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ARMYFLIER

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PHOTO BY ERIN MURRAY

Saxophonists for the 98th Army “Silver Wings” Band rehearse for the free holiday concert scheduled for Dec. 13 at the post theater at 6:30 p.m.

Concert gives a slice of history

By Erin Murray
Army Flier Staff Writer

Community members will hear a winter wonderland of music during this holiday season at the commanding general’s annual holiday concert provided by the 98th Army “Silver Wings” Band Dec. 13.

The free concert will be at the post theater at 6:30 p.m., and promises a “smorgasbord of Christmas favorites” along with other holiday favorites across many genres and generations, said Spc. Tim Stuart, alto saxophonist for the band.

Stuart said that there will be traditional performances from the concert band as well as the rock band, Crossfire, and a newly-revived big band.

“We haven’t had a big band in a long time. For the holiday concert, we could finally put together a group especially for that sound. It’s not just your typical concert. It will be a really crowd-interactive experience. There are a lot of things you might not expect to see from an Army band.”

“There are things for children and adults of all ages, like people who lived through the big band era. We’re trying to provide a slice of history from each different portion of what the band has done throughout history,” he said.

Those who can’t make it to the Dec. 13 performance have a chance to catch the Army band the week before at its Dec. 8 performance at Flowers Center in Ozark. Staff Sgt. Matt Shuck, guitarist and vocalist for the rock

band, explained that the Ozark performance will have more jazz and rock performances than the Fort Rucker performance.

The new focus on rock and jazz is welcomed by the Army band thanks to many talented newcomers, he said.

“We have a lot of new players coming in that were professional jazz musicians before. We have a lot of people with expertise who congregate here, so they decided to put the big band together,” Stuart said.

“We have a brand new singer, Staff Sgt. Mario Edwards, who just came to us. He has a great voice – kind of a rhythm and blues or soul sound. He gives us a new tool to utilize in our show,” said Shuck.

Stuart and Shuck explained that the band has been planning for the holiday season since October, and rehearsals have gone well. Along with the Fort Rucker concert, which is one of its biggest annual missions, the band has been preparing for many parades and events around the Southeast.

“We’re right on schedule with how things should be progressing. We still have a couple of weeks to refine it even more and make it more amazing. For a lot of people, this is the only access they have to people in uniform, so we want to make it great for them. We try to make it a good show. We’re going to have a lot of fun, and hopefully we’ll bring that element of fun and holiday cheer to everyone,” said Shuck.

For more information on Army band events, call 255-9202.

1-58th AOB walks the walk on deployment

By Jim Hughes
Command Information Officer

Prior to boarding buses in February on their way to a yearlong deployment, the 1-58th Airfield Operation Battalion executive officer looked the Soldiers in the eyes and asked them if they were ready.

“They replied with, ‘Yes, ma’am, I’m ready to go – send me,’” said Maj. Sherri Sharpe, unit XO.

More than 60 members of the 1-58th Airfield Operations Battalion continue to walk the walk after being deployed in the Middle East for the past eight months.

Conducting split-based operations throughout Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan, Sharpe said the unit is a vital component to both Operation New Dawn and continuing operations in Operation Enduring Freedom, providing much-needed air traffic control and airfield management services in the theater.

“The 1-58th Airfield Operations Battalion is proud to represent the Fort Rucker community in this historic time,” she said. “We are proud to help usher our brothers and sisters in arms out of Iraq, but above all else, we cannot wait to come home to the friends, Families and local businesses that have done so much to support us during this last year.

“Our Soldiers were responsible for running Liberty Tower and Baghdad Radio in Baghdad; the Ground Controlled Approach Radar in Taji, Iraq; Tarin Kowt Tower in Afghanistan; and for the management of Udairi Army Airfield in Kuwait,” Sharpe said.

Highlights of the deployment so far include: establishing a ground controlled approach radio in Taji; operating Liberty Tower to ensure the safe completion of more than 30,000 aircraft movements and transport of some 23,000 servicemembers and contractors; operating Baghdad Radio, which facilitated almost 90,000 safe aircraft movements for American, allied and civilian aircraft; and the airfield management element working tirelessly over the last eight months to improve and expand the airfield support structures and communications capabilities prior to the reposturing of U.S. forces into Kuwait, she said.

Currently, the unit is providing contract oversight and services to numerous Aviation forces under the 77th Theater Aviation Brigade and the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade in support of Operation New Dawn, Sharpe added.



COURTESY PHOTO

Soldiers from the 1-58th AOB detach radar equipment from a tactical vehicle for establishment as a semi-permanent structure at Udairi Army Airfield in Kuwait.

SEE 1-58TH, PAGE A5

Donated golf cart assists disabled veterans



PHOTO BY ERIN MURRAY

Col. Patrick N. Denman, Wilbur Sullivant and Mike Schmitz unveil the custom golf cart donated to the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System Wiregrass Community Based Outpatient Clinic. The cart will help mobility impaired beneficiaries get access to the VA clinic from the Lyster Army Health Clinic parking lot.

By Erin Murray
Army Flier Staff Writer

Disabled and limited mobility veterans who receive treatment at the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System Wiregrass Community Based Outpatient Clinic on Fort Rucker will receive some extra assistance getting to and from the parking lot in the form of a deluxe golf cart that was donated to the clinic last week.

The cart was provided by Mike Schmitz, mayor of Dothan, after he was contacted by Wilbur Sullivant, Alabama Disabled Veteran of the Year, about helping to provide assistance to the clinic’s many patients with impaired or decreased mobility.

“Colonel Sullivant brought me [to Lyster] and showed me what they needed. It’s a great thing to be able to do. Because of [potential] terrorism, they have to close the doors. That means the veterans have to walk quite a way to the clinic. After seeing that, how could I say no? It’s a thrill for

me to help these veterans that deserve this so much,” said Schmitz.

Col. Patrick N. Denman, commander of the U.S. Army Aeromedical Center and Lyster Army Health Clinic, said that Sullivant began working on helping impaired veteran’s access to the clinic in June, with Schmitz purchasing the cart in August.

Denman said that most entrances to the clinic remain locked due to potential security issues. This means that veterans can access the second floor clinic after entering through the front of the LAHC. Lyster already provides electric scooters for patients inside the clinic, but there was no system in place to help get people to and from their vehicles

“We’ve gone to one entrance only because of force protection. The veterans have to go down a very long hallway. In order to facilitate those with mobility challenges, we purchased three scooters. They are not just for veterans, but for other

SEE CART, PAGE A5

PERSPECTIVE

10 tips for safe holiday decorating

By U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Press release

As the holiday season approaches, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission urges consumers to make safety a factor in holiday decorating.

Whether it is careful candle placement or checking the warning label on the holiday lights, simple safety steps can go a long way in preventing fires and injuries this year.

Annually, during the two months surrounding the holiday season, more than 14,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms due to injuries related to holiday decorating.

In addition, hundreds of fires involving Christmas trees result in an average of 15 deaths and \$13 million dollars in property damage annually. Candle-related fires lead the list of hazards, averaging more than 12,000 a year, resulting in 150 deaths and \$393 million in property damage.

“Holiday decorating-related fires and injuries most often involve defective holiday lights, unattended candles and dried-out Christmas trees,” said CPSC Chairman Inez Tenenbaum. “We are providing this list of 10 simple safety steps to help keep your holiday home safe.”

- Top 10 tips**
- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label “Fire Resistant.” Although this label does not mean the tree won’t catch fire, it does indicate the tree is more resistant to catching fire.
 - When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and do not break when bent between your fingers. The bottom of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.
 - When setting up a tree at home, place it away from heat sources such as fireplaces, vents and radiators. Because heated rooms dry out live trees rapidly, be sure to monitor water levels and keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic, and do not block doorways.
 - In homes with small children, take special care to avoid sharp, weighted or breakable decorations, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children who could swallow or inhale small pieces and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.

- Lights**
- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory, such as UL or ETL/ITSNA.
 - Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Throw out damaged sets. Don’t use electric lights on a metallic tree.
 - If using an extension cord, make sure it is rated for the intended use.
 - When using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure the lights have been certified for outdoor use and only plug them into a ground-fault circuit interrupter protected receptacle or a portable GFCI.
- Candles**
- Keep burning candles within sight. Extinguish all candles before you go to bed, leave the room or leave the house.
 - Keep lighted candles away from items that can catch fire and burn easily, such as trees, other evergreens, decorations, curtains and furniture.
- Get a free brochure with more holiday decorating safety tips at CPSC’s web site www.cpsc.gov.



Rotor Wash

“What is your favorite holiday treat?”

Anna Fitzgerald,
civilian employee

“Pumpkin pie, it reminds me of the holidays.”

Staff Sgt. Zinn Belt,
1st Bn., 31st MPAD

“Fudge.”

WO1 James Williford,
B Co., 1st Bn., 145th
Avn. Regt.

“Pecan pie, no-bake cookies and banana split cake. It reminds me of my grandmother.”

Sgt. Ryan Cheek,
TDY stationed in
Germany

“Pumpkin pie and gingerbread.”

Sgt. Tell Hunting,
1st Bn., 223rd Avn.
Regt.

“I like cherry pie.”

This month in Army Aviation history

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

The Aviation Group

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

Flight Fashions

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

Know Before You Go!

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

Santa Learns About Flying

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

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... and more!

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

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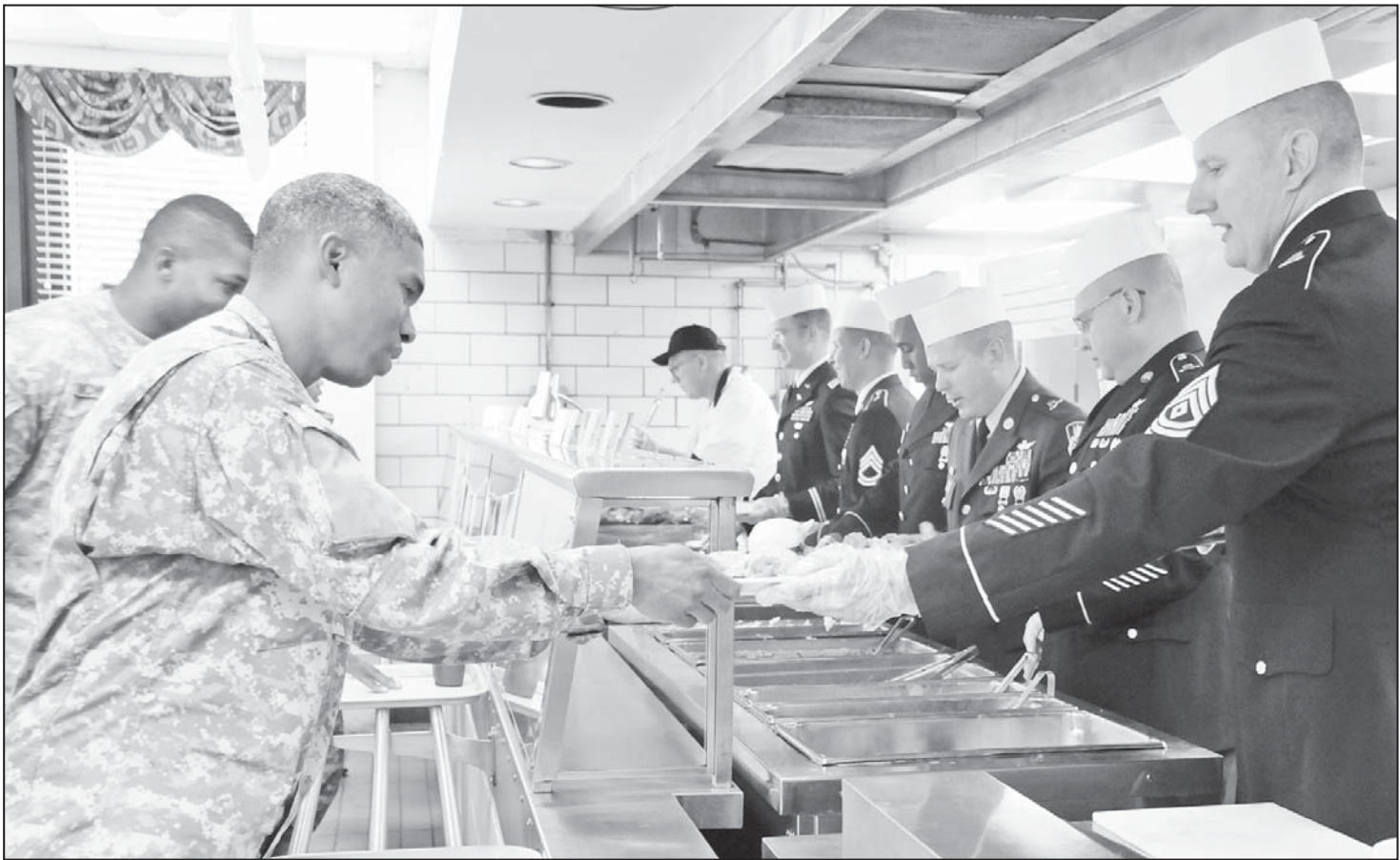


PHOTO BY NATHAN PFALU

Senior non-commissioned officers and commanders serve a Thanksgiving meal to Soldiers at the Warrant Officer Career College consolidated dining facility Nov. 23.

Commanders serve Soldiers Thanksgiving meal

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Soldiers gathered at the Warrant Officer Career College consolidated dining facility Nov. 23 to have commanders from various units serve them a Thanksgiving meal that they might not have had the opportunity to experience.

Soldiers currently attending Survival Evade Resist Escape level-C training, the Noncommissioned Officers Acad-

emy, advanced individual training and Warrant Officer Career College – some with and some without Family members – came out to enjoy the Thanksgiving meal that was offered, according to Maj. Jason D. James, B Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment.

Many of the Soldiers miss the opportunity to enjoy any type of Thanksgiving celebration because they’re going through the various training courses on post.

“I think it is outstanding that the installation offers a Thanksgiving [meal] to Soldiers,” said James. “It is a huge morale boost to these Soldiers [going through] training.”

It’s also a way for the commanders of the various units to interact with the Soldiers and give something back to them for their hard work, said Capt. Troy Pounds, C Co., 1st Bn., 13th Avn. Regt.

“They work hard for us over the year,” said Pounds, “It’s our time to give back

and give thanks for what they do for us every day and I think they get a kick out of us serving them.”

The meal included turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, pies, eggnog and a variety of other Thanksgiving standards.

Many of the units’ commanders expressed their gratitude to the Soldiers for the work that they do.

“It is truly an honor and pleasure to [be able to] serve our Soldiers a Thanksgiving meal,” said James.

Deadlines to mail Christmas packages approaching

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — If you want to send cookies or crocheted underwear to your Soldier overseas and have it in his hands before Christmas, the time to drop it in the mail is now – or at the latest, Dec. 17.

There’s actually a range of deadlines the Military Postal Service Agency has established to ensure before-Christmas delivery of packages and letters to servicemembers in deployed locations.

To get mail to a service member by Christmas at APO/FPO/DPO AE 090-092, 094-098, 340, or 962-966, the latest a package can be sent to arrive on time is Dec. 17 – that means senders have to pay for Express Mail. If senders have already got packages ready and they want to send earlier – and pay less – they can put them in the mail by Dec. 10 and pay for either 1st Class or Priority mail.

Mail to APO/FPO/DPO AE 093 must be sent by Saturday, regardless of the class of mail service used.

Mail sent to deployed servicemembers is handled almost entirely by commercial contractors — almost. By the time it reaches what the Army calls “the last tactical mile,” however, it might also be handled by Soldiers, Marines, Sailors or Airmen.

“Once it gets into Afghanistan the military postal folks will sort it, to get it out to the different combat outposts,”



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

The deadlines to send mail and packages to deployed Soldiers and have it arrive before Christmas is fast approaching.

said Peter Graeve, with the Military Postal Service Agency. Getting it out to the combat outpost, he said, might involve “a military helicopter or a ground convoy – or whatever access they have available at that level to get it out to the furthest reach of the spear.”

Where it used to take weeks or months to deliver mail to deployed Soldiers, it now can be done in days, Graeve said. That’s good for moms, spouses, significant others and Soldiers.

“It’s a real morale booster, a touch of home, if you are sitting out there in a combat outpost and getting shot at and you get a card from home,” Graeve

said. “A little perfume from your wife or girlfriend means a lot to a person that is under a lot of stress out there. Getting some cookies when you’re used to eating MREs (meals, ready-to-eat), that’s a good thing. We try to keep that in mind when we are processing the mail out to the folks.”

Those sending mail to overseas locations should also consider that customs forms may need to be filled out before items can be sent.

More information about military mail and mailing dates can be found at: <http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/>

News Briefs

Lost and found

Fort Rucker Police Investigations recently found a bicycle and helmet on post. The office operates a lost and found operation and people are welcomed to check with investigations to see if their lost items have turned up in the facility.

To check for lost items or for more information, call 255-3239 or 255-2861.

tion on the CFC, call 255-9261.

ID card section closes

The Fort Rucker Military Personnel Division offices, including the ID card section, will close at 11 a.m. Dec. 8 for the unit’s holiday party. Normal operating hours will resume Dec. 9.

For more information, call 255-2484.

CFC celebration

The Fort Rucker Combined Federal Campaign Victory and Awards Celebration takes place Dec. 13 at 1 p.m. at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. CFC and Army leadership will also recognize the organizations and project officers that attained 100 percent or greater goal completion, and also CFC Leadership Givers who gave \$1,000 or more. The event is open to all federal civil service, postal and military members.

For more informa-

Happy birthday National Guard!

The Fort Rucker National Guard Liaison Team celebrates the Army National Guard’s 375th birthday during a cake-cutting ceremony Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m. in the Regimental Conference Room of the headquarters building, Bldg. 101.

No RSVP is required, and dress is duty uniform for military and business casual for civilians. Refreshments will be served.

For more, call 255-9307.

Local actors perform free Christmas play

By Amber Christensen
Above the Best Theater Company

Fort Rucker’s Above the Best Theater Company will perform the play “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” by Barbara Robinson Dec. 9 and 10 at the Spiritual Life Center.

More than 25 local actors will take part in the production, which is free to the Fort Rucker community. The show will start at 6 p.m. Dec. 9 and 10 and there will also be a 2 p.m. matinee Dec. 10. Seating is limited and the doors will open early.

In this comical Christmas play, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids – probably the most inventively awful kids in history. People won’t believe the mayhem – and the fun – when the Herdmans collide with the traditional Christmas story head on.

“This isn’t a typical school or church Christmas show,” said Alan Moore, the show’s director. “This is a full blown

theatrical production. We’re happy to offer the community a live theater experience for free.”

Above the Best Theater Company decided to perform this Christmas play last summer after a successful performance of “The Wiz of The West” at the post theater. That production, which featured Fort Rucker children, was part of a workshop sponsored by the Missoula Children’s Theatre.

“I saw some very talented kids in that production,” said Moore. “We knew instantly we had to get these young actors involved in our community theater group. So this Christmas play is a fantastic story to showcase our child actors.”

More than half of the actors in this play are under age 16. They have been through a rigorous audition and rehearsal phase, which began back in September, said Moore. During rehearsals, the actors were given some acting and singing lessons to help them prepare, said Debbie Bauer, the show’s musical director.

“I am just thrilled with the young cast we have assembled,” said Moore. “They have worked very hard on the show and

they are so excited to perform it. It’s been a huge commitment of time and effort on their part, and we are so proud of each of them.”

Theater tickets, which typically cost \$10 to \$20, are not required to see this show – thanks to the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Fort Rucker Chaplains Office. The play is funded in part by the Army Entertainment Division.

“This has truly been a community effort to make this show happen,” said Moore. “We’ve had so much support, especially from the BOSS program and the post chaplains office, youth services and DFMWR.”

For more information, call 255-9810. Moore can be reached at 475-3326. To be added to the theater company’s email list – send a message with the subject “ADD” to abovethebesttheater@yahoo.com People can also follow the group on Facebook by “liking” its page <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Above-the-Best-Theater-Company/201610506546388>.

Army launches new SHARP course for IET Soldiers

By T. Anthony Bell
Fort Lee Public Affairs

FORT LEE, Va. — The Army recently rolled out an innovative new training program aimed at all Initial Entry Training Soldiers.

The new training model, first tested this past spring at Fort Lee and Fort Benning, Ga., is a result of a collaborative effort between Headquarters Army G-1 and U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

The new training model is part of the SHARP Program Office's efforts to facilitate cultural change during the third of four phases under the "I A.M. Strong" campaign launched in 2008 to tackle sexual harassment and sexual assault issues through training, awareness and intervention.

Phase III builds upon Phase II of the campaign that sought to prevent sexual harassment and sexual assault from an ownership standpoint, emphasizing Soldiers' roles as stakeholders in their own well-being.

"It is our goal to aggressively indoctrinate all new recruits and first-term Soldiers enlisting in the Army that 'this is the Army's expectation of how Soldiers should act in this new community,'" said Carolyn Collins, Department of the Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program Office division chief.

The new training brings a synergy of effort for sustained learning, said Collins.



PHOTO BY T. ANTHONY BELL

Kyle Terry and Sharyon Culberson engage the audience at Fort Lee, Va., in one scene that attempts to draw distinct lines between consensual sex and sexual assault.

"It really is meant to change attitudes of behavior and achieve a common understanding of the way ahead with a commitment by the individuals who attend the course," she said.

The new training goes far beyond the PowerPoint presentations of the old "Prevention of Sexual Assault" instruction, the forerunner of the current training and the annual Sexual Assault Prevention and Response training. IET Soldiers undergo about 90 minutes of interactive learning called Sex Signals and 90 minutes of instruction presented by the Basic Officer Leaders Course, or BOLC-B cadre. Additionally, the cadre members attend a separate training session equal in length.

Also, cadre members are provided guides to continue the discussion beyond the

instructional session. The cadre does a check on learning throughout the program of instruction, which provides the new leaders an opportunity to use their critical decision-making skills and model the skill sets required by leaders to address this problem.

"Those requirements represent a change in emphasis versus the previous training, which outlived its effectiveness," said Collins. "It was more risk-reduction training — travel with your battle buddy, watch your drinking, etc. — to assess your risk to assault and take action."

The new training model is predicated on "How do we prevent the offenders from offending in the first place?" said Collins. "(The idea is to) create a cultural climate where it is not conducive for them to

operate in our community and where Soldiers set standards for conduct and accountability."

The Basic Officer Leaders Course at the Army Logistics University was chosen as a pilot because many of the students will assume leadership positions upon graduation and will have the most pervasive effect in changing the culture, said Collins.

Roughly 60 students and 10 cadre members attended the Sex Signals training Nov. 16, the week the instruction was implemented Armywide. It seemed to lack any comparison to the former training and was strikingly frank.

"We're young lieutenants, and we're going to be dealing with young privates," said 2nd Lt. Matthew Vishnevsky. "I thought it was realistic. It uses the kind

of language and kinds of actions that people our age use. I thought it was great."

Sex Signals might be described as part stand-up comedy, part skit and part question-and-answer session. The actors began the presentation with a routine fashioned to loosen up the crowd, using language more evocative of an MTV reality show than Army training.

As the show progressed, the comedy remained, but the content became stronger. The actors portrayed characters in scenes involving consensual sexual contact and sexual assault. Oftentimes, the actors would stop in the middle of a scene and solicit responses from the audience.

"What you get at that point is the audience interacting and checking each other," said Collins. "They're saying, 'This is what I would have done differently' or 'I have a question; when did that become rape?' So it's not just the instructors; you suddenly have the audience setting the standards of conduct. That's what we're trying to encourage."

Second Lt. Edward Poppe said the structure of the presentation enabled him to place himself under some of the same circumstances, allowing him to think through the actions he might or might not take.

"You can actually see yourself being put in a situation like that," he said. "And if you see it, you know what to do to avoid it for yourself so that you're

not that guy."

Poppe said the most critical lesson he learned during the training was that sexual assault is not typically a "dark-alley kind of offense."

"I learned that it's an average Joe kind of thing," he said, "and it could happen to a buddy. I have a better understanding of what it is."

The training is built around 10 rules, said Collins. "We have scenarios built around those rules. (The students are) given a situation and asked what rule applies and how they would handle the situation. It improves their skill set."

Collins said improving skills can help change culture and changing the culture can reduce incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault.

"Our campaign goals and metrics are to bring down sexual assaults by 75 percent," she said, "and bring up the propensity to report crimes to 90 percent and then continue down that path."

"What we're really trying to do is close the gap between the actual number of assaults in the Army and what is being reported."

About 6 percent of victims reported assaults in the Army within the past year, said Collins.

"We want to make sure everyone is comfortable coming forward and reporting the crime," she said, "That's in addition to getting the care they need across the board."

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1-58th: Morale, motivation high throughout deployment

Continued from Page A1

She said the Fort Rucker Soldiers have faced many of the same challenges faced by all servicemembers deployed over the past 10 years.

“Communications have come a long way in the last decade, but no amount of email, Internet access or phone chats can take the place of holding your loved ones close or watching your children grow up,” she said. “But a unit is a like a Family, and we are there for one another to share the good days and the bad together.”

Living conditions have greatly improved for deployed troops over the years and Army Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation provides numerous outlets for sports, games, and works with the United Services Organization to bring entertainment to the troops, Sharpe said.

“So, we take it a day at a time until we can be home again,” she said.

That philosophy seems to work, as the unit continues to get the job done while keeping spirits high.

“Morale and motivation have been high throughout our deployment,” she said. “MWR sports, (sporting events) streaming live, various sporting tournaments and evenings by the grill go a long way in keeping Soldiers spirits up.”

Sharpe expects that trend to continue through the upcoming holidays, and plans to ramp up the entertainment with the help of the 1-58th AOB Family Readiness Group providing a taste of home.

“The USO and MWR have several concerts lined up over the next few weeks and lots of units are planning their own special meals, which our Soldiers will participate in as well,” she said. “Our FRG is preparing Christmas stockings for the Soldiers and we plan to decorate our Christmas tree with them over the Internet at the same time. We are also preparing a holiday DVD of our adventures here for our loved ones back home – a chance to give to those we miss and to receive a few extra treats as well – a win-win!”



COURTESY PHOTOS

Members of the Taji Ground Controlled Approach: back row – Staff Sgt. Blake Duncan, Spc. Eric Diaz, Staff Sgt. Jason Clark, Staff Sgt. Harley Martindale, Spc. James Varner, Spc. Brian Kearney, Spc. Jarod Mills; middle row – Spc. Jan Kongsy, Sgt. Jeremy Bybee, Spc. Joseph Braitsch; front row – Sgt. 1st Class Billy Light and Staff Sgt. Edna Vargas.



Lt. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, U.S. Army Central commanding general, visited Udairi Army Airfield in Kuwait in September, and also recognized 1-58th AOB Soldiers Sgt. James Payton and SGT Jerome Williams, for their outstanding support of Aviation units transitioning through Kuwait.



Spcs. George Dumas, Jerry Jordan and John Warren, 1-58th AOB Airfield Management Element, visit the USS George H. W. Bush off the coast of Kuwait in July where they conducted briefings with naval squadrons on conducting Aviation operations in Kuwait.

Cart: ‘It was great to see how excited people were about it’

Continued from Page A1

beneficiaries with mobility issues,” said Denman.

“If someone has to park in the back part of the parking lot and haven’t received a handicap parking permit, it can be overwhelming. Now, we need to have a mechanism available to get them to the front door,” he said.

The cart, a 2010 stretch Club Car, seats six riders comfortably and has many additional features added for the comfort and safety of veterans. These additions include fans, heaters, rain curtains and fully functional safety lights. The cart also features a custom paint job that features a patriotic American flag motif and an eagle in flight across the cart’s front.

“It was a fun build. It was great to see how excited people were about it and to provide the veterans with something they really need. It’s a way to give back. The people have to take care of veterans, because they face challenges that those who did not serve don’t experience,” said Ken Jernigan, parts and services manager at the company that built the cart.

Denman explained that the cart will not be in service for a few more weeks, while Sullivant and other veterans coordinate drivers and schedules for pick up. After drivers are selected,

the clinic will train and certify them with a training program implemented

by Lyster’s safety officer. “Mr. Sullivant, along with other veterans, will

put together a roster of volunteers. They will drive the golf cart around Lyster’s parking lot to pick people up,” he said.

“It is a wonderful thing to have the veteran’s clinic collocated with us, because we can support each other. Mr. Sullivant is a

wonderful man and an engaged veteran. [Providing the cart] is just such a nice thing to do for people,” said Denman.

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Photo on Page D4

DECEMBER 1, 2011



Staff Sgt. Josephine Taototo, the senior medic for Task Force Lobos, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div., holds a baby during a medical seminar that Taototo and two other Soldiers from the 1st ACB conducted with local Afghan females Nov. 20 near the town of Tapagurghan, Afghanistan.

PHOTO BY CAPT. LYNN GOWER

Air Cav troopers conduct women's health seminars

By Staff Sgt. Joe Armas
Army News Service

BAGHLAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan — All across Afghanistan, on a daily basis, Soldiers and other members of coalition forces are making a difference in the lives of the Afghan populace.

In northern Afghanistan, three female Soldiers assigned to the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, had their opportunity to make a difference by teaching local Afghan women important skills they could use to improve their daily lifestyles.

The Soldiers conducted medical seminars with Afghan females near the town of Tapagurghan Nov. 16-20.

The seminars mainly focused on the topics of basic anatomy and physiology, reproductive health, child illnesses, and basic first aid, according to Capt. Lynn Gower, a flight physician assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force Guns, 1st ACB.

Gower continued, saying the training was essential and worthwhile.

"For whatever reason, they never learned these basic skills," added Gower. "Now, as a result of this training, they know how to

tackle common illnesses that affect women and young children."

The training consisted of slide presentations and hands-on exercises that allowed the Afghan women to practice basic first aid tasks.

Moreover, the women who took part in the training ranged from midwives to community health workers from around the surrounding villages.

An attentive group of more than a dozen females took the content of the seminars very seriously, said Staff Sgt. Josephine Taototo, the senior medic for Task Force Lobos, 1st ACB.

"They [the Afghan females] seemed really engaged during the whole week, especially when the topic of child illnesses was covered," added Taototo.

At the conclusion of the training, the Soldiers presented the Afghan ladies with certificates of completion. The Afghans, as a token of their appreciation, adorned the Soldiers with a dye that is derived from the henna plant, a tradition that is usually reserved for special occasions throughout the Middle East.

SEE SEMINARS, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY SGT. FELIX ACEVEDO

Ground repair

Armament technicians assigned to D Company, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division utilize the auxiliary power of an AH-64D Apache helicopter to perform maintenance on the aircraft Sunday.

Army launches hypersonic weapon concept

By Jason B. Cutshaw
USASMDC/ARSTRAT

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. — At the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, successes sometimes happen faster than a speeding bullet.

In a flight that lasted less than 30 minutes, USASMDC/ARSTRAT conducted the first test flight of the Advanced Hypersonic Weapon concept Nov. 17. The AHW is a first-of-its-kind glide vehicle, designed to fly within the earth's atmosphere at hypersonic speed and long range, was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, Hawaii, to the Reagan Test Site, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands.

"It is a first-of-its-kind glide vehicle that has a potential to change warfare forever," said Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, SMDC commanding general. "It is a great example of how the material development function in the SMDC Technical Center is a part of ARSTRAT that is developing future capabilities for U.S. Strategic Command — for 'the day after tomorrow.'"

The Army's Advanced Hypersonic Weapon Technology Demonstration is a cooperative effort within the Department of Defense to develop a conventional Prompt Global Strike capability. More specifically, the AHW-TD is an all endo-atmospheric boost glide, non-ballistic, missile flight that will advance state-of-the-art thermal protection materials, enabling and integrating systems such as controls and communications, and internal thermal management schemes.

Further, in-flight environmental data collection will advance the understanding and modeling efforts for all Prompt Global Strike concepts such as the Conventional Strike Missile being developed by the Air Force.

The conical-shaped AHW is designed to meet the demanding environments and operations of continental United States-based systems capable of global strikes. As a precision glide body flying at supersonic speeds, the AHW can deliver a variety of payloads at medium and global ranges.

"This was a total team effort with Sandia

SEE HYPERSONIC, PAGE B4



ARMY PHOTO

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command conducts the first flight of the Advanced Hypersonic Weapon concept Nov. 18. The AHW is a first-of-its-kind glide vehicle, designed to fly within the Earth's atmosphere at hypersonic speed and long range. It was launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, Hawaii, to the Reagan Test Site, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands.

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Seminars: Training teaches Soldiers Afghan culture

Continued from Page B1

Gower said the interaction during the week helped foster trust between the local population and

the coalition forces here. “We’re trying to improve their lives while we’re in their country,” said Gower. “These classes that we conducted help garner

that trust, even if it’s just a little.” The experience proved to be beneficial and a gratifying experience for everyone involved,

Gower continued. “It was a great chance to learn more about the Afghan culture and give the ladies knowledge that they can spread among their

peers,” said Gower. Taototo said she thoroughly enjoyed the chance to interact with the local population, an opportunity that doesn’t come often.

Hypersonic: Flight speeds reach 3,600 mph or higher

Continued from Page B1

National Laboratories, Albuquerque, N.M.; the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, Huntsville, and under the direction and funding of the Office of the Secretary of Defense’s Prompt Global Strike,” Formica said.

Hypersonic flight is defined as speeds of Mach 5, which is about 3,600 mph, or higher.

The objective of the test is to collect data on hypersonic boost-glide tech-

nologies and test range performance for long-range atmospheric flight. Mission emphasis is aerodynamics; navigation, guidance, and control; and thermal protection technologies.

“Two key technical challenges that the flight test addressed was thermal protection/thermal management and navigation, guidance and control,” said Debra Wymer, SMDC Technical Center director.

The AHW program is managed and executed by the SMDC program office in Huntsville. The booster system and glide vehicle were developed by Sandia Na-

tional Laboratories and the thermal protection system by the AMRDEC.

“The success of the AHW test is a solid step toward demonstrating the technology required to achieve a conventional prompt global strike capability,” Wymer said.

A three-stage booster system launched the AHW glide vehicle and successfully deployed it on the desired flight trajectory. The vehicle flew a non-ballistic glide trajectory at hypersonic speed to the planned impact location at the Reagan Test Site. Space, air, sea and ground platforms collected vehicle performance data during all

phases of flight. The data collected will be used by DOD to model and develop future hypersonic boost-glide capabilities for Conventional Prompt Global Strike.

“It was great to have a successful launch,” said Jerry Esquibel, AHW program manager. “I was following it along its trajectory profile and when it went into its glide phase we considered it a success.

“This is a great team,” he added. “Many organizations came together in order to make this happen. I am proud of everyone involved.”



ARMY PHOTO

SKY WARRIOR

An OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter from the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade, 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment patrols the skies of Iraq earlier this year.

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Be a 'flu fighter'

Hand washing/ flu shot key to staying healthy this season

By Emily Brainard
Army Flier Staff Writer

The old phrase, "whistle while you work," can also apply to proper hygiene.

Post health officials stress making cleanliness a priority during Hand Washing Awareness Week, Sunday through Dec. 10, and say humming a few tunes along the way can help.

The amount of time spent during a washing session matters, said Maj. Laura Ricardo, Lyster Army Health Clinic chief of preventive medicine and radiology. She recommends people sing "Happy Birthday" twice or the "ABCs" while scrubbing to ensure they're sanitizing their hands for the proper duration — 20 seconds or more.

While singing their songs of choice, she said people should run warm water, lather their hands with soap, rub hands vigorously, dry hands using a paper towel and turn off the sink faucet using the towel. Ricardo also noted people should ensure they scrub between their fingers and underneath any jewelry to eliminate germs.

She said hand washing is critical to remaining healthy year-round, adding that it's the No. 1 way to prevent the spread of disease.

Ricardo added that people should wash their hands after being outside, playing with pets, before and after eating, after using restrooms and after spending time among other people.

Hand washing is very impor-

tant, especially with this year's influenza season, she said, explaining that the flu spreads through airborne droplets or on surfaces. Hand sanitation, along with influenza vaccinations, can keep people healthy.

The hand washing campaign, she said, coincides nicely with National Influenza Vaccination Week Sunday through Dec. 10. The Fort Rucker community should endeavor to receive their immunizations from LAHC. For more information, or vaccine updates, call 255-7325.

Ricardo said LAHC staff works with child, youth and school services and post schools members to educate children about the importance of healthy habits.

Hand washing technique posters displayed throughout the clinic and other facilities on post remind adults about the importance of hand washing, she noted.

LAHC patients should challenge their doctors and nurses to live up to the same expectations, asking them if they've soaped up before appointments, Ricardo added.

Jeanie Eddy, an LAHC immunization/allergy nurse, is one of the professionals up to the challenge. She said she instructs her patients on the importance of good hand washing practices during visits. When soap and warm water are unavailable, alcohol-based hand sanitizer is a good substitute, Eddy said.

For more information on hand washing practices or immunizations, call LAHC Immunization/Allergy Clinic staff at 255-7754.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY EMILY BRAINARD
Spc. Joshua Creel, Lyster Army Health Clinic Aviation Medicine medic, administers an influenza vaccine to Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, in the headquarters building last year.



Hand Washing Awareness Week kicks off Sunday and post health officials stress the importance of good hygiene habits. Washing hands in warm water and soap for 20 seconds or more is the No. 1 way to prevent disease.

Tips to protect yourself from cold, flu germs

Cold and flu germs can be found almost anywhere. Keeping hands clean after coming in contact with contaminated surfaces or environments can help prevent illness. Here are the top culprits for harboring and spreading germs and how to mitigate risk.

1. **Sneezing:** Cover nose and mouth with tissues or shirt sleeves when sneezing. Wash hands with soap and hot water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer afterward.
2. **Food safety:** Wash hands and clean preparation sur-

faces often. Cook or cool food to proper temperatures.

3. **Home and work surfaces:** Disinfect all surfaces to destroy



germs, especially shared work surfaces, such as desks, computer keyboards and phones.

4. **Pets:** Keep pets healthy, clean up their waste products and wash hands

afterward.

5. **Public transportation:** If someone ill is seated in close proximity on an airplane or public transportation, ask to be moved to another seat.

Source: www.cdc.gov



PHOTO BY ERIN MURRAY
Therese Erthal hangs the names of Angel Tree recipients from the tree located in the Main Post Chapel. Collection of gifts will continue through Dec. 14 at the chapel and post exchange.

Angel Tree brings brighter Christmas to military Families

By Erin Murray
Army Flier Staff Writer

With the holiday season approaching, Fort Rucker's Catholic Parish seeks to spread Christmas spirit to children who might otherwise go without by providing two Angel Trees in the Main Post Chapel and post exchange.

"I've coordinated this program for over 10 years now. It is a lot of work, but truly it is a labor of love. The Main Post Chapel gets to be an extension of Santa's workshop for a few weeks. It is absolutely overwhelming," said Therese Erthal, parish coordinator.

The children are selected by Army Community Service based on need, and their information including age and genders are included on tags hung from each tree. In previous years, the Fort Rucker Angel Tree has provided hundreds of needy children with thousands of gifts.

The cutoff date for returning Angel Tree gift is Dec. 14, and the gifts will be on display at the chapel until representatives pick them up gifts for the children.

"We ask is that those that participate return their gifts unwrapped. (Our) elves and I will take care of that. They can include wrapping paper or a gift bag, but the gift itself needs to remain unwrapped. (We hope people) stop by and see just how many gifts are collected," said Erthal.

Over the many years since the program began, Erthal said she has seen the impact it has on Families and children in need.

"We are a military Family. We take care of one another. Whether active duty, Family members retirees, or civilians, it's simply Family taking care of Family. It's a chance to ensure that these Families have a brighter Christmas. For certain, it's a chance to find out that Santa truly does exist in the hearts of people in our community," she said.

For more information, call 255-9894.

ON POST

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

CYSS art gala

The arts and crafts center hosts an art gala Friday from 4:30-6:30 p.m. to display art created by Fort Rucker Child, Youth and Schools Services' EDGE! participants. People are welcome to meet the young artists, share in their creativeness and find out what inspired their choices. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

For more, call 255-0666.

Parent Support Program

Army Community Service's Promotion Points is holding a new Parent Support Program Friday from 9-11a.m. at the Early Childhood Activity Center in Bldg. 3705 on Dean Street. These monthly parenting education classes are designed for Soldiers and are held the first Friday of every month.

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

AFTB Level II training

Army Community Service hosts Army Family Team Building Level II classes Monday-Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day at The Commons, Bldg. 8950 on 7th Avenue. ACS officials said the free classes are an excellent way for people to gain personal growth skills. AFTB Level II classes include training on communication, stress management, time management, acknowledging change and more. Advance registration is required.

For registration and childcare information, call 255-2382.

Divorce/Separation Co-Parenting Workshop

The Family advocacy program hosts a Divorce/Separation Co-Parenting Workshop Monday and Dec. 12 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. The workshop is a two-part series and participants must attend each class to receive a certificate of completion. Registration is required and the workshop is open to active duty servicemembers, retirees, government employees and their Family members.

For child care information and registration, call 255-3898.

EFMP info, support

The Exceptional Family Member Program invites all active duty military Families that have an exceptional Family member to join the EFMP Information and Support Group meeting Tuesday from 9-10 a.m. at The Commons, Bldg. 8950, on Seventh Avenue. The topic for the meeting is holiday stress. Tips and techniques will be provided on how to minimize and handle holiday stress and people can also



PHOTO BY RUSSELL SELLERS

Lighting the season

Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, and Reese Fletcher, 2010 overall Christmas tree ornament design winner, light the Fort Rucker Christmas tree at Howze Field last year. This year's tree lighting takes place today at Howze Field. The ceremony will include music from the 98th Army "Silver Wings" Band from 4:45-5 p.m. followed by the Post Chapel Choir, and the Child Development Center children and Girl Scout Troops singing a medley of Christmas carols at 5 p.m.

learn about and provide suggestions for future topics for the support group.

For information and to register, call 255-9277.

Stress management

The Family advocacy program hosts a Stress Management Workshop Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Early Childhood Activity Center. Topics include identifying causes of stress, symptoms of stress, techniques on how to manage stress and developing a stress management plan. Registration is required and the workshop is open to active duty servicemembers, retirees, government employees and their Family members.

For child care information and registration, call 255-3898.

Santa visits families living on-post

Santa and his reindeer will be making their way to Fort Rucker for Picerne Military Housing's Milk and Cookies with Santa Dec. 8 from 5-7 p.m. at the Rucker-Picerne Partners building located at 2908 Andrews Avenue.

Those attending can enjoy a free picture with Santa, crafts, refreshments and more. There will also be a musical performance by the students at Fort Rucker Primary School at 4:30 p.m. Families wishing to include their pets are welcome to visit Santa between 3 and 4 p.m.

People can call their neighborhood office for more information.

Get R.E.A.L.

Army Community Service

hosts Army Family Team Building's Get R.E.A.L., Rucker Experience, Army Learning, class Dec. 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Commons in Bldg. 8950 on Seventh Avenue. The free class is designed to help people new to Army life learn about all the acronyms, Army customs and courtesies, ranks, community resources and more. Advanced registration is required.

For registration and childcare information, call 255-2382.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation and the Above the Best Theater Group hosts the "Best Christmas Pageant Ever" Dec. 9 from 6-8 p.m. and Dec. 10 from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center. The event is free, and cookies and milk will be served.

For more, call 255-9810.

Big Breakfast with Santa

The Landing Zone hosts a Big Breakfast with Santa Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. The breakfast buffet will include eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, pancakes, toast, ham, biscuits with gravy, assorted fruits, cereal bars and other breakfast items. Cost for a Family (two adults and up to three children) is \$25, for adults ages 13 and older is \$10, and for children ages 3-12 is \$5 and children 2 and younger eat for free. Children may also have their photo taken with Santa. The event is open to the public.

For more, call 598-8025.

DFMWR Spotlight

Event is FREE and Open to the Public!

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

December 1st
5-6 pm
Howze Field

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The Landing 598-2426

Annual Events, 334-255-1749 EFMP Friendly
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Veterans get boost as Obama signs tax credits into law

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

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama delivered a clear message Nov. 21 when he signed two new tax credits into law to increase the hiring of military veterans and wounded warriors.

“For businesses out there, if you are hiring, hire a veteran,” he said. “It’s the right thing to do for you, it’s the right thing to do for them and it’s the right thing to do for our economy.”

In August, Obama called on Congress to enact tax credits, included in the American Jobs Act, that will help to get unemployed veterans back to work.

“While we’ve added more than 350,000 private-sector jobs over the last three months, we’ve got 850,000 veterans who can’t find work,” the president said. “And even though the overall unemployment rate came down just a little bit last month, unemployment for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan continued to rise.”

Obama said “that isn’t right,” and he lauded veterans as the “best that America has to offer.”

“They are some of the most highly trained, highly educated, highly skilled workers that we have,” he said. “If they can save lives on the battlefield, then they



can save a life in an ambulance.

“If they can manage convoys moving tons of equipment over dangerous terrain,” he continued, “they can manage a company’s supply chain. If they can track millions of dollars of assets in Iraq, they can balance the books of any company here in the United States.”

Obama noted the United States has benefitted “enormously” from veteran’s service abroad and would benefit greatly from their service at home.

“And that’s why, under my direction, the federal government has already hired more than 120,000 veterans,” he said.

Obama praised First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, for their efforts in the “Joining Forces” campaign, which has secured pledges from private-sector companies to hire 135,000 more veterans and military spouses.

“Today, we’re giving those businesses just one more reason to give veterans a job,” he said.

The president also credited Congress for the legislation.

“Today, because Democrats and Republicans came together, I’m proud to sign those proposals into law,” he said. “And I urge every business owner out there who’s hiring to hire a veteran right away.”

Obama pledged continued support to the nation’s veterans and wounded warriors.

“So to our veterans, know that we will stand with you as long as it takes for you to find a job,” he said. “And to our businesses, let me say again, if you are hiring, hire a veteran.”

The Returning Heroes Tax Credit provides businesses that hire unemployed veterans with a credit of up to \$5,600 per veteran, and the Wounded Warriors Tax Credit offers a credit of \$9,600 per veteran for businesses that hire veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Under the Recovery Act, employers who hired certain unemployed veterans were eligible for a tax credit of up to 40 percent of the first \$6,000 of wages, for a maximum credit of \$2,400 for veterans who had been unemployed at least four weeks. This credit expired at the end of 2010. For employers who hire veterans unemployed for longer than six months, a new credit of 40 per-

cent of the first \$14,000 of wages, up to \$5,600, will be applied.

The Wounded Warrior Tax Credit will double the existing tax credit for long-term unemployed veterans with service-connected disabilities. A new credit of 40 percent of the first \$24,000 of wages, up to \$9,600, will apply for firms that hire veterans with service-connected disabilities who have been unemployed longer than six months.

The law will maintain the existing Work Opportunity Tax Credit of up to \$4,800 for veterans with service-connected disabilities.

The new tax incentives continue an ongoing effort to ease unemployment among veterans. A White House statement released today notes that in August the president challenged the private sector to hire or train 100,000 veterans or military spouses by the end of 2013.

With the help of Joining Forces, the statement says, more than 1,500 private-sector companies have stepped up so far to employ more than 18,000 veterans and spouses and have committed to hiring 135,000 veterans and spouses by the end of 2013.

“Hire a veteran today,” Obama said at the signing ceremony. “They will make you proud, just as they’ve made this nation proud.”

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- Catholic Mass, 5 p.m., Saturday
- Catholic Mass, 9:30 a.m., Sunday.
- Liturgical Service, 8 a.m., Sunday.
- General Protestant, 11 a.m., Sunday.

WINGS CHAPEL (BLDG 6036)

- Contemporary Protestant Service, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., Sunday.

SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER (BLDG 8939)

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

ADULTS GROUPS

- Protestant Women of the Chapel meets every Tuesday at 9 a.m. at Wings Chapel. Childcare provided.
- Military Council of Catholic Women meets every Thursday from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center. Childcare provided.
- Catholic Adult Fellowship meets regularly throughout the year. For more information, call 255-9894.

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Alabama’s historic homes, holiday lights ready for season

**Alabama Tourism Department
Press Release**

(Editor’s note: This is the second in a two-part series of places and events to visit in Alabama over the holidays. For the full list, go to www.alabama.travel.)

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Alabama’s gardens, trails, historic homes and parks light up for the holiday season.

Visitors can see historic homes and mansions decorated with lights and holiday finery in Eufaula, Decatur, Opelika, Demopolis, Mobile, Tusculmbia and Montgomery. Parks in Arab and Florence offer dazzling light displays and winter wonderlands, while gardens in Huntsville and Mobile showcase millions of lights and hundreds of displays.

Catch spectacular holiday displays at more than 30 historic homes and holiday light festivals:

Greensboro — Christmas Open House

Dec. 11, free

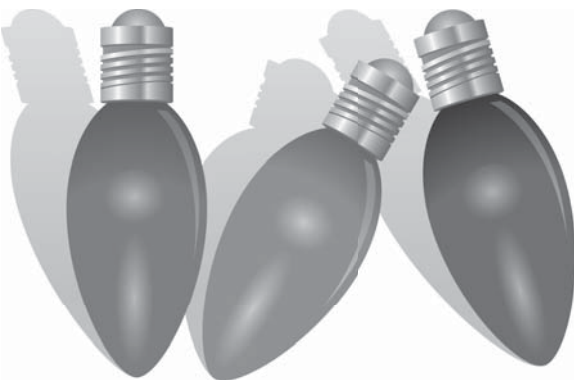
The open house at the Magnolia Grove Historic House Museum is a holiday tradition. Guests can see the home’s holiday decorations while enjoying refreshments and musical entertainment from 1-3 p.m. For more, call (334) 624-8618 or visit www.preserveala.org.

Huntsville — Galaxy of Lights Holiday Light Show

Now–Dec. 31, admission charged

Celebrate the holiday season with a drive through the Huntsville Botanical Garden.

The driving tours begin at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center now-Dec. 31, with admission from 5:30–9 p.m. This holiday light extravaganza features thousands of lights and more than 700 lighted displays ar-



ranged in 125 varied holiday scenes and themes. For more, call (256) 830-4447 or visit www.hsvbg.org.

Huntsville— Kris Kringle’s Candlelight Christmas

Friday and Saturday, admission charged

More than 600 flickering lights will add to the nostalgic feel of candlelight Christmas at Burritt on Mountain. Visitors can enjoy cider, cookies, figgy pudding, holiday crafts and visiting with Kris Kringle on the star-lit mountain from 5-8 p.m. both days. For more, call (256) 536-2882 or visit www.burritonthemountain.com.

Mobile — Candlelight Christmas at Oakleigh

Friday through Sunday

People can step back in time for a festive 19th-century holiday celebration. The event includes seasonal music, horse-drawn carriage rides, Victorian Santa and refreshments from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and candlelight tours from 6:30–8 p.m. For more, call (251) 432-6161 or visit www.historicmobile.org.

Mobile — Christmas on the River

Saturday, free

Alabama’s official tall ship, the Joshua, will lead lighted, decorated boats down Dog River in Mobile’s oldest boat parade. The boats circle and pass the Dog River Bridge as treats are thrown to the crowd from dusk to 8 p.m. For more, call (251) 443-6300 or visit www.grandmarnemarina.com.

Mobile — Christmas at the Mansion

Sunday, admission charged

Visitors can step inside the historic Bragg-Mitchell Mansion for an afternoon of seasonal music, sleigh rides, holiday decorations and refreshments from 1-4 p.m. For more, call (251) 471-6364 or visit www.braggmitchellmansion.com.

Mobile — Christmas Celebration at Richards-DAR House

Saturday and Sunday, admission charged

Each room in the Victorian townhouse is decorated in an annual theme. Guests will be treated to refreshments, holiday music and a visit with Santa Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5p.m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m. For more, call (251) 602-0324 or

visit www.richardsdarhouse.com.

Montgomery — Governor’s Mansion Candlelight Open House

Monday, Dec. 12 and 19, free

For three Mondays in December, the Governor’s Mansion will be open for candlelight tours from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The 1907 Colonial Revival mansion, located at 1142 South Perry Street in Montgomery, will be aglow with lights and filled with the spirit of the season. Guests should pick up their free ticket at the Governor’s Mansion Gift Shop across the street on Finley Avenue and proceed to the Hill House next to the mansion. The first Monday will feature live music, the second a cooking demonstration and the third will feature the Christmas story. For more, call 1-(800)-ALABAMA or visit www.alabama.travel.

Montgomery Zoo — Christmas Lights Festival

Now through Dec. 31, admission charged

Thousands of lights illuminate the pathways for a leisurely stroll through the Montgomery Zoo during the city’s Holiday Lights Festival. Visitors can ride the train through the forested wonderland and see animals come alive in lighted displays. Check for times and dates ahead of time. For more, call (334) 240-4900 or visit www.montgomeryzoo.com.

Montgomery — Old Alabama Town Celebration

Now through Dec. 31

The house museums at Old Alabama Town will be decorated for the holidays for visitors to tour. Self guided tours are Mondays-Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Guided tours are available by reservation for 10 or more people. For more, call (334) 240-4500 or visit www.oldalabamatown.com.

Oneonta — Christmas Lights at Palisades Park

Now through Dec. 31, free

Thousands of lights will be glowing for visitors to drive through and see daily from 5-9 p.m., except Dec. 24-25. For more, call (205) 274-0017 or visit www.blountcountypark.com.

Opelika — Victorian Front Porch Christmas

Dec. 7-12, free

People can step back in time with a visit to an Ole World Christmas wonderland in Opelika. On the Victorian Front Porch Christmas Tour, visitors will see more than 60 turn-of-the-century homes in all their lighted glory, featuring life-sized Santas, angels, toy displays and carousel horses, along with live holiday entertainment. For more, call (334) 887-8747 or visit www.aotoruism.org.

Tuscumbia — A Plantation Christmas

Monday, admission charged

Visitors can enjoy a holiday event at Belle Mont Mansion that’s reminiscent of the “Old South.” Traditional decorations, period Christmas music, vintage ballroom dancers and more await guests at the historic 1828 mansion from 1-5 p.m.

For more, call (256) 383-0783 or visit www.colbertcountytourism.org.

Tuscumbia — Christmas Open House at Ivy Green

Dec. 18, free

People can visit the historic house that was Helen Keller’s birthplace and home as it’s decorated in holiday splendor from 1-4 p.m. For more, call (256) 383-4066 or visit www.visittuscumbiaAL.com

For more holiday celebrations, visit the Alabama Tourism Department website at www.alabama.travel.

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ANDALUSIA

ONGOING — Andalusia Public Library offers free practice tests. Patrons can choose from more than 300 online tests based on official exams such as the ACT, SAT, GED, ASVAB, firefighter, police officer, paramedic, U.S. citizenship and many more. Patrons may select to take a test and receive immediate scoring. Call 222-6612 for more information.

DALEVILLE

ONGOING — Daleville Chamber of Commerce meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce office in the Daleville Cultural and Convention Center. For more information, call 598-6331.

DOTHAN

FEB. 18 — The Southeast Alabama Community Foundation hosts its annual half marathon at Flowers Hospital. SACF’s half-marathon raises funds for grants given to organizations that provide services to Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry and Houston counties.

For more information, visit www.sacf-halfmarathon.org.

ENTERPRISE

DEC. 17 — The College Street Elementary Choral Cats hosts Pancakes with Santa breakfast at the Enterprise City Schools Service Center from 7:30-10 a.m. The breakfast raises money for a trip to a choir festival. The price of the breakfast is \$7 and includes pancakes, sausage, grits, eggs and a drink. For more information and to purchase a meal ticket, call Christina Pearson at 464-1405 or email cknp1220@gmail.com.

DEC. 10-11 — St. Luke United Methodist Church in Enterprise will host its 19th annual Live Nativity from 8-10 p.m. The performance is provided free, as a gift to the community.

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

GENEVA

ONGOING — The Geneva County Relay for Life meets the last Tuesday

of the month at 6 p.m. at the Citizens Bank.

For more information, call 248-4495.

MIDLAND CITY

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

For more information, call 983-3511.

NEW BROCKTON

ONGOING — Adult education classes are offered in Rm. 12 at New Brockton High School, 210 South Tyler St., Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m.

All classes are free for individuals 16 years old or older who are not enrolled in public school.

Individuals must take an assessment test prior to attending class. Call 894-2350 for more information.

OZARK

SATURDAY — The Ozark-Dale County Humane Society will host “Pet Photos with Santa Claws” at the Salvation Army Family Store in Ozark from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The price for the photo with frame and doggie treats is \$10, with all proceeds benefiting the Humane Society.

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 — The Samson City Council meets monthly on the first and third Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Samson Community Center.

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

TROY

ONGOING — Troy Bank and Trust Company sponsors senior dance nights every Saturday night from 7-10 p.m. at the J.O. Colley Senior Complex.

The complex is transformed into a dance hall and features music from the 40s, 50s, and 60s, finger foods, and refreshments.

Beyond Briefs

Green and Gray Saturday

The National Park Service hosts a free green living program on the second Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. at Little River Canyon National Preserve in Fort Payne. The final event will be held Dec. 10. For more information, call 256-845-9605 or visit www.nps.gov/liri.

Run/Walk for Arthritis

Huntingdon College in Montgomery hosts the Jingle Bell Run/Walk benefiting Arthritis research on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The Family event features a 5k competitive run, a free tot trot, Family run and 1 mile Santa Chase for children under 8. To register or for more information, call 244-1179 or visit www.arthritis.org.

Bow Wow Pow-Wow

The Troy Pike Animal Shelter Bow-Wow Pow-Wow Adoption Event will be held Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sears in Troy. Guests can meet animals up for adoption and enjoy free Family and children’s events.

For more information, call 808-8898 or visit <http://www.pikeanimals.org/>

Gadsden First Friday

The City of Gadsden hosts First Friday events downtown the first Friday of every month from 5-9 p.m. Stores stay open late into the evening and there is live entertainment, special events, food, sales and local artists. For more information, call (256) 547-8696 or visit www.downtowngadsden.com.

Christmas Arts and Crafts Show

The city of Cullman hosts its annual Christmas Arts and Crafts show Friday and Saturday at the Cullman Civic Center. This free event is a chance to get homemade gifts from local artists and craftsmen, including paper, wood, and home and seasonal décor. For more information, call 256-734-0454 or visit www.cullmanrecreation.org.

Alabama Jammer Day

The Alabama Music Hall of Fame will honor Alabama musician Sam Phillips’ 89th birthday Jan. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free event will have birthday cake and other

refreshments and the Alabama Jammer, a custom-made Gibson guitar, will be officially turned over to the Hall of Fame after a year of touring the state during the Year of Alabama Music. For more information, call 242-4169 or (800) 239-2643 or visit www.alamhof.org.

George Washington Carver Day

Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, the National Park Service and the Tuskegee University Archives will commemorate George Washington Carver Day with a ceremony on Jan. 5. For more information, call 727-3200 or visit www.nps.gov/tuin.

Red Nose Run

The city of Homewood will host a Red Nose Run benefiting the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Alabama Jan. 7 from 6-11 a.m.

There will be a one-mile fun run with Ringling Brothers clowns and Ronald McDonald and participants can run or walk the 5k or 10 mile courses. Participants also receive a goodie bag with coupons, circus tickets and more. For more information, call (205) 933-8911 or visit www.rednosrun-bham.com.

MilConnect new online portal for DOD beneficiaries

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A range of information about Defense Department benefits information and eligibility is now available online, the director of the Defense Manpower Data Center said Nov. 22.

Two new online efforts — milConnect and eCorrespondence — give beneficiaries 24/7 access to personnel information; the ability to update information related to health, education and other benefits; and email notifications about changes in benefits, Mary Dixon told American Forces Press Service.

“At the Defense Manpower Data Center, one of our many responsibilities is to be the interface with beneficiaries, especially on benefits and eligibility for benefits,” Dixon said.

MilConnect, available online and through a mobile application for the Android smart phone, was known for a year as the mydod-benefits website.

The revamped milConnect site is available online, around-the-clock, to all DOD beneficiaries and their spouses and children age 18 or older.

Users can sign on in several ways, Dixon said.

Anyone who has a common access card, a Defense Finance and Accounting Services myPay account logon, or a DOD Self-Service or DS logon can sign in on the MilConnect website, or apply at the site for a DS logon.

MilConnect information comes from the Defense Enrollment Eligibility System called DEERS. Eligible users are active duty, National Guard and Reserve members; and military retirees, spouses and eligible Family members age 18 and older.

Sponsors can view information about all Family members listed in DEERS, but for now eligible dependents can see only their own information.

Beneficiaries who use milConnect, Dixon said, can update DEERS contact information, manage health care enrollments,



locate the nearest military ID card issuing facility, view personnel information, transfer education benefits to eligible Family members, view group life insurance information, and manage other information.

Army National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard can update civilian employment information.

The mobile application works today on Android phones, but Dixon said her center is in the process of making MilConnect available for iPhones and other smart phones and mobile devices.

The smart phone app lets users find sites for the Real-time Automated Personnel Identification System called RAPIDS, where military members receive new ID cards, military treatment facilities, and contact information for Tricare regional offices.

Related to milConnect, Dixon said, is an initiative called eCorrespondence that will use email notifications of changes in benefits rather than postal service letters for active-duty service members and National Guard and Reserve servicemembers on periods of active duty.

Email notifications will be sent

to the email address associated with a servicemember's common access card, Dixon said.

Beginning this month, servicemembers will receive email notifications of a change in Tricare primary-care manager, of potential eligibility changes when a child turns 21 or 23, and of the ability to view or print a Tricare enrollment card and welcome letter after enrollment into a Tricare medical or dental program.

The email notifications will refer service members to the milConnect web portal.

Servicemembers will be able to check Tricare eligibility and

information through the MilConnect portal, whether or not they receive an email notification.

Dixon said service members also can opt out of the email notifications.

“We’re hoping to continue to expand both the things that we let you know by email and to expand to other kinds of benefits changes and to additional populations,” she said, including retirees.

“It’s a little bit hard with retirees because we don’t necessarily know their email addresses,” she added. “But that’s something they can enter into the system on milConnect.”



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Panetta congratulates ‘Dancing with the Stars’ champion

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press
Service

WASHINGTON — The injured Army Iraq War veteran who earned first place with his partner on the television show “Dancing with the Stars” symbolizes the strength and tenacity possessed by the nation’s wounded warriors, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said.

“I am writing to extend my most sincere congratulations on your ‘Dancing with the Stars’ victory,” Panetta wrote in a recent letter addressed to Jose Rene “J.R.” Martinez.

“Over the course of this competition,” the secretary added, “your spirit captivated the nation and your victory sends a powerful message about the strength and resilience of our wounded warriors.”

Martinez and partner Karina Smirnoff were crowned champions on the ABC reality program after a final dancing competition against other contestants Nov. 22 in Los Angeles.

Panetta also made a phone call to Martinez Friday, Pentagon spokesman Navy Capt. John Kirby said. Panetta again congratulated Martinez on his victory and reiterated his conviction that Martinez stands as testament to the strength and the resilience of wounded warriors.

During his call to Martinez, Panetta also expressed his admiration for the effort expended by the dancers in preparing for each routine, Kirby said.

During his phone conversation with Panetta, Martinez credited his military training and experience for his performance and his ability to prepare for the show, Kirby said.

The Iraq veteran also reaffirmed his pride at having served in uniform, Kirby said.

Panetta concluded the 10-minute call by inviting



Jose Rene “J.R.” Martinez

Martinez to the Pentagon for a personal meeting. Plans are now in the works to arrange that meeting in the very near future, Kirby said.

On “Dancing with the Stars,” celebrities are paired with professional dancers and over several months perform predetermined dances and compete against other dancers for judges’ points and audience votes.

In 2003, Martinez was a 19-year-old Army infantryman assigned to Company D, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq. He was driving a Humvee there when the vehicle hit a roadside bomb.

Martinez suffered smoke inhalation and severe burns to more than 40 percent of his body, including his face and hands.

He was evacuated to Landstuhl, Germany, and later transferred to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, where he spent 34 months. He has undergone 33 cosmetic and skin-graft surgeries.

While in recovery, the former infantryman began to visit other patients in the hospital, sharing his story and listening to theirs. Since then, Martinez has spoken to audiences at corporations, veterans groups, nonprofits and schools.

In 2009, Martinez was honored by the nonprofit Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America with the Veterans Leadership

Award, given in recognition of his dedication to the nation’s newest generation of veterans.

“In the eight years since your injury,” Panetta wrote in his letter to Martinez, “you have done extraordinary work assisting other wounded warriors and raising public awareness of the challenges our servicemembers and their families face when they return home, and I would like to commend you for your tireless efforts in this arena.”

The secretary added, “You represent an entire generation — what I call the next greatest generation — that has been willing to put their lives on the line for our country.”

In 2008, Martinez landed a role as an Iraq war veteran on the ABC soap opera, “All My Children,” which led to his “Dancing with the Stars” appearances this year.

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PHOTO BY RUSSELL SELLERS

Mistletoe 5K

More than 200 runners take off during last year's annual Mistletoe 5K. This year, the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility hosts the event Dec. 10 with registration from 7:30-8:45 a.m. and the run starting at 9 a.m. Participants are encouraged to pre-register at either the Fortenberry-Colton or Andrews PFF. Forms are available at either PFF or printable off the MWR website at ftrucker.mwr.com/physical_fitness_center.htm. The free 1-mile fun run is open to all children and will begin after the 5K race is completed. Each Fun Run participant will receive a medal. Costs are \$12 per person (no shirt option); \$100 for teams of eight (each additional person pays normal registration fee, includes shirt); and \$20 per person (with shirt) by Saturday, or \$25 (with shirt) per person after Saturday. People who register after Saturday will receive T-shirts while supplies last, while pre-registered will receive T-shirts. Refreshments will be provided. The event is open to the public. For more, call 255-3794.

Regular season wraps up, time to crown conference champs

By David C. Agan Jr.
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Thanksgiving has come and gone and we're a week closer to the end of the 2011 regular season.

Week 13 offered little in the way of surprises, as there was not a single upset to be found over the holiday weekend. But now it's time to crown a conference champion or two before bowl season fires up.

There's something I have to get out of the way before we begin discussing conference championships or start making bowl predictions: the Texas A&M Aggies are the worst second-half team in football. This season, the Aggies blew four halftime leads, not counting their quadruple-overtime loss to Kansas State two weeks ago where they allowed the Wildcats to score 10 points in the last six minutes of regulation. The third quarter has been a nightmare for A&M, where they've been outscored 76-7 in the games they've lost.

The Aggies did it again last weekend against the then-ranked No. 25 Texas Longhorns. After leading 16-7 at the half, the Aggies and Longhorns battled back and forth until the end of the game when a 25-yard run

by Longhorn quarterback Case McCoy and a 15-yard personal foul put Texas within field goal range. With that, the Longhorns handed the Aggies defeat in the last meeting of one of the country's longest standing rivalries.

Admittedly, I've picked on A&M quite a bit in this column. Quite frankly, with all the blown leads they've succumbed to over the season they've made themselves a pretty easy target. I assure you, though, it's only because I'm looking forward (read: licking my chops) to their joining the Southeastern Conference in 2012. Welcome to the SEC, lads... hope you packed a lunch.

One more bit of business to take care of before we can proceed. After dedicating the majority of my last few columns to LSU-Alabama talk, it's time to face the facts: the LSU Tigers and the Alabama Crimson Tide are the best two teams in college football this season and they deserve to play in the Bowl Championship Series championship game.

No. 1-ranked LSU utterly dominated the then-ranked No. 3 Arkansas Razorbacks the day after Thanksgiving, leaving no doubt they are the best team in the nation. The Tigers have made a habit this season of beating top-ranked teams, including No. 3 Oregon in Week 1, No. 2 Alabama back on Nov. 5 and, most recently, No. 3 Arkansas. After being

down 14-0 early, the Tigers quickly scored three touchdowns and cruised their way to a 41-7 victory.

With that victory, the Tigers clinched the SEC West and will move on to play the No. 14 Georgia Bulldogs in the SEC championship game. Even if the Tigers slip up against the Bulldogs, there is little chance it would adversely affect them to the point that they would not play in the BCS title game. Don't count on LSU not bringing their "A" game, though. I expect the game in Atlanta this weekend will be closer than some might think, but the Tigers will make it to New Orleans with their perfect record intact.

And now, for the most difficult thing I've had to write all season.

The No.2-ranked Alabama Crimson Tide did everything they needed to do to state their case for a chance to play LSU in the BCS title game when they pounded the No. 24-ranked Auburn Tigers, 42-14. They did it on the road in front of a raucous Jordan-Hare Stadium crowd and mercilessly fed defeat to a younger and less experienced Auburn team. The Crimson Tide did exactly what they needed to do in order to cement themselves as the second best team in college football this season. So, with a week of games left to play, the Tide can sit back and

wait for the numbers to roll in to see whether or not they will face LSU in the BCS title game.

To say I have mixed emotions on the subject is a bit of an understatement.

There's a part of my brain that wants to see the best two teams in college football face each other at the end of the season to see who earns the right to be called "National Champion." However, there's another part of my brain that thinks it is complete garbage when a team who doesn't win their conference, let alone their own division, gets to play in the BCS championship game.

The rematch thing isn't such a big deal, though. In 1996, the Florida Gators and the Florida State Seminoles were ranked No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, when they faced each other in the regular season. The Seminoles handed the Gators a tough loss, 24-21, but the Gators pounded the Seminoles in their Sugar Bowl rematch, 52-20, to win their first national title.

Yes, this was before the inception of the BCS. And, yes, I admit that I am horrified at the prospect of an LSU-Alabama rematch with an outcome different than the first meeting in November. That's probably where

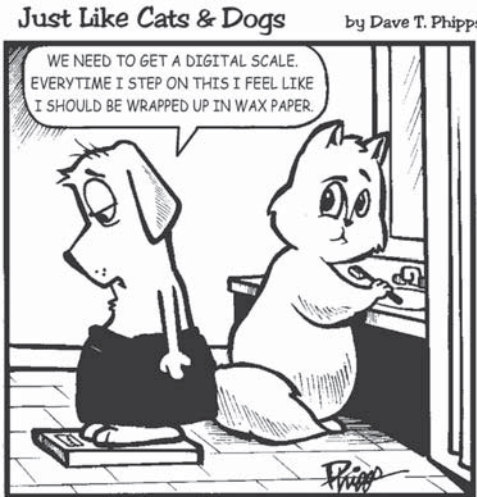
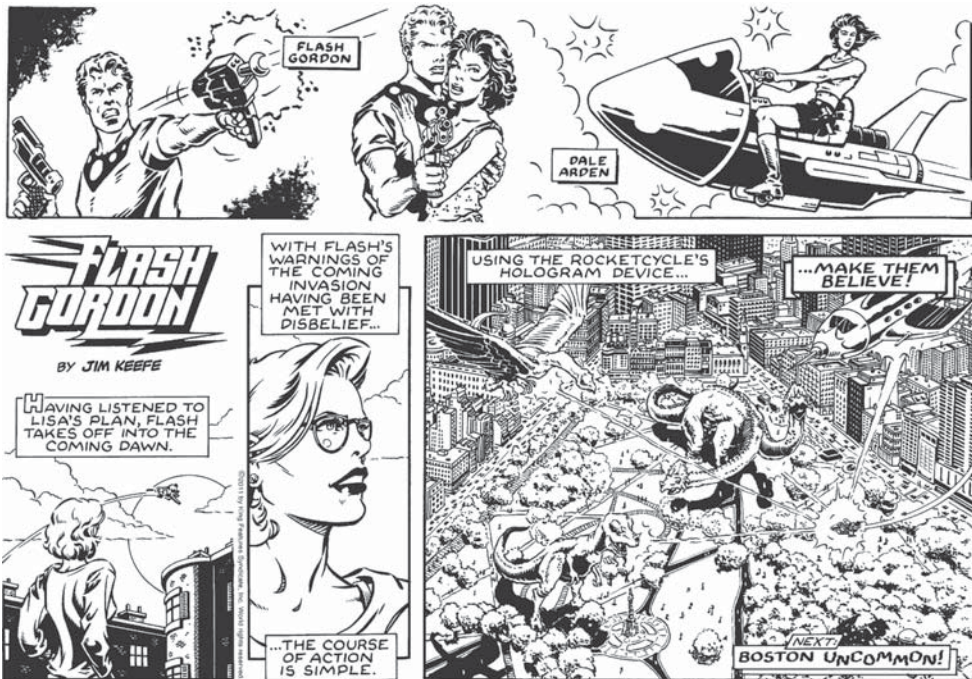
SEE COLLEGE, PAGE D4

PIGSKIN PICKS



	UCLA vs. Oregon	Connecticut vs. Cincinnati	Georgia vs. LSU	Texas vs. Baylor	Wisconsin vs. Michigan State	Virginia Tech vs. Clemson	Oklahoma vs. Oklahoma State
 David C. Agan, Jr. Fort Rucker Public Affairs (59-25)							
 Kent Anger, Plans, Operations and Mobilization Division (61-23)							
 Maj. Michael R. Ivy, 1-13th Avn. Regt. XO (59-25)							
 Shane Jones, Network Enterprise Center (60-24)							
 Capt. Paul McKinney, B Co., 1-13th (49-35)							

DOWN TIME



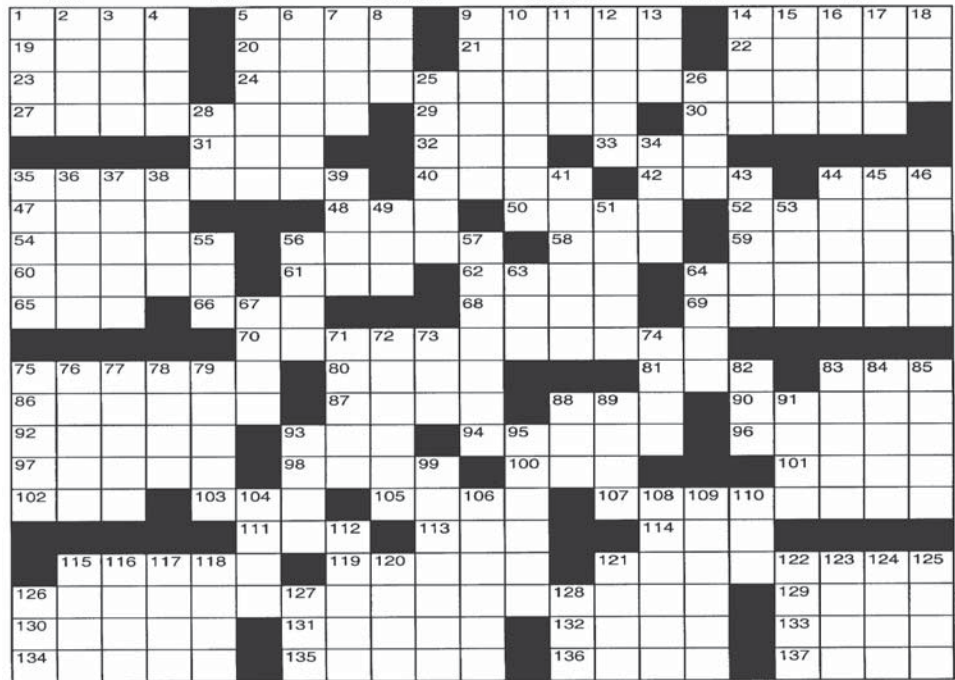
TRIVIA

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the third longest river system in the world?
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is another name for totipalmate feet?
3. MUSIC: Who is the vocalist for the pop band "Blondie"?
4. U.S. STATES: What state's motto is, "If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you"?
5. BUSINESS: What is the currency of South Africa?
6. LITERATURE: What was the first land Gulliver encountered in the satirical novel "Gulliver's Travels"?
7. TELEVISION: How many years was the Western drama "Gunsmoke" on the air?
8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was Dwight Eisenhower's vice president?
9. SCIENCE: What does beta carotene add to food?
10. MOVIES: What animated film featured the theme song "Circle of Life"?

See Page D4 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Meat cut
 - 5 "— You Babe" ('65 song)
 - 9 Skimmer material
 - 14 Chauvinist
 - 19 Othello's ensign
 - 20 — con-tendere
 - 21 What the nose knows
 - 22 Greene or Michaels
 - 23 Be a black-smith
 - 24 Start of a remark by James Dent
 - 27 Appropriates
 - 29 Dutch artist Jan
 - 30 Let up
 - 31 Rep.
 - 32 Speakeasy patron
 - 33 Hoover, for one
 - 35 Part 2 of remark
 - 40 Beginning on
 - 42 '72 Michael Jackson smash
 - 44 Impact sound
 - 47 Downey of "Touched by an Angel"
 - 48 Woodworking tool
 - 50 New York university
 - 52 "Butterfield 8" author
 - 54 Rouse
 - 56 Singer Payne
 - 58 Plant disease
 - 59 Pontif's partner
 - 60 Become a prune
 - 61 Islands instrument
 - 62 Baby —
 - 64 Like Hercules
 - 65 "Malcolm X" director
 - 66 — Mahal
 - 68 Widespread
 - 69 Shed
 - 70 Part 3 of remark
 - 75 Ambush man
 - 80 Ripped
 - 81 Periodon-tists' org.
 - 83 Bud
 - 86 Tweety Pie, e.g.
 - 87 Highlands tongue
 - 88 Nobelist Octavio
 - 90 Man from Malmo
 - 92 Hershey setting
 - 93 They may be personal
 - 94 Ornamental mat
 - 96 "Salome" character
 - 97 Like some paper
 - 98 Covenant
 - 100 Opie's aunt
 - 101 Unit of area
 - 102 Archaic preposition
 - 103 Conductor
 - 105 Snake sound
 - 107 Part 4 of remark
 - 111 Slalom curve
 - 113 Ruby of "A Raisin in the Sun"
 - 114 Limit
 - 115 Sink
 - 119 Dust busters
 - 121 — squash
 - 126 End of remark
 - 129 Peace of mind
 - 130 Soviet cooperative
 - 131 "He's making —"
 - 132 Buffalo waterfront
 - 133 Jocular Johnson
 - 134 Director Sergio
 - 135 "Beau —" ('39 film)
 - 136 Equipment
 - 137 Actor Wallace
 - 41 Remote
 - 43 Nick of "I Love Trouble"
 - 44 Strauss aristocrat
 - 45 Common contraction
 - 46 Chutney ingredient
 - 49 Minuscula
 - 51 Reindeer name
 - 53 Israeli dance
 - 55 Tolkien creation
 - 56 Japanese volcano
 - 57 Rubbed the wrong way
 - 63 Garage supply
 - 64 Runners carry it
 - 67 Crooked
 - 71 Bara of the silents
 - 72 Judd of "George & Leo"
 - 73 "— a Rebel" ('62 hit)
 - 74 Unclear
 - 75 It'll give you a weigh
 - 76 Lowest point
 - 77 Absurd
 - 78 Sheet of stamps
 - 79 Carve a canyon
 - 82 Furniture wood
 - 83 "Thanks, Robes-pierre!"
 - 84 Idolize
 - 85 Surrenders
 - 88 In-your-face item
 - 89 Guinness or Baldwin
 - 91 Sport
 - 93 Does Little work
 - 95 Preoccupy
 - 99 Most methodical
 - 104 Jacket feature
 - 106 Hardly hyper
 - 108 Small shrub
 - 109 Foam
 - 110 Choose, with "for"
 - 112 Face lift?
 - 115 Wet blanket
 - 116 Concerning
 - 117 WWII gun
 - 118 Tropical spot
 - 120 Handel's "— and Galatea"
 - 121 Spotless
 - 122 "— of the Cat" ('77 hit)
 - 123 Reduce, with "down"
 - 124 — Spumante
 - 125 Poverty
 - 126 Baseball's Ripken
 - 127 Witty one
 - 128 Foster or Tilly



See Page D4 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

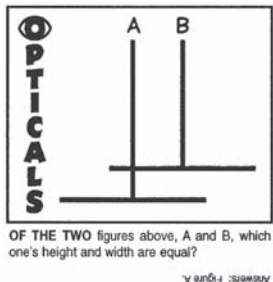
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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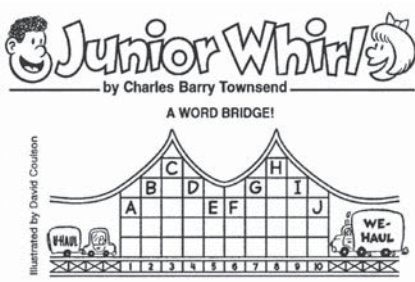
See Page D4 for this week's answers.

KID's CORNER



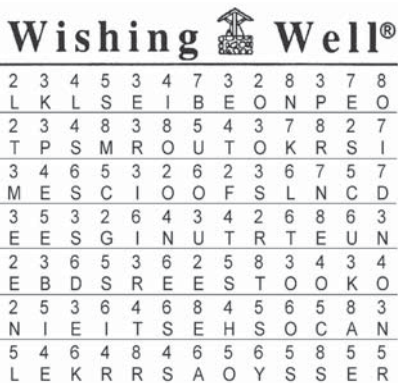
OF THE TWO figures above, A and B, which one's height and width are equal?

Answers: Figure A.



A CHEERFUL ADDITION! To solve this problem, you must replace the letters in the Alphamath puzzle with the digits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. See if you can get a higher total than we did.

Answers: 1. 123456789. 2. 123456789. 3. 123456789. 4. 123456789. 5. 123456789. 6. 123456789. 7. 123456789. 8. 123456789. 9. 123456789.



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.



Differences: 1. Banner is different. 2. Bottle has been added. 3. Cup cakes is missing. 4. Bottle has been added. 5. The is black. 6. Bagster is missing.

GRIDIRON CORNER

Week 12 features turkeys, injuries

By **Jim Hughes**
Command Information Of-

Week 12 of the NFL featured much of the same old stuff as the previous 11 weeks – Green Bay on cruise control and the rest of the teams either struggling to find themselves or self destructing in grand fashion – with a little extra fun, excitement, injuries, stupidity and yet another Tim Tebow come-from-behind win.

The week began on Thanksgiving where the Lions looked like turkeys, the Cowboys got lucky and elder brother John beat down little brother Jim in the Battle of the Harbaughs.

You have to hand it to the Lions, they aren't a team to abandon a strategy just because it doesn't work – they lost to the Packers with their customary lack of class. At one time, I stuck up for Ndamukong Suh when he was called a dirty player. But as I often do when it comes to professional football, I retract that opinion and admit he is, in fact, a dirty player.

The late hits on Aaron Rodgers were bad enough, as I'm sure the Lions were thinking back to last year's game when they knocked the Green Bay quarterback out of the game and started on their way to a nine-game winning streak spanning two seasons. But it was Suh's stomping on Packer lineman Evan Dietrich-Smith's arm after a play that had negative effects during the game and beyond – the big guy sits out the next two games under suspension. He handled the aftermath of the incident in even worse fashion by basically saying it didn't happen the way the video clearly showed it did.

I'm sure this is good news to Drew Brees and



the Saints, the Lions' next opponent. It might even warrant a Christmas card. But it won't help the Lions' playoff chances.

I know the Lions are trying to get rid of a losing culture, but the way they've chosen to change it is doing just the opposite of what they want it to do – they look like immature brats rather than tough winners. The team's physical and mental mistakes have them on the verge of dropping out of the play-off hunt.

And just after the Lions lost their eighth consecutive Thanksgiving Day game, Tony Romo and the Cowboys began an adventure against the Dolphins that would end with Dallas winning it with a last-second field goal.

Typical of their season, the Cowboys were up and down and largely unimpressive all day. They led, somehow, early in a snoozer of a first half, then fell behind, and then scored 10 points in the fourth to get the win that at week's end would vault them into first place in the NFC East.

While thankful for the win against Miami, the Cowboys must be even more thankful for their remainder of schedule. They take on seemingly lesser opponents Arizona, Tampa Bay and Philadelphia, and, of course, two games with the second place New York Giants. The Cowboys are certainly in the division driver's seat and their fate is in their own hands, but therein lies the problem...those hands are quite adept at fumbling it all away.

Speaking of fumbling it away, just when it looked like the Ravens might've dropped all the gains they made by beating Pittsburgh twice this year, they've corrected their course and won two straight – including a big Thanksgiving win over San Francisco, 16-6.

When you combine Baltimore's 8-3 record and half game lead on the Steelers with quite likely the easiest stretch of schedule in the history of the NFL over the last five games, the likelihood of the Ravens being the AFC

North champion is looking better and better.

I mean, really: Cleveland, Indianapolis, San Diego, Cleveland and Cincinnati? It's criminal. Pittsburgh's isn't much tougher, though. Just replace Indy with St. Louis and San Diego with San Francisco, which admittedly is a big switch.

But the easiest remainder of schedule belongs to Tom Brady and Co. New England's last five games consist of Indy, Washington, Denver, Miami and Buffalo.

And really, can you type a paragraph with the word "Denver" in it without going on a Tim Tebow rant? No.

Tebow did it again! You could almost see this one coming, though, as it was against the best "just lose, baby" teams ever, the San Diego Chargers. It took overtime to do it, but Tebow and Co. came out on top. While Tebow is certainly a contributor late in the game, it is Denver's defense, and occasionally the running game, that is setting the team up for wins. The archaic offense is doing just enough to pull out wins, but that is what counts – the Chargers might want to take note of that.

But can it last? Maybe not forever, but it might be enough to get the Broncos a division championship. At 6-5, the Broncos are in second place, one game behind the Raiders with the two teams splitting games head to head. Both have at least two tough games left. Denver still has games against New England and Chicago in their last five, while Oakland has Green Bay and Detroit among their biggest games.

If Chicago continues to struggle because of their QB-challenged offense, as it did against the Raiders

Sunday in a 25-20 loss, the Bears' visit to Mile High might provide the opportunity for the Broncos to make up that one-game difference.

Speaking of being QB challenged, Houston, there is a problem. In fact, it's such a problem that the team held tryouts for Jake Delhomme and Jeff Garcia Tuesday.

When starter Matt Schaub went down for the season, the team turned to Matt Leinart...for about two quarters before the backup went down for the season with a broken collarbone. That leaves rookie T.J. Yates and just-signed-last-week Kellen Clemens. But Houston, please, just don't put anyone named Matt out there.

The Texans still have

the running game and defense to possibly hold off Tennessee for the division crown, but Houston is unlikely to make any noise in the playoffs.

And if you thought Houston's issues at quarterback were bad luck, it doesn't come close to comparing to what we fans will be experiencing Monday night. Yes, the Chargers – whose only draw is to see the creative ways they find to lose – will take on the Jacksonville Jaguars – a team whose owner can't even stand to watch it anymore; he fired the coach and announced he's selling it earlier in the week.

What, they couldn't get St. Louis and Indy together? Maybe I'll just tune into an early season NBA game that night...oh wait.

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GYM CLOSURE
The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility's gymnasium will close Dec. 12 for installation of a new floor. The gymnasium is scheduled to reopen Jan. 5. Other areas of the facility will remain open while the gymnasium floor is replaced. Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Facility will be open during the renovation. For more information, call 255-2296.

THE "REAL" IRON BOWL
Silver Wings Golf Course hosts a 36-hole match play "Real" Iron Bowl featuring two 36-person teams (Auburn fans vs. Alabama fans) Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Round No. 1 will be a two-man best ball match, one point per hole. Round No. 2 will be an individual match play competition, one point per hole. The 36-person team with the most points wins bragging rights and the "Real" Iron

Bowl. People can sign up for their favorite team. Entry fee is \$75 for non-members and \$55 for SWGC members and includes: team shirt, cart fees, user fees, range balls, lunch following each round and a team photo for each player. The field is limited to 72 players. The event is open to the public.
For more, call 598-2449.

YOUTH SOCCER REGISTRATION
Youth sport and fitness spring soccer registration for boys and girls ages 4–18 runs now through Dec.31 at the youth service gymnasium. Registration forms are available online at www.ftrucker.mwr.com under the Child & Youth Service tab. Registration deadlines will not be extended; however, if a parent chooses to sign their child up after the registration period they will be placed on a waiting list.

Children must have met age requirements by Sept. 1, 2011. Players must also present a current sport physical and a valid child, youth and schools services registration to participate. The cost is \$40.
There will be a parent meeting for Families new to Fort Rucker Youth Sports at the youth service gymnasium, Bldg. 2806 on 7th Avenue, Feb. 8 at 6 p.m.
Teams will be broken down into the following age groups: Training League (4-5 years old), Pee Wee League (6-7 years old), Mites League (8-10 years old), Juniors League (11-14 years old) and Seniors League (15-18 years old).
The spring soccer season runs Feb. 20 through April 5. Coaches are needed for all age groups. There will be a spring soccer coaches meeting Feb. 1 and 2 in the youth center at 6 p.m.
For more, call 255-9105, 255-0950 or 255-9638.

PIGSKIN PICKS

	Panthers @ Tampa Bay	Bengals @ Pittsburgh	Falcons @ Houston	Broncos @ Minnesota	Titans @ Buffalo	Packers @ N.Y. Giants	Lions @ New Orleans
Jim Hughes <i>Fort Rucker Public Affairs</i> (55-29)							
Master Sgt. Jimmy Lindsey <i>DPTMS NCOIC</i> (52-32)							
Erin Murray <i>Army Flier Staff Writer</i> (59-25)							
Capt. Mike Simmons <i>Directorate of Public Safety</i> (60-24)							
Sharon Storti <i>Network Enterprise Center</i> (53-31)							

College: Rematches reign as conference championship games kick off

Continued from Page D1

most of my ire stems from, and I believe it is a sign of maturity and character that I can admit that.

That said, if Alabama and LSU do eventually play each other in New Orleans, well... Geaux Tigers!

Now then, let's get the show on the road: we've got conference championships to preview!

First stop is Eugene, Ore., where the No. 9-ranked Oregon Ducks host the UCLA Bruins in the inaugural PAC-12 Conference championship game. Since losing their first game of the season against LSU, the Ducks have been crushing the opposition, most recently spanking the Oregon State Beavers, 49-21, in the Civil War in Autzen Stadium. The unranked Bruins are coming off a 50-0 blasting at the hands of their cross-city rivals, the USC Trojans. The Ducks are heavily favored in this one and will most likely clinch a spot in the Rose Bowl with a victory Friday night.

Next stop: Atlanta, where we have the aforementioned SEC championship game featuring the No. 1-ranked LSU Tigers and the No. 14-ranked Georgia Bulldogs. An interesting side note to this game: Some are saying this game could actually decide the AP championship. LSU has been blowing out their opponents by an average of 28 points and they've defeated three teams ranked in the top three this year. If

they win against Georgia there's a reasonable chance that the AP could name LSU as its national championship regardless of who wins in New Orleans. So, even though LSU would still likely play in the BCS championship game if they lost to Georgia, there's potentially more for them to play for than just the SEC title.

The annual Bedlam game between the No. 3-ranked Oklahoma State Cowboys and the No. 9-ranked Oklahoma Sooners isn't technically a conference championship game, but it certainly has begun to seem like one. Currently, the Big 12 doesn't have enough members to support a conference championship, but this weekend's contest will determine who earns the league's automatic BCS berth and will also determine who wins the conference or, possibly, who earns a piece of the title.

If Oklahoma State wins, they win the conference and the BCS berth, most likely the Fiesta Bowl. On the other hand, if the Sooners win there will be a three-way tie atop the Big 12 between Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Kansas State. All three would be named conference co-champions, but Oklahoma would receive the BCS berth in accordance with league policy and based on head-to-head matchups. Not to put too fine a point on it, but I like the Cowboys in this one.

Finally, in another rematch from earlier this

season, we've got the No. 13-ranked Michigan State Spartans facing off against the No.15-ranked Wisconsin Badgers. When these two met earlier this season in East Lansing, Mich., it was an incredible game that ended with a successful Spartan Hail Mary pass that dashed Wisconsin's national title hopes. Both teams field high-powered offenses and, between Wisconsin quarterback Russell Wilson and running back Montee Ball, there are more than a couple of Heisman hopefuls in the Wisconsin back field. I like the Badgers in this one.

Visit www.youtube.com/ftruckerpao for video from recent events.



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PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

1. Missouri-Mississippi
2. Webbed
3. Deborah Harry
4. Michigan
5. The rand
6. Lilliput
7. 20 years
8. Richard Nixon
9. Color
10. "The Lion King"

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