

CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING ON POST – SEE PAGE 10

ARMY FLIER

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

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PHOTO BY SGT. SARAH D. SANGSTER

UH-60 Black Hawk flight crew from 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment support the validation of air assault instructors for the Lightning Academy, 25th Infantry Division on Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Jan. 31. Students in the Lightning Academy Air Assault Course are trained on the missions performed by rotary wing aircraft, aircraft safety, aero-medical evacuation procedures, pathfinder operations, principles and techniques of combat assaults, rappelling techniques and sling-load operations.

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'WE'VE GOT A GREAT STORY TO TELL'

Fort Rucker hosts TRADOC Commanders Forum

By Kelly Morris
USAACE Public Affairs

Fort Rucker hosted senior leaders from across the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command for the TRADOC Commander's Forum at the Seneff Building here Feb. 11-12.

With a theme of Driving Change through Technology and Training -- Victory Starts Here, the event was intended to foster dialogue among leaders and included sessions focused on strategic initiatives to support fielding a Multi-Domain Operations capable force by 2028, and a MDO ready force by 2035, while also supporting Army readiness.

Event host Gen. Paul E. Funk II, TRADOC commanding general, emphasized the importance of ensuring citizens and Soldiers understand why service matters.

"We've got a great story to tell. We've just got to get out and tell it," Funk said.

Though the event focused heavily on technology, Funk emphasized the importance of developing leaders.

He spoke about a culture of assessment, meaning a culture of accountability and responsibility to improve, and the importance of pinpointing the knowledge, skills and behaviors Soldiers should have at every level of their careers.

"We have to look at our career through a lens of assessment--at each phase," Funk said.

"As we assess, what we're looking for are ways to improve. What we want to do is help you get better. At the end of the day, our leader development programs are where we're going to make the difference. We're going to

see some great simulations and simulators, but at the end of the day if our leaders don't understand how to use them and why we do the things we do, it won't matter," he said.

Funk called for recommendations that will help ensure balance -- so that when Soldiers leave from initial training at TRADOC and go to other commands, they are better informed and understand the standards to help prevent any incidents of sexual harassment and assault and suicide.

"We've got to attack this. Everything we can do, we've got to keep at it," he said.

He also emphasized the importance of diversity across the force.

Funk spoke about the importance of changing the culture of fitness, and called for leaders to emphasize the Army Combat Fitness Test.

The ACFT is an essential component of the Army's Holistic Health and Fitness program, to improve individual Soldier readiness and lethality. The ACFT focuses on power, muscular endurance and strength, speed, cardio endurance, balance, agility, flexibility, coordination and reaction time.

"I expect you in your organizations to drive the ACFT. Let's get everybody to a standard," he said.

Leadership includes a responsibility for inspiring others through daily behavior, according to Funk.

"It's your job," Funk said. "Be the leader you want to be led by. Know your squad. And



PHOTO BY KELLY MORRIS

Gen. Paul E. Funk II, commanding general, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, speaks to senior leaders across TRADOC who gathered at Fort Rucker for the TRADOC Commanders Forum Feb. 11-12.

do things the right way. It's that simple. If we do that, we're going to inspire people."

Funk commended leaders for their part in helping ensure the Army meets its recruiting and retention goals, and for helping to tell the Army story.

"We're getting after attrition. We're getting after bringing in the right folks. And we're really focused on the programs that make them successful. And we've got a great product," he said.

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, commanding general of USAACE and Fort Rucker, provided an Aviation training update.

To help explain the scope of the training activity, he showed a video graphic that depicted four hours of busy airspace activity at Fort Rucker condensed into 60 seconds. Fort Rucker launches approximately 3 1/2 combat aviation brigades' worth of aircraft every day, he explained.

The center is increasing throughput to help with challenges from the high operational tempo, working various initiatives to help address the attrition rate, and also looking at ways to integrate developing technology to improve training.

The forum also included other speakers from the Headquarters Department of the Army Directorate of Military Personnel Management, Assistant Secretary of the Army -- Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and the office of the Director of Military Personnel Management, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Army Pentagon; TRADOC, Fort Eustis, Virginia.; the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; the U.S. Army Recruiting Command; the U.S. Army Center for Initial Military History, Fort Eustis; the U.S. Army Center of Military History; and the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning, Georgia.

'EXCITING TIMES'

Fort Rucker ups game in support of Aviation, quality of life for Soldiers, families

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

While the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence pushes on with its mission of developing Army Aviators of the present and future, the garrison at Fort Rucker is taking steps to ensure the post remains a home Soldiers and families can be proud of for years to come.

A new elementary school opening this fall highlights a growing list of current and planned construction projects, and there's something for just about everyone in the works at Fort Rucker, according to Col. Whitney B. Gardner, garrison commander.

"These are exciting times at Fort Rucker – we're truly shaping the future of the Home of Army Aviation and improving the quality of life for our Soldiers, families and civilian employees," Gardner said. "As a garrison, we're constantly planning and looking into how we can better support Army Aviation, while making Fort Rucker a great place to live, train, work and play."

The man charged with keeping tabs on all things having to do with the plan forward as far as new construction and new facilities is Joseph Wyka, director of the Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Works.

"The Army has always recognized the need for Aviation, and with all of the real-world challenges they're seeing, they see the need for more Aviators," he said. "I think

that will drive a lot of construction here. I think we'll see the biggest investment in barracks."

While infrastructure improvements to existing barracks are currently under way, Fort Rucker and USAACE are also competing for funding for new barracks, a new dining facility and new schoolhouse facilities for Aviation Soldiers for fiscal year 2023.

"It's not a done deal, but we're competing heavily for military construction funds – it would be about a \$50 million project," Wyka said. "Installations submit military construction priority lists, that the commanding general approves, up to the Pentagon every year, and then the decision makers up there rack and stack across the whole Army."

"The Pentagon prioritizes the projects, but they're telling us barracks are No. 1 – barracks and housing, and taking care of people," he added. "Right now, we're fixing up what we have and trying to get new stuff down the line. We're competing against the rest of the Army for that pot of money. We need it – our barracks were built in 1960s, 70s, 80s and they're dated compared to some other installations."

He said officials hope to hear news of where the Fort Rucker project sits this summer.

Although the new barracks and school-



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative talks about the playground system during a tour of the facility conducted by Fort Rucker leadership and Army Corps of Engineers representatives Jan. 22.

house facilities are up in air, the sights and sounds of ongoing construction projects are spread throughout the post.

NEW SCHOOL

Scheduled to open this fall for the new school year, the Edmund W. Rucker Elementary School on post will combine the current temporary elementary school and aging primary school into one modern facility that honors Fort Rucker's Aviation

past and educates students from the moment they walk into the facility, said Miranda Griffin, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District South Alabama Office representative heading the project, who, along with Gardner, led a group of local spouses on a tour of the facility during a break in construction Jan. 22.

While construction has experienced hiccups here and there, Griffin said, things are moving along smoothly now towards the fall

EXCITING *cont.*

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 at Fort Rucker attending flight school and whose daughter will attend the school in the fall.

“It’s amazing to see how beautiful it is and 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.”

HOUSING RENOVATIONS

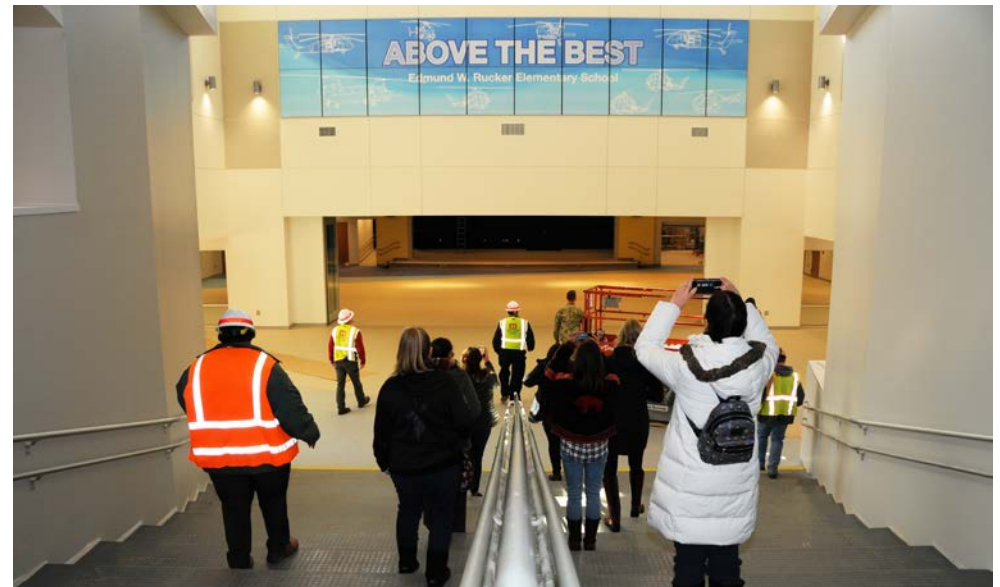
While the military and its partners in privatized housing struggle with the challenge of providing quality housing to servicemembers and their families at many of the nation’s installations worldwide, there’s largely a good news story to tell at Fort Rucker.

And that story is only going to get better thanks to the efforts of Fort Rucker leadership and local housing partner Corvias Military Living, Gardner said.

“Our housing team at Fort Rucker is extremely proactive and efficient. They always aim to do what is best for our residents -- our



The exterior of the school.



Invited military spouses walk through the new elementary school, still under construction, during a tour of the facility Jan. 22.

Soldiers and their families,” Gardner said. “They attack problems quickly when they crop up and take corrective actions, but the real difference maker is that they solve future problems. They take steps now that will help Soldiers and families of the future without impacting current residents. It is truly a relationship built on earned trust.”

That push for improvement includes ongoing major renovations to 108 classic homes in the Munson Heights neighborhood on post, and current renovations to 550 homes in Allen Heights, including duct modifications, weather proofing, increasing energy efficiency and replacing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, said Melissa Bryson, Corvias operations director at Fort Rucker.

EAST BEACH LODGE

Officials broke ground on the East Beach Lake Lodge and Banquet Facility in the fall of 2018 on the shore of Lake Tholocco, and, while the project experienced some delays, the lodge is expected to be finished late

this year, according to Donna Clancy, Fort Rucker Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation contract officer representative in charge of the project.

Besides the numerous amenities associated with the 20-room lodging and 156-guest banquet areas, the 16,880-square foot facility will also feature a boardwalk to a 650-square foot landing deck, a wedding gazebo with a wedding area, a paver path to the lake and a 4,850-square foot deck overlooking the lake.

POST EXCHANGE REIMAGING

Fort Rucker opened a new commissary in 2015, and now the Army and Air Force Exchange Service is looking to up its shopping game with what Brenda Hyland, Fort Rucker-Maxwell-Gunter Exchange Service general manager, describes as a “reimaging.”

The existing facility will receive upgrades to its facade, and improvements in the main store, outdoor living area and food court, including the addition of a Starbucks and a Qdoba Mexican Eats, she said.

The PX was built over the 1960s, 70s and

EXCITING *cont.*

80s, and that resulted in an eclectic blend of visuals within the facility, Hyland said, and the reimaging will improve customers' shopping experiences by opening up more sales room, improving flow and expanding the food court – along with new flooring and lighting, as well.

She said she expects work to begin this spring and to be complete towards the end of the year. She said they are hopeful there will be no closures during the renovations.

TRAINING SUPPORT FACILITY

USAACE and Fort Rucker broke ground on a facility designed to take Army Aviation Soldiers back in time to chart the course of the future. The \$32-million, state-of-the-art U.S. Army Aviation Training Support Facility, located behind the U.S. Army Aviation Museum, is expected to be complet-

ed in approximately two years, according to William G. Kidd, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker deputy to the commanding general.

"Today is a great step forward in our continuing efforts to try to provide the best for the best in the Army," Kidd said at the November ceremony. "We couldn't make it without the help and support of everyone that is here with us here today, and also the others before them. Like every great effort in the Army, it's a team effort, and we have a great partnership here with the Center for Military History, the Army Corps of Engineers and our U.S. Army garrison here at Fort Rucker as we go forward to provide world-class facilities for world-class Army Aviators."

When completed, the facility will house technologies from Army Aviation's past, in-

cluding aircraft, other Aviation equipment, weapons and uniforms. Soldiers will be able to access the exhibits for study and research, and also take advantage of a state-of-the-art classroom and reference library, Kidd added.

OTHERS

Officials continue to work on the infrastructure on post, with projects such as sewage improvements, road repair, tree removal and planting, and the like, while also keeping in mind quality of life projects, as well.

Officials are looking into expanding running and biking trails along Lake Tholocco, the post's prime recreation area, and expanding the recreational vehicle camping area.

Already known as a great spot for wounded warriors to visit to experience the great outdoors with its handicap-accessible boat and hunting equipment, Fort Rucker contin-

ued its ascent when it opened its Wounded Warrior Retreat by the Lake in 2018.

The American Disabilities Act-accessible cabin on Lake Tholocco's East Beach is a one-of-a-kind facility that was the result of a partnership of private and corporate sponsors, spearheaded by the Wiregrass Wounded Veterans Committee. The cabin features an enlarged carport, wheelchair ramp, lowered light switches and appliances, wheelchair-accessible shower and other features designed to make common tasks more convenient for the nation's visiting wounded warriors.

"We're committed to doing everything we can to take Fort Rucker to the next level as the Home of Army Aviation," Gardner said. "Our goal is to make Fort Rucker the home of choice for all Army Aviators and a place Soldiers are proud to call home. I think we're well on our way to doing just that."



BLACK HISTORY MONTH STORY TIME

Staff Sgts. Rochelle Montgomery, Sade Church and Mark Hunt, all with the 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment, get Fort Rucker youth dancing and clapping during Black History Month Story Time at the Center Library Feb. 14. The post's observance of the heritage month continues Feb. 27 with the Black History Month Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Landing. Tickets cost \$12. The guest speaker will be William E. Cooper, mayor of Enterprise. For information on the luncheon, call 255-9950.

PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

‘SHARE THE LOVE’

Primary school students give back to local animal shelters

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker Primary School students took some time to learn about compassion for homeless animals, and counting by 10, during the school's Share the Love Assembly Feb. 14.

The assembly culminated the students' donation drive that raised more than 120 helpful items to four local animal shelters, and Dr. Vicki Gilmer, principal of Fort Rucker Elementary and Primary School, said it also helped inspire the students to live up to the school's vision, Inspired and Compassionate Learners Striving for Excellence.

"Today is all about love," she told the students at the assembly. "Compassionate means not only are you kind, but that you do something, too. If you walk by someone and say, 'Hi.' That is kind. But compassion is taking it a little step further. So, if you walk by

and say, 'Hi, can I help you carry that?' You're doing a little more than just being kind – you're doing a little bit more to help out.

"That is what this is about," she continued. "We have been very compassionate to our animal friends (with the donations)."

The children were then treated to a visit by about 10 animals from the shelters, which included dogs, cats, owls and a tortoise, while representatives from the facilities explained what they do, how people can adopt from them and how they can donate to the cause of helping animals who are down on their luck.

While all of the animals and representatives were warmly welcomed as they were introduced to the students, the three owls from Big Bend Wildlife Sanctuary in Enterprise were the hits of the day before Spurdicus, an



Yvette M. Esteves-Hurst, Fort Rucker Primary School reading teacher, stands with John Morse, who runs the Big Bend Wildlife Sanctuary in Enterprise, and Spurdicus, an African spurred tortoise who lives at the sanctuary, during the school's Share the Love Assembly where students raised more than 120 items for local animal shelters.

PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

African spurred tortoise also hailing from the sanctuary, stole the show by relieving himself on stage to the delight of the students.

"He does that a lot," said John Morse who runs Big Bend that specializes in providing homes and assistance to wild animals. "This is the greatest thing – any time I can talk to kids, I take advantage of it. They're the future and it's important to teach them the importance of taking care of this world."

Morse explained to the students how Spurdicus made his way to the shelter.

"Somebody thought it would be nice to have a tortoise as a pet until they realized they live to be almost a 100 years old," he said. "So, they released him into the wild. But, as I said, he's an African Spurred Tortoise – not Alabama. You can't release him here and think he's going to live."

And Spurdicus struggled, Morse said as he showed the students the tortoise's de-

formed shell. "This is what happens when you don't get the right food. Their skeletons are on the outside, ours are on inside."

The assembly and the drive "went very well," according to Yvette M. Esteves-Hurst, a reading teacher at the school who organizes the event annually.

"I think they learned a lot – counting by 10 and the importance of caring for animals," Esteves-Hurst said, adding that the 120 items were put into 12 bags with 10 items in each one. "Everyone loves this assembly because of the animals who come to visit."

She thanked the parents of the students, Gilmer and her co-workers for making the donation drive and assembly a success.

The shelters who benefited from the drive and attended the assembly were Big Bend Wildlife Sanctuary, the Ozark Humane Society, Kitty Kottage in Dothan, and Sweet Doberman Rescue in Enterprise.



Fort Rucker Primary School teachers, staff and school ambassadors pose with animals and representatives from four local shelters after the Share the Love Assembly Feb. 14.

NCO Leadership Center of Excellence hosts 3rd annual branch week

By Danielle O'Donnell
NCO Leadership Center of Excellence

FORT BLISS, Texas – The NCO Leadership Center of Excellence held the third annual branch week for the Sergeants Major Course, Class 70, Feb. 4-6.

The NCOLCoE supports the Army's top two priorities of taking care of its people and ensuring readiness through the annual branch week by providing the students and faculty the tools and critical information occurring in their respective branch.

The senior enlisted leaders across 18 Army Career Management Fields came to speak to the students about assignments, changes in their CMFs, and their roles and responsibilities as they return to the force.

"We wanted to provide an overview of the branch, and where the branch is going in the future," Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Hauke from the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence shared. "I brought in the command sergeants major from the U.S. Army Materiel Command, the Aviation Special Operations, and the Program Executive Office in Aviation. They were able to hear about the aviation and missile command, the long term projects happening, and hear where the aviation branch is going and how we are nested."

Students expecting to learn about their new assignments received a lot more information than they anticipated during branch week.

"We received an overview of the future for our CMF and learned more about the critical gaps facing the Army," SMC Class 70 student, Fred Killea from the military police said.

Each senior enlisted leader representing their branch provided insight on the technical and tactical gaps facing their branch and

the NCO Corps as a whole.

"We identified as we transition to the large scale operations a lot of the skills of an NCO have atrophied over the last 17 years," Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Muhlenbeck, from the U.S. Army Armor School said. "Because we have all the manning requirements that we have, but with a limited population, we have to give those NCOs as much time possible in the critical leadership position."

Muhlenbeck continued by speaking on the NCO professional development model overtime for the Armor and Infantry branches.

"So they [NCOs] can get as many reps and sets at doing their jobs in a tactical environment, we are changing the mindset now and slowing people down for moving on to the next thing. We removed all the caveats and are getting our NCOs to stay in a position for 24 months minimum," he said.

Besides learning about the critical gaps and career management field changes, the students also learned what it takes to be a sergeant major.

Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Ulloth from Installation Management Command asked the students in the sustainment CMFs, "What does it mean to be bigger than yourself, your unit and your MOS?"

After the students gave their answers, he added, "It is also about understanding humility and finding someone you can rely on for honest feedback, and taking those mistakes and helping others."

As of July, humility is the newest leadership value codified in the Army Doctrine Publication 6-22.

"A leader with the right level of humili-

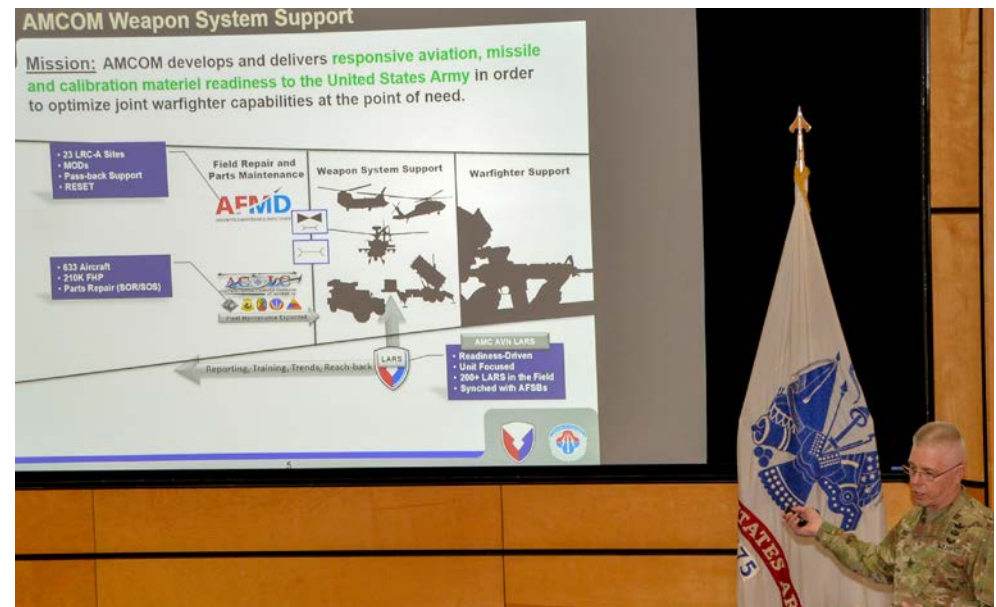


PHOTO BY DANIELLE O'DONNELL

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Dove, from the U.S. Army Materiel Command, speaks to the Sergeants Major Course Class 70 aviation students during branch week about the AMCOM mission Feb. 6.

ty is a willing learner, maintains accurate self-awareness, and seeks out others' input and feedback," according to ADP 6-22.

As the days of branch week came to an end, the students were reminded of the primary duty of the sergeant major – to guide and mentor Soldiers.

"It is not about wearing the rank of sergeant major," Muhlenbeck said. "You are wearing that rank to take care of Soldiers, making sure they are trained and proficient in their jobs, and ensuring you make a positive impact in that organization. If you cannot do that, then you are a sergeant major wearer and not a bearer."

Students from all the CMFs heard a lot of the same information when it comes to their roles and responsibility as sergeants major.

"Be a predictable leader," Hauke added. "Being predictable in the schedule with

Soldiers builds their morale and confidence in my leadership skills. It also helps build better families, and gives our Soldiers the time to plan both professionally and personally."

The sustainment senior enlisted leaders discussed developing and maintaining a positive command climate, and to build relationships, be trustworthy and be an agent of change to create a positive impact.

The senior enlisted leaders across the 18 CMFs helped the students learn how to leverage being a sergeant major to solve problems, work together through the bonds they made throughout the course, and know when to reach out to the operational force for guidance.

The NCOLCoE is the premier institution driving innovative development for enlisted leaders, constantly focused on readiness.

A TIME OF HONOR

Legacy begun by Navy legend continues with Army Aviator, beyond

By Master Sgt. Michel Sauret
Army News Service

RICHMOND, Va. – Every time he straps on the leather band of his watch in the morning, Phillip Brashear remembers his father.

“My dad’s famous saying is, ‘It’s not a sin to get knocked down. It’s a sin to stay down,’” Brashear said.



A movie poster for “Men of Honor” hangs next to other wall art in Brashear’s home.

Those words are engraved on the back of a Swiss limited-edition wristwatch, surrounding the iconic image of a Mark V diver suit helmet. The watch was manufactured in honor of Carl Brashear, the first African-American master diver in U.S. Navy’s history who lost his leg during a tragic accident on a mission off the coast of Spain in 1966.

Two airplanes had collided, dropping a payload that included three nuclear warheads. One of them fell into the Atlantic Ocean. Carl Brashear was called to dive and recover the bomb, but during the mission a towline was pulled so tight that it ripped off a pole, dragging it across the deck with so much tension that it cut the bottom part of his leg, nearly ripping it off. Back in the United States, doctors decided to amputate the leg below the knee.

“My father is an American legend,” said Brashear. “He was the first amputee to return to active-duty service in one of the most challenging jobs in the Navy.”

His life story was depicted in the Hollywood movie “Men of Honor” which starred Cuba Gooding Jr. and Robert De Niro.

“My father overcame five barriers in his



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. MICHEL SAURET

Phillip Brashear, a weapons system manager for the Defense Logistics Agency and a U.S. Army Reserve warrant officer, poses next to a picture of him with a CH-47D Chinook helicopter he flew for the Army, at his job in Richmond, Va., Jan. 23.

lifetime. He overcame racism. My father overcame poverty, being a poor sharecropper’s son. He overcame illiteracy. He lost the bottom part of his leg and was physically disabled. He overcame his alcoholism, and in 1979 retired with honors,” Brashear said.

Today, Phillip Brashear is the command chief warrant officer for the 80th Training Command, which is responsible for military courses that train thousands of Army Reserve Soldiers around the country.

Brashear thanks service members like his father and the Tuskegee Airmen for the

opportunities that men and women of every skin color and background have today.

“He opened the door for many others to come behind him,” he said.

Brashear has more than 38 years of military service, starting in the U.S. Navy Reserve, then the U.S. Army National Guard and now with the U.S. Army Reserve. He spent most of that time flying helicopters.

“I used to tease my dad all the time. I scored higher than you on the ASVAB test,” he said, referring to the aptitude test used to assign military jobs. “I get to be a helicop-

LEGACY *cont.*

ter pilot. I go up, not down. My daddy said, 'Aw, get the heck out of my face. Remember son, there's always divers looking for pilots. There's never pilots looking for divers.'

That banter between father and son came close to becoming a dark premonition for Phillip in 2006 while deployed to Iraq. A flash flood washed away part of a convoy, and Brashear was involved in recovering the bodies.

"That's one of the hardest things I've ever done in my life was to get out of that helicopter in a combat operation to retrieve dead Americans, bring them back to safety so their families could have closure," he said.

Though the bodies were not Navy divers in the middle of the ocean, Brashear recovered Marines whose lives were taken by water.

The rest of his Iraq tour offered no relief. He was with the Virginia Army National Guard at the time, responsible for flying personnel and material across Iraqi deserts under constant gunfire and the threat of improvised explosive attacks. Even at night, he could see the barrage of tracer rounds piercing the sky like lasers.

"I remember the heat. Constant heat. Like a blow dryer in your face. I remember the constant thirst. The constant fear from getting in that helicopter in a combat zone," Brashear said.

Then one day, he came home from deployment on a Red Cross message. His father was ill. However, Brasher didn't think it was severe, and during his visit home, Phillip believed his father would recover. He thought his dad was invincible. This was the man who had endured a year of recovery wearing a 300-pound suit after losing a leg to become a master diver. As a master chief petty officer later in his career, Sailors scurried out of the way whenever this legend walked onto a ship.

"He's gonna be fine," the son thought,

so he walked into his father's hospital room complaining about Iraq.

"I'm like, Dad, man. I'm getting shot at. The food's bad. It sucks over there. It's hot," he recalled.

"Son, what are you complaining about?" his father asked.

The calm in the old man's voice took him by surprise. Something in his father's presence caused the younger Brashear to pause.

"He was on his deathbed. He would have traded places with me in a heartbeat ... to go fly helicopters in harm's way, but I wouldn't have traded places with him," Brashear said.

"A few days after, he died in my arms. His body just gave up. He'd been through so much. He just couldn't suffer any more. So he - he left us," he said.

After his deployment, Brashear decided to retire from the Army, but while going through his father's belongings, he remembered his father's fighting words.

"It's not a sin to get knocked down."

He returned to service in the U.S. Army Reserve, which he said offered him opportunities even the National Guard couldn't have given him, including the command-level position he holds now. He continued to fly helicopters for about a decade. Over the course of his career, he's flown the UH-1 "Huey" - recognized as the Vietnam-era helicopter - the UH-60 Black Hawk and two different models of the CH-47 Chinook.

Then, in 2014, Brashear faced adversity of his own. During his annual flight physical, he was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation, a heart arrhythmia that took him off flight status.

"It's the worst feeling in the world to be denied your job because of something medical. That's like someone taking away your livelihood. So, just like my dad, I said, 'I'm not going to let this stop me. I'm going to get back up and get my job back,'" Brashear said.

He received a procedure known as car-



Brashear and his son, Tyler Brashear, an ROTC cadet at North Carolina A&T State University, flip through a binder of family photos while on a video production shoot for the Army Reserve in Greensboro, N.C., Jan. 16

dioversion, a medical treatment that restores normal heart rhythm through electric shocks. As it turns out, his heart doctor, Michael Spooner, also treated Brashear's father in the last 10 years of his life. The A-Fib kept Brashear off flight status for a year, but he continued his recovery until he passed his physical and returned to flying.

Now, Brashear is among the few dozen command chiefs in the U.S. Army Reserve. He serves as the top technical expert for his command and invests his time mentoring warrant officers and Soldiers wherever he

goes.

With all four of his children grown, Brashear lives with his wife, Sandra, outside Richmond, Virginia. They have three daughters - Tia, Megan, Melanie - and a son, Tyler, who is an ROTC cadet studying biology at North Carolina A&T University.

"It's just a great legacy to have my father, who in the Navy was a great legend. Then myself a combat veteran in the Army. And now my son, who is going to be following our footsteps with leadership and service to our country," he said.

FROM DFMWR



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

START SMART BASEBALL REGISTRATION

Registration for youth Start Smart Baseball runs now through Feb. 28. The National Alliance for Youth Sports and Fort Rucker Youth Sports present the Start Smart Baseball program.

Start Smart is a six-session instructional program that helps children learn the basics of baseball: throwing, catching, batting, and running/agility. The program helps prepare children for organized baseball using safe and fun equipment to teach them the basic motor skills. Open to children ages 3-4 years. Requires 100-percent parent participation.

The program will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays for three weeks beginning March 2 from 5-5:30 p.m. at the youth center T-ball Field 3 on Division Road. Cost is \$25 per participant and includes a T-shirt.

You can register at parent central services or Webtrac. For more information, call 255-9638 or 255-2254.

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. 24. 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.

RIGHT ARM NIGHT

Leaders, bring your right-hand man or

woman out for Fort Rucker Right Arm Night Feb. 27 from 4-6 p.m. at The Landing Zone. 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.

CYS ANTI-BULLYING RALLY

The youth center will host its anti-bullying rally Feb. 28 at 4:15 p.m. The rally is open to the public, ages 11-18. This year's theme is 9-1-1: What's Your Emergency? Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call 255-2271.

CG'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

Silver Wings Golf Course will host the Commanding General's Golf Tournament Feb. 29. Breakfast will be served at 6 a.m. The format is four-person team scramble and begins with an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Lunch and awards will follow play. Entry fee is \$70 for non-members and \$60 for members. Entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, driving range balls, cart, tournament meals and two Mulligans. Prizes go to closest to the pin and closest to the line. U.S. Golf Association verifiable handicap required for all players. If no verifiable handicap, player plays as a scratch player. Steve's or CG Dogfight points can be used in lieu of handicap.

For more information, call 255-0089.

COFFEE AND FRIENDS

Do you need help understanding mili-

tary 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.

SEUSSSTIVAL

You could not, would not, want to miss a fantastic jubilee such as this – the Center Library will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday with its annual SEUSSstival March 3 from 4:30-6 p.m. The event will feature games, crafts and more. For more information, visit the library or call 255-3885.

PADDLING LAKE THOLOCCO

Explore one of Fort Rucker's scenic lakes during Paddling Lake Tholocco March 10 from 10 a.m. to noon, leaving from West Beach. The cost is \$15 per person, and children 10 and under can participate for free with a paying adult.

People must pre-register by March 7. People can reserve either a single kayak for the trip or a two-person canoe or kayak. People must be 18 or older to be in their own boat.

For more information or to pre-register, call 255-4305.

DIY SQUISHIES FOR TEENS

It's the toy that's so fun to squeeze: Squishies! Adults and teens aged 12 and up are invited to the Center Library to make their own. The program will take place March 12 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. The event is free and all materials will be provided.

Registration is requested. Visit the Center Library or call 255-3885 to get more information or register.

THE POWER OF MUSIC

The new parent support program will host a discussion on the power of music March 12 from 10-11 a.m. in the Spiritual Life Center, Rms. 19 and 20. The staff and participants will discuss the many benefits of music and how to incorporate music into daily routines with children.

Free childcare will be available with pre-registration by March 6th. For more information, call 255-9647.

EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend a private-sector employment workshop session March 12 or March 26. All sessions will be held in Bldg. 5700 in the ACS multipurpose room. Workshop time frame will be 9 a.m. to noon – people should arrive by 8:45 a.m. to sign in and complete some paperwork. You'll learn the essentials of conducting a successful job campaign, to include creating impactful résumés and cover letters, reviewing job interview strategies and other helpful tips.

Advance registration is required. For more information, call 255-2594.

SHAMROCK SHUFFLE 5K, 10K

The Fort Rucker Shamrock Shuffle 5K and 10K is scheduled for March 14. The 10K run begins at 9 a.m. and the 5K begins at 9:15 a.m. at the Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center. Pre-registration fee is \$25 – per person includes T-shirt and finisher medal – by March 8.

March 9 and up to race day, entry fee is \$30 – per person includes T-shirt and finisher medal. No T-shirt, run-only option fee is \$15 – includes finisher medal.

Teams of 8 runners pay \$160 – \$20 per

team member and includes a T-shirt and finisher medal, each additional person pays normal registration fee. Top 3 teams will be awarded streamers. After March 8, all teams are \$180 – \$22.50 per team member. All paid participants will receive a finisher medal.

Registration forms are available at the Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center and the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center. Entry forms are also available to print on the MWR website: <https://rucker.armymwr.com/>. Entry forms can be processed and paid for with cash, check or credit card at either PFC or at MWR Central in Bldg. 5700.

Trophies and medals will be awarded in various categories. For more information, call 255-2296.

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.

YOUTH TURKEY HUNT

Outdoor recreation will host its youth turkey hunt March 14 from 5-11 a.m. The event is open to the public for youth ages 7-15. Registration is \$15. A parent or escort of the youth must have an Alabama State Hunting License and Post Permit Hunter Education Completion Card.

For more information or to register, call 255-4305 or 255-2997.

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.

RED CROSS / AMERICAN HEART MONTH AWARENESS 5K FOOT MARCH / RUN HOSTED BY WOCS CLASS 20-05

**FRIDAY, FEB. 21 5:30 A.M.
1ST WOC SHAMROCK STREET
CALL 255-2803 FOR INFO**

**THIS EVENT IS FREE, NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY WEARING RED!**



ALL-CANCER AWARENESS 5K FOOT MARCH / RUN HOSTED BY WOCS CLASS 20-06

**FRIDAY, FEB. 28 5:30 A.M.
1ST WOC SHAMROCK STREET
CALL 255-2803 FOR INFO**

**THIS EVENT IS FREE, NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY WEARING LAVENDER!**

**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



NEWS IN BRIEF

HOUSING TOWN HALL

Fort Rucker officials invite all on-post residents to attend the quarterly housing town hall Feb. 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Allen Heights Community Center. Residents will have an opportunity to interact with U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and garrison command teams, the housing office and Corvias management.

ACS NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Fort Rucker Army Community Service is conducting a needs assessment survey now through March to allow people to make their voices heard on how ACS can better serve the community. The 12-question survey will take people only a few minutes to fill out, but the results will greatly help ACS to better serve Soldiers, families and retirees, according to officials.

To access the survey, visit <https://rucker.armymwr.com/promos/army-community-service-fort-rucker-needs-assessment>.

For more information, call 255-3161.

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 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.

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.

CORVIAS SERVICE REQUESTS

There are three ways people can submit Corvias service requests. For the fastest and easiest way to submit a service request, and the best way to reach Corvias directly in case of an emergency or urgent matter, call the Corvias dedicated service request line at (334) 230-5128 or (844) 947-4399, operated 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays-Fridays.

People can also submit service requests online at <https://fortrucker.corvias.resident-portal.com>, or people can visit their local community center and speak with a Corvias team member in person.

If you're unsatisfied with any part of your experience with Corvias, send an email to CustomerService.Rucker@corvias.com or call (401) 228-2800.

ARMY FLIER

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Fort Rucker Commanding General

Col. Whitney B. Gardner
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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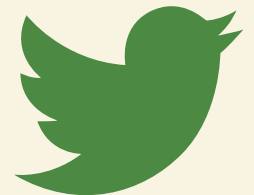
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