

Mountaineer

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April 23, 2004

Army's top general visits Mountain Post

by Pfc. Clint Stein
Mountaineer staff

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker visited the Mountain Post Saturday while in Colorado Springs for the Professional Bull Riders Association Army-sponsored visit.

Schoomaker spent the first part of Saturday morning at Turkey Creek Recreational Area with commanding general of 7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, Maj. Gen. Robert Wilson and the Fort Carson Mounted Colored Guard for a 45-minute horseback ride around the ranch.

Later that morning, Schoomaker and Wilson had a meeting, along with deputy commanding general of 7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Orr and other members of the Fort Carson command staff to discuss opera-

tional updates and joint/multicomponent initiatives.

After the meeting, Schoomaker and Wilson had lunch with several Fort Carson Soldiers at the Cheyenne Mountain Inn dining facility.

Sgt. 1st Class Juan Abreu, 43rd Area Support Group, DFAC manager, was pleased with the lunch and considered it a success. "The staff here was eager for the challenge," said Abreu, "and love it when we get visits like this."

This was the first time the chief of staff has come for lunch at the Cheyenne Mountain Inn, said Abreu. President George W. Bush and congressmen have come for lunch, so the Soldiers here knew a little about what to expect, added Abreu.

See Schoomaker, Page 16



Photo by Pfc. Clint Stein

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker right, talks with several Fort Carson Soldiers Saturday during a luncheon hosted by the Cheyenne Mountain Inn dining facility. Schoomaker came to Colorado Springs for an official Professional Bull Riders Association Army-sponsored visit.

Soldiers who re-enlisted for tours in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan to get retro bonuses

by Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

An estimated 5,000 Soldiers who re-enlisted last year may be eligible for a pay bonus.

Bonuses up to \$5,000 will be retroactively paid to Soldiers, between the ranks of specialist and staff sergeant, with 17 months to 10 years in service, who re-enlisted between March 18, 2003, through Sept. 18.

Only those who re-enlisted under the option of being assigned to a deployed unit in Afghanistan, Kuwait or Iraq are eligible, said Ron Canada, chief of Retention Management Division, Human Resources Command.

Soldiers have until June 30 to contact their career counselors and request the lump sum payment.

The program will still be open through July, but career counselors will have to submit all pertinent information to the Retention Management Division

for review, states military personnel message 04-141.

If a Soldier received a bonus based on his military occupational specialty, he is not entitled to receive the lump sum of \$5,000 in addition to it. However, he is entitled to the bonus equaling the higher amount, the MILPER message stated.

The action to get Soldiers retroactively paid was the result of a junior Soldier from the 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky., making a poignant comment to Les Brownlee, the acting secretary of the Army.

Last year the Army had extra money and was looking to boost retention, Canada said. So it announced that it would give a special bonus up to \$5,000 to Soldiers who re-enlisted Sept. 19 through Sept. 30, Canada said.

While visiting the Central Command area of operation, Brownlee heard from a junior Soldier who re-enlisted prior to the bonus being offered. He

told Brownlee that he would have appreciated getting a bonus for re-enlisting, too. Brownlee later went to Congress and received \$25 million to retroactively pay those Soldiers who are eligible under the newly expanded dates, Canada said.

In Brownlee's testimony before the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, he said the Army is an all-volunteer force doing tremendous work, and recruiting and retention are of great interest to senior leadership.

"We will continue to rely on a robust Selective Re-enlistment Bonus Program to enable achievement of our retention program. Developing ways to retain Soldiers directly engaged in the ongoing war on terror is critical," Brownlee said.

However, retroactively paying the Soldiers wasn't really done for retention, Canada said, since they had already re-enlisted. Brownlee did it primarily to recognize their duty over there, Canada added.

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The Garden of the Gods, on Colorado Springs' west side, is a great place to picnic or hike.
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Feature



Army announces sponsorship of bull riding team at World Arena in Colorado Springs.
See Page 24, 25.

What's new

The final phase of the Gate 5/Titus Road construction project is scheduled to begin the week of May 3. One lane will remain open for one-way traffic. Expect delays.

Post Weather hotline:
526-0096

Commander's Corner

Army prepares for significant changes

The Army and our nation are at war against terrorism. As operations to fight the war on terror continue, America's Army is preparing to change from its current force structure to a completely new structure, and the changes have already begun. The goal of the change is to generate more combat power and to build a campaign-capable, joint-expeditionary Army within this decade.

The planned structural changes to the Army will be the most significant since the 1950s. It's going to be big; it will touch every Soldier and Army unit throughout the world, and it will ultimately shape the Army and nation to better face future threats of terrorism.

It is important to understand the reasons for this aggressive overhaul, especially when our nation's military is undergoing its highest operational tempo in decades. Not only will the changes better prepare units to face an enemy and win, but also they will effectively reduce OPTEMPO for the individual Soldier and better stabilize a Soldier's family. Deployments will become more predictable by using the same Army per-

sonnel end strength to develop an increased number of combat brigades, allowing more units available for deployment rotations.

This structural reformation is outlined in a document called "The Way Ahead" which is posted on the Army Web site www.army.mil. The document received 30,000 downloads within the first month. In addition to the digital medium, more than 430,000 brochures were sent out to various units throughout the Army. I encourage all Soldiers to read this document in order to prepare themselves and their families for the changes ahead. The ability for our Army to change is a characteristic that enables us to protect and defend our nation and our way of life.

In line with the changes to the Army as a whole, the Chief of Staff of the Army General Peter J. Schoomaker, recently issued additional guidance to Soldiers to also change individual Soldier mentality. He ordered a sweeping uniform change to add the American flag on the right shoulder of every Soldier's utility uniform and prompts

leaders to ask Soldiers if they are wearing their dog tags. Developing the warrior focus in this time of war is incumbent on every leader, and Schoomaker is setting the example.

Wearing our dog tags, proudly displaying the American flag on our right shoulder and redefining our Army structure while currently engaged in the War on Terrorism will inspire a sense of urgency in us all to expertly serve our nation to the standard it deserves.

Embedded within the Soldier's Creed is what Schoomaker defined as the "Warrior Ethos." The four "I will ..." statements embody the Warrior Ethos and are the bedrock for the Soldier's Creed. Soldiers must internalize the tenets of the creed just as they have internalized the Army values in order to fully understand the direction of our Army.

I have no doubt that the Soldiers and family members of the Mountain Post will adapt to the coming Army changes. I know that a warrior focus is alive and well within the hearts of our Soldiers,



Wilson

and I know that our forces, relevant and ready, will be successful in any mission our nation calls us to support.

Bayonet!

*Maj. Gen. Robert W. Wilson
commanding general
7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson*

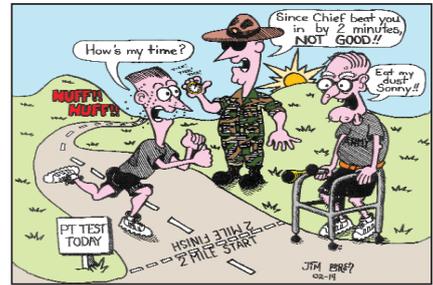
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *Mountaineer* invites readers to write letters to the editor in response to stories in the *Mountaineer* or events that affect the entire Mountain Post Team. Guidelines are set to ensure fairness to everyone. All letters must be signed and include an address or unit designation and daytime telephone number for verification. No address or telephone number will be published and name will be withheld upon request. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Letters should be no longer than 200 words in length. The *Mountaineer* reserves the right to appropriately edit all letters. If a letter involves an on-post situation, the text of the letter will be forwarded to the appropriate person or directorate for comment. Obscene or pornographic language or materials will not be published.

Because of legal restrictions, both in federal regulations and AR 360-1, under which the *Mountaineer* is published, no letters concerning local or national political issues will be published. Publication of any letters will also conform to all appropriate Department of Defense and U.S. Army regulations.

Letters may be sent to: Letters to the Editor, The *Mountaineer*, 6150 Specker Ave., Fort Carson, CO 80913 or dropped off at the *Mountaineer* office, building 1550, Room 2180.



Pvt. Hazard



What do you think of the Army's plan to stabilize Soldiers and their families for longer periods?



"... don't agree with it, some single Soldiers may want to travel the world."
Spc. Shawn Lavalley
2nd Sqd., 3rd ACR



"They'll be familiar with the area and can establish a home for their families."
Sgt. Ayesha Y. Bogart
5025th GSU



"...can become more comfortable with people you work with."
Spc. Daniel Stumpf
1st Sqd., 3rd ACR



"A bad duty station could be a bad experience, or you may get a good one."
Staff Sgt. Eric Swett
52nd Eng. Bn.

MOUNTAINEER
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Public Affairs NCOIC:
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Chief, Command Communications:
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Spc. Zach Mott
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Pfc. Clint Stein
Happenings:
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Sports Writer:
Walt Johnson
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News

Reserve division trains Iraqi troops

by Maj. Wayne Marotto
Army News Service

TALLAFAR, Iraq — Amidst mortar attacks, fire fights at the front gate, drive-by shootings and the ever-present danger of Improvised Explosive Devices, a team of the 75th Division (Training Support) is training hundreds of soldiers of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

It's the first of four Advisory Support Teams from the 75th that will be part of the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team, or CMATT.

The objective is to advise, train and organize the Iraqi Armed Forces as soon as possible so that Iraqis can defend their own country. This responsibility has been tasked to the 75th Division, an active and Reserve-component training support division headquartered in Houston.

The 75th Division has been mobilized since January 2003 and its normal wartime mission is to be Observer Controllers to train and mobilize Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers in the United States. The Army has now tasked the division to deploy hundreds of its Soldiers as a unit into a combat theater to train foreign soldiers. The majority of the deployed Soldiers volunteered to go to Iraq.

The first team of Reserve Soldiers — led by Maj. Robert Chandler, CMATT Battalion advisory support team chief, and Master Sgt. Richard Howard, noncom-

missioned officer in charge — is in Tallafar, Iraq, doing a mission which would normally be done by Special Forces Soldiers. But because the Special Forces Soldiers are needed for other missions in Iraq and in Afghanistan to hunt down Osama bin Laden, the mission went to the Reserve training support divisions.

The reservists are all infantry or combat-arms Soldiers, and several experienced combat in Operation Desert Storm. They will spend the next year training the Iraqi soldiers on basic infantry tactics from squad to battalion level.

Tallafar is located in the northern part of Iraq near the Syrian border. The closest major city is Mosul, which is approximately 70 miles to the south.

The U.S. Army camp at Mosul is routinely hit with mortars and the U.S. patrols there are fired upon on a daily basis. The hostility of Mosul residents was apparent by the intimidating stares the Iraqi men gave the 75th Soldiers as they sped in and out of traffic, hoping to avert an IED or ambush.

The Soldiers had their trigger fingers at the ready of their M-16A2 rifles, which were pointed out of the windows of their sport utility vehicles. The Soldiers' anxiety was apparent due to a previous IED explosion, which had narrowly missed their convoy.

When the Soldiers first arrived at Fort Tallafar, they found it in severe disrepair. They quickly dubbed

the fort "the Alamo," showing their Texas pride. The fort had been used as a prisoner-of-war compound for Iranian and Kuwaiti soldiers. Its most recent employment was as a base for the Iraqi army but was not funded adequately and fell into disrepair. But with undaunted American ingenuity, the U.S. Soldiers quickly began to repair the plumbing, infrastructure and physical security.

The U.S. Soldiers are embedded with more than 600 Iraqi soldiers in the fort. Many of the soldiers were in the old Iraqi army, while others are new to the military. The U.S. Soldiers live, train and eat with the Iraqi soldiers. Much to the chagrin of the U.S. Soldiers, they are subsisting on an Iraqi diet, because the Iraqi battalion commander ordered that no American food would be served at the fort.

Chandler said the breakfast was a mashed-up hard-boiled egg, a white soup-like substance, bread, and cream. For lunch and dinner, the Soldiers were given the choice of chicken with rice or rice with chicken. The Soldiers did take a liking to the hot sweet tea the Iraqis served with every meal.

Staff Sgt. James Mitchell said he volunteered to be part of the CMATT mission because it was a good opportunity for him to help rebuild the Iraqi army, and

Iraq

From Page 3

once the army was rebuilt, the Iraqis could defend themselves. Then they could work on rebuilding their economy.

Mitchel, who serves with the 3rd Battalion, 381st Regiment, 2nd Brigade, said in the first month of training they have put the Iraqi soldiers through Military Operations in Urban Terrain, or MOUT training, close quarter combat training, patrolling techniques and formations, tactical checkpoints and individual movement techniques.

All of this training was put to use when the Iraqi soldiers and 75th Division Soldiers went on combat patrols with the 2nd Infantry Division's Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

Going on combat patrols with the Iraqi army is a new part of the mission for the U.S. Soldiers. This is not a mission they have when they train Reserve

and National Guard Soldiers in the United States. The 75th Soldiers have accompanied the Iraqi soldiers on day and night patrols in the local village and terrain around the fort.

Capt. Barry Starr of the 3rd Battalion, 289th Regiment, 2nd Brigade, said he volunteered for the mission because "I believe in my country and I believe in the mission."

Starr's role in the CMATT is to serve as the teams' S-1 (Personnel) and S-4 (Logistics) officer. He coaches, teaches and mentors his counterparts on how to keep track of personnel and equipment.

One of his first goals was to have the Iraqis sign for equipment (especially the weapons) and to have accountability formations. These are things the U.S. Army has inculcated into its Soldiers but was a new concept for the Iraqi army.

Starr emphasized that he does not dictate any type of training to the Iraqis but makes suggestions to them. He

explained that he was not there to run the Iraqi army but to assist them in running the army. He said that he wanted the Iraqi officers and non-commissioned officers to learn on their own to the extent possible.

The Iraqi officers were eager to ask Starr questions and get his advice. Starr also trained the Iraqi soldiers on the weapons qualification ranges.

Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm Stone of the 3rd Bn., 381st Reg., 2nd Brigade, is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm, having served with the 643rd Air Defense Artillery (Patriot). He said he volunteered to return to a combat zone, "To help out the Iraqi nation, the troops and to get our Soldiers home faster to their loved ones."

"I believe this is the exact mission we should be doing," said Chandler.



Photo by Maj. Wayne Marotto

Sgt. 1st Class Malcolm Stone, of the 75th Division (Training Support) pulls security on a joint combat patrol with an Iraqi platoon in Tallafar, Iraq.

"We are a training support division. We should not take American Soldiers and pull them out of a unit and say, 'OK we want you to go train these guys here.' We have been training Soldiers the past two years on active duty. It's what our mission is — to train Soldiers."

Military

AWOL: one-way ticket to nowhere

by Pfc. Stephen Kretsinger
Mountaineer staff

One of the purposes of the military formation is so a unit's command can make sure that all its Soldiers are accounted for. The Army is very meticulous when it comes to accountability. When a Solider is missing, the Army wants to know so it can get the word out and get them back.

Absent without leave is a military term that refers to a Soldier not being where he is supposed to be at a given time and without permission.

"AWOL is Soldiers that leave their unit without authorization from their command," said Staff Sgt. Nick Brklich, noncommissioned officer in charge of AWOL Apprehension, Provost Marshal's Office. "If you don't show up to formation for no reason at all, you can be considered AWOL."

Soliders going AWOL is not any more common on Fort Carson than other posts, said Brklich, but we do have our fair share.

"From the beginning of this year,

we've had 64 total AWOLs so far," said Brklich. "That could be anything from missing formation to leaving the country and going to Mexico."

There haven't been any noticeable increases in AWOL cases on Fort Carson recently, said Brklich.

"It's pretty much stayed the same over the years," said Brklich. "Over the past couple of years we've done statistics and comparisons and it's pretty much stayed level."

When a unit finds a Solider to be AWOL, they turn in a Department of the Army Form 4187 to the post Provost Marshal to change that Soldier's status.

"What we do when a unit turns in a DA Form 4187 to change a status from present for duty to AWOL, we go ahead a put out a warrant for the Soldier in NCIC (National Criminal Information Center)," said Brklich. "That's nationwide. If this Soldier gets pulled over for a broken tail-light or anything, the police who pull them over will run their name and see that they have a warrant for their arrest for being AWOL. Then they put them in jail



Photo illustration by Justin Pospisil-Marciano

When a Soldier is absent without leave, it affects his comrades, his units and the entire Army mission, not to mention his future.

and hold them for us.

"They will notify us and they notify United States Army Deserter Information Point, who in turn notify us, so we get notified twice most of the time," said Brklich. "Then we make a determination as to whether this person is a flight risk."

Depending on whether the Solider is a first time or repeat offender, the AWOL

Apprehensions team handles the Soldiers return differently.

"First time they ever gone AWOL, never had any other problems, nothing serious, no serious offenses tied in with the AWOL, what we can do is fax a provi-

See AWOL, Page 10

Military Briefs

Misc.

U.S. Military Academy positions available — The U.S. Military Academy at West Point is looking for branch-qualified company grade officers and noncommissioned officers in the rank of sergeant first class interested in an assignment to the USMA. NCOs should have drill sergeant or platoon sergeant experience with 12 to 15 years of service to be assigned to the staff and faculty as instructors and company tactical NCOs.

Selected officers will normally attend advanced civil schooling for up to two years followed by a three-year tour at West Point.

For application information, go to <http://www.usma.army.mil/adjutant-general> or write to Management Operations Branch, AG Division, West Point, N.Y. 10996-1926.

Warrant officer slots open

The Army is looking for highly motivated Soldiers to fill its warrant officer positions, open in all 45 specialties if you qualify. Soldiers with less than 12 years active federal service are encouraged to apply. For more information, contact the Warrant Officer Recruiting Team at www.usarec.army.mil/warrant or DSN 536-0484/0458/0488/0478/1860/0271.

Special Forces briefings — Special Forces briefings will be conducted weekly at the Grant Library. The briefing times are Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

The Army's Special Forces is a strategic, multi-purpose force capable of rapid response to various contingencies around the world. Called "Green Berets," these highly-skilled Soldiers are trained in unconventional warfare, foreign internal defense, direct action, special reconnaissance, combating terrorism, information operations and counter-proliferation. Special Forces candidates must be mature and self-motivated; open and humble; and better conditioned physically and emotionally than the average Soldier. All interested male soldiers, privates first class to staff sergeants, and second and first lieutenants are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Sgt. 1st Class Bill Roepe at 524-1461.

DECAM dust supresion

Starting Monday, for three days the Directorate of Environmental Control and Management will be spraying magnesium chloride on all of Fort Carson's dirt roads to help suppress the dust. The chemical is not harmful, but will collect on vehicles as a washable residue.

CIF Hours

Central Issue Facility hours of operation:

Regular business hours

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 3 p.m. and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

Initial/partial issues

Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 3 p.m. and Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:30

to 3 p.m.

Direct exchange

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Partial turn-ins

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Full turn-ins

Appointments are scheduled Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, call 526-3321.

Effective immediately:

Replacement will be scheduled Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings. Demobilized units tentatively have Tuesdays and Wednesdays to schedule out processing. Mobilization units will schedule unit direct exchange by appointment. Unit supply sergeants will collect Soldiers' DX items and schedule CIF appointments. A CIF employee will work one-on-one with a supply sergeant.

Active-duty units — Permanent Change of Station/End of Time in Service/chapters/retirees will make an initial out processing appointment Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays for turn-in. All follow-on appointments (14 OCIE items or less) will be scheduled if needed.

Bulk issue and turn-ins — by appointment only.

Appointments can be made with Kristine Harald at 526-3321. POC for this information is Frank Howard, CIF supervisor at 526-6477.

Laundry Service

Post Laundry Service — The post laundry service provides free laundry service to Soldiers for government-owned property only. Items issued by the Central Issue Facility should be cleaned at the post laundry prior to turn in. Allow extra time for items to return from the cleaners. It is not recommended to pick up your equipment on the same day as the scheduled CIF appointment. Turn around for service is 72 hours.

No appointment is necessary. The post laundry will not clean personal items like Battle Dress Uniforms, boots, tent pegs, canteens, entrenching tools or wet-weather gear. Material TA-50 items that can be washed include: sleeping bag assembly, chemical suits, Gortex, ruck sacks, coveralls, CVC jackets and most web equipment.

Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 3:45 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, excluding holidays.

For more information, call 526-8806 or 526-8804.

Briefings

eArmyU — eArmyU program briefings are conducted at the Mountain Post Training and Education Center, building 1117, Tuesdays at 9 and 11:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.

The Army Career and Alumni Center briefing is required for all departing servicemembers. The current ACAP policy is to register personnel ETSing one year out and retirees two years out. Briefings are held Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Call 526-1002 or 526-0640 to schedule a briefing.

Are you ETSing? If you're within 120 days of end of time in service, you must immediately call 526-2607 or 526-2599 to make your appointment for your mandatory Reserve Component Briefing.

The Commanding General's Newcomers' Brief is the third Wednesday of each month, 1 to 3 p.m. at McMahon Theater.

Hours of operation

The Mountain Post Training and Education Center's hours for certain programs and services will change Monday.

Hours are:

eArmyU Testing center, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Army Learning Center and basic skills classes, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Counselor Support Center, Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Friday 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Claims Division hours — The Claims Division office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. The office is closed Fridays.

Personnel Claims hours:

Mandatory briefing: Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Submit DD 1840/1840R

Receive documents for filing:

Submitting completed Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Claims: 1 to 4 p.m. Closed on Friday.

If there is an emergency personnel claims issue on Friday, call Tina Kolb at 526-1352 to see if it warrants an appointment.

Editor's note: The deadline for submitting "briefs" to the Mountaineer is 5 p.m. Friday before publication.



"Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers"

The post BOSS meeting, for BOSS representatives, meets the third Thursday of each month at Xtremes from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. For information, call 524-BOSS.

Dining Schedule

Weekday Dining Facilities

43rd ASG Cheyenne Mtn. Inn (building 1040)
3rd ACR CAV House (building 2461)
Mountaineer Inn (building 1369)
10th SFG (A) (building 7481)
3rd BCT Strikers Cafe (building 2061)

Weekday Meal Hours

Breakfast 5:30 to 9 a.m. (All facilities)
5:30 to 8:30 a.m. (Cheyenne Mtn. Inn)
Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dinner 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

April 23 to April 30

Exceptions

- Patton House is closed until further notice.
- Strikers and 43rd ASG are open Saturdays and Sundays.



Saturday, Sunday and Training Holiday Dining Facilities

3rd ACR CAV House. (building 2461)
43rd ASG (building 1040)
Mountaineer Inn (building 1369)
3rd BCT Strikers Cafe (building 2061)

Saturday, Sunday and Training Holiday Meal Hours

Breakfast 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dinner 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. 3 to 5 p.m. (Cheyenne Mtn. Inn)

Reserve parking signs must follow guidelines

by Pfc. Stephen Kretsinger
Mountaineer staff

At Fort Carson, sometimes it is hard to tell reserved parking from regular parking. With all the different ways units and organizations mark reserved parking, it is no wonder. Some units paint the curb, some place rocks with names scribbled on them and some have writing that is so faded, it's hard to tell if it's reserved or not. One group on Fort Carson has the answer to this confusing reserved parking issue.

The Directorate of Public Works can install signs following a set standard for reserved parking spaces. The standard for the signs comes from a Department of the Army installation design guide that was put out by the Installation Management Agency, the Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff.

For a unit to have signs installed it needs to fill out a DA Form 4283 and take it to DPW work and reception in building 305, said Master Sgt. Mark Hayes, noncommissioned officer in charge, DPW. Once DPW receives the form, it will send out a team to inspect the site for gas or power lines that may interfere with installation of the signs. After the site is cleared, DPW will request the signs be produced by LB&B. All that is left to do, once the signs are made, is the final installation.

The signs are free standing with green letters and a white background, according to the installation design guide. The signs have the words "reserved parking" and the rank or title of the person the space is reserved for. The name of the person will not be on the sign, said Hayes.

The signs not only add a sense of

uniformity to installations but they make it clearer which spaces are reserved, said Hayes. Painted curbs fade and are often hard to read. When a new unit moves into a building and an old unit moves out, curbs often get painted over and can lose their clarity.

Plus, it is against Fort Carson Regulations, said Hayes. According to FC Regulation 420-8, which covers Facilities Engineering and Exterior and Interior Painting, painting of concrete curbs, platforms, loading docks and steps is not authorized.

Technically, if a reserved space doesn't have a sign, but has the curb painted, it isn't an official reserved space, said Hayes.

According to FC Regulation 210-4, currently only up to 10 percent of a unit's available parking area may be designated for reserved parking.

For more information concerning



Photo by Pfc. Stephen Kretsinger

The new reserved parking signs will add uniformity to post parking.

reserved parking spaces, contact Hayes at 526-9250.

Greenback

Financial readiness part of unit readiness

by Capt. Theodore Stutz
4th Finance Battalion

Unit readiness goes beyond effective tactical and technical training. Equally important to a unit's readiness is the financial readiness that must be considered at all times. Making sure that Soldiers are financially ready to deploy can prevent many of the domestic and personal problems that negatively affect Soldiers' performance. Commanders and first sergeants have numerous tools that enable them to ensure the financial readiness of their Soldiers to include: the Unit Commander's Finance Report, Leave and Earning Statements, and MyPay.

The Unit Commander's Finance Report

This is a critical pay document because it gives a monthly snapshot of the financial readiness of each soldier in his or her unit. Thorough review of the Unit Command Finance Report is essential to improve combat readiness, reduce fraud waste and abuse, and ensure Soldiers receive entitlements in accordance to what they are authorized based on their current marital, pay and living status.

The UCFR provides the unit commander and the first sergeant a one-line, roll-up of a soldier's monthly pay account status, making it easier to review the Soldier's pay. By regulation, the commander must

review, annotate, sign and date the monthly UCFR and return a certified copy of the corrected UCFR with supporting documents on a Unit Transmittal Memorandum to their Finance Detachment by the 10th of each month. In addition to signing and dating their UCFR, commanders must also include the following statement next to their signature:

"I certify that I have reviewed the accountability and duty status of the Soldiers on this UCFR, and they are assigned or attached to my unit, unless annotated otherwise. To the best of my knowledge, this information is correct or has been corrected on this report."

The Leave and Earning Statement

This is another important tool that commanders and first sergeants can use in order to determine the financial readiness of the unit. Used in conjunction with the UCFR, the Leave and Earnings Statement enables the command team to catch otherwise missed pay problems such as unstopped deployment entitlements and Basic Allowance for Housing fraud. The command team can also use the LES to track use/lose leave and how much leave a Soldier has taken in a current fiscal year.

The remarks section at the bottom of the LES gives commanders and first sergeants information on changes to a Soldier's pay such as allotments, rate

changes, debts and bank information. Remember, the longer soldiers are overpaid without their command reporting it, the harder it is on the soldier when the government recoups the loss.

MyPay

This gives the commanders and first sergeants a very effective tool that is available 24 hour a day — seven days a week. By logging on to <https://mypay.dfas.mil> Soldiers can handle many of their own pay issues. If commanders make an internet ready workstation available, soldiers can view, print, and save their LES, change direct deposit, view and print past W-2s, change federal and state tax withholdings, and adjust Thrift Savings Plan contributions.

Readiness is the responsibility of the command team in any unit. Deficient management of one's Soldiers may deplete mission focus, lead to low morale and ultimately degrade readiness and the safety of other Soldiers and family members.

Command teams must look beyond training once in a while and invest some time in ensuring that soldiers are ready for financial battles they may face. For more information on readiness, visit your local finance office, building 1854, across from Garcia Gym off Prussman Blvd.

AWOL

From Page 5

sional pass to the jailhouse and they will release them, put them on an airplane," said Brklich. "We'll make all the arrangements, put them on an airplane and they'll come back or go to whatever post they need to by themselves.

"If they've gone AWOL twice, they are now automatically considered a flight risk and I have to send a team out to go pick them out and escort them to wherever they need to go," said Brklich. "They will stay in the cell until we go out there and pick them up."

What happens to the Soldier once he is back in Army custody depends on if the Soldier is in initial training or if the Soldier went AWOL from his permanent duty station.

"If you have completed Advanced Individual Training and Basic Training and you get to your permanent station, if you go AWOL then, you go back to your unit to be handled by the command on Article 15, court-martial—however the command sees fit," said Brklich. "If you are still a Basic Training or AIT Soldier and you go AWOL for more than 30 days, once you're caught, you go to Fort Sill, Okla., or Fort Knox, Ky., and then are processed out of the Army.

"As long as you're at a permanent duty, it doesn't matter how long you're gone," said Brklich. "You could be gone five years and you'll still go back to your unit to be handled. Let's say the unit had disbanded for whatever reason. Then you would go to another unit on that installation doing pretty much the same type of Military Occupational Skill."

Punishment for going AWOL

depends often of the circumstances and the commander of the unit. It can range from little punishment to jail time or separation from the Army.

"Military career, it can range from a counseling statement to Article 15 to incarceration," said Brklich. "Civilian life, it goes on their record. If they are court-martialed, it goes on their criminal record, which any employer can look up. They will receive a bad conduct discharge. A lot of employers nowadays have military experience so they know to look for a DD 214."

"DD 214 is the form you get once you Enlistment Time Stop or retire that sums up your career," said Spc. Eric Page, correction specialist for the confinement team, AWOL Apprehension, Provost Marshal's Office.

A Soldier who is caught after going AWOL will face some sort of punishment, but a Soldier who turns himself in is usually looked upon more favorably than one who is caught, said Brklich.

"That's all up to the Judge Advocate General and legal attorneys," said Brklich. "It does look better if you turn yourself in than to be caught. That shows the Army that you are willing to stand up and do the right thing and fix the problem. Whereas, if you're caught, it kind of shows that you never intended to come back."

There are a plethora of reasons that Soldiers go AWOL, said Brklich, and they are Soldiers of all ages, races, backgrounds and ranks.

"I would have to say there are more E-4 and below that go AWOL; however it's not confined to that," said Brklich. "There are NCOs and senior NCOs that have gone AWOL for one reason or another.

"Everybody has their own reasons," said Brklich. "You get a lot of family problems that the Soldier felt they had to deal with prior to dealing with the Army. Every once in awhile you'll have an incident where some crime is involved and then the Soldier goes AWOL, but not as often as you would think."

The AWOL Apprehensions Unit at the post Provost Marshal's Office covers a fairly wide area from its location at the Mountain Post.

"This office is responsible for a five-state area — Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah and Idaho. Any AWOL or deserter that gets caught in any of these five states, we have to go get," said Brklich.

"And then any deserter from this post, we go anywhere in the country to get them," said Page.

The Army no longer hunts down Soldiers who run from military service, but that doesn't mean that those Soldiers are getting off "Scott free."

"In the regulation, we no longer bounty hunt for AWOLs," said Brklich. "They get caught. At one time or another they will get caught.

"There is a stipulation that special category AWOL, a person with a top secret clearance that has been handling top secret information; the provost marshal can authorize us to go find him. If we know he's local, we can go out and look for him. However, that's only under special circumstances. Otherwise, they get caught."

But how often do they get caught?



Photo illustration by Justin Pospisil-Marciano
Soldiers looking for an easy exit from the Army won't find it by going AWOL.

"99 percent of the time," said Brklich. "It's not worth it."

"Soldiers may think there is no end in sight with whatever problems they're having, but there are too many programs nowadays in the military that are there to help the Soldier. Their leadership needs to guide them to those programs, because a lot of Soldiers are not aware of them. The repercussions from going AWOL are not worth the ending. It's just not worth it — losing money, losing family, losing friends, getting kicked out of the Army with a bad conduct discharge. It stays with you for the rest of your life."

Community

Domestic abuse never tolerated

by Spc. Zach Mott
Mountaineer staff

A frantic call is placed to a 911 operator. A faint voice on the other end of the line can only manage a few half-whispered sounds.

Help ... husband ... beat ... me ... then a loud scream pierces the silence. Click. Nothing but a dial tone remains.

Immediately a police unit is dispatched to the address where the call originated. Once the police arrive at the scene, the telltale signs of domestic abuse jump at them from all angles — multiple bruises, the victim denies being abused, the abuse victim cowers around their abuser.

There were more than 700,000 calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline from 1996 to 2001, according to statistics provided by the NDVH.

In Colorado, 49 people died as a result of domestic violence in 2003, 17 deaths less than 2002 totals.

Numbers for Army domestic violence cases are less numerous, but no less staggering.

"It is a big problem," said Maj. Darren Love, the Fort Carson provost marshal. "One is too many, but when you have a couple during the course of a weekend, then if the command is really concerned — which they are — then they need to do something

about it."

Under the provisions of Colorado state law, anytime a domestic violence charge is claimed, at least one of the parties involved is going to jail. However, if the military police are called to a domestic disturbance on post, a visit to the local jail cell may not be required.

"If it was just an argument and there was no physical contact, then nothing will happen," Love said. "But, we may contact the chain of command and say, 'I think it's a good idea to for you to move your Soldier into the barracks for tonight or a couple of nights until the situation calms down.'"

Love continued by saying that in an on-post domestic disturbance, if either party makes physical contact, the individual who did the striking will be arrested.

But, before any of these instances rise to the level of violence, there are multiple alternatives for treatment. The Family Advocacy Program offers numerous classes; social work services at Evans Army Community Hospital offers counseling; and unit chaplains offer a sounding board to talk about problems.

"As Soldiers are coming back, there's probably going to be some conflict because things have

changed, they've changed, the kids have changed," said Jill Nugin, a Family Advocacy Program coordinator. "It may feel a little uncomfortable talking at first, but do not rush into thinking marriages are over and just relax and take things a little bit slower."

For information about the services available, contact the Violence Advocacy Program, located inside the Family Readiness Center building, at 526-4590.

Domestic violence cases on and off post vary in the way they are processed, as do cases involving civilians or military members.

A Soldier accused of domestic violence on-post is typically charged with assault under Article 128 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The punishments for this offense range from counseling to a trial by court martial. The maximum penalties under Article 128 are a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction to E-1 and confinement for up to 10 years.

A civilian accused of domestic violence on-post will face federal charges and will typically be tried in a federal magistrate court, though the case may be tried in federal district court for more serious offenses.

Miscellaneous

Sexual Assault Prevention — The United States Air Force Academy will host "Moving Mountains to End Sexual Assault" May 1, noon to 5 p.m. in the Clune Area at the Academy. This educational event geared toward teaching what sexual assault is and how it can be prevented is free of charge and open to everyone. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Tracey Habeck, 333-3912.

Better Breathers — Better Breathers is an educational and support group for active duty and retired servicemembers and family members to learn about their lung condition and how to live with it. The group meets on the second Thursday of every month at Evans Army Community Hospital. This is a self-referral program and no appointment is needed; just let us know you are interested.

Topics are member requested as well as timely medical information. Individual assistance is also available on request.

If you have any questions, please call Sue Priebe, at 524-4043.

Commissary news — A commissary customer newsletter delivered through e-mail is being launched in late April. Shoppers can sign up for it now at www.commissaries.com. The newsletter will keep customers informed about sales and promotional offers — even offering links to manufacturer and vendor sites where they can enter shopping sprees and contests.

Also, the Fort Carson Commissary will be closed May 31 in observance of Memorial Day. Regular hours will resume June 1.

40 Days of Purpose Campaign — The Protestant Service at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel will host a spiritual campaign April 24 to June 6. Chap. (Maj.) Scott Kennedy, the senior pastor, is the campaign director. Have you ever asked yourself, "What on Earth am I here for?" During the 40 Days of Purpose Campaign, chaplains will attempt to answer that universal question by exploring these five central purposes: worship, discipleship, ministry, fellowship and evangelism.

Come join the excitement Sundays at 11 a.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. For more information, call Kennedy at 526-8011.

Tax season — The Fort Carson Tax Center is still open. It is located in building 6264, on Woodfill Road, across from the Colorado Inn and the Elkhorn Conference Center.

Free tax services are available for active duty servicemembers and their family members; mobilized reservists and their family members; servicemembers receiving either retirement or disability pay and their family members; and surviving family members of active-duty, mobilized reservists and retired servicemembers.

Thrift Shop — The Fort Carson Thrift Shop is having a 10 cent sale Wednesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All items, excluding furniture, will be sold for 10 cents.

Pharmacy Hours Change — Effective May 7, the Evans Army Community Hospital Outpatient Pharmacy, located in building 7500, will close at 5 p.m. Fridays.

Leave Donation Request — Ronald Casados, Department of Defense civilian who works at Fort Carson, is ill and on sick leave. He is out of leave and would greatly appreciate a donation of leave from those moved to do so. For more information on donating leave, contact Tilicia Rose at 526-1841.

Chapel musician wanted — The Peterson Air Force Base Chapel is looking for two nonpersonal services agreement positions for musicians. The musician positions are for contemporary/inspirational service praise team leader and contemporary/inspirational service pianist. Both positions require knowledge of a wide variety of contemporary Christian music and ability to work with other

instrumentalists and vocalists. Specific statements of work are available at the base chapel. Bids for these positions will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. today. Interested individuals may contact Chaplain (Maj.) Bruce Glover at 556-4442 for more information.

Yard Sale — The annual Fort Carson Mayor's yard sales began April 2. Yard sales are twice a month on the first and third Saturday of the month between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.; dates are Saturday, May 1 and 15, June 5 and 9, July 3 and 17, Aug. 7 and 21, Sept. 4 and 18, Oct. 2 and 16, Nov. 6 and 20 and Dec. 4 and 18.

Both on- and off-post residents can participate. Housing residents can set up yard sales in front of their houses; barracks and off-post residents can set up in the Beacon Elementary School parking lot.

All residents and sellers must comply with the following guidelines:

- Each resident is responsible for conducting their own yard sale.
- Individual occupants are responsible for trash control and removal, which must be completed by 5 p.m. the day of the sale or citations will be issued.
- Commercial organizations and individuals will comply with all regulations related to commercial solicitation.
- All sellers are prohibited from offering for sale items such as drugs, guns, food or anything that does not conform to the rules and regulations of Fort Carson or the state of Colorado.

For more information, contact your village mayor or the mayor program coordinator at 526-1082 or 526-1049.

Bowling for Children — The Big Brothers and Big Sisters Pikes Peak is hosting its 22nd Annual Bowl for Kids Sake event May 1 at the Peak Bowling Center. This is an opportunity to have fun with friends, while supporting a very worthwhile and highly respected organization. Bowlers will be organized into teams of four, and each bowler is expected to collect a minimum of \$75 in pledges. For more information, contact 633-2443 Ext. 201.

Bike Rally — There will be a pace-and-race bike rally at Ironhorse Park May 1. All Fort Carson military, retirees and civilians are welcome. Registration starts at 8 a.m. An adult six-kilometer race (18-years and older) starts at 10 a.m., a family members and friends leisure six-kilometer ride starts at 10:30 a.m. and a children's mini-race starts at 11:15 a.m. Other attractions include raffles, food, vendor displays and promotions, and commemorative T-shirts for sale. For more information, call 526-1862 or 526-5601.

Civilian Wellness Program — The next Civilian Wellness Program begins May 6 at the Mountain Post Wellness Center in building 1526. The program allows employees to have three hours of duty time (with supervisor's approval) to pursue fitness. Interested applicants are encouraged to start completing the paperwork early — at least two weeks prior to the class date. Enrollment packets are available at the wellness center. Call Sandra Ensmann at 526-4264 for more information.

Armed Forces Day Celebration — The Rotary Club of Colorado Springs Interquest is sponsoring "Join-R-Forces Day," a celebration of Armed Forces Day at Memorial Park in Colorado Springs May 15, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is to honor military members and families in the community and is open to all. Colorado Springs Mayor Lionel Rivera will be present, and there will be live entertainment, an awards ceremony, demonstrations of military dog training teams, displays of military equipment, outdoor booths and concessions, local vendors and more. Come out and support this local event.

Returning Heroes Golf Classic — The Fort Carson Officers' Spouses' Club is hosting its annu-



**Army Community Service
Family Readiness Center
719-526-4590**

Military spouses...stand tall, stand proud...we salute you, you are truly our unsung heroes.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day

Tuesday May 11, 2004 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Armed Services YMCA - 2190 Jet Wing Dr. beside Sierra High School

FREE



FREE



FREE
Hair Cut, Healthy
Cooking, Massages,
Fashion Show,
Self Defense, Crafts
and Much More!



Limited childcare available. For reservations, call (719) 622-9622
Presented in partnership by the ASYMCA, Fort Carson
Army Community Service, Peterson AFB, Schriever AFB
and USAF Academy Family Support Centers.

al golf tournament May 13 at the Fort Carson Golf Course. Sign-ups begin at 8:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. The tournament is open to the public. Registration forms are available at the golf course. To make a donation or have the registration form e-mailed to you, contact Judy McLeary at 632-2574 or email mclearytj@msn.com

School Information

Summer School — If you are interested in extending your child's learning opportunities, the Fountain-Fort Carson School District is once again offering summer school for kindergarten through 11th grade.

The elementary program will be offered at Aragon and Patriot Elementary Schools June 7 to July 15, Mondays to Thursdays 8 a.m. to noon. The middle school and high school program will be held at Fountain-Fort Carson High School June 7 to July 15, Mondays to Thursdays 8 a.m. to noon.

A variety of challenging and stimulating classes are being offered as choices that will engage your child in the learning process.

To enroll, stop by one of the above schools for the registration packet for that school's level or the administration building.

Kindergarten Registration — School District 8 will be having early kindergarten registration May 4 to 6. Please contact your neighborhood elementary school for registration times. To register, parents need to bring a birth certificate, current immunization records and all updated emergency contact information. Your child must be 5 years old by Sept. 15 in order to qualify for kindergarten.

Claims against the estate

Claims against the estate — With deepest regrets to the family of Chief Warrant Officer William Howell, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to his estate should contact Chief Warrant Officer David Bishop at 524-1569.

Holocaust survivor speaks at Days of Remembrance

by **Spc. Zach Mott**
Mountaineer staff

Holocaust.

It is a strong enough word to evoke emotions as mild as unease or as heated as hatred.

A survivor from the Holocaust visited Fort Carson April 15 during a lunch-time gathering at the Elkhorn Conference Center as part of the national Days of Remembrance.

David Brahm was freed from the Nazi concentration camps May 5, 1945, after several years of torture and starvation. During that time, the other members of his family perished, leaving him the only survivor at war's end.

After two years of paperwork struggles and other hassles, Brahm immigrated to the United States in 1947. He made his way to Colorado Springs in 1954. He is now a successful local businessman.

"As a Holocaust survivor, I'm honored to be here with you today," he said. "That I can tell my story and that you will understand because you're in the military, you know what it takes to stand up because you're asked to give your lives for your country."

Brahm told the gathered mass what life was like under the harsh conditions imposed by the Germans. He also told of the strength and perseverance of those who survived. But, he cited faith and luck and the main reasons he continues to tell the

stories of those horrific years.

Brahm also told of the years he spent in uniformed service.

"I served in the military for three years; I would do it again until I had no more strength to do it," he said. "Even though, as old as I am, I would gladly serve today."

In addition to Brahm's speech, a candle-lighting ceremony by Air Force Chaplain (Capt.) Donald Levy from the U.S. Air Force Academy, called to memory those who perished under the Nazi's wake.

"The number 600 million is thrown around a lot," he said, in talking about the number of people who died as a result of the Nazi persecution. "All of us know, I think, that about 600 million Jews from the continent of Europe perished during the Holocaust of Nazi Germany. But, we're going to light 11 candles today in recognition of the fact that approximately 11 million individuals all told, perished in the Holocaust."

The additional 500 million were from various groups deemed undesirable by Adolph Hitler's Third Reich. These groups included Gypsies, Poles, Slavs, physically and mentally disabled, male homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, religious lead-



Photo by Spc. Zach Mott

Members of the Mountain Post community filled the Elkhorn Conference Center April 15 to mark the national Days of Remembrance. The Days of Remembrance mark the atrocities of World War II committed by the Germans.

ers and individual believers who opposed the Nazi program on moral grounds, political opponents of the Nazi regime, law and rule breakers and those who seemed to be squeamish about participating personally in the Nazi program, and lastly the women and children.

"Because of this, because of all this, it is important to single out this era of persecution to educate future

generations in the dangers of the trap of dehumanization of others for whatever reason," Levy said.

Others in attendance echoed Levy's sentiments.

"It's important to be here to show that we remember so that hopefully nothing like this will ever happen again," said Maj. Jay Jacobs, the rear detachment commander for the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Chapel

Native American Services — The He Ska Akicita Inipi is located on Fort Carson. All native and nonnative people, military personnel, family members and Department of Defense personnel are welcome. Anyone interested in attending and praying in this manner can contact Michael Dunning at (h) 382-5331, (c) 330-9537 or (e-mail) michael.dunning@carson.army.mil, or Charles Erwin at (h) 382-8177, (e-mail) erwin106@juno.com, or Zoe Goodblanket at 442-0929, for more information and directions.

Religious Education — conducted each Sunday at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel, building 1500, (next door to the PX) for Protestant and Catholic children and adults. Protestant Sunday School meets at 9:30 a.m. and Catholic Family Religious Education meets at 10:45 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

Youth of the Chapel — Activities for Protestant and Catholic Middle School and High School Youth take place each Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Protestant High School activities include Bible Studies on Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and Tuesday 6:30 p.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Catholic youth classes meet at 10:45 on Sunday, Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

Editor's note: More chapel events will appear in upcoming editions of the Mountaineer.

Day	Time	Service	Chapel	Location	Contact Person
M-WF	noon	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Battiato/649-5260
Tues., Wed., Thurs.	noon	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Patton/526-5769
Saturday	5 p.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Patton/526-5769
Sunday	8 a.m.	Mass	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Patton/526-5769
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Patton/526-5769
Sunday	10:45 a.m.	CRE	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Tracy/526-5744
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Battiato/649-5260
Sunday	12:15 p.m.	Mass	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Patton/526-5769
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	RCIA	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Tracy/526-5744
Saturday	4 p.m.	Reconciliation	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Patton/526-5769
PROTESTANT					
Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Chap. Kincaid/526-7387
Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Borden/526-3711
Sunday	11 a.m.	Protestant	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Kennedy/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Prot.Gospel	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Byrd/526-2811
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Byrd/526-2811
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Dr. Scheck/526-5626
Tuesday	9 a.m.	PWOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Kennedy/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Contemporary	Veterans'	Magrath & Titus	Chap. Ellison/526-8890
Sunday	6 p.m.	PYOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Kennedy/526-8011
Friday	noon	Prayer	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Ms. Scheck/524-1166
LITURGICAL					
Sunday	10:45 a.m.	Lutheran	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Lloyd/526-3888
JEWISH					
For information and a schedule of Jewish Sabbath services, call the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel at 333-2636.					
WICCA					
Monday	6:30 p.m.		Family University	Building 1161	Melissa Dalugdug/330-7873
MORMON					
Sunday	2 p.m.	LDS	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Jones/526-3718

NATIVE AMERICAN SWEATLODGE
Native American Sweatlodge ceremonies (He Ska Akicita Inipi) are offered to military dependents and Department of Defense personnel for traditional prayer and purification. Fasting before the ceremony is recommended and refreshments are offered following the ceremony. Please call the following for information and directions: Michael Dunning 382-5331 or 330-9537, or Zoe Goodblanket 442-0929.

Daily Bible readings: In order to assist in regular scripture reading, the following scriptures are recommended. These scriptures are part of the common daily lectionary which is designed to present the entire Bible over a three-year cycle.

Friday — Psalms 119:129-136 & Col. 3-4

Saturday — Psalms 119:137-144 & 1 Thess. 1-3

Sunday — Psalms 119:145-152 & 1 Thess. 4-5

Monday — Psalms 119: 153-160 & 2 Thess. 1-3

Tuesday — Psalms 119:161-168 & 1 Tim. 1-3

Wednesday — Psalms 119:169-176 & 1 Tim. 4-6

Thursday — Psalms 120 & 2 Tim. 1-2

The Army Cycle Of Prayer — Each week the Office of the Army Chief of Chaplains will highlight Army units, the Army at large, the nation and religious organizations to focus prayer. You are invited to join the chaplain community and pray for these individuals and organizations. Please pray this week for the following:

Unit: For the Soldiers and leaders of the 42nd Infantry Division, headquartered in Troy, N.Y., mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Army: For the Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers of the finance branch. Pray that God will bless this branch as its members provide financial services to Soldiers and their family members.

State: For all the Soldiers and families from the state of Wyoming. Pray also for Gov. Dave Freudenthal, the state legislators and municipal officials of the "Equality State".

Nation: For all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines and those wounded supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, and for their families. Remember those families and friends who now grieve their losses.

Religious: We pray for all Soldiers and families of the Orthodox Church in America. Pray also for the chaplains endorsed to military service by this community of faith.

For more information or to pray for items from previous weeks, visit the cycle's Web site at www.usarmychaplain.com.

Chaplain's Corner

Day of Prayer to share various traditions

**Commentary by Chap. (Capt.) Noel Johnson
5025th Garrison Support Unit Chaplain**

Prayer will change your life. Too many times, we shortchange ourselves in our prayer-life because there just does not seem to be enough time in the day.

I tell people to pick up a Daily Bread or Living Faith, little meditation booklets that offer one or two verses of scripture, a paragraph or two in which the author shares an event that pertains to the day's scripture and few sentences of prayer. It takes just a few minutes, but it puts the word of God in your heart and gives your day a moment with the master. If you have not been in the habit of partaking of prayer and the word daily, try it for two weeks. It will transform you.

At Fort Carson we are going to participate in the Day of Prayer with a short service at Soldiers'

Memorial Chapel during lunch noon to 1 p.m. May 6. There will be a few people from various traditions sharing a prayer with the assembly which is an open invitation. We are aiming for a broad spectrum of support, someone from everywhere.

There are many reasons we don't share worship practices together; conversely, the Day of Prayer is one of the precious and few times we combine spiritual forces to stand together before God in solidarity. The secular world wants to crowd in on us and squeeze out the holy moments. It is good to take back one day and stand together with prayerful men and women.

Like the moments of daily prayer and meditation, the Day of Prayer is a seed that takes root and grows into something far beyond what you ever could have expected. It's a chance for God to get his hands into our lives and work a miracle. Once I

started reading a verse of scripture and whispering a sentence of prayer, I found I wanted to look up more of the chapter in the Bible. Once I said the little prayer, I always thought of a few other things I wanted to bring up before the "amen." Now I can't imagine starting my day without it. In the same way, we are drawn together to lift one another up as the prayerful.

What begins as a day of encouragement and fellowship, opens doors for networking and burden sharing in areas you never knew existed.

The Day of Prayer grows from year to year, binding the community in covenant as one nation under God.

It takes citizens of the kingdom of God to reflect citizenship in the kingdom on Earth. Let us make it apparent whom we claim as authority over our nation.

Legal assistance office helps with name changes

by **Melissa Groves**

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

The Legal Assistance Office provides assistance in adult name changes and simple stepparent adoptions. Although the Army cannot represent Soldiers in court, the Army can provide you with the necessary documents and procedural information to accomplish these actions pro se (on your own).

If a Soldier is over the age of 18 and want to legally change your name, Legal Assistance can assist in the preparation of all documents needed and procedural information on everything from filing to completion of the name change.

The office can also assist in doing a simple stepparent adoption. The Soldier will need to have at least six

months remaining on his tour in Colorado before beginning the adoption process.

All parties involved (i.e., the custodial natural parent, adopting parent and the child) must reside in El Paso County for the Legal Assistance Office to do the adoption. All parties will be required to attend a hearing with the El Paso County Courts.

All court actions require the appropriate filing fees which are currently \$43 for the name change and \$139 for the adoption. There may be other fees required to complete these actions.

Please direct all questions to the Legal Assistance Office at 526-5572 or 526-5573 to make an appointment. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Schoomaker

From Page 1

“We still had our usual lunch, but it can’t be done without the whole team.”

During the lunch, Schoomaker talked with Soldiers on different topics and answered questions they had about the Army, Iraq, training and more.

The Soldiers were honored for the opportunity to meet Schoomaker and were taken by his down-to-earth demeanor, said Staff Sgt. John Gamble, 360th Transportation Company, who ate with the chief of staff.

Gamble, who returned from Iraq in December, asked the chief if Advanced Individual Training for transportation would change as a result of ambushes on convoys in Iraq since the war started. Schoomaker assured Gamble there would be changes to better prepare Soldiers who work in the combat support units.

“He seems like a good guy,” said Gamble, “He was real easy to talk with.”

Another member of the 360th Transportation Company, Sgt. Clint Voss, wanted to know about dual military spouses deploying together. Schoomaker replied to Voss’s question and commented on changes he would like to see as well.

Although Schoomaker wasn’t able to address all Soldiers’ questions during the lunch, he did present them with a coin, along with the Soldiers of the DFAC staff.

The Soldiers here could not be more excited to meet Schoomaker, said Abreu. “This was a big opportunity for them.”

After lunch with Soldiers, Schoomaker visited the U.S. Air Force Academy’s Jacks Valley Training Area to observe the University of Wyoming ROTC in action.

Later that night, Schoomaker was scheduled for the PBRA visit at the Colorado Springs World Arena.

Wildlife near housing can be dangerous

by Richard Bunn

Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management

If you work or live on Fort Carson, chances are you have seen a red fox. The red fox has successfully adapted to life in our urban and suburban environments. In fact, the garrison area is about the only place on Fort Carson where you will see one of these animals. Why is that? Fort Carson built homes, shops and motor pools for Soldiers and their families. While these buildings provide places to work and live, they also provide habitat for a surprising variety of critters. One of them is the red fox.

The red fox is an omnivore, meaning it eats what ever is available, which makes it susceptible to handouts from humans. Although foxes are successful predators, they are also very successful scavengers. Foxes generally avoid contact with humans, but many foxes living in the vicinity of people have learned to associate humans with food. Recent research indicates red foxes living in urban and suburban areas hunt less and scavenge more, suggesting that fed foxes in Fort Carson's garrison are probably hunting less.

Why it's a bad idea to feed foxes on Fort Carson?

Feeding foxes entices them to stay and den in areas near work areas and homes. It seems like a benign activity. Foxes are very susceptible to rabies and other diseases, including sarcoptic mange and distemper. Sarcoptic mange is a parasitic mite that can be passed to humans (scabies) and dogs. Repeated contact with humans makes a fox less

wary of humans in general, increasing the chances of uninvited contact. The safety of children, coworkers, neighbors or pets could be in danger. In a way, feeding a fox is really inviting it to live with everyone in the community.

Fox densities are generally much higher in suburban than rural areas. Providing supplemental food allows fox population density to increase because a smaller area can support more animals. Inherently, this seems like a good thing, but the opposite is true. Sustaining an artificially high population of animals creates an environment in which diseases can quickly spread through the population. On the surface, feeding seems helpful, but it is in fact increasing the animals' chances of contracting a debilitating or fatal disease.

Feeding foxes attracts larger predators that are either attracted to the food or move into the area to prey on the foxes. In this case, coyotes. The coyote is a common fox predator, especially on very young kits. Attracting coyotes into the Fort Carson Garrison and housing divisions is nothing but trouble. Coyotes present a real danger to small pets and a fenced yard will not keep them out.



Courtesy photo

Red foxes can make dens in build up areas, like storm sewers and other areas within the Fort Carson garrison area.

What you can do?

Encourage foxes to hunt for natural prey by not feeding them. The "dietary supplements" provided by humans are not necessary and could even be harmful.

Discourage foxes from scavaging by securing trashcans with tight-fitting lids. Do not leave pet food out overnight.

For more information about Fort Carson's wildlife or to report a hazardous wildlife situation, contact the Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management Wildlife Office at 576-8074.

DECAM biologists are available to teach classes at schools or directorates. For more information on these classes, contact Michael Dunning at 576-7075.

Mountain Post rewards supporter

by Cpl. **Matthew Millham**
14th Public Affairs Detachment

Until last week Fort Carson was not unlike the big city in that getting free stuff off the back of a truck was pretty easy.

For two months Fort Carson Soldiers were able to make free phone calls to anywhere in the world from the back of a trailer parked behind McKibben Physical Fitness Center. The trailer was one of two emergency communication trailers that MCI has on call 24 hours a day all year long to deploy anywhere in the United States in the case of disaster or, in this case, as a good will gesture.

"We were there to give (the Soldiers) the opportunity to make a last call home before they jumped on a plane for a 17-hour flight to a very dangerous place," said David Hyde, team lead for MCI's emergency response group.

Col. Michael Resty Jr., Fort Carson garrison commander, presented a certificate of appreciation to MCI and the staff of the trailer at the company's software development and information technology headquarters in Colorado Springs April 8. Many of those who staffed the trailer were volunteers working late hours on the same irregular schedule as Fort Carson's deployments. Resty gave them thanks on behalf of the Soldiers.

"I know it was heartfelt from Soldiers with respect to being able to say goodbye to moms, dads and relatives and spouses just before they got on an aircraft to deploy," said Resty. He said the service MCI provided to the troops "solidifies what we already know on Fort Carson; that the

military in this community have always been in the minds and hearts of community leaders."

The trailer, known as Big Blue, has deployed to about a dozen humanitarian disasters in the United States, including New York City after the Sept. 11 attacks and more recently to the fires in California last year. The trailer at Fort Carson also has a companion, Big Blue II, which spent almost three months at Fort Hood, Texas, before returning to its Dallas headquarters in late March.

"In Fort Hood I was visiting with a Soldier who was a Medevac pilot headed for the Sunni triangle," said Roy Feldt, senior manager of network install and test for MCI who deploys with the trailers. "He was quiet so I went outside to visit with him and ask him what was going on. He indicated to me we couldn't possibly know what we were doing. I said, 'Well, I think so,' and he says no; the Soldiers here will never forget you for the rest of their lives. You have done something great for them."

During Big Blue's tour at Fort Carson, about 35,000 free phone calls and 30,000 free 60-minute phone cards were given to Soldiers leaving the post for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The trailer, with its 24 phone lines and 24 dial-up Internet access ports, was state-of-the-art when MCI introduced it in 1991. April 8 MCI pulled the trailer out of Fort Carson to take it back to Dallas where it will be outfitted with new state-of-the-art communication equipment, including high speed Internet and satellite capability, said Feldt.



Photo by Cpl. Matthew Millham

Rob Whyley, who runs an MCI information technology campus, accepts a coin from Col. Michael Resty Jr., Fort Carson's garrison commander, at a ceremony at the company's complex in Colorado Springs.

Extended duty . . .

Tax Center to be open until June 15

by **Capt. Robert A Guillen Jr.**
Fort Carson Tax Center

In order to better serve our redeploying Soldiers, the Fort Carson Tax Center will remain open and fully operational until June 15.

This additional 60-day period gives recently redeployed Soldiers entitled to an automatic tax filing extension more time to utilize the Tax Center's free tax preparation and electronic filing services.

If a Soldier was deployed, he has an automatic extension of at least 180 days beginning the day you returned to the United States.

Depending on redeployment dates to the continental United States, a Soldier may also be entitled to an additional 105 days.

Contact the Tax Center at the number below for more information on this additional extension.

The Tax Center will continue to serve clients on a first-come, first-served basis with appointments taken on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, commanders can schedule block appointments for

groups of Soldiers.

The Tax Center is able to complete tax returns for approximately

125 personnel each workday.

Commanders must call the Tax Center in advance to schedule these block appointments.

The Tax Center will have new hours of operation: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Tax Center will continue to be closed on all federal and training holidays. These hours of operation may be adjusted to accommodate unit scheduled block appointments.

The Tax Center will be able to e-file federal returns, and complete all state returns for mailing by the Soldier.

As of April 11, the Fort Carson Tax Center has assisted more than 4,800 Soldiers in filing returns for

more than \$8.4 million in refunds. This free service has saved Soldiers, family members and retirees more than \$1.1 million in commercial tax preparation fees.

To have questions answered or to schedule block appointments, contact the Tax Center at 524-1012 or 524-1013.



Tax Center Hours

Monday through Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed all federal and training holidays.

Ridin' Bulls!

Army announces sponsorship of bull riding team



Photo by Spc. Curt Cashour
Mike Lee tries his best to stay on top of Professional Bull Riding bull Big Show during the U.S. Army Invitational bull-riding event Saturday. Lee hung on to Big Show for a full eight seconds, scoring 84.5 out of 100 points.

by Spc. Aimee Felix
14th Public Affairs Detachment

At a press conference Saturday at the Colorado Springs World Arena, the Army and the Professional Bull Riders announced a two-year partnership that will allow for the Army to field a three-member team in PBR events.

The Army team was officially introduced to the public later that evening at the official Army invitational at the World Arena during an opening ceremony that included 17 Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans, all of whom had received a Silver Star, Bronze Star or Purple Heart.

Partnership with PBR will assist the Army in its recruiting and awareness building efforts, said Lt. Gen. Dennis D. Cavin, commander of the Army Accessions Command, during the press conference.

The parallels in character between bull riders and Soldiers make the Army and the PBR a natural fit, said Randy Bernard, chief executive officer of PBR. "Like Soldiers, bull riders possess that will to win, pride in their work and no-quit attitude that are signs of a true champion." Bull riders embody the tenets of the Warrior Ethos through their commitment to their mission, by never accepting defeat, never quitting, and through the camaraderie among them, said Cavin when explaining why the partnership was ideal for the Army.

The demographic that most often joins the Army, 17- to 24-year olds, is best reached "through sports and world class organizations that know how to start a mission and follow through," he said.

At the press conference the Army bull riders were briefly introduced to the media and given an opportunity to say how they felt about being a part of the Army team.

"The Army picked three solid guys, not just a bunch of drunks," said Mike Lee, a 20-year-old Texan who joined the PBR at age 18. "I want a sponsor that will be loyal to me, and I know that's what the Army's all about," said Lee, who ranks third in the world in points.

Another Texan and Army team member, James White, who is a favorite for the 2004 Rookie of the Year title, said, "I'm honored to be here, and I can promise I won't disappoint the Army."

The Army's third bull rider, Jaron Nunnemaker, a 30-year-old from Willits, Calif., said bull riders were a lot like Soldiers because "for us, it's a year-round thing too, and we also put our lives on the line; we do it for our families and so do they; in fact they do it for my family too."

The cowboys will be visiting several high schools as part of this recruiting effort, said Cavin. The Army's Recruitment Command has reduced the money spent on television and print advertising and has focused its investments on the Internet, cable network exposure and sports. This has brought a 16 percent increase in recruitment, said Cavin.

What the Army will get in exposure from PBR is worth the investment of more than \$1 million, he said.

In 1995, three years after the creation of the PBR, the organization had just two sponsors shelling out a total of \$365,000 in sponsorships. Since then, sponsorship dollars have increased to \$17 million with 18 sponsors pitching in. "These people wouldn't be signing on if they weren't getting their money's worth in exposure," said Bernard.



Photo by Spc. Brian Trapp
Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Gen. Peter Schoomaker, center; commanding general of the U.S. Army Accessions Command, Lt. Gen. Dennis Cavin, left; commanding general of the 7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, Maj. Gen. Robert Wilson, right, present Ednei Caminhas, second from left, U.S. Army Invitational winner, a check for \$24,500 Sunday at the World Arena in Colorado Springs.



Photo by Cpl. Matt Millham
Fans cheer as James White, the first of the Army bull riders, holds on to finish an eight-second ride on a bull named Pea Brain at the Army Invitational Professional Bull Riding event.

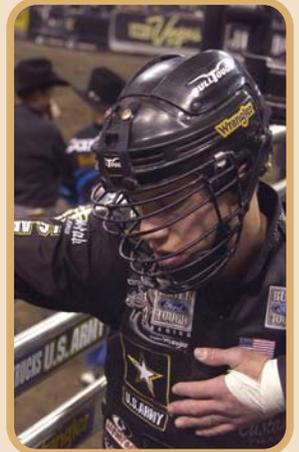


Photo by Cpl. Matt Millham
Mike Lee, Army bull rider, readies himself to ride a bull named Big Show at the Army-sponsored Professional Bull Riding event.

by Spc. Brian Trapp
14th Public Affairs Detachment

At 20 years old Mike Lee is the youngest member of the Army Bull Riding Team, but he's not new to the sport. A competitive rider since 12, Lee started riding cattle on the ranch when he and his father were working with the animals. "I'd get on 'em after we doctored them and run off through the pasture," he said. "My dad said 'You need to quit that,' and I said 'No, I kinda like doing it.'"

To cure him of his bull riding ambitions, Lee's dad entered him in a buckout competition at the age of 14. "It scared me to death, but I liked it," said Lee.

Even though he didn't win the jackpot, from then on Lee was hooked.

In 2002, at the age of 18, he entered the Professional Bull Riding circuit and was the highest earning rookie of the year with more than \$110,000.

Now, two years after entering the PBR tour, Lee is proud to wear the Army colors in an event traditionally sponsored by chewing tobacco and cheap whiskey. "I want (the Army) on my back; they're a standup sponsor," he said. "It's not a cigarette or beer company. (The Army) is something that will bring people up instead of knock them down."

About a year ago Lee suffered a life-threatening skull fracture when the bull jerked him down. Just a few months later he was back onto the tour. Shortly after his return Lee won his first title in Atlantic City, N.J.



Out & About

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APRIL 24, 2004

FORT CARSON
McMAHON THEATRE
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

FREE SHOW

MORE INFORMATION, CALL:
DCA COMMUNITY EVENTS
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Sat, May 8
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
at
Iron Horse
Park

For Information,
please call 526-2151



BIKE RALLY

TRUCE & RACE

IRON HORSE PARK
SATURDAY, MAY 1

All Fort Carson Active Military, Retirees & Civilians Welcome!

Registration starts at 8:00 am
Adult Race (18 years and older) 6K at 10:00 am
Family Members & Friends Leisure Ride 6K at 10:30 am
Childrens Mini-Race at 11:15 am
All participants are required to fill out a Hold Harmless agreement to participate

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Fishing Derby

Presented by DECAM
and the Fort Carson Directorate of Community Activities
Recreation Division

Youth, May 8, 2004
Adult, Sept. 24 2004
at Womack Res.

Open to All Eligible Users.
Ages 1 - 16 Must be Accompanied by and Adult.

Derby: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Lunch: 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Awards Ceremony: 1 p.m. - Grand prize for longest fish
Grand Prize for Youth: \$100.00
Grand Prize for Adult: \$500.00

Entry Fee for Youth: \$5 pre-registration, \$7 day of derby
Entry Fee for Adult: \$15 pre-registration, \$20 day of derby

Registration Form on Back.
Day of Derby Registration 7 a.m. - 8:30 am
To Register, contact ITR at 526-2151, Bldg 2429

For More Information and Registration,
Please Call 719-526-2151 or 524-1388.
Or visit our website at www.ftcarsonmwr.com

Abuse

From Page 11

A Soldier charged with domestic violence off-post, the case is typically handled by the El Paso County court system. A civilian charged with domestic violence off-post, the case is handled as all other domestic violence cases in the civilian court system are prosecuted.

There are harsh penalties for those convicted of domestic violence. Under the Lautenberg Amendment to the Gun Control Act, it is unlawful for any person who has been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony crime of domestic violence to ship, transport, possess or receive firearms or ammunition. For most Soldiers, this is a stifling end to their career.



Photo by Spc. Zach Mott

If a Soldier decides to release his anger by punching his spouse, it can carry a stiff penalty.

“The worst (domestic violence offense) is where you physically hit them,” Love said. “Once convicted you just ended your career.”

When a Soldier is convicted of domestic violence it is the discretion of the unit commander whether or not to allow that Soldier to fulfill his commitment to the Army or if an administrative separation is recommended.

With everything, there is an exception. The El Paso County district attorney’s office offers a diversion program that requires a Soldier convicted of domestic violence off post to adhere to court-ordered stipulations for a determined period of time in order to have the charges cleared from their record.

However, during the pre-determined time — up to two years — the Soldier will not be able to possess, transport, ship or receive firearms. It is still at the commanders’ discretion whether to allow this Soldier to complete the terms of this plea while remaining in the military or to recommend him for administrative separation from service.

If a Soldier is accused of domestic violence off post Love cautions Soldiers not to sign any plea agreements before talking to a legal assistance attorney from the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

“Don’t take the plea bargain if you feel you are innocent,” he said. “When you accept that plea bargain you just ended your career.”

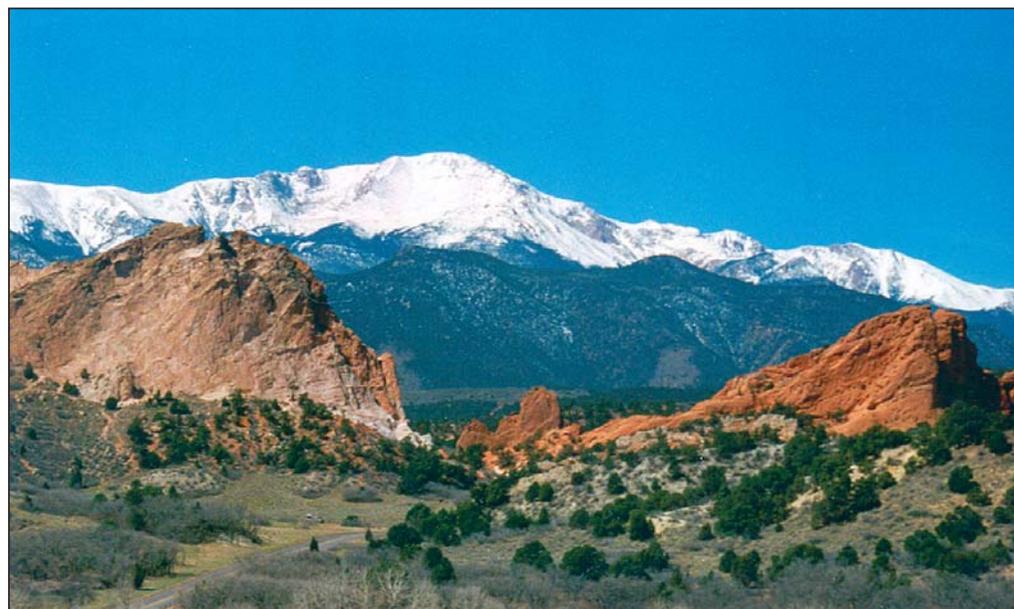
Signs of domestic abuse

- Physical marks or bruises
- Low self-esteem or does not trust in their own judgment or abilities
- Socially isolated
- Severe stress reactions with psychological and physiological complaints, i.e. stomach disorders or migraines
- Too compliant and passive

Personal questions about domestic abuse

- Does your spouse’s temper frighten you?
- Has your spouse hit, kicked, shoved or thrown things at you?
- Has your spouse threatened, humiliated, verbally or sexually abused you?
- Do you feel like you are being controlled or isolated by your partner?
- Does your partner regularly blame you for things that you could not control?
- Are you afraid of doing the “wrong” thing, even if you’re not sure what that is?
- Do you live in constant fear for yourself or your children?

If any of these questions or signs apply to you, contact the Military Police at 526-2333, Social Work Services at 526-4585, the Victim Advocacy Program at 526-4590 or at the pager number 577-3171 to seek help and counseling. *Editor’s note: this information was provided by the Victim Advocacy Program located inside the Family Readiness Center in building 1526, next to the commissary.*



Pikes Peak sits between the North and South Gateway rocks in the Garden of the Gods as seen from the Visitor Center.

Garden of the Gods

Local park one of nature's wonders

Story and photos
by Nel Lampe
Mountaineer staff

One of nature's wonders is the Garden of the Gods park on the west side of Colorado Springs. The name, the Garden of the Gods suits this awe-inspiring setting in which once horizontal layers of rock seem to reach for the sky. Craggy red or white rock formations frame Pikes Peak from the main entrance off 30th Street. It may look familiar when you first catch sight of it, because its image appears in advertisements, post cards, newscasts and lots of other places. But the best way to see it is in person, perhaps early in the morning or at sundown. Bring your camera.

The sight draws people from around the nation and the local community, year-round. Visitors look at the park from the Visitor Center, photograph it, drive through it, hike its trails and touch the rocks. Many pictures of tourists pretending to hold up Balanced

Rock are in family albums around the world.

Scientists tell us the sandstone rocks were once horizontal layers, many feet below the surface. When the continental plates collided millions of years ago, the layers of rocks were forced upward.

American Indians native to this area considered the site to be sacred.

With the settling of the West, including the Colorado Territory, the Garden of the Gods attracted tourists. Some enterprising citizens took advantage of visitors, charging to see the rocks or selling lemonade nearby.

But tickets are no longer required — the Garden of the Gods is a free park, thanks to the family of Charles E. Perkins.

Perkins, a local resident and president of the Burlington Railroad, owned a large portion of the Garden of the



Balanced Rock is a popular site for visitors to the Garden of the Gods Park.

Gods. In 1879 he opened his property to the public. After his death, his heirs donated the park to the city of Colorado Springs, with the condition that the park remain free forever.

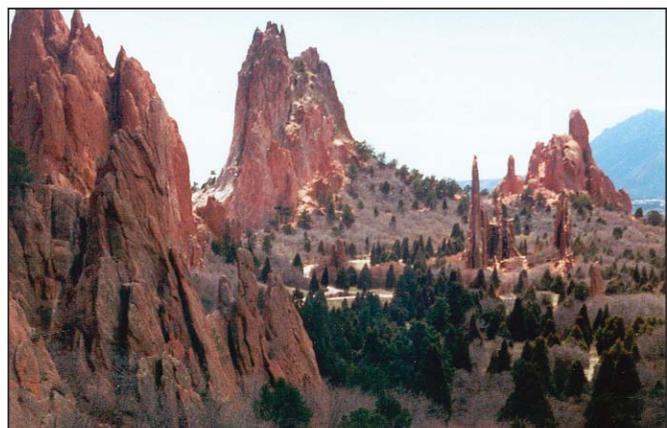
Everyone should visit this great park. Spring may be the best time of year to visit, although the red rocks are interesting when wearing a dusting of snow. Pictures are almost patriotic in color when Pikes Peak is snow-capped.

The best place to start a first visit to the Garden of the Gods is at the Visitor Center, 1805 North 30th St.

There is no entrance fee to the Visitor Center and it is open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

A few displays are on the first floor, just inside the entrance. A gift shop nearby includes a wide selection of souvenir-type items such as T-shirts, cups, key chains, small stuffed animals, paper weights and the like.

Take the stairs or the elevator to the second floor, which has two dozen displays, such as a topographic model of the park, pictorial exhibits about local and park history and several exhibits about the



The red sandstone rocks and evergreen trees make an interesting scene.



Places to see in the Pikes Peak area.

Garden of the Gods

From Page 31

park's wildlife. Historic photographs of early visitors to the Garden of the Gods are shown. An artist's version of what the park might have looked like during the Jurassic Age depicts dinosaurs roaming the area.

For a small fee visitors may view the educational film, "How Did Those Red Rocks Get There?" It is shown every half hour and costs \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. The film addresses the last 300 million years of the park's history, and helps explain the park and its red rocks. The film is about 15 minutes long.

The Visitor Center has employees and volunteers on hand to answer questions about the park and to hand out free park maps. The maps show walking trails, picnic areas and the location of several rock formations that have been named.

Guided bus tours of the Garden of the Gods are available in summer for about \$4 per person. Ask at the information desk for availability.

The gift shop on the second floor has a large collection of books about Colorado, local sights and history. There are gifts and decorative items, many with a Southwest theme. There are vases made of aspen wood, pottery, candles, dolls, figurines, jewelry and puzzles. Calendars, picture books and postcards feature pictures of the Garden of the Gods and local scenes.

A snack bar provides an opportunity to get refreshments. The menu includes cold sandwiches, salads and a bowl of soup or chili. Soft drinks, coffee, water, ice cream and fudge are also available. Grill items such as hamburgers, hot dogs, buffalo burgers and French fries are cooked to order.

A third gift shop is in the snack bar, with cookbooks, kitchen decorative items, jams, candy and similar items.

No refreshments are sold in the park.

The Visitor Center has several good views of the park, including a terrace with straight-on view of Gateway Rocks and Pikes Peak.

The Visitor Center has free programs focusing on wildlife, plants or history. The programs are presented daily. Call the visitor center at 634-6666 for times. Programs presented last week included such subjects as fossils, ants, rattlesnakes, deer, coyotes



The Kissing Camels can be seen at the top of this rock formation in the Garden of the Gods.

and a history of Pikes Peak. Free daily nature walks start at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. from the north main parking lot in the park.

The Garden of the Gods is a favored site for joggers, hikers, bikers or strollers. Visitors enjoying a leisurely drive through the park have several pull-off spaces available, to take pictures or enjoy views.

A limited number of picnic tables and grills are in the park.

The Garden of the Gods is a tempting place to rock climb, but remember there are strict rules about climbing. Rock scrambling — defined as climbing more than 10 feet above the base of the valley — without technical equipment is illegal.

People who have climbed illegally and without proper equipment sometimes are seriously injured or must be rescued. Rock scramblers are subject to a \$500 fine and 90 days in jail, and those requiring rescue may be required to pay rescue costs.

Technical climbers, in groups of two or more, should register at the Visitor Center, read the rules and regulations and use proper climbing equipment.

Just south of the Garden of the Gods Park, near the exit/entrance at Manitou Springs, is Garden of the Gods Trading Post, 324 Beckers Lane.

The historic building is Pueblo style, and has a huge collection of T-shirts, sweatshirts Navajo rugs, southwestern-style lamps, pottery, paintings, drums, moccasins, jewelry, books, videos and gifts. To check the gifts available, call 685-9045 on check the Web site at www.co-trading-post.com.

The trading post snack bar has a selection of sandwiches, including buffalo burgers, and salads.

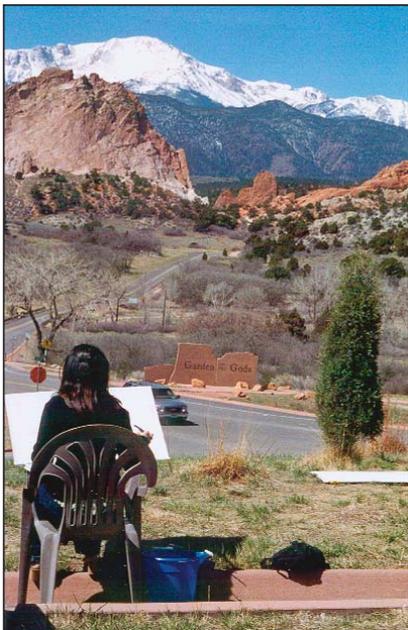
The Garden of the Gods can be reached by taking Interstate 25 north to the Garden of the Gods Exit, go west to 30th Street, follow the signs south to the park's entrance and Visitor Center.



Visitors look at displays about the park in the Garden of the Gods Visitor Center. Historic photos of the park are in the background.



Park visitors' first stop should be at the Visitor Center, across from the Garden of the Gods entrance.



An artist paints a scene near the entrance to the Garden of the Gods.

Just the Facts

- **Travel time** about 20 minutes
 - **For ages** families
 - **Type** natural park
 - **Fun factor** ★★★★★ (Out of 5 stars)
 - **Wallet damage** free
 - \$ = Less than \$20
 - \$\$ = \$21 to \$40
 - \$\$\$ = \$41 to \$60
 - \$\$\$\$ = \$61 to \$80
- (Based on a family of four)

GO! Get Out!

Musicals

"Miss Saigon," is next in the Broadway series in the Pikes Peak Center May 13 to 16. Tickets start at \$34, call 520-SHOW.

Big Bear Day

Bear Creek Nature Center presents "Big Bear Day," Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visitors enjoy interactive presentations about bears and hike the Bear Trail. Children participate in crafts, face-painting and stories. Cost is \$3 per person. The Bear Creek Nature Center is near 21st Street; call 520-6387.

Money Museum

The first U.S. silver dollar ever made, struck at the Philadelphia Mint Oct. 15, 1794, is presently displayed at The Money Museum, 818 N. Cascade Ave. The museum is free.

Royal Gorge Route Railroad

Ride the historic, scenic railroad through the Royal Gorge during April for half-price. Military members, their families and El Paso County residents show ID and ride for \$13.50 for adults and \$8.50 for children under 12. The last chance to use the discount is Saturday and Sunday; the train leaves at 12:30 p.m. Reservations are suggested; call (888) Rails-4-U.

New exhibit at museum

The Denver Museum of Nature and Science features a special exhibit, "Machu

Picchu: Unveiling the Mystery of the Incas." The exhibit includes dioramas from the ruin, Inca art and an archaeological dig. The exhibit will be in the museum through May 9. The Denver Museum of Nature and Science is in Denver's City Park, at 2001 Colorado Blvd.

Pueblo Symphony

The Pueblo Symphony has its season's final concert May 8 at 7:30 p.m. in Hoag Recital Hall on the Colorado State University-Pueblo campus. Tickets start at \$20 and are available at (719) 545-7967.

Volksmarch

The Falcon Wanderers Volksmarch Club marks its 23rd anniversary May 1 with a walk at Colorado College. The event is free. Register at Lloyd E. Worner Campus Center on North Cascade Avenue between 8 and 11 a.m. The course is five-, six- or 11-kilometers. For information, call 264-0816.

Concerts

Mozart's Requiem and Schubert's Mass in G will be presented May 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Sunrise United Methodist Church, 2655 Briargate Blvd. The free concert is presented by the 140-voice choir, Soli Deo Gloria.

The Colorado Springs Children's Chorale, the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony and the Moms and Company Choir present "Songs of Nature" May 9 at 3 p.m. at the Pikes Peak Center. Tickets begin at \$10 and are available by calling 520-SHOW.

The Pikes Peak Philharmonic presents "Barber of Seville" and Mozart's Symphony

No. 39 May 2 at 3 p.m. at Benet Hill Center, 2577 N. Chelton Road.

Also appearing will be 2004 Youth Concerto Competition winners. Tickets are available at the door, \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors or \$12 for a family. "A Hero's Welcome Home Concert," featuring music students from Widefield High School is May 3 at 7 p.m. in the Widefield gymnasium. Admission is free. Widefield High School is on Norman Drive, just off Main St., in Security.

Magic show

Stars of Magic, an evening of magic, mysteries, sleight of hand and illusions, is May 14 at 7: p.m. at Peterson Air Force Base auditorium. Tickets are on sale for \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 3 to 12; call 554-3522 or 554-3178.

Armed Forces Day concert

The Air Force Academy Band presents its annual Armed Forces Day Concert May 12 at 7:30 p.m., at the Air Force Academy's Arnold Theater. Tickets to the concert are free but required, and are available at Ticketmaster outlets.

JoyRides

JoyRides Family Fun Center observes Armed Forces Weekend May 14, 15 and 16. All military members with ID will receive a free all-day wristband. Family members of active duty military will receive a 50 percent discount on all-day wristbands. JoyRides is at 5150 Edison Ave. —a half-mile east of Academy Boulevard off Platte Avenue. For information, call 573-5500.



Courtesy photo

Sesame Street ...

Sesame Street Live presents Cookie Monster, Oscar, Bert and other characters in a new show "Out of this World!" at the Pikes Peak Center. Two shows are April 30 at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. May 1 shows are at 10:30 a.m., 3 and 5:30 p.m. Shows May 2 are at 1 and 4:30 p.m. Tickets begin at \$12; There is a discount for opening day shows. Call 520-SHOW.

Program Schedule for Fort Carson cable Channel 10, today to April 30.

Army Newswatch: stories on the Stryker platoon, new medals and homecomings. Airls at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

Navy/Marine Corps News: stories on the Navy League, the USS Crommelin and Sailors and the Habitat for Humanity. Airls at 8 a.m., 1 p.m., 8 p.m. and 1 a.m.

Air Force News: stories on the Dragon Lady, Guam and weather forecasting on the battlefield. Airls at 8:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m. and 1:30 a.m.

The Mountain Post Community Town Meeting, held monthly, airts at 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Channel 9 daily broadcasts SCOLA, foreign language news broadcasts. Access the schedule at the Fort Carson Web site.

If you have comments on Channel 10 programming or wish to coordinate a broadcast on Channel 10, please contact Chief of Command Information at 526-1241 or via e-mail at CommandInfo@carson.army.mil.

Program times will be published in the *Mountaineer* provided coordination is made one week prior to publication.

If you wish to have a training videotape shown on Channel 9 only, contact the Training Support Team at 526-5111.

For additions to the Community Calendar, please submit an e-mail to the above address, send a clean, typewritten copy of the information to the Public Affairs Office, room 2180, 6151 Specker Ave., Fort Carson, CO 80913 or fax information to 526-1021 no later than the Friday before the desired airing time.

Sports & Leisure

Youth Soccer

Youth center players kick off soccer season

by **Walt Johnson**
Mountaineer staff

The Mountain Post's Pershing Field was alive with sights and sounds of opening day as the 2004 summer soccer season began.

Teams ranging in age from 4 to 12 years old took part in a festive day that was played under ideal conditions. The sun was shining, and there was a cooling breeze blowing as the children raced up and down the field.

"The parents and kids seem to enjoy the day, with the pictures and the nice new uniforms. We are excited about the chance it gives the kids to compete," said Dave Martell, assistant youth sports director.

If the league is for the children you would have a hard time telling that to the parents who were on the sidelines urging their children to achieve great results and beaming with pride each time a young lady or young man dribbled the ball or passed.

You would also have a difficult time understating the excitement and

joy the coaches felt as they watched their charges compete on the field. One of those coaches, Dan Baker of the Lady Bugs, couldn't hide his enthusiasm during and after the game as his bam-bam team played. In fact, the toughest thing Baker had to do all day was take time after the game to explain how his charges got the name "Lady Bugs"

"We actually call ourselves the Bugs. I don't see myself as the Rodney Dangerfield type of guy," Baker said with a laugh.

"The sports staff decided to name teams ahead of time this year (last year they identified teams by alphabet, such as the alligators were A) and they named us the Lady Bugs. We like to call ourselves the Bugs or the Red Bugs (after the team's red uniforms)," Baker said.

"The best thing about this day was seeing the smile on the kids' faces, whether it was during picture day or during the games. That is what makes it all worthwhile," Baker said.



Photos by Walt Johnson

Soccer players were running all over Pershing field Saturday as the youth center kicked off this year's soccer season.



Members of the Lady Bugs youth bam-bam soccer league file through a human tunnel after Saturday's game.



Toni Klug, back left, holds her daughter Becca, with ball, while the photographer, right, sets her up for her individual photo.

On the Bench

Aces kick off 2004 varsity softball season

by **Walt Johnson**
Mountaineer staff

The Fort Carson Aces, the post varsity softball team, began its season in fine fashion Saturday, finishing third in its first tournament of the year.

The Aces, who will be playing E-level ball this year, won two games and lost one Saturday at the Mountain Post Sports Complex to put themselves in position on Sunday to play for the championship.

Because of its loss on Saturday, the Aces found themselves needing a win in the early game Sunday to have the chance to compete for the championship. The team put its hitting shoes on and beat its opposition 25-11 to earn a spot in the losers bracket championship game. A victory in this game would have given the Aces the opportunity to play for the tournament championship, and it looked good for the Aces coming off the impressive victory in its first game.

As hot as the Aces bats were in the swirling winds played in its opening game, the bats were just as cold as the

winds died down. The Aces were out-slugged by the opposition and had to settle for a third-place finish.

"I thought we played exceptionally well, and we feel good about our third place finish. This was our first tournament of the season, and we were playing against teams that have been playing together in tournament competition," Bryan Rushing, Aces head coach, said.

Usually you associate a love match in sports with tennis, but allow me to share a love match in softball with you.

While covering the Aces on Saturday, I saw a young man, Rich Conger, sitting in the dugout beside his wife Jesse Conger, with a harness on his shoulder.

The reporter in me, no I was not being nosy, OK, I was being nosy, asked him what happened. Conger was preparing for combat, real combat not softball, at the Special Forces tower when he fell 35 feet and broke a bone



Photo by Walt Johnson

Spending quality time ...

Fort Carson Aces player Jonathan Hatcher watches a pitch sail past his head during action Saturday at the Mountain Post Sports Complex.

See Bench, Page 39



Photo by Walt Johnson

"Honey, does it hurt?" ...

Injured Fort Carson Aces' player Rich Conger, left, gets special attention from his wife Jesse, Saturday at the Mountain Post Sports Complex.

Bench

From Page 38

in his back and collapsed a lung. Conger's wife Jesse said the X-ray technician told her it was only the third time they had seen that bone broken in 25 years.

You could see in their faces the love they share as they sat in the dugout. Conger was getting the kind of attention all men dream about from their wife during the game, which was a continuation of their previous night.

"Rich had a hard night last night after we got home from the hospital. He couldn't get off the couch, which is where he slept and I ended up blowing up an air mattress and sleeping next to him. I hardly got any sleep because I was monitoring his breathing because of the collapsed lung."

If you saw the look in the couples' eyes as they were in the dugout you knew tennis didn't have the only love match on post Saturday.

McKibben Physical Fitness Center will host a powerlifting competition July 24 to 25.

According to Lenwood Jordan, facility manager, this will be a chance for power lifters

on post to show what they are made of and compete for the post's bragging rights. Anyone interested in competing in the powerlifting event should contact Jordan or Annette Wallace at 526-2742.

The post indoor swimming pool will remain open until May 13.

The indoor pool features many activities, such as family night each Thursday night from 6 to 8 p.m. for \$4 per family. People can also take advantage of the water aerobics program that runs year-round at the indoor and outdoor pools. The water aerobics classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 6 p.m. The cost for the class is \$1.50. The outdoor pool will be open May 28 through Sept. 6. The hours of operation will be from 10 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Additionally, summer swim lessons will begin June 7 at the outdoor pool. The first session will be held from June 7 through 28. The registration dates for the summer swim classes are May 24 through 28, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 526-3122.

Got a story idea? Contact me at internj@aol.com or page me at 659-2308.

Mountaineer Event of the Week

Dungen wins overall performer at Southern Colorado championships

by **Walt Johnson**
Mountaineer staff

Marcus Dungen came into the 2004 National Physique Committee's Southern Colorado Natural and Armed Forces Bodybuilding/Fitness Championships with one goal in mind — to make sure people knew the Army is ready to be competitive in this series after years of lackluster performances.

After the competition, Dungen not only achieved his objective, he left no doubt his year of training accomplished its objectives.

In his first local competition of this kind, Dungen won eight individual awards, (Men's Masters, Men's Master Overall, Men's Novice Lightweight, Men's Novice Overall, Men's Open Lightweight, Men's Overall Southern Colorado, Armed Forces Open Lightweight and Armed Forces Overall) as he destroyed the competition in an amazing display that was complemented by competitors and fans.

At the beginning of the night, Dungen went from just another competitor to someone the crowd started

addressing by name as he came on the stage for each appearance.

Dungen's determination to be the best at this year's championship actually began a year ago when he and his wife Danielle went to the 2003 show.

"We had just arrived in Colorado when we went to last year's competition. Marcus came out of the show saying next year is going to be the Army's," Danielle Dungen said.

"I came here in good condition like I wanted to because I was representing the Army, and I wanted Fort Carson to be proud of the military competitors. I never dreamed that I would be able to win so many titles, but I was determined to let people know what the people at Fort Carson are all about," Dungen said.

"We had 53 competitors and this was the best Southern Colorado championships we ever had," show promoter Jeff Taylor said. "We had a full house and it was nice to see the people come out and support the event. Marcus Dungen was very impressive. He has quite a future ahead of him in this sport," Taylor said.



Photo by Walt Johnson

Marcus Dungen, right, shows the form that allowed him to win eight individual titles at Saturday's Armed Forces Championships.

Mountaineer Fitness Feature



Photo by Walt Johnson

Salsa time ...

Mercy Garcia-Chavez, front, leads a salsa aerobics class recently at Forrest Fitness Center. The salsa class is part of the aerobics program at the center that caters to different needs for physical fitness. For information on the types of classes available at the center, call 526-2706.