

ARMY FLYER

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U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk pilots from 3-501st Aviation Regiment supported Naval Special Warfare Operators (SEALs) during cast and recovery training alongside Turkish Naval Special Operations Forces during Exercise Anatolian Phoenix 2025. This joint training strengthens our ability to operate with NATO allies in dynamic environments—on land, at sea, and in the air. Photo Credit: Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division

CSM (R) Otis Smith Marks Half-Century of Service to Nation



Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Otis Smith Jr. is celebrating a remarkable milestone this week: 50 years of dedicated service to the United States government. Smith's commitment began when he joined the Army in March 1975 as a cavalry scout. During his 34-year distinguished career, he served at Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Bliss, Texas; Germany; Macedonia; Bosnia; Kuwait; and Iraq. He rose ...

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Fort Rucker connects Soldiers and Veterans at Legacy Lunch



Fort Rucker Soldiers and members of the Aviation Center of Excellence (AVCOE) Command Team hosted veterans from the Command Sgt Maj Bennie G. Adkins State Veterans Home in Enterprise, AL at the Dining Facility (DFAC) on Fort Rucker for the monthly "Legacy Lunch" on July 2. The Legacy Lunch gives soldiers an opportunity to connect and build a relationship with local veterans in our community, trade stories, share experiences and an opportunity for the younger Soldiers to gain...

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AVCOE honors 2025 Drill Sergeant of the Year



The Aviation Center of Excellence honored its 2025 Drill Sergeant of the Year in a ceremony at Fort Rucker, Ala., July 10. Staff Sgt. Davin T. Harris, who serves as a drill sergeant at 2nd Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment, Fort Huachuca, Ariz., rose to the top after an intense competition that tested the physical and mental mettle of four drill sergeants across AVCOE, including from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., and Fort Rucker...

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AROUND THE ARMY

[Washington Army Guard trains in water bucket operations](#)

[Alaska Army Guard Rescues Family Stranded on River During Storm](#)

[12th Combat Aviation Brigade Conducts Change of Command Ceremony](#)

[The US Army Releases Sources Sought Notification Seeking Low-Cost SUAS Airframes](#)

[USAARL developing standard for external personnel loads on helicopters](#)

 **Veterans
Crisis Line**
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It takes strength
to reach out
for support.

Wilson Honored as 27th Member of Eagle Rising Society at Fort Rucker



Chief Warrant Officer Five (Ret.) Phyllis J. Wilson was inducted into the Honorable Order of the Eagle Rising Society during a ceremony Friday at Fort Rucker, becoming the 27th individual to receive the honor. Wilson began her Army career as a German linguist and voice intercept operator and supported multiple combat operations, including Desert Storm and Enduring Freedom. She deployed twice to Iraq with a specialized Joint Special Operations Task Force. She later served as the fifth Command Chief Warrant Officer of the U.S. Army Reserve. She contributed to strategic initiatives as a senior fellow with the Army Chief of Staff’s Strategic Studies Group. A recipient of...

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Fort Rucker Hosts Wiregrass Leaders Luncheon



Maj. Gen. Clair Gill, commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, hosted a luncheon Tuesday bringing together key community leaders for open dialogue about issues affecting the installation and the surrounding Wiregrass region. The luncheon, held July 1 at the East Beach Lodge on Fort Rucker, drew attendees from across the area, including local mayors, city planners, medical professionals, and federal legislative representatives...

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New Aviators’ 10-year Service Obligation to Begin after Completing Common Core Training Phase



The Army Aviation Center of Excellence announced an aeronautical rating date issuance change July 3. According to the Army Military Personnel (MILPER) Message No. 25-264, effective immediately officers’ and warrant officers’ aeronautical rating will be issued upon the completion of Initial Entry Flight Training Common Core phase of training. The policy will apply retroactively to all Army aviators who entered initial entry flight training on or after October 1, 2020. The active-duty service obligation for all aviators impacted by this change will have their service obligation date changed to the new aeronautical rating date.

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Summers Assumes Command of USAARL



The Fort Rucker community welcomed Col. Thomas A. Summers as U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory commander, and bid farewell to outgoing commander, Col. Matthew H. Hoefer, during a Change of Command ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum June 25, 2025. Maj. Gen. Paula C. Lodi, U.S. Army Medical Research & Development Command and Defense Health Agency Director for Research and Development commander, welcomed attendees and thanked family members for their support.

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Dr. Alem Memorialized with Building Name



It is a true achievement to have a lasting impact on an organization and to be remembered decades later. Dr. Nabih Alem made such an impression during his two decades of service at the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory as the subject matter expert on whole-body vibration and repetitive jolt. Vibration and jolt are experienced almost constantly by rotary-wing aviators in flight and lead to debilitating injuries over the long term. Two decades later, to honor the legacy Alem established, USAARL officially named Building 6905 as “Dr. Nabih M. Alem Operational Research Center” in a ceremony hosted by Maj. Gen. Paula C. Lodi...

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