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ARMY FLYER

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BEST OF ABOVE THE BEST



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFALZ
Sgt. Raymond Nichols, 1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment and Soldier of the Year, makes his way over the inverted climb obstacle during the confidence course portion of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence NCO/Soldier and Advance Individual Training Platoon Sergeant of the Year competition April 14.



Staff Sgt. Nicholas Hirth, C Company, 1st Bn, 13th Avn. Regt., and Sgt. Raymond Nichols, 1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment, attempt to assemble weapons after swimming the pool during the mystery event portion of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence NCO/Soldier and Advance Individual Training Platoon Sergeant of the Year competition April 14.

8 Soldiers vie for top honors in Army Aviation-wide competition

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Being a Soldier is full of challenges and it takes a special kind of Soldier to conquer those challenges at a level to earn best of the best status.

Eight Soldiers from across Army Aviation came together to compete in a four-day competition meant to test endurance, mental acuity and academic knowledge in order to obtain one of Aviation's top honors during the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence NCO/Soldier and Advance Individual Training Platoon Sergeant of the Year competition.

"What a competition," said Command Sgt. Maj. Eric C. Thom, Aviation Branch command sergeant major. "We asked these guys to bring it and that's exactly what they did. Not only were they a little surprised because we made this competition a little

tougher and a little longer – we added an extra day – than in years past, we doubled the length of the road march, we got them up at zero-dark-early and kept them busy all day long, and each and every one of them put everything they had out there and left it all on the field."

Although each Soldier brought their A-game, only three came out on top: Sgt. Raymond Nichols, 1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment earned soldier of the year; Staff Sgt. Michael Johnson, 128th Aviation Brigade out of Fort Eustis, Virginia, earned AIT platoon sergeant of the year; and Staff Sgt. Nicholas Hirth, C Company, 1st Bn, 13th Avn. Regt. earned NCO of the year.

Each Soldier had their own reasons for competing and tensions were high during the competition, but they all agreed that the outcome was worth the pain.

"There was a lot of anxiety after (the com-



Sgt. Raymond Nichols, 1-11th Avn. Regt., soldier of the year; Staff Sgt. Michael Johnson, 128th Avn. Bde. out of Fort Eustis, Virginia, AIT platoon sergeant of the year; and Staff Sgt. Nicholas Hirth, C Company, 1-13th Avn. Regt., NCO of the year.

petition), and (the other competitors) were two of the toughest competitors I've had to compete against, so it was a great competition all around," said Hirth. "It was such a relief to come out on top."

"This was a personal goal of mine," said Nichols. "I really enjoyed the challenges that it presented and I enjoyed every part of the competition, and although the competition itself was physically and mentally draining, it definitely feels a lot better having completing it as the winner."

Some of the challenges that the Soldiers had to endure included a confidence course that tested their physical strength; land navigation course, that combined physical and mental challenges, which required each Soldier to navigate to certain checkpoints using only the instruments provided; range exercises during which each Soldier had a certain amount of shots to hit their target; urban operations that tested how well the Soldiers were able to work together; and academic challenges, which tested each Soldiers

SEE HONORS, PAGE A5

Post begins new access procedures

By Fort Rucker
Public Affairs Office

While most in the Fort Rucker community will be largely unaffected by upcoming changes to the post's access policy, those who the changes do affect have a 30-plus day grace period to meet the new requirement of having a visitor badge.

Beginning Monday, visitors will begin being issued visitor badges at the visitor control centers at the Enterprise, Daleville and Ozark gates to help them prepare for the policy to go into full effect May 29, according to Col. Stuart J. McRae, Fort Rucker garrison commander.

After that date, any visitor age 18 and older who does not have a badge will be directed to a visitor center to apply for one, he added. To ensure that Fort Rucker is adhering to Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12, during the application process all visitors will be vetted through the National Crime Information Center Interstate Identification Index. While this is a DOD-wide initiative, the Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Safety is streamlining the process for accessing the post.

Even with the badge, visitors will still need an additional scannable form of ID, like a drivers license, to access the post, officials said.

The change does not affect people who hold a Department of Defense ID card or Common Access Card, Army Form 1602 for contractors, or others with a federal-department issued ID, according to Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Safety officials.

"I want to thank all of our Wiregrass neighbors in advance for their patience as we implement our new gate procedures," McRae said during a media roundtable held at garrison headquarters Tuesday. "Fort Rucker is not an island, and we rely on and appreciate the great relationships that we have developed over the years with our many partners and friends from within our local communities.

"We still have numerous opportunities to continue our partnerships on an individual and collective basis, and want you to visit and participate in the great activities we work so hard to coordinate," he added. "This policy is not to keep people out of our installation – it's to ensure the wrong people don't get in."

The visitor centers at the three gates will be open Mon-

SEE ACCESS, PAGE A5

1-58th AOB welcomes new commander

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The 1st Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment (Airfield Operations) welcomed a new commander and bid farewell to the previous leader during a change of command ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum April 15.

Lt. Col. James Ashburn assumed command of the unit from Lt. Col. Daniel Morris as the unit colors changed hands, and Col. Douglas C. Van Weelden III, Air Traffic Services Command and 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group commander, provided a full vote of confidence for the new leader.

"I could not have chosen a more

superb officer and Army family to continue the great work and accomplishments of this unit," said the colonel during the ceremony. "Matt, you're absolutely the right professional to lead these Soldiers and this organization into our future. I've been most privileged to have served with the Ashburns in the past, and when I learned about his selection to command the 1-58th, I was elated."

Ashburn returns to Fort Rucker from his most recent assignment as



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFALZ
Lt. Col. James Ashburn

a J3-joint plans officer and executive officer for the U.S. Central Command Headquarters. He attended the Officer Basic Course and Initial Entry Rotary Wing Training at Fort Rucker after his entry into the Army following his graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

He's held numerous leadership positions in multiple countries, including serving as the V Corps G3 air operations officer

SEE 1-58TH, PAGE A5



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFALZ

Col. Stuart J. McRae, Fort Rucker garrison commander, prepares to test drive the gas-electric hybrid Cadillac ELR in recognition of Earth Day in front of Bldg. 5700 Tuesday. For more on Earth Day activities, see next week's *Army Flier*.

PERSPECTIVE

Prescribed burns reduce fire hazards



A prescribed fire under controlled conditions reduces the wildland fire hazard.

ARMY PHOTO

By Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Works
Natural Resources Branch Staff

Using prescription fire in Fort Rucker’s forestlands is the most economical and beneficial tool in the land manager’s tool box.

Managed fire or prescribed fire is normally applied to the upland pine forests during the cool season months as a means of reducing years of accumulated combustible fuel. If this buildup of combustible fuel were to become ignited during a period of drought or high wind, the resulting damage to the standing forest could be very high.

However, through planning a managed fire, these fuels can be removed or reduced without any damage at all to the standing forest. In fact, the benefits obtained from a prescribed cool season burn on the upland pine ridges are numerous.

In addition to removing the threat of wildfire, the prescription fire stimulates an entirely new ecosystem of plants, legumes and native grasses to rapidly emerge, which provides tremendous benefits to all wildlife species.

The DPW Natural Resources staff normally begins using cool season prescribed burns on installation lands during December and

continues the burning program until May. During this time, each burn action is precisely planned to reduce the impacts of smoke to all residents and installation neighbors.

The prescribed burning program also opens the understory of the existing forests, which benefits Soldiers who require continuous accessibility. Invasive plant species, such as as Privet and Yaupon, are common in our area and these invasive plants can contaminate a beautiful forest in a very short period of time; however, the routine use of prescription burning every three to four years keeps the post’s training lands open and accessible for training operations and hunters.

Because of the potential impact of smoke on Aviation training, the natural resources staff coordinates all planned burning actions with air space management, range division, all local civilian communities and all resident training operations.

Planned burns on the installation normally consisting of 100-400 acres in size are common throughout the cool season months. Although smoke may be a temporary concern for some, efforts to minimize the impacts are routine and the benefits of burning installation forestlands are many.

Rotor Wash

“The annual Operation Megaphone Worldwide Lock-in takes place Friday from, 6 p.m. until 6 a.m. Saturday at the Youth Center, Bldg. 2800. Operation Megaphone is designed to strengthen participation in military youth programs and build stronger support for military teens transitioning into their new location. What tips can you offer Soldiers and families transitioning into a new location?”



Jessica Chasity,
military family member
“Try to learn all you can about the community you’re moving into.”



Amanda Darney,
military spouse
“Talk with your family about the move and do all the preparations as a family.”



Angie Martin,
military family member
“Plan your trip out well in advance and make preparations for weather if you’re traveling to your new destination by car.”



Jeremy Fortne,
military family member
“Try to get involved in the new community and make sure your family gets involved, as well, because moves can be tough for everyone.”



Nicholas Goodman,
veteran
“Make sure to support each other during every part of the transition.”

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FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

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ACE SUICIDE INTERVENTION

Ask your buddy

- Have the courage to ask the question, but stay calm.
- Ask the question directly. For example, “Are you thinking of killing yourself?”

Care for your buddy

- Remove any means that could be used for self-

injury.

- Calmly control the situation, do not use force.
- Actively listen to produce relief.

Escort your buddy

- Never leave your buddy alone.
- Escort to the chain of command, a chaplain, a behavioral health professional or a primary care provider.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Riders exit out of the motorcycle safety course training area during a recent SHARP motorcycle ride March 20 to promote awareness of preventing sexual assault and harassment.

SHARP officials seek to be agents of change

By **Jeremy Henderson**
Army Flier Staff Writer

The Army’s goal for the Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention program can be summed up with one word: change.

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Blackman, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker Sexual Assault Response coordinator, said he considers himself to be a means to facilitate that change.

“(SHARP) is a program with the goal of eliminating sexual assault and harassment from the ranks,” he said. “That’s a textbook-type answer. In we reality, we are working to change the culture of the Army. In essence, we are a change agent.”

The program’s current I. A.M. STRONG campaign encourages Soldiers to intervene, act and motivate.

Sgt. 1st Class Robin Williams, 110th Aviation Brigade SARC, said the program’s foundation begins with the proper education.

“SHARP is a program designed to change the culture of the Army and provide services to those who have been victimized,” he said. “We are here to educate and train. We want the people who are unaware they are violating the rules to know what

the rules are and how to not violate them. Their actions might have been part of the culture and could have been acceptable prior to them joining the military. We have to deprogram them and educate them.

“We are trying to educate our forces and their family members on what ‘right’ looks like,” he added. “This will help us achieve our goal of eradicating (sexual assault and harassment) from across the force and change the culture of the Army.”

SHARP’s website defines the program as “an integrated, proactive effort by the Army to end sexual harassment and sexual assault within its ranks” that “permeates the Army structure from the Pentagon down to the individual Soldier level” with a “full-time staff at brigade level.”

The program also:

- Promotes cultural change across the Army with a vision toward a culture of discipline and respect in which Soldiers intervene in sexual harassment and sexual assault to protect one another;
- Includes a comprehensive effort to educate leaders and Soldiers about sexual harassment and sexual assault;
- Employs a concrete training program that teaches Soldiers to be alert to serial offender tactics, to intervene to stop

incidents and disrupt offenders, and where and how to seek help; and

- Provides commanders with the essential resources, education, and training they need to succeed in bringing an end to sexual harassment and sexual assault in the Army.

“We are there to help the people who have been victimized,” Williams said. “We provide the services to help them become whole again.”

According to Blackman, anyone can offer assistance and aid in the program’s success.

“For the common citizen to support the program, they simply need to stand up and be counted,” he said. “When an organization hosts an event, show up and show your support.”

Blackman said support through event attendance can create a domino effect and increase awareness across the board.

“Someone can attend one of these events and then go to dinner with a friend afterwards,” he said. “Their friend asks what they did today and, the next thing you know, they are discussing the program and advocating for sexual assault and harassment awareness and prevention.”

According to Blackman, one factor of the program’s success can be measured by

the number of reports filed.

“Higher reporting may appear to be a negative, but it is actually an indicator the program is working,” he said.

Williams said it indicates increased confidence in stepping forward and asking for help.

“You have instilled confidence across the force,” he said. “They feel they can come to you and speak to you concerning situations where they have been wronged.”

According to Williams, SHARP’s benefits stretch past the gates and into the surrounding communities.

“We are part of the community, as well,” he said. “As we, as a force, change, we influence the surrounding communities. A Soldier who has gone through SHARP training may be out at a local club and see someone get drugged. Because of their training, they will know the proper way to respond. They will know to contact the police or security and alert them to the situation.

“As we change, we impact the community,” he added. “

For more information about SHARP, visit www.sexualassault.army.mil.

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual harassment or assault, SHARP hotline at (334) 470-6629.

Fort Rucker Tax Center saves Soldiers nearly \$400K

By **Nathan Pfau**
Army Flier Staff Writer

The Fort Rucker Tax Center had another successful season helping Soldiers file their taxes to get the most of their return.

Although not all Soldiers were eligible for a tax return, those on the installation who did received a total of \$388,471 in state refunds and \$2,554,984 in federal refunds for a total of almost \$3 million, according to Tod Clayton, volunteer income tax coordinator at the center. The center also filed a total of 1,291 e-files for federal and 728 state returns, saving Soldiers a total of \$392,336 in preparation fees.

“The season was a complete success,” he said, adding that although the tax season is over, the tax center will still operate year round at the legal assistance office where it will continue to serve Soldiers.

“We are still open for Soldiers who are deployed and for those who have not filed their taxes yet due to an extension or amendments on their returns,” he said. Soldiers can file amendments for up to the past three years if they feel a mistake was made on past returns. They will need to file a



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Gail Evelyn, tax preparer at the Tax Center, helps CW2 Ralph Hernandez, from Fort Hood, Texas, and his wife, Brittany, with their tax return at the Fort Rucker Tax Center.

1040X form and provide their past tax returns.

“If Soldiers made a mistake on their returns, they should see us to do an amended return. It’s something we can do year round that we’re happy to help with,” said Clayton, adding that people should call the legal assistance office to make an appointment. “I’ve had a few people come in and tell me that they forgot to do a few things and I’ve been able to help them with their amended returns.”

For those with extensions,

Clayton said that typically people will not be penalized for filing for an extension, but if a balance is due, it’s not an extension to pay one’s taxes. Taxes are meant to be paid by April 15, he said, and an extension only helps a person who doesn’t have a balance due. Those who owe taxes are subject to interest and penalties by the Internal Revenue Service.

Although the season is over, Clayton said it’s never too soon to start preparing for next tax season.

“If people are getting a large re-

fund back or owing a lot of money, then they might want to adjust their withholdings and now is the time to do it,” he said. “Also, if there are big changes in your life, such as going from single to married, then you may be getting more money back, and these are things you need to adjust for.

“Even though the next tax season seems far away, we’re already four months into the calendar year, so people will be four months behind if they didn’t get a jump on it from the start,” he continued. “You want to make sure that you keep what you owe, if anything, under \$500. If you owe more than that, you’re supposed to estimate taxes, which requires people to pay out every quarter.”

If the adjustments aren’t made on their tax forms, individuals could either have too much taken out of their paychecks or not enough, which could result in a large refund or a lot of money owed at the end of the year.

Although Clayton said that a large refund might not seem like a bad thing, it just means it’s less money that people are getting per paycheck, so if its money that they could use now, they need to make the adjustments as soon as

possible.

It’s a matter of wanting the money in your paycheck or wanting it all at the end of the year, he said, and putting more toward taxes is a good way for some to save money.

Another thing that Clayton said Soldiers and Families should look for is which state they are claiming residency in when doing their taxes.

“Depending on the state, a lot of states don’t have income tax for military personnel, so if they have residency in a state that doesn’t tax military pay, but currently reside in one that does, they might be able to avoid paying state income tax,” he said, adding that it can be a slippery slope and Soldiers should ask a tax professional first before making those changes.

“It can get complicated, but a Soldier can’t visit Destin and then claim to be a resident of Florida,” said Clayton. “They need to be able to establish residency in that state by providing a local address or being registered to vote in that state.”

When in doubt, always ask, he added.

For more information, call 255-3482.

News Briefs

Retirement ceremony

The post quarterly retirement ceremony will take place Friday at 2 p.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. All are invited to attend and honor the post’s latest retirees and thank them for their service.

National Prayer Luncheon

The religious support office will host the Fort Rucker National Day of Prayer Luncheon on May 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Landing. The speaker for the luncheon is scheduled to be Tommy Bowden, former head coach for Clemson University. Tickets are available at a suggested donation of \$5 per person and can be obtained by April 30 through people’s unit representative, unit chaplain or the religious support office in Bldg. 8945. The event is open to the public.

For more information, call 255-2989 or 255-2012.

Women’s health event

Lyster Army Health Clinic will host a special after-hours women’s check-up day event May 11 from 4-7 p.m. in honor of Women’s Health Month in May. Five female providers will be available to perform annual well exams and Southeast Alabama Medical Center’s Mammogram Bus will be on site performing screenings. Prizes, free massages and more will also be offered to women. Slots are limited, so people should call beforehand to reserve a seat.

For more information or to register, call 255-7913 or 255-7715.

Asian-American heritage kickoff

Fort Rucker will host its Asian-American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month kickoff May 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the post exchange food court. The free event will feature food sampling, a Tae Kwon Do display, South Korean art display, and a Chinese calligraphy and paper cutting art class.

Lyster activity classes

Lyster Army Health Clinic offers free yoga classes Mondays and Thursdays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the Lyster Activity Center, Rm. J-100, of the clinic. People are encouraged to bring their own mat, but the staff has extra if people forget. Also, free Zumba classes take place Mondays and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in the Lyster Activity Center, Rm. J-100.

AER scholarship applications

Army Emergency Relief is running its scholarship application period through May 1. AER supports both the Spouse Scholarship Program, as well as the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program for dependent children. In 2014, 47 children’s scholarships totaling \$105,400 and 18 spouses’ scholarships totaling \$25,250

were awarded in the Fort Rucker area. Scholarship specifics and applications are available on AER’s website at www.aerhq.org.

For more information, call 255-2341.

Thrift shop

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

For more information, call 255-9595.

Trail closures

The Blue and Green running trails on Beaver Lake will be closed temporarily for repairs until May 16. People will not be able to complete the circle on the green and blue course while repairs are being made. For more information, call 255-9567.

ID card appointment system

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

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.

Soldiers Show documents improvements

By Tim Hipps

Installation Management Command

(Editor's note: The Soldier Show is scheduled to come to Fort Rucker Aug. 20-21. For more information on the show, check out future editions of the "Army Flier.")

SAN ANTONIO – The film "We Were Soldiers" not only inspired the script of the 2015 U.S. Army Soldier Show "We Serve," it also documented a change in the way survivors of fallen Soldiers were notified of the loss of their loved ones.

Julia Compton Moore, wife of retired Lt. Col. Hal Moore, was depicted in the movie by actress Madeleine Stowe. Her efforts in the aftermath of the Battle of Ia Drang Valley prompted the Army to establish survivor support networks and casualty notification teams.

A native of Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Compton was the only child of Col. Louis J. Compton and Elizabeth Boon Compton. At age 12, she began a lifelong journey of experiencing the separation and risk of loss in war. Her father fought during World War II. Her husband served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. One of her sons fought with the 82nd Airborne Division in Panama and the Persian Gulf War.

She graduated from Chevy Chase Junior College in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before marriage. Wherever her husband was stationed, she served as a Brownie and Girl Scout leader and Cub Scout den mother. She also volunteered with the Red Cross in Army hospitals. She

supported daycare centers and worked with wives clubs to ensure that better care was provided for enlisted Soldiers and their Families.

Moore was a major proponent of Army community service organizations that are now a permanent fixture on Army installations to assist Soldiers and their Families as they settle into new duty stations.

The Ia Drang Battle was the first major ground engagement involving U.S. forces in Vietnam. At that time, the Army had not established an adequate system of notifying the next of kin of fallen warriors. Instead, the telegrams were delivered by taxi cab drivers, as depicted in the movie.

Unlike the film's depiction, Moore did not actually assume responsibility for the delivery of the telegrams. She did, however, ride along with the cab drivers and assisted in the death notifications, often grieving with the widows and Families of men killed in battle. She also attended the funerals of those who fell under her husband's command. Her efforts were noticed at the highest levels of the Department of Defense, and the examples she set prompted the Army to set up notification teams consisting of a uniformed officer and a chaplain.

Moore died on April 18, 2004, and is buried at the Fort Benning Cemetery in Georgia, near her mother and father and in the middle of 7th Cavalry troops, which her husband led at Ia Drange Valley in 1965.

In 2005, the Army established the Julia Compton Moore Award that recognizes civilian spouses of Soldiers for outstand-



PHOTO BY TIM HIPPS

Patrick Stephenson, a Soldier during the Vietnam War's 1965 Battle of Ia Drang Valley, narrates the 2015 U.S. Army Soldier Show, "We Serve" during an April 15 rehearsal for the opening performance at the Fort Sam Houston Theatre in San Antonio Friday.

ing contributions to the Army. The citation reads: "Mrs. Moore's actions to change Pentagon death notification policy in the aftermath of the historic battle of the Ia Drang Valley represents a significant contribution to our nation. Prior to Mrs. Moore's intervention, Pentagon policy was to notify families by a telegram delivered by cab drivers. It serves today as a shining example of one of Mrs. Moore's many contributions to the morale and welfare of the Army Family."

The 2015 U.S. Army Soldier Show honors Gold Star Families, the survivors of fallen warriors, and the support they receive from the U.S. Army Installation Management Command's Survivor Outreach Services.

"We worked with Survivor Outreach Services and actually spoke with five or six of the survivors," said Victor Hurtado, Soldier Show artistic director. "I asked them: 'How do you move on?' And they said, 'We don't use that term. We use the term new normal.' And I said, 'What does that mean?' And they said, 'If we move on, that means we've left them behind. We just find a way to live with them not physically here.'"

Hurtado asked the survivors to put on paper what the "new normal" was between when they learned of their Soldier's death until now. Those words are incorporated into the "We Serve" show.

"It's what happens after the flag," Hurtado said.

Army may create cyber career field for civilians

By David Vergun

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — To better manage personnel, "the Army created the Cyber Branch 17 (for Soldiers) and is exploring the possibility of creating a cyber career field for Army civilians," commander of U.S. Army Cyber Command told senators.

Lt. Gen. Edward C. Cardon testified before the Senate Armed Services subcommittee on emerging threats and capabilities during a hearing on Military Cyber Programs and Posture April 14.

Establishing a cyber career management field for civilians may be easier than recruiting enough of them to fill it and then retaining that talent, he said.

Recruiting and retaining Army civilian cyber talent "is challenging," he said, "given internal federal employment constraints regarding compensation and a comparatively slow hiring process."

Current efforts to attract and retain top civilian talent include "extensive marketing efforts, and leveraging existing programs and initiatives run by the National Security Agency, Office of Personnel Management and National Science Foundation," he said.

Also, he said that the "targeted and enhanced use of recruiting, relocation and retention bonuses, and repayment of student loans will improve efforts to attract, develop and retain an effective cyber civilian workforce. These authorities exist, but require consistent and predictable, long-term funding."

His last comment about predictable funding was an apparent reference to the congressional use of continuing resolutions, the possibility of renewed sequestration and other unknowns like overseas contingency operations, compensation reform and other factors.

Within the Army's \$126.5 billion fiscal year 2016 budget now in lawmaker's hands, \$1.02 billion of that is for cyber, including \$90 million to build out the new Cyber Center of Excellence operations headquarters on Fort Gordon, Georgia, he said.

Cardon did not give a breakdown in the number of civilians, enlisted and officers the Army would need as cyber grows. Instead, he lumped them together in one number. "After a detailed study, the Army determined it needs 3,806 military and civilian personnel with core cyber skills," he said.

Uniformed side

Filling the cyber ranks with Soldiers seems to be going much better, Cardon told lawmakers. "We just started using six-year enlistments. We're having no trouble filling that. We're working through developing the best model to retain them."

Furthermore, the Cyber Center of Excellence, in collaboration with ARCYBER and other stakeholders, is working to implement a cyber career management field for enlisted personnel "that will encompass accessions, career management and retention this fiscal year."

He said that the Army recently approved special-duty assignment pay, assignment incentive pay and bonuses for Soldiers serving in operational cyber assignments.

Another carrot the Army recently offered, he said, is expansion of cyber educational programs, including training with industry, fellowships, civilian graduate education and utilization of inter-service education programs, including the Air Force Institute of Technology and the Naval Postgraduate School. "We are confident these will serve as additional incentives to retain the best personnel for this highly technical field."

Guard and Reserve retention initiatives include bonuses for Soldiers transitioning into cyber from the active side, he said. There will also be accession bonuses for commissioned and warrant officers going into Reserve-component cyber.

Teams forming

As of today, 25 of 41 Cyber Mission Force teams "are on mission now and we expect to have all 41 on mission by the end of fiscal year 2016," Cardon told lawmakers.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID VERGUN

"We're employing the teams as they reach initial operating capability."

He said that the Army is also building 21 additional Army Reserve and National Guard Cyber Protection Teams.

Those teams will be employed with combatant commanders as part of the joint cyber effort, he said.

Air Force Lt. Gen. James K. McLaughlin, deputy commander of U.S. Cyber Command, then described where that joint effort is headed capability-wise.

There will be a total of 133 cyber teams from all the services, McLaughlin said. "We're halfway through fielding those teams." They should all be stood up by the end of FY16, unless sequestration returns.

Besides defending the Department of Defense's own networks and the U.S. homeland, Cyber Command will have a role to play in protecting allies as well as the U.S. private sector, he added.

A glass house

In describing U.S. vulnerability to cyber attacks, particularly the civilian sector, Eric Rosenbach, principal cyber adviser to the defense secretary, told senators that the United States is like a "glass house."

He warned lawmakers that although the United States has a robust and growing cyber offensive capability, it is not wise to overuse that capability when attacked because it could provoke rogue nations to demonstrate their own offensive cyber capabilities. Back-and-forth attacks would most certainly ensue and escalate, to the detriment of the United States.

Rosenbach advocated an interagency approach. For example, when Sony Pictures Entertainment was attacked by North Korea in November, the U.S. response was led by the Treasury Department, which imposed additional economic sanctions. U.S. Cyber Command was in on that planning, along with other agencies.

That is an example of an effective but restrained response, he said, advocating looking at each attack from a cost-benefit analysis perspective.

A senator then told Rosenbach that he thought it might be a good idea, should the United States go to war, to take out the enemy's air defenses through a cyber attack on their electrical grid.

Rosenbach replied that he would discuss the matter with them in the closed session, which followed.

Contractors vulnerable

"We know that a lot of the defense contractors have been penetrated and intellectual property pulled out, so we're trying to use new contracting mechanisms" to limit that from happening, Rosenbach said, adding that for them and the rest of private industry, creating effective cyber defenses represents a "significant investment."

Although the private sector is especially vulnerable to cyber attacks, Rosenbach said DOD is not invulnerable.

For instance, he told lawmakers that U.S. Transportation Command "has been penetrated by some adversaries, the Chinese in particular, who know that by going to the supply chain they may be able to hit us at a weaker point."

In closing

Cardon stressed to the senators that cyber security is every Soldier's business.

"We're exposing all officers to cyber security because this has to become part of the foundational education that we expect them to have," he said.

"This is a competitive space, so we're never really going to be done in this space," he said, regarding the future of cyber space efforts. "This is going to have to be something that we just constantly assess on a regular basis."

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Army looks toward fully autonomous tactical vehicle

By Lisa Ferdinando
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Army is working toward developing a fully autonomous tactical vehicle, a robotics expert said.

“When you start looking at the mid-term, five to 10 years, we start talking about tapping into external systems,” said Mark Mazzara, robotics interoperability lead for the Army’s Program Executive Office - Combat Support and Combat Service Support at Detroit Arsenal, Michigan.

Mazzara was a panelist April 8 at the National Defense Industrial Association Ground Robotics Capabilities Conference and Exhibition in Crystal City, Virginia, where he discussed the path toward autonomous capabilities.

Autonomous vehicles will be able to operate without direct human supervision and are a step up from unmanned vehicles, which are typically controlled remotely. Today, unmanned aircraft systems, for instance, have remote operators. In contrast, auto-



PHOTO BY LISA FERDINANDO

Mark Mazzara, center, robotics interoperability lead for the Army’s Program Executive Office - Combat Support and Combat Service Support at Detroit Arsenal, Mich., speaks during the National Defense Industrial Association Ground Robotics Capabilities Conference and Exhibition in Arlington, Va., April 8.

nomous vehicles would be operated robotically.

The process to reach the goal of autonomous capabilities is a three-phase approach, Mazzara said, starting with driver-safety and driver-assist technologies that are upgrades to vehicles.

Mazzara explained that is followed by basic autonomy capabilities, which then lay the foundation for the third phase, a fully autonomous tactical vehicle.

The Army wants its Unmanned Ground Vehicle Interoperability Profile to enable this “evolution-

ary approach toward tactical vehicle autonomy,” he said.

“In the far term, we start talking about more ubiquitous interoperability between the robots and external systems,” Mazzara said.

Today, semi-autonomous systems are used to clear mines, pro-

vide surveillance, convoy supplies and acquire targets, among many other things.

To reach autonomous capability, the Army needs incremental hardware and software enhancements to existing systems/chassis; sensor and payload upgrades; modularity; open architecture in IOP, or, in- and out-processing software; standardization; miniaturization and light weight; and intelligent behavior.

One conference attendee said the problems of developing a fully autonomous vehicle were complex and it might take 30 years.

Another conference panelist predicted that in possibly 10 years, the Army might have a rudimentary system that could recognize markings or patterns, especially in open terrain, to operate autonomously.

To reach that point, Mazzara recommended coordination with stakeholders, keeping industry informed and stressing the value of IOP development. The profile would benefit everyone in the defense community, he said.

Honors: Winners represent USAACE at TRADOC

Continued from Page A1

knowledge of Army regulations and history.

The Soldiers even had to take part in a mystery event at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center where they had to swim across the pool dressed in their Army Combat Uniform, then assemble a weapon and complete a mental challenge within a certain amount of time.

Despite all the challenges, the one chal-

lenge that stood out as the most difficult for most of the Soldiers was the 12-mile road march, which had its length doubled from last year’s event – not something the competitors were accustomed to.

“The 12-mile ruck march is not something I do on an everyday basis,” said Nichols. “There were a lot more hills to go up this year, too, which made it a lot more difficult.”

Johnson agreed.

“Going up those hills was pretty horrible and it was almost (discouraging) every time you saw them. It almost never seemed like we were going downhill, so it was pretty rough,” he said.

Although the USAACE-level competition may be over, the three winners will go on to represent USAACE in the Training and Doctrine Command competition, where they will go up against Soldiers from all across TRADOC, according to Thom.

“We’re going to start a whole new level of training program for them,” he said. “We’re going to get them in there with the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and they’re going to go over more procedures. I’m going to get a master fitness trainer and evaluate how they did in their physical categories and set up a training plan for all of them. They’re going to run with me and we’re going to have a great time. I am truly proud of each and every one of them.”

Access: 2 types of badges available beginning May 29

Continued from Page A1

days-Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Officials expect a rush at the beginning of the grace period. Badges will not be issued outside of visitor center operating hours, so those visiting on weekends or after duty hours need to plan ahead. The time it takes to get a badge depends largely on how many people are there when applying, but DPS officials said the background check itself averages out between 10-20 minutes.

“We hope the majority of people who need a visitor badge will take advantage of the grace period so they may do it at their convenience, and also so when May 29 comes, we won’t have backups at the gates,” McRae said. “But our guards will start asking for the badge during the grace period, not to hold you up, but to give you a reminder to make sure you get one before May 29.”

People applying for a badge should stay in the right-hand lane at the gates so they can easily transition into the visitor center, he added.

“We could have some delays if someone is in the left lane and have to turn in front of traffic to get into the visitor center,” McRae said. “The guards would have to stop traffic to allow that person to get into the center safely. Staying in the right lane is important.”

The policy does allow for uniformed service members, adult family members, DOD employees, retired service members and their adult family members with valid DOD ID, CAC-holding contractors to escort visitors without badges onto the installation. Contractors with a Form 1602 are not allowed to escort. People who are escorted onto the installation in this way must remain with their escort at all times, officials said.

People who need badges, whether they be contract employees, taxi drivers, delivery drivers, civilians wanting to use the SPLASH! park or family visiting from out of town should work with the agency or person they have dealings with to coordinate getting a visitor badge.

During the grace period, all passes will

be good for a year, according to officials.

May 29 and after, there will be two types of badges available – sponsored and unsponsored. Frequent visitors who utilize facilities or activities or who conduct business on post regularly, can apply with the organization they visit or deal with for a sponsored pass good for a year. Unsponsored passes will last for six months. En-

try procedures for special events, such as Freedom Fest, will be looked at on a case-by-case basis and will be publicized beforehand, McRae added.

“Additionally, we are collaborating with other Army installations and, as we continue to move down this road, I am confident we will find ways to make this more convenient and more efficient.”

1-58th: Commanders thank Soldiers, family for support

Continued from Page A1

for V Corps Headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany, and battalion S4, headquarters company commander and flight company commander for 12th Aviation Battalion at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Ashburn has also served in deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as the operations team leader supporting Multinational Division – Baghdad.

“I’m so very humbled and honored to be given the privilege of commanding this great organization. I would not be here without the support of all of you in attendance today – first and foremost of my wife, Katarina, and my amazing children,” said Ashburn during the ceremony. “I couldn’t do what I do in the Army without your love and support, and I’m so excited to see what this new adventure in Alabama holds for us.

“I would like to extend a special thanks to Colonel

Van Weelden for the mentorship he gave me as a major, and also in advance for going easy on me when I make my fair share of new-guy mistakes,” he continued. “I’m very happy to be working for you again, sir. It’s clear to me that this unit has prospered under your (Morris’) leadership. Kat and I will do the best to continue the path of excellence that you’ve put the battalion on.”

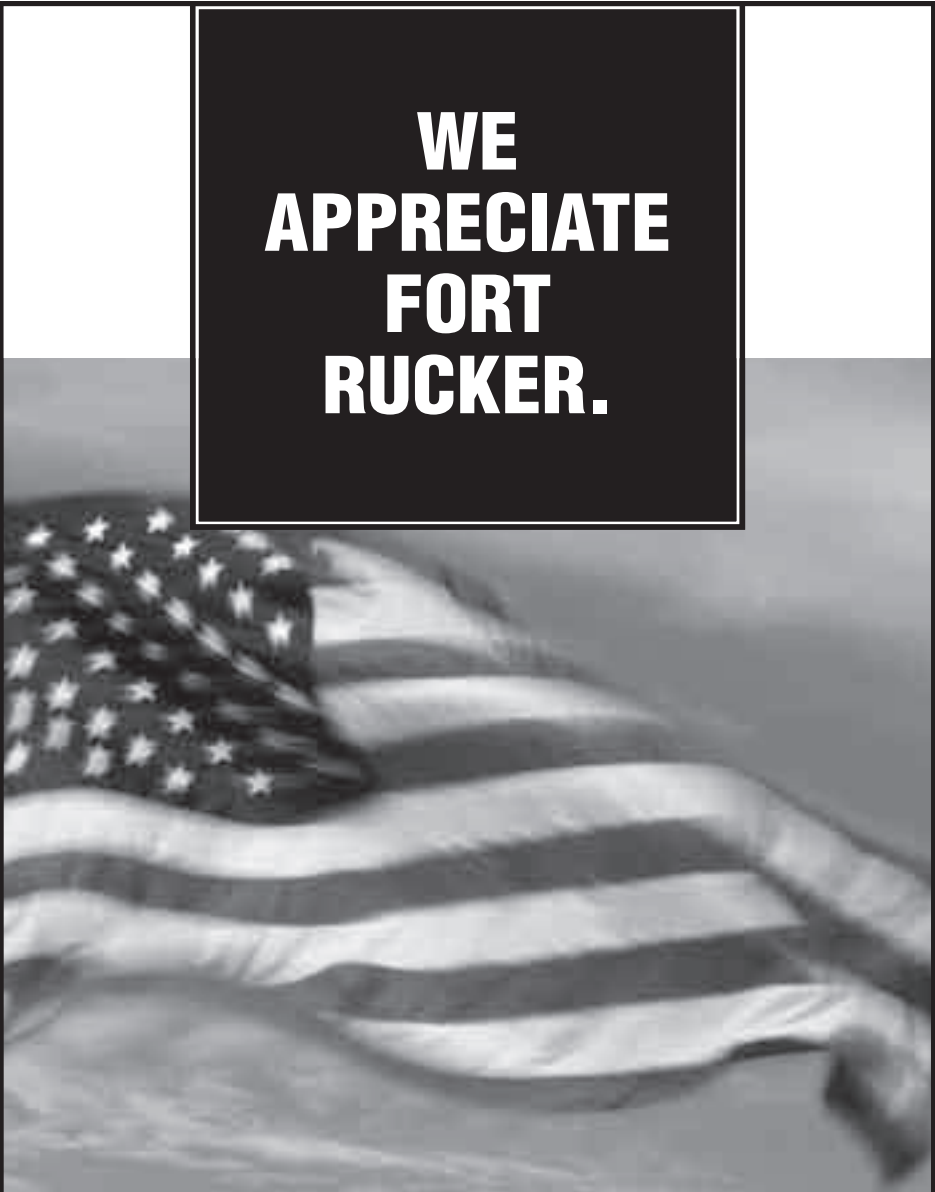
That path of excellence includes execution of four field-of-training exercises, two of which were conducted in a joint environment, over 1,100 tower movements, 1,100 tactical control movements, 350 ground controlled approaches and 2,300 air space movements in the 2014 calendar year alone, said Van Weelden. The battalion Soldiers also convoyed more than 10,000 miles across three different states and performed sling load exercises.

“Phenomenal work by you and your team to say the least,” said the ATSCOM commander to

Morris. “Your leadership and vigor have led to increased readiness and capability of your organization. While you have invested in the development of your Soldiers and leaders and established enduring relationships and partnerships. I’m pretty sure you checked all of the FORSCOM commander’s blocks.”

“It has truly been an honor to have been able to lead the selected and given the opportunity to lead up the selections of the nation’s very best – the Soldiers who are standing out in front of you today,” said Morris. “To the Ashburns, welcome to the 1-58th family. They say it can be hard to relinquish command after two years, but I have full confidence that the Army has selected the right person and the right family to lead this great organization. Kim and I wish you the very best.

Morris’ next assignment is at the U.S. Army Aeronautical Services Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.



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214 Eagle Landing: Very nice townhome! The downstairs has tile floors, stainless appliances, breakfast bar, dining area, ½ bath & a laundry room. The master bedroom & guest bedroom are located upstairs & both have walk-in closets. The master

bath features a beautiful walk-in tiled shower & jacuzzi tub. There is also a covered deck off the master bedroom. The community features a clubhouse & in-ground pool. Very convenient to schools, shopping & Ft Rucker.

4 BEDROOM ~ \$167,900



3363 Augusta: This is a great 4BR home, very unique, with 2 living rooms, great entry way & has place for everyone. There is also a great 25x25 building outside with window A/C & electric that makes a great work shop. There is a pavilion with a jacuzzi to enjoy your evenings. Great wrap around covered porch & an oversized 2-car garage that has 2 garage doors & plenty space with built-in shelves. This property offers a big yard & plenty opportunity & is located just 3 minutes from Ft Rucker.

MOVE-IN READY ~ \$104,000



185 Valleyview: Well maintained 3BR/2BA, move-in ready, home. Features a fireplace, spacious kitchen with eat-in area & formal dining room. Heat pump installed in 2011, plus newer carpets all on a corner lot. Convenient to Ft Rucker.

REDUCED ~ \$174,900



3014 Morningdove Way: Great home at a great price. Granite countertops throughout, custom cabinets, stainless appliances, laminate flooring, electric fireplace, tray ceiling in living room, crown molding throughout, surround sound, security system & privacy fence. Convenient to Ft Rucker.

POOL ~ \$149,900



108 Christopher: Nice 4BR/2.5BA home with an in-ground pool (per owner, a new pool liner will be installed). Large bonus room that could be used as a living room, office or play room. Separate dining room & kitchen bar. Family room with a fireplace & opens to a large deck that overlooks the pool & big backyard. Heat pump installed June 2011. Convenient to schools, shopping & Ft Rucker.

HUGE FAMILY ROOM ~ \$115,000



1004 Vinson ~ Slocomb: Looking for a place in the country that is also convenient to town? (Approx 8 miles from Dothan) This is it! A large home on an acre±. 3BR/2BA, huge family room with fireplace. Beautifully landscaped plus fruit trees & a large pole barn that the current owners are using for covered parking for autos & farm equipment. Conveniently located near Slocomb, Wicksburg, Dothan, Daleville, Ft Rucker & Enterprise.



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628 Joe Bruer Road ~ Daleville: Like new! Great home on a large lot, city living in a country setting. Nice newer community with plenty of room for play in this spacious backyard. Convenient to Ft Rucker, Enterprise & Daleville.

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Alexys Court ~ Daleville: Lake Side!!!! 1.9± acres with approx 237 ft of shoreline. Build your dream home on these beautiful lots in the Deerfield Plantation S/D. Convenient to Ft Rucker, Enterprise, Daleville & Geneva. Approximately 1.5 to 2 hr drive to the Florida Beaches!!!!

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270 Oak ~ Daleville: 4BRs, living room with fireplace, dining room, bonus room, metal roof, attached 2-car garage & a nice detached 2-car garage that would make a great work shop. Convenient to Ft Rucker, Daleville, & Enterprise.

REDUCED ~ \$82,500



459 Sandy Oak: Great townhouse! Move in ready. Interior freshly painted with stainless appliances & walk-in closets. Convenient to Ft Rucker.

NEW CONSTRUCTION ~ \$130,000



101 Eagle Landing: New townhouse in Eagle Landing. All brick. End unit with extra parking pad. Amenities include: grass cutting, clubhouse & community pool. Convenient to Ft Rucker.

COMMUNITY POOL ~ \$115,000



167 Concord: Nice townhouse in the Wakefield Subdivision. The subdivision offers a salt water pool, clubhouse, gym, lawn care & pest control. Convenient to Ft Rucker, Enterprise & Daleville.



Bob Kuykendall
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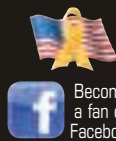
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BOB KUYKENDALL 369-8534

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215 EAGLE LANDING: This lovely townhome has stainless steel appliances. There are walk-in closets in both bedrooms & French doors open onto a covered patio downstairs. There is access to a community pool for your enjoyment. There is so much more to see! Home shows very well! **PAT LEGGETT 406-7653**

GATEWAY ESTATES



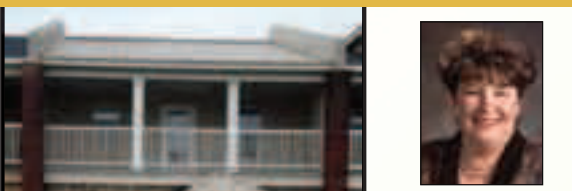
121 DEER RUN STRUT-\$374,900: This home has so much to offer with Jack & Jill bathroom between the 2 upstairs bedrooms with antique vanities & porcelain washbowls. 2½ car back entry carport with extra storage above, workshop situated among the gardens with electricity (15 outlets) & 220 service. Ramp & side cover for storage as well as in the attic area. Kitchen has built-ins with doors to hide appliances & still have the convenience. Lot 167 lakefront across the street comes with this property. Make your move NOW! **EVELYN HITCH 406-3436**

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3381 ROCKY HEAD ROAD-\$490,000: Country living inside the city limits! This beautiful 5BR/3.5BA home is nestled on approximately 12.77 acres, with a salt water pool. The 40x20 barn has 3 roll-up doors & a full bath. The downstairs has been updated with hardwood floors, tile & new kitchen cabinets & appliances. The open floor plan is perfect for entertaining. Wrap around porch lets you enjoy the beautiful view. **TERRI AVERETT 406-2072**

JUST LISTED ~ \$129,000



114 WHITNEY: Lots of room in this wonderful 3BR/3BA townhome in Cotton Creek. Lovely fan-cooled porch & deck. Very convenient to shopping & restaurants. **PAT LEGGETT 406-7653**

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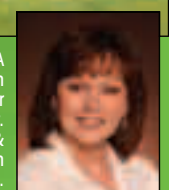
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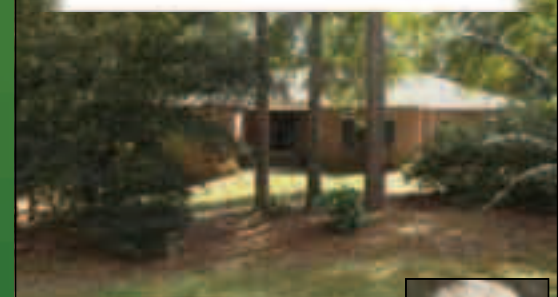
200 WELLSTON ~ \$271,900: NEW ROOF! 4BR/2.5BA on a large corner lot with 16x32 salt-water pool with new liner. Granite countertops, cork flooring, newer appliances including a new dishwasher & gas dryer. New vinyl clad, double pane windows on front & one side. Great floor plan for entertaining with French doors opening onto the large screened-in porch. Beyond this is the inviting pool with a pergola at one end expanding the entertainment space outdoors. Take a look at the his/hers closets in the master suite. Bonus room & lots of closets.



HOSTED BY:
JAN SAWYER
406-2393

DIRECTIONS: Valley Stream: From Boll Weevil Circle turn on Shell Field Road. Take a right on Wellston. House is last house on the left & on the corner of Wellston & Wentworth.

4 BEDROOMS & BASEMENT!



206 DEER RUN STRUT ~ \$269,000: Very large spacious home with many amenities in a private setting. Owner has updated with a tankless gas water heater, gas stove & oven. Steel reinforced storm shelter off the double garage. 125 gallon propane tank underground. Full walk out basement. This 4BR/2BA home has a split floor plan with a must see master bedroom leading to the deck. Original hardwood floors & extra-large formal dining room, with an additional eat-in kitchen. Home Owners Association, fish all you want.



HOSTED BY:
AGNES KARVONEN
406-9752

DIRECTIONS: Gateway Estates: Boll Weevil Circle turn right on Shell Field Road proceed to Gateway turn left, go to dead end, turn right onto Deer Run Strut, property is last house on right.

THE CUTTING EDGE

Army Aviation continues efforts for technology development

U. S. Army Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center Press Release

REDSTONE ARSENAL — The Army recently extended technology investment agreements with two commercial companies to continue concept refinement and technology maturation for future vertical lift research.

The Army is continuing its ties with AVX Aircraft Company and Karem Aircraft Incorporated.

“This is an opportunity to execute further technology maturation with these two partners and expand the knowledge base of the Joint Multirole Technology Demonstrator efforts in support of FVL decision points,” Dan Bailey, program director for FVL/JMR, said.

AVX will mature coaxial compound design, focusing on aerodynamic stability, high fidelity computational fluid dynamic analysis and limited wind tunnel testing scheduled for 2015-2017.

Karem Aircraft will fabricate and test subcomponent articles of its optimum-speed tiltrotor concept, which will include rotor



ARTISTS RENDERING COURTESY BELL HELICOPTER

The tiltrotor V-280 Valor aircraft is Bell Helicopter's vision of the future as it prepares for flight demonstrations for the Army in 2017.

SEE EDGE, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY PFC. SHARDESIA WASHINGTON

Soldiers assigned to 2nd Bn., 159th Avn. Rgt. (Attack Reconnaissance), 12th CAB load a CH-47 Chinook while conducting cold load training during exercise Saber Junction 15 at the U.S. Army's Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, April 11. Saber Junction 15 prepares NATO and partner nation forces for offensive, defensive, and stability operations and promotes interoperability among participants. Saber Junction 15 has more than 4,700 participants from 17 countries, including: Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Turkey and the U.S.

Soldiers compete for German awards

By Sgt. Thomas Mort
12th Combat Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs

U.S. ARMY GARRISON ANSBACH, Germany – Soldiers from the 5-158th General Support Aviation Battalion and 412th Aviation Support Battalion, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, trained with Soldiers from the German army's 472nd Logistics Battalion from Amberg April 7-9.

The American Soldiers competed for two days attempting to earn the coveted German Schützenschnur award and the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency.

“Our Soldiers are always trying to be a part of the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge and Schützenschnur competitions,” said 1st Lt. Andrew Parker, assistant operations planning officer for the Aviation battalion and the officer-in-charge for the events.

The German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency and the Schützenschnur are awards of the Bundeswehr – the German armed forces.

The fitness portion consisted of a 1,000-meter run, 10-meter shuttle run, flexed arm hang and a 12-kilometer ruck march. During the shooting competition, Soldiers qualified with the Heckler and Koch G36 assault rifle, and the Heckler and Koch universal self-loading pistol — P8.

“We had about 150 Soldiers for the fitness portion and almost 170 Soldiers for the shooting portion for 320 slots, total,” Parker said. “Soldiers could opt to do the German Proficiency Badge only, or the Schützenschnur only, or a combination of both.”

In the U.S. military, these two awards are part of a few approved



PHOTO BY SPC. NICK REDDING

Soldiers from the 5-158th General Support Aviation Battalion take a prone position while shooting the German Army H&K G36 assault rifle, while German cadre facilitate and advise at the Oberdachstetten Training Area, Germany, April 9.

foreign awards, as well as some of the most sought after because they can be worn on dress uniforms.

“It is an honor for us that you [the U.S. Army] would ask to do this. We

see that the Soldiers have trained so hard for this event,” said Bundeswehr Sgt. Enreco Broce, 472nd Logistics Battalion. “The organization is awesome ... the best that I have seen.”

ATCs hone skills during exercise

By Staff Sgt. Christopher E. Freeman
U.S. Army Forces Command
Public Affairs

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Instead of being in the comfort of an air traffic tower, air traffic controllers assigned to the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade are sitting in the grit of the dirt honing their aircraft communication skills.

The air traffic controllers from F Company, 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion conducted a field training exercise on Fort Bragg March 30 to prepare for an upcoming mission in support of a joint operation being conducted by 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division and 3rd Parachute Regiment.

“What we do is either give aircraft instruction or assistance in order to make their flight and travels safe,” said Pfc. William Jennings, air traffic control operator, 3rd GSAB, 82nd CAB.

This type of coordination between the ATCs and the pilots in the air requires constant training.

“In order for us to do our job, we need to stay proficient,” Jennings said. “We do this by conducting these types of field exercises to refine our skills.”

Controlling traffic with no tower requires a special piece of equipment, known as the Tactical Airspace Integration System, he said.

“TAIS is the only way we can perform our job without being in a tower,” Jennings said. “There is no other system that we have like the TAIS.”

Jennings used his previous experience in South Korea to assist other paratroopers in learning the systems.

“While in Korea, I learned a lot about the TAIS,” Jennings said. “I was able to pass off the knowledge to those who weren’t as familiar with the system. They can now come out in the morning and set the system without my assistance.”

For Jennings, the system is a thing of beauty.

“I’m a geek,” Jennings said. “I love the hardware and the networking capabilities that the system has. Technology is constantly changing, and we and the pilots are learning new systems to enhance our abilities.”

The training helps keep pilots safe, allowing the Aviators to focus more on providing aerial support, he added.

“We de-conflict the airspace and do flight following,” said Jennings. “Flight following is how we track aircraft as they report in on predetermined checkpoints. It helps ensure there were no accidents

SEE SKILLS, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER E. FREEMAN

Sgt. Shawn Carriere, air traffic control operator with F Co., 3rd GSAB, 82nd CAB, demonstrates a light gun in Fayetteville, N.C., March 30.

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2nd CAB completes recovery training

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

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Soldiers from the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade participated in personnel recovery training during a platoon exercise evaluation April 6-13 at various training locations in South Korea.

Personnel recovery training is used to teach Soldiers the proper techniques and methods to be rescued if caught in a bad location or situation, said 1st Lt. Zachary Bontrager, a platoon leader from Troop C, 2-6th CAV, who was one of the Soldiers participating in the exercise evaluation.

“To begin the training, our aircraft was shot down notionally, so we had to execute a recovery plan,” he said. “Exercises like these are vital to the success and lives of our Soldiers because you just never know what’s going to happen out there.”

He said performing in this exercise was different because normally his unit



PHOTO BY SGT. JESSE SMITH

An OH-58 Kiowa from the 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, takes off April 9 at a field site in South Korea.

operates in small teams instead of as a larger platoon.

“It was definitely something different – it was great training,” Bontrager said.

Along with the personnel recovery, the

other tasks the platoons had to complete were a zone reconnaissance mission, an attack exercise and a vehicle recovery, he added. The 2-6th CAV had all of its Soldiers in the field for the exercise – from

cooks to fuelers.

A member of the South Korea armed forces also stopped by to witness the training.

CW2 Kennamer Yates, the tactical operations officer for the Troop C, 2-6th CAV, was another Soldier who participated in the exercise.

“We are out here evaluating what we trained on before deploying to Korea,” Yates said. “This is a chance for the Soldiers to really demonstrate their knowledge.”

Yates said there are some differences in doing an exercise evaluation in the Republic of Korea compared to doing it somewhere else.

“Here in Korea, there is just a lot more area to do the training, which is great,” Yates said. “There are also a lot more assets at our disposal.”

Yates said he believes the Soldiers will leave this exercise more prepared to execute during personnel recovery, zone reconnaissance, vehicle recovery and attack scenarios. They leave here ready to, “fight tonight.”

Edge: Army continues to explore art of the possible

Continued from Page B1

blades and hub components such as actuators, bearings and electronics. These steps are part of a hub integration functionality test to prepare for a full-scale wing-rotor ground tie-down test in the future.

Karem Aircraft and AVX join Bell Helicopter and Boeing-Sikorsky Aircraft in the continuing efforts to

refine requirements and reduce risk for the FVL family of aircraft.

The JMR TD will demonstrate a mix of capabilities to investigate realistic design trades and enabling technologies. Results from the JMR TD air vehicle demo will inform the FVL effort of promising vehicle configurations, the maturity of enabling technologies, attainable performance and capabilities, and highlight the

affordable technical solutions required to achieve those capabilities.

The Army continues to explore the art of the possible, which includes open dialog with these and other vendors, Bailey said. “The intent of the JMR TD effort is to maximize the knowledge gain and risk reduction toward an anticipated future vertical lift acquisition program.”

Skills: Practice sharpens remote operation capability

Continued from Page B1

or incidents while the pilots are in flight.”

These operations prepare the ATCs to operate in multiple environments, he added.

“We practice being in remote locations when aircraft are operating in more dangerous environments, such as forward operating bases,” said Sgt. Shawn Carriere, air traffic control operator, F Co., 3rd GSAB.

Controlling the skies is like a game of

logic, except the pieces are at different altitudes and all moving at the same time, he added.

“It’s like playing chess,” Carriere said. “We have to think several steps ahead. If a pilot changes something, we have to be able to react quickly.”

For Carriere, it is the uncertainty that keeps him going.

“I love the chaos,” Carriere said. “I can come into a situation and be able to say I contributed to this mission.”



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER FREEMAN

Pfc. William Jennings, air traffic control operator, F Co., 3rd GSAB, adjusts the settings on a system inside the Tactical Airspace Integration System in Fayetteville, N.C., March 31.

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Operation PANTHER PRIDE

Fort Rucker Elementary school students visit airfield

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker Elementary School students learn about everything from science, math, English, writing, history and a whole host of subjects, but some students on Fort Rucker had the unique opportunity to learn about something not normally taught in schools happening right here on the installation – Aviation.

About 75 students from Fort Rucker Elementary School had the chance to visit Lowe Army Heliport and the Goodhand Simulator Complex during Operation Panther Pride to get a glimpse of the Aviation training that goes on in their back yard.

“We recognized that the goals of the Aviation school and FRES were similar in equipping students and Aviators with the knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary to be successful in real-world situations,” said Kristen Satterfield, fourth grade teacher. “Also, many of our students have at least one parent who has sat in the classrooms, simulators and cockpits at Rucker to begin their career as an Aviator. We thought we could use the common goals of the school of Aviation and FRES, as well as the students’ connection to the world of Aviation, to engage the students in a learning experience beyond that we could have created in the classroom.”

The purpose of the trip was to create and maintain a working partnership between the schools that train future leaders and future Aviators, said Satterfield. The students got the opportunity



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAL

CW3 Erik Sabiston, E Company, 1st Battalion, 212th Aviation Regiment, explains the controls of a UH-60 Black Hawk to students from Fort Rucker Elementary School during a field trip to Lowe Army Heliport during Operation Panther Pride April 13.

to receive some training in simulator operations at the simulator complex, as well as receive lessons on weather operations.

Following the simulator complex, the students made the trip over to Lowe field to receive classes on fire safety from the Lowe Fire Department; participate in a MEDEVAC demonstration from Staff Sgt. Julia Stalker, an Army medic with the U.S. Army School of Aviation

Medicine; and even get behind the controls of an actual UH-60 Black Hawk during a static display where they learned about the different components of the aircraft.

“We requested a trip to the simulator so the students could learn about the weather from the perspective of an Aviator, and the technology and engineering utilized in helicopters and training equipment for those Aviators,”

said Satterfield. “We never expected that this would go from a field trip request to a developed mission in which our partners (Aviation school) became as enthused about the education of our students as they are about the training of future Aviators.”

The lessons went hand-in-hand with the lessons the students were learning in class, so it was a good opportunity for the children to see how the things they learn

in the classroom can be applied to real-world situations, said the fourth grade teacher.

“Although we could have taken the traditional approach and invited a meteorologist to visit the class and talk to the students about weather, we knew that it would be more engaging to learn about weather from the Aviator’s perspective and use the weather experts that they depend on for information daily,” she said. “They were able to participate in simple experiments that assisted them in gaining a deeper understanding of weather conditions and weather instruments, and they were also able to learn how weather conditions, safety concerns and severe weather impact the flight of an Aviator.”

While in each simulator, an instructor pilot was on hand to teach one student to fly the helicopter while other students were learning how to use the simulator controls to create different environmental conditions, such as rain, wind, daylight or dusk for the simulator flight in progress, said Satterfield. Both flying and “creating the weather” prompted students to ask questions, analyze, and learn about weather conditions and safety concerns, as well as understand the importance of gaining applicable knowledge in these areas.

Knowledge that students like Gabriel Davie won’t soon forget.

“I liked going to the simulator complex because when I flew, I got to look at the monitor to understand air pressure,” said Davie. “I learned how to use the

SEE PRIDE, PAGE C6

SPLASH!

into summer employment

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

Busy waterways and summer vacation provide the perfect opportunity for seasonal employment, and Fort Rucker offers certification courses to help jumpstart the process.

The sports, fitness and aquatics branch offers lifeguard certification courses through June for anyone interested in poolside employment during the summer.

Courses are available to anyone age 15 and older. Cost is \$125 for military or DOD card holders and \$150 for the general public.

“The course is designed to certify participants as an American Red Cross lifeguard, waterfront lifeguard and water park lifeguard,” Amanda Orduno, Fort Rucker aquatics manager, said. “It also certifies each individual in CPR/AED administration and first aid. It provides each candidate the basic knowledge in order to prevent injuries in a pool or water front setting as well as the knowledge to provide the appropriate care in case of emergencies.”

According to Orduno, participants will be required to pass certain prerequisites the first day before entering the course. Requirements include a non-stop swim of 550 meters, a two-minute tread above water using only legs, dive ring retrieval, and a timed 20-meter brick retrieval swim.

The course provides the perfect opportunity to earn money during the summer, but it also provides other benefits, she said.

“The course certifies an individual

in more than just lifeguarding,” Orduno said. “As a certified lifeguard, you become proficient in numerous lifesaving skills that can be utilized outside of a pool setting, such as CPR for infants, children and adults, unconscious choking, hypothermia and hyperthermia training, recognizing strokes and more.

“However, most importantly, even if you decide to never be employed as a lifeguard, you would be trained to save someone from drowning,” she added. “Drowning is the fifth leading cause of accidental deaths in the United States and, unfortunately, most onlookers are helpless to stop it. If you become a lifeguard, you can save a life.”

The course provides all the knowledge needed to become a lifeguard, but Orduno said lifeguards will also be tasked with some little-known responsibilities.

“As a lifeguard, you must check water chemistry and ensure the water is balanced correctly, and complete safety checks daily to ensure everything is operating efficiently,” she said. “Each lifeguard with the Army, when coming on shift, is required to swim 500 meters in order to stay fit, healthy, and proficient in their swimming abilities.”

Lifeguard courses will be held on the following dates and times.

- May 8-10, 16-17: Friday from 4-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- June 1-5: 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Safety is important at all times, especially during crowded summer days at the pool, and Orduno said lifeguard training helps promote a

continued practice of safety near water.

“As a parent, it is always necessary to be the first set of eyes on your child,” she said. “Be aware of your child’s swimming ability and know your own, as well. Put a lifejacket on your child, if need be, and fit it correctly. If you don’t know how to fit one, ask a lifeguard. They are always quick to help.

“If you are not a proficient swimmer, become one,” she added. “Take swimming lessons – knowing how to swim can be a lifesaving skill. Another important factor to keep in mind is the weather – southeast Alabama is known for late afternoon storms that can pose a risk to swimmers, so stay out of the pool if a storm is imminent. Swim only when lifeguards are present. The lifeguards are there for your safety, to prevent injury and to respond if an emergency were to arise.”

Successful completion of the course could open the door to employment on post, Orduno said.

“Once a lifeguard course is completed and an individual has passed all portions of training, if selected, they can be hired as a lifeguard for Fort Rucker FMWR Aquatics,” she said. “We hire, for the summer season, upwards of 40 lifeguards to work at numerous MWR seasonal facilities such as: SPLASH!, Flynn Pool and the Lake Tholocco swimming area. Lifeguard positions will be open in the spring and can be found on USAJOBS.gov.”

For more information on lifeguard certification or employment with the Aquatics Branch, call 255-9162.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Position: Army Family Action Plan coordinator

Duties: Coordinator will seek volunteers who will begin planning the 2016 AFAP conference. The AFAP conference is scheduled for November. The AFAP conference committee will begin meeting every other month to plan the conference and begin recruiting conference volunteers. If interested, call 255-1429.

Position: Bible study leader

Duties: Teach school age Bible study and vacation Bible school in June. Obtain and use materials needed for the program from the director of religious education. Evaluate the learning environment. Manage a classroom conducive to learning. Maintain attendance records. Collaborate with the ministry leader and assistant teacher. If interested, call 255-3946.

Position: Multicultural Readiness Program office assistant

Duties: Make weekly copies of materials needed for training and distribution. Assemble information packets. Data entry and knowledge of Microsoft Word is necessary. Provide translation of documents. Provide interpreter services. Assist with special projects and workshops. If interested, call 255-1429.

Position Title: Survivor Outreach Services volunteer

Duties: Assist with SOS briefings and activities. Help in development, preparation and mailing of SOS newsletters. Assist with general office organization. If interested, call 255-1429.

ON POST

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

Youth Block Party

The Fort Rucker School Age Center will host its first annual Block Party in recognition of the Month of the Military Child Friday from 4:15–5:15 p.m. in front of the center. For more information, call 255-9108.

Operation Megaphone Worldwide Lock-In

In recognition of the Month of the Military Child, the youth center will host Operation Megaphone Worldwide Lock-In Friday at 6 p.m. through Saturday at 6 a.m. Activities will include: games, rock wall climbing, video games, arts and crafts, movies, and more. Plus, door prizes will be given away, and food and refreshments will be provided during the event. The lock-in is free to all Fort Rucker Child, Youth and School Services-registered members ages 11–18 in grades six-12. Youth must have an active pass. Members may bring a non-member guest for \$10 – guest must have photo ID for age verification.

For more information, call 255-2260.

Casting call

Center Library will hold a casting call Saturday starting at 9 a.m. for military students ages 6 - 17 who will remain on post from now through June 8. The library needs talented voices to help it kick-off its summer reading program. The Center Library will present an arrangement of musical pieces, such as “Tomorrow” and “Hakuna Matata” June 8 at the post theater. Auditioners should arrive at the casting call prepared to sing a sample song of their choice, with or without music. The following roles need to be filled: Annie, Belle, Cinderella, Timon, Pumbaa and Simba, Mary Poppins, Peter Pan, and characters from the “Sound of Music” and the “Wizard of Oz.” Practice for the performance will begin the following week.

For more information, call 255-3885.

New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival

Outdoor recreation is planning a weekend trip to the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival May 1-3. Artists performing include: Elton John, Ed Sheeran, T.I., Jerry Lee Lewis, Aaron Neville, Big Freedia, Marcia Ball, Pastor Marvin Sapp and more. There will also be food vendors at the festival. The bus will depart May 1 at 5 p.m. and return May 3 around 7 p.m. The cost is \$315 for a single person in a room, or \$215 each for two people in a room. The price for additional people, ages 10 and up, will be \$115; ages 3–10 will be \$60; and under 3 will be \$55. The cost includes transportation to and from New Orleans and to and from the hotel and festival, two-night stay at the Best Western New Orleans West Bank, one-day entrance to the Jazz Festival for Saturday, and breakfast both mornings. The event is open



FILE PHOTO

Thunder on Tholocco

Fort Rucker will host the ninth annual Thunder on Tholocco at Lake Tholocco’s West Beach Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. People are welcome to bring a chair or blanket and watch multi-class outboard drag boat racing. Organizers said the high-performance machines reach speeds in excess of 100 mph. For those looking to get a piece of the action, people can sign up to participate in a kayak or canoe race, try one out a paddle boat, or see how far they can make it down the inflatable slip and slide. Food vendors will be on site with a variety of menu options. Gates open at 9 a.m. and races begin at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. Children 12 and under are admitted for free. Tickets are available for purchase at the outdoor recreation office or MWR Central. The event is open to the public. No glass containers permitted. For more information, call 255-9810.

to the public, but limited to 28 people. People need to sign up by Saturday at ODR, 255-4305, or MWR Central, 255-2997.

Military Spouse photo contest

In celebration of Military Spouses Day May 8, Army Community Service invites service members to submit a photo of their military spouse and complete the sentence “I’m proud of my Military Spouse because” People can submit their photo and caption to the Fort Rucker MWR Facebook page now through May 7. The winner will be announced May 8 and will receive two tickets to Mother’s Day Brunch at The Landing May 10.

Free family movie night

In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Family Advocacy Program, and Army and Air Force Exchange Service are partnering to offer a free family-friendly showing of the movie “Planes.” The showing will be Tuesday at 5 p.m. at the post theater. The movie is open to authorized patrons and guests on a first-come, first-served basis. No tickets are required. There will be an information table outside the theater for information related to child abuse prevention. For more information, call 255-9647.

Youth sponsorship training

Fort Rucker Child, Youth and School Services and Army Community Service Relocation Readiness Program are offering youth sponsorship training Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at the youth center to help newly arrived youth feel welcomed. Youth can share their experiences and spend time with youth new to Fort Rucker. To volunteer to become a youth sponsor, call 255-3735 or 255-9812.

Book clubs

Center Library will host two new book clubs –

one for adults and one for teens. The adult book club is for ages 18 and older meet the third Tuesday of each month from 5-6 p.m. at the Center Library Meeting Room. The first meeting will be May 19 with the book, “The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry: A Novel” by Gabrielle Zevin.

The teen book club, for ages 13-17, will meet on the third Thursday of each month from 5-6 p.m. at the Center Library Meeting Room. The first meeting of the Teen club will be May 21 with the book, “All the Bright Places” by Jennifer Niven. Light refreshments will be served. The club is exceptional family member program friendly.

Both clubs are open to authorized patrons and books will be provided. People can secure their spot and book by April 30 by visiting the Center Library or calling 255-3885.

Financial readiness training

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

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

SPLASH! opening

SPLASH! Pool and Spray Park will open for weekends and holidays from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in May. The park will open full time beginning May 29 – open six days a week, closed on Tuesdays. SPLASH! Daily and season passes can be purchased at SPLASH!, MWR Central and the Fort Rucker physical fitness centers. SPLASH! is open to the public.

DFMWR Spotlight

Support Fort Rucker Soldiers by Supporting

MWR Central & Outdoor Recreation

Trips

Open to the Public

New Orleans JAZZ & Heritage Festival Weekend Getaway

May 1–3
Outdoor Recreation Bus departs on May 1 at 5 pm
Cost: \$315 for a single person/room, or \$215 each for two people in a room. Additional persons ages 10 and up are \$115, ages 3–10 are \$60, and under 3 are \$55

Destin Deep Sea Fishing Day Trip

May 9
Outdoor Recreation Bus departs at 4 am
Cost: \$65 per person, plus tip. We recommend bringing a small cooler with drinks and snacks (no glass). Cost for food is not included in the price.

Stone MOUNTAIN Memorial Day Weekend Getaway

May 22–24
Outdoor Recreation Bus departs on May 22 at 5 pm
Cost: \$140 per person, based on two people per room. A single person in a room will cost \$211. Additional persons per room over age 3 will be \$70 each, or \$45 under age 3

Sign up today at Outdoor Recreation, (334) 255-4305 or MWR Central, (334) 255-2997/9517.
www.ftruckermwr.com

FORT RUCKER MWR

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 23-26

Thursday, April 23

Mall Cop 2 (PG)7 p.m.

Friday, April 24

Run All Night (R)9:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 25

The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG)7 p.m.

Sunday, April 26

The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG)2 p.m.

Awardee encourages youth volunteerism

By Stacy Smith
*Aberdeen Proving Ground
Public Affairs*

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Maryland — An Aberdeen Proving Ground youth has been named U.S. Military Child of the Year by Operation Homefront, a nonprofit organization that provides emergency assistance for U.S. military troops, wounded Service members and their Families.

Cavan McIntyre-Brewer, 13, is one of six award recipients — one from each military service and, for the first time, the National Guard — selected from nearly 500 nominees chosen by a committee of active-duty and retired military personnel, military spouses, veteran service organization leaders, teachers and community members.

McIntyre-Brewer is the son of Capt. Steven Brewer, medical detachment commander at Aberdeen Proving Ground’s Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic. He also is the founder of Socks for Vets, a nationwide volunteer program, which collects socks and other donated items for Wounded Warriors and other veterans.

He said he developed the idea after visiting inpatient veterans at the North Carolina State Veterans Home in Fayetteville.

“Our Cub Scout troop planned to sing Christmas carols to (the veterans) and we did, but I noticed that many were lonely and without basic comfort items,” he said. “I asked them if they’d like me to come back with socks and blankets, and they were excited at the idea that someone would be coming to visit.”

At the time, McIntyre-Brewer’s father was deployed and his mother, Michelle McIntyre-Brewer, was caring for his sister, Lorelei, who was born missing half



Korean War veteran Wade Holder shakes hands with Cavan McIntyre-Brewer, who has been named Army Military Child of the Year by Operation Homefront.

of her heart. McIntyre-Brewer said these early lessons gave him a perspective on life that made him want to serve others.

“I found that putting others first actually made me happier. When I spent time helping people, I was able to understand that I wasn’t the only one with problems,” he said.

Socks for Vets expanded in 2011 with the initiation of the pack goat project. McIntyre-Brewer and his Family raise goats and train them to carry hunting, hiking, fishing and camping supplies for disabled veterans so they are able to enjoy nature outings without having to carry

their supplies. Each goat is named after the wounded warrior it serves.

Additionally, McIntyre-Brewer helps his sister, also a semi-finalist for this award, with her program, Heart Hugs, which makes and collects child-size compression pillows for pediatric heart patients.

He helps distribute the pillows at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, where his sister receives pediatric care.

When he is not volunteering, McIntyre-Brewer enjoys computers, air rifles, woodworking and riding his all-terrain vehicle.

He has advice for other children who

are considering volunteering but do not know where or how to start.

“Try to find ways to get involved in the community that interests you. If you like sports, find a way to volunteer by running in charity runs. If you like animals, get involved with a shelter. There are needs all around you. You just have to figure out what your passion is and go from there,” he said.

McIntyre-Brewer said he would like to be an Alaskan State Trooper when he grows up, because the job will combine his love of animals, nature and law enforcement.

For now, he hopes that winning this award will provide an even larger platform for the causes that matter most to him.

“Perhaps my dream to finally have a memorial service at the Korean War memorial on Veteran’s Day, like there is at the World War II and Vietnam memorials, can finally become a reality,” he said.

McIntyre-Brewer has been recognized several times for his outstanding service to wounded warriors and veterans. In 2014, he received the Maryland Governor’s Volunteerism Award and was named an official “Hero” for the “Kids are Heroes” Award.

“Veterans and wounded warriors aren’t ‘that guy in a wheelchair,’ or a homeless person that no one seems to care about,” he said. “They are normal people that want the same things we do. When I spend time with them, I feel like my family just gets bigger and bigger.”

Courtesy of Operation Homefront, each of the award recipients will receive \$10,000, a laptop computer and other donated gifts. Recipients were flown with a parent or guardian to the nation’s capital for a recognition gala, April 16. **For more on the gala, see Page C5.**

Pick-of-the-litter

Meet Puss n Boots, an approximately 2-year-old female orange tabby available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility. She is sweet and affectionate. Adoption fees vary per species and needs of animal, but include 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/](http://www.facebook.com/fortruckerstrayfacility/) for constant updates on the newest animals available for adoption.



COURTESY PHOTO

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

Headquarters Chapel, Bldg. 109

8 a.m. Traditional Protestant Service

Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 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, Bldg. 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, Bldg. 8939

10:45 a.m. CCD (except during summer months)

BIBLE STUDIES

Catholic Women of the Chapel

8 a.m. Wednesdays, Wings

Chapel
(except during summer months)

Protestant Women of the Chapel

9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Wings Chapel (except during summer months)

Protestant Men of the Chapel

8 a.m., first Saturday of each month, Wings Chapel

I-14th Avn Regt Bible Study

11:30 a.m., Wednesdays, Hanchey AAF, Bldg 50102N, Rm. 101

I64th TAOG Bible Study,

11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Bldg. 30501

Above the Best Bible Study

11 a.m., Wednesdays, Yano Hall

Adult Bible Studies

7 p.m. Tuesdays, Spiritual Life Center
12 p.m. Wednesdays, Soldier Service Center
60 p.m. Wednesdays, Spiritual Life Center

Crossroads Discipleship Study (Meal/Bible Study)

6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wings Chapel

Youth Group Bible Study

5:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Wings Chapel

Church Directory

First United Methodist Church

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

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me, even
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1 Corinthians
11:1

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National parks make great family getaways

By Lisa Daniel
American Forces Press Service

Ask people what their all-time favorite family vacation has been and chances are good national parks will be in most of the answers.

I don't have any science to back that up, but I have been struck by the number of people who recollect their best memories of family bonding in places like Yellowstone, Yosemite and the Grand Canyon.

Somehow, even traveling for hours in a cramped car with cranky kids seems to vanish from the memories of those who have experienced America's most magnificent places.

From the peaks of Alaska's Denali to the lowlands of Florida's Everglades, the National Park Service's 397 national parks and many thousands of historical and archaeological sites and wetlands were each brought into the federal system because they are the best of the best — those places deemed worthy of protecting for everyone to see.

That's exactly what Interior Secretary Ken Salazar had in mind when he announced recently that the \$80 annual pass for all the national parks and public lands will be waived for active-duty military members and their dependents — the offer started May 19, Armed Forces Day.

Salazar said he hopes military members and their families will visit the parks

and public lands for fun, rest and relaxation, family bonding, and to experience those places America holds dear. As the Interior secretary said, these are "the very places they not only defend, but that they own."

The World War II generation had a close connection to the parks, National Park Service Director John Jarvis said, because some military training was done there — such as when the 10th Mountain Division trained on Mount Ranier in Washington — and some places were reserved for a time only for returning service members and their families. Also, the federal government then made a push to improve the parks and add infrastructure for the returning warriors.

"If you talk to folks of that generation, they came back, had kids, got in the station wagon, and did the national park tours," Jarvis said.

Officials hope today's generation of troops and families make the same connections. And with national parks — 84 million acres of land and 4.5 million acres of oceans, lakes and reservoirs — in every state except Delaware, many are just a day trip, or less, away.

So, why wait? Play hooky on your Saturday chores, let the kids miss soccer practice, pry the electronics out of their hands, and hop in the SUV. Those mountain trails, battlefields, nature preserves and historic homes are just around the corner.



PHOTO BY LISA DANIEL

Great Falls National Park, Va., is one of 327 parks in the National Park Service system.

WIREFLASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

ONGOING — The American Legion Post 80 has regular meetings the second Monday of the month, starting at 6:30 p.m., at the Legion Hall. For more information, call 222-7131 or visit www.andalusialeigon-post80.org.

DALEVILLE

APRIL 25 — Daleville High School's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps will host a 5k run at 11 a.m. that begins at the school's flag pole. The run is part of the nationwide JROTC 99th anniversary run that seeks to set a world record for most participants in a 5k run by hosting runs at locations throughout the country. For more information and to register, visit www.jrotc5krun.com.

MAY 9 — The Daleville Department of Public Safety will host the Alabama Police Week Shooting Championship with the first shots being fired at 9 a.m. and an awards ceremony at 5:30 p.m. at the Tri State Gun Club on County Road 437. Members of the public are encouraged to participate. The match will consist of 10 stages — not including optional side stages — and 175 rounds fired. Stages will be a combination of scenario-based practical shooting exercises complete with barriers, cars, obstacles and stages pertaining to shooting-skills based standards. Organizers said it is designed as a fun yet competitive match. For more information or to register, visit www.OsageCombatives.com/shooting-championship.

DOTHAN

MAY 9 — The Dale, Geneva, Henry and Houston County Sheriff's Offices and the Wiregrass H.O.G. Chapter will host the third annual Brian Brackin Memorial Blue Ribbon Ride to benefit the Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center at Harley Davidson of Dothan. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the first bike is scheduled out at 10 a.m. Family activities are scheduled for 11 a.m. Cost is \$25 per bike and \$10 per rider — includes

T-shirt and lunch. Along with the motorcycle ride, the event features food, entertainment, games and inflatables. For more information, call 671-1779 or visit www.southeastcac.org.

ONGOING — The Tri-States Coin Club meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the back room of Interco Coins located at 2314 Ross Clark Circle. Described as designed for all ages, the event begins with a short meeting followed by a coin auction. For more information, call 393-2376.

ENTERPRISE

APRIL 25 — The Friends of the Enterprise Public Library will hold a Spring into Reading Book Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the library. Members of the Friends of the Enterprise Library organization are eligible to attend the pre-sale April 23 from 3:00-6:30 p.m. New memberships will be accepted prior to the sale and at the door. Popular fiction, nonfiction, children and young adult books, as well as DVDs, CDs and many other items will be on sale. Money raised by the sale funds library projects, as well as the purchase of books and materials for use by patrons.

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

GENEVA

ONGOING — The Geneva County Relay for Life meets the last Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Citizens Bank. For more

information, call 248-4495.

MIDLAND CITY

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

NEW BROCKTON

APRIL 23 — Disabled American Veterans Chapter 99 will meet at 6 p.m. in the New Brockton Senior Center, located one block behind the New Brockton Police Station. Food and drinks will be served, followed by regular chapter business. Officials extend an invitation to veterans throughout the Wiregrass to join as new members in the DAV and DAV Auxiliary. For more information, call 718-5707.

OZARK

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

ONGOING — Every Thursday at 5:30 p.m., yoga with Sandra Bittman is at Perry Recreation Center for \$5 a person.

PINCKARD

ONGOING — The public is invited to the Cross Country Workshop every Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Pinckard United Methodist Church. For more information, call 983-3064.

SAMSON

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

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.

WIREFLASS AREA

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

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 ocsa-lumni.com.

Beyond Briefs

Friday Fest

Friday Fest in downtown Panama City, Florida, is Bay County's largest street festival with more than 200 show cars, 50 vendors and live bands — filling up six blocks of Harrison Avenue the first Friday of each month from 6-10 p.m. Local shops and restaurants stay open late.

Dinosaurs Alive!

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

Ark of India exhibit

Ark of India: An Alabama Artist Explores Southern Asia is an exhibit about discovery at the History Museum of Mobile. It is an account of late 19th and early 20th century India as seen by Alabama artist Roderick D. MacKenzie, using his paintings, drawings, sculptures, photographs and writings. MacKenzie spent more than a decade in India, a place he described as exotic, dangerous, and colorful. He rode with princes on tiger hunts, climbed mountains along India's Northern border, and swam in the sacred Ganges River.

The exhibit runs now through September. Admission costs \$7 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens and \$5 for students.

The History Museum of Mobile is located in historic downtown Mobile at 111 South Royals Street. Traveling on I-10 East or I-10 West, exit Water Street/Downtown, Exit 26B. Turn left at the first traffic light onto Government Street. Turn left at the next traffic light onto S. Royal Street. The History Museum of Mobile is on the left.

For more information visit: http://historymuseumofmobile.com/ark_india_exh.php.

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>.

DOD leaders honor Military Children of Year

By Shannon Collins
Department of Defense News

WASHINGTON — Resilience, leadership and achievement are just a few of the many traits that earned six youths acclaim from senior leaders during Operation Homefront’s seventh annual Military Child of the Year Award Gala in Arlington, Virginia, April 16.

Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and keynote speaker, and Jason Brown, a former professional athlete, honored the sacrifices of some 2 million military children around the world. Out of more than 500 nominations, six were chosen, representing each service branch.

“Our awardees have pursued excellence – they’ve made it a priority to serve others. They’ve inspired us. They’ve done it with character,” Dempsey said. “I’m incredibly proud and honored to be the chairman of such a fighting force with incredible military families who support them. Our winners tonight are perfect examples of the stellar quality of military kids and we’re so fortunate to have them in our military family. This nation asks a lot of each of you, and each of you continues to prove day in and day out that you are strong, that you are resilient and you are full of love of our country and for each other.”

Brown said he was honored to speak at the event, which took place at the Ritz-Carlton hotel, and was inspired by the military children. While he has never personally served in the military, his older brother, Lester Bernard Brown II, paid the ultimate sacrifice Sept. 20, 2003, in Afghanistan while serving in the Army.

“I’ve been so touched by military families,” Brown said. “And my big brother was everything. He gave me encouragement every single day. He wanted me to be an even better person than he was. He was a hero. And these kids, I was invited here to inspire them but after learning about them, I’m the one who’s inspired.

“They’re the best and the brightest, not just academically, but service minded who have gone out of their way to help out their fellow man, to help out their families, to help out their communities and not just in America in the entire world,” he said.

Each April – the Month of the Military Child – the winner from each service branch receives a \$10,000 cash award and a laptop, and is flown to the gala with a parent or guardian for a special recognition ceremony.

Service and sacrifice

“The Military Child of the Year is a wonderful statement on all the service and sacrifice that all our military families do and these kids are a great representation of all the military families that Operation Homefront serves,” said Tim Farrell, chief operating officer, interim president and chief executive officer, Operation Homefront.

“Operation Homefront provides emergency financial and other assistance to the families of our service members and our wounded warriors,” said Farrell, a 23-year Air Force veteran who has shared moves and deployments with his own children. “We want to make sure that military families are stable and secure, be that through financial assistance or from our transitional or our permanent housing, with donated mortgage free homes.

“These six great kids are a representation of what these families sacrifice every day. These kids are incredible. The passion and service these kids bring – they’re creating nonprofit organizations. I’m in awe of them,” he added.

Army and Air National Guard

This is the first year a child was chosen for the Army and Air National Guard.

“I’m really proud to be able to represent my branch and to bring light to what we go through, too, as military children,” Zach Parsons, 16, said.

Gen. Frank Grass, chief of the National Guard Bureau, echoed his sentiment.

“What a great opportunity to include a Guard family here tonight,” Grass said. “Our military child of the year represents the 460,000 men and women of the Army and Air National Guard. He’s just an amazing young man.”

While Parsons’ father was deployed to Afghanistan, he and his mother took care of an 80-acre farm with 50 head of cattle and then his father was injured. Taking on this increased responsibility has been tough, but has made him stronger, Parsons said.

“It’s been tough for my mom and I, but it’s helped me develop a lot of character traits and skills I now have so I can be a leader in my community and I can be successful in 4-H,” he said. “I owe it all to my experience to being a military kid because I’ve been able to gain and learn all that respect.”



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. SEAN K. HARP

Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, meets with Navy Child of the Year nominee Emily Elizabeth Kliever during the 2015 Military Child of the Year Awards Gala.

The general said Parsons is most proud of being on the Missouri National Guard Teen Advisory Council because it allows him to advocate for support of military children. By sharing his experience of his dad being away for training, deployment and injury, he is able to relate to a large number of military children.

Air Force

For Air Force winner Sarah Hesterman, 16, she wanted to relate to girls across the world and to have a voice for those who did not. While her family is stationed in Qatar, she founded Girl Up Qatar, a club that works to promote the rights of women and girls in the Middle East and around the world, and is a part of the United Nations Foundation program Girl Up. Her goal is to promote gender equality and to develop her own nonprofit organization that provides access to education and resources to girls in situations of conflict.

“The tradition of service and excellence and character runs in her family,” said Air Force Lt. Gen. Stephen Hoog, assistant vice chief of staff and director, Air Staff, Headquarters Air Force. “I believe she might be in a key United Nations position someday.”

Hesterman said she is honored to represent all military children by receiving this award and to have a platform to speak about the life of a military child, full of struggles with moves and parent deployments. She is also grateful for being a military child.

“Girl Up has been an amazing opportunity that I wouldn’t have had unless I was a military child,” Hesterman said. “Living somewhere across the world as the daughter of someone in the military gives me the chance to create a positive change in the world and to stand up for female empowerment, which is something I feel so strongly about,” she said.

Army

For Cavan McIntyre-Brewer, 13, he likes to stand up for veterans. He visited a veteran care facility in 2008 and noticed many of them did not have socks. He created a nonprofit organization, the Socks for Vets program, and has helped 7,500 wounded warriors with socks and other donated items.

He advocates for veterans through this program at the state and national levels, promoting events and telling the stories of those he served. He also assists his sister with fundraising for her program, Heart Hugs, which involves collecting, sterilizing and distributing compression pillows sized for pediatric heart patients.

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Daniel Allyn said McIntyre-Brewer “is an incredibly quiet, humble and shy individual who exemplifies a spirit of selfless service.”

McIntyre-Brewer also works on a project called Pack Goats, where goats carry camping gear for wounded warriors who have prosthetics, and supports veteran’s rights.

“Veterans and wounded warriors aren’t that guy in the wheelchair or a homeless person that no one seems to care about. They are normal people who want the same things we do. When I spend time with them, I feel like my family just gets bigger and bigger,” McIntyre-Brewer said.

Coast Guard

Caleb Parsons, 18, took care of his three younger siblings while his parents were deployed. During that time, he maintained a 4.21 grade point average,

was named outstanding cadet three times in junior Air Force ROTC and earned the Daedalian Award for patriotism. His instructor said he sets high standards, is a natural mentor, has a strong sense of discipline and lives the Air Force core values. He has also been selected for the Army’s U.S. Military Academy.

“These are not children, but people wise beyond their years,” said Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft. “Caleb’s father is a petty officer leading our counter drug efforts down in Miami. His mother is an Air Force staff sergeant stationed in Virginia. His grandfather served in the Vietnam Era. This is an absolutely amazing family. When we talk about the next chief of staff, on June 29, Caleb will take his appointment and check into West Point, and he’s going to take his service to our nation to another level.”

Parsons said it was an initial challenge to be the head of the house while his parents were deployed, but other families would check in on them to make sure everybody was OK and getting along.

“In the military, you’ve got two families – your biological one and the military,” Caleb said. “Military families take care of each other and that’s just one of the amazing things about it.”

Marine Corps

Christopher-Raul Rodriguez, 17, faced adversity when his mother left his alcoholic biological father, and lived for two years in women’s shelters and temporary living facilities. Rodriguez credits her determination to find a job and the motivation he received from his mother and stepfather to his success.

“I’ve had to come from the streets and build my way up. A lot of motivation came from my mom and stepdad. They really helped me out,” Rodriguez said. “There’s no reason to ever give up. This has all been breathtaking.”

Marine Maj. Gen. James Lukeman, commanding general, Training and Education Command, said he is honored to present the award to Rodriguez.

“He’s just really a fine man and has a terrific family – talk about resilience, strength of character and a determination to succeed no matter what,” the general said. “Chris has overcome adversity and demonstrated all those qualities in spades. His perseverance and dedica-

tion to be the best, even in those difficult times was inspiring to his entire family. His teachers and counselors universally highlight his selflessness and his willingness to give to others.”

Rodriguez is the captain of his baseball and soccer teams. Outside of school, he coaches baseball, soccer and basketball in the youth leagues. He also works with special needs children as part of the Lejeune High School Buddy Club.

“When they were living in the shelter, Chris made a promise to his mother,” Lukeman said. “He promised her that one day he would become somebody that she could be proud of. Well done Chris – you did it.”

Navy

Emily Kliever, 17, works with special needs children. She volunteers with the Special Olympics as a swimming instructor, volunteer coach and hugger. She is also a peer-on-peer mentor, where she is an assistant teacher and friend to special needs children. She has also placed in multiple events at the Florida state and regional levels for swimming, and is a National Merit Scholarship Program finalist.

“Emily reminds us that military children serve, as well. It’s not just about deployments and separations or managing, in her case, five moves in 10 years, from the Pacific northwest; to Pearl Harbor (Hawaii); to London (Great Britain); to Annapolis, Maryland; to Norfolk, Virginia; but Emily, like so many of our kids, just takes service to another level,” said Navy Adm. Jonathan Greenert, chief of naval operations. “Emily believes in paying it forward. She has a commitment to others, general compassion and concern and she’s that advocate for positivity.”

Kliever said she loves working with the special needs children.

“I volunteer every summer – it’s incredible. I just love it,” she said. “They’re just so innocent and happy all the time. It brings a new perspective on life, and you just have to hug them. It’s so great.”

Kliever said she is grateful to Operation Homefront for the award and for their program. “It’s incredible what they’re able to do to help military families because sometimes the help they provide is just that little extra help you need to really get started again, to keep going ... and it kind of helps with that.”

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SURGEON GENERAL:
Army Medicine must be protected from sequestration
Story on Page D4

Intramural softball kicks off

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

With almost a full week of rain, it wasn't looking great for scheduled outdoor activities, but the clouds parted just in time to allow Fort Rucker's Intramural Softball season to kick off without a hitch.

Two of the teams that went head to head were the C Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment Foul Play and the Headquarters Headquarters Company, 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group Guardians, but it was Foul Play who came out on top, 12-11, during a close game that had both teams on the edge of their seats.

"We were rusty, very rusty, but we worked together to bring it together," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Webber, Foul Play team captain. "Tonight was the first chance we've actually gotten to get together to play together. It took a minute to get the rust off, but we got it together and played like a team. We've got a lot of speed and diversity."

The game started off slow, but things heated up as the teams made the competition interesting with multiple in-the-park home runs, RBIs and a few errors.

The Guardians were the first to take to the plate and weren't off to the best start with a pop fly to left field for their first out. They followed up with two base hits, but Foul Play's defense held them off at second for another out, followed by another pop fly that sent

the HHC team into the outfield.

The 1-13th wasn't fairing much better during their time at bat, making two outs with their first two batters. Their next batter managed to find a hole in left field to get on base, followed by another base hit, but a pop fly sent them back into the outfield with both teams scoreless.

As the Guardians took to the plate, their opponent's defense wasn't letting up and Foul Play managed to gather three outs within minutes.

With a walk on their first batter, the 1-13th had an early advantage in the inning and took full advantage with a two-base hit and an RBI by Rece Wiggins to get their first run.

Although Foul Play managed a few more base hits, the Guardians weren't allowing any more runs in the inning as their defense tightened and sent the C Co. team packing.

HHC managed to find their footing with a base hit to start, followed by an in-the-park home run to bring in two runs and take the lead before heading back into the outfield.

Not to be outdone, Foul Play's offense came back aggressively and managed to keep the ball on the ground to get runs on base, and Brandon Woodson, player for Foul Play, managed a three-base hit to bring in a runner and tie the game.

Going into the 4th inning, both teams seemed evenly matched and



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Joey Rivera, player for Foul Play, rounds home plate after hitting an in-the-park home run during the team's first game of the 2015 Fort Rucker Intramural Softball Season against the Guardians Monday.

it was still anyone's game.

The Guardians continued their streak of base hits, bringing in two runs during their time at the plate to keep their opponents on their toes.

Foul Play tried hard to keep up

by keeping the ball on the ground, even managing to load the bases with no outs, allowing for an RBI to help inch closer to their opponents.

The HHC team's defense tightened up, however, and managed to

hold the 1-13th back to head into the fifth with the Guardians up, 4-3.

The HHC team kept the base hits coming and an error by Foul Play's shortstop allowed the Guardians to bring in a run, but the 1-13th rallied to hold off their opponents and managed a huge turnaround with their time at the plate.

Foul Play was able to find the gaps in the Guardians' defense to get runner after runner on base, and Wiggins came in with a three-run in-the-park home run to take the lead during the inning, but the runs didn't stop there.

The 1-13th finally hit their stride and RBIs were king as they continued to put runners on base before Joey Rivera, player for Foul Play, managed to hit another in-the-park home run to bring in an additional two runs before their time at the plate ended, commanding a 12-5 lead.

All seemed completely hopeless for the Guardians as they had their work cut out for them going into the 6th inning, but they didn't get discouraged, despite being down two runs early on.

An error turned things around for them, allowing for an RBI, which fueled their motivation. They managed to keep the ball on the ground and bring in run after run to get right up behind their opponents, 12-11 before heading into the outfield. But time wasn't on their side as the game clock winded down, ending the game with Foul Play as the winners.



PHOTO BY JENNY STRIPLING

Lyster Army Health Clinic registered dietitians pass out food samples during the clinic's first cooking demonstration Friday.

Lyster cooking demo focuses on healthy hearts

By Jenny Stripling
Lyster Public Affairs Officer

Lyster Army Health Clinic visitors may have recently noticed a savory scent upon entering the clinic.

Friday, in the new Lifespace Center at the clinic, Lyster rolled out its new cooking demonstration classes – free to anyone interested in learning new, healthy recipes. In an hour, Lyster registered dietitians whipped up an entire heart-healthy meal that included chicken with mushroom sauce, wild rice pilaf with fruit and roasted squash soup.

"Participants received a cooking demo from our registered dietitians, sampled all the dishes and received recipe cards for all the dishes prepared," said Andrea Rigsby, chief of nutrition care at Lyster. "Our dietitians also provided nutritional education about heart healthy eating as we went through the demonstration."

Participants who attended the cooking demonstration said the foods seemed easy to cook and would be something they would consider cooking for their families at home.

The new cooking demonstrations are just another way Lyster Army Health Clinic is helping to promote healthy eating and nutrition to its beneficiaries, as part of the Army Medicine's Performance Triad. The Performance Triad is a comprehensive plan to improve readiness and increase resilience

through public health initiatives and leadership engagement. The focus of the Performance Triad is on sleep, activity and nutrition – key actions that influence health in the lifespan of time that isn't spent with a healthcare provider.

"Learning better, healthier nutrition isn't just for our Soldiers," said Col. Gary Wheeler, commander of Lyster Army Health Clinic. "Our goal is to provide education for the Families as a whole. We are trying to change a lifetime of habits for a healthier lifestyle."

Those who missed the first cooking demonstration need not worry, as there are plenty of opportunities to participate. The next two cooking demonstrations will be May 1, focusing on healthier Mexican dishes, and May 29, where the food theme will be Eat the Rainbow, with both beginning at 11 a.m.

Lyster offers many other classes to help further educate the Fort Rucker community on nutrition and health. Some of those include Army Move weight control classes, diabetes information classes and healthy heart classes. Lyster has also started offering a Healthy Eating 101 class – a four-part series teaching basic nutrition.

Anyone interested in participating in any of these health and nutrition classes can call 255-7986 or stop by Lyster's new Lifespace Center to schedule an individual appointment.

PERFORMANCE TRIAD

Nurse drops doughnut day for active lifestyle

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Capt. Frances Young used to have doughnut day with her family every weekend.

After filling up on doughnuts with her husband and two children, ages 3 and 4, she said she would get an initial sugar rush and then feel sleepy and crash for the rest of the day.

Young, who is the officer in charge for the Mother Baby Unit at Darnall Army Medical Center on Fort Hood, Texas, said she was not just tired all the time, she was feeling depressed with how she was feeling about herself and her lack of motivation.

And it was not just doughnuts, Young said. She would snack on junk food throughout the week and was "completely oblivious to serving size and healthy foods."

She said she was pushing the Army height and weight limits, too.

Fitness was taking a hit, as well. Young said activity was basically just preparing for the twice-a-year Army physical fitness test – she was doing the bare minimum necessary to pass.

So out of shape she was, she said, she could not do a single pull-up, lunge, or even hold herself up on a foam roller.

October 2013 marked the low point in her life, Young said. That was when

her weight was the highest and her fitness was the lowest.

That month, she said she saw a Performance Triad flyer, and something clicked. She realized that she needed to make a change before her life spiraled out of control.

Performance Triad is the Army's focus on sleep, activity and nutrition, as a way to improve resilience and reduce injuries.

Young joined a gym, got a personal trainer, and started strength training three times a week and cardio four times a week.

Right away, she said she noticed improvements in her strength and running speed, and her mood improved. Besides that, she was feeling more productive at work.

At the same time, she said she changed her diet. She added a variety of fruits and vegetables to her diet and did the same for her children – they started to enjoy snacking on healthy foods.

She also dumped doughnut day, replacing that activity with weekend park day, where she and the children play in the playground.

"I honestly was already getting around seven to eight hours of sleep per night, but it was a poor quality of

SEE ACTIVE, PAGE D3



PHOTO BY JENNY STRIPLING

Capt. Frances Young meets Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho, the Army's surgeon general, during the Army Nurse Corps' C. J. Reddy Leadership Awards Dinner on Fort Belvoir, Va., April 1. Horoho was impressed with Young's achievements with incorporating the Performance Triad's target behaviors into her daily routine.



See Page D4 for this week's answers.

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KID'S CORNER



WTUs set to consolidate

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – There are 25 warrior transition units in the United States and overseas. That number will decrease to 15 by Aug. 1, 2016, the commander of the Army’s Warrior Transition Command and assistant surgeon general for Warrior Care and Transition said while speaking during a Pentagon media roundtable Friday.

Col. Chris Toner said the reason for the decline in WTUs is because combat casualties have come down substantially. At its height during the 2008 and 2009 time-frame, there were 45 WTUs with more than 12,500 Soldiers in the program.

Today, there are 3,654 Soldiers in the WTUs, a number that is expected to level out to about 3,000 in the years ahead, absent war, he said. Those 3,000 are expected to primarily be sick or injured Soldiers, a normal number, considering the size of the Army, including the reserve component.

Of the 3,654 Soldiers in the WTUs, about 48 percent are active duty, and 52 percent are Guard and Reserve, Toner said.

Serving those Soldiers are 3,192 cadre and clinicians, so the ratio of Soldiers to caretakers is approaching 1:1. The Army is constantly assessing those numbers to get the balance right, he said.

Should conflict break out with large numbers of casualties, “God forbid,” Toner said, the existing 15 WTUs would be able to almost immediately handle 8,100 Soldiers total with the same high-level quality of care. There would be no problem in rapidly increasing the cadre.

Due to uncertainty in the world right now, “it’s important to be able to reverse quickly if we have to,” he said.

To reverse quickly, Toner said the facilities for the 10 WTUs that are being stood down will be repurposed, but will continue to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, so they can rapidly revert to WTUs if necessary.

ADA compliance and other aspects needed for care in the facilities will be monitored and inspected periodically, he said. The U.S. Army Installation Management Command is involved in the process.

The decrease of WTUs will impact about 300 civilian jobs. In past WTU inactivations, the Army was successful at priority-placing employees at medical treatment facilities or elsewhere. Toner said



PHOTO BY GLORIA MONTGOMERY

Adaptive sports, such as the Ride 2 Recovery, challenge wounded warriors like Staff Sgt. Patrick Hलगren and Staff Sgt. Robert Rusinku to do what they did not think they could do. Warrior transition units offer a variety of programs designed to get Soldiers back on their feet and prepared for a successful civilian career or Army career, should they so choose.

the Army is working to make that happen again.

The decrease of WTUs from 25 to 15 will not affect existing community care units, of which there are 11. The CCUs launched in October and they have 577 Soldiers, of which 39 are active-duty and the rest reserve component, he added.

The CCUs allow Soldiers to receive

care in remote communities. A number of the Soldiers are terminally ill, and it is important for them to be with their Families and within their communities, Toner said.

A huge success of the WTU program is the addition of ombudsmen to the program, which began in 2007, Toner said.

These are independent problem solvers “who don’t report to me,” he said. They

have been successful at not only problem solving but handling complaints where Soldiers believed they were being treated unfairly.

Taking care of all Soldiers and veterans, particularly those who are sick, injured and wounded, is “a sacred trust,” Toner said.

Soldiers have taken advantage of the services offered by ombudsmen. In 2010, one of every 299 Soldiers presented an issue to his or her ombudsman. By 2015, that number had fallen to one in 553 Soldiers, he said.

Toner attributed the reduction in complaints to a variety of program improvements, including Soldier, Family and civilian assistance centers put into warrior campuses “that render a multitude of Soldier care,” he said.

Also, the training and education programs for cadre and senior leaders was redesigned and in the spring of 2014, more rigorous cadre selection criteria went into effect to ensure that only the best were chosen, he said. The Army is looking to tighten those standards even further.

Besides that, Toner said he personally visits and inspects each WTU at least once every 18 months. With the reduction to 15 WTUs, he expects to be able to visit each one every 12 months.

There are also quarterly town-hall meetings, and inspections by the Army inspector-general and teams from the Department of Defense to ensure quality remains high, he said.

Another testament to the program’s success is that over the life of the WTU program, 66,000 Soldiers were assigned to WTUs and of those, 29,000 improved enough to be able to return to the force, he said.

The remaining 15 WTUs will be located at each of the Army’s divisions and corps. One will also serve Fort Benning, Georgia, which has a large demobilization center. Another will be attached to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Maryland, and one to Brooke Army Medical Center, Texas. There will also be a WTU in Hawaii and Germany, he said.

Inactivating WTUs are at: Fort Gordon, Georgia; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia; Fort Polk, Louisiana; Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska; Fort Meade, Maryland; and Naval Medical Center, San Diego.

Soldier locks onto target during Army Trials for gold

By Shannon Collins
Army News Service

EL PASO, Texas – Steady breathing, sharp focus and a sense of calm helped one Soldier lock onto his target: a spot on the Army team for the 2015 Warrior Games.

During the Army Warrior Games trials March 28-April 3 on Fort Bliss, Texas, Master Sgt. Shawn “Bubba” Vosburg took gold in standing rifle and bronze in prone rifle in the men’s open category. He also took fourth in archery. In wheelchair basketball, his team placed third. And during the Air Force trials last month on Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, he medaled in archery.

Vosburg, an Army Reservist with the 356th Transportation Company in Las Cruces, New Mexico, is assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion on Fort Bliss. Though he had never competed before, he hopes to be able to do so during the 2015 Warrior Games June 19-28 at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia.

Throughout the 2015 Warrior Games, wounded, ill and injured Service members and veterans from the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard will



PHOTO BY EJ HERSOM

Reserve Master Sgt. Shawn Vosburg aims an arrow during the archery competition of the Army Trials on Fort Bliss, Texas, March 31.

compete in track and field, shooting, swimming, cycling, archery, wheelchair basketball and sitting volleyball. Also participating in the games will be competitors from U.S. Special Operations Command and a team from the British military.

Vosburg said he picked up his first bow in December and said participating in sports such as shooting and archery helps him with the post-traumatic stress disorder, leg and spine injuries he has sustained over the years and during his time in Iraq.

“You have to focus so hard

when you’re pulling the bow back to get any kind of consistency – the aim, the shot process, everything about it,” he said. “When you’re in that thought of making that shot or pulling the bow back or even in practice, you’re so focused on that. It calms you. It takes your mind off everything else.

“It’s an amazing thing. It’s just you and your bow,” Vosburg continued. “It’s the same thing with the rifle competition. When you start to feel anxious, you can literally watch your site bounce up and down as your heartbeat increases,

so it makes you learn how to calm down and breathe.”

He said that adaptive sports have helped him find his new normal and that others continue to inspire him.

“As bad as I feel sometimes, I see others who are in a whole lot worse shape than I am, and they’re still competing with a smile on their face every day and it drives me to do even better,” Vosburg said. “My family, friends who also have PTSD -- we talk a lot, we do things together and we try to live the new norm. I’ve learned that disability is not an inability – it’s just a new ability that you didn’t know you had.

“When I was at Nellis, I watched a guy who was a double above-the-knee amputee talk about how he didn’t truly know what he was capable of doing until he thought he was capable of doing nothing else. That drives me to fight through my injuries, my pain, and (to) do something besides sit around and mope about being hurt. Life’s too short. I’ve never been one to give up, and this gives me another reason not to,” he said.

Vosburg, who served 29 years total in the Army, with 15 years on active duty, said competing in the Army Trials has been the high-

light of his Army career.

“Competing in these trials has changed my life forever,” he said. “I have a whole new outlook and perspective on everything about life, so I would recommend it to anyone. It’s been incredible. I wouldn’t trade this. This has been the greatest experience of my career out of everything I’ve done, whether it was tanks, infantry, transportation or being an instructor. Right here, seeing these people – they drive me to be better, it’s amazing.”

Vosburg encouraged Soldiers who are considering trying out for future Army Trials to give it a shot.

“Regain that bond of serving alongside your brothers and sisters in arms by competing in events like this with veterans, double and triple amputees,” he said. “It just drives you to realize that your life’s not over – it’s just beginning. Find something new. Give yourself a reason to fight. You’re going to make lifelong friendships. It’s an incredible thing.”

Whether he makes the team or not, Vosburg said he will continue to shoot and is going back to school to become a PTSD counselor so that he can help his fellow veterans.

Active: Performance Triad helps change lifestyle, career

Continued from Page D1

sleep. I was sleeping, or shall I say, crashing due to poor dietary choices and would come home, eat a big bowl of ice cream or cereal before bed as a snack and fall asleep, only to wake up in the middle of the night, hungry again.

“Once I changed my nutrition to eating more mindfully, I was able to have an improved quality of sleep,” she said. “Exercising and increasing my activity level also helped ensure I was sleeping through the night and waking up re-energized for the next day.”

After three months of fitness improvement, Young took it up a notch and in January 2014, she entered her gym’s body transformation challenge. She was up

against many others in her age category from more than 650 national gyms. She took first place in her age group for being the most improved.

People at work took notice too, she said, particularly after she had to get new uniforms after dropping down two sizes.

As the weeks passed, Young grew stronger and stronger. The ultimate motivation pump came in August 2014, when she volunteered for air assault school, something she said she would never have dreamed of doing.

The school is tough, she said, and includes 12-mile ruck marches and rappelling out of helicopters. She said she thrived on it and passed the course.

Young is now transitioning to a new job at the medical center – officer in charge of the postpartum section.

“Performance Triad really changed every aspect of my career and my lifestyle,” she said. “I’ve been able to do things I thought I’d never be able to do.

“It’s exciting because I feel like if I can do it anyone can,” Young said. “It’s really incredible how much your life changes.”

Performance Triad is important for everyone, but it’s especially important for Army leaders, she said. “We can’t take care of our Soldiers unless we first take care of ourselves.”

“Young continues to apply her achievements and is mentoring six Army Nurse Corps Officers in her unit to achieve their own professional and fitness goals,” said Lt. Col. Tamara S. Funari, nurse lead, System for Health and Performance Triad, Office of the Surgeon General.

Surgeon general: Army Medicine must be protected

By Lisa Ferdinando
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Sequestration would force “devastating reductions” on Army Medicine personnel and have dramatic impacts on medical readiness and capabilities, the Army’s surgeon general told Congress April 14.

The funding caps imposed by the 2011 Budget Control Act, also known as sequestration, would have a “significant, detrimental impact on our patients, our families and our medical team,” Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho said.

“Service members go into battle confident because Army Medicine, in concert with our sister services, goes with them,” she told a House Appropriations Committee budget hearing on the defense health program.

“For the past 13 years, when wounded service members on the battlefield heard the rotors of a MedEvac helicopter, they believed they were going to survive,” she said. “We must protect that system that gave them that confidence.”

Sequestration would force the Army Medical Command to close in-patient and ambulatory surgi-



PHOTO BY MELODY EVERLY

Army medics take part in training at the Mountain Medic Course on Fort Drum, N.Y., Dec. 9.

cal centers at a number of military treatment facilities, she said. That would jeopardize the Army’s ready and deployable medical force.

“Devastating reductions to both civilian personnel and military end strength would impact every Army Medicine program,” she said.

Army Medicine is still trying to fill vacant positions for highly skilled employees, two years after

the furloughs and hiring freeze of 2013, she said.

“Reductions driven by sequestration would be devastating and very different than our current right-sizing to correctly align our medical capabilities,” Horoho said.

The Army surgeon general made similar warnings about sequestration at a hearing last month

to the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on defense.

In her remarks, Horoho said the Army is a national leader in its programs for medicine, dentistry, research, education, training and public health. Viewing Army Medicine through the lens of a civilian health care system would be the wrong approach.

“An ever-changing security environment demands that Army Medicine vigilantly maintains a medically ready force and a ready medical force,” she said.

The Army’s medical programs are linked to Soldiers and deployment readiness – Army hospitals are the health readiness platforms, Horoho added. That link to readiness sets Army medicine apart from the civilian health care system.

“Army Medicine provided the majority of the operational medicine and combat casualty care in Iraq and Afghanistan that led to 91 percent survivability rate for our wounded Service members,” she said.

“Any radical departure from our combat-tested system would degrade readiness in an environment where the next deployment could be tomorrow,” Horoho said.

She began the hearing by paying tribute to “America’s sons and daughters who are in harm’s way. Over 141,000 Soldiers are deployed or forward stationed. Army Medicine has nearly 2,500 civilians and Soldiers deployed around the globe.”

Horoho noted a year of “unprecedented challenges and accomplishments” for Army Medicine, including training every Soldier who deployed to west Africa for efforts to contain the Ebola outbreak.

Medical research teams from the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command were an important part of the effort, working with interagency partners on the ground in Liberia and developing “ground-breaking vaccines,” she said.

In addition, the surgeon general said health readiness has been enhanced with the Performance Triad program that stresses good nutrition, proper sleep and exercise.

“Our Soldiers’ health readiness remains our No. 1 priority. We added combat power back to the force by reducing the number of Soldiers who are non-available due to health reasons,” she said.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

REPAVED	TRASH	LOCATED
EMOTIVE	SASHA	IRELAND
HIPPERS	NAPPER	SPRINTS
ALF	TYPSCAT	THICKES
SIL	OOD	ATMS
HEY	PROTEIN	HATON
REP	END	ENNY
ASSAYED	BEAR	EVER
MICHEL	OB	HEAT
BRASS	DES	BRUT
URL	HOLE	NUMBERS
SEE	YOU	TREK
HER	EST	HEBEE
RES	OD	DIMP
OLE	BOAS	SOP
HEN	IND	COURT
MAR	LEE	TRAP
PALACE	AT	RA
REGULAR	HEELS	AN
CREMONA	ALLOY	ENEMIES
ASSENTS	MYLES	MAESTRO

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Trivia

Answers

1. Lyndon Johnson
2. Venus
3. Benjamin Franklin Pierce
4. 1939
5. Studs Terkel
6. Oct. 29
7. “Tom Jones”
8. Exodus
9. Alaska
10. Vesta

SPORTS BRIEFS

Golf tournament for AER

Silver Wings Golf Course will host the 25th annual Golf Tournament for Army Emergency Relief May 1 – the tourney was rescheduled from its original date of April 17 because of inclement weather. Registration will begin at 10 a.m. with a noon shotgun start. The format is four-person scramble. Entry fee is \$65 per person, or \$55 for Silver Wings members. The cost includes a hamburger lunch, cart, green fees and registration gift. All proceeds will be donated to Fort Rucker’s AER fund.

For more information, call 1-800-448-4096 or 598-4411.

Thunder on Tholocco

Fort Rucker will host the ninth annual Thunder on Tholocco at Lake Tholocco’s West Beach Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. People are welcome to bring a chair or blanket and watch multi-class outboard drag boat racing. Organizers said the high-performance machines reach speeds in excess of 100 mph. For those looking to get a piece of the action, people can sign up to participate in a kayak or canoe race, try one out a paddle boat, or see how far they can make it down the inflatable slip and slide. Food

vendors will be on site with a variety of menu options. Gates open at 9 a.m. and races begin at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. Children 12 and under are admitted for free. Tickets are available for purchase at the outdoor recreation office or MWR Central. The event is open to the public. No glass containers permitted. For more information, call 255-9810.

Intramural golf

Silver Wings Golf Course is accepting registrations for intramural golf now through Monday. Players will play the scramble format once or twice a week with a team of four. Games will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 4 p.m. The first game is May 5. Registration is \$10 per person, and each game is \$10 per person for non-members and \$5 for members.

For more information, call 598-2449.

Army 10-Mile Run Off

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will host its Army 10-Mile Run Off and Team Relay May 2 from 7-10 a.m. Race day registration begins at 6 am at the Fort Rucker PFC on Andrews Avenue. Pre-registration is \$20 up to Sunday.

Monday and up to race day, the fee is \$25 with a \$12 no-shirt option up to race day. Registration fee for the five-person relay team will be \$75 up to Sunday and \$100 after. Trophies will be awarded in various categories. Top active-duty finishers will be considered for the team to represent Fort Rucker at the Army 10-Miler in Washington, D.C.

During the run, there will be various road closures on the run route: Third Avenue and Gladiator to Raider Street, then from Raider Street to Avenue K, from Avenue K to Quartermaster Road, on Quartermaster Road turn right onto Engineer then left onto Dilly Branch Road toward Knox Field. Left around Knox Field to Hatch Road, right on Hatch Road to the 5-mile turnaround point.

For registration and more information, call 255-2296.

Enterprise baseball

Enterprise’s semi-pro baseball team needs players. For more information, call Joe Jackson at 464-1729.

Youth Extreme Fitness

Youth can sign up now through May 18 for Fort Rucker Child, Youth and School Services’ Youth Extreme Fitness

sessions that will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays May 19-June 18 from 6–7 pm at the Youth Sports Football Field. CYSS officials said that this program will be both challenging and rewarding, adding that parents should keep in mind that the program is intended to push children beyond their normal comfort zones – mentally and physically. The cost is \$20 and it is open to youth ages 8–18. A current sports physical and valid CYSS membership are required for participation.

People can sign up at parent central services, 255-9638. For more information, call 255-225.

Gobbler Classic Turkey Hunt

Fort Rucker Outdoor Recreation will host its Gobbler Classic Turkey Hunt now through April 30. The cost to participate is \$25. Prizes will be awarded. Participants must have a valid Alabama State All Game License, Fort Rucker Post Hunting Permit and a Hunter Education Completion Card. Alabama state regulation and Fort Rucker Regulation 215-1 apply. The turkey must be harvested on Fort Rucker in order to qualify. This hunting event is open to the public.

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

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