

ARMY FLYER

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VOLUME 69 • NUMBER 15 • SEPTEMBER 5, 2019



PHOTO BY SGT. DUSTIN D. BIVEN

A Soldier throws an RQ-11 Raven unmanned aircraft system into the sky during a field training exercise at Fort Sill, Okla., Aug. 21.

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Post leadership assures community child development center is safe

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker leadership assured the community that the child development center is safe and revealed the cause behind several recent precautionary evacuations of the facility during a town hall Aug. 22 at the Spiritual Life Center.

Just over 20 community members showed up to the town hall to learn that the culprit behind the gas smells that prompted the evacuations is the building's gas system external purge design which, under the right weather and wind conditions, can cause a gas smell within the facility, according to Col. Whitney B. Gardner, garrison commander.

"I can fully attest to the safety and security of the CDC building," the colonel said. "The precautionary evacuations have been just that – precautionary. The CDC does not have a gas leak problem – it has a blow-off issue that poses no threat to the safety of the children or staff at the facility."

After the first evacuation, the Fort Rucker directorates of Public Works and Public Safety, and also Southeast Gas, the contractor that provides natural gas to the post, con-

If there is a legitimate health and safety issue in any of our facilities, just know that we will shut it down and fix it.

- Col. Whitney B. Gardner
Fort Rucker garrison commander



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

Wayne Bardell, Fort Rucker Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation director, Command Sgt. Maj. Jasper Johnson, garrison command sergeant major, and Col. Whitney B. Gardner, garrison commander, speak at the town hall Aug. 22 at the Spiritual Life Center.

ducted numerous inspections of the facility and deemed it safe, although Southeast Gas did repair two pin-sized leaks in the kitchen area, Gardner said.

"We went through the CDC, we increased the volume and frequency of inspections, and we went through all of the lines – the building is safe," the colonel said. "What we have with the blow-off valve is that a small amount of detectable fumes, or odors, keeps getting sucked into the HVAC intake. Depending on atmospheric conditions or weather, it forces it down and it can become more detectable at times – it's very inconsistent."

To head off further precautionary evacuations for the same reason, DPW extended the system's vent pipe so it purges the gas further from the building entrance and the outside air intake to alleviate the problem, according to Bill Wells, Fort Rucker DPW representative at the town hall.

Even though the cause of the gas smells has been identified, the colonel said there is

a plan in place to increase the safety of the facility and improve communications with patrons.

"We're going to err on the side of caution with any potential or suspected exhaust or leak issues – we're not going to direct employees to act any differently," he said. "We'll be testing a new email and text alert system to parents, looking into adding natural gas detectors to the facility to work alongside the fire and carbon monoxide detectors we already have in place, and Southeast Gas will conduct a pressure test on the exterior service lines to the CDC."

"There's a lot of attention on this building right now and people should expect that to continue," Gardner added. "So, don't be alarmed if you drop off your child and see someone with a clipboard conducting an inspection. Also, some of these inspections might be going on after hours – it's easier to get in there when there are no employees or children in there."

Overall, Gardner said he wanted people to leave the town hall confident that Fort Rucker leadership is committed to fixing problems.

"If there is a legitimate health and safety issue in any of our facilities, just know that we will shut it down and fix it," he said, citing recent examples such as the rat problem in the post exchange and a colony of bats moving into the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center that resulted in both facilities being closed until the issues were dealt with.

"You can ask us very specific questions, and we'll let you know what the issue is and what we're going to do to fix it," he said, adding that the Interactive Customer Evaluation system off of the Fort Rucker website was a good way to communicate with leadership. "We're empathetic, we're listening. I'm on Facebook because I'm interested in what goes on at Fort Rucker, and not just because I'm the garrison commander, but because I also live here – I'm also a resident."

NATIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Theme focuses on planning ahead to stay safe

Army Flier Staff Report

An unruly Mother Nature can devastate lives and property; however, people can lessen their vulnerability to disaster through preparation.

September is National Preparedness Month and the South is no stranger to its fair share of rough weather, so Willie Worsham, Fort Rucker emergency manager, wants to make sure the people of Fort Rucker and the surrounding communities are as ready as they can be for when rough weather hits.

"This month serves as a reminder that people should prepare, now and throughout the year, for the types of emergencies that could affect them where they live, work and also where they visit," Worsham said. "This year's theme, 'Prepared, Not Scared,' will continue to emphasize preparedness planning."

Each week throughout the month focuses on a different theme:

- Sept. 1-7 – save early for disaster costs;
- Sept. 8-14 – make a plan to prepare for disasters;
- Sept. 15-21 – teach youth to prepare for disasters; and
- Sept. 22-30 – get involved in your community's preparedness.

For the South, tornadoes traditionally increase during the fall months, but other dangers, like thunderstorms, lightning, flooding and icing, can accompany them, said Worsham.

"With the transition of the seasons, the

polar front jet stream starts pushing frontal systems across the South," he said. "It creates pretty much the same thing we see in the spring. The fronts will come through, and during the fall the gulf is still open and still has moisture being funneled up into our area. With the colliding of the two air masses, you can get volatile weather out of it – severe thunderstorms, flooding and tornadoes.

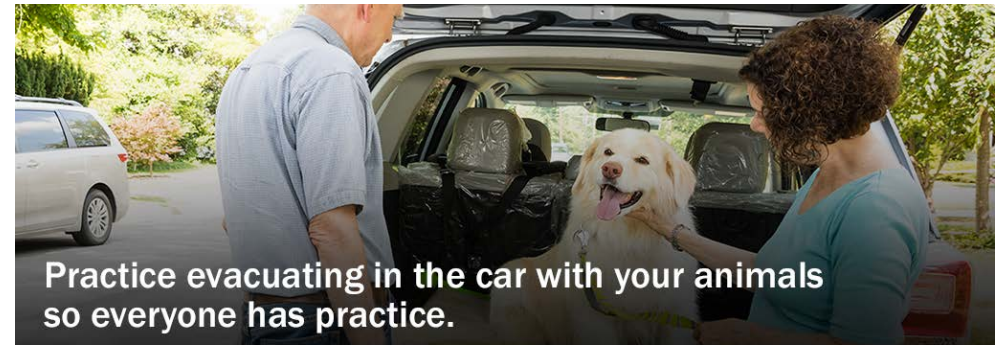
"The key to successfully navigating Mother Nature's nastiness is preparedness," he added. "Make sure that you have a plan."

Worsham suggests that people visit the Ready Army website, which gives people all sorts of information on what to expect, how to make a kit and how to prepare for severe weather seasons and even hurricane season.

The first step is to be informed, said Worsham.

Many emergencies, like power outages, disease outbreaks and manmade accidents can happen anywhere. But certain disasters are more likely in some places than others. At Fort Rucker, a blizzard is less likely than a hurricane, so the first information residents should gather is how to prepare for severe weather caused by hurricanes, he said.

Ready Army recommends understanding the local mass warning systems that officials will use to inform people on weather conditions. At Fort Rucker, the agencies that warn of natural hazards are the National Weather Service and the U.S. Geological Survey. Part of being informed is knowing how to receive information from these agencies, said the emergency manager, adding that it is a good idea to have a backup way of receiving infor-



Practice evacuating in the car with your animals so everyone has practice.

#NatIPrep

Ready

FEMA GRAPHIC

mation in case a primary system goes down.

Being informed also means people knowing where evacuation points are located in the event they cannot get home or their current location becomes unsafe. Ready Army suggests people also know what circumstances would require evacuation and when they should shelter in place.

Accountability is a key part of the Army, and in a disaster this does not change. People should know the way they will contact their unit and receive instructions in the event of a disaster.

The next step is to make a plan.

Ready Army suggests that people keep their plans practical and tuned to likely disasters that they might face. People should take the information they learned in the first step and talk about what their family plan is in each different disaster scenario. People should take into account how they will react if it is a weekend, as opposed to a workday, if their children are at school, or if an evacuation is ordered and sheltering in place is no longer an option.

Building a kit is the next step in Ready Army's list. A kit is nothing more than the

supplies that people and their families will need over a three-day period. That is the estimated time it might take to clear roads, restore power or have emergency crews reach people.

After a disaster, emergency responders will address critical needs first and might not be able to get to people right away. A disaster kit will allow people to take care of themselves and their families, freeing up emergency responders to focus on the critically injured and restoring infrastructure.

Ready Army suggests people have multiple kits in different locations, like their car, office and home, because they never know where they will be when disaster strikes.

The final step is to get involved.

The Army has joined the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency in America's PrepareAthon! – a nationwide campaign to increase emergency preparedness and community resilience.

For more information, visit <http://www.rucker.army.mil/readymil/> or <https://www.ready.gov/september>.

SOLDIERS HELPING SOLDIERS

Director considers Fort Rucker a model installation for Army Emergency Relief

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

When it comes to Soldiers helping Soldiers, the director of Army Emergency Relief considers Fort Rucker a model installation.

Retired Lt. Gen. Raymond V. Mason visited Fort Rucker Aug. 19 to meet with Soldiers, leadership and service organizations on post for some two-way communications on what the program gets right and what it needs to improve, and also to let people know about the latest news concerning the organization.

"Fort Rucker's an incredible place," Mason said. "The program here is very powerful, and that has a lot to do with Beth Gunter (local AER officer) and the team: support from leadership, the garrison commander, the garrison command sergeant major, the commanding general and (the Aviation Branch) sergeant major – all up and down the chain.

"Fort Rucker leads the Army in many ways in all aspects of AER – the use of it, donations, scholarships, the overall health of the program," he continued. "I look at Fort Rucker as a model and as a best business practice – I'm really happy to come here."

During his visit, he met with Directorate of Family, and Morale Welfare and Recreation officials; garrison and U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence leadership; chaplaincy,

school and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers officials; brigade commanders; company commanders and first sergeants; and a Soldier focus group.

And the visit proved invaluable to the AER director.

"I spend about two weeks of every month on the road somewhere in the Army visiting Soldiers and talking with great NCOs like I did today," Mason said. "I give them a little bit of information about AER, and what's really powerful about it is they give us feedback. How's it going, what do we need to work on, what are they happy with and what do they think needs to change?"

"Over the past 2 ½ years, a lot of the categories of assistance that we've either added, changed or enhanced has been based on the feedback we've received from Soldiers, leaders and spouses in the communities," he added. "These visits are absolutely critical and they give us the pulse of what's going on."

Above and beyond the concept of Soldiers helping Soldiers, one of AER's biggest selling points as a charity to donate to is its efficiency, said the director, noting that almost 90 cents of every dollar given to the organization goes directly to helping Soldiers, family members and retirees.

"One of the ratings that non-profits get is how much of their dollar goes back to the need, and how much gets consumed in



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

Retired Lt. Gen. Raymond V. Mason, Army Emergency Relief director, recognizes three Soldiers (Staff Sgt. Kyle Bejma; B Company 1-223rd Avn. Regt. AER campaign unit coordinator; Spc. Jason Blum; USAARL campaign unit coordinator; and Staff Sgt. Jim Burley; A Co. 1-223rd Avn. Regt. campaign unit coordinator) Aug. 19 who helped make this year's AER awareness campaign a success.

overhead and administrative costs," he said. "We have one of the highest ratings of any non-profit in the U.S. – we're very proud of that."

Fort Rucker certainly gets its fair share of assistance, as the director said that local Soldiers and family members received about \$230,000 last year in loans, another \$45,000 in grants and \$170,000 in scholarships.

And that's all to the good, he said, adding that Fort Rucker does an excellent job of educating its community on the program.

"If you're facing a financial challenge, asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness," Mason said. "When in doubt, come to AER. Come see Beth and the team, we'll sit down and talk through what you're situation is – we turn away less than 2 percent of the people who come through AER. We're all about getting to 'yes.'"

That understanding of AER amongst Fort Rucker Soldiers helped liven the discussion during the focus group, the director said.

"They had good questions about how do we figure out the right way to support a Soldier, how do we ensure we're doing the

right thing by the Army and the dollars people have donated," Mason said. "They understand that we're always trying to balance between the needs of the Soldier and the needs of the Army, and being good stewards of the dollars that have been donated to us. There wasn't a lot of unknowns out there, but they really gave us feedback that we're pretty much in that sweet spot."

Yet challenges remain, he admitted.

"The Soldiers we met with recognize that off post there are a lot of folks and organizations out there who are predatory lenders – a threat. Soldiers use these things, unfortunately, and they recognize that and they know that in AER there is a much better alternative – no-interest loans," Mason said. "They know that challenge is out there."

"They also know that there are still Soldiers out there who don't know everything they need to know about AER," he added. "I think a lot of them took that on today, so when they go back to their units they will work to better inform their Soldiers about all of the different programs and benefits of AER."

FITNESS, FAMILY STYLE

Post opens 1st youth fitness center in The Commons building

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker youth now have a facility of their own to work out in as the post opened its first youth fitness center in the former The Commons building, Bldg. 8950, on 7th Avenue, Aug. 21.

About 100 people showed up at the facility's open house held to showcase its ability to meet two needs in the community, a place for youth to get some exercise on post, and also a place for parents and children to work out together, said Randy Tolison, youth sports and fitness director.

"It went fantastic – very successful," Tolison said of the opening evening. "It was very exciting to see the faces on the children and parents – they seemed really excited about this new program that we've got going on."

The center will be open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 3:30-

7 p.m. The center features aerobic machines, weights, functional fitness equipment and more, Tolison said. High-intensity interval training will also be offered courtesy of Taylor Jones, a functional fitness specialist at the center.

"She'll be in there all the time because that's her element – her specialty," he said.

"If youth want to focus or work on certain areas of their bodies, she'll be there to assist them. She can show them how to use the equipment in the proper way. She can work with them on a plan, if they want to develop a plan. She'll have different things on a dry erase board – the workout of the day. Whatever they need help with, she'll be there to help them out."

Youth ages 8-18 who are child and youth services registered members can use the program for free, Tolison added. However, youth 8-11 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Youth ages 12-18 can work out on



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

Randy Tolison, youth sports and fitness director, instructs a youth on using the weight sled at the fitness center open house Aug. 21.

FITNESS *cont.*

Taylor Jones, right, functional fitness specialist at the youth fitness center, and an assistant show youth how to use battle ropes.

their own or with parents, but adults aren't allowed to use the facility on their own.

And the initial feedback is that Fort Youth Sports and Fitness is right on target with the needs of many in the community.

"We received a lot of compliments on it," Tolison said. "Several folks made a point of telling us they are so thankful for this because they can now work out with their children. That was something they'd been longing for, and it's neat that we can provide that for them."

While the positive feedback was great, seeing people actually putting the facility to good use really pumped the staff up, he added.

"The numbers were great and all, but just seeing the youth working on the equipment, whether pushing the sled or on the elliptical equipment, seeing their faces, hearing their laughter – that was exciting," Tolison said. "And when most of them left, they were sweating. They don't get to use this type of equipment very often, so it's exciting for us to get to provide it for them."

Tolison said the goal of the center is to help young people get into a physically fit frame of mind.

"We want to encourage youth to develop their health and wellbeing – that is important for us," he said.

"We're not here to embarrass anyone," Tolison added. "We're here to help you develop a future for yourself as far as being physically fit. We're here to encourage you, to help increase your confidence, your strength, your social skills – those are things we can help develop and at the same time get you physically fit for later lifestyles. People have to start somewhere, so why not start here with us?"

For more on the center, call 255-2254.

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE

FOR SEPTEMBER 6-22

Friday, September 6

Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 7

The Art of Racing in the Rain (PG) 4 p.m.

Once Upon A Time in Hollywood 7 p.m.

Sunday, September 8

Dora and the City of Gold (PG) 1 p.m.

Spider-Man: Far From Home (PG-13) 4 p.m.

Thursday, September 12

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Friday, September 13

Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 14

The Art of Racing in the Rain (PG) 4 p.m.

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood (R) 7 p.m.

Sunday, September 15

Dora and the City of Gold (PG) 1 p.m.

Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (PG-13) 4 p.m.

Thursday, September 19

Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw (PG-13) 4 p.m.

Friday, September 20

Good Boys (R) 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 21

The Angry Birds Movie 2 (PG) 4 p.m.

Good Boys (R) 7 p.m.

Sunday, September 22

The Angry Birds Movie 2 (PG) 1 p.m.

Blinded by the Light (PG-13) 4 p.m.

TICKETS ARE \$6 FOR ADULTS AND \$5 FOR CHILDREN, 12 AND UNDER. MILITARY I.D. CARDHOLDERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE WELCOME. SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 255-2408.

UNITED STATES ARMY SOLDIER FOR LIFE

Info session teaches vets about Veterans Affairs benefits

Department of Veteran Affairs

Press Release

Do you know what benefits and services are available to you through the Department of Veterans Affairs?

To help service members and their family members meet their life goals, the VA is now offering a one-hour VA Benefits 101 information session. The session provides important information about VA benefits you can use while in the military. It also includes eligibility requirements.

It is never too early to learn about and use all the VA benefits you have earned and deserve. Learn about:

- VA benefits, services and tools;
- eligibility for benefits;
- how and when to apply for benefits;
- community resources;
- tuition assistance;
- education benefits and GI Bill* (to include the Forever GI Bill*);
- VA education and career counseling; and
- housing-related programs.

As a member of the military community, you may have a lifelong relationship with VA. The time is now to learn how to make the

most of your VA benefits.

To sign up for a VA Benefits 101 information session, contact your local benefits adviser or transition assistance program manager, Liz Legieza, 255-1868, or Bryan Tharpe, 255-3932. The session is available in-person at your installation or online with the Department of Defense's Joint Knowledge Online.

The VA Benefits 101 module is one of nine Military Life Cycle modules. The MLC modules are for service members and their family members to learn about DOD and VA services, benefits, and resources that can help set them up for success, in and out of uniform. The other modules are VA Education Benefits, Social and Emotional Health Resources, Community Integration Resources, VA Home Loan Guaranty Program, Vet Centers, Survivor and Casualty Assistance Resources, Reserve Component Dual Payments, and VA Life Insurance Benefits.

For more information or to sign up, call Liz Legieza, 255-1868, or Bryan Tharpe, 255-3932.



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

HISTORY LESSON

George Baum, volunteer at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum, takes North Miami Beach High School football players on a tour of the museum Aug. 23. About 50 of the players, coaches and staff of the Chargers toured Fort Rucker, had lunch at Divots and ran through drills at the football field behind the physical fitness center prior to the team's game against Enterprise High School that night.



FORT RUCKER FIRE DEPARTMENT 9/11 MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMB

Monday, Sept. 9
Ring of the Bell at 8:46 a.m.
Bldg. 5700

FROM DFMWR



Visit Fort Rucker Army Community Service on Facebook for a calendar of our activities!

ACTIVE PARENTING: BIRTH TO 5 YEARS

ACS' Family Advocacy Program will host an Active Parenting: Birth to 5 Years workshop Sept. 13, 20, 27, and Oct. 4 at Bldg. 5700, Rm. 350 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Parenting can be a challenging yet fulfilling responsibility, but most parents do not receive any type of training. The family advocacy program will be offering parenting classes for parents with children of all ages to provide parents with the essential tools necessary to be a more effective parent at any age of their child's life. Remember, parenting is about making life better for your children, not being a better parent. Instructors use the Active Parenting curriculum.

For more information or to register for one of the upcoming classes, call ACS 255 3359 or 255-9805.

COMMANDERS CUP FLAG FOOTBALL

The Fort Rucker Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host its Commander's Cup 7-on-7 Flag Football League Sept. 24 to Oct. 30. The league is open to eligible ID card holders, 18 and older. Players must play for their company or battalion team. Only unit teams with no more than 50 percent civilians are eligible for Commander's Cup points. Open teams (not affiliated with a unit) will be accepted; however they will not be eligible for Commander's Cup points. Open teams are not required to maintain a ratio of 50 percent active-duty military. Teams must register with a letter of intent by Sept. 18 to be eligible to play.

There will be a coaches meeting Sept. 11 at noon and 5:30 p.m. at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center. Registration deadline is Sept. 16.

For more information, call 255-2671.

SILVER WINGS PRO-AM GOLF TOURNAMENT

Fort Rucker will host the Silver Wings Pro-Am Golf Tournament Sept. 13-15. Sept. 13 will be a practice round all day with a 5 p.m. pairing party. Tournament play will begin Sept. 14 with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$275 for non-members and \$200 for members. Cost includes tournament course fees, range golf balls, tee gifts, tournament meals and prizes. Limited spots will be available. Members of the National Women's Golf Association will team up with golfers to play 36 holes. Teams will be comprised of one professional and three amateurs. The teams will play team Stableford. Professionals will also simultaneously participate in an individual competition. Amateurs must have a current and verifiable USGA Handicap Index. The event is open to the public.

For more information or to register, call 255-0089.

ATV AND DIRT BIKE TRAIL RIDE

Fort Rucker Outdoor Recreation will host an ATV and dirt bike trail ride Sept. 14 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$20. Drivers must pass the safety driving test through ODR before participating. Participants must provide their own ATV or dirt bike, and also provide their own protective gear, including helmets, boots, etc., that must be worn at all times. The event is open to the public, ages 16 and older.

For more information, call 255-4305.

OPEN FALL SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Fort Rucker will host its open fall softball league Sept. 23 to Oct. 24. A coaches meeting is scheduled for Sept. 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center – this is also the last time people can register for the

league. The league is open to the public for those 18 and older. People can register a team at the Fort Rucker PFC – at least six teams must be signed up for the league to take place. Cost is \$225 per team. Regular season games will be played Mondays and Thursdays. The post-season, double-elimination tournament is scheduled for Oct. 25-26.

For more information, call 255-2671.

FEDERAL JOB WORKSHOP

Interested in working for the federal government? Mystified by the federal hiring process, or maybe you're just frustrated by your repeated attempts to put together an effective and impactful USAJOBS.gov resume? Then make plans to attend the Army Community Service federal job workshop Sept. 19 from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 284 with a hands-on breakout session from 1:15-2:15 p.m. This informative and interactive workshop is aimed at getting people the information they need to increase their federal employment possibilities. Participants will receive a free copy of Kathryn Troutman's "Jobseeker's Guide" (7th Edition). Registration is required two days prior to the workshop. Space is limited to the first 60 to register. The workshop is open to authorized patrons only.

For more information or to register, call 255-2594.

NEWCOMERS' WELCOME

The next Newcomers' Welcome is scheduled for Sept. 20 from 9-11:30 a.m. at The Landing. Active duty, spouses, foreign students, Army civilians and family members are all encouraged to attend this informative event. A free light breakfast and coffee will be served. For free childcare, register your

children at the child development center by calling 255-3564. Reservations must be made 24 hours prior to the Newcomers' Welcome.

For more information, call 255-3735.

WWII HISTORY EVENT: MARKET GARDEN

The Center Library will host its WWII History event, "Market Garden," Sept. 19 at noon at the U.S. Army Aviation Technical Library. It will be led by Bob Barlow. The public is invited. For more information, visit the Center Library or call 255-3885.

EMPLOYMENT READINESS WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the employment readiness program workshop scheduled for Sept. 24 from 9-11:30 a.m. at Bldg. 5700. Patrons will meet in Rm. 350 at 8:45 a.m. for paperwork and attendance prior to the session. You'll get the essentials about how to conduct a successful job campaign, to include crafting a winning resume, prepping for job interviews and other helpful tips. Advance registration is required.

For more information and to reserve your seat, call 255-2594.

WOUNDED WARRIOR FALL HUNT

Fort Rucker will host its Wounded Warrior Fall Hunt Sept. 25-28. Wounded warriors from across the southeast will participate in the hunt free of charge with the support of sponsors assisting with lodging and food. Hunters are expected from Virginia, Florida, Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia and Mississippi. The hunt is also open to the general public for \$25 per hunter. Volunteer guides to assist the wounded warriors are welcomed.

Also, \$5 door prize tickets are available at

ODR and MWR Central. Door prize drawing participants must be 18 or older – people do not need to be present at the drawing to win.

For more information, call 255-4305.

RIGHT ARM NIGHT

Leaders, bring your right-hand man or woman out for Fort Rucker Right Arm Night hosted by the 1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment Sept. 26 from 4-6 p.m. at The Landing. Fort Rucker Right Arm Night is an old Army tradition, promoting a night of camaraderie and esprit de corps as Leaders come together and treat those standing to their right – the ones helping them get

through daily missions. Complimentary appetizers will be served while supplies last. Fort Rucker Right Arm Night will be held every month. Both military and civilians are invited to attend.

For more information, call 255-0768.

BABY SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS

The Fort Rucker New Parent Support Program and Parent to Parent invite active-duty and retired military members, Department of Defense employees and their family members to a parent and child interactive baby sign language class scheduled for Sept. 26 from 10-11 a.m. in the Spiritual

Life Center, Rms. 19 and 20. This free class teaches expectant parents and those with young children how to communicate with their child and how to avoid frustrations associated with language development. Pre-registration is required by Sept. 20 – the event is open to the first 15 people to register.

For registration or more information, call 255- 9647.

OKTOBERFEST

Fort Rucker's 17th annual Oktoberfest is scheduled for Sept. 27 from 4:30-9:30 p.m. at The Landing. The event will feature live German music by Sonnenschein Express and

traditional German food. The family-friendly event will also feature inflatables for the children, craft activities and more.

For more information, call 255-9810/1749.

GOLD STAR FAMILY DAY LUMINARY SERVICE

Survivor Outreach Services will host a Gold Star Mothers and Family Day luminary service Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. at Wings Chapel. The Fort Rucker community will come together to honor Gold Star Mothers and Families, and the sacrifices made by their loved ones.

For more information, call 255-9639.



NEWS IN BRIEF

9/11 MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMB

The Fort Rucker Fire Department will host its 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb Sept. 9 from 8-10 a.m. in Bldg. 5700, the Soldier Service Center. Setup will take place from 8-8:30 a.m., with prayer and speaking from 8:30-45 a.m., 8:46 a.m. ringing of the bell (when the North Tower was hit), 8:48 a.m. begin stair climb and end at 9:59 a.m. (when South Tower collapsed). About 30-40 firefighters will participate in the event with the goal for each firefighter to climb the equivalent 110 flights of stairs – the amount New York City firefighters faced during 9/11.

All are welcome to attend the event and encourage Fort Rucker's firefighters as they climb the center stairwell to the third floor of the building and descend the south stairwell until they reach the 110-floor goal.

HISPANIC HERITAGE KICKOFF

The Fort Rucker Hispanic Heritage Month kickoff event is scheduled for Sept. 13 at 11:30 a.m. at the main exchange food court.

POW/MIA CEREMONY

Fort Rucker will host its POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony Sept. 20 at 8:30 a.m. at Veterans Park. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS HEALTH FAIR

The 1st Warrant Officer Company and Lyster Army Health Clinic Health Fair, hosted by WOCS Class 19-22, is scheduled for Sept. 28 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the company (5803 Shamrock Street). In case

of inclement weather, the fair will be held at Yano Hall. The event will feature educational booths providing information and raising awareness of breast cancer. The event is open to military members, civilian employees and family members.

CAR WASH

The 1st Warrant Officer Company and WOCS Class 19-22 will host a breast cancer awareness car wash Sept. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the 1st WOC area on Shamrock Street. Breast Cancer Awareness related T-shirts will be available for ordering.

PAY OFFICE HOURS

The Defense Military Pay Office is closed Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. For more in-

formation, call 255-3115 or 255-3939.

RETIREE COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Fort Rucker Installation Retiree Council meets the first Thursday of each month in The Landing at 11:30 a.m. The meeting is an open forum and all retirees are invited to attend. Retirees are also encouraged to apply for one of the open positions on the council.

For more information, call 255-9124.

SIREN TEST

The Installation Operations Center conducts a test of the emergency mass notification system the first Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. At that time people will hear the siren over the giant voice. No actions are required.

ARMY FLIER

COMMAND

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis
Fort Rucker Commanding General

Col. Whitney B. Gardner
Fort Rucker Garrison Commander

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The "Army Flier" is an authorized publication for the Fort Rucker community, published under the authority of AR 360-1.

Contents are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or Fort Rucker.

The "Army Flier" is published digitally bi-monthly by the Fort Rucker Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 131, Sixth Avenue, Fort Rucker, AL, 36362.

Questions, comments or submissions for the "Army Flier" should be directed to the editor at usarmy.rucker.us-ag.mbx.atzq-pao@mail.mil.

The PAO staff reserves the right to edit submissions selected for publication. For more information about the "Army Flier," call (334) 255-1239.

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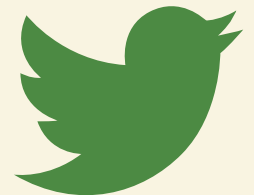
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