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ARMY FLYER

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

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FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

FEBRUARY 9, 2012

New UAS maintainer course launches

By Jim Hughes
Command Information Officer

At first glance, the 15E Unmanned Aircraft Systems Maintainer Advanced and Senior Leadership Course at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence Noncommissioned Officer Academy looks and feels like a well-oiled Army training machine honed over the years by experienced Soldiers.

And that glance proves true, except for the “honed over the years” part.

In truth, the 15 students now at about the midway point are the first Soldiers to experience the course that will take them to the leadership levels of UAS maintenance, and the road to creating this initial class was a hectic six-month journey on a barren and bumpy road at over 100 mph, said Sgt. Maj. Richard A. Mitchell, commandant of the academy.

“You’ve heard the terminology

‘building the plane in flight?’ That’s exactly what we did because we really had no clear idea where to even start,” Mitchell said.

While members of the cadre at the academy knew they needed to create the course to start teaching students in fiscal year 2013, they were caught by surprise when needs in the field to support full-spectrum Combat Aviation Brigades suddenly accelerated that timeline to six months to create the course from scratch, the commandant added.

No curriculum, no equipment, no classroom, no area to work on UAS or even UAS to work on, no computers, no desks or workbenches, no computers, etc., just a task. And a lot of talented NCOs driven to go above and beyond their normal duties to make happen what the Army needed, Mitchell said.

SEE NEW, PAGE A6



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

Sgt. 1st Class Paul Gentry (middle), senior UAS maintainer, instructs Staff Sgts. Christopher Duhe and Chris Bunten on UAS maintenance during the 15E course at the USAACE NCOA.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

1-58th AOB returns home

Soldiers from the 1-58th Airfield Operation Battalion return home to Fort Rucker after a yearlong deployment to multiple locations in the Middle East Sunday. For full coverage of the homecoming, see next week’s *Army Flier*.

Tax Center provides free return preparation

By Jim Hughes
Command Information Officer

“The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax,” said Albert Einstein, according to the Internal Revenue Service’s website that lists famous quotations on one of life’s two certainties.

But many in the Fort Rucker community can rest easier knowing that help, and free help at that, is available from volunteers trained and certified in understanding the complex world of income tax at the Tax Center that opened Monday in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 371F, according to Tod Clayton, Fort Rucker’s tax coordinator.

Access to that free help is as easy to get as tapping out a few numbers on a telephone and making an appointment, and returns are expected to be back in people’s bank accounts in as little as seven to 10 working days, Clayton said.

The Tax Center is open weekdays, except for federal holidays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. No walk-ins are taken, but people can call 255-2937 for an appointment.

The Tax Center offers its full advisement, preparation and filing, including e-filing, services to active duty military, Family members and retirees for their federal and state returns. While volunteers are trained and certified for Alabama, they can help with other state taxes, the tax coordinator said.

The only limitations are people



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

Sarah Apodaca, volunteer tax assistant at the Fort Rucker Tax Center, discusses a federal return with a client Monday shortly after the center opened for business to provide free tax advice, information, filing and e-filing services to active duty military, Family members and retirees.

are limited to one rental property on their returns, only one state per person for e-filing with additional ones mailed and no returns for personal businesses are serviced, Clayton added.

“If you have a business, you’ll need to go to a certified public accountant,” he said. “And for people with more than one rental property, that’s considered a business.”

When people call for an appointment, they are welcome to discuss what they will need to bring, because preparation is key to getting everything filed with just one appointment, Clayton added.

“The general idea is one appointment, but we can take people back if we need to,” he said. “We

usually work in times where we can see people again if they forget something or if research for a particular problem is required.”

People also get copies of all the forms and what is submitted to keep for their records, and also advice on how to lessen the amount owed or refunded.

“We’ll go over everything with people and also educate them on things they can do for future years — how to lower what you owe, or if how to lower what you get back so they have money in their pockets rather letting the government use it for free. I’m a firm believer in the closer to zero you can get for

SEE FREE, PAGE A7



PHOTO BY DAVID AGAN

Hunter Lukacz, sixth grader at Fort Rucker Elementary School, and Dr. Vicki Gilmer, principal of the school, present a drawing Lukacz created to retired Lt. Col. Herbert E. Carter of the 99th Fighter Squadron, Tuskegee Airmen, during Fort Rucker’s kickoff of its Black History Month celebration Friday at the PX. All sixth grade students and teachers signed the drawing.

Post celebrates Black History

By David Agan
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Members of the Fort Rucker community gathered at the post exchange Friday to kick off the annual celebration of Black History Month.

Patrons sampled home-style cuisine while being entertained by live music and an exhibition of gospel dancing, and those in attendance also enjoyed the rare opportunity to meet one of the original Tuskegee Airmen.

“It’s an opportunity to educate other people on a culture that’s different than their own,” said Sgt. 1st Class David Kintz, chief equal opportunity adviser.

The U.S. Army is comprised of people who come from different cultural backgrounds and it is not uncommon for barriers to exist between those who don’t understand those differences, according to the EO adviser.

“This gives us an opportunity to come by, learn about a different culture, the history, the sociology and, in a case like today, some of the heroes that belong to that culture,” said Kintz.

The event was highlighted by a meet and greet with retired Lt. Col. Herbert E. Carter of the 99th Fighter Squadron, Tuskegee Airmen.

“It is my pleasure to be here at Fort Rucker,” said Carter. “I’ve been here several times over the years and it always reminds me of the first seven years of my career, 1942 through 1949, when I was in the Army Air Corps.”

In those days, black Soldiers drafted into the U.S. Army traditionally served as privates, corporals or sergeants in the rear ranks and were very rarely mission officers, according to Carter.

“But these Tuskegee Airmen saw themselves completely differently,” he added. “They were determined that they were going to serve America as had been done by their forefathers, but they were going to do it differently. They would do it as officers flying aircraft.”

After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. decided the quickest way to develop the Army Air Corps was to offer Aviation training to any man or woman 18 years of age with at least two years of college experience, said Carter.

By April 1943, the 99th Pursuit Squadron was in North Africa carrying out close tactical ground support missions destroying enemy trains, automobiles, gun emplacements, field dumps, troops and motorcycles, said Carter.

SEE POST, PAGE A7

PERSPECTIVE



Eugene Bullard became the first African-American combat pilot, credited with two unofficial kills during World War I as part of the French Flying Corps.

1st African-American pilot a WWI war hero

Defense Media Activity
Feature Article

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. — After watching his father narrowly escape a lynching in early 20th century Georgia, Eugene Bullard would escape the confines of racial tensions and a segregated country to become the first African-American combat pilot and one of the first African-American heroes of World War I.

Bullard, who grew up in Columbus, Ga., as one of 10 children of a former slave, left his hometown as a teenager, stowing away on a ship bound for Scotland and moved to London to fulfill his dreams.

Before the war began, Bullard moved to Paris where he made a reputation for himself as a professional boxer. At the start of the war in 1914, Bullard enlisted in the French Foreign Legion where he was assigned to the 170th Infantry Regiment. Nicknamed the “Swallows of Death,” he and his unit would see heavy action, and during the battle of Verdun, Bullard was wounded twice. He was then sent to a Parisian hospital to recuperate for the next six months.

Bullard was promoted to the rank of corporal and was awarded the Croix de Guerre, and other war-time medals, for his bravery during combat. While still in the hospital, Bullard accepted a bet that he couldn’t get into the flying corps and in October of 1916 arrived at French gunnery school. A month later he talked his way into pilot training

and earned his pilot’s license to become the first African-American Aviator.

He reached the front lines as a pilot in August of 1917 flying more than 20 sorties in a Spad VII fighter biplane, with two unconfirmed kills to his credit. After a disagreement with a French officer he was eventually removed from the French air force and spent the remainder of the war back with his infantry regiment.

After the war, Bullard remained in France, got married, had two daughters, and purchased a bar on the north side of Paris. He was still living in Paris at the outbreak of World War II, and worked with French Resistance forces to spy on German troops who would patronize his bar. Considered too old to join the French army, Bullard found a way to escape from occupied France, and returned to the U.S. aboard a Red Cross ship in 1940.

In 1954, Bullard, along with two other French veterans, were invited by then French President Charles De Gaulle to light the flame of the Unknown Soldier at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. In 1959, he was honored with the Knight of the Legion of Honor.

When he returned to the U.S., he was never recognized as a war hero, and died in relative obscurity and poverty in Flushing, Queens, N.Y., in 1961. While he never realized his dream of becoming a pilot in the U.S. military, he was finally recognized posthumously as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in 1994.

This month in Army Aviation history

This month we’re spotlighting the February 1972 issue of the *U.S. Army Aviation Digest*. This issue features:

MCNAIR VERSUS THE BULL

It was on a cold and windy January Texas morning when I learned my most important lesson about flying — that almost all accidents start on the ground before the flight even begins.

THE LONGEST MISSION

Have you ever been on a long mission? I mean like 4,500 miles in 55 hours of daily flying?

THE QUIET ONE

Helicopter noise is a problem not only to military strategists but also to the civilian population. The Advanced Research Projects Agency now introduces a “quite” OH-6.

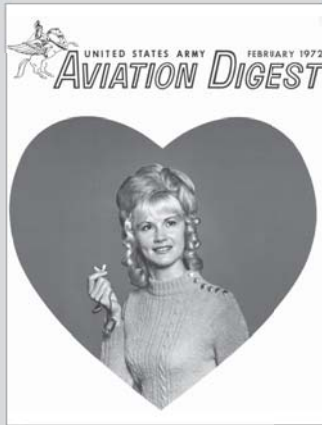
MARK! MARK!

Although this target-marking technique has disadvantages and has not been extensively tested for accuracy, the author presents a thought-provoking concept that may be beneficial to those in the field.

PEARLS

... AND MORE!

Download this issue of the *U.S. Army Aviation Digest* at <http://bit.ly/av8-feb72>



Rotor Wash

“Valentine’s Day is coming up. What would be the ideal gift?”



Jeff Davis,
retired military

“For my wife, a nice evening of dinner, being at home and a nice gift. As a military family, time is more important.”



Kattley Alaniz,
Army spouse

“I’d probably go with an evening out of the house.”



Sgt. 1st Class Mark Flater,
C Co., 1st Bn.,
13th Avn. Regt.

“Jewelry. She loves pearls.”



Jerre Simmons,
retired military

“A car wash. Clean it inside and out. Flowers die but my car needs washed.”



Sgt. 1st Class
Russell Rodrigues,
1st Bn., 501st Avn. Regt.

“I want an iPad 2.”

COMMAND

Maj. Gen. Anthony G.

Crutchfield

FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

Col. James A. Muskopf

FORT RUCKER GARRISON COMMANDER

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

Post offers emergency, weather notification system

By Jim Hughes
Command Information Officer

Members of the Fort Rucker community can be among the first to know when severe weather threatens or security issues arise when they sign up for an emergency notification system offered by the post.

Local Army officials contracted with CodeRED to provide instant emergency notification via voice, email or text messages in August, according to Manny Alvarado, DPTMS' chief of Plans, Operations and Mobilization Division.

"CodeRED gives us an additional venue to provide information to our community in an effort to keep them safe — whether it is from Mother Nature threatening or an intruder on the installation," he said. "The system gives us the ability to inform the community in the event there is an emergency on post, where it is and what actions to take."

In order to receive these types of notifications, people must register – an easy process done on the Web, Alvarado said.

"The process is simple, they just follow the link on the Fort Rucker main page and it takes them to the CodeRED website," he said. "Then they just enter the information required and submit. Once they complete the registration, they will immediately start receiving weather notifications as issued by the National Weather Service and the installation operations center."

The system requires registrants to enter their name, phone number, physical address and email address where they want the alerts sent. The service will provide tailored weather watches and warnings based on their geographical location, said Willie Worsham, plans and operations specialist at the IOC.

"When we were testing the system, the signup process went pretty quick," he said. "I signed up, and shortly after that



I was mowing my lawn and received a weather alert on a severe storm coming to my area. I quit mowing, put away my equipment and within five minutes, the storm was there with dangerous lightning, rain and hail."

The system taps into the National Weather Service for warnings, and by using the address provided, it can tailor what messages people receive, based on their selection upon registration, according to company officials. This allows community members living in Dothan to hear about Dothan-specific warnings, while someone living on Fort Rucker would receive Rucker-specific watches and warnings.

Alerts issued on security threats or weather alerts specific to the installation

will come directly from the Fort Rucker IOC.

"We'll send out the local non-weather emergency notifications to the Fort Rucker community to ensure the information is getting to the community as quickly as possible," Alvarado said. "This two-pronged approach will ensure our people are in the know quickly and accurately, and give our people a chance to prepare for whatever may happen."

He added that once people enter their information, they need to keep it updated.

"The system is only as good as the information provided," Alvarado said. "When people move or change their phone numbers or email addresses, they need to make sure the system has the most

up-to-date information or they won't be getting the notifications."

The safety and well-being of the entire Fort Rucker community is a top concern of leadership at the post, and officials hope everyone here will take advantage of the free alert system. That said, signing up is completely voluntary, Alvarado said.

"It's free, it's simple, it's valuable information," he said. "And if you don't like the service, you can always remove your registration from the service provider."

To sign up for the notifications, just go the Fort Rucker website at <http://www.rucker.army.mil/codered> and follow the link to the company's website where you will register for the service.

For more on the program, see the website, or call the IOC at 255-9777.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Instructor of the quarter

Fort Rucker recognizes the instructors of the first quarter at the U.S. Army Aviation museum during a ceremony honoring David Osteen, Civilian Academic Instructor of the Quarter; Thomas E. Kandler, Civilian Instructor Pilot of the Quarter; Staff Sgt. Alexander J. Chambers, Non-commissioned Officer Flight Instructor of the Quarter; Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Jimenez, NCO Academic Instructor of the Quarter; CW2 Charles A. Villanida, Officer Instructor Pilot of the Quarter; and CW4 Timothy Carter, Warrant Officer Academic Instructor of the Quarter Jan. 31.

News Briefs

Cairns gate closure

The main gate at Cairns Army Airfield will be closed from 12:01 a.m. Tuesday 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 personnel officials. The USAS is a tool that automates the recruitment and hiring process, including developing position-based assessments, creating and posting vacancy announcements, collecting and reviewing application materials, rating and ranking candidates, issuing referrals, making selections and notifying applicants of their status throughout the recruitment process.

Briefings by the Fort Rucker CPAC on the new system will be provided at The Landing Zone for applicants and managers. A manager briefing is Feb. 22 from 1-2:30 p.m. Applicant briefings are 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.

Panetta, Dempsey: Chiarelli inspired all

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department and the Army said goodbye Jan. 31 to a general known for his leadership and his innovation, but who may be best remembered for his focus on advancing brain injury treatment and mental health care.

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were among hundreds who gathered at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall's Summerall Field to celebrate the career of Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, Army vice chief of staff, as he retired following 40 years of service.

As the son of a World War II Silver Star recipient, Chiarelli "exemplified the values of his father: of patriotism, of courage, of resilience, of dedication," the secretary said.

Panetta said he traveled to Baghdad as part of the Iraq Study Group in September 2006, where the group heard a briefing from Chiarelli, then commander of Multi-national Corps Iraq. Iraq at the time was "in considerable turmoil," the secretary said.

"But Pete's presentation demonstrated an extraordinary knowledge of the 21st-century battlefield," he continued. "He was honest. He was direct. He called it as it was, and he pulled no punches."

The secretary said one member of the group who was particularly impressed with Chiarelli was then-Texas A&M University President Robert M. Gates, who as secretary of defense later chose the general to serve as his senior military assistant.

"For 17 months, Pete served as Bob Gates' right-hand man, advising him on a full range of pressing national security matters, and always — always — giving him insight into how the decisions he was making would impact on the men and women on the battlefield."

The hallmark of Chiarelli's career is "the depth of his concern for the welfare of every Soldier," the secretary said. "It's that quality that made him the perfect choice to be the vice chief of staff of the Army."

For his more than three years in that job, Chiarelli has not rested, Panetta said, but has devoted himself to improving the lives of Soldiers and Family members at a time of extraordinary strain.

"Under his leadership, the Army has taken tremendous steps to give Soldiers increased dwell time [at home stations] between de-

ployments, and he's been an outspoken advocate for wounded warriors — in particular, those suffering from the unseen wounds of war," the secretary said.

More than any other officer, Panetta added, Chiarelli sought to eliminate the stigma of post-traumatic stress and other mental health issues.

"And he's devoted every ounce of his energy to the problem of suicide in the Army," the secretary said. "Thanks to his tireless efforts, the department is fully working to confront these issues."

Panetta said Chiarelli and his wife, Beth, have made "an extraordinary difference."

"You've touched so many lives," he told the couple. "You've inspired all of us to redouble our efforts to protect the men and women who fight to protect us."

Panetta assured Chiarelli that while the nation's military members will miss him, "the light that you have lit will continue to shine, and to light our way in the future."

Dempsey used his remarks in part to offer guidance to media members covering the event: "I want you to report that we have never had a finer man in uniform, and never a finer couple, than Pete and Beth Chiarelli," he said.

Dempsey said his fellow general is an outstanding son, husband and father, as well as "an unbelievable friend." But as a Soldier, the chairman added, Chiarelli "is a giant of a man in every way, inside and out."

Dempsey said that after watching Chiarelli "stalking the halls of the Pentagon," he finally got the image he was seeking to describe his fellow general, likening the general to Paul Bunyan, the larger-than-life lumberjack of North American folklore.

"[It's] almost like he's got a big hatchet or ax on his back, hacking his way through the bureaucracy to make life better for Soldiers and their Families," the chairman said.

Dempsey said before the end of the Cold War, Chiarelli was known as one of the finest trainers in the Army, and was the first commander assigned to Iraq to realize — and train his staff to deal with — the key question of how to run a city.

In Baghdad, Chiarelli led the Army to transform its "fundamentally flawed" command-and-control structures, and then to make those systems reach to ground troops, so a squad leader could build context from the bottom up, Dempsey said.

When he came back from war, Dempsey added, Chiarelli confronted the Army's "enduring challenge" with traumatic brain injury



Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli acknowledges applause Jan. 30 as he walks out of the Pentagon during his last day as vice chief of staff prior to his retirement.

and post-traumatic stress injury.

"He drove our Army — drove it — to recognize the problem, to reduce the stigma, to confront it. And that was Pete Chiarelli," Dempsey said.

Beth Chiarelli likewise worked to improve the Army, the chairman noted, by focusing among many other issues on the challenges military children face while changing schools frequently during a parent's career.

"Here's the bottom line," Dempsey said. "The enduring example of both Pete and Beth Chiarelli is that you have to live with a passion for something. The goal is not just to make a living, but to make a difference. And boy oh boy, did you two make a difference."

On Chiarelli's last day at work, Dempsey noted, hundreds of members of the Army staff formed a cordon from his Pentagon office to the parking lot to "clap him out" of the job.

"What struck me was this wasn't organized by his executive officer, it wasn't organized by any other general officer, it was organized by the noncommissioned officers," the chairman said. "And if that doesn't tell you about Pete Chiarelli, you don't know anything about Pete Chiarelli."

During the ceremony, Chiarelli received the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the department's highest noncombat military award. His wife, Beth, received the Secretary of the Army Exceptional Civilian Service Award, the highest Army honor a civilian can receive.

Chiarelli thanked his wife and their four grown

children for their love and support during his career. Marrying Beth was the "best decision I ever made," he said, adding that they are both "immensely proud" of their sons and daughter.

Chiarelli said he bought his father a journal after the senior Chiarelli retired, and asked him to record some of his experiences from World War II, during which the older Chiarelli received a battlefield commission.

"I still have that journal," the general said. "Every page is blank. He never wrote a single word. Like many from his generation, he never talked about his experience or exploits in combat."

One of his father's fellow Soldiers, however, sent him a 24-page narrative outlining some of the two men's shared exploits across North Africa, Italy, southern France, Austria and Germany.

That document proved to him something he's also

learned for himself over four decades in uniform, Chiarelli said: "There is undeniably a thread that links every Soldier to those who came before, and those still to come."

Years after commanding 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq and later Multi-national Corps Iraq, Chiarelli said, not a day goes by that he doesn't think of the 650 Soldiers under his command who were killed.

"I would trade all the medals and ribbons on my chest, and every bit of rank, to get just one back," he said.

Two years ago, Chiarelli added, he presented a Purple Heart to a young staff sergeant who had been wounded in successive roadside bomb explosions in Afghanistan.

"He was there with his parents, his wife and their two children," the general said. "Over the course of our conversation, he told me how much he loved being a Soldier, leading Soldiers. He

wanted desperately to get back to his unit."

Chiarelli said the young man was suffering from traumatic brain injury, and it was "readily apparent to me he had difficulty gathering his thoughts and speaking."

The general said he now believes the invisible injuries of post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury are the signature wounds of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

"While we have made significant progress in recent years, we must, must, must continue our efforts," Chiarelli said. "We owe it to our men and women in uniform, active and reserve, as well as veterans, and their Families."

"I want this to be my parting message to all of you as I leave our Army's active ranks," he concluded. "I certainly hope in retirement to be able to continue to champion this most important cause, and contribute in some meaningful way."

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New: ‘They need to think beyond the manuals’

Continued from Page A1

The key players on creating the eight-week course were 1st Sgt. Jeff Herzog, outgoing deputy commandant; 1st Sgt. Daniel Annicelli, incoming deputy commandant; Sgt. 1st Class Adam Mauro, senior small group leader; Sgt. 1st Class Paul Gentry, senior UAS maintainer; Sgt. 1st Class Steven Marzan from the National Guard; and Staff Sgt. Eric Hauser, small group leader, Mitchell said.

“When we got the mission to make this happen a year early, it hit really, really hard,” he said. “My goal for the first class was to have 75-80 percent product, and I think we have a 90 percent product. None of this could’ve taken place without help from G3, Project Manger’s Office-UAS, the people at Fort Huachuca (Ariz.), the U.S. Army Aviation Logistics School – they all came together as a focal group, and put all the pieces and parts together to make this happen.

“As commandant, I am super, super proud of what a group of NCOs did for our branch and for our Army with very little outside help and very little money — just a task and a mission from higher to figure it out, and they did,” Mitchell added.

Mitchell wasn’t the only one impressed — Army Aviation Branch Command Sgt. Maj. Tod L. Glidewell also praised the end result.

“I think it’s an awesome accomplishment,” he said. “It shows you what a group of NCOs can do when they come together and work towards a common goal to truly affect change in the future for the good of our Army and our Soldiers.”

And they did it while other classes were going and normal duties had to be accomplished, Herzog said, adding that the academy had yet to get a 15E subject matter expert on board, so that was the first request that was sent out.

Then Herzog and Mauro went out to Huachuca to talk with the



Staff Sgt. Eric Hauser (middle), small group leader, instructs Staff Sgts. Shawn Frazzini and Joseph Guerrero on UAS maintenance during the 15E course at the USAACE NCOA.

10-level course trainers, and after two visits and a lot of brainstorming, teleconferencing and emails to get an initial idea of what needed to be taught in the course.

“Then we needed to get into the facilities and resourcing piece, which was the second step,” Herzog said. “Once we had an idea of what they were doing out there and what we needed to do here, we came up with some courses of action and the commandant proposed it to USAACE and between the segeant major and the chain of command, we came up with what you see here: two classroom inserts, a Classroom 21 and office space as temporary solution, as well as hangar space.”

The hangar space was found in Yano Hall in a section that

was previously used for AH-64 Apache maintenance.

“In six months, it went from being nothing but AH64s and a maintenance mess to completely sterile, cleaned and ready to train 15Es,” Herzog added, noting that NCOA students from the other 11 military occupational specialties the academy teaches also chipped in to work on putting together the classrooms, furniture, workbenches and more.

Once Gentry, Hauser and Marzan were on board as the subject matter experts, the coursework development took off in earnest, with the 10-level starting point.

“We created something bigger, better, more challenging,” Gentry said. “We want the student to at times think outside the box. This is still a relatively new career field and there are a lot of

civilian corporations involved, but eventually the Soldier will be in charge of everything as far as maintenance. And Soldiers need to start thinking outside of the box because that day is coming rapidly.

“That is what we’re trying to do with this course – facilitate these Soldiers to think beyond the shell, above the level of what the standard chisel-faced Soldier might be trained to be in basic training. They need to think beyond the manuals, because the manuals are still being written – this field is always building, always changing, always morphing into something better and we want our students to do the same,” he added.

One of those students, Staff Sgt. Joseph Guerrero from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, gives two

thumbs up for the cadre’s efforts.

“Overall this is an awesome experience and I’m glad I was offered the opportunity to get into this field,” said the former armament and electrician and avionics maintainer on the OH-58 Kiowa who’s been in UAS maintenance since 2008. “Coming to the NCOA and being part of the first 15E course, I feel privileged to be able to provide input that will benefit these classes for those who follow us.

“The instructor blocks are very helpful – there’s stuff in there I did not know anything about, especially when it comes to different leadership points,” he added, “The MOS-specific portion, dealing with the regulations and manuals can be overwhelming at times, but I’m taking it in and I feel honored to be a part of it. It is helping me to become a better leader so when I leave here I can implement all I’ve learned with the other Soldiers in my unit.”

And that is what Gentry likes to hear.


“Our biggest mission is getting information out to the students and ensuring that they retain it and take it to the forefront, the battlefield,” Gentry said. “It’s great that we can teach this stuff, but if they can’t take it with them, retain it, take it back to their units, then maybe we need to alter how we train.

“So far, from what we’ve seen, the students are enjoying it, they have been giving us positive feedback and we use their feedback to enhance our course to make it even better,” he added.

The class graduates March 2 at 10:30 a.m. at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum, Mitchell said, and it is something that the students, of course, look forward to, but also the cadre.

“I’m very proud of this. It is by far my greatest achievement,” Gentry said. “I can’t put into words how proud I am of being selected to do this. It’s amazing, and then to see everything come together with our first class so fluidly, it makes us feel good and a great sense of worth.”

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Post: 6th grader meets ‘real American hero’

Continued from Page A1

Carter.

“Anything that’s moving, [we’d] destroy them,” he added.

By the time of the Korean War and the conflict in Vietnam, the U.S. Army and Navy had integrated its forces due in no small part to the Tuskegee Airmen, according to Carter.

“The Tuskegee Airmen demonstrated that if you take any group of people and give them the proper training they will do great things,” said Carter.

Situated in front of Carter were a group of sixth graders from the Fort Rucker Elementary School. Hunter Lukacz, who drew a “Red Tail,” the nickname given to the aircraft flown by the 99th Fighter Squadron, presented the drawing to Carter and thanked him for all he has done for the country. All sixth grade students and teachers signed the drawing.

Dr. Vicki Gilmer, principal of the school, also thanked Carter for the “marvelous service he has provided for our country and

for the great example he has set for our students.”

The students were abuzz talking about the event, Gilmer said, adding that sixth grade student Kyle Reese said that he enjoyed the part about how Carter met his wife, Mildred, and how they were both pilots. Mildred became the first female pilot to join the state’s Civil Air Patrol Squadron in 1942, Gilmer said. The two would fly their planes and meet over Lake Martin.

“It was extraordinary. It’s not every day you get to meet a real American hero,” said Jade Shiffer, sixth grade student, said.

All 68 students were able to shake hands with Carter and thank him for his visit.

In closing, Carter said the day’s celebration was one not only of black history, but of American history.

“Quite often we’re asked the question, ‘if things were that discriminatory why would you go and risk your life for your country?’ And our answer is simple. In spite of her imperfections, this is our country and we love her – all that she is and will be,” said Carter.



PHOTO BY DAVID AGAN

Retired Air Force Col. R. J. Lewis, president of the Tuskegee Chapter of Tuskegee Airman, Inc., Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, with retired Lt. Col. Herbert E. Carter of the 99th Fighter Squadron, Tuskegee Airmen at Fort Rucker’s Black History kickoff event at the PX Friday.

Free: ‘We take it as a challenge to help everyone out’

Continued from Page A1

what you owe or what you get back is best.”

Tax help is available year-round at Fort Rucker through Clayton, but during the peak time, such as now until the mid April filing deadline, the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate beefs up the staff to help with the additional workload and to take better care of Soldiers, Family members and retirees as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, he said.

“Our people are very capable,” he said. “We may not know everything, but we take it as a challenge to help everyone out. We may not have the answer right away, but allow us a day or so to do some research and we will figure it out. If it ends up being outside of our scope, we will let you know.”

For those do-it-yourselfers out there, the center can provide assistance with advice, information, forms, points of contact for different issues and the staff can also review what people intend to file, Clayton added.

Clayton asks people to be patient when making an appointment as

free and popular services such as those at the Tax Center can become over-

loaded at times. He also reminds people that free help is available elsewhere through other VITA sites in the local community and the IRS office in Dothan.

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FEBRUARY 9, 2012

Dustoff wins rescue award

By Sgt. Amanda Jo Brown
Army News Service

FORT RUCKER, Ala. — An aviation crew with C Company “Dustoff,” Task Force Phoenix, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, recently earned an Army Aviation Association of America National Award for a mission conducted in June 2011 in Kunar Province, Afghanistan.

The Air/Sea Rescue of the Year award was presented to CW2 Erik Sabiston, pilot in command, Jan. 25 at Fort Rucker.

According to AAAA, the requirements for this award are defined as “a crew or crew member who performs a rescue using a personnel rescue hoist that saved the life or eased the suffering of an individual.”

Sabiston recalled the events that occurred last June as if they were only yesterday, rattling off the statistics and descriptions that ultimately

earned him and his team the award.

Members of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, found themselves stuck in a violent firefight in the Kunar Province. For a day and a half, Sabiston and his team provided the ground force with more than just medical evacuations.

“A (CH-47) Chinook attempted to get them supplies, but they got hit,” Sabiston recalled. “We were the only ones who were able to resupply them.”

The team conducted more than 10 hoists for the wounded and fallen heroes.

During the first day, Sgt. Julia Bringloe, a medic, was descending on the hoist during a night extraction. The pilots were flying under dark conditions that made it extremely difficult to see, even through night vision goggles. On her descent, the hoist swung her into a tree.

She was unaware at the time that she had broken her leg.

Sabiston said that Bringloe continued completing each hoist mission unprotected while enemy fire cascaded all around her.

“It was Bringloe who was amazing (through the mission),” Sabiston said. “She continued extracting patients under fire even with a fractured leg.”

He explained that Bringloe, like most medics, care more about the patients on the ground than their own well-being.

The crew also was faced with the challenge of flying blindly to perform a rescue.

Sabiston explained that, during another hoist mission, the entire aircraft was engulfed in clouds while they were flying at approximately 10,000 feet. They were unable to



COURTESY PHOTO

Soldiers from C Co. “Dustoff,” Task Force Phoenix, 10th CAB, practice the most dangerous patient extraction method using their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter’s hoist during their recent deployment to Regional Command - East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. A medical evacuation crew with Dustoff received the Air/Sea Rescue of the Year award from Army Aviation Association of America for their hoist extraction under extreme conditions.

SEE DUSTOFF, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY SGT. MICHAEL J. MACLEOD

Practice makes perfect

Army medics unload a mock casualty from a UH-60 Black Hawk medevac helicopter during a training exercise at the Joint Readiness Training Center on Fort Polk, La., Jan. 23.

Jacksonville District’s UAS program soars

By John H. Campbell
USACE

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — “All right guys, going into take-off mode. You are hot!”

Everyone aboard the airboat grows quiet. It’s the moment they’ve been anticipating after hours of preparation that started shortly after dawn on this late November day. Biologist Jon Morton has been leading the team through pre-operational checks.

“Three...two...one...launch!”

The pilot flips a switch on a remote control. Suddenly, the sound of a high-speed propeller fills the air around Eagle Bay at Lake Okeechobee. A small airplane that looks like a toy is thrown skyward. Only this airplane is no toy. It’s an important piece of equipment that helps Morton and other biologists track the effectiveness of their efforts on invasive plants.

The NOVA Unmanned Aircraft System offers the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers a low-cost method of obtaining pictures from the air for a wide variety of applications.

“The NOVA has been developed to provide a technological edge for us,” said Larry Taylor, NOVA Unmanned Aircraft System program manager. “Its specialty is detecting and monitoring change over time. We have used it for levee monitoring. We have detected anomalies in the levees



PHOTO BY JOHN H. CAMPBELL

Damon Wolfe, geodesist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, launches the NOVA Unmanned Aircraft System on a flight over Lake Okeechobee. The Corps used photos from the UAS to track the progress of various plant species at the lake.

that weren’t detected by ground observation.”

In addition to the levee monitoring the NOVA has also been used for wildlife surveys, regulatory permit reconnaissance, invasive species contract assessments and invasive species acreage estimation.

On this day, the NOVA is flying over hundreds of acres at

Eagle Bay, gathering information for the invasive species management program.

“We do a lot of invasive aquatic plant work,” said Morton, “Eagle Bay is one of the areas we have to manage more intensely and work with other agencies because this area is a high priority for the endangered Everglades Snail Kite. We wanted to get a

snapshot view of what it looked like at this time of year.”

The pilot smoothly guides the UAS upward. Morton checks a computer.

“Altitude 18, air speed 11, battery 18-6,” he says, pleased that the aircraft is picking up speed and altitude.

SEE UAS, PAGE B4

Army, Coast Guard team up on towing system

By Sofia Bledsoe
AGSE

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. — The U.S. Army teamed with the U.S. Coast Guard on the Standard Aircraft Towing System Joint Venture during a Roll-Off Ceremony at the NMC-Wollard facility Feb. 1 in Eau Claire, Wis.

The first five Standard Aircraft Towing Systems, or SATS, rolled off the production line and were delivered to the U.S. Coast Guard by the Product Office for Aviation Ground Support Equipment, known as AGSE, part of the Program Executive Office for Army Aviation, during the Initial Joint-Use Production Line Roll-Off event.

“SATS represents the mutually beneficial scenario to both government and business that occurs when a system that one service is using can be incorporated for use by another, with little or no modifications, and our industry partners are flexible and responsive enough to accommodate the increased production requirements,” said Lt. Col. Steven Ansley, product manager for AGSE.

Used for pushing or towing all Army rotary and fixed wing aircraft, the SATS is a towing vehicle which has been in the field supporting Army Aviation units since 2010. The SATS is also capable of towing all the associated AGSE for the U.S. Army and is an integral piece of ground support equipment that supports Army aviation missions every day.

To date, the Army has bought 487 SATS and fielded them to units worldwide. The U.S. Coast Guard will now begin fielding nearly 100 SATS to its worldwide locations.

Bruce Steingart, vice president of NMC-Wollard, said the demand for the SATS has grown especially with the new Coast Guard order.

“A joint venture of this magnitude is very exciting for the company and its employees,” Steingart said. “We are very pleased with the success of the SATS program and look forward to long and mutually successful relationship with the United States Coast Guard.”

Modifications to the

SEE TEAM, PAGE B4

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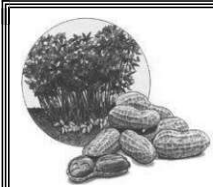


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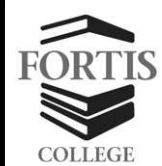
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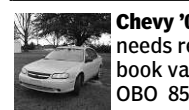


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Dustoff: ‘We didn’t expect to receive an award’

Continued from Page B1

see anything to make the rescue, which made it extremely dangerous. Bringlee was once more eased down on the hoist to retrieve a Soldier. Neither the crew nor medic could see one another

when she and the patient were hanging approximately 50 feet below the aircraft. The experienced medic told the patient to hold on, since she knew the pilots would need to gain enough altitude to clear the cloud ceiling. After Sabiston reached 12,000 feet, they finally retrieved

the medic and the patient. Regardless of the many challenges the crew faced and overcame that day, Sabiston humbly implied that the award could have been awarded to any of the crews due to the duty and selfless service that thrives within the unit.

“We didn’t expect to receive an award for our actions,” he said. “It is a great honor, but anyone in this unit would have done the same. I just happened to be the one flying at the time with the crew.” Brown is a member of Task Force Phoenix.

Team: Changes improve weather resistance, efficiency

Continued from Page B1

SATS are already underway and will enhance the protection of Soldiers while they operate the vehicle on open airfields. During the AGSE User’s Conference in September 2009, the Product Office heard from Sol-

diers representing various Aviation Brigades who unanimously recommended a modification to the SATS that will protect them from all the weather elements they encounter. The Product Office initiated a modification to the contract which includes a rigid cab struc-

ture called the Crew Protection System. The CPS has a ventilation capacity via sliding side and rear windows, complete with heating, interior lighting and an easy on/off design. The CPS has been fielding since Oct. 2011, both directly from the production line at

NMC-Wollard and as a retrofit to the pre-CPS versions which are being installed on those units at their Army home stations. “PM AGSE is very pleased with the dedication and responsiveness NMC-Wollard has shown, specifically in cutting the CPS into their existing pro-

duction process,” said Ansley. “They are producing a system which is making the lives of Army Aviation Soldiers, and now our Coast Guard brothers and sisters, easier and allowing them to perform their aircraft maintenance mission more effectively.”

UAS: NOVA use, effectiveness continues to expand

Continued from Page B1

Morton likes the detailed photography the UAS provides. “We’re trying to get two-and-a-half-centimeter resolution, which will allow us to map out and tell exactly what species of plants are growing in the area,” Morton said. “Before the NOVA was available, we just had to take imagery that was obtained through U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Geological Survey, or hire a private contractor.” “We didn’t get nearly the resolution that we can with the NOVA,” Morton said. “We’re able to fly more rapidly. We’re able to fly cheaper. We can deploy it from an airboat. We’ve used it from a swamp buggy. We can launch it from the back of a truck.” The NOVA makes a pass in the sky overhead. How-

ever, it quickly becomes a small speck as it flies toward its next turning point, more than a mile away from the controllers on the ground. “Turning to the north,” Morton says, “increasing the air speed to 16 meters per second.” The NOVA weighs 11 pounds, which includes its payload of a high-resolution camera, its on-board computer, and a global positioning system. The pilot uses a remote control to guide the plane during takeoff and landing. When in the air, the plane flies a route according to the instructions that were programmed on the ground station computer prior to takeoff. “We’re taking steps to use some of the technology that’s available to us today, that people are only familiar with in military terms,” said Morton. “This

is an actual civilian application for unmanned systems.” “It’s not a tactical tool,” said Taylor. “It’s not designed for the fighting Soldier to loft it and see if there are bad guys over the hill. The payload we carry is high-resolution, versus low-resolution, with on-board data storage because the mass of data that we gather cannot easily be transported in real time back to our ground station. It’s more of a precision-mapping tool.” Development of the NOVA was a joint venture between the Corps of Engineers and aerospace engineers from the University of Florida. The NOVA is made of hybrid fiberglass and a carbon-fiber composite. Rechargeable lithium-polymer batteries supply power to the electric motor that operates the propeller.

“One of the key things about the development of this tool, since the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan program was one of the initial targets for it, it had to be developed as a waterproof tool,” said Taylor. “It works extremely well in wet environments. It can land safely on the water, and it can take off and land in very small areas” The pilot resumes control of the NOVA and begins guiding it in circles toward its final descent. As it emerges into view, it seems to hang in the air for a moment, as the pilot works the controls to slow it down and guide it toward a soft landing on the water. “Altitude 13,” Morton says. All grows quiet again, except for Morton’s status updates and the occasional sound of the NOVA mo-

tor as the pilot keeps it in the air as long as possible, guiding the plane as close as possible to the airboat. The NOVA finally splashes gently into the lake, the motor of the airboat cranks up, and the crew quickly retrieves the plane. “Its primary mission started off as being a Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan resource,” said Taylor, “but we have since found that it is applicable to many other Corps activities, like invasive species monitoring and construction monitoring and regulatory reconnaissance. We’re in the process of expanding its use for beach re-nourishment projects, and we’re getting inquiries from other Corps districts for various activities.” Taylor also points out the financial benefits from the information the NOVA is able to provide.

“We’ve detected invasive species change, and the effectiveness of treatments on the invasive plants, Taylor said. “That helps us save taxpayer dollars because we can actually monitor contract effectiveness to determine if the monies are being spent in the right place and if the treatments are effective or not.” The mission complete, the team can fly the exact path again if they desire at some point in the future, as the coordinates of the flight have been stored in the computer. “We can reproduce our flights by reusing the same program in a flight and fly it again in six months or six years, said Taylor. “We can fly over the exact same course with a great degree of precision, which is one of the things that allow us to detect change over time.”

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FEBRUARY 9, 2012

Flight ready

Spouses earn wings at 3rd Aviation Spouse Day

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

More than 60 Army spouses got a taste of the training that their husbands and wives go through while at Fort Rucker during the installation's third Aviation Spouse Day Friday.

The spouses had the opportunity to fly simulators at Warrior Hall, fire M-16s at the engagement skills trainer shooting simulator, complete obstacles at the Leader's Reaction Course and learn helicopter survival training at the Helicopter Overwater Survival Training facility, said Deborah Cisneros, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence Family Readiness Support Assistant.

The spouses gathered in the morning at the Family Readiness Group building where they were addressed by Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, and his wife Kim; and given a safety briefing by Lt. Col. James E. Ward, commander of the 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment.

The spouses were split into four different groups and all had different starting points, according to Ward. Each group went through the dunker, which was a simulated experience in which the spouses had to extract themselves from a submerged aircraft.

"It's about a 15- or 20-meter swim underwater," said the lieutenant colonel, explaining how the spouses had to try to open a door underwater that they couldn't see while wearing gear — a helmet and a flight suit.

"I thought it would be a lot of fun going through the dunker to see what it was like to go through the things

that the guys go through and come home tired from," said Courtney Purdy, Army spouse and ASD participant. "It was a lot of fun to be in there and put on the flight suit because it's not something you get to see them do — it wasn't too scary though."

The spouses also got the opportunity to go on the Leaders Reaction Course, which is a team-building event where the spouses are given some tools that the team needs to use to get through an obstacle put before them, according to Ward. The objective is for them to work as a team.

"[The spouses] were presented with a challenge and it was up to them to perform some team planning and leadership to get through it," he said.

There were also two types of simulators that the spouses were able to experience: the EST shooting simulators in which spouses were able to fire M-16s and other weapons, and the flight simulators in which they were able to fly simulated aircraft such as UH-60s and CH-47s.

Holly Legaspi, Army spouse and ASD participant, explained how flying in the simulator was harder than it looked.

"There are about 50 different things you're trying to concentrate on all at once," she said. "It was good to try it out — I didn't really know what I was doing, but it was fun."

The instructor pilots showed the spouses various scenarios that flight students have to endure from normal flying and night flying, to inclement weather flying and emergency procedures, according to Michael Prescott, L3 Communications electronic technician.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Krista Waddel, Army spouse and team leader of her group, and Trish Roberts, Army spouse, work together to overcome an obstacle at the Leader's Reaction Course during Aviation Spouse Day Friday.

"We can put them through just about any scenario that they would have to encounter while flying," he said.

The activities continued throughout the entire day from 8 a.m. as late as 4 p.m., and also included lunch at the installation dining facility where the spouses were able to enjoy a meal where most Soldiers eat during days of training. At the end of the day, at a ceremony at the Army Aviation Museum, the spouses were presented with a certificate signed by Crutchfield and their own Aviation wings.

Crutchfield apologized to the spouses for not being able to attend the ceremony, but personally signed each

certificate that was awarded.

"Don't think [Aviation Spouse Day] isn't important to [Kim and I], because it is," he said when addressing the spouses. "That's why we are here now, to tell [the spouses] how important it is to us. We just love [having the spouses participate] and we want to get the word out and continue to [host Aviation Spouse Day]."

According to Crutchfield, this is the third time the installation has hosted the event, and is the brainchild of Cisneros, the Aviation Spouse Day director.

"When [Cisneros] came to me with this idea a year ago, we thought it was

great," he said. "When I was a young officer, we did things like this with our spouses. I don't know when the Army got too busy to do this, but I think we need to do this. I think, in some small way, [spouses] should understand what your husbands and wives go through."

The objectives of the day were for the spouses to have fun, make new friendships and to not get hurt, said the general as he expressed the importance of the event.

"It's just great to see so many people participate," said Kim. "[The spouses] will form some great friendships and their group will become a team, and that's

the objective too. There was an overwhelming response, so, I'm glad that we were able to increase [the participation limit]. Hopefully we can continue to have this many people participate."

Crutchfield hopes to expand the event and be able to accommodate all of the applicants that wish to participate.

"We're having to turn people away because it's limited by the number of people we can take at time," he said. "I don't want to turn anybody away; either we'll do [Aviation Spouse Day] more frequently or we will expand the groups — I want to continue doing this."

Accident investigators show students future value of science

By Art Powell
*Strategic Communications Directorate
 U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center*

Army accident investigators from the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center at Fort Rucker had a point to make to 50-60 members of the science club Feb. 1 at Dauphin Junior High School in Enterprise.

"If you wonder if you'll ever use some of the science and math classes you take, we're here to show you how important it is when we investigate aircraft accidents," CW4 Greg Ganz, accident investigator, USACR/Safety Center, told the group.

Ganz and two other accident investigators visited the school as a community relations activity for an after-school science club gathering.

"When accident investigators are calculating g-loads on an aircraft at the time of impact, they use a combination of algebra, trigonometry and geometry," said Larry Kulsrud, chief of accident investigations, USACR/Safety Center. "That data is applied to various formulas to determine g-loading."

He explained how data collected from accident investigations is used when designing new aircraft seats, new aircraft and crash worthiness designs.

"The science used in our investigations in-



PHOTO BY ART POWELL

Science club students at Dauphin Junior High School in Enterprise get hands-on experience Feb. 1 with some of the tools used by Army accident investigators. They're assisted by accident investigator CW4 Timothy Edgette, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center. Three accident investigation specialists from the USACR/Safety Center visited the group to demonstrate the importance of math and science studies.

cludes, among others, metallurgy, composite material analysis, and even the animation that's spawned from the data. So, the science and math used during investigations spans the spectrum," Kulsrud said.

The investigators took the class outside for a hands-on project in kinematics, an extensive process involving trigonometry and calculus to determine impact angles. Students received hands-on experience using laser range finders and an inclinometer

to measure the angle from the highest point of any nearby object the aircraft may have struck prior to impacting the ground. An old-fashioned tape measure also was involved to determine the length of a portion of an object that may have been sheared off during the aircraft descent, then adding it back to the calculated height of the obstacle struck to determine its full height.

In this case, they used the flagpole in front of the school as a target while the Army in-

vestigators explained how to use the devices. Armed with field data in hand, and their curiosity, students went to work determining angles.

"They had a lot of good questions," said accident investigator CW4 Timothy Edgette, USACR/Safety Center. "Our visit today demonstrated to them how they can use science and math knowledge in the real-world."

While science club students are interested in a variety of science and math skills, an exercise like this one is their favorite way to learn, said Kate Schindelar, a ninth-grade science teacher and club so-sponsor.

"If they can have hands-on activities, they better understand the material being presented to them," she explained. "This is the best way for them to learn."

Using hands-on activities such as Army accident investigating tools are popular, but some members prefer science that peers into things they cannot see with the naked eye.

"For me, chemistry is my favorite subject because imagining things too small to see is just fascinating," said Joan Haas, a ninth grader and club vice president. "I'm never good at physics, but I am at chemistry because I'm fine at imagining things."

If the students ever wondered how their interest in things both large and small would be helpful later in life, the visit demonstrated the benefits.

ON POST

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

Dueling Pianos

Dueling Pianos performs at The Landing Saturday 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.

Valentine’s dinner

The Landing Zone hosts its Valentine’s Dinner Special Saturday 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 Monday and Tuesday 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 advance 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 Tuesday 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 Tuesday from 5-8 p.m. Cost for adults is \$10 and for every paid adult, two children 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 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 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.

Girls Night Out

The Landing hosts Girls Night Out Feb. 24 from 6-9 p.m. in the ballroom. Girls Night Out features a disc jockey, fashion show, door prizes and gift bags, refreshments, and numerous organizations that cater to women. There will be a minimum of 100 gift bags drawn out during the event



FILE PHOTO

ATV trail ride

Outdoor recreation hosts an all-terrain vehicle trail ride Feb. 25 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person and preregistration is required. The event is open to patrons ages 16 or older. Participants must pass the safety driving test through outdoor recreation, and provide their own ATV and protective gear – helmet, boots, etc. Protective gear must be worn at all times. The event is open to the public. For more, call 255-4305.

as well as a grand prize, and also other giveaways from the organizations. The event will also feature live entertainment in The Landing Zone later that evening, as well. Tickets can be bought until 2 p.m. Feb. 24 for \$10 and for \$15 at the door. For more, call 255-9810.

March EDGE! programs

People are encouraged to sign-up now for March after school EDGE! programs. EDGE! is open to youth ages 6-18. A variety of activities ranging from art, fitness, life skills and adventure are available from 4-6 p.m. during weekdays. Cost for ages 6-10 is \$5 per hour, and programs are free for ages 11-19. People can pick up and drop off children at Fort Rucker Youth Center. March programs include volleyball, field activities, pins for all occasions, crochet and multi-crafts. A valid child, youth and schools services registration is required for participation. Enrollment for all EDGE! activities is at parent central services in Bldg. 5700, the Soldier Service Center, Rm. 130 or online at webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/ruckercyms.html. For more about EDGE! programs, call 255-0666 or 379-1363.

Parent Support Program

Army Community Service’s Promotion Points hosts its Parent Support Program from 9-11 a.m. March 2 at the Early Childhood Activity Center in Bldg. 3705 on Dean Street. These monthly parenting education classes are designed for Soldiers and are held the first Friday of every month. For more, call 255-3898.

DFMWR Spotlight

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For details call The Landing Zone at 598-8025
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Obama announces program to hire vets as 1st responders

By Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.
American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — President Barack Obama continued his commitment to improving employment among veterans by introducing an initiative to hire them as the country's first responders Feb. 3.

"In my State of the Union address, I proposed a new initiative called the Veterans Jobs Corps to put veterans back to work protecting and rebuilding America," he said. "And today, we're laying out the details of this proposal."

Speaking at a fire station here to veterans, firefighters, police officers and national park employees, Obama shared the venue's significance before his remarks.

"This is a fire station that holds some special significance for our country," he explained. "On (9/11) the firefighters of this house were among the first to respond to the attack on the Pentagon."

"You guys answered this nation's call during its hour of need," Obama added. "And in the years that followed, as Americans went to war, some of you answered that call, as well."

The president encouraged the hiring of veterans to replenish the ranks of the nation's first responders.

"First, we want to help communities hire more veterans as cops and firefighters," he said. "Over the past few years, tight budgets have forced a lot of states, a lot of local communities, to lay off a lot of first responders."

The country already has made progress in veterans' employment, Obama said.

"Already, we've helped 600,000 veterans and their family members go back to school on the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill," he said. "We've hired over 120,000 veterans to serve in the federal government [and] we've made it easier for veterans to access all sorts of employment services."

When he first became president, Obama said, one of his first actions was to ensure state and local governments received assistance through the Recovery Act to avoid laying off first responders.

"Thousands of firefighter jobs were saved because of the actions we took," he noted. "But budgets are still tight, and that's a problem we need to fix. Jobs that protect our families and our communities shouldn't be the first on the chopping block. They should be one of our highest priorities as a nation."

Obama emphasized he wants to restore local communities and national parks, noting Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's presence. The Department of the Interior manages and sustains the country's lands, water, wildlife, and energy resources, among its other responsibilities.

"He needs some help," Obama said of Salazar. "And our veterans are highly qualified to help him. They've already risked their lives defending America. They should have the opportunity to rebuild America. We've got roads and bridges in and around our national parks in need of repair. Let's fix them."

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said in a conference call with



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS TYRONE C. MARSHALL JR.

President Barack Obama, flanked by firefighters, national park employees and police men and women, talks about his new Veteran Job Corps initiative to replenish the nation's first responders at Fire Station No. 5 in Arlington, Va., Feb. 3. Obama chose Fire Station No. 5 because its firefighters were among the first responders to first arrive at the Pentagon on following the Sept. 11 attacks.

reporters yesterday that the new three-part Veterans Job Corps initiative "will ensure our veterans don't have to fight for jobs once they come home."

Shinseki called on employers to "enlist veterans in the work of rebuilding our nation."

The nation owes those who volunteered to serve in uniform after 9/11 "a debt of gratitude," Shinseki said, "and we must ensure

that veterans who come home from Afghanistan and Iraq get the opportunities they deserve."

Obama lauded veterans for their resolve and "unparalleled skills and experience."

"They've saved lives in some of the toughest conditions imaginable," he said. "They've managed convoys and moved tons of equipment over dangerous terrain. They've tracked

millions of dollars of military assets.

"They've handled pieces of equipment that are worth tens of millions of dollars," he added. "They do incredible work. Nobody is more skilled, more precise, more diligent, more disciplined."

Obama noted these are "challenging" times for America, but "we've faced

challenging times before."

"On the grounds here you've got a stone from the Pentagon and a beam from the World Trade Center," he said. "And that reminds us of our resolve as a people."

"They remind us that when we come together as one people and as one community, one nation, then we prevail," Obama

continued. "That's who we are."

America exists because of values and teamwork — generations of Americans working together to build it, the president said.

"This is a nation where, out of many, we come together as one," Obama said. "Those are the values that every veteran understands."

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Official provides tax tips for troops

By **Lisa Daniel**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — As servicemembers begin preparing for the annual tax season, they may want to consider a new savings plan designed for young people, a Defense Department tax official said Feb. 3.

Servicemembers and their dependents who earn less income today than they expect to earn in the future, such as those in junior ranks who look forward to getting promoted to higher grades, should consider investing in the Thrift Savings Plan's new Roth option, said Army Lt. Col. Evan Stone, director of the Armed Forces Tax Council.

"The Roth TSP is a good option for servicemembers who are paying less tax now than they expect to pay later," Stone said during an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

The traditional Thrift Savings Plan defers taxes on earned income until the money is withdrawn, Stone explained. The Roth option allows a member to contribute after-tax dollars that grow tax free and are not taxed upon withdrawal, he said.

Both plans allow a maximum annual contribution of \$17,000, he said, up from \$16,500 last year.

There are few other changes that apply to ser-

vicemembers and their dependents this tax season, Stone said. A new calculation for Imminent Danger Pay does not change servicemembers' eligibility for income tax exclusions. The pay was changed from a flat \$225 per month, to an amount prorated per day.

Stone said there has been no change to federal income tax brackets in the past two years. They remain at 10, 15, 25, 28, 33 and 35 percent of taxable income, he said.

Still, Stone said, many people don't realize that income is taxed on a progressive scale, so as a person's income increases and they move into a higher tax bracket, only the new proportion of pay is taxed at the higher rate, not all of their income.

While few people enjoy writing a check to Uncle Sam, Stone also noted that the military is a good employer come tax time because military allowances, such as those for housing and meals, are not taxable.

"Military members have a tax advantage by having a chunk of their regular pay as tax-exempt income," he said.

Stone said he wants to remind servicemembers that they and their dependents can get free tax preparation by IRS-trained volunteers at almost every military installation in the world.

"The military has an excellent program for tax preparation worldwide," he said. Deployed service members, he added, do not have to sign the tax forms if their spouse has power of attorney privileges.

For more about the tax center at Fort Rucker, check out Page A1 of this week's Army Flier or call 255-2937.

Military OneSource offers free tax-related phone consultations seven days-a-week, from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., at 1-800-730-3802.



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Military health system has ‘courage to change’

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — On the final day of the 2012 Military Health System Conference Feb. 2, the Defense Department’s top health affairs official spoke not about the undisputed excellence of the system and its caregivers, but rather about the need for more collaboration, transformation and organizational courage.

Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs and director of the TRICARE Management Activity, addressed 3,000 attendees at the conference.

“Our people have always exhibited great personal courage over the years, and this has been shown many times on the battlefield,” he said. “There is no shortage of personal courage. Now, it’s about exhibiting organization courage – specifically, the courage to change.”

To keep pace with the future, Woodson said, the military health system must have the courage to become more joint, more collaborative and integrative, and broader in focus to leverage all the talent in the system, irrespective of service or rank.

“We need the courage



Dr. Jonathan Woodson

to [re-examine] how we incentivize behavior in our system. We need to face up to the shortcomings of our information systems, our patient engagement strategies and our approaches to changing the behavior of our population in terms of health risks,” he said.

The system also must engage in a strategy of collaboration with all of its federal partners, Woodson said, particularly the Veterans Affairs Department.

The \$53 million military health system includes more than 133,000

military and civilian doctors, nurses, medical educators, researchers, health care providers, allied health professionals, and health administration personnel around the world. Woodson said the system must assess its performance and relevance in terms of value and not cost alone, and must communicate this value to its stakeholders, especially the larger Defense Department community.

“On Feb. 13, [President Barack Obama’s] budget will be released, and as you would expect, there will be a significant fo-

cus on the numbers. The budget’s numbers are important, but they don’t convey the story that was described to you this week by so many speakers,” Woodson told the conferees. “The story of the MHS is not about \$53 billion or how many prescription drugs were purchased or [the number of] co-pays or deductibles. It’s about the value we provide to the people we serve. That’s the story we need to tell over and over again in all of our communities.”

Fiscal challenges should not be allowed to distract the men and women of the military health system, he said.

“Instead,” he added, “we should seize upon the opportunity to become stronger, better and more relevant.”

From the conference presentations, Woodson said, he’s taking away messages about leadership development, knowledge sharing and innovation.

“In most eras, the military has never been wanting for leaders, because that is what we do. [But] the development of good leaders with updated competencies requires constant attention,” he said. “Military health system leaders need special competencies to manage health care issues effec-

tively in the 21st century.”

During a conference session with senior enlisted advisers from each service, the assistant secretary said, he learned that one of their critical concerns is that the skills acquired by enlisted medics who performed so brilliantly on the battlefield not be allowed to atrophy as the kinetic wars subside and they return to peacetime duties.

“The integration of enlisted medics could be the critical shaping factor for our future,” Woodson said, “and may provide the answer to how we establish and staff effective patient-centered medical home teams with extended capabilities to meet our patients’ needs.”

The military health system also must focus on leadership development of officers in the post-war environment, he added.

“Our military treatment facility commanders and staff have borne a substantial burden in trying to balance the needs of deployment, readiness, training and running garrison health systems over the past decade,” Woodson said.

In addressing knowledge sharing and innovation, the assistant secretary described the need for a broader strategy of developing a culture of

innovation, nurturing the innovative spirit and “rewarding the innovators in our midst.”

Woodson said he is convinced that MHS expertise is comparable to the best expertise anywhere in the world, “but we need to improve the access to this expertise.”

During one of the conference sessions, Dr. Denis A. Cortese, director of the Arizona State University Healthcare Delivery and Policy Program and a former Mayo Clinic chief executive officer, talked about internal knowledge-sharing systems in use at premier institutions such as Mayo, the Cleveland Clinic, the Intermountain system of hospitals and Johns Hopkins University.

“We have to do this, too,” Woodson said, “and we will.”

The conference has been not just an opportunity to share information and distribute knowledge across the enterprise, Woodson said.

“It’s also how we cull innovation and how that feeds into the generation of new knowledge,” he added. “This year and in the coming years, we will have the opportunity to change. The years will be challenging, the tasks will be hard, and we have the responsibility to get it right.”



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.

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Alabama features civil rights history

Alabama Tourism Department
Press Release

Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of a bus in Montgomery. More than 3,000 demonstrators gathered in Selma to march to the Capitol to demand voting rights, and 20,000 others joined them along the way. In Birmingham, four little girls lost their lives to a bomb attack at 16th Street Baptist Church. These were the difficult turning points that finally brought civil rights to America, and there is no better place to learn about this historic struggle than in Alabama.

Civil rights museums

Midway along the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail on U.S. Highway 80 in Hayneville lies the \$10 million Lowndes County Interpretive Center. The museum exhibits depict a wide range of events, including the establishment of “Tent City,” which housed Families dislodged by white landowners in Lowndes County. In downtown Montgomery, The Civil Rights Memorial Center features multiple exhibits, including a Wall of Tolerance that allows visitors to sign a pledge to promote racial justice. At the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, you can step back in time and see a 1955 Montgomery city bus for yourself, or visit the nearby Dexter Parsonage Museum on the site where Martin Luther King Jr. lived while leading the Montgomery bus boycott. Learn about the movement’s foot soldiers at the National Voting Rights Museum in Selma or about the secret life of Booker T. Washington at the Tuskegee Human & Civil Rights Multicultural Center. And don’t miss a chance to visit the nation’s largest civil rights museum, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, which boasts 58,000 square feet of archives, galleries, community meeting rooms and exhibit spaces.

Historic sites

Many civil rights-era sites have been preserved and made open to the public. Birmingham’s Civil Rights District is home to Kelly Ingram Park, a site where marchers and activists came together in protest. Nearby is 16th Street Baptist Church, where four young girls were killed in a 1963 bombing by Ku Klux Klan members. Walk across Selma’s Edmund Pettus Bridge, the site of a 1965 violent confrontation that helped rally national support for the civil rights movement, or visit the airfield where the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American military pilots, trained during World War II. In Montgomery, stop by the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, where Martin Luther King Jr. was the pastor from 1954-1960. For more information on any of the above, point your browser to <http://www.alabama.travel/things-to-do/civil-rights#museums>, and for more Alabama travel information go to <http://www.alabama.travel/>.



WIREFLASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

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

DALEVILLE

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

DOTHAN

FEB. 18 — The Southeast Alabama Community Foundation hosts its annual half marathon at Flowers Hospital. SACF’s half-marathon raises funds for grants given to organizations that provide services to Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry and Houston counties. For more information, visit www.sacf-halfmarathon.org. **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 information can be found at www.dothanciviccenter.org.

ONGOING — The Wiregrass Museum of Art hosts First Saturday Family Day the first Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m. Children and parents will learn about color, shape, texture and different types of art such as painting, drawing and collage. The event is recommended for elementary aged children. For more information, visit wiregrass-museum.com or call 794-3871.

ENTERPRISE

TODAY — Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 9 meets at the Baptist Center on East Lee Street at 6:45 p.m. A pot-luck meal will be served at 6 p.m. For more information, call 308-2480. **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.

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.

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

FEB. 23 — Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 99 meets at 6 p.m. in the New Brockton City Hall. Food and drinks will be served followed by regular business. Each Tuesday and Wednesday, DAV Chapter No. 99 maintains service office in the New Brockton police station. This office assists veterans who were hurt or disabled while in military service. For more information, call 718-5707.

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

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

OZARK

FEB. 16-18 — The Ann Rudd Art Center hosts a stained glass class from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. taught by John Hogarth. The fee for the class is \$175. For more information, call 774-7322.

PINCKARD

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

SAMSON

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

TROY

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

Beyond Briefs

ArchiTreats Lecture

The Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery hosts ArchiTreats lectures on the third Thursday each month. The next lecture will be held Feb. 16 from noon-1 p.m. and is entitled Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts of Women in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. For more information, call 353-4726 or visit www.archives.alabama.gov.

The Parker Quartet

The Grammy-award winning Parker String Quartet will perform Feb. 17 and 18, starting at 7:30 p.m. each evening, at Rosemary Beach Town Hall in Rosemary Beach, Fla. The concert will feature the music of Mozart, Janacek and Dvorak. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased online or by calling the box office. For more information, call (850) 269-7129 or visit www.SinfoniaGulfCoast.org.

Sandestin Gumbo Festival

The Sandestin Gumbo Festival, one of the most popular events on Florida’s Gulf Coast, will be held Feb. 18 in The Village of Baytowne Wharf, Destin, Fla. The festival offers live music, cooking seminars, homemade soup, gumbo and display competitions, and a Mardi Gras Dog parade. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$25 the day of the event. For more information, call (850) 267-8110 or visit www.sandestingumbofestival.com.

Florida Mopars Car Show

The Florida Mopars Car Show will be Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The show is open to all makes and models of cars, including motorcycles. The entry fee is \$20 for the first car and \$10 for the second car. Proceeds will benefit the Animal Rescue Center of Bay County. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/floridamopar or call (850) 866-8964.

Shelby County Cattlemen’s Rodeo

The Shelby County Cattlemen’s Association will host its 25th annual rodeo Feb. 24-25 at the Shelby County

Exhibition Center. Featured events include a live rodeo, chuck wagon races, bull riding, calf roping and more. Gates open at 6 p.m. Ticket prices to be announced. For more information, call (205) 669-9075 or visit shelbycountyrodeo.com.

Mud Mania

Mud Mania, a mud-drenched outdoor obstacle adventure race fueled by excessive and unreasonable enthusiasm, 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. Participants will run in 30 minute heats of 300 participants each. Registration ends Feb. 29. For more information or to register, visit www.mud-mania.com.

Harlem Globetrotters

The Harlem Globetrotters will be at the Dothan Civic Center on Feb. 29 at 7 p.m. For ticket information, call the Dothan Civic Center Box Office at (334) 615-3175. For more information on the Harlem Globetrotters, visit www.harlemglobetrotters.com.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Pick-of-the-litter

Meet Macy, a 9-month-old female Torti, available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility. She is very personable. It costs \$81 to adopt Macy 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. The facility needs donations such as dry or canned foods for cats, dogs, kittens and puppies, as well as blankets, toys and towels. Donations can be dropped off at the veterinary clinic or the commissary. Visit the Fort Rucker stray facility's **Facebook** page at [http:// www.facebook.com/ fortruckerstrayfacility/](http://www.facebook.com/fortruckerstrayfacility/) for constant updates on the newest animals available for adoption.

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AFTER THE WAR ITSELF, THAN CARING FOR OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS."
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT M. GATES



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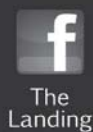
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Fort Rucker Family & MWR Upcoming Events



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AGES 18+

DUELING PIANOS

FEBRUARY 11TH

THE LANDING, FORT RUCKER
DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM, SHOW 8 PM – 12 AM

TICKETS: \$10 ADVANCE, \$15 DOOR

ADVANCED TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW FOR PURCHASE AT THE LANDING ZONE.
DEADLINE FOR ADVANCE TICKET PURCHASES, 4 PM, FEB. 11TH.

FOR DETAILS CALL THE LANDING ZONE AT 598-8025.



Dinner Special

Saturday,
February 11

The Landing Zone, 5 – 8 pm

Dinner per couple: \$35 (price available for dine-in only)

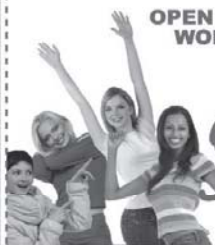
Meal will include:

- Shrimp cocktail to share
- Choice of blackened red fish with riesling cream sauce, 10 oz. sirloin, 12 oz. prime rib, or Cajun chicken and shrimp pasta
- Entrées include baked potato and a side salad
- Cheesecake or bourbon pecan pie to share
- Featured wines available, additional purchase \$12 per bottle

Join us after your meal, in The Landing Ballroom for an evening filled with live entertainment by Dueling Pianos. Tickets available at The Landing Zone for purchase.

Reservations are not required but strongly recommended.

For details call The Landing Zone, 598-8025.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC,
WOMEN AGES 18+

girls' night out EXPO

Feb. 24th • 6 – 9 pm • The Landing

TICKETS: \$10 Advance, \$15 Door

Advance tickets are available now for purchase at
The Landing Zone until 2 pm on Feb. 24th (598-8025).

For details contact Family & MWR
at 255-9810 or 598-5311.

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FEBRUARY 9, 2012



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

Runners participate in the African American History 5k race with their dogs as they approach the finish line in front of Fortenberry-Colton PFF Saturday.

African American History

5K, 1-mile race honor rich history

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Hundreds of people came out to Fort Rucker to participate and witness the African American History 5k run in front of Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Facility Saturday.

Soldiers, Family members and friends came together to enjoy the event, encourage the runners and enjoy the company of all in attendance, according to Kristi Fink, fitness programs manager for Fortenberry-Colton PFF.

The runners gathered on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Shamrock where the race began at 9 a.m., according to the fitness programs manager. From there, the course went on toward Lyster Army Health Clinic where it took the runners past Parcour Lake and around the headquarters building where the runners eventually finished on the route back to the starting point.

"We had 153 people run in the 5k and 50 run in the 1-mile fun run," said Fink. "It's good to have events that encourage fitness that the patrons seem to enjoy."

Debbie Wilson, grandmother of one of the runners, expressed how the event is a time for her to be able to get the Family together and enjoy each other's company.

"We come to support my grandkids and we have a great time," she said. "Running is fabulous and it's great to come out and see friends we haven't seen in a while."

The runners were greeted at the finish line by a crowd encouraging them and volunteers handing them refreshments as they crossed. There was also a table set up where participants could replenish their energy with fruits and beverages, according to Fink.

The top winners for Saturday's race were: Jorge Cruz, top male overall, finishing the race first with a time of 17:41; Dave Durbin, male master, 22:14; Ken McGinity, male grandmaster, 26:07; Rebekah Wottge, top female overall, 22:59; Ann Marie Sutter, female master, 26:47; and Nina Korages, female grandmaster, 29:30, according to the fitness programs manager. There was also a category for top team that went to team Wolfpack.

People from all walks of life are encouraged to participate in the post races and the reasons for taking part are many, according to Fink.

"I am participating in the boot camp program and we made a team to run in the race," said Claudia Green, Army spouse and race participant. "It makes me feel really good to finish the race – it just feels nice."

Other reasons for participating in the race are to gain a sense of accomplishment, according to Christina Schlosbon, race participant.

"I wanted to see if I could run the race and finish it, and I did," she said. "It makes me feel pretty good that I was able to."

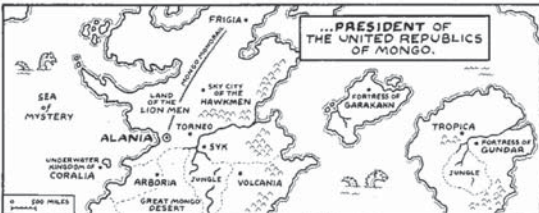
Trophies were awarded to the overall male and female, master male and female, and grandmaster male and female. First place trophies and second and third place medallions were also awarded in different age categories, according to Fink.

"I would encourage everyone to come out [to these events]," she said. "You don't even have to run to participate, we have walkers, too."



Jorge Cruz, top overall male runner, gets ready to cross the finish line with a time of 17:41, during the African American History 5k race in front of Fortenberry-Colton PFF Saturday.

DOWN TIME



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



MING THE MERCILESS HAS BEEN CAPTURED!

SOME OF THE INSURGENTS HAVE ESCAPED, MY LIEGE. LOOKS LIKE YOUR MEN HAVE DESERTED YOU, MING.

I WOULDN'T REST UNTIL THEY'RE FOUND, BARIN.

ANY MAN WILLING TO FOLLOW THIS SNAKE SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO ROAM FREE.

YOU'RE WISE TO FEAR ME, GORDON.

IT'S NOT FEAR I HAVE FOR YOU, MING... IT'S DISGUST. TAKE THE PRISONER AWAY!

GET ME SOME SIDE ARMS, BARIN. I'LL HELP TRACK DOWN MING'S MEN.

I THINK YOU HAVE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO ATTEND TO, MY FRIEND...

...LIKE GOING HOME!

DOORWAY TO EARTH!

Super Crossword

FINISH LINE

ACROSS

- 1 Thieves
- 5 Dress down
- 10 Accomplished
- 13 English explorer
- 18 French spa
- 20 Home on high
- 21 A mean Amin
- 22 "Pygmalion" role
- 23 Start of a remark by Gene Perret
- 26 On the up and up
- 27 Director Sergio
- 28 Grazing ground
- 29 Overact
- 31 Have a mortgage
- 32 Become engaged?
- 34 EMT's skill
- 36 "La Boheme" girl
- 39 Depravity
- 42 Heavy metal instrument?
- 45 Mellow
- 47 Rajasthani rhythm
- 48 Coach Parseghian
- 49 Kayak commander

- 50 Part 2 of remark
- 54 Verbal explosion
- 56 Pittsburgh player
- 58 Skirt feature
- 60 Tangle
- 61 "May I interrupt?"
- 62 Vision
- 65 Cookbook phrase
- 66 Impressive lobby
- 68 Catches cod
- 71 Runner Sebastian
- 72 Karras or Haley
- 73 Part 3 of remark
- 77 Suggestive
- 80 "Na Na"
- 81 Beloved
- 82 Type of aircraft
- 85 Maestro de Waart
- 86 Fusillade
- 88 Khartoum's river
- 90 Hopeless case
- 92 Jeeves or Pass-partout
- 94 Focused
- 97 Watchful city?
- 98 Part 4 of remark

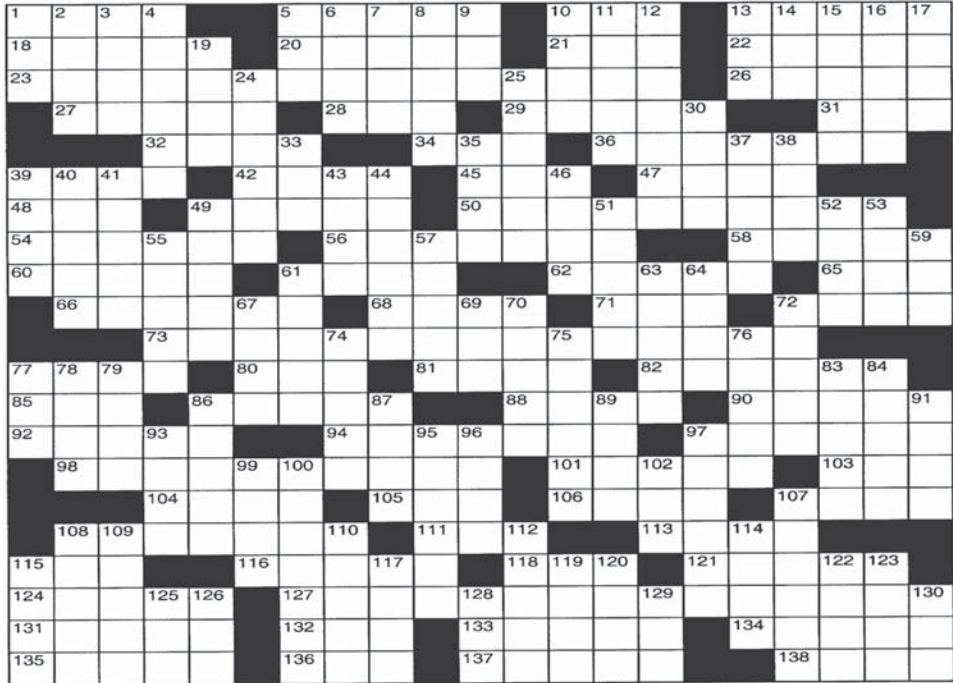
- 101 Perfect
- 103 One of the Marches
- 104 Anesthetize
- 105 Fitting
- 106 Manuscript enc.
- 107 Goofy
- 108 Gomer
- 109 Field event
- 111 "the fields we go..."
- 113 Ballet movement
- 115 Overwhelm
- 116 Recruit
- 118 Good times
- 121 Sari site
- 124 Rent
- 127 End of remark
- 131 Party present
- 132 Myriads of moons
- 133 "Midnight at the..." ("74 hit)
- 134 "Gay"
- 135 Fight site
- 136 Room for relaxing
- 137 Marine leader?
- 138 Hardware item

- ### DOWN
- 1 Sports official
 - 2 Face shape

- 3 Ill temper
- 4 She knew how to get a head
- 5 Droop
- 6 Do
- 7 Sarah — Jewett
- 8 Pale purple
- 9 "volente"
- 10 "Carpe —"
- 11 Turn of phrase
- 12 Bother
- 13 "Fantasia" frame
- 14 Fish-and-chips accompaniment
- 15 Chauvinist
- 16 Conductor Seiji
- 17 Yarn
- 19 Muse count
- 24 Snuggle up
- 25 "The Aeneid" author
- 30 Jacob's twin
- 33 Tint
- 35 "Rider" ("85 film)
- 37 Neighbor of Libya
- 38 Kite part
- 39 Places to dye
- 40 One of "The Three Sisters"

- 41 Jeweler's weight
- 43 41st or 43rd President
- 44 Be there
- 46 Gets by, with "out"
- 49 Improptu
- 51 Author Jong
- 52 Patricia of "Hud"
- 53 Wild wind
- 55 Deck out
- 57 Edit a text
- 59 Duty
- 61 Menotti title character
- 63 Have thirds and fourths?
- 64 Cure
- 67 — Minor
- 69 Peg for Palmer
- 70 Footballer Lynn
- 72 Option
- 74 Maritime abbr.
- 75 Turning point
- 76 Actor Bruce
- 77 Part of IRS
- 78 Eliot's "Bede"
- 79 Fountain order
- 83 Foe
- 84 Party hearty
- 86 Walk like a rooster
- 87 Recruit-to-be

- 89 Helen of Troy's mom
- 91 Wrath
- 93 Cubist
- 94 Rubik?
- 95 Warning
- 96 Tivoli's Villa d'—
- 97 Ancient tongue
- 99 Little devils
- 100 Bordered on
- 102 Kreskif's letters
- 107 Know-it-all
- 108 Vow
- 109 Throw forcefully
- 110 Resort lake
- 112 Bucolic
- 114 Memo start
- 115 — Romeo
- 117 Actress Sherilyn
- 119 "Yo!" at the library
- 120 Move a bit
- 122 "Blame — the Bossa Nova" ('63 hit)
- 123 Bill of Rights grp.
- 125 Every guy is one
- 126 Cy Young stat
- 128 Debtor's letters
- 129 Govt. agency
- 130 Beaver or beret



See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

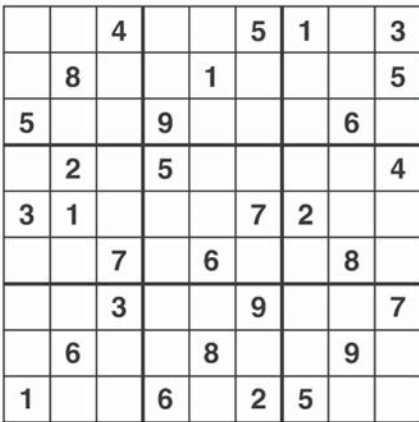
TRIVIA

- TELEVISION: What was the theme song of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"?
- MUSIC: What rock group was featured in the documentary "The Kids Are Alright"?
- MYTHOLOGY: In Norse mythology, who were the Norns?
- MOVIES: Actress Shirley MacLaine played a nun in which movie?
- CARTOONS: What were the names of Daisy Duck's nieces?
- MEDICINE: Who discovered that yellow fever was transmitted by mosquitoes?
- LITERATURE: What was the first novel written by Raymond Chandler?
- AD SLOGANS: What company advised motorists to "trust your car to the star"?
- ANATOMY: What is a human being's normal body temperature in Celsius?
- GEOGRAPHY: The tiny principality of Andorra borders which two European countries?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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.

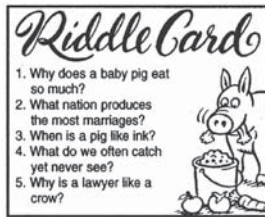
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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See Page D3 for this week's answers.

KID'S CORNER

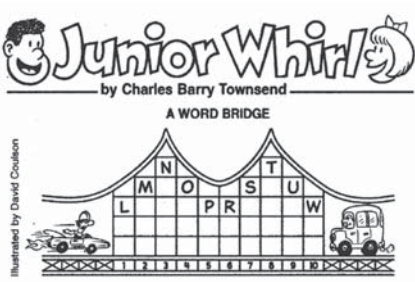


Answers: 1. To make a hog of himself. 2. France. 3. When you put it in a pen. 4. A passing remark. 5. Because he likes to have his cause (crow) heard.

DON'T GET SNOWED! To solve this problem, replace the letters in the Alphamath problem pictured below with the digits 1 through 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. See if you can get a higher total than we did.

GET A GRIP ON THIS PUZZLE! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in grid B.

1. A chair.
2. A state of irritation.
3. Faster than a walk.
4. To start again.



The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each, plus plenty of hints.

- A garland of flowers.
- A tailless cat.
- Sound of a horse.
- To flow out slowly.
- A type of nose shape.
- Slang for marvelous.
- A fortuneteller.
- A female domestic cat.
- Native American people.
- A trap.

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

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 BOLTIHOFF



Differences: 1. Tire is black. 2. Straps have been added. 3. Sweater has no stripes. 4. One key is missing. 5. Door knob is different. 6. Wall is bare.

GRIDIRON CORNER

Giants come up big in NFL finale

By Jim Hughes
Command Information Officer

The 2011 NFL season came to a dramatic conclusion Sunday as a Hail Mary pass hit the turf and the New York Giants became Super Bowl champions for the fourth time with a 21-17 win over the New England Patriots.

The storyline in this game was the Giants made plays while the Patriots missed opportunities and made mistakes – including giving up eight of the easiest points ever scored in a football game.

The Patriots must’ve thought they were in business when they forced the Giants to punt on New York’s opening possession. But punter Steve Weatherford pinned the Patriots down on the 6-yard line – his first of three punts that pinned the Patriots inside the 10 on Super Bowl Sunday.

Then came the first Patriots mistake when quarterback Tom Brady, getting just a tiny whiff of pressure, threw the ball 50 yards down the field to wide open turf -- there wasn’t a Patriot within a mile of the pass, which

resulted in a safety and two very easy points for the G-Men.

While the Patriots’ offense sputtered the rest of the first quarter, the Giants moved the ball fairly well and got a 2-yard touchdown pass from Eli Manning to Victor Cruz to go up 9-0 in the first quarter.

The Patriots responded early in the second quarter with a field goal to cut it to 9-3, and then came back in a rush to score a touchdown and take the lead 10-9 right before the half ended, despite being totally outplayed the first 30 minutes of the contest.

New England rode that momentum to a 17-9 lead early in the third quarter, and it appeared the Patriots might get revenge for their loss in Super Bowl XLII.

But New York refused to collapse and kept it close with two field goals off the capable foot of Lawrence Tynes to make it 17-15 at the end of three quarters.

In the fourth, the mistakes started haunting the Patriots again. Brady under threw a pass that was picked off deep in Giants territory, and then, getting the ball back with no damage done, failed to connect with Wes Welker for a first down that in all likelihood would’ve

sealed the win.

Then the Giants, specifically Manning and Mario Manningham connected on an incredible 38-yard pass and New York moved down towards the goal line. Next was one of the easiest touchdowns you’ll ever see as Ahmad Bradshaw ran it in from six yards out as Patriots defenders went to great pains to provide a clear path to the end zone – done by design. New England’s coaching staff decided it was better to allow Bradshaw to score and give Brady and Co. some time to work with.

With 57 seconds left on the clock, the Patriots struggled to move the ball enough to gain more than a Hail Mary’s chance at the win.

But probably the most amazing accomplishment of the night was Peyton Manning’s disappearing act. He wasn’t caught on camera once, and it’s a shame halftime performer M.I.A. didn’t follow his lead in the spirit of her moniker.

But if you miss Eli’s older brother, don’t worry, he’ll be all over the small screen this offseason. Where’s he gonna’ go? Wouldn’t it be awesome if it was...cue drum roll...the Jets?

BRIEFS

PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND SKINS GOLF GAME

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

YOUTH BASEBALL REGISTRATION

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.

YOUTH BOWLING REGISTRATION

Youth bowling registration runs now through Feb. 29, with the season running from March 19 to April 19 at Rucker Lanes. Youth bowling is open to children ages 6-18. Cost is \$20 with a discount for each additional child. Youth must meet age requirements by May 1. A current sport's physical and valid child, youth and schools services registration are required to participate.

Prospective coaches are needed for all age groups. Coach's training will be March 7 at 6 p.m. at youth services. A Bowling parent's meeting for those Families new to Fort Rucker Youth Sports programs will be March 14 at 6 p.m. in the Youth Service Gymnasium in Bldg. 2806 on Seventh Avenue.

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

- TRIVIA
- Answers
1. "Love Is All Around"
 2. The Who
 3. Norse goddesses of fate
 4. "Two Mules for Sister Sara"
 5. April, May and June
 6. Dr. Walter Reed
 7. "The Big Sleep"
 8. Texaco
 9. 37
 10. Spain and France

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

ROBS	SCOLD	DID	CABOT
EVIAN	AERIE	IDI	ELIZA
FALLING	IN	LOVE	IS
LEGAL	LEONE	LEA	EMOTE
OWE	MESH	CPR	MUSETTA
VICE	TUBA	AGE	RAGA
ARA	ALEUT	LTKE	BUYING
TIRADE	STEELER	PLEAT	SNARL
AHEM	SIGHT	ALA	ATRIUM
NETS	COE	ALEX	ABRAND
NEW	CARAND	RACY	SHA
DEAR	GLIDER	EDO	SALVO
NILE	GONER	VALET	INTENSE
GENEVA	MARRIAGE	IS	IDEAL
MEG	NUMB	APT	SASE
PYLE	SHOT	PUT	OER
PLIE	AWE	STAFF	UPS
INDIA	LEASE	THE	FIRST
SCRATCH	FAVOR	EON	OASIS
ENOLA	ARENA	DEN	ULTRA
TNUT			

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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.)

Amalur sure to impress RPG fans

By Jim Van Slyke
Contributing Writer

If you're an RPG fan and you're burned out on The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim or thought that game had too many bugs/holes in it, then you owe it to yourself to take a turn at Kingdoms of Amalur: Reckoning. While not as grandiose as Skyrim, Amalur is more refined and has a story that doesn't seem to be full of plot holes the size of a dragon.

The world in Amalur is big and this is an open RPG that doesn't require gamers to complete quests in any particular order. There is a ton of customization and even though it's yet another "save the world" game, it works pretty well here.

With deep storytelling being the game's biggest hallmark, the combat could be easily overlooked. But it's much tighter and more realistic than what we enjoyed in Skyrim and the foes are more balanced as well. It's a bit strange, however, that a character can be changed in the middle of the game from a battle-hardened warrior to a spell-blasting mage with the push of a button, but some gamers might like that flexibility.

Like Skyrim, the gamer can make potions, weapons and armor, but it's more than gathering the correct supplies and pushing a button. That's pretty much the same throughout the game; most of what's available in Skyrim (except for its amazing scope) is in Amalur. It's just a bit deeper and more detailed.

If you felt that Skyrim was a lot of fun, but thought it could have been more, then you need to strap on your plate mail and visit Amalur.



COURTESY SCREENSHOT

Reviewed on Xbox 360



Publisher
Electronic Arts
Rated
Mature
Systems
Xbox 360, PS3, PC
Cost
\$60
Overall
3.5 out of 4



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