

## Inland MOPARS and MWR Volunteers Bring Christmas in January to Fort Irwin

By Elizabeth O. Bryson

**FORT IRWIN, Calif.** — The Inland Mopars, a group of car enthusiasts from in and around the California Inland Empire, including Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, brought a bit of extended Christmas joy to Fort Irwin families January 6, 2024, as they partnered with the Fort Irwin and the local community to deliver hundreds of toys to children, here.

Brandi Crist, Department of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR) director, helped organize the event and was there with her team unloading, processing, and handing out toys.

“This event is an excellent opportunity for us to give something back to the community and demonstrates a fantastic community-wide effort,” Crist said. “We are so grateful to Mopars and all of our volunteers out here for helping to give Fort Irwin kids Christmas in January.”

Mike Keller, Inland Mopars toy drive coordinator, said the organization collects sports equipment, bicycles, books, dolls, skateboards and more at car shows and events throughout the year to bring joy to military families living on and near Fort Irwin each January.

According to Keller, this year he drove a 24-foot trailer loaded “end-to-end” with gifts

and toys, representing a value of nearly \$50,000 which was collected by Mopars over the past twelve months.

“Every year we start collecting [donations] heavily in May at various car shows and events we do just so we can make this event happen and help give families here a great Christmas,” Keller said. “It means so much to be able to do this... we want to make sure every child gets a toy.”

A volunteer dressed as the Grinch was on hand to oversee the event, displaying uncharacteristic holiday cheer as he directed traffic and merrily waved at families as their vehicles were guided through the drive-in donation area by Fort Irwin Military Police.

Families turned in wish lists to “Santa’s helpers” consisting of volunteers from all over post, including Fort Irwin garrison headquarters,



Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers (BOSS), 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 916th Sustainment Brigade, Operations Group, and the Fort Irwin Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) and family members, who delivered basketballs, skates, dolls, and bikes to the grinning children in cars and trucks waiting

to take them home.

“This is a special event for us,” said Keller. “We love being here every year to see the kids’ faces... and to be a part of giving back to Soldiers and their families... and when we leave here, we’ll be ready to start collecting for next year!”

## A Great Day for Logisticians: 916th Earns FORSCOM Supply Excellence Awards

Story and photos by Elizabeth O. Bryson

**FORT IRWIN, Calif.** — U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Curtis D. Taylor, commanding general of National Training Center (NTC) and Fort Irwin, presented Army Chief of Staff Supply Excellence Awards (SEA), January 17, 2024, to two units from the 916th Support Brigade, here.

Taylor presented the awards to Company C, 2916th Aviation Battalion “Raptors” and 1916th Support Battalion “Desert Warriors.”

The purpose of the SEA program is to enhance the readiness, discipline, and supply effectiveness of organizations, perpetuate group competition and increase public awareness of supply excellence in the Army; the presentation of these awards is prestigious, as they are awarded to just a few organizations each year.

“SEAs are presented to the best of the best of the best,” said Taylor. “Those that show a commitment to going above and beyond to support the U.S. Army mission and demonstrate the highest level of competency and dedication.”

According to U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), there are over 700,000 troops in the organization, providing over 80% of the Army’s combat power, which translates to



Photo by Elizabeth O. Bryson

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Curtis D. Taylor, commanding general of National Training Center (NTC) and Fort Irwin (far right, kneeling,) poses with members of the 1916th Support Battalion “Desert Warriors” and their civilian partners, KBR, January 17, 2024, in the 1916th Bn. warehouse at Fort Irwin, Calif., as they show off the coveted U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), Supply Excellence Award (SEA) for best FORSCOM Level IV Supply Support Activity (SSA). The purpose of the SEA program is to enhance the readiness, discipline, and supply effectiveness of organizations, perpetuate group competition and increase public awareness of supply excellence in the Army; the presentation of these awards is prestigious, as they are awarded to just a few organizations each year.

# Community

## The NTC/Fort Irwin Inspector General (IG) is moving!

Effective 31 January 2024 the IG office will be in Building R183, at the intersection of 5th St. and Inner Loop Rd., behind the Mary Walker Clinic.

The IG exists as an extension of the eyes, ears, voice, and conscience of the Commander. They serve to enhance the Command's

readiness and warfighting capability through the execution of inspections, investigations, assistance, teaching and training, and by advising the Commander and subordinate commanders on matters affecting the Command's immediate readiness and morale. Inspectors General are a resource for everyone!

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NTC CSM

**Col. Lane A. Bomar**  
Garrison Commander

**Command Sgt. Maj. David Palmer**  
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High Desert Warrior, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the United States Army and Fort Irwin community. Contents of this newspaper are not necessarily official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Fort Irwin and the National Training Center. High Desert Warrior is prepared weekly by the Public Affairs Office, National Training Center and Fort Irwin, P.O. Box 105067, Fort Irwin, CA, 92310-5067. Telephone: 380-4511 or DSN 470-4511. FAX: 380-3075.

High Desert Warrior is a digital publication, distributed monthly on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/HighDesertWarrior/](http://www.facebook.com/HighDesertWarrior/) as well as emailed to base personnel. It is produced at Aerotech News and Review, (661) 945-5634.

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### NEWSPAPER AWARDS

**2nd Place, 2017 U.S. Army IMCOM**

Newspaper Competition — Feature Photograph  
**Honorable Mention, 2009 U.S. Army IMCOM-West**  
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## The NTC Inspector General is Moving!

Starting 31 January 2024 the NTC IG will be in Bldg. R183

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Over 200 families received food, diapers and other items at the food pantry event at the Blue Track on Fort Irwin California January 10, 2024. Thank you to all of the people who worked to make this event happen and improve the quality of life for our families here at Fort Irwin. Don't miss it next month!

From **LOGISTIANS**, Page 1

thousands of supply organizations, while SEAS are presented to less than 10 each year.

Taylor presented the first SEA, best FORSCOM Level I Unit Supply, to C Co., 2916th Aviation Bn., at their unit headquarters.

C Co. provides air MEDEVAC rotational support to the more than 50,000 service members who train at the NTC annually, which can mean over 100 transport missions a year, each of which can potentially save the life of a Soldier.

Maj. Chris Moser, C Co., 2916th Aviation Bn. commander, said the efforts of his supply shop are critical to the success of those life-saving missions and credited Staff Sgt. Malcolm Horne, C Co., 2916th Aviation Bn., supply sergeant, with the win.

"It's almost unheard of for a one-man shop to receive this kind of recognition, but it is absolutely deserved," said Moser. "Over the past three years, we've had 11 staff visits and inspections, during which we received over a 90% satisfaction record, which is outstanding. In September of 2023, we received a 100% [satisfaction] during the Arms Aviation Resource Management Survey, which is no fails whatsoever... that is extremely rare."

Horne, who has been an Army supply sergeant for 12 years, said he was overwhelmed with the magnitude of recognition he received for what he called, "just doing his job."

Horne not only provides supply support for weapons and vehicles, but he also makes sure the helicopter crews and medics who must stay over at the unit during 24-hour shifts for on-call duty have everything they need to be comfortable and ready to respond.

"Our Soldiers are out there every day saving lives... I am proud to support them and help wherever I am needed," said Horne. "I absolutely love these guys... they are like a family to me."

Horne had some advice for other supply sergeants aspiring

to achieve excellence.

"In this job, you really learn by trial and error, but your best friend is always the [regulations]," Horne said. "Always check the regulations and make sure you are doing things by the book."

Taylor presented the second award, best FORSCOM Level IV Supply Support Activity (SSA), to 1916th Bn. and their civilian partners, KBR, at the 1916th warehouse.

The 1916th provides support to the Fort Irwin installation and sustainment for the rotational units that cycle through here, while maintaining a trained and ready force that can support worldwide contingency operations.

Taylor expressed his gratitude for the Soldiers and the many civilians committed to working together daily to support the important mission of the NTC and the tens of thousands of troops who live and train here each year.

"We are incredibly grateful for the outstanding professionalism, dedication and efficiency of this team," Taylor said. "We asked a lot, and you delivered."

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Rigoberto Navarro, 1916th Bn. SSA accountable officer, who oversees the team, also offered his thanks.

"I want to highlight a few special people who made this possible: Mr. Williams and Mr. Jeffries from KBR... but you are all winners— this is for you," Navarro said, gesturing to the group of KBR employees and Soldiers in attendance. "This a winning team and we wouldn't be here without all your efforts."

Col. Cedric Gaskin, 916th Support Brigade commander, also congratulated the team on their extraordinary accomplishment.

"This [SEA] is a result of the hard work, professionalism, and dedication of our Soldiers and the centralized workforce, working together to achieve a goal," Gaskin said. "When we work together as a cohesive team, anything is possible."



**Photo by Elizabeth O. Bryson**

The coveted Army Chief of Staff Supply Excellence Awards (SEA) for best U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), Level IV Supply Support Activity (SSA), presented to 1916th Support Battalion "Desert Warriors," January 17, 2024, in the 1916th Support Bn. warehouse at Fort Irwin, Calif. The purpose of the SEA program is to enhance the readiness, discipline, and supply effectiveness of organizations, perpetuate group competition and increase public awareness of supply excellence in the Army; the presentation of these awards is prestigious, as they are awarded to just a few organizations each year.

# Community

## 2024 Rose Bowl



Photos by Dave Dupree

Soldiers and command teams from the National Training Center and Fort Irwin represented the installation at the Rose Bowl game Michigan vs. Alabama in Pasadena California January 1, 2024.

See more photos **ROSE BOWL**, Page 5

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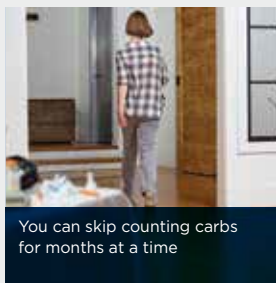
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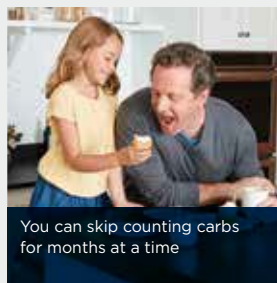
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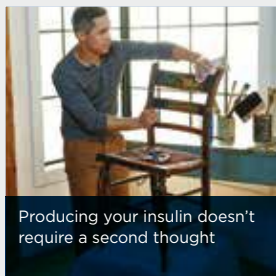
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