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ARMYFLIER

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

VOL. 62 ■ NO. 15

FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

APRIL 12, 2012

Post's 1st Earth Day Expo eyes future

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Turn off the lights for a brighter future.

Promoting sustainability on Fort Rucker and the surrounding communities is the message that the installation wants to get across with its first Earth Day Expo Wednesday, said Darrell Hager, environmental protection specialist for the Directorate of Public Works.

The point of the expo is to increase awareness on the installation and surrounding communities of Earth Day and what it stands for, which is focusing on environmental issues and sustainability, Hager said.

"For several years we've been doing demonstrations and Earth Day presentations for the local elementary schools and we decided that this year we wanted to broaden it and make it more visible to the entire community [and installation]," he said.

"It's important that Fort Rucker recognizes Earth Day because it demonstrates our commitment to sustain our installation for a secure future," added Cynthia Ranchino, leads plans specialist for the plans, analysis and integration office.

The expo will be Wednesday at the Festival Fields from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature exhibits from different companies that will be displaying Earth-friendly ideas and products to educate people and teach them what they can do at their workplace or at home to help out the environment, said Hager.

"These exhibitors will provide information and demonstrations of sustainable solutions for both work and home," said Ranchino.

Some of the exhibitors include: United Research Services corporation, which will be doing demonstrations of rain barrels and how they help; Momar, which is a company that produces environmentally-friendly cleaning products that people can use in their homes or at work; and Petra Solar, which will have solar panels on display to educate people on the power of solar energy, said Hager.

Col. James A. Muskopf, Fort Rucker garrison commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Dwaine E. Walters, garrison command sergeant major, will be at the expo to test drive the Tesla, which is an all-electric powered car that will be showcased at



FILE PHOTO

Trisha Bowen, post exchange employee, reviews Energy Star efficiency ratings on PX merchandise.

SEE FUTURE, PAGE A7

AAAA forum focuses on future vertical lift aircraft

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army's aircraft of the future will be faster than what the service has now, it will carry more weight, it will require less of a logistical footprint, and officials said it will better do what Army Aviation is meant to do: serve the ground commander.

While what is now being called "Future Vertical Lift," or FVL, by the Army is still a concept, its capabilities are already known.

The FVL concept will be "able to support the Army and the ground commanders better than we can do it today," said Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general. "I see this aircraft being able to do all the missions that we currently do. I see the aircraft that can do it because it can be scaled. It may be a medium variant, something that is the size of maybe a Black Hawk or an Apache is today, that can do the attack mission, or the assault/lift mission. I see the same aircraft scaled smaller that will be able to do the reconnaissance mission, similar to what a Kiowa Warrior does today."

Crutchfield said it's not known if the FVL concept will end up producing a rotary-wing aircraft, like the Army AH-64 Apache, or a tilt-rotor aircraft like the Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey.

What the FVL will do is perform missions the Army does today with its Aviation assets, missions that will not change.

"The vision is that we can have an aircraft that can do all



PHOTO BY LISA EICHORN

Col. Pat Tierney, G3/5/7 director, Aviation; Maj. Gen. James Rogers, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command commanding general; Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general; Maj. Gen. William Crosby, Program Executive Office, Aviation commanding general; and Brig. Gen. Kevin Mangum, U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command commanding general, speak to the media during the Army Aviation Association of America forum April 2.

the missions that we currently have," he said. "Our missions will not change. We still will do attack and reconnaissance, we still will do sustainment and troop movements. It's an enduring mission that will not change. I just want to do it better."

The FVL aircraft will perform multiple roles, Crutchfield said, and that means that the end result is that there will be fewer types of aircraft in the Army's fleet. It's also possible that there will be fewer aircraft overall, because a more capable aircraft means that fewer aircraft will be needed.

"Today there are concepts where there are aircraft that we consider rotary wing, that can fly in excess of 300 knots," Crutchfield said. "No other aircraft we have today can fly

300 knots. If you have an aircraft that can fly 300 knots, it can cover more terrain faster, and if you can cover more terrain faster, theoretically, you would need less airframes to do the same type mission."

And because Crutchfield said the idea behind the FVL concept is to have the same aircraft be able to perform multiple missions, the Army will need fewer types of aircraft. That means a smaller number of parts will be needed to sustain the fleet, and a shared pool of maintainers and maintenance equipment. That will result in a reduced cost for logistics.

Crutchfield said that the FVL could come in different sizes, depending on the mission it will perform, but things like engine, drive train, and cockpit components would be the same, common between the two, and swappable.

Today's Army aircraft, Crutchfield said, are capable. But there is a limit to the performance that can be squeezed from them.

"Although we have great aircraft today, the best in the world, no matter how much money we invest in these aircraft of today - the aircraft are not going to fly any faster than they fly right now," Crutchfield said. "They are not going to be able to carry any more payload than they do right now. They will not be able to reduce any of the logistical footprint [more] than they do right now. That's what future vertical lift will do. That's what we see for the Army Aviation force of 2030."

It's expected that performance specifications for the FVL aircraft will be unveiled this summer. Development of the program is an Army-led, joint program, that includes all military services, including the Coast Guard.

Music Under the Alabama Stars April 20

By Angela Williams
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker's 98th Army "Silver Wings" Band strikes up its popular concert series Music Under the Alabama Stars April 20, and the band also plans a special event for the Army's birthday in June.

Rain cancelled the scheduled start to the series March 23, but the April 20 show is on for 6:30 p.m. at Howze Field as the band puts its talents on display to provide a relaxing evening of music, Family fun and comradeship, according to CW4 Jesse Pasqua, 98th Army Band commander and bandmaster.

Families are invited to bring coolers, picnic baskets, lawn chairs and even pets to Howze Field to enjoy the Alabama evenings and the music performed by the band and other visiting groups. As details are finalized, the information will be posted on the band's facebook page, said Staff Sgt. Matthew Shuck, senior operations NCO.

The summer concert series started last year with a few concerts on post, and several more in the surrounding area.

"It started out very small, but it was very, very well received and we'd like to continue that," said Pasqua.

This year, there are more concert dates on post through August and



FILE PHOTO

Members of the 98th Army "Silver Wings" Band perform at one of last year's Music Under the Alabama Stars concerts. The band will be at it again April 20 for the kickoff of the 2012 concert series.

possibly on into September and the band is working on a theme for each event. The May concert will be related to Memorial Day and the concert in June will celebrate the Army's birthday.

Shuck recalled the streamer ceremony from last year's Army birthday concert. "We had re-enactors from all the wars come and put the campaign ribbons on the flagpole. It was really interesting because you

got to see period costumes from all the way back to the Revolutionary War."

He expects this year's June concert to feature something similar. Shuck, who plays guitar, also expects different elements of the band to be featured in various concerts this summer.

The Silver Wings Band is more

SEE MUSIC, PAGE A7

Alcohol Awareness Month aims to help people stay safe

By Angela Williams
Army Flier Staff Writer

A few weeks ago, Jesse Hunt took a photo to share with a class he was teaching. The photo shows three white crosses planted on the side of the road not far outside the Enterprise gate.

"Three individuals lost their lives on a straight stretch of road," he explains. "And alcohol was a factor."

Hunt, drug abuse prevention coordinator for the Army Substance Abuse Program, said the accident happened 10 or 15 years ago, but someone still maintains the area. "They're keeping the memory alive."

This month, Alcohol Awareness Month, is a push to preserve those memories and then to share that information with others. "We have to keep the issue out there in front of people so they don't get used to it and say it's no big thing. It is a big thing if it's one of your Family mem-

bers," Hunt said.

For Traci Dunlap, ASAP clinical case manager, it was a Family member.

"Alcohol Awareness Month has touched me literally, personally today," she said. "I got a call from my mother. The voicemail is still on my phone. She said my father was in an accident. A drunk driver hit him about 9:30 this morning - him and three other drivers."

Dunlap said her father was able to swerve out of the way and escape injury because he was aware of the cars around him.

"Police told him that if he had not moved the way he did, they would have had a head-on collision. Even if we're not doing anything wrong, we need to be defensive because we don't know what other people are doing," she added. "Unfortunately, we're not going to stop all (the drunk drivers), but maybe we can

SEE SAFE, PAGE A7

PERSPECTIVE

Month of the Military Child: A time to thank our heroes’ heroes

By William Bradner
Installation Management Command

It’s the pre-school child who, without being asked, passes his dessert to his little sister, simply because she looks sad.

It’s the second-grader who bravely puts a picture of her father at the head of the table for her birthday party, and the fifth-grade siblings who donate all their earnings from their lemonade stand to the USO that both their parents passed through on the way to Iraq.

It’s the junior high band member who asks if the spring concert can be dedicated to our deployed service members, and it’s

the high school cheerleader who organizes a “care package” drive. It’s the college graduate who clings just a little longer to her father, wishing that her mother was at the commencement ceremony instead of in Afghanistan.

These are our military children; our nation’s heroes.

With so much media attention focused on the Soldiers returning from war and the sacrifices they’ve made for our freedom, we don’t want to overlook the youth who quietly support them in the background. Approximately 2 million children have experienced the deployment of one or both of their parents in the last 10 years.

They brave their own battlefields. They rely on an inner strength to face each day. They swallow their fears and disappointment because they know that their Soldier-parent is doing something important. They inspire us with their resiliency.

It’s hard for the average American to fathom how well our children cope. How those who are old enough to understand dread an unexpected knock on the door. How much joy they feel when their uniformed parent steps off the airplane in a sea of red, white and blue. Like the Soldier on the battlefield who pushes forward because he has to, they push forward, counting the days and hours until the end of the deployment.

Our military children are heroes. Let’s not let them be unsung heroes.

Military installations around the world have celebrated the Month of the Military Child each April since 1986. Communities will host fairs, youth centers will sponsor special events, and garrisons around the world will take a little time this month to honor military kids, and thank them for their service.

It’s a relatively common sight today to see a stranger say “thanks for your service” to a service member in uniform. This month, take it a step further ... take a moment to thank the child holding his or her hand.

Their heroism deserves our gratitude.

Community asked to ‘Purple Up!’ for military kids Friday

By William Bradner
Installation Management Command

With so much media attention focused on the Soldiers returning from war, we don’t want to overlook the youth who quietly support them in the background.

Approximately 2 million children have experienced the deployment of one or both of their parents in the last 10 years.

Military installations around the world celebrate the Month of the Military Child each April. Communities host fairs, youth centers sponsor special events, and garrisons around the world take a little time this month to honor military kids, and thank them for their service.

A small, grass-roots program developed by the Operation: Military Kids program in New Hampshire invites you to do your part by simply wearing something purple.

Friday is the second annual “Purple Up! For Military



Kids” day, when New Hampshire OMK participants are asking everyone to wear something purple as a visible way to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Initially a state-wide initiative, the

idea has gone viral, and now more than 38 of the 48 state-level OMK programs are helping to spread the word.

Purple symbolizes all branches of the military. It’s a combination of Army green, Coast Guard, Navy and Air Force blue and Marine red. The word “purple” is often used as slang in the military to indicate a joint-service operation.

It may not be as recognizable as a red or yellow ribbon — yet — but with our military community’s support it could be.

How amazing would it be for the son or daughter of a deployed Soldier to wade through a sea of purple on the way to class? How uplifting would it be for our service members or their spouses to know at a glance that everyone on post — or in the community — is thinking about their children?

We might not ever know... but Purple Up Friday, and let’s see if we can find out!

Rotor Wash

“April is the Month of the Military Child. What are some ways that Families can support Soldiers?”

**Sgt. 1st Class
Leslie Serrant,
B Co., 1st Bn.,
13th Avn. Regt.**

“Be available to Skype. It can be difficult with an eight- or nine-hour time difference.”

**Sgt. 1st Class
Deloise Forbes,
B Co., 1st Bn.,
13th Avn. Regt.**

“During deployments, send letters and care packages. Set up a specific time for phone calls.”

**CW4 Jimmy Finnigan,
HHC, 1st Bn.,
223rd Avn. Regt.**

“From past experience, garner more interest in military youth. (Participate in events) that promote interaction with children and keep spirits high.”

**2nd Lt. Jared Cook,
B Co., 1st Bn.,
145th Avn. Regt.**

“Help with studying and be supportive.”

**Amanda Cook,
Army spouse**

“Write letters and have a good attitude.”

This month in Army Aviation history

This month we’re spotlighting the December 1965 issue of the “U.S. Army Aviation Digest.” This issue features:

THE AVIATION GROUP

The Aviation Group is one of the most significant “descendants” of the Army Tactical Mobility Requirement Board, which was set up in 1962 to explore new and intrepid concepts of air mobility.

FLIGHT FASHIONS

In your travels around Army Aviation installations in recent years have you noticed how Aviators’ fashions vary from place to place? Some units favor the sage green flying suit while others go with the fatigues. Then there’s the khaki, india orange, and sister-service blue for those who prefer the “continental” look.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Probably the last thing you think about before a flight is the possibility of a crash landing or bailout that will leave you in a survival situation. Under survival conditions, your chance for life depends upon your knowledge, physical ability and will to survive.

SANTA LEARNS ABOUT FLYING

Lieutenant Leber looked at his watch and grunted. It had stopped again. The watch was one of those self-winding jobs and a good one, or at least it had been a good one when he bought it several years ago in Hong Kong.

STACKED DECK

... and more.

Download this issue of the U.S. Army Aviation Digest at <http://bit.ly/av8-dec65>

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David C. Agan Jr. COMMAND INFORMATION OFFICER ASSISTANT		DISPLAY ADVERTISING393-9713 murttlen@eprisenow.com			

Spring Fling broadens Soldiers’ horizons

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Spring break is coming to an end and the Fort Rucker Education Center is hoping to get education back on people’s minds with its Spring Fling Education Fair April 27 that showcases to Soldiers and Family members the opportunities that are available.

Nearly 50 different colleges and schools have been invited to the fair to show Soldiers and their Family members what they have to offer, said Sally Markovich, education counselor at the Fort Rucker Education Center.

“We always look forward to getting that many schools together in one place,” she said “[These colleges and schools] are very supportive of the military and are always itching to do something like this.”

The education center provides college education from schools like Enterprise-

Ozark Community College and Troy University, but the majority of Soldiers do a lot of their learning online because they have to be so mobile, said Markovich. The education center is trying to get as many schools involved in the fair as possible to provide Soldiers and their Family members with a broad view of schools.

“In today’s society, great emphasis is placed on education,” said Jeff Pouncy, education services officer for the education center. “This country has progressed to the state it’s in now because we have always placed great value on higher education.”

For that reason, it’s important to broaden the horizons of Soldiers and expose them to different avenues of education that might pique their interest, said Markovich.

The Spring Fling is an opportunity for Soldiers to see other schools and be exposed to different types of learning, she said, adding that not all of the schools that were invited to the fair are traditional col-

leges that most people would be used to.

Some of the institutions that have been invited are American Military University, Auburn University, Alabama State University-Birmingham, Faulkner University and Full Sail University, which is a school for the entertainment and media industries.

“Full Sail is an example of us trying to get a mix of schools,” said Markovich. “A lot of people think of college and they think of English, math and things like that. It’s up to us as education counselors to teach people that there is more out there for them.

“Another one of the schools we invited is a school that teaches truck driving,” she said. “That’s the type of diversity we want to show at one time. It’s all just education.

“One of the things we want to emphasize is life-long learning,” said Markovich. “That’s our goal – to make sure we are getting our Soldiers and their Families to think about always growing with change

and always picking up some new knowledge.”

The education center will also have its own exhibit up during the fair to educate people on the services they have to offer as well as a college education, said the education counselor.

The education center booth will be there to educate Soldiers and Families about the post-9/11 GI Bill, she said, adding that with the GI Bill, Soldiers are able to give some or all of their post-9/11 benefit to their spouse or other Family members.

The Spring Fling will be open to the public and be held outside the Fort Rucker Education Center at Bldg. 4502 where the different colleges and schools will have their booths setup from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 27.

The schools will sponsor food having free hamburgers and hotdogs available for all in attendance, said Markovich.

For more information, call 255-3613.

Fashion show features Miss Wiregrass Area

By Nancy Rasmussen
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Miss Wiregrass Area Katie Andrews joins Army and Air Force Exchange Service and Fort Rucker community members in celebrating the Month of the Military Child April 20 at the main exchange mall area when she, along with post mothers and daughters, will model spring fashions for the lunchtime crowd beginning at 11 a.m.

Andrews will also sing several selections from her repertoire to promote the upcoming Salute to the Troops performance scheduled for May 4 at 3 p.m. at the post theater.

Salute to the Troops is a fast-paced talent revue by area Miss Alabama contenders. For the third consecutive year, Fort Rucker Soldiers and Family members are

invited to let their hair down for a 60-minute fest of singing, dancing and colorful entertainment in honor of their service to the nation.

To give prospective theater-goers an idea of what to expect, the young ladies will perform a preview of the show from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 4 at the main exchange mall.

“Both the April 20 fashion show and performance with Katie, and the May 4 preview with the entire Salute to the Troops cast, are wonderful opportunities for Fort Rucker Soldiers and their Families to meet these fine young ladies and maybe even get a photo or autograph,” said Don Walter Jr., AAFES store manager.

For more information on the Salute to the Troops promotions and performances, call Nancy Rasmussen at 255-2474 or email nancy.a.rasmussen2.civ@mail.mil.



COURTESY PHOTO

Miss Wiregrass Area Katie Andrews

Spring cleaning



PHOTOS BY ANGELA WILLIAMS

Soldiers clean up the area behind the headquarters building for the 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt. during Fort Rucker’s annual Spring Clean-Up event held April 3-5.



News Briefs

Bag sale

The Fort Rucker Thrift Shop hosts its semi-annual Bag Sale Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot of the Thrift Shop on the corner of Red Cloud and 5th Avenue, with a rain date of April 20. Shoppers can buy everything they can stuff into a brown grocery bag for \$3.

For more, call 255-9595.

Installation Dry Cleaning Service

A new dry cleaning service contractor provides installation dry cleaning services. The dry cleaning drop-off and pick-up point is located in Bldg. 172A on 5th Avenue, just down the street from the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700. Operating hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays-Fridays.

Dry cleaning customers will continue to come by the Directorate of Logistics headquarters in Bldg. 538 on Raider Street to complete the DA-2707, Dry Cleaning List, and have it stamped. However, customers will not have to go to Enterprise, but just a few blocks across post.

The new blanket purchase agreement continues to provide uniform dry cleaning service for customers such as the Honors Detail and the Silver Wings Army Band. Service is also available for other customers, such as the cleaning of chapel vestments, altar clothes and curtains.

If you are not sure whether your activity can use the dry

cleaning service, call William Rymer at 255-9181.

Clinic ribbon cutting

Col. Patrick N. Denman, commander of the Lyster Army Health Clinic, invites everyone to attend the grand reopening of Lyster Army Health Clinic as it transitions to “Patient Centered Health” May 7 from 8:30-11 a.m. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be attended by Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, commanding general of U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, along with members of the Lyster staff. There will be tables showcasing the new programs for patients, along with health and wellness information. The Lyster staff will be available to answer questions and show people around the facility.

Be on the lookout

Shaw Pest Controllers recently began pavement vegetation control. Shaw will continue to treat the parking areas, streets, runways, taxiways and other paved areas of Fort Rucker and the various airfields until late September. The Shaw employees will be operating in a slow moving utility vehicle with a yellow caution light. People are asked to use caution when approaching the vehicle.

For a schedule of dates, places and times of the treatments, call 255-1763.

Army Aviation Association of America 2012 forum Aim Point 2030, Aviation Campaign Plan focus of annual gathering



Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, tests out the Army Recruiting Aviation immersadome at the Army Aviation Association of America forum April 3.

AAAA professional forum offers activities for spouses

By David Agan
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The theme of this year's Army Aviation Association of America forum – "Army Aviation – Professional, Strong and Committed, Today and Tomorrow" – can be applied to spouses as well as their Army Aviators.

Spouses have become increasingly more involved at AAAA, a trend that has never been more apparent than at this year's gathering in Nashville, Tenn., April 1-4.

Kim Crutchfield, spouse of Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, was on hand during the opening ceremony to welcome spouses in attendance and to highlight upcoming events that focused on spouses.

Mrs. Crutchfield then introduced this year's recipients of the Order of Our Lady of Leroto, an award that recognizes outstanding contributions to the Army Aviation community.

Whether it's with their jobs outside of the home, volunteering in the community or by helping out with Family readiness groups, spouses play an important role in supporting their Soldier, according to Crutchfield.

"Not only are our Soldiers professional, strong and committed, we have wonderful spouses who are just as professional, strong and committed," said Crutchfield. "We want to recognize their contributions."

Later that day, Crutchfield hosted a spouse professional session that featured a discussion with Jean Twenge, Ph.D., a professor at San Diego State University, on understanding generational differences and bridging the communications gap between generations.

"Everyone loves to talk about generations," said Twenge. "There are many similarities across people of different generations, but it's the differences that can



Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, and his wife, Kim, recognize the 2012 recipients of the Order of Our Lady of Leroto, awarded for outstanding contributions to the Army Aviation community.

cause the problems."

"Professional development is important [for spouses]," said Crutchfield.

Discussions on topics like improving communications between generations can better prepare spouses to be good leaders that younger spouses can follow into the future of our Army, she added.

"I'm hoping that spouses walk away feeling that we understand their importance in their Soldier's life," said

Crutchfield. "I appreciate the spouses coming out and taking advantage [of these opportunities], and I really appreciate AAAA and their support for a spouses program."

Conference attendees also had a chance to stop by the Wellness Café to learn about a variety of topics from planning healthy meals and exercise to relaxation techniques and mini-massages, building upon Crutchfield's belief that managing stress is an important part of being an effective leader.

By Kelly Pate
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The Army Aviation Association of America's 2012 professional forum and exhibition revolved around themes of change, the Army Aviation 'Aim Point' 2030 and the Army Aviation Enterprise Campaign Plan April 1-4 in Nashville.

The annual forum provides an opportunity for an exchange of ideas with industry to solve the problems not only of the nation but also of the Army and the Aviation Branch, said Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general in his opening remarks.

With eyes on the horizon, Crutchfield's concern is preserving and maintaining the fighting "edge" the Army Aviation fleet and profession have achieved. "We have to fight today and we have to win today, but we have to keep an eye on the future."

Army Aviation must become faster and more lethal, with a reduced logistical footprint and expanded ranges, during a transition from being a nation at war to a nation preparing to go to war, he said.

The Army Aviation 2030 Vision and Army Aviation Enterprise Campaign Plan are tools to achieve the goal of making the future Aviation force a reality.

Families are just as professional, strong and committed as Aviation Soldiers, said Kim Crutchfield, the commanding general's spouse, echoing the forum's overarching theme. She stood next to the Aviation Branch chief on stage at the forum's opening. Several professional sessions catered to the specific needs of spouses, including guest speaker Jean Twenge, Ph.D., who talked about generational differences, and a Wellness Cafe.

Because of the capabilities of Army Aviation, there's "no place to hide," said Lt. Gen. William N. Phillips, principal military deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition Logistics and Technology, in his key-

Army Aviation Keys to Success

- Sustain and expand the Aviation Enterprise's Culture of Collaboration
- Ensure unity of effort; speak with one voice
- Embrace a cost culture approach; identify what you need
- Once we define our need, lock down and execute

AVN Enterprise Campaign Plan Objectives

- Support ARFORGEN with trained and ready formations
- Meet initial military training requirements (Officer/Warrant Officer/Enlisted)
- Grow professional Aviation leaders (Officer/Warrant Officers/Noncommissioned Officers)
- Sustain the Aviation force
- Develop integrated DOTML-PF solutions for Aviation as part of the combined arms team
- Resource the Aviation force

Aim Point 2030

- Meet future Reconnaissance, Attack and Vertical maneuver mission demands
- Organized into rapidly deployable and adaptable formations
- Equipped with a new generation of multi-mission manned and unmanned aircraft
- Greatly reduced sustainment footprint
- Provide the operational force commander with an unmatched decisive action capability in support of unified land operations

note address Monday. Phillips spoke about the Army profession, the vital role of Army Aviation in the warfight, the importance of partnering with industry to maintain adaptability, and also that the key to success is not the technology alone, it is the American Soldier.

Chief Warrant Officer of the Branch CW5 Michael Reese headed up a warrant officer forum, and Branch Command Sgt. Maj. James Thomson led the enlisted forum breakout session.

Two congressmen from Alabama, Rep. Mo Brooks and Senator Jeff Sessions, echoed Army Aviation's critical role for the nation during a time of economic uncertainty.



Brig. Gen. Kevin Mangum, U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command commanding general, speaks about the fight, transformation and modernization of the Aviation force during the Army Aviation Association of America forum April 3.



Brig. Gen. William T. Wolf, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center commanding general, speaks during the Army Aviation Association of America forum April 3.



Col. Jessie O. Farrington, deputy commander of U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, talks about making training more efficient by leveraging technology for tech-savvy Soldiers at the USAACE information booth at the Army Aviation Association of America forum April 4.



Army Aviation Branch Command Sgt. Maj. James Thomson fields a question at the USAACE information booth at the Army Aviation Association of America forum April 4.



For video from this year's AAAA forum, scan this code with your smartphone.

Air Soldier System to improve upon Air Warrior, weigh less

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Air Warrior system, an Aviation life-support and communications ensemble first fielded in 2004, and designed for Soldiers who work aboard rotary-wing aircraft, was designed for use between five and six hours of flight time. The system is now being used by Soldiers at double that time.

“Our aircrews are flying in excess of 11 hours,” said Lt. Col. Ian Klinkhammer, product manager Air Warrior.

While Air Warrior is performing well — Soldiers in Afghanistan are even getting the equipment in the Operation Enduring Freedom camouflage pattern — the system is heavy. What the Army wants to bring to the cockpit with a new aircrew ensemble is reduced weight and improved situational awareness, Klinkhammer said. The solution is the Air Soldier System.

“Our goal is to reduce weight and bulk by 25 to 40 percent,” Klinkhammer said. The Air Soldier System should also improve Soldiers situational awareness. “We need some better capabilities with the heads-up display, and the 3D symbology, along with the sensors, so that they are able to fly into the last 50 feet as they land to get out of that controlled flight into the terrain and also fly out of that same environment.”

Klinkhammer spoke April 3 during the 2012 Army Aviation Association of America conference in Nashville.

The Army is working now to replace the Air Warrior System with the Air Soldier System, a lighter-weight ensemble, with reduced bulk and improved capabilities. The system will be fielded, initially in two sub-increments: the first, 1a, in fiscal year 2015, and the second, 1b, in fiscal year 2018.

In that first sub-increment, replacing the Electronic Data Module that is currently in Air Warrior, is a personal electronics computer and display system, in three components. Included in that is a Solider computer module, or SCM, a personal display module, or PDM, and a mission display module. The PDM will be wrist-worn and will help a Soldier monitor the systems he’s wearing, Klinkhammer said.

“You can look down at one source and see



The Army plans to eventually replace the Air Warrior system, on display here at the 2012 Army Aviation Association of America conference in Nashville, Tenn., with the lighter-weight Air Soldier System.

all those displays and see how much battery power you have, and how much coolant you have and how much oxygen you’ve got,” he said. The mission display module interfaces with a platform’s sensors. The SCM, “as big as a pack of cigarettes” will do processing for the systems, but also for oxygen and cooling systems.

Also in the first sub-increment is the common helmet mounted display, which includes a common flat-panel display with integrated head tracker and 3D degraded visual environment symbology.

“You have a see-through display that has symbology based on the capabilities of the aircraft,” said Col. Will Riggins, of Program Executive Office Soldier, the headquarters agency that will eventually field the Air Soldier System. “What the system is designed to do is make the pilot safe.”

Riggins said that the symbology on the

helmet display can illustrate friend, foe, weather and terrain, for instance. “Every time you land, you land in a sand storm, because it kicks up everything around you. So it helps you see where all that is as well, where your friends are, where the bad guys are too — threats.”

Also included in increment 1a of the Air Soldier System is an improved cooling vest that is 40-percent lighter than what is currently offered, and a layered clothing ensemble that reduces to three layers what is currently offered as seven. There is also a lightweight environmental control system, an integrated Soldier power and data system, lightweight soft body armor that reduces weight and bulk 30-40 percent, and 72-hour survival items.

Sub-iteration 1b of the Air Soldier System includes a wide field-of-view/high resolution head-mounted-display for the AH-64 Apache initially, but with support for future

platform sensors. The 1b sub-iteration also includes enhanced laser eye protection and an integrated protective ensemble that includes an integrated flotation device.

The legacy Air Warrior system weighs in at about 99.6 pounds. By the time the Army fields sub-increment 1b of Air Soldier System, Aviators will have an ensemble that has been reduced in weight to about 72.5 pounds. The Air Soldier System will also reduce the number of batteries from seven to one, and will reduce the number of displays from four to one. Total electronics weight will go from 9.7 pounds to 3.2 pounds, and the number of connections to the aircraft will be reduced from five to three.

Right now, Aviators are still wearing the Air Warrior system. That system is still being improved upon, Klinkhammer said, and right now, just about every Soldier that needs the gear has access to it.

“For the most part we’re pretty much complete with all fieldings of that gear,” Klinkhammer said. The Army is even stockpiling the Air Warrior gear now for the 13th Combat Aviation Brigade, and will field equipment to them in 2013-2014, “to get those guys ready to go into the fight.”

Part of the current Air Warrior system, the HGU-56/P integrated helmet system with laser eye protection, will get magnetic tracking for Apache Block III pilots, Klinkhammer said. That is coming off the production line now, he said, and will be fielded as the Block III Apache is fielded to units.

There is also enough of the Portable Helicopter Oxygen Delivery System equipment available, he said, to field to four Combat Aviation Brigades. That equipment is being used, reset and re-fielded to those who need it.

The latest addition to Air Warrior includes two Electronic Data Manager, or EDM, systems for use aboard aircraft, and they are enhanced as part of EDM 3.5. That includes a 1.6 GHZ system processor, two gigabytes of RAM, a sunlight-readable and night vision goggle-compatible display and the ability to host dynamic terrain and obstacle avoidance.

The Black Hawk UH-60A and L aircraft will see the dual EDM in May or June, Klinkhammer said, and the Chinook will start seeing it in November or December.



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Future: Expo serves as platform for sustainability education

Continued from Page A1

the event, said Ranchino. “It’s important for people to learn about sustainability because we want to ensure that Fort Rucker is able to support the mission, community and environment – not just today, but well into the future,” said the lead plans specialist. “If we all consider how we can reduce, reuse, repurpose or recycle our resources, it will help the installation reach its goals to reduce

energy and water consumption, air emissions and the amount of waste going to landfills.” Sustainability is the managing of resources whether it’s in the workforce, infrastructure, funds, information, natural resources, energy and systems, said Ranchino, adding that the expo will provide a platform for people to learn about sustainability and how it is should be integrated in daily life at home and work for the installation and the communities.

“I hope that people will become motivated to incorporate sustainability into their daily lives,” she said. “Small and simple changes such as turning off the water while brushing your teeth, turning off the TV and lights when you leave the room, walking or biking instead of driving, recycling or repurposing as much as possible – these can all add up to big changes.” The expo will also have free T-shirts to be given away, food available to pur-

chase, raffles and door prizes that are to be donated from some of the vendors, according to Melissa Lowlavar, chief of the environmental management branch for DPW. “It’s a good event for people to come to celebrate Earth Day ... and get awareness of what’s available to them,” she said. “It’s the wealth of knowledge that we want people to take away with them when they come, but there will also be some free stuff.”

Music: Concerts thank community for continued support of military

Continued from Page A1

frequently seen in formal settings such as graduation ceremonies, but they do much more than that. The entire band is composed of about 40 members, but features many smaller groups such as a rock band and a New Orleans style-brass band, he said. The concert on May 17 will feature one of these groups. The band’s jazz ensemble will join with a traveling jazz ensemble from

Methodist University in Fayetteville, N.C. The group is touring the southeast and contacted the Silver Wings band about playing for the troops while they were on tour. “They’re patriotic Americans and they wanted to play for the troops. We just happened to be able to work something out,” Shuck said. Shuck has been with the Army for almost nine years and he’s still surprised some people don’t know about the band, especially with

how full the schedule stays. Just the group that plays for graduations can sometimes provide music for nine ceremonies a week. “We’re logistically moving everybody everywhere and making sure everybody gets everywhere they need to go,” he said. “But, it’s great. People get a chance to play music and we get a chance to serve – to do what we can to add to the better fight. It’s our little niche market that we can give back to the community.”

Pascua also commended the work of the Army musicians. Often, band members don’t finish playing for special events until late in the evening, but they’re back early the next morning for physical training. He said everyone in the band is a musician, but they all “wear the Army green,” so they have much the same administrative and supply work as other Soldiers. He added that the concerts are a way to thank the community for

their support of the military here. He encourages people to come to the concerts and hear the band because they’re “more than people see on the parade field.” So far, the other scheduled concert dates are May 17 and June 22, and there will be no official concert in July due to 4th of July activities, but the concerts will begin again in August. For more information, visit the 98th Army Silver Wings Band Facebook page.

Safe: Assessment helps Soldiers find proper program, education



FILE PHOTO
Sgt. Cassandra Cole, 1st Bn., 212th Avn. Regt. human resources sergeant, tries to maintain control of a simulated vehicle as the controls are being affected by “intoxication” effects during last year’s Save A Life Tour drinking and driving seminar. SALT is back Monday-Wednesday in the post theater.

Continued from Page A1

drive defensively and keep ourselves safe.” This type of situation is the theme of the Save A Life Tour – the main event of Alcohol Awareness Month. The SALT program, scheduled for Monday-Wednesday at the post theater, begins with a presentation about the dangers of drinking and driving and ends with a chance to drive or watch others drive a state-of-the-art drunk driving simulator, Hunt said. “It went well last year and that’s one of the reasons we wanted to bring it back,” he said, emphasizing the tour was an easy way for both Soldiers and civilians to get some of the required alcohol awareness training. Since the first announcements about the tour, the schedule has been changed to accommodate a few early morning presentations, Dunlap said. On Monday and Wednesday, the program will be available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Tuesday, the hours are 5 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dunlap asks that people call her at 255-7089 to sign up for the program, adding that more than 1,000 people are already registered. Though the SALT program is only on post for a few days, the ASAP staff is available throughout the year. Hunt

encourages Soldiers and civilians who are struggling with alcohol or drug abuse to come to the clinic for an assessment before any kind of serious incident occurs. “If Soldiers will come in and volunteer, the information that is gathered from the examination cannot be used for punitive purposes,” he explained, adding that the number of people who have voluntarily asked for help is higher than it’s ever been. Whether a Soldier requests help or is referred to the program by a supervisor, that Soldier will be assessed and then placed into one of several different programs. The programs range from basic education all the way to inpatient treatment and all the programs can be modified to fit the needs of the individual, Hunt said. “I tell everyone we’re running about a 75-percent success rate,” he said. At Fort Rucker, Soldiers should be aware that a drug or alcohol related incident can ruin a career in Aviation, Dunlap said. “If they value their career, they seriously should think twice before being involved in such activities because that career they had planned on for the next 20 years could be gone.” To make an appointment or for more information, call ASAP at 255-7509.

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APRIL 12, 2012

Block III performs well

By Kris Osborn

Army News Service

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The U.S. Army's AH-64 Apache Block III next-generation attack helicopter is finishing up its Initial Operational Test and Evaluation at Fort Irwin, Calif., and should be ready to deploy with Soldiers sometime next year, officials said April 2 at the Army Aviation Association of America's 2012 Professional Forum and Exposition.

The Initial Operational Test and Evaluation, known as IOT&E, is a series of combat-like assessments and evaluations placing the aircraft in operationally relevant scenarios as a way to prepare the platform for full-rate production, said Col. Shane Openshaw, project manager, Apache Attack Helicopters.

Although formal results of the Block III Apache's IOT&E are still in the process of being determined,

preliminary observations and early indications suggest the high-tech aircraft is performing extremely well, Openshaw said. The force-on-force portion of the IOT&E has been completed and some live-fire exercises remain in coming days, he added.

So far, the Army has already taken delivery of 10 of the Boeing-built AH 64 Apache Block III aircraft, a helicopter engineered to bring the Apache fleet improved, next-generation range, performance, maneuverability and electronics. Total planned procurement for the Apache Block III is 690 aircraft.

The Block III Apache is being engineered such that an advanced, high-tech aircraft at the weight of the D model can have the power, performance and landing abilities of an original A model Apache. The current D-model Longbow Apache is heavier than the original A-model; the heavier Apache carries significantly

improved targeting and sensing capabilities but lacks the transmission-to-power ratio and hard-landing ability of the initial A model.

"I had the opportunity to fly a Block III Apache a week ago and I will tell you the performance of the aircraft is tremendous," Openshaw said. "It's fast, strong and capable. We have also made improvements to the target acquisition platform. The backbone of the aircraft is an open-system architecture with improved mission command and interoperability."

Engineering the aircraft with an open-system architecture refers to efforts to design the electronics such that they have a "plug-and-play" capability and can easily integrate with current state-of-the-art and emerging next generation technologies, officials said.

SEE APACHE, PAGE B4



PEO AVIATION

A new Apache Block III lifts off the runway at the Boeing complex in Mesa, Ariz. The AH-64 Apache Block III next-generation attack helicopter is finishing up its Initial Operational Test and Evaluation at Fort Irwin, Calif., and should be ready to deploy with Soldiers sometime next year.

Army upgrading Unmanned Aircraft Systems

By Kris Osborn

Army News Service

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The U.S. Army is moving along with a series of upgrades and technological improvements to its Unmanned Aircraft System platforms, UAS Program Office officials said April 3.

The UAS improvements are part of a broader effort to bring increased sensing and surveillance capability to deployed forces, officials said at the Army Aviation Association of America's 2012 Professional Forum and Exhibition in Nashville.

Some of the key activities include:

- the addition of a new Synthetic Aperture Radar, or SAR Ground Moving Target Indicator sensor, known as GMTI, to the Gray Eagle UAS;
- plans to build and deliver a new engine for the Shadow UAS; and
- and the development of a Universal Ground Control Station, or UGS, able to show video feeds from Gray Eagle, Shadow and Hunter UAS on a single system.

At the same time, PM UAS is approaching these activities with a mind to finding efficiencies, lowering costs wherever possible and increasing competition among vendors as part of a broader strat-



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

The 3,200-pound Gray Eagle Unmanned Aircraft System waits for its mission at sunset during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Ten of the UAS are currently deployed as part of a Quick Reaction Capability and the QRC has helped refine requirements before the next Low-Rate Initial Production of the Gray Eagle.

egy to implement the tenets of the Pentagon's Better Buying Power program, said Richard Kretschmar, deputy project manager, UAS.

"The challenge we put across to our programs is to look for opportunities to increase better buying power. That was the command guidance. The specifics are going to be unique to various programs. We're doing things like looking at

the elements of cost and examining what is driving reliability so maybe we can increase the sustainment growth curve and increase competition," said Kretschmar.

Kretschmar pointed to two upcoming Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity, or IDIQ, contracts PM UAS is planning for its Family of Small UAS, an effort to refine requirements and deliver a group of small UAS such as the Raven,

Puma and various micro-sized UAS.

"The intent of these IDIQ contracts is to increase competition, drive costs down and get a better value. One of these contracts is for UAS-related services and one is for products and material," he added.

The Army is still working on a

SEE UAS, PAGE B4

Army moves toward pure fleet of upgraded Chinooks

By Kris Osborn

Army News Service

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The U.S. Army continues to modernize the next-generation F-model CH-47 Chinook cargo helicopter while simultaneously working to upgrade its entire fleet to F-model aircraft, service officials explained April 2, at the Army Aviation Association of America's 2012 Professional Forum and Exposition.

Thus far, the Army has accepted delivery of 169 F-model Chinooks, cargo helicopters engineered with next-generation avionics, electronics and cockpit digital moving map displays, said Lt. Col. Brad Killen, CH-47 F-model project manager.

Ultimately, the Army plans to have a "pure" fleet of 440 F-model Chinooks by 2018, he added.

"The goal here is to go to all F's. When you look at a D-model Chinook, it still has the steam gauges in it; whereas if you look at the F-model, it has five multi-function displays and full-motion video screens," Killen said.

Killen explained the tremendous value-added of the Chinook F's Common Aviation Architecture System, or CASS cockpit, which consists of multi-function digital displays providing pilots with situational and navigational information.

"With CAAS we've got a moving map. Now that a moving map is in front of me, I have all my



PHOTO BY GREGORY FRYE

Fort Campbell, Ky., receives the first CH-47F Chinook helicopter during a ceremony Aug. 15, 2007. The Army now has 169 of the upgraded F-model Chinooks and plans to have a fleet of 440 by 2018.

instruments in front of me. It's reduced the work load," he said.

The F-model Chinook represents the latest iteration of technological advancement in what is a long and distinguished history for the workhorse cargo aircraft, often tasked with delivering food, troops and supplies at high altitudes in mountainous Afghan terrain.

In fact, 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of the Army's first CH-47 Chinook delivery which took place in 1962, said Col. Bob Marion, program manager, cargo aircraft.

In fact, that very first A-model Chinook received by the Army was recently found to be flying missions in Afghanistan, Marion said.

"I was surprised to find out that that first A-model was in Afghanistan. It is now a D-model as we have modernized the aircraft over time. This leads me to reflect on how much the Chinook means to the Army and our nation, including all of those Soldiers who have worked on and flown in it for 50 years," he added. "As we talk about the Future Vertical Lift and Armed Aerial Scout programs, we talk about continuing to use the Chinook as the medium and heavy lift solution to meet the Army's needs. It is therefore important for us to keep these aircraft flying and relevant for the next generation of Army aviators."

The Chinook program is preparing to issue its next multi-year procurement contract for the F-model aircraft by January 2013, Marion said.

As the Army continues to transition to a pure fleet of F-model Chinooks, the program office has, in the past year, stood up a special program manager tasked with pursuing additional modernization possibilities for the aircraft, Marion explained.

These efforts include the addition of new, composite rotor blades able to add 2,000-pounds of additional lift capability to the aircraft. The advanced composite rotor blade effort, which has already gone through some wind-tunnel testing, is slated for flight testing

SEE CHINOOK, PAGE B4

Lakota fleet more than 200 strong, approaching 100k flight hours

By C. Todd Lopez

Army News Service

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Army's newest aircraft, the UH-72A Lakota, is approaching 100,000 flight hours, and maintains one of the highest mission-capable rates among Army aircraft.

The Army expects to buy a total of 345 of the aircraft, and the service has just taken delivery of 209 so far.

"The real success story for us: it's been on schedule [and] it's met its cost targets perhaps better than any other aviation program we have got that's active right now," said Col. Thomas Todd, project manager for Army utility helicopters, during an April 3 press briefing at the Army Aviation Association of America conference in Nashville.

The Lakota is a slightly modified version of the manufacturer's commercial EC-145 aircraft, and serves mostly inside the United States, though it has served in Haiti as part of relief operations there, Todd said. Right now, the Lakota is being used in 42 of 50 states. Only a third of the aircraft are headed for active-duty units. The remainder are bound for Army National Guard units.

In the field, Todd said, the Lakota has maintained remarkably high reliability rates.

"It maintains consistently 90 percent operational availability rates," Todd said. "We obviously take a lot of pride in the fact that 90 percent means [a commander] gets nine out of 10 to fly. It makes that unit commander, no matter where they are and what mission they are performing, more effective."

The Lakota can be configured with mission equipment packages to support medical evacuation missions, VIP support or and security and support. While most military aircraft deal with military threats, the Lakota, with the S&S mission-equipment package, was developed to work counter-narcotics on the southwest border. Along the Mexican border, for instance, 11 Lakota aircraft have racked up 700 flying hours working the Southwest Border Mis-

SEE LAKOTA, PAGE B4

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APRIL 12, 2012



PHOTO BY ANGELA WILLIAMS

Families paint birdhouses during the Children's Festival March 31.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Events place military children at the center of attention

By William Bradner
IMCOM Public Affairs

Throughout April, the Month of the Military Child, the children of Fort Rucker will be the center of attention at events ranging from craft-making to money management.

"So often, we forget the struggles and challenges that face our military youth," said Janice Erdlitz, Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation marketing director. "The strength of military children is extraordinary. We take such pride in Month of the Military Child and our MWR programs are happy to offer several special activities as a salute to our young heroes," she added, referencing this year's theme of "Military Kids: Heroes for the Future."

More than 1.7 million children have at least one parent serving in the military. An estimated 900,000 children have had one or both parents deployed multiple times over the last 10 years.

"Now that troop strength in com-

bat is being drawn down, there's a tendency to just breathe a sigh of relief and think things will all go back to normal," said Lisa Hamlin, child, youth and school services director at the Installation Management Command.

However, many child development and mental health experts believe military children may need support now, more than ever. Many are now dealing with a new reality; often added to their burden is adjustment to a parent who's returned home with severe wounds, post-traumatic stress or other medical issues.

"In many cases, the simple fact that mom or dad is now home, and the Family dynamic has changed, can have a big impact in a child's life," Hamlin said.

Taking a moment to thank military kids for their service, and the sacrifices they've made during ten years of conflict, Hamlin said, is a simple way to remind everyone that as resilient as they've proven to be,

our military children still need our support.

Garrisons around the world are developing events and celebrations designed to recognize the sacrifices military children make and the support they provide to Soldiers, parents and Families. At Fort Rucker, some of the events include:

- EDGE!, an after-school program, is open to youth ages 6 through 18. A variety of activities are available weekdays from 4-6 p.m. April's EDGE! activities include archery, golf, baking, a community service project, and Frisbee golf. Cost for ages 6-10 is \$5 per hour, and free for children ages 11-18.
- Army Community Service offers an educational class on Raising a Money Smart Kid April 26 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Bowden Community Center. The class helps parents teach their children money management skills for each stage of their childhood. This event is free to Soldiers, Family

members, retirees, and Army civilians. The registration deadline is April 24. For more information, call 255-2341.

- The Landing Zone offers a free scoop of ice cream with the purchase of an entrée off of the regular or kid's menu in April. For more information, call 598-2426.
- Child, youth and school services sports and fitness holds its annual Health, Nutrition, and Safety Fair for CYSS members April 25 from 2-5 p.m. at the youth services gym, Bldg. 2806. The fair includes eye screenings, hearing screenings, blood pressure checks, height and weight measurements, a registered dietitian, nutritionist, MWR Partnership Edge, Family Advocacy Program, physical therapy, dental clinic, preventive medicine, 4-H Club, and the Military and Family Life Consultant Program. This event is free to attend and open to CYSS members. For more infor-

mation, call 255-9105.

- Silver Wings Golf Course offers a "Kids Play Free" golf special in April. Kids can play a free round of golf when accompanied by a paying adult. This offer is valid anytime except before noon on weekends and holidays. For more information, call 598-2449.

The Month of the Military Child creates awareness of the service—and sacrifices—of our military's children. It is an opportunity to thank children for their support to our nation's war fighters, and recognize the important role they play in the strength of our nation by contributing to the strength of the Army Family, Erdlitz said.

The Army recognizes and appreciates the sacrifices our children make daily, and is committed to maintaining excellence in schools, youth services and childcare to support our children and their Families, she added.

(Angela Williams contributed to this report.)

Picerne housing goes to the dogs with Woofstock

By Angela Williams
Army Flier Staff Writer

Picerne housing is going to the dogs ... and their owners.

This is the third year Picerne Military Housing will host the Woofstock festival for the Families and pets living on post, said Brandon Masters, communications manager.

The event, to be held April 20 from 4-6 p.m. at the event field on 7th Avenue, will feature vendors, giveaways, free food and live music. Residents are invited to bring their pets as long as they are kept on a leash during the festival, explained Beth Martin, community management portfolio coordinator.

"It's always a lot of fun," she said.

In addition to the vendors and giveaways, the Ozark-Dale County Humane Society will be hosting an adopt-a-thon and the Fort Rucker Veterinary Clinic will have information about the animals available for adoption at the stray clinic on post. The vet clinic will also have information about the microchips that are required for animals living on post, Martin added.

"We don't want to exclude the residents who don't have pets, so we'll have activities for the kids, and food and music. We try to make it all encompassing, but this event really does focus on the pets," Masters said, adding that McGruff the Crime Dog will be attending and military police will

be doing demonstrations with some of their dogs.

Most of the vendors and prizes at the festival will be pet-related, according to Masters. Some of the giveaways include doggie daycare gift certificates, spay and neuter certificates, treat samples and dog toys.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service is also sponsoring a dog biscuit contest, Martin said. At the festival, people will be asked to guess how many dog biscuits are in a jar. The person who gets the closest to the actual number will win a big basket of prizes.

In addition to the demonstrations and prizes, pet owners will be invited create their own memento of the event. "We pre-print dog poems on cardstock and the owners can bring their pets and put their paws in ink and then put them on the paper," Martin said. "It's something for them to save and keep."

The Woofstock festival, one of seven big events sponsored by Picerne Military Housing each year, started when the "bark parks" opened, but it had to be moved to the event field because so many people attended, Masters explained, adding that between 700 and 1,000 people are expected at this year's event.

"We want to improve the quality of life for our Families and give them something extra to do while they are here," Masters said.



FILE PHOTO

Houston County Sheriff's Deputy David Asbill poses with his partner, Jesse James, a bloodhound, during last year's Picerne Military Housing's Woofstock. Woofstock is back April 20 from 4-6 p.m. at the event field on 7th Avenue.

ON POST

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

\$38 Special

The Landing Zone offers a \$38 Special for dinner on Saturday from 5–8 p.m., which makes for an ideal date when combined with Dueling Pianos later that night. The special includes dinner for two where people can share chilled shrimp skewers with Thai sweet chili sauce, each customer gets an Iceberg Wedge Salad with blue cheese crumbles, bacon, and balsamic vinaigrette, and for the entrée each person can choose from the Sirloin Oscar, a 10-oz. steak topped with asparagus, crabmeat, and béarnaise sauce; Chicken Cordon Bleu, topped with creamy chardonnay Dijon sauce; or Creole Redfish, a blackened redfish topped with Creole crawfish sauce. For dessert, customers can share a cinnamon apple-filled crepe with caramel sauce. Reservations are highly recommended. Also, a limited menu will be served in The Legends for those who would like to purchase food for Dueling Pianos.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 598-8025.

Dueling Pianos

Dueling Pianos returns to The Landing Saturday from 8 p.m. to midnight. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The event features an energetic sing-along show as two pianists duel it out in an effort to see who can play better and faster, according to The Landing staff. People can tell the pianists what they want to hear and sing along to their favorite tunes. Advance tickets cost \$10 if bought by 2 p.m. Saturday at The Landing Zone. Tickets cost \$15 at the door. The show is open to the public and is for ages 18 and older -- with an ID check at door.

For more call 255-9810.

Extra movies for MOMC

In recognition of the Month of the Military Child, the Center Library offers an extra movie checkout to patrons in April. For more, call 255-0891.

MOMC special at LZ

The Landing Zone offers a free scoop of ice cream to military children with the purchase of an entrée from the regular children's menu throughout April in honor of the Month of the Military Child. For more, call 598-2426.

Story Time

The Center Library holds Story Time Fridays from 10:15–11 a.m., except for holidays and days of no scheduled activity. The free program introduces “the joy of reading” to children ages 2-5 years old and enhances parent-child interaction, according to library officials. A typical event includes a story, music, and coloring or craft time.

For more, call 255-0891.

Resilience training

Army Community Service offers resilience training Monday from 8 a.m.

to noon at The Commons. Resilience training enables people to actively manage physical and psychological challenges in their personal lives and continue to be the pillar of support behind their Soldiers.

For more information or to register, call 255-3643.

CYSS parent advisory council meets

Child, youth and schools services holds its parent advisory council meeting from noon to 1 p.m. Monday at the youth center on 7th Division Road in Bldg. 2806. The meetings will provide information on items of interest and ideas about CYSS programs.

For more information, call 255-2958.

AFTB Level III training

Army Community Service hosts Army Family Team Building Level III training Monday and Tuesday from 5-8:30 p.m. at the Soldier Service Center in Rm. 371F. The training teaches leadership skills, and other topics include: communication skills for leaders, leadership styles, building cohesive teams, managing group conflict and more. Advance registration is required.

For registration and childcare information, call 255-2382.

Kid's Night Character Dining

The Landing Zone hosts Kid's Night Character Dining Tuesday from 5-8 p.m. Children can enjoy kid-friendly entertainment such as balloons, magic, karaoke, face painting and more, along with the buffet. Two kids eat free from the children's buffet with one paid adult entrée.

For more, call 598-8025.

\$5 Steak Special

The Landing Zone offers its \$5 Steak Special every Monday in April from 5-9 p.m. People can get an 8-oz. flat iron steak with fries for \$5 with the purchase of a beverage. People can add a side salad for \$1. Other sides are also available for purchase. This special is limited to the first 100 guests per night and is available for dine in only with a limit of one per guest.

For more, call 598-8025.

Vegetable Gardening in the South

The Center Library hosts “Vegetable Gardening in the South” with Al Edwards Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. in the special activities room. This free class will provide people information on the basic requirements they need to achieve a healthy and beautiful garden. Topics will include: soil preparation, pest control, light and water requirements, understanding information provided on commercial plant labeling, planting times, fertilizer requirement, zone distinctions, mulching and gardening styles.

For more, call 255-0891.



FILE PHOTO

Health Fair

Eduardo Renta, chef and military spouse, discusses the calorie content of certain foods with Cindy Crawford, military spouse, and her daughters, Summer, and Isabella, during last year's Health and Nutrition Fair. The child, youth and schools services sports and fitness department host this year's free Health, Nutrition and Safety Fair April 25 from 2-5 p.m. at the youth services gym in Bldg. 2806. The fair will include: eye screenings, hearing screenings, blood pressure checks, height and weight measurements, a registered dietitian, a nutritionist, and representatives from the MWR Partnership Edge, Family Advocacy Program, physical therapy, dental clinic, preventive medicine, 4-H Club, and the Military and Family Life Consultant Program. The event is open to all CYSS members. For more, call 255-9105.

Raising a special needs child workshop

The Exceptional Family Member Program and Family Advocacy Program sponsor the free Tools to Maintain a Healthy Marriage While Raising a Special Needs Child Workshop April 19 from 5:30–7:30 p.m. at the Soldier Service Center in Bldg. 5700. Presenters are Leslie George, a licensed clinical social worker, and Rick Kohl, a licensed professional counselor at Lyster Army Health Clinic. The workshop will provide tools and techniques on: challenges of parenting a disabled child, parents making time for each other, grieving, communication and stress management. The workshop is open to active duty and retired service members, Department of Defense employees and their Family members. The deadline to register is Monday.

For child care information or to register, call 255-9277.

EFMP information and support group

The Exceptional Family Member Program invites all active duty military Families that have an exceptional Family Member to its EFMP information and support group meeting April 19 at 9 a.m. at The Commons in Bldg. 8950 on 7th Avenue. The topic for the meeting is “Identifying Developmental Delays: What's Next?” The guest speaker will be Elizabeth Marriott, educational and developmental intervention services manager at Lyster Army Health Clinic. Tips, tools and resources will be discussed to assist parents with a child that is developmentally delayed. EFMP officials said the meeting is an opportunity to learn and provide suggestions for future topics for the support group.

For information or to register, call 255-9277.

DFMWR Spotlight

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5.1 MILE KIDS FUN RUN

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Registration begins at 7:30 am

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FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 12-15

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

Act of Valor (R)7 p.m. Project X (R)7 p.m. Studio Appreciation (PG-13) 7 p.m. The Lorax (PG)7 p.m.

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

April showers bring May flowers

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Milton Johnson
Garrison Chaplain's Office

The Easter weekend celebration reminded me of a popular phrase that I memorized as a teenager that encourages me to look forward to the month of May with excitement and enthusiasm, in spite of the depression that looms from the hard and long winter of the past several months – that phrase is, April showers, bring May flowers.

Following the commemoration of the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus over the weekend, I kept thinking about phrases like: weeping endures for a night, but joy comes in the morning; there is a silver lining after each dark cloud; and this too shall pass.

The reality of Jesus' death producing new life parallels with the thought of sunshine following a season of gloom and sadness. Like April showers bringing May flowers

Perhaps everybody heard this rhyme at some point, generally having been taught

it at an early age by parents or teachers. It's a popular thing to say and hear around springtime, but one thing you might not know is where the rhyme originated from. It reaches back to the mid 1500s, although earlier use of "April showers bring May flowers" probably existed.

In 1557, a man by the name of Thomas Tusser compiled a collection of writings he called "A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry." In the April husbandry section, he wrote:

*Sweet April showers
Do spring May flowers*

As you can see, the rhyme was originally a short poem. However, there is meaning behind the words, as well.

"April showers bring May flowers" is a reminder that even the most unpleasant of things, in this case the heavy rains of April, can bring about very enjoyable things indeed – even an abundance of flowers in May. "April showers bring May flowers" is also a lesson in patience, and one that remains valid to this day.

Many of life's greatest things come only to those who wait, and by patiently and happily enduring the clouds and damp of April, you can find yourself more easily able to take in the sights and smells of May. After all, it's easier to love something if you begin with an optimistic outlook.

Listen to an amazing story I read several months ago about a couple who experienced showers of blessings after the rain of repeated disaster in their life.

After his parents were brutally murdered in North Vietnam, Ri moved to South Vietnam. While there, he went to school and eventually became a building contractor. He prospered greatly until he was arrested on a trip heading north.

After being imprisoned in North Vietnam for three years, he finally escaped and made his way south, only to be charged as a spy for the North.

When he learned that the U.S. was pulling out of South Vietnam, he gave all his worldly possessions in exchange for a passage on a small overcrowded fishing boat.

He was later picked up on the high seas by an American ship and taken to the Philippines. Once there, he lived in a refugee camp for two years until he was allowed to come to the United States.

Once he arrived in the United States, Ri's cousin offered both him and his wife jobs in his tailor shop. Even though their net pay was only \$300 per week, they were determined to succeed. For two years, they lived in the back room of the tailor shop and took sponge baths so they could save every penny possible.

Within two years, they had saved \$30,000 and bought out the cousin's business. It was only then that they rented an apartment.

Today Ri is a millionaire. Hard work and frugal living can bring a dream into reality! What a success story!

Have you had a season of setbacks, disappointments or hindrances? Do not be dismayed. Remember these things: there has never been a wind that did not change directions, clouds do not hang forever and April showers bring May flowers.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pick-of-the-litter

Meet Gallagher, a young male kitten available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility. He is gentle and easy to love. For more information on animal adoptions, call the stray facility at 255-0766, open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The facility needs donations such as dry or canned foods for cats, dogs, kittens and puppies, as well as blankets, toys and towels. Donations can be dropped off at the veterinary clinic or the commissary. Visit the Fort Rucker stray facility's **Facebook** page at <http://www.facebook.com/fortruckerstrayfacility/> for constant updates on the newest animals available for adoption.

Religious Services

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

HEADQUARTERS CHAPEL, BLDG. 109

Multi-Cultural Worship Service 8 a.m. Sunday.

MAIN POST CHAPEL, BLDG. 8940

9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass Sunday
11 a.m. Liturgical Worship Service Sunday

12:05 p.m. Catholic Mass (Tuesday - Friday)
4 p.m. Catholic Confessions Saturday 5 p.m. Catholic Mass Saturday.

WINGS CHAPEL, BLDG. 6036

9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Chapel Next Contemporary Worship Protestant Service.

SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER, BLDG. 8939

9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School

10:45 a.m. CCD (except during summer months).

BIBLE STUDIES

9 a.m. Protestant Women of the Chapel, Wings Chapel, Tuesday 11 a.m. Above the Best Bible Study, Yano Hall, Wednesday 1 a.m./6 a.m. Adult Bible Study, Spiritual Life Center, Wednesday noon/1 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Soldier Service Center, Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Catholic Adult Bible Study, Spiritual Life Center, Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. Youth Group Bible Study, Headquarters Chapel,

Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Chapel Next (Meal/Bible Study), Wings Chapel, Thursday 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study, Spiritual Life Center, Thursday.

Mothers of Preschoolers

MOPS is a Christian-based mom's group. MOPS is about meeting the needs of every mom of a child from conception through kindergarten. MOPS will meet every first and third Thursday, 9 a.m., at Wings Chapel, Bldg 6036. For more information, call the religious support office at 255-2989.



Adopt a pet

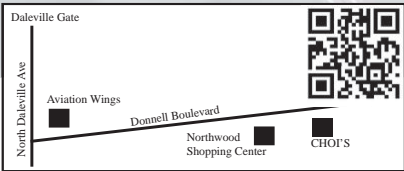
For more information about animal adoptions, call the Veterinary Clinic at 255-9061. The Stray Facility needs donations such as dry or canned foods for cats, dogs, kittens and puppies, as well as blankets, toys and towels.

Donations can be dropped off at the Veterinary Clinic or the Commissary.

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11:1*

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The Gathering - Youth
5:45 pm
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efumc@adelphia.net
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☼ Nursery – Children – Youth
† Office: 334 347 5044
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April national Autism Awareness Month

By Marion Cornish
Exceptional Family Member Program

National Autism Awareness Month in April offers an opportunity for people to educate themselves about autism and issues within the community.

What is autism? Autism is a brain disorder that often makes it hard to communicate with and relate to others. With autism, the different areas of the brain fail to work together. The person with autism has problems with both communication and relating to others. Early diagnosis and treatment have helped more and more people reach their full potential, according to *WebMD.com*.

Autism statistics

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that one in every 88 U.S. children and one in 54 boys has autism. At the 2008 prevalence rate of one in 88 American children, autism costs the U.S. \$137 billion a year. It has been estimated that 45 percent Americans with autism have an intellectual disability. The lifetime cost for each person who has an intellectual disability related to autism is \$2.3 million, Knapp and Mandell estimated.

Symptoms

Symptoms of autism can be minimal or severe, and they can vary dramatically from one child to another. Autistic children may struggle to maintain or completely avoid eye contact, prefer to play alone, avoid cuddling or touching, have poor speech or communication abilities or not develop speech at all. They may rub surfaces repeatedly, have a heightened or lowered response to pain or display intense tantrums.

Other symptoms of autism may appear to indicate other disorders like Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Tourettes, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder or Oppositional Defiant Disorder, which can make an accurate diagnosis difficult. Studies show autism affects boys more often than girls.

Autism and military Families

According to Autism Votes, many military Families are impacted by autism. Based on current prevalence rates, as many as 12,000 children in the military Families (active duty, Reserve and Guard) may have autism. These Families are substantially affected by the financial and emotional costs of raising a child with autism.

Military life is particularly difficult for children with autism and their Families. Given the frequent duty station changes and social turmoil of military service, military children with an autism spectrum disorder often face additional challenges that their civilian counterparts do not have to contend with.

A specific feature of autism is extreme difficulty with life, routine or environmental changes of any kind. These children need a set routine, stability, and continuity of services and relationships. Military life by its nature provides few of these needs. This situation is likely to weaken the morale of the parent serving the military as well as the caretaker at home.

What to do if you think your child has autism?

Facing an autism diagnosis can be scary, but doctors and support services are here to help with the process. The primary care manager is the first step. Then the Family should enroll in the Exceptional Family Member Program.

If you think your child may have autism or is showing signs of developmental delays talk to your primary health care provider or contact Lyster Army Health Clinic's Patient Appointment Service at 255-7000 and request an ap-



pointment.

Resources

A Family pediatrician and Early Intervention Services can assist with diagnosis.

Support resources include:

- Exceptional Family Member Program – 255-7431 for enrollment and 255-9277 for support services; www.autismspeaks.org;
- TRICARE – Extended Care Health Options – www.humana-military.com or 1 (800) 444-5445;
- Military Home Front – <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>;
- Autism Votes – <http://www.autismvotes.org/>;
- Southeast Alabama Medical Center Families with Autism Support and Encouragement Group –793-8714 or

fcheisner@samc.org;


Alabama Autism and Asperger Information and Network Support Network – <http://www.alabamaautism.org/>;


Autism Society – www.autism-society.org; and

Operation Autism Online – www.operationautismonline.org.

For those interested in learning more or supporting Autism Awareness Month, be sure to attend the workshop April 24 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Soldier Service Center in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 284. To register for the workshop, call 255-9277.

People can also participate in the Dothan Walk for Autism April 28 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at Kiwanis Park at Westgate. For more, call 1 (877) 4AUTISM or visit www.walkforautism.org.

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First Lady: Nation must ‘step up forever’ for military Families

By Lisa Daniel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — As First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden mark the first anniversary of their “Joining Forces” campaign this week, the two say they will continue to solidify its successes so a structured effort to help military Families is a permanent part of American culture.

The pair reflected on the campaign’s success during a Friday interview with American Forces Press Service.

“This has been a phenomenal first year,” Obama said. “But the truth is, Jill and I have been working this issue since our husbands took the oath of office” in January 2009.

Obama and Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, said they’ve been amazed by the outpouring of support by American civilians. More than 100 companies have committed to participate in the administration’s goal of the private sector hiring of 100,000 spouses and veterans. They also noted a Joining Forces commitment from the nation’s medical colleges to better train civilian health-care providers in caring for war veterans and their Families.

“We’ve seen Americans – 13 million of them – step up to pledge hours of service,” Obama said. “It’s been phenomenal to see a grateful nation step up to help military men and women who sacrifice so much for us.”

Biden, a community college professor, said she’s been gratified by progress in the education arena. Teacher’s colleges have incorporated military Family matters into curricula to help teachers-to-be understand the unique challenges their students from military Families face, she said. And more and more school systems recognize course credits of military Family members who must relocate frequently, she added.

Teachers are doing small things that make a big difference, Biden said. Some conduct parent-teacher conferences with deployed parents on the Internet. Others – as the teacher of Biden’s granddaughter did when the Bidens’ son, Beau, was deployed to Iraq – display photos of deployed parents to help children cope.

Obama and Biden said they have felt privileged to meet with military Families across the nation.

“Every American should have the



PHOTO BY LINDA HOSEK

First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, discuss the accomplishments of the Joining Forces campaign as its one-year anniversary approaches during an interview with American Forces Press Service in Washington, D.C., Friday. The first lady and Dr. Biden launched the campaign to rally national support from all sectors of society to honor and support service members, veterans and their Families.

privilege of getting to know a military community, a Family, a unit, because these men and women are the best this country has,” the first lady said. “I’m always in awe of what they are able to manage, what they sacrifice, and doing it with such grace and poise. It’s been a gift to shine light on these military men and women.”

Biden also spoke of the resilience of military Family members.

“They face a lot of difficulties and challenges in their lives,” she said, noting that most military members relocate at least 10 times in their career. “That’s tough on a Family – to pack up, lose friends, make new friends, get new sports teams – but they never complain. They just feel it’s part of their job.”

Obama said she expects the campaign’s second year will continue progress in those areas and more. A major goal, she said, will be to build on successes in professional license

portability for military spouses. Thirteen states already have passed legislation to make it easier for military spouses who work in fields such as teaching, nursing, real estate, and social work to transfer their professional licenses easily from one state to another, and 13 more have pending legislation, she said.

The outpouring of support for the Joining Forces campaign has proven that Americans want to help military Families and need the structure the campaign provides, Biden said.

“Americans want to help. All they need is a little direction,” she said. “They’re saying, ‘OK, give us ideas.’”

Obama said she expects the campaign to endure indefinitely.

“Our husbands, and Jill and I, we’re committed to making sure this becomes part of our culture,” she said. “I know the president and the vice president are working with the [Defense and Veterans Affairs

departments] to set up a structure to ensure this continues, regardless of who’s in office.

“These are lifelong commitments,” she added. “As a Blue Star mom, Jill is always in, and I consider myself an honorary Blue Star mom. ... This is a forever issue for us.”

The important thing for civilians to understand, Obama said, is that these issues don’t end when wars end. “That’s when the hard work begins for many of these Families,” she said. “When someone is on active duty, they’re still transferring. Their kids are still going from school to school to school.”

The first lady noted that 1 percent of Americans serve in the all-volunteer force to protect everyone else.

“So, we have to step up forever,” she said. “I think our country is ready to do that. It just helps to have a structure like Joining Forces.”

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Battle of Selma reenactment April 26-29

By James Hammonds
Battle of Selma Reenactment Committee

SELMA — With only two weeks to go, the Battle of Selma Reenactment and its School Days is gearing up for the 147th anniversary of the Civil War battle in Selma.

In honor of the strong Naval history between Selma and Columbus, Ga., the official reenactor unit of the National Civil War Naval Museum will conduct Living History demonstrations during the Battle of Selma School Days and throughout the reenactment April 26-29.

The display will include a full-scale replica of a Brooke Naval Gun (like those made in Selma), Brooke Shells, torpedoes and sailors in Confederate Naval uniforms. Naval facilities in both Selma and Columbus were destroyed 147 years ago in April 1865 by Wilson’s Raiders.

In addition to the National Civil War Naval Museum demonstration, students and teachers will also see demonstrations of a 19th-century blacksmith, Civil War medical surgeons, infantry, artillery, mounted cavalry, period weapons, period music and more.

The annual event serves Selma and the surrounding areas in great ways: Provides residents and visitors a sense of community, allows volunteerism, provides fun outdoor activities



A scene from a previous reenactment of the Battle of Selma.

for Families, boosts the economy through tourism dollars, and teaches residents and visitors about the community and the history that surrounds them.

This year is a continuation of the planning efforts being made by local, state and national leaders in history and tourism to prepare for the 150th anniversary of the Battles of the American Civil War. For the next three years, re-enactors across the United States, and some abroad, will recreate the battles of the War Between the States.

The event is conducted annually in April and is sponsored by the

April 1865 Society, Inc. The 4th Alabama Infantry, 6th Alabama Cavalry, the Jeff Davis Artillery and the Alabama Division of Reenactors will host the Battle of Selma this year.

Background on Selma involvement

The Confederate Naval Ordnance Works, Iron Clad Shipyard and Army Arsenal located in Selma were key targets for Union General James H. Wilson. Destruction of the Selma facilities in April 1865 would ultimately seal the fate for the CSA war effort. “Wilson’s Raid”

went on to capture the cities of Montgomery and Columbus, and Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

Schedule

April 26

Living History school tours begin in conjunction with the Battle of Selma Reenactment’s Strategic Partner Wallace Community College Selma. The 1860s come alive with hands-on instruction and period music.

April 27

Living History school tours continue. Enjoy present day and 1860s-style food, beverages,

clothes, jewellery, toys and souvenirs.

5 p.m. — Civil War Writer Forum at No. 3 Church St., the site of the Army Arsenal, free to the public.

7:30 p.m. — The ominous beauty and power of Civil War-era artillery is unleashed free to the public.

8 p.m. — Reenactor’s camp dance and the period band “Unreconstructed” will play and give period dance instruction, free to the public.

April 28

Gates open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday battlefield admission is \$7. Tour Confederate, Union and civilian camps and see troops drill as they prepare for the skirmish.

2 p.m. — Battle begins.

7 p.m. — The Battle of Selma Grand Military Ball at Sturdivant Hall, where reenactors in period dress following that time’s etiquette, and the sound of brass and string bands take attendees back to the 1860s. The receiving line begins at 7 p.m. For additional information and tickets, contact Sturdivant Hall Museum at (334) 872-5626.

April 29

Gates open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday battlefield admission is \$7.

10:30 a.m. — Civil War Memorial Service and history tour at historic Old Live Oak Cemetery, free to the public.

2 p.m. — The Battle of Selma reenactment begins.

WIREGRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT, EMAIL 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

SATURDAY — Assured Data Destruction and MidSouth Bank offers residents the opportunity to have their paper records and data storage materials shredded and recycled during the Community Shred Day. Materials are collected from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at MidSouth Bank at 2526 West Main Street and at WRC Market at 805 Ross Clark Circle. The drop-off event is open to the public. There is a limit of five boxes per vehicle. The drop-off event is open to the public. For more information, call 792-0022.

APRIL 21-22 — A gem and mineral show, featuring gemstones, fossils, minerals and finished jewelry, will be at the Westgate Park Recreation Center. Cutting

and polishing gemstones will be demonstrated. Admission and parking is free. For more information, visit www.wiregrass-rockhounds.com or call (334) 792-7116.

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

ENTERPRISE

MAY 12 — The Downtown Enterprise Business Association has announced the musical line up for its annual Downtown Summer Fest, scheduled for 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. in downtown Enterprise. The annual one day event brings in thousands of people from throughout the Wiregrass to kick-off the summer season, and is a partner of the Enterprise Lions Club Boll Weevil 100/Ride to Recovery Southeast Bike Ride, which is held the same day. The festival will be held on East College Street and South Edwards Street, from East Lee Street to Grubs Street. This year’s event includes a focus on nationally-known musical artists who reside in the Enterprise area. One of the talented musicians performing at the event is Kaitlyn Lusk, best known for her work as the vocal soloist heard on the soundtrack of the “Lord of the Rings” movie trilogy. Enterprise merchants will also have special sidewalk sales and savings events throughout the day, as well as activities for the kids.

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

APRIL 26 — Disabled American Veterans Chapter 99 will meet at 6 p.m. in the New Brockton City Hall. Food and drinks will be served followed by regular Chapter business. We extend an invitation to veterans throughout the Wiregrass to join us as new members. For more information, please call Chuck Lobdell at 334-718-5707.

OZARK

APRIL 27 — The Netherlands Liaison Officer for the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and the commander of the Netherlands training detachment are hosting a reception to mark the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands 6-9 p.m. at the Ann Rudd Art Center. Class A or international equivalent is required for military personnel; coat and tie or equivalent for civilians. RSVP no later than April 20 by calling 255-3766.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 28 — Ozark artist Tim Richardson will be spotlighted in a solo show, “The Science of Primary Colors” at the Ann Rudd Art Center. Approximately 100 pieces will be shown, including sculpture, costumes and paintings.

Richardson says, “The show will feature a mixture of old and new, something for everyone.” The exhibition will run through April 28. The public is invited. The Ann Rudd Art Center, home to the Dale County Council of Arts and Humanities is on the square in downtown Ozark.

For more information, visit www.ruddartcenter.org.

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

Discovery Day at Dauphin Island

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab invites Families to a day of environmentally-themed children’s activities, an Open House at the Research Facilities of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and free kids’ admission to the Estuarium April 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free for children. For more information, call (251) 861-2141.

Noble Street Festival

The city of Anniston invites people to celebrate the outdoors and healthy living with live music, children’s activities, Sunny King Criterium pro bicycle races, food at the Red Diamond Restaurant Tour and the YMCA 5k and Mellow Mushroom Mad Dash run April 21. During the races, hundreds of cyclists will race multiple laps on the closed course on downtown streets. The restaurant tour was selected as a top 10 event in the state of Alabama in 2006, 2010 and 2012. Admission is free and the festi-

val lasts from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call (256) 236-6346 or visit www.noblestreetfestival.com.

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 April 19 from noon-1 p.m. and is entitled “Incidents of the War: The Civil War of Mary Jane Chadick.” For more information, call 353-4726 or visit www.archives.alabama.gov.

Alabama Book Festival

On April 21, Montgomery’s Old Alabama Town will open its gates for the Alabama Book Festival. The festival is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and features more than 40 vendors and exhibitors. The free event is the state’s premier book festival, with more than 4,000 people from around the state converging in the capital to meet with and hear from their favorite authors and scholars. For more information, call (888) 240-1850 or visit www.alabamabookfestival.org.

Crew reunion

USS Alabama Crewman’s Reunion is today, Friday and Saturday in Mobile. Visitors to Battleship Park during the reunion will have an opportunity to meet and visit with some of the former crew of the WWII Battleship USS Alabama from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. Fee for attractions only. For more information, call (251) 433-2703 or visit www.ussalabama.com.

Cheaha Challenge

On April 22 from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., join almost 1,000 cyclists in this recreational bicycle ride through some of the Southeast’s most scenic roadways. Experience the serenity and beauty of the Talladega National Forest and Cheaha State Park as you choose from route options of 26, 44, 66, 88, or 102 miles. Shorter routes have very few hills, while the longest route inflicts almost 8,000 feet of cumulative climbing on those who tackle the entire route. Admission charged. For more information, call (256) 236-6346 or visit www.cheahachallenge.com.

Senior leaders honor Military Children of the Year

By Elaine Sanchez
American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — From a 9-year-old blogger to a 17-year-old community-service volunteer, children from military Families took center stage here last night during Operation Homefront’s 2012 Military Child of the Year awards gala.

The military’s top brass heaped praise on five of these children — one from each service plus the Coast Guard — for their resilience, strength of character and leadership.

Operation Homefront, a nonprofit organization that provides emergency assistance to military Families, annually gives the award to a child from each service to honor military kids’ service and sacrifice.

These children are the “best of the best,” Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey told an audience of military and Family members. Joining the chairman was his wife, Deanie, top military leaders from each service, and special guest speaker, Medal of Honor recipient Army Sgt. 1st Class Sammy L. Davis.

“If I had to be identified as the best of the best among any group in America today, I’d actually like to be known as the best of the best among military kids,” Dempsey told the audience, “because of what we ask them to do, and what they do.”

The honorees included a 9-year-old who started a blog to support other children dealing with deployment to a 17-year-old who dealt with her Army father’s illness, then the loss of her Soldier brother in Afghanistan.

Though people have said military children are tough and resilient despite their hardships, the chairman said, he takes an opposite view.

“I think that our military kids are who they are because of the hardships,” he said, citing their adaptability, strength and ability to embrace diversity. “Kids become who they are because of what we ask them to do and because of what they see us do [and] see their moms and dads do.”

These children are the nation’s future leaders, Dempsey noted. He said Nathaniel Richards, the Navy’s Military Child of the Year, put it best when he wrote this on his blog site: “Even though we are young, we still have great ideas. We can help. We can make a difference.”

Dempsey thanked Operation Homefront for its efforts to honor military children.

“Let me tell you how proud we are of America’s military kids,” he said. “And let me tell you how very proud we are of the five that have been identified tonight as the best of the best.”

Following Dempsey’s remarks, senior service leaders presented the awards to their service’s honoree – first citing their exceptional qualities and accomplishments and passing on their personal gratitude for their service and strength.

Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, the Army’s vice chief of staff, acknowledged military children’s challenges, particularly after a decade of war. Yet, he said, “it is remarkable to see these young people routinely rise to the challenges of military life and excel under what are very difficult circumstances.”

Through their unyielding support, military children increase not only their military parents’ strength, but also their resilience, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz added.

SEE CHILDREN, PAGE C8



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. SUN L. VEGA

Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Sammy L. Davis, a Medal of Honor recipient, pose with a military child during the fourth annual 2012 Military Child of the Year award ceremony at the Ritz-Carlton in Arlington, Va., April 5. The award ceremony recognizes children of U.S. Service Members from around the world in each branch of service for their compassion, faith and contributions made to their communities.

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L 7. Shrimp w. Lobster Sauce.....	4.25
L 8. Moo Goo Gai Pan.....	4.25
L 9. Chicken Lo Mein.....	4.25
L10. Beef Lo Mein	4.25
L11. Shrimp Lo Mein.....	4.25
L12. Pork Lo Mein	4.25
L13. Sweet & Sour Pork	4.25
L14. Sweet & Sour Chicken	4.25
L15. Chicken w. Mixed Veg	4.25
L16. Beef w. Mixed Veg	4.25
L17. Shrimp w. Mixed Veg	4.25
L18. Chicken w. Cashew Nuts	4.25
L19. Shrimp w. Cashew Nuts	4.25
L20. Sesame Chicken	4.25
L21. Mongolian Beef	4.25
L22. Kan Po Chicken.....	4.25
L23. Kan Po Shrimp.....	4.25
L24. Hunan Chicken	4.25
L25. Hunan Beef.....	4.25
L26. General Tso's Chicken	4.25
L27. Chicken w. Garlic Sauce.....	4.25
L28. Beef w. Garlic Sauce.....	4.25
L29. Shrimp w. Garlic Sauce.....	4.25
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C12. Pork Lo Mein	6.55
C13. Sweet & Sour Pork	6.55
C14. Sweet & Sour Chicken	6.55
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C16. Beef w. Mixed Veg	6.55
C17. Shrimp w. Mixed Veg	6.55
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C23. Kan Po Shrimp.....	6.55
C24. Hunan Chicken	6.55
C25. Hunan Beef.....	6.55
C26. General Tso's Chicken	6.55
C27. Chicken w. Garlic Sauce.....	6.55
C28. Beef w. Garlic Sauce.....	6.55
C29. Shrimp w. Garlic Sauce.....	6.55
C30. Broccoli w. Garlic Sauce.....	6.55
C31. Orange Chicken	6.55
C32. Szechuan Chicken or Beef	6.55

Children: Recipients represent best of military youth

Continued from Page C7

Following the awards ceremony, actor Gary Sinise, a staunch military supporter famous for his role as a wounded warrior in the movie “Forrest Gump,” shared his gratitude to the children via prerecorded remarks.

“You are representing the best of our military youth,” he told the military children of the year. “We as a country earnestly want to honor you for the special contribution you have given your Family and your nation. There is no greater sacrifice than to serve our nation and you young people are living examples of that dedication and commitment,” he added.

Sinise introduced Davis, who is among the 81 living Medal of Honor recipients, to a standing ovation and resounding applause. Davis received the nation’s highest military honor for his heroism during the Vietnam War.

Some people believe today’s kids are going in the wrong direction, Davis said, but he doesn’t believe this is the case. “Truly we have good kids in this nation, and what we’ve seen here tonight is just proof in the pudding.”

Seeing the children receive their honors, he added, “made my heart swell with pride.”

Amelia McConnell, the Army’s Military Child of the Year, said she was “honored and humbled” by the honor and the opportunity to represent thousands of other military children. “I love being a military kid,” she said with a smile.

Each award recipient will receive \$5,000 from Operation Homefront, along with additional gifts from nonprofit organizations such as Soldiers’ Angels and Veterans United Foundation. Jim Knotts, Operation Homefront’s president and CEO, called the honorees examples for thousands of other military children.

“I know you will all do us proud,” he told them.

A committee of active duty

service members, Family readiness support assistants, teachers, military mothers and community members selected the children from a pool of more than 1,000 nominees.

The recipients of this year’s Military Child of the Year award are:

- **James Nathaniel Richards**, of Jamul, Calif., for the Navy. This 9-year-old’s three brothers and father all were deployed at the same time. To share his lessons learned, he started a blog for other military children called “Nate the Great: A Military Brat.” He leads the anti-bullying committee at his school and volunteers at the USO — clocking more than 200 hours last year collecting Christmas toys for children in need and wrapping hundreds of stockings to send to troops in Afghanistan.
- **Amelia McConnell**, of Carlisle Barracks,

Pa., for the Army. At 17, McConnell is the youngest of six children. She’s moved with her Family nine times, and her father has deployed three times. In 2006, after her father returned from Iraq, he was diagnosed with leukemia. After six months of treatments, the disease appeared to be in remission. He returned to Iraq in 2007. Two years later, her only brother, Army Sgt. Andrew McConnell, was killed in Afghanistan. A year later, her father deployed to Afghanistan shortly after the Family moved to Pennsylvania from overseas. While helping her mother at home, McConnell also served as the vice president as the National Art Honor

Society, and she is a member of the Germany National Honor Society.

- **Chelsea Rutherford**, 17, of Panama City, Fla., for the Air Force. She has two parents in the military and has attended five different schools. Still, she’s an honor roll student with a 3.6 grade point average and serves as the vice president of the Student-to-Student Club, which introduces new students to the campus and helps to ease their transition. She’s also an avid volunteer who clocked nearly 180 hours with nonprofit organizations in 2011, and is a member in the Society of Leadership and Success and the National Society of High School Scholars.
- **Erika Booth**, 16, of Jacksonville, N.C., for the

Marine Corps. She was an avid softball player until she was diagnosed with lupus, an autoimmune disease that affects her blood and requires painful monthly kidney checks. While dealing with her own health issues, Booth also helps to care for her 13-year-old brother, who has autism. Despite these challenges, Booth is ranked first in her class academically, serves as the junior class president and vice president of her local Health Occupations Students of America chapter, and volunteers as a mentor with the Drug Education for Youth program. She also works with other military children and adults to help them cope with the challenges of military life,

and has traveled abroad with the People to People Ambassador Program.

- **Alena Deveau**, 17, of Fairfax, Va., for the Coast Guard. She has visited 40 states during her father’s career. When she was in the seventh grade, Deveau’s father was diagnosed with lung cancer, followed by hip cancer. He underwent multiple surgeries before being diagnosed with brain cancer. Her father, who now is medically retired, was hospitalized for nearly three months. Deveau’s mother spent her time by her husband’s bedside, and Deveau held up the home front, helping to care for her 15-year-old sister. Still, she found time to volunteer as an organizer of the local Veterans Day dinner.

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Fore!



FILE PHOTOS

Shawn Land, C Co., 1st Bn., 223rd Avn. Regt. MI-17 instructor pilot, attempts a putt during last year's AER campaign golf tournament at Silver Wings Golf Course. This year's tournament to benefit the program that helps Soldiers help Soldiers is April 20.

Swing into spring to help Soldiers

By Nathan Pfau
 Army Flier Staff Writer

People on Fort Rucker and the surrounding communities finally have an excuse to work on their golf game by contributing to a worthy cause as the installation gets ready for the 22nd annual Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union Golf Tournament April 20.

The tournament is put on every year to benefit Fort Rucker's Army Emergency Relief and is AACFCU's way of giving back to the Soldiers of Fort Rucker, said Lisa Hales, vice president of marketing for AACFCU.

"A lot of our membership is military," she said, "so it's important for us to give back to those men and women who serve us."

All of the proceeds from the golf tournament, which are gathered through contributions from corporate sponsors, vendors and entry fees, will be going to AER, according to Joel Faulk, vice president of lending at AACFCU.

"Everything above the cost of the tournament will go to AER," he said. "[AACFCU's] board is very generous and every year they've actually given more than the money that is raised."

AER is a nonprofit organization that provides emergency financial assistance to Soldiers, retirees, their Family members and survivors, said Mimi Brooks, AER officer. AER provides assistance for a number of different types of needs like food, rent, gas, car repair, emergency medical and dental or funeral expenses, she added.

"Our assistance is typically provided in a [no-interest] assistance loan or a grant," she said. "Grants are usually for extraordinary circumstances if the Family doesn't have the ability to pay on a loan."

The relief program also has a scholarship program for spouses and Family members who are working on their first undergraduate degree, Brooks explained, with some new programs that include: initial furniture setup with essen-

tial economic pieces for homes for Soldiers such as newly married military couples; expansion on the dental category to include loans for all dental needs, not just emergencies; and down payments on a new car if the cost to repair a Soldiers car far exceeds the value of the car.

It's important to give back and help AER with the golf tournament because it does so much to help Soldiers, said Faulk. Last year's tournament assisted in supporting the AER campaign that raised \$121,395, and AER provided \$307,600 in assistance to 235 Soldiers, retirees, Family members and survivors.

"We need people to come play," he said. "That's where the donation money comes from."

Prizes will also be available for many different categories with the biggest prize being awarded to anyone able to sink a hole-in-one during the tournament. If a person is able to accomplish a hole-in-one, he or she will be able to choose a 2012 Nissan Altima or 2012 Jeep Wrangler as their prize, said Faulk.

Other prizes include \$300 for closest to the pin at one of the par-3 holes, \$200 for closest to the pin at a separate par-3 hole and prizes for the best five net scores and best gross scores, he added.

"The majority of people will get a prize of some sort," said Faulk. "We have lots of door prizes and everyone that enters into the tournament will get an entry gift."

The entry fee is \$50 for SWGC members and \$60 for non-members and includes a hamburger lunch, cart, and green fees, said Hales, adding that people can also pay \$200 to be corporate sponsors, which allows entry for two people to play.

The tournament is open to the public and registration begins at 10 a.m. on the day of the event with a shotgun start at noon.

For more information, call 1 (800) 448-4096 or 598-4411 ext. 1306 or 1302.

Fort Rucker runs for survivors, fallen heroes

By Nathan Pfau
 Army Flier Staff Writer

The Fort Rucker community will show its support for the Families of fallen heroes during the Survivors and Fallen Heroes 5k run April 28.

Put on by the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, the members of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment and the Survivor Outreach Services program, the run at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility is designed to honor survivors and those that have made the ultimate sacrifice, according to Beth Gunter, financial counselor for SOS.

Gunter said she spoke with B Co., 1/145th about doing something as a tribute for the fallen heroes and their survivors, and MWR got involved so that it could be done as a post run.

"B Co. jumped [at the opportunity] because Soldiers said that these were their brothers in combat and it would be great for them to show that they are still thinking about those that we've lost," she said. "It just became a collaborative effort by a lot of people wanting to show that this is a great way to have the community wrap their arms around survivors and show that their fallen heroes have not been forgotten."

The survivors of fallen heroes aren't just the spouses and children, said Gunter, but also parents and siblings, adding that SOS reaches out to all the survivors that are out there to provide the type of service for whatever ques-

tions they may have for a lifetime, rather than just a period of time after a Soldier has fallen in combat.

"Our goal is to help survivors realize that they are always part of the military Family," she said. "Even though they have lost their [loved one], doesn't mean that they are any less important to our military Family."

"Just as when a person loses someone within their immediate Family, their Family members are there to provide that support and encouragement to help them work through the grief," said Gunter. "This is a military Family and we are there in the same aspect – to help them work through the grief and help them move forward."

SOS is a program that came about on Fort Rucker in April of 2008 when the Army realized that even though a grieving Family has a casualty assistance officer to help them through the initial process of losing a service member, the Family still has issues well after the CAO has done his or her job, she explained.

SOS is there to provide the support, advocacy and financial counseling for the survivors for as long as they need, said Gunter, and that's one of the main reasons for wanting to put on the run honoring the survivors and fallen heroes with the 5k run, as a means of support.

"We want the community to be [at the run] to show their support as well," said Gunter. "It's a great way for the installation to show its support for the survivors and fallen heroes, as well as the SOS program."

Gold stars will be available with the names of the fallen heroes for the survivors to wear during the race, she said,

adding that there will be additional gold stars available for those that wish to run in honor of a friend or comrade that people can write the names of on.

"When a service member goes overseas, they get a blue star flag that symbolizes that there is a service member serving within the military during wartime," Gunter explained. "If the service member dies while serving on active duty during war, the blue star is replaced with a gold star being placed over the top of the blue star."

"That's why we're utilizing the gold stars," she said, "it symbolizes the survivor. We're hoping to have enough runners for every one of the fallen Soldiers."

During the day of the run, B Co. will be cooking hot-dogs and hamburgers for the survivors to enjoy and food and beverages will be available to the rest of the community in attendance to purchase, said the SOS counselor. There will also be inflatables and different activities for people to take part in so that the community has the opportunity to come together, she added.

B Co. Soldiers requested that any proceeds that go above the cost of the run be put toward the SOS program so that they can put on additional programs for the survivors, said Gunter.

The run will begin at 9 a.m. on April 28 and the cost for pre-registration for the run is \$20, which includes a T-shirt, and people can register at either of the fitness facilities up until April 21. Regular registration costs \$25 and is from April 22 up until the day of the race by 8:40 a.m.

For more information, call 255-3794 or 255-2286.

DOWN TIME



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

T R I V I A

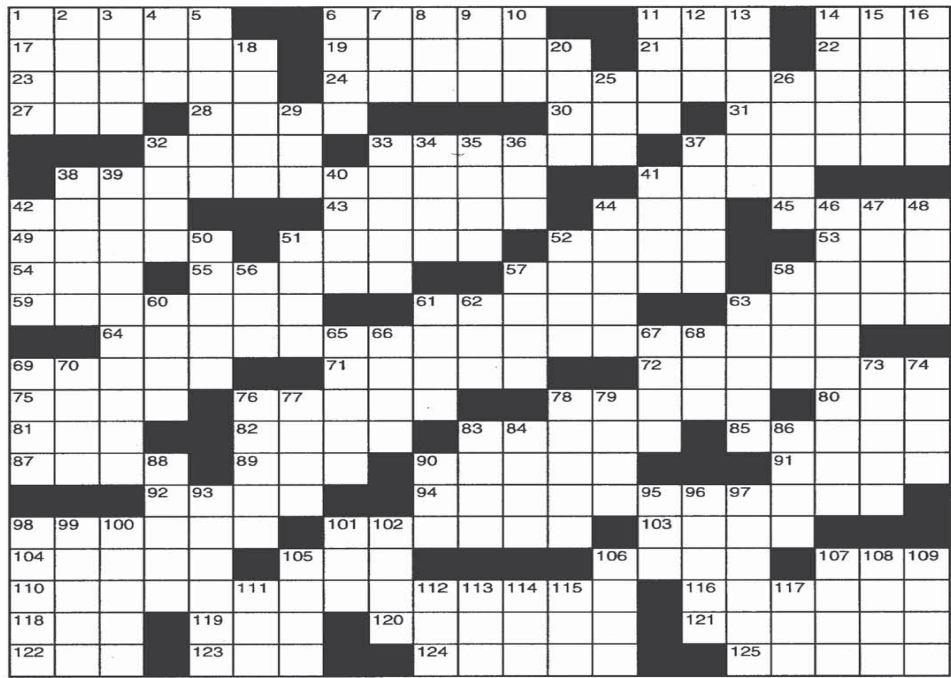
1. ART: Which French painter is known for his depictions of ballerinas?
2. ANATOMY: Where is the hyoid bone located?
3. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the only mammal that can fly on its own?
4. GEOGRAPHY: What is the smallest U.S. state in land area?
5. TELEVISION: What was the theme song of the TV sitcom "Married with Children"?
6. MOVIES: Who played the dad in the film "The Shining"?
7. ADVERTISEMENTS: What product did the first television advertisement feature?
8. HISTORY: Aside from Rome, where did the popes of the Catholic Church reside for a brief period in the Middle Ages?
9. PERSONALITIES: What actor got his start as a circus performer?
10. FAMOUS QUOTES: Who once said, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen"?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- ACROSS**
1 "Dracula" prop
6 — mignon
11 Roast beef au —
14 Enjoy the Alps
17 Tropical treat
19 Classical hunk?
21 A Turner
22 Another Turner
23 Toed the line
24 Start of a remark by 38 Across
27 Prom wear
28 Idle
30 Fury
31 "Garfield" cartoonist
32 Shalit or Siskel
33 Ned of "Deliverance"
37 Stir up
38 Speaker of remark
41 Carrey title start
42 Windmill part
43 Violinist Mischa
44 Singer Scaggs
45 Cabbage concoction
49 Aquatic animal
- DOWN**
51 Bodybuilder Charles
52 "— Show" ('94 film)
53 Private pension
54 Robert of "Quincy, M.E."
55 Restive
57 Trumpeter Berigan
58 Explorer Hedin
59 '68 Tom Jones hit
61 — suit
64 Part 2 of remark
69 Raid
71 Sinuous dances
72 Jihad
75 Verve
76 Pothead of baseball
78 Thin porridge
80 Thurman of "The Avengers"
81 Deighton or Dawson
82 Blows away
83 Isaac's mom
85 Remove varnish
87 Lug
89 Morning moisture
90 Comic Sherman
- ACROSS**
91 "— It a Pity?" ('70 song)
92 Got older
94 Part 3 of remark
98 Yearned
101 Titania's hubby
103 "Java" man?
104 Tom of "Adam's Rib"
105 Woody herb
106 With 107 Down, "Chocolat" actress
107 Kimono closer
110 End of remark
116 Like some recordings
118 Out — limb
119 Gumshoe
120 Update a story
121 Ida of "The Sea Wolf"
122 Fashion monogram
123 Symbol of sturdiness
124 "Jane Eyre" character
125 Murcia mister
- DOWN**
4 Kyser or Starr
5 Ornamental opening
6 Comic Joey
7 Wedding words
8 "Hulk" Ferrigno
9 SASE, e.g.
10 Mowry of "Sister, Sister"
11 Be in accord
12 Luau instrument
13 Rarely
14 Martin or McQueen
15 Actor Sorbo
16 What i.e. stands for
18 Hersey setting
20 Tizzy
25 Strive
26 Whittier's feet
29 Buddhist movement
32 Merriment
33 Beer storage?
34 Humorist Bombeck
35 Cry of concern
36 Dress size
37 Like a peach
38 Photo finish
39 Narrow-minded
- ACROSS**
40 One of the Marches
41 Rub out
42 Nullify
44 Swindle
46 Sausage type
47 Precinct
48 Lack
50 Bendix role
51 "— Breaky Heart" ('92 hit)
52 Wharf
56 Prepare to feather?
57 Seek change?
58 Fluctuate
60 Tenor Kozlovsky
61 Peevishness
62 Genetic info
63 Vends
65 Flung
66 Warm embraces
67 "No dice!"
68 Farm tool
69 Crafter's cloth
70 Toast topper
73 — acid
74 All ears
76 Too experienced
77 Had bills
78 Bit of a beach
79 Be bombastic
- ACROSS**
83 Disparage
84 Palo —, CA
86 Cast
88 Scout rank
90 Presidential nickname
93 Trattoria
95 Heifer or hen
96 Last
97 Telescope sighting
98 Croce's Mr. Brown
99 "Hoe Hawk" host Huck
100 Mount Everest's locale
101 Absent
102 Grumpy guy
105 Singer
111 Soho snack
112 PBS benefactor
113 Accounting abbr.
114 Tiny
115 "— of You" ('84 hit)
117 "Tarzan" extra



See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

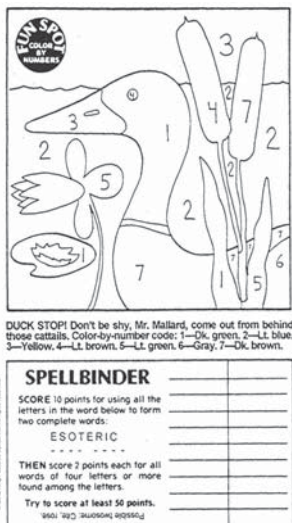
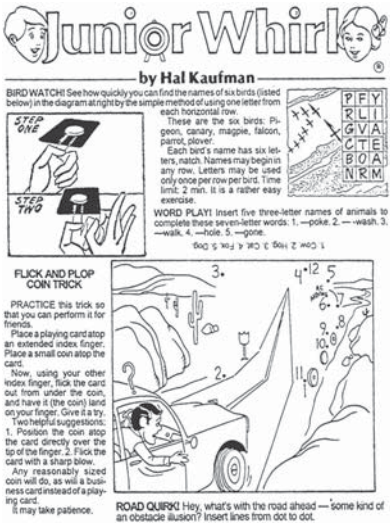
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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See Page D3 for this week's answers.

KID'S CORNER



Wounded Warrior Amputee Team thumps D.C. celebrities

By J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The loss of an arm or a leg from combat didn’t seem to have an effect April 3 on the play of the Soldiers and Marines who make up the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team, or WWAST, as they soundly thumped a Washington area celebrity team made up of sports legends, broadcasters and even the D.C. mayor.

In the second annual battle between the teams hosted by the Washington Nationals at their ballpark, the softball classic started with the able-bodied celebrities taking an early lead at 2-0, even though NFL Hall of Famer Darrell Green whiffed on three pitches and struck out.

Two more runs were all the celebrities could muster in five innings of play as the wounded warriors, playing with leg or arm prosthetic or no prosthetic at all, couldn’t be stopped defensively or offensively. They gave the celebrities a 17-4 shellacking under a perfect evening sky and full moon.

For Army veteran Greg Reynolds, the loss of his left arm forequarter happened at home following a 15-month Iraq tour when he was hit by a car while riding his motorcycle. His odds were one in 2,000 of surviving and even less while in recovery, he said.

“To be out here today in front of all these people by far exceeds anything I thought possible,” Reynolds said. “This is a really rewarding, humbling experience to play on such an amazing team with my brothers, but to be out and to play with obviously missing a great portion of my body motivates me to the next level because I have this inner discipline and motivation where I want to play better than the guy with his limbs. No one should put limitations on themselves.”

While on a night patrol in Iraq, Matt Kinsey stepped on a landmine, losing his right foot.

“You go from being a paratrooper, which is a very proud thing, and you take a lot of pride in it to missing a foot and your career; it’s not over, but it’s really tough to get back into the infantry and you go from



PHOTO BY J.D. LEIPOLD

A wounded warrior makes the catch during warmup before the Amputee Softball Team exhibition game at Washington Nationals Stadium in Washington, D.C., April 3.

being on top of the mountain to being on the bottom of it,” Kinsey said.

“This is a dream come true, every little kid dreams of getting a second chance as an athlete and I had one and lost it,” the former high school and college ball player said. “This is my second chance, so I play as hard as I can while I’m out here because it can be gone just in the blink of an eye.”

Veteran Soldier Brian T. Urruela, who

lost his right leg below the knee to two improvised explosive devices during Operation Iraqi Freedom, said playing ball is like that next step, next phase, but he said it’s been a long, long journey of about five years.”

“Being at this level and maintaining this level, we’re constantly working at improving our limbs and it definitely pushes us to our limits. It’s improved me tenfold,” he

said.

In conjunction with various military outreach efforts, the partnership between the Nationals and the WWAST hopes to demonstrate to other amputees and the public that through extensive rehabilitation and training, veterans who were once Soldiers and Marines can be athletes while playing ball and proving life without a limb can be unlimited.

SPORTS BRIEFS

MOMC SPECIAL AT SWGC

In recognition of Month of the Military Child, Silver Wings Golf Course offers a Kids Play Free golf special throughout the month of April. Children play a free round of golf when accompanied by a paying adult. This offer is valid anytime except before noon on weekends and holidays.

For more, call 598-2449.

FAMILY FUN RUN, WALK

The Family Advocacy Program hosts the Pinwheels for Prevention Family Fun Run and Walk Saturday as part of Child Abuse Prevention Month. The event begins at 9:30 a.m., with registration from 9-9:25 a.m. at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility on Andrews Avenue. The Exceptional Family Member Program-friendly event is free and open to the public.

For more information on Child Abuse Prevention Month activities and registration, call 255-3898.

SCUBA COURSE

The Fort Rucker Aquarians Dive Club sponsors a scuba certification course beginning Monday. The first class will meet at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center indoor pool at 6:30 p.m. After the first class, the scuba course

will meet every Monday and Wednesday night for no less than six weeks and no more than seven weeks, depending on the weather. One weekend will be required at the end of the course to complete open water training in the Gulf of Mexico.

For more information, call George Perez at 774-3483 or 347-6936.

RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility on Andrews Avenue hosts a racquetball tournament April 21. Novice, D, C, B, and A players begin at 8:30 a.m. Open players begin at 10 a.m. followed by doubles. Registration costs \$15 per person for singles only, \$15 per person for doubles only, and \$20 per person for participants playing singles and doubles. Refreshments are provided. Pre-registration is highly encouraged and can be done at either physical fitness facility. People who pre-register receive a t-shirt. In the case of player overflow, some games may start April 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Players who place first and second in doubles, novice, and D, C, B, and A categories will receive awards, while awards will be given out for first, second and third places in the open category. The event is open to the public.

For more, call 255-3794.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

1. Edgar Degas
2. Throat
3. A bat
4. Rhode Island
5. "Love and Marriage" by Frank Sinatra
6. Jack Nicholson
7. Bulova watches
8. Avignon, France
9. Pierce Brosnan
10. President Harry Truman

PUZZLE
ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Video Game Spotlight >>

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



COURTESY SCREENSHOT

Mario Party 9 introduces boss battles

By Jim Van Slyke
Contributing Writer

It's been nearly five years since Mario threw his last party. Either it was so good that people are still talking about it or it was a disaster and Nintendo is trying to forget about it.

Either way, feel free to invite yourself to "Mario Party 9." There are more than 80 mini-games in "Mario Party 9," and for the first time in the franchise gamers are tasked to work together to battle boss characters. Each stage ends with a boss battle, so gamers must band together to beat the likes of Bowser, King Boo and others. All of Mario's friends are invited to this party so expect to see Peaches, Luigi and the rest of the gang. Gamers ride across the various stages in special vehicles that they take turns controlling. There are unique "Captain Events" that change the course of each stage and sometimes

the game. There is just as much as skill that's necessary to win "Mario Party 9," so don't play the game without the expectation of a random event regularly derailing the frontrunners.

The mini-games include everything from making pizzas to racing snowmobiles to counting characters as they speed by. They are different enough to keep things interesting and gamers

can practice them in the free play mode. The Extras mode includes more fun in Goomba Bowling and the puzzle-based Castle Clearout. Also, every time gamers decide to party

in "Mario Party 9," they earn Party Points that can be used to unlock special items and features. "Mario Party 9" doesn't have great food and most of the characters who have

been invited are quite strange, but it's still fun. It makes for a decent party game, but it doesn't have online multiplayer, so don't expect this party to last all year long.



Publisher
Nintendo
Rated
Everyone
Systems
Wii
Cost
\$50
Overall
3 out of 4

- Have a Family disaster plan and supply kit.
- Build or identify a safe room in your home.
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