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ARMY FLYER

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

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MARCH 8, 2018

SOLDIERS HELPING SOLDIERS

Post kicks off AER fundraising campaign

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Army Emergency Relief kicked off its 2018 campaign season with a ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Tuesday with one goal in mind – Soldiers helping Soldiers.

Last year’s campaign raised more than \$136,000 on Fort Rucker alone, but Fort Rucker leadership hopes to surpass that number this year to be able to provide more help for Soldiers and families in financial need, according to Beth Gunter, Army Community Service financial counselor and AER officer.

“This has always been special for our Army,” said Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding gener-

al. “Back in 1942 when AER was founded, people saw the need for Soldiers to help Soldiers through financial hardship.

“Since then, \$1.8 billion has been paid out, and that’s pretty staggering,” said the general. “It’s even more staggering because recently we’ve paid out more and more and more, and that is a good thing, and that’s a good thing because that means the word is getting out on what AER is and how good it is for our Army, families and retirees.”

During the ceremony, members of the Fort Rucker command group and brigade combat teams came forward to be the first to sign contribution forms to contribute to this campaign season and show their commitment to the program.

On average, AER provides

more than \$61 million to over 40,000 Soldiers and families annually. On Fort Rucker, more than \$551,861 of assistance was provided to Fort Rucker Soldiers, retirees, family members, and surviving spouses and orphans – \$236,499 of which was provided as grants and scholarships, Gunter said.

“AER is a program for Soldiers by Soldiers, and it is this mechanism that allows Soldiers to take care of their own,” said Maj. Carl E. Warren, AER campaign coordinator. “It’s an invaluable tool for leadership at all levels that helps accomplish one of their most basic command responsibilities – attending to the morale and welfare of their Soldiers.”

Some of that help can come



AER GRAPHIC

SEE AER, PAGE A7



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Members of the Coffee County Sheriff’s Department apprehend the suspect during an active shooter exercise at Lucas Stagefield Feb. 28.

Fort Rucker, local law enforcement conduct active shooter exercise

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The threat of an active shooter is a haunting reality across the country and units on Fort Rucker want to make sure they are ready for any threat that might come their way.

The 1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment, conducted one of its semi-annual exercises at Lucas Stagefield Feb. 28 to provide Soldiers and civilians real-world training on procedures to deal with an active shooter, as well as test communications channels when working with outside agencies, according to Maj. Lucas Crabtree, 1-11th Avn. Regt. operations officer.

“We have 14 remote stagefields, and having 14 stagefields we have to learn who is going to support us in the case of an incident,” said Crabtree. “Many of these stagefields are very remote ... so we have to know who we’re going to be working with in those areas outside of the military police because their response time is going to be a little bit lengthened coming from (Fort Rucker) to those stage fields.”

During the exercise scenario, an active shooter gained access to Lucas Stagefield, endangering the Soldiers within the towers and those working on the premises, said the operations officer. Since the stagefield is located some distance from the installation, the first responders on the scene will be outside

agencies – in this case the Coffee County Sheriff’s Department.

Since Fort Rucker military police will not be the first on the scene, it’s imperative that Fort Rucker and outside agencies will be on the same page when dealing with a threat, added Marcel Dumais, Fort Rucker community police chief.

“It always helps when we do (these exercises) to help build the team, meaning that we’re comfortable with their procedures and they’re comfortable with our procedures,” said Dumais. “Working with them and understanding how they do things helps us when it comes time to getting the scene turned back over to us, as far as protecting the crime scene, evidence processing, working with CID and the FBI – all of that.

“(Coffee County) may be the first responding units out there and they may be the ones dealing with the threat,” said the police chief, “but at some point it’s going to get turned back over to us because the stagefield does belong to Fort Rucker.”

When the transition happens, all agencies need to be able to communicate with each other on the situation so that there is no confusion. Furthermore, communication must be clear during the scenario, as well, to ensure that the active shooter doesn’t have an upper

SEE EXERCISE, PAGE A7

Dual-Army couple: ‘Army takes care of people’

By Kelly P. Morris
USACE Public Affairs

When she grows up, Brinley Valle may not remember the day her parents, 2Lt. Brandie Valle and 1Lt. Brandon Valle, graduated from flight school at Fort Rucker.

She’ll forget strolling hand-in-hand with them past the aircraft on display in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum, the events of the ceremony from the chaplain’s prayer to the Army song, or even the big moment her parents pinned each other’s Aviation wings during the Initial Entry Rotary Wing graduation ceremony here Feb. 28.

She’s too little now to understand other things too, like the enormous juggling act of raising a child while both parents take turns pulling all-nighters to study; or the magnitude of her parents’ service to their country. To Brinley, the dual-Army Aviation couple



PHOTO BY KELLY MORRIS

1Lt. Brandon Valle and 2Lt. Brandie Valle share a family moment with their daughter Brinley immediately after both Soldiers earned their Aviator wings at the Initial Entry Rotary Wing graduation ceremony in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Feb. 28.

are Mom and Dad, and what matters to her is they were together as a family.

But years from now the photographs will

SEE COUPLE, PAGE A6

STORY CONTINUES

YO-3A builds on silent flight began by QT-2 program

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Before the advent of unmanned aircraft systems, pilots were the literal eyes and ears in the skies to provide valuable intelligence that would shift the course of many conflicts throughout the world.

One of the most successful tools for surveillance and observation was the Lockheed Missiles and Space Company YO-3A aircraft, which was a surveillance aircraft designed to fly silently over the skies of Vietnam, and was one of the first to employ state-of-the-art technologies that paved the way for modern-day surveillance, according to Bob Barlow, U.S. Army Aviation Museum volunteer and former Aviator.

“The (YO-3A) was a follow-on to the QT-2 program – since it was so successful – to build a more capable silent aircraft that would carry better sensors, have better range and provide better visibility for the



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

A YO-3A aircraft sits in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum’s inventory in storage. The aircraft featured a 57-foot wingspan, and surveillance technology ahead of its time and still in use today.

crew,” said Barlow.

The Army was the designated agency to develop the YO-3, with potential operators from all branches of service. The development was initiated in 1968 with the first test flight in December of that year.

Unlike the QT-2, the YO-3A sported more advanced features, including a front-mounted engine with a 210-horsepower rated Continental IO-300 reciprocating engine; a night vision aerial periscope with infrared illuminating spotlight; the first-ever airborne laser target illuminator in a production aircraft; and a gimbal-mounted, six-inch double viewing prism – the largest ever made at the time – that was capable of viewing a full 360 degrees, as well as 90 degrees up and 105 degrees down.

The first aircraft started out with a six-blade propeller system, but it was soon discovered that in the heat and humidity of Vietnam, the aircraft didn’t have very good takeoff performance because the propeller system didn’t have enough authority to “bite the air,” said Barlow.

“So, they went to a three-bladed prop with a very broad blade, and that gave them better take-off performance,” he said. “Before the three-bladed propeller, the aircraft had to roll almost a mile to get into the air and the three-bladed prop cut that distance about in half.”

One thing the YO-3A did share with its predecessor was the long wingspan – about

SEE FLIGHT, PAGE A7

PERSPECTIVE

Benefits could aid Soldiers with student debt

By **Capt. Paul Ferguson**
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
Legal Assistance Attorney

Service members may qualify for a number of benefits related to student debt, but some effort is required to take full advantage of these benefits. Here are a few options that might make paying back your loans less of a burden.

- **Lower the interest rate for all your loans.** If you are serving on active duty, you're eligible to have your interest rate lowered to six percent on all student loans (both federal and private) that were taken out before your active duty service began. You can submit your request up to 180 days after leaving active duty and the lower interest rates will be applied retroactively for the entire period of your active duty service. In order to take advantage of this benefit, you should inform your student loan servicers that you'd like to lower your interest rate under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. Your servicer will likely need a written request and a copy of your orders to take advantage of this benefit.

- **Manage your federal student loans.** You may be eligible to lower your monthly payments for federal student loan debt today and may also qualify for Public Service Loan Forgiveness after 120 qualifying monthly payments (10 years).

To qualify for these benefits, you must have a qualifying loan. Only federal Direct Loans are qualifying loans for PSLF. You can learn more about your loans at nslds.ed.gov.

Here are a few benefits to consider once you determine that you have a qualifying loan:

- » **Enroll in a qualifying payment plan** — Income- Based Repayment can be the best payment plan for many borrowers. IBR sets a low monthly payment based on your income, allowing you to make progress toward 120 on-time qualifying payments and loan forgiveness. To get started, enroll online studentloans.gov or contact your student loan servicer.
- » **Certify that you work for a qualified**

public service employer — Contact your student loan servicer to get the Employment Certification for PSLF form to qualify for loan forgiveness. You'll need your employer to complete and sign the form.

- » **If you have newer loans, you may be able to lower your monthly payment even further** — Pay As You Earn is a different payment plan that offers lower monthly payments than IBR. Eligible borrowers must have at least one new loan made after Oct. 1, 2011, and have no federal loans from before Oct. 1, 2007. Learn more at studentloans.gov.

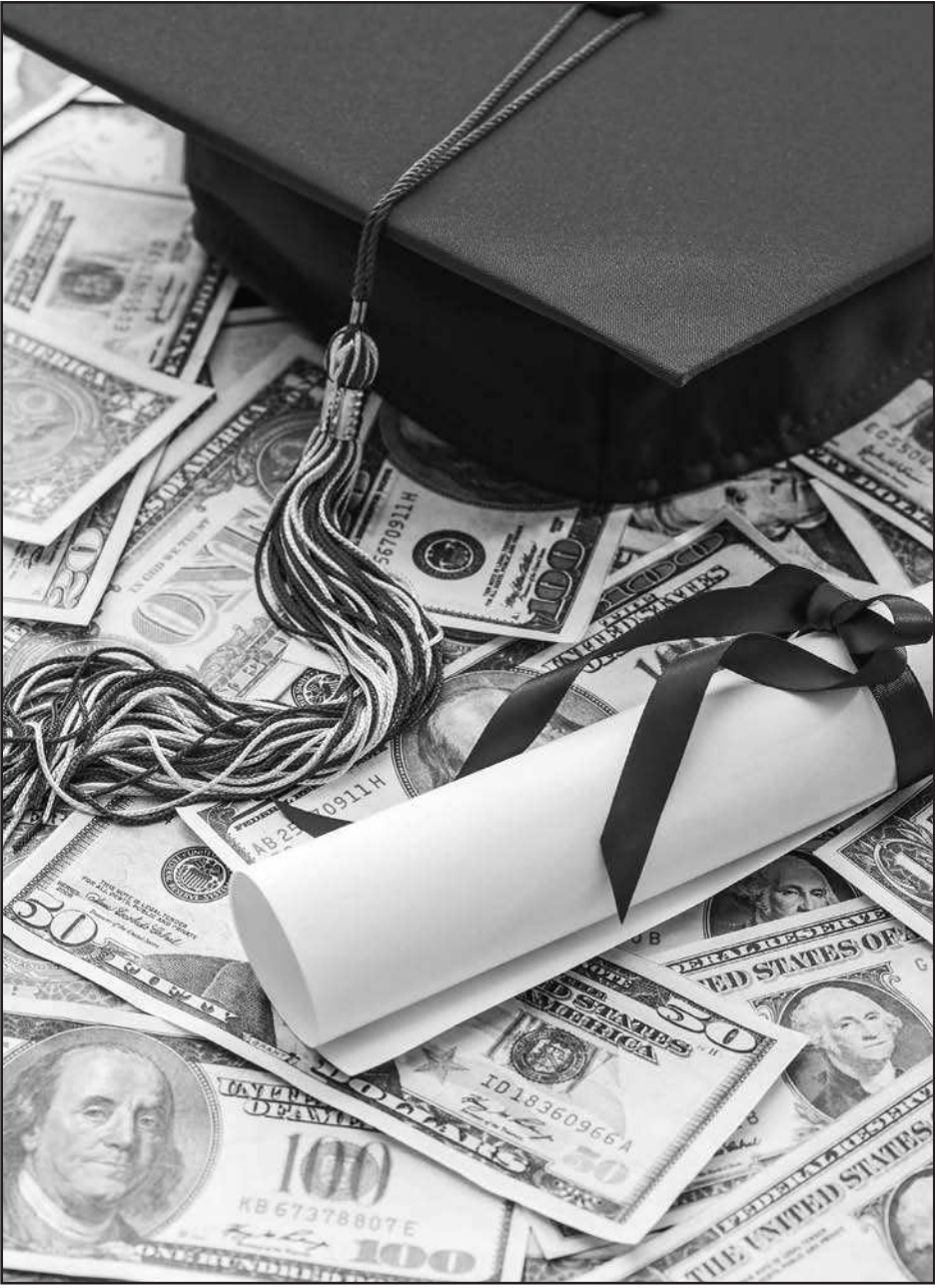
- **Ask your servicer about other options for your federal loans**

Reduce your interest rate to zero — While you are serving in an "area of hostility" that qualifies you for special combat pay, you may not have to pay interest on Direct Loans made on or after October 1, 2008, for up to 60 months.

- » **Cancel your Perkins Loans** — Perkins Loan borrowers serving in an area of hostility for more than 365 days may be eligible to have their loan balance reduced for each qualifying year of service. Contact your servicer to apply.
- » **Be wary of military deferment** — Military deferment may be available for some service members if you're on active duty or in the National Guard during certain qualifying times. But be aware, if you have an unsubsidized loan, the unpaid interest will cause your total debt to grow.

- **Manage your private student loans.** If you're having trouble making ends meet and you're serving on active duty, you may be eligible to postpone private student loan payments through deferment or forbearance options. Be aware that while the terms of alternative payment plans will vary, the interest on your loans will continue to grow even after you stop making payments.

You should consider your options. For most service members, it's better to pay your private student loans if you can. If



COURTESY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

you can't afford to repay your loans while you're on active duty, ask your servicer about interest-only payments instead of deferment or forbearance. This will stop your loans from growing and may still provide you with some short-term relief.

- **Need help with a student loan issue?** If you have issues with your loan servicer or debt collector, you can file a complaint with the Consumer Financial Protection

Bureau. Once filed, the CFPB will forward your complaint to the company and work to get a response from them. To learn more or to file a complaint, visit cfpb.gov/complaint or call 855-411-CFPB (2372).

For those who qualify for legal services, you may also seek help by contacting the Fort Rucker Judge Advocate General's Corps Legal Assistance Office by calling 255-3482.

Rotor Wash

“The 2018 Army Emergency Relief campaign season kicked off Tuesday. Why is it important to provide programs and assistance to Soldiers and families in need?”



Leslie Mingus,
retired military

“AER has been in existence for years for when a Soldier has an emergency and can't afford to fly home for a funeral or other crisis. Unlike some other programs, 100 percent of the funds go directly into helping those who serve this country so well.”



Hayden Mathews,
civilian

“Emergency situations and financial tragedies can happen to anyone at any time. Programs like AER are important to maintain our commitment to our Soldiers. It's important to help the people who maintain the liberties and rights of the American people.”



Sarah Genzer,
civilian

“The Soldiers put their time and life on the line day after day, and enlist with the knowledge that their safety is not guaranteed. It's a no brainer to have programs like AER to help when Soldiers need assistance.”



Carl Johnson,
veteran

“Anyone can get into trouble at any time, and sometimes Soldiers need help from within. Giving Soldiers and families a lifeline from within the Army is just another way the Army takes care of their own.”



Jordan Baskins,
civilian

“It seems like common sense to make sure Soldiers can be taken care of when it comes to something as trivial as financial assistance. They're the ones making sacrifices for our freedoms, so it's important to make sure they are well off in their times of need.”

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If you would like to contact the Army Flier by e-mail, please contact the editor at jhughes@armyflieger.com.

Aircraft carrier makes Vietnam port call

By **Jim Garamone**
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — The USS Carl Vinson arrived in Danang, Vietnam, Monday, becoming the first aircraft carrier to dock in the country since the Vietnam War ended in 1975.

The guided missile cruiser USS Lake Champlain and destroyer USS Wayne E. Meyer are also making the port call.

The Vietnamese port was also the site of the first arrival of U.S. combat troops, when Marines landed there in 1965.

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP

The three American ships with about 6,500 sailors and Marines aboard are conducting a port visit that demonstrates how far U.S.-Vietnamese relations have progressed. Vietnamese leaders agreed to the four-day port call during President Donald J. Trump’s visit to the country last year.

“This visit marks a significant milestone in our bilateral relations and demonstrates the U.S. support for a strong, prosperous and independent Vietnam,” Defense Department spokesman Army Col. Robert Manning III told Pentagon

reporters this morning. “The visit also builds on the positive momentum of the comprehensive partnership between the U.S. and Vietnam, and will not only serve to strengthen the bilateral defense relationship, but will also help enhance cultural and professional ties.”

The Sailors and Marines will participate in cultural exchanges with their Vietnamese counterparts, and some personnel will visit a center for victims of Agent Orange – a defoliant that American planes sprayed on the jungle to remove cover.

“Our nations’ relationship has reached new heights in the past few years, and USS Carl Vinson’s port visit to Vietnam is a reflection of that,” said Navy Adm. Scott Swift, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. “I am confident that engagements like this will further expand the comprehensive partnership between the United States and Vietnam.”

COMMITMENT TO PROSPERITY, SECURITY

The port call and U.S. operations in the South China Sea are routine, Manning said. “They demonstrate our commitment to regional prosperity and stability.”



PHOTO BY NAVY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS DEVIN M. MONROE

The aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson arrives in Danang, Vietnam, for a scheduled port visit, Monday. The Carl Vinson Strike Group is in the western Pacific as part of a regularly scheduled deployment.

The United States and Vietnam normalized relations in 1995. The first port visit to Vietnam following the war was by the cruiser USS Vandergrift in November 2003, which docked at Ho Chi Minh City on the Saigon River. In June 2012, then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta visited the USNS Richard C. Byrd in Cam Ranh Bay – the logistics hub of U.S. forces during the Vietnam War.

In October 2016, two U.S. ships – the submarine tender USS Frank Cable and destroyer USS John S. McCain – also visited Cam Ranh Bay.

The South China Sea is off the coast of Vietnam and that body of water sees \$5 trillion in cargo pass through each year. A number of nations have competing territorial claims in the South China Sea region. Vietnam, China, Indonesia,

the Philippines, Brunei, Thailand and Singapore have disputes in the area.

China has been aggressive in asserting claims in the South China Sea area, and has built islands on reefs and militarized those facilities.

The United States takes no sides in the disputes, but insists that freedom of navigation for all is maintained.

Admiral highlights SOUTHCOM’s strengthened partnerships

By **Lisa Ferdinando**
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON – U.S. Southern Command is strengthening interagency cooperation as well as partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean to address evolving security threats, Navy Adm. Kurt W. Tidd, the commander of U.S. Southern Command, said at the Pentagon Monday.

“Drug traffickers, human smugglers, terrorist supporters, arms dealers and money launderers are not new to this region, but they operate in new and surprising ways, compared to years past,” Tidd told reporters in a press briefing.

New approaches are needed in dealing with these threats, he said, as “relying solely on what worked in decades past to find and disrupt them is not enough.”

The criminal and extremist elements are well-financed and are increasingly sophisticated and adaptive, he said. They are leveraging all means available to move “lethal narcotics, people, weapons and dirty money into and out of Latin America and the U.S. homeland,” he said.

“Extremist networks like [the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria] reach deep into our hemisphere, inspire would-be terrorists to conduct attacks in the region or to attempt entry into the United States to do our citizens harm,” he said.



PHOTO BY NAVY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS BILL DODGE

Sailors assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 1 and Peruvian special forces conduct a shock wave generator training exercise during UNITAS 2017, San Lorenzo Island, Peru, July 20.

Tidd expressed concern about the influence of China, Russia and Iran in the region, saying those three countries seek “footholds in our hemisphere,” but do not share the same values as the Western Hemisphere in regards to freedoms and democratic ideals.

“Those freedoms and principles are what unite us,” he said, adding the United States is “watchful” for attempts to erode those shared principles, threaten U.S. interests or undermine U.S. partnerships within the region.

“These shared concerns are driving our efforts to continue building a network of capable partners across the Defense Department, the federal government, the Western Hemisphere, and ultimately the international community,” the admiral said.

SOUTHCOM is working with U.S. federal partners to identify ways to unify a response to the deadly opioid crisis in the United States, Tidd said. Further, SOUTHCOM has expanded collaboration with the Departments of Treasury and Homeland Security to

increase intelligence sharing and analysis to better detect, disrupt and dismantle security threats.

International partners are vital, as well, he explained, in addressing threats and stopping illicit activities.

“Last fiscal year, Joint Interagency Task Force South interdicted 283 metric tons of cocaine, thanks in large part to our partners in the region,” he said. “Without our partners’ support, 77 metric tons of cocaine would have reached the U.S. last year alone.”

In addition, SOUTHCOM worked extensively with international partners to respond to natural disasters last year, he said.

“After Hurricanes Irma and Maria caused levels of devastation not experienced in a generation, we worked side by side with Caribbean and European partners to evacuate and deliver aid to thousands of victims,” he said.

SOUTHCOM’s area of responsibility in Central America, the Caribbean and South America encompasses 31 countries and 16 dependencies and areas of special sovereignty. Tidd highlighted how the command will continue to enhance its network of collaboration in the region.

“The long-standing ties that we enjoy with those nations should never be taken for granted,” he said. “If we do not actively engage and work with these partners, others will.”

DOD official: Special ops must be more lethal, effective, efficient

By **Jim Garamone**
Defense Media Activity

ARLINGTON, Va. — The special operations enterprise must become more lethal, effective and efficient, the principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low intensity conflict said Feb. 28.

Mark E. Mitchell kicked off the National Defense Industrial Association’s 29th annual SOLIC Symposium here, saying the community is at an inflection point.

“I think [Defense] Secretary [James N.] Mattis has thrown down the gauntlet in the National Defense Strategy, challenging not only the department, but our industry partners to find technological solutions that support [U.S. Special Operations Command’s] missions, including counterproliferation and counternetwork,” he said.

Times have changed, Mitchell said. After spending the better part of the last two

decades concentrating on the counterinsurgency and counterterrorism missions, he explained, there is a return of great power confrontation.

“The threat from terrorists is not going to go away, but we think we’ve become pretty adept at limiting the threat from the terrorist organizations,” he said.

Combating the terrorists will require constant attention, but the special operations enterprise “is going to have to rediscover and reinvent ourselves to deal with these nearer competitors,” Mitchell said.

Mitchell, who entered the Army in 1987, said that during his whole career the U.S. military always enjoyed dominance over any foe or potential foe.

“We’ve always enjoyed significant technological advantages over the enemy,” he said. “But we can no longer assume that we will enjoy this advantage, especially in the new competition with other great powers.”

This is not a return to the Cold War, he

said, as Russia is not the Soviet Union, China is not the China of the 1980s, and both nations are much more integrated into the security architecture and economic systems, even as they try to undermine them.

The National Defense Strategy notes that much of the great-power competition will take place short of actual conflict, Mitchell said.

“We’ve seen how good our adversaries are at employing ambiguous, deniable or even unwitting proxies to wage information warfare, cyberwarfare, industrial espionage, sabotage and subversion,” he said.

DOD leaders want to ensure the U.S. military can fight and win a high-intensity conflict, but the best solution is to compete at the level of the adversaries and win there before actual combat occurs, he said. “This is where the [special operations forces] enterprise can, and must, play a significant role,” he added.

The special operations community needs new technology, but technology is also driv-

ing the threat, Mitchell said.

Terror organizations, transnational criminal networks, and even individuals can get technologies that pose a threat to the United States, he pointed out, citing advanced computing, the ability to crunch big data and artificial intelligence among technologies available to them “at the retail level.” he said.

“We face an intelligent, adaptive and determined adversary seeking to deploy these technologies in new ways,” he said. “We must be able to do the same.”

The enemy uses social media. The U.S. military must be able to respond “at the speed of relevance,” Mitchell said.

“The technological edge that we’ve enjoyed for three decades, and which are essential for us to fight and win these wars, still exists, but by no means are assured,” he said. “As Americans, freedom is our birthright. But a perpetual technology advantage is not assured, and both must be vigorously defended.”

News Briefs

GEMS applications

The 2018 U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science program student application deadline is March 14. Southeast Alabama’s 2018-2019 fourth through 11th grade students who are interested in hands-on, inquiry-based science, technology, engineering and mathematics experiments are encouraged to apply. For application information, visit <http://www.usaarl.army.mil/pages/stem/>. The online application, the GEMS Student Essay Form, and the GEMS Student Recommendation Form are required for all GEMS student applicants. Application packets received after March 14 will be added to the waitlist and reviewed for program selection based on the availability of openings. Application packets will not be accepted after April 30.

National Prayer Breakfast

The National Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for March 15 from 6:30-8 a.m. at The Landing. The purpose of the breakfast is for military and civilian personnel, as well as the surrounding communities, to gather and pray for the good of the nation, according to organizers. The guest speaker will be retired Chaplain (Col.) Scott McChrystal, former senior chaplain for the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York. Tickets are complimentary and can be obtained from unit points of contact or the Fort Rucker Religious Support Office in Bldg. 8945.

For more information, call 255-2989 or 255-2012.

Healthy sleep habits class

The Army Wellness Center will host a healthy sleep habits class March 15 at 1 p.m. The class

will be held at Lyster Army Health Clinic, Rm. V-130.

Army Emergency Relief

Fort Rucker is conducting its Army Emergency Relief fundraising campaign through May 15. The motto for this year’s campaign is There for Those Who Serve, according to local AER officials.

For more information, call 255-2341.

Supply inventory

The Logistics Readiness Center supply section will conduct a wall-to-wall inventory March 19-23. Normal operations will be suspended on those dates. All turn-ins must be in by 2 p.m. March 14 and normal operations will discontinue at 4:15 March 16. The section plans to resume normal operations March 26. Customers

will be notified by the accountable officer. Only emergency requisitions will be accepted during this period.

For more information, call 255-9504.

Clinic closure

Lyster Army Health Clinic will close at noon March 22 for training.

Cooking class

Lyster Army Health Clinic’s healthy cooking class will be held March 28 at noon. This month’s recipes include fresh soups and salads.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Rm. 147 of Bldg. 4502. For more on the group, call 334-237-1973.

DARPA chief describes future tech

By Jim Garamone
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency will employ enhanced funding to discover technologies used to defend the homeland, bolster deterrence and aid service members engaged in counterterror and counterinsurgency fights, the agency’s director said March 1.

Speaking with the Defense Writers’ Group, Steven H. Walker said his agency is working on artificial intelligence projects, hypersonic technologies, promising biological technologies and advanced electronics, among other technologies.

“We understand we are in competition with countries like Russia and China,” he said.

Russia and China are investing heavily in hypersonic technologies involving aircraft that travel between Mach 4 (about 3,070 mph) and Mach 8 (about 6,100 mph) and the two countries also worked on the capability to increase the range of their missiles and decrease the chance that they could be shot down.

DARPA, the Air Force and NASA have been working together for years on the technology. At the beginning of the administration, Walker approached Defense leaders with the need for a national initiative to develop hypersonics.

“We did push for a comprehensive initiative in the budget process this fall,” he said. “We did receive a budget increase at DARPA and some of the services to do more in hypersonics. I don’t think we got all we wanted, but it was a good first step.”

Walker looks forward to work-



PHOTO BY JIM GARAMONE

Steven H. Walker, center, the director of DARPA, speaks with a reporter after a discussion with the Defense Writers’ Group in Washington. Walker said the agency is being true to its roots in examining technologies and giving the DOD options.

ing with Mike Griffin, the new undersecretary of defense for research and engineering and former NASA administrator. “He understands this problem very well and I’ve been told by Mike personally that this will be one of his top priorities,” Walker said.

DARPA has supported experiments with hypersonic capabilities and the boost in funding will allow the agency to assess what can be done with the systems, how effective they are and how affordable they will be.

He expects test flights next year.

DARPA has also pushed the area of solid state lasers being tested at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. Service members may use directed-energy weapons in a tactical environment, soon. “These are not the size of a [Star Wars] light saber,

but they can drive it around,” Walker said.

In space systems, the agency is looking at the feasibility of very capable low-Earth-orbit satellites to handle a variety of needs from command and control to intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance to tactical warfighting.

“We’ve been talking about this for a while,” Walker said. “The difference today, is the technology has moved along to allow you to think about having some pretty capable small satellites that you can put in at (low-Earth orbit) and in larger constellations. We are starting a program called Blackjack, ... which is looking at how we leverage the commercial sector and what they want to do at [low-Earth orbit].”

This would be naturally resilient because it would force an adversary to target a large num-

ber of satellites. They would be in low-Earth orbit and relatively cheap to place – current satellites are in geosynchronous orbit more than 22,300 miles above the Earth.

The director believes the United States is not falling behind Russia and China in artificial intelligence. AI has been on DARPA’s plate since the 1960s, he said, and he makes a distinction between “autonomy at rest” and “autonomy in motion” when he discussed AI. Autonomy at rest are applications that use judgment to help humans make decisions or to search an area or to collate data.

Autonomy in motion deals with AI systems operating on their own, and while there is a place for these it stops short of the lethal force decision. Walker said the United States will not allow a

machine to make that judgment.

Walker believes there needs to be more research in biological fields. He said DARPA is looking at developing flu vaccines in days rather than months or years. He wants the agency to look at ways to protect the nation from biological attack. He wants to look at the issue of gene editing that China, for example, is pushing ahead with.

“Biology is a fast-paced field and certainly you can see China is making a big investment in DNA sequencing and their DNA database,” he said.

The United States also needs to invest in advanced electronics, Walker said. China is looking to bring all electronics manufacturing on shore.

“We’re looking at the electronics resurgence initiative,” he said. “This is \$150 million to look at new designs and manufacturing techniques to bridge the gap between our global multinational companies in this country that are at the forefront of electronics in this country and the defense industrial base.”

DARPA at its heart is a risk-taking organization, Walker said. World-class scientists are there for between three and five years and then move on.

“We get a lot of support from the White House, the Congress, the Pentagon – apolitical support – to do the right thing, to take risks,” the director said. “They give us a lot of freedom to make decisions and to think differently and to start and stop our own programs. If you want an organization to produce out-of-the-box ideas and projects, to continue to disrupt the status quo and to question, then you want that organization to have some autonomy and flexibility.”

Layered air, missile defense critical to U.S. security

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — In addition to peer competitors China and Russia, North Korea and Iran are posing a rapidly evolving threat, said Lt. Gen. Jim Dickinson.

To counter that threat, the U.S. must enhance its layered air and missile defense capability, said Dickinson, who is commander of the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense.

The general discussed those enhancements Wednesday during an Association of the U.S. Army-sponsored forum on the Army’s air and missile defense capabilities.

Last year, the Missile Defense Agency successfully demonstrated a ground-based, mid-course defense, intercepting an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile target, Dickinson said. MDA also plans to conduct the first-ever GMD salvo operational flight test next year.

According to a Feb. 13 Department of Defense press release, MDA requested \$2.3 billion in the fiscal year 2019 budget for the GMD program. There are currently 40 ground-based interceptors deployed at Fort Greely, Alaska and four GBIs at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. By 2023, 20 additional GBIs are expected to be at Fort Greely.

The Army anticipates adding a Long Range Discrimination Radar by about 2020, Dickinson said. It is said the radar will effectively detect incoming ballistic missiles. Its location has not yet been specified, but it will likely be in Alaska.

A new air and missile defense command and control system, known as the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System, will enhance aircraft and missile tracking capabilities by making the C2 mission command system more “flexible and agile,” he said.

Furthermore, the IBCS will eventually link Army with the joint force mission command node sensors and launchers, he added.

The Patriot missile system is getting new software upgrades to be distributed to 15 Patriot battalions, he said. “The recent upgrade for the 1st Air Defense Brigade is a big win.”

A mobile, ground-based weapons system for indirect fire protection capability is being developed, he said, and it is going to Increment II. This system will defeat cruise missiles and unmanned aerial systems and is scheduled for fielding in the FY20 to 21 timeframe.

A counter rocket, artillery and mortar system will be fielded in the FY20 to 23 timeframe with full C-RAM capability by



ARMY PHOTO

The C-RAM Intercept program defends against indirect fire threats. It was originally developed and deployed to forward operating bases in Iraq and some systems are currently deployed to Afghanistan.

2030, he said.

C-RAMs defend against indirect fire threats, like mortars. Some systems are currently deployed to U.S. Central Command. The C-RAM C2 system integrates the sensors, weapons, and warning systems for C-RAM intercept.

A lot of developmental work is going on in the fields of electronic warfare and directed energy technologies, he said.

For example, a 5-kilowatt Mobile Experimental High-Energy Laser mounted on a Stryker has successfully shot down targets, including UASs, during exercises last year, he said.

This year, a 50kW laser will be demonstrated and a 100kW laser is expected to be tested by 2022, he added.

To date, 208 Soldiers have received Man-Portable Air-Defense System training, for 104 MANPADS teams (two per team), he said. These Soldiers will deploy in support of U.S. Forces Command the U.S. European Command, he said.

MANPADS are shoulder-launched weapons used in short range air defense against threats like aircraft, particularly helicopters.

Another SHORAD system is the Avenger missile system.

In order to create 72 fully functional

Avenger sets to support EUCOM mission requirements, Army Materiel Command inspected and overhauled legacy Avenger systems that were stored in Pennsylvania and had been awaiting disposal, he said.

In conclusion, Dickinson said air and missile defense isn’t just about new sys-

tems, it’s also about people and building relationships with allies and partners.

An example of that effort, he said, is Exercise Nimble Titan, which will kick off March 12. A record 28 nations will participate in this exercise, which is expected to enhance interoperability.

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TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

Civil rights movement created strong cultural DNA within ROTC program

By Devon L. Suits
Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. — For the past 70 years, the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at South Carolina State University has stood steadfast in its commitment to training and equipping future leaders with the skills necessary to be successful in the U.S. Army.

To date, 22 graduates of the school have achieved the rank of general officer in the U.S. military, with 15 of those commissioned through the school's ROTC program.

Moreover, the ROTC program averages about 160 cadets among its members and is recognized as one of the largest producers of minority officers for the United States Army.

Leadership within SCSU and its ROTC program pride themselves on producing the best minority military leaders across the Army, said Lt. Col. Folden Peterson, who serves now as the program's Professor of Military Science.

However, the pure value of the ROTC program is predicated in the university's legacy.

EQUAL SOLDIERS, EQUAL CITIZENS

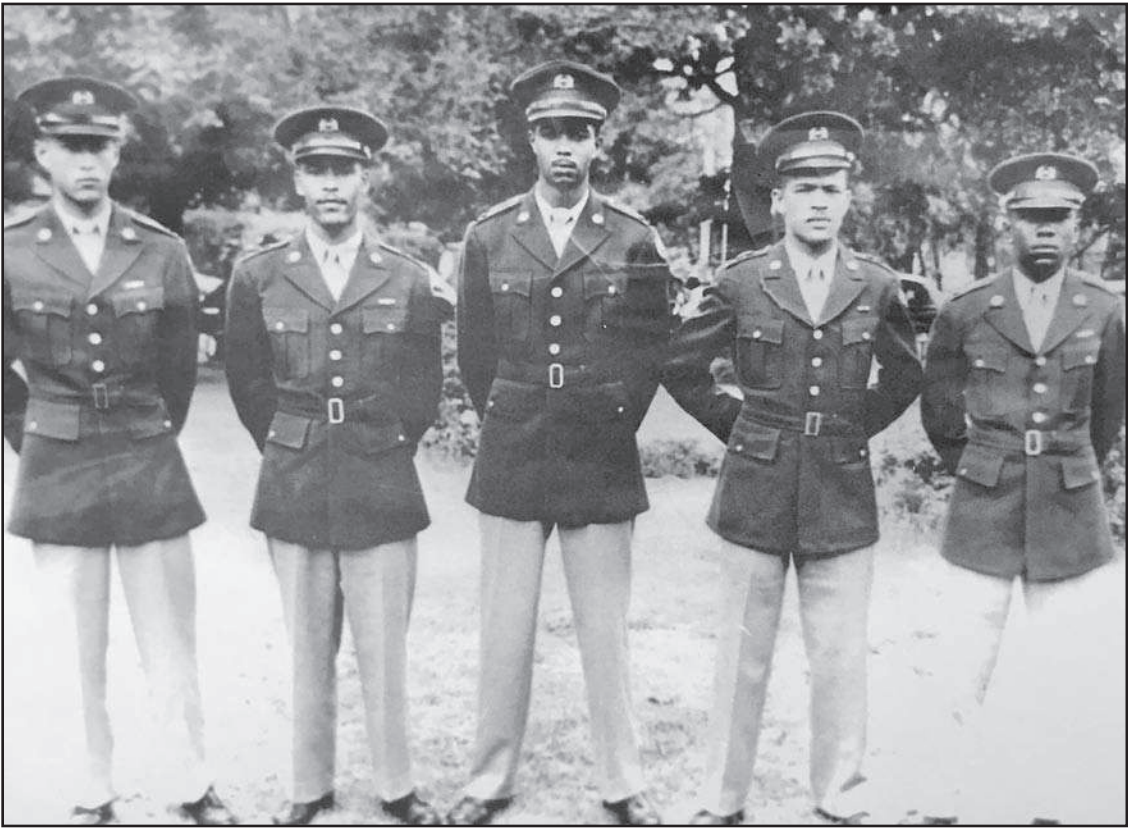
Formally known as the South Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College, SCSU was established in 1896. Today, it is one of nearly 100 historically black colleges and universities in the United States.

Initially, the school struggled to provide agricultural and mechanical training to generations of black youngsters. After some time, the school was able to deploy farm and home demonstration agents to help educate impoverished black families, according to school sources.

More than 50 years later, on July 1, 1947, the department of military science was established at SCSU, Peterson said. At the time, the program was mandatory for all able-bodied freshman and sophomore male students. Veterans with one year of military service were excused.

A competent staff of three officers, four non-commissioned officers, a civilian assistant and property custodian lead a cadet population of 248 in the program's first year. By 1949, six received an Army commission. Among those new second lieutenants were Richard A. Williams, William J. Nelson, Spencer Bracey, Fred Dowdy, George Wright, and Rufus C. Streater.

Those six are the first of more than 2,100 that have received military commissions through the program since the first class in 1947, Peterson said. Additionally, those six second lieutenants, were part of establishing a foundation for the ROTC program's DNA.



PHOTOS BY SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY ROTC PROGRAM

For the past 70 years, the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at South Carolina State University has stood steadfast in its commitment to training and equipping future leaders with the skills necessary to be successful in the U.S. Army. The program began in 1947, and commissioned its first six cadets in 1949, including Richard A. Williams, William J. Nelson, Spencer Bracey, Fred Dowdy, George Wright. Rufus C. Streater, not pictured, was also among the first six cadets to receive a commission in 1949.

tenants, were part of establishing a foundation for the ROTC program's DNA.

More significantly, when those six officers first donned their uniforms, they joined the collective voice of a growing minority community serving in the U.S. military.

Even with the July 26, 1948 signing of Executive Order 9981 by President Harry S. Truman, which abolished racial discrimination in the U.S. military, there was still a lot of work to be done to end racial segregation in the United States.

During the 1950s and 1960s, black Americans continually dealt with issues stemming from racial segregation and discrimination. Students at SCSU and the ROTC cadets, as well, would be part of the great cultural changes that happened during the American Civil Rights Movement. During that time, students at the school participated in civil rights demonstrations and protests, as did students around the nation.

For SCSU, the quest for racial equality hit a critical point in February 1968. During that time, students gathered in protest seeking the desegregation of a local bowling alley. The protest lasted for several days, often turning violent or destructive.

It was on February 8, 1968, that the protest took a turn for the worse. That evening, students started a bonfire during a gathering on SCSU. The fire forced a police officer to respond.

As the officer attempted to put out the fire, a piece of banister was thrown in his direction, injuring the officer. As tensions escalated, a state highway pa-



The Reserve Officer Training Corps program at South Carolina State University is recognized as one of the largest producers of minority officers for the United States Army.

trolman fired his gun in the air in an attempt to calm the crowd. The effort was misguided, however, as other state patrolmen opened fire in response, even though none of the students were armed.

The result of the incident left three young black students dead and 27 others wounded. The Orangeburg Massacre, as it was called, was the first of its kind on any American college campus, and it fueled the argument for racial equality across the U.S.

Peterson said student struggles for racial equality in the 1950s and 1960s are the basis of a kind of cultural DNA at the school that has been a part of every student and ROTC cadet who has attended since. The courage of those who fought for equality then, he said, still influences those who attend today.

"Iron sharpens iron — so one person sharpens another," Peterson said. "Countless individuals have provided the shoulders on which (cadets) can stand. Understand that if it were not for them, a lot of what we cherish today would be non-existent."

"That's a part of our history," he continued. "What makes us

stronger is knowing that the young men and women that come to this campus come here for a purpose, opportunity. An opportunity to make their lives better. ROTC, over the years, has changed the lives of a large group of people. Some of our students come from limited means, but ROTC was a springboard for them to change their lives."

BUILDING EXCELLENCE

For many students at SCSU, taking the first step towards excellence is one of the hardest things they will ever do, Peterson said.

"We've talked to our cadets about what it means to be a part of the Long Green Line," said Peterson, referencing all that serve in the U.S. Army. "Every time you step, it's a step toward excellence."

Many of the students that attend the school are the first in their families to attend college, Peterson said. At times, students have to leave a troubled past to embark on their new college career.

"Students build resiliency through all the steps they took to get them here," he said. "It is

all about living up to the expectations of the program. And we ask them how they are positioning themselves to have opportunities. It's about making your own decisions, making the right decisions, and living with those decisions that you've made, regardless if they were good or bad."

To help all cadets find success early and often within the program, Peterson helped create the "Bulldog Philosophy," an anagram list that requires cadets do the following:

- Be physically fit, a self-starter, self-confident, an independent thinker;
- Utilize every opportunity to improve your position, every day;
- Live the Army values;
- Life long learner;
- Do the right thing always;
- Own your decisions, period;
- Give yourself the opportunity to make your own path;
- Recognize strengths and weaknesses;
- Open a book, open your mind;
- Train, trust, empower; and
- Communicate well: verbally and nonverbally.

The Army's ROTC program serves as a college elective for undergraduate and graduate students and provides leadership training for success in any career field.

The program produces approximately 60 percent of the second lieutenants who join the active Army, Reserve and National Guard. Currently, more than 40 percent of active duty Army general officers were commissioned through ROTC.

Today, ROTC is offered at more than 1,100 colleges and universities nationwide and provides merit-based scholarships that can pay up to the full cost of tuition for students, including those at SCSU, Peterson said.

"We are the best ROTC program," Peterson said. "That's in the eye of the beholder, but I have to think that. Our DNA goes all the way back to 1947, when six lieutenants opened the door to create an opportunity for themselves, during a time when little or no opportunities could be found."

Overall, Peterson considers himself blessed to have the opportunity to serve as the professor of military science at SCSU.

"Every day I'm pinching myself. What an honor to be able to shape the young minds of future leaders in the United States Army," he said. "I'm not leaving my mark on them, but I'm giving them food for thought. I'm offering them an example of what it is like to live with a fire in their belly and a desire to win, every single day."

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REF bringing swift solutions to Soldiers

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — During Operation Atlantic Resolve in Europe, Soldiers were tasked to move ammunition around Eastern Europe, but lacked sufficient trailers to haul it, said Col. Lanier Ward.

A program manager said more trailers were not budgeted in the Program Objective Memorandum, meaning it would take a while to make it happen. So the rotational brigade combat team turned to the Army's Rapid Equipping Force, which supplied 30 trailers in no time.

Ward, director of the REF, spoke at a media roundtable, Feb. 27.

In a more recent example, the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade, which is going into Afghanistan, said it needed a persistent surveillance system. So the REF is now developing a tethered unmanned aircraft system for them with intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability and video live feeds, Ward said.

It should be able to stay airborne for days on end, controlled by a minimal number of personnel. Had it gone through the PM, it would have taken several years, at least, to be fielded.

The REF is also currently working on subterranean systems that will allow Soldiers to fight and win in underground tunnels. Some of that development is improved underground communications and power generation, Ward explained.

Other projects the REF is working on include electronic warfare,

counter-IED and counter-UAS systems, particularly for Soldiers in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, he said.

Since the REF was stood up in 2002, a lot of things it helped push through are still being used, such as unmanned ground vehicles and a 3D printing lab, Ward said. A lab in Afghanistan is still printing 3-D replacement parts for equipment.

SOLUTIONS FOR SMALL UNITS

Ward said the REF doesn't develop Army-wide solutions. Rather, it focuses on immediate-need materiel solutions, usually for the small-unit level.

The objective, he noted, is to get capability into the hands of the warfighter within 180 days, but hopefully much sooner.

The operational timeframe to equip and sustain these solutions is two years, he added. Another organization, the Rapid Capabilities Office, has a timeframe of more than double that, so there's not a lot of overlap.

PARTNERING IS KEY

Ward said the REF doesn't do anything alone as there are only 140 personnel in the organization: 30 military, 21 Army civilians and the remainder are contractors. That's about a 33 percent increase in personnel from two years ago.

Whenever an immediate solution is needed, say for a combatant commander, the first people the REF turns to are the PMs, Ward said.

More often than not, the PMs already have the solution. The problem they have centers around



PHOTO BY DAVID VERGUN

Sgt. Maj. James Hash shows a Rapid Equipping Force-procured Dragon Runner, operated by Soldiers remotely in Afghanistan for reconnaissance and counter improvised explosive device operations. The venue is the Washington Auto Show, in the nation's capital.

the funding POM cycle. No matter how badly they want to buy something, they don't have the funds or authority to do it.

This is where the REF steps in.

The REF, working with TRADOC, can quickly generate requirements and validation, Ward said. The REF was given authority from G-3/5/7 to speed through the acquisition process.

The REF also often coordinates with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), Army Materiel Command, PEO Soldier, the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization and with Asymmetric Warfare Group,

among others.

"We're all on the same team, the Army team," Ward said, meaning REF doesn't try to claim any turf, but just works for the good of the Soldier first and foremost.

Sometimes, the PMs don't have the solution, Ward said. In that case, the REF will look to partner with industry. In fact, the REF has an outreach cell with industry that provides input. Such was the case recently, when some counter-UAS capability was needed in Iraq.

The downside to getting a capability out quickly is that it might be just a 60-to-80-percent solution, Ward said. But for the Soldiers on the frontlines, it's

better than what they had.

The upside is that the capability gets into the hands of Soldiers and informs further development and adds to the knowledge database for the PMs as they develop their own long-term capabilities, Ward said.

STAYING LEAN

The REF itself, Ward describes as flat and streamlined. "I don't want to change that," he said. "If we get too big, we become unwieldy and bureaucratic."

Having said that, Ward added that should a big conflict break out, say in the Pacific, the REF is structured to rapidly scale up should the need arise.

Army researchers advance 3rd arm project to next testing phase

By Joe Lacdan
Army News Service

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — Soldiers may be asked to carry heavier, more lethal weapons in the near future, but they soon might have a third arm to improve their accuracy and reduce fatigue.

Using a mechanical apparatus that resembles something out of a sci-fi movie, the lightweight device will help redistribute some of the burden Soldiers carry in their arms and shoulders to their abdomen. Engineers at the Army Research Lab have been developing a mechanical third arm that attaches to a user's back hip.

The project, unveiled last year at a conference, is scheduled to be tested again sometime this spring with a minimum of 15 Soldiers.

"Right now we have a prototype that's essentially a research platform that we're using to investigate different types of materials — how materials and structures can stabilize a weapon or a shield, reduce fatigue on the Soldiers' arms, but also improve accuracy," said mechanical engineer Dan Baechle.

The project is currently on its second prototype model with improvements based on Soldier feedback. Some of the im-

provements include an extendable hinge plate so that a single plate can fit Soldiers of different sizes and body types. Baechle said further research must be completed before the device can be fielded. The current prototype at 3.5 pounds can now support weapons such as the M249 light machine gun that weighs about 27 pounds.

The project not only helps stabilize weapons, but can aid Soldiers for defensive purposes while carrying 20-pound shields. The project team developed a custom mount that connects from the arm to the shield so Soldiers can use the third arm to help alleviate muscle fatigue.

Concept development began in late 2015 when ARL engineers brainstormed ideas on how to make a dismounted Soldier more lethal. Engineers began building the first prototypes in 2016. The focus of the project centered on providing stability for dismounted Soldier. ARL engineers are examining different types of spring materials to further balance the weapon against gravity. Baechle said they used a carbon fiber material in the current prototype because of its light weight and density.

"We started out with just trying to think of a way to help improve the lethality for the dismounted Soldier," Baechle said. "Generally that means stabilizing the weapon or giving the Soldier a more pow-

erful weapon. Can we stabilize that weapon to improve accuracy? But also if we're stabilizing the weapon and taking the load off of the Soldiers' arms, does that improve the Soldier's readiness? Does it also improve the Soldier's accuracy with the weapon?"

Last summer, six Soldiers volunteered to take part in a pilot study, where researchers placed electromyography sensors to measure muscle activity. In particular, when holding a weapon or shield for extended periods of time, the arm begins to shake, impacting shooter accuracy. The six-person research team tested Soldiers firing weapons with and without the apparatus.

"We found that it reduced the fatigue and reduced the muscle activation for some Soldiers," Baechle said, explaining that data is being used to motivate a larger trial this year with more Soldiers. This year he also plans to get more feedback on what Soldiers think about the device and what should be changed.

Last year researchers collected data on how much muscles were firing with the use of the third arm compared to without it.

"There are studies showing that, if you hold a weight out at arm's length, eventually your arm starts shaking," Baechle said. "And that shaking is going to reduce your accuracy with the weapon ... and if you're holding a shield, it's going to reduce the amount of time that you can hold

that shield. So we're taking that weight of the weapon or the shield off of the arms and transferring it back to the torso."

While the test yielded positive results, Baechle said some of the Soldiers had problems with the device. Improvements made this year include changing the mounting location from the front of the Soldier's vest to the back.

Researchers hope to further improve the device to make it more comfortable and reduce fatigue even more. They are continually attempting to make adjustments to the device to boost a shooter's accuracy.

Baechle demonstrated how ARL researchers use a motion capture system, using monitors and infra-red targeting to track a Soldier's weapon and target.

"We use this system to evaluate both how subjects or Soldiers move the weapon and with and without the third arm," Baechle said. "But also how the arm improves the accuracy or changes the aim point while they're using the weapon."

Finally researchers hope the project can reduce some of the recoil force after firing a weapon.

"You have a lighter weight weapon but potentially a higher caliber weapon which normally would increase the recoil on your shoulder," Baechle said. "Could you use third arm and some clever materials on the arm to redirect that recoil back toward the body and thus allow the Soldier to wield a higher energy weapon without necessarily burdening the Soldier more?"



PHOTOS BY JOE LACDAN

Army Research Lab engineer Dan Baechle demonstrates how to strap on the third arm, a mechanical device designed to improve Soldiers' accuracy and reduce fatigue.



The third arm project is being developed not only for weapons but for defensive purposes. Army researchers at Aberdeen Proving Ground created a special mount to attach the apparatus to a shield, and also provide stability and balance.

AER

Continued from Page A1

in the form of interest-free loans or grants that can be provided to Soldiers through the Company Commander and First Sergeant Quick Assist Program, or directly through AER.

By providing these types of programs and services, the Army is helping take care of its Soldiers

and families by allowing them to come to their chain of command first, rather than seeking outside lenders, many of which can be predatory, leading to further financial hardship.

“In an Army where we say we would never leave a fallen comrade, so why would we ever leave a comrade who is having financial hardship?” asked Gayler.

“That’s what AER does, and Fort Rucker has been both a generator of funds and also the recipient of funds. We’re here to help you ... and this is to help you get back on your feet or over a hurdle that allows for you then to produce for yourself.”

Another aspect of the program that Col. Brian E. Walsh, Fort Rucker garrison commander and

AER campaign chairman, touted was the program’s ease of use.

“We all know that Soldiers have unexpected financial challenges, but (the program’s) ease of use is a theme that I’d like to add,” said Walsh during the ceremony. “First sergeants and commanders can approve a loan for \$2,000 at zero-percent interest, preventing predatory lending practices (from

outside agencies.)

“It doesn’t matter your rank, it doesn’t matter your command position, or if you’re a Soldier talking to other Soldiers about AER, please incorporate (the program’s) ease of use,” continued the garrison commander. “Help comes for 99 percent of those who come to AER for help, and we want AER to be the Soldier’s first choice.”

Exercise

Continued from Page A1

hand, said Crabtree.

“An active shooter wants mass confusion at a site, and that’s not something we want – we want to be on it very fast,” he said. “When you start working with external agencies from different parts of the area, they’re going to have different ways of doing things. If we’re not clear and concise, and using terminology that they’re familiar with, then we may find ourselves not able to communicate. (In that situation) the active shooter may get the upper hand because of miscommunication – that’s not something we want to hap-

pen.”

With communication clear, players for the Coffee County Sheriff’s Department were able to apprehend the suspect and take control of the stagefield before turning things over to Fort Rucker.

Although the exercise was meant to test the communications of all agencies involved, the exercise was also a good opportunity for the Soldiers who work at the stagefield to get real-world training on what to do in the event of an active shooter.

“(The Soldiers) learned a lot,” said Crabtree. “They’ve been practicing, and every stagefield will do a communica-

tion exercise and rerun through the same procedures as we did during that day, so each stagefield gets a chance to run through the procedures.”

An after-action report will be conducted in order to go more in depth to talk about what was done right and what needs work.

“Any time we can continue to talk with our local counterparts, it helps us understand how we do things and they know how we operate, as well,” added Dumais. “I think the exercise went well, and with it being distant from the main cantonment area, we are reliant on our local partners to step up in those cases, and Coffee County did a great job for us.”

Couple

Continued from Page A1

tell the story of a milestone day for the Valles.

“We’ve really found that the Army tries to take care of its people, and I think our career kind of shows that,” said Brandon.

With more than a decade of service as non-commissioned officers already under their belts, the Valles earned their degrees and commissions through the Green-to-Gold Active Duty Option, a two-year program for highly qualified enlisted Soldiers. The Valles are both fixed-wing pilots, working toward their personal and professional goals in lock-step as a family.

“It’s been a long time coming. I’m just glad we’re finally there,” said Brandie, as she held their daughter Brinley after the ceremony.

The Valle couple took the ‘leap’ together long before they were married. They met as enlisted Soldiers with the “Golden Knights” U.S. Army Parachute Team, and since then their jumps number in the thousands. Their goal is to eventually make their way back there to promote the Army’s message, this time as fixed-wing Aviators.

“My goal would be to command the aviation section of the team, and be able to support it from a different aspect. We’re working towards that,” Brandie said.

What the Valles refer to as “luck” on their Army journey included being stationed near each other multiple times in Europe, and deploying at the same time to Afghanistan with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team in 2012. Both were selected for the Green to Gold program, and they attended

the same college.

Brandon initially had doubts as to whether Aviation was looking for “a guy like me,” he said.

But Brandie’s mantra was ‘you don’t know until you try,’ so they applied.

The Valles were both assigned to the Army Aviation branch, trained at the same time to become C-12 pilots, and graduated the same day.

Both competitive, the duo didn’t always get along so well.

“If you had told me the day I met him that I would be married to him, I would have said you were freaking crazy,” Brandie said.

Over the years, they became each other’s encouragement.

“I’ve always seen her as smarter than me academically. And in flight school--to watch her, how she balances family, work, even extracurricular stuff we were doing, plus studying, plus flying—I was impressed with the way she was doing it. I would take after her,” Brandon said.

At Fort Rucker, they grew together as aviators and parents.

“Having a daughter brought out a patient side to him--this gung-ho (former) sergeant that’s kind of aggressive. He’s a very generous guy and will help anybody out,” she said.

To keep each other motivated, Brandon developed a game where whoever scored the lowest on check rides had to buy dinner.

“I bought a lot of dinners because I was always one point below,” Brandie said.

“I think that made us try harder,” Brandon said. “We get to push each other throughout

our careers.”

Being a dual-Army couple has its good points and its challenges, according to Brandie.

“It’s nice having someone else that’s in the service because they understand when things need to happen, and how that it needs to happen,” Brandie said. “But we also have to make sure we stop everything and have family time with our daughter before she goes to bed.”

Getting to this point involved a lot of small steps, and the Valles are grateful for Army leaders, family and friends along the way, including those who helped out with childcare, the couple said.

While their commission has broadened their Army perspective, their years of experience as enlisted Soldiers continues to have value going forward as leaders.

“That’s something we can bring to the table, seeing the two lanes and really understanding each other a little bit more,” Brandon said.

Brandie reflected on comments made by Col. Geoffrey Crawford, director of strategic planning at the US Army Aviation Center of Excellence, at the IERW ball the night before.

“There’s a little bit of luck involved, but a lot of it is opportunity,” Brandie said. “The opportunity only comes by once, and if you don’t take it you miss it. For us, whenever those opportunities have presented themselves we’ve always jumped on it and tried. I think a lot of people self-eliminate.... They don’t take those steps forward because they’re scared of failure.”

Brandon said he recently found a note he had written to himself earlier in his career with the advice to stay in the Army until he serves 20 years. He is holding onto that, going forward.

“I love being in the Army. We have great jobs, great experiences. Sometimes you have heartbreaks, but you take charge of it,” Brandon said. “People want to help. The Army is full of good opportunities.”

Both are committed to service, but not without their family in tow.

“In the end your family is what your priority is. Our goals fit into our family. That’s just how we are,” Brandie said.

After the ceremony, there was even more big news for the Valle family and friends, which involved the printout from an ultrasound. Little Brinley is going to be a big sister.

Flight

Continued from Page A1

57 feet – that allowed for better gliding performance when on reconnaissance, but that’s where the similarities ceased, said Barlow. The YO-3A also featured internal antenna to reduce noise and drag, as well as a 26-foot exhaust, which extended down the starboard side of the fuselage.

“Each cylinder discharges directly into this exhaust, and it baffles the sound and attenuates it, so at the end the exhaust, the gas velocity is virtually zero – that’s how effective it was,” said Barlow.

Although the aircrafts near-silent flight capabilities were impressive, even more impressive was its ability to see at night, said the museum volunteer.

“There were two systems that were developed for this aircraft – the first was the night vision aerial periscope,” he said. “That used a photo tube of very high sensitivity that could view light across a very broad spectrum, including infrared.

“That (system), which was mounted underneath the aircraft toward the front, was steerable in all directions and also incorporated an IR spotlight that could be turned on to look at whatever the sight was looking at,” said Barlow. “Even with the IR turned off, the NVAP was so sensitive that it could detect a candle flame at a distance of over a mile, even on a moonlit night.”

The viewing prism was also developed specifically for this aircraft and had such a wide viewing spectrum that, as pilots were approaching a target, the observer could keep an eye on a target during approach and as they flew away.

There were 11 YO-3A aircraft deployed to Vietnam in 1971, and with these new technologies, the YO-3A was so successful in its mission that the aircraft were able to fly a total of 1,116 missions and were never engaged by enemy fire, said Barlow.

“It was just that good at what it did and, as far as we know, the aircraft were never even detected,” he said.

Although the aircraft was a success, the YO-3A wasn’t developed any further for use after Vietnam. But that doesn’t mean its development wasn’t instrumental in shaping modern-day Aviation.

“If you look at the features of this aircraft – the very efficient, long, high-aspect ratio wings, the sensor package it has, the propeller drive – you can see all of this going into today’s generation of UAS,” said Barlow. “All of this was essential for the development of the UAS we know today.

“The technology and experience gained by these aircraft have been used in the development of future surveillance platforms – the groundbreaking optics packages were ahead of their time,” he said. “Sometimes when the technology arrives, the mission for what it was intended no longer exists, but all of that information goes into a databank and is rolled forward for use in other programs successfully. All of this is part of the Aviation Branch story.”

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HEATHER CONWAY, 580-215-2699



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JUDY DUNN, 301-5656



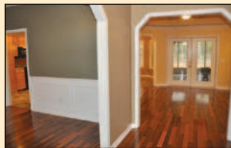
SUN., MARCH 11 • 11AM - 1PM



**181 County Road 680
\$239,500**

Beautiful home on 2.3 +/- acre lot. French doors open onto a huge & gorgeous screened patio that looks out onto a large, wooded back yard. Previous owners created a nice walking trail through the woods. Across the street is a view of Lake Nichols & its community dock & picnic area. The bonus room could have a closet added for a 4th bedroom. This home offers peaceful country living and plenty of room for a large family or for entertaining lots of guests. Can be rented for \$1300 per month.

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124 FOREST AVENUE: Great Location! Almost New! Open Floor Plan! Granite Counter-tops everywhere! Corner lot with Garage entrance on side. Extra Slab for more parking spaces. One block from Hillcrest Elementary School and less than 1 mile from the Enterprise Medical Center. This charming home is convenient to everything and priced to sell! The Kitchen has a Breakfast Nook and a Raised Bar. Also the open plan includes a large Dining Area and a Large Grand Room. **ROBIN FOY, 389-4410**

NEW LISTING • \$129,000



221 CAMDEN DRIVE: This one story townhome is ideally located convenient to the clubhouse, pool, gazebo & the mail center. Huge open common area across the street. All appliances convey including the washer & dryer. Split bedrooms on either side of a large open living & dining area. An interesting stone patterned patio extends the entertainment area to the outside. Its location off Freedom Rd makes it equally accessible to Ft Rucker's Enterprise gate or to US 84, Coims Field, the Daleville gate or a straight shot to Dothan. **JAN SAWYER, 406-2393**

REDUCED • \$233,000



93 MICHAEL LANE: A true paradise. This four bedroom two bath home on approx. .75 acre is full of light and space! Plenty of windows let in natural light and showcase the beautiful neighborhood. This home features an elegant bonus room with floor to ceiling windows equipped with an indoor grill for entertaining family and friends. The home is pre wired for surround sound and the home is clean and ready to move in. Plenty of space outside to add a pool or for outdoor entertainment. **CHRIS ROGERS, 406-0726 & JUDY DUNN, 301-5656**

\$249,900



306 HUNTINGTON DRIVE: BEAUTIFUL SPACIOUS HOME OVER 2400 sq. ft. ONE OWNER, 3 large bedrooms and a 4th room with closet. Freshly painted, new carpet, newer roof and HVAC, Pool with newer liner and a beautiful low maintenance PERGOLA!!! Truly a Jewel!!! **FRAN AND DON KALTENBAUGH, 790-5973**

\$105,000



200 ALABAMA STREET: A home of your own -- schedule a time to preview this 3 bedroom, 2 bath located on a corner lot in near downtown. Features include living room, dining room, eat-in kitchen, laundry room, hardwood floors throughout the living area and bedrooms and covered porches on both the front and rear of home. Detached building makes a great workshop. **JUDY DUNN, 301-5656**

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\$110,000



128 CHERRY STREET: Double insulation and 5/8" sheetrock firewall between two garages. 2 septic tanks, one well. Unit A electric is on the well. Unit B electric is on the street lights. Both units are occupied. Each unit has living room, one and a half baths, eat-in kitchen and single car garage with washer/dryer. Deck on back. Live in one side and rent out the other. **EVELYN HITCH, 406-3436**

\$189,000



203 N GLENN STREET, GENEVA: Lovely home on large lot 1+/- acre, on quiet street is perfect for gatherings or relaxing days & evenings indoors or outdoors. Open, split floor plan is spacious & living room & den have tons of storage, built-in bookcases & shelves. Other features: tray ceilings, crown molding, surround sound, metal roof, beautiful landscaped yard, flowering shrubs & trees & more! Large shed & workshop in backyard for storage & hobbies. Three doors lead to extra-large screened porch. Make your opt to see this jewel today! **MARGE SIMMONS, 477-1962**

REDUCED • \$205,000



210 AARON DRIVE: This 4/2 with a pool and within sight of the Enterprise Country Club Golf Course is a phenomenal price at \$205,000. That is below the assessed value and only \$91.72 psf. The large yard has a wood privacy fence surrounding the salt water pool. The home features granite countertops, stainless appliances, a split bedroom plan & a gas tankless water heater. Super convenient to Faulkner Gate, Shell Field, Dauphin Jr. High, Holly Hill Elementary & a straight shot to Boll Weevil Circle & downtown. Priced to sell! **JAN SAWYER, 406-2393**

REDUCED • \$319,900



28648 HIGHWAY 167, JACK: Country living at its best on 30+/- acres. Idyllic setting with two porches; front and back to enjoy the view. Fire pit, trails, and plenty of wildlife. Open floor plan with tons of natural light. Granite counters, Kitchenaid dishwasher, & add'l freezer. Storm/Safe room. Many other amenities. Roughly 27 acres in pasture land and existing food plots. There are surveyed plans for a 5+/- acre spring fed pond. Great neighbors! This is the dream home you have been looking for. Turkey's Hunter's paradise. **CHERYL PICCINI, 390-9612**

\$174,250



200 JASMINE CIRCLE: New construction convenient to schools, shopping, golf, restaurants and minutes from Ft. Rucker. Security system, 2 car garage, wood floor in dining area/living room/hall, carpet & tile floors, stainless appliances, natural gas heat/cooking/water heater, low E windows, sprinkler system, 2" faux wood blinds, framed mirrors in bathroom and tray ceiling in grandroom and fenced back yard. (Winterberry Plan) Owner is licensed residential home builder and REALTOR in the State of Alabama. **BILLY COTTER CONSTRUCTION, 347-2600**

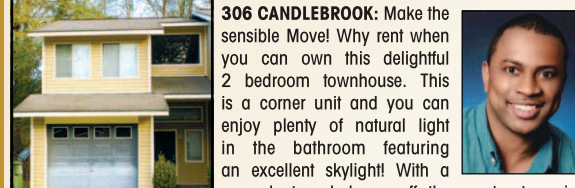
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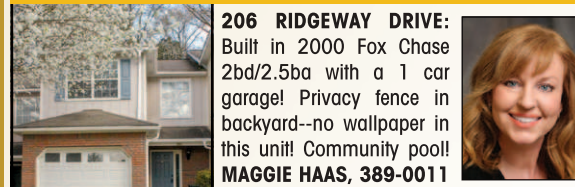
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NEW LISTING • \$52,500



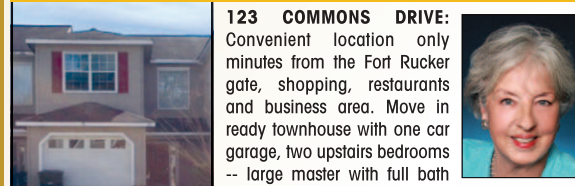
306 CANDLEBROOK: Make the sensible Move! Why rent when you can own this delightful 2 bedroom townhouse. This is a corner unit and you can enjoy plenty of natural light in the bathroom featuring an excellent skylight! With a second story balcony off the master to enjoy mornings and evenings...you can definitely call this home. **CHRIS ROGERS, 406-0726**

NEW LISTING • \$94,500



206 RIDGEWAY DRIVE: Built in 2000 Fox Chase 2bd/2.5ba with a 1 car garage! Privacy fence in backyard--no wallpaper in this unit! Community pool! **MAGGIE HAAS, 389-0011**

NEW LISTING • \$72,500



123 COMMONS DRIVE: Convenient location only minutes from the Fort Rucker gate, shopping, restaurants and business area. Move in ready townhouse with one car garage, two upstairs bedrooms -- large master with full bath and walk in closet. French doors open from the living/dining area to patio with fenced back yard. Good investment property and great home for first time buyers. Amenities include the community clubhouse and pool and includes lawn care and pest control. Call today to schedule a time to view this property. **JUDY DUNN, 301-5656**

NEW LISTING • \$70,000



101 WALDING STREET: This duplex has been a dependable rental for this family for 68 years. One tenant has lived there for 15 years. Great location near Hillcrest Elementary, Medical Center Enterprise, Rec Center facilities and downtown. Owners have moved to be near their children so take advantage of this opportunity to add to your investment portfolio. **JAN SAWYER, 406-2393**

NEW LISTING • \$267,000



616 COUNTY ROAD 715: Best kept secret in Enterprise. Nestled on 2.6 ac. lot. Protected by lots of pine trees. Vinyl siding exterior for easy maintenance. Incredible oversized screened in back porch provides extra living area in all seasons. Open floor plan. Neutral colors allow for immediate occupancy. Beautiful wood floors in living area. Master suite has double walk in closets. Large master bedroom with plenty of space. Master bath has double vanities, jetted tub & separate shower. Extra lg. laundry area with lots of storage. **SHAWN REEVES, 475-6405**

3 GOALS

CENTCOM undertakes realignment to meet, defeat future threats

By Terri Moon Cronk
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — Based on military progress in the campaign to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, U.S. Central Command is undertaking an operational alignment and rebalancing effort to achieve three specific goals, CENTCOM commander Army Gen. Joseph L. Votel told the House Armed Services Committee yesterday.

However, the commander said, “We remain very clear-eyed regarding both the permanence of that progress and the challenges that we face in the future.”

The first goal, he outlined, is to complete major combat operations in Iraq and Syria and bring the campaign to defeat ISIS to a responsible close. Military success in the campaign up to this point presents CENTCOM with an opportunity to re-position some of its resources from Iraq and Syria to Afghanistan, he said, “in a manner that keeps the pressure on ISIS but also sets us

up to break the stalemate in Afghanistan.” “We retain sufficient capability to continue our efforts against ISIS,” he emphasized, “despite the increasingly complex situation across Syria and especially in the northwest province of Afrin.”

AFGHANISTAN STRATEGY

The second goal is to prioritize the implementation of the South Asia strategy in Afghanistan, Votel said. This strategy reaffirms the U.S. government’s enduring commitment to Afghanistan by reinforcing the two complementary military missions: the NATO-led train, advise and assist mission, and the U.S. counterterrorism mission.

“We are making sure that with our support, the Afghan national defense and security forces are well-postured to begin operations to seize the initiative, expand population control and secure credible elections,” the CENTCOM commander said. “Part and par-

SEE CENTCOM, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS TY MCNEELEY

UH-60 Black Hawks carrying distinguished visitors arrive for Army Day Feb. 9 at Kuwait Naval Base, Kuwait. Army Day was the opening event for U.S. Central Command’s Component Commanders Conference.

LIFTING, LEARNING



PHOTO BY OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD TECH. SGT. NIC KUETEMEYER

An Army UH-60 Black Hawk lifts a stretcher as Jennifer Williams, a rescue technician with the South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team, guides it during exercise Patriot South 18 at Camp Shelby, Miss., Feb. 15. The joint-agency exercise focused on natural disaster preparedness and included National Guard and civilian first responder units from across the country. The helicopter is assigned to the South Carolina Army National Guard.

ARMY PRIORITY: System to counter drones

By Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — One of the Army’s current priorities is development of a maneuver system to counter short-range air defense threats such as drones, officials said Feb. 28.

Over the past 15 years, the Army inventory of systems to defend against low-altitude and medium-altitude weapons had dwindled, said Barry Pike, the Army’s program executive officer for missiles and space. He chaired a capabilities development panel discussion at the Association of the U.S. Army’s ‘Hot Topics’ forum on air and missile defense in Arlington.

During the last decade, the U.S. military felt it had air superiority over potential adversaries, so Army leaders weren’t concerned about having a robust short-range air defense capability. But now, with the worldwide proliferation of unmanned aircraft systems, the Army’s perceived need for SHORAD has changed.

While the Army is now fielding new Stinger MANPAD teams to counter drones and cruise missiles, more is needed, Pike said. Stingers have a new proximity fuse which can detonate near a target to destroy small threats such as mini-drones. But in addition to the shoulder-fired Stingers and Avenger Humvees, the Army needs a modern maneuver SHORAD system, he said.

It needs a system “on a survivable combat platform like a Stryker, to be able to move out with the maneuver force and protect the maneuver force,” he said.

One such system being developed is



PHOTO BY MONICA K. GUTHRIE

A 5-kilowatt laser sits on a Stryker armored vehicle called the Mobile Expeditionary High Energy Laser during the Maneuver Fires Integrated Experiment at Fort Sill, Okla., April 5.

the Indirect Fire Protection Capability Increment 2-Intercept.

IFPC INCREMENT 2-I

The IFPC is a mobile, ground-based system specifically designed to defeat UAS and cruise missiles, along with mortars, artillery and rockets. The Block 1 system uses an existing interceptor and sensor along with a new Multi-Mission Launcher, or MML, mounted on a medium tactical vehicle. The launcher, which entered a demonstration phase in 2015, can rotate 360 degrees in order to shoot down UAS or cruise missiles incoming from any direction.

The Army has already selected one interceptor for the system, the AIM-9X Sidewinder missile. It has also experimented with a number of other interceptor missiles since the MML will be

able to handle multiple types in its 15 tubes.

The Expanded Mission Area Missile, or EMAM, will be what the Army calls the next interceptor selected for the IFPC. Plans call for the missile manufacturer to be selected next fiscal year and EMAM will be used with the IFPC Block 2 system.

The Army is also experimenting with directed energy or lasers on the IFPC to shoot down drones.

HIGH-ENERGY LASERS

“I will tell you that we’re getting awful close” to developing a viable high-energy laser weapon, said Richard P. DeFatta, director, Future Warfare Center, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command.

SEE PRIORITY, PAGE B4

Increased capabilities strengthen Afghan military

Operation Resolute Support
Press Release

KABUL, Afghanistan — A strong Afghan air force just got a whole lot stronger, according to U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. James Hecker, director, NATO Air Command-Afghanistan.

This increase in military strength, detailed by Hecker in a Pentagon press conference in February, has routinely set the stage for a series of enemy failures, including zero strategic wins for the Taliban this winter.

“The Taliban cannot win on the battlefield,” Hecker said. “They initially tried to take provinces and weren’t able to do that. Then they tried taking districts and couldn’t do that either. War is a test of wills, and the Afghan military has resolve and is becoming more capable every day.”

INCREASED CAPABILITIES

The Afghan Air Force has proven its lethality and effectiveness during sustained engagements with enemies such as the Taliban, IS-K (Islamic State in Afghanistan) and ETIM (East Turkistan Islamic Movement) in the past few months.

In 2017, the Afghan Air Force conducted 2,000 airstrikes, an average of 40 strikes per week.

“To put this in context, the AAF airstrike sorties are now almost double what the U.S. Air Force conducts in Afghanistan,” Hecker said.

These battlefield successes are expected to continue as the force adds new pilots and aircraft to its arsenal.

While A-29 airplanes and MD-530 attack helicopters already provide quick, lethal support to Afghan ground forces, the AAF expects to unleash UH-60 Black Hawks on the battlefield by May.

Afghanistan has received eight Black Hawks to date, but the fleet will eventually include 159 helicopters. Black Hawks are smaller and more maneuverable than the Mi-17 helicopters currently in use, and the platform is more sustainable when it comes to repair and maintenance. They’re also more versatile, capable of providing ground support as well as carrying troops and cargo.

Afghan Black Hawks are specifically designed with less complexity than their U.S. counterparts, which will reduce training time and add to the already decisive battlefield advantage for the Afghan military.

The air force has also added air-drop capabilities to

SEE MILITARY, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. ALEXANDER W. RIEDEL

U.S. instructor pilots assist an Afghan Mi-17 pilot into a safety harness before his first orientation flight in the Afghan UH-60A Black Hawk Oct. 3 at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

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GENERAL



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CENTCOM

Continued from Page B1

cel of this effort is our regionalized approach to engage all countries with a stake in Afghanistan’s stability, especially Pakistan.”

The third goal is to ensure that CENTCOM has aligned its military efforts with its broader interagency and international efforts to neutralize, counterbalance and shape the destabilizing impact that Iran has across the region, Votel said.

“Make no mistake: While we

continue to confront the scourge of terrorism, Iran’s malign activities across the region pose the long-term threat to stability in this part of the world,” he said. “We view ourselves – the military – as supporting the many other and more effective resources and capabilities of the U.S. government and its partners in this endeavor.”

NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY

Votel emphasized that the

recently published National Defense Strategy “rightly identifies” the resurgence of great power competition as the United States’ principal national security challenge.

“And we at CENTCOM see the effects of that competition throughout the region,” he added. “Russia’s support of the [Syrian President Bashar Assad] regime has not only propped them up, but it’s also added complexity to the defeat-ISIS campaign.”

As for big-power competitions, China is pursuing a long-term, steady economic growth in the region through its “one-belt, one-road policy,” Votel said, adding, “but it is also improving its military posture by connecting ports such as Gwadar in Pakistan with its first overseas military base in Djibouti, adjacent to the critical Bab el-Mandeb.”

And while Beijing claims both locations support peacekeeping and humanitarian operations,

the new military base and port bolsters China’s force projection into the region, the general testified.

Further, “both Russia and China are cultivating multidimensional ties to Iran,” Votel pointed out. “The lifting of U.N. sanctions under the joint comprehensive plan of action open the path for Iran to resume membership application to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.”

Military

Continued from Page B1

its fleet of C-208 airplanes.

“These planes can travel 300 feet over a target at 100 knots and air drop munitions, or supplies, out of the door and hit their target within 70 meters,” Hecker said. “This enables them to do air drops rather than landing an Mi-17, which obviously reduces risk in some regions.”

In the future, Afghans will also receive 32 AC-208s, the attack version of the C-208.

“This aircraft will carry pods with laser-guided rockets and a gun,” Hecker said. “It

can also capture full-motion video and assist other aircraft to achieve precision targeting, making it an ISR (intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance) asset, which is key to enabling the A-29.”

The A-29 Super Tucano already has the capability to drop dumb bombs – munitions that lack a guidance system. Even without a guidance system, Hecker says Afghan pilots “are very accurate and routinely drop these munitions within 10 meters of their target.”

The first laser-guided munitions were dropped during a training exercise in December and are expected to be used opera-

tionally in the near future.

In addition to the growth of the Afghan air force, the U.S. Air Force has recently added an A-10 Warthog squadron to its lineup. The A-10, often described as “a gun with an aircraft built around it,” will continue to provide close air support to Afghan soldiers on the ground.

INCREASED PRESSURE ACROSS THE COUNTRY

With Afghan and U.S. airstrikes continuing to degrade and decimate Taliban revenue streams in the south, the U.S. air cam-

paign also has its eyes to the north, where U.S. B-52 strikes in Badakhshan province destroyed Taliban training camps and defensive fighting positions.

These training camps supported terrorist operations inside Afghanistan, as well as operations conducted in the border region with China and Tajikistan by such organizations as the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement.

“The B-52s demonstrated their capability for reach and lethality by setting a record employment of 24 precision guided munitions,” Hecker said.

Priority

Continued from Page B1

The High-Energy Laser Tactical Vehicle Demonstrator will put 100 kilowatts of energy into the same vehicle being used for the IPFC, DeFatta said. The laser cannot yet be fired from one of the same tubes already on the IPFC launcher, but DeFatta said that’s what some officials would like to see.

This year, SMDC integrated a 60kW laser into a Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck or HEMTT, and DeFatta said that’s never been done before.

“We’ve never had that much energy out of a fiber-laser system – a solid-state laser system – on a ground vehicle that you can roll around and actually engage,” he said, explaining that’s a significant “knowledge point” moving forward to the 100kW.

“More power means less dwell time on a target,” he said. “If you want to engage more targets, you (need) higher power.”

SMDC is also experimenting with a 50kW laser in a Stryker-sized vehicle, he said.

The next step is to teach Soldiers how to use such lasers, he said, so a low-power laser, a 5kW has been put on a Stryker as a technology demonstrator called the Mobile-Experimental High-Energy Laser. The MEHEL was fired last year by Soldiers at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Today, the MEHEL is in Europe, DeFatta said.

There are still some challenges with the laser program that need to be overcome, DeFatta said. For instance, some naysayers point out that a laser can’t be fired successfully in a 100-mph sandstorm.

“That’s true,” he said, “but what are you shooting at in a 100-mile-per-hour sandstorm?”

Some other myths about lasers have been disproven, DeFatta said. SMDC has shown that a laser can be successfully fired in a rainstorm, for instance, though he said any degraded atmosphere requires more laser power.

TOP FUNDING PRIORITY

Air and Missile Defense is one of the Army’s top six priorities and Pike said his missile and space budget has more than tripled in the last four years. The Army’s Fiscal Year

2015 budget for missiles and space was \$2.8 billion, while the FY19 budget request is for \$8.7 billion.

“When the Army talks about establishing priorities and resourcing priorities, I can tell you that the commitment is there,” Pike said.

While the research and development budget for AMD has more than doubled since four years ago, Pike said much of the overall increase in funding is going toward increasing capacity, not just capability.

“Our inventory levels became astonishing low” for many of the AMD weapons over the last 10-15 years, he said. “A lot of that is in the process of being corrected -- being ramped up -- a lot of investment in ramping up our production rates.”

Along with funds for procuring and fielding greater numbers of systems, the FY19 budget request also beefs up AMD modernization and development of next-generation capabilities, he said. The AMD research, development, testing and evaluation FY19 budget request is for \$1.2 billion and Pike said a fair portion of that is for a common fire control system.

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MARCH 8, 2018



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFALU

Josh Park, military family member, enjoys a game of bowling during the Seusstival celebration at the Center Library March 1.

‘A WIN’

Library’s Seusstival a hit with parents, youth

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Dr. Seuss has provided countless children and families with memorable stories that many cherish throughout their lives, and the Fort Rucker Center Library honored those memories with a celebration that would put a grin on any Grinch’s face.

The Center Library held its Seusstival celebration in honor of Dr. Seuss’s birthday March 1, and although the celebration was meant to be outside, unfavorable weather forced the festivities indoors, but the move didn’t stop the fun, according to many participants.

Families were able to take part in a myriad of activities, ranging from bowling and facepainting, to various Dr. Seuss themed activities, including crafting their own cat-in-the-hat hats, coloring or simply watching movies.

For many family members in attendance – especially parents – the event was nostalgic and an opportunity for them to share a memorable part of their childhood with their own children.

“Dr. Seuss stories are stories that I think everyone is familiar with,” said Jana Panner, military spouse. “They just have the most ridiculously wonderful stories and it’s something that I love because they’re just so out of this world. I think it really resonates with both children and grownups because it’s all about imagination.”

Panner, who came with both of her children, Luke and Geoffrey, said the celebration was a great opportunity for her family to create lasting memories with some of her favorite stories.

“I really like that this is an event centered on literature,” she said. “This is something that gets my kids excited about

the stories that they’re familiar with and it makes them really want to revisit them, which I think is the right way to go about (encouraging reading.)

“It’s tough to get your kids reading just for fun, so anytime they can utilize their imagination, I think that opens up a door for them to find the interest in it themselves,” she continued. “Whatever they find interesting to read is a plus to me, because as long as I can keep them interested in reading now, that’s something that will stay with them as they get older.”

Promoting healthy reading habits is something that many parents are happy to encourage, but for some parents, like Teresa Beringer, military spouse, reading is about helping to encourage a creative imagination.

“I feel like that’s the whole point of Dr. Seuss stories – looking beyond what people experience in reality and letting your imagination run wild,” said Beringer. “It’s about thinking outside the box and viewing the world from a different perspective, which I think is extremely important for children to do.

“Of course it’s important for children to see (the world) as it is, but I also think it’s important for them

to be able to see how they envision it to be one day,” she said. “These kids are our future engineers and artists – who knows what they could become or what they’ll discover, so we don’t want to stifle their creative side. As far as we know, one of these kids could be the next Dr. Seuss.”

Regardless of what lessons children were able to get from the Seusstival celebration, one resounding take away from the event was fun.

“Just being able to do something like this together and as a family is great,” Beringer said. “Anytime where we can have family time is a win for me.”

“I feel like that’s the whole point of Dr. Seuss stories – looking beyond what people experience in reality and letting your imagination run wild.”

— TERESA BERINGER, MILITARY SPOUSE



Piper and Ellis Tomaszewski, military family member, came dressed as Thing 1 and Thing 2 during the Seusstival celebration.



Spc. Ashley Phommavongsay, 1-11th Avn. Regt., takes a selfie with Honor Schmidt, military family member, after painting her face during the Seusstival celebration.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Event offers ladies fun, food, shopping, camaraderie

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

Wiregrass ladies are invited to get away for a few hours to enjoy dancing, trivia, shopping and games all under one roof.

Girls Night Out returns to The Landing March 16 from 6-9 p.m.

“For this year, we will have numerous vendors displaying a variety of products, from makeup to clothes to unique cooking items,” Lynn Avila, Fort Rucker Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation special events coordinator, said. “Each year, we have a DJ who plays fabulous music and helps with our trivia contest while guests shop. We also have lots of door prizes and giveaways.

“New this year, we have some neat interactive displays put on by our DFMWR activities,” she added. “The Center Library will host a card-making and knitting experience while our arts and crafts center will offer a more artistic opportunity.”

According to Teresa Whitman-McCall, BOSS adviser and RDS program manager, ladies should be sure to mark the event on their calendars.

“It will be a night of fun and camaraderie for all who attend,” she said. “We at MWR want to provide a unique and fun experience for those who work so hard every day, our military spouses, our single Soldiers and our community friends. Because we understand that women often put their families and/or their jobs before themselves, we want to provide the chance for them to unwind, relax and have some time to spend on themselves. Girls Night Out is a great opportunity for friends to come together in support of each other in a fun and relaxing atmosphere.”

Ladies are invited to come dressed in



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFALU

Ladies hit the dance floor during at Girls Night Out last year.

their favorite St. Patrick’s Day green attire.

“This will be just a fun way to have a good time, fill the room with green and celebrate one of our favorite lucky holidays,” Avila said.

According to Janice Erdlitz, DFMWR marketing director, events like Girls Night Out provide a valuable tool for military spouses to connect and form a support network.

“We are very proud to be able to share with the entire Wiregrass community exciting events like Girls Night Out,” she said. “Opportunities like these events and others help to bridge the gap between the garrison and the local community.

“Our goal for Girls Night Out is to entertain, inform, educate and inspire military spouses to take time for themselves, network and maybe make a new friend, too,” she added. “And, of course, participating

in events like Girls Night Out is just one more opportunity to show your support for the Soldiers and families at Fort Rucker by supporting MWR. Funds raised through DFMWR programs and events go to enhance the quality of life for our Fort Rucker community.”

Girls Night Out is open to all ladies, married and single. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$8 at the door. Tickets include one beverage voucher.

“It is important for MWR to offer events like Girls Night Out as a way to show those who support our Soldiers, both military spouses and our communities, that we support them,” Whitman-McCall said. “This evening is more than just an event to relax – it’s an event that brings together the very best in what DFMWR and our business partners can offer. We want to show how much we value the time and effort that



Becky and Zinda Wells, military spouses, pose and have their photo taken during a Girls Night Out last year.

women today put into their lives, their families and their jobs.”

According to Avila, the event is also a perfect opportunity for newcomers to settle into the post community.

“Newcomers to Fort Rucker will get a chance to see what DFMWR is all about,” she said. “This event is for both single and married women as they all need the opportunity to unwind after a hard day of work, whether it’s at a business, in the military, or within the home. Newcomers will also get to meet new people, maybe make some new friends, and see what products and services are available to them in the Fort Rucker community.”

For more information, call 255-2292 or visit <https://rucker.armymwr.com/>.

ON POST

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO FORT RUCKER EVENTS , SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS NOON THURSDAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK’S EDITION.

Child care available

The Fort Rucker School Age Center has spaces available for before and after school care. The school age center is available for children kindergarten through fifth grade. For more information, call 255-9638.

FRG Forum

Army Community Service will host its family readiness group forum March 15 from 8:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at Divots at Silver Wings Golf Course. The FRG Forum is designed for participants to network, share ideas, voice their concerns, learn ways to improve FRG operations and build FRG teams throughout the installation, according to organizers. For more information, call 255-9578.

Employment readiness class

The Fort Rucker Employment Readiness Program will host its workshops Tuesday and March 29 in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, in the Army Community Service multipurpose room. People who attend will meet in Rm. 350 at 8:45 a.m. to fill out paperwork before going to the multipurpose room. The class will end at about 11:30 a.m. The sessions will inform people on the essentials of the program and provide job search tips, as well. Advance registration is required. For more information, call 255-2594.

St. Patrick’s Day craft

The Center Library will host a St. Patrick’s Day craft Tuesday from 3:30-4:30 p.m. for children ages 3-11. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited to the first 40 children to register. For more information or to register, visit the library or call 255-3885.

Baby Sign Language

The Army Community Service New Parent Support Program and Parent to Parent will host a free baby sign language class March 15 from 10-11 a.m. at Bldg. 5700 in Rm. 350. The class is designed to teach expectant parents and those with young children how to communicate with their children and avoid the frustrations associated with language development. People need to pre-register by Friday. The class is limited to the first 10 people to register. The class will be open to authorized patrons and will be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly. For registration or more information, call 255-9647 or 255-3359.

Newcomers welcome

A newcomers welcome is scheduled for March 16 from 9-11:30 a.m. at The Landing. Active-duty military, spouses, foreign students, Army civilians and family members are encouraged by post officials to attend the newcomers orientation. A free light breakfast and coffee will be served. For free childcare, people can register their children at the child development center by calling 255-3564. Reservations must be made 24 hours prior to the newcomers welcome. For more information, call 255-3161 or 255-2887.

Go Green Skate Night

The Fort Rucker School Age Center is going green March 16 with its Go Green Skate Night. Youth are encouraged to wear green from head to toe for a chance to take home a prize, according to organizers. Safety Skate will cost \$2 and will be from 5-6 p.m. Regular skate will cost \$5 and will be from 6-8 p.m. Payment will be accepted in cash only. Participants must be registered with child and youth services. For more information, call 255-9108.

Single Parent Family Game Night

Army Community Service and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service will host its Single Parent Family Game Night March 22 from 5-7 p.m. at the post exchange food court. Free giveaways will be included. The event will be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly. The event is an initiative of the Fort Rucker Community Health Promotions Council Community Resiliency Work Group. The game night will be open to authorized patrons who are single parents. The deadline to register will be March 16 and will be limited to the first 20 families to register. People are asked to pre-register by calling 255-3359 or 255-9647.

WWI presentation

The Center Library will offer a World War I presentation by Bob Barlow of the Army Aviation Museum March 22 at 5 p.m. The presentation is titled “WWI Naval Warfare” and is part of a year-long commemoration of



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Girls Night Out

The Landing will host Girls Night Out March 16 from 6-9 p.m. with a shamrock theme where attendees can wear their favorite green attire, according to officials. The event will feature entertainment provided by a disc jockey, door prizes, a fashion show, St. Patrick’s Day fun facts and trivia game, and more. Prize drawings will be held throughout the evening, with a grand prize drawing at 9 p.m. People must be present to win prizes. The event will be open to the public for those 18 and older. Advanced tickets are on sale for \$5 and are available at MWR Central, The Landing Zone, The Landing Catering Office, and the Coffee Zones at LysterArmy Health Clinic and The Landing Zone. The night of the event, tickets will be available at the door for \$8. For more details, call 255-0769. Pictured is a scene from last year’s event.

America’s entry into WWI. The event will be open to authorized patrons and will be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly. For more information, call 255-3885.

Resilience training

Army Community Service will host resilience training March 23 and 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 350. Resilience training is designed to provide family members and civilians with the tools to better cope with and overcome adversity and challenges, as well as perform better in stressful situations, according to organizers. For more information, call 255-3161 or 255-3735.

Children’s Festival

The 14th annual Fort Rucker Children’s Festival is scheduled for March 24 from 1-4 p.m. at the festival fields. The free family event offers activities, games, inflatables, crafts, children’s karaoke, the seventh annual Diaper Derby – open to all crawling babies no older than 15 months – one of the area’s largest Easter egg hunts and more, according to organizers. For more information, including a schedule of events, visit <https://rucker.armymwr.com/>.

Spring Break Cruise

MWR Central is offering a special on a spring break cruise to Cozumel, Mexico on a Carnival cruise ship. The five-night cruise will run from March 24-29. MWR Central will provide transportation to and from Mobile. For a full itinerary and costs, call 255-2997.

Super Hero Camp Spring Break

The Fort Rucker School Age Center will host its Super Hero Camp Spring Break March 26-30. The event will feature trips, super hero snacks, a costume party fit for a hero and more, according to organizers. Participants must be registered with child and youth services. For membership information or to sign-up for membership, call 255-9638. For information on the event, call 255-9108.

Spring break at the youth center

People can sign up now for the Fort Rucker Youth Center’s spring break camp, which runs from March 26-30. Youth will participate in games, sewing, sports, dance, art and cake decorating challenges, and more. Camp hours will be 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 255-2271 or 255-2260.

Fort Rucker Right Arm Night

The Landing Zone will host the Fort Rucker Right Arm Night March 29 from 4-6 p.m. Right Arm Night is an Army tradition, promoting a night of camaraderie and esprit de corps as leaders come together and

DFMWR SPOTLIGHT

FORT RUCKER SILVER WINGS GOLF COURSE

2018

SILVER WINGS GOLF COURSE
Fort Rucker, Alabama

GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Annual & Monthly Membership Fees Class	Annual (Monthly) Individual	Annual (Monthly) Family
E1-E6, Youth, Widows	\$528 (\$44)	\$792 (\$66)
E7-O3, Warrant Officers	\$852 (\$71)	\$1,278 (\$106.50)
O4 & Above, Govt CIV, Veterans, Contractors	\$858 (\$71.50)	\$1,287 (\$107.25)
Guests, General Public	\$924 (\$77)	\$1,380 (\$115)

User Fee applied to all Annual Members: 9-holes \$1, 18-holes \$2

Daily Fees Class	9-holes	18-holes
E1-E5, Youth, Widows	\$9	\$14
E6-O3, Warrant Officers	\$14	\$22
O4 & Above, Govt CIV, Veterans, Contractors	\$15	\$23
Guests, General Public	\$20	\$30

Golf Cart Fees	
18-holes (per rider)	\$14
9-hole (per rider)	\$10
Unlimited cart option	\$1,200 single/\$1,775 family
Pull/push cart	\$5

Must have a valid driver’s license in order to operate a golf cart.

Driving Range Fees	
Small bucket	\$4
Large bucket	\$8
Annual range club	\$275 single/\$50 +each family member

Open to the Public

Fort Rucker Silver Wings Golf Course

Silver Wings Golf Course, (334)255-0089
Bldg. 20067, Combat Rd., Fort Rucker, rucker.armymwr.com

treat those who help them accomplish the mission. Complimentary appetizers will be served while supplies last. Right Arm Night is held every month, and both military and civilians are welcome. For more information, call 255-0768.

Blended Retirement System Seminar

Army Community Service accredited financial counselors will present a Blended Retirement System Seminar March 20 from 6-7 p.m. at Bldg. 5700, the Soldier Service Center, in Rm. 282.

The seminar will be a discussion of the significant changes to the current military retirement system, including continuation pay and the Thrift Saving Plan with matching government contributions. Pre-registration is required by March 19. Free child care available with registration. Class is subject to cancellation if enough people do not pre-register. For more information, call 255-3949. Registration can be completed by visiting <http://rucker.armymwr.com/us/rucker/programs/army-community-service>.

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 8-11

Thursday, March 8	Friday, March 9	Saturday, March 10	Sunday, March 11
Den of Thieves (R)7 p.m.	Black Panther (PG-13)7 p.m.	Winchester (PG-13)2 p.m. Studio Appreciation (PG-13)7 p.m.	Forever My Girl (PG)1 p.m. The Post (R)4 p.m.

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

AFTER ARMY

3 Soldiers find professional fulfillment as teachers

By Don Wagner
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Being a school teacher is tough work, but it's a job three retired Soldiers, including a helicopter pilot and two infantrymen, say they love.

With the help of Troops to Teachers, a program managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support, three Soldiers began new post-Army careers as public school teachers.

"The program gives Soldiers an opportunity to use their leadership, knowledge, and experience to have a positive effect on students," said now-retired CW5 Carlton Jenkins, who, after serving as a helicopter pilot in the Army, found a new career as a history teacher.

FROM SKIES TO THE CLASSROOM

Jenkins, age 62, served as a helicopter pilot while in the Army.

After the Army, and since 2013, he's taught sixth-grade American history at Lake Ridge Middle School in Woodbridge, Virginia. It was the Troops to Teachers program that helped him make the transition from uniformed pilot to grade school history teacher.

"Troops to Teachers ... gave me the opportunity to use the leadership skills, knowledge, and experience I learned and developed in the Army to help me have a positive effect on today's students," Jenkins said. "For those seeking a second career in education as a teacher, the Troops to Teachers program will help get you there."

Jenkins looks like he could be anybody's grandfather. While soft-spoken, he also has an air of confident authority. His humble demeanor also lets his students know they can approach him should they need to talk to him about anything.

During classes, Jenkins said he hopes he is engaging all 20 of his students. And when he asks the class a question, his eyes dart around the room to see how many students think they know the answer, and to also identify the first student who has raised his or her hand.

In Jenkin's class, most do raise their hands, proving that they that they are eager to be involved. Often, his students are so impassioned to answer that many are tempted to yell out the answers to his questions even before he calls on them.

Fellow teachers and students know that he was once an Army helicopter pilot. This, he said, has earned him credibility with students that new teachers seldom have.

Jenkins said his success as a teacher depends first on him set-

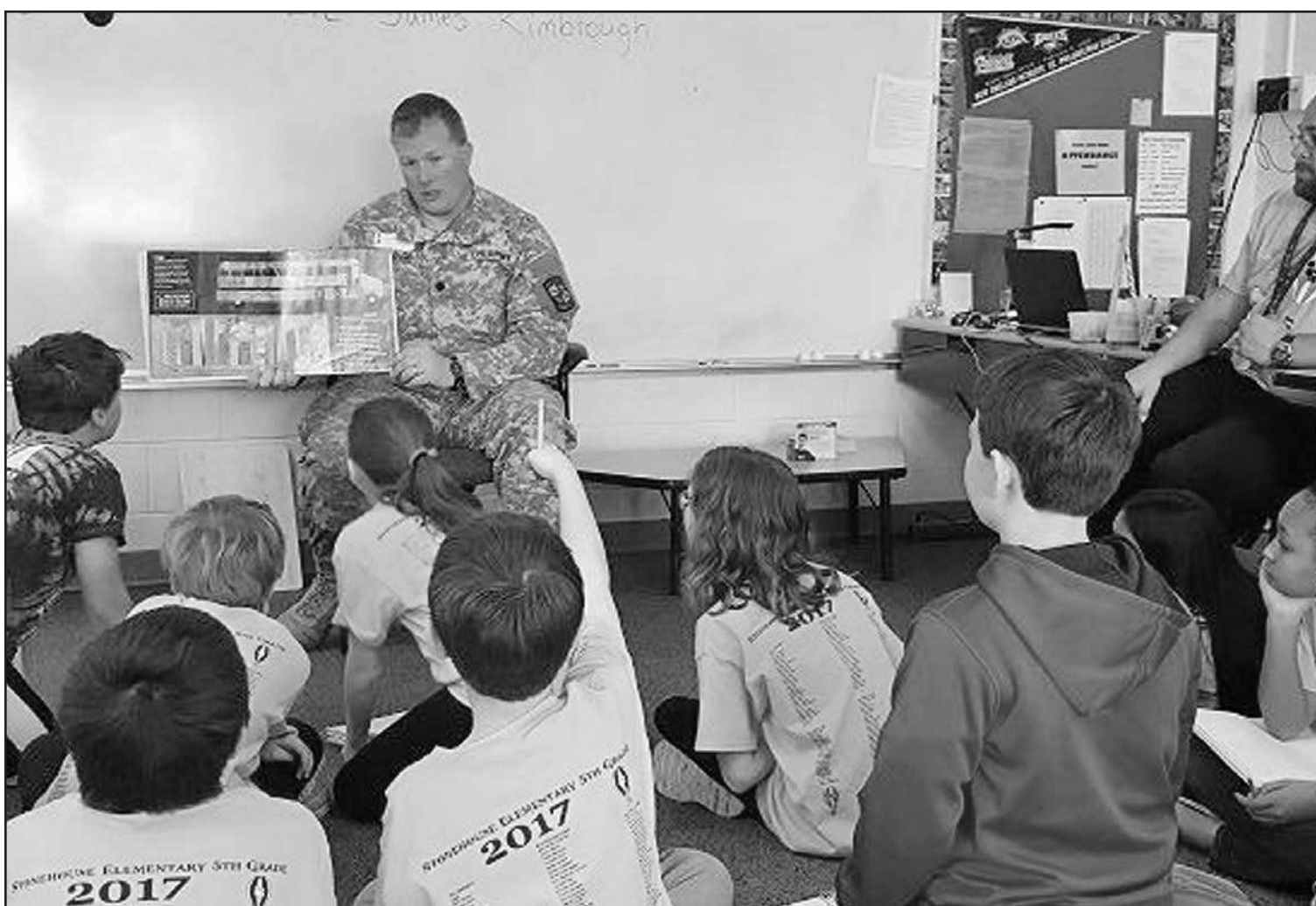


PHOTO BY JAMES KIMBROUGH

For four years, Lt. Col. Jimmy Kimbrough was the Professor of Military Science for the Army ROTC program at the College of William and Mary, and Christopher Newport University in Virginia.

ting a framework of rules and expectations.

"A teacher must establish his or her expectations with rules," Jenkins said. "I have only three rules: respect one another, follow the Golden Rule and only one person speaks at a time in class."

To hammer home those rules, Jenkins has them posted in the front of his classroom in big, bold letters, where he said they serve as a constant daily reminder to his students.

AN AVIATION INSTRUCTOR

In 1974, Jenkins joined the Army with the intent to serve two years, return home, and use the GI Bill to attend college. Those two years turned into a 36-year Army career, however. During that time, he served as an Army OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter pilot and Aviation instructor.

As a pilot, Jenkins conducted armed reconnaissance and defensive air combat missions in support of combat operations. He found he was also passionate about teaching others to fly.

"I was able to fly helicopters and follow my passion for teaching — helping other pilots to achieve their dreams and aspirations," he said.

Jenkins taught others to fly the Kiowa Warrior during a three-year stint as an instructor pilot at Fort Rucker. There, he conducted flight instruction in helicopters, as well as in classrooms. He developed lesson plans and provided



PHOTO BY CARLTON JENKINS

During his career, now-retired CW5 Carlton Jenkins was selected to be an OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter pilot instructor, which included teaching flight school for three years at Fort Rucker.

instruction in aerodynamics, aeromedical, navigation, safety, environmental and Aviation operations.

In between flying and teaching, and during his off-duty hours, Jenkins was able to earn a bachelor of science degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University at Daytona Beach, Florida.

POST-ARMY CAREER

As Jenkins prepared to retire from the Army, he made plans to pursue the one passion that had

driven him for 36 years: teaching.

After retirement in 2011, at 52, Jenkins completed a master's of science in education at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. That year, he also became a member of the Troops to Teachers program at ODU.

In 2013, Jenkins completed a master of science in education, and earned a license to teach middle school math and social studies in the state of Virginia. Since then, Jenkins has been at Lake

Ridge Middle School, where he teaches sixth-grade American history. He said being back in a teaching environment is seems familiar to him.

"I found at Lake Ridge Middle School the camaraderie and teamwork that I had in the Army," Jenkins said. "I found a sense of accomplishment and mission in preparing students for the future and in helping them become successful. Like my career in the

SEE TEACHERS, PAGE C4

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

Headquarters Chapel, Bldg. 109
8 a.m. Traditional Protestant Service

Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 8940
8:30 a.m. Catholic Confessions
9 a.m. Catholic Mass
11 a.m. Collective Protestant
12:05 p.m. Catholic Mass (Tuesday-Friday)
4 p.m. Catholic Confessions (Saturday)
5 p.m. Catholic Mass (Saturday)

Wings Chapel, Bldg. 6036
9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Latter-Day Saints
10:45 a.m. Wings Crossroads (Contemporary Worship Protestant Service)
11 p.m. Eckankar Study (4th Sunday)

Spiritual Life Center, Bldg. 8939

10:15 a.m. CCD (except during summer months)

BIBLE STUDIES TUESDAYS

Crossroads Discipleship Study (Meal/Bible Study)
Wings Chapel, 6:30 p.m.

Protestant Women of the Chapel

Wings Chape, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Bringing People Together Thru Faith

ARMY FLIER Church Directory

"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."
1 Corinthians 11:1

First United Methodist Church
214 S. Main Street • Enterprise
347-3467
Prayer Line 347-3467 ext 321
Service Times:
Traditional - in the Fellowship Hall..... 11:00AM
Contemporary C-3 - in the Fellowship Hall.....8:45AM
The Gathering (Youth) 6:00PM
Sunday School9:55AM
Nursery CareEvery Service

Here, it's not about the building...



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VINEYARD CHURCH
DOTHAN
Sun 10:30 Service; Wed 6:30 Small Groups
(334) 671-0093 • 150 Bethlehem Rd
DOTHANVINEYARD.COM

Call 347-9533 to advertise your church on this page.

Teachers

Continued from Page C3

Army, I found a way to continue to serve. That is why I became a teacher.”

As a former Soldier, Jenkins said he feels he brings to the school environment, maturity, experience, motivation, and his love of teaching as well as his positive influence on students as a role model. Students and fellow educators agree.

“He cares about our country and about helping students,” one student said.

“He is a great history teacher because he was involved in history when he was in the Army,” said another.

Fellow sixth-grade instructor Belinda Osborne said she can see the value Jenkins has brought to the school house from his time in the Army.

“Training Soldiers is a lot like educating students,” Osborne said. “Carl Jenkins has been able to use his experience in breaking down skills that Soldiers need to master and doing the same thing with sixth graders. Carl is dedicated to making each lesson engaging and meaningful. His students are successful and they truly enjoy being in his class each and every day.”

Jenkins’ boss, Lake Ridge Middle School assistant school principal Ashleigh Burnette, is also impressed with what Jenkins brings to the classroom and their school, both as an instructor and as a former Soldier.

“I value the fact that Army veterans bring their vast life experiences that they have learned from their military careers, such as various deployments, serving overseas, and staff work,” Burnette said. “Veterans are organized and they know how to deal with people. They understand the chain of command. Veterans have a positive first impression by the way they carry themselves professionally and with confidence. They know what it is like to be part of a team.”

Jenkins said he thinks other veterans would enjoy teaching as he has.

“My recommendation to anyone that is thinking about becoming a teacher is to do it,” Jenkins said. “There are many ways to serve. You will not find a more rewarding job as you teach the children who will be the future of our country.”

RETIRED TANKER ROLLS INTO CLASSROOM

After serving 22 years in the Army, it was time for Lt. Col. Jimmy Kimbrough, 45, to find a new career.

“I wanted that same fulfillment of helping others that my service in the Army provided,” Kimbrough said. “In the Army, I realized it’s not about me, it’s about others. I wanted a way to still help other people.”

Kimbrough said he found that fulfillment in teaching.

A U.S. Military Academy graduate, Kimbrough had his first experience teaching while serving in the Army. From 2004 to 2007, for instance, he served as an instructor at the Armored Captains Career Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky. At the end of his career, he served as a professor of Military Science at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia and Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia.

It was at William and Mary that he first encountered the Troops to Teachers program, and learned that he might be able to use it to continue teaching after he left the Army.

Today, thanks to Troops to Teachers, Kimbrough teaches high school social studies at Bridgeport Academy in Hampton, Virginia. There, he said, he brings to the classroom some of the same qualities and talents he developed while in the Army, including leadership, planning, dedication to duty and counseling skills.

On a typical school day, Kimbrough arrives early in the morning to prepare both himself and his lesson plans. During his homeroom session, he spends time talking with students about their lives, activities after school

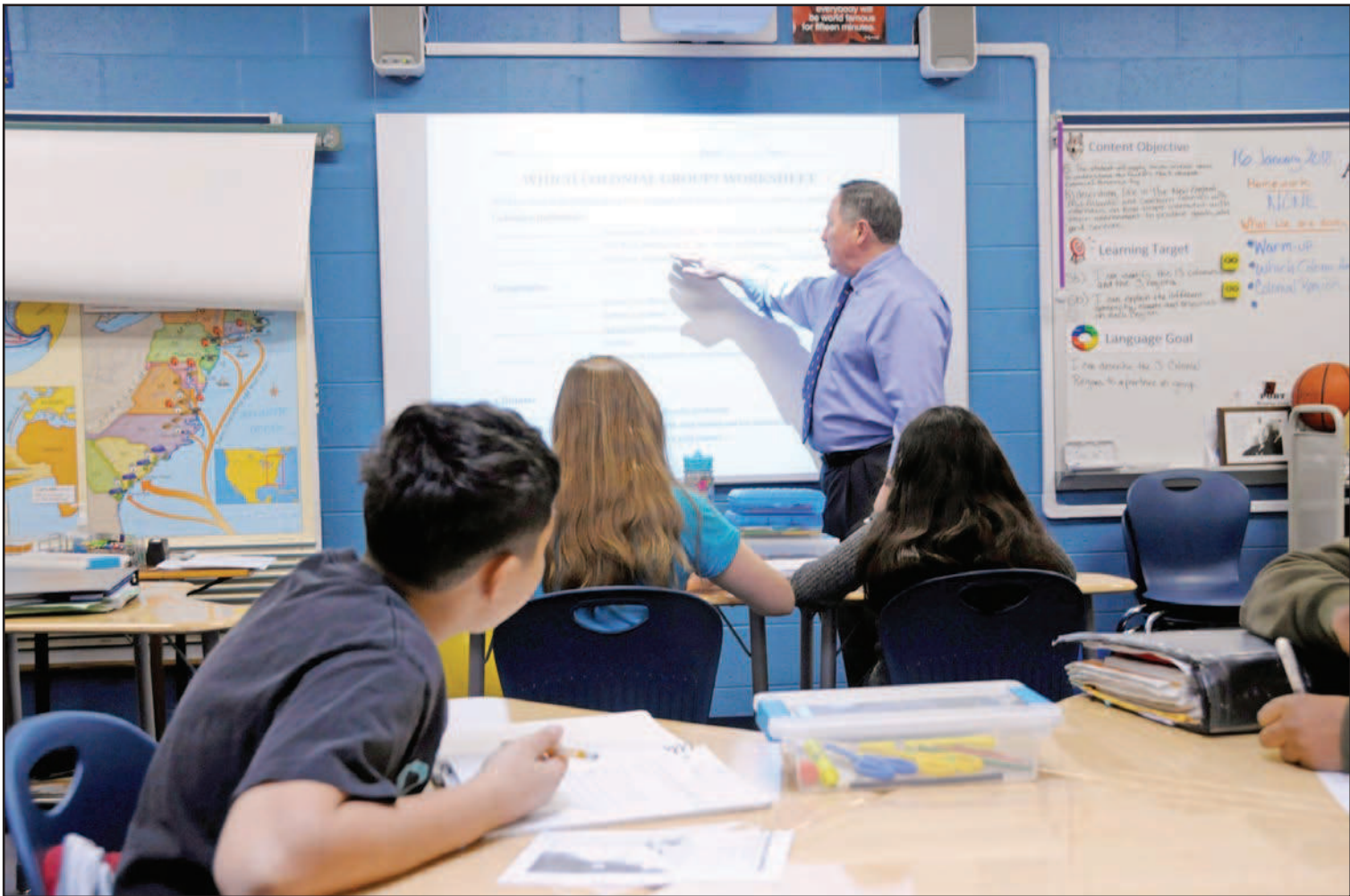


PHOTO BY DON WAGNER

Since 2013, Jenkins has been serving as a sixth-grade social studies instructor, teaching American history at Lake Ridge Middle School in Woodbridge, Va.

and their performance in school.

“I try to use that time to help students on a personal level, much like a counseling session in the Army,” Kimbrough said. “When working with my students, I have found my skills counseling Soldiers to translate very well.”

Once the academic day begins, Kimbrough said, he continues engaging students both academically and personally.

“Most of my hour-long classes are busy from start to stop,” he said. “But I try to maximize my interaction with the students during their hour with me and make sure to keep them active and engaged in learning. My biggest fear is that they will become bored.”

Kimbrough said a good teacher needs patience, caring, passion for learning, and willingness to get students to understand the material.

He said a teacher should adjust their styles to the needs of their students.

Among students, he said, he was surprised to learn that not all are motivated by good grades.

“Students respond to positive comments, public praise and a pat on the back,” as well, he said. “When I tell them that I am proud of them, that motivates them to try and do better.”

Among his peers, Kimbrough said, he has found that the closeness of the faculty at his school rivals the camaraderie and esprit-de-corps of the units he served in during his best times in the Army.

Teaching reminds him of some of the best parts of the Army, he added.

“What drives me to teach is that I want to see others be successful,” Kimbrough said. “I have had plenty of people invest their time and effort in me. I want to pass that forward. Throughout my Army career, I learned that personal success was secondary to unit success and seeing students become successful.

“Early in my Army career, I got enjoyment from seeing others improve and succeed,” he continued. “As I looked to retire from the Army, I looked for a job that would allow me to continue that enjoyment. Becoming a teacher seemed to be a natural fit. I wanted to continue to help others grow, develop, and become successful.”

Kimbrough advises others interested in teaching to take advantage of the TTT program. He said before they call, however, they need to be sure they are committed to teaching, perhaps as committed as they were when they made the decision to go into the Army.

“Teaching is a calling,” Kimbrough said. “Don’t just become a teacher to get a paycheck after the service. The students deserve a strongly committed teacher and not just someone passing along information for standardized tests.”

INFANTRYMAN SETS SIGHTS ON EDUCATION

Retired Lt. Col. Gerritt Peck had always wanted to teach, but that’s not what he started out do-



PHOTO BY GERRITT PECK

At 18, now-retired Lt. Col. Gerritt Peck enlisted to be an infantryman because he wanted to gain some maturity and have a bit of an adventure before deciding on a career.

ing.

Peck began his military career in 1980 as a private in the infantry with the 101st Airborne Division. It was while serving as a non-commissioned officer and as a drill sergeant that Peck discovered he enjoyed teaching, training, mentoring and coaching young Soldiers to reach high standards and become better professionals.

During his career, he also volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America, which reinforced his interest in teaching and working with youth.

Peck attended college a few years later, enrolling in ROTC with plans to become an officer. At college, he majored in social sciences and education. He planned to one day retire and become a teacher.

In 2009 Peck retired from the Army and was recruited by a defense contractor. The focus on sales volume rather than service beyond himself proved to be a bad fit, he said. He found the work unfulfilling. Later, the company downsized their workforce and they laid him off. That turn of events proved an opportunity for Peck.

“It was the best thing that could have happened,” Peck said. “My wife encouraged me to follow my long-term goal of teaching, reminding me of how happy I had been as a Soldier, so happy serving, and that I would likely be happy again teaching.”

Peck contacted the Troops to Teachers office in the Washington area and got information on the various licensure programs in Virginia. Later, the TTT program helped him find work as a

teacher.

Now Peck is in his third year of teaching ancient world history and economics at Park View High School in Sterling, Virginia. In addition to the teaching, he sponsors a number of clubs and coaches offensive, defensive line for the freshmen football team.

“After serving for more than 28 years in the Army, I found a second career in education,” Peck said. “Now I’m again serving something greater than myself and working with people dedicated to our students and our community.”

While working as a defense contractor might have paid the bills for a while, serving as a teacher, like serving as a Soldier, provides both a paycheck and personal fulfillment, Peck said.

“Every day I get to make a difference,” Peck said. “Every day I teach, train, mentor and coach amazing young people. I also work with an amazing group of professionals dedicated toward making our community better by helping our students reach their potential. Although I am the only TTT participant, more than 10 percent of the faculty at our school are veterans. It is truly a ‘joint environment,’ with Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines. I look forward to coming to work every day and have found teaching the perfect second career to military service for me.”

TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE MEMBERS

The Troops to Teachers pro-

gram helps service members transition successfully into teaching jobs, said Kim Day, the program director at DANTES.

“Teacher employment opportunities from now until 2024 are expected to grow faster than average, with a projection of 100,000 or more new job openings,” Day said. “TTT is helping alleviate the ... shortage of teachers. Service members transitioning from the military to the civilian workforce may want to consider teaching as a second career.

“Many transitioning service members find the skills they honed in the military including leadership, initiative, discipline, teamwork, integrity and the ability to thrive in an ever-changing environment, naturally transfer to success in the classroom,” she continued. “Teaching is an option for every veteran looking for a rewarding career after the military.”

Day said that TTT has helped more than 21,000 military veterans successfully transition to a teaching career. More than 70 percent of TTT participants plan to remain in the teaching profession as long as possible or until retirement, she said.

Since 1994, 38,000 U.S. Army members have benefited from TTT services that range from counseling to employment facilitation and financial assistance.

The TTT program website is located at www.proudtoserveagain.com. Service members and veterans can apply at any time, and Day said there is no commitment or cost to participate in the program.

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Beach goers invited to travel back in time

Army Flier
Staff Reports

Through March 29, Visit Pensacola will host historic Pensacola trolley tours Mondays at 10 a.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for \$18 per person. The tours

start out at Visit Pensacola’s office at 1401 E. Gregory Street. The narrated tours through historic downtown Pensacola last about an hour. Seating is limited, so people are encouraged to make reservations.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 850-941-2876.

WIREFLIER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT, EMAIL JIM HUGHES WITH ALL THE DETAILS AT JHUGHES@ARMYFLIER.COM.

ANDALUSIA

ONGOING — The American Legion Post 80 has regular meetings the second Monday of the month, starting at 6:30 p.m., at the Legion Hall. For more information, call 222-7131 or visit www.andalusialegionpost80.org.

ONGOING — The American Legion Post 80 hosts a dance with live music every Saturday from 7:30-11:30 p.m. For more information, call 222-7131 or visit www.andalusialegionpost80.org.

DALEVILLE

ONGOING — Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6020 Franchise J. Ballard Post membership meetings are at the post headquarters on State Road 84 every third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Breakfast is served Sundays, and games and TVs are available for entertainment. Meetings are open to all. The post can host parties, weddings, and hails and farewells. For more information, call 598-6211, 598-1297, 598-6211 or 379-9187.

ONGOING — Daleville Chamber of Commerce meets the second Wednesday of each month at noon at the Chamber of Commerce office in the Daleville Cultural and Convention Center. For more information, call 598-6331.

DOTHAN

MARCH 19-20 — Southeast Alabama Community Theatre will hold open auditions for its production of “The Cemetery Club” at 6:30 p.m. both days at the Cultural Arts Center, located at 909 South St. Andrews Street. No experience is necessary and audition information is available at www.SEACT.com. SEACT’s mission is to provide a continuing source of quality live entertainment and theatrical experiences on stage and behind the scenes for the Wiregrass area. To learn more about SEACT, call 334-794-0400, send an email to seact@seact.com, or visit www.seact.com.

ONGOING — Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3073 Wiregrass Post membership meetings are at the post headquarters at 1426 Taylor Road every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. There is a fish fry every Friday night from 5-7 p.m., then karaoke beginning at 6 p.m. Breakfast is served Sundays from 8-11a.m. The post can host parties, weddings, and hails and farewells.

ONGOING — American Legion Auxiliary Unit 12 hosts a pancake breakfast the third Saturday of each month. Pancakes will be served from 7-10:30 a.m. for \$6 for the general public, \$5 for military members and veterans and free to children 8 and under. Proceeds go toward helping veterans, military members and their families. The post is located at the intersection of S. Park Street and Hwy. 605 (Brannon Stand Road). For more information, call 334-400-5345.

ENTERPRISE

ONGOING — The Enterprise Baseball League

needs players. Tryouts take place now through March 17 at Warren Field. All ages are welcome. For more information, including exact dates and times, call 334-389-5972 or 334-347-1660.

MARCH 12 — Rumba dance lessons will be offered at the Hildreth Building, 202 N. Main Street from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$3 per person per class. For more information, call 334-393-4811.

ONGOING — The American Legion Post 73 meets at the American Legion building at 200 Gibson Street on the fourth Saturday of each month beginning at 9 a.m. The building is across the street from the Lee Street Baptist Church. For more information call 447-8507.

GENEVA

ONGOING — The Geneva County Relay for Life meets the last Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Citizens Bank. For more information, call 248-4495.

MIDLAND CITY

ONGOING — Residents are invited to town hall meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 1385 Hinton Waters Ave. For more information, call 983-3511.

NEW BROCKTON

ONGOING — The Disabled American Veterans Wiregrass Chapter 99 Veterans Assistance office is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9-11:00 a.m. except on federal holidays. The office is located in the town hall.

ONGOING — Adult education classes are offered in Rm. 12 at New Brockton High School, 210 South Tyler St., Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m. All classes are free for individuals 16 years old or older who are not enrolled in public school. Individuals must take an assessment test prior to attending class. Call 894-2350 for more information.

OZARK

MARCH 12 — The Friends of Ozark organization will host a panel discussion in honor of Women’s History and Black History Months at 6 p.m. at CB&T Bank, located at 510 Andrews Avenue in the upstairs meeting room. The group will discuss female empowerment, diversity, social justice and issues pertaining to the modern woman under the theme, Nevertheless She Persisted. The panel will feature distinguished local women, followed by a question-and-answer session. There will be entertainment by Bethel Terry and light refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited.

ONGOING — The Friends of Ozark holds a monthly meeting on the second Monday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Ozark-Dale County Library. For more information, send an email to jnbull@gmail.com, call 334-774-1127,

send an email to mariel.l.clark@gmail.com, or call 334-777-1156.

ONGOING — Every Wednesday, the Ozark-Dale County Public Library hosts free Wii Zumba from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Teens and adults are invited. For more information, call 774-5480.

PINCKARD

ONGOING — The public is invited to the Cross Country Workshop every Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Pinckard United Methodist Church. For more information, call 983-3064.

SAMSON

ONGOING — American Legion Post 78 meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 7 p.m.

ONGOING — The Samson City Council meets monthly the first and third Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the Samson Community Center.

TROY

ONGOING — Troy Bank and Trust Company sponsors senior dance nights every Saturday night from 7-10 p.m. at the J.O. Colley Senior Complex. The complex is transformed into a dance hall and features music from the 40s, 50s, and 60s with finger foods and refreshments. For more information, call Janet Motes at 808-8500.

WIREFLIER AREA

MARCH 8 — The U.S. Army Warrant Officers Association Above the Best Silver Chapter is having their monthly meeting at 11:45 a.m. in Rms. 4 and 5 in Swartworth Hall, 5302 Outlaw Street, Fort Rucker. In addition to normal monthly meeting activity the organization is still working on plans for the 100th anniversary celebration of the U.S. Army warrant officer to occur in July. Lunch and refreshments will be served. The organization is looking for input from warrant officers, past and present. For more details, call 703-665-7004 or visit the organization on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AboveTheBestSilverChapterUSAWOA/>.

MARCH 10 — The Hartford Civic Club will host the 40th annual Winston Howell 5K Road Race at 9 a.m. at the Hartford National Guard Armory. Entry fee is \$20 for people ages 19 and older and \$15 for those 18 and younger. For more information and the entry form, visit <http://winstonhowellroadrace.blogspot.com/>.

MARCH 13 — The Retired Officers Wives Association invites all wives and widows of retired officers to attend its Mad Hatters luncheon and contest at 10:30 a.m. at the Landing at Fort Rucker. People are encouraged to create or wear an interesting hat. People need to make reservations by noon March 9 and make cancellations by noon March 12 by calling 334-347-4966.

Beyond Briefs

Fort Benning public auction

The Fort Benning, Georgia, Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host a public auction March 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Bldg. 2384 at 7701 Prussman Street. The auction will include boats, golf carts, appliances, furniture, fire-arms and more. People can preview the merchandise from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. March 9 and 12. Cash, Visa and MasterCard will be accepted.

For more information, call 706-545-4468.

Montgomery rodeo

The Southeastern Livestock Expo Rodeo is scheduled for March 15-17 at Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery. The event will feature the top bucking stock in the country, according to organizers.

Tickets cost \$16 and can be purchased through Ticketmaster. For schedule details or more information, visit, slerodeo.com/.

River Region Comic Con

Montgomery will host its River Region Comic Con – a first-year, multi-genre, veteran-owned convention – March 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Cramton Bowl Multiplex, 220 Hall Street.

The focus will be on comics, gaming, e-sports, technology and film for the area, according to organizers. Rocket City Ar-

cade will be hosting the arcade game room including a Donkey Kong high score tournament.

Ticket information is available at <http://riverregioncomiccon.com/shop/>. For more information on the event, visit www.facebook.com/events/1221294874638531/.

Carrabelle Culture Crawl

Carrabelle, Florida, will host its second annual Carrabelle Culture Crawl March 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The sprawling waterfront tour will feature art, music, history, food and fun in the heart of downtown Carrabelle, according to organizers. The crawl will take place at more than a dozen galleries, museums, shops, restaurants and spaces. Just a few days later, selected works from members of the Carrabelle Artists Association will be on exhibit at the Rio Carrabelle Art & Music venue.

For more information, visit <https://www.floridasforgottencoast.com/>.

Doggie Easter Egg Hunt

Conservation Park in Panama City Beach, Florida, will host its free Doggie Easter Egg Hunt March 24 from 9-11 a.m. The event will feature more than 400 eggs filled with doggie treats and door prizes.

For more information, call 850-233-5045.

Civil Ties United Mudrun

Civil Ties United has partnered with the Capital City Kiwanis Club and the Lagoon

Park Trail Group to design a unique mud course in Montgomery. March 24, there will be a wet-run of the course. The wet-run runners will pay \$25. There will be T-shirts and prizes. The Civil Ties United Mudrun is a mud run with a message: a physical demonstration that despite people’s differences, they all run the same race, according to organizers. Participants who sign up for the 3-5-mile run are tethered to a person of a different race than themselves. The two-person teams must face 15 obstacles together that may require climbing, crawling or wading through mud. The idea is to open a dialogue on diversity and show participants that if they’re going to make it, they have to do

Tickets cost \$25 and people can register by visiting <https://mmstiming.com/race/2018-civil-ties-united-mudrun/>. For more information, visit www.civiltiesmudrun.com/.

Easter Eggstravaganza Kids Fest

The Montgomery 2018 Riverfront Easter Eggstravaganza Kids Fest will be held March 31 from noon to 2 p.m. in Riverfront Park. The event will feature Easter egg hunts, games, face painting, balloon animals, K-9 demonstration, fire truck display, food vendors and a visit from the Easter Bunny, according to organizers. This event is free and open to the public. Children are encouraged to bring their Easter baskets so they can capture hidden eggs located in the park area.

For more information, call 334-625-2100 or visit www.facebook.com/events/1458049780990870/.

Parks guide

The “2018 Guide to Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites” can help people plan spring break, summer vacations or even family reunions. The free booklet is filled with tips on the ideal hiking trails, fishing spots, cabins, campsites and company picnics. Produced annually by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the travel guide features colorful photos from all across the Peach State.

For a free copy, call 770-389-7286 or stop by any Georgia State Park or State Historic Site. An online version can be found at GeorgiaStateParks.org. Outdoor enthusiasts and history buffs can keep up with the latest news and discounts by signing up for the park system’s e-newsletter at GeorgiaStateParks.org/enews or following them on Facebook at [Facebook.com/georgiastateparks](https://www.facebook.com/georgiastateparks).

Emerald Coast Cruizin’ Car Show

Panama City Beach, Florida, is hosting the Emerald Coast Cruizin’ Car Show through March 10 at Aaron Bessant Park, 600 Pier Park Drive. The family fun event will feature thousands of classic cars, hot rods, custom cars and trucks, and much more.

For more information, visit <https://emeraldcoastcruizin.com/>.

Soldier honors Gold Star families

By Sean Kimmons
Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. — Just over a decade ago, former 1st Sgt. Kirk Alkire’s unit lost more than 50 Soldiers — three of whom were captured and executed by insurgents — during an intense deployment to Iraq.

The deadly toll endured by the 25th Infantry Division’s 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) as part of the U.S. troop surge in Baghdad still weighs heavily on him.

Now living in Eagle River, Alaska, close to where the brigade is based, Alkire’s passion for the outdoors has helped him cope and reflect on his fallen Soldiers. It also led him to name an Alaskan mountain to honor families of those who died in service to the nation — a living monument he hopes provide them solace, as well.

“I found a powerful connection between mountains, climbing and grieving,” said Alkire, who is 51. “It’s therapeutic.”

GOLD STAR PEAK

After a yearlong process, the U.S. Geological Survey’s Board of Geographic Names approved his proposal on Feb. 8. Now an otherwise unnamed 4,148-foot peak near Anchorage is officially recognized as Gold Star Peak.

With about 300 Gold Star families in Alaska, Alkire sought to name a mountain for them and others around the country. The peak stands next to Mount POW/MIA, another mountain dedicated in 1999 to prisoners of war or those missing in action.

Before his Iraq deployment in 2006, Alkire and his friends often climbed the latter mountain to replace U.S. and POW/MIA flags that constantly fly atop of it. Once back in Alaska, climbing the mountain had a greater impact on him. Three Soldiers assigned to his unit in Iraq — Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment — and a civil affairs officer had briefly been taken prisoner before they were killed.

“Those were my guys,” he said. “When that happened, that just changed everything for me of what that mountain means.”

At the summit of Mount POW/MIA, he helped place a memorial box with photos and information on them. He then eyed a nearby mountain he thought could pay tribute to Gold Star families, who had also made a personal sacrifice.

“I had to find a mountain near it because the two are so very connected in history,” he said. “I had a new mission and that’s what I did.”

NEW MISSION

In his petition, Alkire submitted an in-depth presentation on the mountain to ensure it met guidelines to designate it as a stand-alone geographic feature. While the area has a native Alaskan name, there was no name on state or federal record.

To drum up support, he wrote letters to elected officials in Alaska, attended city council meetings and started an online petition that garnered over 1,500 signatures from people in all 50 states, four countries and one U.S. territory, he said.

One such proponent was U.S. Sen. Dan Sullivan, a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve. When Alkire first met the senator, he told him about the casualties his unit suffered in its deployment and showed him a ring full of dog tags he often keeps with him.

“When I pull out the 53 dog tags and show them to someone, they say, ‘Wow, was this over 20 years of service?’ I say, ‘No, it was just 15 months,’” he said. “It rocks them and rocked Senator Sullivan, who himself is a Marine colonel.”

Hours after the unanimous approval to officially name Gold Star Peak, the senator called out Alkire as the Alaskan of the Week on the Senate floor.

In his remarks, Sullivan spoke about his first meeting with the veteran and his collection of dog tags.

“It was powerful and moving, and in some ways it was so horrible to look at because these are the lives and names of the best and brightest we have in America,” the senator said. “That is why he did it and that is why he was motivated.”

Alkire, who had flown to Washington, D.C., that week to support his endeavor, did not know about the senator’s plan beforehand. Humbled by the gesture, he was glad it shone a spotlight on Gold Star families.

“It’s putting them on the map for the public to get a better understanding,” he said. “They’re everywhere within our communities and too many communities have forgotten that they are there or they don’t even know. So, this [mountain] will help educate people.”

MEMORIALS

A state grant will pay for a plaque to be put on top of the mountain, and a Medal of Honor foundation has agreed to fund a granite monument along a nearby road for those who cannot do the climb, he said.

Before it was named, Alkire escorted Gold Star families on an emotional journey up the mountain to honor their



PHOTO BY KIRK ALKIR

Kirk Alkire, a former first sergeant with the 25th Inf. Div.’s 4th BCT (Airborne), recently led an effort to name an Alaskan mountain in honor of Gold Star families. Following approval from the U.S. Board of Geographic Names Feb. 8, an unnamed 4,148-foot peak near Anchorage is now officially recognized as Gold Star Peak.



PHOTO BY KIRK ALKIR

Gold Star Peak, far right, and Mount POW/MIA, far left, can both be seen in the Chugach Mountains near Anchorage.



PHOTO BY KIRK ALKIR

Alkire guided Soldiers from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, in the first recorded summit of Gold Star Peak a week after it was officially named in honor of Gold Star families Feb. 8.

loved ones during the summer. He felt an enormous bond with the families as they opened up about their loss, he said.

“Watching them ... be overcome with emotions of their grief and everything they’ve been dealing with, along with the fact they made it to the summit of this difficult climb, was powerful,” he said. “We fed off each other as we climbed, and it felt really good at the end of day.”

He plans to share the hike with veterans, especially those

in his former unit, who have lost friends in combat. Some of his Soldiers have committed suicide, he said, and many others still struggle with the events from the deployment.

“It’s never going to go away,” he said of the memories. “I honestly don’t want it to go away because as soon as it does, that’s when you forget about those we’ve lost.”

(Editor’s note: For those interested in locating Gold Star Peak with an online map, the site is at [61.444650, -149.208310].)



PHOTO BY KIRK ALKIR

Alkire, a former first sergeant with the 25th Inf. Div.’s 4th BCT (Airborne), displays a ring with 53 dog tags, which represent the Soldiers who were killed during the unit’s deployment to Iraq in 2006-07.

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MARCH 8, 2018

‘Black Hawks’ beat ‘Squad Up,’ 68-59

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

As fans prepare for March Madness, the Fort Rucker Intramural Basketball Season is well under way as teams battle it out in the regular season for a shot at the post championship title.

The 1st Battalion, 14th Aviation Regiment team, Squad Up, took on the Black Hawks, the post team made up of players from various units, in a game that had both teams fighting hard, but it was the post team that would ultimately come out on top, winning 68-59.

“We did well as a team – we came together and had a better second half than the first. (Squad Up) is kind of our rival team and it’s always close every time we play them,” said Otto Lance, Black Hawks team coach. “But I think we’ve got a good shot to win the end-of-season tournament – we can definitely come out on top. I just think we need to work a little more on our man-to-man defense and a bit on our free throws.”

A strong offense is what gave the Black Hawks the upper hand at the start, managing to get possession first at the tip off, following up with a lay up to get on the scoreboard first.

The Black Hawks took possession first and were first to get on the scoreboard with a layup.

The post team came out with an aggressive offense and Squad Up tried to match their ferocity with a tight defense, which managed to keep the 1-14th on their opponent’s heels early in the half, trailing by only two points, minutes in.

The Black Hawks had other plans, though, as they managed to pull away, outmaneuvering Squad Up at every turn. As the half progressed, the Black Hawks managed to pull an 11-point lead with five minutes

remaining in the half.

The 1-14th had to step up their game if they wanted to stay in it, and despite multiple fouls against Squad Up, which allowed for numerous free throws, the Black Hawks’ superior shooting kept them comfortably ahead at the half, 36-27.

The second half was where the game started to get interesting as Squad Up had some advantage going in as they took possession first. They had their work cut out for them, though, but they started the half out on the right foot with a layup. But any ground they gained was almost immediately lost, though, with a foul against the Black Hawks, resulting in two made free throws. Early in the half, Squad Up couldn’t seem to find their offensive footing, and the Black Hawks shooting prowess kept them well ahead.

Squad Up didn’t give up, though, and continued to push against the post team in their attempt to close the gap, but they couldn’t seem to break the 8-point deficit as the Black Hawks’ defense remained tight and their offense stayed solid.

Squad Up finally managed to get it together and get break their stagnation with a free throw, but time wasn’t on their side.

As the half progressed and time wound down, the post team seemed to visibly tire and a fire was lit under the 1-14th, which managed to get within two points of their opponents with just 2 minutes remaining in the game.

But despite Squad Up’s last minute attempt, the Black Hawks’ rallied by tightening up their defense and refining their shooting in the remaining seconds of the game to maintain their lead and hold on for the win, 68-59.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Players from the 1-14th Avn. Regt. team, Squad Up, and the post team made up of various units, Black Hawks, go up for the tip off during a game at Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center March. 1.

TOP-TO-BOTTOM REVIEW

Pediatric care in the military rated ‘excellent,’ but can improve

Military Health Systems
Communications Office Staff Report

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — In a year of change within the Military Health System, parents can rest assured that industry experts, physicians and leaders have been working diligently to improve pediatric care across the enterprise.

The Defense Health Board, made up of nationally recognized civilian medical experts, has completed a top-to-bottom review of pediatric health care in the military and recently released a comprehensive report of their findings and recommendations. According to the report, when the quality of life (including physical and mental health) of the families of service members is compromised, the Department of Defense’s military mission is compromised, as well.

“Taking good care of our dependent beneficiaries is a readiness issue,” said Dr. Terry Adirim, acting principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. “It’s critical that our active duty service members, whether deployed or not, should not have to worry about their children.”

The MHS is committed to delivering quality health care rooted in prevention, focused on wellness, and committed to patient satisfaction. The board found that care for more than 2 million military children eligible for TRICARE is generally excellent, but there are opportunities for improvement. The board’s recommendations were based on four overarching findings.

Beneficiaries find health care delivery inside the MHS difficult to navigate. The Department needs to assure a positive patient and family experience, and high-quality, coordinated care for all pediatric beneficiaries.

The MHS lacks an enterprise-wide system to accurately and consis-



PHOTO BY JACOB SIPPEL

Experts say pediatric care within the Military Health System is excellent as they strive to improve and provide top-quality care for military children.

tently track care, cost and quality of services provided. Outcomes should be tracked, measured and reported across the MHS to ensure delivery of cost-effective, quality care to all pediatric beneficiaries.

MHS care for pediatric beneficiaries, whether through a military treatment facility or civilian provider, varied. Care should be standardized to support patient- and family-centered, timely, and efficient care to all pediatric beneficiaries.

High-quality, coordinated health care is inconsistently provided for pediatric patients with chronic conditions and complex requirements who need integrated services, especially during relocations or deployments. The MHS should improve access and use telehealth technology to provide integrated and continuous care for all beneficiaries regardless of location.

The MHS has made progress on a few points ahead of the report’s release as it works with families, providers, industry experts and advocacy groups to improve, said Adirim. Advances continue in the areas of standardization and coordination of care, and ensuring families have access to the best care available. MHS

GENESIS, the new electronic health record, will continue to be phased into military treatment facilities. It is designed as a standardized system to allow for consistent and coordinated care, and to provide a means of gathering metrics.

Efforts are also under way to ensure children and their families receive continuous quality care covered by TRICARE and have seamless access to subspecialty care. The transition from three TRICARE regions to two may help reduce differences in care, said Navy Capt. Edward Simmer, chief clinical officer for TRICARE Health Plans at the Defense Health Agency.

The MHS is focused on integration so that the same care and standards are applied, whether patients are receiving care at a military treatment facility or through a civilian provider, he added.

“We do a very good job of pediatric care in the MHS, but we could do better,” said Simmer. “We are working to make this so it’s one system of care. And no matter where you’re getting that care, it should look very similar.”

SEE REVIEW, PAGE D3



COURTESY PHOTO

The Defense Health Agency’s instructional podcasts highlight health technology and offer tips, tools and techniques to help improve the lives of those in the military community.

DOD podcast promotes better health

Military Health Systems
Communications Office Staff Report

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Service members, veterans and their families can tune in to three new podcast series to hear the latest on how health technology can improve their lives.

The Defense Health Agency’s instructional podcasts highlight health technology and offer tips, tools and techniques to help improve the lives of those in the military community.

Produced by Department of Defense experts in military health care and technology, the Defense Health Agency’s three new shows are: “Next Generation Behavioral Health,” “Military Meditation Coach” and “A Better Night’s Sleep.”

“Our mission is to coach military health care teams, veterans, service members and families about how to use innovative mobile health technology in treatment or on your own,” says Dr. Julie Kinn, research psychologist at the Defense Health Agency. “Our podcasts inform, while also being practical and entertaining.”

The “Military Meditation Coach” podcast series features meditation, mindfulness and relaxation exercises. The goal is to help listeners learn how to be mentally fit, build resiliency and manage stress through a wide variety of exercises lead by clinicians at the Naval Medical Center San Diego, California, and the Naval Center for Combat and

SEE PODCAST, PAGE D3

DOWN TIME



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

TRIVIA

1. AD SLOGANS: Which company advertised its products with the tagline "Maybe she's born with it"?
2. SCIENCE: What is the process called when heat is transferred through a liquid or gas?
3. MOVIES: What is the theme song from "Titanic"?
4. MEASUREMENTS: How many pounds are in a ton (U.S.)?
5. ANATOMY: Metabolism is regulated by which gland in the human body?
6. LITERATURE: In which book in the Harry Potter series does the character of Dolores Umbridge appear?
7. MYTHOLOGY: Who was the Roman god of strength?
8. MATH: What is the degree of a triangle?
9. MUSIC: What was the name of the Grateful Dead's first album?
10. FAMOUS QUOTES: Which inspirational speaker once said, "Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible"?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword

OH GEE!

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pres. Lincoln
 - 4 Bar mitzvah officiant
 - 9 Placed a burden on
 - 14 Broke, as a horse
 - 19 Fake signatures
 - 21 Billy Joel's "— Extremes"
 - 22 Rock's Cooper
 - 23 "The Golden Girls" co-star being a rascal?
 - 25 Bit of gossip
 - 26 Conical-bore woodwinds
 - 27 Winslet and Middleton
 - 28 Source of great wealth
 - 30 Make juice of
 - 33 Mean beasts wearing disguises?
 - 35 Burg
 - 38 Life story, for short
 - 40 Suffix with cloth or cash
 - 41 With 45-Down, place for paternity testing
 - 42 "Sad to say ..."
 - 43 Record of the years
 - 47 Serpentine fish
 - 49 Unearthly
 - 53 Stared creepily at a group of wolves?
 - 56 Long deli sandwiches
 - 58 Pretend to be
 - 59 Mythical man-horse
 - 60 Red chapter heading, e.g.
 - 62 Ancient French region
 - 64 In re
 - 67 Minerva, to the Greeks
 - 69 Comes out on top
 - 70 "Make no edits to those script lines!"?
 - 76 Sleek, informally
 - 77 How some freelancers work
 - 78 Bellyache
 - 79 Iditarod Trail animal
 - 81 Very spirited
 - 84 Swiftly
 - 89 Brand of fruit drinks
 - 90 Notion, to Luc
 - 92 Heavy work shoe filled with currants?
 - 95 Comedian Smirnoff
 - 97 Apr. clock setting
 - 99 Countdown expression
 - 100 Manila money
 - 101 Lively spirit
 - 103 Smidge
 - 105 Phys ed class
 - 106 Epochs
 - 107 Airport area that's only an illusion?
 - 114 Stair unit
 - 116 Mexican revolutionary
 - 117 Oasis beast
 - 119 Capital of the Beaver State
 - 123 Poe's bird
 - 124 Evil poet
 - 128 Belgian port
 - 129 Wise up
 - 130 Aggressively defiant
 - 131 — Domingo
 - 132 Unable to relax
 - 133 Composer Erik
 - 134 "Prob'ly not"
- DOWN**
- 1 "Hair" style
 - 2 — tube (TV)
 - 3 Therefore
 - 4 Actress Witherspoon
 - 5 Equip for war
 - 6 Razor brand
 - 7 Radio host Glenn
 - 8 Koran's faith
 - 9 Tablecloth material
 - 10 Tennis great Andre
 - 11 Shout on "The Simpsons"
 - 12 Curio display stands
 - 13 Giving type
 - 14 Late state
 - 15 Female grads
 - 16 Copy closely
 - 17 Low-cost, in-product names
 - 18 Freedom from govt. control
 - 20 Brown-and-white cow
 - 24 Get from — B
 - 29 '60s drug
 - 31 Blind as —
 - 32 Ho Chi —
 - 34 Golf peg
 - 35 New Mexico ski spot
 - 36 Bond girl Kurylenko
 - 37 Drawer Disney
 - 39 Burdensome
 - 44 Storekeeper on "The Simpsons"
 - 45 See
 - 41-Across
 - 46 Try to harm with claws
 - 48 Angola's capital
 - 50 Cosine, e.g.
 - 51 Cake topper
 - 52 JFK guesses
 - 54 "Blast!"
 - 55 Kin's partner
 - 57 Linda of "The Exorcist"
 - 61 "— ching!"
 - 63 Hole tool
 - 65 Stomached
 - 66 Used a tool to grab, as an ice block
 - 68 Engraved work of art
 - 70 Screenwriter Ephron
 - 71 Big name in vacuums
 - 72 "Yes" signal
 - 73 EMS skill
 - 74 Tune in to
 - 75 On — with (similar to)
 - 76 Pasty
 - 80 Enters headfirst, as a pool
 - 82 Cup edge
 - 83 "So far — know ..."
 - 85 Any of six pontiffs
 - 86 Wine ripener, e.g.
 - 87 House, south of the border
 - 88 Son of Seth
 - 91 Female hormone
 - 93 Van —, Calif.
 - 94 Cellar, in apt. ads
 - 96 Luxurious
 - 98 Piper's cap
 - 102 School gp.
 - 104 Kitchen choppers
 - 107 Arctic floaters
 - 108 Large city in Nebraska
 - 109 Established fact
 - 110 — Gay (warplane)
 - 111 Tot watcher
 - 112 Latin "I love"
 - 113 Some jabs
 - 115 Suffix similar to -like
 - 118 Pre-euro Italian money
 - 120 Security claim
 - 121 Italian peak
 - 122 Tall tale
 - 125 "Gimme —!" (rude demand)
 - 126 Granola bit
 - 127 Here, in Lyon

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See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

5					3	2		
	4			5				9
		9	1				7	
9			5	1				7
	1			8		3		
		3	2				4	
		6			8	7		
7			4					3
	3			9			6	8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

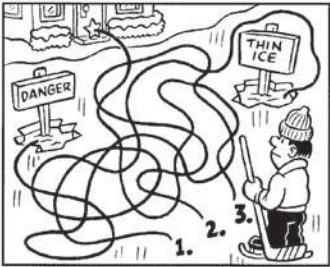
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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See Page D3 for this week's answers.

KID's CORNER



A FROSTY CHOICE! Can you guess which route Tom should take to get off this dangerous ice?

Answer: Number 3 is the one that will lead to a hot cocoa by the fireplace.

SHOOTING HIGH! Professor Flunkum gives you one minute to rearrange the five numbers on the board so that, when multiplied, you will get the highest possible result.

Answer: 751 x 99 = 69,345

IT'S RECESS TIME! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

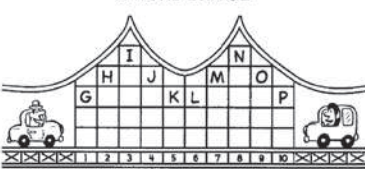
1. A portion of.
2. Moved across ice.
3. Something you eat.
4. Depend on for help.

P	L		T	
		A		M
			Y	E

1. Found under sink.
2. Found on boxes.
3. A bad excuse.
4. Greek harp.



A WORD BRIDGE



The bridge on the left contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus plenty of hints below.

1. An African antelope.
2. A saintly sign.
3. A lazy person.
4. Part of a window frame.
5. A means of access.
6. Disappears when you get up.
7. A magician.
8. Lacking in worldliness.
9. A formal promise to do something.
10. More than one picture.

Answers: 1. Giru 2. Halo 3. Idler 4. Jamb 5. Key 6. Lap 7. Magi 8. Naive 9. Oath 10. Pix

Wishing Well®

7	4	6	4	6	8	5	7	3	5	3	4	8
S	A	B	D	L	T	S	T	A	T	P	V	R
4	2	4	7	4	5	6	4	2	8	7	4	8
E	S	N	R	T	A	U	U	E	U	E	R	S
4	6	2	5	4	6	5	8	2	8	7	2	
E	E	C	Y	C	T	S	O	I	R	N	S	E
7	6	4	7	4	2	5	7	3	8	7	6	3
S	K	A	R	L	T	N	E	A	T	D	I	R
5	7	2	6	8	3	5	3	2	4	2	3	2
T	U	A	E	U	T	R	Y	D	L	M	F	I
7	4	5	6	8	2	5	8	3	2	7	6	8
C	S	A	S	I	R	C	T	O	E	E	A	I
2	8	6	7	8	3	6	5	3	6	3	6	3
R	O	H	D	N	R	E	K	Y	A	O	D	U

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTZOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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FACE OF DEFENSE

Infantry Soldier earns recognition at strongman competition

By Air Force Senior Airman
Curtis Beach
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — All or nothing. It's pain and stress management. There's a constant little bird in the back of your mind chirping away that you might not make it.

If you don't make it, you just spent months of training and a bunch of money to watch your dream pass you by.

First Lt. Max Pippa's mind was racing as he pushed his body to its limits during the final stages of preparation in an arduous journey for greatness.

HEAVYWEIGHT STRONGMAN COMPETITION

Pippa, an infantry officer with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, U.S. Army Alaska, battled against 29 of the toughest warriors from around the globe in the 90-kilogram weight class (198.4 pounds) at the 2017 World's Strongest Man competition in Raleigh, North Carolina, Dec. 16-17.

The competition's first day of events included a log clean and press, an 800-pound yoke carry for 50 feet, a deadlift of a Jeep Wrangler, and a timed-carrying medley. The medley consisted of carrying a 650-pound metal frame, a 325-pound metal tombstone and a 265-pound sand bag carry, each for 50 feet.

"This was the event that tests endurance and speed," said Pippa, who hails from St. Louis, Missouri. "My forte is conditioning-based events, so I knew I could make a push in the standings in that one. It's pretty high up on my list."

One of the keys to success in this style of competition is recovery and knowing how to manage energy and adrenaline between events, he said.

"It's a long day of getting yourself amped up, then coming back down, and then repeating that cycle," Pippa said. "Most people don't work out that way — they

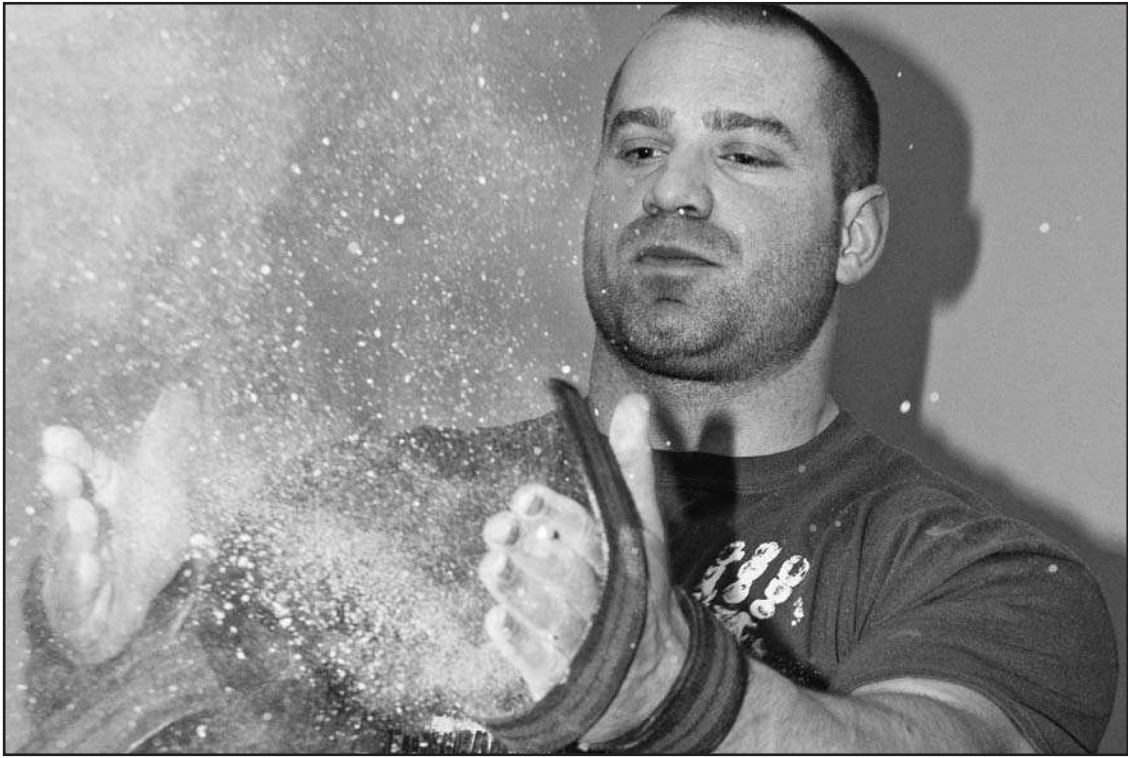


PHOTO BY AIR FORCE SENIOR AIRMAN CURT BEACH

First Lt. Max Pippa, an infantry officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn. (Airborne), 501st Inf. Regt., 4th Inf. BCT, 25th Inf. Div., U.S. Army Alaska, chalks his hands prior to working out at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, Feb. 20.

warm up, exercise for a couple hours and then cool down. Knowing how to 'redline' repeatedly throughout the day and recover effectively is everything."

REHYDRATION

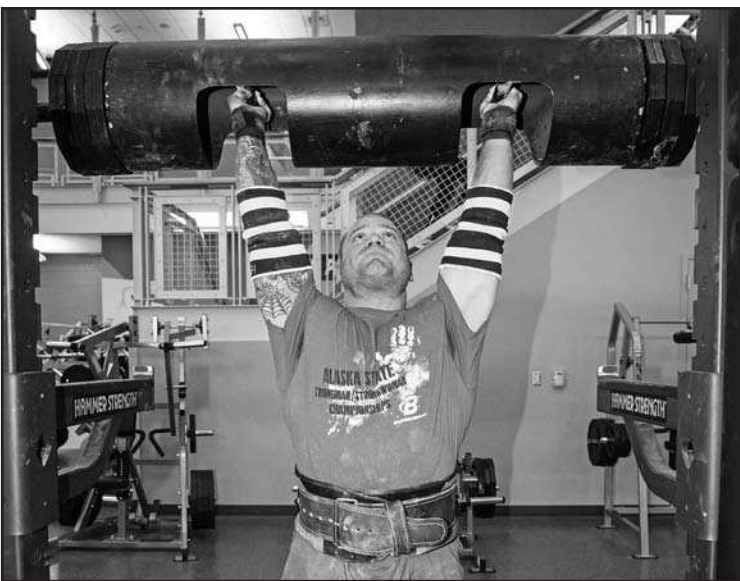
Between events, Pippa would sit down and eat a cup of white rice, a few ounces of beef jerky and drink some rehydration solution. Then, he would listen to non-aggressive music to relax and conserve energy.

"As soon as an event's over, bring yourself down, and get right back into rest and relax mode," Pippa said. "That's what I did for each event I competed in and after each event I would get better."

After nearly eight hours of rigorous competition, the bottom 20 athletes in the standings were eliminated, while Pippa, in third, and the other Top 10 advanced to the second day to determine the champ.

"That night was nothing but restless sleep," he said. "At 3 a.m., I decided to just stay awake and focus on getting in the right mindset for the coming events."

The last day of competition included two events; the first was a timed pulling of a Ford F-350 truck with an attached trailer hold-



Pippa performs a standing military press. Pippa competed in the 2017 World's Strongest Man competition in Raleigh, N.C., in December where he achieved a second place finish in the 90-kilogram (198.4 pounds) weight class.

ing four more vehicles across a 50-foot course.

Secondly, competitors would race to lift a series of six concrete stones, increasing in weight from 250 to 375 pounds, onto successive platforms.

MENTALLY FOCUSED

"Day 2 was my jam," said the infantry officer. "I had been awake for most the night, visualizing those two events and watching silent videos of past competitions. I

was mentally focused."

To help him stay focused, he thought about his 10-month-old son, Cassius, and his wife, Corinna, and all their support throughout his preparation for the competition, which often included three to five hours of training three days per week.

Often training at JBER's fitness centers, Pippa said he owes much of his success to John Limon, Buckner Physical Fitness Center director, who supports JBER's

many athletes by procuring necessary training equipment, such as concrete stones, not often found at typical gyms.

"People like Pippa get me excited. He's set a heck of an example around here," Limon said. "Lots of military guys and gals come to the fitness center with aspirations to achieve great things within their military lives and outside the gates. Pippa shows people around here what's possible when you're disciplined and dedicate yourself to achieving your goals."

Pippa has a bachelor's degree in exercise physiology, so fitness, diet and health have always been a passion for him. He developed an interest in strongman in 2006 with some friends in St. Louis.

GRATITUDE

"I feel fortunate and blessed to have been able to perform well in something I'm passionate about," Pippa said. "To know what makes me happy, gets my blood pumping and to be lucky enough to be recognized as one of the top in the world is super humbling."

Competing with purpose, Pippa won both of the second day's events. Combined with the points he had accumulated the first day, the 27-year-old fitness enthusiast brought home a second-place overall finish in the prolific competition.

At the end of the contest, Pippa found himself standing on the podium with a silver trophy in one hand and baby Cassius in the other.

"I'm a pretty lucky guy," he said. "I just feel blessed that all the variables lined up the way they did, especially my wife who has been extremely supportive, taking on a lot to enable me to pursue this."

Now Pippa plans to spend time with his family, pursue a career as a firefighter, and continue to compete and to inspire others to pursue their passions.

"Regardless of what it is that drives you, I hope other people find what they're ambitious about. Find something that fires you up and pursue it, and see where it goes. I feel so happy, humbled and grateful for this experience, and I hope other people can enjoy this same feeling," he said.

Review

Continued from Page D1

Dr. Jeremy Lazarus, a psychiatrist and board member, said the recommendations highlight opportunities to strengthen patient and family experiences during the ongoing transition in the MHS, particularly in clinical preventive services, primary and specialty care, and behavioral health. Improving access to and coordination of

care is especially important for children with complex health care needs, he added.

"A number of system issues that are outlined in the report are similar to many of the issues going on in the private sector," said Lazarus. As subcommittee chair for neurological and behavioral health, Lazarus worked with retired Maj. Gen. George Anderson, subcommittee chair for health care delivery, on the review. "This

is an opportunity for MHS to be a leader in implementation of pediatric quality measures, where measures haven't been nearly as researched or used as those in adult medicine."

Throughout the assessment, senior leaders worked with the board to help members understand the complexity of the MHS, said Adirim.

Listening to the suggestions and con-

cerns of advocacy groups, parents, and doctors is critical to identifying issues in a large, integrated system, she added.

"Our priority is to make access to the care as easy and seamless as possible," said Adirim. "I look forward to working with the board to ensure the recommendations are met, and working with families and advocacy groups to ensure changes are communicated."

Podcast

Continued from Page D1

Operational Stress Control. Each episode is designed for listeners to tune in on their own, in a group or with a health care provider. "A Better Night's Sleep" offers listeners tips and information on sleep disorders, evidence-based treatments, nightmares and the importance of adequate rest. Kinn and Dr. Jonathan Olin, medical director of Evans Army Community Hospital's Sleep Lab at Fort Carson, Colorado, host the podcast, along with other sleep experts in the Military Health System.

In each episode, Kinn and Olin answer audience questions, explain how treatments work and interview other sleep specialists — to improve sleep for both mili-

tary and civilian listeners.

The "Next Generation Behavioral Health" podcast offers 10-minute tips for clinicians using health technology in clinical care, such as how to prescribe mobile apps to their patients, as well as how to tell which apps are safe, effective and evidence-based. The podcast also takes an in-depth look at why mobile health is important and answers the most common questions that health care professionals have when integrating technology into practice. Kinn and fellow Defense Health Agency psychologist Dr. Christina Armstrong host the show.

Upcoming episodes will feature interviews with behavioral health experts on the latest mobile health re-

search, integrating apps into treatment and protecting patient information.

"Integrating technology into care doesn't change the way you're practicing," Armstrong says. "The most important part of this new addition of a mobile app is that you're taking that evidence-based treatment and now you're doing it in a more efficient way. And you're also able to collect accurate data in real time."

Although the new podcasts were created with the military community in mind, anyone can subscribe for free wherever podcasts are available. Learn more about "Next Generation Behavioral Health," "Military Meditation Coach" and "A Better Night's Sleep," at <http://t2health.dcoe.mil/military-health-podcasts>.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

A	B	E	R	A	B	B	I	L	A	D	E	D	T	A	M	E			
F	O	R	G	E	R	I	E	S	I	G	O	T	O	A	L	I	C	E	
R	O	G	U	E	M	C	C	L	A	N	A	H	A	N	R	U	M	O	R
O	B	O	E	S	K	A	T	E	S	G	O	L	D	M	I	N	E		
R	E	A	M	M	O	N	S	T	E	R	S	I	N	C	O	G			
T	O	W	N	B	I	O	I	E	R	D	N	A							
A	L	A	S	A	N	N	A	L	S	E	E	L	E	E	R	I	E		
O	G	L	E	D	T	H	E	P	A	C	K	S	U	B	S	A	C	T	
S	A	T	Y	R	R	U	B	R	I	C	A	L	S	A	T	I	A		
A	S	T	O	A	T	H	E	N	A	W	I	N	S						
D	O	N	T	T	O	U	C	H	T	H	A	T	D	I	A	L	O	G	
A	E	R	O	N	S	P	E	C	C	A	R	P							
S	L	E	D	D	O	G	R	A	H	R	A	H	A	P	A	C	E		
H	I	C	I	D	E	E	R	A	I	S	I	N	B	R	O	G	A	N	
Y	A	K	O	V	D	S	T	T	M	I	N	U	S	P	E	S	O		
P	E	P	T	A	D	G	Y	M	E	R	A	S							
B	O	G	U	S	T	E	R	M	I	N	A	L	S	T	E	P			
E	M	I	L	I	A	N	O	C	A	M	E	L	S	A	L	E	M		
R	A	V	E	N	O	G	D	E	N	O	F	I	N	I	Q	U	I	T	Y
G	H	E	N	T	L	E	A	R	N	T	R	U	C	U	L	E	N	T	
S	A	N	T	O	A	N	T	S	Y	S	A	T	I	E	N	A	H		

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

5	7	1	9	4	3	2	8	6
6	4	2	8	5	7	1	3	9
3	8	9	1	2	6	5	7	4
9	6	4	5	3	1	8	2	7
2	1	7	6	8	4	3	9	5
8	5	3	2	7	9	6	4	1
4	9	6	3	1	8	7	5	2
7	2	8	4	6	5	9	1	3
1	3	5	7	9	2	4	6	8

TRIVIA

Answers

- Maybelline
- Convection
- "My Heart Will Go On"
- 2,000
- Thyroid
- "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix"
- Hercules
- 180 degrees
- "The Grateful Dead" (1967)
- Tony Robbins

FORT RUCKER SPORTS BRIEFS

Indoor pool

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center Indoor Pool will have limited lap lanes available for lap swimming Mondays-Thursdays from 4-7 p.m. due to programming. Recreational swimming will also not be available during this time. For additional information, call 255-2296.

Softball coaches meeting

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will host intramural softball coaches meetings today at 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. The meetings are for anyone interested in coaching an intramural softball team. The meetings will be held in the Fort Rucker PFC's conference room. For more information, call 255-2296.

Saturday Afternoons on the Range

Silver Wings Golf Course hosts its Saturday Afternoons on the Range with PGA professional Ty Andersen Saturdays from 1-2 p.m. Cost is \$10 and can be paid at the pro shop before the session starts at the driving range. The afternoon is a supervised practice with unlimited range balls. For more information, call 255-0089.

Youth turkey hunt

Fort Rucker Outdoor Recreation will host its youth turkey hunt Saturday from 7 a.m. to noon. The hunt is open to the public for youth ages 5-15. Registration is \$20. A parent or es-

cort of the youth must have an Alabama State Hunting License and hunter education completion card. There will be door prizes for all registered youth. Lunch will be provided. The top three turkeys will receive an additional prize.

For more information or to register, visit ODR or MWR Central, or call 255- 4305 or 255-2997.

Gobbler Classic Turkey Hunt

Outdoor recreation will host its Gobbler Classic Turkey Hunt March 15 through April 30. The entry fee is \$25 and participants must have an Alabama State All-Game License, Fort Rucker Post Hunting Permit and hunter education completion card. Alabama State Regulation and Fort Rucker 215-1 regulation apply. The turkey must be harvested on Fort Rucker to qualify. The overall winner will receive a cash prize payout.

People can register at ODR or MWR Central. For more information, call 255-4305 or 255-2997.

Shamrock Shuffle

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will host the annual Shamrock Shuffle 5K Walk, 5K/10K Run and 1-Mile Fun Run March 17. Race day registration will run from 7:30-8:45 a.m. The 5k walk and 5K/10k run will start at 9 a.m. at the PFC on Andrews Avenue. Participants are encouraged to pre-register at either PFC. Forms are available at either PFC

or MWR Central, and are printable from the MWR website at <https://rucker.armymwr.com/>. The fun run will begin at about 10:45 a.m. after the race is complete. It will be open to all children and be free of charge.

For more information, including costs and awards categories, call 255-2296 or 255-3794.

CG's Golf Tournament

Silver Wings Golf Course will host the Commanding General's Golf Tournament March 31 at 9 a.m. The format is four-person team scramble. Entry fee is \$60 for non-members and \$50 for members. Entry fee includes tournament course fees, 18 holes of golf, range balls, carts, lunch and prizes. Prizes go to the longest drive, closest to the pin, Top 3 teams and the highest scoring team.

For more information, call 255-0089.

Ribbon Run

The Ribbon Run 2-Mile Fun Run is scheduled for April 6 at 6 a.m. at Howze Field. This run will support domestic violence, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, and child abuse awareness months. Entry is free as it is a physical training run and open to everyone. No registration is required

For more information, call 255-2296 or 255-3794.

Wounded Warrior Spring Hunt

Fort Rucker will host the Wounded Warrior

Spring Hunt April 6-8. Wounded Warriors from across the southeast will participate in the hunt free of charge through the support of sponsors assisting with lodging and food. Hunters are expected from Virginia, Florida, Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia and Mississippi. The hunt is open to the general public. Guides to assist the wounded warriors are also welcomed.

All patrons wanting to hunt along with the wounded warriors must have a valid state hunting license, Fort Rucker hunting permit and a hunter education completion card. Hunters must also read Alabama and Fort Rucker regulations regarding authorized weapons and ammunition. Cost is \$25. Prizes will be awarded for the biggest turkey, biggest coyote and most coyotes.

For more information, call 255-4305 or visit <http://rucker.armymwr.com/us/rucker>.

Deep sea fishing trip

MWR Central will host a deep sea fishing trip April 7 on a 45-foot, walk-around party boat in Destin, Florida. There are 24 seats available on the trip, which costs \$78 per person and includes transportation, bait, rod, reel, fishing license, fish cleaning, tip and six-hour fishing trip. Organizers recommend people bring a small cooler with drinks and snacks – no glass.

To register or get more information, call 255-2997 or 255-4305.

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