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ARMY FLYER

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

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FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

SEPTEMBER 27, 2012

Governor visits Fort Rucker

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley visited Fort Rucker Sept. 20 and toured the various airfields and training facilities on the installation to experience the home of Army Aviation first-hand.

"I really wanted to see the training that goes on here and I wanted to see the physical impact of what we see here today," said Bentley. "I'm just very honored to have served in the military, and when I see this it just makes me proud, not only of Alabama, but of America."

Escorted by Maj. Gen. Kevin W. Mangum, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, Bentley was taken on a tour of the installation and visited areas such as Cairnes Army Airfield and Allen Stage Field, where he met and spoke with Soldiers; as well as Warrior Hall in Daleville, where he was able to virtually take flight and experience what it's like to be an Army Aviator.

The governor got to try his hand at flying as he took his tour of the simulated flight training facility, where he was briefed on the type of training that takes place there. He was able to take flight in a number of simulators, including a CH-47 Chinook flight simulator.

"I've always wanted to fly in one of these," he said before entering the simulator.

The visit was Bentley's first visit to Fort Rucker and he said it was an honor to be able to visit a part of the state that is such and integral part of the economy in Alabama.

"[Fort Rucker] is very important, not just for the military, but for our local economy. [The installation] is actually one of the fourth or fifth largest employers in the state," he said. "Not only do we have a lot of military personnel here, but we have a lot of contractors who work here all the time. It would be very difficult to replicate this in any other part of the United States."

Bentley said the biggest impression that Fort Rucker had on him was the precision that the Soldiers and people on the installation use to execute their mission.

"Many of these young pilots that come here had no clue what a helicopter was except for [what they've seen in media]," he said. "They come here and in just a few weeks they are flying these helicopters. Once they learn, it not only gives them a skill, but it protects America."



PHOTO BY LISA EICHHORN

Maj. Gen. Kevin W. Mangum, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, speaks with Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley during an aerial tour of Fort Rucker in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during the governor's visit to the post Sept. 20.

Post improves parking by reducing reserved spots

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker is making changes to free up more parking spots at the most frequent facilities on post.

"The number of current reserved parking spots on Fort Rucker will be reduced in order to make room for the additional spots as well as comply with Army regulation," according to Maj. Joshua Munch, deputy provost marshal for the Directorate of Public Safety.

"What we're doing is getting into compliance with regulation FR190-5," said Munch, adding that the directive came from Maj. Gen. Kevin W. Mangum, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker Commanding General.

"When you go to the commissary or the post exchange, there appears to be

a large number of reserved spots," he said, "so, we will be reducing those reserved spots."

In addition to a spot for the Fort Rucker Volunteer of the Month, four parking spots will be designated for general officer, colonel, chief warrant officer 5, and command sergeant major or sergeant major, resulting in an elimination of over half the rank-based reserved spots between the two locations.

According to the Fort Rucker garrison commander, Col. Stuart McRae, this same reduction in parking spots will also be taking place at The Landing, the Andrews Physical Fitness Facility and the Silver Wings Golf Course.

"At these locations the contributions of the post's overwhelming DA civilian workforce will be recognized by including GS-15s on the spots reserved for colonels,"



PHOTO BY SARA E. MARTIN

Delane Daniels, Family member, is helped into a car by Pauline Hobbs, military spouse, in a handicap parking space on post. A new plan calls for parking improvements in the form of more parking spots and less reserved spots.

he said. "This effort will result in approximately 35 parking spots being returned to the public. The commanding general is committed to reducing the high number of unused reserved parking spots as a gesture of common courtesy."

Although there will be a significant reduction in reserved parking spots throughout the installation, handicapped parking, which is regulated by federal and state laws, will remain the same. Existing handicapped spots that are large enough

will now be labeled as van accessible.

"At The Landing, the overall number of handicapped spots will remain the same, but will be expanded to make the spots van accessible, which may reduce the general parking on the first row by one or two spots," McRae said. "This will be more than made up for, though, by the additional general parking that will be gained from the removal of most of the reserved parking."

Additionally, at the post exchange there will be a motorcycle-only parking area in a place that is currently labeled for no parking. According to Munch, that addition will remove the capability for motorcycles to be able to park on the end caps of the parking area.

"Motorcycles will no longer be allowed to park in those areas, and that will be

enforced," Munch said.

The parking regulation is also broken down into the unit and duty areas. Units can have military parking spots authorized as well as handicapped and visitor parking for their areas on the installation, but only 10 percent of their parking can be reserved for their senior leaders," he added.

Other changes that will be made include the motorcycle parking at Bldg. 5700. The current motorcycle parking areas will remain, but the spots will be split to make room for two motorcycles in each current spot.

"People should be prepared to see the changes happening in the upcoming week or two," Munch said. "It is expected that the commissary and the post exchange will be the first to adopt the change and the other facilities will follow in the coming weeks."

Fort Rucker community honors POWs, MIAs during ceremony



PHOTO BY SARA E. MARTIN

Veterans stand to be honored for their service to the nation while the "Armed Forces Service Medley" is played. Arthur J. Osepchhook, center, retired master sergeant, overwhelmed, sits to remember lost comrades.

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fog and a sprinkle of rain set a somber scene at the post's Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Remembrance Ceremony in Veterans Park Friday.

The ceremony paid tribute to the men and women of the armed forces who endured hardships while defending the nation's freedom as POWs and remembered those still MIA, and Chaplain (Col.) Dennis Newton, chief of operations of the religious support office, delivered a prayer to help those in need of closure.

"We celebrate our brothers and sisters in arms who have been captured and are yet missing. We ask you that the captives may be set free, that Families be reunited, that lives may be renewed. We ask you to bring closure to the missing, that, alive or dead, loved

ones may have relief and a sense of ending may be brought to them," he prayed.

Several civic and veteran organizations appeared at the ceremony including the Ex-Prisoners of War Association, Disabled American Veterans, Wiregrass Patriot Guard Riders, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Vietnam Veterans of America.

One veteran, Arthur J. Osepchhook, retired master sergeant who flew on B-17s/29s/36s/and 52s, said the ceremony was very emotional for him.

"My crew became prisoners of war when the aircraft went down. I and another Soldier fell out of the aircraft on my 21st mission. It was a miracle that I got out of the plane because I was a gunner and gunners don't get out," he remarked about the ordeal. "The tail was blown off and I had to bail

SEE POW/MIA, PAGE A4

PERSPECTIVE

Team IMCOM force multiplier in battle against suicide

By Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter
*Installation Management
Command Commanding General*

SAN ANTONIO — Today we will observe a “Stand Up for Life Day” as we take time to discuss ways to build resiliency among our workforce, emphasize positive health and wellness habits, and learn more about behaviors that may help us deal more effectively with stress.

All of this leads to a more balanced approach to living that recognizes the importance of life.

Our goal is for us all to understand the Army’s approach to suicide prevention, including risk reduction

techniques and prevention tools available to you, our Soldiers, civilians and Army Families.

Team IMCOM is a force multiplier in this effort because of our leadership role in delivering the key programs such as sponsorship, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program and transition that deliver Army Family Covenant and Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness programs. The benefits of physical fitness, intramural sports, child and youth recreation programs, and so many of the services that Installation Management Command provides can greatly enhance our resiliency

and overall well being.

Our shared responsibility to our Army — and each other — is to be fully knowledgeable with how to seek help and then communicate that knowledge to our Soldiers, civilians and Families.

So today, please give your full attention to the instructors, demonstrators, and leaders who will guide us through the day and take time to visit www.preventsuicide.army.mil and view the videos and messages from senior Army leaders, reference materials, commander’s tool kit, and much more so you can help win the fight and Stand Up for Life!

Army Strong!



ARMY PHOTO

Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter: “The benefits of physical fitness, intramural sports, child and youth recreation programs, and so many of the services IMCOM provides can greatly enhance our resiliency and overall well being.”

OSJA offers tips on child adoption in Alabama

By Capt. Kenneth Hall
*Fort Rucker Office of the
Staff Judge Advocate*

Did you know that in 2011 there were 1,296 children in Alabama waiting for an adoptive home? Did you know that you can go online and view pictures of these children?

If you’re considering adoption in Alabama, here’s some information that may come in handy:

- If you’re adopting in Alabama, you must be over 19 years old, and healthy enough to care for a child. If you’re married, the marriage needs to be at least three years long. At least one person in the marriage should be a U.S. citizen. Of course, your home must have enough room for the child, and a background check will be conducted on everyone in the home older than 19.
- If you adopt a child through the Alabama Department of Human Resources, no fees are charged. If you use a private agency there will be fees. Also, you may have to pay court

costs to get the adoption finalized; however, if you adopt a child through DHR, then you may be eligible for reimbursement of your adoption-related costs, including all court costs.

The Department of Defense also sponsors an adoption reimbursement program for qualified military Families. The DOD adoption reimbursement program will cover certain expenses associated with adoption – up to \$2,000. To qualify for the DOD reimbursement, the service member must be on continuous active duty for at least 180 days and the adoption must be complete while on active duty. You must submit a DD Form 2675 to request reimbursement no later than one year after the adoption is final.

For more information on this DOD program, send an email to CCL-Adoption-reimbursement@dfas.mil.

- If you’re interested in adopting a child, your first step should be to contact the Alabama DHR by calling 1 (866) 4AL-KIDS (425-5437) or emailing Families4ALKids@dhr.alabama.gov. You can request an adoption application and ask any questions. Once you

complete the adoption application, return it to the nearest DHR county office. DHR has an office in Ozark located at 513 Carroll Avenue; it can be reached by calling 445-4900. In Dothan, DHR’s office is located at 1605 Ross Clark Circle, and its telephone number is 677-0400.

- After Alabama DHR accepts your application, you’ll attend 30 classroom hours of adoptive education. You’ll receive training on behavior management, needs of children and the impact of adoption on everyone.
- DHR conducts a Family profile and home study of your household after your adoption application is accepted. The home study helps determine if you fit the model of a potential adoptive parent. DHR performs the home study within 24 months of the date that you ultimately send a request to the court to recognize an adoption.
- After your local Alabama DHR selects you as a potential adoptive parent for a specific child, you’ll be able to meet the child in pre-placement visits. If everything goes well, you can sign

a placement agreement and the child will be placed in your home.

- Once the child has been with you for at least three months, you can request the court to recognize him or her as your own son or daughter. A local county social worker from Alabama DHR can help you with the Consent to Adopt Form that goes to the court. It is up to the County’s Probate Court if an attorney is needed to file the adoption forms.
- Even after the adoption is finalized, Alabama has a “Post Adoption Connections” program available to help you. This program is available to you for years after the adoption is complete. To reach the post adoption program, visit www.casapac.org.

Adopting a child is a great thing. Just take the time to research everything involved in the adoption process.

Legal assistance in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate is ready to help you. Finally, and most importantly, make sure you’re willing to give unconditional love to your child for the rest of your life.

Rotor Wash



W01 Andrew Halstead,
B. Co., 1st Bn.,
1-145th Avn. Regt.

“You have to be best friends as well as partners. You have to love the good and the bad parts of your relationship.”



CW2 Joseph Lorman,
A. Co., 1st Bn.,
14th Avn. Regt.

“If you can’t communicate then you are always fighting. So I would say communication.”



Melissa Vallant,
Army spouse

“Both people have to work at it as hard as they can. Both partners have to put everything into it. Don’t hold anything back.”



1st Lt. Steven Lasker,
1st Bn.,
145th Avn. Regt.

“Communication and trust are the essentials to the good foundation of a relationship. If you can’t communicate and if you don’t trust each other, especially in a military environment, it’s not going to be very successful.”



W01 Craig Graves,
B. Co., 1st Bn.,
145th Avn. Regt.

“You and your partner have to have open communication and undeniable trust. If you are separated, like military Families often are, then you need to Skype and tell each other everything about your day each night. Talk about the good and the bad about your day.”

“What is the secret to maintaining a happy marriage or partnership?”

COMMAND

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FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

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Cleanup aims for ‘spick-and-span’ post

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

The fall cleanup, scheduled for the first week of October, is one way that Soldiers, Families and workers can help keep Fort Rucker looking spick and span.

Getting “rid of the eyesores” that are lingering around the post is the goal of fall cleanup, said Master Sgt. Sherman L. Winston, Department of Public Works sergeant major.

“Think of it like the spring cleaning that many households perform — this is just in the fall and at work,” he said, adding that it is important to keep the post looking clean for the many visitors that Fort Rucker has every day.

“We want to make sure Fort Rucker is looking the way it is supposed to look. We have so many civilian and military visitors every week, we want them to walk away proud of the Aviation Branch and the post. We want people to have a good impression every single time they visit,” he said.

Working smarter not harder is one of Winston’s goals for the safety of everyone on post.

“If you have a tree limb loose over your house and you know a big storm is coming, it’s better to cut the limb down before it comes crashing into your living room. If everybody is doing their part by patrolling areas for safety hazards in the areas that these units are responsible for it will make Fort Rucker safer,” he explained.

The cleanup is a weeklong effort affecting almost everyone on post, according to the master sergeant.

“All garrison, mission and tenant units are required to participate. There are timelines, given out by command, to instruct units on what to do. But generally there will be a cleanup of all interior offices and work areas Tuesday, people are asked to cleanup outside in police call areas Wednesday and then Oct. 4 people will finish up all work that has yet to be completed inside or outside,” he said.

Oct. 5 will be inspection day where Winston, the Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Buford E. Noland and the Aviation Branch Command Sgt. Maj. James H. Thomson Jr. will inspect all areas to ensure proper disposal of waste and debris.

“We will do a quality check to make sure all the areas are reviewed and in proper con-

dition. We want to make sure what they have done is satisfactory and we will be making sure nothing has been overlooked,” he said.

There will be three drop off points with large dumpsters where anyone can take bulk items to a special dumpster and a 5-ton truck will be dispatched to pick up bags that will be placed curbside during the three-day cleanup.

“People can fill trash bags and leave them on the side of the road for the truck to pick up. The trash items that will be picked up need to be things like bagged leaves, limbs, boxes and furniture. Boxes need to be broken down and furniture must be taken apart,” he said.

The designated dropping points will be open for anyone’s use.

“One will be across the street from the elementary school, one will be in the parking lot of the barracks complex and the last will be by the Warrant Officer Career College near Bldg. 5911,” said Winston.

USAAACE, 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group, U.S. Army Aviation Medical Center, the WOCC and Directorate of Logistics, along with other organizations around post, will all participate in the day. DPW will

not provide any supplies for the day as units must use their own materials, Winston said.

“We won’t have any trash bags, rakes or things like that. We are just coordinating the event,” he said.

Any hazardous materials such as paint, batteries, thinners, or solvents can be disposed of during the clean-up.

“These materials must be taken to the HAZMAT point because there is no HAZMAT pick-up capability for the clean-up,” said Winston, adding that for specific information on what materials are acceptable for turn in, call 598-1311.

Winston said that the post is not doing anything new, but is trying to get everyone focusing on bulk items like tree limbs and furniture.

“We want things that are harder to dispose of that sat in the corner because no one had the time to dispose of it properly,” he said. “It goes back to taking pride in Fort Rucker by its upkeep and maintaining it. The Army is trying to maintain a professional image and we want to keep the base at that level. The more we clean up now the less we have to worry about later on. It’s all about beautification, that’s our ultimate goal.”

Aviation seminar honors past, anticipates future

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

Participants in the second Aviation History seminar session picked the brains of past and present Soldiers and Aviators to understand the possible future path the Army and the Aviation Branch might be taking.

The session, focusing on the Cold War era, was held at the Sen-eff Aviation Warfighting Simulation Center Sept. 13 and proved to be educational for audience members.

Patrick Hughes, the Aviation Branch historian, spoke first with a reflection from Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, former commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, about the importance of the era.

“I did an interview with [Crutchfield] recently and he indicated that what was done after the Vietnam War was absolutely essential to what the Army has become today. He said without the things that they did at that point we wouldn’t have been flying Cobras or Huey’s in our most recent conflicts,” said Hughes.

The period is important for a number of very different things, according to Hughes.

“We as an Army saw the end of the draft, we saw a drastic downsizing, we had the creation of Aviation as a Branch, with all of the per-



PHOTO BY SARA E. MARTIN

The Aviation History seminar session on the Cold War panel was made up of five members: retired Maj. Gen. James Simmons, retired Col. Robert Carter, Col. Jessie O. Farrington, retired CW4 Ron Manning and retired CW4 Bruce Miller.

sonnel issues that led to it, which created a more robust Aviation leadership. We also saw the movement to the all-volunteer force, and that force would have a drastically different outlook on how the Army would have to fight,” he said.

With the downsizing of the Army during that time, Hughes said that the firm commitment to technology was what transformed the Army into what it is today.

“We had to fight outnumbered, and everything that was done during those years was because of that. The solution was technology, particularly our Aviation. We had the development of the Black Hawk and the Apache. We saw the development of night vision that changed the way Army Aviation could operate,” he said.

A member from the audience asked what lessons panel members took from the Vietnam conflict and did they intend to use them in

a future fight in Europe or Korea, which proved to be an interesting question for the panel to answer.

“The biggest thing that I picked up from my company commanders during that transition point was that because they had fought on the ground and in the air they had a better grasp of the operation. Because they saw the fight a couple of screen shots out they were able to anticipate the enemy’s actions, and I used that in my entire career,” said retired Maj. Gen. James Simmons.

One of the most significant topics covered was the creation of new aircraft.

“When we transitioned to the Aviation Branch, my experience up until that point in 1983 is that the guys that were commanding the Aviation formations were exceptional guys. They had commanded on the ground and commanded Aviation formations all over the

continent, and a significant portion of those guys went on to be general officers of infantry, armor and artillery. As a result, the planning for the Apache and Black Hawk were done by infantry Aviators and armor Aviators. Those aircraft would not have been developed if it were not for the relationship that had developed in Vietnam between the ground guys and Army Aviation, and those generals’ commitment to having a robust Army Aviation,” said Simmons.

The birth of new aircraft from that era sparked a new topic about the transition that the Army is currently going through.

“We are going through a similar transition now that we were in the 80s. It is these types of tactics that are going to drive us to make Army Aviation a little different. We have those folks on the ground and we are now getting their perspective. One of the things that we are doing in Directorate of Training and Doctrine is connecting with them as we look at the future organization and the equipment that will be required for it, and how to prepare for those future missions,” said Col. Jessie O. Farrington of USAACE.

Some on the panel were pleased with the Branches birth while others disagreed.

“The biggest thing that I saw with the birth of Aviation as a Branch was that many officers were forced to leave battalions they were comfortable with to become Aviators.

Many leaders chose to stay with their parent branch for a variety of reasons, never putting on their wings again,” said Simmons.

Other members, like retired CW4 Ron Manning, were worried at first, but happy with the overall results.

“Many warrant officers were worried about losing their jobs with the Branch separating because they feared their jobs would be given to second lieutenants. We were concerned about who would get the instructor pilot slots, who was going to get the safety officer slots. I think that our Aviation Branch is excellent, but in its first few years we lost some excellent leaders when they had to make the choice between their parent branches or to split off to be with the Aviation Branch,” he said.

The seminar often enables panel members to tell war stories to new leadership in an effort for Soldiers to learn from panel members’ previous experiences.

“Hopefully the new leadership will make something out of our experiences and change it as necessary to do better. I was hoping there would be some younger folks here, because I think it would be good for them to attend these sessions and speak up and ask the questions they have about what took place in each time era,” said retired CW4 Bruce Miller, adding that the birth of the Aviation Branch could have taken up an entire session.

Picerne, AAFES create model home

By Sara E. Martin
Army Flier Staff Writer

The Picerne model home decorated by the Army and Air Force Exchange Services portrays a realistic home setting, from a pantry full of groceries to an iron with its cord dangling from an ironing board, as a way to show off homes and merchandise for potential residents of Fort Rucker.

The house, located across the street from the Bowden Terrace Community Center, is a collaboration between Picerne and AAFES, according to Brandon Masters, Picerne Military Housing communications manager.

“The great thing about this project is the partnership between two organizations on post. This is a showroom for AAFES and a home for us that is set up as a model so we can show people what we both have to offer. It is a great way to show off the products that we have,” he said.

Its one thing to show off an empty home, but Masters said it’s another thing entirely once you decorate it.

“Once you put furniture in there with decorations like curtains and rugs, it really displays what the home could be. It brings a whole new perspective to potential residents. It broadens what people can see in the potential of a room,” he said.

If current residents or Soldiers living off post wish to see what the house has to offer in terms of decoration, they can take a tour of the home by visiting the Bowden Terrace Community Center to see the house.

“If residents want to check out what AAFES has to offer in terms of decoration they are always welcome to call or

visit to schedule a viewing,” said Masters, adding that the hours of the community center are Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. “The home provides an opportunity for people to go in and see a home decorated with furniture and other furnishings like rugs and curtains. Soldiers can visit to get inspired to decorate their own home,” said Masters.

Picerne previously would show Families coming to Fort Rucker a home that was currently unoccupied, but with this permanent model home it gives Picerne a more convenient way to show off homes.

“It gives them a feel for the home and our products before moving in. Now we always have an open home for people to view, and this home is one of the more common layouts so potential residents can get a real feel of what they could live in,” he said.

Picerne, according to Masters, always wants residents to be satisfied with their choice of living on post and this home makes the choice less stressful on everyone.

“I think it can give them that sense of satisfaction when they make the final decision. We always want them to look at it positively and say, You know what, we made the right decision. This is the right thing to do,” he said.

The home can also be used for tours when Fort Rucker receives a military or high-ranking government official.

“When we have congressional staffers or mayors and visitors of that nature that want to check out what the military housing is like we will always be prepared to receive guests, even at the last minute,” said Masters.

The home reflects the lives of a fictional Family and the team that put the house together looked at all the minute details to convince viewers that this is a home that they would be comfortable living in.

“We created an entire story with the project. The wife is pregnant with a boy and just had a baby shower. So we decorated the dining room up with presents and a chair is pulled out where the wife would be sitting filling out thank you cards. Dinner for the night is sushi and the father, a W01 in flight school learning how to pilot Apaches, is in the living room eating popcorn with the couple’s young daughter who is deciding which fairytale-princess movie to watch,” said Masters.

The project’s background story is intended to make viewers feel welcome and have a realistic view of the home.

“When you walk in it is as if we have frozen a moment in their lives. We wanted to make sure that both [AAFES and Picerne’s] visions were met. There are photos around the house depicting the Family and even spilled milk on the table. A lot of effort has gone into this feature to make the experience as realistic as possible,” said Masters.

The collaboration took almost a year to complete with the concept being developed by Picerne’s design team in Rhode Island.

“Our team viewed what AAFES had available online and through catalogs, selecting various furniture pieces and the project began to come together,” said Masters, adding that he was “thrilled with the outcome. AAFES has great products and it really shows in the home, and I think our design team did a great job showcasing their material.”

News Briefs

CAC check

People need to look at their Common Access Cards for the wording “Oberthur ID One 128 v5.5 Dual” or “Gemalto TOP-DLGX4 144” in the laser engraving above the magnetic strip on the back of the card. If neither is there, the CAC must be replaced before Monday or people’s certificates will not be recognized.

For more information or to set an appointment to have a card replaced, call 255-2437 or 255-2182.

ACAP Employer Day

The Fort Rucker Army Career and Alumni Program Center hosts Waffle House, SES-I, Upper Limit Aviation and the Williams Company for an Employer Day Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the second floor break room of Bldg. 5700. The event is open to active duty military, retirees, veterans and spouses. ACAP officials bill the day as a time to network with military-friendly employers, adding that even if it’s a while before people transition, it’s never too early to network.

For more, call 255-3932.

Siren test

The Installation Operations Center conducts a test of the emergency mass notification system the first Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. At that

time people will hear the siren over the giant voice. No actions are required.

Retiree council meetings

The Fort Rucker Installation Retiree Council meets the first Thursday of each month in The Landing at 11:30 a.m. The meeting is an open forum and all retirees are invited to attend.

Army uniform survey

The Army wants Soldiers to sound off about the Army Service Uniform. In an effort led by U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, a survey site has been developed to get feedback from the field about the ASU. This survey is for all Soldiers, although they must have Army Knowledge Online access to participate.

The ASU survey is part of the Army’s effort to solicit continuous feedback on the equipment it provides to Soldiers. The feedback will be used to determine possible adjustments or improvements that can be made to the ASU.

The survey site is open now until Oct. 9. The survey can be accessed by visiting (CAC enforced logon) <https://asusurvey.natick.army.mil> or (non-CAC enforced logon) <https://surveys.natick.army.mil/Surveys/asu.nsf>.

USAARL celebrates 50 years of Army medical research

By Catherine Davis
U.S. Army Aeromedical
Research Laboratory
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory is scheduled to celebrate 50 years of science Oct. 11 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Fort Rucker.

The 50th anniversary observance is open to the public and will include a commemorative scientific symposium displaying USAARL’s commitment to Army research, said Col. Dana K. Renta, USAARL commander and host for the celebration.

“Keynote speakers will present a historic overview of USAARL’s scientific contributions, current research, and future endeavors on issues related to medical, physiological, and psychological support for the Soldier and Aviator,” said Maj. Jonathan P. Deeter, event coordinator.

The event will also include a tour of the facility, including displays and booths containing information about past and current research and the many products designed by USAARL.

The United States Army Aeromedical Research Unit (currently USAARL) was officially activated as a subordinate laboratory of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command in October 1962 with the mission to provide direct Aviation medical research support to all Army Aviation and airborne activities, and to provide a central aeromedical research and reference library.

USAARL’s current mission is to pre-

serve and enhance the health and readiness of the U.S. Army warfighter. The lab conducts medical research to develop return-to-duty standards for Soldiers suffering from neurosensory injuries as well as mild traumatic brain injuries. USAARL also conducts research to determine the effectiveness of life support equipment in addition to preventing and mitigating ground and aircrew biomechanical injuries. USAARL’s research programs aim to prevent or minimize health hazards in the military operations environment to sustain the warfighter’s performance.

USAARL’s scientific personnel conduct critical research for solving operational medicine problems and to provide military developers with information and expertise to enhance the performance and safety of future Army systems.

For more information about USAARL or the 50th anniversary events, visit <https://www.usaarl.army.mil>.



POW/MIA: Audience reminded to never forget heroes, patriots

Continued from Page A1

out, but centripetal force kept the other crew members inside the aircraft. It crashed with the pilot and engineer still inside. They never found the crash site because the Germans pretty much destroyed everything. They never found their bodies.”

Col. Brian D. Bennett, 1st Aviation Brigade commander, was the host of the ceremony and spoke at the event.

“POWs and MIAs are some of America’s most revered heroes. How do we, as a nation, thank those who have sacrificed so much on our behalf? We begin by never forgetting them or their sacrifices. They served with dignity and honor in the worst of human conditions: starvation, isolation, torture and the ever-present threat of death. And even during the darkest hour they demonstrated remarkable courage with unwavering devotion to Family and country. Their strength is a testament to American character,” he said.

The audience was reminded to never forget those heroes and patriots, and how important it is to remain dedicated to continuing the search efforts for those still missing in the line of duty.

“We will not forget them or their Families who have sacrificed so much, too much. These Soldiers endured a great challenge, especially as Americans in the dark hours of war and conflict—the loss of personal liberty. Today we recognize their sacrifice and our obligation to them to keep searching for every single Soldier who did not make it home. We must not allow the sacrifices of these patriots to pass from our nation’s conscience. America owes these great men and women our gratitude,” he said.

Bennett also remarked on the sacrifice and resiliency of the Families of MIAs.

“As part of the American Family my heart goes out to the thousands of Families tormented by the uncertainty due to the loss of loved ones whose whereabouts remain unknown. Many of these Families suffered through decades of pain, without certainty of the final fate of their loved one. We are indebted to them,” he said.

Many veterans remarked on their time in the service and what it meant to them for Fort Rucker’s continued dedication to the POW/MIA Day.

“This subject is very sad. I think about it all the time, but I sure appreciate this day and what Fort Rucker does to honor and remember those who never came back,”

said Osepchhook. “It’s sad for the Families of Soldiers who are missing in action, but they are still finding Soldiers in Korea and in China also. I was in the Army, then I transferred to the Air Force, and I am very proud to serve them as they both served me.”

Bob Cooper, retired chief warrant officer 4 and commander of Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 6683, also reflected on how the event affects him and other veterans he encounters.

“It is very nice to have events and ceremonies like this. There are still three Soldiers from my previous unit that are missing in action. We don’t know if they are still alive or not from back in the 70s. It’s very important for the community to realize that there are still service members missing,” he said.

Finishing the ceremony, Bennett paid honor to all POWs, MIAs and their Families.

“So today let us pay tribute to the POWs who have returned and all those who did not, and to the Families and veterans who keep the basic principle of personal honor close to their hearts. May God bless America and those service members who are still unaccounted for,” he said.

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New transition assistance program ready for rollout

By Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Parts of a new transition assistance program were tested this summer and TAP will be ready for separating service members over the next few months, officials reported to lawmakers Sept. 20.

Leaders of an interagency team testified to the House Veterans Affairs Committee, subcommittee on Economic Opportunity about the revamped TAP, which includes a five-day workshop for troops leaving military service. Army Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Jason T. Evans and officials from the other military services also testified at the hearing.

The first day of the TAP workshop will be led by Defense or service officials, the next three days will be an employment workshop developed by the Department of Labor and the last day will consist primarily of Veterans Affairs briefings, according to John Moran, deputy assistant secretary for Operations and Management, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, Department of Labor.

A new interactive VA brief will be ready for rollout to all components by Nov. 21, said Danny Pummill, director of the Veterans Benefits Administration/Department of Defense Program Office. The employment workshop has been given at seven pilot installations and will be ready for all TAP sites by January, Moran said.

Troops attending TAP will be able to select a path, depending upon if they plan to pursue education after the military, search for a job or start their own business, said Susan Kelly, deputy director, Transition to Veterans Program Office, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

"We are all in agreement that one size does not fit all," Kelly said of transition assistance for an estimated 300,000 service members expected to separate annually from the military during each of the next four years.

After the initial mandatory five-day workshop, additional days of training will be available depending upon the path that



PHOTO BY SGT. ASHLEY OUTLER

Lori Mann, right, a counselor with the Army Career and Alumni Program, offers career guidance to a Soldier at the ACAP center on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., earlier this year. ACAP has been redesigned as part of a new interagency Transition Assistance Program for service members.

service members select and their ability to meet "career readiness standards," Kelly said.

For instance, a retiring lieutenant colonel with two graduate degrees will probably be more comfortable in his pursuit of further education, she said, than a young first-term Soldier unfamiliar with university entrance requirements.

TAP can prepare departing service members for technical training or trade schools, as well as college, Kelly said. TAP can help them prepare resumes for a job search and help them determine how their military schooling could translate into career credentials. It can help them develop a financial plan, she said, and it can help them prepare to start their own business.

"Boots to Business" is a pilot program that will begin at Fort Sill, Okla., in October, said Rhett Jeppson, of the Small Business Administration.

Pilot programs have already been launched with the Navy and Marine

Corps, he said.

Nearly one in 10 small businesses are veteran-owned, Jeppson said. Boots to Business will expose troops to entrepreneurship. A two-day program will help troops develop a business plan, he said.

Syracuse University was involved in helping design the program, he added.

The Army has a life-long commitment to Soldiers, said its adjutant general. Evans discussed the redesigned Army Career and Alumni Program which he said has already been tested at a number of pilot sites and stressed the new command emphasis that the program has been given.

"The United States Army is committed to ensuring a life-long success of our Soldiers, preparing our Soldiers for transition by enhancing the training and service models," Evans said, "and beginning the transition process early provides the greatest opportunity for post-military success."

Transition is no longer an end-of-service event, he said.

"Under our new military life-cycle

model, all new Soldiers will receive counseling pertaining to their educational and career goals within 30 days of reporting to their new duty station," Evans said.

New Soldiers will also be required to prepare an individual development plan that he said will be used throughout their military career and then can be morphed into a transition plan.

Kelly also discussed how the military services will migrate by 2014 to an integrated life-cycle model where transition assistance will begin "not at end of career," but at the beginning.

Evans laid out the Army's six-phase plan for transitioning to that integrated life-cycle model.

The first phase was strategic planning which he said was accomplished between January and April of this year.

The second phase involved modifications to support contracts and funding, and he said that was accomplished in May and June.

The recruit, train and pilot program phase is ongoing right now, he said, and involves forward mobile support teams at installations.

Phase 4 will begin in November and all Soldiers will then receive pre-separation counseling a year before they leave the service, he said. They will then go on to attend the Department of Labor employment workshop and the Veterans Affairs benefits briefings. This phase will bring the Army in compliance with the VOW Act, Evans said. The Veterans Opportunity to Work, or VOW, to Hire Heroes Act was passed last year and requires transition benefits to be in place by November.

Phase 5 will include a number of new courses such as financial planning and individual transition planning. A pilot will begin in 2013 and conclude no later than October 2014, Evans said.

Phase 6 will be full conversion to the military life-cycle transition and it will also be implemented in 2014, he said.

"We're committed to ensuring Soldiers who have sacrificed so much in service of America's defense are taken care of as they begin the next chapter of their lives," Evans said.



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\$128,400



104 Cambridge: Really well maintained 3 BR/2 BA close to everything: schools, churches, hospital, shopping, golf. Updated kitchen and appliances, new flooring, privacy fence, and a screened in room added in 2009. New roof and vinyl siding in 2004, new a/c in 2009. Come see this pretty and functional home with its inviting and relaxing screened in room. What a great place to enjoy back yard fun with friends!

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\$175,400: 212 George Wallace: So much potential in this 2300 square feet that seems larger. Huge living room, separate den/family room, a dining area plus a large eat in kitchen with counter. 3 BR/2 BA, a heated and cooled sun room, a 1 car attached garage and two car attached carport. New roof in 2005, a/c with new vents and ductwork in 2006. Appliances have service plan thru 2016! The granite pool, refinished in 2008, is surrounded by huge sago palms, fig trees, and red tops. Have a seat in the poolside swing and relax.

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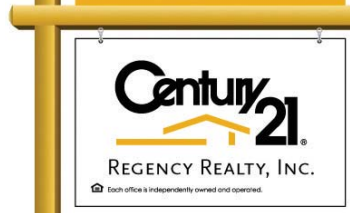
\$93,900: 103 Hutchinson: Really great buy on this very well maintained 3 BR/2 BA located near Hillcrest Elementary, churches, hospital, shopping and Publix. A water feature in the backyard sets the mood for relaxing by the pool under the covered patio. Free standing gas log fireplace in the living room makes this room an inviting haven for the family. There's plenty of room in the dining room for family gatherings. Roomy bedrooms and 2 full baths round out its appeal. Original hardwood floors under carpet. Owner offering \$1200 closing.

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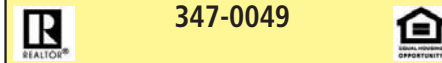
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Army encourages stigma reduction



Spc. Patrick Tercius (center), a help desk specialist with HHC, 159th CAB, shares his perceptions of an image displayed during a Stigma Reduction Communications Campaign workshop Sept. 18 at Fort Campbell, Ky. The SRCC's goal is to combat perceived stigmas Soldiers face when dealing with serious personal issues associated with seeking professional help.

By Spc. Jennifer Andersson
159th CAB Public Affairs

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — Soldiers of the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade and other 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Soldiers participated in a Stigma Reduction Communications Campaign workshop Sept. 18.

The objective of the workshop was to reduce the stigmas associated with seeking help for personal issues. Emotional problems, substance abuse, domestic violence, discrimination and sexual assault and harassment are surrounded by negative perceptions, which might prevent someone from seeking professional help.

Cpl. James Bishop, an information technology specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment said he thinks too many Soldiers have not received the help they need due to the perceived stigmas attached to mental health and other conditions.

“Soldiers may not want to seek help

because they don’t want to appear weak in front of their leaders and their peers,” he said.

“It takes strength to ask for help,” said Spc. Hermanne Aky, a food service specialist with Headquarters and Support Company, 563rd Aviation Support Battalion.

“Strength goes hand in hand with courage,” she said. “If you’re afraid to do things and stand up for yourself, there’s no strength there.”

First Sgt. Timothy Hockett, the first sergeant for E Company, 3rd Bn., 101st Avn. Rgt., advocates building trust between noncommissioned officers and their Soldiers, which, in turn, results in better communication, a unified team, and ultimately, a stronger Army.

The Senior Enlisted workshop addressed topics involving how to turn negative perceptions into support for battle buddies.

“Talk about it as a cohesive team,

SEE REDUCTION, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY SPC. ALEXANDRA CAMPO

NIGHT MISSION

Soldiers with the 173rd BSB attach a generator to a CH-47 Chinook helicopter at FOB Shank in Logar Province, Afghanistan, Sept. 10. Generators were transported to outlying combat outposts.

Odierno visits Soldiers in southern Afghanistan

By Sgt. Ashley Curtis
117th MPAD

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno visited the Regional Command (South) area of operations in Afghanistan, including Forward Operating Base Zangabad near the horn of Panjwai, Sept. 18.

Odierno’s main priorities during the visit were to meet Soldiers conducting operations in the area, learn firsthand about the issues they are up against and how they are working with Afghan National Security Forces to conduct operations.

“It’s important for me as the provider of Army forces here, around the world and especially in Afghanistan, to come and get a firsthand look and talk to the leadership here and also to get a chance to talk to our Soldiers to understand what they’re thinking, what their needs are and to let them know what I’m thinking,” said Odierno. “Today I had the opportunity to sit down and meet with an Afghan brigade commander and he talked me through what they had done in order to build their capabilities.”

Odierno also wants to make sure Afghan security officials are making inside-the-wire threat mitigation a priority.

“In the back of our minds is obviously this problem with the insider threats,” he said. “We’re working very hard to understand what are the right tactics, techniques and procedures; and also [we’re] ensuring that the Afghan commanders understand their responsibility to ensure that our Soldiers working with them remain safe.”

Making sure that Soldiers are being taken care of and have what they need to be successful is a high priority for the Army Chief of Staff.

“Always, my first priority is to make sure that when [Soldiers] come here they’re trained, they’re ready, they’re manned at the right levels,



PHOTO BY SGT. ASHLEY CURTIS

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno is greeted by Afghan National Army Brig. Gen. Ahman Habibi, commander of 1st Kandak, 205th Hero Corp at FOB Zangabad, Afghanistan, Sept. 18. Odierno's stop at the FOB was part of a Regional Command (South) visit where he focused on gathering first-hand information from Soldiers on the ground about counter improvised explosive device measures, Security Force Assistance Teams, Afghan National Security Forces progress and inside-the-wire threats, among other topics.

SEE ODIERNO, PAGE B4

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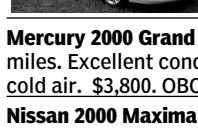


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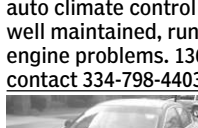
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OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS

Reduction: Soldiers must be mentally, physically fit

Continued from Page B1

rather than gossip,” said 1st Sgt. Cedric Page, the first sergeant for C Co., 3rd Bn., 101st Avn. Rgt. “Instead, you (as a leader) say, ‘He needs help. Talk to him, pick him up.’ That’s a cohesive team — a Family. That takes away the negative stigma.”

Soldiers are more likely to ask for help from their leaders without the fear of judgment, said Page.

Page said a point raised during the workshop was that one way a noncommissioned officer earns trust from subordinates is by setting and following one standard, and good NCOs will check in with their Soldiers.

A leader’s job is to know subordinates well enough that when there is a prob-

lem, the leader can recognize it. Soldiers who have serious personal issues need someone who can provide resources, and a noncommissioned officer is one of the best places to start.

“There needs to be a good NCO/Soldier bond, so the Soldier can feel more comfortable going to the [NCO] when he needs to, therefore strengthening the Soldier mentally,” Aky said.

A Soldier must be both physically and mentally tough, but since the physical help is easier for others to recognize, it usually takes priority.

Hockett said the Soldier may be more apt to ask for help with something physical, such as an Army Physical Fitness Test score, rather than asking

for help involving something the Soldier may perceive as shameful, such as domestic or psychological problems.

“For a Soldier, it’s not just physical. It’s strength in their job, their character and their resiliency — it’s the whole picture,” said Page.

When units need help in battle, they call for backup — individuals who make up those units should follow the same procedure.

It takes courage to ask for help without fear of judgment, and when Soldiers do so, they strengthen the Army that much more.

Asking for help, or at least asking for someone to listen, is hardly disgraceful.

“At the end of the day, we always need somebody to talk to,” Aky said.

Odierno: Army Chief of Staff commends professionalism, preparedness of Soldiers

Continued from Page B1

they have the equipment they need to be successful — that’s number one,” Odierno explained. “Second, is to ensure once they get over here, do they have the facilities and do they have the capabilities to execute the mission to standard? And then finally, it’s just really about checking: Are we implementing our lessons learned?”

After meeting with International Security Assistance Force and ANSF leadership about tough questions like these, Odierno spent the remainder of his time here visiting with junior-level Soldiers.

“I have been deployed several times to Iraq [and] I’ve visited Afghanistan on several occasions, and the thing that never, ever changes is the professionalism

and preparedness of our Soldiers,” said Odierno. “As I’ve had the opportunity to go around and visit them first hand, I am so impressed with their dedication, not only to the mission, but their dedication to each other.”

He administered the Oath of Reenlistment to 18 Soldiers and awarded various medals to about 20 more, including medals for valor and Purple Hearts. Following the awards presentation, he spoke directly to Soldiers and sat down with them for lunch.

“These are young men and women who are just dedicated to our nation and to our Army, and continue to work so hard,” he said. “I’m so very honored that I had the opportunity to work with them and lead them in the Army.”



PHOTO BY SGT. ASHLEY CURTIS

A Soldier from 3rd Stryker Bde., 2nd Inf. Div., demonstrates using a Mine Hound metal detector during a counter improvised explosive device lane for the Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno (right), at FOB Zangabad, Afghanistan, Sept. 18.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Events heighten awareness of domestic violence

By Sara E. Martin
 Army Flier Staff Writer

The Fort Rucker Family Advocacy Program seeks to bring awareness of domestic violence prevention efforts to the post community with events and activities for couples and Families.

FAP wants to remind people that anyone can be a victim of domestic violence, and Luticia Trimble-Smith, Family advocacy program manager, said that people being aware of the signs and knowing how to provide help can reduce the number of victims.

"It is important for everyone to be familiar with the signs of domestic abuse and know the resources that are available to assist victims in obtaining supportive services while keeping them safe," she said, adding that domestic violence includes assault, battery, threat to injure or kill, acts of force or violence, or emotional maltreatment inflicted on a spouse or intimate partner.

To bring awareness to domestic violence as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month several events will be held on post that are aimed at enhancing communication and Family bonds.

"The Domestic Violence Prevention Month kickoff is Oct. 5 in the lobby of the Soldier Service Center from 9-9:30 a.m. It will emphasize this year's theme: Don't Turn Your Back on Domestic Violence. We will also have Family Game Night that evening from 5-7 p.m. at The Commons, which is open to the first 25 Families that register. FAP has also partnered with The Landing Zone to provide tote bags filled with fun and exciting information for couples participating in Steak Night every Friday in October at 5 p.m.," she said, adding that Sgt. Ted E. Bear will also be painted in recognition of the month.

Another event that will be hosted is The Five Languages of Apology Couples Workshop Oct. 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Commons.

"The workshop will explore expressing regret, accepting responsibility, making restitution and requesting forgiveness. Lunch will be provided to all those who



Sgt. Ted E. Bear shows his support for ending domestic violence last year. Bear is expected to do so again this year during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

participate," said Trimble-Smith.

The events, according to the FAP manager, will provide opportunities for Families to learn new ways to have fun with each other while strengthening their relationships.

Purple Day will be every Friday in October. Members of the community are encouraged to wear purple as a visible commitment of supporting the prevention and awareness campaign.

Domestic violence affects not only the victim, according to Twanna Johnson, Family Advocacy Program specialist, but also Family members and acquaintances.

"If more people would show concern, this would help to remove the stigma that keeps victims from seeking help. The military prides itself on demonstrating a culture of safety and responsibility for its Soldiers and Family members. Domestic violence harbors fear, breaks down military morale and destroys Families," she said.

Trimble-Smith said that it is important for everyone to be aware of the dangers of domestic violence, and to be careful when giving out advice to others.

"People may know someone who is in an abusive relationship and may not know how they can help. Sometimes friends or Family may encourage a person to stay in an abusive relationship believing that if they just try harder to be a good spouse, the abuse will stop. This type of response may place a victim at risk for continued abuse," she said.

But if a Soldier or Family member suspects they know someone who is in an abusive relationship, Trimble-Smith still encourages them to help that person.

"All military and civilian personnel are encouraged to report domestic violence when it is suspected. Commanders, senior leaders, units, Family readiness groups and other organizations on the installation are encouraged to contact the

Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program at 255-3246 to schedule briefs and training on domestic violence prevention and available resources," she said.

There are two reporting options available to victims of domestic abuse.

"A victim may elect to make an unrestricted or restricted report. The unrestricted report allows a victim of domestic abuse to receive medical and treatment support services and an official investigation by law enforcement. The restricted report is intended to give domestic abuse victims additional time to receive support services without triggering an official investigation," said Trimble-Smith, adding that restricted reports may be made by contacting a healthcare provider, chaplain or the Family Advocacy Program victim advocate through a hotline (379-7947) that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Learning, fun highlight Boy Scout Camporee

By Nathan Pfau
 Army Flier Staff Writer

For some, weekends are a time to catch up on sleep or relax in front of the TV, but for members of the Boy Scouts of America, it was a time for life lessons and survival skills.

The BSA held its 2012 Fall Camporee Friday-Sunday and Fort Rucker did its part to help as Scout troops from Alabama and Florida came together at Buckhorn Lake to camp, learn survival skills, play games and get to know each other, according to Jay Guild, fall camporee chairman.

"I can't say enough about the support we've gotten from the Army and Fort Rucker for their involvement this weekend," said Guild.

Fort Rucker provided water support from two different brigades, instructors for Survival, Evade, Resistance and Escape training briefs, displays from the Fort Rucker Fire Department and even portable restrooms.

The majority of activities took place Saturday and began early with a flag ceremony and a briefing of the day's events.

Following the flag ceremony, SERE instructors provided surviv-



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Scouts participate in the Boy Scouts of American NASCAR race during the 2012 Fall Camporee at Buckhorn Lake on Fort Rucker Saturday.

al-training lessons in first aid, fire building and signaling, said Guild, adding that the camporee was an opportunity to teach the Scouts about leadership and give them a chance to work on the wilderness survival merit badge.

"I really enjoyed the fire making class and getting the opportunity to see the firefighters and the technologies they use on their fire trucks," said Andrew Beat, assistant senior patrol leader for Fort Rucker Troop 50. "It really taught me a lot."

Beat, 16, has been a member of the Boy Scouts from a young age when he joined as a Cub Scout. He said as long as he can remember,

he has always wanted to be in a leadership position and the BSA has helped him gain that type of responsibility when he was selected as the ASPL for his troop.

"Once I reached my qualifications, I ran in every election [for a leadership position] and I never got it," said Beat. "I told myself this year was the last time I was going to run [for a position], and I ended up getting the assistant senior patrol leader position."

Beat's responsibilities include helping leadership in his troop manage the other Scouts, and he is accountable for the boys when they move from place to place. He

is also responsible for getting the kitchen patrol in his troop ready during meal times and assigning cleanup positions.

Although much of the camporee was focused on leadership skills and earning merit badges, Guild said they put just as much emphasis on having fun.

"[Saturday] afternoon was pretty open with activities with Scouts playing ultimate Frisbee, BSA NASCAR, survival bracelet making and open swim," he said.

The BSA NASCAR is an event in which the different Boy Scout troops participated in a race with cardboard boxes as their cars.

"For the BSA NASCAR ... they will make a lap, come in the pits and change their tires, which means they will take their shoes and socks off, put their socks back on inside out, then put their shoes back on before they head out for another lap," said Guild. "When they come around from the lap again, they will come in for a fuel stop, which is when they will come in and drink some water and members of their troop will douse them with water as well."

"When they come in for their final stop before their final lap, they will come in for the windscreen cleaning, which is more water

thrown in their face by their fellow Scouts," he continued. "It really is a good time and it's definitely something to see."

For some, their main purpose in the Scouts is to gain leadership skills and go on to become an Eagle Scout, which is the highest rank attainable in Boy Scouts, according to Scott Thomas, assistant Scout master for Troop 99 of Enterprise.

"I've been in the Scouts my entire life and I want to help these Scouts get the one thing I never got, which is my Eagle," he said. "Getting your Eagle can help a lot in life with scholarships and it even looks good on a resume. It shows that you are a very determined individual."

For others, like Cohen Gillis, senior patrol leader for Troop 99, their purpose is to not only take the lessons that they learn in the Scouts and apply them later in life, but to make sure they have fun while they are doing it.

"Being in the Scouts has taught me a lot of valuable leadership experience and I've learned a lot that will help me later in life, as well as a lot of self discipline," he said, "but if you're not having fun, then why be here? I just want to have fun and learn."

ON POST

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

AFAP Conference

Fort Rucker hosts its Army Family Action Plan conference Oct. 10-11 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wings Chapel. AFAP is the Army's grass-roots-level process to identify and elevate the most significant quality of life issues impacting Soldiers (all components), retirees, Department of Army civilians and Families to senior Army leadership for action.

People can submit their ideas until Friday online at <http://www.ftruckerfmwr.com/acs/army-family-action-plan/> or by calling the AFAP program manager at 255-2382.

Purple Day

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the Purple Day campaign will begin Oct. 5. The campaign will be a Fort Rucker community-wide effort to recognize the collective responsibility to prevent all forms of domestic violence. People are encouraged to wear purple every Friday in October as a visible commitment to support the prevention and awareness of domestic violence.

For more, call 255-9641.

Families of Excellence nominations

Army Community Service accepts nominations for "Families of Excellence" now through Oct. 12. People who know a military Family that contributed to improving the quality of life for Soldiers and Families within the Fort Rucker community can submit a nomination in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 390. Nominations must describe specific contributions the Family has made. For specific criteria and requirements for nomination applications, call Tom Jenkins at 255-3817 or send an email to Tom.c.Jenkins@us.army.mil. Nominees will be recognized at the "Salute to Military Families" event Nov. 3.

Domestic Violence Prevention Month

Army Community Service hosts the Domestic Violence Prevention Month kickoff event Oct. 5 from 9-9:30 a.m. in the lobby of the Soldier Service Center where people can learn about all of the activities taking place throughout the month. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more, call 255-9641.

Parent educational class

Child, youth and schools services hosts a parent educational class Oct. 4 from 5-6 p.m. at the child development center in Bldg. 8938. The class helps parents learn more about the organization and to share their ideas on how to improve programs. In addition, parents can learn how they can earn points each time they volunteer for CYSS programs. Once they have accumulated 10 points, parents will receive 10 percent off their monthly child-care fees (not including sports activities).

For more, call 255-2958.

Financial Readiness Training

Army Community Service



FILE PHOTO

Oktoberfest

Sonnenschein Express plays at last year's Oktoberfest at the Festival Fields. The Fort Rucker Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosts the post's 10th annual Oktoberfest Friday from 4:30-9:30 p.m. at the Festival Fields. The event will feature live German music by Sonnenschein Express, traditional German food like bratwurst and schnitzel, a keg toss competition, and more at the Family-friendly event, including inflatables, a pumpkin patch, craft activities and pony rides. For more, call 255-1749.

offers Financial Readiness Training Oct. 12 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Soldier Service Center in Rm. 284. The free training provides a practical approach to personal financial management so Soldiers can gain control of and manage money effectively. Financial Readiness Training is required for all first-term junior enlisted Soldiers (E-1 through E-4). Spouses are also encouraged to attend.

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

Halloween craft making

The Center Library hosts a Halloween craft making activity Oct. 16 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. for children ages 3-11. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited to the first 65 children to register. Children are encouraged to wear Halloween costumes.

For more, call 255-3885.

Steak Night

Every Friday at 5 p.m. is Steak Night at The Landing Zone, featuring an 8-oz. Flat Iron Steak with fries for \$5, with the purchase of a beverage. People can add a side salad for an additional \$1. Other sides are also available for purchase. This special is limited to the first 100 guests per night and is available for dine in only, with a limit of one per guest. The offer is not valid with any other coupons or promotions.

For more, call 598-2426.

Boneless Wing Night

Every Monday in The Landing Zone will be Boneless Wing Night starting at 4 p.m. Patrons can get six wings for \$3, 10 wings for \$4.75 or 15 wings for \$7 with the purchase of a beverage. This offer is not valid with any other coupons or promotions and is for dine-in only.

For more, call 598-8025.

Whiskey Traditional Wing Night

This month, every Wednesday in The Landing Zone

will be Whiskey Traditional Wing Night starting at 4 p.m. Patrons can get six wings for \$3, 10 wings for \$4.75 or 15 wings for \$7 with the purchase of a beverage. This offer is not valid with any other coupons or promotions and is for dine-in only.

For more, call 598-8025.

EFMP meeting

The Fort Rucker Exceptional Family Member Program invites all active duty military that have an exceptional or special needs Family member attend the EFMP Information and Support Group meeting Oct. 16 from 9-10 a.m. at The Commons in Bldg. 8950 on Seventh Avenue. With the theme Holidays and Traveling with a Special Needs Family Member, the meeting will feature a discussion on tips, tools and resources that can assist special needs Families having a successful trip. The EFMP Information and Support Group offers camaraderie, information exchange, community resources and assistance with finding solutions.

For more, call 255-9277.

Military Family Month art, essay contests

As part of the Month of the Military Family, Army Community Service will host art and essay contests now through Oct. 19. Military children ages 4-12 are welcome to enter an 8.5-by-11 inch vertical drawing depicting the theme "This is my Family. This is my Fort Rucker." Military children ages 7-12 may enter the essay contest with a 100-200 word essay with the theme "My Journey as a Military Child." Children can drop off their entries by Oct. 19 to their teacher if they are students at a Fort Rucker school, or to Bldg. 5700, Rm. 390 if they are not at a Fort Rucker school. Winners of the contests will be recognized at the "Salute to Military Families" event Nov. 3.

For more, call 255-9888.

DFMWR Spotlight

**10TH ANNUAL
Oktoberfest**

SEPT 28TH
4:30 – 9:30 PM

FORT RUCKER FESTIVAL FIELDS

Get out your Lederhosen or Dirndl because it's that time again — Oktoberfest at Fort Rucker! Join us for this celebration of German culture! Open to the public!

Oktoberfest features:

- ★ Traditional German food
- ★ Food and craft vendors
- ★ and much more!

For the kids:

- ★ Inflatables
- ★ Pumpkin patch
- ★ Craft activities
- ★ Pony rides
- ★ Petting zoo & more!

**Live German music by
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ANNUAL EVENTS, 255-1749
WWW.FTRUCKERFMWR.COM

PLEASE NO PETS OR COOLERS. IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, THE EVENT WILL BE MOVED TO THE LANDING.

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR SEPT. 27 - 30

Thursday, Sept. 27

The Campaign (PG)

7 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 28

Ice Age - Continental Drift (PG)

7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 29

Ice Age - Continental Drift (PG)

7 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 30

The Campaign (PG)

7 p.m.

Chaplain: Use God-given time wisely

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

I wonder how much money Americans spend annually on themselves – looking good, shopping for a new outfit, or staying in shape by investing in comprehensive fitness programs.

I also wonder how often people in general stop to think about the amount of time they spend doing things right and improving the appearance of their inner person.

I read some time ago about a student that stayed in the home of an elderly couple who greatly admired their fine antique pendulum clock that had been handed down from one generation to the next in the husband's Family.

One day the old man said to the student, "That clock has a message to tell." Puzzled, the student asked, "What is the message?"

The old man replied, "Look at the pendulum going back and forth – it seems to be saying, slow down, do-it-right. But then listen to the electric clock, it has another signal – it seems to be saying, hurry up, get it done, who cares how it is done!"

The question is, which clock do we work by, the do-it-right clock or the who-cares clock?

We need to be conscious of quality, productivity and stewardship of our time. We should always be aware of the direction in

which we are heading and how fast we are going.

A young man went racing down the ferry slip and made a tremendous leap, 10 feet over the water and landed with a painful crash on the deck of the ferry. As he slowly picked himself up, rubbing his injured side, one of the deck hands sauntered over to him and said quietly, "You didn't have to do that buddy, this boat was coming in."

I am reminded once again that the late Will Rogers gave a huge watch to David Rubinoff, the consummate violinist, on which he had inscribed: "The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to tell just when the hands will stop – at late or early hour. Now is the only time we own; Love life, toil with a will; Do not wait until tomorrow, for the clock may then be still."

Writing in the "Eternal Now," Paul Tillich declared, there is no time after time, but there is eternity above time.

Time as we view it should be used wisely, as noted by the apostle John when he said, "We must work the works of Him who sent me, while it is day; night comes when no one can work." (John 9:1-12)

William Shakespeare said it another way, "If all the year were playing holidays, to sport would be as tedious as to work."

Know where you are going and use your God given time wisely. God Bless!

Religious Services

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

HEADQUARTERS CHAPEL, BUILDING 109

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

MAIN POST CHAPEL, BUILDING 8940

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

WINGS CHAPEL, BUILDING 6036

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

SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER, BUILDING 8939

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

BIBLE STUDIES

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

Spiritual Life Center, Thursday.

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

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

Fort Rucker Protestant Men of the Chapel

Fort Rucker Protestant Men of the Chapel meet the first Saturday of each month in the Fort Rucker Spiritual Life Center, from 8-9 a.m. Men are encouraged to attend for a time of fellowship and a short devotion. Free breakfast is provided.

Protestant Women of the Chapel

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

Military Council of Catholic Women

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

Catholic Adult Fellowship

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

Youth Groups (CLUB BEYOND)

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

Cold prevention tip

Cough or sneeze into your elbow, thus covering your nose and mouth.



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Saturday 8am to 12pm—1st Saturday of the each month
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Landmark Park hosts Wiregrass antique, collector car show

Landmark Park
Press Release

The annual Wiregrass antique and collector car show, hosted by the Wiregrass Antique and Collector Car Club, is Oct. 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Landmark Park.

More than 150 collector cars, trucks and motorcycles will be on display for one of the area’s biggest car shows. A-Models, muscle cars, mini-trucks, street rods and more comprise the classes on display. Orphaned cars, or cars that are no longer in production, will be featured at this year’s event.

Awards are given for first, second and third places in each class. The club with the most participation, longest distance driven and oldest vehicle registered also receive awards. Registration is from 8-11:30 a.m. on the day of the event. No early registration will be accepted. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids and free for park members. For rules and entry forms, visit www.landmarkpark.com.

The winner of Landmark Park’s annual drawing for \$500 will also be announced at the car show. By now, all members should have received 12 drawing tickets in the mail. Complete the ticket stubs with name and address and mail the stubs, along with your check for \$2 per ticket, in the return envelope.

If you would like to purchase additional tickets, please call 794-3452. Proceeds benefit Landmark Park.

Landmark Park is a 135-acre historical and natural science park located on U.S. Hwy. 431 North in Dothan.

For more information, call 794-3452.



LANDMARK PARK PHOTO

Cars on display at a previous Wiregrass Antique and Collector Car Club event. This year’s event is Oct. 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Landmark Park.

WIREFLASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

ONGOING — The American Legion Post No. 80 regular meetings are the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Legion Hall. For more information, call 222-7131 or visit www.andalusialegionpost80.org.

DALEVILLE

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

SATURDAY — The 27th annual Daleville Marching Band Classic is from noon until 9 p.m. at the Warhawk Stadium behind Daleville High School. Admission is \$6 at the gate. More than 20 Marching Bands from Alabama and Florida will perform as well as the 98th Army “Black Out Bass” Band. For more information, call 379-7496 or 406-2035.

DOTHAN

SATURDAY — Landmark Park hosts Basic Photography Workshop from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. for ages 12 and older. Cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Participants must bring their own camera, extra batteries, the camera’s manual, a clean media card and a sacked lunch with drink. For more information, call 794-3452.

SUNDAY — Woodman of the World Insurance hosts the Miss Rock Star! Pageant. Attire is rock star-themed casual wear. Multiple age divisions. Entry fee is \$45. For more information, call 401-855-5488.

OCT. 1-31 — Dothan Area Botanical Gardens hosts “Scarecrows In The Gardens.” Take a stroll through the gardens to see all the different scarecrows designed and

decorated by local schools, civic organizations and local artists. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 793-3224 or visit www.dabg.com.

OCT. 5-6 — Houston County Farm Center hosts “The PorktoberQue,” a combination of a barbecue competition and Oktoberfest, Oct. 5 from 5-9 p.m. and Oct. 6 from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. Admission is free. The event features musical entertainment, street performers, barbecue for sale, a sample tent, arts and crafts vendors and more. For more information, visit www.porktoberque.com or call 699-1475.

OCT. 5-7 — EAA Chapter 1358 and the Dothan airport hosts “A Tribute to the Wiregrass” with a ground showing of a WWII B-17 Bomber. Admission costs \$10 for adults, \$20 for Families, children younger than 8, military and veterans get in free. Ground tours will be 2-5 p.m. and mission flights from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information or to book a flight, call 1-800-359-6217 or 791-5452.

OCT. 6 — The Cultural Arts Center hosts the Ballroom Dance Club Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 29, from 7-9:30 p.m. Food and drinks are available. The cost is \$2 per couple. For more information, call 677-4967 or visit www.theculturalartscenter.org.

ONGOING — Wiregrass Suicide Prevention Services holds bimonthly suicide survivor support groups the second and fourth Monday at 6 p.m. at 148 E. Main Street. The support groups are for anyone who has lost a friend or loved one to suicide. Children’s groups are also available. For more information, call (334) 792-9814.

ENTERPRISE

OCT. 9 — City officials host “Getting to Know Enterprise Fair and Picnic” at Johnny Henderson Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Local businesses and clubs provide information on services and activities for retirees and

newcomers to the area. Entertainment and food are provided.

For more information, call 347-0581 or 389-1554; or visit www.enterprisealabama.com or www.visitenterprise.com. Free tickets are available at the chamber office.

ONGOING — The American Legion Post 73 meets at the American Legion/Doer’s Shrine Club at 200 Gibson Street in Enterprise on the fourth Saturday of each month, beginning at 8 a.m. This building is across the street from the Lee Street Baptist Church on Lee Street. For more information, call Post Commander Jerry Goodson at 347-5961 or 447-8507.

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*.

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

TODAY — Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 99 meets at 6 p.m. in the New Brockton City Hall. Food and drinks are served followed by regular chapter business. For more information, call 718-5707.

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, call Chuck Lobdell at 718-5707.

OZARK

ONGOING — Every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. yoga with Sandra Bittman is at Perry Recreation Center for \$5 a person.

ONGOING — Every Monday through Friday aerobic classes are open to the public at the Autrey Recreation Center from 8-10 a.m. For more information, call 774-2042.

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 Tuesday at 7 p.m.

TROY

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

Beyond Briefs

Ghost Walk

Birmingham’s Ghost Walk at Linn Park runs all year long on Fridays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$7 for children. For more information, call (205) 538-1853 or visit ghostmagick.com/ghost-walks.html.

Haunted Theatre

Sherlock Holmes and the Haunted Theatre plays Saturday from 7-9 p.m. at the University of South Alabama Humanities Auditorium in Mobile. Price is \$10 at the door and \$8 in advance. The year is 1899.

A murder has occurred during a performance of Dr.

Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. When Inspector Lestrade fails to solve the case, he calls on Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson for help.

For more information, call (251) 510-0654 or visit www.commediadelarte.org.

Zombie Walk

The Oak Hill Cemetery in Birmingham holds its first and only cemetery-sponsored Zombie Walk Oct. 6. Both alive and undead walkers are welcome. Come in costume and make-up and shuffle through the cemetery or in T-shirts and shorts and run through it.

Registration is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Zombie make-up artists will be on hand at 7 a.m. and the walk begins at 8 a.m.

For more information, call (205) 251-6532 or visit www.oakhill-birmingham.org.

Seafood Festival

The 34th annual Destin Seafood Festival returns to its original home on the Destin Harbor at Harborwalk Village Oct. 5-7. Enjoy fresh local seafood, live music, artists and more. Admission is free. Festival hours are Oct. 5 from 4-10 p.m., Oct. 6 from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m., and Oct. 7 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, call (850) 218-0232.

Alabama National Fair

The Alabama National Fair is Oct. 5-14 in Montgomery. The annual event features midway rides, main stage entertainment, food, information and commercial booths, a childrens’ area, livestock and other competitions. Cost of admission and hours vary. For more information, call 272-6831 or visit www.alnationalfair.org.

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What is presbycusis?

Presbycusis is hearing loss that gradually occurs in most individuals as they age. Hearing loss is a common disorder associated with the aging process. Hearing loss associated with presbycusis maximally affects the high frequencies and is usually associated with poor speech discrimination scores. A person with presbycusis may hear sounds less clear and speech may sound mumbled or slurred. A woman's high pitched voice may be more difficult to understand than a man's low pitched voice. Someone with presbycusis may experience more difficulty communicating in a listening environment with background noise. The person may also have ringing in the ears.

Doesn't hearing loss only affect old people?

No, hearing loss does not only affect old people. 65% of people with hearing loss are younger than age 65. There are numerous cases of hearing loss in children. Hearing loss affects all age groups.

Are there operations or medications that I can take for hearing loss?

This is a very common question! Only 5% of hearing loss in adults can be improved medically or surgically. The vast majority of Americans with hearing loss (95%) are treated with hearing aids.

Are hearing aids covered under Medicare?

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Benefits of hearing aids vary by type and degree of hearing loss, hearing environment, accuracy of hearing evaluation and proper fit.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Pick-of-the-litter

Meet Splash, a 10-month old male mixed breed. He is outgoing and friendly. Splash is free to adopt, which includes a microchip and heart-worm testing, and is already neutered. For more information on animal adoptions, call the stray facility at 255-0766, open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The facility needs donations such as dry or canned foods for cats, dogs, kittens and puppies, as well as blankets, toys and towels. Donations can be dropped off at the veterinary clinic or the commissary. Visit the Fort Rucker stray facility's *Facebook* page at <http://www.facebook.com/fortruckerstrayfacility/> for constant updates on the newest animals available for adoption.

Tips to quit tobacco

Use the 5 Ds to help with urges

- **Deep breathing** — Take slow deep breaths to feel relaxed and in control.
- **Drink water** — Drink at least 8 glasses of water a day to flush out nicotine from your system.
- **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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WESTGATE CENTER

III **RESIDENT EVIL: RETRIBUTION** - R
Fri, Sat, Sun 2, 7:00, 9:00 • M-Thurs 7:00 & 9:00

IV **THE POSSESSION** - PG-13
Fri, Sat, Sun 2, 7:10, 9:10 • M-Thurs 7:10 & 9:10

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3D Fri, Sat, Sun 2, 7 & 9 • Mon - Thurs 7 & 9

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2D Fri, Sat, Sun 4:10
3D Fri, Sat, Sun 2, 7 & 9:10 • M-Thurs 7 & 9:10

III **END OF WATCH** - R
Fri, Sat, Sun 2, 4:10, 7:00, 9:10
M-Thurs 7:00 & 9:10

OZARK

I **THE CAMPAIGN** - R
M-F 7:00 & 9:10 • Sat 2:00, 7:00 & 9:10
Sun: 2 & 7:00 • Mon - Thurs 7:00

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Sun: 2 & 7:00 • Mon - Thurs 7:00

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Marriage Workshop

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October 13 • Workshop
1st Session: 6pm - 7pm
Break: 7pm - 7:30pm
2nd Session: 7:30pm - 8:30pm
Reservations Required: 774-2569

October 14 • Worship Service
Scruggs will be our guest speakers at the 9:00am and 11:00am worship services on October 14

Jeff & Cheryl Scruggs are authors, speakers, counselors, and partners all over again. Their writings include the well-known book "I Do Again," their 30 year story of marriage, betrayal, infidelity, divorce, emotional damage and scarring, forgiveness, restoration, trust, and re-marriage. This remarkable and life-changing story has been featured on The Today Show, I am Second, Family Life with Dennis Rainey, Life Today and more. They passionately seek to help make marriages whole in His power. Jeff & Cheryl are intimately familiar with a marriage focused on the principles of the world, the sting, heartbreak and pain from a divorce, and the deep-rooted hope and joy of a fully restored marriage centered on God.

For questions or to sign up, please contact the First United Methodist Church office at 774-2569 or email: heathercohen@ozarkfumc.org

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SEPTEMBER 27, 2012

German Armed Forces proficiency badge competition returns for fall



FILE PHOTO

Then Sgt. 1st Class John Emmett, HHC 1st Bn., 11th Avn. Regt. quality assurance NCO, performs the shot put during the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge training last year. This year's competition for the badge runs Monday to Nov. 2.

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Soldiers can compete and show their dexterity by participating in the training and testing for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge Monday to Nov 2.

The commander of the German Army Liaison Staff, Lt. Col. Martin C. Geller, and Sgt. Maj. Mohamed Bouhloui, German Army Liaison Staff member, will host the training and testing for the proficiency badge, which is a skill badge that Soldiers can earn from the German government that is officially recognized by the U.S. government, according to Staff Sgt. Jamie P. Osmon, operations sergeant for the 6th Military Police Detachment.

“[The badge] is for overall athleticism for different events that [Soldiers] will go through that are timed, tested and based on performance,” said Osmon, who is also serving as the U.S. point of contact during the competition.

There are several events throughout the training and testing such as the pistol competition, which the Soldier is given five rounds and must get a minimum of three rounds into three different targets, said Osmon. A Soldier will attain bronze-level for getting three rounds into the three separate targets, silver-level for four rounds and gold-level for hitting the targets with all five rounds.

The competition also consists of a 7 ½-mile ruck march that must be completed in 2 ½ hours, a 100-meter sprint, 2,000-meter run, long jump, shot put and a 200-meter swim, according to the operations sergeant.

The bronze, silver and gold levels can be awarded in both the pistol and ruck march portions of the test while everything else is based on time or distance standards depending on age groups.

Most of the training before the testing portion consists of lower body exercise, according to Os-

mon.
“A lot of people have trouble with the swimming and the long jump, so we focus on a lot of lower body and leg exercises to get them ready,” he said.

In order to participate in the training and testing, a Soldier must be recommended by his or her chain of command, said Osmon, adding that they can’t be recommended “unless their overall character is of the highest quality.”

Osmon participated in the GAFFB competition for the 2011 spring cycle and said that it was fun and challenging.

“The long jump was really challenging for me,” he said, “but it was a good time.”

Soldiers interested in participating for the international badge must obtain an example memo to be signed by their chain of command, said the operations officer, which can be obtained my emailing Osmon or Bouhloui.

“[The competition] is a really good liaison with the German Army Liaison Staff,” said Osmon. “It’s a good opportunity to meet new friends and comrades, and work together with them.”

Osmon added that earning the badge helps Soldiers stand out from their peers on their Class-A dress uniforms by showing their chain of command that they have gone above and beyond.

Training for the events will be conducted daily at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility beginning at 6 a.m. Mondays through Fridays, said Osmon. Soldiers can have their example memos signed and turned in up to the day before the training begins to be eligible to participate.

There will also be an award ceremony hosted by Geller after the testing to recognize those with outstanding achievements during the competition, said Osmon.

For more information or to get an example memo, email Jamie.p.osmon.mil@mail.mil or call 255-2120/2554/0949.

Tourney provides friendly competition, learning experience

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The Silver Wings Golf Course provided nearly 100 patrons the opportunity to put their golf skills to the test and learn from professionals in the sport during a tournament Friday-Sunday.

Professional golfers from all over the South teamed up with amateurs to enjoy each other’s company and participate in some friendly competition during the 2012 SWGC Pro Am Tournament.

“I thought the tournament was an overall success,” said David Unsicker, SWGC business manager. “The weather was great, the course conditions were great, and the food, scores and player attitudes were all great.”

Golfers came together to participate in the three-day tournament in teams of four, according to Unsicker. The type of game they played was Team Stableford, which is a point system in which teams lump their scores together and points are added to their pot depending on how they shoot. Unlike a traditional golf score, the objective in the Stableford point system is to have the highest score.

First place was awarded to the team of professional golfer Zack Sucher and amateurs Don Rice, Gary Alexander and

Larry Schmidt, with a score of 33; second place went to the team of professional golfer Gary Rusnak and amateurs Lou Hennies, Bill Tyner and Coulter Kautzmann, with a score of 28; and third place went to the team of professional golfer Brian Tankersly and amateurs Ray King, Jerry Rodgers and Jesse Moore, with a score of 24.

Although winning the tournament was the main motivation for some who participated, for others it was the camaraderie and the love of the game that brought them out.

“We just love to get out and enjoy each other’s company and play some golf,” said Jerry Watkins, civilian amateur golfer.

Watkins teamed up with his friend, Jamie Owens, civilian, and his son, Christopher, as well as professional golfer Myk Ostermeyer, who has participated in many tours throughout his career.

“It’s been a pleasure and a really enjoyable experience playing with Myk,” said Watkins. “I haven’t been holding up too well against a pro, but I’ve definitely been picking up some good hints from him.”

Watkins said that his strengths show when playing short game, but his weakness is on the green.

“I’m all around the hole but I miss a lot,” he said. “I’ve been watching how [Ostermeyer] reads putts and he does a good job with it.”



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFALU

Christopher Owens, amateur golfer, takes a swing during the 2012 Silver Wings Golf Course Pro-Am Tournament Friday-Sunday.

Ostermeyer, who is also professional golf instructor, said that it was an honor to able to come out and participate in the tournament on Fort Rucker.

“I’m a military brat, and I enjoy giving back and honoring the people that have paid their dues for me to be able to come out here and do this for a living,” he said.

“If it wasn’t for the military, we wouldn’t have any of this freedom.”

Ostermeyer is also an instructor for his teammate during the tournament, Christopher, and said that much of the joy he gets out of the game of golf comes not only from playing, but teaching as well.

“I’ve been working with Christopher for a little over a year,” said Ostermeyer. “As a teacher, he has hit that spot in my heart that gives me the reason for why I teach.”

Christopher, 16, was offered a spot on the tournament team by his father, Jamie, and leaped at the chance to be able to play.

“My dad told me that he had a spot open on his tournament team and I’m always ready to play, and I think I’ve been holding up against [Myk] pretty well,” he said.

Jamie said that he only became interested in the game of golf after his son showed potential in the game.

“My son started [playing golf] when he was 7, and he’s the one that got me into it,” he said. “I used to just take him to the golf course to play, but eventually I just started getting into it.”

Although Christopher’s team’s goal for the tournament was just to have fun, he said he never misses an opportunity to learn.

“Myk has taught me how to chip better throughout the tournament,” he said. “He’s really been a big help throughout.”

PIGSKIN PICKS



	San Francisco vs. New York Jets	Seattle vs. St. Louis	Carolina vs. Atlanta	New Orleans vs. Green Bay	Washington vs. Tampa Bay	New York Giants vs. Philadelphia	Chicago vs. Dallas
 <div>Jim Hughes Public Affairs (10-11)</div>							
 <div>Brian Jackson DFMWR (7-14)</div>							
 <div>John McGee CDID (10-11)</div>							
 <div>Capt. Mike Simmons Directorate of Public Safety (6-15)</div>							
 <div>Sharon Storti Network Enterprise Center (7-14)</div>							

DOWN TIME



Super Crossword

INNER LANES

- ACROSS**

1 "GoodFellas" co-star Joe

6 London subway route diagram

13 Plate umpire's call

20 "Par —" (stamp on airmail)

21 Religious hermit

22 Wyoming tribe

23 "A Boy and His Dog" sci-fi writer

25 Pronto

26 Bus, college course

27 Aircraft abbr.

28 Star of the silent film "Madame Du Barry"

30 "Dharma & Greg" co-star Jenna

33 Pupil locale

34 Pick — (cavil)

35 In a certain folk singing style

37 Relief pitcher with the 2004 World Series-winning Red Sox

43 Revered one

44 Horse's kin

45 Padlock part

46 Sneaker stringers

47 Even if, briefly

48 Old crone

50 —di-dah

51 "Got some thoughts?"

53 Old city buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius

57 Man-mouse link

58 Additionally

59 Bun seed

60 1965 Yardbirds hit

62 Bad, in Brest

65 Census stat

66 Novocain, for one

70 Twisty curve

73 U lead-in

74 Foray

75 First family as of 2009

79 Coal mines

81 High-fashion inits.

83 Boarding of a jet

85 Derides

88 Before, in verses

89 Hair stiffener

90 Sea, to Fifi

91 Forest feline

92 Dark loaves

94 Greek letter

96 Domicile

97 Native of Fiji or Vanuatu

99 Places to see stars in science centers

102 Back part

103 Lab bottle

104 Bond girl player d'Abo

105 Have practical usefulness

110 Kin of Ltd.

111 In a crowd of

112 Stage names

113 Assorted

119 Tooth puller

120 Unicellular swimmers

121 Romanov royals

122 Chip away at

123 Gets thinner

124 Toss about
- DOWN**

1 Oom- — band

2 Hungarian-born Gabor

3 English title

4 Gary of "Diff'rent Strokes"

5 How soup is often sold

6 Juvenile

7 Address for a dot-com

8 Minsk locale

9 Oskar Schindler's wife

10 Sea vapors

11 —Z (thoroughly)

12 Letter-writing friends

13 Attach with brads, e.g.

14 In a florid way

15 "Slither" star James

16 Church nook

17 Sharp taste

18 Blacken on a grill

19 Arizona tribe

24 All-or- —

29 More or less even (with)

30 Wharton and Bunker

31 Chinese nut

32 They're often tile-covered

33 Brains have high ones

36 Trilogy, often

37 Spa sound

38 — tai

39 A-F filler

40 Movie units

41 Make blank

42 County whose seat is Newark

45 Hard-hitting carpenters

48 Comic's

49 Baldwin and Guinness

50 Greg Evans comic strip

52 Dog tag info

54 Fresno loc.

55 Zip

56 PC letter

57 Saloon sign

61 In unison

63 Make up for, as sins

64 Slander's kin

67 "Comin' —!"

68 "Good" cholesterol abbr.

69 Spying aid, briefly

70 — salts (cathartic)

71 After then

72 Sword material

76 Recollection

77 Vigorless condition

78 Watercourse

80 "Sisters" co-star Ward

82 Tiny grooves

84 Opposed to, in dialect

86 Politico Paul

87 Most severe

88 Nighttime, in verses

93 Hired lawn maintainer

94 Sugar pill

95 1968 film computer

96 Most difficult

98 Attends

99 — move-ment (military maneuver)

100 Actress Watson

101 Infects

103 Sunshade

105 Get dimmer

106 Intestine divisions

107 Dryer fluff

108 Sol followers

109 F — "Frank" Heady brews

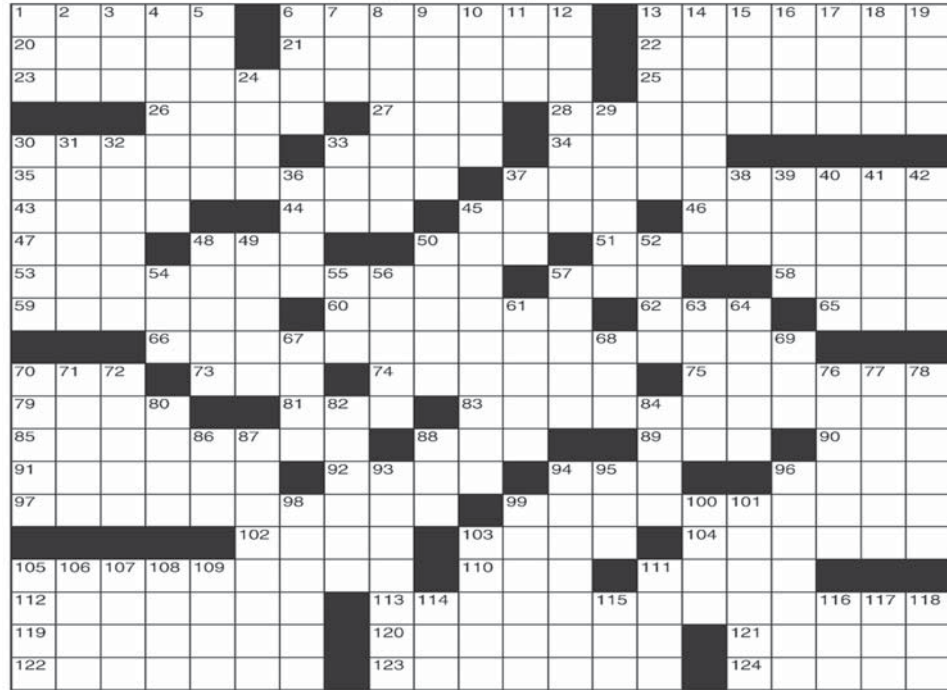
114 "—comin'!"

115 Judge's field

116 Skull mover

117 Suffix with strict

118 NNE's opposite



See Page D3 for this week's answers.

TRIVIA

1. MONEY: Who was the first president to appear on a U.S. coin?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What three states border on the state of Louisiana?
3. MUSIC: Which rock star had a hit song with "Papa Don't Preach"?
4. GAMES: The properties in the U.S. version of "Monopoly" are based on streets in which city?
5. TELEVISION: On what sketch comedy show did Jim Carrey make a name for himself in the 1990s?
6. LANGUAGE: What does the word "torpid" mean?
7. MOVIES: Who were the three actors in "Three Men and a Little Lady"?
8. BIBLE: What kind of wood was Noah's ark made of?
9. PHOBIAS: What fear is represented in the condition called "glossophobia"?
10. ENTERTAINERS: Who was Paul McCartney's first wife?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

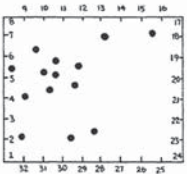
KID'S CORNER



TALLY HO! Our artist claims there are some 19 wild and woolly critters pictured here. How many do you count?

WORD PATROL! Letters of a bad word are scrambled there in plain sight, ROB DA WAD. Your assignment: to see how quickly you can unscramble them. Time: 30 seconds.

OPEN BOOK! Ask someone to open a book to any page and to pick a word within the top nine lines that is not farther in than the ninth word of that line. Now, have the person multiply the page number by 10, add 25, and add the number of the line; then, multiply by 10 again, and add the position number of the word in the line. Alakazam, subtract 250, and the last digit of answer will be the word's position in line; next-to-last-digit will be the line number, and remaining digit (or digits) the page.



DOTS BEFORE EYES SPAWN FITS

HERE'S a dotty problem if you ever saw one. A ruler and sharp pencil are required to solve it. This is the test: To draw five straight lines across the diagram (border to border) so that each of the 14 dots is in its own enclosure. Enclosures may vary in size and shape — some may be large, some small. Indeed, at least two dots are subject to very tight fits. How long will it take you to draw the lines?

For use as a party pastime, make copies of this diagram and supply each person with ruler and pencil. See who (if anyone) can answer within five minutes.



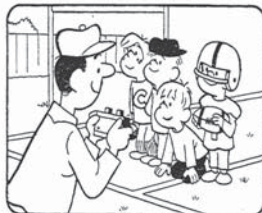
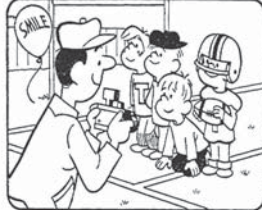
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6	5	7	6	5	7	6	4	8	7	2	7	3
L	L	D	I	O	A	F	N	L	R	A	I	Y
7	8	5	3	2	7	6	2	5	8	6	5	4
N	O	T	O	B	G	E	E	S	V	S	O	E
3	4	6	7	6	5	4	5	3	8	4	6	4
U	W	T	T	Y	F	F	G	H	E	R	L	I
7	8	4	2	3	5	6	2	6	2	6	3	4
H	O	E	A	E	R	E	M	C	I	H	E	N
7	2	3	4	2	8	3	4	5	6	4	7	5
O	N	D	D	G	F	A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

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

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTING



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS. Differences: 1. Balloon is different. 2. Pocket is missing. 3. Camera is different. 4. Letter is different. 5. Shoes are missing. 6. Cuffs are missing.



PHOTOS BY DAVID VERGUN

The Master Fitness Training program, which was discontinued by the Army in 2001 and was recently reactivated, graduated its first pilot class Friday at Fort Jackson, S.C. Recruits at Fort Jackson were used to validate master fitness training principles in an effort to reduce injuries and enhance performance.

Commanders key to success of new Army fitness program

By David Vergun
Army News Service

FORT JACKSON, S.C. — An effective physical readiness program depends to a great extent on the unit commander, said Mike Trinkle, a former instructor at the Master Fitness Training program.

“If the commander wants it, it’s going to happen,” Trinkle said. “If the commander doesn’t want to back the program, it isn’t going anywhere.”

The program he was referring to is the Master Fitness Training program that was discontinued by the Army in 2001 and was recently reactivated, with the first pilot class graduating today. The new program is similar to the old MRT, but incorporates the latest fitness research methods into training spelled out in Training Circular 3-22.20 “Army Physical Readiness Training,” slated to be a field manual next month.

Trinkle has seen it all before. He became an MFT instructor in 1989, and later as a first sergeant, observed that certain units hewed to the program more than others. Those that did saw fewer injuries and greater performance benefits than those that didn’t.

“If you violate the exercise fundamentals, people start getting hurt,” he said.

Besides commanders wanting to run their fitness program using “old school stuff that may or may not conform to exercise science,” Trinkle attributes some of the problem to an overemphasis on the physical fitness test and not enough on proper exercise training and conditioning.

“If you’re just running two miles, doing situps and pushups every day just to succeed at the test, you’re missing the whole point,” said Stephen Van Camp, chief of doctrine and an MFT instructor. He was one of the Army’s first MFTs, who has been conducting training since 1983.

“If you have the right kind of training, it doesn’t matter what test we administer,” said Van Camp. “The APFT should be the easiest day of training in the year for you physically, if you’re following sound exercise principles.”

Van Camp said MFT trainers will be working with commanders to develop an effective program that not only reduces injuries and enhances performance, but also links the exercises to the warrior tasks and battle drills that all Soldiers are expected to be competent in.

“All Soldiers are warriors first,” he



Recruits stretch prior to beginning the Master Fitness Training program recently, which graduated its first pilot class Friday at Fort Jackson, S.C.

said. “Even if you may never be in harm’s way, you have to know how to evacuate a casualty.”

The commander’s “traditional way” of doing things can often be incorporated into the MFT program as long as the exercise principles are adhered to, Van Camp offered.

“I’m not particularly worried about a surgeon in field medical unit running five miles, but I am concerned that he can do surgery for 10 hours straight on his feet and remain alert,” Van Camp explained. “The commander of an infantry unit would tailor his exercises to more load-bearing

and endurance activities as the Soldiers might need to carry their stuff all day to an objective and fight when they get there. He wouldn’t just run them every day.”

Van Camp said the MFT is a sweetheart deal for commanders.

“If I were a commander, looking back now, I’d be thankful that I had a packaged program I could just adapt to my unit, and a master fitness trainer to guide me,” he said. “A commander has a lot more than just a PT program in the morning to think about. We want to give him all the tools in the toolbox and let him run the garage; but he has to know what’s effective to

run that garage, so he’s like the master mechanic.”

Van Camp provided an example of a typical progressive program designed to increase performance and reduce injuries, TC 3-22.20 provides many other examples, with much greater detail.

“One day a week you might run sprints,” Van Camp explained. “One day a week you might foot march under load. One day a week you might distance run. One day a week you might do strength exercises. A special forces program would likely include more foot marches and less distance runs.”

A progressive approach allowing for recovery and variety is part of the program, he said.

“If you are not following the core principles of the program, you could get hurt,” he cautioned. “If you overtrain, people get injured. Then, you’ve lost them no matter what, and they’ve got to start over again.”

Principles of the program have been validated through scientific studies at Fort Jackson and at other installations like Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Polk, La., he said.

“There’s been a dramatic drop in injuries of trainees here at Fort Jackson, where the program was implemented about four years ago,” he said. “I’m talking career-ending injuries of the hip and lower leg, where the trainee gets out of the Army with life-long disability.”

Maj. David Feltwell, another MFT instructor and a physical therapist, participated in the validation studies. In a soon-to-be published article in “Military Medicine,” he writes that injuries could be reduced through a combination of “leadership involvement, injury prevention education, injury surveillance and modified physical training.”

This study, just like the MFTC curriculum and the Physical Readiness Training manual, is based on the best evidence for controlling injuries and improving physical performance, Feltwell said.

But despite all of the research and validation, the MFT program will not work unless the commander is fully onboard, he said, adding that he thinks commanders will be, once they understand the program.

“Collecting unit injury data and presenting this to commanders as part of leadership education may provide the incentive to participate in the process of injury reduction,” he wrote in the article’s conclusion.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

1. Abraham Lincoln
2. Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas.
3. Madonna
4. Atlantic City, N.J.
5. “In Living Color”
6. Sluggish
7. Tom Selleck, Steve Guttenberg and Ted Danson
8. Gopher wood (cypress)
9. Fear of public speaking
10. Linda Eastman

Super Crossword

Answers

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

PIGSKIN PICKS

	Stony Brook vs. Army	Arkansas vs. Texas A&M	Troy vs. USA	Ohio State vs. Michigan State	Tennessee vs. Georgia	Texas vs. Oklahoma State	Wisconsin vs. Nebraska
 David C. Agan Jr, Fort Rucker Public Affairs (16-12)							
 Kent Anger, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security (20-8)							
 Benjamin Conner, Directorate of Public Safety (16-12)							
 Wes Hamilton, Network Enterprise Center (20-8)							
 Tish Williamson, USAACE (17-11)							

Video Game Spotlight >>



COURTESY SCREENSHOT

FIFA not perfect, but will please fans

By Jim Van Slyke
Contributing Writer

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

Thirteen is a lucky number for Electronic Art's FIFA franchise. Since it didn't need to retool the success of "FIFA 12," EA was able to polish last year's game into a smoother and more exciting rendition of the world's most popular sport in "FIFA 13." While it's not perfect, most of the quibbles are minor, and soccer fans will love the depth and fun of this game.

Last year, the defense got a boost, but most of the improvements in "FIFA 13" come on the offensive side of the ball. Free kicks, dribbling, passing, the artificial intelligence for the attackers and even the referee's calls are better and the realism of first touches for players are improved, too. The ball will no longer "stick" to a player's foot, no matter what the situation is and regardless of skill level. A lower division player at a full sprint will likely knock the ball 20 feet ahead, while a player of Lionel Messi's talents will have the ball doing his will. The defense hasn't been totally neglected. Goal keepers are smarter and defenders now move better laterally to better contain attackers. The game also includes 500 officially licensed clubs and more than 15,000 players.

The game feels and looks like a true soccer game. The stronger player will likely win when two players jostling for the ball and even a simple bump can be enough to throw a weaker player off their dribble. The game doesn't look a lot better than "FIFA 12," but that's not a disgrace. The commentary and on-field sounds are good, too.

"FIFA 13" offers a ton of replay value. There are modes that let gamers create their own player, form the ultimate team and play in tournaments around the world. There are skill games that let players perfect different passes and shots.

Though there is a lot of new stuff in "FIFA 13" this is more of a polish than a complete revamp. The new gameplay changes are subtle, but important. Soccer fans will love this game and play it for a long, long time.



Publisher
Electronic Arts
Rated
Everyone
Systems
Multiple
Cost
\$40-60
Overall
3.5 out of 4



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