

ARMY BLACK KNIGHTS DEFEAT NAVY FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR. SEE PAGE 9.

ARMY FLYER

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

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A children's choir performs at the Fort Rucker Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 3 at Howze Field.

PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

'TIS THE SEASON

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CG ISSUES HOLIDAY MESSAGE



By Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler
USAACE and Fort Rucker
Commanding General

USAACE and Fort Rucker team, the holiday season is quickly approaching and I want you all to enjoy this special time of year. I encourage each and every one of you to take this well-deserved opportunity to celebrate and gather with family and friends. As you celebrate this festive time, Michelle and I would like to extend well wishes and our sincerest thanks to your spouses, children, and family.

This past year has been extremely busy for all of us and our team has accomplished much of which to be proud. Those accomplishments are a testament to all of your hard work and dedication. I want to thank each of you for the efforts you have made to accomplish the mission and I look forward to what the coming year will bring.

The holiday season can also be a time of great stress and increased risk. For many of our Soldiers and Families this stress can be overwhelming. I ask that you stay alert and vigilant to your surroundings, protect one another, and if you see one of our team members or their family going through a



difficult time, take action. Accidental risk goes up this time of year as well, please take the time to identify hazards and guard yourself from potential dangers.

Again, thank you for all your professionalism, hard work, and commitment to the Army and our great nation. I hope this season is filled with happiness and joy, enjoy all the best in the New Year! Above the best!

Happy Holidays!

William K. Gayler
 Major General, U.S. Army



The post Christmas tree on Howze Field.

PHOTOS BY JIM HUGHES

Sounds of the Season

Fort Rucker ushers in holidays with tree lighting, concert

By Jim Hughes
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Fort Rucker ushered in the holiday season with its annual tree lighting and Commanding General's Holiday Concert Dec. 3 to packed houses at Howze Field and the post theater, respectively.

Special guests Santa and Mrs. Claus joined the hundreds in attendance as youth and community choirs, the Maneuver Center of Excellence Band and even uninvited guest, the Grinch, helped open the holidays on post with the sounds of the season and a call by

Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, to remember the many Soldiers who serve away from home and loved ones this year.

TREE LIGHTING

"My wife gave me the best advice right before I walked up here when she said, 'Don't talk long -- the kids are excited,'" he said.

"As we begin this season, remember there

SOUNDS CONT.

are many, many Soldiers far away from their families during this Christmas holiday and this holiday season. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers,” Gayler added. “We have over 140,000 Soldiers all over the world today that don’t get the opportunity to be with loved ones and to tell each other what they mean to them. So, take that opportunity over this holiday season, and share the spirit of Christmas and the love you have for your family and community.”

Narrator Mike Kozlowski, Army Community Service, then announced the winners of the Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Christmas Ornament Contest winners, adding that many of the ornaments on the post tree were the creations of Fort Rucker youth who entered the contest.

Winners were: Emma Ryan in the ages 3-5 category; Mark Meadows, 6-8; and Dorian Smith, 9-11 and overall winner.

Smith then helped the CG light the tree just before Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived via escort by the Directorate of Public Safety Community Police while riding in a Fort Rucker firetruck. The North Pole duo then walked down the red carpet laid out in welcome to the cheers of gathered youth, handed out treats and encouraged all to join them at The Landing for photos with Santa.

CG’S HOLIDAY CONCERT

Gayler spoke again as the MCOE Band from Fort Benning, Georgia, took the stage.

“You didn’t come to hear me, but I wanted to say Merry Christmas to all of you,” he said before thanking the communities in the Wiregrass for their outstanding support of Fort Rucker and the Army. “This is our gift to you, to give back to you for all that you do for us. Please sit back and enjoy the evening.”

Chief Warrant Officer of the Aviation



Spc. Brandon Dickson, Maneuver Center of Excellence Band, performs ‘O Holy Night,’ at the CG’s Holiday Concert Dec. 3 at the post theater.

Branch CW5 Joseph B. Roland and Command Sgt. Maj. of the Aviation Branch Brian N. Hauke then took to the stage and treated the audience to a reading of “’Twas the Night Before Christmas,” accompanied by the band.

As holiday favorite after holiday favorite filled the theater, a guest in a red suit made a sudden appearance, but this wasn’t the jolly old elf – it was the Grinch set on ruining the night by wreaking havoc on the band, throwing around the presents under the tree in front of the stage and taunting the crowd before being run off by Capt. Aaron Morris, band commander.

After things calmed back down, the band played a rousing rendition of “O Holy Night,” featuring the trumpet of Spc. Brandon Dickson, and also dedicated “All I Want for Christmas is You,” to deployed Soldiers everywhere.

Students from Fort Rucker Elementary School then performed “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” before Santa Claus showed up with the Grinch in tow, who apologized and

passed out treats and took selfies with the crowd before Morris began closing the show.

“The Maneuver Center of Excellence Band and I truly hope that you’ve enjoyed this evening and that it’s helped you and yours get into holiday spirit,” he said. “For us, we deeply cherish evenings like this, an opportunity where we can all come together with a shared purpose and unity to celebrate

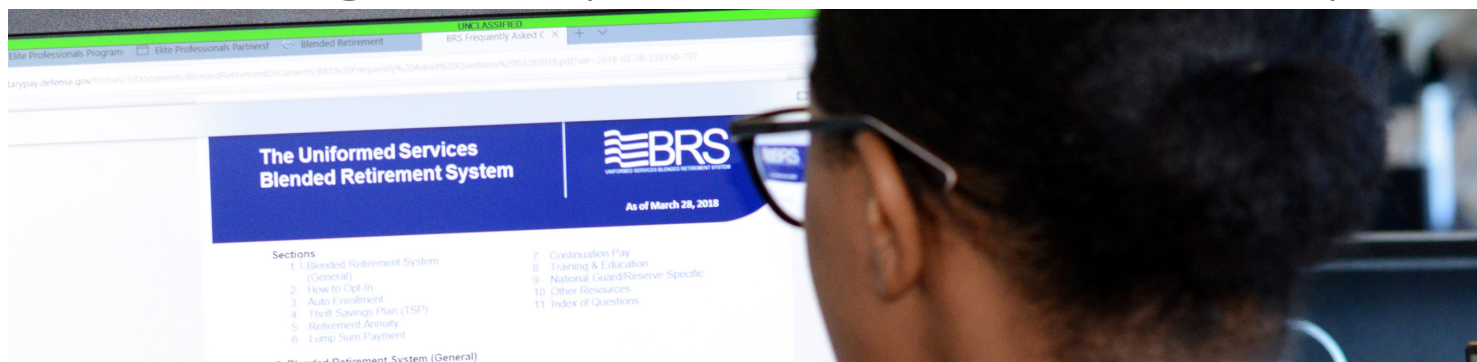
and enjoy each other’s company.

“With all of the headlines we see day to day, opportunities like tonight may seem increasingly rare,” Morris added. “But let tonight be a reminder to all of us, regardless of where we’re from or what or how we choose to celebrate, we can do best together. We wish you a merry Christmas, happy holidays, and may you have a blessed and happy New Year.”



Members of the MCOE Band perform at the CG’s Holiday Concert Dec. 3 at the post theater.

Time running out to opt into Blended Retirement System



A Soldier studies the Blended Retirement System website

By Gary Sheftick

Army News Service

PHOTO BY GARY SHEFTICK

WASHINGTON -- Less than a month remains for Soldiers to opt into the Blended Retirement System and so far only 19 percent of those eligible have switched to the new plan.

Pentagon officials are concerned many Soldiers will be missing out on benefits under BRS that they can take with them if they leave the Army before serving 20 years.

One key benefit of the new retirement system is that Soldiers can keep their money from the Thrift Savings Plan -- including government contributions and matching funds -- when they leave the service.

Under BRS, Soldiers will receive matching funds from the government every paycheck for their TSP contributions on up to 5 percent of their earnings. And if they decide to leave service before retiring, they will be able to keep those funds.

"This is an opportunity for Soldiers to get something, whether they serve to retirement or not," said Henry Manning, a senior official with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

He and Maj. Yungsong Han with that office have travelled to a number of installations across the Army to brief Soldiers on the

new retirement system.

"We find 80 percent of the people in the audience say that they're going to retire," Manning said, "while the reality is that probably only 20 percent of them will actually retire."

"If you're somebody who plays the odds, chances are opting in would be a better thing for you to do," he said.

The clock is ticking, though, he added.

While all military members who began their service this year automatically fall under the new retirement plan, Congress gave existing troops until Dec. 31 to opt into BRS.

Active-duty Soldiers who had fewer than 12 years of service as of Dec. 31, 2017 are eligible; and so are reserve-component members with fewer than 4,320 points.

For those who do not stay in 20 years, opting into BRS is definitely beneficial, Manning said. "At least when you walk away, you walk away with the funds that the government has contributed (to TSP.)"

About 350,000 active-duty service members have opted into BRS so far, but the percentage of Marines who have chosen the new system is double the percentage of Soldiers. About 48 percent of eligible Marines have

switched to BRS.

Manning explained that's because the Corps required all Marines to fill out a form, whether they wanted to stay with the legacy plan or opt into the new. Other services only required those who want to change to go online and sign up.

All eligible Soldiers, however, were supposed to take online training this year concerning BRS.

A total of 93 percent from both active and reserve components have completed that on-line training, Han said.

Installation personal financial managers have also been training in BRS and can provide free counseling to service members and their families. In addition, MilitaryOneSource provides free financial support 24/7 at 1-800-342-9647, and a BRS calculator is at <https://militarypay.defense.gov/Calculators/BRS/>.

"Soldiers are still vacillating on whether they want to opt in," Manning said. "If you're not certain, you definitely want to opt in, because at least you walk away with some money at the end of your tour."

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE

FOR DEC. 14-30

Friday, Dec. 14

The Hate U Give (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15

The Nutcracker and the Four Realms (PG) 4 p.m.

The Girl in the Spider's Web (R) 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 16

Studio Appreciation Screening (PG-13) 1 p.m.

Free admission. Tickets available at your local exchange food court. Seating open to non-ticket holders 30 minutes prior to show time. Doors will open at 11 a.m.

Hunter Killer (R) 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 20

Mary Poppins Returns (PG) 4 & 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 20

Mary Poppins Returns (PG) 4 & 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 21

Mary Poppins Returns (PG) 4 & 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 22

Mary Poppins Returns (PG) 4 & 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 23

Mary Poppins Returns (PG) 1 & 4 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 27

Mary Poppins Returns (PG) 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 28

Mary Poppins Returns (PG) 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 29

The Grinch (PG) 4 p.m.

Nobody's Fool (R) 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 30

The Grinch (PG) 1 p.m.

Fantastic Beasts (PG-13) 4 p.m.

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

A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Army Aviation's pursuit of Pancho Villa full of lessons

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Staff Report

Before Army Aviators took to the skies above France in World War I to engage in harrowing dog fights, the first pilots engaged an enemy much closer to home.

The 1st Aero Squadron was the first unit of its kind in the U.S. Army, consisting of eight Curtiss JN-3 Jenny aircraft and 11 pilots who received orders March 12, 1916, to join the Punitive Expedition in pursuit of Mexican revolutionary General Francisco "Pancho" Villa, which would see the first Aviation unit deployed into international territory, according to Bob Mitchell, U.S. Army Aviation Museum curator.

The expedition, which occurred during the Mexican Revolution, was launched by then-President Woodrow Wilson after Villa brought his troops into U.S. territory and attacked the town of Columbus, New Mexico. The goal was to capture Villa with the aid of the 1st Aero Squadron, which was deployed as reconnaissance to locate the enemy, said Mitchell.

Aviation was still in its infancy and the JN-3 aircraft were extremely underpowered, said the curator, so the operation for the 1st Aero Squadron didn't go as planned.

"The plan was that they would use the aircraft to fly forward, locate the enemy and then radio back, and the main body would come back and encircle the enemy," said Mitchell. "But the aircraft had trouble operating in the mountainous terrain of Mexico and unimproved field conditions, and most

of the aircraft crashed or were damaged."

Although the operation for the squadron wasn't a success, it was a pivotal moment in Army Aviation as it would be the first time that U.S. Army aircraft would be operated over foreign soil in a hostile act.

"They never did get Pancho Villa, but it was a very interesting period for Army Aviation because it would be the first time the U.S. Army would see the employment of the 1st Aero Squadron, the very first Aviation unit, and it was also the first time that mechanized machinery was used in warfare by the U.S.," said the curator. "We actually went into Mexico with trucks, cars and motor transports, so that was a pretty big deal."

The expedition was also a learning experience for the Army, as officials were able to see that the JN-3 aircraft were not up to snuff as a war fighter, and with World War I raging across the Atlantic, the time for the U.S. to enter the war was fast approaching.

"We were not a world power at the time," said Mitchell. "They were developing some advanced machinery (during the war) and we were discovering that our airplane was not up to the task."

The Jenny aircraft was upgraded using the OX-4 series engine for the JN-4, which dramatically improved the aircraft, but as a war fighter, the aircraft was obsolete compared to those flying over the skies in Europe.

When the U.S. finally entered the war in 1917, the Army didn't have an aircraft that



FILE PHOTO

The Curtiss JN-4D Jenny on display in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. It was delivered to the U.S. Army in 1918 and was the most powerful of the Jenny series of aircraft.

was capable of going toe-to-toe with those flying in the war, so in order to cope, a partnership was developed between French, British and Italian forces to train U.S. Army pilots with their aircraft, he said.

Although the Jenny wasn't an aircraft that was able to compete over the skies of Europe, it was a vital step in creating Army Aviation as it is known today, Mitchell said.

"It wasn't really until the end of the war that we really had an aircraft that was capable of modern warfare, but that really jump-started Army Aviation," he added. "When the war ended, it was full-tilt into aircraft development and research, and we really got on the ball then."



DRIVING DRUNK PUTS LIVES AT RISK

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Staff Report

While the cost of a taxi can be substantial and the use of a designated driver can be inconvenient, the bill for driving while intoxicated can often add up to the loss of lives, or heavy fines and the loss of driving privileges.

More than 10,000 deaths resulted from alcohol-related driving accidents in 2017, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and although fatalities from drunk driving have fallen over the years, the risk still remains high, said Marcel Dumais, Fort Rucker Community Police chief.

As the holiday season gets under way, and more people brave the roadways to visit family and friends, personal responsibility has a big part to play in making sure people stay safe when it comes to consuming alcohol and getting behind the wheel, he added.

“Just be cognizant if you are going to consume alcohol,” said the police chief. “First, the most important thing is, we would like to see people use designated drivers. Before you even start your partying, identify that person in advance.

“Even one drink is too many at times (when it comes to driving), so we ask that if you’re going to drink alcohol, do not drive back home,” he continued. “Call yourself a taxi, call a friend, call a family member to come get you, so that we’re not on the wrong end of that with someone being stopped for (driving under the influence).”

Keith Wilbur, prevention coordinator with the Fort Rucker Army Substance Abuse Program, said it’s this time of year that peo-



FILE PHOTO

Fort Rucker military police officials warn that driving while intoxicated on post can lead to a one-year suspension of on-post driving privileges and worse.

ple who might not normally consume alcohol will drink to partake in celebrations with friends and family, and because of that, people should be extra aware of their intake and not let their guard down.

“In some cases, things can get out of hand,” he said. “Getting a costly DUI has no benefits or return – fines, court costs, bail, attorney’s fees, towing and other costs from arrest to conviction – not including physical

and emotional damages.”

According to the NHTSA, a first-time offense can cost a driver up to \$10,000 in fines and legal fees, with penalties ranging from license revocation to jail time.

“A taxi ride home only costs an average of \$30 in comparison,” said Wilbur. “Good cheer, festivity and romantic celebrations can be achieved without high-risk behaviors. Please make plans to drink and celebrate re-

sponsibility, so that you can enjoy the fun without tickets and fines or worse.”

And things can get worse with alcohol-related crashes resulting in thousands of deaths annually in the U.S. alone, and although a death resulting from DUI is painful any time of year, it can be particularly difficult around the holidays.

“These are the worst kinds of accidents because they are preventable,” said Dumais. “It’s just on the driver themselves – as long as they don’t get behind the wheel after drinking alcohol, we won’t see these types of accidents.”

If drivers are arrested on post for DUI, they will incur a mandatory one-year suspension of driving privileges on the installation, which can affect the jobs of those who work on the installation, he said.

“If you’re civilian, you will be prosecuted by the state’s attorney for the DUI, but regardless of your affiliation with the military, there is a one-year mandatory suspension from driving on Fort Rucker,” said the police chief. “That’s the big thing for people who work on post. At that point, if you lose your license for a year on post, how will you get to work?”

Dumais said that before people consume alcohol, they should be aware of how it will affect their judgement because the effects of alcohol are different from person to person depending on height, weight and tolerance.

But regardless of size or tolerance, he said people should remember one thing.

“The best thing to do is if you’re going to drink over the holidays, do not drive,” he said.

SHARP professionals participate in community training session

By Kelly Morris
USAACE Public Affairs

Fort Rucker Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention professionals participated alongside local community law enforcement in a collaborative community training event focused on conducting sexual assault investigations Nov. 20 in Ozark.

The “Trauma Informed Sexual Assault Investigation: A Seminar for Law Enforcement Officers and Prosecutors” held at the Ozark Police Department training facility was paid for by the Alabama Coalition Against Rape, a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to continually improving the treatment of sexual violence survivors and to ultimately ending sexual violence.

While the target audience was area law enforcement officers and investigators, the informative event provided a professional development opportunity for SHARP personnel, according to Capt. Megan Reading, SHARP program manager for the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker.

“We participate in these events because victim advocacy is a team effort. If someone calls us, even if they’re not eligible for SHARP services, then we know who to refer them to and we have those points of contact so it’s a seamless transition,” Reading said.

Participants from Fort Rucker represented the USAACE SHARP office, 1st Aviation Brigade, 110th Avn. Bde. and 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group.

During the event, the attendees heard from consultant Justin Boardman, a retired detective who served in the West Valley City Police Department in Utah where he was assigned for several years to a special victim’s

unit. He co-authored a Trauma Informed Interview protocol for adult victims of trauma that uses the Neurobiology of Trauma to gain information to strengthen investigations.

Participants learned about how trauma impacts a victim’s response to an event, how to conduct a trauma-informed victim interview, information on alcohol facilitated sexual assaults, report writing for sexual assault cases and other topics.

The Alabama Coalition Against Rape provides training events throughout the year, and this year’s focus was helping police departments be more informed about trauma interviews, and also to help with the victim advocacy process, according to Holli Miller, victim advocate for 110th Avn. Bde.

“I’ve been working with (the organization) for the last couple of years and we share information on trends,” Miller said. “We are an installation, but we are part of the state, and they tell us what the trends are within their state.”

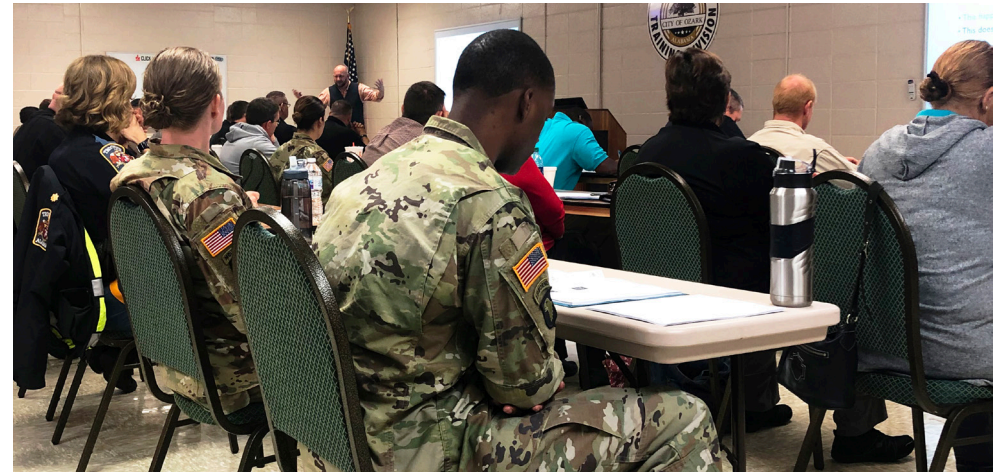
The collaboration generates ideas for training and networking opportunities.

According to Miller, police department personnel learned techniques to question a victim that are less like interrogating and more like a conversation to help the victim recall information.

“When you first meet a victim they may have a smile on their face, but that smile isn’t real, it’s out of fear,” Miller said.

Information provided by a victim may appear inconsistent, so an understanding of how trauma impacts the brain is crucial.

“You’re helping the victim put together the pieces, because it’s not all in one chunk of



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

Fort Rucker SHARP professionals participate alongside community law enforcement officers in a collaborative community training event focused on conducting sexual assault investigations Nov. 20 in Ozark.

memory, it’s all over – the chemistry inside the brain, and you’ve got to piece it back together,” Miller said.

Thanks to the training, SHARP personnel now have a better idea of how to prepare a victim for what the interview process will be like, Miller said.

“When we have a victim, if we have to go to the police departments, now we understand and we can help explain to them what the interview process is going to be like. We try to explain that whole process – this is what they’re looking for, we need you to be very detailed, they’re going to ask you questions, feel free to tell them as much as you can remember,” Miller said.

Understanding more about how trauma affects the brain can also aid in a commander’s decision-making.

“It could translate into explaining to a brigade commander why potentially a victim’s story might not make a lot of sense initially. (The speaker) talked about how there’s a timeline they’ve figured out through research, and the initial report from a victim will be very limited. Then after one or two

sleep cycles is when you begin to process and remember some things. When something traumatic happens to you like that, you can have a brain block,” Reading said.

For Sgt. 1st Class Richard T. Wright, installation and 1st Avn. Bde. sexual assault response coordinator, a day of hearing the stories of cases and analyzing a mock interview process was an opportunity for individual reflection and assessment.

“For me, it makes you internalize your norms and nuances that, unbeknownst to you, could be relayed to your clients or to people in general,” Wright said.

The bottom line comes back down to a key element of the SHARP program.

“Report. If you’re a victim of sexual assault or if you are familiar with someone who is a victim of sexual assault, I would urge you to speak to that person and get their insight on it, but the ultimate goal for an unrestricted case is to report and have lawyers prosecute offenders, especially if it’s people within or working with the Army. Sexual harassment and assault are not tolerated in the Army,” Wright said.

FROM DFMWR

SPRING SOCCER REGISTRATION

Youth spring soccer registration runs through Jan. 18. Cost is \$25 for ages 3-4 and \$45 for ages 5-14. Children must meet the age requirements by Nov. 30, 2018, and the age groups are 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14. Youth must be a Fort Rucker Child and Youth Services member and have a current sports physical to register. Parent's meeting will be Jan. 23 at 6 p.m. at the youth center, Bldg. 2800. Practices for soccer will begin on or about Jan. 28. Coaches are needed. People interested in coaching should call 255-2254 or 255-2257. For more information on youth soccer, call 255-2257 or 255-9638.

CHRISTMAS HAM SHOOT

Silver Wings Golf Course will host its Christmas Ham Shoot Dec. 15 with tee times 7-9 a.m. This is a Stableford Tournament, and USGA Handicap or Weekend Dogfight points will be used. Cost is \$20 per player – plus cart, user fees and green fees, if applicable. The event is open to the public. For more information, call 255-0089.

WINTER WONDERLAND SKATE NIGHT

The Fort Rucker School Age Center will host its annual Winter Wonderland Skate Night Dec. 21. The safety skate will be from 5-6 p.m. and be followed by the regular skate from 6-8 p.m. The cost for the safety skate is \$2 and the regular skate is \$5 – payment is only accepted in cash. Participants must be registered child and youth services members. For more information or to sign-up for membership, call 255-9638. For more information about the skate night, call 255-9108.

EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT BOWLING SPECIAL

People can visit Rucker Lanes Dec. 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for an early Christmas present – a special offering 25-cent bowling per game, per person and 50-cent shoe rental per person. For more information, call 255-9503.

BOWLING IN THE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Rucker Lanes will host its Bowling in the New Year celebration Dec. 31 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The celebration features 25-cent bowling per game, per person and 50-cent shoe rental per person. For more information, call 255-9503.

YOUTH SPORTS REGISTRATION

The CYS youth sports and fitness program will run registration for youth baseball, softball and T-ball Jan. 1-Feb. 15 at parent central services, located in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 193, or online using WebTrac. A current sports physical and a valid CYS registration are required for participation. Additional children will receive a percentage discount to be determined at parent central services during registration. Special requests for coaches and players cannot be honored. There will be a parents meeting Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. in Bldg. 2800, the youth center, located on Seventh Avenue. To register, visit parent central services or use Webtrac. For costs, age groups and more information, call 255-9638 or 255-2254.

COMMAND TEAM FRG TRAINING

Army Community Service will host its Command Team Family Readiness Group Training Jan. 10 from 9-11 a.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 284. Command team training is targeted towards company commanders



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

and first sergeants, but is also informative for brigade and battalion commanders, and command sergeant majors. This course delineates the roles and responsibilities of the command team regarding how to leverage the FRG to execute the family readiness mission. Free child care can be arranged by calling 255-3564 to register. For more information and to register for the training, call 255-9578.

EMPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAM WORKSHOP

ACS will host its Employment Readiness Program Workshop Jan. 10 from 9-11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 5700. Patrons will meet in Rm. 350 at 8:45 a.m. for paperwork and attendance prior to the session. Attendees will get the essentials about how to conduct a successful job campaign, to include crafting a winning resume, prepping for job interviews and other helpful tips. Advance registration is required. For more information and to reserve a seat, call 255-2594.

FITNESS MARATHON

The Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center offers people a chance to kick start their way to a fitter and more fabulous self this New Year at its free Fitness Marathon Jan. 12 from 8-11 a.m. People are welcome to try a variety of 30-minute sessions, including Super Circuits, Step, Tabata, AbsoGlutely, HIIT Yoga and more. Door prizes will also be given away every 30 minutes. Personal trainers will be available to answer questions, and offer free health and fitness assessments. For more information, call 255-2296.

FORT RUCKER FUN RUN AND RESILIENCY FAIR

The Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center will host the Fort Rucker Fun Run

and Resiliency Fair Jan. 12 at 9 a.m. The free event offers a 5K fun run along with fun activities for the entire family. Participants can run or walk, or just stop by to visit the numerous resiliency fair booths. The event promotes resiliency for the Fort Rucker community and will showcase information to improve physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being. The event is open to the public. For more information, call 255-2296. People can pre-register at the Fortenberry-Colton PFC or MWR Central.

WINTER CRAFT

Children ages 3 - 11 are invited to the Center Library for its winter craft session Jan. 15 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited to the first 40 children to register. The event will be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly and open to authorized patrons. For more information and to register, call 255-3885.

FEDERAL JOB WORKSHOP

Interested in working for the federal government? Then make plans to attend the ACS Federal Job Workshop Jan. 17 from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 284 with a hands-on breakout session from 1:15-2:15 p.m. The informative and interactive workshop is aimed at getting you the information you need to increase your federal employment possibilities. Participants will receive a free copy of Kathryn Troutman's "Jobseeker's Guide" (7th Edition). Registration is required two days prior to the workshop. Space is limited to the first 60 to register. The workshop is open to authorized patrons only. For more information or to register, call 255-2594.

THREE-PEAT

Cadets revel in annual rivalry as Army wins third straight against Navy

By Joe Lacdan

Army News Service

PHILADELPHIA -- Despite being his fourth time seeing it, the annual Army-Navy game did not lose any significance for Cadet Jack Ray Kesti as he cheered from the stands in the frigid temperatures.

The rivalry has become an annual tradition in the Kesti household. Kesti, who hails from nearby Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, had his parents and girlfriend cheering for the Black Knights from the stands, too. Kesti's younger brother Sam, a freshman, also attends the U.S. Military Academy and was at the game.

"Seeing people in your class and seeing them do well on the football field is a really cool feeling," Kesti said.

Cadet Hope Moseley, a freshman, attended her first game, in which the Black Knights upended Navy 17-10 and held off a late Midshipmen surge Saturday night. It was the No. 22 Black Knights' third straight win over their rival.

Army improved to 10-2 and will play Houston in the Armed Forces Bowl Dec. 22. If Army gets 11 wins this year, it will be its best season since 1958 when it went undefeated with one tie and finished No. 3 in the country.

Moseley said the buildup to the contest had been mounting all week. Cadets hung banners in the student barracks, played flag football games and burned a boat in antici-

pation of Saturday's game.

"It's a great experience of tradition," said Moseley, a native of Belton, Texas. "Even though it's a rivalry, it shows how strong our bond is to our country."

Moseley said she was inspired to apply to the academy by her cousin, Maj. Andrea Baker, a West Point graduate stationed in San Diego.

President Donald Trump officiated the coin toss and also briefly visited the sidelines of both teams. During the first half, Gen. James McConville, the Army's vice chief of staff, enlisted 21 Army recruits in a special ceremony. McConville, who graduated in West Point's Class of 1981, said he has attended "quite a few" Army-Navy rivalry games during his career, and said the contest's significance cannot be overstated.

"It's America's game," McConville said. "Why it's special is because of the extraordinary young men and women who represent the best of America and they are here today."

Sporting black and red uniforms in honor of the 1st Infantry Division and its efforts during World War I, Army stormed to a 10-0 lead. After turnovers by both teams, Navy scored on a late drive midway in the fourth quarter to cut the deficit to 10-7. Army junior quarterback Kelvin Hopkins then scored on a 1-yard sneak for the go-ahead score with 1:28 left in the game.



PHOTO BY SEAN KIMMONS

Army quarterback Kelvin Hopkins, center, scores the final touchdown of the Army-Navy game in Philadelphia, Dec. 8. Army won 17-10 for its third straight win over their archrival.

Cadet Jay Demmy, a sophomore center on the Army rugby team, said the friendships he has formed with fellow athletes on the Black Knights football team makes the contest even more meaningful.

"There's so much history behind this game and so much passion that to me, it's awesome to be a part of it," said Demmy, who hopes to join the infantry after graduation. "Playing a sport here... rugby, coming to the football games and seeing all the guys I know -- all the brothers I'm going to be fighting with in the near future on the field and off the field is nice."

The game takes on a larger significance, making the contest meaningful for so many nationwide, Demmy said.

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey,

clad in his Army Greens uniform, said that all Soldiers can embrace the history and pageantry of the game, which was attended by celebrities such as actor Mark Wahlberg and former Dallas Cowboys great and Navy graduate Roger Staubach.

"This is a long-standing history of rivalry between two of the finest schools in America," Dailey said. "When we're on the battlefield, we're all friends. But one day out of the year we come together for good camaraderie, good fun, but it is a true test of will for us and the Navy."

"This is the quintessential American football game right here, Army-Navy. It doesn't get better than this."

NEWS IN BRIEF

HOLIDAY GATE CLOSURES

Faulkner and Newton gates will be closed Dec. 21-Jan. 1. They will resume normal operating hours Jan. 2. Also, the Ozark Visitor Control Center, which is normally closed on days of no scheduled activity, will be open Dec. 24 and 31.

ARMY AVIATION LOGISTICS FORUM

The Aviation Center Logistics Command will host an Army Aviation Logistics Forum Jan. 15-16 at Fort Rucker. ACLC officials said the forum is designed to identify key issues and possible solutions, build efficiencies, improve systems and build the team. The event will feature an optional light breakfast and lunch for \$15, payable at check-in, or personnel at Fort Rucker may prepay at Bldg. 1100, Rm. 142. People need to RSVP for the forum by Jan. 9 by calling

255-9243. For more information on the forum, including complete schedule, call 255-9243.

MLK COMMEMORATION

Fort Rucker will host its Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Observance Jan. 16 at 2 p.m. at the post theater. For more information, call 255-7034.

ARMY WELLNESS CENTER

The Army Wellness Center offers free health and wellness classes to all Soldiers, family members, retirees and Department of Defense civilians. All classes are held at the Army Wellness Center in Bldg. 4102. Click here to view a current schedule of AWC health and wellness classes. For a current schedule and more information, visit <http://www.rucker.army.mil/cr2c/>.

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The PAO staff reserves the right to edit



PHOTO BY JIM HUGHES

BURNING DOWN THE WAREHOUSE

Fort Rucker firefighters took advantage of a building slated for demolition to conduct some real-world training when they burned down Bldg. 1407 in the warehouse area at the conclusion of the force protection exercise Dec. 11. Just prior to the burning it down, the building's last act of service was serving as the focal point for the exercise as it was where the simulated active shooter barricaded himself.

submissions selected for publication.

For more information about the "Army Flier," call 334-255-1239.

Deadline for
submissions is one
week before
publication.

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