

ARMY FLYER

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ARMY PHOTO

The U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and School of Army Aviation Medicine conducted hoist training in mid-May at Fort Rucker in preparation for hoist research in support of Future Vertical Lift projects later this year. The team performed all four phases of training during day and night, static and dynamic, while using dummy load prior to live operations.

NEW CASA

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Former Dothan mayor invested as newest Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The newest Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army was invested during a virtual ceremony conducted May 21 between the Pentagon and Dothan.

Michael D. Schmitz, former mayor of Dothan, was selected by Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy to represent Alabama.

"I am extremely honored and humbled to be given the opportunity to serve as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Alabama (South)," Schmitz said. "Having four brothers and a father who all served in the military, I have seen the challenges that they and their families faced as they dedicated their lives to serving our country. I am looking forward to serving as a voice for families like theirs as I continue to tell the story of the U.S. Army and its impact on the great state of Alabama and the U.S."

CASAs are a vital part of the Army, promoting good relations between the Army and the public and advising the secretary about regional issues, according to Army officials.

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, congratulated Schmitz on his appointment.

"Mike has been a friend to Fort Rucker for many years and I look forward to working with him in his new role," Francis said. "I know his appointment will only strengthen the already incredible bonds between Fort Rucker and the Wiregrass."

Over the last 40 years, Schmitz has not only established a successful business conglomerate that includes the Mike Schmitz

Automotive Group, he has also brought this same passion for business to community endeavors and advocacy on behalf of the United States Army. He is the current chairman of the Dothan City Board of Education, and formerly served two terms as mayor of Dothan (2009-2017).

"I am truly humbled, excited, proud and nervous to be appointed as South Alabama's next CASA," he said. "While I still have a lot to learn, I understand the importance of Fort Rucker in the Wiregrass Area. The U.S. Army's impact is not only felt through the presence of the military base, but also through the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. They all are tremendously important to our local community and our nation, and I can't wait to learn even more about their various missions. I'm ready to go, go, go!"

In 2015, Schmitz led the collaborative effort now known as Fort Rucker: Heartbeat of the Wiregrass, a grassroots coalition of local citizens, municipalities, businesses, military personnel, and others who aimed to support and protect the base and its economic and community contributions. This collaboration culminated in one of the Pentagon's largest listening sessions, with over 1,600 citizens in attendance.

"First, I must say that I am proud to be a part of a community that is still patriotic and supportive of the world's greatest Army! I've always been a patriot and have had the honor of advocating for our local base for many years as a volunteer for AUSA (Association of the U.S. Army) and Friends of Fort Rucker," he added. "I have served on the Board of the



COURTESY PHOTO

Michael D. Schmitz, former mayor of Dothan and now Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, is invested during a virtual ceremony conducted May 21 between the Pentagon and Dothan. He was selected by Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy to represent Alabama South.

Fort Rucker-Wiregrass Chapter of the AUSA for 15 years and the Board of Friends of Fort Rucker for eight years. Through these two organizations, my passion for Fort Rucker has grown exponentially. I also saw Fort Rucker's economic impact on the Wiregrass firsthand during my time as mayor of Dothan and still every day as a small business owner for over 30 years."

In addition to volunteer positions advocating for the United States Army, he has also committed philanthropic efforts to enhancing and honoring the lives of veterans.

A 20-year competitor in over 100

Triathlons, Mr. Schmitz's personal achievements include swimming from Alcatraz Island to the Golden Gate Bridge, bicycling cross-country from the Pacific to the Atlantic to raise \$100,000 for Wiregrass Children's Home, and along with his son, Michael, summiting Mount Kilimanjaro, to name a few.

CASAs serve a two-year term without compensation. Terms may be extended to a total of 10 years of service. The secretary may recognize a civilian aide as a CASA Emeritus after 10 years of service with distinguished service.

TRASH TALK

Officials remind residents to dispose of excess items, bulk refuse, HAZMAT properly

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

As moving season heats up, post officials are encouraging people who live on Fort Rucker to dispose of excess items, bulk refuse and hazardous household materials in the right way.

One place people can't use to get rid of their excess items at this time is the Fort Rucker Thrift Shop, which is closed and not accepting donations, according to Marcel Dumais, chief of police with the Directorate of Public Safety.

While the thrift shop used to accept drop-offs of donations at its facility near the post theater, people dropping things off there now will be cited, the police chief said.

Fortunately, there are other ways for people who live on post to get rid of their excess items, bulk refuse and hazardous materials.

For excess items and bulk refuse, housing residents should put them out on their normal trash pickup day, according to Melissa Bryson, Corvias Fort Rucker operations director.

Bulk trash items that might be picked up are furniture pieces, toys, swing sets, exercise equipment and boxes of household goods," she said. "Tires and hazardous items should not be left for bulk trash pick-up. We ask that residents not leave trash or rubbish when moving out of their home."

People with questions or who need more information, can call Corvias at 334-440-

8988.

But what about those hazardous materials? That's where the Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Works comes in, because the stakes of mishandling HAZMAT are high, according to Alfred Townsend, supervisory environmental engineer with DPW.

Above and beyond the environmental damage and risk of health threats, the fines for mishandling on post can be high.

"Disposing of hazardous items improperly can result in a Notices of Violation from the State of Alabama, which could mean fines for the installation," he said. "Fines can be as much as \$70,117 per violation, per day the violation has existed. The organization causing the violation is responsible for paying environmental compliance fines."

Most excess hazardous materials from on post can be turned in at the Hazardous Materials Control Center located at Bldg. 1311. Items that cannot be turned in at the HMCC are used oil, fuel, radioactive items or compressed gases, Townsend said.

For more information on the HMCC, call 334-598-1311.

Used oil can be taken to the Fort Rucker Auto Skills Center to be disposed of properly in the aboveground storage tanks out front, he added.

People with radioactive items should contact the garrison safety office at 255-1027



PHOTO BY MARCEL DUMAIS

A lawnmower that was dropped off at the entrance to the thrift shop on post May 29 despite the facility not taking in donations at this time because it is closed during the pandemic for the safety of its staff and its customers.

for disposal guidance, the environmental engineer said. For fuel and compressed gas, people should contact the environmental office at 255-0484 for disposal guidance.

As for wooden furniture not on a hand receipt, people should make an appointment with the recycling center, 255-0468, to take it to the wood lay down yard by Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services on Nighthawk Road.

Townsend added that items that need to be disposed of properly fall into three categories: hazardous wastes, which are solid wastes that exhibit characteristics of a hazardous waste or is listed in Alabama Department of Environmental Management Administrative Code 335-14-2 and Code of Federal Regulations Title 40 Part 261 Subpart D; universal waste; and non-hazardous waste, which are wastes that require special handling, although they are not hazardous waste or universal waste.

Personnel in the environmental office can help people characterize their waste properly, by calling 255-0484.

The following list shows the hazardous wastes that are commonly generated at Fort

Rucker, according to Townsend.

Absorbent materials contaminated with cadmium, chromium, and lead; petroleum-contaminated products; filters and absorbent materials contaminated with paint; paint and paint-related material; abrasive blast media; Clarus Parts Washer liquid and filters; shell battery sump acids; petroleum lab waste; Alodine waste; plating shop solids; jet washer water and residue; certain cleaning compounds; plating solutions and mop water; and spill residue (gasoline contaminated).

Some universal wastes seen at Fort Rucker include batteries, pesticides, and mercury-containing equipment and lamps, according to Townsend.

Non-hazardous wastes commonly seen on post include: used antifreeze; used engine oil; used cooking oil; absorbents contaminated with non-hazardous waste, e.g. engine oil; and lead acid batteries.

"Environmental office personnel will be happy to answer your questions and provide further guidance; however, you can check the environmental website 24/7 at www.fort-rucker-env.com," Townsend added.



PHOTO BY HOLLY STERLING

MEMORIAL DAY

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, CW5 Jonathan P. Koziol, Aviation Branch chief warrant officer, and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian N. Hauke, Aviation Branch command sergeant major, participate in a wreath-laying ceremony to honor the nation's

fallen during the post's Memorial Day Ceremony May 22 at Veterans Park. To meet social distancing guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no audience at the ceremony, but it was broadcast live on Facebook. For video of the event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ftucker/>.

Rucker Lanes snack bar reopens for takeout orders

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Another dining option during the lunch hours opened up to the Fort Rucker community when the snack bar in Rucker Lanes began offering takeout May 26.

The move is a step forward towards reopening the bowling facility fully, according to Ron Cook, acting business operations officer and business manager at Rucker Lanes.

Takeout orders are taken at the snack bar Mondays-Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. While bowling is still not available, plans are in place to hopefully offer league bowling starting June 1 by reservation only Mondays-

Fridays from 5:30-9 p.m., Cook said, adding that the bingo operation will remain closed for the time being.

"During our down-time, the Rucker Lanes staff has detail cleaned the snack bar, main concourse and bowlers' areas, as well as all of the house bowling balls, pins and bowling shoes," he said. "Every single piece of furniture in the facility was cleaned and removed from the concourse as part of this effort.

That operation to get reopened included the staff detail cleaning detail more than 140 bowling balls, 260 pairs of shoes and 400 bowling pins, individually, he added.

And the hard work has paid off, Cook



FILE PHOTO

said, adding that he is proud of the entire Rucker Lanes staff.

"They have gone above and beyond – even taking a toothbrush to the rental shoes – in their deep cleaning efforts. Each and every one of our team members wants to see the center open and available for our com-

munity, but they want to make sure we can do so safely," he said. "We can't wait to see everyone again back at the center!"

For more on what the center offers, including a menu, visit <https://rucker-army-mwr.com/programs/rucker-lanes-bowling-center> or call 255-9503.

SUPPORTING SOLDIERS, FAMILIES

ACS continues providing services despite delivery changes

Army Community Service

Staff Report

Throughout the month of April, the Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program showed its support of the community by joining with the Fort Rucker Parent Teacher Organization during its Spirit Week themes, and recognizing the strength and resilience displayed by Fort Rucker families as they spread messages of positivity during an uncertain time.

Through the coordination of the FAP,

ACS staff participated in the week's activities by sharing photos, and maintaining community awareness and support through social media. The ACS and FAP staff supported the Department of Defense Education Activity teacher's parade in April and provided Fort Rucker families with Child Abuse Prevention Month giveaways and blue light bulbs.

The FAP also celebrated Month of the Military Child by hosting an art contest at

Fort Rucker Schools, where students were asked to create artwork based on the theme: My Military Experience. Children of all ages submitted their artwork. Their creations were posted on the ACS Facebook page by grade level and shared throughout the community via social media. The winning artwork, along with the three runner ups were displayed on the ACS Facebook page, as well. The winner and runners up received gift bags from ACS, and the winner received a gift certificate from Divots Restaurant and Grille.

The winner of the art contest was Alessandra Francis, a third grader. The runners up were Camila Verduzco, a first grader; Madelynn Barnhart, a fifth grader; and Lottie Gaydos, a second grader.

Although service delivery may have changed, the FAP continues to provide services to the Fort Rucker community. If you are pregnant or the parent of a child from birth to 3 years old, the new parent support program can provide assistance.

Parenting classes for parents of children from birth to 5 years of age, 6-11 years of age, and tweens and teens; cooperative parenting and divorce classes; anger management; and stress management classes are available per request. For more information on the various classes available through FAP, call 255-3898.

The FAP team will be offering creative activities throughout the summer months, and the staff hopes Fort Rucker families will participate and join in the fun.

If you are the victim of domestic violence or intimate partner violence, call the Fort Rucker 24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline at (334) 379-7947 to speak to a victim advocate, and for information on restricted and unrestricted reporting options.

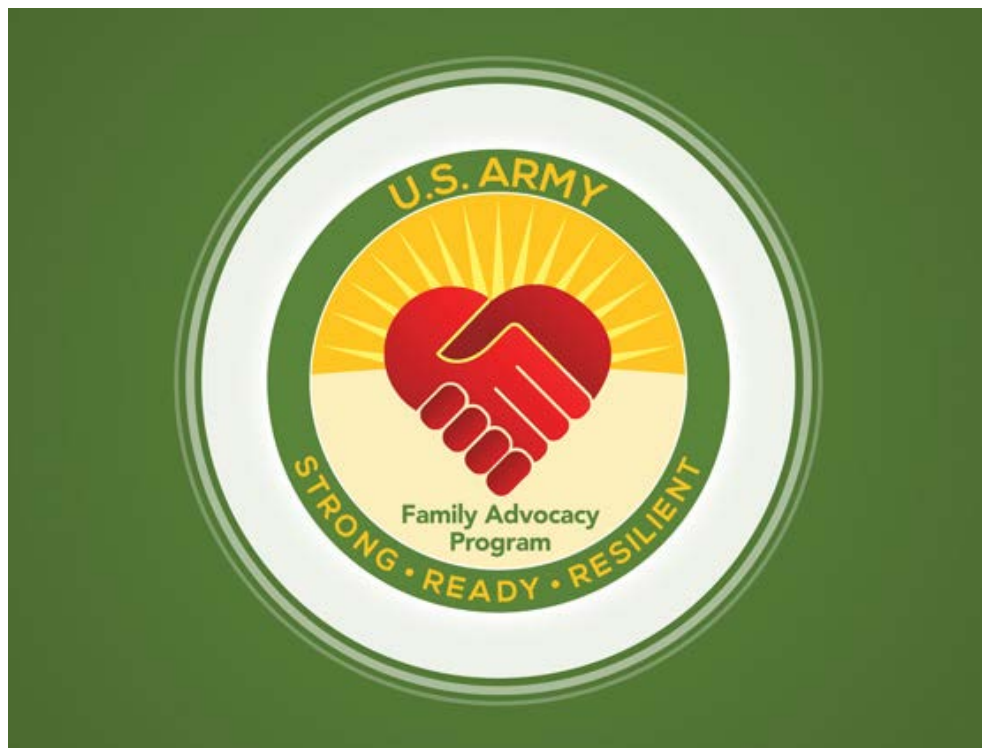
To report suspected child abuse or neglect, call the military police at 255-2222, if



COURTESY PHOTO

Family advocacy program staff worked with Fort Rucker Schools during Child Abuse Prevention Month.

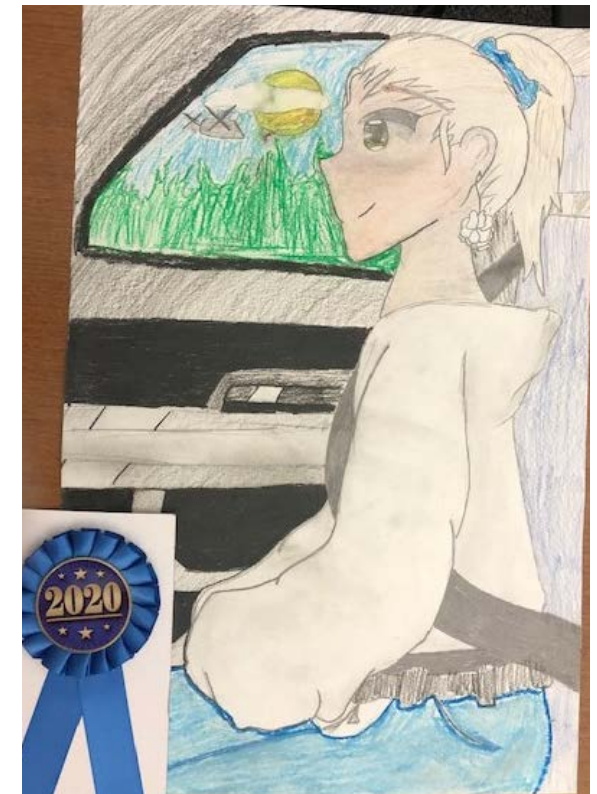
you live on post, or local law enforcement, if you live off post; family advocacy at Lyster Army Health Clinic at 255-7029; and the Alabama Department of Human Resources at 800-4ACHILD (422-4453).



MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD ART CONTEST



Alessandra Francis' winning entry.



Madelynn Barnhart's runner-up entry.



Lottie Gaydos' runner-up entry.



Camila Verduzco's runner-up entry.

Passport guidance set to curb delays as Army heads into peak PCS season

By Thomas Brading
Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. – Military families applying for official passports must submit their paperwork no earlier than 60 days, but no later than 45 days from their departure date, said a top travel official, as COVID-19 stop movements are lifted.

The new policy is in place to curtail potential holdups that military personnel, government civilians, and families may experience with their permanent change of station, or PCS, moves to international locations beyond the continental United States, or OCONUS, said Angela D. Johnston, Passport Services Division chief at the Army's Defense Department Passport and Visa Office.

For some locations – like many countries in Southeast Asia – a visa may also be required. If so, those applications should be handed in no earlier than 80 days, but no later than 65 days prior to their departure date.

Also, certain individuals heading to OCONUS locations prior to June 30 – and traveling under an approved stop-movement exemption, or with a granted exception to the policy – should submit their application immediately, if they have not done so, Johnston said.

These new policies are in line with ongoing efforts to lighten potential wait times, Johnston said, adding the deadlines will be enforced at acceptance facilities. Compliance with these timing restrictions will help avoid overwhelming the agency, as the number of PCS moves overseas increase after the stop-movement order is lifted.

Normally during the months of April through July, the Defense and State Departments process roughly 14,000 official, or no-fee passports per month. Since the restrictions were implemented, around half have been processed in April and May, said Stuart K. Archer, director of executive travel for the Department of the Army Headquarters.

“Although a backlog is expected,” he said, “the combined efforts of the two departments are working to address any backlogs that may develop as the movers in April and May are now shifted to June and later.”

Service members should consult their local passport agents on these guidelines, and comply with guidance contained in the Foreign Clearance Guide for actual passport requirements.

“These processes are established to aid in metering the flow of passport applications to the Department of State and their Special Issuance Agency,” Archer said. “The SIA reopened their doors for limited processing, and are working diligently to process the applications they have on hand with limited staffing.”

Although faced with a potential backlog, the Defense and State Departments have taken on similar snags in the past, but previous pileups have never occurred during a global pandemic, Johnston said. “We’ve never faced a worldwide crisis like [the COVID-19 pandemic], but we’re working through this together.”



THOMAS BRADING

Before COVID-19, passport processing was operating smoothly, she said. Once the pandemic hit, many government agencies have taken precautionary measures to stem the spread of the virus.

This presented a unique challenge for government agencies amid stay-at-home orders and travel restrictions. These new daily operating procedures challenged everyone from the State Department all the way down to local passport acceptance facilities, Johnston said.

For now, government officials have eased back on travel restrictions outside of selected areas, like places outside of COVID-19 hotbeds, and for individuals with extenuating circumstances, such as extreme hardships, being mission essential, and humanitarian reasons.

But these passport exceptions quickly piled up, as much of the State Department was still shut down. The requests for exceptions quickly exceeded the State Department's ability to issue the passports, she said, especially as they worked on low staffing.

In other words, if everyone expedites a passport application then nobody gets to be

expedited and the system is broken, she said. “It’s like a factory. Once something is done outside the norm, you create the potential to slow everything else down.”

As the State Department comes back online, and a backlog of passport applications roll in, DOD travel officials will continue to work with the State Department, Johnston said.

“The State Department is just coming back online, literally going from nothing to something,” she added. But “if we all follow the rules, we could be successful in softening the blow through these when it comes to delays, especially families packing their household goods and getting their children in and out of school.”

However, if a family is stuck waiting on a few pieces of paper, it can cause a lot of anxiety and frustration, she said, especially if they are moving from one country to another.

“Our No. 1 goal is to take care of our service members and their families during their PCS moves by ensuring an expeditious obtaining of their family travel documents,” Archer said.



AER expands assistance eligibility for Guard, Reserve

By Devon Suits

Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- The Army Emergency Relief program recently expanded its assistance eligibility for Army National Guard and Reserve Soldiers impacted by COVID-19 missions or policy.

Reserve and National Guard personnel mobilized in support of COVID-19 relief efforts can now request AER support upon Title 10 or Title 32 activation, said retired Lt. Gen. Ray Mason, the program's director. Soldiers can also receive AER assistance for up to 30 days after deactivation, as necessary.

Mason said that under routine eligibility, Guard and Reserve personnel must be activated on orders for 30 or more consecutive days to receive AER assistance. This requirement is often waived during a natural disaster or national emergency to support a Soldier's combat readiness through financial stability.

During Hurricane Maria, for example, AER waived the 30-day requirement and provided nearly \$4 million in assistance to ARNG and USAR Soldiers living in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Waiving the 30-day active-duty status obligation allowed all Soldiers in the impacted area to request assistance and receive financial support.

"On March 16, we waived that 31-day requirement once again" to support the Soldiers engaged on front lines against COVID-19, Mason said. "It is the right thing to do for Soldier and Army readiness."

Concerns over the virus' spread forced the Department of Defense to enact a stop-movement order and social distancing guidelines, which subsequently canceled most in-person battle assembly drills. Guard and Reserve Soldiers must meet their drill

requirement to earn their salary, which includes Soldiers' insurance benefits.

Guard and Reserve staff sergeants and below who need financial assistance to pay their Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, or SGLI; Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, or FSGLI; and TRICARE Reserve Select premiums, can request AER support, Mason said.

"We are continuing to work closely with Lt. Gen. Daniel Hokanson, the Army National Guard director, and Lt. Gen. Charles D. Luckey, the Army Reserve chief, to identify any additional requirements," Mason said. "We will add categories or expand current eligibility requirements based on the needs of Soldiers and their families."

To receive AER support, Soldiers must inform their chain of command of their current financial hardship. They then can go to the AER website for guidance on how to submit an AER application electronically. An AER officer will contact them via email or phone with follow-on electronic application submission instructions and how to receive funds through an electronic funds transfer.

"Army Emergency Relief can't possibly think of all the things that could challenge a Soldier or their Family during these difficult times," Mason said. "If a Soldier is facing a financial problem, come to the AER – our singular mission is to help the Army team overcome financial hardships."

DIGNIFIED STORAGE

The Army Emergency Relief program is offering a zero-interest loan capped at \$3,000 for the dignified storage of family member remains, Mason said. Program officials



ARMY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

have extended this assistance to Guard and Reserve Soldiers on Title 10 or Title 32 orders in support of COVID relief efforts.

"Unfortunately, in some cases hospitals and funeral homes are overwhelmed and are unable to conduct a funeral immediately. Therefore, families have to arrange to have their loved ones kept in dignified storage ... at the Soldier's cost," he added.

Once approved, loan repayment is deferred for 90 days while a Soldier or family waits for the disbursement of SGLI, FSGLI, or other life insurance benefits that help cover funeral costs.

CONTINUED SUPPORT

Program leads are slated to announce this week, a new program that provides assistance to Army families that are home schooling their children due to COVID-19, Mason said.

"Kids are staying at home, and parents are now filling the role of teachers," he said. "We

are providing funds up to \$500 per family to defray the costs of supplies so parents can ensure their children have what they need to continue their education at home.

As of May 27, AER has supported over 200 Soldiers and disbursed close to \$360,000 in COVID-19 assistance. Year to date, the program has provided over \$14 million in support, of which \$2 million was in the form of grants – funding Soldier do not have to pay back. Currently, the active-duty force accounts for a vast majority of all claims, Mason said.

"I'm concerned that people are out there -- hurting [financially] -- and they don't know about us," Mason said. "That is something that keeps me up at night."

For more information on AER and how it helps Soldiers help Soldiers, call the Fort Rucker staff at 255-2341. People who would like to donate to the program can visit <https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/>.

BASEBALL LEGEND

Abner Doubleday also served in the Union Army

By David Vergun
DOD News Service

Most sporting events have been postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because many service members are sports fans and the games are mostly on hold, here's a look at a purported baseball legend who also served in the Army.

For a very long time, Abner Doubleday was widely thought to have invented the game in 1839 at age 20 in his hometown of Cooperstown, New York.

However, that year, Doubleday was a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York, and permission to travel home was rarely granted to first-year cadets. Doubleday never claimed to have invented the sport; nonetheless, the claims were made by others after his death.

Although variations of baseball were thought to have existed as early as the Revolutionary War, no one knows exactly who created the game.

In 1907, the Mills Commission, composed of seven prominent baseball officials and former players, investigated the matter and deemed Doubleday was baseball's

inventor. But sports historians later said the commission's findings were flawed due to lack of solid evidence.

Still, the findings were great news for the local businesses in Cooperstown and major league officials, who established the town's National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in 1939, which today is a major tourist attraction.

Another myth is that Doubleday invented San Francisco's cable cars. He did co-establish the city's first cable car company, however.

Aside from baseball and the cable car, Doubleday's life and illustrious military career were fascinating.

After graduating from West Point in 1842, he became an artillery officer with the 3rd Artillery Regiment. He and the regiment were deployed to Mexico from 1846 to 1848 during the Mexican-American War.

He later was assigned to Florida from 1855 to 1858 where he participated in the Third Seminole War.

The following year found Doubleday at



THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PHOTO

Army Maj. Gen. Abner Doubleday poses for a portrait with his wife, Mary Doubleday, during the Civil War.

DOUBLEDAY *cont.*

Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina. Secessionist fervor was sweeping large areas of the South, and many officers resigned their commissions to join the rebellion.

In the face of growing hostility to Union soldiers, the garrison commander decided to move the garrison to nearby Fort Sumter, which was considered more defensible.

After a four-month standoff, the South Carolina militia attacked the fort with artillery. Doubleday is said to have aimed his battery to fire the first return shot. As a result, he and his gun crew were the Union soldiers who fired the first shot that started the Civil War on April 12, 1861.

With supplies and munitions low, after 34 hours of bombardment, the Union soldiers — led by Army Maj. Robert Anderson and second-in-command Doubleday — surrendered.

The garrison was allowed to depart and head north, since it was so early in the war and prisoners were not yet being taken. After a promotion to major, Doubleday commanded artillery defenses around Washington, D.C.

Following a rapid promotion to brigadier general, he was given command of a brigade, under Army Gen. Irvin McDowell. On Aug. 29-30, 1862, he led his men into combat at the Second Battle of Bull Run,

which Southerners even today call the Battle of Second Manassas.

During the ensuing battle, his men helped hold the line against Confederate Maj. Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's advance for a time. However, on Aug. 30, Confederate Maj. Gen. James Longstreet pushed back all the Union soldiers, including McDowell's.

Nonetheless, Doubleday is said to have conducted himself well during the battle.

Doubleday participated in many more battles, including the Battle of South Mountain, Sept. 14, 1862, near Boonsboro, Maryland. During the battle, Army Brig. Gen. John P. Hatch was wounded so Doubleday took command of I Corps and successfully blocked a Confederate assault.

At the Battle of Antietam on Sept. 17, 1862, near Sharpsburg, Maryland, Doubleday led a division assigned to I Corps. About 23,000 men on both sides were killed. He, again, did well leading men on the battlefield during the bloodiest day of battle in U.S. history. He was promoted to major general about two months later.

After leading his division again in combat during the Battle of Fredericksburg in Virginia on Dec. 11-15, 1862, Doubleday was assigned to command a new division.

From April 30 to May 6, 1863, Doubleday led this division at the Battle of

Chancellorsville in Spotsylvania County, Virginia.

Perhaps Doubleday's biggest moment of glory, however, was at the Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania on July 1-3, 1863.

On the first day of battle, I Corps commander, Army Maj. Gen. John F. Reynolds was killed, and Doubleday took his place. His 9,500 men held back more than 16,000 Confederate attackers.

Despite his unit's extraordinary heroism, Doubleday was relieved of command on day two of the battle by Army of the Potomac commander Maj. Gen. George G. Meade. It has been said that Meade personally disliked Doubleday. After having been relieved of command from I Corps, Doubleday again became a division commander for the remaining days of the battle.

Doubleday had a number of other assignments during the Civil War, and, unlike many of his fellow officers, he remained in the Army when the war ended.

In 1871, he commanded the 24th U.S. Infantry Regiment, an all African-American regiment headquartered at Fort McKavett, Texas. Doubleday requisitioned baseballs and baseball bats for his regiment, valuing sports as a camaraderie-building activity. It is said that he did this throughout his Army career.

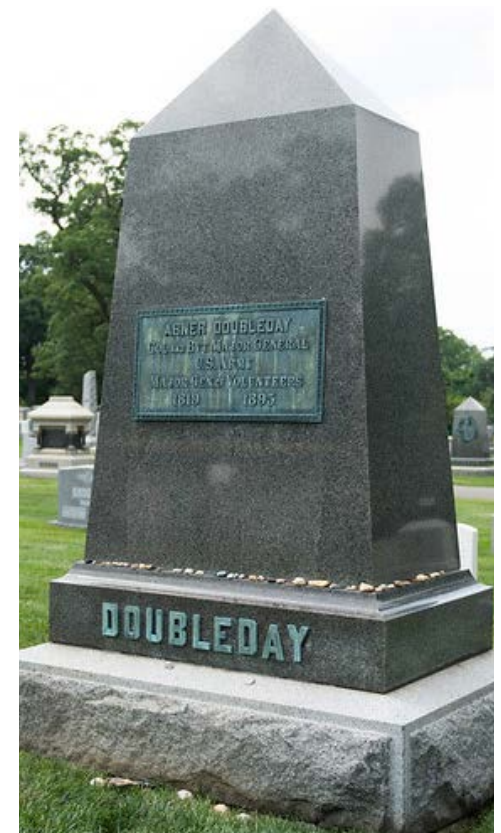


PHOTO BY RACHEL LARUE

Abner Doubleday is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Two years later Doubleday retired from the Army.

OTHER INTERESTING FACTS

* The baseball field at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point was named Doubleday Field in his honor in 1939, the same year the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum opened. Many baseball fields around the U.S. are also named Doubleday Field, including in Cooperstown,

which opened in 1920.

* Doubleday's father, Ulysses Doubleday, fought in the War of 1812 and was a U.S. congressman, representing the 24th District in New York. Doubleday's grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War at Bunker Hill, Stoney Point and at Valley Forge.

* Abraham Gilbert Mills, who headed the Mills Commission which was to determine the origin of baseball, also has an interesting background. He enlisted in the 5th New York Volunteers in 1862 as a private. During the war, he was commissioned a second lieutenant and served for

the duration of the war.

* During WWII, the liberty ship SS Abner Doubleday was named in his honor.

* Doubleday, who died in 1898 at age 73, is buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Section 1, Grave 61, very close to the James Tanner Amphitheater.

Army targets COVID-19 vaccine by end of year, human testing in summer

By Thomas Brading
Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- The global race to field a lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine may be nearing its last lap, as the Army aims for a vaccine by the end of this year to prevent the deadly virus, said the force's top medical research officer.

If all goes as planned, human testing will begin in late summer, Brig. Gen. Michael Talley, commander of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command, told reporters Tuesday, adding he anticipates wide distribution of a vaccine next year.

To do this, Army researchers are "following the science," he said.

However, when you follow the science, that lets science take charge of the timeline, said Col. Wendy Sammons-Jackson, director of the Military Infectious Disease Research Program at MRDC.

"It's reasonable to expect some form of a vaccine available by the end of the year," Sammons-Jackson said. "As long as we're able to continue to progress, learn, understand, and adapt, I think we have all of the resources available, and pointed in the same direction that can make [our timeline] possible."

Although advances have been made, and goals are set, "we're in the learning phase with every aspect of this, whether it's the development of treatments or vaccines -- it's a constant learning process," said Dr. Nelson Michael, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, or WRAIR.

That's why scientists around the globe, including the Army, are simply doing their best to keep up with the complex virus, he added.

"We're learning the science of [COVID-19] faster than we have learned the science of any other virus before," Michael said. "We're going from a concept, all the way to Phase 3 clinical trials and potentially licensure in an unprecedented timeline -- but in this case, it's very much possible."

In January, after the virus' genetic makeup was published, the more than 700 Army scientists, researchers, and staff at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, or USAMRIID, at Fort Detrick, Maryland, began working day and night to develop medical countermeasures against COVID-19.

The WRAIR team, less than an hour away, just outside of the nation's capital, also started racing against the clock to develop a vaccine candidate to beat the novel coronavirus.

"We are moving at top speed at both labs, and yielding promising results," Talley said, regarding USAMRIID and WRAIR. At Fort Detrick, they "are safely replicating the virus to support countermeasure development, meanwhile the team at WRAIR has designed a unique COVID-19 candidate."

USAMRIID is also developing small and large animal models to support testing of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics developed by the Army and its collaborators.

Over the last few months, "we have been vaccinating hundreds of mice with different versions of our vaccine, and we will be making a decision as to which one is the best to take forward for manufacturing next week," said Dr. Kayvon Modjarrad, director of the



PHOTO BY WILLIAM F. DISCHER

Spc. Taylor Wolik, medical laboratory specialist with the 1st Area Medical Laboratory, performs a diagnostic assay at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases field laboratory site at Fort Detrick, Md. USAMRIID provides specialized training to members of the 1st AML in conducting diagnostic assays to detect the presence of coronavirus and other biological agents in clinical or environmental samples.

Emerging Infectious Diseases Branch at WRAIR. "Then ultimately, clinical trials by late summer."

"Based on the data obtained this summer, we'll know which vaccine candidates to move forward with for larger trials toward the end of the year," Michael said.

Prior to the COVID-19 response, Michael's previous global health contributions include the Military HIV Research

Program, or MHRP. His team was instrumental in the globally effective HIV-1 vaccine.

"Our team is fully engaged in the governmental structure called Operation Warp Speed," Michael said.

Operation Warp Speed, an initiative first announced by President Donald Trump and with Army Materiel Command at the helm, brings together experts from across

VACCINE *cont.*

the government to determine a vaccine for COVID-19 and distribute more than 300 million doses across the United States.

"We cover [everything] from therapeutics, diagnostics, and vaccines," Michael said. "But for our specific work in vaccines, we're heavily engaged across all agencies [where] the Army and Defense Department's capabilities and competencies with vaccine development can be brought to bear."

What this means is that they're not only testing potential vaccines invented during the intramural program, he said, but "we have the capability to also do pre-clinical and stage 1 testing" of potential vaccines outside of their laboratories.

In addition to WRAIR and USAMRIID, many unique subordinate commands are us-

ing their assets to support the overall government response to the virus, Talley said. "For example, in Natick, Massachusetts, at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, researchers are developing wearable technology to develop key early symptoms of COVID-19."

To date, COVID-19 has killed more than 370,000 people worldwide, including more than 100,000 in the United States.

"U.S. Army researchers were critical during the SARS epidemic, the Zika virus and the Ebola outbreak as they helped develop antivirals and vaccines," Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy previously said in April. "They've done it before and they will do it again."



PHOTO BY SGT. MICHAEL WALTERS

Researchers with the Emerging Infectious Disease branch at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, conduct studies in order to find a solution for the coronavirus, March 3.

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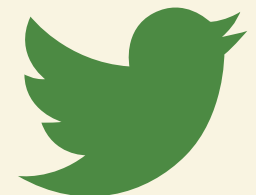
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