



The
May
2013

The Dispatch

Ice cream
social
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US Army Dugway Proving Ground, Utah

Dugway Proving Ground - Science Serving Warfighters and Citizens

One Last Wish

A six-decade wish becomes a reality as Dugway makes a Korean War veteran's dream come true



Lellon Dutson, a Korean War Veteran from Hyrum, Utah, aims an M14 sniper rifle March 25 at the rifle range at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. Dutson came to Dugway as part of the Senior Wish program that provides critically ill seniors a last wish to experience a favorite memory, or experience something he or she had always hoped to accomplish.

Story and photos by **Bonnie A. Robinson**
Public Affairs Specialist

The white-bearded Veteran sat quietly at the Army visitors center. The bill of his Korean Veteran ball cap rested at the top of his large gold-rimmed glasses, but could not hide the anticipation in his shining eyes. As he leaned forward, his weathered hand absently rubbed the

knob of his hand-carved cane as he listened to the excited voices of his four grown children, his wife of nearly 60 years, Joan, and a Senior Wish representative who had come with him.

Veteran Lellon Dutson was invited to U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground March 25 to fulfill a nearly six-decade wish to once again fire an Army rifle. What he did not know was that Dugway had arranged to not only fulfill that wish,

but would introduce him to some of the Army's leading technology. Here, he would fly a state-of-the-art unmanned aircraft system and operate a small, tracked robot designed for missions ranging from reconnaissance to combat.

About a month ago, the 83-year-old "Forgotten War" veteran became a hospice patient in

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Honors to Veterans, testing, ceremonies and programs

We have just passed Memorial Day, a time set aside for Americans to honor the hundreds of thousands of courageous men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who have died in defense of America in wars and other military service. It was also a day of tribute that showed respect, pride and honor for those who have so valiantly served our nation with countless acts of valor.

In this edition you will read about Lellon Dutson, a Korean War Veteran, who recently came to Dugway as part of the Senior Wish program here in Utah. This program assists seniors in granting last wishes like the one that he hoped to experience here. We were proud to be able to host him and fulfill his wish to visit an Army post, reenact some of his duties as a young private and introduce him to some of the most modern technology of our warfighters today.

Also in this edition is the recent training here of the 48th Chemical Brigade. I was pleased to learn that they found our experts could easily tailor core training skills to meet the required needs for some of the most professional Soldiers in the chemical and biological field.

I am happy to announce we will begin



COL A. Scott Estes

construction in early June for the 41,200 square foot addition to the Lothar Salomon Life Sciences Test Facility. The facility will hold six Biosafety Level labs and eight BSL Level 2 labs and six labs of either level that will help defend our nation against biological weapons.

We honored our military children and their parents for the challenges they face and their commitment to this nation at an ice cream social to celebrate The Month of the Military Child.

Other stories highlight the accomplishments of our Soldiers Out Serving program; our new optometrist; celebrate Earth Day; a science outreach to our high school students with a CSI Academy; a focus on one of our photographers at Ditto; information that sheds light on the recent Eared Grebe crash landing; and honoring a security specialist who has won the Army's top security award.

As Dugway's commander I am always proud of our accomplishments. Keep up the great work. You are our best ambassadors and it is a pleasure to emphasize what we do here so well.

Finally, let us begin a new summer celebrating liberty, love and life.

What it is like to be at DPG and what I admire most

Greetings to all our Dugway Proving Ground citizens, Soldiers, and Family members!

I've been here now for about 90 days. The first question people asked was, "What do you think of Dugway?" So I will take this opportunity to answer that question.

First of all, I consider myself lucky to serve with the best professionals in our Army. Much of our workforce is composed of military retirees that once held the ranks as commissioned officers, warrant officers, and non-commissioned officers from all the branches of the military. These Americans now serve our Army by helping our unique installation. I believe that they lead their employees with professionalism and patriotism.

I'm also proud to serve our two active duty units, A Battery, Air Defense Artillery and the Dugway Health Clinic, medical detachment. They both possess exceptional leadership. Their leaders maintain their Soldiers' readiness and resiliency while managing the mission with accuracy, drive, and pride. In the last month,

their contribution to Dugway has been admirable.

They volunteered in the Soldiers Out Serving program, read books for the kids in support of the Boots and Books reading program at the elementary school, planted trees on Earth Day, and played a vital role in the Eared Grebe rescue and clean up. I'm very proud of their acts of kindness to our community.

Lastly, let me thank our Dugway Families. I admire military spouses for comforting their Families while looking forward to and making plans for their next assignment. With daily



CSM Alma Zeladaparedes

determination, strength, faith, and hope they ride the wave downstream. Military spouses have an important role in our success and we rely on their collaboration and in their selfless service to be the nucleus of our resilience.

Our civilian families perform in an unusual synchronization, each to different organizations at various locations across DPG. Some awake to the sound of reveille, others arrive here in vanpools from locations along the Wasatch front and Tooele County only to scatter in many directions as they work to increase the productivity of our mission in the garrison and in the test center at Ditto.

I believe I am where I belong. I don't like to dwell on the past, nor do I dream of the future, but I do enjoy and observe my present and with it, everyone in it. I am happy to be here. Dugway is a great place to work, live and play.



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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One Last Wish

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Hyrum, Utah, his hometown. Hospice provides compassionate care for people in the last phase of an incurable chronic disease; in Dutson's case, diabetes. This means he will no longer receive dialysis treatment.

"Dad was considered a sharpshooter when he was in the Army," said his youngest son, Tyler, of his father, who had achieved the rank of private first class during his two years of service. "These last couple of weeks he has talked of little else than a visit to an Army post and a chance to fire a weapon."

Welcomed by Command Sgt. Major Alma Zeladaparedes, Dutson was eager to get going. "Thank you for allowing me to come here," he said with a choke in his voice. "This is something I have wanted to do for years. It's truly a dream come true."

"Coming here was just too wonderful! Thank you for all you have done for this old Soldier, it will never be forgotten."

- Lellon Dutson
Senior Wish recipient

Dutson was 21 when he was drafted in 1952. He served with the Headquarters' Company, 21st Regiment of the 24th Division for two years, first at Camp Drake in Saitama for a few weeks, then relocated to Camp Schimmelpfennig, near Sendai, both in Japan.

Dutson's first stop was the Dugway rifle range where Raymond Niesporek, supervisor of the Special Reaction Team and a training officer, waited for him with three Army rifles set up ready to be fired.

"This is fabulous!" Dutson said with enthusiasm, as he was led to the table where an M14, M16A2, and the Remington 700 M24 rifles lay neatly lined up. "I could never have believed you would do so much for an old vet like me."

Niesporek helped sight the weapons and after a few rounds, the bullets began to hit their targets, making a sharp clank. Thrilled, and perhaps a little surprised, Dutson looked at the guard and asked, "Did I hit it?" Delighted to get a nod in the

affirmative, he began to chuckle. "I was pretty sure I could still do it."

After 130 rounds and a sigh of satisfaction, Dutson finally set the last of the guns down and said with a broad smile, "That's just what I had hoped for."

Pleased with the outcome, Niesporek said, "From one old Soldier to another, it has been a personal honor to be here with you."



Lellon Dutson maneuvers a Talon robot March 25 at Dugway's West Desert Test Center as part of a Senior Wish request to visit an Army installation. He was introduced to the 100-pound remotely operated robot that Soldiers currently use to perform various missions ranging from scouting to combat operations and easily function in a number of hostile environments that could include chemical or biological agents.

Then, he handed Dutson a Special Reaction Team cap and shoulder patch, a shoulder patch of the American flag, and a personal letter labeled: From a Vietnam Veteran to a Korean War Veteran. Niesporek had served as an Army paratrooper from 1968 to 1971 with the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg and with 101st Airborne while stationed in South Vietnam.

It was easy to see that both men were moved by the gesture and its acceptance. It was followed by a mutual embrace.

At the firing range, Dutson also was introduced to Sgt. 1st Class Michael Tredway, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Dugway Health Clinic. It didn't take long for the young Soldier and the old Veteran to compare notes and realize they had both served in the same Division, 50 years apart.

In honor of the day, Tredway ripped his combat patch off his sleeve and placed it in the elderly man's hand. It was a simple gesture of brotherhood for the Soldier, but for the old veteran it was a complete surprise.

"I can't believe this is happening," he said his eyes widening. He blinked as his eyes welled with tears, fought it, lost, and then held the patch to his heart. Letting out a long breath and wiping away a tear that had escaped down his cheek, he said his voice cracking with emotion, "I will cherish this forever."

"We both immediately recognized ourselves as *Gimlets* and felt an immediate bond for serving under the same colors in our first Battalions," Tredway said, shortly after the visit. "It was great to meet him, I was glad to assist in his wish of firing a weapon. I wish that old warhorse the very best."

After bidding farewell, the next stop was the Rapid Integration and Acceptance Center (RIAC) at Michael Army Airfield. The RIAC is the Army's test site for unmanned aircraft operations.

There, Dutson toured two hangars where he and his family saw the Gray Eagle, Hunter and Shadow aircraft. But without a doubt, the highlight was watching an RQ-5 Hunter fly several sorties and make a touchdown. The aircraft has the capability to make automatic takeoffs and landings.

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One last wish

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The RQ-5 is a medium-altitude, fixed-wing, twin-tailed unmanned aircraft, designed for reconnaissance and finding targets. It can fly up to 22,000 feet for about 15 hours. The aircraft receives and distributes surveillance images and geo-spatial data directly from tactical operations to the aircraft system.

On a battlefield, it is usually operated by enlisted Soldiers, making it the perfect aircraft to introduce to Dutson, who was not familiar with the drones. It is flown using a ground control station console that Dutson was given access to control the aircraft for a few minutes while watching its monitors. "That's pretty neat," he said his eyes round with excitement.

Once the Hunter landed and was parked on a side pad, Dutson was allowed to walk around the craft. As he edged forward, limping slightly with the effort of the day, he gingerly reached out to stroke its side, marveling at the moment when he touched one of the Army's most advanced war systems.

"I can't actually believe I got to see something like this," he half-whispered as a huge grin spread across his face. "It's simply amazing!"

The last stop of the day was the Carr Facility at the West Desert Test Center where Dutson and his family observed, and operated, a Talon robot.

"It can function in a number of hostile environments including chemical or biological," said Cameron McRae, chief, Dissemination and



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Tredway, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Dugway Health Clinic, realizing that Lellon Dutson, a Korean War Veteran, visiting Dugway had both served in the same Division 50 years apart ripped the combat patch off his sleeve and placed it in the Veteran's hand as a gesture of brotherhood, as Dutson's youngest son Tyler looks on.,

Explosive Branch, Dissemination and Explosive Division.

The Talon proved to be a huge family pleaser as Dutson and his sons each took a turn maneuvering the small tracked robot as they watched the four images taken by its camera system relayed back to a Tough-book screen.

"I would never have even dreamed this could be possible," Dutson said as he piloted the small robot to the delight of his family.

As the day drew to a close, the tour ended at the visitor center, where it began.

Diane Moore, Senior Wish program coordinator said, "At times seniors may begin to feel unappreciated, but an uplifting

experience like this can remind them that they have been an important and vital member of society," she said, adding, "Let me just say that I have never seen a wish granted like this. You have gone above and beyond to relive a favorite experience and provide a new memory with his family."

"Coming here was just too wonderful!" he said his face beaming. "Thank you for all you have done for this old Soldier, it will never be forgotten."



The Dutson family poses in front of a Gray Eagle unmanned aircraft system March 25 at the Rapid Integration and Acceptance Center at Michael Army Airfield, during a tour of the West Desert Test Center. Left to right, Lellon Dutson; son Tyler; Dutson's wife Joan; son Kendall; daughter Rose Greer; and son Anthony. The Gray Eagle, with a wing span of 17 meters, flies at maximum altitude of 29,000 feet. It is the Army's largest unmanned aircraft and known for its persistent reconnaissance, surveillance, targeting and attack operations.



Lellon Dutson caresses a Hunter unmanned aircraft, operated on the battlefield by enlisted Soldiers during his tour of the Rapid Integration and Acceptance Center. Though not familiar with the aircraft, he was thrilled by the chance to see it fly and operate its controls.

48th Chemical Brigade likes DPG's personalized training

Story and photo by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist

Col. Maria Zumwalt and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Graham couldn't be happier with the training and personalized instruction they and their Soldiers recently received at Dugway Proving Ground.

Zumwalt, commander of the 48th Chemical Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas, and Graham, the unit's highest noncommissioned officer, brought about 35 Soldiers in early April to train at the company level.

This marks about the tenth visit for the 48th Chemical Brigade, which traces its roots to 1942. The only active-duty Nuclear, Biological and Chemical defense brigade in the Army, the 48th Chemical Brigade was activated September, 2007.

It consists of the 2nd Chemical Battalion at Fort Hood, 22nd Chemical Battalion at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., 110th Chemical Battalions at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., and the 83rd Chemical Battalion at Fort Stewart, Ga.

"We consistently rotate units in here to get the training," Graham said, who has been to Dugway four times.

Zumwalt and Graham emphasized how much Dugway's realistic training can improve their Soldiers' tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) during CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive) operations.

This was Zumwalt's second visit to Dugway – and she's still impressed, particularly at the small classes that offer personal instruction from scientists and experts immersed in chem/bio defense.

"The trainers and the scientists are really making an impact worldwide, to include South Korea, where the 23rd Chemical Battalion is stationed," Zumwalt said.

The interaction between Soldiers, trainers and scientists continues after training. Zumwalt noted that Wendell Williams, of West Desert Test Center's Special Programs Division, is helping the 48th Chemical Brigade to build "a package that will continue to enhance their CBRNE defense."

West Desert Test Center's Life Sciences Division, Special Programs Division and Chemical Test Division provided the labs and much of the world-renowned expertise, from which the Soldiers receive exceptional training.

"At Dugway Proving Ground, CBRNE Soldiers can enhance their TTPs during realistic and stressful training missions that relate to the prevention, protection, decontamination and recovery of chemical and biological materials," Williams said.

The advanced training courses provide hands-on training in a variety of areas: chemical and biological agent characteristics, recognition,

identification and detection; familiarization with the production of homemade explosives, how to collect samples, etc.

All training is conducted in labs or training environments with live biological agents, diluted chemical agents and chemical or biological simulants – benign substances or microbes with the same characteristics as the actual agent.

"Here, they can tailor the training to any aspect of CBRNE and make it as basic or advanced as you want it," Zumwalt said. "It's a bit overwhelming because it's so small scale. Subject matter experts work with you, show you what you might see and find."

Graham was particularly impressed by the simulated biological and chemical agents used.

"The simulants used here are so good, it's like using the real thing without the concern of exposure," he said. "We can test our equipment and deploy it as though we were on a real mission."

"Dugway is unique in that it allows for us to train on our core CBRN competencies in a near real-world CBRN environment at the battalion level and below, while simultaneously allowing commanders the flexibility to conduct tactical operations like convoy live fire, and IED lanes," Graham said. "Because Dugway is so massive, we can do long-distance reconnaissance and decontamination scenarios, mounted and on foot, with some the best training aids and simulators I have ever seen."

And, he was quick to point out, "With the experts there to help us break down the science behind the technology and procedures."

Dugway Proving Ground's 800,000 acres border the Air Force's 1.2 million-acre Utah Test & Training Range, with controlled airspace over both, promoting security. Dugway's facilities are modern, but Zumwalt and Graham especially praised its people.

"The facilities are great, but the subject matter experts really enhance the training because they optimize the training to what you would see or do in a threat, or in battlefield conditions," she said. Soldiers also learned how items are tested against chem/bio agents, in varying environments. They met the scientists, "Who are so dedicated and committed to ensuring the testing meets all the



Whether studying alongside scientists in chemical and biological defense laboratories, or practicing casualty evacuation after a mock attack on a patrol by "insurgents," Soldiers can learn new skills and hone established ones. In this 2012 photo, members of the 23rd Chemical Battalion practiced casualty evacuation after a mock attack, and used classrooms, labs and the outdoors to sharpen their capabilities.

requirements," Zumwalt said.

"I feel reassured that anything tested here doesn't leave Dugway Proving Ground until it addresses any issues that need to be considered in the operational testing phase," Zumwalt said. She found everyone "incredibly helpful," willing to tailor the training to whatever the 48th Chemical Brigade needed.

Graham stressed that Dugway Proving Ground offers what no one else can: scientists, chemists, biologists and others skilled at simplifying complicated concepts and information, so every Soldier understands why things are done just-so.

"The staff – everyone we meet here – great attitudes," Graham said. "They bend over backwards for their customers. I couldn't be more satisfied with the service that Dugway has provided the 48th Chemical Brigade over the years. We shall return."

\$23 million annex to Life Sciences: Begins in June, completion in 2015

Story and photos by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist

Construction of a 41,200 square foot addition to the Lothar Salomon Life Sciences Test Facility is tentatively slated to begin in early June.

Expected to cost \$23 million, it will contain 24 labs for testing items and procedures that defend America and its allies against biological weapons.

Built by Big D Construction of Salt Lake City, completion is expected by spring of 2015.

After receiving permission in early June to begin the work, Big D Construction will have 900 days to complete the annex. The Army Corps of Engineers is overseeing the project. After completion, the annex will require validation, verification and certification by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta before it may be used.

A ground breaking ceremony for early June has been discussed but remains tentative, said Doug Andersen, chief of the Life Sciences Division. Particularly welcome by Life Sciences employees will be the annex's auditorium with seating for 80. Currently, large employee meetings are in a separate building that is inconvenient because of distance and weather.

Aside from the auditorium, most of the annex will be used for labs, support rooms such as shipping and receiving, autoclaves for sterilizing equipment, etc., according to Nathan Wood, facilities engineer for the Life Sciences Division of West Desert Test Center.

"There will be more lab space than administration space," Wood said.

As planned, the addition will have six Biosafety Level 3 labs, six labs that may be configured for either Biosafety Levels 2 or 3, and about eight labs solely for Biosafety Level 2.

Each of the labs will be used to test detectors, protective clothing, decontaminants, respirators, air and water filtration systems and other defenses against biological agents. Many of the items tested here are not only used by the military, but by police, fire, medical, environmental and other first-responders.

Only Biosafety Level (BSL) 2 and 3 agents will be stored and used at Life Sciences and the new annex. Biosafety Level 2 agents are of moderate potential hazard that cause mild disease in humans and are difficult to contract via aerosol in a lab setting. These include mumps, measles, Lyme disease and salmonella.

Biosafety Level 3 agents may cause severe or fatal disease in humans when inhaled, but for which there is a treatment, cure or vaccine. These include West Nile Virus, SARS and the anthrax bacterium.

Biosafety Level 4 agents, for which there is no cure or vaccine and are very dangerous, are not stored or tested at Dugway Proving Ground. These include various hemorrhagic fevers such as Ebola, or smallpox.

Plans to expand the Life Sciences Test Facility began 10 or 12 years ago, Wood said, after 9/11. Growing concern over terrorists, rogue nations or



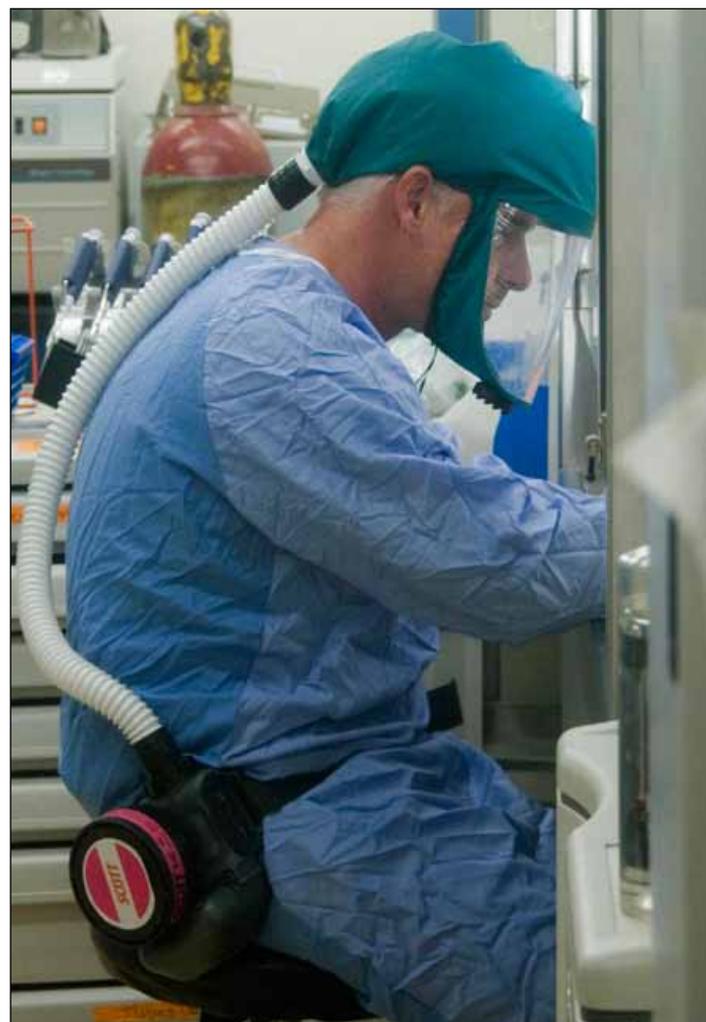
The 41,200 square foot addition to the Life Sciences Test Facility is outlined in this aerial photo. The \$23 million project will offer more labs for the testing of defenses against Biosafety Level 2 or 3 biological agents. Among the defenses tested are biological agent detectors, protective clothing, filtration systems for air and water, decontaminants and methods of decontamination.

disgruntled individuals using biological agents has spurred the development of defenses and their testing before fielding. Most experts believe that attacks would employ BSL 2 or 3 agents, more readily available illicitly. BSL-4 agents require complex and expensive labs to cultivate, and are more difficult to obtain.

After running out of lab space in the Life Sciences Test Facility some years ago, a temporary modular lab was connected to Life Sciences by a corridor in 2005. This modular lab, containing two BSL-3 and one BSL-2 labs, and the corridor leading to it, will be cleaned, decontaminated and demolished before the new annex is built.

The current configuration of the Life Sciences Test Facility will remain virtually unchanged, Wood said, noting that a few access points within the facility will lead to the new annex.

In 2015, scientists at the Life Sciences Test Facility can look forward to having more labs to test defenses against a particularly heinous weapon that has been banned by most of the world's nations since 1969.



The Life Sciences Division tests a variety of defenses against biological warfare agents. Benign microbes with the same characteristics as the dangerous ones are often used as simulants in testing. Life Sciences also cultivates limited amounts of BSL-3 agents to test defenses, in strict conditions that meet international and national requirements.



MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Ice cream social honors military kids

Story and photos by Bonnie A. Robinson
Public Affairs Specialist

The room was packed with more than 250 Soldiers and their Families as Dugway's Month of the Military Child concluded with an ice cream social April 25 hosted by the Child Development Center (CDC) at the Dugway Community Center.

Decorating the room were patriotic paintings and art work made by the children at the CDC.

One of the youngest classes at the CDC led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. It was touching to see the tiny tots with their hands over their hearts repeating the now familiar words they have so diligently practiced.

Ann Boegler, the center's director, welcomed the Families saying the Month of The Military Child social celebrates 96 military children who have mothers or fathers serving at Dugway.

"We are so proud of your service and are pleased to honor your children," Boegler said. "One of the many things I have noticed is that your children are resilient. They move from community to community and seem to adjust well. I know it cannot be easy for them, so today we salute them for their courage as they serve alongside their parents."

Certificates of appreciation had been prepared and were placed on the front table. The CDC staff had put together book bags containing a cup, water bottle, a bracelet, pencil, a yo-yo and a rubber duck wearing an Uncle Sam-like red, white and blue hat for each child.

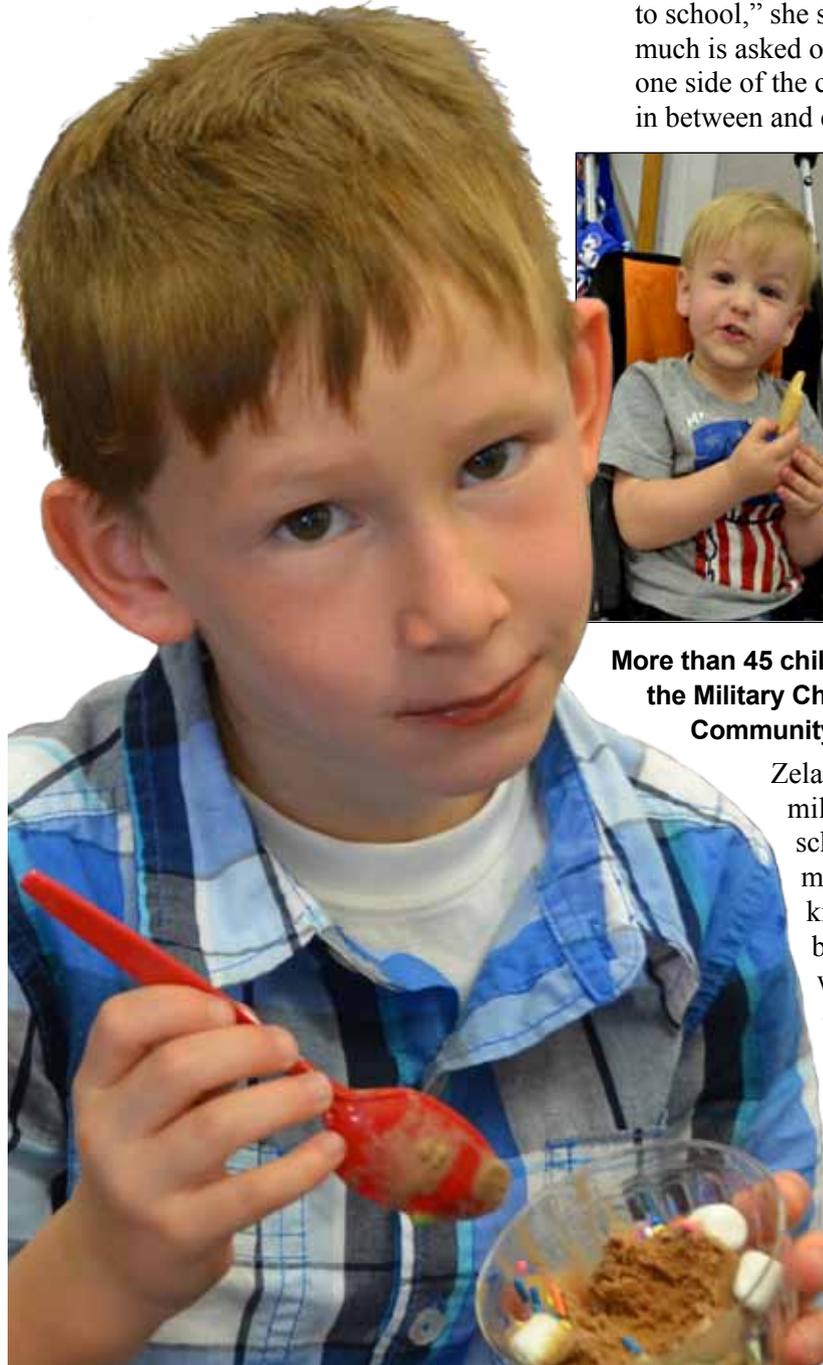
Dugway's Command Sgt. Major Alma Zeladaparedes spoke to the parents and children.

"It is an honor to be here with you today. I am also the parent of a military child. My daughter, Brandi, is here with me today before she returns to school," she said. "I know all too well that much is asked of our children as they move from one side of the country to the other or anywhere in between and even overseas."

of the different situations and challenges she faced because I was often away. There were some tough choices for her, but she learned to cope and embrace change," Zeladaparedes said paying tribute to her daughter who sat quietly smiling at the side of the room. "Your children will likely have some tough choices too. But you will likely find what I found. They can do what is asked of them and they can do it well. My daughter is a strength and great support to me. I know I can rely on her. I am so proud of all she has accomplished and the endeavors she is taking on now. Together we not only strived, but thrived. And yours will too."

Around the large room mothers and fathers nodded in agreement. A few hugged their children, others winked or smiled, and a few tickled their little ones, which made them giggle with delight.

Every parent seemed to understand this common bond of military parenthood that drew them together to celebrate their children and the challenges they face when their parents commit to



More than 45 children of military service members enjoyed ice cream sundaes during the Month of the Military Child celebration sponsored by the Child Development Center April 25 at the Community Center.

Zeladaparedes noted that children of military families will often change schools every two or three years making them constantly the new kid on the block. It is likely that before they go to college, they will have attended five or more different schools.

"This is often difficult, but they adjust and do it," she said. "The most important factor that helps kids adjust well to a move is the relationship that they have with their parents. We ask our children to take on a lot of responsibilities. As a girl, my daughter had to learn to make the best

serve this nation.

Boegler invited the children and parents to collect the certificates, take a book bag and to retire to the back of the room to make ice cream sundaes.

Three huge round tubs held strawberry, vanilla and chocolate ice cream, alongside nine cans of whipped cream and bowls filled with M&M candies, Gummy Bears, crushed Oreos, marshmallows, sprinkles, butterscotch and caramel syrups all waiting for eager children and their parents to dish up their sundaes. The glee could not be contained as children often stopped to compare the toppings they had chosen with their friends.

Soon there were many ice cream-smeared contented faces as everyone enjoyed the treat and felt honored to be recognized as a military family.

Soldiers Out Serving

Soldiers assist SLC homeless shelter



ADA courtesy photo

Dugway Soldiers of the A Battery 3rd Air Defense Artillery and the Dugway Clinic participated in the first Soldiers Out Serving program April 4 at the Rescue Mission in Salt Lake City.

**Story by Bonnie A. Robinson
Public Affairs Specialist**

Chaplains help care for Soldiers and their Families' religious and morale needs. Chaplains often help Soldiers best when they give them the opportunity to reach out to others who are in need.

The first Soldiers Out Serving program took place April 4, when Chaplain Stephen Dicks took 17 Soldiers from the Dugway Health Clinic and A Battery, 3rd Air Defense Artillery and his assistant to the Rescue Mission in Salt Lake City.

The Rescue Mission, like so many other homeless shelters across Utah and in most of the United States, are always looking for compassionate volunteers who are willing to donate time and energy to the homeless and low-income individuals who are in need of a meal or a place to rest for a night or two.

The Chaplain's goal is to take this program (Soldiers Out Serving) out every month and volunteer at various locations in Salt Lake City and in various areas in Tooele County.

"Making this a monthly goal gives us the opportunity to put a positive face on the Soldiers who are here," said Dicks. "It also

does much more, it builds self esteem in both the Soldier and those they serve in the communities we will go to."

The day began with a breakfast cooked by Peter Wesolowski at the chapel before heading into Salt Lake City.

After arriving at the mission, the Soldiers swept, mopped, cleaned, arranged the food pantries, stuffed envelopes and cooked for more than 100 people who were in need of a meal.

The decision of what to cook came from

the Soldiers themselves. They chose their specialty: Chili-mac. The macaroni dish was a great success with the diners, with many stopping in the chow line to express their thanks for the meal.

"The Soldiers also served and re-cleaned the area to ensure it was ready for next meal," said Dicks who noted that the mission was "especially grateful with the results."

The Rescue Mission was indeed pleased to have so many willing hands to provide service in cleaning the mission's kitchen, eating and common areas. In particular, the mission expressed thanks for the basement areas that other volunteers don't usually take on because of the difficulty of the task.

The basement has never looked so clean," said assistant house manager, Michael Edrington his voice quite emotional over the phone. "We cannot express how much this has meant to everyone here. It made a huge difference to have the Soldiers helping us."

But the mission and its patrons weren't the only ones who benefited from the service. At the shelter the cleanup event gave the Soldiers a break from the everyday routine.

"It was a nice change of pace and really a change of perspective for me," said Spc. Thomas West, chemical, biological and nuclear specialist with A Battery, 3rd Air Artillery Defense. "It felt good and I was definitely glad I had come to help."

Several of the A-Battery Soldiers listening to his comment nodded their heads in agreement and echoed his feeling that they too, were happy to have been part of the service project and plan to be part of future projects.

Exposure to the shelter also convinced one health clinic Soldier to continue with the service projects.

"I had a great time; it was a first-time experience for me. I would gladly do it again," said Spc. Frank Fabian, a Dugway Health Clinic patient administration specialist.

The afternoon ended with the chaplain treating the Soldiers to a meal at Applebee's

"We cannot express how much this has meant to everyone here. It made a huge difference to have the Soldiers helping us."

- Michael Edrington
Rescue Mission, assistant house manager

to express his appreciation for the service they rendered.

"Our Soldiers are incredible," said Dicks proudly. "They have a great desire to serve their communities in any way they can. Hopefully we will continue to build on these good works, and as these Soldiers share their experiences with others in their troops, more will volunteer for this program."

Garrison security specialist wins Army's top security award



"I am honored to have received this security award. I am proud to have worked for such a great organization that has made it easy for me to accomplish my goal."

Photo by Al Vogel

Manuel Melendez with his wife Jannan and their son Jeremiah in front of the Headquarters Building in English Village prior to flying to Germany for his new assignment in Ansbach.

**Story by Bonnie A. Robinson
Public Affairs Specialist**

Manuel Melendez, a garrison security specialist, has won the 2012 G-2 Thomas Dillon Award for Security Excellence. He represented Dugway Proving Ground at the Army's Installation Management Command (IMCOM) level competition.

The Thomas Dillon Award for Security Excellence is an annual honorary award to an Army security professional for outstanding contributions and performance in support of security programs that further the Army's security posture and protect National Defense Information.

Melendez's award-winning project included a number of security posters using Dugway people, locations, wildlife, and a few posters gave a nod to the humorous by using an alien motif.

The posters have been placed in a number of locations around the installation. He also created an educational PowerPoint slide show for a number of avenues including the commander's

access channel.

Also part of the project, Melendez stood up the first Garrison Security Office and authored training that was specific to Dugway's needs that includes: travel, industrial and security awareness.

"Mr. Melendez is the most remarkable and creative security specialist in his field," said Audy Snodgrass, Dugway's garrison manager of the achievement. "This was an impressive contribution not only for the installation, but for the entire security

community. I was more than pleased to nominate him for his efforts."

Pleased to have been nominated, Melendez has been quiet about the award, mentioning it to only a few as he has prepared for a new assignment in Germany.

"I am honored to have received this security award," said Melendez, who has been a garrison security specialist here for two and a half years. "I am proud to have worked for such a great organization that has made it easy for me to accomplish my goal."

Melendez was quick to pass the praise along, pointing out that Laura Stout, a security specialist here had been a "great help" in the implementation of the program.

"She did a terrific job. I very much appreciate all the time and effort she put into this project," he said.

"[Melendez] is a clear example of the level of dedication and performance we see every day and have come to expect from our security professionals assigned to IMCOM," said Israel Garcia, chief of security at IMCOM headquarters.

"He has done an exceptionally creative job in the security field," said his wife, Jannan, who worked as drug testing coordinator for the garrison. "I could not be prouder of him."

May 2 was the Melendez family's last day at Dugway.



Melendez has accepted a post as a security specialist in the Ansbach Franconia, Germany area. "This has been a great assignment and I am grateful to have worked with so many impressive Army civilian professionals," he said, adding, "We will truly miss Dugway."

A grebe-ous error: Thousands of birds crash land at Dugway



Photo by Jim Robertson

An estimated 13,500 Eared Grebes landed within and around Dugway Proving Ground April 15, and were stranded because they require a water takeoff. The most common grebe in North America, the birds were migrating at night to the Great Salt Lake from Mexico and California.

**Story by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist**

The crash landing of thousands of Eared Grebe water birds April 15 on and around Dugway Proving Ground was undoubtedly caused by various factors that worked together against them.

An estimated 13,500 of the aquatic birds, migrating to the Great Salt Lake, landed hard mostly on paved areas. The quick response of volunteers and professionals saved about 61 percent of them, or 8,235 birds, said Robbie Knight.

Knight, lead wildlife biologist for Dugway's Environmental Program Office (EPO), coordinated efforts by Dugway and outside professionals and volunteers to save the birds.

Nine days after the landing, Knight was still receiving reports of live and dead birds. Many were taken to the water treatment plant on Dugway where hundreds still remained.

"More than 90 percent of what we released are gone," Knight said. "They flew away. We gave them a couple of days of rest – R&R – and by their own choice they continued their migration to the Great Salt Lake."

Such mass disorientation and crash-landing of Eared Grebes are not unknown, but they almost always happen in the fall when the birds are migrating south, Knight said.

In December 2011, some 4,000 Eared Grebes landed in a Wal-Mart parking lot under identical conditions of fog and snow; 1,500 died and 2,500 were saved. Some years before that, a similar incident occurred in Beaver, Utah and Washington, D.C.

"I've had phone calls from people, who lived on Dugway in the mid 1970s and mid 1980s, who said this happened before," Knight said. "These calls are from good, reputable people."

The Monday, April 15, 2013 event was unusual because it was in the spring – but during winter-like conditions.

Knight cited a number of factors that brought thousands of Eared Grebes down:

- The tired birds had traveled thousands of miles from Mexico and California, and were near the end of their migration. They summer over at the Great Salt Lake, about 45 air miles from Dugway's English Village.
- The birds require takeoff and landing on large bodies of water. Scientists theorize

they saw the wet pavement and mistook it for ponds and small lakes. On land, they are immobile.

- An unseasonably late snowstorm began about 4 a.m. as the birds entered Dugway Proving Ground and nearby Skull Valley. The snow continued to about 5:30 a.m.

- Thick fog, and flying at night, reduced visibility between 50 to 80 feet.

- Strong northern wind against the birds tired them further. Their weariness likely made them anxious to land and rest.

Combined, these factors pushed the grebes lower and lower, where many seemed attracted to lights that were near pavement. Many birds were killed and injured when they struck the pavement hard.

It was a cold, snowy Monday morning, and most of Dugway and the area was sleeping, some perhaps fitfully over the looming Federal Income Tax deadline that April 15 day.

Knight was awakened by a phone call to his offpost home about 4:30 a.m. from the Dugway Police. Gate guards reported birds coming down on the highway and paved areas; a few grebes slammed into the main gate. The morning commute would soon begin; concern was high for the helpless birds on Highways 196 and 199 that terminated at the main gate.

Knight and others from EPO came to work early to save as many grebes as they could, but laws also had to be followed. Knight called the Denver office of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), obtaining a permit for workers to handle, salvage and euthanize the protected species as needed.

Throughout, Knight advised Col. A. Scott Estes, commander of Dugway Proving Ground, and Audy Snodgrass, installation manager, who agreed that saving the live birds was essential.

But the task would require more help than Dugway could muster.

"As the day developed, it became clearer that we were dealing with thousands, not hundreds," Knight said.

Early on, a disease specialist from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) made early assessments, concluding that the birds were not brought down by illness.

"Many of them suffered blunt trauma from a hard landing, but those that survived seemed healthy," Knight said. "Physiologically, they were healthy. They weren't sick, they didn't exhibit any signs of disease."

The bulk of the migration was about a mile wide, and stretched from about two miles south of Dugway's main gate to the gas station in Skull Valley on the Goshute

Grebes crash

► Continued from page 10

Indian Reservation, a length of about 15 miles. Lesser amounts of Eared Grebes were reported down over an area about 12 miles wide -- from Dugway's Michael Army Airfield east to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ward on Highway 199 near Dugway's gate.

The USFWS, DWR and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sent wildlife experts from local offices to help. Eared Grebes were picked up and taken to nearby ponds to rest and continue their migration.

Among the volunteers over the next three days were about 30 Soldiers from the 3rd Air Defense Artillery (3rd ADA) Regiment assigned to Dugway Proving Ground, and several organizations from as far as Salt Lake City. Overall about 70 volunteers participated, all briefed how to pick up and carry the birds to waiting boxes and pickup beds for transport to ponds.

Knight praised four children who volunteered after school to pick up birds that Monday, during an early-out school day: Victor Aguirre, Dylon Stites, Faia Walter and Victoria Cullis. 3rd ADA Soldiers showed them how to collect and carry the birds.

The children began after noon under adult supervision. Knight was called about 7:30 p.m. to come pick up the 200 birds the children gathered behind The Desert Inn.

"They had worked all that day," Knight said, smiling with amazement. "They were excited about helping."

Some wonder if the dead birds couldn't be eaten, but Knight said he's heard that Eared Grebes taste like the mud they forage in for tiny invertebrates. Despite being the most abundant grebe in North America, their bad taste is why they're not hunted.

The unusual spring event quickly caught the attention of the scientific community. Interest remains high.

The Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. requested dead birds for study. Ornithologists at Brigham Young University and University of Utah almost immediately sought information and dead birds for study.

Knight had some dead birds sent to an avian infectious disease center in Wisconsin, though disease is not suspected, as a

precaution and to positively rule out disease or foreign substances.

Dugway's EPO, outside agencies and universities will work with the Meteorological Division of Dugway's West Desert Test Center to scrutinize weather data and radar recorded the night of April 15.

"What we'll try to do is recreate the environmental conditions with the fog,

snow and wind," Knight said. "We want to understand these events, so we can understand the biology and the responses that would cause them to go down."

Knight considers it lucky that such a remote area as Dugway Proving Ground has a nationally renowned meteorological division. Had the bird landing happened in other remote areas, there would be scant data to

study. Eventually, the study will be published to benefit wildlife managers and ornithologists.

Yet, understanding the causes of the mass disorientation and crash-landing of the Eared Grebes may still leave scientists helpless to prevent it. But perhaps scientists can be forewarned as specific weather conditions coalesce during migration periods.

"There's not much that can be done to prevent it in the future," Knight said. "It's a natural event."



Photo by Stacy Smenos

A Utah Department of Natural Resources employee releases an Eared Grebe to the water treatment pond on Dugway Proving Ground. Of the 13,500 grebes who landed, some 8,200 were saved

Another Monday

By Chaplain Stephen Dicks



Canyon trek: decades old dream

Story by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist

When Jim Robertson lived near the Grand Canyon in the 1980s and 1990s, he and his family hiked along the canyon's lip. He yearned to hike to its bottom, where the muddy Colorado River cut the canyon over millions of years, but family obligations and circumstances prevented him.

Years passed. Robertson became single. His

overnight camping permits. Pre-planning and fitness are crucial.

Nov. 2, 2012 arrived; Robertson and friends set out. By Nov. 5, they were back on the rim, after three nights at the bottom of the canyon and hiking 17 ½ miles of trails. Between those dates and miles, they accrued a lot of memories and experience.

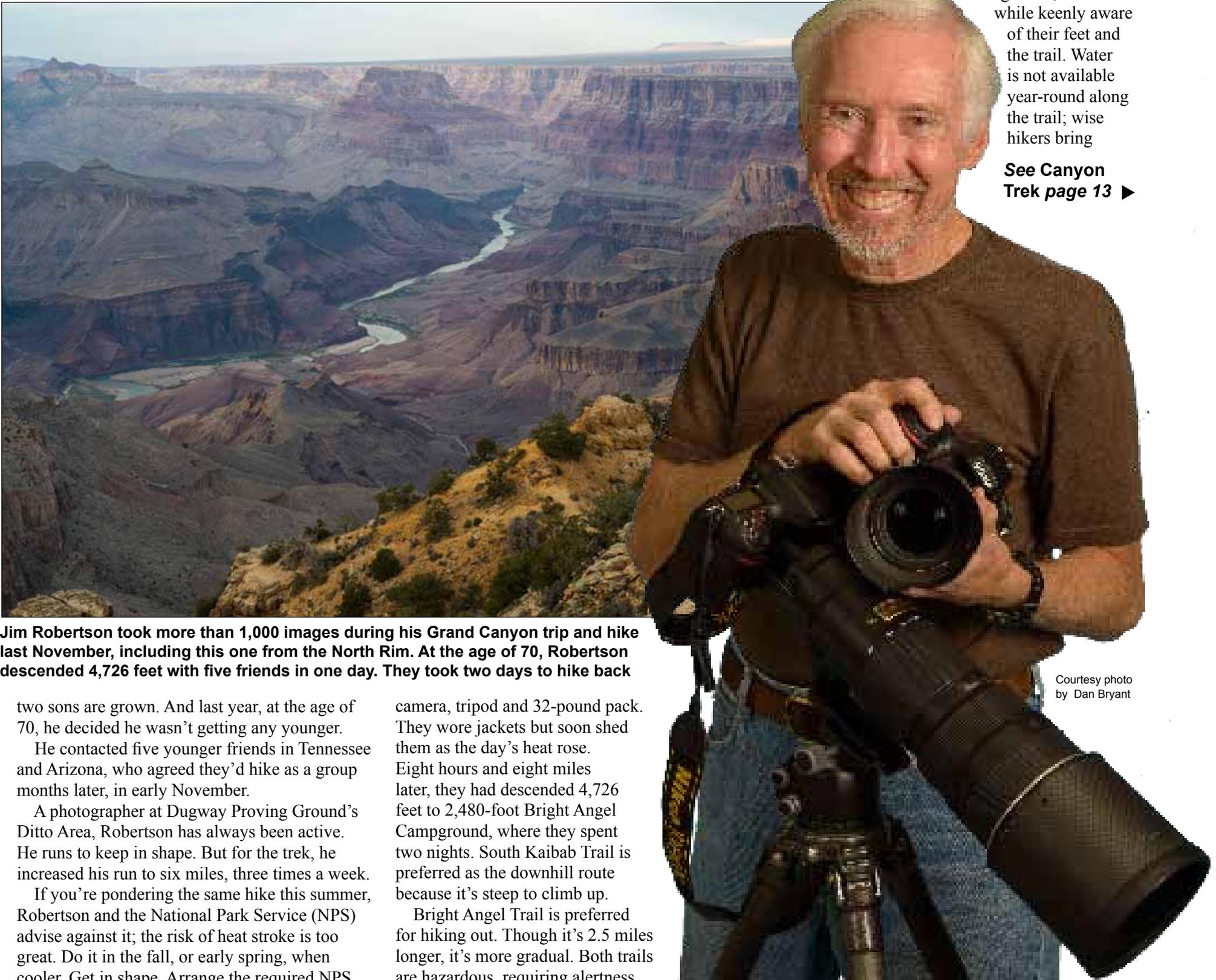
It was cold the morning they left the rim on South Kaibab Trail, 7,206 feet above sea level. Robertson carried a big, Nikon 36-megapixel

Trains of mules, carrying tourists and supplies for the lodges at the bottom, use both trails. When mule trains approach, wise hikers find wider portions of the trail and press their backs against the rock wall, to let the train pass. Stand on the outside edge of the narrow trail and you might get bumped off into a long fall and a short eulogy.

Mule trains are timed so they don't meet head-on along the narrow trail. When one train arrives, the other begins. Hikers keep eyes and ears

cocked for mule trains and falling rocks, all the while keenly aware of their feet and the trail. Water is not available year-round along the trail; wise hikers bring

See Canyon Trek page 13 ►



Jim Robertson took more than 1,000 images during his Grand Canyon trip and hike last November, including this one from the North Rim. At the age of 70, Robertson descended 4,726 feet with five friends in one day. They took two days to hike back

two sons are grown. And last year, at the age of 70, he decided he wasn't getting any younger.

He contacted five younger friends in Tennessee and Arizona, who agreed they'd hike as a group months later, in early November.

A photographer at Dugway Proving Ground's Ditto Area, Robertson has always been active. He runs to keep in shape. But for the trek, he increased his run to six miles, three times a week.

If you're pondering the same hike this summer, Robertson and the National Park Service (NPS) advise against it; the risk of heat stroke is too great. Do it in the fall, or early spring, when cooler. Get in shape. Arrange the required NPS

camera, tripod and 32-pound pack.

They wore jackets but soon shed them as the day's heat rose.

Eight hours and eight miles later, they had descended 4,726 feet to 2,480-foot Bright Angel Campground, where they spent two nights. South Kaibab Trail is preferred as the downhill route because it's steep to climb up.

Bright Angel Trail is preferred for hiking out. Though it's 2.5 miles longer, it's more gradual. Both trails are hazardous, requiring alertness.

Courtesy photo
by Dan Bryant

Police teach student Teen CSI Academy

Story and photos by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist

Will we begin seeing DUGWAY: CSI T-shirts around Dugway? Don't be surprised if you do, because a lot of teenagers at Dugway High School are learning the science behind collecting crime scene evidence.

In February, high school students learned how to use alternative light sources – ultraviolet and infrared – to find evidence. In March, the subtleties of collecting fingerprints. In April, how to make casts of their shoe prints in soil. More than 50 students in grades 7-12 have attended the classes given during the school day.

And this summer, the lessons will continue in two-hour classes every other week.

From mid June to mid August, the Dugway Police Department will sponsor a Teen CSI Academy. Teens will continue to learn the facets of crime scene investigation and its related sciences.

The academy will culminate in a mock crime scene, where teens will have to call upon what they've learned.

The idea for the Teen CSI Academy was Police Chief Phil Fishbeck's. Two Dugway police officers

See CSI Academy page 16 ►



Officer Travis Wall, right, and Criminal Investigator James Dekanich mix dental stone with water during April's CSI Teen class at Dugway High School. The program emphasizes science, and bolsters the relationship between police and teens.

Canyon trek

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plenty and resupply at the bottom.

The trek down and out appears easy, but it can be a killer. Literally.

"The problem people get into is that it looks easy going down, especially in the summer," Robertson said. "Many young people get in trouble. They go down on a cool morning, not bringing enough food or water. Coming back up, the sun reflects off the rock walls and it heats up. It's much more difficult coming out, it takes much longer. People have died of heat stroke."

Robertson's group had no difficulties reaching the bottom, though everyone had bruised toes from hiking downhill with a heavy pack, he said. At 70, Robertson discovered he wasn't the oldest hiker on the trail. He met an Idaho farmer who was 80, and his friend of 77.

Robertson and friends had most of their food sent down by mule train to save a few pounds, an option for a small fee. Careful packing to discourage rodents is crucial; careless packing means rodents get a home-delivered buffet.

The first day's downhill hike of eight miles brought them to Bright Angel Campground, where they had permits to spend two nights.

They spent two days hiking around the canyon floor, taking in the serenity, wildlife and scenery. Wildflowers bloomed in November, but nights were cool and jackets were cherished.

For Robertson, the Grand Canyon trek was a dream that took him decades to fulfill, but perhaps made more precious by the delay and the company of longtime friends.

His love of nature came early: Miss Fontaine, his first-grader teacher, created terrariums in the classroom to keep toads, salamanders and native plants. For a six-year-old boy, it was a simple learning tool that led to lifelong wonderment.

"I'm convinced to this day, that's why I like nature and nature photography so much," he said of the terrariums.

His knowledge of film and digital photography is encyclopedic. Robertson's rarely without a Nikon nearby.

During the Grand Canyon trip he took well over 1,000 photos – each carefully composed and exposed. He's noted for being meticulous, and he'll take chances for that one, amazing shot.

Before the hike, from the canyon's rim, Robertson photographed the scenic oxbow of the Colorado River that almost takes it in a circle around jutting rock. He set his tripod on the edge of the rim, taking each photo in darkness.

"That was so scary," he said. "You knew that if

you slipped, you'd fall hundreds of yards. I had to use a flashlight, standing on the brink."

But he got a 180 degree panorama of the canyon's oxbow, with the moon reflecting off the river. Few will see that photo, though. He never posts on the internet, rarely prints and doesn't exhibit or enter contests. It's purely love of photography and nature that drive him.

During the trek, Robertson's friends were patient with his meticulousness.

"What slowed us down a lot is that I was carrying a camera and tripod, extra lenses, my backpack, and I stopped a lot to take photos," he said.

Leaving Bright Angel Campground after two nights at the bottom, the six friends began the long, uphill climb out of the canyon on Bright Angel Trail. The third night was spent at Indian Garden Campground, halfway up the canyon slope.

The next day, they were at the rim. The campground where they'd spent two nights was 9.5 miles down the trail.

Robertson hopes to do the same trek again, this fall or later. When asked if he had any advice to others contemplating the same trek, Robertson smiled and replied, "Get in shape and take plenty of water."

And, presumably, don't wait decades to fulfill a dream.

Optometrist's service offered at health clinic

Story and photo by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist

Dr. (Maj.) Randall Rhees, an optometrist at the Dugway Clinic since last November, reminds some Dugway residents that he provides valuable eye care.

Rhees believes that many are unaware that he and eye technician Sgt. Jose Flores offer a variety of optical services. Usually, smaller facilities like the Dugway Clinic don't have a full-time optometrist, but Rhees is stationed to Utah under exceptional circumstances – and some Dugwayites benefit.

"I don't anticipate appointments being difficult, and I am happy to be here to help serve the Dugway community," Rhees said. To schedule an exam, call the clinic's front desk at 831-2211 or 2027.

He earned his doctorate in optometry in 2001 from Pacific University at Forest Grove, Ore., and has been in the Army for 12 years.

Appointments may be scheduled by TRICARE beneficiaries, active duty, family member dependents and military retirees.

Routine eye exams include evaluation of eye health, and prescriptions for glasses and contact lenses. Acute exams are done for red eye and eye



Dr. (Maj.) Randall Rhees offers a variety of eye care at the Dugway Health Clinic, for active duty, retired and dependents. To set up an appointment call the Health Clinic at 831-2211.

infections. The clinic's pharmacy stocks some medications for ocular ailments. These local optometry services can provide a convenience by possibly saving a trip into town.

For active duty, the clinic can complete vision requirements for MEDPROS, eye exams for flight

physicals and routine annual eye exams.

The clinic has civilian-style glasses of varying styles and colors, called Frame of Choice, for active duty members to choose. The Army also has two styles of glasses the Soldier may choose as secondary glasses, with clear lenses or tinted sunglasses.

The secondary glasses are in black or brown, with a recently improved frame styles that are thinner and lighter. Soldiers with Combat Eye Protection frames may order prescription inserts, through the optometry clinic.

Retirees are limited to one style of glasses: the brown frame now available in the improved, thinner and lighter style. All TRICARE beneficiaries, active duty, family member dependent and military retirees are encouraged to schedule eye appointments at the Dugway Health Clinic.

A native of Orem, Rhees' wife is a native of Provo. They have two children. His previous duty assignments include Fort Carson, Colo., Italy and Iraq. In his spare time, Rhees enjoys travel, golf and spending time with his family

Riders brush up motorcycle safety skills on Dugway ride

Story by Al Vogel
Public Affairs Specialist



Photo courtesy DJ Tanner

Nine motorcyclists from Dugway Proving Ground participated in the April 27 ride to Eureka, Utah, sponsored by the garrison and the Dugway Safety Office.

The 130-mile round trip ride was from Dugway to Penny's Café on state Route 36, where Dugwayites assembled with other riders from Tooele. From Penny's, the combined group went on to Eureka, a historic mining town with many old buildings and about 800 residents.

Dugway riders were Audy Snodgrass, Bill Palmisano, Greg Dahlstrom, Gerald Hollenbeck, Paul and Karren Easterly, Pete and Melissa Payton and Guy Roberts.

Another motorcycle ride is slated for sometime after Memorial Day (May 27).

Contact Dan Tanner of the Safety Office at 831-5319 to help organize, or to learn more.

Nine Dugway motorcyclists participated in the April 27 ride to Eureka. Another ride after Memorial Day is planned. Call Dan Tanner at 435-831-5319 for information.

Final five AFAP issues

Here are five outstanding issues from the Oct. 31 Army Action Plan Conference that had not been resolved. Army Community Service provides the following information to address these issues.

Access to Fitness Center

Issue: Lower the age of access so the teens and older children can use the services at the Shocklee Fitness Center without a parent or adult guardian.

According to Army Regulation 215-1 children and youth (15 years and younger) must be under the direct supervision of a parent or a guardian while in a physical fitness center. Youth may use the fitness centers under the following provisions:

(1) Soldier programs must not be displaced.
 (2) Children 12 years old and under may not use mechanical cardiovascular equipment, strength, sauna, or steam rooms or jacuzzi areas at any time.

(3) As a Family member, children and youth otherwise prohibited by No. 2, must be actively participating in the same activity under the direct supervision of a parent or guardian.

(4) Youth must be a participant in a special program, organized and conducted by CYSS, schools, or other authorized youth organizations.

(5) Children of kindergarten age and older will use gender-appropriate showers, locker rooms, and bathrooms.

Questions, call Dennis Nichols, chief, Community Recreation at: 831-2030.

Civilian Change of Station

Issue: Civilian employees want the permanent change of station (PCS) process simplified.

The PCS process can be somewhat complicated. Once hired into the new job, the out-processing Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) coordinates orders from their resource management shop and provides them to the employee. After that, the gaining command is responsible.

Once the employee has PCS orders in hand, the transportation office arranges shipment of household goods and vehicles with the resource management shop. The transportation office should assist in arranging travel and lodging.

As PCS approaches, the employee will be given out-processing paperwork by their current supervisor. If there are questions, the out-processing CPAC can assist. They will be the last place to check with prior to turning in the checklist to the supervisor. The out-processing CPAC will assist the gaining CPAC with transfer of the employee's records and make sure he or she is picked up by the gaining command.

Vouchers are filed with Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) at the out-processing CPAC, once the employee arrives at the new duty location.

Questions, call Gaylen Whatcott: 831-2779.

School Age Services

Issue: Open the School Age Service gym to children younger than the 5th grade.

Children enrolled in the School Age Center programs grades 1 to 5 may use the gym Monday through Thursday. Children enrolled as occasional SAC users may use the gym up to 4 hours per month. Children enrolled in the in the Start Smart preschool to kindergarten program may use the gym during the program's camps at no cost. Parents of home-schooled children may arrange to have their children use the gym free of charge by calling the School Support Services.

Questions, call Sandra Goff, chief, Child, Youth and School Services at: 831-3440.

Defense Travel System

Issue: Employees are having difficulties with the Defense Travel System.

Having problems understanding the Defense Travel System? You are not alone. But local specialists are here who can help answer your questions, and perhaps walk you through the process. Here's the list of organizations and specialists willing to provide help.

IMCOM– Stephanie Elkins: 831-2667

NEC – Brenda Plachy: 831-3380

ATEC (West Desert Test Center and Special Staff employees) Jeffery Hadlock: 831-7723
 or Robin Tybeck: 831-7170

MEDCOM Susan Hancock: 831-2540

Logistics, Chanel Carney : 831- 2068

TRICARE Prescriptions

Issue: Military members are having problems filling prescriptions in Tooele. At times they have been charged the full prescription price instead of their co-pays.

Check to see if you are still in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Sometimes during the PCS move, family members may be removed from the computer database. The military member will need to re-enroll the family members in the current area. Family members must be listed and approved for co-pays coverage. For DEERS, call: 1(800) 538-9552. For problems with TRICARE call the West region representative Cynthia Summers in Salt Lake City at (801) 390-6731.



Photo courtesy Merrilee Kirkpatrick

Mom & Me play dates

Story by Bonnie A. Robinson
 Public Affairs Specialist

It's springtime, the grass is greening, trees are budding and children are happy to be outside, freed from the long hours spent inside during the winter months.

Moms and their children have gathered at a home in Terra, Utah about 10 miles east of Dugway Proving Ground's front gate to ride small Shetland ponies as part of the Mom and Me playgroup program that helps moms and their children connect.

The air is filled with giggles and squeals of delight as the tiny toddlers take turns being led on the compact ponies.

Every other Wednesday, usually the second or fourth week of the month, a small group of toddlers and their moms gather. The playgroup is drawn together by the common bond and they are fueled by the familiar experience of being a military family assigned to Dugway Proving Ground.

"It's an instant connection for the moms and the children," said Vone Snodgrass, who though no longer the mother of small children, volunteers to help make the play dates fun for the children and their moms. "It's a great way for families to create friendships that can make such a difference in a remote location."

Mom & Me organizes other activities such as craft classes and free play dates to provide a variety of experiences.

"It's a fun way to get to know other families with children about the same age," said Camille Mease, a military spouse whose husband is assigned to the Health Clinic.

Whatever the activity, it seems to outweigh the work of getting the kids bathed, dressed, fed and out the door, and a great way for moms to get the scoop of what's happening in the community.

The playgroup meets the second and fourth Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Moms take turns providing treats and activities. To learn more call: Merilee Kurkpatrick at (719) 238-9726.

Test center tested by Active Shooter Exercise

Story by **Bonnie A. Robinson**
Public Affairs Specialist

The scenario has played out in various cities across the United States the last few years. A lone gunman walks into a building. After a brief verbal confrontation, he randomly shoots everyone in his path. Occasionally, the motive often is learned during the investigation. But in reality no one can predict that it will happen ahead of time.

Last year was the worst year for a mass shooting in U.S. history. So across the nation, corporations, schools, businesses and military installations are taking proactive measures to ensure their security teams are better prepared for someone brandishing a gun. It's why Dugway Proving Ground conducted its second active shooter exercise April 23 at the Rothenberg Building at West Desert Test Center.

During the exercise, a man with a gun demanded to speak to the commander. When he was told he wasn't there, he shot two employees and calmly walked through the building shooting whoever crossed his path, before he shot himself.

The Dugway Police Department dispatched their mobile command center to a parking lot near the Rothenberg Building followed closely by Dugway firefighters and medical first responders.

Although responders were close, eight employees and the gunman would have died if

this were real. Three other employees would have been critically wounded before the teams arrived. One employee sheltered in place under his desk and would have survived unharmed simply because the gunman did not see him.

A larger part of the scenario happened outside the Rothenberg Building. Within moments of the first call, doors across the installation were locked to ensure the shooter could not escalate beyond the primary building and supervisors began accounting for their staffs and employees. Calls were made to range control, which reported the count to the Emergency Operation Center in English Village. There, a team was in place to provide additional instructions and notifications to outside authorities, if needed.

"Within 45 minutes of the first report the majority of the directorates and offices had fully accounted for their employees," said Stephen Salas, plans and operations officer for the garrison.

Lessons learned were discussed at an after-action review and evaluations were made to ensure that next time the response would be faster. It was determined that employee instructions to evacuate or shelter-in-place would be made clearer, and plans were set for the next active shooter exercise scheduled for August.



Dugway security teams carefully advance through the hallway at the Rothenberg building while one employee acts as a casualty on the floor during the post's second active shooter exercise April 23. The scenario helps teams and employees to react more safely during an actual emergency.



CSI Academy

► Continued from page 13

have been teaching the classes each month, and will continue to teach this summer: Criminal Investigator James Dekanich, and Patrol Officer Travis Wall.

It's hoped that a side effect of the academy will show teens that police officers are not blue meanies waiting to pounce.

"We don't want them dealing with police officers over curfew tickets," Dekanich said. "We want them to know that we're here for more than that."

Left, Paige Billings pours liquid dental stone into an impression of her hand made in loose soil, in the April 18 class on casting impressions. A Teen CSI class will be offered mid June through mid August; details are pending.

Right, Allison Suis presses her hand into soft soil before taking a cast of it during the monthly Teen CSI class taught at Dugway High School by Dugway Police Department officers.



Earth Day 2013



At the Child Development Center, preschoolers punched holes in the base of empty beverage bottles, taped them together, cut a small hole in the side and added soil for pumpkin, cilantro and basil seeds. Water added to the top bottle flows down through all bottles. Here, Lupe Dettle shows Andre Webster how to add soil. Tooele Valley Greenhouse donated 25 seed starting kits; Green Box donated bottles. ▼



▲ Soldiers and civilians planted nearly 20 native trees April 22 around English Village to observe Earth Day. This group is planting a Patmore Ash. Other planted species were Pinion Pine, Blue Spruce, Gingko, Common Huckleberry and Coffee Tree.

Caring for the planet is important. It affects people, animals and places we care about. Here are some of the faces who made a difference this Earth Day at Dugway.



▲ A week after the mass Eared Grebe landing, the birds were still being found. Minutes before the April 23 presentation to Dugway Elementary School students by the Environmental Programs Office, this grebe was found at Motor Pool. It was later released to the holding pond for rest.



▲ Keeli Marvel, natural resource specialist with Dugway's Environmental Programs Office, tells students about environmental conservation. Stacey Young spoke about recycling and gave recycling information to the children. Badger and bobcat pelts, a bird nest., and a stuffed goher snake, exhibited the diversity of local animals.

Photos by Al Vogel

2013 Worst job

Soldiers rank behind news reporters, lumberjacks



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Brandon Mackie

Spc. Richard Burton, crew chief of the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade provides security in a Black Hawk helicopter during a mission over Afghanistan's Kandahar province Nov. 26, 2012.

**Commentary by Bonnie A. Robinson
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CareerCast.com released its 2013 best and worst jobs list the last week of April. Frankly, I found the results more than a little surprising. An enlisted Soldier is listed as the third worst job behind a news reporter and a lumberjack.

CareerCast is a career website that ranks 200 jobs from best to worst based on five criteria: physical demands, work environment, income, stress, and hiring outlook. The firm uses data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other government agencies to determine the rank.

Let's compare the top two "worst" jobs, a news reporter and a lumberjack to an enlisted Soldier. I know a few Soldiers pretty well, and if a physically demanding, difficult work environment with a tight income, stress and a thin hiring outlook were the criteria, then CareerCast might have missed the mark.



Courtesy photo by Lucien Reed

Sgt. Christopher Cook, a combat medic, flushes a gunshot wound with antibacterial solution during his deployment to Ramadi, Iraq in 2006. It was one of the most violent years of the Iraq War. Trauma units involve quick and effective teamwork to treat the multitude of casualties that come throughout the long team shifts.

A news reporter receives an average salary of \$32,000 per year. The job: collect and analyze information and newsworthy events by interview, observation and research for publication or broadcast.

Reporters also write stories, take photographs, shoot video, cover events such as accidents, political affairs, court trials and police activities. Reporters are sometimes sent to other countries as correspondents.

Though interviewing, tight deadlines, low pay and working under difficult conditions to get the story sounds pretty rough it doesn't sound as tough as combat.

A lumberjack's pay starts at \$12 to \$13 an hour and rises to about \$18. The median salary is \$38,660. The job: cut logs and harvest trees to ultimately become lumber. It's a demanding, dirty and dangerous job especially when you consider the chance of cutting off a leg or having a 20,000-pound log hit you. But tougher than what a Soldier is asked to do? No way.

An enlisted Soldier has a median salary of \$41,998; that's an E-7 with 8-plus years of specialized experience. A private starts at \$18,194. Soldiers do get bonuses, allowances and other benefits.

News reporters and lumberjacks also get overtime, bonuses and some benefits as well. But when I think of a physically demanding, high stress, difficult work environment it's hard to imagine any job that could compare to a Soldier's

role in combat.

Out on combat patrol, a Soldier faces a precarious environment where insurgent attacks and the threat of an improvised explosive device that could detonate could happen at anytime. In fact explosive devices have become so common that Soldiers have been known to joke that should they step on one, they hope to only lose a foot or a leg. Sadly, by October 2012, more than 1,500 American troops had lost one or both legs in either Iraq or Afghanistan wars.

Let's also not forget that our Soldiers serve in multiple deployments. The standard Army deployment is 15 months 'boots on the ground' followed by 12 months at home. Between Iraq and Afghanistan many American Soldiers have served up to four tours in the last 10 years. It doesn't seem to get much tougher than that.

News reporters often carry cameras, video and recording equipment, and lumberjacks carry axes and chain saws, which can be heavy. But not compared to a Soldier's more than 90-pound rucksack.

The first time a Soldier placed his rucksack on my back, I gained a real appreciation for just how heavy they actually are when I tipped over backward, my legs in the air like a turtle flipped on its back. I would have stayed that way if the Soldier and his laughing battle buddy hadn't helped me up.

Even the smaller assault pack with ammo, batteries, water and extra rations needed to fight and survive out on the line weighs more than 50 pounds.

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Rucksacks and assault packs are not the only weight a Soldier carries. They have their body armor, web vest and a helmet, together this gear can easily add more than 40 pounds. Add two 1-quart canteens of water and some MREs (meals ready to eat) and pack every pouch and pocket with life saving kits, radios, a local language phrase book, a weapon cleaning kit ...well, you get the picture, it's a serious amount of weight.

In 2009, I interviewed several Soldiers for a series of stories on noncommissioned officers. Let me tell you briefly about two combat medics who were assigned to the Dugway Health Clinic, both had served during combat, one in Iraq and the other in Afghanistan. I think their stories show how tough Soldiers have to be out on the line.

Staff Sgt. Brandon Smith was assigned to Korengal Valley in the Kunar Province,



U.S. Army photo

Soldiers out on patrol with Task Force Comet keep the roads in Northern Afghanistan safe and cleared of IEDs and suspicious activity.

Afghanistan in 2007. He was the medic attached to a route-clearing engineer team with the 173rd Special Forces Battalion. The battalion's job was to clear and destroy IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and explosive caches from one of the most dangerous mountain roads in Afghanistan.

During Smith's interview, he recounted a patrol where his "blow team" got caught in a firefight when insurgents detonated an IED on the road they were clearing.

The blast crippled the lead vehicle, injuring one of two Soldiers riding inside. Moments later, a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) hit the last truck of the convoy, effectively pinning the team to the narrow pass flanked by the steep mountain walls.

Smith's job was to get to the wounded Soldier in the lead vehicle and provide medical aid. He

remembered climbing out the back window of his truck, which was near the end of the convoy. He hoped to crawl forward under the other vehicles to reach his wounded teammate. As his feet hit the ground, an RPG exploded just yards from his truck slamming him to the ground.

"The last thing I remember was my legs hitting the dirt. Then, nothing," Smith said.

Thanks to a battle buddy, Smith was quickly pulled to a safer position before the gunfire crisscrossed the ground again.

For hours the team fought the insurgents who were firing rounds that ricocheted as they struck the rocks on either side of the road. Then surprisingly the insurgents pulled back. The team felt lucky that no one had lost their lives.

Weeks later, amazingly Smith's team found a video of that firefight in a local bazaar. They learned that it was common for attacks to be filmed and distributed to local villages to encourage locals to join the fight against the American and coalition Soldiers.

The team bought the video, made copies for each team member. During Smith's interview I watched his copy of that firefight. It was fascinating to watch as he described what was happening to the team. I saw the blast that almost took his life and for which Smith was awarded the Purple Heart.

No one could watch that footage without saying that surely there was no tougher job.

Let me also tell you about Sgt. Christopher Cook, who is also a combat medic. In 2006, Cook was assigned to the 1st Brigade Team of the 1st Armored Division in Ramadi, Iraq. During that time our troops saw some of the fiercest combat of the Iraq War. The city was anything but safe. It had become the center of a Taliban street-fighting campaign where suicide bombers attacked the local police force whenever they tried to sign up new recruits. And hundreds of local men, women and children were murdered by al-Qaeda's street thugs.

Cook was assigned to a medical trauma unit in Ramadi to treat critically wounded Soldiers, local police and residents. The stress was so intense that Cook had not talked about his service in the trauma unit for years, until his interview.

"It was brutal! Even the best training does not prepare you for when you are elbow deep in blood," he said during his interview.

Doesn't that sound like the *worst* job ever?

Lucien Reed, an American photojournalist working on assignment, covered Cook's medical trauma unit in 2007, taking hundreds of photos. Cook, who had gotten close to Reed, was given a CD of Reed's photos, which he shared with me.

Let me say that some of the photos were extremely difficult to look at, but they gave me a greater appreciation for the work I saw Army doctors and medics perform. What they do is far more stressful than any assignment a news reporter, or tree a lumberjack would *ever* face.

CareerCast's choice for best job was a Department of Defense Actuary. An actuary puts a financial value on risky things like estimating the value of a beach house located in a hurricane area, or the long-term coverage of health insurance based on a current health plan. Actuaries make a median salary of \$87,650 according to a 2010 Labor Department report. One of the reasons it was chosen as the best job was for its vast growth potential, and because it's a minimum stress job.

I do not agree with CareerCast's selections. Though, I do understand that incomes and the hiring outlook for news reporters and lumberjacks is much more difficult, since both jobs have seen large hiring cuts over the past few years and salaries have been reduced.

However in April of this year, senior Army officials warned that 100,000 Soldiers may be cut over the next decade due to the automatic spending cuts, and that's on top of the 80,000 Soldiers already trimmed due to previous budget reductions. And if the automatic budget cuts, known as sequestration, are extended into future years, tens of thousands more Soldiers, including members of the Army National Guard and Reserve, would have to be let go.

But physical demands, a complex work environment and significant stress? *Seriously?* Its impossible for me to believe any job could be more exacting that what we ask of our military men and women. After all, they risk their lives! No way it gets tougher than that. And that *is* the way I see it.



Spc. Austin M. Weyer and fellow Soldiers move to a village with a suspected cache of weapons during Operation Southern Fist III in the District of Spin Boldak, Kandahar, Province, Afghanistan March 2, 2012.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Hamm