

FORT RUCKER CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY. SEE PAGE 3

ARMY FLYER

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

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NASA PHOTO

Astronaut Lt. Col. Anne McClain takes a selfie during a 6 ½-hour spacewalk to upgrade the orbital complex's power storage capacity March 22. McClain, one of five Soldiers in the Army Space and Missile Defense Command's astronaut detachment, is currently on a six-month mission in space. For more, see Page 4.

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Army Aviation welcomes new chief warrant officer of the branch

By Kelly P. Morris

USAACE Public Affairs

Soldiers, family and friends, and members of the Wiregrass community gathered on Fort Rucker to witness a leadership transition from the outgoing to the incoming chief warrant officer of the Aviation Branch during a ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum May 3.

CW5 Jonathan P. Koziol, incoming chief warrant officer of the Aviation branch, formally assumed responsibility from CW5 Joseph B. Roland as a charter was passed from Roland to Koziol by ceremony host Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general.

"Today is a bittersweet day where we say farewell and we honor Joe and Kathy as they depart, and we welcome John and Kyle," Gayler said.

According to Gayler, because Army Aviation is such a technical and diverse branch, experts are needed in many areas. The CWOB is a hand-selected position that is "vital to the branch," he said.

The CWOB serves the senior warrant officer for the branch to advise the branch chief on all matters concerning warrant officers and their families, including warrant officer training, professional development, morale, accessions, retention and other areas impacting readiness.

Gayler said he has been "privileged" to have known Koziol since 2003.

"We have served with them several times in the past and I can tell you there's no other professional that could come in and be as skilled, as balanced, and as humbled to assume the role of chief warrant of the branch as John Koziol. We are blessed to have the

two of you here," Gayler said.

Koziol comes to Fort Rucker from his most recent assignment as Army Aviation Standardization Officer, Headquarters Department of the Army deputy chief of staff, Army G-3/5/7, Washington, D.C.

His previous assignments also include serving with cavalry squadrons in Germany and Korea.

His aircraft qualifications include the OH-58A/C, the UH-1, the AH-1F, the AH-64A, AH-64D, and AH-64E.

Koziol thanked friends and family for attending the ceremony, and he thanked Gayler for the opportunity to serve.

"Major General Gayler, thanks for your trust and confidence to allow Kyle and I to come back to this wonderful Wiregrass community. More importantly, to continue to serve the branch, the greatest warfighting force on this planet. I'm humbled, and I look forward to the opportunity to take my good fortune and pay it forward," he said.

He thanked leaders who served before him, including Roland.

"Joe, you've done a superb job. You set the bar high," Koziol said. "And to the warfighters out there on the flight line, aircrew members manned and unmanned, folks developing the requirements, the dirty jobs that aren't as much fun as flying, creating the doctrine that we'll fight by, I really do thank you."

Koziol said he looks forward to working with the USAACE team.

Gayler also thanked the Rolands for their service to Army Aviation, which "could not be overstated," Gayler said.

"You'll see Joe running around down on the flight line, you'll see him in classrooms, you'll see him TDY visiting Soldiers from our aviation force around the globe, and he's provided mentorship and guidance to thousands



PHOTO BY KELLY MORRIS

CW5 Jonathan P. Koziol, incoming chief warrant officer of the Aviation branch, receives the charter as passed to him from Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, as Koziol formally assumes responsibility from CW5 Joseph B. Roland during a change of charter ceremony in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum May 3.

and thousands not only here but across our formations," Gayler said.

Roland helped redesign the aviation warrant officer advanced course, assisted in the development of the standardization and maintenance standard operating procedures, and has led and played a key role in the risk assessment (risk common operating picture). He provided oversight to warrant officer recruitment and branch awareness, helped redesign aviation instructor pilot courses and was at forefront of the aviation warfighting initiative, Gayler explained.

Gayler said it takes family to keep leaders going, and keep them grounded, and he thanked Roland's wife, Kathy, for her support.

"Joe and Kathy are certainly the epitome of that tremendous Army family," Gayler said.

Roland in his remarks thanked God as "the greatest coach ever," Gayler as the "finest

officer" he has worked with, family, as well as personnel across the installation.

Roland's theme was team, including "teammates, team players, team work," he said.

Going forward, the branch will be in good hands with the Koziols onboard, according to Roland.

"We couldn't have asked for a better team than you and Kyle to come in and take over," Roland said. "You're going to make the team better. Your personality is perfect. You check all the blocks, and the only one that really matters is you care."

He also thanked the Wiregrass community for their support.

"All you have to do is go to a quarterly retirement ceremony to see how many folks retire out of service and retire right here in this community. It's because of the care that you take to make sure Soldiers and their families are taken care of," Roland said.

Lyster celebrates National Nurses Week



PHOTO BY JENNY STRIPLING

Lt. Col. Jimmie J. Tolvert, LAHC commander, along with Lyster nurses Patrisha Twyman, left, and Rebecca Merritt, cut a cake during the National Nurses Week celebration May 6 at the clinic.

By Jenny Stripling
LAHC Public Affairs

Lyster Army Health Clinic honors its nurses May 6-12 during National Nurses Week.

During the week, hospitals and clinics throughout the nation focus attention on the diverse ways America's nurses work to save lives and improve the health of millions of individuals.

Annually, National Nurses Week begins on May 6 and ends on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, founder of nursing as a modern profession.

During the week, nurses at Lyster Army Health Clinic are honored with a cake cutting ceremony, ice cream social, a lunch and learn, and many other fun activities.

"We're very excited to celebrate all of

our hard working and dedicated nurses this week and every week," said Lt. Col. Jimmie J. Tolvert, commander of Lyster Army Health Clinic. "Nurses are the heart and soul of patient care."

Traditionally, National Nurses Week is devoted to highlighting the diverse ways in which nurses, who comprise the largest health care profession, are working to improve health care. From bedside nursing in hospitals and long-term care facilities to the halls of research institutions, state legislatures and Congress, the depth and breadth of the nursing profession is meeting the expanding health care needs of American society.

LAHC nurses are the caregivers, communicators, patient advocates and decision makers. LAHC is proud to recognize its nurses for the quality work they provide seven days a week, 365 days a year.

ARBOR DAY



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

About 20 Fort Rucker youth helped the Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and the Directorate of Public Works celebrate Arbor Day April 26 during a tree planting ceremony near the Center Library. The library staff also hosted a story time session just prior to the tree planting. The children, assisted by DFMWR and DPW officials, planted a Florida maple, a kumquat tree and a tulip tree.



'International Space Station calling...' Army astronaut phones 'home' to Fort Rucker from space

By Kelly P. Morris
USAACE Public Affairs

The Home of Army Aviation had the rare opportunity to link up directly via live video-conference with a senior Army aviator currently serving as a National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronaut onboard the International Space Station May 1.

Lt. Col. Anne C. McClain, a former OH-58D Kiowa Warrior aviator who is currently serving as a NASA flight engineer at the ISS, was selected in 2013 as one of eight members of the 21st NASA astronaut class. She is currently part of the Expedition 58/59 crew, and along with Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko and Canadian astronaut Dr. David Saint-Jacques, she is scheduled to return to Earth in July.

McClain spoke directly with approximately 50 Army Aviation professionals gathered at the Seneff Building here about her current job, and her roots in Army Aviation.

"The best people I've worked with in the Army are sitting in that room right now, and I can't tell you how much I appreciated serving with them and the lessons I learned from them, and if I make you guys proud I've accomplished something," McClain said.

McClain explained that growing up in Army Aviation gave her a backbone. It taught her what true camaraderie is, and what it means to be a leader, all of which have served

her well in her current endeavor.

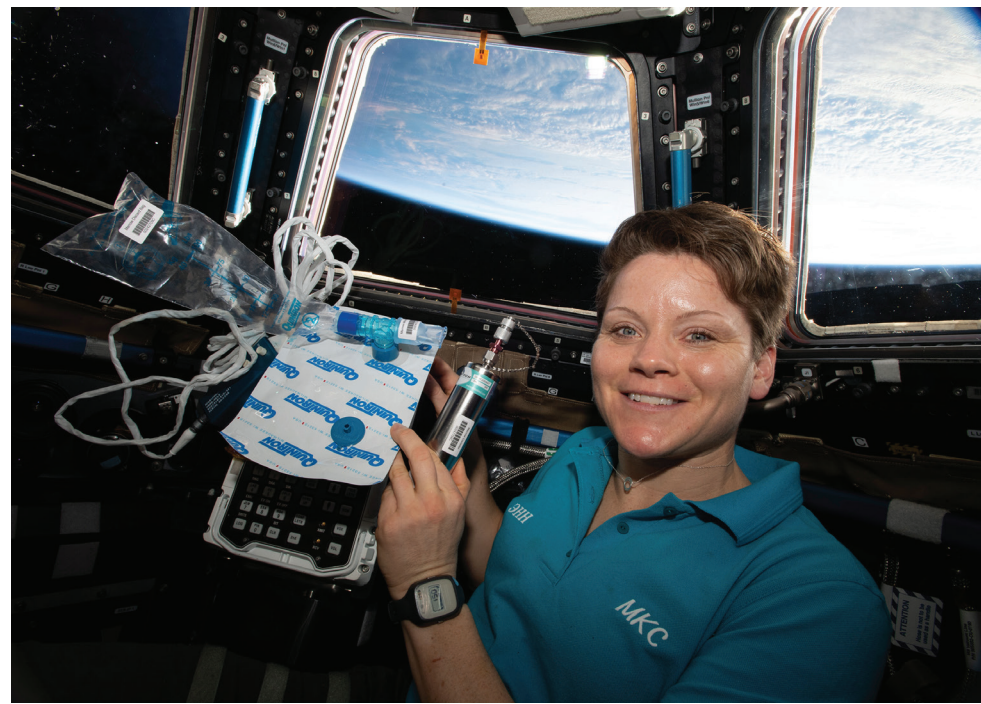
"From Day 1, I've always been judged on my merits and what I brought to the team. And there's a high bar. We joke with each other a lot, but, at the end of the day, we are a tight group and we rely on each other with our lives every day," she said.

The live videoconference with McClain also provided an opportunity for permanent party captains who are considering the experimental test pilot course, as well as Fort Rucker medical professionals and people who previously served under her leadership, to participate in a question-and-answer session with her.

Topics included the similarities between the decision making required on missions as an astronaut and previous missions as an Army aviator; what life is like on the ISS, including preparation for space walks, gravity and how she stays connected to family; and about the monitoring and care of astronauts from a medical and psychological perspective.

According to Brian Jacobson, a Department of the Army civilian with the Combined Arms Division here who coordinated the videoconference, one of the goals for the event was to show support for McClain from the Army Aviation community.

"We thought it would be nice if she got a chance to talk to the people that flew with her



NASA PHOTOS

Astronaut Lt. Col. Anne McClain is pictured in the cupola holding biomedical gear for an experiment that measures fat changes in the bone marrow before and after exposure to microgravity. McClain, one of five Soldiers in the Army Space and Missile Defense Command's astronaut detachment, is currently on a six-month mission in space.

when she was in command (at Fort Rucker) and express to her how much we care about her, and how excited we are that she made it and is doing what she's doing," Jacobson said.

McClain was commissioned as an Army officer in 2002 and immediately attended graduate school. Her studies at the University of Bath focused on the unsteady aerodynamics and flow visualization of free-to-roll non-slender delta wings and her research was later published through the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. She also researched the security burden in developing countries at nearby University of Bristol.

Following graduate school, McClain earned her wings as an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior scout/attack helicopter pilot.

She began her operational flying career

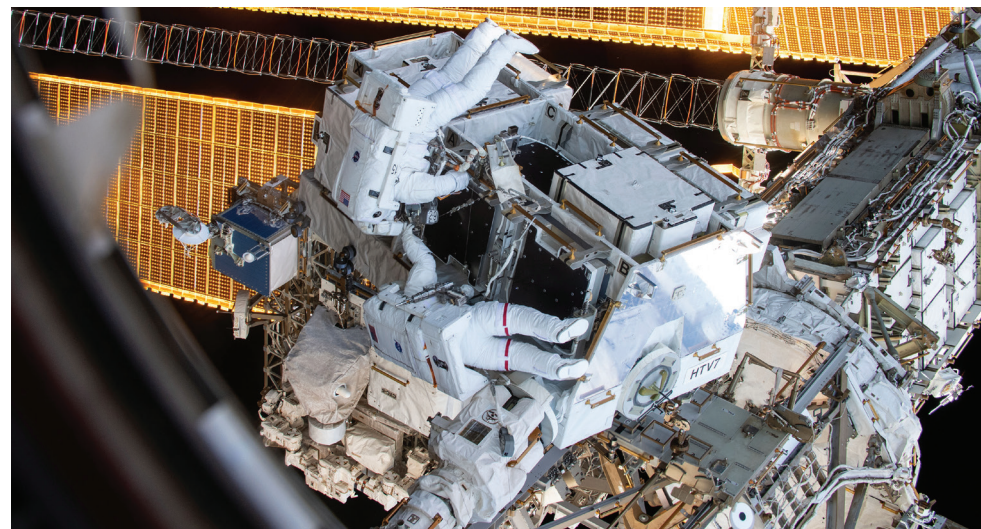
with 2nd Battalion, 6th Cavalry Regiment at Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii, as an air traffic control platoon leader, aviation intermediate maintenance platoon leader, and detachment commander.

She served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, flying more than 800 combat hours on 216 combat missions as pilot-in-command and air mission commander.

McClain was assigned to 1st Battalion, 14th Aviation Regiment at Fort Rucker as the battalion operations officer and OH-58D instructor pilot. She was appointed commander of C Troop, 1st Battalion, 14th Aviation Regiment, responsible for the Army's initial entry training, instructor pilot training, and maintenance test pilot training in the OH-58D.



McClain poses for a photograph with her 4-year-old son before she launched to the ISS in early December.



McClain, wearing the spacesuit with red stripes, and Air Force Col. Nick Hague work to retrieve batteries and adapter plates from an external pallet during a spacewalk to upgrade the ISS' power storage capacity March 22.

ASTRONAUT *cont.*

She completed Command and General Staff College and the C-12 fixed wing multi-engine qualification courses in 2011 and 2012. She then attended the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, graduating in June 2013.

McClain has logged more than 2,000 flight hours in 20 different rotary and fixed-wing aircraft. She is a rated pilot and instructor pilot in the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, and a rated pilot in the UH-60 Black Hawk, UH-72 Lakota and C-12 Huron (King Air). Her awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal with Valor, two Air Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, and numerous other awards and decorations.

Participants said they continue to follow McClain's journey into space in the news and via the Internet and NASA television programming.

"I watch her spacewalks. They are busy, and there's so much going on, with experiments they're doing, and it's just incredible from all aspects, from science to technology,"

Jacobson said.

The opportunity to communicate from Fort Rucker with McClain in orbit aboard the ISS was "a once in a lifetime opportunity," Jacobson added.

Retiree Jim Kalahan, who formerly served with McClain at Fort Rucker and participated in the videoconference, said he was proud of her and her accomplishments.

He described McClain's leadership style as one in which everyone started out on a level playing field.

"Being active duty for 32 years ... I can tell you, hands down, bar none, (she's) the best commander I ever had in my military career," Kalahan said.

Russell W. Kruse, deputy chief for standardization for 110th Aviation Brigade, said he will continue to expect great things from her in the future.

"If there's a NASA Next, she'll be part of it, whether it's the south part of the moon or to Mars," Kruse said.

451 years: 16 Soldiers, 2 civilians retire during quarterly ceremony



Retirees gather for a photograph prior to the April 26 Fort Rucker Quarterly Retirement Ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. Back row: CW5 Lynwood Saville, CW4 Matthew Hertl, Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Joseph, CW4 Michael Becker and CW5 Michael Fiala. Front row: 1st Sgt. David Green, CW3 Betty Gonzalez, Staff Sgt. Denise De La Torre and 1st Sgt. Shlonda Calhoun.

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

With a combined 451 years of service to the nation, 16 Soldiers and two civilians retired from service during the Fort Rucker Quarterly Retirement Ceremony April 26 at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

Col. Brian E. Walsh, Fort Rucker garrison commander, hosted the ceremony with assistance from Command Sgt. Maj. Jasper C. Johnson, garrison command sergeant major.

Short write-ups on each retiree follow.

CW5 MICHAEL C. FIALA

Fiala, B Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment Fixed Wing Branch chief, entered military service in 1987 as an infantryman. He was selected for warrant

officer flight training in 1996. He served multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi Freedom, New Dawn, Enduring Freedom and Resolute Support. He said the highlight of his career was being a standardization instructor pilot with the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization at Fort Rucker. He and his wife, Kristine, have three children. They plan to reside in Enterprise.

CW5 LYNWOOD T. SAVILLE

Saville, director of standardizations for the USAACE DES, entered military service in 1994, going directly to warrant officer flight training. He served multiple combat deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. He said the highlight of his career was the relationships and lifelong friends he made through many adventures and different airframes. He and



PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

Back row: CW2 Timothy Bedsole, CW4 William Henderson, CW3 Jay Hanshaw, CW5 Michael McKinney and CW5 Devin Rich. Front row: CW3 Ryan Brokaw, Sandra Edwards, Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Pinckney and Rick Russell.

his wife, Elizabeth, have three children. They plan to reside in Enterprise.

CW5 DEVIN RICH

Rich, 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group standardization officer, entered military service in 1996 as a cavalry scout. He was selected for warrant officer flight training in 1999. He served multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. He said the highlight of his career was flying the Mi-17 with Afghanistan's special mission pilots in support of counter-terror narcotics operations. He and his wife, Jessica, have three children. They plan to reside in Grand Junction, Colorado.

CW5 MICHAEL T. MCKINNEY

McKinney, 1-212th Avn. Regt. chief of standardization, entered military service in

1996, going directly into warrant officer flight training. He served combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. He said the highlights of his career were working with the best, most highly trained professionals in the world, being involved in shaping the future of Army Aviation while at Fort Rucker and being the first company standardization pilot to field the UH-72 Lakota. He and his wife, Sharron, have one child. They plan to reside in Granbury, Texas.

CW4 MICHAEL J. BECKER

Becker, DES Cargo Branch chief, entered military service in 1994 as a Marine security guard. He was selected for Army warrant officer flight training in 2002. He served multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. He said the highlight of his career was serving alongside

RETIREES *cont.*

the tremendous warriors that protect the nation. Becker and his wife, Nicole, have two children. They plan to reside somewhere in the Midwest.

CW4 WILLIAM M. HENDERSON

Henderson, B Co., 1-13th Avn. Regt. Standardization Utility Branch chief, entered military service in 1999 as a UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief. He was selected for warrant officer flight training in 2001. He served multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. He said the highlight of his career was serving alongside the uniformed men and women of the nation during his combat tours. He and his wife, Lucy, have two children. They plan to reside in Texas.

CW4 MATTHEW H. HERTL

Hertl, USAACE Flight Training Branch training developer and guest instructor pilot, entered military service in 1994 as a transportation officer. He was selected for warrant officer flight training in 2002. He served multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. He said the highlight of his career was being a Stetson trooper and Alpha 3-10 Warangel. He said he plans to continue flying.

CW3 BETTY W. GONZALEZ

Gonzalez, 597th Air Traffic Services Maintenance Detachment materiel manager, entered military service in 1997 as an automated logistical specialist. She was selected for warrant officer supply systems technician training in 2009. She served multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, and Joint Forge. She said the highlight of her career was meeting her husband, Christopher, who has been the pillar of her success in the military. They have two children. They plan to reside in

Enterprise.

CW3 RYAN BROKAW

Brokaw, 71st Military Police Detachment (Criminal Investigation Command) commander, entered military service in 1999 as a counterintelligence agent. He was selected to attend the CID special agent course in 2003, graduating first in his class. He served two combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. He said the highlights of his career were being selected for advanced civilian schooling as a forensic science officer and obtaining his master's degree. He and his wife, Kristen, have three children. They plan to reside in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

CW3 JAY HANSHAW

Hanshaw, 1-212th Avn. Regt. chief of standardization and maintenance examiner, entered military service in 1999 as a UH-60 Black Hawk mechanic and crew chief. He was the Fort Bragg, North Carolina Soldier of the Year in 2002 and later that year the Army Soldier of the Year. After deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and Bosnia, and a tour to South America, he decided to become an Army pilot, and served in multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. He said the highlight of his career was doing his best to make a difference and to help where help was needed – no matter what. He has two children. He plans to reside in Enterprise with his fiancée, Martee.

CW2 TIMOTHY K. BEDSOLE JR.

Bedsole, Warrant Officer Career College training, advising and counseling officer, entered military service in 2001 as a fire directional controller. He was selected for Army Warrant Officer Candidate School as an air traffic airspace management technician in

2010. He served multiple combat tours in support of operations in Afghanistan. He said the highlight of his career was being a training, advising and counseling officer at the WOCC. He and his wife, Jennifer, have six children. They plan to reside in Slocomb.

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. MARVIN A. PINCKNEY

Pinckney, 1-11th Avn. Regt. command sergeant major, entered military service in 1989 and an air traffic control operator. He served multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, and New Dawn. He said the highlight of his career was jumping out of perfectly flying aircraft on purpose. He has two children. He said he plans to hop on his Harley and tour the country.

1ST SGT. SHLONDA N. CALHOUN

Calhoun, logistics NCO in charge at Brooke Arm Medical Center at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, entered military service in 1993 as a medical supply logistician. She has served multiple combat tours in support of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. She said the highlight of her career was taking care of the Army's most precious assets – Soldiers and their families. She plans to reside in Pensacola, Florida.

1ST SGT. DAVID W. GREEN

Green, air traffic control operations chief for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 164th TAOG, entered military service in 1994 as an air traffic controller. He served multiple combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He said the highlight of his career was marrying his beautiful wife, Megan, and having three wonderful children. They plan to reside in New Brockton.

SGT. 1ST CLASS GERALD D. JOSEPH

Joseph, Skelly Stagefield facility chief,

entered military service in 1995 as a Bradley turret mechanic and later became an air traffic controller. He served multiple combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He said the highlight of his career was when he became a born-again believer in his Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. He and his wife, Yolanda, have three children. They plan to reside in Jacksonville, Florida.

STAFF SGT. DENISE M. DE LA TORRE

De La Torre, dental NCO at the Brown Dental Clinic at Fort Rucker, entered military service in 1999 as a dental technician. She said the highlight of her career was being able to serve her country like her father and grandfather did. She and her husband, Jesus plan to reside in Columbus, Georgia.

RICK RUSSELL

Russell, 110th Aviation Brigade chief of academics, retired after 44 years of distinguished service. He served on active duty from 1975 to 2003 in field artillery and aviation. He said the highlights of his career were serving as standards officer at the National Military Command Center, Joint Staff, as well as nuclear code administrator for the president of the United States of America. He and his wife, Katherine, have two children and 2 ½ grandchildren. They plan to reside in Louisiana.

SANDRA R. EDWARDS

Edwards, Logistics Readiness Center accountable officer for the Supply Support Activity, Supply Support Division, retired after 38 years of distinguished service. She said the highlight of her career was receiving a nomination for the woman of the year award and working with many wonderful people throughout the years. She and her husband, Sidney, have several godchildren. They plan to reside in Ozark.

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Meet Rodney Yano

By Katie Lange
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON – Rodney Yano was born on the Big Island of Hawaii nearly two years to the day after the U.S. entered World War II. His grandparents had immigrated to the U.S. from Japan well before that.

According to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, he's one of 33 Asian-Americans to receive the Medal of Honor.

Yano joined the Army in 1961 before graduating from high school. He rose to the rank of staff sergeant and was on his second tour of Vietnam when he became an air crewman with the 11th Air Cavalry Regiment.

On Jan. 1, 1969, Yano was the acting crew chief and one of two door gunners on his company's command-and-control helicopter as it fought an enemy entrenched in the dense Vietnamese jungle near Bien Hao.

The chopper was taking direct fire from below, but Yano managed to use his machine gun to suppress the enemy's assault. He was also able to toss grenades that emitted white phosphorous smoke at their positions so his troop commander could accurately fire artillery at their entrenchments.

Unfortunately, one of those grenades exploded too early, covering Yano in the burning chemical and causing severe burns. Fragments of the grenade also caught supplies in the helicopter on fire, including ammunition, which detonated. White smoke filled the chopper, and the pilots weren't able to see to maintain control of the aircraft. The situation wasn't looking good.

But Yano wasn't ready to go down with



Yano

the ship, as they say. The initial grenade explosion partially blinded him and left him with the use of only one arm, but he jumped into action anyway, kicking and throwing the blazing ammunition from the helicopter until the flaming pieces were gone and the smoke filtered out.

One man on the helicopter was killed, and Yano didn't survive his many injuries. But his courage and concern for his comrades' survival kept the chopper from going down, averting more loss of life.

For that, Yano was posthumously promoted to the rank of sergeant first class. On April 7, 1970, his parents received the Medal of Honor from President Richard Nixon.

In his honor, the cargo carrier USNS Yano was named for him, as well as a helicopter maintenance facility at Fort Rucker, Alabama, and a library at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

ARMY PHOTO



Fort Rucker Soldiers volunteered to go to Troy University to learn the Dragon Dance, a traditional Chinese dance, and then performed it at the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month kickoff event May 3 at the post exchange food court. The event also featured educational materials, other dancers, music numbers and a free food tasting. (Photos by Jim Hughes)



GI BILL

July deadline to transfer benefits

By **Devon L. Suits**

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Soldiers with over 16 years of service who want to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill to a dependent must do so before July 12, or risk losing the ability to transfer education benefits.

Last year, the Department of Defense implemented a new Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Education Benefits eligibility requirement, which instituted a “six- to 16-year cutoff rule,” said Master Sgt. Gerardo T. Godinez, retention operations NCO with Army G-1.

Further, Soldiers who want to transfer their education entitlement must have at least six years of service, he said. All Soldiers must commit to an additional four years of service to transfer their GI Bill.

However, Soldiers who are currently going through the medical evaluation board process cannot transfer GI Bill benefits un-

til they are found fit for duty under the new DOD policy.

“For Purple Heart recipients, [all] these rules do not apply,” Godinez said.

Prior to the new policy, there were no restrictions on when a Soldier could transfer their education benefits.

Since 2009, over 1 million Soldiers have transferred their GI Bill benefits, Godinez said.

“To transfer their GI Bill, Soldiers have to go into milConnect website, login with their common access card, then select the ‘transfer my education benefits’ tab,” Godinez said.

If a Soldier needs additional help, they can visit their installation’s education counselor or servicing career counselor. In July, the new rules will be in effect and those Soldiers with more than 16 years of service will not be eligible to transfer education benefits.

“Soldiers need to [review this benefit] to make an educated decision,” he said.



PHOTO BY PAT MOLNAR



NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Right: Shelia Jackson and her son, Patrick Jackson, perform a rendition of ‘Amazing Grace’ at the National Prayer Breakfast May 2 at The Landing on Fort Rucker. They were accompanied on keyboard by Willie Williams.

Below: Retired Chaplain (Col.) Alvin M. ‘Sonny’ Moore III speaks to a packed house at the National Prayer Breakfast at The Landing May 2. The event featured prayers for the nation, the military and Fort Rucker; music; Moore as keynote speaker; and, of course, breakfast.

PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES



FROM DFMWR



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

FLYING DISC DOUBLES

Grab a friend and register for the Fort Rucker Flying Disc Doubles happening May 11. Divisions include: advanced doubles, intermediate doubles, recreational doubles and coed doubles. A minimum of four teams must be signed up for a division to be played. Pre-registration fee is \$70 per team. Day of registration fee is \$90 per team. Free registration is available for active-duty Soldiers, but does not include a players pack. People can pre-register at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center. Players competing for Commander's Cup points must play for their company or battalion team. Prodigy Players Pack includes a mini, premium stamped disc, and a regular disc. Awards will be given following the event. The event is open to the public for ages 18 and older.

For more information or to register, call 255-2296. People can also register online with Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fort-rucker-flying-disc-doubles-tournament-tickets-58317693792>.

TWO-MAN BUDDY BASS TOURNAMENT

Fort Rucker Outdoor Recreation will host its Two-Man Buddy Bass Tournament May 11 from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Entry fee is \$100 per two-man team – there are only 25 slots available. The Top 3 weigh-in totals will receive a cash prize. There will be a cash prize for biggest fish and also door prize giveaways. Participants must have an Alabama State Fishing License, Fort Rucker Post Fishing Permit, and Fort Rucker Boater Safety Completion Card. This event is open to the public. People can register at ODR or MWR Central. For more information, call ODR at 255-4305 or MWR Central at

255-2997.

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

The Landing will host its Mother's Day Brunch May 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Reservations are not required, but are highly encouraged. To make reservations or for more information, call The Landing at 255-0769. Pricing: adults, \$18.95; ages 6-12, \$8.95; ages 3-5, \$4.95; ages 2 and younger eat for free; and the Military Family Special for two adults and up to two children, \$49.

OZARK BUS TOUR

MWR Central will host a free day trip to Ozark May 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Participants will visit downtown Ozark, complete with photo opportunities, shopping, Ed Lisenby Lake and the Rudd Art Center. The tour will also include valuable information for newcomers on schools, city government and recreational opportunities; and a complimentary lunch at the historic The Holman House. Pre-registration is required to participate. Free childcare is available for registered child and youth services patrons – register your children at the child development center by calling 255-2262 at least 24 hours prior to the tour. Seats are limited. To sign up, call 255-2997.

FINANCIAL READINESS LUNCH & LEARN

Army Community Service will present a Financial Readiness Lunch & Learn for Soldiers and their spouses May 14 at the Center Library starting at noon. This event will give you the information you need to make the most of your money, prepare for savings or investments, or manage your credit and debt. The event is open to Soldiers and their family members.

Attendees are welcome to bring their lunch. For more information or to register, call 255-3885.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CEREMONY

ACS will host the second quarter volunteer recognition ceremony May 15 from 10-11 a.m. at The Landing. Volunteers will be recognized and celebrated for their outstanding work in the Fort Rucker community. For more information, call 255-3161 or 255-9888.

SPIN AND FITNESS CHALLENGE

As part of the Army STRONG B.A.N.D.S. program, the Fortenberry-Colton PFC will host a two-hour fitness challenge May 16 starting at 5:30 p.m. The event is open to all authorized PFC patrons for \$3.50, or people can use their class cards. There will be door prizes and refreshments at each challenge. For more information, call 255-3794.

FEDERAL JOB WORKSHOP

If you're interested in working for the federal government, but you're mystified by the federal hiring process, or maybe just frustrated by your repeated attempts to put together an effective and impactful USAJOBS.gov resume, then make plans to attend ACS' federal job workshop May 16 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. The workshop is aimed at getting you the information you need to increase your federal employment possibilities. Participants will receive a free copy of Kathryn Troutman's "Jobseeker's Guide" (7th Edition). Registration is required two days prior to the workshop. Space is limited

to the first 60 to register and is open to authorized patrons only. For more information or to register, call 255-2594.

THE GREATEST GIFT

Children require a lot of supervision and care, which demands a lot of you, the caregiver. The Fort Rucker New Parent Support Program will host the second part of its two-part class, The Greatest Gift, May 16 at 10 a.m. at the Center Library. Learn how to care for yourself while still caring for your family. Find out what causes stress and different ways to manage it. Pre-registration is required by May 12. The event is open to all authorized patrons. For more information, call 255-9647 or 255-3359.

CAREER BUILDING WORKSHOP

The Fort Rucker Youth Center will host a career building workshop May 16 from 4-5 p.m. The workshop is designed to be interactive, motivating and fun. Applying the skills you learn in the workshop will help you to find a job, pursue your education goals or even start a business.

Attendees will also have an increased confidence in their ability to be successful with their career goals, according to youth center officials. The workshop will cover good customer service, how to be a valued employee, appropriate work behavior and how to handle workplace challenges. Those who are looking for work, wanting to enroll in school or trying to make money this summer by having their own small business will benefit from learning these concepts. For more information, call 255-2271 or 255-2260.



NOVOSEL ST., BLDG. 113
(334) 255-0768

Hours of Operation:

Monday–Friday

Lunch:

11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Dinner:

5 p.m.–9 p.m.

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If you don't have time to dine in with us, please take advantage of our pick-up orders. Just give us a call to place your order.



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WWII EVENT: BATTLE OF MIDWAY

The Center Library will host its May WWII event titled "Battle of Midway," May 16 at noon in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. The free event will be led by CW5 Chris Braund. The event is open to the public. For more information, call 255-3885.

YOUTH TALENT SHOW

The Fort Rucker Youth Center will host a talent show May 17 at 5 p.m. Youth in grades 6-12 or ages 11-18 are invited to take part or attend. The event is open to the public. For more information, call 255-2260 or 255-2271.

NEWCOMERS WELCOME

ACS will host its next newcomers welcome May 17 from 9-11:30 a.m. at The Landing. Active-duty military, spouses, foreign students, Army civilians and family members are all encouraged to attend this informative event. A free light breakfast and coffee will be served. For free childcare, register children at the CDC by calling 255-3564. Reservations must be made 24 hours prior to the newcomers welcome. For more information, call 255-3735.

5K AND DUATHLON

The Fort Rucker Resiliency 5k and Duathlon in Remembrance of Fallen Heroes is scheduled for May 18 at 8 a.m. at Lake Tholocco. The free event offers activities for the entire family while honoring the nation's fallen heroes. Participants can run or walk, or just stop by to visit the numerous resiliency fair booths. The event promotes resiliency within the Fort Rucker community and will showcase information to improve physical, mental, spiritual and social wellbeing. The event is open to the public, and is stroller and leashed pet friendly. For more information, call 255-2296. People can pre-register at either the Fortenberry-Colton

PFC or MWR Central.

PARENT DATE NIGHT

Fort Rucker parents are welcome to make plans now to drop their children off for Parent Date Night May 17 from 6-10 p.m. at the school age center and CDC.

Register your children at either the school age center or the CDC, as both will be offering the Parent Date Night.

Must be prepaid and registered at the attending facility – no refunds. Cost is \$25 for the first child and \$20 for each additional child (in the same immediate family). For more information and to make a reservation, call the school age center at 255-9108

or the CDC at 255-2262.

RESILIENCY AND FALLEN HEROES DAY AT THE LAKE

As part of the Army STRONG B.A.N.D.S. program, ODR will host the Fort Rucker Day at the Lake May 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event serves as the opening of the West Beach swim season and features free swimming, inflatables for children, and use of the canoes, kayaks and paddle boats. Food and beverages will be available for purchase with credit or debit cards. Pets and glass containers are prohibited on the beach. The event is open to the public. For more information, call 255-4305.

**Breakfast served ALL DAY
Saturday, Sunday and Holidays**



DIVOTS
RESTAURANT & GRILLE

Housing executives, Army leaders discuss plan of action

By Kimberly Hanson
Army News Service

REDSTONE ARSENAL – Three major actions must happen to course correct the state of Army housing, said the four-star General Officer responsible for Installation Management during a forum with the presidents of the Residential Community Initiative companies, April 26.

During an RCI CEO roundtable at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, to address widespread reports of deficient housing conditions, Army Materiel Command Commander Gen. Gus Perna told the seven executives responsible for privatized housing across the Army to maintain focus on Soldiers and families through the phases.

“The bottom line is that we must win back the trust of our residents,” Perna said. “It is about action, not words.”

First, the current focus and response to the issues must continue, including timely completion of work orders, proper quality control measures to ensure standards are met, quarterly town halls to keep residents informed and additional oversight and involvement by garrison commanders, said Perna.

“The metric is not about quantity – how many work orders are completed or how much we have done,” he said. “It is about quality and our response to the very real and serious issues being reported. Our Soldiers and families need to know we are taking care of them.”

Second, the Army and the partners must improve communication and rebuild confidence with Soldiers and families. Educating residents on the resources available to them is critical, said Perna.

In addition to Army hotlines established at each installation to report housing issues,



PHOTO BY DAWN ARDEN

Army leaders ask a military family to respond to a survey as part of an Army-wide effort to resolve inadequate housing on installations.

each RCI partner has developed a mobile app intended to improve communication flow. Training for Army leaders who manage installations is also now a requirement.

“Previously, many garrison commanders didn’t see RCI oversight as one of their key responsibilities,” said Lt. Gen. Brad Becker, commander of Installation Management Command.

IMCOM has since instituted a 90-minute block of training for all incoming garrison commanders, and rolled out training for all current garrison commanders, focused on their housing responsibilities, Becker said.

IMCOM is also focused on educating residents about the resources available to them within the Army housing offices on each installation, Becker said, which many families don’t realize are unaffiliated with the RCI

housing offices. Army housing offices exist to support all military families, and can be advocates or support to those who are having issues in their homes.

Third, long-term planning to prevent a reoccurrence and maintain momentum is critical, said Perna. To this end, discussion topics ranged from 5-year development plans to improvements in the move-in and move-out process ahead of the summer surge.

A common theme across the table was that success will require a strong partnership between the Army and RCI leaders.

“Both of us need to be held accountable to our roles and responsibilities,” Perna said.

The forum was the first in what will become a regular meeting between Perna and the housing partner executives.

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE

FOR MAY 10 - 30

Friday, May 10
Us (R) 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 11
Little (PG-13) 4 p.m.
Us (R) 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 12
Wonder Park (PG) 1 p.m.
Little (PG-13) 4 p.m.

Thursday, May 16
Dragged Across Concrete (R) 7 p.m.

Friday, May 17
Pet Sematary (R) 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 18
Dumbo (PG) 4 p.m.
The Best of Enemies (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 19
Dumbo (PG) 1 p.m.
Shazam! (PG-13) 4 p.m.

Thursday, May 23
Pet Sematary (R) 7 p.m.

Friday, May 24
Aladdin (PG) 4 & 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 25
Aladdin (PG) 4 & 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 26
Aladdin (PG) 1 & 4 p.m.

Thursday, May 30
Aladdin (PG) 7 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.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ROAD RESURFACING

Road crews are resurfacing the section of Andrews Avenue between the Enterprise Gate and the entrance to Lyster Army Health Clinic. People using the Enterprise Gate should expect traffic delays along this route daily from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fort Rucker officials recommend using the Daleville and Faulkner gates as alternatives whenever possible while work is under way. Traffic will be reduced to one lane and drivers are urged to exercise caution as flagmen will be directing traffic. Work is expected to continue into the summer months.

AUDIE MURPHY ASSOCIATION INDUCTION

The Fort Rucker Sergeant Audie Murphy Association will host an induction ceremony May 20 at 10 a.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. All are welcome to attend to honor the newest inductees.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

The 1st Battalion, 212th Aviation Regiment will host a change of command ceremony May 17 at 8:30 a.m. at Howze Field.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Fort Rucker will host its Memorial Day Ceremony May 24 at 8:30 a.m. at Veterans Park to pay tribute to the men and women who gave their lives in defense of the nation.

AER CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Army Emergency Relief Awareness Campaign continues through May 15. AER is a private, non-profit organization incorporated in 1942 by the Secretary of War and the Army Chief of Staff. AER's mission is to provide emergency financial assistance to Soldiers and their Families. To donate to

AER and contribute to those in need in the Fort Rucker community, visit <https://www.aerhq.org/Donate/Donate-Now> for online donations or see the Fort Rucker AER officer in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 350.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Fort Rucker Religious Education Center will host its annual vacation Bible school June 10-13 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Spiritual Life Center, Bldg. 8939 on Red Cloud Road. The theme is "Emmanuel God With Us." The event will feature Bible lessons, crafts, music, recreation, snacks and daily celebrations. The children will focus on learning about the Bible and also develop friends within the chapel while having a great time, according to chaplaincy officials. For more information, call 255-3946 or 255-2989.

THRIFT SHOP

The Fort Rucker Thrift Shop is open Wednesdays-Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The thrift shop needs people's unwanted items. People can drop off donations at any time in the shed behind the shop (former Armed Forces Bank building) located in front of the theater next door to the bowling alley. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information, call 255-9595.

SIREN TEST

The Installation Operations Center conducts a test of the emergency mass notification system the first Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. At that time people will hear the siren over the giant voice. No actions are required.

ARMY FLIER

COMMAND

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

Col. Brian E. Walsh
Fort Rucker Garrison Commander

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The PAO staff reserves the right to edit submissions selected for publication. For more information about the "Army Flier," call (334) 255-1239.

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