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ARMY FLYER

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

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FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

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REMEMBERING

Post honors those lost in 9/11 terrorist attacks

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

In front of the Fort Rucker firehouse, a fire engine's ladder reached high into the sky Sept. 11 with the American Flag flying halfway up the mast as a crowd from the Fort Rucker community gathered to solemnly honor those who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks in 2001.

The Directorate of Public Safety hosted the 9/11 memorial service, and people came together to pay their respects and remember why the fight against terrorism continues 13 years later.

"Today, we pay tribute to the firefighters, police, emergency medical service and military service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice on Sept. 11," said Fort Rucker Fire Chief Jay Evett. "We gather

today to remember this horrific event, and to mourn our brothers and sisters."

In total, nearly 3,000 people lost their lives during the attacks, which happened in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and over the skies of Shanksville, Pennsylvania, said Lt. Col. Florentino Santana, provost marshal and director of public safety. As a result of the attacks, more than 400 emergency service responders were killed, including 343 New York Fire Department firefighters and paramedics, 37 New York Port Authority police offices, 23 New York Police Department police officers, eight emergency medical technicians from private hospital units and private ambulance services, and three New York State court officials.

"Sept. 11, 2001, was a wakeup call to all Americans to the realities of a dangerous



PHOTO BY NATHAN PF AU

People pose for a photo in front of the Directorate of Public Safety Sept. 11 after a 9/11 ceremony to honor those who were killed during the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

world," said the provost marshal. "First responders across the country have always understood the risk of serving the community we live in and first responders continue to run into dangerous situations every day.

"Today, as we mark the anniversary of the sacrifices of that day ... and as we are reminded of the event that precipitated a campaign against terrorism across the

globe, we must keep in mind that the world is still very dangerous and we must continue to be vigilant," he continued. "Let us not ever forget those brother's and sisters whose watch ended prematurely that Tuesday morning."

During the remembrance, an age-old firefighter tradition was observed to honor

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PHOTO BY NATHAN PF AU

Col. Douglas C. Van Weelden III, ATSCOM and 164th TAOG commander, passes the NCO sword to Command Sgt. Maj. Jason J. Palfreeman, ATSCOM command sergeant major, as he assumes responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Richard A. Mitchell during a change of responsibility ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Friday.

ATSCOM, TAOG welcome new CSMs

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

As the NCO sword was passed from one command sergeant major to the next, the Air Traffic Services Command and 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group welcomed new leaders to their ranks.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jason J. Palfreeman, ATSCOM command sergeant major, assumed responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Richard A. Mitchell, and Command Sgt. Maj. Shawn L. Jones, 164th TAOG command sergeant major, assumed responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge O. Soriano, during a change of responsibility ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Friday.

Col. Douglas C. Van Weelden III, ATSCOM and 164th TAOG commander, presided over the ceremony and expressed his faith in the new command sergeants major, as well as bidding a fond farewell to their predecessors.

"Today we honor and recognize the service and contributions of these dedicated noncommissioned officers who share a combined 114 years of active service to our nation," said Van Weelden of the senior NCOs during the ceremony. "The change of

SEE WELCOME, PAGE A5



Col. Douglas C. Van Weelden III, ATSCOM and 164th TAOG commander, passes the NCO sword to Command Sgt. Maj. Shawn L. Jones, 164th TAOG command sergeant major, as he assumes responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Jorge O. Soriano.

HISPANIC HERITAGE

Event kicks off month with music, dancing, food

By Jay Mann
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The Hispanic Heritage Month observance kicked off at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Food Court Friday with music, dancing and, of course ... food.

"Food, like language, is a very, very important and integral part of culture," said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Garcia, equal opportunity adviser for 1st Aviation Brigade, "It's the beauty of the Family that we are bringing and sharing with the community."

But it was not just food being shared at this year's kickoff event, the 98th Army "Silver Wings" Band's Sabor Tropical played a collection of Latin tunes ranging in style from Salsa and Merengue, to Cumbia. "This is great for the community," said Sgt. 1st Class Marco Delacruz, Sabor Tropical NCOIC. "The Army is

made up of so many different cultures and events like this remind us that everyone has a background that they come from."

The celebration also brought out students from Harrand Creek and Rucker Boulevard elementary schools to perform a medley of Latin songs.

"This month we are celebrating the heritage of so many of our students and community members in the Wiregrass," said Hilda Hagins, Harrand Creek and Rucker Boulevard music teacher. "We are honored to be invited to share in this celebration of such a beautiful culture."

The students performed four songs in Spanish, including "En la Feria de San Juan," a song about the marketplace in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"The Army is very diverse culturally. Without that diversity, the Army would not



PHOTO BY JAY MAN N

Soldiers hand out food at the Hispanic Heritage Month kickoff event Friday at the AAFES Food Court.

work the way it does. People learn different things in different cultures, because what works in one culture might be able to work for everybody," said Sgt. 1st Class Bryon Brown, Fort Rucker Garrison and tenant unit equal opportunity adviser.

Other events throughout the month will be a story-time reading at the library Friday, bowling tournament and trivia contest at Rucker

Lanes Sept. 26, the Gate-to-Gate Run Sept. 27, and Salsa Night at Divots at the Silver Wings Golf Course Oct 3.

"Salsa night will be the capstone event of the month and I'm really excited about it," said Garcia. "There will be a D.J., Latin American and Hispanic Music, and dancing. People who do know how to dance will be showing people who don't know how to dance, how to dance."

Combined Federal Campaign fundraising begins

By Jay Mann
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The Heart of Alabama Combined Federal Campaign kicked off this year's fundraising effort at The Landing Monday with an exposition of some of the charities donors can contribute to in 2014.

Over 25 charities were on hand to answer questions and explain to potential donors and CFC volunteers what they do and how the donations help them.

Col. Gary. A. Wheeler, Lyster Army Health Clinic commander and Local Federal Coordinating Committee member, was there to thank the volunteers and stress the importance of this year's CFC campaign.

"All of us are blessed to have the opportunity to be in service of Aviators and their Families," he said. "This is an opportunity to bring the community in and give back to the charitable organizations that support those who need help. I think all of us are in a position to be grateful to be in the uniform and in that role it is very important to give back to the community."

The Heart of Alabama CFC runs through Nov. 14, according to Beverly Arnold, Heart of Alabama CFC director.

"One thing we are focusing on this year is informing people about online giving," she said. "Last year, My Pay became available to (accept donations) to CFC."

The CFC link for My Pay is on the main menu under Pay Changes, after logging in.

"Another option with giving online is the new Universal Giving program, where you can give to a local charity that might not be located in the Heart of Alabama campaign area," she added. "There are about 20,000 charities available through CFC. Those charities include local, national and international charities. Every donor gets to choose what charity they want to give to."

"As a federal employee, you can donate through payroll deduction.



PHOTO BY JAY MAN N
Col. Gary. A. Wheeler

Charities have expenses throughout the year, and a one-time cash donation, although nice, will not help them set a yearly budget," she added.

"As you walk around, you get a chance to see those organizations in the Wiregrass area that we can give back to," Wheeler said. "So, to have the opportunity for Soldiers and civilians to interface with those people is tremendous."

And many representatives from the various charities were thankful for the chance to meet with Soldiers, Family members and civilian employees from the post.

"This event is a great way for people in the local community to learn about us," said Jo Brooks, SOS Animal Shelter treasurer. "We run entirely on donations, so the CFC is a big deal to us."

Taylor Wheeler, Wiregrass United Way area manager, agreed. "It's just a more hands-on, personal experience being able to come talk to people at this event. Soldiers and federal employees not only get to talk with us, but also some of the agencies we serve."

PERSPECTIVE

Campaign concludes with American victories

By David Vergun
Army News Service

(Editor's note: This is the third in a three-part series on the War of 1812 Chesapeake Campaign.)

WASHINGTON — The Americans needed a victory after the humiliation at Bladensburg, Maryland, and the burning of the Capitol. They didn't have to wait long.

The British left a smoldering Washington, D.C., at the end of August 1814, and returned to their transports. They sailed up Chesapeake Bay toward Baltimore, the real prize of the Chesapeake Campaign. The campaign itself was a ploy to divert troops from the Canadian border, known as British North America at the time, according to historian Glenn Williams, U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Baltimore was a prize because it had a massive seaport and shipbuilding industry, and was home port to many privateers that preyed on British merchant shipping. Baltimore was also the third-largest city in the U.S. and its capture would have damaged the U.S. economy. Some of the U.S. troops stationed along the northern border would likely return to defend nearby Philadelphia and recapture Baltimore, just as the British were launching their own counter-invasion in the north, Williams said.

Treaty talks were already underway in Ghent, Belgium. The more American territory the British could occupy, the more favorable the treaty would be for them, Williams added.

In the grand scheme of things, the North American campaign for the British was originally an irritating sideshow to the war with Napoleon. The French army had just been defeated at the Battle of Leipzig and Napoleon had been exiled to the isle of Elba.

The British were war-weary after 20 years of fighting and wanted to end the war in North America, Williams said. The British admiralty also feared that Napoleon could somehow make a comeback and wanted to prevent a total demobilization of forces, he said.

While the main British fleet waited in the Chesapeake for the return of a squadron that had sailed up the Potomac to Alexandria, Virginia, a small force headed to Maryland eastern shore to prevent



Battle of North Point in Baltimore, during the War of 1812.

militia from reinforcing Baltimore. The British attempted a landing at Caulk's Field Aug. 31, but were repulsed by the local militia.

Meanwhile, in Baltimore, U.S. militia, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines were not sitting idle, and with the burning of Washington fresh in their memories, they undoubtedly felt it was payback time, Williams said.

Maj. Gen. Sam Smith foresaw an attack on Baltimore a year earlier and immediately initiated defensive preparations. By the time the British attacked, the Americans were waiting and ready, Williams said.

Militia from surrounding states, including Pennsylvania and Virginia, joined forces with the regular Army. Many of these were the better trained militia, he noted. Every Soldier was drilling, patrolling digging defensive works. Every able-bodied civilian — free and slave, white and black — also helped to dig trenches.

Smith was beloved by the troops and their officers, Williams said. Smith commanded the 3rd Division of the Maryland militia, while Brig. Gen. William Winder was the commander of 10th Military District, which included Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia north of the Rappahannock River. Winder had commanded the failed defenses of Bladensburg.

Although Smith outranked Winder, Smith had no authority over federal

troops, as he held a commission only in the state of Maryland's militia, granted by the governor, Williams said.

Winder thought he was in charge due to his federal rank, Williams said. But Smith was much more dynamic, and the officers of the regular Army as well as the Navy officers who came to help in the defense said they'd rather serve under him.

This didn't sit well with Winder, who first appealed to his uncle, Maryland Governor Levin Winder, who said that since Smith and the militia he commanded were in federal service, Smith held rank equivalent to a regular major general. Winder then fired off a letter to Secretary of War James Monroe.

Monroe was secretary of state when he was present at the Battle of Bladensburg just a week earlier (described in Part II of this series). But on Sept. 4, 1814, Secretary of War John Armstrong Jr. resigned and Monroe became the new secretary of war. He also convinced President Madison that he should retain his secretary of state title, according to Williams, so Monroe now wore two hats.

Monroe ended up siding with Smith by not replying to the letter, and Winder ended up serving under Smith, much to his credit, Williams said. Besides being an excellent general, Smith was a U.S. senator, veteran of the Revolutionary War and a successful merchant.

Two-front war

Sept. 11, 1814, the British invaded the U.S. by land and sea at Plattsburg, N.Y.

The following day, the British landed their forces at North Point in Baltimore, with the aim of capturing the city. North Point would be the biggest battle of the Chesapeake Campaign, but today, Americans mainly recall the bombardment of nearby Fort McHenry, also in Baltimore, because it is where Francis Scott Key wrote the "Star-Spangled Banner," while held on a British ship, Williams said.

At North Point, Maj. Gen. Robert Ross, the British commander at Bladensburg and during the burning of Washington, led some 4,000 men into battle against about 3,200 American militia.

The Americans fought a successful delaying action at North Point. Among the British killed was Admiral Ross. When the Americans finally fell back, the British thought they had fought and defeated the principal American force, until they saw the extensive fortifications outside of the city, full of defenders, waiting for them.

On the following day, Sept. 13, the British fleet began their bombardment of Fort McHenry, which lasted over a day. When their ships could not subdue Fort McHenry and support their main attack on Hampstead Hill, they called off the land attack and retreated to the fleet.

Had the British succeeded in advancing their fleet past the fort and into the inner harbor, they would have been able to outflank the main American defense along Hampstead Hill, Williams said. They would have made that defensive line untenable with an enfilade and the Americans would have had to fall back.

But the Royal Navy never got past the fort — Key wrote his poem, which later became the Star Spangled Banner, and the Chesapeake Campaign was pretty much over.

The strategy of pulling Americans away from the northern border was a failure. The Battle of Plattsburg was also an American victory, arguably of greater military significance.

Meanwhile, the British weighed anchor in the Chesapeake, debating whether to attack Newport, Rhode Island, or go south to New Orleans, Williams said. They chose the latter and the U.S. Army would add more accolades to its illustrious history.

Rotor Wash

“Fort Rucker celebrates Oktoberfest Sept. 26 with Family activities from 4:30-9:30 p.m. at the festival fields. What are some fall activities you enjoy?”



Capt. James Keaton,
Aviation Captains
Career Course

"I enjoy running outside more now that the weather is getting cooler. Also, going for hikes and riding my bike."



2nd Lt. Henry Jacobs,
Maryland National
Guard

"I just like being outside, fishing, camping and being able to get away from the hot weather."



Sgt. Matthew Bernard,
6th Military Police
Detachment

"I like riding my bike when the weather cools down."



Tyson Ernest,
retired service member

"I like to stay in and watch TV."



Macon Threat,
civilian

"I like to stay in and relax."

COMMAND

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

Col. Stuart J. McRae
FORT RUCKER GARRISON COMMANDER

Lisa Eichhorn
FORT RUCKER PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Jim Hughes
COMMAND INFORMATION OFFICER

David C. Agan Jr.
COMMAND INFORMATION OFFICER ASSISTANT

EDITORIAL STAFF

Jim Hughes
ACTING EDITOR
jhughes@armyflyer.com

Jeremy P. Henderson
SYSTEMS & DESIGN EDITOR
jhenderson@armyflyer.com

Nathan Pfau
STAFF WRITER
npfau@armyflyer.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Robert T. Jesswein
PROJECT MANAGER
rjesswein@dothaneagle.com

Brenda Crosby
SALES MANAGER
bjcrosby@dothaneagle.com

Laren Allgood
DISPLAY ADVERTISING
lallgood@eprisenow.com

Mable Rutllen
DISPLAY ADVERTISING
mrutllen@eprisenow.com

Joan Ziglar
DISPLAY ADVERTISING
jziglar@eprisenow.com
CLASSIFIED ADS (800) 779-2557

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‘HAPPY HOUR’

Training uses humor to increase awareness

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

September is Suicide Prevention Month and Fort Rucker is doing what it can to increase awareness in an unconventional way.

Fort Rucker Soldiers and civilians were able to experience a new twist to suicide prevention training with “Happy Hour” presented by Bernie McGrenahan, a stand-up comedian who has been featured on many late night TV shows, Sept. 10-11.

“This is a new way to consider viewing the topic (of suicide),” said Traci Dunlap, Fort Rucker Army Substance Abuse Program suicide prevention manager. “We need to be aware and understand that it could happen to anybody, so if you learn to be a little more sensitive to it, maybe you can help the people around you.”

That was the goal of the comedy show – to make people more sensitive to the issue, she said. The show was designed as a two-part program. The first part was a 30-minute stand-up comedy show that had audience members in stitches.

“I thought he was really good and it was really funny,” said Spc. Guadalupe Andrede, A Company, 1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment. “This was definitely better than sitting through PowerPoint slides.”

Fellow Soldier Sgt. 1st Class Tuesday Brooks, A Co., 1st B., 11th Avn. Regt., agreed.

“I thought this was awesome – it was a great, new type of approach that I’ve never seen before to suicide awareness training,” she said. “Having a comedian to tell his private story was an awesome idea and



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Bernie McGrenahan, comedian and host of the unconventional suicide prevention training program, “Happy Hour,” shares photos of his family with audience members after the show at the post theater Sept. 11.

it really touched me.”

Although the first part of the program is designed to get peoples attention with laughter, which many say is the best medicine, the second part of the program is of McGrenahan’s personal knowledge and testimony of how alcohol and suicide has affected his life.

The comedian took the audience through his own journey on a downward spiral through life, which started in high school when he started drinking at an early age. He talked about how he thought he was the one in control of his drinking and how he could control it if he wanted to.

He was ordered to see a counselor at the age of 20 because of his drinking, and when she asked if he thought he had a drinking

problem, his answer was always, “No.”

After six months of counseling, his counselor said to him, “Bernie, you have a drinking problem ... your drinking has affected your character, you finances, your job performance and your relationships with women. If you don’t quit drinking, alcohol is going to affect your life and your career.”

In that session, McGrenahan told his counselor that he would compromise and cut back on drinking, to which she chuckled and laughed.

“That’s the illusion of a problem drinking,” she said to him. “You’re going to control it, cut back and drink respectfully every once in a while – you’re in denial, Bernie. It’s never going to happen.”

He said he left the counselor’s office and tried to take his own advice to cut back, but refused to quit, and just one year later he lost his job because of his drinking. Eventually he was able to get a handle on his drinking, but it had now taken a hold of his younger brother, Scott.

McGrenahan said Scott began drinking and doing drugs with his friends and he tried to talk to him about his drinking problem, but his brother told McGrenahan the same things he used to tell himself – he had it under control.

He received a call from his sister one day telling him to rush home, and when he got there he saw three police cars and an ambulance on his front lawn. His brother had shot himself in the backyard.

“My 19-year old brother ... when I left that house that day, I tried to tell him that I loved him. I tried to tell him that we aren’t the type to have just one drink with dinner ... we drink all the time,” said McGrenahan. “I said, ‘Talk to somebody, Scott,’ but my brother didn’t want to be judged. He didn’t want to go see a counselor.

“From somebody who has lost someone they love to suicide, I pray that you men and women never hurt yourselves,” he said. “Go seek help, talk to your commanders, talk to your chaplains, talk to ASAP. That bullet didn’t just go through (my brother) that day. Everyone in my Family took that bullet that day.”

McGrenahan asked that people look out for others for the signs that something is wrong. And if they notice something is wrong, to say something.

“I saw my brother was off track, but I didn’t put it together,” he said. “I never thought he would go that far. We need to be aware of (the signs) when someone is really in a tough spot.”

And it was that personal account of the story that had audience members thinking about what they could do to make sure something like this doesn’t happen in their lives.

“When he started talking about his personal (experience), it made it more emotional because you could hear the emotion in his voice,” said Brooks. “The biggest thing I took away from this is that it can happen to anybody and it’s happening to a lot of people. So, we have to keep an eye out.”

For more information on suicide prevention or ASAP, call 255-7010.

Local schools depend on impact aid

By Nancy Rasmussen
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The cost of public education is not cheap and is funded largely by local property taxes. Districts that provide education to children of military and civilian personnel employed at Fort Rucker depend on Federal Impact Aid to offset lost property tax revenue.

The U.S. Department of Education website explains that many local school districts across the United States include within their boundaries parcels of land that are owned by the federal government or that have been removed from the local tax rolls by the government. These school districts face special challenges — they must provide a quality education to the children living on federal lands while sometimes operating with less local revenue than is available to other school districts because federal property is exempt from local property taxes.

Last year, more than 3,500 Fort Rucker-



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Children head to school on post. Many children of Fort Rucker Soldiers attend school off post, and Federal Impact Aid helps those schools make up for lost tax revenue.

related students counted for impact aid that helped fuel Enterprise, Daleville and Ozark schools, according to Kim Kozel, Fort Rucker Youth Education Support Services school liaison officer. Parents of those students completed the Federal Im-

pact Aid card sent home by the schools to document their resident and work status.

Federal Impact Aid cards will be arriving through October, and completing the card is essential to guarantee schools receive the aid they deserve.

“The funds received are a vital part of a school district’s funding and they try diligently to maximize funds by ensuring that the cards are filled out completely and accurately,” Kozel said.

“Districts receive payments throughout the school year and 92 percent of the payments are not earmarked for any specific expenditure, with special education and construction funding accounting for the remaining 8 percent,” she said.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, school districts use the aid for a wide variety of expenses, including the salaries of teachers and teacher aides; purchasing textbooks, computers, and other equipment; after-school programs and remedial tutoring; advanced placement classes; and special enrichment programs.

Parents should watch for the cards and remember that by completing and returning Federal Impact Aid cards to local schools, students will continue to enjoy access to the quality programs and education they deserve, Kozel said.

News Briefs

Clinic closure

Lyster Army Health Clinic will close at noon Friday. The pharmacy will also close at noon.

POW/MIA ceremony

Fort Rucker will host its POW/MIA ceremony Friday at 8:30 a.m. at Veterans Park in front of the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

CIF closure

The Fort Rucker Central Issue Facility will be closed for inventory Monday-Sept. 26. The CIF will resume regular operating hours Sept. 29. For more information, call 255-1095.

Fallen Aviators Remembrance Run

NCO Academy Senior Leader Course Class 14-005 will host a Fallen Aviators Remembrance Run Saturday at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center on Andrews Avenue. The run consists of a 5k race and a 1-mile fun run. Registration starts at 6:30 a.m. and the race starts at 7 a.m. Those 16 and older are asked to donate \$10, with a donation being optional for those younger than 16. Water will be provided. For more information, call 302-258-9870.

Gold Star Mothers Day

Fort Rucker will host a Gold Star Mothers Day and Gold Star Families Day service with luminary lighting Sept. 28

from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel. The event honors those who lost a loved one serving in the U.S. military by lighting luminaries. Gold Star Mothers Day was designated by a joint congressional resolution in 1936 and has evolved in recent years to be known as Gold Star Family Day. Each year since, the day has been observed by presidential proclamation.

Gate-to Gate Run road closure

Andrews Avenue from the Ozark Gate to Third Avenue will be closed to traffic Sept. 27 from 8:30-9:30 a.m., as will Third Avenue to the Daleville Gate from 8:30-10:30 a.m. for the Hispanic Heritage Gate-to-Gate Run.

For more information, call 255-2296.

Huey restoration

The U.S. Army Aviation Museum is planning to restore the only remaining prototype Huey. The aircraft was called the XH-40, tail No. 54459. Museum officials describe the aircraft as the grandfather of the UH-1 series helicopters, and added that it represents the leap from reciprocating engines to the turbine technology that changed the world of rotary wing Aviation and the Army. The helicopter is currently missing a number of parts, including all instrumentation and console equipment.

People who have these components and would like to donate them to the museum or know where like items may be found can contact Robert Mitchell, curator, at 255-1060

or Robert.d.mitchell3.civ@mail.mil; or Steve Maxham, director, at 255-1078 or robert.s.maxham.civ@mail.mil. Any other information in the form of photographs, tech manuals, etc. would be helpful, officials said.

CFC continues

The Heart of Alabama Combined Federal Campaign continues through Nov. 14. For more information, call 255-9261.

Opportunity knocks

Lyster Army Health Clinic reports the following openings: Contact Representative (Office Automation), GS-0962-05, can be found at <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/380292300>, closes today, it is a term not-to-exceed two years position; and Health Technician, GS-0640-04, can be found at <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/380665800>, closes Saturday. For more on the Lyster openings, call 255-7189.

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.



PHOTOS BY NANCY RASMUSSEN

Volunteers of the Month

Left: Fort Rucker honored its volunteers of the month Sept. 8. Above: Volunteers of the month CW5 Robert Roebuck, Cris Higginbotham, Monica Yearwood and Maj. Jennifer Farmer, all from the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center. Roebuck was cited for “selfless attitude and willingness to help the center with the monthly spouses social and related events.” Higginbotham was cited for her contributions to the center by organizing the Family readiness group, and farewell and welcome events. Yearwood and Farmer were cited for collective exceptional character, selfless attitude and willingness to assist the center with all FRG facets and events.

Right: Paula Lundy, spouse of Maj. Gen. Michael D. Lundy, Fort Rucker and U.S. Aviation Center of Excellence commanding general, and Col. Stuart J. McRae, garrison commander, with USAACE volunteer of the month Darcy Lynch. Lynch was recognized for her exceptional character as a Fort Rucker community volunteer, tallying up more than 1,000 hours as president of the Fort Rucker Spouses Club. Under her leadership, the FRSC raised more than \$17,000 for the club’s scholarship fund. The success of both Sweetheart Bingo, which reached 350 senior citizens, and the Fairy Godmother Project that collected gowns and supplies for local teens attending prom, were due to Lynch’s efforts.

Female volunteers needed for Ranger course assessment

By Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army is asking for female volunteers to possibly attend a Ranger course in the spring.

A final decision will be made in January on whether or not to actually conduct the one-time assessment, officials said. Since the Army needs to identify, select and begin training for potential participants, two All Army Activity messages are being sent to the field asking for volunteers.

The Ranger assessment course would train men and women together in order to help prepare institutions, schools and leaders for future integration decisions, according to Army G-1 officials at the Pentagon.

The assessment course would be open to all women in the ranks of specialist to major, if they can meet the physical qualifications and prerequisites.

Female observers would also be needed to serve as advisers to the Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade. Staff sergeants to master sergeants would be eligible, along with chief warrant officers 2 and 3, first lieutenants, captains and majors. The deadline to submit selection packets is Oct. 10. Potential students and observers will be identified in December.

Current Ranger course standards will remain the same for all students, said G-1 officials. Prerequisites, phase performance requirements and graduation standards would not change for the assessment.

“We will be prepared to execute the assessment professionally and objectively, if directed,” said Maj. Gen. Scott Miller, commanding general of the Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning.

All female candidates would be required to attend the Army National Guard Ranger Training and Assessment Course conducted at Fort Benning, Georgia, prior to the assessment course.

Women who volunteer to serve as observers for the Ranger course must also undergo a selection process that includes a fitness test, land navigation, a combat

water survival assessment, an operations order test, 12-mile road march with 35-pound rucksack, and review boards.

The women will not be Ranger instructors during the assessment, but as observers they will need to be able to keep up to the students and instructors.

Women who complete the Ranger assessment course as students will be awarded the Ranger tab to wear, but will not be awarded associated Ranger skill identifiers due to restrictions in Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 652. The decision to change that or not is scheduled to be made by the secretary of defense no later than Jan. 1, 2016 when he determines if women will be permitted to become infantry Soldiers and serve in other closed military occupational specialties.

cialties.

The secretary of Defense revoked the direct ground combat rule Jan. 24, 2013, following a unanimous recommendation by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Army and other services were given until January 2016 to implement changes and submit requests to exclude specific military occupational specialties from the ban being lifted.

In May of 2012, the Army announced it would open six military occupational specialties, or MOS’s, that were previously closed to women. This opened combat-related jobs in 37 battalions across nine brigade combat teams.

The six MOS’s opened were 13M Multiple Launch Rocket System crewmember, 13P MLRS operations/fire direction specialist, 13R Field Artillery Firefinder



PHOTO BY JOHN D. HELMS

Ranger trainees demonstrate teamwork during a raft assault in 2012. The Army is now calling for female volunteers to possibly attend a Ranger assessment course in the spring.


Radar operator specialist, 91A M1 Abrams tank system maintainer, 91M Bradley Fighting Vehicle system maintainer and 91P Artillery mechanic.

Over the past year, the

Army Training and Doctrine Command has been conducting a Physical Demands Study to develop gender-neutral standards for tasks performed by combat MOS’s. The study

is part of Soldier 2020, the Army’s initiative to look at integrating women into previously-closed MOS’s such as infantry, combat engineer, field artillery and armor.

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Remembering: Community honors fallen



Erin Tolbert, military spouse, attends the 9/11 memorial ceremony with her daughter, Makaeila, in front of the Directorate of Public Safety Sept. 11.

PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Continued from Page A1

those lost in the attacks – the sounding of a bell.

“The fire service of today is ever changing, but is steeped in traditions more than 200 years old,” said Sgt. Emily Bradshaw, 6th Military Police Detachment military firefighter, during the ceremony. “In the past, as a firefighter began the tour of duty, it was the bell that signaled the beginning of that day’s shift. Throughout the day and night, each alarm was sounded by a bell, which summoned these brave souls to fight fires and to place their lives in jeopardy for the good of their fellow citizens. When the fire was out and the alarm had come to an end, it was the bell that signaled to all the completion of that call.”

When a firefighter fell in the line of duty, it was the mournful toll of the bell that announced a comrade’s passing, and these traditions are utilized as symbols to reflect honor and respect on those who have given so much of themselves, said Bradshaw. To symbolize the devotion “that these brave souls” have for their duty, a special signal of three bells, three times each, representing the end of the comrade’s duties and that they will be returning to quarters.

“The men and women of today’s fire service are confronted with a more dangerous work environment than ever before. Our methods may change, but our goals remain the same as they have in the past – to save lives and protect property, sometimes at a terrible cost,” she said. “To those who have selflessly given their lives for the good of their fellow man, their task completed, their duty well done, to our comrades their last alarm – they’re going home.”

Welcome: Soldiers salute new leadership at ceremony

Continued from Page A1

responsibility ceremony is unique and marks that point in time when responsibility is bestowed upon a senior noncommissioned officer of an organization ... and while our hearts are heavy at the departure of these two great NCOs and Americans, the Army has seen fit and selected two proven leaders to follow in their wake.”

Palfreeman comes into his position from serving as the battalion command sergeant major for 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment. He is a proven leader with more than 25 years of enlisted service and has held positions ranging from duty positions, such as communication maintainer, flight operations specialist and drill sergeant, and held leadership positions from squad leader to command sergeant major.

He has also served in multiple deployments, including Operation Desert Shield and Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

“I stand before you humbled, knowing that the only reason I’m here today is due to the hard work of the mentors, leaders, peers and subordinates that I have served with over the last 25 years,” said Palfreeman during the ceremony. “Lisa and I look forward to joining you (Van Weelden) in serving the Soldiers, civilians and Family members of ATSCOM.”

Jones comes to Fort Rucker from his most recent position as the Army Air Operations Group command sergeant major in the Military District of Washington, D.C., at Fort McNair.

He is also a proven leader with nearly 28 years of service in a variety of notable positions through his career, including special skills NCO, chief instructor for the Pathfinder Course at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, to his most recent assignments as command sergeant major.

“It’s an honor to be a part of this time honored change of responsibility,” said Jones during the ceremony. “Liz and I look forward to joining the Van Weelden team. Colo-

nel Van Weelden, I look forward to advising and assisting you, and being a leader.”

Both Palfreeman and Jones thanked their predecessors for their guidance and mentorship they provided through the transition process, and promised to uphold their duties to the best of their abilities.

Mitchell will retire after an almost 30-year career, and plans to settle with his wife, Bernadette, in the Huntsville area.

Soriano departs after 31 years of service to the nation and will also retire, and plans to reside with his wife, Dawn, in Iowa.

“Change is surely the one constant in our world,” said Van Weelden. “Change can be disruptive, it can be unsettling and downright scary, but leadership provides the firm un-

derlayment and guardrails that take us boldly and successfully into the future. Thankfully we have and are blessed with great leadership in these two organizations with magnificent noncommissioned officers.”



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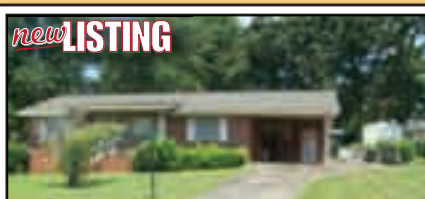
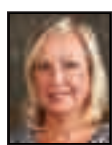
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178 Lakeview ~ Daleville
\$51,500 - Great townhome close to Ft Rucker. Ceramic tile throughout downstairs. Covered patio off kitchen. Deck off BR has view of the lake. Living room has wet bar. End unit with fenced in back yard. Has storage room & a separate shed. Unit is scheduled to be painted throughout & BA wallpaper removed & painted. Move right in & enjoy! **Theresa Hernandez 379-5937** MLS #20141685



203 Pinehurst
\$105,900 - Great Location!! Cute Starter Home!! Nice big yard. Nice brick home. Exterior trim is being repaired & repainted right away. Don't miss this opportunity! **BOB KUYKENDALL 369-8534 & ROBIN FOY 389-4410** MLS #20141712



211 Stratford
\$191,000 - GREAT LOCATION!! Great split floor plan with new flooring throughout. Lovely high orange peel ceilings with a tray ceiling in the grand room. Master suite has Jacuzzi Tub, separate shower, double vanity & large walk-in closet. Grand room is accented with a gas log fireplace, nice windows & French doors with a great view of the outdoors. Convenient to Ft. Rucker & zoned for Holly Hill Elementary. Laundry room w/sink. Fenced in backyard. Large Lot. Hardwood & carpet was installed in 2013. **BOB KUYKENDALL 369-8534 & ROBIN FOY 389-4410** MLS #20141704



323 Ben ~ Ozark
\$77,900 - 4BR, 2 living areas, over 1,700 SF & newly renovated on a large level lot. You must see inside. **FRAN KALTENBAUGH 790-2933 & MARY JONES 790-2933** MLS #20141700



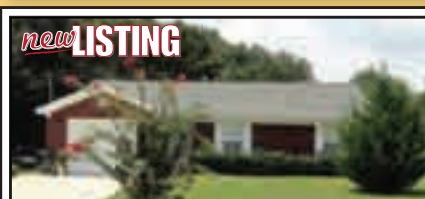
107 Boyd
\$229,900 - Wonderful 3BR/2BA home nestled among huge oak trees with over an acre of land. Located on cul-de-sac guarantees the absence of thru traffic while you enjoy the spacious front porch or the large deck overlooking a very private backyard with stream & bridge. Updated kitchen with stainless appliances, updated baths, formal dining room, grandroom with wood burning fireplace, large sunroom with built-in desk & even an unfinished walk-out basement perfect for dad's 'man cave' or workshop. **SAM HELMS 798-3357** MLS #20141720



23200 Highway 189 ~ Elba
\$19,900 - Approx 5 miles out of Elba, situated on a small knoll & is somewhat secluded. Features 3BR/1BA with living, dining & kitchen being somewhat open. Den with sliding glass doors to patio & laundry room with door to the backyard. Sold 'as is, where is' with no warranties expressed or implied. **EVELYN HITCH 406-3436** MLS #20141715



1106 West Magnolia ~ Geneva
\$59,500 - Perfect & affordable starter home or a place to retire. 3BR/1BA, convenient to hospital, restaurants & shopping. **FRAN & DON KALTENBAUGH 790-2933** MLS #20141717



78 LaDonna ~ Daleville
\$139,900 - Built in 2009, this 3BR/2BA is a one-owner home. Cathedral ceiling in the grandroom with wood burning fireplace & door to screened porch on the back. No wasted space in this home in the country & the outside offers much privacy. Place for dog pen & sit in the garden area of your choice. Situated between Enterprise & Daleville. **EVELYN HITCH 406-3436** MLS #20141647



10704 Highway 51 ~ New Brockton
\$69,900 - If you'd like a simpler lifestyle, consider this country charmer. This brick house with metal roof is situated on a level 1 acre with shade trees, mature shrubs & detached workshop/shed. Come explore the possibilities that await...roomy kitchen for eating, large bonus room that would make a great play room, living room, 3BR/2BA. **JUDY DUNN 301-5656** MLS #20141729



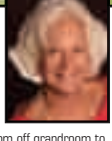
County Road 537 #2
\$90,000 - THE BEST LOT IN BRIDLEWOOD MANOR IS NOW AVAILABLE! This is your opportunity to live in one of Enterprises most desirable communities. This 2.39 acres has the potential to be the premiere home site in the community. Listing agent is a relative of the seller. **CHRIS ROGERS 406-0726** MLS #20141736



303 Lake Oliver
\$145,000 - Wonderful contemporary home, 3BR/2BA & side entry 2-car garage. Updates to include stainless appliances in kitchen & custom upgrades in the baths. Generously sized living area with beautiful stone fireplace & cathedral ceiling. 2 of the BR & 1BA bath are upstairs. **JUDY DUNN 301-5656** MLS #20141745



110 Cambridge
\$112,200 - FHA financing is available with \$100 down payment. Case # 011-724035 'AS IS'. Purchase of the property will be by cash at closing or on terms acceptable to the seller. Great starter home in Fairfield Estates. Featuring laminate flooring in main areas of the house, tile in the other areas. Wood burning fireplace in grandroom with ceiling height to second floor. Bright & airy, Florida room off grandroom to backyard with privacy fence. **EVELYN HITCH 406-3436** MLS #20141748



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New townhouse in Eagle Landing! All brick. Amenities include grass cutting, clubhouse and community pool. Convenient to Fort Rucker.



126 WINTERBERRY: Easy living, no yard work, convenient to shopping & golf course. One story, like new, 2BR/2BA, living/dining combo, all kitchen appliances, patio, laundry area, fenced yard. **ANGIE GOODMAN 464-7869**

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607 GREEN: Nice open floor plan on this 3BR/2BA split floor plan. Kitchen with a bar & breakfast area & French doors to screened porch. Laminate floors in grandroom & formal dining, tile in kitchen & carpet in bedrooms. Side entry double car garage with opener. Available for sale or rent. Rent is \$950 per month. Available NOW! **EVELYN HITCH 406-3436**

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TARTAN PINES



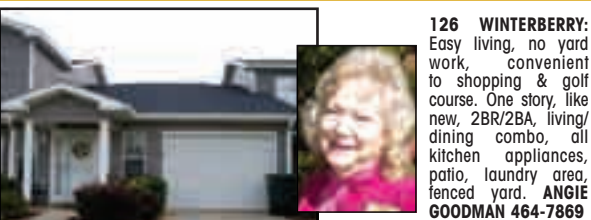
614 TARTAN WAY: \$490,000: Like new, 4BR/3.5BA on #4 green at Tartan Pines. Over 4000 SF. Large living room with fireplace, formal dining & spacious kitchen with light & bright breakfast area & view of the golf course. 2 car garage, newer 16 seer HVAC units. **JIMMY JONES 406-1752**

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110 WINDOVER: \$229,000: What a charmer! It has a BASEMENT! Entry level includes an inviting family room with beautiful gas log fireplace, a spacious eat-in kitchen, dining room, master suite, office, half bath, laundry room, exercise room & 2-car garage. Walk downstairs into a bonus room ideal for kids/teenagers. Also, you find 2BR/1BA & a huge storage closet. Final door leads into the 3rd garage with work shop & another half bath. Great moldings upstairs. Relax on your covered deck. Situated on a lot & a half. **JAN SAWYER 406-2393**

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START STRONG: *Every Army career starts with TRADOC*

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command
Press Release

(Editor's note: This is the third and last in a series of articles on TRADOC. This part deals with what TRADOC calls selecting and developing adaptive officers of character.)

FORT EUSTIS, Va. — Through U.S. Army Recruiting Command, U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training and U.S. Army Cadet Command, the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command serves as the foundation for the Start Strong phase of every Soldier's career. TRADOC transforms civilians into Soldiers, and provides them the pathway into the noble profession of Soldiers, past and present.

For more than 40 years, TRADOC has provided millions of Soldiers not only the skills to become professionals in their field, but also the expertise and experience to successfully transition

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Starting Strong is critical to the individual success of Soldiers and officers, and fundamental to the Army's role in defending the nation.

Selecting and developing adaptive officers of character

In parallel to USACIMT, TRADOC's U.S. Army Cadet Command leads the mission to forge the world's finest commissioned Army officers. These officers are trained and educated to become critical thinkers and decision-makers who inspire strength in others. They learn how to negotiate demanding missions while ensuring the welfare, morale and professional development of the Soldiers entrusted to them.

The primary path for commissioning as an officer in the Army is through the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps program. The ROTC program includes recruiting, developing and commissioning individuals who ex-



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER CALVERT

hibit character, proficiency and dedication — the foundation of the Army profession. Available at 275 host universities and more than 1,000 affiliated campuses, ROTC offers leadership experience, education and training valuable in military

and post-military professions. Upon graduation, ROTC cadets may receive a commission as an Army second lieutenant on active duty, in the Army Reserve or in the Army National Guard. After commissioning, these new officers receive specialized,

branch-specific training.

Producing more than 70 percent of all commissioned officers, Army ROTC has been the largest source of officer accessions since World War II.

However, notes Brig. Gen. Peggy C. Combs, commanding general of Cadet Command and Fort Knox, Kentucky, "The operational environment, technology and the learning sciences have all changed since Cadet Command stood up in 1986. The Army's senior ROTC program is critical to acquiring the talent and developing adaptive officers who can effectively lead their Soldiers in complex environments while understanding the implications of their decisions and how it impacts the mission."

Acquiring the right talent means Cadet Command will focus on more "precision recruiting" of potential cadets, based on Army requirements. Recruiting — and Army ROTC's roughly \$250 million annual

SEE STRONG, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. VENESSA HERNANDEZ

Italian Paratroopers from the Folgore Parachute Brigade rehearse for an air assault with a U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawks from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade on Lielvarde Airbase, Latvia, during NATO exercise Steadfast Javelin II Sept. 7. Steadfast Javelin II is a NATO exercise involving over 2,000 troops from 10 nations, and takes place across Estonia, Germany Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. The exercise focuses on increasing interoperability and synchronizing complex operations between allied air and ground forces through airborne and air assault missions.

HONORING A LEGEND

Stadium rededicated honoring 50-year anniversary

By Sgt. William Begley
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs

SYLVANIA, Ga. — The community of Sylvania, Screven County High School and Soldiers of 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade joined local Vietnam War veterans in a ceremony rededicating Kelly Memorial Stadium.

The rededication was in honor of Maj. Charles Kelly Aug. 23 during a pregame ceremony before the Screven County Gamecocks' first regular season football game of 2014.

Before the ceremony, a memorial was unveiled for the Vietnam War hero. Kelly was honored not only for his bravery during wartime, but also for the standards he set for generations of medical evacuation missions to come, and his legendary last words spoken during his last mission.

Kelly, a 1947 Sylvania High School graduate, died from a single bullet to the heart 50 years ago on July 1, 1964, when he attempted a MEDEVAC during an intense firefight in the Vinh Long province of South Vietnam. Kelly was told he would have a secure landing zone, but immediately upon arrival took a barrage of enemy fire as he was told to withdraw repeatedly.

His reply, "When I have your wounded," has become the battle cry for the Dustoff pilots of today.

Charles Kelly Jr. was on hand to honor his father's legacy. He also assisted in unveiling the memorial crafted to honor his father.

Kelly also talked about why it was



PHOTO BY SGT. WILLIAM BEGLEY

Veterans of Foreign Wars district commander Peter Mayer and Charles Kelly Jr. unveil the new memorial in front of Kelly Memorial Stadium in Sylvania, Georgia, Aug. 23.

so important to rededicate the stadium in his father's honor.

"It's important, I think, to pass these things along so that the kids that attend this high school understand why it's named Charles Kelly Stadium," said Kelly. "They probably don't know the story, but after today they will. There are so many things he did and it's important to pass that along. I'm very proud of my father and I'm in awe of what he did."

"When my father died, I was very young," continued Kelly. "I always heard as a kid that the Army takes care of its own. It means so much to me, especially to have the Soldiers here — it means everything."

A large crowd of Vietnam War veterans were on hand, as well, to honor

Kelly's sacrifice and to be recognized for their service to the country during wartime. Three former members of the original color guard that participated in the original ceremony when Kelly Memorial Stadium was first memorialized were present and proudly saluted the colors, which were handled by the color guard from C Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd CAB.

Maj. Jason Jones, commander of C Co., the unit Kelly led in Vietnam, formerly the 498th Air Ambulance Company. He spoke with pride about the meaning of the ceremony to today's Dustoff crews.

"It was an incredible honor to be

SEE LEGEND, PAGE B4

1st Air Cav Soldiers keep Gray Eagles soaring

By Staff Sgt. Christopher Calvert
1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division
Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas — Capable of flying in excess of 20,000 feet in the air, the MQ-1C Gray Eagle unmanned aircraft system provides real-time surveillance, reconnaissance and attack capabilities to aid troopers on the ground and aircraft in the sky.

The real work, however, takes place behind the scenes.

Soldiers with E Company and F Company, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division provide the manpower and expertise needed to keep Gray Eagles soaring.

"We're the eyes in the sky," said Sgt. Dennis Hoffman, UAS repairer with F Co., 227th. "Our job as operators and maintainers is to keep our ground troops and helicopters safe, and the Gray Eagle gives us the capabilities to do so."

Hoffman has been with the Air Cav since graduating from advanced individual training at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, four years ago, and is now a quality control NCO and technical inspector for his company.

"I had the chance to become a UAS operator, but I've always liked working on things," said Hoffman. "My [AIT] class was actually the first in the Army designated with the military occupational specialty 15E. Not a lot of people can say they have this job — I can proudly say I was one of the first."

During AIT, Hoffman spent more than 10 months learning how to maintain every component of the Gray Eagle UAS and RQ-7 Shadow UAS — a smaller aircraft used for reconnaissance, surveillance and battle damage assessment.

SEE EAGLES, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CHRISTOPHER CALVERT

Sgt. Dennis Hoffman, UAS repairer with F Company, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, inspects the Hellfire missile rails and mission kit at Robert Gray Army Airfield, Fort Hood, Texas, Aug. 27.

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Strong: New education initiatives revise curriculum

Continued from Page B1

scholarship budget — will target science, technology, engineering and mathematics majors, nurses, and those with specific language skills.

As to the ROTC program itself, USACC has implemented a number of initiatives, to include revising the curriculum in an initiative called Basic Officer Leader Development Transformation. The BOLD initiative supports the Army Leader Development Strategy in developing adaptive junior leaders who can operate and succeed in the complex environments the Army will face in the future.

This new Army ROTC curriculum has been researched, tested and refined to

ensure new second lieutenants start their Army careers with the skills and ability needed to execute basic officer leader tasks. The curriculum has also been redesigned to improve critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and will offer a broader portfolio of summer internships, language training and other specialty training.

Finally, USACC has added more mandatory university and college-conducted classes as an essential part of every cadet's education. This new curriculum is expected to be integrated into ROTC college classrooms in academic year 2014-15.

BOLD Transformation encompasses more than curriculum changes. This sum-

mer, Cadet Command is consolidating the Leader's Training Course and Leader Development and Assessment Course at Fort Knox. Among its many benefits, this consolidation will create opportunities for older cadets to lead and train underclass cadets during summer training, under the supervision of cadre.

In 2016, a new Cadet Initial Entry Training course will be required for all ROTC cadets. LDAC will transform and become the Cadet Leaders Course, providing multi-echelon squad- and platoon-level training events for all cadets following their junior year.

In the end, TRADOC's oversight of and USACC's focus on recruiting, developing and commissioning officers of

character, capable of thriving in a variety of operational environments, will ensure the Army is led by the very best.

"Starting Strong" is the Army's way of selecting and providing initial training and education for the 1 percent of the American population who will serve.

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's focus on selecting the very best enlisted and officers and investing wisely in their training and education, benefits not just the Army, but also every individual who travels this pathway of professionalism.

Helping Soldiers "Start Strong" provides a solid base of values and knowledge that will help ensure success throughout and after military service.

Eagles: Training helps Soldiers 'exceed the standard'

Continued from Page B1

He went on to deploy to Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan, with the unit for a year in March 2012. While deployed, Hoffman said he and his fellow maintainers and operators worked day-in and day-out in support of the unit's launch and recovery mission.

"We maintained 12 aircraft, six ground control stations, six ground data terminals and two satellite ground data terminals while deployed," he said. "Flying missions 12 hours a day, seven days a

week, we logged over 11,000 flight hours, while typically launching five birds a day to secure the area. We made a difference."

A difference, Hoffman said, that ultimately saved — and still saves — lives.

"There's no doubt that what we do with Gray Eagles saves lives," he explained. "Not only are we preventing casualties on the battlefield, but if a UAS goes down, there's also no loss of life. It's a win-win. What we have two junior enlisted Soldiers doing now is what it took a helicopter and six troops 10 years ago to do."

Spc. Alexander Curry, UAS operator with F Co., 227th, has worked side-by-side with Hoffman since entering the unit almost three years ago.

Like Hoffman, Curry spent about a year in AIT learning the ins and outs of the Gray Eagle and Shadow, but during his schooling, training focused on flight planning, radio communication, air space regulations and flight simulations, he said.

"Our training was intense," he said. "We are expected to exceed the standard from the time we're privates."

While being with the Air Cav, Curry went to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, with the unit in January of this year. During the rotation, he said he executed operations that helped him hone his skills as an operator.

"I had the chance to undertake lots of hands-on training," said Curry. "I conducted overwatch and tracked vehicles, among other things, as our unit logged over 300 flight hours. Spending lots of time in the ground control station, I was reminded how important it is to constantly scan the controls to en-

sure we're operating at the proper location, altitude, temperature and speed — all at the same time."

Now back at Robert Gray Army Airfield, Curry said he and his fellow operators are continuing to take every training opportunity possible.

"We have to stay proficient to be successful in our mission," said Curry. "Whether we're executing an attack mission with Hellfire missiles, or simply providing overwatch, it's essential for us to be prepared to support the ground pounders and sister aircraft at all times."



PHOTO BY SGT. WILLIAM BEGLEY
The color guard and firing party from C Co., 2nd Bn., 3rd Avn. Regt., 3rd CAB stand at attention as the memorial for Maj. Charles Kelly is unveiled to the public at Kelly Memorial Stadium in Sylvania, Georgia, Aug. 23.

Legend: Ceremony honors hero

Continued from Page B1

a part of this dedication, and to provide the color guard and firing party," said Jones. "Major Charles Kelly is more than a war hero. He was also the founder and pioneer of our noble profession, establishing standards and systems for MEDEVAC helicopters in Vietnam that we still use today in Afghanistan. He made a choice every day to risk his life to save others and paid the ultimate price. Kelly's story reminds us that MEDEVAC is a

dangerous business, but that the rewards are priceless."

Retired Col. Ben Knisely was a lieutenant when he was assigned to the 498th Air Ambulance Company in Vietnam. Though he was not present for the ceremony, he summarized the evening with comments about his experience with Kelly.

"Charles Kelly is none other than a genuine national hero. And for the community to preserve his name and legacy, is truly admirable and the right thing to do," said Knisely.

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SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Oktoberfest

Event offers Family fun

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker is ringing in the fall season by celebrating German culture with a seasonal favorite.

The installation's 12th annual Oktoberfest returns to the Fort Rucker Festival Fields Sept. 26 from 4:30-9:30 p.m., and promises to get people in the fall spirit as they don their lederhosen and take advantage of all the festival has to offer, according to Brian Jackson, Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation program manager.

"This event has drawn up to 5,000 patrons in the past and is an extremely popular, fun-filled event for all Families, on and off post," he said, adding that Oktoberfest is one of Fort Rucker's most anticipated events of the year.

The event is open to the public and admission is free, and there will be plenty of food and cold beverages available for purchase, including bratwurst and schnitzel, as well as a myriad of activities for people to participate in, said the program manager.

The festival will kick off with a ceremonial keg tapping under the main festival tent and people can enjoy live music throughout the event performed by Sonnenschein Express, a popular German band, who is returning for the seventh consecutive year to entertain festivalgoers with the sounds from the Alpine region to include ringing cowbells, horns and yodeling.

There will also be a vintage Volkswagen car show, Show 'n Shine, during which people can observe and inquire about differ-



FILE PHOTO

Children decorate pumpkins at last year's Fort Rucker Oktoberfest. This year's festival will be held Sept. 26 from 4:30-9:30 p.m. on the festival fields.

ent cars throughout the years.

Parents can get their kids involved with a variety of games, rides and activities for all ages, including a pumpkin patch where patrons can purchase a pumpkin to decorate, and various craft activities and inflatables.

This event is just one way that Fort Rucker and DFMWR gives back to its community, and does so by providing education about the nation, as well as the Army's diversity.

"We realize that our military members are familiar with other cultures ... and we really enjoy having a German theme with this program that is very similar to the

traditional Oktoberfest overseas," said Jackson. "A lot of our military members, as well as patrons off post, are familiar with German culture, so it was natural to plan an event that is well-received by our community.

"These types of programs also provide knowledge and cultural background for those that aren't familiar with other countries and traditions," he continued. "This event will see patrons dressed up in full-out lederhosen and the whole nine yards."

Patrons should remember that some items are prohibited at Oktoberfest, including coolers, pets, glass containers, weapons

of any kind, bicycles, scooters, rollerblades, skateboards and backpacks, with the exception of medical and baby care items, said Jackson, adding that the restrictions are for the safety of all patrons.

"Come out and enjoy this fantastic event with us," said the program manager. "Whether you have or haven't attended Oktoberfest, you won't be disappointed. Come out, relax, and enjoy a great time with Family and friends."

Although admission to the event is free, there will be automated teller machines available on site for people to purchase food, refreshments and merchandise.

MWR CENTRAL

Location centralizes access to activities, programs, events

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker offers a host of entertainment, fitness and recreation events and facilities for people to enjoy, but now the installation has centralized where people can go to meet their recreational needs.

Fort Rucker's Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation unveiled its MWR Central, which has been combined with leisure travel services in Bldg. 5700, during a ribbon cutting ceremony Sept. 10.

"MWR Central is a location where you can find information on all MWR activities and programs," excluding child, youth and school services, said Darryl Jones, Fort Rucker community recreation officer. "This is about consolidating and having a one-stop location where community members can come and get information for Fort Rucker.

"Bldg. 5700 is the hub of Fort Rucker life and activity, and we wanted to make certain that we were getting the information to everyone at the same time," he continued. "We see a lot of foot traffic in this location already, so it made sense to us to consolidate that effort and have information available on all our services available at this location."

The new service allows for people to register for various runs hosted by the fitness centers, beginning Oct. 1, and purchase tickets for various shows and events held throughout different venues across the installation, as well as all the services that were previously available at Leisure Travel Services.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Col. Stuart J. McRae, Fort Rucker garrison commander, speaks about the new MWR Central on the ground floor of Bldg. 5700 during a ribbon cutting ceremony Sept. 10.

"If we are doing the illusionist night and you want to purchase a ticket for that, instead of going to The Landing to purchase that ticket, you can come here to MWR Central to purchase the ticket," said Jones. "If you want to make reservations for lake lodging, we will have the capability to do that here soon."

Col. Stuart J. McRae, Fort Rucker garrison commander, was on hand to cut the ribbon and debut the new program, and said that fulfilling the need for a program like MWR Central was a team effort.

"Some of our leaders here in DFMWR saw a need for this, and said if we could centralize these services then we could be a lot more efficient and in the long run have

better service for our folks," he said during the ribbon cutting. "We're heading in that direction and right now it's in its infancy, so you're just going to see this thing get better and better."

MWR Central has been in the making since April, so from inception to ribbon cutting, it has come along fairly quickly, said Michelle Harris, MWR Central program manager.

"We realized that we were not using our current office (at Leisure Travel Services) as optimally as we could have, so we started examining how we could justify changing it around to better utilize it," she said. "We wanted to see what we could incorporate or add on to our leisure travel. It really began with ticketing, such as the tickets for shows from The Landing, that weren't being offered here."

Harris said there were many people who would come to Leisure Travel Services for tickets to various shows and events on the installation, but were turned away because those tickets were only available at the venues where they were being held.

"That's where it began then, and it sort of snowballed and we decided to see how much we could really get in here to centralize it," said the program manager. "Now we're going to be doing the runs for the fitness centers and we are currently taking yard sale registrations, which will be held biannually. I just hope that people will take advantage of what is available to them here and look at this as a one-stop building – not just for their military needs, but for their MWR needs as well."

MWR Central is located in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 130. For more information, call 255-2997.

School Spirit Skate Night

For more information, call
255-9108.

For more information, call
255-9631.

For registration, childcare
and more information, call
255-9637.

The Landing Zone will host Right Arm Night Sept. 25 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.

The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host its 12th annual Oktoberfest Sept. 26 from 4:30-9:30 p.m. on the Fort Rucker Festival Fields. The event will feature live German music by Sonnenschein Express, traditional German food, Family-friendly entertainment, children's inflatables, a pumpkin patch, craft activities and more. For more information, call 255-1749.

Army Community Service hosts the newcomers welcome Sept. 26 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



Outdoor recreation will host an All-Terrain Vehicle Trail Ride Sept. 27 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required and participants must be 16 or older. The cost is \$20 per person. Participants must pass the safety driving test through outdoor recreation, and people must provide their own ATV and protective gear (helmet, boots, etc.). Protective gear must be worn at all times. For more information, call 255-4305.

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

For more information, call
255-3817.

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

The Fort Rucker New Parent Support Program will host a free expectant parent workshop Oct. 2, 9 and 16 from 9-11 a.m. at The Commons, Bldg. 8950. The workshop is a three-part series. The first class will cover labor and delivery, the second class will cover breastfeeding and the third class will cover newborn care. Fathers and partners are encouraged to attend. Participants may attend

For childcare questions
and to register, call 255-9647
or 255-3359.

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

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For more information visit www.ftruckerkmwr.com.

Into The Storm (PG-13).....7 p.m.

Guardians of the Galaxy (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Transformers: Age of Extinction (PG-13)
.....7 p.m.

Transformers: Age of Extinction (PG-13) 2 p.m.

Medal of Honor recipient reflects on Vietnam battle

By Nick Duke
Fort Benning Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie Adkins, an Opelika, Alabama, resident, received the Medal of Honor during a ceremony Monday, at the White House.

The Medal of Honor was awarded for Adkins' actions during 38 hours of close-combat fighting against enemy forces near Camp A Shau, Vietnam, March 9-12, 1966.

Adkins said it was not just his actions that were valorous during that time, but also the actions of his fellow Soldiers.

"What I attribute this to is not my actions, but the actions of the other 16 Americans who were with us in the battle at Camp A Shau, and especially the five who paid the ultimate price," Adkins said. "I want it known that I feel like the Medal of Honor belongs to the other 16 Americans who were there, and especially to the five who paid the ultimate price. All of the 17 Americans who were present in this battle were awarded some type of recognition for valor. Valor was something that was just there with us. All of those 17 American Special Forces Soldiers were wounded, most of us multiple times."

Adkins was drafted into the Army in December 1956, and eventually volunteered for Special Forces in 1961.

"I had an assignment in a garrison-type unit, and I found out that was not for me," he said. "I wanted something in the field and I wanted to be in one of the elite units. At that period in time, it seemed that the Special Forces was the most elite unit. I was not satisfied until I had become a member of that organization."

Adkins went on to serve three tours in Vietnam. His second tour, from September 1965 to September 1966, saw Adkins serve at Camp A Shau.

According to the battle narrative, Adkins was serving as an intelligence sergeant with Detachment A-102, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces, when a large North Vietnamese force attacked Camp A Shau, in the early morning hours of March 9.

Adkins rushed through intense enemy fire and manned a mortar position defending the camp.

He continued to mount a defense while suffering wounds from several direct hits from enemy mortars. Upon learning that several Soldiers were wounded near the camp's center, he temporarily turned the mortar over to another Soldier, ran through exploding mortar rounds and dragged several comrades to safety. As the hostile fire subsided, Adkins repeatedly exposed himself to sniper and mortar fire, while moving casualties to the camp dispensary.

Adkins exposed himself to enemy fire transporting a casualty to an airstrip for evacuation. He and his group then came under heavy small-arms fire from members of the Civilian Irregular Defense Group, which had defected to fight with the North Vietnamese. Despite this overwhelming force, Adkins maneuvered outside the camp to evacuate a wounded American and to draw fire away from the aircraft, all the while successfully covering the rescue.

Despite the defection of some CIDG soldiers, Adkins said many of the CIDG stayed loyal to the Americans and showed bravery that day.

"We were in a situation where there was no ground transportation to get to this isolated Special Forces camp," Adkins said. "We were in a situation where the weather was very bad and we could not get the type



COURTESY PHOTO

Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie Adkins, shown here receiving the Purple Heart while serving in Vietnam, received the Medal of Honor Monday for distinguishing himself during combat operations March 9-12, 1966.

of air support we needed. In that period of time, there were about 410 indigenous Civilian Irregular Defense Group soldiers there with us, and of those, only about 122 survived, and most of those were wounded. It was a horrible, horrible battle. There was valor on all sides, not only from the Americans, but from the CIDG soldiers also."

Later, when a resupply air drop landed outside of the camp perimeter, Adkins again moved outside of the camp walls to retrieve the much-needed supplies.

During the early morning hours of March 10, enemy forces launched their main assault. Within two hours, Adkins was the only defender firing a mortar. When all mortar rounds were expended, Adkins began firing upon enemies as they infiltrated the camp perimeter and assaulted his position. Despite receiving additional wounds from enemy rounds exploding on his position, Adkins fought off relentless waves of the attacking enemy.

"It was just not my time that day," Adkins said. "I was blown from the mortar pit on several occasions, and I was fortunate enough to go outside the camp amongst the enemy and get one of our wounded Medevaced out. I also made a trip into the minefield to recover some supplies that were air dropped to us. The bottom line is that it was just not my day to go."

Adkins then withdrew to regroup with a smaller element of Soldiers at the communications bunker. While there, he single-handedly eliminated numerous insurgents with small-arms fire, almost completely exhausting his supply of ammunition. Braving intense enemy fire, he returned to the mortar pit, gathered vital ammunition and evaded fire while returning to the bunker.

After the order was given to evacuate the camp, Adkins and a small group of Soldiers destroyed all signal equipment and classified documents, dug their way out of the rear of the bunker, and fought their way out of the camp.

Because of his efforts to carry a wounded Soldier to an extraction point and leave no one behind, Adkins and his group were unable to reach the last evacuation helicopter.

Adkins then rallied the remaining survivors and led the group into the jungle, where they evaded the enemy for 48 hours, until they were rescued by helicopter March 12.

During that 48-hour period, Adkins said it looked bleak for him and his fellow Soldiers, until unexpected help arrived.

"It was too late and too high of an alti-

tude for another helicopter, so we had to evade the enemy," Adkins said. "This was the night that it looked like they had run us down. The North Vietnamese soldiers had us surrounded on a little hilltop and everything started getting kind of quiet. We could look around and all at once, all we could see were eyes going around us. It was a tiger that stalked us that night. We were all bloody and in this jungle, the tiger stalked us and the North Vietnamese soldiers were more afraid of the tiger than they were of us. So, they backed off some and we were (able to escape)."

Now his wife of 59 years, Mary Adkins, said she heard stories of the battle the next day.

"I had two little boys who were just starting school," she said. "I got up one morning to get them ready for school and when I got up, I turned the TV on. They were telling about a battle on the national news and about Soldiers going through the jungle with a tiger in the middle of them and the Vietnamese, and I don't know what it was, but something just told me that it was him. I think it was about two days later that I

got the telegram saying that he was lost and they hadn't found him. About a day or two later, I got another telegram saying that he was found, but they didn't know what condition he was in. The next one I got said that he was in this hospital and he was doing fine."

During the 38-hour battle, and subsequent 48 hours of escape and evasion, Adkins fought with mortars, machine guns, recoilless rifles, small arms and hand grenades, killing an estimated 135-175 of the enemy and suffering 18 different wounds.

Despite the 48 years that have passed, Adkins said the memories of what happened in the jungles of Vietnam are still vivid.

"It is not a faint memory," he said. "I can tell you every man who was there and the five who lost their lives. I can tell you how that happened. It diminishes, but it does not go away. I really feel that most of the Soldiers today experience some degree of [post-traumatic stress disorder]. We have ways of treating this, and my way of treating this was more work, more family and talking about it."

Adkins, who says he's a "young 80" now, said the reality of receiving the Medal of Honor has not yet set in.

"It's something hard to grasp and realize that during this period of time from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan, there's been somewhere between 28 and 30 million who have served in the military," he said. "To date, we have 79 living recipients of the Medal of Honor. If I can make it another 10 days, maybe I'll be number 80. I still feel that (it may not come) today."

After his military career, Adkins went on to establish Adkins Accounting Service in Auburn, Alabama, and served as CEO for 22 years. He also taught night classes at Southern Union Junior College and Auburn University, all of which he attributed to lessons learned during his Army career.

"The military teaches a competency and a desire to do the best you can at whatever you do, and I carried that on in my teaching and the businesses I operated," he said. "Whether (Soldiers are) a one-time Soldier or a career Soldier, they should absolutely do the best they can and accomplish the most that they desire to accomplish."



COURTESY PHOTO

Pick-of-the-litter

Meet Tommy, a 6-month-old grey and white short-hair male cat. Tommy is available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility. He plays well with other cats as well as small children and small dogs. 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/> 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

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‘Explore The Outdoors’ in Florida

By **Lori Ceier**
Walton Outdoors

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, Fla. — Walton Outdoors hosts the annual Explore The Outdoors Festival Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the lakeyard located on Circle Drive.

The free, fun-filled day is geared towards introducing children of all ages to the wonders of exploring the outdoors. Activities are held behind the First Presbyterian Church.

Hands-on activities include

fishing, boating, kayaking, wildlife encounters, interactive educational exhibits, nature-based crafts and more.

The water activities are designed for children age 6 and up. Food vendors are on hand.

Activities and exhibits include:

- Fishing from the pier with the pros;
- Fish Florida fishing rod giveaways;
- Fishing education with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission;

- Kayaking with Snaggy Bend Outfitters;
- Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge wildlife exhibit;
- Birding with the Choctawhatchee Audubon Society;
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission wildlife exhibit;
- Wildlife and education with E.O. Wilson Biophilia Center
- South Walton Turtle Watch exhibit;
- Topsail Hill Preserve State Park exhibit;
- Henderson Beach State Park

- exhibit;
- St. Andrews State Park exhibit;
- Northwest Florida Astronomy club;
- Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance touch tank;
- Smokey the Bear and his friends from Forestry;
- Deitrich’s Honey Farm;
- Mattie Kelly Environmental Institute;
- Eglin Aero Modellers demonstrations;
- Boy Scout “Leave No Trace” campsite exhibit;

- Tri-County Head Start fun;
 - Florida Public Archeology Network;
 - Emerald Coast Science Center;
 - Bicycle helmet fittings and giveaways;
 - Geocaching fun with Florida Panhandle Geocachers;
 - Nature based crafts;
 - Vacation raffle and giveaways;
 - Live music by Dismal Creek.
- For more information, visit <http://www.waltonoutdoors.com/explorefest/>.

WIREGRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

OCT. 13-19 — Covington County Fair runs at various times throughout the week at the fair grounds. For a schedule of events and admission prices, that range from \$6 to free, and more information, visit <http://www.kiwanisccf.org/news.html#events>.

DALEVILLE

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

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

DOTHAN

SEPT. 21-22 — The Flagship Theatre hosts auditions for its presentation of Dr. Seuss’ “Cat in the Hat” and “Oh Say Can You Say” at 2 p.m. Sept. 21 and 6 p.m. Sept. 22. Ages 4 to adult can try out for a \$30 script and T-shirt fee. No experience is necessary and no audition piece is needed. For more, call 699-3524 or visit www.the-flagshiptheatre.com.

SEPT. 25 — The Dothan Civic Center will host the Wiregrass Talent Quest at 7 p.m. General admission tickets cost \$10 and reserved tables \$75. Tickets can be purchased at the Dothan Civic Center Box Office Mondays-Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or by calling 615-3175. Tickets can also be purchased online at www.dothanciviccenter.org or www.etix.com.

SEPT. 26-27 — The Houston County Farm Center will host its Oktoberfest and from 5-10 p.m. Sept. 26 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 27. The event features barbecue teams competing for more than \$7,000 in prize money under Kansas City Barbecue Society sanctioning and also features an

Oktoberfest. There will also be entertainment, TVs for football games, a Cornhole tournament and inflatables for children to play on. For more, visit www.Porktober-Que.com.

SEPT. 27 — The fourth annual Sickle Cell Walk-a-thon will have registration from 7:30-8:15 a.m. and the walk from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Westgate Park. The walk-a-thon will help raise funds for the Southeast Alabama Sickle Cell Association, Inc., serving individuals and families in Houston, Dale, Henry, Barbour, Bull-ock, Geneva, Lee, Macon, Pike and Russell counties. Free screenings and a blood drive will be provided onsite. Each team is asked to raise \$150. It costs \$30 for individual team members older than 18 to register, \$5 for those younger than 18 and people with sickle cell can register for free. For more information, call 333-1690.

ENTERPRISE

OCT. 12 — Enterprise will host Enterprise Celebration, a gospel and Christian concert at the Bates Memorial Stadium, 500 E. Watts St. Performers include: Guy Penrod, Mark Lowry, Ricky Skaggs, The Hoppers, Russ Taff and various local bands. The Enterprise Celebration is a family-friendly event and will have bounce houses for children. Gates open at 1 p.m. and music begins at 2 p.m.

GENEVA

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

MIDLAND CITY

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

NEW BROCKTON

Sept. 25 – Disabled American Veterans Chapter 99 will meet at 6 p.m. in the New Brockton’s Old National Guard Armory.

Food and drinks will be served, followed by regular chapter business. The chapter also extends an invitation to veterans throughout the Wiregrass to join as new members as both DAV and DAV Auxiliary. For more information, call 718-5707.

OZARK

OCT. 4 — The Claybank 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run will take place starting with registration at 7 a.m., and the 5K starting at 8 a.m. and the fun run at 9 a.m. at Dale County Lake. Proceeds from the run benefit The Friends of Vivian B. Adams School, which is dedicated to providing tuition for people in Barbour, Coffee, Dale, Henry, Houston and Pike counties. Registration for the 5K costs \$20 if registered before Sept. 26 and \$25 on race day. The fun run costs \$10. People should pre-register to reserve their correct T-shirt size. For more information and to register, call 618-5189.

SEPT. 25 — Registration starts at 6:30 p.m. for the 7 p.m. third annual Claybank Jamboree Pet Parade that will take place on East Avenue near Milky Moo’s. Registration costs \$20 per pet. Ribbons and prizes will be awarded to first-, second- and third-place winners in four categories. The judges will also choose an overall best-in-show winner.

ONGOING — The Friends of Ozark holds a monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Ozark-Dale County Library. For more information, call 477-6221 or email wcholmes53@hotmail.com.

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

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

ONGOING — Every Wednesday, the Ozark-Dale County Public Library hosts free Wii Zumba from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Teens and adults are invited. For more information, call 774-5480.

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

ONGOING — AL-ANON will hold weekly meetings on Mondays at noon at the Lutheran Prince of Peace. For more information, call 618-513-1258.

PINCKARD

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

SAMSON

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

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

TROY

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

WIREGRASS AREA

OCT. 7 — The Atlanta Pops Orchestra will perform at Elba High School at 7 p.m. For information on tickets, call the Coffee County Arts Alliance at 406-2787.

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 more information, call 793-7912.

Beyond Briefs

Black Wings: American Dreams of Flight

The U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville hosts the traveling exhibit Black Wings: American Dreams of Flight now through Nov. 2. The exhibit chronicles the story of African Americans who, despite facing racial barriers, attained great achievements in the world of Aviation, according to center officials.

Designed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service in conjunction with the Smithsonian’s Air and Space Museum, the exhibit presents a story of a powerful group of aviation proponents that emerged to challenge racial obstacles and create their own legacy in the world of flight. From Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman to receive her pilot’s license, to Mae Jemison, the first African American woman to fly in space, Black Wings retells the stories of African Americans who dreamed of flight, left their mark and helped pave the way for those who would follow.

To get to the center, take Exit 15 off I-565. The center is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$15 for children ages 5-12 and children younger than 4 are admitted for free.

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

Andersonville Historic Fair

The Andersonville Historic Fair in Andersonville, Georgia, will take place Oct. 4-5. People can experience the Civil War era with mock battles, authentic encampments, and crafts of blacksmiths, gunsmiths, quilter, chair caners and more. The fair will also feature antique

dealers, Civil War collectibles, arts and crafts, and live music. A parade will be held Oct. 5 at 11 a.m., and mock battles will be held Oct. 4 at 3 p.m. and Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

For more information, call 229-924-2558 or visit www.andersoncillegeorgia.com.

Montgomery cruise

Montgomery’s parks and recreation department welcomes people to come down to the river and experience history while enjoying a relaxing cruise on the city’s greatest downtown attraction, the Harriott II Riverboat. Docked beside the uniquely built Riverwalk Amphitheater, this elegant 19th century riverboat is center stage of Montgomery’s entertainment district. The Harriott II offers dinner, dancing, and live entertainment.

To reserve the boat for an event, call 334-625-2100. For more information on cruises, visit www.funinmontgomery.com.

Explore the Outdoors Festival

DeFuniak Springs, Florida, will host its Explore the Outdoors Festival Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. along the lakeyard on Circle Drive. According to Walton Outdoors officials, the event is geared towards introducing children to the wonders of exploring the outdoors. Hands-on activities will include fishing, boating, kayaking, wildlife encounters, interactive educational exhibits, nature-based crafts and much more. The event is free. The water activities are geared for children 6 and older. Food vendors will also be on hand.

Walton Outdoors is the online resource for outdoor adventure in Walton County, Florida, and the

surrounding area. For more information, call 850-267-2064 or visit (850) 267-2064 www.waltonoutdoors.com/explorefest/.

Pirates of the High Seas Festival

Panama City Beach, Florida, will host the Pirates of the High Seas Festival Oct. 10-11. Taking place throughout the coastal community, the festival will include an ensemble of parades and sword-swinging showdowns, culminating with a dueling fireworks display reenacting the Battle of the Seven Seas.

For more information, visit www.visitpanamacitybeach.com.

Seafood and Music Festival

Panama City Beach, Florida, will host its Seafood and Music Festival Oct. 17-19. The festival celebrates seafood, fishing, culinary arts, music, entertainment, arts and culture. Musical acts include The Outlaws, Foghat, Blues Traveler, The Band Perry and more.

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

Riverfest Barbecue Cookoff

Decatur will host the Alabama State Barbecue Cook-off Sept. 19-20 at Ingalls Harbor. The event is free until 4 p.m. each day, when admission is charged for the entertainment. The cook-off features barbecue teams from across the country competing for a total of \$20,000 in cash prizes and bragging rights. The event will feature live music, children’s activities and more.

Formoreinformation,visit<http://www.decaturnjaycees.com>

RIGHTING A 44-YEAR-OLD MISTAKE

Vietnam hero receives posthumous Medal of Honor

By Elizabeth Collins
Soldiers Live

FORT MEADE, Md. — For one brief, excruciatingly hopeful moment, Evelyn Sloat thought the Army officers at her door were there to tell her that her son, Spc. 4 Donald P. Sloat, was coming home from Vietnam.

Another local boy, one of Sloat's classmates, had been killed and Evelyn thought her son might have been assigned the grim task of escorting Edgar Pulliam Jr.'s body back to Coweta, Oklahoma.

Coweta ultimately lost eight sons in Vietnam, and claims the highest per capita casualty rate in the nation for that war.

And then she looked a little closer — the men at her door were in dress uniforms. They carried themselves stiffly, somberly, as though they dreaded the mission before them. Sloat was coming home all right, but he wouldn't be kissing his mother on the cheek or fishing with his older brother, Bill, or playing with his younger siblings. She would have a funeral to plan, not Family dinners. She screamed in anguish.

Evelyn had already lost her 12-year-old son, Bruce, to a freak accident at a baseball game a few years before, and had just barely recovered from her grief. The moment she realized another son had been killed was "awful," remembered Bill, who was visiting when the notification team arrived. Bill had the somber task of picking up his three younger siblings up from school and breaking the news: Don had been killed in action in Vietnam, Jan. 17, 1970, when he stepped on a landmine.

Only that wasn't what happened.

Sloat had died a hero, the details lost in the confusion of war for almost 40 years, until a cousin stumbled across a tribute to him online. Just a few short weeks later, former Spc. Michael W. Muhl-



COURTESY OF THE SLOAT FAMILY

Spc. 4 Donald P. Sloat served as a gunner in Vietnam in 1969-1970, with 3rd Platoon, D Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, where he was known as an excellent, dependable Soldier. He ultimately gave his life to protect his squad members when he used his own body to shield them from a grenade blast, Jan. 17, 1970. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in a ceremony Monday at the White House.

heim summoned up the strength to call Evelyn. He had been meaning to for decades, but that day was so traumatic that he hadn't been able to talk about it. He was finally ready. Sloat, he told the Family, had willingly sacrificed himself to save his squad from an enemy grenade. He had even been nominated for the Medal of Honor.

At a time when many young men were leaving the country to avoid the draft, Sloat volunteered. He didn't have to join the Army and he didn't have to go to Vietnam. But he and a friend agreed to enlist together — Bill believes Sloat wanted to use the G.I. Bill to finish his college education — and Sloat had always been extremely stubborn and tenacious. So when a physical revealed that he had

high blood pressure and would be ineligible to serve, he kept going back to the doctor and then back to the recruiter until medication finally controlled it enough.

He must have tried at least five times, Bill remembered. He finally joined the men of 3rd Platoon, D Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division as a gunner in the fall of 1969.

They were based out of Fire Support Base Hawk Hill, which was located southwest of the coastal city of Danang, but they didn't see it much. The men would spend three weeks at a time out on patrol in what they called the bush, but what could be anything from coastal lowlands

to rice paddies to mountains to the jungle, anywhere between the South China Sea to the east and the Laotian border to the west.

Each platoon in the company generally worked on a three-day-and-night rotation, remembered Muhlheim, explaining that one night the platoon would go out on a night ambush. The next day and night they'd stay back in camp and guard the gear, and then the third day they'd go out on a patrol, constantly on the hunt for the enemy and wary of the inevitable booby-traps, which, he said, "were really, really awful. You can handle slugging it out with the enemy," but the booby traps were a special kind of torture."

During those three weeks, he explained, two or three men

would usually be killed, and another six or 10 might be wounded badly enough to be sent back to the "world," as Soldiers called the United States.

"I think the year I was there we had something like 32 guys killed in the company out of a hundred guys. It was not real common to have a guy make it through the year without getting wounded and sent home," Muhlheim said, noting that he was one of the exceptions. In fact, he said that while the men talked about their hometowns and their girls, they intentionally avoided getting too close, knowing that would only make it harder when a buddy was killed. They'd rag on each other, "joke around a lot about stuff — you know how guys when they get together are doing things, how they just kind of joked about what they were doing."

At about 6 foot 5, however, Sloat, who had played basketball and football in school, made a big impression. "He was a guy that really went -- whatever we were involved in, he played an essential part. He was a guy who had it together and got things done," Muhlheim said.

Perhaps reminded of his siblings at home, Sloat was gentle and generous with the local children. He was a good Soldier, a dependable Soldier, a brave Soldier. In fact, when he died, he had already earned a Bronze Star, an Army Commendation Medal and several other medals.

"Well, guess what," Sloat wrote to Evelyn in December 1969. "I've been put in for another medal. I guess they think I am really gung-ho or something. They told me I did an outstanding job and they were putting me in for another one. If I keep it up, maybe they'll let me out of the field."

The next month, in his last letter home, Sloat explained that he was being considered for a

SEE MEDAL, PAGE C6

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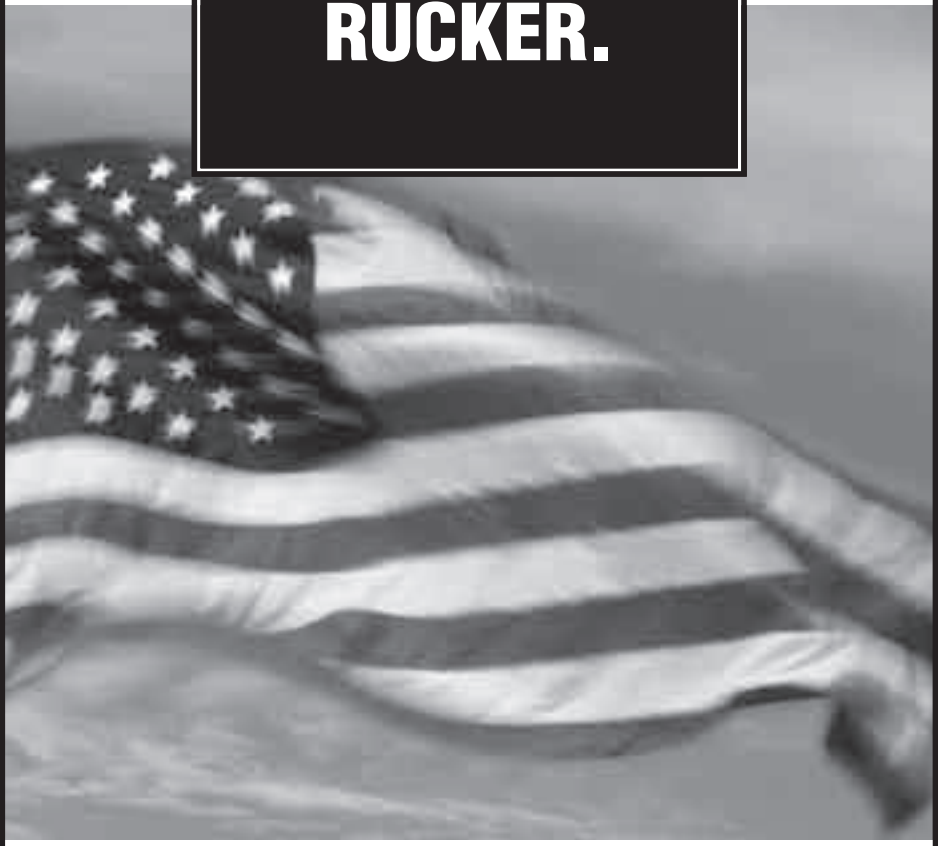
• 12x30 (No Climate Control)

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Medal: Ceremony bittersweet for Soldier's Family

Continued from Page C5

special rest-and-relaxation trip to Thailand as a reward for his actions.

It was a winter monsoon season and the clouds would “come bubbling over the mountains from the west to the east. It was just raining almost all the time,” Muhlheim remembered. The men spent much of the monsoons either trekking through the rain or huddling two-by-two at night in hooches built from bamboo poles and extra Army ponchos. Digging trenches to direct the water away from their makeshift shelters and exhausted bodies didn’t quite work, and the men were cold, wet and dirty all the time. Sometimes they were in the field so long or the weather was so bad that the Soldiers ran out of rations. Still, “the Army expected us to keep operating, and we did.”

Sloat complained several times in his letters home about how dirty he was – once he had to go 20 days without bathing – or about the jungle rot that set in after even the tiniest cut. So he was looking forward to spending time in Thailand and civilization.

“I’m in pretty fair shape, long and lean,” he wrote to Evelyn. He wrote separate, more graphic letters to Bill, urging him not to enlist. “They have been working us pretty hard lately. It seems they think we are animals or something. It’s bad enough we’ve got to be out in the field and then having to run patrol 24 hours a day. I guess I probably sound a little harsh. I’m probably going to have to take my R&R before I expected. So that I can get away from this for a little while.”

January 17, Sloat’s squad was ordered to act as a blocking element for a contingent of tanks and personnel carriers in the Que Son Valley. They’d been taking the same trail down to the valley for several days to check on the area after the unit had killed a Viet Cong guerilla in a bombed-out French village.

“This is not a good idea in Vietnam, to keep going back there,” Muhlheim said.

The valley started out wide and then narrowed toward the bottom, and it was there, as the men were unloading their equipment and getting set up, that “all of a sudden the tracks opened up and all of these tracers (from the mechanized unit) went flying over our heads about 12 feet off the ground,” Muhlheim re-



COURTESY OF THE SLOAT FAMILY

Spc. 4 Donald P. Sloat served as a gunner in Vietnam in 1969-1970, with 3rd Platoon, D Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, where he was known as an excellent, dependable Soldier. He ultimately gave his life to protect his squad members when he used his own body to shield them from a grenade blast, Jan. 17, 1970. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in a ceremony Monday at the White House.

membered. He got on his radio to report the attack and commanders ordered the men back up the trail as fast as possible.

Grabbing their gear so quickly that it hung off of them, the Soldiers scrambled up the trail, bunched together instead of spaced out, and then the squad leader, Sgt. William “Sergeant Bill” Hacker, who was running point, tripped a wire that activated a grenade. Both he and Sloat yelled “booby trap!” but with the noise of the .50 machine guns, no one heard the warning.

Sloat, however, saw the grenade and reached to pick it up. Realizing that he was surrounded by other Soldiers and there was no time to throw it, Sloat doubled his body around the grenade.

The resulting explosion was so strong that Muhlheim was knocked off his feet and temporarily senseless.

“I was laying on the ground trying to figure

out what happened, and I couldn’t hear anything,” he recalled. “After a few seconds the thought hit me that we must have hit a booby trap, and then I thought, ‘Wow, we hit a booby trap and nobody got wounded’ because I couldn’t hear the moaning and groaning of the guys that were wounded. Then my hearing popped back. I started up the trail there. I stopped at each guy and kind of talked to them and tried to reassure them that they were going to be alright and everything and then I got to Don and he had been killed.”

It was a horrible sight, one that he has spent the rest of his life trying to forget.

That’s just the kind of guy Sloat was, said Muhlheim, who wouldn’t find out exactly what had happened for several months after Sloat’s death.

“You know,” he mused, “when something like that’s happening, you don’t really have time to think. You just respond. I think Don was

the type of guy who was just geared to respond.”

That single explosion wiped out half of the squad, which was already operating at two-thirds strength, with Sloat killed, and Hacker, Elwood Tipton and DeWayne C. Lewis Jr. seriously injured.

“It is my firm belief that I would not be alive today (except) for the heroic act that Don did that day,” Lewis later swore. “I was only five to eight feet behind Don when the grenade went off. This act saved my life.”

Evelyn, her daughter, Karen McKaslin, and Bill agreed, had had a very difficult time coming coping with the death of a second child, but that news that Sloat had died a hero reju-



Future Spc. 4 Donald P. Sloat became one of eight young men from Coweta, Oklahoma, to die in Vietnam. Sloat and two of his classmates died within weeks of each other. By some accounts, Coweta has the highest per capita casualty rate for the Vietnam War. Sloat, who served with 3rd Platoon, D Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, posthumously received the Medal of Honor Monday at the White House for his actions when he gave his life to protect his squad members from a grenade blast.

venated her, and she made it her mission to ensure that her son received the recognition he deserved. Evelyn didn’t live to see it, although her children credit the quest with keeping her alive for quite some time, but Sloat will finally received the Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony Monday. They only wish their mother could be the one to accept the award.

“It just showed his character. It was who he was and how he was raised. This was her son and she was extremely proud of all of her children, but because of his action, she wanted that recognition for him. He had sacrificed and she wanted the recognition for him. She knew this day would happen,” said Karen, who

is looking forward to visiting the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., and doing a rubbing of her brother’s name on the wall.

“This was extremely emotional,” said Bill. “It’s Don’s award, but we feel like it’s mom’s story. ‘It’s a true honor, but people are people. Whether he was the Medal of Honor [recipient] or not, he was my brother, and I would much rather have my brother than what’s happening for him now.’”

“I was really happy,” Muhlheim said of the news. “Very happy. I was amazed. After all of that time, I thought that it could never happen, you know. I feel like this medal represents the stories that will never be told.”



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SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Sure-footed

Post trails offer customizable fitness experience

By **Jeremy Henderson**
Army Flier Staff Writer

As leaves and temperatures begin to fall, runners lace up to capitalize on crisp air and Fort Rucker contains a few easily-accessible locations for anyone looking to explore new routes.

Lynn Avila, Fort Rucker fitness programs coordinator, said two different trail systems, one located near Parcours Lake and one surrounding Beaver Lake, offer a customizable experience for runners and cyclists of any fitness level.

“The running trails behind Parcours Lake intertwine with bike trails,” Avila said. “There are different activities throughout that trail system such as balance beams, pull-up bars and monkey bars. Those can be used for any level runner.”

She said the Parcours Lake trails contain more than a dozen “stations” for different workouts and could be ideal for anyone who wishes to incorporate more into their workout. But runners and cyclists should be vigilant when using the trails, especially during the warmer months.

“I recommend running with a partner, especially if it is your first time,” Avila said. “Keep an eye out for roots from the trees and wildlife.”

Runners can begin at any point of the trail, but Avila suggests starting at the entry point across from the Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center to utilize all of the exercise stations.

Aleasha Liddle, Army veteran and spouse, said she enjoys the short trail located behind Lyster Army Health Clinic.

“It has steps and a hill,” she said. “It’s a small trail that I incorporate into my regular run when I do it. I love it because it gives me the sense that I’m back in Alaska enjoying a trail run, minus the temperature and humidity factors.”

Anna Bergmark, Amy spouse, frequents the color-coded trail system surrounding Beaver Lake.

“If I am going to run on a trail versus the

road, I enjoy the Beaver Lake trails,” she said. “The feeling of escape into the woods with such a convenient location is wonderful. There are three length options. All three are paved and provide rolling hills with the occasional flat stretch. There is a noticeable cross slope, so it is wise to change directions on occasion to avoid some stress on the legs.”

The Beaver Lake trail splits into three unique routes two-thirds of the way into the path. The blue trail, when completed, is 2.24 miles. The green trail is 2 miles and is heavily wooded. The red trail is 1.1 miles.

The trail starts east of the Third Avenue and Gladiator Street intersection, near the Air Assault Tower. It is completely paved. Most of the trail is shaded by trees, making it comfortable for runners and cyclists during warmer months.

Liddle said she prefers the Beaver Lake trails when using a stroller, adding that she suggests taking a partner if you plan to run a trail.

“I recommend bringing a buddy to run any trail,” she said. “Although it doesn’t always happen, it’s important to emphasize safety in numbers. I’ve almost stepped on a snake in the early morning.

“When trail running I think it’s important to focus on purposeful movement rather than speed,” she added. “It’s easy to twist an ankle.”

In addition to remaining alert, Avila suggests planning the run with a map available at Fortenberry-Colton PFC’s front desk.

“Definitely plan where you want to go and the distance you want to run,” she said. “It is easy to begin running a trail and end up over near the commissary. Grab a map from the front desk, pick a route and familiarize yourself with the route.”

Runners and cyclists searching for a fully-paved trail may also utilize the Air Assault track located across from the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility.

“It is a nice 2-mile run and it is flat,” Avila said. “Some people may think it is only for military physical training, but it is open to the public.”



PHOTO BY JEREMY HENDERSON

Anna Bergmark, left, and Eden Keene train using the hills along the 1.1-mile red trail at Beaver Lake recently.

RUNNING, BIKE ROUTES ON POST

Allen Heights

This trail starts at the intersection of Andrews Avenue and Christian Road. The distance from Andrews Avenue to Sheridan Street and back is approximately 2 miles. Should you choose to utilize the perimeter streets of Allen Heights, the approximate distance from Andrews Avenue through the quarters and back is 4 miles.

Bowden Terrace

This trail starts at the intersection of Andrews Avenue and Avenger Street. It runs west of Baker Street, then north on Diamond Avenue to Artillery Road. From Artillery Road to Farrel Road, from Farrel Road south to Red Cloud, east on Red Cloud Road to Ruf Avenue, to Avenger Street. The distance is 3.92 miles.

Munson Heights

This trail runs from the intersection of Red Cloud

Road and Farrel Road westward to East Harris Drive, to North Harris Drive, to West Harris Drive, then back to the Red Cloud Road and Farrel Road intersection. The distance is 3 miles.

Combat Road

With some degree of difficulty, the trail runs from Gladiator Street and Third Avenue to Hatch Field Road. It then turns left on Combat Road near the Silver Wings Golf Course and returns to Andrews Avenue. The trail then travels south to Gladiator Street and then turns left to return to Third Avenue. Total distance is 7.25 miles.

Golden Hawk

This trail also begins along Third Avenue, behind the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility, and runs north to Hatch Road. It then runs east on Hatch Road to Engineer Road, then south on Engineer Road to Dilly Branch

Road and Quartermaster Road intersection. It then goes west on Quartermaster Road to the Nighthawk Street intersection and from Nighthawk Street to Third Avenue north to Headhunter Street. It then travels east on Headhunter Street to the car wash. From the car wash, it continues north to the finish line on Gladiator Street. Its total distance is 5.95 miles.

Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center

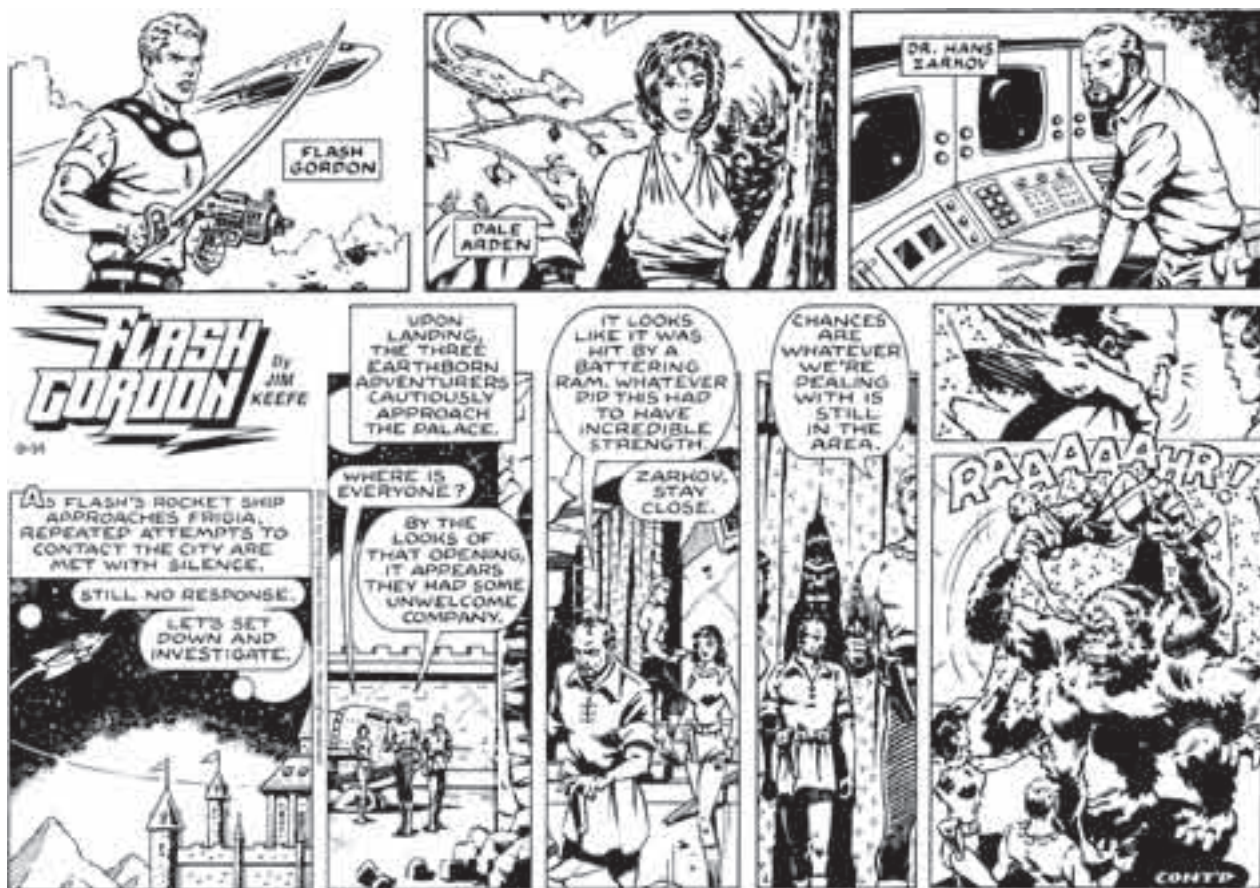
This trail starts in front of the PFC on Skychief Road. The trail heads north to Fifth Avenue and turns left to head west on 26th Avenue. It then turns right to head north to Sixth Avenue and right to head east. It follows Sixth Avenue to Shamrock Street and turns left to head north. It then follows the curve to Headquarters, turns left to return to Shamrock Street and heads south to Andrews Avenue. The trail then turns right to follow Andrews Avenue back to Skychief Road and turns right to return to the front of the PFC.

PIGSKIN PICKS



	<i>Tampa Bay vs. Atlanta</i>	<i>Minnesota vs. New Orleans</i>	<i>Green Bay vs. Detroit</i>	<i>Denver vs. Seattle</i>	<i>Kansas City vs. Miami</i>	<i>Pittsburgh vs. Carolina</i>	<i>Chicago vs. N.Y. Jets</i>
 Col. Tom von Eschenbach <i>TCM UAS</i> (9-5)							
 Jim Hughes <i>PAO</i> (9-5)							
 Brian Jackson <i>DFMWR</i> (5-9)							
 Capt. Mike Simmons <i>DPS</i> (6-8)							
 Sharon Storti <i>NEC</i> (9-5)							

DOWN TIME



TRIVIA



Trivia

test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. **GEOGRAPHY:** The Yakima River flows through which U.S. state?
2. **TELEVISION:** What was the theme song to the sitcom "Friends"?
3. **MUSIC:** What pop music group had a hit album in 1969 titled "The Age of Aquarius"?
4. **COMICS:** Which comic strip featured a character called "Dragon Lady"?
5. **MEDICINE:** How long is the average adult's spinal cord?
6. **FOOD AND DRINK:** What fast-food franchise featured the story of Jared S. Fogle, who lost a lot of weight eating their products?
7. **LITERATURE:** Where did the Grinch live in the Dr. Seuss story "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"?
8. **MOVIES:** What was the name of the mad scientist in "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"?
9. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What is the significance of the acronym ROY G BIV?
10. **FAMOUS QUOTES:** What comedian and actor once said, "A day without sunshine is like, you know, night"?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

7	9		2					4
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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



PIGSKIN PICKS



	Auburn vs. Kansas State	Georgia Tech vs. Virginia Tech	Florida vs. Alabama	Army vs. Wake Forest	Clemson vs. Florida State	UNLV vs. Houston	Miami vs. Nebraska
 David C. Agan Jr. PAO (9-5)							
 Kent Anger, DPTMS (9-5)							
 Sgt. 1st Class Brian Brenner NCOA (9-5)							
 Wes Hamilton NEC (8-6)							
 John Tkac DPS (10-4)							

Public Health Command enhances labs

By Jane Gervasoni
U.S. Army Public Health Command
Public Affairs Office

U.S. Army Public Health Command laboratories around the world will soon have additional molecular diagnostic equipment that strengthens their biosurveillance capabilities.

Public health threats, including vector-borne diseases such as malaria and West Nile virus, are widespread. The increased ability to rapidly identify these and other public health threats will be available using this new equipment.

The equipment also will standardize the ability of the six laboratories USAPHC operates to analyze and interpret data related to disease activity and threats to human and animal health.

In turn, making disease and vector identification easier, faster and more accurate significantly expands Soldier protection from public health threats.

Equipping USAPHC laboratories with this cutting-edge diagnostic equipment results from a partnership with the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense at Aberdeen

Proving Ground, Maryland.

“The two JPEO-CBD programs providing equipment, maintenance and training of personnel are the Joint United States Forces Korea Portal and Integrated Threat Recognition and the Global Biosurveillance Technology Initiative,” explained Maj. Michael Desena, USAPHC liaison with the JPEO-CBD. “This collaborative approach advances cooperation initiatives between the medical and chem-bio communities.”

“All six USAPHC laboratories, as well as a new environmental testing facility being established on the Korean peninsula, will receive the state-of-the-art laboratory testing equipment,” said Lt. Col. Kelly Halverson, USAPHC Laboratory Services Portfolio director. “All the laboratories will now have the same analytical capabilities, ensuring consistent and comparable laboratory results no matter which laboratory performs the analysis.”

“The need for biosurveillance and diagnostic laboratory capabilities in the Korean peninsula led to this partnership. It will provide the ability to generate and share public health information and conduct real-time U.S. and Republic of Korea

collaboration,” Desena added.

The partnership with the JPEO-CBD has other benefits as well.

“Training on the equipment for USAPHC personnel, as well as maintenance of the equipment, will be provided by JPEO-CBD,” according to Desena. “Laboratory personnel will be equipped to work in any of the laboratories around the world performing analyses with state-of-the-art equipment.”

“The new equipment will enhance information sharing around the globe,” said Halverson. “It will also allow us to support new customers.”

“This equipment will allow us to test environmental, occupational health and public health threats ... with a high degree of accuracy,” he said. “Our scientists will be able to validate their results using more than one type of equipment and if necessary, further studies can be performed by

laboratories in the U.S.”

The USAPHC has additional capabilities that will benefit overseas laboratories and their personnel.

“The Army Public Health Command, as a partner in the biosurveillance effort, also provides training and certification on international shipping and transport of samples through its Environmental Health Engineering Portfolio in addition to laboratory analyses,” explained Halverson. “This is a collaborative effort that delivers the best possible services to protect our Soldiers and Army civilians worldwide.”

This biosurveillance capability adds to the global network of military laboratories in which the USAPHC and the Department of Defense will have the ability to collect, ship, receive, analyze and report on environmental and public health samples from around the globe, he added.



PHOTO BY GRAHAM SNODGRASS

Spc. Michael Murphy, U.S. Army Public Health Command, prepares a next-generation genetic detection instrument that can analyze a tick or mosquito sample for up to 50 different pathogen targets such as Lyme disease and malaria at once.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Zumba Challenge
The Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center will host a two-hour Zumba Challenge Sept. 25 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$3.50 or people may use their Fitness Card. Door prizes will be given and refreshments will be provided. The challenge is open to all authorized patrons.
For more information, call 255-3794.

ATV Trail Ride
Outdoor recreation will host an All-Terrain Vehicle Trail Ride Sept. 27 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required and participants must be 16 or older. The cost is \$20 per person. Participants must pass the safety driving test through outdoor recreation, and people must provide their own ATV and protective gear (helmet, boots, etc.). Protective gear must be worn at all times.
For more information, call 255-4305.

Hispanic Heritage Gate-to-Gate Run
The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will host the annual Gate to Gate run in conjunction with Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 27. Race-day registration will be from 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the parking lot by the Daleville Gate

on Third and Raider, and the run will begin at 9 a.m. Participants will be bused to the Ozark gate from the Daleville Gate. The last bus will leave at 8:40 a.m., so participants are encouraged to arrive early. The run begins at the Ozark Gate and continues down Andrews Avenue to Third Avenue, where runners will turn left and continue to the Daleville Gate. Participants are encouraged to pre-register prior to race day and forms will be available at either physical fitness center. Costs will be \$20-25 for individuals and \$120-160 for teams. Trophies will be awarded to overall male and female, master male and female, grand master male and female, first-place trophies in 14 age categories and medals for second and third place in 14 age categories, and a team trophy to first place team and streamers for Top 10 teams.
For more information, call 255-2296.

Youth basketball registration
Fort Rucker Child, Youth and School Services' Youth Sports Fall Basketball registration will take place Oct. 1-31. Cost will be \$40 to participate and additional children will receive a percentage discount to be determined at parent central services during registration. A current sports physical and a valid CYSS registration

are required to participate. Children must meet age requirements by Sept. 1, 2014. There will be a parents meeting Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. at the youth center gymnasium, Bldg. 2800 on Seventh Avenue.
Also, coaches are needed. People interested can call youth sports at 255-2257 or 255-2254.
For more information and to register, call 255-2257, 255-2254 or 255-9638.

Enterprise baseball
Enterprise's semi-pro baseball is need of players. For more information on the team, call 347-4275 or 464-1729.

Racquetball tournament
The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will host a racquetball tournament Oct. 4, although some games may start Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m. if an overflow of players register. Novice, D, C, B and A players will begin at 8:30 a.m. Oct. 4. Open players will begin at 10 a.m. Doubles will play after open players. Players will referee games. Entry fee is \$15 per person for single only, \$15 per person for doubles only, and \$20 per person for participants playing singles and doubles. All pre-registered patrons will receive a T-shirt. Pre-registration is strongly recom-

mended. The cutoff date for entry is Oct. 1. Awards will be given to first and second places in doubles, first and second places in Novice, D, C, B and A categories, and first, second, third places in the open category.
For registration and more information, call 255-2296.

Wounded Warrior Fall Hunt
Fort Rucker's Outdoor Recreation will host this year's Wounded Warrior Fall Hunt Oct. 4-11. The hunt will kick off Oct. 4 at 3 a.m. and end Oct. 11 at 10 a.m. Cost to participate in the hunt is \$25 and is open to the public. There is no cost to Wounded Warriors. At the conclusion of the hunt, participants and community members are invited to Lake Tholocco's West Beach for door prize giveaways. Community members can purchase \$5 door prize tickets at the ODR Service Center and Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Central in Bldg. 5700 (located in the former Leisure Travel area).
For more information on hunting on Fort Rucker and the Wounded Warrior Fall Hunt, call 255-4305 or visit www.ftrucker.mwr.com. For information on sponsorship opportunities, call 598-5311.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

H	O	W	L	I	N		M	E	M	O	P	A	D	S		F	R	I	S	E		
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Weekly SUDOKU


Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

1. Washington
2. "I'll Be There For You" (The Rembrandts)
3. The 5th Dimension
4. Terry and the Pirates
5. 17 to 18 inches
6. Subway
7. Mount Crumpit
8. Dr. Frank-N-Furter
9. A mnemonic device to remember the colors of the rainbow
10. Steve Martin



Harrison B., Student
Two tours of duty. Dad. C.J.J.


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U.S. News
WORLD REPORT
VETERANS
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2014


SOLDIER BY DAY. WARRIOR BY NIGHT.

If anyone understands the warrior spirit, it's you. Strength and commitment are at the core of everything you do. Whether it's online or in-class, our public university is equally dedicated to helping you accomplish your career goals. Do what you love, and be great at it. That's the warrior spirit, and it's alive and well at Troy University.

Feel it in Dothan. troy.edu/spirit 1-800-586-9771

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

Get your
NEWS
FEATURES
SPORTS
every Thursday in the Army Flier

ORDNANCE DEPOT
GUN SHOP & INDOOR RANGE
BUY • SELL • TRADE
8 Firing Points • 25 yd. Indoor Range
454 Hwy 84 E. Tuesday - Saturday
Daleville, 36322 10:00-5:30
334-598-1101
Email: gahbb@aol.com

CLARK THEATRES ENTERPRISE
Web Site: www.hollywoodconnector.com
MOVIE INFO 24/7 - 347-2531
ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBER DISCOUNT
(WITH ACTIVE MILITARY ID) + 1 Guest
SEPTEMBER 19 - 25, 2014

R Rated Films, one must be 17 or with parent

ENTERPRISE SHOPPING CENTER

I NO GOOD DEED - **R**
Sat & Sun: 2:00, 4:00, 7:10 & 9:10
Mon-Fri: 7:10 & 9:10

II MAZE RUNNER - **R**
Sat & Sun: 1:45, 4:00, 7:00 & 9:20
Mon-Fri: 7:00 & 9:20

WESTGATE CENTER Entertainment Information 334-341-2331

III GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY - **R**
Sat & Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 7:00 & 9:20
Mon-Fri: 7:00 & 9:20

IV TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES - **R**
Sat & Sun: 1:45, 4:00, 7:00 & 9:10
Mon-Fri: 7:00 & 9:10

COLLEGE CINEMA • ENTERPRISE

I A WALK AMONG THE TOMBSTONES - **R**
Sat & Sun: 1:45, 4:00, 7:00 & 9:20
Mon-Fri: 7:00 & 9:20

II From Sony and Clark Theatres Buy 1 Get 1 - Any Show
WHEN THE GAME STANDS TALL - **R**
Sat & Sun: 1:45, 4:00, 7:00 & 9:15
Mon-Fri: 7:00 & 9:15

III DOLPHIN TALE 2 - **R**
Sat & Sun: 1:45, 4:00, 7:00 & 9:15
Mon-Fri: 7:00 & 9:15