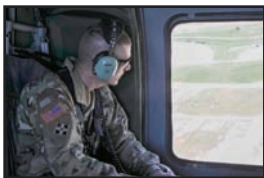


TOTAL ARMY
SMA talks responsible
drawdown with
Soldiers

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**GREAT
OUTDOORS**
Post home to
recreational paradise

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**SWIM, BIKE,
RUN**
Triathlon welcomes
all fitness levels

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ARMY FLYER

SERVING THE U.S. ARMY AVIATION CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AND THE FORT RUCKER COMMUNITY SINCE 1956

VOL. 66 ■ NO. 22

FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

JUNE 2, 2016

HONORING NATION'S FALLEN

Post supports Gold Star families

By Ebony Davis
Contributing Writer

Jennifer Hobdy said her sons were 4 and 7 when her husband, Staff Sgt. Jerry Lewis Hobdy, died after being diagnosed with a brain tumor while serving in Germany.

She said the question, “When is Daddy coming home?” was probably the hardest to answer for her children, but that she dropped out of school to raise her sons and taught them the significance of his sacrifice.

Her story of strength and perseverance was among

SEE FAMILIES, PAGE A5



PHOTO BY EBONY DAVIS

Jennifer Hobdy places flag in honor of her husband, Staff Sgt. Jerry Lewis Hobdy who died while serving in Germany, after the Fort Rucker Memorial Day ceremony Friday.



Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, speaks to the crowd during the Fort Rucker Memorial Day ceremony Friday.



PHOTOS BY EBONY DAVIS

Maj. Gen. Gayler, CW5 Joseph B. Roland, chief warrant officer of the Aviation Branch; and Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory M. Chambers, command sergeant major of the Aviation Branch, salute the wreath at the Fort Rucker Memorial Day ceremony Friday.

Ceremony honors duty, sacrifice, family

By Ebony Davis
Contributing Writer

Maj. Gen. William Gayler, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, took time at Fort Rucker's Memorial Day ceremony Friday to show how one of the nation's most highly decorated veterans, the late Col. Bob Howard, had much in common with many of the veterans whose lives are celebrated in the Wiregrass area on Memorial Day.

Howard was an Alabama native who grew up in Opelika. Howard also exemplified the sense of duty, honor and country in which every Soldier should commit, Gayler said. Howard was also the only Soldier nominated for the Medal of Honor three times for three different actions within a span of 13 months.

Howard, whose father and four uncles died while serving as paratroopers in World War II, died in 2009 after 36 years of military ser-

vice and an overall combined 50 years of government service.

“It is people like this that make you so proud to be an American,” Gayler said during the ceremony at Veterans Park.

“From the Revolutionary War through the (current conflicts) that we now find ourselves, these heroes are those whose shoulders we stand upon. They are the reason we enjoy the very freedoms we have today. It is their wisdom that we try to learn from and the mantle that we carry forward to a hopefully brighter future.”

Dozens of residents, local officials, service members and Gold Star Family members attended the ceremony. Mike Garnett, commandant of the Wiregrass Detachment Marine Corps League in Dothan, said the event was a reminder that Memorial Day is more than a time to enjoy an additional day off work.

“We shouldn't forget what it's taken to have our freedom – we've lost some of our friends and bud-

dies,” said Garnett, who said he served 20 years combined in the Army and Marines. “Some people don't understand that Memorial Day is not a day off from the week. It's not a party time. It's a time to think and reflect back on those who gave their lives for our country.”

O'Neal Boswell, civilian, said the ceremony was a wonderful reminder of veterans' sacrifices.

“It's great to hear about those who have served. It's very humbling,” he said. “It reminds you of the huge price that was paid. My father served a couple tours in Vietnam.”

Gayler said now marks the time for every American to reaffirm their commitment to service.

“It's time for every Soldier and civilian to reaffirm their own commitment to the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage,” he said. “That sense of service to something greater to oneself is what makes this nation strong and our Army, Army strong.”

Elementary school club cultivates leaders

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Education at Fort Rucker schools is more than just about teaching students their ABCs – it's also about cultivating leaders.

That's why Fort Rucker Elementary School is giving its students the opportunity to be part of the National Beta Club, so that they can have the best chance at becoming the best leaders they can be, according to Katie Nelsen, FRES school and club facilitator.

“Beta Club recognizes student leaders,” said Nelsen. “They are recognized for not only their academic prowess, but they are encouraged to be involved in their choice of community and extra-curricular activities. In doing so, they are given opportunities to develop a multitude of skills, as well as an awareness of how these skills and interests can be used to benefit their world.”

The FRES National Junior Beta Club was chartered in the fall of 2015 with 20 students inducted in its charter year – 10 members in Division 1 and 10 in Division 2. The school held its second induction ceremony in mid-May at the school during the Rainbow Induction ceremony where 53 new members were inducted.

Membership into the club is based on teacher recommendations,



COURTESY PHOTO

Erika Clayton, FRES Beta Club president, begins the spring induction ceremony during the Rainbow Induction Ceremony at the school May 17.

said Nelsen, and with an induction into the club, each member must maintain an A or B grade average, and exemplify the traits of good citizenship and leadership.

“(Students) are also expected to perform two hours of community service monthly,” she said. “The motto of the National Beta Club is ‘Let Us Lead By Serving Others,’ and these students are expected to do exactly that.”

In the past, students have volunteered their time for Big Bend Wildlife, various animal shelters,

churches and neighborhood projects, said Nelsen. The club has also collected over 200 books for victims of the Elba floods, as well as researched the suggested names for the new school and performed presentations online.

Those hours of volunteerism and time working on projects are vital to fostering a sense of teamwork and leadership skills, said Dr. Vicki Gilmer, FRES principal.

“It is so important to not only

SEE LEADERS, PAGE A5

HOG WILD

Trapping impacts feral hog population

By Jay Mann
Public Affairs Specialist

(Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles dealing with the feral hog population explosion on post.)

Feral hogs have been a growing problem at Fort Rucker since the unauthorized release of domesticated pigs by hunters on and near Fort Rucker 20 years ago.

But new steps are being taken to keep the population under control with new technology and support, according to Doug Watkins, Directorate of Public Works Natural Resources Branch chief.

“The feral hog population's growth over the last few decades is a major concern,” he said. “It has exceeded the carrying capacity of desirable wildlife, pushing the deer population further away as we try to

SEE FERAL HOG, PAGE A5



COURTESY PHOTO

Feral hogs can be captured in fence traps like this one on Fort Rucker.

PERSPECTIVE

GOLD STAR

That star in the window doesn't represent a person's rank

By Larry Haggerty
*U.S. Army Installation Management Command
Survivor Outreach Services*

FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEX-AS — At the post gas station I saw a vehicle with a young woman driving it, stop to fill up at the pump next to me. I noticed a small flag in the window with two blue stars on it and assumed that the stars reflected the rank of the Soldier that owned the vehicle.

I was surprised that a major general would have a daughter that young.

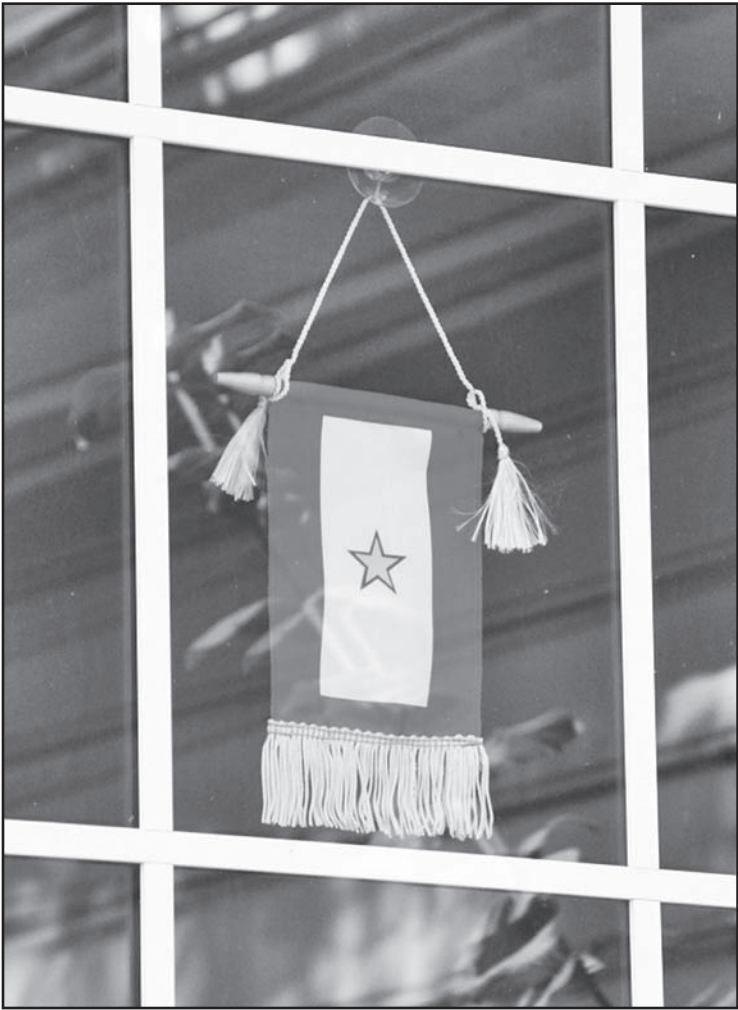
Soon after that incident, I was hired to support an Army program called Survivor Outreach Services. When I reported to work, I noticed one of the ladies at work had a little purple and gold lapel pin she wore all the time, and another had a pin that was a variation of the flag that I had seen at the gas station.

I was curious: the flag on the car had two blue stars, the flag on one lady's pin had one blue star and one gold star, and another simply had one blue star. Why were all the flags different, why were there two different stars, why did only these two ladies in the office have the flags? I, in my infinite wisdom, was too embarrassed to ask what any of these things meant.

Fortunately, one of my first assignments was to develop a Web page that clearly defined the different versions of the flags and pins for the American public.

I am an Army veteran with one deployment. I was married to an active-duty Soldier with 11 deployments. And I never understood the momentous meaning these symbols had. It blew my mind that I'd never heard of, learned about, or understood what these symbols represent.

The Service Flag was designed and patented by World War I Capt. Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry whose two sons were



ARMY PHOTO

A Service Flag with a blue star covered by a gold star in the window of a home signifies that a family member in that household died in service to the nation.

serving on the front line. The flag was designed to be displayed in the front window of peoples' homes to indicate the number of family members serving the war effort as members of the armed services.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson approved a request from the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense that allowed mothers who had lost a child serving in the war to wear a gold gilt star on their traditional black mourning band. This practice led to the blue star on the Service Flag being covered with a gold star to indicate that the service member had been killed.

This practice became much more widespread during WWII when or-

ganizations and families took great pride and displayed banners indicating the number of members of the organization, or family, serving in the war.

Between WWII and today, the practice of wearing or displaying service flags or gold stars had diminished greatly, but the meaning of the symbols is as significant as it was 100 years ago.

Each time you see a blue service star, you should be aware that the person displaying it has a loved one — possibly in harm's way — supporting the freedoms we enjoy every day.

A gold service star indicates that someone in that person's family has lost their life while serving our



ARMY PHOTO

Lapel pins like these indicate the wearer has an immediate family member who was killed in combat (left) or died in service, but not in theater (right).



COURTESY PHOTO

This war poster features a blue star flag in the background. Service Flags were an integral part of the culture and war effort throughout World War II.

armed forces and our nation.

Please take a moment, when appropriate, to thank the bearer of the star. A simple "I appreciate your family member's service," or "My

sympathies for your loss," is all it takes to remind the bearer that the service or sacrifice means something — even if the practice isn't widely recognized anymore.

Rotor Wash

“An International Spouses Get Together is 9-11 a.m. Friday at Allen Heights Community Center. What tips can you offer for becoming acclimated when moving to a new community?”



**Olivia Adams,
military spouse**

“Try to put yourself out there. Don't be a homebody.”



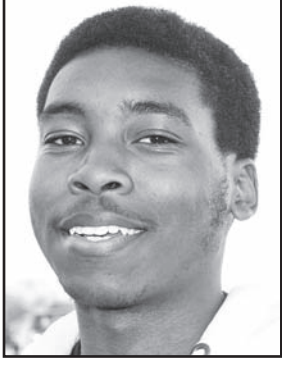
**Daniel Robinson,
military family member**

“Look for people with similar interests.”



**Tricia Davis,
military spouse**

“Learn about community organizations or take part in extracurricular activities.”



**Marcus Moore,
civilian**

“Get involved in the community.”



**Kristen Stuttle,
military spouse**

“Get to know the people you work around and be social with them.”

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Jim Hughes
COMMAND INFORMATION OFFICER

David C. Agan Jr.
COMMAND INFORMATION OFFICER ASSISTANT

EDITORIAL STAFF

Jim Hughes
ACTING EDITOR
jhughes@armyflyer.com

Jeremy P. Henderson
SYSTEMS & DESIGN EDITOR
jhenderson@armyflyer.com

Nathan Pfau

STAFF WRITER
npfau@armyflyer.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Robert T. Jesswein
PROJECT MANAGER
rjesswein@dothaneagle.com

Jerry Morgan
REGIONAL SALES DIRECTOR
jmorgan@dothaneagle.com

Laren Allgood
DISPLAY ADVERTISING
lallgood@eprisenow.com

Mable Ruttlen
DISPLAY ADVERTISING
mruttlen@eprisenow.com

CLASSIFIED ADS. (800) 779-2557

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MEMORIAL DAY

President: Honor by remembering stories of fallen

By **Jim Garamone**
Department of Defense News

ARLINGTON, Va. — It is peaceful at Arlington National Cemetery with impeccably cared-for grounds and row after row of headstones seeming to march down to the Potomac.

It is a shrine that Americans visit each day to see and touch and be moved by – the precise steps of the sentry at the Tomb of the Unknowns or the sight of a horse-drawn caisson taking another fallen service member to rest.

For many, the area known as Section 60 is the most poignant, if only because it is the most recent. Many killed in Iraq and Afghanistan have their final resting place there. On Memorial Day, many of those graves have flowers or drawings or stones placed atop them.

Section 60 is where President Barack Obama came to mark his final Memorial Day as commander in chief. He placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and addressed several thousand people in the Memorial Amphitheater.

Obama said that he has no more solemn obligation than the decision to send service members into harm’s way.

“I think about this every time I approve an operation as president – every time, as a husband and father, that I sign a condolence letter, every time Michelle and I sit at the bedside of a wounded warrior or grieve and hug members of a Gold Star family,” he said.



PHOTO BY AIR FORCE SENIOR MASTER SGT. ADRIAN CADIZ

President Barack Obama, right, Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, render honors during a wreath-laying ceremony to mark Memorial Day at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., May 30

He noted that less than 1 percent of Americans wear the uniform.

“And so few Americans see this patriotism with their own eyes or know someone who exemplifies it, but every day there are American families who pray for the sound of a familiar voice when the phone rings or the sound of a loved one’s letter or e-mail arriving,” he said. “More than 1 million times in our history, it didn’t come. And instead, a car pulled up to the house, and there was a knock on the front door, and the sound of ‘Taps’ floated through a cemetery’s trees.”

It is every American’s responsibility to not forget these heroes, Obama said, and it must be done by actions, not just by words. He mentioned the presence of more than 350 participants in the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors in the audience. “For truly remembering and truly honoring these fallen Americans means being there for their parents and their spouses and their children,” he said.

Americans must remember the fallen and

they must hear their stories, the president said.

“My fellow Americans, today and every day listen to the stories these Gold Star families and veterans have to tell,” he said. “Ask about who he or she was, why they volunteered. Hear from those who loved them about what their smile looked like and their laugh sounded like and the dreams they had for their lives.”

In the past year, more than 20 Americans have given their lives in Afghanistan. In the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, “three Americans have given their lives in combat on our behalf, and today I ask you to remember their stories, as well,” he said.

The president spoke movingly about Navy Chief Petty Officer Charles Keating IV, Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Louis Cardin and Army Master Sgt. Joshua Wheeler, the three service members lost in the fight against ISIL.

“Our nation reveals itself not only by the people it produces, but by those it remembers,” Obama said. “We do so not just by hoisting a flag, but by lifting up our neighbors, not just by pausing in silence, but by practicing in our own lives the ideals of opportunity and liberty and equality that they fought for. We can serve others and contribute to the causes they believed in, and above all, keep their stories alive so that, one day, when he grows up and thinks of his dad, an American like David Wheeler can tell them as well the stories of the lives others gave for all of us.”

DOD official: Fallujah’s liberation from ISIL control progressing

By **Terri Moon Cronk**
Department of Defense News

WASHINGTON – Iraqi security forces operations backed by the U.S.-led coalition are progressing toward liberating the key Iraqi city of Fallujah from Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant control and killed the city’s ISIL commander, Operation Inherent Resolve spokesman Army Col. Steve Warren told Pentagon reporters Friday.

Briefing from Baghdad by teleconference, Warren said Iraqi forces have cleared Karmah, 10 miles northeast of Fallujah, but have not yet entered the city of

about 50,000 Iraqi residents.

“The Iraqi government has been clear that protecting these civilians is their priority,” he said. To communicate with Fallujah’s residents, coalition aircraft dropped leaflets telling those who cannot leave the city to affix white sheets on their rooftops to mark their locations.

The Iraqi army is working on evacuation routes for Fallujah residents, while the Anbar provincial government has set up camps for the displaced people, he added.

The combined operation includes thousands of forces – the Iraqi army and federal police, Sunni tribal fighters and the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service, in ad-

dition to Iraq’s popular mobilization forces that are taking part outside the city, Warren said.

Coalition airstrikes from Taqqadum with some artillery fire are also supporting the operation to retake Fallujah, the colonel said, but he added it’s still early in the fight, “so it’s unclear how long this battle will last.”

ISIL fighters have performed in one of two ways the past the last several months, Warren said. “In Ramadi, we encountered an enemy that chose to stand and fight,” he explained. “More recently in Hit and in Rutbah, ISIL hid behind women and children before throwing down their weapons and

running away. In both cases, they lost.”

Warren said a local newspaper reported ISIL leadership arrested some of its fighters who had fled from Rutbah and executed them by cooking them to death in bakery ovens.

Syrian Democratic Forces battling ISIL control in that nation announced this week that they are conducting regular operations to liberate the countryside north of Raqqa, Warren said.

“We will continue to support the SDF, particularly the Syrian-Arab component, as they conduct ground operations to further isolate the city,” he said, adding that

more than 200 Americans advise the Syrian-Arab coalition as they pressure ISIL across a broad front stretching from the Tishrin Dam to Shaddadi.

Warren said it’s important this Memorial Day to remember the three Americans who lost their lives supporting Operation Inherent Resolve: Army Master Sgt. Joshua Wheeler, Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Louis Cardin and Navy Chief Petty Officer Charles Keating IV.

“These men are American heroes and will not be forgotten,” he said. “Every warrior knows that when we speak the names of the fallen, they live on.”

RETIREMENT

Lt. Gen. Kevin W. Mangum, deputy commanding general and chief of staff of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, congratulates Col. Donald N. Galli on his retirement May 26 as his wife, Patti, looks on during a ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. Galli served as the USAACE chief of staff from 2011-13.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

News Briefs

Community strengths, themes assessment

Fort Rucker is running its second biennial Health Promotions Community Strengths and Themes Assessment now through June 30 aimed at collecting population data as it relates to the health and readiness of the Community. Data is collected through the Internet, which allows Soldiers, family members, civilians and military retirees to take the survey from their homes or offices. The survey focuses on how the community feels on health, safety, quality of life and overall satisfaction with the installation. Information is collected through the Fort Rucker Community Health Promotion Council Office. It will be used to help identify population health concerns for assessing health-related needs of the Fort Rucker community for program planning, policy development and program evaluation.

The confidentiality of responses is assured under Section 308 (d) of the Public Health Service Act. Procedures are in place to prevent the disclosure of personal data, including data encryption and secure data networks. No personal identifiers are collected as part of this survey process.

The assessment is available at <https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/Survey/se.ashx?s=251137452BC46511>.

For more information, call 255-0529.

Changes of command

- The 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment will host a change of command and change of responsibility ceremony June 10 at 9 a.m. at Howze Field. Lt. Col. Kevin E. McHugh will assume command of the unit from Lt. Col. Romeo R. Macalintal Jr., and Command Sgt. Maj. George S. Webster will assume responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald K. Graves.

- Aviation Center Logistics Command will host a change of command ceremony June 28 at 9 a.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. Col. Michael Best will assume command from Col. Kenneth Kliethermes.
- Air Traffic Services Command and 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group will host a change of command ceremony June 28 at 1:30 p.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. Col. Michael E. Demirjian will assume command from Col. Douglas C. Van Weelden III.

Hydrant testing in housing

The Fort Rucker Fire Department will conduct yearly hydrant testing in Allen Heights, Bowden Terrace and Munson Heights throughout June. If any discoloration of water is noticed, residents are advised by post fire department officials to allow the water to flow until it is clear again.

AER closing ceremony

The 2016 Army Emergency Relief Campaign Closing Ceremony is scheduled for Monday from 2-3 p.m. at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. The primary goal of the campaign is to promote awareness of benefits provided through AER.

For more information about AER, call 255-2341 or 255-3765.

School physical appointments

To ensure the highest continuity of care possible while providing timely access for patients requiring a school physical, Lyster Army Health Clinic will offer school physical appointments during the dates and times below. These slots will fill quickly, so people should book as soon as possible. The appointments serve to provide additional times and dates for dual-

working parents and those who cannot schedule an appointment during normal business hours.

Parents should make sure to bring any required documentation to the appointment, with the patient portion filled out completely. The appointment will be for the school physical only. Any other issues will need to be addressed with the primary care clinician.

Appointments are available: July 13, 1-3 p.m.; July 27, 4-6 p.m.; Aug. 3, 1-3 p.m.; Aug. 10, 4-6 p.m.; Aug. 24, 1-3 p.m.; Aug. 31, 4-6 p.m.; Sept. 7, 1-3 p.m.; Sept. 14, 4-6 p.m.; Sept. 21, 1-3 p.m.; and Sept. 28, 4-6 p.m.

Resident survey

Corvias Military Living is asking all residents to complete the 2016 Headquarters Department of the Army Residential Communities Initiative Resident Survey. The survey gives on-post residents an opportunity to provide feedback to the Army, RCI and Corvias Military Living on how their housing needs are being met.

Electronic surveys should’ve already been emailed to residents. Residents who did not receive a survey or who have questions should contact their community office. Residents must fill out and submit the online survey by Monday.

The survey should take less than 20 minutes to complete. It will ask questions on topics such as residents’ evaluation of their present home, community amenities, resident activities, the community maintenance team and property management team, among others.

All survey answers are strictly confidential and residents are urged to offer honest responses. Personal data is not tabulated and the survey does not identify the resident in any way.

TOTAL ARMY

SMA talks responsible drawdown with Soldiers

Staff Sgt. Thomas Duval
*Multinational Battle Group East
Public Affairs*

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo — A growing concern over the troop drawdown, realignments across the total Army force and questions of what that means to the average Soldier were put to ease by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey during his visit with deployed Soldiers in Kosovo May 17-20.

“Responsible drawdown is key. We have to make sure we do a couple things here,” said Dailey. “We have to build a sustainable force for the future and make sure that force is ready to fight and win.”

Dailey said the top priority for a sustainable force is Soldier and unit readiness.

“Great Soldiers have been serving this Army for 241 years,” said Dailey. “As we get smaller, like any organization in America, we have to get efficient, and we have to focus on retaining those who are fully capable to deploy and complete their wartime mission. Soldiers are for fighting and winning our wars – that’s what we do and we have to focus on that for the future.”

Dailey said the readiness and efficiency of the force requires leaders and Soldiers alike taking personal responsibility and enforcing the Army standard while getting back to the tasks that made them warfighters.

“A Soldier has the responsibility, just like the Army does, to defend this nation and it’s a personal responsibility to make sure they can do their basic Soldier tasks,” said Dailey. “That starts with physical fitness, weapons proficiency and understanding the critical tasks necessary for them to perform their job on the battlefield to make the overall team successful.”

To be successful, Dailey said leaders can no longer accept the bare minimum, and must empower junior leaders and Soldiers.

“We have to create an organization that inspires people to want to maintain the standards and that wants to be disciplined. We all know what the bare minimum is and we shouldn’t want to achieve that,” said Dailey. “Not everybody is going to be the best and I know that, and not everyone can be the best, but everyone can try their hardest. Every single Soldier in my opin-



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. THOMAS DUVAL

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey gazes out the window of a UH-60 Black Hawk during a visit to Kosovo May 19.



Dailey visits Soldiers deployed to Kosovo May 17-20.

ion has a responsibility to give it their all, every single day.”

Dailey said these expectations don’t solely rest on the shoulders of active duty Soldiers but instead the total force.

“As we get smaller as a force we are going to have to depend more on our Guard and Reserve Soldiers and that’s why we are investing in their future in regards to readiness,” said Dailey. “It’s going to take

a lot of hard work and dedication.”

To assist with the integration of Army Reserve and National Guard units, Dailey said the Army is looking at everything from increasing the number of annual national training rotations to calling upon them for more deployments in the future.

“We are a total force that relies on the total force to be able to meet the mission requirements. The United States Army has to its commitment to its allies and to the DOD,” added Dailey.

Although there has been a lot of uncertainty throughout the formations about what that commitment and the Army’s mission requirements will look like in the future, Dailey said the one thing not in question is the Army’s commitment to U.S. Army Europe.

“U.S. Army Europe is out in front,” added Dailey. “They aren’t the U.S. Army Europe we had several years ago – they’re a lot smaller, but very capable. We have to understand that not only are they very capable but they are in an environment that could change overnight.”

Because of the environment, Dailey called on all the leaders to be ready for anything.

“All the Soldiers that are committed to this task force, as well as all those in U.S. Army Europe, have to prepare and be ready individually – from unit level, to collective training and all the way up to USAREUR.”

Although his visit centered on growing concerns, Dailey traveled across Kosovo to multiple remote posts to shake hands, take photos with Soldiers, hand out coins, and conduct physical training with the men and women in uniform.

After spending four days in Kosovo, Dailey said he was pleased with the work the Soldiers were doing to remain ready and cited the ongoing peace support mission in Kosovo as an example of the total force successfully integrating to complete the Army’s mission.

“I am extremely proud of the mission that’s over here and the Soldiers carrying out this mission,” said Dailey. “From our great combined organizations – from our Guard, Reserves and our active force – I couldn’t be more proud of the mission they have here, the esprit de corps and the fine job our Soldiers are doing.”

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Families

Continued from Page A1

several shared Friday morning after the Fort Rucker Memorial Day ceremony during the Gold Star Family reception held in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. Gold Star Family members are identified as those whose parents, siblings, spouses and other loved ones died while in service to the nation. Elton Norman, Fort Rucker Survivor Outreach Services, said the organization offers support and services to more than 400 Gold Star Family members throughout the Wiregrass area. He said the reception was one of several opportunities available for Gold Star Family members to connect with others

within the Army family. A Survivors and Fallen Heroes 5K recently held at the post was another example of such opportunities. “These events are important because they are a reminder that Gold Star survivors are forever linked to the military family. They’re forever a part,” he said. “We can’t put a time limit on their grief, but we can put in place programs and services that can possibly help.” Donna Hallock said her brother, Sgt. 1st Class William T. Butts, died Feb. 27, 1991, when his UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter was shot down over Iraq. He and four crew members died while three others were taken as prisoners of war. Hallock said she has maintained con-

tact with one POW who was a gunner on the same aircraft as her brother, who was an aircraft mechanic. “I love when there’s a great crowd at these events because it lets me know that they keep (the sacrifice) alive,” she said. Tim Laster, director of the Fort Rucker Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said the reception was one small way Fort Rucker could thank Gold Star family members for all they’ve given to the country. “Any chance we get to invite them and say hello and thank them for all they’ve done is a great thing,” he said. Hobdy said losing a loved one in any instance can be a reminder that no one lives forever, but also that while a person

is living, he or she can make the most out of their lives. Her husband served in two wars within his nearly 30 years of service, 22 of which were in the Army and six in the Marine Corps. She herself is a breast cancer survivor. One of her sons, Eukiston, joined the Army and has served in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Her other son, Michael, recently graduated from Enterprise State Community College. “As a military wife and parent, you have to have a backbone, and be a mother and a supporter. When my husband died, I still had to be those things,” she said. “Through all of this, and even in the military, we gained strength. I’m very proud of my children.”

Leaders

Continued from Page A1

develop the minds of our youth but to also instill in them the importance of character, leadership and service to others,” said the principal. “At Fort Rucker Elementary School we believe and model the Beta’s mission statement, which states that we will promote the ideals of

academic achievement, character, service and leadership among elementary and secondary school students. “(We) were honored to become a National Beta School of Merit in our first year,” she said. “This is a tremendous honor and we are thrilled that FRES reached national merit status, which is a true indication of our dedication to academic excellence and leadership development.”

The National Beta Club was founded in 1934 in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and currently there are more than 450,000 active members in more than 8,750 clubs nationally and internationally, according to the club’s website, www.betacub.org. It has become the nation’s largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization.

Feral hog

Continued from Page A1

grow them back.” “Over 2,000 hogs have been removed through organized control efforts over the last five years, but that’s just a drop in the bucket,” said Daniel Spillers, Fish and Wildlife biologist. Officials add to that drop in the bucket by basically proclaiming it open season on feral hogs on the post, Watkins said. “We encourage the hunting of feral hogs in designated areas on Fort Rucker,” he said. “Hunting season has even been expanded to hunt them year round on the installation. We also have a trapping program that we administer through the Natural Resources Branch. People can come in and sign up with us to be a volunteer trapper.”

And besides helping the post reduce the population of hogs, hunting and trapping also puts food on the table for those who make the effort, Spillers said. “They are safe to clean and eat, but you should always wear gloves when handling these animals.” The Feral Hog Volunteer Trapping Program supplies the trap and corn for volunteers looking to trap hogs on Fort Rucker explained Watkins. The natural resources branch supplies one 50-pound bag of corn per trap per week. Volunteers need to check

their trap for hogs on a daily basis, depending on whether the trigger is set. Then hunters need to notify wildlife personnel of the numbers of hogs caught on a weekly or monthly basis. “Volunteer trappers need to obtain an Alabama State Hunting License and a Fort Rucker Hunting Permit in order to trap here,” said Watkins. “The biggest problem we are facing is that the groups of hogs move over a large area of land in their search for food, and we are restricted from trapping the hogs on some training areas and ranges, which provide the animals sanctuary,” he added. “We recently acquired smart traps that we hope to deploy in these restricted areas,” added Watkins. “These traps have a camera on the trap you can view and you can drop the door to the trap with a text message.” He said DPW is working to get into the training areas. “There is about 1,300 acres of land up near Highway 27 we hope to be able to trap soon. You can remove 100 hogs from that area and in a few days –100 more have moved in to replace those. “I think that the feral hog problem will have severe consequences to the environment on the installation if stringent measures are not put in place to control the population,” said Watkins. “We are already

seeing areas that have exceeded carrying capacity for wildlife and have damages to the habitat.” The control efforts are being funded by U.S. Army Installation Management Command – to buy traps and feed, said Watkins. “Feral hogs are an invasive species, and we have around 100 traps deployed right now in locations around post.” “You can take some out by hunting,” added Spillers. “But traps are a better way. One person can impact the problem more with trapping.” “Estimates say that you need to take 80

percent of the population each year just to keep up with the population growth,” he said. “That is a tremendous amount when you are talking thousands of hogs. There is no type of poison that is legal for them here. They have developed one in Australia, but it has not been approved by the FDA (U.S. Food and Drug Administration) yet.” People interested in becoming a volunteer trapper can call the natural resources branch at 255-9368. Check out next week’s “Army Flier” to find out how people can stay safe and help stop feral hogs on the installation.

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Land Forces Pacific Symposium wraps up

By Staff Sgt. Kyle Richardson
U.S. Army Pacific Public Affairs

HONOLULU — After three days of collaborative panel discussions on peace, stability and mutual security, along with multiple displays of leading-edge technology, the fourth annual Land Forces Pacific Symposium and Exhibition came to a close May 26.

With more than 1,600 attendees and nearly 80 industry representatives who provided interactive displays, 2016's LANPAC continued to show steady growth since 590 people attended its debut in 2013. Twenty-six nations were represented this year, more than half of the U.S. regional partners in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

LANPAC is a professional development forum sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare. The symposium and exhibition provided unique opportunities, through panel discussions, for U.S. Army, State Department, joint and regional partners to discuss the critical roles of Pacific land forces.

"You don't want to develop a relationship after a crisis — it may be a little late at that point," said Gen. Robert B. Brown, commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. BRANDON C. MCINTOSH

Twenty-six nations were represented at the fourth annual Land Forces Pacific Symposium and Exhibition, held in Honolulu May 24-26.

"Here, we get to share common challenges and we get to develop solutions together, and you develop these relationships that will pay off in the times of crisis. And so far, you can tell it has paid off. I haven't heard dialogue this good in my 35 years of going to events like LANPAC."

Brown also said teamwork is necessary and critical to ensure everyone is successful throughout the Pacific.

He summed up the importance of events like LANPAC using a football analogy.

"Coaches are going to talk plays and strategies, but you have to get on the field

at some point," Brown told reporters. "You have to scrimmage and work together. It's the same way — (you've) got to talk and get the issues out. It's absolutely critical, and it binds us with our partners. We're committed, and we know our regional partners are committed to peace and prosperity in the Pacific region. Some things you can do from a distance, but there's nothing like being face to face in solving challenges and problems."

The theme for this year's LANPAC, Assuring Stability and Security — Strengthening Land Force Teams, emphasized the purpose of land forces in the Pacific. Brown emphasized that land forces in the Pacific face a complex region with unconventional threats that cross national borders.

"We are all walking away from this symposium inspired to continue the great progress we are achieving in this region, where dialogue and mutual support are on the rise," Brown said. "We have a better appreciation for our shared interests, shared challenges, and our shared future. And the friendships we established and strengthened these last few days will be the seeds for our continued and close cooperation in the days to come."

Leaders meet at Pacific Land Forces Forum

By Staff Sgt. Kyle Richardson
U.S. Army Pacific Public Affairs

HONOLULU — Senior enlisted advisers from various Indo-Asia-Pacific region militaries participated in the second annual senior enlisted leaders forum May 24 in conjunction with the fourth annual Land Power in the Pacific Symposium.

LANPAC is a three-day professional development forum sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare.

The senior enlisted leaders forum, hosted by Command Sgt. Maj. Bryant Lambert, U.S. Army Pacific's senior enlisted adviser,

was a day of panel discussions. Nearly 300 NCOs, ranging from junior sergeants to a special attendee, retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, filled the room.

"At the heart of the LANPAC symposium, and specifically the senior enlisted leaders' forum, you see it's all about professional development," said Preston, director of NCO and Soldier programs for AUSA. "We have experience coming in from all around the Pacific Rim. This combined environment creates a sharing of knowledge. It helps us to become better overall. It creates new ideas and fosters innovation. It allows us to im-

prove on where we are now and where we think we want to go in the future."

The experienced senior NCOs on the panel, who provide advice to general officers throughout the United States and the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, brought their unique combined country perspective and a joint aspect to topics from the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marines. The panelists covered partnership and working relationships between multinational forces, gender integration and women in the armed forces, and the institutional concept of change.

The forum presented an opportunity for NCOs to come

together and learn from one another, as well as learn from the most successful senior NCOs across the region.

"In this type of combined environment, we're learning from each other," Lambert said. "We're building relationships before anything escalates so that we already have an understanding of each other's capabilities, limitations and strengths."

Lambert noted that some of the nations in the region have a small number of officers, so it is essential that they empower their NCOs to take the lead as they were trained to do.

"We are assisting in developing our partner nations' armies'

NCO corps in their professionalization, accommodating and utilizing their noncommissioned officers," he said. "We all are here to learn from one another and learn from each other's best practices. The senior enlisted leaders forum is a great opportunity to develop our noncommissioned officers in a capacity to help them learn to flourish in austere environments, deal with uncertainty, and adapt to change or complexity based on the decades of experiences of our panel members."

Lambert added that although the forum lasts only one day, the effects of strong NCOs can last for generations.

Soldier: Becoming U.S. citizen greatest thing

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Joining the U.S. Army and becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen are the best things he ever did, said Sgt. Yaseen Witwit, who hails from Iraq.

After the fall of President Saddam Hussein in 2003, there was more freedom and democracy in Iraq, Witwit said, but not a lot of jobs or upward mobility in the nation's stagnated economy.

Despite having a baccalaureate degree in engineering, he said the jobs just weren't there. He opted instead to work as an Iraqi civilian doing linguist work for the U.S. Marines. He did that work from 2005 to 2008.

Having made friends with the Marines and liking their culture and way of life, got him thinking about possibly joining the U.S. military and coming to the United States, he said. The Marines encouraged him to give it a shot, so in 2009 he did.

Witwit said he studied the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery exam for just two weeks and surprised his Army recruiter by scoring 65 out of a possible 100. He added that he chose the Army over the other services for its generous benefits package.

After successfully completing initial entry training near the end of 2009, Witwit became an ammunition specialist.

However, the Army eventually realized it could use Witwit's talents in a different and more beneficial way, so Witwit became a cryptology linguist. To do that required a top secret clearance and American citizenship, so the Army also helped him with that, he said.

Witwit added that becoming an American citizen wasn't simply to get the clearance.

He said he loves America and had wanted badly to do that, and added that he considers himself a 100 percent loyal patriot.

"I'm really happy being an American,"

he said.

The Army also helped Witwit navigate the paperwork process of bringing his wife to America, where she's studying English and eventually wants to become a naturalized citizen like her husband. They have a 1-year-old daughter.

Although the Witwits are in the U.S., the sergeant's brother and father are still in Iraq. Witwit said he calls his family in Iraq once or twice a week. His mother passed away in 2010.

Witwit's father, who served in the Iraqi army, has his own interesting story. He was captured by Iranian forces and served time as a prisoner of war during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, he said.

Currently, Witwit is attached to the 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 504th MI Brigade in Fort Hood, Texas. He's on temporary duty now, attending Recruiter School at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, a career move he didn't volunteer for but said he'll try his hardest to be

successful at.

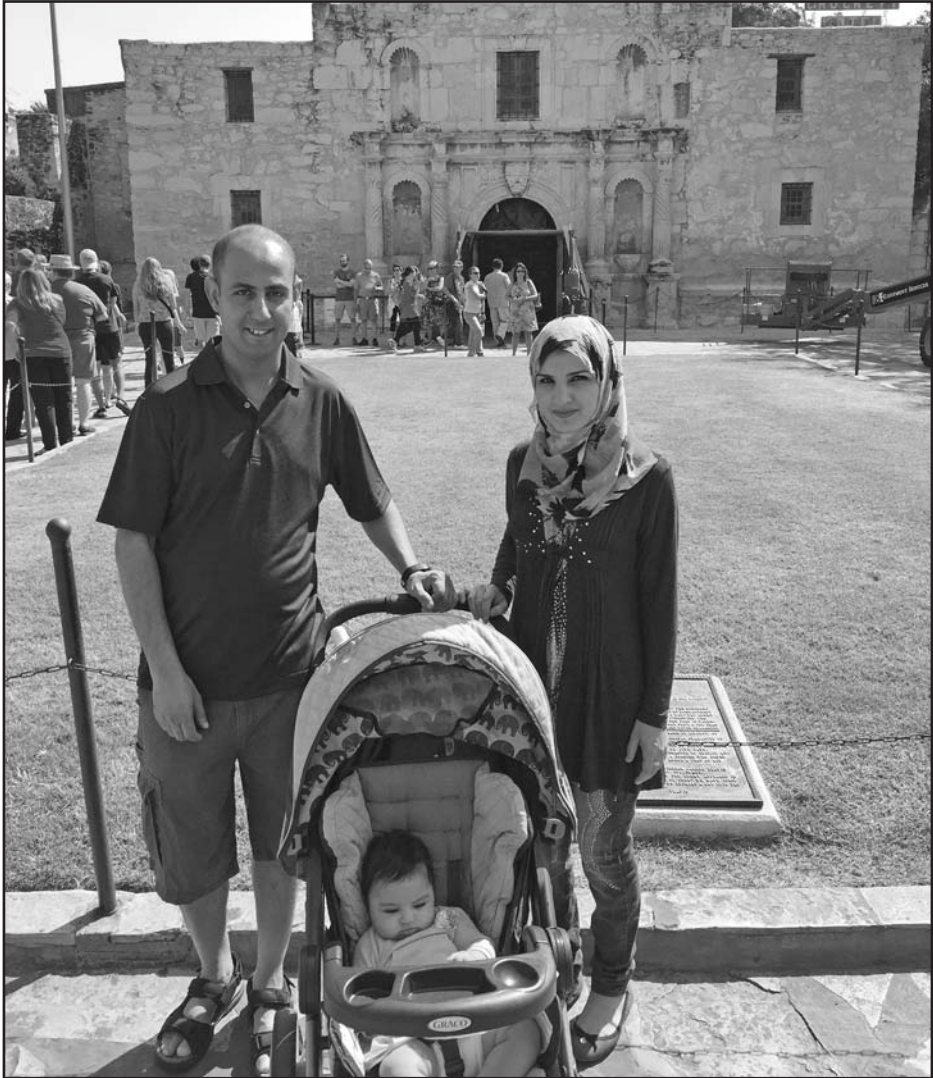
He graduates in three weeks, but already received orders to his first recruiting assignment, which will be in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Off-duty, Witwit said he enjoys watching American movies and world soccer matches, as well as playing pool with his buddies. He splits his music listening time to Arabic songs and American ones, particularly country music.

As for future plans, he said he wants to get a master's degree in the medical field to become a pharmacist or physician assistance.

Asked about the connection between those fields and his current linguistics specialty, Witwit said they're both "people professions" — and he said he loves interacting with and helping people.

In America, opportunities abound to do whatever you want and to go into any profession you choose, he added. "It's a great country."



COURTESY OF SGT. YASEEN WITWIT

Sgt. Yaseen Witwit, his wife and daughter visit San Antonio, Texas, while he was stationed with the 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 504th MI Brigade in Fort Hood, Texas.

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X-MEN: APOCALYPSE - PG-13
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THE NICE GUYS
Thursday: 1:45 & 4:00
THE JUNGLE BOOK - PG
Thursday: 7:00 • June 3: 2:00, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:45
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4221 Rucker
\$130,000: Over 2,100 SF home with a mother-in-law addition. A bedroom, full bath, walk-in closet, sitting area & a large storage room were added as the mother-in-law suite about 15 years ago. Priced to sell "as is", the house has a total of 3BR/2BA & sits on 1 acre of land. It needs some TLC, but has lots of good space. A large metal barn with electricity is included with this property located right on Rucker Blvd. It has great potential as a residence or could possibly be rezoned commercial. **JAN SAWYER 406-2393** MLS #20160941



new LISTING



528 Victoria
\$124,900: Nice split level home with BR/2BA on large lot, large deck & gazebo. Must see. **TEXT TERRI 406-2072 & JACKIE THOMPSON 406-1231** MLS #20160999



new LISTING



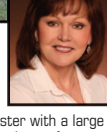
409 South Oak Ridge
\$226,000: You can definitely call this home your "Forever Home". It features split bedrooms with tray ceilings in the master bedroom & the grandroom, gas log fireplace in grandroom, formal dining room with hardwood floors, kitchen with bar & breakfast area complete with all appliances. The yard is level & landscaped with a privacy fence & there is a shed/playhouse for storage or play. Backed up to wooded area, enjoy barbecues on the covered patio &/or sit around the fire pit. **EVELYN HITCH 406-3436** MLS #20161004



new LISTING



112 Woodale
\$115,000: NEW ROOF! Come see this updated home on a convenient cul-de-sac street right off Rucker Blvd. The warm & inviting family room with a wood burning fireplace is the interior focal point. Fresh paint & new carpet throughout, a master with a large walk-in closet & 2 other split bedrooms, make this the perfect place for newlyweds or a young family. The large deck extends to a gazebo where everyone is sure to enjoy summer evenings with family & friends. Lots of storage & an interior laundry room. **JAN SAWYER 406-2393** MLS #20161010



new LISTING



211 Winterberry Way
\$149,900: Low maintenance living in high style! Woodland Park cottages look like doll houses but function big! This 3BR/2BA brick & vinyl home has an open floor plan...entertaining in style! The generous kitchen has gas appliances, tons of counter space & a breakfast bar! Hook your grill to natural gas & grill right outside your kitchen under the covered patio! Your own fenced yard...one of the largest in WPI! Notice bronze hardware throughout & the custom light fixtures. Front porch is charming & roomy! **MAGGIE HAAS 389-0011 & CHRIS ROGERS 406-0726** MLS #20161025



new LISTING



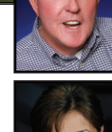
205 Stonechase
\$224,000: New 4BR/2BA in Stonechase. This new home is soon to be finished & comes complete with architectural shingles, brick & stone exterior. A wood privacy fence, sprinkler system & sodded yard are part of the package. Inside you'll find an open floor plan with granite countertops, stainless appliances, including the refrigerator, natural gas cooking & heating. The flooring is tile, wood & carpet. Seller is a licensed Realtor® in the State of Alabama. **NORMAN RILEY CONSTRUCTION 406-6746** MLS #20161034



new LISTING



285 Z Street - Daleville
\$56,000: This really nice large mobile home has been well maintained. Features 2 living areas, with a fireplace in the den, big kitchen with an island, updated cabinets & pantry, walk-in closets in all bedrooms, large master bath with garden tub & separate shower, screened in front & back porch, large detached 2-car garage with 2 garage doors (with openers) & space for a workshop. Convenient to Ft. Rucker, schools & shopping. If you are looking for a mobile home, you need to take a look at this one. **BOB KUYKENDALL 369-8534 & NANCY CAFIERO 389-1758** MLS #20161041



new LISTING



208 Seay
\$74,900: Charming home in an established neighborhood. 2BR/2BA, 2 living areas, 1-car garage. Large lot. **TEXT TERRI 406-2072 & JACKIE THOMPSON 406-1231** MLS #20161052



new LISTING



4 Stratford
\$210,000: Great location close to Ft. Rucker. Enjoy the summer with the inground pool. New liner in 2015. 4BR/2BA & large family room. New Trane heat pump in 2015. This house is perfect for entertaining! **TEXT TERRI 406-2072 & JACKIE THOMPSON 406-1231** MLS #20161053



new LISTING



207 Stonechase
\$246,000: New 4BR/3BA in Stonechase. Stop & see this new neighborhood & the beautiful homes that make up Stonechase. All homes offer wood privacy fences & whole yard sprinkler systems as standard. 30-yr architectural shingles, brick & stone are also standard. Inside you'll find open floor plans, granite countertops & stainless appliances, including the refrigerator. The main living areas are tile & wood, with the bedrooms having carpet. The seller is a licensed Realtor® in the State of Alabama. **NORMAN RILEY CONSTRUCTION 406-6746** MLS #20161054



new LISTING



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\$1,400,000 - 857± ACRES!! Approx. 657 acres of land. This land has it all...wooded for hunting...creek...active agricultural fields...planted pines. On west portion, creek is the boundary for the lowest 40 acres. On east, the land crosses the creek with 20 acres lying on the south side. Creek is a major tributary to the Pee River. Federal approval for irrigation from Whitewater Creek. Mineral rights do not convey. **SHAWN REEVES 475-6405** MLS #20161055



new LISTING



262 Trent
\$229,000: Large 4BR/3.5BA home. Great home for family fun & entertaining! Foyer, formal dining room, cozy living area with gas log fireplace, eat-in kitchen with breakfast bar & a bonus room that could be used as an office or den with private exit to deck/backyard. Master suite downstairs & 3 additional bedrooms upstairs, with walk-in closets. There are also 2 full baths upstairs. Also features a sunroom, a salt water pool & a pool patio. **BOB KUYKENDALL 369-8534** MLS #20161058



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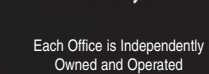
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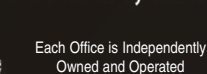
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605 MORGAN: 3BR/2BA brick home with fenced yard, screened patio & a storage shed. Very convenient to Ft. Rucker. **JACKIE THOMPSON 406-1231**

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240 COUTY ROAD 744: LIKE NEW with new hardwood floors, new carpet, new stainless appliances, new granite counte tops, new water heater, freshly painted throughout & several new doors. This large corner lot is in a great neighborhood; convenient to schools, shopping & Ft. Rucker. **BOB KUYKENDALL 369-8534**

\$149,000 ~ 4 BEDROOMS!!



112 MAGNOLIA: Nice 4BR/2.5BA home featuring a bonus room, a laundry room & a deck overlooking the wooded backyard! This home offers room to grow! **SOMMER RAKES 406-1286**

NEW PRICE!! ~ \$189,000



307 SOUTH ACADEMY: Great price for this much house, buy now for built-in equity!!! House updated while retaining as much character as possible along with a new addition of approximately 775 SF game room (635 SF large enough for pool table, bar, game table, etc & 139 SF office. A 12'x24' porch added off game room. 5 bedrooms with their own bathroom, master down with bath & large walk-in closet. Lot of storage throughout house, too many features to list. **JUDY DUNN 301-5656**

\$140,000



100 HIGHLAND: Great family home with so many possibilities. Main level has formal living & dining rooms, master suite with bath, laundry room, family room, kitchen with bar area & a sun room. Upstairs has 2BR/1BA with an extra office area off the one bedroom. Large corner lot with partial privacy fence & there is an extra covered area for your RV or extra car off the driveway. Partial basement with walk-out & area for workshop. A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH!! **EVELYN HITCH 406-3436**



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101 HALL HILL COURT
\$213,000: Beautiful garden home with open floor plan located in Cotton Creek Subdivision. Oversized master bedroom, master bath has garden bath & separate shower with large walk-in closet. Nice fenced in backyard with patio. **marla@c21regencyrealty.com**



DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 27 turn into Cotton Creek Subdivision. Turn right onto Hall Hill, house is on the left.

HOSTED BY: MARLA BELLARD 464-1149



NEW LISTING!





PHOTO BY CAPT. JAYMON BELL

Soldiers from Jäger Battalion 291 pose in front of a Tiger attack helicopter and an AH-64 Apache flown by Capt. James Freeman, 12th CAB, during exercise Strong Punch near Fritzlar, Germany, May 19.

Allies partner for training

By Capt. Jaymon Bell
12th Combat Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs

FRITZLAR, Germany — Soldiers from Kampfhubschrauberregiment 36 “Kurbessen,” 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade and Jäger Battalion 291, conducted a four-day joint helicopter training exercise, Strong Punch, focused on electronic warfare detection and evasion techniques May 17-20 at Heeresflugplatz Fritzlar.

Strong Punch is an exercise laboratory in which German and American Aviators can evaluate and refine the effectiveness of their current tactics, techniques and procedures in a threat environment that consists of real world, modern electronic warfare platforms and reconnaissance surveillance equipment.

The exercise began in 2013 when Staff Captain Thomas Müller and CW2 John Sims had the idea to train together using the reconnaissance assets from Jäger Battalion 291. Their goal was to cultivate the Aviator experience base in their respective formations by flying training missions against an active opposing force.

Each day of the exercise brought a new scenario and focused on a different type of operation. The first day consisted of a screening mission and a forward passage of lines. The second day was an air interdiction. The exercise culminated in a search and destroy mission against a vehicle convoy.

The opposing force consisted of Bundeswehr Soldiers from the 4th Company, Jäger Battalion 291, Deutsch-Französische Brigade out of Illkirch-Graffenstaden.

The 4th Company is organized



PHOTO BY SPC. ANTONIO RAMIREZ

Sgt. Hua Wen, 1-3rd Avn. Regt., and Private Ndifon Leofinn, from Jäger Battalion 291, discuss the operation of the RASIT radar system mounted on a German Fox transport.

as a reconnaissance company and operates as an independent reconnaissance unit. Their primary electronic monitoring system is the RASIT radar system mounted on a German Fox transport ve-

hicle.

The RASIT radar is a ground surveillance pulse Doppler system used to detect personnel, vehicles and aircraft.

“Seeing the reconnaissance

company shooting flares to simulate a surface-to-air missile strike was revealing,” said Capt. James Freeman, an AH-64 Apache pilot from HHC, 12th CAB. “You just can’t replicate that feeling of vulnerability from a simulator.”

This multinational exercise met several training objectives for Kampfhubschrauberregiment 36 who are building readiness as part of the European Battle group, and also 1st Bn., 3rd Avn. Regt. who are members of NATO’s Very High Readiness Joint Task Force.

The lessons learned in Strong Punch will further prepare the Vipers of 1-3rd Avn. Regt. for Anakonda 16.

Exercise Anakonda 2016 is an upcoming Polish national exercise that seeks to train, exercise and integrate Polish national command and force structures into an allied, joint, multinational environment.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. MARIANIQUE SANTOS

AH-64 Apaches fly over Sicily Drop Zone during Crescent Reach 16 at Fort Bragg, N.C., May 26. Exercise Crescent Reach tests and evaluates the ability of Joint Base Charleston, S.C., to launch a large aircraft formation in addition to transporting, processing and deploying passengers and cargo. During the exercise, Air Force assets worked with Army assets from Fort Bragg in order to respond to a simulated crisis abroad.

Top physics grad heading for Army Aviation

By Spc. Ryan Noyes
29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

WEST POINT, N.Y. — A West Point graduation presents an almost unparalleled spectacle of camaraderie, perseverance and adventure. These are tomorrow’s military elite, passing through a 214-year institution steeped in honor and tradition.

May 21, as nearly 1,000 white hats flew up in the air, cheers of joy thundered through Michie Stadium. In the midst of the spectacle, in the front row, stood the soon-to-be pinned 2nd Lt. Alix Schoelcher Idrache. Tears covered his face as he looked back at the crowd.

Idrache had a reason to be emotional. In seven years he went from speaking basic English in a working class neighborhood in Port-au-Prince to graduating from one of the most prestigious military and educational institutions in the United States.

In his youth, Idrache witnessed U.S. forces conducting humanitarian missions in Haiti. Always fascinated with cutting edge technology and military hardware sported by U.S. forces, he remarked that it was the CH-47 Chinook that blew his mind.

In Haiti, becoming a pilot can seem an outlandish dream.

“People where I’m from don’t grow up to be pilots, right? Like, they don’t dream of flying a helicopter –



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. VITO T BRYANT

Cadet Alix Idrache sheds tears of joy during the commencement for the U.S. Military Academy’s Class of 2016 at Michie Stadium in West Point, N.Y., May 21.

that’s not something you do,” added Idrache. “You don’t just say, ‘I’m going to be a pilot,’ and make it happen. There’re no Aviation, there’re no helicopters, no flight schools. There’re none of that.”

This July, Idrache will enter the Army Aviation Center for Excellence at Fort Rucker as West Point’s top-ranking

SEE AVIATION, PAGE B4

Dugway tests system for improved UAS training

By Al Vogel
Dugway Proving Ground Public Affairs

DUGWAY PROVING GROUND, Utah – A radar-based system tested at Dugway will soon allow military operators of unmanned aircraft systems to fly within the National Airspace System to help maintain their skills.

The Ground-Based Sense and Avoid is the first and only system that meets federal requirements that allows aircraft operators to see and avoid other aircraft, according to John Innes.

“The GBSAA has been tested at Dugway since 2012,” said test lead Innes. Dugway testing is conducted by the Army’s Project Manager, UAS of Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

Until the GBSAA was created, flying UAS within the NAS required a chase plane or ground observer. The new system eliminates that requirement by not only accurately displaying other aircraft near the unmanned craft, but notifying its operator of potential hazards. Developers will return to Dugway this fall to complete the final portion of the last test and do one full test. Continued testing at Dugway is expected as issues and changes within GBSAA are developed or explored, according to Innes.

The GBSAA system was created solely for the military to allow operators of UAS to fly safely within the NAS without lookouts. There are no commercial plans for GBSAA, Innes said. One of the most complex Aviation jurisdictions in the world, the NAS includes the airspace, airports and navigation facilities of the U.S. and

SEE UAS, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY AL VOGEL


How the Ground-Based Sense and Avoid system appears onscreen to the UAS operator.

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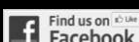
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UAS

Continued from Page B1

portions of the world's oceans. In the contiguous United States, military UAS operators must often enter the NAS to get to other military training sites or installations.

"Today, there is a growing list of UAS units in the states, returned from combat deployments, that need to safely maintain their skills," Innes said. "The GBSAA will provide that ability to fly within the National Airspace System."

Data input to the GBSAA Traffic Display comes from ground-based radar, and on-board aircraft transmitters that broadcast position. To ensure accuracy, data from three separate radars are fused together and continually compared to data from the aircraft.

A human ground-based operator – a former pilot or air traffic controller – monitors the traffic display for system health, warnings and aircraft positions. A separate alert display provides a similar picture and notifies the GBO of potential aircraft conflicts monitored by the GBSAA system. The GBO, at an on-ground work station, communicates directly with the aircraft



PHOTO BY AL VOGEL

A Gray Eagle UAS prepares for takeoff from Dugway's Michael Army Airfield, Utah.

operator.

The traffic display exhibits a series of concentric rings, indicating distances of 2, 4 and 6 miles outward, with the operator's UAS in the center. Aircraft within the 4-mile ring, whose trajectory project a threat, are yellow-tagged and prioritized on the alert display according to the threat they present the UAS receiving GBSAA services. At the 2-mile ring, if the threat increases, the tag becomes red, alarms sound and the alert display becomes more urgent.

"The warning system allows, at the minimum, one minute to take corrective action," Innes said. "In actual practice, operators would have longer time to take action."

The human GBO and UAS operators are highly experienced, and the GBSAA system contains every conceivable scenario to recognize potential threats, Innes noted. Developers expect the next generation of GBSAA to verbally warn UAS operators, and suggest how to avoid near midair collisions.

Four years ago, the GBSAA was tested by flying two Shadow UAS on a collision course, Innes said. It recognized the threat and notified the Shadow operator receiving GBSAA services, who diverted the craft within ample time. Recently, the same test was conducted with two Gray Eagles. Again, GBSAA warned the operator and the Gray Eagle receiving GBSAA services

maintained more than 1 nautical mile of separation from the intruder.

While the system may seem complicated, learning to provide GBSAA services to a UAS operator requires two weeks of training for pilots and air traffic controllers, Innes said. For a realistic student experience, air traffic around the busy Boston NAS was recorded. An engineer, but not a pilot, Innes said he tried the recorded scenario and, with the assistance of a GBO, navigated his mock UAS without incident.

GBSAA testing has been so successful that the Army will soon field it at five major stateside installations. The Marines and Air Force are also interested in fielding the system at one of their stateside installations.

Dugway abuts the Air Force's massive Utah Test and Training Range, where pilots train and weapons systems are tested. Together, Dugway and the UTTR offer 16,797 square miles of airspace, with 7,954 square miles restricted up to 58,000 feet. Dugway's Michael Army Airfield was modernized in 2004. In 2009, the

Rapid Integration and Acceptance Center, commanded by PM UAS in Alabama, became a tenant unit to streamline the testing of UAS improvements. With ample space, a modern airfield and experienced UAS support, Dugway offers a perfect fit for testing the GBSAA system.

Innes praised Dugway for its support of the GBSAA test since 2012.

"Jenny (Gillum, the RIAC director) creates a team that can't be beat," he said. "They probably have something that you need before you think of it. I've been to other places, but RIAC beats them all."

Michael Army Airfield personnel and the radio operators at Range Control were also lauded by Innes for their test support over the years.

Eventually, the widespread adoption of the GBSAA system will make the safe, uncomplicated transit of military UAS commonplace, so operators can maintain their flight skills. Such flights will become routine, thanks to years of testing and support by PM UAS, Dugway and RIAC, he added.

Aviation

Continued from Page B1

graduate this year in physics.

He recalled the first time he filled out branch preferences. "I asked myself, 'What is one thing I could never be if I didn't come to West Point?' And that's a pilot."

It's a story that's almost too good to be true. How did he achieve a congressional appointment, or learn English, or enlist in the military practically before his bags were unpacked in 2009? What drove him into West Point, and what drove him to the top of his class?

Idrache credited his father, Dieujuste, for playing the primary role in his academic success. To care for his own family, Dieujuste dropped out of school at 14, leaving his countryside home to find work in Port-au-Prince, and, like any parent, the father of this young lieutenant wanted his children to have the opportunities that he didn't.

"My dad always said, 'Education is the only gift I can always give you, because

I don't have any anything material to give.'"

And so it goes that a young Idrache would spend his teenage years as a book worm, driven by a father's encouragement to use education and high marks as a ticket to a better life.

His impressive academic drive was facilitated by his father's drive to provide opportunity. Dieujuste migrated to America in search of a better life for his family and, in 2009, was able to bring Idrache to the U.S., as well.

But where this kind of story usually stops was, in the case of Idrache, only the beginning of a series of happenstance incidents and National Guard-fueled teamwork.

The first of these challenges was a legal requirement. His preliminary visit to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services office involved application paperwork with the Selective Service System. Idrache used this requirement as a means to leverage his future.

Ultimately, he was attracted to the Maryland Army National Guard, as Idrache re-

called with a laugh, "because of a free T-shirt!" The second stroke of luck happened months later, after he had graduated Army Combat Basic Training and his Advanced Individual Training.

His sister, then a high school junior, was required to hear presentations by the U.S. Service Academies. For her brother, she brought home a sticker that was handed out to students from West Point's liaison. Idrache slapped it on the outside of his laptop computer, though felt his chances of entering the U.S. Military Academy were nil at best.

Idrache credits his platoon leader, then 2nd Lt. Larry Halvorson, as the person who helped change his life for the second time in less than a year. Halvorson provided the information needed to begin the application process, and when the long application checklist surfaced, the unit's full-time office administrator, Sgt. 1st Class Christi McKinney, was constantly at the ready to keep the process organized and moving.

Idrache left the National Guard in 2012 to enter the 214th class of West Point ca-

dets, but McKinney's support was always there. McKinney and her mother made visits to West Point from the day he became a "Plebe" to the day he threw up his cap.

It was McKinney, with her mother in tears nearby, who presented 2nd Lt. Alix Idrache his first salute in a courtyard at Bartlett Hall, home of the Department of Physics and Nuclear Engineering.

In an award ceremony for top-achieving scholars, Idrache was recognized with the Brig. Gen. Gerald A. Counts Memorial Award for earning the highest rating in physics.

After the ceremony, with the auditorium empty and all the house lights shut off, it was a dramatic atmosphere, to say the least. Black walls, black floor, silhouettes of Eisenhower Hall's 4,432 seats, and an illuminated U.S. flag hung above the stage.

When asked, "What does that mean to you?" Idrache looked to it. Eyes locked. His lips quivered as he turned from a glance at Old Glory, his face drenched in tears from both eyes.

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JUNE 2, 2016



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

Soldiers and families at Lake Fest last year enjoy canoes and paddle boats that are available for rent at Lake Tholocco's West Beach.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Post home to recreational paradise

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

As summer makes its way back into the South, Fort Rucker's Outdoor Recreation is providing plenty of reasons to head out to the great outdoors and hit the water.

From cabins to boating to water slides at Lake Tholocco, people will be hard pressed to find themselves without something to do when it comes to outdoor recreation on the installation, said Megan Royer, Lake Tholocco Lodging business manager.

The area around the 670-acre lake boasts 22 cabins, 21 of which are two-bedroom cabins and one three-bedroom cabin, all available for rent to active-duty and retired service members, families, and Department of Defense civilians.

People can take advantage of everything the cabins have to offer, including: fully-furnished accommodations, fully-equipped kitchens, screened-in back porch, 32-inch flat screen TVs, satellite and DVD players, and complimentary wireless high-speed Internet access.

Twelve cabins – the Singing Pines Cabins – are found on the lake's West Beach, where people can enjoy breathtaking sunrises, said Royer, and 10 cabins are along East Beach, where people can enjoy a view of an Alabama sunset.

"There are four cabins that are pet friendly, so if people want to bring their fur-children, that is totally acceptable," said the lodging manager.



The cabins at Lake Tholocco.

RV park or rent

In addition to cabin rentals, there is also a recreational vehicle park that people can take advantage of.

"We have a recreational vehicle park with a total of 48 camp sites, 18 of which are long-term sites – the rest are short term that are rented at a maximum of 2-weeks at a time," said Royer. The short-term sites rent for \$18 per night and the long-term sites can be rented for two to three months at a time depending on the season.

People can also rent travel trailers – there are six trailers and 2 cool-camps available for rent that can sleep anywhere from two to six people. They are \$45 a night or \$200 for six nights, and they can go off the installation with no mileage limits.

Camping equipment is also available for rent.

West Beach

One of the largest and most well known attractions on Fort Rucker is Lake Tholocco's West Beach, which is the designated swimming area for the lake. West Beach is fitted with a water trampoline and two water slides.



Community members enjoy the swimming area at Lake Tholocco's West Beach.

co's West Beach, which is the designated swimming area for the lake. West Beach is fitted with a water trampoline and two water slides.

"We also have eight pavilions available for rent, two of which are indoor and air conditioned, and they are open to the public," added Melissa Kelley, ODR lead recreation assistant. The rental rates range from \$25-\$85, and there are also canopies available for rent ranging from 10'x10' to 20'x30', along with folding chairs, tables and basically anything people need for outdoor parties.

To go along with people's camping or cabin experience, outdoor recreation also has what they need to take to the water.

"We have boat rentals available ranging from Jon boats, pontoon boats and ski boats, and we also have canoes, kayaks,



Then-Second Lt. Damien Watkins, D Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment, goes up for a spike during a volleyball tournament at the 2015 Lake Fest.

paddleboats and new stand-up paddleboards that are available on a first-come, first-served basis," said Kelley.

To be eligible for the boat rentals, people must be a DOD civilian, active-duty military or a retired service member. Boat rental prices depend on the amount of time people would like the boat for.

Boaters are not required to have the Alabama vessel requirements to rent boats, said Kelley, but they do need to complete the Fort Rucker Boater Safety Course, which consists of 25 questions and is an open book exam that people can take free of charge. The course must be taken on site at the outdoor recreation service center.

For more information, call 255-4305.

Center Library events keep youth active, engaged, informed

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

Summer vacation often leads to a loss of lessons learned during the previous school year, but Center Library staff hopes to help students retain information while developing a love for learning.

The Center Library's summer reading program, themed "Read – for the Win," kicks off Saturday with a party at the post theater from 9-11 a.m.

"We will have the Warrant Officer Career College Challenge Course set up for the kids, as well as all of the equipment for a fun game of Human Hungry Hippos," Cameron Hill, Center Library children's programming coordinator, said. "There will also be a craft table set up and we plan to give away a few cool prizes."

"The program is designed to keep kids engaged and learning throughout the summer to better prepare them for the next school year," she added.

According to Hill, several events are planned throughout the summer to help keep children excited about reading and learning.

"There will be an art class at the Center Library June 16 at 4 p.m.," she said. "Kids can melt crayons onto canvas and create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece."

"Reading: The Sport of Champions!" takes place at The Commons, Bldg. 8950, June 29 at 3:30 p.m.," she added. "It is a show that combines magic, puppets, comedy, storytelling and audience participation."

The Center Library will host a game night July 7 from 4-6 p.m., according to Hill, with board games for all ages to play.

The summer reading program will also help children maintain an active lifestyle during the summer.

"We have also planned a fitness class



on July 19 from 9-10 a.m.," Hill said. "Kids can have fun doing a variety of exercises and competing for prizes."

The summer reading program will culminate with an awards presentation July 30 beginning at 1 p.m. at the post theater.

"After the ceremony, there will be a complimentary showing of the movie, Turbo," Hill said. "All of these events are completely free of charge."

Alongside the summer reading program, library staff will also host a summer safety series.

"Our Summer Safety Series is an educational program designed for kids who plan to be outdoors during the summer," Hill said. "The first part of the series took place Tuesday and was presented by Alabama Power. The second part will be Tuesday and will be all about sun and water safety. The final program is scheduled for June 14. Children will learn how to be safe around

dogs.

"All of these events are free and will take place at the library from 10-11 a.m. and require registration," she added.

Even though the summer will be jam packed with events for the youth, Hill said the library offers something for everyone all year round.

"Our facility has more to offer than just books," she said. "We have entertainment and research materials, free programs for children and adults, public access computers, and quiet places to study or read."

"No matter the age, we have a variety of events planned and designed to keep readers busy, interested, and engaged," she added.

Parents of home-school students are invited to attend a home school question and answer session July 20 from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

For information on or to register for upcoming events, call 255-3885.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

POSITION: Army Community Service English as a Second Language Teacher

DUTIES: Provide language instruction to foreign-speaking individuals interested in speaking English. If interested, call 255-3735.

POSITION: Welcome Center Assistant

DUTIES: Assist welcome center customers with maps, directions, telephone numbers or any other information requested. Answer the telephone. Prepare SITES files for outgoing personnel and family members. Assemble welcome packets for distribution. Prepare compact disks for mailing and distribution. Ensure accurate customer records are maintained. Provide light clerical support relative to ACS relocation readiness services, including data entry for the ACS Client Tracking System. Perform fact-checking and research for SITES and other information sources. If interested, call 255-3735.

POSITION: Survivor Outreach Services

DUTIES: Assist with SOS briefings and activities. Help in the development, preparation and mailing of SOS newsletters. Assist with general office organization. If interested, call 255-9637.

ON POST

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO FORT RUCKER EVENTS , SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS NOON THURSDAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK’S EDITION.

Center Library Summer Safety Series

The Center Library will host its Summer Safety Series, an educational program for children. The second part of the series will be sun and water safety, and will be led by the Fort Rucker Aquatics staff, Tuesday at 10 a.m. The third part of the series will be presented June 14 at 10 a.m. and children will learn how to be safe around dogs, as well as how to act when encountering therapy dogs. Registration is required for these programs and will be limited to the first 65 children to register. The events are Exceptional Family Member Program friendly and open to authorized patrons.

For more information or to register, stop by the library or call 255-3885.

SPLASH! Summer Luau

The SPLASH! 2016 Summer Luau is scheduled for Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will feature music, limbo contests, a T-shirt tie-dyeing station (participants must bring their own T-shirt), a dunk tank, corn hole stations, a bouncy house, swimming, water slide and an Aqua Climb rock wall. Door prizes will be given away throughout the event. There will also be food available for purchase. The event is open to the public. Cost for the event will be the daily admission fee or pass-holder fee.

For more information, call 255-9162.

Family member resilience training

Army Community Service will host family member resilience training Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Commons. The training is designed to give people the tools they need to become more resilient in all the challenges that life may throw at them.

For more information, call 255-3161 or 255-3735.

Employment readiness class

The Fort Rucker Employment Readiness Program hosts orientation sessions monthly in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, in the Army Community Service multipurpose room, with the next session June 9. People who attend will meet in Rm. 350 at 8:40 a.m. to fill out paperwork before going to the multipurpose room. The class will end at about 11 a.m. The sessions will inform people on the essentials of the program and provide job search tips, as well. Advance registration is required and attendance at a session is mandatory for participation in the program.

For more information, call 255-2594.

Super Dad and Kids Event

Army Community Service will host its Me and My Sidekick: A Super Dad and Kids Event June 11 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Commons. The event is designed to enrich the parent-child relationship. The event will feature crafts and games, and snacks will be provided along with goodie bags for each child. The event is limited to the first 24 people to register. The deadline to register is Tuesday 7.

For more information or to register, call 255-9636 or 255-9644.

Army Birthday cake

The Landing Zone will host a birthday cake cutting to help celebrate the Army’s birthday June 14 at noon. For more information, call 598-8025.

Fathers Day craft

The Center Library will host a Fathers Day craft session June 14 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. for children ages 3-11. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited to the first 65 children to register. The event is open to authorized patrons and is Exceptional Family Member Program friendly.

To register or get more information, stop by the Center Library or call 255-3885.

Book club for adults

The Center Library hosts a book club for adults the third Tuesday of each month from 5-6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 255-3885.

Book club for teens

The Center Library hosts a book club for teens the third Saturday of each month from 4-5 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 255-3885.

Melted Crayon art

The Center Library, as part of its 2016 Summer Reading Program, will host “The



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Freedom Fest

A scene from last year's Freedom Fest. Fort Rucker will host Freedom Fest July 1 from 4-10 p.m. on the festival fields for a day of food, activities and fun, culminating in one of the area’s largest fireworks show, according to organizers. The 98th Army “Silver Wings” Band will provide the live entertainment. Other activities include a variety of displays, children’s inflatable fun zone, rides, and a variety of local and regional vendors. The event is free and open to the public. No glass, coolers, backpacks or pets will be allowed. For more information, call 255-1749.

Winning Colors,” June 16 from 4-5 p.m., featuring melted Crayon art. The program is open to authorized patrons and is Exceptional Family Member Program friendly. Registration is required.

To register or get more information, stop by the Center Library or call 255-3885.

Single parent game night

Army Community Service and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service will host a single parent game night June 16 from 5-7 p.m. at the AAFES post exchange food court. Free giveaways will be included. Registration is required by June 10. The event is open to authorized patrons and is Exceptional Family Member Program friendly. This is an initiative of Fort Rucker Community Health Promotions Council Family Resiliency Work Group.

For more information or to register, call 255-3359 or 255-9647.

ScreamFree train the trainer

The Fort Rucker Family Advocacy Program will host a ScreamFree train the trainer session June 23-24 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Munson Heights Community Center. The sessions is limited to 15 participants. The deadline to register is June 17.

For more information and to register, call 255-3898.

Newcomers welcome

Army Community Service will host a newcomers welcome June 17 from 8:30-11 a.m. at The Landing. Active duty, spouses, foreign students, Army civilians and family members are encouraged to attend. A free light breakfast and Starbucks coffee will be served. For free childcare, register children at the child development center by calling 255-3564. Reservations must be made 24 hours prior to the newcomers welcome.

For more information, call 255-3161 or 255-2887.

Dueling Pianos

The Landing will host Dueling Pianos June 17 from 8 p.m. to midnight in the ballroom. Billed as a high-energy, all request, sing along, clap along, rock n’ roll, comedy piano show, the event is open to the public for ages 16 and older. Doors open at 7 p.m. Advance tickets cost \$12 through June 16, and cost \$16 the day of the event and at the door. VIP tables are also available for \$150. VIP tables seat 10 patrons and are guaranteed to be located near the stage. Advance tickets may be purchased at The Landing, The Landing Zone, Coffee Zone at Lyster and MWR Central in Bldg. 5700.

For more information, call 598-2426 or 255-9810.

Fathers Day brunch

The Landing Zone will host its Fathers Day brunch June 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 598-8025.

FRG leadership training

Army Community Service will host

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family readiness group leadership training June 21 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 371F. For more information, call 255-3817.

Resilience Through Art Work Space

The Fort Rucker Arts and Crafts Center will host its Resilience Through Art Work Space grand opening June 23 from 1-3 p.m. The Resiliency Through Art program is not an art class and no prior art experience is needed. Instead, participants are encouraged to explore vari-

ous art mediums with open expectations, concentrating on the process of creativity, not the end product, according to organizers. The program focuses on the process of personal expression through art in a small group setting. Participants will find art naturally relaxing when used in the supportive environment of the arts and crafts center. The program is free to service members and retirees. The program is Exceptional Family Member Program friendly.

For more information, call 255-9020.

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2-5			
Thursday, June 2	Friday, June 3	Saturday, June 4	Sunday, June 5
TMNT: Out of the Shadows (PG-13) 7 p.m.	The Angry Birds (PG).....7 p.m.	TMNT: Out of the Shadows (PG-13)4 & 7 p.m.	TMNT: Out of the Shadows (PG-13)1 & 4 p.m.

FAMILY BONDING

Pentagon embraces survivors at TAPS event

By Jim Garamone
Department of Defense News

WASHINGTON — The military is a family, and not even death can end those familial bonds.

This truism was demonstrated again Friday as Defense Secretary Ash Carter threw open the doors of the Pentagon to more than 350 members of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

These are the families who have all received the news no one ever wants to hear — that their loved one has died.

Carter, his wife Stephanie and TAPS founder Bonnie Carroll welcomed all participants to the Pentagon with military coins and hugs. “We think of you — our family here in the Department of Defense — think of you as forever a part of our family,” Carter said. “Know that we love you. Your country loves you. We will never forget why you’re here. We can never make that up to you, but we can always remember. We can always treasure you. Welcome home.”

Carroll was motivated to form the organization when her husband, Brig. Gen. Tom Carroll and seven others, were killed in the crash of a C-12 in Alaska in 1992. “I went looking for the kind of support organization I knew existed for other types of loss in our society and found it just wasn’t there,” she said. “It had never been created in America for mili-

tary families grieving a loss.”

Carroll did two years of work to identify gaps in service and find where the needs were. In 1994, she created TAPS. The group provides care and support to an average of 13 new survivors every day. The program runs 24/7 and offers care to more than 60,000 surviving family members.

Valuing service

“Every American should serve,” said one man who lost his son in Iraq. “It doesn’t have to be in the military, but somewhere in the community — soup kitchens, parks, whatever. Think how much better we would be if that happened.”

The survivors are proud of their service, too. “Our loved ones were part of that one percent who did step forward and raised their right hands and pledged to protect and defend the freedoms of this country, and when they did so their families served right along with them,” Carroll said. “So when their sacrifice was made, their family sacrificed also.”

The group has been coming to the Pentagon for just a couple of years, Carroll said, and they are grateful to all the service members who volunteer to work with the group. It can also lead to healing. She said that last year one of the Coast Guard rescue swimmers who was helping with the kids noticed a TAPS volunteer wearing a button that said “suicide loss



PHOTO BY AIR FORCE SENIOR MASTER SGT. ADRIAN CADIZ

Defense Secretary Ash Carter greets a young guest as he and his wife, Stephanie, welcome members of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors to the Pentagon, May 27.

team.”

“He shared that he had just lost his son to suicide,” she said. “That’s what TAPS is about. It’s connecting at the heart level. It’s about finding those who are grieving in silence and standing alone and bringing them into a family where they are loved and understood.”

Finding the new normal

Cheryl Lankford has been in the program since her husband,

Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Lankford, died in Iraq on Sept. 22, 2007.

Lankford lives in San Antonio and now uses her experiences to help other grieving families.

She said most Americans have been supportive of the military, but they often forget that when a service member dies, there are family members left behind.

“One of the things that I like to tell people is that my husband was more than a Soldier — which

he was and he loved it — but he was a husband and he was a father and he was a brother and a son and a battle buddy and a command sergeant major,” she said.

Lankford is now a senior TAPS peer mentor. “This program has been a life-changer and a lifesaver for me and my 11-year-old son,” she said. “In the last nine years, we’ve had to come into a new normal, understanding what our lives look like now, the transition that we’ve been going through. Coming together with other survivors of military loss helps with that transition.”

Coming together was the goal of the evening, and plenty of volunteers helped to facilitate it.

Each of the services had representatives posted at various parts of the Pentagon to host the survivors. The National Basketball Association — including some of its stars — worked with the children in the Pentagon courtyard. Children petted horses, watched a Marine Corps K-9 demonstration, spun around the turret in a Humvee, sat in a Coast Guard rescue basket and more.

“We’re really humbled by the way the service members in the Pentagon have turned out for us,” Carroll said.

The survivors had a full itinerary planned for the weekend, which culminated at Arlington National Cemetery Monday.

IMCOM meets quality assurance goal in cemetery ops

By William P. Bradner
U.S. Army Installation Management Command Public Affairs

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — The U.S. Army Installation Management command recently became the first Department of Defense component to complete the 100-percent quality assurance quality control review of the command’s world-wide cemetery operations.

Records that were part of the initial accountability operation spanned more than 240 years and 29 cemeteries on 19 garrisons. The IMCOM Cemetery Operations team will now move from accountability to sustainment operations, according to Gregory Kuhr, the director of G4, facilities and logistics for IMCOM.

“This work honors all those who rest in an IMCOM cemetery, as well as the spouses and families left behind,” Kuhr said. “Visitors now know their loved ones are treated with dignity and respect and are in an environment befitting of their sacrifice.”

Based on the success of the Arlington National Cemetery gravesite accountability initiative in 2012, then-Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh directed all Army land-holding commands to perform the same 100-percent accountability mission, and directed them to bring and sustain cemetery operations to new standard levels.

IMCOM responded by creating a cemetery operations team that included Geo-

spatial Information System specialists who travelled to each cemetery and created digital maps with grave marker photos and meta-data in a centralized database.

The paper records of interment for each of the more than 43,000 deceased were then scanned and uploaded to the database, and matched to their corresponding grave sites.

“The key to the accountability mission is the quality assurance, quality control process that ensures every plot is reviewed for accuracy,” said Peter Kendrick, IMCOM cemetery operations project manager.

“IMCOM analysts reviewed 100 percent of the cases — one case per grave plot — to confirm the accuracy of the digital records,” Kendrick said.

The team leveraged technology by developing a knowledge management tool called the IMCOM Wiki Cemetery Library that allowed cemetery personnel to quickly navigate through large amounts of information and compile cemetery information into one comprehensive database.

“The database is easy to access and easy to use,” Kendrick said. “Easier access to files and documents meant less time spent searching for information.

“This system is expected to be used by the Army National Military Cemeteries office as a best practice for the Army, DOD and federal agencies to use enterprise-wide,” he said.

Now that the accountability is complete, the IMCOM Cemetery Operations office will focus on sustaining the process with

updates for each new interment and enhancing the system to allow public access.

The goal is to create a robust, online database that will allow public viewing of not only interment information, but of the cemeteries and grave markers themselves,

through the Internet or smart phone utilities.

“Ultimately, we hope all Americans will take pride that the resting place of our nation’s heroes is one of honor and respect,” Kuhr said.

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1 Corinthians 11:1

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ARMY PHOTO

Sgt. Mark Speakman photographs a grave marker at Fort Devens, Mass.

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RED PLANET

Army center's food packaging, processing will support Mars mission

By Jane Benson

*U.S. Army Natick Soldier
Research, Development and
Engineering Center Public
Affairs*

NATICK, Mass. — When designing food processing and packaging for a future mission to Mars, researchers at the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center recognize the gravity of their task.

To best nourish Mars astronauts and maintain a quality of life, devising the right food packaging, combined with compatible and effective food processing techniques, is just as important as the food that's in it.

Danielle Froio, a materials engineer in NSRDEC's Combat Feeding Directorate, is investigating the effects of various processing techniques and packaging materials on vitamin stability and shelf life.

Froio's work on packaging is part of a larger CFD project with NASA that also involves Ann Barrett's work investigating matrix effects on vitamin stability and Michelle Richardson's work perfecting a breakfast meal replacement bar.

"Sometimes people assume that you can just put food in a package, but a lot has to go into designing a package for a specific food item," said Froio. "If you want to keep the moisture out, you need to use different materials than if you want to keep the oxygen out. It's important to design a package that meets the specific needs of a particular food item."

NASA reached out directly to CFD researchers for their expertise.

"We've had relationships with NASA over the years, so it is a really good fit because both the military and NASA have the same need for extended shelf life and even more so now with NASA trying to plan for a five-year shelf life



PHOTO BY DAVID KAMM

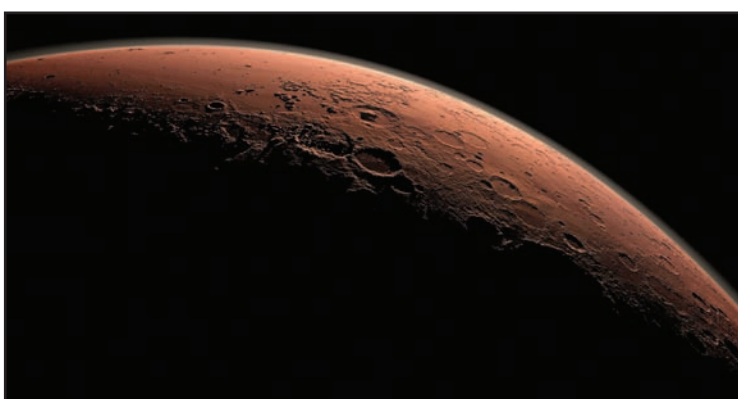
Danielle Froio, a materials engineer at the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, is working on food packaging and processing techniques to support a future NASA mission to Mars.

for the Mars mission,” said Froio. “They are prepositioning the food on Mars so it will be there before the astronauts get there – that’s why we need the five-year shelf life. The food will be their initial food source.”

Froio is working on packaging and processing for a main entrée. One type of entrée is investigated at a time to better enable the selection of the most effective processing and packaging.

"I'm working on a retort food item, creamy Cajun chicken, which is very similar to an entrée that you would find in an MRE (Meals, Ready-to-Eat)," said Froio. "Part of this effort is looking at a high-water-activity food item, rather than the low-water-activity items that Michelle and Ann are investigating."

CFD is investigating packaging structures from previous MRE studies as well as commercially available pouches. The packaging will then be combined with different processing methods.



NASA PHOTO

The Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center is working on food packaging and processing techniques to support a future NASA mission to Mars.

“With the MRE we use a retort process that is essentially like a pressure cooker,” said Froio. “It sterilizes the food using a high temperature so that you can keep it on the shelf for up to three years and it is still safe to consume. For this project, we were looking at comparing the retort process, which can be thermally degrading to food, to some of these other novel-type processes that are not as thermally aggressive, like radiation,

microwave-assisted thermal sterilization and also pressure-assisted thermal sterilization. Each of these processes reduces the integrated time-temperature exposure of the foods, which may help reduce vitamin loss. The three different processing techniques are being used with three different packaging materials to see what the effects of these processing methods are on the packaging alone.”

CFD is investigating which

packaging would survive which processes and then will determine what will be the best candidate to use in a three- or five-year shelf-life study, which will show which processing methods and packaging structures result in the most nutritious and highest quality food. CFD also did some testing to see if processing has any effect on the pouch seal, as well as a burst test to see how much pressure will cause the pouch to burst.

"We measured the mechanical properties of the different types of packaging and how strong they are both before and after processing," said Froio. "Another important property is oxygen and water vapor barrier performance, because that is an essential component to extending product shelf life."

It's scientifically challenging to come up with the right type of packaging since both the military and NASA demand a degree of uniformity.

"The military and NASA don't want to have 12 different pouches," said Froio. "They want to have one pouch that fits the bill for every different type of food item that they have. For these retort items, we have quad-laminate structures that have foil and three other layers of material. And for snack items we use a tri-laminate. All foods have to be able to be served in these two types of pouches."


For Froio, it's exciting to be working on a project that could impact a future Mars mission.

"Morale is tied very tightly to food," said Froio. "If you have a good meal that's tasty, then you will probably be in a lot better mood than when you have something that's cold and not tasting so well. For NASA astronauts, when they first get to Mars, this will be their primary food source until they are able to establish alternative food sources."

It's also rewarding to know that her work helps both warfighters and astronauts alike.

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Ancient game used to better understand U.S.-China strategy

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – By understanding Go – a board game said to have been invented in China around 3,000 years ago – the United States can better craft its national security strategy with China and avoid war, says a research professor at the U.S. Army War College’s Strategic Institute.

Retired Col. William “Trey” Braun led a discussion on U.S.-China strategy at the National Press Club May 24.

With him were some of the 10 U.S. and international students from the USAWC who participated in a nine-month study of that strategy. Braun was project lead, with support from fellow USAWC research professor David Lai.

Before understanding Go, however, one needs to understand the tense relationship China and the U.S. have, Braun said, describing it as “the gray zone.”

Basically, both countries are operating in the gray zone, where neither war nor peace is present. And, “the U.S. is not doing well in that competitive space,” he said.

The gray zone emerged around 2008, when Beijing hosted the summer Olympics, he said. It was at that time that China – a rapidly rising military and economic power – began to flex its muscles in the region. At the same time, the U.S. went into the so-called “Great Recession” and was focused in Southwest Asia.

By flexing its muscle, Braun said he meant China occupying reefs in the South China Sea inside other Southeast Asian countries’ 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone – much further away from China’s. China also began challenging air and nautical passage of other countries with its own air and naval fleet, sometimes using its fishing vessels as proxies.

Braun said his group’s study predicted that future aggressive acts could result in a miscalculation that triggers war. In fact, 16 countries from other parts of the world at one time went through their own gray zones with competitor nations and, of those 16, 12 resulted in miscalculations leading to war.

The goal of the study, he said, was to find a way for the U.S. and its partner nations in that area to navigate smoothly through the gray zone transition, where China’s rise to eventual U.S. equality of power in the region

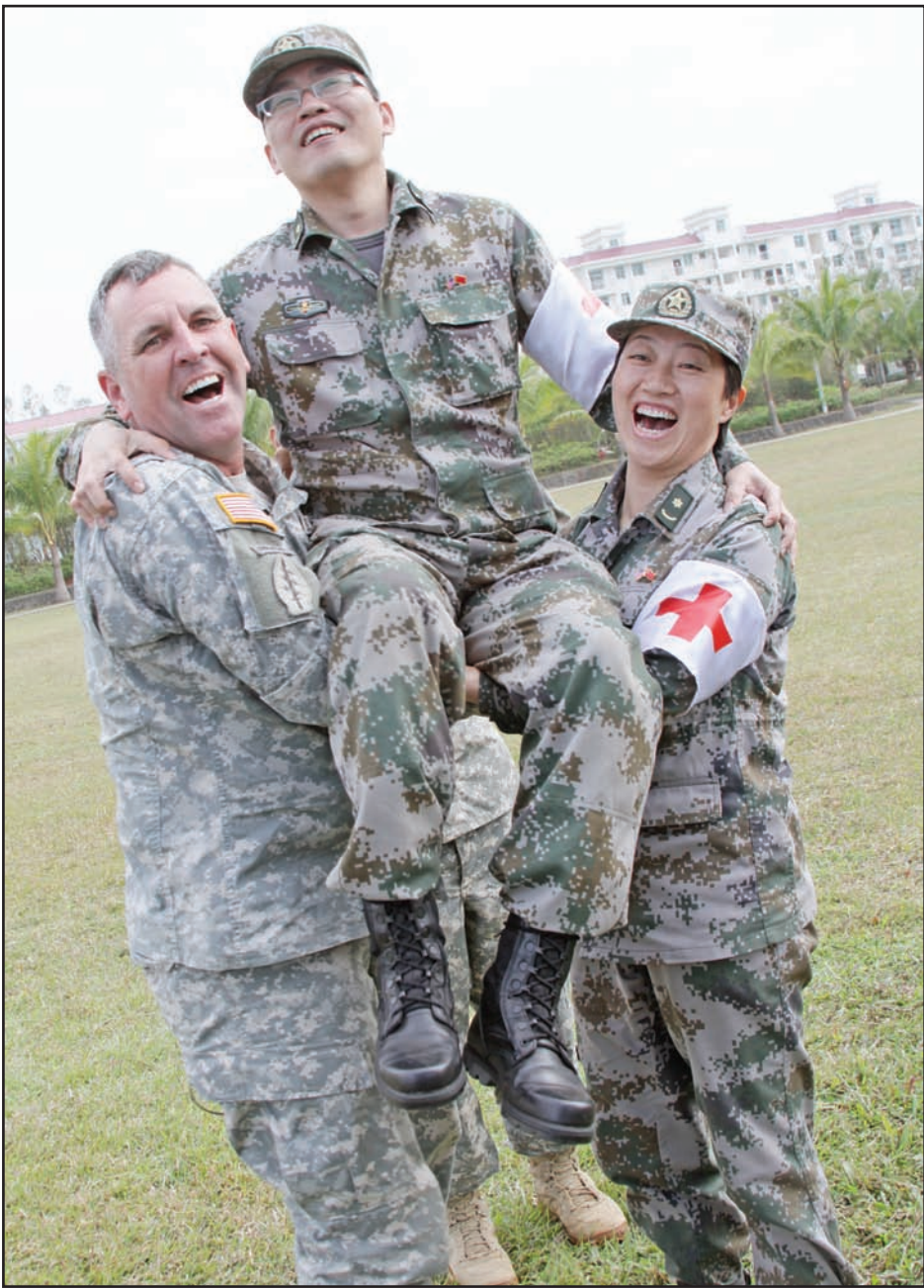


PHOTO BY ANGELA KERSHNER

Master Sgt. Paul Evins shares a laugh with his Chinese medical counterparts while they demonstrate patient carry techniques during a skills exchange at the 2015 China Disaster Management Exchange in Haikou on Hainan Island in China, Jan. 16, 2015. A study by U.S. Army War College students points out that more military-to-military engagements with China will benefit both powers.

will transition peacefully. Both countries, he noted, share this desire to resolve differences without using force.

Go is much more than a game, Braun said. It’s the prism through which China views the world and the way it thinks and operates. And, if America wants to be successful in the gray zone, it needs to first understand how their game is played.

Braun compared and contrasted Go to the

Western game of chess.

In Go, a two-player game, the object is to surround and seize an opponent’s terrain. Players use white or black stones as game pieces. The idea is to outmaneuver the other player’s arrangement of stones on the board, which is about the size of a chess board but with many more positions that can be played.

While the game of Go produces a winner

just as in chess, he explained, the difference is that in Go, the loser who played well may have lost overall, but won in various sections of the board and can walk away from the game knowing not all was lost.

This analogy speaks to a range of gray zone competitive interests China and the U.S. have in other parts of the world, in military aspects, cyber, space, policy and economic, he said. There doesn’t need to be a clear winner across the board.

He then offered another analogy.

The aim of Go is to win without fighting and an apparent attack doesn’t need to occur right away. It more or less unfolds, he said. In chess, the aim is to right away attack, remove opposing pieces and checkmate the other’s king.

The chess analogy for the U.S. is that when “its interests are threatened” it has a tendency “to break glass, bring out the military and then go back to peace,” he said. That’s now how the Chinese operate. Their strategy unfolds over time, not in an abrupt manner.

The U.S. Army and national strategy policymakers need to understand this Chinese mindset and perspective in order to accommodate China as a co-power in the region, without necessarily compromising partnerships with allies in the region, Braun said.

There are low-cost approaches to accomplishing this, he said.

To sum them up, Braun said, most involve sharing the cost and burden of a regional defense and letting other countries lead when it comes to military training and preparedness. Right now, the countries in that area look to the U.S. to lead and to provide advanced military technology. “We’re not allowing our partners to grow.”

The other effect that would have, would be to reduce tensions with China, he said. For example, if there’s a confrontation with a Chinese fishing vessel by a U.S. Navy ship, it would be much more provocative than if that vessel is from a partner nation. But the vessels from partner nations just aren’t there.

Another important approach is to continually engage China in dialog and in peaceful military-to-military engagements, something currently not happening, he said.

The study will be released and available to view at the Strategic Studies Institute website sometime in June.





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Capital hosts film festival

Army Flier
Staff Reports

The Montgomery Film Festival is scheduled for June 4 at 6 p.m. at the Capri Theatre, 1045 E. Fairview Avenue. The festival

provides an opportunity for filmmakers and film lovers to show their creativity and support for the good, the great and the weird, according to officials. The festival will feature 13 works of amateur and professional filmmakers with-

in Alabama, the U.S. and internationally in short film format. Tickets cost \$8 for Capri Members and \$10 for general admission. For more information, call 262-4858 or visit www.montgomeryfilmfestival.com/.

WIREGRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT, EMAIL JIM HUGHES WITH ALL THE DETAILS AT JHUGHES@ARMYFLIER.COM.

ANDALUSIA

ONGOING — The American Legion Post 80 has regular meetings the second Monday of the month, starting at 6:30 p.m., at the Legion Hall. For more information, call 222-7131 or visit www.andalusialegionpost80.org.

ONGOING — The American Legion Post 80 hosts a dance with live music every Saturday from 7:30-11:30 p.m. For more information, call 222-7131 or visit www.andalusialegionpost80.org.

DALEVILLE

ONGOING — Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6020 Franchise J. Ballard Post membership meetings are at the post headquarters on State Road 84 every third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Breakfast is served Sundays, and games and TVs are available for entertainment. Meetings are open to all. The post can host parties, weddings, and hails and farewells. For more information, call 598-6211, 598-1297, 598-6211 or 379-9187.

ONGOING — Daleville Chamber of Commerce meets the second Wednesday of each month at noon at the Chamber of Commerce office in the Daleville Cultural and Convention Center. For more information, call 598-6331.

DOTHAN

JUNE-JULY — Southeast Alabama Community Theatre offers open registration open for children ages 5 and older to enroll in a week of acting and learning about theatre by putting on a show under the direction of camp instructors. Every child gets a part and every child has their moment in the spotlight in SEACT's original productions. At the end of the week, parents and friends are invited to enjoy the final productions and a cast party. Session dates are June 13-17, June 20-24, July 11-15, and July 18-22. Cost per week is \$120 – \$100 for season ticket holders. Registration forms and more information is available at www.SEACT.com. For more information, call 794-0400 or send an email to seact@seact.com. The SEACT

office and classrooms are located inside the Cultural Arts Center at 909 S. St. Andrews Street.

ONGOING – The American Legion Post 12 holds monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings are held at the VFW on Taylor Road. For more information, call 400-5356.

ONGOING – Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3073 Wiregrass Post membership meetings are at the post headquarters at 1426 Taylor Road every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. There is a fish fry every Friday night from 5-7 p.m., then karaoke beginning at 6 p.m. Breakfast is served Sundays from 8-11a.m. The post can host parties, weddings, and hails and farewells.

ENTERPRISE

ONGOING – Disabled American Veterans Chapter 9 Enterprise-Coffee County meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Shane's Rib Shack. For more information, call 308-2480.

ONGOING – The American Legion Post 73 meets at the American Legion building at 200 Gibson Street on the fourth Saturday of each month beginning at 9 a.m. The building is across the street from the Lee Street Baptist Church. For more information call 447-8507.

ONGOING — Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6683, John Wiley Brock Post, membership meetings are at the post headquarters on County Road 537 every third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. For more information, call 406-3077, 393-6499 or 347-7076, or visit the VFW Post 6683 on Facebook.

GENEVA

ONGOING — The Geneva County Relay for Life meets the last Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Citizens Bank. For more information, call 248-4495.

MIDLAND CITY

ONGOING — Residents are invited

to town hall meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 1385 Hinton Waters Ave.

For more information, call 983-3511.

NEW BROCKTON

ONGOING — Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 9-11 a.m., Disabled American Veterans Chapter 99 maintains a service office in the New Brockton Police Station at 202 South John Street. The office will assist veterans who were injured or disabled while in military service. DAV service officers help veterans and their spouses with disability compensation claims, Veterans Affairs pensions, death benefits, VA medical care, Social Security disability benefits, veterans job programs, homeless veterans services and other veteran services. All veteran services are provided free of charge. For more information, call 718-5707.

ONGOING — Adult education classes are offered in Rm. 12 at New Brockton High School, 210 South Tyler St., Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m. All classes are free for individuals 16 years old or older who are not enrolled in public school. Individuals must take an assessment test prior to attending class. Call 894-2350 for more information.

OZARK

ONGOING — The Ann Rudd Art Center offers free art lessons for children ages 5 and older. The young student class is Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon, and the adult-teen class is from 12:30-3 p.m. Slots are on a first come, first served basis. For more information, call 774-7922.

ONGOING — The Friends of Ozark holds a monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Ozark-Dale County Library. For more information, call 477-6221 or email wcholmes53@hotmail.com.

PINCKARD

ONGOING — The public is invited to the Cross Country Workshop every

Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Pinckard United Methodist Church. For more information, call 983-3064.

SAMSON

ONGOING — The Samson City Council meets monthly the first and third Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Samson Community Center.

ONGOING — American Legion Post 78 meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7 p.m.

TROY

ONGOING — Troy Bank and Trust Company sponsors senior dance nights every Saturday night from 7-10 p.m. at the J.O. Colley Senior Complex. The complex is transformed into a dance hall and features music from the 40s, 50s, and 60s with finger foods and refreshments. For more information, call Janet Motes at 808-8500.

WIREGRASS AREA

JUNE 25-26 – The New Hope Freewill Baptist Church in Abbeville, 3819 County Road 31, will host the annual Youth Convention of the Mt. Hosea-Star Bethel Freewill Baptist Association June 25 at 10 a.m., featuring pastor and moderator Eddie L Baker. The theme will be Train up the Child! The convention will continue June 26 at 10 a.m. with Pastor Randy Sewell of Solid Rock Missionary Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida, as guest speaker. All churches are invited to attend. Dinner will be served.

ONGOING — The Marine Corps League, Wiregrass Det. 752, welcomes all Marines, Navy corpsmen and chaplains, and their families, to its monthly meetings. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Attendees are welcome to arrive early for food and camaraderie. The next meeting will be at the Golden Corral in Dothan. For more information, call 718-4168 or 805-7335.

Beyond Briefs

Hank Williams Festival

The Hank Williams Festival is scheduled for June 3-4 on the grounds of the singer's boyhood home and museum in Georgiana. The tribute to Alabama's native son includes country music performances, arts, crafts and food. To reach the festival from I-65, take Exit 114 and go one mile east.

For more information, visit <http://www.hankwilliams-festival.com>.

Whitewater festival

Wetumpka will host the 29th annual Coosa River Whitewater Festival June 3-5 at the Coosa River below the Jordan Dam. The whitewater event is for kayaking, canoeing, sit-on-top kayaking and recreational paddlers, designed to provide competitors and non-competitors a great time on whitewater in central Alabama, according to organizers. The Coosa River can be easily paddled by the first time spectator, and the event also includes children's events. There will be three days of activities with camping and goodie bags given to everybody that registers to come to the event

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.coosariverwhitewaterfestival.com>.

Mullet Toss

St. George Island, Florida, will host its annual Mullet Toss June 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the beach in front of Blue Parrot Oceanfront Cafe. The event is sponsored by The Blue Parrot for the benefit of the Apalachicola Bay Charter School. For a nominal entry fee, participants will receive a unique Mullet Toss T-shirt and two mullet to throw. Visitors and locals compete for prizes and bragging rights. There are prizes for the longest throws in the men's, women's and children's divisions.

Women's Expo

Panama City, Florida, will host its free 10th annual Women's Expo June 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Panama City Mall, 2150 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The event honors local women entrepreneurs and small businesses, and includes vendors, local entertainment, free health screenings and a silent auction.

Taco Libre!

Lightning Line is bringing the state's first Taco Festival to Montgomery June 18 from 2-8 p.m. at the Union Station Train Shed, 300 Walter Street. The event will feature a wide assortment of tacos from local joints, as well as food trucks from all over the state, according to organizers. A portion of the proceeds will go to EAT South!

For more information, visit the Lightning Line Facebook page.

Alabama Blueberry Festival

Brewton's Jennings Park will host the Alabama Blueberry Festival June 18. The festival will include arts and crafts vendors, a car show, live entertainment, blueberries, blueberry bushes, cookbooks and food. There is also a free children's section. The festival is known as the home of the original blueberry ice cream – made especially for the festival. Jennings Park is located at the intersection of Hwys. 41 and 31.

For more information, visit <http://www.brewtonchamber.com>.

Fathers Day at zoo

The Montgomery Zoo will host its celebration of Fathers Day June 19 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. – with free admission for dads.

For more information, call 334-240-4930 or visit www.montgomeryzoo.com.

Gun, knife show

The Central Alabama Sports Commission Montgomery Gun and Knife Show will be held June 25-26 in Montgomery at the Multiplex at Crampton Bowl. More than 350 exhibitors will be present. All federal, state and local firearm ordinances and laws must be obeyed.

Show hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 25 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 26. Admission is \$7 for adults, and children 12 and younger are admitted for free.

For more information, call 334-322-8818.

Calera, Shelby Railroad

Now through Sept. 24, people can board a historical train and enjoy a ride on the old L&N railroad tracks from the 1800s through the forests of Shelby County, and view the artifacts and library that are located in restored depots. Train tickets cost \$14 for adults and \$10 for children. Mu-

seum entry is free of charge.

For more information visit, <http://www.HODRRM.org>.

Montgomery Biscuits baseball

The Montgomery Biscuits are a Double A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays and play in Riverwalk Stadium in downtown Montgomery. Various specials and promotions are offered throughout the season. For more information, visit <http://www.biscuitsbaseball.com>.

Second Friday Art Walk

Mobile's Second Friday LoDa Art Walk celebrates the arts downtown. The free monthly showcase of visual and performance arts starts at 6 p.m. second Friday of every month now until Dec. 9, when galleries, restaurants, shops, institutions, etc., in the Lower Dauphin Arts District open their doors for a family-friendly evening of exhibitions and entertainment by area artists.

For more information, visit <http://www.facebook.com/LODAartwalk>.

Jasmine Hill Gardens

Jasmine Hill Gardens and Outdoor Museum features over 20 acres of year-round floral beauty and classical sculpture, including a new statuary honoring Olympic heroes. People are invited to take a stroll through the outdoor gardens and experience flowers blooming throughout each season. Tours are available for groups of 20 or more.

For more information, call 334-263-5713 or visit www.jasminehill.org/. Jasmine Hill Gardens and Outdoor Museum is located at 3001 Jasmine Hill Road, Wetumpka.

Montgomery cruise

Montgomery's parks and recreation department welcomes people to come down to the river and experience history while enjoying a relaxing cruise on the city's greatest downtown attraction, the Harriott II Riverboat. Docked beside the uniquely built Riverwalk Amphitheater, this elegant 19th century riverboat is center stage of Montgomery's entertainment district. The Harriott II offers dinner, dancing, and live entertainment.

To reserve the boat for an event, call 334-625-2100. For more information on cruises, visit <http://www.funinmontgomery.com/>.

Digging up the past to preserve the future

By Rachael Tolliver
Fort Knox Public Affairs

The flat boat meanders up Otter Creek from the Ohio River, delivering supplies to a homestead that overlooks the creek.

It sits atop a rock escarpment with a vantage point of the water and any approaching visitors. Before these early 1800s homesteaders, Native Americans lived on the same land, but the settlers probably didn't know that.

The landowners have money – they have root cellars, several outbuildings, a large house with two fireplaces and a large barn with a rock foundation built into a hill. And they built a large brick or cut-stone cistern – a holding tank built into the ground and lined with stone or brick and then covered with plaster that catches water off the buildings.

This isn't the set of a movie or a page from a historical novel, although it could be. This was life on many sections of Fort Knox property that has long since been forgotten. But like a painting in the works, these stories are slowly coming into focus thanks to Fort Knox's Cultural Resources Office and the archeologists who work there.

Dr. Criss Helmkamp, the Cultural Resources Division manager, is also an archeologist. He said what we see today is a large military installation. But before it was an Army post, in the not too distant past, it was property acquired through hundreds of privately owned homes and is rich in history that goes back to Native Americans in the Paleo-Indian period.

"These lands were the homes, and in many cases the source of livelihood, for thousands of people," he added. "We must not forget their sacrifices (and) by documenting these home places, farmsteads and small communities we preserve the memories of their lives and the contributions they made to our nation."

In the case of this property, it isn't just an interesting find of an overgrown homestead – there is likely some valuable history and culture associated with it.

The 768 acres at this location was one of the largest land purchases bought by the government in the 1940s. The site is believed to be the remains of the "Fitch Farm" originally owned and developed by Collins Fitch, explained Helmkamp. The farm is reported to have included the home, barns, icehouse, cistern and blacksmith shop.

Fitch, who died at age 99 is buried on post in the Boone Cemetery. He was married to Lucy Jane Boone, the daughter of Enoch Boone – a brother of Squire Boone and nephew to Daniel Boone. Collins operated a store with Enoch at the mouth of Otter Creek and later became a judge in Meade County.

Helmkamp is working with contractors Christy and Jim Pritchard, who are senior archeologists with Environmental Research Group, toward the preservation of area artifacts, history and culture.

The land overlooking Otter Creek is being studied to determine if it's eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, he continued. Technically places are considered if they have potential to reveal history or pre-history or are associated with an important person. In this case the site is quite possibly the Withers family homestead.

The group has found the old road bed that leads to the creek, the foundation for a large barn that was built into the side of a hill using large stone, the foundation for the house and the two fireplaces with which it was built, and the cellar – complete with stoned walls – in the main house and a separate building, possibly the kitchen.

They also found the old well pump, intact and still in place, with markings that indicate it was the type designed to hook onto a windmill so the water would pump up from a spring or well.

Through years of research the group knows this type of homestead can be dated to the early 1800s, at least, because of the way the foundations were constructed, the type of buildings constructed, and items they might find in what would have been the family trash pile. They also suspect



PHOTOS BY RACHAEL TOLLIVER

Jim Pritchard, archeologist, examines the sides of a cistern, a holding tank built into the ground and lined with stone or brick and then covered with plaster that catches water off the buildings.



Katie Scanlan and Mike Farrell screen dirt for artifacts from their excavation unit on Site 15MD130 at Fort Knox. Katie is holding a bifacial stone tool recovered from the dirt.

this family had money because, as Christy pointed out, this property had several buildings on it and most properties did not include cellars because they were expensive to build.

And that is where archeology and conservation meet.

"Archeology is the study of human lifeways," explained Christy. "Archeologists study the landscape, land development, and how humans have utilized and manipulated the land for daily life, including the water, flora, fauna and geological resources.

"In terms of conservation and preservation of the environment we know today, there is no better way to understand long-term human impact than to examine our relationship and exploitation of the land over the past 10,000 plus years," she said.

Christy added that the relationship between cultural and environmental resources is complicated. It would be difficult to be thoughtful about the study of one without consideration for the other.

"Archeology is a very effective way to research the long relationship of people with land," she added.

To help preserve our natural resources, our history and cultural backgrounds the Army, like all federal agencies, is required to inventory, evaluate and manage archaeological resources in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act. Archaeological resources are then protected under the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and other federal statutes.

"From an ethical standpoint, as managers of federal property we have a trust obligation to the American people to preserve and protect the nation's cultural resources," Helmkamp explained.

At the same time they were digging at the home site, they were also digging in what was a Native American site they found on the same property, located only yards from the main house. The Native American sites also must be evaluated and protected and there are several such areas on the installation.

The point that Christy makes is that the Indians in the prehistoric sites and the homesteaders in the late 1700s to mid-1900s each found uses for the same piece of land and in many instances reused what they found on the site.

"We are now at a time, however, where

we can look back at the military history and use of the land," she noted. "As archeologists studying the Fort Knox landscape, we often find that we are deciphering between early historic pioneer sites and early military use of that same site – training groups repurposing those historic resources for their own use. Being resourceful is one of our (human's) greatest attributes. In a nutshell, archaeology is the study of that human attribute."

So where an early settler may have cut rock for pedestals and foundations for houses and outbuildings, the early military units to the area repurposed those earlier efforts for their buildings.

"This landscape has a rich history that is

somewhat preserved within the boundaries of Fort Knox. While the land use history of Fort Knox includes intense logging, military training, and the development of the installation as it is today, there are many areas of the installation that are still well preserved," Christy added.

She also said that sites of particular sensitivity, such as all cemeteries and rock shelters are protected and buffered. Sites that are potentially eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places are given the research time and money needed to fully determine sound management plans.

Many of the local sites the Prichard's have worked over the last 15 years have been ones that were documented in 1979-80 by Nancy O'Malley, an archaeologist from the University of Kentucky. She identified a number of historic and prehistoric sites, which was much easier to locate at that time before the forest took over, and marked them for future investigation.

Today Helmkamp and his team take care to preserve any archeological findings from further investigating the efforts of O'Malley. Any artifacts, along with documents pertaining to the investigations, are eventually placed in permanent storage at the University of Louisville. The collections are available to scholars and other investigators. Collections from earlier years are curated at the University of Kentucky.

In fact, O'Malley is now an archaeologist with the Webb Museum at U.K., and in her role she has been able to see the years of work that followed on her initial survey and site recording at Fort Knox.

Since those first archeology studies in the 1970s, thousands of acres have been surveyed, Helmkamp said. Nearly 1,200 archaeological sites have been identified on the installation and of these about 200 require protection and further evaluation.

The findings of the archaeology team shows us how the impact of 10,000 years of human use has affected the land. Their discoveries show us how people before us lived and worked; their progression from lean-to shelters to cabins and finally houses; progression from foragers to farmers and industrialists; and how the land recovered after the use of each generation.

And, Helmkamp said, it helps us understand the history and culture of the people who came before us.

"These archaeological sites and the lives they commemorate are part of our commonwealth's and nation's heritage," he noted. "(And it's) a heritage the Army takes very seriously."

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The group of archeologists working at Fort Knox discovered a homestead dating back to the late 1700s or early 1800s and might have belonged to the Fitch Farm.

MUSEUMS FOR EVERYONE

Blue Star Museums launches free admission program for military, families

By Terri Moon Cronk
Department of Defense News

WASHINGTON — In a celebratory launch at the Hampton Roads Naval Museum in Norfolk, Virginia, May 26, Blue Star Museums launched its seventh annual summer free-admission program for service members and their families to more than 2,000 museums and nature centers across the nation and two territories.

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, all active-duty, National Guard and reserve component troops, members of the U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration commissioned corps and their families can visit a vast array of exhibits in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa and Puerto Rico.

The program is offered by the Defense Department, Blue Star Families, the National Endowment for the Arts and participating museums.

Museums for everyone

This year’s Blue Star Museums represent not just fine arts museums, but also science museums, history museums, nature centers and dozens of children’s museums.

New participants this year include the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock, Arkansas; the Children’s Museum of New Hampshire in Dover, New Hampshire; the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History in Pacific Grove, California; the Rochester Museum & Science Center in Rochester, New York; and El Rancho de las Golondrinas, a living history museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico, NEA officials said.

“The Blue Star Museums program is a fun, free activity for military families to enjoy during the summer months,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu.



NAVY PHOTO BY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS AMY M. RESSLER

Military family members enjoy exhibits at Hampton Roads Naval Museum following a press conference to launch this year’s Blue Star Museums program, Norfolk, Va., May 26.

“The program is also a great way for service member families to connect to their new communities, and it can provide a meaningful way for families to reconnect after deployment,” she added. “The Blue Star Museums pro-

gram is also a perfect way for the arts community to say ‘thank you’ to our service members and their families for the sacrifices they make on our behalf every day.”

More popular every year

Whether families are taking a trip, moving to a new duty station or enjoying a “staycation,” the program has endless opportunities for adults and children. Entering its seventh summer of free museum admission, it has expanded significantly, said Kathy Roth-Douquet, Blue Star Families CEO.

NEA officials estimate that last year, 840,000 military families took part in the Blue Star Museums program, and since its 2010 launch, 3.2 million families have benefitted from the free museum admission.

“Blue Star Museums has grown into a nationally recognized program that service members and their families look forward to each year,” Douquet said. “It helps bring our local military and civilian communities together, and offers families fun and enriching activities in their hometowns. We are thrilled with the continued growth of the program and the unparalleled opportunities it offers.”

Religious Services

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

Headquarters Chapel, Building 109
8 a.m. Traditional Protestant Service

Main Post Chapel, Building 8940
9 a.m. Catholic Mass Sunday
11 a.m. Liturgical Protestant Service
12:05 p.m. Catholic Mass (Tuesday - Friday)
4 p.m. Catholic Confessions
Saturday
5 p.m. Catholic Mass Saturday

Wings Chapel, Building 6036
8 a.m. Latter-Day Saints Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Wings Crossroads (Contemporary Worship Protestant Service)
12 p.m. Eckankar Worship Service (4th Sunday)

Spiritual Life Center, Building 8939
10:15 a.m. CCD (except during summer months)

BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesdays
Crossroads Discipleship Study (Meal/Bible Study)
Wings Chapel, 6:30 p.m.

Protestant Women of the Chapel
Wings Chapel, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Adult Bible Study
Spiritual Life Center, 7 p.m.

Wednesdays
Catholic Women of the Chapel
Wings Chapel, 8:30 a.m.

Above the Best Bible Study
Yano Hall, 11 a.m.

1-14th Avn Regt Bible Study
Hanchey AAF, Bldg 50102N, Rm 101,
11:30 a.m.

164th TAOG Bible Study
Bldg 30501, 11:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Study
Soldier Service Center, 12 p.m.

Youth Group Bible Study
Spiritual Life Center, 5:30 p.m.

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JUNE 2, 2016

SWIM, BIKE, RUN

Triathlon welcomes competitors of all fitness levels

By **Jeremy Henderson**
Army Flier Staff Writer

Participants will once again race through the waters of Lake Tholoco's West Beach during the annual Fort Rucker Triathlon June 11.

The race, which begins at 7 a.m. with a quarter-mile swim at the lake, continues with a 10.6-mile bike ride and culminates with a 3.1-mile run.

"This event is a great opportunity for athletes and triathletes to challenge themselves or prepare for upcoming races," Lynn Avila, Fort Rucker fitness programs coordinator, said. "Participants can complete the entire race on their own or as a team of up to three people."

Pre-registration cost for individuals is \$40 up to Sunday, or \$50 after and up to race day. Cost for relay teams of up to three people is \$70 by Sunday, or \$80 after and up to race day.

According to Avila, the ability to complete the race as a team of up to three people makes the event compatible with a wide range of fitness levels.

"We will have seasoned competitors who complete race solo and push themselves to achieve faster times in preparation for upcoming races," she said. "We will also have three-person relay teams comprised of people who have never completed a triathlon, or are participating to have fun and be active."

"We welcome all of those people," she added. "This and other race events are as much about community and camaraderie as they are competition and personal achievement. It is a terrific way to meet members of the community and enjoy the outdoors."

The event is open to the public. Participants without a Department of Defense ID must obtain a gate access pass prior to the day of the race.

Participants may obtain passes prior to the day of the event from one of two visitor control centers at

the Daleville and Ozark gates. The Daleville VCC is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays through Sundays. The Ozark VCC is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

All pre-registered participants will receive t-shirts. If registering after Sunday, T-shirts will be available while supplies last.

According to Avila, some simple steps can help prevent injury and provide a more enjoyable race experience.

"Drink plenty of water the night before and the morning of the race," she said. "Be sure to get at least eight hours of sleep. It is important to be well-rested. Eat a well-rounded breakfast the morning of the race."

Proper warm-up prior to the race and thorough stretching after the race's completion can help prevent injury and reduce soreness, Avila said.

"Don't do deep stretches before warming up your muscles," she said. "Utilize dynamic stretching exercises – such as jumping jacks and high knees – to warm and loosen up your muscles. Save the deep stretches for after you cross the finish line."

For registration and more information, please contact Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center at 255-3794.



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

Barton Fischer, Army Strong Triathlon competitor, runs to cross the finish line with his son, Lucca, by his side during last year's Army Strong Triathlon. This year's event is scheduled for June 11.



Erik Moore, triathlon competitor, bikes ahead of two other competitors during the 10.6-mile bike ride of last year's triathlon.



Competitors take to the water as they begin the quarter-mile swim portion of last year's triathlon.



PHOTO BY TIM HIPPS

Sgt. Nathan Schrimsher, U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, rides a horse named Taboo en route to a berth in the 2016 Olympic Games with a third-place finish in men's Modern Pentathlon at the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, Canada.

Soldier-athletes among 1st 100 named to U.S. Olympic Team

By **Tim Hipps**
U.S. Army Installation Management Command Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO — Five Soldiers are among the first 100 athletes named to the U.S. Olympic Team scheduled to compete Aug. 5-21 in the 2016 Olympic Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Rapid-fire pistol shooter Sgt. 1st Class Keith Sanderson, race walker Staff Sgt. John Nunn and Modern Pentathlete Sgt. Nathan Schrimsher are Soldier-athletes in the U.S. Army Installation Management Command's World Class Athlete Program at Fort Carson, Colorado.

Shotgun shooter Sgt. 1st Class Glenn Eller and rifle shooter Sgt. 1st Class Michael McPhail are Soldier-athletes in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Opening Ceremonies for the Rio Games are set for Aug. 5, with competition in 306 events scheduled in 42 sports among athletes from 206 countries. The Olympics embody the enduring resilience of our Soldier-athletes' commitment to teamwork, determination and perseverance. These five Soldier-athletes project a positive image of the Army and set a standard of excellence for all Soldiers to emulate.

Sanderson, 41, a three-time Olympian from San Anto-

SEE TEAM, PAGE D4

COMMANDER PORTAL

Army Medicine works to increase unit readiness with new system

By **Jeff Troth**
Army Medicine Public Affairs

FORT CARSON, Colorado — As the active-duty Army cuts 40,000 troops from its ranks over the next couple of years, Army Medicine is working to increase the number of Soldiers that are medically available to deploy.

The active-duty Army currently has 490,000 Soldiers, but military records show that 16 percent of that force is nondeployable – that means only 347,900 Soldiers are ready to accomplish their war-time mission, according to Lt. Col. Dave Hamilton, deputy commander for health and readiness at Fort Carson's Medical Department Activity.

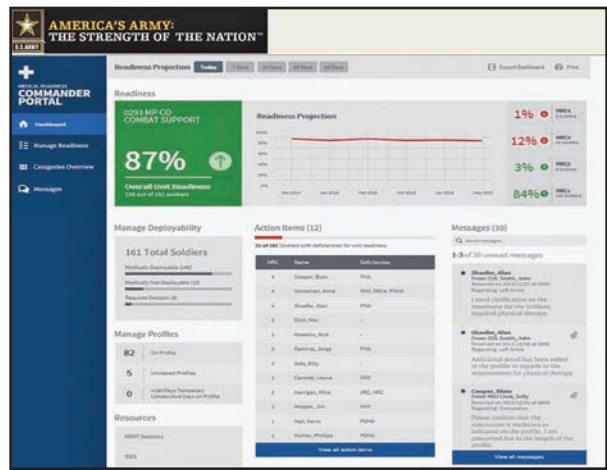
"As we decrease our total troop strength to 450,000, we also have to be able to cut that non-deployable percentage," he said. "Just by cutting it in half to 8 percent, we can actually increase the number of available Soldiers (355,500) to our force, to our commanders."

To help decrease the number of non-deployables, Army Medicine's Medical Readiness Transformation launched the Commander Portal Wednesday. This new system will allow company command teams to view their units' overall readiness on one system.

"The Commander Portal is going to give commanders and first sergeants a quick overview of their company's medical status," said Hamilton. "We are trying to give them the tools they need to easily manage their units' medical readiness. This will give them a level of predictability for medical readiness that they will be able to work into their training schedule."

The portal not only gives a snapshot of a unit's current readiness, but also what their medical readiness will be in seven, 30, 60 and 90 days. Hamilton said that commanders will be able to use the site's "action items" to get a by name list of Soldiers who are delinquent or will soon be delinquent in certain areas. It will show what Soldiers are in need of items such as their Periodic Health Assessment, immunizations or annual dental exam. The company command team will also be able to see at a glance which of their Soldiers have medical profiles.

"Through the Medical Readiness Transformation, we are redesigning the process of medical profiles, which document a Soldier's temporary and permanent medical condition as well as any functional limitations," said Lt. Gen. Nadja West, the Army's surgeon general. "Soldiers



ARMY GRAPHIC

will no longer have overlapping temporary profiles and will instead have a single active profile for all conditions."

Instead of having separate profiles for a knee injury, a back problem and dental surgery, the new e-profile gives a Soldier one profile with all the information and limitations on one document. The e-profile will not only show a Soldier's current profiles, but also shows the number of profiles and how many days that Soldier has been on profile over the past 24 months.

"When I was a company commander, Soldiers would have to bring paper copies of their profiles to the company training room," said Hamilton. "The first sergeant would then have to review them and if he had any questions he would have to talk to the unit's medical officer to see what the Soldiers' limitations were."

"This new system will let them look at all of their unit's medical readiness on one portal and then scroll down the list of their Soldiers and click on a Soldiers profile," Hamilton added. "From the profile the commander or first sergeant will be able to communicate directly with the provider through a secure system."

"A Soldier's health is an essential component of his or her readiness. And everything we are doing in Medical Readiness Transformation is designed to enhance Soldier medical readiness," said West. "Subsequently this transformation will enable commanders and my medical staff to more easily manage the readiness or our Soldiers, reducing the number of medically non-deployable Soldiers and retaining combat power."

DOWN TIME



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

TRIVIA

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the easternmost state capital in the United States?
2. MUSIC: What country was the group ABBA from?
3. MOVIES: In what movie was the character of John McClane introduced?
4. LITERATURE: The line "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread" was written by which poet?
5. FOOD & DRINK: Where did the potato originate?
6. SCIENCE: Sunlight exposure on bare skin can help to form which vitamin?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many minutes are in one degree of longitude or latitude?
8. ADVERTISEMENTS: What product's advertising campaign declared that its consumption was "The Right Thing To Do"?
9. SPORTS: How many periods are in a National Hockey League game?
10. TELEVISION: What was the forerunner of PBS, the national public broadcasting service?

See Page D4 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword

CELEBRITY SYNONYMY

ACROSS

- 1 Swim a few pool lengths
7 Workplace of Colonel Klink
13 Exact model
20 Madison Ave. bigwig
21 Clandestine
22 FDR's first lady
23 Master of impressions, to Roget?
25 Forbearing
26 Abbr. on a bad check
27 Stately shade tree
28 "Chinatown" director, to Roget?
30 Build
32 The NFL's Cowboys, on scoreboards
33 The, to Yves
34 "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue" singer, to Roget?
42 Paranormal skill, briefly
45 Right-hand page
46 Grow sick of
47 Under state?
50 Wisdom deity

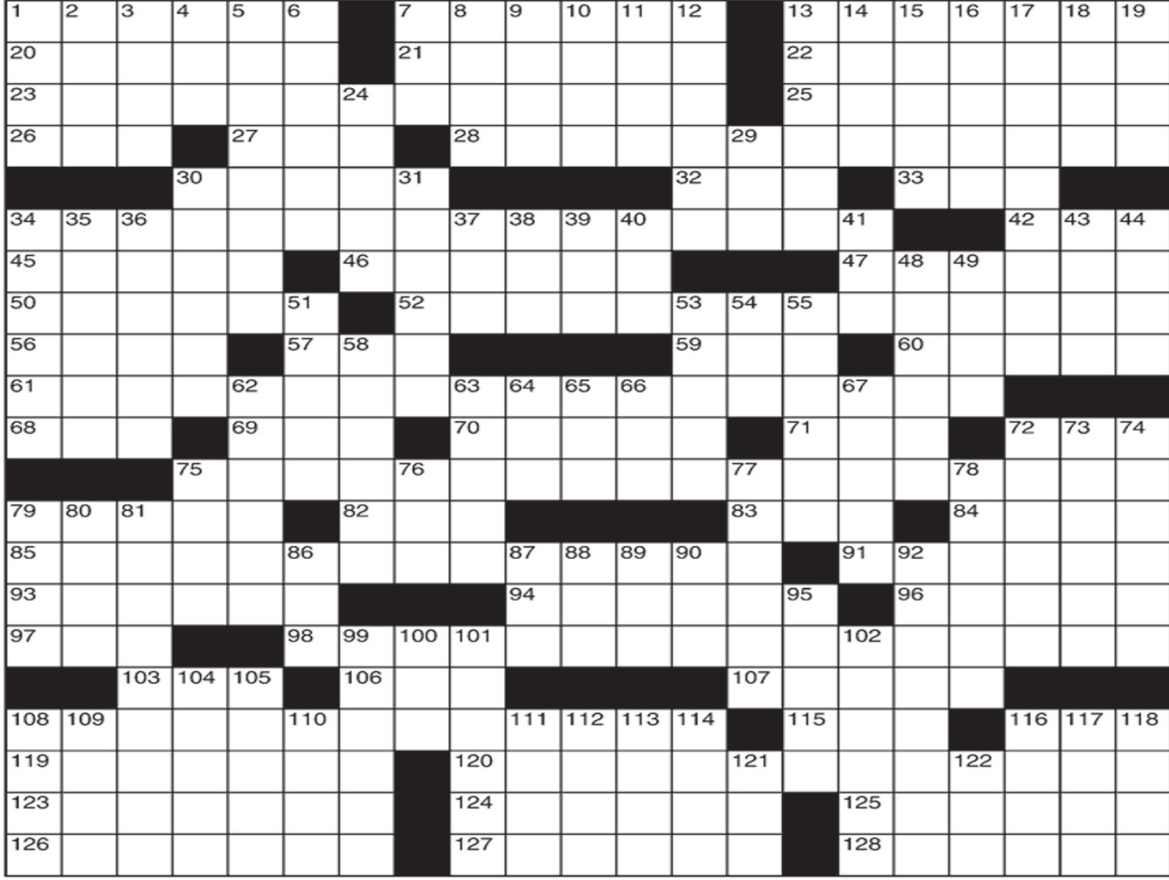
- 52 Actress who played Peter Pan on Broadway, to Roget?
56 Contestant
57 Dungeons & Dragons is one, in brief
59 Earlier
60 Active people
61 Freddie the Freeloader, to Roget?
68 Grant's foe
69 Brick carrier
70 Make
71 IM offerer
72 Rio's make
75 "Son of a Preacher Man" singer, to Roget?
79 Keep clear of
82 Daily record
83 Jerry Lewis telethon org., for years
84 Actor Lugosi
85 "My Way" singer, to Roget?
91 Align
93 Of no use
94 One-celled swimmer
96 "— my case"
97 — Schwarz

- 98 Swimmer with three Olympic gold medals, to Roget?
103 Org. for the 53-Downs
106 The — degree
107 Island south of Sicily
108 "Annie Hall" co-star, to Roget?
115 "— know you?"
116 Game aim
119 Skipped past
120 Former world heavyweight champion, to Roget?
123 Leasing
124 More banal
125 Sean Penn film of 2001
126 Fencing cry
127 Put in groups
128 Kind of skiing

- 7 1975 NBC debut, briefly
8 Work hard
9 "— boy!"
10 Riga native, old-style
11 "That's — ask"
12 "Hedda" star
13 Jackson
14 Israeli carrier
15 Bloom part
16 Cleo of jazz
17 Intrinsically
18 Bean
19 Intro studio class
24 Some rec centers
29 Foot the bill
30 — plea (say "guilty," say)
31 "Wild Thing" band, with "the"
34 Take a trip
35 Clock again
36 "Things Fall Apart" writer
37 Ire. land
38 Gun lobby: Abbr.
39 Heavy load
40 Antelope with a long head
41 Takeoff stat
43 Mark for life
44 Sties, e.g.

- 48 Bing of opera
49 Quotation book abbr.
51 Bow missile
53 L.A. hoopster
54 Go gray, say
55 — Garros (French Open)
58 Oar's cousin
62 — Scholar
63 1994 French Open winner
64 England's Isle of —
65 Trial VIPs
66 Big Indy inits.
67 Colosseum garments
72 Actor — Ivory
73 Mistreatment
74 Acclimatizes
75 One trillionth: Prefix
76 Canon camera line
77 Title song lyric after "Hallelujah"
78 Spain locale
79 Dating from
80 "Ars longa, — brevis"
81 Alternative to a steak fry
82 Acting-up kid

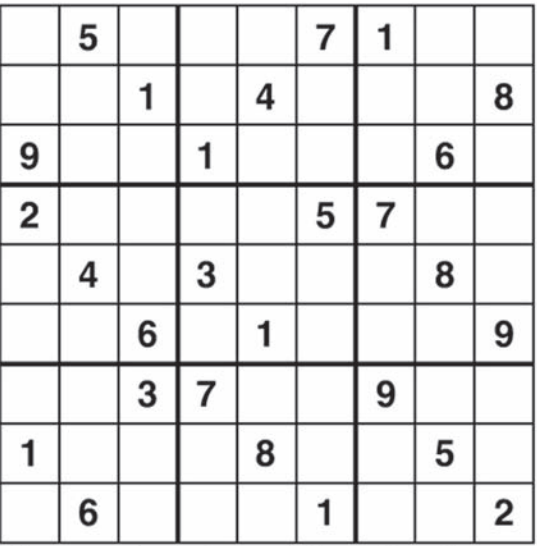
- 86 Soldier for 68-Across
87 — Geo
88 "Botch- —" (1952 song)
89 Craggy crest
90 — Speed Wagon (old truck)
92 Pertaining to a road or traveling
95 Carne — (burrito filler)
99 Tense
100 "— be a shame if ..."
101 Kind of daisy
102 Feminist Steinem
104 Siamese fighting fish
105 Moving about
108 Golfer's cry
109 Eerie sign
110 Baby-sit, e.g.
111 P.O. stack
112 Clark's love
113 Inner: Prefix
114 Brooklynite, e.g., briefly
116 "What — to think?"
117 — instant
118 Alaska port
121 "The A-Team" co-star
122 Acting-up kid



See Page D4 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

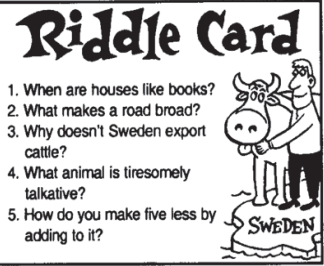
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

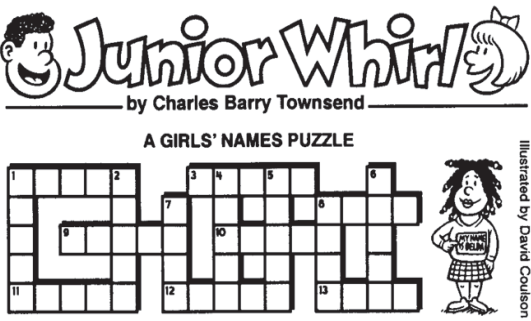
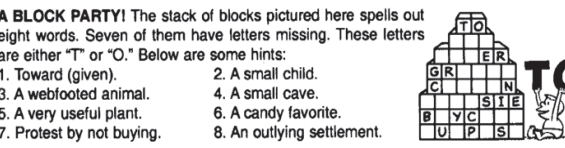
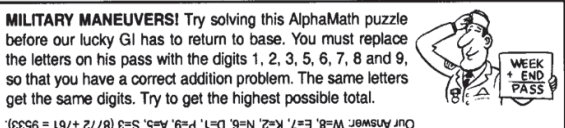
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See Page D4 for this week's answers.

KID's CORNER



Answers: 1. When they have stories. 2. The letter B. 3. Because she wants to keep her stockholm. 4. The letter B. 5. IV (Roman numeral).



Below are 15 girls' names you'll need to complete the puzzle grid above. Use the trial-and-error method.

- 4-LETTER NAMES: ELLA, KARA, KATE, LELA
5-LETTER NAMES: ADELA, AGNES, ANITA, BELDA, DORIS
5-LETTER NAMES: ELLEN, LORNA, NORMA, NYDIA, OLIVE, ORIEL

Answers: 1. Norma, 2. Belda, 3. Ellen, 4. Lorna, 5. Olive, 6. Norma, 7. Belda, 8. Ellen, 9. Lorna, 10. Olive, 11. Norma, 12. Belda, 13. Ellen, 14. Lorna, 15. Olive, 16. Norma, 17. Belda, 18. Ellen, 19. Lorna, 20. Olive, 21. Norma, 22. Belda, 23. Ellen, 24. Lorna, 25. Olive, 26. Norma, 27. Belda, 28. Ellen, 29. Lorna, 30. Olive, 31. Norma, 32. Belda, 33. Ellen, 34. Lorna, 35. Olive, 36. Norma, 37. Belda, 38. Ellen, 39. Lorna, 40. Olive, 41. Norma, 42. Belda, 43. Ellen, 44. Lorna, 45. Olive, 46. Norma, 47. Belda, 48. Ellen, 49. Lorna, 50. Olive, 51. Norma, 52. Belda, 53. Ellen, 54. Lorna, 55. Olive, 56. Norma, 57. Belda, 58. Ellen, 59. Lorna, 60. Olive, 61. Norma, 62. Belda, 63. Ellen, 64. Lorna, 65. Olive, 66. Norma, 67. Belda, 68. Ellen, 69. Lorna, 70. Olive, 71. Norma, 72. Belda, 73. Ellen, 74. Lorna, 75. Olive, 76. Norma, 77. Belda, 78. Ellen, 79. Lorna, 80. Olive, 81. Norma, 82. Belda, 83. Ellen, 84. Lorna, 85. Olive, 86. Norma, 87. Belda, 88. Ellen, 89. Lorna, 90. Olive, 91. Norma, 92. Belda, 93. Ellen, 94. Lorna, 95. Olive, 96. Norma, 97. Belda, 98. Ellen, 99. Lorna, 100. Olive, 101. Norma, 102. Belda, 103. Ellen, 104. Lorna, 105. Olive, 106. Norma, 107. Belda, 108. Ellen, 109. Lorna, 110. Olive, 111. Norma, 112. Belda, 113. Ellen, 114. Lorna, 115. Olive, 116. Norma, 117. Belda, 118. Ellen, 119. Lorna, 120. Olive, 121. Norma, 122. Belda, 123. Ellen, 124. Lorna, 125. Olive, 126. Norma, 127. Belda, 128. Ellen, 129. Lorna, 130. Olive, 131. Norma, 132. Belda, 133. Ellen, 134. Lorna, 135. Olive, 136. Norma, 137. Belda, 138. Ellen, 139. Lorna, 140. Olive, 141. Norma, 142. Belda, 143. Ellen, 144. Lorna, 145. Olive, 146. Norma, 147. Belda, 148. Ellen, 149. Lorna, 150. Olive, 151. Norma, 152. Belda, 153. Ellen, 154. Lorna, 155. Olive, 156. Norma, 157. Belda, 158. Ellen, 159. Lorna, 160. Olive, 161. Norma, 162. Belda, 163. Ellen, 164. Lorna, 165. Olive, 166. Norma, 167. Belda, 168. Ellen, 169. Lorna, 170. Olive, 171. Norma, 172. Belda, 173. Ellen, 174. Lorna, 175. 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ARMY STRONG

3rd U.S.Army Marksmanship Unit Soldier headed to 2016 Olympics

By Brenda Rolin
*U.S. Army Accessions Support
Brigade
Public Affairs*

TILLAR, Ark. — After seven months of speculation and uncertainty, a U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit double trap competitor and shooter-instructor is headed to the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Sgt. 1st Class Josh Richmond earned the last double trap seat on the 2016 U.S. Olympic Shooting Team May 19 during the 2016 Shotgun Olympic Trials.

Richmond, of Hillsgrove, Pennsylvania, won the gold medal in the 2015 Fall Selection match in Tucson, Arizona, last October. That match was one of two Olympic trials for shotgun and he has been in a waiting game since then to finish what he started.

Richmond said it was hard describe the level of competition he faced at Tillar.

“I just kept trying to stay in the present, stay in the moment and continue my routine and just hit more targets than the rest of them,” he said.

Richmond’s win in Tucson last October also put him in direct competition with two of his USAMU teammates — Sgt. Derek Halde- man, Pendleton, Oregon, and Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Holguin, Yorba Linda, California — who won the silver and gold, respectively.

Although each one of them planned to win the nomination to the Olympic Team, Richmond, who also participated in the 2012 Olympic Games, said the three continued to train and prepare for this day together.

“We are only as strong as the weakest member of the team,” he said. “We have a strong bond and sharing this brotherhood of the Army takes it to another level. We are all happy to see each other succeed.”

Four-time Olympian and U.S. Olympic Shotgun Team coach Todd Graves said natural talent and the opportunity for Olympians to train together often gives them



PHOTO BY BRENDA ROLIN

Mark Staffen, U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, aims at a clay during the 2016 Shotgun Olympic Trials Part II in Tillar, Arkansas, May 20.

an edge. For the USAMU double trap team, he said this is especially true.

“As a group, being able to train together when you’ve got two or three of the top double trap shooters in the world, it helps when you get to train with them,” he said.

As for whether Graves had a favorite, he said this was a win-win situation.

“With these guys, you could have put their pictures up on a board and thrown darts at them, and I would have been happy with any of them,” he said.

Despite high hopes for skeet shooter Spc. Hayden Stewart, who is also assigned to USAMU and tied for the gold during the 2015 Fall Selection Match, none of the USAMU skeet team members won enough points during compe-

tition to secure the final skeet position on the 2016 U.S. Olympic Shooting Team.

While Stewart, of Columbia, Tennessee, was one of the favorites to win the remaining skeet position after tying with U.S. Team member Frank Thompson in the Fall Selection Match in Tucson, Thompson ended up winning the coveted seat on the Olympic Team. Stewart finished 3rd overall.

Three other USAMU skeet team members also competed: Spc. Mark Staffen, Spc. Dustan Taylor and Pvt. Christian Elliott.

Staffen was in top form and won the gold in the skeet competition at the Shotgun Olympic Trials in Tillar.

However, Staffen didn’t have enough points from the Fall Selection Match to earn the skeet

position on the Olympic Team and ended up in 5th place overall. Taylor, Shawnee, Oklahoma; and Elliott, Bedford, Indiana; finished 11th and 12th respectively.

Staffen, from Lewis Center, Ohio, said he was very happy to win the Tillar event and he would not be shooting in the Olympic trials without the Army behind him.

“The Army has helped me a lot with getting my skill level up and providing resources to shoot at this level,” he said.

Richmond is the third Soldier from USAMU to make the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team.

He will join teammates Sgt. 1st Class Michael McPhail and Sgt. 1st Class Glenn Eller at the Games this August. McPhail, an International rifle competitor, won an automatic berth for 50-meter

prone rifle Sept. 3. Eller won an automatic berth for double trap Sept. 14.

McPhail, Darlington, Wisconsin, and Eller, Katy, Texas, earned their automatic berths on the U.S. Olympic Shooting Team through high finishes in international world shooting sport events in the year prior to the Games.

Soldiers competing on the world stage in international shooting competitions and the Olympic Games are a testament to the skills and training American Soldiers receive and develop.

USAMU Soldiers translate their shooting skills and lessons learned from competitions into training for other Soldiers in preparation for missions across the globe in defense of the nation and the American way of life.

Family takes pride in Soldier’s efforts at Invictus Games

By Shannon Collins
Department of Defense News

WASHINGTON — As the Florida sun beat down on him, the medically-retired infantryman took a deep breath, focused and threw the shot put, earning a silver medal in his disability category at the Invictus Games in Orlando, Florida, May 10.

Spc. Haywood Range III threw 11.58 meters. He also earned a silver medal in the discus in his category as well, throwing 29.27 meters. He was less than a meter away from the gold in both categories.

He said he enjoyed participating in the Invictus Games and looks forward to participation in the Department of Defense Warrior Games June 15-21 at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

About 250 wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans representing teams from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, U.S. Special Operations Command, Coast Guard and the United Kingdom Armed Forces will participate in the DOD Warrior Games. That sporting event includes competition in archery, cycling, track and field, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming and wheelchair basketball.

The DOD Warrior Games highlight the resiliency and warrior spirit of service members, veterans, their families and caregivers.

During last year’s DOD Warrior Games, Haywood took the silver medal in discus and a silver medal in the 800-meter run — but he was unable finish his participation in the games, missing out on some opportunities he hopes he’ll be able to take advantage of this year.

“I didn’t get to finish out last year’s Warrior Games, so this time, hopefully, I’ll get to finish it out and do all the running events and throw discus again and get in that pool again,” he said.

Invictus

Haywood said he hopes to compete in next year’s Invictus Games in Toronto, Canada.

“I’ll definitely be training. I want to do more events. I eventually want to run and swim too,” he said. “I’m going to be training year-round.”

He said it felt great to have his family see him receive his medals at Invictus. “It felt great, it really did. It was special, emotional. Having my family, my wife, kids and extended family here supporting me, it felt real good. Next year, I’m looking for gold. I see where I am now and I want to be better.”

Haywood said he was honored to represent Team Army and the U.S.

“It’s amazing,” he said with a big, genuine smile. “I’m



PHOTO BY E.J. HERSON

Retired Spc. Haywood Range III poses for a photo after a swimming event during the Army Trials for the 2015 Department of Defense Warrior Games at Fort Bliss, Texas.

glad to be an American, especially representing the Army, too. I love it.”

He said he also enjoyed the camaraderie among the athletes from other nations.

“It’s amazing getting to meet people from all the other countries,” he said. “The medals, they’re nice, but the friendship you get by meeting all the other people from all the countries, not just the U.S., just everyone else, just talking and laughing with them, it’s amazing.”

Injury, adaptive sports

Haywood was injured during a combat training exercise Sept. 2, 2012, when his Humvee rolled and pinned his arm. He said he can’t remember how many surgeries he had.

“I just know when I woke up, my arm wasn’t there,” he said.

Haywood said adaptive sports gave him a new purpose. “After the accident, I was laying in my hospital bed, wondering what I was going to do with the rest of my life,” he said. “When I got to Fort Sam Houston (Texas), they introduced me to adaptive sports, and I was like, ‘Gosh, I can compete again.’ I got involved with rowing, with shot put and discus, track, swimming. I just fell in love with it. It’s amazing. God is so good to me. He really is. I appreciate everything he’s done for me.”

Haywood said he doesn’t look at his fellow Soldiers as competitors.

“It’s a competition, but I look at us as a family,” he said. “We’re here to compete against each other, but we’re a family. The camaraderie is so great here. We’re a brotherhood and sisterhood. It’s really special to me.”

Haywood, always with a smile on his face or a chuckle in his voice, said adaptive sports have made him more resilient.

“They put me in a relaxed state,” he said. “This is some-

thing I really enjoy, not just competing but getting to meet other athletes and understanding their injuries and what they’ve overcome. We all just push each other and motivate each other. We just bond so well together. It’s an amazing feeling.”

Family

Whitney Range, who’s been married to Haywood for three years, said she’s proud of her husband and how far he’s come.

“He’s so much more, so much bigger than the medals,” she said. “It’s a picture of him overcoming. I’ve been able to see him grow so much. I’m just so proud of him and so overwhelmed with how well he’s done through this whole process.”

His daughter, Tara Harris, 8, said she’s proud of her dad, as well. “I’m glad he’s out there and having fun.”

Harris said she loves that her dad smiles all the time and is impressed that he can swim with one arm. “It’s cool because he’s missing an arm, and I can’t even swim with both my arms. It’s really cool.”

Whitney Range said she was pretty emotional when Haywood competed at Invictus.

“I’m so proud of him,” she said. “I’m super proud to be his wife. I tell him all the time. And he really is so amazing and so inspiring. It’s not about the medals. It’s really more about who he is and what he’s overcome.”

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Warrior

Continued from Page D1

nio, is the most decorated competitive pistol shooter in U.S. military history. He is scheduled to compete, Aug. 12 and 13, in the two-day 25-meter rapid fire pistol event.

“First, I want to make the final,” Sanderson said. “Second, make it to the medal round. Third, I want to get a gold medal. I feel like I have to get a gold. I want to be the best U.S. pistol shooter in history.”

Sanderson, a nine-time World Cup medalist, set an Olympic qualification record in the 2008 Beijing Games and finished fifth.

“Shooting competitively has allowed me to excel in something to the point where, at times, I have become the best in the world,” Sanderson said. “I already have the most World Cups. The only thing I’m missing is that Olympic gold medal.”

Nunn, 38, a native of Evansville, Indiana, who lives in Bonsall, California, also will be competing in his third Olympics. He finished 43rd in the men’s 50-kilometer race walk with a personal-best time of 4 hours, 3 minutes and 28 seconds at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

At the 2016 U.S. Olympic 50K Race Walk Team Trials, Nunn overcame the flu to win the race and lowered his personal best to 4:03.21. He also plans to attempt to qualify for the 20-kilometer race walk event at the 2016 U.S. Olympic Track and Field

Team Trials on June 30 in Salem, Oregon.

“It would be fun to do both (the 50k and 20k in Rio de Janeiro), but 50K is what I’m good at and what I’ve held the (Olympic) standard for a couple years now,” Nunn said. “If I happen to hit the 20K standard that’s great. I’ll still make the 50K the priority in Rio and we’ll still race the 20K, but it becomes a great speed workout a week before the 50K, which is fine.”

The Olympic 20-kilometer race walk is scheduled for Aug. 12 at Fort Copacabana and the 50K is set for Aug. 19.

“We’ve had some really good workouts over the past few months where I’ve been able to just nail full through a 35K with a 4:30 pace per kilometer,” Nunn said, “which puts me right at like 3:45 for a 50K. There’s potential to set a huge personal record in Rio.”

Schrimsher, 23, a native of Roswell, New Mexico, now stationed at Fort Carson, will make his Olympic debut in Modern Pentathlon, a five-sport event consisting of fencing, swimming, equestrian show jumping, cross-country running and pistol shooting. After getting started in the sport at age 12, he soon began dreaming of becoming an Olympian. After three successful appearances in the Modern Pentathlon Junior World Championships, Schrimsher quickly climbed the ranks of the U.S. men’s senior division.

In July of 2015, Schrimsher was the first individual named to the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team after he finished third at the Pan American Games in Toronto to earn a berth in the 2016 Rio Games.

“A lot of people were telling me that I could relax because I didn’t have the pressure of qualifying anymore,” Schrimsher recalled. “But now the pressure to compete, and go win that gold, that’s on. It’s another set of pressure, but I’m ready for it.

“I just want to go and compete and do the best I can,” continued Schrimsher, who is scheduled to compete Aug. 18 and 20 in Rio. “I just feel like regular old Nathan from New Mexico, just doing my thing. I’m going to give it my best like I’ve always done.”

Schrimsher upped the ante May 7 by posting the best American men’s performance in eight years on the Modern Pentathlon World Cup circuit with a seventh-place finish in the 2016 UIPM World Cup season finale in Sarasota, Florida.

The last time a U.S. competitor placed higher was at the 2008 World Cup final, when Air Force Capt. Eli Bremer won the bronze medal and U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program teammate Sgt. Dennis Bowsher was fourth.

Schrimsher competed in the 2010 Youth Olympic Games in Singapore, where he finished 13th. In March, he won the gold medal at the Pan American and South American

Championships in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where his younger brother, also an Olympic hopeful, struck bronze.

“It’s amazing to be a Soldier and compete for the United States,” Schrimsher said. “It’s a big name we wear as athletes and I just want to represent it as best I can.”

Eller, 34, a native of Houston, will be competing in his fifth Olympics. He won the gold medal for double trap at the 2008 Beijing Games. Eller was named USA Shooting’s Athlete of the Year in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2008 and 2013. In 2012, he deployed to Afghanistan as a marksmanship instructor after competing in the London Olympics. He is scheduled to compete Aug. 10 in Rio.

McPhail, 34, originally from Darlington, Wisconsin, missed making the prone rifle finals by three-tenths of a point at the 2012 London Olympics. He has won 10 medals in international competition, including two World Cup victories in 2015. McPhail is scheduled to compete Aug. 12 in the men’s 50-meter prone rifle event.

More Soldier-athletes and coaches remain in contention for spots on Team USA in shooting, rugby and track and field. Those selections will be made by late July. Visit www.ArmyMWR.com/Olympians to track our Soldier-Olympians on to their road to Rio and throughout the Games of the XXXI Olympiad.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers														
DOL	A	P	S		S	T	A	L	A	G		R	E	P
A	D	E	X	E	C		N	O	T	E	L	L		E
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A	T	H	E	N	A		G	R	A	N	U	L	A	R
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer														
4	5	2	8	6	7	1	9	3						
6	3	1	5	4	9	2	7	8						
9	8	7	1	2	3	4	6	5						
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5	4	9	3	7	2	6	8	1						
3	7	6	4	1	8	5	2	9						
8	2	3	7	5	4	9	1	6						
1	9	4	2	8	6	3	5	7						
7	6	5	9	3	1	8	4	2						

TRIVIA

- Answers
1. Augusta, Maine
 2. Sweden
 3. “Die Hard”
 4. Alexander Pope
 5. South America
 6. Vitamin D
 7. 60
 8. Quaker Oats
 9. Three
 10. National Educational Television

SPORTS BRIEFS

Deep sea fishing trip

MWR Central will host a deep sea fishing trip Saturday. The private charter will seat 18 guests and will have all the same amenities as the regular season boat. This trip is to kick off the red snapper season. This trip includes transportation to and from Fort Rucker, license, bait, rod, reel, six to seven hours of fishing and cleaning of the fish. It is customary to tip the crew for cleaning the fish and this is not included. This trip is open to anyone ages 6 years and older. Price per person is \$150. The trip will depart from the Bldg. 5700 parking lot at 4 a.m. and travel to Destin, Florida. People are welcome to bring a cooler with drinks and snacks — no glass is allowed. The

deadline to register is today. The trip is open to the public.

For more information, call 255-2997 or 255-9517.

Pool opening, closure

Beginning Monday, Flynn Pool will be open from 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays-Fridays and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Flynn Pool is for fitness swimming, programming, training, youth learn-to-swim lessons, and physical training.

In addition, the indoor pool at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will close Monday for the summer season and will reopen on Aug. 1.

For more information, call 255-2296.



14 Years of Active Duty

3 Years Enlisted

7 PCSs

1 Auto Claim

8 Road Trips

11 Years of Marriage

2 Grade Schoolers

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