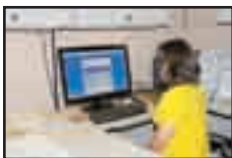


SPEAK UP
Customer feedback
drives Fort Rucker
services

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**LENDING
HANGAR**
Ready to help those
PCSing in, out

Story on Page C1



SOFTBALL
Swift and Deadly
stomps Lowe
Ballers

Story on Page D1



ARMY FLYER

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

VOL. 64 ■ NO. 26

FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

JULY 3, 2014

FREEDOM FEST



PHOTO BY NATHAN PF AU

Fireworks explode over the sky of Fort Rucker during the 2012 Wiregrass Freedom Fest. This is year's event is today from 4-10 p.m. For more, see the Wiregrass Freedom Fest insert in this week's *Army Flier*.

USAACE welcomes deputy to commanding general

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker welcomed a new deputy to the commanding general during an assumption of responsibility ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Friday.

Russell B. Hall assumed responsibility during the ceremony and was welcomed to the installation by Brig. Gen. Michael D. Lundy, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, as well as many other members of the Fort Rucker community.

"There's a lot of change going on here at Fort Rucker ... and we're here today to complete the biggest part of that change to our key and essential leaders by welcoming the Halls to our team," said the general during the ceremony. "Russ and (his wife), Lexi, bring a wealth of experience to our team. Russ knows money, he knows community relations, he knows how to manage and develop our civilian workforce, he



PHOTO BY NATHAN PF AU

Russell B. Hall, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker deputy to the commanding general, speaks during an assumption of responsibility ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Friday.

SEE USAACE, PAGE A5

FORT RUCKER WELCOMES NEW COMMAND TEAMS

Army Aeromedical Center, Lyster AHC

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The No. 1-ranked medical facility in U.S. Army Medical Command welcomed a new commander as Fort Rucker bid farewell to one of its most familiar faces.

Col. Gary A. Wheeler assumed command of the U.S. Army Aeromedical Center from Col. James A. Laterza during a change of command ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum June 25.

Maj. Gen. Jimmie O. Keenan, Southern Regional Medical Command commanding general, was on hand to preside over the ceremony and said that Wheeler is the right man to take Lyster Army Health Clinic and continue the excellent patient-centered care that so many on the installation have come to know.

Wheeler is a proven leader, holding numerous leadership positions, including chief of the Department of Medicine for Madigan Army Medical Center and chief information officer for U.S. Army Medical Command.

"Gary is the right guy, at the right time to come into the job," she said. "(He) is a proven leader, and any job that the Army has asked him to do, he has done."

Wheeler comes to Fort Rucker with a wealth of experience as a doctor of medicine, as well as a Masters in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

His military career spans more than two decades when he joined the Army after obtaining a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at the University of California, Berkley. His first assignment was at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he completed his Internal Medicine residency.

"Little did I realize at the flight surgeons course in

SEE LYSTER, PAGE A5

Air Traffic Services Command, 164th TAOG

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

Friends, Family and coworkers arrived in droves June 25 to welcome the new commander of the Air Traffic Services Command and 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group and to bid farewell to the outgoing senior officer.

Col. Douglas Van Weelden III assumed command from Col. Michael Shenk during a unique change of command ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

Ceremonial colors were circulated twice through the ceremony as Shenk commanded both TAOG and ATSCOM, a position that is unique in both the Army and Fort Rucker.

Brig. Gen. Michael D. Lundy, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, presented Van Weelden with the unit colors and congratulated him on his promotion to commander.

"(Van Weelden), you and (your wife) are exactly the right team (to take command). I have no doubt about that," he said. "You have an exciting and rewarding two years ahead that will probably be the most exciting and rewarding two years of your career. There is no greater honor than to be charged with commanding Soldiers – and I know you're all in for the mission, for them and for their Families."

Lundy also remarked on TAOG's and ATSCOM's unique mission.

"When you're one-of-a-kind you have to shoulder the entire load 24/7, 365 days a year, around the world with really no backup," he said. "Air traffic control Soldiers often do their best work with just a radio and a piece of paper. Its not technology that makes them great – its their intellect and their imagination that allows them to



PHOTO BY SARA E. MARTIN

Col. Douglas Van Weelden III accepts the unit colors of the Air Traffic Services Command from Brig. Gen. Michael D. Lundy, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, June 25 during a change of command ceremony.

visualize in three directions, to describe and direct, to be able to keep all those moving pieces safely operating in very complex airspace around the world."

Lundy continued by saying that Shenk's leadership ensured that air traffic services across the Army, at home and abroad, kept everything moving safely and efficiently at the point of greatest friction of every mission that Army Aviation executes.

"It is a daunting task and these Soldiers are the calming voice of our branch. They bring sanity to what often could

SEE ATSCOM, PAGE A5

1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

A centuries-old tradition was carried out on Howze Field in a change of command and responsibility ceremony for the Squared Away unit June 25.

Lt. Col. John Tucker assumed command from Lt. Col. Robert Keeter by the ceremonial passing of the unit colors for 1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment.

Command Sgt. Maj. Morris Anderson also assumed responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Paul McGrew.

In his remarks, Col. Jayson Altieri, 110th Aviation Brigade commander, welcomed Tucker and Anderson to the Fort Rucker team.

"As fortunate as the battalion was to have (Keeter) as the leader these past few years, they are just as lucky to have (Tucker) and (Anderson) now taking the controls," he said. "They are no strangers to (U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence) and 110th Aviation Brigade as they both bring a wealth of leadership, tactical knowledge and experience to this organization. I know the battalion is in good hands."

The colonel commended Keeter and McGrew for their dedication to duty and mission during their time as the senior leaders for the unit.

"They have provided calm, steady leadership critical to running this important Aviation operation," he said. "Their teaming has been a cornerstone for the success of USSACE



PHOTO BY SARA E. MARTIN

Lt. Col. John Tucker accepts the unit colors from Col. Jayson Altieri, 110th Aviation Brigade commander, during a change of command ceremony June 25 at Howze Field.

and allowed the Fort Rucker team to train the best combat Aviators in the world ready to support the Army's global expeditionary mission."

Altieri then called attention to the fact that as the ceremony was being conducted, 1-11th Soldiers were providing air traffic control services to more than 100 aircraft in

SEE 1-11TH, PAGE A5



PHOTO BY NATHAN PF AU

Col. Gary A. Wheeler, U.S. Army Aeromedical Center commander, receives the unit colors from Maj. Gen. Jimmie O. Keenan, Southern Regional Medical Command commanding general, during a change of command ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum June 25.

PERSPECTIVE

Keep it safe: Fireworks dangers increasing

American Forces Press Service
Press Release

WASHINGTON — Shooting-off fireworks on Independence Day is becoming more hazardous, according to a Consumer Product Safety Commission study issued June 26.

In 2013, there were eight deaths and an estimated 11,400 consumers who sustained injuries related to fireworks, the CPSC study said. This represents an increase from 8,700 injuries in 2012. Sixty-five percent, or 7,400, of the injuries in 2013 occurred in the 30 days surrounding July 4.

Fireworks malfunctions and improper use are associated with the most injuries, according to the study, which is based on the review of fireworks incident reports from hospital emergency rooms, death certificate files, news clippings and other sources.

Injuries frequently resulted from users playing with lit fireworks or igniting fireworks while holding the device. Consumers also reported injuries related to devices that malfunctioned or devices that did not work as expected, including injuries due to errant flight paths, devices that tipped over and blowouts.

“CPSC works year-round to help prevent deaths and injuries from legal and illegal fireworks,” said CPSC Acting Chairman Bob Adler. “We engage the fireworks industry, monitor incoming fireworks shipments at the ports, and enforce federal safety rules, so that all Americans have a safe Fourth of July.”

Last year, children under age 5 experienced a higher estimated per capita injury rate than any other age group, according to the study. Past reports indicate that consumers sometimes feel comfortable handing off to children fireworks devices perceived to be less powerful, such as sparklers and bottle rockets. In 2013, sparklers and rockets accounted for more than 40 percent of all estimated injuries.

According to the study, fireworks incidents become deadly when banned, professional and home-manufactured devices are



CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION GRAPHIC

involved. In each of the eight fireworks-related deaths recorded in 2013, the victim was manipulating [or was a bystander to someone who was handling] a banned, professional or home-manufactured device.

CPSC enforces the mandatory fireworks requirements in the Federal Hazardous Substances Act and the Consumer Product Safety Act, by working with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and

the U.S. Department of Justice. Together, these agencies monitor products entering the country, stop illegal use and distribution of fireworks and prosecute violators of the federal requirements.

CPSC and CBP staff sampled and tested a select number of imported fireworks in 2013. Of those tested, 33 percent were non-compliant with federal regulations. Violations most often involved overloaded report composition and failure to meet fuse burn-

time requirements. These devices never reached the shelves of American stores or fireworks stands.

Consumers who decide to purchase legal fireworks are urged to take the following safety steps.

- Make sure the fireworks you want to buy are legal in your area before buying or using them.
- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers. Parents may not realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit – hot enough to melt some metals.
- Always have an adult close by to supervise fireworks activities if older children are allowed to handle devices.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper, which is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and could pose a danger to consumers.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move away from them quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding the device to prevent a trash fire.

ATF encourages the public to report the manufacture or sale of illegal fireworks to local law enforcement agencies or to the ATF hotline at 1-888-ATF-BOMB (1-888-283-2662).

Rotor Wash

“The 4th of July is this week. What are your plans to celebrate the nation’s independence?”



**Sgt. James Old,
98th Army Band**

“I am going to hang out with my Family next to the pool, cook some livestock on the grill and drink some adult beverages.”



**Staff Sgt. Lani Yearicks,
98th Army Band**

“I will be traveling home to Michigan to attend my 20-year class reunion.”



**Tammy Doerer,
Army spouse**

“My Family plans to attend Freedom Fest. We are really excited for it this year. And this weekend we plan to stay-cation and enjoy the pool and lake.”



**Staff Sgt.
Timothy Hewitt,
ACLC**

“I will be going to Freedom Fest. The festival is way better on post than anything else off post.”



**Sgt. 1st Class
Robert Millard,
ACLC**

“I will be lazy by staying home with the dogs and kids. I might head out to Freedom Fest depending how hot it gets.”

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FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

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FORT RUCKER GARRISON COMMANDER

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FORT RUCKER PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

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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.

Moving forward

Army changes transition assistance program name

By **Bryan Tharpe**
Fort Rucker Soldier for Life Center

The Army's Human Resources Command recently announced that the Army Career and Alumni Program has changed names effective immediately to Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program.

This change was announced June 20 by the Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, chief of staff of the Army, to better reflect the new direction of Army transition.

Soldiers should not be confused when they call the for-

merly named ACAP Center and hear the voice on the other end of the phone responding by the new name. Likewise, they should not be confused when they receive a memo or email from the newly named agency. The services are not changing from what they have been since the inception of the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act, which came into effect in November 2011. The mandated VOW Act requirements, timeliness and career readiness standards will also remain the same.

Soldiers need to get into a new mindset of once a Soldier, always a Soldier. Beginning Oct. 1, a new piece of Army tran-

sition, the Soldier for Life Program, will come into effect and Soldiers will begin to be introduced to transition principles early on, and at set points throughout their military careers.

Currently, most Soldiers wait until near the end of their careers to find out about transition information. The Army feels this is too late. The goal is to have all Soldiers prepared to transition out of the Army and into a great civilian job, regardless of if they stay three or 33 years in the Army.

For more information on the subject, call the Fort Rucker Soldier for Life Center – formerly the ACAP Center – at 255-2558.

Customer feedback drives Fort Rucker services

By **Nathan Pfau**
Army Flier Staff Writer

Customer feedback is a way for people to stay connected and improve the services and products that they care so much about, and providing that kind of feedback is no different when it comes to improving the community that so many Soldiers and Families call home.

The ICE Program is a Web-based Department of Defense program that customers can use to get information about services that are provided by the garrison and provide feedback about those services, said Kristina Davis, lead management and program analyst for the Fort Rucker Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.

"It's important to have a program like this because it gives customers a voice and it's a quick and easy way for them to provide feedback," she said. "The information customers provide ... goes immediately to the service provider manager."

The program is used to let service providers know not only what they might be able to improve, but also to praise those who are doing their jobs well.

Janice Erdlitz, Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation marketing director, said that ICE is an important tool for providing feedback to improve services offered.

"It also serves as a great tool to let managers know about staff members who are providing outstanding customer service," she added.

Positive feedback can have a huge boost on employee morale, said Erdlitz, and DF-MWR often uses the ICE program to recognize employees who have received positive ICE comments.

The recognition that people get for doing a good job doesn't only come from the organization or service provider that the employee works for, but can come from installation and higher headquarters leadership as well, said Davis.

Several front-line staff and managers have been awarded with certificates signed by the Secretary of Defense for their achievements in customer driven excellence during the Installation of Excellence Recognition Ceremony in November, she added.

"The genesis of these awards were comments submitted by customers through



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Christie Ambler, management analyst for the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office looks at the online Interactive Customer Evaluation website.

ICE," she said.

People can submit feedback anonymously, but customer service can be better provided if people sign their names and provide contact information, said Davis.

"We have a policy for people that request contact back from a manager to be contacted within three days," she said. "If people (provide contact information), especially if there has been some kind of problem, that gives the manager a chance to get more information... and let the person know what the resolution is."

ICE allows service providers the opportunity to see how the public views their facilities, whether good or bad, said Erdlitz.

"Managers can see how patrons are rating their facility and can look for areas that need improvement," she said. "We hope

our patrons will use ICE not as a complaint tool, but as a positive reward tool to let us know what great service they are experiencing."

ICE should not be used to report a crime or complain about an individual, added Davis. Comments should focus on service the customer has received.

"Quality of life is so important for (the Fort Rucker) community, and through ICE, (people) can directly affect customer service," said Erdlitz. "We wanted to make ICE as convenient as we could for our patrons."

Some of the services on Fort Rucker, such as the bowling center and other MWR facilities have computers or kiosks set up that are dedicated for use by customers to give feedback through ICE.

MWR provides links on their website, www.ftruckermwr.com, that go directly to ICE for customers to use and provide feedback on their services, she added.

In some locations, people can also fill out paper ICE cards and give them to a manager.

The Installation Management Command standard for customer satisfaction is 90 percent, and Fort Rucker consistently exceeds that standard, said Davis.

"I think all the people I work with here on the installation really are here for the customer," she said. "Letting them know how well they are doing or how they can improve is really important."

To use the ICE system, visit www.rucker.army.mil and click on the ICE logo or visit www.ice.disa.mil.

News Briefs

Blood drive

LifeSouth Community Blood Centers will host a blood drive today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the post exchange parking lot. For more information, call 888-795-2707.

Pharmacy closure

The Lyster Army Health Clinic pharmacy will close July 16 and reopen July 21 in its new space inside the clinic.

Retiree ceremony

Fort Rucker will host its quarterly retirement ceremony July 25 at 2 p.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation. All are invited to attend and honor Fort Rucker's latest retirees.

Opportunity knocks

The following internal positions are available on Fort Rucker: Medical Records Technician, GS-0675-04, Vacancy No. SCEG140397991146740, with a closing date of Tuesday; Instructional Systems Specialist, GS-1750-11, Vacancy No. SCEG141287601130008, with a closing date of Tuesday; Lead Human Resources Assistant (Military/OA), GS-0203-07, Vacancy No. SCEG141077851134729, with a closing date of Tuesday; and Human Resources Specialist (Classification, Recruitment and Placement), GS-0201-12, Vacancy No. SCEG141274261151192, with a closing date of Wednesday.

For more, check out www.usajobs.gov.

Marriage 101

Marriage 101, a premarital seminar and training, will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each month from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center, Bldg. 8939. Marriage 101 is mandatory for

those wishing to get married at Fort Rucker, according to Chaplain (Capt.) Troy D. Allan.

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

Thrift shop

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

For more information, call 255-9595.

Salad Wednesdays

Fort Rucker Army and Air Force Exchange Service restaurants are helping Soldiers and their Families eat healthy while saving money with Salad Wednesdays. Every Wednesday, guests can take \$2 off any salad valued at \$4 or more at participating Fort Rucker Exchange direct-operated restaurants. Salad Wednesdays are part of the exchange's Operation Be Fit initiative, designed to promote health and wellness.

"Saving money while eating right is good for the body – and the wallet," said the Don Walter Jr., exchange main store manager. "The exchange wants to do its part by ensuring Soldiers have a selection of good food that's good for them and affordable, too."

Besides saving \$2 on salads each Wednesday, customers who pay with their MILITARY STAR® card receive an additional 10 percent off at exchange restaurants. Exchange restaurants are open to anyone – whether military, civil service, contractor or visitor – per Army regulations.

Fire extinguisher servicing

The Fort Rucker Fire Department is unable to provide people portable fire extinguisher service, but it is

still able to conduct annual inspections and tag replacements. For six-year maintenance, recharges and hydrostatic testing, there are local businesses that can assist people.

For more information, call 255-3316.

ID card section

Those who need a military or military dependent ID card may make an appointment by calling 255-2437 or 255-2182. Walk-ins are served on a first-come, first-served basis. People may experience delays in service from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center, Bldg. 8939, Rm. 38. AA is described by chapel officials as a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other so that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from the use of alcohol. The program is focused on spirituality and religion, having an impact on changing a person's life.

For more information, contact the religious support office at 255-2989.

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.

Backbone of Army

SMA honors NCOs at Twilight Tattoo

By Lisa Ferdinando
Army News Service

JOINT BASE MYER-HENDERSON HALL, Va. — On a summer evening in the national capital region, the Army's top enlisted adviser honored a special group of men and women who have worn the uniform.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III hosted a Twilight Tattoo, an hour-long, live-action military pageant, June 25 in honor of non-commissioned officers.

NCOs are truly the "backbone of the Army" and have served the nation with distinction and honor, Chandler said.

"In its darkest times and its brightest times, it's been a non-commissioned officer who has been at the forefront of everything that we've asked our nation to do, our Army to do, over the past 239 years," he said.

He said the Army has faced "challenging times over the last 13 years," since 9/11. NCOs have been the most-deployed segment of the Army in that timeframe, he said, with an average of 3.5 deployments.

The Twilight Tattoo is a popular Army program that features Soldiers from the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own."

NCOs are the "glue for our Army and are the key to our success," he said.

The Army, Chandler said, would not be the strongest fighting force in the world if it were not for the NCOs.

The Twilight Tattoo, which was open to the public, provided attendees a history of the Army and reminded them of the service and sacrifice of service members, Chandler said.

At a reception before the tattoo, Chandler thanked all the guests, including NCOs past and present, who attended the night's events.

Four Korean War veterans, Donald Allen, Richard Briscoe, Herculano Dias, and Winston Jackson, were among the distinguished guests. They served with the 2nd Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne), a segregated, all-black Ranger unit.

"Gentlemen, you honor us with your presence," Chandler said.

The former Rangers, who live in the Washington, D.C., area, took time to greet guests and share their Army experiences.

"There are four of us here today who served in Korea with the 2nd Airborne Ranger Company. We were the first and only all-black Airborne Ranger outfit in the whole United States Army," said Dias.

"We were the only all-black Ranger outfit to make a combat jump. We jumped March 23, 1951, in a place called Munsan-Ni, Korea," said Dias, a sergeant who served four years.

Allen, a retired first sergeant, said he would give today's Soldiers the same advice he gives his grandson, a Marine.

"Do the best that you can in everything," Allen said. "Don't let anybody beat you doing anything. Be the best Soldier, shoot the rifle best, drill the best and work hard at it. If you work hard, you'll be alright."

Robert Griffin Jr. and



PHOTO BY LISA FERDINANDO

Spectators at the Twilight Tattoo, at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., June 25, saw the story of the Army told through period battle scenes, musical performances and precision moves of Old Guard Soldiers.

wife, Jacqueline Griffin, both served as NCOs in the Army. The two are the parents of three children, including Washington Redskins' quarterback Robert Griffin III. They said their entire Family benefited from their own experiences as NCOs.

"We just went in with a spirit of 'we were going to make the best of our Army careers,' and we loved it," said Jacqueline, who left the Army as a sergeant with 12 years of service. "Our children were totally blessed by our Army experience, and the instruction and discipline and all the stuff that goes along with it."

Their only son, nicknamed "RGIII," is proud to have grown up in a military Family, she said.

"He talks about it constantly, that he appreciates the sacrifices that the men and women in the military make for the country," she said. "He appreciates the sacrifices that we made and what it taught him. He loves being a military kid."

Robert Jr., who retired in 2003 as a staff sergeant, said being an NCO had a "powerful impact" in shaping and influencing the Family, and had a positive influence on friends and their Families, as well.

NCOs are a critical component of the force, he said.

"You need that vital link between the leadership who are making policies and the personnel who are actually enforcing the policies to develop, train and shape our military," he said.

In addition to Army members, Chandler also noted the attendance of two top enlisted advisers from other military branches: Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Steven Cantrell, who became the Coast Guard's top enlisted adviser in May; and Marine Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, the senior enlisted adviser to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

At the event, the distinguished guests, veterans from all branches, and visiting school groups were recognized to the applause of the crowd. The event, which was held indoors instead of on a parade field due to the threat of bad weather, saw an auditorium filled with spectators to see the pageantry and ceremony of the Army tradition.



Distinguished guests at the Twilight Tattoo June 25 at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., included Korean War veterans, left to right, Donald Allen, Winston Jackson, Herculano Dias, and Richard Briscoe. They served with the 2nd Ranger Infantry Company (Airborne), a segregated, all-black Ranger unit.

BACKGROUND: Twilight Tattoo

The Twilight Tattoo traces its history back more than 300 years ago, when British troops were summoned out of the pubs by a bugle and drum call. The familiar tune told tavern owners it was time to turn off the taps and troops knew it was time to return to the barracks.

The modern-day call is known as tattoo. Dur-

ing basic training, the call signals the time to quiet down and hit the bunks.

The Military District of Washington's Twilight Tattoo can be traced to pre-World War II, when the 3rd Cavalry Regiment staged military shows on Fort Myer to showcase its capabilities.



Spectators at the Twilight Tattoo, at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., June 25, saw the story of the Army told through period battle scenes, musical performances, and precision moves of Old Guard Soldiers.

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III TRANSFORMERS - PG13
Age of Extinction - 2D
1:00, 3:10, 7:00 & 9:15

USAACE: Hall honored to serve Rucker community

Continued from Page A1

knows how to maximize the performance of large organizations and he’s passionate,” all qualities that Lundy believes are essential to his job as deputy to the commanding general.

Hall, who is a retired colonel, comes to Fort Rucker from his most recent assignment as the director of resources in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, where he was responsible for oversight, management and execution of requirements development for all installation management programs for Army installations.

His career as an Army leader spans nearly 40 years as

both an active-duty Soldier and as a civilian employee, and past assignments include serving as the director of Installation Management Command for the Northeast Region, as well as facilitating the establishment of the IMCOM Europe Region.

“We’re glad to finally have you (and your wife) on board, and I’m fully confident that you’re going to find this to be the most rewarding assignment of your career,” said Lundy. “There’s no better place to live or serve, and I can tell you that these great communities that surround us are peerless in the support that they give.

“They truly love their Soldiers and DA civilians, and it shows everyday,” he continued. “You’re going to find that the USAACE workforce, whether they’re in the Army Avi-

ation Center of Excellence or all the other supporting agencies that we have ... you’re going to find that they truly live our motto and are above the best.”

Hall thanked Lundy for the opportunity to bring his wealth of experience to Fort Rucker and said he’s excited at the prospect of working so closely with the community.

“Thank you for your trust and confidence in selecting me,” he said to the general. “It is truly an honor and privilege to serve, and to serve the great communities in the Wiregrass.

“I look forward to working very hard in the future,” continued Hall. “We are under some austere times as we make some budgetary changes, but that just means that leaders step up and make tough decisions, look forward and be for-

ATSCOM: Leaders saluted for professional reputation

Continued from Page A1

be considered chaos at the start and conclusion of every mission that Army Aviation executes,” he said, adding that he knows Shenk is very proud of this team and these Soldiers.

“Mike is a humble, professional leader that always leads by example. Thanks for all you have done ... you set the bar high. You made a lasting impression on these Soldiers and our Army,” he

said. “I know after you leave today ... and pull through the gates of the home of Army Aviation ... you will have a hole in your heart. But take comfort, you are handing the controls to another superb commander and he will take great care of these Soldiers and their Families.”

Shenk extended his best wishes to Van Weelden, adding he hopes Van Weelden finds command to be very rewarding and that he enjoys the relationships he will

build with the Soldiers and civilians.

Van Weelden thanked Shenk for a “very” warm welcome during the transition, and wished him well in retirement.

“You are a (true) professional whose caring concern is evident in the magnificent organization and legacy you have left,” he said.

The new commander said he is excited to become a member of the 164th TAOG and ATSCOM

teams.

“The professional and exemplary reputation of these teams is a direct reflection of the caliber of its leaders, Soldiers and civilian members,” he said. “I look forward to being a part of such an outstanding team as we face future challenges and find opportunities.”

Van Weelden said he was absolutely thrilled to be back in the Wiregrass, adding that he was last here in 1998.

“This is a great community and a great post, I am very happy to be back. I was very surprised when I was told I would be taking command,” he continued. “It is such an honor to be selected for command, especially at this level. We are getting into the time where there is going to be a lot of challenges and a lot of change, but the beauty of that is it takes great Soldiers and leaders to get through it. I am looking forward to it.”

Lyster: Speakers laud facility’s staff, level of care

Continued from Page A1

the spring of 1990 that I would someday be back here for a full tour of duty,” said Wheeler. “(My Family and I) are absolutely thrilled to make Fort Rucker our home and I’m honored to be part of such a great post, and humbled to take command of such a high performing unit.”

That high-performing unit isn’t made up of just leaders, but everyone on the Lyster team, said Keenan.

“When we talk about (Lyster Army Health Clinic), we’re not just talking about Laterza and the phenomenal job that he’s accomplished in the last two years,” she

said. “We’re talking about ... all the people that (work at Lyster). It’s the team that makes Lyster.

“It’s not the building, it’s not the bricks or the mortars – it’s the team,” she continued. “What a difference they have made in taking care of America’s sons and daughters.”

That excellence not only shows in the community, but resounds across all of MEDCOM, with LAHC ranking No. 1 out of all hospitals and clinics, said the general.

“Lyster is No. 1 and it’s because of the phenomenal care they give,” she said. “That’s to 17,000 beneficiaries. They take care of their own every single day, and it’s

that difference Jim Laterza and his staff has made here. It’s that leadership where he inspires his staff to do more every day. When we look at that in Army medicine, we look at what we can do to improve care.”

Wheeler recognized Laterza’s excellent leadership and said he will do what he can to continue that excellence.

“You have outperformed every medical treatment facility in the southern region for 15 months running,” he said to Laterza and the LAHC staff. “Clearly there’s no challenge too difficult to tackle and overcome with excellence ... and I clearly have huge boots to fill.”

“Today, it’s my great honor to stand be-

fore you and relinquish command to Col. Gary Wheeler,” said Laterza during the ceremony. “Many have asked me if I’m ready to go ... and there are so many more things that I think I could do in the pursuit of excellence, but I know that the pursuit of excellence is not mine alone.

“I’m excited for Colonel Wheeler, his wife, Wendy, and his Family, as they inherit a great organization – one I love – and become members of this tremendous community,” he said.

Laterza will go on to serve as the European Medical Command chief of staff where he said he hopes to continue to help provide the best patient-centered care.

1-11th: Commander credits mentors for success

Continued from Page A1

the 83,000 square kilometers of airspace over Fort Rucker and the surrounding communities.

Finishing his remarks, Altieri said that he wishes the best for Keeter and McGrew.

“Keeter is a confident, passionate, mission-focused and selfless leader. The confidence he placed

on his team allowed the 1-11th officers, Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians to operate one Army stagefield, four Army heliports, one civilian airfield, and 14 stagefields safely and effectively,” he concluded.

The incoming commander said he appreciated all the help he’s received from Keeter in making a smooth transition, adding that

the outgoing commander had been extremely gracious and fully transparent.

“To all the Soldiers, (Anderson) and I are looking forward to serving with you,” he began, saying they both are eager for the challenge. “During our watch, you will also be challenged to hone your own craft as you train to become the world’s best air

traffic control experts.”

Tucker continued by saying that the opportunity to command occurred because of all the leaders who coached, developed and mentored him over the past 22 years.

Tucker has been stationed at Fort Rucker since 2008, minus a one-year deployment to Afghanistan in 2010, and said that it is awesome

that he is taking command.

“It is a great feeling, and I never thought I would ever have this opportunity. I am very humbled,” he said. “I am looking forward to serving our Soldiers. I just want the Soldiers to be the best air traffic controllers they possibly can, and that is my challenge – to provide that training to make them better.”

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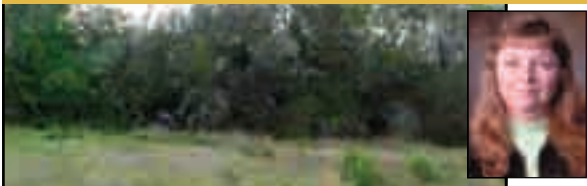
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JULY 3, 2014

CUTTING EDGE

Army training, technology evolving

By Mike Casey

Combined Arms Center-Training

FORT EUSTIS, Va. – The Army is evolving its current Integrated Training Environment into a single synthetic training environment that combines constructive, gaming and virtual systems to provide challenging exercises efficiently at the point of need.

Army officials discussed the Future Holistic Training Environment – Live/Synthetic at the Training and Education 2025 and Beyond Industry Forum, held June 18-19 at Fort Eustis. At the forum, Army officials discussed future capabilities, and training and education gaps with defense industry representatives.

Currently, the Army is fielding the Live, Virtual, Constructive-Integrating Architecture to bring current training systems together to create an Integrated Training Environment. The Future Holistic Training Environment-Live/Synthetic would provide additional capabilities.

“The new environment will collapse constructive, virtual and gaming capabilities into one synthetic environment that can be coupled with live training,” said Col. John Janiszewski, director of the National Simulation Center, at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. “It will allow commanders to incorporate the plan, prepare, execute and assess steps of unit training management into multi-echelon training exercises.”

Janiszewski led a panel discussion



PHOTO BY MIKE CASEY

A 1st Armored Division Soldier trains on the Aviation Combined Arms Tactical Trainer at Fort Bliss, Texas.

about capabilities the new training environment will need.

- A convergence of virtual, constructive, and gaming environments with augmented reality into a single synthetic environment to link with live training. This will increase the realism of live training, and reduce dependency on brick-and-mortar training sites.
- A single environment that encapsulates land, sea, air, space and cyber. This will support regionally aligned forces and missions.
- Artificial intelligence to replicate

operational complexity and uncertainty. This will lower costs by replacing some human role players with avatars.

- Automated tools and intelligent tutors to provide a holistic training common operational picture. This adds mentors, teachers and coaches without the costs.
- After-action review and assessment tools that are linked to execution outcomes, assist unit readiness reporting and provide lessons learned.

SEE TECHNOLOGY, PAGE B4

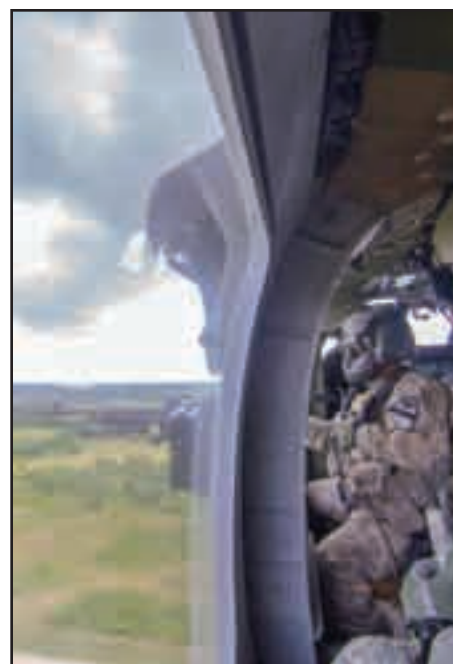


PHOTO BY SPC. ALEX SKRIPNICHUK

Sgt. Matthew Arambula, a crew chief for the 3rd Squadron (Assault), 227th Aviation Regiment, Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division on Fort Hood, readies to fire the M240H during his qualification.

SHOOTING
from the sky

By Spc. Alex Skripnichuk

7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT HOOD, Texas – On a hot Texas day, the helicopter hovered like an eagle searching for its prey.

A set of targets pop up in the distance. The door gunner of the UH-60 Black Hawk identifies the threat, calls out direction, distance and description. The noise coming from the M240H machine gun is deafening as the door gunner engages the targets.

Soldiers from 3rd Squadron (Assault), 227th Aviation Regiment, Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division on Fort Hood took to the skies and qualified on the weapons system of the helicopter.

Soldiers have to engage vehicle and man-size targets. They do this from inside of a helicopter – no easy task.

This series of qualifications is for the crew chiefs. They qualify so they can train other Soldiers in proper operation of the helicopter’s weapon systems.

“Targets are hard to hit when you are shooting from a helicopter moving at 70 knots,” said Sgt. John Flores, a flight instructor and crew chief for the squadron.

“To qualify, the gunners have to hit a series of targets from 150 to 800 meters away,” said Staff Sgt. Joel Redman, the squadron standardization instructor. “They have to hit the targets as the helicopter hovers and as the helicopter is moving.”

The process is again repeated during the night with the aid of night vision goggles. If the gunners are able to pass seven of their 10 passes they are considered qualified with the M240H weapons system.

The machine gun is up to the task. It is a modified version of the Army’s M240B, a 7.62 mm, automatic machine gun. It is accurate to a range of 1,100 meters for area targets, vehicles and buildings, and 800 meters for point targets, enemy

SEE SKY, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY SPC. ARIEL J. SOLOMON

Jeff Monken, new head coach of the Army football team, and Lt. Gen. Robert L. Caslen, superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy (right), sit in the seats of an Apache helicopter at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, June 18. The visit informed Monken about where his players go after they graduate West Point and gave him the opportunity to meet with former West Point cadets.

Face of Defense: Soldier’s creativity benefits mission



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. BRYAN LEWIS

Army Sgt. Marshall R. Meeks prepares pieces he will use to make a cart to transport heavy equipment at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, June 7.

By Army Spc. Reginald M. Graham Jr.

16th Combat Aviation Brigade

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – An allied trade specialist with Task Force Bellator at Kandahar uses his creativity not only to enhance his unit’s mission effectiveness, but also to raise his morale.

Army Sgt. Marshall R. Meeks enlisted as a metal worker in 2006. As the Army transitioned, his military occupational specialty was combined with the machinist specialty to produce more versatile Soldiers.

Meeks, a San Antonio native, said he enlisted as a way to expand on abilities he had developed in his civilian life. “I used to be a mechanic, [used to] build houses, and was a freelance contractor,” he said. “I joined the Army to be a welder.”

Now serving on his third deployment, Meeks transitioned from supporting ground units most of his career to supporting Aviation with the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade. His ability to weld, mold and create products from scratch makes him a highly sought commodity among the unit’s logisticians, mechanics, crew chiefs, pilots and senior leaders.

“Being in a welding shop is a real spotlight,” he said. “A lot of people get you to build a lot of different stuff. They will give me a blueprint with tolerances. As long as you make it to that print, then you are good to go.”

Meeks assisted Soldiers in his support battalion by building a cart to carry Hellfire missiles and their cases, which weigh almost 250 pounds each.

Moving each case used to require four Soldiers carrying it, but now the task requires just one Soldier rolling a cart.

Meeks said that on a previous deployment, he was shown a picture of a missile cart, but it carried only the missile and not the case.

“I made one so the whole [case] fits in there,” he said. “You can just take the top off ... and have the bottom half roll under the wing of the [helicopter].”

When Meeks is not making something for missions, he is turning his military trade into a hobby. In the middle of a work area filled with blowtorches, welding helmets and scrap metal stands an array of animal figurines made from leftover metal that otherwise would be thrown away after a job.

Meeks said he and other Soldiers in his shop were off work one day and decided the scraps could be made into things worth keeping. He now uses the shop’s scraps and his imagination to make the figurines out of what would be junk.

Meanwhile, Meeks continues to build his future.

“My next big goal is to finish my schooling,” he said, noting that he has accumulated 28 semester hours in engineering and welding science.

With 12-hour work days, constant requests for missions and a continuation of bettering himself, Meeks said, he has found a way to create an environment that enables individuality within the confines of the unit.

“You can make anything you want as long as you have imagination and the will to do it,” he said.

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Starting Salary: \$10.18/HR

OPENING DATE:

June 30, 2014

CLOSING DATE:

July 14, 2014

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VW EOS convertible 2010 , 67K miles, fully load-
ed, light blue in color \$16,000. 334-596-2692.

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Over 25 Years in the
Wiregrass Area

Technology: Panel discusses needs, way ahead

Continued from Page B1

This provides commanders with useful information and benchmarks to evaluate training exercises.

- All aspects of the operations process

to enable the seamless planning, preparation, execution and assessment of Live-Synthetic training. This will improve all steps in an exercise.

- A 24/7, low-overhead capability worldwide at home stations, Combat

Training Centers and deployed locations that will require fewer contractors. This will provide training at the point of need while reducing costs. Several Army organizations are conducting research to make the Future

Holistic Training Environment-Live/Synthetic a reality. To learn more about the new training environment, see the presentation at: <http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/CAC-T/Repository/FutureHolisticTrainingEnvironment.pdf>.

Sky: Crew chiefs pass knowledge on to Soldiers

Continued from Page B1

personnel, when mounted to a vehicle, such as a helicopter.

“Qualification of our crew chiefs is a component of mission readiness,” said Lt. Col. Christopher C. Vine, the commander of 3-227th. “Our mission is to provide defensive fires in conduct of air assault and air support

missions.”

With the crew chiefs qualified, Soldiers of the Assault Squadron will have an opportunity to learn from the crew chiefs and one day qualify themselves.

The signs are all around

it's up to YOU
to recognize and act on them

know the signs
DO WHAT'S RIGHT

Training, Discipline and Standards

Training, discipline and standards are the bedrock of our Army, and as Soldiers, you've been taught what right looks like. As leaders, you have a duty and a responsibility to maintain standards in your formation. You also have an obligation to your Soldiers and their families to manage risk and take action to correct problems. In our fight against accidental fatalities, knowledge is the weapon of choice.

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Taken at face value?
It might not be worth much.

The Face of Indiscipline

He's a current and qualified MRAP driver and takes it job very seriously. He has read about some of the 25 Soldiers who have died in MRAP rollovers since the vehicle was fielded more than a decade ago. He senses he'll never get behind the wheel. During that next four-day weekend he plans to take his friend's jet ski out for a ride. He's never been one to one, but figures it has to be easier than driving an MRAP. He'll ask his go friend if she wants to go too. What a thrill! 50 mph on the open water.

Will he have the foresight to think about the wellbeing of his passengers or his own for that matter, when he tries to make that 180-degree turn with the throttle full open?

Discipline takes many forms, as does indiscipline. Know what's right and do what's right.

know the signs
DO WHAT'S RIGHT

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JULY 3, 2014

LENDING HANGAR

ready to help those PCSing in, out

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

There is a service in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, that is here to help Soldiers and Families out in the busy permanent change of station season.

The Fort Rucker Lending Hangar in Rm. 177 has houseware goods for check out to the Fort Rucker community for free to use when PCSing or when Family is in town, said Ruth Gonzalez, relocation readiness program manager.

“Any Soldier or Family member that is arriving or leaving Fort Rucker and wishes to use our services may do so before their home goods arrive,” she said. “They only need to bring us a copy of their orders.”

Orders assigning a Soldier to or away from Fort Rucker for permanent or temporary duty and an identification card are required in order to borrow items from the Lending Hangar. Anyone with a Department of Defense military identification card may use the hangar.

The purpose of the hangar is to make the transitions between duty stations smoother.

“Hopefully we lessen the fi-

nancial burden on the Soldiers,” she said. “If they have shipped their household goods, but the items have not arrived yet, they don’t have to go buy or rent anything and have double of the item when their things arrive.”

Gonzalez warns that the hangar only has the basics and has no furniture, such as dining room sets or mattresses.

“We have things such as folding tables and chairs, sleeping mats, pots and pans, dishes, coffee pots, microwaves, rice cookers, play yards, high chairs, car seats, strollers, blenders, silverware, cooking utensils, toasters and televisions,” she said, naming a few items that Soldiers can borrow.

Soldiers going through in or out processing may borrow items for 30 days, but she said ACS takes each situation on a case-by-case basis.

“If something is damaged in transition, or movers are taking longer than expected, then they can borrow things until it is fixed or that issue is resolved,” she said. “During high PCS season when delivery times are longer, it makes it even worse, so our services are a blessing to most.”

For Soldiers going overseas,



PHOTOS BY SARA E. MARTIN

Capt. Chien-Shun Chen, D Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment, and his wife, Chen-Ting, look at pots and pans Monday at the Lending Hangar.

Gonzalez said they can be proactive and send their things 60 days before they leave Fort Rucker, and that they are more than welcome to borrow from the hangar during that time.

“It is much better to send your things early and be inconvenienced here where you have friends and connections where if you need a little extra help they are here for you, whereas to go someplace new where you do not know anyone and not have your belongings,” she said.

Officials at ACS request people to return borrowed items the way they received them — clean and in good working condition.

Besides helping take some stress out of moving, Gonzalez said the hangar saves Soldiers money.

“Eating out can get expensive, and it can get old very fast,” she said. “We want Soldiers to be ready and able to work or study, and we want our Family members taken care of. It lets the Soldier be ready for their new mission.”

The Lending Hangar does not loan things out for yard sales or parties, but is able to lend a hand when Families are in town.

“If Family members are coming in from out of town then we can help the Soldier with an extra



Maj. Wei-Lun Chen, D Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment, looks at dishes Monday at the Lending Hangar.

table or an air mattress, for example,” she said. “There is no reason they should go out and buy things for short-term guests, unless they just want to.”

The Lending Hangar is open

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about the Lending Hangar or to check out items, call 255-3161 or 255-2887.

Day in the Life

Library chief keeps knowledge flowing to Soldiers

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

Many people driving down Ruf Avenue might pass the Aviation Technical Library and the Aviation Learning Center in Bldg. 9204 and think that the facility is only for flight school students, but officials there want people to know that is “simply not so.”

Beata Moore, chief of the facility, strives to help out every person that uses the library, whether they are an Aviator or not.

“The library and learning center serve as a place for students, and all Soldiers, to come and learn and study about Aviation. It is a place where they can focus and get free information,” she said, adding that the library and learning center are open to all military ID card holders, although, to use the computers people need a common access card.

The library’s focus is military history, military science and Aviation, so many flight school students do choose the facility as a place to learn, and, with the large amount of study material out there for students to fully grasp, it makes for a heavy workload for Moore.

“I do a little bit of everything. I wear many hats,” she said. “I process all of the materials (DVDs, books, magazines, online databases, catalogs, publications, e-Books), I catalog all of the materials, I order all the materials, I handle reference, and I answer questions and help students with anything they might need. I update our reading lists and publications, and I go around post to different learning institutions to brief as well as help the students on their research.

“I can help Soldiers write historical papers or a battle analysis, or order some books,” she continued. “I do it all.”

There are also a lot of administrative responsibilities, such as taking care of her



PHOTO BY SARA E. MARTIN

Beata Moore, Aviation Technical Library and Aviation Learning Center chief, places a new book out on display June 26.

five employees and the facility’s budget that Moore is in charge of, as well. And that is just on the library side.

“On the learning center side, I have to take care of the cockpit trainers. Meaning I have to make sure we have the types of trainers, equipment and training material people need,” Moore said.

Moore has been at the facility since 2007. Before that, she was a librarian at

Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville.

“We help save people money by having this available, and the library can’t stay open without the librarians and me to keep things running smoothly,” she said. “There is always someone in the background pulling the strings and that is my job – to make sure that this invaluable source remains open for the Soldiers to take advantage of.”

Moore has a normal 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. schedule, but she doesn’t have a typical day. Every day is unique for her, she said.

“I love working here because I don’t ever have the chance to get tired of my job because there is so much to do and everything is different,” she said. “There is something new to learn every day for me, as well, because the military is always changing. I like that.”

Moore said, contrary to popular belief, she does not sit at her desk and read books all day.

“I wish I had a job where I could do that,” she joked. “I am here for training, to help prepare Soldiers for whatever they might encounter after they leave here. We are always a resource no matter where they are that they can use.”

Moore said that Soldiers can email or call her no matter where they may be in the world and she can try to help them with whatever their needs might be.

“When Soldiers don’t know where to find the answers, they can come to us and we can help them. That is what we are here for,” she said, adding that she has received many calls from Soldiers on deployments.

Moore continued by saying that she loves helping Soldiers and that the library is a great place to work.

“I love helping Soldiers find the answers, and I love knowing that they are walking away with what they need and I was able to help,” she said. “(Everyone here is) an important key when it comes to education and training on the installation.”

Moore thinks military library positions are one of the Army’s best kept secrets of federal work because library workers get to help people and have the challenge of trying to meet the needs of their specific military community.

“The field has been very good to me. I look forward to years to come serving this community,” she said.

ON POST

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

Photo scavenger hunt

People are welcome to grab their favorite social media device, fire up Instagram, Facebook or Twitter and embark on the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation’s first photo scavenger hunt – Tag, You’re It! – for a chance to win prizes from Wild Adventures, Shipwreck Island or WonderWorks. People should do their hunting and tagging any time now through July 31. People can find the scavenger hunt list and details on the contest at www.ftrucker.mwr.com and submit their entry form. Winners will be selected Aug. 1.

For more information, call 255-3433.

LZ Dog Days of Summer

The Landing Zone offers a Hot Dog of the Day special throughout July, Mondays-Fridays during lunch hours – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, call 598-8025.

ScreamFree Parenting Workshop

Fort Rucker Army Community Service will host its free ScreamFree Parenting Workshop July 10, 17, 24 and 31. The workshop will be held from 9-11 a.m. at The Commons, Bldg. 8950, on Seventh Avenue. The four-session course is not just about parents lowering their voices, it’s about them learning to calm their emotional reactions and learning to focus on their own behavior more than their children’s behavior for their benefit. With these techniques, parents can create and enjoy more calm, mutually respectful and loving relationships with their children, according to organizers. The workshop is open to active duty and retired military, Department of Defense employees and their Family members.

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

Employment Readiness Class

Army Community Service is giving people the chance to build and enhance their careers at one of the Fort Rucker’s Employment Readiness Program Orientation Sessions, held monthly in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 371A. July sessions take place July 10 and 24. People will first meet in Rm. 350 for paperwork and attendance prior to going to Rm. 371A. People can sign up to learn essentials about the program and receive helpful job search tips, as well. Advance registration is required and attendance at a session is mandatory for participation in the program.

For more information, including times, or to register, call 255-2594.

National Blueberry Muffin Day

The Landing Zone’s Coffee Zone will celebrate National Blueberry Muffin Day July 11. When patrons purchase a coffee drink, they will receive a free mini blueberry muffin. The offer cannot be combined with other promotions or discounts.

For more information,



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Freedom Fest

A Family enjoys riding the Wrecking Ball at the Wiregrass Freedom Fest in 2012. This year’s Wiregrass Freedom Fest is scheduled for today from 4-10 p.m. at the festival fields. The 98th Army Band will headline the free event that will also feature the area’s largest fireworks show, a variety of displays, children’s inflatable fun zone, rides, and a variety of local and regional vendors. The event is open to the public. People are not allowed to bring glass, coolers, backpacks, weapons or pets. For more information see the Freedom Fest insert in this week’s “Army Flier.”

call 598-8025.

Financial readiness training

Army Community Service will host financial readiness training July 11 from 7:20 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, in Rm. 284. Personal financial readiness training provides a practical approach to help Soldiers manage their money more effectively. The training is required for all first-term junior enlisted Soldiers (E-1 through E-4). Spouses are welcome to attend.

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

International spouses get together

Army Community Service will host its International Spouses Get Together July 11 at 9 a.m. in the Allen Heights Community Center to help those who may need help understanding the American culture and military life. Spouses can meet other spouses from other countries, and gain support and knowledge with finding the resources for obtaining U.S. citizenship, education, drivers licenses and more. Multilingual volunteers are available.

For more information, call 255-3735.

Summer reading event

Center Library will get wild about reading July 15 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The program will teach people about the many animals that live in the wild, ways people can help protect wildlife and what to do if people see an injured animal. There will also be a live alligator and other wildlife friends on hand. Space is limited to the first 65 people to register. The event is open to summer reading participants and authorized library patrons.

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

Newcomers welcome

Army Community Service hosts the newcom-

ers welcome July 18 from 8:30-11 a.m. at The Landing. Active-duty military, spouses, foreign students, Army civilians and Family members are welcome to attend. A free light breakfast and Starbucks coffee will be served. For free childcare, people can register their children at the child development center by calling 255-3564. Reservations must be made 24 hours in advance.

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

ACS Lunch and Learn

Army Community Service, and the Sexual Harassment and Assault Response Program and Family Advocacy Program invite people to a lunch and learn July 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Commons, Bldg. 8950, on Seventh Avenue. People can bring their brown bag lunch for a free session on Positive Coping Mechanism: Avoiding the Pitfalls. Topics will include: the way people think, day in and day out, affects all aspects of their lives; how to learn to listen to your internal voice; and developing a plan to handle the pitfalls. Registration is required by July 15. Space is limited to the first 20 participants. The workshop is open to active-duty and retired military, Department of Defense employees and their Family members.

For more information, call 255-2382 or 255-0960.

Right Arm Night

The Landing Zone will host Right Arm Night July 24 from 4-6 p.m. Right Arm Night is an Army tradition, promoting a night of camaraderie and esprit de corps as leaders come together and treat those who help them accomplish the mission. Complimentary appetizers will be served while supplies last. Right Arm Night is held every month, and both military and civilians are welcome. For more information, call 598-8025.

DFMWR

Spotlight



TUESDAYS

Taco Tuesday Night

Every Tuesday night during dinner hours, The Landing Zone will host Taco Tuesday featuring specialty tacos!



WEDNESDAYS

Whiskey Wing Night

Whiskey Wing Night is waiting for you starting at 4 pm every Wednesday at The LZ! Enjoy 6 wings for \$3, 10 wings for \$4.75 or 15 wings for \$7 (with the purchase of a beverage). A variety of sauces are available including: whiskey, hot, BBQ, teriyaki and lemon pepper.



THURSDAYS

Burger and Fries Night

Calling all burger lovers! Join The Landing Zone on Thursdays during dinner hours for \$5 Burger and Fries night!



FRIDAYS

Dinner and a Movie Night

Join The LZ for dinner (4 pm to 9 pm) Friday nights. With every entrée purchase you can purchase a \$2 movie pass to be used at the Fort Rucker Post Theater! Movie passes are valid for any showing at the Post Theater and do not expire. Limit one movie pass purchase per dinner entrée purchase.

Bldg. 113, Novosel St., (334) 598-8025
Open to the Public www.ftrucker.mwr.com

Weekly specials are available for dine-in only and cannot be combined with any other discount or promotion.



FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR JULY 3-6

Thursday, July 3

Mom's Night Out (PG-13)

.....7 p.m. Closed

Friday, July 4

Saturday, July 5

Neighbors (R)

.....7 p.m.

Sunday, July 6

Blended (PG-13)

.....2 p.m.

OPEN FORUM

Army invites public to comment on environmental impacts

U.S. Army Environmental Command
Press Release

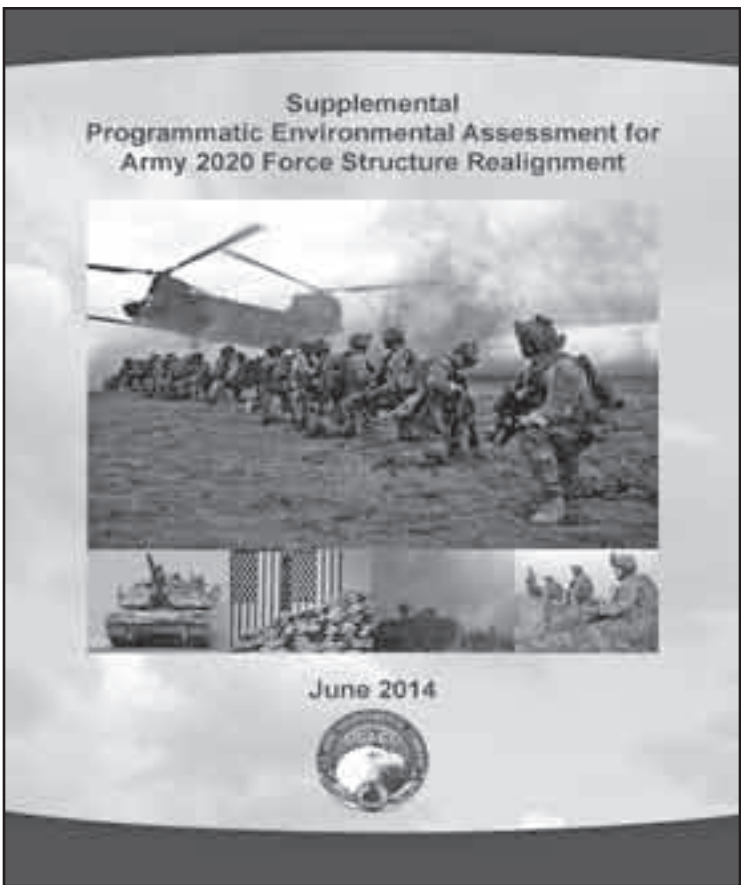
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, Texas — The Department of the Army has completed a Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Army 2020 force structure realignment and is making a draft Finding of No Significant Impact available for public comment.

All interested members of the public, federally-recognized Indian or Alaska Native tribes, Native Hawaiian groups, federal, state, and local agencies are invited to review and provide comments.

Comments will be accepted until Aug. 25. Please submit written comments to: U.S. Army Environmental Command, ATTN: SPEA Public Comments, 2450 Connell Road (Building 2264), Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-7664; or by email to usarmy.jbsa.aec.nepa@mail.mil

The SPEA and draft FNSI may be accessed at: <http://aec.army.mil/Services/Support/NEPA/Documents.aspx>. Also, about one week after publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register by the Army, copies of the SPEA and draft FNSI will be available in some public libraries near the affected installations.

The draft FNSI incorporates the SPEA, which does not identify any significant environmental impacts from the proposed action, with the exception of socioeconomic



DOD PHOTO

impacts at most installations. The draft FNSI concludes that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

Final decisions as to which installations will be selected for reductions in Soldiers and Army civilians have not yet been made. The SPEA's analysis of environmental and socioeconomic impacts will help force structure decision-makers as they identify specific units and organizations to be affected by reductions over the

2015-2020 timeframe.

Following the conclusion of the NEPA process, the Army will conduct community listening sessions to receive public input before making any force structure decisions. This information will assist with the military value analysis. The schedule of the community listening sessions will be announced locally, after the conclusion of the SPEA process.

Current budgetary projections require the Army to analyze the re-

duction of Active Component end strength to a level below that analyzed in the January 2013 Programmatic Environmental Assessment. The SPEA builds on the foundation of the 2013 PEA and assesses the impacts of a potential reduction of an additional 70,000 Soldiers and associated reductions in Army civilians, down to an active component end-strength of 420,000. These reductions are necessary to achieve the savings required by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Nearly all Army installations will be affected in some way by additional reductions. The 2013 PEA evaluated 21 Army installations and joint bases where Army stationing changes could lead to brigade combat team restructuring, the loss of a BCT through force drawdown, or a combined loss of 1,000 or more Soldiers and Army civilian employees during the fiscal year 2013-2020 timeframe. With the deeper reductions now anticipated, the Army must consider additional installations that have the potential to lose 1,000 or more Army employees. The potential loss of 1,000 Army employees was determined to be the appropriate threshold for inclusion of installations at the programmatic level of analysis. Installations that could experience reductions of 1,000 or more Army employees were specifically analyzed in the SPEA.

In both the 2013 PEA and the SPEA, each document's respective reduction alternative analyzed potential reductions at Fort Benning,

Ga.; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Drum, N.Y.; Fort Gordon, Ga.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Irwin, Calif.; Fort Knox, Ky.; Fort Lee, Va.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Fort Polk, La.; Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska; Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.; and, United States Army Garrison Hawaii -- Schofield Barracks. The SPEA also analyzed potential reductions at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; Fort Belvoir, Va.; Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; Fort Jackson, S.C.; Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Fort Meade, Md.; Fort Rucker; Joint Base San Antonio; and USAG Hawaii -- Fort Shafter.

The SPEA provides an assessment of the possible direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the greatest Army employee reductions being considered at each installation. The SPEA does not identify any significant environmental impacts as a result of implementing the proposed action, with the exception of socioeconomic impacts at most installations; consequently, the preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required.

For further information, contact the USAEC Public Affairs Office by calling (210) 466-1590 or toll-free 855-846-3940, or emailing usarmy.jbsa.aec.nepa@mail.mil.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Army 2020 Force Structure Realignment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) are available for review and comment.

The Army's proposed action is to reduce the Army's Active Component end-strength from 562,000, as of the end of fiscal year 2012, to 420,000. Installations that were included in the SPEA are those that could experience a change in Soldiers and civilians that exceeds 1,000 personnel. Fort Rucker was one of the 30 analyzed in the SPEA. No significant environmental impacts are anticipated as a result of implementing Army 2020 alternatives, though socioeconomic impacts at most installations could be significant.

Alternatives considered in the SPEA evaluate the greatest force reduction scenarios that could occur as a result of Army force drawdown. Final decisions as to which installations will see reductions or unit realignments have not been made.

All interested members of the public, federally recognized Indian Tribes, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiian groups, federal, state, and local agencies are invited to review and provide comments. A copy of the SPEA and Draft FNSI is available at:

<http://aec.army.mil/Services/Support/NEPA/Documents.aspx>

and in the following local libraries: Daleville Public Library, 308 Donnell Blvd., Daleville; and Ozark/Dale County Public Library, 416 James Street, Ozark.

The Army will accept comments until August 25. Please submit written comments or additional information to: U.S. Army Environmental Command, ATTN: SPEA Public Comments, 2450 Connell Road (Building 2264), Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-7664; or by email to usarmy.jbsa.aec.nepa@mail.mil

Tips to quit tobacco

Use the 5 Ds to help with urges


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- **Delay** — Don't reach for tobacco right away. The urge to smoke passes in 3 to 5 minutes whether a person smokes or not.

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WHICH ONE ARE YOU GONNA TAKE?

Alabama Road Trip: Abbeville, also known as Yatta Abba, City of Dogwoods

By Alabama Department of Travel
Press Release

Abbeville is the county seat of Henry County. It is located in southeastern Alabama in the Wiregrass region and, according to local history, was known as Yatta Abba by the Creek inhabitants.

Abbie Creek runs through the town and future Alabama governor William Calvin Oates established a law practice in the town in 1859. During the Civil War, he raised a company of Abbeville men that fought at Little Round Top in the Battle of Gettysburg.

Today, Abbeville is called “the City of Dogwoods” because they still bloom along Abbie Creek and are abundant in many other parts of the city.

Tucked away in the southeastern corner of Alabama since 1823, Abbeville was shrinking into obscurity. Thanks in part to the commitment and passion of a man you may have seen on television many times, it is being revitalized.

Jimmy Rane, the big guy wearing the bright yellow hat and cowboy boots in TV commercials, known as the “Yella Fella,” headed up a posse of business leaders dedicated to saving their hometown. The changes they’ve made are quite striking.

As other merchants and citizens worked to restore Abbeville’s small-town charm, Rane focused his attention on turning an old Standard Oil Filling Station into office space for his company, Great Southern Wood Preserving, Inc. He also made a 1950s-style restaurant named Huggin’ Molly’s a local mainstay and gave many downtown buildings a facelift.

Each April, and at various other times during the year, you can follow the antics of the Yella Fella. You can also

meet a “hugging ghost,” see the former home of a civil rights pioneer, and discover the history and heritage of the place Native Americans called “Yatta Abba,” meaning “a grove of dogwood trees.”

Probably one of the first sites you’ll reach is the Old Standard Oil Filling Station on Washington Street. You can’t get gas there and you can’t tour the interior of the building, as it houses some of the Yella Fella’s company offices. You can, however, pull in and view the exterior, filling up on a slice of Americana when you do. Be sure to carry a buddy along and have a camera in hand as this still very retro-looking building makes for good conversation and a great photo opportunity.

Downtown Abbeville is where you will see much of the handiwork of Rane. He has restored many of the storefronts and office buildings, including the facade of the Archie Theater where he used to watch western movies on Saturday afternoons.

As the founder and CEO of the world’s leading producer of pressure-treated lumber products, Rane never minds slipping into his whimsical Yella Fella cowboy character to promote the history of Abbeville and bring vivid memories to life for a new generation of residents and visitors.

At the Pioneer Cemetery located behind First Baptist Church at 100 Columbia Road, the stories from the grave are endless. A burial plot at the cemetery bears the name of one Cinderella Phoebe Hutto Epsy. Of course, it’s not a memorial to the Cinderella from the fairytale, but the mere thought of having perhaps the only burial site dedicated to a Cinderella gives Abbeville boasting rights. One marker bears the names of seven children all in one grave. Another tells of a local citizen who lived to be 110 years old, and yet

another remembers Abbeville’s real Huggin’ Molly.

On your journey, you’ll discover retail establishments offering great discounts and diverse shopping opportunities, such as Town Square Shoppes and Dogwood Abbey’s. You’ll also get to meet wonderful people who value friendships and Family traditions and are always willing to give you a glimpse of life in their hometown.

Before leaving Abbeville, be sure to pull to the side of the road to read and photograph the historic marker (1 mile west of U.S. Hwy. 431 on AL Hwy. 10) near the farmstead where Rosa Parks lived as child. While many people tend to connect Montgomery with the seamstress who made history as the “Mother of the Civil Rights Movement in America,” few realize that the little girl born Rosa Louise McCauley in Tuskegee spent a short part of her childhood in Henry County.

Parks moved with her Family to her grandparents’ 260-acre farm on the outskirts of Abbeville shortly after she was born on Feb. 4, 1913. In 1915, she and her mother moved to Pine Level. She married Raymond Parks in 1932. In 1943, she joined her husband as a member of the NAACP. Parks championed her first cause for civil rights when she returned to Abbeville and Henry County in 1944 to investigate the alleged rape and abduction at gunpoint of a young African-American woman by seven white men.

Today, a small, run down, wooden house with a battered tin roof in the middle of Abbeville farmland is all that remains of the place that cradled Parks as a baby. The roadside marker, however, serves as a testament to the genteel woman who was not afraid to fight the giants of racism and prejudice in the South. In taking on the case of injustice in Abbeville, Parks was already in the process of launching a movement that would ultimately change the world.

WIREFLIER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

ONGOING — The American Legion Post 80 has regular meetings the second Monday of the month, starting at 6:30 p.m., at the Legion Hall. For more information, call 222-7131 or visit www.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 on Sundays and games and TVs are available for entertainment. Open to all. Post can host parties, weddings, hails and farewells. For more information, call 598-6211, 598-1297 or 598-6211/379-9187.

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

JULY 17 — Wiregrass Museum of Art hosts Art After Hours beginning at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free to members and is \$5 for non-members. There will be live music, beverages and food. For more information, call 794-3871 or visit www.wiregrassmuseum.org.

JULY 26 — A watermelon sampling will be held at Landmark Park beginning at 10 a.m. Free with paid gate admission. For more information, visit www.landmarkpark.com.

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

ONGOING — Ballroom dancing lessons will be offered every Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Center. Lessons will teach the Fox Trot, East Coast Swing, Rumba

and Waltz. The cost will be \$2 per person per night. For more information, call 791-9407.

ONGOING — The Tri-State Community Orchestra rehearses every Thursday evening from 6-8 p.m. at the Dothan Cultural Arts Center. They welcome all string, brass, woodwind, and percussion players ages 16 and up. For more information, visit www.tristatecommunityorchestra.com or call 585-4903.

ONGOING — The Wiregrass Youth Symphony Orchestra meets every Saturday morning at the Dothan Cultural Arts Center. They offer beginner lessons and welcome all string players high school age and below who already play. For more information, visit www.tristatecommunityorchestra.com.

ENTERPRISE

NOW THROUGH JULY 15 — Sept. 12 and 13 the Wiregrass Decorative Painters Chapter is sponsoring a two-day oil painting seminar taught by Bill Bayer. The seminar will be held at the First United Methodist Church’s Gathering Room. The cost is \$85 per day and covers all oil paints, brushes and prepped canvases. The seminar is open to the public. Pre-registration is required and the deadline is July 15. For for information, call 393-2191 or 406-0593.

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 Connie Hudson at 406-3077, Randy Black at 393-6499 or Bob Cooper 347-7076, or visit the VFW Post 6683 on Facebook.

GENEVA

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

MIDLAND CITY

ONGOING — Residents are invited to

Town Hall meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 1385 Hinton Waters Ave.

For more information, call 983-3511.

NEW BROCKTON

ONGOING — Disable American Veterans Chapter 99 maintains a DAV service office in the New Brockton Police station every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. All veteran services provided are free. The chapter will sponsor a DAV Mobile Service Officers visit July 21-22 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. They will operate from the conference room in the police station at 202 South John Street. For more information, call 718-5707.

ONGOING — The New Brockton DAV Chapter 99 offers college scholarships of \$500 to applicants that are children of a U.S. military veteran who have fallen or were wounded, medically discharged wounded veterans and spouses of fallen Soldiers. Applicants may already be attending college or have been accepted at a certified college or university. Applications and additional information can be picked up at the New Brockton Police Department Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

OZARK

JULY 12-AUGUST 16 — The Ann Rudd Art Center presents new art works titled “From One Extreme to the Other.” Guests are asked to join Tommy Moorehead at the opening reception of his show July 12 from 6-8 p.m.

JULY 12 — The Friends of the Library is having a Book Sale at the Ozark Dale County Library between 9 a.m. and noon.

ONGOING — The Ann Rudd Art Center is offering free art lessons for children ages 5 and over. The Young Student class is held Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon, and the Adult/Teen Class from 12:30-3 p.m. Slots are on a first come, first served basis. For more information, call 774-7922.

ONGOING — Every Monday through Friday aerobic classes are open to the public at the Autrey Recreation Center from 8-10 a.m. Please call 334-774-2042 for more information.

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

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

TROY

ONGOING — Troy Bank and Trust Company sponsors senior dance nights every Saturday night from 7-10 p.m. at the J.O. Colley Senior Complex.

The complex is transformed into a dance hall and features music from the 40s, 50s, and 60s, finger foods, and refreshments.

For more information, call Janet Motes at 808-8500.

WIREFLIER AREA

ONGOING — Veterans Of Foreign Wars Post 3073 Wiregrass Post membership meetings are at the post headquarters at 1426 Taylor Road every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. There is a fish fry every Friday night from 5-7 p.m. then karaoke begins at 6 p.m. For July 4 the post will be having a butt and rib sale starting at noon. There will be hamburger and hotdog plates available. The post will be celebrating its 80th anniversary on August 1. The event is open to members and guests only. For more information on any event, call 334-793-7912.

Beyond Briefs

Watermelon Festival

The 65th annual Watermelon Days Festival in Albany, Ga. will be held today through July 4.

Different events at different locations in the city will be held, including: photography exhibitions, a Watermelon 5K Run and Fun Run, a Watermelon Queen Pageant, puppet shows, watermelon taste testing, watermelon decorating contests, a health fair, a fishing rodeo, horseshoe tournaments, train rides, dog shows, live entertainment, parades, antique car and tractor shows, arts and crafts, a watermelon eating contest, and chunking contest, a seed spitting contest and more.

For more information, visit <http://albanygacalendar.com>.

4th of July Spectacular

Panama City Beach will celebrate the Fourth of July at Pier Park. Families can enjoy a day filled with live entertainment, children’s activities, food and drinks as well as a fireworks display. For more information, visit www.visitpanamacitybeach.com/things-to-do/events.

Summer Concert Series

Aaron Bessant Park at Pier Park in Panama City Beach, Fla., holds a concert series now – Aug. 14 from 7-9 p.m. Visitors are asked to bring coolers, lawn chairs and friends for an evening of music under the stars. For more information, visit www.visitpanamacitybeach.com/things-to-do/events.

5K Cool Summer Race Series

The inaugural Panama City Beach Cool Summer Series

is set on a 5K course that weaves through Pier Park now – Aug. 13 at 8 a.m.

The Cool Summer Series is a celebration of all things summer—fun in the sun, good friends, Family and a little friendly competition. This 5K is a run/walk course open to everyone. Registration is \$25 cash or \$30 debit card day of the races.

For more information, call 850-890-4775

Poker Run

Fleet Feet Sports Montgomery hosts a poker run every second Thursday in July. The poker runs start at 6 p.m. at the store. The event is free to participate.

Visitors can stay afterwards and fellowship with running and walking friends. For more information, call 356-5412 or visit www.fleetfeetmontgomery.com/fun-runs/poker-run.

Official emphasizes early action

By Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Service members, their Families and U.S. citizens overseas away from their home voting locations should register early to ensure receipt of voting materials, the Defense Department's top voting official said.

During a recent interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel, Matt Boehmer, director of the Federal Voting Assistance Program, discussed a myriad of voting-related topics designed to assist DOD voters.

"The FVAP is a program in the Department of Defense that helps ensure military members, their Families, and U.S. citizens living overseas are aware of their right to vote, and have the tools and resources to do that," he said. "What we're telling military members and their Families is to get started. You need to register early."

To do so, he said, voters should use a federal postcard application available from the FVAP webpage at <http://www.fvap.gov/>.

"You can download the FPCA or use our online assistant to actually fill out the form," Boehmer said. "It walks you step by step through the process."

During Armed Forces Voters Week, which begins Monday and runs through Sunday, emphasis will on voting awareness, Boehmer said.

"The goal of that week is to raise awareness of the absentee voter process," he added. "In addition, we also want to raise awareness to the idea that service members who move — whether it's a deployment or a permanent change of station — need to let their local election officials know of this move. The easiest way to do that is to fill out a new FPCA."

Those who chose to vote will not have to figure out the process alone — more than 13,000 unit voting assistance officers are on

Reside outside of your local voting jurisdiction?
Want to vote absentee in upcoming elections?
Find out how at :

FVAP.GOV
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Federal Voting Assistance Program Provides Online Voting Assistance

Go to www.FVAP.gov to fill out your Federal Post Card Application

What is the Federal Post Card Application?
The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is the primary form for requesting registration and/or an absentee ballot from your local election official. The FPCA acts as both a registration and absentee ballot request form. FVAP encourages our military voters to submit a new FPCA every year and when they move.

Who is eligible to fill out the Federal Post Card Application?

- A member of the Uniformed Services on active duty, or an eligible Family member
- A U.S. citizen residing outside of the U.S. temporarily; or
- A U.S. citizen residing outside of the U.S. indefinitely.
- May also apply to a member of the National Guard, in some States

Need Assistance? Contact your Unit Voting Assistance Officer or your Installation Voting Assistance Officer by coming into the Installation Voting Assistance Office, located at Soldier Service Center, Bldg 5700, Room 280, between 0730 – 1600
Or by phone at : 334-255-1839
Or e-mail at : usarmy.rucker.usag.mbx.voting-office@mail.mil

ARMY GRAPHIC

the job throughout the military services. "Unit voting assistance officers are located in every unit, both stateside and overseas, and their job is for in-person assistance," Boehmer said.

FVAP provides assistance in a number of different ways, he said, including a 1-800 call center and email, but unit voting assistance officers provide an in-person resource — what Boehmer called a "first line of defense for voting assistance."

Boehmer also advised prospective voters planning a move to ensure they update their mailing address, because it doesn't occur automatically.

"So what you need do is fill out a new federal postcard application every single time you move," he said. "This way you can ensure that your local election official knows where you are and that your voting materials can be sent to that new address."

Boehmer also dispelled a pop-

ular myth regarding absentee ballot voting.

"There are a lot of myths about the absentee ballot voting process, in particular ... we hear a lot about 'absentee ballots only count in close elections,'" he said.

"This is absolutely not true," Boehmer said. "Every valid and timely cast ballot is counted — no matter how close the election is."

Typically, he said, the absentee ballot voting process is publicly discussed during close elections,

because "the media raises attention to it and says, 'The election cannot be called until the absentee ballots are counted.'"

"But every ballot that is cast — both valid and timely — will be counted," Boehmer said.

The FVAP program has instituted a number of new initiatives, for the 2014 election cycle, Boehmer said, including a redesigned website and a digital toolkit for voting assistance officers.

"The initiative I'm most excited to talk about," he said, "is for our younger, first-time voters in the military. A large portion [of voters] in the military are age 18 to 24. What we want to do is show these younger military members that voting is easy."

The goal, he added, is for them to be successful in voting by showing them the tools and resources FVAP has in place to make voting easy.

Military members already using FVAP resources are more than likely to vote, Boehmer said, so officials want to show these younger, first-time voters that the process is easy and set them up for success.

For now, Boehmer noted, the best way to raise awareness about FVAP is through sharing information.

"We created an entire section on our website at FVAP.gov of outreach materials," Boehmer said. "And we simply ask people to share them. You share them with members of your unit [and] you share them with Family members. Simply getting the word out about the absentee voting process and how easy it is would be a big help to our program."

Voting is a personal choice, Boehmer said, and FVAP wants to make sure those military members and their Families who want to vote have the tools and resources to do so.

"We also want to remind military members and their Families to do things early," he said. "Register early [and] request your absentee ballot early so that we can ensure that you receive your voting information"

DON'T TEXT OR TALK AND DRIVE

No conversation is worth sacrificing the personal safety of yourself and others. Do not talk or text and drive. It can wait.

Adopt a pet

For more information about animal adoptions, call the Veterinary Clinic at 255-9061. The Stray Facility needs donations such as dry or canned foods for cats, dogs, kittens and puppies, as well as blankets, toys and towels.

Donations can be dropped off at the Veterinary Clinic or the Commissary.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Pick-of-the-litter

Meet Tripp, a 9-week old, male tabby kitten. He likes to play chase. Adoption fees vary per species and needs of animal, but include all up-to-date shots, the first round of age-appropriate vaccinations, microchip and spaying or neutering. For more information on animal adoptions, call the stray facility at 255-0766, open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. All adoptable animals are vet checked and tested for felv/fiv (for cats) or heartworm for dogs (over six months) and on flea prevention. The facility needs donations such as dry or canned foods for cats, dogs, kittens and puppies, as well as blankets, toys and towels. Donations can be dropped off at the stray facility. Visit the Fort Rucker stray facility's Facebook page at [http:// www.facebook.com/ fortruckerstrayfacility/](http://www.facebook.com/fortruckerstrayfacility/) for constant updates on the newest animals available for adoption.

Religious Services

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday

Headquarters Chapel, Building 109
8 a.m. Multi-Cultural Worship Service

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

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

Spiritual Life Center, Building 8939
10:45 a.m. CCD (except during summer months).

BIBLE STUDIES

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

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

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SURE SHOT

Army sweeps pistol championships

Story on Page D3

JULY 3, 2014

Swift and Deadly stomps Lowe Ballers in softball

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

As the Fort Rucker Intramural Softball regular season winds down, teams are going head to head to fight for a spot in the championship, and one team is looking to secure its spot at the top.

The 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment's Swift and Deadly beat the 1st Bn., 212th Avn. Regt. Lowe Ballers, 17-2, in a game where errors played a large part in the outcome.

"We're feeling really good about the win tonight," said Staff Sgt. Robert Ballard, coach of Swift and Deadly, "We've got one more game left in the regular season and hopefully we'll be able to finish on top."

Ballard said it was a combination of superior hitting and defense that allowed them to overtake their opponents so extensively, and feels fully confident that his team has a shot at the championship.

Swift started the game at the plate and was off to a slow start with a pop fly to left field for the first out of the game. They quickly recovered with a base hit to center field, but were unable to continue their momentum.

The Lowe Ballers seemed to start off on the same foot, managing a base hit during their time at the plate, but were also unable to keep it going as the first inning ended in a scoreless tie.

It was in the second inning that Swift and Deadly began to shine as they hit their stride, despite a slow start with two outs early in the inning.

They managed to muster their offense and hit base hit after base hit, allowing for their first score



Staff Sgt. Vintavius Stovall, player for Swift and Deadly, scores a run, narrowly making it past Ed Miranda, catcher for the Lowe Ballers, during an intramural softball game at the Fort Rucker softball fields Tuesday.

of the game. The 1-13th managed to bring in three runs before a pop up in the infield ended their time at the plate.

The Lowe Ballers needed to step up their offense if they wanted to stay in the game, but their chances didn't look promising as they were unable to keep the ball on the ground with three pop flies

in a row, giving their opponents the chance to extend their lead.

Up by three runs, Swift and Deadly had the advantage going into the third inning and were determined to keep their momentum moving forward.

They were able to get two players on base early in the inning with two walks, and a pop

fly to center field allowed a player to steal third and home to extend their lead.

The Lowe Ballers defense seemed to falter as the 1-13th managed to keep the ball on the ground and bring in run after run, including an in-the-park home run thanks to errors by the 1-212th.

Errors seemed to be the name of

the game for the Lowe Ballers as their players couldn't quite seem to get a grip on the ball, fumbling throws and catches left and right.

Swift and Deadly continued their onslaught and managed to bring in 13 runs during their time at the plate before a line drive to the pitcher, which counts as an out in intramural softball, sent them back into the outfield.

The Lowe Ballers had their work cut out for them going into the bottom of the third and started their time at the plate with two outs in a row.

Despite the two outs, the 1-212th's offense stepped up and were able to get players on base, and finally managed to get on the scoreboard with a two-run RBI, but a pop fly to left field ended their mini-streak as their opponent's sent them packing.

As Swift and Deadly took to the plate, it seemed inevitable that they would further extend their lead as they loaded the bases, but the Lowe Ballers defense went to work and put an end to the threat.

The 1-13th's defense followed suit, however, as they tightened up their defense, not allowing the Lowe Ballers the chance to close the gap.

Going into the fifth inning, Swift and Deadly continued to keep the ball on the ground to get runners on base, and managed another run to further extend their lead before their time at the plate ended.

As the Lowe Ballers took to the plate, it was their last chance to stay in the game. They needed six runs in the inning to stay in the game, but Swift and Deadly's defense proved too much and the game ended in the bottom of the fifth, 17-2.

SUMMER NUTRITION: *Healthy eating a Family affair*

By Hannah M. O'Steen
Lyster Army Health Clinic Registered Dietetic Technician

School is out for the summer and that means more meals are being made at home. This summer, try new recipes with your children and even have them help in the kitchen to encourage healthy eating choices.

Summertime is full of all types of yummy foods. Some of those foods found during the summer are healthy, but some of them are a nutrition disaster. Remember, all foods can fit into a healthy diet in moderation.

Children have very observant eyes and watch everything going on around them, which is why it is very important to make sure you are the best role model with your eating habits. Healthy eating is a family affair.

Good nutrition starts with breakfast. Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, but is often the hardest meal to get in because of competing priorities. Twelve to 34 percent of children and adolescents regularly miss their morning breakfast. Eating breakfast has been shown to give more energy, give the body's metabolism a boost and improve concentration.

Throughout the rest of the day, meals and snacks should have variety, balance and moderation. Variety means a variety of colors, flavors and textures. Food should not be boring. Moderation means don't overdo it. It's important to find the right balance between the calories you eat and the calories your body burns.

Exercise and movement is a key component to a healthy plan. We must keep our bodies moving and practice healthy eating habits. Exercise doesn't have to be formal and strict. Exercise could be anything from bicycling around the neighborhood to playing Frisbee with the dog. Exercise can also be walking the dogs, swimming, or playing a Wii Fit. The goal should be to get out and move for 30 minutes, five days a week. Exercising as a Family is a great way to get your children involved.

So how do we get children to make healthy eating choices? Some great ways to get children to eat healthier foods is to get them active in the decisions, active in the shopping,

active in preparation and cooking, and let them take the recognition.

Growing your own fruits and vegetables in a Family garden is also a great way to keep children involved in the process, and helps them see where their food comes from. Most children will not turn down food they grew, picked out, prepped, cooked and served.

For more information on kids nutrition and recipes, please visit: www.eatright.org/kids

Recipe: Pizza Hummus

Makes 6 servings

Ingredients

- 1 16 oz. can of chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1/4 c tomato paste
- 1/4 c water
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1/4 c parmesan cheese
- 1/4 tsp crushed red pepper (optional)

- 1 clove of garlic minced
- 1/4 tsp each of salt and pepper

Directions

Place all ingredients into a food processor and puree for 1 to 2 minutes, until smooth. If hummus is too thick to spread, thin it with water by adding one tablespoon at a time until the desired consistency. Serve with raw vegetables, whole grain crackers, or spread on a sandwich or wrap.

Nutrition Information Per Serving

Calories: 150; Fat: 5g; Saturated fat: 1g; Carbohydrate: 20g; Sodium: 401mg; Fiber: 1g

Recipe courtesy of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

July Nutrition Care Class Schedule **Army MOVE Weight Control Program**

Class 1: Tuesday and July 29 – Getting Started

Class 2: July 15 – Fit For Life
Class 3: July 22 – Shape Your Plate
Class 4: Tuesday and July 29 – If At First You Don't Succeed
Class 5: July 15 – Oops, I Did It Again
Class 6: July 22 – Keep It Going
* Check with Nutrition Care for class times

Heart Health Class

July 11, 9-11 a.m.

Diabetes Education Class

Class 1: Today, 9 a.m. to noon, Getting Started
Class 2: July 10, 9 a.m. to noon, Meal Planning and Success Planning
Class 3: July 17, 9 a.m. to noon, Disease Progression and Complications
Class 4: July 24, 9 a.m. to noon, Solving Problems

Healthy Cooking Class

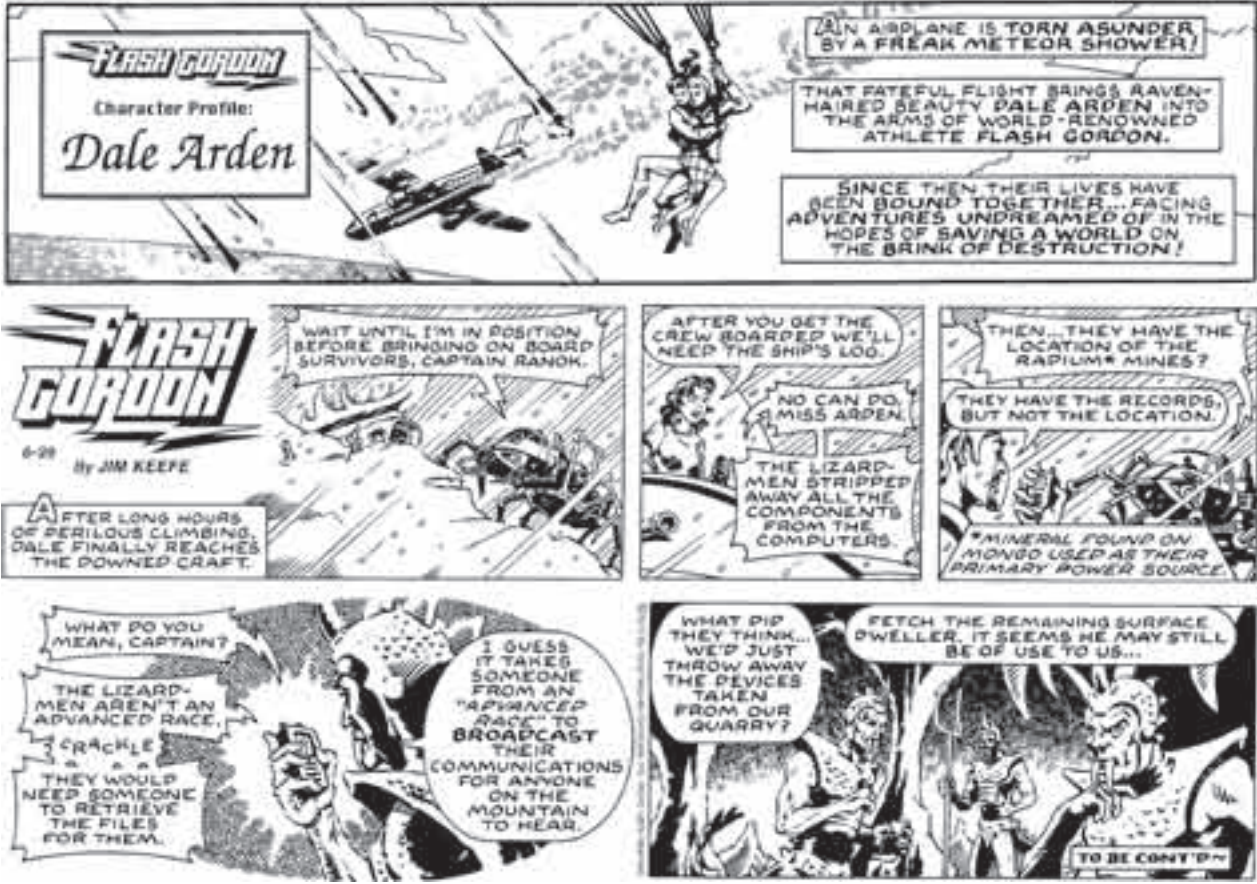
July 25, noon to 2 p.m.



PHOTO BY SARA E. MARTIN

German and American Soldiers rejoice or gasp at the only goal scored June 26 at Mother Ruckers during the match between Germany and USA in the World Cup. Although Germany prevailed, 1-0, the American team made it into the second round before falling to Belgium, 2-1.

DOWN TIME



TRIVIA

1. RELIGION: What are the first three words of the Old Testament?
2. MEDICAL: What is the common name for dentition?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many colors are in a rainbow?
4. GEOGRAPHY: How many countries make up Great Britain?
5. PSYCHOLOGY: What kind of fear is represented in heliophobia?
6. MOVIES: What do the seven dwarves do for a living in Disney's "Sleeping Beauty"?
7. LANGUAGE: What letter of the alphabet doesn't appear in any of the names of the U.S. states?
8. HISTORY: Which was the first of the 13 original colonies to be admitted to the United States?
9. MUSIC: What is Paul McCartney's middle name?
10. MEASUREMENTS: What is the metric equivalent of a quart?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword AN ADDED BONUS

- ACROSS**
- 1 City in Florida
 - 6 Ship spices
 - 11 Give out
 - 15 Doll's call
 - 19 End the mission early
 - 20 Blunder
 - 21 Three x three
 - 22 Memorable times
 - 23 Pessimistic black cow?
 - 25 Sticking stuff
 - 26 Damsels
 - 27 Feudal laborer
 - 28 Butyl or propyl ender
 - 29 Promotional connection
 - 30 Org. fighting for rights
 - 31 Motto of a group opposing a national song?
 - 37 Disinclined
 - 40 Walked with heavy steps
 - 41 Richard who played Barzini in "The Godfather"
 - 42 Make a move
 - 43 Car club abbr.
 - 46 Prefix with directional
 - 47 Briny quality
 - 50 Hairdressing cherub?
 - 54 Solemn promises
 - 55 "The Simpsons" shopkeeper
 - 56 Jump the —
 - 57 Neighbor of Minneapolis
 - 59 Stitches line
 - 63 Going gray
 - 65 Hellish performance of a slowish piece?
 - 70 Scene
 - 72 LP or CD
 - 73 Cold Italian treat
 - 74 Claws and fangs?
 - 79 Lacquer ingredient
 - 80 Atoll unit
 - 81 It's north of Manhattan
 - 82 Put away
 - 84 Frat letters
 - 85 Mete (out)
 - 86 British prince gawks?
 - 92 Forerunner
 - 97 ... good witch — bad witch?
 - 98 Enjoy Aspen
 - 99 Pitcher's stat
 - 100 Staff anew
 - 101 Leftover bit
 - 104 Twain piece
 - 106 Positive pole attached to an ornate Athenian vase?
 - 111 Head, to Fili
 - 112 Sonata ends
 - 113 Pro-U queue
 - 114 Pull firmly
 - 118 Tease in fun
 - 119 And others, briefly
 - 120 Lightheaded Quito native?
 - 124 Good Friday's time
 - 125 Minnesota pol Carlson
 - 126 Take out — (do some borrowing)
 - 127 Coat fabric
 - 128 Perimeter
 - 129 Suffix with 121-Down
 - 130 Mel of many voices
 - 131 Came to be
- DOWN**
- 1 Gift labels
 - 2 Not inept
 - 3 Heathland
 - 4 Make money
 - 5 \$\$\$ splitter-outter
 - 6 Hollywood's Reeves
 - 7 Hemingway or Gallo
 - 8 Work unit, in physics
 - 9 R&B's Rawls
 - 10 They're nearly grads
 - 11 Purring car parts
 - 12 "Kind of Blue"
 - 13 jazzman
 - 14 Indigenous Alaskan
 - 15 "Lady T" singer Marie
 - 16 Explosive power unit
 - 17 Athena turned her into a spider
 - 18 Gavels, e.g.
 - 19 Adopts
 - 24 "You bet"
 - 29 Sirloin part
 - 32 Resident of Bangkok
 - 33 Give — for one's money
 - 34 Crew
 - 35 Lady friend, in life
 - 36 Long-running CBS military law series
 - 37 — Palmas
 - 38 Stop sign shapes
 - 39 Abnormal
 - 44 Film director — Lee
 - 45 Water, to José
 - 48 TV actress Anderson
 - 49 Nashville sound?
 - 51 Snapped like a crescent
 - 52 Sothem of film
 - 53 Ease off
 - 58 Sample model
 - 59 Actress Gomez
 - 60 Correctors' smudges
 - 61 Snakebite medications
 - 62 Earth cirler
 - 63 Jai —
 - 64 Mop & —
 - 66 Sunrise
 - 67 "Spy Kids" co-star Vega
 - 68 Hawks' org.
 - 69 Not "agin"
 - 71 Feature of a dying fire
 - 75 Roth — (tax shelters)
 - 76 Denver dwellers
 - 77 Formerly summamed
 - 78 Tree topplers
 - 83 Kin of "Tut"
 - 85 Saharan hill
 - 87 Not even one
 - 88 Famous vampire, for short
 - 89 Indian queen
 - 90 Stadium row
 - 91 Announce
 - 92 Babbie
 - 93 Gave fresh life to
 - 94 Overacting
 - 95 Middle-school Girl Scout
 - 96 Entertains sumptuously
 - 102 — Fields cookies
 - 103 Jane's ape-man
 - 105 Tom of old late-night TV talk
 - 107 Sailing site
 - 108 — Dame
 - 109 "Pop" boy band
 - 110 Hagen of Broadway
 - 115 Shaped to reduce drag
 - 116 Hectors
 - 117 Pant leg part
 - 120 Dollop
 - 121 Below par physically
 - 122 Suffix with proto-
 - 123 Hush-hush U.S. org.



See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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See Page D3 for this week's answers.

KID's CORNER

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

ROUND TRIP: Object of this test is to place the numbers 1-18 in the circles in such a way that the sum of any three numbers in a straight line is 30. There are some hints to get you started.

1. Numbers 1-18 are placed in the circles in such a way that the sum of any three numbers in a straight line is 30. There are some hints to get you started.

2. Numbers 1-18 are placed in the circles in such a way that the sum of any three numbers in a straight line is 30. There are some hints to get you started.

3. Numbers 1-18 are placed in the circles in such a way that the sum of any three numbers in a straight line is 30. There are some hints to get you started.

4. Numbers 1-18 are placed in the circles in such a way that the sum of any three numbers in a straight line is 30. There are some hints to get you started.

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10. Numbers 1-18 are placed in the circles in such a way that the sum of any three numbers in a straight line is 30. There are some hints to get you started.

11. Numbers 1-18 are placed in the circles in such a way that the sum of any three numbers in a straight line is 30. There are some hints to get you started.

12. Numbers 1-18 are placed in the circles in such a way that the sum of any three numbers in a straight line is 30. There are some hints to get you started.

13. Numbers 1-18 are placed in the circles in such a way that the sum of any three numbers in a straight line is 30. There are some hints to get you started.

14. Numbers 1-18 are placed in the circles in such a way that the sum of any three numbers in a straight line is 30. There are some hints to get you started.

15. Numbers 1-18 are placed in the circles in such a way that the sum of any three numbers in a straight line is 30. There are some hints to get you started.

16. Numbers 1-18 are placed in the circles in such a way that the sum of any three numbers in a straight line is 30. There are some hints to get you started.

17. Numbers 1-18 are placed in the circles in such a way that the sum of any three numbers in a straight line is 30. There are some hints to get you started.

18. Numbers 1-18 are placed in the circles in such a way that the sum of any three numbers in a straight line is 30. There are some hints to get you started.

Wishing Well

SCORE: 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form five complete words.

STINGRAY

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

Try to score at least 10 points, using only the letters in the word above.

Wishing Well

4 3 6 3 2 7 2 7 8 7 5 2 3
A N A O Y B O U P S B U C
6 3 7 3 8 7 6 4 7 2 8 4 2
B L I O R N R S E P A W L
7 6 3 7 3 7 8 4 6 2 7 2 7
S I U S D S I E E A U N C
4 3 2 5 4 7 3 5 6 5 7 2 7
E S A U T C T S F Y E C S
3 6 8 7 4 8 4 2 6 8 2 4 5
O E S S L E I R N C U F F
2 6 8 4 5 6 8 2 5 3 6 8 2
I C O E U O W S T D U O E
5 8 6 3 6 8 5 8 6 3 6 5 8
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTROFF

CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between the two sets of cartoon panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Answers to quiz: 1. Difference in shading of the cat's face. 2. Difference in the cat's tail. 3. Difference in the cat's ears. 4. Difference in the cat's eyes. 5. Difference in the cat's nose. 6. Difference in the cat's mouth.

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Have fun, stay safe during holiday weekend

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

While thousands are expected to converge upon Fort Rucker to celebrate America's Independence, such a happy time is no time to push safety onto the backburner.

Summertime and the 4th of July festivities are often eagerly looked forward to by many, it can also be one of the most dangerous times for Soldiers and their Families.

Between vacationing, traveling and people not being aware of their surroundings and their own bodies, there is increased risk for physical injury, according to Fort Rucker safety officials.

In order to stay safe during the Independence Day holiday, they recommend a few simple tips.

- Have recommended maintenance conducted on vehicles.
- Have an emergency kit and an emergency set of car keys.
- Be sure to have a full gas tank.
- Keep in mind that the use of cell phones and texting while driving are illegal on Fort Rucker. A drivers license, insurance and registration are required to enter the post. Follow the posted speed limit signs and adhere to police directing traffic.

People participating in other activities during the July 4 celebration and the rest of the summer should pay attention to hot temperatures and sun exposure to avoid heat related injuries.

Here are a few ways to protect against accidents over Independence Day weekend and throughout the year.

Sun and heat safety

- Hydrate. Be sure to drink plenty of water and encourage children to do the same. Drinking soda, tea, coffee and alcohol can dehydrate you.
- Individuals planning to be outside should apply sunscreen and reapply it as necessary.
- Know the signs of heat exhaustion – clammy or pale skin, dizziness, excessive or no sweating.
- Don't take unnecessary risks during this holiday weekend.



- Stay in the shade to prevent sunburn and heat injuries.
- Children and adults should wear sunglasses and hats.

"Results of not wearing sunglasses, hats and sunscreen don't catch up to us until we get older when skin cancers start appearing. So, reduce your Families' chances of cancer by covering up and reducing your exposure," said Sharon Manning, installation safety director.

Swimming tips

- Know your limitations.
- Swim with a friend.
- Supervise children while in the water.
- Know how to identify rip tides and know what to do if caught in one.
- Pay attention to the warning flags that are flown at the beach:
 - * **Red** — Stay out of the water;
 - * **Yellow** — Use caution, some undertow and riptides possible; and
 - * **Blue** — Calm water.

Grilling tips

- Use grills in well-ventilated areas

SEE SAFETY, PAGE 11



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Safety: Simple steps help people enjoy summer

Continued from Page 10

away from standing structures.

- Make sure grills are stable.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions.
- Use long-handled utensils.
- Do not mishandle lighter fluid.
- Make sure the gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

"Most grilling injuries take place in the month of July and consist of thermal burns. Make sure you keep children at least three feet away from a grill and don't set the grill in an area that's close to where people are socializing," said Manning.

Fireworks

- Fort Rucker officials prohibit the use of fireworks on post.
- Read the instructions for the proper use of fireworks off post.
- Don't allow children to use fireworks, unless supervised by an adult.
- Do not use fireworks while under the

influence of alcohol.

- Do not point fireworks at people, animals or buildings.
- Do not horseplay with fireworks.

"Although they can be exciting, festive and fun, it's important to remember that fireworks are also dangerous. The safest way to enjoy 4th of July celebrations is to attend a public fireworks display," said the safety officer.

Alcohol consumption

- Have a designated driver.
- Drink water to keep hydrated while consuming alcohol.
- Don't swim, drive, boat, or fish while under the influence.
- Keep track of how much alcohol has been consumed.
- Drink water or a hydrating liquid between alcoholic beverages.

"Keep in mind that fatalities aren't only caused while driving a vehicle while under the influence, but also while boating and swimming," said Manning. "Alcohol



is involved in approximately 38 percent of drownings."

All of these safety tips are small things to remember, but any one of them ig-

nored can put a damper on a summer trip or festival, and some can affect lives forever. Take full advantage of the summer festivities Fort Rucker has to offer, but keep safety at the forefront.

WE WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A
HAPPY AND SAFE INDEPENDENCE DAY!



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women of our country.



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Prohibited items

- Cell phone use is prohibited when operating a vehicle on post without the use of a hands-free device. Drivers must safely exit the roadway to a hard stand area to use the cell phone if driving without a hands free device.
- No coolers, tote bags, backpacks or containers are allowed on the grounds except for medical and baby care items.
- Fireworks of any kind are prohibited on post.
- Glass containers are prohibited at the event.
- Pets are not allowed due to safety concerns.
- Weapons of any kind, including guns, knives, mace and "pepper spray" are prohibited.
- No roller blades, bicycles, skateboards or scooters are allowed at the event.



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Fort Rucker traces roots to early 1940s

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker covers about 63,100 acres of southeast Alabama countryside in this area known as the Wiregrass, and though the post is relatively small compared to other Army installations, and has no official historical sites, it is steeped in rich Southern history with pre-Civil War cemeteries predating 1854, a former WWII prisoner of war camp and historical buildings that pre-date the installation's founding.

According to local historian Val McGee's book, "The Origins of Fort Rucker," around 200 years ago wealthy farmers created the community of Westville, located about two miles west of Lake Tholocco.

The buildings of the town were demolished long ago, but many of the farmsteads that were established by Families, such as the McCarty's and the Bryd's, who bought large pieces of land in what is now Fort Rucker in the

early 1840s, still have their bones on post, proof that life in the area flourished before the government bought the area from settlers.

In the 1930s, a 35,000-acre tract of land in Dale and Coffee counties was purchased by the federal government and withdrawn from cultivation and converted into a wildlife refuge – the Pea River Land Use Project.

The mobilization that followed the attack on Pearl Harbor called for the creation of new training camps and military bases, one of which was Camp Rucker, said J. Patrick Hughes, Aviation Branch historian.

"The original name of the installation was Ozark Triangular Division Camp, but before it was officially opened on May 1, 1942, the War Department re-named it Camp Rucker," he said. "As Fort Rucker grew in mission, so it grew in the land required. There are the sites of former structures



ARMY PHOTO

SEE HISTORY, PAGE 14

The old Camp Rucker Ozark Gate stands near where it is located today.

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History: Rucker's roots started in infantry training



ARMY PHOTO

A bivouac camp is set up at Camp Rucker in the early 1940s.

Continued from Page 13

on the installation . . . that existed prior to the creation of the camp and fort.”

According to the official history of Fort Rucker, in January 1942, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed construction plans for the 4,600-acre cantonment area of the camp.

The J.A. Jones Construction Company of Charlotte, N.C., constructed 1,500 buildings, developed streets, utilities, wells, railroads, sidetracks and other facilities. This work was completed in fewer than the 120 days allotted by the contract and cost \$24,620,160.

One of the more ambitious projects, supposed Michael B. Maxwell, Directorate of Public Works master planning division chief, was building an earthen dam across Claybank Creek to create an 850-acre lake – later given the Muskogee name Tholocco.

The camp was named in honor of Col. Edmund W. Rucker, a Civil War Confeder-

ate officer, said Maxwell.

An additional 30,000 acres of land between Newton and Enterprise, including all privately owned lands within the boundaries of the former wildlife refuge, were purchased in September 1942. Later that year, 1,259 supplementary acres south of Denville were acquired for the construction of an airfield to support the camp.

Fort Rucker was not always used as an Aviation hotspot. In July 1941, the birth of Camp Rucker began when the War Department selected the lands to be used as an infantry training camp. According to the Fort Rucker Master Plan Digest, the first troops to train at Camp Rucker were those of the 81st Wildcat Infantry Division. Three other infantry divisions received training at Camp Rucker during World War II – the 35th, the 98th and the 66th.

Camp Rucker was also used to train dozens of other units. These included tank, infantry replacement and Women's Army

SEE HISTORY, PAGE 15

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History: Fort Rucker granted permanent status in 1955

Continued from Page 14

Corps units.

As a result of the expansion of both Aviation and artillery training, Fort Sill, Okla., became overcrowded, and the Army decided to move the Army Aviation School to a different post – a temporary post – Camp Rucker, thus beginning the Aviation training that would one day dominate the camp.

Though the camp was inactive from 1946 to 1950 and again in 1954, the school began moving to Alabama and the first class began in October.

On Feb. 1, 1955, the Army Aviation Center was officially established at Rucker. In October of that year, the post was given permanent status and the name was changed to Fort Rucker.

With the creation of the Army Aviation Branch, Aviation officer basic and advanced courses began in 1984, and a gradual consolidation of Aviation-related activities followed, according to Maxwell.



ARMY PHOTO

The old Camp Rucker headquarters stands near what is now Howze Field in the mid-1940s.

In 1986, the U.S. Army Air Traffic Control Activity became part of the branch. In the following year, a Noncommissioned

Officers Academy was established, and in 1988, the Army Aviation Logistics School was incorporated into the Branch.

More recently, in 2003, the Aviation Branch assumed overall responsibility for unmanned aircraft systems within the Army.

“What I have always been told is it’s hard to plan for the future if you don’t know your past or where you came from,” said Maxwell. “We try to maintain the integrity of the original site and land use, and we are very dependent on the people who did the original national plan. We will continue to use those original plans when we have construction in the future.”

Though Fort Rucker now holds a research laboratory, the Warrant Officer Career College, test centers and several regiments, the installation is still one of the smallest in the Army, sometimes being called the Army's best kept secret when it comes to duty stations.

It remains the home of Army Aviation and its history cannot be forgotten when those who train here carry the installation's legacy forward, often with the nickname, Mother Rucker.

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Wiregrass Freedom Fest

Schedule of Events

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4-6 p.m. – Mockingbird Sun performs

4-10 p.m. – Food and craft vendors open

Rides Field

4-10 p.m. – Rides operate

(fees vary, some activities may close early)

Kids Fun Zone

4-9 p.m. – Kids Confidence Course (free)

4-9 p.m. – Inflatable Fun World (fees apply)

Main Stage Field

6-9 p.m. – 98th Army "Silver Wings" Band performs

8 p.m. – Tribute to Fallen Heroes

9 p.m. – Fireworks

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Freedom Fest

Wiregrass event features more than just a fireworks show

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker welcomes everyone to the installation's biggest celebration of the year as officials expect guests numbering in the thousands to celebrate the nation's independence.

In a partnership with Dothan, Enterprise, Daleville and Ozark, the Wiregrass Freedom Fest will run today from 4-10 p.m., and will feature food, fun, games, vendors, live music and more, said Kristi Fink, Fort Rucker special events coordinator.

"This is a great way for people in the local communities to come out and get to know some of the Soldiers and their Families during the celebration," said Fink. "They can come out and interact with them and show their appreciation for their service to the nation."

"People from all around will be coming from all walks of life to take part in the celebration and to see one biggest fireworks shows in the

area," she continued. "So people should come out and get ready to have a good time."

The celebration, which brings more than 20,000 people annually to the installation, will feature the 98th Army "Silver Wings" Band who will hit the stage from 6-9 p.m. and will be performing a variety of music, ranging from modern pop to country to classical to patriotic hits, said Janice Erdlitz, Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation marketing director.

The band will also perform a tribute to fallen Soldiers to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom that the nation enjoys, added Fink.

In addition to the band, people can enjoy a wide array of vendors, from food vendors serving all the carnival favorites, like hot dogs, hamburgers, turkey legs, roasted corn, boiled peanuts, cotton candy, popcorn and funnel cakes,

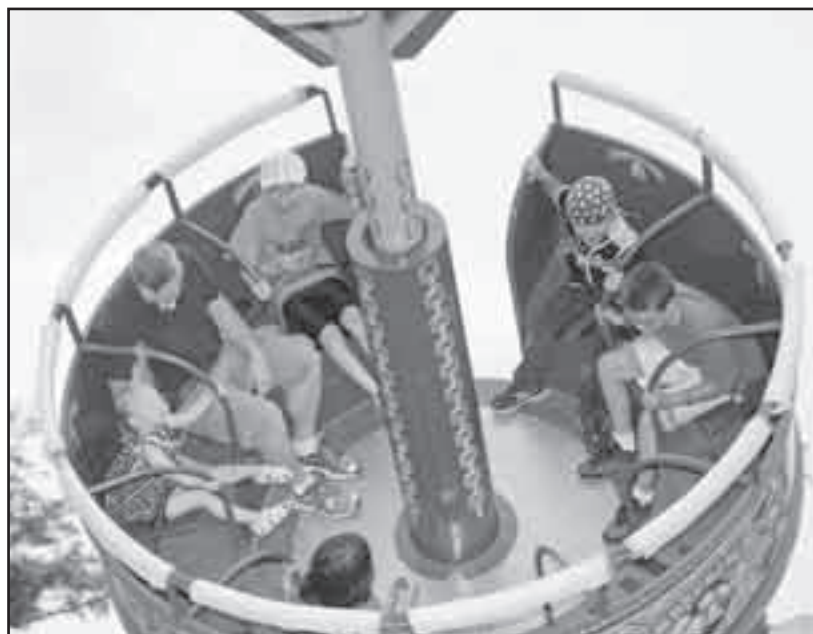


PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

A Family enjoys riding the Wrecking Ball at the Wiregrass Freedom Fest in 2012.

SEE SHOW, PAGE 4

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Show: Fireworks provide celebration's grand finale

Continued from Page 3

to craft vendors where people can purchase a variety of arts and crafts.

Children don't have to feel left out during the festivities, said Fink. They will be able to enjoy jumping and bouncing at the Fun Zone, where inflatables and bouncy houses will be available from 4-8:45 p.m.

The children can also test their mettle with the Warrant Officer Career College confidence course, where they can get a taste of what warrant officers go through in their training.

In addition to the WOCC confidence course, people can enjoy carnival-style rides for people of different age groups.

The evening will culminate with one of the largest fireworks displays in the area.

"Be sure to bring your lawn chairs and blankets, and kick back and enjoy the show," said Erdlitz. "This is the party of all parties, and no party is complete without fireworks."

Since Freedom Fest is sure to be a crowded affair, Fink suggests that people come out

early to get their spots and enjoy everything that the celebration has to offer.

People coming on to the installation should also remember that there will be designated parking lots for each gate entrance. For a diagram, see Pages 8 and 9.

"People need to make sure to park in the parking lot that is designated for the gate that they arrived," said Fink. "If they came in the Enterprise gate, they need to make sure to park in area designated for the Enterprise gate entrance."

When leaving the installation, people also need to make sure they leave from the gate they entered to ensure that traffic flows as smoothly as possible, she added.

Also, for the safety of all patrons, there are certain items that people are prohibited from bringing to Freedom Fest, including coolers, backpacks, pets, fireworks of any kind, glass containers, weapons of any kind, bicycles, scooters and skateboards, said Erdlitz, adding that bags for medical and baby care items are exceptions.

For more information, call 255-9810.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Fireworks explode over Fort Rucker during the Wiregrass Freedom Fest in 2012.

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Army band ready for spectacular concert

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

Once again it is Freedom Fest time, complete with funnel cakes, bouncy houses and fireworks show, and the musical aspect of the day has its horns and drums ready to go to ensure the show is one to remember.

Members of the 98th Army "Silver Wings" Band say they are ready to put on a spectacular show today on the festival fields for all to enjoy, and they hope people will have as much fun as they will, because they love what they do.

"We have been preparing for this for several months, making decisions on not only what to play, but our lighting and our staging aspects," said Staff Sgt. Davin Vance. "It's going to be a big deal and the fireworks afterward will be a spectacular ending to the show."

Vance said that live entertainment really sets the mood for an event and that



PHOTO BY SARA E. MARTIN

SEE BAND, PAGE 6

Sgt. Logan Mills and other members of Sabor Tropical practice June 19 to prepare for their performance during Freedom Fest.

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Band: Performance promises patriotic music plus more

Continued from Page 5

people like seeing live performances because it gets them involved and performers encourage them to dance.

"Anyone can set up a (compact disc) player, but people are entertained by live shows. It really makes it a party and a celebration," he said. "We just want people to have a good time. We want to keep people motivated and get their spirits up during the event so they are rejuvenated."

The band has a multitude of things planned for Freedom Fest, including three separate sets that will last 40 minutes each.

"We wanted to hit a lot of different music styles. Last year we found that the audience responded a lot to coun-

try style. So, this year we have went in the direction of a little more southern rock, but we still have pop, 80s rock, 70s soul and a number of other genres for everyone to enjoy," said Vance. "We are just going to try to make it a good party for everyone."

Crossfire, the band's rock group, will start out the show, followed by their Latin group, Sabor Tropical.

"Then, when they finish, and after some awards have been given out by (Brig. Gen. Michael Lundy, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general), we will play a mix of popular patriotic music," continued Vance.

The band will hit the stage at 6 p.m., rain or shine. If there is rain that pushes Freedom Fest indoors, as it

has in years past, then the band will move its concert indoors to the post theater.

"It will have to continually rain (for the event to be cancelled or moved indoors)," said Annette Styron, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security plans and operations specialist.

According to Styron, Col. Stuart J. McRae, Fort Rucker garrison commander, will make the initial weather call at 8 a.m. for the sponsors and the event. The initial fireworks weather call will be made at noon and the concert weather call will be decided at 4 p.m.

"We still plan to launch the fireworks at 9 p.m. unless it is totally flooded out," she added.

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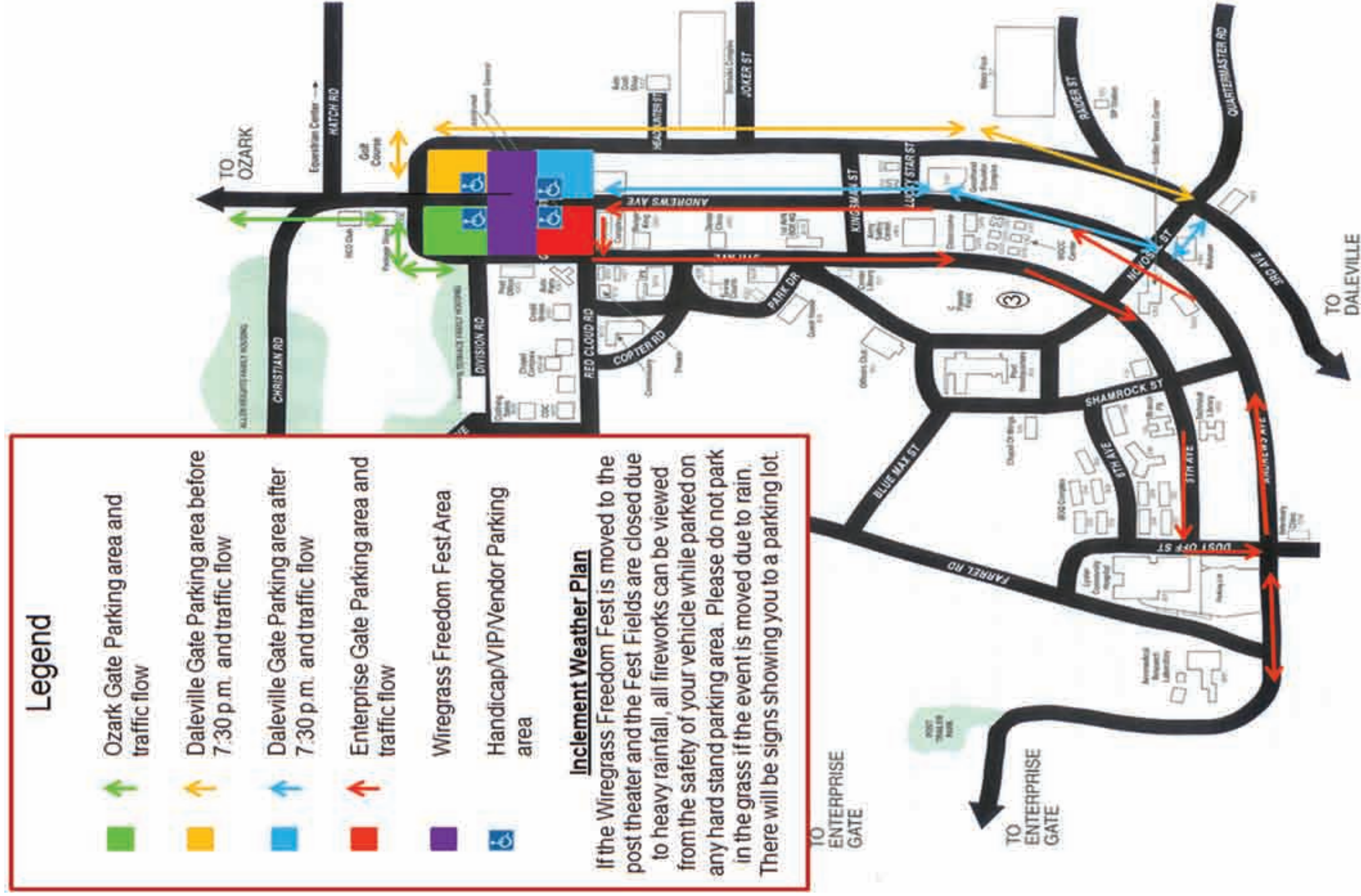


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- No roller blades, bicycles, skateboards or scooters are allowed at the event.