

TAX TIME

Center opens doors to new season of savings

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HISTORY

Event kicks off African-American History Month

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HITTING THE POCKET

Fort Rucker youth bowls 756-series

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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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FILE PHOTO

Warrant officer candidates work to overcome an obstacle on the leaders response course in 2014.

TRADOC names WOCC Institution of Excellence

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career College added to Fort Rucker's reputation for excellence when it was officially named an Institution of Excellence by U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

Col. Garry L. Thompson, WOCC commandant, was presented a certificate by Joe Craig, director of education and training, and quality assurance for warrant officer education, to officially name the college an Institution of Excellence during a ceremony at the WOCC Friday.

"Part of our mission for the Warrant Officer Career College is that we're an executive agent for warrant officer education

and training," said Craig as he presented the certificate. "Now, this we get to hang proudly on our wall as an Institution of Excellence."

Every three years, the WOCC goes through an accreditation process that looks at 28 standards, 23 of which were applicable to the career college, and scores the college based on these standards, according to John Yeager, quality assurance for the WOCC.

These standards can include doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership, and education and personnel. Through observation of training, interviews and reviews of submitted documents, evaluators went over each aspect of the WOCC

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TAKING IT TO THE FIELD

1-58th AOB trains in Marianna

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker is the home of Army Aviation, and although the installation's training capabilities are vast, not all of its training can be conducted within the gates of the post.

That's why the 1-58th Airfield Operations Battalion works with airfields across the South to conduct field-training exercises to make sure their Soldiers receive the highest quality training.

Soldiers of the 1-58th AOB took part in a training exercise Jan. 21-30 at the Marianna Municipal Airport in Marianna, Florida, to train air traffic control for proficiency and qualification purposes, as well as military occupational specialty familiarization, said Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Warren, 1-58th AOB.

The unit set up tactical tents, mobile ATC towers and radar facilities, and worked with both civilian and military fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft to get real-world experience in air traffic services, she said.

"The tower conducts pattern work with aircraft coming in, and the radar system is a radar service that they do airport surveillance radar and precision approach radar for all aircraft coming in," said Warren. "For ATC purposes, this location provided us with the traffic we needed to operate."

Spc. Sara Hauser, 1-58th AOB, has been training with the Air Traffic Navigation, Integration and Coordination System during the field training exercise and said that time out in the field only solidifies what she's learned in the classroom.

"With this system we are able to set up remotely and set up our own airfield, basically," she said. "We've been doing live training where we've been able to talk to live air traffic and aircraft in our pattern. That's something that we can't always

get during simulation, so it's been pretty exciting.

"When you're doing simulated traffic, after a while of doing it you can kind of predict what's going to happen next," she continued. "With this, it's unpredictable and we've got a lot of traffic that we're not controlling, so we're able to make real traffic calls to real aircraft. It's been more helpful (for training)."

Along with mobile ATC towers and radar, Soldiers like Pfc. Zachary Conrad, 1-58th AOB,

also trained using the Tactical Airspace Integration System, which is a mobile airspace management system.

"What we do with our system is basically flight following," said Conrad. "Because we can't get visual confirmation from aircraft in the sky, they'll call up checkpoints until they reach their destination. It's just another way for us to make sure that aircraft are getting to their destinations safely."

Although training was focused heavy on the air traffic control side, the FTX was an opportunity to validate leaders, said Lt. Col. Daniel Y. Morris, 1-58th AOB commander.

"We use these FTXs to see how the leaders are doing and to continue with the coaching, teaching and mentoring process, and, at the end, to let them know how they're doing - these are the strengths, these are the weaknesses and these are the things we want them to work on," said the commander. "This is our way to make sure that these leaders are validated. That's one of our main goals that we're trying to accomplish while we're out here."

"When we come out here ... we're tasked to be expeditionary, working in austere locations, so as you can see, we decided not to sleep in hardened facilities

SEE 1-58TH, PAGE A5



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Soldiers of the 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group take part in combat casualty training during a field training exercise at Hammond Range Jan. 28.

TAOG conducts 1st field training

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Different forms of training can be seen performed on Fort Rucker daily, but there's also training that's not seen by many — field-training exercises that put Soldiers to the test out in the field.

The 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group conducted first-time field training exercises at Hammond Range Jan. 26-30. The exercise took Soldiers into an austere environment to train on how to operate and support their battalion in an environment where there is no infrastructure, said Col. Douglas C. Van Weelden, 164th TAOG commander.

"This is the first time that the TAOG headquarters has done this type of training," he said, adding that the unit's battalion conducts this type of field training event every three months. "The purpose of this training event is to determine how we do this. How do we go from point zero to do what we're suppose to do, which is support the battalion?"

"The organization is trained and ready to do performance functions. How we do this in this kind of environment is not really something that's been done in the past," the commander said. "A lot of the Soldiers here have never really had to set up tents in a field environment and operate, work and live out here. So, this was an opportunity for the non-commissioned officers and company leadership to train Soldiers in their warrior tasks and drills, and get them away from the office — away from the main post and focus on the training and basic skills and task."

During the exercise, the Soldiers had to set up an operating base that included medical tents, triage tents, motor maintenance tents, field feeding sections, command tents, a life support area, potable water, a sustainment cell and a military kitchen trailer, all while securing the area.

This training is part of a three-phase training process that includes a "crawl,

walk and run phase," according to 1st Sgt. Larry Jarrett, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 164th TAOG. The process is currently in its walk phase.

"We conduct training weekly on Thursdays and we pick an event to set up and train, whether it's maintenance on some of the generators or vehicles, setting up radio communications, setting up tents, running power generation, setting up the mobile kitchen," he said. "Each week we picked a particular set of training to do, then we culminate now with this training, and we take all of those things we trained individually and put them together."

The Soldiers must learn to live and operate through the week in the environment that they set up, and conduct their training and lives as they would if they were in a deployed environment.

"Half of our day is spent focusing on individual Soldier training, then they'll break down here, have lunch, and go back into their tents and have various staff sections and start learning their staff functions in this environment," said Van Weelden. "It's a great opportunity to get both of those things addressed in a field training exercise and start somewhere."

During the exercise, Soldiers also took part in combat casualty training where they were reacting to a wounded Soldier in a combat situation.

Teams were set up as a check on learning, and they went through a step-by-step process by which the Soldiers went over different aspects, such as carrying techniques and treating open chest wounds with an entrance and exit wound.

"We put it all together and did a relay, so that we could show the Soldiers the proper techniques on how to do things," Jarrett said. "As they're moving back and forth, this is a good way for them to see how physically draining it is on their bodies and learn why it's important for us to do physical training every day. We do that so that in combat situations we're

SEE TAOG, PAGE A5



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Sgt. Michael Bailey watches over Spc. Michael Feldman and Pvt. 1st Class Amber Davis, all of the 1-58th AOB, as they conduct air traffic control training during a field training exercise that spanned 10-days at the Marianna Municipal Airport in Marianna, Florida, Jan. 28.

PERSPECTIVE

The 4 Chaplains — interfaith in action

By Dr. John Brinsfield
U.S. Army Chaplains

(Editor's note: The following was originally a post on the Army Live blog, available at www.armylive.dodlive.mil.)

It was Feb. 3, 1943, and the U.S. Army Transport Dorchester was one of three ships in a convoy, moving across the Atlantic from Newfoundland to an American base in Greenland. A converted luxury liner, the Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

It was only 150 miles from its destination when, shortly after midnight, an officer aboard the German submarine U2 spotted it. After identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire. The hit was decisive, striking the ship far below the water line. The initial blast killed scores of men and seriously wounded many more.

Others, stunned by the explosion, were groping in the darkness. Panic and chaos quickly set in — men were screaming, others crying or frantically trying to get lifeboats off the ship.

Through the pandemonium, four men spread out among the Soldiers calming the frightened, tending the wounded and guiding the disoriented toward safety. They were four Army chaplains: Lt. George Fox, a Methodist; Lt. Alexander Goode, a Jewish Rabbi; Lt. John Washington, a Roman Catholic Priest; and Lt. Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister.

Quickly and quietly the four chaplains worked to bring calm to the men. As Soldiers began to find their way to the deck of the ship, many were still in their underwear, where they were confronted by the cold winds blowing down from the arctic.

Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, reeling from the cold, headed back towards his cabin. "Where are you going?" a voice of calm in the sea of distressed asked. "To get my gloves," Mahoney replied. "Here, take these," said Rabbi Goode as he handed a pair of gloves to the young



COURTESY GRAPHIC

officer. "I can't take those gloves," Mahoney replied. "Never mind," the rabbi responded. "I have two pairs." It was only long after that Mahoney realized that the chaplain never intended to leave the ship.

Once topside, the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight. When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains simultaneously removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men.

When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew, Father Washington did not call out for a Catho-

lic nor did Fox or Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line. One survivor would later say, "It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven."

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains — arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers and singing hymns.

Of the 902 men aboard the USAT Dorchester, only 230 survived. Before boarding the Dorchester back in January, Chaplain Poling had asked his father to pray for him, "Not for my safe return,

that wouldn't be fair. Just pray that I shall do my duty... never be a coward ... and have the strength, courage and understanding of men. Just pray that I shall be adequate."

Although the Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were later awarded posthumously, Congress wished to confer the Medal of Honor, but was blocked by the stringent requirements that required heroism performed under fire. So, a posthumous Special Medal for Heroism — the Four Chaplains' Medal — was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Jan. 18, 1961.

It was never given before and will never be given again.

Rotor Wash

“February is African-American History Month. Why is it important to celebrate diversity in the U.S.?”



Alix Chenard,
military veteran

"I grew up in a small town where there was very little diversity, and it wasn't until I joined the military that I was exposed to much diversity. It has opened my eyes to a lot of different things that I've never experienced."



Aubriana Price,
military spouse

"The U.S. was founded on diversity and without that we wouldn't have the values that we have."



Gabrielle Ryan,
military spouse

"I think diversity is important because it's what make our country great. We represent a lot of the world and it's important for us to make this a better place for everyone."



Jonathan Carmichael,
retired military

"This is an opportunity for all African-Americans to share the heritage and tradition of the African-American culture with all of America."



CW3 Eric Carver,
3rd BCT, 101st Abn.
Div., Fort Campbell,
Kentucky

"Just look back at our history and how far we've come as a nation. We look back to then and now and where we've come ... and you hear about the racial tension across the U.S., and the military is a cornerstone in advancement in that arena."

COMMAND

Maj. Gen. Michael D. Lundy
FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

Col. Stuart J. McRae
FORT RUCKER GARRISON COMMANDER

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

Center opens doors to new season of savings

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker's tax center saved Soldiers and their families more than \$370,000 in tax preparation fees last year and a ribbon cutting ceremony opened the door to a new season of savings Friday.

Col. Stuart J. McRae, Fort Rucker garrison commander, marked the occasion with a simple question.

"How many of you, when you do your taxes this year, in addition to whatever you get back, would like to get an extra \$100-500 with your tax return?" he said. "That's really, in essence, what this service provides."

"Last year, we had over 1,800 returns filed by this tax center," he added. "The center saved roughly \$371,000 in tax preparation fees for the various forms filed. That is a significant amount of money people save by utilizing this service."

People must have a valid military ID in order to take advantage of the services provided at the tax center. Soldiers on Reserve status must be on Title-10 orders and bring their call-to-active duty orders in order to use the center.

McRae continued to praise the tax center and its service to Soldiers, urging everyone in attendance to spread the word about its opening.

"This is a great deal," he said. "Last year, this center helped Soldiers get over \$2.5 million in re-



Command Sgt. Maj. Eric C. Thom, Fort Rucker Aviation Branch command sergeant major, Col. Stuart J. McRae, Fort Rucker garrison commander, and Capt. Quan Vu, tax center acting chief of client services, cut the ribbon to officially open the Fort Rucker Tax Center Friday.

funds. That is a significant amount. So, we need to beat the streets and get the word out to everyone about this great service.

"As long as I can, I will continue to keep this program going," he added. "I will continue to beat the drum wherever I am that the income continues to fund this program, because it is hugely beneficial to our Soldiers."

The tax center is an invaluable

resource, but the facility can't provide services for businesses or anyone with more than one rental property. However, most simple tax returns shouldn't be a problem.

Col. Andras M. Marton, Fort Rucker Staff Judge Advocate, praised the benefits of the tax center and saluted everyone involved in bringing it to fruition this season.

"This is a great event for us, it is a great event for Fort Rucker and

it is a great event for our community," he said. "As you know, the budgets are tight with the federal government. This service the tax center provides is basically a luxury for our Soldiers, our retirees and their families."

"It is just so wonderful to be able to provide this, yet again, this year at full capacity," he added. "And, hopefully, set the stage for us to continue to provide this long into

the future."

The tax center is open, by appointment, Mondays-Fridays from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 371F.

This year, the tax center also offers a drop-off tax service for single Soldiers. Single Soldiers can come in and drop off their 2014 income tax paperwork, and return in 48 hours to go over their complete return with a tax representative. Soldiers must return between the hours of 9-11 a.m., Mondays-Fridays, for their returns.

Single Soldiers who wish to utilize the drop-off service must have a simple return with no more than two W-2 forms. For more information on drop-off services, call 255-2937 or 255-2938.

When visiting the tax center, people should remember to bring all tax forms, including all valid military ID cards; Social Security cards; all W-2s and wage and earning statements; 1099-R for pensions and retirements; 1098 for interest statements regarding tuitions, student loans, mortgages, etc.; a copy of the previous year's return if available; power of attorney papers if available; 1099-G forms for gambling winnings, unemployment compensations, etc.; and 1099-MISC for payments received for non-employment compensation.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 255-2937 or 255-2938.

YOU MADE THE GRADE

AAFES program rewards academic excellence

Army and Air Force Exchange Service
Press Release

Besides handling daily schoolwork, studying and tests, military students face unique challenges, including coping with separation from parents during deployments and multiple moves.

In fact, according to the Military Child Education Coalition, military children typically move six to nine times by the time they've completed 12th grade, with many making multiple moves during high school.

The Fort Rucker Exchange is rewarding military students who excel in the classroom with its You Made the Grade program, now in its 15th year. Students in first through 12th grades who maintain a B average or better are eligible to receive a coupon book filled with free offers and discounts.

You Made the Grade offers include free food items, such as a Burrito Supreme or Taco Supreme from Taco Bell, small chicken Philly sandwich at Charleys, Popeye's Chicken Po'Boy, and a bacon double cheeseburger and small fry from Burger King.

Students who make the grade will also

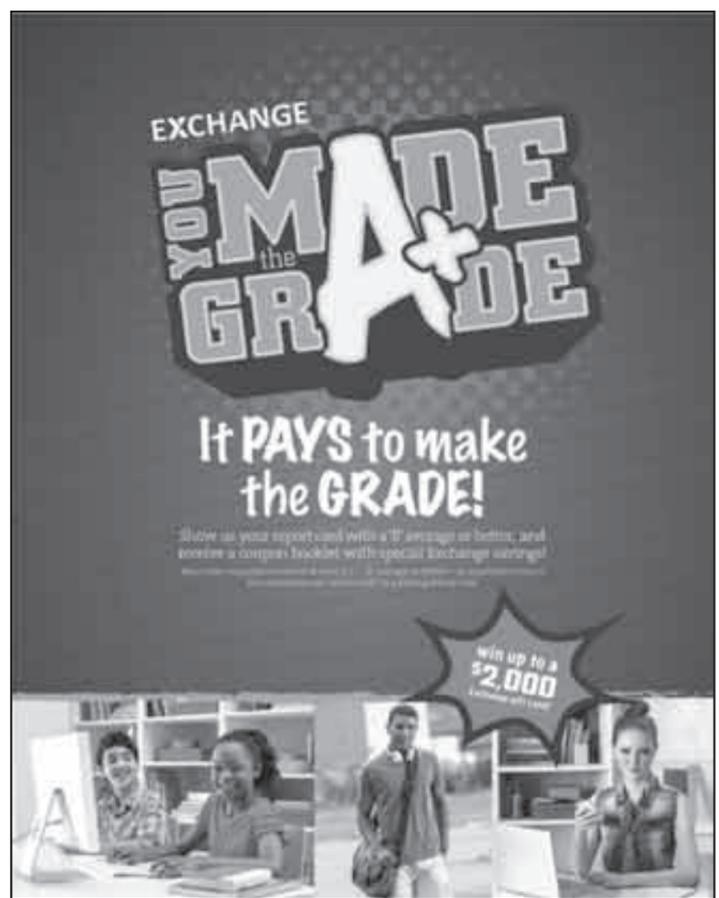
score Snack Avenue coupons for a free fountain drink, including the frozen Yeti drink, and a complimentary hot dog or roller grill item. Other offers include discounts on backpacks, shoes and more.

Scholars can also enter the You Made the Grade semiannual sweepstakes to receive gift cards worth \$2,000, \$1,500 or \$500. Entries for the gift card sweepstakes drawing can be submitted twice a year, with drawings typically held in June and December.

"The Fort Rucker Exchange understands and appreciates the sacrifices military students make," said Don Walter Jr., main store manager. "Those who excel in the classroom, especially while dealing with multiple moves and parents' deployments, deserve to be recognized."

Students, including those who are home schooled, can receive a You Made the Grade coupon booklet by presenting a valid military I.D. and proof of an overall B average at the Fort Rucker Exchange customer service desk (Register 6). Eligible students can pick up one booklet for each qualifying report card.

Students and guardians can visit the Fort Rucker Exchange for more information about the You Made the Grade program.



ARMY GRAPHIC

News Briefs

ID card appointment system

Starting Monday, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., the ID card service, located in Bldg. 5700, will be available to people by appointment only to better serve the community 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.

Tax center opens

The tax center is open and ready to help

Soldiers, family members and retirees by appointment Mondays-Fridays from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 371F. This year, the tax center also offers a drop-off tax service for single Soldiers. Single Soldiers can come in and drop off their 2014 income tax paperwork, and return in 48 hours to go over their complete return with a tax representative. Soldiers must return between the hours of 9-11 a.m., Mondays-Fridays, for their returns. Single Soldiers who wish to utilize the drop-off service must have a simple return with no more than two W-2 forms.

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For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 255-2937 or 255-2938.

Heritage month events

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

- **Friday** – Book reading at the Center Library, and arts and crafts for chil-

dren ages infant to 6 from 10:15-11 a.m.

- **Feb. 12** – Lunch at the dining facility open to Soldiers and Army civilians from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Feb. 19** – Educational field research trip to the George W. Carver Interpretive Center in Dothan from 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Feb. 25** – Luncheon with Dothan Mayor Mike Schmitz as guest speaker. For more information, call 255-2951.

Marketing Yourself for a Second Career

The Military Officers Association of America will host a free presentation entitled "Marketing Yourself for a Second Career" Feb. 18 from 9-11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 4502, Rm. 210. All ranks are invited, though the presentation is geared towards officers and senior NCOs. Spouses are highly encouraged to attend by Soldier for Life Center officials.

MOAA provides this presentation to teach the latest trends in transition to include networking, resume writing, LinkedIn profile development, job interview techniques and salary negotiations.

The presentation will be given by retired Col. John D. Sims, deputy director at the MOAA Transition Center.

People need to RSVP to attend by calling 255-2540.

Class Six closure

The Fort Rucker Class Six store will be closed Feb. 16 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for

repair work in the area.

Office moves

Fort Rucker's G-4 will move from Rm. 220 to Rm. 275 in Bldg. 5700 Wednesday. The office will be closed that day. The phone number remains 255-3160.

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.

Army swears in 15th sergeant major of the Army

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — “You’ve always been just a Soldier. And you need to say that,” said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey, relaying the advice given to him by retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Robert E. Hall.

Dailey, who most recently served as the command sergeant major at U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, was sworn in as the 15th sergeant major of the Army during a ceremony at the Pentagon Friday. Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno administered the oath to the new senior enlisted adviser.

The role of the sergeant major of the Army is primarily to advise the chief of staff of the Army on issues related to the enlisted force and to pursue objectives laid out by the chief of staff of the Army.

During an interview before being sworn into office, Dailey said Odierno had already discussed objectives with him, and that after he settles into his new job, he is expected to start off in his new position by visiting with Soldiers around the Army.

“The chief wants me to get out and see the force,” Dailey said. “It’s critical I hear their voice, and carry that back to the chief and the secretary of the Army.”

Dailey said he expects to visit areas with large Soldier populations. Included among those might be the 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas; the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas; the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas; and the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Dailey also has his own ideas he brings with him to the job — ideas about Soldier development, physical fitness, and women in combat, for instance — topics he became familiar with while serving as the senior enlisted adviser at TRADOC.

Women in combat arms

Most recently, the Army announced that female Soldiers will be allowed, for the first time, to attend Ranger school on a trial basis. This April, 60 slots will be made available to female Soldiers during a Ranger course assessment at Fort Benning, Georgia. The change is something Dailey said he welcomes.

“Is the Army ready for women in combat arms? I think we are past due,” Dailey said. “I think we should give every Soldier, regardless of gender, the opportunity to serve in any military occupational specialty. What I am excited about is that we are using a standards-based approach, just like we should for everything we do in the Army. Regardless of gender, those Soldiers who are physically capable and want to compete and try out for these schools and military occupational specialties will be eligible to do so. I think it will make our Army better.”

Development of NCO corps

A key area of focus for TRADOC, and now the newest sergeant major of the Army, is continued maintenance and development of the NCO corps.

“I am carrying on some of the initiatives that we started when I was the TRADOC sergeant major,” Dailey said. “I truly believe that we have a lot of work we have already done, and there also is a lot that still needs to be accomplished, to further professionalize



PHOTO BY C. TODD LOPEZ

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno administers the oath of office to Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey at the Pentagon Friday as Dailey's wife, Holly, holds a Bible.

our professional military education system for our NCOs and Soldiers.”

One area of development, Dailey said, is placed firmly on the shoulders of Soldiers themselves: structured self-development and civilian education.

“Our non-commissioned officers and Soldiers need to understand that a critical part of the development phase for a Soldier is the development they do on their own — utilization of the structured self-development platforms that we initiated and utilization of tuition assistance for them to take college credit and certifications,” Dailey said.

Equally important, he said, is maintenance of the operational skills Soldiers have learned from 12 years of combat. Soldiers who have participated in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan will eventually leave the Army, and their experience will leave with them — unless they pass it on to the Soldiers that follow in their footsteps. The Army wants them to pass that information on, Dailey said.

He also said that with combat operations having been drawn down, there will be more time for Soldiers to develop those professional skills, and to also transfer what they have learned from 12 years of conflict to the new Soldiers arriving in the force, fresh from basic training.

“We have to make sure our NCOs are using those skills they learned over the 12 years of war, and translating those skills to our young Soldiers, and ensuring they are maximizing the time,” Dailey said. He said there’s more time now for NCOs to spend with younger Soldiers to do critical unit-level training.

Dailey said the Army is becoming an “Army of preparation,” and must be ready for whatever the nation asks it to do, and that means continued training.

“I’ve always said the harder you train in garrison, the easier your combat experience should be,” Dailey said. “It’s critically important for our NCOs, and our leaders and officers that have served overseas for the last 12 years, to maintain those skills. And they also have to educate and train the future Soldiers.”

The world is still dangerous, Dailey said. There is a significant amount of uncertainty that the Army, and Soldiers, must be prepared to face. One way to prevent war — which is the most de-

sirable course of action, he said — is to show potential adversaries that the Army is still very capable of combat.

“It is a critical time in our Army now. We live in a world of uncertainty. We have to maintain readiness. Our ultimate goal is to not fight,” Dailey said. “Our adversaries need to see we are an Army of preparation, and that we are trained and ready to fight in response to our nation’s call. That call can happen anywhere, for any type of operation — whether it’s another war, or a contingency operation in one of our partnering nations to help them. This time is just as critical as the last 12 years of war.”

Keeping best Soldiers

The Army is in the middle of a drawdown in troops levels. While many Soldiers will leave the Army voluntarily, at some point the Army might be forced to ask some Soldiers to leave.

“My advice is to make sure you are doing your best, that you are representing Army values, and that you are truly an Army professional,” he said. “Stewardship of the profession is critical. As we draw down, it has been made clear that we will use a standards-based approach to make sure we keep the best Soldiers. We owe that to our Soldiers. We owe that to our leaders. We owe that to the gracious taxpayers of America.”

“Continue to do your best, work hard, and when you get those opportunities to excel, you need to do that. Study hard when you go to the various levels of

NCO education, work hard at physical fitness training. There is plenty of room in the Army, for the future, for those Soldiers who want to stay.”

For those Soldiers who do leave the Army, Dailey said preparation for civilian life is along the same lines as what Soldiers ought to be doing anyway.

“Take advantage of the education and self-development opportunities that currently exist,” he said. “Every Soldier is entitled to tuition assistance, so utilize that. That’s a gift from the American taxpayer to

give Soldiers the edge they need when they get out of the service.”

Social media initiative

One unique endeavor the new sergeant major of the Army plans to undertake is to officially engage Soldiers on social media. He said he plans to kick off an advisory group to make that happen.

“I’m not the expert on social media,” he said. “I come from a generation where I didn’t live my entire life with access to computers. That came on very late in life. I do take pride in the

fact I am smart enough to consult the individuals that do have the knowledge, skills and attributes associated with the task.”

Dailey said he will form an SMA, or sergeant major of the Army, advisory group on social media, made up of Soldiers from across the Army, who will advise him on how Soldiers want to be communicated with.

“The audience is our Soldiers and the American people,” he said. “So who better to ask how they want to be contacted? When Soldiers give you advice, you’ve got to take it.”



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WOCC: Achieving excellence a team effort at college

Continued from Page A1

to come to a decision.

During the evaluation, which occurred June 6-10, the WOCC scored between 95-100 on the evaluation, which qualified the college to be named an Institute of Excellence, said Yeager.

"The process was ongoing for many months," said Craig. "Everything we think, do and say as an institution like this is to ensure that we're doing the right thing with the resources that are provided us for the students and the institution itself."

"This is not something you can prepare for two weeks before the process, but there is a lot of movement to the weeks leading up, but something that must be ongoing," he continued. "Throughout anything you do, whether it's a year out, six months or three months, there are gates that you build to ensure that you're meeting those standards."

Yeager was instrumental in helping see that those standards were met, and he was respon-



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Joe Craig, director of education and training, and quality assurance for warrant officer education, presents Col. Garry L. Thompson, WOCC commandant, a certificate naming the U.S. Warrant Officer Career College an Institution of Excellence during a ceremony at the WOCC Friday.

sible for coordinating and gathering reports for the review by TRADOC. He was recognized

with a certificate of appreciation during the ceremony for exceptional meritorious achievement

of duty while serving as a quality assurance and faculty of element program lead for the U.S.

Warrant Officer Career College during the 2014 TRADOC accreditation.

But, he said, it was no individual effort that allowed the college to reach this level of success.

"This is just a reflection of the great job that the people of this organization are doing and that we continue to do to keep up the standard," he said.

Craig agreed, and said that despite falling just short of the achievement in the past, the WOCC and its members continued to strive for excellence.

"It feels marvelous, and is well deserved for the team and cadre that come in here (to get this recognition)," he said. "We have top-notch cadre in every walk of life here, be it enlisted, officer, or all the way up to our commandant, who touch all these areas of accreditation and standards. We hope to sustain this title because it speaks volumes. To step out with a banner of pride and be able to say that we are an Institution of Excellence goes a long way."

1-58th: Experience passes down deployment knowledge

Continued from Page A1

or work out of hardened facilities," he continued. "We decided to go out to locations and set up all of our tactical tents for living area, set up our own (military kitchen) for field feeding, and, during this opportunity, our Soldiers get to learn field craft."

Soldiers get the opportunity to learn about even the most basic things that most might take for granted, such as personal hygiene. During the 10-day exercise, Soldiers didn't even have access to showers,

"If I'm out here, how am I going to maintain personal hygiene?" said Morris. "You pick

up on things. Our new Soldiers are learning from our seasoned Soldiers who have done this before. About half of the Soldiers in our formation are pretty new to the Army and have never had to go into an environment like this, so this is a great learning experience."

After the training day, the unit

conducts a battle update brief to go over all the training that was conducted in the past 24 hours, as well as what is to be done in the next 24 hours.

"It takes a snapshot of all the things that we got accomplished and makes us look at what we need to focus on getting for the next 24-hour period," said Mor-

ris. "It's also about mission command. We want to make sure that everybody has a full understanding of what we did and what we're about to do. We've got people strewn all over this airfield and we've got people in other locations, as well, so it's about making sure that everybody is on the same sheet of music."

TAOG: Field training allows focus on leader development

Continued from Page A1

physically fit enough to be able to get our Soldiers out, if need be, and using proper technique is key to everything."

Technique and training is key to success, he said, and another reason Jarrett said training like this is crucial is because it's difficult to get the entire unit together

for a training exercise such as this.

"As an HHC, a headquarters element, it's tough for us to get all the Soldiers together at one time in one area to do this type of training," he said. "We support the rest of the brigade, so we have multiple battalions and other units that we support, so this is a great opportunity for us to get this type of training."

The training was also a good opportunity to focus on leader development, said Van Weelden.

"It's really one of those fundamental and foundational requirements that we have as an Army going into the future," said the colonel. "The tactics that we use next and the procedures that we use next will all change. They will all change and

it's very hard to predict, but one thing we know for certain is that we have to have leaders who can think, adapt and be good, solid leaders. That's what this is really all about - giving them challenges, new experiences and letting them think their way through and adapting those solutions to those problems, while also managing the risk levels."

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PHOTO BY SFC. LATOYA WIGGINS

An AH-64 Apache Longbow and MQ-1C Gray Eagle helicopter land at Michael Army Airfield, Utah, Sept. 16, 2011, after the completion of the Manned Unmanned Systems Integration.

Course to pair pilots with UAS operators

By Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — A new course at Fort Rucker will pair up Air Cavalry leaders with the operators of unmanned aircraft systems.

The Aviation Reconnaissance Course, scheduled to launch this spring, was discussed at the Association of the U.S. Army's "Hot Topics" conference on Aviation in Arlington, Virginia, Jan. 29. The course was mentioned during a panel discussion titled, "The Human Dimension: Developing Agile Aviation Leaders that Thrive in Uncertainty."

One of the objectives of the new two-week class will be to establish synergy between pilots and UAS operators, explained panel member Col. David Francis, deputy commander of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence.

"The intent is to have our pilots and our unmanned aero scouts — our unmanned system operators — do that synergy I was talking about before," Francis said. "They plan the mission together, they brief the mission together and then they execute the mission together — in concert as a maneuver team — not just as a UAS up there flying as an ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) asset."

Three initial classes are planned for this year with about 24 students each. Warrant officers, commissioned officers and UAS operators will all attend the course. The pilots will be leaders going into cavalry organizations, Francis said.

The Army's retirement of the OH-58 Kiowa scout helicopter was an impetus for the course, he said. In place of the Kiowa aircraft, the Army plans to scout using AH-64 Apaches teamed with unmanned aircraft.

"We want to make sure that we retain the fundamental reconnaissance role in those organizations, so we felt it necessary to generate this course," Francis said after the panel concluded.

"There's a Cav Leader's Course at Fort Benning (Georgia) for our ground cavalry squadrons — we're doing the same thing for our Aviation squadrons," he said.

Manned-unmanned teaming will be an "integrated part of our maneuver" for Army Aviation in the future, Francis said.

In the past, manned and unmanned pairing

SEE UAS, PAGE B4

'HOT TOPIC'

Vice chief addresses sequestration effects on Army Aviation

By J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Just as the Army chief of staff recently testified before lawmakers warning of the damage another round of sequestration would cause, Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Daniel B. Allyn echoed the chief's words to many connected to the Army Aviation community Jan. 29.

Addressing an audience of 300 at an Aviation "Hot Topic" professional forum put on by the Association of the U.S. Army, Allyn opened the one-day seminar praising Army Aviators for their daily role in the successes in Iraq and Afghanistan, and around the globe.

"I'm an infantryman by trade, but every infantryman with any experience, particularly in combat, holds his Aviation brothers and sisters in reverent respect and admiration because we know your courage and indomitable expertise get us to battle, pull us out when we're mission-complete or, God-forbid, when we are most in need, you guard our flanks and rain steel on our enemies to ensure we never face a fair fight," Allyn said.

"Aviators have been and will



PHOTO BY J.D. LEIPOLD

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Daniel B. Allyn answers a question from an attendee at the Association of the U.S. Army's Aviation 'Hot Topic' seminar in Arlington, Va., Jan. 29.

continue to be integral in every success we will achieve," he said. "As we wind down from 13-plus years of war, we all hoped the world environment would cooperate and stabilize — in reality, there is no peace dividend — the world has changed and it requires the United States Army to remain globally engaged while at the same time operating with a smaller budget and force structure in a world that is as dangerous as I have seen."

As dangerous as the world is, Allyn added that the Army faced

a very real near-term threat to its effectiveness as a force by another round of sequestration that would have "devastating effects."

The Army eliminated three of its 13 active-component combat Aviation brigades since the last sequestration. "Our commitments remain significant," he said.

"In 2013, we had six combat Aviation brigades committed to operational missions, and in 2015 — you guessed it — we have six combat Aviation brigades slated for commitment

around the globe — the same amount of work with a smaller pool to draw from," Allyn said.

The vice chief said the draw-down and budget challenge forced the Army to relook at its entire Aviation fleet and strategy, which became the Aviation Restructure Initiative — "the optimal way forward."

"These cutbacks were not something we chose, but in order to maximize the capability and capacity of our total force, and protect our critical modernization programs, such as future vertical lift, the improved turbine engine program and the UH-60-Lima digital upgrades, crafting the Aviation Restructure Initiative was necessary," he said.

Allyn also discussed the Army Operating Concept, which will guide future force development by identifying first-order capabilities providing the intellectual foundation for learning and for applying what Soldiers learn as the future force is built. The AOC is titled, "Win in a Complex World."

"To win in a complex world, we must think of four multiples," he said. "Provide the joint

SEE AVIATION, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY CAPT. JARROD MORRIS

An aircrew member assigned to 1-82nd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade observes from the gunner's window of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter as the pilots land at Tactical Base Gamberi, Afghanistan, Jan. 27.

COMING IN FOR A LANDING

Training teaches Soldiers keys to survival

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

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — A Soldier was in a group of vehicles during a deployment and on the way to his destination was hit by an improvised explosive device. He was the only survivor. He was scared, confused and had no idea what to do.

This kind of situation is exactly what CW2 Robert Young, an Aviation mission survivability officer with the C Company, 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, trained Soldiers Jan. 22 on Camp Humphreys to be prepared for.

Young said that they try to introduce Soldiers to real-life situations where they could become isolated.

"This training maximizes their chances for recovery," Young said.

The Soldiers started off the day receiving maps and different types of communication devices.



PHOTO BY SGT. JESSE SMITH

Pfc. Walter T.P. Tharp, a signal support specialist with C Company, 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, is hoisted into a UH-60 Black Hawk Jan. 22 at Camp Humphreys, South Korea.

Young went through each piece of equipment and explained its use.

The Soldiers were broken into teams and had to help each learn

all of the information and tactics to be able to survive on their own.

Young led a group that included Pvt. Kimani J. Robinson, 2nd

CAB, who said he'd never done any training like this before and learned a lot.

"If I was ever put in this scenario, I would be confident

that I could use my equipment," Robinson said.

The team moved to multiple grid points on Camp Humphreys where they were given different situations and had to decide on the best choice to survive.

In some personnel recovery events, isolated Soldiers may need to be hoisted up to a helicopter because of terrain or enemy forces nearby during a rescue. At the end of the training, Robinson, along with Pfc. Walter T.P. Tharp, a signal support specialist with the C Co., 3rd GSAB, was able to participate in such a hoist for training purposes.

"I have never done anything like that before," Tharp said.

The hoist is definitely the most enjoyable part of the training for the Soldiers, Young said. They get to be pulled 25 feet into the air and strapped into a helicopter.

Young said that this training helps keep Soldiers alive when things go wrong and that everyone should go through these exercises.

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Aviation: Team advances increase combat effectiveness

Continued from Page B1

force commanders and our national leaders with multiple options, integrate efforts of multiple partners, operate across multiple domains and present our enemies with multiple dilemmas simultaneously.

"Future Army forces will support joint force freedom of action through the projection of power from land, across the maritime, air and cyberspace domains... we will fight dispersed, but with the mobility to concentrate rapidly at a decisive point," he added.

The vice chief said future vertical lift will

allow forces to operate across wide areas while maintaining mutual support, and that the improved turbine engine will make legacy aircraft effective by dramatically increasing range and the ability to fly in high, hot conditions.

"Manned and unmanned teaming advances will increase combat effectiveness, expand our terrain coverage and reduce risk to our Soldiers and our formations," Allyn said. "As we project presence around the globe, it's important to remember that future Aviation innovation enables greater range, greater fuel efficiency and greater reliability in order to

reduce logistics demand and allow aircraft to operate from austere locations alongside our ground forces."

Allyn said it was important to remember in the current operational environment, technologies are easily copied or countered and what gives the Army a differential advantage

over its adversaries is the skilled Soldier and well-trained teams who optimize effective technologies.

"It's all about the Soldier," he said. "Any technology that advances the way the Army recruits, educates, trains and develops our leaders and Soldiers is a priority."

UAS: Operators considered battlefield 'aero scouts'

Continued from Page B1

had been a "pick-up game," he said.

"UAS are not just going to be ISR assets," Francis said, "but an additional capability within Aviation maneuver as we execute future combined-arms maneuver, wide-area security and special operations missions in the future.

"It's key to understand that distinction — UAS coming into our formations is part of our maneuver. That is going to require developing our leaders to figure out how to do that. We're really just on the leading edge of that — and figuring out adaptive ways to employ that capability to our formations to meet our obligations to the ground force commander," Francis said.

UAS operators are now considered much more than just equipment operators, he said.

"We do not view our unmanned operators as operators. In fact, we're even trying to change the name to unmanned aero scout.

"They are scouts that will be integrated in and will take part in the aircrew mission brief and team briefs that go

on as we execute Aviation maneuver in the future," he said. "And they are going to know the fundamentals of reconnaissance, and the fundamentals of security as they go out and execute operations."

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BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS



Fort Rucker Primary School first grade students perform musical numbers celebrating history and unity despite diversity during Fort Rucker's annual Black History Month kick-off event at the post exchange's food court Friday.



PHOTOS BY JEREMY HENDERSON

Fashion show participants take a bow after modeling apparel representative of African American History throughout the last century during Fort Rucker's Black History Month kickoff event.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Event kicks off month's activities

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

A month-long celebration of unity kicked off Friday at the Fort Rucker Post Exchange with food, fashion, music and dance in honor of African-American History Month.

"Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievement and a time for recognizing the central role played by African Americans in U.S. history," said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Garcia, 1st Aviation Brigade equal opportunity adviser, said.

The story of Black History Month begins in 1915, half a century after the 15th Amendment abolished slavery in the United States, according to Garcia.

"Since then, the contributions of African Americans to music, art, science, business and literature, to name a few, have been significant to our American society and have been recognized around the globe," he said. "Credit for the awareness of the true place of African Americans in history can, in large part, be attributed to one man. In 1915, Carter G. Woodson established the Association for the Study of [African American] Life and History. Woodson wanted to change the perception of African Americans and he wanted to recognize their contributions to American society."

According to Garcia, the month of February was designated to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Since 1976, every U.S. President has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

Command Sgt. Maj. Morris Anderson, 1st Bn., 11th Avn. Regt. command sergeant major, served as the event's key-

note speaker and stressed the importance of Black History Month to people of all walks of life.

"February is a unique month," he said. "It is a month where millions of fans prepare to watch the Super Bowl. It is also a month where we express our love for one another on Valentine's Day by passing out gifts, cards, chocolates and roses. But what I want you all to focus on is that February is the month we celebrate Black History."

"It is a time where commemorate the lives of blacks who continue to have a positive and significant impact on society for over a century," he added. "The theme this year is 'A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture.' It seeks to chronicle the critical contributions by African Americans to art, literature, sports and pop culture. When you think of doo wop, rock and roll, hip hop – they can all trace their roots to African-American influences. Legendary sports figures, artists, musicians, actors

and actresses have undeniably contributed to American culture and their influence continues to spread worldwide."

According to Anderson, Black History Month serves as a remembrance of accomplishments and a chance to pass on the lessons and stories of the past.

"We celebrate Black History Month because it helps us be better stewards of the privileges we've gained," he said. "If we don't tell the old stories to the next generation, then we ourselves will forget them. Explain the significance of Black History Month to your children, who have never learned of such events and the men and women who took part in them. We take for granted the rights that many people before us sweated, bled, and died to secure. Apart from the awareness of the past, we can never appreciate the blessings we enjoy in the present. We celebrate Black History Month because it provides an opportunity to highlight the best of Black History."

"Because we live in a society where every person, individually, is striving to achieve the American dream – we are focusing so much on our future that we are

forgetting our past," Anderson added. "As a community, we must find ways to preserve our history so we can keep the hopes and dreams of those before us alive and relevant today. Let's continue to keep Black History Month relevant by supporting events like this."

Community efforts, such as the events scheduled throughout the month on post, serve as a vessel for communicating the importance of the past into future generations of leaders and innovators, he said.

"Black History Month inspires us to seek out and lift up the best in African American accomplishments," Anderson said. "We celebrate Black History Month because it creates awareness for all people. We celebrate Black History Month to remind us all that Black History is our history, which is American history. We as a community should not overlook Black History Month because Black History – just like Latino History, Asian History, European History, and Native American History – belongs to all of us."

The event also featured authentic soul food for attendees, a musical performance from Fort Rucker Primary School first grade students, a fashion show featuring authentic African American attire, a vocal solo soul performance and a recitation of the poem "Let My People Go" by James Weldon Johnson.

According to Garcia, a group of about 20 volunteers gathered Saturday at the George W. Carver Interpretive Center in Dothan to complete the first-ever community service project in celebration of Black History Month. The volunteers polished and shined the walls and floors of the museum to military standards, and completed other assorted tasks to prepare the facility for upcoming Black History Month events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Book reading at the Center Library Friday from 10:15-11:30 a.m. followed by arts and crafts for children ages 2-5. For more information, call 255-3885.
- Both post dining facilities will feature soul food lunches for Soldiers and Army civilians Feb. 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- A research trip to the G.W. Carver Interpretive Center in Dothan will take

place Feb. 19 from 9:45 a.m. until 1 p.m. Transportation will be provided for 40-50 participants. Space is limited. For more information, call 255-2951.

- A Black History Month luncheon will be held Feb. 25 at 11:30 a.m. at The Landing with Dothan Mayor Mike Schmitz as guest speaker. Tickets are \$12 each and will not be offered at the door. Space is limited.

MOST WANTED 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.myarmyonesource.com> to register and apply for available positions, or call to learn more about available volunteer opportunities. For more information, call 255-1429.

Below is a list of AVC Most Wanted Volunteer Opportunities.

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• 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 needed. For more information, call 255-4305.

• Activities Coordinator

Position Description: Editing and coordinating publicity with FRG newsletter. Photography skills are a plus. For more information, call 255-1429.

RoBo Panthers

Elementary school students compete in state championship

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker schools are always finding ways to encourage children to think outside the box and broaden their horizons, and one such way students at Fort Rucker Elementary School got a chance to do just that was through robotics.

The FRES RoBo Panthers, a robotics team made up of 10 students from various grades, took part in the Alabama

First Lego League State Championship in Huntsville, and despite being newcomers to the competition, placed 17th in the robotics table out of 36 teams from across the state, according to Jennifer Kincaid, head coach for the robotics team.

During the competition, the team was judged based on robot design, core values, their project and robot performances.

"They looked at the overall project of

SEE ROBO, PAGE C5



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

The Fort Rucker Elementary School First Lego League team, the RoBo Panthers placed 17th out of 36 teams during the Alabama First Lego League State Championship in Huntsville Jan 24.

ON POST

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

BOSS Mugs and Kisses

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will take orders for Mugs and Kisses now through Monday. The cost is \$7 per mug filled with candy kisses. Once an order has been placed, patrons can pick up their Mugs and Kisses on the first floor of Bldg. 5700 Feb. 12 or 13 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The BOSS Team will be at a table in the lobby as patrons enter the building. BOSS will also sell Mugs and Kisses during Dueling Pianos Feb. 13 at The Landing. To place an order, call 379-4594.

African American History Month reading

Center Library will host a reading for African American History Month Friday from 10:15-11 a.m., along with a craft activity for children ages 2-5.

For more information, call 255-3885.

Financial readiness training

Army Community Service will host its financial readiness training Friday from 7:20 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 284. The training provides a practical approach to help Soldiers manage their money more effectively. The training is required for all first-term junior enlisted Soldiers - E-1 through E-4. Spouses are also encouraged to attend.

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

Resilient Couples training

Army Community Service will host Resilient Couples training Tuesday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Chapel. The training will teach people the skills that will help make couples resilient. People need to sign up by Monday.

For more information and to register, call 255-3735.

Valentine craft activity

The Center Library will host a Valentine craft activity Tuesday from 3:30-4:30 p.m. for children ages 3-11. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited to the first 65 children to register. The event is open to authorized patrons.

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

Sweetheart Dinner

The Landing Zone will host its Sweetheart Dinner Feb. 13 and 14 from 4-8 p.m. The dinner will cost \$24.95 per person. There are a limited number of reservations, so people should call 598-8025 to make a reservation early.

The menu includes a first course of a choice of: Fiery shrimp; goat cheese salad with mixed greens, raspberries and toasted almonds in balsamic vinaigrette; blue cheese wedge with candied pecans; or lobster bisque with sweet corn fritters.

The second course includes: grilled salmon with creamy dill sauce, grilled filet mignon with chocolate-coffee barbecue sauce, or chicken champagne. The third course consists of a choice of: Red Velvet



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Lifeguard Courses

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will host lifeguarding courses Feb. 12-16. The courses will take place Feb. 12 from 4-8 p.m., Feb. 13 from 2-7 p.m. and Feb. 14-16 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Fort Rucker PFC on Andrews Avenue. Each class, once completed, includes American Red Cross certifications in Lifeguarding, Waterfront Lifeguarding, Waterpark Lifeguarding, First Aid, and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and automatic external defibrillator administration. Each certification is valid for two years from the course completion date. Courses are available to ages 15 and up. The cost is \$125 for Department of Defense ID card holders and \$150 to the public. A prerequisite test must be passed on the first day to enter the course. Prerequisite requirements include: non-stop swim of 550 meters, two-minute tread using only legs, dive ring retrieval, and a timed 20-meter retrieval swim. People interested should register at the front desk of the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center. The cut-off for registration is three days prior to course start date. The courses may be canceled if minimum enrollment is not met. For more information, call 255-2296.

cheesecake, Molten Lava chocolate cake, or New Orleans-style bread pudding.

Dueling Pianos

The Landing will host Dueling Pianos Feb. 13 and 14 from 8 p.m. to midnight in the ballroom. Dueling Pianos is billed as a high-energy, all-request, sing-along, clap-along, rock n' roll comedy piano show. The event is open to the public, ages 16 and older. Advanced tickets are \$12 through Feb. 12 and \$16 at the door the day of the show. VIP tables are also available for \$150. VIP tables seat 10 patrons and are guaranteed to be near the stage. For more information, call 598-2426 or 255-9810.

Nutrition and baby-led weaning class

The New Parent Support Program and La Leche League will offer a nutrition and baby-led weaning class Feb. 19 from 9-11 a.m. at The Commons, Bldg. 8950. The class will cover the following topics: nutrition for the nursing mother, starting solids, baby-led weaning and gentle weaning tips. Other breastfeeding questions will be answered as time allows. Expectant parents and those with young children are welcome to attend. People should register by Feb. 17.

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

Newcomers welcome

Army Community Service will host a newcomers welcome Feb. 20 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 newcomers 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 Feb. 20, 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.

Montgomery Zoo trip

Outdoor recreation will host a trip to the Montgomery Zoo Feb. 21. The trip will depart Fort Rucker at 9 a.m. and return around 6 p.m. The trip will stop off for a fast-food dinner on the trip back. The cost is \$30 for adults, \$25 for children ages 3-12 and \$15 for children under 3. The price includes transportation and zoo admission. Food is not included. For additional charges, people can take part in activities at the zoo, including feeding birds and giraffes, going on a train ride, riding the sky lift, enjoying pony rides, and renting a pedal boat. This event is open to the public, but is limited to 24 participants. People need to sign up by Feb. 18 at ODR or MWR Central.

For more information, call 255-4305 or 255-2997.

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.

DFMWR Spotlight

CYSS Baseball | Softball | Jump Roping

U.S. Army Child, Youth & School Services

REGISTER Now - Feb. 28th

Evaluations will begin on February 17th.

Baseball Season: April-May

The teams will be broken down into the following age groups:

Tee Ball	(co-ed ages 5 - 6 years)
Machine Pitch	(co-ed ages 7 - 8 years)
Dixie Minor	(co-ed ages 9 - 10 years)
Dixie Youth	(co-ed ages 11 - 12 years)
Dixie Ponytails Girls	(girls ages 9 - 12 years)
Dixie Belts	(girls ages 13 - 15 years)

(Note that if there are not enough girls to field a Ponytail team they will be put on a baseball team.)

YOUTH & SPORTS & FITNESS REGISTRATION

Keep the kids active this Spring! The CYSS Youth Sports & Fitness program is taking registrations for Youth Baseball, Softball and Jump Roping at Parent Central Services, located in the Soldier Service Center (Bldg. 5700) in room 193.

A current sports physical and a valid CYSS registration are required for participation. A

www.ftruckerarmwr.com

multiple child rate will be determined at registration. Special requests for coaches and players cannot be honored.

Costs:
 Jump Roping- \$25 (Ages 7-18)
 Baseball \$45 (Co-ed Ages 5-12)
 Age control date: May 1st of current year.
 Softball \$45 (Girls Ages 9-15)
 Age control date: Dec. 31st of previous year

Parent Central Services
 Bldg. 5700, Rm. 193, (334) 255-9636
 Monday - Friday: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Youth Sports & Fitness
 (334) 255-2257/2254

Prospective Coaches Are Needed!
 If interested and for more information please call (334) 255-0950.

Rucker CYSS
 Rucker CYSS Team
 Rucker CYSS Youth Tech Lab

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR FEB. 5 - 7

Thursday, Feb. 5	Friday, Feb. 6	Saturday, Feb. 7	Sunday, Feb. 8
Big Eyes (PG-13)7 p.m.	American Sniper (R)7 & 10 p.m.	The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG-13).....7 p.m.	The Imitation Game (PG-13)4 p.m.

TICKETS ARE \$6 FOR ADULTS AND \$5 FOR CHILDREN, 12 AND UNDER. MILITARY I.D. CARD HOLDERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE WELCOME. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 255-2408.

First lady depicts veterans' lives to TV, movie industry

By Terri Moon Cronk
Department of Defense News

WASHINGTON — The stories of veterans are more complicated and inspiring than they are depicted on television and in movies, First Lady Michelle Obama said at a screenwriters event Friday.

Speaking at the National Geographic Society, she addressed writers, content creators and other industry leaders on the power of telling veterans' real stories.

"You have the power to shape our understanding of the world around us," the first lady said. "You all are in a unique position to help us address some of the most challenging issues that we face as a nation."

The lives of troops, veterans and their families yield great untold stories that cry out for atten-



Michelle Obama

tion, Obama said.

But viewers generally see veterans depicted as broken, downtrodden and homeless, or as saintly heroes with great courage and moral clarity, she said.

Most veterans are men in TV, commercials and movies, Obama said, reminding the audience that 1.5 million women veterans also have served in uniform.

Current depictions, she noted, don't reflect the real courage and struggle and sacrifice veterans make, and all the skills they can offer.

"So often, we only see the emotional homecomings, but not the rest of the story. And having had the privilege of meeting so many of our troops and veterans, I can tell you that the real stories are much more complicated and much more inspiring," she said.

"Today, I'm calling on all of you across the entertainment industry to change the conversation about our veterans and military families.

"Give us the full story. Show us veterans ... who were born to

serve and keep giving back long after they hang up their uniform ... strong female veterans with skills and experience who can thrive in any kind of business or organization ... show us the courage of ... spouses whose strength and passion for their family and country can inspire us all," Obama said.

Depicting current and former service members as ordinary characters is "the way we hope our country will welcome back our veterans," Obama said. "Not by setting them apart, but by fully integrating them into the fabric of our communities."

Entertainment industry professionals can change the game for the newest generation of veterans and their families, she added.

Obama encouraged the entertainers to take the next step to

hire or cast a veteran, or bring one into the writers' room.

"That's how you get a real, true understanding of what it means to be an American veteran," she said, adding that many veterans and family member organizations are willing to connect the industry with veterans and families who will tell their stories.

"Right now, with our combat mission over in Afghanistan and more of our veterans transitioning home, this work couldn't be more important," she said.

For so many years, service men and women have had Americans' backs, "and now it's our turn to step up for them," Obama said.

"I know that you all can do that," she said. "I know that you have the talent and creativity — and more importantly, the humanity — to succeed in this mission."



COURTESY PHOTO

Pick-of-the-litter

Meet Bobo, a 6-year-old neutered male cat available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility. He is affectionate and playful. 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.

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

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CW3 Burton - (602) 629-4655

Church Directory

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."
1 Corinthians 11:1

First United Methodist Church

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8:30AM & 11:00AM
Contemporary Worship - New Connection
8:45AM & 11:00AM
The Gathering - Youth
5:45PM
Sunday School
10:00AM
Nursery Care: During all services
217 S. Main St • Enterprise, AL
Office: 334-347-3467
cfumc@adelphia.net
Prayer Line (24 Hours) 334-393-7509

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Alabama features civil rights history

Alabama Tourism Department
Press Release

Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of a bus in Montgomery. More than 3,000 demonstrators gathered in Selma to march to the Capitol to demand voting rights, and 20,000 others joined them along the way. In Birmingham, four little girls lost their lives to a bomb attack at 16th Street Baptist Church.

These were the difficult turning points that finally brought civil rights to America, and there is no better place to learn about this historic struggle than in Alabama.

Civil rights museums

Midway along the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail on U.S. Highway 80 in Hayneville lies the \$10 million Lowndes County Interpretive Center. The museum exhibits depict a wide range of events, including the establishment of "Tent City," which housed Families dislodged by white landowners in Lowndes County. In downtown Montgomery, The Civil Rights Memorial Center features multiple exhibits, including a Wall of Tolerance that allows visitors to sign a pledge to promote racial justice.

At the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, you can step back in time and see a 1955 Montgomery city bus for yourself, or visit the nearby Dexter Parsonage Museum on the site where Martin Luther King Jr. lived while leading the

Montgomery bus boycott. Learn about the movement's foot soldiers at the National Voting Rights Museum in Selma or about the secret life of Booker T. Washington at the Tuskegee Human & Civil Rights Multicultural Center.

And don't miss a chance to visit the nation's largest civil rights museum, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, which boasts 58,000 square feet of archives, galleries, community meeting rooms and exhibit spaces.

Historic sites

Many civil rights-era sites have been preserved and made open to the public. Birmingham's Civil Rights District is home to Kelly Ingram Park, a site where marchers and activists came together in protest. Nearby is 16th Street Baptist Church, where four young girls were killed in a 1963 bombing by Ku Klux Klan members.

Walk across Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge, the site of a 1965 violent confrontation that helped rally national support for the civil rights movement, or visit the airfield where the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American military pilots, trained during World War II. In Montgomery, stop by the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, where Martin Luther King Jr. was the pastor from 1954-1960.

For more information on any of the above, point your browser to <http://www.alabama.travel/things-to-do/civil-rights#museums>, and for more Alabama travel information go to <http://www.alabama.travel/>.



WIREFRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

FEB. 7 — Andalusia Regional Hospital will host a women's expo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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.

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

can host parties, weddings, and hail and farewells.

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

ENTERPRISE

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.

ONGOING — Taoist Tai Chi classes are available at the Enterprise YMCA — people do not need to be members of the YMCA to participate — and Episcopal Church of the Epiphany. Classes include ongoing beginning, health recovery and continuing classes in the Taoist Tai Chi Society. For a schedule of classes or to get more information, visit www.taoist.org or call 348-9008.

ONGOING — Mondays through Thursdays each month, Aqua Zumba and EPRD water aerobics will be held by instructor Natalie Showers from 7-8 p.m. Price is \$5 per class and registration is not required. For more information, call 348-2684.

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

GENEVA

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

MIDLAND CITY

ONGOING — Residents are invited to town hall meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 1385 Hinton Waters Ave. For more information, call 983-3511.

NEW BROCKTON

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.

ONGOING — Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to noon, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 99 maintains a service office in the New Brockton Police Station at 202 South John Street. The office will assist veterans who were injured or disabled while in military service. DAV Service Officers helps veterans and their spouses with disability compensation claims, Veterans Affairs pensions, death benefits, VA medical care, Social Security disability benefits, veterans job programs, homeless veterans services and other veteran services. All veteran services are provided free of charge. For more information, call 718-5707.

OZARK

FEB. 7 — The Friends of the Ozark-Dale County Public Library will host a mini-book sale from 9 a.m. to noon at the library. This will be a buy-one-get-one-free sale.

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.

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 Coun-

cil 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.

WIREFRASS AREA

ONGOING — The U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Association, Inc., located in Columbus, Georgia, and adjacent to Fort Benning, represents and supports all Army officers commissioned through an Army Officer Candidate School, regardless of location or branch. Meetings, activities and reunions are conducted throughout the year. The annual USAOCS Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and USAOCS Alumni Association Reunion is scheduled for April 26-30 at Fort Benning. For more information, call 813-917-4309 or send an e-mail to ocsalumni.com.

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

Beyond Briefs

Dinosaurs Alive!

Downtown Gadsden becomes pre-historic when 13 life-like animatronic dinosaurs inhabit the Hardin Center for Cultural Arts Saturday 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 Protoeratops 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>.

'Always Patsy Cline'

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery

will host a production of "Always Patsy Cline" now through Feb. 8. The award-winning musical is billed as a "heart-warming and funny foot-stomp through the music and memories of country music's greatest female singer as told by the Texas housewife she befriended two years before her untimely death."

Ticket prices vary from \$30-60 based on play, date and availability of seating. For more information, including dates and times, call 334-271-5353 or visit www.asf.net.

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is located at 1 Festival Dr. in Montgomery.

'The Love Songs of Elvis and Buddy'

The songs of Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly return to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. for a special Valentine's Day concert featuring the love songs of the two rock'n roll giants. Elvis' songs will be performed by Scot Bruce and Buddy's songs will be performed by John Mueller. Tickets range from \$35-60 and can be purchased online, by phone at 800-841-4273, or by visiting the ASF box office.

For more information, including online ticket purchasing, visit www.asf.net.

President proclaims national African American History Month

Department of Defense
Press Release

WASHINGTON — “We pause to reflect on our progress and our history — not only to remember, but also to acknowledge our unfinished work. We reject the false notion that our challenges lie only in the past, and we recommit to advancing what has been left undone,” President Barack Obama said in his proclamation issued Friday declaring February as National African American History Month.

The proclamation reads as follows.

“For generations, the story of American progress has been shaped by the inextinguishable beliefs that change is always possible and a brighter future lies ahead. With tremendous strength and abiding resolve, our ancestors — some of whom were brought to this land in chains — have woven their resilient dignity into the fabric of our Nation and taught us that we are not trapped by the mistakes of history. It was these truths that found expression as foot soldiers and Freedom Riders sat in and stood up, marched and agitated for justice and equality. This audacious movement gave birth to a new era of civil and voting rights, and slowly, we renewed our commitment to an ideal at the heart of our founding: no



President Barack Obama

WHITE HOUSE PHOTO

matter who you are, what you look like, how modest your beginnings, or the circumstances of your birth, you deserve every opportunity to achieve your God-given potential.

“As we mark National African American History Month, we celebrate giants of the civil rights movement and countless other men and women whose names are etched in the hearts of their loved ones and the cornerstones of the country they helped to change. We pause to reflect on our progress and

our history -- not only to remember, but also to acknowledge our unfinished work. We reject the false notion that our challenges lie only in the past, and we recommit to advancing what has been left undone.

“Brave Americans did not struggle and sacrifice to secure fundamental rights for themselves and others only to see those rights denied to their children and grandchildren. Our Nation is still racked with division and poverty. Too many children live in crumbling neighborhoods, cycling through substandard schools and being affected by daily violence in their communities. And Americans of all races have seen their wages and incomes stagnate while inequality continues to hold back hardworking families and entire communities.

“But the trajectory of our history gives us hope. Today, we stand on the shoulders of courageous individuals who endured the thumps of billy clubs, the blasts of fire hoses, and the pain of watching dreams be deferred and denied. We honor them by investing in those around us and doing all we can to ensure every American can reach their full potential. Our country is at its best when everyone is treated fairly and has the chance to build the future they seek for themselves and their family. This means

providing the opportunity for every person in America to access a world-class education, safe and affordable housing, and the job training that will prepare them for the careers of tomorrow.

“Like the countless, quiet heroes who worked and bled far from the public eye, we know that with enough effort, empathy, and perseverance, people who love their country can change it. Together, we can help our Nation live up to its immense promise. This month, let us continue that unending journey toward a more just, more equal, and more perfect Union.

“NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2015 as National African American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

“IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.”

Barack Obama

Robo: Teamwork helps students overcome challenges

Continued from Page C1

the team, how well the team worked together, actual effectiveness of the robot's structures and the programs they created to (govern the robot's movements),” said Kincaid. “They had to put in a tremendous amount of effort and everything was completely driven by them.”

The children worked at least four days a week after school, dedicating anywhere from an hour to an hour and a half of their time to work together as a team, said the head coach. They also participated in team building activities outside of school to help them better work together as a unit.

“I thought it was quite fun

because we got to spend much more time as a group than most usually do and we got to get to know each other better,” said Wesley Kincaid, fifth grade team member. “Competing was also fun because we got to talk to other teams and compare what we did and what they did and trade ideas.”

Fellow team member, Jacob Hutto, who's in the sixth grade, said he also enjoyed the time together, which allowed them to work better together as a team.

“Most of the competition was pretty difficult, and writing programs was hard, but you had your team to support you and keep you going,” he said. “The project portion was also difficult because we had to figure out what

we were going to do for our project, and then we were also trying to research about our project.

“Programming is somewhat easy once you get the hang of it,” Hutto continued. “You learn what is what and you just have to put in the information that you want it to do and then download it to your robot. The robot will run it on the board, but it's a lot of math, but I like math.”

Each member of the team had their roles to play, but the bulk of the team was split into programmers and builders.

“While building our robot, builders had to communicate with the programmers and the programmers had to come up with the programs that would do the general tasks, but they

wouldn't be able to do it if it weren't for the builders,” said Hutto. “We were split into different groups of builders and programmers, and the programmers were split into different group to work on different programs at a time.”

The programmers would have to relay to the builders the basic design and outline of what they wanted to accomplish with their robots. The builders then had to use the information provided to them, go over to the big box of Legos provided and build the robot to the programmer's specifications, so communication played a key role in the project.

Kincaid said the experience was one that the students will be able to grow from, and the learn-

ing aspect is the entire goal of the competition.

“I think this is a great opportunity for kids,” said the head coach. “Things of this design create opportunities for their future that are really going to help define who they are. This is really going to help them shape the world. Things like this really give them the confidence, experience and exposure with not just working on their own, but with working with others.”

“I really wanted them to have a chance to work with others to accomplish a feat like this,” she continued. “When we started we didn't know we were going to go to a state competition. We just knew we wanted to do the best and it worked out.”

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FEBRUARY 5, 2015

HITTING THE POCKET

Fort Rucker youth bowls a 756-series, looks to bowling future

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The Fort Rucker Bowling Center is known to many as a place to share fun times with friends and family, but for one Fort Rucker youth, it's a place where he accomplished his most impressive feat to date.

Spencer Kilcrease, Fort Rucker Youth Bowling League member, bowled a 756 honor score during a morning youth program at the Fort Rucker Bowling Center Jan. 24. The score was achieved through a combined score of three individual games in a series.

Bowling above a 700 in a series is impressive enough for adults, said Ron Cook, Fort Rucker Bowling Center manager, but Kilcrease managed to do it at age 16.

"A 700-series, as far as an adult accomplishment, is always a good thing," said Cook. "It's an achievement that's a little bit on the rare side, so to have a youth bowler do it is an amazing accomplishment. It actually puts him up for USBC (U.S. Bowling Congress) local awards and even USBC national awards."

In his individual games, Kilcrease bowled a score of 222, 267 and 267 with a total of 28 strikes, which accounts for 77 percent of all possible throws.

"When I bowled more than 700 in the series I was really happy," he said. "I almost felt a sense of relief."

Kilcrease said he eventually hopes to get good enough to attain scholarships for college or even make it to the pros.

"I want to go to college and hopefully

bowling can help me through that," he said.

Kilcrease started bowling shortly before he joined the Fort Rucker Youth Bowling League when he was 13 years old. He found that he had a natural knack for the game and he said he enjoyed the company the sport brought about.

"Most people that bowl are really nice," he said, adding that his coach, Nick Gatewood, has been instrumental in his growth in the sport.

"He has helped me a whole lot," said the youth bowler. "He gives me tips, keeps me focused and helps me stay motivated. We normally come on Sundays, but we'll take any other chance we can take to bowl together."

Kilcrease has the full support of his family, who watch him each week grow into a better player.

"We're very proud of him," said Stanley Webb, Kilcrease's grandfather. "It's taken him four years, and a lot of practice and dedication on his part to achieve what he's done so far."

Webb said that bowling will not only open up new opportunities for his grandson, but has also helped shape and develop him into a better person.

"Bowling is more than just a sport to him, and it helps him with a lot of different aspects of life, such as temperament, keeping his body in shape and discipline," said Webb. "If he stays with it long enough, I believe he'll be able to get scholarships."

Cook also shares Webb's sense of pride and has full confidence in Kilcrease.

"I'm just proud," he said. "With his lev-



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Spencer Kilcrease, Fort Rucker Youth Bowling League member, bowls a set during a youth league program at the Fort Rucker Bowling Center Saturday. Kilcrease bowled a 756 honor score in a series during a previous program, a feat not accomplished by any other youth bowler on Fort Rucker.

el of dedication, it opens him up to a lot of stuff. There are scholarship tournaments that he will be competing in, and for him

to be putting down these kinds of scores and building that kind of reputation is a really good thing for him."

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE

Non-battle injuries result in more medical evacuations than combat

By Veronique Hauschild
U.S. Army Public Health Command

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — If you ask Soldiers what the biggest physical health threat they face while in the Army, only a portion are aware that it has nothing to do with warfighting.

In fact, the primary health threat to troops for more than two decades has been common muscle, joint, tendon, ligament and bone injuries, like knee or back pain that are caused by running, sports and exercise-related activities, such as basketball and weightlifting.

These activities are not just a primary cause of injuries in stateside locations, but also in deployed locations.

"Non-battle injuries resulted in more medical air evacuations from Afghanistan and Iraq than battle injuries," said Keith Hauret, an epidemiologist Public Health Command. "The leading causes of these non-battle injuries were physical training and sports."

One health provider responding to a recent USAPHC anonymous survey about injuries noted, "we spend time and money training a Soldier to become physically fit, but because we don't do this right. We over-train them to the point of injury, so they are given restricted duties or medically discharged before they can ever fight our wars."

These injuries continue to cause temporary or even permanent disability and limit the physical capability of thousands of active-duty service members each year. The impacts include millions of clinic visits annually, millions of lost or restricted duty days, as well as millions of dollars in medical costs.

Leaders need to be better educated on taking care of Soldiers.

The Army places a great deal of emphasis on training Soldiers so they are fit and capable of successfully performing their physically demanding jobs, but physical training can stress the body and cause various muscle, skeletal, tendon or ligament injuries. Soldiers can also get caught up in



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Pvt. 1st Class Ray Nichols goes for a layup during an intramural basketball game at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center last year. Army health officials say non-battle injuries result in more medical evacuations than combat.

the competitive nature of sports programs and overdo it, resulting in sprains, strains or more severe injuries.

"While participating in physical activities such as running or sports puts you at risk for an injury, the risk of injury should certainly not be interpreted as an excuse to not exercise," said Dr. Bruce Jones, injury prevention program manager at USAPHC. "Instead, high or increasing injury rates should be a wake-up call to leaders, indicating a need to adjust the physical training program to prevent over-training. This will reduce injuries and ultimately enhance fitness and physical performance."

Army medical experts say training should be conducted in a way that avoids preventable injuries.

"Fit, healthy and uninjured

Soldiers are what make an exceptional Army," said Maj. Tanja Roy, an epidemiologist at the USAPHC. "Unit leaders should follow proper physical training guidance and be careful to avoid over-training Soldiers with too much running or improperly instructed exercises."

It's not just the lack of leadership awareness that prevents the Army from avoiding first-time injuries. To some health care providers it is sadly ironic that remedial physical fitness programs often force less fit individuals to work out twice a day, which ultimately can result in injury and make it more difficult to meet the standards.

In the USAPHC anonymous survey, one Army medical provider noted, "I am currently seeing a patient for an ankle fracture. He is in a cast and on crutches,

yet was forced to walk for his (physical training)."

Injury prevention experts say the lack of proper procedures increases risk of re-injuries and costly chronic conditions especially as these Soldiers age. They report that some Soldiers are forced to run every day, and are plagued with lower back pain and knee pain.

So what can a Soldier do to prevent injuries?

Simply put: train smarter. There is scientifically supported guidance and doctrine that describes injury prevention to be a priority in the Army.

All Soldiers, but especially leaders, should be aware of behaviors or conditions that put individuals at increased risk of exercise-related injuries as well as training principles that can prevent them. The following are some examples.

- Excessive running is the most common cause of overuse injuries especially in feet, ankles or lower legs. These can be avoided by using a training regimen that incorporates alternative days of low-impact aerobic workouts, e.g., swimming, biking or rowing, and days of strength training. Running distances and durations should be slowly increased over time, and Soldiers should not be forced to run if injured. Cadence runs are not recommended as a fitness method — they should be for esprit de corps only — and group runs should be organized by pace and distance abilities.
- Balanced physical fitness programs should include a mix of aerobic, strength, and agility drills and conditioning exercises. Studies that have evaluated the effectiveness of the Army's standardized physical readiness training program described in Army Field Manual 7-22 have shown that units following the PRT program had significantly lower injury rates than those following a run-centric PT regimen.
- Basketball injuries predominantly involve the foot or ankle. Scientific studies have

shown that the use of semi-rigid ankle braces during basketball significantly reduces the risk of recurring ankle injury. Likewise, science has shown that wearing mouth guards during basketball reduces the number of people with broken teeth and other mouth-related injuries.

- Weight-lifting and high-intensity extreme conditioning programs most often involve the shoulders and back. These injuries are often linked to improper form and using too much weight too quickly. These injuries are not likely to be prevented with equipment. While some Soldiers choose to wear back braces during weight-lifting, substantial evaluation of this equipment has not shown them to reduce injury — in fact, they may actually increase risk. Though the best physical training routine will include strength training, as with running, the physical training principles of moderation, slow progressive increases and form are important to avoid injuries.

Military training activities other than exercise, such as parachuting and combatives, have also been associated with high rates of certain types of injuries. Though not always used, some equipment has been proven to prevent these injuries. For example, mouth guards are now required during combatives, as they are proven effective at reducing painful and costly teeth and mouth injuries. Ankle braces, though not required, have also been proven as an effective tool to reduce parachuting ankle injuries.

Through its performance triad campaign, the Army's medical community continues to encourage incorporating exercise into every Soldier's routine.

By carefully following proper training techniques, avoiding over-training, and adhering to scientifically proven exercise regimens, Soldiers can help to prevent injuries and improve fitness.

DOWN TIME



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

T R I V I A

- MOVIES: What was Luna Lovegood's "patronus" in the "Harry Potter" movies?
- FIRSTS: Who was the first surgeon to perform a heart transplant?
- FOOD & DRINK: In what country did the drink sherry originate?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the basic currency of Botswana?
- ASTRONOMY: Ganymede is a moon of which planet in our solar system?
- CHEMISTRY: What is the common use for the drug diphenhydramine hydrochloride?
- HISTORY: Who was the second wife of Henry VIII of England?
- MYTHOLOGY: Who was the Roman god of fire?
- TELEVISION: What was the last name of neighbors Ethel and Fred on the "I Love Lucy" show?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: In what century was tea introduced to Europe?

See Page D4 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword THE DEBATE

- ACROSS**
- 1 While away the hours
 - 9 Amorphous, sunken-into seats
 - 17 Book divs.
 - 20 Adopts, as a belief
 - 21 Do a new layout of
 - 22 Marina del —, California
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 25 Musician Yoko
 - 26 Fixes a seam, say
 - 27 Drink served with scones
 - 28 Suffix with final or solo
 - 29 Heroic poetry
 - 30 Riddle, part 2
 - 37 7-Eleven drink
 - 41 Isn't on target
 - 42 Contract inker, e.g.
 - 43 "Stones for —" (1988 film)
 - 44 San —, California
 - 46 Most take
 - 48 Riddle, part 3
 - 51 With 57-Across, descent before pulling a rip cord
 - 52 Chilean cheer
 - 53 Praise publicly
 - 54 Margarita glass liner
 - 57 See 51-Across
 - 60 1990s Philippine president
 - 62 Ad entreaty
 - 64 ET of TV
 - 67 Riddle, part 4
 - 71 "Rock and Roll, Hoochie —"
 - 72 Gel alternative
 - 74 Bow rub-on
 - 75 "— Cassius has a lean and hungry look"; Julius Caesar
 - 77 — Sunday
 - 78 Let out
 - 79 Xenon, e.g.
 - 81 Fesses (up)
 - 85 Riddle, part 5
 - 92 Deliver news about
 - 94 Capacious
 - 95 One of Jupiter's moons
 - 96 Flare Italian violins
 - 97 Trial run
 - 98 Watched kids for cash
 - 99 End of the riddle
 - 104 Tip jar bills
 - 105 Mimicker
 - 106 "— There Was 'You'"
 - 107 — ghanouj
 - 111 Poetry Out Loud org.
 - 112 Riddle's answer
 - 119 Wind up
 - 120 Tendency to stick together
 - 121 "Casino Royale" Bond girl player
 - 122 Rds.
 - 123 Outburst of wild emotion
 - 124 Tokyo "ta-ta"
 - 3 Shoot forth
 - 4 Male heirs
 - 5 "Tsk!"
 - 6 "Semi—" suffix
 - 7 Get together
 - 8 Road twists
 - 9 Male sib
 - 10 Always, to bards
 - 11 Astern
 - 12 Feature of a perfect ball game
 - 13 Audacious
 - 14 Just slightly
 - 15 Slender fish
 - 16 Hog home
 - 17 Certain liquid fuel
 - 18 High-tech map subjects
 - 19 Natalie Portman's childhood home on Long Island
 - 24 "Ball —"
 - 29 Most tense
 - 30 Twist
 - 31 Skin cream brand
 - 32 Ensnare
 - 33 Cookie giant
 - 34 Lead singer
 - 35 Beginning on seats
 - 36 Have supper
 - 37 Son of Willy Loman
 - 38 Skyscraper beam
 - 39 Many an app
 - 40 Anguish
 - 44 Actor Gibson
 - 45 Had supper
 - 46 Sainted pope
 - 47 FDR follower
 - 49 Hit the links
 - 50 Boxing punch
 - 55 London lav
 - 56 16 eighths
 - 58 Tummy "six-pack"
 - 59 Actor Marvin
 - 60 Interstate
 - 61 Pal, in Calais
 - 62 Earlier
 - 63 "No — do!"
 - 64 Rock blaster
 - 65 Mauna —
 - 66 Big magazine pitches
 - 68 Suze with financial tips
 - 69 Stir up, as silt
 - 70 NASDAQ kin
 - 73 Polishes
 - 76 Bride's belongings
 - 78 Green start?
 - 79 Big Red, e.g.
 - 80 Poet Lowell
 - 82 "— calling?"
 - 83 California's — Valley
 - 84 TDs, e.g.
 - 86 Fortitude
 - 87 — -bitsy
 - 88 Looking up
 - 89 Attend
 - 90 Imminent
 - 91 Lard holders
 - 92 Seminal punk band
 - 93 Distinquished
 - 97 Feared fly
 - 98 Luxury watch company
 - 100 Vows
 - 101 In a tizzy
 - 102 Dol.
 - 103 Quotes
 - 107 Farm building
 - 108 Cruising
 - 109 South African Dutch
 - 110 Actress Fairs
 - 112 "— bin ein Berliner"
 - 113 Nerf ball, e.g.
 - 114 Make public
 - 115 "— will not!"
 - 116 Genetic ID
 - 117 Actor Liotta
 - 118 Swelled head



See Page D4 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

POST POSERS: Challenge: Search names of flowers listed at right for words in accord with the following definitions (in order): 1. Sweetheart; 2. One spouse; 3. Animal with a hump; 4. Cooling utensil; 5. Same as 1; 6. Foggy vision. No. 1, for instance, is the word for love.

TRICK PEN! Borrow someone's pen and offer to make it write any color. If the dial is red, write "red." If blue, write "blue," etc.

KNOT SO FAST, BUSTER! Hand someone a piece of string. Have him/her hold one end in each hand. Now, challenge the person to be a knot in the string without letting go of the ends. When the person admits being stumped, simply reach out quickly with both hands, grasp string ends, pull in opposite directions, and, lo, a knot will appear. Positioning of both hands exactly as shown above is required. Once your friend has observed your success, reverse roles and challenge him or her to duplicate your action.

1 CLOVER
2 JASMINE
3 CAMELIA
4 PANSY
5 STULIP
6 VIOLET

MAL, CALL! What can you draw to complete this delivery scene? Add connecting lines from out 1 to dot 2, 3, etc.

Wishing Well

SCORE: 12 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

ADORALE

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 30 points. (See page 100 for scoring.)

Wishing Well

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

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

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

UA team looks to mission's next phase

By Vince Little

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

LIBERIA, Africa — U.S. and international agencies carrying out Operation United Assistance efforts have wrapped up work on the final two of 10 Ebola treatment units in Liberia, a top engineer with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) said Jan. 23.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District's Forward Engineer Support Team-Advanced played a part by providing technical expertise to the organizations, military units and humanitarian workers locked in the massive Ebola fight in West Africa, said Lt. Col. Lee Hicks, Joint Force Command-United Assistance engineer for the 101st.

Hicks said 36th Engineer Brigade and Armed Forces of Liberia engineers had the lead on Ebola treatment unit construction alongside the primary contractor, Fluor.

The USACE team made site visits around the country, delivering technical inspection oversight and solid guidance to the people, units and agencies that made key decisions. It has also been instrumental in the construction of four Army field temporary lab sites.

"The engineering portion of the mission has been very successful, and the corps has been vitally important to us," said Hicks during a telephone interview. "They helped at the lab sites with environmental assessments, power generation and general engineer-type work. They also helped with some design and material acquisition. Then, the 36th would send their troops out to build the lab."

Maj. Michelle Dittloff, FEST-A commander, said the first eight ETUs were completed about a week after New Year's Day, around the same time engineers began base closure and consolidation, anticipating a reduced footprint for Operation United Assistance's enduring requirement in Liberia.

The FEST-A continues to support 101st engineers, the JFC and U.S. Agency for International Development, which heads up the operation, with project development, life-support and logistics facilities, assessments and assistance — particularly in the areas of quality assurance, inspection and contract supervision.

Dittloff said the FEST has acted as the primary engineering arm for all construction and renovation required to sustain a U.S. military presence that topped 3,000 troops at its peak.

Three months into a deployment that could stretch up to 180 days, the USACE group has performed admirably under difficult conditions, she said.

"They've been fantastic," Dittloff said. "The technical capabilities and expertise they bring round out the capabilities of the 101st very well. Sometimes, I think we're like the fire department. We get called upon when a technical solution is needed quickly. When things go wrong, they may or may not understand construction issues in a traditional way. It's not something they routinely do, so they need us for nonstandard construction issues."

The FEST-A left Wiesbaden, Germany, for Liberia in October with a 13-member team of military and civilian technical ex-



COURTESY PHOTO

Jennifer McCarthy conducts reconnaissance at the Sanniquellie Army Field Temporary Lab recently where she is greeted by local children.

perts ranging from civil and environmental engineers to real estate and power-generation specialists. It's augmented by personnel from other districts within USACE and its North Atlantic Division.

The team is down to six civilians and four Soldiers who remain at Barclay Training Center in Monrovia, awaiting word on the mission's next stage, Europe District officials said. The Department of Defense is weighing options and is expected to make a decision soon on the way ahead.

"Our relationship with the Corps of Engineers has been very, very good," Hicks said. "They had a big part in leasing real estate and securing land we needed for our sustainment brigade. That took a few weeks to iron out, but they were able to get it done."

Dittloff said the FEST-A did a few construction and design reviews for ETUs and managed some specific civil engineering solutions. An electrical engineer was frequently on-site. The team also examined code variations.

"We did a lot of working with the contractor to find safe solutions for appropriate material acquisition," she said. "In the U.S., it's normally very easy to get a hold of materials. It's much more complex to get on short notice in Liberia."

"I think we eased a lot of concerns for the 101st by providing that expert oversight for contract solutions," Dittloff said. "We're closely integrated with them. There's a validation our team brings to these decisions that's not available organically in a light Infantry division."

Transition of the ninth ETU in Zorzor took place in mid-January. The last one set for activation is in Barclayville. All others are operational, turned over to U.S. and in-

ternational aid workers or nongovernmental medical staffs.

According to recent World Health Organization estimates, Ebola has infected more than 21,000 people and killed nearly 8,400 in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea — the west African nations hit hardest by the epidemic. But media reports indicate new cases of the virus are down dramatically in Liberia.

The Ebola epidemic there will be largely contained by June if medical workers can hospitalize 85 percent of those infected, the Tribune News Service reported earlier this month, citing a new analysis published Jan. 13 by researchers at the University of Georgia's Odom School of Ecology.

"We're seeing one new case of Ebola a day in the entire country," Dittloff said. "While there's still a concern we might see a resurgence, many of the counties have been declared Ebola-free. ... All the agencies involved in U.S. aid efforts have been a tremendous help, but most of the credit really goes to Liberia itself for making all the preventive measures well publicized. The country has committed very well and taken this very seriously."

From the outset of Operation United Assistance, the FEST-A conducted reconnaissance and site selection while forging land-use agreements for the Army field temporary lab sites.

Jennifer McCarthy, a New England District environmental scientist, was among team members who visited the Sanniquellie and Fish Town lab sites for an assessment of existing conditions and needs. Maintaining environmental-regulation compliance is an ongoing effort.

"It's important to work with the local

communities to find a suitable lab site and then support it with adequate infrastructure," McCarthy said. "From an environmental standpoint, the primary concerns are typically waste management. It is crucial that contaminated medical waste be handled and disposed of safely, and that adequate capacity exists in septic systems for use by lab personnel."

"Much of rural Liberia is densely vegetated with heavy rainfall and high water tables. In our environmental assessment, we look at how this challenging landscape will affect drainage and constructability of new facilities, and we also consider the effects of land clearing, grading and drainage improvements on the local ecosystem," she said.

Having multiple labs in close proximity to areas of potential outbreaks allows samples to be tested quickly and likely helped to slow Ebola's spread while speeding up treatment of patients, officials said.

With all force providers now in the operations and maintenance phase, officials have shifted attention to theater-closure planning and realignment.

"We're reducing our footprint right now and reducing unnecessary capacity in U.S. support systems, anticipating a possible drawdown," the team's commander said. "They are centralizing Soldiers into certain areas. We're closing down the seaport in Buchanan, as 101st equipment gets shipped home. Facilities at the National Police Training Center are also being shut down. The breakdown of materials for force providers is under way. The FEST workload has increased, as we expect to be critical to the mission adjustment."

Athletes, celebrities thank troops before game of honor

By Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.

Department of Defense News

PHOENIX — The Wounded Warrior Amputee Football Team and National Football League alumni participated in a charity flag football game — named Game of Honor — at Shadow Mountain High School Jan. 28.

The wounded warriors' team is comprised of men and women who lost limbs while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. The team traditionally plays NFL alumni and other celebrities during Super Bowl Week, where they are 9-0.

In addition to former NFL players, a familiar face also took the opportunity to record a shout out to be shown to troops overseas during the Super Bowl. Former Sergeant Major of the Army Jack Tilley offered his thanks flanked by NFL Hall of Fame defensive end Jack Youngblood.

"We want to thank you guys for what you do overseas," Tilley said. "God Bless you. Hooah!"

Celebrities such as the charity game's headliner, rap artist Snoop Dogg, and Daz Dillinger attended the

tribute game, and expressed their gratitude to servicemen and women overseas before the game began.

"This is big Snoop Dogg sending a message to all our troops overseas watching the Super Bowl — enjoy yourself and have fun," Snoop said. "Thank ya'll for giving us ... our freedom. Peace."

Snoop's cousin and fellow hip-hop artist Daz Dillinger also gave a shout out to U.S. troops serving abroad.

"My name is Daz

Dillinger," he said. "I want to give a shout out to everybody over there — (all) the troops. This is a NFL weekend, and it's D-A to the Z, and I'm hosting a commercial right here. Holla at ya'll, holla at me. Love ya'll — let's keep it going (with) football."

Athletes with ties to Arizona also took time to encourage service members to stay safe and enjoy the Super Bowl.

"I just want to wish you guys the best," said Todd Heap, a former tight end for

the NFL Arizona Cardinals and Baltimore Ravens.

"Enjoy the Super Bowl," he said. "We're out here in support of wounded warriors and we're going to have a great time playing this game."

"I want to wish you guys the best," he said. "We really appreciate what you do for our country. [And] the fact that we can come out here and play this game — live in this free land. We really appreciate all that you do. Thank you. I hope it's a good game."



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS TYRONE C. MARSHALL JR.

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley and National Football League Hall of Fame defensive end Jack Youngblood record a shout out, which was viewed by U.S. troops overseas during the upcoming Super Bowl, before a charity flag football game for wounded warriors in Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 28.

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