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ARMY FLYER

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

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FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

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ACCREDITATION

TRADOC team ensures training on course

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

In years past, the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence was named an Institution of Excellence by the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and now Fort Rucker is hoping to continue that trend.

A TRADOC accreditation team visited the installation last week in order to evaluate the installation to ensure operations and training are in line with the 28 Army Enterprise Accreditation Standards, according to Richard Knapp, USAACE Quality Assurance Office director.

“While the team was here, they did training observations of both our professional military education and our flight courses, and they reviewed the supporting documentation for our courses to make sure it was in line with (those standards),” said Knapp. “The accreditation process is a three-year cycle for all of the TRADOC centers of excellence ... which covers facilities, the training, military manpower, civilian manning and all of the core functions of a center of excellence.”

During its time here, the accreditation team took part in an orientation flight, which gave the team an idea of the scale of Fort Rucker’s operation. Team members also took part in focus groups with instructors of the Warrant

Officer Advanced Course, as well as with NCO Academy supervisors.

The evaluation is a way for these centers of excellence, like USAACE, to ensure that quality education and training is occurring across the installation, as well as to find ways to further improve it, said the quality assurance officer. In this case, a team of subject-matter experts from outside the institution observed, assessed and evaluated the installation based on a set group of standards related to Fort Rucker’s education and training goals, academic instruction, development of and support to instruction, its administrative processes, policies and functions, and its overall effectiveness, Knapp said.

The process is meant to assure the TRADOC commander that USAACE fully meets the training and education competency requirements of a TRADOC Institution of Learning across various domains: doctrine, the management and effectiveness of doctrine development; organization, the effectiveness of USAACE and its oversight of warfighting functions; training, how the installation prepares trainees and leaders at Fort Rucker; leadership and education, how leaders are prepared and educated; personnel, the status or use of USAACE personnel to accomplish missions and functions; and facilities, the status, use and care of instal-



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

The TRADOC Accreditation Team prepares for an orientation flight around the installation May 11 during the accreditation process that ran May 11 through Friday.

lation real property to support training and missions, he added.

In preparation for the accreditation process, Fort Rucker participated in a comprehensive “self assessment” program involving all organizations and staff elements established by the quality assurance office – the oversight agency for the USAACE accreditation efforts – according to Knapp.

The visit is complete, but now the team will evaluate and present Fort Rucker with its written results and reveal the level of accreditation received: candidate for accreditation, probationary accreditation, full accreditation and institution of excellence, which Fort Rucker is striving for.

“Friday they gave us their initial impressions to the command group and some of the supporting staff,” said Knapp, adding that there were many positives that the team

observed. “One of the positive things they looked at was our use of simulation and the directorate of simulation. Many years we were focused on support to the operational force, but as we started to draw down in overseas operations, we’ve shifted our focus to supporting our professional military education, such as the Captains Career Course, the NCO Academy and things like that.”

Although the process can be daunting and even stressful at times, Knapp said it’s a necessary one that only serves to improve the training Soldiers receive.

“Although it can be a stressful week, it really reflects a six-month effort with our command group,” he said. “Really, it’s a learning opportunity and it’s really focused on making sure we’re giving the best training we possibly can for our Soldiers. This effort really helps with that.”

FULL SUPPORT

Post offers trailer designed for wounded warriors

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker’s Outdoor Recreation has earned a long-standing reputation as a dedicated supporter of wounded warriors, and it’s keeping with that tradition by adding to its repertoire of equipment available for those who have sacrificed for the nation.

Outdoor recreation added a 42-foot mobile trailer to its growing list of wounded warrior-specific equipment for disabled veterans to use at no cost to them, according to John Clancy, ODR manager.

“We’re always here for the Soldiers and their families, and we have a big passion for those who have sacrificed and gotten hurt serving the nation,”

he said. “It’s close to most of our hearts to take that extra step for those Soldiers who might not want to be out in public because of an injury, so we’re trying to give them something that they can come out and use with everybody.”

The trailer can comfortably sleep six people, and comes with a whole host of amenities, such as a hydraulic wheelchair lift, wheelchair-accessible shower and bathroom, full kitchen with accessible stovetop and oven, as well as a refrigerator and microwave, and air conditioning.

The trailer is also available for travel if wounded warriors wish to take the trailer for a trip off the installation. Clancy recommends that anyone wanting to travel with the

16,000-pound trailer have a vehicle capable of pulling at least 18,000 pounds.

“We’ve had (the trailer) now for about two weeks. The funds were raised from the two previous Wounded Warrior Hunts,” said the ODR manager. “It took two years to get the money raised for this, but people were very generous to donate. When we let the public know about it and what we were trying to accomplish, people were really helpful and we had really big sponsors.”

In previous years, the Wounded Warrior Hunt has raised tens of thousands of dollars to support wounded warriors on Fort Rucker, and that money has gone directly into buying new equipment for those wounded warriors, said Clancy.

“Unlike other programs, people can see directly what the money they donate is going towards – it’s tangible, they can touch it,” he said.

In addition to the trailer, some of the other equipment that ODR has for wounded warriors include two hydraulic elevated tree stands, called Carolina Growlers, that are handicap accessible, as well as a track chair, which is essentially a wheelchair with tracks – much like a bulldozer – instead of wheels, said Clancy.

“[The tree stands] are ground level, so that a gentlemen or lady that is wheelchair bound can go up to it independently,” he said. “They can open the door, go inside and turn a key that will give them control to raise the tree stand up to any elevation they want to go.”

Clancy said that the tree stands are also portable and have the capability to be hooked up to a trailer to be moved to desired locations.

The Growler is a solar-powered

SEE TRAILER, PAGE A7



Mark Yoakum, outdoor recreation facilities manager, drives The Warrior on Lake Tholocco with Tony Vilardo, a wounded warrior.

Thrift shop awards grants to teachers

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The Fort Rucker Thrift Shop serves the Fort Rucker community by providing deals for shoppers and consignments for sellers, but it also gives back by providing grants to help teachers be better educators.

The newly formed Teacher Grant Program awarded nearly \$17,000 in grants during a ceremony at the thrift shop May 13 to 14 teachers of schools on post and in the surrounding communities that serve more than 2,500 students, according to Cris Higginbotham, program coordinator and Fort Rucker Thrift Shop board secretary.

The grants are awarded to help local area educators accomplish their goals in the classroom, she added.

“We are proud that this money will be used in your classroom and will help you accomplish your goal of teaching our students to the highest standards,” Higginbotham said during the ceremony. “This program will not only influence your classroom and your students, but also has the potential to influence every teacher around you and, as a consequence, all the students in the school.”

Teachers submitted applications for the program and were scored based on a rigorous rubric, and the amount awarded to each teacher was based on the project they asked to be funded, Higginbotham said.

The teachers who were recognized and the amounts awarded follow.

- **Terri Tullis, Coppinville Junior High School**
Tullis was awarded \$275 for her math program. She said she loves teaching because every day she has the opportunity to have a positive effect on 140 lives.
- **Lauren Lott, Dauphin Junior High School**
Awarded \$600 for her math program. Lott loves teaching because she said she has the best students in the world and loves to see them grow in their learning.
- **Jennifer Supri from D.A. Smith Middle School**
Supri was awarded \$2,500 to help start her Chromebook Classroom. She said she loves teaching because it is the only career in which people can inspire the future of every career. She likes to think that the next president who will govern this country, famous surgeon who may save her life and mechanic who will repair her car are all sitting in her room.
- **Patrick Cain, Enterprise City Schools**
Cain was awarded \$3,650 for the junior high schools’ Science, Technology, Engineering and Math project, and has been in education for over a decade as a mathematics teacher, assistant principal and principal.
- **Leslie Royer, Carroll High School**
Awarded \$2,000 for her community food garden.

SEE GRANTS, PAGE A7



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

John Clancy, ODR manager, provides a tour of the all-new wounded warrior trailer.



The interior of the all-new wounded warrior trailer is outfitted with amenities, including air conditioning, room to comfortably sleep six people, hydraulic wheel chair lift, full kitchen, wheelchair-accessible bathroom and more.

PERSPECTIVE

TRADOC CG Memorial Day message

By Gen. David G. Perkins
*Training and Doctrine Command
Commanding General*

Memorial Day commemorates those who have died serving our great nation. As we pay tribute to those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice, we also honor those who place their lives in danger every day so that we may enjoy the freedoms that come from a democratic nation.

Memorial Day also marks the traditional beginning of the summer season. Summer is accompanied by increased risks as we travel, celebrate any number of occasions,

and participate in outdoor recreational and water activities. Fatal accidents and serious injuries are often the result of poor judgment, complacency and indiscipline – a moment’s pause to consider the hazards can go a long way toward preventing the next accident.

Each of us has a critical role in accident prevention. Before the holiday, I ask that:

- All leaders ensure every Soldier and civilian receives a safety briefing. Reemphasize the use of risk



GEN. DAVID G. PERKINS

management in off-duty activities. Stress the dangers of speeding, fatigue, distracted driving, and driving under the influence. Raise awareness of hazards associated with recreational activities, and promote safe and responsible conduct.

- Everyone review summer safety topics that are relevant to you and your family. A variety of topics

can be found at <https://Isafety.army.mil/MEDINSeasonaISafetyCampaigns/SpringSummer2015.aspx>.

Engage and remain personally involved – this is our key to success. Take care of yourself and those you care about. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday. Thank you for your service, and all you do for our Army and our nation.

Safety Starts Here! Victory Starts Here!

DAVID G. PERKINS
General, U.S. Army
Commanding

IMCOM CG issues Memorial Day message

By Lt. Gen. David D. Halverson
*Installation Management
Command
Command General
and Command Sgt. Maj.
Jeffrey S. Hartless*
*IMCOM Command Sergeant
Major*

Every day Candy Martin, a Gold Star Mother, honors her son Lt. Thomas Martin who was killed in action as a result of small-arms fire in Iraq. A retired Army officer herself, Candy knows the ultimate sacrifice her son made for our nation. She remembers his patriotism, his courage and his service. She wears the Gold Star lapel button as a symbol of honor to memorialize his life and legacy.

While survivors like Candy daily remember the loss of loved ones,



LT. GEN. DAVID D. HALVERSON



COMMAND SGT. MAJ. JEFFREY S. HARTLESS

the American public annually sets aside time to honor fallen service members. On May 25, the Army will join the nation in observing Memorial Day. This national observance is a designated day of remembrance for military personnel who died while serving their country. It is much more than just a holiday marking the beginning of

summer. It is a time to remember those who died in military service.

Memorial Day differs from Veterans Day even though both federal holidays are intended to recognize military members. Veterans Day is a national observance that acknowledges living military veterans for their service. We can recognize our veterans every day.

We can always thank them for their service.

We cannot personally thank our fallen service members. However, on Memorial Day, we can honor, recognize and remember those brave lives. Common traditions of this observance include visiting memorials, placing American flags at grave sites and pausing for a moment of silence. These are small acts of respect for our military fallen.

We also cannot forget their surviving family members. While we can set aside time on Memorial Day to honor the fallen, survivors like Candy carry the grief and pain

of losing a loved one every day. These survivors deserve our respect, gratitude and support. Many survivors wear the Gold Star or Next of Kin lapel buttons. When you see someone wearing either button, remember that he or she lost a loved one who selflessly served our nation.

The Army remains committed to honoring our fallen Soldiers. As a military community, we owe it to those who have sacrificed all to keep Memorial Day reverent. We will remember our fallen service members and their families – their courage, their legacy and their service.

DAVID D. HALVERSON
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding

JEFFREY S. HARTLESS
Command Sergeant Major, USA

Rotor Wash

“Memorial Day is Monday. Why do you feel it is important to honor those who died serving our country’s armed forces?”



Alicia Sullivan,
military family member

“We have to remember what they’ve done for us to be thankful for what we have.”



Katie Pettengill,
military family member

“Without the sacrifices that those who came before us made, we wouldn’t enjoy the freedoms we have today.”



Alison Fales,
civilian

“It’s important to understand where it is our country came from and the struggles that some had to endure to get here.”



Gregory Simmons,
veteran

“We can’t forget the past and what those who have come before us have done.”



Jason Gordon,
civilian

“They made those sacrifices because they believed in what this nation could become, and it’s important to honor that.”

COMMAND

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

Col. Stuart J. McRae
FORT RUCKER GARRISON COMMANDER

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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.

Spouse club awards \$24.3K in scholarships

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

As the cost of education increases year after year, one Fort Rucker organization is doing what it can to help turn higher education into a blessing instead of a financial burden.

The Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club held its 2015 Scholarship Awards Ceremony Monday to award \$24,300 in scholarships to 22 military family members and civilians in the surrounding communities.

Col. Stuart J. McRae, Fort Rucker garrison commander, attended the ceremony to congratulate the winners on their accomplishment.

“This is a big deal,” he said. “Having three kids in college and having priced the cost of college, I know that it’s not cheap.

“People can pay beyond \$100,000 for an education and can even go up to \$200,000, so these scholarships can make a huge difference – maybe the difference between a student being able to go to school or not,” he continued. “This is a significant opportunity for those who have won.”

Kacie Fountain, former scholarship recipient and daughter of



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Recipients pose with their awarded scholarships after the 2015 Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club Scholarship Awards Ceremony at Divots Monday.

Maj. Gen. Michael D. Lundy, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, served as the guest speaker. She encouraged students not to give up on their pursuits and offered words of encouragement.

“You’re all starting a great point in your lives, regardless of where you’re at,” she said. “There are so many opportunities ahead of you and I really encourage you to take advantage of all of them, whether that means studying abroad, applying for an exciting internship or figuring out how to parlay your new education at a

new duty station.

“There is a room full of people here who are excited for you and that want to support you,” she said, “so when you’re in the library or sitting at your desk at 3 a.m. thinking ‘this was a bad idea.’ That’s OK. We’re here. We’re supporting you. We’re excited for you and we are so incredibly proud of you.”

The scholarship program is a decades-long tradition, and in the past 10 years alone, the FRCSC has awarded approximately \$220,000 in scholarships to deserving students in the Wiregrass community, according to Darcy

Lynch, FRCSC president.

She added that the annual FRCSC Hollyday Bazaar is one of the largest contributors to the scholarship program, allowing the organization to donate \$17,500 into the program.

“The bazaar is a significant contributor to the scholarship program, and every year it’s been a huge success ... growing every year,” said McRae. “I’ve watched it over the last four years and have seen it explode. They use this money to pay for these scholarships and then they’re joined by a lot of contributors.”

Those contributors include

companies such as Raytheon, Sikorsky, S3, Edward Jones, Enterprise Dental Associates, Boeing and First Command Educational Foundation, of which without their assistance, “these scholarships would not be possible,” said the garrison commander.

Of the 22 scholarships awarded, there were twice as many who applied – 44 applicants. The process for selection was very competitive and consisted of evaluations of each applicant’s academics, community service, work experience, activities and letters of recommendation, said Lynch. Students also had to submit essays, which were reviewed by an anonymous panel of judges.

“These students are the best of the best,” said the FRCSC president. “They have the top GPAs, bullet point after bullet point of extracurricular activities and glowing recommendations. They also provided thoughtful answers to our essay questions.

“But these students are so much more than what they put down on their applications,” she continued. “They’re active members of other schools, churches and communities. They are praised and admired by their peers, and some of them even have a job or two.”

President nominates Forces Command chief to lead Army

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Gen. Mark Milley, commander of U.S. Army Forces Command, has been nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as the new chief of staff of the Army.

The announcement came during a press briefing at the Pentagon by Defense Secretary Ash Carter May 13. If later confirmed to the position by the U.S. Senate, Milley will serve as the 39th chief of staff of the Army.

“Gen. Mark Milley [is a] warrior and a statesman,” Carter said. “He not only has plenty of operational and joint experience – in Afghanistan, in Iraq and on the Joint Staff – but he also has the intellect and vision to lead change throughout the Army.

“When he was in Afghanistan as commanding general of International Security Assistance Force - Joint Command, I had a lot of opportunities to observe Mark on the ground – leading our coalition of allies and partners, and helping the Afghan people prepare to take responsibility for their own security,” Carter said. “Mark and I flew to Herat the day after an attack on the U.S. Consulate there, and I saw Mark take command of the scene and stand with our people there. I was impressed by his candor and good judgment, and I knew right away that he had even more to offer to the United States Army.”

Milley currently serves as the 21st commander of United States Army Forces Command, a position he assumed in August 2014. In that role, he is responsible for preparing conventional forces to provide

a sustained flow of trained and ready land power to combatant commanders.

“Our No. 1 task is readiness,” Milley said of FORSCOM. “Readiness – the ability to conduct a range of military operations, from humanitarian assistance to combat operations – is FORSCOM’s top priority.”

Milley said the Army has really only two tasks: fight a war or prepare to fight a war.

“Absent the actual act of fighting, then our fundamental task is to prepare for the act of fighting,” he said. “It means training. It means manning. It means equipping. It means leading.”

If confirmed as chief of staff, Milley will continue to be responsible for training, equipping and sustaining the U.S. Army, something Army Secretary John M. McHugh said the general is well-suited to do.

“I’ve known Gen. Mark Milley since his earliest days commanding at the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York,” McHugh said. “I’ve watched him lead Soldiers overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as at home in Fort Hood, Texas, and most recently, as the commander, U.S. Army Forces Command. At all times, he has led with distinction in both war and peace.

“I not only congratulate him on his nomination, as recommended by Secretary Carter, but also thank the president for selecting this remarkable leader. Should the Senate confirm him, I am confident that General Milley will be an exceptional chief of staff and member of the Joint Chiefs,” he added. “I also want to thank General Odierno for his many years of service, particularly his support and partnership as the CSA over



PHOTO BY DANIEL CERNERO

Then-Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, III Corps and Fort Hood commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Schroeder, III Corps and Fort Hood command sergeant major, furl the III Corps flag during a colors-casing ceremony outside III Corps Headquarters on Fort Hood, Texas, April 4, 2013.

the last four years.”

The current chief of staff of the Army, Gen. Ray Odierno, assumed the role in September 2011. He is expected to retire in August. Odierno said he is confident in the president’s choice for his successor.

“The president has chosen a phenomenal leader in Gen. Mark Milley as the 39th chief of staff of the Army,” Odierno said. “General Milley is an experienced, combat-tested and caring leader. I have known General Milley for many years, have served with him in Iraq and watched him in Afghanistan. I am confident that he is the right leader to lead our Army into the future.”

Milley’s education includes a bachelor’s degree in political science from Princeton University, master’s degrees from Colum-

bia University (international relations), and from the U.S. Naval War College (national security and strategic studies). He is also a graduate of the MIT Seminar XXI National Security Studies Program.

Milley has commanded the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry in Korea; the 2d Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, on Fort Drum, New York, where he later became the division commander; and III Corps on Fort Hood, Texas.

The general has additionally served on the joint staff as a military assistant to the defense secretary. While serving as commanding general of III Corps, he deployed to Afghanistan as the commanding general, International Security Assistance Force Joint Command, and deputy commanding general, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan.

News Briefs

Memorial Day ceremony

Fort Rucker will host its Memorial Day ceremony today at 3:30 p.m. at Veterans Park in front of the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held inside the museum.

Museum birthday

Tuesday will mark the 25-year anniversary of the opening of the U.S. Army Aviation Museum and the Army Aviation Museum Foundation, Inc., will host an informal day-long birthday celebration. Foundation members and museum staff welcome everyone to stop by and help celebrate the occasion with light refreshments and cake while they last.

Changes of command, responsibility

- The 1st Aviation Brigade will host a change of responsibility ceremony Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. at Howze Field.
- B Company, 1-145th Avn. Regt. will host a change of command ceremony May 29 at 10 a.m. at Pratt Hall, Bldg. 4901. Capt. Eric Lizama will assume command from Maj. Morgan Laird.
- The 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment will host a change of command and change of responsibility ceremony June 5 at 8:30 a.m. at Howze Field.

AER closing ceremony

The Fort Rucker Army Emergency Relief fundraising campaign closing ceremony is scheduled for June 8 from 2-3 p.m. at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. For more information, call 255-2341.

Vacation Bible School

The Fort Rucker Religious Support Office will host Vacation Bible School for children in kindergarten – accompanied by a parent or guardian – through sixth grade June 8-12 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Main Post Chapel Complex, Bldg. 8939 and 8940. The theme is “Homethown

Nazareth, Where Jesus Was a Kid.” The event features Bible lessons, crafts, music, recreation, snacks, and more. Also, volunteers are needed to help with the program.

To register, volunteer or get more information, visit Nancy Jankoski at the Religious Education Center in Bldg. 8939, or call 255-3946 or 255-2989; or visit Chaplain (Maj.) James Breckenridge, in the Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 8940, or call 255-3050 or 255-3140.

Siren test

The Installation Operations Center conducts a test of the emergency mass notification system the first Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. At that time people will hear the siren over the giant voice. No actions are required.

Retiree council meetings

The Fort Rucker Installation Retiree Council meets the first Thursday of each month in The Landing at 11:30 a.m. The meeting is an open forum and all retirees are invited to attend. Retirees are also encouraged to apply for one of the open positions on the council.

For more information, call 255-9124.

Housing survey

Army Installation Management Command and Corvias Military Living encourage on-post housing residents to complete the 2015 Headquarters Department of the Army Residential Communities Initiative Resident Survey. The survey gives on-post residents an opportunity to provide feedback to the Army, RCI and Corvias Military Living on how their housing needs are being met. An electronic survey has been emailed to all residents. Residents who do not receive a survey or who have questions should email ARMYHousingsurvey@celassociates.com. Residents must fill out and submit the online survey by June 7.

The survey will ask questions on topics such as residents’ evaluation of their present home, community amenities, resident activities, the community maintenance team, property management team and others. The feed-

back provides the Army and Corvias with information to help evaluate the current state of the partnership, and guide future improvements to housing facilities and residential services.

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.

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.

Test helps ensure Army compatibility

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army continues to use the Tailored Adaptive Personality Assessment System – a test first implemented in 2009 to measure attitudes and behaviors of civilians while also helping to determine whether they are a good fit for life in the Army.

Now, a version of that test is being evaluated for use to determine if current Soldiers will be a good fit for certain special-duty assignments, and there is a possibility it could someday be used for talent-management Armywide, said Dr. Heather Wolters, a senior research psychologist at the Personnel Assessment Research Unit, U.S. Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences, Army G-1 on Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Wolters spoke about these developments at the Pentagon during the Department of Defense Lab Day there May 14.

TAPAS “unlocks motivational aspects of Soldiers’ performance, like whether or not they’re a good fit for Army life, if they are an attrition risk, if they have leadership potential, resilience, team orientation, ingenuity, selflessness, commitment to serve and even how well they’re likely to perform on an Army physical fitness test,” she said. “When you think about physical fitness, it’s not just about what your body can do, it’s what you are willing to do.”

Since 2009, TAPAS has augmented the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, given at military entrance processing stations throughout the United States for initial entry recruits. The Army, Air Force and Navy have conducted validation research on TAPAS, and the Marine Corps plans to start validation soon, Wolters said.

While the ASVAB has been a good measure of cognitive ability and trainability since the early 1970s when its use became widespread, TAPAS can predict other important elements of Soldier performance, she said.

The unique thing about this personality test and the reason it is such a good predictor of success is because of the way it is designed. It is “fake resistant. It’s good for high-stakes testing in that when Soldiers are trying to present themselves in a certain way, this test is resistant to that,” she said.

“You can get a better representation of a person’s personality as opposed to just what they want to show you about themselves,” she said. In other words, “you can get a more valid predictor of their actual performance because of the way the test is designed.”

Wolters then explained the design.

TAPAS is a forced-choice type test, she said. So a person being tested sees two statement choices and they are asked which statement is most like them. Those statements are “matched in terms of their intensity and social desirability, so it’s difficult to tell which answer is more likely to make the applicant a better candidate.”

So, maybe you see that both statements seem most like you or neither are like you, but you have to choose one of them, she said, meaning it is not obvious which one response indicates you better suited for Army life. The test itself continuously adapts based on the response to previous questions. In other words, the answer given to one question influences what the next question will be throughout the 120 statements. At the end of the test, it will have captured “a wealth of information about your personality on 15 or so dimensions.”

The test is based on six years of validation research and 15 years’ worth of personality research, she said.

For folks who score in the lowest category on the Armed Forces Qualification Test, a component of the ASVAB, they are required to take the TAPAS, and if they score below the 10th percentile on TAPAS, they are not allowed to enlist, she said. Similarly, those who are not high school diploma graduates or equivalent must score above the 30th percentile on TAPAS or they are not allowed to enlist.

But regardless, everyone who comes through the MEPS takes TAPAS, “so we’ve got a bank of information on each Soldier,” Wolters said. “And, we follow them through their careers and measure their test scores against other outcomes of interest, for example, attrition, disciplinary problems, how well their score on the APFT and their own self-reported adjustment, in addition to their supervisors’ ratings of their performance.

Human Resources Command provides the Army with some of the records from its vast database collection. The Army also collaborates with the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, she said.

Examining the relationship between TAPAS scores and valued Army outcomes, could enable the Army to get a much clearer picture of where it is placing Soldiers and how well they are doing where they are placed.

Also, over time, the test is under continual refinement. The core attributes being measured remain the same so that consistent data comparisons can be made over time. The refinements might be using the test data to look for certain new personality aspects the Army is interested in studying. And it is being used to predict additional outcomes.

“We’re also beginning the research on how TAPAS can be used to inform the applicant when making assignment decisions,” Wolters said.

“When we talk to small-unit leaders and tell them what this test can predict, they start talking about Soldiers in their formation, who just didn’t have the right stuff to be good Soldiers,” she said. “Those problem Soldiers take up 80 percent of their time and we tell them that a test like this, although it’s not a perfect prediction, it can predict some of those things that flag a person, who might become a problem Soldier, before they ever enter the Army.”

Wolters said her colleagues are doing research with recruiters and drill sergeants, by having them take a version of the TAPAS, and then following them for a period of time to see how well it predicts outcomes for those special assignments.

“One of the best predictors of job performance is past performance in similar jobs,” she said. “But in some of these special-duty assignments, you don’t know if someone is going to be good at this job just because he or she has been good at other Army jobs in the past.”

Private industry has taken notice of TAPAS and is using the same methodology and technology to build their own customized personality testing, she said.



PHOTO BY DAVID VERGUN

Dr. Heather Wolters, a senior research psychologist at the Personnel Assessment Research Unit, U.S. Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences, Army G-1 on Fort Belvoir, Va., spoke at the Pentagon during Lab Day May 14.

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to honor the lives of those we'll never forget.



Broadening assignments build leadership

By David Reuderman
*Human Resources Command
Public Affairs Office*

FORT KNOX, Ky. — While enlisted Soldiers and NCOs may have heard talk that diverse broadening assignments are in their Army futures, many do not know where to go for information and guidance on making them part of their career planning.

While such documents as Army Regulation-621-7 and AR-621-1 lay out guidelines for specific educational opportunities, there is no overarching policy or regulation equivalent to Department of the Army Pamphlet 600-3, published in late 2014.

However, broadening for enlisted Soldiers, a parallel concept, is “the purposeful expansion of an NCO’s core military occupational specialty proficiency and leadership provided through diverse developmental positions, opportunities and assignments both within and outside their career management field,” said Aubrey Butts, director of Training and Doctrine Command’s Institute for NCO Professional Development.

“Broadened NCOs are better able to operate in a complex environment. We have learned much after our longest ground conflict. Looking to the future our leaders understand we must expand our learning options and embrace diverse-learning domains: institutional, self-developmental and operational. We as an Army must shore up our education system and provide meaningful opportunities for lifelong learning to win in a complex environment,” he said.

Soldier self development and primary military education remain pillars of enlisted and NCO development, said Sgt. Maj. Michael Barbieri, a branch sergeant major with U.S. Army Human Resources Command’s Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate. But broadening assignments that take Soldiers out of their MOS or provide a new perspective on it have become key to growing the right kind of Soldiers for Army 2025 and beyond.

The aim, as articulated by Maj. Gen. Richard P. Mustion, commanding general of HRC, is “creating flexible, agile and adaptive leaders through education, experience and training.”

“It’s about getting people to do something a little bit different,” Barbieri said.



ARMY PHOTO

Sgt. Maj. Michael Barbieri, branch sergeant major with U.S. Army Human Resources Command’s Enlisted Personnel Management Directorate, briefs Soldiers on broadening and career planning during outreach at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., last year.

“Downsizing drives a lot of that – it just comes with the territory. As the end strength number comes down, they’re going to expect more out of you. Everybody – officer and enlisted.”

To make broadening possible, there are nearly 12,000 nominative positions open to enlisted Soldiers as they progress through the ranks, said HRC’s Command Sgt. Maj. Charles E. Smith. In addition to classic diversity assignments such as recruiter (5,000 plus), drill sergeant (2,000 plus) and advanced individual training platoon sergeant (about 700), there are a wealth of opportunities both inside and outside a Soldier’s MOS or career management field, and outside the Army itself, he said.

Barbieri said enlisted career paths differ from those of officers, “because theirs are a little more open. It’s not quite as structured as the officer career path.”

Opportunities range from assignments with the Defense Information System Agency to the Asymmetric Warfare Group to the White House Communications Agency, and include a number of staff assignments both within and outside the Army proper. Others involve meeting other Army requirements to fill equal opportunity and inspector general billets.

“There are opportunities. Obviously, not everybody gets a chance at all of them,” Barbieri said. “And it has to bring a benefit to the Army, otherwise it’s just a cool assignment. There has to be a tangible benefit to the Department of Defense.”

Barbieri said broadening assignments contribute to growing a Soldier’s operational and strategic experience and skills. At the same time they meet the current needs of the force while building the bench of leaders at all ranks envisioned by today’s leadership for Army 2025 and beyond. “They have to be able to adapt, to operate in an environment outside of what they are used to. You have to get away from simple and move into complex thinking. If all they know is the tactical side of things, they’re going to fail when they get put in those strategic positions,” he said.

“There’s nothing wrong with loving what you do and wanting to do that, but you’ve got to be able to see the bigger picture. As the Army transitions, they’re going to be looking for somebody who is a little more diversified. They don’t want a one-trick pony, they want somebody with a deeper experience base,” Barbieri said.

Still, convincing Soldiers of the benefits of broadening assignments to their individual careers, sometimes has its challenges, he said.

“It’s varied everywhere I go. It seems like there are 10 percent that are all in, 10 percent who are, ‘no, don’t do that,’ and then everybody else is in the middle, waiting to see how things fall. For someone that’s outside an MOS, that’s not so technical, it’s a little more challenging.

“But the kicker is, if we’re going to make it a priority, make it important through policy or regulation, we have to ensure all senior leadership is on the same sheet of music,” Barbieri said.

Promotion boards have to show by their actions broadening has a real value to Soldiers, he said.

“Whoever’s going to be sitting on the centralized promotion boards is going to have to be able to open their minds,” he added. “Right now we’re seeing a lot of people volunteering, but if they don’t see any return on the investment they are making – it’s a leap of faith. Especially with downsizing, if they think they’re going to fall behind their peers, that’s a big step for Soldiers to take.”

On the other hand, Barbieri said he also needs to educate Soldiers to manage their expectations.

“Broadening doesn’t equal promotion. To do well you have to push yourself, and that’s part of the whole concept: getting outside your comfort zone and pushing yourself to expand, to add to your skill set. There are opportunities, but it is what you make of it, like any job in the Army. Performance is everything,” he said.

“It’s a process of self-selection – determined or defined by matters of performance and the potential for leadership each Soldier displays,” Mustion said. “The way for every officer, warrant or enlisted Soldier is different. There is no model path or program that fits all.”

As boards recognize Soldiers, who take on more challenging assignments, the value of broadening will become more evident to all enlisted Soldiers and NCOs, Barbieri said.

“I interact with my peers and we have this talk all the time. I’m looking for the right person, at the right time, in the right place. That is the challenge. What can you do that’s going to make you more competitive,” he asked.

Engineers develop ballistic wallpaper to reinforce temporary shelters

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Troops often use abandoned masonry, brick or cinderblock structures for defensive purposes instead of building their own or digging foxholes.

While these structures offer a degree of protection, they are blast impact from missile or other large projectiles, said Nick Boone, a research mechanical engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Boone spoke during Department of Defense Lab Day, at the Pentagon May 14 where a large number of Army laboratory exhibits were on display.

Engineers at ERDC came up with a novel idea of fortifying these structures with rolls of lightweight ballistic wallpaper with adhesive backing that can quickly be put up on the inside of the walls, he said.

The wallpaper consists of Kevlar fiber threads embedded in flexible polymer film, he said.

Without the wallpaper, a wall that is hit will “rubblize,” he said, sending shards of rock and mortar flying at the occupants inside.

When the blast occurs with the wallpaper installed, it acts as a “catcher’s net,” containing the rubble and preventing debris from injuring Soldiers.

Engineers built unreinforced structures and actually bombed and blasted them, Boone said, showing a video of the experiments. Small blast testing was done at nearby Fort Polk,

Louisiana, and large-blast testing was conducted at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

Ballistic wallpaper is still in the research and development stage and does not yet have an official name, but it could one day be produced and fielded and hopefully save lives, Boone said.

Other protection

Improved protection mortar pits and guard towers, designed by engineers at ERDC and royal engineers from the United Kingdom, have recently been shipped to Afghanistan, Boone said.

ERDC engineers developed the Modular Protective System. These are inexpensive, lightweight, easily-assembled and disassembled panels attached by cross-braces, which offer “a lot of protection,” he said. The panels were developed by ERDC and the cross-braces were developed with collaboration from the royal engineers.

“We got the idea from picnic chairs that fold up neatly,” he said.

The structures are pretty basic, he said. The braces are made of lightweight galvanized steel tubing and the panels are made of multi-layered fiberglass.

Boone showed models of the fortification as well as full-sized versions. They resembled scaffolding. The steel tubing is cross-braced at angles that afford the greatest strength, he said. It is strong enough to protect against military-grade rounds.

Besides being inexpensive, strong and lightweight, the MPS can be quickly assembled with by just a few Soldiers without any specialized tools or

equipment, he said.

Another positive is that the entire MPS structure fits inside a small container that can be sling-loaded under a CH-47 Chinook helicopter for rapid delivery, he said. The beauty of it is that the shipping container itself then becomes the ammunition storage for the mortar pit structure. For the guard tower, the shipping container becomes a platform to support it.

Once the mission ends, everything gets packed back into the shipping container. Nothing gets wasted or left behind, he said.

The mortar pit MPS kits are being used by Soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan, he said. The guard towers are being used by the royal engineers there, as well. A small, expeditionary guard tower for the U.S. Army has not yet been deployed.

MPS is standing by for licensing and for a possible transition to a program of record, he said.

Contaminants protection

While protection from blast is fairly evident, protection from the unseen can be just as deadly.

Dr. Brandon Lafferty, a research soil scientist with ERDC, said that while operating in enemy territory, Soldiers sometimes come across existing infrastructure that poses threats that cannot be seen.

“Sometimes, those buildings were abandoned for a reason,” Lafferty said. “They may have been a chemical processing site, a waste dump – we just don’t know. There are currently no portable tools to rapidly determine possible hazards.”

Soldiers on the move

often do not have time to wait for heavy test equipment to be trucked in and tested by specialists, he continued.

ERDC engineers developed the Environmental Toolkit for Expeditionary Operations to address this problem, he said.

An engineer, who is not a specialist, can toss all the instruments he needs in his rucksack and determine if contaminants are present and what their levels of concentration are, he said, so that a commander can make an informed decision whether or not to occupy the structures or area.

The three pieces of gear used for testing include the Hand-held Fluorescent Spectrometer, which measures heavy metals in soil and water; the Petroleum Environmental Test Kit, which identifies and measures petroleum content in soil and water; and the Water Dog, which tests water properties for hardness, acidity, conductivity and turbidity to determine if the water is contaminated, good for drinking or maybe just clean enough for washing clothing.

When Soldiers decamp, the area is tested once more because of environmental reporting that requires an area to be left uncontaminated, he said.

Soldiers are being trained to use the test equipment at the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence on Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Test equipment is now being field tested in Kuwait and Iraq, he said.

Video teleconference in a suitcase

When Soldiers need to set up an outpost or bivouac in an unfamiliar area, there might be hazards nearby

like landslides or flooding that they’re not aware of. To determine if the location is safe, Soldiers can contact the experts at ERDC who have all of that information readily available, said Vernon Lowery, general engineer, ERDC.

To make contact in remote areas possible, ERDC has supplied the entire Army with Telecommunications Equipment Deployable. This video teleconferencing capability comes in a small suitcase that is easily carried by one person, he said. The communications equipment links to Vicksburg via satellite.

Soldiers in remote areas might also want to communicate with people other than at ERDC for various reasons. Lowery said ERDC can relay them to Video Teleconferences elsewhere around the world.

For example, when Soldiers deployed to Haiti to assist with earthquake humanitarian assistance relief in 2010, they used TCED to establish command and control. Lowery said Soldiers told him it was their “lifeline,” and without it, they could not have accomplished their mission.

Laser protection

Laser guns may sound like the stuff of science fiction, but engineers at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command - Technical Center at Redstone Arsenal have successfully developed and tested just such a system, known as High Energy Laser Mobile Demonstrator.

Dee Formby, an engineer involved in its development, said that a 10-kilowatt laser, mounted

on a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck A4 platform, successfully took out 60mm mortars and unmanned aircraft systems at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, last year.

Once the laser locks on, it essentially fries its target, Formby said. It is a cost-effective way to destroy cruise missiles, UAS, mortars, rockets and artillery.

In good weather, the laser achieves a high success rate, he said. Right now, the system does not perform as well in degraded weather and atmospheric conditions. Distance-to-target remains classified.

In 2017, a 50-kW version will be tested, followed by a 100-kW demonstration in 2020. Higher power means quicker kill-time of the projectile, he said, because more power is on the target.

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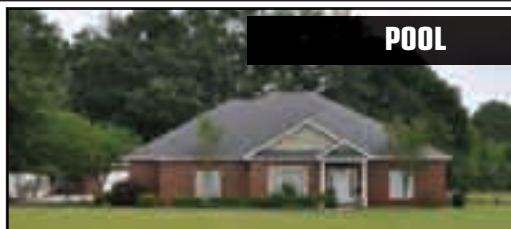
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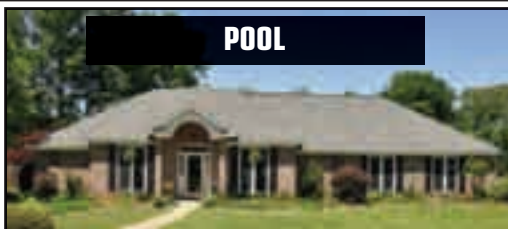
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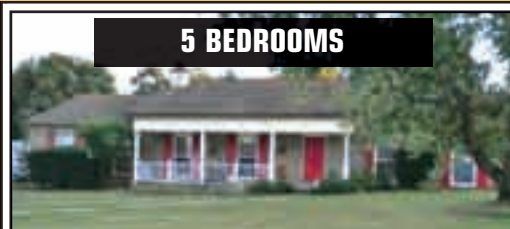
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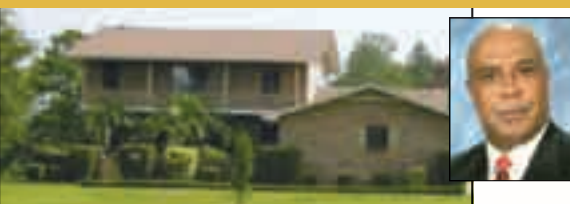
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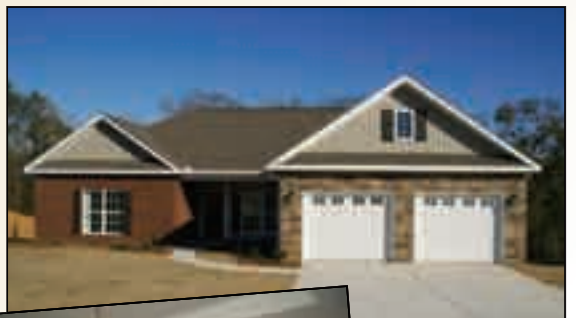
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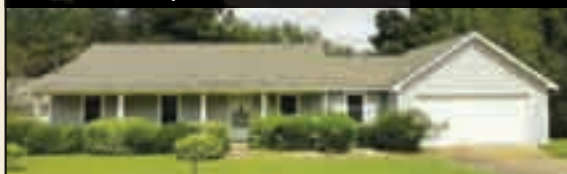
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15 WOODLAND COURT, DALEVILLE ~ MLS# 20150518: Situated on a corner lot, this property features not only a 2-car carport with attached laundry/storage room, but it also has 2 out buildings. Inside has had some updating to include kitchen countertops, some appliances, architectural shingle roof & 3 living areas: formal living/dining combination, den/kitchen combination & another den added on the back of the house with 2 covered patios off the 2 doors. Flowering shrubs accent the backyard along with small vinyl picket fence.

\$155,760 • REDUCED!!!



105 SKYLARK ~ MLS# 20141418: This is a custom built, 1 owner home with no wasted space. Open concept grandroom with gas log fireplace, dining area & sun room. Kitchen has new cabinets with pull-out drawers in the one floor to ceiling unit next to cooktop, granite countertops & tile backsplash, all new appliances. Pass through opening from kitchen to sunroom. Jack & Jill bath separates the 2BRs on the one side of the house with separate vanity areas for both bedrooms. Full wall built-in unit at front door for storage.

\$146,000 • REDUCED!!!



7 BRECKENRIDGE ~ MLS# 20150229: 2BR/2BA. Den has large closet that has been converted to an office or could be used for 3rd bedroom. End unit with seamless gutters, large composite deck with handicap ramp, driveway with second parking pad, tile backsplash in kitchen with under cabinets lighting & decorative space above the cabinets. Association fees are presently \$50 monthly which covers grass, lights in the common area, water for sprinkler system.

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1931 REDHAWK ~ MLS# 20141876: STOP! This is the home you have been waiting for, nestled among the trees & only a couple of blocks to the Johnny Henderson Park with walking trails & playground. 3BR split floor plan that the owner has just installed all new floor covering, stainless steel appliances in the kitchen, metal roof & vinyl siding. Immaculate condition, priced to sell. Call today to set up your appointment for your personal showing.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JOEL SALGADO

Soldiers from the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), pay honors to the nation during the national anthem at the Thunder Brigade's inactivation ceremony at the division parade field on Fort Campbell, Ky., May 7.

159th CAB cases colors

By 101st Airborne Division
Public Affairs

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — Soldiers, families and friends of the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), gathered at the division parade field May 7 to conduct the final official ceremony in the

brigade's history. After 18 years of service, the 159th CAB colors were cased at the ceremony by Col. Jimmy Blackmon, the final brigade commander of the 159th CAB "Thunder Brigade," and retired Col. Bob Freeman, the honorary colonel of the brigade, signifying a conclusion to the legacy of this historic

Aviation unit. With several subordinate units that trace their lineage back to Vietnam, the 159th CAB has provided Aviation support to the 101st Abn. Div. in Vietnam, the Gulf War, Bosnia, Kosovo, Trinidad and Tobago, and Central America. More recently, the 159th CAB played an active role in both Operation Iraqi

Freedom in 2003 and 2005, and Operation Enduring Freedom in 2002, 2008, 2011 and 2014. The brigade had aircraft and crews participate in Operation Anaconda in March 2002, where it provided lift and assault capabilities during the early stages of OEF. In 2003, the 159th also conducted the largest Air Assault

operation in history by carrying fellow Screaming Eagles into northern Iraq in the seizure of Mosul, where the division would later make its primary base of operations. Most recently, the brigade returned from deployment in

SEE 159TH, PAGE B4

1st AD CAB casts 'Heavy Shadow' over Fort Bliss

By Sgt. Alexander Neely
1st Armored Division
Combat Aviation Brigade

FORT BLISS, Texas — The 1st Armored Division Combat Aviation Brigade's 3rd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment became the first Army Aviation unit to perform a manned-unmanned teaming tactical exercise using its own Shadow (Version 2) drones during exercise Operation Heavy Shadow April 21-23 in the desert of Fort Bliss.

The training, which was the first to actually pair the AH-64 Apache attack helicopters of 3rd Squadron "Heavy Cav" with its newly acquired RQ-7B unmanned aircraft systems, focused on identifying high-value targets through Shadow reconnaissance then eliminating the threat as Apaches raided a training village.

"The Heavy Shadow training is the first time we are collectively training with our Version 2 Shadow," said Lt. Col. R.J. Garcia, Heavy Cav commander. "When the exercise is complete, what we want to be able to do is to seamlessly integrate both Shadows and Apaches so that we take full advantage of the capabilities provided by both."

Operation Heavy Shadow is part of a six-month long training regimen designed to familiarize the squadron's Soldiers with the new technology.

Heavy Cav received the drones in January, making it the Army's first attack reconnaissance battalion to fulfill the Aviation Restructuring Initiative's greater emphasis on MUM-T as the Army phases out its longtime scout aircraft, the OH-58 Kiowa.

"The exercise requires a team effort to accomplish a mission or destroy a target," said Staff Sgt. Timothy Fry, mission operator for the training exercise. "The Shadows are the eyes that will tell the Apache where and when the enemy is present."

The new technology has given Soldiers a greater advantage with close air support, climate data gathering and surveillance, said Fry.

"The new computer program (used by the Version 2 Shadow) is far easier for Soldiers to learn and work with during combined-asset training and a real-life mission," said Spc. Michael Grant, a standardization operator for 3rd Sqdn., 6th CAV "It has provided us with a realistic version for how deployment will

SEE 1ST AD, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY SGT. JOSE D. RAMIREZ

An RQ-7B Version 2 Shadow unmanned aircraft system operated by Soldiers of 3rd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division prepares to land during field training at McGregor Range, N.M., April 27.



PHOTO BY SGT. WILLIAM A. TANNER

An AH-64 Apache belonging to the 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment "Brawlers," which directly supports 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, is placed on display for spectators in Ploiesti, Romania, during the unit's demonstration of partnership with its NATO allies while participating in the squadron's Cavalry March from Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base to the Cincu Training Center May 13. The event focused on transporting troopers and their equipment to a new Romanian training facility, and also gave the unit a chance to interact with the local populace while improving relations with the host nation in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve-South.

TOUGHEST TALON

2nd CAB Soldiers compete for coveted title

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

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The cold water moved back and forth like the waves in an ocean. One after another, Soldiers jumped in with no hesitation. The water splashed against the side of the pool, spilling over onto the other Soldiers feet.

With one hand, they held the edge and with the other a rubber rifle. They waited as still as a fishing boat in the middle of a pond, and on the word "go" began treading water to keep their team's dream alive.

The Soldiers were from the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade and they treaded water for two minutes as they held onto their rubber rifle as part of the Toughest Talon competition held May 13 at various locations on Camp Humphreys.

Sgt. Hilario Camacho, a small-arms repairer for the 602nd Aviation Support Battalion, 2nd CAB, was part of the team that won the competition.

"The swimming event was very challenging for me in particular," Camacho said. "I put forth my best effort, though, because I did not want to let my team down."

The 602nd ASB's team may not have won the swimming event, but they did win a majority of the other events, including a weapons rodeo, stress shoot, ruck march, CrossFit and warrior tasks.

"We accomplished the mission as a team," Camacho said. "The events re-



PHOTO BY SGT. JESSE SMITH

Soldiers from the 602nd Aviation Support Battalion, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, carry a litter filled with sand bags May 13 at the small-arms range near Camp Humphreys, South Korea.

ally pushed us to our limits."

Pvt. Elizabeth Leist, a petroleum laboratory specialist from the 602nd ASB, was another Soldier from the winning team.

"I only found out one week ago I would be on the team," Leist said. "I jumped at the great opportunity to compete in this competition and it was well worth it."

Leist said she believed their team was well prepared and had a plan going into every event.

"We used amazing teamwork and motivated each other every step of the way," Leist said.

The 602nd ASB team completed a 10k run the weekend before the competition. Team members decided to do

it with their rucksacks to help them get ready.

"When we started the ruck march today, it felt just like it did on Saturday," Camacho said. "It made us better prepared and ready to go when it was time."

Col. Hank Taylor, 2nd CAB commander, was with the Soldiers during the ruck march, as well as all of the other events, to motivate his troops.

"These Soldiers are trained, disciplined and ready to fight tonight," Taylor said. "I want them all to go back to their units and know that they are the Toughest Talons."

These Soldiers may have started the day treading water, but they finished it on top.

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Aviators lend expertise to Bliss air assault school

By Sgt. Alexander Neely
1st Armored Division
Combat Aviation Brigade

FORT BLISS, Texas — From movement tactics and hot- and cold-load training to rappel exercises, the 3rd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division routinely provides its aircrews’ expertise and UH-60 Black Hawks to the Fort Bliss Air Assault Training Program.

The “Apocalypse” Battalion, as 3rd Bn. also is known, coordinated to develop a rigorous and realistic air assault program with the Iron Training Detachment, a newly stood up 1st AD unit of 30 highly trained Soldiers.

“The instructors, the students – we all benefit from the helicopter being present during training,” said Sgt. 1st Class David Potter, an air traffic control operator for the Iron Training Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Bn., 1st AD. “It’s one thing for the Soldiers to hear about the different tactics, it’s another to be able to actually utilize them on the helicopters.”

The course is designed to give troops a basic understanding of air-assault maneuvers, medical-evacuation operations and heavy lifting using helicopters.



PHOTO BY SGT. ALEXANDER K. NEELY
Four students of the Fort Bliss Air Assault Training Program rappel from a UH-60 Black Hawk from the 3rd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division during a rappel training exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas, April 21.

CW4 Brian Ellis, 3rd Bn. Aviation standardization officer, said Apocalypse’s involvement in the training fulfills three of the top five priorities of Maj. Gen. Stephen M. Twitty, 1st AD and Fort Bliss commander. This includes providing tough, realistic training; building up leaders; and strengthening community relations.

“It’s excellent training that further develops the capabilities of the division and our

battalion because it requires a higher level of proficiency and challenges our aircrews,” said Ellis.

“But we are also developing junior leaders, based on what they learn in the course, which is something we haven’t done to this degree before. This is preparing us to better support the use of unconventional forces, should the need arise,” he said.

The 10-day school recently was completed by more than 100 Fort Bliss Soldiers, with the most recent graduation occurring April 22.

Air assault graduates also are certified to inspect sling loads – those heavy loads that are tethered underneath the aircraft for transportation.

“This increases the capability that Fort Bliss and the 1st AD have to train Soldiers and get them ready to execute their missions, whether that’s to deploy or going to (Army) training centers to get additional training,” said Capt. Mark Walden, the officer in charge of the Iron Training Detachment. “This gives us the additional capability to do this here.”

Besides supporting the air-assault school, Ellis said 3rd Bn. likely will provide air support for the Iron Training Detachment’s Desert Warrior training when that desert-survival course kicks off this summer.

159th: Many Soldiers remain with 101st Abn. Div., 101st CAB

Continued from Page B1

September 2014 where it provided general Aviation support to the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan during its pivotal presidential elections in April 2014.

“We often quote our first commanding general, William C. Lee, at the dawn of World War II, for saying that the 101st has no history, but a rendezvous with destiny, but we don’t always pay enough attention to that full order in which he said, ‘the history we shall make, the record of high achieve-

ment we hope to write in the annals of the American Army and the American people, depends wholly and completely on the men of this division,’” said Blackmon. “Having served seven years in this great brigade, I think that I am qualified to say that the Thunder Warriors of the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade have indeed forged a record of high achievement in the annals of the American Army.”

After the 159th CAB inactivated, many 159th CAB Soldiers and units remained with the 101st Abn. Div. and their sister

Aviation brigade, the 101st CAB. Other Soldiers will be redistributed around the Army for future assignments. Regardless of their next assignments, each Soldier of the 159th CAB will take their place in history as part of a unit that has made significant accomplishments to the benefit of the nation, the commander said.

With many members of the communities that surround Fort Campbell in attendance, Blackmon stated his appreciation to the overwhelming support of the neighboring communities.

“Lt. Gen. (David D.) Halverson (Installation Management Command commanding general) recently visited Fort Campbell, and I tried to articulate to him the uniqueness of Fort Campbell and its relationship to Clarksville, Hopkinsville and Oak Grove,” said Blackmon. “We treasure the relationship we have with these great Tennessee and Kentucky communities. I do not have the words to express my genuine gratitude for the friendships my family and I have forged within these communities.”

1st AD: Training to aid in upcoming Persian Gulf security mission

Continued from Page B1

play out for the units and technology.”

The unit will apply its MUM-T training during a security mission in the Persian Gulf later this summer when it replaces the CAB’s 4th Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, which has been operating out of Kuwait since December.

Garcia said that training exercises like Operation

Heavy Shadow, involving dual air assets, will enhance his squadron’s versatility and combat presence.

“The Heavy Shadow training is really the culminating exercise for our upcoming deployment,” said Garcia. “We will be trained in all required deployment tasks to execute any missions given to us by our higher headquarters.”

That train-up was built in a tiered approach, starting with individual Soldier proficiency and evolving into

tactical synchronicity at the platoon, troop and squadron levels, the commander said.

“Most importantly, we are very excited about sharing our lessons learned so that the Aviation Branch, as a whole, can collectively improve the MUM-T capability,” said Garcia.

The unit was officially recognized March 16 as the Army’s first heavy attack reconnaissance squadron, reflagging from 1st Bn., 501st Avn. Rgt.

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Families enjoy a day out on the lake in canoes and paddleboats during Lake Fest on Lake Tholocco's West Beach Saturday.

PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFALZ

FUN IN THE SUN

Lake Fest welcomes summer

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Despite threats of looming storms, about 1,500 people made their way out to Lake Tholocco's West Beach Saturday to celebrate one of Fort Rucker's most popular attractions.

With activities for all ages to enjoy, Lake Fest was a huge success, according to Kristi Fink, special events coordinator for the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

The festivities included a car show, a Lake Fest first, which featured 35 different vehicles ranging from classic cars, vintage Volkswagens, brand-new muscle cars and the aptly dubbed T-Rex — the undisputed star of the show was a customized Ford F-350, which included a tilt bed, tilt cowl hood, Lambo doors, semi wheels and tires, 28 air horns, four 200 psi air systems, electric retractable cover and seats that swivel outward to reveal an enormous 65-inch TV in the back as the ultimate entertainment center.

"That truck was unbelievable," said

Kevin Davis, civilian from Enterprise. "I'd never seen anything like it. I can't imagine the amount of work that went into putting something like that together."

J.C. Hines, owner of T-Rex, said he purchased the vehicle in 2004 and has been modifying it nonstop since, and confessed that he still has at least two years of work left in it before its complete.

But most people were at Lake Fest for more than cars, and the event had plenty of other amenities to keep people entertained, including an inflatable water slide, volleyball tournaments, sand castle building contests and a frozen T-shirt contest, during which families and participants had to race to unravel their frozen T-shirt and put it on before any other contestant.

"It was a lot harder than I thought it was going to be," said Jason Dixon, military family member. "The shirts were frozen a lot harder than I thought they were going to be. They were almost like blocks of ice. I had to use my teeth just to try to get it loose sometimes."

The volleyball competition was another

arena where the competition got heated as eight teams went head to head to compete for the title of Lake Fest champs.

Lake Fest also featured paddle boats and kayaks available for people to use to take a tour of the lake at their own leisurely pace.

"That was one of my favorite things of the day," said Charlie Hastings, military spouse. "It's nice to be around the crowds sometimes when you're feeling social, but it's also nice to just be able to get away for a bit and enjoy the water out in the lake. It's not often you get to do that and I absolutely loved it."

Not everyone took part in the events, however, as some came out just to enjoy the sun, sand and splash of the water with family and friends.

"I'm not much for boating or sports or anything like that, but I'm not one to pass up a nice day on a beach in the sun, so this was a perfect opportunity for me to do that," said Jacob Fleisner, civilian. "I had originally planned on going to the beach in Florida this weekend, but the storms changed my plans. This was a great contingency plan. I'm glad



Second Lt. Damien Watkins, D Co., 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Rgt., goes up for a spike during a volleyball tournament.



Erica McMannes, military spouse, pulls on a frozen T-shirt with her son, Kilian, during the frozen T-shirt contest.

that I came out."

Although storms did eventually roll in around 4 p.m., it didn't dampen the spirits of those who came out to enjoy the event.

"It turned out to be a beautiful day — the storms held off, so it was a great turnout," said Fink. "Lake Fest is a great, free, family friendly event that MWR puts on for the community as a way to welcome people to the upcoming summer celebration."

Helping hand

Lending Hangar helps relieve moving stress

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

Tight budgets can make duty station transitions stressful, but Army Community Service's Lending Hangar provides relief just in the nick of time for many Soldiers.

The Lending Hangar, located in Rm. 177 of Bldg. 5700 on Novosel Street, offers basic household supplies to Soldiers, Department of the Army civilian employees, retirees and their families during permanent change of station moves or temporary duty assignments to Fort Rucker.

"Soldiers, DA civilians, retirees and their families can borrow items such as pots and pans, cooking utensils, dishware, eating utensils, Tupperware, sleeping mats, roll-a-way beds, folding tables and chairs, small appliances, children's items, such as high chairs, booster seats, travel tenders, umbrella strollers, car seats, microwaves, televisions and more," Ruth Gonzalez, ACS Relocation Readiness Program manager, said.

Authorized personnel need only bring their military identification and a copy of their temporary or permanent orders, as well as a means to transport what they borrow.

Gonzalez said the hangar provides a vital service to Soldiers transitioning by giving them the means to prepare food at home and save money.

"In today's economy and budgets being tight, I believe the Lending Hangar helps ease the financial burdens on the Soldiers and their families when they're moving because they are not obligated to eat out every day until their items arrive," she said. "If they are unable to move (household goods), then they can borrow our items and not feel obligated to purchase items that they will only be using for a short time."

Items can be borrowed on a 30-day basis, according to Gonzalez. But exceptions can be made, if needed.

"If they are moving overseas they can borrow items 60 days before moving," she said. "If the Soldier's (household goods) are delayed in arriving, then they normally will call me and ask for an extension. Each extension is on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances or issues that the Soldier may be facing."

Patrons are asked to return items clean and in working condition, but Gonzalez understands accidents happen.

"I ask Soldiers to replace the item that is broken, lost or damaged," she said. "Depending on the inventory and the Soldier's situation, again, we work with them."

Aiding Soldiers and families has been a career-spanning effort for Gonzalez. She first volunteered for ACS Relocation Readiness in 2000 while stationed in Kaiserslautern, Germany, where she helped with the loan closet. She said it just felt natural to continue helping Soldiers



PHOTO BY JEREMY HENDERSON

Staff Sgt. Larry Evans, 110th Avn. Bde., borrows some household goods from the Lending Hangar.

and their families.

"Being able to lessen the burden of our young, single Soldiers, our young newlywed Soldiers and their spouses, and those seasoned Soldiers and their families helps me feel like I'm giving back to them and supporting their constant sacrifices while serving our country," she said. "If there is anything that we can provide our Soldiers while they transition and it is within my abilities, then I will try to make it happen."

"We have had several situations where Soldiers are assigned to Fort Rucker without their family and are unable to afford cooking items, small appliances, etc.," she added. "The relief they express when they are able to use our items and not worry about adding another debt to their finances is comforting. Also, our Soldiers and families who arrive from an overseas assignment and do not have their unaccompanied (household goods) or (household goods) arriving in the near future are very happy to be able to try and settle in with our Lending Hangar items until they receive their personal things. A home-cooked meal can help relieve many of our moving stressors."

The Lending Hangar is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Because of our limited staffing and the additional duties that the ACS staff currently has, the Lending Hangar is closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays," Gonzalez said. "I highly recommend that Soldiers and their family members call the office to verify that it is staffed, and someone will be able to assist them in borrowing or returning the items."

For more information, call 255-3161.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Project: Fort Rucker Vacation Bible School

Volunteers are needed for the Fort Rucker Vacation Bible School June 8-12 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Main Post Chapel and Spiritual Life Center.

Positions: Tribe leader, Bible story teller, role player, craft leader and assistant, music leader and assistant, and playground assistant.

- The event involves Bible activities, crafts, music, games and more for children in grades kindergarten through sixth.
- Child care is provided for preschool children of VBS staff only.
- Parents or adult caregivers of preschool children may attend VBS with the child under their care — no minor caregivers are allowed.
- Youth and adult volunteers are needed.
- The biggest need is for tribe leaders to escort children to activities.

For more information, call 255-3946.

Project: The 2015 Army Strong Triathlon

Volunteers are needed for the 2015 Army Strong Triathlon June 13, 7 a.m. at Lake Tholocco's West Beach. Many positions are available. For more information, call 255-1429.

FACILITY: ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE

Position: Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator Administrative Assistant

Duties: Performs data entry. Assists in planning recognition events. Maintains filing system. Assists volunteers with Volunteer Management Information System. Provides information. Needed for seven to 10 hours weekly. For more information, call 255-1429.

FACILITY: ARMY EDUCATION CENTER

Position: Administrative and Multi-Learning Facility

Duties: Greet clients, and respond to emails, facsimile and phone inquiries. Determine the reason for customer's visit, or contact and refer customers to the appropriate personnel. Assist with administrative aspects of group in- and out-processing of Soldiers and family members. Provide general assistance to Soldiers applying for tuition assistance using automated web-based application. Provide access to classroom and MLF. Provide administrative assistance for key inventory and maintenance. Assist clients with scheduling and use of all MLF facilities, training aides, and multi-media equipment to ensure secure and proper use by customers. Provide basic care and maintenance of automation and technology equipment, and general oversight of administrative and learning center common areas.

Needed: Mondays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays from 2-4 p.m.

For more information, call 285-5237 Ext.5.

ON POST

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

SPLASH! open weekends

SPLASH! Pool and Spray Park is 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. For more information, call 255-9162.

West Beach Hours

West Beach will be open from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday-Monday for Memorial Day weekend. Normal hours from May 29 to Aug. 4 will be 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fridays through Tuesdays. The beach will be open weekends and holidays only Aug. 8 to Sept. 7. Daily admission fees are \$1.50 for ages 3–9, \$2.25 for ages 10–17, and \$3 for ages 18 and older. Children ages 2 and younger are admitted for free.

For more information, call 255-9162.

Flynn Pool opens

Flynn Pool will be open June 1 to Aug. 2. Hours will be 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays–Fridays, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The pool is open for military training, fitness and programming only. The indoor pool at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will be closed June 1 to Aug. 2.

For more information, call 255-9162.

Summer reading registration

The Center Library Summer Reading Program kicks off June 9 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the post theater with familiar characters singing, dancing and reading to the rhythm to celebrate the program’s Read to the Rhythm theme. People can register children in graded kindergarten through ninth for the program starting Tuesday. The program is open to authorized patrons, but parents and children must have a library account.

For more information or to sign up, visit the Center Library or call 255-3885.

Employment readiness class

The Fort Rucker Employment Readiness Program hosts orientation sessions monthly in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, in the Army Community Service multipurpose room, with the next session May 28. People who attend will meet in Rm. 350 at 8:45 a.m. to fill out paperwork before going to the multipurpose room. The class will end at about 10:45 a.m. The sessions will inform people on the essentials of the program and provide job search tips, as well. Advance registration is required and attendance at a session is mandatory for participation in the program.

For more information, call 255-2594.

Relocation readiness workshop

Army Community Service will host its relocation readiness workshop May 29 in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 371D, from 9–10 a.m. Soldiers and spouses will receive information from the military pay office on benefits, entitlements, advance pay, government travel card and more. They will also receive information on Army Emergency Relief and budgeting, preparing for employment before moving (for spouses), compiling the necessary documents and forms for exceptional family members moving overseas, and relocation checklists and websites to help prepare for



Disc Golf Tournament

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center is hosting the third annual Disc Golf Tournament May 30 at 10 a.m. at the disc golf course. The tournament will be 18 holes with players paired randomly, followed by another 18 holes by age, group and score. Trophies will be awarded in various categories. The cost is \$20 for those who sign up on or before Monday, and \$25 afterwards. All pre-registered competitors will receive a T-shirt. Competitors registering after Monday will receive T-shirts while supplies last. For more information or to sign up, call 255-2296 or 255-2997.

a move.

Space is limited, so people should register early by contacting the relocation readiness program at 255-3161 or 255-3735.

Lifeguard Courses

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will host lifeguarding courses June 1-5 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Each class, once completed, includes American Red Cross certifications in Lifeguarding, Waterfront Lifeguarding, Waterpark Lifeguarding, First Aid, and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automatic External Defibrillator administration. Each certification is valid for two years from the course completion date. Courses are available to ages 15 and up. The cost is \$125 for Department of Defense ID card holders and \$150 to the public. A prerequisite test must be passed on the first day to enter the course. Prerequisite requirements include: non-stop swim of 550 meters, two-minute tread using only legs, dive ring retrieval, and a timed 20-meter retrieval swim. People interested should register at the front desk of the Fort Rucker PFC. The cut-off for registration is three days prior to course start date. The courses may be canceled if minimum enrollment is not met. For more information, call 255-2296.

Father’s Day craft activity

Center Library will host a Father’s Day craft activity June 2 from 3:30–4:30 p.m. for children ages 3–11. Light refreshments will be served. The event is open to authorized patrons, but is limited to the first 65 children to register.

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

Pensacola Fathers Day trip

MWR Central will host a Fathers Day trip to Pensacola, Florida, for some baseball June 21 with the Blue Wahoos – the Double A affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds. A party deck pass has been reserved for the trip, which includes premier seating down the first base line, an hour and a half of the all-America buffet with unlimited non-alcoholic drinks and a hat. All this can be purchased with transportation from Fort Rucker. Tickets with transportation cost \$50 for adults and \$40 for children. People can also meet the trip at the park for the same amenities. Deck passes only are \$35 for adults and \$30 for children – parking costs are not included. People can sign up at MWR Central in Bldg. 5700 by June 4.

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

Small business counseling

Army Community Service will offer small business counseling with free one-on-one sessions available June 4. Sessions will be held in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 350. Areas of counseling may include, but aren’t limited to: advertising, organizational structures, financial planning, inventory controls, management, marketing, personnel planning, pre-business planning, and sales techniques. The counseling is sponsored by the ACS Employment Readiness Program and the Troy University Small Business Development Center. It is open to active-duty, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers, and retirees, Department of Defense civilian employees and their eligible family members.

Right Arm Night

The Landing Zone will host Right Arm Night June 4 from 4-6 p.m. Right Arm Night is an Army tradition, promoting a night of camaraderie and esprit de corps as leaders come together and treat those who help them accomplish the mission. Complimentary appetizers will be served while supplies last. Right Arm Night is held every month, and both military and civilians are welcome. For more information, call 598-8025.

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To register visit MWR Central, Bldg. 5700, (334) 255-2997,
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complete list of rules visit <http://www.dodgeballusa.com/>

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR MAY 21-24

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AMBASSADORS IN UNIFORM

Soldiers give Latvian students crash course in Army, American culture

By David Vergun
Army News Service

ADAZI MILITARY BASE, Latvia – Students from local schools were given the opportunity to learn about the U.S. Army and American culture during a community engagement held in Adazi May 12-13.

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, and A Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade out of Grafenwoehr, Germany, were available to answer questions students had about equipment and life in the Army.

“To be able to spend time in the community and interact with the kids was a morale booster for the Soldiers here,” said 1st Sgt. Victor Haven, a Covelo, California, native and senior enlisted adviser in C Co., 2-7 Inf. Regt.

Students from Adazu Secondary and Adazu Free Waldorf schools were familiarized with everything from the operation and function of various weapon systems and military equipment to camouflage face painting techniques. They were also taught how to play American football.

German-exchange student Fredericke Eichelbaum said that although she is from a military family, it was interesting to interact with the U.S. Soldiers.

“This is my first time around (U.S. Soldiers), so this experience was quite nice,” Eichelbaum said. “America is known for having a strong army, so it is good to know they are here and in other countries training.”

For 17-year-old Emils Lisovskis, being around the Soldiers was inspiring.

“I would like to become a Soldier – it’s an experience that would make me a better person,” Lisovskis said. “They are strong and fit. They are here to defend us. I feel safe.”

“Sky Soldiers” from 173rd and “Dog-face Soldiers” from 3rd ID are currently deployed throughout Europe as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, an ongoing, multinational partnership focused on joint training and security cooperation between the U.S. and other NATO allies.

Haven said that while working alongside NATO allies and accomplishing training objectives is a key, community outreach is an ongoing effort – one that allows Soldiers to serve as ambassadors for their country.

“Spending time and interacting with the locals, in this capacity, allows us to squash any myths or stereotypes they may have – showing them that we are just people, too.” Haven concluded.

Visit the Operation Atlantic Resolve website for up-to-date photos and information.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. BROOKS FLETCHER

Pfc. David Huth, a Spring Hill, Fla., native with A Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade out of Grafenwoehr, Germany, paints the face of a student during a community engagement at Adazu Secondary School in Adazi, Latvia, May 12.



Spc. Deandre Tanguay, a Tucson, Ariz., native with B Co., 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Ga., familiarizes 10-year-old Richard Filemonovs with a M240L Machine Gun during a community engagement at Adazu Secondary School in Adazi, Latvia, May 12.

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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

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

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

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

Wednesdays

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursdays

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

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

Saturdays

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Pick-of-the-litter

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WWI Soldiers to receive MOH

By Lisa Ferdinando
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama announced May13 that he will award Medals of Honor to two World War I Soldiers who were previously overlooked for the nation’s highest military award for valor.

Then-Pvt. William Henry Johnson, 369th Infantry Regiment (known as the Harlem Hellfighters), and Sgt. William Shemin, of the 4th Infantry Division, will receive the award posthumously at a White House ceremony June 2.

Johnson, who was African-American, was awarded France’s top military honor for valor after fighting off a German raiding party using his bowie knife. It was eight decades later before he was awarded a Purple Heart and Distinguished Service Cross.

Shemin, who was Jewish, repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to rescue wounded troops during combat operations during the Aisne-Marne Offensive in France Aug. 7-9, 1918. After platoon leaders had become casualties, Shemin took command and displayed initiative under fire, until he was wounded by shrapnel and a machine-gun bullet.

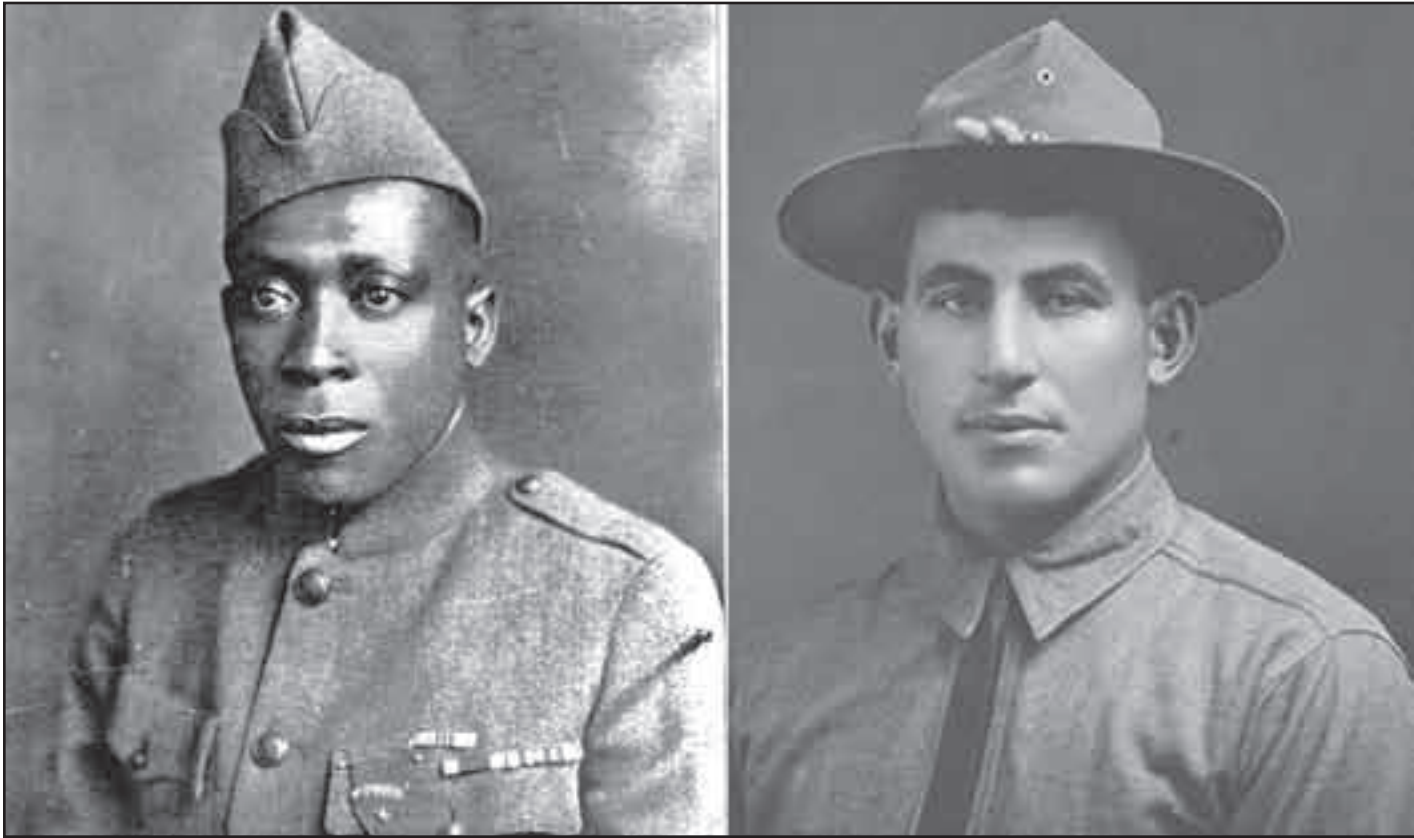
Hellfighter heroism

Johnson was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and moved to New York as a teenager. He enlisted in the Army June 5, 1917, and was assigned to C Company, 15th New York (Colored) Infantry Regiment – an all-black National Guard unit, which would later become the 369th Infantry Regiment.

Known as the Harlem Hellfighters, the 369th Infantry Regiment, 93rd Division, was ordered to the front lines in 1918. Johnson and his unit were attached to a French army command in the vicinity of the Tourbe and Aisne Rivers, northwest of Saint Meneshoul, France.

While on night sentry duty May 15, 1918, Johnson and a fellow Soldier, Pvt. Needham Roberts, received a surprise attack by a German raiding party of at least 12 enemy soldiers.

While under intense fire and despite his own wounds, Johnson kept an injured Needham from being taken prisoner. He came forward from his position to engage an enemy soldier in hand-to-hand combat.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sgt. William Henry Johnson, left, of the 369th Infantry Regiment, and Sgt. William Shemin, with the 4th Infantry Division, are to posthumously receive the Medal of Honor for valorous acts during World War I.

Wielding only a knife and gravely wounded, Johnson continued fighting until the enemy retreated.

For his valor, Johnson became one of the first Americans to be awarded the French Croix de Guerre avec Palme, France’s highest award for valor.

Johnson was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart in 1996. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in 2002, with the official ceremony taking place in 2003.

Johnson died in 1929 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. He will be the second black Soldier to receive the Medal of Honor for actions in World War I. The first was Cpl. Freddie Stowers.

Since Johnson has no next of kin, Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Wilson, of the New York National Guard, is to attend the White House ceremony and accept the Medal of Honor on Johnson’s behalf.

Taking charge

Shemin was born in Bayonne, New Jersey, Oct. 14, 1896. He graduated from the New York State Ranger School in 1914 and went on to work as a forester

in Bayonne.

Shemin enlisted in the Army Oct. 2, 1917. Upon completion of basic training at Camp Greene, North Carolina, he was assigned as a rifleman to G Company, 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, American Expeditionary Forces in France.

While serving as a rifleman during the Aisne-Marne Offensive Aug. 7-9, 1918, he left the cover of his platoon’s trench and crossed open space, repeatedly exposing himself to heavy machine gun and rifle fire to rescue the wounded.

After officers and senior NCOs had become casualties, Shemin took command of the platoon until he was wounded by shrapnel and a machine-gun bullet, which pierced his helmet and lodged behind his left ear.

He was hospitalized for three months and then received light duty as part of the Army occupation in Germany and Belgium.

For his injuries, he received the Purple Heart and he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross Dec. 29, 1919.

Shemin was honorably discharged in August 1919 and went on to receive a degree from the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University. After graduation, he started a greenhouse and



COURTESY OF SHEMIN FAMILY

Sgt. William Shemin is shown in a photo at Camp Greene, North Carolina, 1917.

landscaping business in Bronx, New York, where he raised three children.

He died in 1973. His eldest daughter, Elsie Shemin-Roth of Webster Grove, Missouri, is to receive the Medal of Honor on his behalf.



NEW YORK DIVISION OF MILITARY AND NAVAL AFFAIRS

Sgt. Henry Johnson and the Harlem Hellfighters parade through New York in February 1919.



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Alabama State Games XXXIII to honor military, families

Alabama Sports Festival Foundation
Press Release

Alabama State Games XXXIII opening ceremonies are coming to the National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds in Dothan June 12.

The Opening Ceremonies will showcase the traditions and ceremonies of the International Olympic Games, along with honoring past and present military members and their families. The “Thank You for Your Service Day in Alabama” celebration is part of the Alabama State Games’ commitment to teach Alabama student-athletes good citizenship by highlighting the sacrifices made by others to keep the country a free and safe society.

As per resolutions passed by both houses of the Alabama legislature and signed by Governor Bentley, along with the cities of Dothan and Ozark and the counties of Dale and Houston, June 12 has been declared “Thank You for Your



Service Day in Alabama.”

The National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds has been declared in the resolutions as the venue for honoring all military, past and present, family members of incapacitated veterans and family members of veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice at 7 p.m. in the amphithe-

ater during the opening ceremonies.

This will be an exciting, patriotic-themed celebration featuring former Alabama football player and international award-winning Elvis Tribute artist Gary Elvis Britt, along with The Voices of Lee, the nationally known vocal group from Lee University, who were featured

on the TV show, “The Sing-Off.”

Admission and parking at the National Peanut Festival Fairgrounds are free to the public. All attendees are encouraged to bring an American flag or a flag representing their respective branch of service. The ceremonies will be broadcast statewide and a fireworks show will

follow the proceedings.

There will be limited seating in the amphitheater, so people are welcome to bring lawn chairs and blankets. Gates will open at 3 p.m. and vendors will be on hand.

For more information, visit www.alagames.com or call 379-6981.

WIREFLASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

ONGOING — Andalusia Public Library offers free practice tests. Patrons can choose from more than 300 online tests based on official exams such as the ACT, SAT, GED, ASVAB, firefighter, police officer, paramedic, U.S. citizenship and many more. Patrons may select to take a test and receive immediate scoring. Test results are stored in personalized individual accounts, accessible only to patrons. Call 222-6612 for more information.

ONGOING — The American Legion Post 80 hosts a dance with live music every Saturday from 7:30-11:30 p.m. For more information, call 222-7131 or visit www.andalusialegiopost80.org.

DALEVILLE

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

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

DOTHAN

MAY 25 — The Wiregrass Area’s ninth annual Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. at Sunset Memorial Park. For more information, visit www.sunset-memorialpark.com or call 983-6604.

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

ONGOING — Wiregrass Suicide Pre-

vention Services holds bi-monthly suicide survivor support groups the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at 148 E. Main Street. The support groups are for anyone who has lost a friend or loved one to suicide. Children’s groups are also available. For more information, call 792-9814.

ONGOING — The Cultural Arts Center is hosting a membership drive entitled Hearts for the Arts. The membership program focuses not only on raising funds to support the center, but raising awareness about the positive impact the center has on children. By creating an atmosphere fostering creativity and self-expression, the Cultural Arts Center plays a unique role in the Wiregrass by giving children a place where they can attend classes in art, pottery, music or dance at a reduced cost. Hearts for the Arts has several sponsorship levels, including individual and student, family, scholarship and corporate. Members can become involved with as little as \$25 and all founding members receive a T-shirt with the new Hearts for the Arts logo. For more information, call 699-2728 or visit www.thecultural-artscenter.org.

ENTERPRISE

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

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

ONGOING — Reformers Unanimous, a national Christ-centered addictions program headquartered in Rockford, Illinois, is starting a chapter in Enterprise. Faith Baptist Church, 4481 Rucker Boulevard, will host the program Fridays from 7-9 p.m. The program is open to all adults who struggle with an addiction. For more information, call 790-2058.

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

MAY 28 — 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 of both DAV and DAV Auxiliary. For more information, call 718-5707.

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

OZARK

JUNE 13 — Milky Moo’s at 158 E Broad St. will host a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. People who donate a pint of blood will receive a pint of ice cream.

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.

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

TROY

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

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

WIREFLASS AREA

MAY 24 — New Hope Freewill Baptist Church at 3819 County Road 31 in Abbeville will celebrate its annual choir anniversary at 2:30 p.m. All churches, choirs, soloists, and soloist groups are invited to attend and bring two selections. Refreshments will be served.

Beyond Briefs

Hot Air Balloon Festival

Decatur will host the Alabama Jubilee Hot Air Balloon Festival May 23-24 at Point Mallard Park. The festival is one of the largest free hot air balloon gatherings in the Southeast, featuring more than 60 balloons with races, key grab, tether rides and a balloon glow. It also features arts and crafts, food vendors, an antique car and tractor show, musical entertainment and children’s activities.

For more information, visit <http://www.alabamajubilee.net>.

Bluegrass On The Plains

The 2015 Bluegrass on the Plains music festival is scheduled for May 25-31 in Auburn at the University Station Recreational Resort. Performers include: Ricky Skaggs, Rhonda Vincent, Gene Watson, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, Russell Moore & III Tyme Out, Claire Lynch, Blue Highway, Detour, The Isaacs, The Punches Family, Brush Fire, Chris Jones & the Night Drivers, Breaking Grass, Boxcars, Sideline, Flatt Lonesome, Volume Five and Larry Cordle, Carl Jackson and Jerry Salley with Val

Storey. The festival is three miles from Jordan-Hare Stadium west on Highway 14 – 3076 Highway 14, Auburn, 36832.

For more information and ticket prices, call 334-821-8968 or visit <http://www.bluegrassonthepains.com>.

Military appreciation at zoo

The Montgomery Zoo will hold its annual military appreciation day featuring free admission for all military people and their immediate family June 18 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Food, drinks and refreshments will also be provided. People will need to provide valid military identification for entry.

For more information, visit :www.montgomeryzoo.com.

National Trails Day

The Frank Jackson Trail Masters will host National Trails Day at Frank Jackson State Park in Opp June 6. The park opens at 7 a.m. and closes at dark. Trail master members will be available at the pavilion from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with water for hikers and visitors, along with general information about the park and the various trails that are available for walking. In addition to the more than 2

miles of hiking trails, the park also provides other activities, such as swimming, boating, fishing, picnic areas, a playground and camping facilities.

Montgomery Biscuits

The Montgomery Biscuits, the Double-A affiliate of Major League Baseball’s Tampa Bay Rays, plays in the Southern League. The Biscuits’ season is in full swing with regular games at Montgomery’s Riverwalk Stadium.

For information on the team, including the schedule, ticket prices, directions to the stadium and the latest news, visit www.biscuitsbaseball.com.

Hank Williams Festival

The annual Hank Williams Festival is scheduled for June 5-6 at Hank Williams Music Park in Georgiana. The tribute includes country music, arts and crafts and food. Tickets can be bought at the gate for \$15 for Friday and \$25 for Saturday, or a two-day ticket for \$30 in advance. Children under 12 are admitted for free when accompanied by an adult. To reach the festival from I-65, take Exit 114 and go one mile east.

For more information and to order advance tickets, visit <http://www.hankwilliamsfestival.com>.

MWR to offer additional obstacle-course races

By Tim Hipps
Installation Management Command

FORT CARSON, Colo. — Fort Carson recently became the model for the Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation’s partnership with Reebok Spartan Races.

“The Mountain Post” played host to its fourth-annual Reebok Spartan Colorado Sprint, a 4.8-mile footrace that featured 22 obstacles, such as barbed wire crawl, bucket carry, monkey net, water pit, rope climb, slippery wall and fire jump, among various other adversities surrounding “Agony Hill.”

The success of the Carson-based races convinced Army MWR to partner with Spartan to bring more of the ultra-challenging obstacle-course races to installations throughout the world. The revenue generated by Spartan’s use of military venues benefits MWR programs for Soldiers and their Families.

“In my view, obstacle courses are military history,” said Rusty Schellman, Spartan director of real estate and military markets, and a veteran chief warrant officer 2, who flew UH-60 Black Hawks during Operation Desert Storm. “They oftentimes are referred to in some circles as confidence courses – they build confidence, they build your fitness, you learn to trust yourself and your instincts. (Spartan founder and owner) Joe DeSena’s vision was to toughen people up – that we’ve gotten soft over the years.”

Soldiers have tackled obstacle courses since the day they stepped into basic training, but only during recent years has mainstream America embraced such self-tortuous competition as recreational fun.

“Ironically, I’m even hearing that from some of the base commanders – saying we’ve got to get our guys active, we’ve got to engage the Soldiers in fitness again, we’ve got to get them off the couches and get them away from their video games,” Schellman said. “I have heard on three different bases where I’ve sat with the commanders – they’ve all said that – they really want to see their Soldiers get out and get active.”

The inaugural Fort Carson Spartan Race drew 5,000 participants in 2012. The fields topped 9,000 participants during each of the next two years, and more than 7,000 completed a new course this year.

Waves of about 250 competitors started every 15 to 30 minutes during the recent competition. The elite Spartan men began at 7:30 a.m., followed by the elite women. Spartans of all ages, shapes and sizes pounded the treacherous terrain until a thunderstorm closed camp around 4 p.m.

Spartan did it again the next day. Steave Barness, Fort Carson MWR, estimated that around 30 percent of the competitors were “true military,” even more when counting family members.

“Spartan is a culture,” Barness said. “There’s a following that’s enormous. They have their own workout programs. They build upon themselves.”

Like many sports activities, Spartan is somewhat of a family affair.

“You see the impact that it has with the families who are out here,” said Col. Joel Hamilton, Fort Carson garrison commander. “We started the event off with the elite athletes, and that was just phenomenal to watch.

“But even bigger than that is when you see the incorporation of the kids with the kids’ course. There are a lot of kids, and people from all walks of life – such a diverse group. There’s a lot of camaraderie,” he added.

Hamilton voiced his opinion about what brought so many folks together for a weekend of Spartan festivities on the Fort Carson plains, just south of Colorado Springs.

“I think it’s about overcoming adversity, in a series of obstacles, and dealing with elevation – just proving that ‘I can persevere through this,’” he said. “We put into practice here at Fort Carson what we call



PHOTO BY TIM HIPPS

Glenn Racz, of San Diego, exits the final water obstacle en route to a third-place finish in the elite men's heat of the Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Spartan Colorado Sprint races on Fort Carson, Colo., May 2.

the ‘Iron Horse Strong Campaign,’ and it’s named after the Iron Horse Division. We focus on spiritual strength, mental strength and physical strength, and I think that someone who comes out and endures this course, they encounter all three of those pillars.”

Spartan officials, however, do not want anyone to fear their events. Mere mortals, too, can become Spartan racers, Schellman said.

“No, it’s definitely not too tough,” he said. “I see it as a strong push into the fitness marketplace. People will always be into running marathons and half-marathons, but this definitely adds the fitness beyond just the running. In training for this, you have to train your entire body, not just for the run.”

Much like a Soldier, no Spartan racer gets left behind. Rather than trying to beat each other through the obstacles, Spartan racers are more inclined to hoist, pull, push, encourage and even carry each other when necessary. Everyone wants to succeed, but finishing as unscathed as possible is more important than speed.

“It’s about taking on a challenge and putting teamwork together,” Barness said. “You could apply all of those same total Army values to a Spartan race: trust and commitment, value, honesty and integrity.”

As a military veteran, Schellman proudly helped connect Spartan with the Army.

“I love the fact that we’re working with the military on this contract,” he said. “It’s a great thing for our racers to be able to come on base and be running side-by-side with military personnel.”

Likewise, Barness boasts about the Army’s association with Spartan.

“Hopefully, down the road, it becomes an annual event at a lot of different installations to run a Spartan race,” Barness said. “This compares, in my mind, to the Army 10-Miler. As a sporting event, this is by far the largest that we do. It’s a big deal.”

Fort Bragg, North Carolina, will host Spartan Races Sept. 19, and Fort Campbell, Kentucky, is scheduled for Spartan

Races Oct. 24. All are open to military personnel and civilians.

“We’re adding another two installations next year, possibly more,” Schellman said. “We would like to see between six and eight over the next couple of years. There are only so many markets we can add before it doesn’t make sense.”

The Boston-based Spartan already has 58 events scheduled for 2015. Meanwhile, the Army MWR Spartan program is up and running.

Officials from Fort Campbell and Fort Riley were in Colorado scouting the Spartan races. Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, also expressed interest in hosting an event.

“They’re all here learning, taking pictures, trying to figure it out,” Barness said. “We learn something new every year and we get smarter. And Spartan certainly gets smarter. We’re learning together.”

Barness remembers the Army’s first Spartan race.

“We started four years ago,” he said. “Spartan was a fledgling company. They were brand new, as was somebody named Tough Mudder and the Warrior Dash. We did a mud run on Fort Carson, something that had not been done in the Army. The things you see here with all the branded tents and all the merchandising, it was few and far between.”

Spartan delivers self-contained, turn-key events across America, along with races in Europe, Australia, Korea and Japan. As a four-time participant, Barness is as seasoned a veteran as anyone in the U.S. military at hosting these events.

“When they come to Fort Carson or any of the other installations, it’s going to be similar,” Barness said. “We’ve contracted so that they operate and execute a turn-key operation – great – except they’re trying to do it on a military installation that is foreign to this kind of behavior.

“Between the gate access, the range control, the environmental, the fire marshals, the safety guys – all of those elements on a day-to-day basis, Spartan doesn’t deal with. They don’t have to,” he said. “Our role as an MWR proponent for this is we are the liaison and we are the facilitator. We are the guy that removes the obstacles, literally, for Spartan to do what they normally do.”

The race spans the entire spectrum of MWR programs, he added.

“We do a kids race, so there’s our Child and Youth Services linking into the marketing piece,” Barness said. “There’s an exceptional family member, with a special-needs type race, so there’s Army Community Services’ link to EFMP. Obviously, the food and beverage side, from the business end, is there. The entire marketing piece, and our supply and services are running tents, setting up trailers, and running through logistics.

“Every one of the recreation programs plays a role, between the outdoor recreation guys renting equipment, our use of a [U.S. Olympic] shooting complex, and the gymnasiums kick in with training programs to help get Soldiers ready for the race,” he added.

Which is why the Army sought involvement with Spartan in the first place, Barness said.

“They’re looking to modernize their fitness regimen,” Schellman said. “The days of old of just going out and doing cadence runs, and a bunch of pushups and sit-ups – they’re trying to do more things and come up to speed, and get the Soldiers, Airmen and Marines active and do more things like this.

“It’s a win-win all the way around,” he said. “It’s the American way trying to get people off the couch and it’s the directive of the commanders that want to get their guys active also.”

- Have a Family disaster plan and supply kit.
- Build or identify a safe room in your home.
- Purchase and use a NOAA weather radio with a tone alert feature. This will alert you to warnings issued by your local National Weather Service office.

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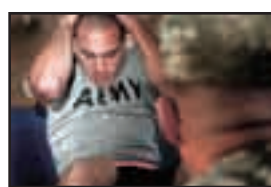


To those who were vigilant so we could rest,
Who gave everything that we might thrive,
Who are silent that we may breathe free,

We honor you.



MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 25



MAKE THE GRADE
Soldiers take tough stance on PFT failures
Story on Page D3

Post hosts tournament

By **Jeremy Henderson**
Army Flier Staff Writer

Thirty competitors are expected to tackle the Beaver Lake course during the third annual disc golf tournament beginning at 10 a.m. May 30.

Fort Rucker's course has been a catalyst for the sports' growth locally, said Lori Ciranni, Fort Rucker sports, fitness and aquatics manager, adding that she feels camaraderie, competition, an abundance of free facilities and a short learning curve have helped that growth.

"Disc golf is easy for someone to pick up," she said. "You can go from not playing at all to being competitive within two months of playing regularly."

For that very reason, the upcoming tournament welcomes all levels of experience and offers a variety of competition levels.

The tournament is 18 holes paired randomly, followed by another 18 holes by age, group and score. Trophies will be awarded to the following age groups: juniors, ages 18 and under; advanced men, ages 19–45; amateur men and women, ages 19–45; advanced men, ages 46 and older; amateur men and women, ages 46 and older.

"Competitors can play with friends or someone experienced for the first round," Ciranni said. "The second round, you are paired with the participants you are competing against."



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Stephanie Woodard, civilian participant and advanced female winner, tosses a disc at one of the baskets on the disc golf course during a previous disc golf tournament at Beaver Lake.

The cost for those who register before Monday is \$20. The cost after Monday is \$25. All pre-registered competitors will receive a T-shirt. Competitors registering after Monday will receive T-shirts while supplies last.

Ciranni said the Beaver Lake course, offering more than 90 minutes of play time, presents unique challenges to competitors.

"The lake is a tough hole," she said. "It is the decision hole. You can try to throw over the lake or go around and have one extra throw. The distance of some of the holes

is also challenging. Playing in the woods makes it very challenging."

Disc golf is played much like traditional golf, but instead of using a ball and clubs, players use a flying disc. Whether a person is a novice or professional, it is easy to develop proficiency on the course, Ciranni said.

The course, located at Beaver Lake, is an 18-hole, 55-par course that follows the Beaver Lake trail, for the most part. It offers varying levels of difficulty with very basic holes with no hazards or trees to more

advanced holes with water traps and obstacles.

The rules of disc golf are much like the game of ball golf in that the goal is to use as few strokes as possible to throw a disc from a designated spot into a basket.

Disc golf has been around for quite some time, but was formalized in the 1970s, and began to gain most of its popularity in the 1990s and early 2000s among the college crowd. According to the Professional Disc Golf Association, which has more than 50,000 members, there are more than 4,000 courses around the world.

Among the draws of disc golf are that it is a non-contact sport that is open to all ages; playing an entire round of disc golf, 18 holes, takes anywhere from 45-90 minutes, depending on the amount of players; and it costs little to no money.

"Disc golf is very family oriented," Ciranni said. "Because it's outdoors, you can bring a stroller, your dog and your entire family to play. But during the tournament, we request you don't bring your dogs or kids, so as not to affect the other players," she added.

People can visit the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility to check out a disc and give the sport a try. There is a \$10 deposit required per disc. The course is open to the public. Disc check-out is open to authorized patrons only.

For more information, call 255-2296.

Swimmer to participate in Warrior Games

By **Shannon Collins**
Department of Defense News

FORT MEADE, Md. — An Apache AH-64 armament/electrical/avionic systems repairman swam his way onto the Army team for the 2015 Department of Defense Warrior Games set for June 19-28.

Sgt. Blake Johnson, of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, will compete in air rifle, shot put, discus, wheelchair track, sitting volleyball, wheelchair basketball and swimming.

During the Army Trials, Johnson took bronze medals in the men's 50-meter freestyle, 50-meter backstroke and 100-meter freestyle swimming events.

"He improved greatly," said Johnson's swim coach, Glen O'Sullivan. "We pushed him to use all of his body, which he made great strides in his stroke. He listened and was willing to try. Medaling just goes to show that coach was right. I look forward to watching him compete at the 2015 DOD Warrior Games."

Johnson said being at the Army Trials and participating in adaptive sports helps him with his rehabilitation. He was injured in 2012 in a motor vehicle accident in Germany, where he was stationed. He fractured his femur and tibia, shattered his patella, ripped his patella ligament, ripped cartilage and had knee reconstruction.

He had a partial knee replacement in October 2014 and has had five surgeries so far.

Johnson ran track, and played football and baseball in high school. He also played basketball recreationally in high school. He said adaptive sports give him that sense of being an athlete back to him.

"Adaptive sports have been a really big morale boost for me," he said. "Just getting back to playing with a team and being able to compete again and have that normal feeling, it's really helped. It's probably been the best morale booster anyone can have, at least for me."

Johnson said his injury has made him more resilient.

"I don't run anymore. I was a big runner," he said. "I had big plans before I got injured. It happened, and you may have that self-pity in the beginning, but you have to push to recreate yourself to be the person you want to be, to take every obstacle and challenge you have and make it a plus."

"When you do find yourself sitting there and doubting yourself, you need to regroup and maybe not fix it, but find a new path, because the path you had is not there anymore. I was a runner, and now I swim a lot. I enjoy competing. I'm where I want to be," Johnson said.

He has served in the Army for almost five years and said he will continue to serve because it is a family tradition. His father is a command sergeant major stationed on Fort Hood, Texas.

"My dad has served 24 years," he said. "After he did his deployments, I joined the Army because I felt I needed to do my time, too – to serve my country."

Johnson said his parents are proud of his participation in adaptive sports.

"They're very proud and supportive," he said. "They text me, 'good luck' when I compete. They're going to try to make it to the Warrior Games to watch me compete."

The Department of Defense Warrior Games will take place on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia. Throughout the games, wounded, ill and injured Service members and veterans from the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard will compete in track and field, shooting, swimming, cycling, archery, wheelchair basketball and sitting volleyball.

PROTECTING ARMY FAMILIES

DOD helps protect beneficiaries from deceptive practices

By **Cheryl Pellerin**
Department of Defense News

WASHINGTON — In the face of recent aggressive and deceptive marketing practices of some compounding pharmacies targeting TRICARE, the Defense Health Agency is taking aggressive action to help TRICARE beneficiaries, DHA's chief of pharmacy operations said in a recent interview.

Dr. George Jones described compounding as a way that some pharmacies prepare medications for patients who need different kinds or strengths of medications than are available in commercially available products.

Important role

"Pediatrics, for example, is a big area for compounding, where (infants or toddlers) may not be able to take tablets or capsules, or need a particular strength, so a compounding pharmacy can make exactly what that patient needs," Jones said.

Some pharmacies have the expertise and equipment to compound medications, and others specialize only in compounding, the clinical pharmacist added. Specialty compounding pharmacies create creams, ointments, capsules and liquids to make specific products and doses.

"Compounding pharmacies definitely have a role in medical care – a very important role," Jones said.

But a phenomenon that's arisen over the past five or six months involves compounding pharmacies "that are charging unsupportable costs for some of these products, and expanding into areas where there is not good evidence to support the products' safety," he added.

Deceptive practices

According to DHA, DOD costs for compound drugs have skyrocketed from \$5 million in fiscal year 2004 to \$514 million in fiscal 2014. In the first six months of fiscal 2015, DOD costs already exceed \$1 billion.

The normal compounding process begins when a doctor writes a prescription for a compounded product for a patient – in this case a TRICARE beneficiary. The patient takes the prescription to a compounding pharmacy, which then makes the product and bills TRICARE for the medicine, typically using the average wholesale prices of the medications



AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS ALYSTRIA MAURER

A pharmacy technician counts pills to fill a prescription at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., in 2012.

they use in the compounded product, he said.

Now, Jones said, a new breed of compounding pharmacy is distorting some of the elements of this traditional process.

Some compound pharmacies are using aggressive outreach programs to target TRICARE beneficiaries and collect their personal information. Once they have the information, they use it to bill TRICARE as high as \$15,000 for a single compound prescription. These prescriptions may not be tailored to the beneficiary's needs, and sometimes the beneficiary never even meets or speaks to a doctor before the pharmacy sends them the drug. Not only that, but often there is little or no evidence that these products are safe or effective, Jones said.

Such aggressive pharmacies "put these combinations (of ingredients) together and then put them on the market. They're supposed to be on a prescription for an individual patient, but it seems nowadays they're trying to do a one-size-fits-all with a lot of pain and scar creams," Jones said.

The pharmacies combine ingredients, he added, "where you think they might work, but there's no study, no evidence, nobody has looked carefully" to make sure it will not do harm and that it will benefit the patient."

Aggressive outreach

Some pharmacies reach out to beneficiaries, calling them and requesting personal information to use to create prescriptions, Jones said.

Using aggressive marketing efforts, pharmacies are trying to give compounding creams away, almost like door prizes, he added.

"There's a lot of Internet and social media use, as well as trucks advertising free lunches out in front of bases," Jones explained. "They say, come and get a free lunch, and then they get people to sign up for some of these compounds whether they really need them or not and then really raise the prices when they sell them."

When the pharmacies get a beneficiary's personal information, they can create a file, create a prescription, then submit the prescription to TRICARE for payment – sometimes \$10,000 to \$15,000 for a prescription, Jones said – and if TRICARE pays, the pharmacy sends the beneficiary the medication.

Several websites have been created to look like TRICARE websites, Jones said, "they look like something for you as a TRICARE beneficiary, but they're not. They suck you in and get your information, and then start sending you these prescriptions and billing the government."

Patients are being exploited with these marketing efforts, he said, so beneficiaries should be very careful if someone calls asking for patient information, Social Security number or TRICARE number.

Stopping fraud

"TRICARE will almost never call you and ask you for personal information, so if someone does and tells you they're going to give you a prescription, be very wary of that kind of call," he added.

Jones said that on May 1, TRICARE began extra screening of compound prescriptions to "look at the ingredi-

DOWN TIME



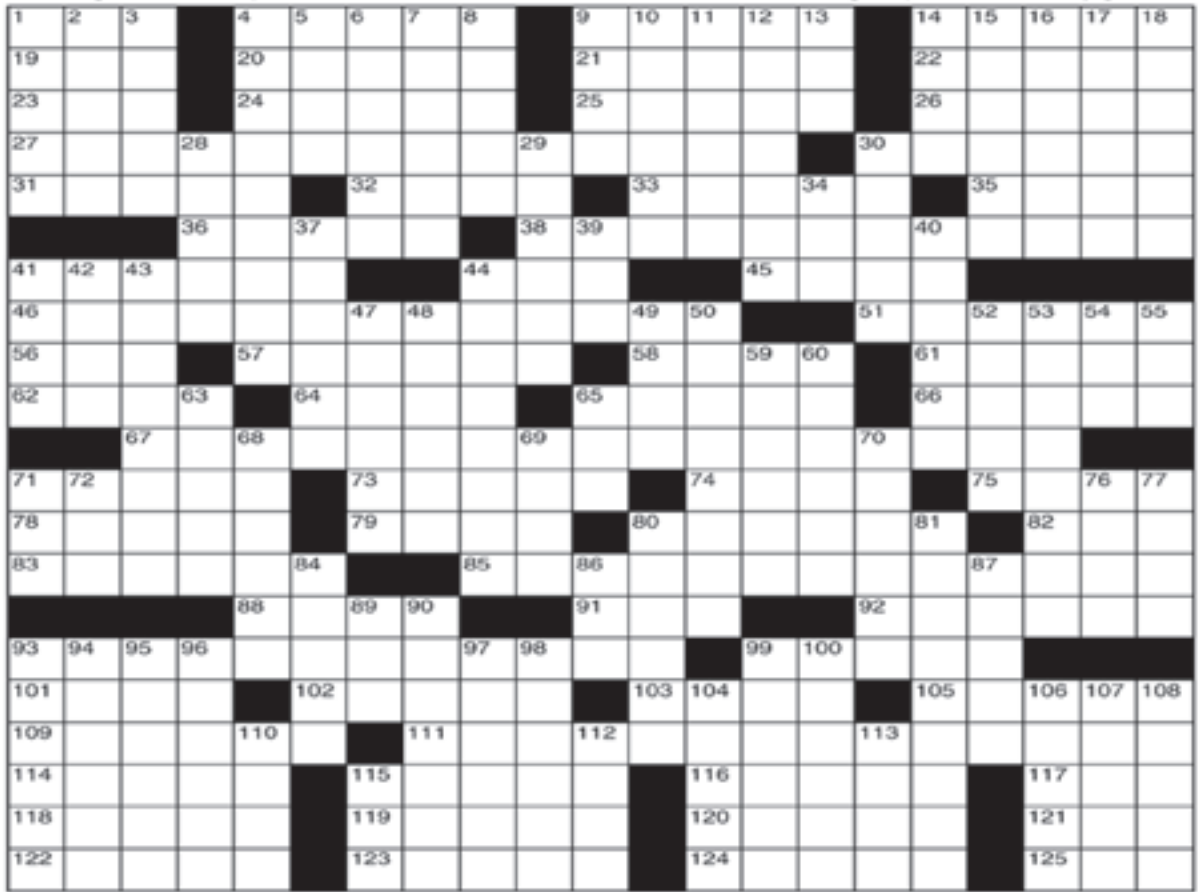
TRIVIA

1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the name of the island where Thomas the Tank Engine (of children's books and film) and his friends live?
2. GEOGRAPHY: In what U.S. state is Mount Rushmore located?
3. SPORTS FIGURES: What sport made Jack Dempsey famous?
4. LITERATURE: In what year did J.D. Salinger publish the novel "The Catcher in the Rye"?
5. MOVIES: In what year was the film "The Dirty Dozen" released?
6. MYTHOLOGY: According to Greek myth, what was the name of the monster with 100 dragon heads?
7. LANGUAGE: What is the practice of anthropophagy more commonly known as?
8. HISTORY: What Native American tribe did Pocahontas belong to?
9. MUSIC: In what country was composer Frederic Chopin born?
10. U.S. PRESIDENTS: How old was Theodore Roosevelt when he was sworn into office?

See Page D4 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword SELF DESCRIPTIONS

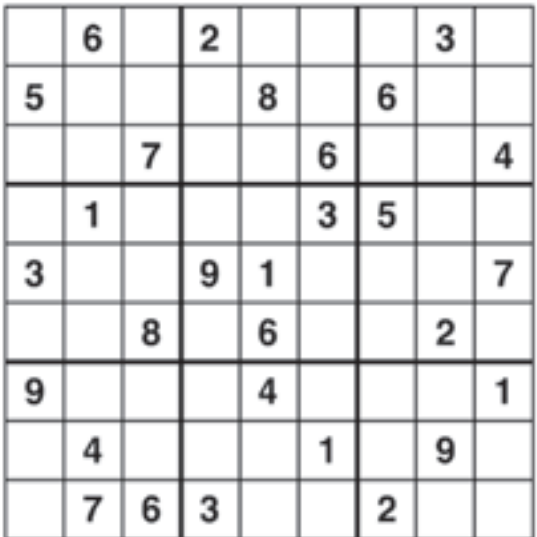
- ACROSS**
- 1 Completed
 - 4 Tea leaf readers, e.g.
 - 9 Title for Macbeth
 - 14 Places to pitch tents
 - 19 Transgress
 - 20 Bow go-with
 - 21 Dignity
 - 22 Largest city in Nebraska
 - 23 Arthur of TV
 - 24 White of TV
 - 25 Writer Dillard
 - 26 Prohibited acts
 - 27 Gougers charge them
 - 30 Warrants
 - 31 Sioux division
 - 32 Just OK
 - 33 Papa Doc's country
 - 35 First-aid flora
 - 36 No-see-ums
 - 38 Symptom of mumps
 - 41 Tumult
 - 44 Air safety gp.
 - 45 1492, e.g.
 - 46 Pesto ingredient
 - 51 Portable enplaning bridge
- DOWN**
- 1 Credit's opposite
 - 2 2011 hurricane
 - 3 Air current
 - 4 Safari sites
 - 5 Part of QED
 - 6 "Marty" star
 - 7 Borghine
 - 8 Sonata parts
 - 9 Hot cuisine
 - 10 Bigwig
 - 11 Heat to prevent stress
 - 12 In a racket-filled way
 - 13 Prior to, in poems
 - 14 Pylon shape
 - 15 Indifferent to ethics
 - 16 Capital of the Philippines
 - 17 Light particle
 - 18 Wise off to
 - 28 Corporate symbols
 - 29 Nun's beads
 - 30 Rapper Nicki
 - 34 Driving range peg
 - 37 Concert sites
 - 39 — -Mart
 - 40 Sister of Hansel
 - 41 Sch. near Beverly Hills
 - 42 Experts
 - 43 Mount with presidents' heads
 - 44 Bone of the lower chest
 - 47 Bring harm to
 - 48 Mendel of genetics
 - 49 Skater Kulik
 - 50 Fonz's quality
 - 52 "Traffic" actor
 - 53 Fiber for newsprint
 - 54 Wee colonist
 - 55 "— -hawl"
 - 59 "Relax, Gil"
 - 60 Assembled as one body
 - 63 All gone, as dinner
 - 65 Bible divs.
 - 68 Not lax at all
 - 69 Elk's kin
 - 70 Fasten
 - 71 Reno-to-Riverside dir.
 - 72 Chowder fish
 - 76 For — (not gratis)
 - 77 Peat source
 - 80 Tries to shred
 - 81 More elastic
 - 84 Fischer's skill
 - 86 Suffix with glob or duct
 - 87 Apt rhyme for "treadle"
 - 89 Lupino of film
 - 90 Like always
 - 93 Lynx variety
 - 94 "Hellcats" actress
 - 95 Expert talker
 - 96 intense
 - 97 Goddess with an owl
 - 98 Less fat
 - 99 Chafe
 - 100 Snuck a look
 - 104 Test models
 - 106 "Purgatorio" poet
 - 107 "Of Thee —"
 - 108 Invite to join at
 - 110 Mined finds
 - 112 Duty
 - 113 Editor's strike-out
 - 115 Telly giant



See Page D4 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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See Page D4 for this week's answers.

KID's CORNER



Soldiers help to halt Ebola in Liberia

By **Walter T. Ham IV**
20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives Command

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — Soldiers from 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives Command have helped to halt the Ebola outbreak in Liberia.

The World Health Organization declared Liberia free of Ebola May 9, after 42 days without any new cases.

Liberia was the country most impacted by the Ebola outbreak. In September, the West African nation was reporting 300 to 400 new cases a week. Two units from 20th CBRNE Command deployed to Liberia for Operation United Assistance, the U.S. effort to contain the worst Ebola outbreak in history

In October, the 1st Area Medical Laboratory deployed to support the U.S.-led joint task force. During their deployment, 1st AML Soldiers served with U.S. Naval Medicine Research Center personnel in Task Force Scientist, testing Ebola samples at six mobile laboratories and providing same day results to health care providers.

The 1st AML returned to Aberdeen in March. Earlier in March, the 48th CBRN



PHOTO BY CAPT. ANTHONY FRENO

Sgt. 1st Class Angel S. Morales and Col. Sven C. Erichsen lead Soldiers of the 48th Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Brigade during the uncasing ceremony in support of Operation United Assistance at the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia.

Brigade Headquarters deployed to Liberia in to command the remaining American forces in Liberia. The Fort Hood-based CBRN brigade replaced the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) as the joint forces

headquarters.

The brigade is supporting the U.S. Agency of International Development. Other response functions were and will be transitioned to civilian personnel.

The 1st AML and 48th CBRN Brigade are part of the 20th CBRNE Command, the U.S. Defense Department's only formation that combats CBRNE threats.

Headquartered on Aberdeen Proving Ground, 20th CBRNE Soldiers and civilians are stationed on 19 posts in 16 states. The command is home to more than 85 percent of the active U.S. Army's CBRNE capabilities, including two Explosive Ordnance Disposal groups, one CBRN brigade, Nuclear Disablement Teams, CBRNE Coordination Elements, expeditionary laboratories, remediation units and consequence management formations.

Brig. Gen. JB Burton, the commanding general of 20th CBRNE Command, said the 48th CBRN Brigade and 1st AML deployments epitomized the flexibility, determination and professionalism of his life-saving command.

"These deployments demonstrate that this command and this CBRNE enterprise must be capable of and comfortable with operating effectively across the full spectrum of CBRNE hazards," said Burton.

"This successful humanitarian mission in Liberia is another proud chapter in the history of this one-of-a-kind command," Burton said.

Practices: Fraud line available to report suspicious solicitation

Continued from Page D1

ents to see if there's evidence of safety, to see if it's something that can be marketed in the United States, to make sure it's in the best interest of that patient and that it's cost effective," Jones said.

TRICARE has been monitoring compound activity for the past couple of years, Jones said,

but only over the last four or five months has the aggressive marketing outreach and exorbitant prices become a factor.

The commercial insurance industry has been a little faster to begin restricting the compounds, Jones said, "but we have been careful to be sure that we don't create problems for those who need legitimate compounds and

compound prescriptions."

Protecting beneficiaries

For the last six months, Jones said DHA has been working to make beneficiaries aware of some of the nefarious practices and outreach efforts being made to try to get their personal health information and scam the government.

"There are a lot of tools avail-

able on the TRICARE.mil and health.mil websites. There's also a fraud line if you get one of these calls, or you run across someone who's trying to give you a free lunch or something for nothing," he said.

Jones said that when beneficiaries call, DHA follows up to see if the situation is legitimate or if they should turn it

over to investigators.

"TRICARE sent around 30,000 letters to patients who receive compounds to let them know that we were starting a new screening process, but (told them) if theirs was a legitimate compound they needed, it should go through with no problem," Jones said, adding that the letter lets patients know what to do if they had questions.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Trivia

Answers

1. Sodor
2. South Dakota
3. Boxing
4. 1951
5. 1967
6. Typhon
7. Cannibalism
8. Powhatan
9. Poland
10. 42

SPORTS BRIEFS

Memorial Day Flag Golf Tournament

Silver Wings Golf Course will host its Memorial Day Flag Tournament Monday with tee times from 7-9 a.m. People can register up to 9 a.m. Monday. Entry cost is \$5, plus green and cart fees. Players must have a valid handicap.

For more information, call 598-2449.

Stars and Strikes

Rucker Lanes will offer its Stars and Strikes special on Memorial Day, Monday, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Games will cost 25 cents per person and shoe rentals will be 50 cents. Regular pricing will apply to other menu items.

For more information, call 255-9503.

Fitness Challenge

Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center instructors will hold a two-hour fitness

challenge each month, with the next one taking place May 28. The challenge is open to all authorized PFC patrons. Each class is \$3.50 or people can use their class card. Each session will feature door prizes and refreshments. All challenges are held at Fortenberry-Colton PFC at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call 255-3794.

Disc Golf Tournament

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center is hosting the third annual Disc Golf Tournament May 30 at 10 a.m. at the disc golf course. The tournament will be 18 holes with players paired randomly, followed by another 18 holes by age, group and score. Trophies will be awarded in various categories. The cost is \$20 for those who sign up on or before Monday, and \$25 afterwards. All pre-registered competitors will receive a T-shirt. Competitors registering after Monday will

receive T-shirts while supplies last.

For more information or to sign up, call 255-2296 or 255-2997.

BOSS dodgeball tournament

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will host a dodgeball tournament at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center May 30 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$60 per team, which guarantees a team three games in a round-robin format. Playoff games will be played in the afternoon for advancing teams. Teams must have at least six players, but no more than 10, and there will be a maximum of 32 teams.

Teams will pick their own team name and uniforms with a common theme. There will be an award for best uniform, as well as trophies for first-third places. Snacks and beverages will be on sale with all proceeds benefiting the BOSS program and its volunteer

activities. The event is open to the public. Teams must sign up by Tuesday by calling 379-4594.

Army Strong Triathlon

Fort Rucker will host its annual Army Strong Triathlon June 13 from 7 a.m. to noon at Lake Tholocco's West Beach. Participants will swim a quarter mile, bike 10.6 miles and run 3.1 miles. Cash awards will be given to the top overall finishers and the top relay team. Pre-registration cost for individuals is \$40 up to June 7, or \$50 after and up to race day. Relay teams – maximum of three people – is \$70 by June 7, or \$80 after and up to race day. All pre-registered participants will receive T-shirts. Those who register after June 7 will receive T-shirts as supplies last. The event is open to the public.

To register or get more information, call 255-2296.



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