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LET IT FLY
Post disc golf
course offers
different strokes



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ARMY FLIER

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

VOL. 67 ■ NO. 08

FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

FEBRUARY 23, 2017



PHOTOS BY AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. JARED K. RAND

Sgt. Ashlee Saalfeld, 1-11th Avn. Regt., gives a thumbs up while in the back of an F-16 Fighting Falcon Feb. 15 at Maxwell AFB.

Soldier takes flight in F-16

By Jay Mann

Fort Rucker Public Affairs

A Soldier from the 1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment recently received the opportunity of a lifetime – a flight in an Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon as the result of a friendly challenge.

Last fall, just before the Troy University Military Appreciation game, the commander of Maxwell Air Force Base spoke with Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, regarding the upcoming football game. He stated he would be willing to offer a ride in an F-16

Fighting Falcon to one service member from whichever service had the most members attending the game.

In the third quarter of the Military Appreciation game in November, it was announced that Fort Rucker had won the challenge and that a Soldier from the post would be selected for the honor.

Nominations were sent out and Sgt. Ashlee Saalfeld, 1-11th Avn. Regt., was selected, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Pinckney, 1-11th Avn. Regt. "Sergeant Saalfeld demonstrates a high professionalism and motivation we want to see in junior NCOs."

Saalfeld said she was thrilled

being selected for the flight which took place on Feb. 15th. "Everything that they told me I did that made me the Soldier that would be selected, I did as a specialist," Saalfeld said. "So, my message to other Soldiers would be to get active and get out there. You don't get recognized sitting on your butt."

On the day of the Troy Military Appreciation Game, Saalfeld volunteered to march in a local Veterans Day parade that morning to represent Fort Rucker. Following that parade, she returned to Fort Rucker and took charge of a group of Soldiers from 1-11th Avn. Regt. who were traveling to Troy to at-

tend the football game.

Saalfeld is an air traffic controller, so she is familiar with Aviation, but she had to learn about how the F-16s safety systems work before her flight.

"The people were very informative and patient during the preparation training – the amount of professionalism that the Airmen have is impressive," she said.

Saalfeld said the flight was like nothing she had ever experienced. "You realize how big the world is when you are up there. Daily stresses get to be heavy sometimes – being up there makes the things you are facing seem manageable."

"I enjoyed hearing the air traf-

fic controllers in the plane – it was eye opening to see my job from the other side," she added. "When you are flying in the plane, you have to trust the voice on the other side of the radio. Hearing the confidence in the air traffic controllers made me feel better being in the plane. It really showed me the importance of maintaining a calm, reassuring demeanor in my job."

"If I was given the option to do it again, I'd give it to another Soldier to experience because it really changes the way you look at things," Saalfeld said. "I would do it again, but I know it would be something that another Soldier would value as much as I do."



Saalfeld climbs into the aircraft shortly before takeoff.

ASC to open Quick Lube

By Jeremy Henderson

Army Flier Staff Writer

Enhancements to the Fort Rucker Automotive Skills Center continue in 2017 with the official opening of a Quick Lube Program Wednesday.

"The Quick Lube offers customers the convenience of a quick lube oil change, combined with the quality and value patrons would expect from a [Fort Rucker Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation] activity."

Quick Lube features standard or synthetic oil changes, fluid top off and multi-point visual vehicle inspection while the customer waits without the hassle of making an appointment.

ASC customers will also be able to purchase oil, filters, windshield treatment, brake fluid, anti-freeze and other common automotive maintenance products.

The Quick Lube Program also offers personally-owned vehicle inspections.

Hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Patrons are advised to call ahead to schedule their Quick Lube service.

The Quick Lube service is one of several recent enhancements to ASC.

Tina Barber, ASC program manager, said the installation of seven new lifts last year allowed the facility to better meet the needs of the community.

"The new lifts replaced older equipment that was still functional, but did not have the lifting capacity to meet the needs of the community," she said. "We went from two-post lifts with a 9,000-pound lifting capacity to two-post lifts with a 12,000-pound lifting capacity. We also have three four-post lifts with a 14,000-pound capacity. These upgrades have enabled us to better support Soldiers and authorized personnel."

SEE QUICK, PAGE A7



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Soldiers of the 7th Special Forces Group out of Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, prepare to attach a loaded flat rack to a CH-47 Chinook as they conduct sling-load training with B Co., 1-223rd Avn. Regt. Feb. 16.

SLINGIN'

1-223rd AVN training supports warfighter

By Nathan Pfau

Army Flier Staff Writer

As seemingly hurricane-force winds from a CH-47 Chinook buffeted Soldiers, two units got real-world experience during a training event that had students training for what Aviation does best – supporting the

warfighter.

Flight students from B Company, 1st Battalion, 223rd Aviation Regiment, and Soldiers from the 7th Special Forces Group out of Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, conducted tandem load training Feb. 16 – an exercise meant to prepare Aviators and Soldiers for real-world situations

they'll face throughout their careers, according to CW3 Thomas Brown, B Co., 1-223rd Avn. Regt.

"(This training) is where we'll attach external loads to the forward and aft hooks for better distribution and flying characteristics," he said. "It's

SEE SLINGIN', PAGE A7

PERSPECTIVE

Fatigued driving equates to great risk

By CW4 Benjamin Williams
Joint Base Pearl Harbor/
Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii

The PCS gods had smiled upon me and I had orders from Fort Rucker to Korea, with a follow-on assignment in Hawaii.

“What a deal,” I thought. I’ll just drive to California and have (my 4-wheel drive vehicle) shipped to Hawaii, where it can be waiting for me. And, to boot, during the drive, I’ll stop in Salt Lake City for a few days to visit my daughter.

I’d driven cross-country three times in the past and thought I knew my limits. I particularly enjoyed driving at night because there was less traffic. However, in the past there was at least one other person in the vehicle with me. This time I would be going solo.

All went well until I got to Denver. There I’d planned to get off Interstate 70 West and go north on I-25. Ultimately, I intended to go west on I-80 and then take I-84 to Salt Lake City. I was feeling pretty good when I got to Denver and it was still daylight, so I decided to continue on. If I kept my pace, I figured I could make it to Salt Lake City by early evening.

But wouldn’t you know it; things didn’t quite go as planned. Maybe I was daydreaming, but somehow I missed my turn onto I-25. By the time I caught my mistake, I had already gone 25 miles. As I looked at the map, I figured I’d lose too much time going back. And if I continued on I-70 West, I’d be going too far south. So what could I do?

I looked at the map and saw a highway through the mountains that would take me to Salt Lake City. I decided to take it - thinking I might make it to Salt Lake City even sooner than originally planned. Unfortunately, I was way off on that calculation. Just because a highway is on a map doesn’t mean it’s a major road.



ARMY GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION

The highway went through several towns, and with the resultant stop lights and stop signs, it was much slower going than on the interstate. By the time I got to the Colorado-Utah border, the sun had gone down and it was already past my original arrival time. At least the highway had transitioned to four lanes with a faster speed limit. I finally made it to the Utah side and was driving down a mountain. I figured everything was still going to work out and that I’d get to visit with my daughter that night. That is, until it started to snow.

My headlights were little help. They only illuminated the area about 50 feet in front of me, and using my high beams didn’t help. To mitigate my risks, I slowed to 35 mph. However, now I was losing time; so, since no one else was on the road, I decided to speed up a little. As I pushed down on the gas pedal, I lost control and the (vehicle) began sliding. I spun 1.5 times and wound up facing the wrong direction. Good thing no one else was on the road.

After I got myself together, I turned around and started driving again. As before, I started out slowly and, as my confidence increased, so did my speed. After all, I was in four-wheel-drive vehicle. I thought that would keep me out of trouble. All was going well until I increased to about 35 mph and started spinning again - only this time it was worse than before. As I tried to regain control, I glanced to the right and saw it was pitch black and there weren’t any guardrails. Apparently, there was a drop off on the right side of the road and I was heading toward it. I figured I was about to launch into a giant black hole when, suddenly, there was a jolt and loud thud.

Thankfully, the (vehicle) stopped. I’d struck a cement barrier on the highway’s shoulder - the last impediment before I would’ve launched into the wild dark yonder. Once my heart began beating again, I got out to assess the situation and the damage to my (vehicle). I’d hit the first barrier only about two feet from

where it began. How lucky was that! If not for the barrier, I’d have gone down a very steep slope. The (vehicle) would’ve probably rolled and everything inside bounced around and knocked me unconscious. Who knows how long it would have been before someone found me.

The damage to my (vehicle) was limited to having the left-rear tube bumper bent in about 4 inches. This event could’ve ended up much worse; but the truth is this didn’t even have had to happen in the first place. Fortunately, I survived and gained some useful lessons learned.

First, I should’ve stayed on the interstates as planned. Even though the distance may be farther by traveling on an interstate, the higher speed limits and lack of cross traffic, stop signs and signals make them safer and often quicker. Second, check the weather before you head out and have some emergency supplies in your vehicle just in case you get stranded. Third, check how your vehicle handles in the snow.

Understand that just because you have a four-wheel-drive vehicle doesn’t mean you’ll always be able to maintain traction on slippery roads. Fourth, let someone know your route and inform them of any changes you make along the way. And finally - as I learned the hard way - don’t be in a rush and drive fatigued. You might end up missing your destination - permanently.

(Editor’s note: This article originally appeared in the Army’s “Knowledge” magazine. The publication is always looking for contributing authors to provide ground, Aviation, driving and off-duty safety articles. Don’t let the fact that you’ve never written an article for publication scare you. Their editors promise to make you look good. By sharing your knowledge, you can make a valuable contribution to those who need your information to do their jobs safely. Your article might just save another Soldier’s life. To learn more, visit <https://safety.army.mil/MEDIA/Knowledge/TellYourStory.aspx>.)

Rotor Wash

“The Fort Rucker Center Library is celebrating Read Across America with Dr. Seuss Feb. 28 with it Suesstival celebration from 4-4:30 p.m. Why is it important to promote healthy reading habits in children’s lives?”



Sgt. 1st Class
Jeffrey Weideman,
NCOA

“It can help a lot down the road.”



Spc. Ben Cates,
6th MP Det.

“Good reading habits transfer on to more important things in life, like being able to understand and comprehend more. It’s just important.”



Spc. Charles Wisemen,
C Co., 1st Bn.,
11th Avn. Regt.

“I believe instilling good reading habits in today’s youth can help further progress their education and knowledge.”



Daris Orr,
retired military

“Being a father of three, and as a teacher and instructor here on Fort Rucker, I believe knowledge is power in everything that we do, especially at a young age. Early education is essential to a better life.”



Sara Jackson,
retired military

“It keeps them aware of what’s going on around the nation.”

COMMAND

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FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

Col. Shannon T. Miller
FORT RUCKER GARRISON COMMANDER

Lisa Eichhorn
FORT RUCKER PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

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The Dothan Eagle is responsible for all printing matters and commercial advertising.

Deadlines are Friday at 2 p.m. for the following week’s edition.

All editorial content of the Army Flier is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, AL.

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

AVC3 students visit site of Doolittle Raiders training

By Kelly P. Morris
USAAACE Public Affairs

Soldiers from the Aviation Captains Career Course here traveled to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. to visit the training site of the historic Doolittle Raiders of World War II as part of their course curriculum Feb. 15.

Fifty-eight Soldiers prepared in advance to present their research on various topics to the group during the “staff ride,” as they toured points of interest at Wagner Field, Eglin Air Force Base, and the US Air Force Armament Museum.

While previous staff rides involved an infantry museum, Ken Tilley, historian for the US Army Aviation Center of Excellence planned this event to focus more on Aviation history, and the students rose to the occasion with the quality of the research they presented, he said.

“The students teach it, I facilitate,” Tilley said. “They did a fantastic job, better than I expected.”

Staff rides are intended to “take students to a battlefield where Soldiers can portray the roles of all the major players, walk the terrain, tactics, maneuver—all the things that you learn in the military, and look at a previous battle and see how it was done,” Tilley said.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of America’s first offensive attack on Japan, a one-way mission of 16 B-25 Mitchell medium bombers with 80 aircrew, commanded by Lt. Col. James Doolittle, that took off from the USS Hornet, for a long overwater flight to Japan.

The air raid, which followed the Japa-



PHOTO BY KELLY P. MORRIS

Ken Tilley, historian for the US Army Aviation Center of Excellence, talks with Aviation Captains Career Course Soldiers about the historic Doolittle Raiders training at Wagner Field, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., as part of an Aviation staff ride Feb. 15.

nese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in December of 1941, raised morale in America and set events in motion that changed the course of the war in the Pacific during World War II.

To help Soldiers prepare for the staff ride, Tilley provided access to a collection of first-hand account, oral history interviews to use in their research.

He also arranged to have US Air Force and Navy historians on hand during the event to provide the Joint perspective, including about aircraft carriers.

The group made three stops on the tour.

At Wagner Field Soldiers stood on the runway where the top-secret, two-week training initiative was conducted in March of 1942 in preparation for the Doolittle Raid on Japan. They marked off 500 feet, the total distance the Army Air Forces fixed-wing aviators had to get airborne from an aircraft carrier.

Inside a World War II era maintenance hangar on Eglin Air Force Base, the Soldiers learned about the maintenance and modifications that were made to the Army B-25 Mitchell airplane.

At the US Air Force Armament Museum Soldiers viewed a B-25 airplane on display, a replica of the lightweight “Mark Twain” bombsight tool designed by a Soldier that was used for releasing ordnance, and a 500-lb. bomb.

“We could relate a lot of what was done in 1942 to today. They had to use critical thinking skills, they had to adapt, and they had to change the way they did things. Army Aviators worked with the Navy, and today we’re in as (much of a) Joint environment as we’ve ever been in,” Tilley said.

For Aviators to have a staff ride that provides an opportunity to make correlations between Army Aviation then and now is

“needful,” according to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Christopher Braund, an instructor of military history at the Warrant Officer Career College, who helped plan the event.

“This is filling a void by giving them a history lesson that applies directly to their heritage,” Braund said. “What Aviators do today, to include performance planning, fuel calculations, and the risk assessment process, those things directly apply in their environment today as they did then. They cannot get that correlation on a ground-centric staff ride.”

“The daring and courage Army Aviators have today is exactly what we had in 1942, and what’s expected of them today is the same thing that was expected of Army Aviators in 1942,” Braund said.

Braund said he hopes to expand the Aviation-focused staff rides in the future to include students in the Warrant Officer Advanced Course here.

VP: U.S. commitment to NATO ‘unwavering’

By Lisa Ferdinando
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — The United States strongly supports NATO and will be “unwavering in its commitment to the transatlantic alliance,” Vice President Mike Pence said at the Munich Security Conference Saturday.

President Donald J. Trump has a promise that the United States will stand with Europe, Pence said, “because we are bound together by the same noble ideals – freedom, democracy, justice, and the rule of law.”

The Munich Security Conference, founded in 1963, is an annual event that brings together hundreds of people from around the world. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis addressed the forum Friday.

Pence outlined a myriad of global security challenges, saying the world is now a more dangerous place than at any point since the collapse of communism in Europe and the Soviet Union a quarter century ago.

“Rogue nations developing nuclear weapons now jeopardize the safety of the entire world,” Pence said. “Radical Islamic ter-



WHITE HOUSE PHOTO

Vice President Mike Pence addresses the Munich Security Conference Saturday.

rorism has fixated on the destruction of Western civilization.”

Pence noted the U.S. commitment to Europe over the past century – from World War I to modern day – and said the United States will remain the strongest of allies to its European partners.

MAINTAINING PEACE AND PROSPERITY

Peace and prosperity in Europe and the north Atlantic must be continually maintained through shared sacrifice and commitment, the vice president said.

The United States is currently

developing plans for “significant increases in military spending to ensure that the strongest military in the world is stronger still,” Pence said. “We will meet our obligations to our people to provide for the common defense, and we’ll continue to do our part to support our allies in Europe and in NATO.”

To confront the threats facing the alliance, NATO must build upon its 20th-century tactics and continue to evolve to confront the crises of today and tomorrow, Pence said.

“We must always stay at least

one step ahead of our adversaries,” he said, “for our shared goal of peace and prosperity can only be achieved through superiority and strength.”

Pence called on members of the 28-nation bloc to ensure they are working on the commitment made in 2014 to spend 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense within the decade.

“The promise to share the burden of our defense has gone unfulfilled for too many for too long, and it erodes the very foundation of our alliance,” he said.

HOLDING RUSSIA ACCOUNTABLE

On the Russian threat to NATO’s eastern flank, Pence said NATO has markedly improved its deterrent posture by stationing four combat-ready multinational battalions in Poland and the Baltic States.

“In the wake of Russian efforts to redraw international borders by force, rest assured the United States, along with the United Kingdom, Canada and Germany, will continue its leadership role as a framework nation in the enhanced forward presence initiative,” he said. “We will support

other critical joint actions to support this alliance.”

Regarding Ukraine, he said the alliance must continue to hold Russia accountable and demand it honors the Minsk Agreements, beginning by de-escalating the violence in eastern Ukraine.

“The United States will continue to hold Russia accountable, even as we search for new common ground, which, as you know, President Trump believes can be found,” Pence said.

FIGHTING TIRELESSLY AGAINST ISIS

While outlining the threat from Islamic terrorists, Pence said the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria is “perhaps the greatest evil of them all,” with a “savagery unseen in the Middle East since the Middle Ages.”

Trump has pledged to “fight tirelessly to crush these enemies -- especially ISIS and its so-called caliphate – and consign them to the ash heap of history, where they belong,” Pence said. “President Trump has no higher priority than the safety and security of the American people and ensuring the security of our treaty allies.”

News Briefs

Chapel’s Wednesday Night Alive

The Fort Rucker Religious Support Office will host its Wednesday Night Alive that includes a financial management course, a financial course for teenagers, an adult Bible study, a spiritual formation class, a Spanish Bible study, the protestant youth of the chapel program and Kingdom Kidz.

All of the events will begin Wednesday, with the financial courses ending May 10. A complimentary dinner and devotion will be provided from 5-30-6 p.m. Classes and Bible studies will begin at 6 p.m., with the financial courses ending at 7:30 p.m.

Childcare is provided.

The adult Bible study will be taught by Dr. Nancy Jankoski. The topic will be “Holy Days and Holidays.” This class will be a look at the Holy Days of the Bible and the Jewish feast cycle, the events of Holy Week, plus a look at the Church Year for Christians.

Spiritual formation will be taught by Chaplain (Maj.) James Pennington. He will be leading the class through Richard J. Foster’s book, “Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth.”

The Spanish Bible study will be taught by Chaplain (Capt.) Juan Castro.

Protestant Youth of the Chapel is a ministry-based youth group for ages 12-17. Kingdom Kidz is a children’s ministry with religious education for children ages 3-12.

Childcare will be provided for ages 0-3.

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

AER kick off

The 2017 Army Emergency Relief Fundraising Campaign kick-off ceremony is scheduled for Wednes-

day from 2-3 p.m. at the Aviation Museum. The primary goal of the campaign is to promote awareness of benefits provided through AER. Funds raised from the campaign are used to assist active duty Soldiers, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers (Title 10, on active duty for more than 30 days), retired Soldiers, as well as eligible family members and survivors, according to AER officials. Throughout the campaign, Fort Rucker Soldiers, through AER unit coordinators, will be educated on the benefits of and types of financial assistance available from AER, as well as given the opportunity to contribute to AER through allotment, check, money order or cash donations. By donating to AER, Soldiers are helping to provide emergency financial assistance to fellow Soldiers.

For more information, call 255-2341.

CLEP-a-thon

The Fort Rucker Education Center will host its CLEP-a-thon Round 2 Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The CLEP-a-thon is free for active-duty military, according to center officials, who added that most colleges accept CLEP as transfer credits.

For more information or to sign up, visit the center in Bldg. 4502, or call 255-2378.

Lost and found

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

Fest – the most common items turned-in are keys, cell phones and wallets.

Tax center

The Fort Rucker Tax Center is open for business, and a staff of fully trained preparers stands at the ready to help Soldiers, families and retirees. Located in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 371F, the center is open Mondays-Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through April 15, and people should make an appointment to use the service, which also offers free electronic filing for Soldiers, family members and retirees.

The tax center also offers a drop-off service, which allows single Soldiers to come in and drop off their income tax paperwork, and return in 48 hours to go over their complete return with a tax representative, said Clayton. Soldiers must return between the hours of 9-11 a.m., Mondays-Fridays for their returns. Single Soldiers who wish to utilize the drop-off service must have a simple return with no more than two W-2 forms.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 255-2937 or 255-2938.

Library survey

The Center Library is conducting a survey to help determine its customers’ needs. To access the survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CenterLibrary-Survey>.

Supply closure

Supply Support Activity will conduct a wall-to-wall inventory March 20-24. Normal operations will be suspended on those dates. All turn-ins must be in by 2 p.m. March 15. Normal operations will discontinue at 4:15

p.m. on March 17. It is anticipated that normal business will resume March 27. Customers will be notified by the Accountable Officer. During this period, the SSA will only process emergency requisitions. All normal operations will be suspended until inventory is completed.

For more information, call 255-9504.

National Prayer Breakfast

The Fort Rucker Religious Support Officer will host its National Prayer Breakfast March 8 from 6:30-8 a.m. at The Landing. The speaker will be retired Chaplain (Col.) Alvin “Sonny” Moore, former U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence chaplain. Tickets are available at a suggested donation of \$5 per person and can be obtained through unit representatives or the RSO in Bldg. 8945 until March 3.

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

AER scholarships

Army Emergency Relief is accepting applications for its 2017-2018 scholarship program at www.aerhq.org. Scholarship opportunities are available for spouses and children registered in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment System who are pursuing their first undergraduate degree or certificate at an accredited college or university. Additional eligibility criteria can be found on the above website. Within a 50 mile radius of Fort Rucker, 71 recipients received scholarships for the 2016-2017 school year. Seventeen spouses received a total of \$27,500.00 – average of \$1617.65 – and 54 children received a total of \$120,600 – average of \$2233.33. The deadline is May 1.

For more information, call 255-2341.

‘ENTIRE NATION’

SMA calls for recruiting push, improved training opportunities

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army has long said that only one in four Americans are fit to enlist.

But that pool of American youth from which recruiters draw is improving, according to Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey.

“I’m very proud of the young generation,” Dailey said of those young Americans who are now of age to join the Army. “I’ve seen an uptick in capability, physical capability ... resiliency. I think we’re on the rise with America’s youth now.”

Dailey spoke during a morning breakfast discussion hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army Feb. 14. During the breakfast, Dailey, who now serves as the 15th sergeant major of the Army, discussed current Army topics with retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston.

Dailey told Preston he’d recently visited with Soldiers in advanced individual training, about 200 in all, who were about to embark on their daily physical training regimen. He ran with them after hearing a cautionary note from their training cadre warning him to take it easy on the Soldiers because they were so new.

“Soldiers bend, they don’t break,” Dailey recalled telling the cadre.

Dailey led the run, he said, at a seven-minute mile pace.

“We extended the run a bit longer,” he told Preston. “That’s one of the benefits you have as SMA: You don’t have to listen to cadre. But every single Soldier in that formation stayed in that formation. They were highly motivated. I’ll bet there wasn’t a single person in that formation with more than 12 percent body fat.”

FAMILY BUSINESS OF SOLDIERING

Dailey also touched on some issues he sees in recruiting young Americans. He said a high percentage of those who join the Army today were likely inspired to join because somebody in their family had served. That makes the Soldier profession highly insular – joining the Army tends to be a family business, Dailey said. And that has to change.

“We need more of the broader population for the Army,” he said. “We think the best representation of the United States of America is to recruit from the entire nation. We’ve lost some of that ability to do that based on a lot of things: competing efforts, [the] amount of education provided in those areas. But I think we have to continue to invest.”

The Army continues today to recruit from the same areas of the country, Dailey said. He wants that to change. He wants to increase recruiting efforts in parts of the country that haven’t traditionally provided a lot of Soldiers: the northeast and the northwest, for instance.

Still, last year, Dailey said the Army pulled 14,000 female Soldiers into the Army.

“This last year we did an excellent job of recruiting females,” he said. “It was one of our best years in a decade.”

COMMITTED TO EDUCATION

The top two reasons for joining the Army, according to Dailey, remain patriotism and educational benefits. He firmly believes that continuing to allow the benefits that entice civilians into enlistment to erode will place the Army’s all-volunteer force at risk.

“I think we have [made] some tough choices in the past because of the fiscal constraints we’re in,” he said. “But we can’t sustain any more of those in the future. We have to continue to invest in the Soldiers because that is an investment in the future.”

One such benefit cited by Dailey derives from the National Defense Authorization Act, which this year gave the Army the authority to credential Soldiers who have jobs that translate to skills in the private sector. That allows Soldiers to walk out of the Army with paperwork that will allow them to perform the same job as a civilian that they gained experience on while serving in uniform.

It’s something Dailey said he has been developing since he served as the sergeant major for Army Training and Doctrine Command.

“Since 2008, we’ve dropped unemployment compensation from over \$500 million a year, and it landed around \$172 million this year from those efforts,” he said.

Dailey said that achievement is firmly in line with the commitment the Army makes to the parents of youth who opt to join.



PHOTO BY C. TODD LOPEZ

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey discussed Army topics with now-retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston Feb. 14 at a discussion hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army in Arlington, Va.

“When we send them home, they are going to be better than we received them,” he said. “That’s our commitment to the American Soldier.”

DISTRACTION TO READINESS

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley’s No. 1 priority is readiness, a point he has emphasized repeatedly since being sworn in to the position in August 2015.

But there are distractions to that readiness, Dailey pointed out. As he has heard from both officers and enlisted members, not every Soldier is always available to train when it’s time to train. Oftentimes, that comes as a result of having to sustain base operations.

“We’ve had to put Solders in jobs that were contracted during the war,” he said. “That’s things like gate guards, emergency services, and to help fill gaps in our morale, welfare and recreation facilities.”

When Soldiers are pulling duty outside their own units, they aren’t available to go train with their units. And that hampers unit readiness. Dailey said that, for NCOs and officers alike, it was their No. 1 complaint.

“Sergeant major, we can get after the task, we just need all of our Soldiers back to do it,” Dailey recalled them saying. “We need to reduce our non-deployables – we need to get our Soldiers off these other tasks and get them back to their warfighting tasks.”

According to Dailey, it’s a problem that Installation Management Command is currently committed to resolving.

“We’re going to reinvest in some of those things, so we can get Soldiers back to doing their traditional jobs,” he said.

But Milley’s readiness mandate applies not just to regular Army forces, Dailey said. It applies to the total force, Army National Guard and Army Reserve included.

And Dailey said the Guard and Reserve are being used now more than they ever have been in the past.

And for them, he said, it’s even tougher to maintain readiness, due to their limited training opportunities.

“We have to be cognizant of that, because they are citizen Soldiers, and they are employees out in our great hometowns of America,” he said.

“Less than half of the U.S. Army now is active forces – we constantly rely on [reserve forces] to fill out the gaps and seams we have across 140 countries ... and the constant demand for brigades.”

This year, Dailey said, the Army is doubling the capacity at combat training centers to ensure more training opportunities and improved readiness for reserve component forces.

William M., Student
Exercise Science, Army ROTC.

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Quick

Continued from Page A1

The center’s floor was also resurfaced, which Barber said improved the aesthetics of the facility and made the cleaning up of spills less labor intensive.

“We have also purchased upgraded tire mounting and balancing equipment,” she said. “Just as the heavier duty vehicles required increased lifting capacity in the lifts, we needed to upgrade our equipment to handle the mounting and balancing of the heavier, larger tires of those vehicles.

“Also, the upgraded equipment makes the dismounting and mounting of low profile tires a one-person operation, whereas before, it could take two or three individuals to dismount and mount a low-profile tire,” she added. “The Self-Help Community and our Mechanic for Hire personnel are thrilled with the upgrade. We were turning business away and referring them to other repair facilities, prior to obtaining the upgraded equipment.”

- The ASC offers a variety of services for authorized personnel, including:
- A self-help program - patrons can sign into the facility and conduct repairs on their own vehicles. ASC has the tools and equipment needed to complete the repairs.
 - Instructional classes - oil change, transmission service, front brake repair, rear brake repair, ignition system tune-up and how to use scan tools.
 - Mechanic-for-Hire program - patrons can have their vehicles worked on by a trained professional.
 - Carwash facilities - two manual and one automatic carwash bay.
 - Two vacuum cleaners, one combination vacuum and shampooer, three vending machines and a fragrance machine. The automated carwash is now also a 24-hour operation, as are the manual wash bays. There is also a free standing dryer system that has been installed at the end of the automatic wash bay. It is activated when either the \$8 or \$10 selections are chosen.
 - Auto detail program - ASC offers various packages to patrons, from partial to full detailing
 - Propane resale operation - ASC fills propane tanks of various sizes, including recreation vehicles.
 - Paint booth and areas for restoring vehicles. ASC does not offer instruction in this area. Patrons must have all the working knowledge necessary to restore and paint a vehicle.

According to Barber, ASC is an invaluable resource for Soldiers and families living on a tight budget. She also highlighted that they now provide service options to the installation’s GSA fleet of cars and lights trucks.

“In most people’s lives, the two biggest expenses are homes first and secondly vehicles,” she said. “The biggest advantage to Soldiers and authorized personnel is monetary savings. Patrons can literally save hundreds of dollars through the self-help program because they are doing the work themselves instead of hiring a repair shop.

“Patrons can also save hundreds of dollars through the Mechanic-for-Hire program,” she added. “The going rate for local repair shops is \$65 to \$90 per hour. Our labor rate is presently only \$45 per hour. Our patrons express their appreciation time and time again over the savings.”

Barber said many patrons are intimidated by the growing complexity of today’s vehicles, but ASC offers several weekly instructional classes to bridge the knowledge gap.

“ASC offers instructional classes on a weekly basis, but instruction is available on a daily basis through the employees on duty,” she said. “We insist to our patrons that many repairs are well within their ability to learn and we encourage them to do so. Safety is always the first concern, and we stress this to our patrons on a daily basis.

“It is awesome to witness the sense of accomplishment in our patrons after they have repaired their own vehicles,” she added. “It is knowledge that they can take wherever they go.”

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 255-1075 or 255-9725.

Slingin’

Continued from Page A1

a practice common outside of Fort Rucker, so to be able to bring that training into Fort Rucker gets our students better prepared when they leave here.”

Typically, CH-47 student pilots conduct sling-load training using cement blocks, said Brown, but the training they were involved in Feb. 16 brought an entirely new dynamic to their daily routine, Brown said.

Throughout the training event, Aviators experienced lifting different types of loads of varying weights, including a 5,000-pound ISU 90 container, a 6,500-pound loaded flat rack, 8,000-pound fuel blivets and a 9,000-pound Humvee, all while having to take into consideration the ground forces they were working with, he added.

“This training takes them out of the daily routine at Fort Rucker where they go pick up a block of cement, which connects to less consequence than an actual piece of military hardware that they’ll be moving not only here, but also in real life,” said Brown. “This starts that correlation of what they’re going to be doing after they leave here.

“This brings a new aspect to them that they don’t face when going to hook up a concrete block,” he continued. “Now they’re working directly with people and they’re not on their own schedule anymore – they have to think about the schedule of the ground force, their fuel management, and it’s a little more dynamic environment.”

“Very rarely in an actual theater environment or doing field-training exercises will we hook up a load the way we do here at Fort Rucker where the crew chief goes through the hole in the aircraft and picks up the clevis,” added Capt. Forrest Neumann, B Co. commander. “Almost always there will be a ground crew that will do the

hookup, either single point or dual point, so this is about as real sling-load training that we can do, and this is exactly how we would do it at an actual line unit.”

For some 7th SFG Soldiers, the training was a series of firsts, said Brown.

“For most of the Soldiers hooking up the loads during the training, it was their very first time doing this, and for some of them was their first time seeing or touching a Chinook,” he said. “So there was a learning process for them, too. As the day progressed, you could see the trend from where the guys on the ground had a lot of difficulty hooking up the loads ... and by the end of the day it became much more rapid and their gain of experience was rather clear.”

For the pilots, the training event provided them with the hands-on experience needed to be able to perform these tasks when they’re downrange, added Neumann.

“They get to actually plan and put to use the things we teach them during the tactics phase of their training in terms of loading the aircraft and just how the aircraft performs,” he said. “Everything they’ve done throughout tactics builds to this and it’s an actual event where they’re doing actual real-world slings, so they get a lot out of it and they really seem to love it.”

The training involving the two units is relatively new, with the first iteration of training happening in November, but it is something that Neumann hopes becomes a regular event.

“We’ve been working to try to get something like this set up with (the 7th SFG),” he said. “This mirrors so closely what we do with our students during the tactics phase – it makes a really good capstone-type training event for them at the end of the phase. This was great training for both the 7th Group guys and ours, because this is something for them that they train for, but never actually got to do it.”

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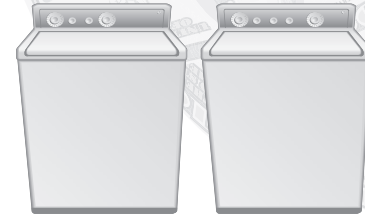
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new LISTING

212 JASMINE CIRCLE, ENTERPRISE - \$167,750: UNDER CONSTRUCTION: 3BR/2BA/2-car garage, security system, carpet & tile floors, stainless appliances, natural gas heat/cooking/water heater, low E windows, sprinkler system, 2" faux wood blinds, framed mirrors in bathroom & tray ceiling in grandroom & fence across back property line. (Winterberry Plan) Owner is licensed residential home builder and REALTOR in the State of Alabama. **BILLY COTTER CONSTRUCTION, INC. 334-347-2600. MLS# 20170148**

107 PINERIDGE, ENTERPRISE - \$46,500: Priced to sell!!! It features 2BR/2.5BA, 1-car garage, fenced yard, covered porch, all appliances & more. Very close to Ft. Rucker. HOA fees are \$55 month - pool, clubhouse privileges, pest, & lawn care! This is a VA foreclosure to be sold as is, no rep. in Ala. **NANCY CAFIERO 334-389-1758 & BOB KUYKENDALL 334-369-9534. MLS# 20170152**

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FLEXING CAPABILITIES

10th CAB aircraft arrive in Germany

By 1st Lt. Mark Schneider
16th Sustainment Brigade
Public Affairs

BREMERHAVEN, Germany — The Surface Deployment and Distribution Command received and staged the first set of the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade's CH-47 Chinook, UH-60 Black Hawk and AH-64 Apache helicopters Feb. 11.

In the ensuing few weeks, the SDDC and the 16th Sustainment Brigade will facilitate the reception, staging, onward movement and integration of the 10th CAB at seaports in three countries across Europe.

"Twenty years ago, there was constant military activity at the ports with 300,000 U.S. Soldiers in Europe," said Johan Benner, a marine cargo specialist for the



PHOTO BY 1ST LT. MARK SCHNEIDER

The 10th CAB initiated offloading over 700 pieces of support equipment at the seaport of debarkation in Antwerp, Belgium, Feb. 8.

838th Transportation Battalion, SDDC. "Although there are now 30,000 U.S. Soldiers in Europe, with the addition of regionally allocated forces coming into the area from the continental United States, I've seen the flow of mil-

itary equipment at ports building back up."

With the arrival of the 10th CAB just weeks after the arrival of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, the ability to receive and

move armored and Aviation brigades swiftly through Europe's interior lines of communication is critical for speed of assembly and the massing of forces.

The logistical processes of advancing brigades though the deployment pipeline is continuously refined by the 21st Theater Sustainment Command to verify capacities at nodes of transportation and to maintain flexibility.

"Our task is to provide movement control support, transportation expertise and reporting for 10th CAB," said Capt. Jacy Schmidt, commander, 635th Transportation Detachment. "We are also evaluating the capacities of the seaports for future operations."

After touching down at the ports, 10th CAB Soldiers will begin generating combat power

by assembling their helicopters and moving to four different countries. Over the next nine months, 10th CAB will conduct medical transport, exercise support, and Aviation operations during major multinational training exercises in Europe focusing on interoperability with allies and partners.

"This is an exciting and unique opportunity to train with our allies and operate out of numerous NATO countries. I think it'll be a great chance to flex our capabilities, assure our allies of our presence and grow as a joint force," said 1st Lt. Amber Ingwell, Aviation officer, 2nd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 10th CAB. "We have all worked tirelessly to train for this deployment and we are eager to prove our capabilities."

VALIDATE

12th CAB helps Soldiers prep for upcoming mission

By 2LT Johnathan Larkin
2nd Cavalry Regiment Regimental Support Squadron

ROSE BARRACKS, Germany — Troopers assigned to A Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment conducted a sling load operation training exercise with 12th Combat Aviation Brigade in the Grafenwoehr Training Area Feb. 9.

The purpose of the exercise was to validate personnel for real sling load operations. This training will help the troopers enhance their necessary training skills to support the regiment during its upcoming mission, Saber Junction, occurring later in the year.

"Sling load training in conjunction with the 12th CAB provides Soldiers from each of our platoons a unique opportunity to broaden their skill-set and make them more multi-functional logisticians," said Capt. John S. Mills, A Troop commander. "I look forward to building off the experiences from the day's training and working with 12th CAB in the future on even more complex sling load operations."

Utilizing past experience, Staff Sgt. Danny Patterson, a squad leader in the troop, started training Soldiers for sling operations in October.

Patterson trained over 40 personnel on sling loading fuel blivets, HMMWVs and packages. During the actual exercise, troopers conducted sling operations with packages containing concertina wire, Stryker tires and meals ready to eat.

"I spent a lot of time training these Soldiers and I felt such a responsibility in making sure that they were prepared for this type of operation," he said. "Their personal safety was my main concern, but of course I also wanted to see each one of them successfully complete their tasks."

"They knew what they had to do and I wasn't go-

SEE MISSION, PAGE B4



ARMY PHOTO

Soldiers hook up a load to a CH-47 Chinook during sling load training.

PASS THE AMMUNITION



PHOTO BY SGT. STEVEN GALIMORE

Army crew chiefs insert 762 mm rounds into multiple 100-round bandoleer containers inside a UH-60 Black Hawk before participating in an aerial gunnery training exercise at Marine Corps Outlying Field Atlantic, N.C., Feb. 8.

LOOKING BACK

3-501st Avn. Regt. heads home after deployment to Europe

By Staff Sgt. Corinna Baltos
24th Press Camp Headquarters

MIHAIL KOGALNICEANU, Romania — The conexes are being loaded, duffel bags are being packed and the crews are conducting pre-flight checks on their helicopters as they prepare to head home after a nine-month training rotation in Europe.

In June, Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division left their desert home at Fort Bliss, Texas, and set out for Europe where they would spend the next nine months training in support of Atlantic Resolve.

"We came here to strengthen our alliance with our European partners,"

SEE DEPLOYMENT, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CORINNA BALTOS

UH-60 Black Hawks from the 3-501st Avn. Regt. lift off from a field in Bulgaria during Exercise Platinum Lion 17.1 in December.

Soldiers perfect field craft

By Sgt. William Begley
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs

FORT STEWART, Ga. — The Lighthorse fuelers of 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade took to the field to support all of the aircraft in Task Force Lighthorse during an exercise on Fort Stewart Feb. 6-10.

This exercise is helping to get the Soldiers ready for a rotation at the National Training Center in California later this year.

According to 1st Lt. Ashley Hanley, Troop E, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, her team is in charge of fueling and arming all of the aircraft while setting up and maintaining a command post.



PHOTO BY SGT. WILLIAM BEGLEY

Fuelers of 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade fuel an HH-60M Black Hawk during an exercise on Fort Stewart, Ga., Feb. 6-10.

SEE CRAFT, PAGE B4

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Mission

Continued from Page B1

ing to stand in the way of them performing their tasks,” Patterson added. “I was there to supervise and watch each one of them succeed. They were so nervous, but afterwards each Soldier felt so accomplished and excited. I couldn’t be more proud of my Soldiers.”

The ability to conduct sling operations provides the opportunity to support units through aerial delivery. In a dual threat environment, this training extends RSS operational support and allows line units to push forward. Sling loading allows the RSS to extend its support and Soldiers in

the Troop eagerly awaited the opportunity to use their training in an operational environment, Mills said.

“Sling operations are a great mission for the Army and an important one at that. It will allow our unit to be successful in future expeditionary deployments,” said Sgt. Guadalupe Silva, an air-assault qualified NCO.

Some Soldiers started at zero experience before all the training began, and now feel fully confident in their ability to conduct sling operations in future field exercises. Their vast improvement in this technical skill was displayed during the most recent exercise, Mills said.



ARMY PHOTO

A CH-47 Chinook from the 12th CAB conducts sling load training with Soldiers from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment Feb. 9 at a training area in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

Deployment

Continued from Page B1

said 1st Lt. Jacob Tappe, a platoon leader in B Co., 3rd Bn., 501st Avn. Regt.

Tappe said that during his unit’s time in Europe, they had the chance to grow as a force, and flex their capabilities by training with their allies and operating in various NATO countries.

After arriving in Germany, the Soldiers received their helicopters from the German port of Bremerhaven and then flew them to Illesheim, Germany, for maintenance and training.

From Illesheim, the battalion generated its combat power by moving the companies to different locations in Europe. A Co. flew up to Latvia to train, while C Co. flew down to

Romania. B Co. “Beast Assault” initially stayed in Germany.

“We replaced Charlie Company here in November,” said Tappe.

During their time in Romania, the Soldiers participated in several multi-national training exercises. One of those exercises was Platinum Lion 17.1, which took place in Bulgaria in December.

“We trained alongside the (U.S.) Marines, as well as forces from nine other countries from eastern Europe,” said Tappe.

Tappe said that being able to work with other nations armed forces improved both his unit’s ability to work with others, as well as increased the tactical strength of his Soldiers.

For many of the Soldiers, the most rewarding thing about training in Europe was the opportunity to fly on terrain they were not used to. “Europe is not a desert,” said CW2 Jonathan Barnett, B Co. “It was good training to practice tactical maneuvers and decisive actions in this type of terrain.”

Once the unit, and its equipment gets back to Fort Bliss, the Soldiers will begin collective training in support of a battalion level exercise that will take place in late summer.

“We have been split up as a battalion, so it will be good to train as a whole again,” said Tappe.

Atlantic Resolve is a demonstration of continued U.S. commitment to collective security through a series of actions designed to reassure NATO allies and partners of America’s dedication to enduring peace and stability in the region in light of the Russian intervention in Ukraine.

Craft

Continued from Page B1

“We have a convoy live fire exercise that we are doing tomorrow as well as a combined arms live-fire exercise for the aircraft and their crews,” Hanley said.

Field time is when the tasks like setting up a tent for command post actually happen. Hanley said it’s important to be proficient at doing the tasks that Soldiers don’t do every day.

Sgt. Denver Yarbrough is a petroleum supply specialist for Troop E. He is in charge of a team of new young fuelers who recently joined the Army.

“We have a big mission out here. Whenever these aircraft need fuel, we’ve got to re-fuel them,” he said.

Yarbrough has been in the Army for 10 years and has deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan. His experience will be needed as he has two young Soldiers that work with him.

Pvt. Christian Brantley, Troop E, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment has been in the Army a grand total of six months. He recently arrived at his unit and this is his first time going to the field with them.

“It’s definitely different being out here at night. You can hear all of the animals out here killing other animals it’s something else,” Brantley said.

Brantley mentioned some of the wildlife he hopes he doesn’t encounter – alligators.

“I haven’t seen anything yet, but if I see one attacking one of my battle buddies, I might just have to take him out,” Brantley said.

Alligators. They can come in different forms. They can be the four-legged reptilian kind, or they can be the kind that makes setting up a tent and command post a challenge. That’s why it’s so important to learn to deal with the



PHOTO BY SGT. WILLIAM BEGLEY

Pvt. Tyrris Mitchell prepares to assist fueling an aircraft.

alligators now.

“Getting out to the field to practice what we do is incredibly important be-

cause things do go wrong and we can learn from our mistakes and we can get better,” Hanley said.



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FEBRUARY 23, 2017

MAD SCIENTISTS

Workshop brings out kids' engineering skills

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The Fort Rucker Center Library isn't just a place where people can find books and resources, but also place where young minds can flourish through hands-on experimentation.

The library held its first Mad Scientist Workshop Feb. 16 where children were able to use their ingenuity and teamwork skills to construct bridges while working in groups and using only the materials provided, according to Cameron Hill, center library youth librarian.

"Since this was our first one, I wanted to start off easy because I had no idea if it would be popular or not, but it turned out to be so popular that we had to add another session," said Hill. "This workshop was about engineering, and a lot of the kids were already well on their way to being great designers and builders."

During the workshop, children had to use the materials provided, which included popsicle sticks, clothespins and binder clips to construct bridges to see which bridge could hold the most weight.

The children worked in groups of three to five to construct their bridges before books were stacked on top to see which bridge could hold the most weight before they collapsed, and for many of the children, like Marcus and Jaden Whiting, military family members, the workshop was a good time that taught them valuable lessons.

"I thought it was really fun and artistic, and I love art," said Jaden. "My favorite part was the first bridge we made."

The first bridge that Jaden's group constructed was able to hold so many books that the bridge itself never collapsed from the weight of the books, but caused the stack of books to pile so high that they toppled over.

"I liked the first bridge we made the most, too," added Marcus. "I learned about construction and that supports are good," which their bridge had plenty of.

The team didn't have as much luck with their second bridge, though, as they got a valuable lesson in time management.

"We had a good idea and it had plenty of suspension, but it took too long to build," said Jaden. "We spent too much time on the idea and we had to just build it how we could," which resulted in a bridge not nearly

as sturdy as their first.

Regardless of the type of bridges they built, they both agreed that they enjoyed their time during the workshop, and their mother, Mimosa, military spouse, was happy to see a program that was geared toward children of their age.

"We have a keen interest in science, and since they're home schooled our opportunities to do scientific experiments are limited, so I thought this would be a great opportunity to have a hands-on scientific experiment with other kids," she said. "I'm happy that the Fort Rucker library is offering this type of thing for older kids ... it's nice to see something that's geared toward middle-school aged kids."

The Whittings said they had such a good time that they will be sure to make it to the next workshop.

Hill said with the success of the Mad Scientist Workshop, they had to add an additional session, and the event was received very well since it's geared toward children who are older.

"We wanted to put something like this on also because we have a lot of programs for younger kids, but not for a lot of older children," said the youth librarian. "Just based on the numbers that we saw today, there just isn't a lot for the older children. We'd like to provide more for them."

Hill said another purpose the Mad Scientist Workshop helps to fill is to provide education and offer some Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics programs on post.

"A lot of these concepts are missing in some schools today, especially with art," she said. "There is a big need in the job market today for science and technology positions, and children want to learn about these things ... and hopefully this will build on the concepts that they already know and they can work and grow on it."

Hill said the next iteration of the workshop will involve art, which will be held in April, followed by a chemistry and mixing workshop.

If people are interested in attending the Mad Scientist Workshop, parents must call the center library and register, and people should register as soon as possible since spots are limited to about 20 children because of space and materials, said Hill.

For more information, call 255-3885.



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

Mya Hill, military family member and volunteer, stacks books on top of a bridge constructed during the Mad Scientist Workshop at the Center Library Feb. 16 as Jaden Whiting, military family member, observes.



Family members work together on their construction projects during the Mad Scientist Workshop at the Fort Rucker Center Library Feb. 16.

Communities benefit from spouse club outreach

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The community surrounding Fort Rucker isn't shy about its support for Soldiers and families, so one organization on post makes sure to give back as much as possible.

Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club members held their annual Sweetheart Bingo Feb. 14 at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Enterprise, as well as their Fairy Godmother Prom Dress event Saturday at Corvias Military Living as a means to back to the community that serves them, said Tanya Berg, FRCS Club member and Fairy Godmother chair.

er chair.

"Whether it's through Sweetheart Bingo and supporting our senior citizens, Fairy Godmother and supporting our local high school girls, or the Hollyday Bazaar, where we raise funds for high school children and people who are continuing education, this is our way of supporting the people who support us, and I think that's really important," she said.

The spouses club exists to develop a spirit of community responsibility, according to the club's website, www.fortruckercsc.com, but its actions speak louder than its words.

"Most of our efforts go toward

fund raising to give back to the community, but (Sweetheart Bingo) is one event that we do that is our biggest philanthropic event, and it's one event that the local community has come to count on and we almost get more joy out of it than they do," said Jodi Coyle, Sweetheart Bingo chair.

The spouses club hosted 12 senior centers from the surrounding areas in an event that catered to nearly 400 senior citizens, said Coyle.

Throughout the event, participants were able to enjoy breakfast to start before the games began, and once the games began, the prizes started flowing. In between shouts of "Bingo!" door prizes were given out throughout, including kitchen appliances, jewelry, gift cards and more.

"I think for any military installation, it's awesome to see how the local community supports the military itself, and it's awesome as a military organization to be able give back to the local communities in return," said the event chair, adding that up to 40 spouses club members were on hand to help with the event.

That level of support doesn't go unnoticed.

"I just think this is a great event and I have a great time while we're here," said Josephine Darge, of Pine Level. "It's a nice change from a normal day, and who doesn't love a good game of Bingo?"

... it's awesome, as a military organization, to be able give back to the local communities. . .

— TANYA BERG,
FRCS CLUB MEMBER AND
FAIRY GODMOTHER CHAIR

The FRCS exists to support people of all ages in the surrounding community, and they did just that with their Fairy Godmother Prom Dress Event, which provided prom dresses to high school girls from area high schools from as far as past Troy to the Florida and Georgia borders, said Berg.

"We worked with high schools in the area and we had more than 50 girls scheduled to come in," she said. "They get to come in, find a dress they like, try it on, and they get to keep a dress and take home an accessory with them, so they'll walk out of here with a new dress and either some shoes or jewelry, and a lot of self confidence."

Building that self confidence is something Jennifer Heard, FRCS Fairy Godmother co-chair, said is a huge part of why she wanted to volunteer her time to help.

"I was a volunteer last year and

I got to witness this first hand by being a personal shopper with the girls," she said. "One thing that stuck out to me was some of the self-esteem issues of some of the girls."

"Some of them were really down on themselves and didn't have much encouragement, and that was something we got to do — build their self esteem," she continued. "We encouraged them through finding these dresses and helped them have a little bit more confidence about how they looked. Once they tried on the dresses, you could just see the change in the faces and attitudes."

The dresses provided are all donated by military spouses and local businesses, and the collection now houses more than 600 dresses. Throughout the year, when the dresses aren't needed for the prom dress event, the spouses club acts as a lending closet for military spouses who can borrow dresses for military balls and other formal occasions, costing them only the price of cleaning after they're done with the dress, according to Berg.

Regardless of what the dresses are used for, they are meant to serve a purpose and that purpose is to give back.

"The whole point of the Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club is to support the community that supports us and, as a military spouse, it's nice to give back," she said.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Madea Page, of the Daleville Senior Center, accepts her door prize during the Fort Rucker Community Spouses Club Sweetheart Bingo event at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Enterprise Feb. 14.

ON POST

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

Anti-Bullying Rally

The Fort Rucker Youth Center will host its second annual Anti-Bullying Rally Friday from 4:15-5:15 p.m. The purpose of the free event is to help reduce and prevent bullying by raising awareness through partnerships and supporters. Guest speakers will speak to the youth and provide information on ways to deal with bullying. Food will be served. Parents and guardians are encouraged to come and support the event. The rally is open to the public.

For more information, call 255-2260.

Mardi Gras day trip

MWR Central will host a day trip to Mobile for the Mardi Gras festivities Saturday. The cost of this trip is \$47 per person, and includes transportation to and from Mobile, and a catered lunch. The trip will depart Fort Rucker at 8 a.m. and arrive in Mobile around 11:30 a.m. Departure time from Mobile will be at 8 p.m., with an anticipated arrival back at Fort Rucker at around 11 p.m.

For more information, call 255-2997.

Mom & Me: Dad too!

Army Community Service hosts its Mom & Me: Dad too! playgroup Mondays from 9:30–11 a.m. at The Commons. The playgroup is for families with children ages birth to 3 years old.

For more information, call 255-9647 or 255-3359.

Seusstival

The Center Library will host its Seusstival Tuesday from 4-5:30 p.m. The library invites authorized patrons to help celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday with a spring carnival, and also to dress up as their favorite Dr. Seuss character or in a wacky costume for a chance to win a prize. The event will also feature other activities and a children’s parade. The event will be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly.

For more information, stop by the library or call 255-3885.

Employment readiness class

The Fort Rucker Employment Readiness Program hosts orientation sessions monthly in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, in the Army Community Service multipurpose room, with the next session March 2. 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 noon. The sessions will inform people on the essentials of the program and provide job search tips, as well. Advance registration is required and attendance at a session is mandatory for participation in the program.

For more information, call 255-2594.

International Spouses Get Together

Army Community Service hosts its International Spouses Get Together the first Friday of every month at 9 a.m. at the Allen Heights Community Center. According to ACS officials, the get together is a place for spouses to find support, and help with finding resources for obtaining U.S. citizenship, education, drivers licenses and more. Multilingual volunteers are available.

For more information, call 255-3735.

Library’s Teen Tech Week

The Center Library will celebrate Teen Tech Week with a workshop March 7 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. A guest will demonstrate how to use a 3D printer and how to potentially build a 3D printer. The workshop will be open to authorized patrons and be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly.

For more information, visit the library or call 255-3885.

Single-parent family game night

Army Community Service, and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service will host a single-parent family game night March 9 from 5-7 p.m. at the post exchange food court. Free giveaways will be included at this initiative of the Fort Rucker Community Health Promotions Council Family Resiliency Work Group. The event will be open to authorized patrons –

single parents who are active duty, retired, Department of Defense employees and their families. Registration deadline is March 3 and registration is limited to the first 20 families to sign up. People can pre-register by calling 255-3359 or 255-9647.

Resilience training

Army Community Service will host its



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Right Arm Night

The Landing Zone will host Fort Rucker Right Arm Night today 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 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.

resilience training March 9 and 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 350. People need to register by March 7.

For more information on attending a resilience training workshop or two-day training, or to schedule training for a family readiness group or staff members, call 255-3161 or 255-3735.

Monster Jam Day Trip

MWR Central will host a day trip to the Monster Jam Triple Threat Series March 11 in Pensacola, Florida. According to organizers, a few trucks who are expected to be there are Grave Digger, Zombie, Scooby Doo, El Toro Loco, N.E.A, and Monster Mutt Rottweiler. The cost for this trip is \$47 per person and includes transportation, pre-race pit pass and ticket to the show. The buses will depart from the Bldg. 5700 parking lot at 6:30 a.m. and return around 6 p.m. that evening. MWR Central will also sell tickets in the office for \$30. Hearing protection is highly recommended for the show – people can purchase some at the arena or bring their own.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call 255-2997.

Tot Time

Army Community Service hosts its Tot Time playgroup Wednesdays from 9:30-11a.m. at The Commons, Bldg. 8950. The playgroup is for children 12-36 months and their caregivers. The playgroup provides programs and activities that enhance caregiver-child interaction, and stimulate child growth and development.

For more information, call 255-9647 or 255-3359.

Panda craft

The Center Library will host a panda craft session March 14 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. The event will be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly and open to authorized patrons. For more information or to register, visit the library or call 255-3885.

Home Buying Seminar

The Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program will present a home buying seminar from 6:30-8:30 p.m. March 15 in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 282. Topics will include: why buy a house, credit history, Veterans Affairs mortgage insurance, types of mortgages and applying for a mortgage. The discussion will be facilitated by ACS accredited financial counselors. Pre-registration is required by March 14. Free childcare will be available with registration.

For more information and to register, call 255- 3765 or 255-9631. Registration can also be completed by going to https://rucker.armymwr.com/us/rucker/programs/financial-readiness.

Newcomers welcome

A newcomers welcome is scheduled for March 17 from 8:30-11 a.m. at The Land-

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Registration deadline is Friday, March 3.

Registration is limited to the first 20 families.

Open to single parents who are active duty, retired, DoD employees and their families.

To register, call ACS New Parent Support Program, (334)255-3359/9647/9805.

Register online with Eventbrite

rucker.armymwr.com

EFMP Friendly

ing. 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 Starbucks 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.

Book clubs

The Center Library hosts a book club for adults the third Tuesday of each month from 5-6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

The Center Library hosts a book club for teens the third Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Both clubs are open to authorized patrons. For more information, call 255-3885.

Army Family Team Building app

People can complete Army Family Team Building training through AFTB’s app. Visit <http://www.ftruckerarmwr.com/acs/army-family-team-building/> to find the direct link to the app. Once complete, people can contact Fort Rucker AFTB to receive their certificate. Search for AFTB in the app store for Apple devices. For more information, call 255-9637.

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 23-26

Thursday, February 23

Sing 3-D (PG) 7 p.m.

Friday, February 24

Live By Night (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Saturday, February 25

Sing (PG) 4 p.m.
Sleepless (R) 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 26

Hidden Figures (PG) 1 p.m.
Sleepless (R) 4 p.m.

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SMA TO CONGRESS:

Child care delays, unemployed spouses still major concerns

By Sean Kimmons
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Access to quality child care is an essential benefit for service members with children, especially for those with spouses who work full time or are seeking employment.

But with more than 5,500 children waiting to get into Army child care programs, senior leaders are worried the backlog could affect the readiness of military parents.

“This is a huge concern for us,” Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey told lawmakers Feb. 14. Child care is “critical to our success and something we have to continue to invest in for the future.”

Speaking at a family forum at the annual Association of the United States Army conference in October, Dailey noted that child care services account for about half of the Army’s \$1.1 billion budget for family programs.

Testifying before the Senate Armed Forces Committee’s personnel subcommittee on Capitol Hill, Dailey said the backlog of thousands of children is the result of several issues. The Army is in need of more child care facilities to accommodate military children.

Another reason he cited was the lengthy hiring process required for child care providers.

“We’re working this very hard,” he said. “I think we’ve done an OK job at reducing the amount of backlog, but it’s compounded by the simple problem that [job applicants] often don’t want to wait for those background checks, and they need to seek employment.”

The average wait time to place children into child care centers is four months, with at least five installations with wait times of five months or longer. U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii has the longest at 16 months, according to Army officials.

A non-appropriated fund working group has been developing strategies to decrease wait time for child care. One of the strategies is the launch of MilitaryChildCare.com, a Defense Department-run website to assist military families in finding child care. After initially going online in January 2015, the website has been rolled out in



ARMY PHOTO

The Army is dealing with a child care backlog of over 5,500 children, which senior leaders worry could affect the readiness of military parents.

phases. Today, the website provides a map showing visitors the areas it currently covers.

The Army also offsets costs for Soldiers who pay for off-base child care services when they cannot get their children into on-base facilities, Dailey said.

The DOD has even created the Extended Child Care Initiative allowing base commanders to extend the operating hours of child care centers to 14 hours a day based on needs and requirements, said Stephanie Barna, the acting assistant secretary of defense for manpower and reserve affairs.

The military, she noted in her testimony, is a young force with over 40 percent of military members with children. Because of this, the DOD has the nation’s largest employer-sponsored child care program that supports about 180,000 children each day at over 230 locations around the world.

“A quality child care system helps families balance the com-

peting demands of work and family life and contributes to the efficiency, readiness and retention of the total force,” Barna said in her written testimony.

Also in the hearing, Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona) asked Dailey and the other services’ top enlisted leaders what was being done to help more spouses get jobs.

The Armed Services Committee’s chairman said that 25 percent of military spouses are unemployed, while many of those who do have jobs are underemployed.

“Obviously, the movement of our military personnel makes it extremely difficult for spouses to hold employment in jobs,” McCain said.

Dailey told the committee that there has been success with the DOD’s Military Spouse Employment Partnership, which connects spouses to military-friendly employers. Since 2011, the program has grown to about 340 employers who have hired more than



PHOTO BY SEAN KIMMONS

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey speaks about the Army’s child care backlog while he testifies in front of the Senate Armed Forces Committee’s personnel subcommittee on Capitol Hill Feb. 14.

100,000 spouses, according to his testimony.

“We need to continue to strengthen that in every way, shape or form we can,” he said, adding that there’s room for improvement on getting the word out

on job opportunities and programs for spouses.

He also suggested the military can take advantage of its internal resources for military members leaving the service and offer them to spouses.

Soldier provides lifesaving aid to neighbor

By Staff Sgt. Armando Limon
Schofield Barracks Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — Spc. Anthony Kemp, an intelligence analyst assigned to D Company, 29th Brigade Engineer Battalion, received an award Jan. 20 for providing lifesaving aid to a civilian.

Dec. 2 was a quiet late afternoon for Kemp until he heard the pained screams from a resident outside his Wahiawa home. He said he saw a neighbor trying to free his leg from a pit bull. The man had kicked off the dog once only to have it latch back onto his leg again, tearing a large chunk of his calf.

“When I went down there, the pit bull was still running around a little bit, but a neighbor got it under control,” he said.

He then elevated the injured man’s leg against a fence, to lessen the bleeding.

“I ran across the street to my car, because we were getting ready for [Exercise] Yama Sakura. I had my [fighting load carrier] in

my trunk,” he said. “I got my tourniquet out of the medic bag and ran back over, and put it on his thigh to help stop the bleeding.”

Afterward, a call was placed to 911 for emergency medical care for the severely injured civilian.

TRAINING SAVES LIVES

Kemp attributed his ability to provide rapid aid to the Combat Lifesaver Course, which he first took in basic training, and a more recent refresher course.

“I feel that the average person might think to put the tourniquet right around the wound, but I always remembered high and tight,” he said. “So I went above the injury, even above the knee cap. I put it on his thigh.”

Kemp demonstrated personal courage by providing assistance and treatment to a community member who was attacked by a dog, said 1st Lt. Joseph Salmento, a platoon leader in D Co.

“Despite the dog acting aggressively and repeatedly mauling the victim, Specialist Kemp, with the assistance of a bystander, proceeded to separate the dog from the victim’s leg,” Salmento said. “Then, he properly diagnosed the victim with arterial hemorrhaging in the leg and correctly applied a tourniquet to stop the bleeding. In addition, he kept the victim calm until first responders

arrived. His actions saved the victim’s life.”

Kemp’s squad leader, Cpl. Jason Bride, said he was glad Kemp was there to help the victim using his military training.

“He didn’t hesitate,” Bride said. “He went over there to give a civilian help and he actually knew what to do as he was trained. He already had a good idea of how to take care of this situation. He’s a great Soldier.”



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ARMANDO R. LIMON

Spc. Anthony Kemp, an intelligence analyst with the 29th Brigade Engineer Battalion, receives an Army Achievement Medal at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Jan. 20.

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FULL STEM AHEAD:

Army invests in science-savvy force

By Devon L. Suits
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Growing up in Brooklyn, New York, young Aisha Haynes had to answer the same tough question every high school student eventually has to answer: What do you want to be when you grow up?

The answer arrived during a summer camp program, where she was introduced to chemical engineers. She already knew she liked science and math. So the idea appealed to her. “So, I went ahead and said, ‘I am going to go and do engineering,’” she recalled. “And I stuck with it.”

Today, Dr. Haynes is a research mechanical engineer at the Army’s Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center in New Jersey. She was recognized Feb. 10 as a Modern-Day Technology Leaders award-winner at the 31st annual Black Engineer of the Year Awards Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Conference.

Now she is giving back, trying to encourage others to learn about the STEM program and the field of engineering. At the conference, she was among more than 100 Army leaders, who were joining forces with educators and other STEM professionals to mentor and mingle with students of all ages.

THE ARMY’S INTEREST IN STEM

“I think this entire conference is such a great idea, and I have watched it grow over the years,” said Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, commander of the United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and United States Forces Korea.

The BEYA STEM Conference serves as an engagement tool for the Defense Department, but it also offers students the opportunity to learn more about STEM careers in all of the branches of service, including the Army, which employs STEM professionals in a variety of fields.

“I want to make sure [the students’ eyes] are open to the reality that there is no limit to what it is they can do,” the general said. “I want them to prepare themselves, because when opportunity meets preparations – that’s when achievement occurs.”

The Army Educational Outreach Program



PHOTO BY CONRAD JOHNSON

Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, commander of the United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea, and Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins, commanding general, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, bracket recipients of the Black Engineer of the Year Award for Modern-Day Technology Leaders, which were presented Feb. 10 during the 31st annual BEYA science, technology, engineering and math conference in Washington, D.C.

provides apprentice opportunities for high school students and undergrads. The program accepts more than 600 students per year at more than 20 Army locations and partners with 90 different universities, according to the Army’s Research, Development and Engineering Command officials.

RDECOM’s 13,700 employees represent 5 percent of all Army Civilians. That includes more than 10,000 scientists and engineers, spread throughout seven facilities. They represent 56 percent of the Army’s Safety and Occupational Health Career Program, officials said.

“Anytime a person decides to come into the Department of Defense, they have made a commitment to public service,” observed Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins, commanding general of RDECOM at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

“The fascination and creativity of these young folks gives me a good feeling that the Army will be able to meet its demand in the future. The young, talented scientists and engineers will be able to continue the work of the scientists and engineers we have now.”

BUILDING FUTURE LEADERS

Haynes was fortunate enough to start her job right after completing her undergraduate degree. Working for the Army, she said, pro-

vided her with a lot of growth potential and additional education experience.

“They say true engineers have the knack at a very young age,” Haynes said. “They take things apart and like to see how things work. Some students will fail to have an opportunity, if they don’t have a proper introduction to engineering at a young age.”

In addition to her “nine to five,” Haynes is a mother of daughters who range in age from 5 to 17. Her daughters’ high school will introduce them to the STEM program, she said. In many ways, they have had more opportunities than she did growing up.

“If I started earlier, with an introduction to STEM, I might have taken more opportunity when I was an undergrad, or even in high school,” Haynes said. “It would have probably put me further ahead than when I started.”

That proper introduction was the major reason why Karyn Baines, the middle school principal at Riverdale Baptist School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, brought a select group of students to attend the conference. During the event, she encouraged them to ask questions and interact with the vast array of professionals representing the STEM industry.

“For our middle school students, this is exposing them to the different STEM careers,”

she said. “They are learning about STEM in school ... but they have not seen it in action. It is bringing it to life for them.”

This was Riverdale Baptist’s first visit, but according to Baines, it won’t be the last. Her middle schoolers also had the opportunity to participate in a mentor session, which provided some critical thinking and hands-on activities.

“When we could bring the future leaders, as you called them -- industry, current practitioners of the military and leadership -- bringing them all to the same place and having a conversation with one another, we’re passing on this tribal wisdom,” Brooks said. “This is really passing on the torch from one generation to the next by simply having a conversation.”

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH NETWORKING

The primary goal of the BEYA STEM Conference, according to the conference organizers, is to foster relationships between students, educators, and STEM professionals and connect individuals with STEM resources. For DOD, the conference has the added benefit of providing a proper forum for young professionals to network with recruiters.

“Now that technology is increasing and becoming more popular, people want to come to these conferences,” said Arafun Azad, a psychology major who graduated from SBU. “From a younger age, you’re kind of building your way toward your career.”

At the conference, Arafun was accompanied by a couple of her SBU peers: Abrar Hossian, a senior and mechanical engineering major, and Fathea Azad, a health and nutrition sciences graduate. The three spent a majority of their time looking for future opportunities in their fields.

“I was considering [joining the military], and maybe sometime in the future I would look into it and see if that was an option or an opportunity for me,” Hossian said.

The time he spent at the conference, combined with the information that he has received from several of his friends, has taught him that the Army, as well as other services, can lead to many different job opportunities in the field of engineering.

‘Fighting Eagles’ troops, tanks arrive in Romania

By 1st Lt. Samuel Jolley
3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team,
4th Infantry Division

MIHAIL KOGALNICEANU, Romania — Soldiers, tanks and M88 recovery vehicles from 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment “Fighting Eagles” have arrived at Mihail Kogalniceanu Airbase in support of Atlantic Resolve.

So far, more than 350 soldiers have arrived in February with another 150 set to show up before the end of the month.

Feb. 14, Fighting Eagles Soldiers downloaded M1A2 Abrams tanks from the first train that arrived at this eastern Romanian air base located about 20 kilometers away from the Black Sea.

Over the course of a few days, Soldiers and equipment had traveled about 1,800 kilometers across four countries from western Poland, where the battalion and the rest of the 3,500 Soldiers of 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division who have deployed to Europe initially assembled.

“We traveled through Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary and Romania, testing the battalion’s ability to assemble quickly and move across Europe via rail and roads,” said Maj. Scott Stephens, 1-8th Inf. Regt. executive officer. “The cooperation and trust of allied nations to freely maneuver U.S. military equipment and personnel across Europe is essential to the success of Operation Atlantic Resolve and the security of allied European countries.”

Speaking to Romanian media as his Soldiers helped off-load tanks from rail cars, Stephens added, “This is very challenging logistically to pull this off, to move this equipment across the sea [from home station Fort Carson, Colorado], onto trains and across Europe. We’ve learned a lot, but this is part of the reason why we are here. It is vital we learn [from] these experiences to be able to quickly deploy in the case of future operations.”

Participating in Atlantic Resolve means the 3rd ABCT

will conduct bilateral and multinational training with allies in eight different countries. For 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, the emphasis will be on increasing interoperability with Romanian and Bulgarian land forces over the next six months.

“We are so excited to begin integrating with the Romanian army and begin training with our Allied partners,” said Maj. Michael Harrison, operations officer. “Living and working alongside our allies daily will build confidence in our ability to operate as one team if we’re ever called to respond immediately to any crisis.”

Training opportunities will include taking part in the multinational Saber Guardian 17 exercise in July as well as the opportunity to work with a new multinational brigade first proposed at the NATO Warsaw summit in July 2016 and based in Romania.



PHOTO BY 2ND LT. GUNBOLD LIGDEN

Maj. Scott Stephens, executive officer, 1-8th Inf. Regt., fields questions from Romanian journalists who were present for the arrival of the first 15 tanks to Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base, Romania, Feb. 14.

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TWISTS, TURNS

Army civilian recalls his African roots

By David Vergun
Army News Service

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — In recent years, people from all kinds of backgrounds, African-Americans among them, have become interested in tracing their roots back to their ancestral homes.

Not Ayo Omololu. He already knows his roots, firsthand. Omololu was born in 1968 in Kaduna, Nigeria, a member of the Yoruba people.

Today, he is the senior synchronization officer at U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command G-3. The path from Lagos, Nigeria to Aberdeen Proving Ground took him on some unexpected twists and turns.

When Omololu was in his teens, his family immigrated to the U.S. He spent the remainder of his childhood in Brooklyn, New York.

In many ways, Brooklyn was a lot like Lagos, he said. In Brooklyn, there are many ethnic groups and cultures, and, as in Lagos, most people speak English, since Nigeria was once a British colony.

JOINING THE NAVY

When Omololu was working as a security guard in Brooklyn at age

19, he met a Navy recruiter who promised him a life of travel and adventure if he enlisted, which he promptly did. The Navy was everything the recruiter promised, he recalled.

He served aboard two ships, both were landing helo deck vessels designed to transport Marines and their gear ashore: the USS Wasp and the USS Iwo Jima.

During shore leave in New Jersey, Omololu met his future wife, Biola, from Newark. For the next four years, Omololu said, he was in his element, sailing out of his homeport of Norfolk, Virginia, and of course voyaging home to see Biola.

He recalled spending a lot of time patrolling areas around the Mediterranean Sea. Omololu's job was logistical in nature, budgeting and inventorying parts for weapons systems on the LHDs. "That's where I got most of my logistics and acquisition experience."

REINVENTING HIMSELF

After his service, Omololu started his job search. Omololu said one of the things he liked about the Navy was serving his country. He decided the best way to continue doing that was to serve in the military as a civilian. His first duty station was with the Defense

Information Systems Agency, then located in Arlington, Virginia.

He then transferred to CECOM at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Omololu said it was a nice location, close to his and his wife's family and friends. Best of all, he was there to support the warfighter.

As a synchronization officer with CECOM, Omololu said his job is to "communicate and synchronize requirements and strategies between the sustainment community and program executive offices that develop and manage weapons systems." That could be anything from radios to radar and satellites.

Having his feet in both communities ensures that the system being developed will be sustainable for the warfighter, he explained. That means during the design phase, the parts need to be easy to maintain and durable for the lifetime of the system. And, most importantly, the system needs to be reliable.

Having a well-built system cuts down on a lot on maintenance and replacement costs down the road. "We bake sustainability into the design," he said.

In 2010, Omololu and the entire CECOM organization relocated to Aberdeen Proving Ground under



PHOTO BY DAVID VERGUN

Omololu

the Base Realignment and Closure process.

In 2013, Omololu did a tour of duty in Afghanistan at Bagram Air Base. While there, he served as a contracting officer representative, supervising the fielding of generators and power equipment to special operations troops in remote parts of the country.

One of the things he noticed in Afghanistan was a huge reliance on contractors. Contractors were everywhere, maintaining the equipment, he recalled.

Today, the Army is doing an 181442 on that, trying to train Soldiers to maintain their own equipment to reduce the logistics train and become more self-reliant, he noted.

PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

Omololu said he's proud to be an American citizen, but that doesn't mean that he's forgotten his roots. Since coming to the U.S., he has once visited his family in Nigeria, and he plans one day to take his wife, two daughters and son there for a vacation.

Omololu said his direct ancestors were lucky not to have been caught up in the slave trade. His other ancestors weren't as lucky. Some were taken to Maryland to work the tobacco fields and others were taken to Brazil to work on sugar cane plantations.

Regarding Nigeria, he said Lagos is a safe place to visit, but he laments that terrorists have caused trouble in the north of the country. He remembers when he was younger, Muslims and Christians lived together in harmony throughout the country.

Currently, Omololu is living in Hanover, Maryland. Biola is a nurse at Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore and their children are in public school: Alexis, 18; Gabriella, 11; and Noah, 6.

Omololu is working on a doctorate degree in public administration, and he plans to join the faculty of a university when he retires and stay in Maryland.

Commissaries celebrate 150-year history

Defense Commissary Agency
Press Release

FORT LEE, Va. — Patrons can expect to see special promotions, contests and a lot of birthday flair as the Defense Commissary Agency and its industry partners kick off the 150th anniversary celebration of the modern commissary benefit.

"From now through the actual July 1 anniversary date, commissaries worldwide will highlight the long history of the commissary benefit and the great savings and value the benefit has brought to our military community since 1867," said Tracie Russ, DECA's sales director.

DECA is beginning the observance in February with kick-off banners placed at all stores worldwide.

Over the next five months, other scheduled anniversary events and activities include limited-edition, specially labeled products using nostalgic commissary photos and the 150th gold logo; celebrity endorsements at commissaries with in-store radio; and beginning in March and ending July 31, commissaries will use their Wall of Value locations for the 150 Years of Value and Savings! directing shoppers to discounted promotional savings on products.

Other events will be tied to the month of May for Military Appreciation Month and the worldwide Healthy Lifestyle Festivals in June. Patrons are encouraged to check their local store for details of specific anniversary events such as cake-cutting ceremonies.

The 150th anniversary observance ties back to the official beginning of the modern commissary benefit on July 1, 1867. It was on that date, two years following the Civil War, that enlisted men received the same privileges available to officers since 1825 – the right to purchase goods, "at cost price," from their post's subsistence department warehouses. These sales could take place at any post in the United States or its territories, wherever the local commander deemed them necessary, regardless of location.

As years passed, retirees, spouses and families also became eligible shoppers. The commissaries mirrored



DOD LOGO

changes and progress in the civilian retail grocery industry, from self-service to product proliferation.

As the nation sent its armed forces overseas, commissaries followed: Cuba, the Philippines, China, and Panama all had U.S. military commissaries before 1905.

Surcharges came and went. During the world wars, commissaries spread all over the globe, from Europe and the Middle East to the Far East and even South America. The Navy and Marine Corps opened their first commissaries in 1909-1910, and when the Air Force came into being in 1947, it inherited commissaries at Army Air Force bases and airfields.

For many years, the posts and bases had plenty of leeway in running their stores. After World War II, the services began taking firmer control of their commissaries, professionalizing the staffs and creating career paths for military and civilian employees alike. By the 1980s, the four major services each had their own commissary system. DECA was begun in 1991 to create cost savings and store uniformity, bringing together all the stores of the four services.

"At DECA, we want to celebrate our military members and their families for all they do to serve this nation," Russ said. "We may be throwing the party, but the celebration belongs to our patrons."

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Mobile hosts oldest Mardi Gras celebration

Visit Mobile
Press Release

Mobile is not only recognized as celebrating the first known American Mardi Gras celebration in 1703, but also as home to America’s Family Mardi Gras, according to city tourism officials. The celebration lasts more than 2 1/2 weeks – now through Feb. 28 – and culminates on Fat Tuesday, the day before Lent. For weeks, the streets of downtown Mobile are filled with the sights and sounds of live marching bands, brilliantly colored floats and, of course, crowds of parade-goers. The floats are glowing spectacles manned by masked riders festooned in satin and sequins, and armed with crowd-pleasing throws, such as beads, MoonPies, doubloons and candy.

For more information, visit <http://www.mobile.org/>.



WIREGRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

ONGOING — Andalusia Public Library offers free practice tests. Patrons can choose from more than 300 online tests based on official exams such as the ACT, SAT, GED, ASVAB, firefighter, police officer, paramedic, U.S. citizenship and many more. Patrons may select to take a test and receive immediate scoring. Test results are stored in personalized individual accounts, accessible only to patrons. Call 222-6612 for more information.

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.

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 1-31 — The Wiregrass Museum of Art will open its 2017 Youth Art Month exhibition on March 1. The month-long observance includes a juried exhibition of art by K-12 students from the Wiregrass area, as well as Out of the (Art) Box, WMA’s own installation competition for high school groups. An opening reception for the exhibition will be held March 1 from 5-7 p.m. It is open to the public and will include the announcement of several awards.

WMA’s galleries are open to the public Wednesdays-Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Private tours and activities can be arranged by appointment on Mondays and Tuesdays. General admission is free. For more information, call 334-794-3871, Ext. 27.

MARCH 14-18 — Southeast Alabama Community Theatre presents “9 to 5 The Musical,” with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton. The show is based on the seminal 1980 hit movie, set in the late 1970s. Tickets will go on sale Feb. 27 online at www.SEACT.com, www.DothanCivicCenter.org, or by contacting the Dothan Civic Center Box Office 334-615-3175. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$23 for students, seniors 65 and older, military with ID – limit of two. The Dothan Opera House lobby opens at 6 p.m. with tickets on sale if the performance is not sold out. Reserved seating begins at 6:30 p.m.

ENTERPRISE

FEB. 23 — The Wiregrass-Enterprise Chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees will hold its monthly lunch program at 11 a.m. at PoFolks Restaurant. Sam Redmon, supervisor of Drone Operations for the Coffee County Sheriff Department, will be the guest speaker. All federal employees, active or retired, are invited to attend the lunch programs regularly scheduled at 11 a.m. every fourth Thursday at PoFolks. NARFE supports the benefits of active and retired federal employees, schedules speakers to present these benefits and to discuss other information important to federal employees at the NARFE monthly lunch programs. For more information, call 334-393-0492.

MARCH 9 — The Coffee County Arts Alliance will host “MJ Live - A Michael Jackson Tribute Concert” at 7 p.m. at the Enterprise High School Performing Arts Center. Direct from Las Vegas, this show features the energy, excitement, spectacle and pure joy of legendary superstar Michael Jackson and his music as portrayed by Jalles Franca, according to organizers. People will be able to hear favorites such as “Beat It,” “The Girl Is Mine,” “Billy Jean,” “Thriller,” “and more. Tickets purchased in advance cost \$25 for adults and \$20 for students. The day of the event, tickets will cost \$30 for adults and \$23 for students. Tickets are available at MWR Central and various locations throughout the Wiregrass. For more information, call 334-406-2787 or visit www.CoffeeCountyArtsAlliance.com.

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

FEB. 23 — Disabled American Veterans Chapter 99 will meet at 6 p.m. in the senior center, located one block behind the old New Brockton Police station. Food and drink will be served, followed by regular chapter business. The group invites other veterans throughout the Wiregrass to join as DAV or DAV Auxiliary. For more information, call 334-718- 5707.

ONGOING — Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 9-11 a.m., Disabled American Veterans Chapter 99 maintains a service office in the New Brockton Police Station at 706 McKinnon Street. The office will assist veterans who were injured or disabled while in military service.

DAV service officers help veterans and their spouses with disability compensation claims, Veterans Affairs pensions, death benefits, VA medical care, Social Security disability benefits, veterans job programs, homeless veterans services and other veteran services. All veteran services are provided free of charge. For more information, call 334-406-6700.

OZARK

MARCH 10 — St. Michael’s Episcopal Church will host Judicael Perroy, classical guitarist, for a free concert at 7 p.m. Following the concert, there will be a meet-the-artist reception in the church parish hall. The church is located at 427 Camilla Avenue.

ONGOING — AL-ANON will hold weekly meetings on Mondays at noon at the Lutheran Prince of Peace. For more information, call 618-513-1258.

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

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

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.

WIREGRASS AREA

FEB. 24 AND 26 — New Hope Freewill Baptist Church, 3819 County Road 31, Abbeville, will celebrate its annual pastoral anniversary honoring Pastor Eddie L. Baker and First Lady Ollie Baker Feb. 24 at 6 p.m., featuring Pastor James Turner of Saint Paul Baptist Church in Abbeville. Refreshments will be served. The anniversary will continue Feb. 26 at 11:15 a.m. with Pastor E. C. Holt, Elam Christian Fellowship Church in Clayton, as the guest speaker and at 2:30 p.m. with Pastor Thomas Earl Shipman, White Water Missionary Baptist Church in Brundidge, as the guest speaker for the evening. All churches are invited to attend. Dinner will be served.

Beyond Briefs

Mobile Chocolate Festival

The Mobile Chocolate Festival is scheduled for March 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Grounds, located at 1035 Cody Road North. The event will feature vendors offering chocolate-related products for sampling and purchasing, a children’s area and more.

For more information, visit <http://www.mobilechocolatefestival.com/>.

Alabama Horse Fair

Montgomery’s Garrett Coliseum will host the Alabama Horse Fair from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 4 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 5. The equine event will feature breed barns, breed parades, how-to clinics, a drill team competition, vendors, a model horse show, an obstacle challenge competition, an ask-the-vet booth, a dressage performance and demo, presentations and clinics with top headline clinicians in the equine industry, an ask-the-farrier booth, horse education booths, entertainment, food, music and more. Admissions is \$15 March 4 and \$10 March 5.

For more information, visit <http://alabamahorsecouncil.org/wp/>.

Zoo Weekend

The Montgomery Zoo will host its Zoo Weekend March 11-12 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event will feature live entertainment, games, rides, bouncy houses, big slides, inflatables, pony and camel rides, petting zoo, karate demos, Montgomery Police K-9 presentation, live animal presentations, concessions and animals from around the world. Admissions will be \$15 for adults, \$11 for children ages 3-12 years old, and free admission for toddlers 2 and younger, and Montgomery Zoo members. Special discounted admission for the Mann Museum will be \$3 for all ages.

For more information, call 334-240-4900 or visit montgomeryzoo.com/announcements/zooweekend.

Home Building and Remodeling Expo

The Greater Montgomery Home Building and Remodeling Expo 2017 is scheduled for Feb. 24-26 at the Multiplex at Cramton Bowl, 220 Hall Street. Since 1994, the Greater Montgomery Home Expo has been the area’s premier source for those consumers interested in building or remodeling their home, according to organizers. This year’s expo will feature Pete Nelson, “The Tree House Master.” The expo will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 24-25 and noon to 5 p.m. Feb. 26. The Tree

House Master Information Seminar will take place Feb. 25 at 1 p.m. Tickets cost \$6 for adults and admission is free for children under 12.

For more information, call 334-277-7766 or visit gmhba.org/home-building-remodeling-expo.php.

Montgomery Half Marathon and 5K

The Montgomery Half Marathon and 5k is scheduled for March 11 from 7 a.m. to noon. Packet pickup will take place March 10 from noon to 6 p.m. at Riverwalk Stadium. Both courses are USA Track and Field certified. People must register in advance – there is no race-day registration. Registration is \$35 for the 5k and \$45 for the half – military and first responders receive a \$5 discount. People can register at <https://isignedup.com/en/event/70/The-Montgomery-Half-Marathon-Presented-by-Baptist-Health-and-Hyundai-Motor-Manufacturing-Alabama>. For more information, call 334-356-7271 or visit themontgomeryhalf.com/.

‘Sherlock Holmes’

Montgomery’s Alabama Shakespeare Festival will present a new adaptation of the “Sherlock Holmes” story by Geoffrey Sherman March 9-May 13. It is billed by organizers as a gripping tale of the world’s

most famous detective that features amazing twists and turns, accompanied by a healthy dose of comedy. The production is recommended for ages 9 and up. For show times and tickets, visit <http://tickets.asf.net/single/PSDetail.aspx?psn=11300>. Ticket prices vary based on play, date and availability of seating.

For more information, call 334-271-5353 or visit asf.net/project/sherlock-holmes/.

‘Oystertown’ at Dixie Theatre

The Dixie Theatre in Apalachicola, Florida, invites all to help celebrate the rich history of the town and The Forgotten Coast at an original production developed especially for the theatre, according to organizers. “Oystertown” combines storytelling, music and historic archival footage to celebrate and examine the history of this hidden hamlet on the Forgotten Coast of Florida. Apalachicola is a small town that could be anyone’s hometown. It is filled with a rich history steeped in Southern tradition and American history. Dixie Theatre veterans will weave tales of how Apalachicola began and where it is going. The production will take place Feb. 25 at 3 and 8 p.m.

For tickets, call the box office at 850-653-3200. For more information, visit <http://www.dixietheatre.com/>.

Alaska’s extreme cold tests Soldiers, equipment

By David Vergun
Army News Service

LACK RAPIDS TRAINING SITE, Alaska — Newcomers to the interior of Alaska are often taken aback by the extreme winter cold, and its effects on the body and equipment, said Steve Decker, training specialist at the Northern Warfare Training Center.

And when it gets 50 or 60 degrees below 0, vehicles — even tracked ones designed for the cold — quit working, he added.

Those temperatures are not uncommon in this area, he said, with -30 and -40 fairly normal for winter. It’s so cold that even engine oil and transmission fluid will freeze, rendering vehicles inoperable. When vehicles are not in use, they are plugged into outlets featured at every parking spot.

The electricity powers heating pads and engine block heaters. Oil and transmission pans have silicone heating pads directly attached to them. Block heaters or freeze-plug heaters are heating elements that actually stick into the side of the engine.

Even with these precautions, on the coldest days everything seems to fail and the only movement possible is via skis and snowshoes, skills that are taught to Soldiers attending the Cold Weather Leaders Course and other winter courses here, he said.

Today’s Soldiers have grown vehicle and road dependent, Decker said. Out here and in many parts of the world, there might be just one road or none at all and being so dependent limits options when vehicles don’t work, roads are nonexistent and mobility is mission-essential.

At NWTC, Soldiers are taught how to rely less on machines and more on themselves, he said.

It’s not just vehicles that break in the cold. Anything powered by batteries is also prone to failure in



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALDRIDGE

A family of moose forage for food just north of the Northern Warfare Training Center at Black Rapids Training Site, Alaska. A moose and her cub live on the training site, but didn’t make an appearance for the Soldiers who were training there in February at the 15-day Cold Weather Leaders Course.

deep-freeze conditions, Decker said. That includes GPS devices.

Like vehicles, Soldiers have become too reliant on GPS, he said. As part of the CWLC, students are given points to find throughout the rugged 16-square-kilometer training site and they are expected to find them using just their maps, protractors and compasses.

LEARNING FROM OTHERS

Instructors are not just teaching students the art of surviving and operating in cold weather, they’re also continually learning themselves, Decker said.

For instance, instructors regularly attend cold-weather training schools in other countries and bring back new ideas, he said.

For example, instructors may go to Nepal, which has some of the world’s highest mountains. There, they learn the effects of high altitude and how it affects the mind and body, said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Tanner, an instructor.

In turn, other allies and partner nations are learning from the U.S. Army, Tanner said. Soldiers in Nepal were using rope made of material that was inferior and poorly braided. U.S. Soldiers pointed them to better-quality rope that’s less prone to failure.

Another example is ski type. Sgt. Derrick Bruner, an instructor, said the U.S. Army uses the NATO skis, sometimes called White Rockets. On the other hand, soldiers in Norway use a type of ski called the Jager.

“In my opinion, the White Rocket is a better ski than the Jager,” Bruner said. The ski bindings work well with the Vapor Barrier, or VB boots that are issued to Soldiers in arctic areas.

However, the Army is currently using a number of Jager skis because some Soldiers with very large feet cannot be fitted with VB boots because none are available in very large sizes. In that case they are issued Canadian

Mutluks, boots that can only be worn with Jager skis, he said.

Spc. Elijah Mainini, a student, can’t fit into a VB boot and was issued Mutluks and Jager skis. He wears a Size 16 boot.

Mutluks are much more comfortable to wear and to walk in and they provide better traction over icy terrain, Mainini said. The problem with Mutluks is that they are not designed to be used with skis because they lack the rigidity needed, particularly for ankle support.

Sgt. Eric Martin, a medic, said VB boots keep feet warm and dry when properly used, but they’re so rigid that the tops of them often dig into Soldiers’ calves and shins and he often treats skin abrasions that result from this. Mutluks, on the other hand, are flexible and do not dig into the skin like the VB boots.

Decker said there are pros and cons to most every piece of gear and clothing and that the only

way to know what works and what doesn’t is through extensive testing.

Currently, instructors are test-wearing a number of different styles of gloves and other garments. Coincidentally on that very day, Feb. 15, Kate Young, a textile technologist from Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, Natick, Massachusetts, was at NWTC collecting feedback on a variety of non-standard issue gloves the Soldiers were wearing.

Young said last year she was at NWTC collecting feedback on the Generation III Extended Cold Weather Clothing System. ECWCS III features seven layers of insulated clothing that Soldiers at NWTC and in arctic regions are issued.

Natick is always looking for ways to improve Soldiers’ clothing, she said, and there’s no better place for testing them than here in the extreme cold.

Soldiers learn craft of shooting in cold, snow

By David Vergun
Army News Service

BLACK RAPIDS TRAINING SITE, Alaska — During the winter of 1939 and 1940, winter-camouflaged Finnish ski troops held off, for a time, a much larger and well-equipped Soviet army that did not have skis or winter camouflaging.

The effectiveness of the Finnish army in snow and freezing temperatures was a real eye-opener for the U.S. Army at the time, said Sgt. Sarah Valentine, an instructor at the Cold Weather Training Center here. “I think we, as an Army, have forgotten a lot of this stuff.”

Valentine and other instructors here said they’re helping bring skills needed to survive and win wars in arctic environments to the Army.

Before Soldiers can close with and destroy the enemy, they have to learn how to become mobile in arctic conditions, she said. That means learning to ski and snowshoe. Once these craft are mastered, Soldiers are allowed to move out into the terrain and live-fire their weapons.

The culminating event of the 15-day Cold Weather Leaders Course that about 80 students from around

Alaska attend is the biathlon, a 10-kilometer ski course over hilly terrain, followed by a live-fire using either an M-4 carbine or M16A4 rifle.

The biathlon adds realism to the training, because by the time the Soldiers live-fire their weapons, they’re a bit tired from the rapid pace of the 10-K movement which they do hauling their weapons and rucksacks. They have to concentrate more than normal on getting their breathing under control while shooting, she said.

During most of the six days the Soldiers were living outdoors, the temperature was around minus 30 to 40 degrees, which was fine for skiing. However, on the day of the biathlon, the temperature spiked to about 39F. That and a light rain made the trails mushy and difficult to negotiate by skis so snowshoes were substituted as a safety precaution, she said.

Soldiers learn to deal with changes in the weather, she said. “You have to adjust plans and be flexible.”

Prior to the biathlon, Soldiers cleaned their weapons with Arctic Lubricating Oil, said Staff Sgt. Cody Fite, an instructor. Normal lubricant Soldiers use would freeze up and the weapons would not fire in extreme cold.

Also, if Soldiers bring their weapons indoors then

take them outside again, condensation forms, then ices up, jamming the weapons. Fite said Soldiers keep their weapons outside of their heated tents on stands made of boughs to prevent condensation and snow from getting on them.

Staff Sgt. Matthew Doane, an instructor, said that besides using special lubricants, a variety of shooting techniques are taught, such as using ski poles to create a stable bipod shooting position. The U.S. Army learned the technique from the Norwegian army.

Sgt. Jessica Bartolotta, a student, said she’d never seen ski poles used for shooting and was amazed at how well they work. Instructors teach shooting with ski poles in the standing, kneeling and prone positions.

During the biathlon, Soldiers are given a 30-round magazine and are allowed to select which position to shoot in. Bartolotta said she would have chosen the most challenging position, which is standing, but her ski poles were a bit short to create the bipod, so she shot in the kneeling.

Bartolotta said she thought she did well, but would know later after the instructors tallied the shots on the silhouette targets.

Staff Sgt. Jack Stacy, an instructor, said that once Soldiers learn that they can survive the cold, move over difficult terrain and engage targets, their confidence levels go way up and they realize they can not only survive, but thrive in harsh arctic conditions.



PHOTOS BY DAVID VERGUN

Soldiers use their ski poles as bipods in order to get good firing positions during the biathlon.



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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 Chapel, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Adult Bible Study
Spiritual Life Center, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Catholic Women of the Chapel
Spiritual Life Center, 9 a.m.

Above the Best Bible Study
Yano Hall, 11 a.m.

1-14th Avn Regt Bible Study
Hanchey AAF, Bldg. 50102N, Rm 101
11:30 a.m.

164th TAOG Bible Study
Bldg. 30501, 11:30 a.m.

Precepts Bible Study
Soldier Service Center, 12 p.m.

Kingdom Kidz & Youth Group Bible Study
Spiritual Life Center, 5:30 p.m.

Adult Bible Study
Spiritual Life Center, 6 p.m.

THURSDAYS

WOCC Bible Study (1st/3rd Thursday)
Swartworth Hall, Bldg. 5302, 1130 a.m.

Praise and Worship Meal/Bible Study
Wings Chapel, 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAYS

Protestant Men of the Chapel
(1st Saturday)
Larry's Restaurant, Daleville, 8 a.m.



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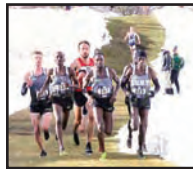
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FEBRUARY 23, 2017

LET IT FLY

Post disc golf course offers different strokes

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

Continually gaining in popularity, disc golf is a sport that mixes competitive edge with a leisurely pace.

Fort Rucker's course has been a catalyst for the sport's growth locally, according to Lori Ciranni, Fort Rucker sports, fitness and aquatics manager, who added that she feels camaraderie, competition, an abundance of free facilities and a short learning curve have helped its growth.

"Disc golf is easy for someone to pick up," she said. "You can grow from not playing at all to being competitive within TWO months of playing regularly."

Ciranni said the Beaver Lake course, offering more than 90 minutes of play time, presents unique challenges to competitors.

"The lake is a tough hole," she said. "It is the decision hole. You can try to throw over the lake or go around and have one extra throw. The distance of some of the holes is also challenging. Playing in the woods makes it very challenging."

Disc golf is played much like traditional golf, but instead of using a ball and clubs, players use a flying disc. Whether you're a novice or professional, it is easy to develop proficiency on the course.

The course, located at Beaver Lake, is an 18-hole, 55-par course that follows the Beaver Lake trail, for the most part. It offers varying levels of difficulty with very basic holes with no hazards or trees to more advanced holes with water traps and obstacles.

The rules of disc golf are much like the game of ball golf in that the goal is to use as few strokes as possible to throw a disc from a designated spot into a basket.

Disc golf has been around for quite some time, but was formalized in the 1970s, and began to gain most of its popularity in the 1990s and early 2000s among the college crowd. According to the Professional Disc Golf Association, which has more than 50,000 members, there are more 4,000 courses around the world.

Another one of the draws of disc golf is that it is a non-contact sport that is open to all ages, and playing an entire round of disc golf, 18 holes, takes anywhere from 45-90 minutes, depending on the amount of



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Then-CW4 Bryan Topham, 2-58th Airfield Operations Battalion, takes a throw at one of the baskets on the disc golf course in this file photo.

players, and costs little to no money.

"Disc golf is very family-oriented," Ciranni said. "Because it's outdoors, you can bring a stroller, your dog and your entire family to play."

"The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness center offers discs to purchase or rent," she added. "So, if you just want to try the sport for the day, you can rent discs. Once you become addicted you will want to purchase your own. We offer them in many colors and weights."

There is a \$10 deposit required per disc. All discs must be returned by close of business. The course is open to the public. Disc check-out is open to authorized patrons only.

According to Ciranni, disc golf is not difficult to learn. However, joining an experienced player can help reduce the learning curve.

"Get with an avid player and let them show you the ins and outs," she said. "Groups meet most every Saturday and Sunday around

9-10 a.m. to play. Discs are a little different to throw than a Frisbee. There are different discs for different distances. The best thing you can do is rent them and determine what you like.

"I personally used a putting disc for most of my first game," she added. "It was the only one I could get to go straight. Patrons can go to the Fort Rucker Freedom Flyers Disc Golf Club on Facebook to ask questions or find out times to play."

For more information, call 255-2296.

'I'M NOT DISABLED'

Prosthetics keep amputee Soldiers on active duty

By Demetria Mosley
Fort Jackson Public Affairs

FORT JACKSON, S.C. — It's Day Zero and the heat at Fort Jackson in July is sweltering.

A group of new initial entry recruits stand at attention, forming a sea of green in their newly issued OCP uniforms as they wait with looks of anticipation on their faces for the first glance at their drill sergeant.

As Staff Sgt. Christopher Hudec makes his way over to the newest trainees ready to serve their country, the looks on their faces switch from fear of what's to come to pure astonishment.

Just two short months ago, Hudec had undergone a major surgery. As he strides toward the Soldiers on crutches, the place where his left leg is supposed to be is noticeably missing.

When his doctor suggested removing it, there was no hesitation. The only thing Hudec fears as a Soldier is failing the mission — if his leg was going to slow him down, he didn't need it.

Hudec meets the gazes of the young Soldiers.

"If you keep staring at it," he yells. "I'm going to put it on you."

HEAD-ON COLLISION

Years after the accident, Hudec now has eight different prosthetics that he can attach to his left limb. There's one for everything: swimming, climbing, running, etc.

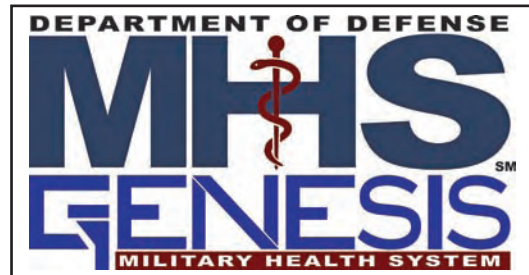
"There's all kinds of stories about



COURTESY PHOTO

Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Keith after receiving his first leg 91 days after his amputation surgery.

SEE PROSTHETICS, PAGE D3



DOD GRAPHIC

DOD deems electronic medical record system test a success

By Terri Moon Cronk
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department's newly modernized electronic health record system was recognized as successful after a week-long deployment at Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington, officials there said Feb. 15.

Fairchild's 92nd Medical Group became the first military hospital or clinic to use MHS GENESIS, a single, integrated electronic inpatient and outpatient health record that transforms health care delivery within DOD's Military Health System, officials said.

ALLOWS FOR TEAM APPROACH

MHS GENESIS enables a team approach in providing health services to patients, said Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Mark A. Ediger.

"In medicine today, we leverage a lot of different skill sets on a health care team," he said. "[MHS GENESIS] goes well beyond the traditional doctor-patient interaction and leverages skill sets such as nutrition, exercise physiology and disease management. It's a very collaborative tool that allows the team to share a common picture."

Initial feedback from health care providers at Fairchild is positive, said Stacy Cummings, program executive officer of Defense Healthcare Management Systems.

SEE ELECTRONIC, PAGE D3

UNPRECEDENTED

Soldiers run resilience and readiness training to cross-country success

By Tim Hipps
U.S. Army Installation Management Command

BEND, Oregon — All-Army runners relied on physical resilience and readiness training to attain unprecedented results at the 2017 Armed Forces Cross Country Championships on snow-covered River’s Edge Golf Course Feb. 4.

The Army men and women dominated the 10-kilometer armed forces races against Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps. The men swept first through fourth place, while the women took home gold and silver medals.

Volunteers used snow blowers and shovels to clear a two-kilometer loop through two feet of snow in time to run the race on a hilly course of ice, slippery grass and mud.

“It was a really nasty course,” said Capt. Kelly Calway, of West Point, New York, a three-time winner of the event who had not run a cross country race in four years because of pregnancy, deployment and injury.

Calway instructs cadets in physical readiness training, modern Army combatives and aerobic fitness at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

“If you’re going out there and doing tough training and hard workouts every day,” she said, “you’re definitely able to mentally adapt to the conditions on the ground at the time.

“I always feel like I have an advantage at every race I’m at because I know I train through tough weather,” Calway continued. “I don’t go inside on the treadmill. In the Army, you don’t have the choice oftentimes to bring your whole unit and run inside on treadmills. You’re out there and in the environment that you’re going to be operating in and it just makes you so much more mentally tough to be able to get through that when you’re actually out there on race day.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Army Olympian Spc. Leonard Korir (far right, bib 249) becomes the first Soldier ever to win a USA Track & Field National Cross Country Championship as he leads All-Army to the 2017 U.S. Armed Forces Cross Country Championship against runners from the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps on Feb. 4 at River’s Edge Golf Course in Bend, Oregon.

Calway also emphasized the secondary benefits of physical readiness training.

“There are huge secondary benefits to being physically in shape and ready to perform your mission,” she said. “I love teaching it to the cadets because it gives them a whole variety of really well planned out fitness plans so they can get their unit to mission ready and keep them there without injuring them so they have their entire team to take on the deployment or go accomplish whatever mission they have.”

Calway, 32, has trained through two pregnancies and learned a lot along the way.

“I would go crazy if I didn’t run,” she

said. “I think the biggest shift is mental. You go from: ‘I need to be smart. I need to listen to my body.’ Then you go back to: ‘Alright, I need this to really hurt.’ I might have taken that to the extreme because I ended up at the Olympic Trials with a stress fracture in my femur. I got a little too good at hurting again and didn’t listen to my body – probably failed at the worst portion of the Army Performance Triad. I know better, but I had to relearn that lesson.”

The Performance Triad is a comprehensive plan to improve readiness and increase resilience by getting quality sleep, engaging in activity, and improving nu-

trition – components endurance athletes thrive upon.

Teammate Capt. Meghan Curran of Fort Carson, Colorado, crossed the finish line 10 seconds behind Calway, and agreed that resiliency was a key factor in her performance.

“This was my fourth armed forces cross country competition and my best finish to date,” Curran said. “A few years ago, the whole competition was intimidating to me. What I have learned over time is to control the controllable. Being resilient means that instead of getting down after a disappointing performance, you assess what you can control and what you can improve and you focus on that.

“Resilience isn’t something that you can learn overnight – it’s a process – but ultimately learning to focus your energy in a positive way pays off.”

All-Army coach Col. Liam Collins, 46, leads by example. After traveling across 10 time zones from Ukraine, he finished 11th in the masters division and third in his age group at the national cross country championships with a time of 29:30 for eight kilometers.

Despite injuries and deployments, Collins has run 15 sub-55-minute Army Ten-Milers. He understands how resilience and readiness training benefits Soldiers on playing and battle fields.

“If you’re physically fit, it’s going to take you longer to get fatigued and one of the first things to go when you get fatigued is your ability to make decisions because you’re too tired to think,” said Collins, director of the Modern War Institute at West Point. “Being in great shape allows you to be stressed much more physically without getting mentally stressed, which is absolutely critical in combat when you start running with a heavy load on and you’re under fire.”

Prosthetics

Continued from Page D1

how I lost part of my leg. The drill sergeants will tell the trainees to be careful at a course because that’s how I lost it,” he laughs. “I never lie about what happened. I never pretend I lost it on duty.”

In November of 2012, a car pulled out unexpectedly in front of Hudec’s motorcycle. He was unable to avoid the accident.

“I heard a snap in my leg and I knew something was wrong,” he said. “I kept trying to get up and I can hear someone say, ‘Wait! He’s moving! How is he alive?’”

The same thing happened to Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Keith.

“I was on my motorcycle and a truck came at me in a

head-on collision,” he said. “I have the same exact amputation like Hudec, just on the other side.”

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that In 2015 about 5,000 people died in motorcycle crashes, which is up 8.3 percent from 2014.

NOT DISABLED

Despite their amputations, Hudec and Keith still live active lifestyles. Hudec participated in the Spartan Tri-fecta and Keith ran in the Army 10-Miler.

“It’s a disability, but I’m not disabled,” Keith said. “My goal is to do whatever I can do to stay active duty.”

About 2 million people in the U.S. are living with limb loss, according to the Amputee Coalition of America.

“Hudec still out-PTs most Soldiers,” said Katie Stauffer,

the athletic trainer for 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment.

Watching Hudec sprint past him during a PT test motivated Staff Sgt. Darwin Zapata to push himself even further.

“If he can do it with one leg, then why can’t I do it with two?” Zapata said. “I definitely pushed myself harder seeing him out there. He’s a big motivation.”

Hudec, who still kicks his left leg out when he’s riding his motorcycle, said he’s never let his disability hold him back, and he likes that he’s someone who motivates others to push harder.

“Hudec’s a walking billboard of the warrior ethos,” said Capt. Richard Bradley II the commander of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment.

Electronic

Continued from Page D1

CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY

The cutting-edge technology gives patients and health care providers a continuum of care and allows the Department of Veterans Affairs and private-sector health care partners the necessary data to collaborate and make the best possible health care decisions,

Cummings said.

MHS GENESIS maintains electronic health record interoperability with VA medical facilities through the use of Joint Legacy Viewer, she noted.

“We have integrated MHS GENESIS to be a tool that will continue to allow us to share data with VA and our commercial health care providers who are our partners,” she said.

The TRICARE military health system’s patient portal has been redesigned to allow for access to MHS GENESIS by patients and health care providers, officials said, adding that patient safety and the security of data is paramount in the new streamlined and intuitive system.

“We have a responsibility to provide the best possible user experience to our beneficiaries, and ...

we delivered on that responsibility,” Cummings said.

SYSTEM TO EXPAND WORLDWIDE

In the next year, MHS GENESIS will deploy at three other military medical facilities in Washington state: Naval Hospital Bremerton in Bremerton; Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma and Naval Hospital Oak

Harbor in Oak Harbor.

“Full deployment will be complete in 2022 across the nation and around the world for our facilities, medical treatment facilities and garrisons,” Cummings said. “We remain confident that MHS GENESIS will transform the delivery of health care and advanced data sharing through a modern electronic health record for service members, veterans and their families.”

SPORTS BRIEFS

Deep sea fishing

MWR Central will host a private charter deep sea fishing trip in Destin, Florida March 4.

The private charter is a 45-foot walk-around boat that offers a six-hour fishing trip. The bus departs from Fort Rucker at 5 a.m. – although the time is subject to change depending on fishing conditions.

The cost of the trip is \$175 per person, and includes transportation, bait, rod, reel, fishing license, fish cleaning and tip.

To register, call 255-2997 or 255-4305.

Youth turkey hunt

Fort Rucker Outdoor Recreation will host a youth turkey hunt March 11 from 5-11 a.m. The hunt is open to the public for youth ages 7-15. Registration is \$15.

A parent or escort of participating youth must have an Alabama State Hunting License and Hunter Education Completion Card.

For more information, or to register, call 255-4305 or 255-2997.

Lifeguard recertification course

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will host a lifeguard recertification course March 11-12 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The course is open to patrons ages 15 and up, and costs \$75. A prerequisite test on the first day must be passed to enter the course. People can register at the front desk of the Fort Rucker PFC. The cutoff for registration is three days prior to the course start date. Candidates who take the training program are also eligible for employment with Fort Rucker MWR. All candidates who apply with aquatics after successful completion of the training program will have 50 percent of their training fees reimbursed to them at the end of the 2017 summer season – they must work through Labor Day.

For more information on how to apply, call 255-9162.

Gobbler Classic Turkey Hunt

Outdoor recreation will host its Gobbler Classic Turkey Hunt March 15 to April 30. The entry fee is \$25 and participants must have an Alabama State All Game License, Fort Rucker Post Hunt-

ing Permit and Hunter Education Completion Card. Alabama State Regulation and Fort Rucker Regulation 215-1 apply. The turkey must be harvested on Fort Rucker to qualify. 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/10k Walk and 1-Mile Fun Run March 18 – now with new walker division. Registration on the day of the event will take place from 7:30-8:45 a.m. The 5k run/walk and 10K will start at 9 a.m. at the Fort Rucker PFC on Andrews Avenue. The fun run will be free, be open to children 12 and under, and will begin after the run is completed. Each fun run participant will receive a medal. Participants are encouraged to pre-register for the event at either of the PFCs or MWR Central. Refreshments will be provided.

For registration or more information, call 255-2296, 255-3794, or 255-2997.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

ESP	SNORT	JUNKS	ALTOS
THE	HEWER	ATONE	TORCH
HIPPO	UNDERWATER	RIATA	
ISSUE	AVE	HALFRANCID	
CHIL	IRATING	TSE	ELY
	SNIDE	APED	BANAL
LOVE	GOD	ALAD	INARABIC
USE	LOT	GENE	CHLOE
ECRU	PEEPHOLE	CASH	ENE
GASSED	TONI	MATHIS	
ORESTES	MONEY	HAVANAN	
	RENEGE	EMMA	LAREDO
APU	RSTU	BABYDOLLARMS	
TONTO	TYRO	MAR	VIE
ADIEU	ROSEMARY	AVOCETS	
	COATI	ABBA	PLANO
VAN	LAV	SCRUBLEMONS	
ESCAPE	SONG	EON	FICHE
STALE	SIDETRACK	RONALD	
PERSE	ACARE	SHOAL	LEG
ARDOR	DEKED	TYPED	ARE

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

1. The bones
2. Johnny Weissmuller won five gold medals in freestyle swimming contests.
3. Indian Ocean
4. Al dente
5. Symphony No. 6
6. Catering business
7. Eastern New England
8. Grover Cleveland served as president in 1885 and 1893
9. Satire
10. Four



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