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VOL. 61 ■ NO. 24

FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

JUNE 16, 2011

NEWSLINES

UNIFORM CHANGES

Army approves changes, including moving to patrol caps and sewing patches over Velcro.
See Page A3.

HELP THEM HELP YOU

DODEA seeks parents' input on improving, modernizing schools.
See Page C3.

CHANGES OF COMMAND

The 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment hosts a change of command ceremony Friday from 8:30-10 a.m. at Fort Rucker's Howze Field.
The 1st Battalion, 14th Aviation Regiment hosts a change of command ceremony Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. at Howze Field.
The 1st Aviation Brigade hosts a change of command ceremony June 24 at 8:30 a.m. at Howze Field.

AUSA LUNCHEON

The Fort Rucker Wiregrass Chapter of the Association of the United States Army hosts its installation of officers luncheon Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at The Landing, featuring an Army birthday cake cutting.
Cost is \$15 per person, or \$120 for a table of eight. People should RSVP by Monday.
For more, call Bob Slagle at 494-2999.

BURN BAN

Because extremely dry conditions have created an atmosphere where the probability of catastrophic wildfire activity is high, Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley signed an Emergency Drought Condition Declaration Tuesday prohibiting outdoor burning in all 67 counties in Alabama.
"The lack of rain and unseasonably high temperatures have left much of the state extremely dry, creating high risk potential for devastating wildfires," Bentley said. "As Alabamians are recovering from the tornados that moved through the state in April, it is important that debris not be burned. We must take every precaution necessary to avoid the start of a wildfire."
Pursuant to the emergency rule, it is illegal for a person to set fire to any forest, grass, woods, wildlands or marshes, to build a campfire or bonfire, or to burn trash or other material that may cause a forest, grass, or woods fire. The fine for violating the No Burn Order is up to a \$500 fine and up to six months in jail.

What's Inside

Perspective2A
Armywide 1-4B
Community 1-6C
On-Post2C
Wiregrass4C
Sports 1-4D

Weather 3-DAY OUTLOOK

THURSDAY
High **99**
Low **73**
Scattered t-storms

FRIDAY
High **100**
Low **73**
Isolated t-storms

SATURDAY
High **99**
Low **72**
Mostly sunny



PHOTO BY RUSSELL SELLERS

Seantae Foster, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Chris Foster, attempts to open a water bottle while her brother, Junior, takes a sip of his at last year's celebration. This year's celebration runs 4-10 p.m. July 2 and will be headlined by Gary Sinise's Lt. Dan Band.

Freedom Fest

Event promises fun for Families

BY RUSSELL SELLERS
Army Flier Staff Writer

Families looking for a good time this Fourth of July can expect big things from Fort Rucker, according to Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation officials.
The annual Freedom Fest event is from 4-10 p.m. July 2 at the Fort Rucker festival fields and features a variety of things for attendees to enjoy, including a special performance from the Lt. Dan Band featuring *For-*

est Gump star Gary Sinise.

"Last year, approximately 25,000-28,000 people attended and those numbers are expected to increase because Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band are headlining this year's event," said Kimberly Abeln, DFMWR annual events coordinator. "There are also dozens of new vendors this year that will expand the culinary delights available as well as expand the arts and crafts available for purchase."

Janice Erdlitz, DFMWR marketing manager, said having the Lt. Dan Band is going to be a great boost for Soldiers and their

Families.

"We are very excited about USO and Army Entertainment bringing Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band to Freedom Fest this year," she said. "Gary puts on an awesome show. We all know and love Lt. Dan from *Forrest Gump* and what a great treat to have such a military supporter as Gary Sinise being a part of our event this year."

Attendees will also have additional activities to participate in such as pony rides

SEE FUN, PAGE A5

RV, boat storage policies change on post

BY RUSSELL SELLERS
Army Flier Staff Writer

Recreational vehicle and boat owners on post now have a few more storage options thanks to recent changes to Fort Rucker Regulation 190-5, Fort Rucker Safety and Picerne Military Housing officials said.
As of June 6, RV and boat owners living on post may store their vehicles in carports and garages as long as the equipment does not extend beyond the carport and allows any garage doors to fully close, said Maj. Jay Massey, Directorate of Public Safety deputy provost marshal.
"If you've got a boat and can safely back it in and close the door completely, it's fine," he said. "The rationale is, if someone is living on post and they've got something like a two-day fishing trip on Lake Tholocco planned,



PHOTO BY RUSSELL SELLERS

SEE POLICIES, PAGE A5

All vehicles to be stored at the storage lot must be registered with the Fort Rucker Arts and Crafts Center on Fifth Avenue. Proof of ownership and ID card are required for registration.

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Deadlines are Friday at 2 p.m. for the following week's edition.

All editorial content of the *Army Flier* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, AL.

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Perspective

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD BY WRITING AN E-MAIL TO THE ARMY FLIER AT JHUGHES@ARMYFLIER.COM.

D6 Sends *BRAC: On time, on target*

BY LT. GEN. RICK LYNCH
Commanding General U.S. Army Installation Management Command and Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management

The past 10 years have brought a great deal of change to our Army.

Not only do our Soldiers continue to fight in two wars, but the Army is going through the greatest organizational change since World War II. Between instituting the Army Force Generation model, reorganizing around modular brigades and the Base Realignment and Closure process, our Army looks very different than it did 10 years ago.

The BRAC process is a large part of that reorganization. With its completion on time and on target in September, the Army will have reshaped its infrastructure to better support Soldiers, civilians and Families.

The Base Realignment and Closure commission made recommendations about how to make efficiencies in the Department of Defense to the president, who presented them to Congress and those recommendations became law in September 2005.

Of the 182 commission recommendations, 113 affected the Army. This BRAC is an important part of the Army's historic transformation and has affected many commands, including the Installation Management Command Headquarters in San Antonio.

BRAC 2005 enables the Army to reshape its infrastructure to



Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch

support its forces. It repositions our forces, making them more relevant and combat ready for the combatant commander. It also creates doctrinal efficiencies by consolidating schools into centers of excellence and headquarters, and other activities into joint or multifunctional installations for efficiency and cost control.

Joint Base San Antonio is experiencing the largest economic development in its history with 10,000 Families relocating here. This BRAC move has transformed the former Fort Sam Houston into a premier medical complex and the largest medical training campus in the world. Joint installations, like JBSA, improve training capabilities and eliminate excess capacity while providing the same or better service at a reduced cost.

Fort Benning, the new home of the Maneuver Center of Excellence, is a good example of how BRAC growth has been handled in an environmentally and fis-

cally sustainable way. Thirty-four new projects have been built there as a result of BRAC and all of them have been designed to be LEED Silver certified. All of the new construction supports increased operational capacity and our war-fighting capability.

On installations across the Army you can see signs of success in meeting the goals of BRAC 2005. Construction alone has brought thousands of jobs to surrounding communities. Expanded installations have caused local businesses and service providers to grow. Even communities surrounding closure installations have benefited by working with the Army to redevelop the surplus property.

But with BRAC successes, there are also challenges. More people require more schools, houses and emergency services. The city of El Paso is a great example of a community that turned its challenges with BRAC into a success story.

Fort Bliss is experiencing the largest BRAC realignment in history with unparalleled growth of 29,600 Soldiers and 45,000 Family members relocating there. El Paso embraced BRAC, building new schools, while the state invested \$1 billion for transportation projects in the city and creating thousands of civilian jobs. When BRAC and Army Transformation are complete, Fort Bliss will have enough new facilities to accommodate 5 brigade combat teams, a division staff and their

Families.

IMCOM plays a big part in transforming the Army's infrastructure through BRAC, supporting the movement of several organizations and welcoming thousands of Soldiers and Civilians onto our installations and into surrounding communities.



This transformation has made us a stronger more efficient and agile organization, supporting a stronger, more efficient and agile Army.

BRAC is an important part of the largest Army transformation in three generations. Consolidating and repositioning several major commands will save millions in personnel and facilities costs and is needed to put the Army on the path to future sustainability.

We have no way of knowing exactly what the future will look like, but the 2005 BRAC process better positioned the Army to meet future challenges. The Army has realigned its infrastructure with the new modular structure and modernized our support facilities, all while becoming more fiscally and environmentally sustainable. When it is complete it will be a major achievement for the Army.


By this September, the Army will have completed over \$13 billion in construction and renovation projects, and a reorganization that will affect one-third of the Army. This will all have been done in six years, putting the Army on time and on target to meet its future missions.

Support and Defend!




Rotor Wash

“What is your idea of the best Father’s Day gift?”




Norma Anderson,
DEMRW administrative assistant

“I believe love is the best gift to give on Father’s Day.”




W01 Samantha Palmer,
1st Bn., 145 Avn. Regt.

“Actually getting to be at home with my dad.”




SpC. Richard Suehs,
1st Bn., 145 Avn. Regt.

“A fishing day with the old man.”



W01 Caleb Craig,
1st Bn., 145 Avn. Regt.

“Time with the family.”



Krystle Kothman,
Child Development Center program assistant

“Something meaningful and sentimental.”

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Supply support activity wins best in Army for 3rd time

BY TRISH J. DURHAM
*Chief, Logistics Directorate
Aviation Center Logistics Command*

The Fort Rucker Supply Support Activity took best in its class at the seventh annual Chief of Staff of the Army 2011 Combined Logistics Excellence Awards in mid-May in Richmond, Va.

The recent win marks the third time that the Army deemed the Rucker SSA as best in its class, according to Bill Singer, deputy commander of the Aviation Center Logistics Command.

“This world-wide competition is a result of the successful government/contractor team established at Fort Rucker in support of the Army’s largest flying hour program, providing parts and logistics for over 600 helicopters at five airfields, ensuring over 3,000 Aviators are trained annually,” Singer said.

He added that the award would not have been possible without the oversight and management of ACLC military personnel, including CW4 Celeste Melena, Department of the Army civilian employees and the efforts of all of the AFS SSA personnel. After winning the award for calendar year 2010, the ACLC/AFS Team was honored to attend the conference and award ceremony in Richmond.

On hand to recognize the best in Army logistics were Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, vice chief of staff of the Army; Sgt.



ARMY PHOTO

Members of the award-winning team from ACLC, AFS and the SSA, Trish Durham, Terry Henderson, CW4 Celeste Melena, Patricia Donahue and Rodney Pope pose for a photo with Brig. Gen. Gwen Bingham, the Army quartermaster general (second from left) at an awards ceremony in mid-May in Richmond, Va.

Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III; Lt. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson, deputy chief of staff of the Army for logistics; and Brig. Gen. Gwen Bingham, the quartermaster general.

“This business of ours is a team sport, and in everything we do we succeed or fail as a team,” Chiarelli said.

And Singer agreed. “This couldn’t be a truer statement. It is certainly reflective of the relationship between ACLC and

AFS government/contractor team.

“The SSA at Fort Rucker doesn’t only respond to the needs of the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence training program, but also to worldwide Department of Defense requirements,” he said.

For example, in the month of April, the SSA managed over 9,723 lines valued at over \$78 million in inventory, and made more than 400 part shipments

to various military agencies including the Army, Navy and Air Force in support of mission requirements in locations such as Japan, Germany, Afghanistan, Korea, and Iraq, Singer said.

“The SSA is a fine-tuned hub of activity with 40 employees positioned, and proud of their roles in exceeding military standards and demanding customer expectations,” he added. “The support of the Aviation maintenance mission is year

round, supporting over 500 aircraft launches per day. The SSA is a 24-hour operation that ensures that over 22,000 transactions (supply requests, turn-ins) per month are accurately and promptly processed.

“The success of the teamwork between the government and contractor personnel is a testament to the determination of the employees to ensure the best possible support of Army Aviation,” Singer said.

ACU changes make Velcro optional

BY C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The voice of the Soldier has been heard: the Army announced the patrol cap will replace the black wool beret as the default headgear for the Army combat uniform.

Also changing are the options for how Soldiers can attach certain items to their ACU shirts. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Martin E. Dempsey said Soldiers will soon be able to sew on name tapes, service tapes, rank insignia and skill badges, instead of using Velcro.

The changes went into effect Tuesday and were made after Dempsey received input from Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III, who had been tasked to gather opinions from Soldiers in the field.

“I am a scout for General Dempsey, who asked me to look into everything a Soldier wears from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet,” Chandler said. “These are changes that the field said they wanted to see.”

Typically, uniform changes come as a result of a board that meets twice a year. But Chandler said issues surrounding both the ACU headgear and the use of Velcro were changes the Army chief of staff wanted to bring to the Secretary of the Army immediately.

Chandler said he spoke with “several thousand” Soldiers and also received comments via social media sites, like Facebook.

“I have also discussed this with my board of directors – the most senior sergeants major of our Army,” Chandler said. Post-deployment combat uniform surveys were used as a basis for the changes.

The No. 1 and No. 2 issues, Chandler said, involve the beret and Velcro.

“The Soldiers didn’t like the fact that the beret was hot – it was not something that they wore the majority of the time,” he said. “And they didn’t like the fact it didn’t shade the sun and it took two hands to put on. And they didn’t like to carry two pieces of headgear to do different functions during the day.”

The beret has been the standard headgear for the Army’s ACU – the camouflage uniform worn by most Soldiers. But most Soldiers still needed to switch to the patrol cap based on the work they were doing — in a motor pool or in the field, for instance.

Those Soldiers would have to carry two pieces of headgear with them, one in each pocket, and switch depending on what they were doing. In the field, they put on the patrol cap. Back on base, they’d have to switch to the beret.

The new policy will make the patrol cap the standard. But the beret isn’t going anywhere. It will remain as the standard for the Army service uniform, and as an optional uniform item with the ACU — at the discretion of commanders.

“They could choose to say for an event, like change of command, that they want them to wear the beret,” Chandler said.

The change in the beret policy will

save the Army about \$6.5 million over the lifecycle of the ACU. New Soldiers had been issued two berets, now they will be issued one.

Chandler pointed out that Soldiers didn’t ask to eliminate the beret — just to change when it’s worn.

“Soldiers said we don’t want to wear it with this uniform, but they do feel they look very professional wearing it with the Army service uniform,” Chandler said.

The Army implemented a mandatory wear date for the ACU in April 2008. The ACU, a replacement for the Battle Dress Uniform, featured many design changes. Included among those were a different cut for the fabric, new placement for pockets and a new “digital” color pattern.

Also included were Velcro fasteners that allowed pockets to be sealed shut, sleeves to be cinched down, and rank insignia, name tapes, service tapes, patches and skill badges to be added and removed at will – without time-consuming and sometimes costly trips to clothing alterations.

Still, some Soldiers were displeased with Velcro on the uniform, Chandler said.

The Army’s new policy on attaching accouterments to the ACU will allow Soldiers to sew on rank insignia, the name tape and the service tape. Additionally, skill badges such as the Airborne, Pathfinder, combat action, combat infantryman’s, and expert infantryman’s badge will also be authorized for sewing.

Currently, those badges are provided in

painted metal and have to be pinned to the uniform. Pinning badges to the uniform can be a lengthy process because they have to be aligned using a ruler. The new policy will allow Soldiers to sew those badges to the uniform.

Combat and unit patches on the left and right sleeve and the U.S. flag will remain Velcro-only, the SMA said. Additionally, the ACU will continue to come with Velcro in the same locations it is now. Where a Soldier is authorized to sew something on, they will sew it on top of the Velcro.

Chandler also said Soldiers had asked for changes to how cargo pockets are fastened. Velcro had been used – now, ACUs are available with buttons used to keep the pockets closed. A similar change is being discussed for how sleeve cuffs are fastened, but Chandler said that decision will be made by the July uniform board.

A more localized uniform decision will affect Soldiers assigned to the Army’s headquarters at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. There, Soldiers had been wearing the ACU as their daily uniform. By as early as October, those Soldiers will show up to work in the Army service uniform, Chandler said.

“Our perspective is that this is the corporate part of the Army,” he said. “The business-part of the Army is done in the Pentagon, and as a professional there are certain standards of attire associated with certain activities. For the business aspect of the Army, it is the Army service uniform.”

DOD seeks input from employers of Guardsmen, Reservists

BY TERRI MOON CRONK
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense Department officials want to hear from the civilian employers of Reservists and National Guardsmen by July 6 in a survey intended to measure the impact of servicemembers on the civilian workplace.

Announced in March, the Department of Defense National Survey of Employers will indicate how the past decade of war and the heavy use of reserve-component forces have affected civilian employers, officials said. It is the first time employ-

ers have been the center of such a survey, they added.

“Officials are encouraging all survey recipients who have not yet submitted their responses to do so today to ensure the study captures reliable results,” said Beth Sherman, a spokeswoman for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Defense Department agency.

“Based on scheduled follow-up calls to employers invited to participate, the department learned a large portion of employers wanted to complete the survey via hard copy, versus participating on-

line,” Sherman said. “July 6 was set to allow ample time for those surveys to be returned, and this deadline affords employers the opportunity to provide comprehensive replies.”

DOD officials contacted 80,000 employers of all sizes and industries in every state and territory during March and April to gain insight into the benefits and challenges of employing members of the Guard and Reserves. So far, Sherman said, enough surveys have come back to validate the results, but officials hope to hear from as many more employers as possible.

“As surveys continue coming in, the feedback equips DOD to build on the success of the past and chart a mutually beneficial course for the future,” Sherman said.

Because Guard and Reserve members make up nearly 50 percent of the military’s total strength, Sherman said, feedback from employers is important.

“The Department of Defense wants to learn how we can help sustain the incredible support America’s employers have shown our Guard and Reserve members through nearly 10 years of ongoing military operations,”

she said, “and employer participation in this survey is critical.”

Sherman said employers can click on the survey link on the ESGR website to give their feedback on employing members of the Guard and Reserve. Those who want to submit the hard-copy version of the survey must postmark responses by June 30, she added.

Employers who believe they received the survey, but need assistance, should visit the website to learn how they can still participate, Sherman said.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of De-

fense agency established in 1972 to develop and maintain employer support for Guard and Reserve service.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve advocates relevant initiatives, recognizes outstanding support, increases awareness of applicable laws, and resolves conflict between service members and employers. Paramount to Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve’s mission is encouraging employment of Guardsmen and Reservists who bring integrity, global perspective and proven leadership to the civilian workforce.



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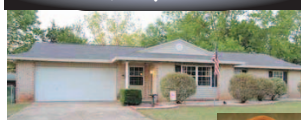


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112 E PONDELLA, THIS LOVELY 3BD/2BA HOME features a living room with fireplace, All kitchen appliances, utility/laundry room with washer and dryer connections, carpet, vinyl, double car garage, central heating and cooling, fence, and quarterly pest control!



24 WOODLAND COURT, DON'T MISS THIS! 4BD/3BA Home featuring a living room with fireplace, dining area, All kitchen appliances, utility/laundry room with washer and dryer connections, carpet, ceramic tile, vinyl, hardwood, double carport, central heating and cooling, patio, extra room, and quarterly pest control.



91 COURTYARD WAY, This 2BR/2.5BA Townhome comes complete with all appliances to include washer and dryer, one-car garage, fence, and patio. Lawn care, Pest control and use of Pool and Clubhouse are included!!

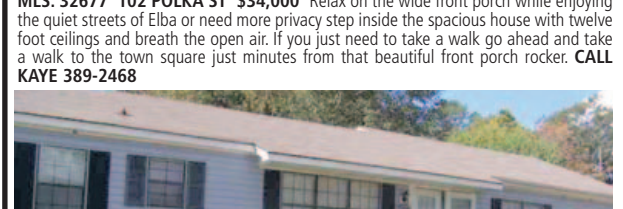
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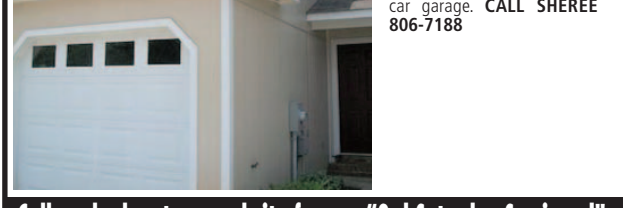
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ARMYWIDE

VOL. 61 ■ NO. 24

ARMYFLIER★COM

JUNE 16, 2011

ARMY BRIEFS

ARLINGTON CEMETERY ADVANCEMENTS

ARLINGTON, Va. — Just one year after an investigation directed by Secretary of the Army John McHugh reported breakdowns in accountability and record-keeping at Arlington National Cemetery, the new management team there has released a list of achievements that have strengthened the cemetery's management and oversight.

The Army Inspector General's report contained 74 corrective actions and recommendations — all of which have been acted upon over the past year.

In order to meet the demand for funeral services, Arlington officials began allowing burial services not requiring military honors to be schedule on Saturday. Previously, funerals were held only Monday through Friday.

SMART PHONES INCREASE 'SPOT' REPORTING

WASHINGTON — The Army is finding the use of smart-phone devices such as an Android or iPhone leads to an increase in "SPOT" reports, wherein Soldiers share tactically relevant information across the force in real-time, service officials said.

Through a series of ongoing evaluations called "Connecting Soldiers to Digital Apps" — an initiative that places smart phones and PDA-like devices in the hands of Soldiers in mock combat operational scenarios — Army officials are learning that sharing data, images and even video instantaneously can potentially provide a tactical advantage on the battlefield.

Soldiers that went through mock-combat exercises with mobile smart devices achieved as much as a 40-percent increase in "SPOT" reporting, which included taking photographs and sharing data within their formation.

MILITARY SPOUSES GET HELP WITH PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

ARLINGTON, Va. — A Defense Department organization is making it easier for military spouses to maintain professional licenses as they move from state to state.

State Liaison and Educational Opportunity, an office of military community and family policy here, announced June 13 that 16 states have adopted laws, or are close to doing so, to make it easier for military spouses to work in their career fields.

States require licenses for practitioners in virtually every medical occupation, as well as teaching, social work, cosmetology and other fields, and the standards vary from state to state.

States that have enacted laws for endorsement of licenses — or those waiting for a governor's signature include:

Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, North Carolina, New York and Texas. States that allow temporary licenses are Alaska, Florida, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Utah allows nonresident military spouses to use out-of-state licenses, and Virginia allows military spouses who leave the state to re-use the license upon their return.



PHOTO BY CW4 ALLAN KIDWELL

Pilot in Command Capt. Jeffrey Maxwell holds up a flag that he is flying for a Soldier stationed on Camp Taji, Iraq, while flying an AH-64 Apache Longbow Attack Helicopter.

Flying Tigers fly flags

BY SPC. DARRIEL SWATTS
40th Combat Aviation Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Most people, when thinking of flying a flag, think of a flag majestically waiving atop a flag pole.

However, the 8th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment, fly the flag a bit differently. They fly their flags inside an AH-64 Apache attack helicopter while patrolling the skies of Iraq.

"The American flag is a great honor and a great symbol of our country; to have a flag that was over in combat, flown on a mission; it's very powerful to a lot of people," said 1st

Lt. Michael Moran, a B Co., 8th ARB, 229th Avn. Regt. AH-64 Apache pilot based out of Ft. Knox, Ky., and stationed on Camp Taji in support of Operation New Dawn. "It's a way we can give something back to those who have given to us and to show people back home that we appreciate them, by giving a large token of respect."

The pilots of the 8th ARB, 229th Avn. Regt., deployed under the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade from Fresno, Calif., have been flying flags for people back home since their arrival in Iraq. They have logged more than 6,000 hours of flight time flying more than 250 flags.

"We started as soon as we got here; we took over from our predecessors and it has really exploded from there. We've flown flags for people from everywhere back home, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, schools, employers, and even individual people," said Maj. Alan Hardin, Task Force Tiger Executive Officer for the 8th ARB, 229th Avn. Regt. "I personally have flown a couple flags for people who mean a lot to me. It's a way to let them know you're thinking of them and to say thanks for what they do us back home. Sometimes we forget while we're forward doing our job, as

SEE TIGERS, PAGE B4

C-23 Sherpas dominate Iraq's night skies

BY SPC. DARRIEL SWATTS
40th Combat Aviation Brigade

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq — "The C-23 Sherpa is a military version of the Shorts 360 civilian airliner. It was adopted for military usage for about the past 20 years," said Capt. Adam McCarthy, commander of A Company, 641st Aviation Regiment, Oregon Army National Guard. "We use it for transporting passengers and cargo, or a variety of the two all around Iraq and even down to Kuwait."

The Soldiers of A Co., who have been stationed on Joint Base Balad, Iraq, since October, provide a crucial service in Iraq.

"We supply what is called the 'last tactical mile' — the Air Force gets stuff into the country and we get it out to all the



PHOTO BY SPC. DARRIEL SWATTS

SEE SHERPAS, PAGE B4

National Guard C-23 Sherpas have been used in Iraq for approximately eight years to help move troops and cargo around the country.

Guardsguard becomes 1st female Avenger Master Gunner



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS BLAIR HEUSDENS

Staff Sgt. Jessica Ray, left, assists her team chief during qualifications on the .50-caliber machine gun range at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla., June 7. She recently became the first female to graduate from the Avenger Master Gunners Course.

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS BLAIR HEUSDENS
Florida National Guard Public Affairs

STARKE, Fla. — When Staff Sgt. Jessica Ray came into the Florida National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 265th Air Defense Artillery, she followed closely behind the first females to come into the 14S, or Avenger crewmember, Military Occupational Specialty.

Now, four years later, Ray can claim a first of her own — she recently became the first female to graduate from the Avenger Master Gunner course.

"It's a great accomplishment in my career," said Ray, who works full time for the Florida National Guard in Sarasota, Fla.

"I'm proud to be called a master gunner and to be able to take that knowledge to my Soldiers."

The Avenger Master Gunner course is designed to train a noncommissioned officer to function as the unit's master of gunnery and the commander's gunnery technical adviser. During the six-week course, Soldiers are challenged through three phases of training covering detailed technical knowledge of the weapons system and in depth planning and execution of training.

"In the beginning it was very long nights," said Ray. "But the hard work does pay off."

SEE GUNNER, PAGE B4

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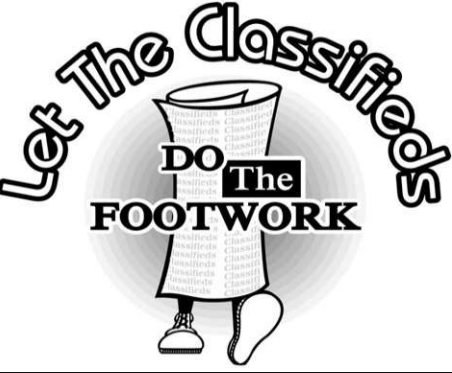
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Tigers: Tradition passed down to each new unit

Continued from Page B1

hard as it may be for us, it's equally as hard if not harder for them back home."

The flag flying program is open to any and all Soldiers stationed on Camp Taji with the Flying Tigers.

"I've flown tons of flags since we got here in late February, early March," said Moran. "I enjoy flying the flags because it's a way of showing respect to the people

back home and it's a way of thanking them for what they have done. When I'm out there flying that flag, I realize the importance of it all."

Soldiers have been flying the flags while in country since the beginning of the war and the tradition has been passed along to each new incoming unit; it's something that says, "Hey, I'm thinking of you and even though we are half the world apart, you are with me in my

mind, heart and soul," Hardin said.

"We couldn't do this program without the help and support of our flight operations people," said Hardin. "People come in and ask for us to fly a flag, and they accept the flag, document what needs to be done, hand it off to the pilots before the flight, get it back, and make a certificate of flight and have to pilots sign it to authenticate the certificate, then they send it back home and all over the states."

"For people back home, it's like 'wow, this flag was flown on an AH-64 Apache helicopter in Iraq,'" said Staff Sgt. Robert Ethridge, 8th ARB, 229th Avn. Regt. S3 non-commissioned officer in charge. "My son, daughter, husband, wife, friend or colleague is there and they were thinking of me when they asked to have this flag flown. It's just a great 'thank you for everything' for whoever is fortunate enough to receive the flag."

Sherpas: Crews provide efficient cargo transportation

Continued from Page B1

smaller bases in country," said McCarthy. "We are extremely proficient in getting things and people around the country. We're like the FedEx of Iraq."

Since the Sherpa program's arrival in Iraq, it has left an identifiable mark on operations.

"The service that we provide here has definitely made an impact on this whole war. Sherpas have been flying in this war for eight years now, and I think that the whole program has proven itself over and over again," said 1st Sgt. Scott McCoy, A Co. "We are here to support the field commander, and if what they ask us to do is within our capabilities, we'll get it done for them. We get the mission done, hands down, day in and day out to the best of our capabilities."

Since the arrival of A Co., they have transported more than 2.2 million pounds of equipment and cargo, 10,000 people and have logged more

than 5,000 hours of flight time on their fleet of aircraft.

The Sherpa program has gone through several modifications in order to be effective in Iraq.

"Back home we fly during the day. However, here in Iraq, we fly solely at night," said Chief Warrant Officer Dan McCarron, A Co. maintenance officer and C-23 pilot. "When I was here in 2005, we used to fly during the day at a tactical low level altitude at a high rate of speed; but now, for safety reasons, we fly only at night under night vision goggles. Plus, we've had to do several modifications to the airframe and instrument panels in order to make it safer; because, it was originally a civilian aircraft, which the Army adapted for its own usage."

With the whole drawdown of U.S. Forces out of Iraq, there are consistently fewer and fewer assets to move stuff around the theater of operations. The C-23 has really been called upon to go that extra mile and

move those things that are required to be moved, said McCarron.

"They prove to be a price-less service here. If something is needed somewhere, if they can move it, they'll get it there," said Maj. Tom Stackpole, 2nd Bn., 228th Avn. Regt. night operations officer-in-charge for Warrior Ops. "Even though we are drawing down here, stuff and people still need to be moved all the time; they are able to do so in an expeditious manner. They can carry more than a UH-60 Blackhawk, but less than a CH-47 Chinook, but the benefit is that they can go for longer distances, faster."

The CH-47 Chinook helicopter and the C-23 Sherpa are both used as cargo and troop transports. However, the Sherpa is only operated by the National Guard.

"I used to be a crewchief on a CH-47 Chinook, and now I'm a flight engineer on the C-23 Sherpa," said McCoy. "We have limitations on what we can haul,

but we move as much as we can as often as we can. The Chinook can haul four times as much as we can, but we can do it quicker and for longer hauls. But both aircraft perform phenomenally and have their own niches."

Through the usage of the C-23 in Iraq, it has definitely shown that it excels in its field.

"The Sherpa is a very versatile aircraft; we're able to move our loads under almost any circumstance. Our only limitations are weight, balance and weather," said Sgt. Clint Walker, A Co. flight engineer. "The hotter the weather, the less we can carry. It is one of the reasons we fly at night, but we'll fly to a location to drop off a single item, like a 15-pound box of blood, or we can load the aircraft to its max and go from there. We've been called the 'Sure Flight Sherpas,' because we get the mission done."

The nickname "Sure Flight Sherpas" reflects a high demand for their services.

"They receive a lot of requests for their services, and it definitely keeps me busy. They are a very popular unit; they're out flying every night, moving people and cargo all over the country," said Spc. Byron Yates, future operations non-commissioned-officer-in-charge for the 2nd Bn., 228th Avn. Regt. "The amazing thing about the Sherpas is that they move a lot of people and cargo, but they also pick up additional Space Available people and cargo too. I'll send them out saying they are going to be moving a certain amount of stuff, and they come back with doubled if not tripled numbers because of all of the SpaceA they moved that night, too, and I'm just left wondering how they did it."

The Soldiers of A Co., 641st Avn. Regt. go by the motto "Somebody out there is waiting for us and we can't let them down, we won't let them down, we will get to them" said McCarthy.

Gunner: Advanced training provides valuable battlefield asset

Continued from Page B1

Ray's unit is currently conducting annual training at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla., and the unit's master gunners are crucial to the success of the unit's training and qualification on the ranges. This training at the ranges also gives the Soldiers the opportunity to use the skills they've been training on throughout the year and gives them the chance to get their hands on the real weapons systems during the live fire exercises.

"When we do ranges like this, we're able to implement all the year of hard work," said Ray.

She deployed with the 3rd Bn., 265th ADA to the National Capital Region in 2009-2010 to provide air defense for the nation's capital. The Florida National Guard regularly supports this mission and it provides important leadership experience for non-commissioned officers.

"Staff Sergeant Ray will bring that technical ability to the unit," said Capt. Michael Wetter, commander of A Battery, 3rd Bn., 265th ADA. "We're tactically already very well trained, but Master Gunners can provide more in-depth training on the weapons system."

The Avenger system operates with a crew of three, not because three people are required to operate it, but because the responsibility of the mission, especially in the Nation's capital, requires an experienced and highly trained noncommissioned officer to make the final decision if it is necessary to engage a potential target.

"It's critical that we have that experienced NCO Corps," said Maj. Chris Dillon, the battalion operations officer. "That person will be the last person to give the order to engage."



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Officials seek input to modernize DOD schools
Story on Page C3

COMMUNITY

VOL. 61 ■ NO. 24

ARMYFLIER★COM

JUNE 16, 2011

Summer of FUN

DFMWR events provide summer fun for local youth

BY LEAH COLLICH
 Fort Rucker Public Affairs

School is out, summer vacation is in full swing and there are plenty of fun activities to keep Fort Rucker children busy all summer long.

During the summer, Directorate of Family, Morale Welfare and Recreation's Child, Youth and School Services offers weekly camps, daily classes and fun activities for children of all ages, from toddlers to teens, said Kathy Vickers, acting coordinator of Child, Youth and School Services.

Children have no reason to be bored at home over their summer break, said Vickers.

She said some of the most popular summer programs are the classes offered through Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills Unlimited. The SKIES program offers children ages four weeks old to adolescence instructional classes in a variety of areas, including swimming, gymnastics, golf, tennis, dance and Tae Kwon Do. Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served-basis.

Vickers said SKIES' most popular class, swimming, taught 450 children how to swim last summer. She said swimming lessons are taught by water safety instructors at Flynn Pool.

Vickers also mentioned a DFMWR partnership program called the Edge, where children are given the opportunity to experience all the activities available on the installation through DFMWR, including tubing and wake boarding at Lake Tholocco, sewing,

photography, ceramics, pottery, Frisbee golf, aerobics classes and more.

She said participation in the Edge program costs \$5 an hour for children ages 6-10, but that it is free for children ages 11-18. Different activities are offered to different age groups daily.

Week-long summer camps are also offered for school-aged children, middle school-aged children and teens at the Fort Rucker Youth Center. Tricia Oates, assistant director of CYSS, said the summer programs are a great way to keep children safe and entertained during the summer.

Oates said the camps are all day from Monday through Friday and offer children a variety of activities each day.

"The camp is structured around a 'child's choice' schedule, where children are allowed to rotate through different activities at their own choosing," she said. "They can choose whether they want to do arts and crafts or sports and exercise, watch a movie, go swimming or play pool. Whenever they get tired of one activity, they let a staff member know and we let them move on to another."

The camps also include optional fieldtrips to Panama City, where the children will go to Wonder Works, Shipwreck Island Water Park, the zoo or Golf World, she said.

"The weeklong camp's dynamics are, 'boom! Off the wall,'" Oates said excitedly. "The kids love it."

In order for children to participate in any of the summer activities, they must be registered with CYSS, said Vickers. Parents can register their children and



PHOTO BY RUSSELL SELLERS

Andrew Parker gets some help from his SKIES advanced boys' gymnastics instructor, Chara Beightol, on the rings at the Child, Youth and School Services center last summer.

find more information about summer activities at the Parent Central Services office in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 130. More in-

formation may also be found on Facebook on the Fort Rucker CYSS group page and at <http://ftruckerdmwr.com>.

Owners must help pets beat the heat

BY LEAH COLLICH
 Fort Rucker Public Affairs

People aren't the only ones who feel the heat in the summer months and, according to a Fort Rucker veterinarian, it is important be aware of the effects that warmer temperatures may have on people's four-legged friends.

Capt. Tiffany Riddle, officer-in-charge of the Fort Rucker Veterinary clinic, says the warm moist climate of the region makes for perfect breeding grounds for pests who are known to carry diseases that can affect pets. Fleas, ticks and mosquitoes present a problem to animals that spend a lot of time outdoors and she recommends preventative medicine to ensure the health of pets.

"Heartworm and flea prevention are crucial for this area this time of year. Heartworm prevention is a must because they are transmitted by mosquitoes," Riddle said. "If your animal is going to be outside a lot or in the woods a lot, I would also recommend the Leptospirosis vaccination, which prevents the disease spread by ticks."

She said pet owners must also be sure to provide animals with some relief from the sun if they are kept outside and provide them with plenty of water to en-



PHOTO BY LEAH COLLICH

Kipper, a puppy available for adoption at the Fort Rucker Stray and Adoption Facility, tries to stay cool in the shade on a hot day.

sure their safety.

"Make sure your animals have some sort of shelter or shade that they can get under to stay out of the sun. I recommend having your animal inside at the hottest time of the day. They need plenty of water, too — your pets should never be restricted from water, even if they are indoors," she said.

Riddle said some owners may notice that their pets have less of an appetite in the summer months, but that this is to be expected.

Maj. Jay Massey, Department of Public Safety deputy provost marshal, said neglecting a pet by leaving it chained up or confined in the heat without proper water is a violation of

Fort Rucker Regulation 40-16. He encourages anyone who observes a pet that they suspect is being neglected to call the DPS immediately.

Massey also reminds residents who live on post that all animals must be registered, receive proper vaccinations and be microchipped at the veterinary clinic within 72 hours of first arriv-

ing at Fort Rucker or of getting a new pet. Should a resident's animal escape and it has not been microchipped, the animal will be taken to the Fort Rucker Stray and Adoption Facility.

Animal Health Aid Kati Brewster said the stray and adoption facility can only house 10 dogs and 11 cats before it reaches maximum capacity. She said after a week, if no one comes to claim an animal, it is put up for adoption.

She said people interested in adopting a pet can come by the facility to meet and play with the different animals until they find one that is a good match for them. The cost of adoption is \$81, which includes the animal's first round of shots, de-worming and de-fleaing, a spaying or neutering procedure and microchipping, said Brewster.

Before adopting, Brewster encourages people to consider all that pet ownership requires and make sure it is a good choice for them.

"People need to remember that they are in the military; they are going to move, and possibly overseas. If someone is not willing to take the animal with them, then they don't need to adopt," she said. "People need to understand, animal care can't be taken lightly."

On Post

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO FORT RUCKER EVENTS , SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Moving sale

The Fort Rucker Thrift Shop is currently offering 75 percent off solid white tickets items until July 1. Colored tickets are consigned and cannot be discounted. The Thrift Shop is located at 3904 Gladiator across from the post office. For more information, call 255-9595.

Summer Reading Program Registration

Registration for the Fort Rucker Center Library's summer reading program is now through June 24. This EFMP-friendly program is designed for youth ages 5-12. For more information, call 255-3885.

Employment event

The Fort Rucker Army Career and Alumni Program Center staff hosts DIRECTV and Army Fleet Support on Friday in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, second floor break room, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is open to active duty military, Family members, veterans and retired military only. For more information, call 255-3932.

Bay lift special

The Fort Rucker Auto Skills Center offers a half price, \$2.75 per hour, special for bay lift use today and Friday from 4-7 p.m., June 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and June 19 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 255-9725.

Comedy Live

Comedy Live returns to The Landing Friday from 8-9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each before the show and \$15 at the door. Tickets grant access to the comedy show and the Ball and Chain Party Band and H-Beam from 10 p.m. until 1 a.m. For more information, call 598-8025.

Anger Management Workshop

Army Community Ser-

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vice's Family Advocacy Program staff hosts an anger management workshop June 20 and 27 from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Early Childhood Activity Center, Bldg. 3705.

Topics include identifying causes of anger, symptoms of anger, techniques on how to manage anger and developing an anger management plan. Registration is required.

This workshop is open to active duty military, retired military, DOD employees and their Family. For child care information and registration, call 255-3898.

Teen Night

Teen Night, featuring live entertainment by DJ Dave, is June 24 from 7-11 p.m. in The Landing. The event is open to youth ages 13-18 who are students in areas schools. Participants enjoy a large dance floor, disco lights and a great show.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Additional staff security is on-site to ensure a safe night for all. Admission is \$7, with "no leave and return" policy.

Parents and adults may spend the evening in the LZ with JK and the Lost Boys from Atlanta. For more information, call 598-8025.

Character Dining

The Landing Zone's Character Dining features walk-around magic from Titan Magic on June 28 from 5-7 p.m.

Kids can enjoy free balloons and a children's buffet. For more information, call 598-8025.

Effective Communication Workshop

Army Community Service's Victim Advocacy Program staff hosts a

communication workshop June 29 from 9-11 a.m. in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 371G. The workshop is open to Soldiers, Family members, civilians and DOD employees.

Registration is required by June 24. For more information and to register, call 255-9644. Space is limited. Childcare is available by request. For childcare information, call 255-3898.

Live entertainment

The Corduroy Blues perform July 1 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in The Landing Zone.

The Landing Zone provides a complimentary shuttle to anywhere on post. For more information, call 598-8025.

Promotion Points Parent Support Program

Registration for the Army Community Service's Promotion Points Parent Support Program opens July 1.

These monthly parenting education classes begin Jan. 7 from 9-11 a.m. at the Early Childhood Activity Center, Bldg. 3705. They are designed for Soldiers and are held the first Friday of every month.

For more information and to register, call 255-3898.

Independence Day Pool Party

The Independence Day Pool Party is July 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Splash! Pool. Enjoy swimming, refreshments and live music by Jonathan Sexton and the Big Love Choir from noon to 4 p.m.

For more information, call 598-8025. Splash Pool is open to authorized patrons only.

Freedom Fest

Fort Rucker's Freedom Fest 2011 is July 2. This year, Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band are the featured entertainers. For more information, call 255-1749

Divorce/separation co-parenting workshop

A divorce/separation co-parenting workshop, sponsored by Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program, is July 11 and 18 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Early Childhood Activity Center.

Topics include commitment to staying child focused, effective communication and negotiation skills, reducing parental conflict and understanding children's needs during and following divorce.

This workshop is a two part series. Participants must attend all classes in order to receive a certificate of completion.

Registration is required. This workshop is open to active duty military, retired military, DOD employees and their Family. For more information, call 255-3898.

Kiddy Karaoke

The Landing Zone's Tuesday Character Dining features Kiddy Karaoke with DJ Dave July 12 from 5-7 p.m. more information, call 598-8025.

DFMWR Spotlight

FATHER'S DAY ACTIVITIES

Father's Day Craft making Activity
Center Library, Bldg. 212
June 16th 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Children ages 3 - 11. Limited to the first 65 to register.
Light refreshments will be served.
For more details or to register call 255-3885

FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH

June 19th 10am - 2pm
The Landing

Adults Ages 13+ - \$12.95
Ages 6 - 12 - \$7.95
Ages 3 - 5 - \$3.95
Ages 2 and under - FREE

Reservations are preferred but not required. This event is open to the public.
For details or to make reservations call 598-2426.

FATHER'S DAY BOWL AT RUCKER LANES

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PHOTO BY LEAH COLLICH

Pick-of-the-litter

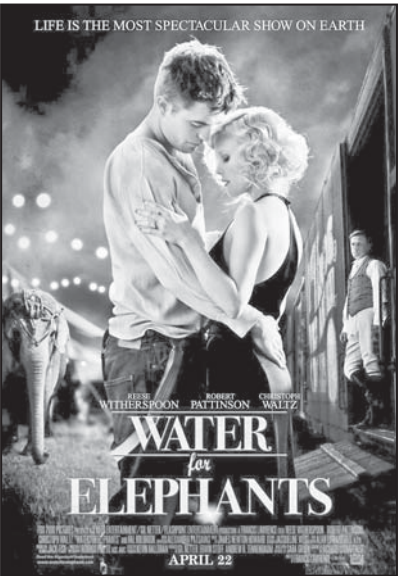
Meet Bonker, a 5-week-old, male calico available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility. He is very calm and sweet. It costs \$81 to adopt Bonker and other animals at the facility, which includes all up-to-date shots, microchip and neutering. For more information on animal adoptions, call the veterinary clinic at 255-9061, open Mondays-Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or the stray facility at 255-0766, open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The stray facility needs donations such as dry or canned foods for cats, dogs, kittens and puppies, as well as blankets, toys and towels. Donations can be dropped off at the veterinary clinic or the commissary. One dog and one cat were adopted last week.

FORT RUCKER Movie Schedule for June 16 - 19

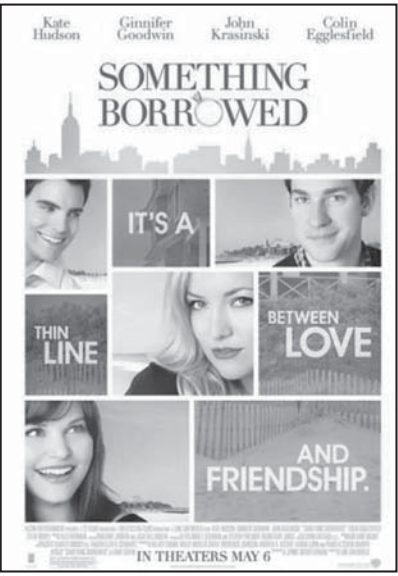
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THURSDAY, JUNE 16
Hoodwinked Too (PG) 7 p.m.



FRIDAY, JUNE 17 THROUGH SATURDAY, JUNE 18
Water for Elephants (PG-13) 7 p.m.



SUNDAY, JUNE 19
Something Borrowed (PG-13) & p.m.

Officials seek input to modernize DOD schools

BY TERRI MOON CRONK
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Officials in charge of the Defense Department's school system for military children are seeking input from parents, students and teachers in creating a 21st century learning environment by 2016.

The Department of Defense Education Activity wants people who use the schools to provide their ideas on how to modernize education for the military schools of the future, right down to designing and furnishing them.

DODEA recently set up a three-phase plan for "Facilities for 21st Century Learning."

The first phase brought together industry, education and futurist experts. The second is the call for input, and the third will analyze the ideas, officials said.

"We are seeing dramatic changes in how students communicate, interact and learn," the activity's acting director, Marilee Fitzgerald, said in a recent DODEA news release.

Plans to renovate or build more than 100 schools through 2016 follow President Barack Obama's "Strengthening Our Military Families" plan, which identifies education as a priority. Creating safe, secure and educationally appropriate school campuses for military children, DODEA officials said, is the primary goal.

"Good teachers can teach anywhere, but if the space they teach in is purposed for education, we can enhance the learning experience," Fitzgerald said. "The facility shouldn't be a barrier, or a workaround. It's an intentioned space that is constructed for the benefit of learning."

"We will eliminate our portables, we will eliminate multiple buildings," Fitzgerald said. "We won't have to take a journey around a base to get to the music room or to the art room."

The goal is for future DODEA schools to be adaptive, flexible and capable, officials said, and innovative input from parents, teachers and students can help to make the goal a reality.

"You could say that we don't know what we don't know," explained Mike Smiley, chief of facilities for DODEA. "Ten years ago, who expected Wi-Fi, smartphones and small tablets to be as prevalent as they are now? We do know that our schools of the future will need greater capability for connectivity, and we want to infuse our schools with information access."

To make education adaptive for 21st century education, Smiley said, might mean that wall configurations will be easier to change, or that instructional spaces will have greater variability in size. Spaces may need to support one-on-one learning or small-group instruction, leaving auditoriums for performances, lectures and presentations.

DODEA will take suggestions in education, curriculum delivery, use of technology, and the growing expectations for sustainability and energy conservation into consideration, Smiley said.

"[People] can submit in many different ways," he added. "Submissions can be in the form of videos, images, written narratives or audio files."

Methods of teaching face change, too, Smiley said, with an emphasis on

becoming "student-centric," rather than "teacher-centric."

"We need to better address individual students' needs and maximize their potential," he explained. "Our facilities should be designed to aid in this endeavor."

While DODEA will not use a school prototype, Smiley said, he'd like to see something more challenging in a school setting for military children.

"We are really hoping for new ideas and innovation on how we can best design and build learning environments for our students," he said.

Once input is gathered from parents, students, teachers and the commu-

nities, a process is in place to filter through the suggestions for the most viable ideas.

"We've hired an architectural and engineering firm with a lot of experience in school design to review the submissions," Smiley said. "They'll be looking for common or new themes in comparison with results of our earlier symposium that included subject-matter experts in a wide range of educational study."


Parents and community members are invited to share ideas at <http://21stcentury.dodea.edu/>. DODEA also has an internal site for employees to submit ideas at <http://intersect.hq.ds.dodea.edu/>



DODEA PHOTO

This is an example of a 21st Century School interior space as envisioned by the Department of Defense Education Activity.

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Confessions are conducted at 4 p.m. Mass is offered Saturdays at 5 p.m., Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesdays-Fridays at 12:05 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel. For more information, call 255-9894.

PROTESTANT CONTEMPORARY PRAISE SERVICES

Protestant Contemporary Praise services are offered at 9 and 11 a.m. Sundays at the Chapel of Wings. For more information, call 255-9221 or 255-2989.

ISLAMIC PRAYERS AND PROGRAMS

All prayers are held at Bldg. T6609 on Fifth Avenue. For more information about daily prayers, and weekly and monthly programs, call Chaplain (Maj.) Abdullah Hulwe at 255-1073.

COLLECTIVE PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICES

Collective Protestant worship services are offered Sundays at 11 a.m. at the Main Post Chapel. For more information, call 255-3140.



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Biking to work can be healthy, green choice

Story on Page D3

SPORTS

VOL. 61 ■ NO. 24

ARMYFLIER★COM

JUNE 16, 2011

SPORTS SHORTS

NASCAR TICKETS OFFERED AT LEISURE TRAVEL

The Fort Rucker Leisure Travel Office offers Atlanta Motor Speedway tickets for the NASCAR race Sept. 3-4. The prices are \$75 per person for both days and \$45 for Sept. 4 only. Seating is general admission for Sept. 3 and Upper Elliot reserved for Sept. 4. For more information, call 255-9517.

SCUBA COURSE

The Fort Rucker Aquarians Dive Club sponsors a scuba certification course Monday and Wednesday nights for no less than six weeks and no more than seven weeks, dependent on weather. One weekend will be required at the end of the course to complete open water training in the Gulf of Mexico. For more information, call 774-3483 or 347-6936.

SGT. AUDIE MURPHY TRIATHLON

The annual Sgt. Audie Murphy Triathlon is Saturday at Lake Tholocco's West Beach at 7 a.m. Cost for individuals is \$40 pre-registered by Saturday, \$50 after/up to race day. Relay teams with a maximum of three people, \$70 by Saturday, \$80 after/up to race day. The triathlon consists of 1/4-mile swim, 10.6-mile bike ride, and 3.1-mile run. Cash awards will be given to top overall finishers and the top relay team. For more information, call 255-0308, 255-3794 or visit www.ftruckerkmwr.com.

FATHER'S DAY SCRAMBLE

Silver Wings Golf Course staff hosts a Father's Day Scramble and Parent/Child 9-Hole Tournament Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. Prizes are awarded based on the number of participants. Cost is \$10, plus cart and green fees, if applicable. For more information, call 598-2449.

SUMMER BOWLING INTRAMURALS

Summer Intramural League Bowling at Rucker Lanes begins Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. There is a one-time fee of \$10 to cover a buffet the last night of league play. For more information, call 255-9503.

TAOIST TAI CHI SOCIETY

The Enterprise YMCA staff hosts two beginner's classes in the Taoist Tai Chi Society arts of health. Classes are offered Thursdays, 1-2:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10-11:30 a.m. The beginner's class covers all 108 moves of the Tai Chi set. Taoist Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese exercise that promotes health and relaxation. It is suitable for all ages and physical conditions. Comfortable, loose clothing and flat-soled shoes are recommended attire. All classes are taught by accredited volunteer instructors. For more information, call 348-9008 or 347-4663.

BURGER AND BOWL

Rucker Lanes staff offers a daily "Burger and Bowl" special for \$7. The special includes a cheeseburger, fries, soda,

SEE SHORTS, PAGE D4

EFMP takes kids out on the greens

BY RUSSELL SELLERS
Army Flier Staff Writer

Children in Fort Rucker's Exceptional Family Member Program grabbed their putters and irons and hit the course at Silver Wings Golf Course Tuesday.

The group of nine participants learned the basics and fundamentals of the game from two experts, David Unsicker, SWGC manager, and Ronnie Mobley, resident golf pro.

The pair taught the children how to stand, position themselves, line up a shot, and swing on the putting greens and the driving range.

"Golf is a sport that everybody can play," Unsicker said. "You can do it when you're a young child until you're 99 years old. Even children who might not be successful at other sports, can be successful with this. It's not an easy sport to learn, but once you've got it, it stays with you."

Kelli Reynoldson, military spouse, brought her son, Alex, 7, who has cerebral palsy and autism, to the clinic because golf runs in the Family.

"His father is a golfer and I thought this might be something that they could do together when he has some off time," she said. "It's so exciting to see that EFMP is doing something like this for kids with special needs. It's nice to have this kind of inclusion for the children and parents."

Mobley said working with special needs children was a new and fun experience for him and one he hopes will happen again.

"These kids are so much like sponges: you



PHOTO BY RUSSELL SELLERS

Ronnie Mobley, SWGC golf pro, works with Alerik Nedostup, 6, on the practice putting greens during the first EFMP golf clinic at SWGC Tuesday.

show them once or twice and then they're doing it on their own," he said. "Golf is a lot like riding a bike or swimming, once you get it, it's there for life."

He added that golf also teaches fundamentals that can be applied to everyday life, too.

"It's just the little things they learn like staying in line and waiting for your turn," he said.

"Those things are part of life. It's all about proper etiquette and proper respect for other people."

Marion Cornish, EFMP manager, said the idea for a golf clinic for special needs children came about after she met Unsicker at a training class and he mentioned having adaptive equipment for people with special needs.

"I called him after the

class and he explained a little bit about golf clinics and what they had done in the past and it sounded like a great idea," she said. "It all just took off from there and I hope we can make this clinic a regular event."

Cornish said the event, while primarily for the children, was also a chance for the parents to meet and talk with one another.

"I'm trying to find activities to get Families involved and meet each other," she said. "They have a lot of knowledge I don't have. Sometimes it's easier for them to talk to somebody that has a similar situation to their own. It also gives them a chance to have a little fun, too."

For more information on EFMP and upcoming events, call 255-9227.

Swimming should be safe, fun

BY RUSSELL SELLERS
Army Flier Staff Writer

As the heat of summer rolls on, swimming increases in popularity among Fort Rucker residents, but safety should never be out of mind.

Jon Cole, Fort Rucker aquatics manager, said being safe should be the top concern for those enjoying time on or in the water this season.

Parents who bring their children to Splash! Pool or to West Beach should always be aware of what their kids are doing and that they're not having trouble swimming, he said. Having a lifejacket is also a good idea for swimmers at West Beach.

"We have signs posted up to let parents know that if their child can't stand up in the water or is not a good swimmer, they must be within arms' reach at all times," he said. "Swimming at the lake is different from the pools, though. You can't see more than a foot into the water at the lake."

Cole added that the environment at West Beach is also different from the kind found at most pools.

"At the lake, you could be walking along in the water just fine and then there could be a sudden drop-off or the sand could sink right under you," he said. "Those are the types of things people should be watchful for if they're going to be out swimming at West Beach. There could also be underwater debris like sticks or sharp rocks that wash up during the night. We clear it out frequently, but there could be things that wash in at any time."

Cole said the swimming area at West Beach is enclosed, so the waves swimmers encounter would be comparable to those found at a public pool.

Lindsey Williams, Fort Rucker pool operator, said using sunscreen and making sure to take breaks while swimming to avoid exhaustion are things every swimmer, regardless of

age, should remember.

"If we see somebody who's really sunburned, we'll say something to them about putting on sunscreen or just getting out of the sun," she said. "They need to do everything they can to avoid that kind of injury and sunscreen is a good way to start."

Those choosing to swim in any facility should also watch for any wildlife that might be attracted to the water as well, Cole added.

"This is south Alabama during a particularly hot summer, so there are snakes out during this time of year," he said. "They're more likely to be seen out at the lake, but that doesn't mean one couldn't wander into the pool area. If there were to be one, we would call animal control to come out and take care of it."

Cole added that precautions are taken at all Fort Rucker pools to prevent the possible spread of disease.

"We do have chlorine in all

our pools," he said. "There are some recreational water illnesses that are immune to chlorine, such as cryptosporidium, that can live up to a week in chlorinated water. It can be deadly to those with compromised immune systems like the very young or the elderly."

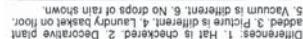
Cole said the disease lives in soft stool or diarrhea. He said that those with children who have been sick recently or have been sick themselves, should not go to the pool or the spray park because it could spread the disease.

Cole said that, according to the Center for Disease Control, swim diapers are not going to stop the spread of disease. The diapers don't dissolve in water, but they don't keep the disease from spreading.

"We also try to enforce showering as best we can," Williams added. "It's difficult because of the high traffic flow, but people need to take that responsibility and shower before and after getting out of the pool."



Kid's Corner



Biking to work can be healthy, green choice

BY HUNTER MERRITT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District employees supported the 2011 May is Bike Month campaign by logging more than 7,300 miles, placing fifth in comparison with similarly-sized participating Sacramento area businesses and agencies.

The district was recognized earlier this month by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments for promoting alternative commute options and aiming to lower greenhouse gas emissions by being a bike-friendly workplace.

Biking to work is a low-cost transit option for employees, who are able to access free, secure bike racks in the parking deck and a private bike locker for only \$5 per month. Showers and lockers are also available for bike commuters. The district has offered several clinics on safe bike commuting practices to encourage the use of biking as an alternative commute option.

The district also maintains a membership in the Sacramento Transportation Management Association, a non-profit organization formed in 1991 to address the issues of air quality by promoting alternative transportation options. All district employees enjoy the benefits of this membership.

“To lure commuters out of their cars we have to convince them that bicycle commuting is not just for the bold and the brave, it is a relatively safe form of transportation,” said Marilyn Bryant, Sacramento TMA coordinator and organizer of the Sacramento May is Bike Month campaign, which promotes the use of bicycle transportation with special events and promotions throughout the month.

“It is really about education and awareness of what is available,” said Bryant. “With that, people can make the change to use alternative transportation, for their own health and a better environment.”

With more than 30 miles of bike trails along the American River and bike lanes on many city streets, Sacramento has become very popular as a bike commuting city, fourth in the nation, according to a 2008 survey published by American Bicyclist.

In 2008, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments awarded \$11.4 million to facilities and projects for cyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities. SACOG’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan anticipates the region will spend \$1.4 billion on such projects by 2035, a 56 percent increase over the previous plan.

The Sacramento TMA provides a website with information on all forms of transit, including traffic conditions for drivers. Members are encouraged to join the Commuter Club, which provides information on cost savings and reduction of air pollution for every mile traveled and awards prizes to members who track their miles, even those who drive alone.

Members who commute by alternative means can also access a free ride home by taxi or rental car in case of an emergency.

“I think more people would join the Commuter Club and log their miles if they knew that there were actual rewards,” said Kenneth Wing, a senior project manager with the Sacramento District and a member of the Commuter Club since 2005. Wing rides his bike to work nearly every day, seven miles from his home in Land Park, Calif., and said he has won several gift cards through the program.



PHOTO BY HUNTER MERRITT

Zach Simmons, USACE Sacramento District regulatory project manager, bikes to work in Sacramento, Calif.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

E	H	U	D	P	S	H	A	W	B	E	E	P	M	A	L	T			
Z	E	R	O	O	H	A	R	A	S	A	L	V	O	A	J	A	R		
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

- Twelve
- To hell
- A citizen
- Franklin D. Roosevelt
- William Blake
- First seven books of the Old Testament
- Luddites
- Nana
- A parliament of owls
- Memphis, Tenn.

“Champions aren’t made in the gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them — a desire, a dream, a vision.”
— Muhammad Ali

Take 5

before hitting the mud!

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- Wear the proper protective equipment and bright-colored clothing to increase visibility to others
- Ride in the company of others and tell someone at home where you going and when you plan to return
- Carry along a first-aid pack, tool/repair kit and some snacks and drinking water
- Don’t let children ride ATVs that are too tall or powerful for their capabilities
- Check the riding area for potential hazards
- Avoid following too closely behind another rider
- Don’t mix alcohol or other drugs while riding
- Do not carry passengers unless the ATV is equipped to do so

SAFE Summer

What Have You Done to Save a Life Today?

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ARMY SAFETY
IS ARMY STRONG
I AND MY BROTHERS & SISTERS

SPORTS SHORTS
Continued from Page D1

shoe rental and two games of bowling.

EXTREME BOWLING
Extreme Bowling at Rucker Lanes is Saturdays from 8-11 p.m. for \$10 and features unlimited bowling with lights, music and glow-in-the-dark balls and shoes. For more information, call 255-9503.

ARCHERY SHOOTS
Fort Rucker Archery Club members conduct weekly shoots at the club's range, located off Whittaker Road. Shoots begin Thursdays at 4 p.m., and members take aim at a 20- to 60-yard practice range, 28 3-D targets along a walking trail or a 10-target area. Annual membership costs \$20. For more information, call 389-6135.

BATTING CAGES HOURS
The child, youth and school services batting cages are open Mondays-Fridays from 4-7 p.m., Saturdays from 2-6 p.m. and closed Sundays. They are located in the Youth Sports Complex on Fifth Avenue between the post office and the youth football field. For more information, call 255-9105.

RIDING STABLES RULES
Riding stables staff reminds community members that letting horses out of their stalls can be dangerous to the horses and motorists. Visitors are also reminded to stay on the main roadways, do not approach any of the horses without owners' permission, stay out of the pastures and obey the speed limit of 10 mph at all times. For more information, call 598-3384.

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