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ARMY FLYER

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

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HOMECOMING

164th TAOG Soldiers return home

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Tears of joy, kisses and hugs from family members and friends welcomed home Soldiers of the 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group who returned from a nearly nine-month deployment Feb. 10.

Seven Soldiers of the Special Repair Activity 23, 597th Maintenance Detachment, 164th TAOG, returned home after providing sustainment and maintenance of air traffic control equipment while deployed to various stations in Kuwait and Afghanistan, said Sgt. 1st Class James Kennedy Jr., SRA 23 NCO in charge.

“We provided training and expertise because a lot of the units that we have over there right now are National Guard, so they didn’t get the opportunity to do so back home, so we were able to get in with them and train up with them,” he said. “Once we hit the ground, we were able to get into their systems, elbow deep, and repair them.”

This was Kennedy’s second deployment and he said the time away from family doesn’t get any better with more experience.

“It’s horrible to be away from the fam-

ily – you’ve got to stay busy,” he said. “Luckily, they did have Wi-Fi over there, so we were able to (video chat) with our families.

“You wake up a little early and (video chat) with them a little bit before they go to bed, or stay up a little later and (video chat) with them while the kids are at school,” he said, “and we would just talk about grades or homework,” anything to keep the normalcy going.

That sense of normalcy was important in keeping families strong during the deployment, said Amanda Murphy, spouse of Sgt. William Murphy of the unit.

“My husband and I (video chatted) every single day,” she said. “We got to have a lot of face time and a lot of weird conversations to try and catch up, and try and include him in our everyday life to make it so he’s still here. Just because he’s gone doesn’t mean he’s detached from our family – he was still very much involved.”

Her children, Abigail, 9, and Kasey, 7, got to talk with their father as often as possible on weekends, but because of their schedules with school, it was oftentimes

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PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Amanda Murphy, military spouse, welcomes her husband, Sgt. William Murphy, home during a redeployment ceremony at Knox Army Airfield Feb. 10.

Post set to host listening session

By Lisa Eichhorn
Fort Rucker Public Affairs Officer

Fort Rucker is set to host a community listening session Monday, Feb. 23, in the post theater from 6-8 p.m.

The intent of the listening session is to receive public comments on Army end strength reductions currently under consideration at the Department of the Army level.

These sessions are taking place at 30 installations around the Army to allow communities the opportunity to express their opinions on the potential reductions in force structure. The listening session is open to the public. Local mayors, Congressional representatives, governors or their representatives and senior military leaders are expected to attend.

During the session, leaders will address the Army’s reorganization of its force structure to meet the requirements set by the Budget Control Act of 2011. Potential force structure scenarios project the Army’s end strength could shrink below 490,000 by the year 2020. Aviation, the most requested combat enabler, will stand to lose Soldiers along with the rest of the Army.

“The Army officials are coming to listen and take the community input back to Congress. They are our liaison; they are not here to look for cuts. Their job is to ensure the voice of the Wiregrass is heard and documented,” said Col. Robert Doerer, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker chief of staff. “The community input will give them a better picture on what training less Aviation Soldiers would mean to this area, our Army and our nation’s security missions.”

People planning to attend should ensure they give themselves plenty of time to get through the gates as a large turnout is expected. If the theater reaches capacity, overflow will be directed to Aviators Landing, in the main ballroom. The event will be live-streamed through the Fort Rucker website at www.rucker.army.mil.

Anyone wishing to comment but who are not able to attend in person can do so through the Fort Rucker Facebook site (on Monday evening) or by sending an email to the webmaster email address on the Fort Rucker website homepage. All will be compiled and added to the comments gathered in the open session.

MILITARY SAVES WEEK

Savings key to sound finances

From Staff Reports
Army Flier

Proper planning can help ensure a sound financial future for Soldiers and their families and wealth of information will be available through various vendors during Military Saves Week Feb. 23-28.

Mike Burden, Army Community Service accredited financial counselor, and other financial counselors and financial institution representatives on post have prepared material to help interested individuals save money and prepare for retirement.

“We like to do outreach and information tables during Military Saves Week,” he said. “In conjunction with the Army Aviation Center Credit Union and Armed Forces Bank, we will set up a table to help reach as many people as possible Feb. 27 in the atrium of the Soldier Ser-



COURTESY GRAPHIC

vice Center (Bldg. 5700).

“We want to educate military Families about how they can save and spend their money wiser,” he added. “We provide information about the program and answer financial questions. It is also an opportunity to set up appointments if people wish to get further information about saving and finances in general.”

The tables are manned by financial counselors and bank representatives with

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ARMY PHOTO

Students from the NCO Academy train in the Universal Mission Simulator.

Advancements provide innovative, realistic training

By Capt. Matthew Brown
*U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence
Directorate of Training and Doctrine*

Today’s Army Aviation leaders can augment the training process with innovative training techniques and live, virtual, constructive, gaming, and mission command technologies.

The adage “train the way we fight” requires leveraging the full spectrum of training enablers to allow Aviation leaders and their formations to progress through increasingly complex scenarios, all while replicating an operational environment. From individual crew training through company and higher combined arms collective training, Aviation leaders integrate LVCG-MC technologies towards tough, realistic Aviation training.

Maj. Beau Tibbitts, doctrine branch chief at the Directorate of Training and Doctrine, said training enablers are essential to maintain readiness to be able to employ Aviation maneuver forces throughout the range of military operations.

“LVCG-MC is a critical tool that allows leaders to evaluate and assess training on a consistent basis in order to determine the readiness of their Soldiers and the unit’s ability to conduct its mission essential tasks,” said Tibbitts.

Currently employed simulation capabilities such as Virtual Battlespace 3, the Universal Mission Simulator used for Unmanned Aircraft Systems mission training, and the Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer used for aircrew mission training assist in providing a realistic Decisive Action Training Environment for Soldiers to exercise their battle drills and leaders to exercise mission command.

Such enablers expand the scope and build upon training modules to deliver advanced, realistic training in a peacetime environment. They allow a tailorable user experience and rapidly facilitate a training environment at a fraction of the cost and time required to employ aircraft and opposing forces.

CW3 Christopher Renaud, doctrine writer and UAS subject matter expert at the DOTD, said simulations are pivotal for meeting currency requirements and maintaining proficiency in critical wartime tasks.

“The UMS allows us to execute individual and collective tasks, such as scenario-based gunnery training that can fulfill UAS gunnery requirements up to Table V,” said Renaud. “Flight hours logged in the UMS also contribute to some of our semiannual flight hour requirements.”

Additionally, the Army is working

SEE TRAINING, PAGE A5

PERSPECTIVE

CID warns public about romance scams

By Army Criminal Investigation Command
Public Affairs

QUANTICO, Va. – Special Agents from the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, commonly known as CID, continue to warn Internet users worldwide about cyber criminals involved in an online crime that CID has dubbed the romance scam.

CID special agents have received numerous reports from victims located around the world regarding various scams of persons impersonating U.S. Soldiers online. Victims are usually unsuspecting women, 30 to 55 years old, who believe they are romantically involved with an American Soldier, yet are being exploited and ultimately robbed, by perpetrators who strike from thousands of miles away.

“We cannot stress enough that people need to stop sending money to persons they meet on the Internet and claim to be in the U.S. military,” said Chris Grey, Army CID’s spokesman. “It is very troubling to hear these stories over and over again of people who have sent thousands of dollars to someone they have never met and sometimes have never even spoken to on the phone.”

The majority of the romance scams are being perpetrated on social media and dating-type websites where unsuspecting females are the main target.

The criminals are pretending to be U.S. servicemen, routinely serving in a combat zone. The perpetrators will often take the true rank and name of a U.S. Soldier who is honorably serving his country somewhere in the world, or has previously served and been honorably discharged, then marry that up with some photographs of a Soldier off the Internet, and then build a false identity to begin prowling the Internet for victims.

The scams often involve carefully worded romantic requests for money from the victim to purchase special laptop computers, international telephones, military leave papers and transportation fees to be used by the fictitious “deployed Soldier so their false relationship can continue. The scams include asking the victim to send money, often thousands of dollars at a time, to a third party address.

Once victims are hooked, the criminals continue their ruse.

“We’ve even seen instances where the perpetrators are asking the victims for money to purchase leave papers from the Army, help pay for medical expenses from combat wounds or help pay for their flight home so



ARMY GRAPHIC

they can leave the war zone,” said Grey.

These scams are outright theft and are a grave misrepresentation of the U.S. Army and the tremendous amount of support programs and mechanisms that exist for Soldiers today, especially those serving overseas, said Grey.

Along with the romance-type scams, CID has received complaints from citizens worldwide that they have been the victims of other types of scams – once again where a cyber crook is impersonating a U.S. service member.

One version usually involves the sale of a vehicle where the service member claims to be living overseas and has to quickly sell their vehicle because they are being sent to another duty station. After sending bogus information regarding the vehicle, the seller requests the buyer do a wire transfer to a third party to complete the purchase. When in reality, the entire exchange is a ruse for the crook to get the wire transfer and leave the buyer high and dry, with no vehicle.

Army CID continues to warn people to be very suspicious if they begin a relationship on the Internet with someone claiming to be an American Soldier and within a matter of weeks, the alleged Soldier is asking for money, as well as discussing marriage.

The majority of these scams have a distinct pattern to them, explained Grey.

The perpetrators often tell the victims that their units do not have telephones or they are not allowed to make calls or they need money to “help keep the Army Internet running.” They often say they are widowers and raising a young child on their own to pull on the heartstrings of their victims.

“We’ve even seen where the criminals said

that the Army won’t allow the Soldier to access their personal bank accounts or credit cards,” said Grey.

All lies, according to CID officials.

“These perpetrators, often from other countries, most notably from west African countries, are good at what they do and quite familiar with American culture, but the claims about the Army and its regulations are ridiculous,” said Grey.

The Army reports that numerous very senior officers and enlisted Soldiers throughout the Army have had their identities stolen to be used in these scams.

To date, there have been no reports to Army CID indicating any U.S. service members have suffered any financial loss as a result of these attacks. Photographs and actual names of U.S. service members have been the only thing utilized. On the contrary, the victims have lost thousands.

One victim revealed that she had sent more than \$60,000 to the scammer. Another victim from Great Britain told CID officials that over the course of a year, she had sent more than \$75,000 to the con artists.

“The criminals are preying on the emotions and patriotism of their victims,” added Grey.

The U.S. has established numerous task force organizations to deal with this and other growing issues; unfortunately, the people committing these scams are using untraceable email addresses on Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc., routing accounts through numerous locations around the world, and utilizing pay-per-hour Internet cyber cafes, which often times maintain no accountability of use. The ability of law enforcement to identify these perpetrators is very limited, so individuals must stay on the alert and be personally responsible to protect themselves.

“Another critical issue is we don’t want victims who do not report this crime walking away and thinking that a U.S. serviceman has ripped them off when in fact that serviceman is honorably serving his country and often not even aware that his pictures or identity have been stolen,” said Grey.

What to look for

- Don’t ever send money. Be extremely suspicious if you are asked for money for transportation costs, communication fees or marriage processing and medical fees.
- Carefully check out the stories you are being told. If it sounds suspicious, there is a reason, it’s routinely false – trust

your instincts.

- If you do start an Internet-based relationship with someone, check them out, research what they are telling you with someone who would know, such as a current or former service member.
- Be very suspicious if you never get to actually speak with the person on the phone or are told you cannot write or receive letters in the mail. Servicemen and women serving overseas will often have an APO or FPO mailing address. Internet or not, service members always appreciate a letter in the mail.
- Military members have an email address that end in “.mil.” If the person you are speaking with cannot sent you at least one email from a “.mil” (that will be the very last part of the address and nothing after), then there is a high probability they are not in the military.
- Many of the negative claims made about the military, and the supposed lack of support and services provided to troops overseas are far from reality – check the facts.
- Be very suspicious if you are asked to send money or ship property to a third party or company. Often times the company exists, but has no idea or is not a part of the scam.
- Be aware of common spelling, grammatical or language errors in the emails.
- Be cognizant of foreign and regional accents that do not match the person’s story.

Where to get help

- Report the theft to the Internet Crime Complaint Center (FBI-NW3C Partnership) at <http://www.ic3.gov/default.aspx>.
- Report the theft to the Federal Trade Commission at <http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft>. Your report helps law enforcement officials across the United States in their investigations.
- Report the theft by phone at 1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338) or TTY, 1-866-653-4261.
- Report the theft by mail at the following address:
Identity Theft Clearinghouse
Federal Trade Commission
Washington, DC 20580
- Report the fraud by email to the Federal Trade Commission on Nigerian Scams via at spam@uce.gov.

For more information on CID, visit www.cid.army.mil.

Rotor Wash

“Military Saves Week is Feb. 23-28. What tips do you suggest for saving a little for a rainy day when budgets already tend to be tight?”



Sherry Barnes,
military spouse

“Just put a little away per paycheck into a savings account.”



Jennifer Does,
military spouse

“Set up a little change jar in your home and throw your change in it when you get home. It adds up quicker than you think.”



John Lindor,
retired military

“Think about what it is you’re spending your money on and evaluate what is necessary and what isn’t.”



Dominique Jordan,
military family member

“Try not to spend money on things you don’t need. Set up a budget and follow it.”



Carolyn Harper,
military spouse

“I set up my bank account to automatically withdraw a certain amount when the paychecks go in, that way we don’t forget to have a savings plan.”

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If you would like to contact the Army Flier by e-mail, please contact the editor at jhughes@armyflyer.com.

25th secretary of defense takes office

By Cheryl Pellerin
Department of Defense News

WASHINGTON – Ash Carter became the 25th secretary of defense Tuesday after having served previously as deputy defense secretary, defense acquisition chief and assistant secretary for global strategic affairs.

When President Barack Obama nominated Carter for the position – calling Carter an innovator and a reformer who knows the Defense Department inside and out – the president said, “On Day 1, he’s going to hit the ground running.”

At his Feb. 4 Senate Armed Services Committee confirmation hearing, Carter described the work that lies ahead for him and the department.

“I think we are in a time,” he told the Senate panel, “where the number and severity of risks is something I’ve not seen before in my life.”

Risks to the nation

For Carter, the job will include dealing with coalition responsibilities in Afghanistan and Iraq, and what he described as “the malignant and savage terrorism” emanating from turmoil in the Middle East and north Africa.

He’ll also take on what has become a reversion to what he’s called old-style security thinking in parts of Europe, long-standing tensions and rapid changes in Asia, a continuing imperative to counter the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and dangers in new domains such as cyber.

Carter’s own expertise, experience, travels and interests in defense and national security have prepared him precisely to deal with these challenges and more.



PHOTO BY AIR FORCE MASTER SGT. ADRIAN CADIZ

Incoming Secretary of Defense Ash Carter arrives at the Pentagon to assume duties as the newly appointed Secretary of Defense Tuesday.

As former U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman said in introductory remarks during Carter’s hearing, “It would really be hard to find someone to serve as secretary of defense who combines as much practical Pentagon experience with so deep a background in national security policy as Ash Carter.”

Issues and allies in NATO

Over his career, Carter has developed important relationships among military and foreign policy leaders of U.S. partners and allies in NATO. In 2013, as part of an expert panel at the 49th annual Munich Security Conference, Carter explored DOD’s strategic approach to 21st-century threats for an audience of international foreign and defense ministers and security policy of-

ficials.

“I think our strength in Europe is our alliance with NATO and the political solidarity that represents, which is very important when it comes to the Baltic states and the response in Ukraine,” he said during his confirmation hearing.

Carter told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee that economic and political pressure on Russia and President Vladimir Putin has to remain the center of gravity in the U.S. effort to push back against the incursion of Russian troops into Ukraine.

Budapest Memorandum

Carter was present and involved in the 1994 signing in Hungary of the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances.

In the diplomatic document signed there by Ukraine, Russia, the United States and the United Kingdom, Ukraine agreed to remove all Soviet-era nuclear weapons from its territory, send them to Russian disarmament facilities and sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, all of which it did.

Russia, the United States and the United Kingdom agreed to accept Ukraine as an independent sovereign state.

“I was in Ukraine the day the last nuclear weapon rode across the border from Ukraine into Russia,” Carter said. “That agreement provided for Russia to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine, which it obviously has not done.”

In that agreement, the United States took on a commitment not

only to respect, but also to assure, “the ability of Ukraine to find its own way as an independent country,” he added. “That is at stake today.”

Finishing the job in Afghanistan

Warfighters’ needs – for weapons, equipment, training and more – were a driving force in Carter’s nine official trips to Afghanistan during the International Security Assistance Force combat mission there.

Carter spent some of his last days as deputy defense secretary in Afghanistan over the Thanksgiving holiday in 2013. On Thanksgiving Day, after meeting with U.S. and Afghan military leaders, and shaking hands with 150 troops at Forward Operating Base Gamberi in eastern Afghanistan’s Laghman province, Carter and his wife, Stephanie, got behind the dining facility’s steam tables and happily served turkey to the men and women in uniform.

A champion for troops

At several stops, Carter was honored as a champion for troops in moving the Pentagon acquisition process beyond bureaucracy and into the life-saving business with a range of tools produced in a timely way.

These included mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles; unmanned aircraft systems; counter-roadside-bomb equipment; persistent surveillance by way of the aerostat, or an immobile balloon-type structure filled with a lifting gas – what Carter called “a poor man’s Predator unmanned vehicle” -- and medical advances produced during the long wars in

SEE SECDEF, PAGE A4

Education fair helps Soldiers, families reach goals

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

A college education is becoming more and more necessary for people to pursue careers outside military life, and the Fort Rucker Education Center showed how it can help Soldiers and family members achieve their higher education goals at its Spring Education Fair Feb. 11.

The fair was part of the Soldier for Life program, said Randy McNally, education service specialist for the Fort Rucker Education Center.

“What we’ve done is brought all the educational academic institutions, along with Veterans Affairs, in support of bringing the message out here to the Fort Rucker community about education, education programs and to support actual physical education facility offerings,” he said. “We want to get out to the community in sort of a face-to-face communication.”

The education center works together with the Soldier for Life program, the Army Continuing Education Systems and Veterans Affairs to support Soldiers and their families, not only for transition into civilian life, but throughout their military experience.

“The Soldier for Life program, which entails it all, is just that,” said McNally. “It’s from the beginning of their military

career to the time that they leave the military and beyond, and our programs are set up in that aspect – it’s not a one-time shot, it’s a life-long support system.”

McNally said a support system like that is important because different Soldiers have different career focuses. Some might come into the military to finish out their four years for their one enlistment to get their education benefits and then move on to something else, and some decide to make it a full career.

McNally said the education center exists to help both types.

“We still need to support them in whichever aspect they’re trying to reach,” he said. “Whether they’re trying to reach that civilian goal or if they’re trying to reach that military goal, we need to be able to work with them hand-in-hand in order for that to happen.”

There are many ways that the education center and the Soldier for Life program helps Soldiers, such as through the active-duty Army Tuition Assistance Program, which allows assistance for up 16-semester hours per fiscal year with a cap of \$250 per semester hour. Other options Soldiers and family members have is through the VA, the Montgomery GI Bill and the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

“We assist with the transferability of (the GI Bills) from the service members



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Staff Sgt. Eric Ruffin, 1st Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment (Airfield Operations), speaks with Randy McNally, education service specialist for the Fort Rucker Education Center, during the Spring Education Fair at Bldg. 5700 Feb. 11.

to the family members, and there are also many scholarship programs out there for family members,” said McNally.

The education center also performs personality trait assessment, which helps to orient a person toward the career or academic goals he or she hopes to achieve.

“We really look at giving them a foundation so that they can build on it because

we want them to achieve their degrees, achieve their goals and not fall short of them because of lack of support,” said the education specialist. “At the education center it’s about the whole Soldier and the whole community.”

For more information, email randy.a.mcnelly.civ@mail.mil or call 255-2925.

News Briefs

AER kickoff

The Army Emergency Relief fundraising campaign kickoff event is scheduled for March 4 from 2-3 p.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. For more information, call 255-2341.

Heritage month events

Fort Rucker’s African-American Black History Month celebration events are scheduled throughout February.

- **Today** – Educational field research trip to the George W. Carver Interpretive Center in Dothan from 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Wednesday** – Luncheon with Dothan Mayor Mike Schmitz as guest speaker. For more information, call 255-2951.

AER scholarship applications

Army Emergency Relief is running its scholarship application period through May 1. AER supports both the Spouse Scholarship Program, as well as the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program for dependent children. In 2014, 47 children’s scholarships totaling \$105,400 and 18 spouses’ scholar-

ships totaling \$25,250 were awarded in the Fort Rucker area. Scholarship specifics and applications are available on AER’s website at www.aerhq.org.

For more information, call 255-2341.

Thrift shop

The Fort Rucker Thrift Shop is open Wednesdays-Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The thrift shop needs people’s unwanted items. People can drop off donations at any time in the shed behind the shop (former Armed Forces Bank building) located in front of the theater next door to the bowling alley. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information, call 255-9595.

Volunteers needed

Lyster Army Health Clinic is looking for volunteers to drive patients to and from the parking lot in its golf cart. The golf cart was donated in 2011 by the mayor of Dothan after a retiree noticed that patients often needed assistance when walking to and from the clinic parking lot. Those interested in volunteering

can call Capt. Brian Turner at 255-7245.

TRICARE Nurse Advice Line

Lyster Army Health Clinic uses the TRICARE Nurse Advice Line for all after-hours urgent care questions. Call 1-800-TRICARE (874-2273) to speak with a nurse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Marriage 101

Marriage 101, a premarital seminar and training, will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each month from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center, Bldg. 8939. Marriage 101 is mandatory for those wishing to get married at Fort Rucker, according to Chaplain (Capt.) Troy D. Allan.

For more information, call 255-3447 or 255-3903.

ID card appointment system

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., the ID card service, located in Bldg. 5700, is available to people by appointment only to better serve the com-

munity and alleviate some of the long waits that people experience when getting their ID cards, according to military personnel division officials. If necessary, people will still be able to get their ID cards as a walk-in customer on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

To make an appointment, people can visit <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/appointment/building.aspx?BuildingId=876>.

When visiting the website, people can choose their desired appointment date by looking at the calendar that is available on the site. Days shown in green mean there are appointments available for the day, and days shown in grey mean there are no appointments available for the day.

People need only to select their desired appointment day, the time they wish for their appointment, and then fill out the necessary information on the screen. After their information has been submitted, a confirmation email should be sent to the address provided to confirm the appointment.

For more information, call 255-2182.

SecDef: Conference discusses path ahead

Continued from Page A3

Iraq and Afghanistan.

“The campaign in Afghanistan has been close to my heart for all the time that I’ve been associated with the Department of Defense,” he said during his confirmation hearing.

“I think success is possible there, but ... requires the United States to continue its campaign and finish the job,” he added, noting that he supports the president’s plan for Afghanistan but will recommend changes if he sees a need for them.

In the Middle East region, Carter told the Senate panel, “I think we have two immediate, substantial dangers – one is [the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, and one is Iran,” he said.

A serious complication

Carter called Iran’s role a “serious complication” in the region and in the coalition fight against ISIL being waged in Iraq and stretching across the border into Syria.

During his hearing, in answer to a question about reports of Iran’s recent use of a two-stage rocket to place another satellite in orbit, Carter said continued Iranian development of ballistic missile technology is “a threat not only to the United States but friends and allies in the region, and it’s just one of the things Iran is doing that is dangerous.”

“That’s one of the reasons why we need to keep our missile defenses and especially our (intercontinental ballistic missile) defenses current, capable and large enough in size to deal with both the prospective Iranian threat and the also very real North Korean ICBM threat,” Carter explained.

On the international fight against ISIL, Carter said that regional partners in the fight will help the United States make sure the defeat inflicted on ISIL is lasting, and that it keeps ISIL from creating breeding grounds for its “malignant and vicious kind of terrorism.” U.S. involvement is essential and necessary, he added, but not sufficient by itself for lasting victory.

Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific Region

During his Jan. 20 State of the Union address, Obama said the United States is modernizing alliances in the Asia-Pacific region while making sure other nations play by the rules in how they trade, resolve maritime disputes and work to meet common international challenges like nonproliferation and disaster relief.

A big part of the transition is the military rebalance to the region, where Carter

traveled extensively as deputy secretary to explain the rebalance and to reassure political and military leaders there that budget cuts would not affect the U.S. commitment.

In 2013, a March trip to Asia included visits to defense and government officials in Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and the Philippines. In Indonesia, as part of an international panel at the third Jakarta International Defense Dialogue, Carter said the United States is serious about its commitment to the region and detailed elements in motion of a rebalance called for in the department’s 2012 Defense Strategic Guidance.

Keeping peace and stability

Carter called the rebalance a commitment to continue the pivotal American military role in the Asia-Pacific theater, a presence that for decades has kept peace and stability there, and created an environment for explosive economic growth.

At his confirmation hearing, Carter said the United States could rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region while keeping its commitments in the Middle East and Europe.

“My view is that we can and must,” he added. Though ISIL and events in Ukraine are critically important and require much attention, “we have to remember that half the population of the world and half its economy is in [the Asia-Pacific] region,” he said.

Multilaterally, Carter has said, DOD recognizes the importance of strengthening regional institutions such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which plays a critical role in maintaining regional stability and resolving disputes through diplomacy.

Importance of south Asia

The rebalance is a transition not only to the Asia-Pacific but within the region, Carter told the Senate panel. As former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel’s deputy, Carter’s portfolio included serving as the department’s point man in defense relations with India.

“India is, in my view, destined to be a strategic partner of the United States,” Carter said, characterizing the nation as a large democracy that shares many U.S. political values and the values of pluralism.

“I think that destiny will bring us together, but I’m for hastening that,” he added, with collaborative efforts in military-to-military relations and defense and

technology cooperation.

For all their economic relations, India and every other country in south Asia depend on peaceful relations and trade with one another, Carter observed at the time.

“The top priority of all those governments, they’ll tell you, is economic prosperity,” he added, “and that can’t be had without security within their borders and with their neighbors with whom they have to trade.”

Very newest in technology

One tenet of the 2012 defense strategy was to pursue the very newest in technology and operational art, Carter said many times in his role as deputy defense secretary.

“Investments in this area target special operations forces, capabilities in space and in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and cyberspace,” he said.

In 2012, during a keynote address to participants at the annual RSA Conference on cryptography and information security in San Francisco, Carter said DOD is deeply involved in and committed to cybersecurity and the department’s responsibility to defend the nation.

“That explains, for us – and in this I speak for (the defense secretary and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] and other department leadership – our real sense of urgency about cyber and our willingness, indeed eagerness, to be a leading part of, where appropriate, the march to cybersecurity that we’re all just beginning.”

Urgency about cyberspace

On cyberspace, Carter said during his confirmation hearing that the federal government has a role in protecting the country from cyberattacks in the same way it has a role in protecting the country from other kinds of attacks.

“I think (the government) can do a lot more to exercise that responsibility without causing concerns over invasions of people’s privacy,” he added.

The government can share information and knowledge it has collected about threats to private networks with those private parties, for example, if proper legal safeguards are provided, Carter said. And these have less to do with privacy than they do with things such as antitrust and other important legal aspects, he added.

“I think the government can sponsor

and conduct [research and development] that improves the tradecraft in network defense for the good of the country,” he said. “So I think there’s a lot we can do, and we’re not anywhere near where we should be as a country.”

21st-century defense strategy

Carter often characterized as a strategic crossroads the department’s transition from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to a renewed political and economic focus on the Asia-Pacific region, and the need to absorb defense budget reductions.

“These two great historical currents are coming together,” Carter said in 2013, “and it’s my view that they can, if managed properly, reinforce one another.”

During a November 2013 address on national security leadership in Annapolis, Maryland, Carter detailed for 250 U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen the strategic tasks facing the Defense Department as the 21st century unfolds.

One of these was to maintain a technological edge over U.S. adversaries, and Carter – who holds a doctorate in theoretical physics from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar – said maintaining a technological edge over competitors is the surest way to deter conflict.

Maintaining a technological edge

The nation, he added, must continue to invest in technologies that will be essential to 21st-century defense, and the president and the department have focused on protecting critical investments, even in times of budget austerity.

DOD is increasing investments in the cyber domain because of growing threats to national security and critical infrastructure, Carter said. In the space domain, the department is rebalancing its portfolio to better defend against threats, degrade enemy space capabilities and operate in a contested environment.

The department also is investing in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and unmanned assets, he said, including platforms that launch from land and sea, and operate well above the Earth’s surface and deep under the sea.

“I would say,” Carter said during his confirmation hearing, “that the world continues to pose serious challenges to international order, and that the United States is indispensable to the solution of those challenges.”

164th TAOG: Families welcome their Soldiers home

Continued from Page A1

difficult. That’s why Murphy came up with a way that her girls could keep up with their dad at all times.

“We tried to keep a schedule as much as possible and I created a daddy wall for my girls, which had a little Hum-vee trail to an end destination, and each week (each girl

would take a turn moving) the Humvee,” she said. “There were pictures and time zones to where the girls could always see what time it was where daddy was. I just wanted to keep us all as connected as much as possible, even with the distance. That’s what made it the best for us.”

Abigail and Kasey weren’t able to be there to see their father return, but a special welcome home was planned for

the very next day when he would go to the girls’ schools to surprise them.

“He said he wanted us each to have our own special moment that he could share with just us individually,” she said, adding that the family will be going on a trip together soon to help reintegrate back into normal life. “I’m just so ecstatic to have my husband back.”

Training: New tools help safely sharpen operational skills

Continued from Page A1

to integrate UMS with the Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer and the Apache Crew Trainer to enable Manned-Unmanned Team training. Later integration of this capability in the Integrated Training Environment will enhance not only MUM-T, but also collective, multi-echelon staff training of key personnel tasked to integrate MUM-T.

Leaders can use any number of simulation capabilities in concert or independent-

ly to further train for air-ground operations in support of unified land operations.

The Directorate of Simulations is continuously identifying new technologies to enhance training and deliver realistic scenarios. It is also introducing students to technologies to help grow future leaders who appreciate how to conduct effective training.

Wade Becnel, deputy director for DOS, is a proponent for leveraging training enhancement technologies.

“Tools like the new Oculus Rift head-

mounted goggles could be used to introduce virtual reality/augmented reality into our maintenance training courses or collective flight training venues,” says Becnel.

DOS efforts to explore potential training capabilities will help define Aviation required for the Army’s proposed future Synthetic Training Environment.

The future of training outside the Army Force Generating cycle will involve VR/AR enabling a combination of data-centric video, 3-D based diagrams, and interactive multimedia instruction. These capabili-

ties will allow maintainers as well as other specialties to visualize the proper process, components, and tools to execute tasks.

Employing new technologies for training is only limited by the imagination.

“We need to start thinking about how Army Aviation can use such tools and identifying our unique requirements. Our current work on the Aviation Reconnaissance Leaders’ Course will use some of these tools to support training. Our goal is to see what we need to define as our future training requirements,” said Becnel.

Savings: Commissary offers discounts for Soldiers, families

Continued from Page A1

pamphlets and helpful information. Anyone is allowed to stop and speak with the representatives at the table, but only military personnel and their Families may utilize the Army Community Service financial services.

Burden said that there are many types of savings accounts and long-term investments that many people may not know about and that stopping at the table can help clear up any misconceptions.

“People have questions about their saving – things concerning interest or stocks,” he said. “Typically, younger people are not sure about ways to save, like money market accounts. Others may just be putting away a few dollars a paycheck, which is good. But we might be able to help them save even more.”

Since the economic adjust-

ment from 2007, Burden said that it is wise to save money and be prepared for future unexpected expenses.

“For Soldiers, it is not uncommon to have to go on emergency leave because of an ailing Family member who lives far away, or, heaven forbid, they get in some type of accident. Everyone has those unexpected emergencies, and if you have some money put away it is not as stressful,” he said.

If people get into the habit of saving, it is easier to do, said Burden, adding that people should pay themselves first and that the first step is stopping to talk to a counselor or bank representative in the atrium or making an appointment to speak with a financial counselor.

The Defense Commissary Agency is once again helping to spread the word on responsible financial planning. With its overall savings of 30 percent or

more, the commissary can help Soldiers and their families make the most of every dollar and stick to a budget.

Commissaries also promote healthy cooking at home by hosting cooking demonstrations and promoting simple meal recipes even the busiest family can accommodate.

Shopping at the local commissary provides many budget-friendly benefits, according to DECA officials.

- Savings average 30 percent or more, produce delivers savings of 44 percent and meat averages savings of 32 percent.
- Commissaries offer better-for-you food choices, including organics and a growing number of “specialty” items, such as gluten-free alternatives, low sodium, sugar-free and reduced-calorie products.
- Approximately 400 commis-

sary value brand items in 33 categories offer savings of about 25 percent when compared to the store brand and private label items found in commercial retail stores. In some instances, savings could be as much as 50 percent.

- Commissaries strongly support use of coupons for additional savings and the com-

missary rewards card banks electronic coupons for automatic savings at checkout. Card users recently topped 350,000 and more than 5.3 million digital coupons have been redeemed, saving customers nearly \$6 million on their groceries.

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General: Afghan transition trends ‘positive’

By **Jim Garamone**
Department of Defense News

WASHINGTON – The commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan delivered an upbeat assessment of progress in the nation, while also acknowledging there is much that needs to be done.

Army Gen. John F. Campbell told the Senate Armed Services Committee Feb. 12 that there is a new atmosphere in the Afghan capital of Kabul, and that Afghan forces are succeeding in the struggle against the Taliban and affiliated terror groups.

“Afghanistan, the region, the enemy and our coalition have undergone tremendous transition and most of this has been extraordinarily positive for us,” Campbell said.

In September, Afghanistan completed its first peaceful transition of power when



Campbell

the international community, our coalition and the Afghan security forces.”

A sign of that was the new president signing a bilateral security agreement with the United States and other members of the Operation Resolute Support coalition.

Hamid Karzai gave way to new Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

“The difference between the new national unity government and its predecessor is night and day,” the general said. “President Ghani and (Chief Executive Officer) Abdullah embrace

Campbell sees the new Afghan leadership as providing the opportunity for a long-lasting strategic partnership with Afghanistan that would benefit the region and the United States. The Afghan government remains in transition and Ghani has asked the United States and NATO for flexibility moving forward.

“I have provided options for adjusting our force posture through my chain of command,” the general said. “The issue is, how long do we stay engaged at the regional level in the transition year of 2015?”

The dynamics in the region are trending toward greater cooperation and coordination, Campbell said. The Taliban attack on a school in Peshawar that killed 132 young boys galvanized anti-terrorism sentiment in Pakistan, he said.

“Senior Pakistani officials realized they could no longer make a distinction

between good and bad terrorists,” Campbell said. “In the wake of the tragedy, the ‘blame game’ between the two countries has stopped.”

Campbell said he is seeing improvements on the ground in Afghanistan as Afghan and Pakistani soldiers work together to get at extremist sanctuaries on both sides of the border.

“While we must temper our expectations, I remain optimistic that both countries are working toward a more productive relationship,” he said.

The Taliban failed to meet any of its objectives in 2014, Campbell said. The enemy was under constant pressure from Afghan forces and lost support from the Afghan people. They could only hit soft targets that caused a lot of publicity, but little else, the

SEE POSITIVE, PAGE B4

25TH CAB

Soldiers conduct 1st overwater hoist training

By **Staff Sgt. Sean Everett**
*25th Infantry Division
Public Affairs*

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – In and over the water of Kaneohe Bay, the men and women of 25th Combat Aviation Brigade made 25th Infantry Division history recently.

C Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment conducted live overwater hoist training using an HH-60M Black Hawk helicopter to lift service members from the water in an aircraft crash and survival scenario Jan. 28 and 29.

“It’s the first time we’ve done this,” said Capt. Garrett Kuipers, 4th Forward Support MedEvac Platoon Section Leader. “It’s very important we’re out here today. If one of our aircraft goes down, we now have the ability to come in and extract that aircrew. It’s making sure that we can get our battle buddies out and keep them safe.”

As the 25th ID’s area of responsibility covers the entire Pacific region, it will be a huge benefit to the Army’s mission here to have units that know how to perform this kind of rescue operation, he added.

“While we have Coast Guard and Navy assets here in Hawaii, when we’re operating in an expeditionary environment in other countries, like during Pacific Pathways, we don’t always have that ability,” Kuipers said. “What this training will provide is the ability for the Army and our aircrews within 25th CAB to extract personnel out of the water from a downed aircraft or in some sort of emergency situation.”

The Aviation water egress trainers at the 3-25th Avn. Rgt. have been working with CAB Soldiers on these skills, but it has always been in the pool. Now the AWETs and Soldiers can see how that training has paid off, said Spc. Billy Taylor, a 3-25th Avn. Rgt. crew chief and AWET instructor.

“We’re actually putting that pool training to the test to see if they actually learned something,” he said. “It’s important because you never know what’s going to happen. At any point in time, we could be flying over water, and something happens and the aircraft goes down. If we’re flying a shift of two, the aircraft behind them already knows what to do. So, training something like this, it’s new. It’s important to us, Charlie Company and the Army.”



PHOTO BY CAPT. HEBBA BULLOCK

An HH-60M Black Hawk helicopter hoist operator looks out onto Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, where Soldiers from C Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade wait to be lifted out of the water as part of the overwater live hoist training being conducted by the unit.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. SEAN EVERETTE

Spc. Billy Taylor, 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade crew chief and AWET instructor, briefs Soldiers taking part in the overwater live hoist training on the next portion of the rescue and survival scenario Jan. 28 in the water of Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

OUT OF AFRICA



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS MARY ROSE MITTLESTEADT

Soldiers prepare UH-60 Black Hawks to be loaded onto a ship to redeploy in Buchanan, Liberia, Feb. 10. Deployed as Task Force Iron Knights, 2-501st Aviation Regiment was the Aviation asset for Joint Forces Command - United Assistance in support of Operation UA. The Soldiers disassembled the helicopters at the 101st Sustainment Brigade’s Division Support Area near the Port of Buchanan.

6-17th CAV bids farewell to Korea

By **Sgt. Jesse Smith**
*2nd Combat Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea – It’s always hard to say goodbye. That’s what the 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment Soldiers did when they left on a deployment nine months ago to South Korea.

They said goodbye to their families, friends and their country, and set off to complete their mission. Now the nine months is over and they face a different kind of goodbye.

Lt. Col. Matt Ketchum, a native of Dallas, Oregon, and the 6-17th Cav. Rgt. commander, spoke about the bittersweet end to his unit’s deployment on the radio show “Talon Talk” Feb. 5 at the AFN station on Osan Air Base.

“A nice thing about coming here to Korea is it provides more training than back in Alaska,” Ketchum said.

He said that the unit is fully funded here which allows for more opportunities to train Soldiers.

“Soldiers are able to do the work they signed up to do,” Ketchum said.

Having rotational units in Korea is still a relatively new concept he said. He thinks it is a great idea and he said it only furthers the 2nd Infantry Division’s mission to be able to fight tonight.

“We trained for this as if it was going to be a full-blown deployment into Iraq or Afghanistan,” Ketchum said. “We arrived ready to fight.”

The concept of a rotational unit



PHOTOS BY SGT. JESSE SMITH

Soldiers from the 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade load machine gun rounds onto an OH-58 Kiowa helicopter Nov. 21 at the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex in South Korea. The training was part of the last gunnery exercise the unit would have in Korea.

was a success, and it seemed to only strengthen and support the armistice in Korea, he said.

“I think it helps increase the readiness of U.S. forces on the ground,” Ketchum said.

The squadron was able to participate in a wide variety of training exercises with many units on the Korean Peninsula wanting to train.

“We were able to conduct live-fire exercises at the combined, joint and multi-national levels,” Ketchum said. “Everyone wants to fly.”

A lot of organizations to include the 8th U.S. Army, the Republic of Korea Army, the Air Force and the Marines had units that wanted to come out and



The 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment lined up its OH-58 Kiowa helicopters Jan. 20 inside a hangar on Camp Humphreys, South Korea. The unit held a ceremony indoors for selected Soldiers to receive coins from Maj. Gen. Michael H. Shields, U.S. Army Alaska commanding general.

train, he said. “You just had to reach out to them and make the most of the training areas here in South Korea.”

The unit’s time here has not been all work and no play. Its Soldiers have been able to get out and experience some of the Korean culture, Ketchum said. “I have been able to get most of my Soldiers out to the see the DMZ (de-militarized zone).”

He said he thinks it is very important for Soldiers to be able to see it while they are here. He has visited the DMZ twice. Once while stationed here in 1996 on his first duty assignment and then again on this deployment.

Some of the Soldiers families were even able to visit while here on deployment. They were also able to be immersed in the Korean culture for a brief time.

Ketchum said he has a lot of advice for the unit that is replacing his, but the most important is to “get out and find other units that want to train. If you extend to them with open arms, people will want to help you and train with you and you can make the most of this deployment.”

The unit’s deployment has come to an end, but it has gained so much as a unit, he said. Its Soldiers will go home and see their families once again and they will always be second to none. “Once a Talon, always a Talon.”

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Nissan 2013 Altima, low miles, Real Nice, Must Sell! \$200 down \$269 per month. Call Ron Ellis 334-714-0028.

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Aviators help certify Army engineers

By Staff Sgt. Kelly Malone
4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade
Public Affairs

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. — “Practice doesn’t make perfect, but practice makes permanent,” said a 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 1st Infantry Division engineering officer. “So, the more you do it, the better you are at something. You have to keep doing it so it becomes perfect.”

Capt. Joel Thompson was speaking about the recently concluded combined arms breach exercise conducted at Fort Leonard Wood Jan. 29.

During the exercise, massive pieces of engineering equipment, support bridges and plows converged on a simulated hazardous crossing, which required earth-moving vehicles to displace huge piles of dirt and mud. Armored tanks took up a wide perimeter for ground security, firing blank rounds for the full effect of being in a combat zone.

Helicopters flew overhead, keeping a bird’s eye view on the enemy, as several small explosions and colored smoke added to the difficulty of the set task – remove the obstacle and get the troops to the other side.

Soldiers with the 1st Infantry Division traveled from Fort Riley, Kansas, to provide infantry and armor support, known as combined maneuver support, for the exercise devised to certify two units with the 4th MEB’s 5th En-

gineer Battalion. The 515th Engineer Company and 55th Mobility Augmentation Company are slated to participate in a rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California, later this year.

Certification is a process in the Army where an element, a platoon in the case of this event, is evaluated by their commander to ensure the group can properly execute tasks assigned to all Army engineers.

Lt. Col. Sebastien Joly, commander, 5th Eng. Bn., said conducting this combined arms breach on the complex obstacle and mine field with the support of 1st Inf. Div.’s maneuver force builds competence, confidence and increases knowledge of engineer breaching capabilities.

The series of events required to execute an engineer breach, or the removing of a single or series of obstacles for forward mobility, is complex, but necessary for military operations, according to unit officials.

“This training is a unique opportunity for engineers on Fort Leonard Wood. Engineers provide support to mobility operations and a primary task to that mission is conducting combined arms breaching,” Thompson said. “This training allowed augmentation from companies in the 5th Eng. Bn. and the 92nd Military Police Battalion to maneuver units from the 1st Inf. Div. They were able to exercise the tasks of clearing obstacles, bridging gaps, and clearing lanes alongside of heavy infantry equipment that this installation typically doesn’t see.”

In addition to ground elements, such as tanks, to accomplish the exercise objective, 1st Inf. Div. brought Aviation assets from 6th Cavalry Regiment and 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, both with 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, for aerial security during the breach.

“This is our bread and butter – working for the ground force,” said CW2 Jon Abdo, helicopter pilot with Troop A, 1st Squadron, 6th Cav. Rgt. “It’s good to go outside of your self-contained unit and help spread the wealth of knowledge, so we’re all more mission ready.”

During an exercise rehearsal held Jan. 28, tanks, helicopters and engineers ran through the scenario planned for the next day.

“We’re rehearsing and we are improving – we have some things we can do better,” Pfc. Christopher Abbe, a combat engineer with the 515th Eng. Co., said from the hatch of an M113 Troop Carrier vehicle.

Students from the engineering captain’s career course also came out to watch the combined arms rehearsal.

“This exercise should also serve as an opportunity to educate the officers and senior noncommissioned officers on the conduct of combined arms operations” Col. Antonio Munera, commander, 4th MEB, said.

A great deal of planning went into the exercise from transporting personnel, to the final execution.

“I’m going to be driving and I want to maneuver the best I can so we can train at destroying enemy forces and have fun doing it,” said Pfc. Delon Williams, a tank driver with 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armor Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div.

As senior Soldiers lined the banks of the training area to observe, some junior Soldiers were doing this for the first time.

“I haven’t done anything like this before, except in gunnery training,” Williams said. “This is a great experience and I really enjoy being here.”



Tanks with 3rd AHB, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, roll into the training area while a helicopter with 1st Infantry Division’s 1st Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, provides aerial security during a 5th Engineer Battalion-led combined arms breach exercise Jan. 27-29.

Positive: Nations work together to fight back

Continued from Page B1

general said.

“The possible rise of Daesh – or ISIL – is also a new development,” he said. “Thus far we think the presence of Daesh in Afghanistan represents more of a rebranding of a few marginalized Taliban. But we are still taking this potential threat, with its dangerous rhetoric and ideology, very, very seriously.”

Campbell said his command is working with all nations of the area to make sure Daesh does not establish a foothold in Asia.

Jan. 1, NATO’s International Security Assistance Command folded its flag – the combat mission for coalition forces was over. Afghan forces had full control of the security environment in the country. But the mission to train, advise and assist Afghan forces began.

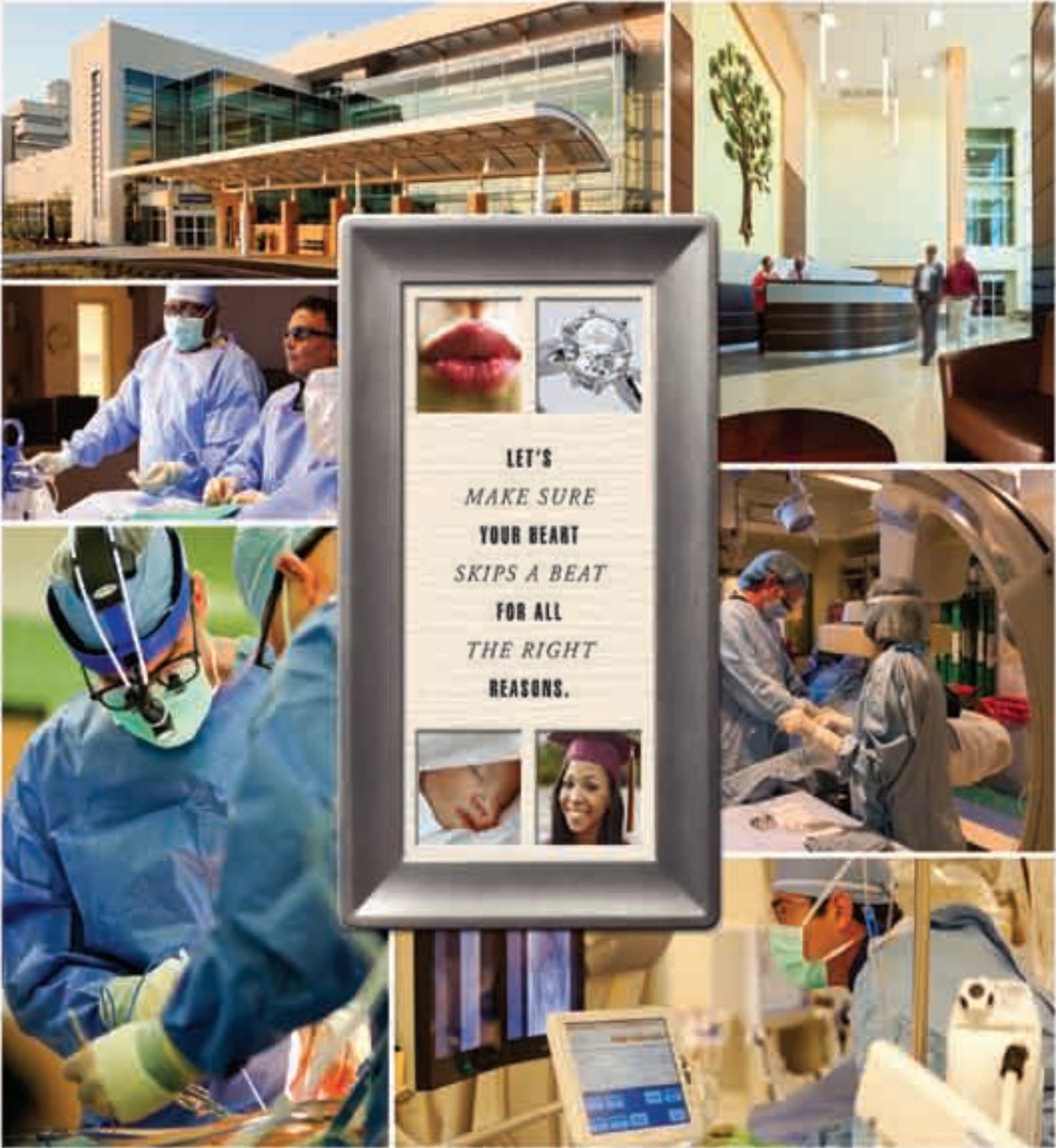
Campbell assessed the Afghan forces as making good progress. For the second year in a row, Afghan forces held the line against the Taliban. “On the battlefield the [Afghan national security forces] fought courageously and displayed their increasing capabilities,” the general said.

The Afghan people trust the security forces – especially the Army – and recruiting is not a problem for the force, he said.

“On balance, after watching the ANSF respond to a variety of challenges over the past six months, I don’t believe the insurgents represent an existential threat to the government of Afghanistan,” Campbell said.

Afghan security forces continue to grow, yet still need coalition assistance for logistics, maintenance, Aviation and special operations, Campbell said.

“To address these gaps, the train and assist mission and mentorship will be vital,” he said.



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FEBRUARY 19, 2015

GIVING BACK



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFau

Fort Rucker's volunteers of the quarter.

Fort Rucker honors volunteers of quarter

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Without the work of volunteer efforts, much in the Army, as well as the world, might go unaccomplished, according to Fort Rucker senior leaders.

That's why Fort Rucker took the time to honor 30 of its most dedicated volunteers during the year's first Fort Rucker Quarterly Volunteer Recognition Ceremony.

"This is probably going to be the most important thing I'm going to do in a while – to take some time out to really recognize who makes our community work," said Maj. Gen. Michael D. Lundy, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general. "If you think about the military family, and the fact that we have so many people that volunteer, we could not hire enough people and we could not afford to replace you, and it wouldn't be as good of a service anyway."

"Americans are the greatest givers in the world, and we continue to spread our time and our resources to help the needy, especially in the military," added Lt. Col. Scott Wile, garrison executive officer. "So, it's very important that we recognize our volunteers because volunteers

make the world run, especially on military bases. This is a tremendous occasion for us to get together and recognize everything that you all do and the hard work that you put into it because we could not do it without you."

The volunteers and what they were recognized for follow.

- **Gina Marton, USAACE Headquarters** – She is a valued volunteer of the Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club, serving as a chair for the 2014 Holiday Bazaar, and was instrumental to the event's success, which had more than 100 vendors participate.
- **Jess Chasteen, USAACE Headquarters** – She spends her time volunteering with the Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club, serving as the hospitality chair for the 2014 Holiday Bazaar, as well as volunteering with the Fort Rucker Elementary School Book Club and the Aviation Pre-Command Course spouses' panel.
- **Staff Sgt. Stephanie Moseng, USAACE Headquarters** – She has given her volunteer time to support a fellow Soldier as a member of the Bone Marrow Drive registration team, as well as assisting during the Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club Holiday

Bazaar.

- **Capt. Thea Iacomino, USAACE Headquarters** – She spends her volunteer time as a coach for the 6-8 year-old youth basketball team, as well as assisting during the Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club 2014 Holiday Bazaar.
- **Sgt. 1st Class Christy Worthy, C Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment** – Worthy has volunteered many hours as an actor, set builder for Frite Night and as an adult mentor-counselor for the Joint Reserve Team Leadership Summit.
- **Mindy King, B Co., 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt.** – She is a valued volunteer with the B Co., 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt., Family Readiness Group, where her service was enormously vital during a period of transition, which coincided with the complete turnover of volunteer leadership.
- **Melissa Hawthorn, B Co., 1st Bn., 11th Avn. Regt.** – She dedicated herself to serving the Soldiers and families of B Co., 1st Bn., 11th Avn. Regt., as their company Family Readiness Group leader.

SEE GIVING, PAGE C3

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Army Volunteer Corps focuses on supporting Fort Rucker Soldiers, Family members, surviving spouses, and civilian personnel through community involvement. Volunteer opportunities are available both on and off post. Individuals are matched to volunteer positions according to skill, experience and time available. Participants learn new skills, make friends and become a part of the community. Volunteering can also be a wonderful way to gain job experience.

Go to My Army One Source at <https://www.myarmyone-source.com> to register and apply for available positions, or contact AVC to learn more about available volunteer opportunities.

For additional information, call 255-1429.

Are you interested in volunteering for one of the many Fort Rucker programs or activities? If so, AVC would love to have your help. Fort Rucker units and organizations are online with the Department of the Army Volunteer Management Information System located on the Army One source website. You may search for volunteer opportunities, log your hours, and document training and awards all on one site.

The information entered into VMIS travels with you when you move or separate, and provides you with a complete volunteer history whether you're just tracking your volunteer activities or using the information to search for employment.

Newly listed

Activities Coordinator – Lyster Army Health Clinic

Position Description: Volunteer will solicit ideas and interests through newsletters, at coffees, newcomers' orientations and pre-deployment briefings. Coordinate financial needs with the treasurer and family readiness group leadership. Coordinate publicity with newsletter editor and publicity coordinators. Establish committees for each activity and coordinate location, date and time for FRG leadership. Hours are negotiable. For more information, call 255-7400.

Still wanted

Financial Readiness Program - Army Community Service

Position Description: Volunteer will provide initial intake, needs assessment and financial assessments using ACS intake forms. The volunteer will gain additional knowledge and experience related to personal financial counseling. Days and hours are at volunteer's discretion - no special skills are required. For more information, call 225-9578.

Outdoor Recreation Volunteer

Position Description: Assist with special events, programs and activities. This could include the wounded warriors hunt or other special needs hunting programs. No special skills are needed. For more information, call 255-4305.



FILE PHOTO

Shoppers check out the wares at an outdoor flea market and yard sale on post last year. This year's event is Feb. 28 at the festival fields.

TRASH OR TREASURE?

Post hosts flea market, yard sale

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

Moving can be a chore, but Fort Rucker's seasonal community yard sales provide an opportunity for military families to shed unnecessary items and earn a little extra cash for the journey ahead.

"It's a great way for military families on and off post to be able to sell their household goods," Kristi Fink, special events coordinator, said. "Military families move every couple years, so it's a good way to lighten the load when PCSing to a new location. But it's also a great way to find some new items for the upcoming move."

Fort Rucker hosts two community yard sales each year and the next opportunity for savings will take place Feb. 28 from 7-11 a.m. at the Fort Rucker Festival Fields.

"The outdoor yard sale and flea market will provide an opportunity for the Fort Rucker community to buy and sell used household items in a consolidated fashion, especially for those buyers or sellers who live off post and are not eligible to participate in the Corvias yard sales," Fink said.

The event is open to the public and anyone can rent booth space during the event, although discounted rates are available to government ID card holders.

Government rates are \$20 for a 15-by-20 space, \$30 for a 30-by-20 space and tables are \$10 each. Rates for the general public are \$30 for a 15-by-20 space, \$40 for a 30-

by-20 space and \$10 per table.

According to Fink, a total of 65 booths were registered for 1,600 participants last year. Anyone interested in a booth for the fall yard sale must register by Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

Registration forms can be found at <http://www.ftrucker.mwr.com/special-events/> or at MWR Central in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 130.

Each year, community yard sales provide access to a wide variety of items at prices lower than people would find in a department store, Fink said.

"Patrons can find items ranging from baby clothes to furniture," she said. "There are numerous toys, household items, collectibles and more. It's great way to find some amazing deals right before they PCS or when they arrive on post."

Although the event is open to the public, certain sales are not allowed.

"No retail, commercial vending or business promotion is allowed," Fink said. "Food and beverage, live animal and weapon sales are also prohibited."

"Electricity is available on the event field on a first-come, first-served basis," she added. "Participants must bring their own extension cords, if needed. All participants are responsible for their individual change fund and participants may bring canopies, but no tent stakes may be longer than 12 inches."

For more information, call 255-1749 or 255-2997.

ON POST

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

Mom & Me: Dad too!

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

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

Newcomers welcome

Army Community Service will host a newcomers welcome Friday from 8:30–11 a.m. at The Landing. Active-duty military, spouses, foreign students, Army civilians and family members are encouraged to attend. A free light breakfast and coffee will be served. For free childcare, people can register their children at the Fort Rucker Child Development Center by calling 255-3564. Reservations must be made 24 hours prior to the newcomer welcome.

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

Heart 2 Heart Skate Night

The Fort Rucker School Age Center will host its Heart 2 Heart Skate Night Friday, featuring a night of skating, music, pictures and giveaways. A Valentine King and Queen will be selected, along with the best-dressed group. Youth will also present a mini fashion show. Safety skate will be 6:15–7:15 p.m. and the regular skate will be 7:30–9:30 p.m.

For more information, call 255-9108.

Right Arm Night

The Landing Zone will host Right Arm Night Feb. 26 from 4-6 p.m. 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 598-8025.

Relocation readiness workshop

Army Community Service will host a relocation readiness workshop Feb. 27 from 9-10 a.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 371D. Soldiers and spouses will receive information from the military pay office on benefits and entitlements, advance pay, the government travel card and more. ACS will also provide information on Army Emergency Relief, budgeting, preparing for employment before moving, compiling the necessary documents and forms for exceptional family members moving overseas, and relocation checklists and websites to help prepare for a move. Space is limited, so people should RSVP by calling 255-3161 or 255-3735.

Youth Black History Month celebration

The Fort Rucker School Age Center will host a Black History Month celebration Feb. 27 from 4:15–5:15 p.m. The Fort Rucker 98th Army Band will perform, and there will be food samples and giveaways.

For more information, call 255-9108.

Military Saves Week

As part of Military Saves Week Monday-Feb. 28, Army Community Service



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

ATV trail ride

Outdoor recreation will host an all-terrain vehicle trail ride Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$20 and pre-registration is required. Drivers must pass the ODR safety driving test before participating. Participants must also provide their own protective gear, including helmets, boots, etc., that must be worn at all times. The event is open to the public for ages 16 and up. For more information, call 255-4305.

will spread the savings message and urge community members to take the military saves pledge. The ACS financial readiness program will partner with Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union and Armed Forces Bank to host an information table located in the atrium of Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Feb. 27.

For more information, call 255-9631 or 255-2594.

BEST session

Fort Rucker's Better Empowered Soldiers Today will host a free session on confronting assumptions professionally Feb. 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lyster Army Health Clinic V-130. The session is for military personnel. Those interested in attending should RSVP with Army Community Service by calling 255-3735.

Outdoor yard sale

The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host the Fort Rucker Spring Outdoor Yard Sale and Flea Market Feb. 28 from 7–11 a.m. on the festival fields. The outdoor event provides the opportunity for the Fort Rucker community to buy and sell used household items in a consolidated fashion. The event is open to the public – booth space fees apply to sellers. No commercial vendors will be allowed. Limited tables will be available to rent. Sellers need to register by Wednesday. Rates: government rate (military and family members, retirees, Department of Defense civilians) – 15x20 - \$20, 30x20 - \$30, tables - \$10 each; and general public – 15x20 - \$30, 30x20 - \$40, tables – \$10 each. For more information, call 255-1749.

Pokémon Battle

The Fort Rucker School Age Center will host a Pokémon battle Feb. 28 from 1:30–3:30 p.m. Youth must bring their own Pokémon cards and have permission from their parents to trade. Youth must be registered with child, youth and school services, and be 6-10 years of age in first-fifth

grades. Parent volunteers are needed to help out with the event.

For more information, call 255-9108.

Dr. Seuss's birthday

The Center Library will celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday March 2 from 10:15–11:00 a.m. The event will feature a guest reader, Dr. Seuss activities and light refreshments. The event is open to authorized patrons. Space is limited to the first 65 people to register.

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

Travel Extravaganza

The 27th annual Fort Rucker Travel Extravaganza will take place March 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Landing. More than 50 vendors will be present to discuss information and answer questions. Admission is free, and the event is open to the public and exceptional family member friendly. Door prizes, such as attraction tickets, hotel stays, memorabilia, clothing and grand prizes will be given away during the event. People will not need to be present to win.

For more information, call 255-2997 or 255-9517, or visit www.ftruckerwmr.com/mwr-central/.

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 March 5. People who attend will meet in Rm. 350 at 8:45 a.m. to fill out paperwork before going to the multipurpose room. The class will end at about at 10:45 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.

DFMWR

Spotlight

DAY TRIPS WITH

MWR Central & Outdoor Recreation



Montgomery Zoo - February 21

\$30 adults, \$25 children ages 3–12, \$15 children under 3.
Includes: transportation to and from the zoo and admission. Food is not included in the cost.
Limited to 24 participants.



Panama City Scottish Festival and Highland Games - March 7

\$20 per person, Includes: transportation to and from the festival. This is a great event for all ages, so come enjoy great music, food, & games.
Limited to 28 participants.

WonderWorks and Ripley's Believe It or Not - March 14

\$52 adults, \$49 children ages 5–12
Includes: transportation to and from Panama City Beach, and entrance into WonderWorks and Ripley's Museum. Dinner not included.





Camp Butter & Egg - March 21

\$40 ages 5+, \$14 under age 5
Includes: transportation and entrance fees
Limited to 28 participants. Activities include expanded zip line course, giant swing, climbing wall, and more!

Sign up at Outdoor Recreation, (334) 255-4305 or MWR Central, (334) 255-2997/9517. Open to the public. www.ftruckerwmr.com

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR FEB. 19 - 22

Thursday, Feb. 19

Taken 3 (PG-13)7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 20

McFarland (PG)7 & 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 21

McFarland (PG)4 & 7 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 22

McFarland (PG)2 p.m.

Giving: Volunteers support Soldiers, families, community

Continued from Page C1

- **Sgt. 1st Class Nicole Olcott, C Co., 1st Bn., 11th Avn. Regt.** – Olcott dedicated herself by serving the community of Troy through a volunteer commitment to the city, Troy University, the Pike Regional Child Advocacy Center and the equestrian center.
- **Pfc. Goya Shika Kanyinda, 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group** – She spends her volunteer time as a Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers secretary, and successfully set up and organized numerous BOSS events, as well as volunteering with the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the 164th TAOG Family Readiness Group.
- **Sgt. 1st Class Michael Archer, Aviation Center Logistics Command** – Archer selflessly gives his time as a volunteer youth soccer coach, as well as assisting with the community Frite Night.
- **William Hensley, ACLC** – He spends his personal time volunteering with the Boy Scouts of America, Enterprise Wildcats Quarterback Club, Buddywalk Fundraiser and SoS Animal Shelter.
- **Sheri Johnson, U.S. Army Garrison, ACLC** – She devoted herself to serving the Soldiers and families as an Army Community Service volunteer in the relocation readiness office, as well as a dedicated Family Readiness Group member for the ACLC.
- **Karyn Kaempfer, USAG, Army Community Service** – Kaempfer is being recognized for her volunteer efforts within ACS, where she assisted with the Army Family Action Plan Conference, the publication of the Survivor Outreach Services newsletter and the issuing of over 400 holiday food vouchers for families.
- **Megan Holmes, NCO Academy** – She volunteered her time as co-community outreach director for Team Red, White and Blue, leading the Strolling Eagles, an athletic group where parents and children exercise together. Sgt. 1st Class **Michael Holmes, NCOA** – He volunteers as the athletic director for the Fort Rucker Team RWB chapter, as well as coordinating with other national RWB chapters in support of combined activities.
- **Deanna Mitchell, religious support office** – Mitchell volunteers her time with the Fort Rucker community as president of the Protestant Women of the Chapel.
- **Christina Cook, U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory** – She spends her time as a USAARL Family Readiness Group leader, while also volunteering with the Fort Rucker Thrift Shop and the Girl Scouts of America.
- **Carolyn Howze, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Warrant Officer Career College** – She is a valued volunteer who has devoted numerous hours of service to the WOCC Family Support Group, especially during the WOCC Dining Out and the WOCC annual Christmas party.
- **Samantha Simon, HHC, WOCC** – Simon is being recognized for her numerous hours of volunteer service to the WOCC Family Support Group, especially during the WOCC Dining Out and the WOCC annual Christmas party.
- **Janna Bogert, Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club** – She is being recognized for her volunteer efforts to the Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club where she has served as secretary and publicity chair for the 2014 Holiday Bazaar fundraiser.
- **Lisa Tippens, Fort Rucker Elementary School** – Tippens has offered her volunteer services to the Fort Rucker Elementary School where she works to support the classrooms at the media center.
- **Rachel Crigger, Fort Rucker Primary School** – She is a valued volunteer who has spent her time at the Fort Rucker Primary School in various classrooms, as well as the school's library where she catalogs books.
- **Jamie Petro, Fort Rucker Parent Teacher Association** – Petro has offered her volunteer hours at the Fort Rucker elementary and primary schools where she serves as the PTA president and volunteers her time at each school's special events.
- **Staff Sgt. Jeremy Dorries, Fort Rucker Sergeant Audie Murphy Club** – Dorries volunteers with the Fort Rucker Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, serves as a small group leader at the NCO Academy and a mission leader for the Transformation Church of Troy.
- **Staff Sgt. Robert Landa, Fort Rucker Thrift Shop** – He is a valued volunteer of the Fort Rucker Thrift Shop, offering his outstanding support, technical knowledge and unwavering dedication to the Fort Rucker community.

The final award given was the Order of Anne Morrow Lindbergh Award. The awards recognizes spouses and family members who have contributed significantly to the community of Army Aviation, said the narrator of the event. This individual who voluntarily serves the community is recognized as exemplary, and characterize the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displaying an outstanding degree of dedication to the Aviation Community.

Darcy Lynch, in the spirit of Anne Morrow Lindbergh's pioneering efforts, was awarded The Order of Anne Morrow Lindbergh Award.

"(Lynch), over the last 18 or so years, has been very active throughout the military community and throughout Army Aviation," said Lundy. "As an FRG leader, being involved in the spouses club, holding a number of different positions, having been recognized last year for a number of post-level awards and for over 10,000 volunteer hours of work, you certainly epitomize everything the Anne Morrow Lindbergh Award represents. We're very proud and very happy that we're able to give you this."

"We really do appreciate everything our volunteers do every day, not only for our Soldiers, our families or our local communities. I think it's great that we're going to take the opportunity today to recognize some of them," said Lundy to the volunteers. "As we look across our community, we have thousands of volunteers and we're going to try and take the opportunity to recognize those who have really given everything that they can. You've got lots of other things going on in your lives, and still to be able to go out there and volunteer, I'm very appreciative of it and I know Paula is, as well."

Those not present during the ceremony but were recognized as volunteers of the quarter were: Staff Sgt. Delon Davis, 1st Aviation Brigade; Sandra Hernandez, U.S. Army Aeromedical Center; Joseph Riddle, D Co., 2nd Bn., 13th Avn. Regt.; April Salazar, USAARL; and Samantha Simon, HHC, WOCC.



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Trip plan highlights Athens’ southern splendor

By **Brian S. Jones and Jeanette Jones**
Alabama Tourism Department

Athens is a small city in north Alabama with a charming downtown square full of history.

Those who enjoy the southern tradition of “exaggerated remembrances” will feel right at home at the Athens Storytelling Festival. The Delmore Days festival and the Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention have become annual pilgrimages for music lovers. Foodies make their own pilgrimages to the area to enjoy the nationally award-winning goat cheese produced at the nearby Belle Chèvre creamery.

Where to begin: Athens State University

Begin your tour of the area at Athens State University, 300 N. Beaty St.; (256) 233-8100. Founded in 1822, it is located four blocks from the home of George S. Houston, who served as governor of Alabama from 1874 to 1878.

Athens State began as the Athens Female Academy and later became an institution of the Methodist Church before going coeducational. The state of Alabama took control of the college in 1974, changing its name to Athens State College and then Athens State University.

It is the only two-year, upper-level university in the state. It serves as a complement to the state’s junior colleges by offering only junior and senior level classes. Athens State offers more than 30 undergraduate majors through three colleges: Busi-

ness, Arts and Sciences, and Education. It has an enrollment of about 3,500 students. Calhoun Community College, one of the state’s largest, is in the southern part of the county.

The main building on campus, Founders Hall, was built in 1842. Local legend says the building was saved from burning by Union troops during the Civil War when college President Jane Hamilton Childs produced a letter from President Abraham Lincoln asking that it be spared. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it also houses the majestic Altar of the New Testament woodcarvings. The nearly life-size carvings took 12 years to complete, and depict Christ and New Testament figures and verses carved in tulip poplar. Tours are available by appointment. This is one of the buildings featured on the annual October Haunts Walks.

Explore historic downtown Athens

Historic downtown Athens is just 1 1/2 miles from Exit 351 on Interstate 65. The 1916 Limestone County Courthouse, crowned by a dome in the French Second Empire style, dominates the business district. The courthouse square offers an eclectic mix of shops featuring a wide variety of antiques, gifts, gourmet foods, clothing and hardware. The courthouse square is also home to the annual Athens Storytelling Festival.

One block off the square on Houston Street is the Houston Memorial Library and Museum, 101 N. Houston St.; (256) 233-8770, which was the home of George S. Houston, U.S. senator and governor of

Alabama (1874-1878). The facility serves as one of the cornerstones of the historic Athens community and is both a public library and a period museum. The home, said to have “spirits,” is another featured stop on the October Haunts Walks. It is open to the public Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

The U.G. White Mercantile Store, 101 N. Jefferson St.; (256) 232-4540, has been an anchor of the Athens downtown square for nearly a century. The business was started by Ulysses Grant White in 1917. White moved to the area from Tennessee and decided to open the store after being injured in a farming accident. He sold everything from horse-drawn plows and tractors to radios, heating stoves and cast-iron skillets. The store passed through four generations of White’s descendants to the Aycocks, Derrick Young and Johnny Furline. Today, visitors walk along the hardwood floors and roam the historic store looking at the vintage signs, and shopping an eclectic blend of old and new offerings.

Located inside the U.G. White building is Lu-Vici’s restaurant, specializing in Southern cooking. It offers a quiet respite from hours of touring and shopping plus a great meal. Displaying the slogan “Put some South in your mouth,” the restaurant features blackened sea bass, shrimp bisque and a different entrée each week. It is open Mondays through Wednesdays for breakfast and lunch, and Thursdays through Saturdays for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Where to stay

Located about 10 miles west of Athens in the Ripley Community is The Drop Farm, 11185 Snake Road; (256) 777-0964. There you will find The Drop Inn, a bed and breakfast. The Drop Farm also offers horseback riding lessons and trail rides.

Civil War Trail self-guided driving tour

The self-guided driving tour of the Athens-Limestone County Civil War Trail travels through sites of the battles of Athens and Sulphur Creek Trestle. The Decatur and Nashville railroads in Limestone County played a vital role in the Civil War, and the Athens to Decatur portion of this route still operates today. In southern Limestone County, visitors will see the Memphis & Charleston, which was the longest railroad line in the Confederacy.

Visitors can follow the trail starting at the Athens Depot, which now serves as the Limestone County Archives, 102 W. Washington St.; (256) 233-6404. F Company, 9th Alabama Infantry, consisted of 163 men who left from the Athens Depot on June 6, 1861, to fight with Joseph E. Johnston and the Army of the Shenandoah.

Housed in the L&N Depot, built in 1928, is the Alabama Veterans Museum, 100 Pryor St.; (256) 771-7578. The museum is especially interesting in that it honors the accomplishments and sacrifices of local servicemen and women and their Families, not just the glory of their commanders. The museum is open Mondays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WIREGRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

ONGOING — The American Legion Post 80 has regular meetings the second Monday of the month, starting at 6:30 p.m., at the Legion Hall. For more information, call 222-7131 or visit www.andalusiale-gionpost80.org.

DALEVILLE

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.

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 TV’s 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.

DOTHAN

FEB. 24 — The Dothan Civic Center will host the Harlem Globetrotters at 7 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$25 to \$222. Tickets can be purchased at the Dothan Civic Center Box Office, by calling 615-3175 or online at www.dothanciviccenter.org.

FEB. 28 — The Men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., presents a Black History Month musical titled “Wiregrass Men’s Fest” at 6 p.m. at Parks Chapel A.M.E. Church on 1053 Selma Street.

MARCH 7 — Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3073 Wiregrass Post will sponsor a benefit for the daughter of a local law enforcement officer with Boston butts, ribs and plates. People should pre-order. For more information, call 793-7912.

ONGOING — The Wiregrass Museum of Art hosts First Saturday Family Day the first Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m. The event is recommended for elementary-aged children. For more information, visit wiregrassmuseum.com or call 794-3871.

ENTERPRISE

FEB. 25 — Julie Parrish, Wiregrass Hope Group, will speak at the next monthly meeting of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association at Ryan’s Steakhouse Restaurant at 11 a.m. Wiregrass Hope Group is a resource that encourages hope and healing to individuals and families who need assistance for emotional needs and spiritual growth.

FEB. 21 — The Enterprise Chamber of Commerce and Medical Center Enterprise invite the community to the 43rd annual Enterprise Area Community Health Fair from 8 a.m. to noon at Enterprise High School.

MARCH 1-8 — St. Luke United Methodist Church will take signups for its July 6-10 Winshape Camps Ultimate Day Camp Experience. The first 150 people to sign up will received a discount on the camp. For more information, call 347-9023 or visit the event’s Facebook page at Winshape Camps Enterprise.

ONGOING — The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Wiregrass-Enterprise Chapter 1807 regularly meets every fourth Wednesday of the month at Ryan’s Steakhouse Restaurant. Lunch begins at 11 a.m. followed by the program, speaker, and a question and answer period. All federal employees, active or retired, are invited to attend the luncheon meetings. NARFE members discuss important information that relates to federal employees and the programs and benefits available to them. NARFE is a nonprofit association dedicated to improve the benefits of federal employees. For more information, call 393-0492.

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

FEB. 26 — Disabled American Veterans Chapter 99 will meet at 6 p.m. in the New Brockton Senior Center, located one block behind the police station. Food and drinks will be served, followed by regular chapter business. We also extend an invitation to veterans throughout the Wiregrass to join as new members of both DAV and DAV Auxiliary. For more information, call 718-5707.

FEB. 28 — Disabled American Veterans Chapter 99 will conduct a tour of the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site. This will be a one-day bus trip that will depart the New Brockton Farm Center at 9 a.m. and return at about 5 p.m. Transportation and entrance fees in advance is \$40 per person. People need to register for the trip by Feb. 23 by visiting the DAV service officer, 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the New Brockton Police Station, 202 South John Street. For more information, call 718-5707.

OZARK

FEB. 22 — The Lively Stones Ministries Worship Center will host a Black History Month program titled “Past, Present and Future” at 3 p.m.

FEB. 20-21 — The Ozark Arts Theatre will perform “Greater Tuna” as a dinner theater at Johnny’s BARcelona Tapas Restaurant located at 173 S. Union Ave. For reservations, call 790-6041. Doors open at 6 p.m. Only cash and checks will be accepted. The theater group is an arm of the Dale County Council of the Arts and Humanities.

ONGOING — The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program at the Dale Baptist Association is looking for volunteers to help prepare tax returns for people with low to moderate income who cannot prepare their own returns. Volunteers will spend two to four hours a week volunteering from February to April 15. There are numerous benefits for volunteers, including helping those in need and adding a new skill to their resumes. For more information or to sign up, send an email to wi.spec.bhampartners@irs.gov with the volunteer’s name and contact information, and asking for the Ozark

location as the place to volunteer.

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 — The Pioneer Museum of Alabama invites people to learn to cook like a pioneer. The museum’s Hearthside Meals offers the opportunity to learn to cook in a Dutch oven and on a wood stove, and then participants get to enjoy the meal. Cost is \$15 per person, and includes the cooking class and the three-course meal. Pre-registration is required and is limited to 15 people. For more information or to book a spot, call 334-566-3597.

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

MARCH 7 — The Bradley Keller Post 119 American Legion Auxiliary will host a gospel sing at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church Family Life Center in Abbeville. This is a fundraiser for the American Legion Auxiliary and donations will be taken. The singers are 4-year-old Daylen Brown from Abbeville, Martha Whitrock from Malvern, and God’s Way Baptist Church Choir and Gilmore Trio from Eufaula.

Beyond Briefs

Beaks and Barks

The Huntsville Botanical Gardens hosts its Beaks and Barks Winter Festival now through Feb. 28. There will be events throughout the period, and people can also explore the Lewis Birding Trail, take classes on birding and join the global Great Back Yard Bird Count. People are also welcome to bring their favorite four-legged friend to the garden, which includes a no-leash zone. To get to the gardens, take I-565 Exit 15 onto Bob Wallace Avenue. The garden is east about one-half mile on the right side of the road. Admission is free for members, and costs \$12 for adults and \$8 for children ages 3-18.

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

Wild Cave Tour

Fort Payne offers its Wild Cave Tour of Manitou Cave – about three hours long – now through March 16. The adventure is designed for people ready to explore the cave on their knees and on their bellies in mud and tight tun-

nels. The adventure includes a helmet, cave lamps and an informative guide. There is a two-person minimum. Cost is \$35.50 per person. People need meet at True Adventure Sports.

For more information or directions, call 256-997-9577, 423-653-8804 or visit <http://www.trueadventuresports.com>.

Dinosaurs Alive!

Downtown Gadsden becomes pre-historic when 13 life-like animatronic dinosaurs inhabit the Hardin Center for Cultural Arts now through Aug. 3 as part of Dinosaurs Alive! Creatures will be featured in period sets and include: Apatosaurus, Apatosaurus baby, Dilophosaurus, Triceratops, Triceratops baby, Parasaurolophus, Parasaurolophus baby, Parasaurolophus nest with hatchlings, Stegosaurus, Detrodon, a baby T-rex robot (joy-stick activated), Velociraptor and Protoseratops scenario, T-rex, static T-rex head, and static T-rex leg.

The center is located at the corner of 5th and Broad Streets. Cost is \$8 per person and \$4 for center members.

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

John Himmelfarb: Trucks

The Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, Auburn University, presents “John Himmelfarb: Trucks” now through May 10 in the Bill L. Harbert Gallery and Gallery C. Inspired by the visuals and notions of trucks in American culture, Himmelfarb produces sculptures, paintings, lithographic and silkscreen prints and drawings.

Himmelfarb’s work is included in the collections of the High Museum of Art, Museum Of Modern Art, the National Museum of American Art and JCSM’s permanent collection. Most recently, the artist has exhibited independently at the Chicago Cultural Center in Chicago, Illinois, and in the group exhibition, Graphic Masters III, at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

To get to the museum, from I-85 take Exit 51 and turn north onto College Street. Continue north on College Street for 2.56 miles. Turn right into the entrance of the museum and follow the circular drive around to the parking lot. A drop-off point is available at the museum entrance. The museum is handicap accessible.

For more information, visit <http://www.jcsm.auburn.edu/index.html>.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pick-of-the-litter

Meet Emma. She is a 2-year-old, short-hair female Tortoiseshell cat available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility. She is extremely friendly and affectionate. Adoption fees vary per species and needs of animal, which includes all up-to-date shots, the first round of age-appropriate vaccinations, microchip and spaying or neutering. For more information on animal adoptions, call the stray facility at 255-0766, open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. All adoptable animals are vet checked and tested for felv/fiv (for cats) or heartworm for dogs (over six months) and on flea prevention. The facility needs donations such as dry or canned foods for cats, dogs, kittens and puppies, as well as blankets, toys and towels. Donations can be dropped off at the stray facility. Visit the Fort Rucker stray facility's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/fortruckerstrayfacility/> for constant updates on the newest animals available for adoption.

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Mon-Thurs: 7:15 • Fri: 7:15 & 9:45
Sat: 1:45, 4:15, 7:15 & 9:45
Sun: 1:45, 4:15 & 7:15

WESTGATE CENTER Enterprise Information 334-347-2531

III THE DUFF - PG-13
Mon-Fri: 7:00 & 9:10
Sat-Sun: 1:50, 4:00, 7:00 & 9:10

IV THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE SPONGE OUT OF WATER - PG
Mon-Fri: 7:10 & 9:10
Sat-Sun: 2:00, 4:00, 7:10 & 9:10

COLLEGE CINEMA • ENTERPRISE

I KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE - R
Mon-Fri: 6:50 & 9:25
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II McFARLAND, U.S.A. - PG
Mon-Fri: 7:00 & 9:30
Sat-Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 7:00 & 9:30

III AMERICAN SNIPER - R
Mon-Fri: 6:50 & 9:25
Sat-Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 6:50 & 9:25

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Religious Services

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday

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

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

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

Spiritual Life Center, Building 8939
9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School
10:45 a.m. CCD (except during summer months).

BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesdays

9 a.m. Protestant Women of the Chapel, Wings Chapel
5:30 p.m. Youth Group Bible Study, Spiritual Life Center
6 p.m. Protestant Women of the Chapel, Wings Chapel
7 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Spiritual Life Center

Wednesdays

11 a.m. Above the Best Bible Study, Yano Hall
11:30 a.m. 164th TAOG Bible Study, Bldg 30501
12 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Soldier Service Center
6 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Spiritual Life Center

Thursdays

9 a.m. Adult Bible Study, Spiritual Life Center
6:30 p.m. Latter-Day Saints Bible Study, Wings Chapel
6:30 p.m. Wings Bible Study (Meal/Bible Study), Wings Chapel

Tara M., Alumnus
The Johnson Center. MBA.

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FEBRUARY 19, 2015

IRON AVIATOR

Competitors enjoy perfect weather, challenging course

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

As the northern U.S. is gripped in winter's icy grasp, Class 1404 of the Aviation Captains Career Course enjoyed a day of perfect weather in southern Alabama to compete for one of the installation's most coveted titles.

Soldiers of the course met in the early hours of the morning across from the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center to tackle the installation's trails for the AVC3 Iron Aviator competition Feb. 11 to culminate six months of rigorous training, said Capt. Laura Pangallo, AVC3 small group leader.

"Most people, from start to finish of the (AVC3) course, increase their physical fitness because we run a robust physical training program," Pangallo continued. "This event is just kind of a fun way to let them see how they've improved over the course."

The competitors were divided into four teams: Happy Discs, Frisbeasts, Bigfoot's Disc and RiDISCulous, each of which included at least one individual competitor who competed in all events. The event is comprised of arduous physical fitness tasks, starting with a 300-meter swim at the fitness center pool, a 4 ½-mile ruck march through the wooded area adjacent to Beaver Lake, an 8.8-mile bike ride through the Fort Rucker's streets and a 2-mile run to culminate the event.

Although the event is for fun and camaraderie, it's still a competition, and as with all competitions, there is someone who comes out on top.

Capt. Joe Fernandez, competitor for RiDISCulous, took the title as Iron Aviator, and Bigfoot's Disc took the group title.

"It just feels good," said Fernandez. "I didn't really think about when we first got here, but about half way through I started thinking that I might be able to do this, so I pushed a little bit harder and I was able to come out first."

Each competitor has their strengths and weaknesses when going into the competition, and for Fernandez, the swim portion was the hardest obstacle to overcome.

"Two months before when I first decided I wanted to try to win this thing, I knew I was an abysmal swimmer, so I started getting lessons from one of my teammates and he helped me to go from not being able to swim half a lap to being able to get back and forth across the pool," he said.

That level of teamwork and camaraderie is what Pangallo said the event is all about.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Capt. David Lija encourages a fellow Soldier of the Aviation Captains Career Course Class 1404 as they cross paths during the AVC3 Iron Aviator Competition Feb. 11.

"This is something that builds camaraderie amongst the Soldiers and it's something the Soldiers are familiar with," she said. "We run a robust physical training program (in the captains career course), and this event is just kind of a fun way to let them see how they've improved over the course."

Although fun, the competition is grueling and, for most, the toughest event of the competition is the ruck march, during which the competitors must carry 25 pounds of equipment and a gun through a wooded trail. The swim comes in a close second being that it's a form of physical fitness that most aren't accustomed to.

Soldiers also participated as members of the pit crew, which serves to help competing team members during transitions into each event, such as coming out of the swim and getting their ruck gear ready, or preparing the bicycle for the cycling event.

Each team is allowed a theme for their team and this class' teams were comprised of their disc golf teams. Family members and even pets are also invited to come out and take part in the festivities, and are welcome to cook out, throw flying discs and enjoy in their time together, said Pangallo.

The competition is a tradition that's been going on at the Aviation Captains Career Course for more than 20 years, she said, and serves as a way to end the course on a good note.



Top: Capt. Joseph DiFrancesco of the Aviation Captains Career Course Class 1404 completes the ruck march portion of the AVC3 Iron Aviator Competition while accompanied by a four-legged companion.

Left: Capt. Samantha Muchmore swims in the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center pool during the 300-meter swim.

Lyster hosts grand opening for Lifespace Center

By Jenny Stripling
*Lyster Army Health Clinic
Public Affairs*

Lyster Army Health Clinic and the United States Aeromedical Center will host a grand opening ceremony for the Lifespace Center Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

The newest addition to the Fort Rucker health clinic is part of the Army's mission to increase the overall awareness of Soldiers, Family members and civilian employees about the importance of the Performance Triad – getting quality sleep, engaging in activity and improving nutrition.

"I believe our role as healthcare providers needs to continue to be delivering outstanding healthcare while embracing opportunities to coach, teach and mentor those healthy habits we all wish we did just a little better – this is our hope by having this new Lifespace Center," said Col. Gary Wheeler, Lyster Army Health



COURTESY GRAPHIC

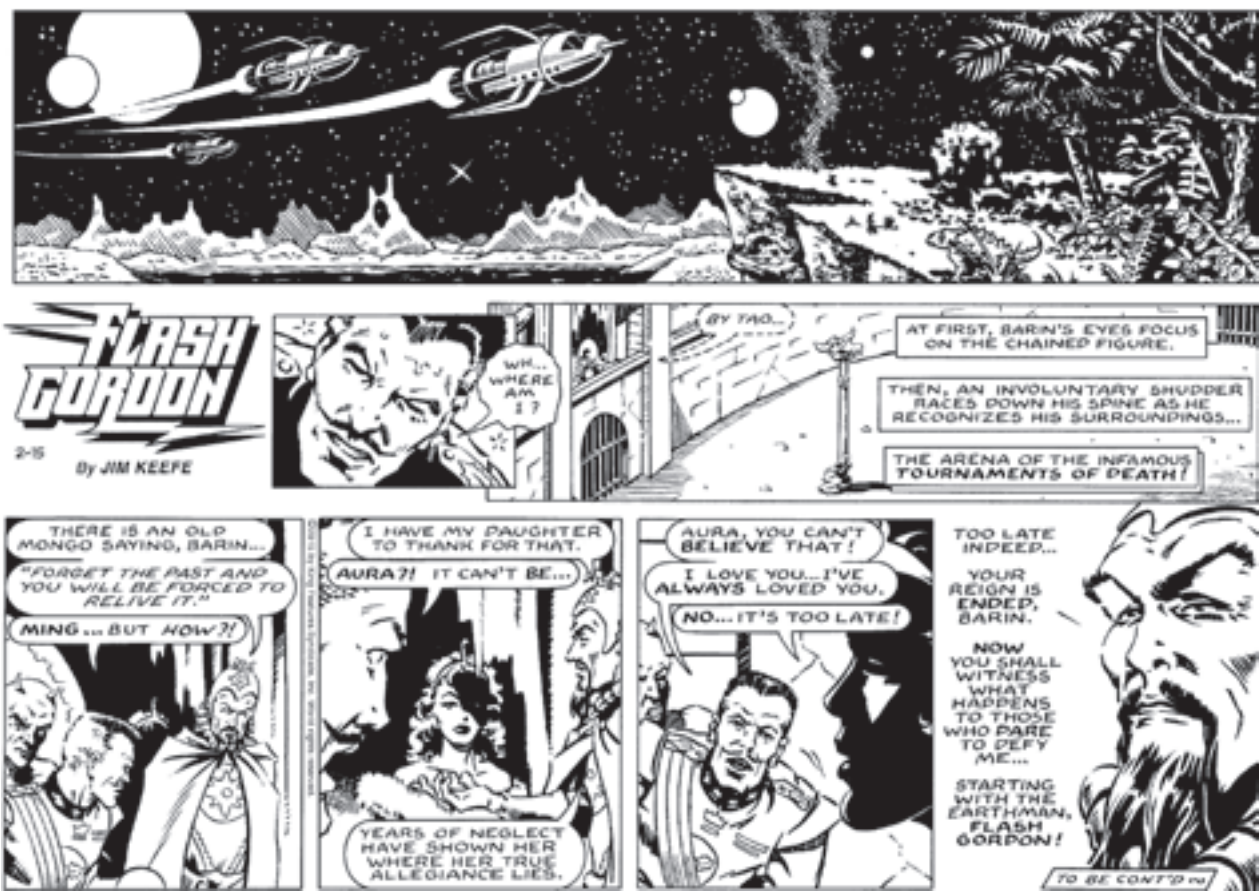
Clinic commander.

The new space boasts a newly remodeled check-in area along with interactive learning stations covering

subjects of health and well-being. Soldiers and Families can use one of four screens in the space to take the Army's Global Assessment Tool – a

confidential, self-assessment tool that can help improve overall health. A full kitchen space will host cooking classes and demonstrations.

DOWN TIME



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

T R I V I A

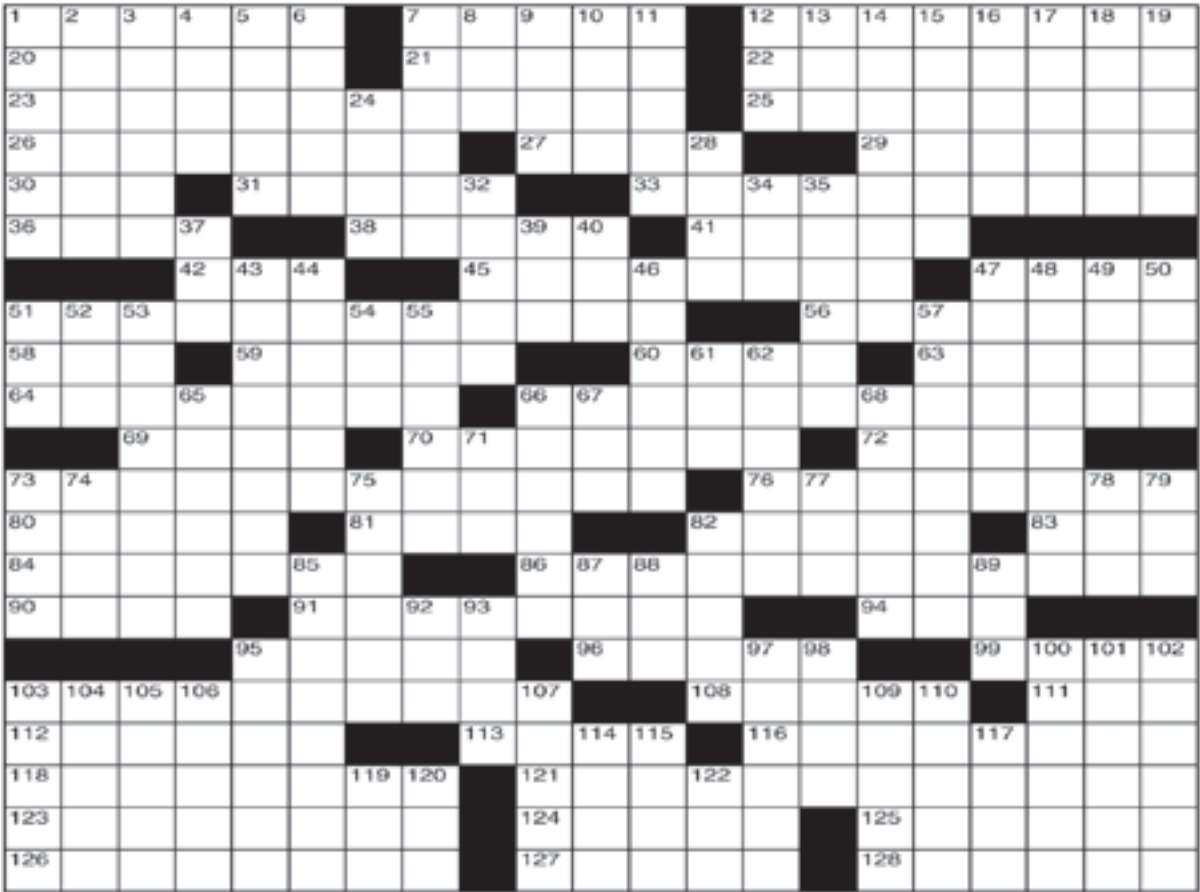
1. GEOGRAPHY: What South American country lies between Colombia and Peru?
2. ANATOMY: What is the common name for the maxilla?
3. U.S. STATES: What is the state capital of Michigan?
4. LITERATURE: What was the name of the alchemist who invented the Philosopher's Stone in the "Harry Potter" book series?
5. MUSIC: What is a quadrille?
6. TELEVISION: What was the name of the competing bar in the comedy show "Cheers"?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: By what other name do most people know Esther Pauline Friedman?
8. AD SLOGANS: "The dogs kids love to bite" were made by which company?
9. SYMBOLS: Which month of the year is named after the Roman god of war?
10. SCIENCE: What is the chemical element symbol for tungsten?

See Page D4 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword

SHALL I COMPARE THEE?

- ACROSS**
- 1 Scared
 - 7 Side of a cut gem
 - 12 Fighting junk e-mail
 - 20 GMC truck
 - 21 Sunni's god
 - 22 "Mona Lisa" painter
 - 23 Dances wearing more frills?
 - 25 Easily caught baseball hits
 - 26 TV reception enhancers
 - 27 Tend the soil
 - 29 Court mallets
 - 30 SSgt., e.g.
 - 31 Steel city in the Ruhr
 - 33 Feldman acting more bashfully?
 - 36 Time spent in office
 - 38 Rubbish
 - 41 Angry with
 - 42 "Modern Family" ailer
 - 45 Certain quadrilateral
 - 47 One who's worshiped
 - 51 Griffin suffering more pain?
- DOWN**
- 56 Vacuum tube variety
 - 58 Pastoral tract
 - 59 Spanish for "houses"
 - 60 Prefix with mobile
 - 63 Charles of chair design
 - 64 Founding father Franklin
 - 66 Hemingway feeling more uptight?
 - 69 Noblewoman
 - 70 Flowers from Mexico
 - 72 Med. scans
 - 73 Fisher using more off-color language?
 - 76 Believing in one God
 - 80 "Remember the —!"
 - 81 "Splendor in the Grass" director
 - 82 John of lawn tractors
 - 83 I, to Klaus
 - 84 Import taxes
 - 86 Allen being more sly?
 - 90 Venue
 - 91 Big company, investment-wise
 - 94 Swirly letter
 - 95 Around, as a year
 - 96 Warble
 - 99 "I — film today ..." (Beatles lyric)
 - 103 Buck looking more sickly?
 - 108 Nobelist
 - 111 Fleur-de- — (iris)
 - 112 Andean pack animals
 - 113 Light collision
 - 116 Minnow, e.g.
 - 118 Weird things showing more serenity?
 - 123 Chastised loudly
 - 124 Kowtow, say
 - 125 Brown slowly
 - 126 Grinning villains, often
 - 127 Nobelist Irish poet
 - 128 Rococo
 - 44 "Mad Money" host Jim
 - 46 Bad guy
 - 47 Pakistanis' neighbors
 - 48 Not foreign, as policy
 - 49 Lyric works
 - 50 "Judge not, — ye be judged"
 - 51 Tirana's land: Abbr.
 - 52 Dee lead-in
 - 53 Vendor's pushable vehicle
 - 54 "Do — say, not ..."
 - 55 "Greasie" director
 - 57 Hunting dogs
 - 61 Old Glory's country
 - 62 One being examined
 - 65 "Thor" actress
 - 66 Old Balkan region
 - 67 Lilly of drugs
 - 68 Come to light
 - 71 Jackie's #2
 - 73 "Curses!"
 - 74 Jai —
 - 75 Basso Siepi
 - 77 That girl's
 - 78 Here, to Fifi
 - 79 Fidel's friend
 - 82 Immerse
 - 85 Opposite
 - 87 Pretend
 - 88 Long-jawed fish
 - 89 Biblical beast
 - 92 Phillips rival
 - 93 Attire
 - 95 Lunar feature
 - 97 Defames in writing
 - 98 — jet
 - 100 Keys of R&B
 - 101 Least naive
 - 102 Singer
 - 103 Ruses
 - 104 John on the Mayflower
 - 105 Chili server
 - 106 Boxer
 - 107 Fortuitous
 - 109 Pole dance?
 - 110 "Oh My My" singer
 - 114 Lion's locks
 - 115 "SOSI," e.g.
 - 117 Drescher or Tarkenton
 - 119 Gift for music
 - 120 Many GPS lines: Abbr.
 - 122 Gathered



See Page D4 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

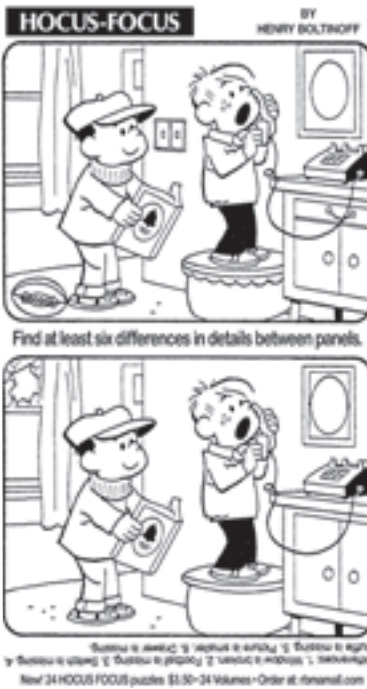
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See Page D4 for this week's answers.

KID's CORNER

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



Soldiers dominate cross country championships

By Tim Hipps
*Installation Management Command
Public Affairs*

BOULDER, Colorado — The All-Army men swept the top six spots and the women claimed four of their top six positions as the black and gold dominated the 2015 Armed Forces Cross Country Championships Feb. 7.

The Army men’s dominance marked the first time in U.S. Armed Forces Cross Country history that a team has swept the top six spots, said Ken Polk, Armed Forces Sports program manager.

Pfc. Stanley Kebenei, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, won the men’s 12-kilometer race in 37 minutes, 28 seconds. Spc. Caroline Jepleting, of Landstuhl, Germany, won the women’s 8-kilometer race in 30:01.

The Armed Forces Championships were run in conjunction with the USA Track and Field Winter National Cross Country Championships, and the top six finishers in both races automatically qualified for Team USA at the International Amateur Athletics Federation 2015 World Cross Country Championships, which will take place in Guiyang, China, March 28.

U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program runner Spc. Augustus Maiyo, of Fort Carson, was second among Armed Forces men with a time of 37:29, followed by Spc. Emmanuel Bor (38:47), of Fort Bliss, Texas, WCAP Spc. Aron Rono (38:52), of Fort Carson, Spc. Samuel Kosgei (39:38), of Fort Riley, Kansas, and Spc. Laban Sialo (39:55), of Fort Carson.

The top five finishers for each squad counted in the men’s team scoring. The Army men won with 15 points, followed by Air Force (37), Navy (46) and Marine Corps (55).

Navy Lt. Amanda Rice (31:00), of Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan, was second among Armed Forces women, followed by Pfc. Susan Tanui (31:05), of Fort Riley, Kansas. First Lt. Chelsea Prah (fifth in 31:22), of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, and former WCAP Maj. Emily Potter (sixth in 31:43), of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, rounded out the All-Army women’s scoring.

The top four finishers for each squad counted in the women’s team scoring. The Army women prevailed with 15 points, followed by Air Force (60), Navy (60) and Marine Corps (71).

Chris Derrick, of Portland, Oregon, won the USA open men’s division with a time of 36:18, and was followed by Robert Curtis (36:48), of Rochester, Michigan, and Dathan Ritzenhein (36:51), of Belmont, Michigan. Kebenei and Maiyo finished eighth and ninth, respectively, and may advance to the world championships as alternates. Although Jepleting won the



PHOTO BY TIM HIPPS

U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program runner Spc. Augustus Maiyo competes during a steeplechase event at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials. Maiyo won the men’s silver medal during the 2015 Armed Forces Cross Country Championships in Boulder, Colo., Feb. 7.

Armed Forces women’s division, she did not qualify for the world championships.

2015 Armed Forces Cross Country Championships

• **Women’s team standings:** 1. Army 15; 2. Air Force 37; 3. Navy 46; 4. Marine Corps 55.

• **Women’s medalists:** Gold – Army Spc. Caroline Jepleting, Landstuhl, Germany; Silver – Navy Lt. Amanda Rice, Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan; Bronze – Army Pfc. Susan Tanui, Fort Riley, Kansas.

• **Men’s team standings:** 1. Army 15;

2. *Air Force 60; 3. Navy 60; 4. Marine Corps 71.

(Air Force awarded second place based on first non-scoring runner tiebreaker.)

• **Men’s medalists:** Gold – Army Pfc. Stanley Kebenei, Fayetteville, Arkansas; Silver – Army Spc. Augustus Maiyo, Fort Carson, Colorado; Bronze – Army Spc. Emmanuel Bor, Fort Bliss, Texas.

• **Women’s team scoring (based on top four runners):** Army – 1. Spc. Caroline Jepleting, 30:01; 3. Pfc. Susan Tanui, 31:05; 5. 1st Lt. Chelsea Prah, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, 31:22; 6. Maj. Emily Potter, Fort Bragg, North Car-

olina, 31:43; 10. Capt. Meghan Curran, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, 33:19; 11. Capt. Ashley Hall, Fort Benning, Georgia, 33:27.

Air Force: 4. 1st Lt. Katherine Ward, Colorado Springs, 31:15; 8. Lt. Col. Brenda Schrank, Joint Base Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, 32:44; 12. 2nd Lt. Magin Day, Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany, 33:37; 13. Maj. Charlotte Portlock, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, 33:51; 16. 2nd Lt. Samantha Morrison, Colorado Springs, 34:48; 20. Capt. Cindy Dawson, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado, 37:15.

Navy: 2. Lt. Amanda Rice, 31:00; 9. Lt. Rachel Beckmann, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Center, 32:56; 17. Ensign Elizabeth Milewski, USS Anchorage, 35:39, 18. Lt. Susan Richardson, Patuxent River, Maryland, 35:58; 21. Lt. Jessica Hafey, USS Cape St. George, San Diego, 38:04.

Marine Corps: 7. Capt. Christine Tarranto, NPS Monterey, California, 31:45; 14. Capt. Angelica Valdez, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, 34:10; 15. 1st Lt. Katherine Sullivan, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, 34:46; 19. Staff Sgt. Sara Pacheco, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, 36:44.

• **Men’s team scoring (based on top five runners):** Army: 1. Pfc. Stanley Kebenei, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 37:28; 2. Spc. Augustus Maiyo, Fort Carson, 37:29; 3. Spc. Emmanuel Bor, Fort Bliss, Texas, 38:47; 4. Spc. Aron Rono, Fort Carson, 38:52; 5. Spc. Samuel Kosgei, Fort Riley, Kansas, 39:38; 6. Spc. Laban Sialo, Fort Carson, 39:55.

Air Force: 7. 2nd Lt. James Walmsley, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, 40:11; 8. Capt. Matthew Williams, Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, 40:26; 13. 2nd Lt. Isaiah Bragg, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, 42:07; 15. Capt. Jacob Bradosky, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, 42:35; 17. Capt. Daniel Castle, McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, 43:58; 19. Lt. Col. Douglas Wickert, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, 45:18.

Navy: 9. Lt. William Christian, Navy Information Dominance Forces, 40:58; 10. Lt. j.g. Patrick Fernandez, Washington, D.C., 41:34; 11. Lt. Justin Lutz, Office of Naval Intelligence, 41:42; 14. Lt. Aaron Lanzel, Washington, D.C., 42:28; 16. Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin Turner, USS Nicholas, 43:33, 22. Lt. Kevin Sorrell, New London, Connecticut, 48:10.

Marine Corps: 12. Capt. Sean Barrett, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, 41:49; 18. Cpl. Michael Siringer, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, 45:11; 20. Lt. Col. Joseph Galvin, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, 46:12; 21. Capt. Luke Rodina, Fort Meade, Maryland, 47:57.

‘Stigma has to end’ — President signs Clay Hunt Act

By Claudette Roulo
Department of Defense News

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama signed into law the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act Feb. 12.

The act is aimed at reducing military and veteran suicides, and improving their access to quality mental health care.

Hunt was a decorated Marine veteran who struggled with post-traumatic stress. He deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and was wounded in Anbar Province, Iraq, and witnessed the combat deaths of close friends.

Two years after his discharge and after repeated setbacks in his medical care, Hunt took his own life.

“By all accounts, he was selfless and he was brave,” Obama said of Hunt. “And when he died in 2011, it was a heartbreaking loss for his family, his fellow Marines and our nation, because Clay had already done a great deal of good in the world. And the truth is – he was just getting started.”

Through unimaginable grief, Hunt’s family, friends and fellow veterans made it their mission to spare other families the pain they endured, the president said.

“So they shared Clay’s story far and wide,” Obama said. “And they reached out to members of Congress. And they lobbied and they testified and made personal appeals. And thanks to their tireless efforts – and we are particularly grateful to Clay’s family, being able to transform grief into action – today, I will sign the Clay Hunt SAV Act into law.”

The president said the best way to honor Hunt “is to make sure that more veterans like him are here for all the years to come and able to make extraordinary contributions, building on what they’ve already done for our safety and our security.”

The act builds on efforts still in progress to improve Veterans Affairs mental health care access by:

- Requiring annual third party evaluations of VA’s mental health care and suicide prevention programs;
- Creating a centralized website with

resources and information about the range of mental health services available from the VA;

- Conducting a three-year pilot program using peer support to assist veterans transitioning from active duty; and
- Encouraging collaborative suicide prevention efforts between the VA and non-profit mental health organizations.

The president’s proposed 2016 budget also includes more than \$7 billion for the VA to continue its focus on expanding and transforming mental health services for veterans, including treatment for post-traumatic stress, ensuring timely access to mental health care, and treatment for military sexual trauma.

“This law will not bring Clay back, as much as we wish it would,” Obama said, “but the reforms that it puts in place would’ve helped, and they’ll help others who are going through the same challenging process that he went through.”

It’s time to eliminate the stigma and barriers that face those who seek help,

the president said. Asking for help is hard enough, he said, particularly when you are used to helping others.

“Today, we say again to every person in uniform, every veteran who has ever served, we thank you for your service. We honor your sacrifice. But sometimes, you know, talk is cheap. And sometimes, you know, particularly at a time when we’ve got an all-volunteer force and so often we can celebrate them at a ball game, but too many are insulated from the impacts,” the president said.

“We’ve got to also act,” Obama said. “We can’t just talk. So we’re ready to help you begin the next chapter of your lives. And if you are hurting, know this: You are not forgotten. You are not alone. You are never alone. We are here for you. America is here for you. All of us. And we will not stop doing everything in our power to get you the care and support you need to stay strong and keep serving this country we love.

“We need you. We need you. You make our country better,” the president said.

SPORTS BRIEFS

ATV trail ride

Outdoor recreation will host an all-terrain vehicle trail ride Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$20 and pre-registration is required. Drivers must pass the ODR safety driving test before participating. Participants must also provide their own protective gear, including helmets, boots, etc., that must be worn at all times. The event is open to the public for ages 16 and up.

For more information, call 255-4305.

Youth sports registration

Fort Rucker Child, Youth and School Services’ Youth Sports and Fitness Program is taking registrations for youth baseball, softball and jump roping now through Feb. 28 at parent central services in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 193. The baseball season runs from March through May. The teams will be broken down into

the following age groups: Tee Ball (co-ed, ages 5–6), Machine Pitch (co-ed, ages 7–8), Dixie Minor (co-ed, ages 9–10), Dixie Youth (co-ed, ages 11–12), Dixie Ponytails Girls (girls, ages 9–12), Dixie Belles (girls, ages 13–15). If there are not enough girls to field a Ponytail team, players will be put on a baseball team. Costs are \$25 for jump roping, ages 7–18; \$45 for baseball, co-ed, ages 5–12, age control date May 1st of the current year; \$45 for softball, girls ages 9–15, age control date Dec. 31 of the previous year. A current sports physical and a valid CYSS registration are required for participation. A multiple child rate will be determined at registration. Special requests for coaches and players cannot be honored.

For more information, call 255-9638, 255-2257 or 255-2254. Coaches for the teams are needed. People interested in volunteering should call 255-0950.

Enterprise baseball

Enterprise’s semi-pro baseball team needs players for its Saturday scrimmage against Dothan at 2 p.m. at Peavy Park in Enterprise. For more information, call Joe Jackson at 464-1729.

Outdoor recreation mentorship

The Fort Rucker Outdoor Mentorship Program is being created to foster an environment of good stewardship in all areas pertaining to the great outdoors, according to ODR officials. Mentors will be connected with Soldiers and civilians in and around the installation based on experience levels of both the mentor and the novice. Mentors age 18 or older may sign up in one of the following areas: hunting, fishing, camping, water sports and general outdoor sports.

For more information, call 255-4305.

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Answers

A	F	R	A	I	D	F	A	C	E	T	A	N	T	I	S	P	A	M		
S	I	E	R	R	A	A	L	L	A	H	L	E	O	N	A	R	D	O		
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A	N	T	E	N	N	A	S	P	L	O	W	G	A	V	E	L	S			
N	C	O	E	S	S	E	N	C	O	V	E	R	C	O	R	E	Y			
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S	N	E	E	R	E	R	S		Y	E	A	T	S		O	R	N	A	T	E

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

1. Ecuador
2. Jawahar
3. Landing
4. Nicolas Flamel
5. Dance: with four couples in a square formation
6. Gary's Oldie Towne Tavern
7. Ann Landers
8. Arsenal
9. March (May)
10. W.

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