

ARMY FLYER

SERVING THE HOME OF ARMY AVIATION SINCE 1956—

VOLUME 76 • NUMBER 9 • AUG. 4, 2026



1st Sgt. Jared Gilstad, a UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief with the Idaho Army National Guard's State Aviation Group, rides the rescue hoist cable beneath the aircraft during mandatory rescue hoist training near the Sawtooth Mountains, Idaho, July 23, 2026. The mandatory training kept aircrews certified on the rescue hoist system, a critical capability for the State Aviation Group's high-elevation and remote search and rescue missions across Idaho. The Idaho Army National Guard trained year-round and integrated civilian first responders, including the Custer County Sheriff's Office, county search and rescue teams and Air St. Luke's medical transport, to remain ready for technical and difficult missions. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Rusty Rehl)

Army flight school launches first solo cross-country training in decades



Army aviation students are taking a major step in their training as the first class begins solo cross-country flights during the Basic Warfighting Skills phase of flight school. This return to early career autonomy will help build confidence, sharpen decision making and better prepare new aviators for operational service. The new training model, introduced by the 1st Battalion, 223rd Aviation..

[READ THIS STORY ON ARMY.MIL](#)

Army teen to represent Alabama at 2026 Patriot Games



Most 14-year-olds spend their summers relaxing, enjoying carefree days and the company of their friends in preparation for one of the consequential moments of their lives — entering high school. But one teenager, the son of a Fort Rucker Black Hawk pilot, is training to represent Alabama on the national stage after earning a coveted spot in the 2026 Patriot Games...

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110th Aviation Brigade 'Warriors' welcome new commander at Fort Rucker



The 110th Aviation Brigade welcomed incoming commander, Col. Joshua C. Hayward, and expressed appreciation to outgoing commander, Col. Keith Hill, in a ceremony at Fort Rucker, Ala., July 30. Ceremony host Maj. Gen. Clair A. Gill, Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, welcomed attendees...

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AROUND THE ARMY

Soldier insights help advance Cheyenne development

Army leaders: Next Generation Command and Control 'ready to scale'

Belvedere Bistro officially opens, offering new way for Soldiers to dine at Fort Drum

From Fort Bragg to the White House: A Soldier's journey to Freedom 250

At Fort Campbell, Hegseth underscores significance of Purple Hearts, enlistments

988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

Army Chaplain Corps marks 251 years of service at Fort Rucker luncheon



The Fort Rucker community gathered this week to celebrate the 251st anniversary of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps, honoring generations of chaplains and religious affairs specialists who have supported soldiers since the earliest days of the nation's military. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Michael Johnson, the garrison chaplain, opened the luncheon with a prayer of gratitude, asking for strength, wisdom and endurance for those who...

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USAWOCC changes command at Fort Rucker



The U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career College welcomed its new commandant, Col. Anthony E. Freude, and bid farewell to outgoing leader Col. Kevin E. McHugh, in a ceremony at Fort Rucker, Ala., July 28. Maj. Gen. Trevor J. Bredenkamp, president and commanding general, Army University and Carlisle Barracks, Pa., welcomed leaders and guests, and thanked families for their support.

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The 110th Aviation Brigade conducts its Class Color (Hatting) Ceremony at Fort Rucker, Ala., August 3, 2026. (U.S. Army photo by Kelly Morris)

ARMY
TEN-MILER

★★ QUALIFIER RUN ★★

Represent Fort Rucker in Washington, D.C.!

Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard service members assigned to Fort Rucker are invited to compete for a spot to represent our installation at the official Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C., on October 11, 2026. To qualify for the team, runners must be officially assigned to Fort Rucker on race day (October 11th).

08 AUGUST 2026 • 0630

WEST BEACH LAKE THOLOCCO

FREE TO PARTICIPATE

REGISTER BY 07 AUGUST 2026

AT MAIN PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER

NO RACE-DAY REGISTRATION ALLOWED

PHYSICAL FITNESS CENTER

BLDG. 4605 ANDREWS AVE. (334) 255-2296

SPONSORED BY

MIKE SCHMITZ

AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

US ARMY

NAVY

AIR FORCE

ARMY AVIATION

Good Afternoon

Air Quality

14

79° F

Partly Cloudy

8 PM

Emergency numbers

Search Events

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AVAILABLE NOW!

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FORT RUCKER
UPCOMING
EVENTS

2026

U.S. ARMY
MWR

DISCOVERY • PREVENTION • WELLNESS

AUG

04 - COFFEE MEET & GREET
04 - BACK TO SCHOOL MATINEE
05 - ART SPARKS - POLLINATOR PODS
06 - BUBBLE PALOOZA EFMP
06 - THROTTLE THURSDAY
07 - SUNSET BOAT RIDE AT LAKE THOLOCCO
08 - DEEP SEA FISHING (PRIVATE CHARTER)
08 - ARMY TEN-MILER QUALIFIER
08 - HOUSE SHOT EXPERIENCE NATIONAL BOWLING DAY
13 - UNC
13 - PHOTO EDITING AT ARTS & CRAFTS
14 - CASINO NIGHT
14 - PAINT YOUR PARTNER
15 - TRIPLE 6 GOLF TOURNAMENT
15 - TEAM BAKER CHALLENGE

03 - KICKOFF TO CLASS ARTS & CRAFTS EFMP
03 - GIRLS NIGHT OUT
04 - SUNSET BOAT RIDE AT LAKE THOLOCCO
05 - LABOR DAY GOLF SHOOTOUT
09 - NFL KICK-OFF PARTY AT BIG MIKE'S
10 - XXIO EXPERIENCE DAY
11 - KING/QUEEN OF THE HILL HANDICAP TOURNAMENT
12 - KAYAK TUTORIAL AT OUTDOOR RECREATION

01 - 31 - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
01 - JUDO-TIRU ART BASH EFMP
02 - SUNSET BOAT RIDE AT LAKE THOLOCCO
03 - WOODLAND MILE SK
10 - ONLY THE BEST QUARTERLY TOWNLIGHT RUCKLINE
10-12 - SILVER WINGS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

SEP

15 - KAYAK TUTORIAL AT OUTDOOR RECREATION
17 - EFMP STORYTIME
18 - STRESS MANAGEMENT BINGO EFMP
18 - LITTLE INNOVATORS PLAYLAB
19 - SFRG TRAINING
20 - REIGNITE OUR CONNECTION
21 - GOLDEN TEE KICKOFF AT BIG MIKE'S
21 - GLOW RUN
22 - PARENT-CHILD GOLF SCRAMBLE
22 - HOBBY HANGOUT AT ARTS & CRAFTS
24 - 26 - BINGO FOOTBALL BUNDLE
25-26 - P&E MANEUVER AIR INDUSTRY DAYS EXPO
29 - DEEP SEA FISHING (PARTY BOAT)
29 - BACK TO SCHOOL CERAMICS
29 - SUMMER'S LAST SPLASH

12 - BIKE DOCTOR CLINIC
17 - MEET AT MIKE'S SPOUSES' NIGHT
17-19 - WOUNDED WARRIOR HUNT
19 - FORT RUCKER INVITATIONAL (MEMBER-GUEST)
21 - EFMP STORYTIME
24 - SENSORY PLAYGROUP
25 - OKTOBERFEST
27 - GOLD STAR LUMINARY SERVICE

16 - TASTING JOURNEY THROUGH ITALY
22 - SENSORY PLAYGROUP
23-24 - HAUNTED TRAIL
24 - HALLOWEEN HAYDOC AT SILVER WINGS
27 - FALL CARNIVAL
30 - WITCHES & BREWS AT BIG MIKE'S

OCT

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ONGOING
EVENTS
FOR ARMY
FAMILIES
& SOLDIERS

L.I.N.C.
@ THE LANDING - 1ST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
GLOW BOWL / EXTREME BOWL
@ THE FIGHTLINE EVERY FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT
RIGHT ARM NIGHT & LIVE AT MIKE'S
@ BIG MIKE'S - TYPICALLY 3RD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH
NEWCOMERS WELCOME
@ THE LANDING - 2ND FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH
TRIVIA TUESDAYS
@ BIG MIKE'S - 2ND & 4TH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

BOOKS & BREWS
@ BIG MIKE'S - 3RD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
STORYTIME WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS
@ THE CENTER LIBRARY & 3RD SAT OF EACH MONTH
TEEN BOOK CLUB
3RD THURS OF EACH MONTH
STARS & STRIKES BOWLING
@ BIG MIKE'S - 1ST, 3RD, 5TH, 7TH, 9TH, 11TH, 13TH, 15TH, 17TH, 19TH, 21ST, 23RD, 25TH, 27TH, 29TH, 31ST
BIG MIKE'S
IS OPEN FOR LUNCH THURS & FRI 11:00AM-2:00PM

CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE FOR UP
TO DATE DETAILS
ON EVENTS

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IN-PERSON COURSES
FORT RUCKER
STARTS AUGUST 10

Contact: fortRucker@erau.edu

ASCI202: Intro to Aeronautical Science

Thursday: 5:00-8:20pm

Meets weeks 1, 3, 5, 9 ONLY

MATH142 : Trigonometry

Wednesday: 5:00-8:20pm

Meets weeks 1, 3, 5, 9 ONLY

ASCI602 : The Air Transportation System

Tuesday: 5:00-8:20pm

Meets week 1 Only

EMBRY-RIDDLE

Aeronautical University

MY
ARMY
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For info call
334-255-3885

3rd Wednesday
of each month

BOOKS & BREWS

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB FOR ADULTS

6:30PM

FORT RUCKER
MANEUVER AIR
INDUSTRY DAYS
2026

U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence

Fort Rucker, Alabama Home of Army Aviation

"Delivering Capability Today"

August 24-26, 2026

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Maj. Gen. Clair A. Gill
AVCOE & Fort Rucker
Commanding General

Col. Jeffrey L. Paulus
Fort Rucker
Garrison Commander

EDITORIAL STAFF

Leslie Herlick
Director of Public Affairs

Christopher Mendez
Public Affairs Specialist

Brittany Trumbull
Public Affairs Specialist

Drew Hamilton
Deputy Director of Public Affairs

Kelly Morris
Public Affairs Specialist

Haydyn Livingston
Web Based Content Creator

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The PAO staff reserves the right to edit submissions selected for publication. For more information about the "Army Flier," call (334) 255-2551.

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