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Spouses club gives \$4,000 to Carroll High School band

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**SPOUSES**

Event lets Aviation spouses earn their wings

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Soldiers earn German Armed Forces badge

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# ARMY FLIER

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

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FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

MAY 24, 2012

## ATSCOM, 164th TAOG gets new commander

By Nathan Pfau  
Army Flier Staff Writer

Soldiers and Families said their goodbyes as Fort Rucker bid farewell to one of its commanders and welcomed a new commander to the Air Traffic Services Command and 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group.

The ceremony began as flowers and recognition were presented to the Families of the incoming and outgoing commanders.

The official change of command took place with the traditional passing of the colors from outgoing commander Col. James R. Macklin, to Lt. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg, deputy commanding general and chief of staff of the U.S. Army Forces Command, to the incoming commander, Col. Michael L. Shenk, symbolizing the relinquishment of command from the outgoing to the incoming commander.

Shenk expressed his gratitude and appreciation to his Family as well to those in attendance, and said he plans to earn their trust by maintaining an ethical organization.

“Every leader of ... organizations should serve

with these concepts in mind,” he said. “[These concepts] demand leadership of each other, demonstrate followership to our superiors and provide counsel to our subordinates.”

Bromberg took to the podium during the ceremony and praised Shenk as he welcomed the Family to Fort Rucker.

He said Shenk was a proven leader who has “immense capability, worthy” of the increased responsibility he will take on as the new ATSCOM and 164th TAOG commander.

“In the past 24 years, [Shenk] has served in the most challenging assignments in our Army,” said Bromberg. “Those same jobs and unique experiences make him especially qualified to lead this organization.”

The general also expressed excitement to be in the home of Army Aviation, and voiced his appreciation for the amount of effort it took to conduct the ceremony, adding that it was only fitting that it take place surrounded by history.

“This venue provides all of us with a tangible sense of our history and tradition, and this morning



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Lt. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg, deputy commanding general and chief of staff of U.S. Army Forces Command, passes the unit colors to Col. Michael L. Shenk, incoming commander of the Air Traffic Services Command and 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group, to symbolize the change of command at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Tuesday.

SEE COMMANDER, PAGE A7



PHOTO BY ANGELA WILLIAMS

## Music Under the Alabama Stars

Children dance to the music in front of the band, during the Music Under the Alabama Stars concert May 17. The next concert will take place June 15 on Howze Field and will be a special event celebrating the Army's birthday.

## ID scanning system enhances security

By Jim Hughes  
Command Information Officer

Fort Rucker will start using a new post access control system Wednesday that both enhances security and simplifies the entry process for visitors to the installation.

The post entered into a contract for the Rapid RCx system that allows security officials to better monitor who enters the post and when, and also prevents those who should not be on post from gaining access, according to John Tkac, Directorate of Public Safety chief of physical security.

When people come on post Wednesday, security guards will scan their IDs at seven gates: Daleville, Enterprise, Ozark, Newton and Faulkner, and also at Shell and Cairns airfields, Tkac said.

Once the IDs are scanned, information contained on the identification is run through several open source databases that will alert guards to people with issues such as warrants out for their arrests, being on terrorist watch lists and other problems, such as revocation of post driving privileges and being on the installation debarment list, Tkac said.

“Right now, the only time we catch people on those (latter) two lists is when they go through the inspection area,” he said. “This system will notify guards right away

SEE SYSTEM, PAGE A7

## AER campaign raises more than \$100,000

By Nathan Pfau  
Army Flier Staff Writer

During the Army Emergency Relief campaign members of the Fort Rucker community have played their share of golf and witnessed high-ranking officials arrested – all for the sake of raising money to support Soldiers.

People gathered at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum to officially bring an end to a campaign designed to raise money to help Soldiers that are in need during the 2012 AER campaign closing ceremony Tuesday.

The campaign ran from March 1 to May 15 and raised \$111,818 with the help of the Army Aviation Center Federal Credit Union and the 6th Military Police Detachment, according to Capt. Thomas Perry, AER campaign coordinator.

“[AACFCU’s] efforts reflect unwavering support for Fort Rucker and our Soldiers,” he said. “The 22nd Annual AACFCU golf tournament was a huge success and raised \$15,000 for AER.”

AACFCU hosts a golf tournament every year to benefit AER that offers prizes to its participants, said Lisa Hales, vice president of marketing for AACFCU, adding that 100 percent of the sign-up fees and donations from the tournament go to AER.

“To my friends at [AACFCU], I want to give a special thanks,” said Col. James A. Muskopf, Fort Rucker garrison commander and AER campaign chairman. “It was a great golf tournament this year. You picked



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Col. James A. Muskopf, Fort Rucker garrison commander and Army Emergency Relief chairman, presents a check for \$111,818 that was raised for the AER campaign raised to Mimi Brooks, Army Emergency Relief officer, during the 2012 AER campaign closing ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Tuesday.

a great day to do it and it was a phenomenal event.”

The 6th MP Detachment also got into the fundraising action with its Jail-a-Thon, which Perry said was an “absolute success” and raised \$5,479 for the campaign.

The Jail-a-Thon offered the people on Fort Rucker a rare chance to have their friends, co-workers and even bosses arrested, for a

fee.

Muskopf was among the guilty that were arrested during the Jail-a-Thon event May 17, and was charged with issuing arrest threats to his administrative staff.

“I was innocent,” he said as he was taken into custody during the event. “This year it cost me \$130 during the Jail-a-Thon.”

The colonel spent \$90 to bail himself out

of the makeshift jail that was setup in the post-exchange parking lot and said he spent the rest on getting others arrested as pay-back; following through with the “crime” he was accused of.

Others that were arrested during the Jail-a-Thon included: Justin Mitchell, Fort Rucker deputy garrison commander, who was charged with running off nearly the entire garrison command group in July – possibly as a result of his jokes and bad puns; Command Sgt. Maj. Dwaine E. Walters, Fort Rucker garrison command sergeant major, who was charged with excessive purchases of Mountain Dew out of Bldg. 5700’s vending machine, failure to take his wife on a cruise on their anniversary because he gets seasick, and permanently departing the garrison July 13; and Ken Mansel, chief of Support Services Division, who was charged with abuse of a Xerox copier because of buying poor quality paper, excessive use of random acts of kindness, inappropriate work attire consisting of Louisiana State University attire, abandoning a motorcycle on sick leave and excessive use of Microsoft PowerPoint.

The money that was collected during the Jail-a-Thon for either the cost of having someone arrested or the cost to post bail went to benefit the AER campaign.

Events like the Jail-a-thon enable AER to raise money and every year Fort Rucker raises about \$250,000 for AER locally,

SEE AER, PAGE A7



# PERSPECTIVE



COURTESY PHOTO

Retired Navy Capt. Dan A. Pedersen and his wife, Beth, reunite with Maj. Lan T. Dalat and his mother, Cam Quy Ton (2nd left), at Crystal Cathedral, Garden Grove, Calif., April 21.

## A story of rescue, reunion

By Maj. Lan T. Dalat  
Army Capabilities Integration Center

(Editor’s note: This article is reprinted from the DOD Live blog. U.S. Army Maj. Lan T. Dalat, Force Design Analyst for Force Design Division of AR-CIC shares his story in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.)

It is not too often that an Army Soldier and the former Top Gun commander of the Navy share a common bond in history. But in an event in Garden Grove, Calif., I finally got to thank the Naval officers and crew members who saved my life nearly 31 years ago on the other side of the world.

On April 21, retired Vice Adm. Adam M. Robinson Jr. addressed a crowd of nearly 2,000 people inside Crystal Cathedral at the beginning of a ceremony that highlighted the achievements of the “Lucky Few” during Operation Frequent Wind.

Robinson brought to light the efforts of Sailors aboard the USS Kirk, a destroyer with a mission to escort an aircraft carrier. It took on a new role April 30, 1975, when the Kirk and its crew took on the mission to rescue more than 30,000 Vietnamese refugees in the South China Sea.

Along with Robinson were other former commanding officers of the USS Kirk and the USS Ranger, who shared stories of their efforts in rescuing refugees. Retired Navy Capt. Dan A. Pedersen, who commanded the USS Ranger CV-61 “Top Gun,” spoke about rescuing these starved and dehydrated people floating in a barely seaworthy 35-foot wooden boat.

During his speech, he asked a woman in the audience to stand up for recognition. That woman was my mother, Ton Nu Cam Quy, who took extreme risk when she put all of her four children into that wooden boat, seeking freedom outside of Vietnam.

“Cam Quy went on and raised

four wonderful children and turned them into active contributing members of the United States,” Pedersen said. “They all graduated from college and now one of them is serving in the military.”

Pedersen then called for me to stand up in the audience. As I stood there, I thought about how a decision that was made some 31 years ago on the South China Sea had made such a profound impact in my life today.

When I was a young boy growing up in Orange County, I forgot about my status as a refugee. I was busy training with the cross country team to earn a varsity letter and working after school to help my struggling mother with the bills.

One day, I went to a surplus store to look for cheap camping equipment, I discovered a navy blue baseball cap with the bold print USS Ranger CV-61 along with a silhouette of the ship. Immediately, I was fascinated by that discovery and began my ef-

fort to find members of this ship to thank them for saving my life. My search was short, since the ship was decommissioned.

Then, I thought to myself, “What would I say when I actually find the member of that ship?”

That brainstorming session led me to a decision of joining the military after my high school graduation. I enlisted in the Army Reserve.

As a Reservist, I had to find a full-time job to support myself and to help my Family. I attended a junior college at night and worked full time during the day. I did this for several years until I was “let go” from my civilian job for deploying with the Army Reserve on a long training mission in Korea. Returning home without a job, I decided to focus on my education and applied for the Army ROTC program at California State University, Fullerton.

With the support of my cousin, Becky Nguyen, I attended the

university full time. I was desperate to find someone from the USS Ranger to thank. Fortunately for me, the Internet allowed me to expand my search worldwide. Within weeks of moving my quest online, the U.S. Navy responded.

Prior to my graduation from college, I was reunited with Pedersen, who commanded the ship that rescued my Family. My effort paid off. I had the opportunity to thank the skipper in person for saving my life and the lives of so many boat people on that hot day of March 20, 1981, from the deadly South China Sea.

In 1997, I graduated with a bachelor’s degree and earned a commission in the Army.

Today, we met again in a place where thousands of Vietnamese Americans (who had once been refugees, “the boat people”) had come to share their success stories and thanking the Navy and the United States of America for the freedom and the opportunity to live the American Dream.

## Rotor Wash

“How can you show your support for our military on Memorial Day?”



David DeAvila,  
Warrant Officer  
Candidate

“I usually take a break and enjoy my time off — definitely a freedom I partake of.”



Shane Merrell,  
Family member

“I spend time with my dad. He’s in the Navy.”



WO1 Eric DiGiovanna,  
B Co., 1st Bn., 145 Avn.  
Regt.

“Fly a flag.”



Spc. Garrett Keys,  
A Co., 1st Bn.,  
11 Avn. Regt.

“Show your patriotism.”



Sgt. 1st Class  
Robert Young,  
NCO Academy

“Talk to veterans and learn about the past. Let them know you appreciate them and they’re not forgotten.”

**COMMAND**

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FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

**Col. James A. Muskopf**  
FORT RUCKER GARRISON COMMANDER

**Lisa Eichhorn**  
FORT RUCKER PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

**Jim Hughes**  
COMMAND INFORMATION OFFICER

**David C. Agan Jr.**  
COMMAND INFORMATION OFFICER ASSISTANT

**EDITORIAL STAFF**

**Jim Hughes**  
ACTING EDITOR..... 255-1239  
jhughes@armyflyer.com

**Jeremy P. Henderson**  
SYSTEMS & DESIGN EDITOR..... 255-2028  
jhenderson@armyflyer.com

**Angela Williams**  
STAFF WRITER..... 702-6032  
awilliams@armyflyer.com

**Nathan Pfau**  
STAFF WRITER..... 255-2690  
npfau@armyflyer.com

**BUSINESS OFFICE**

**Robert T. Jesswein**  
PROJECT MANAGER..... 702-6032  
rjesswein@dothaneagle.com

**Brenda Crosby**  
SALES MANAGER..... 347-9533  
bjcrosby@dothaneagle.com

DISPLAY ADVERTISING..... 393-9713  
mruttlen@eprisenow.com

CLASSIFIED ADS..... (800) 779-2557

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If you would like to contact the *Army Flier* by e-mail, please contact the editor at [jhughes@armyflyer.com](mailto:jhughes@armyflyer.com).



# Spouses club gives \$4,000 to school

By Angela Williams  
*Army Flier Staff Writer*

The Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club gave a record donation of \$4,000 to the Carroll High School band for the purchase of much-needed percussion equipment.

Members of the Spouses Club, including Kim Crutchfield, Esther Muskopf, Sandi Farrington and Patti Galli, surprised band members with the gift during a dinner May 17 at First Methodist Church of Ozark.

Band director Josh Williams said the money would go to purchase new percussion instruments, particularly bass drums, for the upcoming marching season. The new equipment will replace the current instruments which were bought in the mid 1990s.

“These will last a long time. They’re high quality,” he said. “Our percussionists are working under their instructor to reach the highest performance level expected of a drum line. They’re the ones that really keep the band going on the field. They’re the ones providing the beat.”

The spouses club has given out more than \$17,000 in scholarships this year, but very few welfare requests have come in, according to



Josh Williams, Carroll High School band director, and Michelle McDonald, assistant band director holding Evan McDonald, 2, accept a check for \$4,000 from Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club members Cindy Carrell and Christin James.

Cindy Carrell, welfare chair. Because of this, the club had funds available to meet the need of the school.

“We’re proud to be able to support our community – not just our Soldiers and Families on post, but our community supporters as

well,” said Kim Crutchfield, wife of Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general.

“This one was also special to us because it’s an arts program,” added Christin James, club president.

“I know funding is being cut for arts programs, so if we can support the school and give them what they need, we want to do that.”

The spouses club is a nonprofit service organization serving Fort Rucker and surrounding areas, James explained, so members are

always looking for opportunities to give scholarships and provide funds for welfare requests.

“We want to grow our program,” she said. “We would like to double the amount of money available so we’re been looking for people to contribute funds for that.”

Throughout the year, the club sponsors events like cupcake bake-offs, bag sales and the annual Hollyday Mart to raise money to fulfill requests, James said. It also sponsors community events like Sweetheart Bingo, where seniors from all the local senior centers are invited to play bingo, and the Fairy Godmother Project, which provides free prom dresses and jewelry for low-income teens.

James encourages potential members to consider joining the club, even if they can’t make it to the monthly luncheons, because membership dues contribute to the scholarship and welfare funds. The club is mostly inactive during the summer but will start back up with the “super sign-up” membership drive in August.

To learn more about the Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club or to fill out an online membership form, scholarship application or welfare request, visit [www.fruckeresc.com](http://www.fruckeresc.com).



## And the winner is...

Nailah Augustin (center), sixth grade student at Windham Elementary School in Daleville, poses with Sgt. 1st Class David T. Kintz, Fort Rucker chief equal opportunity adviser; James Bouiye, her grandfather; Tiffany Augustin, her mother; and Lt. Col. Glenn Moore, executive officer for the Air Traffic Services Command, shortly after learning she won the Fort Rucker African-American History essay contest May 18. Augustin’s essay won the competition sponsored by post EO and ATSCOM. The contest included fifth and sixth grade students from Fort Rucker, Ozark, Daleville and Enterprise.

## News Briefs

### Change of command

The Aviation Center Logistics Command hosts a change of command ceremony Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

### Help wanted

The Army Community Service Employment Readiness staff stands ready to help members of the Fort Rucker community find jobs. The staff maintains a list of job opportunities in the area, and can also give out tips and inform about resources to help people find the right job for them.

Some current opportunities on employment readiness’ “hard to fill” list include: pet groomer, licensed practical nurse, certified management accountant, retail sales in a children’s store, emergency medical technician, dental assistant, and medical billing and coding.

For more on employment readiness’ services, call 255-3949.

### Vacation Bible School

The Fort Rucker Religious Support Office invites the children of the post and Wiregrass Community to the free “Babylon: Daniel’s Courage in Captivity” Vacation Bible School June 4-8 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. daily at the Main Post Chapel and Spiritual Life Center Complex, Bldgs. 8940 and 8939. VBS is a Christian children’s ministry program teaching concepts that all Christian faiths hold in common. VBS is open to children in kindergarten through sixth grade. For registration, contact Dr. Nancy Jankoski by Monday by calling 255-3946, or emailing [nancy.b.jankoski.civ@mail.mil](mailto:nancy.b.jankoski.civ@mail.mil).

### Clothing sales hours

The military clothing sales store’s operating hours have changed. The store is closed Sundays, and open Mondays-Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more, call 598-9423.

### DHR closure

The Fort Rucker Directorate of Human Resources will close for its organizational day on June 8 at 11:30 a.m. and will reopen June 11 at 7:30 a.m.

The closure will include the Army continuing education center, Army Substance Abuse Program and the military personnel division –Defense Enrollment Eligibility System and ID card section, in and out processing, reassignment, and transition and retirement services.

Also, people should call ahead as there will be limited staffing with the Army Career and Alumni Program, 255-2558, and casualty operations and mortuary affairs at 255-1813.

For emergencies, call 332-9672 or 432-2070.

### ID card section

People who need a common access card or military ID card who are in a hurry can make an appointment by calling 255-2437 or 255-2182.

When people call for an appointment, they will be screened and advised of any documentation they need to bring. Walk-ins will continue to be served on a first-come, first-served basis.

As a reminder, people may experience delays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### 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.

### Speeding leads to suspension

A new regulation is in place for all motor vehicle operators driving on Fort Rucker, according to Directorate of Public Safety officials. Driving privileges will be suspended for all motor vehicle operators cited for speeding 20 mph in excess of the posted speed limit.

Suspended driving shall not exceed three months for each offense for those cited.

### Thrift shop

The Fort Rucker Thrift Shop is open Wednesdays-Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and also the first Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. to noon, unless it falls on a holiday weekend and then the shop will be open on the second Saturday.

The thrift shop needs people’s unwanted items. People can drop off donations at any time in the shed behind the shop (former Armed Forces Bank building) located in front of the theater next door to the bowling alley. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information, call 255-9595.



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Normandy

Midway

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Khe Sanh

Dak To

Medina Ridge

Tora Bora

Fallujah

These are the places we remember,  
to honor the lives of those we'll never forget.





# Service members, Families get free pass to national parks

By Lisa Daniel  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Service members and their Families will be able to enter all of America’s national parks free of charge for a year under an initiative announced May 15.

The pass — the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Annual Pass, which normally costs \$80 – became available to service members and their Family members on Armed Forces Day Saturday.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar made the announcement May 15, along with National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, at a ceremony at Colonial National Historical Park in Yorktown, Va., the site of the last major battle of the Revolutionary War. The area surrounding the park hosts installations from all the military services, including the world’s largest naval base.

“I think when one goes into Virginia and you see all the sites, the Yorktown battlefield and the whole history of the country, it’s important that those who have fought in the tradition of making sure the nation’s democracy and freedom are protected also have access to these wonderful sites there,” Salazar said yesterday in a conference call with reporters.

The passes allow the holder and passengers in a single private vehicle access to some 2,000 sites that charge per vehicle. At sites where entrance fees are charged per person, it covers the pass owner and three adults age 16 and older.

The National Park Service estimates that giving away the passes to service members and their Families will result in a revenue loss between \$2 million and \$6 million, but Jarvis said that won’t cause a significant impact on the agency, which collects about \$150 million in fees each year.

Military personnel can get the passes at any national park or wildlife refuge that charges an entrance fee by showing their military ID. Family members also will be able to obtain their own pass, even if the service member is

deployed or if they are traveling separately.

The pass will be accepted at National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.

The free pass will be made available for activated members of the National Guard and Reserves, but not for military veterans or retirees, whom Jarvis said have other opportunities for free or reduced admission, such as the National Park Service’s “Access Pass” or a seniors pass for those 62 and older.

Jarvis, a 40-year Park Service employee, said that while the free passes are a first, they are representative of the parks’ history with the military, which dates back to the Buffalo Soldiers’ battles with Native Americans in the mid-1800s and the recruitment of former military members to serve as park rangers under the first NPS director, Stephen T. Mather. The Park Service maintains many military historical sites from Gettysburg to Pearl Harbor, and in World War II even closed some parks, such as Mount Rainier in Washington state, to all but active military members, he said.

Right after World War II, the Park Service invested heavily

in infrastructure to prepare the parks for returning service members, Jarvis said. Today’s generation of warriors also deserves a deep connection to the parks, he said.

“From my perspective, it is incredibly important to return this group of returning military members to their national parks,” Jarvis said. “Nothing is more core to the American experience than the national parks. These are places for quiet and contemplation and to reconnect to the American experience. And we don’t want there to be any barriers to that.”

The free pass initiative is part of the “Joining Forces” campaign First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, launched last year to rally Americans around supporting service members and their Families.

“Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to our servicemen and women who make great sacrifices to protect our country and preserve our freedom,” Dr. Biden said in a White House statement. “In recognition of their service, we are so pleased to be putting out a welcome mat for our military families at America’s most beautiful and storied sites.”

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# Odierno: Sequestration could lead to hollow Army

By C. Todd Lopez  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — It's possible the Army could be cut to 400,000 if the sequestration option spelled out in the Budget Control Act of 2011 goes into effect, the Army's chief of staff said May 17.

The Army is already planning on cutting 80,000 active-duty Soldiers from the force over the next five years, which will bring the active end strength down to 490,000 Soldiers. Were sequestration to kick in, Army leaders expect the cuts it brings could mean the loss of an additional 100,000 Soldiers. Those Soldiers would come from both the active and reserve components.

"If we have sequestration, it will affect both the active and reserve component," said Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno. "It depends on what balance we pick. But what I talk about a lot is: 70,000 out of the active, 30,000 out of the reserve; 80,000 out of the active, 20,000 out of the reserve. Some number around there is what we would expect."

With that, he said, he expects the active component of the Army could be reduced to anywhere between 400,000 to 425,000 Soldiers. The National Guard might lose an additional 20,000 Soldiers and the Army Reserve might lose an additional 10,000.

"It would be quite significant," the general said, speaking May 17 on Capitol Hill, before an audience at a Senate Caucus breakfast.

"If we have sequestration, the problem we have is with this balance between end strength, readiness and modernization," he said. "I think it's going to be really hard for us to create this right balance we need, and secondly I think it's going to impact not only end strength, (but) it'll impact our ability to train and be ready. And it will significantly impact our modernization programs. It's a template for hollowing out the force."

As part of the Budget Control Act of 2011, lawmakers who were part of a "super committee" last year were tasked with finding \$1.2 trillion in savings, or risk across-the-board reductions in funding. Because a resolution was not reached, as much as half that amount could now automatically be cut from the Department of Defense through sequestration.



PHOTO BY C. TODD LOPEZ

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno tells a Senate Caucus breakfast May 17 that sequestration under the Budget Control Act could mean the loss of 100,000 Soldiers.

"The thing about sequestration that is also bothersome, even though the amount of cuts are in my mind unreasonable, it's the fact that we don't have any choice on where those cuts are directed," Odierno said. "It's a percentage cut out of every line item that we have. And so it would completely have significant impact on our modernization programs."

#### Reset and readiness

The Army's chief of staff also told lawmakers that "reset" is going well. Reset is the process the Army uses for the recovery of personnel, units and equipment from the war that was fought in Iraq, and the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan.

Odierno said equipment that has come back to the United States and has been reset is now being provided to Soldiers back home for training purposes. The availability of that equipment for Soldier training helps those Soldiers and their units increase their readiness level for the next conflicts.

"We now have some MRAPS (mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles) we can train on," Odierno said. "One of the real issues

was we weren't having a lot of our counter-improvised explosive device equipment, we didn't have enough, to do training on. So the first time they'd see it was when they got into theater."

But Odierno told lawmakers that there is an "incredible amount" of equipment still in Afghanistan. And until that equipment is back in the United States and made available to Soldiers for training purposes, those Soldiers and their units will face readiness issues.

"When you don't have the equipment, it's more difficult to train, so it is going to take several years to do this," he said.

The general told lawmakers that the Army is going to retool the Army force generation process, known as ARFORGEN, it used to provide fighting forces to Iraq and Afghanistan to keep forces back in the United States at the appropriate level of readiness for potential future conflicts.

"We are going to modify (ARFORGEN) in such a way that will enable us to make sure

that we have units at (a) significant high level of readiness, getting ready to have a high level," he said.

The highest level of readiness, C-1, is for units that are fully equipped and trained to go to a conflict, and who know where they are going and are prepared for deployment to that particular area. The lowest level of readiness, C-5, is for units that are completely unprepared for deployment.

"Some units will be at a C-3 level of readiness," Odierno said. "We are going to direct that to ensure we have ready forces, even as we go through this transition period. Our goal is to get as many into that 'ready category' as possible."

Still, Odierno said there will be some units at a very low level of readiness until equipment comes back from Afghanistan.

#### Suicides, sexual assault

Also on the mind of the Army's senior officer is dealing with suicides in the force, and with sexual assault and sexual harassment.

"We are all in on sexual harassment and sexual assault," Odierno said. "We have a lot of work to do. It is a culture. We have to change the culture in our Army. We get people from all over our country. And we are going to bring them into our Army and talk to them about the Army culture, the Army culture of values and ethics, the Army culture of Soldiers taking care of Soldiers we will not allow this type of behavior to permeate our profession."

The number of suicides in the army is up this year, Odierno said, and will perhaps exceed the number of suicides that occurred in any other year. The source of the suicide problem, Odierno told lawmakers, is difficult for the Army to pin down.

"I can't tell you why that is happening and that is what's vexing to me," he said. "There are no trends."

The solution, to the suicide problem, he said, might be clearer.

"I do know it's about intervention, it's about Soldiers knowing Soldiers, it's about leaders understanding Soldier issues," he said. "We are going to continue to work this problem as hard as we can."

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# Commander: Shenk stresses value of leadership

Continued from Page A1

we're surrounded by this history," he said. "I'm glad everybody could be here today in this great museum ... that shows the honor and courage of great Aviation Soldiers throughout history."

Along with honoring Shenk, Bromberg also showed his appreciation to Macklin, who will be moving on to assume chief of staff duties at the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command at Redstone Arsenal.

Macklin seemed amazed that his time on Fort Rucker had already come and gone.

"It seems like just yesterday we were in this museum and I assumed command of this amazing organization," he said. "As I sat back and reflected on my time here, I was struck with such appreciation for the incredible professionalism of

both the military members and the great civilians that make up ATSCOM and the TAOG."

Bromberg also expressed his admiration for the members of ATSCOM and 164th TAOG. He conveyed his appreciation to the organizations, adding that they trained over 1,100 Soldiers in 17 different states.

"In my estimation, this team's work is both critical and essential to our nation and what we do every single day," he said. "There is no greater privilege [for] American Soldiers than commanding this organization; a truly one-of-a-kind outfit. It's a rare and very special opportunity."

As the ceremony came to a close, Shenk said the success of the organization depends on its leaders, adding that the leaders are the ones who are responsible and accountable for where the or-

ganization will be in the future.

"I feel like the Army got it right selecting [Shenk] to come here," said Macklin.

"I've known [him] for years, and I know he's going to do well and move the organization to another level."

## System: Visitors' IDs will be scanned at every gate

Continued from Page A1

if the person is on one of those lists."

The system also validates people's IDs and alerts guards to fraudulent identification, he added. And the process is near-instantaneous.

"The scanning process is sub-two seconds," he said. "The guard will swipe the ID and within two seconds will have a response back on whether things are good to go or if there is an issue."

The types of IDs the system can scan include Common Access Cards, Department of Defense, retired military and dependent ID cards, and all U.S. and Canadian drivers licenses, the security chief said.

People should still use the same IDs they used previously to gain access to the post — people with military IDs and CACs should present them when approaching the gate, and visitors should use drivers licenses. People wanting to enter the post without a scannable ID, such as a passport, will need to go to the inspection area for entry, Tkac said.

The biggest change to procedure will be with visitors, he said. Previously, visitors had to enter post through the inspection areas of the gates. Now, they just pull up to the guards and present their drivers licenses.

He warned, though, that the new system does

not mean that visitors will never be asked to go through the inspection area, as random measures will still be taken. Inspections will also be done on high-risk vehicles, such as panel vans and delivery trucks whose occupants do not possess a Rapid Gate credential or valid military ID.

Tkac advises everyone to have their vehicle registration, proof of insurance and ID at the ready when entering post.

"It's a good system. I think people visiting the installation will probably like it because they're not required to go through the inspection area every time," Tkac said. "And on the installation side, it's a great tool because we can reach out and check other sources — bounce people's identification off of the databases to see if they are wanted or are criminals."

The system also comes with options for security officials to use to monitor who's coming on post and how often they are coming on, he said.

While the system is fast, and security guards received hands-on training with the creators of the system, Tkac admits there may be a learning curve while personnel adjust to the system.

"We'll be out there closely monitoring things and have plans in place to minimize the effect at peak traffic times — we don't want to hold up traffic while everyone adjusts

to the system," he said.

But the system is pretty user friendly, according to Marvin Brandon, chief of the Department of the Army security guards.

"The guards received training, were able to ask the subject matter experts questions about the new system and did some trial runs at some of the gates," he said. "The system looks a lot like the scanners you see at a grocery store. The guards scan the ID, and it either comes up green that they're good to go, or alerts them to an issue that security needs to look into further."

Fort Rucker isn't the first to order the system, as Tkac said Fort Drum, N.Y., and Fort McCoy, Wis., have been using it for a while, with rave reviews on the system.

"I spoke to the security people at Drum and they said there was no difference in the time to get on the installation — they really like it," he said.

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# Guard medics among 1st to attend revamped program



Sgt. Cliff Aughe, a flight medic with C Co., 1st Bn., 171st Avn. Regt., New Mexico Army National Guard, watches over a soldier from the Afghan National Army during an recent evacuation mission in Afghanistan.

COURTESY PHOTO

By Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy  
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — Medics from the Army National Guard are among those taking part in a pilot program designed to revamp the training that flight medics throughout the Army will receive.

Taught at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, the program will provide flight medics with additional paramedic and critical care training and certifications.

“A paramedic provides a higher level of care,” said Army Master Sgt. Kym Ricketts, chief medical non-commissioned officer with the Army National Guard. “It’s advanced, pre-hospital medical care.”

Currently, to be a flight medic, a Soldier must be a qualified combat medic and be in a flight medic slot, but since flight medics operate under different conditions, those requirements are changing to reflect that.

“The medics need additional training as

flight medics as they do a higher standard of care and in a different environment than a line medic on the ground,” Ricketts said.

The program is designed to emphasize that fact and focus on training Soldiers on those additional skills needed as a flight medic.

As part of the pilot program and proposed changes, Soldiers go through three phases of training specific to flight medic duty.

“The first one is the flight medic phase,” Ricketts said, adding that it can be waived in lieu of on-the-job training. “Phase two is the nationally registered paramedic [course], which is the longest phase, and phase three is the critical care transport piece.”

The push for making changes to flight medic requirements came from a number of elements, including a study done on a

SEE GUARD, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY SGT. CAROL LEHMAN

## UH-72A LAKOTA HITS 100,000 HOURS

CW4 Chris Ezell, CW3 Jason Lacrosse, and Spc. James Harrison of the Falcon Team, Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Operations Group, pose in front of a UH-72A Lakota Light Utility Helicopter on the flight line at Hohenfels, Germany, May 21. On May 10 this team flew the 100,000 flight hour of the UH-72A Lakota helicopter, the U.S. Army’s newest aircraft.

# Alaska National Guard Aviation support critical to operation

By Maj. Guy Hayes  
Alaska National Guard PAO

NOME, Alaska — Pulling off the nation’s largest recurring joint medical readiness exercise requires significant logistical support in remote areas of western Alaska where miles of wilderness separate villages in Alaska’s last frontier.

With no roads connecting villages, transporting supplies, equipment and personnel to 16 locations in two weeks requires dedicated planning, flexibility and knowledgeable professionals — professionals like the men and women of the Alaska National Guard.

“Task force Aviation is critical to our ability to travel to each village and provide medical, dental, optometry and veterinary care,” said Lt. Col. Sharolyn Lange, task force medical commander for Operation Arctic Care 2012. “We can’t do our job without their daily support getting supplies and personnel into each of the Arctic Care villages.”

Following the arrival of Arctic Care participants on Alaska Air National Guard C-130 aircraft and a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III, April 9, Alaska Army National Guard Aviators and

maintenance crews have worked tirelessly to get the right people and equipment to wherever they are needed.

“On an average day we move about 40 people right now, but we’re moving more supplies than people to the villages, so they have the equipment they need,” said Capt. Peter Pagni, UH-60 Black Hawk pilot, Alaska Army National Guard.

Pagni, who is supporting his second Arctic Care operation, is just one of many Alaska Army National Guard Aviators supporting this year’s mission out of Nome, and credits the support and maintenance personnel for ensuring they are mission ready each day.

“Our maintenance people work the longest days to make sure we’re ready to fly,” Pagni said. “We have mechanics here who are strictly ground mechanics, so when the birds are put to bed at night, the mechanics stay until they are fixed and mission capable before the next morning. It wouldn’t be a mission without them.”

Ensuring each of the six Black Hawk helicopters supporting Arctic Care are fully mission capable, rests on the shoulders of people like Sgt. 1st Class Corwin Vigli-



PHOTO BY MAJ. GUY HAYES

Staff Sgt. Stephen Elliott, Alaska Army National Guard crew chief, ties down the blades of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in Nome after completing the final Arctic Care mission of the day April 17.

one, B Company platoon sergeant, who does everything from assigning crew chiefs to inspecting each helicopter to ensure they are ready for the day’s mission.

“I come in and assign flight crews for missions, but I’m also a technical inspector,” Viglione said. “Any maintenance that grounded the aircraft, I will verify

they did the work according to the book and verify the bird is ready for flight.”

Viglione, who is originally from Kotzebue, has also seen how the benefits of Operation Arctic Care can have on a village and even his own family.

“I have family members who tell me about the help they re-

ceived from the doctors, veterinarians, and dentists,” Viglione said. “It’s nice to be a part of a mission that’s helped my own family and it feels good when pilots tell us they had a good mission because it verifies that we’re doing our job well.”

SEE ALASKA, PAGE B4



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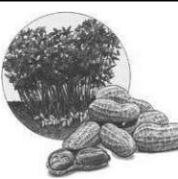
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# Guard: Program improves battlefield medicine, care

Continued from Page B1

California Army National Guard medical evacuation unit that deployed to Afghanistan with full-fledged paramedics in flight medic positions.

“[The study found that with] having flight paramedics in the back of an aircraft there was a 66 percent higher survivability rate than with a straight [combat

medic] that wasn’t paramedic trained,” Ricketts said.

Additionally, proposed changes to the flight medic requirements also mean that graduates of the program walk away with national certifications as paramedics. That provides additional benefits including a greater flexibility with integrating with local, state and other agencies in a disaster situation, she said.

“A citizen-soldier can do their wartime mission as well as their peacetime mission of taking care of their community,” Ricketts said, adding that those certifications are the same received by civilian paramedics.

But the important part, she said, is simply providing the best care possible.

“The benefit is the best battlefield medicine and care that a

Soldier can get,” she said.

“With the forward surgical teams that are out there casualties are actually having surgical intervention on the ground at the point of injury,” Ricketts said. “Combined with these medics that are able to have this training ... the [casualty] will be getting the best standard of care.”

The pilot program wraps up later in the year and will then go

through a review process.

“It’s still a pilot program and once the pilot program is through we’ll do an analysis to see what works best,” she said.

Ricketts remains positive about the results of the program.

“These medics are going to affect so many people,” she said. “Not just American forces, but coalition forces as well, and that’s amazing.”

# Alaska: More than 7,000 procedures conducted in April

Continued from Page B1

Flying up to six aircraft a day in support of Arctic Care operations to various villages across the Bering Sea and Norton Sound region, the biggest factor flight crews need to be prepared for is the weather.

“It can be bright and sunny right now, but in 15 minutes it can close up pretty

quick, especially in bush Alaska,” Viglione said. “We make sure the birds are prepped, fueled and have the equipment they need like life vests, life rafts, immersion suits and survival equipment in case of an emergency.”

“We’ve been fortunate this year,” Pagni said. “The main concern is always the weather closing in behind you and fortu-

nately we haven’t had too many problems. We’re able to get out there and provide the support the medical teams need for Arctic Care and so far it’s been a great success.”

With the support of the Alaska National Guard, Arctic Care 2012 military medical professionals have conducted 7,102 procedures, met with 3,979 patients and received significant training, providing excellent

care in some of America’s most rural areas.

Sponsored by the Innovative Readiness Training program under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Arctic Care is bringing health care and veterinary support to residents in the Bering Strait and Norton Sound regions of western Alaska from April 9-23.



PHOTO BY SGT. MICHAEL J. MACLEOD

## Morning patrol

A paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st BCT passes before the rising sun during a patrol into a village May 4 in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan.

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MAY 24, 2012

# Aviation Spouses

## Event lets Aviation spouses earn their wings

By Angela Williams  
Army Flier Staff Writer

They started the day with little military training, but by the end of it, they had earned their wings by completing four different exercises Friday during Fort Rucker's fourth Aviation Spouse Day.

"Aviation Spouse Day allows the spouses to actually see what their Soldiers do when they have to go through the water training or the Leaders Reaction Course," explained Leigh Jackson, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence Family readiness support assistant. "It gives them a good hands-on experience."

A group of almost 60 spouses met Friday morning at Howze Field for a safety briefing and instructions. From there, the spouses were divided into four groups that rotated through four stations – flying simulators at Warrior Hall, completing obstacles at the Leaders Reaction Course, firing M-16s and other weapons at the engagement skills trainer shooting simulator and experiencing a portion of what Soldiers do at the Helicopter Overwater Survival Training facility.

"No one is going to leave here a steely-eyed killer," said Sgt. Maj. John Hendricks during the morning safety briefing. "Everyone is going to leave here with a smile on their face. The biggest thing is for everybody to have fun and make sure you take care of your buddies."

Kim Crutchfield, wife of Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, welcomed the spouses and encouraged them to try to overcome little fears during the day.

"The last few groups have had a blast," she said. "It's just amazing the technology we have and how we train our Aviators."

At the end of the day, she was joined by her husband for a graduation ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. The two handed out hugs, handshakes and special spouses' wings to each of the Aviation Spouse Day participants.

Kim spoke from her years of experience as an Army Aviation spouse and encouraged the graduating spouses to embrace each new assignment by making a "bucket list" of things to see and do.

Living all over the U.S. and in countries like Germany and Korea "has taught our children tolerance and appreciation for all people in other cultures," she said. "My advice is to take advantage of every place you are assigned."

She went on to encourage the spouses to be involved in their communities, be there for each other, research all the services available to them and reach out to newer military spouses.

The general emphasized the importance of the day's events, saying, "I would not have missed this for the world. This is important to me because you are important to me and you are important to the Army."

He thanked the spouses for supporting their Soldiers and said he hoped Avia-



PHOTOS BY ANGELA WILLIAMS

Filicite Yeadon comes up out of the water after swimming several yards and opening a simulated helicopter door during an exercise Friday at the Helicopter Overwater Survival Training facility.

tion Spouse Day helped them better understand the difficult training required of Army Aviators.

"As I've heard many say before, and I truly believe, that the strength of our nation is our Army. The strength of our Army is our Soldiers and the strength of our Soldiers is our Families," he said. "Nothing is more important to Kim and me than our Families."

After completing the day's events many of the spouses said they had learned a lot about their Soldier's training.

"You understand things easier when you're actually sitting there and looking at it," said Christine Davis, a group leader. "I almost feel like it should be required for all spouses. I realize that's improbable, but I think it would help them gain so much insight to realize what their husband is going through. It's incredible."

"I thought it was a really enriching experience and a great way for us to better understand what our husbands go through on a daily basis," said Kristine Dubie, adding that her group got a big laugh after breaking one of the obstacles at the leader reaction course.



A group of spouses get briefed on using the engagement skills trainer shooting simulator Friday.

"They said we weren't as light as we looked," she said with a smile.

Other spouses said they were surprised to learn how many times a Soldier might have to go through the "dunker" and how

much water the uniform, flight gear and boots could hold.

"I wish we'd know about all this when we got we first got here instead of at the end," said Andrea Goff.

## Picerne's Pool Party kicks off summer of fun festivities

By Nathan Pfau  
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker Families don't have to travel to the beach to beat the Alabama heat or get their time in the sun this summer.

Picerne Military Housing will throw its Pool Party June 1 from 2-5 p.m. at the Munson Heights Neighborhood Center, which will feature music, activities, food and fun, according to Brandon Masters, communications manager for Picerne Military Housing.

"We will have food for everyone and it will be free," said Masters. "We will have a taco bar, and since it's going to be a hot day, we will also have pop-sicles and drinks."

Masters said the pool will be the focus of the event but there will be many other activities that people can enjoy besides just



COURTESY PHOTO

Children line up along the pool to beat the summer heat during Picerne's Pool Party last year at Bowden Terrace Neighborhood Center.

swimming.

There will be a disc jockey that will be playing music for people to enjoy while they play in the multiple inflatables, like water slides and bouncy houses. Children can also take part in games

like diving for coins.

"There will actually be big gold coins that we will be putting in the bottom of the pool and the kids can go diving for them," said Masters. "There will also be other activities around the

pool where kids can shoot water guns, play basketball in the pool and things like that."

There will also be door prizes and giveaways for people as they come to the event.

Picerne's goal is to provide a higher quality of life for those that reside in the residential areas on Fort Rucker, according to the communications manager, adding that Picerne Military Housing puts on events like the Pool Party every summer to get the residents involved in the neighborhood centers and show them what they have to offer.

"[The Pool Party] will kick off the summer for the neighborhood centers and it's the last day of school for the kids and these events are a great way to show people what we've got," said Masters. "It's something we can do for them on post in addition to providing the housing. We

also want to provide events for them so that the Families of Soldiers have something to do close to home."

The pools in the neighborhood centers will remain open throughout the summer and are available to the residents of the housing areas seven days a week.

In addition to having pools for the residents to enjoy, the Munson Heights Neighborhood Center also features a game room, Wii café, fitness center with locker rooms, pool table and a computer lab for those that have interests beyond swimming, said Masters.

"[The neighborhood center] is a great place for Families to go; it's basically an extension of their home," he said. "There is plenty to do and we just want to encourage the Families to come out and really use the facilities because that's what they are there for."



# ON POST

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

### GuardStart: Lifeguarding Tomorrow

GuardStart is a free program for youth ages 13 and 14 who are interested in learning how to be a lifeguard. This jump start program is available from Saturday to Aug. 3 at Flynn Pool, Splash! and West Beach. GuardStart introduces youth to essential lifeguarding skills to prepare them for the job. Youth go to the aquatics facilities for two-hour sessions to shadow lifeguards, assist in facility upkeep, learn lifeguarding techniques and even get some free time to enjoy the facilities. Youth must be enrolled in parent central.

For more, call 255-9162 or 255-0825.

### June EDGE! Programs

People can sign up their children now for June EDGE! Programs. EDGE! is open to youth ages 6–18 from 2–4 p.m. during the week. Activities include tubing, bowling, a book club, water basketball, and framing. Cost for ages 6–10 is \$5 per hour and the programs are free for ages 11–18. A valid child, youth and school services registration is required to participate. Enrollment for all EDGE! activities is at parent central services in Bldg. 5700, the Soldier Service Center, Rm. 193 or online at [webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/ruckercyms.html](http://webtrac.mwr.army.mil/webtrac/ruckercyms.html).

For more, call 255-0666 or 379-1363.

### Swimming at West Beach

West Beach at Lake Tholocco will be open for swimming Wednesdays–Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Saturday to Aug. 3. From Aug. 4 to Sept. 3, West Beach will open only on weekends. West Beach is located at Lake Tholocco on Johnston Road.

For more information, call 255-9162.

### Summer Reading Program

Registration continues for the Center Library's Summer Reading Program. The program is open to children in kindergarten through eighth grade and kicks off June 4 with a Summer Reading Pizza Party from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Center Library. Participants win prizes for reading their favorite books over the summer.

For more, stop by the Center Library or call 255-3885.

### 2012 Army Arts and Crafts Contest

The 2012 Army Arts and Crafts Contest runs now through June 30. The annual, juried competition for Soldiers, Family members and Army civilians features categories like: ceramics, digital art, drawing, fibers and textiles, glass, metals and jewelry, mixed media, paintings and wood.

For complete contest rules, visit [www.armymwr.com](http://www.armymwr.com). People can complete entry forms and submit digital images of work online at <https://apps.imcom.army.mil/APPTRAC>. For more,



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

## Triathlon Training Program

Participants emerge from Lake Tholocco during the swim portion of last year's Audie Murphy Triathlon. To help people get ready for triathlons this year, the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts its free Triathlon Training Program at Flynn Pool. Gather at Flynn Pool Mondays-Fridays under the "Triathlete" banner at 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. The training allows people to meet up with other triathletes for group workouts and make plans for future workouts. Workout templates, swim workouts, and running and cycling routes are available. Also, sports, fitness and aquatics hosts a triathlon training workshop June 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. People should bring running shoes, bike, goggles and a change of clothes. For more information, send an email to [jonathan.d.cole@us.army.mil](mailto:jonathan.d.cole@us.army.mil) or call 255-9162.

call 255-9020.

### 3 Free Summer at Rucker Lanes

Between June 1 and Aug. 1, Sundays through Fridays, children can bring a grown up for the 3 Free Summer special at Rucker Lanes. The special offers up to three children, ages 12 and younger, the chance to bowl three free games for every one bowling adult. Shoe rental is included in the offer. The adult must bowl on the same lane as the children and pay the full price of \$8.50 for bowling and shoe rental. No coupons or registration is needed and no lane reservations are accepted. This offer cannot be used with other specials, functions, discounted rates, coupons or birthday parties.

For more, call 255-9503.

### Friday Steak, Lobster

Every Friday in June The Landing Zone offers its Steak & Lobster Special to the first 100 customers who visit 5-9 p.m. Patrons can enjoy an eight-ounce flat iron steak and lobster tail with fries for \$12 with the purchase of a beverage. Other side items are available, including a side salad for \$1. The offer is for dine-in customers only and cannot be combined with other offers or discounts.

For more, call 598-8025.

### Stress Management Workshop

Fort Rucker's Family Advocacy Program holds a Stress Management Workshop June 6 from 9-11a.m. at the Early Childhood Activity Center in Bldg. 3705 on Dean Street. Topics include identifying causes and symptoms of stress, learning techniques on how to manage stress and developing stress management plans. Registration is required. The workshop is open to active duty military, retired military, Department of De-

fense employees and Family members.

For child care information or to register, call 255-3898 or 255-9641.

### Mobile Dairy Classroom

The Center Library hosts the Southwest Dairy Farmers Mobile Dairy Classroom June 8 at 9 a.m. The free event helps people learn about the modern milking process, the characteristics and anatomy of a cow, the importance of healthy foods in their diet and food safety. The event also features a live cow milking demonstration.

For more, call 255-0891.

### Summer camp programs

Fort Rucker School Age Services and the Middle School and Teen Program offer summer camp programs for youth. To participate, youth must have completed enrollment requirements. Fees are based on total Family income. Regularly scheduled camp activities include skating, technology lab, swimming, bowling, movies, reading, video games, and arts and crafts. There are also field trips.

People can call child, youth and schools services 255-9638 to ensure their children are registered. To enroll a child in a summer camp program, call 255-2147 or 255-9108.


### Financial Readiness Training

Army Community Service offers Financial Readiness Training June 1 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Soldier Service Center in Rm. 284. The free training provides a practical approach to personal financial management so Soldiers can gain control of and manage money effectively. Financial Readiness Training is required for all first-term junior enlisted Soldiers (E-1 through E-4). Spouses are encouraged to attend.

For more, call 255-2594 or 255-9631.

# DFMWR Spotlight


*What's Happening At  
The Center Library?*



Sign-up now for our Summer Reading Program and kick-off with a pizza party on June 4 from 2 - 4 pm

### Mobile Dairy Classroom • June 8

**Begins at 9 am**  
**FREE educational event!**  
live cow milking demonstration  
Learn about: modern milking process,  
characteristics & anatomy of a cow,  
importance of healthy foods & food safety.



#### Father's Day Craft • June 12

Children ages 3-11  
3:30 - 4:30 pm  
Light refreshments served  
Space available to the  
first 65 children registered.


#### Army's B-day • June 14

In celebration of the  
Army's Birthday on  
June 14, the library will  
be offering 5 FREE Xerox  
copies to all patrons.



### Summer Reading Program Craft

..... June 19 & 26 .....

3:30 - 4:30 pm  
Light refreshments served  
Space available to the  
first 65 children registered.



For details call 255-3885.  
[www.ftrucker.mwr.com](http://www.ftrucker.mwr.com)  
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Fort Rucker  
Center Library

## FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR MAY 24-27

THURSDAY, MAY 24

FRIDAY, MAY 25

SATURDAY, MAY 26

SUNDAY, MAY 27

American Reunion (R) .....7 p.m. The Three Stooges (PG) .....7 p.m. The Lucky One (PG-13) .....7 p.m. The Lucky One (PG-13) .....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.



# Veterans are great motivators

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

Have you ever watched a movie or read a book that kept you on the edge of your seat for hours and ended before you were ready for the end?

That's the way I feel every year during the week of Memorial Day when I search for opportunities to chat with veterans who served in the Army during WWII. Their conversations usually make my week the best seven days of the entire year. Listening to their experiences is a privilege and I only wish there was more time for fellowship and conversation with the men and women who fought ours wars when days were tougher than today.

Last year, an afternoon talk with one veteran took me back to the days when I was much younger when my father would tell war stories after supper. At the end of every story my older brothers would say, "When we get old enough we are going to join the Army and be like Daddy," and

they did. Five of seven boys in our Family proudly joined the Army after high school and enjoyed every minute of it.

Recently, I went to see my parents, and hanging in their living room (you can't miss it) are pictures of their five sons, dressed in Cass A uniforms. Although it seemed each of us couldn't wait to be a Soldier, somehow I think we were so inspired by my father's pride in being a veteran that we eagerly volunteered to serve God and country when we were old enough. Though my dad was shell shocked during the war, like many veterans of that era, he still talks about those days as if he would do it again given the opportunity.

But isn't it interesting how one person's life story can bring hope and inspiration to another person or hundreds of people and influence them to pursue a certain course in life? History is filled with examples: Moses, Mandella, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, countless veterans, Jesus, and the list goes on. The power of influence is strong and we should never un-

derestimate what rubbing shoulders with some people will do.

From June 1994 to November 1997, I served as battalion chaplain for a basic training unit at Fort Jackson, S.C. It never ceased to amaze me how young recruits sat and talked about how they got through eight weeks of basic combat training. Everybody had a hero who did or said something that inspired each one to press hard in the face of odds and hang in there until the end.

After graduation, they felt better about themselves and had a story to tell others who were coming behind them. A couple

of times I even invited several advanced individual training graduates to come back and give a word of encouragement to new Soldiers during chapel service. New recruits always appreciated that.

I wonder what would happen if the military employed veterans to talk to prospective Soldiers, Airman, Sailors and Marines before they signed up. I bet first time enlistment results would increase.

Thanks to all veterans for your service! A big thanks to those of you who are in uniform and especially those preparing to separate from Family and friends for what we believe. God Bless You!

**Post housing questions?**  
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[www.ruckerpicerne.com](http://www.ruckerpicerne.com)

## Religious Services

### WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

### HEADQUARTERS CHAPEL, BUILDING 109

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

### MAIN POST CHAPEL, BUILDING 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, BUILDING 6036

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

### SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER, BUILDING 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)

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.

### Protestant Women of the Chapel

PWOC meets every Tuesday at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. at Wings Chapel, Bldg 6036. Childcare provided. For more information, call 255-9894.

### Military Council of Catholic Women

MCCW meets every Tuesday from 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center. Childcare provided. For more information, call 255-9894.

### Catholic Adult Fellowship

CAF meets regularly throughout the year. For more information, call 255-9894.

### Youth Groups (CLUB BEYOND)

1836 Varsity Club (Ninth-12th Grade), Tuesday  
1703 JV Club (Sixth - Eighth Grade), Thursday For more information, call Eric Gillis at (850) 333-3039.

## Church Directory

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

**Center Point Community Church**  
†Charismatic† Relational† Purposeful†  
Pastor: Ed Corley  
† 3351 Lynn Road - Enterprise (right off Rucker Blvd)  
† Service times  
☪ Sunday Worship - 10 AM  
☪ Sunday Evenings - 5 PM  
☪ Wednesday Evenings - 7 PM  
☪ Nursery - Children - Youth  
† Office: 334 347 5044  
[www.centerpointag.org](http://www.centerpointag.org)  
[centerpoint3351@yahoo.com](mailto:centerpoint3351@yahoo.com)

**First United Methodist Church**  
Traditional Worship Service  
8:30 am & 11:00 am  
Contemporary Worship - New Connection  
8:45 am  
The Gathering - Youth  
5:45 pm  
Sunday School  
10:00 am  
Nursery Care: During all services  
217 S. Main St • Enterprise, AL  
Office: 334-347-3467  
[cfumc@adelphia.net](mailto:cfumc@adelphia.net)  
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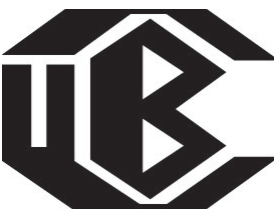
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# More than 2,500 attend Lake Fest

By Angela Williams  
Army Flier Staff Writer

Some walked along the shore or lay out in the sun while others paddled boats, played volleyball or built sandcastles. But whatever the activity, all seemed to enjoy the opening of swimming season Saturday at Lake Tholocco.

“This year’s Lake Fest was a great success,” said Kimberly Abeln, annual events coordinator for the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. “I counted a lot of smiles on Saturday, so I think we can say with certainty that the event accomplished its purpose of providing a low-cost and Family-friendly day of relaxation and fun for all ages.”

About 2,500 Soldiers and Family members attended the event that included swimming, sandcastle contests, children’s activities and more, she added.

Paddleboats and canoes are traditional favorites, but many Families also enjoyed Bubble Mania, a new feature that included bubble machines, bubble art and giant bubble wands.

“The kids had a wonderful time playing with all the colorful bubbles,” Abeln said.

Denise Honeycutt, MWR partnership specialist, sat under a tent watching the sandcastle construction and waiting on the 3 p.m. judging. Contestants were divided into three different age groups for the competition, but everyone won because they had their own individual style, she said.

“It’s a perfect day for this,” she added. “The sun is out, but the wind is blowing so it’s not too hot.”

WO1 Dan Sweeney and his wife, Kelli, moved down from Minnesota the day before, but still decided to see what was going on at the festival. The two said they were looking forward to trying out the canoes, paddleboats, floating trampoline and the fried alligator on a stick.

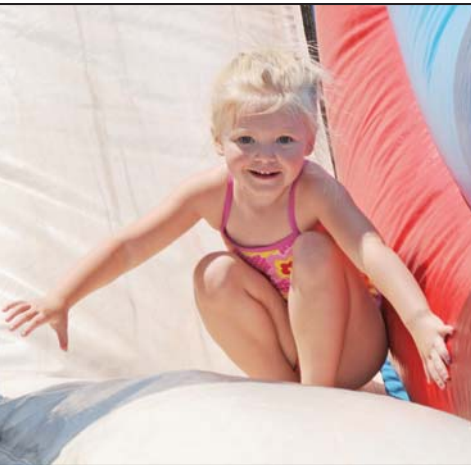
“I plan on dunking her a few times,” Dan added with a grin.

Sabrina Small attended Lake Fest with her sister, Cassandra Magana. The two



PHOTOS BY ANGELA WILLIAMS

Inez and Preston Allred work on an entry for the sandcastle competition during Lake Fest Saturday.



Reagan Minks is all smiles after she slides down an inflatable slide at Lake Fest.

walked up and down the dock wearing sun hats and watching the crowd on the beach.

“I’ve been eating and eating and eating,” said Small, but “I love to people watch.”

Away from the water and

the sand, Shauni Minks waited patiently at a nearby picnic table as her daughter, Reagan, slid down an inflatable slide over and over again.

“This is all for her,” Shauni said, “but the weather is great.”

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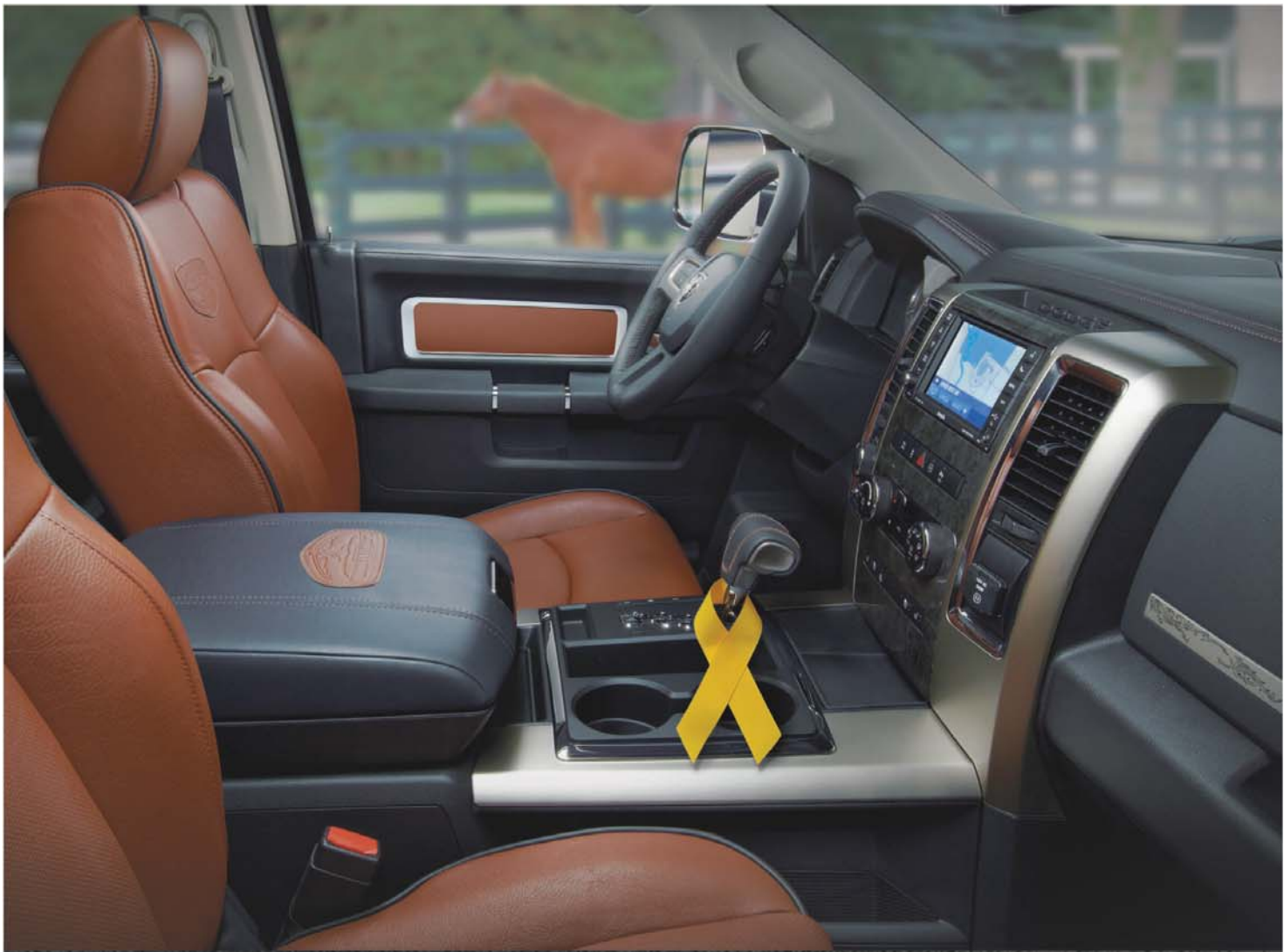
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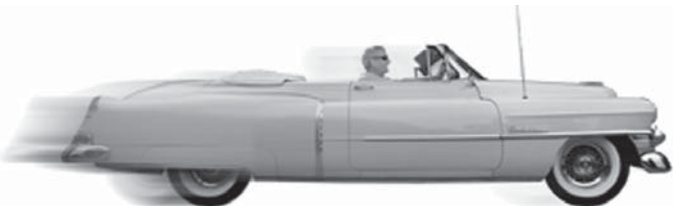
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WHICH ONE ARE YOU GONNA TAKE?

# Alabama Tourism set to release next 10 road trips

*Girlfriends Getaway, RTJ Golf, Taking it to the Streets*

By Edith Parten  
*Alabama Tourism Department*

Montgomery — The Alabama Tourism Department is set to release its next 10 trips for its 2012 campaign “100 Alabama Road Trips.”

The next 10 trips include a Girlfriends Getaway to spas and shopping on Mobile Bay in Fairhope, a trip to play some of the toughest holes on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, and a walking tour of the Five-Points entertainment district in downtown Birmingham.

The Alabama Tourism Department’s 100

Alabama Road Trips is a three-year campaign that provides ready-made itineraries for those wanting to spend a weekend or a vacation in Alabama. The next round of itineraries is expected to be posted to the website [www.100AlabamaRoadTrips](http://www.100AlabamaRoadTrips), by the end of May.

“It’s a great way to experience our state and this next round of road trips entails a variety of fun for Families, girlfriends, golfers and those who love the outdoors,” said Lee Sentell, tourism director. “We encourage everyone to visit our road trips website often to check for new and exciting adventures.”

Other newly added road trips include exploring Civil War history at cemeteries and battlegrounds in Selma, where the Battle of Selma re-enactments take place every year in April and the Yella Fella tour in Abbeville where you can experience a slice of Americana as you visit the Old Standard Oil Filling Station and the Archie Theater.

Take the entire Family on the Fun in the River City road trip where water and entertainment offer days of fun at Point Mallard, a 500-acre park, in Decatur. Visitors can get away from the heat when they step inside the cave at DeSoto Caverns Family Fun Park in Childersburg followed by a tour of

the Blue Bell ice cream factory in nearby Sylacauga.

Three road trips offer tours of historic homes, art galleries and antiques. The historic homes and azaleas pilgrimage in Eufaula while the Tuscaloosa to Eutaw trip will take visitors to antebellum homes, historic homes and art galleries beaming with local folk art. Foley, just north of Gulf Shores, offers half a dozen antique shops and art galleries all within walking distance of downtown.

For more information about these and other road trips visit [www.100RoadTrips.com](http://www.100RoadTrips.com).

## WIREFLASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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### ANDALUSIA

**ONGOING** — Andalusia Public Library offers free practice tests.

Patrons can choose from more than 300 online tests based on official exams such as the ACT, SAT, GED, ASVAB, firefighter, police officer, paramedic, U.S. citizenship and many more. Patrons may select to take a test and receive immediate scoring.

Call 222-6612 for more information.

**ONGOING** — The American Legion Post 80 hosts bingo nights Tuesdays and Fridays at the Legion Hall, 32335 N. US Hwy. 29, from 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The organization also has a dance, with live music, every Saturday from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. All proceeds from the bingo events go to help local veterans and their Families, as well as causes such as Girls State, Boys State and scholarships for high school students.

For more information, call 334-222-7131 or visit [www.andalusialegionpost80.org](http://www.andalusialegionpost80.org).

**ONGOING** — The American Legion Post 80 has regular meetings the second Monday of the month, starting at 6:30 p.m., at the Legion Hall.

For more information, call 334-222-7131 or visit [www.andalusialegionpost80.org](http://www.andalusialegionpost80.org).

### DALEVILLE

**TODAY** — Daleville Baptist Church F.A.I.T.H. Riders host Bike Night at 6:30 p.m. at the church fellowship hall. All bikers and non-bikers are welcome.

For more information, call 598-4530 or 333-2313.

**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

**JUNE 9** — The American Legion Riders of Post 12 in Dothan are hosting their second annual “Flag Day Ride.” This year, the ride will leave the Houston County Farm Center at 9 a.m. and make an 80 to 85 mile scenic country ride. At the conclusion of the ride there will be vendors and entertainment at the Farm Center. There are still some vendor spaces available as well as full hook-up RV spaces. The ride is free and will visit the communities of Rehobeth, Taylor, Pinckard, Newton, Midland City, Headland, Kinsey, and Webb. More than 300 bikes are expected. For more information, call 334-400-5356.

**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](http://wiregrassmuseum.com) or call 794-3871.

### ENTERPRISE

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

**ONGOING** — Enterprise State Community College holds classes to teach English as a second language at the Fort Rucker campus Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. until noon in Bldg. 4502, Rm. 131.

### GENEVA

**ONGOING** — The Geneva County Re-

lay 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

**TODAY** — 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 the election of new chapter officers and assignment of members their place and time for our Forget-Me-Not fundraiser. Veterans from throughout the Wiregrass are invited to join as new members. For more, call Willie Byrom at 475-3923.

### OZARK

**NOW THROUGH JUNE 23** — The Dale County Council of Arts and Humanities is hosting the 2012 Black and White Show at the Dowling Museum/Ann Rudd Art Center.

The competition is open to all artists 18 and older. Any works of black and white art in the categories of painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking and photography will be accepted in the competition.

Entry fees are \$35 for non-members of DCCAH and \$30 for members of DCCAH for the first entry, and \$5 for each additional entry, up to three total entries. Monetary awards will offered for the top three entries.

For questions or additional information, call DCCAH President Elizabeth Babine at 774-7145.

**MONDAY** — Disabled American Veterans Chapter 94 and Auxiliary, in conjunction with the city of Ozark, hosts a Memo-

rial Day ceremony at Woodlawn Memory Gardens, 531 Hwy 231, at 11 a.m. The tribute includes a performance by the 98th Army “Silver Wings” Band and a fly-over.

Included in the Memorial Day program will be a salute to Vietnam veterans in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War with a short parade of Vietnam veterans led by the 98th Army “Silver Wings” Band. Vietnam veterans are encouraged to come early and form the parade by 10:30 a.m. in front of the Woodlawn Memory Gardens Cemetery office. For directions or information, call 797-9052.

### 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.

### Various locations

**JUNE 4 - JULY 27** — The Wiregrass Tennis Association will be offering eight weeks of free tennis lessons in Enterprise, Eufaula, Ozark and Troy on different days throughout the week. For more information or to register for the free lessons, call 439-1128 or visit [www.wiregrasstennisassociation.com/CommunityRelations.html](http://www.wiregrasstennisassociation.com/CommunityRelations.html).

## Beyond Briefs

### Chicago Street Farmers Market, Music, Movie

Fresh vegetables, plants and flowers, baked goods, honey, grass fed beef and shrimp are just a few of the features at the Chicago Street Farmers Market in Heritage Park in Foley, Ala. Music and a Movie starts at 5:30 with local bands and a movie at dusk. The market will be held: Friday; June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and July 6.

### Gulf Coast Pirate Festival

This two-day festival, June 9-10 at the Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds, will feature live cannon fire, fierce battles, mermaids, pirate dancers, pirate music, pirate games, fire shows and pirate crews from across the Gulf Coast. The event will also include food, shopping, carnival and inflatable rides, costume contests, pony and camel rides, and an exotic petting zoo. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. For more information, call (850) 429-8462.

### Hot Air Balloon Festival

On June 1-2, the city of Valley and the Valley Historic Preservation Council will host the area’s first-ever Hot Air Balloon Festival. This weekend event will kickoff with a balloon glow on Friday and the balloon launch will follow on Saturday. For more information on the Hot Air Balloon Festival, contact Martha Cato at 756-5228 or visit [www.cityofvalley.com](http://www.cityofvalley.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 June 21 from noon-1 p.m. and is entitled “History of Automobile License Plates in Alabama.” For more information, call 353-4726 or visit [www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov).

### World’s Widest Yard Sale

From Phenix City, follow U.S. Hwy. 80 West through-out Alabama’s Black Belt region for the first-ever World’s Widest Yard Sale, May 31-June 2, featuring more than 350

miles of bargains. Look for an abundance of antiques, collectibles, one-of-a-kind treasures, arts and crafts, food, and other items from vendors in designated Black Belt counties and small towns. Organized by the Alabama Rural Development Office/ Black Belt Commission’s Marketing and Tourism Committee, this backroads tour will provide visitors with three days of adventure, combining people’s love of treasure hunting with the many historical and cultural amenities found along the route.

For more information, visit [www.widestyardsale.com](http://www.widestyardsale.com).

### Annual summer open house

Historic Pensacola Village consists of 20 properties in the Pensacola National Register Historic District. Ten of these properties will be open to the public June 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The free open house will feature tours, kids activities and living history interpretation throughout the day. Tours of the 1805 Laval House, the 1871 Clara Barkley Dorr House and the 1890 Lear-Rocheblave House will be offered every 30 minutes.

For more information, call (850) 595-5985.



# Program offers paid training for unemployed veterans

By Karen Parrish  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Unemployed veterans ages 35 to 60 can apply for up to 12 months of paid training through a new program sponsored by the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs.

The population the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program will serve is particularly in need, Curtis L. Coy, the VA's deputy undersecretary for economic opportunity, said in an email interview. Of about 900,000 U.S. veterans who are unemployed, nearly two-thirds are between 35 and 60 years old, according to the Labor Department.

"The program was created to provide assistance to unemployed veterans ... who are not covered by any of our education programs and need training or [an] education boost for today's high-demand occupations," Coy said.

"They may have had entitlement to education benefits at one time, but have either used them or the time frame to use them has passed," he added. "This generous new benefit geared toward this specific cohort of veterans provides them the opportunity to 'jump start' a new career that they may not have otherwise been able to afford."

The program, which began May 15, provides 12 months of training assistance equal to the monthly full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program, which currently pays \$1,473 per month.

Participants must be enrolled in a community college or technical school program approved for VA benefits. The program must lead to an associate degree, non-college degree or certificate.

To qualify, a veteran also must:

- Be unemployed on the day of application;
- Have a discharge that is not dishonorable;
- Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program, such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill or Montgomery GI Bill;
- Not receive VA compensation for being unemployable;
- Not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program; and
- Pursue a program that leads to employment in one of 210 occupations the Labor Department designates as high-demand.

The list of occupations, available on the VA website, includes jobs in construction, machine operation, transportation, preschool education, health care and many other fields.

The program will fund up to 45,000 participants between July 1 and Sept. 30, and an additional 54,000 participants from Oct. 1 through March 31, 2014. Labor officials said the department will offer employment assistance to every veteran who completes the program.

"The overall aim of VRAP is to help veterans attain personal and economic success," Coy said.

The retraining program is funded under the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. The law expanded education and training for veterans, strengthened the Transition Assistance Program for service members returning to civilian life, and provides tax credits for employers who hire unemployed or disabled veterans.

Eligible veterans may call (800) 827-1000 to learn more about the program, or visit the website <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm>.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

# Pick-of-the-litter

Meet Cassie, a 15-month-old female lab mix. She is a little shy, but sweet and friendly. Cassie is \$81 to adopt, which includes spaying, a microchip and heartworm testing. 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.



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Dedicated to those for whom every day is Memorial Day.







MAY 24, 2012



COURTESY PHOTO

Sgt. Maj. Mohamed Bouhloui (shown in black), German Army liaison staff member and training supervisor for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge competition, runs with Soldiers at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility track as they train for the specification and test week for the badge.

# Soldiers earn German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

By Nathan Pfau  
*Army Flier Staff Writer*

German Armed Forces Proficiency Badges were awarded to 42 participating Soldiers at a pinning ceremony May 16, the culmination of six weeks of intense physical training.

Sgt. Maj. Mohamed Bouhloui, German Army liaison staff member and training supervisor for the Soldiers, led off the ceremony with a welcome to friends and Family as well as some background information on the prestigious award.

"The German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge is a foreign award offered by the host country Germany" said Bouhloui. "It was made available to U.S. service members [starting in] 1972, and is based on overall military performance, physical ability, and, most importantly, the overall professional character of the Soldier."

Lt. Col. Martin Geller, commander of the German Army liaison staff, praised Bouhloui, who he called a "real grunter," for supervising all training exercises, even at the expense of his own leisure time.

"Sergeant Major Bouhloui has been training Soldiers for the event for two

years and has awarded a total of 139 of the badges in gold and silver on Fort Rucker," he said.

He also highlighted the contributions Staff Sgt. Jamie P. Osmon and Sgt. 1st Class Michael Maxwell, assistant trainers for the competition, both of whom were supportive throughout all days of training as well as the specification test week.

"I think [the competition] is a good interest for both sides," said Geller. "[The American Soldiers] learn a little bit of German military culture and the Germans learn a lot of things as well [from their American counterparts]."

The badge itself is awarded in gold, silver and bronze, and the level of award received depends on performance in the road march and shooting portions of the exercise. Other events Soldiers must compete in include a 100-meter sprint, 3,000-meter run, long jump, 200-meter swim, and shot put throw, according to Osmon, who emphasized the difficulty of competing at this level of athleticism.

"Only Soldiers possessing a high level of aptitude and discipline can be recommended to compete for the badge," said Osmon. "The Olympic-style events are based on the Soldier's age group and are

on a pass or fail basis. The pistol competition requires Soldiers to hit three targets with five rounds from the 25-meter line. The road march is the culminating event, where Soldiers carry no less than 15 kilograms (33 pounds).

"Soldiers compete for esprit de corps, self-fulfillment and satisfaction, to enhance their DA photograph to get looked upon favorably by promotion authorities with a foreign award," he added.

"For me, it was a real pleasure to hear about the results in all the specific events," said Geller. "I have seen and heard about your fighting spirit, your comradeship and your team spirit. I remember, during the road march portion, seeing the friendly behavior, selflessness, boundless help and great comradeship.

"I always like to see young and sometimes older experienced Soldiers working together; officers, warrant officers and NCOs fighting as a team to reach this goal. I've seen and heard that you were all fighting to the point of exhaustion. Hopefully you will all remember this event, this team, this year and the special German-American friendship for the future," he said.

Of the 42 Soldiers who received the

badge, only two received the silver badge, with the remaining 40 receiving gold.

Master Sgt. Jeffrey Herzog, a participant and recipient of the badge, praised the level of encouragement and teamwork evident throughout the training.

"It was an amazing experience to see some of the motivation that Sergeant Major Bouhloui provided every morning," said Herzog. "The level of competition from within the group, it was a great team building experience."

Herzog also discussed how German Army athleticism compares to U.S. Army athletic testing.

"As far as the run goes, it was very competitive compared to the U.S. Army Physical Fitness Test run," he said. "The road march was very comparable to an air assault road march and the swim was a challenge for some people. The long jump was the hardest event for me."

Herzog also received a coin from Geller and was recognized during the ceremony for his commitment to ensuring that he and his wife, Capt. Deborah Herzog, who also competed for and received the badge, finished together.

"It was just all about making sure we both got through it," he said.

## New lake facility shows commitment to quality of life

By Nathan Pfau  
*Army Flier Staff Writer*

Soldiers and Families come to Lake Tholocco to enjoy an array of outdoor recreation activities and the new outdoor recreation facility offers a "one-stop shop" for whatever their needs may be, according to John O. Clancy, outdoor recreation and Lake Tholocco lodging program manager.

Members of the Fort Rucker garrison command, outdoor recreation and Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation gathered at the site of the new 3,970-square-foot facility on West Beach at Lake Tholocco to cut the ribbon and officially open the new facility Monday.

"It's my pleasure to be here today to cut the ribbon," said Col. James A. Muskopf, Fort Rucker garrison commander. "I've had the privilege as the garrison commander over the last 22 months to cut ribbons and dedicate many facilities – six of which were in the MWR arena. [These facilities] have made life much better for our employees and make life better for those people that we support the civilians, Family members and Soldiers."

Outdoor recreation offers recreational activities on and around Lake Tholocco to Soldiers, Families and the local communities, said Clancy, adding that people can use the new facility to get



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Col. Jessie O. Farrington (fourth from the left), USAACE deputy commander, Col. James A. Muskopf (center), Fort Rucker garrison commander, and members of the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation cut the ribbon to the new outdoor recreation facility at West Beach on Lake Tholocco Monday.

permits and licenses for fishing and hunting, get information on recreation equipment to use, and visit the country store for camping and refreshment needs.

Col. Jessie O. Farrington, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence deputy commander, was also present to cut the ribbon and said he hopes Families and the local community will enjoy what the new facility offers for all of their outdoor recreation needs.

"[The Directorate of Public Works] and all the contractors have worked to make this a world-class facility," he said, adding that Lake Tholocco is the place to go for recreation for Soldiers that might not be able to afford a trip down to the beach.

Clancy said the need for the new facility came as outdoor recreation began to outgrow the older facility and wasn't able to provide everything that patrons

wanted and needed.

"Our new facility added a country store, and more hunting and fishing supplies," he said. "Outdoor recreation also combined with Lake Lodging [to make it easier] for patrons to get everything they need in one area."

The commitment that the Army has put into the new facilities to take care of Families and Soldiers is "absolutely impressive,"

said Farrington.

"It just shows the continuous commitment that [the Army has] to our local community," he said. "From the cabins that we have on West Beach, the improved recreational vehicle sites and the new cabins going up on East Beach."

The ribbon cutting ceremony showed the Army's commitment as well as individual commitment as Muskopf gave recognition and presented an award and a coin to Lt. Col. Craig Unrath, Outdoor Recreation advisory president and recipient of the Friends of Recreation award, for his hundreds of hours of volunteer time in outdoor recreation.

Unrath also won the Atlantic region Friends of Recreation award.

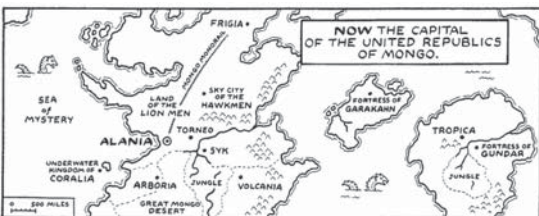
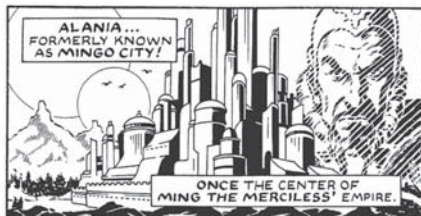
"This is one of the best garrison command teams and staffs that I've ever worked with," said Farrington. "I just want to say how important this is to Fort Rucker and the community – it's just over the top."

Farrington compared the efforts of Fort Rucker's MWR efforts and facilities to those of the Navy and Air Force's recreation facilities near the beach, and said "we definitely rival them with the MWR facilities that we have at Fort Rucker."

For more information on outdoor recreation and the new facility, visit [www.ftrucker.mwr.com](http://www.ftrucker.mwr.com).



# DOWN TIME



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

HERE I THOUGHT THIS SHAGGY LOOK WOULD REALLY GET THE LADIES AND INSTEAD I END UP WITH A FLEA AND TICK COLLAR...REAL BABE MAGNET.



## Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

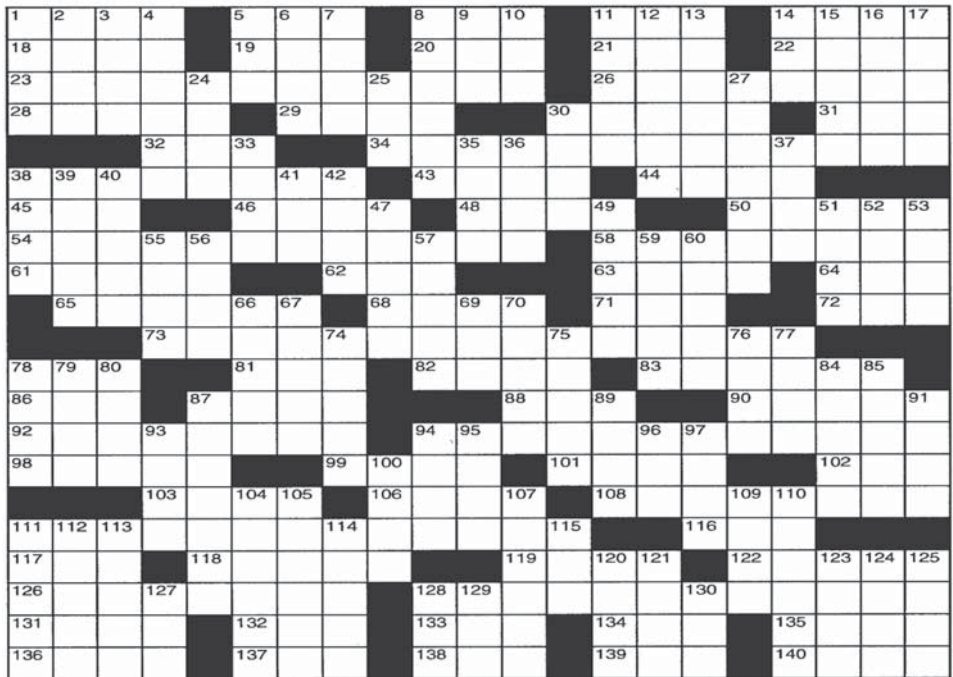
# TRIVIA

1. MUSIC: Who wrote and performed the song "Me and Julio Down by the Schoolyard"?
2. THEATER: "My Fair Lady" is a modern musical adaptation of which play?
3. GEOGRAPHY: The Palace of Versailles is located near what city?
4. PHYSICS: What is the branch of physics that deals with light?
5. LITERATURE: Who wrote "Doctor Zhivago"?
6. LANGUAGE: What is the American term for the British perambulator?
7. ROYALS: From what house did Great Britain's King Edward VIII descend?
8. PSYCHOLOGY: What does someone fear if he or she has chromophobia?
9. SCIENCE: What is an ichnite?
10. PRESIDENTS: Which U.S. president said, "The chief business of the American people is business"?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

## Super Crossword SOMETHING'S FISHY

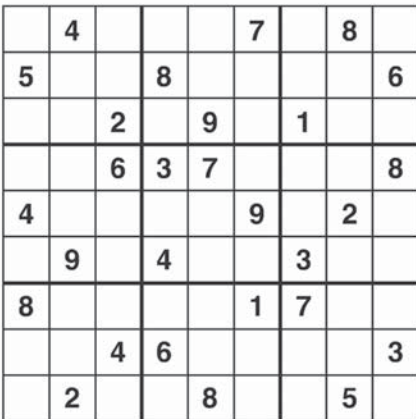
- ACROSS**
- 1 Strike-breaker
  - 5 Suffix with spat
  - 8 Salon supply
  - 11 Research site
  - 14 Blind as —
  - 18 — Romeo
  - 19 Word with pack or rug
  - 20 Generation
  - 21 Air-quality org.
  - 22 Pedestal part
  - 23 Fishy actress?
  - 26 Dignified
  - 28 "— Gay"
  - 29 Jannings or Gilets
  - 30 "— Man" ('78 song)
  - 31 — kwon do
  - 32 Quiche ingredient
  - 34 Fishy outlaw?
  - 38 Bucolic
  - 43 James of "Brian's Song"
  - 44 Jacob's twin
  - 45 A mean Amin
  - 46 "Nabucco" number
  - 48 Neighbor of Niger
  - 50 Alcove
  - 54 Fishy film?
  - 58 Future
- DOWN**
- 61 Submarine finder
  - 62 — Tse-tung
  - 63 Lurid Lugosi
  - 64 Chest protector
  - 65 Fun apparatus
  - 68 Supreme leader?
  - 71 Parka part
  - 72 Southern constellation
  - 73 Fishy physician?
  - 78 Use a phaser
  - 81 Letter from Athens
  - 82 "Mein —" ("Cabaret" tune)
  - 83 C&W's Tubb
  - 86 Seville shout
  - 87 Whirl
  - 88 Actor Tognazzi
  - 90 Cairo creed
  - 92 Collegiate sport
  - 94 Fishy TV show?
  - 98 Crooked
  - 99 French couturier
  - 101 Dashboard feature
  - 102 Cpl.'s hairdo
  - 103 Border on
  - 106 Bucket
  - 108 Photo writer?
  - 111 Fishy squirrel's snack
  - 117 Author LeShan
  - 118 Bell town
  - 119 Pinza or Chaliapin
  - 122 School tool
  - 126 Chunky pasta
  - 128 Fishy novel?
  - 131 Nixon or Johnson
  - 132 "Foucault's Pendulum" author
  - 133 Chicken — king
  - 134 Cow's comment (with)
  - 135 Unusual
  - 136 Common Market currency
  - 137 DC figure
  - 138 Palindromic pianist
  - 139 Woolly one
  - 140 Part of Micronesia
  - 5 Decorative vase
  - 6 Like some excuses
  - 7 Mighty mite
  - 8 Medicinal plant
  - 9 Self-esteem
  - 10 Singer Dickey
  - 11 Paul of "American Graffiti"
  - 12 Cochise or Geronimo
  - 13 Washes
  - 14 Fuss and feathers
  - 15 Swahili, e.g.
  - 16 Dwight's competition
  - 17 Fiddled (with)
  - 24 Desdemona's enemy
  - 25 Loon lips
  - 27 '82 Toto hit
  - 30 Sociable starling
  - 33 Alum
  - 35 Shoestring
  - 36 Bolger/Haley co-star
  - 37 Throw in the towel
  - 38 Prepares cherries
  - 39 committee
  - 40 Tuscan town
  - 41 Pound sound
  - 42 Neeson or O'Flaherty
  - 47 Video game company
  - 49 Exclude
  - 51 Arnaz's country
  - 52 It grows on you
  - 53 Napoleonic site
  - 55 Sleep in the woods
  - 56 Hurler Hershiser
  - 57 Booze
  - 59 Brink
  - 60 Glue guy
  - 66 Runs around in circles?
  - 67 Grate stuff
  - 69 Vane dir.
  - 70 Emulate
  - 74 Like many bathrooms
  - 75 Coaxed
  - 76 "I'm working"
  - 77 Nuthatch's home
  - 78 "Nana" author
  - 79 "Oh, woe!"
  - 80 Act like a chicken
  - 84 Winter mess
  - 85 Ballroom dance
  - 87 Lake sight
  - 89 Birdsong of basketball
  - 91 Lauer or LeBlanc
  - 93 Paper quantity
  - 94 Actor Beery
  - 95 Like a desert
  - 96 Solo of "Star Wars"
  - 97 King of comedy
  - 100 — facto
  - 104 Opens
  - 105 Daze
  - 107 Tripoli native
  - 109 Knitting stitch
  - 110 Little mouse?
  - 111 Sock a shuttlecock
  - 112 "Farewell!"
  - 113 Light beer
  - 114 Alliance
  - 115 Put away a pickle
  - 120 Any
  - 121 Chilly powder?
  - 123 inventive sort?
  - 124 Neutral tone
  - 125 Stink
  - 127 Mil. address
  - 128 Critic's god?
  - 129 President Bush was one
  - 130 "The Gold Bug" author



See Page D3 for this week's answers.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

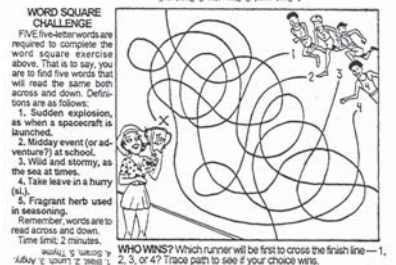
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See Page D3 for this week's answers.

# KID'S CORNER

## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



## Wishing Well



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF





# Hancock dominates skeet at U.S. Olympic Shotgun Trials

By Tim Hipps  
IMCOM Public Affairs

TUCSON, Ariz. — Resembling the form that earned him a gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, Army Sgt. Vincent Hancock crushed skeet competitors at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Shotgun Team Trials, Friday-Sunday, at the Tucson Trap & Skeet Club.

Hancock missed only five of 275 targets and prevailed by 11 points during three days of shooting in the desert. Frank Thompson of Alliance, Neb., earned Team USA's second Olympic berth in skeet by winning a three-way shoot-off against Jon Michael McGrath of Tulsa, Okla., and U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program Staff Sgt. Mark Weeks of Clinton Township, N.J.

In double trap competition, Sgt. Glen Eller, a U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit shooter from Katy, Texas, earned his fourth Olympic berth with a victory over AMU teammate Sgt. Jeff Holguin of Yorba Linda, Calif.

"I'm shooting probably some of the best scores and rounds that I've shot in a long, long time, so I'm really looking forward to getting back on that world stage and winning another Olympic gold," said Hancock, 23, a Soldier in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga. "I'm moving the gun great and seeing the targets really good. A couple of the targets that I missed were basically just a lapse of concentration on my part, which is a good thing because I know I can fix that. Other than that, my mechanics are great and everything is looking really good."

Hancock missed two clay pigeons on a windy Friday, one on Saturday, and two on Sunday. He obliterated the other 270 to punch his ticket to London.

"It's pretty much just a relief to get this behind me," Hancock said. "I was really looking forward to coming out here. It's a good match to prepare myself for the Olympics because it's a big match and it's got a lot of weight, just another opportunity for me to go out and run my routine and get ready for the Olympic Games."

Hancock came to Tucson holding a three-target lead from the Fall Selection Matches in Kerrville, Texas, where the first half of the U.S. Olympic Shotgun Team Trials were contested.

"I came in with a lead so I was comfortable, but I wanted to just build on that," Hancock said. "I wanted to put as much distance between me and second and third place as possible. I ran my routine just like I would at



PHOTO BY TIM HIPPS

**U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit shotgun shooter Sgt. Vincent Hancock of Fort Benning, Ga., holds a commanding lead after 150 of 275 targets in men's skeet competition Saturday at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Shotgun Team Trials at the Tucson Trap & Skeet Club in Tucson, Ariz. Hancock, an Olympic gold medalist at the 2008 Beijing Games, has a nine-bird lead over U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program shooter Sgt. Mark Weeks, who sits in a three-way tie for the second berth on Team USA to compete in the 2012 London Olympic Games. The skeet finals are set for Sunday.**

a World Cup or any international match, just put the hammer down."

Several years have passed since Hancock put together a performance this strong.

"Unfortunately, we haven't seen it in the last couple or three years," said Team USA head shotgun coach Bret Erickson, 52, a retired Army sergeant first class and a four-time Olympic shooter who will make his Olympic coaching debut in London. "Obviously, when you spend your life shooting for an Olympic gold medal and then he goes in 2008 and does it, it's like 'what do I do now?' And you see him just kind of sitting back and saying, 'Alright, I've already been there and done that.' And you let up. You have to. You can't keep that intensity for year after year after year."

But Hancock has geared up again for some off the most intense competition in the world, Erickson said.

"He's getting back. The fire is back. He went to London for the pre-test event and made the final, got in a shoot-off for a bronze, lost the shoot-off and finished fourth," Erickson said. "But, hey, nobody ever wins that match and then wins the Olympics. He came in fourth in 2008 in the pre-Olympic match and that worked out pretty well, so I think we're just fine."

Erickson was delighted to see the determined look return to Hancock's eyes, along with the confident swagger the Soldier dis-

plays between shots.

"It was good to see him back in a final to feel that rush and just put himself in position to win," Erickson said. "You can never count him out. He is absolutely one of the best, if not the best skeet shooter in the world. We

just haven't seen it in a couple years, but I think it's coming."

Weeks, who has competed in five U.S. Olympic Shotgun Team Trials and served as an assistant coach for Hancock in Beijing, concurred.

"To be honest with you, I focused a lot on my own game plan, but following [Hancock], I am always in awe watching him," Weeks said. "Being in the sport for so long, I haven't seen anybody who just is that consistent and that dominant and is that good at putting a shotgun in his hand. The kid is a one of a kind and a great human being. I'm glad to call him my teammate. He's told me many times I'm a big brother to him, and he's like a little brother to me."

"I've got to shoot with him and witness everything that he's been successful with since 2005. I've been a competitor with him on the trips and watched him win medals all the way up to being the assistant coach and watching him win the gold medal in Beijing."

"When I'm old and got grandkids, he's going to be somebody we're going to talk about forever," Weeks added. "He's going to go down as one of the greatest shotgun shooters to ever set foot in the international game."

Hancock, who ever so humbly takes such praise in stride, said he feels fortunate just to be reinvigorated about his game.

## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## TRIVIA

Answers

1. Paul Simon
2. "Pygmalion"
3. Paris
4. Optics
5. Boris Pasternak
6. Baby carriage
7. The House of Windsor
8. Clocks
9. Fossil footprint
10. Calvin Coolidge

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

### Super Crossword

Answers

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

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COURTESY SCREENSHOT

Video Game Spotlight >>

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

# Ghost Recon maintains battlefield realism

By Jim Van Slyke  
Contributing Writer

The “Ghost Recon” series from Ubisoft has long been thought of as the “thinking man’s” shooter. Instead of putting the emphasis on running and gunning like some shooters, “Ghost Recon” tried to teach us that only rookies play “war” that way. Some of that realism gap has closed over the years, but the newest “Ghost Recon” release continues on a realistic path.

“Tom Clancy’s Ghost Recon Future Soldier” takes place in the near future. A dirty bomb has taken out a Ghost team, and another Ghost team (consisting of Kozak, Ghost Lead, Pepper and 30k) is tasked with

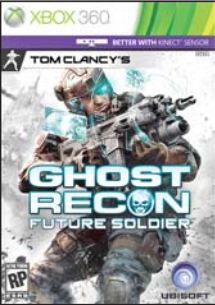
tracking down the source of the dirty bomb. During the campaign, the Ghosts will visit places such as Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia and Norway.

The game is a third-person cover-based shooter, except it switches to a first-person camera in order to facilitate more precise aiming. Cover can be partially destroyed, forcing the players to constantly

seek other hiding spots. A new feature in the series is the “optical camouflage,” a form of active camouflage which allows the Ghosts to become harder to see. Unlike previous Ghost Recon games, the gamer will not micromanage their squad. Instead, the gamer can mark targets. During fire-fights, the gamer can mark one high priority target, on which squad-members

should focus fire. Gamers will also be able to control drones. The game has an impressive set of features that will be a hit with the more serious shooter fans. The multiplayer modes keep the focus on realism, which means plenty of us will be playing this game throughout the summer.

Reviewed on Xbox 360



**Publisher**  
Ubisoft  
**Rated**  
Mature  
**Systems**  
Xbox360, PS3  
**Cost**  
\$60  
**Overall**  
3 out of 4

**SPORTS BRIEFS**

**TRIATHLON TRAINING**  
Sports, fitness and aquatics recently started its triathlon training program to help people get ready to compete in triathlons, or just to get in better shape with a diverse workout regimen. The program meets Mondays-Fridays at 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Flynn Pool under the Triathlete banner, where people meet to work out together in running, swimming and cycling. People are welcome to use the group workouts as a way to meet other triathletes, share workout techniques and schedule other workout sessions. Additionally, the group will discuss specific workouts, seasonal plan templates, race specifics, running and cycling routes, safety and nutritional information. All ability levels are welcome and even people who just want to train for one event.  
Additionally, sports, fitness and aquatics will host two Triathlon Workshops May 12 and June 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Flynn Pool. People should bring their running shoes, bikes, goggles and a change of clothes, although people without bikes are still welcome to participate.  
For more on the group or the workshops, call Jon Cole at 255-9162 or send an email to jonathan.d.cole@us.army.mil.

**ARMY STRONG TRIATHLON**  
The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts the Army Strong Triathlon June 16 at 7 a.m. at West Beach, Lake Tholocco. The event features a quarter-mile swim, 10.6-mile bike ride and 3.1-mile run. Registration costs \$40 until June 9 and then \$50 from June 10-16. Registration for relay teams (maximum of three people) is \$70 until June 9 and then \$80 from June 10-6. Participants who pre-register by June 9 will receive a T-shirt. Those who register after June 9 will receive T-shirts while supplies last. Cash awards will be given to top finishers and the top relay team. The event is open to the public.  
For more, call 255-3794.

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**\$500** 5.0 V8 Factory Rebate\*\*

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