

## Parachute jump kicksoff antiterrorism month

#### By Mark Schauer

YPG commemorated the Army's seventh annual antiterrorism month in a big way in August.

For the second year, the Military Freefall School (MFFS) helped kick-off the month by jumping in a YPG-designed anti-terrorism flag in an early morning ceremony as dozens of YPG personnel observed.

"We're trying to make sure personnel on the installation are vigilant on a day-to-day basis," said Col. Randy Murray, YPG commander. "Anti-terrorism month

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# Monster YPG cannon celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of world record-setting shot

#### By Chuck Wullenjohn

It was near midnight amid cool desert darkness in Yuma, Arizona, on November 18, 1966 – 50 years ago this year. Along Firing Front Road on U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground's Kofa Firing Range, a gigantic 119 foot white gun solemnly pointed straight-up into the night sky.

The members of the work crews excitedly gathered behind bombproofs and a countdown began. At the stroke of 11:56 p.m., the gun boomed louder than anyone had heard before and coughed a plume of bright orange-red fire 70 feet into the atmosphere. The blast caused a scientific payload to sail upward into the lower reaches of outer space, then land 30 miles away on the proving ground.

The shot was a complete success, accomplishing all mission objectives – and setting a still standing

world record; the highest altitude artillery shot ever recorded, 111 miles. The flight of the payload was tracked from ground stations located in Gila Bend, Az., Arizona Western College, Az., and Blythe, Ca.

Unfortunately, the High Altitude Research Project (HARP), which had been designed to propel satellites into orbit, was cancelled shortly thereafter. YPG's HARP gun never again fired a shot into space. Since that day, it has largely slumbered in the desert.

Wayne Schilders, Chief of YPG's Weapons Operation Division, first came to Yuma Proving Ground as a 19-year old in 1984 and has worked

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At 119 feet long, the behemoth gun stares into the sky in 1966. The HARP gun fired 30 rounds between June and November 1966, one of the shots establishing a world record for the highest altitude shot ever.

US ARMY PHOTO



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## **Arizona National Guard explosives experts** train at Cold Regions Test Center

By Sgt. Wesley Parrell

Members of the Arizona Army National Guard's 363rd Ordnance Company (EOD) conducted team leader certifications during their annual training at U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center (CRTC) from late July to early August.

Nearly 40 members of the 363rd escaped the heat of the hot, arid environment of the Arizona desert to conduct team leader certifications on the CRTC ranges, unlike any other ranges the Army has to offer.

"EOD units are highly specialized and EOD Techs need to have a broad spectrum of capabilities to successfully perform their mission," said Maj. Ashley Philbin, officer in charge. "Team leaders need to demonstrate proficiency in over 100 EOD tasks. Unique training opportunities such as this develop an EOD Tech's abilities to adapt to anything they may face during a real world mission wherever they are called to perform."

The U.S. Army CRTC plans and conducts developmental testing, with an emphasis on Soldier participation, in the snow, extreme cold, and subarctic natural environment. Although the training occurred during a milder time of year, the environment provided unique challenges for the Soldiers of the 363rd.

"Initially we had to adjust to the nearly 24 hours of daylight," said Spc. Jay White, an EOD technician with the 363rd Ordnance (EOD). "There was also the challenge of adjusting to the three days of almost continuous rain when we first arrived, neither of which have we ever had to deal with during our normal training in Arizona."

The CRTC is the Army's cold, winter, mountain and northern environmental test center and is situated on nearly 670,000 acres with special use restricted airspace from the surface to unlimited altitude. The testing effort is located at the Bolio Lake Test Complex, from which CRTC accommodates a full range of cold weather or temperate climate tests, depending on the season. The supporting infrastructure included facilities for ammunition storage, administrative areas, communications



circuits, and an extensive network of roads and trails.

"Conducting operations and team leader certifications on a range of this size afforded us nearly unrestricted movement," said Sgt. Ben Fulton, EOD technician. "This provided us the opportunity to test in an area without impeding into other training lanes, and providing safe distances for demolition operations without affecting any other team's training timeline."

The 363rd's EOD techs were not the only ones to benefit from this unique training environment. Mechanics from the 363rd and the 3666th Support Maintenance Company provided support to the Alaska Army National Guard's field maintenance shop on Fort Greely.

Partnering with the resident mechanics, the Arizona mechanics got experience in dealing with cold weather related mechanical complications and cold weather modifications used in winter

Sgt. Ben Fulton, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with the Arizona National Guard's 363rd Ordnance Company, conducts reconnaissance of a suspected unexploded ordnance item during training at U.S. Army Cold Regions Test Center in early August. CRTC's rugged environment provided unique challenges for the Soldiers of the 363rd.

environments on traditional military equipment.

"Although the Arizona National Guard maintains a fleet that operates in similar conditions in Flagstaff, the Alaska Guard mechanics provided great insight to overcoming the challenges they face keeping a cold weather fleet running," said Private 1st Class Ivan Nava. "We gained a better understanding of how the cold effects a vehicle's electrical system and we got to install a Snow Plow system onto a Humvee."

The 363rd Ordnance Company (EOD) was established in 1987 as one of the first five EOD detachments in the National Guard. Since then they have supported deployments to Desert Storm, Bosnia, Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan.

## **THEOUTPOST**

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Military Freefall School instructor Jose Reyes jumps YPG's anti-terrorism flag into the ceremony in early August. The flag, which sports the griffin-in-a-shield logo of the Army's antiterrorism effort, was also used by every other command within the Army Test and Evaluation Command as part of their awareness activities.



After jumping in YPG's anti-terrorism flag, Reyes (far right) presented the YPG-designed banner to, from left, Col. Randy Murray, YPG commander; Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Prosser; Maj. Alan Enke, Military Freefall School commander; Lt. Col. James DeBoer, Yuma Test Center commander; and Gordon Rogers, YPG garrison manager.

## PARACHUTE

is meant to heighten awareness and be more focused on the threat."

The flag, which sports the griffinin-a-shield logo of the Army's antiterrorism effort, was also used by every other command within the Army Test and Evaluation Command as part of their awareness activities.

Raising awareness and maintaining vigilance is more important than ever, YPG antiterrorism personnel noted.

"In the United States, we've had five terrorist attacks this year," said Gary Simpler, security specialist. "Globally, there have been almost 12,000 attacks and almost 13,000 people killed."

Despite these grim statistics, FBI reports indicate more than 50 terrorist plots have been successfully prevented in the past 15 years, often because ordinary people who observed suspicious activity promptly reported it to law enforcement

authorities.

For their part, the MFFS was eager to participate in the ceremony.

"This is the second anti-terrorism flag jump we've done for YPG," said Maj. Alan Enke, Military Freefall School commander. "The ability to be able to train at YPG knowing the anti-terrorism personnel are providing force protection is very valuable to us and our families."

YPG antiterrorism officials note that vigilance each day is vital.

"The importance is to get people to pay attention to their surroundings and report suspicious activity," said Simpler. "It's really raising the level of awareness and working together as a team to defeat the terrorists."

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By David J. Horn

Growing up on a farm up in the Midwest, it was typical that kids were taught how to drive at a much earlier age than most kids are taught today. (Except for maybe some of those kids you see running around out in the Yuma sand dunes.)

I still have vivid memories of the first vehicle I ever drove. When I was about 12, one day, right out of the blue, my dad came up to me and said, "It's time." The vehicle, was an old Farmall "H" tractor. My dad had already prepped the vehicle, using baling wire to attach 2 x 4 wood blocks to the clutch and brake pedals so I could reach them. On that day, I learned about how a clutch worked, and in just a couple of minutes I was using that tractor to pull grain wagons around the farmyard. Our training didn't stop there...it was important that my brothers and I also learned how to back up a trailer, and to drive on ice



and in the snow. But it was all done on the farm, with no driving on public highways or into town.

My son and my daughter, about four years apart in age, grew up as city kids. When I asked my son one day if he knew how to operate a vehicle with a clutch, he said, "Of course! The car in my video game has one." He still didn't know what he didn't know.

When my son (and later my daughter) reached the age of 14 or so, during a trip back from town in the car, I stopped at the big paved parking lot out at the nearby boat landing. Sitting in the car, I casually told him the story about that old Farmall H, and how I've always remembered that tractor as the first vehicle I ever drove. At the end of the story, he looked at me said, "Dad...why are you telling me this?" At that moment, sitting in my old 1979 Corvette. I replied, "Because...it's time."



## ROC Garden Café re-opens for business

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER

Maria Spolski (right) of YPG's ROC Garden Café serves lunch to Tom Fredette of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center on August 15th. The restaurant reopened after more than month of hiatus to allow for upgrades to the building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. The popular restaurant, which serves breakfast and lunch to the YPG workforce, is open Monday through Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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## Safety Corner Regular physical activity helps the body and mind

Did you know that children ages six to 17 should have at least 60 minutes per day of physical activity for good health? This can come from organized sports, unorganized play, family exercise and activities (e.g., go for a walk or hike together, or learn something new together like martial arts or dance), or any combination of these. Boys should have approximately 13,000 steps per day and girls should have about 11,000 steps per day of activity.

Regular physical activity contributes to overall health, increasing lean muscle mass and bone strength and playing a part (with diet) in weight management. It also enhances psychological well-being by reducing the symptoms of depression and anxiety, and improves academic

performance.

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## HARP GUN

around artillery throughout his adult life. He was a member of the crew that fired the HARP gun horizontally into an earthen berm in 1992, which was the last time it was fired.

"That was a quarter century ago," he said with a smile, "and everyone else in the division is sort of envious, for few of us are still around."

Though he was not at the proving

ground for the famous 1966 shot

– he was two years old at the time

– and no photos have been found,
Schilders has heard many stories
about it. "I've seen video footage of
firing of the HARP gun built on the

YPG Weapon Operations Chief Wayne Schilders shares his knowledge of the HARP with KAWC Radio Reporter Maya Robbnett as they stand in the shade of the 16 inch tube. PHOTO BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN Caribbean island of Barbados, and it's an impressive sight. The YPG gun is virtually identical."

Because YPG's HARP gun was not involved in firing

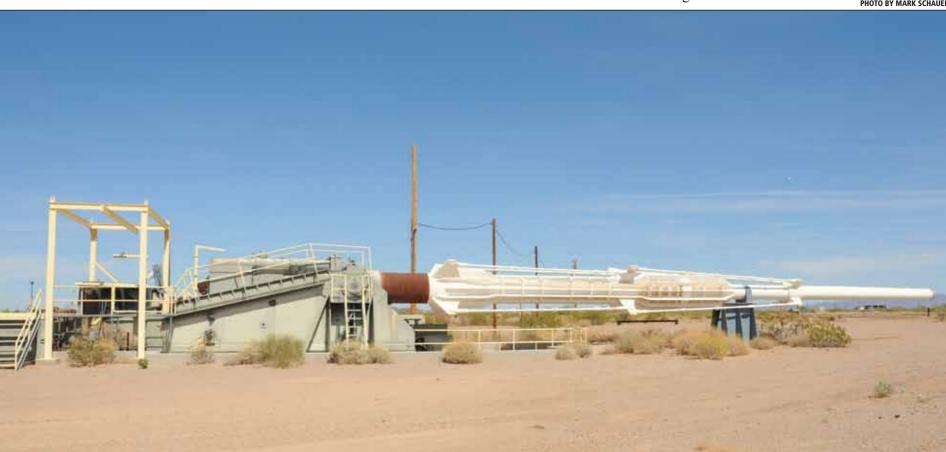
programs for the majority of its life, it has sometimes been neglected. When the cover protecting its muzzle rotted away, a colony of bees set up housekeeping in the barrel. An owl built a nest inside the open breech and several packrats inhabited the metallic housing of a hydraulic pump located on the ground next to the gun. An even worse prospect awaited the gun on Barbados, however, as decades of massive rust have turned it into an unusable, decayed monument.

But the situation with Yuma's gun has been largely solved.

Schilders and his crew have cleaned the barrel, spending hours scraping out wax and syrupy honey, even using a propane torch to melt wax. The desert packrats were unhappy when their nest of twigs and brush was taken apart. The owl had vacated its nest by the time it was removed,

The gun fired its final round into the lower reaches of space in 1966, spending most of its time ever since slumbering in the desert heat. No one knows for sure, but someday it may fire again.

PHOTO BY MARK SCHAUER



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PHOTO BY CHUCK WULLENJOHN
Of the three that were built, only YPG's
HARP gun remains in operational condition
today. The last time it fired was in 1992.

but Schilders remembers skeletons of numerous small animals scattered nearby on which it had dined.

"We're taking care of the HARP gun now," he said. "We've replaced numerous hoses, have placed protective devices inside both the muzzle and breech, and have made sure no wildlife returns. It's in decent shape and only surface rust removal and lubrication, as well as careful inspections and repairs here and there, would be necessary to fire it again."

Schilders points out that YPG's HARP gun is a unique, one-of-a-kind system that might be useful even today. "Though the barrels were cast during World War II, they are extremely heavy duty and were designed to take punishment," he

said. "Several private firms have cast feelers our way regarding firing it again."

Bill Heidner, Director of YPG's Heritage Center Museum, says the gun is now a historic artifact and that the preservation measures are required by the U.S. Army Center of Military History. Regarding firing the HARP gun again, he sees it as a realistic possibility that makes logical sense. "All the reasons that brought the HARP gun to Yuma Proving Ground in 1966 remain today," he stated.

These reasons include restricted airspace that extends from the ground to outer space and a huge 1300 square mile fairly remote proving ground.

"Private firms feel they can launch small satellites with a giant gun like the HARP using modern propellants packing more energy than those of the past," said Heidner.

Schilders agrees.

"If you can fire packages into space with a stationary gun, multiple times per day, it can be done cheaply in comparison to a rocket," he said. "These firms look at it as a business proposition. Their intention is to get things into space cheaply, quickly and effectively, and multiple times within a short period."

When considering the cost per pound of propelling a payload into space by rocket, it amounts to thousands of dollars. With gun technology, that could be potentially reduced to the hundreds of dollars per pound range.

So, will Yuma Proving Ground's monstrous HARP gun come to life again? It's an interesting possibility that only time will answer.

The HARP is constructed of two Navy 16 inch battleship gun tubes originally constructed in 1942. Records do not state the detailed history of the guns prior to their arrival at YPG. РНОТО ВУ СНИСК WULLENJOHN





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## **Yuma Community Career & Education Expo** coming soon

Several workforce development agencies will be hosting a Career & Education Expo on September 7th at the Yuma Civic Center at 1440 West Desert Hills Drive from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Local workforce development agencies have once again joined forces and will sponsor a unified Career & Education Expo to serve the Yuma community. Last year, over 100 employers, schools and resource agencies participated in this event. The date and times have been adjusted to meet the demands of the employers. Registration is now open for employers to secure a spot at this event. We recommend that employers register early as there is limited space and registration fills up fast. There is no cost to register.

Achieve Human Services and partnering agencies will also simultaneously host their 6th Annual DREAM Job Fair for people with disabilities in conjunction with the Career & Education Expo.

Many of the companies hiring at the Expo require on-line applications. A resource center will be available on site with computers for job seekers to

use so applicants can apply online. In addition, space will be provided for employers to conduct interviews at the Expo as well.

In addition to the Career & Education Expo, employment preparation workshops will be held at the University of Phoenix 899 East Plaza Circle, Yuma, AZ on August 31st from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. We recommend that job seekers planning to attend the Expo invest the time to attend the workshops so that they are totally prepared to meet with the employers. Job seekers attending the Expo should have copies of their resumes in hand and be dressed for possible on-site interviews.

Employers or job seekers with questions concerning the job fair, can contact one of the below participating organizations for additional information.

- Achieve Human Services 928-341-0335
- Arizona Western College, Career Services, 928-344-7605
- Arizona@Work (Employment Service/ Veteran Services), 928-247-8740
- Arizona@Work (YPIC) 928-329-0990

SEE CAREER EXPO page 11



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## **Access Control Updates**

#### By Sean P. Underhill, **DES Operations Officer**

The Yuma Proving Ground Access Control Policy has been updated, approved and signed by the Commander, and officially took effect on August 15th.

Some of the updates that may affect you as you travel through the Gates and Visitor Control Center are as

Commercial delivery drivers must be vetted whether escorted or not. We are now conducting NCIC-III criminal history checks on all personnel requesting access to YPG. Those delivering ammunition to Kofa Firing Range have already been vetted and do not require a pass, they can be escorted once their bill of lading and seals are authenticated.

DoD retired and dependent identification cards no longer accepted for access onto Walker or Kofa Cantonment Areas. Those individuals must get a pass and have a valid purpose for entering those areas. This is to prevent non-affiliated personnel from entering restricted areas.

YPG Military Spouses with a specific purpose (i.e. their spouse works on Walker and they share a vehicle or participate in Family Readiness activities) are authorized an extended local access badge with Walker access. (Those who live on YPG will get a resident badge, those living off post will get a visitor badge with Howard and Walker access). Non-Military members who need extended access for a family member who is a non-DoD identification card holder, housing resident or cleared contractor, can request an extended pass due to hardship. The employee must submit a hardship request to their organization director. The director must then prepare a letter

of endorsement detailing the nature of the hardship and the impact on the employee should the hardship exception be denied, and submit it to the Director of Emergency Services. If the hardship exception is approved, the director will be contacted to complete a sponsor packet for access. Upon receipt of the sponsor packet a NCIC-III check will be completed for the family member requesting access and once clearance is received an extended pass/ local access badge will be issued for the appropriate cantonment areas.

Those with Walker (W) on their local access badge can use it to get through Price School Gate. (Ensure that the badge is inserted face up so that the guard can see the 'W' to allow access). If the gate is not opening for you in a reasonable time, the guard operating the gate can be reached at 928-328-2806.

USAG-YPG employee spouses are authorized a local access badge for Howard Cantonment only. This will be good for up to 6 months at a time.

In place of the fee-based RAPIDGate program, local vendors are authorized a local access badge for up to 6 months at a time. They are still required to show proof of delivery or service at the manned access control gate. RAPIDGate badges will still be accepted at the authorized gates.

REAL ID Act requirements added: Check the Department of Homeland Security and Arizona Motor Vehicle Division websites for more details.

Hunting access permits and weapons registration processed solely through the Visitor Control Center in collaboration with the YPG Environmental Sciences Division.

Any questions or comments can be directed to the Visitor Control Center at 928-328-6668 or DES Operations at 928-328-2098/2546/2213.

## Exercise and stress

Submitted by Paul J. Kilanski, Family Advocacy Program Specialist

If you are stressed out, you probably know it. But did you know that exercise is one of the best ways to deal with stress? Exercise helps your mind and body. Stress produces chemicals in your body that make you feel edgy and tense. Your heart beats faster. Your muscles tighten. You breathe harder and your blood pressure goes up. Exercise reduces stress-related chemicals in the body. It can reduce muscle tension and take your mind off problems.

Choose activities you'll enjoy. The type of activity that will best relieve your stress depends on your personality and lifestyle. If you usually do quiet activities, vigorous exercise may be best. If you are active, calming exercise may be better. Remember, one of the stressreducing benefits of exercise is that it's fun.

Use aerobic exercise to relieve stress and help you feel energized. For most of us, aerobic exercise (the kind that raises your heart rate) is the best all-around stress reliever. Try adding aerobic exercise into your daily life. Take regular walks. Swim, jog or ride a bike. Turn household chores like mopping or raking into a workout. To get the stress-reducing benefits of aerobic exercise, work out hard enough that you lightly sweat and your heart beats faster, but not so hard that you can't talk while

you are exercising.

If you're the type of person who is always on the go, calming exercise may be a good stress reducer for you. Calming exercises reverse the body's stress response. Your breathing and heart rate slow and your muscles relax. Add calming exercise to your daily routine. Take breaks to stretch. Stroll around the neighborhood after dinner. Relax with a yoga video. Enroll in a tai chi

Take exercise breaks when you are feeling stressed. Having a tough day at work? Take a walk on your break. Feeling hot under the collar? Go for a swim. Do you like music? Dance, dance, dance your stress away. Don't have enough time for your family? Take a bike ride with your kids. Try for 30 to 60 minutes of physical activity on most days. (Add up 10 minutes here and 10 minutes there to make your total.) If you can't exercise that much, don't stress out! Do what you can. Even a little exercise can help! Make stress-reducing exercise part of your

Stress causes many health problems. It contributes to heart disease, high blood pressure, accidents, depression and back pain. Some scientists think it's the underlying cause of as many as 70 percent of all visits to family doctors. Exercise is one good way to reduce stress.





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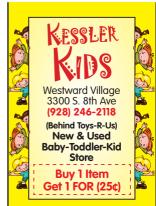
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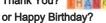
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Licensed, Bonded & Insured Service Contract Required

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#### Welding

#### **GONZALO'S** WELDING

Repairs & Fabrication

Design & Build New Iron gates, Window Security bars, Pool gates

FREE ESTIMATES

928-723-7342 not a licensed contractor THE OUTPOST AUGUST 22, 2016 **11** 

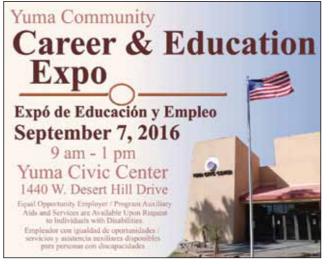
## CAREER EXPO

- Goodwill of Central Arizona. 928-343-7600
- Greater Yuma Economic Development Corp. (GYEDC), 928-782-7774
- Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), Career Resource Center, 928-269-5181
- Portable Practical Education Preparation (PPEP), 928-627-3203
- Quechan Workforce Development, 760-572-2314
- RSA/Vocational Rehabilitation, 928-782-7774
- Southwest Technical Education District of Yuma (S.T.E.D.Y), 928-366-5903
- U.S. Army Garrison, Yuma Proving Ground, Workforce Development, 928-328-2167

Job seekers wishing to attend the Career & Education Expo can

pre-register at https://goo.gl/MHbyz8. Job seekers that are preregistered will be able to use the express line for quicker access to this event.

Employers that would like to register and attend the Career & Education Expo can contact Grace Wehrle, 928-329-0990 X 147 gwehrle@azdes.gov.









## **Get moving!**

3-5 bedroom **solar homes** with a wealth of energy-saving, water-saving and money-saving features

Open floor plans within city limits, close to MCAS and shopping

Prices Starting at \$179,950

Call 928-783-1800 or take a drive to 32nd Street and Araby Road.



ElliottHomes.com



#### **Elliott Homes Solar Communities:**

**Araby Crossing** 6630 E. 35th St. Araby & 32nd Street 928-783-1800

#### **Las Barrancas** 12310 Grand View Drive S. Frontage Rd. & 15E 928-345-1623

**Sunset Terrace** 6171 E. Overlook LN. Araby Rd. & 26th St. 928-317-9701

M-F 10am-5pm Weekends 11-5pm





\* Features, amenities & pricing subject to change without notice. Special pricing / special offers cannot be combined. Photos may not represent actual home for sale.



# **CASINO & RESORT**

Fun is just around the corner!

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See the Players Club for full details. You must be at least 21 years old. Knowing your limit is your best bet-get help at (800) 547-6133.