

VETERANS NEWLY ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES STILL SUBJECT TO POST ACCESS PROCEDURES – SEE PAGE 8

ARMY FLYER

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

VOLUME 70 • NUMBER 2 • FEBRUARY 6, 2020



PHOTO BY SGT. ADELIN WITHERSPOON

Flight crews assigned to 2nd Battalion (Assault), 158th Aviation Regiment, facilitate helocast training for Soldiers assigned to 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Jan. 22. Helocasting is an airborne technique used to insert Soldiers into a military area of operations.

AVIATION FORUM

Aviation prepares for critical maneuver role in future

PAGE 2

ABOVE THE BEST

USAACE announces FY19 Parker Awards winners

PAGE 4

A SOLID A+

New school preview impresses Fort Rucker spouses

PAGE 5

FREE HELP

Tax center ready to provide assistance to Soldiers, retirees

PAGE 7

257 YEARS

9 Soldiers and 1 civilian retire at quarry ceremony

PAGE 9

AVIATION SENIOR LEADER FORUM

Aviation prepares for critical maneuver role in the future

By Kelly Morris
USAACE Public Affairs

More than 150 U.S. Army Aviation brigade commanders, command sergeants major and senior warrant officers gathered at the Home of Army Aviation for the Annual Aviation Senior Leader Forum Jan. 28-30.

The annual event provides an opportunity for Aviation leaders to hear from senior leaders and tackle issues facing the branch.

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker welcomed current and legacy leaders, encouraged candor and feedback, and spoke about the state of the Aviation Branch.

“There is not a more exciting time to be part of Army Aviation, as we start to move toward large-scale combat operations, and as we go after a modernization strategy that is probably more aggressive than we have since we brought on the ‘Big 5,’” he said, referring to the Army’s major procurement programs of the 1970s and 1980s.

“I think it’s really important for us to come together as a branch like we do here every year, to discuss some very challenging issues and to have shared understanding,” he said.

Francis explained what the Army provides to the joint force is Combined Arms Maneuver, which includes movement and fires. Aviation is a critical component of maneuver.

He said the National Defense Strategy is the driver of the Army’s modernization strategy and the concept of Multi-Domain Operations, as the Army prepares to address the problem set of “standoff”—including political standoff, strategic positioning standoff and capability standoff in the future.

“First we have to be able to compete, and we’ve got to compete well,” Francis said. “We also have to build capability. If deterrence fails and we have to go to armed conflict, we have to be able to penetrate (anti-access,



PHOTOS BY KELLY MORRIS

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, speaks at the annual Aviation Senior Leader Forum.

area-denial) defenses, and dis-integrate integrated air defenses and integrated fires complexes. Once we’ve dis-integrated those defenses, we have to be able to exploit that capability and then return to competition on terms more favorable to the U.S.”

One challenge facing the branch going forward is lack of predictable, sustained funding.

“Anytime we are operating under a continuing resolution, that’s unpredictability for modernization, unpredictability for our current operations, as well as trying to predict

training,” Francis said.

Another challenge facing the branch, which is 83-percent committed (across all components) around the globe, is attrition. Multiple initiatives are in the works to address the attrition rate.

“Starting 1 January of this year, you saw the first increase in aviation career incentive pay that we’ve had in 20 years. So, we got that across the finish line,” he said.

Leadership at the company and battalion level plays a key role in whether people stay in the Army.

Starting 1 January of this year, you saw the first increase in aviation career incentive pay that we’ve had in 20 years. So, we got that across the finish line.

- Maj. Gen. David J. Francis
USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general

FORUM *cont.*

"People want to be on a winning team. People want to be in an organization that prides itself on excellence. People want to be in a cohesive unit. And they will follow you to the ends of the Earth when that happens," Francis said.

Francis said the high operational tempo is challenging for the force. With rotational requirements around the globe, including to Korea, Europe, Afghanistan and Iraq, and multiple Combat Training Center rotation requirements, and various other requirements, no combat aviation brigade is "sitting idle waiting for the next thing."

"It's a challenge when we're that committed," he said. "And that burden is being borne by a few combat aviation brigades, not all of them, because we've (committed) a bunch of them."

Aviation units also feel the effects of ongoing fleet modernization efforts.

"On any given day 20 of our battalions in Army Aviation are undergoing some sort of modernization. That means an aircraft is

taken offline and is unavailable because we're doing a modification to it," Francis said.

The Army is resourcing the institution to ramp up flight school throughput to provide more aviators to meet the demand.

"There are resources coming to Fort Rucker right now and are already arriving to help us fix that. So by the end of this year we will be back up to production the way we need to at Fort Rucker to fill your cockpits out there," Francis said.

Francis said the branch can expect to see changes to doctrine in the future in preparation for MDO.

"What you're going to see over the next decade is as we gain capability, as we train, as we get organized to do so, you're going to see that rapidly turn into doctrine. You're going to see a bigger churn on doctrine over the next 10 years or so than you have in your history of being an officer or an NCO," he said.

As the Army prepares for potential near-peer threats of the future, Francis said Aviation needs to be ready to fly and fight at



ARMY PHOTO

Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, an Army Aviator who serves as commanding general of U.S. Army North, speaks at the forum.

lower altitudes, and he emphasized changes to how the force trains emergency procedures.

"As we bring the force low again, we have to do that very deliberately," he said.

Leader development is crucial, going forward, which requires a return to the fundamentals.

"We have to develop leaders who are fundamentally sound in doctrine, that are fundamentally sound aviators, that are fundamentally sound in every aspect of our profession," he said.

Francis lauded the great efforts across Army Aviation as the branch works through challenges.

"It is a testament to your professionalism, it's a testament to the faith and trust that our ground force commanders have in you that was built on the legacy that is sitting in this room today. And I'll tell you, it's impressive," Francis said.

Francis also commended the legacy lead-

ers in attendance.

"We would not be here having this conversation were it not for the leaders who not only built this branch, but built the reputation and that sacred trust between us and our ground force commanders that you guys are now carrying on as legacy. So again, very proud of all of you," he said.

Among the updates for enlisted Soldiers is an Advanced Leaders Course redesign that has been in the works for several years, and should be completed in the fall.

"We took a holistic look at it and we've condensed it. At one point in time, it was between eight and 16 weeks long depending on your (Military Occupational Specialty). We have it down to about a little over five weeks regardless of the MOS at all three of the institutions, whether you're compo 1, 2 or 3," said Command Sgt. Maj. Brian N. Hauke, Aviation branch command sergeant major.

In a warrant officer-focused update, CW5 Jonathan P. Koziol, Aviation branch chief warrant officer, highlighted current initiatives including the Aviation bonus this year.

"One of the huge changes we made in that is the brigade commander is the approval authority. That is huge because we've got to make sure we target individuals who are contributing back and we're not just carrying someone forward because it's a nice thing to do for that officer," Koziol said.

Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, commanding general, U.S. Army North, highlighted the mission and scope of Army North.

"It's important that our Army Aviation leaders know about the U.S. Army North mission, because they could easily become an allocated force to Army North. This forum provides the opportunity to educate and inform our leaders, and tell them how this may apply to them one day in the future," Richardson said. "We are the Theater Army for the nation with a fairly large mission profile. Much of the Army's focus is to be ready



Maj. Gen. Gary M. Brito, commanding general of the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Ga., speaks during a session about Multi-Domain Maneuver.

FORUM *cont.*

to deploy and win in combat on foreign soil but it's important to prepare for possible situations in the homeland."

Maj. Gen. Gary M. Brito, commanding general of the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Georgia, spoke about Soldier lethality in Multi-Domain Maneuver.

"I do not think that our challenges in the maneuver force are any different than what Aviation is going through with regard to multi domain operations, but I do think everything we do is one hundred percent nested together," Brito said.

"You cannot separate what the armor, the infantry and Aviation are going to need to do—we need each other to succeed," Brito said. "I do not think any maneuver force will survive in this environment without the continued support of ... what our Aviation team is going to continue to give us."

Brig. Gen. Wally Rugen, director of the Future Vertical Lift Cross Functional Team, Army Futures Command, highlighted the important teamwork across the Aviation enterprise, as he spoke about maintaining vertical lift dominance.

Rugen provided updates on the lines of effort in the "ecosystem," including FARA, FLRAA and FTUAS. He emphasized the importance of ITE engine, and called for increased reach, lethality, survivability and affordability going forward.

The three-day event focused on current and future operations, training and leader development, and also included speakers from U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, Headquarters Department of the Army, Army Special Operations Aviation Command, Program Executive Office for Aviation, the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, as well as various other subject matter experts.

FY19 PARKER AWARDS



PHOTO BY KELLY MORRIS

Col. Scott D. Wilkinson, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) commander, receives the Lt. Gen. Ellis D. Parker Award from Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, on behalf of the 4-160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment for top honors in the Combat category and Overall Aviation Battalion of the Year for fiscal year 2019.

By Kelly Morris
USAACE Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence recently announced the winners of the Lt. Gen. Ellis D. Parker Army Aviation Unit Awards for fiscal year 2019.

The multi-component Department of the Army level-award recognizes excellence at the battalion level, with a primary focus on safety, leadership, training and maintenance. The annual awards include category awards for combat support, combat service support, table of distribution and allowances, and an overall top battalion of the year.

- The top battalion in the Combat category, as well as the Overall Aviation Battalion of the Year is the 4th Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

- The top battalion in the Combat Support

category is the 6-101st General Support Aviation Battalion, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

- The top battalion in the Combat Service and Support category is the 638th Aviation Support Battalion, (Task Force Taz), Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

- The top battalion in the Table of Distribution and Allowances category is the Special Operations Aviation Training Battalion (SOATB), Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

ABOUT THE AWARDS

In 1993, then-chief of staff of the Army retired Gen. Gordon R. Sullivan approved the Lt. Gen. Ellis D. Parker Award to honor the Army's top Aviation battalion.

The Parker Award is a multi-component Department of the Army-level award that

recognizes excellence at the battalion level, the primary war fighting Army Aviation force.

The annual award aims to recognize excellence, provides incentive to excel in areas of leadership, training, maintenance and safety, and encourage innovation.

Competition is limited to battalion-size units, with the exception of separate units that are not part of a battalion (such as medical evacuation companies), and deployed Aviation task forces. Nominated battalions are initially boarded against category peers, then undergo an evaluation against four primary evaluation criteria--safety, leadership, training and maintenance. Category winners then compete against each other for the top aviation battalion of the year award.

A+

Preview of new Fort Rucker elementary school impresses local spouses

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker leadership and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives hosted 11 spouses of local Soldiers for a tour in and around the elementary school being built on post Jan. 22, and the attendees all graded the facility a solid A+.

The school is scheduled to open this fall, and while construction won't be finished until mid-March, the tour served as a great preview of what Fort Rucker youth and parents can expect this fall, said Jodie Francis, spouse of Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general.

"It's beautiful," she said of the school. "Every detail has been thought out. The colors, the lights, the windows, everything is just gorgeous. I felt like I was more at a museum than a school. I think this is going to be an excellent place for our children to go to every day to learn."

While Francis won't have any children



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative explains the playground network at the new school during a tour of the facility conducted by Fort Rucker leadership and Army Corps of Engineers representatives Jan. 22.

attending the school, she said if she did, she'd be "thrilled."

"We're just looking forward to it opening," she added. "I'm so impressed with just the bare bones – I can't imagine how great it's going to be once everything is in and set for the kids."

Francis' voice joined a chorus of other positive reviews from the spouses in attendance, which was music to the ears of Miranda Griffin, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District South Alabama Office representative leading the tour.

"This was fun – I'm glad to see everyone has so much interest in this project," she said. "I think the tour really helps them understand what their children will be coming into when it opens. It was fun to see them react to the building."

While construction has experienced hiccups here and there, Griffin said, things are moving along smoothly now towards the fall opening, setting up Fort Rucker youth for a great start to the 2020-21 school year.

"Everywhere the children go, the intention is for them to be learning something –

for it to be interactive for them," she added. "Whether they're at the history wall with the aircraft, the windmill, the kiln, even the playgrounds, the children will be learning from the time they put their feet on the campus until the time they leave."

That attention to detail on the more than 175,000-square foot facility wasn't lost on the parents touring the facility, including Ashleigh Rankin, whose spouse is a warrant officer attending flight school and whose daughter will attend the school in the fall.

"It's amazing to see how beautiful it is and

NEW SCHOOL *cont.*

how well-thought out it is – it's crazy because you can tell by just looking at the school and the details they included that they were thinking about our children at Fort Rucker when they built it," Rankin said. "From the Above the Best sign to the helicopter artwork to the light fixtures looking like rotor blades and birds to the playground with the plane – they're all going to love it."

She said that, as flight school parents, they expect to be at Fort Rucker for just a year or two.

"So, lot of these kids are going to be here for a year and then leave," she said, "I just can't imagine them going anywhere else – I've never seen a school this beautiful, honestly."

The excitement is already building within the family for the new school year to start, Rankin added.

"We drive by and my daughter gets excited – she says it's beautiful and she can't wait to get in," she said, adding that the playgrounds and science room have caught her daughter's eye.

As a parent, she said what caught her eye was the certified tornado shelter in the gym, and just the overall look and feel of the facility. "It seems really well thought out the whole way through – the open classrooms, and the open, light and airy feel of the facility is a million times better than before."

Another parent looking forward to open-

ing day, even though she has no elementary school-aged children, is Melissa Gardner, spouse of Col. Whitney B. Gardner, Fort Rucker garrison commander.

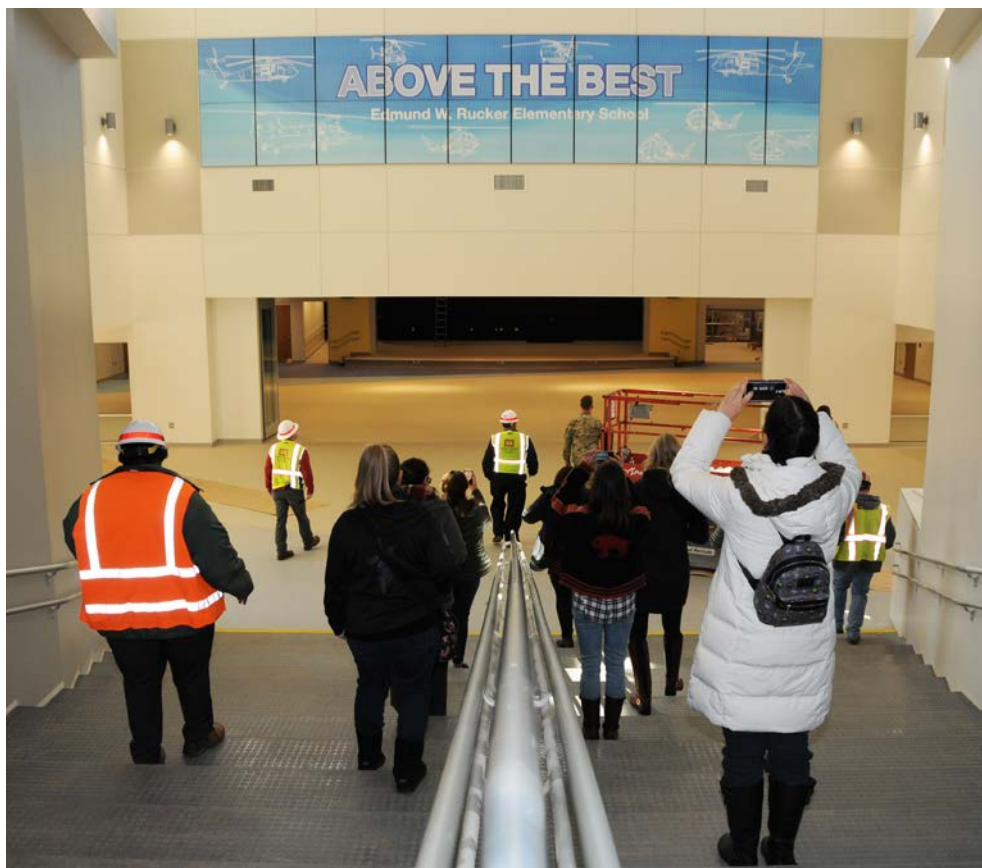
"I've heard so many great things about the school already, but to see it in person, and to see how much time and thought was put into making this so phenomenal is just exciting," she said. "You can hear about it and you can see pictures of it, but to walk through and feel what the students are going to feel when they walk through it for the first time – it's the real deal. Sometimes you hear something will be great, but this truly lives up to everything that I've heard."

"I can't wait for the kids to see it. I can't

wait for the teachers to see it – I'm really proud that this is at Fort Rucker," she added. "To have this at Fort Rucker and to know that the kids are finally being recognized and rewarded with a beautiful school, and something that is all about them – the Army really got it right on this one."

Gardner added that she hopes this new school will help put parents at ease when they come to Fort Rucker.

"They can say, 'Hey, this school was built with you in mind – this is yours,'" she said. "You can take ownership of it, you can be proud of this school. You do not need to be nervous here – you're with other military friends and family. They deserve it."



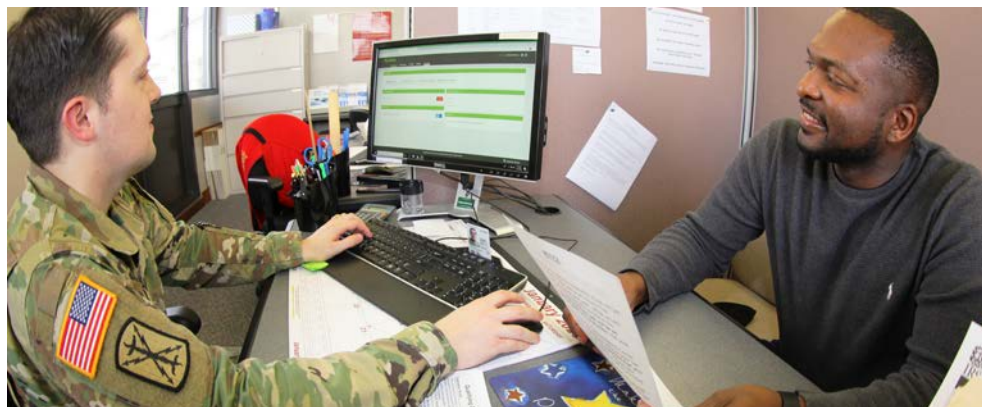


PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

Tax center set to offer free preparation services

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

While taxes remain one of life's certainties, the necessity for military members to pay to figure out how much they will get back from or how much they owe Uncle Sam is not, thanks to a free service offered by the Fort Rucker Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

The Fort Rucker Tax Center is open in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 371F, with the goal of providing professional-level federal and state preparation and filing services for no fee to active duty and retired military, said Tod Clayton, Fort Rucker Tax Center coordinator.

People need to make an appointment to receive the service and can do so by visiting the center or calling 255-2937 or 255-2938, Clayton said. The services are only available to active-duty military, retired military, medically retired military or members of the reserve components on active orders and their family members.

"When people call, they can ask for an

appointment for whenever they want it – all the way until we close April 19. If we have an opening, we'll give it to them," he said.

"We tend to get a lot of appointment requests early on, so if you have trouble getting through, just keep trying," Clayton added.

The office will be open Mondays-Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. People need to bring their military ID card, Social Security cards, previous year's return and all documentation they think they might need to get their taxes done, he said.

But there are some things the folks at the tax center will not help with, such as businesses or more than one rental property – they will also only do a maximum of two state tax returns per person, Clayton said.

"Any of those criteria, or if a person is a day trader, or trading a lot of stocks and dividends, we just don't have the resources to put in all the data they generate," he added. "I'd have to send you to an outside source for assistance."

For more information on the center, call 255-2937 or 255-2938.

INSTRUCTORS OF THE QUARTER



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence held its instructors of the quarter ceremony Jan. 23 in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. The top instructors for the first quarter are CW4 Shawn Holmes, F Company, 1st Battalion, 212th Aviation Regiment, in the officer flight instructor category; CW2 Brandon Pankuch, B Co., 1-145th Avn. Regt., in the warrant officer academic instructor category; Staff Sgt. Michael Emery, A Co., 1-223rd Avn. Regt., in the NCO flight instructor category; Anthony Nieves, A Co., 2-210th Avn. Regt. at Fort Eustis, Va., in the civilian instructor category; and Vincent Holbrook, A Co., 1-223rd Avn. Regt., civilian instructor pilot category. Not pictured is Staff Sgt. Michael Arnett, USAACE NCO Academy Eustis, in the NCO academic instructor category.

PUBLIC SAFETY PROMOTIONS



PHOTO BY JIMMIE CUMMINGS

Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Safety personnel gathered to promote four members of the fire department and 10 members of the military police during a ceremony Tuesday at Fire Station 1 on post. The promotion ceremony was the first to combine members of both fire and police personnel on Fort Rucker. Congratulations to all of those promoted.



FILE PHOTO

Army issues new Aviation Incentive Pay rates

Army Public Affairs
Press Release

The Army announced Jan. 31 the implementation of the new Aviation Incentive Pay rates to stay competitive with the civilian aviation industry.

Aviation incentives are special pays above base pay to ensure aviators are ready and available for flight duty, regardless of unit of assignment. These rates became effective Jan. 1.

"The Army understands the high demands on the Aviation force and their families. This increase in AvIP, the first for Army pilots in over 20 years, will result in an increase of pay for most pilots in the regular Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserves," said Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general. "This adjustment is just one of many efforts under way to maintain aviation readiness and ensure support to the joint force."

AvIP provides long-term financial incentives to remain medically and professionally qualified for flight. The rates have not increased since 1999 and what used to equal almost 25 percent of a pilot's base pay declined to approximately 11 percent. The new AvIP rates, with some levels at the maximum allowed by law, combined with the recently approved 3.1 percent pay raise, provide the largest annual pay raise for Army pilots in recent history.

Veterans newly eligible for services still subject to post access procedures

By David Agan
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The New Year saw new privileges granted to some veterans who had previously been ineligible for access to commissaries, post exchanges and recreational facilities across the Department of Defense, but procedures for gaining access to Fort Rucker remain unchanged, according to post officials.

"A Veteran Health Identification Card is an acceptable form of identification once someone has undergone a background check at one of Fort Rucker's visitor control centers," says John Tkac, chief of physical security, Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Safety.

The Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018 went into effect Jan. 1, 2020, and expands commissary, exchange and morale, welfare and recreation retail eligibility to Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, all veterans with service-connected disabilities, and individuals approved and designated as primary

family caregivers of eligible veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, according to a VA press release.

While a Veteran Health Identification Card may qualify a veteran or caregiver for shopping at commissaries or exchanges, or authorization to use morale, welfare and recreation facilities, it does not authorize visitors to access post without first obtaining a visitor badge.

"The first time someone comes [to a gate] with a VHIC, they're required to go to a visitor control center and undergo a background check," said Tkac. "Upon successful completion of the background check, they'll be issued a visitor badge."

The visitor badge, along with valid government-issued picture identification, such as a driver's license, will allow people to access post.

"[A visitor badge] allows the guards to verify the person has been vetted, and a driver's license is what we scan through our

system," said Tkac.

Unlike unsponsored visitor badges, which are issued for periods of up-to-six months, people with a VHIC can be issued a visitor badge that is valid for one year.

"[People] can request a long-term access badge, which is good for a year versus a six-month pass," said Tkac.

Visitor badges can be obtained from either of Fort Rucker's visitor control centers located at the Daleville or Ozark gates. The Daleville VCC is open 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sunday through Saturday; the Ozark VCC is open 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

To obtain a visitor badge, people need a valid Government-issued picture identification, such as a driver's license, state-issued ID, or passport. To expedite the process, visitors can complete a Fort Rucker Form 2746-R-E from and bring it with them at the time of processing. The form is available online at <https://home.army.mil/rucker/index.php/visit>.

257 YEARS

9 Soldiers, 1 civilian retire during quarterly ceremony

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

With a combined 257 years of service, nine Soldiers and one civilian retired during the Fort Rucker Quarterly Retirement Ceremony Jan. 24 at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

Col. Whitney B. Gardner, Fort Rucker garrison commander, hosted the event, assisted by Command Sgt. Maj. Jasper C. Johnson, garrison command sergeant major.

Short write-ups on each retiree follow.

MAJ. STEVEN C. MURTY

Murty, U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine chief of altitude physiology, entered military service in 1996. He served multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. He said the highlight of his career was flying over the skies of Iraq picking up the sick and wounded, and taking them to the hospital. He has two children. He plans to return to his home state of Iowa.

CW4 NATHANIEL R. BARLEY

Barley, U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career College military history instructor, entered military service in 1991 as a food service specialist. He was selected for the Army Warrant Officer Candidate Course in 2003. He served multiple combat tours in support of opera-

tions Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. He and his wife, Lakeshia, have four children. They plan to reside in Enterprise.

CW3 TIMOTHY J. UNTERSEHER

Unterseher, 110th Aviation Brigade basic warfighter skills instructor pilot, entered military service in 1995 as a private in the infantry. He was selected for Army Warrant Officer Flight Training in 2007. He served multiple combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He said the highlight of his career was working as a standardization instructor pilot and air adviser for two special operations advisory teams in Afghanistan, flying shoulder-to-shoulder with Afghan aircrews in the Special Mission Wing. He and his wife, Erika, have three children. They plan to reside in Enterprise.

FIRST SGT. ROBERT T. CADMAN

Cadman, 1st Battalion, 212th Aviation Regiment operations NCO in charge, entered military service in 1996 as a UH-60 repairer. He served multiple combat tours in support of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. He said the highlight of his career was marrying his beautiful wife, Carmen, and having two wonderful children. They plan to reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado.



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

With a combined 257 years of service, nine Soldiers and one civilian retired during the Fort Rucker Quarterly Retirement Ceremony Jan. 24 at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. The retirees are (back row) Sgt. 1st Class Holious D. Calhoun Jr., 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, Texas; Sgt. 1st Class Joshua P. Gorham, A Company, 1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment; Maj. Steven C. Murty, U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine; Jack A. Holmes, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence G3; Staff Sgt. Reginal G. Lyerly, Fort Rucker Religious Support Office; (front row) 1st Sgt. Robert T. Cadman, 1-212th Avn. Regt.; CW3 Timothy J. Unterseher, 110th Aviation Brigade; Sgt. 1st Class Telisha L. White, 1-11th Avn. Regt.; CW4 Nathaniel R. Barley, U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career College; and 1st Sgt. Anthony L. Garcia, D Co., 1-13th Avn. Regt.

FIRST SGT. ANTHONY L. GARCIA

Garcia, D Company, 1-13th Avn. Regt. senior leader course instructor, entered military service in 1999 as an aircraft hydraulic system repairer. He served multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. He said the highlight of his career was marrying his beautiful wife, Katherine, and having six wonderful children. They plan to reside in Enterprise.

SGT. 1ST CLASS TELISHA L. WHITE

White, 1-11th Avn. Regt. Troy Municipal Airport facility chief, entered military service in 1998 as an air traffic controller. She served

a combat tour in support of Operation New Dawn. She said the highlight of her career and life was adopting her wonderful son. They plan to reside wherever her job takes them.

SGT. 1ST CLASS HOLIOUS D. CALHOUN JR.

Calhoun, 1st Armored Division G3 aviation NCOIC, Fort Bliss, Texas, entered military service in 1997 as a test, measurement and diagnostic equipment calibration specialist. He served multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. He said the highlight of his career was marrying his beautiful wife, Daniela, and

RETIREES *cont.*

having two amazing daughters. They plan to reside in Enterprise.

SGT 1ST CLASS JOSHUA P. GORHAM

Gorham, A Co., 1-11th Avn. Regt. air traffic control evaluations sergeant, entered military service in 2000 as an air traffic control specialist. He served multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

He said the highlight of his career was marrying his beautiful wife, Kelly, and having two wonderful children. They plan to reside in Enterprise.

STAFF SGT. REGINAL G. LYERLY

Lyerly, Fort Rucker Religious Support Office religious operations and training NCO, entered military service in 1997 as a religious affairs specialist. He served in support of operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, New Dawn and Spartan Shield.

He said the highlight of his career was serving as an advanced individual training platoon sergeant for the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He and his wife, Octavia, plan to reside in Columbia, South Carolina.

JACK HOLMES

Holmes, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker G-3 installation air traffic and airspace official, served on active duty from 1969-1989, retiring as chief warrant officer 4, and then served 30 years as an Army civilian.

He said the highlight of his career was having the honor of working with so many wonderful people throughout his two careers. He and his wife, Linda, have two children and two grandchildren. They plan to reside in Dothan.

New AER program offers \$1,500 for out-of-pocket childcare costs

By Sean Kimmons
Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. – Army Emergency Relief began providing up to \$1,500 to help cover childcare costs for Soldiers and families who move to a new duty station Feb. 1.

The AER Childcare Assistance Program offers \$500 per month for three consecutive months in a no-interest loan, grant or a combination of both based on financial need.

The program is intended to offset costs that arise when there's no availability at on-post childcare facilities and more expensive civilian services are required.

The Army Fee Assistance Program currently gives Soldiers up to \$1,500 per child each month for childcare, but Soldiers still pay an average of \$275 on top of it, said retired Lt. Gen. Ray Mason, director of AER.

"That's why we came up with the number of \$500 per month per family to help them cover that out-of-pocket [expense], plus a little bit more," he said.

After an audience member spoke of the issue at a senior leader family forum in February, Mason asked his team to research and create the program to address it.

"Right now the capacity for the on-post childcare facilities isn't able to meet the demand," he said. "The Army is looking at that, trying to figure out how they can expand. It's not something where you can just snap your fingers. You have to build more capacity and then you have to hire more childcare providers."



PHOTO BY FORT SILL TRIBUNE STAFF

Staff at the Cooper Child Development Center take children through a marching dance Jan. 29, 2018, at Fort Sill, Okla. Army Emergency Relief on Feb. 1 started offering up to \$1,500 as part of a program to offset costs that arise when there's no availability at on-post childcare facilities and more expensive civilian services are required.

To qualify for the new program, Soldiers must be active-duty or in the Active Guard Reserve and have permanent change-of-station orders to a location in the continental U.S.

Soldiers must also provide proof of their out-of-pocket childcare expenses and validate their financial need each month at their local AER office. The initial request should be submitted within the first 120 days after the family arrives to the new duty station.

The financial relief may even help some spouses quickly return to the workforce when they arrive to their new location, Mason said.

AER also now offers up to \$2,500 to reimburse professional relicensing expenses for spouses who require them for jobs in another state.

"The employment of spouses is an important goal for the Army," he said, "and we want to assist with that."

AER has over 30 categories of assistance that provide about \$70 million to 40,000 members of the Army team each year, he added.

That number includes \$50 million in no-interest loans, \$10 million in grants and another \$10 million in scholarships for spouses and children. AER also has certified financial counselors to help Soldiers better manage their budgets.

"AER is not about the long term, providing a check every month," Mason said. "We're about helping people get over a bump in their life, get through a financial challenge and come out on the other end."

FROM DFMWR



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

FORT RUCKER 5K 4 LEGGED LOVE RUN

The 4 Legged Love Run Feb. 8 is a non-competitive 5K fun run and walk with your best four-legged love, or two-legged love. Come out and have fun with your family, friends and four-legged buddy.

This is a stroller and dog friendly course with refreshments for both human and furry friends at the finish. Registration opens at 8 a.m., pre-race brief at 8:50 a.m. and the run kicks off at 9 a.m. For more information, call 255-2296.

SATURDAY CRAFTERNOON

Spend your afternoon getting crafty at the Center Library Feb. 8. Drop by between 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. to work on a featured monthly craft, or bring your own project and use our MakerSpace crafting supplies. The library staff will provide the materials, you provide the creativity. The event is Exceptional Family Member Program friendly and open to authorized patrons.

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

COFFEE AND FRIENDS

Do you need help understanding military life? Are you new to Fort Rucker, or just looking to make some new friends? Join us for Coffee and Friends hosted by ACS at the Bowden Terrace Community Center from 9-11 a.m. the first Friday of every month.

For more information, call 255-3898.

MAKER MONDAY

Make, create, build, explore at Maker Mondays at the Center Library. The staff invites children ages 7 and up to think outside the box in a creative after-school program featuring our MakerSpace lab from 3:30-4:30

p.m., with the next session Feb. 10. Children will explore a variety of art and STEM related activities, as well as participate in fun challenges that are guaranteed to ignite their inner engineer. This program is open to authorized patrons, though space is limited to 15 participants.

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

FORT RUCKER BIG BUCK CONTEST

Outdoor recreation continues its Big Buck Contest through 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.

SWEETHEART BOWL

Rucker Lanes will host its Sweetheart Bowl Feb. 14 from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. The special will feature unlimited bowling for two bowlers, two shoe rentals, two bottomless fountain drinks and two Valentine's Day mystery gifts for \$22.22. For more information, call 255-9503.

CYS YOUTH MASQUERADE BALL

Come over to the youth center for a fun Valentine's Day Masquerade Ball Feb. 14 at 4 p.m. For more information, call 255-2271.

VALENTINES PARTNER YOGA

Partner work allows for a playful exploration

of different yoga poses. Working in pairs offers a new and unique perspective to the flow and function of yoga and offers deeper opening in the body, in a supportive way. This class is not only intended for couples – please bring your partner of choice and join us for a 'FUNctional Yoga Session.

All levels are welcome to this fun and funky flow class. This class will be held Feb. 8 from 8:30-9:45 a.m. at the Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center. Cost is \$8 per couple.

For more information, call 255-3794 or 255-1951.

PARENTING IS HEARTWORK

Parenting is patience and the Army community Service Family Advocacy Program will be offering parenting classes for children of all ages, providing parents with the tools necessary to be a more effective parent at any age of their child's life. Register to attend one or all of the Level 2: 6-10 years classes offered by the program. Instructors use the Active Parenting curriculum.

Classes will be held on February 11, 18 and 25 from noon to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 350. Registration deadline is Feb. 7.

For more information or to register, call 255-3359 or 255-9805.

NON VALENTINE'S PARTY

What do you do when love is in the air and you're single? Visit Mother Rucker's for its Non Valentine's Party Feb. 14 from 4-10 p.m. There will be Trivia, dinner for one: comfort food, and a couple of games to keep you and your single friends occupied. We will also have specials and door prize giveaways. No need to dress to impress.

For more information, call 255-3916.

SWEETHEART DINNER

Bring your special someone to enjoy a Sweetheart Dinner at the Landing Feb. 14 from 4-6 p.m. The cost is \$45 per couple.

Choice of Starters:

- Mixed spring greens, goat cheese, crunchy quinoa, shaved vegetables, citrus vinaigrette;
- Crispy braised beef potato cake, wasabi aioli, arugula; and
- House made crab cake, apple puree, shaved vegetables.

Choice of Entrée:

- Grilled beef tenderloin, truffle potato puree, green beans, bordelaise sauce;
- Herb roasted chicken breast, roasted red potatoes, glazed carrots, charred onion soubise; and
- Grilled white fish, roasted potatoes, green beans, chimichurri.

Dinner includes two slices of cheesecake. Reservations are required. To make your reservation, call 255-0768.

STARS AND STRIKES BOWLING

Rucker Lanes will host its Stars and Strikes bowling Feb. 17 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Enjoy 25-cent games per person and 50-cent shoe rentals. For more information, call 255-9503.

YOUTH T-BALL, BASEBALL, SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

The child and youth services youth sports and fitness program is taking registrations for youth T-ball, baseball and softball through Feb. 15 at parent central services in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 193, or online using Webtrac. A current sports physical and valid CYS registration are required. Age control date for T-ball and

baseball is May 1, 2020, and for softball is Jan. 1, 2020. There will be a parents meeting on Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. in the youth center gym. Costs are T-ball, \$25, for ages 5-6; baseball, \$45, for ages 7-12; and softball, \$45, for ages 9-15. The teams will be broken down into the following age groups:

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

MOVE, GROOVE, READ! BABY LAPSIT

This program is designed especially for babies aged 0 to 18 months and their grown-ups. You and your baby will sing songs, do

finger-plays, and enjoy books and baby games, all intended to help little ones discover words and language. These lapsits will be held at the Center Library every first and third Tuesdays of the month at 11:15 a.m.

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

THE 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 free federal job workshop scheduled for Feb. 19 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 284. This informative and interactive workshop is aimed at getting you the information you need to increase your federal employment possibilities. Participants will receive a free copy of Kathryn Troutman's "Jobseeker Guide" (8th edition).

Pre-registration is required no later than two days prior to the workshop. Space is limited to the first 60 people to register and is open to authorized patrons only.

For more information, call 255-2594.

GOLF AS THERAPY WITH PGA HOPE

Golf as Therapy with PGA HOPE – Helping Our Patriots Everywhere – is now at Silver Wings Golf Course every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. PGA HOPE introduces golf to veterans with disabilities to enhance their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being. The program introduces the game of golf through a developmental six- to eight-week curriculum taught by PGA professionals trained in adaptive golf and military cultural competency. All veterans are welcome at no cost.

For more information, call 255-0089.



DUELING PIANOS
FEBRUARY 14 • THE LANDING • 7 PM

- \$10 General admission tickets:
Seating is located on the upper levels from the main floor. Reserved seating is not available for general admission.
- \$60 Four person VIP tables:
(Price of VIP table includes premium upper level reserved seating, one bottle of chilled champagne, and dessert cheese platter)
- \$150 Ten person VIP tables:
(Price of VIP table includes premium lower level reserved seating, two bottles of chilled champagne, and dessert cheese platter)
- General Admission Tickets available at The Landing, all Coffee Zone locations, and MWR Central. VIP Tickets available only at The Landing.

THE LANDING
Bldg. 113, Novosel St.
(334) 255-0769 / 0767

Fort Rucker MWR
f t i rucker.armymwr.com

Grab dinner before the show!
Sweetheart Dinner
The Landing Zone • 4:00 p.m.
This three course dinner for two - \$45.
Reservations are highly recommended.

Are you an active duty or retired Army dependent child or spouse attending college for your first undergraduate degree?

Applications for 2020-2021 AER scholarships are now being accepted at www.aerhq.org



ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF • SOLDIERS HELPING SOLDIERS
CALL THE FORT RUCKER AER OFFICE AT (334) 255-2341



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NEWS IN BRIEF

AER CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF CEREMONY

The Army Emergency Relief 2020 Campaign Kick-off Ceremony is Feb. 19 at 11:30 a.m. at The Landing. A light lunch will be provided. The primary goal of the campaign is to promote awareness of benefits provided through AER. Funds raised from the campaign are used to assist active duty Soldiers, Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers (Title 10, on active duty for more than 30 days), retired Soldiers, as well as eligible family members and survivors. Throughout the campaign, Fort Rucker Soldiers, through AER unit coordinators, will be educated on the benefits of and types of financial assistance available through AER, as well as given the opportunity to contribute to AER. By donating to AER, Soldiers help to provide emergency financial assistance to fellow Soldiers.

For more information, call 255-2341.

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.

AER SCHOLARSHIPS

Army Emergency Relief is now accepting scholarship applications for 2020-2021 AER scholarships. Spouses and dependent children of active duty, retired and Title 10 National Guard or Reserve Soldiers, and spouses and dependent children of deceased active duty or retired Soldiers may be eligible

to apply for AER scholarships. Applications from dependent children will be accepted until April 1 at 11 p.m. CDT; spouses may apply throughout the year.

Visit <https://www.aerhq.org/Apply-for-Scholarship> to learn more. For questions concerning the application process, call 255-2341.

CORVIAS SCHOLARSHIPS

Corvias Foundation recently began accepting 2020 scholarship applications from military spouses and children of active-duty service members. The application process for the military dependent student scholarship will close Feb. 14, while the military spouse scholarship application process will close May 8. Both scholarship programs offer financial support for eligible applicants pursuing higher education degrees. The mil-

itary-dependent student recipients will each receive a four-year college scholarship of up to \$50,000. The military spouse scholarships will be awarded to 20 individuals who will each receive an award of \$5,000. These funds can be used for any need that will help the recipients complete their degree, such as tuition, childcare or gas for transportation.

Individuals who are interested in applying can visit corviasfoundation.org/apply-now/ to review eligibility criteria and access the application.

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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Deadline for submissions is one week before publication.