

WIREGRASS NURSES SAVE LIFE OF SOLDIER'S SON — SEE PAGE 9

ARMY FLYER

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PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade from Fort Hood, Texas, stand ready to depart in a UH-60 Black Hawk from Fort Rucker's Hatch Stagefield Sept. 5 for movement forward into Florida to provide support to the Bahamas, which was battered by Hurricane Dorian recently. For more on Fort Rucker's support of the operation, see Page 2.

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‘WORLD CLASS SUPPORT’

Fort Rucker lends helping hand to unit deployed on hurricane relief mission

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

When U.S. Army North Task Force 51 called in the cavalry to help with its mission to provide assistance to communities impacted by Hurricane Dorian, Fort Rucker stepped up to lend a helping hand.

Soldiers and aircraft from the 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade began deploying to Fort

Rucker from their home at Fort Hood, Texas, on Labor Day as part of U.S. Army North Task Force 51's mission of providing assisting with hurricane relief operations.

Using the Home of Army Aviation as a stopping point to prepare to move closer to the impacted communities, the 2-227th Avn. Regt. found “world class support,” said the unit commander, Lt. Col. Jason Raub.

“We couldn't have hand selected a better base support installation to kind of stop, re-



Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade from Fort Hood, Texas, undergo water survival training, conducted by the U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine, at Fort Rucker's Flynn Pool Sept. 4.



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

A Soldier runs across the Fort Rucker Hatch Stagefield flightline as a CH-47 Chinook from the 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade from Fort Hood, Texas, departs Sept. 5 for movement forward into Florida where a portion of the unit staged to provide support to the Bahamas.

SUPPORT *cont.*

A Soldier walks along the Hatch flightline as CH-47 Chinooks from the 2-227th Avn. Regt. prepare to depart Sept. 5.

gain posture and get into the fight,” the commander added.

The Fort Rucker team took on the added mission in stride, coming together to provide that world class support, according to Sean Sparks, Fort Rucker Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security director.

“That’s the standard we go by for a mission suite like that, supporting a deployed unit,” he said. “It’s been a total team effort. All the units on post have pulled together to provide the required support as needed, and everyone’s treated (the 2-227th Avn. Regt.) as a priority on every issue.”

Fort Rucker’s support came in many

shapes and sizes, and adapted seamlessly to a mission that changed from the get-go, according to Mikael Ash, U.S. Aviation Center of Excellence chief of the G3 Training Management Oversight Division who coordinated USAACE’s support of the unit.

“Between USAACE and the garrison, along with the Aviation Center Logistics Command and Logistics Readiness Center, we gave them a place to bed down their aircraft, gave them maintenance support, and provided refueling, transportation, billeting, food, and, in the last couple of days, started providing training because now their mission has shifted to over water for missions in

support of the Bahamas,” Ash said.

That training included: water survival, conducted by the U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine at Flynn Pool; aviator life support equipment; and simulator time in the CH-47 Chinook and UH-60 Black Hawk systems for aircrews who will be flying over water, and also UH-72 Lakota simulator time, because even though the unit doesn’t fly the Lakota, that database includes the Bahamas, where some aircrews will be flying, he added.

“Everyone has been really helpful – a total team effort,” Ash said. “Everyone’s rowing in same direction. We’ve not asked for any sup-

port that hasn’t been immediately granted or where people didn’t bend over backwards to do it.”

And that’s really helped the 2-227th Soldiers focus on their mission, according to CW4 Peter Jesse, battalion standardization officer.

“They tell you ‘welcome home,’ when you drive through the gate, and it really feels like home because of the level of support they’ve given us,” he said. “Everyone we’ve come into contact with has gone above and beyond in supporting us, and allowed us to continue training and enhancing our capabilities. It’s just been outstanding.”



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

Fort Rucker firefighters make their way up the center stairwell of Bldg. 5700 at the start of the fourth annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb Sept. 9.

‘NO FORGETTING’

Post firefighters take lead in honoring fallen of 9/11

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

In November of 2001, President George W. Bush told the United Nations that for the U.S.A., “There will be no forgetting,” the attacks of 9/11.

Almost 18 years later, the Directorate

of Public Safety led the charge to ensure those words rang true amongst the Fort Rucker community by hosting two events to honor the fallen of 9/11 – the 4th annual 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb Sept. 9 and the 9/11-Stephen Siller Moving Tribute Sept. 11.

Chaplain (Maj.) Scott Kennis, family life chaplain, set the tone for the memorial stair



Fort Rucker firefighters walk through the halls of Bldg. 5700.

HONORING *cont.*

climb during his benediction.

"Today, we pause with sober reflection and are reminded of an event that changed our nation's history and changed the lives of families forever – 9/11," he said. "A Latin inscription at the 9/11 Memorial at Ground Zero is translated, 'No day shall erase you from the memory of time.' Lord, we ask that we will never grow weary of remembering and honoring those who sacrificed so much for others, and continue to do so today."

About 40 Fort Rucker firefighters then took to the stairwells of Bldg. 5700 to climb a total of 110 floors of stairs – the same amount faced by New York firefighters in the World Trade Center, according to Brad Taylor, firefighter and organizer of the event.

"We will remember every rescuer who died with honor. We will remember every family that lived through grief. We will remember the fire and the ash, the last phone calls, the funerals of the children. We have not forgotten, so today we will climb the stairs here a total of 18 times to represent the 110 stories of the World Trade Center – honoring the sacrifice those men made deliberately putting themselves in harm's way so that others may live," the firefighter said.

A crowd of employees and family members gathered in corridors of Bldg. 5700 to cheer on and support the firefighters, as cheers and clapping resounded through the halls each time the participants passed by.

"On an emergency team, you don't normally have people cheering you," Taylor told local media reporters during an interview at the stair climb. "You go through all of the different emotions – the adrenaline and the purpose. Those people here cheering us on and showing their appreciation – it's invaluable to us in trying to do this memorial climb."

After a reading of the "Firefighters



About 50 firefighters, Directorate of Public Safety personnel and supporters from the post took part in the Fort Rucker 9/11 Stephen Siller Moving Tribute Sept. 11 at the Fort Rucker Fire Department where the group, escorted by post firetrucks and community police, walked about 2 ½ miles across Fort Rucker in honor of Siller and the other lives lost on 9/11.

Prayer" at the 9/11-Stephen Siller Moving Tribute, Chris Quattlebaum spoke about the tribute's namesake and what he did the day of the 9/11 attacks.

On 9/11, Siller had just gotten off the late shift at Squad 1 in Brooklyn. He was on his way to play golf with his brothers when his scanner told of the first plane hitting the Twin Towers. He returned to Squad 1 to get his gear, drove his truck to the Brooklyn

Battery Tunnel, but it was already closed, so he strapped 60 pounds of gear to his back and ran about 2 ½ miles through gridlocked traffic from the tunnel to the towers, where he gave up his life while saving others, according to www.tunnel2towers.org, a foundation created in Siller's name.

"That's pretty heroic," Quattlebaum said before quoting Jay Price, who wrote about Siller. "Every momentous event, even a trag-

edy, has its symbolic figures. Sept. 11 was no different, it just had a few more of them."

After Quattlebaum spoke, about 50 firefighters, other DPS personnel and supporters from the Fort Rucker community formed behind a ladder truck and the department's color guard, and walked about 2 ½ miles along post roads in honor of Siller and the other fallen of 9/11/.



PROST!

Oktoberfest features new look, new tastes, new location

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker will once again offer up a taste of Germany with its annual Oktoberfest Sept. 27 from 4:30-9:30 p.m.

Just don't head to the festival fields this year, as Oktoberfest will feature new tastes and a new look at its new location in and around The Landing, according to Tim Carter Fort Rucker Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation community activities coordinator.

While many sights, tastes, sounds, family activities and entertainment will be familiar

to those who've attended past Oktoberfest's at the post, the new location does feature some changes, including an expanded menu of German food in buffet style in The Landing, decorating the ballroom similar to a German festhalle, and moving the band, Sonnenschein Express, into the building on the stage in the ballroom, Carter said.

But the aim remains the same – a good time for all.

"If you want to have a good time and have good food with good friends, come out," he said. "It's family oriented, so we'll have stuff for the kids to do and stuff for the adults to do. We'll have great food and a band you

won't hear except for once a year."

While Sonnenschein Express will be putting on a show full of festival favorites, including the "Chicken Dance," inside The Landing, there will also be a DJ out front playing different types of German music, the activities coordinator said.

Also outside will be bouncy houses for children, which are free; carnival-style games and rides, such as the zip line and a climbing wall; vendors with a variety of goods, including non-German food; a biergarten; and adult games, such as cornhole, a mug holding contest, keg toss and a volksmarch (for details, see sidebar), he added.

"Moving the band and some of the food indoors gives us some coverage in case of bad weather, which is a big plus for us as storms affected last year's event," Carter said. "If we have bad weather this year, we'll just bring everything we can inside and continue on."

For the buffet, people get their food in the Legends Room, and then eat in the ballroom amidst the festhalle atmosphere, he said. The menu includes beer bratwurst, sauerbraten, jager schnitzel, stuffed cabbage, German potato salad, German coleslaw, braised red cabbage, cucumber salad and spaetzle. In the biergarten outside, a food truck will sell bratwurst with rolls, schnitzel sandwiches and turkey legs.

"We want to make sure everybody gets a little of everything and enjoys themselves," Carter added. "It's going to be a good-looking event and I hope everyone enjoys it."

Since the vendors and rides will occupy the parking lot across from The Landing, parking will be available at The Landing Zone parking area, the lower lot adjacent to where the rides and vendors will be, spaces around the headquarters building and also across Howze Field at the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center.

For more information, visit www.rucker.armymwr.com.

OKTOBERFEST EVENTS

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Where: The Landing on the back deck.

Time: Warm-up kicks off at 4:30 p.m., tournament at 5:30 p.m.

Registration: Free pre-registration is available at the Fort Rucker PFC through Sept. 26. Registration available on site the day of the event until 5:15 p.m.

Prizes: Prizes will be awarded to the first place and second place teams.

MUG HOLDING CONTEST, PLANK STEIN CHALLENGE, KEG THROW

Where: The Landing on the back deck

Time: 5:45 - 8:30 p.m.

Registration: No registration needed.

Prizes: Prizes will be awarded to the top record holders in each event.

2K VOLKSMARCH

Where: The Landing - start line at Shamrock Road and Novosel Street.

Start Time: 4:30 p.m.

Registration: Free registration at Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center through Sept. 26 and on site the day of the event until 4 p.m.

Swag: Participants will receive beads and a hat while on the walk, and learn fun facts about Germany. First 50 registered will receive a 2019 Oktoberfest commemorative t-shirt - medium and large sizes only.



FILE PHOTO

Sonnenschein Express performs at a previous Oktoberfest. This year, the event will be Sept. 27 in and around The Landing – and the band will perform on stage in the ballroom.

Instructor pilot achieves 10,000 flight hour milestone

By Kelly P. Morris
USAACE Public Affairs

Francis E. “Frank” White, an instructor pilot with A. Co., 1st Battalion, 223rd Regiment, 110th Aviation Brigade, achieved a flying-hour milestone few accomplish during their careers.

In a ceremony at Knox Army Heliport Aug. 29, White was honored for having flown more than 10,000 flight hours without experiencing a Class A, B or C accident; and for his laudable proficiency in his assigned aircraft, mastery of aviation systems and superb piloting skills.

According to Col. George Ferido, commander of 110th Aviation Brigade, the occasion to present the 10,000 flight-hour award does not come around very often.

“It’s my true honor to be presenting this award. Thank you for your service, and thank you for what you do for this organization and for the United States Army,” Ferido said.

Ferido lauded White’s loyalty and patriotism after 22 years of service to the Army as a Soldier, and for his continued service as a civilian. White retired as a chief warrant officer four in 1992, and came back in 2002 as a Department of the Army civilian. He holds a doctorate in experiential learning and also serves as a minister in the local community.

“If I was half the man Frank White is, I think I would feel accomplished as a human being – good individual, great Soldier, great DA civilian and a humble professional — that is what you’ve got to respect about this gentleman,” Ferido said.

White said he was just doing his job, and he thanked the combat-seasoned Aviation professionals in the room for their service.

“I look around and I see those that have had multiple deployments, a significant

number of combat hours, and my hat is off to you,” White said. “Those are the pilots I look up to.”

He described an “easier Army time” back in the 1970s and ‘80s, compared with the number and types of deployments Soldiers have amassed in recent years. White referred to the aviators in the room as “kids” he has taught that have gone through flight school here and continue to return for different types of training.

“You really have already put your life on the line. Multiple times. And you’re still here,” White said.

White said he has enjoyed the opportunity to teach initial entry level, but also instructing more advanced students, which is his current task.

“Here, we’re talking about (people) with 15 years of service, coming back from Afghanistan, Honduras, all over. It’s just ... always learning,” White said.

He enjoys being part of a small Aviation community, he said.

“Chinook pilots are a close knit group. In most cases you can kind of keep track of their career, and that makes it fun,” White said.

White also enjoys keeping up with people who came into Army service at about the same time he did in 1970, who have seen the technology progress, people who remember a time when a “hover button” was a joke or a wish.

“There’s still a lot of old guys, but we’re dwindling,” White said.

White’s prior enlisted service included serving in Vietnam in 1971-1972.

He began flight school as a warrant officer one at Fort Rucker in 1975.

During his career, he served as a high-altitude rescue training instructor pilot at Mount Rainer, Washington. He trained pilots



PHOTO BY KELLY MORRIS

Francis E. ‘Frank’ White, Chinook flight instructor with A. Co., 1-223rd Avn. Regt., receives a milestone award for flying 10,000 hours from Col. George Ferido, commander of 110th Avn. Bde., Aug. 29.

in high-altitude operations on the mountain, and conducted actual rescue and recovery missions above 8,000 feet in the CH-47B.

“We learned what retreating blade stall felt like,” he noted.

He also served as Army Development and Employment Program Manager, CH-47D (Test Activity), at Fort Lewis, Washington, where he scheduled and conducted utilization missions to show the capabilities of a CH-47D (Bearcat 5) using its multi-hook capabilities that could be available in a New Light Division. There was no load certification then, so he could create all rigging criteria.

White served as an aerial observer unit trainer at Fort Irwin, California, where he trained nonrated crew members in map reading, observation, reporting and emergency flight skills. He also served on a nuclear surety mission at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, where he flew sensitive items

to remote locations in the Midwest.

White was a cold weather unit trainer for 2-10th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, where he taught UH-1H and OH-58 aviators cold-weather flying skills.

His military aircraft qualifications include the TH-55, UH-1H, OH-58 A and C models, TH-67, and the CH-47 B, C, D and F models.

His civilian aircraft qualifications include the Cessna 150 and 172, Piper PA-28 (Cherokee), Bell 47 (Wooden Blades), Schweizer 300 and Bell 206.

White earned his master’s degree in counseling psychology and his doctorate in experiential learning, which he said has complemented his role as instructor pilot.

“One of the things I tell my students, and I think it’s important for IPs, is it’s not your job to learn my teaching style,” White said. “It’s my job to learn your learning style.”

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Fort Rucker kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker kicked off its observance of Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 13 at the main exchange food court with free food, cultural displays, dance performances and more.

The U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, the 1st Aviation Brigade Equal Opportunity Office, the Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service teamed up to help the community celebrate the diversity that makes the Army and the nation strong, said Sgt. Sgt. Ileana J. Salguero, EO leader for USAARL.

“While Hispanic American communities have roots that reach across the globe, their success stories are uniquely American, and their rich heritages continue to span the world and the depths of America’s history,” she said at the event. “Generation after generation, Hispanics have forged a proud legacy that reflects the spirit of our Nation — a country that values the contributions of everyone — who call America home.

“Through times of hardship and in the face of enduring prejudice, Hispanic Americans have persisted and forged ahead to help strengthen our nation,” she continued. “Despite their difficulties and struggles, they have sacrificed and persevered to build



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

Dancers perform at the Fort Rucker Hispanic Heritage Month kickoff event Sept. 13 at the main exchange food court. The event featured music and dance performances, cultural and educational displays, and a free food tasting.

a better life for themselves, their children and Americans as a whole. Today we kick off a celebration of the cultural traditions, ancestry, native languages and unique experiences represented among our Hispanic brothers and sisters, and honor their contributions to the American society and way of life.”

Several performance teams from Dothan and as far away as Tallahassee, Florida, then

performed dances from several Hispanic cultures while volunteers served free ethnic food and attendees perused the various information booths on display.

Sgt. 1st Class William Crowley, 1st Avn. Bde. EO adviser, thanked all of those who teamed together to make the event a success, and then extended his thanks even further.

“I want to express my deepest gratitude

for the tremendous contributions of our Hispanic American brothers and sisters who have helped shape our great country into a land that remains free for all to achieve their dreams,” he said. “It is through your hard work and perseverance that we, as a nation, remain strong today.”

For more on Hispanic Heritage Month, visit <https://www.deomi.org/>.

Fort Rucker lauds Wiregrass nurses for life-saving rescue of Soldier's son

By Kelly P. Morris

USAAACE Public Affairs

As the summer season comes to a close, one Fort Rucker Soldier is looking back over the season with gratitude toward two Wiregrass area nurses, Catrina Hedaria and Michaela Ford, who were in the right place at the right time to save his son in July.

First Sergeant David M. Bowers, B Co., 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment, his family and friends were enjoying the July 4 weekend on the beach near Destin, Florida, when the unthinkable happened.

Bowers' son Jhian Belen, 17, who had already spent a lot of time in the water that day, grew tired while swimming out to a sandbar. Bowers saw Jhian struggling in the water, and immediately swam out to help him. But when he got there, there was no sign of his son.

"I couldn't exactly see ahead of me, I just know I'm swimming to him. By the time I stopped swimming, and I started treading water and looking around – okay, where's my son?" Bowers said, as he recalled the events of the day.

Then, Bowers looked down in the water.

"He was under water, motionless," Bowers said. "I brought him to the surface. He was not breathing – unconscious. Obviously, we can't perform CPR in the water, so my next intent was to get him to the shore."

Already fatigued, Bowers started calling for help, and soon was joined by another man who helped him to tow Jhian to shore.

"A big group carried him from our arms to the sand," he said.

Hedaria and Ford, who work as nurses in the Wiregrass area, were vacationing at the same beach as the Bowers family when they heard cries for help.

Hedaria, a registered nurse who works in



Jhian Belen, pictured with Caterina Hedaria (left), a registered nurse who works in the Intensive Care Unit at Flowers Hospital, and Michaela Ford (right), a registered nurse and supervisor at Enterprise Health and Rehabilitation Center, who helped save his life when he drowned at the beach in the Destin, Fla., area in July.

the intensive care unit at Flowers Hospital, was on the beach talking on the phone to a friend when she heard the word "drowning" and saw someone waving.

She couldn't recall the faces, but remembered the exhaustion of the people who swam the teenager back to shore.

"They could not breathe because they had to bring dead weight to the shore," she explained.

Michaela Ford, a registered nurse and supervisor at Enterprise Health and Rehabilitation Center, also heard someone calling out for help while her husband, retired 1st Sgt. Jemar Ford, was setting up their canopy that day. She told him to call 911.

Both nurses rushed to the scene, assessed Jhian and immediately began attempting to



PHOTOS KELLY MORRIS

resuscitate him. After approximately three long minutes of CPR, Jhian was breathing again and his pulse was restored.

Bowers directed the arriving EMTs to Jhian, who was not yet fully conscious. He was transported to a medical center where he made a full recovery.

"I remember we high-fived," Ford said of the teamwork with Hedaria.

The two nurses then went their separate ways, both wondering as the weeks passed what ultimately happened to Jhian.

Both of them got their answer in person in two separate ceremonies on post recently, when leaders and Soldiers of 1-145th along with the Bowers family formally recognized both nurses for their life-saving actions. They were each presented the Civilian Award for

Humanitarian Service.

"Jhian is standing here today due to your efforts," said Col. Tammy L. Baugh, 1st Aviation Brigade commander, indicating both nurses. "We wanted to take a moment on behalf of the Army, and on behalf of (Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general) to present you with a small award and say, 'Thank you.'"

The intent of the award was to commend the selfless service, character, heroism and bravery of Hedaria and Ford that resonates across the Army.

Bowers said he was happy his son was alive, and praised the nurses for their efforts.

"They were there on vacation. They're just trying to enjoy their time. Then something was presented to them horrifically, and they instantly acted and were performing some serious duty. It's wonderful for them to do that," Bowers said.

For the nurses, the best part was seeing Jhian again, this time healthy and active.

Jhian presented flowers to thank Hedaria and Ford, and gave them a hug.

Hedaria couldn't hold back the tears to see Jhian, who at the time was suited up in his Enterprise High School football uniform, ready for game day.

"I'm so thankful to God that you're okay," Hedaria said to him. "I'm just thankful."

Ford also was misty eyed.

"I'm very emotional about this," Ford said. "I'm just glad he's okay. If it was my child, I would hope somebody would do the same thing."

Jhian said he was grateful to meet the people who saved his life. He also had some advice for others.

"Be careful out there. Be aware more. Go to church," Jhian said.

Helicopter modernization vital to increase lethality, survivability

By Thomas Brading
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. -- Although the Army anticipates fielding its first Future Vertical Lift aircraft by 2030, modernizing and maintaining current helicopters is vitally important, a top Army aviator said Sept. 5.

Maj. Gen. David Francis, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, outlined aircraft modernization priorities at the Association of the U.S. Army's "Hot Topic" forum on Army Aviation.

The Army is "not just concerned about (FVL), we're concerned about the entire aviation force," Francis said. "When I talk about the aviation force that is going to fight and win in future environments, I'm talking about the UH-60 (Black Hawk), the CH-47 (Chinook), and the Apaches we have today."

Modernization is the key to their survivability, he said. Regarding the Apache, the Army awarded Boeing a \$34 million contract Aug. 28 to integrate the Improved Turbine Engine Program -- ITEP -- into the AH-64 attack helicopter.

Additionally, earlier this year, General Electric Aviation was awarded a \$517 million contract by the Army to engineer, manufacture, and develop the ITEP.

The ITEP engine requires "a 3,000 shaft horsepower engine that reduces fuel consumption by 25 percent and increases service life by 20 percent," officials said.

"We must make sure that we're giving the best capabilities to our sons and daughters," Francis said, referring to today's equipment.

"We're sending [them] into harm's way on any given day, so they must have the most modernized equipment that we can possibly give them."

Through targeted readiness, the Army



PHOTO BY SGT. THOMAS MORT

plans to ensure its current aviation fleet is constantly modernized and ready to fight, and win, he said, because the Army will "have these fleets well into the future."

Upgrades to current aircraft are intended to increase lethality and survivability on today's battlefield.

In January, Army officials introduced affordable and relevant technical modernization upgrades to the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, said Jackie Allen, industrial engineer, Corpus Christi Army Depot, in a statement.

Black Hawk modifications include cockpit and electronic components.

Earlier this summer, Apache and unmanned aircraft pilots paired with combat ground forces to test Apache helicopter upgrades at Fort Hood, Texas. Modernizations include improved target acquisition and joint interoperability.

Aviation units are 83 percent committed currently on any given day, Francis said.

"The first unit equip for FVL isn't scheduled till FY 30," he said, adding, so "there's (more than) a decade that we're going to be using our (current) equipment."

The Army expects a Future Long Range Assault Aircraft to replace some Black Hawk helicopters in 2030 and a Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft to replace some AH-64 Apaches.

"Everybody acknowledges the enduring fleet that we have today is going to be with us for a couple of decades yet," Francis said. "That means that there are going to have to be some investments in those platforms as we move forward to keep them capable of fighting and ready to win."

It's going to take several years to field the fleet with Future Vertical Lift, Francis added. "We have commitments from our Army leaders across the board to make sure that we're giving the very best equipment" to Soldiers.

FVL can "fight and win in a high-threat, multi-domain, large-scale environment," Francis said.

As one the Army's top modernization priority, FVL is a "leap-ahead" in speed, range, lethality, survivability, and reach to find, fix, and finish enemy threats and subsequently exploiting open corridors.

FORT RUCKER
MOVIE SCHEDULE

FOR SEPT. 19 - OCT. 6

Friday, September 20

Good Boys (R) 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 21

Ferdinand (G) 1 p.m.

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.

Thursday, September 26

Good Boys (R) 7 p.m.

Friday, September 27

Ready or Not (R) 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 28

Overcomer (PG) 4 p.m.

Don't Let Go (R) 7 p.m.

Sunday, September 29

Overcomer (PG) 1 p.m.

Angel Has Fallen (R) 4 p.m.

Thursday, October 3

Don't Let Go (R) 7 p.m.

Friday, October 4

IT: Chapter Two (R) 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 5

Overcomer (PG) 4 p.m.

IT: Chapter Two (R) 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 6

Overcomer (PG) 1 p.m.

I Am That Man (R) 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.

FROM DFMWR



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

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.

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.

SMART START BASKETBALL

Registration for Start Smart Basketball runs Oct. 1-31. Start Smart Basketball is a six-session instructional program that with

100-percent parent participation. It is for children 3-4 years old. Participants will meet every Monday and Wednesday for three weeks starting Nov. 4. The cost is \$25 and children will receive a shirt.

For more information, call 255-2254.

YOUTH SPORTS BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Youth sports basketball registration runs from Oct. 1-31. Teams will be broken into 6 groups: beginners league, ages 5-6; training league, ages 7-8; peewee league, ages 9-10; minor league, ages 11-12; junior league, ages 13-14; and senior league, 15-18.

Parents can register children at parent central services or on Webtrac. Cost is \$45. There will be a parent's meeting Nov. 4t at 6 p.m. at the youth center gym, Bldg. 2800 on Seventh Avenue.

For more information, call 255-2254 or 255-9105.

BOAT REGATTA

People are asked to turn cardboard into a seaworthy vessel during the Fort Rucker Boat Regatta. People can bring their creations to the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center Indoor Pool to race against other boats Oct. 3. Teams of two or more can build a boat at home out of cardboard and bring it in to see if it floats. Teams can preregister at the Fort Rucker PFC by Oct. 2. Check in starts at 5 p.m., with a safety brief at 5:30 p.m. and the event begins right afterwards. Prizes will be given out to winners of various categories.

For additional details, call 255-2296.

FEEDING YOUR CHILD

Being a parent can have its challenges. Feeding your child the right foods right from the start can make things easier in the long

term. Parents are welcome to attend a class Oct. 4 from 9-11 a.m. to learn what, when and where to feed your child to prevent mealtime struggles and promote a lifetime of healthy eating. People need to pre-register by Sept. 27 by calling the new parent support program at 255-9647.

COFFEE AND FRIENDS

Do you need help understanding military life, new to Fort Rucker, or just looking to make some new friends? If so, try attending Coffee and Friends hosted by Army community Service at the Bowden Terrace Community Center Oct. 4 from 9-11 a.m. Coffee and Friends will be held the first Friday of every month.

For more information, call 255-3898.

MOGADISHU MILE 5K RUN

The Mogadishu Mile 5k run is scheduled for Oct. 5.

Race day registration: 6:30-7:45 a.m. 5K Race begins at 8 a.m.

Pre-registration packet pick up Oct. 4 from 3-7 p.m. at Fortenberry-Colton PFC.

Pre-registration fee is \$25 by Sept. 29. Sept. 30 to race day, entry fee is \$30. Registration includes T-shirt and run series medal. Registration forms will be at both the Fortenberry-Colton and Fort Rucker PFCs, MWR Central and also available to print off on the MWR website <http://rucker.armymwr.com/us/rucker>.

No T-shirt option fee is \$15 at all times and includes run series medal.

Teams of eight people pay \$160 – \$20 per team member – each additional person pays normal registration fee. Sept. 29 to race day, all teams are \$180.

For more information, call 255-2296.

SCARY CERAMICS

The arts and crafts center will host a scary ceramics crafting session Oct. 5 with all kinds of Halloween ceramics, including Jack-o-lanterns with a light.

Supplies are limited, so people should reserve a spot early.

For more information, call 255-9020.

COMMANDER'S CUP VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

The Commander's Cup Volleyball League regular season will run Oct. 21 to Dec. 4. The league is open to eligible ID card holders, ages 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 Oct. 16. Games will be played at Fortenberry-Colton PFC.

There will be a coaches meeting Oct. 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Fort Rucker PFC.

For more information, call 255-2296.

FORT RUCKER BIG BUCK CONTEST

Outdoor recreation is hosting a Big Buck Contest from October 15 to Feb. 10. Participants must be registered before harvesting their buck and the buck must be harvested on Fort Rucker to qualify. Fort Rucker requires that individuals ages 16 and older have an Alabama State Hunting License, a Fort Rucker Post Hunting Permit – available at isportsman.net – and a Hunter Education Card. Entry fee is \$25 per person and open to the public. For more information and to

register, call 255-4305.

LITERARY LEAGUE

The Center Library's book club for adults is back with a new name and a new attitude – the Literary League. The club will meet the third Tuesday of every month from 5-6 p.m. for an evening devoted to the appreciation of literature. Enjoy good books, intelligent discussion and light refreshments. The club is for people ages 18 and up.

For more information, visit the Center Library or call 255-3885.



NEWS IN BRIEF

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.

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.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETS

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at The Commons, Bldg. 8950. For more on the group, call 334-379-8775.

THRIFT SHOP

The Fort Rucker Thrift Shop is open Wednesdays-Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The thrift shop needs people's unwanted items. People can drop off donations at any time in the shed behind the shop (former Armed Forces Bank building) located in front of the theater next door to the bowling alley. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information, call 255-9595.

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Fort Rucker Commanding General

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Fort Rucker Garrison Commander

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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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