MCSC to support the Fort Irwin Community. For more information, visit our website at mcsctfirwin.org or contact Heather Adams at (703) 927-7624.

Strike Zone

On Saturday, Strike Zone is hosting a bowling tournament. For \$35 you get 6 games and free food from the party menu. Register early on Sept. 17 and only pay \$30. Call 380-4249 for more details. There is a minimum of 10 bowlers to have the tournament.

Swim Team

Swim Team season begins Sept. 15 and runs through Dec 15. Practice meets every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 6-7:30 p.m. For more details, call 380-7044

Chili Cook Off

Sandy Basin Community Center is the place for a Chile Cook Off on Oct 9, from 6-10 p.m. If you have what it takes to compete, enter your recipe to win. Best tasting chili, people's choice, best decorated booth, and best salsa. For more information, call (703) 927-7624

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

Free Admission

Big Bear Lake will open its 40th anniversary celebration of Oktoberfest this Saturday and Sunday and offers free admission to all military personnel, law enforcement, firefighters (need to show badge or ID), and their immediate family members, to America's Heroes Weekend at the Big Bear Lake Convention Center, 42900 Big Bear Blvd., on Sept. 18 and 19. The celebration continues for six consecutive weekends through Oct. 30. For more information, call (909) 585-3000 or go to www.bigbearevents.com

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.

Mothers of Pre-Schoolers

Mothers of Pre-Schoolers (MOPS) hold meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Food, childcare and friendship will be provided. For more information, call the Chapel at 380-3562 or contact Tiffany Spicer or Terra Chew at ftirwinmops@gmail.com.

At the Movies

Thursday, Sept. 16

7 p.m. Closed

Friday, Sept. 17

7 p.m. Step Up 3D (PG-13)

7 p.m. Cats and Dogs: The

Revenge of Kitty Galore (PG)

9:30 p.m. Dinner for Schmucks (PG-13)

9:30 p.m. Charlie St. Cloud (PG-13)

Saturday, Sept. 18

7 p.m. Studio Appreciation —

Advance Free Screening — Rated *

Tickets available at your local AAFES

Foodcourt. Seating open to non-ticket holders 30 minutes prior to

showtime. "Legend of the Guardians; The Owl of Ga'Hoole"

Sunday, Sept. 19

4 p.m. Cats and Dogs: The

Revenge of Kitty Galore (PG)

7 p.m. The Other Guys (PG-13)

7 p.m. Charlie St. Cloud (PG-13)

Monday, Sept. 20

7 p.m. The Other Guys (PG-13)

7 p.m. Dinner for Schmucks (PG-13)

(PG-13)

Tuesday, Sept. 21

7 p.m. Closed

Wednesday, Sept. 22

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.

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. BFGS 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.

Open House

The Fort Irwin Fire Department will hold its Open House at their Fire Station (Bldg. 400), located at Langford Lake Road, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oct. 2. There will be fire trucks on display, firefighters to answer questions, presence of Sparky the Firefighter Dog and Bella the Safety Bee, onsite coloring contest, and variety of fire safety equipment on display. For more information, call 380-6844.

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 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.

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.

Youth and School Activities

Middle School Activities

Thursday: PC Basketball, Cooking Club Poppin' Cake

Friday: Recycling, Pony Bead Keychain

Monday: Digital Card Making, Spooky Spiders

Tuesday: Photo Club, Wacky games

Wednesday: Ultimate Journey/ Smart Girls, 4-H, Solar

Hotdog Cooker

Teen Activities

Friday: Beading Craft

Saturday: Skate Night

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

Hours of Operation:

Middle School: M-F 3:15 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 More information: Kristin Morgan at 380-3732

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



Fort Irwin Community Calendar

Thu., Sep. 16

Spouses Luncheon
11 a.m.
Reggie's
Elena Dunlap, 562-233-0442

Sat., Oct. 2

Oktoberfest
5 p.m.-1 a.m.
Reggie's
380-3084

Wed., Oct. 6

Spouses Orientation
8:30-11:30 a.m.
Reggie's
DMFWR, 380-8380

Fri., Oct. 8

Family Housing Extravaganza
4-8 p.m.
Multi-Purpose Field
Housing Office, 888-419-6499

Sat., Oct. 9

Chili Cook Off
6-10 p.m.
Sandy Basin Community Center
703-927-7624

Sun., Oct. 10

NASCAR Pepsi400 Races
All Day
Fontana Race Track
380-4767

Wed., Oct. 13

WOA Golf Tournament
12 noon
Spring Valley Country Club
CW2 Brian Miller, 380-4168

Thu., Oct. 21

GSAB-HHD FRG Meeting
6 p.m.
Bldg. 507
CPL. Sparrow, 380-5485



Check out these upcoming activities at Fort Irwin

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Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Teen Suicide

BY SHAWN ROBINSON

Army Substance Abuse Program
Suicide Prevention Program Manager

As parents, our responsibilities never end. Talking to our teenagers about suicide is no exception. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15-to-24-year-olds, and the sixth leading cause of death for 5-to-14-year-olds according to the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. Teenagers are under an enormous amount of stress during this period of their life. Confusion, self-doubt, pressure to succeed, and stress are just to name a few. For some teens, suicide may appear to be a solution to their problems. The following statistics were taken from a recent survey of college and high school students by the CDC.

Twenty-seven percent of high school students said they had "thought seriously" about killing themselves during the past year. Eight percent said they had actually tried to kill themselves.

Although one of every eight teenagers suffers with depression, the diagnosis is often missed, as depressive symptoms are often mistaken for the typical "ups and downs" of teenage life.

Most suicides occur in the home between the hours of 3 p.m. and midnight. There are 30 to 50

times as many attempted suicides as completed suicides. Four times as many males complete suicide than females, but female teens attempt suicide twice as frequently as male teenagers.

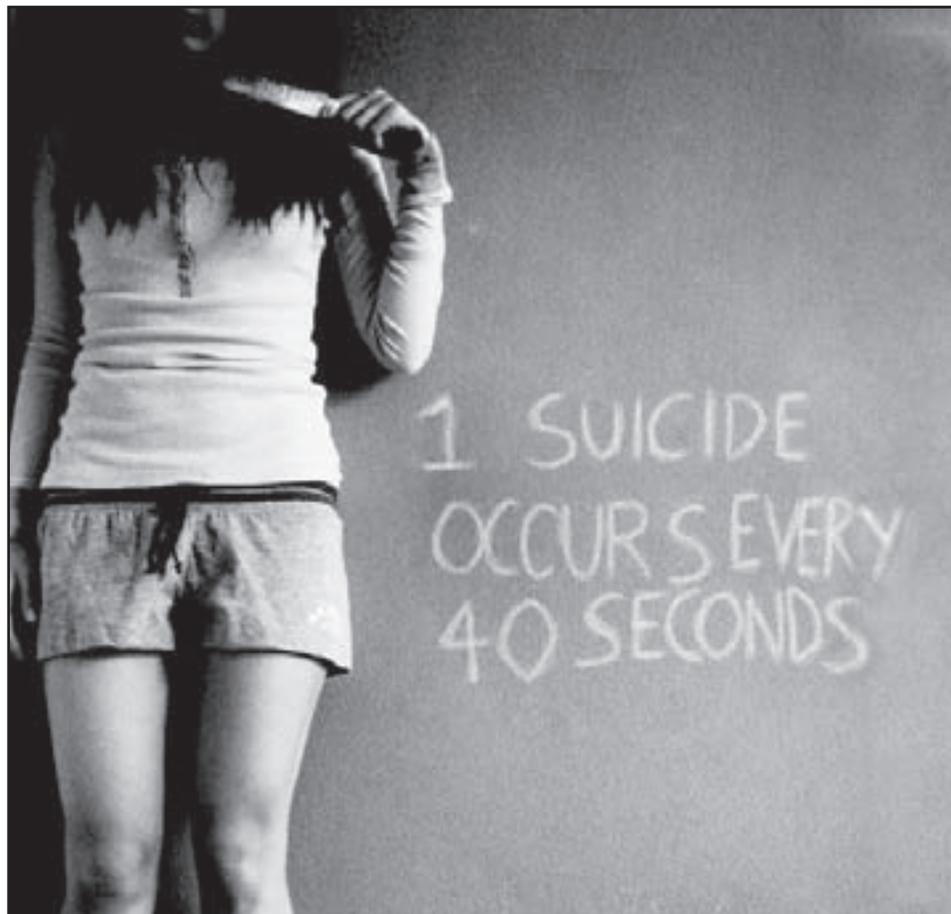
Statistics show that kids from high-income families kill themselves as often as those from poor or middle-class families.

For every teenage suicide, there are more than 100 unsuccessful attempts.

People who talk about suicide often commit suicide. All talk about suicide should be taken seriously. People often have opposing feelings about whether or not they want to die, so there is always hope that they can change their minds if they receive professional help.

While these facts are alarming, teenage suicide can be prevented. Because most teens who attempt suicide give a warning, it is important for parents, family, and friends to watch and listen carefully for these signs. Talk to your teens. An issue that might seem small to you may be overwhelming to your teen. If you are concerned that your teen is contemplating suicide, seek help from a professional.

Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647
Nation Suicide Crisis
Hotline 1-800-273-8255



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Fundamental safety rules for personal owned weapons (POWs)

BY DALE DOMEK

Garrison Safety Office
Assistant Garrison Safety Director

1. ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. This is the primary rule of gun safety. A safe direction means that the gun is pointed so that even if it were to go off it would not cause injury or damage. The key to this rule is to control where the muzzle or front end of the barrel is pointed at all times. Common sense dictates the safest direction, depending on different circumstances.

2. ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot. When holding a gun, rest your finger on the trigger guard or along the side of the gun. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.

3. ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use. Whenever you pick up a gun, immediately engage the safety device if possible, and, if the gun has a magazine, remove it before opening the action and looking into the chamber(s) which should be clear of ammunition. If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the gun alone and get help from someone who does.

When using or storing a gun, always follow these rules:

Know your target and what is beyond. Be absolutely sure you have identified your target beyond any doubt. Equally important, be aware of the area beyond your target. This means observing your prospective area of fire

before you shoot. Never fire in a direction in which there are people or any other potential for mishap. Think first. Shoot second.

Know how to use the gun safely. Before handling a gun, learn how it operates. Know its basic parts, how to safely open and close the action and remove any ammunition from the gun or magazine. Remember, a gun's mechanical safety device is never foolproof. Nothing can ever replace safe gun handling.

Be sure the gun is safe to operate. Just like other tools, guns need regular maintenance to remain operable. Regular cleaning and proper storage are a part of the gun's general upkeep. If there is any question concerning a gun's ability to function, a knowledgeable gunsmith should look at it.

Use only the correct ammunition for your gun. Only BBs, pellets, cartridges or shells designed for a particular gun can be fired safely in that gun. Most guns have the ammunition type stamped on the barrel. Ammunition can be identified by information printed on the box and sometimes stamped on the cartridge. Do not shoot the gun unless you know you have the proper ammunition.

Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate. Guns are loud and the noise can cause hearing damage. They can also emit debris and hot gas that could cause eye injury. For these reasons, shooting glasses and hearing protectors should be worn by shooters and spectators.

Never use alcohol or over-the-counter, prescription or

other drugs before or while shooting. Alcohol, as well as any other substance likely to impair normal mental or physical bodily functions, must not be used before or while handling or shooting guns.

Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons. Many factors must be considered when deciding where and how to store guns. A person's particular situation will be a major part of the consideration. Dozens of gun storage devices, as well as locking devices that attach directly to the gun are available. However, mechanical locking devices, like the mechanical safeties built into guns, can fail and should not be used as a substitute for safe gun handling and the observance of all gun safety rules.

Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.

Cleaning. Regular cleaning is important in order for your gun to operate correctly and safely. Taking proper care of it will also maintain its value and extend its life. Your gun should be cleaned every time that it is used.

A gun brought out of prolonged storage should also be cleaned before shooting. Accumulated moisture and dirt, or solidified grease and oil, can prevent the gun from operating properly.

Before cleaning your gun, make absolutely sure that it is unloaded. The gun's action should be open during the cleaning process. Also, be sure that no ammunition is present in the cleaning area.

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TRICARE Retired Reserve: Health care for retirees

BRIAN P. SMITH
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Members of the Retired Reserves and their families have a new TRICARE healthcare option.

TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR) is a new, premium-based healthcare plan available to eligible retired members of the Guard and Reserve, their families and qualified survivors. TRR offers coverage similar to TRICARE Standard for retirees, and includes a monthly premium, annual deductible, cost-shares and an annual catastrophic cap (cost information at trwest.com/ngr).

TRR features:

- Member-only or member-and-family coverage
- Coverage regardless of pre-existing conditions
- Access covered services from any TRICARE-authorized provider or hospital—no referrals are required.
- Access to TRICARE's prescription drug program

Eligibility

- Eligibility is reflected in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) record. It is important to keep DEERS records updated for you and your family members.
- Members of the Retired Reserve of a Reserve Component are eligible for TRR when they are:

- Not yet age 60
- Are qualified for non-regular retirement
- Not eligible for, or covered by, a Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program.
- Eligible beneficiaries who lose other TRICARE eligibility can purchase TRR coverage within 30 days for continuous coverage. Otherwise, coverage can be purchased at any time to start on the first of the next month or the month after.

Premiums

For coverage during October, November and December 2010, TRR monthly premiums are:

- \$388.31 for Member-only coverage
- \$976.41 for Member and family coverage
- The monthly premium amount could change each year on January 1. Beginning January 1, 2011, TRR coverage will be (each month):
- \$408.01 for Member-only coverage
- \$1,020.60 for Member and family coverage

Purchase Coverage

Qualify for and purchase TRR coverage through the online Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) Reserve Component Purchase TRICARE Application:

- Go to <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/reservetricare>.

- Log in using Department of Defense Self-Service Logon or Common Access Card (CAC).

Choose "Purchase Coverage"

- Certify that you are not eligible for or enrolled in a FEHB program.
- Select a TRR start date and choose your coverage type.

Print, sign and submit

Print the Reserve Component Health Coverage Request form (DD 2896-1). The form will be filled out based on the information you entered.

Sign the form and submit with payment covering two month's premium.

If paying initial premium by check, money order or cashier's check, mail to: TriWest Healthcare Alliance, PO Box 42030, Phoenix, AZ 85080-2030. If paying by credit card, fax to 1-866-244-6596.

Ensure that your monthly premiums are paid on-time by signing up for one of the automatic electronic payment options through TriWest. See trwest.com/ngr for directions.

More Information

TRICARE Retired Reserve is healthcare coverage for "gray area" retirees and their families. Coverage will begin for eligible beneficiaries on October 1, 2010. You can find the latest benefit information, purchasing information and costs at trwest.com/ngr

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Fort Irwin Middle School student of the month

Jakob Coombes

August

Here is what some of Jakob's teachers have to say about him. He clearly represents what is best at FIMS. He is very responsible, smart, and diligent student; not to mention his willingness to help his classmates. Jakob is a great kid first and foremost. He is a leader in the class and on the cross country team. Jakob is the captain of the cross country team. At our first meet, he won the 2-mile race with a time of 13:19. Jakob always has a positive attitude and is willing to help out his peers/teammates. Jakob goes above and beyond in everything he does!



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- Sept. 24: Camp Pendleton, 9:30 - 3 PM
South Mesa Club
- Sept. 29: Navy Fleet & Family Support, 10 - 2 PM
Scottish Rite Center, San Diego
- Oct. 6: MCAS Miramar, 10 - 1 PM
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Tarantulas conduct hoist training

BY CAPT ELIEZEL RIVERA

Tarantula Team Leader

In tough, mountainous terrain during combat, aerial medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) helicopter is the primary means of transporting wounded Soldiers to a higher level of medical care. In the worst mountainous terrain, where helicopters cannot land, the hoist, a helicopter-mounted type of electric winch, must be used. Since the National Training Center's combat trainers (CTs) are the rotational training unit's "safety net," CTs must know how to prepare casualties for this type of evacuation.

Taking advantage of a training opportunity, the Tarantula Team recently conducted hoist training to ensure that they can conduct this task in case the training unit cannot. As more units prepare to deploy to Afghanistan, this skill has become absolutely critical to a wounded Soldier's survival at NTC and in Afghanistan.

While important for evacuating simulated casualties in training, the ability to conduct a hoist evacuation is no-fail for real-world injuries that occur in the mountains at NTC. The probability of routine injuries that threaten life or limb dramatically increases when rotational training units conduct foot patrols in the mountains or occupy air-access only mountain top combat outposts. Although hoist evacuation is considered a last resort, it must be used when a casualty cannot be carried to a suitable landing zone. This fact is not lost on the Tarantulas.

Sgt. 1st Class Kavika Duff, the team's Medical NCO, led the Tarantulas' hoist training. The training included requesting a MEDEVAC; preparing a casualty for movement and loading casualties into an aircraft using a standard folding litter; preparing a casualty for movement using a collapsible litter called a SKEDCO; and hoisting a casualty vertically off a mountain by helicopter.

The Air Ambulance Detachment from the 916TH Support Brigade provided an LUH-72A Lakota Helicopter and crew, whose air medic gave the Tarantulas additional instruction prior to training. Besides training with the SKEDCO litter and aircraft, the event also required CTs to validate their ability to request MEDEVAC using the standard 9-line format.

During the last training iteration, the Tarantulas used a life-sized mannequin to conduct a vertical SKEDCO lift. The Tarantulas secured the "casualty" in the SKEDCO and moved him to a pickup site, where the Air Medic hooked him to the hoist under a helicopter hovering over the mountainside. The training concluded as the MEDEVAC crew hoisted the casualty, secured him inside the aircraft, and flew back to Weed Army Medical Center.



PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS EDWARD HINOJOSA

The Air Ambulance Detachment's air medic ascends to the LUH-72A Lakota helicopter after retrieval of the "dummy victim."



Tarantula Team members carry a "dummy victim" to the established helicopter pick-up zone.

Tarantulas hold first quarterly triathlon

BY CAPT. PAUL LASHLEY

Tarantula Team
TF Fire Support Trainer

Look out over the grounds of Fort Irwin at 6:30 a.m., and you will find Soldiers stretching, doing push-ups or running in formation. Units conducting their physical fitness are honing their warrior skills while increasing their strength and endurance.

The Tarantulas are no different; actually they are slightly different. Every weekday you will find the Black Team conducting physical training, be it running up a mountain, flipping 5-ton tires, running with cinder blocks, or swimming a mile's worth of laps in the post pool. Sometimes they even take it to the next level and host a Tarantula Triathlon.

In the early morning hours of Sept. 2, a detail of seven Tarantulas arrived at the pool and began the hustle and bustle of setting up transition areas and swim lanes. They prepped a run lane with rubber mats that extended from the pool to the bike racks adjacent to the back

gate of the pool area. The competitors began to arrive and finish the final tweaks to their bikes. Forty-two Tarantulas stood anxiously ready to get the event started, while they received a final route and safety brief.

Thirteen heats of three Tarantulas lined the cement platform around the pool on this crisp Thursday morning. The whistle blew, the clock started and the first heat exploded down the lane. The Soldiers were only swimming 100 meters in the pool, but the excitement and adrenaline pushed the Tarantulas to max output.

"The 100 meter swim was short, but challenging due to the fact that everyone was giving 100 percent, and then some," Master Sgt. Don Quiambao recalls the short swim. As the Tarantulas exited the final lane of the swim, they quickly made their way to the bike area, better known as Transition Area 1 (T1).

Three bike racks housed the team's 40 plus bikes, some mountain bikes and a few road bikes. Next to each cycle was the gear that prepared them for the next two legs of the race. As each heat arrived at T1 the racers

were in a flurry to put on their shoes, helmets, reflective belt, eye protection and mount their bikes. In a blaze, the racers sprint their bikes to Barstow Road for the grueling 8-mile course. When each rider made it to the four mile turn-around point, there was a Tarantula providing cold water and energy drink to motivate the riders to push themselves back to the transition area.

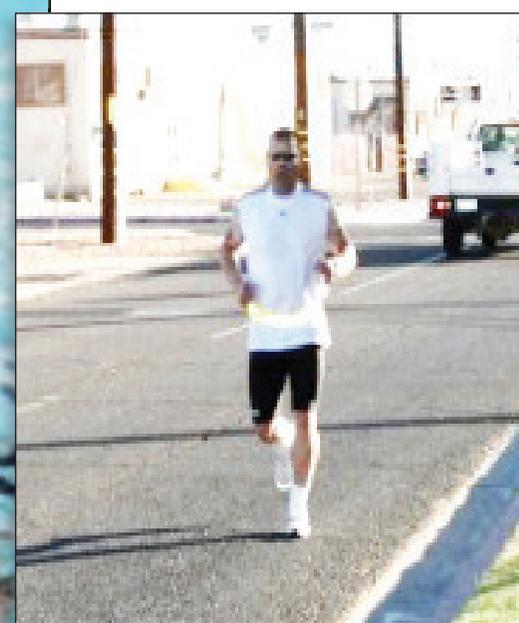
In the world of triathlon, there is an art form in transitioning as was noted by first time triathlete Maj. Anthony Howard, the team's XO trainer.

"I was surprised by how much the bike impacted my legs as I transitioned to the run," Maj. Howard said. After finishing the bike leg, the participants headed back to Barstow Road and ran down to the Range Support Office for the mile turn-around. The Tarantulas' legs felt like jello as they hopped off their bikes and took off on the 2-mile run course. At this final turn around, the Tarantulas were once again welcomed with drinks to keep their bodies hydrated.

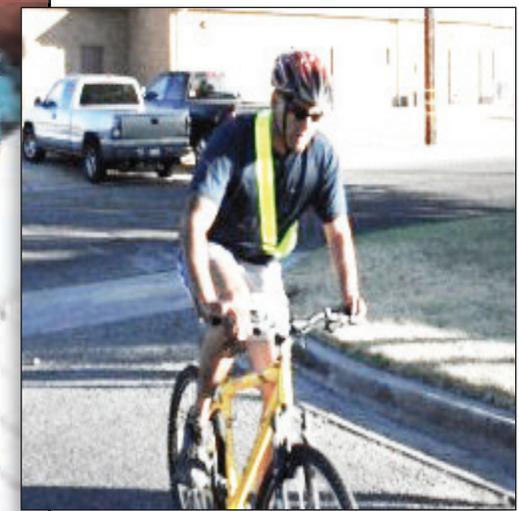
At the finish, the red numbers of the race clock ticked away as the runners crossed the line. Each Tarantula's time was recorded and ranked for the award ceremony which followed the event. Trophies were awarded for First, Second, and Third places. Capt. Terry Higgins, Tarantula 07T took first with a time of 48:47; Sgt. 1st Class Chano Peek, Tarantula 27C was awarded Second Place at a close 51:04; and the Scout Platoon Trainer, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Stewart placed Third Place, coming in at 52:28.

The overall goal of the event was to keep physical training exciting and to continue to push the Tarantula Team to its physical limits. The event was made possible with the support of a few hard working Tarantulas, the Freedom Fitness Center, the Fort Irwin Pool Staff and bike support from Outdoor Recreation. The Tarantulas benefited from a satisfying workout and a great team-building event.

"It challenged every Soldier on the team consistent with their level of physical fitness and really built upon our unit's esprit de corps!" Capt. John Nelson said it best.



Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Sanders (Tarantula 28) paces himself during the 2-mile run.



Sgt. 1st Class Edward Hinojosa (Tarantula 27A) finishes the 8-mile bicycle leg of the triathlon.

PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS MICHAEL GLOVER

Capt. James McMillian (Tarantula 09) completes the 100-meter swim.

Outlaw Baja

Operations Group does desert terrain training

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MAJ. L. VANCE FLEMING

Operations Group Chief, Video, Vulture 46

Imagine a nice drive into the desert of Fort Irwin... the calming jostle of the "improved" road, scenic view of gently rolling hills covered with scrub brush, maybe some wildlife darting off in the distance heading towards Tiefert... and then the sudden rolling of a vehicle into a wadi?

Not actually the drive that initially crosses the mind or that was intended when one departs for their destination. Unfortunately, for a few Soldiers assigned to NTC's Operations Group, this has been a drive into reality for the early part of this year.

Enter Operation Outlaw Baja, the Operation Group's plan to train its Soldiers to properly drive themselves in the desert terrain that surrounds Fort Irwin. The desired goal of Outlaw Baja is to provide training that will prevent accidents in addition to preparing Soldiers to call for air medical evacuation should an accident occur.

As part of Outlaw Baja, the majority of the Combat Trainers from Operations Group spent Tuesday and Wednesday driving over a designated seventy-five mile long course in the desert while receiving training at seven stations along that course.

The best training station was maneuvering through the wadis and rough terrain," said Staff Sgt. Dwayne Williams, a signal support systems specialist for the Vulture Team. "It was challenging but gave me practice for driving in difficult terrain."

To add realism to the training, Outlaw Baja recreated recent accident scenes. When available the Soldiers involved discussed the cause of their accident and ways to prevent future incidents from occurring. This part of the plan required a review of the accidents, to include photographs, to correctly setup the recreated scene and provide the appropriate means to avoid future accidents.

At the completion of the training, over 500 combat trainers and 300 vehicles had completed the course, having safely driven over 25,000 miles during Outlaw Baja. Of more importance than those totals are the knowledge and experience learned during training. Those lessons will be shared with others to prevent future accidents and make those drives into the desert much more enjoyable.

(RIGHT) A Combat Trainer from NTC's Operations Group traverses a steep incline during Operation Outlaw Baja.



(ABOVE) Staff Sgt. Dwayne Williams, of the Operations Group Vulture Team, crosses the rough terrain of the desert during Operation Outlaw Baja.

(LEFT) Combat Trainers from NTC's Operations Group line up their HMMWVs to maneuver through difficult terrain during Operation Outlaw Baja. A station trainer is off to the side to provide guidance on how to proceed through the course.



Training Station #6 during Operation Outlaw Baja is setup to recreate the exact scene of a recent roll-over accident in the desert of Fort Irwin.

Soldiers react to sniper attack



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. MICHEL SAURET

(ABOVE) A Soldier training at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., looks through the window of a building to find a sniper during an attack on his combat outpost on Aug. 13. He belongs to Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

(RIGHT) Soldiers training at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., react to a sniper attack on their combat outpost on Aug. 13. These Soldiers were from Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.



(ABOVE and RIGHT) Soldiers training at the NTC, Fort Irwin, Calif., react to a sniper attack on their combat outpost on Aug. 13. These Soldiers were from Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.



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Everybody Zuummmba!!!

BY SANDY CLARK

Coyote Activity Center Fitness Coordinator

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Join Robin or Shelton as they take you through a high energy, fun filled class. Check the fitness class schedule for dates and times. You can also access the class schedule at <http://www.fortirwinmwr.com/>. If you have any question please feel free to contact me at getfitfortirwin@yahoo.com.

Fitness Class Schedule

Thursday, September 16 Morning

6:30 Zumba/Shelton *FREE
8:30 Body Shop/Sandy
9:30 Belly Dancing C/Ranai

Afternoon

12:00 Cycling/Sandy
5:30 Xtreme Fitness/Robin Sandy Ryndee

Friday, September 17 Morning

8:30 Cycling/Debbie
9:30 Pilates/Sandy

Afternoon

12:00 Cardio Craze/Sandy

Monday, September 20 Morning

6:15 Zumba/Shelton
8:30 Turbo Kick/Ryndee
9:30 Yoga/Kimberly

Afternoon

12:00 Body Shop/Debbie
4:15 Yoga/Michell
5:30 Cycling/Ryndee

Tuesday, September 21 Morning

6:30 Cycling/Sandy * FREE
8:30 Body Shop/Ryndee

9:30 Belly Dancing B/Ranai Afternoon

12:00 Step/Sandy
5:30 Zumba/Shelton
6:30 No Class

Wednesday, September 22 Morning

8:30 Step/Ryndee
9:30 Yoga/Kimberly

Afternoon

12:00 Body Shop/Sandy
4:15 Yoga/Michell
5:30 Cycling Core/Sandy
6:30 Turbo Kick/Ryndee

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Scenes from Rotation 10-09



(LEFT) Staff Sgt. Jonathan Scott, a convoy commander with the 758th Maintenance Co., and 1st Sgt. Russell Toppin brief Soldiers prior to a battle drill at NTC. The 758th, based in Columbus, Ohio, provides recovery and maintenance support to the 319th Combat Support Sustainment Brigade at NTC.



(RIGHT) A 1st Infantry Division Soldier guards an entry point at a forward-operating base outside the safe zone at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. See more photos on page 19.

PHOTOS BY SPC. MICHAEL T. CRAWFORD

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Rotation, from page 18



PHOTOS BY SPC. MICHAEL T. CRAWFORD

(ABOVE) Soldiers with the 1569th Transportation Company, based in New Windsor, N.Y., at the National Training Center secure pallets of sports drinks on a flatbed truck. The 1569th brought supplies to a forward-operating base outside the safe zone as part of a convoy with the 298th Transportation Company, based in Franklin, Pa., and the 758th Maintenance Company.



(ABOVE) Tactical vehicles from Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve units parked behind the 319th Combat Support Sustainment Brigade's tactical operations center on Forward-Operating Base Warrior at the National Training Center.



(LEFT) Soldiers with the 369th Sustainment Brigade, better known as the Harlem Hellfighters, remove barbed wires and barricades after conducting entry-point control training at the National Training Center here.

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- **Active Duty Military and DoD personnel Stationed at Fort Irwin NTC and their dependents, and retired military.**

The **ONLY** Classified ads that are available as free ads to above listed personnel are:

- Pets - Free To Good Home
- Roommate Wanted
- Lost & Found
- Cars & Trucks (Except RV's)
- Furniture & Appliances
- Misc. For Sale
- Garage & Yard Sales
- Motorcycles
- Misc. Wanted

All other categories are paid.

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| • Hotels & Motels | • Industrial Properties | • Employment Opportunities |
| • Commercial Rentals | • Mobiles For Sale | • Child care |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> LOST & FOUND | <input type="checkbox"/> GARAGE & YARD SALES |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> MOBILES FOR SALE | <input type="checkbox"/> CONDOS FOR RENT |

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AUTHORIZATION _____
DATE _____

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(877) 247-9188

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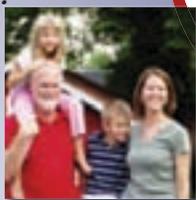
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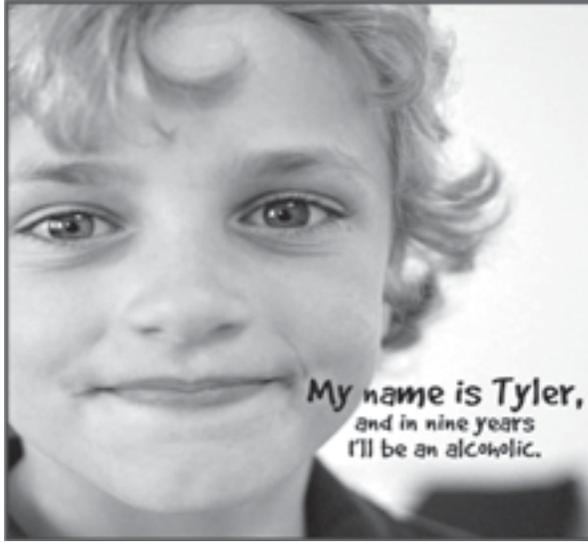
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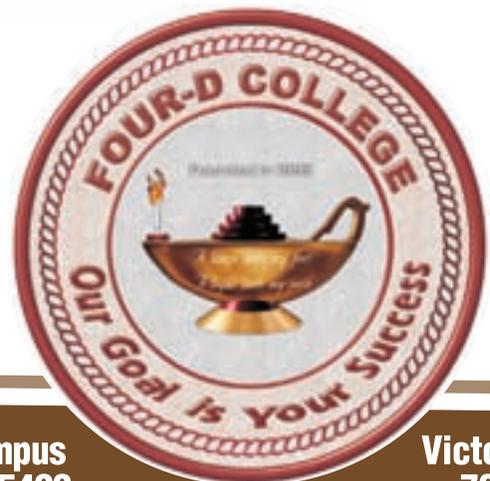


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