

ARMY STRONG

Report shows Army making progress in SHARP efforts

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OPERATION SANTA

Puts happy in 'Happy Holidays'

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ADOPT-A-TRAIL

Volunteers sought to breathe new life into old trails

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ARMY FLYER

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

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DECEMBER 11, 2014



Soldiers and their families gather around the newly-lit Christmas tree during this year's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Howze Field Dec. 4.

PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

OH, CHRISTMAS TREE

Event kicks off holiday season

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker officially kicked off the holiday season with its annual tree lighting ceremony at Howze Field Dec. 4.

Hundreds helped to usher in the holiday season and enjoy an evening of complimentary hot chocolate, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree.

"For well over 20 years, the Fort Rucker community has officially sounded the bell of ringing in the Christmas season with this special event," said Mike Kozlowski, Army Community Service employment readiness manager, emcee and honorary elf for the event.

Maj. Gen. Michael D. Lundy, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, was also on hand to help ring in the season and wish everyone a safe and happy holiday, and to remind people to continue to show support for those who aren't here to celebrate with us.

"I appreciate everyone coming out and I really want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, but, more importantly, I want to thank all of our Fort Rucker community, our Soldiers,

our families, our Department of Army civilians and the great community that supports us here," he said. "You've got a lot to be thankful for and this is a time that we can reflect on that. I would also ask everyone to keep the families of Soldiers who are deployed, as well as the Soldiers who are deployed in your thoughts and prayers. This is a tough time of year for

SEE TREE, PAGE A7



Maj. Gen. Michael D. Lundy, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, presents W01 William King, his wife, Mindy, and children, Michael and William, a gift basket for winning this year's Family of Excellence Award during the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Howze Field Dec. 4.

DFMWR ends Kids On Site

By Jim Hughes
Command Information Officer

It's uncommon for a community to lose a program and then receive something of equal or greater value in its place, but that is exactly what Fort Rucker Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation will accomplish when it closes the Kids on Site program Dec. 19.

Kids on Site is a child care facility located in the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center that allows parents to drop off their children in the morning and go exercise in the center. The program is being discontinued due to low usage rates, according to Toni Hampton, acting child, youth and school services director.

"It just wasn't cost effective, and we have this great, brand-new facility that we can offer care at," Hampton said, referring to the newly opened Mini Child Development Center.

And the Mini CDC is most certainly not a step down, she added, as the facility is brand new, designed to care for up to 20 children at a time and features a playground – something Kids on Site did not feature.

But the improvements don't end there, Hampton said, and even eliminate the primary concern of parents not happy to see Kids on Site end.

"When we announced the closing of the program, some parents said, 'Well, right now I use it for an hour, and if I add on that extra half hour for travel time, then it's going to cost more to use that service,'" she said, adding that DFMWR started a new program designed to eliminate that cost.

To take part in the program parents just need to tell the Mini CDC staff they would like to take advantage of the offer when they drop their children off and they will receive a card to take to the fitness center, said Hampton. They then have the card date and time stamped by the fitness center staff, and they are only charged for that time – not the travel time, with a maximum of 15 minutes before and 15 minutes after leaving the fitness center.

The improvements don't stop with the free travel time, though, said the CYSS director. The new program

SEE DFMWR, PAGE A7



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Sasha LaForge, supervising program specialist for the CDC, showcases the sitting and reading area in the Mini CDC.



ARMY TRAINING

PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Aubri Fallon and Kaylinn Escalante, Daleville JROTC cadets, go through the tire walk of the NCOA obstacle course during a cadet challenge Monday. For more photos and the full story, see Page A3.

INSTALLATION ACCESS CHANGES ON HORIZON

Affect visitors, contractors most

By Jim Hughes
Command Information Officer

Changes are on the horizon for visitors seeking access to Fort Rucker and other installations Army-wide.

The tightened controls, directed by Secretary of the Army John McHugh, require visitors to submit to a National Crime Information Center background check before entering an installation, according to Installation Management Command officials.

The changes will be largely transparent to those holding military IDs, such as Soldiers, retirees, family members and civilian employees, but visitors and contract workers not entitled to a common access card will feel the impact, especially initially, according to John Tkac, Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Safety chief of physical security. ID card holders are considered vetted.

The new process will be implemented gradually, Tkac said, as the post needs to get the word out to those affected, process contractors who do not have Common Access Cards and get resources on hand to handle the changes. The goal is to have full implementation of the new policies in April.

Once implemented, visitors are

going to need to stop in at one of the visitors centers at Fort Rucker MAIN gates, provide photo identification and wait for an NCIC Interstate Identification Index check to be performed, Tkac said, estimating that once a person starts interacting with the clerk the process will take about 10 minutes if there are no issues.

Once vetted through the NCIC III, visitors will receive a pass for the timeframe they need – up to 180 days, Tkac said. Once the check comes back OK, they will tell the clerk what they're accessing the post for, and receive a pass for that duration. If someone is coming on post once a week to play golf, they could receive up to a 180-day pass. When the pass expires, they just go back to visitor center and get another check done.

Visitors who come on post regularly can also get sponsors – people assigned to Fort Rucker in an offi-



FILE PHOTO

Drivers approach the Daleville Gate. Post access requirements for visitors will change next year due to Army requirements.

cial capacity – to vouch for their need to be on post and sponsor them for a pass. The sponsorship must be endorsed by a battalion commander (lieutenant colonel), director or higher.

Once in possession of a pass, visitors just present the pass and their driver's license at the gate and they will be let on post, he said.

"It's a one-time delay for most people who this affects," Tkac said. "It might be a little inconvenient for some people, but these changes will make Fort Rucker a safer installation for our Soldiers and families to live, work and play.

"We will still welcome people to come visit us on the installation, but they have to help us keep Fort Rucker safe," he added. "This screening process goes hand in hand with our efforts to keep the post and our people secure."

Visitors with issues on their background check, such as an outstanding arrest warrant, recent felony conviction or being listed in the Terrorist Screening Database, will not be allowed access and, if appropriate, will be turned over to legal authorities, IMCOM officials said. Contractors and visitors who do not pass initial screenings for entry to Army installations can request a waiver to gain access to the installation.

The policy also allows the senior

SEE ACCESS, PAGE A7

PERSPECTIVE

Knowing employer helps when applying for a job

By **Bryan Tharpe**
Soldier for Life, Transition Services Manager

John Doe had done his job search by the letter. He had attended the five-day Transition Assistance Program Job Assistance Workshop, decided on career goals, written and re-written his resume, composed a great cover letter, researched job leads and made it to the interview. Dressed for success, he was ready for the interview and excited about the possibility of working for this company.

After the initial general questions, the interview moved on to more specific questions about John's experience, skill and abilities. They were establishing an excellent rapport and everything was going great.

"What do you know about our company?" the interviewer asked. John was at a loss – all he really knew was that they manufactured electronic parts. Panic stricken, he fumbled for an answer.

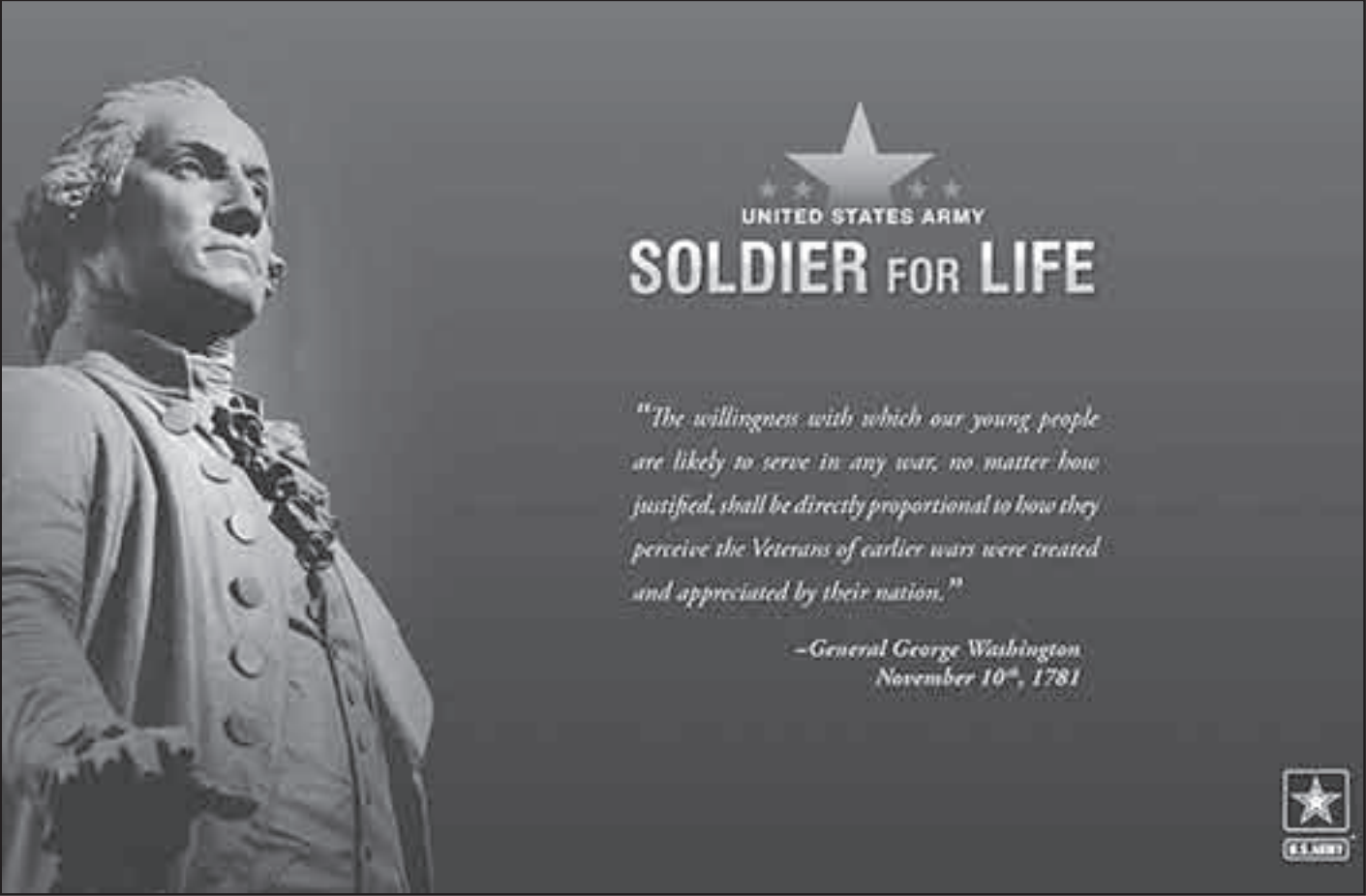
The interview ended. Another applicant was hired.

The average job seeker would be depressed, and so was John. But the true measure of job seekers is how quickly they can rebound.

After the interview, job seekers need to prepare an after action report. They need to review every case. He had only made one mistake, but it was a big one: lack of research. The ideal candidate must not only possess the skills the employer is looking for – he or she must also know about the position and the company.

John should have found answers to the following questions.

- What does the company make or do?
- Does it have other branches or divisions?



ARMY GRAPHIC

- What is happening to the firm?
- Are they expanding or downsizing?
- Do they have a new product?
- What is happening in the industry?
- How are similar companies doing?
- What is the company image?
- How can John show them that he will fit in?
- What are the normal salary, benefits and working conditions?
- What are the chances for advancement or promotion?

There are several sources for company information that John could have checked.

He could have written or called the company and asked for company literature. Companies are usually happy to mail literature to potential employees. Good information on companies is also as near as the library.

Business directories such as Dun's Regional Business Directory could have given John the edge. The Soldier for Life Center maintains a list of job-related books available in post libraries. Another excellent source of information is an Internet search engine.

Finally, John could have tapped this knowledge from someone in his network.

If he had a contact within, or even in a competing company, they could possibly have helped John find company-specific information.

You can bet that John won't make the same mistake again. The smart job seeker learns from each interview and gets better each successive time.

The SFL Center can point you to sources for company-specific information and assist you with all other aspects of the job search, including interviewing.

For additional information, contact the Fort Rucker SFL Center at 255-2558.

Rotor Wash



WO1 Chase Rushing,
B Co., 1st Bn., 145th
Avn. Regt.

"Just continue to watch what you eat and try to be as active as you can."



Rita Dayton,
military spouse

"Even though it's colder, try to stay active and get your workouts in."



Melanie Jones,
military spouse

"Since it's colder outside, move your workouts indoors at the gym."



Jessica Fortner,
military family member

"Try to eat out less and make more of your meals from home."



Kimberly Letter,
military spouse

"Whenever you get a chance, just get up and walk around for a bit. It's easy to become sedentary during the holiday season."

“ Before the holiday break, Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center hosts one final spin challenge Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. What tips can you offer to keep healthy and active during the rush and temptation of sweets during the holidays? ”

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ACE SUICIDE INTERVENTION

Ask your buddy

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

Care for your buddy

- Remove any means that could be used for self-

injury.

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

Escort your buddy

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

NCOA gives JROTC a taste of Army training

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

From Iron Aviator to Iron Soldier to Iron Squad, Fort Rucker runs its share of Soldier competitions, but the installation and up-and-coming, future Soldiers may be competing in the Iron Cadet Challenge.

Cadets from the Daleville Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps were invited to take a shot at the NCO Academy's obstacle course Monday as a way to train up for a bigger challenge that would pit them against other cadets from the surrounding communities, according to 1st Sgt. Carl A. Miller, NCO Academy deputy commandant.

"This is something that we just started, and what we're hoping to do is make it into a culminating event where we bring the three high schools', Daleville, Enterprise and Ozark, JROTC programs to compete against each other," he said. "We get them out here and we train them so they understand what the obstacles are and what the events are. That will give them about a month to a month and a half to train themselves, and do better when they actually have to come back here and do it as an event that will be timed like a team competition."

Close to 100 JROTC cadets braved the cold weather to take on the challenges put forth by the NCOA as a way to not only give them a taste of Army life, but also to teach the importance of team building, said Miller.

"That teambuilding aspect is huge because nobody can be successful in this organization on your own," said the deputy commandant. "You're always going to have someone there at your left or right who's going to pick up for those areas that may be your weak in."

"It's a good way to teach them, as they go through the course, that maybe somebody is good at one particular thing and maybe someone else can compensate for the weakness of somebody else," he said. "Whether it be between five people or society as a whole, we all lean on each other for strength during good and bad times, so it's important for us to show that aspect of team building."

Through the course, cadets were met



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Edwin Sapp II and Justin Mimms, Daleville JROTC cadets, attempt the rope climb of the NCOA obstacle course during a cadet challenge Monday.

with different obstacles designed to test their strength, speed and teamwork.

The course started off with a low-crawl event during which the students had to crawl through sand under low-hanging ropes without touching the ropes. Once they got through the low-crawl, they switch gears into a reverse climb at about a 70-degree angle that they had to climb up and over before taking on a tire run. After the tire run, the students hit the Big Wall, which is a vertical wall they had to overcome before taking on a rope climb.

After the obstacle course, the cadets made their way over to the softball fields where another course was set up that was meant to test their endurance and teamwork skills.

They first had to go through a 5-gallon water carry challenge and then participate in a litter carry, where they had to work as a team to carry a team member to certain

points on the course. Finally, the students had to do a canteen-cup water carry, where they had to fill a canteen cup on one side of the course and carry the contents, backwards, to a canteen on the opposite side of the course and fill it as much as they can within a certain amount of time.

Alasia Stewart, company executive officer for the Daleville JROTC, said the challenge was a lot of fun, and a good opportunity for self motivation and to see what she was made of.

"Dealing with things like this helps us to deal with challenges in life, and helps us push ourselves more, so I really liked it and really enjoyed it," said Stewart, who was able to complete every challenge except the rope climb. "The rope was the hardest part, I don't think I have enough upper arm strength, but I tried and that's what matters."

Trying new experiences and breaking

out of your shell is what Brian Harris, Daleville JROTC battalion commander, said JROTC is all about.

"When I first joined JROTC I was just getting over losing my father, so I saw this as a great opportunity to get myself out there," he said. "I was really self conscious and unsociable, and I saw JROTC as a way to break myself out of my shell. It really builds up your self-confidence and makes you more willing to get out there. It's a great program and I'd recommend it to anybody. You get out of it what you put into it."

"It's a good feeling to come out here to do this because not everyone gets to do something like this," he continued. "It's really unique compared to what we're doing at the school because at the school we're limited to what we can do."

There is a lot of emphasis on the physical training aspect in the Daleville JROTC program, said retired Lt. Col. Christopher L. Miller, senior Army instructor for Daleville JROTC. The program's mission is to help the students become better citizens, not just from a military aspect, but all aspects in life after high school, he said.

"This (challenge) not only helps us give them something fresh and new for physical training, but it also gives them an opportunity for leadership tasks, organizational skills and motivation," said the JROTC instructor. "The battalion staff will now take this experience and work on an operations order for the big competition. The company commanders will take this experience and do a risk assessment, and go through the military decision making process. It really impacts a lot of the different things we teach in class on a weekly basis and puts it all in one package."

That training and experience is the goal of the NCOA when putting on events like the cadet challenge, said Miller.

"I just want these students to learn the value of teamwork, and really push themselves to think out of the box and to get out there and be proactive," he said. "I want to show them that everything we do in the Army is not just about going and getting the bad guy. It's about the camaraderie, and the sense of teamwork and cohesion. Like they used to say, it's more than just a job – it is an adventure."

Making rank

Friends, family members and coworkers congratulated 81 Soldiers who were promoted to the rank of first lieutenant during a promotion ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Saturday.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

News Briefs

Holiday post run

Fort Rucker will conduct a holiday post run Friday 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.

Gate hours

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.

Clinic closures

Lyster will close at noon Wednesday for its monthly training. The pharmacy will remain open until 1 p.m.

Also, Lyster will be closed Dec. 25 and

26 for Christmas, and closed Jan. 1 and 2 for New Year's.

Military pay office closure

The Defense Military Pay Office will close at noon Dec. 19. All DMPO customers are being asked to visit the DMPO with their pay inquiries or clearance papers prior to the closure. Soldiers with a military pay emergency or who were unable to clear DMPO during this time can call 379-4973 for assistance. The office will reopen Dec. 22 at 7:30 a.m.

Military personnel closure

The Fort Rucker Military Personnel Division will be closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. The closure includes the ID card section, retirement services office, personnel reassignment branch, personnel management branch and personnel services branch. The casualty assistance center will have on-call personnel available.

For emergencies, call 255-0580.

AAFES fuel savings

Army and Air Force Exchange Ser-

vice gas stations are offering patrons ways to save at the pump. Dec. 19-21, the MILITARY STAR® card is doubling the everyday 5-cents-per-gallon gas discount cardholders receive when fueling up at an exchange gas station. On those three days, drivers paying for gas with their MILITARY STAR® card will receive 10 cents off per gallon.

"As we head into the final holiday shopping weekend, we are providing an added incentive for last minute shoppers to come on base to see what the Fort Rucker Exchange has in store," said the Larry Salgado, exchange general manager. "The savings at the pump are just the beginning of the value authorized shoppers will find at the Fort Rucker Exchange."

Thrift shop

The Fort Rucker Thrift Shop is open Wednesdays-Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The thrift shop needs people's unwanted items. People can drop off donations at any time in the shed behind the

shop (former Armed Forces Bank building) located in front of the theater next door to the bowling alley. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information, call 255-9595.

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.

Report shows Army making progress in SHARP efforts

Army News Service
Staff Report

WASHINGTON – Army efforts to change command climate and increase training have resulted in a decrease in sexual assaults as well as an increase in reporting of these crimes, a recently released report shows.

“The Army still has the prevention of sexual assault as its No. 1 priority,” said Dr. Christine T. Altendorf, director of the Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program office.

“We have put a lot of focus and effort on this in the last couple of years, and we do believe we are making progress,” Altendorf said. “Do we still have more things to do? Yes. Will we continue to do more things? Yes. But we are making progress.”

The numbers showing progress come from a report exceeding 1,100 pages given to the president this week by the secretary of defense. The report details the efforts of the military services to curb sexual assault.

According to the Army’s portion of the document, reporting of sexual assault is up, Altendorf said. Additionally, she said, the prevalence of sexual assault is going down. What that means is that now, more Soldiers are willing to report that they have been sexually assaulted. At the same time, anonymous surveys of Soldiers show that fewer sexual assaults have actually occurred.

According to the report – an anonymous prevalence report, administered every two years – the number of sexual assaults against female Soldiers has decreased from 7.1 percent of the force in fiscal year 2012, to 4.6 percent in fiscal year 2014. Sexual assaults against male Soldiers increased slightly, from .8 percent in fiscal year 2012, to 1.2 percent in fiscal year 2014.

At the same time, surveys show that reporting of sexual assaults has gone up. Of the total number of estimated sexual assault victims in fiscal year 2012, only about 14 percent made a report. In fiscal year 2014, that number increased to 23 percent.

A sexual assault involves “offenses ranging from abusive sexual contact to rape,” as spelled out in the report.

“The decline in prevalence combined with the increase in reports, suggests the Army’s efforts to prevent sexual assault and reduce the stigma of reporting are having a positive effect,” the report concludes.

Altendorf said the Army must focus equally now on prevention of sexual assault, not just taking care of victims.

“We don’t want this to happen at all,” she said. “This goes back to really focusing on that climate of



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dignity and respect and that is what we have to really try to institutionalize if at all possible.”

The DOD report to the president details the Army’s efforts across “lines of effort” to increase reporting of sexual assault, to take care of victims of sexual assault, and to decrease sexual assaults across the force. Five lines of effort include prevention, investigation, accountability, advocacy and assessment.

Prevention

For prevention, the Army in 2014 completed a multi-year process to revise all professional military education courses to update and improve their SHARP training. In addition, since 2011, unit-level SHARP training has been required annually and, since 2014, is now complemented by an interactive presentation designed to educate Soldiers about the importance of active bystander intervention.

In 2013, the secretary of the Army also mandated suitability checks for more than 20,000 drill sergeants, recruiters, victim advocates, sexual assault response coordinators, and other “positions of trust” to ensure that only the best-qualified and most suitable individuals serve in these important positions.

Investigation

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division has joined with prosecutors, victim witness liaisons,

victim advocates and other sexual assault responders to form “Special Victim Capability” teams at more than 70 Army installations. These teams are trained in the unique aspects of investigating and prosecuting sexual assault cases, including the need to ensure that victims are referred to the appropriate agencies for comprehensive care.

Since 2011, the U.S. Army Military Police School has also developed a number of innovative investigative techniques, including the Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview, which is designed to increase victim cooperation with the accountability process and thereby enhance prosecutions. Finally, to expedite sexual assault cases, the Army has increased its number of DNA analysts by more than 400 percent, since 2011.

Accountability

The cornerstone of the

Army’s accountability effort is the special victim prosecutor. Army SVPs are selected for their courtroom expertise and also for their sensitivity to the victims of sexual assault. SVPs complete a specially-designed, intensive training course, and oversee or assist in the prosecution of every sexual assault case in the Army.

In 2011, the Army also began a program of providing victims with “special victims’ counsel.” The SVCs represent the victim throughout the investigation and accountability process, with their primary duty to represent the interests of the victim, even if those interests do not align with those of the government. The Army has now trained nearly 200 SVCs, who together have represented more than 1,200 victims.

Lt. Gen Flora D. Darpino, the Army’s judge advocate general, said surveys show that 89 percent of victims

said they had a “great experience” with their special victims’ counsel.

Advocacy

In 2014, the chief of staff of the Army directed the development of a centralized SHARP Academy to expand the knowledge and skills of sexual assault response coordinators, victim advocates and program managers. The Army also ensures that victims of sexual assault receive quality medical care.

Since 2012, the U.S. Army Medical Command has trained more than 100 sexual assault medical forensic examiners annually. Reconstituted and improved in 2014, a Sexual Assault Medical Management Office in every military treatment facility optimizes coordination of sexual assault cases and consists of a medical director, a sexual assault care coordinator, a sexual assault clinical provider, the sexual assault

behavioral health provider and all sexual assault medical forensic examiners.

Since 2014, U.S. Army Medical Command also provides at least one sexual assault nurse examiner at every military treatment facility with a 24/7 emergency room.

Assessment

Finally, to assess its efforts, over the last three years the Army has actively collected multiple types of data, ranging from leader-led focus groups to Soldier surveys, about the efficacy of SHARP training. The Army now provides data from the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database on a monthly basis to commands and installations, enhancing sexual assault response coordinators’ ability to provide comprehensive victim case management, and helping commanders to more thoroughly assess the effectiveness of their response efforts.

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“When discussing the procedure best suited for me, I was advised that I was a good candidate for the direct anterior approach (DAA). Following surgery, my level of pain was much less and my recovery time much faster than when I had my other hip replaced several years ago.

“I feel my confidence and trust was well placed and I have been very pleased with my results.”

Joseph H. Sugg
Joseph Sugg, MD

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Hagel meets with leaders, troops in Afghanistan

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — In an unannounced visit to Afghanistan, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced Dec. 6 the delayed withdrawal of up to 1,000 U.S. troops from the country during the transition to Operation Resolute Support.

Speaking during a joint press conference with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani in Kabul, Afghanistan’s capital city, Hagel discussed the reason for the delayed withdrawal of some troops and the transition from NATO’s International Security Assistance Force mission to Operation Resolute Support.

Delayed Withdrawal of Some Troops

“Last month, thanks to the leadership of President Ghani and [Chief Executive Officer] Dr. [Abdullah] Abdullah, the Afghan Parliament overwhelmingly approved the U.S.-Afghanistan Bilateral Security Agreement and the NATO Status of Forces Agreement,” Hagel said. “However, because of prior delays in signing these agreements, the force generation effort for Resolute Support is several months behind where we hoped it would be at this time.”

As a result of the delay, Hagel said, President Barack Obama provided U.S. military commanders with the flexibility to manage any temporary force shortfalls they might experience for a few months as coalition troops to arrive in theater.

“This will mean a delayed withdrawal of up to 1,000 U.S. troops,” the defense secretary said, “so that up to 10,800 troops rather than 9,800 could remain in Afghanistan through the end of this year and through the first few months next year.”

The president’s authorization will not change, Hagel added, noting the troops’ missions and the long-term timeline for our withdrawal also wouldn’t change.

“As planned, Resolute Support will focus here in Kabul and Bagram with a limited regional presence,” he said. “As part of this mission, the United States is prepared to provide limited combat enabler support to Afghan forces.”

Missions Unchanged

Hagel said U.S. forces in Afghanistan would



PHOTO BY U.S. AIR FORCE MASTER SGT. ADRIAN CADIZ

U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel visits U.S. service members at the International Security Assistance Force dining facility in Kabul, Afghanistan, Dec. 6.

“always” have the right and the capacity to defend themselves against attacks.

“We’re committed to preventing al Qaeda from using Afghanistan as a safe haven,” Hagel said, to threaten the United States, the Afghan people, and other U.S. allies and partners.

Also, the United States will take appropriate measures against Taliban members who directly threaten U.S. and coalition forces in Afghanistan or provide direct support to al Qaeda, he added.

Progress in Afghanistan

Hagel said he has observed progress in Afghanistan during his time as defense secretary and earlier when he served in the U.S. Senate.

“I have seen, first-hand, over many years of visits to this country the enormous progress that this country has made in its development, in its democracy, in its possibilities and hope for all its people,” Hagel said. “And that, I

think, is further testimony to the strong partnership of our two countries.”

Hagel said he and Afghanistan’s leaders discussed the nation’s progress and “the transition to new chapter in America’s partnership with Afghanistan.”

The defense secretary noted the importance of last summer’s elections in Afghanistan, because Afghan security forces were “in the lead in defending their citizens and their country.”

There’s more to do and more challenges ahead, he said.

“But at the end of this month, ISAF’s combat mission will come to an end, as everyone knows,” Hagel said.

NATO coalition forces will transition to Operation Resolute Support, Hagel said, when they’ll train, advise and assist Afghan forces as they assume full responsibility for their nation’s security.

The coalition’s new mission will be critical to Afghanistan’s success, the defense secretary said.

Coalition Commitments

“This afternoon, President Ghani, Dr. Abdullah and I also discussed the important commitments made by coalition nations at this week’s conferences in Brussels and London,” Hagel said. “Between 2012 and 2015, the United States will have provided more than \$8 billion in civilian assistance [to Afghanistan] and our commitment will be enduring.”

Havel said recent Taliban attacks have made it clear that the international community must not waver in its support for a stable, secure and prosperous Afghanistan. The defense secretary also expressed his appreciation for troop sacrifices in Afghanistan.

“I want to recognize the tremendous service and sacrifices of not only our U.S. troops, but coalition troops and our partners in the Afghan National Security Forces,” Hagel said. “Their commitment has forged a defining moment of opportunity for Afghanistan’s future and for the people of Afghanistan.”

An advertisement for USAA Auto Insurance. The main image shows a smiling woman, Laura Khutorsky, in a purple shirt, standing next to her father, Arthur Mason, a smiling older man in a light blue shirt. They are in front of a dark car. Text overlay reads: 'SWITCH TO THE INSURANCE WHERE 92% OF MEMBERS PLAN TO STAY FOR LIFE¹'. Below this, it says 'USAA members Laura Khutorsky and her father Arthur Mason, Captain, U.S. Army, Sep.' At the bottom, a blue banner contains the text: 'USAA Auto Insurance rates beat the competition 3 out of 4 times². In fact, members who switched have saved an average of \$409 a year.² Competitive rates: just one reason our members are as loyal to us as we are to them. ★ GET A QUOTE. usaa.com/insurance or 800-531-USAA (8722)'. The USAA logo is in the bottom right corner.

¹92% based on 2014 member communications trend survey. ²Average savings and the "3 out of 4" savings are based on countrywide survey of new customers from 11/1/12 to 10/31/13, who reported their prior insurers' premiums when they switched to USAA. Savings do not apply in MA. Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, and USAA County Mutual Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. © 2014 USAA. 210262 0914

Operation Just Cause remembered 25 years later

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Twenty-five years ago this month on Dec. 20, 1989, U.S. forces commenced combat operations in Panama as part of Operation Just Cause.

The operation was significant because U.S. interests in Panama were threatened by its dictator, Manuel Noriega, and his Panama Defense Forces, according to Dr. Larry Yates, who was there in 1989 and 1990 documenting the operation and events leading up to it on behalf of the Center for Army Lessons Learned, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Yates, now a historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History, delivered a lecture, “Crisis, Invasion, Restoration: The U.S. Military in Panama, 1989-1990,” at the Pentagon Dec. 3.

Noriega’s PDF and militia sympathizers were harassing U.S. troops and citizens, Yates said. Noriega and his cronies were also involved in election fraud, drug dealing and money laundering.

U.S. interests that were threatened included thousands of American civilians living in Panama, some 13,000 U.S. troops stationed there at a number of U.S. bases and security of the Panama Canal itself, which was a vital shipping lane for vessels transiting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

Aside from security concerns, the operation also was significant because it would be the first test of joint operations planning and execution, following the passage of the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986.

One of the aims of the act, according to Yates, was to minimize the inter-service rivalries and turf battles that were prevalent from Vietnam through the most recent conflict, Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada in 1983.

Today, one-team, one-fight is well understood and accepted, and is a critical part of the recently released Army Operating Concept, a document that describes how future Army forces will prevent conflict, shape security environments and win wars while operating as part of the joint force and working with multiple other partners. But in part, the genesis of the Army Operating Concept can be understood from lessons learned during Just Cause.

Elaborate maze

Planning for Just Cause started months earlier, under the name Elaborate Maze, which in fact was a very elaborate plan for buildup of forces, fighting, if necessary, and post-conflict stability operations, a term then known as nation-building, Yates said.

Then in May 1989, as violence in Panama escalated, President George H.W. Bush ordered the troop buildup, which became known by the improbable name Operation Nimrod Dancer.

In the annals of warfare, Yates said, Panama was special in that nearly half of the 27,000 troops that would participate in Just Cause were already based in country. Area surveillance, reconnaissance and even the training could all take place within or near the likely battle space.

Overall control of forces in Panama fell under Gen. Frederick F. Woerner Jr., commander of U.S. Southern Command, which was then headquartered in Panama – it’s in Florida today. Woerner’s intent for Elaborate Maze, Yates said, was to avoid war through a gradual buildup of forces, which he proposed would cause the PDF to stand down when faced with the threat of U.S. intervention.

The thinking behind Elaborate Maze, Yates said, was that the PDF could recognize that their organization was being threatened – as well as their own survival – and that when push came to shove, they’d step aside and possibly offer up Noriega for sacrifice. In essence, fighting could be avoided.

Unfortunately for Woerner, Yates said,

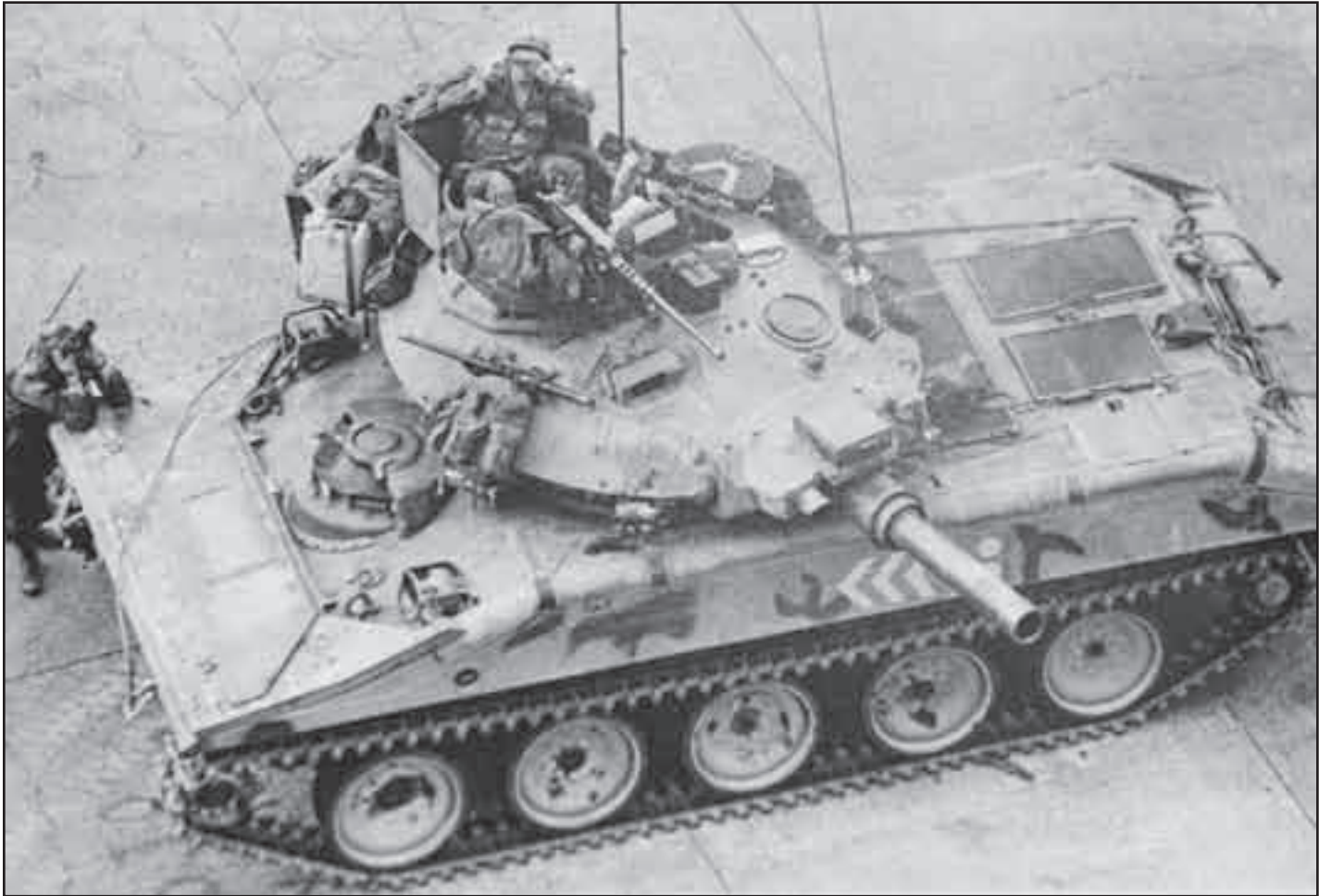


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY

An M551 Sheridan outside the Apostolic Nunciature, the Vatican’s embassy, during negotiations for Noriega’s surrender.

only he and some of his closest associates bought into this idea. Instead, the opinion among other senior leaders – including Lt. Gen. Thomas Kelly, the Joint Staff’s director of operations, and planners at XVIII Airborne Corps, the large Army element that would be in the fight – was that Elaborate Maze was “incrementalism,” smacking of the buildup in Vietnam.

Sept. 30, 1989, Woerner was replaced by Gen. Maxwell “Mad Max” Thurman, who was an advocate of the so-called Weinberger-Powell Doctrine.

In November 1984, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger announced to his military staff that to win military objectives, the employment of forces should be decisive and overwhelming. This became known as the “Weinberger Doctrine,” Yates said, and when it was “slightly revised” later by Gen. Colin Powell, who at the time of Just Cause was chairman of the Joint Chiefs, his name got added.

In any case, Thurman stuck to a less elaborate form of Woerner’s Elaborate Maze plans, with the force buildup accelerated and with the major alteration that there would be a surprise attack on the PDF – a conclusion that he and others, including the president, had come to: that U.S. force would be necessary following a failed coup attempt within the PDF, Yates said.

Blue Spoon

Thus began the transition from the Nimrod Dancer buildup phase to Operation Blue Spoon, the name selected for the actual operation itself.

The force of 27,000 Americans would be made up of about 80 percent Soldiers, with troops from the other services being the other 20 percent. These were all grouped under the fighting element known as Task Force - South.

A force of 27,000 was deemed “overwhelming” because the PDF consisted only of around 15,000. Of those, just around 3,500 were considered front-line troops.

Within Blue Spoon, there were 27 distinct operations throughout Panama planned, with the big ones focusing on Panama City, the city of Colon and the international airport. Powell himself said that was a lot of moving targets, Yates noted.

Success of Blue Spoon would also hinge on the services operating together seamlessly.

“The integrated planning worked well,”

Yates said. The rest of the joint effort worked well enough, but not without some wrinkles.

For example, he noted the Navy’s intense displeasure at the prospect of having a carrier battle group fall under the command of an Army general, the special operations folks’ reluctance to sit in on the planning with the conventional forces planners, and the Marines’ dislike for the task force’s rules of engagement, which they said put them in danger, Yates explained, adding that the task force thought the Marines to be “trigger happy.”

The rules of engagement, though “extremely strict,” made sense at the time, Yates said. In essence, the rules boiled down to not shooting unless fired upon or threatened with force. Troops were to give the enemy every opportunity to surrender.

As noted earlier, it was still believed that many, if not most of the PDF would stand down rather than die for Noriega. Also, indiscriminate firing at the PDF and causing collateral damage would turn the civilian populace – then mostly sympathetic or at least neutral to the Americans – against them.

As well, heavy damage to infrastructure, Yates said, would make nation building more costly later on.

The other essential aspect of Blue Spoon was getting the timing right for the attack. It not only had to be a surprise, it had to come at a time when civilians wouldn’t be outside or at the airport – in short, it had to come at night. Another reason to attack at night, Yates said, was to utilize the advantage that the U.S. had over the PDF – night vision equipment.

Just prior to the launch of Blue Spoon, the brass came to the conclusion that the name

of the operation was a bit too colorful, Yates said. The change was made to the more pedestrian sounding Just Cause.

Noriega’s demise

Expounding on all of the 27 operations within Just Cause would fill a thick volume. In fact, Yates authored two thick volumes: “The U.S. Military Intervention in Panama,” recently published by the Center of Military History.

Suffice it to say the operation was an overall success. The attack took place at 1 a.m., and while there were casualties, they were relatively light: 23 American killed and 324 wounded. At least several times that number of PDF were killed or wounded, but the numbers are hard to confirm because most of the PDF who fought did so in civilian clothing in order to blend in with the populace if things went south, Yates said.

The PDF did manage to cause mayhem when they burned down a large neighborhood in Panama City, causing a flood of about 10,000 refugees. Planners hadn’t planned for that, he said.

As for Noriega, he was captured and tried in the U.S. on eight counts of racketeering, drug trafficking and money laundering. He’s been incarcerated ever since and is now in a Panama prison.

Operation Just Cause, though big news at the time, soon faded from public memory because shortly after, Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm commenced.

Desert Storm was remembered for the use of overwhelming force and joint operability under the capable command of Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf. But those same elements that led to victory were tested earlier in Just Cause, Yates said.

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Tree: Ceremony ushers in holiday season

Continued from Page A1

them and they need our support as we move forward.”

The evening kicked off with the joyful sounds of Christmas carols sung by the Fort Rucker Child, Youth and School Services and Child Development Center choirs; the Girl Scout Choir from Troops 9272, 9395 and 9171; and the Post Chapel Choir, who sang holiday favorites, such as “Jingle Bells,” “We Wish You A Merry Christmas,” “Silent Night” and “Joy To The World.”

“I thought the evening was a great way to start the holiday season,” said Geoff Mason, retired military. “I was able to bring my family out, get some hot chocolate and just enjoy a nice little celebration to make it really start to feel like it’s Christmas.”

“It’s nice to see that Fort Rucker cares enough to host something like this, and honor military families and show that they actually care,” added Mason’s wife, Cathy. “It makes you



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Children of the CYSS and CDC choirs sing carols during the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Howze Field Dec. 4.

feel like part of a real community here.”

Following the caroling, there was an awards presentation for

the best ornaments that were put on the tree. The tree was adorned with many handcrafted ornaments submitted by Fort Rucker

children. The ones that were the most creative and festive were chosen as winners and their creators were presented with gift baskets.

This year’s winners were: Thad Blake, 3-5 year-old winner; Olivia Palfreeman, 6-8 year-old winner; and Madeline Webster, 9-11 year-old winner.

In addition to the ornament contest winners, the Fort Rucker Family of Excellence Award was handed out to the King family: W01 William King, his wife, Mindy, and two children, Michael and Wililam.

“Each year, we take time to honor a Fort Rucker family that has distinguished themselves through their outstanding example of service to our community,” said Kozlowski. “It has been said many times that military families are the backbone of our military fighting force, and the family I’m about to introduce to you is no exception.

“This Soldier and his family has an impeccable record of over nine years of service, hav-

ing been deployed to combat three times prior to arriving at Fort Rucker,” he continued. “His wife, (Mindy), a military retiree, has held the family together on the home front for almost seven years.”

The family was presented a gift basket and was given the honor of lighting the Christmas tree to officially ring in the season.

After the presentations and a little more caroling, the merry-makers on hand were surprised with a special visit from Santa Claus, who came with his elves to give out candy canes and ask children what they wanted for Christmas. But before people headed home, Lundy asked for everyone to make sure to take care of themselves and their families this holiday season.

“I wish all of you a blessed holiday and a Merry Christmas,” he said. “We need you all back after the holiday season because every one of you is important to this community, so take care and be safe as you enjoy the season.”

DFMWR: Care offered at Mini CDC on space available basis

Continued from Page A1

offers another benefit – flexibility.

“Before, parents were limited to the Fort Rucker PFC where the Kids on Site program was located,” she said. “Now, by using the Mini CDC, parents can take advantage of the great classes at Fortenberry-Colton PFC. And the hours aren’t limited like they were with Kids on Site – parents can use the Mini CDC any time the facility

is open.”

The Mini CDC operates Mondays-Fridays from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m., and rates are \$4 per hour of care with no minimum requirement on time, said Hampton, adding that the facility serves breakfast, snacks, lunch and dinner.

The care at the Mini CDC is on a space available basis, just like Kids on Site was, said Hampton, adding that reservations are not accepted and parents need to bring

their children’s CYSS files with them when requesting care.

“Both facilities are great – the one at PFC was very nice, one big room, with great furniture and toys,” she said. “The Mini CDC is bigger and offers more activities. It will be the same quality of care givers and parents may recognize some of the caregivers because a lot of times we use staff from the CDC or school age services to staff Kids on Site.”

Hampton welcomes all parents to visit the Mini CDC at any time it is open to take a tour, talk to the staff and see firsthand what the facility offers.

“I think that once they see it, they are going to love it,” she said, adding that parents are also welcome to call her with any questions they may have about child care at Fort Rucker.

For more information, call Hampton at 255-1055, or the Mini CDC at 255-3066.

Access: New procedures improve postwide security

Continued from Page A1

commander to waive the requirement for large events, such as concerts, graduations, Freedom Fest and the like, said Lt. Col. Florentino Santana, Fort Rucker DPS director.

The locations of Fort Rucker’s visitors centers that will process the background checks is still to

be determined, as local officials await word on the resources the post will receive, Tkac said.

As for contractors without CACs, the responsible contracting officer’s representative will do most of the legwork, according to Tkac. The COR must identify the affected contractors they are responsible for, complete the necessary paperwork and take it to the military police who will run the check, then take the

package over to the Directorate of Human Resources. DHR will then schedule each contractor an appointment to be issued the appropriate DA Form.

The form is a photo ID that, when issued with the new process and combined with a driver’s license, will work to get the contractor onto post, Tkac said.

For more information on the changes, call 255-0776.



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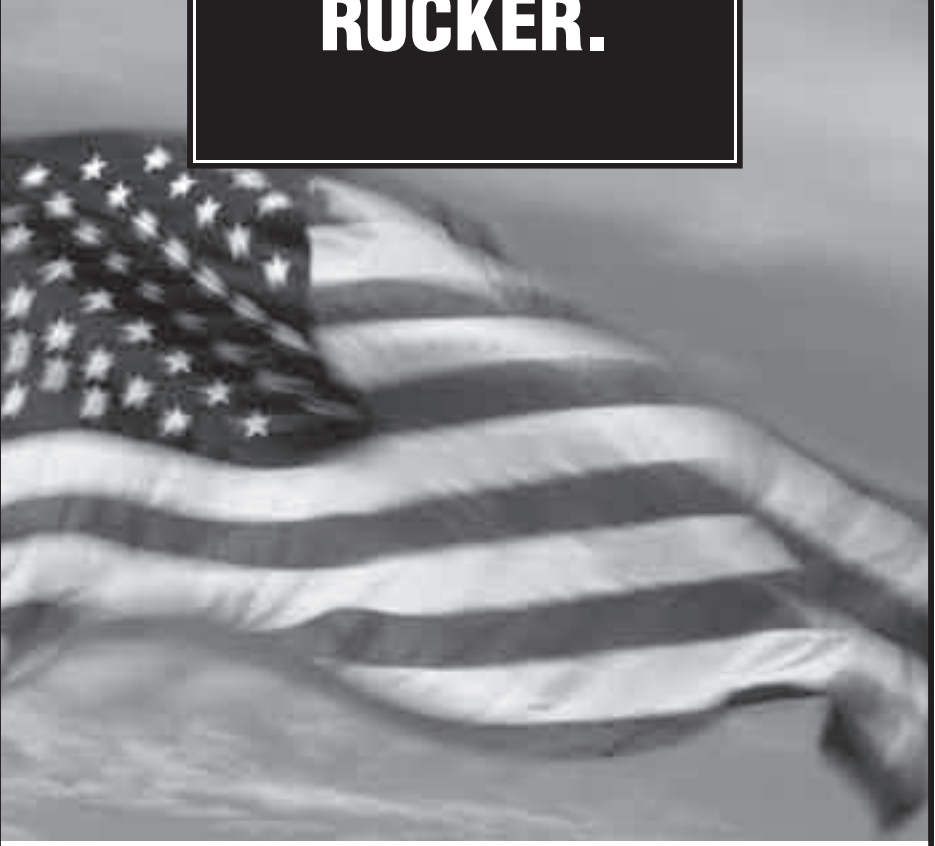
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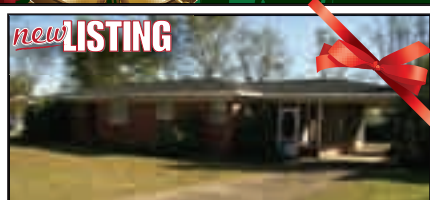
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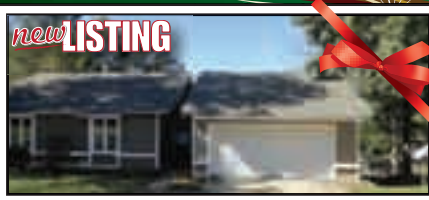
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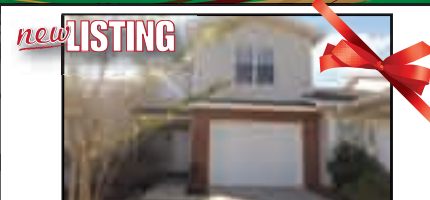
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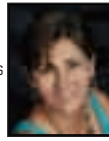
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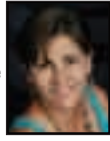
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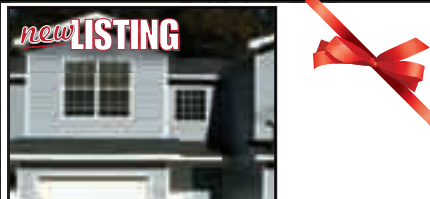
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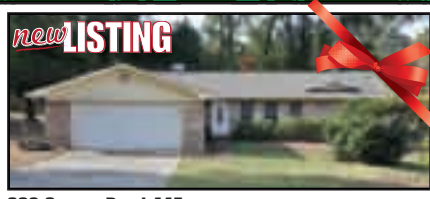
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\$215,000 ~ Beautiful custom built home with 4BR, granite counter tops, crown molding, double vanity in both baths, 2 dining areas, beautiful wood floors, open plan & more. Located in a cul-de-sac, on a big, amazing, leveled lot. Partially flooded once. **NANCY CAFIERO 389-1758** MLS #20142212



221 County Road 349 ~ Elba
\$70,000 ~ Great country property about 7 miles from Elba with split bedrooms, grandroom/dining/kitchen combination. Nice front porch & covered deck on back. Rolling property with a storage shed. All on 8 acres of land. Available with \$100 down payment with FHA financing. FHA# 011-622797 "AS IS." Foreclosure date: 5/6/2014. **EVELYN HITCH 406-3436** MLS #20142216



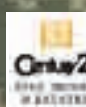
301 Briarwood
\$84,900 ~ Absolutely unbelievable for the price. Just minutes from Ft. Rucker, the a/c unit is only 2 years old, new carpet throughout, new vinyl in kitchen, a bonus room & laundry room. This is a steal! **CHRIS ROGERS 406-0726 & JUDY DUNN 301-5656**



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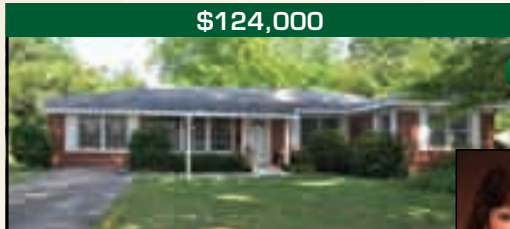
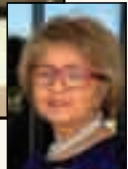
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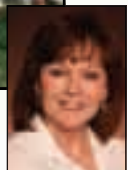
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202 PAWNEE: 2-story over 2,400 SF & one-of-a-kind in Enterprise. Looking for closet space, look no more! Lots of extras. **FRAN KALTENBAUGH 790-5973**



403 WHISPERING PINES: Over 2,150 SF in this well maintained 4BR/2BA with bonus sewing/craft room. Original hardwood flooring in living room & dining room. Fresh interior paint, huge walk-in closet in one bedroom with extra space for another closet or computer area. 4th bedroom was used as a den by current owner. Sewing/craft room. Very nice eat-in kitchen with tons of cabinets plus pantry. Newer countertops. Screened in porch with skylights looks out over landscaped backyard. Detached garage, storage room & a green house. **JAN SAWYER 406-2393**

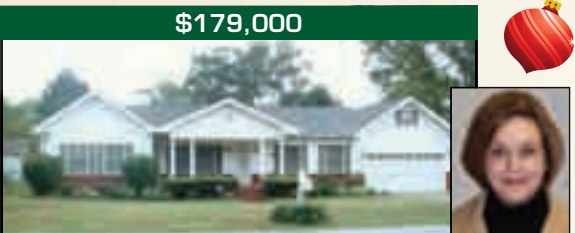


753 ROUNDABOUT ~ SAMSON ~ \$80,000: Looking for acreage with a pond & a home...this is it! Well maintained home with wonderful addition. Great den/family room with built-in computer station for the children. Covered porch for relaxing, screen deck overlooking the pond, plenty of play area for the children & enough land to bring the animals. Within the last year metal roof installed, kitchen appliances upgraded & some of the ceiling fans & fixtures replaced. Kitchen features a wonderful island where all the family can gather. **JUDY DUNN 301-5656**



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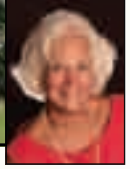
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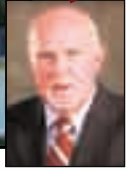
98 NORTH EDWARDS ~ NEWTON: Small town living but convenient to Dothan, Ozark, Enterprise & Ft. Rucker. Has beautiful oak hardwood floors in living room, dining room, family room, office & kitchen. Family room has a gas log fireplace. Large kitchen with an island with sink, lots of cabinets & pantry with slide out drawers. Heated & cooled Florida/sun room. Master bedroom has 10 ft ceilings with wide crown molding. The 2-car attached garage has front & back garage doors. **MARY JONES 790-2933**



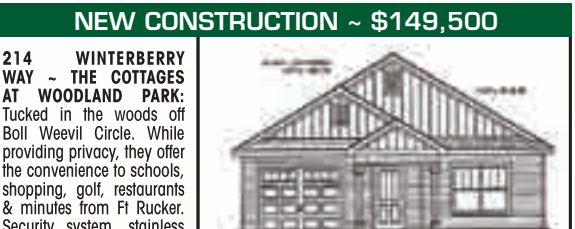
200 AVERETT: Open floor plan, 3BR/2BA, large living area/dining & kitchen. Laminate floors, large storage/laundry room that is heated & cooled. Covered patio to enjoy the numerous flowering shrubs & grape vines. Detached 3-car garage that could be used as a workshop. Available now. **EVELYN HITCH 406-3436**



108 CHRISTOPHER: Nice 4BR/2.5BA home with an in-ground pool (new pool liner will be installed). Large bonus room that could be used as a living room, office or play room. Separate dining room & kitchen bar, family room with a fireplace & opens to a large deck that overlooks the pool & big backyard. Heat pump installed June 2011. Convenient to schools, shopping & Ft. Rucker. **BOB KUYKENDALL 369-8534**



5695 COUNTY ROAD 636 ~ \$117,000: Live on 7 acres of privacy & have plenty of space to entertain with family room & basement. There is also a formal sitting room & huge/separate dining room open to the kitchen. Should be able to add 2nd bathroom off of family room where laundry room is located. Close to Enterprise but out in the calming countryside with a beautiful wooded property including a stream. Back porch is also enclosed! Sq ft does not reflect newly remodeled basement. **CHRIS ROGERS 406-0726**



214 WINTERBERRY WAY ~ THE COTTAGES AT WOODLAND PARK: Tucked in the woods off Boll Weevil Circle. While providing privacy, they offer the convenience to schools, shopping, golf, restaurants & minutes from Ft. Rucker. Security system, stainless appliances, natural gas heat/cooking/water heater, low E windows, irrigation system, 2" faux wood blinds, framed mirrors in bathroom & tray ceiling in grandroom. (Poplar Place Plan) EXCLUSIVELY MARKETING BY CENTURY 21 347-0048



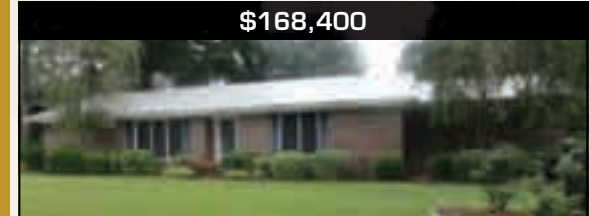
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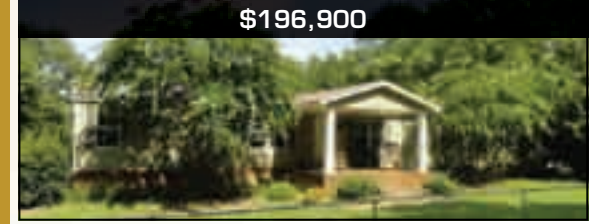
Merry Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR!



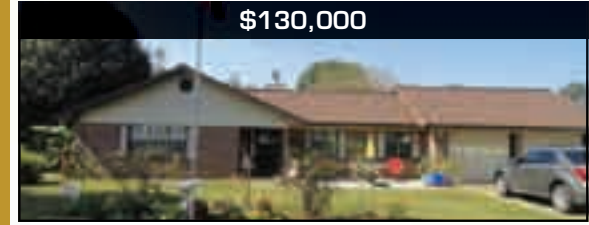
1931 REDHAWK ~ MLS# 20141876: STOP! This is the home you have been waiting for, nestled among the trees & only a couple of blocks to the Johnny Henderson Park with walking trails & playground. 3BR split floor plan that the owner has just installed all new floor covering, stainless steel appliances in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



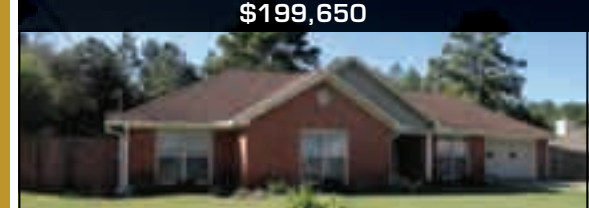
105 SKYLARK ~ MLS# 20141418: Custom built, 1-owner home with no wasted space. Open concept grandroom with gas log fireplace, dining area & sun room. Kitchen has new cabinets with pull-out drawers in the one floor to ceiling unit next to cooktop, granite countertops & tile backsplash, all new appliances.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



320 COUNTY ROAD 101 ~ JACK ~ MLS# 20141637: Horse lovers dream, property is completely fenced with hog wire, with chain link fence in yard front & back with 5 gates, separate fenced paddock in front yard with hog wire fence, circular drive. 22x32 barn with 2 stalls, lean to extension with Dutch doors, electric & water with inside & outside lights. 10x20 shed with shelves & ramp. Open floor plan with split BRs & den with fireplace as well as formal living room. Great screened porch with stairs leading to pool. A MUST SEE!



116 HARRISON ~ DALEVILLE ~ MLS# 20142111: Situated between Enterprise & Daleville, 3BR/2.5BA home features formal & informal areas as well as a screened porch & covered deck for outdoor enjoyment. Present owner has chickens, so there is a covered area for the hen houses, as well as a workshop for the do-it-yourselfer. **PRICED TO SELL!**



111 FERNWAY ~ MLS# 20142041: Ready to move in, 3BR/2BA home has had so many facilities to include architectural shingle roof, double pane windows, heat pump, garage door opener, hardwood floors in grandroom, dining room & foyer, ceramic tile floors in kitchen, laundry & baths. MAN CAVE in garage with CH&A as well as ceiling fan, 2-car garage, level, landscaped lot & storage shed with roll up door on front & side entry door. 2 hot water heaters. Propane gas logs.

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Network broadens mission landscape



PHOTO BY SPC. JOSHUA D. KRAMER

Artillery crew members assigned to B Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, Division Artillery, 1st Armored Division, sling load an M777A2 Howitzer beneath a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during air assault operations training at Oro Grande Range, New Mexico. This training was conducted during Network Integration Evaluation 15.1.

By Amy Walker

Program Executive Office

Command Control Communications-Tactical

FORT BLISS, Texas — During the latest test of the Army’s mobile tactical communications network, Warfighter Information Network-Tactical Increment 2, a field artillery battalion used the Soldier Network Extension to extend the range of their fire support operations to the tactical edge and significantly cut the length of time it takes to process their fires missions.

The satellite-based WIN-T, Increment 2 SNE provides network communication and extension capabilities down to the company level.

“WIN-T Increment 2 allows us to operate as a lethal battery with the platoons much farther out than we normally would be able to operate,” said Capt. Sean Williams, A Battery commander, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery

Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. “Before we were constrained by terrestrial location systems. Since this is a satellite-based system, there is a much greater range now to digitally call for fire and process fires missions on the battlefield.”

During the WIN-T Increment 2 Follow-on Operational Test and Evaluation 2, Soldiers used the WIN-T Increment 2 SNE to retransmit fire and counter fire support information between upper and lower echelons during realistic operational missions.

Forward observers and fire support officers once restricted by the line-of-sight distances of their radios to exchange fires information between maneuver platoons and brigade, can now execute these critical operations from any location within the brigade area of operations.

For several missions, the kill chain timeline

SEE NETWORK, PAGE B4

GIVING THANKS

SMA’s Thanksgiving trip includes 2nd CAB

By 8th Army
Public Affairs

YONGSAN, South Korea — The 14th sergeant major of the Army personally thanked Soldiers at stops in Camp Kim, Camp Humphries, Camp Hovey and Camp Casey in South Korea Nov. 26 and 27.

The trip by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler III was highlighted with visits to the 210th Fires Brigade’s Thunder Inn at Camp Hovey, and the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team’s Iron Café at Camp Casey, both units of the 2nd Infantry Division. While visiting each dining facility, the SMA recognized Soldiers, served Thanksgiving meals and he and his wife, Jeanne Chandler, mingled with Soldiers far from home on this holiday.

In his final Thanksgiving as sergeant major of the Army, Chandler said it was important to recognize and visit Soldiers serving in a forward deployed assignment far from home — particularly those who volunteered to join the Army following the events of Sept 11, 2001.

“Those who joined over the last 10 or 12 years faced a much different set of circumstances than I did when I joined the Army. I joined during the Cold War, and my first assignment was in Germany,” said Chandler. “My biggest concern as a young Soldier was whether I had enough money in my pocket on a Friday night to go have a beer ... The Soldiers who joined over the last decade (plus) knew they were volunteering to most likely be put in harm’s way.”

While serving in Korea is not the same as deploying to a combat zone, the SMA recognized that as America’s only forward deployed permanent unit, those in the units comprising 8th Army face similar, but unique challenges.

“Eighth Army is a war-fighting theater Army headquarters, partnered with the Republic of Korea to preserve an armistice — an agreement to cease-fire while a permanent peace can be negotiated, but that could end at any moment,” he said. “So Soldiers here have to be ready to fight tonight, and ensure we can win.”

Chandler served Thanksgiving meals at the Thunder Inn, mingled with Soldiers, and had personal photos taken for any of the Soldiers who wanted a picture with the sergeant major of the Army.

At the Iron Café, Chandler focused his time on speaking with Soldiers, answering questions in a one-on-one setting and ensuring everyone who wanted a photo with him was able to have their image captured so they would have something tangible to remember this holiday in years to come.

During the first day of his visit to Korea, Chandler spent the day touring units in Seoul and Pyongtaek.

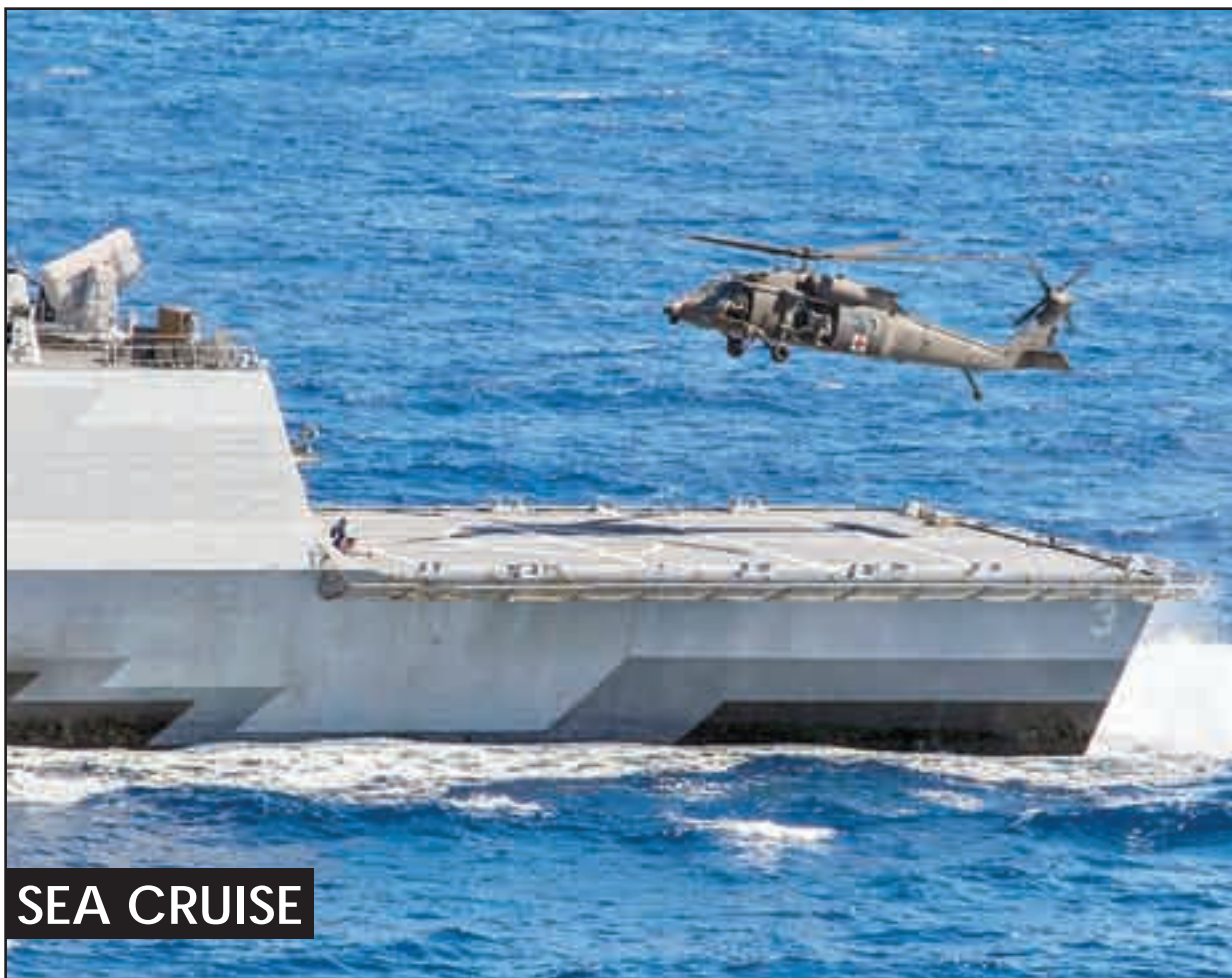
He started the day with recognition of the Soldiers who are part of the Special Forces Korea, and the 39th U.S. Special Forces. There, he received a briefing from senior NCOs and recognized NCOs for their

SEE THANKS, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY SGT. JESSE SMITH

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III speaks with Soldiers of the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Humphries, South Korea, Nov. 26.



NAVY PHOTO BY MC2 ANTONIO P. TURRETTO RAMOS

A 25th Combat Aviation Brigade UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew conducts deck landing qualifications on the littoral combat ship USS Fort Worth (LCS 3) off the coast of Oahu, Hawaii, Nov. 25.

TOUGHEST TALON

2nd CAB Soldiers compete for top honor

By Sgt. Jesse Smith

2nd Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Nov. 24, 24 Soldiers arrived at the MP Hill Gym. They wore Army combat uniforms and carried with pride ruck sacks filled with the hopes of each of their units.

The Soldiers placed their ruck sacks down, and began warming up for what they hoped to be a successful day of hard work and determination. They separated into six lines with their teams of four and listened for the sound they had been waiting for.

“Get ready. Get set. Begin,” said the NCO in charge of the event.

One team of four Soldiers from each of the six battalions in the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, began a gauntlet in the MP Hill Gym on Camp Humphreys. They battled to win the brigade’s Toughest Talon competition. Consisting of an Army Physical Fitness Test, rope climb, pull ups, dips, tire flip, litter carry, road march, small arms range and a nine-line MedEvac radio transmission.

The APFT started and it was apparent that each Talon Warrior was ready and motivated. The Soldiers cheered with inspiration while they held the feet of their teammates and made sure that they did not give up. Master fitness trainers ensured each Soldier performed the event correctly and that there was an equal playing field for all of the teams.

One of the Soldiers competing was Pfc. Brendan J. Rall, an AH-64 Apache maintainer with D Company, 4th Battalion, 2nd Aviation Regiment, 2nd CAB.

“All the best Soldiers trying to give it their all,” Rall said. He said this is what the competition was truly about.

The Soldiers completed, in order the APFT, rope climb, pull ups and dips. Next up was the tire flip and



PHOTO BY SGT. JESSE K. SMITH

Soldiers with the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade complete an Army Physical Fitness Test as part of an all-around warrior competition Nov. 24 on Camp Humphreys, Korea, as part of the brigade’s Toughest Talon competition.

litter carry.

The light medium tactical vehicle tire, weighing about 350 pounds, just sat there looking like an immovable object. Its cracked rubber provided no comfort to the hands of the Soldiers. When given the chance, each Soldier squatted down, grabbed the bottom edge of the tire and shot back up with all of their strength. Sometimes barely lifting it enough to get their legs underneath it, but each Soldier was able to complete the task. At the end, they were just glad to say they had finished the daunting event.

From there they moved to the starting line of the road march which was a six-mile course around Camp Humphreys that consisted of hills and unstable terrain. The Soldiers began strong, but the course took its toll. By the end of the course, their feet and bodies were tired, but their determination and motivation persevered.

The competitors then went to the small arms range where they were required to assemble their assigned weapon, and engage a target with 20 rounds and hit as many times as possible. Rall said that he wished he could have had

more ammo to get more practice shots, but that’s what this competition is about — being ready at a moment’s notice and to “Fight Tonight.”

For the last event, the teams had to complete a nine-line MedEvac transmission. It was dark by then, and difficult for the Soldiers to see what they were doing, but they were all able to finish the mission.

In the end, Col. Hank Taylor, the 2nd CAB commander, gathered all of the competitors around in the gym and announced the winners.

“Every Soldier here put their heart into this competition. I just want you to know that no matter what, you are all winners,” Taylor said.

The 602nd Aviation Support Battalion had won, but all of the Soldiers had earned the respect of each other. Sgt. Timothy K. Han, a command group driver with 2nd Bn., 2nd Avn. Regt., said that the teams were assembled of Soldiers that did not necessarily know each other, but that they learned to work together and conquered the obstacles.

“The hardest part was just working as a group, but it gets easier as you go on,” Han said.

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Network: Procedures allow faster setup, targeting

Continued from Page B1

was 10 times faster when using the WIN-T Increment 2 satellite network compared to previous times when using the line-of-sight Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System data and voice network.

Just as Soldiers in Operation Enduring Freedom utilized their organic WIN-T Increment 2 equipment in new ways, such as mobile hotspots, to support their unique operational requirements, Soldiers at both NIE 14.2 and NIE 15.1 utilized their organic WIN-T Increment 2 equipment to support their unique fires missions. The Army configured the network to support the traffic flow for these fires operations.

The WIN-T Increment 2 Follow-on Operational Test and Evaluation 2, aimed at evaluating the recent upgrades that make the system easier to operate and maintain, was held in conjunction with the Army's Network Integration Evaluation 15.1 in October and early November, at Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

Over 5,000 Soldiers, including 2/1AD and supporting units, conducted the test, which lasted over 19 days and covered over 3,000 square miles. This was the first time the Army utilized field artillery AN/TPQ36 and AN/TPQ37 radars connected into the WIN-T Increment 2 network, during an official test.

During their mission threads, field artillery units utilized the AN/TPQ36 radar, which locates indirect fire weapons such as mortars and shorter-range artillery, and the AN/TPQ37, used to locate longer-range artillery and rockets. The radars enable the units to see and track the point of origin of enemy fire so that fire can be returned if needed, "so instead of finding out as the mortar impacts, we find out as soon as it is fired," said Sgt. Loveland Craig,



PHOTO BY SPC. JOSHUA D. KRAMER

Artillery cannon crew members assigned to B Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, Division Artillery, 1st Armored Division, prepare to high angle fire a 155mm high explosive round from the M777A2 Howitzer. The training took place during Network Integration Evaluation 15.1, throughout Fort Bliss, Texas, training areas.

4-27 S6, radio retransmission team chief.

When units push out to the front lines, whether it's for fires missions or counter-fire missions utilizing AN/TPQ36 and AN/TPQ37 radars, they are currently limited by the extension of their line-of-sight radio networks. During the NIE, Soldiers used the SNE to transmit that fire information from remote strategic locations on the battlefield, eliminating the need to set up, monitor and secure multiple retransmission sites.

"Because this WIN-T asset allows us to push farther away, we can push our radars out now, we can push our guns out, we can give immediate suppressive fire back," Craig said. "And, it also allows us to have situational awareness across the entire battlefield."

These new fires tactics, techniques and procedures utilizing WIN-T Increment 2 enabled radar sections to rapidly move and relocate anywhere on the battlefield to support the mission with faster setup times and dramatically improved target message transmission times.

It enabled units far forward in the fight to deliver target acquisition information all the way back to headquarters, adding to the full-fires operational picture. That critical information could then be shared across the battlespace, including with aircraft and air defense systems, enabling more accurate and timely fires decisions.

"It allows us a lot more freedom as to where we can put the defensive and offensive pieces out there and still be able to track them across the battlefield," said

Maj. Stephen Dail, brigade communications officer for 2/1 AD.

Digital fires data is exchanged from the front line to battalion, brigade and higher, depending upon the criticality or location of the target, and the mission. To do this, the Army utilizes the Advanced Field Artillery Targeting and Direction System, which aides in producing, analyzing and exchanging fires information among the Army, Marine Corps and other joint architectures.

During the NIE scenarios, field artillery units used the SNE to push AFATDS data via satellite communications out to fires batteries in places where line-of-sight radios simply could not operate, such as on mountains or in low valleys. It also enabled fires and radar units to exchange larger files and critical situational awareness information, such as map updates, which wouldn't easily be transmitted over line-of-sight radios, enabling more accurate and up to date target information and situational awareness.

Leveraging the WIN-T satellite network to improve fires and other missions, is aiding the Army in its modernization efforts in preparation for future contingencies. Army priorities are currently geared at improving force agility, the common operational picture and the ability to operate from any environment, terrain, or distance.

The more the Army uses WIN-T Increment 2 in different environments and scenarios, the more Soldiers are leveraging its versatility to support these new and evolving requirements.

"We did an air assault a few days ago and it was too far out for FM communications, but with the WIN-T assets, we were able to communicate efficiently," Craig said. "With WIN-T Increment 2, we can go farther, fight faster."

Thanks: SMA fields questions directly from Soldiers

Continued from Page B1

service.

He followed this with a trip to Camp Humphries and the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, and a Town Hall discussion with a packed house at the Camp Humphries Post Theater.

While at 2nd CAB, Chandler was shown the four different air-

craft platforms currently operated by the Talon Brigade – CH-47 Chinook, AH-64 Apache, OH-58 Kiowa and the UH-60 Black Hawk – as NCOs who work on each platform demonstrated their knowledge of the aircraft they spend so much time with.

Following the briefing on the helicopters flown by 2nd CAB, the SMA opened the floor to questions from the Soldiers.

Many Soldiers were glad for an opportunity to ask him about questions like the Army's tattoo policy, or AR 670-1 published this past spring, and still others were just glad to see and hear him.

"For him to come out and put information out to the Soldiers, I think it was very important and refreshing to see," said Staff Sgt. Ivette Figueoroa, 2nd CAB.

Directly after the questions

were answered at 2nd CAB, Chandler moved to the post theater where he hosted a town hall. There he spoke on the Army profession and ethic, sexual assault and suicide before opening the floor to questions.

He closed the meeting with a simple message to the Soldiers there.

"Thank you for what you do," Chandler said. "Each and every

day we ask you to do something more and you do it. You continue to demonstrate here and around the world what makes this Army excellent, and it is the American Soldier."

Following the town hall, the SMA allowed anyone to take a personal photo with him and nearly 200 Soldiers chose to do that, with a line stretching nearly out the front door of the theater.

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OPERATION SANTA

Puts the happy in ‘Happy Holidays’

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The holiday season is a time for cheer and good tidings, but it can also be a time filled with stress and financial burdens.

That’s why Fort Rucker Sgt. Audie Murphy Club Soldiers went above and beyond in doing their part to help relieve some of the financial burden of the gift-giving season by providing gifts for children of military families on post with Operation Santa Saturday.

“I really like that (Fort Rucker and the Audie Murphy Club) do this for families because a lot of bases don’t put a lot of emphasis on something like this. I think it’s really great because it’s a great thing to bring all of the families together,” said Kristy Schoonmaker, Army spouse. “It takes a lot of pressure off the parents because they can go together and get all of this done. It’s really cool for the kids, too. We really like it.”

Kristy’s husband, CW2 Dan Schoonmaker, E Company, 1st Battalion, 212th Aviation Regiment, agreed.

“It takes a lot of that pressure off and eases some financial burdens, as well as the hassle of having to go shopping,” he said. “Also, it was so easy and there wasn’t a long line, so we came in and it was a really nice process.”

Children between the ages of 2-15 years old were able to pick out gifts, including one big-ticket item, two books and two stocking stuffers, and children under 2 were even provided with one book and two stocking stuffers, according to Sgt. 1st

Class, Soraya Bacchus, Sgt. Audie Murphy Club president for the Fort Rucker chapter.

“Operation Santa is an annual event that we’re doing – the first year was last year – and our intent is to help those families with financial hardship,” she said. “One of the things that the club stands for is giving back to the community, and it’s what Audie Murphy was all about – giving back, selfless service and not expecting anything back in return. It’s one of our pillars of the club, so it’s important for us to be able to jump at the opportunity to do that if it presents itself.”

About 180 children were registered to receive gifts for this year’s program, an increase from the previous year, and unlike last year, gifts, grants and donations were provided by various organizations rather than Soldiers.

The Fort Rucker Thrift Shop provided a grant, Operation Homefront donated more than 400 stocking stuffers, Blue Star Families donated 400 brand new books and First Command also provided donations to help the cause.

Last year, Soldiers donated toys during a post run, but this year the donation process was changed to make the gift giving process more fluid, said Sgt 1st Class, Loshana Alexander, Sgt. Audie Murphy Club vice president for the Fort Rucker chapter.

“We didn’t want to have to ask Soldiers to give to a program that was meant to benefit them,” she said.

Another thing that sets Operation Santa apart from other gift giving organizations



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Spc. James Santandrea, Headquarters Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 223rd Aviation Regiment, and his wife, Sabrina, take a family photo with Santa and their children, Arianna, Trinaty, Blayne, Theodore and Jordan, during Operation Santa put on by the Fort Rucker Sgt. Audie Murphy Club Saturday.

is that there are no criteria for a Soldier’s name to be submitted for the program.

“It’s not rank specific,” said Bacchus. “Oftentimes, we tend to cater to the E4s and below, but there are senior Soldiers out there who are suffering from financial hardships, so we wanted to keep it open and that’s when the leadership comes in for assessing the needs of their Soldiers.”

“We just wanted to do what we could to help relieve some of that strain from the holiday season, no matter what rank,” added Alexander.

No matter who is receiving gifts, both Bacchus and Alexander stressed that it’s all about selfless service and giving back.

“On a personal level, this event is really

exciting and it’s all we’ve been talking about and thinking about for a while,” said the Fort Rucker chapter president. “This is a big event for us and there was really a lot of excitement because we were so eager to see the looks on the kids faces. We had a lot of fun putting this together.”

“It’s good to be able to help when you know that people could be having a hard time and it’s good that their leadership took the time to recognize that their Soldier could be having a hard time and submitted their name to take advantage of the program,” added Alexander. “It’s always a great feeling to just be able to lend a helping hand, especially around the holidays.”

Children make cards for veterans

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The season of gift giving isn’t complete without the right gift for friends and family members, but for students of Fort Rucker schools, the season wouldn’t be complete without remembering those who came before and sacrificed for the freedoms Americans enjoy.

That’s why the students of Fort Rucker’s Elementary and Primary schools took the time to create handmade cards for disabled veterans across Alabama to show that even many years after their service to the country, they are not forgotten.

Fort Rucker schools partnered with the Enterprise-Coffee County Unit 9 Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary to make sure the disabled veterans had something to look forward to this holiday season and provide an important lesson of giving for the children.

“This is such an important event because (the children) are a part of (military life), they live it every day with parents being deployed, and they understand it more than children whose parents aren’t part of the military,” said René Hammond, Fort Rucker Primary School guidance counselor. “They understand the importance of sacrifice and giving back.”

Nearly 350 children from FRPS and countless more from Fort Rucker Elementary School created the handmade cards to be presented to veterans across the state.

“The children all prepared a card, and we come and pick them up when they’re ready and sort them out and distribute them to different Veterans Affairs hospitals across Alabama,” said Iris Keen, DAVA member. “We just want to support our disabled veterans and show them a little Christmas cheer.”

The cards will be distributed to VA hospitals in Tuskegee, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa and Birmingham.

“It’s important for the children to get involved so that they understand that people have sacrificed a whole lot for the freedoms that we have in this country,” said Keen. “We want the kids to understand that it’s important to remember those who have fought for our rights and have served our country.”

“One thing I stressed when the children made the cards is for them to realize that



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Andrew Williams and Aaron Simpson, Fort Rucker Primary School students, learn how to properly fold a flag with the help of DAVA members after presenting their handmade cards to the organization to be sent to disabled veterans across Alabama Friday.

these cards are going to our veterans and a lot of them might not get cards or gifts from their families, so I told them to put lots of love and color in them when they make them because their card may be the only card that they have,” said Hammond, adding the children didn’t disappoint with their creativity and caring.

Keen said that the creativity and care that the children put into their cards is reflected on the faces of the veterans who receive them.

“It thrills (the veterans), especially for them to receive handmade cards – that’s the whole beauty of it – that (the children) have taken the time to do something from their hearts,” she said. “It just means so much to them and I’m hoping that it means as much to the children.”

In a show of appreciation in return to the schools and the children, the DAVA presented a new flag to the school.

“We wanted to show our appreciation to the school, the children and the teachers for their support of the disabled veterans and our program,” said Keen. “I think that everybody needs a new flag from time to time, and this is a good opportunity for the children to learn about the flag and what it means to our country.”

During the presentation, the DAVA members also showed the children how to properly fold a flag, and even gave the students the opportunity to try folding it themselves.

“We just really want to thank the schools and the children for everything they’ve done for the veterans, and this is our way of showing them how much we appreciate it,” said Keen.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Therese Erthal, catholic parish coordinator at the Fort Rucker Main Post Chapel, arranged names on the Angel Tree set up at the main post chapel. People can still donate to the Angel Tree Program by picking a name off either tree set up at the post exchange or the main post chapel, and all gift donations must be delivered, unwrapped, with nametag of the child the gift is for at either location no later than Sunday.

ON POST

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

Breakfast with Santa

The Landing will host its Breakfast with Santa Saturday 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.

Bowling pin decorating contest

Rucker Lanes will host a bowling pin decorating contest now through Monday. 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.

Parents Day Out

Fort Rucker Child, Youth and School Services will host its Parents Day Out Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 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 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, parents can register their children at parent central services, 255-9638.

Ugly Sweater Day

People are invited to wear their ugliest sweaters to The Landing Zone all day Friday 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.

Family Member Resilience Training

Army Community Service will host its Family Member Resilience Training Monday and Tuesday 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 Friday.

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

Newcomers welcome

Army Community Service hosts the newcomers welcome Dec. 19 from 8:30–11 a.m. at The Landing. Active-duty military, spouses, foreign students,



FILE PHOTO

Mistletoe 5K

The Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center will host the annual Mistletoe 5k and 1-Mile Fun Run Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. Registration on the day of the event will take place from 7:30-8:40 a.m. at the Fortenberry-Colton PFC. Participants are encouraged to pre-register for this event and forms are available at either physical fitness center. For more information, call 255-3794.

Army civilians and Family members are welcome to attend. A free light breakfast and Starbucks coffee will be served. For free childcare, people can register their children at the child development center by calling 255-3564. Reservations must be made 24 hours in advance.

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

EFMP info and support group

The Exceptional Family Member Program invites all active duty military families who have an exceptional or special-needs family member to its information and support group Jan. 13 from 9-10 a.m. at The Commons, Bldg. 8950, on Seventh Avenue. The topic for the meeting is available resources for individuals with special needs and disabilities. Tools, techniques, and resources will be discussed. EFMP officials said the information and support group offers camaraderie, friendship, information exchange, idea sharing, community resources, support and assistance with finding solutions.

For more information, call 255-9277.

January craft activity

The Center Library will host a winter craft activity Jan. 13 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.

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

Comedy Live

Comedy Live at Rucker returns to the post Jan. 23 at The Landing. The doors to the ballroom will open at 7 p.m. and the show will be kicked off by the emcee at 8 p.m. This year’s show will feature two headliners — Chris Killian and Tyler Boeh. The event is open to the public, ages 18 and older. Tickets go on sale Jan. 5 and will be \$12 through

Jan. 21. Tickets will be \$16 after Jan. 21 and on the day of the show. VIP tables that seat 10 and are guaranteed to be close to the stage are available for \$150. Tickets may be purchased at The Landing Zone, The Landing, Lyster Coffee Zone, or MWR Central.

For more information, call 255-9810.

Mother Rucker’s birthday

Mother Rucker’s will celebrate its fourth birthday Jan. 23. The facility will offer drink specials from 5-7 p.m. For more information, call 503-0396.

Right Arm Night

The Landing Zone will host Right Arm Night Jan. 29 from 4-6 p.m. Right Arm Night is an Army tradition, promoting a night of camaraderie and esprit de corps as leaders come together and treat those who help them accomplish the mission. Complimentary appetizers will be served while supplies last. Right Arm Night is held every month, and both military and civilians are welcome. For more information, call 598-8025.

Alabama Shakespeare Festival day trip

MWR Central will host a day trip to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery Jan. 31. A ticket to the production of “Alice in Wonderland” at 2 p.m. and transportation are included. The cost is \$30 per person for ages 3 and older -- children under 3 will not be able go on the trip. Buses will depart from Fort Rucker at 11:30 a.m. and return at about 6:30 p.m. To sign up, visit MWR Central in Bldg. 5700. Registration will not be taken over the phone and will be done on a first come, first served basis. If enough people don’t sign up by Jan. 9, the trip may be cancelled. The event is open to the public.

For more information, call 255-2997.

DFMWR Spotlight

Fort Rucker Family & MWR Upcoming Events & Activities



Ugly Sweater Events

Ugly Sweater Day - Dec 12 - The Landing Zone
Wear your ugliest sweater to The Landing Zone on Friday, December 12 (all day event) and receive half off your appetizer! The LZ staff will be handing out prizes to who they think has the ugliest sweater!
The Landing Zone, (334) 598-8025

**Ugly Sweater Party - Dec 24
Rucker Lanes**
Come to Rucker Lanes on Wednesday, December 24 from 10 am-6 pm (Rucker Lanes will be closing at 6 pm that day) and show us your best ugly sweater! Prizes will be awarded to the best ugly sweater! Cost: \$6 per person, includes 2 games of bowling, shoe rental, 1 cup of egg nog and 2 cookies.
Rucker Lanes, (334) 255-9503

Bowl in the New Year at Rucker Lanes

Groovy PIN DOWN COUNTDOWN

December 31st
No open bowling. Lanes only available by reservation for Groovy Pin Down Countdown event.

Join us for our 60's themed New Years Eve Party! Reservations are required.

First Session
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Cost: \$20, includes: meal, unlimited bowling, shoe rental

Second Session
10:00 pm - 1:00 am
Cost: \$25, includes: meal, unlimited bowling, shoe rental, a glass of champagne to ring in the New Year! (sparkling cider will be provided for guests ages 21 and under)

For reservations call Rucker Lanes, (334) 255-9503.

www.ftruckermwr.com

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR DEC. 11 - 14

Thursday, Dec. 11

Saint Vincent (PG-13)7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 12

Fury (R)7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 13

Fury (R)7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 14

The Best of Me (PG-13)2 p.m.

TICKETS ARE \$6 FOR ADULTS AND \$5 FOR CHILDREN, 12 AND UNDER. MILITARY I.D. CARD HOLDERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE WELCOME. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 255-2408.

Commissaries to offer scholarships

By Cherie Huntington,
Defense Commissary Agency
Public Affairs

FORT LEE, Va. — As the Defense Commissary Agency’s Scholarships for Military Children Program enters its 15th year, more than 8,000 students have shared nearly \$13 million in scholarships.

Applications for the 2015-2016 school-year awards become available Monday at commissaries worldwide or on the Internet at <http://www.military-scholar.org>.

Starting last year, each award amount rose to \$2,000 from the previous \$1,500, and the program awards at least one scholarship at each commissary with qualified applicants.

An applicant must be a dependent, unmarried child, younger

than 21 — or 23, if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university — of a service member on active duty, Reserve or Guard member, retiree or survivor of a military member who died while on active duty, or survivor of a retiree.

Applications must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 13. Packages must be hand-delivered or shipped via U.S. Postal Service or other delivery methods, not emailed or faxed.

Applicants should ensure that they and their sponsor are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database and have a military ID card. The applicant must attend or plan to attend an accredited college or university full time in the fall of 2015, or be enrolled in studies designed to transfer to a



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GRAPHIC

four-year program.

Applicants who are awarded a full scholarship or receive an appointment to one of the military academies or affiliated preparatory schools are not eligible to receive funds from this program.

A full scholarship is usually defined as one that provides for payment of tuition, books, lab fees and other expenses.

Fisher House Foundation,

a nonprofit organization that helps service members and their families, administers the program. Scholarship Managers, a national, nonprofit, scholarship management services organization, manages and awards the scholarships.

Commissary partners and the general public donate money to the program — every dollar donated goes directly to funding scholarships. Supporters are recognized at four levels of donations, with Four Star business partners contributing more than \$50,000 annually, and One Star donors giving between \$2,000 and under \$10,000.

For more information, students or sponsors should call Scholarship Managers at 856-616-9311 or email them at militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com.

Corvias Foundation scholarships available

Corvias Foundation
Press Release

EAST GREENWICH, R.I. — Corvias Foundation, an award-winning private, charitable foundation committed to supporting the pursuit of higher education, announced recently that applications for the 2015 scholarships and educational grants are available.

The foundation is committed to supporting military families in the pursuit of higher education and has awarded more than \$5.2 million in scholarships and grants to children and spouses of active-duty service members since 2006.

“Each year we are impressed with the

quality of our applicants and their educational ambitions,” said Maria Montalvo, executive director of the Corvias Foundation. “We are humbled to serve military families, and proud to help them reach their full educational potential.”

Applications for Our Future Scholarships must be submitted by February 12, and will be awarded to high school seniors with plans of attending a four-year university or college. The scholarships are in the amount of up to \$50,000 per person.

Corvias Foundation will select 10 children of active-duty service members stationed at Fort Rucker; Fort Meade, Maryland; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Polk, Louisiana;

Fort Riley, Kansas; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; Edwards Air Force Base, California; Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska; Hurlburt Field, Florida; McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas; and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina.

Recipients of the scholarships will be notified in April.

Applications for 2015 educational grants must be submitted by May 7. Grants are given in the amount of up to \$5,000 to spouses of active-duty service members stationed at the military installations listed above. Applicants may be in any stage of the educational process. Recipients of a grant

will be notified in July.

Applications and all necessary paperwork for both the scholarships and educational grants must be submitted by the due date in order to be considered. Those chosen may begin using their scholarship or grant in the fall of 2015. Families do not have to reside in on-post or base housing in order to qualify for scholarships or grants. Eligible service members stationed at these 13 Army and Air Force installations can serve in any branch of the military.

Applications are available now at <http://corviasfoundation.org>. Send an email to info@corviasfoundation.org or call 401-228-2836 for more information.

Fort Rucker HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES & PROGRAMS SCHEDULE

U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence & Fort Rucker
Fort Rucker, Alabama

POSTWIDE THANKSGIVING SERVICE	
21 Nov (1130-1215) Headquarters Chapel	Thanksgiving Service

CATHOLIC (MAIN POST CHAPEL, BLDG 8940)	
26 Nov (1700)	Thanksgiving Eve Mass
7 Dec (1015)	Advent Workshop
8 Dec (1200/1700)	Immaculate Conception (Holy Day of Obligation)
24 Dec (1800)	Children's Christmas Eve Mass
24 Dec (2400)	Midnight Mass
25 Dec (0900)	Christmas Day Mass
31 Dec (1700)	New Year's Eve Mass (Holy Day of Obligation)

PROTESTANT	
7 Dec (1130) Spiritual Life Center, Bldg 8930	Advent Workshop
8 Dec (1800) Spiritual Life Center, Bldg 8930	Christmas Family Night, "Find Your Place at the Manger" and "The Jesus Birthday Party"
14 Dec (0930) Wings Chapel, Bldg 8036	Christmas Celebration
17 Dec (1730) Main Post Chapel, Bldg 8940	Christmas Drama, "The Best Christmas Present Ever"
24 Dec (1800) Main Post Chapel, Bldg 8940	Christmas Eve Protestant Candlelight Service

For more information regarding other religious holiday services, contact the Post Chaplain Support Office at 334-395-2885/3012



COURTESY PHOTO

Pick of the litter

Meet Talia, a seven-month-old, short-hair female torti-tabby mix. She is lovable, playful, and easy going. Talia is available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility. 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/> for constant updates on the newest animals available for adoption.

Church Directory

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."
1 Corinthians 11:1

First United Methodist Church

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

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Programs and Benefits Subject to Change

Value Brand returns for more savings

By Kevin L. Robinson
DeCA public affairs specialist

FORT LEE, Va. — In response to growing patron demand for products comparable to the low-cost private label items sold in civilian stores, the Defense Commissary Agency is re-energizing an old friend known as Commissary Value Brand.

This month, commissaries worldwide will highlight about 300 Value Brand products in 33 categories such as frozen vegetables, pizza and entrees; pet foods; health and beauty care; cereals; cleaning supplies; soft drinks; coffee; canned fruit, soup and fish; disposable lunch and storage bags; condiments and more.

The average savings for Commissary Value Brand items will be about 25 percent when compared to the store brand and private label items found in commercial retail stores, said Joseph H. Jeu, DECA Director and chief executive officer. In some instances, savings will be as much as 50 percent.

“We are rolling out a renewed program that will offer consistent, quality, everyday low-cost pricing on name brand products equal to or better than private label items in



commercial stores,” Jeu said. “In essence, we are making a good deal of a commissary benefit even better.”

When customers venture into their commissary they will see select items on the shelf identified by an orange “Value” sign. They will also see posters, banners, buttons and danglers that point the way to these extra savings.

The resurgence of the Commissary Value Brand comes as more and more customers are asking their commissaries to have products at prices similar to the private label savings they see off post, said Tracie L. Russ, DECA sales director.

“We first began what was then known as the ‘Best Value Item’ program 14 years ago and now the time is right for a comeback,” Russ said. “Over the years, what we called BVI took on many forms and eventually splintered into many individual savings venues. Today, we have once again gathered the best of the best under one ‘Commissary Value Brand’ sign.”

Russ said this program wouldn’t be possible without the agency’s industry partners — manufacturers, vendors and suppliers — whose representatives worked with her category managers to identify the brands from industry proposals that best met the Commissary Value Brand criteria. Every six months, patrons may see products added or subtracted to DECA’s Value Brand inventory based on price, sales performance and market changes.

“Those products are subsequently guaranteed to be on our shelves at everyday prices for a minimum of six months that’s consistently equal to or lower than the store brand and private label products downtown,” Russ said.

Commissary patrons looking for Commissary Value Brand items will see new

shelf signage and, in some instances, special displays. Shoppers who venture on DeCA’s website, commissaries.com, or stay tuned to the agency’s social media outlets, especially Facebook and Twitter, will also be able to get a heads up on value deals before they hit the store.

In addition to Commissary Value Brand items, shoppers will continue to see biweekly promotions and other special sales that offer targeted discounts.

However, when it comes to comparing prices with commercial store brand or private label products, the Commissary Value Brand will take savings to a consistent, everyday low price, Jeu said.

“Some things never go out of style and our Commissary Value Brand program is one of them,” he said. “So we’re dusting it off, giving it a new look and bringing back even more savings for our service members and their families who’ve earned this benefit.”

For more information, commissary patrons can also access a list of Value Brand items, frequently-asked questions and a video of the program on the DECA website at <http://www.commissaries.com/shopping/value-brand.cfm>.

Pearl Harbor Day commemorates 73rd anniversary

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Diana Quinlan
Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Detachment Hawaii

PEARL HARBOR (NNS), Hawaii — Veterans, service members, families and guests commemorated Pearl Harbor Day with multiple ceremonies at Ford Island and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Dec. 7.

The theme of this year’s historic commemorations, “Preserving the Memory,” focused on keeping the story of the attacks on Oahu and the beginning of World War II for the United States alive for new generations and the nation.

The day’s events began at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument Pearl Harbor Visitor Center with the 73rd annual commemoration ceremony dedicated to the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, provided opening remarks and introduced U.S. Air Force Gen. Lori J. Robinson, commander, Pacific Air Forces, who served as a keynote speaker for the event, which overlooked the historic USS Arizona Memorial.

“For the last 73 years here in the Pacific, we’ve remembered Pearl Harbor,” said Harris. “We’ve remained vigilant and just as the Greatest Generation before us, today’s armed forces are more than ready to answer the alarm and, if need be, we’re ready to fight tonight and win.



Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) conduct a pass-in-review at the USS Arizona Memorial during the 73rd Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration Dec. 7.

“We are doing everything we can to keep the alarm from sounding in the first place by enacting America’s current strategic rebalance to the Indo-Asia-Pacific, designed to maintain stability, prosperity and peace throughout the region,” Harris said.

He praised Robinson’s leadership and professional skills, intellect and mastery, which helped her excel and set the highest standards, achieving numerous records in her military career.

Robinson, who took command of Pacific Air Forces Oct. 16 from Gen. “Hawk” Carlisle, expressed her emotions of sharing this historic day with all of the survivors

and veterans.

“For me, it is difficult to imagine the events of that Sunday morning 73 years ago,” said Robinson. “Even as it was a day of sacrifice and loss, it was a day of gallantry and unquestionable heroism.

“Countless brave Americans, like many of those here in the front row, not only rallied in response to the attacks, but fought intrepidly in the many years of war that followed,” she said.

Robinson also spoke of the sacrifices faced not only by the military but also by firefighters, civilians, families and children on the day of the attacks and the cour-

age and heroism they showed in the face of tragedy. That courage serves as a lesson and motivation for the armed forces today, she noted.

“As our nation rebalances to the Asia-Pacific region, I assure you the current generation of American warriors stands ready,” said Robinson. “May God bless you and all of our military and civil servicemen and women, both past and present, who have bravely answered our nation’s call time and time again, and who have never failed us.”

During the ceremony, a moment of silence was observed at 7:55 a.m., the exact moment the

Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor began 73 years ago. Guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) rendered pass-in-review honors to the USS Arizona and all Pearl Harbor survivors present at the ceremony.

The 199th Fighter Squadron, Hawaii Air National Guard, 19th Fighter Squadron, U.S. Air Force, also presented an F-22 Raptor flyover.

The ceremony was co-hosted by Rear Adm. Rick Williams, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and Paul DePrey, superintendent of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, National Park Service.

The event also included musical accompaniment provided by the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, the parading of colors, a traditional Hawaiian blessing, and a cannon salute by members of the U.S. Army.

Additionally, veterans of each military branch presented a floral wreath for each service, each accompanied by an active-duty service member and a student from Navy Hale Keiki School, in recognition of the men and women who survived the attack and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, Dec. 7, 1941.

The ceremony concluded with a “Walk of Honor” by the Pearl Harbor survivors attending the ceremony and other World War II veterans through an honor cordon of military service members and National Park Service men and women.

Religious Services

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday

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

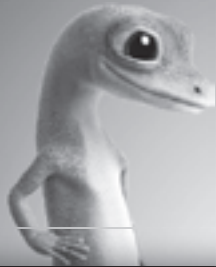
Main Post Chapel, Building 8940
9 a.m. Catholic Mass Sunday
11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
12:05 p.m. Catholic Mass (Tuesday - Friday)

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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TUESDAY-SATURDAY
10AM-4PM

Program marks 5 years of preserving history

By J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — An innovative program that helps veterans of all services gain a variety of new skills while helping the nation curate its archaeological artifacts celebrated its fifth year, Dec. 3.

Created in 2009, the Veterans Curation Program was set up by the Army Corps of Engineers at three labs: one in Alexandria, Virginia; another in St. Louis; and one in Augusta, Georgia.

The vets spend five months learning modern archiving techniques and moving through the intricacies of processing, photographing, rehabilitating and rehousing prehistoric and historic artifacts. Artifacts range from stone tools and projectile points called lithics, to pottery sherds, clay smoking pipe pieces and military insignia, which have been discovered by archaeologists at more than 400 USACE projects over the last century.

To date, about 955 cubic feet of artifacts – 70 linear feet of records – have been rehabilitated and more than 38,000 photographs have been created by the VCP, according to Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) Jo-Ellen Darcy.

“This incredible program is a positive and innovative way to put our returning veterans and disabled veterans to work while protecting and caring for our nation’s archaeological materials and associated records,” she said, adding that, “no group of people has done more to forge our national identity throughout history than the veterans who have served and sacrificed for the nation.”

Some 203 veterans have worked full- or part-time at competitive salaries, passing through the peer-to-peer program, and 153 of them have since found permanent employment or enrolled in university and certificate programs.

The Army’s Chief Engineer Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick noted that the VCP was not only a way for the services to follow up on their promises to help veterans transition with new-found skills, it also allows the vets to continue serving by preserving pieces of history.

“This program benefits our veterans, the Army corps and the nation by helping us process vital archaeological collections and preserve our cultural heritage,” he said. “To the veterans here today, and the many others you represent who have been part of this program – we are deeply grateful for your service. I commend you for taking the next step as you transition from military to civilian life and wish you great success in your future endeavors.”

Following the ceremony, guests were given a tour of the Alexandria VCP Lab, where 13 veterans are presently employed. They are a month into their training, much of which is conducted by lab manager Jasmine Heckman, who holds a master’s of museum studies and previously worked for the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History. She’s been with the VCP since its creation.

“When this opportunity came up, I was very excited,” she said. “I have three older brothers, all on active duty in the Army, and a sister-in-law who is a veteran of the Air Force. This was really a perfect opportunity for me to be able to give back, and because I have always really enjoyed



PHOTO BY EJ HERSON

Former Air Force Staff Sgt. Jessica Costello sorts prehistoric projectile points, known as lithics, at the Veterans Curation Program Lab in Alexandria, Virginia. Thirty-one former service members from the four branches are currently working at three labs for five months on historic artifacts discovered by at various Army Corps of Engineer excavation sites across the U.S.

teaching and mentoring.”

Heckman said she’s been really passionate about helping people find their niche, specifically veterans, because it can be difficult coming out of the military suddenly and having to figure out what steps to take toward entering the civilian workforce.

While most of the veterans don’t move on toward studies in anthropology or one of its subfields, such as archaeology, two former Soldiers are doing a special project for the USACE office of history digitizing photographs of military insignia from World War I through Vietnam.

“I think skills that are learned here are definitely a good way to transfer and translate into different fields, but I think a lot of people who are interested in applying for these positions have an interest in where things came from, learning about human history and studying that history through human artifacts, and that’s always a fun treat for me,” she said.

A former staff sergeant and Persian Dari linguist, Jessica Costello separated from the Air Force after nearly nine years of service and a deployment to Afghanistan, but she’s only out until she finishes her bachelor’s degree with a major in political science and a minor in criminology at the University of Maryland.

She was just one of 13 selected Air Force-wide for the Scholarship for Outstanding Airman to ROTC program. As soon as she has

her degree in hand, she’ll be commissioned and back on active duty. While the Air Force covers her tuition and fees, she’s responsible for her housing and other expenses, part of which is covered by her GI Bill.

“I found out about the VCP through a co-worker who had separated a few months before I did and had gone through the program, so I researched, got on the phone with Jasmine who told me the next session didn’t start until November,” she said. “I decided to wait until then because the program just sounded so interesting and different to me, something I really wanted to try.”

Costello added that in many ways the VCP is a building block on some things she already knew, but a real plus is that each time an artifact is processed, the quality check is reviewed by fellow veterans who offer constructive criticism on each other’s work, then use that criticism as a checkpoint for themselves.

“It’s a fantastic transitional program and being with other veterans at the same time provides a great support network,” she said, adding that the program is more than just employment. “About halfway through the program, we’re offered professional development time – we’ll get guidance on how to write our resumes and go through mock interview sessions.”

Army public affairs broadcast specialist and former Sgt. Gregory Boster had five years active-duty

time and a deployment to Afghanistan, but left the service, he said, primarily because he had started a family, had two small children and one more on the way.

“I didn’t feel it was the right environment for me and I didn’t want to be away from my family, so I felt the change was necessary and decided to be closer to home, which is northern Virginia where I grew up,” he said, adding that when he separated 18 months ago he was certain about his career direction.

“Sports is the only thing that really stuck with me my entire life, growing up playing baseball, basketball, football, and then I realized as I got older, how other interests would fade, but not sports, which has

always stayed with me and something I really love,” he said.

Currently using his GI Bill at Northern Virginia Community College and focusing on a transfer to a four-year university, Boster is looking for a career in sports management, which encompasses a broad range of possibilities in the sports world, from the media side, which he learned through the Army to being a sports agent, to coaching or even becoming a physical trainer.

Boster was told about the VCP by one of his Northern Virginia Community College professors. It sounded interesting and challenging and has turned out to be worth the 90-minute daily commute, he said.

“One specific factor in

this job that I really related to is the attention to detail that has to be done because what we do is going to be done permanently. It’s your hands that are touching these items and that will have a permanent impact on the future, because the notations we make will be used by scientists and in research,” he said. “We make the notations because we know it’s a stone tool. Without those notations, most people would just pass it off as just another rock.”

“I was skeptical about coming here, because I had never done a desk job. I was always an on-the-ground kind of guy, so sitting behind a desk I couldn’t fathom,” said Nicholas Gervasoni, who spent seven years in the Marine Corps as an military policeman before being medically retired last month, due to back injuries and post-traumatic stress suffered in Afghanistan.

No longer feeling skeptical, he’s been learning to adjust to the idea that he can’t do many of the same things he always took for granted before his injuries. He said processing artifacts has been challenging, but working with fellow veterans has helped restore a sense of leadership and responsibility he felt he’d lost.

“After this program, I’m applying for The Mission Continues, the service dog company that I received Penny, my golden retriever through,” he said. “Becoming a trainer would be very rewarding in the fact that you get to work with beautiful dogs in the first place – that’s a plus, and to know they’re going to a veteran who needs help makes it really a win-win scenario.”



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Zoo offers holiday lights festival

Montgomery Zoo
Press Release

The Montgomery Zoo's 20th annual Christmas Lights Festival began Dec. 4 and continues throughout the month to let visitors see the park and the animals in a different light.

The Christmas Lights Festival continues today through Sunday, and Dec. 18-31, as the zoo comes alive with a fantasy wonderland of holiday displays from 5:30-9:30 p.m. nightly. Families can stroll through the zoo or take a ride on the miniature train to see the holiday lights located throughout the zoo.

In cooperation with Rick Evans, W. A. Gayle Planetarium in Oak Park and Troy University,

the Montgomery Zoo presents a Winter Holiday Laser Adventure Friday and Dec. 19 at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. This laser light adventure plays on a big screen with dynamic sound and brightens the eyes of all ages. The show is approximately 40 minutes long and will be a great addition to everyone's Christmas Lights Festival experience.

The Zoo's miniature train will transport visitors around the park to view these spectacular light displays.

The Christmas Craft Corner located at the Overlook Café will be open nightly through Dec. 23 for families to make holiday keepsakes. A fee is required to participate in this activity. Local schools, churches and civic orga-

nizations from River Region will provide entertainment each night at the Overlook Café starting at 6:15 p.m.

Santa will be present nightly until Dec. 23 to hear children's Christmas wishes. Santa's hut is located in the breezeway near the train depot, and parents are welcome to get photos made of their children with Santa for a fee.

The Montgomery Zoo's Overlook Café will offer refreshments, sandwiches, hot meals, hot chocolate and coffee. The Zoofari Gift Shop also provides an opportunity for people to purchase a variety of gifts to fill out Christmas lists.

For more information or to check admission prices, call the zoo at 240-4900 or visit <http://www.montgomeryzoo.com>.



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

ANDALUSIA

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.

ONGOING — The American Legion Post 80 hosts bingo nights Tuesdays and Fridays at the Legion Hall, 32335 N. US Hwy. 29, from 4:30 to 9 p.m. The organization also has a dance, with live music, every Saturday from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. All proceeds from the bingo events go to help local veterans and their families, as well as causes such as Girls State, Boys State and scholarships for high school students. For more information, call 222-7131 or visit www.andalusialegionpost80.org.

DALEVILLE

DEC. 20 – The Korean-American Association of South Alabama invites everyone to its annual Christmas Party at 6 p.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6020, 434 Hwy. 84 East. The event will feature cultural entertainment, food and door prizes. Tickets cost \$10 and people should RSVP by Dec. 13. For more information or to RSVP, send an email to sukjah.oh@gmail.com or call 347-1796.

NOW-DEC. 18 – The senior center will host its Christmas market daily from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 18 Old Newton Road. The market features handcrafted Christmas gifts with new items added daily.

DOTHAN

DEC. 14 – Landmark Park will host its free Victorian Christmas Dec. 14 from 1-4 p.m. This annual open house is the park's way of thanking the community for its support throughout 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 and, at 2 p.m., the Christmas

message will be delivered by a circuit riding preacher, Dr. Tim Faulk, in the Headland Presbyterian Church. Holiday music will take place in the Victorian-style Gazebo and 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. 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. People can also 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). For more information, call 794-3452.

NOW-DEC. 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/>.

ENTERPRISE

DEC. 11 – Enterprise State Community College Fine Arts Division will hold final auditions for its production of "South Pacific" at 6 p.m. at the college's Forrester Hall. Four performances of "South Pacific" will be held at the Enterprise High School Performing Arts Center, April 9, 10 and 11. For more information, call 347-2623 ext. 2319, send an email tokthomas@escc.edu or check out ESCC Theatre 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 — Every Thursday at 5:30 p.m., yoga with Sandra Bittman is at Perry Recreation Center for \$5 a person.

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

ONGOING – 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.

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. 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.

Beyond Briefs

'Christmas Carol'

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery will perform "Christmas Carol" now through Dec. 24. An ASF tradition begins with the return of this holiday hit featuring Charles Dickens himself who, with sleight of hand and sense of humor, brings his magical story to life. ASF officials said that when miserly Ebenezer Scrooge receives an unwanted visit from the ghost of his former business partner, an overnight journey of epic proportions begins.

For show times and to purchase tickets, visit www.asf.net. Ticket prices vary based on play, date, and availability of seating.

For more information, call 334-271-5353. ASF is located at One Festival Drive, Montgomery.

Zoo Christmas lights festival

The Montgomery Zoo will transform into a Winter Wonderland sparkling with thousands of lights and festive decorations during the Christmas lights festival Dec. 11-14 and 18-31 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 and includes a train ride. People are welcome to take a leisurely stroll, a brisk train ride or see the lights from atop the Zoofari Skyliift Ride. Santa will be on hand and the event features live nightly entertainment, and hot chocolate and fresh-baked cookies. Other activities will be available, as well.

For more information, call 334-240-4900, or visit www.montgomeryzoo.com. The zoo is located at 2301 Coliseum Parkway, Montgomery.

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>.

Galaxy of Lights

Huntsville Botanical Gardens' Galaxy of Lights is a 2 1/2-mile-long holiday light extravaganza featuring larger-than-life animated light displays now through 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>.

Panama City Beach New Year

Panama City Beach's New Year's Eve festivities will kick-off at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 31 with a family celebration along the Boardwalk on Pier Park Drive. The event will feature interactive activities like face painting, costumed characters and exclusive giveaways, as well as live entertainment.

At 8 p.m., local dignitaries will release 10,000 inflated beach balls along Pier Park's beachfront boardwalk – heralded as the nation's only family beach ball drop – and this will be followed by a fireworks display.

At 8:30 p.m., the official countdown celebration will begin with live musical performances throughout the evening. Just before midnight, attendees will countdown to 2015 as an 800-pound lighted beach ball descends nearly 100 feet and then another fireworks demonstration.

The seventh annual New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop at Pier Park is free and open to the public.

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

Eagle Awareness Weekends

Lake Guntersville State Park invites people to participate in Eagle Awareness Weekends beginning Jan. 2 and ending Feb. 22 to observe and study the national symbol – the bald eagle.

Eagle Awareness began in 1985 to coincide with the bald eagle restoration in Alabama. Between 1985 and 1991, 91 bald eagles were released throughout the state. Next year marks the 30th anniversary of this family-friendly educational program.

Eagle Awareness Weekends feature live bird demonstrations and programs provided by notable speakers, guided field trips for viewing eagles in their natural habitat, and the natural beauty of the mountains and Lake Guntersville.

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

Program expands partnership

By Amaani Lyle
Department of Defense News

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, Va. — Through Joining Forces, an initiative offering employment, educational and wellness resources to military families, Pentagon officials inducted 38 organizations into the Military Spouse Employment Partnership Dec. 3.

The ceremony at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial recognized corporate partners who have made substantial efforts to reduce the high unemployment rate and close the wage gap that military spouses face as a result of frequent relocations.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military and Community Family Policy Rosemary Freitas Williams and Principal Deputy Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Dr. Laura Junor said their goal is to keep military families healthy, strong and cohabitating whenever possible.

“We do that by working together to provide the comprehensive support and assistance our Service members, spouses and families need to be successful through their mobile military life,” Williams said.

Linking resources

Williams also noted the need for public-private partnerships that link the right mix of resources and recognize that military spouses have the education, diversity and skills to enhance workforce productivity, and produce national and international business success.

The new inductees, Williams said, join 266 enduring partners representing all business types, from small businesses with regional footprints to international corporations that provide products and services for a global market.

“Our research clearly shows that when our military spouses are able to meet their own career objectives, our military members are more likely to remain on active duty,” Williams said. “We need to retain that top talent for national security purposes.”

When military spouses are able to maintain meaningful employment despite frequent relocations, especially following the return to civilian life as their Service member’s military career ends, Williams said they are able to provide family financial stability, which is critical to their short- and long-term health and well-being.



DOD GRAPHIC

“We used to think that that was a good idea. We now know it’s science -- it is absolutely evidence based,” Williams said.

And participating employers, she added, do more than provide jobs to spouses.

“You’ll be providing our spouses and military families with work-life satisfaction, strong family financial stability and ultimately, the military personnel readiness that we need for a sustainable military force and a strong national defense,” Williams said.

Spouse workforce

According to Junor, more than half of the DOD’s 2,000,000-plus service members are married. Those spouses, many of whom are well-educated, face perennial challenges -- including a 25-percent unemployment rate, while another 25 percent are underemployed.

“[The spouses] are not looking for a favor -- they are looking for the opportunity to be the valuable employee that they know they are,” Junor said.

Personal experience

Junor described her personal experi-

ence, in 1992, as both a new wife and the pursuits of Ph.D uprooted her from Washington, D.C., to Naval Station Mobile, Alabama, with her husband, who was then a Navy lieutenant junior grade. She recounted scouring organizations and educational institutions for work, finally even seeking an internship, which like previous job prospects, fizzled because employers were reticent to hire someone who would eventually leave once their service member changed duty station.

Junor explained that she later accepted an offer as a visiting assistant professor of economics at Tulane University -- two states away in Louisiana.

“As newlyweds, my husband and I did not live in the same state,” she said, adding that experience sparked the next three

to five years of separate residences, so she could develop her career.

Junor said she and her husband decided that he’d depart the Navy in the interest of family togetherness.

“Military life is difficult for a two-career household, but the second career for those that are looking for it, matters,” Junor said. “Having that second career is a very valuable safety net when the inevitable transition time comes.”

High-quality workforce

Junor emphasized the quality of today’s military spouse workforce.

“You’re not going to find a more resilient, motivated and adaptable group out there,” she said. “If you’re willing to give them a shot, you will get more than that in return.”

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DECEMBER 11, 2014

Adopt-A-Trail

Volunteers sought to breathe new life into old trails

By **Jeremy Henderson**
Army Flier Staff Writer

The Fort Rucker Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation hopes to reclaim forgotten trails in 2015 with the aid of volunteers and the Adopt-A-Trail program.

“Volunteers can earn recognition by helping MWR maintain the running and biking trails on Fort Rucker,” Lori Ciranni, Fort Rucker sports, fitness and aquatics manager, said. “The volunteers visit their trails and do minor clean up, document maintenance needs, report acts of vandalism, interact with trail users, promote trail safety and encourage an overall positive use of public trails.”

Commuters along Farrell Road may notice the scenic expanse of Parours Youth Lake, but few realize an adventurous expanse of trails exists within the wooded area surrounding the water. Those trails are one of two locations volunteers can help maintain.

“Adopting one of our trails is a great way to give back to your community,” Ciranni said. “In doing so, you not only gain that sense of pride of giving back, but it is a program that promotes healthy living. It is a way for a couple or family to be with each other without the hustle and bustle of modern technology.

“While walking and working on the trails, you get the added benefit of beginning or maintaining a healthy lifestyle, and could possibly spark an interest in biking, hiking or running,” she added. “Maintaining the trails can also be used to learn the plant life and wild

life in our area. The society we live in unfortunately is a lot about taking. This is a great chance to learn or teach someone the rewards received from giving.”

Volunteers are asked to commit three months of maintenance to their assigned trail. Volunteers are asked to visit their trail each month to document maintenance needs, report acts of vandalism, interact with trail users, promote safety and encourage positive use of the trails.

“As a result of concerns brought up as part of the installations Army Family Action Plan, Fort Rucker’s DFMWR community recreation division developed the program to gain assistance from the concerned individuals and organizations,” Ciranni said.

Volunteers will be required to attend orientation in late January before volunteers begin visiting the trails in February.

“The program is open to anyone wishing to volunteer,” she said. “It can be an individual, a family, an organization wishing to use this as their community project or anyone with an interest in giving back to their community. Participation in this program not only promotes community stewardship, it helps maintain our highly used, difficult-to-maintain trails.”

Applications are accepted for the spring season until Jan. 12. DFMWR will follow up with applicants the week following the application deadline.

For more information or to register for the program, call 255-9567 or visit <http://www.ftrucker.mwr.com/fort-rucker-adopt-a-trail-program/>.



PHOTOS BY JEREMY HENDERSON

Trails behind Parours Youth Lake, once bustling with Soldiers training, rest somewhat forgotten and partially overgrown. Adopt-A-Trail asks volunteers to help breathe new life into this old trail system, filled with various paths and more than a dozen exercise stations.



Carbon monoxide poisoning threat rises in winter

By **Steven Munsell**
*U.S. Army Public Health Command
Industrial Hygienist*

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless and toxic gas. Because you cannot see it or smell it, it can kill you before you are even aware of its presence. Carbon monoxide is one of the leading causes of accidental poisoning deaths in America.

Carbon monoxide is a product of incomplete combustion. Therefore, anything that burns gasoline, kerosene, oil, propane, wood or coal produces carbon monoxide. Any improperly maintained or unvented equipment, such as automobile engines, generators, furnaces, portable space heaters, wood stoves or charcoal grills can produce high levels of carbon monoxide in indoor spaces.



PHOTO BY DAVID VERGUN

The most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headache, dizziness, nausea, chest pain and confusion. High levels of carbon monoxide exposure can cause unconsciousness and death.

While all people and animals

are at risk, infants and people with chronic heart disease or respiratory problems are particularly susceptible to carbon monoxide’s effects.

Many poisonings occur during the winter months when heaters are in high use and windows

are closed. Here are some steps to reduce carbon monoxide exposure.

- Ensure that combustion equipment is properly installed and maintained regularly.
- Never use a generator inside living or working space.
- Never run a car or truck in the garage with the door shut.
- Never burn charcoal indoors.
- Never use a gas range or oven for heating.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector in your home and check batteries regularly.
- Purchase only gas equipment containing the seal of a national testing agency such as Underwriters Laboratory or the American Gas Association.

Average carbon monoxide levels in homes without gas stoves may vary from 0.5 to 5

parts per million. In homes with properly maintained gas stoves, carbon monoxide levels range from 5 to 15 ppm. However, when a gas stove is not properly maintained, the carbon monoxide level may exceed 30 ppm.

In the event someone may have been overexposed to carbon monoxide, the United States maintains a national poison control center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Individuals who call the center will be put in touch with a poison control expert.

For more information about carbon monoxide poisoning, call the National Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222, or visit the following websites.

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/co/default.htm>.
- Environmental Protection Agency, <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/co.html>.

PIGSKIN PICKS



	Arizona vs. St. Louis	Washington vs. N.Y. Giants	Cincinnati vs. Cleveland	Denver vs. San Diego	San Francisco vs. Seattle	Dallas vs. Philadelphia	New Orleans vs. Chicago
 Col. Tom von Eschenbach TCM (45) (63-35)							
 Jim Hughes PAO (61-37)							
 Brian Jackson DFMWR (55-43)							
 Capt. Mike Simmons DPS (59-39)							
 Sharon Storti NEC (59-39)							

DOWN TIME

FLASH GORDON

Character Profile:

Dale Arden

FLASH GORDON

By JIM KEEFE

12-7

THIS KINGDOM RECLAIMED, KING RONAL LEADS A RECONNAISSANCE MISSION IN SEARCH OF THE TREACHEROUS CAPTAIN LONAK.

CAREFUL...THE KRONTORS VILLAGE IS JUST BEYOND THIS RIDGE.

Wearing protective gear against the sub-zero temperatures, the search party cautiously peers down into the camp.

I SEE HIM. HE... STILL WEARS THE CROWN.

THEN IT APPEARS THE CREATURES ARE NO LONGER A THREAT...

...NOW THAT THEIR MONARCH IS RESTORED TO THE THRONE.

LONAK DESIRED TO BE KING. IT LOOKS LIKE HE GOT HIS WISH.

THEY'VE GOT A NEW ADVENTURE!

AN AIRPLANE IS TORN ASUNDER BY A FREAK METEOR SHOWER!

THAT FATEFUL FLIGHT BRINGS RAVEN-HAIRED BEAUTY DALE ARDEN INTO THE ARMS OF WORLD-RENOUNDED ATHLETE FLASH GORDON.

SINCE THEN THEIR LIVES HAVE BEEN BOUND TOGETHER...FACING ADVENTURES UNDREAMED OF IN THE HOPES OF SAVING A WORLD ON THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION!

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

IF YOU INSIST ON HAVING ME WEAR THIS HOLIDAY SWEATER I WOULD JUST ASSUME IT COVERS MY WHOLE FACE.



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

T R I V I A

- MATH:** What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numerals MMDLVII?
- LITERATURE:** Who wrote the story "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"?
- TELEVISION:** What superhero pops up repeatedly in episodes of the "Seinfeld" sitcom series?
- INVENTIONS:** Who is credited with inventing the electric razor?
- MOVIES:** What was Forrest Gump's home state?
- MUSIC:** What group performed the hit "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone"?
- CHEMISTRY:** What is the symbol for the element tungsten?
- GEOGRAPHY:** What modern European country was called Lusitania in Roman times?
- LANGUAGE:** In Latin names for the days of the week, what god is represented by Wednesday?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a group of weasels called?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Persistent Dr. Seuss character

7 Total stupidity

13 — faire

20 Actress Wilde

21 Fifth U.S. president

22 Writer Caldwell

23 Dissuade people from using a bridge?

25 "Look, Ma" follower

26 Be a thespian

27 Impressionist Claude

28 Frogs' relatives

30 Destroy the interior of

31 Azure

34 Horse riders' shop?

37 Above, in odes

38 Twofold nature

41 Errand boy

42 Thieving Fink?

46 Grammy winner — James

48 — Z ('80s Camaro)

49 "Revolver" or "Tapestry," e.g.

50 Lose iciness

52 Run through small holes

56 "GoldenEye" Bond girl

58 Open courts used by opera singers?

62 Delayed

63 "— be back"

66 Poet Edward

67 Drink in

68 Still of film

69 Predicament experienced by humans?

73 Unused, in Ulm

74 Self-evident statements

76 107, in old Rome

77 Actress living

78 With 33-Down, whom "nobody doesn't like"

80 Moistens meat while drunk?

83 Puerto Rico's — Observatory

86 CPR experts

87 Maladies

88 Author Zola

91 Rights org. since 1920

92 Scratched (out)

94 Arrange meals neatly in a picnic basket?

97 Dance with dips

100 Shooting marble

102 "— in team"

103 Actor Feldman

106 Feisty fish

110 Endorsed

111 Take the loss

112 Put at 000

115 "Nice one!"

116 Zeros

119 Stress caused by a "Great" czar?

123 Boy in "E.T."

124 New Jersey borough next to Fort Lee

125 "Help Me, —" (1965 #1 hit)

126 Midday naps

127 High regard

128 Wised off to

DOWN

1 Pops

2 Smart —

3 Thurber's Walter

4 "— done it!"

5 Run on TV

6 Fred of "My Three Sons"

7 "That's my cue!"

8 Shot amount

9 Tech. school

10 "— — quit!" (threat ender)

11 Hold

12 "Holy moly!"

13 Ivan of tennis

14 Came up

15 Suffix with amateur

16 Jamaican pop music

17 Honor with a tune

18 Tough out

19 Rind-cutting tool

24 Caviar

29 USN ranker

32 Spotted lynx

33 See 78-Across

34 — Poke (caramel lollipop)

35 USAF NCO

36 Raises one's glass to

38 Apply gently

39 Land east of Arg.

40 24-hr. cash dispensers

42 — Tin Tin

43 Verbal test

44 Plant studier

45 Britain's Tony

46 Suffix with Euclid

47 Time when DST starts

50 Merry refrain

51 A eunuch guards it

53 Like liver, nutritionally

54 Like offenses one can get canned for

55 Perfume since 1931

57 "— at 'em!"

59 Vintage song

60 Architect I.M.

61 Belittle

64 Rank above maj.

65 Molten flows

68 Slugger Ruth

70 "Hot Stuff" actor Davis

71 Pot topper

72 Mariah Carey #1 hit

75 New York county or lake

79 Mimosa-family tree

81 Honorary law dog.

82 "No big —"

84 Homecoming attendees, e.g.

85 Suffix with poison

89 Former Sprint rival

90 Tina's ex

93 Decked in a boxing ring

94 Foyer sofas

95 Josephine of mysteries

96 Hide-hair link

97 Some steaks

98 It has a pH above 7.0

99 Little bump

100 Day after Fri.

101 Threefold

104 Granny on "The Nanny"

105 Ship parts

106 Diem lead-in

107 Adjectives modify them

108 Throng

109 Forward

112 Russo of "Ransom"

113 Buffalo's lake

114 E-mail clutter

117 U.S. fighters

118 Scorching

120 Little child

121 — Na Na

122 "Help us!"

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

© 2014 King Features Synd., Inc.

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

KID's CORNER

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

GO TEAM! What's the overright? It's a mysterious message relayed by members of St. Nick's signed letter team. At a glance, it resembles the bar codes used on checkout lines. But it will not respond to a scanning device. Now, then, it's real!

Simply hold diagram flat so eye level before a mirror. Read along parallel lines.

Now how quickly you can decipher the urgent message Santa's team wishes to convey.

YULE LOG! Unscramble names of holiday travelers' U.S. city destinations: WE RAVAK, HORE RIK, HOOT SUR, TIRIED TO, LAST TEL. Time limit: 2 minutes.

HELP SANTA SUBTRACT

LET'S see if you can help Santa with this subtraction problem (below). That is to say, translate letters into numbers. Each of the digits 1-9 appears at least once. To assist St. Nick's burden, we've chosen that A is a substitute for 6, T is a substitute for 8, and L is a substitute for 9. That leaves six numbers — 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 0 — to be determined. Remember, 0 is a problem in subtraction.

Hint: For starters, find amount of letters L.

How quickly can you puzzle it out?

Time limit: 3 minutes.

FIND TWINS! Two of these wooden soldiers appear enough alike to be twins. Which two? Study details with care.

Wishing Well

4	3	2	4	5	2	7	4	5	2	8	5	7
B	Y	R	O	A	E	Y	S	S	F	A	S	O
6	3	2	7	4	2	8	2	4	5	3	7	5
S	O	O	U	S	R	B	M	S	I	U	T	S
2	8	5	7	5	2	5	4	5	4	6	5	6
A	E	T	H	O	T	T	A	H	Y	H	E	A
8	3	8	3	5	2	8	5	8	3	8	4	6
T	A	T	R	I	E	S	R	E	L	S	R	
8	2	8	2	4	3	7	3	4	6	3	2	3
I	O	F	N	Y	A	R	P	E	E	P	O	R
7	4	8	6	7	2	7	3	2	3	2	3	2
I	S	E	I	V	F	E	E	T	C	H	I	O
6	2	3	2	3	2	6	2	6	3	2	3	6
D	U	A	G	T	H	E	T	A	E	S	D	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTSMOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



SPELLBINDER

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

AGLITTER

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

Try to score at least 10 points, and 10, maximum, again!

Biggest threat to U.S. troops in Liberia is malaria

By Staff Sgt. V. Michelle Woods
Army News Service

MONROVIA, Liberia — During the American Revolution, George Washington used part of the Continental Army’s scarce budget to purchase quinine for the treatment of malaria in his troops.

According to Professor Dale Smith, a military medical historian at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the U.S. military counted more than a half-million cases of malaria during World War II.

“This will be a long war, if for every division I have facing the enemy, I must count on a second division in the hospital with malaria and a third division convalescing from this debilitating disease,” said Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander of allied forces in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

The U.S. armed forces have had a bitter, long-standing battle with malaria. Despite continuous research and advances in anti-malarial medicine, this parasitic disease, spread by infected Anopheles mosquitoes, continues to threaten the health of the U.S. military.

In 2003, about 300 Marines deployed to Liberia for a military peacekeeping operation; however, the mission failed due to 80 cases of malaria within the first three weeks.

In October, service members returned to Liberia for Operation United Assistance, an operation supporting the U.S. Agency for



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. V. MICHELLE WOODS

The antimalarial medication Malarone was issued to service members deployed to West Africa in support of Operation United Assistance. Portions of this image were masked for privacy reasons.

International Development-led efforts to contain the Ebola virus outbreak in western Africa. The fight against Ebola, however, poses a significantly smaller threat than malaria.

“Right now, based on current statistics, someone who is unprotected from malaria has a 50 percent chance per month of getting malaria in Liberia,” said Capt. Neel Shah, physician and Barclay Training Center aid station officer in charge, Joint Forces Command-United Assistance. “Mathematically, statistically, in

every way you look at it, malaria is the biggest killer.”

According to U.S. Africa Command, the vast majority of DOD personnel in Liberia will have no contact with patients with Ebola.

“We pretty much have zero exposure risk to Ebola right now and 100 percent exposure risk to malaria,” said Maj. Benjamin Platt, physician, Army Medical Support Company, Joint Forces Command - United Assistance.

With 90 percent of the world’s malaria-related deaths reported

in Africa, and the devastation it caused to military operations, DOD budgets about \$8 million per year in malaria vaccine research, according to PATH, an international, nonprofit, health organization who heads the Malaria Vaccine Initiative.

Troops deployed in support of Operation United Assistance received anti-malarial medication, special equipment and clothing to prevent mosquito bites and infection. Extra precautionary measures are also in place to prevent mosquito breeding grounds such

as eliminating standing pools of water and vector spraying.

Soldiers have been issued mosquito nets and tents to cover their cots, insect repellent for their skin, uniforms treated in insect repellent and prescription drugs, said Platt, a Wyoming native.

The U.S. Army predominantly distributes the anti-malarial medications Doxycycline or Malarone, said Shah. Doxycycline is generally used in places like Afghanistan, where the threat of malaria is significantly less than in West Africa. Although Malarone is about 60 times more expensive per pill compared to Doxycycline, the efficacy of Doxycycline drops to zero if you miss a dosage. Malarone will stay in the system for a day or two in the event a service member misses a dose, he said.

Despite the increased price, the DOD has decided to spend whatever it takes to protect service members and DOD personnel, said Platt.

“Each individual Soldier has been given all the tools to protect himself from malaria,” said Platt. “It’s now up to the individual Soldier to use those tools to protect himself. If he doesn’t do it, it’s on his shoulders.”

Leaders are expected to engage Soldiers often and ensure they’re taking their medications; however, complacency can also pose a threat to troop health.

Shah said he encourages Service members to not get too comfortable, and not forget the life-threatening risk of malaria.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Holiday Ham Golf Shootout

Silver Wing Golf Course will host its Holiday Ham Golf Shootout Saturday. Tee times are from 7-9 a.m. Cost is \$20 per person, plus cart and green fees if applicable. This game is an individual stroke play format and a U.S. Golf Association handicap is required. Prizes will be awarded to gross and net winners. The deadline to register is 9 a.m. Dec. 13.

For more information, call 598-2449.

Mistletoe 5K

The Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center will host the annual Mistletoe 5k and 1-Mile Fun Run Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. Registration on the day of the event will take place from 7:30-8:40 a.m. at the Fortenberry-Colton PFC. Participants are encouraged to pre-register for this event and forms are available at either physical fitness center. Costs: individual is

\$12 for no shirt option; and \$25 with shirt (while supplies last); and teams are \$160 for teams of eight (each additional person pays normal registration fee) with shirts (while supplies last). Refreshments will be provided. The event is open to the public. Trophies will be awarded to overall male and female, master male and female, grandmaster male and female, first-place trophies in 14 age categories, and medals for second and third place in 14 age categories. A team trophy will be awarded to the fastest team and team streamers awarded to the Top 10 finishing teams. The 1-mile fun run is free, and open to all children and will begin after the 5k is completed. Each fun run participant will receive a medal.

For more information, call 255-3794.

Spin fitness challenge

The Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center

will host a two-hour spin fitness challenge Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$3.50 or patrons may use their Fitness Card. Door prizes will be given and refreshments will be provided. The event is open to all authorized patrons.

For more information, call 255-3794.

SWGC Pro Shop holiday sale

Silver Wings Golf Course’s Pro Shop will host its holiday sale now 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.

Go Army



Beat Navy





David C. Agan Jr.
FAC
(54-44)





Kent Anger,
DPTMS
(54-44)






Sgt. 1st Class Brian Brenner,
NEC
(50-48)





Wes Hamilton,
NEC
(59-39)





John Tkac,
DPS
(58-33)



PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

- 2,557
- Edgar Allan Poe
- Superman
- Jacob Schick
- Alabama
- The Temptations
- W (wolfram)
- Portugal
- Mercury (Dies Mercurii)
- A gang

UH-60V

**THE VALUE OF
RECOGNIZING
THAT THE
FUTURE OF ARMY
AVIATION STARTS
WITH COCKPIT
DIGITIZATION.**

After successful missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, Northrop Grumman's UH-60V Cockpit Digitization solution is being adopted across the Army Black Hawk fleet. And it's no wonder, considering the open-platform analog-to-digital adaptation minimizes costs and personnel re-training, while the cross-platform application means it's not just the Black Hawk that can benefit from its soaring performance. *That's why we're a leader in adaptable, scalable and affordable solutions.*

THE VALUE OF PERFORMANCE.
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