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U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PHOTO BY SGT. EMILY FINN

Soldiers with the Missouri, Georgia and Illinois National Guard stage five CH-47 Chinook helicopters in Kuwait, Dec. 29. The U.S. Air Force brought in the helicopters and the crew began maintenance, preparing them to support ongoing Aviation operations in Iraq. These units support the Coalition Aviation Advisory and Training Team, enhancing the Iraqi Security Force's Aviation capabilities.

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ABOVE THE BEST



PHOTO BY KELLY MORRIS

The Fiscal Year 2018 USAACE Instructors of the Year are William Maxwell (Civilian Academic Instructor of the Year), WO1 Frans D. Vandiepenhuis (NCO Flight Instructor of the Year), Sgt. 1st Class James W. Johnson (NCO Academic Instructor of the Year), CW3 Calvin A. Sanders (Warrant Officer Academic Instructor of the Year) and Capt. Abraham J. Johnson (Officer Academic Instructor of the Year). Not pictured are CW3 Adam J. Beville (Officer Flight Instructor of the Year) and Ruben Diaz (Civilian Flight Instructor of the Year).

USAACE honors 2018 instructors of the year

By Kelly P. Morris

USAACE Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence recognized its “best of the best” academic instructors, instructor pilots and non-commissioned officer flight instructor of the year for 2018 during its annual Instructor of the Year ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Dec. 11.

Each year, instructors from around the USAACE community, including the Warrant

Officer Career College; U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine; USAACE NCO Academies at Fort Rucker and Fort Eustis, Virginia; and U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center, are selected for top recognition from the fiscal year’s quarterly competition winners.

The instructors were evaluated on quality of instruction, quality of materials developed and used, and quality of their presentation.

Ceremony host Col. William A. Ryan, USAACE deputy commander, thanked the audience for attending a “truly special event.”

“In the institutional Army, our instructors are our greatest asset, and the impact you have on our Soldiers is immeasurable,” Ryan said. “The dedicated work of the officers, non-commissioned officers and Department of the Army civilians we honor to-

day is the best of the best across the USAACE training base.”

The readiness of Army Aviation depends on quality instruction across the Army’s Training and Doctrine Command, he added.

“Every day, Fort Rucker and USAACE maintains strategic level importance for our Army and our nation as a generating force institution,” Ryan said. “The readiness of our branch and our Aviation leaders and Soldiers in the field rely in large part on the overmatch in training, professional education and leader development we maintain over our adversaries; and ensures Army Aviation is always ready and capable of fighting and winning in an increasingly complex world.

“That path towards readiness and victory starts here, as well as at Fort Eustis, Fort Huachuca (Arizona) and other Army Aviation training sites around the country,” Ryan said.

Ryan said that at some point in everyone’s life, there was a teacher, trainer or instructor they will always remember, who impacted them in a “positive and consequential way,” and for him, a great instructor and professional example was his first instructor pilot, Tim Wilson.

“These seven instructors recognized today no doubt have had that kind of impact on those they have taught, coached, and mentored over the last year,” Ryan said. “I want to congratulate all of you. We’re very proud of you and fortunate to have you on our team. Thank you for your dedication and, of course, keep up the great work.”

The recipients of the Academic Instructor of the Year award follow.

Officer Academic Instructor is Capt. Abraham J. Johnson, 1st Aviation Brigade. Johnson serves with D Company, 1-145th Aviation Regiment, 1st Aviation Brigade. Johnson teaches Basic Level Unified Land Operations, Graphics and Overlays, Combat Vehicle Identification, Intelligence Operations; and Advanced Level Task Organization

HONORS CONT.

of Reconnaissance Units, Reconnaissance Assets of the ABCT, SBCT, and IBCT for the Aviation Basic Officer Leaders Course, the Aviation Warrant Officer Basic Course, and the Air Cavalry Leader's Course.

Warrant Officer Academic Instructor is CW3 Calvin A. Sanders, 1st Avn. Bde. Sanders served with D Co., 1-145th Avn. Regt., teaching Property Accountability, Property Responsibility, Requirements for Command Inspections, Components of the Priority System, Hand Receipting Procedures, Conducting Required Inventories, Command Maintenance Program, PMCS Responsibilities for Key Personnel, and Introduction to GCSS ARMY for the Aviation Basic Officer Leaders Course, the Aviation Warrant Officer Basic Course.

NCO Academic Instructor is Sgt. 1st Class James W. Johnson, USASAM. Johnson teaches Stress and Fatigue in the Aviation Environment, Helicopter Overwater Survival Training, Aviation Protective Equipment Orientation, Survival Skills, Altitude Chamber Orientation and Exposure, Inflight Patient Care, and High Performance Hoist for the AMEDD Aviation Crewmember Course.

Civilian Academic Instructor is William J. Maxwell, 1st Avn. Bde. Maxwell is an Academic Instructor with B Co., 2-13th Avn. Regt. He teaches Map Reading, Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Payloads Overview, UAS Missions, Targeting Considerations, Reporting, Operational Environment, Decisive Actions, Fratricide Prevention, Mission Planning, Sensor Exploitation, and Combat Identification of Threat and Friendly Equipment for the 15W Shadow UAS Operator Course.

The recipients of the Instructor Pilot of the Year award follow.

Officer Flight Instructor is CW3 Adam J. Beville, 110th Avn. Bde. Beville served as an Instructor Pilot with A Co.,

1-223rd Avn. Regt., teaching all H-60 systems consisting of Electrical, Hydraulic and Flight Controls, Automatic Flight Controls, Landing Gear, Fuel/ Refueling, Powertrain/ Rotors, Auxiliary Power Unit, and T-700 series Engine, Aircrew Training Program, Aero Dynamics, Instrument Flying, Mission Scenario Training, Night Unaided and Night Vision Goggle Training for the UH-60M Course.

Civilian Instructor Pilot is Ruben Diaz, 110th Avn. Bde. Diaz is an Instructor Pilot with B Co., 1-212th Aviation Regiment. He teaches UH-60 Aviation Maintenance Logistics, Aerodynamics, Tactics, Aircrew Coordination for the Flight School XXI UH-60 Course.

NCO Flight Instructor is WO1 Frans D. Vandiepenhuisen, 110th Avn. Bde. Vandiepenhuisen served with F Co., 1-212th Avn. Regt., teaching all H-60 systems consisting of Electrical, Hydraulic and Flight Controls, Automatic Flight Controls, Landing Gear, Fuel/Refueling, Powertrain/ Rotors, Auxiliary Power Unit, and T-700 series Engine, Aircrew Training Program (ATP), Internal Load Operations, Aerial Gunnery, Instructional Presentations, Instructing Fundamentals, Exam Construction, and Aircrew Coordination Training Instructor Qualification, as well as flight training and evaluations for Non-rated crewmembers and Non-crewmembers for the H-60 NRCM FI/SI Course.

Also recognized during the ceremony was Capt. Scott G. McMahan, D Co., 1-145th Avn. Regt., 1st Avn. Bde., who represented USAACE and Fort Rucker as the fiscal year 2017 TRADOC Officer Academic Instructor of the Year nominee. McMahan took second place overall in the TRADOC officer academic instructor of the year completion for FY17.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

We all play a role in keeping our communities safe. Don't be afraid to say something if you see something that doesn't seem right. Stay vigilant and say something when you see signs of suspicious activity.



TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, CALL 255-2222 OR 9-1-1

SPEEDING ON POST? IT CAN COST YOU.

Soldiers and civilians alike face steep fines if caught speeding on post. If found guilty of speeding, drivers face a **\$35** court fee and additional fines, including:

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21-25 MPH OVER: \$175

Traffic points are also assessed for each offense, and a person's driving privileges could be suspended if enough points are accumulated during a 12-month period.

SLOW DOWN. STAY SAFE.



'HIGHER CALLING'

Scouts thank garrison for 50-plus years of support



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

Col. Brian E. Walsh, garrison commander, Chris Wood, Boy Scout Troop 50 troop master, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jasper C. Johnson, garrison command sergeant major, pose for a photo with assembled Scouts during the Dec. 20 ceremony at Wings Chapel where Scouts thanked the garrison for 50 years of continuous support.

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The Scouts of Boy Scout Troop 50 and Cub Scout Pack 50 thanked garrison leadership Dec. 20 for 50 years of continuous support during a ceremony at the Wings Chapel.

Col. Brian E. Walsh, Fort Rucker garrison commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jasper C. Johnson, garrison command sergeant major, accepted a plaque from Chris Wood, Troop 50 troop master, and assembled Scouts from the post.

"It's a privilege for the sergeant major and I to receive such a plaque, and we'll proud-

ly display it in our headquarters building," Walsh said.

"While the sergeant major and I were waiting for this evening's festivities to begin, we were talking about the pledge, and doing duty to God and country, and helping others," the colonel continued. "I'll just leave you Scouts with one thing. In order to reach a higher calling – a higher calling to help others, and do duty to God and country – you must be physically strong and mentally awake. Remember that."

The idea to thank the garrison for the five decades of support originated with the Scouts in Cub Scout Pack 50, Wood said.

"They spearheaded the effort to thank the garrison for allowing us to be able to have a troop and a pack on post," he said. "The biggest support we get is having a place to meet. We have a dedicated Boy Scout and Cub Scout area that we can call home – we haven't always had that. There was a time where we didn't have any place and we did a lot of camping.

"It means a lot because we don't have to pay for storage fees and things like that," Wood continued. "All the money we raise during fundraisers can go back into the Scouts, which is what it is designed for. To the people of Fort Rucker, thank you for your support over the years, and we hope to have many more."

Wood added that the Scouts would move during the Christmas break from an old AAFES training building into the office areas of the old commissary.

And having Scouts in the community is a good thing, he said.

"Within scouting, be it Cub or Boy or Girl, you will see a commonality – citizenship," Wood said. "Being a good citizen in the community, in the world, and things like that. Being a good citizen means helping

your neighbors and not expecting a reward or payment when you do help someone."

And Fort Rucker's Scouts do just that, he added.

"Our council here, we took Scouts down to Marianna (Florida) after the hurricane, the weekend after, and while they can't run chainsaws, they can move a lot of wood – the adults cut the trees and the Scouts moved it," the troop master said.

Some Cub Scouts also went down, he said, and "while they weren't able to do that kind of stuff, they were able to set up an area where we could get supplies and food products in. They helped the folks of the community go through and pick up canned goods and feed them.

"Scouts work hand in hand when it comes to stuff like that to build a stronger community," Wood continued. "I'm a firm believer in the program. I've been a part of for 17 years now, and I believe that the program develops good citizens and, in turn, those good citizens will be moving on and eventually running our country."

People interested in joining or getting involved with the Scouts can call the Alabama-Florida Council of the Boy Scouts of America, located in Dothan at 6108 W. Main Street, at 334-793-7882, according to Wood.



Scouts post the colors at the ceremony.

CG HOSTS FIRST COMMUNITY OUTREACH DAY



PHOTOS BY KELLY MORRIS

Jack Holmes, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence chief of G-3 Air, conducts the safety briefing as young business professionals from the Wiregrass community, dressed in the Army Combat Uniform, prepare for their aerial tour of Fort Rucker as part of Fort Rucker's inaugural Community Outreach Day Dec. 11.

By Kelly Morris
USAACE Public Affairs

More than a dozen young business professionals from the local Wiregrass community spent the day on Fort Rucker to learn more about the mission and activity here Dec. 11.

Participants from Daleville, Dothan, Enterprise and Ozark suited up in the Army Combat Uniform blouse and trousers to get a feel for what Soldiers do every day. Events included firing weapons in the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000, a team building event at the Leaders Reaction Course, flying in the simulators at Victory Hall, and also an aerial tour of Fort Rucker.

Event host Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and

Fort Rucker commanding general, welcomed participants during the opening session.

"A few years ago we started thinking, how do you connect Fort Rucker to the community? We have a very good community base right now, but we have to think forward to the next 20 years. The intent of this is to introduce you to Fort Rucker, more than you may already know. The secondary intent is to have fun. This is for you," Gayler said.

At the outset, participants learned about accountability, pre-combat checks and inspections, esprit de corps, and concurrent training as Sgt. Maj. Shawn C. McKay, USAACE G3 sergeant major divided the group into teams, and they decided on team names

and mottoes, and picked their group leaders for the day.

The event included a working luncheon with briefings by Fort Rucker leadership, including some history about Fort Rucker and Army Aviation, which became a branch in 1983.

"Fort Rucker used to be a wildlife refuge where they had quite a bit of quail and turkey. It was sanctioned as a preserve before the Army came in and needed it for a broader purpose," said Gayler.

"The United States Army is the largest air force in the world," he said.

While people associate USAACE geographically with Fort Rucker, it actually dots

the map with multiple points, including 128th Aviation Brigade at Joint Base Langley Eustis, Virginia.; 2-13th Aviation Regiment, part of 1st Avn. Bde., based at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and other entities and locations around the country training Aviation professionals to include all officer and enlisted Aviation military occupation specialties.

With 29,000 square miles of training area locally, five base fields and 21 stage fields, and more than 65 remote training sites, USAACE launches hundreds of aircraft per day as it develops combat aviators.

"We don't make pilots, we make combat air crew members," Gayler said. "There's a big difference in learning how to fight than just

OUTREACH *CONT.*

learning how to fly.”

According to Gayler, USAACE priorities also include resourcing the institution, modernizing the force and what Gayler referred to as “servant leadership.”

“You have to be a positive, competent leader who is adept at providing purpose, direction and motivation to accomplish something people don’t want to do, but more importantly improve the organization while you do it,” he said.

Col. Brian E. Walsh, Fort Rucker garrison commander, spoke about various opportunities for recreation on post that are available to civilians, and the important role the people who work on Fort Rucker play in taking care of Soldiers.

“I tell them, you’re one spoke of many that’s producing combat power for the Unit-

ed States Army. If we don’t have the child-care services person, the fire department, the police officers, the people cutting orders administratively, we could not have classes graduate and then go out to combat units to take it to the enemy,” Walsh said.

Throughout the day participants also learned the Army and Army Aviation songs. The event concluded with participants “earning their wings” in a graduation ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

“This program was an unbelievable experience that far exceeded the expectations I had going into the day. I will be reflecting on this day for many years to come,” said Walt Ellis, vice president and commercial loan officer at Troy Bank & Trust in Dothan.

According to Ellis, the most memorable part of the day was the aerial tour, which was hosted by USAACE G3 Air personnel Jack Holmes and Paul Meissner.

“If I had to name my favorite experience

it would be flying in the Black Hawk. I will have a new perspective now when seeing them fly,” Ellis said. “A close second would be the indoor shooting range or the flight simulation. The team building obstacle course was challenging and rewarding. Not a single event was less than stellar.”

For Gantt Pierce, an attorney with Jacoby & Meyers in Dothan, the event provided a new perspective on Fort Rucker.

“Being able to see what happens in and around Fort Rucker was amazing. As an outsider, I had no idea all of the functions of Soldier life and the daily functionality of Fort Rucker. I couldn’t believe that Fort Rucker was as big as it is. I truly gained an enormous appreciation for our military and the exceptional work being done just 15 miles from my house in Dothan,” Pierce said. “This was an experience I will remember for the rest of my life.”



Young business professionals from the Wiregrass community learn about weapons Soldiers use as they participate in simulated scenarios in the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 during Fort Rucker’s Community Outreach Day Dec.11.

FORT RUCKER

MOVIE SCHEDULE

FOR JAN. 18-FEB. 3

Friday, Jan. 18
Instant Family (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 19
The Nutcracker and the Four Realms (PG) 4 p.m.
The Mule (R) 7 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 20
The Nutcracker and the Four Realms (PG) 1 p.m.
The Mule (R) 4 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 24
Ben is Back (R) 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 25
Fantastic Beasts (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 26
Spider-Man: Into the Spider-verse (PG) 4 p.m.
Mortal Engines (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 27
Spider-Man: Into the Spider-verse (PG) 1 p.m.
Mortal Engines (PG-13) 4 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 31
Ben is Back (R) 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 1
Second Act (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 2
Spider-Man: Into the Spider-verse (PG) 4 p.m.
Aquaman (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 3
Mary Poppins Returns (PG) 1 p.m.
Aquaman (PG-13) 4 p.m.

TICKETS ARE \$6 FOR ADULTS AND \$5 FOR CHILDREN, 12 AND UNDER. MILITARY I.D. CARDHOLDERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE WELCOME. SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 255-2408.

DFMWR re-opens renovated The Landing Zone



PHOTO BY HANNAH HUSSEY

Col. Brian E. Walsh, Fort Rucker garrison commander, and Sgt. Maj. Steven Rogers, Directorate of Public Safety sergeant major, cut the ribbon during The Landing Zone's grand re-opening ceremony Jan. 14.

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

After undergoing about 10 months of renovations, the Fort Rucker Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation put The Landing Zone back on the menu of its dining establishments on post during the facility's re-opening ceremony Jan. 14.

With its newly renovated kitchen area, the facility started 2019 off with more than 300 people ready to try out the new menu, or enjoy some of the old favorites, said Janice Erdlitz, DFMWR director of marketing.

"The kitchen renovation really allowed us to improve our workflow, thus improving our efficiency to get a great quality product out to our customers quicker," she added. "We also took a lot of time to relook at the menu options. You'll be happy to see some healthier options along with some of the LZ favorites. We also worked on keeping our pricing as an affordable dining option. We have our daily Rapid Fire Lunch Special, so if you are short on time, this is a great option to order for expedited service, it's also only \$10."

Erdlitz described The Landing Zone as a family-friendly restaurant with table service and a full bar.

"We have an amazing staff providing a quality product, a great atmosphere and a very convenient to-go service. Choosing The Landing Zone is a great option for a great meal," she said. "If you didn't get a chance to stop by for lunch during the grand opening, we hope you work The Landing Zone back into your normal routine as a favorite lunch and dinner spot. We are also happy to have the Coffee Zone relocated back in the Landing Zone. If you are running late, and want to phone in a to-go order, we also have curbside parking available for your convenience."

The newly re-opened The Landing Zone joins DFMWR's other dining outlets, to please the Fort Rucker community's palate, Erdlitz added.

"Rucker Lanes offers an extensive grill menu, perfect for lunch or dinner," she said. "Divots at the golf course has great views, of the course, along with fast, friendly service and amazing food, and Mother Rucker's Sports Bar is a favorite for great burgers, sandwiches and more."



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Crew member: Medevac mission is “best in the military”

By Sgt. Emily Finn

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait -- Looking out to a vast horizon, where the brown, sandy dunes of Kuwait's desert meet the blue sky, appears a UH-60L Black Hawk helicopter with a red cross on the door. The red cross is an international sign of medical assistance and a sign of hope for those in need.

Flying through the skies, C Company, 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion, Minnesota Army National Guard, currently assigned to the 1-108th Assault Helicopter Battalion, Kansas Army National Guard, is deployed to the Middle East in support of Operations Inherent Resolve and Spartan Shield.

“Charlie Company provides medical evacuation to ground force commanders in an area of operation,” said U.S. Army Maj. Nathan Burr, commander of C Company.

As one of two aeromedical evacuation companies supporting the 35th Combat Aviation Brigade, Missouri Army National Guard, the medevac unit has a particularly critical mission. It provides all aeromedical evacuation aid in Kuwait, supporting all U.S. Department of Defense branches.

C Company, nicknamed Northstar Dustoff, has completed more than twice the amount of medevac missions as their predecessor, in nearly half the time. “For us it's good, because we're flying and doing missions,” said Burr. “It doesn't mean more people are getting hurt. I think it just means more people understand what our capabilities are.”

Upon arrival in theater, the Northstar Dustoff command began spreading word

of their operational capabilities to units in Camp Buehring, as well as other camps in the vicinity. Known as MED101, C Company uses aeromedical evacuation rehearsals and other training, to familiarize units with the aeromedical helicopter and crews' capabilities.

An example of this type of training was a recent rehearsal conducted to prepare U.S. Soldiers assigned to the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard, and Task Force Spartan for Operation Desert Observer II, a combined training exercise between U.S. and Kuwaiti Land Forces, Dec. 11. The training offered other units a chance to practice calling in a medical evacuation request and loading patients into and out of a helicopter.

Another service unit members provide is transporting patients from the Troop Medical Clinic here to the hospital at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. A mission, previously conducted by ground medical evacuation crews, could take an ambulance team nearly six hours to complete. C Company can complete the task and be ready for another mission in less than two hours.

Northstar Dustoff maintains these abilities with a fleet of UH-60L Black Hawk helicopters and nearly 60 personnel.

Due to the nature of their missions, all personnel assigned to C Company receive additional training to enable continuity in the back of the helicopter and maintain their flight status.

Medevac pilots attend a medical evacuation doctrine course, which teaches the ba-



PHOTO BY SGT. EMILY FINN

Soldiers assigned to the 2-211th General Support Aviation Battalion, Minnesota Army National Guard, and the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard, carry a patient to a UH-60L Black Hawk helicopter during an aeromedical evacuation rehearsal at Udairi Range Complex near Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Dec. 11.

sics of medical evacuation. Knowing these procedures allows a better understanding of the overall mission.

Crew chiefs are not mandated by regulation to complete medical training. However, the unit requires all team members to complete combat life saver training so they can assist the paramedics during flights, if needed. Many of them continue their training to receive a basic EMT certification so they can provide additional assistance, said Burr.

In order to become a flight paramedic, healthcare specialists must be a qualified civilian paramedic and able to pass a flight physical. When a vacancy within the unit is open, qualified personnel can apply for it, go before a review board and then, upon acceptance, attend flight training held at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Flight paramedics complete nearly 11 months of training before they are fully qualified.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Schneir, a pla-

toon sergeant, joined the unit in 2012. Like other flight paramedics assigned to C Company, Schneir works as a paramedic for the city of Rochester, Minnesota, when he is not on military duty.

“Flying is the reason I joined the Army,” said Schneir. “I can treat patients in the civilian world. I can treat patients on the ground ambulance, but flying was the ultimate goal I had.”

Northstar Dustoff has completed over 60 aeromedical evacuations since August. They have also operated at three different sites in the Middle East supporting Operations Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve.

“Our medics do this because they love helping people,” said Burr. “They love their service. They love taking care of people. I’m slightly biased, but the medevac mission, to me, is the best mission in the military because we don’t take lives. We save them.”

2019 BRINGS CHANGES TO MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM

By Gary Sheftick

Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. -- A host of changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice became effective Jan. 1, modernizing definitions for many offenses, adjusting maximum penalties, standardizing court-martial panels, creating new computer-crime laws, and much more.

The changes strike a balance between protecting the rights of the accused and empowering commanders to effect good order and discipline, said Col. Sara Root, chief of the Army's Military Justice Legislation Training Team.

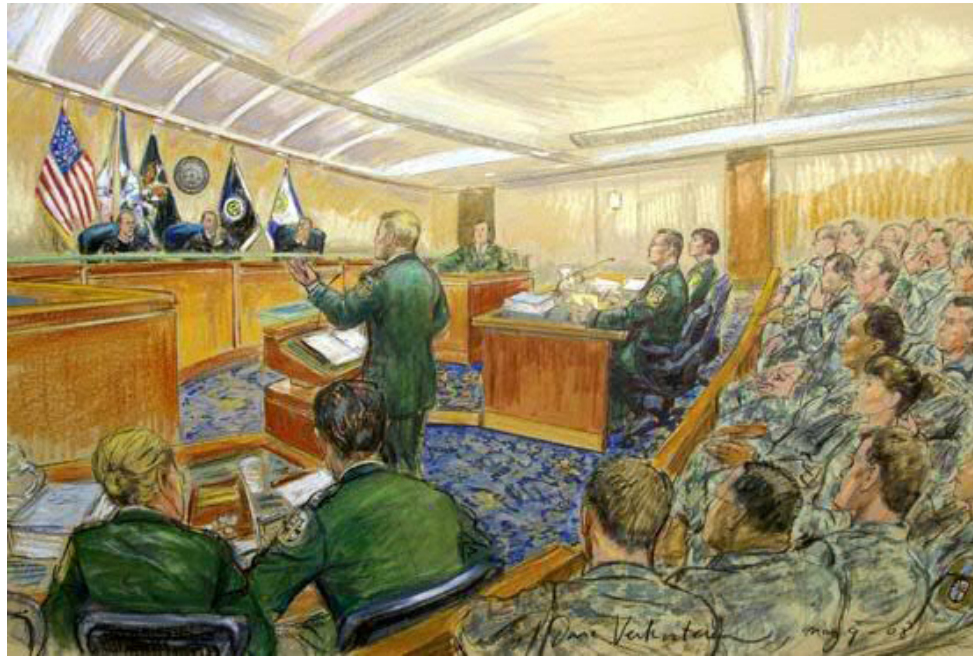
"We're pretty excited," Root said. "It's a healthy growth of our military justice system."

Root and three members of her team spent the last year traveling to 48 installations to train 6,000 legal personnel and law-enforcement agents about the changes. Her two-day classes included everyone from judges to law clerks, and privates to generals, she said, and even 600 from other military services.

Codifying Changes

Many of the changes came about after a review by the Military Justice Review Group, consisting of military and criminal justice experts whose report made recommendations to Congress.

"We've had a lot of changes to our system [over the years], but piecemeal," Root said. She explained that the Review Group convened to take a thorough and holistic look at the system to standardize military law and update the Manual for Courts Martial.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

The most sweeping changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice since it was enacted in 1950 took effect Jan. 1. One of the changes standardizes panels for court-martial proceedings.

Many of the MJRG's changes were incorporated into the Military Justice Act of 2016, the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, and then Executive Order 13825 signed by the president March 8. Additionally, Secretary of the Army Mark Esper signed a directive Dec. 20 that clarifies definitions for dozens of offenses taking effect this week.

"We've really needed that much time," Root said, from 2017 to now, in order to train all members of the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. Those attending her classes then needed time to train commanders and others on the installations, she added.

Adultery Changed

One of the changes replaces the offense of adultery with "extra-marital sexual conduct." The new offense broadens the definition of sexual intercourse, which now includes same-sex affairs. The amendments also now provide legal separation as a defense.

In the past, service members could be charged with adultery even if they had been legally separated for years but were not divorced. Now legal separation from a court of competent jurisdiction can be used as an affirmative defense, Root said.

Also in the past, prosecutors had to prove

traditional intercourse to obtain a conviction for adultery, Root said. Now oral sex and other types of sexual intercourse are included.

Protecting Junior Soldiers

UCMJ Article 93a provides stiffer penalties for recruiters, drill sergeants and others in "positions of special trust" convicted of abusing their authority over recruits or trainees.

The maximum sentence was increased from two years to five years of confinement for those in authority engaging in prohibited sexual activities with junior Soldiers. And it doesn't matter if the sex is consensual or not, Root said, it's still a crime.

Article 132 also protects victims and those reporting crimes from retaliation. An adverse personnel action -- such as a bad NCO Evaluation Report, if determined to be solely for reprisal --- can get the person in authority up to three years confinement without pay and a dishonorable discharge.

Computer Crimes

Article 123 provides stiff penalties for Soldiers who wrongfully access unauthorized information on government computers. Distributing classified information can earn a maximum sentence of 10 years confinement, but even wrongfully accessing it can get up to five years in jail. Unauthorized access of personally identifiable information, or PII, is also a crime. Intentionally damaging government computers or installing a virus can also bring five years in the clinker.

Article 121a updates offenses involving the fraudulent use of credit cards, debit cards or other access devices to acquire anything of value. The penalty for such crimes has been

JUSTICE CONT.

increased to a max of 15 years confinement if the theft is over \$1,000.

If the theft is under \$1,000 the maximum penalty was increased from five to 10 years confinement, and this crime also includes exceeding one's authorization to use the access device, for example, misusing a Government Travel Card.

Cyberstalking is also now included as a stalking offense under Article 130 of the UCMJ.

Courts-Martial

A "bench trial" by a judge alone can now determine guilt or innocence for many offenses. Almost any charge can be referred to such a forum, except for rape and sexual assault, which requires referral to a general court-martial. However, if the offense has a sentence of more than two years, the accused has a right to object to such charges being referred to a bench trial and could request a special or general court-martial.

If found guilty at a bench trial, Root said a Soldier cannot be given a punitive discharge and the max sentence would be limited to no more than six months forfeiture of pay and no more than six months confinement. The judge can still adjudge a reduction in rank.

"It's a great tool that we're really excited to see how commanders use it out in the formations," Root said.

More than half of the cases in the Army actually are settled by plea agreements in lieu of a contested trial, Root said. Commanders have always had the authority to limit the max sentence with a plea agreement, but she said now they can agree to a minimum sentence as well. This might result in a range for the judge to sentence within, for example, no less than one year confinement, but no more than five years confinement.

If a case goes to a non-capital general

court-martial, the panel has now been standardized to eight members. In the past the size of the panel could vary from five to an unlimited number, but often around 10-12 members. Now each general court-martial must begin with eight panel members, she said, but could continue if one panel member must leave due to an emergency during trial.

Special courts-martial will now be set at four panel members. A court-martial convening authority can also authorize alternate members to be on a special or a general court-martial, she said.

Capital offenses such as murder require a 12-member panel.

For a non-capital court-martial, three-fourths of the panel members must agree with the prosecution to convict the accused, she said. For instance, if only five members of an eight-member panel vote guilty, then the accused is acquitted. A conviction for a capital offense still requires a unanimous verdict.

Expanding Authority

Congress expanded judges' authorities to issue investigative subpoenas earlier in the process, for example, to obtain a surveillance video from a store. One of the most significant changes is that now military judges can issue warrants and orders to service providers to obtain electronic communications such as email correspondence.

In the past, trial counsel had to wait until preferring charges to issue investigative subpoenas. Now, with the approval of the general court-martial convening authority, trial counsel can issue subpoenas earlier to help determine whether charges are necessary. For electronic communications, the government previously had to rely on federal counterparts to assist with obtaining electronic communications.

"Being able to have these tools available earlier in the process is going to be helpful for overall justice," Root said.

The changes also call for more robust Article 32 hearings to help the commander determine if an accused should go to trial, she said. For instance, a preliminary hearing officer must now issue a more detailed report immediately after an Article 32 hearing's conclusion. In addition, both the accused and the victim now have the right to submit anything they deem relevant to the preliminary hearing officer within 24 hours after the hearing specifically for the court-martial convening authority to consider.

Aimed at speeding up the post-trial process, immediately following a court-martial, audio can now be provided to the accused, the victim, and the convening authority in lieu of a verbatim transcript which will be typed and provided later, but prior to appeal.

A number of other procedural changes are aimed at making the military justice system even more efficient, Root said.

More Changes

More changes to punitive offenses also take effect this week. For instance, the definition of burglary has changed to include breaking and entering any building or structure of another, anytime, with the intent to commit any offense under the UCMJ. In the past, burglary was limited to breaking and entering the dwelling house of another in the nighttime.

The penalty for wearing unauthorized medals of valor has increased from 6 months to a max of one-year confinement along with forfeiture of pay and a bad-conduct discharge. This includes wearing an unauthorized Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Purple Heart, or valor device. The maximum penalty for wearing any other unauthorized medal is still only six months.

Regarding misconduct that occurred prior to Jan. 1, the changes to the punitive articles are not retroactive, Root said. However,

some of the procedural changes will apply to cases that were not referred to trial before Jan. 1.

All members of the JAG Corps are trained in the changes and ready to go, Root said.

"We're pretty proud that our commanders are really at the center of this," she said, "and it just gives them some more tools for good order and discipline."



Tax center set to offer free preparation services



FILE PHOTO

Gail Evelyn, then a tax preparer at the Fort Rucker Tax Center, helps then-CW2 Ralph Hernandez and his wife, Brittany, with their tax return in this file photo.

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

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

The Fort Rucker Tax Center is set to open Jan. 22 in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 371F, with the goal of providing professional-level federal and state preparation and filing services for no fee to active duty and retired military, said Tod Clayton, Fort Rucker Tax Center coordinator.

People need to make an appointment to receive the service and can do so by visiting the center or calling 255-2937 or 255-2938, Clayton said. The services are only available

to active-duty military, retired military, medically retired military or members of the reserve components on active orders and their family members.

"People can start calling to make an appointment Jan. 22, but Jan. 22-25 is set aside for seeing single Soldiers only," he said. "If you call to get an appointment and you're not a single Soldier, that appointment will be for after Jan. 25. And when people call, they can ask for an appointment for whenever they want it – all the way until we close April 19. If we have an opening, we'll give it to them."

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

The office will be open Mondays-Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. People need to bring

their military ID card, Social Security cards, previous year's return and all documentation they think they might need to get their taxes done, he said.

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

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

People will notice some significant changes when filing their taxes for 2018, including the Internal Revenue Service getting rid of the 1040EZ and 1040A forms – all taxes are done on the 1040, with its Schedules 1-6, according to Clayton.

Additionally, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act nearly doubled standard deductions, according to IRS Publication 5307 available at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5307.pdf>, which also explains many other changes that affect people's 2018 taxes.

The standard deduction is a dollar amount that reduces the amount of income on which people are taxed and varies according to their filing status. This year, the standard deduction for each filing status is single, \$12,000; married filing jointly or qualifying widower, \$24,000; married filing separately, \$12,000; and head of household, \$18,000. The amounts are higher when filers or their spouses are blind or over age 65, according to the IRS.

The Fort Rucker Tax Center will host its ribbon cutting ceremony Jan. 25 at 1 p.m. in front of its office. For more information on the center, call 255-2937 or 255-2938.

DFMWR

YOUTH SPORTS REGISTRATION

The child and youth services youth sports and fitness program continues its registration for youth baseball, softball and T-ball through Feb. 15 at parent central services, located in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 193, or online using Webtrac. A current sports physical and a valid CYS registration are required for participation. Additional children will receive a percentage discount to be determined at parent central services during registration. Special requests for coaches and players cannot be honored. There will be a parents meeting Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. in Bldg. 2800, the youth center, located on Seventh Avenue. To register, visit parent central services or use Webtrac. For costs, age groups and more information, call 255-9638 or 255-2254.

STRESS MANAGEMENT CLASS

Army Community Service Family Advocacy will be offering a stress management class Jan. 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at The Commons, Bldg. 8950. Advance registration is required. For more information, call 255-3898.

EMPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAM WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the next employment readiness program workshop Jan. 22 from 9-11:30 a.m. at Bldg. 5700. Patrons will meet in Rm. 350 at 8:45 a.m. for paperwork and attendance prior to the session. You'll get the essentials about how to conduct a successful job campaign, to include crafting a winning resume, prepping for job interviews and other helpful tips. Advance registration is required. For more information and to reserve a seat, call 255-2594.

FROM DFMWR



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

FITNESS CHALLENGE

Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center will host its next monthly two-hour fitness challenge Jan. 22 at 5:30 p.m. The event is open to all authorized PFC patrons for \$3.50, or people can use their class card. There will be door prizes and refreshments at each challenge. For more information, call 255-3794.

ENTERPRISE CITY BUS TOUR

MWR Central will host a day trip to Enterprise Jan. 24. Are you new to Fort Rucker? Wondering what's available in the surrounding community? Join this free, fun and informative bus tour to visit the city of Enterprise from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Participants will enjoy time in downtown Enterprise including photo opportunities, shopping, the Boll Weevil Monument and The Depot Museum. Tour will also include valuable information for newcomers on schools, city government and recreational opportunities. A complimentary lunch at the Farmers Market and goody bags will be provided to participants. Pre-registration is required to participate. For more information or to sign up, call 255-2997.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

The Fort Rucker Youth Center will host a Chinese New Year celebration Jan. 25 from 4-6 p.m. Youth will be able to participate in a variety of activities, such as arts and crafts, games, cooking and more. The event is open to youth center members and guests. For more information, call 255-2271.

ANGER MANAGEMENT CLASS

ACS Family Advocacy will be offering an anger management class Jan. 25 from 11:30

a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at The Commons, Bldg. 8950. Advance registration is required. For more information, call 255-3898.

LIFEGUARD COURSE

Fort Rucker Aquatics will offer lifeguard courses on various dates now through May. The January course is scheduled for Jan. 25-26. The course is open to patrons ages 15 and up, and costs \$125 for military and Department of Defense ID card holders and \$150 for members of the general public. A prerequisite test must be passed on the first day to enter the course. People may register at the front desk of the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center. The cut-off for registration is three days prior to the course start date. Candidates who take the training program are also eligible for employment with the Fort Rucker Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. For more information on how to apply, call 255-2296.

FAMILY READINESS LIAISON TRAINING

ACS will host its family readiness liaison training Jan. 31 from 8:30 a.m. to noon in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 284. The FRL training is designed to orient and guide liaisons in their roles, responsibilities and operating components of the family readiness system. Pre-registration is required for this event. For registration and more information, call 255-9578 or 255-3161.

RIGHT ARM NIGHT

Leaders, bring your right-hand man or woman out for Fort Rucker Right Arm Night hosted by the 1-13th Aviation Regiment Jan. 31 from 4-6 p.m. at The Landing. Fort Rucker Right Arm Night is an old Army tradition, promoting a night of

camaraderie and esprit de corps as leaders come together and treat those standing to their right – the ones helping them get through daily missions. Complimentary appetizers will be served while supplies last. Fort Rucker Right Arm Night will be held every month. Both military and civilians are invited to attend. It is sponsored by First Command. Sponsorship does not imply Army endorsement. For more information, call 255-0768.

EMPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAM WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend the employment readiness program workshop Feb. 7 from 9-11:30 a.m. at Bldg. 5700. Patrons will meet in Rm. 350 at 8:45 a.m. for paperwork and attendance prior to the session. You'll get the essentials about how to conduct a successful job campaign, to include crafting a winning resume, preparing for job interviews and other helpful tips. Advance registration is required. For more information and to reserve a seat, call 255-2594.

SUNSHINE RIDING STABLES DAY TRIP

MWR Central will host a horseback riding adventure on northwest Florida's lovely trails near Chipley, Florida, Feb. 9. The cost is \$75 per person and includes a two-hour horseback ride. Patrons are encouraged to pack a lunch for a day filled with riding and sightseeing. There is a minimum requirement of 14 people for transportation to be included. For more information or to reserve a spot, call 255-2997 or 255-9517.

FEDERAL JOB WORKSHOP

Interested in working for the federal government? Mystified by the federal hiring

process, or maybe you're just frustrated by your repeated attempts to put together an effective and impactful USAJOBS.gov resume? Then make plans to attend the Federal Job Workshop with ACS Feb. 28 from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 284 with a hands-on breakout session from 1:15-2:15 p.m. This informative and interactive workshop is aimed at getting you the information you need to increase your federal employment possibilities. Participants will receive a free copy of Kathryn Troutman's "Job-seeker's Guide" (7th Edition). Registration is required two days prior to the workshop. Space is limited to the first 60 to register. Open to authorized patrons only. For more information or to register, call 255-2594.

START SMART BASEBALL REGISTRATION

Registration runs Feb. 1-28 for the National Alliance for Youth Sports and Fort Rucker Youth Sports 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 and agility. The program helps prepare children for organized baseball using safe and fun equipment to teach them the basic skills. Open to children ages 3-4 years. Requires 100-percent parent participation. The program will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays for three weeks beginning March 5 from 5-5:45 p.m. at Youth Center Baseball Field 3. Cost is \$25 per participant and includes a T-shirt. A parents meeting is Feb. 28 at 5 p.m. at the youth center gym, Bldg. 2800. People can register at parent central services or through Webtrac. For more information, call 255-9638 or 255-2254.



NEWS IN BRIEF

HOLIDAY GATE CLOSURES

Faulkner and Newton gates will be closed Jan. 21 in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday. They will resume normal operating hours Jan. 22.

RETIREMENT CEREMONY

Fort Rucker will host its quarterly retirement ceremony Jan. 18 at 2 p.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. All are invited to attend and honor the service of Fort Rucker's latest retirees.

SUPPLY INVENTORY

Logistics Readiness Center, Supply Support Activity, Bldg. 1212, will conduct its wall-to-wall Inventory Feb. 11-15. All turn-ins must be in by 2 p.m. Feb. 7. Normal operations will discontinue at 4:15 p.m. Feb. 8. Normal operations are expected to resume

Feb. 19. Customers will be notified by the accountable officer. During this period, the SSA will only accept emergency requisitions.

For more information, call 255-9405.

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.



PHOTO BY KELLY MORRIS

SECARMY VISITS

Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, welcomed Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark T. Esper to Fort Rucker Jan. 15. Esper participated in roundtable discussions with USAACE leaders and students for an update on Aviation accession, retention and training initiatives.

ARMY FLIER

COMMAND

Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler
Fort Rucker Commanding General

Col. Brian E. Walsh
Fort Rucker Garrison Commander

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