

Card use helps MWR

By Army & Air Force Exchange Service Public Affairs
 Soldiers patronizing the Fort Sill Exchange probably don't give a second thought as to which credit card to use at checkout. What they may not be aware of, however, is that the use of bank-issued cards at the Exchange ultimately costs the Fort Sill community thousands annually.

This year alone, bank-issued card processing expenses at Fort Sill facilities are already up 8.21 percent compared to this time last year, saving \$431,852.62 from the Exchange and, in turn, critical funds that could be used for morale, welfare and recreation programs. In 2010, total credit card fees for the entire year at Fort Sill were \$798,420.61.

One way military families can help reduce costs and strengthen their Exchange benefit is to take advantage of the Exchange's exclusive MILITARY STAR® Card. Unlike bank cards, profits generated from the MILITARY STAR® Card are shared with military communities through contributions to the military service's quality-of-life funds.

"Using the MILITARY STAR® Card is one of the easiest ways for troops to directly impact their Exchange and morale, wel-

fare and recreation benefits," said the Exchange's Main Store Manager Mae Padgett. "Reducing these unnecessary expenses can go a long way in maximizing the dividend the Exchange annually returns to the military community."

The MILITARY STAR® Card is accepted at all Army and Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Exchange activities, as well as the Exchange Catalog and the Exchange Online store at www.shopmyexchange.com.

Authorized exchange shoppers can learn more about the MILITARY STAR® Card by visiting the above website and clicking "Credit Services."

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is a joint command and is directed by a board of directors which is responsible to the secretaries of the Army and the Air Force through the service chiefs of staff. The Exchange has the dual mission of providing authorized patrons with articles of merchandise and services and generating nonappropriated fund earnings as a supplemental source of funding for military family and morale, welfare and recreation programs. To find out more about the Exchange history and mission or to view recent press releases, visit the above website.



Online tool counters intel threats



Did you know?

By Col. Paul Hossenlopp
 Fort Sill Garrison commander

The men and women who work counterintelligence do a great job at Fort Sill helping keep the post safe for all who live, work and play here. They have a big responsibility keeping track of threats, both foreign and domestic, not only for the mission here but also throughout the Army. In fact, counterintelligence is one small portion of a network of agencies and law enforcement branches who seek to protect all interests of America and its allies.

Successful operations are often achieved by gathering, comparing and analyzing accurate and timely information. Trained agents glean much of this information, but as good as they are, they can't be everywhere and see everything. This is where you the average Soldier or civilian can contribute. If you believe you have information or have witnessed a situation that might be important to the security of the Army, its facilities or personnel, taking action may not only help keep Fort Sill safe but also your co-workers, family and friends, too.

If the information you have suggests an immediate threat, don't hesitate, call 911 or Fort Sill Law Enforcement at 442-3364. Otherwise, there's a new counterintelligence website that is active and accessible by the general public at <https://www.inscom.army.mil/isalute>. To aid in reporting, people can also access the website from the Fort Sill intranet site.

The iSALUTE online portal was created to help people report suspicious activity or circumstances. The website will request your phone number; unit, base or city; and state or county. You may also leave your name, though it is optional. Once completed, basic information is transmitted to the Army CI coordinating authority for review and referral to a local CI office or other agencies for further investigation as needed.

CI special agents will call you back within 72 hours, and no information you submit is reported to your chain of command or place of employment. iSALUTE is designed to

complement other Army threat awareness and reporting initiatives and foster partnerships with the CI, law enforcement organizations and Army communities. It focuses on foreign threats to the Department of Defense and Army from espionage activities and terrorist or insider threats.

The website includes a checklist of details that will help CI agents assess the overall value of the information and may spur some additional questions.

Remember to give as much detail as you can recall. Some of the bits of information that may make a difference for CI agents are:

- Size: Number and description of people and vehicles, identifying information such as unique distinguishing characteristics and license plates are important;

- Activity: Describe what the people or vehicles are doing or what appears to be suspicious;

- Location: of people, vehicles or activities. Include direction of travel and names of roads, if known;

- Unit: they belong to, any markings or insignias; other identifying information on clothing or individuals such as brands, names, pictures, numbers or tattoos;

- Time: and date you observed the behavior and how long you watched. Include timeline of activities during observation. Note time of any significant events or changes during observation; and

- Equipment: Describe any equipment observed; such as cameras, writing or sketching instruments, tools, communications or computer equipment, or weapons present.

Remember details may seem insignificant, however, to trained agents those little bits you recall may link to other information they have already gathered.

For those who prefer to remain anonymous and who live within the United States, they can report information by calling the counterintelligence hotline at 800-225-5779 or 800-CALL-SPY.

Together we can ensure Fort Sill remains safe from all threats.

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The Helms family has served the Lawton/Ft. Sill community for 62 years.

And in that time, we have made many, many lasting friendships with our customers and business associates. So it goes without saying that we are sad to close our doors. Following the deaths of Mary Helms, Jere Helms, Dan Helms and Dwight Stodola, we have found that we are no longer able to keep the family business going in a full-time retail and repair capacity. But before we say goodbye, we would like to invite you to our final closing sale beginning October 3, 2011.

We need you to come help us say goodbye to 175 years of combined experience and three generations of jewelry professionals. We are proud to say that we have touched the lives of many people here in our community by giving them everlasting memories with wedding rings, baby jewelry, family heirlooms and gifts for all occasions, as well as appraisals, restorations and custom castings. We are liquidating our remaining inventory, which will end in an auction of our showcases and fixtures. It's time. Please, come join us for this event which will be, in Lawton's history, historical.

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