



# ARMY FLIER

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## EXCEEDING STANDARDS

### Sergeant Audie Murphy Club inducts new member

By Nathan Pfau  
Army Flier Staff Writer

Determination, the ability to face adversity and the will to serve a purpose greater than self – that's what one Fort Rucker Soldier's induction into one of the installation's most prestigious clubs means to him.

The Fort Rucker Sergeant Audie Murphy Club inducted Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Huff, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence NCO Academy senior small group leader, into its ranks during a ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Monday, and for him it's just one more step to becoming a better Soldier and leader.

"It feels great to be part of this organization," said Huff. "It was a hard road, but it's definitely been worth all of the effort, and it's definitely an honor to be a part of this association."

Huff has been involved in the SAMC throughout the years helping with different events, so becoming a full-fledged member of the club was a must for him, he said.

"The reason I wanted to be a part of this club was more so to be able to set an example for future Soldiers and the ones that

I'll be leaving behind here and the ones that I'll be leading in the future," said the new inductee. "To be a part of this organization and be active in it says a lot about a person and motivates others to do the same."

Command Sgt. Maj. Jason J. Palfreeman, USAACENCO Academy commandant, was on hand to welcome Huff to the organization and to remind him and other Soldiers of the standards that those who are inducted into the club are held to.

"We all know Sergeant Audie Murphy's story," said the NCO Academy commandant, referring to Murphy's many accomplishments as the most decorated Soldier in U.S. history. "Fortunately for us noncommissioned officers, Audie Murphy's accomplishments are not the standards that we have to meet in order to be eligible for this distinguished association."

"Sergeant Audie Murphy consistently demonstrated the highest quality of leadership, professionalism and regard for the welfare of his Soldiers," he continued. "This is a standard of which we can use for the eligibility to be inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Association."

The club is meant for those NCOs who



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Huff, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence NCO Academy senior small group leader, receives a certificate of achievement from Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory M. Chambers, command sergeant major of the Aviation Branch, and Col. Thomas R. Drew, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence deputy commander, for being inducted into the Fort Rucker Sergeant Audie Murphy Club during a ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Monday.

distinguish themselves apart from their peers, and the organization is a means of recognizing those NCOs who have contributed significantly to the development of a professional NCO Corps and combat-ready Army, said Palfreeman.

Members of the SAMC are meant to exemplify leadership that is characterized by personal concern for the needs, training, development and welfare of Soldiers, and

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## JOB FAIR

### Event a team effort by post, community

By Nathan Pfau  
Army Flier Staff Writer

With resumes in hand, thousands of job seekers made their way out to the 13th annual Fort Rucker Area Job Fair at the Carroll High School Gymnasium in Ozark July 21 for a chance at potential employment opportunities.

Alfred Alexander, Soldier for Life transition services specialist, said that the job fair, which was a joint effort between Army Community Service, Fort Rucker Soldier for Life and the Ozark Chamber of Commerce, was a way for people to be able to familiarize themselves with the different companies at the fair.

For Damien Smith, military veteran, he said the fair was a way for him to branch out and see what other employment opportunities might interest him.

"A lot of times people get stuck in the jobs they're doing and it can get a bit tiresome," he said. "This is just a good way for me to come out and talk to some employers about other avenues I've been interested in, and hopefully it can give me the connections I need to pursue those opportunities."

"Sometimes it can be difficult for veterans to transition to the civilian workforce since we're so specialized in what our jobs were in the military, but this gives us the opportunity to talk with employers and explain to them what we have to offer them," said Smith. "It's a great way to get them to remember you and see you as more than just a name on a stack of papers."

The fair showcased employers from a variety of industries, such as food service, sales, technology and finance, with a wide range of companies for

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PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Job seekers speak with employers during the 13th annual Fort Rucker Area Job Fair at the Carroll High School Gymnasium in Ozark July 21.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Children make their way across the crosswalk on Red Cloud Road to get into their classrooms for the first day of school at Fort Rucker Elementary School last year. School is back in session at Fort Rucker Aug. 4.

## BACK TO SCHOOL

### Officials urge caution as children return to class

By Jeremy Henderson  
Army Flier Staff Writer

One week of summer freedom remains for Fort Rucker students, but some simple steps exist that can help ease the transition into a new school year.

Fort Rucker Primary School and Fort Rucker Elementary School will host Sneak a Peek events Aug. 3 to provide a smooth transition for students and parents, according to officials at the two schools. FRES hosts its event for second through sixth graders from 1:30-2:30 and the primary school hosts its event from 2:45-3:45 p.m.

"This is a great opportunity for students to find their classroom and meet the teacher before the big first day of school," Dr. Vicki Gilmer, Fort Rucker Elementary school principal, said.

Students always have the jitters before the first day and have questions about what their teacher will be like, will they be able to find their class, and more, the principal said. Sneak a Peek is a quick event that gives students the chance to get those questions answered before actually beginning school. A formal parent orientation and grade-level overview will be held later in August to give parents detailed

information.

Gilmer also shared that parents can help students prepare for the upcoming school year now.

"The best thing I can recommend is for students to begin adjusting to the routine prior to the first day of school," she said. "Students should start going to bed a little earlier and waking up earlier each day to get the sleep pattern back into school mode."

Aug. 4 is the first day of school and, according to school officials, it will be a full day. Fort Rucker Elementary School opens its doors at 7:30 a.m. and classes begin at 7:45 a.m. Students who are part of the breakfast program may enter the school at 7:15 a.m.

"For our entry and exit, it takes approximately 30 minutes," Gilmer said. "Parents and students should be prepared for that. We have fantastic (community) police support and the drop off and pick up is very smooth."

Peggy Contreras, Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Safety community police supervisor, said diligence and caution can ensure a safe and enjoyable school year for students, parents and faculty.

"Vehicles are asked to reduce their speed, and observe children going to and from school, especially during

school zone hours," she said. "There will be patrols conducting school crossing in the morning and afternoon. Tickets will be given at the officers' discretion to anyone not complying with speed and guidance given by patrols."

According to Gilmer, many students live close to FRES, and either walk or ride a bike to class each day.

"We are blessed to be a community school," she said. "We have over 300 students who walk and ride bikes, so we need to be sure we are cautious of the walkers and bikers."

Contreras echoed that sentiment. "Parents are asked to re-enforce bike safety with their children, especially when crossing streets," she said. "Drivers should pay close attention when passing children during school hours."

"All traffic must stop for school buses when loading and unloading," she added. "Talk about traffic safety with your children, and pick the safest route between your home and the school and practice walking it with your children. Teach your children to recognize and obey traffic signals, signs and pavement markings. Parents talk to your teenage drivers that

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# PERSPECTIVE

# SPECIAL NEEDS

## Fort Rucker to host STOMP workshop

By Marion Cornish  
Fort Rucker Exceptional Family  
Member Program Manager

Did you know that military families with special needs face a higher likelihood of being in crisis situations with fewer supporters to help alleviate stressors?

Not only do we know our military families face unique challenges, but our special needs families experience difficulty navigating complex educational and medical systems.

The Specialized Training of Military Parents is an organization dedicated solely to address the needs of military families who have family members with special medical or educational needs.

STOMP will be at Fort Rucker for a two-day workshop in the areas of parent rights and responsibilities with regard to the Individuals with Disabilities Act, Individual Education Programs, 504, TRICARE, record keeping and home files,



ARMY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

effective communication, net-working, wills and guardianships, supplemental security income and advocacy.

Special emphasis is placed on creating effective partnerships between families and the professionals who support them.

“We have a special understanding of the challenges families face when they have a family member with disabilities or special needs and they have to PCS from place to place or face deployments,” stated Heather Hebdon, the director for

STOMP. “Our staff members have family members with disabilities and we have all dealt with the challenges and joys that come with military life.”

STOMP is a parent-directed program that exists to empower military parents, individuals with disabilities and service providers with knowledge, skills and resources so that they might access services to create a collaborative environment for family and professional partnerships without regard to geographic location.

Established in 1985, STOMP has been recognized as the premier resource for families within the military who have children, youth, and adult family members who have disabilities and other special education/medical issues. For more information about STOMP or to talk with one of their staff members call 1-800-5-PARENT or visit their website at [www.wapave.org/stomp](http://www.wapave.org/stomp)

STOMP will be at Fort Rucker on 25-26 August for a two day workshop. The workshop will

take place at The Commons from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If you are a member of a military family with a child with special needs, an educator of children with special needs, or a professional that works with families and children with special needs, then this training is for you.

People can register online for the STOMP workshop at <http://stomp-fortrucker.eventbrite.com>.

For more information, call the Army Community Service Exceptional Family Member Program 255-9277 or 255-3643.

## THIS MONTH IN ARMY AVIATION HISTORY

This month we’re spotlighting the August 1966 issue of the *U.S. Army Aviation Digest*. This issue features:

### Helicopter Crystal Ball

If experimental helicopters coming from factories today are any indication, the choppers we fly in the next 10 or 15 years will generally look like the ones we fly today. But while they’ll look much the same on the surface, underneath they will be greatly improved.

### The Mechanic’s Challenge

Zero defects or a form of ZD has

been a way of life for Army Aviation mechanics since Aviation became a part of the Army. It had to be so, or the first aircraft repaired by the first Army Aviation mechanic would have crashed before it got to the end of the runway.

### Individualism and Professional Pride

Too often when one mentions professionalism in Army Aviation the listener jumps to an unwarranted conclusion. Professionalism is not being able to fly a specific aircraft better than anyone else, nor is it being the best instrument pilot in the world. You could be either

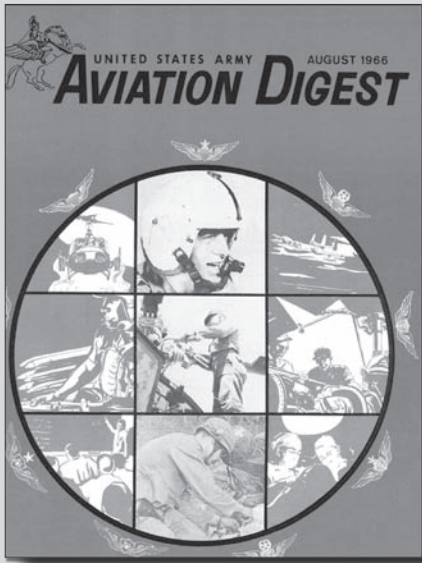
or both of these and still be a highly un-professional slob.

### Aviation Career Course?

The concept of airmobile operations and the development of the armed helicopter brought about by our operations in Vietnam have greatly increased the Army Aviator’s need for advanced knowledge of Aviation operations.

### ... and much more.

Download this issue of the *U.S. Army Aviation Digest* at <http://go.usa.gov/xrGBQ>.



## Rotor Wash



**2nd Lt. Kevin Jeffries,  
D Co., 1st Bn.,  
145th Avn. Regt**

“Start off by getting them to bed early and waking up early, so they can get used to it.”



**Annie Ganzy,  
retired military**

“Make sure to have all their school supplies ready and try to get to any school open houses to get to know their teachers to help the children be prepared.”



**Spc. Sean Beavens,  
6th MP Detachment**

“Put the children back on a schedule.”



**2nd Lt. James Hastings,  
D Co., 1st Bn.,  
145th Avn. Regt.**

“Get them on a good study regimen. A lot of times kids lose their study habits if they don’t do them for a while.”



**W01, Dan Mossman,  
B Co., 1st Bn.,  
145th Avn. Regt.**

“You can get the children some workbooks for the grade that they’re going into to give them a head start in that grade level.”

“Students on Fort Rucker are back in School August 4. What are some ways to get children back in the swing of their school schedule?”

### COMMAND

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FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

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FORT RUCKER GARRISON COMMANDER

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# FREEDOM OF FAITH

## Post celebrates Chaplain Corps' 241st birthday

By Nathan Pfau  
Army Flier Staff Writer

Spiritual resiliency plays a big part in the success of the nation's armed forces, and for more than 240 years Soldiers in the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps have served a purpose greater than self.

Fort Rucker celebrated the corps' 241st anniversary serving the Soldiers and family members of the Army with a celebration at Lake Tholocco's West Beach Friday with a bit of fellowship and fun while remembering the importance of faith, said Chaplain (Col.) Dean Bonura, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker garrison chaplain.

"The chaplaincy has demonstrated over the last 200 years its relevancy and importance," Bonura said. "As I see it, America's treasure has been entrusted to us in the Army, so one of the things that the Army wants to do is ensure the free exercise of faith ... and we do our very best to provide for those Soldiers and family members."

Throughout the day, attendees learned about the history of the chaplaincy, as well as had time to spend together with a bit of food and fun, but it was the opportunity to freely express their faith that was the main goal of the day, Bonura said.

He added that faith serves an important role in the resiliency of Soldiers and that being able to exercise that faith freely is part of what makes America's armed forces great.

"Faith and religion is a big part

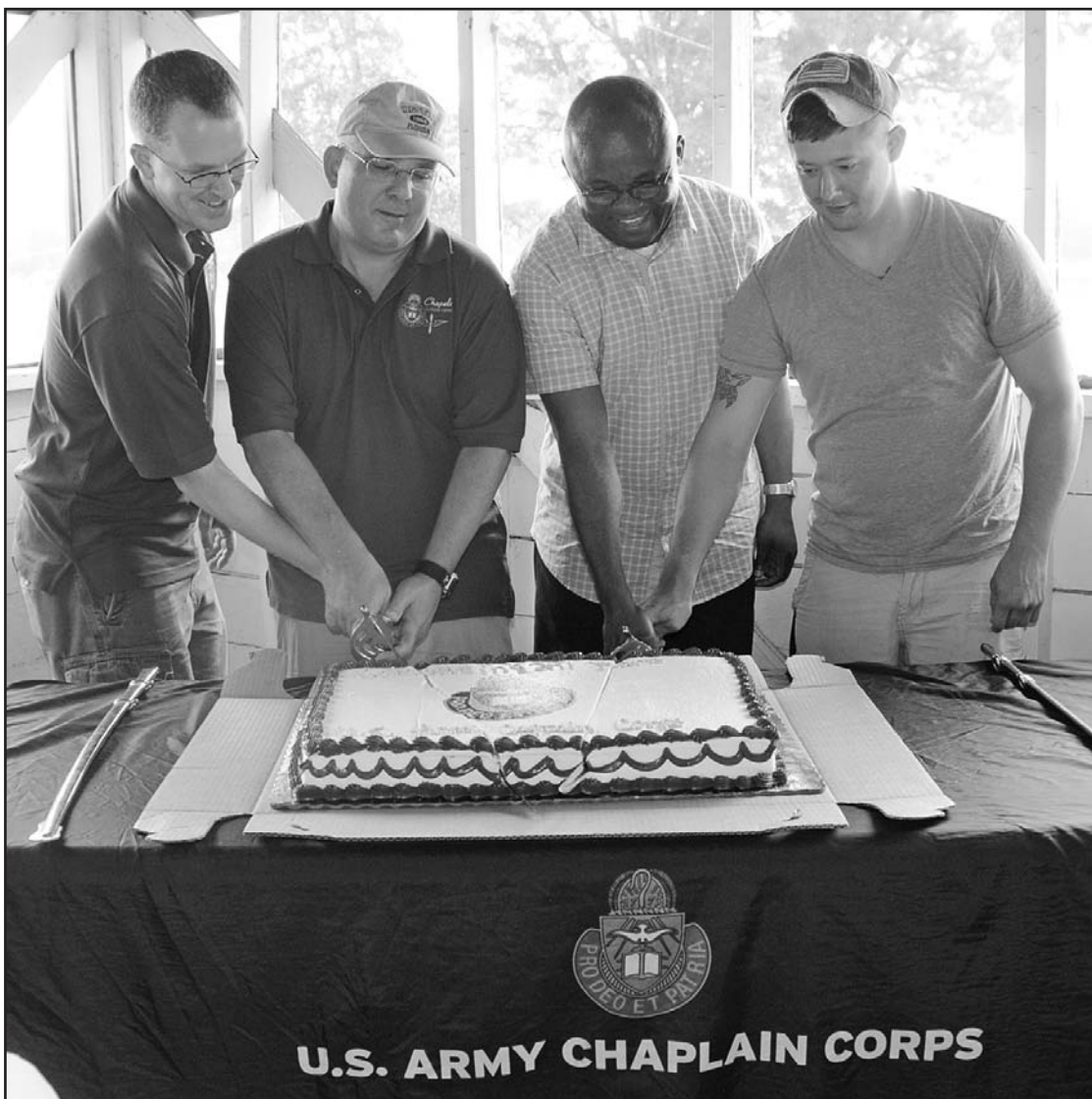


PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Chaplain (Capt.) Shawn Droge, 1st Battalion, 223rd Aviation Regiment, Chaplain (Col.) Dean Bonura, USAACE and Fort Rucker garrison chaplain, Chaplain (Capt.) Nwag Bara, Catholic chaplain, and Spc. William Price, 1st Bn., 14th Avn. Regt., cut the cake for the 241st U.S. Army Chaplain Corps anniversary during a ceremony at West Beach on Lake Tholocco Friday.

of that spirituality and we can help in that area because each of us (chaplains) come from our own religious backgrounds," he said. "We also recognize a broader dimension of spirituality and we can help in those areas. We can challenge people to think about what it is that they believe,

what it is that empowers them beyond themselves to do what we do."

It's that freedom of faith that allows those in today's Army, as well as those who have served in the past, to be able to complete their mission, according to Col. Shannon T. Miller, Fort Rucker

garrison commander.

"What (the chaplaincy) means to us in the Army is that we absolutely cannot accomplish our mission without the support of the Chaplain Corps," said the garrison commander. "They provide that spiritual lifting that our Soldiers, families and our retir-

ees need, as well as provide the support to our readiness and resiliency, and we need that to do our day-to-day mission."

U.S. Army chaplains represent six of the world's major religions: Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu. Since 1775, about 25,000 Army chaplains have served as religious and spiritual leaders for more than 25 million Soldiers and family members, Bonura said.

Additionally, Army chaplains have served in more than 270 major wars and combat engagements, and 294 Army chaplains and 12 religious affairs specialists have laid down their lives in battle. Currently there are more than 2,900 chaplains serving the total Army representing over 140 different religious organizations, he added.

"That's all a part of selfless service," said Bonura. "How do you (provide that selfless service)? I think you can only do that by having a solid spirituality, so I believe those things are very important."

For Jamie Dornan, military spouse, having a strong base of faith is what helps her get through the often stressful times of military life.

"Our family has been through so many moves throughout the years, and a few deployments, and without our faith I really don't believe that our family would have been able to make it through," she said. "Our faith is what keeps our family strong through those tough times and I believe that without it we just wouldn't be able to make it through those hard times."

## Energy security, 'reduced footprint' top priorities for lieutenant general

By C. Todd Lopez  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Recently-promoted Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham is the first officer in 10 years to serve as the assistant chief of staff for Installation Management without also serving as commander of Installation Management Command.

Bingham still has a lot on her plate, though. She oversees the planning of funding and development of management policy for more than 150 installations. That includes every property worldwide in the Army inventory.

The Army recently decided to split her present role from the other command, adding a new three-star general to its roster, Lt. Gen. Kenneth Dahl, to serve as commander of Installation Management Command, which is headquartered in Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In that role, Dahl oversees the day-to-day management of about 68 Army installations.

That division of the commands, Bingham said, should allow both her and Dahl to focus better on their respective areas.

"Installation management is complex business," Bingham said.

Freed from day-to-day responsibility of managing those 68 installations, which required her predecessor to travel regularly between Fort Sam Houston and the Pentagon, Bingham can now focus on the development of regulations, programs and directives that support Soldiers and family members, as well as the funding of a wide array of properties and programs at a time when Army budgets are being pared.

Bingham said her top priority mirrors that of Secretary of the Army Eric K. Fanning and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley: readiness.

For Army installations, that means ensuring that installations can serve as "power projection platforms" for the Army even under the worst conditions, such as during power outages from the civilian power grid, or natural disasters that could disrupt regular services like gas, water, sewage or trash collection.

"Energy security is becoming an area of increased focus," she said. "I see it ... as a form of force protection and mission assurance. So being able to secure our energy on our own posts, camps and stations and installations is critical. That's an area we are putting a lot of emphasis on. We have to make sure those installations are able to do their mission."

With budgets shrinking, manpower on Army installations is also shrinking, and Bingham would like to shrink the size of the Army's "footprint" accordingly. Her focus is part of the Army's ongoing "Reduce the Footprint" initiative that seeks reduce the overall of cost maintaining infrastructure to the Army by eliminating excess infrastructure, including buildings and entire properties.

Bingham estimates that about \$450 to \$500 million a year is spent Army-wide maintaining buildings on Army properties that are underused.

"Right now we are in fiscally-constrained times. So being able to garner back dollars on reducing excess infrastructure is important," Bingham said. "If you could imagine



PHOTO BY KATHY ANDERSON

The solar array at the alternative energy corridor at Tooele Army Depot in Utah is a fiscal year 2012 Army Energy Conservation Investment Program project. Pictured here in May 2013, the 429 solar dishes are expected to provide 1.5 megawatts of electricity, approximately 30 percent of the depot's annual electric energy need, when the project is completed later this summer.

recouping that amount of money every year, and think about how we can invest that in the readiness of our Soldiers -- that's huge."

According to Army budgeting documents, the Army has requested funding for fiscal year 2017 for 19 combat training center rotations. A single such rotation costs the Army about \$25 million. If estimated savings from infrastructure reductions were aimed entirely at force readiness, the Army could double the number of CTC rotations it currently funds each year.

Among Bingham's other responsibilities is to provide oversight of morale, welfare and recreation programs, as well as family support programs Army-wide.

According to Bingham, such programs sustain 1 million Soldiers and 2.2 million family members across the Army. And with declining budgets, she is looking to identify efficiencies and build and strengthen part-

nerships to sustain that vital support for Soldiers and families.

"Realistically speaking, we won't be able to do everything at the same level that we used to do it," she admitted. "But I can assure you we will spare no effort to make sure that our Soldiers and their families have that quality of life that they so richly deserve."

She believes that partnerships with military service organizations offer one solution to maintaining continued support for Soldiers and their families.

"Any which way that we can partner to help retain as many of those programs we've had in the past, we are certainly going to do that," she said. "We've been doing that already. That's not a new initiative. Partnerships occur at every level on the installation."

Bingham has served in the Army for nearly 35 years, receiving her commission in August 1981 after graduating with a degree in management from the University of Alabama. Her first assignment in the Army put her at Fort Lewis, Washington, where she served as platoon leader of A Company, 9th Supply and Transportation Battalion, 9th Infantry Division.

Bingham has attended the U.S. Army Quartermaster Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, as well as the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

She was sworn in as the assistant chief of staff for Installation Management on June 29 and stepped into the role the following day. She is the Army's second African-American woman to make lieutenant general.

## News Briefs

### Community strengths, themes assessment

Fort Rucker is running its second biennial Health Promotions Community Strengths and Themes Assessment through Friday. The survey is 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.

### Retirement ceremony

Fort Rucker will host its quarterly retire-

ment ceremony Friday at 2 p.m. at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. All are welcome to attend and honor the post's latest retirees for their service.

### Army Community of Excellence

Fort Rucker will host a recognition ceremony for earning silver in the 2016 Army Communities of Excellence program — an annual assessment of garrisons across the Army that identifies organizations that are the epitome of excellence — Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

### Change of responsibility

The Fort Rucker Garrison will host a change of responsibility ceremony Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation

Museum. Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher D. Spivey will assume responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. William D. Lohmeyer.

### AAFES special

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service will offer military shoppers a special that will effectively double the Fort Rucker Exchange's everyday tax-free benefit. As Alabama rolls out its sales tax holidays on back-to-school items, the Fort Rucker Exchange will match tax discounts to offer an additional 10 percent off select items. Alabama's tax holiday runs Aug. 5-7. Eligible items include clothing, back packs, notebooks and other qualifying back to school merchandise.



# More paths open to OCS for enlisted

By David Vergun  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – A recent change in eligibility now allows enlisted personnel up to age 33 to apply to become officers. Also, there’s no longer a requirement to serve in the Army for six years before going to Officer Candidate School.

The current guidance – published Sept. 8, just prior to the 75th anniversary of OCS this year – is contained in Military Personnel Message 15-270 “FY16 U.S. Army Federal Officer Candidate School Program Announcement.”

“The resulting Army Readiness from OCS accessions is stronger today than it was even a decade ago, with a few adjustments to screening criteria and the requirement to hold a Baccalaureate Degree, we ensure a competitive environment for the new officer and a more diverse and stronger officer corps for our Army,” said Jon Banco, chief of Human Resource’s Command’s Officer Accession Branch.

Officers graduating this year will begin their commissioned careers on an equal academic footing as their U.S. Military Academy and ROTC counterparts, without the burden of having to enter a degree completion program before they become captains, as was the case in previous years, Banco said. All second lieutenants graduating from OCS entered training having already completed their baccalaureate degree.

Three panels will meet next year in January, May and September, to select OCS candidates, said Cliff Preetorious, OCS program manager, HRC Officer Accession Branch. An upcoming MILPER will provide eligibility requirements. The MILPER is being staffed at Army G-1 and should be published within the next few weeks.

#### Vacant seats

Capt. Jefferson Davis, assistant operations officer for OCS at Fort Benning, Georgia, said he believes many more Soldiers would apply to OCS if they learned more about the program and knew they were eligible.

Lt. Col. Mark Andres, OCS battalion commander at Benning, added that some Soldiers might not be aware of the changes in the MILPER guidance.

Banco said it’s important to review the MILPERs as guidance can change based on the accessions mission and needs of the Army.

“Regardless of the size of the military, it is important to proportionally access new officers every year to meet the needs for captains



PHOTO BY DAVID VERGUN

Officer candidate Paulette Prince leads her squad through unexpected enemy fire during a field exercise at Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga.

and majors three to five years in the future,” said Denise Corley, chief, Officer Accessions Coordination Branch, Army G-1.

The annual end state regarding volume to screen or select is influenced by Army end strength and budget requirements or constraints, Corley explained. The 150 regular Army OCS mission was the right number for this year. Every person counts, especially now in the Army’s smaller footprint. There are, and there will be continuing opportunities to apply to be part of our future cohorts,” she said.

#### Eligibility requirements

Andres said Soldiers, who are 33 years old or less at the time the OCS accessions board meets, are eligible to apply. Soldiers also need a General Technical score of 110 or higher and must have a baccalaureate degree.

Any enlisted member of any service, not just the Army, may apply, Davis added.

A complete list of requirements and instructions for applying can be found by reading MILPER 15-270. Banco reiterated, however, to keep in mind that the new MILPER that replaces it will soon be published.

The new MILPER will serve as guidance for in-service active-duty and Reserve Soldiers only, Banco said. Civilians with college degrees interested in becoming active or Reserve officers may use the forthcoming MILPER as a “guide.” Civilians interested in Army National Guard service can see a Guard recruiter.

#### Program of instruction

Andres provided an overview of the course:

- **Weeks 1 and 2:** introduction, leadership, ethics;

- **Weeks 3 and 4:** military history, competence in warrior task and battle drills confirmed by cadre;
- **Week 5:** land navigation;
- **Weeks 6 and 7:** squad-level tactical instruction;
- **Weeks 8 and half of Week 9:** squad-level evaluations on ability to lead squad through a tactical mission;
- **Half of Week 9 and Week 10:** platoon level operations;
- **Weeks 11 and 12:** mentorship aspect of what it means to become a junior officer, how officers interact with Soldiers and noncommissioned officers, Army civilians; and
- After week 12, there’s a commissioning ceremony.

Andres said the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command oversees the training and ensures that the syllabus is appropriate for commissioning second lieutenants.

“G-1 provides policy oversight for all paths for appointment to the three Army components,” said Corley.

He added that OCS follows Army Regulation 350-36, which contains military instruction requirements and OCS also ensures that the U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training task list is followed. That task list is the same as it is for the Reserve Officer Training Corps and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., the Army’s other commissioning programs.

#### Candidate’s perspective

Candidate Jonathan Winter recently completed OCS and is awaiting his secret clearance – which is still being processed by the Office of Personnel Management – before getting his second lieutenant bars. He has a four-year degree and a post-graduate Juris

Doctor degree. He will become an infantry officer.

Winter gave his perspective of OCS and compared it to Basic Combat Training, which he attended immediately prior to OCS. Both BCT and OCS are at Fort Benning.

OCS is more physically and mentally demanding than BCT, he said. However, a candidate in reasonably good physical fitness shouldn’t have any problems completing the course.

With BCT, the emphasis is on following orders and demonstrating basic Soldier competencies. In OCS, the emphasis is on leadership and critical thinking.

OCS is divided into two types of training, Winter said. There’s garrison training and leadership evaluation and then there’s field leadership training and evaluation.

In garrison evaluation, each candidate takes a different leadership role each week, from squad leader, platoon sergeant and first sergeant to platoon leader, company executive officer and company commanding officer.

For example, “when I took on the role of company commander, I was given a schedule for the week and had to ensure 90 people went from here to there. You have to be well organized and also be able to delegate responsibility,” he said.

In the field leadership exercises, “you lead your platoon and they do platoon and squad missions, patrolling and reacting to simulated attacks, getting to your objective,” he said, adding that training models are built and pre-mission briefs are conducted as well.

All of this training is under the watchful eyes of the cadre, who assist and evaluate, he said.

#### Graduation rate

Andres said that the graduation rate for candidates in fiscal year 2015 was about 84 percent. Thus far for FY16, that rate is around 90 percent.

Some candidates have to recycle, he said, particularly those without any time in the Army except for basic training.

Those who are recycled often have not yet mastered basic skills like land navigation and leadership, he said. “Those Soldiers coming from the force come much better prepared and typically succeed throughout the course.”

In FY16, there will have been 11 classes, each class containing 80 to 120 candidates. Total projected graduates for FY16, FY17 and FY18 are 850 students per year, Andres said.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

## RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

The latest instructors of the quarter were honored July 18 during a ceremony in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. The awardees were, right to left: CW3 Kevin Oaks, B Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment, 1st Aviation Brigade, Warrant Officer Academic Instructor of the Quarter; CW2 Brandon Cumens, D Co., 1st Bn., 14th Avn. Regt., 110th Avn. Bde., Officer Flight Instructor of the Quarter; Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Churchill, Fort Rucker NCO Academy, NCO Officer Academic Instructor of the Quarter; Staff Sgt. Antonio Lewis, A Co., 1st Bn., 223rd Avn. Regt., 110th Avn. Bde., NCO Flight Instructor of the Quarter; Jason Winekoff, Headquarters Headquarters Co., 1st Bn., 223rd Avn. Regt., 110th Avn. Bde., Civilian Flight Instructor of the Quarter; and Michael Edwards (not pictured), C Co., 2nd Bn., 13th Avn. Regt., 1st Avn. Bde., Civilian Flight Instructor of the Quarter.

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# Gender relations survey to assess workplace conditions

**By David Vergun**  
*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON — About 700,000 invites to participate in the “2016 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Active Duty Members” have gone out to active duty service members across the Department of Defense via email, said Dr. Elizabeth Van Winkle.

The congressionally-mandated survey, conducted once every two years, assesses the rates of sexual assault, sexual harassment and gender discrimination in the Army, as well as in the other services. It's the largest survey of its kind, said Van Winkle, who serves as the principal investigator of the WGRA.

In odd years, a similar bi-annual survey is administered to the Guard and Reserve. DMDC also surveys service academy students on a biennial schedule, as well.

Questions within the survey focus on three periods within a service member's life: the last 12 months of their service, the entirety of their military career and their life before military service.

The survey ends Sept. 29. The results, to be published next spring, are broken down by service and gender. Van Winkle said those results will be used by DOD and each of the services to determine the effectiveness of their sexual assault prevention and response programs and identify areas that need additional focus.

The results of the survey also go to Congress and the administration, and will be made public, she said.

### Importance of the survey

The Army and DOD will benefit tremendously from personnel completing the survey, Van Winkle said. Survey results will be leveraged toward fostering a climate that is not conducive to sexual harassment/sexual assault and emphasizing that these behaviors will not be tolerated.

"This is your chance to be heard," she said. "If you've experienced an unwanted behavior, we want to hear from you so we can provide the department with accurate data as to the scope of this problem and also to inform the prevention and response efforts."

"As important as it is to hear from those members who experienced these behaviors, it's equally important to hear from those members who may not have experienced these behaviors," she said. "Hearing from as many members as possible, regardless of their experiences, will help us assess the scope of the problem."

Van Winkle said she realizes how busy Soldiers are. She said the survey could take as little as 15 to 20 minutes, “but it really depends on the experiences of the members and what respondents want to tell us. We’ve offered opportunities in the survey to provide open-ended comments.”

**Were you selected?**

Since July 22, when the survey was released, Soldiers have been notified via email that they've been selected to participate.

For those Soldiers who may have recently gotten a new email address and are concerned they may have missed out on the invitation, or for those who have acci-



ARMY SHARP GRAPHIC

dentally deleted the invitation to take part in the survey, they can still visit the Defense Manpower Data Center website at <http://www.dodsurveys.mil> to find out if they've been selected to participate.

Soldiers who visit the site should click the “Am I in a DMDC Survey Sample?” button, and then enter the DOD ID number from the back of their Common Access Card. If they are among those selected to participate, the website will provide them a link to the survey.

Van Winkle said that in August, a paper form of the survey will also be mailed out to those who have not yet responded. Either the web survey or the paper version can be completed during on-duty hours, she said.

**Confidentiality protected**

For Soldiers concerned about confidentiality, Van Winkle said the survey is completely confidential.

“No identifying information is ever provided,” she said. “Our reports and data tabulation are aggregate only. We conduct disclosure reviews on all of our data

sets and products to ensure that even combinations of data elements cannot inadvertently identify a respondent. We really take this responsibility very seriously.”

## About past surveys

As part of the 2012 survey, about 26,000 active-duty DOD service members reported having experienced unwanted sexual contact. That represents about 6.1 percent of active-duty women and 1.2 percent of men, she said.

That survey showed an increase in incidence of unwanted sexual contact from the previous survey, in 2010. In 2010, around 19,000 service members indicated experiencing an unwanted sexual contact. That was about 4.4 percent of active-duty women and 0.9 percent of men.

In 2014, RAND was contracted to conduct the gender relations survey, Van Winkle said. That study showed a decrease in reports of unwanted sexual contact from 2012.

"We've seen some movement in these rates over time, which is expected

considering how crime rates often fluctuate – but we are interested in the direction of the trends,” she said.

Results of the 2016 WGRA and future ones will also monitor the experiences of women in previously-closed combat arms branches, she said.

### Possible reasons for decline in assaults

There were obviously

a lot of changes between 2012 and 2014, “particularly on leadership attention to these issues, as well as new programs and policies put out by DOD’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office,” Van Winkle said.

Besides that, the Army has expanded sexual harassment and sexual assault victim services with the opening of Sexual Ha-

rassment/Assault Response and Prevention resource centers and approved additional skill identifiers for sexual assault response coordinators and victim advocates.

Additionally, the Army is currently assessing the level of effectiveness of sexual harassment, sexual assault and retaliation prevention measures at the command level.

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# SecDef: Counter-ISIL meetings came at critical time

By Terri Moon Cronk  
*Department of Defense News*

WASHINGTON — Important initiatives to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant that evolved from mid-July’s counter-ISIL coalition meetings came at a critical time in light of recent events, Defense Secretary Ash Carter told reporters Monday.

While the motive in the recent shopping-mall shooting in Munich that left nine dead is not yet known, according to press reports, ISIL claimed responsibility for a weekend attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, the secretary said. Published reports said ISIL fighters claimed they bombed a protest march that killed more than 80 people and injured hundreds.

Carter emphasized both attacks serve as reminders of the threats overseas and in the American homeland. Carter and Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman expressed their con-



PHOTO BY MARINE CORPS SGT. DONALD HOLBERT

**Soldiers fire an M109A6 Paladin howitzer during a fire mission at Al-Taqaddum Air Base, Iraq, June 27 to support Operation Inherent Resolve.**

lences to the victims and families of both attacks in the news conference at the Pentagon.

Carter and Dunford said the U.S. resolve to stand with Germany is unshakeable. The secretary also said the U.S.-led coalition will “continue to do what we can to support the Afghan security forces as they take on the ISIL threat in that country,” adding, “We will take on ISIL cancer

wherever it spreads.”

The counter-ISIL defense ministers meeting at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, focused on three objectives, Carter said: to destroy ISIL’s parent tumor in Iraq and Syria, to combat ISIL’s metastases as it emerges around the world, and most importantly, Carter said, to support “our government, law enforcement, homeland security and intelli-

gence partners as they protect the homeland and our people.”

“We now have momentum in this fight and clear results on the ground in Iraq and Syria,” the secretary said, “and together, we made further plans and the additional commitments we’ll need to ensure our coalition delivers ISIL the lasting defeat it deserves.”

Because of the partner nations’ sacrifices and increased contributions, Carter told reporters, “we’ve seized opportunities, reinforced gains and (have) taken the fight to the enemy.”

“But we are not going to rest,” he added. “We all share an enemy in ISIL, and we are in this fight together.”

The secretary said that in addition to intense dialogue at Andrews, he also met individually with his defense counterparts from France, Australia, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Before the defense ministers meeting and following the attempted coup in Turkey, Carter

said, the Turkish defense minister assured him in a phone call that there would be no support interruptions in the collective campaign against ISIL. Carter told reporters he is pleased that coalition air operations are back on track at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey.

After the first joint counter-ISIL foreign and defense ministerial meeting at the State Department, Carter and his defense counterparts met with Secretary of State John Kerry.

“All countries represented voiced their unwavering resolve to destroy the fact and the idea of an Islamic state based on ISIL’s barbaric ideology,” Carter said.

“The counter-ISIL coalition simply cannot allow our stabilization and governance efforts to lag behind our military progress,” he added. “We also know that defeating ISIL is more than a one-country, one-military or one-ministry job. We all have work to do, and we have to work together.”

## Club

*Continued from Page A1*

concern for families of Soldiers, he added.

“I hope Sergeant First Class Huff does not take this accomplishment lightly, because the medallion that will be worn around his neck will identify him as a member of this association, so know that every Soldier will be watching

you – members and nonmembers alike,” said the NCOA commandant. “Today is a wonderful day for you, one that you should be proud of. So pat yourself on the back, but when you wake up tomorrow morning, get back after it. Show everyone that you’re worthy of this honor. Your seniors, peers and subordinates will expect you to resolve any and all issues, and complete all tasks.”

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club started in 1986 at Fort Hood, Texas, and exists to help with leader development and taking care of Soldiers and families. Club members participate in numerous community and family support activities throughout the year, as well as help run the USAACE-level ceremonies on the installation by providing narrators, award bearers and personnel.

## Job

*Continued from Page A1*

people to get the opportunity to learn about.

Marissa Daniels, civilian from Ozark, said when she heard about the job fair, she jumped at the opportunity to come out to make connections.

“I wanted to get out here because a lot of

times it’s about the people you know, and it’s not easy to make those connections with different companies if you don’t already have your foot in the door,” she said. “This gives you a chance to meet these people and make a connection with them. When they meet you, you have the chance to make an impression, and I think that makes all the difference.”

Daniels, who currently works in the food service industry, attended college and earned her degree in finance, but hasn’t been able to secure a job in her field.

“I worked very hard to get my degree and I want to make sure all the time I put in doesn’t go to waste, so I take every opportunity I can to get my name out there,” she said. “I feel like I made some good

connections today and hopefully it will lead to something more for me very soon.

“The job hunt can be tough at times, but when there is something like this job fair, it takes a lot of the work out of having to go through that process,” said Daniels. “It’s almost like it takes out the middle man and gives you a direct line to the employer, and for that I’m grateful.”

## School

*Continued from Page A1*

will be driving to school off post doing the school zone times about safety and distracted driving.”

According to Contreras, parents should also teach their children to be aware of personal safety and the importance of safety in numbers.

“Avoid talking to strangers,” she said. “Teach your children to get distance between themselves and anyone who tries to approach or make contact with them. If a stranger does approach your child, make sure they know to immediately report the incident to you or a teacher. Have your children try and walk to school with other students. There is strength in numbers.”

Contreras added that parents should remember the Installation Child Supervision Policy.

“If (you’re) not familiar with it, a copy can be obtained from the Fort Rucker intranet,” she said.

According to Dr. Debbie Deas, Fort Rucker Primary School principal, teachers will gain extra tools to help them give students an edge this year.

“Teachers are receiving two additional days of math professional development before school begins,” she said. “This will strengthen their skills and be a review before school begins. New support materials have also arrived to be used as an additional resource for them in teaching the College and Career Readiness Standards for Math.

“Teachers will have three days in their classroom to prepare for students,” she added. “During this time, they will get lesson plans organized, put the final touches on their classroom and attend in-school meetings.”

Deas added that parents can also help their children

prepare for the first day or school with a few simple steps.

“Parents should implement a healthy schedule for their children,” she said. “Make sure they get plenty of rest and that they know what to expect on their first day.

“Some of our students are starting school for the very first time in their lives so they are thrilled to see their classrooms, to make new friends and are excited to meet their teachers,” she added. “Returning students are happy to see their old friends and are eager to meet their new teachers, as well.”

Parents and students should also keep in mind a few important changes for the upcoming school year, according to Deas.

“Our early release day is Thursday this year instead of Wednesday,” she said. “Students will be released at 1:45 p.m. every Thursday, beginning on the first day, Aug. 4.

“Another important change – all bus riders (grades pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first) must be accompanied to and from the bus stop,” she added. “This is in line with post regulations.”

How do faculty members feel about the fast-approaching school year?

“I can’t wait,” Gilmer said. “Summer time is always nice to get things reloaded and restarted, but the most important thing to us is the kids and the families. Just having the opportunity to serve and watch those young minds

grow is amazing.”

Registration remains open and parents who have

not registered their children are urged to do so.

For more information,

call the primary school at 255-2822 and FRES at 255-1607.

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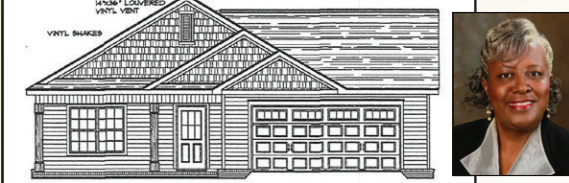
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**124 CR 442:** Daleville: Only about ten miles to Wal-Mart, but on the road to the beach, this three bedroom, one bath home is situated on two lots. It has laminated wood and tile flooring except for the bathroom which is ceramic tile. All appliances to remain to include the washer and dryer (no warranty on W/D). There are still a few electric wall heaters that are working, but a central heating and cooling unit has been added in the last 15 years. Well is in shad along with a separating wall for storage. Plenty of room for RV. **EVELYN HITCH 406-3436**

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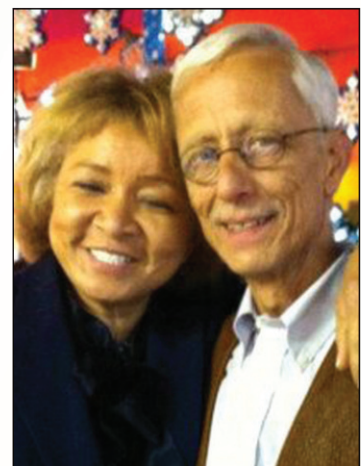
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JULY 28, 2016

## HALL OF HEROES



Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning, Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Daniel Allyn and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey present a framed Medal of Honor citation to retired Lt. Col. Charles Kettles during the Hall of Heroes Induction Ceremony at the Pentagon July 19.

PHOTO BY SGT. ALICIA BRAND

## Pentagon inducts Vietnam War Aviator during ceremony

By C. Todd Lopez  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — “Of all the details of this mission on the table, saving the 44 men is the only thing that matters,” said retired Lt. Col. Charles Kettles, the most recent recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Kettles was inducted into the Pentagon’s Hall of Heroes July 19. During the induction ceremony, Kettles was joined by several hundred others, including Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter, Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Daniel B. Allyn and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey.

Nearly 50 years ago, on May 15, 1967, Kettles led a team of helicopters into the jungles of Vietnam under heavy enemy fire to rescue Soldiers from an enemy engagement where they had been severely over-matched by enemy combatants.

Later that day, just when everyone expected that the rescue operations were over, they learned that eight more Soldiers remained behind.

“Charles didn’t hesitate, he immediately broke off, passed flight lead to another aircraft, and returned for a fourth landing into that landing zone, to bring everybody

SEE HEROES, PAGE B4



PHOTOS BY NAVY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS DOMINIQUE A. PINEIRO

Marine Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, meets with Afghan Air Force Brig. Gen. Eng A. Shafi, during an assessment of the Train, Advise, Assist Command-Air in Kabul July 16.

## Aviation brings asymmetric advantage to Afghan force

By Lisa Ferdinando  
Department of Defense News

KABUL, Afghanistan — As the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff attended briefings at the U.S. Air Force’s 438th Air Expeditionary Wing at Kabul International Airport here, a special delivery arrived for the Afghan air force.

Five new MD-530 Cayuse Warrior helicopters were wheeled off a C-17 Globemaster III transport from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. The attack helicopters were moved into position where Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford would soon inspect those and other aircraft used by Afghan forces in the fight against the Taliban.

Air Force Lt. Col. James Detweiler, 438th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group deputy commander, said the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing/Train, Advise, Assist Command-Air is supporting a functional, capable and sustainable Afghan air force.

“It takes quite a while to build an air force, especially when you’re trying to almost build it from scratch,” he said. With the latest delivery, the Afghan air force has 23 MD-530s.

An objective of the training mission is to teach the Afghans how to integrate the air power with other air assets and ground forces, he said.

While U.S. pilots are fully trained before undertaking a mission, the Afghan forces are training while executing combat missions, Detweiler said, adding that the Afghan forces are resilient and eager to learn.

“It’s really impressive to watch them work and continue to move through the problem sets and continue training, continue flying combat operations all at the same time,” he said.

Airpower, both from the United States and the burgeoning Afghan air force, is a critical element in the fight against the Taliban, Dunford told reporters.

“Aviation for the Afghan security forces is an asymmetric advantage for the Afghan security forces,” he said on his plane after concluding the July 14-17 visit to Afghanistan. “I think that is what’s going to allow them to continue to maintain momentum this year.”

A priority of the trip, he pointed out, was to see the Afghan air force and talk about recapitalizing the Afghan air force, which he described as a “major combat multiplier.”

Aircraft in Afghanistan’s fleet include C-130s and A-29s, while the United States can provide a variety of air support, including with unmanned aircraft systems, fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, reconnaissance flights, and lift for resupply, military officials said.

In an interview at Resolute Support headquarters, Maj. Gen. Richard Kaiser reiterated the process in



PHOTO BY CAPT. ADAN CAZAREZ

Capt. Daniel Prial inspects a UH-60 Black Hawk before participating in a routine flight over Fort Bragg, N.C., July 12. Prial is a pilot assigned to the 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion.

## ‘MAJOR MILESTONE’

## Shadow UAS surpasses 1 million flight hours

By Kari Hawkins  
U.S. Army Aviation and Missile  
Life Cycle Management Command  
Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL — The success of the Shadow unmanned aircraft system was celebrated July 14 with accolades, photo ops and a cake cutting recognizing its major milestone in surpassing 1 million flight hours.

The event, held on the Sparkman Center parade field, brought together the team of government and industry employees who have worked on the Shadow UAS program since its inception in 2002.

The words expressed by leadership at the ceremony repeatedly were: “Thank you.”

“Congratulate yourself,” Col. Courtney Cote, the project manager for UAS under the Program Executive Office for Aviation, said.

“Pat yourself on the back because you have achieved a major milestone and delivered a capability that Soldiers can’t get enough of,” Cote said.

Shadow employees might not hear words of thanks from Soldiers flying the system in theater, he said, but because of their success in contracting, managing and testing the UAS they have earned the trust of Soldiers and their commanders in providing a de-

pendable system for improved intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and target acquisition.

“The work of this team is unseen, unrecognized and, sometimes, under-appreciated,” Cote said. “This achievement is both awe-inspiring and humbling.”

Shadow, a 500-pound, three-man operated UAS, surpassed 1 million flight hours May 12 on a mission over Europe operated by Soldiers in support of the 4th Infantry Division. Just under 90 percent of those 1 million flight hours were flown on combat missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the world. Shadow UAS has deployed 67 times in Southwest Asia alone, and has maintained more than 90 percent availability with more than 200,000 mission flights. Today, there are more than 100 Shadow systems in operation, and 2,300 Soldiers qualified to operate the system.

“One million flight hours represent 14 years of work by an amazing partnership of government and industry employees,” said Lt. Col. Tory Burgess, product manager for Tactical UAS, which includes Shadow UAS.

“The Army has a rich history of UAS and Shadow is one of the first systems in combat operations. It’s used by brigade combat teams, combat Aviation brigades, Special Forces groups and the

Marine Corps. We continue to make improvements every day to ensure we give the absolutely best capability to our Soldiers.”

Burgess said there are numerous reports of how Shadow UAS has assisted commanders and Soldiers in theater. He mentioned a routine patrol where the Shadow recorded insurgents burying an improvised explosive device along a route regularly traveled by U.S. forces. The real-time video of the activity was provided to commanders and then the Shadow guided attack aircraft to the target for a successful strike.

“Shadow allows commanders to see what is happening on the ground so the unit can decide what needs to be done,” Burgess said. “What our employees do matters to Soldiers in the field and sometimes the thanks may be slow in coming. Soldiers are never going to call to say thanks for that contract package you put together that saved their lives. But we will continue to do our job to the best of our abilities so Soldiers and Marines can do their jobs to the best of their abilities.”

Because of Shadow UAS success, Cote told Burgess and the employees gathered for the ceremony that the demand for the system is insatiable.

“Brace yourself,” he said. “What you do is very important and because of what you do they need more of it.”



PHOTO BY SPC. RYAN TATUM

A Shadow UAS launches at Drawsko Pomorskie Training Area, Poland, June 10 in support of Exercise Anakonda 16. Soldiers from the 10th Engineer Battalion made history, becoming the first U.S. military unit to fly a Shadow in Poland.

SEE AVIATION, PAGE B4



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# Heroes

Continued from Page B1

home,” recounted Allyn.

“Kettles once again vanquished his fears, bouncing several hundred feet into that landing zone. There, the enemy was able to concentrate its efforts on Kettle’s single aircraft. Smoke billowed inside, the aircraft lurched from left to right, but somehow, some way, he was able to fly it, coax it, will it out of that landing zone.”

“Lieutenant Colonel Kettles demonstrated his commitment and deep-seated loyalty to all those men, and our entire nation, by his actions that day. He did not quit. He refused to leave any Soldier behind,” Allyn said.

In all, the total rescue operations involved some 74 helicopter crewmembers who ended up saving the lives of 44 Soldiers.

"It is fitting that we acknowledge and share the honor with the 74 helicopter crewmembers who were involved in the total mission on that date," Kettles said. "It belongs to them, who, with their deep regard for their fellow Soldiers, minimized the losses that day."

A plaque bearing Kettles name will soon join those of other Medal of Honor recipients that line the walls of the Hall of Heroes, commemorating his having received the Medal of Honor for his action back in Vietnam. But across the river, in Washington, D.C., there is another wall with some 58,000 names engraved on it.

“Every name represents great loss for a family and our nation,” Carter said.

The names of the 44 men Ket-

bles was credited with helping save are not on that wall, however, because he fearlessly led the team that ensured those men got home from battle that day, Carter said.

“How many Thanksgiving tables have had an extra chair through the years because of his actions?” Carter asked. “How many weddings, childbirths and graduations were made possible because Maj. Kettles and his crew returned again and again to the hot landing zone in the Song Tra Cau riverbed?”

Nobody but Kettles knows exactly what he was thinking that day in Vietnam or what he expected to happen exactly, Carter said. But Carter believes he knows what motivated Kettles. It's the same thing that motivates all good Soldiers.

“Duty, honor, country and the deeply held conviction that we will never leave a Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine behind,” Carter said. “For many American service members in harm’s way, the first indication they would see their family again was the sound of helicopter blades beating against the sky. Without the valor of the helicopter pilots in Vietnam, countless additional names would have been added to the wall across the river.”

Today, Carter reminded his audience, military pilots still undertake that same mission over Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

In his remarks, Fanning said he and Kettles share a kinship of sorts, being that the two are both Michigan natives.

He said that as a "Michigander," and with the heart of Amer-

ica's auto industry nearby in Detroit, "chances are you spent some time with machines."

“For Chuck Kettles, that meant a love affair with engines and Aviation form the very start of his life, from his education at Edison Institute in Dearborn, where he practiced on the flight simulator, to his work with cars and engines at his Ford dealership, we see some of what prepared him to be an Army Aviator,” Fanning said.

“The Huey that Chuck flew was a pioneering machine at the time, but he knew instinctively how to get the most out of it. While the deeds we honor today are the product of great courage and valor, they have their roots in what he learned growing up in Michigan.”

While Kettles had trained to fly early in life as a "Citizen Soldier," it wasn't training alone that accounted for his heroic achievements in Vietnam, Fanning said.

“Our admiration for Lieutenant Colonel Kettles comes from his acts of heroism, but also from his quiet professionalism – from how, on the day of his greatest testing, just with all other days, he embodied the Army values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.”

Kettles remained humble after the plaque bearing his name and the names of other Medal of Honor recipients was revealed. The Hall of Heroes contains more than a dozen plaques, bearing the names of more than 3,400 Medal of Honor recipients from all services, grouped by conflict.

Kettles knows personally at least two of those recipients, in-

cluding Master Sgt. Raul Perez "Roy" Benavidez and Maj. William E. Adams, both of whom earned the honor for their own actions in Vietnam.

He said that while the Medal of Honor he wears around his neck can be worn by just one person, it represents the heroic actions of all the Soldiers involved in the operation that day in May 1967, in Vietnam.

Some of those men had been with Kettles at the White House, the day before, when President Barack Obama placed the medal around his neck. At the Hall of Heroes induction ceremony in the Pentagon were two of Kettles' battle buddies, Don Long and Ron Roy.

"Between lifts into the landing zone, (they) brought ammunition in for resupply," Kettles said of the two men. "One such trip they took a mortar round on the mast of the helicopter."

The two had to exit the helicopter as a result of the damage. Long was injured. They joined up with the infantry.

"There were 40 infantrymen and four crew members with .38s. We didn't add a lot to the firepower. We were kind of in their way at times. We had a great leader who got things done," said Roy of their experience being with the infantry that day.

"To go borrow aircraft from another company, after all yours got shot down, that takes a lot of guts. And guts in the other unit too, pilots that came back in with Lieutenant Colonel Kettles to come get us. Everybody knew what they were flying into. There was no question. It was not going

to be pleasant.”

John Osborne, who was crew chief on the helicopter that Kettles flew into the landing zone for that last mission, also attended the induction ceremony Pentagon with Kettles and his battle buddies.

“During that mission he took a shrapnel round in the knee,” Kettles said of Osborne. “He refused to accept a Purple Heart – he regarded (the wound) as nothing.”

"At one point I was scared to death," Osborne remembered. "I regained a little bit of composure and we had set back down. That's when we really took the heat. But thank God we were able to get these people out. This man saved all of our lives. He got us out under adverse conditions."

Of Matt McGuire, a gunship leader, Kettles recalled, “in spite of the damage to each of his helicopters, Matt was always there.”

"On that final extraction, there was only one aircraft for everybody to focus on and shoot at," McGuire said of Kettle's helicopter on the last run. McGuire attended the Pentagon ceremony, too, and was present at the White House to see Kettles receive his medal.

“And the courage and the valor and commitment to the mission, saving those souls ... is truly more than deserving of the Medal of Honor,” he said, “because you were going into a really bad area. There wasn’t much predictability of success. You believed in your skill, you believed in your crew and that’s what made a difference. That’s why I am proud to be part of the brotherhood of Aviation.”

# Aviation

Continued from Page B1

building an air force, but said the Afghans are doing well and have proven very effective. Kaiser is the commander of Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan and Resolute Support's deputy chief of staff for security assistance.

He welcomed the delivery of the five MD-530s, saying those helicopters are another element in building a strong

air force for Afghanistan. “The ability for the Afghans to have an air force that they can look at (and) rely upon has absolutely built their confidence up.”

The increased capabilities of the Afghan forces, coupled with a renewed international commitment to Afghanistan, have encouraged the Afghan people and the security forces, said Gen. John W. Nicholson, the commander of Resolute Support and U.S. Forces Afghanistan, who spoke in a separate interview.

“The ability to help the Afghan security forces when they are on the offense is really where we want to be,” Nicholson explained, “because when they have the initiative, when they’re on the offense, when they’re taking the fight to the enemy, that’s how they are going to be successful.”

The general expressed confidence in the future of Afghanistan: "I think we're on a positive trajectory going forward," he said.

This is a vertical advertisement for "The Diner". At the top left, it says "FRESH FOOD COOKED FAST!". At the top right, it says "OPEN EVERYDAY 6:00AM - 9:00PM". In the center, there's a diamond-shaped logo with a black and white checkered border containing the name "The Diner" in a stylized font. Below the logo, on the left, it says "TAKE-OUT & CATERING AVAILABLE". On the right, it gives the address "756 N. Daleville Ave Daleville, AL" and a note "(Outside Daleville/Ft Rucker Gate)". A large phone number "598-1794" is prominently displayed. The middle section features the text "Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner..." followed by "ANYTIME" in very large letters, and "HOME OF THE WORLD RENOWN BREAKFAST BURRITO". A red starburst graphic on the left contains the text "OUR REUBEN SANDWICH... DELICIOUS!". To its right, it says "We Patty our FRESH BEEF Burgers!". The bottom half of the ad shows a close-up of a large Reuben sandwich cut in half, revealing layers of corned beef, Swiss cheese, sauerkraut, and Thousand Island dressing on rye bread. At the very bottom, a banner reads "Nothing could be finer...than eating at THE DINER!".



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# GIRLS NIGHT OUT

*Giveaways, music, pampering make for a 'really good time'*

By Nathan Pfau  
Army Flier Staff Writer

Hundreds of women from across the Wiregrass flocked to Fort Rucker for one its most popular events that catered specifically to them.

The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and recreation held its Girls Night Out for the second time this year at The Landing Friday where ladies from all over had the chance to shop, dance and win dozens of prizes throughout the night, said Aida Stallings, DFMWR community recreation division business manager.

"This is a fun event where people get to get out with their girlfriends, get pampered and leave with some really nice things," Stallings said. "We always provide great giveaways with great music and dancing, and everyone has a good time."

Throughout the night, ladies were able to browse booths from different organizations, including local shops, spas, vacation destinations, cosmetics, jewelry and even medical specialists that cater specifically to women. They were also treated to giveaways that included a grand door prize of a Michael Kors bag.

For Rakita Harding, civilian, it was a great way for her and her friends to get out of the house and enjoy some time together.

"Friday nights are usually our girl's nights anyway, so we decided to come out here for the first time and check it out," she said. "We'd always heard about it before but never came, but we're glad we did because it's actually a really good time. I didn't know there was so much here for us to be able to look at."

"If I had known that I could have a chance to win a Michael Kors bag, I would have been here every time and I'm sure I'll be coming to many more of these," said Harding. "It really



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

Attendees dance during Girls Night Out at the Landing Friday.



Sara Seymour, Queen Mary Tea consultant, speaks with customers about her products.

has been a good time and I'm glad we made it out here."

Although the night is meant as a way for women in the area to let loose and have a good time, it's also a way for local businesses to get their names out and provide their services to a broader audience, and that's exactly what one vendor said she was able to achieve.

Sara Seymour, Queen Mary Tea consultant, has normally attended the event as a patron, but this year was able to attend as a vendor, providing people information on her products, and bringing her products to Girls Night Out was something she considered a "smart business venture."

"There is always a multitude of people at the event who are looking to buy and learn about new products, so it seemed like a no-brainer way to expand my home business," she said. "I think it's beneficial to local businesses because it is a sure way to attract new customers, re-establish old customers and just get their name out there in general. Nothing beats a good advertising event."

Seymour said she was able to reach out to at least 100 new



Lucy Sconyers and Kelli Dooley, civilians, pose in the photo booth.

customers at the event, giving her the opportunity to expand her small business.

"(This event) was a perfect way to expand my customer base," she said. "Whereas before I had around 20 customers, I now have more than 50. It can only grow from there now, thanks to the outreach of Girls Night Out."

# CULTIVATING MINDS

*GEMS program gives students edge in science, math*

By Nathan Pfau  
Army Flier Staff Writer

School will be starting in the coming weeks, but some students will have a head start when it comes to their education through one program on Fort Rucker designed to cultivate minds.

The U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory held its final session of the Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science program, which ran July 18 through Friday, with lessons and experiments on biochemistry, nanotechnology and neuroscience, stimulating the minds of students ranging from grades four to 11.

"GEMS has been very successful this summer," said Dr. Lori St. Onge, USAARL research administration manager and GEMS program coordinator. "We ended up having 383 students participate with 28 staff members, in addition to eight (Department of Defense Education Activity) observing teachers participate in the program. It's the largest group we've had since we started back in 2011."

The general feedback throughout the program has been positive with many repeat students going through the program, such as Daniel McConeghy and Hunter Savell, who said they enjoyed what the program was able to provide for them.

"I just moved here a little over a year ago and we first heard about this program through a neighbor," said Savell. "It sounded fun because I love science and math, and it just seemed like a lot of fun. I wish this is was what school was like. Sometimes, for the science, you don't get to do any of the experiments in school like you do here."

McConeghy, who will be going into the fifth grade, said he first heard about GEMS when his science teacher gave him a flier about the program. From there he did a little research online and then asked his father if he could go through the program. To



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

GEMS students work on their structural bridges during the nanotechnology module.

his delight, the answer was yes.

"I want to be a doctor when I grow up, so I want to go all the way through the program in the upper grades, because in 11th grade I can do medical GEMS, so I'm excited for that," he said.

Although they're not quite to the medical portion yet, during their time in GEMS they focused a lot on neuroscience where they learned about how the brain works, different parts of the brain, and the different senses.

To give them more of a hands-on approach, they even got the chance to dissect a cow eyeball.

"It helped us learn about how the eyes focus onto the retina," said McConeghy.

In other modules, students were focusing on biochemistry where they learned about polymers and how they react with other substances, according to Latasha Henderson, GEMS resource teacher for the

biochemistry module.

Throughout the biochemistry module the students also got the chance to learn about DNA, even extracting DNA from wheat germ and different fruits.

Although these experiments might seem daunting to some, the students had no problem with the help of their near-peer mentors to help out.

Zach Den Besten, who is a college student at Huntington College, is one of those mentors and he said he enjoyed helping the students learn.

"I love science, so I want to get them excited about it, too," he said. "I love teaching and I really enjoy the kids. A lot of these kids remind me of me when I was their age, so I love to be here and teach them."

For Fareeda Adejumo, GEMS student going into 10th grade, the program was also a lesson in teamwork and working as one.

"We had to build straw towers to help us

study structural integrity," she said. "This program helps us learn about communication and teamwork because you have to work together to build these things. You can't do it all by yourself."

All of the lessons combined with the help of different organizations on post are what help to make the program so successful, according to St. Onge.

"If we didn't have other organizations on Fort Rucker willing to let us use their facilities, we could not have the program with this number of students," said the program coordinator. "This is not just a STEM camp. This is their opportunity to learn about career opportunities within the Department of Defense and within the Army, and this helps them get a head start on learning about those career opportunities. It really is a community effort. Without the support of the installation and leadership, none of this would be possible."



# ON POST

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

**Relocation readiness workshop**

Army Community Service will host its relocation readiness workshop Friday from 9-10 a.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 371D. Soldiers and spouses will receive information on benefits, entitlements, advance pay, government travel cards and more.

For more information or to register, 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 Aug. 4. 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.

**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.

**River float tube trip**

MWR Central will offer a river float tube trip to Milton, Florida, at Adventures Unlimited Aug. 20. The trip will include four hours of tubing along Coldwater Creek, past secluded sugar white sandbars and through Blackwater River State Forest. Cost is \$35 per person for regular tubes and \$40 per person for deluxe tubes. Trip includes transportation and a tube to ride the river. Registration deadline is Aug. 5.

People can sign up at MWR Central. For more information, call 255-2997 or 255-9517.

**Back to School Craft**

The Center Library will host a back-to-school craft session Aug. 9 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. for children ages 3-11. The event is open to authorized patrons and limited to the first 65 children to register. Light refreshments will be served.

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

**Thrift Savings Plan 101**

Army Community Service will host its Thrift Savings Plan 101 class Aug. 10 from 9-10 a.m. at the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 282. Topics will include: why invest with the Thrift Savings Plan, how to start a contribution, discussion of risk tolerance, traditional or Roth account, discussion of the five core funds and lifecycle funds, and diversification. Pre-registration is required by Aug. 9. Free childcare is available with registration.

For more information and to register, call 255-9631.

**Family resilience training**

Army Community Service will host family member resilience training Aug. 11 from 9-11:30 a.m. at The Commons. The course is designed to give Army family members 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.

**SAC open house, ice box party**

The Fort Rucker Youth Center will host an open house and ice box party Aug. 12 from 5-7 p.m. The event will feature frozen yogurt, popsicles, ice cream, sundaes, smoothies and root beer floats, along with activities designed to show what the facility offers. Youth art projects will also be on display.

For more information, call 255-2260.

**Baby sign language class**

The new parent support program and the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind will host a baby sign language class Aug. 16 from 9-11 a.m. at the Munson Heights Community Center. The free class teaches



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

## Right Arm Night

The Landing Zone will host Right Arm Night today from 4-6 p.m., hosted by the 1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment. Right Arm Night is an Army tradition, promoting a night of camaraderie and esprit de corps as leaders come together and treat those who help them accomplish the mission. Complimentary appetizers will be served while supplies last. Right Arm Night is held every month, and both military and civilians are welcome. For more information, call 255-0768.

expectant parents and those with young children how to communicate with their child and avoid frustrations associated with language development. Registration deadline is Aug. 10.

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

**Mom & Me: Dad too!**

Army Community Service hosts its Mom & Me: Dad too! playgroup Mondays from 9:30-11 a.m. at The Commons. The playgroup is for families with children ages birth to 3 years old.

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

**Purple Extravaganza Skate Night**

The Fort Rucker School Age Center will host its Purple Extravaganza Skate Night Aug. 19. The event will feature giveaways to see who can wear the most purple. Safety skate will take place 6:15-7:15 p.m. for \$2 – parents must accompany children at all times. Regular skate is 7:30-9:30 p.m. and costs \$5. Attendees must be registered members of child, youth and school services, and are asked to bring exact change.

For more information, call 255-9108.

**Newcomers welcome**

Army Community Service will host a newcomers welcome Aug. 19 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.

**Illusionist show**

The Landing will host an illusionist show Aug. 26 from 7-9 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$16 at the door. Advance tickets are available for purchase at The Landing, Coffee Zones or MWR Central. VIP tables cost \$150 (10 tickets). The family-friendly event is open to ages 12 and older – youth ages 12-17 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call 255-9810.

**Summer Luau**

The SPLASH! 2016 Summer Luau is scheduled for Aug. 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The luau will feature a limbo contest where the winner will receive free guest passes; a T-shirt tie-dyeing station – participants bring their own T-shirt from home; a dunk tank; corn hole stations; a bouncy house; swimming; a water slide; and an aqua climb rock wall. There will also be luau-themed food for purchase on the top patio from The Landing Zone. Cost for this event will be the daily admission fee or pass-holder fee.

For more information, call 255-9162.

**Parenting workshop**

Army Community Service’s Exceptional

# DFMWR Spotlight

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Youth ages 17 & under must be accompanied by an adult ages 18+. Minimum of 75 participants is needed in order for event to take place. If minimum number is not met, event is subject to cancellation.

**FORT RUCKER BINGO, (334) 255-9626**

Family Member Program will host a Specialized Training of Military Parents Workshop Aug. 25-26 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 pm at The Commons. The two-day workshop will guide families with special needs children through complex systems that exist in the military, and educational programs within their community. This is an opportunity for parents to network with peers and professionals to gain knowledge about the local community and available sources.

For information on child care and to register, call 255-9277 or 255-3643, or register online at <http://stompfortrucker.eventbrite.com>.

**Car seat safety class**

September is Baby Safety Month, and the Fort Rucker New Parent Support Program and a certified child passenger safety technician are partnering to teach a child seat safety class Sept. 1 from 9-10 a.m. at The Commons, Bldg. 8950. The CPST will also conduct car seat checks from 10 a.m. to noon. The workshop is open to active-duty and retired military, Department of Defense employees and family members. Registration is required by Aug. 28.

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

## FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR JULY 28-31

**Thursday, July 28**

**Star Trek Beyond (PG-13)** .....7 p.m.

**Friday, July 29**

**Star Trek Beyond (PG-13)** .....7 p.m.

**Saturday, July 30**

**Studio Appreciation Advance Screening – Free Admission – (PG-13)** .....7 p.m.

**Sunday, July 31**

**Central Intelligence (PG-13)** ...4 & 7 p.m.



# SOLDIER STORIES

## *New series aims to expose human side of Soldiers*

By Gary Sheftick  
Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. — Army broadcasters recently filmed at Fort Hood, Texas, for a new video series that will debut this fall.

Simply titled “Soldiers,” the show aims to expose the human side of those who serve in the Army. The episode under production this week focuses on a Soldier who is not only coaching boxing, but coaching other Soldiers on how to deal with their post-traumatic stress.

“We wanted to break the mold in DOD storytelling,” said producer Peter Ising.

“There are going to be some episodes that make you cry, some that make you laugh, some that are filled with action,” he said.

The program takes a bold look behind the scenes to show a side of Soldiers not normally seen, said Lance Milsted, chief of Soldiers Broadcasting at the Defense Media Activity. It also looks at family members and veterans, he said.

His aim was to have ‘Soldiers’ unveil the extraordinary and varied lives of those in the Army from a first-person viewpoint.

“The thing we want to highlight is Soldiers telling the Soldier story,” said Staff Sgt. Jose Ibarra, NCOIC of Soldiers Broadcasting and DOD broadcaster of the year for 2013.

The objective is to show the “real life of a Soldier,” Ising added.

### Episodes

Ising and Sgt. Nathaniel Phillips recently focused on Command Sgt. Maj. Edgar Fuentes of the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, part of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. The episode delves into how Fuentes used boxing and coaching to overcome PTSD and how he has been able to help other Soldiers with their invisible injuries.

The first episode produced for the new series is about a young boy in San Antonio, Texas, who is part of the Exceptional Family Member Program. Diego, a 10-year-old boy who is missing a leg, enjoys riding his recumbent bike with wounded warriors. He says the wounded Soldiers inspire him, but they insist it’s Diego who inspires them.

The following are other episodes scheduled to air this fall in the first season.

- **Dog Tag Bakery:** This episode is about transitioning from active duty to the civilian workforce. The bakery has a work-study program for veterans with service-related disabilities.
- **City Soldier:** will explore what it’s like to be a Soldier serving in New York City – as a recruiter in Times Square, or as an activated member of the New York National Guard helping safeguard the subway and metropolis as part of “Empire Shield” since 9/11.
- **Warrior Games:** focuses on a Soldier and veteran who compete in adaptive sports. Staff Sgt. Greg Quarles, a former Ranger School instructor, said adaptive sports helped bring him out of a “dark place” of depression after



PHOTO BY SGT. JOSE TORRES JR.

An interview with Command Sgt. Maj. Edgar Fuentes is filmed at a boxing training facility outside of Fort Hood, Texas, July 19 for an episode of the new video series ‘Soldiers’ that will debut this fall.

his injury. Former Sgt. Ana Manciaz lost her leg in a motorcycle accident and said bicycle racing has helped her overcome her fears to get back in the saddle.

- **Sullivan Cup:** follows an M-1 tank crew through training at Fort Stewart, Georgia, through competing in the bi-annual Sullivan Cup gunnery competition at Fort Benning.

The series will be available this fall on DefenseTV.com, and its app on Apple TV and Roku. All six episodes will be released at once, so as to allow viewers who whet their appetite with the first episode to see more.

### ‘Putting in heart’

Sgt. Audrey Santana hosted the first episode. Her daughter, Cecelia, 4, is in EFMP, like Diego.

“That kind of triggered something for me,” Santana said. “This is something I could really put my heart into, because it’s a lot like me and my family – I could relate. I could talk to them as someone who’s coming from the same place – someone who understands the program, who understands the struggles, the hardships ... the good times, the bad times.”

When she sat down to talk to Diego’s mother, Santana said it was a very open conversation – like two mothers chatting over coffee. There was rapport and there was also an emotional investment, she added.

The segment on Diego benefited from that emotional investment, Santana said, and the passion of those portrayed shows on the screen as well. One of the goals for the series, she said, was to let the emotion of Soldiers shine through in every episode.



PHOTO BY SGT. JOSE TORRES JR.

Fuentes coaches a boxer at a training facility outside of Fort Hood.



PHOTO BY PETE ISING

Former Sgt. Ana Manciaz is interviewed by Staff Sgt. Jose Ibarra during the Army Trials for the Warrior Games at Fort Bliss, Texas, in April.

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# CYBER GRAND CHALLENGE

## Bug-hunting computers to compete in DARPA event

By Cheryl Pellerin  
Department of Defense

WASHINGTON — On Aug. 4 in Las Vegas, seven computers will compete in the first all-machine cyber defense tournament, the result of a multiyear effort by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency to bring autonomy to the problem of making computers secure.

Mike Walker, program manager for DARPA's Cyber Grand Challenge, discussed what the agency and the seven finalist teams set out to do and what the world will see during the final hours of a competition that eventually could deliver cybersecurity at network speeds by computers that look at all the bits, all the time, without human help.

"Today the comprehension (of) and reaction to unknown flaws in software is entirely manual," Walker said during a recent media teleconference.

The best statistics indicate that when intruders have access to an unknown flaw and are using it to break into computers, on average they can use the flaw for 312 days before it's discovered, and software vendors have about 24 median days to patch, he said. Both of those times are coming down, he added, but the amount of time it takes to discover, comprehend and react to an unknown flaw is about a year.

"We want to build autonomous systems that can arrive at their own insights about unknown flaws, do their own analysis, make their own risk-equity decisions about when to field a patch and how to manage that patching process autonomously," Walker said, "and bring that entire ... timeline down from a year to minutes or seconds."

### Bug hunting

DARPA launched the challenge in 2013 and has so far spent \$55 million on the effort. In October that year, it opened up a track for teams who wanted to submit a proposal and receive initial funding to compete, and an open track for anyone in the world who wanted to enter their own intellectual property without DARPA funding.

Walker said development and work on the challenge began in June 2014, and the qualifier stage for those who entered the competition ran until June 2015.

"At the end of the qualifier stage, we held a contest that was executed live on the internet for 24 hours," he said, "where we gave 131 pieces of unexamined software to all competitors simultaneously and asked the machines to bug hunt those pieces of software in 24 hours and submit bug reports directly to DARPA."

The results of the contest showed that, of the 590 known flaws in the publicly available software corpus, the machines mitigated 100 percent of them, Walker said, noting that no individual competitor achieved that result or even came close. Only by taking the best solution from each competitor in the field could it be achieved, he said, and all the teams learned from one another. Individually though, the machines successfully bug-hunted



PHOTO BY SGT. STEPHANIE A. HARGETT

Finding and reacting to unknown flaws in software is entirely manual, as demonstrated by these assessment team members who are collecting data to analyze blue and red team attacks and defenses during exercise Cyber Shield 2016 at Camp Atterbury, Ind., April 28.

73 percent of the challenges, he added, finding and proving at least one security-critical flaw in the software.

"We don't require systems to write exploits, but they do have to prove vulnerability and gain very specific control of software and indicate that to a DARPA referee," Walker said, adding that the goal is to create defenses that can prevent vulnerability from happening.

In Las Vegas, Walker said, he'll be most excited to see the mix the machines decide to use of generic binary armoring, which doesn't target specific bugs and is all over the program, slowing it down, and point patching, which very quickly fixes specific bugs but requires a lot of expertise.

"I will say that in all the results all of our machines released in 2015 as the result of our qualifiers, we did see point patching -- very effective point patching written by an expert system," Walker said, "and that was actually one of the reverse engineering tests that was most convincing" when he and his team were thinking about executing the second year of the Cyber Grand Challenge.

### Stand and compete

When the seven finalist teams meet in Las Vegas, the field of battle will be the Paris Hotel and Conference Center. The teams will compete in a cyber capture-the-flag event for nearly \$4 million in prizes.

The machines themselves are DARPA-constructed high-performance computers with about 1,000 Intel Xeon cores and 16 terabytes of RAM. They'll operate on an open-source operating system extension called DECREE -- for DARPA Experimental Cybersecurity Research Evaluation Environment -- built only for computer security research and experimentation.

What each team will do with its autonomous system, Walker said, "is program it with what we call a cyber reasoning system that they will eventually be disconnected from on the day before the grand chal-



DARPA PHOTO

These racks, with cooling and power, will hold servers for the autonomous computer systems that will compete in the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's Cyber Grand Challenge finals in Las Vegas Aug. 4.

lenge. And when they are disconnected from it, that cyber reasoning system will stand and compete entirely on its own, and they will be spectators to its victory or its defeat."

The results will be open-source to the world as they happen, and every single piece of software the machines have written and will write will go on a public server in perpetuity, DARPA officials said.

### Showtime

Walker said one thing that's important to understand about the final event is that the compute time during which the event will happen and the audience time are different timescales.

On Aug. 4, the machines will compute the event for 10 hours without an audience, then, at 5 p.m., Walker and his team will do a three-hour recap for the audience. But the live event and the rest of the computing will finish at the same time. "So the beginning will be a recap, but the end will be live, and that's because a three-hour timescale for a live event was much more manageable," he explained.

When the live event begins at 5 p.m., the audience in the 3,000-seat auditorium will watch a cap-

ture-the-flag competition among seven autonomous machines occur in rounds of about five minutes each, Walker said.

"We have a video we call an arena view that shows who's proving vulnerability against who, whose software is broken, whose software is well defended, and it's going to unfold as a graphical 3-D visualization, all driven by data occurring inside the game on screen," he said.

Two announcers -- one astrophysicist and one hacker -- will talk the audience through the action.

"Then we have a second view called trace viewer that you can think of as a software microscope that is actually going to let people see what the structure of a good patch looks like, what the structure of a failed patch looks like, and what the structural feel of the software armor that these systems are constructing looks like," he said. "You can see multiple samples from a single system and start to identify the visual field."

The awards ceremony will take place the next day at 10 a.m.

### A seat at the table

The Cyber Grand Challenge is co-located this

year with the world series of hacking: Def Con, one of the world's largest hacker conventions.

The day after DARPA's event, Walker said, the autonomous system that wins the Cyber Grand Challenge has been challenged to play in a Def Con community capture-the-flag contest, a competition with at least two decades of history.

"You win a qualifying competition, where [that] has to be global entry open competition, and the winners of other competitions feed into Def Con capture

the flag and earn a seat there," Walker explained. "Teams fly in from around the world to play. It's an annual contest, and this will be the first time that a machine will play at a table rather than a team of experts."

"That contest is actually post-DARPA's involvement with the technology," he added, "and could actually be considered the first step in the open technology revolution."

For more on the challenge, visit <https://www.cybergrandchallenge.com/>.



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# ‘Raider’ spouse revives community organization

**By Staff Sgt. Armando Limon**  
3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division  
Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — When Haylie Culp moved to Oahu with her husband she brought her passion for civics and community service when she revived the American Legion Auxiliary Aloha Girls State this past June after it was inactive for 32 years.

Haylie is married to Sgt. Nathan Culp, an electronic warfare NCO assigned to 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. She became the Aloha Girls State program chairperson and is a political science major attending University of Hawaii-West Oahu.

“Aloha Girls State is an opportunity for us to reach back into the community and kind of help foster a sense of citizenship, understanding of government both city, county and state governments,” Culp said.

According to an Aloha Girls State press release, it is a nonpartisan political learning experience for select female students who have just completed their junior year in high school from all over the state.

The students learn parliamentary procedure, campaign, hold rallies, debate and ultimately vote to elect city, county and state officials.

“The idea is this gives girls the opportunity to see how the local government should work and how they can be involved,” Culp said. “So I think one easy way that kind of correlated is that they’re elected as election officials.”

### Engaging

She explained when she came to Oahu there wasn’t a place for Department of Education students to properly engage local government, especially with Hawaii with one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the country.

She said 32 females were given a chance from public and private schools throughout Oahu, and from the islands of Kauai and Hawaii to attend the June 6-9 program at the University of Hawaii-West Oahu.

Christine Gayagas was one of the co-directors on the planning committee for the Aloha Girls State who provided immense

support to the organization.

“I am an alum of the program from the state of Maryland,” Gayagas said. “I was aware of the prestigious program that really helps kids in their development and also for their college resume.”

Gayagas said one of students, Kiana Stewart, went to Oregon for its program, because there wasn’t a similar program in the state of Hawaii.

“Co-director, Brister Thomas, and I worked on the resourcing piece and providing funding and support to Haylie, who was the lead for the program,” she said.

“Haylie was the chairwoman who built the program from the ground up with the flow of the program, devising the handbook, and identifying how the girls learn about the civics, and exercise consensus building through writing and passing bills and resolutions,” she continued.

Malee Sybounmy, a Kahuku High School student and Aloha Girls State U.S. Senator in 2016, said Culp helped her go beyond her normal comfort zone during the event.

“I’m an introvert, and that program completely evolved me into the person that I am today,” Sybounmy said. “Notice how I didn’t say change. I didn’t say change because this camp that Haylie led was something that doesn’t just change people, it improves them for the better.”

Serena Rice, a Moanalua High School student and 2016 Aloha Girls State Governor, found Culp enthusiastic and dedicated during her time with the program.

“Haylie consistently gave Aloha Girls State 120 percent and it motivated the girls to give just as much back,” Rice said. “It is that ability she possessed, to positively influence a group of people that is inspiring.”

Gayagas, a retired Army colonel and United States Military Academy graduate, added she was impressed with Culp efforts in the restarting of Aloha Girls State for female students across the Hawaiian Islands.

“I cannot believe her passion, dedication and the skill set as a young 23-year-old college student,” Gayagas said. “She took the ball and ran with it, and was very organized and made it all happen. So that’s really my message. She was so key to this organization and program.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Haylie Culp restarted the American Legion Auxiliary Aloha Girls State in June after it was inactive for 32 years.

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# Park offers free summer admission

**Landmark Park**  
*Press Release*

DOTHAN — Landmark Park continues to be one of 2,000 museums and parks across North America to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer.

This popular program is in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families and the Department of Defense.

Organizations participating in the Blue Star Museums network will offer free admission to active-duty military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve, and their families now through



September 5.

“We are proud to participate in this program, especially since Fort Rucker is so close by and we have a wide variety of family-oriented activities planned this summer” William Holman, Landmark Park executive director, said. “It is a great way to say ‘thanks’ to the men and women who serve our

country.”

The free-admission program is available to any active military member or family member who presents a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), a DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card.

Free gate admission to the park will be granted to the military

ID holder and up to five family members during the stated time period. For a complete list of Blue Star Museums, visit [arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums](http://arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums).

“Special thanks are due locally to the Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union for serving as our corporate partner in this program” Holman said. “Their financial support will help underwrite the cost to the park of offering this program.”

Landmark Park is a 135-acre natural science and history museum located on the outskirts of Dothan. Features of the park include nature trails, a planetarium, playground, picnic areas, an elevated boardwalk, a turn-of-the-century

farmstead with sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, cows and other farm animals and crops typical of an 1890’s farm. In addition, the park includes a drugstore with operating soda fountain, one-room school, general store, and historic church, all preserved from the surrounding area. The park is open Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and on Sundays from noon to 6 p.m. Admission is \$4 adults, \$3 for children and is free for park members and children age 2 and under. The park is located on U.S. Hwy 431 North, three miles north of Dothan’s Ross Clark Circle.

For more info, call 334-794-3452 or visit [www.landmarkparkdothan.com](http://www.landmarkparkdothan.com).

## WIREGRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT, EMAIL JIM HUGHES WITH ALL THE DETAILS AT [JHUGHES@ARMYFLIER.COM](mailto: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](http://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](http://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

**FRIDAY** — A ROK Back 2 School concert is scheduled for at 7 p.m. featuring 7eventh Time Down, whose hits include “God is on the Move” and “Just Say Jesus,” with special guest Shiloh at the Northview High School Convocation Center. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and \$30 for VIP tickets. Tickets are available online at <http://www.itickets.com/events/359688>. Proceeds go to benefit the Kyle Leonard Memorial Scholarship. For additional information call 662-251-9990 or visit [www.rokproductionsinc.com](http://www.rokproductionsinc.com).

**AUG. 11-12** — A two-day World Class Leadership Training Simulcast led by leading influencers, including John Maxwell (leadership expert), Patrick Lencioni (The Table Group), Horst Schulze (Capella Hotel Group), Erin Meyer (Professor at INSEAD), Bishop T.D. Jakes (senior pastor, The Potter’s House), Melinda Gates (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) and more. Dothan Community Church, 4390 Westgate Parkway, will hosting the live simulcast that is being broadcast from Willow Creek Community Church outside of Chicago from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$89 for active military or

Reserve. For more information and to register, visit [www.dccgl16.com](http://www.dccgl16.com) or call 334-794-9464.

### 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

**AUG. 6** — The Ozark/Dale County Public Library will host a book sale from 9 a.m. to noon. The selection will include used and like-new paperback and hard back fiction and non-fiction. The sale will be a buy-one, get-one free clearance.

**ONGOING** — Every Wednesday, the Ozark-Dale County Public Library hosts free Wii Zumba from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Teens and adults are invited. For more information, call 774-5480.

### 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

**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

### Watermelon Express train ride

Georgia State Parks will host its Watermelon Express train ride Aug. 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. on the Shortline train in Cordele, Georgia. The ride runs from Cordele to historic Plains, the small Georgia town made famous by President Jimmy Carter. For ticket information, call 229-276-0755.

### A Walk to the Stars

A.H. Stephens State Park in Crawfordville, Georgia, will host its Walk to the Stars Aug. 13 – a sensory hike, where participants will use all of their senses to help make the night come alive, according to a Georgia State Parks press release. The hike will end at Lake Buncombe, where participants will see and learn about star constellations and view the Perseid meteor shower. The hike, which will run from 8:30-11 p.m., will start at the parking lot at Shelter 3 – also known as the barbecue pit. Cost is \$4, plus \$5 for parking.

For more information, call 706-456-2602.

### Twilight Night Paddle

High Falls State Park in Jackson, Georgia, will host its Twilight Night Paddle three times in August: Aug. 13 and 19, 7:30-9 p.m.; and Aug. 26, 7-8:30 p.m. The ranger-

led 3-mile canoe trip offers people the chance to observe wading birds and the sun setting, according to a Georgia State Parks press release. The program is open to adults and children 8 years or older who are accompanied by an adult. Reservations are required. The cost is \$15, and includes boat and gear – there will also be a \$5 parking fee.

For more information, call 478-993-3053.

### Performance on the Green

Performance on the Green is Montgomery Ballet’s annual gift to the city, its citizens and the Capitol City’s visitors during the month of July. Montgomery Ballet will offer a free evening of dance, entertainment and culture put on by the professional ballet company and school July 29 from 7-10 p.m. at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. In addition to the free performance, Montgomery Ballet will host its fundraising event, Picnic on the Green. Picnic on the Green is a gourmet picnic supper that starts at 7 p.m. Diners include VIP seating in the festival tent with a view of the stage and lake. RSVPs are required. Dinners cost \$30 a person, and people may reserve a table for eight for \$240. The funds raised at the event will benefit Montgomery Ballet.

To make a reservation, call 334.409-0522. For more information, visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/picnic-on-the-green-at-blount-cultural-park-tickets-26102875403](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/picnic-on-the-green-at-blount-cultural-park-tickets-26102875403).

### 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>.

### National horseshoes tournament

The 2016 National Horseshoe Pitchers Association World Tournament continues through Aug. 6 at Montgomery’s Multiplex at Cramton Bowl featuring top horseshoe pitchers from around the world. Admission for spectators is free.

For more information, call 334-625-2300 or visit [horseshoepitching.com/](http://horseshoepitching.com/).

### OAT 2sdays

Montgomery’s Old Alabama Town offers its OAT 2sdays special Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. now through Aug. 30 where people can purchase one child’s admission to Old Alabama Town and another child gets in for free. People can tour the living history museum and experience an authentic 1850s Alabama summer, and also participate in the museum’s new scavenger hunt.

For more Information, visit [www.landmarksfoundation.com/visit](http://www.landmarksfoundation.com/visit).

### ‘Stars on the Riverfront’

The Alabama Dance Theatre will present

its annual “Stars on the Riverfront” with two free performances July 31 and Aug. 1 from 7:30-9 p.m. at the Riverwalk Amphitheater. The performances are the culmination of ADT’s two-week summer dance seminar and feature over 50 dancers. Gates open at 6 p.m. for picnicking.

For more information, call 334-241-2590 or visit [alabamadancetheatre.com](http://alabamadancetheatre.com).

### 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. Museum entry is free of charge.

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

### 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>.



# FACE OF DEFENSE:

## Becoming a dad 7,000 miles from home

By Army Sgt. Walter H. Lowell  
17th Sustainment Brigade  
Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – It’s a tale as old as time: Soldiers bidding farewell to their families to serve in a faraway land.

Even with technology and the ability to video chat with loved ones, men and women serving in the armed forces face the same reality as their predecessors from wars past: it is hard being away from home.

This is especially true for a father who’s away for the birth of his first child. Four Soldiers deployed to the Middle East with the 17th Sustainment Brigade, 1st Sustainment Command, have experienced this emotional roller coaster in the last few months.

“My girlfriend just called me and told me we are having (the) baby,” said Spc. Julio Ramirez, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 17th SB.

Ramirez had made arrangements to go on leave to return to Las Vegas for his daughter’s birth, but he learned that the doctor would be inducing labor a few weeks earlier than expected. He quickly returned to Camp Arifjan and was anxiously trying to get through the protocol and paperwork needed to send him home.

“I want to be there to see it happen,” Ramirez said. “I don’t want to miss it.”

### First impressions

Staff Sgt. Kevin Reed, an information technology specialist with 17th SB, was overseas when his daughter Ave was born Feb. 17.

“Right when I first got home (on leave), I got to see my baby girl,” Reed said. “I can’t really describe the feeling.”

“It’s amazing to have your first child and [what I felt] the first time I held my little girl,” said Sgt. Sean Holm, a chaplain’s assistant with 17th SB, whose daughter Adeline was born April 24. “Every time I held her, it was an amazing experience.”

“It was definitely an experience,” said Staff Sgt. Bryan Jovel, an automated logistical specialist with 17th SB, and father to Brooklyn, born April 15. “I felt anxious because the moment was coming which we were preparing for. ... I was taken a bit back once the delivery started happening. I felt like passing out, honestly.

“When the baby started coming I was overcome with some weird emotion, a mix of relief, happiness and responsibility,” he said. “I saw my baby come out and realized at that moment that no matter what, she’s a part of me, and she is now here.”

“She went into labor early, so I had to scramble to get an early flight,” Holm said. “I ended up getting there a day after she was born.”

### Sleepless nights, joy

Holm said arriving late was a blessing in disguise, because he was able to spend his time helping his wife with his daughter, rather than only having a few days to help after the birth.

“It felt really nice to be home and take care of both my baby and wife,” Jovel said. “I liked staying home and taking care of my baby.”

“I didn’t get a lot of sleep,” Reed said, “Newborns are up when they want to be up and eat when they want to eat.”

“I thought the Army would prepare me for sleep deprivation, but it’s nothing like having a newborn,” Holm said.

“I got a whole lot more sleep here (in



COURTESY PHOTO

Staff Sgt. Bryan Jovel, an automated logistics specialist who’s currently deployed to the Middle East with the 17th Sustainment Brigade, 1st Theater Support Command, kisses his daughter, Brooklyn, born April 15.

Kuwait), that’s for sure,” Reed laughed. “My wife and I took 12-hour shifts.”

“It took some adjusting because I was still getting used to the time, so I was kind of sleeping at weird times. (I was) a bit tired since she needed tending to during the night,” Jovel said.

None of the new dads had to shoulder this added responsibility alone, they said – friends and family were there to lend helping hands.

“They wanted to give us some alone time for the first couple days,” Holm said. “None of them realized that I also needed help. There was so much work and so little sleep.”

### Balancing mission, family

The Soldiers had to return to the Middle East after their approved leave period came to an end.

“It was hard to leave my wife and newborn baby,” Holm said. “I knew I had to come back here. I don’t get to go home until the mission out here is done. The sooner I get back here, the sooner I get to go back home.”

Reed said he uses any chance he gets to talk to his daughter. “I get to video chat with them all the time,” he said. “I get to watch her grow up. She is growing fast.”

“The Internet connection now is much better,” Reed said. “It’s hard being away from them, but with technology, it’s as if you’re right there with them too, and the time will go by so quick while you’re

here.”

“I keep in touch with my wife using Facebook messenger every day,” Jovel said, “I video chat with them periodically on Facebook.”

“I’ll be there for her first birthday, which

will be awesome,” Reed said.

“You have to take it one day at a time,” Ramirez said.

Ramirez was able to make it back in time for the birth of his daughter, Isabella. She was born June 8.



# CAE

In anticipation of a contract award, **CAE USA** is soliciting applicants for the **US Army Initial Entry Rotary Wing (IERW)** program, providing world-class initial training to US Army and US Air Force rotary wing pilots.

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- Basic Warfighting Skills Division Director

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# More bases join Sentinel Landscapes for readiness enhancement

By Terri Moon Cronk  
*Department of Defense News*

WASHINGTON — Numerous military installations have joined the Sentinel Landscapes partnership to maintain military readiness while preserving local agriculture, natural resources and wildlife habitat, Defense Department officials announced July 12.

Avon Park Air Force Range, Florida; Camp Ripley, Minnesota; and the Eastern North Carolina region, which comprises numerous military installations, joined the cooperative partnership between DOD and the departments of Interior and Agriculture, DOD officials said.

In July 2013, the departments launched the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership through a memorandum of understanding to meet three critical goals: preserve working and agricultural lands, restore and protect wildlife habitats, and assist with military readiness. The first designees were Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; Fort Huachuca, Arizona; and Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Maryland, officials said.

Through the Sentinel Landscapes partnership, the federal agencies work with state, local and private partners to preserve working and natural lands important to the nation’s defense

mission. Protecting and restoring habitat around military bases so that at-risk species can survive will help provide for unimpeded training and sustain military readiness, White House officials said.

“What makes this announcement so significant,” said Pete Potochney, performing the duties of assistant secretary of defense for energy, installations and environment, “is the benefit these partnerships provide to our national security.

“Not only does the collaboration around Avon Park, Camp Ripley, and throughout Eastern North Carolina ensure the continued availability of critical military installations and ranges,” he said, “but this partnership also preserves working lands that provide food and fiber to our nation and sustains key natural resources that help to ensure water quality and provide climate change resilience. The Sentinel Landscapes partnership is an innovative initiative that protects critical DoD missions through efficient government and private-sector collaboration. This is a true win for warfighters and taxpayers.”

Led at the local level, stakeholders work together to ensure the Sentinel Landscape possesses three fundamental components, according to the partnership’s website:

- Military installations or



PHOTO BY AIR FORCE AIRMAN 1ST CLASS RYAN CALLAGHAN

**Air Force parascuemen walk toward an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter at Avon Park Air Force Range, Fla., Oct. 9, 2014.**

ranges anchor each Sentinel Landscape. Installations and ranges benefit from the compatible land use and conservation provided by the lands in the Sentinel Landscape;

- Defined landscape is associated with the anchor installation’s “mission footprint.” Within this landscape, government agencies, private parties, and non-government organizations coordinate their programs in support of ranching, farming, forestry and conservation with the full involvement and partnership of the landowners in the landscape; and
- A coordinated and collaborative strategy or plan provides incentives and recognition

to participating landowners, who adopt and sustain land uses compatible with the military mission while providing tangible benefits to conservation and working lands within the landscape.

### Benefits of Newly Designated Bases

DOD officials said these new locations, listed below, encompass vital military ranges needed to test and train to meet threats as they arise, as well as support strong and effective conservation partnerships.

- At Avon Park Air Force Range Sentinel Landscape in Florida, 24 local, state and federal partners have committed more than \$8.25 million to pro-

tect or enhance 1,926 acres. Avon Park is the Air Force’s primary training range east of the Mississippi River and is a training resource for all branches of the military and state and local law enforcement. The Sentinel Landscape is also a biodiversity hot spot and home to the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge. Avon Park and the surrounding area are part of a strong agricultural tradition with numerous cattle ranches, citrus farms, croplands and working forests.

- At the headwaters of the Mississippi River, Camp Ripley in Minnesota is the primary training center for National Guard units from seven states. The rural and agricultural character of the landscape helps protect the quality of one of Minnesota’s most important drinking water sources. More than 40 miles of the Mississippi River are involved, with 16 local, state and federal partners sharing responsibility for protecting water quality. They have committed more than \$5.18 million to protect or enhance 34,903 acres, which is expected to protect Camp Ripley’s training mission, the integrity of the region’s natural resources, and provide expanded access to hunting, fishing and recreation.

## Fort Rucker 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 aMass (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 TAG 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.

**Adult Bible Study**  
Spiritual Life Center, 6 p.m.

**Thursdays**  
Adult Bible Study  
Spiritual Life Center, 9 a.m.

**Latter-Day Saints Bible Study**  
Wings Chapel, 6:30 p.m.

**Saturdays**  
Protestant Men of the Chapel  
Wings Chapel (1st Saturday), 8 a.m.

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# DOG DAYS

*As summer break closes, swimming options remain open*

**By Jeremy Henderson**  
*Army Flier Staff Writer*

Summer break ends soon for Fort Rucker students, but swimming options remain available to help quickly cool off during the dog days of summer.

According to Rob Koren, Fort Rucker Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation aquatics director, the last day to swim at the Flynn Outdoor Pool will be July 31. However, the post's other facilities will remain open, albeit with changes in operating hours.

"Beginning Monday, the indoor pool at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will re-open for normal operations," he said. "Hours of operation for the indoor pool will mirror that of Flynn, Mondays through Fridays from 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The indoor pool is open to authorized patrons only (must have a military or Department of Defense identification card to access the facility).

"SPLASH! Outdoor Pool and Spray Park will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. beginning Monday," he added. "SPLASH! is open to the general public. Lake Tholocco will also be converting to weekend-only operation beginning Monday. Both the Lake Tholocco swimming area and SPLASH! Outdoor Pool and Spray Park will be open weekends only (Saturday and Sunday) until Labor Day, September 5."

According to Koren, SPLASH! will celebrate the end of the season with a luau.

"The SPLASH! Summer Luau will be held on Aug. 27," he said.



PHOTO BY JEREMY HENDERSON

**Participants practice entering the water with a flotation device during a previous lifeguard certification course. A new training course will begin this fall.**

"This is the rain date that was established from when the event was supposed to be held in early June. Admission price will be either the daily admission fee or by presenting your 2016 summer pool pass.

"This is a wonderful event for individuals of all ages because Fort Rucker MWR activities are pulling together to offer something for everyone," he added. "There will, of course, be swimming and use of the diving board, water slide and AquaClimb rock wall, but there will also be food service offered by The Landing."

Patrons may purchase food, and purchase shirts for \$5 to tie

dye, or bring one from home.

"There will also be two limbo contests with prizes available for the winners, an inflatable provided by outdoor recreation and corn hole for free play pick-up games," Koren said. "Army Community Services and MWR Central will also be present with information booths to let patrons know what (they have) to offer them."

SPLASH! will also host an event to help pets cool off during the hottest days of summer.

"Fort Rucker Aquatics will host its very first Dog Days of Summer program on Sept. 10 from noon to 4 p.m. at SPLASH! Outdoor Pool," Koren said. "Dog

owners can bring their pooch to the pool on this day and let them go for a little 'doggy-dip.' The fee to enroll dogs into the program is \$5 per dog and we ask pet owners to register in advance at the Fort Rucker PFC.

"At the time of registration, pet owners must bring a copy of their dog's vaccination records for health and safety considerations to be attached to their registration form," he added. "Dogs will not be allowed to participate without the proper documentation on file with sports, fitness and aquatics. So that dogs and owners alike have an exceptional experience, we ask that dogs be well-trained

and able to 'play' nicely with other dogs."

Adult swimming lessons will begin again in October and a life-guard training course will begin in the fall, according to Koren.

For information on youth swimming lessons, call 255-1867. For more information on adult swimming lessons, call at 255-2296 or 255-9162.

"When the lifeguard training courses are offered again beginning in the fall, candidates age 15 and older are eligible to register for this course," he said.

According to Koren, swimming lessons may help develop a sharper sense of safety in the water.

"Safe swimming guidelines should always be observed for a safe and enjoyable swimming experience," he said. "Some important guidelines to remember would be to: always swim with another person in a supervised area; avoid underwater breath-holding techniques and exercises to prevent what the aquatics industry calls 'shallow water blackout;' know your swimming capabilities and swim in an area where you feel comfortable and can touch if a non-swimmer; take a swim class if you are a weak or non-swimmer, swimming is a life skill that can benefit and save your life in certain situations; and always obey the lifeguards' instruction at all times -- they are there for your safety and to prevent accidents and injuries from happening in the first place."

For more information upcoming events or admission prices, call 255-2096 for SPLASH!, and 255-4305 for Lake Tholocco, or visit <http://rucker.armymwr.com/us/rucker/programs/aquatics>.

# THE TERMINATOR

*All-Army champ jabs his way to 2020 Olympics*

**By Sgt. Ian Ives**  
*25th Sustainment Brigade  
Public Affairs*

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — Walking into Pearlside Boxing and Fitness in Kapolei, amidst the smell of old sweat, worn leather, the swish-snap of jump ropes, speed bags, and '80s rock music, a modest champion can be found contributing to the daily grind.

Standing at about six feet tall, with a pleasant demeanor and almost awkward physique, this simple Soldier transforms into a machine of focus and power as he begins his regimen. Never stopping for more than a few seconds, the 21-year-old does not take his mind off the target: to become an Olympic champion.

After becoming the All-Army boxing champion for two consecutive years, Spc. Adrian "Terminator" Tillman, a human resources specialist with 25th Sustainment Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, is now making preparations for a move to Fort Carson, Colorado, to join the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program to train for a spot on the 2020 U.S. Olympic Boxing Team.

Growing up in Riverside, California, Tillman began his boxing career after prompting from his grandfather at the age of 12.

"I first got into boxing to try and lose weight," said Tillman. "My grandfather would take me to the gym that he would train at, and over time, I began losing weight. I then decided that I would stick with boxing and begin competing."

After switching to another gym, Tillman found his niche in the boxing world and dedicated a part of his life to it. Unlike most teenagers, the juggle of school life and the gym were not a problem for him.

"It was actually pretty easy to box and keep up with school," said Tillman. "I would go to class each day, and after school, I'd walk to the gym to box. That would leave me with a few hours when I got home to do schoolwork and get ready for the next day."

By his senior year of high school, Tillman had built a reputation for himself. At 17 years old, he was offered the chance to become a professional boxer. It was a tough decision for him to make on his own.

"I was originally going to go into pro-boxing right out of high school," said Tillman. "My mother helped talk me out of it explaining how joining the military would help me get an education. She would tell me that if boxing or the military didn't work out for me that I would at least have an education to fall back on, so I joined the Army."



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ABNER ALVARADO

**Spc. Adrian Tillman, a human resources specialist with 25th Sustainment Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, battles it out in the ring during the 2016 All-Army Boxing competition at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.**

Throughout his training to become a Soldier, Tillman's mind was never far from boxing. From monitoring his weight during Basic Combat Training to thinking about where to train next, boxing was still very much under his skin.

After learning he would be stationed at Schofield Barracks with the 45th Sustainment Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, (now the 25th Sustainment Brigade) Tillman began searching for a gym to begin the next chapter in his boxing career. As fate would have it, he found the perfect place: Pearlside Boxing and Fitness, owned and coached by Eiichi Jumawan.

"Coach Eiichi Jumawan's credentials are what made me ultimately decide to join Pearlside Boxing," said Tillman. "What I didn't want was to go to a gym where the coach wasn't very involved with competing."

Jumawan, a native of Wahiawa, is no stranger to competitive boxing, having been placed on the same U.S. National Boxing Team as Sugar Ray Leonard in 1976 and retiring from his professional boxing career undefeated. With his background, Jumawan was ideally suited to steer Tillman toward becoming a champion through intense training and competing as much as possible.

"Adrian is like a sponge, he just absorbs everything," said Jumawan. "Every little detail, no matter how subtle it is; he is able to absorb it and make it natural to his technique. He really loves the sport and is always wanting to learn more."

Tillman hit the ground running, impressing Jumawan with his natural ability. He was offered his first fight after only a few weeks of training at Pearlside, which he won. His

SEE OLYMPIC, PAGE D4

# Soldier aids in development of Zika vaccine

**By Katie Lange**  
*Department of Defense News*

SILVER SPRING, Md. — For the past several months, a Soldier has walked into the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research's Pilot Bioproduction Facility, donned his lab coat and set to work running tests for researchers closing in on a Zika vaccine.

Spc. Chris Springer is one of very few service members to get to work on the Zika vaccine.

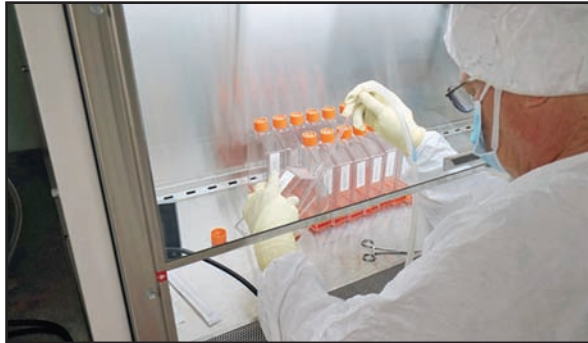
The Maryland facility doesn't exactly have the high-tech feel one would expect. The rooms are reminiscent of a high school chemistry class — complete with tin foil, glass jugs and plastic tubes. Pinkish-beige rounded bricks line the decades-old walls, which are filled with refrigerators and freezers that give off a collective hum. But it's not about the aesthetics there; it's all about the life-saving products the researchers create.

Unlike many in the science and tech fields, Springer chose the military over a private-sector career, enlisting in October 2013 after receiving a bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University.

"I thought about joining throughout my life. After college I looked at my options, and it seemed like (the Army) had the best opportunities for me," Springer said. "The military really is the most diverse organization or group of people you'll ever meet."

He had some family in the medical field, so he decided to become a medical laboratory tech. He went to advanced individual training for the specialty and also obtained an associate's degree and a certification. About

SEE VACCINE, PAGE D4

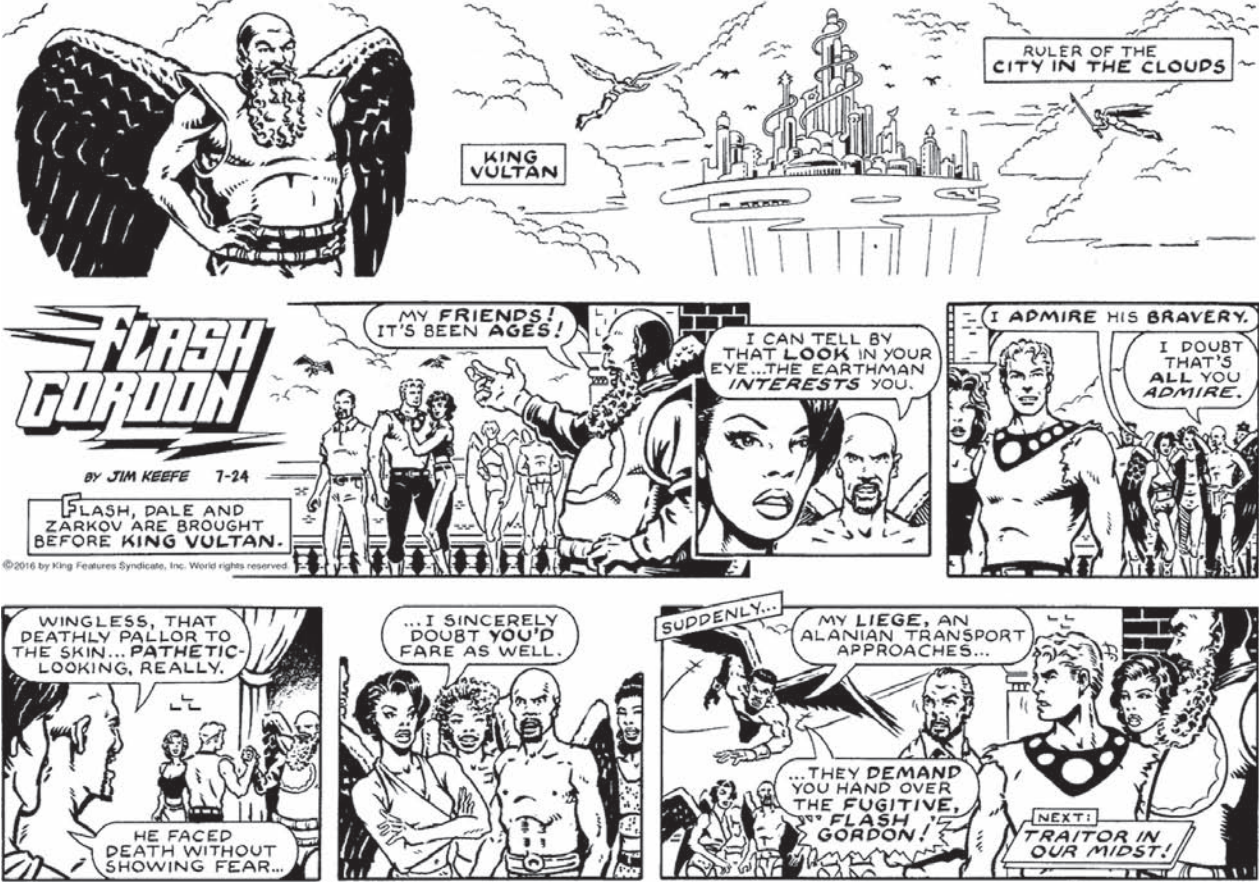


WALTER REED ARMY INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH PHOTO

**Walter Reed Army Institute of Research scientists test Zika vaccine candidate at the WRAIR Pilot Bioproduction Facility for vaccines and biologics in Silver Spring, Maryland.**



# DOWN TIME



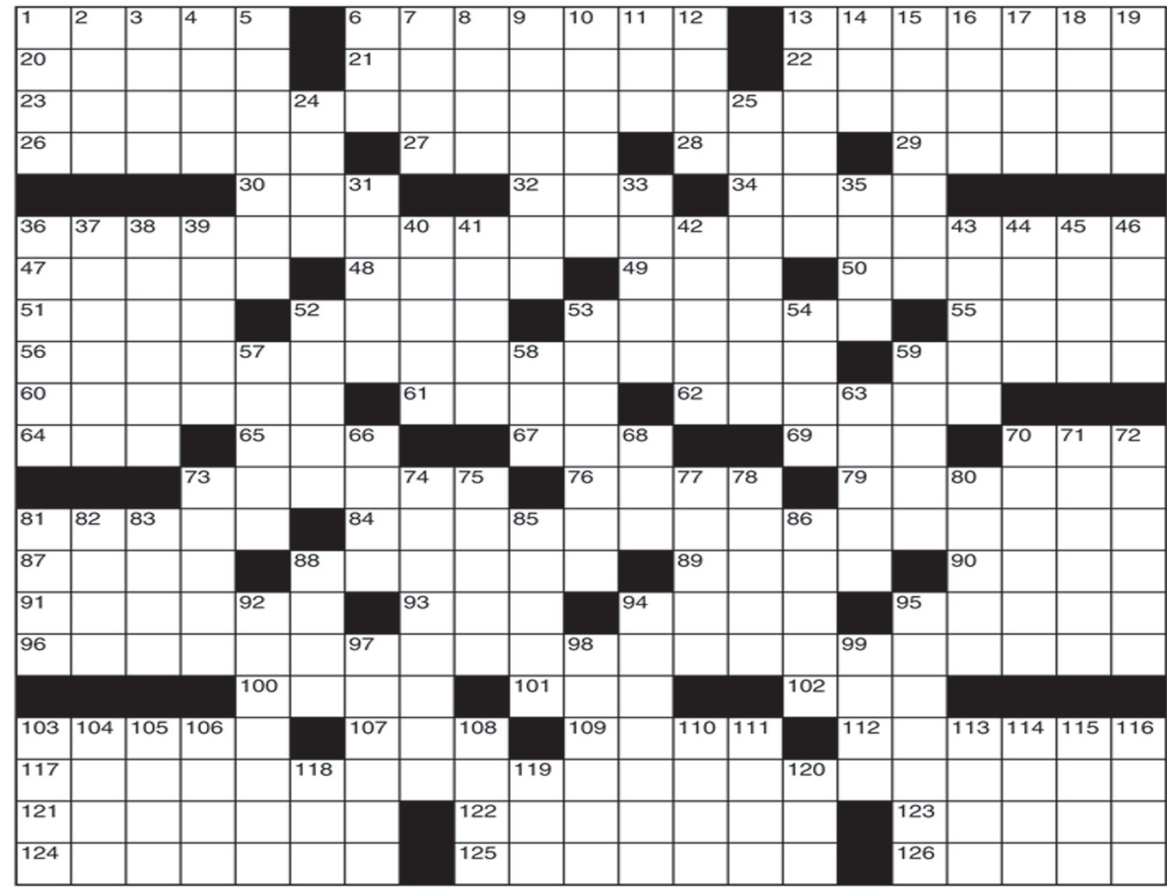
## TRIVIA

1. LITERATURE: Which conservationist wrote the book "The Sea Around Us" in 1951?
2. FOOD & DRINK: What are the food items mentioned in the song "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"?
3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of the Bahamas?
4. BIRTHSTONES: What is another name for a ruby, July's birthstone?
5. CARTOONS: What kind of creatures are Disney characters Chip and Dale?
6. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the nickname of the University of Idaho sports teams?
7. EARTH SCIENCE: What is magma?
8. GAMES: What word refers to a draw in the game of chess?
9. BIBLE: In which two books of the Bible do the Ten Commandments appear?
10. TELEVISION: In this 1970s-80s TV drama of the same name, what does the acronym "CHiPs" refer to?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

## Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Syria's president since 2000
  - 6 Devalue
  - 13 Most optimistic
  - 20 Fry lightly
  - 21 Pilot in "Star Wars"
  - 22 Everywhere
  - 23 Start of a riddle
  - 26 Bull-themed tequila brand
  - 27 Bewildered
  - 28 Fore and —
  - 29 Baseballer Stengel
  - 30 — pro nobis ("pray for us")
  - 32 Top-secret govt. group
  - 34 Be a stinker
  - 36 Riddle, part 2
  - 47 Thwart
  - 48 Big name in elevator safety
  - 49 — Lankan
  - 50 Farmer, e.g.
  - 51 Grain tower
  - 52 P.O. part
  - 53 Like forests
  - 55 Singer
  - 56 Riddle, part 3
- DOWN**
- 1 Life — know it
  - 2 Comic Mort
  - 3 Raw beef fat
  - 4 — charge (costing zip)
  - 5 Tigers' home
  - 6 "Evita" narrator
  - 7 "If I — nickel for ..."
  - 8 Slaughter in baseball
  - 9 Climbs
  - 10 Fertilizer compound
  - 11 "Xanadu" band, briefly
  - 12 Director Ephron
  - 13 One giving a tirade
  - 14 On in years
  - 15 Smooth raincoat
  - 16 Fort Dodge's state
  - 17 Days before holidays
  - 18 Dried and withered
  - 19 Deuce topper
  - 24 Rhino part
  - 25 "Yes, alas"
  - 31 In on — thing
  - 33 Big name in old fables
  - 35 Jumpy
  - 36 Dryer go-with
  - 37 Spanish city or province
  - 38 Installed anew, as floor tiles
  - 39 Kris — ('90s rap duo)
  - 40 Common answer at the door
  - 41 Saltpeter
  - 42 Organization
  - 43 Film director Christopher
  - 44 Many a missing GI
  - 45 "Little" Dickens girl
  - 46 Strong cart without sides
  - 52 Prescribing punishment
  - 53 Tam-o'-shanter, e.g.
  - 54 Wedge filling a gap
  - 57 Mosque holy book
  - 58 Kiddie
  - 59 Foe of Paris
  - 63 Is an Internet explorer
  - 66 "Funny joke!"
  - 68 Mongrel
  - 70 Largest city in Iran
  - 71 Makes flush
  - 72 Absorb gradually
  - 73 Power
  - 74 Crazy notion
  - 75 Archipelago
  - 77 Fluid in refrigeration
  - 78 Lobby
  - 80 "Huzzah!"
  - 81 Gnaw on
  - 82 Itchy eruption
  - 83 Service org. for females
  - 85 Kazakh journalist of film
  - 86 Giant in grills
  - 88 — a-brac
  - 92 Book version
  - 94 Loosens (up)
  - 95 People who lend their names to things
  - 97 Downfall
  - 98 "Sure, whatever"
  - 99 Persian ruler
  - 103 Rented residences: Abbr.
  - 104 "— does it!"
  - 105 Eight-bit unit
  - 106 Dog in "The Thin Man"
  - 108 "— can't get up!"
  - 110 Clear hurdles
  - 111 Red monster of kids' TV
  - 113 Morales of "Freejack"
  - 114 Thaw
  - 115 Large pelvic bones
  - 116 Way yonder
  - 118 Hoodwink
  - 119 Victory
  - 120 Tit for —



See Page D3 for this week's answers.

### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 D3 for this week's answers.

# KID's CORNER

### Riddle Card

1. What did the big rose say to the little rose?  
2. What has five eyes but cannot see?  
3. What is the biggest jewel in the world?  
4. What is the best name for a lady engineer?  
5. Why are playing cards like wolves?

Answers: 1. Hydrant, 2. The Mississippi River, 3. A baseball diamond, 4. Bridget, 5. Because they come in packs.

**ODD MAN OUT!**  
To the right is a list of five words. Can you figure out which word doesn't belong on the list?

Answers: 1. GREYED, 2. GEARBOX, 3. DANGER, 4. CARIBOU, 5. RISKING. Some part of your body. (1: Eye, 2: Ear, 4: Rib, 5: Skin).

**FIND THE SEVEN WORDS!** In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "DEPART." See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four three-letter words across and three four-letter words down. Time limit: 60 seconds.

Answers: (Across): Let, ere, age, pod. (Down): Leap, erpo, leed.

### Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

ARE YOU IN SHAPE FOR THIS PUZZLE?

**PILE POLE POSE POST**

You're a winner if you can finish this puzzle in under five minutes. In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed MILE to POST in four moves. See if you can change the following five words in four moves.

1. COWS to BARN  
2. GALA to FETE  
3. DARE to RISK  
4. SINE to MATH  
5. NAIL to BOLT

Answers: 1. COWS, CAVES, CARPS, BARS, BARN. 2. GALA, GALE, GATE, FATE, FETE. 3. DARE, RARE, RASE, RISE, RISK. 4. SINE, NINE, MITE, MATE, MATH. 5. NAIL, BAIL, BALL, BOLL, BOLT.

### Wishing Well®

4	2	5	3	6	2	6	3	6	2	8	2	7
H	E	T	A	Y	X	O	C	U	P	D	E	Y
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2	4	8	3	4	7	2	7	4	3	5	2	5
W	Y	E	F	A	L	I	U	T	S	P	N	O
8	4	3	8	4	3	6	5	3	4	6	3	8
T	H	C	O	O	E	P	S	N	M	E	E	B
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8	6	8	7	8	6	7	8	7	6	7	6	6
R	E	A	Y	V	T	D	E	A	T	Y	E	R

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTONOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Answers: 1. Hocus is holding a wand, 2. Amy is holding a wand, 3. Hocus is wearing a hat, 4. Amy is wearing a hat, 5. Hocus is wearing a hat, 6. Amy is wearing a hat, 7. Hocus is wearing a hat, 8. Amy is wearing a hat, 9. Hocus is wearing a hat, 10. Amy is wearing a hat, 11. Hocus is wearing a hat, 12. Amy is wearing a hat, 13. Hocus is wearing a hat, 14. Amy is wearing a hat, 15. Hocus is wearing a hat, 16. Amy is wearing a hat, 17. Hocus is wearing a hat, 18. Amy is wearing a hat, 19. Hocus is wearing a hat, 20. Amy is wearing a hat, 21. Hocus is wearing a hat, 22. Amy is wearing a hat, 23. Hocus is wearing a hat, 24. Amy is wearing a hat, 25. Hocus is wearing a hat, 26. Amy is wearing a hat, 27. Hocus is wearing a hat, 28. Amy is wearing a hat, 29. Hocus is wearing a hat, 30. Amy is wearing a hat, 31. Hocus is wearing a hat, 32. Amy is wearing a hat, 33. Hocus is wearing a hat, 34. Amy is wearing a hat, 35. Hocus is wearing a hat, 36. Amy is wearing a hat, 37. 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# PEACE OF MIND

## National Intrepid Center zeroes in on traumatic brain injury

By Shannon Collins  
Department of Defense News

*(Editor's note: This is the first article in a five-part series on the National Intrepid Center of Excellence in Bethesda, Maryland, that will highlight its mission, the people who work there, its research and technology, its clinical programs and how it has helped one service member on his road to recovery.)*

WASHINGTON — Defense Medical Surveillance System and Theater Medical Data figures show that more than 339,000 service members have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury since 2000.

Traumatic brain injuries, or TBIs, are a contributing factor to a third of all injury-related deaths in the United States, the numbers reveal.

In the United States, an estimated 1.7 million people suffer a TBI annually. Of them, 52,000 die, 275,000 are hospitalized, and 1.365 million — nearly 80 percent — are treated and released from an emergency department.

### NICOE's mission

The NICOE, a directorate of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, helps active duty, Reserve and National Guard members and their families manage their traumatic brain injuries and accompanying psychological health conditions through diagnostic evaluation, treatment planning, outpatient clinical care and TBI research.

Service members are referred from their home station's primary care physician or mental health professional to the NICOE's range of treatment options. These include

the four-week intensive outpatient care treatment program, the one-week assessment track, ongoing outpatient care services, inpatient consultation, and a range of individual, nonpackaged diagnostic and evaluative options. The benefit of coming to NICOE is that service members will have access to any one of these treatment options, depending on the need, with a streamlined evaluative pathway where many of the providers and services are located together.

"The integration of medical care is amazing," said Dr. Gene Casagrande, team coordinator and primary care physician. "We make decisions the same day amongst each other. My office is next door to the neurologist, as well as to the psychiatrist, so if any of us have a suggestion, we can walk down the hall and make those changes as needed. Communication is very important, and the patients appreciate that and see that interaction."

For more than five years, the NICOE has treated patients with mild, moderate and severe TBIs. "We have a system of care where anybody who's referred to us from anywhere in the world will have the most appropriate treatment option available to them," said Dr. Louis French, NICOE's deputy director. "We can move people back and forth between our various treatment platforms in our care system to make sure they are getting what they need."

"We can do very specialized assessments," he continued. "We can do intensive treatments. We conduct research so we can better understand how people get better, under what conditions they get optimal recovery, and to pioneer new treatments and techniques that might not be available elsewhere."



DOD PHOTO

The National Intrepid Center of Excellence, a directorate of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., helps active duty, Reserve and National Guard members and their families manage their traumatic brain injuries and accompanying psychological health conditions.

The NICOE also has a significant research mission, and researchers are studying the specialized evaluation techniques including neuroimaging, and treatments such as, art therapy, animal-assisted therapy, and other complementary and integrative medicine techniques such as biofeedback, acupuncture and yoga. Additional unique and highly-specialized tools, such as the Computer Assisted Rehabilitation Environment, a magnetoencephalography machine and a 3 Tesla magnetic resonance imaging capability aid in the NICOE's mission as a clinical research institute.

With support from the American public, the NICOE is expanding its reach through the establishment of Intrepid Spirit centers, which will enhance a national pathway of care for TBI across to the nation. So far, centers have been established at Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Hood, Texas; and most recently at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

### Treating the whole person

Using research and technology in conjunction with a team of neurologists, psychologists, family care doctors, psychiatrists, nutritionists, neuropsychologists and other specialists, NICOE providers are able to treat the whole person, French said.

"Our experience is that people don't get better unless we treat the whole person," he explained. "One of the sad realities is that the primary mechanism of injury that we've seen in the last few years has been explosions or blasts. And when you're close to something that blows up, there are many ways you can get hurt."

"And we know that we need to start at the head and work our way down the body and treat the sensory impairments people have and the pain issues," French continued. "We need to treat the emotional impact of what they've experienced. We need to treat the impact on the family. We need to treat the cognitive dysfunction. If we're not targeting all those things, and

you've fixed one but you haven't fixed the sleep, you're not fully successful."

Casagrande said part of the treatment is educating spouses and caregivers.

### Providing information

"A lot of family members come here not knowing anything about TBI," Casagrande explained. "There's a significant education piece for the spouses, as well, to deal with -- what it's like to have someone with TBI and the various symptoms that are associated with that, including irritability issues, social withdrawal, avoidance and other behaviors TBI patients experience. Education plays a very important role here. We do have a family therapist on staff, and child care is available for the children who come here, so the spouses and service member can spend some time here at NICOE."

Both doctors said treatment also includes education about many issues associated with TBI and psychological health, such as sleep and how important a role it plays. For this reason, all patients go through a sleep study within the first few days they are at the center, and get started on appropriate sleep therapies within a few days.

Casagrande expressed his amazement with the progress he sees in patients after four weeks at the NICOE.

"It's one of the most rewarding parts about being at NICOE — watching someone get better in such a short period of time — and you just see it week by week," he said. "I tell everyone, 'I can't promise you we're going to make you better, but we're going to do our darnedest to try.' And we all do."

# Art therapy helps Marine heal from TBI

By Shannon Collins  
Department of Defense News

*(Editor's note: This is the second of a five-part series on the National Intrepid Center of Excellence in Bethesda, Maryland.)*

WASHINGTON — As each brushstroke touches the page, blending the shades and drawing out the lines, the Marine's shoulders relax. This is something he can lose himself in, pouring his thoughts and emotions into his art.

For Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Tony Mannino, art and music therapy at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence in Bethesda, Maryland, is a way for him to recover from his traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress.

"I choose to work with water colors primarily, because it makes it very hard to get the fine details perfect," he said. "So for someone who has struggled with perfectionism and has always wanted to be in control and remain in control in any situation, it really helps to release, to relinquish the reins and let the colors do what they're going to do on their own. That's very therapeutic."

### 1st injury

Mannino joined the Marine Corps in May 2003, so that he could get an education.

He deployed for eight months total to Iraq in 2007 and 2008. For four months, he was in Diyala province in the city of Ashraf on the border of Iran, and then he went to Ramadi.

Throughout his time there, he was exposed to improvised explosive device blasts. "There was one when we were going across the bridge over to the government center that was pretty big that really rattled me and I (ended) up getting a bloody nose from it," Mannino said. "But I wasn't knocked unconscious — just really dazed, just trying to find anybody on the rooftops, and just trying to scan and take control of the situation. It really screws you up."



PHOTO BY MARVIN LYNCHARD

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Anthony Mannino performs art therapy with guidance from Adrienne Stamper, art therapy intern as part of his traumatic brain injury treatment and recovery at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence in Bethesda, Md., in March.

"Luckily, I wasn't hit directly by one, but at least we found the bombs," he continued. "Thank God we didn't drive over them, so we got pretty lucky with that. I did dislocate my shoulder, but that's a minor injury compared to what others have going on. It's all cumulative, so, as you sustain different head traumas, I guess it just adds on to the effects of TBI and any kind of concussive disorder."

### 2nd injury

While stationed in Hawaii in January 2013, Mannino was running along a city street when he was hit by a truck. He said he went to the emergency room, but didn't have any X-rays taken. There were no apparent broken bones, but the impact did break one of the discs in his spine, which leaked into his nerve canal.

"It really didn't affect me until about five weeks after the accident," Mannino said. "I wound up getting sciatica and had a concussion. It snuck up on me after the accident."

### Road to recovery

The 32-year old said he was hypervigilant and had a rough time adjusting when he returned from his deployment. When he returned home to West Islip, New York, he said, he realized his drinking had

been getting out of hand, so he quit drinking on his own in December 2013.

"I didn't realize how much drinking was helping with some of the symptoms," he said, noting that without the alcohol, he was having trouble fighting his symptoms. But he didn't realize he had post-traumatic stress disorder or a TBI.

"I just knew I was having a hard time mentally," Mannino said. "I talked to the command and told them I need to get some help. That's when I started to get some treatment."

His first treatment was an inpatient PTSD residential program for 120 days. Then he was accepted into NICOE's four-week intensive TBI program.

"Our experience is that people don't get better unless we treat the whole person," said Dr. Louis French, NICOE's deputy director, who's been researching military TBIs for 16 years.

NICOE has interdisciplinary teams of health care professionals working together. A neurologist conducts sleep studies and MRI scans, family care physicians perform physicals, a psychiatrist may conduct couples counseling, and a physical therapist may address physical issues.

The medical professionals address each potential issue and com-

municate with each other to make sure that patients leave at the end of their stay with a solid plan for their primary care physicians at their home bases.

"I've had more changes to my medication and different types of therapy here than the whole two years I've been in treatment," Mannino said. "This is the most thorough clinic I've been involved with. They got me off a lot of meds and switched me over to vitamins, which helped me with my migraines."

### Art, music therapy

The art therapy, music therapy and the couples therapy all have been helpful, Mannino said. "I was very hesitant at first, which made it hard for them to help me. Once I actually accepted, I tried the art. I had never painted or drawn anything in my life, but that's when the therapy started. I said, 'I'm here. I'm getting help. What they're saying is making sense. Some of the symptoms make sense for what I'm going through,' and that's when I really opened up."

This led him to talk with others who were going through similar issues and who had experienced similar trauma, he said, helping him to learn he wasn't alone.

He started with just writing words on paper, he said, and then it developed into images. As he worked with the art therapists, he brought those images to life through the watercolors and into a mask that each service member going through the program makes.

"My art therapist and I talk about issues I haven't even brought up to my psychiatrist, so it's really helpful. Some of it becomes subconscious at a point, where you're working with the paints in the art as other emotions and other thoughts come up. It's really interesting and therapeutic," he said.

NICOE art therapist and healing arts program coordinator Melissa Walker said one of her favorite parts of the job is to see service members like Mannino change from being skeptical in their first

week to starting to trust others by the fourth week of group sessions.

"By that fourth week, they just jump in and use all the materials and really enjoy themselves and socialize and laugh with each other," she said. "It's incredible for us, and it's in that fourth week, too, in the artwork that we see improvement — that they're symbolically showing this bright future, perhaps the contrast between how they felt before and how they're feeling moving forward. And I'd love to see that next canvas, and I hope they continue to explore that."

For music therapy, Mannino decided to learn how to play a guitar for the first time.

"It's really helpful for memory, trying to remember each chord, each note," he said. "It was super difficult at first just trying to remember which strings I've got to hold, but it brings a different level of focus. It takes your mind off of the therapy and all of the treatment. It's more fun. It becomes a therapy in its own right."

At the end of the program, some of the patients pair their art therapy with their music therapy to create unique covers for their new CDs

### Future

Mannino is engaged to be married in October. He said he couldn't have endured the worst of his PTSD and TBI symptoms without his fiancée, Diane.

"She's stuck with me through all of this," he said. "It's been just as difficult for her, if not more difficult, because she sees the good days and the bad days, and she's always around me. We're working through it together. Having that kind of support just makes it that much easier to ask for help when it's needed."

He said his command has also been supportive.

"To have the support of command on top of it is even more helpful [in] trying to erase the stigma of getting help," he said. "It's been a journey. It's been very difficult. I've made a lot of progress, but it's a long road, and I just need to keep moving forward."



# Olympic

Continued from Page D1

first victory in Hawaii was a bittersweet one; once again his boxing career would be put on hold as duty called for his unit to deploy to Kandahar, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2014 to 2015.

“I was thinking about boxing all the time during my deployment,” said Tillman. “I was always training to keep in shape, from working out with my friends to sparring occasion-

ally with other people who boxed. Once I got back from deployment, I hopped right back into training at my gym. I had decided that I wanted to try out for the All-Army Boxing team after a friend of mine had told me about it.”

The All-Army Tournament takes place annually at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where distinguished boxers from throughout the Army come together to compete. Tillman fought his first tournament in the super heavy-

weight division, which he won despite his recent return from deployment. Though his win was monumental for Tillman, it posed a new problem for him in the Hawaii boxing scene.

“The hardest thing about working with Adrian was trying to find him a fight,” admitted Jumawan, laughing. “After he won the All-Army title no one wanted to fight him.”

Eventually, a few brave souls dared to challenge the “Terminator” in the ring, but none

prevailed. With the momentum from his win at the All-Army Tournament, Tillman went on to become the Hawaii State Super Heavyweight Champion in 2015 and Heavyweight Champion in 2016.

Once Tillman joins the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program, he will begin a four-year training program to prepare for tryouts for the 2020 Olympic Boxing Team and the opportunity to make his dream of becoming an Olympic Champion come true.

# Vaccine

Continued from Page D1

a year and a half ago, he was assigned to Walter Reed Army Institute of Research as a viral technician.

“I feel very fortunate. I actually wanted to get a field unit, and they put me here, which is pretty much the exact opposite,” Springer joked. “But I lucked out.”

While many vaccines can take years to create, this one took just a few months.

“We actually cleared our calendar so we could do Zika,” said the facility’s chief researcher, Dr.

Kenneth Eckels.

Pilot Bioproduction Facility researchers received a Puerto Rican strain of the virus, called Zika Purified Inactivated Vaccine, from a lab run by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in February.

Zika is a flavivirus similar to West Nile, dengue and Japanese encephalitis, which the facility has worked on before. With those viruses, researchers applied procedures they developed in their lab to produce a vaccine for human clinical testing. Since those procedures are already in place,

and Zika is similar to those viruses, that’s also the goal for Zika.

Once initial tests were run by Springer and his colleagues, researchers in biohazard suits moved the virus strain into a clean room to continue testing it. Their job was to make sure the virus strain had been deactivated – just as a flu virus is deactivated in a flu shot.

Last week, the Zika Purified Inactivated Vaccine that the researchers had been working on was successfully completed. It’s now being tested for purity, safety and, crucially, its immunogenicity

– whether it provokes an immune response.

If all of the testing is favorable, the vaccine will be given to clinical researchers for phase one of human trials, during which researchers will test the vaccine on human volunteers for safety and immune response. Walter Reed Army Institute of Research officials hope trials will begin by the end of this year.

Researchers have also begun transferring the techniques they developed working on Zika to Sanofi Pasteur, a company with which Walter Reed Army Insti-

tute of Research recently signed a cooperative research and development agreement.

Sanofi has the capacity to manufacture the vaccine at a much larger scale for phases two and three of testing, during which researchers will use the vaccine in areas with where the disease is active to study how patients respond.

If it’s successful, Sanofi will manufacture the vaccine on a commercial scale. The Department of Defense will then receive the finished product from Sanofi for distribution and use.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Youth soccer registration

Fort Rucker Child, Youth and Schools Services Youth Sports soccer registration continues through Friday. Age groups are 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13. Cost is \$20 per child for ages 4-5 and \$40 per child for ages 6-13. Practices will begin Aug. 8. A current sports physical and a valid CYSS registration are required to participate.

A parents meeting will be held Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the youth center gym. For more information and to register, call 255-2257 or 255-9638.

### Fort Rucker Hog Hunt

Fort Rucker Outdoor Recreation will host a hog hunt Aug. 18-Sept. 22. Team categories include: two-man trapping and two-man weapon. Entry fee is \$70 per team. Cash prizes for first-third places and for the biggest hog. Cash prizes are based on total entry fees: 40 percent for first place, 30 percent for second place and 10 percent for third place for each category. A cash prize will also be awarded to the team that harvests the biggest pig.

For more information, call 255-4305 or visit rucker.armymwr.com.

### Weightlifting 101

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will host a four-week weightlifting foundation class starting Aug. 9. Each class will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. Cost is \$75 per person and people must pre-register for the class. The class is designed to give a knowledgebase of various phases of lifting properly, including dynamic warm-ups, proper lifting techniques on squats, deadlifts, pull ups, bench presses and other lifts. Class will include proper stretching techniques and basic nutrition for weightlifting. This time is designed to give attendees personalized guidance to enhance their current routines or help them become comfortable in a gym setting. The instructor will work with attendees independently and guide them around any personal limitations. For more information, call 255-2296 or 255-3794.

### Volleyball coaches meeting

People interested in coaching an intramural volleyball team should attend one of the coaches meeting Aug. 9 at either 9:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center conference room – located on Andrews Avenue. All volleyball games will be played at the Fortenberry-Colton PFC.

For more information, call 255-2296.

### Flag football coaches meeting

People interested in coaching an intramural flag football team should attend one of the coaches meetings Aug. 16 at either 9:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m. at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center conference room – located on Andrews Avenue.

For more information, call 255-2296.

### Color run

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will host a 2-mile color run Aug. 20 at 8 a.m. The run will not be a timed event and all participants will receive a medal. There will be no separate fun run and children under age 12 may register for free and complete all or any part of the 2-mile course. Participants should wear white. The cost is \$15 for individual entry, no shirt included, or \$20 through Aug. 14 with a T-shirt included. Aug. 15 through race day, race entry with shirt is \$25, while supplies last. Participants are encouraged to pre-register. Forms are available at either PFC. Race day registration will be 7-7:45 a.m. on the Fort Rucker Festival Fields. Refreshments will be provided. The event is open to the public.

For more information, call 255-2296.

### Hunting Incentive Program

In an effort to control the coyote and feral pig population, Fort Rucker has developed a Hunting Incentive Program that runs now through Aug. 31. Registered hunters who shoot 20 feral pigs or five coyotes during the 2015-2016 hunting season will receive a free Fort Rucker Post Hunting Permit for the 2016-2017 hunting season. People who trap five or more coyotes July-September are also eligible for a free permit. Hunters must be registered to hunt on Fort Rucker, be a registered participant of the Hunting Incentives Program and verify, through an outdoor recreation staff member or the Fort Rucker Game Warden, all animals shot or trapped on the installation. After verification with an ODR staff member or the game warden, hunters may remove the animal.

For more information on how to participate, call 255-4305.

### Deep sea fishing

MWR Central will host a deep sea fishing day trip to Destin, Florida, Aug. 27 aboard the Vera Marie. All people need to do is sit back, relax and enjoy a day of fishing – everything else is taken care of for those who take part. The bus will depart Fort Rucker at 4 a.m. from Bldg. 5700, Soldier Service Center, and return at 8 p.m. Organizers recommend people bring a small cooler with drinks and snacks – no glass is allowed. The cost is \$75 per person, plus tip. The price includes transportation to and from Destin, bait, rod, reel, fishing license, six-hour fishing trip, and fish cut and cleaned at the end of the trip. The trip is limited to 42 participants.

To get more information or to sign up, visit outdoor recreation, 255-4305, or MWR Central, 255-2997.

### Disc Golf

The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation offers Disc Golf – played much like traditional golf, but instead of using a ball and clubs, players use a flying disc. DFMWR welcomes novices and experienced players to bring their friends out and enjoy some friendly competition. The 18-hole disc golf course is located at Beaver Lake. People can visit the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility to check out a disc and give it a try. There is a \$10 deposit required per disc. The Disc Golf course is open to the public. Disc check-out is open to authorized patrons only.

For more information, call 255-2296.

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<b>2014 RAM 1500</b> Crew Cab, Low Miles! <b>\$31,990</b>	<b>2014 DODGE DURANGO</b> Moonroof, Nav, Leather, Loaded! <b>\$29,991</b>	<b>2015 TOYOTA AVALON XLE</b> Leather, Loaded! <b>\$29,900</b>	<b>2012 NISSAN TITAN</b> Crew Cab, Leather, Nav! <b>\$28,981</b>	<b>2011 FORD EDGE SPORT</b> Panorama Sunroof, Leather, Loaded <b>\$25,991</b>	<b>2013 HONDA ODYSSEY EX-L</b> Loaded, Must See! <b>\$25,981</b>
<b>2015 GMC SAVANA 2500</b> Cargo Van, Auto! <b>\$22,991</b>	<b>2011 HONDA PILOT</b> Sunroof, Leather! <b>\$22,585</b>	<b>2008 HUMMER H3 ALPHA</b> V8, Sunroof, Leather, Loaded! <b>\$19,999</b>	<b>2013 HYUNDAI SONATA LTD</b> Sunroof, Leather! <b>\$17,695</b>	<b>2008 DODGE RAM 1500 CREW CAB</b> Blg Horn Pkg, Hemi V8! <b>\$15,900</b>	<b>2008 LEXUS ES350</b> Leather, Nav, Moonroof! <b>\$13,994</b>
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