

Mountaineer

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Sept. 17, 2004



Photo by Pfc. Clint Stein

Special delivery ...

Members of Fort Carson's Special Reaction Team deliver a telephone for direct communication to a hostage taker during a force protection training exercise Sept. 8, at the old Fort Carson hospital complex. For more on the exercise, see page 11.

Life-cycle management will stock UA

by Spc. Zach Mott
Mountaineer staff

"Soldiers are in the driver's seat for the first time in a long time — especially the younger Soldiers," said Maj. Angie Holbrook, the 7th Infantry Division Strength Manager assigned to manage Fort Carson Soldiers who are Forces Command assets.

As the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) begins its transformation to a Unit of Action, Soldiers of all ranks are given options for their military future.

Soldiers can either re-enlist to remain in the 3rd BCT through the 36-month life cycle — due to end December 2007 — or they can choose not to be a member of the 3rd BCT's transformation. If Soldiers already meet the life-cycle management requirement they will continue to serve with the 3rd BCT until at least December 2007.

A Soldier within the 3rd BCT who has an end of term in service date prior to Oct. 31, 2007, is eligible to re-enlist because they do not meet the service remaining requirement to meet this

See Life cycle, Page 3

3rd BCT moves toward UA

by Sgt. Jon Wiley
Mountaineer staff

The Army's transformation into a lighter, more lethal force is kicking into high gear at Fort Carson, and the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, is currently at the vanguard of this effort. By fiscal 2005, the brigade will be restructured into a unit of action.

What this means in a nutshell is that the brigade's existing units will be blended and integrated to form two balanced combined arms battalions, said Maj. Lance Kohler, 3rd BCT personnel officer.

"What we're doing is taking our garrison organization and making it more like our MTOE, or how we fight. We're taking the cross attachments we used in Iraq and making it our standard organization,"

said Maj. Christopher Johnson, 3rd BCT operations officer.

As a result, 3rd BCT Soldiers will now have an opportunity to train and work with Soldiers with other military occupational specialties in a garrison environment, before they fight with them in the field.

See 3rd BCT, Page 4

INSIDE THE MOUNTAINEER

Opinion/Editorial

Soldiers' thoughts on life-cycle management. Page 2

Military

Fort Carson fire officer of the year. Page 5

Community

Common divorce myths. Page 12

Sports

Womens' softball team prepares for tourney. Page 29

Feature



The 2004 U.S. Army Soldier Show comes to Fort Carson.

See Pages 20 and 21.

Happenings



Explore Cripple Creek history and see aspen trees in autumn color.

See Pages 25 and 26.

Education fair

There will be an education fair at the Special Events Center Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Post Weather hotline:
526-0096

Post Sept. 11 — a new way of life

Commentary by Spc. Zach Mott
Mountaineer staff

Better late than never. It's an often used, rather stale expression. It's come to symbolize the American way of doing things.

Saturday marked the three-year anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon and rural Pennsylvania. Three years! Those attacks shook America to its very core.

Have we recovered? Yes, I think we have. Will we ever return to "normalcy" that we enjoyed up until Sept. 10, 2001? Never, it's impossible. Many Americans will always be suspect of everyone when they walk on to an airplane. We will always be leery of those things that seem out of place. It is simply our way of life now. Better late than never.

There were no big celebrations or large crowds gathered to remember the more than 3,000 who perished that day. There were several simple, little individual moments when we paused and remembered how we felt at 8:47 a.m. Eastern Standard Time Sept. 11, 2001.

For me, I was getting ready to go to bed in my barracks room in Camp Zama, Japan. I was in the middle of one last run through my limited selection of American Forces Network channels when I saw the peculiar site of one of the towers smoking. Within seconds of joining that Today Show broadcast I saw a sight which paralyzed me for what seemed like hours — the tailfin

of a United Airlines jet plunging into the second World Trade Center tower.

Not knowing much about aircraft at the time, and only knowing that my soon-to-be father in law was a pilot for United Airlines, I feared the worst. Fortunately, all remained safe in my little slice of the world.

What followed was small-scale chaos and fear. Given the relative sanctity of Camp Zama, things began to relax slightly in a few short months. But, normal is a redefined word in our post-Sept. 11 world.

As Americans, we've changed to the way the rest of the modern world thinks, acts and reacts. We used to live in an imaginary bubble, never imagining that our borders could be penetrated. Now, we know differently. Better late than never.

Life has returned to near-normalcy for most. We go to sporting events (knowing that all bags are subject to search), we fly home to see grandparents (knowing that we need to be there at least two hours in advance to be searched) and we go to work each day (knowing that our cars are subject to search each time we pass through the gate).

For all the heroes, near-heroes and reluctant heroes who have successfully protected our borders and our people for the last three years, and will continue to protect beyond the foreseeable future — thank you. Better late than never.



Courtesy Bob Rosenburgh, 4th ROTC Region, Wash.

Transformation Louie



What are your thoughts on Life cycle management with units of action?



"I think it helps with unit cohesion. I really don't see a problem with it, except for people who are about to ETS. It kind of locks them in."

Pfc. Pedro Martinez
HHC 3rd BCT



"It will be really good once it's implemented, but this first Life cycle is going to be really painful for everybody."

1st Lt. Harvey Smith
HHC, 3rd BCT



"People are going to get to know each other and work together for longer periods. You're going to know your job a lot better."

Sgt. Kristen Thornburg
HHC, 3rd BCT



"It's great for families."

Spc. David Blonn
Headquarters and
Headquarters Company,
3rd Brigade Combat
Team

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News

Life cycle

From Page 1

assignment.

There are, however, certain bonuses and entitlements that some Soldiers may receive if they choose the first option. The specifics regarding which military occupational specialties and ranks are eligible are outlined in Military Personnel Message 02-246.

If a Soldier decides not to be a member of the 3rd BCT's transformation to a Unit of Action he must sign a declination of continued service statement.

With the second option, those Soldiers fall into two categories. First are those with less than 12 months remaining until their End of Term of Service, or ETS. Those Soldiers will be reassigned to a unit within the installation, depending on their military occupational specialty.

"If I'm a 19 Delta and I choose not to be Life cycle managed with the 3rd Brigade, you (can) figure out the other place where I put 19 Deltas on this installation," Holbrook said.

This is where many Soldiers have had problems accepting life cycle management.

"It's not like we're looking to punish the Soldier for not making the decision of staying with the brigade," Holbrook said. "They're being made aware that when you choose not to, these are your limited options. If you have less than 12 months and I put you in a unit that's deploying, unfortunately that means you fall victim to stop loss/stop move."

The second category is those who have 13 to 35

months of service remaining. These Soldiers have enough time to serve an unaccompanied tour or a tour at another U.S.-based installation.

"Depending on where you get reassigned, you could fall victim to the same set of circumstances that I described with the 12-month people," she said.

There is, however, a timeline in which Soldiers must make their decision in order to take advantage of the bonus being offered. Mid-career and career Soldiers have until Sept. 24 to sign the paperwork to qualify for the bonus. The end all cutoff date is Sept. 30 for all Soldiers.

"The Army's goal is to have all of these actions done before the end of September," said Sgt. Maj. George Stapleton, Fort Carson command career counselor. "Why the end of September?" some people may ask. One, we don't know how long the bonuses are going to be there. The other is because we have to let Department of the Army know who's not going to stay in that unit."

Previously, Soldiers would be able to wait until the last minute to re-enlist and still receive a bonus. Stapleton advises that, "It's not business as usual. These things change daily, hourly."

Those outside of the 3rd BCT who are considering volunteering for the UA are urged to see their unit career counselor to gain more information.

"If you are in a unit that is not the UA or what we call now the 3rd BCT, you would go to your career counselor. That career counselor would go in, make sure your eligible for that option," Stapleton said. "Then what we do here at Fort Carson, we take the doc-

uments over to the G-1. Between the G-1, HRC and our office, it's tracked what the needs are."

Beginning today, the Army opened the positions within the 3rd BCT to all Soldiers throughout the Army through the PLUS2 system available at <https://www.hrc.army.mil>.

"There are some pre-existing conditions that you have to meet to be able to reserve a slot (with the 3rd BCT)," Holbrook said.

Specifically, a Soldier must meet the December 2007 service requirement, not be flagged and be eligible to move duty locations.

If a Soldier decides to join a UA, there is a predictable cycle of training and deployments.

"When we sent our (Soldiers) out of here last time (for Operation Iraqi Freedom), we didn't know exactly what the timelines for their return (were)," Holbrook said. "We know now, when they go, on or about 365 days, they'll be returning."

For families, this can mean many added benefits. Family members are better able to integrate into a community, become members of local organizations, children can attend the same schools and spouses can work within the local job market for a longer period of time.

"If I'm headed into a 36-month life cycle, I know that for 36 months I'm going to get equity on a home. If I'm going to be somewhere three or six years, that gives the Soldier back some financial security that they didn't have before.

The benefits are not only limited to a Soldier and his family, but also for a commander as well.

3rd BCT

From Page 1

“Tank drivers are still going to be tank drivers, but they’re going to have more opportunities to work and train with Soldiers from different MOSs as combined arms teams before deploying,” Kohler said.

One reason the Army is moving toward this new structure is to promote unit cohesion — the rationale being that Soldiers who have been assembled into teams before deploying will fight better as teams than those assembled in a theater of operations after the fact.

Units of action will not only be more cohesive, they will also contribute to more standardization in combat unit designs across the Army.

Currently, “every division looks a little different. A mechanized unit in Germany doesn’t necessarily look like a mechanized unit in Texas,” Johnson said.

With the new structure, brigades will be organized into modules to create a pool of self-contained, agile, more-deployable units that can “be employed in a similar fashion” as one another creating “a more expeditionary force,” Johnson said.

Colloquially, this is referred to as a “plug and play” approach to warfighting because the modular

design gives divisions more flexibility when packaging brigades into whatever force formations the mission dictates. A way of visualizing this is to think of individual units of action as Legos. As with Legos, there are different types of units of action — fires unit of action, aviation, etc. — but the parts of each are designed so they can be easily attached and assembled with others. This makes the Army more able to adapt to a range of peacekeeping and wartime missions.

In the long run, the changes the Army is making will mean more predictability in deployments and stability for individual Soldiers and their families, but there may be some turbulence as personnel are shuffled into the new modular structures. (See the related story on Life cycle Management beginning on Page 1.) The Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Peter Schoomaker, likens the transformation process to tuning up an engine while it is still running. One can see how this might be jarring for the spark plugs.

Johnson said the 3rd BCT is doing its best to make the transition as smooth as possible.

He said the unit’s goal is to bundle all of the moves Soldiers will have to make into one.

“Soldiers may have to change barracks rooms and park their vehicles in a different motor pool — we want to do these moves all at once so there is as little friction as possible,” Johnson said.

Management

From Page 3

“If I’m a commander, the more people I can keep for longer the better combat-trained, ready force I’m going to have,” Holbrook said.

Before making a decision on whether to join the UA or not, Holbrook cautions that a Soldier needs to think about life beyond just the immediate future.

“Soldiers need to look at three years and beyond when they make this decision,” she said. “Consult the people that are important in their lives when they’re making it. If you’re choosing the Army as your career, I think this is a great way to give yourself some stability and some predictability in your life.”

However, there are some who want nothing more than to serve their predetermined time and move on, Holbrook said that the Army is accommodating to those Soldiers as well.

“If your intent is to come into the Army, serve my three- or four-year enlistment and go to college, there’s nothing wrong with that,” she said. “We have great programs for that in the Army. When it comes to being life cycle managed, you say, ‘I’ve had a good experience here and I’m going to take this and do what I always said I wanted to do.’”

Military

Post fire officer takes top honors

by Spc. Zach Mott
Mountaineer staff

Humility is a common trait among heroes. It would take some well-placed pokes and prods to get Capt. Dennis Micheli to boast about his accomplishments.

Micheli is a member of the Fort Carson Fire and Emergency Services and was recently named Department of the Army Fire Officer of the Year, besting civilian fire officers from more than 150 fire departments.

"It was a great honor for me," Micheli said. "I'm not too much into that kind of stuff, but it was a

great honor."

That's about all you can pull out of this 22-year veteran. It's in talking to the assistant fire chief that you begin to understand the things Micheli has done for not only the fire service, but also the community.

"One thing, he's been very, very dedicated,"

Assistant Fire Chief Glen Silloway said. "You can't ask for anybody that's more dedicated to Fort Carson, the community, to FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency), to the people that we serve on Fort Carson."

As the layers begin to peel away, Silloway tells a story from last year, while many of the Mountain Post

Soldiers were deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Silloway said that Micheli helped a family move from one family quarters to another. For another family, Micheli helped maintain her lawn and other needed maintenance.

Micheli brushes off these accomplishments, insisting that his role was merely as a facilitator, and his crew were the ones who did all the work.

"I've always kept busy," he said. "It's probably one of the traits that I had to work on to get along with people."

See Fire officer, Page 6

Need for fire safety increases as winter approaches

by Spc. Zach Mott
Mountaineer staff

As the seasons begin to change, and more and more families are using heating devices, the need for fire safety and prevention increases.

Assistant Fire Chief Glen Silloway, from the Fort Carson Fire and Emergency Services, cautions that residents need to check not only smoke detectors, but carbon monoxide detec-

tors as well.

"We stress that when it comes time to change your clocks, change your batteries in your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector," he said.

Capt. Dennis Micheli, from the Fort Carson Fire and Emergency Services, reminds everyone to ensure they have their furnaces serviced prior to using them. Also, he cautions that those with fireplaces need to have them cleaned.

One common occurrence in recent years has been candle-started fires. Silloway said those resulted when people left candles burning after they left the house.

He asks that residents simply blow out candles before they go to bed or leave the house.

Fire prevention week is Oct. 3 to 9 and there will be the regular activities that coincide with those days.

Everything from demonstrations for children to fire drills for both young and old and everyone in between will be occurring during that week.

Micheli also reminds people that if they are cooking and have a grease fire, to use either a lid or cloth to put out the fire, not water.

If you have any questions about fire safety, contact the Fort Carson Fire and Emergency Services at 526-5615.

Military Briefs

Misc.

Warrant officer recruiting — The U.S. Army is looking for highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airman to fill its warrant officer ranks.

Positions are open in all 45 specialties if you qualify.

Applicants 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 call (502) 626-0484.

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/adjutantgeneral> or write to Management Operations Branch, AG Division, West Point, N.Y. 10996-1926.

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.

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 ini-

tial 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 at end of time in service? 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

Education Center hours of operation — The Mountain Post Training and Education Center's hours for certain programs and services are as follows:

Counselor Support Center — Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Army Learning Center and Basic Skill Classes — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Defense Activity for Non-Tradition Education Support and Advanced Personnel Testing — Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

eArmyU Testing — Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. through 4:30 p.m.

eArmyU Office — Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Military Occupational Specialty Library — Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. and 12:45 to 4:30 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., closed Fridays.

To make a personnel claim, one must attend a mandatory briefing which is given Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. At the briefing, one must submit a DD 1840/1840R.

Submit completed claims Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m. Closed on Fridays.

If there is an emergency personnel claims issue on Friday, call Tina Kolb at 526-1352.

Fire officer

From Page 5

For the lifelong Colorado resident, firefighting was a job that sort of fell into his lap.

At 35, after working in various construction jobs, mills and other hands-on jobs, Micheli answered an ad in the newspaper asking for firefighters at Fort Carson. Twenty-two years later, Micheli is still on the job and said he enjoys it just as much now as he did that first day.

"I feel the same way about this job as the first day I started," he said. "The challenge, wanting to come to

work. When I miss work, it's like missing school. I've only taken two days of sick leave in 20 years."

That eagerness and excitement, Micheli said, can be a driving force to success.

"The thing is that I'm happy with this job and I think that's the key to anything," he said. "If you're happy with your job, you're going to be successful at it."

Recently, Micheli reached the mandatory retirement age and time in service for a firefighter. But, Silloway said, they sent a request through the proper channels to Department of the Secretary of the Army to allow Micheli to remain with the fire service. That

request was approved and, Silloway said, serves as a testament to how valuable Micheli's service is to the Fort Carson Fire and Emergency Services.

"It's those things (mentioned earlier) plus his dedication level to share his knowledge," Silloway said. "Off duty, he puts in a lot of time that he's not getting paid for, to train other people."

Again, Micheli brushes these compliments off and says he's just doing what he feels is right.

"It's a challenge, no doubt about it," he said. "Every day is a challenge because no call is the same. I just love to train and gain knowledge and try to pass it on."

Dining Schedule

Sept. 18 to 24

Wolf Inn (building 1444)

	Weekdays	Weekends
Breakfast	7 to 9 a.m.	7:30 to 9 a.m.
Lunch	11:30 to 1 p.m.	11:30 to 1 p.m.
Dinner	4:30 to 6:30 p.m.	4:30 to 6 p.m.

Striker Inn (building 2061)

	Weekdays	Weekends
Breakfast	7 to 9 a.m.	7:30 to 9 a.m.
Lunch	11:30 to 1 p.m.	11:30 to 1 p.m.
Dinner	4:30 to 6:30 p.m.	4:30 to 6 p.m.

Patton Inn (building 2161)

	Weekdays	Weekends
Breakfast	7 to 9 a.m.	7:30 to 9 a.m.
Lunch	11:30 to 1 p.m.	11:30 to 1 p.m.
Dinner	5 to 7 p.m.	4:30 to 6 p.m.

Cav Inn (building 2461)

	Weekdays	Weekends
Breakfast	7 to 9 a.m.	7:30 to 9 a.m.
Lunch	11:30 to 1 p.m.	11:30 to 1 p.m.
Dinner	5 to 7 p.m.	4:30 to 6 p.m.

La Rochelle Inn (building 7481)

	Weekdays	Weekends
Breakfast	7 to 9 a.m.	Closed
Lunch	11:30 to 1 p.m.	
Dinner	5 to 6:30 p.m.	

Long Knife Inn (building 9612)

	Weekdays	Weekends
Breakfast	7 to 8:30 a.m.	Closed
Lunch	11:30 to 1 p.m.	
Dinner	Closed	

Exceptions

- Open Saturday and Sunday: Patton Inn and Wolf Inn.
- Open Sept 25 and 26: Cav Inn and Striker Inn.



Fighting Eagles hone gunnery skills

by 2nd Lt. David Benson
1st Battalion, 8th Infantry

From the early hours of the morning to late at night, the usual tranquility of Fort Carson was disturbed by the thunder of 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry.

Starting Aug. 29 and ending Friday, the Fighting Eagles conducted gunnery training on the Bradley ranges at Fort Carson. Although there are many faces in the ranks that are different from those that returned from Iraq only a few months ago, 1st Bn., 8th Infantry performed in the way that America has come to expect from one of her most decorated battalions.

More than 80 percent of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle crews were new. Several crewmembers, and even a few Bradley commanders, had never fired in gunnery before. Nevertheless, skilled and proficient noncommissioned officers and officers were on hand to help those who needed a hand in gunnery procedures.

"There are a lot of inexperienced crews, but they are learning really quickly, and I think they will do all right," said Sgt. Lucas Daniels, Company A. When the smoke finally cleared on the last day, all crews had qualified. With Company A taking top company streamer, and Company C having the top crews.

To help each crew develop, 1st Bn., 8th Infantry emplaced a serious retraining program for all crews that required it. Each crew had several opportunities to fire each table, and retrain in areas in which it was weak. Staff Sgt. Arlie Chewning, the newly minted master gunner for the battalion, oversaw the overall training, while each company master gunner watched



Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry stage their Bradleys in preparation for Table VIII evaluation. Photos courtesy 2nd Lt. David Benson

See Fighting Eagles, Page 9

AMEDD offers scholarship to earn BSN

Courtesy Army Medical Department Enlisted Commissioning Program

The Army Medical Department Enlisted Commissioning Program allows active-duty enlisted Soldiers to obtain a scholarship to attend college in a full-time student status while still receiving full pay and benefits in their current grade.

Upon earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and successfully completing the National Council for Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse, the Soldiers are commissioned second lieutenants in the Army Nurse Corps (active component).

Application to the AECP is open to all active-duty Army enlisted Soldiers, regardless of military occupational specialty, who are able to gain acceptance as a full-time student to an accredited nursing program with an academic and clinical curriculum in English; and graduate within 24 calendar months.

Carefully read through the program guidelines available at www.usarec.army.mil/aecp/. They contain all the information necessary for proper appli-

cation completion.

For information and packet preparation assistance, contact the local Army Education Center or Army Medical Treatment Facility Education Department. You may also contact the AECP program manager, at Defense Switch Network 536-0381 or commercial (800) 223-3735 extension 60381, or AECP@usarec.army.mil.

The U.S. Army is also looking for qualified Soldiers to attend the Interservice Physician Assistant Program at the AMEDD Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

This is an intensive two-year course of study. Graduates of the course receive a commission as a second lieutenant, and a master's degree from the University of Nebraska.

Physician assistants are important members of the AMEDD healthcare team and provide a broad range of medical services. They are the primary medical provider to Soldiers in battalion- and division-level units and may also provide garrison healthcare to Soldiers, family members and other eligible beneficiaries.

Applicants must be enlisted Soldiers, commissioned or warrant officers with a minimum of three years time in service. Other eligibility criteria include, but are not limited to: a GT score of 110 or greater, 60 semester hours of post secondary school education of which 30 hours must include six hours of English, six hours of humanities, six hours of chemistry, six hours of anatomy and physiology, three hours of algebra and three hours of psychology.

Applications for this program are accepted until June 1 of each year and are reviewed by a board in July each year. Complete application procedures are found in Army Regulation 601-20, The Interservice Physician Assistant Training Program, and in the yearly message update to the regulation found at www.cs.amedd.army.mil/ipap/ and <http://healthcare.goarmy.com/docs/paqual3.htm>

For more information, contact Capt. Ronald A. Carden, Interservice Physician Assistant Program Manager, at (800) 223-3735 ext 60386 or (502) 626-0386 DSN:536-0386 FAX: (502) 626-1431 or e-mail at ipap@usarec.army.mil.

Fighting Eagles

From Page 7

the individual companies training. With training that included practice in the Unit-Conduct of Fire Trainer, firing Precision Gunnery System Lasers, and live-fire training, crews progressed from their various levels of proficiency to trained and qualified Bradley crews.

In keeping with the Army doctrine of "train as you fight," all 1st Bn., 8th Infantry Soldiers deployed to the field. Everyone who could go — from cook to mechanic — moved battalion operations to the ranges. A functioning dining facility was set up by the cooks who prepared some highly reviewed meals. Mechanics worked feverishly to maintain vehicles ready to fire. Communications personnel set up a retransmission site to allow communication with main post, and were on hand to fix the inevitable communications problems.

In order for maximum support, the rifle squad members conducted rifle squad training a few weeks earlier. They were then able to act as security, traffic control and in other capacities when necessary so as not to draw away those directly involved in gunnery training. They conducted rifle marksmanship, squad level training, and even a live fire stress fire.

Spc. Ryan Derr, Company C, said the whole training experience was great. He said that during the stress fire "(you) pretty much just sat up on top of this hill. Ran 50 meters. Ran through a culvert pipe. Ran through a big trench while they pop smoke at you. Turn around, shoot a target. Climb up, shoot another target. Go to the top of a four-story tower. Shoot a target. Go all the way back down again. Go to another building. Shoot up a room. It was a smoker."

In conjunction with the live-fire gunnery, Headquarters and Headquarters Company also



Photo courtesy 2nd Lt. David Benson

Soldiers in a Bradley from Machine Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, roll toward home after finishing their mission.

deployed to conduct training on their skills. Those who were not already directly supporting the gunnery mission went to a variety of ranges, including Camp Red Devil, and Range 60. They trained in several skills including .50-caliber machine gun marksmanship, close-quarter battle drills and day and night land navigation.

Throughout the entire gunnery exercise the entire Fighting Eagle team supported the battalion mission. Even the staff elements deployed and conducted their business in the field.

"We even jumped the TOC (and) practiced all of our wartime missions," said Sgt. 1st Cass Darryl Timmerman of the S-3 shop, who also was non-commissioned officer in charge for several of the ranges.

Throughout the entire exercise, each Soldier kept sight of the end goal: preparation for a return to Iraq. The shadow of Iraq hangs heavy over the battalion. Many Soldiers are already veterans of Operation Iraqi

Freedom and they drew on their experience to make the training more realistic. Throughout the exercise, many people discussed the probable upcoming return to Iraq.

Also high on the list of concerns for many Soldiers was the upcoming realignment to a Unit of Action. Soldiers who would be transferred to another battalion were often nervous about potential changes. However, as Daniels said, "I think that a lot of people want to see what the new UA thing is all about."

While the casual observer may be entertained by the spectacle of gunnery, there is a deeper meaning. These Soldiers are not merely preparing to fight the wars of our nation. In the thunder of the 25-mm Bushmaster guns there is a message to the enemies of freedom — beware! Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 8th Infantry await, ready to destroy anyone, anywhere, who would so much as disturb the peace of those who would be free.

Community

Just in case ...

Fort Carson tests force protection

by Pfc. Clint Stein
Mountaineer staff

The Fort Carson community got a taste of what it would be like if there were ever an act of terrorism within the post's gates, as part of a force protection training exercise Sept. 6 to Friday.

In order to test and evaluate procedures that were in place for a terrorist threat and a mass casualty event, Fort Carson officials developed a scenario that would test many aspects of these emergency procedures. It was also designed to evaluate how Fort Carson would make decisions to raise or lower the protection levels, while keeping Forces Command and lateral commands informed.

On the morning of Sept. 8, the first call was made to the Fort Carson fire and rescue that a "bomb" had exploded at Ironhorse Park and there were many people injured. As the Fort Carson Fire Department, Colorado Springs Fire Department, Stratmor Hills Fire Department, American Medical Response and medical rescue teams arrived on scene, they were entering the first stage of the training exercise. While the rescue teams evaluated the casualties, members from Peterson Air Force Base's Fire Department and other evaluators took notes on the performance and actions of the different rescue teams.

"We're looking at the steps they go through from the time they (rescue teams) arrive to the park, all the way until they leave," said Fred Itule, Peterson Fire Department and training evaluator. "They should follow

the National Incident Management Systems. It's a universal procedure that all emergency personnel should follow in a disaster scenario such as this."

The NIMS is designed for when different teams come together from different places and yet work together as if they were all from the same station, explained Itule. "It keeps everyone on the same page."

After the mass casualty exercise in the park, the training continued with a hostage situation at the old hospital complex across the street from Ironhorse Park. This training scenario involved a disgruntled Soldier named "Joe" and four others who took a visiting Army colonel hostage. Personnel from the military police, criminal investigations division, Fort Carson's Special Reaction Team and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office SWAT team were all on hand to help with the hostage dispute.

Negotiations began with the hostage takers about 12:30 p.m. as the CID and El Paso County Sheriff's Office SWAT team set up a makeshift communications and control camp in the parking lot about 100 meters away from the building. While in negotiations with the terrorist, CID learned that Joe was the person responsible for the explosion in the park and it was used as a diversion in order to abduct the colonel.

Finally, after a few hours of talking with the terrorists, the negotiations paid off when they released the general into the custody of the SRT.

Armed with paintball guns, the



Photos by Pfc. Clint Stein

A member of the Fort Carson Special Reaction Team covers his comrades as they drop a telephone into a first floor window during a hostage training exercise. The hostage training exercise was one part of several exercises conducted Sept. 8 and 9 as part of a force protection training scenario.

terrorists were not about to give up until all their demands were met. While distracted in negotiations, Joe and the other terrorists were surprised when the Special Weapons and Tactics team from El Paso County Sheriff's Office stormed the building in order to take control of the situation. The exercise came to a messy, yet colorful end after members of the SWAT team walked out of the building defeated.

After action reviews were conducted with each team or unit involved in the scenarios.

The second day focused on the indirect effects of the day before. The same scenario continued at the Family Readiness Center, with family members of the victims from the park coming to the center for help and support. Although there were 35 people at the park role playing from the 1st Mobilization Brigade and 65 1st Area Support Group, only 16 were needed for the exercise at the Family Readiness Center.

As each role player walked in the door, they were met by a chaperone who escorted them to the different areas of business they needed to take care of that day. There were different stations set up in the building in order to make it easier for the family members to make the necessary arrangements during their visits. Areas of operation included: Army Emergency Relief, Family Readiness Group, Directorate of Public Works,

Crisis Counseling, Child and Youth Services, Casualty Affairs, legal affairs, Red Cross, a chaplain and other services available for the families during a crisis.

As each person played a different role going from station to station, each of the services was put to a practical test.

"We came up with this scenario to test the procedures we have in place and to make the necessary adjustments," said Russ Roux, plans and readiness specialist, Directorate of Plans and Training Management.

After the role players were finished acting out the scenario, Roux met with them to get some feedback on the good and bad experiences they had while conducting the exercise. Just as the emergency rescue teams and hostage negotiation crew, the people working at the different stations met for an after action review at the end of the exercise.

Members of the Fort Carson garrison command staff, as well as others involved in the force protection exercise, met for a final overview to point out the positive things that went well and the negative things that need improvement.

Although the training exercise was a hypothetical situation, the Fort Carson community members wanted to test its force protection resources if a situation similar to any of these scenarios really happened.



Travis Martinez, left, a Casualty Affairs counselor, provides service to Spc. Amanda Clawson, center, 1st Mobilization Brig., who is playing the role of a widowed wife after her hypothetical husband was killed. Kara Varner, right, training instructor at Army Community Service, escorts Clawson through the Family Readiness Center where other crisis services were setup for evaluation.

I do — not anymore:

Clearing up myths about divorce

Capt. Clay Compton
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
Legal Assistance Division

Editor's note: This is the first of a series of articles regarding bad legal advice Soldiers give to other Soldiers. A good rule of thumb, never take legal advice from someone who is not a licensed attorney. This week's installment will discuss the wrong (and sometimes damaging) advice Soldiers receive regarding divorces.

It must be understood upfront that only a state can legally end a marriage. The big question then becomes, which state has the power to grant the divorce?

Numerous myths exist that incorrectly answer this question. Two of the most common misconceptions are that a person can get a divorce in a particular state because that is where they got married, or that a person can get divorced in a particular state because that is where they live.

Every state has its own rules and procedures that individuals must satisfy before its courts will hear a case. Colorado has two requirements that must be satisfied before its courts will allow a person to file for divorce. First, one of the spouses must meet the residency requirement by living in Colorado and in the county where the divorce is to be filed for 90 days before the paperwork is filed.

Second, at least one of the spouses must be a legal resident of Colorado. This requires much more

than simply living here. It requires being present in the state with the intent of making the state your permanent home. In order to determine a person's legal residence the court will look at their connections with the state. These connections include, but are not limited to: paying Colorado state income tax, obtaining a Colorado driver's license, registering to vote in Colorado and owning a home in Colorado. The El Paso County Court pays very close attention to the first two factors.

Many servicemembers claim their state of legal residence is some state other than Colorado (typically Texas, Florida, California or Tennessee) for state income tax purposes. If your leave and earning statement declares that you are a resident of some state other than Colorado, you will probably not meet Colorado's legal residency requirement. However, only one of the spouses needs to meet these requirements. Thus, if a servicemember's dependent spouse is employed in Colorado (paying state income tax) the spouse will probably be considered a legal resident of Colorado. That same servicemember can now file in Colorado because only one of the spouses needs to be a legal resident of the state.

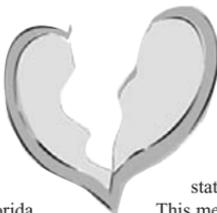
Additionally, there seems to be a widespread misunderstanding among Soldiers and their spouses that a Soldier's former spouse can only get a portion of

military retirement if they were married for more than 10 years. There is no minimum length of time required to be married before a former spouse is entitled to receive a portion of the retirement. The Soldier can give the entire amount to the former spouse or the former spouse can waive the right to receive any. Retirement is like any other marital property state; the spouses are free to negotiate a settlement. If the spouses cannot agree, the court will divide the property according to state law.

Colorado is not a community property state; it is an "equitable distribution" one.

This means that if the judge has to divide up the property it will be done in a fair manner, not necessarily 50-50. In Colorado, if the spouses cannot agree on how to divide the retirement the judge will divide it following a formula that gives the dependent spouse half of the retirement that was earned during marriage. For example, if a Soldier retires after 20 years of service and was married for 10 of those years, the dependent spouse is entitled to half of the amount that was earned during the 10 years of marriage and service overlap ($10/20 \times 1/2 = 1/4$).

If you have questions about divorce, or have heard other divorce myths that need to be cleared up, call the Fort Carson Legal Assistance Office at 526-5572 or 526-5573. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Community Briefs

Miscellaneous

Family Readiness Group Leader Forum — The Forces Command Family Readiness Brigade assistants invite all FRG advisors and leaders to attend their first FRG leader forum Sept. 24 at the Elkhorn Conference Center from 9 to 11 a.m. Registration is required. Limited childcare is available.

Explore ways to recruit volunteers, get ideas for social activities, network with other FRG leaders and learn ideas for fundraising.

Call Connie Roy at 524-1278, Shirley Rudd at 526-3581 or Kim Alexander at 526-4662 for more information.

Education fair — There will be an education fair at the Special Events Center, building 1829, Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be information about eArmyU, ROTC, veterans' affairs benefits and the "Troops to Teachers" program.

Luncheon — The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association is holding its next luncheon Sept. 27 at the Peterson Enlisted Club and is \$13. Col. Dave Kovach, commander of the Air Force Communications Agency, is speaking. For reservations, please call Judy Arnold at 277-4028.

Upcoming events with the local AFCEA chapter include different symposia being held in the Colorado Springs area, scholarships available and a host of other activities. For more information on membership, contact Bill Gaumer at 554-5352 or Capt. Becky Oldon at 554-3706.

Harmony in Motion — Harmony in Motion, Fort Carson's premier vocal ensemble, is currently holding auditions. Positions are limited and only the best will be accepted. Call Sgt. Travis Claybrooks at 338-2340 for more information.

New TRIWEST number — TRIWEST will have a new appointment number Oct. 1. The toll-free number will change from (888) TRIWEST to (866) 427-6606, and the local numbers will be disconnected. The change is due to a change in phone service contracts.

TRICARE customer assistance — The TRICARE Customer Assistance Center located at 5475 Mark Dabbling Blvd. will close Oct. 1. Following the closure, military beneficiaries will need to go to one of the TRICARE Service Centers located in the three military treatment facilities in Colorado Springs or the Fort Carson Welcome Center.

For more information, call 264-5000, option 4.

Anniversary celebration — Prussman Chapel Gospel Service will be having its 33rd Anniversary Sept. 26 at 4 p.m. at the chapel building 1850. The speaker will be Minister John Harris from Trinity Baptist Church. Everyone is welcome.

Musician needed — Prussman Gospel Service is looking for a piano, organ or keyboard player. Experience is a must. If anyone is interested in this position, call Chap. (Capt.) Jamison Bowman at 200-3909 or Prussman Chapel at 524-2871.

New requirements for pet travel to Europe — Beginning Oct. 1, the requirements for Soldiers making a permanent change of station to Europe with their pets will change. Pets will be required to have a specific type of microchip. The microchips must be ISO compatible, which is not a type of chip generally administered in the United States. So, even if your dog has a microchip, unless it is ISO compatible, it will not be adequate for travel into Europe. If you will be PCSing to Europe, come to the Fort Carson Veterinary Treatment Facility in building 6001, Nelson Blvd., just inside Gate 1.

Fort Carson OSC charitable funds — Each year, the Fort Carson Officers' Spouses' Club distributes charitable funds to assist and support nonprofit organizations. The FCOSC is currently accepting applications for distribution of these funds. The funds will be dis-

bursed in late November 2004 following a review and selection process of all applications by the FCOSC. To request an application, contact Bambi Brimmer, FCOSC Welfare Chairperson via e-mail at fortcarson_officersspousesclub@yahoo.com or P.O. Box 12886, Fort Carson, CO 80913. All applications must be postmarked by Sept. 30.

Family Readiness Group Leader forum — The Forces Command Family Readiness Group brigade assistants invite all FRG advisors and leaders to attend their first FRG leader forum Sept. 24 at the Elkhorn Conference Center from 9 to 11 a.m.

Explore ways to recruit volunteers, get ideas for fun, social activities, network with other FRG leaders and learn new ideas for fundraising.

Registration is required; limited child-care is available. Call Connie Roy at 524-1278 or Shirley Rudd at 526-3581 for more information.

Volunteer Dental Assistant Program — The American Red Cross is accepting applications for the Volunteer Dental Assistant Program. Applications may be picked up at the Red Cross office, building 1526, room 272, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Deadline for applications is Sept. 20. For more information, call 526-2311.

The American Red Cross is seeking individuals who are interested in volunteer leadership positions, public speaking at pre-deployment/deployment briefings and other public speaking engagements. Child-care funds are available. For information, call 526-2311.

Seven Habits of Highly Effective Military Families — Building a strong, healthy and successful family is challenging under the best of circumstances. Military families have their own special set of challenges that only they can understand. Fort Carson's Family Advocacy Program is happy to bring to the community a new program specifically designed to address the concerns that matter most to military families. In "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Military Families," they'll discuss more than basic family issues, they'll cover topics such as finances, relocation, deployment and many other issues that affect military families. This three-session class will meet on the following dates:

Thursdays: Oct. 6, 13 and 20 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the ACS Family University, building 1161 (off of Berkeley Avenue and Ellis Street).

- Free child-care is available.
- Refreshments, books and other learning materials will be provided.
- This class is free and open to all military families.
- Register now, call ACS at 526-4590.

Visit us at www.carson.army.mil (Click on "Army Community Service").

Food safety month — Military food inspectors will be handing out food safety pamphlets, talking to the public about food safety and answering questions at the front entrance to the commissary Sept. 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in recognition of September as National Food Safety Month.

Yard Sale — Fort Carson Mayors' 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, and Sept. 18, Oct. 2 and 16, and Nov. 6 and 20.

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:

- Residents are responsible for conducting their 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 regulations about 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



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

Atencion a las familias HISPANAS de Fort Carson

Estamos anunciando la primera clase de AFTB nivel 1 en español de este trimestre.



El entrenamiento es para proveer una forma de vida que equipa a todos los que pertenecen al "AMERICA'S ARMY" con el mayor funcionamiento en todo momento y con independencia.

Lunes, Septiembre 13, 2004 de 9:15 a 2:00
Miércoles, Septiembre 15, 2004 de 9:15 a 12:30
La clase se llevara a cabo en el edificio 1526 ACS.



the program coordinator at 526-1082 or 526-1049.

Active-duty servicewomen are invited to participate in a women in the military self-diagnosis study — If you are an active-duty female and have symptoms of a vaginal infection (vaginal discharge that looks or smells abnormal; itching, burning, pain inside or outside your vagina) or a urinary tract infection (pain or burning upon urination; frequent urination; or greater than normal urge to urinate), you are invited to participate in a research study to test military women's ability to use a newly developed self-diagnosis kit to determine the cause of their vaginal/urinary symptoms.

If you are not on your period and are not pregnant, call DiRaimondo Troop Medical Clinic, 524-2047 or 524-2051 to schedule an appointment with Lynn Money, research nurse practitioner. When you call for an appointment, you must mention that you want to participate in the research study.

ESCO Scrapbook fundraiser — Come and catch up on all those photos you've set aside Sept. 11, 2 to 7:30 p.m. at Waa-Nibe House, building 1007.

The cost is \$25 to register in advance and \$30 at the door. Cost includes dinner. If you're new to scrapbooking and want to see what it's all about, bring six to 10 photos for a product presentation and demonstration. Bring someone new and receive a \$25 credit on your Memory Keepers Card. There will also be a raffle for a 12 by 12 inch album, and 15 percent of product purchase will be donated to ESCO.

If you are unable to attend but would like to sign up and would like your purchase go toward ESCO, call Jessica Masisak at 597-1710.

Claims against the estate: With deepest regrets to the family of Sgt. Darryl Morgan, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to his estate should contact 1st Lt. Travis Edwards at 526-1776.

Claims against the estate: With deepest regrets to the family of Sgt. 1st Class Andre V. McDaniel, deceased. Anyone having claims against or indebtedness to his estate should contact Capt. Christopher Peterson at 526-2796.

Local chosen for COS, Retiree Council

by **Spc. Stephen Kretsinger**
Mountaineer staff

Fort Carson, with about 29,000 military retirees, has the second largest retiree population in the United States after Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Along with thousands of others from the Forces Command region, those retirees now have a direct line of communication to the Chief of Staff of the Army.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Lonny Cupp, co-chairman, Fort Carson Retiree Council, has been selected to represent FORSCOM and Northwest Installation Management Agency region retirees at the Chief of Staff, Army Retiree Council. Cupp beat out nominees from Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Lewis, Wash., and other FORSCOM installations to be selected for this position. His term began Aug. 1 and will terminate in four years.

"It is very, very difficult to get selected for this," said Marlyce Haagenson, retirement services officer, 7th Infantry Division. "It's equivalent for a retiree to be appointed to the Joint Chief of Staff."

Haagenson said she believes this is the first person from the Mountain Post Team to ever be selected for this position.

"I will be a liaison between retirees within the Forces Command to the Chief's council with input on issues that retirees think need to be changed or upgraded or improved," said Cupp.

Cupp will take recommendations from the regional retiree council to meetings of the Chief of Staff, Army Retiree Council by the different representatives.

"Once or twice a year, they will take me back on active duty for a week at a time and we go to Washington for meetings," said Cupp.

"That council will make a recommendation to the Chief of Staff of the Army and from there, if he can make the change with the flick of a pen, he will do it. If not, he needs to take the issues higher to the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of Defense and

on to the congress, if need be."

Being a member of the COS, Army Retiree Council also allows Cupp to bring relevant information back from the meetings and disseminate it to the retiree community.

Cupp has been a member of the Fort Carson Retiree Council since 1991 when he retired from military service.

"Fort Carson actually has responsibility for Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and we've actually picked up a portion of Idaho," said Cupp. "We have sub councils in some of those areas. In other, smaller communities, we have fraternal organizations to put out information for the retirees, such as VFWs (Veterans of Foreign Wars)."

Soon after joining the Fort Carson Retiree Council, Cupp took the position of co-chairman and has represented military retirees and widows ever since.

"My family has always been involved in the community, my wife and my kids both," said Cupp. "For years we were some of the ones who did project Santa Claus for Toys for Tots.

"A good friend of mine was the vice chairman of the retiree council at the time. My friend said, 'Well, you're involved with the community a lot, so why don't you get involved with the retiree council?' so I did. I started out as a member and took on a number of the projects, Retiree Days and Golf Tournaments and other things. In '93 my friend said, 'I've been vice chairman now for quite awhile. I'm going to recommend that they make you the vice chairman. They subsequently changed the title to co-chairman to coincide with the Chief's retiree council, because they have co-chairmen not vice chairmen.'"

Cupp has been very active in local community activities, which is something the COS, Army Retiree Council looks for in a representative, said Haagenson.

"He belongs to the chamber of commerce," said

Haagenson. "He's a local businessman. He was a member and president of NCOA (Noncommissioned Officers Association), SERTOMA (Service to Mankind) and TREA (The Retired Enlisted Association). He's heavily involved in civic things and that's what they look for as well as retired military."

Haagenson said that Cupp's military experience makes him more than qualified for this position.

"He was a command sergeant major of a combat unit," said Haagenson. "He's a Vietnam vet. He's aware of medical issues that retirees are having; Gulf War vets, Vietnam vets, Agent Orange exposure, trouble shooting with the VA. He's helped Soldiers all of his life. I can't think of anyone more qualified."

Cupp's military career spanned from 1967 to 1991 and he has been stationed all over the world in many capacities.

"I was a crew chief, a flight platoon sergeant, a chief of survey, an artillery platoon sergeant, a first sergeant, and a command sergeant major of aviation and artillery units," said Cupp.

Cupp has been stationed with units in Southeast Asia, Turkey, Germany, Europe and a plethora of stateside units.

"I enjoyed my stint," said Cupp. "I spent a little over 12 years in helicopters, in aviation, flying, then got moved into the nuclear weapons program for the field artillery.

"I joined because of patriotism and I thought it was the right thing to do," said Cupp. "I volunteered for Vietnam although I was teaching at Fort Rucker at the time. I re-enlisted after I got back from Vietnam. I found out I liked the Army and decided I would give it another try."

Cupp hopes to represent the retiree community to the best of his ability and make a difference.

"My goal is to represent the retirees in the most



Photo by Sgt. Chris Smith

Easy does it ...

Capt. Sunny Mitchell putts in the ball on the Fort Carson Golf Course Tuesday as a part of the All-Services Golf Tournament. Mitchell was also part of a group of golfers trying out for the women's All-Army Golf Team.

Volunteering

Make a difference in your community

by **Joey Bautista**

Installation Volunteer Coordinator

Millions of Americans across the country are expected to spend Oct. 23, Make a Difference Day, doing volunteer projects to improve their communities and help neighbors in need.

Make a Difference Day is the nation's largest, most encompassing effort to enlist local volunteers for a single day of helping others. Created by USA Weekend Magazine, in partnership with the Points of Light Foundation, Make a Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. Last year, more than two million people took part in the massive effort to do "good" in communities around the country. This year, the 14th Make a Difference Day is expected to produce the largest turnout of volunteers ever.

For the eighth year in Colorado Springs, Agilent Technologies, Hewett-Packard, Intel Corporation, Colorado Springs Utilities, Air Force Academy, Peterson Air Force Base, Fort Carson, Care and Share, Pikes Peak Volunteer Center and United Way will oversee Colorado's largest Make a Difference Day event. Fort Carson will host more than 1,000 volunteers in various projects.

Individuals, corporations and communities who work together to reach worthwhile goals bring about positive change. Each year, citizens volunteer their time, talents and expertise in projects that make an important difference throughout the Pikes Peak region.

2004 Colorado Springs' projects are:

Fort Carson Ironhorse Park

(100 plus volunteers): Projects include general outdoor beautification of the park, tree trimming, flower bed work, landscaping/flower bed repair, replacement of bleachers in the amphitheater, park fence repair, stain fences and bridges and build and repair pathways. Supplies and tools are provided. Work boots and gloves and sturdy shoes are required. Volunteers ages 16 and older and families with children are welcome; however, keep in mind that parents or guardians need to be responsible for monitoring children. Volunteers will meet at the Ironhorse Park amphitheater at 9 a.m. Lunch is provided to all volunteers.

Care and Share, Inc.

(25 volunteers): 4875 Northpark Drive. Care and Share is a food bank, which distributes more than 4 million pounds of food to other nonprofits throughout southern Colorado. On Make a Difference Day, they will be sorting tens of thousands of pounds of donated food for distribution. Everything will be provided. Please dress in business casual attire.

Goodwill Industries

(50 volunteers): 2320 W. Colorado Ave. Goodwill industries helps people achieve a higher level of personal and economic independence. Volunteers will assist in retail and processing operations, stocking

merchandise and general beautification. Project can be at one site or several sites. Supplies and tools are provided. Volunteers must be ages 16 or older. Lunch will be provided to all volunteers.

Greccio Housing

(50 volunteers): 1808 W. Colorado Ave. Greccio Housing provides permanent, affordable apartment rental housing to families and individuals with low income. Projects will include indoor/outdoor painting, general yard work, raking and bagging leaves, trimming shrubs and trees, cleaning gutters, grounds clean up and landscaping. Supplies, tools and lunch will be provided to all volunteers.

Garden of the Gods erosion control

(200 volunteers): Sponsored by Rocky Mountain Field Institute, the project consists of restoration and preservation of key natural areas. Building check dams to slow erosion in gullies near the Scotsman Trail and moving rocks by hand and in buckets for the check dams. Supplies and tools are provided. Work boots and gloves and sturdy shoes are required. Bring water bottle or container. Volunteers will meet at the main entrance of the Garden of the Gods at 8 a.m.

If you are interested in volunteering in Make a Difference Day, stop by and register at the Installation Volunteer Office, Army Community Service, building 1526. For more information, call Joey Bautista, Installation Volunteer Coordinator, at 526-4590 or 526-1082.

Chaplain's Corner

New year beginning every day

Commentary by Chap. (Maj.)
Duane H. Kincaid

Medical Activity Chaplain

It seems strange to think about a new year in September, but if you are Jewish, Rosh Hashana takes place this week, the beginning of the Jewish New Year.

It is also the beginning of the Ten Days of Penitence, which end with Yom Kippur. For the Jews, this is a time of sincere prayer and meditation, to help them experience the reality of God and dedicate themselves anew to the establishment of his kingdom on earth — the reign of freedom, justice and peace.

It is interesting to me that the new year comes at different times for different people; Chinese new year, Jewish new year, and even the government's new fiscal year, which is not too far away. You'd think we could all

get on the same sheet of music and have just one new year. Of course, we know that much of the confusion is caused by different calendars, historical differences and tradition. Truth be known, there are many different new year dates and traditions around the world.



There is something within us all that longs for a new beginning, a second chance or maybe a good riddance to the past. The good thing about having so many new years is that we can almost claim a new year at any time. It's funny how we want to throw

away those things that are broken, failed or marred, and then quickly grab something new. We live in a throw away society, where everyone knows it's cheaper to throw out something that's broken and buy a new one, and disposable products are easy

See Chaplain's Corner, Page 23

Chapel briefs

Wiccan celebration —

Samhain (pronounced: 'sow-in') is a Celtic name and literally means summer's end. This is the last of the harvest celebrations and the Wiccan's new year; also known as Hallowmas, All Hallow's Eve, Halloween, and other names according to tradition. Wiccans revere Samhain as a time for reflection and transformation, honoring the dearly departed and the harvest of the season (literally and metaphorically speaking), and preparing for winter mentally, emotionally, spiritually and physically. It is a time for remembering, studying, to meditate and releasing.

The holiday is celebrated on the night of Oct. 31 with decorations of marigolds, chrysanthemum, autumn leaves, pumpkins and gourds. It begins with food and

drink that are relevant to the season, such as pumpkin soup, spiced apple cider, breads and wine. There are games for children like bobbing for apples, with lots of singing and raffle prizes. There are extra plates at the dinner table, walkways are lit with Jack-O-Lanterns and candles are placed in windows hoping the spirits of loved ones can find their way.

The ceremony is held as close to midnight as possible. This is for a few reasons: at midnight the summer season ends and fall begins, it's symbolic that the God has crossed over to the other world, and at the stroke of midnight is when the curtain gets pulled back for a moment so the Earth world and the Spirit world can commune, if so desired. At midnight the greeting is shared, "Happy New Year," which is the goal.

Chapel

AWANA: Because children matter to God — The Fort Carson AWANA Club will kick off its 2004/2005 season today at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. The group meets Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m.

AWANA is an international, nondenominational organization; its goal is to reach young people with the Gospel of Christ, and train them to serve him. For more than 50 years, AWANA clubs have been reaching this goal through meetings that include fast paced and exciting games, scripture memorization and Bible-based lessons.

The Fort Carson club has spaces available for children from 3 years of age to 8th grade. We are also looking for committed individuals with a heart for teaching children God's word to be on our leadership team.

AWANA is a safe place children can go to feel accepted and get clear guidelines for living in a world full of conflicting messages. To register your children or for more information, contact Stacy Chapman at 382-3970.

Native American services — The He Skka Akicita Inipi, is located on Fort Carson. All native and non-native 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 382-5331, (c) 330-9537, or (e-mail) micheal.dunning@carson.army.mil, or Charles Erwin at 382-8177, (e-mail) erwin106@juno.com, or Zoe Goodblanket at 442-0929 for more information and directions.

Chapel Schedule ROMAN CATHOLIC

Day	Time	Service	Chapel	Location	Contact Person
M-W-F	noon	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Battiato/649-5260
Tues., Wed., Thurs.	noon	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Amano/526-5769
Saturday	5 p.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Amano/526-5769
Sunday	8 a.m.	Mass	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Amano/526-5769
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Amano/526-5769
Sunday	10:45 a.m.	CRE	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/524-2458
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Battiato/649-5260
Sunday	12:15 p.m.	Mass	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Amano/526-5769
Tuesday	7 p.m.	RCIA	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/524-2458
Saturday	4 p.m.	Reconciliation	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Amano/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. Deppeir/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Prot./Gospel	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Bowman/526-5513
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Bowman/526-5513
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Dr. Scheck/526-5626
Tuesday	9 a.m.	PWOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Deppeir/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Contemporary	Veterans'	Magrath & Titus	Chap. Martine/526-8890
Tuesday	7 p.m.	PYOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Ms. Scheck/231-9511

LITURGICAL

Sunday	10:45 a.m.	Lutheran/Anglican	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Mitchell/526-3888
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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 Dalugdu/330-7873
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NATIVE AMERICAN SWEATLODGE

Native American Sweatlodge ceremonies (He Skka 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 101 & Ecclesiastes 7-9
- Saturday** — Psalms 102 & Ecclesiastes 10-12
- Sunday** — Psalms 103 & Song of Solomon 1-4
- Monday** — Psalms 104 & Song of Solomon 5-6
- Tuesday** — Psalms 105 & Jeremiah 1-3
- Wednesday** — Psalms 106 & Jeremiah 4-6
- Thursday** — Psalms 107 & Jeremiah 7-9

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 with the Chaplain community and pray for these individuals and organizations.

The Army Cycle of Prayer. Please pray this week for the following:

Unit: For the Soldiers and leaders of the Joint Task Force GITMO assigned to duty in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Army: For Lt. Gen. Roger C. Schultz, director, Army National Guard, and the military and civilian personnel who work in the Office of the Chief of National Guard Bureau.

State: For all the Soldiers and families from the state of Montana. Pray also for the Gov. Judy Martz, the state legislators and local officials of the "Big Sky Country State."

Nation: For Andrew H. Card Jr. in his role as chief of staff for the president of the United States. Pray also for all the personnel who work in the office of the chief of staff in the White House.

Religious: For the Jewish members of the Army family as they celebrate Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement (Sept. 25).

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

Soldier Show *entertains Fort Carson*

by Sgt. Jon Wiley
Mountaineer staff

Surprise, delight and in moments, downright awe — those are a few of the emotions that flashed across the faces of the audience members at the 2004 U.S. Army Soldier Show.

The show, which has been running since May and has been staged at Army installations throughout Europe and the United States, stopped at Fort Carson Sept. 9 and Friday for four performances at McMahon Theater.

As in years past, the cast and crew made up entirely of active duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers gave outstanding professional performances for the Mountain Post.

From the lighting, to the choreography, to the vocal talent — there is nothing amateurish about this amateur production.

Before touring, Soldier performers from units ranging from military police to signal had six weeks to rehearse the show at Fort Belvoir, Va., under the direction of a civilian artistic staff. After that, they hit the road where they work an average of 14-hour days, seven days a week.

This year, the 90-minute show is themed “Heart of a Soldier” and features songs from many different genres including country, R&B, gospel, rap, rock, pop, oldies and even classical opera and were performed as solos, duets and group, high-energy, fast-paced production numbers.

As the theme suggests, the show has plenty of slow

songs staged as touching moments of calls and e-mails home from Soldiers to their spouses, parents and other loved ones, but it captures the lighter side of a Soldier’s heart as well. For many songs, the performers don outrageous wigs and do impersonations of musical artists ranging from Prince and Outkast to Ozzy Osbourne and Gene Simmons.

Audience members were clearly entertained as they watched. They vacillated between howls of laughter and shouts of encouragement such as — “you go girl!”

Judging by their reaction, the show’s performers clearly achieved their objective which is stated simply as “Soldiers entertaining Soldiers.”



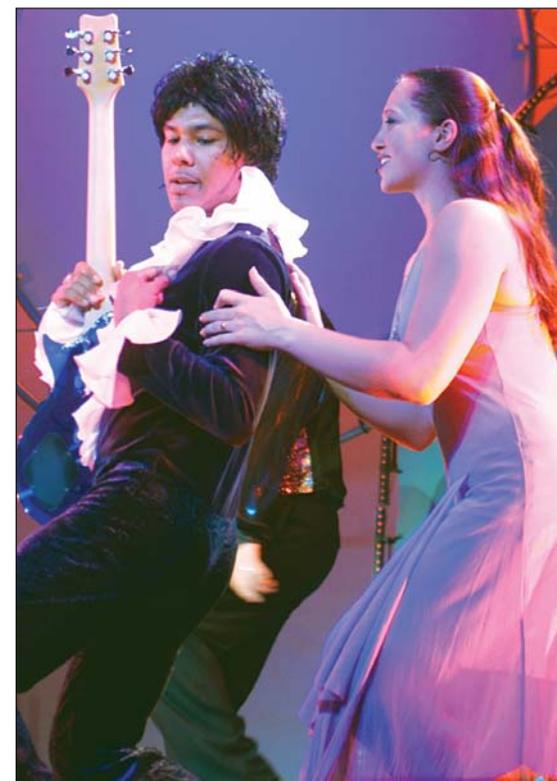
Sgt. Kevin Cherry, 392nd Army Band, Fort Lee, Va., does Outkast’s “I like the way you move.”



Spc. Emily Plasterer, 38th Infantry Division Band, Indianapolis, Ind., Army National Guard, performs Rascal Flatts’ “I Melt” with Spc. Corey McAleesejergins, Company D, 327th Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C.



Performers belt out “Soldiers, Soldiers —united we stand” in the show’s opening number.



Photos by Sgt. Jon Wiley

The Soldier formerly known as Pfc. Clarence Reeves III, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 3rd Battalion, 13th Field Artillery, Fort Sill, Okla., gets funky doing a rendition of Prince’s “Kiss.”



Spc. Danika Florence, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 87th Combat Support Battalion, Fort Stewart, Ga., gets ready for the Sept. 9 performance in the dressing room.



Spc. James Becton, Company B, 58th Aviation Regiment, Camp Red Cloud, Korea, displays the dancing skills he honed in many off-Broadway productions before joining the Army.



Pfc. Kevin Allen, Military Police Company D, Fort McPherson, Ga., whips his hair around while singing Kiss’ “Rock and Roll All Night” during the headbanger medley portion of the show.

Chaplain's corner

From Page 17

and convenient with little or no work involved. Could it be that we see our lives in the same way?

The divorce rate is at an all-time high, suicide is all too common, homelessness, loneliness and brokenness abound. It is no wonder why we feel the need to erase and start again, and again and again. But there is hope, because, "... every new day God does not fail." (Zephaniah 3:5) No matter how broken or terrible our lives become, God is in control, and remains unmovable and steadfast.

God gives us each new day, a gift of 24 hours to use as we wish, a clean canvas waiting for our use. We don't have to grab every new year that comes along, because God makes all things new — even you. The best thing is, that the old isn't thrown away, but restored and renewed. God can take who and what we are and

Retiree

From Page 14

efficient manner that I can and try to make their lives better," said Cupp. "One of the biggest problems that we find retirees have is that they divorce themselves from the military community. They should stay involved. They should either be a member of a veterans' organization or a retiree council no matter where they move; do anything they can to stay updated on the issues."

Chapel briefs

Soldiers' Memorial Chapel fall religious education program — Protestant Religious Education at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel: Registration is under way for Protestant Sunday School from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday Children's Church from 11 a.m. and AWANA, Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m.

Sunday School includes combined classes for children and four adult Bible studies with special studies for young couples and single Soldiers.

Registration may be completed during business hours and on Sunday morning.

Volunteer teachers and musicians are needed. For information, contact Dr. Dennis Scheck at 526-5626

Catholic Family Religious Education: Registration is currently under way for all Catholic Family Religious Education programs. Please complete the registration forms at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel during duties hours and on Sunday morning.

Space is limited so register today. For information, contact Pat Treacy at 524-2458.

Catholic Women of Fort Carson — Please join us as we kick off a new year. Our First Friday gathering will meet Sept. 10 beginning with Rosary and Mass at 5 p.m. A welcome program and light supper will follow. New this year is our Second Thursday gathering starting Sept. 9. The program will include Rosary and Bible study starting at 9:30 a.m. followed by the noon Mass. Our Bible study will include selected books by Scott Hahn. The first selection will be Swear to God: The promise and Power of the Sacraments. Child-care is free for the first Friday and second Thursday; call Melanie Sorenson at 392-2983 three days prior to the gathering. Copies of the 2004 to 2005 Catholic Women of Fort Carson flier are available at the entrance to Soldiers' Memorial Chapel. Call Dominique Haftmann at 559-6680 for more information.

make it into something beautiful. He can take a broken marriage and repair wounded hearts and spirits. He can lift us from dark, dreary days and reveal to us the light of his glory. God does not give up on us, so why are we

so eager to give up on ourselves?

The Jewish people take this time to pray and seek God's kingdom, but it seems to me that this should be an on-going process. Each day we should pray and seek God's help and bless-

ing; each day we need to acknowledge his presence; each day we ought to offer him thanks and praise. By doing so, we just might discover that new years beginnings happen with every new day.

Retiree Appreciation Day events

Oct. 30, Elkhorn Conference Center

7 a.m. to noon — Continental Breakfast; Snacks

8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. — Welcome by the CG, 7th

Division; informal discussion w/CG & Garrison Staff

8 a.m. to noon — Information Fair and Medical

Services; participants listed below.

Medical/dental: Blood pressure, blood sugar, TRICARE information, long-term care basics, Delta Dental, eye exam, wellness center, preventive dental, shots*

* Flu shots will be given if the vaccine arrives before Oct. 30; it is expected to arrive before then.

Other services and information available:

Post vehicle registration services and DAV, Social Security and ID Cards/DEERS, Veteran's Affairs, MOAA/TREA, retired pay accounts, Society of Military Widows, Silver Key, BP Information, Armed Forces National Bank, Army Community Service, living wills (Staff Judge Advocate Office), Security Service CU, NCOA, Directorate of Community Activities, Outdoor Recreation and more.

Door prizes awarded at the Elkhorn every hour starting at 8 a.m. Post Exchange and Commissary specials.

A drawing at the PX for a special prize donated by AAFES; you need not be present to win.



Out & About

Sept 17 - 24, 2004

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Mon - Thurs 11 am - 8 pm
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Sat - Sun 10 am - 6 pm

STORYTIME EVERY WEDNESDAY 10:30 am - 11 am

Children ages 3 to 6
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Doors open at 10:15 am.
Use the east doors.

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SIGN-UPS AT 6PM. FIRST COME - FIRST PLAY!!!**

**FINALS HELD ON OCTOBER 5TH
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The mining town of Cripple Creek is in an old volcano crater. The snow-covered Rocky Mountains are in the background.

Cripple Creek:

A Victorian era gold-mining town with history, attractions

Story and photos by Nel Lampe Mountaineer staff

Cripple Creek, about 45 minutes west of Colorado Springs, became the fourth largest city in Colorado in just a few years' time. The reason for this phenomenal growth? Gold.

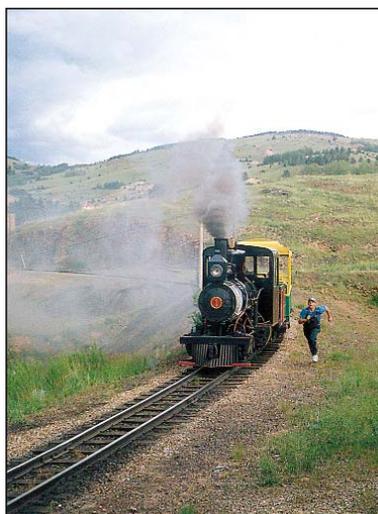
Surveyors in 1873 predicted that

gold might be found in the Cripple Creek area because it was an old volcano crater.

But, it wasn't until 1890 that Bob Womack discovered gold-bearing silver sylvanite in nearby Poverty Gulch.

Womack, who sometimes worked as a cowboy, spent much of his time looking for gold. When he said he'd finally found gold, townspeople didn't take it seriously. That chunk of gray rock he displayed didn't look like anybody expected gold to look like.

Winfield Scott Stratton, a Colorado Springs carpenter, decided he'd check out Womack's story. Stratton spent a lot of time looking for gold and now he looked around Cripple Creek. He finally staked a claim close to the town of Victor, calling it the "Independence."



A train crew member runs past the locomotive of the Cripple Creek and Victor Railroad in order to set a track switch.

Stratton struck gold in the Independence, earning about \$1 million a year.

Other prospectors also struck gold in the area and thousands of people rushed to the district. In just a few months, the population grew from a few cowboys to a population of several hundred.

Someone started a barber shop in a canvas tent, followed quickly by a makeshift bar. More buildings sprang up – usually log cabins or tents.

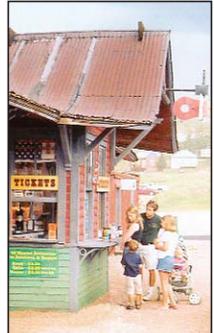
Originally called Fremont, the town was eventually named Cripple Creek. The gold mining district was also called Cripple Creek, although other towns and settlements were established. The Cripple Creek District was the world's greatest gold camp – more than \$7 billion in gold was mined.

Houses, churches, businesses and gambling halls were built. There was a 1,200-seat opera house down the street from brothels.

Modern improvements came quickly to Cripple Creek as telephone, tele-



The Homestead House Museum is furnished with Victorian-era antiques.



Places to see in the Pikes Peak area.

Cripple Creek

From Page 25

graph and electricity became available in the first year, soon followed by a mining exchange and banking facilities.

A trolley line took miners to work. There were two train stations with dozens of trains coming and going daily. Four daily newspapers were published.

People from Denver came by train to shop in Cripple Creek stores. Boxing matches, baseball games, horse races and bull fights were held. Life in Cripple Creek was good.

About five years after gold was found in Cripple Creek, tragedy struck – two fires within days of each other almost destroyed the town. The ramshackle cabins and tents burned quickly.

Almost immediately, citizens began rebuilding, but this time, more permanent construction was used. Buildings were constructed of brick or stone. Many of those 1896 buildings still line downtown Cripple Creek streets. By 1900, Cripple Creek's population hovered around 30,000. The population of the district was about 50,000.



A statue of Bob Womack, who discovered gold in the Cripple Creek area, is in the city's park, near the 1904 city hall.

The gold mining prosperity lasted about 20 years before taking a big downturn.

Processing Cripple Creek gold was expensive; the ore had to be shipped to processing plants and the gold extracted from the hard rock.

Cripple Creek was involved in a violent labor struggle. Expenses were up and profits were down. Although much of the gold is believed to still remain in the ground, it became too expensive to

mine. Water seeped into the mines. Many mines closed during World War I and World War II. The railroads quit operating. Mine workers and prospectors moved on to other gold mines and the population of Cripple Creek dwindled.

There wasn't much life left in Cripple Creek post World War II. A few antique stores, cafes and souvenir shops served the tourists who visited the mining district to catch a melodrama in the Imperial Hotel or to see the aspens change color in the fall.

Then came another sort of "gold strike" in 1991, in the form of small stakes gambling. Cripple Creek again was booming. Historic buildings were refurbished and turned into casinos. New casinos were built. People again visit Cripple Creek, looking for a "jackpot" or a bargain meal.

Cripple Creek attracts adults to its casinos, but children aren't allowed, except to pass through. Some casinos have arcades for those under 21.

For a family excursion, skip the casinos and enjoy other Cripple Creek family-style activities during the year, such as the "Donkey Derby Days," a barbecue blaze-off, chili contest, concerts or film festival. The welcome center can provide details about special events; call them at (877) 858-GOLD.

Several attractions are family oriented, such as the Molly Kathleen Mine tour and summer melodrama productions in the Butte Opera House.

The Cripple Creek District Museum, housed in the 1895 Midland Railway depot, is next to the welcome center at the town's entrance.

The museum's artifacts portray the gold boom and history of Cripple Creek, including a \$100,000 piece of gold ore and Victorian-age clothing and furniture.

Two-hour parking is free in front of the museum.

Next to the museum is the Cripple Creek and Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad which runs along the old Midland Terminal Railway bed. The train takes passengers on a round-trip 45-minute ride through Poverty Gulch and past several gold mines and costs \$9.50 for adults and \$5 for children ages 3 to 12.

The Old Homestead Museum on Myers Street may be one of the most unique museums anywhere. It was one of Cripple Creek's most lavish bawdy houses with elegant Victorian furnishings. The house is a Victorian museum in itself. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children ages 10 to 12, and free for those under 10. The museum is open from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.

During the last two weekends in September, the Two-Mile High Four-Wheel Drive Club offers free tours to see the aspen trees in fall color, beginning at 9 a.m. each day. Meet in front of the welcome center.

Once you leave the free welcome center parking lot, free parking in Cripple Creek is very limited, although the casinos have paid parking lots. You can usually get a refund on the parking



The Cripple Creek and Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad approaches the ghost town of Anaconda. During the gold rush, 1,500 people lived in Anaconda.



The Cripple Creek and Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad engineer stokes the engine's fire box. The engine runs on coal.

ticket by spending an hour or so in the casino. Eat a meal in the casino and get the parking ticket validated. There may even be meal discount coupons attached to the parking ticket.

To reach Cripple Creek, take Interstate 25 north or Highway 115 to Cimarron Street, then take Highway 24 west. Go west, through Woodland Park to Divide. At Divide, take Highway 67 south for 18 miles to Cripple Creek.

The welcome center is on the left when entering Cripple Creek. It's in an old railroad car.

Or, leave the driving to The Ramblin Express bus, which runs regular service and charters to Cripple Creek from Colorado Springs; call 590-8687 for information.



Visitors approach the District Museum, housed in the former Midland Railroad Terminal.

Just the Facts

- **Travel time** one hour
 - **For ages** families
 - **Type** historic mining town
 - **Fun factor** ★★★★★ Out of 5 stars)
 - **Wallet damage** varies
 - \$ = Less than \$20
 - \$\$ = \$21 to \$40
 - \$\$\$ = \$41 to \$60
 - \$\$\$\$ = \$61 to \$80
- (Based on a family of four)

Happenings

Get Out!

Whose line is it?

Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, who appear in "Whose Line is it Anyway?" are at the Pikes Peak Center Sept. 24, 190 S. Cascade Ave. Tickets start at \$34.50; 520-9090.

Folk Art Fest

The annual folk art festival at Rock Ledge Ranch begins today at noon and runs through Sunday. Vendors from several states fill large tents with Christmas and holiday crafts; antiques; gifts, decorations and much more. Food vendors are on site for this popular fest. Entrance is \$5. The ranch is on 30th Street, by Garden of the Gods entrance.

Turkey Creek Ranch

Turkey Creek Ranch has an end of season sale on trail rides. Through Oct. 13, trail rides are \$5 off regular price. Call 526-3905 for reservations, information and varieties of trail rides available. The ranch is 10 miles south of the main gate.

Air Force Academy football

The next Division I-A football game at Air Force Academy Falcon Stadium is Sept. 30, when the Falcons host Navy at 5:45 p.m., in a game televised on ESPN. New Mexico is scheduled for Oct. 9 and BYU is Oct. 23. The final two games are Nov. 13, against San Diego State and Nov. 20, Colorado State University is on the field. Call 472-1895 for ticket information.

Free autumn color tours

The Two-Mile High Club gives free tours of the autumn colors and mines around Cripple Creek Saturday and Sunday and Sept. 25 and 26, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Welcome Center.

World Arena venue

The Colorado Springs World Arena is selling tickets to the Denver Nuggets/Milwaukee Bucks game Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. Tickets are also on sale for the TJ Maxx Tour of Gymnastics Champions, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. Randy Travis and Andy Griggs are in the arena Oct. 17. Visit the box office or call 576-2626.

Bent's Fort

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with guided tours at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children ages 6 to 12. Children under 5 are free. The fort observes a free admission day Saturday. Bent's Old Fort is eight miles east of La Junta.

Corn Maze

The annual corn maze at JoyRides Family Fun Center is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission for the maze is \$5 for anyone 12 and older and for \$3 for children 11 and under. JoyRides is at 5150 Edison Ave., two mile east of Academy Boulevard on Platte Avenue.

Air Force Academy concerts

The Academy Concert season tickets are now on sale. The schedule includes Emerson Drive today; Paul Rodriguez, Saturday; and Capitol Steps, Oct. 9. In 2005, "Crazy for You" is Jan. 22, "Steel Magnolias" is Feb. 25, "Broadway Rhythm" is March 5, "Da Noise, Da Funk" is March 12, "Contact" is March 30 and "Passing Zone" is April 23; call 333-4497.

New exhibits

A new exhibit is in the Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St. "Ansel Adams and Edwin Land: Art, Science and Invention," a display of photographs. The exhibit is in place through Oct. 24. Museum admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students with

identification and children ages 6 to 16 cost \$2.

Special Egyptian Exhibit

"The Quest for Immortality: Treasure of Ancient Egypt" is a new exhibit in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. It is the largest collection of sacred Egyptian artifacts ever displayed outside Egypt. There is an additional charge to see this exhibit. The museum is in Denver City Park, off Colorado Boulevard. Go online at www.dmnms.org or call (303) 322-7009.

Oktoberfest

The annual fall German-style fest, Oktoberfest, is set for today, Saturday and Sunday at Larimer Square in Denver. Beginning at 11 a.m. today and Saturday and noon Sunday, there are authentic food and drink for sale, oompah music, dancing, rides and more. For more information visit www.oktoberfestdenver.com.

Pueblo's Oktoberfest is today at 5 p.m. to midnight and Saturday from noon to midnight at the Union Depot. Entry is \$5.

Oktoberfest is in the Penrose Equestrian Center on Rio Grande, Sept. 24 and 25, 4:30 p.m. to midnight and Oct 1 and 2. Entry is \$5 for adults, free for anyone under 21.

Oktoberfest at the Royal Gorge is Oct. 2, 3.

Sesame Street Live

Sesame Street Live is in the Pikes Peak Center Oct. 7 to 10. Tickets are \$12 to \$24. There are daytime and evening performances, call 576-2626. For information, go online to sesamestreetlive.com.

Elk watch

In addition to colorful trees in autumn, the season brings elk bugling. Florissant Fossil Beds hosts "Waipiti (elk) Watches" from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Sept. 24, 25 and Oct. 2 and 3. The programs are free but reservations are required; call (719) 748-3253. There is a \$3 park entrance fee.

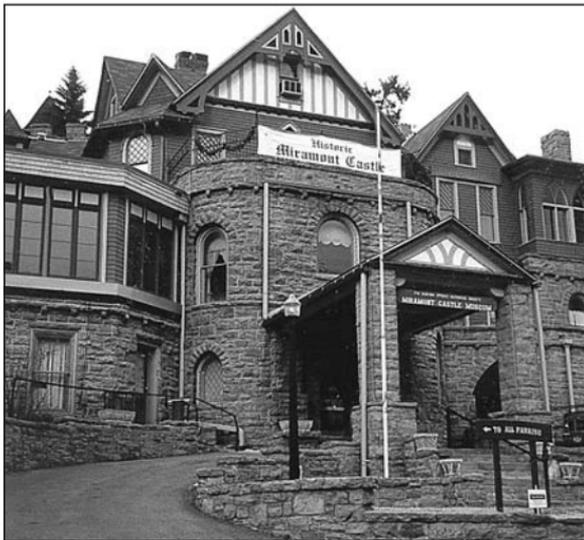


Photo by Nel Lampe

Enjoy a tea ...

Miramont Castle in Manitou Springs is now open for tea and light lunch in the Queen's Parlor Tea Room at the castle, Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. High tea will be served from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays — reservations are required. Victorian teas are ideal for birthday parties or special occasions. Call the castle at 685-1011 for information.

ch10

Program Schedule for Fort Carson cable Channel 10, today to Sept. 24.

Army Newswatch: stories on Gen. Paul Kern, the Army family survey and brothers serving in Iraq. 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 Expeditionary Strike Group 3, Revolution in Training and the USS Momsen. Airls at 8 a.m., 1 p.m., 8 p.m. and 1 a.m.

Air Force News: stories on the supply pipeline for Iraq, the Predator and the continuing search for those missing in action in southwest Asia (repeat). 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, airs at 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The Pentagon Channel plays on Channel 9. In addition to standard programs like Army Newswatch, the channel will feature other Army-related programs, including briefings and other Army news.

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.

For additions to the Community Calendar, please submit an e-mail to the above address or send a clean, type-written 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

Women's Softball

All-Army team ready to reclaim gold medal



Photos by Walt Johnson

Michelle Murga (three medals), left, and Vivian Colbert (five medals) have won previous gold medals in interservice competition and are being relied on to lead a young team to the championship this year.

by Walt Johnson
Mountaineer staff

Editor's note: The women's interservice softball tournament is currently under way at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs. At press time the tournament had not yet begun. The following article captures the confidence the Army team brought into this year's contest. The results of the tournament will be in next week's edition of the Mountaineer. Also, the Army team will be in action today at 9 a.m. vs. Navy; 2 p.m. vs. the Marines and 6 p.m. vs. Air Force.

The all-Army women's softball team has done something the past two years that it just isn't used to doing, going home without the gold medal.

This year a more determined and focused group of Soldiers is determined to bring the championship home after two years of "visiting" the Air Force.

The Army team can go nowhere, in the team van, in their dorm rooms or in the dugout at games without the gold medal being the first thought on their minds because of the efforts of Army player Terri Andreoni, who brought miniature medals to the camp.

"Our goal and our focus is to win the interservice championship, nothing else will do for us. That is why we hang the miniature medals at every place we are, to remind us of our mission," Andreoni said.

This year's Army team has a golden mixture of youth and experience according to coach Rob Bailey. That is why he expected the team to once again reclaim the top prize.

"This team is hungry, especially the veterans. Every tournament we have gone to we've played well. Our defense is our strong point because hitting is up and down, but defense is a constant," Bailey said.

Leading this year's team will be Michelle Murga and Vivian Colbert who between them have won eight gold medals during their playing careers.

Colbert, who has won five of those medals, said this is a year that gets even an experienced veteran like herself excited about the Army's chances.

"The people we have this year are very athletic, and the young people

See Softball, Page 34

Mountaineer Varsity Sports

Post soccer teams split games ...

The post varsity red and white soccer teams lost their season openers Sunday at the Mountain Post soccer fields. Games will be played each Sunday at the Mountain Post soccer fields through Nov. 14. Both teams will be back in action Sunday with the red team playing at 1 p.m. against Three Lions I and the white team playing at 3 p.m. Sunday against the Jazz.



Photo by Walt Johnson

On the Bench

Team member plays hurt, strives to achieve

by **Walt Johnson**
Mountaineer staff

Editor's note: This week's column is dedicated to the many Americans who tragically lost their lives during the unspeakable events of Sept. 11, 2001. In this column, I will focus on two members of the Mountain Post who are showing why the American Soldier is the best in the world because of America's can-do attitude.

The first event occurred at the Mountain Post softball complex Saturday during the Independent Softball Association tournament won by the Fort Carson Aces, post varsity softball team.

The Medical Activity Department was playing the Aces early Saturday morning when a bad "break" occurred for one of its players, Eric Dawkins. Dawkins was coming around third base and heading for home on what looked like a routine play.

As he approached home plate, Dawkins slid to avoid a tag and score a run for his team. He accomplished both feats. What he didn't avoid was jam-

ming his foot into the catcher and breaking his ankle. Dawkins lay on the ground for about three minutes and had to be helped to the dugout by his teammates. It looked like his day was over, but in the next half inning, Dawkins was on the field at first base with a noticeable limp and enduring a whole lot of pain.

"When my teammates need me, I will be here for them. Unless I get carried off the field, I will be out here playing for the love of the game and my teammates," Dawkins said.

Many times in sports the term life and death is used, Daniel Brown knows how trivial it is when it comes to sports, he faced life and death on the ultimate stage — life.

While covering the FITLINXX biathlon/strongest team tournament at Garcia Physical Fitness Center Sept. 7, I saw a man walking with a cane. I was told he was a member of one of the teams, and I wondered how a man who could not walk without the assistance of a cane would be doing this event.



Photo by Walt Johnson

"For the love of it" ...

Eric Dawkins, Medical Activity Department softball player, played two games with a broken ankle Saturday at the Independent Softball Association tournament at the Mountain Post Sports complex because "I do it for the love of playing softball and not letting my teammates down."

See Bench, Page 31

Bench

From Page 30

That was second to the journey he had taken to get to this point.

Brown, an officer with 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, faced a life or death struggle in Iraq that was not the result of an enemy's bad intention, but the result of an illness that couldn't be diagnosed on the field of battle.

"I was deployed with my unit this past April and served in western Iraq before we moved to central Iraq and the Sunni Triangle. We were in a town, and I became ill and was feeling very lethargic. I was like that for two days and on the third day I went to the medics and they couldn't find anything wrong. I went to my bunk to lie down for the night, and that is the last thing I remembered when I woke up three days later, said Brown.

Brown lapsed into a coma sometime during the night and only after a fellow officer tried to wake him up the next morning did anyone realize how sick the captain really was. Daniels was seizing and non-responsive and his fellow officer started to get worried. Daniels was then flown out of the area to a hospital in Germany where he was diagnosed with encephalitis, the result of a sand fly insect bite.

Brown was in such bad shape when he arrived in Germany he was medically boarded and retired because it was feared he had at most 48 hours to live. This was the first time he showed the kind of fighting spirit that, once people discovered, they knew why he was in the contest.

While still in a coma, Brown's con-

dition began to stabilize. The decision was made to move him to Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington D.C., where he came out of the coma with no idea what was happening to him.

"I don't have any recollection of Germany, I just remember waking up in Walter Reed Hospital the same night I arrived," Brown said.

When he woke up, Brown had little to no use of his lower extremities, limited movement in his arms and hands and he wasn't well coordinated at all.

"The trauma of having this illness affected my mind and my motor functions," Brown said.

Brown was confined to a wheelchair for a time and then was able to get around in a walker. He progressed enough to be able to return to the Mountain Post where he began his rehabilitation efforts.

"I was finally able to come back here in November, and it has been non-stop rehabilitation. I've been rehabilitating for eight months, and it was kind of tough at first. I've gone from the wheelchair to what you see now, I'm able to walk with a cane. As far as my long-term prognosis goes, the doctors still don't know if I am going to have use of my feet again. Right now I have total paralysis in my right foot and partial paralysis in my left foot," Brown said.

"That is what participating in this event was all about for me. I have the hope of being able to return to my unit and being able to serve full time again. I'm happy with the progress I've made but my goals are much higher. I am looking forward to walking without the cane, it may be with a limp, in the next year," Brown said.

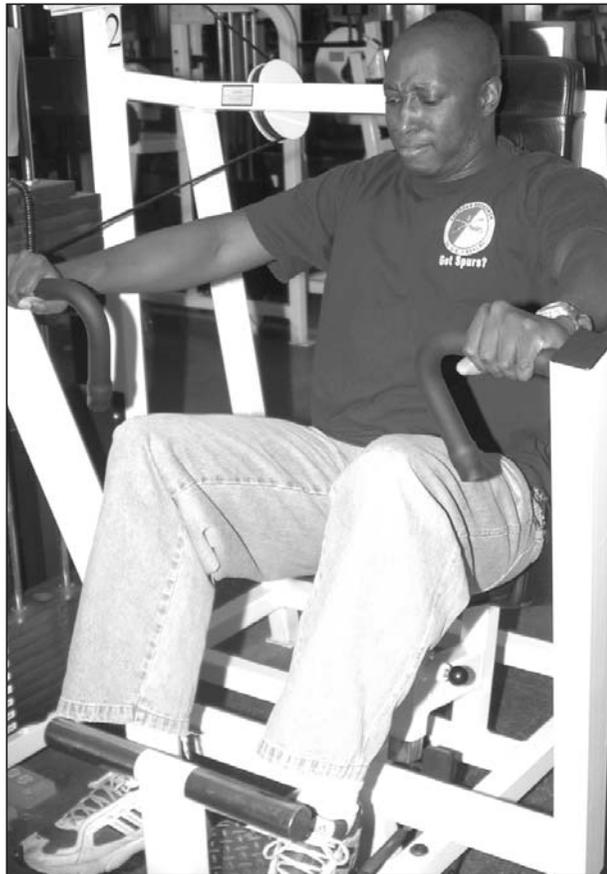


Photo by Walt Johnson
Daniel Brown works out on equipment at Garcia Physical Fitness Center as he rehabilitates from a near life-ending situation during his service in Iraq.

Pigskin Picks

College/NFL Week 2



**Richard Leahmon
Garcia PFC**



**David Malone
Services 3/29 FA**



**Casey Withers
Services 3/29 FA**



**Kimberly Zepeda
Family member**

Nebraska at Pittsburgh	Nebraska	Nebraska	Pittsburgh	Nebraska
Ohio State at North Carolina State	Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State	Ohio State
LSU at Auburn	Auburn	LSU	LSU	LSU
Notre Dame at Michigan State	Notre Dame	Michigan State	Michigan State	Michigan State
Minnesota at Colorado State	Colorado State	Minnesota	Minnesota	Minnesota
Carolina at Kansas City	Kansas City	Carolina	Kansas City	Kansas City
Cleveland at Dallas	Dallas	Cleveland	Cleveland	Dallas
Denver at Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Denver	Jacksonville
Pittsburgh at Baltimore	Baltimore	Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Baltimore
Seattle at Tampa Bay	Seattle	Tampa Bay	Seattle	Tampa Bay
Buffalo at Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Oakland	Buffalo
Indianapolis at Tennessee	Indianapolis	Tennessee	Indianapolis	Indianapolis
N.Y. Jets at San Diego	San Diego	N.Y. Jets	N.Y. Jets	N.Y. Jets
Washington at N.Y. Giants	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington
Miami at Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Miami
Minnesota at Philadelphia	Philadelphia	Minnesota	Philadelphia	Philadelphia

Mountaineer Varsity Sports

In there safely ...

Fort Carson Aces player Joe McNamara reaches second base safely during softball action Saturday at the Mountain Post Sports Complex. The Aces won the lower E level competitor by defeating TOMA, a team of players that will represent Fort Carson at the Hispanic World Softball Tournament Saturday in Denver, in the championship game. The Medical Activities Department softball team placed third in the tournament.



Photo by Walt Johnson



Photo by Walt Johnson

The all-Army team showed it will score runs early and often during exhibition games at the Mountain Post Saturday and Sunday.

Softball

From Page 29

have an abundance of talent. We only have six veterans and the rest of the team are rookies, but we have jelled so well as a team. I believe that is one of the things we have been missing the past few years," Colbert said.

Murga added, the ingredients that make up this year's team are as good as she has ever seen, and she has been on three championship teams.

"The talent we are bringing to this year's tournament is the best I've seen in the past five years. We have a lot of enthusiastic players that have one goal — winning," Murga said.

During the brief time the team has been in Colorado Springs prior to the start of the tournament, they have been terrorizing opponents with their hitting ability and suffocating defenses. The reason you would like to believe in this team is the swagger they have when they go on the field to play and the quiet (sometimes) confidence they display. When asked how the team would do, many of the players had a sly smile on their faces and said things like, "When do we learn how to hit?" "How do you field a ground ball again?" "Where do you play on defense?"

The Army team is ready to play, and Bailey has seen to that by making sure his team knows the Air Force feels the championship is where it will stay by posting quotes from the flying service in the locker room such as the one where Air Force said the trophy is where it belongs.

"I talked with all of my teammates and let them know that we are not just playing for us. We are playing for all of the people in the Army, and we will win this gold for the Soldiers overseas in Iraq who couldn't be here. This is for them this year," Colbert said.