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FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

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Aviators benefit from cockpit trainers

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The Aviation Learning Center on Fort Rucker received four new Cockpit Academic Procedural Trainers to help flight students and transitioning Aviators stay proficient Jan. 9.

The learning center received two of each of the UH-60M Black Hawk and the CH-47F Chinook cockpit trainers to help Fort Rucker flight students, said Capt. Jared K. Koelling, assistant U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command capability manager.

“These devices were installed in the learning center in order to benefit the students and Aviators learning to fly these aircraft,” said Koelling. “Basically these devices allow anybody from initial-entry flight students to Aviators that are transitioning from the older UH-60 Alpha/Lima and CH-47 Delta models.”

The cockpit trainers can also be used for sustainment training, according to the captain.

“It’s a nice tool for Aviators that might have been away from the flight line for a while,” he said. “They can come into the learning center on their own time and brush up on their training before they step into the aircraft.”

The fact that the CAPTs are available to Aviators on their own time is a big advantage to having these in the learning center, according to George Snyder, instructor at the Aviation Learning Center.

“These cockpit trainers are meant to help enhance the flight student’s training, and more importantly, support the training that the academic classes teach them,” he said. “When they are in classes learning, they aren’t yet pushing



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

W01 Harry Thomas, W01 Jon Szopinski, and W01 Ben Stoddart, all of B Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment, get familiar with the new Cockpit Academic Procedural Trainers that are available to flight students and Aviators at the Aviation Learning Center Jan. 17.

the buttons or sitting down and getting a feel for the controls. The classes only have a certain amount of time each day to teach [the students].

“The flight line and the academic side are all structured and very limited by their time,” said Snyder, “whereas here, students can come in during their spare time and take as much time as they need to understand what they need to understand about operating the aircraft.”

“These cockpit trainers allow the flight students to be more proficient while on the actual flight line as well,” said Koelling. “By using the CAPTs, the students can actually plot points on the map of the multi-functional display, and

watch the aircraft fly to the points that were plotted. This way they can actually see the result of their actions.”

“The flight students have to plan out their missions and with the CAPTs, they can see an actual map on the multi-functional displays and see where their aircraft is flying in the local area,” said Snyder. “You don’t get that kind of interaction in a classroom or reading it out of a book.”

The CAPTs are expensive pieces of equipment — costing around \$82,000 each — but according to Jill Redington, chief of the U.S. Army Aviation Technical Library and the Aviation Learning Center, they practically pay for them-

selves.

“When you think of the amount of flight students that come through the learning center — which last year was between 150,000 to 170,000 students — these devices cost pennies per person to operate,” she said. “Compared to the cost of having to run actual aircraft to train, these machines pay for themselves.

“The big thing is the availability to the flight students,” said Redington, “and it’s 21st century technology that is available to them. But it’s not just the equipment that is available to them that makes it great, it’s the expertise of the training instructors.”

Currently the CAPT devices

are stand-alone machines without a cockpit shell around them, but according to Koelling, that will eventually change.

“A lot of the feedback we’ve received regarding these cockpit trainers, is that they are great as stand-alone devices, but they would be better if there were some sort of reference point, meaning an actual cockpit around the devices,” he said. “There are plans to eventually have cockpit shells build around the CAPT devices, but there is no timeframe.”

The hours of the learning center are: Sundays, 12:15 to 9 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fort Rucker commemorates life of MLK Jr.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Members of the Fort Rucker Primary School First Grade Choir sing at the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Program at the post theater Jan. 12.

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Soldiers, Family members and members of the local community gathered on Fort Rucker to remember the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and ask “life’s most persistent and urgent question: What are you doing for others?”

That question was the continuous theme of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Program at the post theater Jan. 12.

The program was held to celebrate the life of King, and remember the teachings and role that he played to promote equality for all.

Dr. W. Charles Lewis, founder and senior pastor of Dothan Community Church and guest speaker, spoke of the effect that King’s teachings had on him throughout his life and how the question that King asked influenced him to help others.

“As a young boy, I listened to many of King’s speeches and adopted some of his philosophies,” he said. “One speech in particular had a profound effect on me and actually influenced my outlook on life.”

The speech that Lewis was referring to was King’s, “Remaining awake through a great revolution.”

“The particular part of that speech that captured my attention was when King said, ‘we cannot aim merely to be good negro teachers, good negro doctors, good negro ministers and good negro skilled laborers. If you are merely seeking to do a good negro job, then you have already failed at your matriculation examination for entrance into the university of integration,’” he said. “I never got over that, and I’m glad that I didn’t.”

Lewis also spoke of the importance of asking the question, “What are you doing for others?” and the importance of the word ‘do.’

“That short two-letter word solicites our involvement,”

SEE MLK, PAGE A5

New car wash facility opens on post Friday

By David Agan
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The Fort Rucker community will soon have a new way to keep its vehicles looking like new when the new automatic car wash opens near the automotive skills center on post Friday.

The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new car wash at 11 a.m., after which the facility will be opened for use by the public, says Janice Erdlitz, DFMWR Marketing Director.

The new facility comes about after Soldiers and Family members expressed high interest in an automatic car wash, according to Erdlitz.

“The new automatic car wash facility is expected to be a very well received addition to the services the Auto Skills Center provides,” said Erdlitz.

The automatic car wash utilizes the “SoftTouch

Plus” system, which is a foam material that glosses, shines and polishes a vehicle’s exterior, providing a gentle yet complete wash. The system also features a high-pressure rinse, high-pressure rock panel and tire cleaner, high-pressure undercarriage wash, a multi-colored foamer and an enhanced presoak system.

The automatic car wash is safe for vehicles of all sizes and paint jobs, but everyone using the new facility uses it at their own discretion, says Aida Diaz-Carter, a business manager with DFMWR.

In addition to the automatic car wash, the facility also offers two self-wash bays, vacuums and air freshener spray machines.

Once fully operational, the car wash will be open 24 hours a day. Prices for services at the new car wash vary and are payable by cash, coins, and credit and debit cards.

For more on the car wash, call 255-9725.



PHOTO BY ERIN MURRAY

The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new car wash on post Friday at 11 a.m. next to the automotive skills center in Bldg. 1902.

PERSPECTIVE

Army leadership issues letter on hazing

By **John M. McHugh**
Secretary of the Army
Gen. Raymond T. Odierno
Army Chief of Staff
Sgt. Maj. of the Army
Raymond F. Chandler III

(Editor's note: Below is the text of a tri-signed letter from Army leadership on hazing.)

You should be aware of recent allegations of hazing within the ranks of our armed forces, and we want to take this opportunity to clearly address these troubling reports. We echo the

emphasis that Secretary of Defense (Leon) Panetta and Chairman (Gen. Martin) Dempsey have placed on this matter. Every Army professional has a personal obligation to prevent hazing and ensure that we treat all of our comrades in arms with dignity and respect.

Hazing is not compatible with Army Values. The very foundation of what we do depends on trust, and trust depends on the treatment of all Soldiers with dignity and respect by fellow Soldiers and leaders.

Without this, our profession is placed in jeopardy, our readiness suffers and our mission success is at risk.

Hazing, in any form, has no place in our Army and will not be tolerated. This applies at all levels to all active, Guard and Reserve Soldiers, civilians and contractors. This is not new. Hazing has been explicitly prohibited by Army Regulation 600-20 and the Uniform Code of Military Justice for many years. Individuals who participate in, allow or condone hazing may

be subject to disciplinary action that may include nonjudicial punishment or court-martial.

We recognize that leaders must enforce standards and exercise strong leadership and that this may include organizing team-building activities. This does not, however, allow for any activity that crosses the line and results in an abuse of power and deliberate humiliation.

Effective leaders must never participate in, allow or condone hazing. We expect every

member of the Army, military and civilian, to vigilantly guard against any form of hazing and to report any incident of hazing to the chain of command.

As stated by Secretary Panetta, this has a direct impact on force readiness. At this point in our nation's history, the stakes are simply too high for us to fail. Our professional values are one of the essential components that make us who we are - the best Army in the world and the Strength of the Nation.

Army Strong!

Simple tips for military Families to travel stress-free with pets

By **Navy Lt. Theresa Donnelly**
U.S. Pacific Command

(Family Matters' guest blogger Navy Lt. Theresa Donnelly, of U.S. Pacific Command, is the owner of Hawaii Military Pets, a one-stop resource on Hawaii military pet information. She's offered to share her pet-related knowledge in a series of blogs for Family Matters.)

Moves can be tough on military Families, especially if a spouse is deployed. It's hard enough to get the humans in the Family ready for a big move, let alone a Family pet.

"Growing up as an Army 'brat,' I moved every three years from state to state and to Europe and back twice," Kari Mendoza, owner of Island Pet Movers in Hawaii, told me. "We always had pets and our parents taught us that pets are part of the Family."

"I served four years in the Navy," she added, "and I can tell you it was hard to find an apartment off-base that would allow me to take my cat, but giving him up was never an option."

Fortunately, many resources are available to ensure your pet stays with your military Family and isn't surrendered to a shelter, or given away.

A first step is to go online and research the pet policies at your next duty station. A quick call to your sponsor, Family-service center or veterinarian at the next installation can help you better understand pet policies in housing, animal laws in that state or country, pet-friendly hotels and any transport requirements.

For example, many states and countries are considered "rabies-free," so you may have to start the process of preparing to



COURTESY PHOTO

ship your Family pet several months in advance.

Now that you have fully researched information such as applicable breed bans and base pet policies, consider calling local airlines to see if there are flight restrictions for your pet, including months when your pet is restricted from flight. For example, some dogs have respiratory issues due to the structure of their face, making breathing at sea-level difficult.

Because of these restrictions, many airlines impose a "pet embargo" on certain dog breeds between May 15 and Sept. 15, which means you will have to ship your pet outside of this time frame. A visit to the airline's pet transport Web page should give you information such as cabin temperature, weight requirements,

approved airline crates, and what stickers and labels should be on the carrier.

Since all pets are transported for hours, or even more than a day, in a crate, it's a must that all military pets are crate trained. It can take months to get an animal adjusted to the crate environment, and will be the best way to ensure the animal doesn't get stressed in transport.

Air Mobility Command offers space-available flight, commonly known as Space-A travel, for pets, but you may only take two pets (or up to three if they fit the cabin size restrictions) and a 14-day travel window is required. Space-A is a service that allows military members, their Families and service retirees fill seats on military air transport flights that otherwise would be left empty. Some

duty stations don't fly commercial airliners, so you can only book these flights to a destination that has these capabilities.

This checklist has all the detailed requirements: <http://www.amc.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120103-003.pdf>.

Are your certificates in order? Two are provided by military veterinarians. The first is a veterinary health certificate, DD 2209, which must be issued within 10 days of your departure. It's advisable to schedule the pet's flights a few days before yours so that if there is a last-minute issue, you are there to take the animal back.

The second documentation is a rabies vaccination certificate, DD 2208. The rabies certificate is issued at least 30 days prior to your departure, but in some states it can't be more than a year old. It's best to research the policies in the state or country to ensure the required documentation is in order.

When you reach your destination, or if your pet must be quarantined, you may be able to get some money reimbursed. Check with your personnel office to find out more about this opportunity. Finally, check with your tax-filing office to see if some of your pet-moving expenses can be written off when filing income taxes.

For more detailed information, visit Military OneSource. They have numerous checklists and samples of a military pet care plan. Another great resource is your military legal office, where you can include the Family pet in your will and power-of-attorney forms.

As with any other member of your Family, it's best to always be prepared for the unexpected when caring for your pet, a lifetime commitment.

Rotor Wash

“Do you prefer to do your taxes yourself or have them professionally done and why?”



Katherine Carver,
Army spouse

"I get them professionally done because my mother-in-law does them for us."



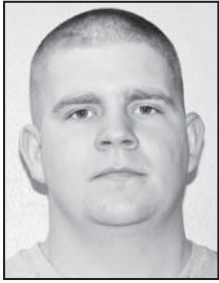
Jerry Cameron,
retired military

"I have mine done professionally because I'm a property owner."



Robert Mudrich,
retired military

"I get mine done professionally for free on post because they know what they're doing."



Pfc. Edward Yorgey,
TDY

"I do it myself online because it's quick and easy."



Samantha Rasper,
Army spouse

"We were going to get it professionally done, but we decided to do it ourselves because it's pretty simple and quick."

COMMAND

Maj. Gen. Anthony G.

Crutchfield

FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

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Army outlines challenges for Aviation Branch

By J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — In remarks before members of the Association of the U.S. Army, Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, stressed that while there’s no doubt Army Aviation continues to meet the needs of the nation today, significant challenges lie ahead for the Branch as it grows.

Kicking off the two-day AUSA Institute of Land Warfare’s 2012 Army Aviation Symposium and Exposition, Jan. 12, at National Harbor, Md., Crutchfield said Army Aviation faces four major hurdles as it moves toward 2030.

“One, we’re going from an Army at war to an Army that prepares to go to war,” he said. “Two, we as Army Aviators have to define what we need and not what we want, and three, resources are declining ... the days of commanders just asking for something and getting it are over, and four, I truly believe that the last 10 years of war are not the blueprints for the next war.”

While no one can predict where the next war will be, Crutchfield noted that the Army had flown more than 4.5 million hours in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and Aviation units had deployed at a higher rate than anyone else in the Army.

“The appetite for Army Aviation is huge and growing,” he said.

“Conflict in the world is not being reduced, and I don’t see a time where



PHOTO BY AIR FORCE TECH. SGT. MICHAEL R. HOLZWORTH

Staff Sgt. Hector Hoyas, an Aerial Delivery Field Service Department instructor from Fort Lee, Va., and Senior Airman Matthew Phillips, an airborne pavements and equipment operator, from the 820th Red Horse Squadron, turn away from the rotor wash as a Nevada Army National Guard 1st General Support Aviation Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment CH-47 Chinook helicopter takes off with a Humvee sling-load last year. For more photos like this, check out the 2011 Army Year in Photos at <http://www.army.mil/yearinphotos/2011/>.

we’ll use less Army Aviation in the future than we are today,” he said. “It’s going to continue to grow, especially when we look at our doctrine, such as wide area security. How else can you cover wide areas rapidly with reconnaissance, with attack, with sustainment? How else can you do it other than with Army Aviation?”

Looking to the future, Crutchfield said the first

draft of his Army Aviation 2030 vision paper had been reviewed by what he termed the “six-pack” of general officers in the Aviation Branch. He said he received great comments and expected to release the final vision paper and subsequent Aviation campaign plan at the national symposium, but shared several key points.

“We have seasoned, experienced active and

reserve-component Aviators today, with combat experience. We’ve got to sustain that with an Army that will not be at war like we are today,” Crutchfield said. “We must make sure we know what our future adversaries can exploit in our formations and in our equipment and we know the Army is changing as we speak and Army Aviation has to change with it because Army Aviation

doesn’t exist for its own worth, it exists to support the United States Army and the goals of the nation.”

Crutchfield also said the Army would need to continue to develop agile and adaptive leaders who can thrive in complex, uncertain environments, while continuing to develop, modernize and deliver what the force needs in equipping.

“We need to be aware of where the world is headed and we need to make that shift in all we do and all our processes and how we develop equipment and how we develop Soldiers,” he said. “We can’t fight Iraq and Afghanistan over and over again. The efforts that are going into our campaign plan, our vision paper, are going to rebuild, retrain and redesign for the future.”

DPS officials urge awareness to Fort Rucker drivers

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Directorate of Public Safety officials offer some driving safety tips as they urge Fort Rucker residents to take in certain considerations while driving on post.

DPS officials want Fort Rucker drivers to be aware while they are driving through the installation in for their own safety as well as that of others, according to Marcel J. Dumais, DPS Department of the Army Civilian Police chief.

Cellular telephone use while driving is a huge distraction to drivers and is prohibited on Fort Rucker, said Dumais.

“The policy on [Fort Rucker] states that the only way [a driver] can utilize his or her cellular phone while driving is to use a Bluetooth device or other hands-free method that doesn’t require [the driver] to manipulate the phone in order to answer the phone call,” said the police



chief.

If a call must be answered and the driver does not have a hands-free device, Dumais advises that the vehicle be pulled over safely into a parking lot or other safe area and park the vehicle before answering the phone.

“Don’t try to kill yourself or put others in danger trying to get off the side of the road to answer your call,” he said.

The penalty for driving while on the phone is \$55, which Du-

mais considers a “pretty expensive fine just to answer a phone call.”

Even with the recent posting of 42 signs that show no cell phone usage while driving, people continue to use their phones while driving on the installation, he said.

“It’s a bigger issue than just phones,” said Dumais. “It’s distracted driving. Distracted driving causes a lot of accidents and I see it every day.

“Anything that takes your focus off of your driving can and should wait until later.

“Speeding is another main issue we have here on [Fort Rucker], especially in the areas that the speed limit reduces from 45 mph,” said the police chief. “A lot of times drivers fail to reduce their speed as the speed limit drops.”

The speed limits on Fort Rucker have recently been increased in some areas, according to Dumais. The speed limit in the cantonment areas that

used to be 25 mph are now 30 mph.

Speeding fines for going over the speed limit by 10 mph is \$100 on Fort Rucker and can be avoided by obeying the posted speed limits, he said, adding, “the speed limits are posted that way for the safety of the drivers.

“The speed at which you drive affects your reaction time,” said Dumais. “If you’re going too fast then you’ve shrunk your reaction time considerably, which makes you more likely to be involved in a traffic accident.”

Other areas on Fort Rucker that are prone to traffic accidents, due to factors like speeding, are the parking lots of the commissary, the post-exchange and the shoppette.

“We’ve taken some steps to try and mitigate some of the traffic accidents in the parking lots,” said Dumais.

One of those steps was changing the way the parking spots face at the shoppette.

“It’s a lot harder to back out of a straight parking spot, so we’ve angled the parking spots so that it’s easier for drivers to pull out,” he said. “The commissary and the PX, however, still have some straight parking spots, so we still see a lot of traffic accidents there.

“Although the parking spots are a factor in some traffic accidents, another factor is inattentive driving,” said the police chief. “The commissary and PX parking lots are designed with standard size parking spaces like everywhere else, drivers just need to pay attention to details.

“Just be cognizant when driving through the installation, and pay attention and obey the posted signage,” said Dumais. “[Police officers] are not out there to be the ‘gotcha’ people on the road. Our motto is to assist, protect and defend, and we’re out there to make sure the roads are safe for the general public.”

Army releases 1st quarter accident statistics

By Margaret Banish-Donaldson
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Strategic Communication Directorate

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center recently compiled accident fatality data for the first quarter of fiscal 2012.

From Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 37 Soldiers were lost as the result of accidents: 26 off duty and 11 on duty. Overall, accidental fatalities increased 6 percent from the previous year’s first quarter.

Motor vehicle accidents, primarily in sedans and other passenger vehicles, remained the No. 1 cause of Soldier deaths during the quarter. However, fatal motorcycle accidents fell by half from the same timeframe in fiscal 2011, a year that ended with an 18 percent increase in deaths related to

riding. On-duty fatalities rose slightly during the quarter, due largely to a 25 percent increase in Aviation fatalities.

“Although we started the year with some challenges, the good news is our Soldiers and leaders are looking out for one another like never before,” said Brig. Gen. William T. Wolf, director of Army Safety and commander of the CRC/Safety Center. “Leaders engaging with Soldiers, and Soldiers engaging with their buddies, is key to driving accidents down and continuing our Army’s achievements in safety.”

Indiscipline is a top concern off duty: speed, nonuse of seat belts and alcohol were confirmed as contributing factors in several fatal motor vehicle accidents during the first quarter.

“A Soldier is a Soldier 24/7 — their obligations to the standard don’t end with the duty day,” Wolf said. “We

need our young leaders and Soldiers to apply their engaged, on-duty approach to off-duty activities. We challenge them to assess risks in everything they do. They owe it to themselves, their buddies, and their Families to step up, be leaders and take corrective action to save lives.”

The USACR/Safety Center recently released an updated series of risk assessment tools designed to help Soldiers identify risky behaviors in themselves and their buddies, both on and off duty. The Battle Buddy and Individual Risk Assessments complement the existing Leader’s Risk Assessment, and all three tools are available at <https://safety.army.mil/soldier-risk-assessments>. The cards feature a brief questionnaire to determine risk factors and a listing of resources to assist Soldiers seeking help with safety issues.

News Briefs

Black history celebration

The Fort Rucker Exchange and the post equal opportunity office host the Black History Month Kickoff Celebration Feb. 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the post exchange. The featured guest for the event is former Tuskegee Airman retired Col. Herbert Carter. The event will include food, contemporary dancing, singing, and more. For more, call 598-9423.

Retirement ceremony

Fort Rucker hosts its quarterly retirement ceremony Friday from 3-4 p.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. Everyone is welcome to attend and honor the post’s retirees. For more, call 255-2366.

CRC/Safety survey

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center seeks feedback on its website. People are welcome to take the 10-question survey at <http://bit.ly/zjkyo3>.

AER scholarships

Army Emergency Relief scholarship applications for the 2012-13 school year are available at <http://www.aerhq.org>. The deadline to submit the applications is April 2. AER scholarships are available for spouses and dependent children of active duty, retired and deceased Soldiers. For more, visit the website or call (866) 878-6378.

TRADOC: Army must reverse to focus on training

By Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — It's time for the Army to reverse gears after 10 years of war, said the service's leading proponent of training and doctrine.

Gen. Robert W. Cone, commander of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, spoke Jan. 12 about "shaping the Army of 2020." As keynote speaker at the Association of the U.S. Army's Aviation Symposium dinner, he explained the terms "expansibility" and "reversibility."

When the Army expanded to meet wartime needs in Iraq and Afghanistan, it mobilized TRADOC Soldiers and replaced them at the training centers with quality contractors and civilians, he said.

Now that the manpower needs in theater are beginning to drawdown, he said "reversibility" must prepare the Army for the next war through a focus on full-

spectrum training. "The Army has evolved to an understanding of counterinsurgency," Cone said, but "does not understand the high spectrum of operations."

Preparing for the next war simply by studying Iraq and Afghanistan would be a mistake, he said. The next conflict might be quite different.

Earlier in the day, Cone had been at a "Unified Quest" seminar in Potomac, Md. More than 90 warfighters, interagency experts and foreign officers were attending a three-day seminar to determine how the Army of 2020 should fight as part of a joint force.

It was the fourth Unified Quest seminar in six months as part of the Army chief of staff's challenge to identify issues and opportunities that will test the force of the future.

The Middle East will likely continue to be an "Army-centric theater of operations" for years to come, Cone said. However,

the administration is now placing more emphasis on the Pacific and Asian theaters, he added.

Emphasis in the Army needs to be on more than just deploying every other year, Cone said.

"We are an Army that values experience almost exclusively at this point," he said. Now there's a challenge to promote TRADOC assignments, fellowships and graduate school to round out leadership development, he added.

"My greatest fear is losing this great generation of warfighters that has done so much for us for the last 10 years," Cone said.

Training must be realistic, he said. Scenarios should not go back to fighting "Krasnovians" and fic-

tional forces, he said, and he advocated focusing on possible real-world adversaries. Brigades in the states can each be aligned with a real-world contingency, he suggested. There's a "whole sweep" of virtual training that units can do at home station, he said.

On the other hand, Cone said he doesn't expect leaders today to read the Army's entire inventory of 500 manuals. He said there's a push now to trim field manuals down to just 10 or 11 pages and put more information online. He termed this as part of a trend to "wiki-ize" doctrine.

"Manuals should be written by the guy with the hot-test hand coming back from Afghanistan," he said.

Euclid Quartet



The eclectic mixture of the quartet members represents four continents of the world, and inspires programs that celebrate the quartet's diverse international heritage. Jameson Cooper from the UK and Jacob Murphy from the USA play violin. Si-Yan Darren Li from China plays cello and Luis Vargas from Venezuela plays viola. The group combines new and challenging works with the established masterpieces to create varied and exciting programs. From Piazzolla and Hindson to Beethoven and Bartok. The quartet has won many prizes at major competitions around the world.

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It's also time to restore brigades to three maneuver battalions, Cone said. For some time, a number of brigade combat teams have been operating in theater with only two maneuver battalions. A recommendation is now before the Army secretariat to restore the three-battalion brigade,

Cone said.

More engineers should also be restored to the BCTs, Cone suggested. Less mature theaters will need more combat engineers, he emphasized. And everyone who has served in the last 10 years knows the value of Army Aviation, he added.

MLK: ‘He championed the cause of others’

Continued from Page A1

he said. “It beckons us to action — it calls us from an inactive status and invites us to enlist into active service.

“Dr. King was more than qualified to ask the question, but he needed no justification,” said Lewis. “His life justified him; he championed the cause of others, gave leadership to a movement, spoke to the masses delineating his philosophy of non-violent social change and spoke to the moral conscience of the nation. He did all this for the sake of others.

“In our present economical and social spiritual climate, we must move past our all-consuming preoccupation with, ‘me, myself and I,’ and we must give time and attention to him and to her — to them and to they,” he said. “We must rise to the broader concerns of all humanity.”

Col. James A. Muskopf, Fort Rucker garrison commander, also spoke of King’s teachings of selflessness.

“Today we celebrate a

man of action who put his life on the line for freedom and justice,” he said. “[King] braved the threats of jail and beatings, and ultimately paid the highest price to make democracy a reality for all Americans.”

Those that attended the celebration also heard musical selections from the first grade choir of Fort Rucker Primary School and saw performances by the Destiny Church Dothan praise dancers.

Muskopf thanked Lewis and presented him with a commemorative plaque as a show of appreciation for his service, and speaking at the celebration.

“As we remember King and celebrate his legacy,” said Muskopf, “we also recognize the change that he set in motion that continues to this day. Dr. King moved a nation, and we are a better, stronger and [a more free] America as a result.”

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305 Red Dirt 1:00 - 4:00

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102 JESSICA



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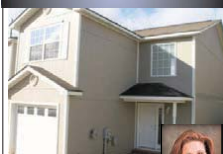
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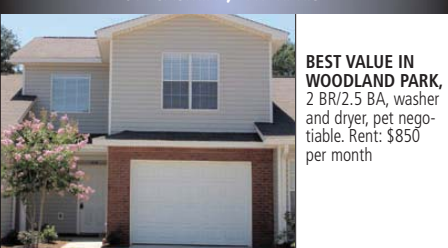
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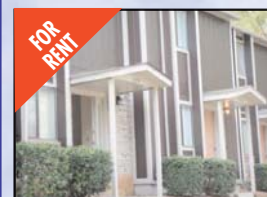
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JANUARY 19, 2012

Longbow Apache

6th Guard battalion transitions to AH-64D Apache Longbow

By Rachel Knight
Missouri National Guard

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. — The Missouri National Guard's 1-135th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion began the new year last week with a roll-out ceremony that officially transitioned the battalion to an AH-64D Apache Longbow unit.

The battalion, overseen by the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade in Sedalia, has a rich history as an Army Aviation Battalion within the Missouri National Guard. The battalion has flown the UH-1 "Huey" Iroquois, OH-58A/C Kiowa Warrior and the AH-1 Cobra.

In 1999, the battalion was designated as one of eight National Guard battalions to receive the AH-64A Apache. In 2002, the first AH-64A helicopter arrived at Whiteman AFB. In August 2009, the National

Guard Bureau designated the battalion as the sixth Army National Guard Longbow battalion and began fielding it with aircraft in October 2011.

"What a great day for the Attack Battalion and for the CAB as a whole," said Maj. Gen. Stephen L. Danner, adjutant general of the Missouri National Guard. He continued that he looks forward to a great long history with the Longbow aircraft in a great new building on a premiere Active Duty base.

Col. Shane Openshaw, U.S. Army Apache Program manager, said it was hard to believe that three years ago, this battalion had no plan, no money and no direction where it was going from the A Model Apaches.

"Team Apache is strong today, but it's getting stronger tomorrow," Openshaw

SEE LONGBOW, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY RACHEL M. KNIGHT

A new AH-64 Apache Longbow graces the hangar of the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.



PHOTO BY C. TODD LOPEZ

Lt. Col. Hilton Nunez, with Army G-2, talks with Steve Bond of Northrop Grumman about the Long Endurance Multi-Intelligence Vehicle, near a model of the LEMV, during the Association of the United States Army Aviation Symposium and Exposition just outside Washington, D.C., Thursday.

Aging Kiowa, vertical UAS among Army Aviation future challenges

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Probably by this summer, the Army will be floating a new idea past the troops for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

Not a program of record, but something the Army expects to test in Afghanistan this summer, the Long Endurance Multi-Intelligence Vehicle. It's a hybrid air vehicle — like a blimp — that can carry multiple intelligence, surveil-

lance and reconnaissance payloads for more than 21 days at altitudes greater than 22,000 feet.

While discussing efforts to resource and transform Army Aviation during the Association of the United States Army Aviation Symposium and Exposition just outside Washington, D.C., Thursday, Lt. Gen. Robert P. Lennox, deputy chief of staff, Army G-8, touched on the future of vertical take-off and landing unmanned aircraft systems.

The general said Army Aviation has a "good

path" for vertical UAS.

"We are using overseas contingency operations dollars and we are hustling systems to theater and we hope to learn from that," Lennox explained.

The LEMV, developed by Northrop Grumman, "has got some real promise," the general said. "We will see the value of the persistent stare that that gives us."

Other vertical take-off and landing capabilities

SEE CHALLENGES, PAGE B4

Army 1 step closer to replacement of ACU pattern

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army is now one step closer to selecting a new set of camouflage patterns that could replace what Soldiers are wearing now in most places.

As part of the "Phase IV" camouflage effort, the Army this week awarded contracts to five vendors — selected from an initial 20 — to each provide enough fabric in the new camouflage patterns they have developed to produce 150 uniforms for the Army to test.

Each vendor had been asked to produce a "family of camouflage patterns," including one that would be suitable in a woodland environment, one that would be suitable in a desert environment, and one that would



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

A Soldier wearing the Operation Enduring Freedom Camouflage Pattern uses an M14 Enhanced Battle Rifle. The OCP pattern was developed to help Soldiers blend in, better in Afghanistan. Now, the Army is developing a new set of uniform patterns for all Soldiers, as part of the Phase IV camouflage effort.

work in a "transitional" environment.

The Army will spend the next nine months testing the effec-

tiveness of those patterns.

"To really have confidence in being able to make a recommendation to senior leaders, we

need to do field trials," said Col. William Cole, of Program Executive Office Soldier. "We are looking forward to getting out into the woods, into the deserts, into the transitional areas and having real Soldiers wear these uniforms and have real Soldiers observe them."

Cole said the Army will use both real-world testing in varying terrains and conditions, as well as more advanced computer testing to evaluate the patterns.

"We're going to put them through the ringer," he said.

Due to the varying types of terrain Soldiers operate in, Cole said the Army had found that "we can't really have one pattern that is as effective as we'd like in every single terrain

SEE ACU, PAGE B4

Night Stalkers receive Flying Cross

By Maj. Mike Burns
160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment Public Affairs Office

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — Several members of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) were recently presented the Distinguished Flying Cross in a small ceremony at Fort Campbell, highlighting the expertise and skill of the Aviators within the Regiment.

Brig. Gen. Kevin Mangum, commander of the U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command and former 160th SOAR (A) commander, presented the valorous awards to eight Night Stalkers while their Family members looked on.

"I am honored to be in the company of heroes," said Mangum. "Each of these men showed courage in the face of danger to protect the Soldiers on the ground."

"Fear is a reaction," he continued, "but courage is a decision."

The Distinguished Flying Cross, awarded for heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight, was presented to:

- Capt. Michael Hilquest
- CW5 Stephen Combs
- CW5 Dino Sorter
- CW4 Gregory Cooper
- CW4 Andy Fisher
- CW4 William Rucker
- CW4 John Williams
- CW3 Sidney Sprabary

The Distinguished Flying Cross was also awarded to CW4 Ryan Glathar, who could not be present.

Lt. Col Mike Hertzendorf, 1st Battalion, 160th SOAR (A) commander, described the extraordinary circumstances of the two separate missions in which the awards were earned.

Both occasions required the aircrews to execute very complex missions on short planning timelines in extremely challenging urbanized terrain. With complete disregard for their own safety, they each provided precise rotary wing support to the troops on the ground despite a determined and persistent enemy.

"The unique thing about the Distinguished Flying Cross is that it requires heroism," Hertzendorf remarked proudly. "The voluntary risk

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EDITORIAL WRITING

Reporter

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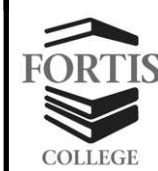
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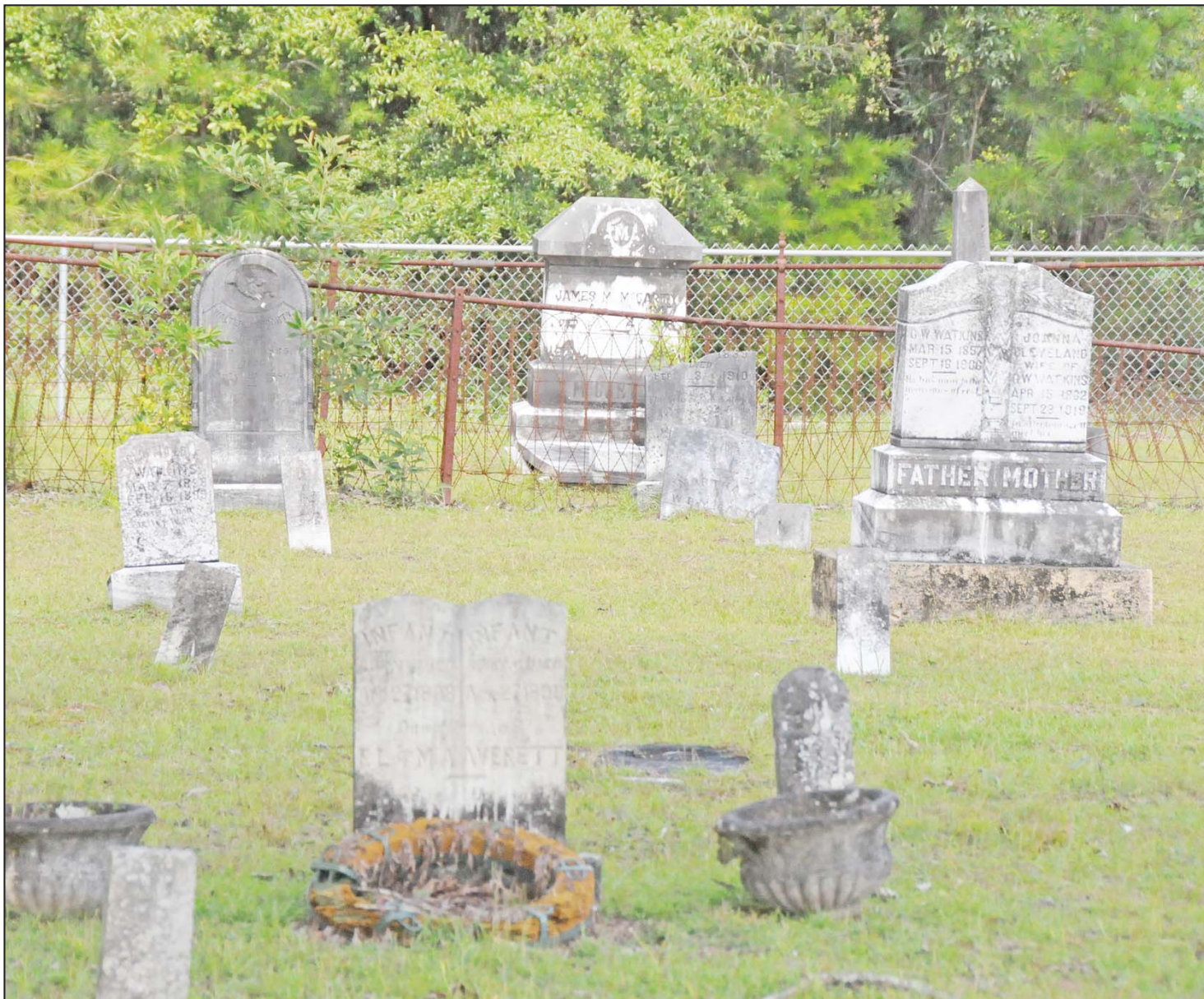
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ARMY FLIER FILE PHOTO

Averett Family Cemetery is located next to Lowe Army Heliport on Fort Rucker. The cemetery is the oldest of the four located on the installation.

Preserving history

Cemeteries link post to pre-Civil War history

From Staff Reports
Army Flier Staff

Before Fort Rucker became an Army Aviation training post, it was home to small pre-Civil War farms and plantations.

Part of that history is linked to four cemeteries located within the post's boundaries. The cemeteries are reminiscent of the early pioneer settlers who moved into Southeast Alabama.

According to local Historian Val McGee's book, "The Origins of Fort Rucker," these Families began moving into Alabama's lower Southeast corner more than 200 years ago.

McGee indicates that in the years leading up to the Civil War, wealthy farmers built two large plantations in a community named Westville, located about two miles west of what is now Lake Tholocco.

These farmers were known as Cincinnatus D. Crittenden, of Shellman, Ga., and Isaac Ardis, of Pike County. In addition to these two wealthy Families, others moved to and staked claims on smaller areas of land.

These farmers brought only needed assets such as animals and farm equipment. The descendants of these early settlers, who made their living off the land, are said to be buried in these four cemeteries.

The cemeteries are owned and maintained by the government, according to Tim Edwards, a curator at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. However, local churches volunteer to clean and beautify the cemeteries. All are fenced and have easy access with the exception of Clayhill Cemetery,

which is located near a Fort Rucker training area.

Beulah Cemetery

Beulah Cemetery is located in the area where the Old Beulah Primitive Baptist Church was established in the mid-19th century along what is now known as Andrews Avenue, about 0.3 miles inside the Ozark Gate.

According to a survey conducted Nov. 25, 2002, by Dale County Genealogical/Historical Society, there are 56 unidentified graves and more than 90 marked graves.

The earliest noted marker is dated Oct. 11, 1870, and the most recent June 30, 2000. There are several headstones that also have veteran markers alongside them from the Civil War, World War I and World War II eras. The Beulah Church originally established the cemetery for its members and their Families.

Byrd Family Cemetery

Byrd Family Cemetery is located north of Lake Tholocco's West Beach. This is the smallest of the four cemeteries.

According to another DCGHS survey conducted Dec. 6, 2002, the Byrd Family Cemetery is one of the three cemeteries that remained from several existing before the federal government acquired the land between 1935 and 1942. Historical records indicate that the first Byrd Family that moved into this area was a young couple named Bright and Gracey Byrd. The cemetery's earliest marker is that of John C. Byrd, a third-generation grandson of the young couple. He died

June 21, 1871.

Clayhill Cemetery

Clayhill Cemetery is located about 0.8 miles south of Highway 27. The entrance is blocked with a locked gate and fence due to being located near a range training area. Edwards said Clayhill is the resting place of Crittenden, Ardis and various others.

The cemetery was built adjacent to Clayhill Church by emancipated slaves around 1865, he added. The exact number of graves has not been determined due to cement discs and river rocks being placed as grave markers, but researchers have estimated there are more than 100 burial sites.

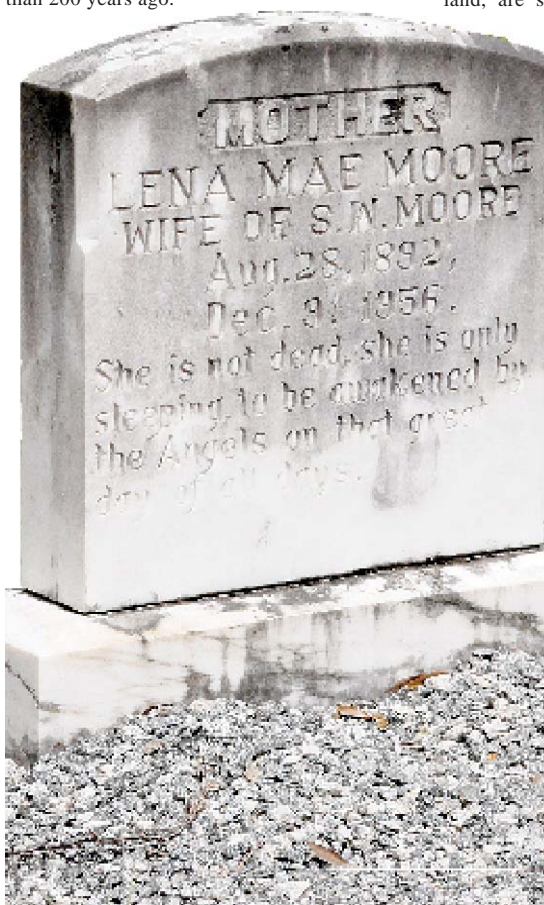
Averett Family Cemetery

Averett Family Cemetery is enclosed in a chain link fence and located at the south end of Lowe Army Airfield. This cemetery is the oldest of the four cemeteries with its earliest marker dating back to 1854.

According to an article by Meredith Keller that appeared in the Feb. 13, 1975, issue of the *Army Flier*, the homestead farm was established in 1843 by Philip McCarty and his Family. Two of the McCarty's daughters married Annias and Marion Averett, which Keller said created a bond between the two pioneer Families. This cemetery has been used by both Families' descendants.

People wishing to visit Clayhill Cemetery must obtain permission from the Public Affairs Office.

For more information, call 255-2474.



ON POST

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

February EDGE!

People are encouraged to sign-up now for the February after school EDGE! programs. EDGE! is open to youth ages 6-18. A variety of activities ranging from art, fitness, life skills, and adventure are available from 4-6 p.m. during weekdays. Cost for ages 6-10 is \$5 per hour and programs are free for ages 11-18. People can pick up and drop off children at Fort Rucker Youth Center. A valid child, youth and schools services registration is required for participation. Enrollment for all EDGE! activities is at parent central services in Bldg. 5700, the Soldier Service Center, Rm. 130 or online at webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/ruckercyms.html.

For more about EDGE! programs, call 255-0666 or 379-1363.

Home Buying and Selling Workshop

Army Community Service's Financial Readiness Program hosts a Home Buying and Selling Workshop Tuesday and Jan. 26 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Commons, Bldg. 8950, on 7th Avenue. Topics include: mortgage issues, understanding charges, buyer's or seller's market, and if people should hire an agent or do it themselves. People need to register today to attend. The workshop is free and open to servicemembers, Family members, Army civilians and retirees.

For more information or to register, call 255-9639.

Character Dining

The Landing Zone hosts Character Dining with a balloon artist from 5-8 p.m. Tuesday.

For more, call 598-8025.

Ladies Night with DJ Dave

The Landing Zone hosts Ladies Night with DJ Dave from 8 p.m. to midnight Jan. 20.

For more, call 598-8025.

Newcomer's Welcome

Army Community Service offers its Newcomers Welcome every third Friday of the month from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at The Landing, with the next event taking place Friday. Active duty, foreign students, Army civilians, and Family members are all welcome to attend the informative event to learn about Fort Rucker. A free light breakfast and Starbucks coffee will be served. For free childcare, register children at the child development center by calling 255-3564. Reservations must be made 24 hours prior to the event.

For more, call 255-3161 or 2887.

Comedy Live at Rucker

Comedy Live at Rucker will feature comedians Richie Holliday and Colin Moulton Friday. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and the comedy show will last from 8-9:45 p.m. The show is considered adult rated and



PHOTO BY RUSSELL SELLERS

You say it's your birthday?

Members of the Fort Rucker community enjoy the festivities of the grand opening of Mother Rucker's last year. Mother Rucker's turns one year old Tuesday and the staff is throwing a party from 4-6 p.m. The party will feature free cake and burgers while supplies last. For more, call 503-0396.

is for ages 18 and older. Advanced tickets are \$10 and are available at The Landing Zone until 4 p.m. Friday. Tickets are \$15 at the door. People attending the comedy show are invited to hear the disc jockey in The Landing Zone after the show. The event is open to the public.

For more, call 255-9810.

CYSS Parent Advisory Council meeting

Fort Rucker Child, Youth and Schools Services will hold a Parent Advisory Council meeting from noon to 1 p.m. Monday at the youth center on 7th Division Road. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information on items of interest and ideas about CYSS programs.

For more, call 255-2958.

Get R.E.A.L.

Army Community Service hosts Get R.E.A.L., Rucker Experience, Army Learning, an Army Family Team Building concept block designed to help those who might be confused by Army life, Jan. 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Commons. The class discusses terms and acronyms and provides information on Fort Rucker. Topics include: acronyms, Army customs and courtesies, military ranks, community resources and more. Advanced registration is required. For registration and childcare information, call 255-2382.

Stress Management Workshop

Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program hosts a Stress Management Workshop Jan. 31 from 9-11 a.m. at the Early Childhood Activity Center in Bldg. 3705

on Dean Street. Topics include: identifying causes of stress, symptoms of stress, techniques on how to manage stress and developing a stress management plan. Registration is required. This workshop is open to active duty, retired military, government employees and their Family members.

For child care information and registration, call 255-3898 or 9641.

Promotion Points Parent Support Program

Army community Service's Promotion Points is holding a new Parent Support Program Feb. 3 from 9-11am at the Early Childhood Activity Center, Bldg. 3705 on Dean St. These monthly parenting education classes are designed for Soldiers and will be held the first Friday of every month.

For more information and to register, call 255-3898.

BOSS Super Bowl party

Fort Rucker's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosts a Super Bowl party Feb. 5 beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Bldg 8350. Last year, more than 60 Soldiers attended. This year the party will feature pizza being served during half time and all Soldiers who attend are encouraged to bring some sort of party food – cips, dip, salsa, cookies, etc. – and soda and sweet tea will be provided. BOSS will provide a designated driver for those who consume alcohol during the event, but people are reminded to drink responsibly. The game will be shown on a big screen and video games will be available on the other televisions.

People are welcome to make additional suggestions about the party. For more, call 255-2677.

DFMWR Spotlight

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

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TICKETS ARE \$4.50 FOR ADULTS AND \$2.25 FOR CHILDREN, 12 AND UNDER. MILITARY I.D. CARD HOLDERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE WELCOME. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 255-2408.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pick-of-the-litter

Meet Sheila, a nice quiet kitten who has already been de-clawed available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility. It costs \$30 to adopt Sheila. For more information on animal adoptions, call the stray facility at 255-0766, open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. 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 veterinary clinic or the commissary. 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.

Earned Income Tax Credit may put money in people's pockets

By **Tod W. Clayton**
Fort Rucker OSJA

Some people could be eligible to get more money back from the Internal Revenue Service – as much as \$5,751.

People who earned less than \$49,078 from wages, self-employment or farming last year may qualify for a refundable tax credit called the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC. But people must file a federal income tax return claiming the credit to get it.

EITC can be a big financial boost for working people in a recovering economy. Millions of workers who saw their earnings drop in 2011 may qualify for the first time.

The credit has been making the lives of workers a little easier for more than 37 years. Yet it remains little known, possibly because people move into and out of eligibility as their financial, marital and parental statuses change. The IRS estimates four of five eligible workers claim and get their EITC.

Unlike other tax credits, both EITC eligibility and the amount of tax credit people are eligible for is based on several factors. These include, the amount of their income, or combined incomes if married, whether they have qualifying children and how many. Workers without children also may qualify.

Filing status and income limits determine the amount of the credit. People may qualify for EITC even if they had no federal tax withheld or are not otherwise required to file.

The credit is complex, but worth exploring. It's even more valuable if people's states have a corresponding EITC tax credit.

The online EITC Assistant at www.irs.gov/eitc can help determine people's eligibility and estimate the amount of their credit.

Also, the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate Client Services' Tax Assistance Center offers Fort Rucker people free help preparing their returns.

People who are eligible need to remember they must file a federal income tax return, even if they are not otherwise required to file, and they must specifically claim the credit to get it. Find more information about EITC at www.irs.gov.

According to the IRS, rural and non-traditional Families — such as grandparents raising grandchildren — childless workers, and non-English speaking taxpayers are among those who most frequently overlook the credit.

For more information, visit the Tax Assistance Center, located in the Soldier Service Center, Rm. 371F, or call 255-2937 or 2938.

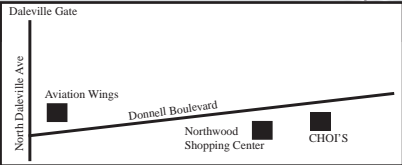
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Alabama Tourism celebrates ‘Year of Alabama Food’

Alabama Bureau of Tourism Press Release

MONTGOMERY — The Alabama Tourism Department will kick off its 2012 campaign, The Year of Alabama Food, Jan. 27 during the Food-BlogSouth event in Birmingham. The event is a conference for food writers, bloggers and photographers.

The tourism campaign will focus on award-winning chefs, farm-to-table, fresh gulf seafood and popular foods grown or made in Alabama. Some of the local food includes Belle Chevre Cheese from Elkmont, Conecuh sausage, Slocomb tomatoes and Dothan peanuts. This is the second food campaign by the tourism department, the first was in 2005 and received the award for best state tourism marketing campaign by the National Council of State Tourism Directors.

As part of the year of food, the tourism department will hold a statewide “Restaurant Week” Aug. 17-26 during which locally owned and operated restaurants will be able to showcase their dishes by offering meals at a discount.

Tourism will also promote nearly 400 food festivals across the state and will create a new Barbecue Trail, in addition to an updated “100 Dishes to Eat in Alabama Before You Die” brochure.

“Food is popular with everyone and it has been one of our most successful campaigns. It was time to bring it back, but this time we want to highlight local food and our great chefs,” said tourism director Lee Sentell.

“We have several new things planned for 2012 that we feel will showcase the best in food that Alabama has to offer.”

Discover festivals in the Alabama calendar of events

Visitors wishing to discover the local flavor of Sweet Home Alabama are invited to enjoy any of the more than 375 annual food festivals and events hosted by cities and towns across the state. Moon pies and mayhem set the stage for Mobile’s Mardi Gras celebration in February. Moulton celebrates the state’s agricultural heritage during the Chicken and Egg Festival in April. A smorgasbord of Southern goodness awaits visitors during the Slocomb Tomato Festival in June and the Russellville Watermelon Festival in August.

In September, Pinson hosts the Butterbean Festival and Tuskegee pays homage to scientist George Washing-

ton Carver during the Carver Sweet Potato Festival in October. The Break’N Bread/ Birmingham Food & Wine Festival is at Pepper Place Railroad Park in October. The National Shrimp Festival is held each October on the white sand beaches of Gulf Shores, and a barbecue competition highlights the Christmas on the River celebration in Demopolis in December.

A complete list of 2012 food festivals and other events can be found online by visiting www.alabama.travel. They will also be featured in the printed 2012 Alabama Calendar of Events available at the state’s eight welcome centers.

Celebrate Alabama chefs and award-winning restaurants

Travelers can discover the best in fine dining and country cooking restaurants in the South when they visit Chef Frank Stitt’s Highlands Bar and Grill and Chris and Idie Hastings’ Hot and Hot Fish Club in Birmingham, Martin’s Restaurant in Montgomery, Arricia Italian Trattoria & Bar in Auburn, and True in Mobile, which is owned and operated by renowned Chef Wesley True. Learn how Lucy Buffett, owner of Lulu’s in Gulf Shores, and other restaurateurs around the state are

bringing the farm to the table to enhance your dining experience.

The popular “100 Dishes to Eat in Alabama Before You Die” brochure is being updated to include fresh menu selections and great local culinary destinations not previously featured.

“We are excited about spotlighting lesser-known restaurants while continuing to showcase Southern classics, such as The Bright Star in Bessemer, named an American Classic by the James Beard Award Foundation,” said Sentell.

Tourism will also create a new BBQ Trail brochure that will list restaurants, joints and local chains. Some of the featured barbecue will include Big Bob Gibson’s in Decatur, SAW’s in Homewood, Full Moon, Jim N Nick’s and icons like Dreamland in Tuscaloosa and Golden Rule in Birmingham.

Visit local farmers markets, wineries

In addition to enjoying exciting food festivals and discovering great places to dine, Alabamians and visitors alike are encouraged to get off the interstates and major thoroughfares for a visit to local farms, farmers markets, and

wineries. Visit any one of 135 state farmers markets and roadside stands. Sample the goat cheese crafted by Belle Chevre in Elkmont. Enjoy jellies and jams, produced by the folks in Alabama’s Black Belt and sold through places like Black Belt Treasures in Camden.

Discover the Alabama Wine Trail, featuring more than a dozen farm wineries, and explore culinary destinations such as Butlers Mill Restaurant in Graham and Rikard Mill near Monroeville, where you can watch cane syrup being made the old-fashioned way.

To learn more about Alabama culinary destinations, visit www.alabama.travel to request free copies of the Alabama Vacation Guide and “100 Dishes to Eat in Alabama Before You Die” brochure.

The logo for the 2012 food-themed campaign, a tasty green tomato on a spoon, will be featured in print and television ads throughout the year and a dedicated website, www.yearofalabamafood.com, will launch in mid-January to showcase the local flavor that is uniquely Alabama.

For more information about the Year of Alabama Food visit www.yearofalabamafood.com.

WIREGRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

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

DALEVILLE

ONGOING — Daleville Chamber of Commerce meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce office in the Daleville Cultural and Convention Center. For more information, call 598-6331.

DOTHAN

FEB. 18 — The Southeast Alabama Community Foundation hosts its annual half marathon at Flowers Hospital. SACF’s half-marathon raises funds for grants given to organizations that provide services to Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry and Houston counties.

For more information, visit www.sacf-halfmarathon.org.

ONGOING — The Wiregrass Museum of Art hosts First Saturday Family Day the first Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m.

Children and parents will learn about color, shape, texture and different types of art such as painting, drawing and collage. The event is recommended for elementary aged children.

For more information, visit wiregrass-museum.com or call 794-3871.

ENTERPRISE

FEB. 7 — The Enterprise Public Library and Wiregrass Decorative Painters host a series of six beginner decorative painting classes beginning Feb. 7 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the library, located downtown on Grubbs Street.

Ten spaces are available. A video projection system is used so all students may see the teacher demonstrate clearly. Several chapter members provide individual assistance. Pre-registration is required and is now open at the library until Feb. 1.

The library’s registration fee of \$5 is required in cash. Course registration is \$40, which includes a starter kit, and is payable by check to Wiregrass Decorative Painters also payable at the library and due at the

time of the first lesson.

For more information, call 389-1096 or visit www.wiregrassdecorativepainters.org.

GENEVA

ONGOING — The Geneva County Relay for Life meets the last Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Citizens Bank.

For more information, call 248-4495.

MIDLAND CITY

ONGOING — Residents are invited to Town Hall meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 1385 Hinton Waters Ave.

For more information, call 983-3511.

NEW BROCKTON

ONGOING — Adult education classes are offered in Rm. 12 at New Brockton High School, 210 South Tyler St., Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m. All classes are free for individuals 16 years old or older who are not enrolled in public school.

Individuals must take an assessment test prior to attending class. Call 894-2350 for more information.

OZARK

FEB. 16-18 — The Ann Rudd Art Center hosts a stained glass class from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. taught by John Hogarth. The fee for the class is \$175.

For more information, call 774-7322.

PINCKARD

ONGOING — The public is invited to the Cross Country Workshop every Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Pinckard United Methodist Church.

For more information, call 983-3064.

SAMSON

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

TROY

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

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

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

Beyond Briefs

Camellia Show

The Mobile Camellia club will host the 72nd annual Mobile Camellia Show Saturday and Sunday at the Colonial Mall. Camellia enthusiasts can view blooms of hundreds of old cultivars and many new cultivars and receive information about planting and growing camellias. For more information, call (251)988-1405 or visit www.mobilecamellia.org.

Alabama Horse Fair

The Montgomery Alabama Horse Council Horse Fair will be held Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Garrett Coliseum. In addition to the horse show, there will be vendors, lectures, a silent auction and more. For more information, call (800) 945-8033 or visit www.alabamahorsecouncil.org.

Pike Piddlers Storytelling Festival

The Brundidge Historical Society will host the annual Pike Piddlers Storytelling Festival Jan. 28-29, featuring storytellers from around the country. Events on Jan. 27 will be hosted at the We Piddle Around Theater in Brundidge with an admission of \$25. On Jan. 28 concerts will be held at the Trojan Center Theater at Troy University at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. with \$10 admission and 6:30 p.m. with \$15 admission.

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

Birmingham Feline Fanciers Cat Show

The Birmingham Feline Fanciers will host a CFA All-breed Cat Show Jan 28-29 at Zamora Temple, 3521 Ratliff Road, Irondale. Breeds from around the country will

compete for titles as well as regional and national points.

There will also be feline art show, vendors, cats and kittens available for adoption.

For more information, call (205) 616-1651 or visit www.birminghamfelinefanciers.com.

Mobile Chocolate Festival

The Mobile Chocolate Festival will be held at the Mobile Civic Center Expo Hall Feb. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All proceeds benefit Penelope House, which provides emergency shelter and services to victims of domestic violence.

There will be vendors offering samples of their chocolate-related products as well as selling their products and gift certificates. There will also be a children’s area, chocolate challenge, and a chocolate-themed Project Yum Way fashion show, chocolate martini tasting and a chocolate milk mustache booth and more.

Admission is free for children under 13, \$2 for seniors 65 and above and \$3 for general admission.

For more information, call (251) 342-2809 or visit www.mobilechocolatefestival.com.

Crater Days

Each year the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission and City of Wetumpka sponsors Crater Days at the Wetumpka Impact Crater site. Visitors can tour the 5-mile wide crater and attend lectures and events.

For hours and more information, call 567-5147 or go to visitemmoreco.com.

Prattville Mardi Gras

The City of Prattville’s eighth annual Family-fun Mardi Gras parade will be Feb. 4 at 3 p.m. at the Autauga County Courthouse.

There will also be vendors and a children’s fun zone. For more information, visit www.prattvilleal.gov or call (334) 358-0297.

Mardi Gras for Dogs

The Haven animal shelter in Fairhope will host a Mardi Gras parade for dogs Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Downton Animal Clinic.

To register or find out more, visit www.havenfor-animals.org or call (251) 929-3980.

ArchiTreats Lecture

The Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery hosts ArchiTreats lectures on the third Thursday each month.

The next lecture will be held Feb. 16 from noon to 1 p.m. and is entitled Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts of Women in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee.

For more information, call 353-4726 or visit www.archives.alabama.gov.

Mud Mania

Mud Mania, a mud-drenched outdoor obstacle adventure race, opens March 31 in Auburn.

The facility is set in the backwoods of rural Auburn on Southern Springs Equine. It is a bootcamp style 5K run embedded with more than 20 obstacles.

Mud Mania is a timed event. Races are divided into heats that start every 30 minutes throughout the day.

There will be up to 300 participants in each heat. Registration ends Feb. 29.

For more information or to register, visit www.mud-mania.com.

Medical colleges pledge to care for troops, Families

By Lisa Daniel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — First Lady Michelle Obama announced Jan. 11 a commitment from the nation’s medical colleges to better train civilian health-care providers in caring for war veterans and their Families and to push for more research in the wounds of war.

Obama’s announcement at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond marked the latest endeavor of her “Joining Forces” campaign with Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, to rally nationwide support for military Families.

The first lady announced that the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, with 105 and 25 schools, respectively, have committed to leveraging their missions in education, research and clinical care “to meet the unique health-care needs” of the military and veterans communities.

“Today the nation’s medical colleges are committing to create a new generation of doctors, medical schools and research facilities to make sure our heroes receive the care worthy of their military service,” she said.

As part of the initiative, the associations pledged to:

- Train their medical students as well as their current physicians, faculty and staff to better diagnose and treat veterans and military Families;
- Develop new research and clinical trials on traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder;
- Share their information and best practices with each other through a collaborative Web forum; and

- Coordinate with the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

Many of the medical colleges already are making strides, Obama said, including VCU’s project to ease veterans’ transition from war to home, the University of South Florida’s first-of-its-kind Center for Veterans Reintegration and the University of Pittsburgh’s creation of an imaging tool to see the wiring of the brain in vivid high-definition.

The idea behind Joining Forces is very simple, Obama said.

“In a time of war, when our troops and their Families are sacrificing so much, we all should be doing everything we can to serve them as well as they are serving this country,” she added. “It’s an obligation that extends to every single American. And, it’s an obligation that does not end when a war ends and troops return home. In many ways, that’s when it begins.”

The first lady said she became aware of this when she and President Barack Obama welcomed home the final troops from Iraq last month.

“I couldn’t shake the feeling that even though we were marking the end of the war, this was not an ending for them. For our troops, the end of war marks the beginning of a very long period of transition,” she said.

Sometimes the transitions from war to home “bring the hardest moments our troops and their Families will ever face,” she added.

Obama said she wanted to emphasize that most war veterans return home with no mental health issues at all. But for many, she added, “the emotional wounds come flooding back,” leading to sleepless nights, rage, substance abuse and subsequent Family problems.

An estimated one in six Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans return home with post-traumatic stress or depression, and at least 4,000 have had at least a moderate-grade brain injury, the first lady said, noting that many don’t seek help because of a perceived stigma.

“I want to be very clear today: these mental health challenges are not a sign of weak-

ness,” she said. “They should never again be a source of shame. They are a natural reaction to the challenges of war, and it has been that way throughout the ages.”

Half of post-9/11 veterans seek help outside DOD and VA, and many of them are not connected to a base, Obama said. “We have to meet our veterans where they live,” she added.

Obama also had a message for servicemembers.

“No matter where you are, no matter what you are going through, please know America will be there for you and your Family,” she said.

Asking for support is a sign of strength that will help not just those in the military, but for all Americans struggling with mental health problems, the first lady said.

Jerome Strauss, dean of the VCU School of Medicine, recalled being in medical school during the Vietnam War 40 years ago and getting no formal training in how to treat returning veterans.

“I remember the uncertainty and anxiety of caring for these patients whose lives were changed by their war experiences,” he said.

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JANUARY 19, 2012



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PF AU

Johnathan Mills, civilian, and Josh Kolanusz, civilian, square-off for the puck while playing roller hockey at Bldg. 6029 on Fort Rucker Saturday.

Soldier brings roller hockey to Fort Rucker



Scott Duncan, civilian contractor and acting goalie, defends the goal while the players warm up and try to score against him while playing roller hockey at Bldg. 6029 on Fort Rucker Saturday.

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Hockey enthusiasts from as far as Panama City came to Fort Rucker Saturday in an effort to start an active, weekly gathering to play roller hockey.

Sgt. 1st Class Tim Waychoff, C Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment, wanted to start the weekly games as a result of the lack of opportunity to play roller hockey.

“This is my third time stationed here at Fort Rucker and each of the previous times I’ve been here there was a functioning league in Dothan,” said Waychoff.

The league in Dothan had been shut down in Waychoff’s absence, which prompted the need to start one of his own, he said.

“When I came back, some of the people here that I used to play with contacted me and let me know that they were driving to Panama City every week in order to play,” said the NCO. “They asked me if there was any place on Fort Rucker that we could possibly play and I knew of none, so I decided that we should find a place.

“It was really just a matter of finding a building or area that we could play and getting permission to use that facility,” said Waychoff. “We saw that [Bldg. 6029] seemed like it wasn’t in use and the floors seemed good enough to play on, so we found out who owned it and got the permission to meet and play here.”

“The turnout today has been pretty great,” said Scott

Duncan, civilian contractor and goalie. “We are hoping to get some more recognition and double our numbers.

“We also want to try and get a lot of youth involved to come play and maybe meet a couple more days a week — one day for adults only, and another for everyone,” he said.

Anyone is welcome to play the pick-up roller hockey games, according to Waychoff.

“If they can get on Fort Rucker, they are more than welcome to come play with us,” he said. “We’ve got guys coming up from Panama City, some Navy folks, contractors and some local friends that we play with. It’s really for anybody that wants to come play.

“Ultimately we want [the participation] to get much bigger and get some team games going,” said Waychoff, “but for now we’re just happy to get out here and have some place to play again.”

The players are meeting every Saturday at 9 a.m. at Bldg. 6029 next to the Lemon Lot. Those that wish to participate are encouraged to bring extra hockey gear and equipment to get more involvement from those that might not have the gear to play.

“We’ve got the goals and scoreboard,” said Waychoff, “but we could always use more equipment, and all of the players must wear helmets in order to play.”

“The camaraderie on a hockey team is unlike anything else I’ve experienced,” said Duncan. “It’s a really tight-knit family.”

For more information, call (630) 870-9264 or email tim.waychoff@us.army.mil.

PIGSKIN PICKS



Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs



Master Sgt. Jimmy Lindsey
DPTMS NCOIC



Erin Murray
Army Flier Staff Writer



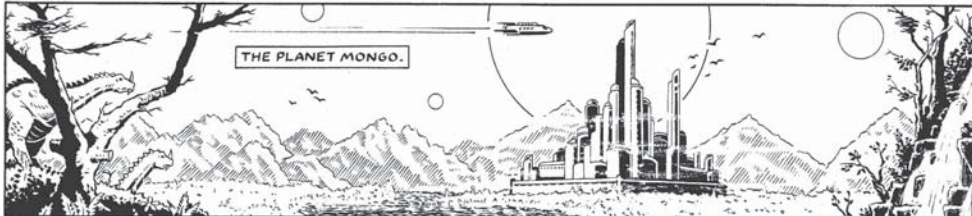
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<i>Ravens</i> @ <i>New England</i>					
<i>Giants</i> @ <i>San Francisco</i>					
<i>Record</i>	73-40	69-44	73-40	77-26	74-39

DOWN TIME



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

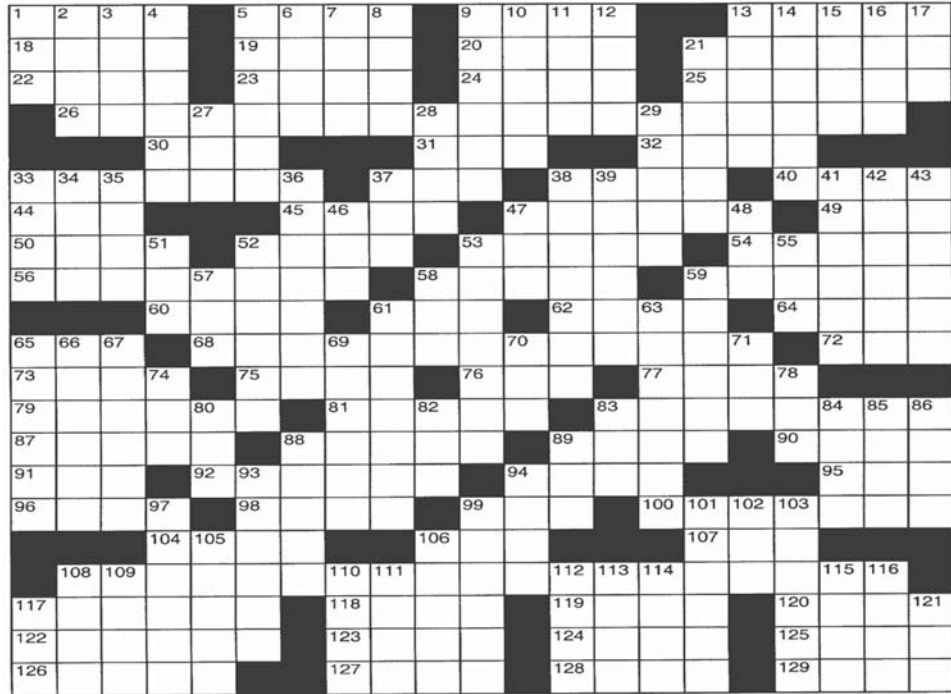
T R I V I A

1. SPACE: What did the Apollo 11 mission accomplish?
2. MOVIES: What literary character is featured in the movies "Casino Royale" and "Live and Let Die"?
3. HISTORY: In what year was the Magna Carta signed?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president instituted the Good Neighbor policy toward Latin America?
5. PSYCHOLOGY: What abnormal fear is represented by "odontophobia"?
6. TELEVISION: Who played the part of Trapper John McIntyre on "M*A*S*H"?
7. LITERATURE: What was the original title of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "This Side of Paradise"?
8. ENTERTAINERS: How old was actress/singer Marilyn Monroe when she died?
9. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is the Mountain State?
10. FAMOUS QUOTES: What 20th-century leader once said, "Satisfaction lies in the effort, not in the attainment, full effort is full victory"?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword CLONES

- ACROSS**
- 1 News bit
 - 5 Billboard
 - 9 Request an encore
 - 13 Flying Pan?
 - 18 Praise passionately
 - 19 Singer Guthrie
 - 20 Top-notch
 - 21 Pit
 - 22 "— It Up" ('73 hit)
 - 23 A roaring success?
 - 24 Nary a soul
 - 25 Actress Andress
 - 26 Start of a remark by Laurence J. Peter
 - 30 Unfashionable
 - 31 Castilian cry
 - 32 "— and shine!"
 - 33 Part 2 of remark
 - 37 "Golden Girl" McClanahan
 - 38 Read quickly
 - 40 Spellbound
 - 44 Generation
 - 45 McGregor of "Train-spotting"
 - 47 Company
 - 49 Hot off the press
 - 50 Mirth
- DOWN**
- 52 Tennis legend
 - 53 Kanga's creator
 - 54 Crafter's need
 - 56 Anderson's "Tea and —"
 - 58 Shucks
 - 59 "Beagle" passenger
 - 60 Spumante
 - 61 Lout
 - 62 "State Fair" state
 - 64 Etta of the comics
 - 65 Commercial
 - 68 Part 3 of remark
 - 72 Actor Fernando
 - 73 Learning method
 - 75 Grant or Elwes
 - 76 Youngster
 - 77 Emulated Pinocchio
 - 79 Winter wear
 - 81 Milo of "Ulysses"
 - 83 Malamutes and huskies
 - 87 Poe crow
 - 88 More owlsh
 - 89 Coat material
 - 90 Singer Amos
 - 91 Relished the rigatoni
 - 92 Ullman or Gold
 - 94 Flicka's foot
 - 95 Chum
 - 96 Harper of "Tender Mercies"
 - 98 Adequate
 - 99 Under-standing
 - 100 Part 4 of remark
 - 104 Lug
 - 106 Actress Zadora
 - 107 TV's "Have — Will Travel"
 - 108 End of remark
 - 117 Infantry action
 - 118 Cheese-board choice
 - 119 Landed
 - 120 Bearing
 - 122 Like Corn Belt soil
 - 123 Congenial
 - 124 — list
 - 125 Beige
 - 126 "The Threepenny Opera" star
 - 127 Antlered animal
 - 128 Out-of-this-world org.
 - 129 Meat cut
 - 3 Sinister
 - 4 Wine variety
 - 5 Greet the general
 - 6 Rainbow goddess
 - 7 Whipped-cream serving
 - 8 Hendryx or Gaye
 - 9 Wicked thing?
 - 10 At large
 - 11 — May Wong
 - 12 Jury member
 - 13 Knitting stitches
 - 14 Less demanding
 - 15 Part of Micronesia
 - 16 Colleague of 101
 - 17 Rug type
 - 21 Like a Vermont village
 - 27 "What?"
 - 28 It may be common
 - 29 Rub out
 - 33 Packs groceries
 - 34 "The — Dachshund" ('66 film)
 - 35 Swarm (with)
 - 36 New York university
 - 37 — Dawn Chong
 - 38 Made mucky
 - 39 Faultfinder
 - 41 Response
 - 42 Clothing category
 - 43 Jacksonian bill
 - 46 Kid's query
 - 47 Hodges of baseball
 - 48 Loser's locale
 - 51 Antipollution grp.
 - 52 Storm
 - 53 Winter wear
 - 55 Joan Van —
 - 57 Lava particles
 - 58 "Bail —"
 - 59 '73 Elton John hit
 - 61 Ancient epic
 - 63 Prosperous
 - 65 Genesis peak
 - 66 Contribute
 - 67 Ranges
 - 69 Beethoven symphony
 - 70 Air safety org.
 - 71 Nugent or Knight
 - 74 Poetic preposition
 - 78 Banned pesticide
 - 80 Picnic pest
 - 82 "Yo!"
 - 83 — Canals
 - 84 Klutz's cry
 - 85 Mardi —
 - 86 Farm feature
 - 88 Rouse
 - 89 Finished first
 - 93 Act like the Earth
 - 94 "— Wave" ('63 hit)
 - 97 Comic Kaye
 - 99 "Trees" poet
 - 101 Author Christie
 - 102 Word with fruit or Stanley
 - 103 Crown covering
 - 105 Florida city
 - 106 Locale
 - 108 Knight time
 - 109 Muscat's nation
 - 110 Be inclined
 - 111 Magnus or McClurg
 - 112 "Laugh-In" name
 - 113 Literary pseudonym
 - 114 Pine for
 - 115 Puerto —
 - 116 Garr of "Mr. Mom"
 - 117 "Silent" president
 - 121 Sister



See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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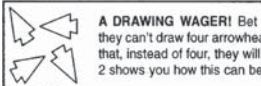
See Page D3 for this week's answers.

KID's CORNER



A REBUS is a pictorial representation of a word or phrase. You have five minutes to solve the one above.

Answer: "A misunderstanding between friends."



IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 11 through 20 to fill in our Magic Square. The numbers in each horizontal row and vertical column should total 75. We've filled in six of the squares. The rest is up to you.



THE PYRAMID OF WORD POWER!

Don't get "dizzy" looking for these words. Starting with the given word MAELSTROM, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with MAELSTROM.

1. A violent whirlpool.
2. A small South American monkey.
3. A great composer.
4. A performer of great skill.
5. An intent gaze.
6. To demolish.
7. Body of water.
8. In the same manner.
9. Your grade for this test?

Answers: (From the bottom up) Maelstrom, monkey, maestro, master, stare, nap, sea, oo, A.

Wishing Well®

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

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 BOLTIKOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Phone is different. 2. House is missing. 3. West is black. 4. Papers are missing from desk. 5. Book is different. 6. File cabinet is gone.

GRIDIRON CORNER

NFL conference championships tales of 2 cities

By **Jim Hughes**
Command Information Officer

With two seemingly predictable finishes and two surprises in the divisional round of the NFL playoffs, the conference championships boil down to tales in two cities: one, again fairly predictable at the beginning of the season and the other quite a surprise.

The home teams are the New England Patriots, who will compete for the AFC championship for the fifth time in 10 years, and the San Francisco 49ers, a team that last caught a whiff of the Super Bowl in 1998. Who but a die-hard San Francisco fan would've predicted the 49ers, after their horrid 2010 campaign, would've been a championship contender?

While the Patriots' thrashing of the Denver Broncos and one Tim Tebow was about as surprising as an NBA player getting arrested on weapons charges and most people didn't give the injury-riddled Houston Texans much of a chance in Baltimore, the games in San Francisco and Green Bay came as quite the shocks – not necessarily by the teams that won, but how one beat the other at their own game and how a loser didn't bother showing up.

Submitted for your approval: Shootout at the Candlestick Corral

While I had my suspicions that the 49ers could win this game, I never suspected Alex Smith and Co. could keep up in a shootout with Drew Brees and the high-flying Saints offense. I was wrong.

The Saints fell behind early 17-0, and then rallied towards the end of the first half to get to a 3-point deficit at halftime. In the second half, the teams traded blows



and San Fran led 23-17 when Brees hit Darren Sproles for a 44-yard touchdown pass to put the Saints ahead for the first time with four minutes to go.

The game was just starting.

Less than two minutes later, Smith took off with a 28-yard TD run to give the 49ers the lead again, and then almost before there was time to air a commercial or two, Brees launched a 66-yard TD pass to Jimmy Graham.

I remember saying to my wife that, even though I'm a lifelong 49ers hater, I felt bad for them to lose this great game – the electricity of the stadium and the crowd could be felt through the TV. Silly me. Just when I thought the Saints had it came what Vernon Davis wants to call The Grab, on the 30th anniversary of The Catch (let's not discuss that any further), when Smith hit him with a 14-yard score to put the 49ers ahead.

At that point, there were nine seconds left in the game, and I immediately thought, "Wow – Brees still has time."

But it didn't happen, and the 49ers proved they can play fast-break football with the Saints and beat them at it.

The story for the 49ers is one of perseverance – especially by signal caller Smith. Last year at this time, he was on the quarterback scrap heap as most figured he was out after a few dismal years and that he hadn't come close to living up to expectations.

But enter Jim Harbaugh as the new head coach, and a commitment from him to stick with Smith, and you get what happened with the 49ers this year – a division championship, a home playoff win and another home game to compete for a shot at the Super Bowl. Not bad for an almost-never-was QB and a rookie head coach.

Submitted for your consideration: Green Bay Slackers

OK, OK, time to give credit where it is due. The New York Giants did what they needed to do and played a great game to get the win. Eli Manning is a

master and the New York defense is a beast when it is healthy.

But this game was more about the Packers than the Giants. More specifically, it was about where were the Packers players' heads? They certainly weren't in the game. Dropped balls, fumbles, defensive breakdowns and coaching gaffes by the Packers all gave the Giants almost no chance at losing.

As the first half was winding down, it looked like Green Bay would be lucky to get into the halftime only trailing 13-10 after committing three turnovers. But then came the coaching gaffes and the defensive breakdowns.

The Giants were ready to run out the clock and go into the locker room with their 3-point lead, but the Packers called a timeout for some reason known only to Mike McCarthy. Undaunted, the Giants called a running play, probably hoping to get a yard or two and keep the clock running. Instead, they got something more than any of the most optimistic players on the team could've expected – a 24-yard jaunt downfield by Brandon Jacobs.

Finding themselves unexpectedly deep in Packer territory, the Giants decided to go for it since the Packers served the opportunity up on a silver platter. Manning tossed a 37-yard Hail Mary TD to Hakeem Nicks as time expired to give the Giants a 20-10 lead at the half. This was the first Hail Mary in the history of mankind to touch no one but the intended receiver, and also the worst defense of such a play since the dawn of time.

The Packers never really recovered. As the third quarter started, the TV announcer reported that Aaron Rodgers had tried to rally the team by saying they needed to get it done and score. Unfortunately, that must've

been code for "Let's go out there and turn the ball over! Yeah!"

The Packers drove down the field, but Rodgers got stripped while getting ready to pass and gave the ball back to the Giants. Even more unfortunate for the Packers, a Green Bay receiver had broken wide open and it was a sure TD if Osi Umenyiora hadn't knocked the ball out of the QB's hands.

That pretty much sealed the deal for the Giants, as the Packers looked pretty disinterested the rest of the way and New York earned the right to travel to San Francisco for a shot at the Super Bowl.

So, after months of action and bad prognostication, the season boils down to four teams with a shot, playing in two cities.

Ravens @ New England

This game features extremes on both sides of the ball. The Ravens are stellar, as always, on defense. The Patriots, as always, are stellar on offense. The Ravens' offense is, at best, inconsistent. The Patriots defense is, at best, highly suspect.

This one could certainly go either way.

While the Ravens won at home vs. the Texans, it was hardly in convincing fashion against a rookie QB who spent the majority of the season as the third stringer. Baltimore got no pressure on T.J. Yates and the Ravens offense was mediocre.

That won't work against the Patriots. The only way to beat Tom Brady and Co. is to pressure and knock the QB around. You don't need sacks, but you need to interrupt his zone.

The Patriots may be questionable on defense, but, oh, that offense! If you manage to take away the seemingly uncoverable untackable

Rob Gronkowski, then you have to worry about Aaron Hernandez. If you manage to somehow take away both, you have Wes Welker and Deion Branch running all over the place, not to mention the Law Firm, BenJarvus Green-Ellis.

If the Ravens can't stop that offense at the point of attack, Brady, then good luck keeping them from 30-plus points.

Even if they do bother Brady, the Pats are probably still good for 20-plus points, and that means the Ravens have to score. QB Joe Flacco says the offense doesn't get any credit, and he's right. They really don't deserve much credit. Ray Rice is really the only player on the squad that remotely approaches consistency.

If I were a Ravens fan, I'd be very nervous about this one – and hoping and hoping for an offensive breakthrough.

I'll take the Pats at home.

Giants @ San Francisco

This is another pretty even matchup that could turn out either way. To me, the question that will decide this one is if last week was the Perfect Alex Smith Storm, or if his performance against the Saints was a sign of things to come.

Both defenses will make life miserable for the others' offense, both will try and probably fail to run effectively, so it will boil down to a QB making plays and kickers. I anticipate a low-scoring game, in the teens late, and it coming down to a late field goal.

For that, I'll take David Akers kicking at home in Candlestick. But, as I'm at roughly 50 percent for my playoff picks, I'll probably be wrong about this one and Eli pulls one out. I'm 50 percent sure that this is the one I will miss on.

BRIS

QUARTER MANIA AT RUCKER LANES

Rucker Lanes hosts Quarter Mania Mondays from 5-10 p.m., featuring 25-cent games, 50-cent shoe rentals, \$1 for an order of fries and \$1.25 for a hot dog. There is no cover charge to attend. Quarter Mania is open to the public.

For more, call 255-9503.

FS

YOUTH BASEBALL REGISTRATION

Youth spring baseball registration runs Feb. 1 – 29, with the baseball season running from April 2 to June 9 at the Youth Services

Baseball Fields. Youth baseball is open to ages 5- 18. Youth will be separated into different groups according to their age and must meet age requirements by May 1. A current sport's physical and valid child, youth and schools services registration are required to participate.

Cost is \$45, with a discount for each additional child. If there are not enough girls to fill a Ponytail Team, they will be placed on a baseball team.

Prospective coaches are needed for all age groups. Coach's training for baseball and softball will be March 1-5, beginning

at 6 p.m. A spring baseball parents meeting for those Families new to Fort Rucker Youth Sports programs will be March 14 at 6 p.m. at the Youth Service Gymnasium in Bldg. 2806 on Seventh Avenue.

For more, call 255-9105, 255-0950 or 255-9638.

YOUTH BOWLING REGISTRATION

Youth bowling registration runs Feb. 1-29, with the season running from March 19 to April 19 at Rucker Lanes. Youth bowling is open to children ages 6-18. Cost is \$20 with a discount for each additional child. Youth

must meet age requirements by May 1. A current sport's physical and valid child, youth and schools services registration are required to participate.

Prospective coaches are needed for all age groups. Coach's training will be March 7 at 6 p.m. at youth services.

A Bowling parent's meeting for those Families new to Fort Rucker Youth Sports programs will be March 14 at 6 p.m. in the Youth Service Gymnasium in Bldg. 2806 on Seventh Avenue.

For more, call 255-9105, 255-0950 or 255-9638.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

1. Put the first men on the moon
2. James Bond
3. 1215
4. Franklin Roosevelt
5. A fear of teeth
6. Wayne Rogers
7. "The Romantic Egotist"
8. 36
9. West Virginia
10. Mohandas Gandhi

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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Video Game Spotlight >>

(Editor's note: All opinions stated in the Video Game Spotlight are solely those of the article's author.)

Mario Kart 7 a worthy 3DS addition

By Jim Van Slyke
Contributing Writer

Mario Kart 7 for the 3DS is another in a long run of arcade-style racing games featuring famous Nintendo characters.

Mario, Luigi, Peach and more are available with their own types of racing vehicles in this fun game for Nintendo's latest handheld. It's a worthy game that adds a few new dimensions to the tried and true Mario Kart formula, and includes an online component that gives the game a lot of replay value.

Only eight racers are available at first, but eight more can be unlocked by earning first place in all the cups in 150cc, the most difficult mode. That's not always easy – especially since gamers can be leading an entire race only to be passed at the end after being hit by blue shell shot by an opponent.

The play options should be familiar. The Grand Prix mode has gamers racing through eight different cups, four new and four retro collections from past games.

One of the best – and most fun – features is the option to switch to a first-person perspective and use the system's gyroscope controls to drive the cart. It feels more realistic and it's an exciting way to view the courses. It may not be some-

thing to use all the time, but it's a great option.

But the best part of Mario Kart 7 is the multiplayer. Gamers can challenge friends locally or via Wi-Fi and the game also supports Download Play if the friend doesn't have their own copy of the game.

Gamers can also match with other racers based on how successful they've been in past matches.

Nintendo threw in enough new options to make Mario Kart 7 a worthy addition to any gamer's library. It would have been nice to have more characters to play with, but the action is fun and the other options will keep gamers busy. Feel free to put Mario Kart 7 in any gamer's stocking this year.



Publisher
Nintendo
Rated
Everyone
Systems
Nintendo 3DS
Cost
\$40
Overall
3.5 out of 4



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