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ARMY FLYER

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

VOL. 62 ■ NO. 29

FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

JULY 19, 2012

Fort Rucker welcomes new garrison commander

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker welcomed a new garrison commander and garrison command sergeant major, while bidding farewell to two well-known faces on the installation Friday.

Col. Stuart J. McRae assumed command of the garrison from Col. James A. Muskopf, and Command Sgt. Maj. Buford E. Noland became the new garrison command sergeant major, assuming responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Dwaine E. Walters during a change of command and responsibility ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

“Colonel McRae brings to Fort Rucker a wealth of experience from a wide variety of operational and staff assignments,” said Davis D. Tindoll Jr., Atlantic Region Installation Management Commander director and guest speaker. “His assignments, extensive experience and military education offer impeccable credentials for garrison command.”

McRae is no stranger to Fort Rucker as his prior assignment was as the director of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence’s Capability and Development Integration Directorate.

“The McRaes have been here for a year and there is nothing but goodness that comes out of that,” said Muskopf. “He’s had a chance to figure out what Fort Rucker’s all about.”

The new commander agreed that is a good thing.

“I’ve had the rare opportunity during this last year to be prepositioned here and be able to observe the interaction between the garrison and the Aviation Center before taking command,” McRae said. “I’ve been able to observe many great leaders that work and see what right looks like from the top down.”

McRae began his military career in 1987 when he graduated from Montana State University as a distinguished military graduate, and began his career as a leader when he served as the platoon leader, battalion maintenance officer and assistant S3 for the 9th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Noland comes to Fort Rucker from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where he served as command sergeant major for the 193rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

SEE GARRISON, PAGE A7



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Davis D. Tindoll Jr., director of the Installation Management Command Atlantic Region, passes the garrison colors to the incoming Fort Rucker garrison commander, Col. Stuart J. McRae, during a change of command and responsibility ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Friday. McRae assumed command of the garrison from outgoing Fort Rucker garrison commander, Col. James A. Muskopf.

164th TAOG cases colors, deploys



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Maj. Mike Shannon, 164th TAOG operations officer, holds his son, Sammy, at Cairns Army Airfield Saturday before he deploys with his unit to Kuwait.

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Tears were flowing as more than a dozen troops boarded a bus to get ready to deploy to Southwest Asia as their Family, friends and fellow Soldiers waved and said their goodbyes.

Soldiers of the 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group deployed to Kuwait and Afghanistan Saturday from Cairns Army Airfield to provide airfield and air traffic services advice, standardization and safety for the Army Central Command theater of operations, according to Col. Mike Shenk, 164th TAOG commander.

“During this deployment, a significant portion of the unit will remain in Fort Rucker to continue preparation for future missions ... and support the deployed forces,” he said. “I’m confident that I’ve chosen the right leaders to serve those Soldiers and Family members supporting our mission from Fort Rucker.”

The Soldiers that deployed will meet up with their advanced echelon team that deployed July 6 to prepare for the arrival of the rest of the unit, and for some, this deployment will not be the first time they’ve been sent overseas.

“This isn’t anything new for me,” said Spc. Nancy Vargas, 164th TAOG. “It’s actually going to be a little vacation compared to my previous deployments because we were in Iraq before.”

Vargas has deployed twice before between 2005 and 2008 and said she is proud to be able to serve her country.

“I take a lot of pride in what I do because I’m the first female in my Family to join the military,” she said. “It’s always nice to be able to call home and tell them what I did today.”

Sgt. Felisha Gomez, 164th TAOG, said this was her second deployment. She also takes pride in what she does for her country and she’s excited to be deploying.

“I’m looking forward to it — it’s going to be different [from my previous deployment],” she said. “Back here [on Fort Rucker], we do basic operations but it’s not anything really specific. Over there we’ll be doing something specific and it’s going to feel like we actually have a big purpose.”

Before the Soldiers deployed, the unit participated in the casing of the unit colors during a ceremony at

SEE 164TH TAOG, PAGE A7

Renovated Brown Dental Clinic reopens Wednesday

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

After a year’s wait, the Brown Dental Clinic moves back home to its renovated facility in Bldg. 4405 on Innkeeper Street Wednesday.

The clinic hosts a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house Wednesday at 10 a.m.

The clinic increased its capacity from 17 chairs to 22 and received new paint, flooring, equipment, computers and style.

“It has been a long wait, but it’s been worth it,” said Linda Wimes, a health system specialist at the clinic.

The temporary building suited the needs of patients, but not without a few hiccups. “There was barely enough parking. It became a burden with two medical facilities sharing the same asphalt lot, but luckily we have the gravel pad that has really helped with the congestion with shar-

ing the space with Lyster,” said Lt. Col. Robert J. Selders, commander of the clinic.

He also stated that there will be no policy changes and the new clinic will be able to see around 75 patients a day in the remodeled facility, “So there’s no excuse for not making an appointment.”

Dental awareness is important for all Soldiers, said the commander. “Our mission is to make sure the Soldiers have combat-ready dental health. Dental health cannot be neglected. It can prevent a Soldier from doing his or her duty, and it’s something that most people generally forget.”

The clinic has six dentists and five hygienists with the room to expand with the new building’s arrangement and configuration.

The new clinic has digital X-rays and TV monitors with headphones at each station. There is



PHOTO BY SARA E. MARTIN

Sgt. Herman Thomas, NCOIC of the dental clinic, demonstrates a digital X-ray machine.

SEE DENTAL, PAGE A7

PERSPECTIVE

Quitting tobacco contributes to health of warriors, Families

By Warrior Care Blog
DOD Office of Warrior Care Policy

(Editor’s note: This article is reprinted from the Warrior Care Blog and while it is mainly directed at wounded warriors, all tobacco users could benefit from the information below.)

Although quitting tobacco may be at the bottom of the list of priorities for wounded, ill and injured Service members and their Families and caregivers, they should speak with their physicians about how quitting can help in recovery and rehabilitation.

Health benefits

For example, the positive effects from quitting smoking start almost immediately. According to the National Cancer Institute, some of the benefits include:

- Heart rate and blood pressure, which are abnormally high while smoking, begin to return to normal;
- Within a few hours, the level of carbon monoxide in the blood begins to decline, allowing blood to carry oxygen more effectively;
- Within a few weeks, people have improved circulation, produce less phlegm, and don’t cough or wheeze as often; and
- Within several months, people can ex-

pect substantial improvements in lung function.

Treatments

Wounded warriors and their Families have increased levels of stress that may make quitting an addictive substance such as tobacco especially difficult. However, there are many effective treatments and resources available to reach a healthier, tobacco-free life.

From nicotine patches and gum to massage therapy, wounded warriors can work with their physician on an approach to overcome nicotine addiction. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, experts agree that smokers may have to try a number of different methods or a combination of treatments to find the ones that work best.

There are a variety of FDA-approved cessation therapies that may be covered by TRICARE to help smokers quell the desire to light up. The TRICARE Tobacco Cessation Program covers most inpatient and outpatient care that is medically necessary and considered proven.

These may include:

- Medication therapy can ease withdrawal symptoms and reduce cravings, and is most effective when used as part of a comprehensive stop-smoking program

monitored by a physician.

- Nicotine replacement therapy involves “replacing” cigarettes with other nicotine substitutes, such as nicotine gum or a patch, to relieve some of the withdrawal symptoms without the tars and poisonous gases.
- Non-nicotine medication helps smokers by reducing cravings and withdrawal symptoms without the use of nicotine;
- Hypnosis, a non-medication therapy, gets the smoker into a deeply relaxed state where he or she is open to suggestions that strengthen the resolve to quit smoking and increase negative feelings toward cigarettes.
- Another non-medication therapy, acupuncture, is believed to work by triggering the release of endorphins (natural pain relievers) that allow the body to relax and help in managing withdrawal symptoms.
- Behavioral therapy focuses on learning new coping skills and breaking ritualistic habits associated with smoking.
- Motivational therapies can provide a number of ways to encourage smokers to kick the habit, such as calculating the monetary savings.

Resources

In continuing the Total Force Fitness

coverage this month, DOD and the Military Health System encourage healthy behavioral choices such as quitting tobacco to benefit the health of service members and their loved ones.

The DOD “Quit Tobacco — Make Everyone Proud” program offers information and tips, alongside counseling, hotlines, forums and other tools for service members and veterans enrolled in Veterans Affairs care system. It also offers assistance and support to anyone who may have a loved one who smokes, dips or uses snuff.

DOD is committed to reducing the use of tobacco in the defense community and improving the health and wellbeing of the force, their Families and the wider defense community.

For more information, call TRICARE’s toll-free Smoking Quitline, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including weekends and holidays:

- North Region:
• (866) 459-8766;
- South Region:
• (877) 414-9949; and
- West Region:
• (866) 244-6870.

For 24/7 help with substance abuse, call (800) 342-9647 or visit www.militaryonesource.com. For more resources, visit www.nationalresourcedirectory.org.

This month in Army Aviation history

This month we’re spotlighting the July-August 1994 issue of the *U.S. Army Aviation Digest*. This issue features:

“AMERICA MUST LEAD”

In his ancient Strategikon, emperor and battlefield commander Maurice described strategy as, “the points which a general must consider, before the day of the battle.” True. However, one of the primary responsibilities of strategic leadership also is to look ahead and determine what the armed forces must do to achieve national goals and protect vital interests.

THE VISION IS CLEAR

As we approach the 21st century, Army Aviation is in the enviable position of becoming the premier maneuver arm of modern armies. However, we in Army Aviation still have a way to go to prepare ourselves for the future.

GRIZZLY FLIGHT – WE DO IT RIGHT

Fort Greely, Alaska, is a small post located 110 miles east of Fairbanks and about 350 miles northeast of Anchorage. Synonymous with cold weather operations and testing, it is home to the U.S. Army Garrison Flight Detachment “Grizzly

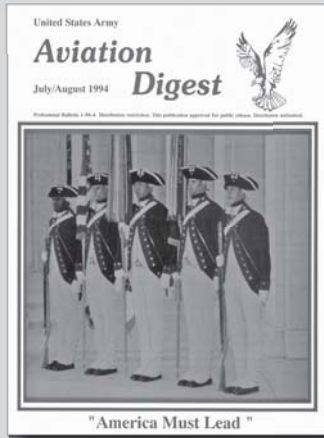
Flight” and Allen Army Airfield.

AERIAL RECOVERY OF A HISTORICAL AIRCRAFT

In February 1993, some soldiers from F Company, 4th Aviation Brigade, took a two-day trip down to the International B-24 Liberator Bomber Memorial Museum in Pueblo, Colo. This trip was not for pleasure, but to prepare a CH-21 Shawnee helicopter for recovery from the Pueblo Memorial Airport.

... and more!

Download this issue of the *U.S. Army Aviation Digest* at <http://bit.ly/av9-jul94>.



Rotor Wash

“ The next Newcomer’s Welcome is Friday from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at The Landing. What positive advice would you offer to newly-arrived Soldiers and their Families? ”



Cherie Garmon,
military spouse

“Contact the Family Readiness Group to find out about activities here on post.”



WO1 Justin Garner,
B Co., 1st Bn.,
145th Avn. Regt.

“Start a savings plan right away.”



WO1 Steven Graham, B
Co., 1st Bn., 145th Avn.
Regt.

“Don’t discount onpost housing, it’s pretty nice. Check into the housing office for scheduling.”



WO1 Karl Halterman,
B Co., 1st Bn.,
145th Avn. Regt.

“Remember why you’re here when you get frustrated, and keep your Family involved.”



1st Lt. James Foster,
B Co., 1st Bn.,
145th Avn. Regt.

“Take it as it comes. You might not think you’re ready for it, but just take it one day at a time.”

COMMAND

Maj. Gen. Anthony G.

Crutchfield
FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

Col. Stuart J. McRae
FORT RUCKER GARRISON COMMANDER

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The Dothan Eagle is responsible for all printing matters and commercial advertising. Deadlines are Friday at 2 p.m. for the following week’s edition. All editorial content of the *Army Flier* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, AL.

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

FSOD clears Aviators for flight duty

By Connor Wolanski
Army Flier Contributing Writer

Lyster Army Health Clinic offers a unique program to ensure that Fort Rucker Aviators can rebound from sickness quickly and get back in the air — the flight surgeon of the day.

“Normally flight units have their own organic flight surgeon, but because of the way we’re organized, [Lyster] fills that role here at Fort Rucker,” said Lt. Col. Sean Hollonbeck, deputy commander for clinical services at Lyster Army Health Clinic. “We try to do that through having a flight surgeon of the day.”

The position of flight surgeon of the day is filled by a team of flight surgeons and physician assistants on a rotating basis, and they carry out a wide range of duties to help get Aviators back on duty.

“What we mostly do here is [provide] new duty up-slips for new permanent party,” said Hollonbeck, referring to the documentation that clears an individual for flight duty after a period of sick leave.

“For folks that are permanent party, let’s say they had a complicated dental procedure and were given a pain medication – they can’t fly, they’re down,” said Hollonbeck. “But now they’re finished, they’re better, and their dentist or doctor, somebody who’s not a flight surgeon, says that they’re good to go; well, they have to come see us and get an up-slip.

“That’s what we do — our goal is to keep people flying, it’s to be rapid and responsive to get those instructor pilots and crew chiefs, to get those folks back up to duty as quick as possible,” he said.

While these are the main goals of the flight surgeon of the day program, there are several other needs that those chosen for the position take care of.

“We have a lot of foreign national students who train here, and when they come in they get an inprocessing up-slip as well,” said Capt. Justin Wilkie, flight surgeon. He added that the flight surgeon of the day can also carry out overseas screenings for people who may be heading to places where medical care is difficult to get, as well as sign off on convalescent leave for Soldiers who have not yet been assigned a primary care manager.



PHOTO BY JAN CRAOLAN

Lt. Col. Sean Hollonbeck, deputy commander for clinical services at Lyster Army Health Clinic, and Capt. Justin Wilkie, flight surgeon, at the office of the flight surgeon of the day at Lyster Army Health Clinic.

If there’s an Aviator who is sick with no care immediately available, nurses are permitted to triage that person to the flight surgeon of the day, and if there’s a mishap on post requiring emergency medical attention, the flight surgeon of the day could very well be the first person on the scene, added Wilkie.

There are, of course, some things that the flight surgeon of the day is not permitted to do.

“It’s not a replacement for meetings with primary care providers,” said Wilkie. “It’s really not fair to think that this per-

son is here to treat chronic medical conditions.”

“Sometimes people come to sick call when they really want to see the flight surgeon of the day,” added Hollonbeck. “Sometimes what we see is people coming to sick call just to get an up-slip, and they don’t need to. There’s no reason to wait in that line — they need to come see the flight surgeon of the day.”

Hollonbeck also emphasized the need to bring relevant medical information to any meeting with a flight surgeon of the day in order to smooth the process of get-

ting back to flight duty.

“If [a Soldier is] on any medications or they’ve seen anybody who’s not a flight surgeon, they need to bring that data with them,” said Hollonbeck. “They need to bring any relevant data, any medication they’re taking, and their medical records – after all, we’re supposed to put their up-slip in their medical record.”

The flight surgeon of the day does not have regularly scheduled appointments. Instead, walk-in hours are from 8-11:15 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Army releases 3rd quarter accident data

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

Data recently compiled by the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center show the third quarter of fiscal 2012 has been the deadliest yet this year regarding accidents, with 42 Soldiers lost between April 1 and June 30.

Overall, however, fatal accidents remain on the decline, with total fatalities six percent lower at quarter’s end than numbers from the same time frame in fiscal year 2011.

“The fact that we’ve maintained a steady reduction in accidental losses through spring and now summer says a lot about the disciplined commitment to safety principles by our Soldiers and engaged leaders at every echelon,” said Brig. Gen. Timothy J. Edens, director of Army Safety and commanding general, USACR/Safety Center. “I’m optimistic we can close 2012 with the best safety performance we’ve seen in 15 years.”

Fiscal year 1997 was the Army’s safest year on record, with 150 accidental fatalities reported both on and off duty. To date in fiscal year 2012, 112 Soldiers have died in on- and off-duty accidents.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center data show the third quarter of fiscal year 2012 has been the deadliest yet this year regarding accidents, with 42 Soldiers lost between April 1 and June 30. Fatal motorcycle accidents for Soldiers this year rose by 14 percent from the same time frame in 2011.

While off-duty fatalities were down seven percent from last year’s total through the end of the third quarter, fatal motorcycle accidents rose by 14 percent from the same time frame in 2011. Indiscipline, primarily speeding, fail-

ure to wear personal protective equipment and reckless riding, has dominated motorcycle accident reports during this fiscal year.

On duty, accidental fatalities fell 43 percent during the third quarter, due largely to a 64 percent decline in ground fatalities that offset a slight rise in Aviation fatalities throughout the year.

Edens praised leaders and Soldiers for their dedicated efforts and encouraged them to remain vigilant throughout the remaining months of summer and fiscal year 2012.

“Our Army’s men and women are making the difference,” said Edens. “They deserve the credit for our successes, but just because we’re doing well doesn’t mean we can relax.

“Historically speaking, the worst could be yet to come for accidents. Everyone needs to be on top of their game and looking out for one another.”

The annual Army Safe Spring/Summer campaign, which features media tools designed to address common seasonal hazards and assist leaders and Soldiers in their safety efforts, is available online at <https://safety.army.mil>.

News Briefs

AAFES 117th birthday

Fort Rucker Exchange facilities will mark the Army and Air Force Exchange Service’s 117th birthday Wednesday with a host of savings and specials. Shoppers using their Military Star® Card to fill up at the Express from Wednesday to July 27 will receive a discount of 17-cents per gallon. The Military Star® Card will also pay dividends at the food court Wednesday as diners can take 20 percent off orders at AAFES-operated restaurants. Also on Wednesday, Express patrons can enjoy free 20- and 30-ounce fountain drinks and 20-ounce Fresh Java until 1:17 p.m.

The birthday savings even extend online where www.shopmyexchange.com will offer a one-day sale on hundreds of products, including up to 25 percent off name-brand watches and 66 percent off select fine jewelry.

“To say that this benefit has been around for 117 years is a testament to the loyalty of generations of military shoppers,” said the exchange’s Don Walter Jr., main store manager. “July 25 is our annual opportunity to celebrate and thank them for making the Exchange their first choice.”

Chaplain Corps birthday

The Fort Rucker Ministry Team hosts a celebration of the 237th anniversary of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps July 27 from 10-10:30 a.m. in the atrium of the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700. The gathering features cake and refreshments, and celebrates the work of the Chaplaincy of Fort Rucker while also honoring all Army Chaplains that have served as religious and spiritual leaders for Soldiers and Families since 1775.

For more, call 255-2989.

Aviation museum construction

With work going on to replace the roof on the U.S. Army Aviation Museum, military graduations and most change of command ceremonies will be temporarily moved to the post theater in July and August.

The museum is still open its normal hours, though, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays. For more, call 598-2508.

Closed for inventory

The Directorate of Logistics Supply Support Activity in Bldg. 1212 will conduct its wall-to-wall inventory Monday through July 27. Normal operations will discontinue at 4:15 p.m. Friday and officials expect normal business hours to resume July 30. Customers will be notified by the accountable officer. During this period the SSA will only accept emergency requisitions.

For more, call 255-9504.

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, call 255-9595.

Spouse club signup

For people new to Fort Rucker who are interested in

meeting fellow spouses, the Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club’s annual Super Sign Up and Exhibition takes place Aug. 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Landing. The event, which is the club’s annual membership drive, will feature everything from live music from the Silver Wings Band to shopping and prizes. This year, the club will welcome spouses with a Hawaiian Luau theme. Club membership is open to all spouses.

For more about the club, visit <http://www.ftruckeresc.com/>.

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.

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: retail sales in children’s and ladies’ clothing stores, emergency medical technician, dental assistant, paralegal and legal secretary, dance teacher, warehouse supervisor, esthetician and massage therapist.

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

NSA Chief: Cyber world presents opportunities, challenges

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Technology has opened tremendous opportunities for the world, but also poses tremendous challenges for those who work to ensure access to cyberspace, the director of the National Security Agency said here July 9.

Army Gen. Keith B. Alexander, who also commands U.S. Cyber Command, told participants in an American Enterprise Institute seminar titled “Cybersecurity and American Power” that the capability exists today for destructive cyber attacks against critical infrastructures.

The cyber world is an increasingly important domain, the general said. In 2000, 360 million people were on the Internet. Today, more than 2.3 billion people are connected. Last year, 107 trillion emails were sent, he added, and a sign of the times is that more than 500,000 apps exist for the iPhone and 280,000 for Android smartphones.

But this tremendous opportunity for communication also presents a potential avenue of attack, Alexander said. A 2007 denial-of-service attack on Estonia virtually shut the nation down, he said, but that was just a transitory event in the evo-



Alexander

lution of cyber attacks.

“What I think we really need to be concerned about is when these transition from disruptive to destructive attacks — and I think those are coming,” he said.

A destructive attack does not simply overload computers or networks — it destroys data or software, and systems must be replaced to return to the status quo.

“We’ve got to consider that those are going to happen,” Alexander said. “Those are coming up and we have to be ready

for that.”

The general stressed that deterring cyber attacks is more difficult than nuclear deterrence, noting that nation-states, cyber criminals, hackers, activists and terrorists all pose threats.

“So when you think about deterrence theory, you’re not talking about just nation-on-nation deterrence theory,” he said. “You have other non-nation-state actors that you now have to consider.”

An attack may originate in a country, Alexander said, but no one can really tell if it’s the nation, a criminal gang within the country or a lone hacker launching the attack. Regardless of who initiates an attack, he added, the result could be the same.

“You lose the financial sector or the power grid or your systems capabilities for a period of time,” the general said. “It doesn’t matter who did it; you still lose that. So you’ve got to come up with a defensive strategy that solves that, from my perspective.”

The U.S. defensive strategy has to be a team approach, he said.

“We want to get as many people as we can working together to solve this problem,” Alexander said.

The White House has led the govern-

mental effort, spanning the Department of Homeland Security to the Defense Department to the FBI and beyond. And any protection — to be effective — must include the private sector, the general told the audience. This has caused hackles to rise, he acknowledged, with critics saying such efforts are an invasion of privacy. But, Alexander said, it can be done while protecting civil liberties.

“If the critical infrastructure community is being attacked by something, we need them to tell us at network speed,” the general said. “It doesn’t require the government to read their mail or your mail to do that. It requires them — the Internet service provider or that company — to tell us that that type of event is going on at this time. And it has to be at network speed if you’re going to stop it.”

Cyber runs at the speed of light, Alexander noted, and human reaction times are simply not fast enough to react.

“Maybe we could do this in real time and come up with a construct [in which] you and the American people know that we’re not looking at civil liberties and privacy, [but] we’re actually trying to figure out when the nation is under attack and what we need to do about it,” he said.

New financial guidance may help troops during moves

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Homeowners with military transfer orders will be immediately eligible for short sales under new guidance to mortgage servicers that may help tens of thousands of military homeowners moving to a new duty station, Consumer Finance Protection Bureau officials said recently.

Military homeowners will be eligible for short sales, even if they are current in their mortgages, Edward J. DiMarco, director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, said at a news briefing. They also will be exempt from deficiency judgments from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac when receiving permission for a short sale and relieved of any request for cash, contribution or promissory note so long as the property was purchased on or before June 30, 2012, according to the guidance.

“These changes will make it easier for members of the armed forces with mortgages owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac to honor their financial commitments when they are issued a permanent change of station order,” DiMarco said. The agency classifies the order as a hardship, he noted.

The bureau, along with mortgage ser-

vice industry regulators, is issuing joint supervisory guidance to address mortgage service practices that pose risks to military homeowners, Richard Cordray, the bureau’s director, said.

“We want to make sure that mortgage servicers comply with the laws that prohibit unfair or abusive practices” when service members have orders to move, he said.

Roughly a third of active-duty military personnel move each year. Of these, about 185,000 are homeowners who have to sell their houses and move to another community. Many find themselves owing far more on their homes than they’re worth in the current market.

Service members cannot sit on a property and wait for the market to recover: they must go to their new base, Cordray noted.

“They have to move, even if that means taking a big financial hit or leaving their Families behind to pay their bills,” he said.

“I have heard over and over from military homeowners whose houses are underwater and they don’t know what to do,” said Holly Petraeus, director of the bureau’s Officer of Service Member Affairs. “They are terrified that a foreclosure will ruin their finances as well as putting their security clearances at risk, and they are

looking for answers.”

But in too many cases, she said, mortgage service providers have not given that help. In her travels to military bases, Petraeus said, service members have told her of mortgage service providers giving them inaccurate information and stringing them along.

“We’ve heard from service members that they were told they had to be delinquent to qualify for help, and advised to skip a couple of payments,” she said. “They’ve been asked to sign waivers of their rights under the Service Members Civil Relief Act just to have their cases evaluated. They’ve been stalled by repeated demands for their loan documents and given a new loan official with each call ... and they have even

been listed as not responding to requests for documents during deployment despite the fact that spouses had powers of attorney.”

Robert L. Gordon III, assistant secretary of defense for military community and Family policy, said the Defense Department welcomes the bureau’s leadership.

“The military lifestyle poses unique challenges to our troops and their Families,” he said. “Throughout frequent moves, deployments and transitions they must remain resilient and strong in order to be mission ready.”

Homeowners with questions or complaints may contact the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau at consumerfinance.gov and (855) 411-2372.

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Railways industry announces job opportunities for vets

By Lisa Daniel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines considering separating from the active-duty military this year may seek employment options in the railways industry, which July 10 became the latest to pledge jobs to veterans.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced the 5,000-job pledge in a conference call with reporters, making rail the latest industry to offer jobs as part of the Joining Forces campaign. He was joined by Ed Hamberger, president and CEO of the Association of American Railroads, and Navy Capt. Brad Cooper, director of Joining Forces, which First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, created to help service members, veterans and their Families.

Obama and Biden announced the hiring campaign last summer, with a goal of hiring 100,000 veterans or military spouses by 2013. Today, Cooper said, 1,600 companies have signed on to the Joining Forces challenge, hiring 90,000 veterans and spouses with pledges to hire 170,000 more in the coming years.

What is unique about today's announcement, Cooper said, is that the 5,000 rail jobs are open now or in the very near future. They are listed on the association's website, <http://www.aar.org>.

The jobs, offered by about 500 companies, range from

operating locomotives to working in signaling and telecommunications.

"It's the whole spectrum of work," Cooper said.

Most of the jobs are in freight rail, but also with Amtrak, commuter rails and rail supply companies, he said.

The industry is hiring because it's growing, Hamberger said, with some \$23 billion in investments at the same time that nearly a quarter of the freight rail workforce will be eligible to retire by 2015.

"We want to reach out and let veterans know that we're hiring," he said.

The industry has actively recruited veterans since it sought out military academy graduates to build the first railroad system more than 200 years ago, Hamberger said.

"We've learned that the skills service members learn in the armed forces translate very well to our industry," he said. "We, first and foremost, are focused on safety. You learn in the armed services that if you don't follow the rules, bad things happen.

"We need teamwork, dependability, and high tech,"

he added, noting that military experience builds those skills.

The rail industry made more than 20,000 new hires last year, which was more than 5,000 than it expected, and one in four are veterans, Hamberger said.

Improving the nation's railways and hiring veterans are two of President Barack Obama's priorities, LaHood said.

"Today's generation of heroes has made the United States safer and more respected around the world," he said. "The president has asked that we serve them as they have served us."

About 15,000 veterans work for the Transportation Department, LaHood said, and 3,000 of those have disabilities, many from their military service. The department recently created a Web portal — <http://www.dot.gov/veteranstransportationcareers> — "that tells our returning warriors what jobs are available and how they can become certified," he said.

"Helping our veterans find work and fulfilling our transportation needs is a win-win," he said.

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Historic exhibit depicts Pentagon life over years

By Claudette Roulo
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is not just an ordinary office building, William E. Brazis, the director of Washington Headquarters Services, said July 12 at a dedication ceremony for the newest history exhibit to open in the building.

The Pentagon Building History Exhibit shows the evolution of the five-sided structure from its earliest planning stages through its most recent modernization, which was completed in late 2011.

Brazis noted that for those who work in the Pentagon, it's easy to forget how much of American history has taken place or been directed from within its walls.

"This is just not an ordinary office building. It's a place where history is made, one person at a time," Brazis said. "Since 1942, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for 70 years, every second that's ticked there have been our fellow citizens working in this building."

He called the Pentagon a symbol of American democracy and commitment to freedom and liberty around the world.

"We have to remind ourselves that this is an incredible place with an incredible history ... woven into the fabric of the history of our nation," he said.

The new exhibit features life-size images of Pentagon employees at work in their offices. Located between the C and D rings of Corridor 2, on the Pentagon's third floor, the exhibit consists of three main parts.



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

A 1940s static display showing early Pentagon workers' lives and experiences is unveiled at the new Pentagon Building History Exhibit ceremony at the Defense Department July 12.

Several hallway display cases contain photos and artifacts from the 1940s and the 1990s, the decade when the Pentagon was originally constructed and the time just before the most recent renovations. Two preserved office spaces from those periods make up the largest part of the exhibit.

A multimedia space lets visitors see how the Pentagon was originally constructed and also describes the Phoenix Project — the reconstruction of a portion of the building following

the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack.

"We wanted to show what's behind the walls. The ceiling, the columns, the terracotta wall are all historical to the 1940-41-42-43 [construction period]," said Bill

Hopper, the communications manager of the Facilities Services Directorate. "We wanted to show a deconstructed room but also we wanted to show the life. We have many images from the period of time of the building of the Penta-

gon."

Preserving the office spaces is the right thing to do, said Michael L. Rhodes, the director of Administration and Management for the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

"It was a terribly smart

thing to come up with. It was done at the right time so that we could truly preserve a piece of this history," Rhodes said.

He anticipated that the exhibit would be included in the official Pentagon tours.



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Garrison: McRae commends leadership

Continued from Page A1

“His military police background gives him special insight into the complexities and challenges of running garrison operations,” said Tindoll. “Due to his extensive experiences, he knows the needs of the Soldiers and their Families.”

The ceremony was a time to recognize the new garrison commander and command sergeant major, but it was also a time to recognize Muskopf and Walters

for the time they served on Fort Rucker.

“Over the past two years, they excelled in overcoming numerous challenges to ensure Fort Rucker made tremendous contributions, not only to Army readiness, but by providing the best possible quality for our team here,” said Tindoll.

They achieved this next level of support by refining common levels of service, using detailed performance management reviews and customer feedback to

improve the efficiency of base operations support, according to the director.

“This is what right looks like,” said McRae about Muskopf’s leadership. “The team that you’ve developed and passed to me is absolutely second to none.”

Muskopf said that what they achieved on Fort Rucker was no one-single effort, but a team effort from everyone on his command team, to the people in the surrounding community.

“Philadelphia calls itself the city of brotherly love, but there is no more brotherly love in the world than the brotherly love that the Wiregrass gives to Fort Rucker,” he said, adding that he couldn’t have asked for a better senior commander to work under than Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general.

Muskopf will go on to Carlisle Barracks, Penn., as the U.S. Army War College’s director of Strategic Plans and Walters will

retire from the Army.

McRae said he was ready to take on the challenges as garrison commander and ready to tackle the vision that Crutchfield has set for the future of the Aviation Branch and Fort Rucker.

“I appreciate the confidence that [Crutchfield] has shown ... and I take his visions to heart,” he said. “I recognize that the most important and valuable resource that we have here at Fort Rucker is not our aircraft or our systems — it’s our people.”

164th TAOG: Family support important during deployments

Continued from Page A1

the post theater July 12.

“The essence of the casing ceremony is an event marked by tradition, honor, respect and sacrifice,” said 1st Lt. Edith H. Hutt, 164th TAOG adjutant. “The colors will be uncased when the brigade arrives in Kuwait and tradition holds that the colors lead the unit into battle.”

The unit will not be fighting any battles

while in Kuwait and Afghanistan, but deployment is still hard on the Soldiers and Families that are separated.

“It’s tough on both ends of the deployment,” said Shenk. “Each of the Soldiers deployed have loved ones and friends here at Fort Rucker, across the nation and abroad. I urge you, the deploying Soldiers, to keep [those friends and Families] informed, keep their spirits up and keep them in your thoughts.”



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU



Soldiers of the 164th TAOG line up at Cairns Army Airfield Saturday to say goodbye to those in their unit deploying to Kuwait.



Master Sgt. Etola Nesbitt, 164th TAOG, holds her daughter, Kennedy, at Cairns Army Airfield Saturday before she deploys with her unit to Kuwait.



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Dental: All equipment from former building was recycled

Continued from Page A1

also a large TV in the waiting room where Selders said the patients will be presented with media on proper dental hygiene. “The patient education screens are so important to remind Soldiers about daily dental awareness.”

The project also had a positive effect on the environment. “Everything out of the old building was recycled; from doors to

equipment,” said Sgt. Herman Thomas the NCO in charge of the Brown Dental Clinic. “The remodeling is a green build.”

The building is quite an eye opener, said Selders. “This is top notch stuff, it’s not second best.”

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Best Soldiers for worst days

FOB Shank medevac crews save lives day, night

By Sgt. 1st Class Eric Pahon
82nd Combat Aviation Brigade

KHOWST PROVINCE, Afghanistan — They're the crew no one wants to see take off.

"A perfect deployment would be no missions," said U.S. Army Spc. Bryan Heaston, 30, of Lusby, Md.

Nearly every time Heaston, a medevac crew chief serving on Forward Operating Base Shank, climbs into a Black Hawk and fastens his seat belt, he launches knowing someone is in pain and may be dying.

"We always see the worst days for people," said Heaston. "Sometimes it's their best days when they all come together for a wounded friend, but it's generally the worst day of someone's life."

Medevac operations are a roller-coaster of emotions, swinging from hours of overwhelming boredom to explosions of frenzied activity every time the radio crackles "Medevac! Medevac! Medevac!"

Plastic forks quickly fall to their Styrofoam takeout plates. Books drop. Boots pound the wooden floor. Eight bodies are suddenly in motion, grabbing cases of medicine and weapons as they head out the door.

"That's the worst part of this job," said Heaston, whose C Company, 3/82 medevac platoon supports Task Force Corsair, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade. "It's the sitting around, knowing something might happen at any time, but you don't know what it's going to be or how serious."

Traffic screeches to a halt on a dusty gravel road, Shank's main thoroughfare, as a ragged line of medics and pilots plunge across, each seeming to try and outrace the other. The quarter-mile sprint continues over fist-sized, unstable rocks to the airfield, then down the long

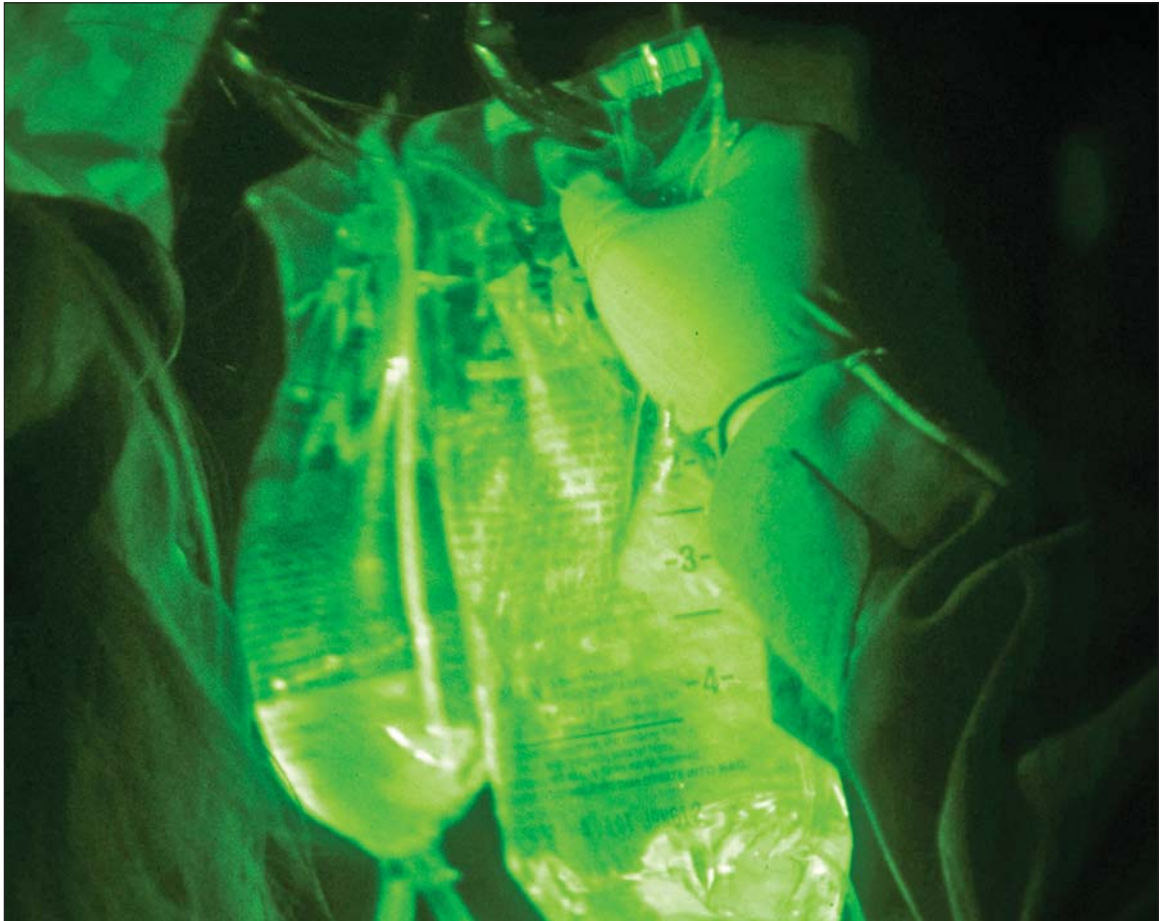


PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS ERIC PAHON

Staff Sgt. Erin Gibson, 31, of Covington, Ohio, hooks up IV bags to the roof of a medevac helicopter July 8 as she treats a U.S. soldier injured by an improvised explosive device. Gibson is a flight medic serving with Task Force Corsair, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, on Forward Operating Base Shank, Afghanistan.

runway to an awaiting aircraft. It's a fast-paced, but well-choreographed symphony of pre-laid-out vests and equipment slapping against bodies.

The rip-tear of Velcro and jingling buckles on flight vests snapping home in rapid succession pierce the solitude blanketing the helipad, just as the auxiliary power unit and huge General Electric T-700 turbine engines begin their

ear-piercing screams.

Moments later, 54-feet of rotor blades chop the air, drowning out everything except the sound of radio calls in the crews' headsets. Amid the adrenaline-driven actions, each member of the crew runs down an internal checklist, mentally and physically preparing for what they're all about to head in to. Oftentimes, however, medevac

crews don't know.

"That's the thing that's interesting about this job," said Heaston. "Once you get a POI [point-of-injury] call, you have no clue what you're getting into until you're there. They're all different. We've been all over this area of Afghanistan — farmers' fields, highways — you name it — we've been there."

On an evening quickly fading

to darkness, FOB Shank medevac birds are headed to pick up the victim of an IED blast near a small combat outpost in Wardak province.

In the back of a helicopter being tossed seemingly in every direction all at once by heavy winds whipping over mountains so close to

SEE SOLDIERS, PAGE B4

25th CAB maintains battle readiness



PHOTO BY SPC. ROLAND HALE

Spc. Melinda Yenter, D Co., 2nd Bn., 25th Avn. Regt., 25th CAB, UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief, and a native of Salida, Colo., installs the stabalator hinge fitting on the horizontal stabalator for a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a phase maintenance session on Forward Operating Base Wolverine, Afghanistan, June 12.

By Sgt. Daniel Schroeder
25th Combat Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WOLVERINE, Afghanistan — In order to maintain operational readiness, the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade ensures that all its equipment is serviced within the proper guidelines to provide security for the Soldiers on the ground.

For Soldiers of D Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th CAB, the equipment they service are not computers or vehicles, but UH-60 Black Hawk and AH-64 Apache helicopters.

These services are called preventative maintenance inspections, or more commonly referred to as phase maintenance. During phase maintenance, the aircraft is systematically broken down into sections and each part is inspected for cleanliness and condition by the PMI manual.

"Our mission is to find any problems with the aircraft, repair them, and push out a bird (helicopter) as close to new conditions as possible," said Sgt. Phillip Dowdy, a UH-60 Black Hawk mechanic with D Co., 2nd Bn., 25th Avn. Regt., 25th CAB. "There is something new to be learned each phase. Each individual inspection helps us to learn about each part."

When an aircraft is received for phase maintenance, a team of Soldiers begin the break down.

"We have 10 UH-60 crew chiefs and 10 mechanics from our support shop made up of avionics, sheet metal, power train and power plant technicians," Dowdy said. "We brought some new Soldiers with us, fresh from the school house. Each of us has gained a lot of experience from the nine PMIs completed since arriving here."

Phase maintenance is based off the

SEE READINESS, PAGE B4

Soldiers use painting to create new perspective

By Sgt. Daniel Schroeder
25th Combat Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WOLVERINE, Afghanistan — Two AH-64 Apache helicopters start up on the flight line, sounds of a grinder come from a maintenance hangar, mine resistant ambush protected vehicles drive down the road on the way to the motor pool, and in the Forward Operating Base Wolverine tech supply building, the faint sounds of paint being mixed together and spread on a canvas is heard.

Since February, a few Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade have been attending a painting class in the tech supply building on Sunday afternoons.

CW2 Roger Passie, 151A Aviation Maintenance Technician, D Company, 2nd Bn. 25th Avn. Regt., 25th CAB, originally from

Waianae, Hawaii, started the class when Task Force Diamond Head arrived.

"I had a little bit of free time one day, so I broke out my painting materials and started to work on my technique. My co-workers showed an interest and curiosity in painting, so I started a class to teach them what I know. All my supplies were used up in the first class."

To receive more supplies, Passie sent pictures of the Soldiers' paintings to the morale, welfare, and recreation painting class on Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

"We received more than \$1,500 in painting supplies," he said. "Some major painters and paint business sent supplies after they heard about what we have going on out here."

He received support from Toni Ruiz, Mark Brown, Barbara Golden of Golden Artist Colors, retired Col. Guy Ballou and award-

SEE PAINTING PAGE B4



PHOTO BY SGT. DANIEL SCHROEDER

Second Lt. Cassie Graham, HHC, 2nd Bn., 25th Avn. Regt., 25th CAB, executive officer, practices her brush strokes and color blending during a painting class on Forward Operating Base Wolverine, Afghanistan, June 10.

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OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS

Soldiers: Time precious during medevac missions

Continued from Page B1

the bird it seems like you could touch them, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Erin Gibson, 31, a flight medic, sets up monitors and IV bags, readying herself for whatever may come her way. “You kind of just hope for the best and prepare for the worst,” said Gibson, of Covington, Ohio. “If it’s somebody who has uncontrolled bleeding, I try to get all my bandages and stuff together and get IVs hung, just in case they haven’t gotten any yet. I just try to mentally prepare like that.”

In the near-darkness, mountaintops fly by. Medevac pilots push their aircraft harder than the usual UH-60 Black Hawk cruises. Every moment that elapses between them and their injured comrade takes with it the precious gift of time.

“You are literally racing for someone’s life,” said U.S. Army 1st Lt. June Ciaramitaro, 26, of Fort Worth, Texas. “On an urgent medevac, you’re going to pull as much as you

can. Usually you’ll go in to a 30-minute TGT [turbine gas temperature] limit, so the engine can only be at a certain temperature for 30 minutes. We go as fast as we can to get there, then based on what the medic’s analysis is, we’ll still pull as much as we can to get back if we need to.”

As the bird touches down on a small landing area, four U.S. Soldiers crouch under the whirling blades, each bearing a corner of the stretcher carrying their fallen brother. A massive man lies on it covered in blankets and bandages, his arms interlaced across his abdomen; his wrists are secured together with a green U.S. Army issue sock.

“He had a head injury,” said Gibson, “so they tied his hands together so they wouldn’t be flopping around or flailing, trying to hit people.”

Gibson goes to work. The inside of the helicopter is now pitch black, except for the faint glow of the bird’s instrument panel. The flashlight on Gibson’s head bounds back

and forth across the cabin, which is tightly-packed with medical equipment of all kinds. A glimpse of her gloves feeling the Soldier’s chest. A flash on an IV bag. A small glimpse of a heavily bandaged face as she leans in to reassure her patient. Tousled strands of Gibson’s blonde hair glow in the white light of her headlamp; blue eyes gauge the wounded Soldier’s reactions just a few inches from his face.

“I just hope by leaning over his ear and telling him what I’m doing he’ll understand,” said Gibson. “He might not like what I’m doing, and it might not feel good, but it’s for his benefit, to make him feel better.”

He’s wounded in multiple places. Gibson doesn’t know the extent of the horror that had recently unfolded to land this Soldier in her helicopter as she frantically works to start an IV and assess which wounds to begin treating first. Her patient is the only survivor of an IED blast that killed the other six passengers of the mine-resistant, ambush-protected ve-

hicle he was riding in. For now, the only thing that matters is the patient in front of her.

“The only thing on my mind is I have to do what it takes to make him feel better, and I can’t let myself get side-tracked or start thinking about other things,” said Gibson. “You kind of have to put the blinders on and stay mission-focused. You can’t let that other stuff bother you, or it affects what you’re doing for the patient.”

As the helicopter vibrates, rattles, and sways under a buffeting of heavy winds, Gibson tries to start an IV in the Soldier’s hand — the only place he’s not injured. Even with hands that have done this many times before, she can’t get what she needs. She moves to his leg, and affixes a needle to what looks like a little, black handheld drill. She pulls back the space blanket covering the Soldier, examines his femur for a moment, then presses down. She’s starting an intraosseous infusion, drilling straight into the bone to deliver fluids through the marrow.

Readiness: Maintenance crews strive for ‘clean’ performance

Continued from Page B1

amount of flight hours the aircraft has since the time it was built or after its last phase maintenance session. Two time periods are used for the PMIs conducted for UH-60s; the first is at 360 flight hours and usually lasts for seven days. The second is at 720 flight hours and lasts for roughly 14 days due to the extensive tear down and inspection. During the deployment rotation, the phase teams will continue to perform PMI 1 and 2 until it is the aircraft’s time to be shipped back to the

states. Once back in the states, the aircraft will undergo a reset where it will receive a complete overhaul.

During a PMI 1, panels are removed from the aircraft, a fuel integrity test is performed, basic inspections of the aircraft are conducted, it is washed, and a rig test is used to verify the measurement of the blade angle. When a PMI 2 is under way, both engines, oil cooler, drive shafts, and auxiliary power units are removed from the aircraft. Air is run through the fuel lines to help check for leaks. Also removed are the main rotor

head and main mast seal.

“We note the deficiencies when we come across them in our inspections,” said CW4 William Rector, the production control officer-in-charge for D Co., 2nd Bn., 25th Avn. Regt., 25th CAB, originally from Austin, Texas. “Of those deficiencies, we remove, repair and replace anything we can down to the smallest nut and bolt, rivets, and cracks in the airframe. Every inch of the rotor blades are inspected. During the PMI 2, we conduct a full serial number verification to match up all the components on the check-

list.”

In the past nine years, the UH-60s have gone from receiving phase maintenance once every 500 flight hours to 360-flight-hour-interval inspections. Before the aircraft goes in for phase, two 120-flight-hour inspections are conducted by the line companies. With the increase of inspections and phases, the UH-60s started to use the Integrated Vehicle Health Maintenance System to better determine a components time before overhaul.

According to Rector, parts will be replaced based on what the

actual condition is and not historical life. This system results in condition based maintenance. An onboard system monitors the health of individual components based on vibrations in order to catch the failure before a catastrophic failure.

“Each time we perform a phase, we challenge ourselves to see how clean we can get the aircraft,” Dowdy said. “It is a great feeling to watch the helicopter fly on a test flight and return safely with no issues which lets us know we gave the line companies a good product.”

Painting: Instructor urges Soldiers to enter competitions

Continued from Page B1

winning painter Hugh Graeer.

Because of the temperature and availability of resources around them, the class uses acrylic paint because it is fast drying and can be diluted with water. After the paint dries, it becomes water resistant. Passie instructs the Soldiers on the importance of brush strokes, color mixing, and analyzing shapes in the subject.

Since the start of the class, four Soldiers have continued

to take part in the relaxed, intriguing environment the class offers. Also, two contracted chefs from the FOB Wolverine Dining Facility have participated.

“This is a great class; I really like it,” said Spc. Marialynn Manibusan, an automated logistics specialist with D Company, 2nd Bn. 25th Avn. Regt., 25th CAB, also a native of Waipahu, Hawaii. “It is very relaxing. It takes away from the daily stresses of being deployed.”

After observing the improvement two Soldiers have shown throughout the class, Passie entered Spc. Desiree Jordan and

Spc. Gheryme Reed in the novice category of the Army art competition.

“I would love for the Soldiers to get recognized from this competition. I think this is a boost of morale here; they love what they are doing in this class,” Passie said.

Passie teaches the Soldiers to try and analyze the shapes they can associate in the subjects they are painting. Just like the way Passie teaches his painting class, sometimes dealing with the difficulties of deployment is as simple as taking a step back to gain a different perspective.

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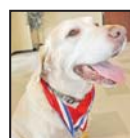
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JULY 19, 2012



PHOTOS BY CONNOR WOLANSKI

Students engage in a hands-on experiment at USAARL's GEMS program July 12.

Precious **GEMS**

Program brings science to life for youth

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

While a lesson in polymers was under way Fort Rucker youth mixed glue and food-coloring in order to create a Silly Putty-like concoction at the Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science laboratory July 12.

GEMS features a summer-camp-like environment, said Catherine Davis, the public affairs specialist of the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, adding that the lessons are helpful for mental development because the children can see what they are learning. The class this week was July 9-13 for 12- and 13-year-old students.

This is the second year for GEMS, but the first year for the intermediate program for seventh and eighth grade students. The program strengthens students' grasps on science and math in hands-on activities.

Chloe Wyatt, a returning participant, said she really liked the lessons this year because they added biology and chemistry. "My favorite [lesson] was the wheat germ that we took out of the DNA. That was really neat."

GEMS is especially helpful to those students who may be struggling with science. "It shows them that science can be fun. It's not all reading a book and lectures. It shows them what they are reading and how to apply it," said Sarah Thiel, the lead resource teacher.

"They have the best time and don't even realize that they are learning something. Its super-fun learning," she said.

Each of the five groups consists of four students who get one-on-one attention by a mentor, a college student who oversees each experiment. This ensures that each student can ask questions to fully grasp the lessons, Thiel said.

"One parent told me that their child has learned and retained more here at GEMS than they had all year at school," she said.

The children who participated in last year's program and returned this year are the standout students, she said. "They take the lead in their groups to help the others who may be shy or more reserved."

Collin Robinson enjoyed learning how to make root beer and cheese.

"It wasn't the tastiest cheese I've had," he said, "but it was really awesome to learn how to make it. Who can say they know how to make cheese?"

During lunchtime theatre, the mentors



Nathan Pool, 13, mixes a single molecule polymer for class.

pick topics to discuss with the children, such as what they are studying in school, a hobby, or what the children want to be when they get older.

"Speaking in front of each other and adults is something they can take away from GEMS and apply it once school starts," said Jessica Cumbee lead mentor, and chemistry major at Georgia College. "The hands-on techniques are key to them learning here and getting interested in science."

The children learn team building, self confidence and participate in ice-breaker

conversations. They become more independent and even dabble in public speaking.

"I always teach them how to do a proper handshake," Thiel said.

Ryan Nagy said, "I love it. It's the most fun I have had all summer, and I've been to other summer camps. I definitely want to come back next year."

The lead resource teacher said she is thrilled the children enjoy the program.

"I know this program is making a difference in their grades and confidence in school. It's very rewarding. We want

to do a third and fourth grade group, so that way we will have three age groups. That's my hope for next year."

The students take home all of their projects as well as receive awards at the end of the week.

"It's so beneficial to the students," Thiel said. "I love this program. Not only are they learning, but they are having fun, and building relationships and making new friends."

To learn more about the GEMS program visit: <http://www.usaeop.com/programs/gems/usaarl.htm>.

ON POST

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

Newcomer's Welcome

Army Community Service hosts a Newcomers Welcome the third Friday of each month from 8:30–10:30 a.m. at The Landing. Active duty military, spouses, foreign students, Department of the Army civilians and Family Members are all encouraged to attend. A free light breakfast and coffee is served. For free childcare, parents should register children at the child development center by calling 255-3564. Reservations must be made 24 hours prior to the Newcomer's Welcome.

For more, call 255-3161 or 255-2887.

AFTB Level III

Army Community Service offers its Army Family Team Building Level III training Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Soldier Service Center, Rm. 371F. Classes include: communication skills for leaders, leadership styles, building cohesive teams, managing group conflict and more. Advance registration is required.

For registration and childcare information, call 255-2382.

Children's craft making

The Center Library hosts a craft making activity for children ages 3-11 Tuesday from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Space is limited to the first 65 children to register. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information or to register, stop by or call the library at 255-3885.

'Mind Candy'

Illusionist and hypnotist Wayne Hoffman performs "Mind Candy" July 27 at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. at The Landing. According to Hoffman, the audience doesn't just watch the show, it becomes part of it. People may find themselves selected to take part in mind-blowing experiments and demonstrations. With a presentation that combines mind-reading and visual illusions, people may leave the show questioning their senses. Tickets for the evening performances will be available at The Landing Zone for \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Special VIP tables are available for \$150, which include 10 tickets and reserved seating. The event is open to the public and for ages 18 and older.

For more, call 255-9810 or 598-8025.

Becoming a Love and Logic Parent Workshop

Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program holds its "Becoming a Love and Logic Parent" classes each Thursday from Aug. 2 to Sept. 20 from 9-11 a.m. at the Early Childhood Activity Center in Bldg. 3705 on Dean Street. Topics include, raising responsible children, instilling values, problem solving and using natural consequences as a discipline technique. This workshop is a seven-part series and participants must attend all of the classes to receive a certificate of



FILE PHOTO

Fall youth sports registration

Fall youth sports registration takes place now through July 31. Fall sports include tackle football for ages 8-12, cheerleading for ages 4-12, tennis for ages 7-18 and soccer for ages 4-17. Children must meet age requirements by Sept. 1. A current sports physical, and child, youth and schools services registration are required for participation. For more information, call 255-9105 or 255-0950.

completion. The workshop is open to active duty and retired military, Department of Defense employees and their Family members. The workshop will not meet on holidays.

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

EDGE! August activities

Child, youth and school services offers EDGE! classes again in August. Activities include tubing at Lake Tholocco, cooking activities, rock climbing at the Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Facility, sewing summer tops and dresses, beach volleyball and paddle ball.

For more, call 255-0666.

Financial Readiness Training

Army Community Service offers Financial Readiness Training Aug. 3 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Soldier Service Center in Rm. 284. This 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. Spouses are also welcome to attend.

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

Steak Night

Starting Aug. 3, every Friday at 5 p.m. is Steak Night at The Landing Zone. The special features an 8-oz. Flat Iron Steak with fries for \$5 with the purchase of a beverage. Diners can add a side salad for an additional \$1 and other sides are also available for purchase. This special is limited to the first 100 guests per night, is available for dine in only and is limited to one per guest. The offer is not valid with any other coupons or promotions. For more, call 598-2426.

Taco Tuesday

Starting Aug. 7, every

Tuesday at 5 p.m. is Taco Tuesday at The Landing Zone. The special features \$1 tacos (beef or chicken with shredded lettuce, tomatoes, cheese and sour cream). Diners can add a side of guacamole for 50 cents or make it a meal by adding black beans and rice for \$1.95, or chips and queso for \$2. This offer is valid with purchase of a beverage and cannot be combined with other discounts or coupons.

For more, call 598-2426.

ACS Family Bowling Night

Army Community Service hosts a Family Bowling Night for all active duty military Families with special needs, Family Readiness Groups and Hearts Apart Families Aug. 16 from 5-7:30 p.m. at Rucker Lanes. Cost is \$1 per game and \$1.50 for shoe rental. Registration is required no later than two days prior to the event.

For more information or to register, call 255-9277 or 255-3735.

Landing Zone Birthday

The Landing Zone celebrates its third birthday with specials Aug. 18-24. All week, people can buy one entrée and get one free after 4 p.m. To kick off the festivities, Aug. 18 there will be complimentary smoothies and games by the Splash! Pool from noon to 6 p.m., as well as prizes for participating children. Aug. 21 there will be complimentary chips and salsa available with the purchase of a beverage from 5-9 p.m. Aug. 22 features beverage specials. Aug. 23, two children under 12 can eat for free off of the kid's menu with the purchase of one adult entrée from 5-8 p.m. The Landing Zone will host a Hawaiian-style Birthday Bash Aug. 24.

For more, call 598-8025.

DFMWR Spotlight

YOUTH SPORTS FALL REGISTRATION

U.S. Army Child, Youth & School Services
JULY 1 - 31

FALL SOCCER - Practice starts AUG. 13
Sports fee: Ages 4-5, \$20 / Ages 6 and up, \$40
Parents Meeting: August 9 at 6 p.m.

CHEERLEADING - Practice starts AUG. 13
Sports fee: \$40, limited spaces available
Parents Meeting: August 8 at 6 p.m.

TACKLE FOOTBALL - Practice starts AUG. 13
Sports fee: \$65, limited spaces available
Parents Meeting: August 8 at 6 p.m.

FALL TENNIS - Practice starts Sept. 13
Sports fee: \$40
Parents Meeting: August 9 at 6 p.m.

Parents meetings will be held at the Youth Center Gymnasium, Bldg. 2806, 7th Ave.

Valid sports physical and CYSS registration required. Child must meet age requirements by Sept. 1st. There will be no extensions.

For more information call
Youth Sports at 255-9105/9108 or
Parent Central Services at 255-9638.

Fort Rucker
CYSS

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR JULY 19-22

THURSDAY, JULY 19

FRIDAY, JULY 20

SATURDAY, JULY 21

SUNDAY, JULY 22

Chernobyl Diaries (R)7 p.m. Prometheus (PG-13)7 p.m. Madagascar 3 (PG)7 p.m. Madagascar 3 (PG)7 p.m.

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

Habits: Do they control you?

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

Dr. John Maxwell, from Enjoy Life Ministries in Bonita, Calif., wrote the following: “You may know me. I’m your constant companion. I’m your greatest helper; your heaviest burden. I will push you onward or drag you down to failure. I’m at your command. Half the tasks you do might as well be turned over to me. I’m able to do them quickly, and I’m able to do them the same every time, if that is what you want. I’m easily managed; all you have to do is be firm with me. Show me exactly how you want it done and after a few lessons I’ll do it automatically. I am the servant of all great men and women; of course the servant of failures too. But I work with all the precision of a marvelous computer, with the intelligence of a human being. You may run me

for a profit, or you may run me to ruin; it makes no difference to me. Take me. Be easy with me and I will destroy you. Be firm with me and I will put the world at your feet. Who am I? I’m habit”

In the Bible, Daniel 6:10 states: “Now when Daniel learned the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God as he had done before!”

Daniel had a habit of prayer. Earlier in the book of Daniel we learn that out of habit Daniel listened to God and ate things that were good for his body. Listen to the following concerning habits:

- Like Paul, I shall forget those things that are behind and press forward;
- Like David, lift up mine eyes unto the hills whence cometh my help – help comes from the Lord;

- Like Abraham, trust implicitly in my God;
- Like Enoch, walk in daily fellowship with my heavenly father;
- Like Jehoshaphat, prepare my heart to seek God;
- Like Moses, choose rather to suffer than to enjoy the pleasure of sin for a season;
- Like Daniel, commune with God at all times;
- Like Job, be patient under all circumstances;
- Like Caleb and Joshua, refuse to be discouraged because of superior numbers;
- Like Gideon, advance even though my friends are few;
- Like Aaron and Hur, uphold the hands of my leaders with prayer and practical support;
- Like Andrew, strive to lead my broth-

- ers and sisters to God;
- Like Stephen, express a forgiving spirit toward all who seek my heart; and
- Realizing that I cannot hope to achieve those objectives from my own strength. I shall rely upon the power of God, for I can do all things in Him who strengthens me.

We all have habits. Some are good and some are not so good. Habits should help build us up and not tear us down.

Take a few moments to examine the habits you have. Are there some that control you? Are there some that hinder your relationship with God? Are there some you have been meaning to start and have not?

After you take this habit inventory, ask God for courage and will power to discard those habits you do not need and start the ones you do need.

Victory starts here!

Religious Services

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

HEADQUARTERS CHAPEL, BLDG. 109

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

MAIN POST CHAPEL, BLDG. 8940

9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass Sunday
11 a.m. Liturgical Worship Service Sunday
12:05 p.m. Catholic Mass (Tuesday - Friday)
4 p.m. Catholic Confessions Saturday 5 p.m. Catholic Mass Saturday.

WINGS CHAPEL, BLDG. 6036

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

SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER, BLDG. 8939

9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School
10:45 a.m. CCD (except during summer months).

BIBLE STUDIES

9 a.m. Protestant Women of the Chapel,

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

Mothers of Preschoolers

MOPS is a Christian-based mom's group. MOPS is about meeting the needs of every mom of a child from conception through

kindergarten. MOPS will meet every first and third Thursday, 9 a.m., at Wings Chapel, Bldg 6036. For more information, call the religious support office at 255-2989.

Protestant Women of the Chapel

PWOC meets every Tuesday at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. at Wings Chapel, Bldg 6036. Child-care 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.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Pick-of-the-litter

Meet Josh, a male kitten available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility. He is sweet and friendly. It costs \$81 to adopt Josh and other animals at the facility, which includes all up-to-date shots, microchip and neutering. For more information on animal adoptions, call the stray facility at 255-0766, open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The facility needs donations such as dry or canned foods for cats, dogs, kittens and puppies, as well as blankets, toys and towels. Donations can be dropped off at the veterinary clinic or the commissary. Visit the Fort Rucker stray facility's **Facebook** page at [http:// www.facebook.com/fortruckerstrayfacility/](http://www.facebook.com/fortruckerstrayfacility/) for constant updates on the newest animals available for adoption.

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- **Do** something else to keep busy.
- **Discuss** your urge with a friend or family member.
- **Delay** — Don't reach for tobacco right away. The urge to smoke passes in 3 to 5 minutes whether a person smokes or not.

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K9 Gabe wins military hero dog award

By Wallace McBride
Fort Jackson, S.C.

FORT JACKSON, S.C. — Fort Jackson’s Gabe will represent all armed forces dogs at the annual American Humane Association Hero Dog Awards banquet in Los Angeles later this year.

The retired military dog spent several years sniffing out insurgent bombs, guns and ammunition in Iraq with his handler, Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Shuck, now a drill sergeant leader at Fort Jackson’s Drill Sergeant School. Since April, Gabe has been in the running for 2012 American Humane Association Hero Dog in the military category. When the voting ended July 1, Gabe had received the most online votes.

There were eight categories in this round of voting, which included dogs from backgrounds such as search and rescue, law enforcement and guide work. The winners of these categories received \$5,000 for their charities and are now competing against each other for American Humane Association Hero Dog of the Year.

“He’s in good company right now,” Shuck said. “All of those dogs are deserving of the title. But, if we win the overall title, we add an extra \$10,000 to that charity.”

Gabe is representing the United States War Dog Association, a nonprofit organization of former and current U.S. Military Dog handlers and supporting members committed to promoting the long history of military service dogs.

The money donated to this organization will primarily be used to buy care packages for dogs and their handlers currently deployed, said Ron Aiello, president of United States War Dogs Association. These packages can contain goggles and boots for the dog; ear muffs to protect



COURTESY PHOTOS

Gabe and Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Shuck recently won \$5,000 for the United States War Dogs Association through their participation in a contest sponsored by the American Humane Association. Gabe was voted military dog of the year and is among eight finalists in the 2012 Hero Dog Awards. To vote for Gabe go to www.herodogawards.org/.

their ears from loud sounds during helicopter flights, ear wash, eye wash, cooling vests and toys.

“Our mission is to support dog teams that are deployed, primarily in Afghanistan,” Aiello said. “We’ve been doing it now for 10 years.”

Shuck said voting for the final phase of the Hero Dog awards ends Oct. 5, and that he’s going to continue his tenacious on-line campaign for Gabe.

“He’s representing all dogs in the armed forces now,” Shuck said.

Online votes for the 2012 Hero Dog title represent 49 percent of the final tally, with the remaining 51 percent coming from the American Humane Association’s panel of celebrity judges, which includes Whoopi Goldberg, Kristin Chenoweth, Michelle Forbes and Prince Lorenzo Borghese.

“You could win the public vote, but still not win the overall Hero Dog award,” Shuck said.

Gabe will receive his award for winning the military category of this year’s awards during an Oct. 6 ceremony in Los Angeles, an event hosted by Betty White. The winner of the 2012 Hero Dog award will also be announced during that event.



PHOTO BY SGT. JASON BRACE

A military working dog wears Doggles to protect his eyes as a Chinook helicopter takes off, kicking up dust and debris, during an air assault operation by U.S. soldiers assigned to Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron, 172nd Cavalry Regiment, 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Parwan Province, Afghanistan, May 11, 2010. The United States War Dog Association sends packages for dogs and their handlers currently deployed. These packages can contain goggles and boots for the dog; ear muffs to protect their ears from loud sounds during helicopter flights, ear wash, eye wash, cooling vests and toys.

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Mine dogs clear Afghan roads

By 1st Lt. Jeffrey Vlietstra
49th Engineer Detachment

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Staff Sgt. Andrew Black moved back toward the Huskey mine clearance vehicle to watch from a safe distance as a team traced the wire of a suspected improvised explosive device back toward the road.

His military working dog, Lobo, was held on the end of a leash and the pair was taking a short break after searching the last 500 meters.

Suddenly, enemy forces unleashed AK-47 fire from a position 400 meters away. The team tracing the wire hit the ground and returned fire. Support vehicles joined in, engaged the enemy and after five minutes forced the attackers to withdraw.

The team lost the wire during the engagement and was now scrambling to reacquire it. Black brought Lobo up front to search. Lobo walked out front, nose to the ground, with Black still on the leash close behind.

After about 70 meters, Lobo stopped. Black called Lobo back, marked the site and called for support. The site was investigated and 200 pounds of homemade explosive was found buried four feet down.

Black and Lobo are a mine detection dog team belonging to the 49th Engineer Detachment from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Military working dogs are trained to search for, detect and warn of buried mines, explosives and other casualty-producing devices. Handlers are experienced combat engineers who work with and direct the dogs during searches.

The 49th Engineer Detachment has maintained a constant presence in Afghanistan since 2004, neutralizing the threat of mines and unexploded ordnance in support of tactical operations. The detachment deploys squads of dog teams. Since their involvement began in Operation Endur-



PHOTO BY 1LT. DAVID BRINK

Mine detection dog Gill and his handler search for explosives while a Soldier pulls security during a patrol in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, in May.

ing Freedom, mine detection dogs have proven effective, capable of area reduction and delineation of minefields, route clearance, clearance verification, creation of safe lanes through mine fields and mine field casualty extraction.

Potential handlers go through the six-month mine detection dog course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and graduate with the additional skill identifier “K9.” Potential handlers must also interview with a kennel master, during which expectations are defined. Once accepted to the school, handlers spend months with their new four-legged partners, training on obedience, explosive detection and minefield clearance, as well as studying canine behavior and behavioral conditioning techniques.

Teams arriving at the 49th Engineer Detachment immediately begin training for deployment. The senior trainer of the detachment, an experienced mine detection dog NCO, leads the training, implementing real world scenarios. Teams also conduct training missions with units on post, units conducting pre-deployment training and field training exercises.

Mine detection dog teams are also utilized for unexploded ordnance clearance in support of range control. Prior to deployment, mine detection dog teams must gain certification. Mine detection dog teams travel to Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz., where officials certify the teams.

The 49th Engineers deployed to Afghanistan work with the Mine

Action Center, performing quality assurance and quality control tasks for the mine clearance of Bagram Airfield, one of the most heavily-mined areas in the world. Since 2004, the mine detection dog teams assisted in the clearance of 6.7 million square meters on Bagram Airfield.

“It’s here where they show their true capability beyond the instrument search limitations,” explained Australian Maj. John Riley, Mine Action Center officer in charge. “We would not be able to achieve the quality assurance that we provide without their support.”

The 49th Engineer Detachment also assists the Mine Action Center with quick reaction force missions for vehicles, aircraft or per-

sonnel caught in minefields. Mine detection dogs are able to search more rapidly and deploy to areas unreachable by manual and mechanical means so a mine detection dog team is always on standby for these missions. Mine detection dog teams have been called upon many times to clear safe lanes through potentially mined areas to reach downed aircraft or stranded vehicles.

The U.S. military also uses mine detection dog teams for quality assurance and quality control of potential sites during builds and expansions of bases and outposts. Prior to construction, mine detection dog teams deploy to the potential build site to ensure the area is free of explosives prior to construction. This additional request for mine detection dog support required the detachment to deploy another squad. Since 2010, mine detection dog teams have cleared more than 250,000 square meters in preparation for site construction.

In 2010, mine detection dog teams started integrating heavily into route clearance operations due to the constant improvised explosive device and mine threat along routes in Afghanistan. Route clearance units continue to see the added value to having a mine dog team. Mine detection dog teams are able to detect the deep-buried explosives mechanical means may not pick up. They are able to traverse routes not accessible to much of the route clearance equipment and they provide a faster means of search for deliberate clearance.

Because of their growing reputation, versatility and effectiveness record, the mine detection dog teams have made an enduring impact on the global war on terrorism and are sought after by engineers, infantry, and special operations to support route clearance and maneuver operations. Mine detection dogs have deployed to all regions of Afghanistan and have proven effective in any environment.

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Tuesdays beginning at 5 pm. The LZ hosts Taco Tuesday which features \$1 tacos, with the purchase of a beverage. Other specials include: \$2 margaritas (on the rocks) and \$2 chips & queso.

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Specials are available for dine in only and cannot be combined with other offers or discounts.

World of nature on display at Montgomery Zoo

Army Flier
Staff Report

Featuring more than 500 animals from five different continents spread out over 40 acres of facilities, the Montgomery Zoo features a world of nature in just under a two-hour drive from Fort Rucker.

From the jungles of South America to the savannahs of Africa, to the hilltops of Asia to the tall grasses of North America and more, the zoo offers a view of exotic wild-life and endangered species visitors can take in while strolling through the facility, or riding on the miniature train – complete with military discounts, according to the zoo’s website at www.montgomeryzoo.com.

While visiting the zoo, people can also enjoy the Mann Museum that hosts more than 275 exhibits of wildlife, fresh and saltwater fish, reptiles and insects that are found in North America. The museum also houses more than 70 exhibits mounted in life size, according to the site.

The museum displays are unique in that visitors can view the exhibit from three sides, under special lighting. Visitors also have the opportunity to hear natural sounds from the animals.

The Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum are open year round, seven days per week, with the exception of Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years Day. The zoo and museum are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The last admission tickets are sold and major animal exhibits begin closing at 4:30 p.m.

Animal exhibits at the zoo include African elephants and their habitat to the roaring lions and black-footed penguins. The zoo’s Overlook Cafe is surrounded by animals, offering a view unique to the zoo. People can also take a train ride while seeing the sights. From the train people can see many exhibits, as well as the zoo’s lake, which is inhabited by a variety of birds and water fowl.

The zoo also features an aviary. The aviary offers the birds the freedom to fly and roam, allowing people an up-close look at the birds. The aviary houses a variety of birds that are native to the South American tropics.

And then there is the reptile house, which is home to



COURTESY PHOTO

some of the world’s most exotic snakes and reptiles. All are nested in natural settings, offering an up-close and personal view – from a safe distance.

For more on the zoo and museum, visit www.montgomeryzoo.com or call (334) 240-4900. The zoo is located at 2301 Coliseum Parkways, Montgomery, Ala., 36110.

Admission prices for the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum:

- **Military adults (13 and older)** — \$9 for zoo, \$5 for

museum, \$14 both;

- **Military Children (3-12)** — \$6.50 for zoo, \$3.50 for museum, \$10 for both;

- **Adults (13 and older)** — \$10 for zoo, \$6 for museum, \$14 for both;

- **Children (3-12)** — \$7 for zoo, \$4 for museum, \$10 for both;

- **Seniors (65 and older)** — \$9 for zoo, \$5 for museum, \$14 for both; and

- **Toddler (younger than 2)** — Free for all facilities.

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ANDALUSIA

MONDAY-AUG. 3 — The Andalusia Ballet Studio hosts its annual summer intensive dance classes at the Andalusia Ballet Church Street Cultural Arts Centre. The training is for experienced dancers ages 8 and up in ballet technique, jazz, and modern. For more information, call 222-6620 or email info@andalusiaballet.com.

DALEVILLE

NOW THROUGH AUG. 1 — Registration for pee wee football is now through Aug. 1. Practice sessions begin the first part of August and the season runs through Nov. 1. For more information, visit www.dalevilleal.com.

DOTHAN

FRIDAY — Landmark Park’s Animal Adventures begins at 10 a.m. for children ages 5 and up. Scheduled topics are “Let’s Go Fishin’” on Friday and “What Came First” July 27. Registration is required and the program is free with paid gate admission. For more information, call 794-3452.

TUESDAY — “Health Chats - How to Naturally Help Neck/Shoulder and Rotator Cuff Problems” at the Carnes Chiropractic and Wellness Center, EMS Classroom, 2323 at 6:15 p.m. Free and open to the public. For more information, call (334) 794-2225.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY — Landmark Park’s Discovery Room provides a closer look at ecology to educate children from 10 a.m. until noon and Sunday from 2-5 p.m. For more information, call 794-3452.

NOW THROUGH JULY 31 — Landmark Park hosts a military appreciation month. Military members receive \$10 off membership. The park also provides a free Digitarium Planetarium Program for mili-

tary families Saturday at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m. For more information, call 794-3452.

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.

ONGOING — The Boll Weevil Dance Club meets every Friday from 7-10 p.m. at the Enterprise “Jug” Brown Recreation Center. Cost is \$5 per person. For more information, call 347-3381.

GENEVA

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

For more information, call 248-4495.

MIDLAND CITY

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

For more information, call 983-3511.

NEW BROCKTON

ONGOING — Every Tuesday and Wednesday, Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 99 maintains a service office in the New Brockton police station. The

officers can help veterans and their spouses with disability compensation claims, VA pension, death benefits, VA medical care, Social Security disability benefits, veterans’ job programs and other veteran services. All veteran services provided are free of charge. For more information, please call Chuck Lobdell at 718-5707.

OZARK

JULY 28 — The American Cancer Society’s sixth annual Rolling Thunder Ride begins at Larry’s BBQ. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the first bike out is 10 a.m. Cost is \$20 per bike and \$10 per rider. For more information, call 566-2140.

NOW THROUGH AUG. 4 — The Ann Rudd Art Center/Dowling Museum is sponsoring an exhibit of nature-related art, the 2012 Nature Show. Artists 18 years or older are eligible to enter up to three pieces, in any combination of painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking and photography with a theme that relates to nature. Works must be original (not from a kit) and all works must remain in the gallery for the duration of the show. Previous contest-winning pieces may not be entered. Entry fee is \$35 for non-members and \$30 for members of DCCA for the first entry and \$5 for each additional entry, up to three total entries. Entry fees are not refundable. The “Nature Show” runs until Aug. 4. For more information, call 774-7145 or visit www.ruddartcenter.org.

AUG. 18 THROUGH SEPT. 28 — The Dale County Council of Arts and Humanities is pleased to announce the 12th annual Regional Juried Art Exhibition that will be held at the Ann Rudd Art Center/Dowling Museum. Entry fee for non-members is \$35 and \$30 for DCCA members for the first entry. One or two additional entries are \$5 each (three is the maximum that can be entered). Offered awards will be \$250 for first place, \$150 second place, \$100 third place and four \$50 merit awards. Due date

of entry fees and art work is Aug. 4, 1-4 p.m. Opening reception and award presentation is Aug. 18, 7-9 p.m. For more information, visit www.ruddartcenter.org.

PINCKARD

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

SAMSON

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

TROY

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

VARIOUS LOCATIONS

NOW THROUGH 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.

Post housing questions?
Visit Picerne Military Housing at www.ruckerpicerne.com and click the feedback/information link.

Beyond Briefs

Pier Park Summer Concert Series

Relax and enjoy free music on the lawn at Panama City Beach’s Aaron Bessant Amphitheater. The concerts are open to the public and free of charge. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets for more comfort. Food and coolers are allowed. Scheduled bands include Heritage tonight, George Porter Jr. and the Runnin’ Parners today, The Lee Boys today and Boukou Groove on July 26. All concerts start at 7 p.m. For more information, visit pcbeach.org.

Cake Decorating Challenge

The “Mission Possible” Cake Decorating Challenge is July 29 from noon until 5 p.m. at Moose Lodge, Fort Walton Beach. It is open to all ages and skills. For more information or an entry form, visit www.NWFLFightsMS.org.

79th Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo

The annual Alabama Dauphin Island Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo is Friday-Sunday in Mobile Bay. Free to the public. For more information call (251) 471-0025 or visit www.adsfr.com.

Wine and Cheese Reception

The fourth annual Wine and Cheese Reception to benefit the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge is Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at the Magnolia Grill in Fort Walton Beach. Cost is \$15 per person. For more information, call (850) 302-0266

Ballet Show

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival Blount Cultural Park hosts “Performance on the Green” from 8-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Free to public. For more information, call (334) 409-0522 or visit www.montgomeryballet.org.

Archery Tournament

Choctaw Bowmen Archery Club will host its first 3D tournament Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Entry fee is \$15 and kids 12 and under shoot for free.

For more information, visit www.choctawbowmen.com.

Triathlon

Wet Dog Triathlon in Decatur takes place Saturday in Point Mallard Park at 7 a.m. Fee for participants only.

For more information, call Leah Brown at (256) 353-0157 or visit www.bbbsmcal.org.

Music and Arts Festival

Wetumpka’s River and Blues Music and Arts Festival takes place Saturday from 2-10 p.m. Free to the public. For more information, visit <http://www.riverandblues.net>.

Army discontinues NASCAR sponsorship

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — After this year, the Army will no longer sponsor a NASCAR team as part of its national branding and accession efforts. But the service will continue other programs to attract new Soldiers and keep itself in the public eye.

"We do a wide array of traditional advertising, and we also do a whole bunch of digital outreach through Web platforms and social media," said John Myers, director, marketing support element, Army Marketing and Research Group.

"We are in every state and every major market, with other marketing and advertising assets. Motorsports, particularly NASCAR, is only one tactic of our overall branding strategy to connect the Army with America," he said.

During fiscal year 2012, the Army committed about \$8.4 million to NASCAR sponsorship, which includes 12 NASCAR races. The relationship between the Army and the NASCAR team it sponsors with Ryan Newman will end when the current NASCAR season concludes.

Myers said the Army is looking to reach a particular segment of the population, men between the ages of 18 to 24. But the NASCAR audience, he said, is "starting to skew older."

Now, he said, "we can't justify the investment in NASCAR as much as we can in other things that we are doing; so when our budget is being reduced, we have to make tough decisions. This is a process that we continually undertake as far as analyzing what we are getting for our marketing activity."

The Army isn't pulling out of motorsports entirely. Marketing with the National Hot Rod Association, or NHRA, for instance, "is still giving us good numbers," Myers said.

The Army has a 10-year, ongoing relationship with NHRA and Tony "the Sarge" Schumacher.

“We want to continue that rela-



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

The Army pit crew changes two tires on the Army Chevy Impala following a caution for light rain. After this year, the Army will no longer sponsor a NASCAR team as part of its national branding and accession efforts. But the service will continue other programs to attract new Soldiers and keep itself in the public eye.

tionship in 2013," Myers said, "because the metrics are suggesting that it is still a very good market for us."

The Army is also involved in the All-American Bowl championship each January. Next year, during the January 2013 All-American Bowl, the Army will kick off a partnership with the NFL Hall of Fame when it announces, at the bowl game, the 2013 U.S. Army Pro Football Hall of Fame Award for Excellence Program winner.

The winner will be chosen from a pool of 10 high school students and can be anyone who demonstrates excellence in academics, athletics or community service. Myers said the partnership with the NFL Hall of Fame will be good for the Army.

“How the public considers the

NFL, their brand awareness and how it aligns with Army values, that's probably one of the better picks if you are looking for opportunities to exploit," Myers said. "The attributes and values that we insist upon are very closely aligned with some of the values that members who have been selected for the NFL Hall of Fame display."

The Army is looking to market to a more diverse audience, and so its efforts include targeting more than just sports.

"In everything we do, we want to make sure that we are reaching the prospect target population, in a number of ways," Myers said. "Not only in numbers; 18 to 24-year-old young men is our major target market, but also within that market, also other mission aspects. If you're going to be representative

of the American population, which the Army wants to do, you need to have proper representation of diversity and ethnicity.”

Around the United States, the Army puts itself in front of the American public, and in front of potential Soldiers, through sponsorship of and participation in the activities of groups like the League of Latin American Citizens, First Robotics, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, Infinite Scholars, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Great Minds in STEM, the National Society of Black Engineers and FFA.

Myers said the Army is looking for a prospect pool of "high quality and diversity." To do that, he said, the approach must be tailored to reach a diverse market. And the Army must also influence parents,

teachers, peers and community leaders.

"We do thousands of events across the country," Myers said. "Robotics competitions; we invest in events such as FFA, Skills USA, Association for Career and Technical Education and dozens more. We will redistribute the NASCAR funds to supplement our approach to these other venues that have a higher payoff for us."

While the Army's sponsorship of NASCAR will end, the Army will continue marketing itself to the American people and seek new recruits.

"We will continue, as we always do, to investigate opportunities to put the Army forward to the American people and the prospects that we need to join the Army," Myers said.

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U.S. basketball teams wow service members, Families

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

WASHINGTON — The men’s and women’s U.S. national basketball teams, which are preparing for the upcoming Olympics in London, put on a show for service members, their Families and other fans at the Washington, D.C., National Guard Armory Saturday.

The “Hoops for Troops” program, launched in 2006, provides support for the U.S. military and their Families through programs, events and partnerships, according to the USA Basketball website.

The audience included Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Navy Adm. James “Sandy” A. Winnefeld Jr., Joint Chiefs of Staff vice chairman; and Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Bryan B. Battaglia, the chairman’s senior enlisted adviser.

Military children, service members and fans were treated to activities including a girls’ basketball clinic led by members of the women’s U.S. national basketball team, a skills challenge where troops teamed up with NBA players, viewing of the men’s U.S. national team conducting practice and a basketball scrimmage.

“It was awesome. It was just a tremendous honor to be here,” Navy Lt. Cmdr. Charles Drey said. “It was a great experience, and I was very excited.”

Drey, assigned to U.S. Fleet Forces Command, represented the Navy and was paired with Brooklyn Nets point guard Deron Williams for the skills challenge, which the duo won.

“My son got to watch me do it too, so I was very happy,” Drey said. “It was such an honor to represent the Navy and the men and women of the military and their Families.

“And also having the wounded warriors here,” he continued. “It was so awesome to be out on the court, even just by the NBA players [and] Team USA — the team that’s going to represent our country. It was a great experience.”

The USA Basketball players were equally happy to have an opportunity to meet with service members, their Families and fans.

“They humble us. I mean they do so much for our country and represent our flag,” said Kevin Love, power forward for the Minnesota Timberwolves. “We just go out there and play basketball. So they are the reason we have our freedom.”

Service members “protect and serve so we can live the lives we live today,” Love added. “So it’s pretty cool to be out there performing in front of them but they’re doing all the good deeds for us, really, so we have to pay homage to them.”

Others such as ESPN basketball analyst Jay Bilas were touched when members of the ceremonial 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, the Army’s “Old Guard” presented the patches from their uniform sleeves to USA Basketball team members as Dempsey wished the players well during the London Olympics.

“It was a great day for USA Basketball, for the Olympic movement and the Olympic team,” Bilas said. “I think it was just a great day for our country.”

The basketball analyst noted U.S. national men’s team Coach Mike Krzyzewski, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., served in the Army for five years, which has inspired a lot of what the team does in emulating the military “on a much smaller scale.”

Bilas said he was unable to put into words what it meant to him to see the troops take their American flag patches off their uniforms and present them to the basketball players.

“It was so moving,” he said.



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

Service members stand in front of a trampoline as a performer with the USA Basketball team prepares for a stunt during the “Hoops for Troops” program at the Washington D.C., National Guard Armory July 14.

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By Nathan Pfau and
Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writers

With such a wide variety of activities and sports for people to participate in at Fort Rucker, many people seem to overlook that there is a full compound dedicated to horses and their riders.

The Fort Rucker Riding Stables offers services like boarding privately owned horses, entertainment for seasonal events like the Fright Night Haunted Hay Ride, birthday pony parties and riding trails, according to Marty Haverfield, recreation aide at the riding stables.

The boarding of privately owned horses is open to the public, but active-duty military have priority, and pricing depends on a person's rank and the type of stall they wish to have their horse boarded in, she said, adding that immunization for all horses that are boarded is required and proof must be furnished to the stable office.

"The opportunity out here is fabulous," said Dany Benehan, military spouse. "There is no waiting list to board right now, which is crazy because the stables offer everything: lessons, fields, parties, and miles and miles of trails."

Benehan and her daughters, Rylie and Kiera, have their horses, Dante, Huey, and Stella, boarded at the stables and enjoy coming out to ride from time to time.

"We've been riding since we were 8 years old," said Rylie. "It's fun to come out here and ride with other people."

The riding stables also offers riding instruction from contract instructors.

"We do have one instructor on contract right now that offers lessons and she will furnish the horse," said Haverfield. "She teaches both English- and Western-style riding."

The lessons take place at the riding stables in any of the arenas, depending on the lesson type, she added.

There are two lighted arenas available for night riding, two-round pens and two regulation-size dressage arenas, said the recreation aide.

"It's a very unique one-of-a-kind facility, especially for the military," said the recreation aide. "Most boarding stables may be able to offer the stabling and the work arenas, but they don't have the trails that we do."

The facility has access to 30-50 miles of marked trails, depending on which areas are available throughout the year, she added.

The riding stables is also a place where Families can come and enjoy children's birthday parties with a birthday pony party.

The birthday pony party consists of access to parts of the facility for three hours, including the clubhouse, and one hour with Tony the Pony and his handler, said Haverfield.

The clubhouse has bathrooms, refrigerators and a kitchen for people to use during parties, but the kitchen area is not currently accessible because the clubhouse is being renovated, said Aida Diaz-Carter, business manager for the community recreation division.

"People can utilize the front of the clubhouse for parties, but when the clubhouse does fully reopen, people will have a place to store their food and grill outside if they wish," she said.



PHOTO BY SARA E. MARTIN

Dante, a strawberry roan Quarter Horse Belgian Cross, carries his rider Kiera Benehan, military Family member, through an exercise at the Fort Rucker riding stables Monday.



Rylie Benehan, military Family member, does a trick on Spanky, an American Quarter Horse, at the Fort Rucker riding stables Monday.

The cost of the birthday pony party is \$75 while the clubhouse is under renovation and \$85 when the clubhouse is complete, Haverfield added.

Along with everything else the riding stables offers, it is also getting ready for its Fright Night

Haunted Hay Ride in October.

"Fright Night is an amazing time where people will come out here and we'll take them on a hayride into the woods and around a graveyard," said Carter. "It takes months to put this on because we have over 200 volunteers that

help us put it together."

The facility is looking for volunteers to sign up and help with the event, she said. Anybody over the age of 16 can volunteer to help with building, make-up and costumes, and acting to scare patrons.

"We get people coming in from all over the place just to get scared, and they will get scared," said Carter.

For more information on boarding, pricing, riding instruction, volunteering or birthday parties, call 598-3384.

DOWN TIME



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

T R I V I A

1. MOVIES: What was Indiana Jones' real first name in Steven Spielberg's movie series?
2. LANGUAGE: What is a raincoat called in English slang?
3. GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest European country where people still drive on the left?
4. MUSIC: What rock band included musicians Glenn Frey, Don Henley, Bernie Leadon and Randy Meisner?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of flamingos called?
6. COMICS: What is the name of Jeremy's brother in the comic strip "Zits"?
7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What former first lady appeared in a margarine commercial on television?
8. LITERATURE: In "The Polar Express," what present did the boy ask Santa Claus to give him?
9. ENTERTAINERS: Comedian Minnie Pearl used to wear a trademark hat with a price tag hanging from it. What was the amount on the tag?
10. ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar system has a large red spot on it?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

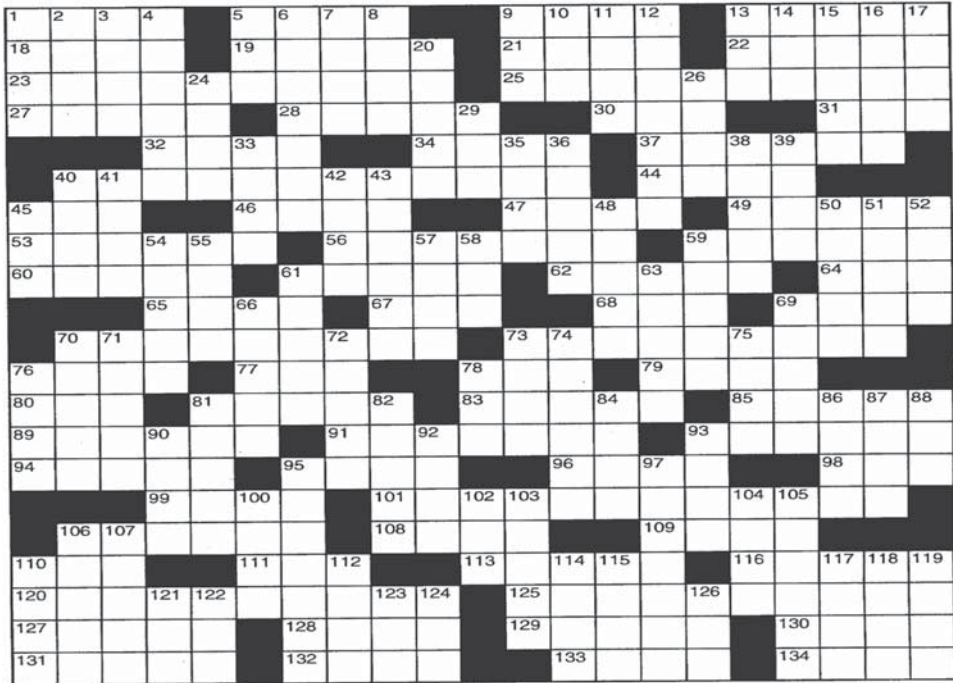
Super Crossword

SIX-FOOTERS

- ACROSS**

1 Kite or coat
5 Chihuahua snack
9 "Goodbye, Columbus" author
13 Egyptian Nobel
18 Sore
19 Addis —
21 Merrill melody
22 Menander's marketplace
23 6' actress
25 6' comedian
27 Cook clams
28 Trickles
30 Clean-air org.
31 Cartoon cry
32 Wool gatherer?
34 Not — many words
37 "Animal Farm" author
40 6' actor
44 Garfield's pal
45 Tie the knot
46 38 Down, for one
47 — impasse
49 Sour sort
53 Swallow up
56 Undergoes
59 Make a pile?
60 Pool person
- 61 Puzzling problem
62 Scarlett's sweetheart
64 Actress Hagen
65 Potter's need
67 Browning's bedtime?
68 Diva Marton
69 Young or King
70 6' designer
73 6' author
76 Art deco figure
77 Marsh
78 Parenthesis shape
79 Melodious
80 McEntire
81 Robert of "The Citadel"
83 Feline, familiarly
85 Force
89 '66 Michael Caine movie
91 Supervise
93 Take for granted
94 Attack
95 They may get cold
96 Ring out
98 Fix a fight
99 And others
101 6' singer
- 106 Paraguayan title
108 Mediocre
109 When pigs whistle, to Tennyson
110 Mongrel
111 Address abbr.
113 Actress Hedren
116 Gettysburg commander
120 6' trumpeter
125 6' anthropologist
127 Doll up
128 Ireland
129 County in
130 Scorch
131 Pass on
132 Crowd-burst?
133 Part of a threat
134 Connecticut campus
- DOWN**

1 Supermarket supplies
2 "New Jack City" actor
3 Korean statesman
4 Go-getter
5 Lincoln son
6 Disconcerts
7 Spelunker's spot
8 Tony's cousin
9 Scott's "The — Quartet"
10 Mispickel, e.g.
11 Become winded
12 Queequeg's weapon
13 Mr. Mineo
14 Season firewood
15 Peg
16 Shake-spearean sprite
17 Chore
20 Clear jelly
24 Love, to Livy
26 Grounds
29 — Cat (winter transport)
33 Relief initials?
35 Constellation component
36 Furry fisherman
38 Cowes' locale
39 First name in architecture
40 Fellow
41 Brink
42 Role for Liz
43 Has a hunch
45 Craven or Unseid
48 Peter of Peter and Gordon
50 It's down in the mouth
51 Copper or cobalt
52 Mastermind
54 Quitter's cry
55 Vegetate
57 "Disco Duck" singer
58 Keatsian crock
59 Barrel part
61 Tower
63 Each's partner
66 Head monk
69 See 70 Down
70 With 69 Down, "Heaven" singer
71 Stuff
72 Dumbstruck
73 "True —" ('69 film)
74 Arm-y types?
75 Wading bird
76 Therefore
78 Canine grp.
81 "Same here!"
82 Lock
84 "Lemon —" ('65 hit)
86 Immaculate
87 Kuwaiti kingpin
88 Turkey serving
90 "I've — had!"
92 Conductor Klemperer
93 — vera
95 Roaring Twenties figure
97 Canvas shades
100 Inland sea
102 Superlative suffix
103 Nullifies
104 "Nautilus" captain
105 Formal
106 Kid stuff?
107 Comic Leon
110 Canterbury cleaner
112 Austin or Copley
114 Velvet feature
115 Bucket
117 On the briny
118 Distribute the deck
119 Rochester's missus
121 It may be strapless
122 Whichever
123 Carnival site
124 Big bang letters
126 Adversary



See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

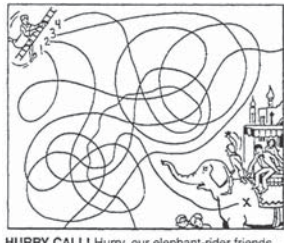
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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See Page D3 for this week's answers.

KID's CORNER



HURRY CALL! Hurry, our elephant-rider friends are in need of a ladder. Which path from top left leads to the scene?

ZANY POEM! To half a dozen, add half a score, and you will plainly see. Just twenty, neither less nor more — do tell, how can this be? See if you can puzzle it out.

SUM LENGTHS! Send a friend from the room. Place several coins upon the table and ask someone to point to a coin. Call back your friend, provide pencil and paper and ask him or her to jot down the identity of the selected coin. Alakazam, the answer is always correct. How come?

Secret: Answer is keyed to length of the pencil. Tie-in to coins is devised and memorized prior to performance of the trick. Give it a try.



PICK A PARTNER BOXING MATCH

THERE'S a box for this and a box for that listed below. And there's a companion list of box-related "partners." How quickly can you match lists?

1. Sandbox
2. Mailbox
3. Soapbox
4. Jury box
5. Shoe box
6. Press box
7. Hatbox
8. Tackle box
9. Flower box
10. Saltbox
11. Strongbox
12. Ballot box
- panelist
writer
bandit
angler
voter
gardener
realtor
toddlor
postman
orator
cobble
milliner

Note: Each box is to have just one partner.
Time limit: 2 minutes.

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

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Soldier reinvents career, set to make Paralympic history

By Michael Molinaro
U.S. Army Marksmanship
Unit Public Affairs

(Third in a six-part series featuring U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Soldiers headed to the Olympics)

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Nine years after losing his leg in a rocket-propelled grenade attack while on patrol in Iraq, Sgt. 1st Class Josh Olson has reinvented his Army career. Going from an Infantry squad leader to a wounded warrior, he is now a Paralympic shooter.

But in October of 2003, Olson's future had been less certain. Recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center with the loss of his right leg still fresh in his mind, Olson didn't know if the last page in his Army story had just been written.

He was confident he would complete rehabilitation in time to return to his duty station at Fort Campbell, Ky., to welcome home his battle buddies returning from Iraq. The last time they'd seen him, he was being pulled out of the wreckage of a Humvee. Olson knew he would walk again with the use of prosthesis. What he didn't expect was to discover a marksmanship talent that would lead him to make history at the Paralympic Games.

Nine years since the day that changed his life, Olson isn't just still writing his Army story, he is creating new chapters as a pioneer and inspiration to a generation of wounded veterans and Soldiers.

When Olson, a member of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, participates in the 2012 Paralympic Games opening ceremonies Aug. 29 in London, he will officially become the first combat-injured active-duty service member to ever take part in the event.

Through competitions and World Cups, Olson did well enough to secure a spot for the U.S. in rifle competition. In turn, the U.S. Selection Committee picked Olson to compete in two rifle events at the Games.

"When I got the call it was such a relief," said Olson, who will compete in Mixed 50m Prone Rifle and Mixed 10m Air Rifle. "I felt like 500 pounds was taken off my back. I sat down and knew I would never have to carry that weight again. Now I could focus on the games as well as getting the new guys here to the unit."

Historic expansion

The 'new guys' Olson refers to are injured Soldiers who are deemed able to continue serving on active duty. This past spring the Army approved the historic expansion of the USAMU with the addition of 24 new Soldiers to



PHOTO COURTESY OF USA SHOOTING

Sgt. 1st Class Josh Olson, with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, competes in an air rifle match. Olson will become the first combat-wounded active-duty service member to compete in the Paralympics when he steps to the firing line in London.

make up the newly-created Paralympic section and a marksmanship instructor group. It goes into effect Oct. 1.

While his current focus is training for the Paralympic Games, he is also looking ahead to recruiting and mentoring other injured Soldiers who are facing similar life-altering circumstances and career changes as he did nine years ago.

"Now, instead of getting injured and being told 'thanks for your service' and you have to get out, the Army is affording Soldiers the opportunity to stay on active duty the same way I was," Olson said. "Now all of that knowledge isn't going to be lost and we can incorporate them into our shooting program and instructor group and keep making an impact on our Army."

In many ways, Olson is a pioneer -- something that isn't lost on him. The poster child for humility, Olson recognizes he is setting examples all over the place for Soldiers who have been severely injured in combat. He said he looks forward to the day years from now when he can look back on this chapter in his life and see its results.

Emerging talent

As part of his rehabilitation at Walter Reed, Olson said the nurses always tried to encourage patients to participate in activities. One of the outdoor events Olson took part in was a sporting clay shoot. After hitting 49 out of the first 50 shots

that he took, people around him took notice.

The program director at the time called the USAMU and asked if they were interested in making wounded Soldiers into rifle shooters. Seven months later after a try-out and an interview, Olson was at Fort Benning assigned to the "Home of Champions."

"Anybody overcoming anything in life, if they have a goal, if they have something to concentrate on, it really helps," Olson said. "In shooting sports, it doesn't matter how old you are or what your athletic ability is. I was pretty good at it right away and that's when I realized that this is what I wanted to do."

At the unit he was surrounded by world champions, former NCAA champions and world-class talent at every firing point. While he envisioned having to work hard to warrant his new battle buddies' respect, he didn't know that it had already been earned.

"When he first walked through that door I said to myself 'that is a Soldier,'" said Staff Sgt. George Norton. "That is a Soldier from the line who has deployed, who has a lot of guidance, and I better respect him." That was before he ever even spoke to me. He had that presence."

Olson worked hard at honing his new craft and in just a few years was an alternate on the 2008 Paralympic team. Not making the team stung, Olson admitted, but it was a

motivational tool that he is reaping the benefits of this time around.

"One of the great things about shooting sports is even if you shoot a perfect score there is always some aspect you can improve on," Olson said. "It's what gets me out of bed every day. Some days I am tired, don't want to shoot that day, don't want to put my leg on -- but there are people counting on me to perform well."

Olson added that he doesn't hope that those Soldiers who arrive at the unit follow in his footsteps but instead blow everything he ever did out of the water and succeed. That notion isn't lost on Norton or his teammates at the unit.

"Shooting is a thing he had found very therapeutic," Norton said. "So when he was given that opportunity I know he was able to use it. When they say he needed shooting I think shooting needed him, especially the Paralympic movement here in the U.S."

There are open doors

If he isn't showcasing the Army worldwide in a competition or providing marksmanship instruction to Soldiers from around the Army, Olson is trying to inspire other injured Soldiers and veterans to realize that there are opportunities for them in the world.

"You may think all the doors are closed or shut in your face, but if you look hard enough one is going to be open," Olson said. "A lot of

people quit after they get told no time after time. You can't do that. If you keep trying, you'll find a door that opens."

The selfless acts of Olson are never lost on those at the USAMU. Junior Soldiers see him as someone they strive to be, not just as a shooter or as a Soldier, but simply as a person.

"Sergeant Olson is what makes this Army and this country great," said Sgt. Joe Hein. "With what he's gone through and what he's accomplished since he's been here and the people that he's impacted around the world, it's simply incredible. I try to live by his example."

If fans are looking for someone to cheer for this summer in London, they should cheer for Olson, Hein said.

Olson said that he has been preparing for his moment at the Paralympics since he signed into the unit seven years ago. He doesn't want to just go to participate in the Games -- he wants to be the best in the world.

"I've been very fortunate to help liberate a country while in combat and make history," Olson said. "Well now I get to make history again but in a total new battlefield, in the sports arena. I get to show the world a whole new side of a U.S. Soldier then they may have ever seen. I am going to show the world that you can knock a Soldier down but you can't knock him out."

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

1. Henry
2. A "mac," short for "Macintosh"
3. United Kingdom
4. Eagles
5. A flamboyance
6. Chad
7. Eleanor Roosevelt
8. A silver bell
9. \$1.98
10. Jupiter

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword Answers

BIRD	TACO	ROTH	SADAT
ACHY	ABABA	ARIA	AGORA
GEENADAVIS	JERRY	LEWIS	
STEAM	SEEPS	EPA	EEK
MOTH	INSO	ORWELL	
GEORGE	SCOTT	ODIE	
WED	ISLE	ATAN	GRUMP
ENGULF	ENDURES	SHOVEL	
STENO	POSER	RHETT	UTA
CLAY	EEN	EVA	ALAN
BILL	BASS	GORE	VIDAL
ERTE	BOG	ARC	REBA
RYE	DONAT	KITTY	TMPEL
GAMBIT	PROCTOR	ASSUME	
ONSET	FEET	PEAL	RIG
ETAL	STEVIE	WONDER	
SENORA	SOSO	NEER	
CUR	APT	TIPPI	MEADE
HERBAL	PERT	DIAN	FOSSEY
ADORN	ERIN	SLIGO	SEAR
RELAY	RIOT	ELSE	YALE

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EVERYDAY 2:00, 7:00 & 9:40


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in BRAVE IN 2D - PG EVERYDAY 2:10 & 7:10
SAVAGES - R EVERYDAY 9:10

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EVERYDAY 2:00 & 9:20
MAGIC MIKE - R EVERYDAY 7:10 ONLY
ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT
IN 3D PG EVERYDAY 2:10, 7:10 & 9:10




in TYLER PERRY'S MADEA'S
WITNESS PROTECTION - PG-13
EVERYDAY 2:00, 7:00 & 9:30

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KIDDEE MATINEE, THURSDAY, JULY 19 • 9:30 AM
CLARK CINEMA - CHAMPANIZE - G
TYLER PERRY'S MADEA'S
WITNESS PROTECTION - PG-13
M-F 7:00 • \$8.5 2:00 & 7:00
SPIDERMAN IN 3D PG-13
EVERYDAY 9:20
ICE AGE: CONTINENTAL DRIFT -
IN 2D PG M-F 7:00 & 9:00 • \$8.5 2, 7 & 9

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Video Game Spotlight >>

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



COURTESY SCREENSHOT

NCAA Football 13 provides more of the same

By Jim Van Slyke
Contributing Writer

The pigskin was not reinvented for “NCAA Football 13.” While there have been some new features added and there is at least the appearance of a new mode, this is very close to what we saw in last year’s game.

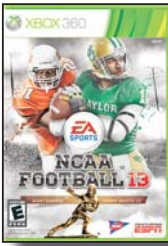
But before you throw a yellow flag, let’s consider that last year’s game wasn’t so bad and it’s not like Electronic Arts grabbed your facemask and said, “You’re getting the same game as last year only with roster updates and you’ll like it!”

There are new team run-outs, mascots and pre-game traditions. The passing system has also been tweaked and the in-game commentary and analysis has been improved. There are even new ways to scout players and interact with a Dynasty team from the Internet. “NCAA Football 13” also offers new drop backs for quarterbacks, new pass trajectories (so they aren’t all lobbs), new moves for the QB to avoid

sacks, receiver awareness and pass coverages that are better disguised.

The game’s biggest tout so far is the Heisman Challenge, a mode that lets gamers play a selection of former Heisman Trophy winners to see if they can replicate that player’s award-winning season — on their real-life team or on another team. While it does have some bells and whistles, this mode really boils down to a create-a-player option. Gamers have long been able to create their favorite real-life player and then stick him on any team in “NCAA Football.”

“NCAA Football 13” is better than what we saw last year, and it’s still definitely worth your time. It might feel familiar to those who played the game before, but in this case that’s perfectly OK.



Publisher
Electronic Arts
Rated
Everyone
Systems
Xbox 360, PS3
Cost
\$60
Overall
3 out of 4




COURTESY SCREENSHOT

Reviewed on Xbox 360

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