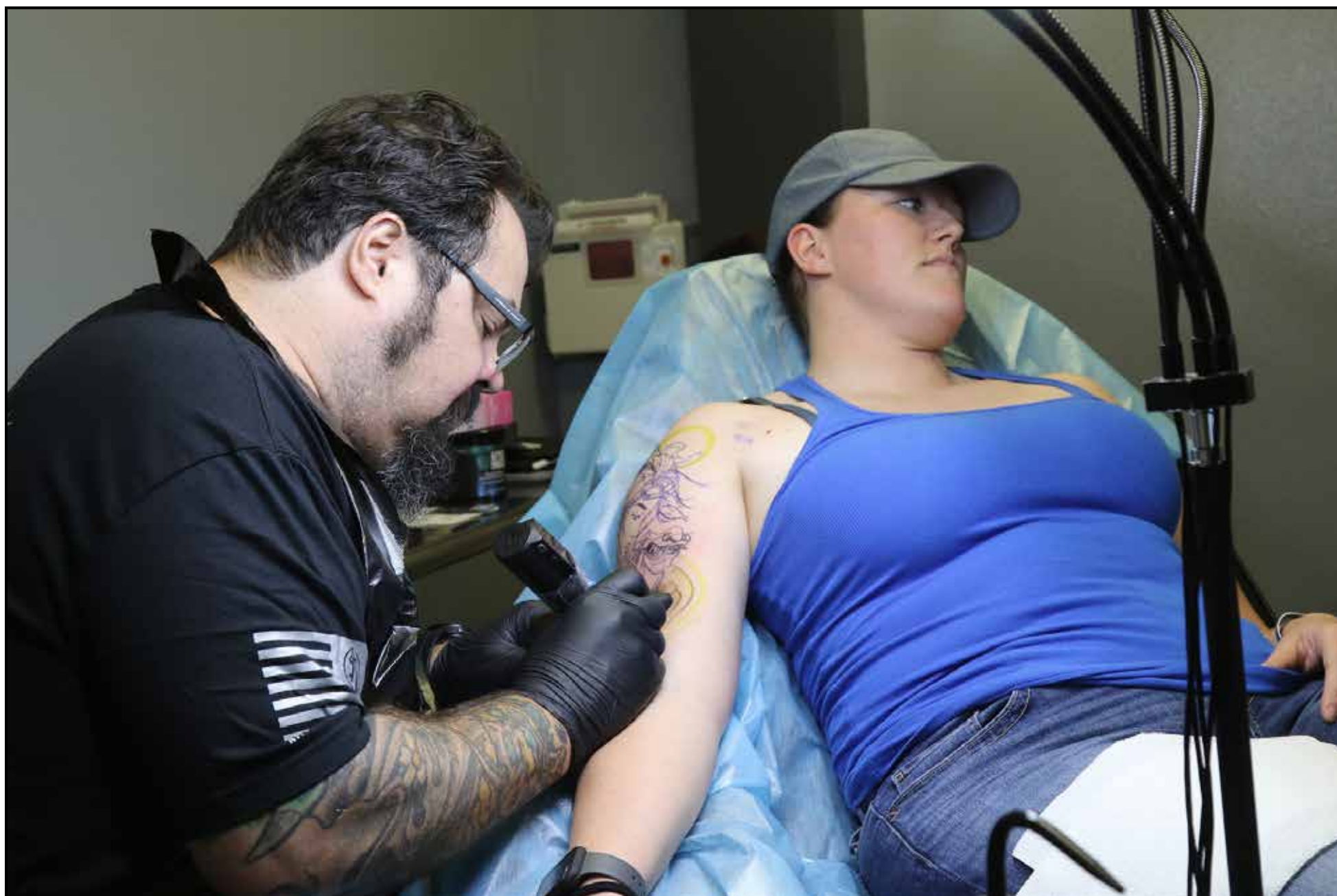




Fort Irwin welcomes American Tattoo Society studio



James Vaughn (left), tattoo artist, tattoos Staff Sgt. Tiffany Payne (right), the emergency room noncommissioned officer in charge with Weed Army Community Hospital, the day of the grand opening of the American Tattoo Society studio on Fort Irwin, California, Aug. 23, 2023.

Story and photos by Kimberly Hackbarth

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — The Fort Irwin Army & Air Force Exchange Service hosted a grand opening for the American Tattoo Society-Fort Irwin tattoo studio Aug. 23, here.

Fort Irwin is the seventh U.S. military installation to open a tattoo studio, with the most recent opening on Fort Moore, Georgia, in July 2023.

From the first tattoo shop on Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, to the most recent on Fort Irwin, the American Tattoo Society team handled multiple logistical challenges, including COVID-19, military regulations and varying safety standards from state to state.

Ryan Harrell, the owner of American Tattoo Society, and his team worked closely with AAFES and U.S. Army Public Health Command to create a standardized body art model code based off the National Environmental Health Association's, which is considered best practices across the board, Harrell said.

The team also met with San Bernardino County Health

Department to see if the county had additional health regulations, Harrell added.

"Some of these things are outside what a normal tattoo studio would have to do," Harrell said. "A lot of stuff that we're doing is above and beyond best practices and the level of certification our artists have is far and above what is required in any other state."

Along with safety standards, the artists of the studio also are required to tattoo all customers within Army regulation, according to Harrell.

Harrell said he wants the community to know that the studio will provide high quality tattoos.

"You know that when you come in here, the artists are going to be able to do what they say they're going to do because they've been vetted so thoroughly to get on base," he said. "You're going to get a great artist at a good price at or below what other premium artists would charge off base."

The Fort Irwin studio, managed by Faith Bomar, is located at



Ronin Lugo (left), tattoo artist at Fort Irwin's American Tattoo Society studio, provides a cover up tattoo during the grand opening of the American Tattoo Society studio on Fort Irwin, California, Aug. 23, 2023. Lugo is the permanent tattoo artist for the Fort Irwin tattoo studio.

Fort Irwin Wildlife

Tarantulas on Fort Irwin



Courtesy photo

Steven Tuttle, Wildlife Biologist

TEYA Support Services, LLC

Fort Irwin is home to one of the most misunderstood creatures of North America, the elusive tarantula.

These odd, and often feared, creatures belong to the Class Arachnida, a group of arthropods that include other spiders, scorpions, ticks, and mites. Fort Irwin contains excellent habitats for tarantulas to live in, including creosote bush scrub and Joshua tree forest ecosystems.

A common species on Fort Irwin is the western desert tarantula (*Aphonopelma chalcodes*), also known as the desert blonde tarantula. However, other species also consider Fort Irwin their home like the desert tarantula (*Aphonopelma iodium*) and the Mojave tarantula (*Aphonopelma mojave*).

The morphology of tarantulas found here are the same, meaning they all have hairy bodies, four pairs of legs, two pedipalps (leg like appendages used for handling food), an exoskeleton that includes a cephalothorax (fused head and thorax) connected to an abdomen, and eight eyes. They usually appear tan to reddish-brown to black in color. Males are smaller, thinner, and lankier than their female counterpart. Male tarantulas have a relatively short lifespan of less than ten years, while females can survive as long as 25 to 30 years. Although the appearance may give you the heebie-jeebies, this spider does not deserve the fear it inspires. In fact, tarantulas are some of the least aggressive arachnids in the world, becoming popular as exotic pets in recent years.

A traveling tarantula is usually searching for a new home or a mate and is uninterested in humans. If threatened, a tarantula

will raise up their front two pairs of legs to look bigger and show off their fangs, but tarantulas are unlikely to bite unless handled roughly. Moreover, a tarantula bite is not lethal to humans and is typically not worse than a bee sting. As a secondary method of defense, tarantulas found in America have barbed and prickling hairs on their abdomen that they will brush into the faces of threatening animals. The hairs will cause temporary irritation to the nose, mouth, and eyes, allowing the spider to get away. Like other spiders, tarantulas hunt by using venom to paralyze their prey. Tarantulas will eat anything that is the right size: insects, other spiders, lizards, and even small rodents. Rather than spinning webs to capture prey, tarantulas are "ambush predators" and they hunt using burrows dug in the ground. The burrow entrance is lined with a web trip wire system, made from the tarantula's silk, that will alert the spider when prey is near. This silk also provides structure and protection for the burrow, keeping it viable for longer.

Did you know tarantulas also use their silk in much the same way Spider-Man does? These spiders have spigots on their legs that secrete silk, providing sticky pads on their feet, allowing them to cling to surfaces like walls and roofs of desert caves or even a glass window. Since these tarantulas usually have larger bodies, this adaptation is vital because a fall from a high distance could injure or possibly kill the spider. Some scientists believe they may be an evolutionary intermediate of silk spinning spiders.

Most sightings of tarantulas will be in autumn (usually late September and early October), when the temperature cools, and mature males leave their burrows in search

of potential mates. This migration of sorts may be alarming to those unaware of the event. Scientists believe the spider's trek is spurred by many factors including: age, pheromones, and the change in seasons, which means the exact timing of their journey can vary year to year. When a burrow of a female is found, the male will lightly tap at the entrance to make his presence known. The female tarantula may not acknowledge the male, but if chosen, the male must be careful. Female tarantulas have been known to practice sexual cannibalism, eating the readily available source of protein (a.k.a. the male tarantula), after mating. Female tarantulas will lay up to 1,000 eggs which take six to nine weeks to hatch.

Next time you encounter a tarantula, do not fear. Take some photos, wish the spider well, and know that these fun creatures are an important and unique part of the animal world. So slow down in life, take in the beautiful desert landscape and witness some of the wildlife found here at Fort Irwin.

The Fort Irwin Directorate of Public Works (DPW) has wildlife biologists on staff who are trained to safely manage wild animals creating a safety hazard or nuisance. If you have a wildlife concern, you can reach the DPW government wildlife biologist at 760-380-6435, or Teya contractor wildlife biologist at 760-380-4674. If you encounter a wildlife emergency, please call the wildlife emergency hotline directly at 619-288-8883. Any issues pertaining to domesticated pets should be directed to the Animal Control Facility at 760-380-8564. To request insect, rodent, or dead animal removal, contact All-Pro Pest Control at 760-380-4099.

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Commanding General

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NTC CSM

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HIGH DESERT WARRIOR

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Fort Irwin TAP hosts career fair

The Fort Irwin Transition Assistance Program hosted a career fair at Sandy Basin Community center, Aug. 2, 2023. Fort Irwin Community members met with civilian employers, support organizations and law enforcement agencies to learn about job opportunities.



Courtesy photo

From **TATTOO**, Page 1



Photo by Kimberly Hackbarth



Photo by Kimberly Hackbarth

Leadership from the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Fort Irwin Army & Air Force Exchange Service and American Tattoo Society ceremoniously cut a ribbon during the grand opening of American Tattoo Society – Fort Irwin studio on Fort Irwin, California, Aug. 23, 2023.

Leadership from the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Fort Irwin Army & Air Force Exchange Service and American Tattoo Society pose for a photograph during the grand opening of American Tattoo Society – Fort Irwin studio on Fort Irwin, California, Aug. 23, 2023.

83 Goldstone Rd. and has one permanent artist, a part-time artist and two visiting artists monthly.

James Vaughn, who made several appearances on the TV show Ink Master, tattooed members of the Fort Irwin community at the Fort Irwin studio's grand opening.

Staff Sgt. Tiffany Payne, the emergency room noncommissioned officer in charge with Weed Army Community Hospital received a tattoo from Vaughn.

"James Vaughn is a world-renowned artist, veteran, and superb human being," Payne said. "The ability to get a tattoo from someone of his caliber in a remote location like the National Training Center is a true blessing."

The shop's permanent tattoo artist, Ronin Lugo, said coming to Fort Irwin felt isolating at first, but the community is welcoming.

"Once I realized how the community supports each other with doing family stuff, local groups and seeing they have gyms and they're

not that far from civilization, being on base is really welcoming," Lugo said.

Tattooing is what Lugo is passionate about and he is grateful to be able to tattoo the Fort Irwin community, he said.

"That's what I like about doing this: I get to talk to people and get to know them," Lugo said. "They know I'm not here after their money, I'm here giving them what they want to get and in return I'm getting to know someone from any part of the country or background and I get to enjoy what I'm doing."

Payne, who has been stationed on Fort Irwin since 2019, said the convenience of a tattoo studio could positively impact quality of life on the installation.

"The ability to get a tattoo here on base rather than drive a few hours is a huge morale boost, too," she said. "Anything that the installation is able to do to provide different recreational options for the service members locally is greatly

appreciated!"

Bomar agreed that the tattoo shop could help the morale and camaraderie on the installation.

"There's something about the energy at a tattoo shop that is just contagious," Bomar said. "People want to be a part of it, and you can bond with somebody who is many generations older than you or younger than you over art."

When it comes to tattoos and the clientele, there isn't a set demographic or typical customer, she said.

"Ink transcends all of that and that is part of what brings the morale boost here," Bomar said. "There is a pride in it that is going to help this community tremendously and bring in some new life and fresh ink and perspective."

The studio is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Appointments can be made inside the studio or via the studio's social media channel.



Photo by Kimberly Hackbarth

Emari Donahue, tattoo artist, tattoos a customer during the grand opening of the studio on Fort Irwin, California, Aug. 23, 2023. Donahue is one of the visiting tattoo artists to the Fort Irwin studio.

Community

August Box Tour



Photos by Dave Dupree

Members of the Fort Irwin and surrounding communities attended the National Training Center Community Box Tour at Fort Irwin, California, Aug. 11, 2023. Attendees learned about the mission of the NTC and interacted with U.S. Army Soldiers.

SMA, Vice CSA visit National Training Center



The Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Randy A. George, and Sergeant Major of the Army, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Weimer, joined 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in the training area on Fort Irwin, California, for a reenlistment ceremony Aug. 19, 2023.

Community



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The items to be sold are generally described as follows: Furniture, clothing, tools and or other household items stored by the following persons.

- E35 Ruiz, Octavio
- E47 Banks, Noel
- C21 Medina, Robert
- E02 Hillman, Nicole
- I14 Gillies, Amber
- B01 Sandifer, Barbara Jean
- C03 Taylor, Rikeishia

Date: August 25th, 2023 Signed NOVA STORAGE

This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of section 21700 et seq. of Business & Professional Code of the Sate of California. The owner reserves the right to bid at the sale. All purchased goods are sold "As Is" and must be paid for and removed at the time of sale. Sales subject to prior cancellation in the event of settlement between owner & obligated party. Auctioneer: Nova Storage

National Training Center Decisive Action Rotation ends with a bang



Photos by Operations Group

Soldiers from 3rd Cavalry Regiment completed a live-fire exercise Aug. 25, 2023, at Fort Irwin, California, closing out National Training Center Decisive Action Rotation 23-09.

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SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6 - Education Fair - Prayer Breakfast	7 - Parent Ed Class - Fort Irwin Chambers Meeting	8 - Box Tour	9
10	11 - DES 9/11 Ceremony	12 - ERP Monthly Hiring Fair	13	14	15	16 - AUSA Golf Tour - Hollywood La Brea Tar Pits
17	18	19	20 - Blood Drive (Sandy Basin)	21	22	23 - Oktober Fest - Gold Star Families Walk - BH Marathon
24	25	26 - Town Hall	27 - Hispanic Heritage Month - Suicide Prevention 2.2 Mile	28	29	30

National Training Center and Fort Irwin Highlights

- LABOR DAY: 05 SEP
- 9/11 Memorial: 11 SEP
- ERP Monthly Hiring Fair: 13 SEP
- OKTOBERFEST: 17 SEP
- Hispanic Heritage Month: 21 SEP
- SVHS Military Appreciation Night: 30 SEP

SCAN QR CODE TO ACCESS Community Calendar

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