

**VICE CHIEF:**  
Funding for readiness  
needed to match troop  
levels

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**READ ACROSS  
AMERICA**

Library event seeks  
to promote reading

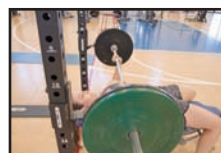
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**FEATS OF  
STRENGTH**

Fitness program  
rewards progress

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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. 07

FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

## COMANCHE ON DISPLAY

*On museum floor  
for limited time*

By Nathan Pfau  
Army Flier Staff Writer

An aircraft that never quite made it into the Army's operational inventory and looks like something out of a science-fiction movie is now on display at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

The Boeing-Sikorsky RAH-66 Comanche – one of only two of the helicopters that were built and flew – on display at the Aviation museum had been in storage but it can now be viewed by the public, according to Bob Mitchell, U.S. Army Aviation Museum curator.

"This (aircraft) was a revolutionary design and it was something that was designed totally thinking outside of the box," said the curator. "It was designed to incorporate a lot of new technology, such as radar absorption and defeating geometrics, and was also designed to have a very low infrared profile. Radar-guided missiles and infrared-guided missiles are two great threats to Army helicopters, so this aircraft addressed both those threats with its radical design and engineering."

Mitchell said that the Comanche is currently the museum's biggest draw, but despite that, the display is only temporary until the museum can procure an AH-64 Apache, which will go where the Comanche currently sits.

"The issue with our museum is that we have a space problem, and we only have room to exhibit what was actually in the operational inventory, so that means we can't put a lot of the cool stuff we have in



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

The Boeing-Sikorsky RAH-66 Comanche sits on display for people to see at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. The helicopter is one of only two remaining Comanches.

storage on display – the Comanche is one of those," he said.

The helicopter's concept came about as a result of conflicts in the late 70s, according to Mitchell. It was designed around the term, "come-as-you-are war," which essentially meant that the military fighting force had to be ready for combat at a moment's notice.

"You're not going to have days, weeks or months to prepare and mobilize," he said. "You're going to have to get over there and address the threat pretty quickly, and the idea of an aircraft that could be broken down quickly and loaded into the belly of a C-5 (Galaxy aircraft) or a C-141 (Starlifter aircraft) and deployed somewhere in the world overnight started to emerge."

The Army wanted an aircraft that could be deployed quickly, had revolutionary technologies, could perform the duties of reconnaissance and also have light anti-tank capabilities, and thus the Comanche was born, said Mitchell.

The aircraft featured a radar-defeating geometric design that allowed stealth capabilities. The weapons bays were housed inside the aircraft and would only be visible while in use, further decreasing the aircraft's chance of detection.

In addition to its radar stealth capabilities, the Comanche also had a low infrared signature that allowed the helicopter to keep a low profile when faced with infrared



The head gear for the pilot.

SEE COMANCHE, PAGE A5

## Fort Rucker schools combine under single administration

By Nathan Pfau  
Army Flier Staff Writer

With construction of the temporary elementary school site already under way, Fort Rucker schools are working to bond the elementary and primary schools as they prepare to be housed under one roof.

The Fort Rucker Primary School and Fort Rucker Elementary School are now under the leadership of a single administration, as Dr. Vicki Gilmer was named principal over both schools and Ryan Smith was named interim assistant principal earlier this year, according to Dr. Lisa Coleman, Department of Defense Education Activity Georgia/Alabama community superintendent.

"We're getting ready to construct a school that will have one principal and enrollment of the two combined schools. We wanted to provide Dr. Gilmer the opportunity to be the helm of the new school. We're excited about that," said Coleman during a board of education meeting Jan. 10. "We are excited for Dr. Gilmer – we're excited about her leadership and we're excited about being able to pull these two schools together before getting into one facility."

Gilmer has been an educator for 27 years, and has served the Fort Rucker community for each of those years as a classroom teacher, a reading teacher, an assistant principal and a principal.

"I have dedicated my life to this community and have been proud to do so," she said.

Smith is a Marine Corps veteran who attended college in upstate New York following his time in service to become an educator. He taught in New York for four years, as well as at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery for another four years before coming



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Dr. Vicki Gilmer, principal of Fort Rucker schools, gives Silas Thoele, Fort Rucker Primary School student, a fist bump after helping him with an assignment Monday.

to Fort Rucker to teach physical education and now to serve as interim assistant principal.

For Gilmer, the opportunity to preside over both schools is something that she said gives her great pride.

"To be over both schools is an awesome event," she said. "I was here (at the primary school) for 20 years, and it was my heart and my home, and then I went to the elementary school, and that became my heart and my home, so now to have both of them and have the opportunity to blend them into one school will be phenomenal."

"We've always been a great school system, but we've always been separate with separate administrators," said the principal. "This is a really good opportunity to help us to become one before we go into the new school."

The new school will be built at the current location of the elementary school and will be a modern, two-story facility that will house both the elementary and primary schools. While construction is under way, elementary school students will be taught at a temporary site located across from Lyster Army Health Clinic, which is currently under construction, where Gilmer said

they will provide the same level of education they currently receive.

"It's a temporary site, but they're really doing it right," she said. "They will have a full gymnasium, a full playground, full media center and full cafeteria."

The estimated time for the temporary site completion is around 18 months and the children are expected to be there for two years before the new school is completed.

"We're bringing together two great faculties and I want to help them to become one great faculty, and really have the opportunity to share resources between the two schools and learn a little bit more from each other," said the principal. "Both (schools) are highly ranked and have great academic standings, and both have great (faculty), so being able to blend all of that is just going to multiply our talents."

Coleman expressed full confidence in Gilmer and said she looks forward to the success of her administration and team.

"Dr. Gilmer, I trust your judgment and your leadership, and I will do anything I need to do to support your success," she said.

## Seminar to discuss new retirement system

By Jeremy Henderson  
Army Flier Staff Writer

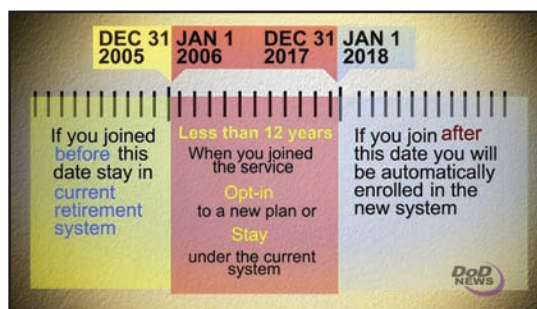
The Department of Defense will introduce a new, enterprise-wide retirement system in 2018 and an upcoming seminar will arm Soldiers with the knowledge they need to make the best choice for their futures.

Soldiers joining the Army on Jan. 1 and beyond will be enrolled into the blended retirement system, which was instituted by the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, and some current service members will have the option to opt into the new system, according to an Army press release.

Soldiers with less than 12 years of active duty service, and National Guard and Reserve members with less than 4,320 points, will have until Dec. 31, 2018, to either remain in the current system or opt into the blended retirement system, according to the release.

"The Blended Retirement Seminar will be a useful resource for Soldiers who are eligible to opt in, as well as leaders and families. [Topics discussed will include] how retirement pay is calculated, continuation pay, and [Thrift Savings Plan] matching contributions," Jo Anne Close, Army Community Service financial counselor, said. "[People can expect to gain] a better understanding of what the

SEE SEMINAR, PAGE A5



DOD GRAPHIC

# PERSPECTIVE

## AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

### Dr. Charles Drew: Father of blood banks

By Yolanda Arrington  
Military Health System  
Public Affairs

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Pioneering surgeon Dr. Charles Drew revolutionized the way the medical community stored blood products during World War II.

His was an innovation that lives on today.

Drew, an African American researcher, was born in Washington, D.C., in 1904. Often referred to as the father of blood banks, Drew developed ways to process and store blood plasma in what we now call blood banks.

During his early years, Drew was a standout athlete, competing in football, basketball, track and swimming. Drew studied at Amherst College, but a shortage of money kept him from attending

medical school. He began working as a biology instructor in Baltimore before finally enrolling in medical school.

Drew began to focus his work on preserving blood. He realized blood plasma could be stored longer than regular blood, thus leading to his “blood bank” idea.

He organized efforts to store plasma during World War II, which saved an untold number of lives. Drew would later lead the charge for blood banking for the American Red Cross and would go on to publicly denounce the decision to segregate blood based on the race of the donor.

“It is fundamentally wrong for any great nation to willfully discriminate against such a large group of its people. One can say quite truthfully that on the battlefields nobody is very interested

in where the plasma comes from when they are hurt. It is unfortunate that such a worthwhile and scientific bit of work should have been hampered by such stupidity,” Drew noted as he received the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People’s Spingarn Medal in 1944.

The NAACP awards the Spingarn Medal annually for outstanding achievement by an African American. The award, a gold medal, was created in 1914 by the NAACP’s chairman of the board, Joel Elias Spingarn.

It’s believed the Red Cross’ decision to segregate the plasma bank led Drew to resign his position.

He would go on to teach at Howard University in Washington, but died in a vehicle crash in North Carolina in 1950 at just 45 years old.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE U.S. NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Charles Drew and his wife, Lenore, outdoors with their children, circa 1949-1950.

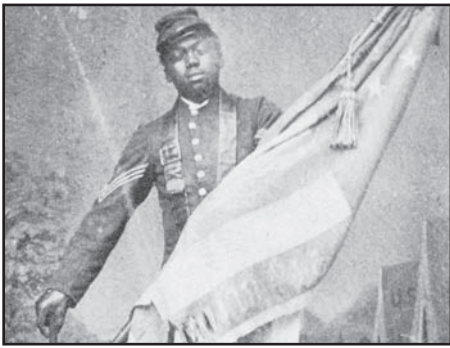
### Sgt. William Carney: 1st African American Medal of Honor recipient

By Katie Lange  
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — Of the 3,498 service members who have received the Medal of Honor throughout U.S. history, 88 have been black.

In recognition of African American History Month, we’re sharing the stories of the brave men who so gallantly risked and gave their lives for others, even in times when others weren’t willing to do the same in return.

We’ll start with the first black recipient of the award: Sgt. William H. Carney, who earned the honor for protecting one of the United States’ greatest symbols during the Civil War – the American flag.



ARMY PHOTO

Sgt. William H. Carney was the first of the nation’s 88 African American Medal of Honor recipients, earning the medal during the Union Army’s charge on Fort Wagner during the Civil War.

banned blacks from learning to read and write.

Carney had wanted to pursue a career in the church, but when the Civil War broke out, he decided the best way he could serve God was by serving in the military to help free the oppressed.

In March 1863, Carney joined the Union Army and was attached to Company C, 54th Massachusetts Colored Infan-

try Regiment, the first official black unit recruited for the Union in the north. Forty other black men served with him, including two of famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass’ sons.

Within a few months, Carney’s training would be put to the ultimate test during the unit’s first major combat mission in Charleston, South Carolina.

#### CHARGE ON FORT WAGNER

July 18, 1863, the Soldiers of Carney’s regiment led the charge on Fort Wagner, South Carolina. During the battle, the unit’s color guard was shot. Carney, who was just a few feet away, saw the dying man stumble, and he scrambled to catch the falling flag.

Despite suffering several serious gunshot wounds himself, Carney kept the symbol of the Union held high as he crawled up the hill to the walls of Fort Wagner, urging his fellow troops to follow him. He planted the flag in the sand at the base of the fort and held it upright until his near-lifeless body was rescued.

Even then, though, he didn’t give it up. Many witnesses said Carney refused to give the flag to his rescuers, holding onto it tighter until, with assistance, he made it to the Union’s temporary barracks.

#### PROMOTED FOR HIS ACTIONS

Carney lost a lot of blood and nearly lost his life, but not once did he allow the flag to touch the ground. Carney was promoted to the rank of sergeant for his actions.

For his bravery, Carney was awarded the Medal of Honor May 23, 1900.

His legacy serves as a shining example of the patriotism that Americans felt at that time, despite the color of their skin.

As for the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry Regiment in which Carney served? It was disestablished after the war, but reactivated in 2008 as the Massachusetts Army National Guard’s 54th Volunteer Regiment. It now serves as a ceremonial unit that renders military honors at funerals and state functions. It was even invited to march in President Barack Obama’s inaugural parade.

## Rotor Wash

“There are many opportunities for Soldiers and families to volunteer on Fort Rucker. Why is it important to volunteer for programs?”



W01 Jesus Fuentes,  
B Co., 1st Bn.,  
145th Avn. Regt.

“It’s a good opportunity to show people that you care.”



Ann Messick,  
military spouse

“Volunteering helps the military.”



Raymond Messick,  
retired military

“I think you need to do it to help everybody.”



Capt. Eric Tisdale,  
1st Bn., 13th Avn. Regt.

“It’s the golden rule. You’d want people to do the same for you if you were in need.”



Kristen Proffitt,  
military spouse

“As a Christian and a human being, I feel that it’s important to give back.”

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FORT RUCKER GARRISON COMMANDER

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# VICE CHIEF:

## Funding for readiness needed to match troop levels

By David Vergun  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Unless the Army receives the funding it requires to match the authorized increased end-strength levels, Soldiers will arrive too late on the battlefield due to training and equipping gaps, said Gen. Daniel B. Allyn.

“The end result [would be] excessive casualties, both to innocent civilians and to our forces already forward-stationed to accomplish its mission,” said Allyn, the vice chief of staff of the Army.

Allyn and other service leaders testified Feb. 7 before a House Armed Services Committee hearing titled “The State of the Military.”

Only a third of the brigade combat teams, a fourth of combat Aviation brigades, and half of division headquarters are combat-ready to fight within 30 days, he said, and of the 58 brigade combat teams, just three “could be called upon to fight tonight in the event of a crisis.”

The general defined “fighting tonight” as units needing “no additional people, no additional training, and no additional equipment.”

At this point in time, the Army is out-ranged, outgunned and outdated, the vice chief pointed out in written testimony.

To ensure readiness and lower risk on the battlefield, Congress needs to repeal the 2011 Budget Control Act, discontinue continuing resolutions and provide a predictable



PHOTO BY MARK GETMAN

A Soldier covers his comrades at a corner while training at the New York Police Department's urban training facility at Rodman's Neck, N.Y., Jan. 9, 2016.

budget sufficient to train, man and equip the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act-authorized end strength, Allyn testified.

The NDAA increased the active Army end strength from 460,000 to 476,000 and increased the Reserve component by another 12,000 Soldiers. Allyn pointed out that funding to properly train and equip those additional Soldiers was not authorized.

Continuing resolutions also hamper training, he said.

“Continuing resolutions deny the Army

the opportunity to implement new programs,” he said.

One example cited by Allyn was funding upgrades for the opposing forces at the combat training centers. As the Army identifies new tactics and capabilities of potential adversaries, he said, that should be reflected in OPFOR upgrades.

Allyn pointed out that he was in the operational forces when the BCA of 2011 went into effect. The result was that seven combat training center rotations were

## General says more troops needed to break Afghan ‘stalemate’

By Cheryl Pellerin  
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — A few thousand more troops for the train, advise and assist mission in Afghanistan would help to break what is now a stalemate with the Taliban, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and other adversaries there, the commander of NATO’s Resolute Support mission and of U.S. forces in Afghanistan said Feb. 9.

Gen. John W. Nicholson Jr. testified Thursday morning before the Senate Armed Services Committee on the situation in Afghanistan.

U.S. and NATO troops perform two complementary missions in Afghanistan, Nicholson said: the U.S. counterterrorism mission, called Operation Freedom’s Sentinel; and the NATO train, advise and assist mission, called Operation Resolute Support.

“I have adequate resourcing in my counterterrorism mission,” the general said.

But the train, advise and assist mission has a shortfall of a few thousand troops, he added, noting that the extra troops could come from the United States and its allies, many of whom are fighting in Afghanistan.

### BOLSTERING OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY

Nicholson said offensive capability will break the stalemate in Afghanistan, and the Afghan security forces’ key offensive capabilities are their special forces and air force.

“As a result of our training, equipping and partnering, the 17,000-strong Afghan special forces are the best in the region,”

the general told the Senate panel. “They now operate independently on roughly 80 percent of their missions.”

The Afghan air force also is gaining capability, he added, noting that its first ground-attack aircraft entered the fight in April and the force is now integrating intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance assets into new targeting processes.

According to a Defense Department statement issued Dec. 19, the fiscal year 2017 budget amendment requests \$264 million to procure 53 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and to begin to refurbish and modify some of them. The request also would fund more aircraft already in the Afghan inventory, including 30 more armed MD-530 helicopters for \$227 million, six more A-29 fixed-wing close-attack aircraft for \$174.5 million, and five AC-208 fixed-wing aircraft for \$80 million.

The request includes \$69 million to train aircrew and maintenance personnel, and DOD officials said it will seek funding for more UH-60s and AC-208s in future fiscal years.

“Congressional approval of funding for the Afghan air force is key to improving the offensive capability of the Afghan national defense and security forces, [and] there is an urgency to this request in order to get these aircraft and aircrews into the fight as soon as possible,” Nicholson said.

The investment in the Afghan air force will help them take over responsibility for their own close air support, “and, even more important, [it] will lead to an offensive capability that allows them to overmatch the Taliban or any other



PHOTO BY BOB HARRISON

Afghanistan National Army Military Police Guard Command conduct training on riot and crowd-control techniques at the Afghanistan National Detention Facility Prison - Parwan, Jan. 17.

group on the battlefield, anywhere around the country,” the general said.

### NO SAFE HAVEN

Nicholson said the main objective in Afghanistan is to keep the nation from being used as a safe haven from which terrorists could attack the United States and its allies.

“Of the 98 U.S.-designated terrorist groups globally, 20 operate in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, along with three violent extremist organizations,” Nicholson told the senators.

This is the highest concentration of terrorist groups anywhere in the world, and it underscores the counterterrorism platform’s importance in the Central Asia-South Asia region, because it protects the American homeland, he added.

“We remain very focused on the defeat of al-Qaida and its associates, as well as the defeat of Islamic

State Khorasan Province, which is the ISIL affiliate in Afghanistan,” he said.

Many nations are committed to Afghanistan’s success, Nicholson said.

At NATO’s July summit in Warsaw, Poland, the alliance reaffirmed its commitment to sustain the Afghan national defense and security forces through 2020. At an October conference in Brussels, 75 countries and organizations confirmed their intention to provide \$15.2 billion to Afghanistan development needs. And India dedicated another \$1 billion on top of the \$2 billion it already had given to Afghan development needs.

“These expressions of international commitment reflect the importance the world places on stability in Afghanistan and confidence in the Afghan people and Afghan government,” Nicholson said, noting that the NATO mission has an exceptional partner-

ship with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, and the security forces and people of Afghanistan.

### NO. 1 GOAL

The general said the No. 1 goal of the Afghanistan fight is to protect the homeland from any attack emanating from the region.

“We have achieved that in the last 15 years, [but] we need to stay on top of that, because of this confluence of 20 terrorist groups in the region,” he said. “I believe this is an enduring commitment to keep pressure on these groups and help the Afghans move toward a successful end state.”

Success in Afghanistan might be the maintenance of the enduring counterterrorism effort to keep pressure on terrorist groups, Nicholson said.

“It means that we would destroy the Islamic State and al-Qaida inside Afghanistan, something we’re actively pursuing every day. It means that we would help the Afghan security forces and government to extend their control to a larger and larger percentage of the population,” he said.

It means the NATO mission would help Afghanistan become a more stable and prosperous entity in a critical part of the world, he added.

“I recognize the distance of Afghanistan and the length of this [war] has been challenging for the American people to support,” Nicholson said. “However, I personally believe that this effort we’re undertaking there is protecting the homeland and preventing these terrorists from bringing their fight to our doorstep.”

## News Briefs

### Faulkner Gate closure

Faulkner Gate will be closed Saturday-Monday for the Presidents’ Day weekend.

### 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.

### 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/CenterLibrarySurvey>.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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 March 1 – with an open house Feb. 22 – 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.



PHOTO BY DAVID VERGUN

An embedded expeditionary cyber team performs surveillance and reconnaissance of various local networks during the Cyberspace Electromagnetic Activities support to Corps and Below pilot at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., Aug. 10.

# CYBER TEAMS

*Soldiers throw virtual effects, defend networks against ISIL*

By Sean Kimmons  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Soldiers in new cyber teams are now bringing offensive and defensive virtual effects against Islamic militants in northern Iraq and Syria, according to senior leaders.

“We have Army Soldiers who are in the fight and they are engaged (with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant),” said Brig. Gen. J.P. McGee, the Army Cyber Command’s deputy commander for operations.

Once the cyber mission force teams stand up, McGee said they’re going straight into operational use.

“As we build these teams, we are ... putting them right into the fight in contact in cyberspace,” he

said at a media roundtable in early February.

The general declined to discuss specific details, but said the majority of the effort is offensive cyberspace effects that are being delivered from locations in the United States and downrange.

The Army is responsible for creating 41 of the 133 teams in the Defense Department’s cyber mission force. Of the Army’s teams, 11 are currently at initial operating capability with the rest at full operational capability, according to Brig. Gen. Patricia Frost, director of cyber for the Army’s G-3/5/7.

She expects all of the Army teams to be ready to go before the October 2018 deadline, she said.

The teams have three main missions: protect networks, particularly the DOD Information

Network; defend the U.S. and its national interests against cyberattacks; and give cyber support to military operations and contingency plans.

This spring, Army cyber also plans to continue the Cyberspace Electromagnetic Activities support to Corps and Below pilot, which is testing the concept of expeditionary CEMA cells within training brigades.

The 1st Infantry Division’s 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team is slated to take part in the pilot’s sixth iteration, being held at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California.

In the training, Soldiers discover how to map out cyber and EM terrain in a simulated battlefield in order to defeat the enemy.

“Where are the wireless points,

cell phone towers? What does that look like? How do you figure out how to gain access to them to be able to deliver effects?” McGee asked.

In one example, McGee said that a CEMA cell could be used to shut down an enemy’s internet access for a period of time to help a patrol safely pass through a contested area. The internet access could then be turned back on to collect information on enemy activities.

“We’re innovating and trying to figure this out,” he said.

McGee also envisions cyber Soldiers working alongside a battlefield commander inside a tactical operations center, similar to how field artillery or Aviation planners give input.

“A maneuver commander can

look at a team on his staff that can advise him on how to deliver cyber and electromagnetic effects and activities in support of his maneuver plan,” he said.

Until then, the Army has created a cyber first line of defense program, which trains two-person teams to actively defend the tactical networks of brigades, Frost said. Each team consists of a warrant officer and NCO who are not specifically in the cyber career field, but who can still help brigades operate semi-autonomously in combat.

“[We] look at putting two individuals that will come with cyber education and tools to be that first line of defense,” Frost said. “It allows a brigade commander to be able to execute mission command.”

## Cyber stands up civilian career field, mulls direct commissioning

By Sean Kimmons  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Army cyber leaders announced a new career management program for civilians Feb. 8, as well as plans to study a direct commissioning pilot to recruit talented people into the emerging domain.

Cyber units may someday get uniformed officers through a direct commissioning program, which would allow qualified civilians to bypass prerequisites. In early February, the Defense Department directed all military services to research the idea and submit a report on their findings by 2020 as to whether to implement a pilot program.

“Much like what we do with lawyers, doctors and other career fields for the Army, DOD has now asked us to do a pilot program by service ... looking at skill sets that we can bring on direct commissioning into the cyber career field,” said Brig. Gen. Patricia Frost, director of cyber for the Army’s G-3/5/7.

A civilian cyberspace-effects career program for current and future government workers was also rolled out in January. This comes after Army leaders largely focused on growing the uniformed cyber force, which included last year’s decision to move 29-series electronic warfare Soldiers into cyber’s 17-series career field by the end of fiscal year 2018.

“We were very excited to see this because for two years of town halls that I supported, this always came up,” Frost said at a media roundtable inside the Pentagon.

The new career management program better charts professional development for civilians and would allow them to move within the cyber enterprise, according to the general.

Instead of waiting for their sister services to create this type of program, Frost said the Army decided to do it after seeing such a high demand. “We’ll see if the other services do something similar.”

Also recognizing the unique contributions of civilians, cyber leaders believe

there’s a desire for those in the private sector to join the Army’s officer ranks.

“I think there are some indications that there’s an appetite amongst industry to be able to do this,” said Brig. Gen. J.P. McGee, the Army Cyber Command’s deputy commander for operations.

Direct commissioning would be a totally new recruiting tool for cyber. It’s still too early to know how many would actually sign up, but the interest is there, McGee said, pointing to recent success with Defense Digital Service, which launched the “Hack the Army” competition in December.

“That’s something we just started and I think it’s already starting to deliver promising results,” he said about the service’s first-ever bug-bounty contest.

Independent researchers found more than 120 vulnerabilities, most of them minor, on select Army networks during the

contest in which 180 people competed. More than \$19,000 in bounty was paid to the researchers, with \$3,000 being the largest bounty, McGee said.

“It’s just a great example of us opening ourselves up to private industry, and allowing them to help us see our networks and some vulnerabilities that we probably wouldn’t have seen,” he said.

More discussion is needed, Frost said, to determine which skills to target under the direct commissioning program.

Whether it’s software design, code writing or another skill, she noted that the program could help add expertise to the cyber force that may be difficult to grow in current military training.

“What type of a skill set are you looking for in private industry that you may not be producing internally?” she asked. “[And] where do you go to recruit that audience from?”



ARMY PHOTO

The Army is looking into a direct commissioning program for the cyber career field, which would allow qualified civilians to bypass prerequisites to become an officer.

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# Vietnam hero Hal Moore dies

By Army News Service  
Staff Report

WASHINGTON — Retired Lt. Gen. Harold “Hal” Gregory Moore, co-author of the book “We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young,” died Friday at his home in Auburn. He was 94 years old.

Moore’s book about the exploits of his battalion in the Battle of Ia Drang Valley during the Vietnam War – co-written with journalist Joseph L. Galloway – was the subject of a 2002 Hollywood film.

Moore graduated West Point in June 1945 and entered the infantry branch as a second lieutenant just three months before the end of World War II. While Moore would be unable to serve in that conflict, he went on to serve in both the Korean and the Vietnam wars.

Moore’s heroism during the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley earned him the Distinguished Service Cross. At the time, Moore served as commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). His unit was dropped by helicopter into the Ia Drang Valley on Nov. 14, 1965, in one of the first airmobile operations and one of the first major battles between U.S. and North Vietnamese regulars.

Upon entering the landing zone with the first rifle company, Moore personally directed the fire-fight to gain control of the zone by placing accurate fire upon the enemy from an exposed position in his hovering helicopter, according to his DSC citation.

Throughout the initial assault phase, Moore repeatedly exposed himself to intense hostile fire to ensure the proper and expedient deployment of friendly troops.

By his constant movement and repeated exposure to this insurgent fire, Moore set the standard for his combat troops by a courageous display of “leadership by example,” which characterized all his actions throughout the long and deadly battle, his

citation reads.

Inspired by his constant presence and active participation against an overwhelming enemy, the friendly forces solidified their perimeter defenses and repulsed numerous enemy assaults.

On Nov. 15, the embattled battalion was again attacked by a three-pronged insurgent assault aimed at surrounding and destroying the friendly forces in one great advance.

Moore moved from position to position, directing fires and giving moral support to the defending forces. By his successful predictions of insurgent attack plans, he was able to thwart all their efforts by directing barrages of small arms, mortar, and artillery fire in conjunction with air strikes against enemy positions and attack zones.

As the battle continued into the third day, another large Viet Cong strike was repulsed through Moore’s ability to shift men and firepower at a moment’s notice against the enemy’s last-ditch efforts to break through the friendly positions.

Moore’s battalion, inspired by his superb leadership, combat participation and moral support, finally decimated the North Vietnamese force, forcing its retreat and resulting in victory for the 1st Battalion.

During the battle, 234 Americans were killed and another 250 were wounded. The North Vietnamese suffered over 1,200 killed.

In 2002, Moore’s book was made into a movie called “We Were Soldiers,” with actor Mel Gibson playing the role of Moore.

A funeral mass for Moore will be held Friday at 8:30 a.m. (Central Time) at St. Michaels Roman Catholic Church, 1100 N College Street, Auburn.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, Georgia, with interment to follow at the Fort Benning Post Cemetery. The family will host a reception at the infantry museum after the burial service.

## Comanche

Continued from Page A1

sensors, said the curator.

On a conventional helicopter, fuel is compressed, combusted and expelled as heat that is easily detectable with infrared sensors, said Mitchell. But with the Comanche, the exhaust is vented along a porcelain array that runs along the tail of the helicopter and air is drawn down to further cool the exhaust, reducing its infrared profile.

The aircraft also had a host of sensor technologies, night-vision capabilities, sight capabilities and a plethora of other revolutionary technologies, but as parts continued to be added to the aircraft, the weight

also increased significantly.

“The Army’s requirements for the aircraft were basically hard stops (in its research and development),” Mitchell. “The weight requirement was essential, as well as size, and unfortunately for the Comanche, over the years the weight just kept increasing and increasing well over what the Army’s requirements were.

“Instead of drawing a line in the sand and going with an 80-percent solution, they just kept modifying and modifying and modifying,” he said. “As a result, the helicopter was in research and development for the better part of 25 years, and

anything that languishes in R&D for that long is probably never going to see the light of day.”

Essentially, the parts that made the Comanche great were the same things that led to its ultimate downfall, and the program was ended in 2004. Although the helicopter is regarded by many as a failure, the Comanche program pioneered a lot of technology that is used in the Army’s current fleet of helicopters, Mitchell said.

“A lot of great technology came out of this aircraft,” he added. “Even though we didn’t get the aircraft, we got all of the great technology that came out of it and it provided the Army with a lot of great resources.”

## Seminar

Continued from Page A1

BRS has to offer compared to the Legacy (High-3) System.”

The seminar takes places Feb. 22 from 6-7 p.m. at the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 282.

Attendees will take part in a discussion of the significant aspects of BRS including how retirement pay is calculated, continuation pay and the TSP with matching contributions.

“The BRS is the new retirement system the military is moving toward,” Close said. “With this new system, there are some significant changes when compared to the Legacy (High-3) Retirement System. BRS has the potential to create a level playing field when compared to the civilian market.

“An individual can work for a civilian company and, after a few short years, walk away with some retirement savings,” she added. “Whereas, with the Legacy System, only 19 percent of active duty forces complete the 20 years [required] for retirement. The main component changes for the BRS compared to the Legacy are the pension, the matching opportunity for TSP, continuation pay and the lump sum options.”

The discussion will be facilitated by accredited ACS financial counselors. Space is not limited for this free seminar and free child care is available with registration.

“Eligible Soldiers should attend the seminar, even if they do not think they will switch,” Close said. “For 2017, this is the education year so that Soldiers can make a well-informed decision in 2018. In addition, every service member, even if they are not eligible, should attend. This is because, as a leader, there will be Soldiers that ask you about the BRS. By attending the seminar, leaders will be better prepared to answer Soldiers’ questions.”

BRS seminars will be held monthly, including March 22 and April 19 from 6-7 p.m. at Bldg. 5700, Rm. 282.

“Over the last six months, new information pertaining to the BRS has been released every couple of months,” Close said. “This is an opportunity for Soldiers to ask questions or sort out information they have already learned or heard about – to separate fact from fiction. Because every person has different learning styles, this seminar is an opportunity to present the information in (an individual’s) language, and provide an opportunity for questions because not everyone speaks the financial language.

“Soldiers are encouraged to take the opt-in course at Joint Knowledge Online,” she added. “Leaders are encouraged to take the Leadership Course on JKO.”

For more information or to register, call 255-3765 or 255-9631 or visit <https://rucker.armymwr.com/us/rucker/programs/army-community-service/>.

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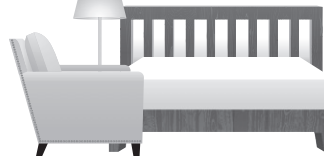


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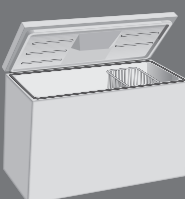
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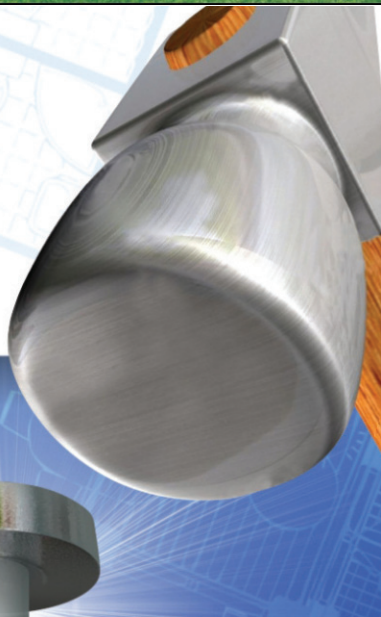
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**DIRECTIONS:** Hwy 167N to Gateway entrance on Laurel Breeze. Turn left on Arrowhead. House on corner of Arrowhead & Lake Shore. Shell Field Road entrance stay on Gateway Drive to left on Deer Run Strut to Arrowhead.



**HOSTED BY: JAN SAWYER 406-2393**

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

# ATLANTIC RESOLVE

## 10th CAB equipment begins arriving in Europe



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

By U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs  
Press Release

ANTWERP, Belgium — The 10th Mountain Division's 10th Combat Aviation Brigade initiated offloading more than 700 pieces of support equipment Feb. 8 at the seaport of debarkation in Antwerp.

Nearly 2,000 Soldiers from the brigade and their equipment are being deployed as the latest unit to bolster the U.S. presence in Europe.

"We're going to be all over Europe joining the Strong Europe team and integrating into their training plan for the next nine months," Col. Clair A. Gill, 10th CAB commander, said.

The Department of the Army announced the unit's deployment to Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve Nov. 3.

"While an armor brigade is a very lethal force, and they're going to do some fantastic training with our partners on the ground, aviation really is what I like to call that three-dimensional problem solver for the Army, the joint force and our coalitions," Gill said. "We move faster than they do on the ground and we shoot farther in some cases than some systems from the ground."

Those capabilities will be demonstrated through several different training missions scheduled throughout Europe.

The 635th Transportation Detachment, 39th Transportation Battalion, 16th Sustainment Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, worked closely with the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command to track and report equipment movement, and to provide transportation expertise to enable rapid force flow through the deployment pipeline.

## Fort Riley develops maneuver lane

By Spc. Elizabeth Payne  
19th Public Affairs Detachment

FORT RILEY, Kansas — The Home Station Training Line at Fort Riley is developing into the active-duty Army's first Cross-Domain Maneuver Lane over the next six months.

A CDML is a site where training incorporates various approaches in each domain of the battlefield — land, air, sea, space and cyberspace. Soldiers have the opportunity to assemble in one location and learn to utilize the Army's primary domain of tactical fighting, land, to overtake multiple platforms of battle.

"The 21st century calls for ready ground combat forces capable of outmaneuvering adversaries physically and cognitively through extension of combined arms across all domains," according to Army Capabilities Integration Center officials.

The U.S. Army Asymmetric Warfare Group is partnering with the Big Red One schoolhouse and Physical Sciences Incorporated Tactical Robotics to teach Soldiers to operate the Raven, Puma, Instant Eye and Black Hornet Nano unmanned aircraft systems.

"Our schoolhouse teaches the Raven operator, Puma operator, advanced training and we are integrating the CDML into that. We have an on-site schoolhouse right on top of dedicated airspace," said CW4 Sarah Good, air defense airspace management/brigade Aviation element officer in charge, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

Presently, Fort Benning, Georgia, is the hub for the Small Unmanned Master Trainers Course, which certifies students as group one UAS master trainers, who move on to conduct Initial Qualifications Training. With the addition of Fort Riley's CDML, units across the country now have the opportunity become certified masters and train for unit missions at the same location, something not done in the Army — until now.

"The purpose of having accessible CDMLs is to allow company commanders and platoon leaders to regularly bring their Soldiers out here and train them with the newest kit that the rapid equipping force is fielding," said Kevin Spooner, operational adviser with the Asymmetric Warfare Group.

The future goal for the course is to have it incorporated into the Army's Mission Essential Task List, as the operation of and benefit of utilizing UAS is battle-focused training, based on wartime

SEE LANE, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY SPC. ELIZABETH PAYNE

CW4 Samuel Kleinbeck, tactical unmanned aircraft systems warrant officer, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and CW3s John McQuitty (right) and Julian Caicedo, tactical UAS warrant officers, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., work to become certified master trainers with the InstantEye system Jan. 20.



PHOTO BY PVT. AUSTIN ANYZESKI

Soldiers from Assassin Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment maintain security as a CH-47 Chinook departs the landing zone during an air assault training exercise at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., Jan. 25. The purpose of the mission was to demonstrate the troop's ability to carry out complex attacks while enhancing the unit's ability of employing Aviation resources.

## SAVING THE DAY

### Task Force Gunfighters team up to save Afghan soldier

By Robert Harrison  
U.S. Forces Afghanistan

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — On Sept. 21, Afghanistan National Defense Security Forces were operating in Khost Province when they were pinned down by enemy heavy machine gun fire and facing a maneuvering enemy assault.

One of their soldiers suffered a gunshot wound to the head and required immediate medical evacuation. The ANDSF requested air support to medically evacuate their wounded.

Task Force Gunfighters was tasked to respond.

TF Gunfighters is comprised of 1st Combat Aviation Brigade pilots, crews and teams from the 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, specifically: A Company, 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, "Rebels;" C Co., 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Avn. Regt, "Dustoff;" and augmentation from Charlie Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia.

The task force mission in Afghanistan is to conduct attack, assault and MedEvac operations in support of Train, Advise and Assist Command — East, Special Operating Forces and ANDSF. The Soldiers have been in theater since July.

On this day, several of the aviators of Task Force Gunfighters would demonstrate their mettle and fulfill this mission to the fullest.

Capt. Cody Sneed, 2-1st GSAB, and his UH-60 Black Hawk flight crew, Dustoff 47, that included Staff Sgt. Trevor Thompson, flight paramedic, and Sgt. Michael Charles, crew chief, were flying minutes away from Forward Operating Base Dahlke when they heard the radio traffic



ARMY PHOTO

The Task Force Gunfighters, C Company, 2nd GSAB, 1st Avn. Regt., 1st ID CAB, pilots and crew members of Team Chapman Dustoff.

about the ongoing fight in Khost.

"We were executing a patient transfer when we were dynamically re-tasked to respond to an urgent nine-line MedEvac request," recalled Sneed. He and his crew had flown about a dozen missions together in Afghanistan.

Sneed coordinated via radio to expedite the patient transfer mission at FOB Dahlke. Minutes after arriving, the Dustoff crew safely transferred the patient, refueled the aircraft and departed directly for the injured ANDSF soldier. As they approached the location they picked up the radio traffic from the 1-1st ARB Attack Weapons Team that was then directly supporting the embattled ground forces.

"The pilots were taking the information and the radios were going crazy," said Charles, "Staff Sgt. Thompson was prepping all the medical gear that he might need for the patient."

"The main thing going through my head before the pickup was just trying to anticipate the patient we were about to have," said Thompson, "and

start building a plan for treatment based on what we knew."

As the Gunfighter Dustoff aircraft approached, the Apache crews were fully engaged.

"Upon arriving on station, our flight quickly noticed tracer fire in our direction," said 1st Lt. Robert Mayville, the co-pilot/gunner of the lead AH-64D Apache Longbow. "We identified two enemy personnel with weapons and engaged them with 30mm ammunition, killing them both."

The AWT continued to secure friendly ground forces as they moved to the planned MedEvac site while the Dustoff element was en route. Additional enemy tracer fire emerged from an unidentifiable location, according to Mayville.

"We called the LZ 'Cherry' to ensure the MedEvac aircraft kept away from enemy fires," said Mayville. The color designation alerted everyone in the mission that the landing zone was not yet secure for the MedEvac.

SEE GUNFIGHTERS, PAGE B4

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- Branson, MO. 5-shows / 9 - meals April 23-28, 2017
- Grand Alaska Cruise Juneau, Ketchikan, Skagway & Victorian BC June 10-17, 2017
- Scenic Midwest Tour Old Faithful Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse Cody, WY. & more West June 21/July 9, 2017
- KY./Ohio/Indiana Amish Tour Sept. 10-17, 2017
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# Lane

Continued from Page B1

requirements.  
Staff Sgt. Spencer McCall, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armored Regiment, 2nd ABCT, 1st Inf. Div., cavalry scout and

a UAS master trainer, has been working with UASs at Fort Riley since 2011. The cutting-edge UAS technology delivers fast reconnaissance from the air, he said. Accurate information, rapidly delivered, can greatly enhance troop operations and

mission success.  
“The goal is to have a master trainer at each battalion who can train the company and produce a UAS air crew in each company,” McCall said. “The crew then will carry out any reconnaissance mission that

the commander needs to complete.”  
Currently the schoolhouse development is at Phase 2 of a three-phase initial operational capability. By June the equipment will be fielded and the schoolhouse will have four new InstantEye kits.

# Gunfighters

Continued from Page B1

The DUSTOFF aircraft were directed to loiter at an altitude of 10,000 feet, a few miles north of the planned helicopter landing zone while the Apaches maneuvered to support the Afghan forces and secure the HLZ.

CW3 Jonathan Aleshire piloted the lead Apache with Mayville as his co-pilot/gunner. CW4 Timothy Kirschbaum piloted the second with CW2 Craig Plantrich as co-pilot/gunner. Aleshire and Kirschbaum were direct combat-tested pilots – for Mayville and Plantrich, this was their first experience with enemy contact.

Both Apache pilots coordinated engagements and evaded enemy fire while the gunners maintained sensor contact with the enemy and monitored intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets to visualize the battle space.

Aleshire and Kirschbaum maneuvered their aircraft to defend the friendly ground forces while they moved their wounded to a new HLZ. Mayville and Plantrich were providing suppressing fires and monitoring the intelligence feeds providing information about enemy fighting positions in the valley.

Aleshire and Kirschbaum flew their formation deeper into the valley.

At this point, the rugged mountainous terrain began to restrict direct communication between the Apache AWT and Khost air command center. Sneed, Dustoff 47 air mission commander, realized this challenge and immediately began retransmitting communications to keep the Apache crews in contact with the command and control node.

“Due to enemy contact, the intended pick up zone changed three times, and the AWT was moving further into the valley and line-of-sight communications was lost,” said Sneed. “We were holding at a high altitude and began retrains – relaying grid coordinates, friendly and enemy positions, and clearance of fires for a little more than an hour.”

“Friendly (unmanned aircraft system) assets identified the several enemy positions atop a nearby ridge line,” said

Mayville. “Through relayed transmissions from Captain Sneed, we identified the enemy location, destroyed one enemy fighting position, its occupying fighters and a heavy machine gun.”

When the engagement was complete, the AWT returned to secure an alternate landing zone.

“We were cleared into a hasty HLZ in the middle of a wadi where we found the wounded Afghan soldier,” said Sneed.

“We landed in a riverbed,” said Thompson. “The patient had been shot in the head. It was a very fast transfer to our aircraft and we departed immediately for Chapman Theater Hospital.”

“The AWT returned to known enemy locations to maintain enemy contact and ensure aerial security throughout the MedEvac,” said Mayville. “We reconnoitered the area for some time. After the MedEvac returned the casualty to base, we did the same. Thankfully, the wounded Soldier survived.”

“(Thompson and Charles) worked seamlessly together to start lifesaving interventions for the 10 to 15 minutes flight to the hospital,” noted Sneed. “Undoubtedly, this saved that soldier’s life.”

“These Soldiers and officers are true heroes,” said Lt. Col. Travis Habhab, TF Gunfighter commander. “They put their lives on the line to keep coalition and Afghan forces safe while destroying insurgent elements.”

“On the day of this mission, the Apache and MEDE-

VAC crew members launched into a complex situation,” Habhab continued. “They exercised superb tactical patience and decision making while working with the ground forces.”

For distinguishing themselves by exceptionally meritorious achievement in aerial combat flights, the pilots and crew members of the Apache AWT and DUSTOFF 47 were awarded The Air Medal.


“There is no other team I would rather fly with in combat than the one I have here with me now,” said Sneed.

Dec. 18, Gen. Mark Milley, the Chief of Staff of the United States Army, and Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel Dailey presented the medals to Sneed, Mayville, Thompson and Charles at a ceremony held at the U.S. Forces Afghanistan headquarters at Bagram Airfield. The awards for Kirschbaum, Aleshire, and Plantrich were presented at a later time.

“We were simply doing our jobs,” said Thompson, “Anyone else assigned with this mission set would have done the same. I did feel a sense of pride that the highest levels of Army leadership were recognizing not just the team here, but the excellent job that the fine folks of Army Dustoff are doing throughout the theater of operations.”

“All of these Soldiers represented Task Force Gunfighters and the United States Army with pride,” said Habhab. “They are absolutely committed to doing everything they can to provide outstanding support to the Soldiers and improve the security of Afghanistan.”

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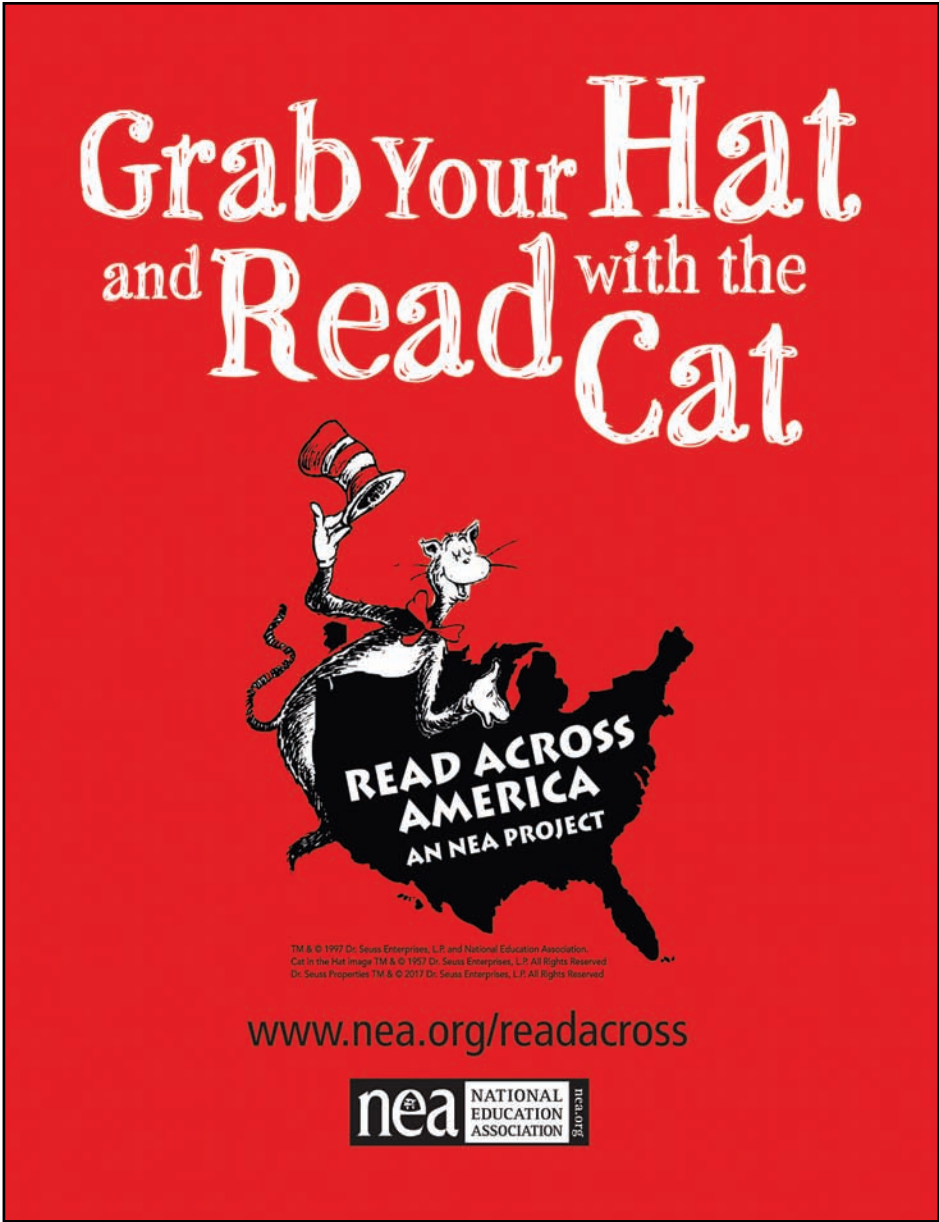
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FEBRUARY 16, 2017

# READ ACROSS AMERICA



NEA GRAPHIC

## Library event seeks to promote reading

By Nathan Pfau  
Army Flier Staff Writer

Dr. Seuss's work has touched millions, and the Fort Rucker Center Library wants to celebrate the birthday of one of the world's most beloved authors by promoting healthy reading habits to children at an early age.

In conjunction with Read Across America Week, which coincides with Dr. Seuss's birthday, the Center Library will host its Seussfest celebration Feb. 28 from 4-5:30 p.m. where parents can bring their children to take part in games, activities and fun, all while promoting learning through reading, according to Cameron Hill, Center Library youth librarian.

"We plan to hold the event outside because we'll have more space for the games and activities, and there will be a bounce house for the children to play in," she said. "There will be lots of activities and crafts, and there will also be prizes that people can win."

Hill said people are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite Dr. Seuss character or in any wacky costume that evokes the spirit of the world-renown author.

Leading up to the event, many of Dr. Seuss's books will be on display at the library and available for checkout, but the event isn't only meant to promote Seuss's books, but an interest in all books, as well as the resources the library has to offer.

"It's always important to get children

started reading early, and whatever can get a child to love reading is a good thing," said Hill. "And for parents, this is a good way to introduce them to the library and everything we have to offer here. We have a lot more to offer their children than we did before."

Recently, the library celebrated the grand opening of their children and teen rooms. The rooms feature age-appropriate reading material and activities, as well as game console systems for children and teens to play with – all part of an effort to get children into the library and interested in books, said the youth librarian.

"We like to have fun here at the library, so whatever we can do to have fun and get our patrons having fun and interested in the library we're all for," she said. "We're not only just books, but we've got other resources like our online resources, audio books, movies, magazines, board games and video games."

The Seussfest is a great way to get parents and children interacting together to promote a love of reading, said Hill.

The event will culminate with a children's parade, where all the children will line up to put on a parade for spectators, who will have the opportunity to toss candy at the children as they walk by.

Hill encourages parents to bring their children by to not only introduce them to the works of Dr. Seuss if they aren't familiar, but to introduce them to a love of reading and everything the library has to offer.

For more information, call 255-3885.



NEWLYWED GAME

PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Participants take part in Army Community Service's Newlywed Not So Newlywed Game at Corvias Military Living Friday. The game was a way to give couples the tools they need to discover personality traits and the effects they might have on their relationships, as well as introduce them to resiliency training that is available through ACS.

# Education center hosts free CLEP-a-thon

By Nathan Pfau  
Army Flier Staff Writer

The Fort Rucker Education Center exists to help Soldiers looking to further their careers through higher education and an upcoming event will allow them the chance to earn free college credits.

The education center will hold its CLEP-a-thon Feb. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the first floor of Bldg. 4502 as a way for people to test out of many general education courses and receive credit with no cost to them, according to Randy McNally, supervisory education service specialist for Fort Rucker.

"CLEPs are mostly general education courses that fit into just about any degree program," he said. "Most regionally and nationally accredited schools will take CLEPs as course credit, but people should always check to make sure they will transfer."

"They'll knock out your general education requirements so that you don't have to sit in a class for six to eight weeks and pay up to \$750 or more per class," he continued. "That's a lot of effort that you don't have to put forth and a lot of money saved."

During the education center's first CLEP-a-thon, McNally said the event saved the Army more than \$18,000 in Army Tuition Assistance costs through Soldiers being able to earn their credits through CLEP rather than taking full courses.

"This is a great way for Soldiers to get college credit and they have nothing to lose," said the education service specialist.

This CLEP-a-thon is being held in conjunction with Black History Month to go along with the observance month's theme – "Crisis in Black Education."

**This is a great way for Soldiers to get college credit and they have nothing to lose."**

— RANDY MCNALLY,  
FORT RUCKER  
SUPERVISORY EDUCATION  
SERVICE SPECIALIST

"There was a huge number of scholarships that were turned back to the government and not used last year, so we want to do a push on this to offer all available educational programs that we can do in order to help people get forward in their education and support them in their endeavors," said the education service specialist. "There really is no excuse not to be going to school, especially with access to something like this."

CLEP tests are provided and accepted by most accredited schools in the U.S., according to McNally,

and in order to obtain credit from a CLEP test, students must score at least a 50, which is the equivalent of a C grade.

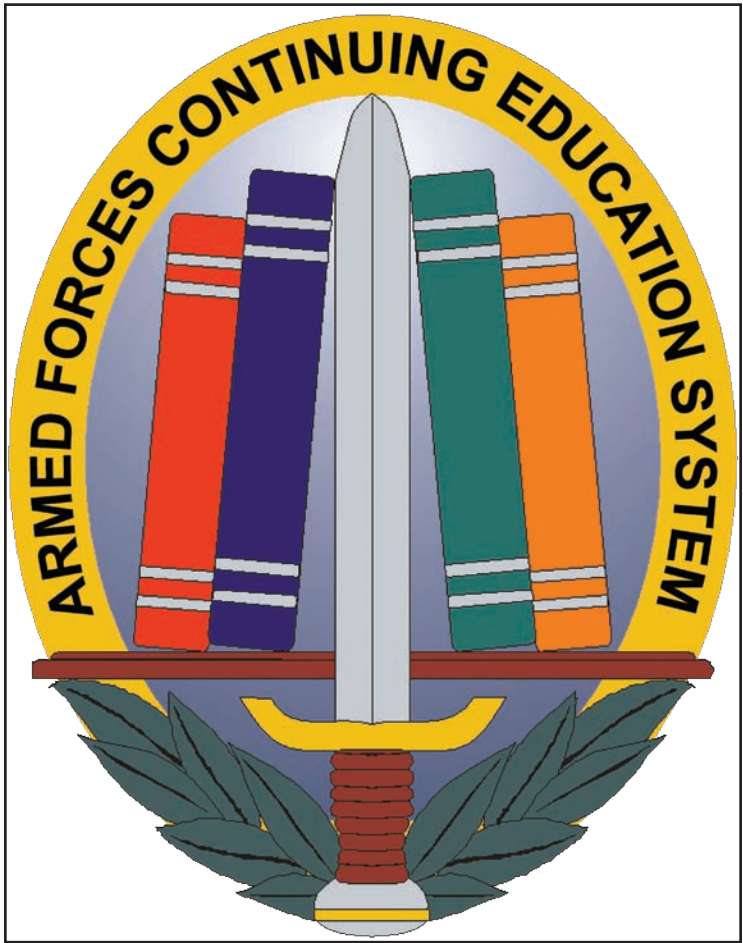
One of the biggest advantages of CLEP testing is that for Soldiers, it doesn't count toward their Army Tuition Assistance, said McNally. With ATA limited at 16-semester hours per fiscal year, CLEP testing is a great way for Soldiers to earn extra college credit without going toward their limit.

Additionally, with new Army regulations, new Soldiers aren't eligible for tuition assistance until one year after their initial entry training, such as advanced individual training or basic officers leadership course.

"That disallows them for the Army Tuition Assistance for a full year, but CLEPs are a great way for them to attain college credit without it having to come out of pocket," said McNally. "They can CLEP throughout the first year, and it can help them to get into the habit of studying and it can help them out a lot."

During the CLEP-a-thon, Soldiers can take as many tests as they wish and the Army will pay for each test once. If a Soldier fails to pass the test, he or she can retake the test, but must do so at their own expense, said McNally. Otherwise, there are no negative repercussions from testing.

Soldiers can also take advantage of CLEP exams even if they're not in a degree program, he said.



ARMY GRAPHIC

"Soldiers can take their CLEPs, pass them and then come to me and I can give them a memo for promotion points," said McNally.

There is no preregistration required for the testing, but Soldiers are encouraged to come into the education center before the testing date, and preregister and take advantage of study material that the

center can provide for some of the CLEP courses.

"One thing great about Fort Rucker is that we work with these colleges and colleges work with us for all of these events," said the education service specialist. "We want to be as proactive as we can here."

For more information, call 255-2378.

# ON POST

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

**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.

**Newcomers welcome**

A newcomers welcome is scheduled for Friday from 8:30-11 a.m. at The Landing. Active-duty military, spouses, foreign students, Army civilians and family members are encouraged by post officials to attend the newcomers orientation. A free light breakfast and 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.

**Heart 2 Heart Skate Night**

The Fort Rucker Child Youth Services’ School Age Center will host its Heart 2 Heart Skate Night Friday. There will be a contest for the best dressed boy and girl. Safety skate is \$2 and will be from 6:15-7:15 p.m. Regular skate is \$5 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Only cash will be accepted.

Participants must be registered with CYS. For more information, call 255-9108.

**Travel Extravaganza**

Fort Rucker will host its 29th annual Travel Extravaganza Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Landing. The event will feature a Passport Scavenger Hunt for chances to win door prizes, such as attraction tickets, hotel stays, clothing, memorabilia, an MWR Prize pack and a grand prize. Patrons do not have to be present to win.

For more information, call 255-2997 or 255-9517.

**Federal jobs workshop**

Army Community Service will host its federal job workshop Feb. 23 from 8 a.m. to noon in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 284. The workshop is aimed at getting people the information they need to increase their federal employment possibilities. Participants will receive a free copy of Kathryn Troutman’s “Jobseeker’s Guide (7th Edition).” Registration is required two days prior to the workshop. Space is limited to the first 60 people to register and the workshop is open to authorized patrons only.

For more information or to register, call 255-2594.

**Army Family Team Building app**

People can complete Army Family Team Building training through AFTB’s app. Visit <http://www.ftruckermwr.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.

**Trivia Tuesday**

Mother Rucker’s hosts its free Trivia Tuesday Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. People are welcome to put teams together or play solo. Teams can be up to eight players and winners will be announced after each round. A \$20 Mother Rucker’s gift card is given out each round to the winning team. The team with the overall highest score at the end of the evening receives a \$25 gift card. Participants will have the chance to win door prizes throughout the evening. Trivia Tuesday is open to the public for those ages 18 and older.

For more information, call 503-0396.

**Right Arm Night**

The Landing Zone will host Fort Rucker Right Arm Night Feb. 23 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.

**Anti-Bullying Rally**

The Fort Rucker Youth Center will host its second annual Anti-Bullying Rally Feb. 24 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



FILE PHOTO

## ATV trail ride

**Fort Rucker Outdoor Recreation will host an ATV and dirt bike trail ride Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$20 and pre-registration is required. Drivers must pass the safety driving test through ODR before participating. Participants must provide their own ATV or dirt bike, and also provide their own protective gear, including helmets, boots, etc., that must be worn at all times. The event is open to the public, ages 16 and up. For more information, call 255-4305. Pictured is a scene from a previous trail ride.**

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 Feb. 25. 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.

**Seussstival**

The Center Library will host its Seussstival Feb. 28 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.

**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

# DFMWR SPOTLIGHT



## Upcoming Family & MWR Events & Activities



### Fort Rucker Right Arm Night



### Feb 23 4 pm–6 pm The Landing Zone Hosted by 1-212th

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## PRESIDENTS’ DAY HOLIDAY HOURS

**For a complete listing of Holiday Hours of operation please visit our website at [rucker.armymwr.com](http://rucker.armymwr.com)**

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.

**Blended retirement system seminar**

The Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program will present a blended retirement seminar from 6-7 p.m. Wednesday in

the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700 in Rm. 282. The seminar will be a discussion of the significant aspects the BRS, including how retirement pay will be calculated, continuation pay and the Thrift Saving Plan with matching contributions. This discussion will be facilitated by ACS accredited financial counselors. Pre-registration is required by Tuesday. Free child care will be available with registration

For more information and to register, call 255-3949 or 255-9631. Registration can also be at <http://rucker.armymwr.com/us/rucker/programs/army-community-service>.

## FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 16-19

**Thursday, February 16**

**John Wick Chapter 2 (R)** ..... 7 p.m.

**Friday, February 17**

**John Wick Chapter 2 (R)** ..... 7 p.m.

**Saturday, February 18**

**Sing (PG)** ..... 4 p.m.  
**Assassin’s Creed (R)** ..... 7 p.m.

**Sunday, February 19**

**Sing (PG)** ..... 1 p.m.  
**Hidden Figures (PG)** ..... 4 p.m.

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

# OLD GUARD

## Perfection comes with meticulous training

By Sgt. Jose A. Torres Jr.  
For Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. – They wake before the sun comes up each weekday. They spend the early morning bathing, eating, strapping on equipment, getting a haircut and polishing shoes. By 8 a.m., they are on the job, carrying a fallen warrior to his final resting place at Arlington National Cemetery.

They are not your typical Soldiers. Each weighs about 1,200 pounds. They are the steeds of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) Caisson Platoon.

The mission of the Old Guard is time-honored. One that is respected, admired and much appreciated by the family members of fallen loved ones being laid to rest. The firing party is always in sync and the casket team always on point. But for many, one sight stands out the most: the arrival of the Caisson team.

Tall, strong-looking horses, ridden by sharply dressed and decorated Soldiers working together to escort a fallen warrior to his final resting place, honoring him the best they can. Something special about them captures the eyes and the attention of those in attendance. Maybe it's the posture of the rider, maybe it's the calmness and tranquility of the horses.

"It's a huge honor just to be able to show the family that we care – that they're not going to be left behind, ever, because their loved one gave so much to our country and to the military," said Sgt. Jake Kausen, a senior instructor for the basic horsemanship course. "I don't know how to explain it other than that. It's definitely one of the best things I've done in my life and I don't know there will ever be a way to top that.

"Even the horses can sense the importance," he said. "They can feel it through the riders, their posture and tightness. They can feel that, so they actually know they need to be good."

Perfection comes only after meticulous training.

Even the selection process is painstaking. Trainers have a few places around the country that they purchase horses from.

"I can go to their places, their ranches, their farms, wherever that may be, and I look at the animals and see if they match what we need. See if it's the size, color and shape. You know, they have to be sort of pretty, because we are in the public", said Robert Brown, the Caisson Platoon's horse manager.

The herd has 50 to 60 horses at any given time and to avoid half of the herd retiring at the same time, Brown spaces out the ages of the horses when purchasing them. The last batch he bought included two 1-year-olds, a couple of 3-year-olds and went up the age bracket to 7-year-olds.

Newly-purchased horses are taken to the stables that are nestled in a corner of Fort Belvoir hidden by trees and chain link fences. Upon arrival, the horses spend a few weeks in quarantine, separated from



PHOTOS BY SGT. JOSE A. TORRES JR.

Sgt. Jake Kausen and fellow trainers observe a trainee riding a horse at the Caisson stables.

the rest of the herd. This is a precaution to ensure the horses aren't sick and don't contaminate the rest of the herd if they are.

Rubin Troyer, once a sergeant in the platoon, is the horse trainer. It's his job to make sure they're ready to work in the cemetery. He spends his days with the horses, desensitizing them, getting them used to different equipment and situations that would scare the average horse, things like gun fire, music and crowds.

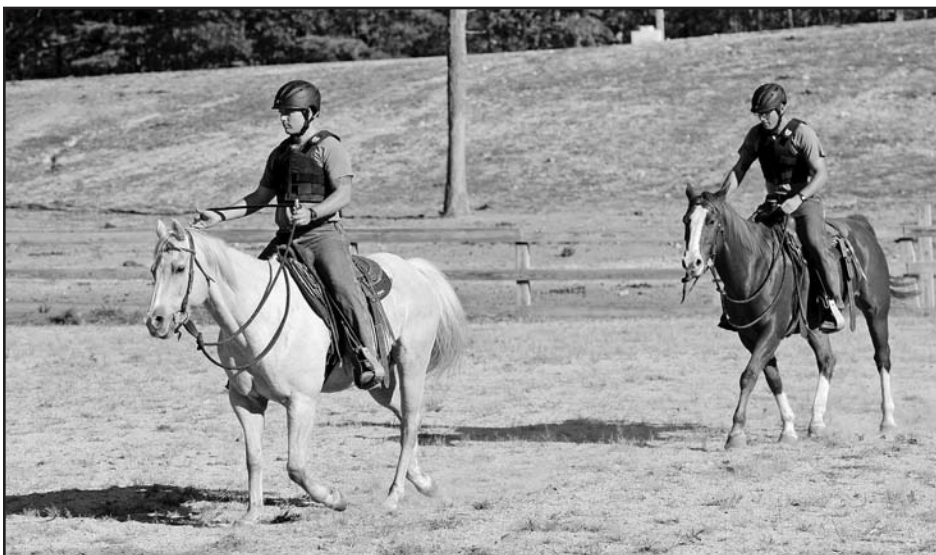
"What we ask of these horses is extremely unnatural for them. We're asking a claustrophobic animal to accept apparatuses and to go into environments that by instincts and by their nature they are really scared of," Troyer said.

New horses train alongside the Soldiers attending the basic horsemanship course.

"Soldiers learn how to ride and control the horse and the horses learn to deal with the Soldiers, although the horses generally like to challenge the riders," Kausen said. "Like children, they want to see what they can get away with."

Once a horse has demonstrated that it's capable of handling the basics, it is taken to Fort Myer for the next step. Troyer spends four weeks shadowing each horse after they are attached to the caisson, and it works alongside the other horses and Soldiers. Then, if the horse is successful in its duties, Troyer turns it over to the Soldiers of the caisson platoon. That's when the horse's training is officially over.

From there, the horses will spend their career on the Caisson team. "We like to shoot for like 10 years of service," said Kausen. "So 10 years, then we do the adoption process of adopting them to a good home where they will take care of them and they can be horses."



Soldiers go through the basic rider's course.

# KNOWLEDGE

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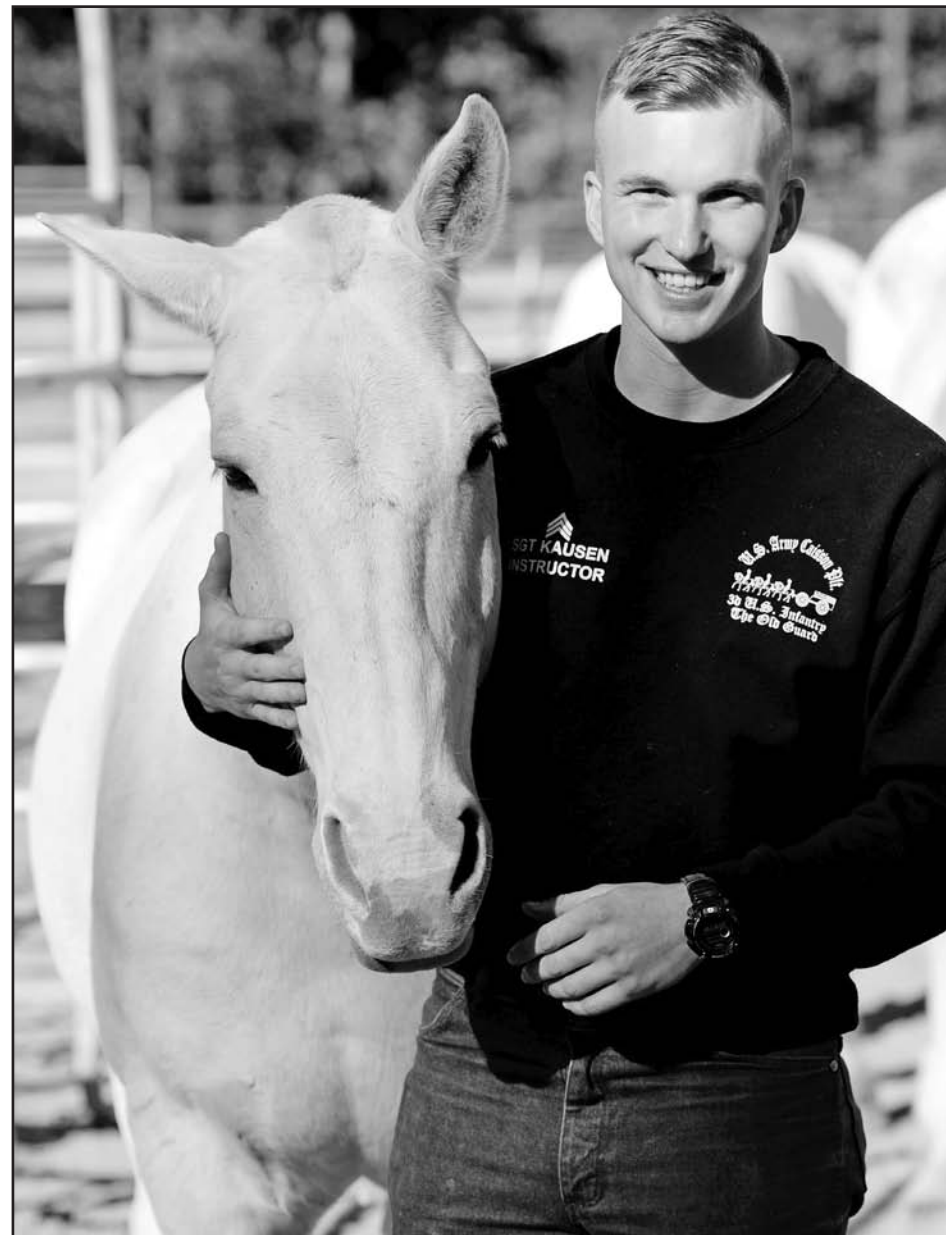
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Kausen poses for a photo with his favorite Caisson horse, Dewell Ray, at the Caisson stable at Fort Belvoir, Va., last year.

# State park hosts event to highlight eagles

## Alabama State Parks Press Release

Lake Guntersville State Park will host its annual Eagle Awareness Weekends through Feb. 19.

The event features live bird demonstrations, programs delivered by notable speakers and guided field trips for viewing eagles in their natural habitat. The park is located at 1155 Lodge Drive, Guntersville. Recently, park staff discovered a new eagle nest in the park. Eagle Awareness visitors will be able to view the nest with a guide. Other

new programs and activities include live bald eagle demonstrations on each Sunday afternoon bird of prey programs, Chick-fil-A Adventure Quest for children under 12, Friday story time, and the Gunter School Photo Contest for Marshall County students.

Eagle Awareness events are free to the public. There is no registration needed to attend the programs or field trips. However, the sessions can fill up fast so participants are encouraged to arrive early for the events. To celebrate Eagle Awareness at Lake Guntersville, the park is offer-

ing several overnight accommodation packages and dining specials. Package holder exclusives include priority seating at all programs, exclusive photo opportunities with Sunday presenters, and discounts to participating businesses and restaurants in the Guntersville area.

For more information about the events schedule, Eagle Awareness packages or to make reservations, visit [www.alapark.com/lake-guntersville-state-park](http://www.alapark.com/lake-guntersville-state-park) or call 256-571-5440. To learn more about Alabama State Parks, visit [www.alapark.com](http://www.alapark.com).



# WIREFLIER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT, EMAIL JIM HUGHES WITH ALL THE DETAILS AT [JHUGHES@ARMYFLIER.COM](mailto: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](http://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 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](http://www.SEACT.com), [www.DothanCivicCenter.org](http://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.

**ONGOING** — The American Legion Post 12 holds monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the post’s facility at 3087 Hwy. 605, which is Brannon Stand Road at the intersection of Park Avenue. For more information, call 400-5356.

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

host parties, weddings, and hails and farewells.

## ENTERPRISE

**FEB. 19** — The Masterworks Choir of Enterprise will present selections from Mendelssohn’s “Elijah” and other music at 3 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Enterprise. The event will feature guest organist Urs Tolotti from North Carolina. The concert is free, but donations are welcome. For more information, visit the Masterworks Choir’s Facebook page or call 334-390-1009.

**ONGOING** — The Enterprise baseball team is starting a league and is in need of players. High school- and college-aged people are eligible to play. Tryouts will be held every weekend until April. For more information, including times and locations of tryouts, call 334-347-1660.

**ONGOING** — Classes in the Taoist Tai Chi Society™ Internal Arts and Methods are currently held at the YMCA Fitness Center and the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany Parish Hall. At the Y, classes are offered Thursdays at 1 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. At the church, classes are offered Mondays at 9 a.m. and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Anyone interested in joining a class is welcome to join any time. Tai Chi is an ancient Chinese exercise that promotes health and relaxation. It is suitable for all ages and physical conditions. Comfortable, loose clothing and flat-soled shoes are recommended attire for these classes. All classes are taught by accredited volunteer instructors. For more information, call 334-588-0512. For more information about Taoist Tai Chi, visit <http://www.taoist.org/usa/locations/montgomery/>.

## 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

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

**ONGOING** — Every Thursday at 5:30 p.m., yoga with Sandra Bittman is at Perry Recreation Center for \$5 a person.

## 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.

## WIREFLIER AREA

**ONGOING** — A German coffee takes place the last Thursday of every month except November at 10 a.m. at The Landing on Fort Rucker. The group has been meeting for more than 40 years.

**ONGOING** — The Marine Corps League, Wiregrass Det. 752, welcomes all Marines, Navy corpsmen and chaplains, and their families, to its monthly meetings. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Attendees are welcome to arrive early for food

## Beyond Briefs

### 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](http://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/](http://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/](http://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. 18 at 3 and 8 p.m., Feb. 22 at 3 p.m. and 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/>.

### Mardi Gras in Mobile

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, dou-

bloons and candy.

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

### ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’

Prattville’s Way Off Broadway Theatre announces its production of Harper Lee’s “To Kill a Mockingbird,” adapted by Christopher Sergel, which will be produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois, now-Feb. 26. It will show Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m., and Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call 334-595-0854 or visit [wobt.prattvilleal.gov](http://wobt.prattvilleal.gov).

### Orchid Show and Sale

Bellingrath Gardens and the Home for the Mobile Area Orchid Society will host their 40th annual Orchid Show and Sale Feb. 17-19 from noon to 5 p.m. at the gardens in Theodore. Mobile Area Orchid Society members will display their best orchids, and will be available to answer questions and provide tips on growing and caring for these exotic plants. There will be vendors selling orchids, supplies and accessories. Admission into the show is free of charge, but guests are encouraged to tour the gardens and home.

For more information, visit <https://bellingrath.org/>.

# VIRTUAL REALITY

*Soldiers in Poland attend Super Bowl in VR, surprised by loved ones*

By Capt. Scott Walters  
For Army News Service

CAMP KARLIKI, Poland – As Spc. Erik Guerrero stepped into the giant virtual reality pod inside a quiet tank maintenance bay 50 yards away from where a raucous Super Bowl party was going on, he had no idea what to expect.

What he found inside was more than just an immersive virtual reality experience that simulated attending the big game. It was an unexpected family memory of a lifetime – because, even though he sat in a chair in Poland, he was sharing a row with his family at the big game in Houston.

In his chair, Guerrero was surrounded by 360 degrees of giant screens. The lights went dark for 30 seconds. Then, as the screens lit up, he found himself staring down at the game from a luxury box at NRG Stadium. Yet as he turned to his side, an even better view awaited him.

“I thought it was going to be a pretty cool Super Bowl virtual-reality experience, like I’m there,” recalled Guerrero, an M1 armor crewman with C Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment. “But as soon as I saw my wife, Dannielle, my son, Liam, and my parents to my side, I just broke down in tears.

“I was asking the camera guy, ‘Can they see me? Can they hear me?’” he added. “It was one of the best experiences of my life.”

Along with Guerrero, two other Soldiers from the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, also took virtual trips in separate pods. All were surprised to find their family members at the game courtesy of Hyundai, which filmed the unexpected reunions for a 90-second advertisement honoring service members deployed overseas.

The 3rd ABCT from Fort Carson, Colorado, is deployed to Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve as the first heavy brigade to kick off continuous “heel to toe” nine-month rotations for armored brigades to central and eastern Europe.

Cpl. Trista Strauch, an Abrams tank system maintainer, also with C Co., was shocked to find her husband, Joseph, three children and brother, Kane, at the Super Bowl.

“I was just overwhelmed with emotion. I definitely cried,” she said. “I was just really excited to see them. This is something we’ve never experienced before, and I’m super excited they get to be there for it.”

The ad aired on Fox immediately following the New England Patriots’ dramatic come-from-behind win over the Atlanta Falcons in overtime of Super Bowl LI. A day after the game, another 5 million people had watched it on YouTube.

For Sgt. Richard Morrill, a mechanized infantryman with 1-8th Infantry Regiment, the VR experience was an unexpected chance to see his wife, Emily, and 4-year-old daughter Hadley. He said it felt like he could almost reach out and touch them.

“I got to talk them about what’s happening over here, what’s happening at home and how their experience was getting down to the Super Bowl,” Morrill said. “It’s unreal. Me and my wife have been talking about getting tickets for two years now, and she got them to the biggest game of the year.”

The virtual reunion experience was filmed during the first half of the game.



PHOTOS BY CAPT. SCOTT WALTERS

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, stand at attention as the national anthem for Super Bowl LI plays on a giant screen during a viewing party at Camp Karliki, Zagan, Poland, Feb. 6.



Three virtual-reality pods were used to immerse Soldiers into a total Super Bowl experience.

The production team from FILM45 then quickly transformed the footage during the second half into the commercial directed by Peter Berg, whose movie credits include “Lone Survivor” and “Friday Night Lights.”

The production company also filmed scenes for the commercial in the adjacent maintenance bay at the Polish Camp Karliki, where hundreds of Soldiers from 1-8th Inf. Regt. watched the Super Bowl at a viewing party fully catered by Hyundai. Many Soldiers watched the game projected on a big screen from atop their tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

Lt. Col. Jason Sabat, 1-8th Inf. Regt. battalion commander, said that in his 25 years of service, he had never seen anything like it.

“It’s hard for me to put into words what I’m seeing right now, but there’s been absolutely no expense spared,” Sabat said. “These Soldiers are truly experiencing the Super Bowl like never before, probably better than what they would be experiencing back home, so it’s just an awesome event.”

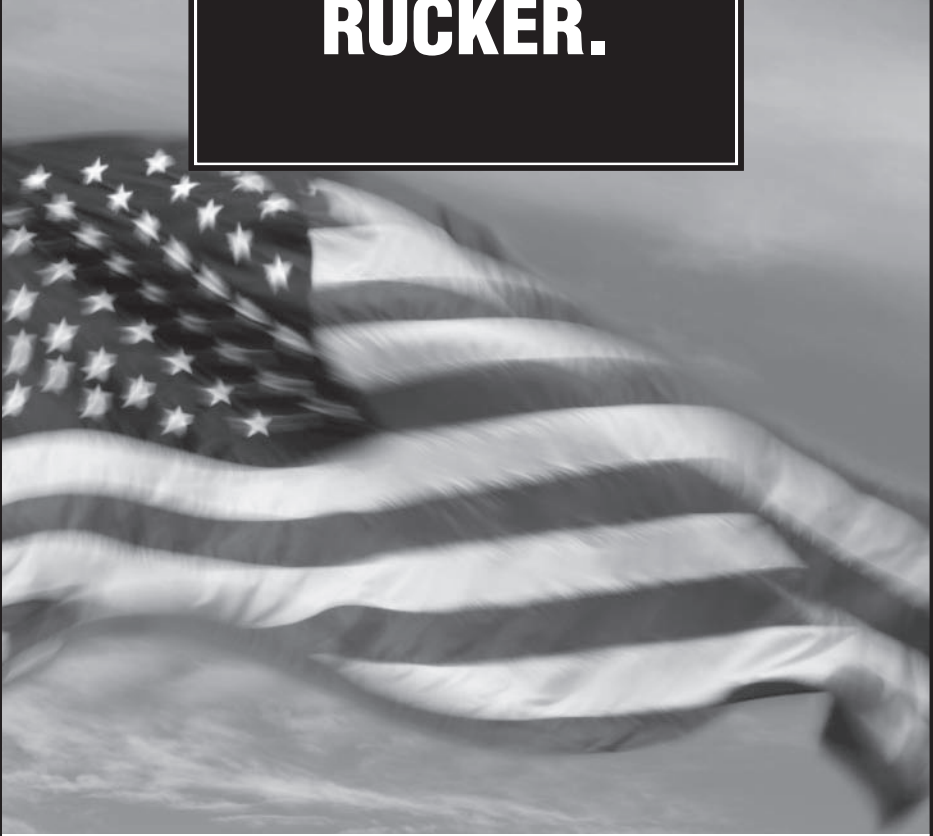
Following the game, many of the Soldiers moved straight to a nearby railhead to begin loading their tanks and other support vehicles onto trains bound for Romania and Bulgaria.

Guerrero was already looking forward to the next surprises he may encounter during a deployment that calls upon the Iron Brigade to serve as a deterrent against aggression in eight countries.

“I’m just looking forward to wher-

ever they take me to and experience a whole new country,” Guerrero said. “We worked alongside Polish tankers during a live-fire exhibition, so I hope I get to work alongside Romanian tankers to see what they do.”

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Soldiers watch the Super Bowl as a film crew from production company FILM45 captures images of them.

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Post Religious Services

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

Headquarters Chapel, Bldg. 109

8 a.m. Traditional Protestant Service

Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 8940

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

Wings Chapel, Bldg. 6036

9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Latter-Day Saints  
10:45 a.m. Wings Crossroads (Contemporary Worship Protestant Service)  
11 p.m. Eckankar Study (4th Sunday)

Spiritual Life Center, Bldg. 8939

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

BIBLE STUDIES TUESDAYS

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

Protestant Women of the Chapel  
Wings 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.

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Spiritual Formation Class  
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# FEATS OF STRENGTH

## *Fitness program rewards progress*

By Jeremy Henderson  
 Army Flier Staff Writer

Plateaus are expected with any fitness journey, but Fort Rucker's fitness training staff hopes a new rewards program can help patrons break down barriers and reach new fitness heights.

"The Fort Rucker Lifting Club is a rewards program for participants as they train towards certain weight goals and milestones by tracking their improvements in certain lifts from resistance training," Zea Urbiztondo, fitness program specialist, said. "There are two programs within the Lifting Club, each with their own exercises and milestones to track.

"Barbell Benders incorporates the traditional powerlifting movements – back squat, flat bench press and deadlift," she added. "Weights & Plates incorporates Olympic Weightlifting movements – the clean and jerk, and the snatch."

According to Urbiztondo, milestones are reached once the cumulative total of all lifts in each program is performed within the same day.

Progress is tracked with binders located at the front desk of both the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center, Bldg. 4605 on Andrews Avenue, and at the Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center, Bldg. 5900 on Skychief. Each binder has designated forms that an individual can use to track their progress through each program's lifts. Tracking is done by the individual on an honor-based system and can be done at either facility. Participants with forms at both facilities will be consolidated periodically, she said.

"I designed the Lifting Club as a program for people to get excited about weightlifting, and to help give participants strength-based goals as opposed to just coming into the gym and lifting without purpose," Urbiztondo said. "There are already established tracking programs for running, walking and swimming, but there was nothing that catered to the people who preferred resistance training.

"Ever since the functional fitness area opened a year ago, the amount of people who have included both powerlifting and Olympic weightlifting into their workout



PHOTO BY JEREMY HENDERSON

WD1 Alex Hanson, B Co., 1-145th Avn. Regt., performs a clean.

program has drastically increased," she added. "It is always rewarding to see someone hit a personal record while lifting, so I wanted to establish a program to continue that excitement."

The club can help both seasoned fitness enthusiasts and participants with newly-adopted fitness routines, according to Urbiztondo.

"By participating in the Lifting Club, you can surround yourself with like-minded people who are all striving for a certain strength goal," she said. "The fitness community is about building each other up and supporting each other towards their fitness and health goals. You can learn something new, and surprise yourself with strength and abilities you might have never known

you could achieve."

And for participants who are new to weight training or fitness in general?

"Best tip I can offer to someone new to fitness or weight training is to ask for help from a trained professional," Urbiztondo said. "Learn the movements first, and practice good form and technique. Establish good lifting habits before trying to lift heavy. Strength will come, but bad technique breeds injury and bad habits.

"The Lifting Club can benefit individuals regardless of fitness levels by not only introducing something new to them if they have never done weight training before, but can also help give them a little bit of a competitive edge if you need some motivation," she added. "For those who have

been weightlifting already as part of their workout regimen, then the Lifting Club can help give them a push to work towards that next milestone in the program."

Urbiztondo added that adopting a resistance training regimen has numerous benefits.

"From a performance perspective, resistance training helps build muscular strength and endurance, as well as increase power production," she said. "Body fat percentages decrease and a general overall increased level of fitness and health can be achieved."

For more information, call 255-2296 or 255-3794 or visit <http://rucker.armymwr.com/us/rucker/programs/fitness-centers>.

# GOOD TO GO

## *FDA clears device designed to save lives on battlefield*

By Steven Galvan  
 U.S. Army Institute  
 of Surgical Research  
 Public Affairs

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — The ability to measure the body's capacity to compensate for blood loss, also known as the compensatory reserve, has been the focus of researchers at the Army Institute of Surgical Research at Fort Sam Houston.

Hemorrhagic shock from blood loss is the leading cause of death in trauma patients. Traditional methods of taking vital signs cannot detect when a patient is on the verge of crashing or going into hemorrhagic shock and potentially dying from blood loss.

So USAISR researchers have been collaborating with scientists and engineers at the University of Colorado and Flashback Technologies, Inc., to develop an algorithm, the Compensatory Reserve Index, to detect when a patient is going into hemorrhagic shock.

The tiny device is the first medical monitoring technology capable of providing early detection of impending circulatory shock in trauma patients. The device received clearance from the Food and Drug Administration in December for use in pre-hospital and hospital settings.

"Our research has revealed that the measurement of the compensatory reserve is the single most important indicator for early and accurate assessment of imminent shock," said Dr. Victor Convertino, USAISR senior scientist for the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command



PHOTO BY STEVEN GALVAN

Dr. Victor Convertino, U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research senior scientist, demonstrates the functions and capabilities of the Compensatory Reserve Index to Maj. Gen. Barbara Holcomb, commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

Combat Casualty Care Research Program, which funded the research.

The compensatory reserve, he explained, "represents the body's ability to adjust for the threat of inadequate oxygen in the tissues due to blood loss."

The CRI uses an algorithm to take information from a standard pulse oximeter placed on the finger of a patient and gauges whether a patient requires resuscitation or immediate medical attention.

Equipped with a gauge similar to a fuel gauge in a motor vehicle, the device detects when a patient is in danger of crashing or going into hemorrhagic shock. The technology is designed to assist medics without much experience working in the battlefield to care for wounded warriors who require immediate medical attention.

Convertino called the FDA clearance a significant milestone.

"[The clearance] paves the way for fielding a compensatory reserve measurement device to give combat medics on the battlefield a tool to predict hemorrhagic shock, as well as emergency medical technicians in civilian medical settings," he said.

"The ability to measure the compensatory reserve continuously and in real time," he added, "will revolutionize medical monitoring from early diagnosis of the trajectory toward shock to accurately guiding fluid resuscitation or providing feedback of intervention effectiveness."

Convertino and his team were able to use the compensatory reserve algorithm to learn from an individual's own arterial waveform

SEE CLEAR, PAGE D3



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. JAMAL SUTTER

# Screen time impacts dream time

Human Performance Resource Center  
 Staff Report

WASHINGTON — Time spent with smartphones, tablets, and computers can impact your ability to get healthy sleep.

The primary culprit is exposure to blue light that's emitted from all electronic devices. Using them at night can disrupt your natural circadian rhythm and suppress the secretion of melatonin, a powerful sleep hormone. When your eyes are exposed to artificial light, you might feel more awake when you should be getting ready to wind down.

Try these tips to minimize the impact of blue light.

- Set a "Two-hour" rule. Turn off handheld devices and televisions at least two hours before bedtime. And dim the lights at home. Try to avoid lying in bed and scrolling social media and email before bedtime, too. If you happen to read something stress-inducing or upsetting, your day might end on a negative note. Try reading a book, journaling, or reflecting on something you feel grateful for instead.

SEE DREAM, PAGE D3

# DOWN TIME



## Super Crossword THE BROOKLYN SOUND

- ACROSS**
- 1 "The Georgia Peach" of baseball  
7 Black Sea seaport  
13 Indy 500 tire changers  
20 Neat and trim  
21 Raleigh's neighbor city  
22 Lift forcibly  
23 Egyptian river's condition?  
25 "Howards End" novelist  
26 — la Douce (1963 title role)  
27 How complex a story is?  
29 Knighted Guinness  
32 Prefix similar to equi-  
34 Maya Angelou's "And Still —"  
35 When designer Calvin was most popular?  
41 Band worn by Miss USA  
45 Chalet shape, often  
46 Piece's pace
- 47 Robust  
49 Cherry part  
50 What a bowler analyzes for a second roll?  
54 Medit. nation  
55 Steed steerers  
57 Safari noises  
58 Hopper, e.g.  
59 Some Greek letters  
60 Decide on  
63 Met queen  
64 Bureau overseeing a boundary barrier?  
70 Inferior — cava  
71 Virgil hero  
72 Apollo's gp.  
73 "— changed man!"  
74 Many a yogi  
76 Abrupt  
78 Cellphone game, often  
81 What an angler may bring up for discussion?  
86 Mac maker  
88 Hollywood's Dahl  
89 Precise  
90 86-Across music player  
91 Thing to sow
- 92 TV shopping channel that sells chairs?  
96 Sluggish sort  
98 Penpoint  
99 Give cheek roll?  
100 Woe for someone who's been walking all day long?  
108 Hardly hard  
110 Sicilian port next to Mount Etna  
111 Inscriptions on a penny?  
116 Like deductive reasoning  
117 Minute Maid Park's team  
118 Knight who had Pips  
119 Request a new supply of  
120 Wind sound  
121 Consumes completely
- DOWN**
- 1 Six-pt. plays  
2 Sun — -sen  
3 Tax pro  
4 Eye care worker  
5 Ballpark brew  
6 Trite saying  
7 Quirky
- 8 Face-off  
9 Ocean eagle  
10 Hood's knife  
11 Store draw  
12 2001 Audrey Tautou film  
13 Black-and-white seabird  
14 86-Across music players  
15 Six halved  
16 "— la viel!"  
17 — -tat-tat  
18 Risk-taking Kniesel  
19 Lived  
24 Burkina —  
28 "... — quit!"  
29 Take — (turn down the offer)  
30 One not right-handed  
31 Misprint, e.g.  
33 Habitually  
36 Capo's code of silence  
37 Amounts added to bank accts.  
38 First-aid pro  
39 Non-U.S. speed-limit abbr.  
40 — Alamos  
41 Drain away  
42 Language of Yemen  
43 Endeavor
- 44 Serengeti laughter  
47 That lady  
48 Curvy letter  
50 Remote  
51 Carl who composed "O Fortuna"  
52 See 104-Down  
53 Be too fearful to  
56 Anvil's organ  
59 Clean air gp.  
60 Unified  
61 Educ. group  
62 How- — (DIY books)  
63 Genetic ID  
64 Bashful  
65 Activate  
66 The Beatles' "Love —"  
67 Ample, informally  
68 Remote  
69 Will topic  
70 Entry permits  
74 Cackler  
75 H<sub>2</sub>O at 31 degrees F  
76 Santa's bag  
77 Discover  
78 Sleep clinic concern  
79 Entreaties  
80 Raid targets  
82 TV's Pa Clampett  
83 Dawn drops  
84 Outer: Prefix
- 85 Gin joint  
87 Tabby  
90 Company pin-on  
92 "Hey, that's cheating!"  
93 LAX guess  
94 Felons run afoul of it  
95 Feudal domain  
96 Assembly of ecclesiastics  
97 Nantes' river  
100 Dollar Rent —  
101 Be wide open  
102 Other, in Spanish  
103 Hair removal brand  
104 With 52-Down, flakes sprinkled into an aquarium  
105 Opposite of 84-Down  
106 Architect Saarinen  
107 General — chicken  
109 TV's Ward  
112 —Kosh B'Gosh  
113 Mag staff  
114 Manhattan sch.  
115 Cooking qty.

## TRIVIA

1. GEOGRAPHY: What are residents of Guam called?
2. GEOLOGY: What kind of mineral produces an emerald?
3. MUSIC: Who is godfather to John Lennon's son Sean?
4. ZODIAC: What is the symbol for the zodiac sign Sagittarius?
5. ANATOMY: What does the "superior vena cavae" do in the human body?
6. U.S. GOVERNMENT: Who was the first vice president of the United States?
7. FOOD & DRINK: What vegetable gives borscht its color?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What fraternal organization's motto is "We Serve"?
9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the Christmas novel, "The Cricket on the Hearth"?
10. EXPLORERS: Which explorer was nicknamed "The Pathfinder" for mapping the Oregon Trail?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦**

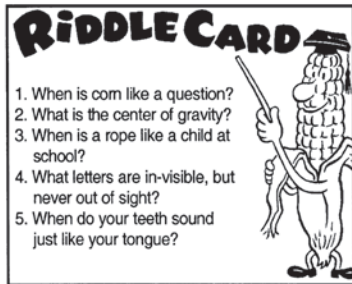
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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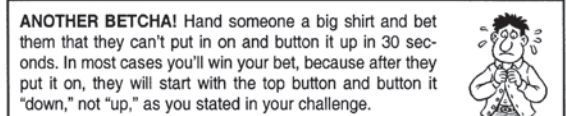
See Page D3 for this week's answers.

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

# KID'S CORNER



Answers: 1. When you are popping it. 2. The letter V. 3. When it is taught (taut). 4. I and S. 5. When they chatter.



**LINK-UPS!** Here's a list of 12 short words divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

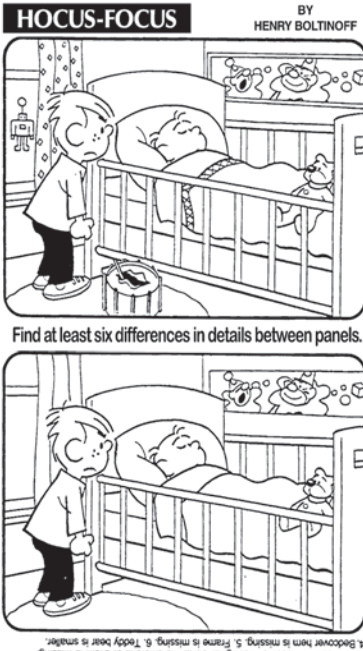
1. ACT  
2. DUE  
3. WALL  
4. BAN  
5. ERR  
6. LON  
7. LED  
8. TON  
9. CALL  
10. ALLE

1. A type of drum.  
2. A spirited horse.  
3. A type of beard.  
4. A military snack bar.  
5. He didn't ask to go.  
6. A large aquatic mammal.  
7. Witty conversation.  
8. Found in the mouth.  
9. A string puller.

Answers: 1. Sheet. 2. Sheet. 3. Sheet. 4. Sheet. 5. Sheet. 6. Sheet. 7. Sheet. 8. Sheet. 9. Sheet.



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# MEDICAL MIRACLE

## Army surgeons perform groundbreaking arm replant

By **Lori Newman**  
*Brooke Army Medical Center  
Public Affairs*

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Brooke Army Medical Center surgeons performed their first above-the-elbow arm replant on a 22-year-old trauma patient last year and, almost 10 months later, the patient is thriving.

Kelsey Ward’s right arm was severed when a guardrail pierced the passenger-side window of her SUV in a car wreck. San Antonio firefighters administered a life-saving tourniquet and were fortunate enough to find her arm in the wreckage. They packed it in ice and brought it to BAMC — one of two Level I Trauma Centers in San Antonio.

April 20, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Joseph Alderete, chief of surgical oncology, was the trauma surgeon on-call when Ward was brought to the emergency department.

“Most of the time, when someone has a limb amputated in the field the odds of replantation are minimal because the limb is crushed and not viable for replantation,” Alderete said, noting the likelihood of success for nerve regeneration decreases the higher the amputation.

“The first responders were extremely smart in making sure she didn’t bleed out and that they put the limb on ice as fast as they could,” he said.

Once he realized the arm was viable, a surgical team that included Alderete, two vascular surgeons, a hand surgeon, a back-up hand surgeon on-call and a plastic surgeon, quickly mobilized. The surgeons were able to reconnect Ward’s ulnar nerve, but her median and radial nerves had to be grafted. They took skin from one of her legs and a vein from the other to splice together the two nerves and muscle from her back to reshape her arm.



PHOTO BY LORI NEWMAN

**Christopher Ebner, occupational therapist, exercises Kelsey Ward’s arm Jan. 20 at the Center for the Intrepid, Brooke Army Medical Center, Texas.**

“The data we have found shows only 82 above elbow replantations have been performed around the world since the first case was reported in the 1960s,” Alderete said.

“I don’t remember too much about the wreck,” Ward, a San Antonio native, said. “But I do remember waking up and them telling me my arm was cut off in the accident. Then they told me they reattached it and I thought, ‘Wow!’”

“Looking at her tissue and making that decision, it was an amazing opportunity to give Kelsey her arm back and probably her life back,” Alderete said. “For the first 10 hours of surgery, we were all working on her at once. This was truly a team effort.

“Reliable nerve grafting without harvesting a nerve from the leg has only recently become a reality in the last 10 years,” he explained. “From Kelsey’s case, we are learning a great deal about what is possible with nerve grafting.”

These types of trauma cases are vital to military readiness, Alderete said. “They prepare us for the complex injuries military providers will see as they continue to deploy to combat zones throughout the world.”

Once Ward recovered from her surger-

ies, she began her rehabilitation five days a week at the Center for the Intrepid. Alderete is also the medical director at the CFI so he continues to see Ward regularly to track her progress. Christopher Ebner is her occupational therapist.

“I vividly remember the first day the director came up to the OT clinic and briefed me on her case,” Ebner said. “I didn’t know what to expect, so I dived into the literature to see what had been done from a rehab standpoint.

“Rehab is being creative and thinking outside the box,” Ebner said. He started using some of the same equipment they use on amputees to see what was happening below the skin. About three month into Ward’s rehab, Ebner was able to detect slight muscle movement in her elbow, which was much sooner than he had anticipated.

“From that day forward, we were constantly thinking two steps ahead about what was next,” he said.

As Ward’s nerves continue to recover, Ebner is focusing on strengthening and keeping her joint motion as supple as possible in her right arm, and helping her improve her dexterity in her left hand and arm. The use of a myoelectric orthotic device has also helped Ward gain more function with her right arm and hand.

“She has done fairly well in adapting to things and learning new strategies,” Ebner said.

“[The rehab] is the hardest, most difficult, most exhausting thing I have ever had to do, but I want my kids to know that there is nothing in this world that they are not capable of doing,” the young mother of a 4-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son said.

Ward credits the support of her children, her grandmother and her boyfriend for helping her get through the long, grueling

healing process.

“As a direct result of Kelsey’s dedication coming to rehab for the last nine and half months and working prolifically on her home exercises, she is in a good spot right now to have a good opportunity later on for those nerves to recover,” Ebner said. “We don’t know what her recovery is going to look like a year or two down the road. Time will tell.”

Ebner conducts several diagnostic tests regularly to monitor her progress and help anticipate what her recovery will be.

“We know that nerves typically recover their function about a millimeter a day, about a centimeter a month, but that varies a lot on the terms of the repair,” Ebner said. “Grafted nerves typically take longer.

“Kelsey’s progress thus far and the gains that she has made have surpassed the vast majority of cases that have been documented in the literature in terms of recovery,” the OT said. “I’m extremely optimistic about her case because she has surpassed every goal and objective that we have set in front of her.”

Ward said she is thankful she is able to continue her rehabilitation at the CFI. “They are like my family – I share my life with them.”

Ebner said from an occupational therapy standpoint they are learning a great deal from Ward’s recovery process.

“She has taught us so much about medical recovery post-replant,” he said. “In the military and our medical environment here, we have a lot to learn from her case.”

Ward tearfully admits there were times when she inwardly didn’t think she could make it through, but today she is proud of how far she has come.

“It has made me more confident, it has made me happier, it has made me in all aspects a better person,” she said.

## Clear

*Continued from Page D1*

how the body is using its compensatory mechanisms. The research team learned that waveforms obtained from a simple pulse oximeter that is carried by combat medics could be used to generate a compensatory reserve measurement device.

“With newly advanced computer technologies, we now have the capability to measure features of each arterial waveform that reflect the sum of all mechanisms of compensation that affect the heart [ejected wave] and the arteries [reflected wave],” Convertino explained.

With analysis of each arterial waveform, the algorithm becomes more accurate in predicting the body’s ability to

protect itself from inadequate tissue oxygenation (shock).

“The compensatory reserve measurement device will be important for triage because of stressful battlefield conditions,” Convertino said. “There’s lots of noise, lots of adrenaline and not much equipment, which can make diagnosis especially hard for medics on the battlefield. This device will help medics save lives on the battlefield.”

## Dream

*Continued from Page D1*

- Block the blue. If you can’t avoid electronic devices before bed, some tools can help offset blue-light exposure. Many mobile devices come equipped with blue-light

reducing functions already installed. You also can purchase blue-light blocking glasses with amber lenses. Or download software that adjusts the light on your screen, depending on the time of day and your location.

- Use light wisely. Not all light exposure is bad. Head outside into real sunlight, especially when it’s early, so you can sleep better at night. Leverage blue-light exposure appropriately during the day, if possible. It can boost

your energy and readiness, increase alertness, and enhance cognitive function and mood.

Screens and devices are unavoidable – they’re often an important part of daily life. Understanding their effects on sleep

can help you choose how and when to make best use of technology.

To learn more about blue-light exposure, visit [http://www.dcoe.mil/blog/16-11-03/Manage\\_Your\\_Screens\\_for\\_Sweeter\\_Dreams.aspx](http://www.dcoe.mil/blog/16-11-03/Manage_Your_Screens_for_Sweeter_Dreams.aspx).

## FORT RUCKER SPORTS BRIEFS

### Start Smart Baseball Registration

Start Smart Baseball registration runs now through Feb. 28. The National Alliance for Youth Sports and Fort Rucker Youth Sports will host the six-session instructional program that helps children learn the basics of baseball: throwing, catching, batting, and running and agility. The program helps prepare children for organized baseball using safe and fun equipment to teach them the basic motor skills, according to organizers. Start Smart Baseball is open to children 3-4 years old and requires parent participation. The program will meet Mondays and Wednesdays for three weeks, starting March 6, from 5-5:45 p.m. on the outfield of Baseball Field 2. Cost is \$20 per participant and includes a T-shirt. There will be a parents meeting March 1 at 6 p.m. in

the youth center gym, Bldg. 2800.

To register visit parent central services, call 255-9638 or use Webtrac. For more information, call 255-2254 or 255-2257.

### SKIES Swim Lessons

SKIES will offer swim lessons for youth now through May at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center indoor pool. Enrollment opens on the 15th of each month. There must be three students enrolled to conduct and continue a class. Students must re-enroll each month. Classes are subject to change. Swim schedules are available. Private classes are designed for those that may need a one-on-one approach in instruction.

For more information or to sign up, visit [www.webtrac.mwr.army.mil](http://www.webtrac.mwr.army.mil) or call 255-1867.

### ATV trail ride

Fort Rucker Outdoor Recreation will host an ATV and dirt bike trail ride Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$20 and pre-registration is required. Drivers must pass the safety driving test through ODR before participating. Participants must provide their own ATV or dirt bike, and also provide their own protective gear, including helmets, boots, etc., that must be worn at all times. The event is open to the public, ages 16 and up.

For more information, call 255-4305.

### Youth T-ball, baseball, softball registration

Registration for youth T-ball, baseball and softball runs now through Friday. Registration can be done at parent central services or online using WebT-

rac. The teams will be broken down into age groups: T-ball, co-ed ages 5-6 years; coach/machine pitch, co-ed ages 7-8 years; Dixie Minor, co-ed ages 9-10 years; Dixie Ozone, co-ed ages 11-12 years; Dixie Angels, girls ages 9-10 years; Dixie Ponytails, girls ages 11-12 years; and Dixie Belles, girls ages 13-15 years. T-ball fees are \$25, and the fees for baseball and softball are \$45. A current sports physical and valid child and youth services membership are required for registration and participation. The age control date is Jan. 1 for softball and May 1 for baseball. A parents meeting will take place Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the youth center, located on Seventh Avenue in Bldg. 2800. Coaches are needed.

For more information, call 255-0950.

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

### Super Crossword

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

### Weekly SUDOKU

#### Answer

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

## TRIVIA

#### Answers

1. Guamanians
2. Beryl
3. Elton John
4. The archer
5. Carries blood from the upper body to the heart
6. John Adams
7. Beet
8. Lions Clubs
9. Charles Dickens
10. John Fremont



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