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FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

FEBRUARY 2, 2012

Neighborhood center opens

By David Agan
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Soldiers, Families and community leaders gathered Friday for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in celebration of the Munson Heights Neighborhood Center's grand opening on Fort Rucker.

"We are extremely excited," said Heath Burleson, program director, Picerne Military Housing. "We commonly refer to our neighborhood centers as the heart and soul of each neighborhood and, at the end of the day, they truly are."

The Munson Heights Neighborhood Center is the third and final neighborhood center to be built at Fort Rucker. Inside the 7,200-square-foot facility are a workout room, media room, computer lab, and a meeting space with a fully furnished kitchen. Located behind the center is a 25-meter, six-lane swimming pool with about 14,000 square feet of deck space.

There are two other neighborhood centers on post located in the Allen Heights and Bowden Terrace neighborhoods. The centers, which all house similar amenities, serve as a place for Families to gather and call home, according to Burleson.

Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, was on hand to help open the center and, during his remarks, expressed gratitude for what the Picerne Military Housing team has done at Fort Rucker.

"[The Picerne team] tells us all the time why they are lucky to have us. We are lucky. Not only to have



CW4 Thomas Miller, his spouse, Lori, and two of their children, Fiona and Katherine, meet with Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, at the grand opening of the Munson Heights Neighborhood Center.

this center but to have these people here with us," said Crutchfield.

"I don't know of any other post comparable to the size of Fort Rucker that has three beautiful, brand-new community centers," he said.

"And if they do, I can tell you they don't have pools. They don't have

Wi-Fi. They don't have a kitchen. They don't have a little area for our babies to stay in comfortably and safely while we work out. Many of them are much smaller than this. I've been there. We're the lucky ones," said Crutchfield.

Burleson then presented Crutchfield with a plaque intended for the

commanding generals' quarters. The plaque, a tradition at Fort Rucker, represents each of the Families who have resided in that home.

The site of the Munson Heights Neighborhood Center was previously the site of the commanding generals' home, first occupied by Gen. Bogardus Cairns in February

1958, according to Burleson. After Cairns, 23 commanding generals and their Families lived in that home until it was demolished a few years ago.

CW4 Thomas Miller, his wife, Lori, and their children, Aaron, Fiona and Katherine, then cut the ribbon, officially opening the Munson Heights Neighborhood Center.

Lori said the Family recently celebrated their daughters' first birthday at one of the other neighborhood centers on post.

"It was incredible! The building is so nice, it's almost too nice to have kids running around having cake and ice cream all over them," she said.

Having the neighborhood center nearby is wonderful, she said.

"Especially during the summer months when it's incredibly hot here in Alabama, having the pool right down the street from us will be great," Lori said.

Miller said the center was under construction when they arrived at Fort Rucker, and that it's nice to see it all come together.

"We're very pleased with the on-post housing here at Fort Rucker," he said. "We're just down the street so we'll be able to walk to the pool. And there's a great playground out back, too."

In addition to the three neighborhood centers, Picerne Military Housing has constructed almost 700 new homes on post since assuming operations in April 2006.

There are 96 new homes scheduled to be built in the Munson Heights and Bowden Terrace neighborhoods in 2012.

Army Aviation checks its vision at Fort Rucker



Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, and Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, Program Executive Office, Aviation commanding general, answer questions at the Aviation Senior Leader Conference at the post Jan. 23-26.

By Kelly Pate
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker hosted a "vision" check for Army Aviation in January, but it wasn't about eyesight; it was about foresight.

The Army Aviation 2030 Vision, which serves as a step towards developing an Army Aviation Campaign Plan, was at the heart of the collaborative effort here Jan. 23-26 that involved 300 leaders from across the Army Aviation enterprise assembling with the intent to frame up necessary documents to formally chart the needs and direction of the Aviation Branch.

"It will be a future that ensures a healthy Aviation Branch, postured for decisive operations in defense of our national interests and our nation," said Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, commanding general, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker.

That future requires a clear vision, which will soon be put in ink to document the way ahead.

Army Aviation's target is to achieve the operational capability to meet future reconnaissance, attack and vertical maneuver mission demands. This requires a fleet that is rapidly

deployable and adaptable, and includes a new generation of manned and unmanned aircraft, and a reduced sustainment footprint, the general said.

The vision lays out the anticipated future operational environment, Army Aviation's role in the Army of 2020, the future Aviation force, and the Army Aviation Campaign Plan.

The key is to bring together Aviation leaders, from active Combat Aviation Brigade commanders to retired leaders, to cover the gamut of operational experience and knowledge to ensure a successful way forward, said Maj. Gen. James E. Rogers, commanding general, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command.

"The power of that is you get buy-in from the whole community on the direction we're going. Under Major General Crutchfield's leadership, the Branch is going in the right direction. And what he's trying to do, and correctly so, is to make sure he documents it all so that we have a way forward that as the leadership throughout the community transitions and changes, all of them have a good starting point of where we need to go in the future. So it's very powerful, it's exactly what we need to do, and we're on track to make

SEE VISION, PAGE A5

2-13th Aviation Battalion graduates 10,000th recorded student

By Amy McLaughlin
Fort Huachuca Public Affairs

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. — The 2nd Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment graduated its 10,000th recorded student here Wednesday.

Denver-native Pfc. James Leaverton, a 15W unmanned aerial vehicle operator, was identified as the 10,000th graduate.

"It's pretty cool, but I don't feel like I did anything overly special," Leaverton said, upon learning his graduation was marking a milestone for the school. "I mean, there were almost 10,000 other students who did the same thing before me."

"The entire throughput was 63 students for [2000]. Now, for fiscal year '12, we are looking at 2,509, so, we've grown a little bit," Rossman added.

The UAS training unit has seen significant growth since 2000, when it had one building, a dirt runway, less than 30 contractors and 27 Department of Army civilian instructors on staff, graduated less than 100 Aviation Soldiers per fiscal year, offered only two courses and only trained on one system, the Hunter (MQ-5B).

Although the unmanned aircraft systems schoolhouse has been training since 1994, graduation statis-

tics were not officially tracked until fiscal year 2000, said Charles Rossman, senior training specialist, who has been personally tracking the statistics.

There are now 405 contractors and 131 DAC instructors on staff to train more than 2,000 Aviation Soldiers per fiscal year in 22 courses on four systems: Hunter, Shadow, Warrior-A and Gray Eagle.

The nearly 400-percent growth in trained operators and repairers over the past 12 years is no surprise to Dean of Academics Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Finney.

"We're gradually moving up the ladder as there is more demand out there for [unmanned aircraft systems] around the echelons of the military and around the world," Finney said.

While the 2-13th is an Army Aviation unit, it offers joint-service training. In addition to Soldiers, service-members from the Navy, Air Force, Marines and up to 140 students from foreign military services also train at the school. Operators are in high demand across the defense, federal and civilian spectrums.

With the significant contributions of UAS to Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, border security, law enforcement and intelligence, the field can only grow.

"It saves lives," Finney said. "That's the bottom line."



Pfc. Christopher Cervantes and Sgt. Adrian Velez, students with the Army's UAS training program in 2010, inspect a Shadow before takeoff at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

If the 2-13th's trend of 2,500 graduates per fiscal year continues, it will take less than half the time to reach the next 10,000 milestone.

Post honors Parker Award recipients

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Soldiers, Family members and other members of the Fort Rucker community gathered for a ceremony at The Landing to honor the recipients of the Lt. Gen. Ellis D. Parker Outstanding Unit Awards Jan. 24.

The award was established in recognition of retired Lt. Gen. Ellis D. Parker's, former director of the Army Staff and previous commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center, long association with Army Aviation and accomplishments in developing the Branch, according to Col. Kevin J. Christensen, 110th Aviation Brigade commander and master of ceremonies.

"The Parker Award is open to all active duty and reserve-component Aviation units worldwide," said Christensen, "and recognizes excellence in leadership, training, maintenance and safety in each battalion or squadron."

The competition for the award is held in four categories: best combat battalion, best combat support battalion, best table of distribution and allowances battalion, and overall winner and best combat support battalion, said the colonel.

Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, retired Gen. Doug Brown, former regiment commander of 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, and the award's name-sake were among those that presented the awards.

Best combat battalion

The winner of the best combat battalion went to 6th Squadron, 6th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, Fort Drum, N.Y., according to Christensen.

"They operated in one of the most challenging and helicopter-dependent areas of operations in all of Afghanistan," he said. "Task Force Six-Shooter combined outstanding maintenance statistics while operating in an austere environment, posted the highest operational tempo in Region Command South, while sustaining the fin-



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Retired Lt. Gen. Ellis D. Parker, former director of the Army Staff and previous commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center, and Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield (right), U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general present the award for overall winner of the 2011 Park Award and best combat support battalion to Maj. Jason Kahne, 563rd Aviation Support Battalion unit support officer.

est safety record of any Aviation unit in this theater."

Best combat support battalion

The second unit to be honored with an award was to 3rd Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, Fort Drum, for best combat support battalion, said Christensen.

"They provided outstanding combat Aviation support air movement — air medical evacuation to U.S. forces, coalition partners and the government of Afghanistan," he said. "Their determination and drive ensured mission accomplishment in all these critical and diverse tasks while under direct support of 11 different brigade combat teams in an area of over 40,000 square miles, and in terrain above 14,000 feet."

Best table of distribution and allowances battalion

The next honoree was Fort Rucker's 1st Battalion, 223rd Aviation Regiment, as the best table of distribution and allowances

battalion, according to Christensen.

"The 1-223rd is responsible for providing superb flight training to more than 2,500 student pilots, and flew in excess of 117,000 flight hours during fiscal year 2011," he said. "They also oversaw 70,000 accident-free and incident-free ground vehicle miles, bringing the battalion to over 1.3 million miles without ever having a government operated vehicle accident."

Overall winner of the 2011 Parker Award

The 563rd Aviation Support Battalion, Fort Campbell, Ky., took the award as the overall winner and best combat support battalion, said Christensen.

"The 563rd have proven themselves to be a critical player in support of U.S. forces in Afghanistan," he said. "Under the most austere conditions, the battalion has supported over 20,000 missions and 90,000 flight hours; five downed aircraft recover-

ies; pumped over 700,000 gallons of jet fuel; and distributed over 4 million pounds of cargo.

According to the colonel, the 563rd Avn. Support Bn. saved \$2.1 million, exercising supply discipline and cross-leveling General Services Administration excess, saving an additional \$488,000.

"They also completed over 27 phase maintenance inspections, 6,000 shop and avionics work orders and completed over 7,000 aircraft repairs," said Christensen. "The battalion epitomized the 'keep it fighting' mentality, proving that they are the best Aviation support battalion this year."

"Our Aviation force has never been better than it is today," said Brown. "We are so proud — It's very well led, perfectly trained, beautifully equipped and it's never been more in demand and more experienced."

AAAA honors Soldiers at awards ceremony on Fort Rucker

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker hosted the annual Army Aviation Association of America Awards presentation at The Landing where Soldiers, Family members and members of the community came to honor the winners Jan 25.

Among those in attendance was Maj. Gen. James C. McConville, commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division Air Assault and Fort Campbell, Ky., and guest speaker for the event, who spoke of the importance of Aviation in support of troops that are on the ground.

"We need to make sure that people understand what Aviation is all about," said McConville. "It's about supporting those troops on the ground.

"As we move forward into the future, I think we need to strive to maintain the trust that has been built on these courageous Aviators," said the general. "We will always be there for the troops when they need us — that's the reputation that we've established and we need to continue that."

The awards were given in two categories: the Air Traffic Control Awards and the AAAA National Awards, of which there are sub-categories in which the awards are presented to different Soldiers.

Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, and McConville were among those that presented the awards.

The awards presentation began with the ATC awards in which the U.S. Army ATC Activity annually selects the air traffic control awardees in five separate categories, according to Col. Kevin J. Christensen, 110th Aviation Brigade commander and master of ceremonies.

ATC Unit of the Year

The 2011 AAAA ATC Unit of the Year Award was presented to F Company, 3rd Battalion, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Knighthawk, according to Christensen.

"They provided exceptionally meritorious service as the tactical air traffic services company in support of the 10th CAB," he said. "They contributed greatly to the safety and efficiency of tactical



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general (center), stands with the winners of the AAAA awards at The Landing Jan 25.

error control in Regional Combat Command East Afghanistan ... and provided safe and orderly control of over 89,000 unmanned aircraft systems, and coalition military and civilian aircraft."

ATC Facility of the Year

This award was presented to Shank Tower, F Co., 3rd Bn., 10th CAB, Task Force Knighthawk, for providing exceptionally meritorious services, and a forward deployed tactical ATC facility in supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and the global war on terrorism, said Christensen.

"They seamlessly integrated the air traffic navigation integration system on Shank Army Airfield in order to establish a facility that was able to provide air traffic and radar services to joint and multinational forces," he said. "This provided safe and expeditious flow of all traffic in and around Forward Operating Base Shank and Regional Combat Command East."

ATC maintenance Technician of the Year

This award was presented to Sgt. Donny D. Wilson, F Company, 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 159th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Eagle Lift, for his contributions that directly improved the combat effectiveness of the brigade and division during several unit training missions and Operation Enduring Freedom, according to Christensen.

"His immediate response, following a direct hit from a rocket that damaged the tower of FOB

Wolverine, allowed the ATC center to be upgraded to a partially mission capable status only 12 hours after the attack, and was put back into service due to [Wilson's] relentless hard work."

ATC Manager of the Year

The 2011 ATC manager of the year award was presented to Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin A. Grissett, F Co., 3rd Bn., 10th CAB, Task Force Knighthawk, said the master of ceremonies.

"He was instrumental in the expansion of the ATC and services at FOB Shank," he said. "His dedication to the U.S. Army combat mission and tireless efforts to improve the safety and efficiency of air traffic control at FOB Shank are directly responsible for the pending establishment of FOB Shank Airfield as a full functioning instrumental flight rules airfield."

Air Traffic Controller of the Year

This award was co-presented to Staff Sgt. Antonio Bustion Jr. and Spc. Taylor D. Wilds of F Co., 3rd Bn., 10th CAB, Task Force Knighthawk, said Christensen.

"[Bustion] served forward deployed ATC chief in support of Operation Enduring Freedom," he said. "He developed a comprehensive training program that enhanced the knowledge of 10 ground-controlled approach operators and developed scenario-based training."

Wilds served as a shift-leader at FOB Shank with a "first-rate work ethic, unwavering dedication to

duty, and tremendous knowledge in ATC that resulted in him earning a facility rating in just seven days," said Christensen.

"His shift safely controlled over 50,000 fixed-wing, rotary-wing and unmanned aircraft system and air frames that included joint and multinational military and civilian operations," he said.

After the presentation of the ATC awards, Christensen announced the presentation the AAAA National Awards in four categories.

Trainer of the Year

This award was presented to CW5 Guillermo Soto, 159th CAB, Task Force Thunder, according to Christensen.

"His efforts...prepared countless Army Aviators to excel in combat," he said, "and his dedication to training partnered Afghan and United Arab Emirates Aviation units fundamentally altered the way U.S. Army Aviation approaches stability operations.

"He was chosen to lead the complex and challenging task of partnering with the Afghan Air Force at Kandahar Air Wing," Christensen added.

Aviation Medicine Award

Capt. Teresa A. Weber, 7th Bn., 101 Avn. Regt., 159th CAB, Task Force Eagle Lift, was the recipient of the Aviation Medicine Award for expertly providing superb medical care to Soldiers of the largest task force within the 159th CAB, while deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, said

Christensen.

Weber managed and cared for more than 1,000 Soldiers and Aviators, treated over 620 patients within her first six months of deployment and performed over 150 flight physicals, he said.

"Devoted to long-term Soldier wellness and care, [Weber] personally developed, implemented and managed a brigade smoking cessation program," said Christensen.

Dedicated Unhesitating Service to our Fighting Forces Medic of the Year

The DUSTOFF medic of the year award was presented to Sgt. Aaron S. Halcomb, C Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, according to the master of ceremonies.

"[Halcomb] served as the sole medic for eight mass casualty events, all with more than five patients each," said Christensen. "In a single mission, he simultaneously treated six double and triple amputees injured in an improvised explosive blast.

"His ability to manage chaos on the battlefield while treating multiple traumatic injuries has resulted in the evacuation of 255 patients during 340 combat hours," he said.

Air/Sea Rescue Award

CW4 Kenneth G. Brodhead, CW2 Erik M. Sabiston, Sgt. Julia Bringloe and Spc. David Capps, all of 3rd Battalion, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, Task Force Knighthawk, were the winners of this award, according to Christensen.

"During Operation Hammer Down, the crew provided constant medevac support to the battalion sized operation for a 72-hour period," he said. "Throughout the operation, the crew conducted multiple hoist evacuations ... in the face of direct-fire, zero-illumination conditions and constant inclement weather in one of Afghanistan's steepest valleys."

"The fact that our Aviators are going out there and doing great things has allowed other senior commanders to take on the cause and understand that Aviation provides value," said McConville. "We exist to support the troops on the ground, and I feel very blessed to be part of this Branch and to serve with each and every one of you."

TCM-UAS charter changes hands

By Jim Hughes
Command Information
Officer

A 1985 flight school student accepted the charter to become the new U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Capabilities Manager-Unmanned Aircraft Systems during a change of charter ceremony Friday at The Landing.

Col. Grant A. Webb accepted the charter from Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, after Col. Robert J. Sovo relinquished it at the event.

“The No. 1 reason we’re here is to honor the Sovas, and say ‘thank you’ for the hard work you’ve done in supporting our Soldiers that are in the fight and those that are preparing for the fight,” Crutchfield said. “And that’s basically what I told Grant – ‘that’s your charter.’ I don’t necessarily worry about what is written, but your charter is to support and to prepare Soldiers in the fight and the ones preparing to go into the fight so they come back to their Families – that’s your charter.”

Webb comes to Fort Rucker this time after a tour as the Joint Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center of Excellence commander at Creech Air Force Base, Nev.

“Judy and I are thrilled to be coming back to the Fort Rucker community,” Webb said. “At Creech, I’ve had probably about a dozen officers in different uniforms than ours approach me privately and tell me how good they thought the Army’s UAS program was going – coordination between senior leadership, the TCM, the (project manager), and all the accomplishments that occurred under Rob’s watch. The joint community sees it out there and they are impressed.

“My pledge to day is to keep the momentum going, and I’m going to do everything I can to increase or improve on this capability so we can make our warfighters even better than they are today,” he said.

The TRADOC capability manager serves as the warfighter’s representative and single point of contact for all systems assigned under the TCM charter, in this case UAS, the narrator said as part of the ceremony. The TCM ensures associated deliverables are developed along timelines to meet system milestones and manages all facets of user activities, but must ultimately ensure all aspects of training are synchronized with the fielding of assigned systems.

The TCM strives to meet system development in management objectives, the narrator added. Unlike traditional commanders, the TCM is empowered with a charter. This charter, signed by the commanding general of TRADOC, empowers the TCM to fill the role of the combat developer and user’s representative for all systems assigned by the charter. The charter is what allows the TCM to act as the user’s representative, and fight to ensure the systems surpass all expectations and provide current and future warfighters with the best combat capable equipment possible.

“That’s what Rob has done these past three years,” Crutchfield said of the retiring colonel.



Col. Grant A. Webb, new TCM-UAS, speaks at the change of charter ceremony at The Landing Friday.

“Experts like Rob Sovo in these positions that support our Soldiers and their Families are what make us so successful on the battlefield.

“As I’ve often said to many of you, and this is certainly true today for both Rob and Grant, do not judge the importance of your mission based solely on the proximity to the battlefield,” he added. “Because I assure you, Rob, that the mission you’ve done these past three years, and Grant what you’re about to do, is absolutely critical. And Rob, your flawless execution of that mission has served the warfighters well these past three years.”

He then listed some of the accomplishments during Sovo’s time as TCM-UAS, such as overseeing the merger of the USAACE

UAS Center of Excellence and TCM, and combining that with the overall UAS capabilities, not only in the Army but the joint force.

“He continued to integrate and synchronize the warfighting requirement domains across everything we do,” the general added. “He’s enabled the fielding of over 1,600 Raven systems, 93 Shadow systems, 10 Hunters and eight Extended-Range Multi-Purpose UAS. He’s also integrated those systems into the way we fight those wars and has enabled us to be absolutely successful on the battlefield.

“You are leaving behind a great legacy, one that you should be proud of – you have absolutely made this Army the best in the world,” Crutchfield said.

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Vision: ‘It’s the long-term implications’

Continued from Page A1

sure we stay viable for the future and support the warfighter,” Rogers said.

The key themes across the week’s sessions centered on tomorrow, teamwork and speaking with one voice across the Army Aviation enterprise.

Participants tackled a laundry list of the Branch’s major objectives within the campaign plan, and recommended changes to senior leaders for decision. Areas of discussion included supporting the Army Force Generation cycle, reset and a post-war operational tempo, growing professional Aviation leaders, sustaining the force, as well as life cycles of the current fleet and the Aim

Point of 2030, and decision making in a resource-constrained environment.

To make the tough decisions of the future, Army Aviation must work as a team, said Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, Program Executive Office, Aviation commanding general.

“It’s not about today, it’s the long-term implications of what this means in a draw-down environment,” Crosby said.

As Army Aviation drafts up its own campaign plan, the outlook is beyond current norms to a “totally new path,” Crutchfield said.

“I believe this campaign plan will be enduring, that it will last after the drawdown,” Crutchfield said.

News Briefs

Tax Center opens

The Fort Rucker Tax Assistance Center opens Feb. 6 to provide free federal and state income tax preparation and e-filing services for active duty Soldiers, retirees and Family members in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, in Rm. 371F. The center will be open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed on federal holidays. People must make an appointment to receive assistance. For information on what to bring and to make an appointment, call 255-2937.

Cairns Gate closure

The main gate at Cairns Army Airfield will be closed from 12:01 a.m. Feb. 14 through Feb. 20 so the contractor upgrading the access control point at Cairns can make required renovations. The airfield commander approved this period, in conjunction with the President’s Day holiday, as the best time for the construction in order to reduce the impact to personnel and airfield operations.

During the time the main gate to Cairns is closed, traffic will be rerouted to use an alternate gate (Gate 7) to Cairns – which is accessible by turning onto Gritney Road and then Pecan Street. Fort Rucker Police will post a road or gate closed sign at the entrance to Cairns and detour signs along the route to the alternate gate. Personnel who work at Cairns should plan their travel accordingly. The Cairns main gate will reopen at 12:01 a.m. Feb. 21.

USA Staffing replaces Resumix

All Department of Defense components will transition to Web-based software owned by the Office of Personnel Management to fill internal and external appropriated fund and non-appropriated fund vacancies as part of the DOD hiring reform initiative. The Department of the Army started deploying USA Staffing in fiscal year 2011 and will continue to deploy it in FY 2012. This new

system replaces Resumix.

The Fort Rucker Civilian Personnel Advisory Center is scheduled to transition to USAS March 31. The vision of the U.S. Army Civilian Human Resources Agency is to provide a single point of entry for all recruitment and hiring activities. USAS has the potential to improve the process for applicants, CHRA professionals and selecting officials through an efficient Web-based interface, according to personnel officials.

Briefings by the Fort Rucker CPAC on the new system will be provided at The Landing Zone for applicants and managers. Manager briefings are Wednesday from 10-11:30 a.m. and Feb. 22 from 1-2:30 p.m. Applicant briefings are Wednesday from 8-9:30 a.m., Feb. 21 from 8-9:30 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m. and Feb. 22 from 8-9:30 a.m. For more, people should call their servicing CPAC human resources specialist.

Women of the year

The Equal Employment Opportunity Office’s Special Emphasis Program Committee is accepting nominations for the 2012 Women-of-the-Year Awards. Nominations must be submitted by the close of business Feb. 17. Nominations will not be accepted in Government Contract Employee category this year. For more, call 255-2061.

Employer Day

Fort Rucker’s Army Career and Alumni Program hosts an Employer Day with Waffle House, Lockheed Martin and Dynetics Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the second-floor break room in Bldg. 5700. The event is a great opportunity for people to network and even if it is a while before people transition out of the military, it is never too early to network, according to ACAP officials. The event is open to active duty military, retirees and spouses.

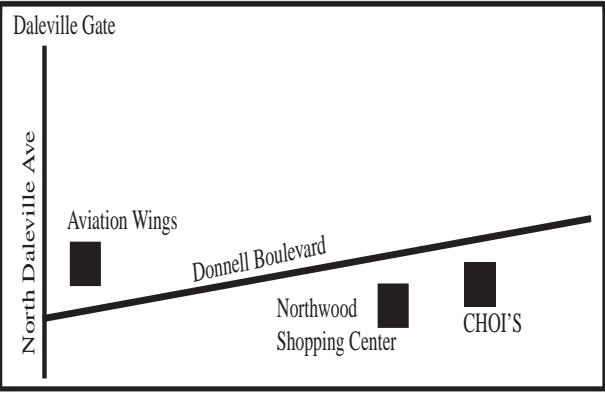
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\$116,000



102 SKYLINE: Investors only: Remodeled 2009 - 2010. 3 BR/2 BA, large level yard with new wood privacy fencing on sides and new chain link in back. New solid counter-tops/sinks/toilets/interior paint/wood laminate & tile flooring throughout. New stainless steel appliances. New light fixtures in LR & DR & kitchen. New blinds & crown molding in LR & DR. Stable neighborhood, convenient to Fort Rucker gate, convenient to shopping. DEBBIE SUNBROCK 334-406-9079

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967 STEWART: Additional 200 +/- ft added to field lines in 2010. New fiberglass steps w/ handrails. 2011 ceiling fan on screened porch, lifetime metal roof, new air conditioner in 2010. Start of 200 amp service on end of house set up but service not to box yet. Gas logs in fireplace, 70" remote control fan in LR. Upgraded light fixture in DR. Ceramic tile from foyer thru kitchen. 840+ sq ft addition on back of house not completed. 14X16 connecting room, appliances newer than home. Laminate floors installed 2010. EVELYN HITCH 334-406-3436

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23096 DWIGHT STONE: This charming home has shade trees in front and fruit trees & scuppernon vines in back. Elegant and sun filled dining room allows you to entertain in style. The huge shed (12x24) storage shed with electricity & ceiling fan is perfect for keeping your lawn equipment or toy protected. FRAN CLAYTOR 334-790-5973

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188 MAREE: Like new, 4 BR/2 BA home with stainless kitchen appliances, sprinkler system, sodded yard, privacy fence and located on cul de sac street. Conveniently located just minutes from Ft Rucker & Enterprise. SAM HELMS 334-798-3357

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FOR RENT



37 COURTYARD WAY, This 3BD/2.5BA Townhome FRESHLY PAINTED with washer and dryer, refrigerator with icemaker, stove, garbage disposal, dishwasher, ceiling fans in living room and bedrooms, single garage with remote, and fence. Lawn care, monthly pest control, use of clubhouse and community POOL included.

FOR RENT



222 CLAREMONT DRIVE, *MOVE IN SPECIAL* On this 2BD/2.5BA Townhome complete with washer and dryer, refrigerator with icemaker, microwave/hood combination, stove, garbage disposal, dishwasher, one-car garage, patio, and fence. Lawn care, monthly pest control, use of clubhouse and community POOL included.

FOR RENT



132 CHASE COURT, BEAUTIFUL 3BD/2BA HOME featuring living room, dining area, stove with built in microwave, refrigerator, dishwasher, utility room with washer and dryer connections, single car garage, and patio

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FEBRUARY 2, 2012

Black Hawk pilots offer leadership students lift

By Dustin Senger

Fort Carson Public Affairs

FORT CARSON, Colo. — When Soldiers attending the Fort Carson Warrior Leader Course rehearsed medevac requests Jan. 17, the Army's latest in medical support aircraft responded.

A battlefield situational exercise concludes the multi-component Warrior Leader Course, or WLC, at Fort Carson, which is organized by the 168th Regiment, Regional Training Institute. New coordination efforts between the training regiment and Reserve Aviators are helping WLC evaluators better assess the Army's future leaders.

During each 15-day course, WLC officials evaluate Soldiers using exams and tasks, while focusing on Army history, physical fitness, squad drills, communication skills, leadership competency and war fighting proficiency. As a culminating event, students transition to a tactical environment and lead a squad.

Soldiers who are ready for noncommissioned officer promotions must attend WLC, which is open to all military occupational specialties. Graduation from WLC, or an equivalent course, is required for a recommendation to staff sergeant, according to Army Regulation 600-8-19, Enlisted Promotions and Reductions.

"We're trying to make the training as realistic as possible," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Henry, Headquarters, 168th Reg. Henry



PHOTO BY DUSTIN SENGER

An HH-60M Black Hawk medevac crew responds to a request Jan. 1 from students completing a Warrior Leader Course situational exercise at Fort Carson, Colo. Army Reservists assigned to 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, at Fort Carson became the first Army unit to receive the latest Black Hawk medevac aircraft configuration in early 2010. Soldiers from Company F, 7th Bn., 158th Avn. Reg., recently started integrating medevac crews into situational exercises for the Warrior Leader Course at the Mountain Post.

is a combat lifesaver instructor and the regiment's senior medic. He said the unit began testing the integration of medevac crews into the Fort Carson WLC framework last month.

A complete integration plan

kicked off in January, combining WLC classroom six with Army Reservists assigned to 7th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment — medevac crews employing the Army's most modern Black Hawk configuration, HH-60M.

The unit dedicated two aircraft to WLC students practicing emergency calls.

"(The WLC students) have to work off an actual operations order," said Henry. "Based on that operations order, we issue frag-

mentary orders. They then conduct a course that includes opposition fire, (improvised explosive device) simulations and medevac procedures, ground and air."

SEE LIFT, PAGE B4

Army drives ahead with Joint Light Tactical Vehicle program

By Ashley John-Givens

PEO CS&CSS

WARREN, Mich. — A Request for Proposal was issued by the U.S. Army for the Engineering and Manufacturing Development phase of the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle program Jan. 26.

The Joint Light Tactical Vehicle family will balance critical weight and transportability constraints within performance, protection, and payload requirements — all while ensuring an affordable solution for the Army and U.S. Marine Corps.

"Both the Army and the U.S. Marine Corps have identified critical capability gaps in their respective light tactical vehicle fleets. JLTV is the most cost-effective program to meet capability gaps for the light tactical vehicles with the most demanding missions," said Kevin M. Fahey, program executive officer for Combat Support and Combat Service Support, known as PEO CS&CSS.

JLTV is a major Army-Marine Corps acquisition program for a new generation wheeled vehicle that will replace a portion of the services' Humvee fleet. The program's aim is to develop

a new multi-mission light vehicle family with superior crew protection and performance compared to the Humvees.

"The Technology Development phase for this program did exactly what it was intended to do — provide the basis for the cost-informed trades that resulted in a common Army and Marine Corps requirement. It serves as a model for how the services looking forward should operate in a cost-constrained budget environment," said William E. Taylor, Program Executive Officer Land Systems Marine Corps.

In the spring of 2011, JLTV successfully completed a 27-month Technology Development, or TD, phase — satisfying its intended purpose of demonstrating the integration of mature technologies as a complete system and providing the Army and the Marine Corps with an assessment of the technical, performance cost and schedule risks relevant to entering the Engineering and Manufacturing Development Phase.

"The TD phase gave the Army and USMC exactly the kind of information we needed concur on a common base requirement, a streamlined acquisition schedule and a competitive process

SEE PROGRAM, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY KRISTEN KUSHIYAMA

An Army and U.S. Marine Corps' Joint Light Tactical Vehicle team conducts a helicopter sling load transportability test during the Technology Development phase.

Ugandans train on Raven unmanned aircraft system

By Skip Vaughn

USAG Redstone

REDSTONE ARSENAL — Ugandan air force Pvt. Ronald Mudhasi locked his arm as instructed and flung the small remote-controlled airplane into the overcast sky.

The Raven flew majestically above Test Area 3 but Mudhasi's work wasn't finished. He joined his countrymen and their instructors under a nearby canopy to help control the unmanned aircraft system's flight.

Eight members of the Ugandan air force received training on the Raven Dec. 12-23. The Ugandan defense forces purchased four of the systems in July for \$3 million, according to logistics management specialist Cindy Vanburg of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Command Security Assistance Management Directorate.

The Uganda servicemembers, in two groups of four, received instruction on



PHOTO BY SKIP VAUGHN

Ugandan air force Pvt. Ronald Mudhasi prepares to launch the Raven unmanned aircraft system during training Dec. 15 at Test Area 3 at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

their country's new systems, which would be delivered in January after the training. The instructors were from Rally Point Management, out of Fort Wal-

ton Beach, Fla.

"I like it," Mudhasi said of the Raven.

"It's interesting, very interesting."

"It's good," Capt. Patrick Kubayo said.

"It's a good support of our operations in Somalia. Very necessary. The instructors they're professional. They know what they're doing. They help us a lot."

"It is good. It will help us in our service in Uganda and other countries," explained Lance Cpl. Rowland Jimmy Odoch.

Using a laptop computer with stylus, Rally Point Management instructor Mike Mahowald taught the Ugandans how to control the aircraft.

"Every click is 20 feet up or 20 feet down," he said at one point.

The Raven flew overhead with the Ugandans at the controls when a few visitors prepared to leave. Rally Point Management site head Kurt Donaldson was asked how the Ugandans were doing.

"They're doing good," Donaldson replied. "They're doing very good."

The Raven is the smallest unmanned aircraft system the Army sells internationally.

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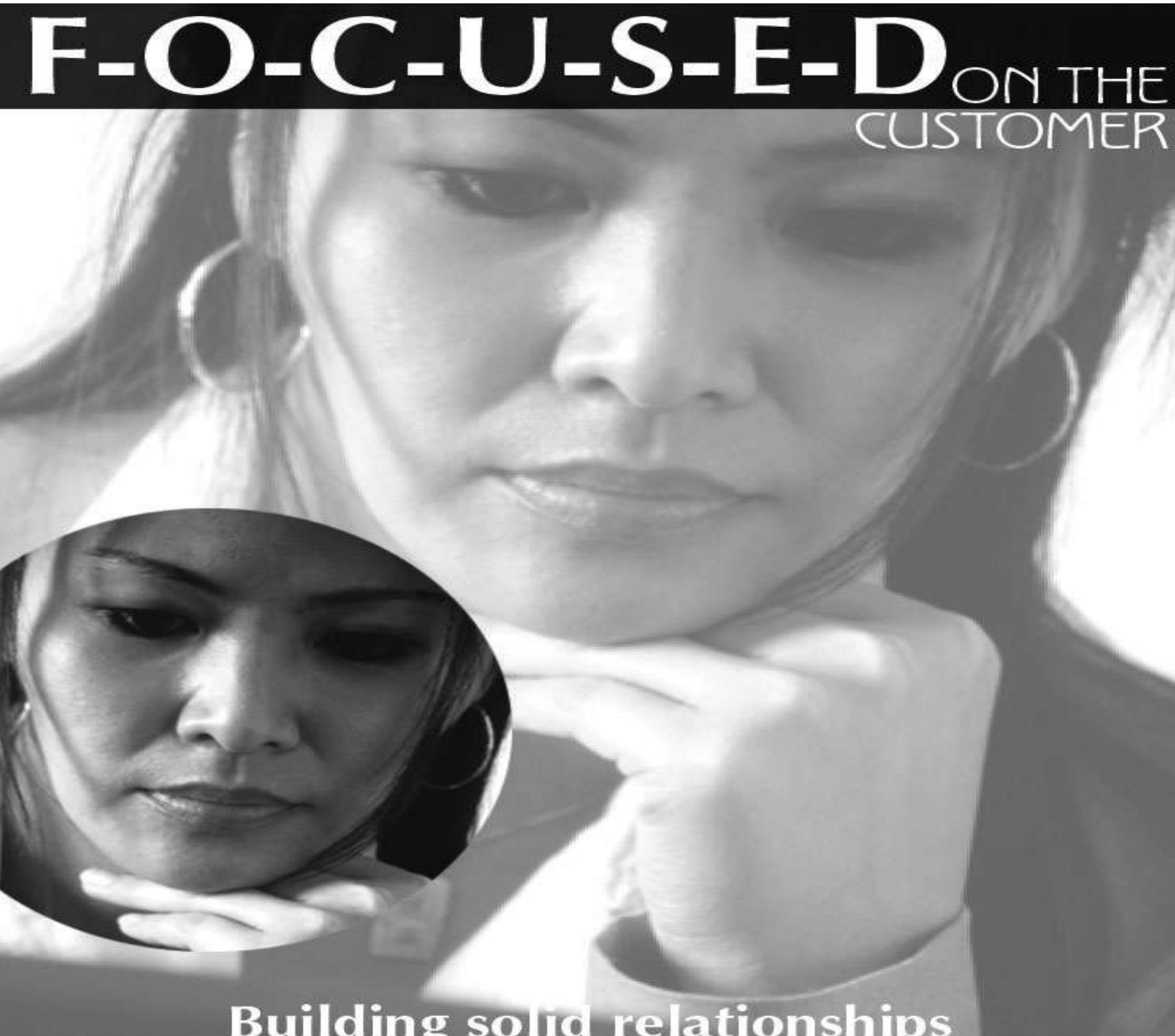
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Lift: ‘We’re trying to make it as real as possible’

Continued from Page B1

“It was really good training,” said Spc. Nickolas Noga, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, who graduated Jan. 19, with classroom six. The infantryman has fought in Afghanistan, where he experienced the chaos that unfolds by exchanging fire with enemy forces.

“You never know,” said Noga. “When you get deployed everything can go haywire, and you don’t know what to do. Everyone should have sufficient knowledge of medevacs and be proficient at it.”

The Soldiers from F Company, 7th Bn., 158th Avn. Reg., began receiving HH-60M Black Hawks in early 2010, according to unit instructor pilots. They said the aircraft’s latest configuration includes hotter turbines, improved blades, computerized cockpit panels, electronic litter lifts and a more secured patient compartment.

“It’s great training for us,” said 1st Lt. Derrek Montoya, F Co., 7th Bn., 158 Avn. Reg., while waiting for a call from classroom six with his pilot-in-command, crew chief and medic. “We get to do our whole routine — run-up and getting ready. If we get deployed, this is what we’d be doing.”

Montoya appreciates the opportunity to practice prioritizing tasks in hectic situations. He said it’s easy to feel “task saturated” while surveying an area, coordinating with other aircraft, mitigating emergency situations, monitoring internal frequencies and maintaining contact with ground forces.

CW2 Andrew Bright, F Co., 7th Bn., 158 Avn. Reg., is an instructor pilot who’s deployed to Iraq three times. Bright was preparing to evaluate Montoya’s response to the “nine-line” medevac request from the WLC students.

“The more we can throw at them here, in a training



PHOTO BY DUSTIN SENGER

An HH-60M Black Hawk medevac crew responds to a request Jan. 1 from students completing a Warrior Leader Course situational exercise at Fort Carson, Colo.

environment, the more prepared they’ll be when we deploy,” said Bright, regarding the medevac crews. The standard reaction time to a nine-line is 15 minutes, he said, but the company often rehearses responses to urgent calls in less than 10 minutes.

While the two squads assigned to classroom six were walking “humanitarian aid” through an icy gorge in subfreezing temperatures, a training improvised explosive device detonated, covering mud and snow in a cloud of white powder.

While securing the area, a “combatant” appeared about 50 feet from their beaten path, firing blanks from an M16 rifle. The Soldiers returned fire, simulating enemy engagement. Before the exchange ended, a WLC small group leader tapped a Soldier for

evacuation, calling him a gunshot wound. The Soldier dropped.

After the Black Hawk landed, Sgt. Matthew Larson exited the aircraft, handed his headset to his crew chief, grabbed a handheld radio and met up with Soldiers. The combat medic asked for more information about the “wounds,” assessed the casualty for quick treatments, and then adjusted and tightened their litter.

“We’re trying to make it as real as possible,” said Larson, who has deployed to Iraq as a ground medic. He has a bachelor’s degree in emergency response medical services and experience with hospitals and aircraft. “The biggest thing is talking through it speaking from experience to the guys who haven’t done it before.”

“It helped us get a feel-

ing of actually having a helicopter come down,” said Spc. Shaughn Daniel, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Reg., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. The M-1

Abrams tank system maintainer said his occupational specialty rarely requires training with aircraft.

“It’s really loud,” said Daniel. “The wind is blowing. You’re trying not to get your head blown off and your heart is pumping. It really helps when you get that type of training when you do it in real life, it’s not so jarring — so you won’t get someone killed.”

Daniel first practiced loading a simulated casualty onto a HH-60M Black Hawk at the Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, La., while preparing for his first combat deployment to Afghanistan

in 2010. During the training, he tripped and dropped a litter. However, successful medevacs get easier with practice, he said.

“As you do it more, you get more used to it and you’re not as scared,” he explained. “Less things can go wrong.”

“A lot of people haven’t been in training situations where you actually have (helicopters),” said Noga. “This is giving people a better feeling of what it’s like to actually evacuate a casualty in combat. The more you practice back home, the better the chance you have of saving your battle buddy’s life.”

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Program: Strategy reduces cost, risk

Continued from Page B1

to ensure JLTV remains affordable,” said Col. David Bassett, project manager for Tactical Vehicles.

Following submission of proposals, the government will convene a source selection evaluation board, comprised of subject matter experts from across the Department of Defense, to review the industry proposals. The Army intends to award up to three contracts during the summer for the EMD phase for the delivery of 22 prototype vehicles per contract. Additional deliverables include ballistic structures, armor coupons, additional test assets, contractor furnished kits, trailers and data requirements.

The refined 27-month acquisition strategy is designed to put a premium on driving down costs, reducing risk and getting vehicles into the hands of warfighters quickly. The JLTV EMD contract period of performance for contractors is 27-months, while the full EMD phase will last for 33-months as the program offices ensures JLTV moves successfully from Milestone B to Milestone C.



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FEBRUARY 2, 2012



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAM

Soldiers and civilians enjoy free access to the computers offered at the Center Library located on Fifth Avenue Friday.

Center Library

Free resources abound at post facility

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

From e-books to music downloads to language learning software, the Center Library features a treasure trove of free resources to the community.

The Fort Rucker Center Library, located in Bldg. 212 on Fifth Avenue, has new features offered to members of the community that have access to its resources, said Ruth Villaverde, reference librarian for the Center Library.

"Something we're really excited about is what's now available on the Web that wasn't there a year ago," she said. "People now have Web access to the library where they can look on the Web and see what we have available within our collection."

"People can even check to see whether or not a book has been checked out before they take the time to come in," she said. "They can even put a book on hold if it has already been checked out."

Along with the Web access, the library offers free e-books that are available for download to e-readers or other portable listening devices, said the librarian.

"The e-book access is new for Army libraries and we want people to know that we have that feature available," she said. "Some of the selections may require an Army Knowledge Online, or AKO, account in order to access, but once they have that set up, they can download directly to their [e-readers]."

If people don't have their AKO accounts set up, Villaverde said she and other library staff members would be more than happy to help set one up.

The e-books and more

are offered through: Army Digital Media Library, which has e-books, e-audiobooks, videos and music; Ebsco Audio books, which offers fiction and non-fiction titles; History Reference Online, which provides access to over 6,000 encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks and guides, said the librarian.

People that use the library's resources also have access to Transparent Language Online, which is the Army's current contract for language learning.

"It's completely free," said the librarian. "The TLO is available once

you make an account for it. You'll have access to it anytime you sit down at a computer that has Internet access."

The language-learning program can also be downloaded to smartphones or other handheld portable computing devices, according to Villaverde. The program offers basic language courses in over 48 foreign languages and includes activities for developing pronunciation, grammar, writing, vocabulary and culture skills.

"I highly recommend people check it out if they are at all interested in learning a new language,"

she added.

The Center Library also offers free music downloads for library patrons that register for access to Freegal, the program that offers access to music from the Sony Music Catalog and several independent music producers, according to Villaverde.

"People [that are registered to Freegal] can download up to three songs a week and it's theirs to keep," she said.

Along with the new features the library provides, it's a vast resource for people to take advantage of, according to the librarian.

"People have research resources available to them here [at the library]," said Villaverde. "We have staff that can show them how to use everything if they need help."

"We have a lot of e-resources available that most people don't even realize we have," she said. "People can access many of our books and articles from our online catalog, and it even gives you the citation. It's like it does the work for you."

For access to the e-resources, Villaverde said that people must be a registered library patron and have a unique email

address with the library in order to register for an online account.

"My main job is to help people find what they need at the library," she said. "They can come in as a walk-in or make an appointment and I'd be happy to sit down with them and show them what we can offer and how everything works – it's what I do here."

The Center Library is open Mondays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays – Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Fridays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m.

For more information, call 255-3885.



ON POST

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

Promotion Points Parent Support Program

Army Community Service's Promotion Points is holding a new Parent Support Program Friday from 9-11 a.m. at the Early Childhood Activity Center, Bldg. 3705 on Dean Street. 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 Sunday 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 – chips, 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.

Super Bowl party

Mother Rucker's hosts a Super Bowl party Sunday. For more, call Mother Rucker's at 503-0396.

Character Dining with Kiddie Karaoke

The Landing Zone hosts Character Dining with Kiddie Karaoke Tuesday from 5-8 p.m. For more, call 598-8025.

Valentine's Day craft making

The Center Library hosts a Valentine's Day craft making activity for children ages 3-11 from 4-5 p.m. Tuesday. Light refreshments will be served and space is limited to the first 65 children.

Visit the library or call 255-3885 for more information.

Dueling Pianos

Dueling Pianos performs at The Landing Feb. 11 from 8 p.m. to midnight. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Dueling Pianos is billed as an energetic musical show as two pianists "duel" to see who can play better and faster, with 176 keys of humor, singing and music. Tickets are \$10 in advance at The Landing Zone, or \$15 at the door. This show is open to ages 18 and older and is open to the public.

For more, call 598-2426. Additionally, people are welcomed to make the evening a date by enjoying The Landing Zone Valentine's Dinner Special beforehand for \$35 per couple. Dinner will be served from 5-8 p.m. and includes a shrimp cocktail to share, choice of blackened red fish with Riesling cream sauce, 10 oz.

sirloin, 12 oz. prime rib, or a Cajun chicken and shrimp pasta. All entrees come with a baked potato and side salad. Then choose a dessert to share of either cheese cake or Bourbon pecan pie. Reservations are not required, but are strongly suggested.

For more, call 598-8025.

AFTB Level 1 Training

Being new to the Army can be confusing, and Army Family Team Building Level I is designed to provide the knowledge and tools people need. AFTB I takes place Feb. 13 and 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Commons in Bldg. 8950. Modules of learning include: military acronyms, chain of command, customs and courtesies and more.

For advanced registration and childcare information, call 255-2382.

EFMP Information and Support Group

The Exceptional Family Member Program invites all active duty military Families that have an exceptional Family member to the EFMP Information and Support Group meeting Feb. 14 from 9-10 a.m. at The Commons in Bldg. 8950 on Seventh Avenue. The topic for the meeting is EFMP respite care. Eligibility and enrollment procedures will also be discussed. This is an opportunity to learn and provide suggestions for future topics for the support group.

For information and to register, call Army Community Service's EFMP at 255-9277.

Valentine's Day Family Pasta Buffet

The Landing Zone hosts a Valentine's Day Family Pasta Buffet Feb. 14 from 5-8 p.m. Cost for adults is \$10 and for every paid adult, two kids eat for free. Entertainment for children will be provided by Character Dining, a balloon performance and crafts.

For more, call 598-8025.

Mardi Gras Kid's Night

The Landing Zone hosts Mardi Gras Kid's Night Feb. 21 from 5-8 p.m. Children are invited to dress in Mardi Gras-themed costumes, including face masks and outfits with the green, gold and purple colors. All children who attend in costume will put their names in a drawing for prizes. Children do not have to be present at time of drawing, but must have attended the event in costume to be eligible.

For more, call 598-2426 Ext. 35.

Blended Family Workshop

Army Community Service hosts a Blended Family Workshop Feb. 22 from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Early Childhood Activity Center. The workshop focuses on maintaining strong parent and child relationships, developing relationships within the blended Family, and effective communication and negotiation skills. People should register by Feb. 17. The Workshop is



FILE PHOTO

On deck

Fort Rucker youth baseball player Damien Aldridge attempts to stop an opponent from advancing a base during action from a youth baseball game last year at Fort Rucker. Youth spring baseball registration runs now through Feb. 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.

open to active duty service-members, retired military, Department of Defense civilian employees and their Family members.

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

Anger Management Workshop

Army Community Service hosts an Anger Management Workshop Feb. 21 and 28 from 9-11 a.m. at the Family Advocacy Program Early Childhood Activity Center in Bldg. 3705 on Dean Street. The workshop helps people learn how to identify causes of anger, the symptoms of anger, techniques to manage anger and how to develop an anger management plan. This is a two-part series and participants must attend both sessions in order to receive a certificate. The workshop will not meet on holidays. The Workshop is open to active duty service-members, retired military, Department of Defense civilian employees and their Family members.

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

Newcomers Welcome

Army Community Service offers its next Newcomers Welcome Feb. 24 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at The Landing. 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.


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Agencies create database to protect troops, quell swindlers

By **Lisa Daniel**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Their presence outside military bases has become all too familiar: businesses peddling cars, electronics and other items with undisclosed conditions or sky-high interest rates that quickly become a financial nightmare for service members.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau announced as one of its first orders of business Jan. 25 that it is partnering with the Federal Trade Commission to put a stop to such scams.

The bureau, which was created to consolidate financial regulators and protect consumers, has created a national database to share between state and federal law enforcement with information about companies that target military members for consumer and financial fraud.

Richard Cordray, the former Ohio attorney general whom President Barack Obama appointed as director of the bureau earlier this month, said coordination among law enforcement agencies — and their input — is critical to prosecuting scam artists who prey on servicemembers and their families.

The database — dubbed ROAM, for Repeat Offenders Against the Military — is accessible only by law enforcement, and is an extension of the FTC's Military Sentinel Network, a public website where people can report scams against servicemembers, Cordray said.

New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman, who attended today's announcement, came up with the idea for the database after filing a lawsuit in 2010 against Rome Finance Co. of Concord, Calif., for defrauding nearly a thousand Soldiers at Fort Drum, N.Y., as well as servicemembers in at least five other states. The company agreed to repay \$3.5 million to the Fort Drum Soldiers and restore their consumer credit ratings in a legal agreement reached in August.

Schneiderman called the case "one of the most egregious things I've seen in my time" in which the company's retailer, Smart-Buy, sold laptop computers at highly inflated prices to servicemembers. Under the scam, he said, servicemembers were forced to use the company's financing plan, which was paid directly from their military paychecks with interest rates that eventually hit 19 percent. Some Soldiers ended up paying more

than \$7,000 for a computer worth no more than \$2,000, he said.

The Fort Drum Soldiers were particularly vulnerable, Schneiderman said, because the base was "an extremely active jumping-off point" for deployments to Iraq, with Soldiers busy and distracted by their jobs and relocations.

Few are more familiar with the situation than Holly Petraeus, the bureau's assistant director of servicemember affairs and wife of retired Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, CIA director and former commander of U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"As someone who has lived in military communities my entire life, I've seen firsthand" how some companies prey on military members, Petraeus said. "I continue to hear stories of servicemembers being ripped off by businesses who see them as easy targets to a quick profit," she said, adding that some compare the predatory nature of sales people who set up outside military bases to bears at a trout stream.

Servicemembers are a favorite prey, she said, because "they have a guaranteed paycheck, and they're

not going to quit or get laid off." And, she added, a military base sometimes is the largest employer in the area.

Too often, Petraeus said, when a business is shut down at a base in one state, it simply moves to another — something the national database is designed to prevent.

Among the latest scams, Petraeus said, is one in which people claim they can help elderly veterans with their applications to receive the Veterans Affairs Aid and Attendance benefit, which can pay as much as \$2,000 per month. In soliciting their services, the scammers gain access to the veterans' financial records, she said.

The FTC received more than 17,000 complaints of military-targeted financial scams last year, FTC Commissioner Julie Brill said, precipitating months of meetings at military installations around the country to hear complaints and collaborate with the services on financial training.

Servicemembers are a particularly vulnerable group of consumers, Brill said, due to their young age, independence and lack of financial experi-


ence.

The database "is about being effective, efficient and responsive" in prosecuting scam artists, she said.

Petraeus urged servicemembers to protect themselves by understanding what the total price of a product with interest — not just the monthly payment

— will be before buying, and to consult financial and legal guidance on base.

"They have great legal services available to them," she added.



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Alabama Travel highlights bridge trail

Alabama Tourism Department
Press Release

Alabama is home to a number of historic covered bridges.

TheAlamuchee-Bellamy Covered Bridge, located on the University of West Alabama campus in Sumter County, was built of hand-hewn heart-pine timbers joined with wooden pegs over the Sucarnoochee River in 1861. Later moved to Alamuchee Creek, this is West Alabama’s only remaining covered bridge. In 1969, it was restored and moved to its current location. The Clarkson Covered Bridge and Park features one of the largest covered bridges in Alabama. The truss bridge was built with lattice-style planks in 1904 and restored in 1975. Enjoy the shaded picnic grounds, dogtrot log cabin, gristmill and hiking trails.

Three covered bridges still exist in Blount County, the Covered Bridge Capital of Alabama and home of the annual Covered Bridge Festival. Spanning 324 feet and situated high above the rocky riverbed of the Black Warrior River, Swann Covered Bridge is the longest covered bridge still in existence in the state. It was built around 1933. Old Easley Covered Bridge is a one-span town bridge built in 1930. Tin-covered and in fairly good repair, all 95 feet of its single span are preserved. And Horton Mill Bridge, built in 1935, is one of the highest covered bridges in the nation, standing 70 feet above the Black Warrior River.

Located at the Shady Grove Dude Ranch near Mentone, the 90-foot-long Old Union



Crossing Covered Bridge spans the West Fork of Little River. It was moved from Lincoln in 1972 and rebuilt in 1980 over an existing cable bridge from the late 1800s.

In Etowah County,Gilliland-Reese Covered Bridge was made in 1899 of rough-hewn lumber and covered with weathered shingles. In 1968, the structure was hauled to the pioneer setting of Noccalula Falls Park and carefully restored.

Coldwater Covered Bridge, one of Alabama’s oldest remaining covered bridges, was built in 1850 by a former slave. It was later restored and moved from Coldwater Creek to its current location at Oxford Lake and Walking Trail in Calhoun County.

In Talladega County, both the Waldo Covered Bridge andKymulga Grist Mill & Covered Bridge were constructed in the mid-1800s and span scenic Talladega Creek.

You can also visit some new covered bridges. Poole’s Covered Bridge is located at the Pioneer Museum of Alabama in Troy. In Monroe County, Rikard’s Mill is a historical park featuring a covered bridge and covered bridge gift shop as well as a restored water-powered gristmill, blacksmith shop and cane syrup mill. And the Horace King Covered Bridge Replica in Valley is built in the style used by Horace King, a famous black engineer, humanitarian and legislator of the Civil War era.

For more information any of the above, point your browser to <http://www.alabama.travel/tours-and-trails/covered-bridge-trail/>, and for more Alabama travel information go to <http://www.alabama.travel/>.



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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.

FEB. 18 — The Dothan Civic Center will host the Blues is Alright Concert featuring Willie Clayton, Latimore and Calvin Richardson and host comedian Sir Walt. The event will begin at 8 p.m. Advanced Tickets are \$30 and \$25 and all tickets will be \$30 the day of the show. Tickets and other infor-

mation can be found at www.dothancivic-center.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 wiregrassmuseum.com or call 794-3871.

ENTERPRISE

ONGOING — The City of Enterprise is partnering with the Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 9 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6683 to honor Korean War veterans at this year’s Veterans Day parade and ceremony. If you are a Korean War veteran or know someone who is, please contact Tara Leigh Emmett, special projects coordinator 348-2603 or email tarael@cit-yofenterprise.net no later than Nov. 1.

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

ONGOING — Enterprise State Community College holds classes to teach English as a second language at the Fort Rucker

campus Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. until noon in Bldg. 4502, Rm. 131.

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

SATURDAY — The Ozark Dale County Public Library hosts a half-price book sale from 9 a.m. to noon, sponsored by the Friends of the Library. This sale includes paperback and hardback books, music and videos. For more information, call 379-7184.

SATURDAY — Dale County Council of Arts and Humanities invites the public to a browse and buy art during the Small Town Big Art show and reception Saturday from 6-8 p.m. at 144 East Broad Street. Framed artwork and photographs will be on sale for as little as \$10. For more information, visit www.ruddartcenter.org.

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

Mobile Chocolate Festival

The Mobile Chocolate Festival will be held at the Mobile Civic Center Expo Hall Saturday 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.

Prattville Mardi Gras

The City of Prattville’s eighth annual Family-fun

Mardi Gras parade is Saturday 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.havenforanimals.org or call (251) 929-3980.

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.

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 visitelmoreco.com.

ArchiTreats Lecture

The Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery hosts ArchiTreats lectures on the third Thursday each month. The next lecture is Feb. 16 from noon to 1 p.m.

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

Combat rations change to reflect troops’ palates

By Donna Miles
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON — For a sense of what’s ahead for combat rations, check out offerings at one of the many sit-down chain restaurants that have sprung up like mushrooms around the country and outside many military bases.

Food scientists at the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center near Boston look to Applebee’s, TGI Friday’s and other popular chain eateries for inspiration in their quest to provide warfighters the kind of food they’d seek out at home if they weren’t deployed, explained Jeremy Whitsitt, technology integration analyst for the center’s Department of Defense combat feeding directorate.

So “Meals, Ready to Eat” and other combat rations the Natick center develops for all the services are a blend of comfort foods such as the ever-popular beef stew, old standbys such as spaghetti and meat sauce and an increasing number of ethnic selections, particularly Italian, Mexican and Oriental dishes, he said.

A Southwest beef and black bean dish introduced in 2010 is “quickly becoming a favorite,” Whitsitt said, along with a Mediterranean-inspired chicken with tomato and feta cheese course also added that year. Ratatouille and Santa Fe rice and beans entrees made their debut in 2011. This year, Asian pepper steak and Mexican chicken stew went into production.

Also new for 2012 are au gratin potatoes — one of Whitsitt’s personal favorites — as well as multigrain snack bread, jalapeno-cheese-filled crackers, a fiber-fortified banana nut Ranger bar and sour fruit candy discs.

“We try to stay true to what our demographic is eating when they are not on the battlefield, and I think our current product offering reflects a lot of that,” Whitsitt said. “With the advances in food science and processing technology and packaging innovation — and I think most warfighters would back me up on this — I think we actually have a very good, current, trendy product offering out there now.”

Keeping up with changing culinary trends in developing combat rations is a never-ending process. “We run a continuous product improvement program,” Whitsitt said, balancing what troops want to eat with other considerations such as nutrition and field-worthiness.

Achieving that balance is no hit-or-miss proposition. There’s a ton of science behind it, with food scientists factoring in challenges that the popular eateries they strive to emulate simply don’t have to contend with.

MREs must be able to maintain their quality for three years if stored at 80 degrees Fahrenheit, or six months when exposed to more extreme temperatures. They must satisfy the surgeon general’s strict nutritional requirements, with specific standards for calories and for composition of carbohydrates, protein and fat.

Even more challenging, they have to be packaged to withstand being airdropped by parachute, free-dropped from 100 feet and subjected to rough handling and extreme temperature swings.

To make sure they meet these standards, testers at Natick subject them to scorching heat and frigid cold, high impacts to ensure they don’t break open when airdropped, and nutrition analyses to make sure they

meet prescribed requirements.

But no matter how well MRE items perform in these tests, they never enter the military inventory until they survive the toughest test of all: the troop taste test.

Every year, a team of product developers, food scientists, nutritionists and consumer researchers travel to field training exercises to hear firsthand what troops think of current combat rations referred to as the “control group” and some of the most promising prototype entrees.

“We collect a lot of data, and from that data we boil it down to: here are the top-rated items from the new group, and here are some of the lowest-rated items from the control group,” Whitsitt said. Those findings then go to a joint-service operational rations forum, which approves eliminating the least-popular current selections and replacing them with the highest-rated new ones.

Based on overwhelming servicemember input, “country captain chicken,” a cross between chicken a la king and chicken and dumplings, got scratched off the MRE menu board back in 2005. The veggie omelet followed suit in 2009.

Last year, white albacore tuna, chicken and dumplings, the veggie griller and Mexican corn got dropped from production. This year, the same fate fell to the hamburger patty, Buffalo chicken and Mexican rice.

Whitsitt acknowledged that decisions about what foods stay or are introduced and which ones are dropped is challenging because “somebody’s least-favorite item might be somebody else’s most-favorite item.”

But he said he’s convinced that a product improvement process based 100 percent on customer recommendations and feedback is paying

off. “A lot of the comments that we get hint to the fact that we are pleasing most of the people most of the time,” he said. “And when it comes to food, that probably is the greatest compliment you can get, considering you are talking about 2.2 million warfighters.”

Tales of military rations falling short of the mark in the past have become the stuff of legends. During Operations Desert Shield and Storm in 1990 and 1991, Army Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the time, reportedly was so dissatisfied with the state of MREs that he summoned the director of the combat feeding program to his office. As the story goes, Powell held up an MRE and rendered the simple order: “Fix it.”

Since then, 241 new ration items have been added to better reflect what warfighters want, and the fixing continues. “There is always room for improvement,” Whitsitt said.

In that quest, the researchers at Natick and their industry and academic partners are pushing the envelope in food processing and packaging to broaden the array of foods they can deliver.

One, which the FDA approved in 2009, involves pressure-assisted thermal sterilization — basically, using high pressure rather than intense heat to sterilize MREs and other combat rations. The benefit, Whitsitt explained, is less protein degradation during processing and improved taste, texture, odor, flavor and overall product quality.

The FDA also approved another technology Natick advanced with its partners: microwave-assisted thermal sterilization that heats packaged foods uniformly to kill any bacteria. In the past, microwaves heated foods unevenly, either “overcook-

ing” the entire product or heating some parts enough to kill the bacteria but leaving some parts below that “kill temperature.”

These new processing methods open the door for improving the quality and acceptability of combat rations, while also expanding their product offerings, Whitsitt explained. This could include foods that couldn’t stand up to standard sterilization methods, such as fish and seafood. Using the new methods, “you can actually start to see something like a salmon filet in an MRE, which is unheard of right now,” he said.

Natick scientists already have developed a prototype salmon-in-alfredo-sauce entree using microwave-assisted sterilization. “It’s a very high-quality product, but also shelf-stable for three years,” Whitsitt said.

Meanwhile, food scientists also are looking at ways

to enhance the warfighting capability combat rations provide.

Caffeine, for example, is known to increase people’s cognitive abilities when they’re fatigued or under stress. So Natick food scientists have come up with a caffeine-infused meat stick, and also are looking at other ways to deliver caffeine, possibly through a bar, gum or candy product, Whitsitt said.

They’re also exploring innovative ways to boost physical and cognitive performance by lacing foods with naturally occurring compounds such as curcumin and Omega 3s, he said. Curcumin is an anti-inflammatory supplement, and Omega 3s found in fish oils promote a broad range of functions, including reducing cholesterol and heart disease. New research also suggests they play a role in preventing traumatic brain

injury — an obvious concern on the battlefield, Whitsitt reported.

Several new food items being developed at Natick incorporate Omega 3 fatty acids in a chicken chili dish and also bakery items such as cookies and cakes.

As some Natick researchers strive to improve food processing and foods themselves, others are studying ways to reduce the weight of the rations.

“We know that the warfighters already are sometimes carrying 75 to 100 pounds on their back, and the last thing we want to do is to add more weight or unnecessary weight for them,” Whitsitt said. “So we are looking at ways to reduce that weight in rations — while still maintaining the proper calorie count so they have the proper nutrition, the proper energy and the proper

SEE RATIIONS PAGE C6

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PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Pick-of-the-litter

Meet June, a 9-week-old female domestic short hair available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility. She is calm and friendly with everyone she meets. It costs \$81 to adopt June and other animals at the facility, which includes all up-to-date shots, microchip and spaying. For more information on animal adoptions, call the stray facility at 255-0766, open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. 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.

Rations: 'They certainly are eating every day'

Continued from Page C5

percentages of fat, proteins and carbohydrates."

Whitsitt said there's a clear understanding at Natick that the work done in the food lab has a direct impact on the mission — and the health and well-being of those carrying it out.

Napoleon Bonaparte famously observed 200 years ago that an army marches on its stomach. And despite all the changes that have taken face in warfare, Whitsitt said, that adage still holds true, impacting warfighters every single day.

"They may not fire a weapon every day or drive a Humvee or [mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle] every day, but they certainly are eating every day," he said.

Natick's focus, Whitsitt said, is to make that experience as beneficial and positive as possible.

"Our whole mission is to ensure the joint warfighter is the best-fed warfighter in the world," he said. "And we take our mission very

seriously, because we truly feel that we are fueling the Defense Department's most adaptive and flexible weapons platform, which is the individual warfighter."

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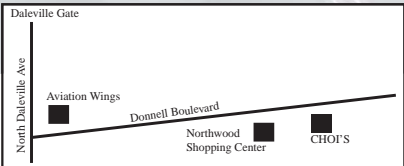


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Super Bowl safety key to good time

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Super Bowl weekend has arrived and Fort Rucker officials urge people in the community to be safe and healthy before, during and after the upcoming football game.

"I think when we talk about Super Bowl weekend, the big thing we always think about is drinking and driving," said Marcel J. Dumais, Directorate of Public Safety Department of the Army Civilian Police chief. "If you plan to go out and enjoy the Super Bowl anywhere other than your own home, put a plan in place, especially if you decide you're going to be drinking."

The chief said that people should always make sure to have a designated driver, make plans to stay with a friend, or stay somewhere where they can avoid drinking and driving. He also urges that people be safe and aware even if they won't be drinking over the weekend.

"For people that are just going to be on the road and won't be drinking, be a little more cautious, because you never know," said Dumais. "Once the Super Bowl is over, the potential exists that there could be people out there that will be drinking and driving. People really need to drive defensively – pay attention to the road and pay attention to the other drivers that will be driving that night."

A Soldier that gets stopped on post for driving under the influence will be apprehended and taken to the police station on Fort Rucker to be processed and

BOSS Super Bowl party

Fort Rucker's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosts a Super Bowl party Sunday 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 – chips, 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.

Super Bowl party

Mother Rucker's hosts a Super Bowl party Sunday. For more, call Mother Rucker's at 503-0396.

determined whether their blood alcohol content exceeds the .08 limit, according to the police chief. If it is, the Soldier will then be issued an immediate suspension of installation driving privileges for a period of 12 months.

"Just like anyone else, the [Soldier] will then go to court and be susceptible to whatever fines that the judge determines to be adequate for their specific case," said Dumais. "Just because you get [pulled over for DUI] on post, doesn't

mean you're going to get off any easier than if you were elsewhere."

Dumais suggests that people have an alternative to alcohol if they are hosting a Super Bowl party to protect their guests.

"Just don't drink," he said. "If you do, at a certain point, people should shut off the alcohol intake, especially if people are going to be driving. If you're having a party, plan for people to be able to stay over if they are drinking, or find of means

of getting those people home safely."

Dumais also urges people to take the safety aspect into their homes while they are cooking, saying "there's always a potential for fires when cooking, so, people need to be extra careful when mixing that with alcohol at their parties."

Along with being safe over the Super Bowl weekend, people should also choose to be healthy, said Denece Clayborne, community health nurse and director of Health Promotion at Lyster Army Health Clinic.

She offers some tips on how to be healthy during the weekend saying the best way to eat healthy during an event like the Super Bowl is to pay attention to portion size, choose healthier options and don't go to a party hungry.

"Don't fill up your plate and don't hang out near the snack table," said Clayborne. "Educate yourself on the nutritional value of typical snacks before a party."

"Munch on the fruit and veggie tray more than the hot wings and pigs in a blanket," she said. "If you're not willing to pass up the typical snacks, choose healthy options within the snack group: for example, cheese dip has approximately four times more calories than salsa, so go for the salsa."

She also suggests people have a healthy, filling meal before attending a party to curb cravings for snacks, recommending foods that are high in fiber and protein that will keep you full, longer.

With these tips, Fort Rucker officials want to ensure people have a safe and healthy Super Bowl weekend.

PIGSKIN PICKS

Jim Hughes <small>Fort Rucker Public Affairs</small>	Master Sgt. Jimmy Lindsey <small>DPTMS NCOIC</small>	Erin Murray <small>Army Flier Staff Writer</small>	Capt. Mike Simmons <small>Directorate of Public Safety</small>	Sharon Storti <small>Network Enterprise Center</small>

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71-44

75-40

78-27

75-40

DOWN TIME



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

T
R
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A

1. MAPS: U.S. Interstate 10 ends in Los Angeles, but where does it begin on the East Coast?
2. SCIENCE: In 1959, physicist Richard Feynman was the first to propose what kind of technology (on a small scale)?
3. LITERATURE: What was Ernest Hemingway's middle name?
4. MUSIC: What American folk-music group is famous for their song "Keep on the Sunny Side"?
5. MEDICAL TERMS: What is a more common name for the medical condition "pruritus"?
6. SPORTS: Where will the 2014 Olympic Winter Games be held?
7. ARCHITECTURE: What famous architect's residence in Wisconsin was called Taliesin?
8. LANGUAGE: What are the comparative and superlative forms of the word "little"?
9. MOVIES: In "Cast Away," what was the name that marooned actor Tom Hanks (Chuck Noland) gave the volleyball that washed ashore?
10. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Brazil?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword

ALTERNATIVES

ACROSS

- 1 Type of file
- 5 Broadway org.
- 10 Bog
- 15 — Cass
- 19 Game ending?
- 20 Prentiss or Poundstone
- 21 Kind of quartz
- 22 Vizquel of baseball
- 23 Approximately
- 25 Puzzling problem
- 26 "Peter Pan" pooch
- 27 Hester Prynne's kid
- 28 Kids connect them
- 30 Shorten a skirt
- 31 Social climber
- 32 James of "Misery"
- 35 Clouds
- 38 Owl or eagle
- 40 New Hampshire's motto
- 45 — do-well
- 46 Shelley showcase
- 47 Lauder powder
- 48 Squealers
- 51 Zodiac crustacean

DOWN

- 2 Interstate exit
- 3 Writer Paretsky
- 4 Give it one's awl?
- 5 Cal. page
- 6 Guitarist Sussman
- 7 Acted promptly?
- 8 Besides
- 9 Ecclesiastic
- 10 Cartographer's creation
- 11 Give it — (try)
- 12 Hasty
- 13 That's no bull!
- 14 Grammy winner Woody
- 15 Dragon or Dracula
- 16 Words for a wimp
- 17 Lord's lair
- 18 Spirited steed
- 24 Norwegian name
- 29 Disconsolate
- 33 Humorist Buchwald
- 34 Tide type
- 36 Earliest
- 37 Word with cow or horse
- 39 Acts like a chicken
- 40 Tennis stroke
- 41 — Bell
- 42 Donkey doc
- 43 Bulldogs
- 44 A shape that stops traffic
- 49 Tiny Tom
- 50 Soap opera, e.g.
- 52 Cassius' cohort
- 54 Pupil's place
- 55 Medieval menial
- 57 Bouquet
- 58 Mississippi port
- 60 Gary and Elizabeth
- 62 Kickoff
- 64 Muppet drummer
- 68 Quiet partner?
- 69 Hosts
- 70 Halloween greeting
- 71 Ancient deity
- 73 Shakespearean tragedy
- 77 German poet
- 78 Air bear?
- 79 Flexed, as muscles
- 85 Born
- 87 Italian wine
- 88 "The Jungle Book" bear
- 89 Glum drop?
- 94 Parental sibling
- 96 Sgt. or cpl.
- 97 Solid circle
- 98 New York city
- 100 Polo's place
- 102 Bk. convenience
- 104 — wop
- 107 Singer Sheena
- 109 Literary pseudonym
- 110 Bright inventor?
- 111 Dictator
- 112 Pyramus' paramour
- 113 Move like
- 114 "Archie" character
- 117 Push-button predecessor
- 119 Envelop deity
- 121 Schipa or Jackson
- 122 Up on
- 124 Flatten a fly
- 125 Kirova of "Zorba the Greek"
- 126 Runner Zatopek
- 129 Record abbr.
- 130 Smith or Foster
- 132 Novelist Kesey
- 133 Vein contents

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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See Page D3 for this week's answers.

KID's CORNER

Puzzle Card

HOW MANY different-size "squares" are in the above drawing?

Answer: 27

AN ODD CHALLENGE!

Challenge your friends to devise a way for a farmer to put 21 pigs in four pens and still have an odd number of pigs in each pen. Our drawing shows how this is done with the fourth, larger pen surrounding the other three pens. In this way, each pen contains an odd number of pigs.

PAR HERE IS FOUR! At the right is a Word Square. Can you find the four five-letter words that match the definitions below? All words used must read the same across and down.

1. Carries the clubs (in place).
2. An eagle's nest.
3. A serious play.
4. A famous march.
5. Causes dough to rise.

Answers: 1. Caddy, 2. Aerie, 3. Drama, 4. Driest, 5. Yeast.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

SOME SALTY PROBLEMS! In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed JUNK to FOOD in four moves. See if you can change each of the following words in four moves — and in less than five minutes.

1. FORE to HAND
2. POND to LAKE
3. MAIM to WELL
4. RATS to PEST
5. SCOW to BOAT

Illustrated by David Coulson

Wishing Well®

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

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. Sweater is different. 2. Lamp is missing. 3. Bulletin board has been added. 4. Door is missing. 5. Item missing from wall board. 6. Pencil is gone.

GRIDIRON CORNER

Forget Xs, Os — lines matter most in Super Bowl XLVI contest Sunday

By Jim Hughes
Command Information Officer

Football is an Xs and Os sport, but Super Bowl XLVI will come down to lines.

With all the storylines associated with Super Bowl XLVI, the result of this game depends on what goes on at the line of scrimmage — can the Patriots' offensive line stop the Giants' defensive line's onslaught.

Of course, you can only debate that for so long — Sunday we'll see who wins the battle — and there are plenty of other storylines.

Revenge: the Giants ruined the Patriots' quest to go 19-0 in Super Bowl XLII and gave New England its last loss in November.

The Gronk: Will tight end Rob Gronkowski's ankle be OK for the game or not? He's not the end all, be all for the Patriots offense, but they are much more effective when he's at full speed than when he isn't. And even if he plays, how effective will he be?

Elite Eli: In an interview at the start of the season, Eli Manning said he considered himself an elite quarterback. He pretty much backed that up. And a win Sunday will definitely earn him a spot there, and he will even surpass his older brother in Super Bowl titles.

Belichick vs. Coughlin: Even though many New York fans were calling for Tom Coughlin's head as late as Week 15 this year after a shocking loss to the Redskins, the man has a pretty good regular and post-season record. But then, it's New York and the axe could fall at any time — although winning this Super Bowl would probably keep him safe through next year's pre-season. And we all know about Bill Belichick: it will be fun to see what he cooks up for



this one — especially on the defensive side.

Not very Brady of him: After an incredible run early in his career that saw him on the winning side of his first 10 postseason games, Tom Brady has been lackluster of late in the playoffs, with a notable exception being his six-touchdown performance against Denver a few weeks ago. He'll need to regain the magic of postseasons past for New England to win this one.

New York vs. Boston: Whether it's the Red Sox vs. Yankees, Patriots vs. Jets, Bruins vs. Rangers, Celtics vs. Knicks, well, OK, forget about the Knicks, but our friends in the northeast love to go at each other in whatever sports arena they can arrange to meet in, and if it's for the championship, so much the better. Serious trash-talking for an entire year is on the line in this one — can you imagine the crushing blow it would be to Boston if they lose to the Giants again?

That's not all of them, so pick your favorite storyline,

but the game mainly hinges on the two opposing lines.

On the line

The general consensus on how to slow down Brady and the high-flying New England offense is to get pressure on the quarterback, and New York has done it well the past few times these teams have met.

With the Patriots' outstanding offensive line, that is often much easier said than done, but the Giants have the tools to do it effectively. Towards the end of the season is when the Giants got hot and became a new team — rattling off five straight elimination game wins. It's no coincidence that this was when the defensive front healed up and Osi Umenyiora, Jason Pierre-Paul, Justin Tuck, and tackles Chris Canty and Rocky Bernard finally got to spend some quality time together standing over opposing QBs.

The Giants have proven in the games they lost they are beatable deep. And,

when you think about the yardage gained by the Patriots offense, you might think that is a big problem. But while Brady and Co. can go deep, they make their living on short and medium passes — the specialty of the Giants defense.

The other way you prevent teams from going deep is pressuring the QB so receivers don't have time to get very far before the QB throws it away or gets hammered. And when you can do it with just your front four, and have seven people in coverage, you're making life difficult for even an offense as good as New England's.

The Patriots' offensive line is going to have to stall the Giants pass rush or it will be a long, painful day for Brady. It isn't mission impossible, though. The New England line features two Pro Bowl players at guard and pretty good talent at tackle. Plus, Belichick likes to put additional linemen in the backfield from time to time to give them an added punch to their blocking schemes.

On the flip side, the Patriots are going to need another stellar effort from Vince Wilfork and the rest of the defense, one very similar to the Ravens and Broncos games. New England shut down both Denver's and Baltimore's impressive running games by switching to a 3-4 scheme (although still employing a 4-3 on passing

situations), moving Wilfork all over the line and having wide receiver Julian Edelman fill in for the depleted secondary.

That last part hasn't worked so well. Look for Manning to target that matchup all day long — and with his stable of receivers, it could get ugly if Belichick hasn't figured out a workaround.

Above and beyond the line matchup, there are some other key players that are going to have to shine Sunday for their team to win.

New York's secondary is going to have to cover effectively and tackle at the point of the catch or Wes Welker and Aaron Hernandez will be running all over the place. If Gronkowski is ineffective due to his injury, that will take loads of pressure off because they can double team elsewhere.

The Giants' offensive line, another unit coming together at the right time, will need to keep Manning upright. Manning is certainly in the elite class of QBs, but he doesn't like pressure any more than Brady, and he is capable of making huge mistakes trying to make things happen — 25 interceptions last year.

While the Patriots are vulnerable to aerial attacks, the Giants need to establish at least the illusion of an effective running game. Plus, they're likely going to want to eat some clock at some

point to keep the ball out of Brady's hands.

On the New England side, if Gronkowski is ineffective, Welker, Hernandez, Deion Branch and The Law Firm (BenJarvus Green-Ellis) will need to step up and make big plays and earn serious yards after the catch.

I'm not sure how this one will play out because both teams have proven in the post season that they can win even when what they want to do isn't what they are able to do. But I have some thoughts on it.

I'm going to stick with my initial pick of the Giants. I highly suspect they are going to pressure Brady and he will be much less effective than he wants to be. I think Gronk's ankle will limit his effectiveness, and in turn that of Welker and Hernandez since one or the other will inherit that double team.

I think a healthy Ahmad Bradshaw will give New York the running game it needs to eat the clock. I think Manning will pick spots to eat the Patriots' secondary alive — look for a big game from Victor Cruz.

I think it will still be a close game, but I think turnovers and special teams will play big roles, and I think the Giants pull it off something like 27-24. But, I'm certainly neither psychic nor a football expert — I'm just a fan hoping to jinx the Giants.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN/BLACK HISTORY 5K RUN

The physical fitness facility will host the Annual African-American/Black History 5K Run and 1-Mile Fun Run Saturday. Race Day registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 8:45 a.m. The 5K run will start at 9 a.m. Participants are encouraged to pre-register at either the Fortenberry-Colton or Andrews PFF. The free 1-mile fun run is open to all children and will begin after the 5K race is completed. Each fun run participant will receive a medal. The costs are \$12 per person (no shirt option) and \$25 (with shirt). The event is open to the public.

For more, call 255-3794.

ROLLER HOCKEY

A group on post is putting together pickup roller hockey games Saturdays at 9 a.m. at Bldg. 6209, next to the Lemon Lot and behind Yano Hal. People interested in playing roller hockey are welcome to attend no matter what their skill level may be.

Players are required to wear helmets, and other safety gear is highly recommended.

For more information or to let the group know you would like to play roller hockey, call Tim Waychoff at (630) 870-9264 or send an email to tim.waychoff@us.army.mil.

PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND SKINS GOLF GAME

Silver Wings Golf Course hosts its Presidents' Weekend Skins Golf Game Feb. 18. For details, call 598-2449.

BRISERES

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

- Jacksonville, Fla.
- Nanotechnology
- Miller
- The Carter Family
- itching
- Sochi, Russia
- Frank Lloyd Wright
- "Less" and "least"
- Wilson
- Brasilia

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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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.)

Soul Caliber V delivers improvements

By Jim Van Slyke
Contributing Writer

By now, most gamers are familiar with the quality of the Soul Calibur series and its style of weapons-based head-to-head fighting. The latest in the series, Soul Calibur V, takes place 17 years after the events of Soul Calibur IV and continues the epic story of warriors searching for soul swords in 17th century Europe.

The new game will feel familiar at first, but there have been some changes that will change how gamers fight. There are side-steps that allow quick dodges, parries have been removed and the Guard Impact system can now repel unblockable attacks at the cost of the character's Critical Meter, the new gauge that replaces the Soul Gauge. "Just Guard," a new blocking system, will allow gamers who have the right timing to not only block an attack, but quickly counter-attack. The biggest change is the new Brave Edge and Critical Edge attacks. If pulled off correctly, they will do lots of damage to opponents.

Ezio from Assassin's Creed is a guest character in the game and is a complicated, but fun, option. He has a lot of options that include his weapons, but his attacks aren't as powerful as most of the other characters. The character creation mode is back with more depth than ever before. Those who like to personalize will enjoy this option.

The same Soul Calibur magic is still present and the changes don't feel cheap or poorly done. There's plenty more to Soul Calibur V, something fighting game fans will love and appreciate. Fight!



COURTESY SCREENSHOT

Reviewed on Xbox 360



Publisher
Namco Bandai
Rated
Teen
Systems
Xbox 360, PS3
Cost
\$60
Overall
3 out of 4



Adopt a pet

For more information about animal adoptions, call the Veterinary Clinic at 255-9061.

The Stray Facility needs donations such as dry or canned foods for cats, dogs, kittens and puppies, as well as blankets, toys and towels. Donations can be dropped off at the Veterinary Clinic.

Massey Automotive

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	2006 Jeep Grand Cherokee N-5854P \$12,995		2009 Mazda CS-7i Sport N2895P \$15,995
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