

32nd heads to Tobin Wells for home-station training

MASTER SGT. STEVE MILLER

32nd AAMDC PAO NCOIC

Blackjack Soldiers deployed to Fort Bliss' Tobin Wells training area Feb. 9 to conduct theater air and missile defense operations in support of home-station training.

The four-day HST is a command-post exercise designed to prepare the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command and its subordinate units for Joint Blue Flag, a multi-service exercise scheduled for late July and early August at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. and Hurlburt Airfield, Fla., among other sites.

"Our enemies can be expected to use ballistic missiles, followed by insurgent or terrorist activity against coalition forces, especially Patriot fire units," said Lt. Col. Eric Scheidemantel, 32nd AAMDC plans officer, during a recent briefing.

"Our mission for coalition forces is to eliminate terrorist threats [to a given government or nation] through deterrence and, if deterrence fails, through limited offensive operations," added Scheidemantel.

The 32nd sent its connexes to Tobin Wells on Jan. 31 and began filling sandbags and other site preparation Feb. 2. Setup of tactical operations centers and tents took place Feb. 6 through 8.

"Our enemies will probably have weapons of mass destruction, especially chemical weapons with blister, blood, choking and nerve agents,"



PFC. RACHAEL ESTES

Soldiers from the 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command set up a Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter Feb. 6 in preparation for a Home-Station Training exercise at Tobin Wells.


Scheidemantel said. "They may have biological weapons, too. That's something we need to be prepared for."

As a result, Blackjack Soldiers have their protective masks with them at all times during the training. The mask is part of the exercise uniform, along with DCUs, boots, Kevlar hel-

met and a load-bearing vest. Off duty, the Physical Fitness Uniform and mask are required. Soldiers also packed their Joint Services Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology – commonly known as JSLIST – so it is available when the 32nd exercises Soldiers' response to

NBC warnings.

"You never know when your NBC gear will save your life," said Pfc. Sharee Goodwin, NBC specialist, before the exercise. "It [using the gear correctly] needs to be second nature for everyone."



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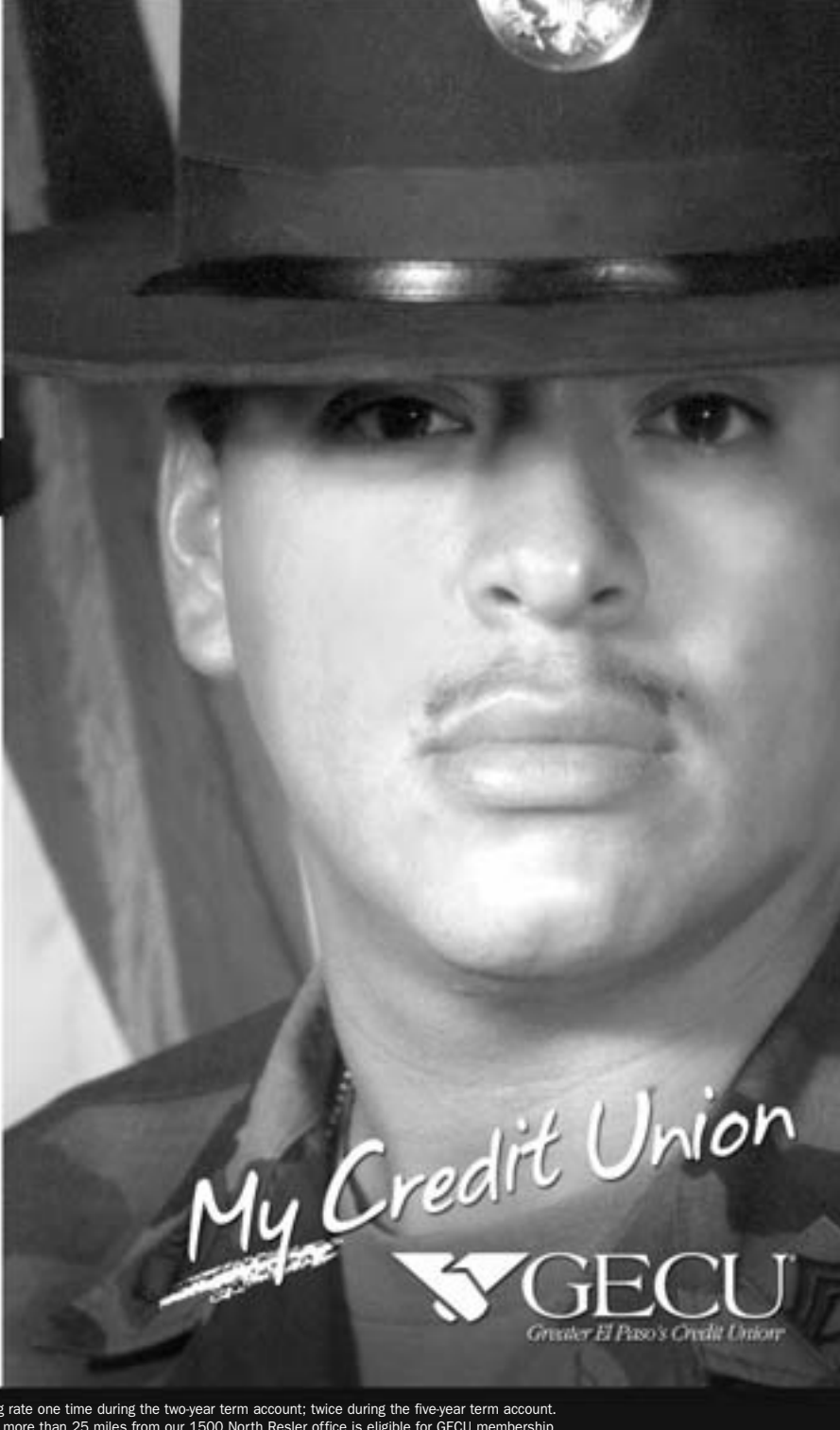
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