



HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

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www.irwin.army.mil

March 18, 2010

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

Change of Responsibility

916th Support Brigade will hold a Brigade Command Sergeant Major Change of Responsibility ceremony. The ceremony will take place on Monday, 4 p.m., at Jack Rabbit Park.

Legal Assistance Hours

Fort Irwin Legal Assistance Office hours have changed. The new schedule is as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Thursday: 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Notary Services: 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Everyday, walk-in basis. Appointment calendars open: Fridays at 1 p.m.

Audie Murphy Club

Members of the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club will hold its monthly meeting at the SAMC Hall, located at the NTC Museum, Bldg. 587, Room 11, 12-1 p.m., March 30. For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Catherine Harris at 380-8386.

Battle Staff Graduation

Fort Irwin community is invited to attend the graduation ceremony of noncommissioned officers who will graduate from Battle Staff Class 14-10 at the Post Theater, at 9 a.m., March 26. For more information, call 380-3880.

Puerto Rican Birth Certificates

A Puerto Rican law will be implemented July 1, 2010 — canceling or invalidating all birth certificates issued by Puerto Rico prior to June 30, 2010. Affected Soldiers, civilian employees, and family members will need to request issue of a new birth certificate following the procedures at the following link. For new accessions, certificates issued by Puerto Rico prior to June 30, 2010 will become invalid and may not be used to verify eligibility for enlistment into the Army effective July 1, 2010. For more information, visit the following Web site: <https://forums.bcks.army.mil/secure/communitybrowser.aspx?id=1019751>.

Be a Lifeguard

Lifeguard classes are now being offered at the Oasis Pool. Contact the Oasis Pool, Bldg 325. For more information, call 380-3046.

Village Mayors Wanted

The mission of the mayoral program is to enhance the quality of life and to provide information and referral to Fort Irwin residents. If you're interested, contact Army Community Service at 380-3776.



Actor Gary Sinesse, performs with the Lt. Dan Band at Fort Irwin's Army Field, March 12. The Lt. Dan Band performed a free concert for the Fort Irwin community as part of his 41st USO tour. See more photos on Pages 10 and 11.

Lt. Dan rocks out NTC

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY SGT. GIANCARLO CASEM
 11th ACR Public Affairs

Actor Gary Sinesse and his band, the Lt. Dan Band, performed for Soldiers and their family members at Army Field on Fort Irwin, Calif., March 12.

Sinesse and his band played hits from such classic rock acts as Jimmy Hendrix and the Beatles to more contemporary bands such as Evanescence. His current tour through the National Training Center on Fort Irwin and the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center marks his 41st USO tour.

The actor said he performs for troops as a way for him to say thank you. He said his ulti-

mate message to troops and their families is that people are behind them and support them.

"We need a strong a military; we need our defenders to stay strong," Sinesse said. "They're going to be called upon for years. (We're) keeping people strong and letting them know that while they're in the service, we care about them, we appreciate that service. And when they leave the service, we are not going to forget about them."

Sinesse is best known for his role as Vietnam veteran Lt. Dan Taylor in the film *Forrest Gump*, a role which he believed servicemembers could relate with.

"I liked the story of that character. (Lt. Dan) was very dedicated to military service, he went to the military academy, and he wanted to be a great leader." Sinesse said "That

was cut short because he got injured and lost his legs and he had to deal with that trauma, and that shock and the anguish of adjusting to that. Ultimately, at the end of that story he's great, he's standing up and he's strong, and he survived all that and moved beyond it. I think that's a very positive story line for a lot of folks. Lt. Dan is a redemptive character, and he's a hopeful character. To be associated with him is something that I never shied away from; especially since the military likes him so much, so I thought I'd just go with the name, kind of embrace it."

It was also that popularity with servicemembers that prompted Sinesse to call his band the Lt. Dan Band.

See Rocks, pages 10-11

Inside

- TRADOC to Move 3
- Holy Week Schedule 5
- Red Cross Month..... 7
- Technology Lab Opens..... 8
- FIMS are Champions..... 15

MAR.-APR. 2010

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

ROTATIONAL SOLDIER USE OF POST FACILITIES

■ HEAVY USE | ■ MEDIUM USE | ■ MINIMAL USE

We salute, honor



248

FORT IRWIN SOLDIERS CURRENTLY DEPLOYED

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

ICE Program Gives Customers a Voice

ICE Year-To-Date Report Jan. 1, 2010 – Mar. 7, 2010

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	5	●	60
AAFES	67	●	21
Commissary	19	●	26
Fort Irwin Garrison	1896	●	89
Veterinary Services	50	●	84
DENTAC	179	●	96
MEDDAC	206	●	83

ICE Weekly Report Feb. 22, 2010–Mar. 7, 2010

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
916th Support Brigade	1	●	0
AAFES	7	●	29
Commissary	2	●	100
Fort Irwin Garrison	335	●	93
Veterinary Services	30	●	87
DENTAC	22	●	91
MEDDAC	50	●	88

Fort Irwin Garrison Organizations

Organization	No. of Comments	Rating	Percent Satisfied
Fort Irwin Garrison	359	●	93
Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation	113	●	90
Civilian Personnel Advisory Center	1	●	100
Equal Employment Opportunity	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Human Resources	154	●	100
Information Management	5	●	100
Legal	2	●	50
Logistics	4	●	75
Pinnacle Housing	49	●	84
Plans, Analysis & Integration Office	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Police/Provost Marshall	2	●	0
Public Affairs	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Public Works	6	●	100
RCI Housing	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Religious Support	2	●	100
Resource Management Office	1	●	100
Safety	16	●	100
NTC HQ Adjunct General Office	0	[NOT RATED]	—
American Red Cross	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Armed Forces Bank 1 - Main Branch	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Armed Forces Bank 3 - PX Branch	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Community Information Manager	1	●	100
Landmark Inn	2	●	100
Military Family Life Consultants	0	[NOT RATED]	—
Plans, Training, Security	0	[NOT RATED]	—
WIC (Woman, Infants, and Children)	0	[NOT RATED]	—

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

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

Real Time Theater

Customer Comment: My family loves to go to the movies and there are times that I would like to take the two little ones. It would be great if you had a children's

matinee on Wednesday's at 2 p.m. Even one child's matinee a month would be a start, but every week would be wonderful. **Agency Response:** Sir/Madam, Thank you for the comment on showing additional kids movies. We are looking into the aspect of doing this. This was done a couple of years ago with little to no success. Most of the time, there was less than 15 people per showing which was not a profitable business undertaking. But we will be

reviewing the cost associated with doing this again. Thank you again, AAFES Fort Irwin general manager.

MWR Car Wash

Customer Comment: Howdy — The self-serve POV/car wash bay next to the Auto Craft Shop does NOT dispense any soap on the soap/wash cycle. If we pay for soap, we should get soap for our money.

See ICE, page 12

WHO WE ARE

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

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 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

McHugh: TRADOC important to Army present, future

BY CARROLL KIM
TRADOC Public Affairs



Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, commanding general of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, introduces the Honorable John McHugh, Secretary of the Army, to TRADOC functions and responsibilities during a briefing March 5. This was McHugh's first visit to TRADOC headquarters at Fort Monroe, Va.

FORT MONROE, Va. — Secretary of the Army John McHugh visited the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Headquarters for the first time today and got to see Army past, present and future through TRADOC's eyes.

"It was my inaugural trip to come down here and get a visual, first hand look at all the amazing things that TRADOC is doing," he said. "Obviously wherever you are in the Army, your doctrine, your schooling, your entire perspective starts somewhere along this path."

The day's events included a tour of Fort Monroe, which has roots tracing back to 1609 as Fort Algernourne, built by Capt. John Smith. In 2011, Fort Monroe will close and TRADOC will move to Fort Eustis, Va., under Base Realignment and Closure.

"Fort Monroe itself is a marvelous part of history," said McHugh. "The Army has future plans in other places, but I would hope that the spirit that's been here for many, many years will in some way continue. There's a lot of Army heart and soul here."

McHugh also met with TRADOC senior leaders and visited the Joint Training Counter-IED Operations Integration Center. JTCOIC was established in April 2009 as a collaborative effort between the Joint IED Defeat Organization and TRADOC and provides training to Soldiers through simulation-based exercises. Creating a common framework, JTCOIC is designed to make "the scrimmage harder than the game."

"I'm thankful that there are so many smart people in the world who are willing to come and work here," McHugh said.

"The most important thing is the training opportunity they produce here and the chance for every Soldier of every rank, out in harm's way, to better understand the lay of the battlefield and the environment which they find themselves, means they'll be safer. And that's a good thing and something we want to continue to nurture."

Along with training Soldiers for the future, TRADOC is also writing doctrine and plans for that identify key elements of the future battlefield. The U.S. Army Capabilities Integration Center released the 2009 Army Capstone Concept titled, "Operational Adaptability: Operating under conditions of uncertainty and complexity in an era of persistent conflict 2016-2028." The Capstone Concept aims to

define the problem of future, armed conflict and describes how the Army will need to function in the future.

"I was reading it again on the way down in the helicopter and it's a critically important document. And it's probably a document we have to scramble operationally to catch up to, and that's the objective," said McHugh. "[Some] of the most difficult things an army faces [are] the battle today, trying to understand what the battle of tomorrow will be, and positioning yourself to be able to adapt to it and prevail."

However, McHugh recognizes that the road to achieving the objectives outlined in the Capstone Concept is as important as the ideas themselves.

"The reality is that it's also complicated by likely budget and resource decisions. We just went through the Quadrennial Defense Review, and part of that is to plot out the next four years, what the challenges are and what the threats will be and this Capstone Concept helps us implement that future-think into real world terms," he said. "But this is still something, I think the generating force ... and the operational force will need to partner up on to make that concept an actual reality."

Another area interlaced with the Capstone Concept is TRADOC's role in Army Modernization. McHugh believes that the command in charge of doctrine and leader development will play a critical role in designing Army Modernization.

"It will be a leader," he said. "We have to be an Army that has congruity and continuity, and how we go about becoming an Army of the future starts right here. This is a place and this is an activity that, seems to me, will become far more important, as important as it is today as we go into an unknown tomorrow."

McHugh ended his visit by recognizing the TRADOC and JTCOIC staff for their innovation and dedication to Soldiers.

"The other thing that really strikes me, and I don't mean to sound flippant about it, but the intellectual capital that we have in the Army," he said.

"And the good folks who are willing to come here and devote themselves to this defensive national effort who value the kinds of things that make an Army Soldier wake up everyday and go to work ... that's the important stuff."

Sniper rifle improvements to see testing this spring

BY C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Candidates for an improved version of the Army's sniper rifle — the M-24 — are expected to go into testing this spring after industry reveals their efforts this month.

Industry was challenged to improve the M-24 sniper rifle, a weapon that has been in service since the 1980s, to make it more accurate and to make it more adjustable to the Soldier's needs, said Col. Douglas A. Tamilio, project manager, Soldier Weapons.

"So the Soldier, the sniper, can conform it to his body — we'll have an adjustable stock, adjustable cheek welds," Tamilio said. "This weapons system has a five-round internal magazine. We're asking industry to do something better — five-to-ten round external magazines."

The Army has also asked industry to improve the scope for the M-24, and that means zoom from 3x to 25x magnification, with a reticle that adjusts when the user changes magnification. Also, he said, add Picatinny rails for mounting sensors and optics.

The M-24 now is chambered for a 7.62mm round with a range to about 800 meters, Tamilio said. But he added that when the Army

designed the weapon, it also accommodated a larger round, the .300 Win Mag. He said the improved M-24 will take advantage of that capability in order to realize greater accuracy.

It's expected the four industry competitors will supply their four improved M-24 candidates by March 11. Those will go into competitive tests in the spring. The Army will down select to a producer in the summer, and start fielding the improved M-24 to Army snipers in the fall.

Improving the M-24 will involve turning existing weapons over to a contractor and modifying that weapon. It's expected that turnaround time for that process will be 30 days.

The M-24 is not the only weapon PEO Soldier is looking to improve. In fact, the Army is taking a dual approach to getting a better carbine in the hands of Soldiers. The Army is looking to improve upon the M-4 Carbine currently fielded to Soldiers, through the M-4 Carbine Improvement Program. The Army is also asking industry to consider making a better, follow-on carbine, through the Individual Carbine Competition.

Tamilio said the Army is asking industry to find a way to make the M-4 Carbine easier for Soldiers to maintain, and to also improve its durability, accuracy and reliability.

The M-4 is already enjoying an improvement fielded to Soldiers now in Iraq and Afghanistan: a less jam-prone magazine.

"It's a significant improvement over the other magazines we've fielded," Tamilio said. "What that means to our Soldiers is, it's more reliable every time the weapon feeds into the chamber — it's going to present itself in the same manner, consistently."

The new magazine is already fielded to Soldiers in combat overseas, and it features an improved spring and follower in the magazine that doesn't allow the magazine to jam. The Army will now field the magazine to Soldiers stateside as they prepare to deploy.

"The Army's goal is to issue every Soldier seven of these," he said, saying the service is producing more than a quarter million a month.

Army-driven improvements aside, the Army is in the final process of releasing to the field instructions to show Soldiers how best to camouflage their weapons using spray paint.

"We should issue out in the next couple of months an advisory message, I'll put it in PS Magazine, and we'll get it to the field and say hey it's okay to spray paint your weapon and here's how to do it," Tamilio said.

The instructions, he said, would include tips on paint choice to avoid generating toxic

fumes from an overheated barrel, and tips to avoid paint in areas that could hamper the weapon's performance, or that could damage components like optics.

While an instruction on how to spray paint weapons for camouflage purposes is being released, authority to do so still comes from a Soldier's command, Tamilio said.

Weapons aren't the only systems the Army is improving. By the end of the month, three defense contractors are expected to deliver 60- each Ground Soldier System packages to the Army for testing.

The GSS is an integrated dismounted Soldier situational awareness system for use during combat operations. The system is currently in development and is based on lessons learned from development of the Ground Warrior system, said Col. Will Riggins, program manager, Soldier Warrior.

With the release of the testing equipment from contractors, the Army will, in a few months, go into developmental testing and limited user operational testing with the systems.

Ultimately one contractor will be chosen to build the system. To date, Riggins said contractors have developed their competing versions of the GSS with input from both the Army and from Soldiers with combat experience.

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

Crime Watch

Information provided by
Provost Marshal Office

Dog bite

Location: Colin Powell. Police were notified that a stray dog had bitten an unknown person on the foot. The dog was detained and taken to the vet clinic.

Medical emergency

Location: Shockwave. Fire department responded to the report of medical emergency at the Shockwave.

Domestic disturbance (physical)

Location: Desert Winds housing. Husband and wife were involved in a verbal argument that turned physical. Husband was apprehended.

Found child

Location: 3748 Fredricksburg. Police responded to the report of a child wandering the street. Parents found the child and took him home.

Traffic accident

Location: Fort Irwin Road. Northbound 5/10 mile of Outer Loop Rd. police responded to a report of a vehicle that ran off of the roadway. Damages.

Possession of drug paraphernalia

Location: Bldg # barracks. A K-9 search of a barracks resulted in the discovery of drug paraphernalia, which was later seized.

Larceny of private property

Location: Cactus Cove housing. Police responded to the report of a stolen baby stroller.

Adopt-a-pet



Name: Jinx
Breed: Domestic short hair
Gender: Male
Age: 7-months-old
Jinx is available for adoption at the Fort Irwin Vet's Clinic. Call 380-3025 for more information. You can also check out the Fort Irwin section on www.petfinder.com

News Briefs

Women's Basketball Team

Looking for players interested in coming out to represent the Fort Irwin Women's Basketball Team. If interested, signup at the Freedom Fitness Center and Fitness Connection. Contact Raquel Ayers at work, 380-3721 (work) or by cell (907) 687-6925.

Spouses' Orientation Tour

Are you new to Fort Irwin? Check out the 2-day Spouses' Tour - attendance required for both days of the tour. Participants must be military ID card holders. The tour is free of charge and child care is provided. Space is limited and children must be enrolled at Central Enrollment. For more information, call 380-2258.

Weight Watchers

Weekly meetings are on Thursdays, at 12 noon, Bldg. 317 (2nd Street and Avenue E). Signup 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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<p>'09 TOYOTA COROLLA LE</p> <p>STK. V10031A \$13,988</p>	<p>'07 CHRYSLER 300 BASIC</p> <p>STK. V2376P \$13,988</p>	<p>'07 DODGE CHARGER SE</p> <p>STK. V2391P \$15,800</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, 7 p.m.	Center Chapel
PWOC, Morning	Tuesday, 9 a.m.	Center Chapel
PWOC Evening	Tuesday, 6 p.m.	Center Chapel
Worship Service,	9 a.m., Sunday,	Blackhorse 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, 1 p.m. Bldg 317

JEWISH

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

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)
 CWOC: Catholic Women of the Chapel
 PEWS: Protestant Evening Worship Service
 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.

**Protestant Liturgical
Worship Service
9 a.m., Sunday at Blackhorse Chapel**

Holy Week Schedule

March 28/Sunday:

Palm Sunday (Regular Services)
 Chapel NeXt Worship Service
 Potluck, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

March 29/Monday:

Jewish Passover Service (6:30 p.m./Black Horse)
 Jewish Passover Meal (Black Horse)

April 1/Thursday:

Liturgical Protestant Service-Soup and Salad Dinner (5 p.m./Black Horse)
 Liturgical Protestant Maundy Thursday Service (6 p.m./Black Horse)
 Catholic Mass of the Lord's Supper (7:30 p.m.)

April 2/Friday:

Catholic Good Friday Liturgy (12 p.m.)

April 3/Saturday:

Catholic Easter Vigil (7:30 p.m.)

April 4/Sunday:

Easter (Regular Services)
 Irwin Easter Sunrise Service (6:30 a.m.)
 Catholic Easter Egg Hunt (Jack Rabbit Park, 10:30 a.m.)
 BOSS Easter Egg Hunt (Black Horse Chapel, 2 p.m.)



MAKE-A-WISH
wish.org
Share the Power of a Wish®
A CFC participant. Provided as a public service. ©2009 Make-A-Wish Foundation of America.

Barstow Baptist Temple
Pastor A.D. Hampton

Service Times
 Bible Study Sunday • 10 am
 Worship Hour Sunday • 11am & 6pm
 Wednesday • 7pm
 Children's Program Wednesday • 7pm
760-252-4692
 511 Victor St., Barstow, CA 92311

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Community Happenings

Fort Irwin Pageant

Registration is going on for the 2010 Little Miss/Mister Fort Irwin Pageant at Ingalls Recreation Center, Bldg. 361, until tomorrow. The pageant is scheduled for March 27, 6 p.m., and is open for kids ages 2 to 18. The pageant's theme this year is Hawaiian Luau. Registration fees are \$30/child. Contact Leslie or Debbie with any questions at 380-3585 or e-mail her at leslie.weston1@us.army.mil

Empowering Women

Register now for the 2010 Fort Irwin Women's Conference, to be held on April 9, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at Reggie's. The event will be hosted by the Fort Irwin Officers and Civilians Spouses Club and MWR. Enjoy creative workshops, and hear luncheon guest speaker Tanya Biank, author of "Army Wives." Her book inspired the hit Lifetime series Army Wives. Child care is available. Please contact FortIrwinWomensConference@gmail.com or visit www.fortirwinocsc.org for pricing and more information.

GSAB FRG Events

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

HHD, GSAB:

Jun. 10: HHD FRG meeting; Time: 6 p.m., Location: Bldg. 1200 Forum, Topic: TBD. If you should have any questions, contact Ms. Hunter at 380-7781 or e-mail: hhdfrg507@gmail.com.

AAD, GSAB:

Mar. 25: AAD FRG coffee
Time: 6 p.m.
Location: Reggie's. If you should have any questions, contact Sherry Martin at (207) 664-8021 or e-mail: aadfrg@gmail.com.

AVCO, GSAB:

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

1916th Support Battalion

Battalion Ball

Place: Monte Carlo Hotel, Las Vegas, NV
Date and Time: Apr. 1 at 6 p.m.
POC: Company First Sergeant

2nd HET, 1916 SB

FRG Meeting/Easter Egg Event
Place: Jack Rabbit Park
Date and Time: Apr. 9 at 5 p.m.
POC: 2tctfrg@gmail.com

557th Maintenance

FRG Meeting
Place: Chapel Bank Bldg (Bldg. 317)
Date and Time: Apr. 13 at 6:30 p.m.
POC: 557thfrg@gmail.com

HHC, 1916th SB

FRG Meeting
Place: the FORUM (Bldg. 1200)
Date and Time: May 13 at 6 p.m.
POC: hhccssbfrg@gmail.com

171st/MCC, 1916th SB

FRG Meeting
Place: Bldg. 828
Date and Time: Apr. 22 at 5 p.m.
POC: 171st.mccfrg@gmail.com

699th Maintenance

FRG Meeting
Place: Sandy Basin Annex
Date and Time: Apr. 20, 6 p.m.
POC: frg699th@yahoo.com

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

OCSC Scholarship Campaign

The OCSC's Fort Irwin Spouses Club 2010 Scholarship Campaign is now underway. Applications are being accepted for scholarships to be applied towards the Fall 2010 semester. Applicants must be a family member of a service member stationed at Fort Irwin on active duty status or must be a civilian member of the OCSC's Fort Irwin Spouses Club or one of his or her family members. Applicants must be enrolled or intend to enroll in an academic institution on a part-time or full-time basis in undergraduate or post-graduate studies. Applications will be evaluated based upon academic achievement, community service/school-sponsored extracurricular activities, an essay and letters of recommendation. All applications must be postmarked by March 23, 2010 and/or received by March 26, 2010. Incomplete applications or those received after the scholarship campaign deadline will not be considered. For eligibility guidelines and a complete application packet, access the OCSC website at www.firwinocsc.org under the heading "Welfare and Scholarships" or contact Melissa Karlberg, OCSC 2nd vice president, at melissakarlberg@aol.com.

At the Movies

Thursday, Mar. 18 7 p.m. Closed	9:30 p.m. Edge of Darkness (R)
Friday, Mar. 19 7 p.m. The Tooth Fairy (PG) 7 p.m. From Paris with Love (R)	Sunday, Mar. 21 4 p.m. The Tooth Fairy (PG) 7 p.m. The Wolfman (R) 7 p.m. Edge of Darkness (R)
9:30 p.m. The Wolfman (R) 9:30 p.m. Edge of Darkness (R)	Monday, Mar. 22 7 p.m. The Wolfman (R) 7 p.m. Edge of Darkness (R)
Saturday, Mar. 20 7 p.m. The Tooth Fairy (PG) 7 p.m. From Paris with Love (R)	Tuesday, Mar. 23 7 p.m. Closed
9:30 p.m. The Wolfman (R)	Wednesday, Mar. 24 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.

Scholarship Applications

Barstow Community College is currently taking scholarship applications. The deadline is tomorrow.

Children's FREE Classes

During April, Month of the Military Child, EDGE! Program will honor our youth with FREE EDGE! classes. April is packed with a number of fun, engaging, and educational programs to include: Golf, jewelry making, teen job readiness, mosaic art, and bowling. Classes are open to youth in grades 3-12 and take place at various MWR facilities on base. Transportation from Tiefert, School Age Services and the Middle School and Teen Center is available. Register at Parent Central (Bldg. 1323) or through webtrac at <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/irwincy.ms.html>. Spaces are limited, so register today. For more information call 380-5816.

Cooking Competitions

Join one or all the various cooking competitions, including salsa and cupcake baking, during the Fort Irwin Food and Wine Festival on May 15, from 5-9 p.m. at Sandy Basin. You can pick up a registration form at Bldg. 550 MWR Marketing or by visiting our web site www.fortirwinmwr.com. Registration is free. Winners get bragging rights and food supply or restaurant gift cards. For more information, call 380-7144. The deadline is May 1.

Red Cross Classes in April

Fort Irwin American Red Cross Station will host its March Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and First Aid Class on March 27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and March 28, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. It is \$45 for Soldier or family member and if an additional person attends from the same household, cost is \$22.50. For active Red Cross volunteers with 20-plus hours-per-month, cost is \$10. For all others, cost is \$60. To participate in this life saving course, contact Fort Irwin Red Cross Station at 380-3697 or visit Bldg. 571.

Bowling Night

Fort Irwin American Red Cross Station will host a Bowling Night for Soldiers and families of the Warrior Transition Unit at Strike Zone, from 3-5 p.m., April 10. The cost of bowling, shoe rentals, foundation drinks and basket food will be covered. For questions, contact the Red Cross Station at 380-3697 or stop by the Station located in Bldg. 571.

Red Cross Classes

Fort Irwin American Red Cross Station will host its April Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and First Aid Class on April 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and April 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. It is \$45 for Soldier or family member and if an additional person attends from the same household, cost is \$22.50. For active Red Cross volunteers with 20-plus hours-per-month, cost is \$10. For all others, cost is \$60. To participate in this life saving course, contact Fort Irwin Red Cross Station at 380-3697 or visit Bldg. 571.

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.

Tickets and Tours

Plan a private trip for your unit, group, family readiness group, or family. Check out what Tickets and Tours have to offer in March. Go to www.fortirwinmwr.com under the recreation tab and Tickets & Tours, click on 'March Events.' For more information call Tickets and Tours at 380-4327.

Youth and School Activities

Middle School Activities

Thursday: Flower Recipe Holder, Juice Rocket
Friday: Technology Lab Kid's Choice, Cooking Club Watermelon Ice
Monday: Sand Art, Raisin Dance
Tuesday: Make your Own Post Cards, Magic Scratch
Wednesday: Smart Girls, Ultimate Journey, 4-H Full of Hot Air

Teen Activities

Friday: CARD Tournament
Saturday: Green Party

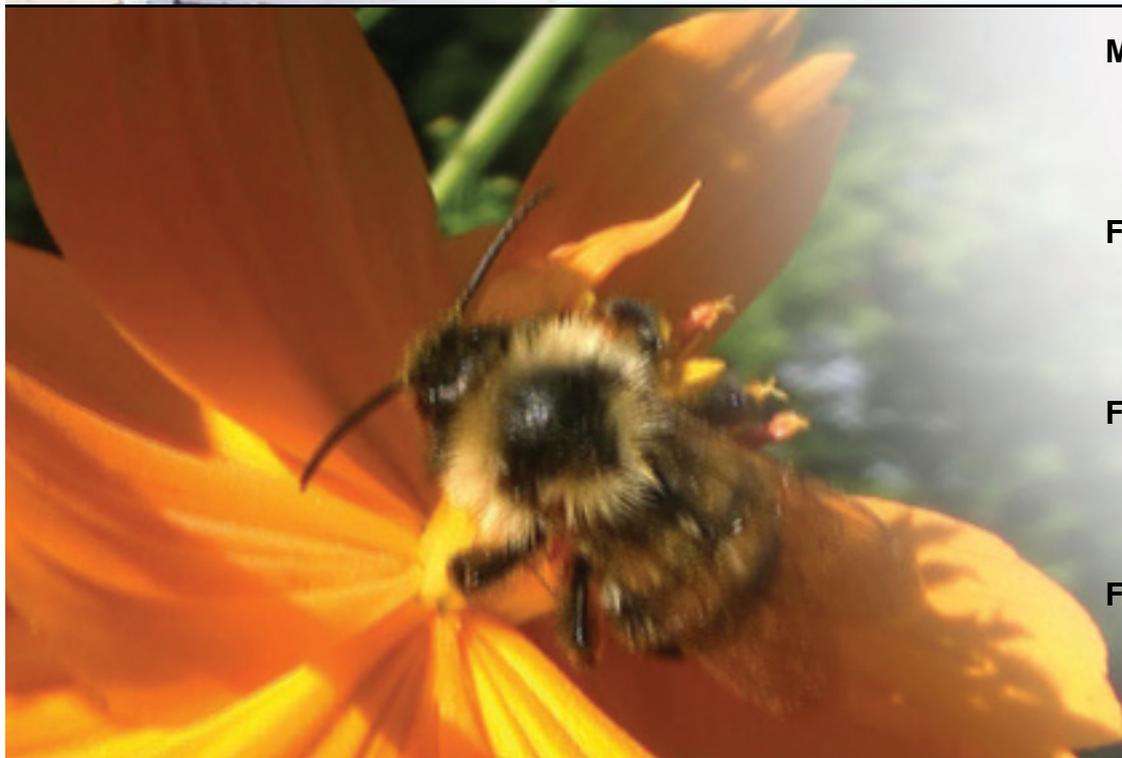
Hours of Operation

Middle School : Mon.-Fri. until 6 p.m.
Teen Center:
Friday: 6-11 p.m.
Saturday: 3:30-11 p.m.
Sundays and Holidays: Closed
More information: Kristin Morgan at 380-3732.

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



Fort Irwin Community Calendar



Mon., Mar. 22
916th SPT BDE CoR Ceremony
4 p.m.
Jack Rabbit Park
380-4703

Fri., Mar. 27
Little Miss/Mister FI Pageant
6 p.m.
Ingalls Recreation Center
Leslie//Debbie, 380-3585

Fri., Mar.27
Red Cross CPR & AED Class
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Red Cross Station
380-3697

Fri., Apr. 9
Fort Irwin Women's Conference
8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Reggie's
380-6716/5111

Sat., Apr. 10
10-Miler Team Tryout
7 a.m.
Fitness Connection
SFC Harris, 380-8386

Wed., Apr. 14
Volunteer Recognition Ceremony
6-7:30 p.m.
Reggie's
Silky Isaac, 380-8422

Sat., May 15
Food & Wine Festival
5-9 p.m.
Sandy Basin Community Center
380-7144

Check out these upcoming activities at Fort Irwin

March is Red Cross Month

Fort Irwin American Red Cross Station thanks supporters, volunteers

BY HEATHER ADAMS

Red Cross Public Affairs Chairwoman

With March proclaimed as Red Cross Month by President Barack Obama, the Fort Irwin American Red Cross Station today recognized and thanked the supporters and volunteers whose efforts enable the Red Cross to respond to disasters down the street, across the country and around the world.

"The Red Cross works tirelessly to be there with help and hope when people need it most—and we are grateful for the public support that enables us to continue our work — here at home and abroad," said Stephanie Luce, station manager, Fort Irwin American Red Cross Station. "Our community and our nation depend on the Red Cross in times of need, and the Red Cross depends on the support of people in America to achieve its mission."

"During Red Cross Month, we want to recognize the valuable supporters whose generosity makes the work of the American Red Cross possible," Luce added. "In addition, Red Cross Month is a great time for people to get involved with the Red Cross, such as donating blood; signing up for a CPR, first aid or another Red Cross course; giving a financial gift that can really save the day when the next disaster strikes or getting involved as a volunteer."

The Red Cross provides shelter, food, comfort and hope to survivors of nearly 70,000 disasters each year; helps prepare communities for emergencies; is the largest single provider of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills to more than 5 million people a year; supports military members and their families; and provides international humanitarian aid.

The American Red Cross touches the lives of millions of people every year through its network of 34,000 employees

and more than 600,000 volunteers in more than 2,000 locations across the United States and more than 30 countries around the world.

"The Red Cross has responded following the Haiti earthquake in January, working to turn despair into hope," Luce said. "The Red Cross is there in Haiti now – and we are also here each day across the country for families who need us."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the first Red Cross Month proclamation in 1943, recognizing the American Red Cross as a true reflection of the humanitarian and volunteer spirit and calling on Americans to "rededicate themselves to the splendid aims and activities of the Red Cross." Every president since that time has recognized the work of the Red Cross with a Red Cross Month. President Obama signed the 2010 Red Cross Month proclamation on February 25.

The Fort Irwin Red Cross Station has a number of activities, including the monthly CPR, AED & First Aid Class, a Family Bowling Night for the Soldiers and families of the Warrior Transition Unit, in the spring and summer: a Wilderness Training Class and Babysitter Training Class will be offered, and a Red Cross Volunteer Recognition Event will be held this Spring.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to survivors of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit www.redcross.org or join our blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>.

AMERICAN



RED CROSS

VA seeks fast track for Agent Orange claims

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

News Release

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today a new initiative to solicit private-sector input on a proposed “fast track” veterans’ claims process for service-connected presumptive illnesses due to Agent Orange exposure during the Vietnam War.

“This will be a new way of doing business and a major step forward in how we process the presumptive claims we expect to receive over the next two years,” Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said. “With the latest, fastest, and most reliable technology, VA hopes to migrate the manual processing of these claims to an automated process that meets the needs of today’s veterans in a more timely manner.”

Over the next two years, about 200,000 veterans are expected to file disability compensation claims under an historic expansion of three new presumptive illnesses announced last year by Shinseki. They affect veterans who have Parkinson’s disease, ischemic heart disease and B-cell leukemias.

In practical terms, veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have one of the illnesses covered by the “presumption of service connection” don’t have to prove an association between their medical problems and military service. This “presumption” makes it easier for Vietnam veterans to access disability compensation benefits.

Vietnam veterans are encouraged to submit their claims as soon as possible to begin the important process of compensation, according to VA officials.

Along with the publication of proposed regulations for the three new presumptives this spring, VA intends to publish a formal request in Federal Business Opportunities for private-sector corporations to propose automated solutions for the parts of the claims process that take the longest amount of time. VA believes these can be collected in a more streamlined and accurate way.

Development involves determining what additional information is needed to adjudicate the claim, such as military and private medical records and the scheduling of medical examinations.

With this new approach, VA expects to shorten the time it takes to gather evidence, which now takes an average of more than 90 days. Once the claim is fully developed and all pertinent information is gathered, VA will be able to more quickly decide the claim and process the award, if granted.

The contract is expected to be awarded in April with proposed solutions offered to VA within 90 days. Implementation of the solution is expected within 150 days.

“Veterans whose health was harmed during their military service are entitled to the best this nation has to offer,” Shinseki said. “We are undertaking an unprecedented modernization of our claims process to ensure timely and accurate delivery of that commitment.”

Last year, VA received more than one million claims for disability compensation and pension. VA provides compensation and pension benefits to more than 3.8 million veterans

and beneficiaries. Presently, the basic monthly rate of compensation ranges from \$123 to \$2,673 to veterans without any dependents.

Disability compensation is a non-taxable, monthly monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled as a result of an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service.



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Rocks, from page 1

“When I started visiting the troops, I think most people just knew my face as Lt. Dan. They didn’t know who I was. So when I would go out and visit the troops, in the early days of doing this stuff, wherever I went, they were calling me Lt. Dan, so when I decided to take a band with me, I thought well, we’ll just call ourselves ‘Gary Sinese and the Lt. Dan Band,’ and some of them will know who Gary Sinese is and some of them will know Lt. Dan,” he said.

Spc. William Allen, of F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, said he didn’t even know Gary Sinese was in a band; however that didn’t stop him from enjoying the concert.

“I like Gary Sinese and Lt. Dan, but I didn’t know he played in a band,” said the native of Sacramento, Calif. “I thought it was surprisingly good; I was surprised to see how big of a turn out it was.”

The Academy Award-nominated actor said he plays for troops whenever he can. Sinese said he plays for as many troops as he can stateside when he is filming a season of CSI:NY. During the off-season however, he plans trips to entertain for troops outside of the continental U.S.

“I think it’s really cool, especially since (celebrities) don’t really have to do anything anymore, they can just sit at home,” Spc. Troy Pacini-Harvey, F Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. “I think it is nice they can take time out of their days to put on shows for us and entertain us.”

Pacini-Harvey and Allen were two of more than 40 Soldiers from the Regiment that volunteered, through the BOSS program, to help set up the event. The BOSS volunteers were also tasked to perform stage security for Sinese and his band.

Sinese’s involvement with the USO and entertaining for troops started shortly after Sept. 11, 2001. He said he felt compelled to do his part, as did many young men and women.

“That was a sad day, I know we have a lot of troops in the service now who joined because of that,” Sinese said. “They were spurred into action, wanting to do something for their country. So was I, but I’m an old guy, I

can’t join the service, but I can go out there and meet and greet them and play some music. When we started deploying troops overseas, I just wanted to do something. So I pitched in and started going out there for the troops overseas doing what I could. I just think it is important that they understand that people are backing them up and appreciate their service.”

Sinese said it was an honor to perform for Soldiers especially at Fort Irwin, who were “in the middle of absolutely nowhere.”

“If somebody like me who is on television or in the movies can go out there and pat them on the back and

let them know that we care about them; then I want to do it. I think that’s a way I can pitch in and help out in difficult times,” he added.

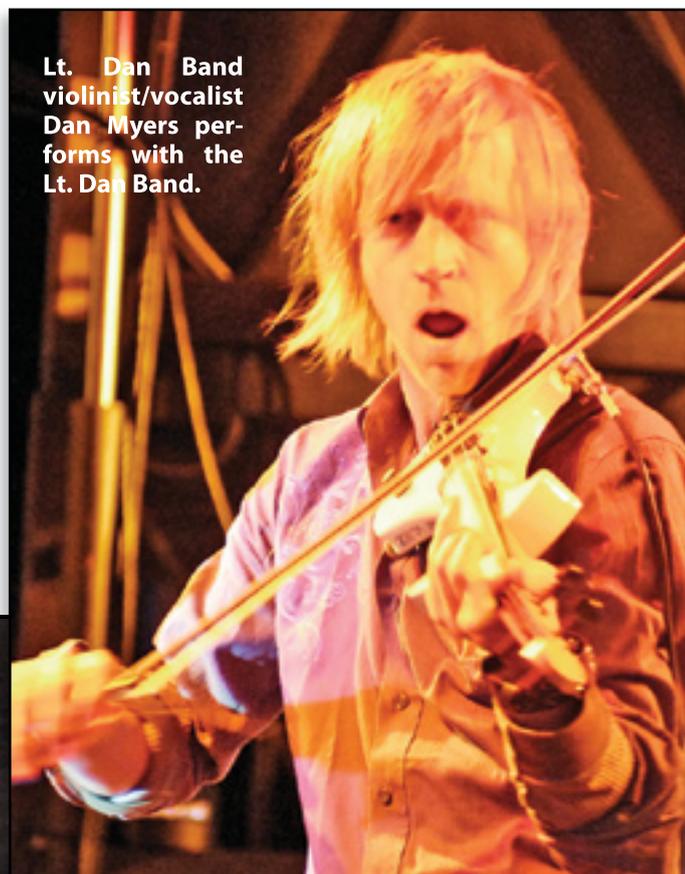
Before the concert, Pacini-Harvey said he enjoyed watching how a real band sets up and gets ready for a concert. He also said he had the opportunity to meet some of the band members.

“I got to meet some of the guys in the band, I got to meet a Vietnam veteran (Lt. Dan Band guitarist Kimo Williams),” said Pacini-Harvey, a native of Las Vegas. “I was working and I still had fun; it was a great way to spend a Friday night.”



Actor Gary Sinese entertains for the Fort Irwin community.

SGT. GIANCARLO CASEM



Lt. Dan Band violinist/vocalist Dan Myers performs with the Lt. Dan Band.

SGT. GIANCARLO CASEM



Gary Sinese, and the Lt. Dan Band, takes a bow at the end of the concert.

SGT. GIANCARLO CASEM



SGT. GIANCARLO CASEM

Kimo Williams, guitarist, plays with the Lt. Dan Band at Army Field.



SGT. GIANCARLO CASEM



JOHN WAGSTAFFE

CSI New York television star Gary Sinise plays bass guitar for his band, the Lt. Dan Band. To the left of Gary Sinise is one of his backup singers, Mari Anne Jayme.

Actor Gary Sinise, performs with the Lt. Dan Band at Fort Irwin, Calif., March 12. The Lt. Dan Band performed a free concert for the Fort Irwin community as part of his 41st USO tour.



JOHN WAGSTAFFE

During an encore, Sinise was pleased with the excitement of the Fort Irwin crowd. Sinise plays free concerts all over the world for the military.



KELSY HUSTEAD

Gary Sinise fires an M-240B machine gun, attached with MILES (multiple integrated laser engagement system) gear, in the village of Medina Wasl.



KELSY HUSTEAD

Gary Sinise speaks with Capt. Dave Fittro, Town officer-in-charge, during a tour of the village of Medina Wasl.



KELSY HUSTEAD

Brig. Gen. Robert 'Abe' Abrams, commanding general, National Training Center and Fort Irwin, speaks with Gary Sinise at the unmounted patrol lane in the village of Medina Wasl. Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez, post command sergeant major, and Dave McIntyre, Tricare West, are in the background.

ICE, from page 2

Thank you. **Agency Response:** A work order was called in Feb. 25 to fix soap dispenser in car wash bay, and was fixed Feb. 25. Please let Auto Craft Shop know when car wash bays are not working properly, and they will immediately address any problems that may be occurring. Thanks for bringing this issue to our attention.

Oasis Swimming Pool

Customer Comment: I am a regular lap swimmer, and I have noticed a drastic change in the overall cleanliness of this facility in the past month or so. The locker room is much cleaner, and more importantly, the water is finally clear. Thanks for a job well done to the staff and management of this facility. **Agency Response:** I want to take the time to thank you for your recent pool visit and the rave reviews you gave to our facility. As facility manager, my goal is to get military standards back to how the pool is operated and maintained. It is my intention to keep our customers happy and thank you again

for noticing my efforts. Please feel free to call me if you have any further comments.

Pinnacle Housing

Customer Comment: I am unable to find the answer to this question. I was under the impression that physical training (PT) was never to be conducted in the housing areas; however over the last several months, in Sleep Hollow housing area, there have been PT basketball games conducted at the park at 6:30 a.m. or earlier, there have been groups of Soldiers running through the alley ways singing cadence, and today there is a group out there running drills on the basket-



ball courts. I am normally awake at this hour during the week, but in the local area I know that there are a lot of small children, new moms and sleeping infants at this hour. Their voices carry easily into my bedroom which faces the park, and I know my neighbor has heard them on occasion as well. I would like some clarification on the regulations about PT routes, etc on Fort Irwin. Also, if this is a violation could a notice be posted and/or sent to the units? Thank you. **Agency Response:** Sent e-mail to resident informing her RCI has been contacted for post regulations and policies and will follow up with the resident.

Veterinary Services

Customer Comment: Pvt. 2nd Class Holmes and Capt. James were an excellent team! They came in on a Saturday to help when my dog Bruiser was having a seizure. Pvt. 2 Class Holmes came in to do blood work.

They both went the extra mile to ensure that Bruiser was taken care of and stabilized. Many thanks to you both! **Agency Response:** None on file as of publication date.

Shockwave

Customer Comment: I visited Shockwave on Friday as I have many times before. However, this time I have to complain about that disc jockey. I don't think he knows what he is doing at all. The choice of music is horrible. Please bring back the DJ that was there before. **Agency Response:** Customer did not provide contact information nor requested follow-up.

Finance (DFAS, HR Finance)

Customer Comment: Coming from a different duty station and they don't even hold a candle light to these people. Great job, friendly people ... thank you so much. **Agency Response:** Customer did not provide contact information nor requested follow-up.

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Soldiers soar through women's history

BY SHERYL NIX

Army News Service

FORT WAINWRIGHT, Alaska — National Women's History Month highlights the fact that throughout every major U.S. military conflict women have blazed trails for modern Soldiers with their military service.

Today women make up approximately 14 percent of the active Army and serve in more than 90 percent of all Army occupations, according to Army statistics, but that has not always been the case.

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc. compiled a record of women's service in conflicts dating back to the American Revolutionary War and found that women have served in many different capacities over the years. From cooks and saboteurs in the Revolution to 19th century nurses and 20th century clerks, mechanics and photographers, women have made a difference in war and peacetime military efforts.

The Army has been the service of choice for many women and nowhere is the pioneering spirit more evident than in Army aviation. While the Women's Army Corps and the Women Airforce Service Pilots from WWII receive credit for breaking through many of the military gender barriers, it was not until 1974 that the first woman became an Army helicopter pilot.

Fort Wainwright's 16th Combat Aviation Brigade is home to numerous women who have chosen Army aviation and currently bridge the gap between those who paved the way before them and those who will fly over their footsteps.

Maj. DeAnna L. Bridenback, commander, C Company, 123rd Aviation Intermediate Maintenance, 16th CAB, joined the Army in 1988 as a cargo specialist, serving in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm a few years later. Bridenback has a private pilot's license, so going to college, joining Army ROTC and then becoming a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot was a natural progression.

"I've been flying since I was 16," she said. "I actually won a scholarship with the local airport



SHERYL NIX

Maj. DeAnna L. Bridenback (right), a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot and commander, C Company, 123rd Aviation Intermediate Maintenance, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade; Chief Warrant Officer Flor Armendariz, battalion aviation maintenance officer, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, 16th CAB; and 1st Lt. Heather Cobb (left), a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot and maintenance platoon leader, C/123rd.

and started flying fixed wing airplanes then and I just absolutely took to it and love being up there - the bird's eye view. I just really thoroughly enjoy flying."

Although flying is in her blood and seems to run in her family - her younger sister is an Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft commander and pilot - Bridenback doesn't fly regularly in her current position.

"While I love flying, it is not what I do on an everyday basis," she explained. "The reason why I do what I do is for the Soldiers; to take care of Soldiers. As a commander, it is really and truly all about taking care of Soldiers - making sure that they're trained and fit and ready to answer the call."

Caring for Soldiers and leading by example garner the majority of her attention these days. "I want to be a good role model," she said.

A 2005 Women in Aviation Conference provided Bridenback an opportunity to meet some of her heroes and role models. "When you look back at all the great, heroic women, I have to say that the

women who inspire me are the WACs themselves. Just to see those (women) - they were pioneers in our field - was just absolutely inspiring."

She is also inspired by other women in aviation serving with her today; women like Chief Warrant Officer Flor Armendariz, battalion aviation maintenance officer, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, 16th CAB, who has served in Army aviation for two decades.

"I joined the Army to be in the aviation field," Armendariz said. "I wanted to stay around Soldiers so I chose to become a maintenance technical warrant in aviation so I could continue mentoring, coaching and teaching Soldiers."

Her mother and two aunts set the bar for her at a young age and showed Armendariz what mentally and physically strong and wise women looked like. "I'm the only one from (my) family who joined the service," she said. "That was definitely a proud moment."

Army aviation has come a long way since she first came in and served as the only woman in her unit. "I have definitely seen changes throughout

my 20 years in the Army," she said. "And now to see a woman in aviation is nothing unusual."

1st Lt. Heather Cobb, maintenance platoon leader, C/123rd, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 2007 and has been a Black Hawk pilot since completing flight school in May 2009. She is very aware that the women who served before her helped to shape her path.

Their legacy "is important because it has made my job so much easier because I don't have to fight like people in the past have; like Chief (Armendariz) probably had to do when she was first getting into the Army, proving herself day after day that she is not just a woman, she's a Soldier," Cobb said.

And even though she is fairly new to the Army, Cobb is already thinking about the legacy she will leave behind.

"My younger sister is graduating from West Point this year," she said. "I think about her all the time and what I can do set an example for her and (help) her appreciate being in the military, also."

These women think of themselves as Soldiers first and women second. "I just have always seen myself as a Soldier," Bridenback said. "That's what I am first and foremost. I'm a firm believer that you shouldn't expect to be handed things just because you're you. No, you've got to work hard. You've got to understand what the systems are and put in the effort and if you do that and keep an open mind to learning (you'll succeed)."

Even still, she said it's important to commemorate the work of so many who went before them, taking on adversity and hardships to change the world.

"I think that there are a lot of incredible individuals who make a difference and change the course of history for the masses and so it's important to reflect on everyone's heritage really," Bridenback said. "So I think it's important to look back and pause and think about those who came before you and all of the contributions they have made. A lot of them were trailblazers."

"They faced incredible adversity ... and they've made a difference in America and around the world."

Resolution celebrates women in military

BY ALEXANDRA HEMMERLY-BROWN

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — During the Joint Services Women's History Month Observance on Capitol Hill Thursday, a Senate Resolution to recognize the accomplishments of women in the military was presented and then accepted by a female wounded warrior.

Sgt. 1st Class Juanita Wilson, who lost her left arm in 2004 after an improvised explosive device hit her convoy in Iraq, accepted the resolution on behalf of "each and every woman that's served in the U.S. military." The resolution, introduced by Sen. Barbara Boxer of California was given in Wilson's honor.

"I wouldn't have thought that six years down the road, someone would be thinking about

me," Wilson said of her surprise at being asked to accept the resolution.

Boxer's office said the senator introduced the resolution because she wanted to highlight the accomplishments, contributions, and sacrifices of women like Wilson in the military.

The resolution concludes with five points that the Senate pledges to uphold: to acknowledge the contributions of women in the military, celebrate the role women play, recognize the unique challenges women face, to strengthen programs for women and to honor women veterans.

Present at the observance were female generals and flag officers from each service, Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Rep. Susan Davis of California, and event host Boxer, who participated in a panel discussion about military women in leadership roles.

The panel members gave advice from their years of leadership and 'growing up' in a military they said is now more accepting of women among its ranks than it once was. Many spoke to the difficulty of balancing a successful career with a family, while others gave advice with a dose of jest.

Klobuchar, the first female senator elected in Minnesota, explained that women today generally set higher expectations for themselves than in the past.

She gave an example that while playing with a friend, her young daughter said, "You can't have a baby until you run for office and win an election." While a humorous misconception, her daughter's statement also made Klobuchar proud-she said her daughter saw her success as the norm.

Navy Rear Adm. Janice Hamby quipped that when dealing with men, the communication breakdown is in their hearing.

"Men hear at a lower frequency than women ... speaking low and slowly is the key," Hamby joked.

Boxer spoke of losing her first election in 1972 after her competitor advised her to drop out because she was a woman.

"I will always remember that first election, because people doubted my abilities simply because of my gender," Boxer said. "That made me want to work that much harder to prove them wrong."

She said that many of the successful women in the military have had to fight at one point for where they are today, but that struggle makes a person stronger and tougher, and spurs them to help the next generation.

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

Employment program resumes for enrolled spouses

BY ELAINE WILSON
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts program, commonly known as MyCAA, resumed March 13 for the more than 136,000 spouses who already have established an account, the defense official who heads up the program announced today.

Officials announced a temporary halt in the program Feb. 18, pending a top-to-bottom review, after a six-fold spike in enrollments in January, a surge that overwhelmed the system and caused the program to nearly reach its budget threshold.

"We made a commitment to our military spouses when they established a career advancement account, and we will be true to our promises," said Tommy T. Thomas, deputy undersecretary of defense for the Pentagon's office of military community and family policy.

The Defense Department resumed the program for the 136,583 military spouses currently in the program at noon EDT March 13, Thomas said.

"We sincerely apologize to our military spouses for the added burden caused by the pause in operation," he added.

While the program will resume for enrolled spouses, new MyCAA accounts or financial assistance applications will not be accepted yet, Thomas said, noting that the comprehensive review of the program still is under way.

"We are working hard to adjust the program to meet the demands of the MyCAA program and to arrive at a long-term solution for military spouses who would like to establish an account," he said. "Until that time, we encourage spouses to consult with the MyCAA career counselors who can provide career exploration, assessment, employment readiness and career search assistance."

The top-to-bottom review includes procedures, financial assistance documents and the overall program, which is intended to provide military spouses with opportunities to pursue portable careers in high-demand, high-growth occupations.

The program has been growing in popularity since its inception March 2, 2009. Enrollments had

been increasing at a rate of about 10,000 a month, and in January, the number spiked to 70,000.

"We had very little time to react to that," Thomas said. "I make no excuses for that. We should have done a better job of notifying our military spouses." Thomas said he will work hard to restore the confidence lost when the program was halted.

"We certainly know we have lost some confidence, and we want to rebuild that confidence," he said. "We will restore that faith hopefully by one, restoring the program, and two, having appropriate resources to ensure everyone that applies for the program receives the appropriate financial assistance."

"We appreciate what [spouses] do, and we hope that through this, that once we get this program back on track, that we don't lose any ... spouses," he continued. "We value and treasure everything you do each and every day, not only for the Department of Defense, but for this nation."

Thomas said he will ensure the lines of communication stay open in the days ahead. An e-mail has

been sent to all program participants, informing them of the program's resumption, and spouses will see the announcement letter when they log on to their MyCAA accounts. A "media blitz" of information will precede any announcement that applies to all military spouses, he vowed.

"We don't want to make the mistake we made in the beginning, and that is not notifying you what's going on," Thomas said. "We want to make absolutely sure that you understand that we're working in your best interest."

In the meantime, Thomas urged spouses to be wary of questionable Web sites enticing them with employment opportunities.

"Stay the course with us and allow us to work this to finality by restoring the program," he said. "We will make every effort possible to ensure we educate you and get the necessary funds to continue this program."

Along with MyCAA counselors, spouses also can request free career counseling through Military OneSource at 1-800-342-9647 or at <http://www.militaryonesource.com>.

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High Desert Champions

Fort Irwin Middle School "Wildcats" Girls Basketball Team celebrates as the 2010 High Desert Athletic League Girls Basketball Champions. In the photo, Coach Thomas Swisher joins the girl's team after their win against Riverside Prep School, score ending at 9-8, March 6.

BY NADIA HALL

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

BY SANDY CLARK

Fitness Connection Fitness Coordinator

It seems like lately the question of the day is, "What can I do to get rid of this?" People ask me this as they are pinching their problem area, with a look of frustration on their face. "I do about 200 crunches a day and I still have it," they say. I know I am about to bust your bubble but, you CANNOT spot train! Doing 200 crunches a day will not give you that 6 pack abs you've been dreaming about. Doing 100 leg abductors will not give you those lean legs you so desire. It's a balance of all the components of fitness, not just one. Cardio, weight training, flexibility and above all, nutrition! They all work together. One component cannot stand alone. If you think so, you'll forever be frustrated with your fitness progress. Don't do this to yourself, make a plan!

You have to decrease all over body fat. You cannot reduce fat in one area. Fat does not discriminate, it deposits all over your body. Although, men do typically store fat in the abdominal area while women store it in their legs and glutes; the reduction will come from all over.

Go to the gym or wherever you workout prepared. Do your research. Make sure to incorporate all of the components of fitness. There is a lot of information out there about how to start and develop workout programs. Just beware of crazy fad diets and exercises. Make sure you are doing exercises that are safe and have a purpose. Don't do something because you saw a cool picture in a magazine.

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

Your partner in fitness,
Sandy

The Fitness Connection Fitness Class Schedule

Thursday, March 18

Morning

6:30 No Class
8:30 Body Shop/Sandy
11:45 Spin/Sandy

Afternoon

5:30 Cardio Circuit Mix/Robin
6:30 Pilates/Robin

Friday, March 19

Morning

8:30 Step/Tamara
9:30 Pilates/Cara
11:45 Boot Camp/Sandy

Afternoon

3:00 Yoga/Michell

Monday, March 22

Morning

8:30 Cardio Craze/Tamara
9:30 Pilates/Cara
11:45 Step/Tamara *30 min express

Afternoon

12:15 Zumba/Robin * 30 min express
3:00 Yoga/Michell
5:30 Spin & Core/Sandy *45 min spin 30 min core

Tuesday, March 23

Morning

6:30 Spin/Sandy * Free Class
8:30 Body Shop/Tamara
9:30 Belly Dancing B/Tamara 11:45 Body Shop/Sandy

Afternoon

5:30 Zumba/Robin
6:30 Yoga/Robin

Wednesday, March 24

Morning

8:30 Cardio Craze/Tamara
9:30 Belly Dancing C/Tamara
11:45 Cardio craze/ Tamara *30 min Express

Afternoon

12:15 Pilates/Robin * 30 min express
3:00 Yoga/Michell
5:30 No class
6:30 No class

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- Cars & Trucks (Except RV's)
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| • Cars & Trucks (Except RV's) | • Misc. Wanted |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> HOUSES FOR RENT | <input type="checkbox"/> MISC. FOR RENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APTS FOR RENT | <input type="checkbox"/> ACREAGE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOTS | <input type="checkbox"/> INCOME PROPERTY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOTELS & MOTELS | <input type="checkbox"/> FARMS & RANCHES |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES | <input type="checkbox"/> PETS |
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