

ARMY FLYER

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PHOTO BY AIR FORCE TECH. SGT. DANIEL OWEN

Soldiers assigned to the Alaska National Guard travel aboard a CH-47 Chinook from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson to Deadhorse, Alaska, Feb. 24 for Arctic Eagle, an exercise designed to increase the National Guard's ability to operate in extreme cold-weather conditions.

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A message from the commanding general regarding COVID-19

To Fort Rucker Soldiers, civilians, families and the community,

As our nation responds to the coronavirus pandemic, it is imperative we continue to communicate effectively to provide the most accurate and timely information to all of our service members, civilians, families and community partners.

CSM Hauke and I fully appreciate that there is a level of uncertainty and concern across our community, and we are working with leadership across Fort Rucker to alleviate this to the greatest extent possible.

We will continue to leverage all of our communications platforms to address these concerns.

First and foremost, there are still no confirmed cases of the coronavirus on Fort Rucker, and we greatly appreciate all of your collective efforts to safeguard our community thus far. If this status changes, we will provide an immediate update.

Our top priority is protecting the force here at Fort Rucker and maintaining our mission readiness, while also ensuring the health and safety of all our Soldiers, family members and civilian workforce, as well as working together with our partners in the Wiregrass community.

It will require some changes to how we do business and go about our daily lives, but we will continue to train and maintain the highest levels of force protection and readiness here at Fort Rucker.

We ask the Fort Rucker Team to please have flexibility and patience as we continue to reevaluate the situation and make decisions regarding the welfare of all on our installation.

We are currently at Health Protection Condition Level Alpha on Fort Rucker. HPCON Alpha is "limited community transmission beginning."



This covers all of the actions of HPCON Routine, which are to take everyday actions to stop the spread of germs:

- * Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
 - * Wash your hands often and for at least 20 seconds with soap and water;
 - * Cover your cough/sneeze with a tissue, then throw it in the trash; cough/sneeze into your elbow if tissues are unavailable;
 - * Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth;
 - * Ensure all immunizations are up to date, including your seasonal flu shot;
 - * Stay home if you are sick, and avoid close contact with family members and pets;
 - * Create an emergency preparedness kit; and
 - * Create a pet disaster preparedness kit;
- HPCON Alpha adds the following actions:
- * Routinely clean and disinfect frequent-

ly touched objects and surfaces;

- * If you are sick, call your medical provider for instructions on receiving care before going to the clinic; and
- * Stay informed by routinely checking reliable sources of information such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and your local public health agencies.

We continue to implement Center for Disease Control COVID-19 preventative measures and medical screening protocols. We are taking the following precautionary measures:

- * The tax center is closed;
- * Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and Civilian Personnel Advisory Center services available by appointment only;
- * The U.S. Army Aviation Museum is close, but military training will continue;
- * In accordance with recent CDC guidance, large gatherings will be avoided; and
- * MWR facilities, businesses and certain-

recreation programs are closed until further notice (See Page 9).

We ask that all of our personnel and family members protect themselves and those around them by employing protective measures, including practicing good hand washing, social distancing, and avoiding hand shaking, wiping down commonly-used surfaces, and taking appropriate actions if feeling sick.

These measures can dramatically decrease the risk of infection and slow the spread of COVID-19.

We recognize that this is a very dynamic situation and that conditions will continue to change.

We continue to make risk-based decisions, informed by health experts, senior leaders, and government leaders from the local to national level.

We continue to strive to actively communicate those decisions through the chain

MESSAGE *cont.*

of command.

Accordingly, we will also maximize the use of Fort Rucker social media platforms to flatten communications and provide timely information to our Soldiers, civilians, and families.

The following information provides an update on some of the most significant decisions and policy changes we have or will be implementing.

We acknowledge these topics are not

all-inclusive, and I encourage you to submit questions through your chain of command. We will answer them as quickly as possible as well as potentially make more changes or updates.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

The child development center remains open only to support our force providers that fall under the Directorate of Public Safety, which include our gate guards,

police and fire department and our healthcare providers at Lyster Army Health Clinic. Tactical Officers, Drill Sergeants, and FLATIRON aircrew members are included.

Exceptions to this policy requires chain of command and commanding general approval. If local conditions or the Health Protection Condition level changes, we will reassess this decision.

Exceptions to policy must be made through brigade commanders for service members and Army civilians.

QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS

There is still confusion with the difference between quarantine and isolation. As a reminder:

* Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who have potentially been exposed to a communicable disease, to see if they become sick; and

* Isolation is the physical segregation for persons who have the symptoms of, or a confirmed diagnosis of, an infectious disease.

If you have returned from outside the Continental United States or high-risk area, you will be quarantined for a period of 14 days.

Fort Rucker has set up a reception facility where you will be evaluated on whether there is requirement for quarantine.

TELEWORK

Fort Rucker is reviewing its telework agreements and will assess and provide guidance for eligible telework personnel in the next few days.

TRAINING GUIDANCE

It is imperative that we maintain the greatest level of readiness, while taking common sense precautions against the spread of COVID-19.

Commanders at echelon will continue with current training plans. At this time, units will continue to execute daily accountability formations in conjunction with scheduled physical training.

We have suspended all combatives training until further notice.

FITNESS CENTERS

To reduce risk to the force and maintain readiness, Fort Rucker has closed all MWR fitness centers.

FORT RUCKER RESTAURANTS

We are implementing only takeout options within the Fort Rucker restaurants to minimize the risk in each facility.

EXCHANGES AND COMMISSARIES

Exchange facilities and the commissary (See Page 6 for additional measures) remain open. They have increased cleaning standards and are reviewing operating processes, hours of operation, and access policies (e.g., number of shoppers in the store at any point in time and/or numbers/quantities of items allowed for purchase per individual) to protect our Fort Rucker community.

Avoid panic purchasing to ensure that everyone eligible to shop at either location has equal access to essential items.

IN CLOSING

We will take necessary precautions to maintain readiness and protect our Soldiers, families, and civilians here at Fort Rucker. We will make risk-informed decisions, based on facts and analysis.

The situation will continue to change and we will make the appropriate adjustments and keep you informed.

Going forward, we will focus on what we can do. I am confident that we will find ways to thrive in adversity.

CSM Hauke and I are honored to be on your team and together we will continue to be mission ready and protect Fort Rucker and work with our partners in the Wiregrass community!

David J. Francis
Major General, U.S. Army
Army Aviation Center of Excellence and
Fort Rucker

**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):
Protect Yourself and Your Family**

- Continue taking everyday actions to stop the spread of germs
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- If you are sick, call your medical provider for instructions on receiving care before going to the clinic
- Stay informed by routinely checking reliable sources of information such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and your local public health agencies

If COVID-19 is present in your community

For current COVID-19 information:
<https://phc.army.mil/topics/diseases/Pages/2019-nCoVChina.aspx>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
 The Military Health System Nurse Advice Line is available 24/7:
 Call 1-800-874-2273 option #1
 or visit <https://www.health.mil/Am-A-Media-Media-Center/NAL-Day-at-a-glance>

COVID 19
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

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LEADERSHIP ADDRESSES COVID-19

Command panel discusses measures taken, closures, answers questions

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Key senior leaders at Fort Rucker held a Facebook Live virtual town hall March 16 to discuss concerns and precautionary measures being taken amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event, led by Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, also included Col. Whitney B. Gardner, garrison commander, Col. Jimmie Tolvert, Lyster Army Health Clinic commander, Command Sgt. Maj. Brian N. Hauke, Aviation Branch command sergeant major and John Henderson, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center director.

Francis said his reasons for hosting the event were to provide the latest updates from the Department of Defense and the Army on efforts being made to stop the spread of COVID-19, provide guidance on what people can do to assist in those efforts, and provide an avenue for the community to ask questions.

“Right now we have zero cases of COVID-19 at Fort Rucker,” Francis said. “Much of this is common sense: social distancing, exercising proper hygiene, and sanitizing and washing hands are truly some of the biggest things we can do to keep this disease from spreading.

“Our focus here at Fort Rucker is three-fold,” he added. “First, we want to take all of those actions necessary to protect our Soldiers, families and employees at Fort Rucker. Second, take care of mission – flight training primarily. And third, it’s important we work with surrounding communities where we all live, work and play – it’s important we work together with these communities to stay safe.”

The general then discussed Department of Defense, Army and local precautionary measures taken that ran the gamut from: stops on PCS and TDY moves; to Fort Rucker schools closing until at least after spring break; to the child development centers restricting access to childcare to people in life, health and safety missions: Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility closures; to continuation of flight training; and more. For a complete list and more information, see Page 2.

“Local schools on Fort Rucker will not be in-person classes – students will not be at the school,” Francis said. “They will do Google classroom work with teachers. The intent is to not have the kids come to class until March 30 when spring break starts. After spring break, we’ll continue to evaluate that – right now it’s our goal to reopen after



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

The panel at the Fort Rucker COVID-19 Facebook Live town hall March 16.

spring break as that 2 ½ weeks gives time for someone who is sick for that to run its course. We think we have a shot at coming back to school after spring break, but I haven’t made that decision and we will continue to reevaluate that as this crisis continues.”

Addressing the child care restriction, he said he “knows that is going to put some people in a pinch and we’ll have you work with your chain of command on that,” he said.

He also discussed DOD’s stop move order that affects “all Soldiers, families and civilians on DOD orders to move somewhere,” he said. “If you’re on PCS orders and have not left Fort Rucker, you’re not moving. If you’re on temporary duty at Fort Rucker, you’re not moving. If you’re TDY at another location and attempting to return to Fort Rucker, you’re not moving. The approval authority to change that is at the Department of the Army level. As we get more guidance, we will update you.

“There will only be leave and passes in the local area – restricted to 100 miles,” he

continued. “The underlying intent behind all of this is to prevent the spread of COVID-19, so we don’t have people going elsewhere and bringing it here, or have people going somewhere else and spreading it there.

“Please use your chain of command if you have a significant issue that is causing you significant strife of some sort,” Francis said. “I know there are many folks in many different situations who need the chain of command’s help, and we will bend over backwards to help you. This is not a normal situation and what I pledge to you is we will work through every situation together and come up with the best outcome that we possibly can.”

Gardner added that the situation is rapidly changing and everything going on at Fort Rucker is under constant scrutiny on if it is the right thing to keep the post family safe.

“We’re attempting to evaluate the threat outside the gates and inside the gates, and continuously talking to other installations, especially garrisons in Korea and Italy who

TOWN HALL *cont.*

have been successful so far in preventing the spread of the disease and protecting their force on post," he said. "We're studying their playbooks, and evaluating what we can execute now and what actions we can potentially take in the future if conditions deteriorate in a major way."

He said the commissary and post exchange both remain open for their normal hours.

"We ask you to be courteous to your fellow shoppers and limit your purchases to what you need," he said. "We need to ensure everyone gets their essential items so they don't have to go on a treasure hunt off post and possibly get exposed."

Gardner added that further updates will be provided for on-post religious services. "We will have more updates as we develop that plan, and determine locations and mediums to conduct those services."

Tolvert also gave information on how the disease is spread, personal actions people can take to decrease their chance of exposure and other actions the clinic is taking.

"Starting (March 17), Lyster is going to start screening people outside the clinic," the colonel said. "(When you) come to the clinic, you will answer three questions, get your temperature taken and if you are exhibiting any of the signs or symptoms, we're going to take you somewhere else and further evaluate you and make sure you get the care that you need."

He also advised that people in the higher-risk population, such as people with heart and lung diseases, weakened immune systems or who are over the age of 60, that they "should seek immediate care as soon as you become sick with these respiratory symptoms."

"Lyster is committed to a culture of excellence, we are here to meet your healthcare needs and we are here for you," Tolvert added.

"Please continue to treat everyone like family and we will get through this together."

Francis and the panel also addressed a multitude of questions from those observing the event on Facebook Live about personal circumstances. The full version of the video

is available at <https://www.facebook.com/ftrucker/> and leadership highly encourages all Fort Rucker people to view the video to be fully informed.

The almost 50-minute video provides viewers with about 20 minutes of explanation

of the situation from the five leaders followed by roughly 30 minutes of answers to questions asked by those who submitted questions in advance or participated live. The video received more than 30,000 views, more than 500 likes, 234 shares and more than 1,000 comments in the 12 hours after airing live.

The garrison commander said he was happy with how the town hall went.

"I thought with this being our first virtual town hall ever held here at the USAACE and installation level, it was very successful as it went off with no major issues," Gardner said. "I think we will build upon this one, and continue to improve the process and have it available for future events."

While wrapping up the town hall, Francis said he understands not everyone on post was able to view the town hall live, but that doesn't mean they can't still get answers to any questions they may have.

"I encourage you all to address questions with your chain of command, as well," the general said. "I would also tell you that this is a rapidly evolving situation and we're getting some rapidly changing guidance as this evolves."

"What I pledge to you is we will keep you informed, updated and, as required, we will stand up this forum again if we feel there (is a need)," he added. "We will work through this together. This is what we do in the Army, we face challenges and we get after it, and we'll do no different on this challenge, as well."

"I would ask for the cooperation of all you, with travel, with reducing your exposure, and asking yourself, 'Can I do it? Maybe. But, should I do it? Should I travel, should I go out to dinner, should I have my family come visit me – is it really the right thing to do giving the seriousness of this issue?' I would ask all of your cooperation in doing the right thing," he said.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):
10 Tips for At-Home Quarantine or Self-Monitoring

If you have been directed to quarantine or self-monitor at home because of possible COVID-19 contact:

- 1 Stay home** from work, school, and away from public places. If you must go out, avoid using public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.
- 2 Monitor for symptoms** and take your temperature twice daily. If you develop symptoms or a fever, then call your healthcare provider immediately.
- 3 Get rest, stay hydrated, and exercise** if possible. If you are able to exercise, do so in your home or yard. Avoid the gym or other locations where you may come into contact with others.
- 4 If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider** ahead of time and tell them that you have been exposed to COVID-19.
- 5 For medical emergencies, call 911 and notify the dispatch personnel** that you have been exposed to COVID-19.
- 6 Take everyday actions** to prevent the spread of germs.
 - Clean your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
 - Cover your cough/sneeze
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- 7 As much as possible, stay in a specific room and away from other people and pets in your home.** Use a separate bathroom, if available.
- 8 Avoid sharing personal items** with other people in your household, like dishes, towels, and bedding.
- 9 Clean all surfaces** that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs. Use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.
- 10 Make the best of your time at home** by teleworking if you're able or catching up on reading, exercising, or other hobbies.

COVID 19 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

For current COVID-19 information:
<https://phc.army.mil/topics/diseases/Pages/2019-nCoVChina.aspx>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

The Military Health System Nurse Advice Line is available 24/7:
 Call 1-800-874-2273 option #1
 or visit <https://www.health.mil/3-Are-A/Media/Media-Center/NAL-Day-at-a-glance>

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Commissary adjusts shopping limits, other changes during pandemic

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

FORT LEE, Va. – The Defense Commissary Agency announced several operational policies to help the Fort Rucker Commissary and other stores better serve customers during the COVID-19 outbreak.

These policies include the following actions:

- * Effective immediately, a 100-percent ID card check at all commissaries, so that only authorized customers – this includes disabled veterans with VHIC cards – will be able to shop. While this policy is in effect visitors will not be allowed to enter the commissary. This is designed help with social distancing and crowd control. Children under 10 with their parents don't have to have an ID card.

- * Effective immediately, to prevent customer-to-customer spread of germs, commissary cashiers no longer handle patron ID cards. Instead, customers will be asked to scan their own ID. Cashiers can use the handheld scanner if available or have the customer scan their own card.

- * Effective March 19, all commissaries will suspend early bird shopping to allow more time to clean and restock the store.

In a move to lessen panic-buying, the agency instructed its store directors worldwide to use their discretion in placing the shopping limits necessary to help maintain stock availability.

Rear Adm. (Ret.) Robert J. Bianchi, DOD special assistant for commissary operations, announced the shopping limits policy March 14 in response to a growing number of customers engaged in unauthorized purchases for the purposes of resale or hoarding.

The shopping directive, effective immediately, gives store directors more authority



PHOTO BY JIMMIE CUMMINGS

A sign outside the entrance to the commissary alerts patrons to the 100% ID check and no-visitor policy.

to quickly tailor shopping limits, as required, to keep more products available for more customers, Bianchi said.

“These decisions should not contravene or override any restrictions or guidance provided by installation commanders,” Bianchi said. “However, in the absence of installation commander direction, our store directors are now authorized to make local decisions as they deem necessary to control stock shortages through instances such as panic buying and unauthorized purchases for resale.”

At Fort Rucker, Marisol Hennessey, store director, provided the following update:

- * Meat delivery did not arrive Monday, but she accepts the store will receive meat March 19, although the arrival time is pend-

ing;

- * Chicken should have arrived March 18, but there will be a limit of one package of each variety per customer, and the next delivery is expected to arrive on March 20;

- * Purdue Chicken did not ship, and orders are being cut by the company;

- Will continue to receive deliveries from its distributors daily;

- There will be 100%-ID card check at the entrance. Visitor policy has been revoked.

- Hands free ID card check; and

- Limitations are now set to two per family on all tissue, all disinfectants, all

sanitizers, all paper towels, all baby wipes and all milk – the commissary is receiving very limited quantities of disinfectants and sanitizers from distributors at this time.

From the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, commissaries overseas – starting with stores in Italy, South Korea and Japan – instituted shopping limits on items such as hand sanitizers, disinfectants and toilet paper.

As coronavirus fears ignited a surge of customer activity worldwide, it became necessary for commissary officials to counter panic buying to take care of all customers, Bianchi said.

“Now our store directors have the flexibility to institute shopping limitations if no directives exist,” he said. “They still must inform base leadership when they are implementing these restrictions, but they can use my authority to move forward.”

From a product availability standpoint, commissaries continue to work with their industry suppliers to support the needs of senior leaders on the ground at each location.

This support manifests itself through increased deliveries to the commissaries that need it most. For overseas stores this means emergency airlifts of high-demand items to

counter delays of shipboard supply containers.

“We know this is a potentially stressful time for all concerned,” Bianchi said. “But together we will meet these challenges and support our service members and their families throughout the duration of this crisis wherever necessary.

“We always recommend to our customers that they calmly purchase what they need and avoid any panic buying to ensure products are available for others in their communities.”

PREVENTING VIRUS SPREAD AT STORES

The “No ID handling” policy is just one of many actions stores are implementing to help prevent COVID-19 exposure, said James “Jay” Hudson, principal deputy director of DECA’s Store Operations Group.

“We consider the health and welfare of our customers and our employees our No. 1 concern,” Hudson said. “Our stores are following the highest standards of the Department of Defense’s health protection. This means we’re using disinfectant cleaners to wipe down our checkout areas, restrooms and shopping carts frequently. We’re also ensuring our associates practice routine hand washing and other basic sanitation measures to avoid spreading germs.”

Hudson also said DECA encourages its employees to closely monitor their health, and asks them to stay home if they, or someone in their household, are sick.

Commissary customers should continue to refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Coronavirus site for updates and guidance regarding this virus.

Updates related to the commissaries can be found on DECA’s Coronavirus page.

Fort Rucker AAFES facilities adjust hours, services

Fort Rucker Public Affairs *Staff Report*

“As COVID-19 continues to create uncertainty, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service remains committed to supporting Soldiers, families, retirees and veterans, just as it has for nearly 125 years,” exchange CEO Tom Shull wrote to patrons in a March 18 newsletter.

At most locations, main exchange stores are open but hours may be reduced or changed to allow for thorough cleaning and restocking, he added.

“Our restaurants are open too — but transitioning to take-out service to align with social distancing measures. The wide range of support we offer the communities we are honored to serve — from military clothing stores, Express gas stations and malls — are here for you, but hours may vary,” he added.

He also reminded service members and their families that they can use the exchange’s Buy Online, Pick Up in Store service. Shoppers simply go to ShopMyExchange.com, click on what they need and select the “Pick Up in Store” option. Their local Exchange will contact them when their order is ready to be picked up.

“The exchange is working around the clock to meet significant increases in demand,” Shull wrote. “In heavily affected areas, some merchandise may be subject to purchase limits. We continue to work in lockstep with store management and installation leadership to ensure timely delivery of products to our stores worldwide.

“The exchange cares about the health and well-being of military communities and our associates. All customer service and sales points are disinfected multiple times daily. Restrooms are routinely cleaned and sani-



tized, and similar procedures are in place at all our theaters and mall stores,” he wrote, adding that in PowerZones, associates are disinfecting all product demo displays and devices. Additionally, high-traffic fixtures, such as computer tables, are being cleaned regularly with soap and water.

Exchange restaurants have a long history of strong food safety and sanitation practices, Shull wrote, adding that all food service workers are trained on safety, cleanliness and personal hygiene when hired. In addition, all associates review and follow food safety and hygiene measures in our name brand partners’ operations manuals.

“Thank you for allowing us to continue to serve you,” he continued. “Please reach out to your local exchange for any help you may need in meeting the needs of your community, and we encourage you to visit our social media pages for the latest information. Now more than ever, the exchange family stands with your family.”

As of March 19, the following are the

most current operating hours and conditions at Fort Rucker exchange facilities.

* Main store (post exchange): Open. Hours of operation: Mondays-Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.

* Food court: Open for carry-out only. Charley’s, Mondays-Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Popeye’s, Mondays-Sundays, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Subway, Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays

and Sundays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

* Burger King: Open regular hours for carry-out or drive-through only. Hours of operation: Mondays-Fridays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

* Theater is closed until further notice.

* Mini Mall Express is open regular hours. Hours of operation: Mondays-Thursdays from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from 5 a.m. to midnight and Sundays from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

* Triangle Express is open regular hours. Hours of operation: Mondays-Fridays from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

* Military Clothing Sales: is open regular hours. Hours of operation: Mondays-Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed Sundays.

* Class Six is open regular hours. Hours of operation: Mondays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays-Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

* Laundry/dry cleaner is open regular hours. Hours of operation: Mondays-Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and closed Saturdays and Sundays.

* U.S. Patriot is open regular hours. Hours of operation: Mondays-Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and closed Sundays.

* Firestone is open regular hours. Hours of operation: Mondays-Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and closed Sundays.

* Barber shops are open regular hours. Mini Mall location hours of operation: Mondays-Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and closed Sundays. Main store location: Mondays-Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

* GNC is open regular hours. Hours of operation: Mondays-Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

* Optical and optometry are open with limited service. For more information, call 334-598-2180. Hours of operation: Mondays-Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed for lunch from 2-2:30 p.m.), Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (closed for lunch from 2-2:30 p.m.) and closed Sundays.

* Smoothies ‘n’ Things is open regular hours for carry-out only. Hours of operation: Mondays-Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed Sundays.

* Mobile Center is open Mondays-Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.

* Alterations is open regular hours; however, the staff is not able to do fitting or sizing until further notice to follow social distancing guidance. Hours of operation: Mondays-Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed Sundays.

To contact local AAFES officials, call 334-503-9044.

Fort Rucker takes measures to screen incoming Soldiers, families

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

In an effort to reduce the possibility of incoming Soldiers and family members exposing the on-post or off-post communities to the COVID-19 virus, the post recently set up a quarantine facility to serve as a screening area for inbound Soldiers until further notice.

A former barracks building, Bldg. 315 near Lyster Army Health Clinic, is now where incoming Soldiers come to be screened before in-processing, according to Col. Whitney B. Gardner, Fort Rucker garrison commander.

"We are closely tracking and communicating with those Soldiers who are inbound to Fort Rucker on PCS orders or who are coming in for training," he said. "We are really very sensitive to those who are coming from Level 2 or 3 areas as they pose a higher risk of exposing people to the virus than Soldiers coming from other areas."

A staff of about five military personnel division Soldiers will handle the initial in-processing and screening of incoming Soldiers and their families at Bldg. 315, Ann Nollett,

MPD chief, said, adding that measures are in place to keep the staff safe and monitor their conditions.

Signs are posted on the marquees at each gate, and also externally at Bldg. 5700, including on all exterior doors, directing new Soldiers to report to Bldg. 315, Nollett added. "It's important people read the posted signs."

New Soldiers will be provided an administrative screening questionnaire, and based on those results, or if they are coming from a Level 2 or 3 area, they will report to Lyster Army Health Clinic for medical screening.

"Once cleared through medical, they will begin the normal process of in-processing – getting received by their unit and being taken care of," Gardner said.

Those who don't clear the process will be quarantined for 14 days – single Soldiers in the Bldg. 315 barracks rooms and families at the lodging cabins at Lake Tholocco, providing they don't already have on-post housing arranged, Gardner said. If they do have on-post housing already, then they will quarantine in those quarters.

"We're trying to keep those who are coming on to Fort Rucker from Level 2 or 3 areas contained on post until we know if they've been exposed to COVID-19 or not," Gardner said. "We want to keep them on post and within these several areas so we lessen the possibility of any of our on-post community members or off-post community members getting exposed to the virus. We're doing our best to ensure we limit the spread of this disease as much as we possibly can."

Fort Rucker intends to take good care of the Soldiers and family members who find themselves quarantined at these facilities,



PHOTO BY JIMMIE CUMMINGS

Inside one of the rooms in Bldg. 315.

including providing basic items, linens, food delivery and also free WiFi, he added.

"I think they're going to be very comfortable," Gardner said, adding that units will also help out with taking care of their new Soldiers, as necessary.

The garrison commander added that he has personal experience with living as a Soldier under quarantine. "I lived 22 days in quarantine at Fort Bliss (Texas) 5 years ago when I returned from Liberia as the aviation task force commander fighting Ebola. I'm well aware of the challenges being under quarantine represents."

Gardner added that military policies surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic are fluid, and that allowances are being made at higher echelons to keep Soldiers PCSing and reporting for training whenever possible.

"We are expecting to release folks to

move on to either return from training or move on to their next duty station, so we will expect to see Soldiers inbound to begin training," he said. "We are doing everything we can to mitigate the risk of exposure to our community."

Creating the quarantined areas was a challenge at Fort Rucker, the colonel added.

"One of our greatest challenges at Fort Rucker is our lack of flex space here," Gardner said. "We're at max capacity for training and temporary training barracks. Our No. 1 request for military construction dollars is for a new AIT Complex and our three-year plan to upgrade and modernize barracks for advanced individual training and the Warrant Officer Career College. We're growing, and we're feeling the growing pains, especially under these emergency conditions."

We're doing our best to ensure we limit the spread of this disease as much as we possibly can.

- Col. Whitney B. Gardner
Garrison commander

Fort Rucker School Meal Program offers free meals during school closure

Department of Defense
Education Activity
Press Release

The Fort Rucker School Meal Program will offer free grab-and-go breakfast and lunch meals to all children up to age 18 starting March 23 and continuing as long as the schools remain closed.

This program will be solely for the pick-

up of meals – no meals will be consumed at the school.

Children need not be students of Fort Rucker Schools to participate, DODEA officials said March 18.

All meals will be offered Mondays-Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch for one day and breakfast for the next day will be distributed at the same time.

Meals will be served every day, Mondays-Fridays, excluding holidays, until schools

reopen, including school calendar off dates, such as spring break and teacher training days.

Children must be present to receive the meals, officials said. Children may also walk to the pickup site to receive meals without a parent present, as appropriate.

As a reminder, students nor parents will have access to the school building during meal pick up.

To receive meals, drive to the front en-

trance of the Fort Rucker Primary School, Bldg. 22210 on Artillery Road. Staff will distribute meals while people remain in their vehicles, officials added.

All five components of lunch meals and four breakfast items will be served in accordance with the nutritional standards of the U.S. Department of Agriculture meal pattern. Menus may be found on the School Meals Program page at <https://www.dodea.edu/FortRuckerES/meals.cfm>.

15 DAYS TO SLOW THE SPREAD

Listen to and follow the directions of your **STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES**.

IF YOU FEEL SICK, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK, keep them at home. Do not send them to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS TESTED POSITIVE for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON, stay home and away from other people.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.

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For more information, please visit
CORONAVIRUS.GOV

FORT RUCKER INSTALLATION SERVICES OPEN OR LIMITED

Army Community Services - No classes or outreach programs

Automotive Skills Center

Center Library - No classes, organized children activities, or toys

Child Development Center - Limited to children of mission critical staff

All Coffee Zones

Lake Lodging

Landing Zone - Takeout only (11 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

Mother Rucker's - Takeout only (4-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 4-11 p.m. Friday-Sunday)

Outdoor Recreation

Rucker Lanes Food - Take Out Only (11 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

RV Park

School Age Center - Limited to children of mission critical staff

Showers at PFCs (0600-0900) / Indoor pool for coordinated mission training only

Silver Wings Golf Club Golf

DIVOTS - Takeout only (11 a.m. - 2 p.m.), limited patio and outdoor tables open



LIST UPDATED: MARCH 19, 2020

FORT RUCKER INSTALLATION SERVICES CLOSED

Arts and Crafts

Civilian Personnel Advisory Center - By appointment only

Community-wide events

Fort Rucker Tax Center

The Landing - Session bingo

Mother Rucker's - Bar and dine-in are CLOSED

MWR Central

Office of Staff Judge Advocate - By appointment only

Parent Outreach Services - By appointment only

Physical Fitness Centers - (Both will be open for showers only from 0600-0900 and indoor pool for mission training as coordinated, closed otherwise)

Rucker Lanes - Bowling and bingo

SKIES

Youth Center

Youth Sports & Fitness



LIST UPDATED: MARCH 19, 2020

**** As of March 19, for updates contact the facility in question, or visit the USAACE/ Fort Rucker or DFMWR Facebook pages***

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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) 255-1239.

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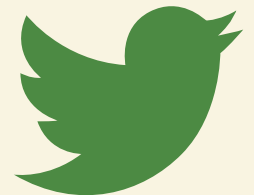
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