



New fermenters aid bio-defense testing

Story and photos by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist

The Life Sciences Division at West Desert Test Center recently added three large-capacity fermenters to markedly increase its ability to grow benign microorganisms that simulate biological agents. These simulants are used to test defense systems at Dugway Proving Ground (DPG), such as detectors and decontaminators, for protection against actual biological agents.

“In the past, when someone said they wanted 1,000 liters of *Erwinia (herbicola)*, I had to run the 150-liter fermenter about eight times over the course of four or five weeks. Now, we can produce 1,000 liters in one run, in about a week.”

- Arthur Schwedler,
microbiologist.

The fermenters are 1,500 liters (396 gallons), 200 liters (53 gallons) and 100 liters (26 gallons), and will be used exclusively to produce strains of benign bacteria.

Though listed at a specific capacity, the fermenters do not produce the same volume because room is needed for the microorganism populations to grow. For example, the 200-liter fermenter has a working volume of 150 liters,



Arthur Schwedler, a microbiologist overseeing the fermenters, displays a 2.8-liter flask in which the bacterial simulant is started. Behind him is the 1,500-liter fermenter that can produce up to 1,000 liters of simulant. In the past, it took at least four weeks to make 1,000 liters of simulant in batches in the 150-liter fermenter. Today, it can be made in a week, as one batch.

while the 1,500-liter fermenter has a working capacity of 1,000 liters.

Made by Sartorius Stedim Biotech of France, the three fermenters are

housed in a building refurbished to specifically accommodate them. Building refurbishment included a new water system, to provide

purified water for growing *Erwinia herbicola* that simulates the Plague pathogen *Yersinia pestis*, and *Bacillus globigii* (BG), that simulates the Anthrax spore *Bacillus anthracis*.

Since the early 1990s, concern over a biological attack by terrorists or rogue nations has dramatically increased worldwide, prompting more tests of new or modified detectors, filtration systems, decontaminators and decontaminants. More testing means more simulant materials are needed.

“In the past, when someone said they wanted 1,000 liters of *Erwinia (herbicola)*, I had to run the 150-liter fermenter about eight times over the course of four or five weeks,” said Arthur Schwedler, microbiologist. “Now, we can produce 1,000 liters in one run, in about a week.”

The 1972 Biological Weapons Convention, signed by most countries, bans the development and stockpiling of biological weapons. While it does allow limited production of bio-agents for testing defenses, it forbids their use outdoors, restricting them to labs with extremely high containment requirements.

As an added precaution, the live bio-agents are killed by steam (autoclaving) or irradiation, before testing in labs that have redundant safety and air filtration systems.

Simulants are benign, however, and may be used outdoors in varying wind, temperature, humidity, smoke and dust conditions – replicating a real attack or incident. Some of the simulant is used to train various

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See a problem? Let us know

Quality is a never-ending quest and at Dugway Proving Ground we are motivated to continue that quest to ensure that our customers and Soldiers get what they need, efficiently and quickly as possible. Part of our effort to improve is identifying and eliminating the main causes of problems.

Situations rarely improve through the use of crisis management or by simply putting out fires. By then, it's often too late. In addition, it is not necessary to blame people for problems or failures.

It is best to take a problem-solving approach and seek to learn what causes things to happen. Once identified, take action to:

- Reduce variation in some procedures.
- Remove activities that have no value added.
- Improve internal and external customer satisfaction.

If we do these things, our jobs will be more secure and morale may be

improved. On the other hand, if we do not improve, identify problems and eliminate them, then our customers are dissatisfied and it may affect Soldiers down the line.

Our Soldiers are the most important customers in the world. They have sacrificed for us and others, and we unquestionably owe them our best efforts.

We should identify and eliminate problems, but we also need to identify what works and what more might be needed. All of these require your active role in providing input.

There are a number of ways for you to provide input, including The Army Family Action Plan (AFAP), the Commander's Hotline (831-3737), on-line Interactive Customer Evaluation, Quality of Life suggestion boxes, the Dugway Dispatch's "Hometown Cheers," Continuous Process Improvement (<https://tmss.wdte.army.mil/Pages/Default.aspx>), e-mails, letters, and, of course, the Open Door Policy.



COL A. Scott Estes

I invite you to use one or more of these avenues to offer insights and suggestions, identify opportunities, or provide positive feedback. Management certainly cannot fix problems or improve procedures if we're not told that problems exist.

Once management is aware of the cause of concerns, we can take

action. And if something works well, or someone has been especially helpful or committed, management needs to hear that too.

Working together, we can make Dugway a better place than it has been. If we labor side-by-side, committed to continually seeking progress, many improvements will be evident to us, to our Soldiers, and to those in the future who live and/or work at Dugway.

Take a moment to look around and see what might be improved, especially if that improvement saves us money. No doubt about it, our nation and the Army are facing slimmer budgets in the years ahead. Those who find a better way of doing things, while saving money, will stay in the race. We must become more efficient without affecting our mission, and the quality of life for our workers, residents and Soldiers.

Your suggestions and concerns matter. Share them with us.

Congratulations to NCO winners, test center on a job well done

Greetings Dugway Soldiers, Family Members, civilians and contractors. I want to start off by saying thank you for the dedicated work you do in support of our Warfighters and our freedom domestically and abroad. Your work does not go unnoticed.

Let me congratulate Sgt. Christopher Vaughn of the Alpha Battery 3rd Air Defense Artillery for competing and winning the Dugway Proving Ground first NCO of the Year board.

Sgt. Vaughn competed against Sgt. Brandon Williams of the Health Clinic. Both Soldiers were Soldiers of the Quarter winners this past year. Both displayed great poise and professionalism throughout the competition.

On Nov. 29, we welcomed a visit from Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Ted Lopez, of the Chemical Corps. He was accompanied by Sgt. Maj. Montonya Boozier of the Chemical Corps Proponent, and Sgt. Maj. Joe Bonds, of the Chemical Corp Doctrine at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

All three left Dugway with a great appreciation of what is being done here on a daily basis. They were all impressed with how Dugway accepts and completes its missions regardless of the remote and isolated conditions.

Once again you have set the standard of world-class testing and training for all others to follow. Let me say it again, you are doing a tremendous job.



Photo by Bonnie A. Robinson

Left is Sgt. Christopher Vaughn of the Alpha Battery 3rd Air Defense Artillery who was selected the Dugway Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year. Center is Dugway's Sgt. Maj. Stanley Morton, right is Sgt. Brandon Williams of the Dugway Health Clinic.



Join the Dugway discussion

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COMMANDER'S HOTLINE: 831-3737

People don't need to be told what's not working, but sometimes commanders do. Actions build communities. If there's a problem, let's hear about it. Leave a message, name and phone number.

THE DISPATCH



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New fermenters

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first-responders – police, fire, FBI, military, emergency medical -- how to deal with a suspected biological attack and to safely practice lab procedures.

Growing the simulants begins with a flask of about 2.8 liters of starter microorganisms in their nutritional medium. From there, they're grown to about 10 liters, and transferred to the larger fermenters of 150, 200 or 1,000 liters.

When the desired amount is reached, the simulant microorganisms are put through a continuous flow centrifuge, separating them from the growing medium. The result is a paste of millions of microorganisms, resembling modeling clay. The paste is air-dried, so it can be milled into a powder just as a bio-weapon would be.

To simulate a bio-weapon, various components may be added to help the simulant disperse in the air, or along a surface – or not.

“In the real world, though, I think the bad guys would take it out of the fermenter and use it without all this processing,” Schwedler said.

Customers who have bio-defense



The 100-liter fermenter that joins 200 and 1,500-liter fermenters, all made by Sartorius Stedhim Biotech of France. Each fermenter grows benign bacteria used to simulate a biological weapon. Which fermenter is used depends upon how much simulant is needed, according to test needs.



200-liter fermenter in foreground, 1,500-liter fermenter in background. A building used by the Life Sciences Division of West Desert Test Center was refurbished to accommodate the new high-capacity fermenters. They grow benign bacteria to simulate biological weapons, for testing detectors and other bio-defenses.

items tested at DPG include civilian and military agencies, manufacturers and occasionally a foreign ally.

Schwedler obviously enjoys growing microorganisms. A few years ago, he helped make beer at the Trax microbrewery in nearby Tooele. He did it free to learn the equipment, and was paid with meals. Today, Schwedler makes beer at home as a hobby.

A DPG employee for 27 years, Schwedler recalls the urgency wrought by Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Bio-defense testing ramped up amid fears Saddam Hussein would attack with biological agents (he didn't).

Today, the urgency isn't as intense but the concern is very real. In 2001, envelopes of anthrax were mailed to some legislators and the media. American post offices now screen mail for biological agents.

The Department of Homeland Security has installed bio-weapon detectors in more than 30 U.S. cities, sampling the air to warn of an attack – and wants to upgrade and expand

the system.

Life Science Division's capability to create more simulants, faster than before, will help speed the testing of bio-defenses that might save millions of lives around the

world. In the future, if an attack or outbreak is averted, success may be traced back to a microbiologist-cum-brewmeister and new, spacious accommodations for benign microorganisms.



The 150-liter fermenter that was used to grow small and large batches of bacteria to simulate biological weapons. It will still be used, but the addition of 100, 200 and 1,500-liter fermenters will quicken production of the simulants, shortening time needed to test defenses against biological weapons.

Principal **kisses** pig after students meet reading goal

Story and photos by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist

Shrill chants of “Kiss the Pig! Kiss the Pig!” erupted from students and adults at Dugway Elementary School Jan. 20, as Principal Nancy Poulson planted a lipsticked smack on a porker’s snout.

It was the fulfillment of a challenge Poulson made to the school’s kindergarten — 6th grade students: Accrue 180,000 minutes of reading and I’ll kiss a pig.

The reading was done through the Road to Success Program, sponsored by Ken Garff Ford of Salt Lake City. The Dugway PTA was instrumental in the program and the pig-kissing event. Students were challenged to read at least 30 minutes a day, six days a week, to reach the 180,000 minutes by the end of the school year.

But the 104 students *bristled* at the challenge and went *whole-hog*, completing the challenge by mid January. And so “Mr. Snuffles,” a four-month-old Hampshire/Yorkshire mixed breed, was chauffeured to the event in a 4WD pickup by his owner, Ben Whalen of Terra.

Mr. Snuffles was ready for his smooch. Earlier that day he’d bathed in Blueberry Scented Baby Soap and — ever the *swanky swine* — donned a stunning, oversized yellow bowtie.

Entering the assembly in the arms of his owner, Mr. Snuffles seemed nonplussed by the screams and shouts that erupted.

Student Gabi Fausett made a bright pink yarn wig for Poulson to wear, and helped her adjust it just so.

“A girl’s gotta look her best when she kisses a fellah, so I’m going to put on some lipstick,” Poulson told the 120 students and adults. The wig secured, the lipstick applied, Poulson was ready for the *bussing of the bacon*.

Held firmly by his owner, Mr. Snuffles was calm. Poulson sat on the stage steps and gave him a quick smackeroonie on the snout. Laughter and hoots filled the gym. Poulson giggled and exclaimed, “You know what? A pig’s snout is scratchy!”

His duty fulfilled, Mr. Snuffles was headed out the door when two other teachers — Sharon Wyatt and Denise Manzione — were overcome by his porkly presence and kissed his snout too. Hoots of surprised laughter and shouts filled the gym.

The pledge fulfilled, it was time to distribute prizes. Names of students who read throughout program were pulled from a jar. The Grand Prize Winner of a bicycle from Wal-Mart, sponsored

by Ken Garff Ford, was kindergartener Dawson Simmons. Elayna Bear and Devyn Wood each selected a toy stuffed pig. Tyler Thackery, Koyer Peterson and Kayle McCarthy, a stuffed bear; Izaak Thron, Craig Hill, MacKenzie Davis and Britney Williams, a book; and Ryan Haberstroh, a Frisbee.

Poulson challenged the students yet again: Read another 180,000 minutes by the end of the school year and you’ll get an ice cream party!

“What are you going to do this weekend?” Poulson shouted.

“Read!” shot back the students.

As before, each student is tasked to read at least five evenings a week. Doing so, their name goes into a weekly prize drawing to win a book. Most of the weekly prizes have been donated, “Because we don’t have the money to buy things,” Poulson said.

With 21 years in the Tooele School District, and four years as principal, Poulson will certainly remember Jan. 20, 2012: the day she kissed a pig.

Mr. Snuffles was unavailable for comment, but after kissing three ladies in one day he probably grinned as he went *whee-whee-whee* all the way home.



Mr. Snuffles with lipstick on his snout, proof that the “Bussing of the Bacon” took place!



Dugway Elementary School Principal Nancy Poulson kisses Mr. Snuffles’ snout, keeping her promise after students accrued 180,000 reading minutes. Two teachers — Sharon Wyatt and Denise Manzione — spontaneously kissed the porker as he was led out. Must have been the Blueberry Scented Baby Soap he was wearing!



Ben Whalen of Terra owns Mr. Snuffles. Ben’s brother, Tim Whalen, is head custodian at the school.

Army Family Action Plan

Dugway's top quality-of-life issues

Story and photo by Bonnie A. Robinson
Public Affairs Specialist

Changes in facility hours, public safety, childcare, fitness and recreation and the needs of Dugway Proving Ground Army families were a few of the topics discussed by working groups during the Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) conference Jan. 10, at the Community Club.

"We want to make living and working here at Dugway a great experience. If we don't know what is not working, or what might work better, then we can't fix it," said Brent Console, AFAP coordinator.

The delegates were a mixture of Soldiers, Family Members and Department of the Army civilians. Army Community Service collected issues from community members and then presented the top 15 to the five working groups.

Each group was led by an experienced facilitator to keep the work groups on-task. This year's facilitators were Jennifer Ball, Dan Tanner, Melissa Johnson, Richard Bowers and Sandra Nelson.

The delegates were further divided into five specialized working groups that included: military spouses, Soldiers, youth and two civilian groups. They discussed five issues each, asked questions of designated subject matter experts, and presented their recommendations to command leadership during an out-brief at the conclusion of the day-long conference.

Issues discussed were: Early opening for the Shoppette during the four day workweek, creating a shooting and archery range, timely snow removal, consolidating events in a community calendar, offering more activities for children, an additional youth facility, improved options at the health clinic, more childcare options, adding a paved running track, a splash park at the swimming pool, priority housing repair and maintenance, creating a weekend alcohol-free, USO-like location for families; extending hours at the fitness center for teens, an upgrade to Mustang Baseball Field, and adding a



Richard Bowers, the garrison Plans, Analysis and Integration, chief was one five facilitators who assisted delegates during the Army Family Action Plan conference Jan. 10.

JROTC program at the high school.

"I am impressed with the thought and concern you have voiced with these issues and recommendations," said Col. A. Scott Estes, Dugway's commander, during the out-brief. "I have been looking forward to this because it is a great, efficient way to communicate what the community is concerned about. I pledge we will do as much as we can."

Estes said he wanted to "move out" on three key concerns: housing, revitalizing the newcomers briefing, and the new Dugway website. "I want to ensure that all the relevant installation information can be easily found," he said. "We have a great Facebook page and I encourage you to go there as well."

Items beyond the local level will be forwarded to Headquarters, Department of the Army where delegates from across the Army determine what issues are to be addressed at the National AFAP conference.

Stop the spread of flu



Courtesy iStockphoto

Story by Bonnie A. Robinson
Public Affairs Specialist

Achy. Feverish. Headache. A cough or sneeze. Feeling very tired? You may have the flu.

March is peak influenza season, but it can easily continue into the spring.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness that infects the nose, throat and lungs. It can be mild or severe. Usually, there is no way to know how bad it will be until you have caught it.

The best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccine. But after the big H1N1 flu scare two years ago, most people have slacked off on updating their vaccine.

Some people may think that they got the flu shot last year, but didn't come down with the flu, so why bother with the vaccine this year?

And according to a 2009 survey by CareerBuilder.com, some people surprisingly welcome a workplace announcement that employees are reporting flu-like symptoms.

Faking sick isn't anything new, of course — in fact, about one-third of U.S. workers call in sick to work with a bogus excuse every year.

In reality, the flu can be serious. So if you are feeling ill, here are the **Signs and symptoms of flu:**

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills
- cough or sore throat
- runny or stuffy nose
- muscle or body aches
- headaches
- fatigue.

Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in kids than adults.

Take these actions to protect yourself: Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Wash hands often with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand rub. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; germs spread this way.

If you are sick with a flu-like illness, stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone.

Flu-fakers beware, the virus can be anywhere.

Hometown Cheers

A shout out for **Annette Wilcox** who worked at the Safety Office up until recently. She now works with Law Enforcement and Security. Annette was always cheerful and willing to help everyone out. She was a great resource that will truly be missed.

-Jerry Hollenback

Dugway recently ordered a new large marketing display booth that arrived in two very large crates. After scouring Ditto for a place to store the crates, **Jody Barrett** came up with a simple solution and put the pieces in play to make sure the space would be available to us. It was a great relief to Jean Baker and me, and it cleared space in the receiving warehouse. Jody was eager to help and quick to respond. She personifies the ideals of Team Dugway.

-Aaron Lovell

Cheers to **Kelcie Dunlavy** at Environmental Programs. She did a spectacular job as the Dugway 2011 Combined Federal Campaign Coordinator. Her efforts brought great results and we appreciate her attitude and assistance!

- Joseph R. Gearo, Jr.

Editor's note: The 2011 Dugway Combined Federal Campaign grand total was \$29,720.02. Well done indeed.

Send Cheers to Bonnie.a.robinson.civ@mail.mil

Dugway coin gets new design

Story by Bonnie A. Robinson
Public Affairs Specialist



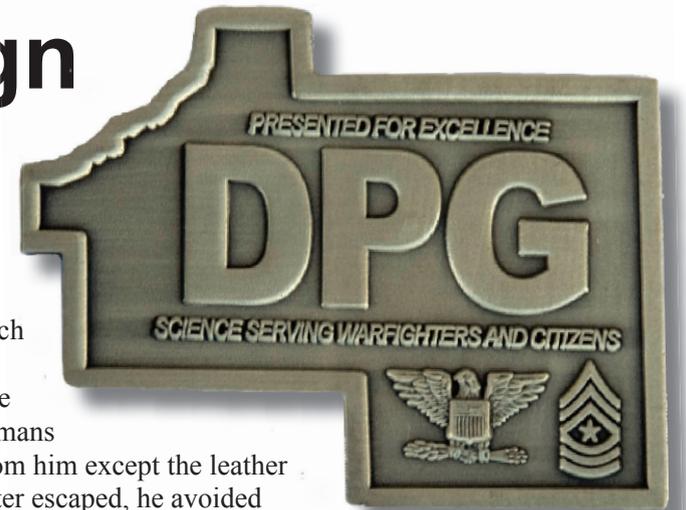
Photos by Al Vogel

Army coins date back to World War I. According to Global Security, a wealthy lieutenant in World War I ordered bronze coins for the men in his squadron.

One of the men, who kept the coin in a leather pouch around his neck, was captured by the Germans. The Germans took everything from him except the leather pouch. When he later escaped, he avoided execution by the French when they recognized the unit insignia on the coin. It then became tradition for military members to carry challenge coins.

Most Army coins are round and vary in size, but coins have changed in recent years. Now, depending upon the designer, challenge coins are becoming more distinctive and can represent countries, unit insignia, dog tags and even commands. Dugway Proving Ground's new coin was designed by Col. A. Scott Estes, Dugway's commander, Army coins are on occasion presented to military members and civilians to show special appreciation for support, to boost morale. Coins are presented to Soldiers, civilians and at times guests for their service.

Military coins are sometimes referred to as challenge coins. When a Soldier presents his or her coin in the open, it is considered a challenge to other military members who are present. Tradition dictates that if another Soldier cannot present a coin, that Soldier must buy a round of drinks for the challenger and the others who were challenged. If everyone who was challenged presents a coin, the challenger must buy a round of drinks for everyone he or she challenged.



Dugway celebrates 70 year birthday June 9



Dugway Proving Ground will celebrate its 70th birthday in conjunction with the Army Birthday and Chemical Corps Ball tentatively scheduled for June 9 in a Salt Lake City hotel.

Tickets will be \$45 per person and available for purchase in a few weeks.

Dress will be formal, this means men will wear tuxedos with a bow tie and women wear evening gowns. The evening's guest speaker is expected to be announced shortly.

Dugway's mission, which is over 70 years old, will be showcased with numerous displays and photos that celebrate its proud history in chemical and biological defense.

On February 6, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt withdrew an initial 126,720 acres of Utah land from the public domain for use by the War Department. On March 1 of that year, DPG was activated to test defenses against the use of chemical and biological weapons. However in recent years, Dugway has broadened its scope to include training Special Forces, Civil Support Teams and Unmanned Aerial Systems.

For more information on the ball tickets call Kelly Wright at the Protocol Office, 831-2141.

Martin Luther King Jr. walk, program hosted by Dugway chapel

Photos by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist



A traditional oil lamp, with Bible, prompted reflection on King's work for equality.



Chaplain (Maj.) Lucilio Mizerani addresses participants in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observance Jan. 12 in the Chapel. Chaplain Mizerani said that the core of Dr. King's success was his commitment to Biblical principles of freedom, justice and equality that united a wide range of people.



A timeline of Civil Rights important events was created by the Visual Information Office, to show how the rights we enjoy today were hard-won through more than a century of struggle and demands for equality.

Community Notes

Building a great community together

Easter Egg Scramble

Child, Youth and School Services will host its annual Easter Egg Scramble March 29 on the Community Club lawn. Festivities begin at 6:15 p.m. Children will be divided into different age groups with sections for 12 to 24 months, 3 to 5 years old and 6 to 10 years old.

Expect lots of prize-filled eggs. For details call 831-3345.



Vet Clinic Services

Vet Clinic Services will be scheduled for Wednesday March 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To schedule an appointment for vaccination, deworming, heartworm and FeLV / FIV testing, call (801)777-2611. Heartworm preventative and flea products will be available for purchase. No sick calls will be scheduled.



Dugway Post Library

It's Story Time at the Dugway Post Library, Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Children's Crafts are offered Thursdays 3:30 p.m. Details: 831-2178 or visit the Dugway Post Library Facebook page.



Free Family Bowling



Free bowling and shoe rental every last Saturday of the month beginning March 31 until June 30 at the Poppy Ott Bowling Center. For details call 831-2626.

Parent & Child Workout

Parents can workout while watching their children play at the Shocklee Fitness Center. It's a great way to get out of the house, meet other parents while you relieve stress and burn calories. The room is available seven days a week. Ask staff for assistance with equipment. The parent and child room is sponsored by the Family Readiness Group. For information call 831-2705.



Youth Brighton Ski Trip

A Child, Youth & School Service ski trip to Brighton Ski resort is scheduled for March 24. The trip is open to grades 6 to 12. Cost is \$45 which includes a two-hour ski lesson. Attendees should bring money for food, warm clothing, ski equipment (rentals are available at the Shocklee Fitness Center Outdoor Recreation).

Departure is 10 a.m. at the Youth Center. Youth must be registered at CYSS. Details: 831-3345.



Shocklee Fitness Center

Join us at the Shocklee Fitness Center each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. for a pick-up game of Floor Hockey. Two teams of six players are needed to field the game. Games begin March 21 and are scheduled each Wednesday until June 20. Call 831-2705 for more information.



Carbon Monoxide Monitors

Carbon monoxide monitors must be installed in all Dugway housing units. If you do not have a CO2 monitor in your unit, stop by Self-Help (Building 5030) and pick one up. If your house already has one installed, contact the Housing Office at 831-3541 or 831-3542, so records can be updated.



Leadership Prayer Breakfast



“Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord”
- Palms 33:12

Join the Dugway Unit Ministry Team for the annual Leadership Prayer Breakfast March 27 at 8 a.m. at the Community Club. U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command Chaplain (Col.) Harry Rauch will be the guest speaker. Sign up by March 21 by calling the Dugway Chaplain's Office at 831-2431 or 830-8929, or stop by the chapel.

Family Child Care Homes

Family Child Care Homes are available both on and off-post from trained childcare providers who work as independent contractors for Child Youth Services. FCC Homes provide full-day, part-day and hourly care for children ages 4 weeks to 12 years in a home environment where they can develop motor, cognitive, social and emotional skills through a balance of exploration and planned curriculum. Learning activities are designed to support the natural development of children and include individual and small groups.

This home-based childcare option provides military family members or civilian spouses, who serve as independent contractors, to offer care for children (other than their own) for more than 10 hours a week on a regular basis.

Childcare providers and their homes must meet specific requirements prior to being certified, and pass stringent background checks and inspections, as well as complete an extensive training program. The quality of care and programming in Army FCC homes is somewhat similar to that offered at the Dugway Child Development Center.

Having your child cared for by an Army certified provider will give you the assurance that your child is receiving quality, safe, and appropriate care. To find an authorized provider, look for the rainbow sign in a certified provider's window or contact the FCC office at 831-3329.

