

ARMY FLIER

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SPC. BEVERLY ROCHE

Sgt. Vincent Loranty and Staff Sgt. Christopher Jung wave to other aircraft after flying over the NFL's military appreciation game in Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 10.

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HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

*Fort Rucker
pays tribute to
veterans of past,
present during
ceremony*

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker honored the nation's veterans, both past and present, at its Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 8 at Veterans Park.

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, spoke at the ceremony about the significance of Veterans Day.

"Today we pay tribute to our great veterans who've served honorably across all of our components: the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard – the brave men and women who through tremendous acts of courage and selfless service are the ones who've paid the price for the freedoms that we hold dear," he said. "When the nation called, they answered that call to go wherever and whenever they were needed. And unlike Memorial Day, which focuses on the fallen, Veterans Day is a day to pay tribute to all American veterans, living or dead, who've served our country honorably."

He also took note of those in the audience and thanked them for all that they do.

"As I look out across the audience today, I am reminded once again of the great sup-



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, U.S. Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, CW5 Jonathan P. Koziol, chief warrant officer of the Aviation Branch, and Command Sgt. Maj. Brandi Whitman, acting 110th Aviation Brigade command sergeant major, salute the wreath at the Fort Rucker Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 8 at Veterans Park.

port systems our Soldiers enjoy here at Fort Rucker, and so many people play a part in that," Francis said. "We're surrounded by a wealth of knowledge and experience in our combat-seasoned veterans, many of which are represented here today, with our outstanding Army family members and your great support that keeps us all strong, and

with such deeply patriotic neighbors that we have here in the Wiregrass communities that make this home of Army Aviation truly feel like home.

"We just can't say it enough – we couldn't do what we do without all of you," he added.

Francis then spoke about Alabama veteran Ray Lambert, an Army medic in North

Africa, Sicily and the beaches of Normandy.

"Then-Staff Sgt. Ray Lambert's medical unit was part of the first assault wave on Omaha Beach, where enemy troops were particularly well-armed and fortified," Francis said. "Our servicemembers faced daunting odds. Elements coming in by air had landed far from their targets, naval gun

VETERANS DAY *cont.*

fire had ended, amphibious tanks were sinking before they made it to land, landing craft were engulfed by high waves – drowning many personnel – and Soldiers had to make their way through chest-deep water carrying as much as 90 pounds of ammunition and equipment.”

When they made it to shore, the Soldiers met with heavy enemy machine gun, mortar and artillery fire, he added. “Within the first few minutes of that wave, an estimated 90-percent of the servicemembers were killed or wounded, and within hours casualties mounted into the thousands.

“Lambert was shot twice that morning, but that didn’t stop him,” Francis said. “Thanks to his courage, skill and presence of mind, he rescued many from drowning, shielded wounded men behind the nearest steel barrier, or tended to their wounds and

administered morphine shots – he was determined to save as many lives as possible.”

As he was working to free another Soldier trapped behind barbed wire, Lambert became pinned under the ramp of a Higgins boat and suffered a broken back, the general added. “In those moments, Lambert’s only concern was about another soldier he was trying to save. Looking over at a nearby Soldier who needed his help, he recalled saying, ‘God, please give me the chance to save just one more man.’

“The boat ramp suddenly lifted, and despite a broken back he was able to rescue the other Soldier and make his way to shore before he lost consciousness himself,” Francis said. “Fortunately, he made it back home alive. A truly remarkable Soldier, he was among the D-Day veterans who returned to the beaches of Normandy just a few months

ago for the D-Day anniversary commemoration there.”

He then spoke of how the veterans of yesterday and today live out the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage every day. “Soldiers who, like Lambert, have a strong sense of their duty and put the needs of others before their own, risking their own safety to save their fellow Soldiers.

“Soldiers live by the Army values and they do not leave those values behind when they transition into civilian life,” he added. “As a Soldier for life, they continue to serve our communities and inspire future generations. And many of you here today are examples of that Soldier for Life concept.”

He asked everyone to reflect on the examples of selfless service from the Greatest Generation.

“It’s interesting to note that when Lambert was asked in an interview whether as he sees himself as a hero, his answer was, ‘I’m not a hero, I’m a veteran.’ A humble veteran, who, along with so many others that day, changed the world.

“Our great veterans are true patriots who make us strong and resilient as a nation from as far back as the Minutemen who won our independence to the brave warriors of today,” Francis added. “They are the bedrock of our very identity as a nation, and we must be ever-mindful in every generation that our precious freedom is not free and we owe all of our great veterans an enormous debt of gratitude today and every day. So, to all of our veterans here today, we thank you and we honor you – your selfless service has impacted the lives of all of us and we will continue to do so for generations to come.”

MONUMENT UNVEILING



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

The U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association held a dedication ceremony for the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Monument after the Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 8 at Veterans Park. Officials spoke about the history of the Warrant Officer Cohort and its importance to the Army.



Post breaks ground on Aviation Training Support Facility

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker and Army officials broke ground on a facility designed to take Army Aviation Soldiers back in time to chart the course of the future.

The \$32-million, state-of-the-art U.S. Army Aviation Training Support Facility, located behind the U.S. Army Aviation Museum, is expected to be completed in approximately two years, according to William G. Kidd, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker deputy to the commanding general.

“Today is a great step forward in our continuing efforts to try to provide the best for the best in the Army,” Kidd said. “We couldn’t make it without the help and support of everyone that is here with us here today, and also the others before them. Like every great effort in the Army, it’s a team effort, and we have a great partnership here with the Center for Military History, the Army Corps of Engineers and our U.S. Army garrison here at Fort Rucker as we go forward to provide world-class facilities for world-class Army Aviators.”

When completed, the facility will house technologies from Army Aviation’s past, including aircraft, other Aviation equipment, weapons and uniforms. Soldiers will be able to access the exhibits for study and research,



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

Nick Dill, senior representative, Robins and Morton Construction; Bob Mitchell, director, U.S. Army Aviation Museum; retired Lt. Gen. Daniel J. Petrosky, president, Army Aviation Museum Foundation; William G. Kidd, deputy to the commanding general, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence; Charles R. Bowery Jr., executive director, U.S. Army Center of Military History; Col. Whitney B. Gardner, Fort Rucker garrison commander; and Maj. Richard B. Peacock, deputy commander, Mobile District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, broke ground on the new Aviation Training Support Facility during a ceremony Nov. 7.

and also take advantage of a state-of-the-art classroom and reference library, Kidd added.

“An old adage is those who fail to learn from history will repeat it,” he said. “When you’re speaking about operations, tactics and the application of technology, we’ve found it’s very useful to start off with a historical background — what’s happened before — and try to tie in not just the equipment that was used, but the thinking of the human beings that were doing it. What were they facing? What can we learn from that to apply to future operations? Most people learn from other people in other circumstances better than by themselves, so that’s the whole idea of using this facility in that way.”

The facility helps Fort Rucker follow the direction the Army has been taking in upgrading and updating the way it presents the service’s history to new Soldiers, said Robert Mitchell, director of the U.S. Army Aviation

Museum.

“It will result in better educated Soldiers, and it will also benefit the community through STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs,” the museum director added. “In this facility, we’ll have models of helicopters cut away for instruction to Soldiers, and to youth groups, on how helicopters work and basic aerodynamics.”

It’s also common practice to look into the past for tomorrow’s technology, Mitchell said.

“Another thing many people don’t really realize is there is really nothing new under the sun,” he said. “When you look at these ideas that they tried 50 years ago, well, they may not have worked then, but these ideas can be resurrected now with our better technology and computers.

“We maintain those artifacts, and rou-

tinely industry, DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) and other think-tanks come down to look at these aircraft for ideas for future aircraft -- many of those ideas are flying around,” Mitchell added.

The facility has been in the planning stages for some time and officials were happy to see work finally started, Kidd said.

“We’re very excited – it’s been a long time coming and many people before me have worked diligently to make this a reality. This is a wonderful day for Fort Rucker and everyone here,” he added. “We are seeing today that linkage on that rich tapestry that we have that is called Army Aviation. This facility will both bind our past with our present, and strengthen us for that future that each one of our Army Aviators are going to face, and give them the tools and the experiences they need to lead well and fly well in the future.”

Ongoing survey important to ensuring housing residents' needs met

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker housing residents have the opportunity to let their voices be heard via a survey due to hit people's email inboxes in mid-November.

After eight months of efforts and initiatives across the Army to improve housing conditions, residents of U.S. Army family housing will have another chance to rate the quality of housing and housing services in 2019 as the Army prepares to launch two more surveys -- one on Army-owned and -leased housing, and one on privatized housing, according to Army officials.

And it's critical that all Fort Rucker housing residents take advantage of this opportunity, said Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general.

"Soldiers are the strength of our Army," the general said. "Providing quality, safe, and healthy living conditions is a commitment our Army makes with our Soldiers and their families. We have been working hard to fix areas of concern and improve the shortcomings that have been identified within family housing here at Fort Rucker.

"So, feedback with the housing surveys is critical. We want to hear both -- what we still need to improve, as well as what we are doing right," Francis continued. "This will allow us to focus on the areas that are the most important and are still issues of concern with our residents here at Fort Rucker. So, whether you are happy with our housing here on the installation or if you still have issues that need correcting, I encourage you to please take a few minutes to participate in the sur-

“Our leaders here at Fort Rucker are 100 percent dedicated to providing our Soldiers and families a high-quality standard of living.”

- Col. Whitney B. Gardner

Fort Rucker garrison commander

veys.”

The surveys were emailed Nov. 7 for Army-managed housing. For privatized housing, the surveys will go out Nov. 12. CEL & Associates Inc., an independent third-party organization, will administer the survey for the Army. The email will be from ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com. Earlier this year, CEL & Associates emailed housing surveys to nearly 100,000 residents.

The purpose of the surveys, both of which will be open through Dec. 13, is to receive firsthand accounts of what Soldiers and their families find important in Army housing and to gauge satisfaction with property-management services, according to Col. Whitney B. Gardner, Fort Rucker garrison commander.

"Our leaders here at Fort Rucker are 100 percent dedicated to providing our Soldiers and families a high-quality standard of living," he said. "We are never satisfied, and want to continue improving communication and the housing maintenance process while capitalizing success in all other areas.

"We want to know where we are doing well and how we are meeting our residents'

expectations," Gardner continued. "I highly encourage all our families that live here at Fort Rucker to complete the upcoming housing survey. Please provide feedback -- positive or negative."

Corvias officials also feel the survey is important, said Melissa Bryson, Corvias Fort Rucker operations director.

"Corvias is committed to providing its customers with the best service and we want our customers to be proud to call Fort Rucker home," she said. "The survey is completely confidential and provides all housing residents with a voice to share what is most important to them.

"The survey opens Nov. 12 and closes on 12 December," Bryson added. "It should take less than five minutes to complete. Survey questions rate residents' satisfaction with the condition of the community, management team, maintenance services, amenities and overall satisfaction with on post living."

She said the information collected will be used to drive current and future resources to ensure Corvias meets the ever-changing needs of "our valuable customers."

The survey will be sent to the primary email account listed on file with Corvias, Bryson said. If residents do not receive the email notification or have a different email account than listed with Corvias, they should contact CEL & Associates at ARMYHousingSurvey@celassociates.com and include Fort Rucker and their full address.

"We appreciate residents taking the time to complete this survey," she added. "Our on-site team is available to answer any additional questions and can be reached by calling 334-440-8988."

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE

FOR NOV. 22-DEC. 12

Friday, Nov. 22

Frozen 2 (PG).....4 and 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 23

Frozen 2 (Sensory) (PG) 10 a.m.

Frozen 2 (PG)..... 2, 4 and 7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 24

Frozen 2 (PG) 1 and 4 p.m.

Gemini Man (PG-13) 4 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 28

Frozen 2 (PG)..... 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 29

Frozen 2 3D (PG)..... 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 30

Polar Express (PG)..... 2 p.m.

Countdown (PG-13)..... 4 p.m.

Black and Blue (R)..... 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 1

Maleficent: Mistress of Evil (PG) 1 p.m.

Countdown (PG-13)..... 4 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 5

Black and Blue (R)..... 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 6

Motherless Brooklyn (R)..... 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 7

Playing with Fire (PG).....4 p.m.

Dr. Sleep (R)..... 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 8

Playing with Fire (PG)..... 1 p.m.

Harriet (PG-13)..... 4 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 12

Last Christmas (PG-13)..... 7 p.m.

TICKETS ARE \$6 FOR ADULTS AND \$5 FOR CHILDREN, 12 AND UNDER. MILITARY I.D. CARDHOLDERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE WELCOME. SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 255-2408.

'THE SHINING EXAMPLE'

Fort Rucker's Sergeant Audie Murphy Club inducts new members

By Kelly Morris

USAACE Public Affairs



PHOTO BY KELLY MORRIS

The newest members of the Fort Rucker Sergeant Audie Murphy Association are Sgt. 1st Class Eric G. Pantoja-Torres, who serves as a senior small group leader at the NCO Academy; and Staff Sgt. Hak J. Rou who serves an air traffic control instructor-writer at C Co., 1-13th Aviation Regiment, 1st Aviation Brigade.

The Fort Rucker Sergeant Audie Murphy Association inducted its newest members during a formal ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Nov. 4.

The new inductees are Sgt. 1st Class Eric G. Pantoja-Torres, who serves as a 15W senior small group leader and course manager at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy; and Staff Sgt. Hak J. Rou, who serves an air traffic control instructor-writer at C Company, 1-13th Aviation Regiment, 1st Aviation Brigade.

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is an elite organization of NCOs who have demonstrated the performance and inherent leadership qualities and abilities characterized by one of the most decorated American Soldiers of World War II, Sgt. Audie Murphy.

Ceremony host, Command Sgt. Maj. James T. Hall, commandant of the NCO Academy, welcomed attendees to the event and congratulated the newest members who will be charged with upholding Murphy's mantra, "You lead from the front."

"I look at the Sergeant Audie Murphy Association as the shining example of what our NCO Corps should be and act like," Hall said. "It's not because they passed the Army Physical Fitness Test and made it through a board, but rather what they do day in and day out to earn the privilege to compete and earn induction, and continue to serve selflessly."

He also thanked the association for what the members do for Soldiers, units and the community.

Hall said the Army is going through exciting changes right now, and strong NCOs are needed at the forefront, but they must have a plan for their professional and personal path forward if they are to remain at the front in the future.

He reflected on his prior service in Germany as a staff sergeant when his battalion command sergeant major spoke about the importance of having a plan. Hall urged Soldiers to create and maintain a three-, five- or seven-year plan that includes professional and personal goals, to write their goals into a spreadsheet, set automated reminders for themselves, continue to edit and update the plan, and make it their own.

"Be honest with yourself. Look at where you are in life at the time. Have you met all the prerequisites in your current rank and duty position? If not, how are you going to? That may be part of your one- or two-year plan in order to meet your three- or five-year plan," Hall said.

Rather than assume they will be promoted, Soldiers should ensure they have a plan either way. They should also share the plan with others, including their subordinates, he added.

"Some things are achievable on an individual basis, like saving money, but some things take the team to achieve," he said, referring to professional goals.

Leaders should help their Soldiers create their own plans, and follow up with them on a regular basis, he explained.

INDUCTEES *cont.*

Plans are dynamic, and will change over time with the introduction of new circumstances, and Soldiers shouldn't worry if it takes longer to achieve a goal sometimes, Hall said.

During the ceremony, Hall presented the inductees with the Sergeant Audie Murphy medallion, a silver medallion suspended by a blue ribbon symbolic of the Infantry branch, which Murphy served in. They received a certificate of Sergeant Audie Murphy Club membership and a Training and Doctrine Command certificate of achievement. Each inductee was also presented the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious achievement during the Fort Rucker Sergeant

Audie Murphy selection board.

Both SAMA inductees said they were grateful to be part of the association, and for the chance to have an impact on Soldiers and the community.

Pantoja-Torres, who enlisted in 2010 as a 15W UAS operator, has logged 1,800 flight hours as a Shadow UAS operator. His deployments include to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and to Iraq in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

For him, the day was the culmination of hard work and study, and the induction is an opportunity to network going forward.

"I think it's just being in touch with other leaders that are looking to improve them-

selves and their organization, and improve their community," he said.

His priority is investing in people.

"What I'm most passionate about is having my students here. It's showing those junior leaders or future leaders that they can achieve more in the Army. So having my class here was really important for me because now they get to see that there's more out there and that they can continue to contribute in other ways besides just being a soldier," Pantoja-Torres said.

Rou, who was born in South Korea and raised in America, enlisted in the Army in 2014 to become a 15Q Air Traffic Controller. He said for him, the induction into the SAMA

is an opportunity to join other good-hearted people who want to help others.

"It's a great day. I worked hard for this, it definitely paid off, and I give thanks to God for making this day possible for me," Rou said.

Rou said he enjoys coaching and training AIT students that are new to the Army and to Air Traffic Control profession, providing radar academics and simulator training.

"I'm trying to be a good example for them to look up to. I'm not perfect, but I want to keep striving towards success so I could positively influence my subordinates and the other leaders around me," Rou said.



FLU SHOTS

With the influenza vaccination campaign currently under way, Lt. Col. Cal Nix, deputy chief of staff for the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, receives a flu shot administered onsite at USAACE Headquarters Nov. 7. The intent for the vaccination is to help ensure all Soldiers and their family members, mission-essential civilians, healthcare personnel, retirees and Fort Rucker school-aged children are protected from the influenza virus and its complications. For more information on Fort Rucker's flu shot program, contact your health provider. For more on the 2019-20 flu season, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/faq-flu-season-2019-2020.htm>.

RUN. HIDE. FIGHT.

Fort Rucker puts active-shooter incident response to the test

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Safety ran a drill and a tabletop exercise Nov. 12 and 13 respectively to hone its and the community's skills in responding to an active-shooter incident.

While the results of the drill in Bldg. 5700 Nov. 12 were mixed, the tabletop exercise paid big preparedness dividends, said Lt. Col. Phillip Lenz, DPS director.

"It was a really great exercise – really enjoyable to see the directorates come together and support this piece," Lenz said, adding that an active-shooter incident is "something we have to be prepared to respond to. Working to keep this post and all of the people on it safe is what we do every day, for sure, but it takes a whole community to make that happen."

The tabletop exercise involved directorates from around the garrison, and also representatives from off-post community emergency services, talking through an active-shooter scenario taking place in Bldg. 5700, the same location used for the Tactical Tuesday drill the day before.

"The exercise was really about the first-response aspect of things, and from there we looked at the short- and mid-term impacts," Lenz said. "We focused on our first responders -- how our military and civilian police teams and firefighters come together to support the initial response. Most active-shooter incidents are completed within three to five minutes – they happen pretty quickly and we want to make sure we have our wires

connected collectively to support the bigger overall response."

The exercise also incorporated improvements found during the Installation Management Command full-scale exercise last year, he said.

"We incorporated a lot of lessons learned from the previous exercise and previous observations to try to bring it together in an open forum as leaders to say, 'Hey, what are the gaps and seams? What are we going to do if an incident happens and how can we make our response better?'"

"No one's ever perfect, but we want to have these exercises to challenge our teams and make sure that we can identify those gaps and seams," Lenz continued. "I think the bigger piece is really opening up the aperture for us to see how a lot of these different directorates can support the first phase of the operation – the initial and follow-on response."

The drill in Bldg. 5700 took most people in the building by surprise, and it was intended to, the DPS director said.

"Any time you do any kind of exercise, it's hard to replicate reality," Lenz said. "The last thing we wanted to do was go in there with any type of realistic scenario to scare people and freak them out – we wanted to keep it as low impact as we could."

The drill kicked off with a building-wide announcement that the exercise was taking place and people should respond as they would in a real situation. Some did, some



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

DPS staff talk over findings with each other and representatives from various agencies in Bldg. 5700 after the Tactical Tuesday active-shooter incident response drill Nov. 12.

didn't, according to the evaluators stationed on each floor who walked the halls and checked in offices to determine if people were taking the proper actions.

Some items noted included people not responding at all; some responding, but not with a sense of urgency; some not picking very good hiding places; and people looking out windows to see what was going on when they should be hiding, the evaluators said.

Other issues were found, as well, but that was the whole goal of the drill, Lenz said.

"We definitely identified some of those gaps and seams," he said. "These exercises and drills help us, as leaders, to determine how we are training and educating our people. We need to determine how we can inculcate that readiness mindset into the civilian side, so at least they understand what they

need to do if something like that happened.

Reaching that goal "starts with leadership," Lenz said. "One of the things we saw is that all leaders and directorates are not the same -- some took it very seriously, some didn't."

In its most basic form, the strategy to remember in a real-world active-shooter incident is run, hide, fight – with fight being only as a last resort, according to Ready.gov, which has more tips at <https://www.ready.gov/active-shooter>.

"You want to follow your emergency reaction plans – know your lockdown procedures, make sure you're hidden well, make sure the lights are off and keep a low profile," Lenz said. "This type of scenario is one of the biggest threats in the nation – we need to be ready."

SOLDIER FOR LIFE

Interviewing skills a key to landing a job

By Bryan Tharpe

Fort Rucker Soldier for Life-Transition Assistance Program Center

You're at a job interview and everything seems to be going smoothly. Then, all of a sudden the interviewer asks you, "Why should I hire you for this job?"

This is one of those really tough questions that will probably come up during every job interview. How do you go about answering a question like this without sounding boastful?

Well, the first thing you want to project is that you are confident, but not cocky. The difference is that when you're confident, you can show how you did things in the past that prove you can do them in the future.

Being cocky is moving beyond over confidence and into arrogance. It is an attitude that says you can do this job better than anyone else can, even though you may have never done it before. Being confident in your abilities is good. Being cocky and arrogant will quickly turn an interviewer off.

Ask yourself, what is the interviewer really trying to uncover by asking you a question like this? The interviewer is asking for assurance that you can perform the duties of the new job. This is where past performances is deemed a good predictor of future behavior. So, have three or four examples ready to share at the interview that prove that you can do or have done a similar job and the outcome of the job. This means you need to know what the job entails. You can find the job requirements in the job description.

Also, know what personal characteristics the company is looking for in the person they want to hire and tell them what they want to hear. Just don't get cocky. Do it subtly by using examples and outcomes.

At this time, the interviewer is probably interviewing more candidates for the job than just you. They are trying to find out what makes you a better candidate than the others. Your well thought out examples will prove to them that you have what it takes to get the job done. Normally, the best-qualified candidate who tells the interviewer more of what they want to hear will get the job. So anticipating the question and practicing your answer is the best strategy for preparing for this question.

If you need some suggestions to consider when preparing examples to share with the interviewer, remember that they will probably be interested in hearing about how you did more with less, improved processes, saved money, time, or other resources, met or exceeded established goals and objectives, improved teamwork, communications, or solved problems. Preparation is the key to success!

Now that you know how to go about answering a "tough question" such as this, remember that this is only one possibility. There are many more "tough questions" that you need to anticipate and be prepared to answer before you go for that job interview.

Your SFL-TAP Center hosts Department of Labor workshops that address interviewing skills, as well as numerous other topics.

Transitioning service members and their spouses are encouraged to sign up for these classes to learn more about the job search process. Call the Soldier for Life - Transition Assistance Program Center at 255-2558 for more information.

MOVING UP



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

The Fort Rucker Fire Department held a promotion ceremony Nov. 5 at Fire Station 1 where five firefighters took steps up the career ladder and assumed more responsibility within the Directorate of Public Safety. Matthew Hearndon (top left), Danny McDaniel (top right), Scott Reid (middle left) and Randy Danford (middle right) were promoted to battalion chief. Jonathon Farmer (left) was promoted to lieutenant.

'IT WAS PHENOMENAL'

Fort Rucker employee escorts Korean War veteran father on Honor Flight

By Kelly Morris
USAACE Public Affairs

As the nation paused to celebrate its veterans who served with honor, one Fort Rucker employee reflected on a recent opportunity to accompany his father, a Korean War veteran, on a final mission – an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

Jim Muskopf, a retired colonel who works as a Department of the Army civilian employee at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence G-5 office, escorted his father, Alvin Muskopf, 88, on the Honor Flight out of St. Louis for an unforgettable day in the nation's capital Oct. 1.

Alvin, who lives in southern Illinois, was a draftee who served from 1951-1953, and eight months of that time was on the front lines in Korea.

"The Honor Flight society cut a set of orders for Dad to report to the St. Louis airport for his last mission, which was the honor flight," said Jim.

The flights are an opportunity to honor and thank the Americans who secured the



COURTESY PHOTOS

Jim Muskopf, an Army civilian employee at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence G-5 office, and his father Alvin Muskopf, a Korean War veteran, participate in an Honor Flight to the nation's capital Oct. 1.

nation's freedom, by bringing them to the Nation's Capital to see the memorials and commemorate their service. The Greater St. Louis Honor Flight celebrates veterans through a one-day, all-expenses-paid trip to

Washington.

Clad in their Honor Flight T-shirts, the Muskopf men were up and ready for an early morning start. They enjoyed a full breakfast at the gate, and the 58 veterans and their es-

corts that day had the plane to themselves. They were each provided a blue bracelet for a special moment of remembrance.

"We took off out of St. Louis, got up to altitude, and one of the first announcements

HONOR FLIGHT *cont.*

they made was to put down the shades and turn all the overhead lights off. They had all the vets turn on their blue bracelet and raise their arms in honor of all those who did not return from Korea,” Jim said.

Once they arrived at Baltimore-Washington International Airport, a police escort was provided and stayed with them the entire day.

What would be a day of smiles for Alvin started with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery to watch the changing of the guard and a special wreath-laying ceremony. From there, they went to the Korean War Memorial, walked around the National Mall, and paused for a group photo at the base of the Lincoln Memorial.

The day included a narrated tour, with additional stops at the Navy Memorial and the World War II Memorial. They saw the Marine Corps Memorial and enjoyed a meal at the U.S. Air Force Memorial.

“It wasn’t just about seeing the memorial or seeing the site, they had two Sailors that were there to do a Flag Folding – unfolded

completely and folded as a demonstration for the veterans. An Air Force major general was there to meet and greet the veterans, talk to them and shake hands with everyone,” Jim said.

During the day, Jim communicated with other members of his family including his seven brothers and sisters, taking photos and texting notes and updates on how the day went.

“Throughout the day, the replies were, ‘It’s good to see Dad is still smiling.’ And he did, the whole day long,” Jim said.

For the Muskopf family, it was a group effort to provide support – including matching T-shirts for the 23 family members.

One of the most special moments happened once they boarded the plane for the return flight: Mail Call.

“Back during World War II and the Korean War, obviously mail was everything. There was no Internet, there was no texting. There was no FaceTime, WhatsApp, none of that stuff was out there. It was all about getting mail. The purpose of conducting



The Muskopf family the day of the Honor Flight.

Mail Call on the plane was to let them have an opportunity to experience that one more time. There was a big stack of mail for all the veterans,” Jim said.

One of Jim’s sisters had arranged for all of their father’s mail to be captured from friends, family, acquaintances, coworkers, and associates so he could read those on the flight home. Among the letters were actual pieces of mail Alvin had sent home from the war all those years ago.

“My dad had written to his sister, Aunt Shirley at least once a week if not two or three times a week. My Aunt Shirley saved every one of those letters. My sister photocopied them and they were in the mail bag, so Dad got to reread letters he sent back home to his sister in 1953 while he was on the line in Korea,” Jim said.

Among his mail, Alvin found an ex-

tra-special treat.

While on a visit to Fort Rucker in 2011, Alvin had met actor Gary Sinise, who performed with his band at Freedom Fest that year. Thanks to the efforts of Jim’s sister, Amy, Alvin received a personal card signed by Sinise, thanking him for his service.

Back at the airport, a warm reception awaited the veterans, from family and servicemembers, and included a display of flags lining the concourse to help honor the legacy of the patriots who dedicated themselves to the defense of our country.

“It was phenomenal, how they took care of the veterans and made this a day for the veterans to remember, and get the recognition that they missed back in the early 1950s when they came back home,” Jim said. “They literally thought of everything. It was absolutely a fabulous day.”



Muskopf with Gary Sinise when the actor visited Fort Rucker in 2011.

FROM DFMWR



Visit Fort Rucker Army Community Service on Facebook for a calendar of our activities!

RIGHT ARM NIGHT

Leaders, bring your right-hand man or woman out for Fort Rucker Right Arm Night hosted by the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence Nov. 21 from 4-6 p.m. at The Landing. Fort Rucker Right Arm Night is an old Army tradition, promoting a night of camaraderie and esprit de corps as leaders come together and treat those standing to their right – the ones helping them get through daily missions. Complimentary appetizers will be served while supplies last. Fort Rucker Right Arm Night is held every month. Both military and civilians are invited to attend.

For more information, call 255-0768.

THANKSGIVING TURKEY SHOOTOUT

Silver Wings Golf Course will host its Thanksgiving Turkey Shootout Nov. 23. The format will be a four-person team scramble with tee times from 7-9 a.m. This is a Stableford Tournament with a \$20 fee, plus cart fees and green fees if applicable. For individual stroke play, U.S. Golf Association handicap or Weekend Dogfight points will be used. Gift certificates and turkeys will be awarded as prizes. Individuals must register prior to tee off Nov. 23.

For more information, call 255-0089.

EMPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAM WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the next scheduled employment readiness program workshop scheduled Nov. 26 from 9-11:30 a.m. at Bldg. 5700. Patrons will meet in Rm. 350 at 8:45 a.m. for paperwork prior to the session. You'll get the essentials about how to conduct a successful job campaign, to include crafting a winning resume, prepping for job interviews and other helpful

tips. Advance registration is required.

For more information and to reserve your seat, call 255-2594.

INFANT MASSAGE CLASS

ACS is offering free infant massage classes Nov. 26 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the new parent support office in Bldg. 8950. Beyond the joy of spending quality time bonding with a new baby, infant massage has been shown to provide many benefits to the baby, the parents, and to the rest of the family. Expectant parents are also welcome to attend. Recommended for children ages birth to pre-crawling. Registration is limited to 10 participants.

For more details or to register, call 255-3359 or 255-9805.

THANKSGIVING FEAST

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, have you found yourself wishing you could have a delicious Thanksgiving meal without all the work? You can. Relax while The Landing takes care of the cooking for you, so you can enjoy time with family and friends Nov. 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Landing.

The Thanksgiving Feast will be buffet style, featuring delicious Thanksgiving favorites. Reservations are highly recommended. When making your reservation, include how many adults and children will be in your party.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 255-0769.

BIGGEST BOWLING BARGAIN!

People can get two games of bowling and shoe rental for \$2.22 during the Biggest Bowling Bargain Sale at Rucker Lanes Nov.

29 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. For more information, call 255-9503.

FORT RUCKER BIG BUCK CONTEST

Outdoor recreation continues its Big Buck Contest through Feb. 10. Participants must be registered before harvesting their buck and the buck must be harvested on Fort Rucker to qualify.

Fort Rucker requires that individuals ages 16 and older have an Alabama State Hunting License, a Fort Rucker Post Hunting Permit – available at isportsman.net – and a Hunter Education Card. Entry fee is \$25 per person and open to the public.

For more information and to register, call 255-4305.

LITERARY LEAGUE

The Center Library's book club for adults is back with a new name and a new attitude – the Literary League.

The club will meet the third Tuesday of every month from 5-6 p.m. for an evening devoted to the appreciation of literature. Enjoy good books, intelligent discussion and light refreshments. The club is for people ages 18 and up.

For more information, visit the Center Library or call 255-3885.

SWGCG HOLIDAY SALE

The Silver Wings Golf Course holiday sale runs Nov. 29 to Dec. 24. Select any in-stock item for purchase. When you are ready to checkout, pick a stocking from the tree for a special holiday discount to be applied to your purchase.

The sale does not include demo club purchases, range tokens, or club repair or grip replacement services, all Ping golf equip-

ment, clearance sale items or special orders.

For more information, call 255-0089.

YOUTH SPORTS SOCCER REGISTRATION

Youth sports spring soccer registration runs Dec. 1 to Jan. 15. All interested participants must have a current sports physical and a valid child and youth services registration. Children must meet the age requirements by Nov. 30, 2019.

Cost is \$25 for youth ages 3-4 and \$45 for youth ages 5-14 years. Additional children will receive a percentage discount to be determined at parent central services during registration. Practices will begin on or about Jan. 20, and the season will begin Feb. 17 and end March 21. There will be a parents meeting Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. in the youth center gym, located on Seventh Avenue.

Coaches are needed for the league. If interested, call 255-2254 or 255-0950.

To register children for the league, visit parent central services or use Webtrac. For more information, call 255-2254 or 255-9105.

FEDERAL JOB WORKSHOP

Interested in working for the federal government? Mystified by the federal hiring process, or maybe you're just frustrated by your repeated attempts to put together an effective and impactful USAJOBS.gov resume? Then make plans to attend the Federal Job Workshop with ACS from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 284 with a hands-on breakout session from 1:15-2:15 p.m. This informative and interactive workshop is aimed at getting you the info you need to increase your federal employment possibilities.

Participants will receive a free copy of Kathryn Troutman's "Jobseeker's Guide" (7th

Edition). Registration is required two days prior to the workshop. Space is limited to the first 60 people to register. The workshop is open to authorized patrons only.

For more information or to register, call 255-2594.

TURKEY BURN

Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center will host its annual Turkey Burn Dec. 2. Door prizes will be awarded. Also, fruit and water will be available to all participants. These three-hour fitness marathons are designed to help you burn off those extra

dinner calories. The marathon will include a variety of classes with a mixture of instructors. There is no cost for this event. Two sessions are available: 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 5-8 p.m. Classes will include: Spinning, Strong Bodies, TNT, Bootcamps, AB Lab, HIIT and Yoga. The event is free to authorized patrons.

For more information, call 255-2296 or 255-1951.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The annual Fort Rucker Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 5 at 5 p.m. The event will feature music, hot choc-

olate, the lighting of the post Christmas tree and a special visitor from the North Pole. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 255-1749 or visit rucker.armymwr.com.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

The annual spaghetti dinner is scheduled for Dec. 5 from 6-7:30 p.m. at The Landing following the Fort Rucker Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Dinner includes: choice of pasta and sauce, garlic bread, assorted cookies, tea and coffee. Cost is \$8 per person for ages 13 and over. Children ages 12 and

under eat for free when with a paying adult – limit of two children per adult.

Following the Christmas tree lighting, Santa will stop by The Landing for photos with children from 6-7:30 p.m. People can bring their own camera or have the MWR team take the photo, which will be uploaded for your convenience on the Fort Rucker MWR Facebook page following the event. Santa's elves will also be handing out small gifts to all the good boys and girls while supplies last.

For more information, call 255-0769 or visit rucker.armymwr.com.





NEWS IN BRIEF

CG'S HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Commanding General's Holiday Concert is scheduled for Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. in the post theater featuring the Maneuver Center of Excellence Band performing holiday favorites. The event is free and open to the public.

NEW COMMISSARY ORDERING SYSTEM

The Fort Rucker Commissary staff is addressing unusual levels of grocery product shortages caused by the store's new automated ordering system, which went online Oct. 13. The store's fresh meat, produce and dairy departments are not affected by the new system and remain well stocked, said Marisol Hennessey, store director. The ordering system is part of the Defense Commissary Agency's new business system, called DeCA Enterprise Business Solution, that's be-

ing rolled out to commissaries worldwide. Hennessey said it was expected that the new system would cause grocery product availability issues, which are resolved as the system adjusts inventories and operators become accustomed to it.

"We knew it was coming and we informed the community in advance that this would happen, and now the Rucker Commissary team is putting in the extra effort to meet our customers' expectations for products on the shelves as we adjust to the new system," Hennessey said. The commissary is giving special attention to having the goods and products on hand that are associated with holiday meals. "We appreciate the patience our customers have shown as we go through this rough patch. In the end, we'll wind up better prepared to serve our customers with a well-stocked store."

Fort Rucker Reel Time Theater in partnership with the Exceptional Family Member Program present

A Sensory Friendly showing of

FROZEN 2

Saturday, Nov. 23 10 a.m.
Post Theater

Theater lights will be dim but not dark, volume will be reduced and children are free to be free!

Open to military, retirees, DOD civilians and their guests
Adults: \$8 • Children: \$7 • All guests are welcome!

Devices to help those with hearing impairment available upon request at no charge.



ARMY FLIER

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Fort Rucker Commanding General

Col. Whitney B. Gardner
Fort Rucker Garrison Commander

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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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