

# The Challenge

Sierra Army Depot, Herlong, CA

September 2004

Vol. 61 No. 7

## Doolittle Tours Depot to Formulate Plan of Support

By Shalya Ashmore  
Managing Editor  
Lassen County Times

Susanville, CA (August 24, 2004)  
To learn more about how to support Sierra Army Depot during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process, Congressman John Doolittle toured the depot and received a briefing from SIAD Commanding Officer Col. Paul Plemmons last week.

"Who's your greatest threat?" Doolittle asked Plemmons during the tour on Wednesday, Aug. 18.

"I hear Barstow making rumbles," Plemmons answered. "But I really think we're unique."

The hour-and-a-half briefing and short tour gave Doolittle plenty of ammunition to use in the fight to save the depot from the BRAC knife. Plemmons personally narrated 52 slides and introduced several clips from Reno television news programs. He outlined SIAD's mission, goals and strategic location.

Plemmons told Doolittle, SIAD acts as a military pack-and-ship complex, sending complete field hospitals, petroleum and water systems and other material.

Plemmons, who recently returned from a second tour of duty in Iraq, said

if SIAD put stickers on every piece of equipment it sent to the war zone, there would be SIAD stickers all over Iraq.

"We're the Army's installation of choice to configure and ship," Plemmons said, adding SIAD has M-1 Abrams tanks just returned from combat "but it's a long-term storage operation."

Doolittle saw battle damaged tanks just back from Iraq and Civilian Executive Assistant Vince Sabatino told him once all liquids are drained, a tank can sit in the high desert for 10 years and be ready to go in minutes when the fuels and seals are replaced. However, Plemmons said the tanks at SIAD now eventually must be shipped to another installation for repair.

Doolittle also saw video clips of news reports about the armored door kits SIAD produced for Humvees used in Iraq. Many soldiers were injured or killed by improvised explosive devices ripping through the canvas over light metal doors and plastic windows of Humvees on patrol.

Then SIAD and other installations began putting together the armored door kits with bulletproof windows in partnership with metal fabrication

See Doolittle, Page 3

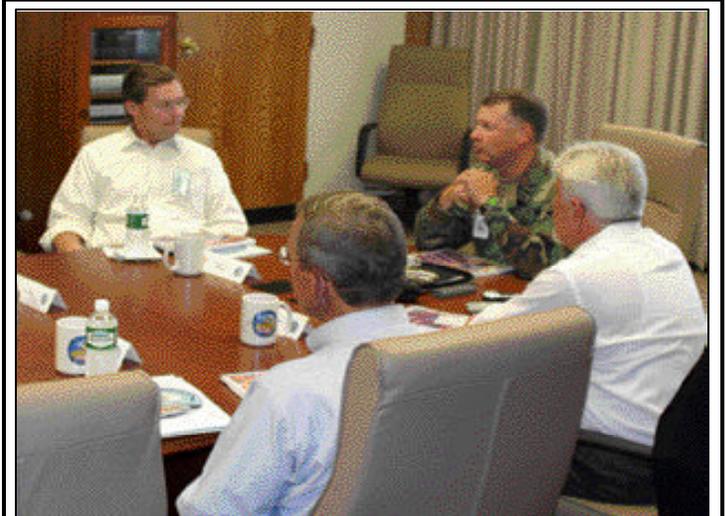


Photo By Lynn Goddard

Pictured clockwise, Congressman John Doolittle talks with Colonel Paul Plemmons, Vince Sabatino, Jack Hanson (Chairman, Lassen County Board of Supervisors - District 5), and other depot senior staff about issues that would impact Sierra Army Depot, primarily BRAC 2005. Congressman Doolittle stated the he would "help as much as he can," about the funding of the runway extension. Not pictured but seated next to Mr. Hanson, was Mr. Lloyd Keefer, Lassen County Supervisor - District 3. Congressman Doolittle was given a tour of the depot, at which time he was able to observe the mission the depot has acquired of storing M-1 Abrams for the Army.



## Employees Receive Suggestion Award While Helping Depot Achieve VE Savings Goal

By Clifford Louie  
VE Program Manager

Richard Schmidt (Assembly and Containerization Branch Supervisor), Richard Chase (Motor Vehicle Operator), Sam Turner (QA Inspector) came up with a win-win situation for themselves and Sierra Army Depot. They took an idea and made it both into a Value Engineering (VE) project and a beneficial suggestion. In the end, they not only helped the Depot achieve its FY04 VE savings goal, but they also received a sizable monetary award for themselves.

The situation was this: U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency (USAMMA) stored its' hospital units at the RCHD hardstand on the Depot. Each unit had its' storage containers and "rolling stock" (forklifts, genera-

tors, and dolly sets) stored together in a "dress-right-dress" configuration. Although the units appeared in a neat and organized fashion, it was a logistical nightmare.

For example, when a specific container had to be moved inside a shop for periodic maintenance, some of the rolling stock would first have to be moved out of the way to gain access to that container. Once the container was moved, then the displaced rolling stock would have to be moved back to their original locations. What would normally be a 5-minute move became a 25-minute move.

Annual cost for moving USAMMA assets on the Depot was \$177,761.

Schmidt, Chase, and Turner said that there must be a better way to lay

See VE, Page 7



Photo by Cliff Louie

Picture from left Richard Chase, Sam Turner, and Richard Schmidt take time away from their current duties to accept congratulations on the Value Engineering project that resulted in major savings not only to the depot, but the Army as well, not to mention a sizeable monetary reward for themselves.

# Commander's View

This is the first time in over a year I have been able to sit down and write my part for the challenge. With my deployments I have not been able to command full time over this period. I must tell you all though how pleased I am and continue to be that the "show" has gone on without me. The mission has been carried out with efficiency, and the expected excellence for which Sierra is known. I want to pass on my extreme gratitude to everyone that carried on in my absence. I especially want to thank our Deputy Commander, Mr. Sabatino for continuing to bring in important missions to the Depot as well as overseeing the continued day-to-day business of the Depot.

### Global War on Terrorism

There is much more to be done in our support to the Global War on Terrorism. We will begin producing armor protection for medium trucks in Iraq. This mission like the HMMWV work is paramount in saving Soldier's lives and assisting them in their mission of driving the insurgent Army from



Colonel Paul R. Plemmons

Iraq. It may seem like an everyday work order here, but if one takes time to reflect on how our work connects to the overall campaign, they would see the tremendous importance of this mission. We should be proud of this contribution to the fight, as well as much of our other mission load.

### Safety

I have always emphasized safety in this command. Unfortunately there seems to be an exorbitant amount of damage to government vehicle/pro-

erty accidents than are normal on this size installation. The cause ranges from inattentiveness to not checking an area before operating a piece of equipment. I have the staff looking at ways of reducing these accidents. You will all see the policy coming out soon. Remember you are all safety officers and it is everyone's responsibility to deter accidents, which cost us all money as taxpayers. More importantly, we want to avoid any injuries to our workforce. I implore you to be vigilant in the quest to cut these incidents down. I appreciate your support.

Just a reminder that with school back in session, we will be seeing more and more students walking to and from school. I ask that you stay alert and slow down while driving in the vicinity where children could be walking or playing.

Finally, it is good to be back amongst family, friends and back at work. I will be back out in the Depot walking around and catching up on the business. I look forward to seeing you in the work place. Be safe!

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"We can be professional and courteous while at the same time aggressively perform our counterterrorism task."*

Robert Bonner  
Customs and Border  
Protection Commissioner

### BRAC 2005 Update

By Bill Bahl  
BRAC Officer

Over and over again we hear organizations saying they know who is on the BRAC "Hit list." As of the time this article went to print, the process is less than half way completed. According to a timeline, which was published in The ICMA Baseline newsletter, the Secretary of Defense won't publish closure recommendations until May 16, 2005.

We are still getting questions. The latest questions are in the 4,000 range although our Depot does not have to answer all 4,000, there have been a lot of energy put into answering the questions we are responsible for. It is logical to assume that The Army Basing Study group won't be able to make their recommendations until all of the

See BRAC, Page 3

# The Union's Position: AFGCE, Local 1808

### Union Members:

This year's Annual Union dinner/dance will be held on October 29, 2004 at the Reno Hilton. The dinner is free to union members and one guest; however, additional guests are welcome at a cost of \$30 per guest (payable when making reservation). This year music will be provided by "Those2Girls" and there will be raffle prizes galore. Raffle tickets will be \$.50 or three for a dollar. The Grand Prize will be provided by the Reno Hilton.

The Reno Hilton is offering rooms for \$59.00 plus tax. You have the option of staying Friday night or Friday and Saturday night at this rate. You must make you own reservations. Each Union member will receive a flyer in the mail with instructions on how to get the special room rate for the Dinner.



Jim Swistowicz, President

To make your reservations to attend the dinner, please call Sue Leslie at extension 4286, Cecil Fain at extension 4110, or Jeannine Hamilton at extension 4883. Dinner reservations must be made no later than close of

business on October 21, 2004. If you make reservations and cannot attend, please call and cancel your dinner reservations.

Each union member will receive a flyer in the mail with all the information needed to attend our dinner.

Hope to see all our members there for dinner, dancing and lots of fun!!!!

### Amedee Airfield Extension Update:

The Senate Appropriations Committee for Military Construction has approved \$13.6M for the extension of the Amedee Airfield Runway here at Sierra Army Depot, which Senator Feinstein introduced into the Bill. The next step is that the Bill has to go to Conference Committee with members from the House and Senate. Once approved by committee vote, it then goes to the President for signature. Then it is a matter of time when the Depot receives the funding to start construction

- probably not until April-May time frame.

Due to the Presidential elections on November 2, 2004, our regularly schedule Union meeting will be held on the following Tuesday, November 9, 2004.

With the Labor Day weekend coming upon us, remember to be safe in whatever type of activity you might take part in. Also, take this time to spend the long weekend with family and friends. More important, if you are going to drink, DON'T DRIVE - have a designated driver.

The next Union Meeting will be on September 7, 2004 at 5:15 p.m. at Bldg. 58 everyone welcome. Union Office telephone extension is 5375.



## The Challenge

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## Doolittle:

(Continued from Page 1)

shops in Reno and Sacramento. Plemmons said he'd seen IEDs bounce off the new windows when not direct hits.

SIAD personnel fly to Iraq to install the new doors shipped direct from the Amedee Airfield at SIAD. The depot produced more than 420 two and four-door kits as of April 13, and is producing 165 new kits this week.

The new doors cost \$6,000 each and add 1,200 pounds to the vehicle's weight taking a toll on shocks, engines and transmissions, Plemmons said. But he added the Army is willing to pay the price in added maintenance to protect the soldiers on patrol.

"We shipped one million pounds of armored doors to Iraq this week," Sabatino said.

The depot also ships environmental control units that Plemmons said can cool the 155-degree daytime high temperatures in Iraq down to 70-degrees. An ECU can cool a tent in Iraq to the point "you can hang meat in it," Plemmons said. The same units provided heat to soldiers freezing in Afghanistan.

He added SIAD has plenty of room to expand its supply mission.



Photo by Lynn Goddard

**Congressman Doolittle was able to observe first hand during his tour of the depot, the number of Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) and M-1 Abrams (pictured above) being stored at Sierra Army Depot. The climate at SIAD is perfect for outside storage of these tanks. Once all the liquid is drained, these tanks are able to sit for ten years or more without any maintenance. The storage of these tanks is the newest addition to the depot mission.**

Surrounded by 2.9 million acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the depot has virtually unlimited capacity for expansion.

"A lot of our big posts are being encroached upon by civilization, we're not," Plemmons said.

If the House approves funding for a runway extension, Plemmons said fully fueled C-5 and C-17 cargo planes could take off from SIAD's Amedee

Airfield, along with commercial 747s. Currently SIAD staff either load planes in Reno or cargo planes loaded in Herlong must fuel up at another base before heading overseas.

"I'll help however I can," Doolittle said about the runway extension funding. However since he's not a member of the House Military Construction Appropriations Committee, Doolittle

added he could not help move the funding out of committee.

Plemmons, Sabatino and Hanson told Doolittle they don't want BRAC put off until 2006, saying SIAD is busy, successful and contributing to the war effort now and can make a good case to continue its mission. Doolittle said he has opposed any BRAC delays and will continue to do so.

## BRAC:

(continued from Page 2)

answers have been provided and the Army Auditing Agency has performed their audit.

Our recommendation, the next time you hear someone claim they know who is on the BRAC "Hit list," is that you look at the official timeline before

deciding whether or not their claim is valid.

If you would like to know answers to any questions relating to this topic, just pick up the telephone and call the BRAC Office at extension 4277 or 5353.



**PATRIOT DAY**  
**September 11**

## New ISO Standards being Worked at SIAD toward Certification

By Gary Amunson  
QEO Office

### Who ISO is

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is a network of standards existing in 148 countries and incorporated into one international standard. In 1946, delegates from 25 countries met and decided to create a new organization, of which the object would be "for the international coordination and unification of industrial standards". The new organization ISO officially started on 23 February 1947. ISO is now the world's largest developer of standards. These standards have important economic and social repercussions.

### What 'international standardization' means

When the large majority of products or services in a particular business

or industry sector conform to International Standards, a state of industry-wide standardization can be said to exist. Many businesses have obtained ISO certification and the list keeps growing.

### Why standards matter

If there were no standards, we would soon notice. Standards make an enormous contribution to most aspects of our lives. For example, as purchasers or users of products, we soon notice when they turn out to be of poor quality, do not fit, are incompatible with equipment we already have, are unreliable or dangerous. When products meet our expectations, we tend to take this for granted. Standardization of a product even a screw thread helps to keep chairs, children's bicycles and aircraft together and solves the repair and maintenance problems caused by

a lack of standardization that were once a major headache for manufacturers and product users. Today, many products require testing for conformance with specifications or compliance with safety, or other regulations before they can be put on many markets. ISO standards make a positive difference, not just to manufacturers for whom they solve basic problems in production and distribution, but to society as a whole.

### How ISO standards will benefit us

All SIAD employees' goals need to be focused on the adoption and integration of International Standards which means that when we become certified our customers can base the development of their products and services on specifications that have wide acceptance and trust us to provide them with a quality product or service. This,

in turn, means that more businesses shopping for an organization that they know will provide that quality product and service will see SIAD as a good choice.

If you would like to learn more about any of the topics in this article, or if you have a suggestion on this process, DON'T HESITATE to pick up the telephone and call the Quality Engineering Office and talk to one of the LEAN personnel at extension 4156 or 4423.



# Employee Day Fe

Ph  
Lyn



Left, Ben Commerford, age 9 and brother Luke, age 11 get ready to rumble at the boxing booth during the fun filled festivities during Employee Appreciation Day.



Mr. David Harris (contractor) stands before a group of employees on Employee Appreciation Day, to talk about the current process. See related story on page 2 on what is the current process.



At left, Lief Anderson waits patiently for his own stick of cotton candy, while wife Patsy, attempts to share her. The Anderson's were one of many that stopped to enjoy some cotton candy during Employee Appreciation Day.



# Appreciation Activities

Byrd



Could dunking your supervisor be considered insubordination? Keith Byrd, left thinks it is all in the spirit of the activities during Employee Appreciation Day, as he attempts to dunk Steven Podhurst, Director of Public Works. It was Steve Podhurst's lucky day, as Keith was unable to hit a bullseye during this throw.



ie groups assembled during the training por-  
9001:2000 and how this impacts Sierra Army  
1 what SIAD is doing in this long and perma-



Although it is not the Olympics, depot employees put together a couple of teams to enjoy their own version of how the fun sport of "Beach Volleyball" should be played.

## Guantanamo Bay Base Has Storied Past

By Kathleen T. Rhem  
American Forces Press Service

NAVAL BASE GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba, Aug. 24, 2004 — The eyes of the world are focused on this remote Navy base as hearings begin in the first four military commissions for detainees from the war on terrorism.

But the base's commander, Navy Capt. Les McCoy, wants people to know his end of the island is "not a penal colony."

"This is a community that happens to have a maximum-security prison attached to it," he said.

At 101 years old, Naval Base Guantanamo Bay is America's oldest active overseas military base. The positioning of a prison for enemy combatants from the war on terrorism has focused attention on, and led to the revitalization of, a base that had been in a period of decline. The population of the base has tripled in the past two and a half years, McCoy said.

Set up as a naval coaling station, "Gitmo," as the base is affectionately known, evolved into a refueling station as technology advanced. The base was leased in 1903 for \$2,000 per year on a perpetual basis. In 1934, the lease was renegotiated to \$4,085 per year.

The U.S. State Department sends a check to the Cuban government every July, but, McCoy said, Cuban dictator Fidel Castro has only cashed one — in 1959, the year he took power.

The relationship between the United States and its closest communist neighbor has resulted in arrangements and agreements that are unique to this location.

For instance, the base plays host to three categories of Cubans. At one time, the base permanently housed thousands of Cuban exiles who had worked on the U.S. end of the island. Today there are 61, including 34 individuals who have been there since Castro took the country's reins in 1959. Forty of the 61 are naturalized U.S. citizens.

McCoy explained that many of these people never wanted to leave their homeland but also refused to live in a communist state. "We are obligated to care for them," the captain said, adding that Guantanamo Bay may be the only U.S. military installation with an assisted-living facility to care for elderly residents.

A second category of Cubans on the naval base is referred to as "commuters." In pre-communist Cuba, Cuban citizens entered the base each day to work for the U.S. government. When the communists came to power, they allowed those already employed here to continue that employment, but no others were allowed to accept jobs here. Over time, an elaborate system evolved for these commuters to leave communist Cuba each morning and return in the evening via the base's North East Gate.

In 1959 there were roughly 3,500 such commuters each day. Today there are three, all between the ages of 75 and 83, McCoy said.

## Fire Department Always Ready to Respond

By John "Roby" Dennis  
Assistant Fire Chief - B-Shift

Sierra Army Depot Fire Department is the place to call for your fire prevention, fire fighting, emergency medical, hazardous materials, and rescue needs. Fire Chief Dan Murphy heads the department. Chief Murphy came to us via the Air Force and started at SIAD in February of 2004. Chief Murphy's goals are to improve on an already excellent fire division

by applying his training and experiences from his many assignments with other Department of Defense fire divisions. The chief can be reached in his office at #4526 or on e-mail.

The Fire Division is staffed with two shifts at this time. A-shift is headed by Assistant Chief Chuck Lacombe, followed by his Crew that includes Cap-  
**See Fire, Page 8**



Photo Submitted

Standing in front of the newest fire truck from left to right are Greg Tavalero, Roby Dennis, Darin Albee, Mike Hall, Ira Burroughs and Chris Zahara. These are only a few of the members that makeup our outstanding Fire Department that are always just a phone call away.

The commuters also have a unique responsibility to other commuters who have retired and are due pensions from the U.S. government. Since the Cuban and American governments have no diplomatic ties, monetary transfers are not possible. The commuters are paid in cash and carry cash pension payments across the border for the others who have retired, the captain explained.

The third category of Cubans on the U.S. base are migrants who are either interdicted at sea by the U.S. Coast Guard or asylum seekers who make it across the border by land or by water. They live in migrant facilities on the base and often take jobs while here. If officials find the interdictees or asylum seekers have legitimate grounds to be granted asylum, they are eventually moved to a third-party country, generally in Latin America.

The migrant facilities also house Haitian immigrants who are interdicted at sea, McCoy said. Despite the attention paid to the prison, McCoy said the detention facility has been good for the base. "It's brought life back to the community," he said.

Today about 8,500 Americans call Gitmo home, including 3,000 U.S. military servicemembers. Nine hundred to 1,000 family members, including about 500 children, accompany the military members.

"We're a small American town," McCoy said. "We think we're a throwback to the '50s."

**POW-MIA Day**  
**September 17**

### Energy Tip of the Month

Do you know the difference between Kilowatt and Kilowatt-Hours?



By Robert Gee  
General Engineer

I have been asked to explain the difference between kilowatts (kW) and kilowatt-hours (kWh).

A watt (named after a Scottish inventor James Watt, 1736-1819) is equal to a current of one ampere under one volt of pressure. Because a watt is very small unit of measurement, 1000 watts or kilowatt is the preferred use of the measurement. Kilowatt-hour is a measure of energy being used. Understanding the difference between power and energy will put most people to sleep within seconds (if I haven't done so already).

A good analogy for kW and kWh:

The automobile dashboard provides a nice way to understand the difference between kW and kWh.

A kW is like the speed that is measured by the speedometer.

A kWh is like the distance that is measured by the odometer.

## Child Youth Services Monthly Update

### COMING SOON! CYS MARTIAL ARTS AND ROCK CLIMBING CLASSES

This fall CYS will be offering instructional classes, taught by certified instructors in Martial Arts and Climbing and Repelling. These classes are for youth so if you're child is interested in participating in either of these classes please call extension 4696.

### CYS PARTNERS WITH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

CYS partnered with the Army National Guard and the Air Guard this

year in celebration of National Kids Day. On August 5, 2004 CYS closed their facility and took all the children, youth, and several families to Wild Island Adventure Park. There they met with the Army National Guard and the Air Guard families to enjoy a day full of swimming, water slides, and fun in the sun. The estimated number of participants was 150 people.

### STAFF APPRECIATION

Congratulations Shandra Anderson for being Spotlight Employee of the Month. We appreciate all your hard

work, dedication, and your positive attitude. Thank you for all the patience and kindness you show to the children and continually doing it all with a smile. Thank you, for a job well done!

Congratulations to Vicki Campbell for being voted Employee of the Quarter. You go above and beyond your normal call of duties to execute tasks at a level of excellence. We truly appreciate all your hard work. Thank you for all your creativity, artistic detail, and new ideas you brought to our program. Great job, Vicki!



Shandra Anderson



Vicki Campbell



Remember the  
victims and families  
on September 11

**VE:**

(continued from Page 1)

out the hospital units. They challenged the assumption that each hospital unit had to have its containers and rolling stock be stored together. Instead, they thought that the containers and the rolling stock could be stored in separate areas. Thus, containers and rolling stock could be moved without getting into each other's way. In other words, unnecessary moves were eliminated.

Under this new and efficient layout, the **annual cost savings is \$107,838!**

Congratulations to all three employees for their initiative and smart thinking.

Do you know of any Depot operations that seem too costly, time-consuming, inefficient or unsafe? Do you have any ideas that can improve operations? If so, call the Value Engineering Office at extension 4330.

## MWR Services

### Skedaddle Inn Conference Center

The Skedaddle Inn Conference Center/Lounge is now open Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (Thursdays until the last customer leaves). It is also equipped to cater large or small events.

Call the manager at 4360 or email: [raul.granados@sierra.army.mil](mailto:raul.granados@sierra.army.mil) The business hours are Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### Sierra Lodge/Guest House

Call the lodging manager, 4544, or email: [raul.granados@sierra.army.mil](mailto:raul.granados@sierra.army.mil) for information.

### Sierra Bowling Center and Snack Bar

Open everyday, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Call 4442 for information. Check out the Lunch Specials Monday through Thursday. Delivery available on all orders received before 10:45 a.m. Contact Jackie Weston-Chase to book your birthday packages and holiday parties.

### Physical Fitness Center

Open Monday through Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The only charge to individuals is \$3 for use of the Racquetball Court (per hour).

ITR is available at the Physical Fitness Center. For more information call 4655 or email [ok.fern@sierra.army.mil](mailto:ok.fern@sierra.army.mil)

### Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Rental

For reservations and information call Tony Bruening, 4354.

### Laundromat

Open daily, 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. in building 142. Cost for wash, \$1.25 and .25 cents (15 minute drying). For your convenience, there is a machine with laundry supplies located inside the facility and also a change machine.

### Recycling Center

Open Monday through Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call 4504.

### Morale, Welfare, and Recreation

Administrative Assistant can be reached at 4797, Mon.-Thurs. from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or email her at [jessica.cuevas@sierra.army.mil](mailto:jessica.cuevas@sierra.army.mil). Business Office can be reached at 4178 or 4609.

## SAFETY FLASH

### Walking and Biking to School

We all know that what children do in school is very important. But, getting to school is also important. Because of minimal supervision, young pedestrians face a wide variety of decisions making situations and dangers while walking to and from school. Here are a few basic safety tips to follow:

- Mind all traffic signals and/or the crossing guard — never cross the street against a light, even if you don't see any traffic coming.
- Walk your bike through intersections.
- Walk with a buddy.
- Wear reflective material...it makes you more visible to street traffic.

"BE CAUTIOUS"

"OUR CHILDREN ARE PRECIOUS, AN EDUCATED CHILD IS A SAFER CHILD!"



You Can't Always See Them !!!

# ABC-C News

## Special Edition – FEGLI Open Season

By Cynthia Porter, Chief  
Army Benefits Center - Civilian  
Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Read All  
About It...

In honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) Program, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) proudly announces the first FEGLI Open Season in five years. The FEGLI Open Season will be held 1 thru 30 Sep 04.

### Eligibility for Participation

Well, more great things are happening for government employees! One of the major things we sometimes forget are the many benefits we receive as government employees. Many of these benefits can be used as great marketing tools to attract highly skilled and motivated employees to come to work for the Department of the Army.

Think about it:

• Thrift Savings Plan (TSP); what better way to help plan for YOUR future than by allowing YOU to decide how to invest YOUR own money.

• Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Open Season each year allows you to change YOUR coverage as YOU see the need.

• Sick & annual leave, long term care insurance, flexible spending accounts, etc. are further examples of our various benefits.

• Now this big one; FEGLI Open Season. A great opportunity for you

If you are eligible for the FEGLI Program, you can participate. If you are excluded from FEGLI coverage by law or regulation, you cannot participate in this Open Season.

### Effective Dates of Election

Open Season elections become effective on the first day of the first pay period that:

• Begins on or after September 1, 2005, AND follows a pay period during which you meet the pay and duty status requirements.

to look at your individual and family needs regarding life insurance. Ask yourself a few questions. What do I need life insurance for? If strictly for burial expenses than maybe a smaller amount may be sufficient. Perhaps you still have children at home or caring for an elderly parent or relative. There are many reasons why people have life insurance coverage.

Take some time during this very limited and infrequent opportunity to look at your needs and make the changes you really want to make. Hopefully, the Q&As in this Newsletter have got you thinking! Don't let time slip through your hands. Make great things happen for you!

To reach the ABC-C: logon on to <https://www.abc.army.mil> or call 1-877-276-9287 (TDD 1-877-276-9833)

ABC-C is a Division of SWCPOC, at Fort Riley KS.

Public Affairs Office  
Sierra Army Depot  
74 C Street, Bldg. 150  
Herlong, CA 96113

## Fire:

(Continued from Page 7)

tain Dave Masoner, Drivers Chris Zahara and Greg Tavalero, Fire Fighter Barry Spratt, Fire Fighter Mike Hall and Fire Fighter Darren Allbee. Assistant Chief Roby Dennis heads B-shift, and his Crew includes Captains Grover White and Bobby Root, Driver Harry Ehrman, Fire Fighter Norm Jenkins, Fire Fighter Greg Lompa, and Fire Fighter Ira Burroughs.

All personnel are trained in accordance with the Department of Defense Fire Fighter Certification Program. They are also certified through the Northern California Emergency Medical Services as Emergency Medical Technicians with defibrillator endorsements. These are the fire personnel that you will see in your daily work. They will be in a fire engine conducting inspections and training. Please feel free to ask questions of these personnel when you see them. We are a customer service organization and are here to help.

Your Fire Department is staffed 24 hrs. a day, 365 days a year. If you need our help we are just a 911 call away for all emergencies. When you make a 911 call it goes directly to the SIAD Police Dispatcher who will take the information and contact Fire Per-

sonnel through an intercom system or by radio. We then load onto our Engine and respond to the scene of the emergency.

The Department responds to an average of 450 calls a year. These calls range from fires, emergency medical, false alarms, hazardous material spills and numerous hazardous standbys. We have the equipment to meet your needs and the training to use all equipment that we respond with. We have contact with all agencies in our response area through radio and cell phone capabilities and are in contact with responding agencies such as the ambulance service during calls. We are part of the Lassen County Fire Net dispatch and can request outside agencies for fire, hazardous materials and other support as needed. If the situation requires, we can request helicopter from Susanville or Reno to give you the best and fastest medical service possible.

We at the Fire Department train daily to stay proficient in emergency response and we work hard towards improving our skills so that we are always ready to meet the ever changing needs of SIAD. Always remember we are just a call for help away and thank you for your continued support.

**Honor the memory of those who lost their lives in the 9-11 terrorist attacks**

## Born to Be Wild

By Lisa Huston  
Environmental Specialist

No, we are not talking about the bikers here at SAID. Even though they do dance to a different beat.

We are talking about the wildlife here at SAID. Mainly coyotes and kit foxes.

SAID is in the middle of their domain, so it is common on occasion to see these animals in and around our worksites. For the most part these animals keep their distance and avoid human interaction.

Sometimes people take it upon themselves to assist in their survival by providing a food source.

The wildlife is capable of finding their own food sources. Problems arise when people start providing food for the wildlife.

One, they start to become dependent on this food source. Two, they start losing their natural fear of humans, and in doing so become a safety problem. If the animal happens to bite someone, we must assume that it is rabid. The person bit will then have to be subjected to the vaccination procedures. The person or persons feeding the wildlife then open themselves up to legal liability problems.

Your intention may be good but your doing the animal no favor. It is very difficult to trap and relocate coyotes. If they become a problem the only real solution is to put down the animal. So please let these animals be wild, be wild.

If you have any questions, call Buildings and Grounds at extension 4374.



Animals in pictures above and at left are just a few of the different types of wildlife that can be seen on depot. Although they look cute and tame, the constant feeding of these animals by people will do more harm than good. The consequences to the people who feed such wildlife, in the event someone is bit by one while attempting to feed, could become a liability issue to that individual.



