

# ARMY FLYER

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

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Cadets throw their hats in the air during the U.S. Military Academy's Class of 2020 graduation at West Point, N.Y., June 13.

BRANDON O'CONNOR

## GON0.3

CG takes measures to loosen some pandemic restrictions

PAGE 2

## THERMAL IMAGES

Fort Rucker brings new system to bear to keep people safe

PAGE 4

## NEW LEADER

Lyster Army Health Clinic gets new commander

PAGE 5

## OOHS AND AHHS

Fireworks show, home town parade highlight July 4 event

PAGE 6

## COME ON BACK

Army puts out welcome mat to former aviators

PAGE 8

# CG issues GO No. 3 to loosen some COVID-19 pandemic restrictions

By Jim Hughes

*Fort Rucker Public Affairs*

The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general issued General Order No. 3 and rescinded GO No. 2 to loosen a number of restrictions previously put in place to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis announced the new GO during a Facebook Live event June 11 while also praising the Fort Rucker community for its efforts in the fight to protect its people, its mission and its surrounding communities.

“We wanted to reach out today to thank you all for the sacrifice, cooperation and resiliency the community here at Fort Rucker has shown over the past few weeks to help fight against the COVID-19 virus,” Francis said during the video he did along with Command Sgt. Maj. Brian N. Hauke, Aviation Branch command sergeant major. “Your efforts and cooperation have helped us achieve criteria to ease some of our control measures.”

The general added that a recent defense secretary memorandum designated Alabama



as a “Green” state in terms of travel restrictions, which also gave discretion to regional installation commanders to tighten restrictions based upon local conditions.

“Fort Rucker garrison, tenant units and USAACE staff have diligently tracked con-

ditions over the past few months, and based on a 14-day sustained downward trend in COVID cases, I have decided to ease some controls associated with our previous mitigation efforts,” Francis said.

With GO No. 3, people can now travel up

to 100 miles from Fort Rucker, a 50-mile increase over the previous restriction, he said, adding that “visitors are now authorized, but those that exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID or believe they have been exposed will report to the chain of command imme-

## ACCESS CHANGES

In support of General Order No. 3, Fort Rucker will resume routine access control operations June 12 and will no longer issue the COVID-19 Special Visitor Access Pass for people not affiliated with the Department of Defense who request access to the installation.

Authorized access control credentials include:

1. DOD credentials – DOD Common Access Card, DOD Retiree Card, DA Form 1602 Civilian Identification Card and the Veteran's Health Identification Card are the most common.

2. Fort Rucker Visitor Access Card – Commonly used by people not affiliated with DOD. People who have an expired Fort Rucker Visitor Access Card are required to renew their cards at one of the visitor control centers at the Daleville or Ozark gates.

3. Fort Rucker Special Visitor Access Card – These were issued during the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone with a Fort Rucker Special Visitor Access Card issued during COVID-19 pandemic are encouraged to go to one of the VCCs to obtain

a standard Fort Rucker Visitor Access Card before June 30.

4. Friends and Partners of Fort Rucker Visitor Access Card – also for people not affiliated with DOD.

The Daleville VCC is open Mondays-Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Ozark VCC is open Mondays-Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Read more about the requirements on our website at <https://go.usa.gov/xwgcq>.



## GO No. 3 *cont.*

diately.”

While maintaining social distancing and the wearing of face coverings requirements remain in place, the new GO does loosen a number of the restrictions, including the 10-person gathering limit being removed.

“Now you can go to the beach, you can shop at a department store, you can attend worship services and you can go to fitness centers, as long as you maintain that six-feet of separation or wear a mask,” Francis said. “Restaurants remain take-out only for military personnel, and due to high risks associated with certain facilities, military personnel are prohibited from visiting bars, night clubs, dance clubs, movie theaters, spas, massage parlors, tattoo parlors, and seating areas in- and outside of restaurants, regardless of state policies.”

Access to post has also been changed to

what it was before the pandemic (See sidebar).

The quarantine policy is still in effect for personnel who PCS or are conducting TDY at Fort Rucker until further notice, he added.

Hauke also commented that diligence and discipline is key to protecting our mission at Fort Rucker.

“This easing of some of the restrictions is testament to the adherence to mitigation efforts of our community thus far,” he said. “We are not out of the woods yet though. We need to remain diligent so as not to compromise the health of our community. Please maintain social distancing efforts, wear face coverings when unable to keep the six feet of spacing and keep stringent hygiene standards to ensure we can continue this transition to normal operations. We are proud of this team and hope to continue the downward

trend to get back to activities we all enjoy.”

As a sample of facilities reopening include the Andrews Physical Fitness Facility opening June 12, being closed through the weekend because of manning issues, and then reopening June 15; the child development center and school age center reopening to all authorized patrons June 15; the youth center reopening June 29; in-person chapel services restarting; and the U.S. Army Aviation Museum reopening June 15.

For a complete and updated list of changes to services on post, visit <https://home.army.mil/rucker/index.php/services-status>.

To ensure the health and safety of the Fort Rucker community, officials will continue to monitor state and local community health conditions, as well as its own policy changes, Francis said, adding that “we continue to evaluate conditions to ease restrictions and

open services as conditions permit.

“I ask for your continued diligence. Our established priorities remain the same. We will continue to protect the force, protect the mission, and communicate with our local community to mitigate the threat that the COVID virus poses to our Soldiers, civilians and local communities,” he added.

“The bottom line is that we can and will beat COVID-19,” Francis said, “Remain diligent and maintain distancing to prevent future outbreaks, and continue to monitor our social media and other announcements for future updates.”

To see the latest COVID-19 discussion, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ftucker/>.

To see GO No. 3, visit [https://home.army.mil/rucker/application/files/2415/9190/5806/FRGO3\\_11\\_June\\_2020.pdf](https://home.army.mil/rucker/application/files/2415/9190/5806/FRGO3_11_June_2020.pdf).



ARMY PHOTO

## Order of the Marechaussee

Staff Sgt. Dennis Brown Jr., 6th Military Police Detachment, receives the prestigious Military Police Regimental Association's Order of the Marechaussee from Lt. Col. Phillip Lenz, director of the Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Safety, recently. The order is presented for exceptional dedication, competence, and contribution to the Military Police Corps Regiment over an extended time. Brown has made immeasurable contributions to the Fort Rucker Directorate of Public Safety mission, as well as several other high-profile assignments that have greatly impacted global strategic operations, according to Lenz. Brown stated that “his success is his Soldiers’ success, where he has dedicated his life to leading and serving Soldiers in accomplishing the Army and military police mission.”

# FIGHTING COVID-19

## Fort Rucker brings new asset to bear in protecting force, mission, surrounding communities

By Jim Hughes

*Fort Rucker Public Affairs*

Fort Rucker recently brought to bear a new and valuable asset in its fight against COVID-19 to protect its people, its mission and its surrounding communities.

That asset is a thermal-imaging system that presents a safer way for operators to screen for elevated body temperatures of people entering military facilities, according to Lt. Col. (Dr.) Kevin Cummings, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence command surgeon.

Officials initially employed the system at the commissary, the post exchange and Bldg. 5700, the Soldier Service Center, Cummings said, adding that the systems are part of the Army's overall response to the COVID-19 pandemic and are already operational at the Pentagon and other Army installations, such as Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and Fort Benning, Georgia.

These stand-off thermal imaging capabilities provide significant advantages over hand-held thermometers, as they provide a safe distance between the operators and subjects, and require less manpower, accord-

ing to U.S. Army Rapid Equipping Force, Program Executive Office Soldier officials who head the project. The technology, which does not require physical contact, processes information quickly, allowing a faster flow of traffic into buildings and facilities. Screening only takes a few seconds to measure temperature at a distance of six to eight feet, using a forward looking infrared sensor mounted on a tripod. If an elevated temperature is detected, individuals receive a secondary screening with a non-contact forehead thermometer. If a secondary screening confirms an elevated temperature, the individual will be encouraged to seek further screening with a medical provider.

That six- to eight-foot distance means a lot in keeping both operators and facility visitors safe, Cummings said.

"The scanner allows the temperature of a person to be taken without the temperature taker standing face to face with the person," he said. "Even when wearing masks, standing face to face increases the risk to both the operator and the visitor of transmitting the



ARMY PHOTO

Soldiers train to use a thermal-imaging system at the entrance of Bldg. 5700 that presents a safer way for operators to screen for elevated body temperatures of people entering military facilities.

infection."

While some people's knee-jerk reaction may be to balk at having a thermal-imaging system pointed at them to enter a facility, the system is perfectly safe and no information is gathered by the system, Cummings said.

"Unlike an X-ray machine, it is not radiating any energy – it is simply reading the infrared energy a person is emitting," he said. "There are no increased risks to a person. It is like having a photograph taken. Having your temperature taken is currently a requirement for anyone entering facilities on post that are high risk because of the high traffic flow in those buildings. The scanner is the safest way to take a temperature for everyone."

The garrison commander feels the system also helps Fort Rucker accelerate reopening facilities.

"This is a different adversary that we're fighting and the fight is not over yet. We will use every asset at our disposal to keep our people safe, and protect our mission and our surrounding communities," said Col. Whitney B. Gardner. "This thermal-imaging system helps us do just that. It also boosts our confidence in the protection measures we've taken. This is a valuable tool to use in this fight and will play an important role in getting our facilities operational sooner rather than later."



# Lyster Army Health Clinic welcomes new commander

By **Janice Erdlitz**  
*LAHC Public Affairs*

Lt. Col. Danielle Rodondi assumed command of the Lyster Army Health Clinic from Col. Jimmie Tolvert during a change of command ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum June 8. Due to COVID-19 restrictions on large gatherings, the ceremony was live-streamed for guests and community members to watch.

Brig. Gen. Michael Place, U.S. Army Regional Health Command-Atlantic commanding general, was host for the ceremony.

"As many of you know, our Military Health System is in the midst of an enormous transformation," Place said. "Critical to any transformation are the leaders that are charged with actualizing the vision of our senior leaders. Thank goodness Army Medicine continues to provide remarkably gifted leaders like Colonel Tolvert and Lieutenant Colonel Rodondi, who understand how to lead."

Tolvert said it was a great honor to serve Lyster and the Fort Rucker community.

"Lyster family, we have been through a lot

and I thank you for hanging in there. Thanks for your hard work and dedication," said Tolvert. "In spite of challenges, you made Lyster one of the best clinics in MEDCOM."

He went on to remark, "Danielle, you have a great team and together you will accomplish greatness."

Rodondi's recent assignment was professor of military science at Augusta University.

"Colonel Tolvert and the Lyster Army Health Clinic team faced the greatest health-care challenge in many years and are winning the fight. The quick adaptation of practices to provide safe, quality care is a direct reflection of your leadership and a strong team," stated Rodondi.

Rodondi said she is honored to be joining the Lyster family. "Lyster Army Health Clinic is an Army values-based professional organization that celebrates diversity and the contributions of every teammate."

Lyster Army Health Clinic serves a population of about 17,000 beneficiaries. The clinic is consistently ranked among the top military treatment facilities in the Regional Health Command-Atlantic for its ability to deliver excellent healthcare.

**Lyster Army Health Clinic is an Army values-based professional organization that celebrates diversity and the contributions of every teammate.**

**- Lt. Col. Danielle Rodondi**  
**Lyster Army Health Clinic commander**



PHOTO BY JANICE ERDLITZ

Brig. Gen. Michael Place, U.S. Army Regional Health Command-Atlantic commanding general, passes the colors to incoming commander, Lt. Col. Danielle Rodondi during the Lyster Army Health Clinic change of command ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum June 8.

# CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE

## Fort Rucker to host Celebration and Home Town Parade event July 4

By Jim Hughes

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker's celebration of America's birthday will feature plenty of oohs and ahs despite Freedom Fest being canceled in favor of a smaller celebration that will include a parade through the housing areas July 4 and a fireworks display because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The July 4 Celebration and Home Town Parade will climax at 9 p.m. with a fireworks display reminiscent of past Freedom Fests, according to Mike Garcia, Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation community recreation director.

A big difference this year is that the parade and fireworks are open to Department of Defense ID card holders only, Garcia said, adding that officials were faced with difficult decisions this year because of the pandemic.

"We know we can't have large groups, so

what can we do? There were alternatives discussed, even canceling the entire thing," he said. "We made the decision to go with the parade and the fireworks because if this is not the time to celebrate our independence, I don't know when is.

"We really wanted to do something for the Fort Rucker community on July 4, and our intent was to get the community to rally around and do a hometown parade, similar to what you see in small towns throughout America," he said.

That said, people need to keep in mind that the COVID-19 threat is still very much present, so people need to keep their social distancing while watching the parade and the fireworks, Garcia added.

To help with that, officials moved the area where the fireworks are set off more into



the cantonment area in an effort to make it where people in housing can see them from their front or back yards, he added. "The intent is for people in housing to watch the fireworks from their yards, but people can also use the parking lots around post to watch the fireworks. The biggest thing is people need to maintain the social distancing guidelines. We want to have fun, but we want to be safe."

The parade will begin making its way through the housing areas (see route sidebar) at 5 p.m. Its makeup will include Fort Rucker and community organizations, and pretty much anyone who wants to join up, Garcia said, adding that the parade is open to everyone to allow people to show off their

patriotism and enter a friendly competition for most patriotic float, top military float, best small float, best large float and community spirit float categories.

Garcia recommends people don't try to walk the 5 1/2 -mile route, but to use wheeled vehicles instead, although horses will be welcomed, as well.

There may also be some surprises in the parade, possibly including some celebrities known throughout the state, he added.

For more information or to sign up for the parade, visit <https://rucker.army.mil/promos/4th-july-celebration-home-town-parade>. The deadline to register is June 29.

### PARADE PATH

According to the Directorate of Public Safety, the parade will follow the route below.

The parade will stage on Boxcar, and then proceed down Andrews and turn left on Christian, then turn left onto Artillery. It will proceed on Artillery past the Triangle Shoppette where the road turns into Farrel.

It will proceed on Farrel until turning left onto Division. On Division it will proceed until turning right on to Seventh Avenue, and then taking Seventh until turning right on Red Cloud. It will stay on Red Cloud until exiting the far side of the Munson Heights Housing Community.

### WHAT TO BRING, WHAT NOT TO

According to the Directorate of Public Safety, the following is a list of allowed and prohibited items at the event.

#### PERMITTED

- \* Coolers, tote bags or backpacks are permitted to keep in your vehicle.
- \* Pets are permitted to keep in your vehicle.

#### PROHIBITED

- \* No fireworks.
- \* No glass containers.
- \* No weapons, including guns, knives or pepper spray.
- \* No bicycles, scooters, roller blades, hoverboards or skateboards.



# Senior leaders celebrate Army's diversity over past 245 years

By Sean Kimmons

*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON -- While at a cake-cutting ceremony to mark the service's 245th birthday, the Army secretary said a cake is a remarkable, fitting symbol.

A cake is a combination of different ingredients that is placed under intense heat, he said, but later results in a spectacular creation.

"The Army recipe is similar: where people from every corner of the nation come together and in the face of great challenges, achieve the extraordinary," Secretary Ryan D. McCarthy said Friday.

This is even more relevant today, he said. The Army currently has over 178,000 Soldiers deployed around the world. Soldiers have also surged to hotspot cities to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, and Army scientists are working around the clock to develop a vaccine, he added.

And, most recently, Soldiers have helped the voices of peaceful demonstrators be safely heard in cities across the nation.

"I am incredibly proud of the bravery of our men and women," he said, "and the work that is being done here and abroad."

McCarthy and other senior leaders spoke during the ceremony at the Pentagon, which was part of several traditional birthday events held virtually last week.

While the seats inside the auditorium were empty this year, the spirit of diversity was fully present.

During the ceremony, seven Soldiers of various cultural backgrounds walked onto the stage to recite a vow to serve the nation longer.

"American Soldiers represent the diversity of America," said Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville, who administered the oath of enlistment. "And they represent the very best of America."

Regardless of someone's race or ethnicity, the general said the Army must provide positive command climates where everyone is treated equally with dignity and respect.



Staff Sgt. Demond Trotter, Spc. Alejandro Ruzcallea and Sgt. Jeong Park reenlist in the Army during a ceremony conducted by Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum June 12.



PHOTOS BY KELLY MORRIS

Fort Rucker leaders and Soldiers, as well as Mike Schmitz, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, join Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, to cut the cake to commemorate the U.S. Army's 245th birthday at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum June 12.

"We win by doing the right things, the right way," he said. "We win by building cohesive teams that are highly trained, disciplined and fit. And we win through our people."

The Army's history is full of Soldiers who served beyond the call of duty. One of them was Sgt. William Carney, who fought in the Civil War for the Union Army.

Carney, who was born into slavery and later became the first black Medal of Honor recipient, was there for his squad when it counted, said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston.

During the Battle of Fort Wagner in South Carolina in 1863, Carney rushed to catch the American flag from falling after his unit's color guard was fatally shot.

While under fire, Carney planted the colors and despite being shot twice himself, he still removed the flag when troops had to move back.

"He put his nation, his freedom and fellow Soldiers first," Grinston said. "Just like all of you that are serving the nation now, you put people first because winning matters."

The Army birthday, which is Sunday, is not only simply about capturing its legacy, McCarthy said, adding there is also earnest hope in the year to come.

"Birthdays are more than just a celebration of the years that have passed, but also a nod to the future. The opportunity for growth and the determination for change," he said.

One thing, though, that will certainly remain is the Army's mission.

"For 245 years, the Army has safeguarded democracy and defended the nation against the threats we faced," McCarthy said. "That is what we do best. Every time the nation calls, no matter the threat, the Army always responds."

# With airlines lagging, Army looking to bring back former aviators

By Gary Sheftick

*Army News Service*

With airlines running a reduced flight schedule and generally not hiring, the Army is open to accepting former aviators and crew members back into the service, according to the Army's command chief warrant officer for the Aviation Branch.

CW5 Jon Koziol appeared on a Facebook livestream June 10 evening from Fort Rucker and explained the opportunities to those tuning into the page for the Rotary to Airline Group, known as RTAG, founded to help veterans transition to the airline industry.

"As we are all well aware, this global pandemic has made unprecedented impacts on the world's economies and our personal way of life," he said. "Some of those impacts may have directly affected your ability to pursue your goals of working for the commercial sector, specifically the airlines."

The Call to Active Duty, or CAD program, allows Army Reserve and National Guard aviators to apply for a three-year stint back on active duty, Koziol said. Aviators are needed for AH-64 Apache attack helicopters, as well as CH-47 Chinooks, UH-60 Black Hawks and in some instances, fixed wing assignments.

The retiree recall program is also a possibility, Koziol said, and other programs exist for veterans who only served a few years in the branch.

"No matter how much time you have served in the Army, you are still a Soldier for Life and part of this team," he said. "We could use your expertise."

Some Army civilian positions are available for aviators on Fort Rucker, he said, directing listeners to check the USAJobs website. In addition, contractor positions are available under instructor and maintenance

contracts.

UH-72 Lakota pilots are needed to instruct the Initial Entry Rotary Wing and other courses. Test pilots are also needed and additional opportunities exist for fixed-wing pilots, mechanics and others, he said.

"Basically across the board, there is more than likely a good chance that we can find a spot for you where you can help," Koziol said.

While there's no current shortage for OH-58D Kiowa pilots, some other positions may be available for those aviators, said CW5 David J. Stock II, Aviation Branch warrant officer proponent.

"We do have the ability, in some instanc-

es, for the right officer to bring back some OH-58D pilots and use them in a non-flying position," Stock said.

Koziol said recent studies indicate it may take commercial airlines two or three years to get back to the operating schedules that they had prior to the pandemic.

Recent news reports state about 100,000 employees of the nation's four largest airlines have volunteered to take unpaid or low-paid leave.

The airlines have not yet laid workers off, because the bailout federal funding they received barred layoffs, involuntary furloughs and pay cuts. But that requirement expires Oct. 1, leaving thousands of pilots, flight attendants, baggage handlers, mechanics and others at risk of layoffs.

In addition to the active force, the Army Reserve and National Guard also have positions available for aviators, Koziol said. Positions vary depending upon location and the aircraft in each state, he explained.

"If you're willing to move, there's more than likely a good chance there's an opportunity for you to serve," he said.

For a return to active duty, Koziol estimates it usually takes about three months to process a request. You can expect an updated Call to Active Duty message within the next two weeks that will help shorten the application process.

"We just ask for your patience," he said. "We do want you back."



PHOTO BY TYLER GREENLEES

**AH-64 Apaches from the 4th Infantry Division's 4th Combat Aviation Brigade used Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, as a stopover May 20. The helicopters were in transit from their home post of Fort Carson, Colo., to Fort Drum, N.Y.**



# U.S. Army aims to hire 10,000 new Soldiers during three-day event

**U.S. Army Recruiting Command**  
*Press Release*

FORT KNOX, Ky. – The U.S. Army is kicking off its first nationwide virtual hiring campaign June 30-July 2 with a goal of recruiting 10,000 new Soldiers to serve in 150 different occupations.

Army National Hiring Days is an all-Army effort to inspire individuals across the nation to “Join Us.”

As part of the three-day hiring event, Army leaders, operational units, recruiters and community partners across America will focus on encouraging individuals to explore the Army’s career paths, ranging from traditional combat roles to support positions in logistics, engineering and technology. They will also highlight the benefits of military service, to include health insurance, retirement plans, training and education opportunities, and family support programs.

Maj. Gen. David J. Francis, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, fully supports the Army’s effort of hiring full-time and part-time Soldiers in the federal and state service during the Army National Hiring Days.

“We are offering career opportunities in 150 fields, including aviation, cyber, artificial intelligence, healthcare, big data analysis and many more,” Francis said. “The Army is the best trained, best equipped and most talent-



**ARMY NATIONAL HIRING DAYS**

**June 30 - July 2**

**150 Career Fields**

**10,000 Positions**

**JOIN US.**

[www.goarmy.com/hiringdays](http://www.goarmy.com/hiringdays)

ARMY GRAPHIC

ed force in the world, and we are looking for those in the Wiregrass area that want to be a part of our team.

“The Army is a great option and way forward for displaced workers who qualify for service,” he added.

U.S. Army recruiters have focused heavily on virtual communications since mid-March when the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a socially distant society. This new virtual hiring event will be the first time the Army has come together as a whole to leverage the digital space in a concentrated all-Army nationwide recruiting effort.

“The last three months have challenged America, and our Army has been part of the team working to fight this pandemic together,” said Maj. Gen. Frank Muth, commanding

general for U.S. Army Recruiting Command. “We are adapting our recruiting efforts to the current environment to ensure we can continue to protect and support our nation in the future. We believe Army National Hiring Days will help us find the right people who are ready to ‘Join Us.’”

During Army National Hiring Days, interested individuals can visit [www.goarmy.com/hiringdays](http://www.goarmy.com/hiringdays) to see if they meet the qualifications, learn about job opportunities and associated hiring incentives, and connect with a recruiter in their area.

“The Army has a career for every interest, and many people aren’t really aware of that,” Muth said. “You’ll receive the technical training to succeed in your field and then have access to education benefits to go even further.”

To become an enlisted Soldier in the U.S. Army, individuals must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident; be 17-34 years old; achieve a minimum score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test; meet medical, moral and physical requirements; and be a high school graduate or equivalent.

Qualified applicants are eligible for bonuses up to \$40,000 or student loan reimbursement up to \$65,000, depending on the selected occupation, ASVAB scores, contract length, and timeline for shipping to basic training.

For more information about Army opportunities and to find a local recruiter, visit [goarmy.com](http://goarmy.com).

## LOCAL RECRUITING OFFICES

**Enterprise -- (334) 347-0314**

**Dothan -- (334) 793-3622**

# Future Vertical Lift pushes forward with new requirements

By Sean Kimmons  
*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON -- All four of Future Vertical Lift's signature modernization efforts now have approved requirements, as the Army strives to rapidly develop new aircraft to achieve overmatch, its leader said Wednesday.

The top priorities include the Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft, Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft, Future Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and Modular Open System Approach.

"Those four lines of effort have not changed and we continue to fight and drive on that line with the requirements development and capability development," said Brig. Gen. Walter Rugen, who heads the FVL Cross-Functional Team.

## FARA, FLRAA

A final design and readiness review for FARA, which will replace some AH-64 Apaches and fill a capability gap left by the OH-64 Kiowa, is planning to be completed by December.

After assessing five initial designs, the Army chose Bell and Sikorsky to build prototypes for this endeavor in March, and expects to start fielding the new scout aircraft by 2028.

There have also been experiments with UH-60 Black Hawks serving as FARA surrogates that shoot out small drones to test how to pierce through an enemy's anti-access and aerial-denial environment.

"Those air-launched effects bring a tech maturation of a mesh network forward," Rugen said, as part of a virtual discussion with the Heritage Foundation. The effects will be able to "find, fix and finish what's

hunting us."

The Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft, which will replace the Black Hawk, is still on track to be fielded by 2030. Also in March, Bell and a joint Sikorsky-Boeing team were chosen to participate in a competitive demonstration and risk reduction effort.

Since the FLRAA will be larger than the FARA, the Army is looking at a two-engine strategy. Already, the FARA is slated to be part of the Improved Turbine Engine Program, which would also replace the current T700 engines that power Apache and Black Hawk fleets.

"It significantly reduces the logistics burden that we have out in the field, where we have multiple different engines," said Patrick Mason, the Army's program executive officer for aviation.

The second engine, which will later be selected by industry as part of their proposal, should offer more horsepower, he added.

## MODULAR OPEN SYSTEM APPROACH

The entire aviation enterprise aligned on a vision for MOSA after the commander of the Army Futures Command signed a requirements document for it last month, Rugen said.

As part of the effort, the final Joint Multi-Role Mission System Architecture Demonstration is set to be completed in December, he added.

An architecture collaborative working group has also been established that links government, industry and academia together. The group aims to adequately address how the Army executes MOSA for both future aircraft, Mason said.



ARMY PHOTO

**Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), test the Martin UAV V-BAT drone at Fort Campbell, Ky., June 1. The Army selected five brigades to test four prototypes that can take off and land vertically like a helicopter, as part of the Army Futures Command's Future Unmanned Aircraft Systems effort.**

"That is shifting a huge paradigm, where we previously built aircraft within their own platform-specific ways," he said.

"Now we're looking at it in a holistic manner across all of the platforms to really deliver that future vertical lift ecosystem," he added.

First, the Army is using the UH-60V to test out the open systems approach and burn down any risk before placing it into FARA and FLRAA aircraft, he added.

## FUTURE TACTICAL UAS

Soldiers have also been testing tactical unmanned aircraft systems that are quieter than the aging RQ-7 Shadow, not tied to a runway and can be transported by a CH-47 Chinook helicopter, Rugen said.

The Army selected five brigades to test the four prototypes that can take off and land vertically like a helicopter.

"We're getting great data collection from the first two brigades already," he said.



# ACFT 2.0: Changes sparked by COVID-19

By Thomas Brading  
*Army News Service*

FORT EUSTIS, Va. – The Army Combat Fitness Test, or ACFT, will be the force's test of record Oct. 1, but the Army's top enlisted Soldier says troops will have more time to train for and pass the six-event test -- without fear of it negatively impacting their careers during that time.

Despite hold ups caused by COVID-19, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael A. Grinston is confident the long-planned ACFT will stay on track. In addition to the new training timeline, he also announced a handful of other modifications to the test, dubbing it ACFT 2.0.

It's the same six-event physical fitness test -- just an updated version, Grinston said. So even though troops don't have to pass the test this year, they still have to take the ACFT as scheduled.

"When it's the test of record, you have to put it into the system of record, and that's the only requirement right now," Grinston said. This means the Army won't take administrative actions against Soldiers for potential ACFT failures.

Potential career impacts like separation, derogatory or referred evaluation reports, and a Soldier's Order of Merit List standing are all off the table to be negatively impacted due to an ACFT failure.

This news comes as the Army, in response to social distancing guidelines, hit the brakes on all physical fitness tests in March. Although fitness tests slowed down, Army leaders went full-steam ahead to plan how Soldiers will jump from the 40-year-old Army Physical Fitness Test, or APFT, to the new ACFT 2.0.

So what are the changes?

First, for many, the APFT is gone for good. Once testing suspensions are lifted, the only Soldiers required to take an APFT ever again will be troops without a current passing score, the sergeant major confirmed.

"As for everyone else [with a current passing APFT score] -- they should start training for the ACFT," he added.

As far as the evolution of the ACFT, the biggest change for Soldiers is the option to substitute a two-minute plank, once a Soldier has attempted the leg tuck.

The other six events are still locked in; the 3 repetition maximum dead-lift, standing power throw, hand release pushups, leg tuck, 2-mile run, and sprint, drag, carry. The plank is just an interim assessment.

The plank is seen as a transitioning tool for Soldiers jumping from the APFT to the six ACFT events, said Maj. Gen. Lonnie G. Hibbard, the U.S. Army Center for Initial Military Training commanding general.

Depending on an individual's physical starting point, switching back to the leg tuck should take "anywhere between six to three months," Hibbard added, but for now, the plank is an alternative.

Planks are a core muscle-burning exercise, completed by individuals who remain static with their elbows planted to the ground directly beneath the shoulders at a 90-degree angle while maintaining a straight posture.

Plank exercises can be conducted almost anywhere, Hibbard said, and do not require equipment to train for. Under the current COVID-19 conditions, this could be an ideal transitional assessment.



PHOTO BY SARAH SANGSTER

**Soldiers with the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division Soldiers focus on the new Army Combat Fitness Test requirements at Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Soldiers and leaders are still able to maintain their physical readiness, while incorporating the recommended health of the force best practices.**

Also, the stationary bike event dropped its initial 15,000-meter standard down to a 12,000-meter standard. Biking is an Alternate Assessment for Soldiers with permanent profiles unable to complete the two-mile run.

Additional changes for fiscal year 2021 also include scoring standards. All Soldiers are challenged to pass the ACFT at the "Gold Standard," Hibbard confirmed, which is an overall minimum total score of 60.

To pass, all troops are required to meet the moderately challenging "gold standard" instead of the more grueling "grey or black"

scoring minimums -- typically reserved for harsher, more physically demanding career fields. This standard applies to all Soldiers, regardless of age or gender.

Until COVID-19 hit, "we were seeing vast improvements with the ACFT," Grinston said, adding the changes to the ACFT promotes a better physical fitness standard that will mirror the physical demands of the Army, while also decreasing injuries and having more effective Soldiers within the ranks.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## PX, COMMISSARY SELL EACH OTHER'S GIFT CARDS

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service and the Defense Commissary Agency have joined forces to sell the other's gift cards in their stores, according to officials.

Starting June 22, Fort Rucker commissary gift cards from \$5 to \$300 will be available at the exchange for purchase. In addition, exchange gift cards from \$5 to \$1,500 will be available at the commissary, officials added. Gift cards must still be redeemed at their respective agency or online.

"The exchange and commissary are working together for the good of the military community, bringing convenience and value to all who serve," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Luis Reyes, the exchange's senior enlisted adviser. "Both retailers are all-in to support our Warfighters and their families."

The joint effort showcases the strength of military resale, said Army Command Sgt.

Maj. Tomeka N. O'Neal, DECA's senior enlisted adviser to the agency director.

## SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for school year 2020-21 began June 15. This will be for new students in grades pre-kindergarten to sixth grade. Registration is done completely on-line at [www.dodea.edu/DORS](http://www.dodea.edu/DORS), according to Fort Rucker Schools officials.

To register, people should:

- \* click on the green new student registration button;

- \* create a username and password if you have not already done so;

- \* download the following documents or send by email to [ruckeressoffice@dodea.edu](mailto:ruckeressoffice@dodea.edu): birth certificate, orders, housing lease agreement or 90-day letter from housing; and Alabama Shot Card;

- \* once you have completed DORS, please

send an email to [ruckeressoffice@dodea.edu](mailto:ruckeressoffice@dodea.edu) to let officials know that you have finished the on-line portion of registration; and

- \* you will be called by office personnel to complete the registration process -- registration is not complete until you have talked with someone from Rucker Elementary School.

For more information, call 255-2822 or send an email to [ruckeressoffice@dodea.edu](mailto:ruckeressoffice@dodea.edu).

## 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://fortruckercorvias.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](mailto:Rucker@corvias.com) or call (401) 228-2800.

## LOST AND FOUND

People who have lost or misplaced property while on Fort Rucker can call the Directorate of Public Safety's lost and found point of contact at 255-3239 to inquire if their property has been turned in. To claim their property, people must be able to demonstrate ownership of the property. DPS retains property found or turned in at special events held on the installation, such as Freedom Fest – the most common items turned-in are keys, cell phones and wallets.

# ARMY FLIER

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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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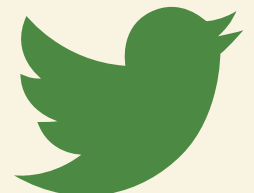
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