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ARMY Flier

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FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

NOVEMBER 27, 2014

OPERATION CELEBRATION

Students support deployed Soldiers

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker Primary School isn't just a place children go to learn math, science, reading and writing, it's also where children go to learn one of the most important life lessons of all – giving.

Operation Celebration is a tradition at the primary school where students get together with family members to craft handmade gifts, write cards and start the season of gift giving by showing their support for Soldiers who won't be home for the holidays in the form of a little taste of home in a box.

With the help of Corvias Military Housing and Soldiers from the NCO Academy, children and families were able to create holiday care packages that contained hand-

crafted angels, candy canes, various sweet treats and thank you notes to be sent to overseas locales, such as Afghanistan and South Korea.

But before getting their hands on various crafts, the children were treated to a special reading by Mrs. Claus of the book the night is based on, "Operation Celebration," in which children in the book send Christmas gifts to deployed parents.

After the reading, children were escorted to different pods to begin the process, and one primary school teacher said that through the crafts and writing, an important lesson was learned.

Rhonda Sullivan, FRPS kindergarten teacher, said it's essential for the children

SEE CELEBRATION, PAGE A5



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Gabby Cabriales, Army spouse, helps her son, Julian, write a thank you note as her husband, W01 George Cabriales, B Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment, helps his daughter, Mia, with her note to be put in a holiday care package for deployed Soldiers during Operation Celebration at the Fort Rucker Primary School Nov. 20.

Aviation refines doctrine to meet emerging threats

By Capt. Matthew Brown
*U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence
Directorate of Training and Doctrine*

In a climate of ever-changing operational environments and emerging threats, Army Aviation must transform to meet the demands required to defeat the enemy.

It all begins with doctrine.

The Army's Doctrine 2015 initiative aims to restructure and develop doctrine that is current and relevant, according to Lt. Col. Fernando Guadalupe Jr., Doctrine Division chief at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence Directorate of Training and Doctrine.

"Doctrine 2015 is an initiative to rapidly codify fresh and contemporary knowledge into concise and current doctrine, and make it immediately accessible at the point of need," Guadalupe said.

Doctrine is critical since it charts the Army's course for the future, defines how to view the strategic environment and establishes the foundation for future

training, according to Guadalupe.

Simply put, doctrine is a library of stated principles by which the Army trains and fights. It outlines required procedures, templates the operations and establishes standards that leaders adopt to achieve desired results.

Over time, tactical and strategic variables evolve, so the Army must adapt to these changes in paradigms starting with its doctrinal foundation.

"The Army, as a whole, recognizes the unique chance to seize the opportunity it has to reflect on a decade of war, consider the future and have doctrine finally catch up to the fighting force," said Guadalupe.

Currently, the library of doctrine, managed and published by the Army Publishing Directorate, consists of over 500 publications spanning all operations. Many of these are outdated or have become irrelevant, and are unable to support the needs of the current and future fight.

SEE AVIATION, PAGE A5



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Fort Rucker youth from the Fort Rucker School Age Center and children across post paint Sgt. Ted E. Bear with their hand prints Nov. 18 in honor of National Month of the Military Family.

Post tree lighting to kick off holiday season



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Santa greets and hands out candy to children and families after last year's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. This year's tree lighting is Dec. 4 starting at 4:45 p.m.

By Jay Mann
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The annual Fort Rucker Christmas Tree Lighting will be held at Howze Field Dec. 4 from 4:45-6 p.m.

"The annual Christmas Tree Lighting is a perfect event to bring the family and friends out and celebrate the holidays," said Brian Jackson, Fort Rucker Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "It provides an opportunity for fellowship, as well as fun elements like hot cocoa, caroling, lighting of the tree and seeing a special visitor from the North Pole."

The 98th Army Band and local choir groups will perform together to entertain the Fort Rucker community, Jackson said.

"This event is open to the Fort Rucker community and patrons are asked to park in the parking lots surrounding Howze Field," he said. "Make sure to arrive before 5 p.m. to get a good seat as the ceremony goes by quick."

A close inspection of the Christmas tree will show that it is decorated with hand-made ornaments made by children in the community, Jackson said. Mike Kozlowski, Army Community Service, will narrate the event, and Maj. Gen. Michael D. Lundy, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, and Col. Stuart J. McRae, Fort

Rucker garrison commander, will serve as guest speakers.

After the ceremony, people are welcome to head over to The Landing for complimentary photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, who may have some treats for the good girls and boys, he added.

Also after the tree lighting, the Fort Rucker community is invited to enjoy the annual spaghetti dinner from 6-7:30 p.m. at The Landing.

"The Landing has created a great tradition of a tasty spaghetti dinner that follows the tree lighting," said Jackson. "It is something that we started and has been well-received by patrons."

Patrons will receive a choice of pasta and sauce, salad, garlic bread, assorted cookies, tea and coffee. The cost for the meal for a family – two adults and up to two children (12 and under) – is \$25; adults can eat for \$10; children ages 3-12 can eat for \$5; and children under 3 eat for free.

This event is free and open to the Fort Rucker community and is Exceptional Family Member Program-friendly, Jackson said.

In case of inclement weather, the event will take place at the Landing.

For more information about the Christmas Tree Lighting or the spaghetti dinner, call 255-9810 or visit www.ftruckermwr.com.

PERSPECTIVE

Job search success — Little things make a big difference

By Bryan Thorpe
Soldier for Life Transition
Assistance Program

The success of a resume is measured by getting an interview. The success of an interview is measured by receiving a job offer. But, in either case, whether the resume gets you in for an interview or whether going through an interview gets you a job offer often depends on the little things.

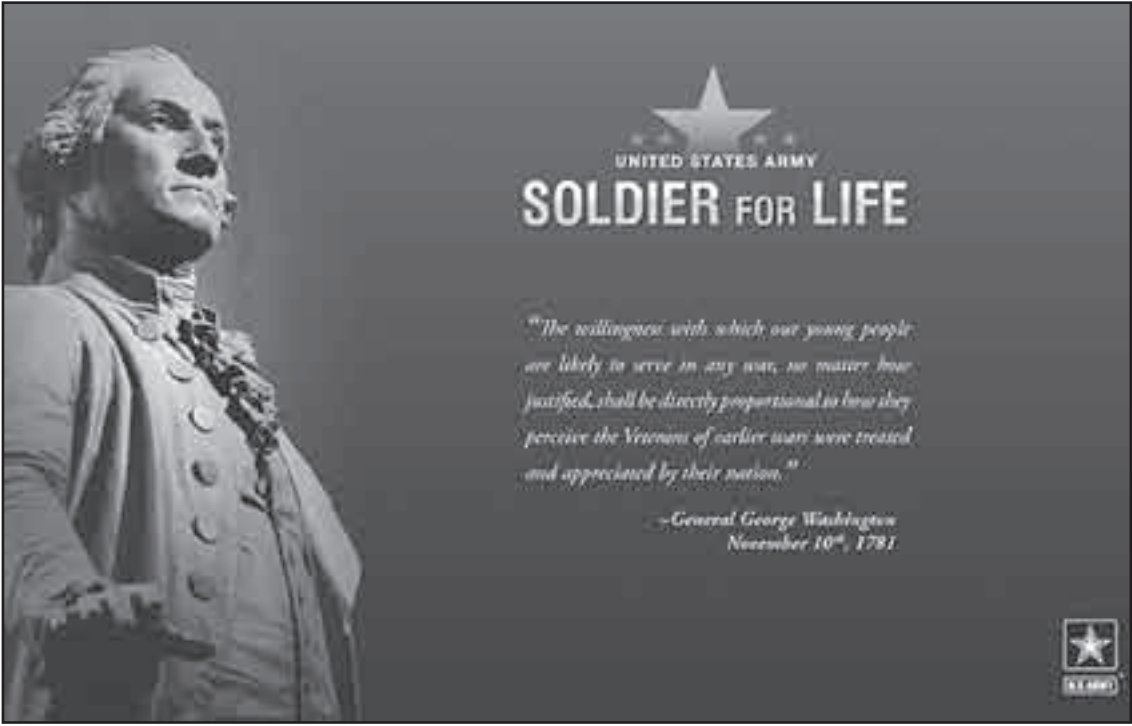
What do employers look for in a resume? What little things can you do to make yours successful?

Of course, all resumes need to have the information the employers need to determine whether you have the qualifications they need in an employee. Employers expect to see information about your educational level, other training you have received and information about your experience.

Most employers want to know where you got your experience and job titles. That means that they prefer either a chronological or combination resume, so they can see organizations that you have worked for and how much experience you have based on the dates you worked in each organization. They want to know that you can do the things that they require, so the write ups in the experience section are extremely important.

Other than these requirements, success is often in the little things. For example, you don't want your resume to look hard to read.

What can you do to ensure the employer reads it? The most important thing is to keep it as



short as possible considering the amount of experience you have. Most employers prefer that it be one page, but 1 ½ pages is usually acceptable. There are ways to make resumes fit on the page, and Soldier for Life, formerly known as the Army Career and Alumni Program, counselors can show you how to make that happen. They can also help you figure out what is important to include and what can be left out of the resume.

Leaving "white space" can make the resume more readable. If possible, leave 1-inch margins all around and double space between sections on the resume. Font size is also important -- we recommend 12 pitch, when possible.

Many employers wear glasses (or need to) and if the font is too small, it might get eliminated.

It is extremely important to

civilianize the resume and use the language that the employer would use. Most of them don't understand military job titles and acronyms, so you must translate your military jargon into terminology that the employer will understand. SFL counselors are very familiar with civilian equivalents of military titles, acronyms and terminology, and will help you make the translation.

As for interviewing, one should always remember that old saying: "You don't get a second chance to make a good first impression." Personal appearance is very important. If you care about yourself, the employer knows that you will pay attention to what you do at work.

You should always dress appropriately and pay close attention to little details, such as haircuts, fingernails and personal

hygiene. Applicants should not wear strong perfume or aftershave, and if they smoke, they should make sure that their clothing doesn't smell like smoke.

Remember to smile when you greet any employee at the company. You never know when the receptionist or others you meet have input into hiring decisions. When you meet the interviewer, give a firm handshake.

Many hiring decisions are made on the basis of chemistry, so you want everyone there to know how happy you would be to work there and how easy to get along with you are. Smiles and pleasant greetings are the best way to accomplish this.

Be sure to show interest in the company. Ask questions of the interviewer about the company, and its plans and goals. However, do your homework first -- don't ask questions to which you

should know the answer.

Don't be negative. Don't say negative things about your present job or boss, even if asked why you are leaving the company. Always figure out positive ways to express yourself.

Sometimes interviewers ask questions that call for negative answers, such as, "What are your weaknesses?" Be careful how you answer these questions, and try to turn them into something positive. You might say, "Although I have never worked with the computer program you use, I have used other spreadsheet and database programs, and I have always picked up software quickly. I know I could do the same thing with your program."

Leaving is as important as arriving. Hopefully, by the time the interview is over, you have established a good rapport, so always end the interview by telling the interviewer how much you have enjoyed meeting him and any others involved, how impressed you are by what you have learned about the company and how much you would enjoy working for the company.

After you leave the interview, remember to send a thank you letter. Most applicants don't do this, so the letter will set you apart from the others interviewed and take your name right to the top of the list.

All these little things can make a big difference in your job search.

If you have questions or need assistance with resume writing, interviewing or any other job search questions, your friendly SFL counselors would love to help you. Call the Fort Rucker SFL Center at 255-2558.

Rotor Wash

“Today is Thanksgiving Day. What is it that you're thankful for this holiday season?”



Nikki Young,
military spouse

"I'm thankful for my family because I have a baby who's 10 months old, a 5-year-old (child) and a wonderful husband."



Nicholas Solero,
retired

"I'm thankful for my life. I was deployed to Iraq and I'm back."



Sonja Jordan,
military family member

"I'm thankful for my education because a lot of people don't get the opportunities that I've gotten."



Charlie Bowen,
military family member

"I'm thankful for new opportunities because not everyone has an opportunity to better their life and I do."



W01 Kerry Julian,
B Co., 1st Bn.,
145th Avn. Regt.

"I'm thankful for a great family, a good woman and I made it to flight school this year."

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

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

FRES students graduate DARE program

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Making choices in life is something everyone is faced with, and officials at Fort Rucker Elementary School want to help make sure students are prepared to make the right ones when it comes to drugs and alcohol.

Parents, teachers and some of Fort Rucker’s finest looked on as more than 50 fifth grade students graduated from the FRES Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program during a ceremony at the FRES school gym and received their certificates.

Students spent the past 10 weeks learning about drug and alcohol abuse, peer pressure and what to do if confronted with either, said Marcel Dumais, Fort Rucker civilian police chief, who was on hand during the ceremony to speak to the audience.

“I hope that you take what you’ve learned over the last 10 weeks and take it to heart,” he said to the graduates. “This is life-long learning and it starts here with this program.”

The need for the DARE program is necessary in order to make sure children are well educated about the facts of drugs and alcohol, said Dumais, because it’s that curiosity that can get children in trouble.

“We’ve seen that drug abuse continued to be a serious issue that causes society problems, and has affected the lives of our children and young adults,” said the police chief. “The DARE program that these students have just completed will hopefully continue to pay big dividends as they



PHOTO BY NATHAN PF AU

Students perform a song about making the right decisions during a DARE graduation ceremony at the Fort Rucker Elementary School gym where more than 50 students graduated from the program Nov. 19.

grow into their teens and adulthood. I hope the lessons they’ve learned will help them make the right decisions when confronted with the use of illegal drugs and alcohol abuse.”

Throughout the 10-week course, the students worked closely Spc. Susan Stone, Fort Rucker DARE officer, to learn the ever-important life lessons.

“It was my privilege and honor to teach these fifth grade students this year,” said Stone, who is enjoying her second year as the DARE officer. “Congratulations you guys, you did it and I’m proud of you. You all have your individual strengths and weaknesses, so help each other grow so that you can all grow together.

All I did was give you the tools to help you express your thoughts, feelings and decisions. Lead by example and help each other out.”

Being a leader is an integral part of the DARE program, said Vicki Gilmer, FRES principal, which is a characteristic that she said FRES has worked hard to instill in its students.

“This year we’ve worked really hard not only education your child, but also have them become quite a leader,” she said to the parents during the ceremony. “We’ve been working the Leader In Me program, which has seven tenets for children to use to become successful individuals and one of those is being proactive.

“The DARE program really fits in well with that,” Gilmer continued. “This has really helped these children know what to do in case they are pressured, so they have immediate answers and an immediate response. I’m very proud of you ... you guys learned a great deal, and I know that you took all of these lessons to heart and will use them throughout your life.”

Those lessons weren’t just for the children, however, but for the parents, as well.

Dumais said another important aspect of the DARE program is parent involvement and educating the parents, as well as the children about the facts about drugs and alcohol.

“Establish family rules that

make the use of drugs and alcohol non-negotiable,” he advised to parents. “Get to know your children better through this program, and get to know your children’s friends and talk with other parents.

“This program better prepares parents to recognize the signs of drug and alcohol abuse so they can quickly step in when and if necessary,” said the police chief. “If a problem does arise, know that you’re not alone. If necessary, seek expert advice and counseling for assistance.”

With these lessons, Dumais said that parents and children should have the necessary tools needed to resist drugs and alcohol.

He then got a little help from a guest speaker on why these lessons are important to the success of the program. George Scott, Enterprise State Community College and special guest speaker, took time to talk with the students and offer them a valuable lesson on what it means to be successful.

Scott stressed to the children that everyone’s definition of success is different, and should be based on one’s own definition and no one else’s.

“No matter what your idea or definition of the word is, there are things you must do in order to be successful, and you guys have all taken a step in the right direction by completing the DARE program,” he said. “To be successful you must be responsible for your actions, you must prepare properly, you must work hard and you must persevere. Living a DARE life will help you be successful.”

Education fair provides education, opportunities for Soldiers

By Jay Mann
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

As part of American Education Week, many Fort Rucker organizations and academic institution representatives held an Education Fair Nov. 19 for Soldiers, family members and the community at the Soldier Service Center.

“The great thing about this event is that everyone is together, so Soldiers can stop by one place to find out everything that is available to them,” said Randy McNally, education service specialist. “Along with the education center, we also have representatives from the Veterans Administration and Soldier for Life out today.”

Representatives from Central Texas College, Troy University, Embry–Riddle Aeronautical University and Enterprise State Community College were also there to explain what they can provide for attendees.

“We hope the whole community will gain something from this,” said McNally, “Soldiers can speak with someone about their educational goals, their VA benefits, have their Soldier for Life transitional questions answered, and ask (transition assistance) related questions. Family members, retirees and veterans can speak directly with representatives and have their questions answered.

“We hope we can help guide people to use their benefits in a productive way to improve and better their future, for them-

selves and their families,” he added. “The theme this year is Army Strong, Education Stronger. I think that really reflects how the Army perceives the benefit of education, not only to the Soldier, but to the whole Army community.

“It makes us a stronger and more focused military,” added McNally. “Education is very important. It is the backbone of any community, and the Army is no different.”

He added that education can help Soldiers now, and it can also help them later.

“Every one of these Soldiers is going to take the uniform off for the last time someday,” said McNally, “Preparing for that needs to start today. It is very sad for me to see Soldiers come in with 18 years in the Army, who have served their country to the upmost, been deployed multiple times, with the sacrifices to themselves and their families, with no plan for their career post-Army. Soldiers coming in to the military now need to begin looking at retirement today, when they first start their Army career.”

And while it is certainly best to start early, learning is a “life-long process,” he added.

“Learning is not just a time period event where I go to school, I get my diploma and now I’m done. Learning is a lifetime concept, McNally said. “Today’s event is to introduce the community to the avenues available to them to continue learning and the benefits they have already earned that will help them to do this.



PHOTO BY JAY MANN

Soldiers, families and community members met with academic institution and post organization representatives at the 2014 Education Fair Nov. 19.

“Traditionally, education has been seen as a ‘when I need it’ type of experience,” said McNally. “Meaning people don’t really think about getting training or education until it becomes a requirement. We are trying to reverse that mindset by getting people to start expanding their education before they need to. That way, when it is a requirement they already have it.

“Soldiers should visit the education center every time they get to a new duty station and see what they can do now,” he said. “The Soldier for Life Program begins when you enter the military, not when you get out.”

Soldiers and family members interested in continuing education can visit Bldg. 4502 or call 255-2378.

News Briefs

Gate closures

The Faulkner Gate and the Newton Gate will be closed today and Friday for Thanksgiving. They will reopen with normal operating hours Monday from 4:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Also, the Faulkner and Newton gates will operate with reduced hours Dec. 19-Jan. 2, being open from 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. those days except for the days they are closed, Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2.

PPPT instructor training

People looking for a way to positively impact Soldiers and gain experience as a leader should consider become a Pregnancy and Postpartum Physical Training Program instructor trainer. The position requires completion of the PPPT Exercise Leader Training that provides guidance on leading exercise sessions for pregnant and postpartum Soldiers in a PPPT consolidated installation program.

Attendees may include unit NCOs, health care personnel, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation personnel interested in PPPT program implementation. Requirements include: enthusiasm about helping others succeed; E-6 and above or junior

officer; not being pregnant or postpartum; not on a permanent physical profile for no physical training; and stability of at least one year.

Course registration is available by calling the local PPPT NCO in charge at 255-7846, or the officer in charge at 255-7719. The next training is scheduled for Jan. 12-16 at the Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center.

For more information about the PPPT Program visit the Army Knowledge Online PPPT website at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/693153>.

Holiday post run

Fort Rucker will conduct a holiday post run Dec. 12, with units forming up at about 5:45 a.m., observing Reveille at about 6 a.m., and then running the almost 4-mile route. The run will feature all mission, garrison and tenant units on Fort Rucker.

The run will primarily take place on Ruf Avenue and a portion of Novosel Street, but will also include 2nd Street, a portion of Andrews Avenue and 1st Street. These roads will be blocked off to traffic in the areas where the run will take place.

Clinic closure

Lyster Army Health Clinic will be closed today and Friday for Thanksgiving.

CFC continues

The Heart of Alabama Combined Federal Campaign continues through Dec. 8. The awards ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 8 at 1 p.m. at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. For more information, call 255-9261.

Flu shots

Lyster Army Health Clinic’s Preventive Medicine Department offers flu shots for patients Mondays-Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

ID card section

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

TRICARE Nurse Advice Line

Lyster Army Health Clinic uses the TRICARE Nurse Advice Line for all after-hours urgent care questions. Call 1-800-TRICARE

(874-2273) to speak with a nurse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Marriage 101

Marriage 101, a premarital seminar and training, will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each month from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center, Bldg. 8939. Marriage 101 is mandatory for those wishing to get married at Fort Rucker, according to Chaplain (Capt.) Troy D. Allan.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

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

Service members must change Roth TSP contributions

By Abigail C. Reid
Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board

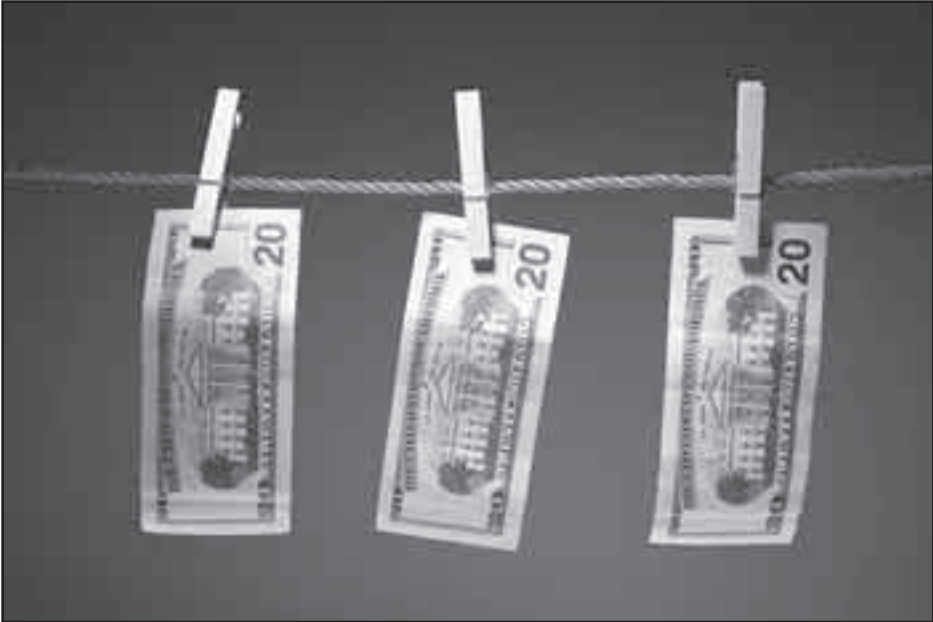
GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – Active duty members of the Army, Air Force or Navy making dollar-amount Roth contributions to a Thrift Savings Plan account should know that these deductions will stop Jan. 31 unless action is taken.

“The Roth [Thrift Savings Plan] contributions are going from a dollar figure to a percentage of pay,” said Kent Thompson, Financial Readiness Program manager for Army Community Service.

This change will allow service members to track their contributions to date, said Thompson. By contributing a percentage instead of dollar amount, service members also avoid TSP updates as their pay rises.

“This means that they’ll get richer faster,” said Thompson.

An upcoming change in myPay will require Service members to designate Roth contributions as a percentage of pay, not a dollar amount. Noncompliance means



COURTESY PHOTO

Active duty service members must change Roth Thrift Savings Plan contributions by Jan. 31 or risk losing their deductions.

that Roth contributions will not be processed by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

This change affects Roth contributions

only – traditional contributions are already designated as a percentage of pay.

The new requirement will take effect Jan. 1. Service members will have 30

days to change the Roth election from a dollar amount to a percentage of pay. If the new Roth election is not received by Jan. 31, then the Defense Finance and Accounting Service cannot process Roth contributions until they are updated.

To make the change, first log into myPay. Click on the TSP section titled “Traditional TSP and Roth TSP.” Next, in the “Contribution from Roth TSP” section, enter the percentage of pay to contribute (10%, for example). Finally, click “Save” at the bottom of the screen.

Roth contributions are taxed before the money enters the TSP account, rather than when it is taken out at retirement. Earnings can also be tax-free if the contributor is 59.5 years old, has a permanent disability or five years have passed since the year of the first Roth contribution.

Service members can make Roth contributions from tax-exempt pay, basic pay, incentive pay, special pay and bonus pay. Roth contributions from tax-exempt pay earned in a combat zone, will not be taxed upon contribution and will grow tax-free.

Long-term TDY rates change to save Army \$9 million annually

By J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Long-term temporary duty rules that became effective Nov. 1 across the Department of Defense are expected to result in an annual savings of \$22 million, of which nearly \$9 million will be reaped for the Army each year, according to the service’s chief for compensation and entitlements.

Long-term temporary duty, referred to as TDY, is a period between 31 and 180 days, and those Soldiers and Army civilians will receive a flat-rate per diem equal to 75 percent, said Larry Lock, adding that travelers who are TDY for longer than 180 days will receive a flat-rate per diem of 55 percent.

The 75 and 55 percent rates apply to all three parts of the per diem – lodging, meals and incidentals.

“If you know you’re going to be TDY for a period in excess of a month and up to 180 days, DOD and the services expect you to plan accordingly. You don’t plan as if you’re going to be gone a few days. You have a long-term focus and should make long-term arrangements to where you can absorb a 25-percent cut,” Lock said. “We can’t pretend this doesn’t work, because we’ve used it in the past.”

Lock said that up until a few years ago, civilian personnel who were on long-term TDY, especially for training, were receiving 55-percent per diem. He added that the

Army changed its policy to also apply to reserve-component Soldiers who were called to active duty in support of the war effort because it had worked so well with the civilian workforce.

He noted that the changes are meant to give long-term TDY personnel the incentive to seek out extended-stay lodgings, which are usually less expensive on a long-term basis, and often include perks such as free breakfasts and kitchenettes.

“If you were going to rent a car for example, and you know you needed that car for a month or more, would you be willing to pay daily rates as opposed to the less expensive monthly rate,” Lock said. “Common sense would say you should plan

accordingly, and that we be prudent travelers. It’s pretty much that simple.”

TDY approving officials do have flexibility to authorize 100-percent per diem, he said, but that is as an exception to policy based on a location where there is no guarantee a member will be able to get lodging at a reduced rate.

“Travelers who are authorized the flat-rate per diem are no longer required to submit a lodging receipt, but before reimbursement, they may need to have a receipt to validate the lodging costs,” Lock said, noting that staying anywhere for free or buying a home at a TDY location makes the traveler ineligible for the flat-rate per diem payment.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY C. TODD LOPEZ

The Army expects to save \$9 million annually in long-term TDYs between 31 and 180 days due to a flat-rate per diem rate of 75 percent and 55 percent for TDYs beyond 180 days.

“Probably 99 percent of the time, no one is going to ask for a receipt, because there’s imbedded in this policy change a 25-percent savings, period,” he said. “We don’t want to press the incon-

venience to the traveler because you would give them no incentive to do anything else other than to stay in the most expensive place they could afford given in terms of reimbursement.”

31 female Soldiers selected as observers, advisers for Ranger Assessment

By J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

FORT BENNING, Ga. – The Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade selected 31 female Soldiers to serve as observers and advisers for a potential Ranger Course Assessment that would begin this spring.

The observer/advisers include 11 officers and 20 NCOs. Since Nov. 17, these Soldiers have been involved in a week-long training event to prepare them to understand the mental and physical demands placed on Ranger students.

“I was very satisfied with both the quality and quantity of the volunteers we received,” said Maj. Gen. Scott Miller, commanding general of the Maneuver Center of Excellence. “Their performance and professionalism over the course of the week was extraordinary. This group did very well for what was a very physically challenging week for any Soldier.”

The decision whether to conduct an assessment of the Ranger Course will be made in January. If conducted, the assessment of the course

would include both female and male Soldiers, as well as female Soldiers to serve as observers and advisers to the cadre who conduct the course.

“We had a lot of high performing individuals participate in the training this week,” said Col. David Fivecoat, commander of the Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade at Fort Benning. “The Ranger Training Brigade put them through some of the events that Ranger students attempt during Ranger training, interviewed them, and have selected the most qualified to return and work with us as advisers and observers.”

“Our Ranger instructors displayed the professionalism that is expected from our officers and non-commissioned officers,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Curtis H. Arnold Jr., Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade. “The overwhelming opinion from the (observer/adviser) candidates was that this was the most challenging, professional and rewarding experience of their careers. It truly reinforces our motto, ‘Rangers Lead the Way.’”

The Ranger Course is 62

days long and conducted in three phases: the Benning Phase, which takes place at Camps Rogers and Darby here; the mountain phase at Camp Frank D. Merrill in Dahlonega, Georgia; and the swamp and jungle phase at Camp James E. Rudder at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

During each phase, Ranger students must receive a “passing grade” in one leadership position during a patrol, a positive peer review and no more than three major negative spot reports. In addition, they must successfully complete the Ranger Physical Assessment – a 12-mile road march, a land navigation course and the Combat Water Survival Assessment.



PHOTO BY PATRICK ALBRIGHT

The Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade selected 31 female Soldiers to serve as observers and advisers for a potential Ranger Course Assessment that would begin in the spring.

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Celebration: Children experience gift of giving

Continued from Page A1

to learn about deployments and separation from family members because it's something they or their classmates will most likely face at some point in their lives, and providing support for those family members is an important part of remaining Army strong.

"The children know that what they do here tonight is going to go to Soldiers and to friends that may not get packages over the holidays, so it's important for them to understand why we're doing this for them," she said. "At some point, they know that this could be their family, so it's a very important lesson."

"The military community is very giving and they teach their children to support, and we have that support group here for those children whose parent's are gone," Sullivan continued. "This year, we have a personal connection because my class has a student whose dad isn't going to be here for the holidays, so this helps support their fellow classmates."

One of the most important lessons to be learned through Operation Celebration is the gift of giving, said one parent.

"Especially around Christmas time, this teaches the children to be able to give and be generous, as opposed to wanting to just receive things," said Capt. Brian Bertoglio, A Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment. "It's a good lesson for them to be able to give to other people."

Bertaglio said it's not just about giving, though, but also the support that they're providing for the deployed Soldiers.

"It's nice to see the local community show support those fami-



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

W01 Nathaniel Shourds, B Co., 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt., watches his daughter, Sierra, as she crafts ornaments to be put in a holiday care package for deployed Soldiers during Operation Celebration at the Fort Rucker Primary School Nov. 20.

lies who have deployed parents," he said. "Doing things like this is just another way of showing our support for those who can't be here and be with their families throughout the holidays."

Before leaving for the evening, the children were in for a final treat on their way out as teachers handed out candy canes before enjoying a special visit from Santa Claus.

The packages were shipped to their destinations Friday in hopes that they'll reach the Soldiers in time for the holidays.



Mrs. Claus reads the book "Operation Celebration" to students at the Fort Rucker Primary School before they venture off to create gifts to be put in a holiday care package for deployed Soldiers during Operation Celebration.

Aviation: 2015 doctrine clean, concise, accessible

Continued from Page A1

The goal of Doctrine 2015 is to produce clean, concise, current and accessible doctrine while reinforcing core principles. As part of the Doctrine 2015 initiative, Army Aviation can expect upcoming changes to doctrine in early 2015.

Working in conjunction with units returning from theater and various subject matter experts, DOTD has been conceptualizing and developing a new library of Aviation doctrine for more than four years.

The cornerstone of Aviation doctrine will be Field Manual 3-04 Army Aviation.

After years of research, development and refinement, FM 3-04 will serve as the foundation upon which subsequent Aviation doctrine will build.

CW4 Barry Sledd, a doctrine writer

at DOTD who is heavily involved in the development of FM 3-04, said the publication will provide the ground maneuver commander a better understanding of how to employ and integrate Army Aviation in unified land operations.

"FM 3-04 will bring forward lessons learned after a decade of war and align with the 2015 initiative," Sledd said. "It provides insight into the flexibility, lethality, adaptability and depth Army Aviation brings to the fight."

Under the Doctrine 2015 initiative, writers compile information found in numerous publications into fewer, more concise publications known as Army Techniques Publications. Also, several other publications will be renamed from field manuals to training circulars, or may simply be rescinded – such is the plan for FM 1-230 Meteorology. DOTD will consolidate the 14

Aviation-based FMs currently in circulation to four ATPs and five TCs.

As the Army evolves to maintain dominance among adversaries and enemies, and stands ready to meet the challenges placed upon it, the framework

through which the Army trains must evolve as well.

To achieve this, Army doctrine, which is the core of everything Soldiers do, must redefine the way Soldiers train and fight.

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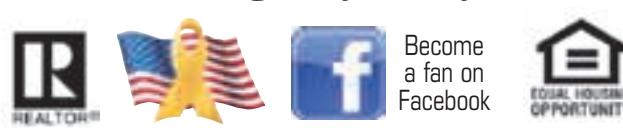
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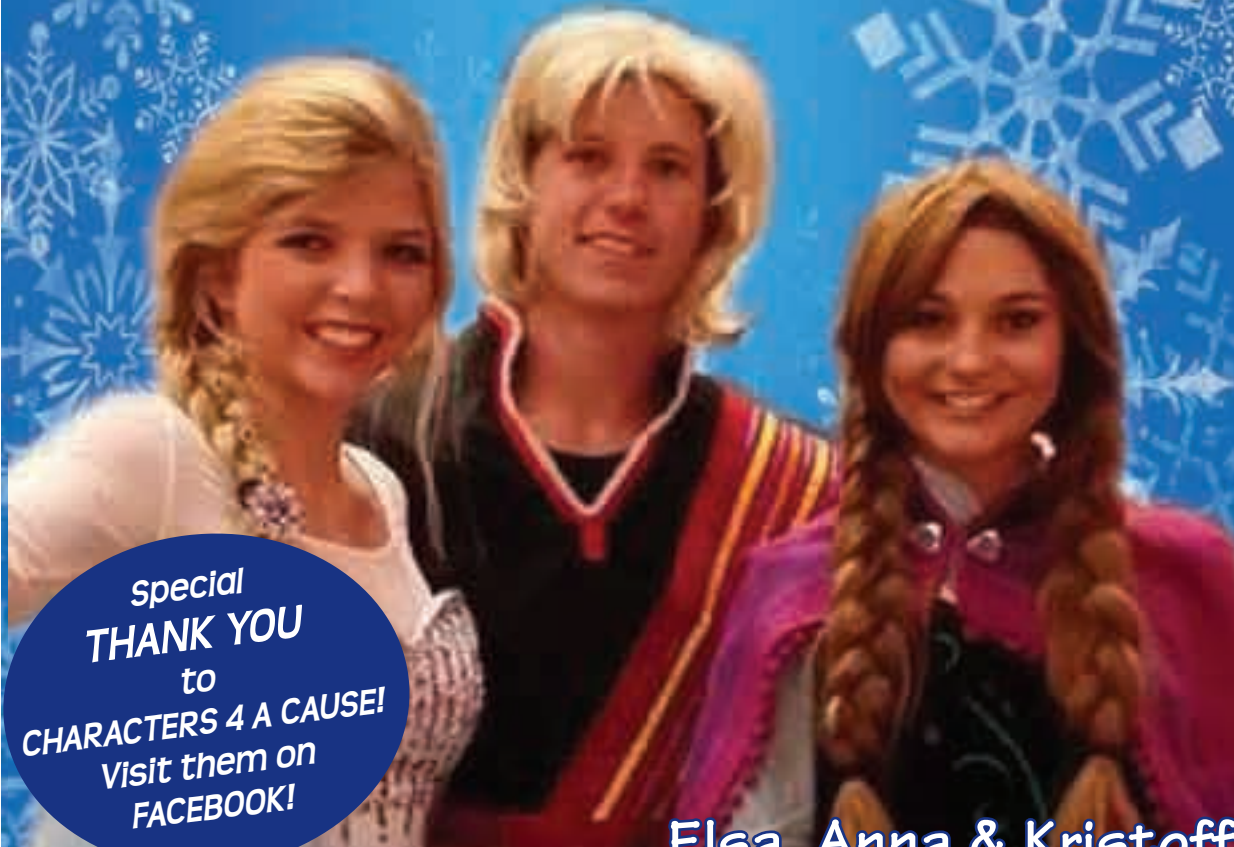
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OH-58 mechanics keep birds in air

By Staff Sgt. Whitney Houston
U.S. Forces Afghanistan

JALALABAD AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Chinook, Apache and Black Hawk helicopters whipped up and down the runway on Jalalabad Airfield providing a makeshift breeze for the OH-58 Kiowa Warrior mechanics who spend their days basking on the flight line while maintaining and repairing the Kiowa airframe.

The mechanics serve with 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, in a unique cyclic environment where maintaining an airframe time and time again never loses its importance. Monotony is replaced with understanding of their mission and taking care of their pilot brothers-in-arms.

“Nowhere else in the Army are you around so many warrant officers (pilots) as in Army Aviation, and we, as maintenance guys, have a really tight bond with them,” said Sgt. 1st Class Daren Stewart, a Mont-

pelier, Idaho, native who serves as platoon sergeant for 1st Sqdn., 17th Cav. Regt., 82nd CAB. “They have to trust 100 percent that what we’re doing is keeping their life safe. We turn the wrenches so they can do what they do, and my mechanics know that and take it to heart.”

Stewart explained he has 11 Soldiers on three maintenance teams that take charge of five Kiowa aircraft, which at any given time are flying over eastern Afghanistan. His Soldiers work 12-hour shifts, six days a week doing preventative maintenance services every 20 flight hours the aircraft flies.

“On top of preventative maintenance we also have progressive phase maintenance that consist of 15 PPMs spread out over 40 flight-hour increments,” Stewart said. “We have a rolling 40-hour window to complete the maintenance for each PPM, and each PPM focuses on a different part of the aircraft. After the entire 15 are complete, the

SEE MECHANICS, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. WHITNEY HOUSTON

Sgt. Eric Brady, OH-58 Kiowa Warrior maintenance team manager and mechanic with B Troop, 1st Sqdn., 17th Cav. Regt., 82nd CAB, 82nd AD, spins the rotors of the airframe to expose and assess parts that need maintenance on Jalalabad Airfield, Afghanistan, Nov. 16.

JOINT TRAINING



PHOTO BY AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. ROY LYNCH

A UH-60 Black Hawk sets down during a capstone training event Nov. 6 at Saylor Creek Range Complex, Idaho. Members of the Air Force's 366th Fighter Wing trained alongside Army and Marine units to execute realistic operation scenarios.

Command chief warrant officer becomes official command position

By Sgt. Jonathan Thibault
*4th Combat Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs*

FORT CARSON, Colo. — Officers have higher commanders and NCOs have command sergeants major, but until a change enacted Oct. 1, warrant officers haven't had an official command.

CW5 John M. Moseley, command chief warrant officer, 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, recently took up the mantle of the new official position on Fort Carson.

Warrant officers make up more than 30 percent of a combat Aviation brigade, which makes the unit structure different from other brigades.

“Seventy percent of our Aviators are warrant officers,” Moseley said. “We have 19 warrant officer military occupational specialties, which come from 10 branches other than Aviation.”

Col. Robert T. Ault, commander, 4th CAB, said there are only 13 CCWO positions in Army Aviation and the position provides leadership for warrant officers, which gives the CAB a significant portion of its Aviation capabilities.

“The CCWO is a rare command position in which the senior chief warrant officer taking that position needed to have worked in all the major positions that can be held by a warrant officer Aviator and is experienced beyond any of the warrant officers in the Aviation brigade,” said Ault. “CCWO provides the command team with an all-encompassing expertise on warrant officers.

“The CCWO helps oversee the training, placement and manning of the warrant officers in our brigade,” Ault said. “CCWO also addresses any issues that the warrant officers’ family members may have and acts as a sponsorship representative before they arrive to the CAB. Most importantly, we strive to create a culture of professionalism in our ranks and the CCWO



PHOTO BY SGT. JONATHAN C. THIBAULT

CW5 John Moseley, command chief warrant officer, 4th CAB, 4th Infantry Division, meets with his fellow warrant officers to discuss their missions and tasks for the brigade on Fort Carson, Colorado.

helps the command team instill that culture throughout the brigade.”

Moseley recalled a conversation he had with the brigade commander when he became the unit's CCWO.

“During my initial and subsequent counseling with Colonel Ault, he told me he didn't want ‘just another field grade officer on the brigade staff,’” said Moseley. “He said he wanted the CCWO to be the subject matter expert on warrant officer issues – to spend as much time as possible with our warrant officers and inform him of any issues that impact the brigade.”

Moseley said he has taken the CCWO tasks “head-on” and is involved in all warrant officer issues from “cradle to the grave.”

“I have been tasked to cover warrant officer issues, which include accessions, professional military education, training, mentoring, professional and leader development, evaluations, assignments, awards and retirements,” said Moseley. “My primary role is to be the voice of the warrant officers within our brigade and to champion their causes.”

New warrant officers are happy to have an official command position to help give them a voice in the chain of command, said WO1 Terrell Pittman, intelligence technician, 4th CAB.

“For a brand new warrant officer, I believe the formal recognition of the CCWO position is extremely important to the warrant officer corps,” he said. “The CCWO is important for mentorship, leadership and direction for us whether we are an Aviator or technician. He gives us a voice in the brigade's chain of command and gives valuable insight and vast experience to our field.”

Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Antoine Duchatelier Jr. said the CCWO supports the enlisted ranks, as well.

“The CCWO brings a vast amount of skill and experience in Aviation operations to the table during the daily conduct of his duties, which helps our enlisted maintenance and aircrews,” said Duchatelier. “His ability to convey deficiencies within an aircraft's normal flight characteristics to enlisted maintenance personnel greatly reduces the amount of time those Soldiers would spend troubleshooting the deficiencies.

“The CCWO also ensures that the training requirements for the brigade's Aviators are met and that their skills are maintained at a high level of preparedness, which ensures our aircrews are prepared and that the organization will be ready to execute its wartime mission,” he said.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE

Aviators train for MedEvac in Kosovo

By Capt. Judith Marlowe
*Multinational Battle Group-East
Kosovo Force Public Affairs*

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo — In a moment's notice, air crews assigned to air medical evacuation duty must be prepared to be lowered hundreds of feet from a helicopter in order to rescue a person who may have become injured in a dangerous or hard to reach location.

Soldiers with F Company (MedEvac), 5th Battalion (General Support), 159th Aviation Regiment of the U.S. Army Reserve based out of Clearwater, Florida, rehearsed such a scenario in November in Kosovo.

The crucial first phase of the training, conducted in the mountains of Kosovo, was necessary as the company serves as the primary medical evacuation team for Multinational Battle Group-East at Camp Bondsteel.

“It is so important to conduct this training monthly because it is a perishable skill,” said Staff Sgt. Doug Schletz, first sergeant of the MedEvac team for MNBG-E. “This could be the last chance someone has to live.”

Each training day began with a thorough safety briefing to ensure all participants were prepared to operate in the Rugova Gorge Mountains near the city of Prizren. German army Master Sgt. Peter Schoddert, German Mountain Troop, and Swiss army Special Officer Sebastian Blaser, a Kosovo Force liaison officer, then placed six simulated victims in compromising locations before calling in the rescue crew.

As the pilot, CW3 Nicholas Lemoine, flew to the first location while his crew prepared for their first hoist mission.

“You only have 15 minutes to be up and out,” said Lemoine. “I am focused on getting all of the information about the patient that I can and getting there as fast as I can.”

Once at the victim's location, Sgt. Nicholas Masterjohn, the crew's flight medic, attached himself to the hoist and exited the aircraft. The crew chief operator, Staff Sgt. Michal Morawski, carefully lowered Masterjohn to the victim who was stranded on a narrow ledge with no room to move.

“When I am conducting a hoist mission, I am not thinking about the moment, I am thinking about the next step, like how I am going to get the victim hooked up to the hoist safely,” said Masterjohn.

Masterjohn secured the victim to the hoist and both were lifted over a hundred feet in the air. Once they reached the aircraft, Morawski carefully maneuvered them to safety inside the helicopter.

During the first three days of training, six crews successfully completed the first portion of the course. Now, they are ready to negotiate the second portion, which will focus on rescuing victims trapped in even more difficult locations to reach.



PHOTO BY CAPT. JUDITH MARLOWE

Sgt. Nicholas Masterjohn, a flight medic assigned to F Co. (MedEvac), 5th GSB, 159th Avn. Regt., a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Clearwater, Florida, prepares to lower himself on the hoist to save a simulated victim off of the Rugova Gorge Mountains of Kosovo near Prizren Nov. 6.

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Mechanics: Efficiency key to proper maintenance

Continued from Page B1

Kiowas will have gone through 600 flight hours and then the process starts over.”

Sgt. Eric Brady, a native of Austin, Texas, who serves as an OH-58 Kiowa Warrior maintenance team manager and mechanic, explained the difficult task mechanics face of balancing time and efficiency in their maintenance, while simultaneously meeting the demanding flight-mission requirement of the Kiowa pilots.

“Time is probably the biggest challenge that we meet on a daily basis. We have windows that are an hour to two hours long, tops, to maintain the airframe before it’s up and flying again,” Brady said. “You’ve got to be able to pace yourself and use the old Army mantra of ‘slow is steady, and steady is fast,’ because you can’t rush maintenance. You have to be efficient and ensure you don’t skip steps and put somebody’s life in danger.”

Brady said Kiowa pilots also play a role in the aircraft’s maintenance by bringing important feedback from the field so they can hone in on specific problems the aircraft may be having.

“The work these guys do is amazing – I have 100 percent trust in these guys. We bring them things that need fixing, sure, but while I’m flying it never crosses my mind whether or not the mechanics have done their job because I know that they’re good at what they do,” said Kiowa pilot 1st Lt. Nicholas Hash, a native of Preston, Missouri, who serves with the 1-17th Cav. “We’re not capable of doing our job without them. Everything that we accomplish is because of them.”

Serving in a cavalry unit, the mechanics take a lot of pride in their portion of the cavalry scout mission their airframe provides. They realize that although they don’t see firsthand the results of the reconnaissance pilots provide for troops on the ground, they understand pilots can’t complete their mission without their expertise.

“I think that every one of us is proud to be in the air cavalry and to run the mission that we run. This airframe is unique in that no one can get in as low or as slow as this airframe can,” Brady said. “It’s always gratifying to hear from the pilots that our platform is performing well on the battlefield.”

Download a PDF of this week’s edition at www.armyflyer.com.

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NOVEMBER 27, 2014



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFau

Kristy Mulvenon, civilian, gets her portrait done by Janeann Fessler, portrait and landscape artist, during the Fort Rucker Community Spouses' Club HollyDay Bazaar at Yano Hall Saturday.



1st Lt. Laura Emmerich (center), and her husband, Capt. Tom Emmerich (left), both of D Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment, browse Lin Geohagen's wares.

HOLLYDAY BAZAAR

*Spouse club raises money
for community with event*

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The holiday season is in full swing, complete with Santa making his rounds at malls and venues across the country, and Old Saint Nick didn't miss his opportunity to make an appearance at one of Fort Rucker's foremost holiday events.

The 2014 Fort Rucker Community Spouses' Club hosted its annual HollyDay Bazaar at Yano Hall Saturday and people came by the hundreds to shop more than 100 vendors that featured crafts, jewelry, furniture, antiques, toys, food and more.

People were treated to a visit from Santa Claus, who was available for pictures, as well as sounds of the holiday season from the Carroll High School Jazz Band, which really got people in the holiday spirit.

"This is one of my favorite events

throughout the year, especially around this time of year when you get the itch to go shopping," said Jeanetta Harper, civilian. "A lot of this stuff are items you can't find in retail stores, so that just makes the things you buy that much better.

"I try to get a good bit of my holiday shopping done early, and the bazaar is early enough in the year so that I don't have to worry," she said. "They always have something interesting here, and it's just a great time to come out and get out of the house to start the holidays."

Susan Tiche, military spouse, said this was her first year to the bazaar and was amazed at the different selection of items.

"This is a really huge event and I'm surprised that it actually fills the entire hangar," she said. "I came with some of my friends and I've already bought some

hand-knit gloves, which I think are just fantastic."

The proceeds from the FRCSC Holly-Day Bazaar go to help fund scholarships that the spouses club supports, many of which would not be available if not for events like the bazaar, according to Janna Bogert, FRCSC publicity chair.

"The bazaar is a long-standing tradition that provides a day of fun and shopping, while raising money for a great cause, and that cause is supporting each other," said Bogert. "Part of our mission statement is to develop a spirit of community responsibility, and through these funds we can reach out to the Wiregrass area.

"We participate in local projects that better the community for us all and we hope to inspire a few others along the way. The Fort Rucker Community Spouses' Club provides us with opportunities for

social, cultural and creative pursuits while here at the home of Army Aviation," she said. "The hundreds of volunteer hours and thousands of dollars raised result in grants to worthwhile charitable causes and scholarships for military spouses and high school students."

Tiche said she didn't mind paying to get into the event because she knows that her money is well spent, and she does what she can to give back.

"I think it's great that such a huge event can go toward helping such a great cause," she said. "Being a (military spouse), I know how difficult things can get, so if I can do something to help the organization you can count me in, especially if it means I can shop to do it."

For more information or to join the Fort Rucker Community Spouses' Club, visit www.ftruckeresc.com.



Students of the Carroll High School Jazz Band play holiday tunes for people as they enter the HollyDay Bazaar.

GET THRIFTY

Thrift shop offers deals, opportunity to give back

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Thrift shopping is a little-known pastime that people across the country enjoy, and Fort Rucker has its own hidden gem where people can get their fix.

The Fort Rucker Thrift Shop is more than a place where people can shop, however, but somewhere people can donate, volunteer, consign items and have a chance to give back to the community.

The Fort Rucker Thrift Shop

is a non-profit 501(c)-3 organization established to generate funds, which are distributed as grants to charitable organizations on Fort Rucker and in the local communities that benefit Soldiers and their families, said Donna Woodham, thrift shop manager.

The store features not only designer clothes, shoes and bags, but also never-before-opened kitchen appliances, newly released books and pristine home décor, and last year the shop sold more than 75,000 items in with

the help of volunteers, consigners and donors, said the thrift shop manager.

"We sell merchandise to generate profit in order to give those monies back to the community through grants and scholarships," she said, and over the years many organizations have benefited from the thrift shop's financial support.

"We contribute to the Boy and Girl Scouts, Army Community Service, the Wounded Warrior Project, the Relay for Life, and to local schools and libraries," said

the thrift shop manager, adding that they help more than 15 programs, including issuing many scholarships and grants that are awarded each year in the community.

About \$24,000 in scholarships were given out this year year and an additional \$50,000 in the last two years, said Woodham. "We have also given out over \$100,000 in scholarships to date and over \$250,000 in grants since we began operations."

Anyone can donate something to the thrift shop by bringing it inside or by placing it in the shed in the parking lot, which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and the store accepts everything but mattresses.

The store is open for people to shop and volunteer Wednesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The shop has been in operation for more than 40 years, providing a great opportunity for people to contribute to the community by donating items or volunteering time to help sort, tag and display the merchandise, said Woodham.

"Even if people can't volunteer their time, by donating or shopping they are helping their community because the funds are funneled back into it," she said.

For people wishing to receive tax receipts for donations, Woodham said they must come inside during business hours, but employees are happy to give them out. People do not need a mili-

tary ID to shop, donate, buy or consign merchandise.

Consignments are also available on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and people interested in consigning are welcome to visit the shop during business hours, she said, adding that consignment hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Military members may consign items for a 70/30 percentage split, and non-military customers may consign for a 50/50 percentage split. That means if an item that is being consigned sells, military members get 70 percent of the sale and non-military get 50 percent of the sale, and since the Fort Rucker Thrift Shop is a non-profit organization, the remaining percentage is tax deductible.

Consigned items are put up for sale for eight weeks from the date they are brought in and consignors may mark down items once during the first six weeks. If an item does not sell after the eight-week period, those items become property of the Fort Rucker Thrift Shop, but items can be withdrawn for a 10-percent fee of the original price or 50 cents, whichever is greater.

The shop is located on the corner of Red Cloud and Ruf Avenue in the old Armed Forces Bank building, next door to the Fort Rucker Bowling Center.

For more information on the thrift shop, visit fortruckerthriftshop.com.



FILE PHOTO

Heather Savage, Priscilla Thurman and Amanda Collins, thrift shop employees, showcase different items for sale at the Fort Rucker Thrift Shop earlier this year.

ON POST

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

Thanksgiving Feast

The Landing will host its annual Thanksgiving Feast today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The feast will be buffet style, featuring Thanksgiving favorites. The price will be \$16.95 for adults, \$6.95 for children ages 6-12, \$3.95 for children ages 3-5, and children ages 2 and under eat for free. A Military Family Special will also be available for two adults and two children ages 12 and under to eat for \$39.50. Reservations are highly recommended. When making your reservations, people should include how many adults and children will be in their party.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 598-2426.

Annual spaghetti dinner

Following the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 4, people are welcome to stroll over to The Landing for the annual spaghetti dinner from 6-7:30 p.m. Dinner prices are \$10 for ages 13 and older, \$5 for ages 3-12, and children ages 2 and younger eat for free. There is also a family special price of \$25, which includes two adults and up to two children ages 12 and younger. Dinner will include people’s choice of pasta and sauce, garlic bread, assorted cookies, tea and coffee. The dinner is open to the public.

For more information, call 598-2426.

Bowling pin decorating contest

Rucker Lanes will host a bowling pin decorating contest Monday through Dec. 15. People are welcome to visit Rucker Lanes and pick up a pin, decorate it and bring it back for a photo by Dec. 19. Prize packs will be awarded to the top pins Dec. 23. Cost is \$1 to enter the contest. All pins are used.

For more information, call 255-9503.

Financial Readiness Training

Army Community Service will offer Financial Readiness Training Dec. 5 from 7:20 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 284. Personal Financial Readiness Training provides a practical approach to help Soldiers manage their money more effectively. The training is required for all first-term junior enlisted Soldiers (E-1 through E-4). Spouses are welcome to attend.

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

Parents Day Out

Fort Rucker Child, Youth and School Services will host its Parents Day Out Dec. 6 and 13. The program is designed to help parents enjoy some time out and about, free of children, while they shop during the holidays. The program is open to all CYSS members ages 6-10 in grades 1-5. The program will run 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 6 and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 13. The cost is \$20 and payment is due at the time of enrollment. Late pick-up fees are in accordance with the Department of Defense Fee Policy. No refunds or fee transfers are permitted.

For more information, call 255-9108. For membership,



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFALZ

Christmas tree lighting

Santa pays a visit to Fort Rucker during last year’s Christmas tree lighting. This year’s Fort Rucker Christmas Tree Lighting will be held Dec. 4 from 5-6 p.m. at Howze Field. The event will feature music, hot chocolate, the lighting of the post Christmas tree and a visitor from the North Pole. Afterward, enjoy complimentary photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus at The Landing. The event is free, open to the public and Exceptional Family Member Program friendly. In case of inclement weather, the event will take place at The Landing. For more information, call 255-1749 or visit www.ftruckerwmr.com.

parents can register their children at parent central services, 255-9638.

Christmas craft activity

The Center Library will host a Christmas craft activity Dec. 9 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. for children ages 3-11. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited to the first 65 children to register. The event is open to all authorized patrons.

Stop by the library or call 255-3885 for more information or to register.

Small business counseling

Small business owners and those interested in starting their own business can get some free one-on-one counseling Dec. 10 from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 350. Areas of counseling may include, but are not limited to: advertising, organizational structures, financial planning, inventory, controls, management, marketing, personnel planning, pre-business planning and sales techniques. The counseling is sponsored by Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program and the Troy University Small Business Development Center. Appointments are scheduled every 30 minutes beginning at 9:30 a.m. The counseling is open to active-duty, National Guard, and Reserve Soldiers, retirees, Department of Defense civilian employees, and eligible family members.

For more information or to set up an appointment, call 255-2594.

Employment Readiness Class

Army Community Service is giving people the chance to build and enhance their careers at one of the Fort Rucker’s Employment Readiness Program Orientation Sessions, held monthly in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 371A. The next session is Dec. 11. People will first meet in Rm. 350 at 8:45

a.m. for paperwork and attendance prior to going to Rm. 371A. People can sign up to learn essentials about the program and receive helpful job search tips, as well. Advance registration is required and attendance at a session is mandatory for participation in the program.

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

Ugly Sweater Day

People are invited to wear their ugliest sweaters to The Landing Zone all day Dec. 12 to receive half off an appetizer. The LZ staff will hand out prizes to who they think has the ugliest sweater. The prizes awarded cannot be combined with any other discounts.

For more information, call 598-8025.

Breakfast with Santa

The Landing will host its Breakfast with Santa Dec. 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. Children can meet Santa and get their photos taken while they share their Christmas list with him. The breakfast buffet will include eggs, bacon, hash browns, pancakes, toast, ham, biscuits with gravy, assorted fruits and more. The price for the breakfast will be \$10.95 for adults 13 and older, \$5.95 for children 3-12, and children 2 and under eat for free. There will also be a family special for \$25 for a family of two adults and two children 12 and under.

For more information, call 598-2426.

Family Member Resilience Training

Army Community Service will host its Family Member Resilience Training Dec. 15-16 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Commons. The training is designed to give people the tools they need to become more resilient in all the challenges that life throws at them. To attend, people need to RSVP by Dec. 12.

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

DFMWR

Spotlight

OUTDOOR RECREATION TRIPS



Deep Sea Fishing Trip

DEC 6

Join Outdoor Recreation for a deep sea fishing trip to Destin, FL! Bring your own cooler with drinks and snacks (no glass allowed). Bus will depart Fort Rucker at 4 am.

Cost: \$60 per person
Includes: transportation to and from Destin, bait, rod, reel, fishing license, and a six-hour fishing trip.

Deadline to sign up is Dec 2.

Ski Trip

Time to hit the slopes! Join us for a ski trip to Maggie Valley, NC. Estimated time of departure on the Dec. 12th is 5 pm. This trip is open to the public and limited to 24 people.

Cost: \$160 per person (based on 2 people per room)
Includes: lift tickets, ski or snowboard rental, lessons, hotel for two nights, continental breakfast, and transportation.

DEC 12-14

Deadline to sign up is Dec 8.



Montgomery Zoo Trip

Looking for something to do while the kids are on break? Join Outdoor Recreation for a trip to the Montgomery Zoo! Attendees will leave the zoo between the two sessions to get dinner. The bus will depart from Fort Rucker at 8 am. This event is open to the public.

DEC 21

Tickets: \$35 ages 3+, \$15 ages 3 & under
Includes: transportation to and from the zoo, zoo day entry, zoo re-entry for the Christmas lights at 5:30 pm, and a train ride during the evening session.

For more information call Outdoor Recreation at (334) 255-4305 or MWR Central at (334) 255-2997. www.ftruckerwmr.com

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR NOV. 27 - 30

Thursday, Nov. 27

Gone Girl (R)
.....7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 28

The Judge (R)
.....7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 29

Gone Girl (R)
.....7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 30

Dracula Untold (PG-13)
.....2 p.m.

Medal of Honor recipient laid to rest in Arlington

By Lisa Ferdinando
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Decades after he was killed protecting his unit from the enemy, Medal of Honor recipient Pvt. Miguel A. Vera of the Korean War was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

“It was beautiful. It was what I expected plus more. Everybody was in awe,” Vera’s nephew Joe Rodriguez of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, said of the full military honors funeral.

Vera, who was from Puerto Rico, joined the Army when he was 17 years old. He was killed in Chorwon, Korea, Sept. 21, 1952. He received the Medal of Honor March 18 and Rodriguez accepted the award on his uncle’s behalf.

Vera was recognized for extraordinary heroism when his unit attempted to retake the right sector of “Old Baldy.” The unit came under heavy fire at close range and was forced back. Vera voluntarily stayed behind and was killed as he covered the withdrawal as the troops moved to safety.

His Medal of Honor citation says Vera “remained steadfast in his position, directing accurate fire against the hostile positions despite the intense volume of fire which the enemy was concentrating upon him.”

Vera was buried at Utuado Municipal Cemetery in Puerto Rico. He was moved to Arlington National Cemetery Thursday, so future generations could visit the grave on the hallowed grounds.

“He’s a national hero. Anybody who has the Medal of Honor is a national hero, a treasure,” Rodriguez said.

About 50 people attended the re-interment, including some 30 family members, as well as members of Congress, and Medal of Honor recipient Retired Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Morris.

Morris, who was recognized for his actions in Vietnam, received the Medal of Honor in the



PHOTO BY GARY SHEFTICK

Soldiers from the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), provide ceremonial support during a full military honors burial for Pvt. Miguel A. Vera Nov. 20 in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.



Medal of Honor recipient Pvt. Miguel A. Vera receives a full military honors burial Nov. 20 at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

same White House ceremony in which Vera was honored.

Vera and Morris were among the “Valor 24” group of 24 Soldiers who were found to have been overlooked for the Medal of the Honor, and their Distinguished Service Cross awards were upgraded to the nation’s highest military award for valor.

The review began by examining the records of Jewish and Hispanic Service members from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and it later uncovered others who were overlooked for the Medal

of the Honor.

Memories of his uncle

Rodriguez recalled living with his grandmother – Vera’s mother – and Vera in Puerto Rico for three years as a young boy, when his own parents went to the mainland United States.

“He was very generous,” he said, noting that his uncle, who was older than him by eight years, did cartoons for the newspapers as a teenager before joining the Army.

“He was just an awesome guy. He never had a bad word to say

about anybody, and the most amazing thing about it was that I was just reminded by somebody who went up the hill with him, when he earned the medal, he was 5’ 4”, [and] 135 pounds,” he said.

Rodriguez has the fondest of memories of his uncle.

“I always knew that he was a special kind of guy, very fair, very humble,” Rodriguez said.

His uncle had the goal of joining the military as soon as he could and wanted to buy his mother a house, Rodriguez said, noting that he had followed Vera’s advice and joined the military -- the Marine Corps.

Solemn day at Arlington

After Vera’s ashes were buried in Section 71, Rodriguez, other family members and Morris participated in a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

“To give up his life to cover for his men is an awesome thing,” Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said he was “trying to fight back the tears” on such an emotional day.

Pick of the litter

Meet Raven. She is a 10-month-old female German Shepherd mix available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility. She is calm when indoors, housebroken and gets along with other animals. Adoption fees vary per species and needs of animal, which includes all up-to-date shots, the first round of age-appropriate vaccinations, microchip and spaying or neutering. For more information on animal adoptions, call the stray facility at 255-0766, open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. All adoptable animals are vet checked and tested for felv/fiv (for cats) or heartworm for dogs (over six months) and on flea prevention. The facility needs donations such as dry or canned foods for cats, dogs, kittens and puppies, as well as blankets, toys and towels. Donations can be dropped off at the stray facility. Visit the Fort Rucker stray facility’s Facebook page at [http:// www.facebook.com/fortruckerstrayfacility/](http://www.facebook.com/fortruckerstrayfacility/) for constant updates on the newest animals available for adoption.



COURTESY PHOTO

Religious Briefs

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday

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

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

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

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

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Landmark Park hosts a Victorian Christmas

Landmark Park
Press Release

Experience the warmth and history of the holiday season with Landmark Park’s Victorian Christmas Dec. 14 from 1-4 p.m.

This annual open house is Landmark Park’s “thank you” to the community for its support during the year.

Wreaths, garlands and swags made from native evergreens and other natural materials will decorate Landmark Park’s historic buildings. Visitors will have a chance to make old-fashioned ornaments and decorations to take home or hang on a cedar tree at the park. Horse-drawn wagon rides will also be available.

The Christmas message will be delivered at 2 p.m. by a circuit-riding preacher, Dr. Tim Faulk, in the Headland Presbyterian Church. Holiday music will be performed in the

Victorian-style Gazebo and piano students of the Wiregrass Christian Teacher’s Music Club will perform in the church prior to and after the service. Santa will also be on hand in the Interpretive Center Auditorium beginning at 2:30 p.m. to talk with the children and listen to their Christmas wishes.

Arts and crafts vendors are invited to Victorian Christmas and can register by calling the park at 794-3452.

The Shelley General Store and Martin Drug Store will be open with seasonal items and unique gift ideas for sale. Syrup from Landmark Park’s sugarcane fields will also be on sale.

Patrons may sample holiday desserts made from turn-of-the-century recipes and sip hot chocolate or mulled cider in the Waddell House and Watson Cabin (while supplies last).

Admission to Victorian



Christmas is free for everyone. Visitors are encouraged to bring a nonperishable food item for

donation to the Wiregrass United Way Food Bank. Victorian Christmas is sponsored by The

Joy 94.3 FM.

For more information, call 794-3452.

WIREGRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

DEC. 4 — The town’s Christmas parade and tree lighting is scheduled for 7-8 p.m.

DECEMBER — Every weekend in December will feature Candyland on the Andalusia Square where people can visit to see snow in southern Alabama. Candyland will run Fridays 5-7 p.m., Saturdays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sundays 1-3 p.m. For more information, visit christmasincandyland.com.

DALEVILLE

DEC. 5 — The town’s Christmas parade is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

DEC. 5 — The town will host its Best Owner/Pet Holiday Costume Contest at 6 p.m. at the Billy Adkins Community Center. For more information, call 598-3111.

DOTHAN

DEC. 2-31 — George W. Carver Interpretive Museum will host its Home for the Holidays Art Exhibit at its facility at 305 N. Foster St. The museum will celebrate local talent featuring the work of local African-American artists. There will be an opening reception Dec. 11 from 4-6 p.m. For more information, contact the museum at 712-0933 or visit <http://www.gwcarvermuseum.org/>.

DEC. 6 — The city will host its Downtown Christmas Festival from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Andrews and Foster streets. The annual Christmas Festival will feature snow activities, caroling, visits with Santa Claus, cookie decorating and vendors of various crafts and products. For more information, call 793-3097 or visit www.thedowntowngroup.com.

ONGOING — The Cultural Arts Center is hosting a membership drive entitled Hearts for the Arts. The membership program focuses not only on raising funds to support the center, but raising awareness about the positive impact the center has on children. By creating an atmosphere fostering creativity and self-expression, the Cultural Arts Center plays a unique role in the Wiregrass by giving children a place where they can attend classes in art, pottery, music or dance at a reduced cost. Hearts for the Arts has several

sponsorship levels, including individual and student, family, scholarship and corporate. Members can become involved with as little as \$25 and all founding members receive a T-shirt with the new Hearts for the Arts logo. For more information, call 699-2728 or visit www.theculturalartscenter.org.

ENTERPRISE

DEC. 2 — The city will host its Christmas parade Dec. 2 starting at 6 p.m. For more information, call 347-0581.

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

GENEVA

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

MIDLAND CITY

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

NEW BROCKTON

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

ONGOING — The New Brockton Disabled American Veterans Chapter 99 offers

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

OZARK

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.

NOW-DEC. 20 — The Ann Rudd Art Center will be open through Dec. 20, Wednesdays through Saturdays, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., except for Thanksgiving Day. Shoppers will have numerous opportunities to discover local talent. Gourds, jewelry, paintings, crocheted items, clothing, hand-painted glassware, and other arts will be featured, as well as books by local authors. The Ann Rudd Art Center is located in downtown Ozark, on the Square.

ONGOING — The Carroll High School class of 1965 (Ozark) reunion committee is planning its 50th reunion June 12-13. The program will include recognition of the class’ Vietnam veterans and teachers. Classmate Joe Kelley will be the keynote speaker, followed by a tour of the new Carroll High School building. Organizers need some classmates’ current information. Those who have not received a recent email should send an email to Judy Miller McLaughlin at judybobmcl@hotmail.com, or call 774-2752.

PINCKARD

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

SAMSON

ONGOING — The Samson City Council

meets monthly the first and third Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Samson Community Center.

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

TROY

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

DEC. 1 — The town’s Christmas parade is scheduled for 6 p.m. downtown. For more information, visit <http://www.troyal.gov>.

DEC. 12 — The Pioneer Museum of Alabama invites people to its Ole Time Christmas from 7-10 p.m. People can experience Christmases past by walking through candlelit lanes, roasting marshmallows, story-telling, singing Christmas carols and mingling around a fire. Admission is \$4. For more information, visit www.pioneer-museum.org.

WIREGRASS AREA

DEC. 11 — Headland’s annual Christmas parade will be at 6 p.m. The theme for this year’s parade is “A Caroling Christmas Parade.” Parade entry forms are available on line at www.headlandal.com. Entry fee is \$10. For more information, contact the Headland Area Chamber of Commerce at 334-693-3303 or headlandalchamber@gmail.com.

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

Beyond Briefs

Holiday Open House at Old Alabama Town

The Holiday Open House at Old Alabama Town is scheduled for Dec. 4 from 4-7 p.m. Admission is free to the open house that allows visitors to enjoy the holidays early-Alabama style. The event features live holiday music, traditional pioneer crafts for children, storytelling, costumed guests, and cookies and hot cider.

For more information, call 334-240-4500 or visit www.oldalabamatown.com/calendar-of-events.

Scarecrows in the Park

Lake Frank Jackson State Park in Opp will host more than 300 scarecrows spread along its trails now through Nov. 30 from 7 a.m. to sunset. The event is hosted by the Lake Frank Jackson Trailmasters, who started the event in 2008. About 3 miles of walking trails will feature scarecrows made by various individuals, businesses, churches and school groups. Golf cart tours will be available. Larger groups should call ahead to schedule a golf cart tour.

For more information, call 493-3070 or visit www.cityofopp.com.

Ark of India exhibit

Ark of India: An Alabama Artist Explores Southern Asia is an exhibit about discovery at the History Museum of Mobile. It is an account of late 19th and early 20th century India as seen by Ala-

bama artist Roderick D. MacKenzie, using his paintings, drawings, sculptures, photographs and writings. MacKenzie spent more than a decade in India, a place he described as exotic, dangerous, and colorful. He rode with princes on tiger hunts, climbed mountains along India’s Northern border, and swam in the sacred Ganges River.

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

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

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

Christmas on the River

Demopolis will host its Christmas on the River Dec. 3-6. The celebration includes tours of historical homes, an evening nautical parade, a day parade, a 5k run, arts and crafts, a state barbecue cookoff, a gala and a fireworks show. The event will take place downtown along the Tombigbee River.

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

Christmas on the Coosa

Wetumpka will host its Christmas on the Coosa Dec. 13 at

Gold Star Park and the courthouse veranda. The Christmas extravaganza will include arts and crafts, a parade, food, a quilt show, a classic car show, and entertainment and activities on the Coosa River culminating with a fireworks exhibition at dusk.

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

Apalachicola Christmas celebration

Nov. 28, the streets of Apalachicola, Florida, will be lined with luminaries and filled with holiday spirit as merchants will be open late and the sounds of carolers will echo through the streets. Santa will arrive on a shrimp boat at 4 p.m. at the City Dock on Water Street.

Also, Nov. 29 from 1-3:30 p.m. Santa has a special day devoted to hearing wishes from his furry friends. There will be a pet costume contest at 3 p.m. and special treats for dogs.

For more information, call 850-653-9419 or visit www.apalachicolablog.org.

Galaxy of Lights

Huntsville Botanical Gardens’ Galaxy of Lights is a 2 ½-mile-long holiday light extravaganza featuring larger-than-life animated light displays Nov. 27-Dec. 31. Special exhibits include a holiday village, dinosaurs, wild animals, a magical twinkling icicle forest, garden scenes, animated snowmen and the 12 days of Christmas. Cost is \$20 per car (up to 10 people).

For more information, visit <http://www.hsvbg.org>.

DOD highlights resources for military families

By Amaani Lyle
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — As efforts continue to strengthen service members and their families, Pentagon officials held a Bloggers Roundtable to highlight the myriad resources available to tackle the unique military and transitional challenges those who serve may face.

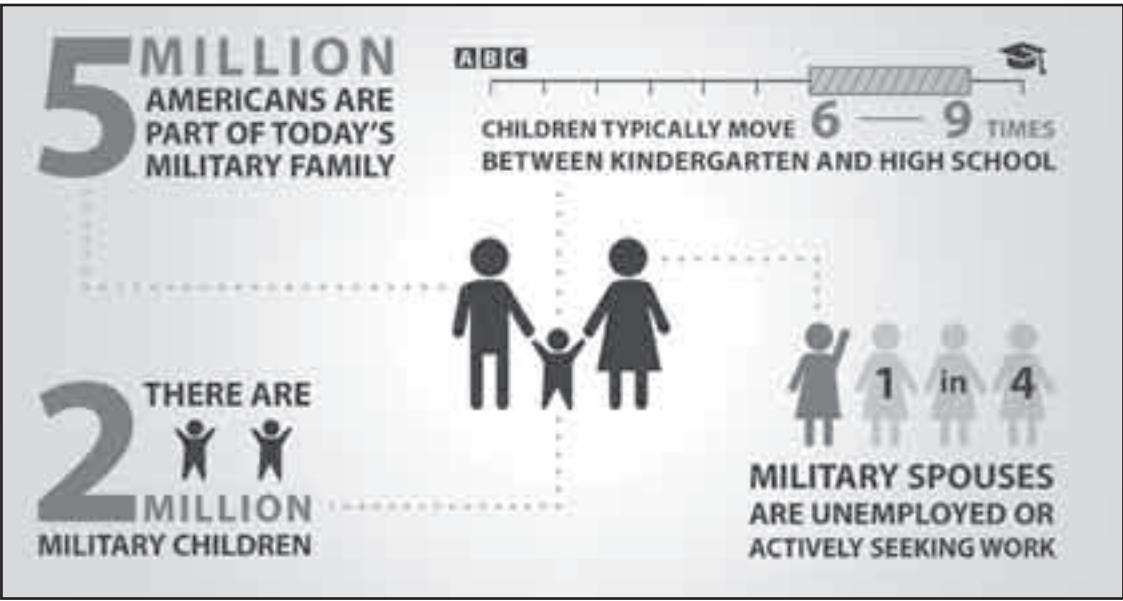
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy Rosemary Freitas Williams, Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff senior enlisted advisor, and Navy Command Master Chief Petty Officer Terry Prince, Defense Health Agency senior enlisted adviser, discussed military family health and welfare and the value of Military OneSource.

“We are keen on having a safe and happy holiday season (but) there’s a lot of stress around the holidays, which is unavoidable,” Williams said.

Military OneSource

She urged military families feeling such stress to look to Military OneSource, a call center and on-line resource that can assist with a range of issues and situations, regardless of base or status.

“It’s for folks maybe having a



DOD GRAPHIC

difficult time, they could be caregivers, they could be (children), or maybe a spouse of a deployed person,” Williams explained, adding that the toll-free 800-247-HELP line is available and comes with 12 free counseling sessions, per issue, per person. “Help is no more than an average distance of about 3.2 miles away,” she noted.

Williams also said that job assistance and a range of resources are available to all types of DOD families, including same-gender couples.

“Every resource that’s available to Lisa Battaglia (wife of Sgt. Maj. Battaglia) is available to our same-gender spouses,” Williams

said. “We’ve added a number of resources that pertain directly to same-gender couples in the military so they can help navigate military life and whatever unique challenges they face.”

Transition GPS

As adviser to both Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and the chairman, Battaglia said in addition to the health, welfare, and education of service members, he’s also heavily engaged in helping them manage transition. The Transition GPS program, he said, will better prepare military members whether in separation or retirement.

“This will have a significant

impact in setting successes for service members to become productive members of society once that reintegration takes place, regardless if they are active duty, Guard or Reserve,” Battaglia said. “It leads them to three tracks: one for higher education, another track for those with a desire to enter the workforce and the newest track, which came from service members themselves, is entrepreneurship.”

Command sponsorship

For those who still serve, especially in remote locales, Battaglia also pledged to help improve the command sponsorship process.

He said he and his family have personally made 17 moves during his career.

“(Permanent-change-of-station) to us is a natural body clock ... versus Korea where it might be a junior enlisted person’s first (permanent change-of-station) move,” Battaglia said. “If we get it wrong, then it just means more stressors are placed on a family.”

Battaglia said he plans to travel to bases in Korea and Japan in February to speak to troops in the field to gauge junior enlisted experiences and address their concerns.

“With the reshaping of our force, there can be some expectations now that some of the transfers and PCS moving may not be as frequent as it used to be,” Battaglia said. “I’m open to ideas as to how to make command sponsorship anywhere on the globe better.”

Operation Live Well

Meanwhile in health matters, Prince said the Defense Health Agency and Tricare has developed tools, resources and original content through its program, Operation Live Well, for service members and their families across the forces.

“We’re focusing on integrative wellness, physical activity, sleep, nutrition, tobacco-free living and mental wellness,” he said.

New allotment rule protects troops from lending scams

By Terri Moon Cronk
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has directed a policy change in new paycheck allotments to prevent unscrupulous commercial lenders from taking advantage of troops and their families, Pentagon officials said Friday.

According to a Defense Department news release, effective Jan. 1 the change in DOD’s Financial Management Regulation will prohibit service members from allotting pay to buy, lease or rent personal property, a senior DOD official said.

According to the release, this policy change will eliminate that aspect of the allotment system most prone to abuse by unscrupulous lenders that prey on service members.

This will significantly improve protections for all service members and their families, while not significantly reducing the flexibility to use allotments for

a number of legitimate purposes, the release reported.

Officials said that while existing allotments are not affected, service members will no longer be able to make allotments for the following types of purchases:

- Vehicles, such as automobiles, motorcycles and boats;
- Appliances or household goods, such as furniture, washers and dryers;
- Electronics, such as laptops, tablets, cell phones and televisions; and
- Other consumer items that are tangible and moveable.

Allotments still can be used for savings account deposits, investments, to support dependents, pay insurance premiums, mortgages, rents, make Combined Federal Campaign contributions, and U.S. government debt repayments.

Another line of protection for service members and their families is included when starting new allotments through MyPay

and manually on DD Form 2558, officials said.

Officials said service members must certify under the Uniform Code of Military Justice that the allotment is not for “the purchase, lease, or rental of personal property or of payment toward personal property.”

The secretary directed the change following an interagency review that began in June 2013 in response to a major enforcement action by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The team comprised DOD representatives from the comptroller, Defense Finance and Accounting Service, personnel and readiness, and general counsel offices in the Joint Staff and secretary’s offices. Non-DOD participants were from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., CFPB, Federal Reserve Board, Comptroller of the Currency and the National Credit Union Administration.

Officials said a 2012 analysis showed that the

Top 10 financial institutions that received allotments from service members processed almost two million allotments totaling \$3.767 billion. Of the top 10 allotment processors, state law enforcement, consumer advocates, and the financial regulators have flagged three particular institutions as suspected abusers of the allotment system. Those institutions received 999,588 allotments totaling \$1.380 billion in fiscal year 2012.

Officials said the 2012 analysis also found that on average per capita, warrant officers use 5.73 allotments, commissioned officers use 3.55 and enlisted personnel use 3.49 allotments, respectively. The dollar average per allotment is highest for warrant officers (\$1,679 per allotment), followed by officers (\$1,554 per allotment), and then enlisted personnel

(\$1,224 per allotment).

The new allotment rule applies to active-duty

members, and not military retirees or DOD civilians, officials said.

POSTWIDE THANKSGIVING SERVICE	
27 Nov (1700-1730)	Thanksgiving Service

CATHOLIC (MAIN POST CHAPEL, BLDG 8940)	
28 Nov (1700)	Thanksgiving Eve Mass
29 Nov (1700)	Advent Worship
8 Dec (1800-1900)	Antiphonal Compline (Only Mass of Compline)
24 Dec (1800)	Christmas Eve Mass
25 Dec (0600)	Midnight Mass
26 Dec (0800)	Christmas Day Mass
31 Dec (1700)	New Year's Eve Mass (Only Mass of Compline)

PROTESTANT	
1 Dec (1700)	Advent Worship
1 Dec (1800)	Christmas Eve Vigil, "The Vigil of the Wreath" and "The Lord's Supper Party"
16 Dec (0800)	Christmas Caroling
22 Dec (1700)	Christmas Eve, "The Vigil of the Wreath" and "The Lord's Supper Party"
24 Dec (1800)	Christmas Eve, "The Vigil of the Wreath" and "The Lord's Supper Party"

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Ozark, Alabama
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Unbearable hip pain forced this active 79-year-old retiree to an orthopedic surgeon.

"I wasn't laying around waiting to have an operation," he said. "I was cutting the grass the day before the surgery."

Mr. Williams is one of a growing number of Southeast Alabama Medical Center patients who have chosen *direct anterior hip replacement*. In surgery for less than 90 minutes, he was discharged within three days and quickly began physical therapy.

"I can walk fine," he said. "No walker. No cane. No help needed. This is revolutionary."

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NOVEMBER 27, 2014

MILE AFTER MILE

Fitness centers offer motivational program

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker is home to many avid walkers and runners, and the Fort Rucker fitness centers host a program to keep people motivated when setting out on their leisurely strolls.

The Run/Walk Mileage Club, offered at both Fort Rucker fitness centers, is a free program designed to be a motivational tool to help people on the installation get fit at their own pace, while providing a way to keep track of their progress, said Kris Rach, fitness specialist and certified personal trainer.

The program is an honor-based system in which participants track their miles from month to month. People can rack up their miles by running indoors on treadmills, or outdoors on tracks and trails, wherever they feel the most comfortable, said the fitness specialist.

“This is just an incentive to give people a way to challenge themselves,” said Rach. “They may see that this month they ran 20 miles, so the next month they can try for 25 or 30. It’s just a good way to hold yourself accountable and work toward a healthy lifestyle. It’s a good way to get out and challenge yourself.”

Participants are awarded patches for hitting certain milestones, and results are posted each month in the physical fitness centers so that members can see exactly how far they’ve come, as well as compare themselves to others.

“Some people just need extra motivation to work out – they need somebody to push them,” said Rach. “Normally when using



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

People take part in the 2014 Turkey Trot 5K/10K run Saturday next to the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center. People can earn miles for the Run/Walk Mileage Club by participating in any of the runs on post, as well as during their own workout times.

an honor-based system, people only have to answer to themselves, but if it’s posted where everybody can see, then it becomes a bit of a competition. People will walk by and see, so that might be a motivational tool for some.”

Since the temperatures have been dropping recently, Rach said people should make sure to dress accordingly and make the necessary adjustments to their workout to account for lower temperatures.

Some of her recommendations for cold weather exercising include the following.

- Check with your doctor. Experts say that almost everyone can exercise safely in the cold, including people with

asthma and heart problems, but if you have health concerns, get your doctor’s “OK.”

- Wear layers. One of the biggest mistakes cold-weather exercisers make is not dressing appropriately. Exercise will warm you up, and it will feel warmer than it is. You will be sweating, so make sure you don’t have cotton as the layer closest to you because it will stay wet and you can get chilled. Start with a thin layer of synthetic material, such as polypropylene, which draws sweat away from the body. For the next layer, try fleece for insulation and top it off with a waterproof, breathable outer layer.

- Stretch, stretch, stretch. Double your time stretching prior to heading out, especially if you’re heading out in the early morning. Stretching increases flexibility, improves range of motion and helps get the blood moving, which gets more oxygen circulating.
 - Keep hydrated. You can lose more water in cold weather than when it’s warm and not realize it because it’s cold. Make sure to carry plenty of water to stay hydrated.
 - Protect your extremities. When it’s cold, blood is shunted to your body’s core, leaving the hands and feet vulnerable to frostbite in extreme temperatures. Try wearing a thin pair of gloves under a pair of heavier gloves or mittens lined with wool or fleece. Wearing exercise shoes that are a half-size larger to allow room for thick thermal socks or extra pair of regular socks can also help. Don’t forget to wear a hat or headband – 30 to 40 percent of the body’s heat is lost through the head.
 - Choose appropriate gear. The terrain may change due to weather conditions, so you may need to wear different shoes to prevent slips and falls. Additionally, don’t forget to wear sunscreen, lip balm and sunglasses to protect from UV rays and to keep the glare down to improve visibility.
 - Run into the wind at the beginning. If you are going out and back, run into the wind to begin with. That way you won’t get chilled because the wind will be at your back on the way back.
- For more information on the club, call 255-2296 or 255-3794.

Acting U.S. Surgeon General visits Army Public Health Command

By Lyn Kukral
U.S. Army Public Health Command
Public Affairs

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — The proverb “the enemy of my enemy is my friend” applies hands down to two of the top uniformed public health officials in the United States, both of whom are at war with harmful lifestyle behaviors.

Acting U.S. Surgeon General Rear Adm. Boris Lushniak and Maj. Gen. Dean G. Sienko, commander of U.S. Army Public Health Command, shared a recent strategy session at Aberdeen Proving Ground, the home of the USAPHC. Tobacco use, obesity and inactivity are likely to suffer from the encounter.

The two leaders hope to join forces to increase the impact each of their organizations has on reducing preventable deaths in the United States.

Lushniak, who leads the National Prevention Council, pointed out that tobacco use is the

No. 1 preventable cause of death in the U.S., and obesity and low activity are tied for No. 2.

Unfortunately, the Army owns an unhealthy share of the nation’s health problems. Sienko responded that only 23 percent of American youth can meet the weight qualification for entering military service. He frequently cites statistics that indicate about 31 percent of Soldiers use tobacco, and 69 percent of Soldiers are either overweight or obese, as well as two-thirds of retirees and adult family members.

Joining forces would seem to make sense.

“We want to find where we can work together to better the public health infrastructure of our nation,” Lushniak said. “As well, our skill sets and goals are as closely aligned as they can be.”

In the fight against chronic lifestyle diseases like high blood pressure, diabetes, heart attack and stroke – diseases that are preventable – Lushniak emphasized the need for broad

partnerships.

“It takes more than a village, it takes business, government, faith-based organizations, healthcare – everyone,” he said. “Our priorities aren’t anything novel, they’re a reemphasis of the familiar.”

In the work of prevention and health promotion, Lushniak advocates a return to simple lifestyle changes.

“Let’s go retro,” he said. “Let’s begin to walk again, let’s start cooking again, let’s start breastfeeding again. Let’s do the things we know are good for our nation’s health. It’s not as complicated as people think.”

The Army, through its Performance Triad effort, shares the goal of building good health by making it simple to understand what to do to achieve it.

The USAPHC leads the charge in implementing the Army’s Performance Triad initiative. This initiative aims at teaching Soldiers and retirees, their families and Army civilians how to achieve the three elements of good health:

getting enough sleep, engaging in activity and eating well.

Lushniak thinks that people want to be empowered to take control of their health, and the goal of public health professionals should be to “get them the right information and let them make the right decision.”

The Public Health Service he leads is one of our country’s seven uniformed services. It consists of career professionals who care for the nation’s vulnerable populations, respond to routine and emerging public health threats, and protect and promote the health and safety of the U.S. population.

Additionally, Lushniak, a physician certified in preventive medicine and in dermatology, fills the role of our country’s top doctor.

“My portfolio includes not just the uniformed service but also the role of ‘the nation’s doctor,’” he explained. “The nation’s doctor component includes science and communication – taking the best science available and

communicating it or translating it for the American public.”

He is passionate about this role.

“No one is necessarily going to know the surgeon general’s name, but they know the brand. When the surgeon general issues a warning or a call to action, it means something,” he said. “I am overwhelmed with humility that everyone – the press, the public – picks up on that. That power – we call it the bully pulpit – still exists.”

Those who attended the meeting can attest both to the strength of his conviction that prevention is the best way to health (he is an avid cyclist, runner and hiker), and his ability to use the bully pulpit to challenge his hearers to contribute.

“We have to be symbols of health and fitness. In the U.S. Public Health Service, for example, there’s no smoking in uniform,” he said. “You who wear the proud uniform of the U.S. Army, should you also not be an example of health and fitness?”

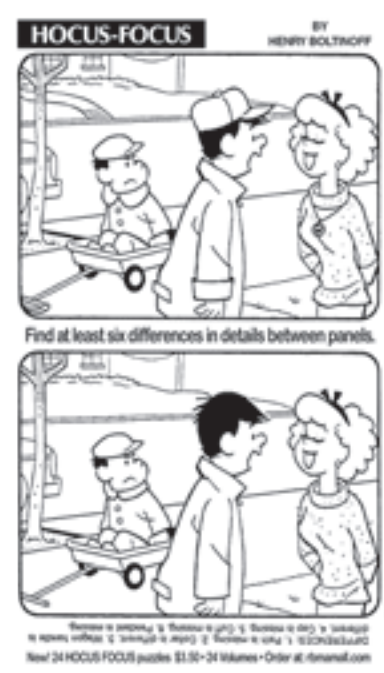
PIGSKIN PICKS 		Chicago vs. Detroit		Philadelphia vs. Dallas		Seattle vs. San Francisco		San Diego vs. Baltimore		New England vs. Green Bay		Denver vs. Kansas City		Miami vs. N.Y. Jets	
 Col. Tom von Eschenbach TCM UAS (52-32)															
 Jim Hughes RAO (52-32)															
 Brian Jackson DFAWR (45-39)															
 Capt. Mike Simmons DPS (47-37)															
 Sharon Storti NEC (49-35)															



TRIVIA

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KID'S CORNER



United Assistance commander hosts virtual town hall meeting

By Sgt. Brandon Anderson
Army News Service

FORT HOOD, Texas — Soldiers and families of the 36th Engineer Brigade gathered in the brigade’s conference room to participate in a virtual town hall meeting hosted by Maj. Gen. Gary Volesky, Joint Task Force United Assistance commander from his headquarters in Monrovia, Liberia, Nov. 13.

During the conference, Volesky took questions from people gathered at multiple Army installations, including Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Carson, Colorado; and Fort Eustis, Virginia.

Volesky said the morale of the troops was high and they were very focused on their mission at hand.

“Right now, our troops are engaged in their tasks of building Ebola treatment facilities, training Liberian medical personnel and understand that we’re here to help Liberia in their time of need,” said Volesky.

The commander assured family members that their Soldiers were taking safety precautions against contracting Ebola, as well as other illnesses common to Liberia.

“Our troops are being monitored by healthcare professionals, and are taking precautions to identify any potential illness as quickly as possible,” said Volesky. “Every Service member has his or her temperature taken twice a day, and if they were



PHOTO BY SGT. BRANDON ANDERSON

Lt. Col. LaDary Franklin, the deputy commanding officer of the 36th Engineer Brigade, talks to the Soldiers and family members of the 36th Engineer Brigade, after a virtual town hall meeting hosted by Maj. Gen. Gary Volesky, the commanding general of Task Force United assistance, from his headquarters in Monrovia, Liberia.

to show any of the symptoms of Ebola or malaria, they’d be isolated and monitored until a diagnosis was confirmed.”

When asked by a concerned family member about the potential for their service member to come into to contact with an infected individual, Volesky said only those trained to handle those situations

were permitted to have any contact with the locals.

“Soldiers leaving the installations have a very specific task and purpose, and are supervised during these missions” said Volesky. “I’m holding every leader personally accountable for the safety of their Soldiers. They must ensure they have all

necessary personal protective equipment in case they identify a potential infected individual.”

As more and more concerns were addressed, an overwhelming concern about service members potentially bringing the Ebola virus to the U.S. was expressed by many.

“I have the safety of our Soldiers and the citizens of the U.S. uppermost in my mind,” said Volesky. “All returning service members will be held for 21 days for monitoring before they will be allowed to reintegrate with the local population.”

Volesky went on to address numerous issues common with deployments, such as mail distribution and financial concerns, saying the mail system is in the works and that as it is a humanitarian mission and not a combat mission, the Service members will receive family separation pay, but not be entitled to tax exemption.

Sharon Padgett, the spouse of Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas S. Padgett, the senior enlisted adviser for the 36th Engineer Brigade, said she was grateful for the chance to participate in the meeting, and felt like Volesky put to rest many concerns the people of Fort Hood may have had.

“I think this was very informative,” said Padgett. “It was very reassuring to hear that our Soldiers were being well taken care of, and that there’s a plan in place to help as the Soldiers redeploy

SPORTS BRIEFS

Outdoor recreation mentorship

The Fort Rucker Outdoor Mentorship Program is being created to foster an environment of good stewardship in all areas pertaining to the great outdoors, according to ODR officials. Mentors will be connected with Soldiers and civilians in and around the installation based on experience levels of both the mentor andn. Mentors age 18 or older may sign up in one of the following areas: hunting, fishing, camping, water sports and general outdoor sports.

For more information, call 255-4305.

Big Buck Contest

Outdoor recreation is hosting it Big Buck Contest now through Feb. 10 during daylight hours. Entry fee is \$25 per person and the contest is open to the public. Participants must be registered before harvesting their buck and it must be harvested on Fort Rucker to qualify for the contest. Fort Rucker requires that individuals ages 16 and older have an Alabama State Hunting License, a Fort Rucker Post Hunting Permit and a Hunter Education Card. For more information and to register, call 255-4305.

Rucker Lanes Month of Military Family

Rucker Lanes will celebrate the Month of the Military Family by offering free bowling for children throughout November. Parents can bring children in for up to three free games and a shoe rental with the purchase of three adult games and a shoe rental. The offer cannot be combined with any other offer.

For more information, call 255-9503.

Zombie Bowl

Rucker Lanes will host its Zombie Bowl Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$50 per lane and includes two one-topping 12-inch flatbread pizzas, pitcher of soda or tea, bowl of tortilla chips and salsa, shoe rental and unlimited bowling for up to six people per lane. The event is open to the public. Advance registration is recommended.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Rucker Lanes at 255-9503.

The ‘Real’ Iron Bowl

Silver Wings Golf Course will host its “Real” Iron Bowl Saturday. Tee times begin at 7 a.m. The entry fee is \$20 – green and cart fees not included. U.S. Golf Association rules apply to all play, except for local rules. Prizes will be awarded to the Low Gross, Low Net and Most Team Spirit. The tournament format is Alabama Fans vs. Auburn Fans, four-person teams, best two balls of four. People can sign up the day of the event and let the staff know if they are for Alabama or Auburn. People can register individually or as a team.

For more information, call 598-2449 or 598-1632.

SWGC Pro Shop holiday sale

Silver Wings Golf Course’s Pro Shop will host its holiday sale now through Monday through Dec. 24. People who purchase an item from the

shop during that timeframe will have a chance to choose a stocking from the tree. There will be a special holiday discount inside each stocking and that special discount will be applied to the purchase. The sale does not include demo club purchases, range tokens, club repair or grip replacement services.

For more information, call 598-2449.

Youth spring soccer registration

Fort Rucker Child, Youth and School Services will hold spring youth soccer registration Monday through Dec. 31. Cost is \$20 for youth ages 4-5 and \$40 for youth ages 6-14. Additional children beyond the first can be registered for a percentage discount to be determined at parent central services during registration. Parents who pay by WebTrac will need to call in their children’s shirt and short sizes. Leagues are Training League for ages 4–5; Pee Wee League for ages 6–7; Mites League for ages 8–9; Junior League for ages 10–11; and Senior League for ages 12–14.

A current sports physical and a valid CYSS registration are required for participation. Children must meet age requirements by Aug. 1, 2014. There will be a parent’s meeting Feb. 4 at 6 p.m. at the youth center gymnasium, Bldg. 2800, Seventh Avenue. Season begins Feb. 23 and runs until March 26. Soccer practice begins Feb. 9.

Coaches are needed, and those interested should call 255-2257 or 255-2254.

For more information and to register, call the above numbers or 255-9638.

PIGSKIN PICKS



	Arizona vs. Arizona State	Notre Dame vs. USC	South Carolina vs. Clemson	Michigan vs. Ohio State	Georgia Tech vs. Georgia	Mississippi State vs. Ole Miss	Auburn vs. Alabama
 David C. Agan Jr. PAO (49-35)							
 Kent Anger OPTMS (48-36)							
 Sgt. 1st Class Brian Brenner NCOA (44-40)							
 Wes Hamilton NEG (49-35)							
 John Tkac GPS (54-30)							

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

1. Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie and Superior (HOMES)
2. Rembrandt
3. Polonium and radium
4. Julia Louis-Dreyfus, as Elaine
5. “Major League”
6. Portugal
7. M&M’s
8. The skull
9. 1,440
10. The Archer

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

L	O	U	N	G	E	I	R	E	N	E	C	A	R	A	A	D	Z	E
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