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ARMY FLYER

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

VOL. 67 ■ NO. 19

FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

MAY 11, 2017

ABOVE THE BEST

USAAACE announces Best Warriors for 2017

By Kelly P. Morris
U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence announced its best warriors during a ceremony May 5, on the heels of an intense three-day contest of mental and physical strength at Fort Rucker.

The annual ceremony held in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum recognized the USAAACE Non-commissioned Officer, Advanced Individual Training (AIT) Platoon Sergeant and Soldier of the Year.

The 2017 USAAACE Non-commissioned Officer of the Year is Staff Sgt. Mathew Johnson, an aircraft powertrain mechanic with C Co., 2-210th Aviation Regt., 128th Aviation Brigade, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

The 2017 USAAACE Advanced Individual Training (AIT) Platoon Sergeant of the Year is Staff Sgt. Brittany Barfield, an AIT

platoon sergeant with D Co., 1-222nd Aviation Regt., 128th Aviation Brigade, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

The 2017 USAAACE Soldier of the Year is Spc. Michael Nixon, an instructor for the Basic Officer Leadership Course, D Co., 1-145th Aviation Regt., 1st Aviation Brigade, Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Command Sgt. Major Gregory M. Chambers, Command Sergeant Major of the Aviation Branch in his remarks said competition improves organizations and contributes to victory on the battlefield.

“As we support and defend our nation, competitive Soldiers are what wins battles,” Chambers said.

“What we need more in today’s Army is people who are willing to get outside their comfort zone and go above and beyond to make themselves better,” Chambers said.

The only way to do that is to “give something up”, and these Soldiers gave up personal time to study, do more physical train-



PHOTO BY KELLY P. MORRIS

Command Sgt. Major Gregory M. Chambers, Command Sergeant Major of the Aviation Branch presents awards to the recipients of the 2017 U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence Non-commissioned Officer, Advanced Individual Training (AIT) Platoon Sergeant and Soldier of the Year in a ceremony at the US Army Aviation Museum May 5. From left to right, the awardees are: Staff Sgt. Mathew Johnson, Staff Sgt. Brittany Barfield, and Spc. Michael Nixon.

ing, and learn to break down a weapon and put it back together blindfolded, he said.

“We have nine individuals who took the time and made themselves better. In making yourselves better, you made your units and your organizations better,” he said.

Chambers called on participants to go

back home and inspire competitiveness in their peers.

The ceremony included a video presentation that showcased the events of the competition as Soldiers were put to the test

SEE BEST WARRIORS, PAGE A7



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Shenglan Shi and Qiqi Liu, both of the Troy University Confucius Institute, perform a traditional fan dance during the Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month kickoff ceremony at the post exchange Friday.

Fort Rucker celebrates Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

As sounds of the Far East filled the ears of shoppers and lunch goers, people also got a taste of cultural diversity during and observance to celebrate the differences that make the nation stronger.

Fort Rucker kicked off Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month with a celebration at the post exchange Friday that included food, dancing and a bit of educational enlightenment on why diversity is important in today’s Army, according to Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Castillo, 110th Aviation Brigade equal op-

portunity adviser.

“[Asian American and Pacific Islander cultures’] rich heritage continues to span the world in the depths of American history,” said the EO adviser during the kickoff. “Generation after generation, [they]

SEE HERITAGE, PAGE A7

Local Soldier to attend national Memorial Day event

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Memorial Day is a day when people from across the U.S. remember those who died in service to the nation, but for one Fort Rucker Soldier, the day is an opportunity to not only honor that sacrifice, but to apologize, as well, as he embarks on an unforgettable journey.

Spc. Joshua Moore, 1st Battalion, 212th Aviation Regiment, was selected as

one of five Soldiers from the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Army-wide program to get the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., for the 2017 Memorial Day observance at Arlington National Cemetery.

Moore, who works as an Aviation operations specialist for the 1-212th Avn. Regt., was selected after being nominated, and submitting packets and letters

SEE SOLDIER, PAGE A7



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Spc. Joshua Moore, 1-212th Avn. Regt., enjoys a game of pool at the BOSS building. Moore was selected as one of five Soldiers to attend the 2017 Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Lt. Col. Cal C. Nix, 1st Bn., 212th Avn. Regt. commander, receives the unit colors from Col. Kelly E. Hines, 110th Avn. Bde. commander, as he assumes command from Lt. Col. Ross F. Nelson, outgoing commander, during a change of command ceremony on Howze Field Friday.

1-212th Avn. Regt. welcomes new commander

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 212th Aviation Regiment welcomed a new commander while bidding farewell to their former commander during a change of command ceremony on Howze Field Friday.

Lt. Col. Cal C. Nix assumed command from Lt. Col. Ross F. Nelson as the unit colors passed from the outgoing commander to Col. Kelly E. Hines, 110th Aviation Brigade commander, to the new commander.

Hines spoke during the ceremony of the achievements of the battalion and the importance leadership plays in the unit’s success.

“I commanded a battalion in [U.S. Army Forces Command], and I’ve got to tell you, the 1-212th daily mission is far more complex and its success or failure has far more strategic impact than any assault battalion in the Army,” said the brigade commander. “When I found out [Nelson] was going to be commanding the 1-212th [two years ago] while I commanded the 110th, I couldn’t have been more pleased.

“Losing a great command team is always a hard pill to swallow, but as always the Army has got it right with the next team,” he continued. “To Cal Nix and his wife, Joycelyn, I know you’re both ready for this, and I know you’re very excited and you’re going to do great. I know you’re going to take the 1-212th to even greater heights, so welcome aboard.”

SEE 1-212TH, PAGE A7

PERSPECTIVE

BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

Normalizing mental health starts with you

By Col. Michael Place
Commander, Madigan Army Medical Center

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — For the past several years, we, as a military, have been encouraging service members to optimize their mental health.

We know that mental health is just as important as physical health to service members’ overall wellbeing, readiness and performance downrange, and because of this we want more service members to proactively use mental health services.

But how do we get after truly lowering the traces of stigma about mental health that still linger in our military culture? The answer, quite simply, is for you to participate directly in this shift, and that starts with checking your own attitudes and thoughts about mental health.

Are you comfortable with thinking about mental health, talking about it, addressing your own mental health needs or encouraging others to get help? And what do you do if the answer to any of these is no?

With nearly 20 percent of Americans experiencing mental illness in any given year, chances are that you know somebody who is living with a mental health illness. Studies show, however, that even family members of people with mental health conditions can still espouse stigmas which can show up as avoidance, gossip, distrust or even pity.

So, the question is, what can you personally do to change how we as a military culture think about mental health? You



ARMY PHOTO

can start by examining your own thoughts about mental health and mental illnesses – don’t be too quick to judge yourself if some of those thoughts are negative, since they most likely reflect how society views mental health conditions. Once you realize that you may have stigmatizing thoughts about mental health, then you can start replacing them with the realization that mental health is a part of all of our lives and that we all will experience mental health stress, injuries or illnesses at some point. It’s a part of our makeup as human beings.

Next, think about how you talk about

mental health, and most especially how you talk to people who are experiencing depression, anxiety, stress, grief or emotional trauma.

Are you open to listening to them in a nonjudgmental way? Do you encourage them to get help when needed? When you happen to talk about mental health in everyday conversations, would listeners assume that you are understanding and supportive of mental health treatment?

Simply letting it be known that you’re supportive of mental health in general may encourage more people – subordinates, peers or even family members – to open

up to you.

You can also help normalize mental health by talking more about it and comparing good mental health with good physical health. If someone has a knee injury, they might get surgery followed by physical therapy – we try to avoid stress injuries to begin with through regular physical training.

If someone is depressed, they may get prescribed an antidepressant along with regular counseling. Units can also offer regular mental health training by pairing up with their embedded behavioral health providers to learn how to decrease risk factors for mental health conditions.

When we’re just as comfortable talking about mental health as we are talking about physical health, and when we’re just as comfortable going to a behavioral health therapist as we are to a physical therapist, then we’ll know that we’ve turned around our military and American cultures about mental health. Until then, I invite you to be a part of this change.

For mental health help, active duty service members can contact their embedded behavioral health teams, while other patients can ask their primary care managers for referrals to behavioral health.

If you are thinking about harming yourself, please call the 24/7 hotline National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-TALK.

You can also call Military OneSource at 800-342-9647 for information on resources such as non-medical counseling and peer support.

Rotor Wash

“Mother’s Day is Sunday. What are some ways you can show mothers that they’re appreciated?”



Heather Brown,
military spouse

“Leave her alone. When you’re a mom, you spend every minute of every day focusing on your kids, your family and your job. If you’re going to have a day about yourself, you should be able to relax and do whatever you want with no guilt.”



CW2 Steven Umetsu,
C Co., 1st Bn.,
14th Avn. Regt.

“Buy them some chocolate.”



Kjerstin Lifto,
military spouse

“Mothers should be honored every day. I’d rather have my kids do small things for me every day or once a week.”



Keisha Mitchell,
military spouse

“Just take that day to let the mothers do absolutely nothing and someone else do everything.”



Diana Boelk,
military spouse

“Give them the day off.”

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

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ACE suicide intervention

Ask your buddy

- Have the courage to ask the question, but stay calm.
- Ask the question directly. For example, “Are you thinking of killing yourself?”

Care for your buddy

- Remove any means that could be used for self-

injury.

- Calmly control the situation, do not use force.
- Actively listen to produce relief.

Escort your buddy

- Never leave your buddy alone.
- Escort to the chain of command, a chaplain, a behavioral health professional or a primary care provider.

TASK FORCE STRIKE

Commander recalls assisting Iraqi troops in drive on Mosul

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — When Task Force Strike arrived in Iraq in April 2016, the U.S. Air Force was delivering all the precision strike capability to the Iraqis fighting the Islamic State, said Col. Brett Sylvia.

Over the course of the deployment of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), which made up Task Force Strike, the U.S. Soldiers augmented much of that strike capability with their own artillery and unmanned aerial vehicle assets. About 6,000 artillery rounds were fired, he added.

Sylvia, the brigade commander, spoke at a media roundtable May 3 at the Pentagon.

Although the U.S. mission in Iraq is often referred to as one of advising and assisting, Sylvia said only about 25 percent of the brigade was doing that. The other 75 percent were engaged in route clearance, expedited communications, air and ground coordination and logistics, which enabled the Iraqis to build their forces up and get to their tactical assembly area for the push into eastern Mosul, which began Oct. 17.

Sylvia said he was pleased with the authorities the U.S. commanders on the ground were given to call for fire to enable the Iraqi ground forces to move forward. In March, the month before the task force arrived in Iraq, the authority was granted not only for the general in charge of the operation but for colonels, lieutenant colonels, and in at least one case, a captain near the front of the fight-



PHOTO BY 1ST LT. DANIEL JOHNSON

Staff Sgt. Brandon Blanton, center, a trainer with A Co., 1-502nd Inf. Regt., Task Force Strike, assists Iraqi army ranger students during a room clearing drill at Camp Taji, Iraq, July 18.

ing.

Although the Iraqis themselves did the fighting, there were some limited situations when U.S. Soldiers accompanied them to provide “niche capability,” Sylvia said.

For instance, Soldiers accompanied an Iraqi battalion on a bridge-building mission on the Tigris River, where the enemy had blown up the bridge. The Soldiers advised them on establishing area security as the U.S.-made bridge was erected, he said.

As for militia fighters not attached to the Iraqi army who were also fighting the Islamic State, Sylvia said they were pretty much

segregated from Iraqi forces. The U.S. was aware of their location and movements, he said, but did not interact with them in any way.

THREAT FROM ABOVE

It’s been some time since the U.S. faced a threat from the sky, Sylvia noted.

During the battle for Mosul, UAS began appearing in the air in and around the city and it was quickly determined that they did not belong to friendly forces, he said. In one day alone, 12 appeared. They were mostly quadcopters operated by Wi-Fi with about

45 minutes of flight time.

At first, it was determined that they were providing the enemy with intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. They were also taking video and using it for propaganda over their social media sites, he said.

Over time, the enemy managed to mount 40 mm grenades on the UAS and drop them, Sylvia said.

It was sort of primitive, he said – like when World War I pilots would toss bombs out of their airplanes by hand. It wasn’t precision bombing, but it was more effective than their indiscriminate bombing.

This new threat from the air had U.S. forces dusting off old manuals on how to respond to threats from the air. Over time, the U.S. employed countermeasures that stopped or slowed their flight, enabling Iraqi ground forces to shoot them out of the sky.

BEST DAY IN IRAQ

Sylvia said he still clearly recalls his best day in Iraq. It was Christmas day and Iraqi forces, who are Muslim, invited him and his Soldiers to a Christian church just outside Mosul to attend mass. The Islamic State had gutted the church, but the Iraqis had rebuilt it with their own money.

“It was a powerful symbol and was amazing,” he said of the visit to the church, adding that he hopes the relationship forged with the Iraqis will be enduring.

Task Force Strike returned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in January, but was replaced by the 2nd BCT, 82nd Airborne Division which is serving in Iraq now.

IMCOM customers make themselves heard through ICE

By Mr. William P. Bradner
Installation Management
Command Public Affairs

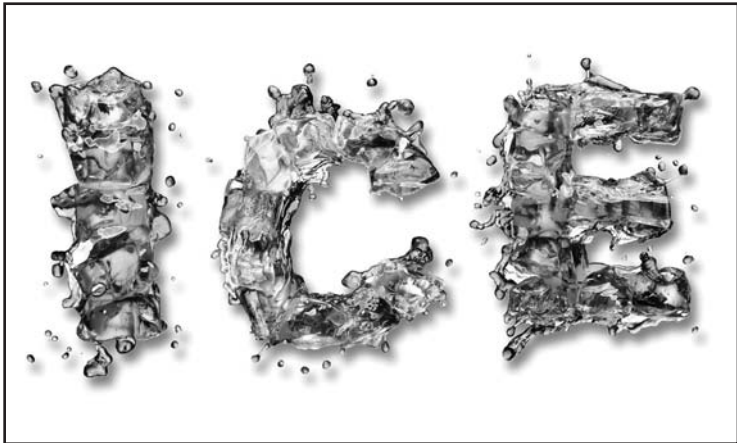
SAN ANTONIO – The Interactive Customer Evaluation system is a web-based tool that allows users to recognize great service, point out a concern, or make a recommendation about Department of Defense organizations.

Installation Management Command customers make up over 55 percent of the entire DOD ICE mission, with a total of more than 4.2 million comments overall.

“It’s not surprising when you consider IMCOM manages more than 70 installations worldwide, and is the proponent for all Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs throughout the Army,” said IMCOM Commander Lt. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl.

“It puts a burden on our service provider managers, but it’s well worth the effort because of the information it provides us as decision makers,” Dahl said.

ICE is IMCOM’s primary means of receiving feedback directly from its customers. ICE empowers customers to make a difference in how IMCOM delivers products and services, by



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offering recommendations and bringing up issues. Customer comments are a critical component in helping the command prioritize and refocus installation services and support to meet changing requirements.

“All IMCOM service provider managers are required to review and follow-up on every comment regardless of whether the customer asks for a response or not,” said Russell Matthias, ICE Program Administrator for IMCOM.

In the last year, IMCOM responded to over 409,000 customer comments in ICE. Over 362,000 of those customers responded that they were satisfied with their product or service, which is a 93 percent overall customer satisfac-

tion rate. Of those that had a complaint and provided contact information, IMCOM responded to 81 percent in three days or less.

Though it’s not required, Matthias highly encourages customers provide their contact information when submitting a comment card through ICE, so program managers can provide immediate feedback.

“We want to hear it, good or bad,” Matthias said. “It’s the only way we get better at what we do. And if the customer provides contact information, we can respond directly to them with an answer, to either make it right, or even have a discussion about ways to improve.”

In many cases, an ICE com-

ment begins an ongoing interaction that lasts until the problem is resolved. One ICE customer wrote to the command after receiving assistance through the program to send appreciation for how the complaint was handled.

“[ICE] made sure I got to the correct people to assist me in my situation,” the customer wrote. “They did research and spoke to leadership to help me. I wish I knew about this office sooner.”

Matthias said the majority of ICE customers leave anonymous comments, which is still helpful, but frustrating to the service or program managers at the installation level.

“They can make it right for the next person... but I think most managers would prefer to be able to let the customer know their voice made a difference,” Matthias said.

It also limits how ICE can help. Contact information maximizes the opportunity to assist the customer, which often turns a negative experience into a positive interaction.

“Not only did she assist me over the phone, but she took the time to follow-up,” one customer said. “She went above and beyond and provided me with a direct line for

assistance. A million thank-yous from the bottom of my heart.”

Managers appreciate the opportunity to make things right, Matthias said.

ICE is available to every IMCOM customer using IMCOM services – Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen (active-duty, Guard and Reserve), their families, as well as veterans, retirees and civilian employees.

“As our resources are stretched thin by budget and manpower constraints, it’s important we focus our energies on providing the best possible customer service,” Dahl said. “ICE helps us do that, but letting us know what we’re doing well and what needs improvement.”

Dahl encourages every IMCOM customer to make use of the program.

“By sharing your honest feedback, together we can work to improve service delivery and achieve IMCOM’s goal of providing world class customer service,” he said.

“Just as importantly, ICE is a good indication of what programs mean the most to the customers,” Dahl said, “which is important data in an operating environment with limited resources.”

News Briefs

Pay office closure

Starting May 24, the Defense Military Pay Office will begin closing at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Also, beginning May 30, DMPO office hours will change to 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mondays-Tuesdays, 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays, and 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays.

Memorial Day ceremony

Fort Rucker will host its Memorial Day ceremony May 26 at 8:30 a.m. at Veterans Park. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

AER closing ceremony

The Army Emergency Relief fundraising campaign closing ceremony is scheduled for May 31 at 2 p.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

ID card section closure

The Fort Rucker ID Card Section will close from 2:15-4:15 p.m. for training the second Wednesday of every month.

Pharmacy change

The Lyster Army Health Clinic Pharmacy no longer accepts drop-off forms for all refill requests. It is mandatory

to phone in all prescription refills. Call 1-877-520-1623 or 334-255-7671.

Specialty printing requirement

Due to a change in printing procedure, document printing services now requires that all documents for printing that require specialty paper be submitted three weeks prior to the requested delivery date.

For more information, call 255-1363.

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.

Tobacco cessation program

The Lyster Army Health Clinic tobacco cessation program consists of four weekly sessions each month. Each class is one hour. Classes are Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to noon at the Army

Wellness Center.

For more information, call 334-255-7930.

Yoga classes

Lyster Army Health Clinic offers free yoga classes Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the Lyster Activity Center, Rm. J-100, of the clinic. Participants are encouraged to bring their own mat.

Exchange Buddy List

Soldiers and Army families can get special offers from the Fort Rucker Exchange delivered straight to their inboxes every week by signing up for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Buddy List. All shoppers have to do is contact the Fort Rucker Exchange and ask to join approximately 115,000 authorized exchange shoppers worldwide receiving exclusive offers via email from their local Exchange.

“The Exchange Buddy List makes it easy to keep up with special deals and events at the Fort Rucker Exchange,” said Beate Bateman, main exchange store manager. “Sign up and keep your finger on the pulse of all the exclusive savings your Exchange has to offer.”

Any authorized shopper 18 and older

may join the Exchange Buddy List. For more information, call 334-503-9044, Ext. 210.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets

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

Weight control

The Lyster Army Health Clinic Fit for Performance Weight Control Program consists of six sessions taken over a six- to 12-week period. The program is available to all active-duty military, retirees and family members. Classes are held on Tuesdays from 9-11 a.m. or 1-3 p.m.

For more information, call 255-7986.

Thrift shop

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

For more information, call 255-9595.

DOD embraces innovation to fuel military overmatch

By Cheryl Pellerin
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — Defense Department innovation leaders on May 3 described some of the most advanced capabilities fueling U.S. military technical dominance of today and the future during testimony before the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee.

Deputy Defense Secretary Bob Work was joined by Strategic Capabilities Office Director Dr. William Roper and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency Acting Director Dr. Steven Walker to testify before the Senate panel during a review of defense innovation and research funding.

In his remarks, Work said that for the past 25 years the department's technical dominance has gone unchallenged in every operating domain – space, air, ground, sea and undersea – while the United States built capabilities in stealth, precision strike, network sensors and network command and control.

Today competitors have aggressively pursued their own advanced capabilities, the deputy secretary said, “aiming to deny us access into theaters of operations, and to deny us freedom of maneuver and freedom of action once there.”

MAINTAINING OVERMATCH

Given the adversaries' focus, level of investment and determination to close the capability gap, “we see our overwhelming operational and technical dominance starting to erode and the trend lines concern us,” Work said, adding that “we believe we do have an overmatch against any potential competitor today but we're focused on maintaining that overmatch over time.”

The department is embracing advanced artificial intelligence, autonomy, big data analytics, he said, and “all those things will allow the force to operate much more powerful joint multidomain battle networks of even greater power than we've seen in the past” and across all operating domains and in cyberspace, electronic warfare and the electromagnetic spectrum.

Work said this is a time when the department must be innovative and agile, and identify impediments standing in the way of testing new advances.

“Just as an example,” he said, “we stood up an Algorithmic Warfare Task Force just recently that we hope will accelerate the integration of big data and machine learning into our operations.”

FATAL ASSUMPTIONS

In his remarks to the panel, the director of the Strategic Capabilities Office said national security challenges are global and increasingly interconnected at the same time many U.S. military technologies are being challenged by advanced threats.

Satellites can be shot down, navigation can be jammed, platforms can be targeted and bases can be saturated by missile raids, Roper said.

“Though these counter moves are concerning to us, buried in them is an assumption we strive to make fatal in SCO, and that is that tomorrow's military will be as predictable as today's,” he added.

If the military were a football team, analysts would say that it has run its current playbook for too long, Roper said, adding that when this happens in football, winning teams create trick plays – they run in their pass formations and pass in their run formations.

“Creating the analog of trick plays for our military is the primary mission of SCO by re-imagining its strengths – ships and submarines, aircraft, armored vehicles – and using them in unforeseen and therefore ... uncontested ways,” he said.

Another great strength, he added, is one that can't be stolen or copied – “our experienced operators who can do the unparalleled with today's systems and rapidly master any unconventional tactics we throw at them.”



ARMY GRAPHIC

THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE

SCO engineers take systems already in use and make them do something different, Roper said.

“Regaining the element of surprise with systems we have today is our counter-counter move to defeat the advanced threats we face, and I'm pleased to say that many systems have been up to this task,” he said.

To date, SCO has produced 34 new warfighting concepts and transitioned six to the services with five more nearing transition. SCO has strong partnerships with system owners, the services and combatant commands, and it uses prototyping, which Roper calls “a natural bridge between new technologies and programs of record, especially in a world of rapid technology change.”

SCO uses three mechanisms to evolve the department's playbook. One is enabling systems to cross or blur domains. An example is upgrading the Army's tactical missile system to enable it to sink enemy ships in addition to its land-strike duties, Roper explained.

Another is teaming systems, which he says enables completely new warfighting concepts that keep warfighters safer. An example is converting existing naval vessels into semi-autonomous fleets that can perform dangerous missions without putting Sailors at risk, he said.

The third mechanism is leveraging commercial designs and technologies, which positions the department to adopt external developments and adapt at their pace.

Roper said this requires treating data as a strategic resource, an example of which is using big data analytics and machine learning to create an information picture so commanders can see complex information in the world around them that is increasingly important to national security.

“Our challenges and opportunities are great,” he added. “Our challenges [are great] because they require a new playbook, but our opportunities [are also great] because creating [a new playbook] is leveraging some of our nation's greatest strengths – ingenuity, technology and ... our unparalleled operators. I like our chances,” Roper said.

EXTREME FRONTIERS

In his remarks, Walker said that through DARPA's work at the extreme frontiers of physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, material science, electronics and engineering, the agency helps ensure that the United States will be the source and not the target of strategic surprise.

DARPA's job is to do the fundamental research, the proof of principle, the early stages of advanced technology development, he said. DARPA also takes impossible ideas to the point of implausible and then surprisingly possible,” Walker added.

The acting director said his written testimony includes more than a dozen exam-

ples of DARPA-developed technologies that are transitioning to the services.

These include radio-frequency arrays that are making radar see farther than adversary radars, and “radiation detectors small enough and cheap enough to put on your belt and network thousands together to prevent terrorists from developing that dirty bomb that can threaten our cities,” he said.

DARPA also has created electronics that allow ships to know where they are without GPS, radically different new vaccines that along with diagnostic kits will stop the next epidemic, a 132-foot ocean-going vessel that's completely autonomous, and a space surveillance telescope that allows the Air Force to see tiny objects 22,000 miles above the Earth, where most of the valuable satellites reside, Walker added.

FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES

DARPA is also working on future technologies, he said. One is in the area of biology and technologies that allow scientists to rewrite the genetic codes of plants and animals, offering great potential in health, medicine, biodefense and agriculture. But

such technology, he added, also carries risks if used carelessly or for nefarious purposes.

“DARPA recently launched a program called Safe Genes that is developing ways to build-in molecular safeguards so potentially harmful genetic changes can be prevented or, if necessary, reversed,” he explained.

Another area of future development is artificial intelligence, which appears in self-driving cars, increasingly autonomous military systems and others, he said.

AI computer systems are sophisticated and increasingly competent, but they make mistakes that no human would ever make, Walker said.

“It's important for us to understand why we can't predict when [and how] these machines will make mistakes,” he added.

“It's a hugely complicated problem, but if we're ever going to trust machines to help us in the future in warfighting, we'll need to understand that, and DARPA has started programs in this area,” the acting director said. “Explainable AI is one, along with a number of other related programs to answer these questions.

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‘DISCIPLINED DISOBEDIENCE’

Army chief: Future warfare requires empowered subordinates

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Following every order to the letter is largely understood to be a way of life in the Army. But that may not always be the best course of action.

In fact, Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley said he expects Soldiers to know when it’s time to disobey an order.

“I think we’re over-centralized, overly bureaucratic and overly risk-averse,” Milley said while speaking May 4 at the Army and Navy Club in Washington as part of the Atlantic Council Commanders Series.

That overly bureaucratic environment may work in garrison, during peacetime, he said, but it’s “the opposite of what we are going to need in any type of warfare – but in particular, the warfare I envision.”

VISION OF FUTURE WARFARE

During last year’s Association of the U.S. Army symposium in October, Milley laid out just exactly what his vision of future warfare would be. He said then that he expects conditions “will be extremely austere. Water, chow, ammo, fuel, maintenance and medical support will be all that we should plan for.”

He also said that Soldiers could expect to be surrounded all the time, so they will always need to be on the move if they hope to stay alive.

“In short, learning to be comfortable with being seriously miserable every single minute of every single day will have to become a way of life for an Army on the battlefield that I see coming,” he said.

Leaders on the battlefield could expect to be out of contact with their own leadership for significant periods of time. Those officers would still need to accomplish their commander’s objectives, even when the conditions on the battlefield change and they are unable to send word up the chain of command.

“We are going to have to empower [and] decentralize leadership to make decisions and achieve battlefield effects in a widely dispersed environment where subordinate leaders, junior leaders ... may not be able to communicate to their higher headquarters, even if they wanted to,” Milley said.

In that environment, Milley said, the Army will need a cadre of trusted leaders on the battlefield who know when it’s time to disobey the original orders they were given and come up with a new plan to achieve the purpose of those orders.

MISSION COMMAND

“We’re the military, so you’re supposed to say, ‘Obey your orders,’” Milley said. “That’s kind of fundamental to being in the military. We want to keep doing that. But a subordinate needs to understand that they have the freedom and they are empowered to disobey a specific order, a specified task, in order to accomplish the purpose. It takes a lot of judgment.”

Such disobedience cannot be “willy-nilly.” Rather, it must be “disciplined disobedience to achieve a higher purpose,” Milley said. “If you do that, then you are the guy to get the pat on the back.”

Milley said that when orders are given, the purpose of those orders must also be provided so that officers know both what they are to accomplish and how they are expected to accomplish it.

To illustrate his point, Milley offered the example of an officer who has been ordered to seize “Hill 101” as part of a larger battle plan.

“I’ve said the purpose is to destroy the enemy,” Milley said. “And the young officer sees Hill 101, and the enemy is over on Hill 102. What does he do? Does he do what I told him to do, seize Hill 101? Or does he achieve the purpose –



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS CHUCK BURDEN

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley talks with observer controllers at the U.S. Army National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., Nov. 6.

destroy the enemy on Hill 102?”

The answer, Milley said, is that the officer disobeys the order to seize the first hill because following that order would not achieve his commander’s purpose. Instead, he takes the other hill.

“And he shouldn’t have to call back and say ‘hey boss ... can I go over to 102?’ He shouldn’t have to do that,” Milley said. “They should be empowered and feel they have freedom of maneuver to achieve the purpose.”

Right now, Milley said, the Army already has doctrine that describes what he envisions for the future: “mission command” doctrine. Part of that doctrine, he said, instructs commanders to tell their subordinates the purpose of what they are doing. “That’s important for subordinates to understand the why, the purpose.”

But the Army, he said, has a hard time practicing what it writes into doctrine.

“My point is what we do in practice is we micromanage and over-specify everything a subordinate has to do, all the time, in regulations, in ALARACT messages, in rules,” he said. “That is not an effective way ... to fight. Not an effective way to conduct operations. You will lose battles and wars if you approach warfare like that.”

“We must trust our subordinates,” he added. “You give them the task, you give them the purpose, and then you trust them to execute and achieve your intent, your desired outcome – your purpose.”

Getting Soldiers and leaders to do that will require training, he said. And it will require encouraging them to operate that way.

“You have to train to it, you have to prepare for it, and you have to live it and do it every day,” he said.

FUTURE TECHNOLOGY OF WARFARE

Milley acknowledged that it’s impossible to predict exactly how warfare in the future will play out, but he did say there are some “broad outlines” that can be drawn upon to help with the development of decisions regarding doctrine, organization and equipment.

Technology, he believes, will have a huge impact on warfare. “I think we are at the intersection of a variety of technologies that are happening in time and space, all about the same time, that are going to have a fundamental change or result in fundamental change to the character of warfare.”

One technology of today that has al-



PHOTO BY C. TODD LOPEZ

Dr. Nora Bensahel, of the Atlantic Council, met with Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley May 4 at the Army and Navy Club in Washington as part of the council’s Commanders Series.

ready been around for a while, he noted, are precision-guided munitions.

“For a long time, the United States dominated precision-guided munitions,” he said. “Now, precision-guided munitions have proliferated throughout the world.”

Information technology also will have a dramatic effect, he said, citing the iPhone as an example. He said that today, through existing technology, one has access to high-quality imagery, communications, and real-time data on the location of people, equipment and formations, for instance, nearly anywhere on Earth.

“I would argue that we are at a point where ... almost anything militarily can be seen,” he said. “So when you combine the ability to see ... with precision-guided munitions, that’s like going from the smoothbore to the rifle. That’s going to rapidly and radically increase lethality on the battlefield.”

He noted that robotics are now used in the air and sea domains but currently play a limited role on the ground. Over the next decade, however, he expects to see a “rapid introduction of robotic systems in ground warfare.”

OPTIMIZING FOR URBAN CONFLICT

Demographic changes also will affect the character of war, he said. In particular, he pointed to increases in urbanization.

According to Milley, social scientists predict that by 2050 about 90 percent of Earth’s projected population of more than 8 billion people will likely live in “highly

dense, complex urban areas.” As a result of that shift, he said, it’s probable that armed conflict will occur in those same densely populated areas.

“The U.S. Army has been optimized to fight in rural terrain, to fight in the plains of Northern Europe, North America [and] the deserts of the Middle East,” he said.

Optimizing for urban warfare, he said, will require changing not only how Soldiers fight, but how equipment is used.

“A tank’s barrel can elevate to a certain degree,” he said. “In an urban environment, it might need to elevate to almost a 90-degree angle. That has huge implications.”

Likewise, much consideration must also be devoted to such practical matters as the wingspans of unmanned aircraft systems, casualty evacuation in densely populated areas, and the ability of current command and control systems to function in the concrete jungles of the future, Milley added.

“The list goes on and on,” he said. “There are about maybe 100 or 150 significant implications to that fact of urbanization and the likelihood that armed conflict is going to be more in urban areas than not.”

Right now, he said, the Army has optimized for non-urban areas. But, he said, “we are probably going to have to shift gears significantly over the coming decade or so to optimize the Army, or land forces – I would argue the Marines, as well – to be able to operate successfully in combat operations in highly dense, complex urban areas.”



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Best Warriors

Continued from Page A1

across the gamut of mental and physical challenges, including:

- Army Physical Fitness Test: Push-ups, Sit-ups and a 2-mile run
- Urban Operations Exercise: Soldiers lead a team to clear buildings, engage enemy targets and capture a high-value target
- Confidence Course: Soldiers navigate a series of physically demanding obstacles and perform multiple physical exercises
- Written Test with questions about Army Standards, Procedures, History and Regulations
- 12-Mile road march with a 35 pound rucksack
- Land Navigation Exercise: Soldiers

- plot and navigate to four points in less than three hours
- M16 Range: Soldiers zero and qualify with their weapons
- Stress Shoot Exercise: Soldiers engage targets immediately after strenuous physical activity
- Break Contact Range: Soldiers work as a team to medically treat and recover a downed aviator while engaging threats
- Army Board: Soldiers appear before a Board comprised of Senior Command Sergeants Major.
- Mystery Event

The scheduled “Mystery Event” this year included a written test, a timed chain of command recognition drill, and blindfolded weapons assembly and function check.

According to Nixon, who said winning Soldier of the Year was a “big accomplish-

ment”, the ruck march was the hardest part.

“You’ve just got to let your body hurt for a little bit,” he said.

All three USAACE winners received the Army Commendation Medal, USAACE Command team coin, a backpack filled with gifts, fishing gear on behalf of the USAACE Command Sergeant Major, and various gifts from sponsoring organizations.

The three winners will move on to compete at the Training and Doctrine Command level. Winners at the TRADOC level then go on to compete at the Department of the Army level.

The USAACE competitors showed their true colors of strength and resiliency during the final day of the contest, according to event organizer Sgt. Maj. David Ewing,

USAACE Operations Sergeant Major.

“Although physically exhausted, and despite a constant rain, these Soldiers met the land navigation and confidence course with enthusiasm and esprit-de-corps. Each competitor finished the final day with just as much intensity and focus as on day one. A true example of the quality of the Soldiers we had competing this year,” Ewing said.

The contest gives Soldiers the opportunity to “find out what they’re made of,” Ewing said.

“We do all the day to day tasks and we get caught in that routine, and it’s good to have a competition where the best Soldiers get to excel, they get to prove their worth,” Ewing said. “There’s a lot of hard work the Soldiers put in this competition to make it this far.”

Heritage

Continued from Page A1

have forged a proud legacy that reflect the spirit of our nation – a country that values the contributions of everyone that calls America home.

“Through times of hardship and in the face of enduring prejudice, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have persisted and forged ahead to help strengthen our [nation’s] union, and despite their difficulties and struggles, they have sacrificed to build a better life for themselves, their children and Americans as a whole,” he continued. “Today as we commemorate Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage month, we pay tribute to all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have strived for a brighter future for the next generation.”

The theme for this year’s observance month is, “Unite Our Voices by Speaking Together,” and reflects the struggles, achievements and aspirations that Asian American and Pacific Islanders have endured to shape the country people have come to know, said Castillo.

One way to show that unity through diversity was by

celebrating the cultural traditions, ancestry and unique experiences that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have contributed.

“Approximately 16.6 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders live and work in the United States, and comprise about 5.4 percent of the U.S. population,” said the EO adviser. “They have deeply impacted our society in all facets of American life, thriving as athletes, public servants, scientists, artists and many who have served and continue to serve in our nation’s military.”

Throughout the observance, people were able to get a taste of traditional Asian cuisine, witness and hear traditional cultural song and dance performances, and even get the chance to learn a bit of Chinese culture and calligraphy.

For some, like Jeremiah Langenkamp, retired military, the ability to learn from different cultures is part of what builds the strength of the U.S.

“I think that a lot of time people forget about each other’s differences, which can be a good thing, but at

the same time, I feel like it’s important to know where certain contributions come from,” he said. “We need to understand that we need other cultures and other points of view to make us better than what we are. It’s hard not to look at the differences between different people, but you have to be able to see the strengths in those differences, and that’s what I feel that people need to celebrate.”

Lauren Tuttle, military spouse, agreed and said that without the differences in culture, this country wouldn’t be what it is today.

“Diversity is what makes up this country,” she said. “I, myself, am part Korean, and I know that without the openness of diversity in this country, I might not even be here,” adding that her family has a long line of military service.

“I’m proud of my heritage and proud that my family has served, so we need to recognize when those contributions and sacrifices are made, so it brings us together to show us what we have in common – the willingness to fight for what is right,” Tuttle said.

1-212th

Continued from Page A1

Nix returns to Fort Rucker from his most recent assignment as the senior Aviation adviser for the Office of the Program Manager Saudi Arabian National Guard in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He enlisted in the Army in 1993 and has served throughout the U.S. and all over the world from Seoul, South Korea, to Iraq.

He’s held multiple leadership positions ranging from platoon leader, company commander, and brigade and battalion operations officer across multiple continents, and said he hopes to bring his wealth of knowledge to his newest assignment.

“I truly appreciate and am humbled by the opportunity to be the next battalion commander for the 1-212th. We could not

have received a warmer welcome,” he said during the ceremony. “We will try our best to continue the great things that [Nelson and his wife, Jennifer] have put in place in the battalion.”

The 1-212th operates Lowe and Shell Army Heliports, which are the two busiest heliports in the Army. The battalion’s mission is to train initial rotary wing students in what Hines said, “everything Black Hawks.”

“The 1-212th’s job never stops – they create the best Black Hawk Aviators in the world,” said the brigade commander. “Nearly every Black Hawk pilot has been trained by this battalion at some point in their career. Additionally, the standardization instructors that train the Hawk crews in the back have also been trained by the

1-212th.

“The Black Hawk has the most diverse mission of all of our platforms. It connects air movement, air assault, MedEvac, VIP support, resupply – you name it, they do it. It’s a high-demand aircraft, and just about every Soldier on the battlefield has been directly supported by the UH-60 at some point,” he said. “With that kind of impact, it’s no surprise that the Army picks the very best to be the battalion commander.”

“In the past two years, the men and women [of this battalion] have safely flown over 165,000 flight hours ... while training over 5,000 Aviators,” added Nelson. “They truly are a collection of the finest men and women this country has ever seen. Cal and Joycelyn, I couldn’t be happier to be leaving the Wings of Freedom team in your care. I know you will succeed in leading this amazing battalion to new and even higher heights.”

Soldier

Continued from Page A1

of recommendation, as well as an essay that outlined what Memorial Day meant to him, which, he said, was a touchy subject.

“It was something I always cared about deeply,” he said. “I had a completely different outlook [on Memorial Day] when I was younger, and now it’s changed for the better as I’ve gotten older, and especially since enlisting.”

For Moore, who is also the 1-212th’s BOSS representative, Memorial Day was a day he once viewed as simply an extra day off from school and the beginning of summer – a time when he could kick back and relax.

As he grew older and his fondness for the military grew, he began to realize the true meaning of the day, so when it came time to write his essay, he wrote it as an open apology.

“It’s an apology to all of the veterans that I’ve met and seen before from the time when I was younger,” he said. “Now I know more of what [the day] means – I see more of what it means now. [Soldiers] risked their lives to defend this nation, and many lost friends and family members who have died defending [this country].”

With his heartfelt essay, as well as his service and dedication to BOSS, it was clear that Moore would be the right choice for the opportunity, said Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher D. Spivey, Fort Rucker garrison command sergeant major.

“Our selection was very difficult because of all the fine Soldiers we have in BOSS, but at the end of the day and after many discussions ... we felt that Moore was the right choice,” he said. “Specialist Moore is like many Soldiers in the BOSS Program – a Soldier that be counted on when things need to get done.

“We, as a program, are truly proud of Specialist Moore’s selection to attend,” said the garrison command sergeant major. “We, all the Soldiers associated with the BOSS program, are 100 percent supportive, and know he will represent us all with the highest level of professionalism.”

That willingness to get the job done and sense of professionalism is something that is ingrained in his character, which is why the BOSS program is a perfect fit for him, said Moore.

“I have a big spot in my heart for volunteering, and I love to go out into the community and local areas to volunteer,” he said. “BOSS is an excellent program and I truly love everything BOSS stands for. It not only benefits us, but it’s not even about that – it’s about doing something and helping others.

Moore said being in the military is something he’s known he wanted to pursue since he was a child, and now that he has the opportunity, he wants to get the chance to change lives, and that starts with honoring those from the past.

“My goal is to work my way up and get as far as I can to be as influential as I can,” he said. “So far, this has been an amazing experience. I just want to get everything [out of this experience] that I can and be in the moment, and I’m grateful to have this opportunity.”

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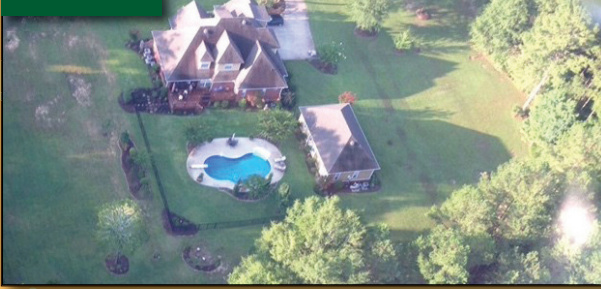
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PHOTO BY PVT. NICHOLAS VIDRO

UH-60 Black Hawks from the 2nd Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade land in Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base, Romania March 2.

READY TO FIGHT TONIGHT

Official: Deploying a CAB shows Army prepared to fight in Europe

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

NASHVILLE — Does Russia really feel threatened by NATO? Probably not, said the deputy chief of staff for NATO’s Multi-National Corps Northeast.

Instead, said Brig. Gen. Frank W. Tate, he believes Russian leadership is more likely concerned about the loss of regime if something happened there similar to an Arab Spring or another Colour Revolution in former Soviet states.

Tate spoke April 28 at the 2017 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit, sponsored by the Army Aviation Association of America, in Nashville.

“Some people say Russia feels threatened – they feel surrounded,” Tate said.

But Tate doesn’t believe that’s true. Instead, he said, Russian leadership is more likely concerned that the Russian people will see success and prosperity elsewhere in Europe, and want the same for themselves.

Tate said he believes Russian leadership will “do anything” to cause turmoil in the European Union, and among NATO partners, so that the appearance of success and prosperity in Europe is less apparent.

The illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia, Tate said, is one such example of that effort. After that happened, he said, NATO and the U.S. “got that wake-up call.”

“There was a decision to take some action, to return to a focus on the defense of Europe,” he said.

That began with the Wales Summit in September of 2014. There, NATO made the decision to increase the responsiveness and capability of NATO forces to respond to threats in the east.

One effort involved the creation of enhanced NATO response forces capable of deploying their first battalion within two days, Tate said. There are also now eight NATO force integration units. “It’s a 40-person team that integrates host-nation capabilities with NATO capabilities, and facilitates the rapid movement of forces into countries, predominantly along the eastern boundaries.”

Tate said NATO also dramatically increased the readiness of Multi-National Corps Northeast, “which for many years had been a NATO corps of low or no readiness.”

Beyond NATO efforts, he said, the United States embarked on the Atlantic Resolve se-

ries of exercises

“General Hodges and his team created this mantra of taking the only 30,000 U.S. troops that we have remaining in Europe and making them look like 300,000, which they have done through an unbelievable series and OPTEMPO of exercises integrated with NATO partners all throughout Europe,” Tate said.

Still, Tate said, the Russians didn’t change their stance.

He said there are “continued fly-bys of ships and airspace violations [and] continued low-level cyberattacks. Low-level information warfare occurring all throughout the Baltics.”

At the Warsaw Summit in 2016, Tate said, NATO knew it had to do more.

“We recognized that we needed more than just the assurance measures that we had in place for two years, and we needed to switch to deterrence,” Tate said.

At the Warsaw Summit, he said, “NATO took another very significant move for NATO, which was to create enhanced forward presence battlegroups.”

There are four of those battalion-sized battlegroups, which include enablers, he said. They are led by Great Britain and Estonia;

Canada and Latvia; Germany and Lithuania; and the United States and Poland.

Right now, he said, the U.S.-led group is in place, as is the German-led group. The British-led group will be in place soon, and the Canadian-led group will be in place this summer.

“That’s real boots on the ground,” Tate said. “These forces are designed to be ‘fight tonight’ combat-ready forces. We have a given mission ... to not just deter, which is our primary function, but to be prepared to defeat a limited incursion, potentially up to as large as a brigade-sized incursion. So this is a very serious ongoing operation and mission set that is occurring in Europe today.”

Bolstering that deterrent force, Tate said, is the deployment of an American armored brigade combat team – the 3-4th Infantry Division, as well as deployment of the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Bringing the 10th CAB into the mix, Tate said, lets observers know the United States means business.

“Everybody that watches the way the U.S. Army fights realizes that if Army Aviation isn’t there, then we aren’t serious,” he said.

SEE READY, PAGE B4

GENERAL: Time to move past incremental modernization in Aviation

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

NASHVILLE — The Army must move past incremental modernization to existing systems and make the leap forward to new capabilities if it wants to maintain overmatch against adversaries, said Maj. Gen. Robert Marion.

“Across the Army and over the last 15 years, we have continued to modernize capabilities and have done so incrementally, with great results,” Marion said. “I believe we are at a nexus in time, technology and treasure that requires us to move beyond incremental modernization and in some key areas, focus on leap-ahead capabilities.”

Marion, who serves as the military deputy for the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, offered this assessment while speaking at the 2017 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit, sponsored by the Army Aviation Association of America, April 26-28 in Nashville.

Marion said while at war for 15-plus years in Iraq and Afghanistan, adversaries have watched the United States, how it fights and the capabilities that it has. And those same adversaries have also been developing their own technology.

“Our adversaries have watched us, they have learned our strengths, our vulnerabilities, they have seen our tactics, techniques and procedures, and they understand how we operate,” Marion said. “In order to remain decisive against an elusive and increasingly capable enemy, we cannot wait to develop new capabilities, or we risk being too late.”

While continued modernization of existing capabilities, like the Bradley fighting vehicle, Abrams tank, Patriot missile system, AH-64 Apache, and UH-60 Black Hawk continue to be important, he said – and those systems will be valuable to the Army for years, if not decades to come – development and investment in new systems and new capabilities must start now.

“It’s time to look ahead to the next leap-ahead capability, and that’s Future Vertical Lift and the joint multi-role technical demonstration that will inform

SEE GENERAL, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY SGT. STEVEN GALIMORE

A rocket is loaded into an AH-64D Apache assigned to 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade at a forward arming refuel point on Fort Bragg, N.C., May 2.

COUNTERING SPECIAL FORCES

Army Aviation teams with Republic of Korea forces to meet threats

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – In 2016, North Korea conducted about 22 missile launches and two nuclear tests as part of an effort to gain nuclear missile capability there. The exercises also served as provocation against its neighbor, the Republic of Korea, to the south.



PHOTO BY 1ST LT. KATELYN N. RADACK

Aircrews from the 2nd CAB complete deck landing qualifications on the Republic of Korea Navy Ship Dokdo in the Yellow Sea in April.

“The concerning part about this is not necessarily that they are doing provocations,” said Brig. Gen. David J. Francis. “What is a problem is they are getting better every time they do a missile test and every time they do a nuclear test.”

Francis, who serves as deputy commander of the 2nd Infantry Division, 8th U.S. Army in South Korea, spoke Friday during the 2017 Army Aviation Mission Solutions Summit, sponsored by the Army Aviation Association of America, in Nashville, Tennessee.

North Korea, Francis said, is likely looking for a “seat at the table.” And while the North Koreans have a significant conventional threat at their disposal – one of the largest militaries in the world – and a sizable special operations capability, as well, he said, “their ability to use it and sustain it over time is very questionable.”

Instead, Francis said, the North Koreans are looking for an “asymmetric capability” that will give them the leverage they need to get that seat at the table. And that includes having a nuclear capability.

In South Korea, the United States military and the Republic of Korea military – long-time allies – are working on ways to counter the threats posed from the north. Aviation is

SEE SPECIAL FORCES, PAGE B4

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Ready

Continued from Page B1

“But when you deploy a CAB, the Russians know we are coming prepared to fight, if we have to – a credible deterrent force.”

Army Aviation may mean that the Army means business, but there are significant challenges in Europe for rotary-wing units, Tate said. For starters, the weather in Europe is different than what the Army got used to in the deserts of the Middle East – where the climate is unusually suited for year-round flying.

“For many years we have gotten used to flying and operating in desert environments, which have their own unique challenges, but also provide 340 or so flyable days every year,” he said.

Flying in the Middle East, he said, was also unimpeded by the dense air-defense capabilities that aircraft would likely encounter during any possible conflict in Europe. In Iraq and Afghanistan, that relative freedom to fly meant secure forward operating bases that aircraft could operate out of.

“We will not have big Aviation FOBs that will be unthreatened anywhere in Europe if we get into a fight with Russia,” Tate said. “We are just going to have to go back to dispersion.”

Tate recalled operations he experienced as a new lieutenant in Korea.

“I remember ... where every troop and sometimes even below troop level, would be in a different field, and we are doing maintenance out there in the field, truly, not in a

hanger or a tent,” he said. “This is a lost art in many ways, something we have to train to and develop.”

He said the Army will prepare for that environment through about 54 exercises in Europe that will happen in 2017. Aviation will participate in those exercises as well. That will involve six different airfields in five countries, with 23 countries participating in some way.

Also a concern for Army Aviation, Tate said, are overwater kits, fast-rope insertion and extraction systems, very small aperture terminals, and mission command equipment.

That type of gear doesn’t exist organically in a CAB, he said. If it were provided to the CAB in Europe now, would it stay in Eu-

rope, or rotate back to the United States?

“We are probably going to have to develop something for this rotational force that doesn’t keep coming back and forth,” he said.

Also, ADR-certified vehicles are an issue. That is, ensuring Army vehicles meet standards in Europe to travel on roads while carrying hazardous materials.

“Any truck moving fuel, ammunition, explosives, or any other HAZMAT, must be fully certified,” he said. “We spent \$500,000 and several months getting the heavy expanded mobility tactical trucks and heavy equipment transport systems from the 10th CAB certified to do that. Is it going to make sense to then send those back and do the same for the follow-on CAB?”

General

Continued from Page B1

the requirements for FVL,” Marion said.

The FVL capability is expected to include an array of helicopters that share similar sensors, avionics and engines, for instance, but that perform a variety of different roles that will allow them to replace a range of older, existing Army helicopters.

“Our Army and our Soldiers need all of us, throughout this entire enterprise, and throughout the entire supply

chain, to be at our absolute best as we execute the Joint Multi-Role Technical Demonstration, and as we prepare to execute the FVL program,” Marion said.

Forward movement on FVL, as well as on other modernization programs, Marion said, has been stymied by a series of unpredictable budgets. At the start of April, for instance, a budget for fiscal year 2017 had still not passed. Under a “continuing resolution,” which allows the government to continue to be funded with dollars equivalent to what it received in the last passed budget, “new start”

programs cannot begin. That makes it hard for the Army to modernize.

“Our lack of a 2017 budget is keeping nearly 50 new-starts, across the Army, from starting in 2017,” Marion said. “Among those is the FVL program.”

Marion also said about 80 Army programs will need to be maintained at fiscal year 2016 funding levels. One of those programs is the Improved Turbine Engine Program, which is meant to provide a new engine to the Apache and Black Hawk fleet.

Special forces

Continued from Page B1

a big part of that, Francis said.

Army Aviation units in Korea now have two mission sets they are focused on: maritime counter-special operations forces, and counter-weapons of mass destruction.

COUNTER-SOF

Maritime counter-SOF is designed to defeat a special operations force inflight via sea, either to the west or east of the Korean peninsula, Francis said. But, for now, they are focused on the west.

“The primary mission is to defeat that SOF threat before it reaches the mainland,” he said.

That counter-SOF mission, he said, has “matured to the point where we have an attack helicopter battalion that for a portion of time works for the 2nd ROK fleet and the 2nd Maritime Battle Group. And their sole purpose for a period of time is to, in fact, defeat and destroy this threat.”

Conducting that counter-SOF mission, he said, is a multi-domain effort for the Army,

partnering traditional land forces with naval forces over land, air and sea.

“We are in a situation where we are flying out over water in direct support of our surface commander, who in this case is a naval commander, to defeat a specific threat,” Francis said. “Using direct fire from our AH-64s, we are guided onto targets by ROK controllers in some cases, and in other cases depending on the scenario, we might have some U.S. folks out there.”

The bottom line, Francis said, is that U.S. Army AH-64 Apaches are partnering with the ROK Navy to provide security on the Korean peninsula.

“We take an Apache helicopter battalion and we execute attack operations over the water to find and destroy enemy targets,” he said.

He said right now there continues to be challenges, but not insurmountable challenges, that need to be worked out. Communications with the Koreans is one example of that. One solution to that is putting liaison officers on ships and ad hoc mission command packages together to enable them to

communicate with ROK and U.S. forces out at sea.

Another challenge is how to do target handovers. The current interoperability between systems means that can’t happen automatically, he said.

“We are doing manual target handovers, because their ... aircraft and ours aren’t able to talk from a common operating picture point of view,” he said. “So target handover is done manually.”

Exacerbating that problem, he said, is that there are more than just attack helicopters out over the water conducting the counter-SOF mission.

“You have all the joint fires, you have ground-based artillery that is shooting into this airspace,” he said. “And we have close air support from both the ROK and U.S. naval forces, and the U.S. Air Force.”

COUNTER-WMD

When it comes to weapons of mass destruction, Francis said, “we know for a fact [North Korea] has multiple locations that have WMD, and those sites are important

to us. So while we are conducting direct action, combined arms maneuver to defeat and destroy enemy forces, we are also focused on getting in control of all of those sites that contain WMD.”

Francis said the “Warrior Strike” exercises are enabling the Americans and South Koreans to practice together going after such sites.

This week, Francis said, the 1-16th Infantry, out of the 1st Armor Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, will work with the Korean Navy to do an air assault training mission. It’s the first time in recent history the Americans have been able to conduct an air assault off an ROK Navy ship.

“We believe ... it’s a capability we’re going to need, whether it’s off a ROK ship or a U.S. ship, or any other type of platform out there,” Francis said. “We are going to have to have the ability to maneuver from different places so that we create options for the commander, put ourselves in a position of relative advantage over the enemy, and create multiple dilemmas for the enemy force from different locations and different domains.”



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MAY 11, 2017

A DAY AT THE LAKE

*Lake Tholocco
preps to open
for swim season*

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

It's that time of the year for swimmers to get their sunscreen and swimsuits ready as Fort Rucker prepares to officially welcome the summer swim season on one of Fort Rucker's most frequented waterways.

Lake Tholocco will officially open for the summer May 20 when Fort Rucker Outdoor Recreation hosts its Day at the Lake from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on West Beach, where people are invited to enjoy free swimming and inflatables, and take to the waters with canoes, kayaks and paddleboats, according to Janice Erdlitz, Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation marketing director.

In addition to fun on the water, the Center Library staff will be on site to host activities for people to build their own paper boats to test out on the water. People will also be able to purchase hot dogs, bratwurst and other snacks during the event, said Erdlitz.

People are also welcome to take to the waters with ODR's many watercraft, such as canoes, kayaks and paddleboats, said the marketing manager. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult while using the watercraft and all patrons must wear a life jacket. The event is free and open to the public.

West Beach will officially open for the summer swim season beginning May 26, but patrons can get a jump on the official open date during the event. Patrons are also reminded that pets and glass container are prohibited on the beach areas for the safety of others, said Erdlitz.

After the event, West Beach will be open Fridays-Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Labor Day, and patrons will need to purchase swimming wrist bands from the West Beach swimming area. Daily passes will be free for those 2 and under, and cost \$1.50 for ages 3-12, \$2.25 for ages 13-17, and \$3 for ages 18 and older.

As one of the largest and most well-known attractions on Fort Rucker, Lake Tholocco's West Beach, which is the designated swimming area for the lake, is fitted with a water trampoline and two water slides.

The beach also features nine pa-



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

People take to the waters in canoes at West Beach on Lake Tholocco during Lake Fest last year.



Then-W01 Stuart Kelly, B Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment, buries his son, Stuart Jr., in the sand with the help of his daughter, Scotland, during Lake Fest at West Beach on Lake Tholocco last year.



Jessica Moos, military spouse, directs her children, Lizzy and Skylar, back to shore after a day on the water during Lake Fest at West Beach on Lake Tholocco last year.

vilions available for rent throughout the summer swim season, two of which are indoor and air conditioned, according to Melissa Kelley, ODR lead recreation assistant. The rental rates range from \$25-\$85 per day with weekly rates available, as well, and there are also canopies available for rent ranging from 10'x10' to 20'x30',

along with folding chairs, tables and basically anything people need for outdoor parties.

ODR also features boat rentals that people can use to take to the water, ranging from Jon boats, pontoon boats, ski boats, and even jet skis that are available on a first-come, first-served basis, said the recreation assistant.



Then-2nd Lt. Damien Watkins, 1-145th Avn. Regt., goes up for a spike during a volleyball tournament at the Lake Fest in 2015.

To be eligible for the boat rentals, people must be a DOD civilian, active-duty military or a retired service member. Boat rental prices depend on the amount of time people would like the boat for.

Boaters are not required to have the Alabama vessel requirements to rent boats, said Kelley, but

they do need to complete the Fort Rucker Boater Safety Course, which consists of 25 questions and is an open book exam that people can take free of charge. The course must be taken on site at the outdoor recreation service center.

For more information, call 255-4305.

'A LEGACY OF CARING'

Local generosity continues as campaign nears end

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

The Army Emergency Fund provided more than \$965 million to help Soldiers in need last year and, as the campaign enters its final leg, Fort Rucker is once again on track to do its part.

According to Capt. Abigail Zajac, Fort Rucker AER campaign coordinator, the post community generously contributed more than \$160,000 last year.

"AER does not set a specific monetary goal for each campaign, but we sincerely hope that all Soldiers will consider the opportunity this program provides and give as they see fit," she said. "Ideally, we would like this year's campaign to beat last year's collection of \$164,398.50, but we are happy for any donations that we receive and hope that each member of the community will contribute however they can."

According to Beth Gunter, AER officer, more than \$90,000 has



AER GRAPHIC

been donated as of April 19.

"Last year, the Fort Rucker Soldiers', retirees' and communities' commitment to support Army Emergency Relief and the importance of the assistance it provides was evident through their generous donations of \$164,398.50," she said. "The goal this year is to continue that legacy of caring and exceed last year's contributions."

The campaign continues through Monday, but donations are accepted year round.

"An individual may not be in a position to support AER right

now, but still would like the opportunity to do so," Gunter said. Contributions to AER are accepted throughout the year, either online at www.aerhq.org or at the Fort Rucker AER office in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 350.

During the online donation process, the donor is able to note the installation they are from and the unit under the additional information section, which then adds their donations to the Fort Rucker campaign total.

Last year, Fort Rucker contributed \$164,459. However, more than \$470,208 of assistance was provided to Fort Rucker Soldiers, retirees, family members and surviving spouses and orphans – "\$188,266 of that assistance was provided as grants and scholarships," she added. "The donations provided to the campaign are contributed to AER to be used for Soldiers regardless their location."

The traditional categories of assistance, according to Gunter, are emergency travel, rent, utilities,

essential privately owned vehicle repairs, funeral expenses, food and gas.

"The categories of assistance have expanded to also cover advanced travel funds if there is a delay in receipt of advance pay or dislocation allowance; minor home repairs, to include repair of the heating and cooling system, purchase and repair of stoves, refrigerator, washer and dryer when establishing a new household or to repair if required; and essential furniture when establishing a new household," she said. "Providing a no-interest loan to assist in these areas can assist Soldiers and their families from further financial hardship."

According to Zajac, there are additional areas of assistance AER provides that may not be as well known.

"Most people are familiar with AER's no-interest loans, but may be less familiar with the other forms of financial assistance that AER offers," she said. "For instance, in

certain cases, rather than giving a loan, AER may give Soldiers or their families assistance in the form of a grant so that the recipient has no requirement to pay back AER. Additionally, AER offers scholarships that spouses and children of service members can use toward achieving a four-year degree.

"AER's assistance can be vital to families because it allows them to focus on other things," she added. "The stress associated with financial burden can be terrible for a family, and when a Soldier has a difficult environment at home, it can lead to poor performance on duty, and it can harm children's ability to perform in school and a spouse's ability to perform in his/her respective career. By alleviating that burden, all areas of family life are enabled to develop more freely with less worry, which helps each of the family members to perform better at their respective duties and obligations."

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

ON POST

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

Resilience workshop

Army Community Service will host resilience training Friday from 9-11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 350. People need to register today. The workshop is designed to provide family members and civilians with the tools they need to better cope with and overcome adversity and challenges, as well as perform better in stressful situations. The goal is for students to thrive when facing life challenges, not just bounce back, according to ACS officials. This month will emphasize avoiding thinking traps, detecting icebergs and energy management.

For more information, call 255-3161 or 255-3735.

Six Flags day trip

MWR Central will host a day trip to Six Flags in Atlanta, Georgia, Saturday. The cost for the trip will be \$80 per person, and will include admission ticket to the park and transportation. For more information or to register, call 255-2997 or 255-9517.

Youth center dinner, movie

The Fort Rucker Youth Center will take a field trip to Dothan for dinner and a movie Saturday. The trip will leave for Dothan at 3 p.m. be back at 9:30 p.m. Youth are responsible for the cost of dinner and the movie. Youth must be a child and youth services member to participate – ages 11-18, grades six-12.

For membership information or to sign-up, call 255-9638.

Mother’s Day brunch

The Landing will host its Mother’s Day brunch Sunday. The brunch will include: omelet bar, meat carving station, dessert bar and more. Each Mother will receive a free flower. Reservations are not required, but are highly encouraged. The brunch will be open to the public.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 255-0769.

Mom & Me: Dad too!

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

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

Tot Time

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

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

Blended Retirement System seminar

The Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program will present a Blended Retirement System seminar Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, in Rm. 282. The seminar will be a discussion of the significant changes to the current military retirement system, including how retirement pay will be calculated, continuation pay and the Thrift Savings Plan with matching government contributions. The discussion will be facilitated by ACS accredited financial counselors. Pre-registration is required by Tuesday. Free childcare is available with registration.

For more information and to register, call 255- 3765 or 255-9631.

Right Arm Night

The Landing Zone will host Fort Rucker Right Arm Night May 18 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.

Military spouse appreciation

In honor of Military Spouse Appreciation Month, Army Community Service is partnering with the Fort Rucker Religious Services Office to conduct Gary Chapman’s 5 Love Languages workshop at the Wings Chapel May 19 from 5:30-8 p.m. Dinner will be provided by the chapel. The workshop helps couples determine what their spouse’s love



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Girls Night Out

The Landing will host Girls Night Out Friday from 6-9 p.m. for an evening full of fashion, fun, and prizes, according to organizers. The event will feature a DJ providing entertainment and representatives from numerous organizations from throughout the community that cater to women. Prize drawings will be held throughout the evening, with a grand prize drawing at 9 p.m. People must be present to win prizes. The event is open to the public for women ages 18 and older. Tickets are on sale for \$10 and are available at MWR Central, The Landing Zone, The Landing Catering Office, or the Coffee Zone at its Lyster and The Landing Zone locations. For more information, call 255-0769. Pictured is a scene from the Girls Night Out in January.

language is and how to show their appreciation for their support in the language they appreciate. Helps them strengthen their relationships and get to know each other better, according to organizers. For free childcare, people can register with parent central services by calling 255-2958. Pre-registration for childcare is required.

For more information, call 255-3161.

Luau Skate Night

The Fort Rucker School Age Center will host its Luau Skate Night May 19. Youth are encouraged to wear their best tropical vacation attire and take part in the best outfit contest. Safety skate will cost \$2 and will be from 6:15-7:15 p.m. Regular skate will cost \$5 and be from 7:30- 9:30 p.m. Payment is accepted in cash only. Participants must be registered with child and youth services.

For more information, call 255-9108.

Newcomers welcome

A newcomers welcome is scheduled for May 19 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.

Day at the Lake

Fort Rucker Outdoor Recreation will host its Day at the Lake May 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lake Tholocco. Activities will include free swimming, inflatables, and use of the canoes, kayaks and paddle boats. The Center Library will be on site with a build-your-own paper boat activity. Hot dogs, bratwurst, chips and other snack items will be available for purchase. The event will be open to the public. Credit and debit cards will be accepted at the West Beach swimming area. The West Beach swimming area will officially open for the summer season May 26. The swimming area will be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Labor Day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., including during the Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays. Patrons will need to purchase swimming wrist bands from the West Beach swimming area. Daily passes will cost: free for ages 2 and under, \$1.50 for ages 3-12, \$2.25 for ages 13-17, and \$3 for ages 18 and over. Pets and glass containers are prohibited on the beach area.

For more information, call 255-4305.

WWI Book Club

Center Library will host its first WWI book club May 25 at 5 p.m. The title of the book is, “Sleepwalkers,” by Christopher

DFMWR SPOTLIGHT

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DAY AT THE LAKE

SATURDAY, MAY-20

WEST BEACH, LAKE THOLOCCO
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Join Outdoor Recreation for a Day at The Lake as we open Lake Tholocco for the summer. Activities include free swimming, kids inflatables, use of the canoes, kayaks and paddle boats and a “build-your-own” paper boat activity.

West Beach Swimming Area will open for the season on May 26.
Open on Fri, Sat & Sun through Labor Day: 11:00 am–4:00 pm (Including Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays)

Daily passes are: Ages 2 & under FREE; Ages 3–12 years \$1.50; Ages 13–17 years \$2.25; Ages 18+ \$3.



Outdoor Recreation, (334)255-4305.
rucker.armymwr.com, Pets and glass containers are prohibited on the beach area.

Clark, and can be found free of charge on Overdrive for e-books. The program is being offered to help commemorate the 100th anniversary of the U.S.’s entry into WWI. This program is free, open to authorized patrons and Exceptional Family Member Program friendly.

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

School Age Center Summer Camp
The Fort Rucker School Age Center will

host its summer camp May 30 to Aug. 4. Each week, the camp will have a new theme. Parents will have the ability to pick and choose which weeks they would like their children to attend. Fees will be due the Friday before the start of each camp week and will be based on total family income. Food, field trips and all activities will be included in the weekly fees. All youth who attend must be enrolled in child and youth services.

For more information, call 255-9108 or 255-9638.

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR MAY 11-14			
Thursday, May 11	Friday, May 12	Saturday, May 13	Sunday, May 14
Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 2 (PG-13)7 p.m.	Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 2 (PG-13)7 p.m.	Power Rangers (PG-13)4 p.m. CHIPS (R)7 p.m.	The Boss Baby (PG)1 p.m. Power Rangers (PG-13)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.			

Cultural center, U.S. Soldiers bring touch of Americana to Cameroon

By Sean Kimmons
Army News Service

GAROUA, Cameroon – Growing up in Cameroon, Leonce Laure was always fascinated by American culture.

Whenever a Hollywood movie was on TV, her eyes would be glued to the screen. She loved American music, clinging to the lyrics of Michael Jackson and his song “Speechless” about being lost for words because of love.

But the 19-year-old student wasn’t speechless when it came to talking about America when an Army civil affairs team met her and other Cameroonians April 24 at the American Corner in Garoua.

About a year and a half ago, Laure began to visit the cultural center to refine her English skills and learn about the country she has always admired. Every week, the French-speaker practices conversing with American Soldiers assigned to Task Force Toccoa, a 101st Airborne Division-led unit located at a nearby air base.

“From the first day I started coming here, I have benefited from the programs,” she said of the center. “It has given me the opportunity to learn about the culture they teach here and, secondly, it helps me overcome my difficulties in learning English.”

Founded in 2000, the U.S. State Department runs more than 300 of these centers to spread American culture to distant lands around the world. Inside them, they offer English lessons, information on studying abroad and chances to interact with Americans.

One such program at the Garoua center is Discover America, where Soldiers give a crash course on their hometown or state.

During a recent event, Staff Sgt. Brandon Collins, a member of the 83rd Civil Affairs Battalion Team 8321, spoke about his home state of Ohio. From large cities to farmland, mountains and tourist attractions, he said, the state offered so much that the Cameroonians were stunned.

“Most of them were able to point it out on a map,” the 28-year-old said, “but they were surprised to see how diverse Ohio was.”

But when the inquisitive Cameroonians questioned Collins about Ohio’s government leadership, he was stumped. In Cameroon, he said, many people take their knowledge of local government seriously.

“That’s actually a big thing in Cameroon,” he said. “I wasn’t ready for them to be interested in the actual government aspect, so I thought that was pretty cool.”

The American Corner in Garoua also doubles as an Internet café and library with an array of reading material, from novels to U.S. history books written by American authors. A cooler stocked with Coca-Cola and Sprite also offers a little taste of the U.S.

“It makes them feel [they are] really in America without traveling,” said Harouna Ahmadou, the center’s director.

Ahmadou has worked at the center since it first opened in 2006. Impressed by the professionalism of the U.S. Soldiers, he asked them to be a part of it when they arrived at Garoua in 2015 to support Cameroon in its fight against Boko Haram.

“Their presence draws more people in our American Corner,” Ahmadou said. “We’re very proud of having them. They’re always there when we schedule a program and they’re very engaged during [it].”

The cultural exchanges also benefit the Soldiers when they visit. “When you share your culture, we learn from each other,” Ahmadou said.

The civil affairs team often tries to get Soldiers to travel to the American Corner so they can talk with the Cameroonians and experience their way of life, according to its team leader, Capt. Daniel Kohlmetz.

“If the task force Soldiers didn’t have that opportunity to go out and interact with the civilian population, all they would know is what the view is from the guard tower or walking from their tent to the [tactical operations center],” said Kohlmetz, 44, of Carol Stream, Illinois.



PHOTOS BY SEAN KIMMONS

Staff Sgt. Brandon Collins, right, a member of the 83rd Civil Affairs Battalion Team 8321, shares a laugh with Leonce Laure, left, and another Cameroonian while at the American Corner in Garoua, Cameroon, April 24.



Sgt. 1st Class Sean Acosta and Collins, both members of the 83rd Civil Affairs Battalion’s Team 8321, talk with Harouna Ahmadou, director of the American Corner.

While the center is a State Department initiative, no U.S. Embassy personnel are stationed in Garoua. The embassy must rely on Kohlmetz and his team for assistance. “The embassy doesn’t come up here as often as [us],” the captain said. “We live here. This is our home in Cameroon.”

And the team’s work hasn’t gone unnoticed by embassy staff in Yaounde, the country’s capital city.

“They are there every day providing that friendship, that hand of cooperation and the Cameroonian people can directly interact with them,” said Matthew D. Smith, deputy chief of mission for the U.S. Embassy in Cameroon.

Soldiers in their late teens and early 20s who visit the American Corner are also great at representing America’s goodwill, he said, since many of them can relate to the young Cameroonians there.

“We live in a very interconnected world, and we share aspirations, challenges, and we share opportunities,” Smith said. “The fact that these young men and women have come to Cameroon to engage in these efforts has been of the greatest impact.”



A Cameroonian woman restocks books inside the American Corner.

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CHOSIN FEW

JCS chairman helps veterans dedicate monument to battle

By Jim Garamone
Defense Media Activity

QUANTICO, Va. — It's a measure of the men who are the "Chosin Few" that they all stood when the Marine Corps color guard trooped in with the American flag.

Now all well into their 80s, as young Marines and Soldiers they fought in one of the toughest and most iconic battles in American history – the Chosin Reservoir Battle in North Korea in 1950.

There was a row of wheelchairs and walkers for these men as they gathered to dedicate the Chosin Few Battle Monument in the new Medal of Honor Theater in the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Yet, when the flag trooped in, they struggled out of their chairs and steadied themselves on their walkers in respect to the flag. Not one remained seated.

'THE TOUGHEST TERRAIN'

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff spoke of that dedication in his remarks. Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford knows the story of the battle, as all Marines do. The 1st Marine Division, two battalions of the Army's 31st Infantry Regiment and British Royal Marines from 41 (Independent) Commando were attacking north, chasing a defeated North Korean Army up to the Yalu River, when an estimated 120,000 Chinese Communist troops attacked and surrounded the force around the Chosin Reservoir.

It was a battle "fought over the toughest terrain and under the harshest weather conditions imaginable," Dunford said, and Marines since that time have been living up to the example the Chosin Few set in 1950.

"It is no exaggeration to say that I am a United States Marine because of the Marines who served at Chosin," Dunford said. "In all sincerity, any success I have had as a Marine has been as a result of attempting to follow in their very large footsteps.

One set of footprints belonged to Joseph F. Dunford Sr., who celebrated his 20th birthday while carrying a Browning Automatic Rifle with the Baker Bandits of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines in the ridges over the reservoir Nov. 27, 1950. "He spent the night in close combat as three regiments of the Chinese 79th Division attempted to annihilate the 5th and 7th Marines," the general said.



AIR FORCE PHOTO

This blown bridge at Funchilin Pass blocked the only way out for U.S. and British forces withdrawing from the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea during the Korean War. Air Force C-119 Flying Boxcars dropped portable bridge sections to span the chasm in December 1950, allowing men and equipment to reach safety.

Growing up, Dunford's father never discussed how he spent his 20th birthday. "He never spoke of the horrors of close combat or the frostbite that he and many Marines suffered on their march to the sea," he said. "I was in the Marine Corps for seven years before we had a serious conversation about his experiences in the Korean War."

THE LEGACY OF CHOSIN

Still, even as a youngster, the general knew what pride his father felt in being a Marine and a member of the Chosin Few, and vowed to join the force. "I am still trying to get over the bar that he set many, many years ago," Dunford said.

So, his father was his reason for joining the Marine Corps, but it was another Chosin veteran that was responsible for him making the Corps a career.

Dunford served as the aide to Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Stephen Olmstead on Okinawa, Japan, in the early 1980s. Olmstead was a private first class rifleman at Chosin in G Company, 3rd Battalion,

1st Marines. "I would say that to a young lieutenant, there was something very different about General Olmstead – his character, his sense of calm, a father's concern for his Marines, a focus on assuring they were well-trained, well-led and ready for combat. He knew what they might have to experience."

Olmstead's example was a powerful one for young Lieutenant Dunford, and he started to think about making the Marine Corps a career. "I wanted to serve long enough to be a leader with the competence, compassion and influence of General Olmstead," he said.

The Chosin Few have this effect on the Marine Corps as a whole, Dunford said.

Their real legacy is an example of valor, self-sacrifice and camaraderie that units hand down as part of their DNA.

The battle was a costly one, with U.S. forces suffering more than 12,000 casualties – including more than 3,000 killed in action. The nation awarded 17 Medals of Honor, 64 Navy Crosses and 14 Distinguished Service Crosses to Marines and Soldiers for heroism in that battle. The British 41 Commando received the same Presidential Unit Citation as the Marines of the 1st Marine Division.

Young Marines all learn about the battle, from recruits in boot camp to those striving to be officers at Quantico.

Now they have a monument to visit.



PHOTO BY DOMINIQUE A. PINEIRO

Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, served as the guest speaker for Chosin Few Memorial Dedication Ceremony at the National Museum of the Marine Corps May 4.



PHOTO BY JIM GARAMONE

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford speaks to South Korean media before the dedication of the Chosin Few Battle Monument.

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ARMY LEADERS:

Diversity more than black, white

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — What is diversity? It's more than a matter of race or gender, say Army leaders.

"Diversity isn't about looks, it's about perspective," said Brig. Gen. Lapthe Flora. "It's a different mindset, different thinking, different thought processes."

Flora, originally born in Vietnam, came to the United States in 1980 as a refugee from that country. He served as keynote speaker at an Army Diversity Reception May 3 on Capitol Hill.

For the Army, increasing diversity among the uniformed and civilian workforce means making military service appeal to a wide array of Americans from a variety of faith groups, ethnicities, backgrounds, upbringings and geographic locations. The goal is to create a system that maximizes individual talent, increases morale and enhances military effectiveness.

Today, 37 years after he arrived in the United States, Flora serves as the assistant adjutant general for strategic initiatives with the Virginia National Guard.

"However you were raised in your family defines who you are," Flora said. "And whoever you are, you have a different thought process and a different perspective. That to me is diversity, and that kind of gives you a richness. You need to harness those different ideas. It definitely makes the Army better and stronger."

Flora is an Army infantry officer who originally fled the cities in Vietnam after the fall of Saigon in 1975. He and his brothers lived for more than three years in the jungles there, he said, to avoid the North Vietnamese military.

"My unyielding resolve to stay alive motivated me to endure three and half years of harsh jungle life in Vietnam, where there was no electricity, no running water, where we grew and hunted our own food and built our own thatch hut," he said.

Later, he made the bold choice to flee Vietnam. He spent five days on a fishing boat without food or water, he said, traversing the South China Sea, before he finally landed in Indonesia. Going into the trip, he said, he knew he had poor odds for survival. "I beat those odds and lived to tell the tale."

In May 1979, he found himself in a refugee camp in Indonesia, where he was able to plead his case for a chance to live in the United States.

"As a result of your generosity, I was blessed with the privilege to migrate to the United States, a year later, arriving April of 1980," Flora said. "Today I stand before you as a humble servant who owes a great debt of gratitude to America, a debt which I can never fully repay, especially to our Vietnam veterans. I am humbled when recalling who I once was, while beaming with pride and gratitude at who I have become: a proud citizen-Soldier of this great nation."

Sen. Tammy Duckworth, who represents the state of Illinois and who is herself a decorated Army veteran, a wounded warrior and a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot, said the world is in conflict now and the Army needs the strength that diversity provides to continue to protect the nation.

"We are at uncertain times on a global scale right now, at a time when American leadership is ever more important than it has ever been throughout our nation's history, probably since World War II," she said.



PHOTO BY C. TODD LOPEZ

Sen. Tammy Duckworth, of Illinois, spoke during an Army Diversity Reception May 3 on Capitol Hill.

When the Army goes overseas, Duckworth said, the diversity that it brings with it in its formations has an impact on those who witness it, and even on the Army's ability to operate.

"Diversity is so ... critical to who we are and how we can function as a nation but also to the readiness and our ability to project our forces overseas," she said.

Duckworth cited the Illinois National Guard's Partnership for Peace program with the nation of Poland as an example. She said when the Illinois Guard goes to Poland, they bring with them native Polish speakers to facilitate the mission. Likewise, she said, when Soldiers deploy from Hawaii to go to the Philippines, they bring with them native speakers of Tagalog.

"This is why we are so effective on a global stage," she said. "The fact we can have a Sikh officer show up

wearing his turban and represent the greatest military the world has ever seen, and for the rest of the world to say 'that's America' is really important. The importance of diversity to our nation's strength, on an ongoing basis, cannot be underemphasized. And the fact that we have a former refugee who is now a general in the U.S. military says something about who we are as a nation."

Now is not the time, Duckworth said, to limit who can join the U.S. Army. Instead, it's a time to bring more kinds of people into the Army to serve.

"To limit who can serve in the military, to limit who we are as a nation, will limit our strength," she said. "I want us to continue to lead the free world the way we have and to lead into the next century. The way we do that is to emphasize what makes this nation great: our values, and our values is why we are diverse."

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5K RUN

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Fort Benning hosts Reverse Sprint Triathlon

By Bridgett Siter
Directorate of Family & Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Fort Benning, Georgia

The Reverse Sprint Triathlon returns to Fort Benning June 3. The event includes a 5K run, a 20K bike and a 550M swim. Divisions are age 12 and under, 13-17, 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 and older. Two to three participants, male or female, are required to compete as a team.

Participants will meet in the Benning Brew Pub parking lot off Sightseeing Road on Main Post. The race starts at 8 a.m. Registration is \$45 per individual or \$75 per team and increases to \$65 per individual and \$95 per team on race day. Register today at Active.com or at Smith Fitness Center. The first 100 participants to register will receive a free commemorative triathlon t-shirt. For more information, email Lori.m.smith38.naf@mail.mil.

WIREGRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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ANDALUSIA

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

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

DALEVILLE

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

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

DOTHAN

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

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

MAY 15 AND 22 — Beginning swing dance lessons will be offered at the Hildreth Building at 202 N.

Main St. Classes will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$3 per person per evening. For more information, call 334-393-4811.

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. People interested in joining a class are welcome to join at 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/>.

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

GENEVA

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

MIDLAND CITY

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

NEW BROCKTON

ONGOING — 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.

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

OZARK

ONGOING — The Ann Rudd Art Center offers free art lessons for children ages 5 and older. The young student class is Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon, and the adult-teen class is from 12:30-3 p.m. Slots are on a first come, first served basis. For more information, call 774-7922.

ONGOING — The Friends of Ozark holds a monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Ozark-Dale County Library. For more information, call 477-6221 or email wcholmes53@hotmail.com.

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

PINCKARD

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

SAMSON

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

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

TROY

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

WIREGRASS AREA

MAY 18 — The Masterworks Choir of Enterprise will perform songs from France, French composers and selections from “Les Miserables,” at 7 p.m. at the Just Folk Coffee Shop in Elba. In addition to the community choir singing, several soloists and a local youth choir will perform. The concert will be free and open to the public, but donations will be welcome.

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.

Beyond Briefs

Car, truck show

Montgomery will host an antique and classic car and truck show at the Union Station Train Shed May 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration for entering cars will run from 10 a.m. to noon and the entry fee will be \$20. Prizes will be awarded to the Top 25 vehicles and also a best of show award will be given. For more information, visit www.funinmontgomery.com/announcements/antique-car-show.

Thunder on the Bay

The 6th Alabama Cavalry, the Alabama Division of Re-enactors will host Thunder on the Bay, a living history re-enactment of the Battle of Mobile Bay, May 20-21 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dauphin Island. The well-preserved ramparts of Fort Gaines have guarded the entrance to Mobile Bay for more than 150 years, according to organizers. Now a historic site, the fort stands at the eastern tip of Dauphin Island where it commands panoramic views of the bay and the Gulf of Mexico. The event highlights Fort Gaines’ integral role in the Battle of Mobile Bay. For more information, visit <http://dauphinisland.org/>.

Lake Fest, boat show

Alabama’s largest in-water boat show and festival is scheduled for May 19-20 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Cropwell. Admission is free. Attendees can test drive boats, enjoy live music and a fireworks show (Friday at 8 p.m.) and partake of the wares of food and lake lifestyle vendors, according to organizers. For more information, visit <http://www.loganmartinlakefest.com/>.

‘Sherlock Holmes’

Montgomery’s Alabama Shakespeare Festival will present a new adaptation of the “Sherlock Holmes” story by Geoffrey Sherman now through 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/.

Harriott II: Mother’s Day Brunch Cruise

Montgomery Parks and Recreation’s

Harriott II riverboat will host a Mother’s Day cruise May 14 from 12:15-2:45 p.m. The cost is \$46 for adults, and includes the cruise, live entertainment and brunch. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 334-625-2100 or visit <http://www.funinmontgomery.com/parks-items/harriott-ii-riverboat>.

Jacksonian Guard Colors Ceremony

People are welcome to celebrate Florida becoming a U.S. territory in Pensacola, where the original ceremony took place on July 17, 1821. The Jacksonian Guard is a Pensacola re-enactment group of Jacksonian era and Spanish soldiers, fifers and drummers who perform a colors ceremony the third Saturday of each month at noon in Plaza Ferdinand on Palafox Street downtown. For more information, visit <https://downtownpensacola.com/businesses/jacksonian-guard>.

River Jam Music Festival

Montgomery will host its free River Jam Music Festival May 12-13 presented by Wind Creek Montgomery and the Alabama Roots Music Society. May 12 at 6 p.m. at the Union Station Train Shed performers will be The 69 Band, Wyatt Edmundson and The John Bull Band. May 13 at 4:30

p.m. at the Riverfront Amphitheater performers will be Kirk J, Leah Seawright with March Hearnson, Mingo Fishtap and Anders Osborne.

For more information, call 334-625-2100 or visit www.funinmontgomery.com/announcements/river-jam.

Montgomery Biscuits baseball

The Montgomery Biscuits are a Double A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays and play in Riverwalk Stadium in downtown Montgomery. Various specials and promotions are offered throughout the season. For more information, visit <http://www.biscuitsbaseball.com>.

Date Night Movie on the Green

A date night movie will be played on the big blow up screen at Montgomery’s Riverfront Park starting at dark on the first Friday in June. People are welcome to bring chairs or blankets for seating. Food vendors will be available, or people may bring their own food. People must be at least 18 years or older. Pets are welcome. Tickets are \$5 per person and must be purchased online or at the gate. The movie for June 2 is “Dirty Dancing.” For more information, call 334-625-2100 or visit funinmontgomery.com/announcements/movies-on-the-green.



A Mongolian Armed Forces Central Military Band member performs May 1 during a dinner marking the opening day of Gobi Wolf 2017.

Gobi Wolf 2017 kicks off in Mongolia

By Sgt. David Bedard
U.S. Army Pacific Public Affairs

DALANZADGAD, Mongolia – Exercise Gobi Wolf 2017 began May 1 with an opening ceremony, academic training, a United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs webinar and a reception dinner in Dalanzadgad.

GW 17 is a five-day disaster response exercise and exchange between the government of Mongolia and U.S. Army Pacific focused on interagency coordination.

The Mongolia National Emergency Management Agency hosts the exercise with support from the Mongolian Armed Forces.

Ambassador Jennifer Zimdahl Galt, U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia, said the exercise marks 30 years of cooperation between the U.S. and Mongolia, and she expressed her confidence in NEMA's ability to excel during the exercise.

"NEMA is a partner that exceeds expectations at every turn," Galt said. "I look forward to hearing, as the exercise goes on this week, of the extraordinary performance of our NEMA colleagues."

The exercise scenario centers around a simulated magnitude 7.5 earthquake in Umnugovi (South Gobi) province along the border with China.

"The scenario and actions that follow will test disaster-management plans including earthquake preparedness plans at the national and local levels, and coordination of civil-military cooperation, and strengthen reception of international humanitarian assistance," said NEMA Brig. Gen. Badral Tuvshin, chief of NEMA.

GW 17 activities also include a table-top exercise focusing on functional-area expertise in an office environment, a field-training exercise at several locations around Dalanzadgad, and an after-action review to capture lessons learned during the exercise.

GW was originally hosted from 2009 to

2012 and was reinstituted in 2015 as part of USARPAC's Pacific Resilience series of humanitarian assistance/disaster relief exercises.

Pacific Resilience tests host nation defense support to civil authorities during disaster situations, the integration of foreign humanitarian assistance and the strategic communication required to implement emergency-management plans.

"We do this to facilitate cooperation and coordination [and] build relationships between host nations and other regional responding agencies – not just military but also governmental," said Maj. Edwin Morton, GW 17 exercise director and lead U.S. planner. "There are international components of this that we're exercising. We're not just building relationships. We're also working out the cooperation and coordination mechanisms that we need to effectively respond to a disaster where there's been a request for international assistance."

Gobi Wolf 2016 invited participation of multinational partners beyond Mongolia and the United States, and this year's exercise continues the practice. Other countries who sent delegates include Bangladesh, Canada, Hungary, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea.

In a departure from past exercises, this year's Gobi Wolf moves away entirely from Mongolia's capital city of Ulaanbaatar. Morton said the change allows for a more realistic and challenging scenario owing to austere conditions and the added logistical demands of distance.

U.S. military participating in the exercise include active duty Army, Air Force, Army Reserve, Alaska Army National Guard and Alaska Air National Guard service members from across the Pacific Command. U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and numerous U.S. non-governmental agencies also sent delegates.



Mongolia National Emergency Management Agency Brig. Gen. Badral Tuvshin (right) greets Maj. Edwin Morton, Gobi Wolf 2017 exercise director and lead U.S. planner May 1.

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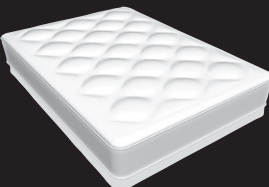
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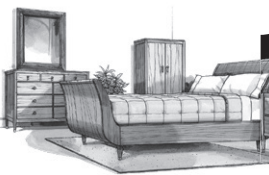
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WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

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

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

Wings Chapel, Bldg. 6036
9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Latter-Day Saints
10:45 a.m. Wings Crossroads
(Contemporary Worship Protestant Service)
11 p.m. Eckankar Study (4th Sunday)

Spiritual Life Center, Bldg. 8939
10:15 a.m. CCD (except during summer months)

BIBLE STUDIES

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

Protestant Women of the Chapel
Wings Chape, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Adult Bible Study
Spiritual Life Center, 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

Kingdom Kidz & Youth Group Bible Study
Spiritual Life Center, 5:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study
Spiritual Life Center, 6 p.m.

THURSDAYS
WOCC Bible Study (1st/3rd Thursday) Swartworth Hall,
Bldg. 5302, 11:30 a.m.

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

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

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MAY 11, 2017

ON THE DIAMOND

Spartans squash Mighty Melonheads, 19-6

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The 2017 Fort Rucker Intramural Softball Season is in full swing and teams aren't just playing around when it comes to working toward the championship title.

The 1st Battalion, 223rd Aviation Regiment Spartans took on the Mighty Melonheads, a team made up of Soldiers from multiple units, at the Fort Rucker softball fields Tuesday, but it would be the Spartans who would dominate to take the win, 19-6, in a game that didn't feature the Melonheads starting off on the right foot.

"I thought we played well," said CW2 Nathaniel Strand, coach for the Spartans. "Everybody was out there hustling, and we all worked together, stayed positive and got the win. We just had that Spartan morale."

The Spartans took to the plate first and it was easy going for the 1-223rd as the Melonheads' pitcher had a tough time getting into the game with two walks to start, making room for a two-base hit to bring in the Spartans' first run early on.

They followed up with another base hit to bring in their second run, and although a pop up to center field gave them their first out, a string of walks by the Melonheads' pitcher kept a steady stream of runners on base for the 1-223rd.

With the combination of walks and base hits, the Spartans continued to bring in run



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Capt. John Dexter, Mighty Melonheads first baseman, tags Pvt. 1st Class Jason Rahe, Spartans player, out at first base during a game at the Fort Rucker softball fields Tuesday.

after run as they managed to keep the ball on the ground and out of the hands of their opponents, gaining them a 10-point lead with their first at bat before a string of pop flies ended their streak.

Down by 10 runs on their first at bat, the Melonheads had their work cut out for them, but they didn't have much luck with their first two batters who were out with a play at first and a pop up to center field.

They managed to get a base hit to get a runner on base, but things weren't looking good with two outs. Despite being

down, the Melonheads weren't giving up, and managed a triple to bring in their first run and get on the scoreboard, but that would be the extent of their advance for the inning.

The 1-223rd came back to the plate with a base hit to start, but the Melonheads halted their advance with a play at second, immediately followed by a double play and second and first, quickly sending the Spartans back into the outfield scoreless for the inning.

This gave the Melonheads' a chance to turn the game around, and they managed to get runners

on base. They kept the ball on the ground for base hits to bring a runner in and load the bases with 2 outs, but once again they couldn't keep their momentum going and were sent back into the outfield, behind 10-2.

The Spartans once again took to the plate going into the third determined to extend their lead, but they couldn't match their first inning success and quickly accumulated three outs as their opponent stepped up its defense.

Slowly but surely, the Melonheads seemed to be making up ground, and although they got

two outs with their first two batters of the inning, they managed a double and a shot to left field to bring in another run before a pop fly ended their time at the plate, down 10-3.

The 1-223rd still held a comfortable lead going into the fourth, but weren't off to a good start with two outs early on, but they managed to break their scoreless streak and bring in a run to extend their lead, 11-3, before heading back into the field.

With the pressure mounting, Melonheads needed to step up their game and average better than a run per inning, but the Spartans had other plans and tightened their defense, ending the Melonheads' time at the plate with their first scoreless inning in three innings.

The Spartans continued to outpace their opponents, and although the Melonheads managed to slowly close the scoring gap, coming within six runs of their opponents at the bottom of the fifth, 12-6, the 1-223rd came back in the sixth to show they weren't playing around.

The Spartans took to the final inning with base hit after base hit, bringing in multiple runs before loading the bases that set them up for an in-the-park grand slam, bringing in four runs and solidifying their lead to 19-6.

Time wasn't on the Melonheads' side as the game clock had less than 1 minute when they took to the plate, and the game ended with the Spartans on top.

Service experts discuss progress in recognizing, treating PTSD, TBI

By Cheryl Pellerin
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON – Heads of military centers and programs targeting post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury in service members and their families reported progress April 28 in the timely recognition and treatment of these and related health conditions.

Testifying before the House Armed Services Committee's military personnel subcommittee on Defense Department clinical research and program assessment for PTSD and TBI were Navy Capt. (Dr.) Mike Colston, director of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, and Air Force Col. (Dr.) Steven Pflanz, deputy director of psychological health for the Air Force.

Joining them on the panel were Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Chris Ivany, chief of behavioral health in the Army Office of the Surgeon General, and Navy Capt. (Dr.) Thomas Johnson, site director for the Navy Intrepid Spirit Concussion Recovery Center at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

EMPHASIS ON PREVENTION

Colston began the testimony by noting that last year about a quarter of service members were seen for PTSD, TBI or a mental health condition.

"We made PTSD and TBI leadership issues with an emphasis on prevention," he said, describing recent progress.

PTSD incidents decreased from 17,000 to 14,000 from 2012 to 2015, and TBI incidents decreased from 31,000 to 23,000 over the period, he said. The center expanded access to care by tripling its mental health infrastructure since 2001, and a recent Rand study found that DOD outperforms civilian health systems in outpatient follow-up after psychiatric inpatient care for PTSD or depression, Colston told the panel.

"One of our largest tasks is bet-



PHOTO BY J.M. EDDINS JR.

A traumatic brain injury patient walks through a virtual reality scenario at the Computer Assisted Rehabilitation Environment Laboratory at National Intrepid Center of Excellence at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., March 20, 2017.

ter understanding why PTSD and TBI often present with depression, chronic pain, substance use disorders and suicide risk," he said, noting that longitudinal research efforts such as a 15-year study on TBI aid understanding and provide a framework for creating effective rehabilitation and support programs.

"We've evaluated over 150 mental health, TBI, substance use and suicide-prevention programs over the past five years, [and] this program evaluation has been invaluable," Colston said.

"Publication of this five-year study will be completed later this fiscal year and will help us ... [ensure] our funding is tied to programs that work, such as the U.S. Army's embedded behavioral health program and its associated health data portal," he added.

In 2015, there were more 52,000 overdose deaths in America. Opiate overdose deaths went up to 10.4 per 100,000 in 2015. The DOD rate was 2.7 for 100,000, about one-fourth of that. This was accomplished because leaders were focused on service members' well-being and a focused outcome-based effort on prevention – primary prevention, selective prevention and indicative prevention,

drug testing, provider training, pharmacy protections and medication therapies, Colston told the panel.

"We hope to generalize some of the successes we've seen in PTSD and TBI incidents and opioid overdose deaths in other areas such as suicide prevention and alcohol use disorders," he said.

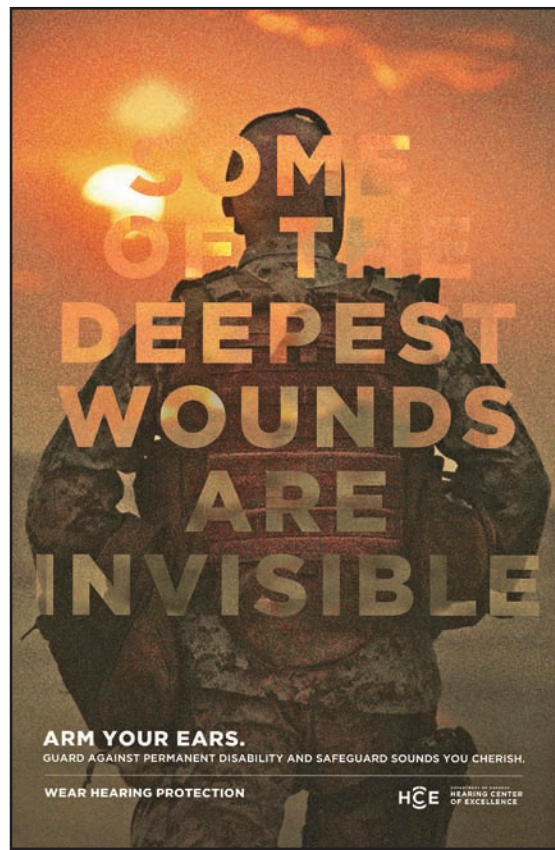
ESSENTIAL TO READINESS

In his remarks to the panel, Ivany said health care is essential to readiness, which is the Army's first priority. No area has faced as many challenges, made as many changes and achieved as many advances as Army behavioral health care.

"Early in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army realized that the size and the organization of our behavioral health force was insufficient to meet the needs of our beneficiaries," Ivany said. Officials greatly increased resources and expanded the number of clinical programs.

Senior Army medical leaders also made a pivotal decision to centralize the oversight and direction of all clinical programs and built a small team of professionals in the surgeon general's office to do so, he said. The

SEE PROGRESS, PAGE D3



ARMY GRAPHIC

HEARING INJURY

Service members at greater risk than general public

By Wesley P. Elliott
Army Medicine Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – According to the National Institutes of Health, about 36 million American adults report hearing loss, and between 6-8 million people have some form of language impairment.

Service members and veterans are at a greater risk of hearing injury than the general public, and the Veterans Benefits Administration reports that tinnitus and hearing loss are the two top service-connected disabilities for U.S. military veterans, and tinnitus is the most common service-related disability among recent veterans.

May is National Better Speech and Hearing Month, and a time to recognize the effect of hearing loss and speech disorders on individual wellness.

During the month, Army Medicine is taking steps to increase awareness about hearing and communication disorders, including prevention, diagnoses and state-of-the-art treatment.

The military first introduced audiology care as it resulted from the need to rehabilitate troops with hearing loss who returned from World War I and WWII.

SEE HEARING, PAGE D3

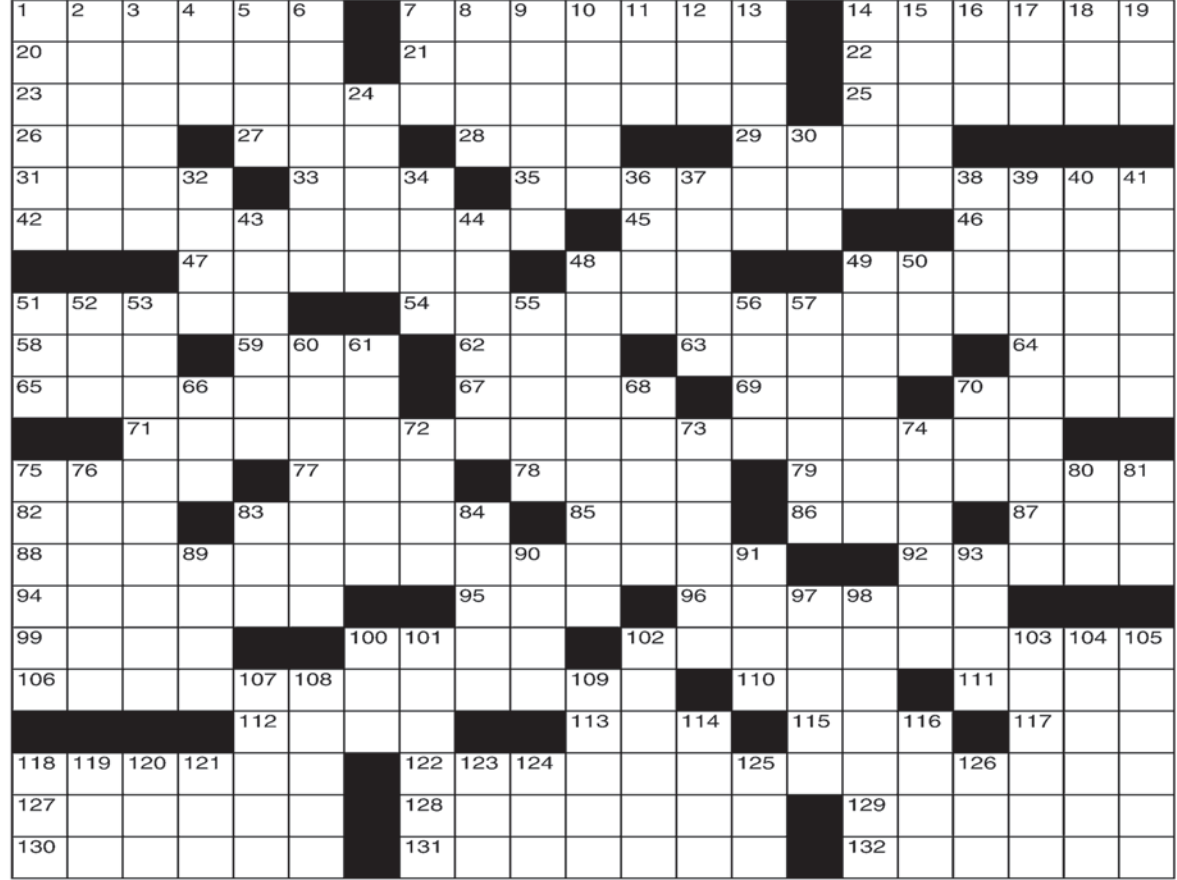
DOWN TIME



Super Crossword

PREFIXES SUFFIXED

- ACROSS**
- 1 Thick-skinned river critters
 - 7 Women's soft hats of old
 - 14 Crouches, as a catcher
 - 20 Dream up
 - 21 Turkey's landmass
 - 22 Career-track type
 - 23 British hero sandwich?
 - 25 Cut in half
 - 26 Aunts, e.g.
 - 27 Maglie of the old Giants
 - 28 Be sickly
 - 29 Give off
 - 31 Certain tennis edge
 - 33 "America" contraction
 - 35 Person born to be an apartment manager?
 - 42 Car made in an Alabama port?
 - 45 Schoolyard rejoinder
 - 46 Gap
 - 47 Small brawl
 - 48 "Drop — line"
 - 49 Place for petri dishes
 - 51 Hold tightly
 - 54 Syringe causing a bad skin reaction?
 - 58 Gmail rival
 - 59 World finance org.
 - 62 Holiday quaff
 - 63 Thin, white mushroom
 - 64 CBS drama
 - 65 Advil rival
 - 67 "Yipes!"
 - 69 Printer resolution stat
 - 70 Kids' author Silverstein
 - 71 Very busy checkout area?
 - 75 "— to You" (2009 Lady Antebellum hit)
 - 77 Lamprey lookalike
 - 78 Pepsi or RC
 - 79 Easily duped sort
 - 82 Body filled with eau
 - 83 Old TV's
 - 85 The, to Jules
 - 86 Pitchfork-shaped letter
 - 87 Trim grass
 - 88 Put-down during a visit with the doc?
 - 92 John of plows
 - 94 Takes as one's own
 - 95 Tar's "Help!"
 - 96 Doofus
 - 99 Any of three English rivers
 - 100 Pets that purr
 - 102 Gregarious protester?
 - 106 Beloved big rig?
 - 110 Pal, to Jules
 - 111 Big name in faucets
 - 112 Process part
 - 113 "As I see it," online
 - 115 Ending for percent
 - 117 Harass
 - 118 Like rabbis and shuls
 - 122 PC shortcut used by inflation calculators?
 - 127 Broad road
 - 128 Celestial body circlers
 - 129 Let the wind freshen
 - 130 Not as bold
 - 131 Deluge
 - 132 Vagabonds
 - 38 "Whoops!"
 - 39 Multicolored
 - 40 Tick by
 - 41 Bring past a simmer again
 - 43 Ida of old films
 - 44 Early online protocol
 - 48 Units of a million watts per ampere
 - 49 Skimpy swimsuits
 - 50 Here, to Jules
 - 51 Gun, in slang
 - 52 Senator Blunt
 - 53 Very versatile
 - 55 Rationale
 - 56 Inner: Prefix
 - 57 Like bit-free orange juice
 - 60 Folks not living in the past
 - 61 Spoken with ease
 - 66 Suffix with northeast
 - 68 Struck out in editing
 - 70 Realize
 - 72 Quahog or geoduck
 - 73 Spot for slots
 - 74 Big small-screen star
 - 75 Sgt. Friday catchphrase
 - 76 Get from a pitcher anew
 - 80 —easter
 - 81 She-sheep
 - 83 British islet
 - 84 Gives relish
 - 89 Big oil gp.
 - 90 Muzzle part
 - 91 "The Bicycle Thief" director Vittorio De —
 - 93 Dutch cheese
 - 97 Act like
 - 98 Denounces
 - 100 Stage signal
 - 101 Angle
 - 102 Playwright de Beauvoir
 - 103 PFC, e.g.
 - 104 Rip to shreds
 - 105 Bullion bars
 - 107 Time release
 - 108 Alternate
 - 109 Underage
 - 114 Arab country
 - 116 Arab bigwig
 - 118 Gridlock
 - 119 Day before
 - 120 Really little
 - 121 Sign
 - 123 Cote sound
 - 124 Rink great Bobby
 - 125 Banjo finale?
 - 126 Coaching great Parseghian



See Page D3 for this week's answers.

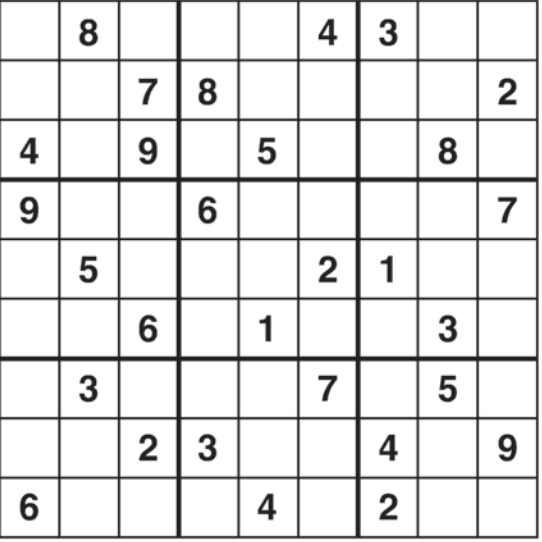
TRIVIA

1. GEOGRAPHY: What river borders Maryland and Washington, D.C.?
2. MOVIES: What was the name of the sea witch in "The Little Mermaid"?
3. HISTORY: In what year did the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl take place?
4. MUSIC: Which singer/songwriter composed the song "Calendar Girl"?
5. SCIENCE: What do dendrologists study?
6. LANGUAGE: What does the Japanese word "kamikaze" mean?
7. PROVERBS: What is the ending of the proverb that begins, "A watched pot ..."??
8. LITERATURE: Which confessional poet of the 20th century used the pseudonym Victoria Lucas?
9. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear represented in apiphobia?
10. ANCIENT WORLD: Eratosthenes is considered the father of what field of study?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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!

© 2017 King Features Synd., Inc.

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

KID'S CORNER

CINDY'S CANDLE SCENTER

DON'T BE A DRIP solving this one. Can you correctly count the candles in Cindy's shop window? You have 30 seconds.

Our answer: Our count was 60. What about you?

DON'T GET "SNOWED UNDER" BY THIS ONE! To solve this problem, you must replace the letters in the AlphaMath puzzle with the digits 0, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. See if you can get a higher total than we did.

Our answer: S=5, N=0, B=1, W=3, A=4, Y=6, F=9, T=7, L=8, I=9, R=2, D=0, G=1, H=3, O=5, P=6, Q=7, U=8, V=9, X=0, Z=1, J=2, K=3, M=4, C=5, E=6, L=7, I=8, N=9, O=0, P=1, Q=2, R=3, S=4, T=5, U=6, V=7, W=8, X=9, Y=0, Z=1, A=2, B=3, C=4, D=5, E=6, F=7, G=8, H=9, I=0, J=1, K=2, L=3, M=4, N=5, O=6, P=7, Q=8, R=9, S=0, T=1, U=2, V=3, W=4, X=5, Y=6, Z=7, A=8, B=9, C=0, D=1, E=2, F=3, G=4, H=5, I=6, J=7, K=8, L=9, M=0, N=1, O=2, P=3, Q=4, R=5, S=6, T=7, U=8, V=9, W=0, X=1, Y=2, Z=3, A=4, B=5, C=6, D=7, E=8, F=9, G=0, H=1, I=2, J=3, K=4, L=5, M=6, N=7, O=8, P=9, Q=0, R=1, S=2, T=3, U=4, V=5, W=6, X=7, Y=8, Z=9, A=0, B=1, C=2, D=3, E=4, F=5, G=6, H=7, I=8, J=9, K=0, L=1, M=2, N=3, O=4, P=5, Q=6, R=7, S=8, T=9, U=0, V=1, W=2, X=3, Y=4, Z=5, A=6, B=7, C=8, D=9, E=0, F=1, G=2, H=3, I=4, J=5, K=6, L=7, M=8, N=9, O=0, P=1, Q=2, R=3, S=4, T=5, U=6, V=7, W=8, X=9, Y=0, Z=1, A=2, B=3, C=4, D=5, E=6, F=7, G=8, H=9, I=0, J=1, K=2, L=3, M=4, N=5, O=6, P=7, Q=8, R=9, S=0, T=1, U=2, V=3, W=4, X=5, Y=6, Z=7, A=8, B=9, C=0, D=1, E=2, F=3, G=4, H=5, I=6, J=7, K=8, L=9, M=0, N=1, O=2, P=3, Q=4, R=5, S=6, T=7, U=8, V=9, W=0, X=1, Y=2, Z=3, A=4, B=5, C=6, D=7, E=8, F=9, G=0, H=1, I=2, J=3, K=4, L=5, M=6, N=7, O=8, P=9, Q=0, R=1, S=2, T=3, U=4, V=5, W=6, X=7, Y=8, Z=9, A=0, B=1, C=2, D=3, E=4, F=5, G=6, H=7, I=8, J=9, K=0, L=1, M=2, N=3, O=4, P=5, Q=6, R=7, S=8, T=9, U=0, V=1, W=2, X=3, Y=4, Z=5, A=6, B=7, C=8, D=9, E=0, F=1, G=2, H=3, I=4, J=5, K=6, L=7, M=8, N=9, O=0, P=1, Q=2, R=3, S=4, T=5, U=6, V=7, W=8, X=9, Y=0, Z=1, A=2, B=3, C=4, D=5, E=6, F=7, G=8, H=9, I=0, J=1, K=2, L=3, M=4, N=5, O=6, P=7, Q=8, R=9, S=0, T=1, U=2, V=3, W=4, X=5, Y=6, Z=7, A=8, B=9, C=0, D=1, E=2, F=3, G=4, H=5, I=6, J=7, K=8, L=9, M=0, N=1, O=2, P=3, Q=4, R=5, S=6, T=7, U=8, V=9, W=0, X=1, Y=2, Z=3, A=4, B=5, C=6, D=7, E=8, F=9, G=0, H=1, I=2, J=3, K=4, L=5, M=6, N=7, O=8, P=9, Q=0, R=1, S=2, T=3, U=4, V=5, W=6, X=7, Y=8, Z=9, A=0, B=1, C=2, D=3, E=4, F=5, G=6, H=7, I=8, J=9, K=0, L=1, M=2, N=3, O=4, P=5, Q=6, R=7, S=8, T=9, U=0, V=1, W=2, X=3, Y=4, Z=5, A=6, B=7, C=8, D=9, E=0, F=1, G=2, H=3, I=4, J=5, K=6, L=7, M=8, N=9, O=0, P=1, Q=2, R=3, S=4, T=5, U=6, V=7, W=8, X=9, Y=0, Z=1, A=2, B=3, C=4, D=5, E=6, F=7, G=8, H=9, I=0, J=1, K=2, L=3, M=4, N=5, O=6, P=7, Q=8, R=9, S=0, T=1, U=2, V=3, W=4, X=5, Y=6, Z=7, A=8, B=9, C=0, D=1, E=2, F=3, G=4, H=5, I=6, J=7, K=8, L=9, M=0, N=1, O=2, P=3, Q=4, R=5, S=6, T=7, U=8, V=9, W=0, X=1, Y=2, Z=3, A=4, B=5, C=6, D=7, E=8, F=9, G=0, H=1, I=2, J=3, K=4, L=5, M=6, N=7, O=8, P=9, Q=0, R=1, S=2, T=3, U=4, V=5, W=6, X=7, Y=8, Z=9, A=0, B=1, C=2, D=3, E=4, F=5, G=6, H=7, I=8, J=9, K=0, L=1, M=2, N=3, O=4, P=5, Q=6, R=7, S=8, T=9, U=0, V=1, W=2, X=3, Y=4, Z=5, A=6, B=7, C=8, D=9, E=0, F=1, G=2, H=3, I=4, J=5, K=6, L=7, M=8, N=9, O=0, P=1, Q=2, R=3, S=4, T=5, U=6, V=7, W=8, X=9, Y=0, Z=1, A=2, B=3, C=4, D=5, E=6, F=7, G=8, H=9, I=0, J=1, K=2, L=3, M=4, N=5, O=6, P=7, Q=8, R=9, S=0, T=1, U=2, V=3, W=4, X=5, Y=6, Z=7, A=8, B=9, C=0, D=1, E=2, F=3, G=4, H=5, I=6, J=7, 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M=8, N=9, O=0, P=1, Q=2, R=3, S=4, T=5, U=6, V=7, W=8, X=9, Y=0, Z=1, A=2, B=3, C=4, D=5, E=6, F=7, G=8, H=9, I=0, J=1, K=2, L=3, M=4, N=5, O=6, P=7, Q=8, R=9, S=0, T=1, U=2, V=3, W=4, X=5, Y=6, Z=7, A=8, B=9, C=0, D=1, E=2, F=3, G=4, H=5, I=6, J=7, K=8, L=9, M=0, N=1, O=2, P=3, Q=4, R=5, S=6, T=7, U=8, V=9, W=0, X=1, Y=2, Z=3, A=4, B=5, C=6, D=7, E=8, F=9, G=0, H=1, I=2, J=3, K=4, L=5, M=6, N=7, O=8, P=9, Q=0, R=1, S=2, T=3, U=4, V=5, W=6, X=7, Y=8, Z=9, A=0, B=1, C=2, D=3, E=4, F=5, G=6, H=7, I=8, J=9, K=0, L=1, M=2, N=3, O=4, P=5, Q=6, R=7, S=8, T=9, U=0, V=1, W=2, X=3, Y=4, Z=5, A=6, B=7, C=8, D=9, E=0, F=1, G=2, H=3, I=4, J=5, K=6, L=7, M=8, N=9, O=0, P=1, Q=2, R=3, S=4, T=5, U=6, V=7, W=8, X=9, Y=0, Z=1, A=2, B=3, C=4, D=5, E=6, F=7, G=8, H=9, I=0, J=1, K=2, L=3, M=4, N=5, O=6, P=7, Q=8, R=9, S=0, T=1, U=2, V=3, W=4, X=5, Y=6, Z=7, A=8, B=9, C=0, D=1, E=2, F=3, G=4, H=5, I=6, J=7, K=8, L=9, M=0, N=1, O=2, P=3, Q=4, R=5, S=6, T=7, U=8, V=9, W=0, X=1, Y=2, Z=3, A=4, B=5, C=6, D=7, 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W=8, X=9, Y=0, Z=1, A=2, B=3, C=4, D=5, E=6, F=7, G=8, H=9, I=0, J=1, K=2, L=3, M=4, N=5, O=6, P=7, Q=8, R=9, S=0, T=1, U=2, V=3, W=4, X=5, Y=6, Z=7, A=8, B=9, C=0, D=1, E=2, F=3, G=4, H=5, I=6, J=7, K=8, L=9, M=0, N=1, O=2, P=3, Q=4, R=5, S=6, T=7, U=8, V=9, W=0, X=1, Y=2, Z=3, A=4, B=5, C=6, D=7, E=8, F=9, G=0, H=1, I=2, J=3, K=4, L=5, M=6, N=7, O=8, P=9, Q=0, R=1, S=2, T=3, U=4, V=5, W=6, X=7, Y=8, Z=9, A=0, B=1, C=2, D=3, E=4, F=5, G=6, H=7, I=8, J=9, K=0, L=1, M=2, N=3, O=4, P=5, Q=6, R=7, S=8, T=9, U=0, V=1, W=2, X=3, Y=4, Z=5, A=6, B=7, C=8, D=9, E=0, F=1, G=2, H=3, I=4, J=5, K=6, L=7, M=8, N=9, O=0, P=1, Q=2, R=3, S=4, T=5, U=6, V=7, W=8, X=9, Y=0, Z=1, A=2, B=3, C=4, D=5, E=6, F=7, G=8, H=9, I=0, J=1, K=2, L=3, M=4, N=5, O=6, P=7, Q=8, R=9, S=0, T=1, U=2, V=3, W=4, X=5, Y=6, Z=7, A=8, B=9, C=0, D=1, E=2, F=3, G=4, H=5, I=6, J=7, K=8, L=9, M=0, N=1, O=2, P=3, Q=4, R=5, S=6, T=7, U=8, V=9, W=0, X=1, Y=2, Z=3, A=4, B=5, C=6, D=7, E=8, F=9, G=0, H=1, I=2, J=3, K=4, L=5, M=6, N=7, 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WORTH A SHOT

Measles vaccinations recommended for 6-12 month olds

Regional Health Command Europe
Public Affairs Staff Report

SEMBACH KASERNE, Germany — Regional Health Command Europe officials are recommending that 6-12-month-old children should be immunized with the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine as a result of an ongoing measles outbreak in several European countries.

This dose is in addition to the two doses children normally receive, starting after their first birthday.

The vaccine will now be a part of the routine 6-month-old visit with their pediatrician, and is encouraged for all children aged 6-12 months, especially those in day care.

Measles is an extremely contagious virus, with essentially 100 percent of exposed susceptible individuals becoming infected. The virus can linger in the air of a room or transportation vehicle for up to two hours, according to Col. (Dr.) Rodney Coldren, the chief of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance for Public Health Command Europe.

“However, the MMR vaccine is a very



ARMY GRAPHIC

safe and effective means to prevent this disease,” said Coldren. “The vast majority of Americans are already immunized against measles, having received at least two doses of the MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) vaccine in early childhood.” The U.S. Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention issued a travel alert for Belgium, Italy and Germany April 17, recommending that all travelers in that age group receive the vaccine. This dose does not replace either of the two doses required after 12 months of age for long-term immunity.

Adults and children not vaccinated for measles could be at risk for contracting the illness due to the outbreak. The most seriously affected countries are Italy and Romania. However, France, Germany, Poland, Switzerland, Ukraine are seeing a significant number of cases and Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Iceland, Hungary, Portugal, Spain and Sweden have experienced a few cases.

“Measles has been largely eliminated in the United States, with the exception of small, localized outbreaks, so the MMR vaccine isn’t normally administered until 12 months of age,” said Coldren. “However, this leaves infants 6-12 months old at risk in areas where the virus is present, because the immunity that was passed on to them from their mothers is generally not effective beyond 6 months.”

Measles can be a very serious, even fatal, illness and is especially severe in babies and elderly persons, according to Coldren.

For more information on protecting infants with an early dose of measles vaccine, or assistance reviewing family members’ immunization status, people should contact their primary care team.

Progress

Continued from Page D1

team analyzed the effectiveness of clinical programs, identified best practices and replicated them across the force.

From this process came embedded behavioral health, which has reduced barriers to care for Soldiers in combat units, and improved access and readiness.

“Today, over 450 providers in 62 embedded behavioral health teams support every operational unit in the Army,” Ivany said, noting that Soldiers receive care earlier and need less hospitalization to receive treatment.

Other innovations, such as school behavioral health, were drawn from the civilian sector. The Army embraced this approach and placed providers in schools on Army posts all over the world.

In TBI care, in partnership with DOD and other services, the Army has implemented a clear set of clinical standards and delivers them in interdisciplinary clinics across the force, Ivany said.

EXTENSIVE SCREENING

In his remarks, Pflanz said all Air Force mental health providers receive training in one or more of the several evidence-based therapies for PTSD, and all Airmen can be confident that they will receive state-of-the-art treatment when they enter an Air Force mental health clinic.

Fortunately, Pflanz added, PTSD and TBI rates remain low among Airmen.

“Even so,” he said, “we’re excited about the successful translation of research into clinical practice, including requiring evidence-based therapies for PTSD, event-driven protocols for recognizing TBI, and the use of progressive return activity in the management of concussion.”

Other developments that help identify and manage these conditions include integrating behavioral health care into primary care clinics, embedding mental health professionals into operational units within highly stressed career fields, and comprehensive screening for PTSD and TBI following deployments and throughout an airmen’s career, he said.

On the horizon, Pflanz added, the Invisible Wounds Clinic being established at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, in 2018 will powerfully enhance PTSD and TBI treatments and will function as a referral center and a projection of treatment and expertise Air Force-wide.

“A multidisciplinary task force is identifying and resolving gaps in the continuum of care and the integrated delivery evaluation system for Airmen suffering from invisible wounds,” he said, noting that work is under way on 27 solutions ranging from education and training to culture and policy that will translate directly to improved services for the Airmen.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TREATMENT

In his remarks, the director of the Navy’s Intrepid Spirit Concussion Recovery Center said that about 80 percent of

all TBIs are classified as mild. Those who have suffered mild TBIs may experience only subtle changes in mood, memory, sleep and balance. They have no visible signs of injury, but often struggle to function at work, at home and in the community.

“The reality is there is currently no diagnostic tool that is sensitive and specific for mild TBI,” he said. “However, we have worked to overcome this [by] developing a holistic, integrated, interdisciplinary treatment model that employs a standard evaluation that includes physical, psychological and spiritual dimensions.”

The center uses this information to diagnose and treat each patient with traditional therapies and complementary and integrative medicine, he added.

“We use a minimal amount of medication, almost no narcotics, and over 90 percent return to full duty upon completing the program,” Johnson noted.

The Military Health System, in partnership with civilian academic institutions, has a robust research portfolio to address gaps in knowledge and improve care for service members with TBI, he said, including a progressive return-to-activity protocol that gives providers guidelines on how to increase activity in a way that maximizes recovery.

DOD is undertaking an ongoing longitudinal study of TBI in members of the armed forces to gain a better understanding of the condition and ensure patients receive the treatment they need, Johnson said.

Hearing

Continued from Page D1

“As Better Hearing and Speech Month is recognized nationally during the month of May, it is important to note the role the military played in the origin and evolution of the audiology and speech-language pathology professions,” said Lt. Col. Kristen Casto, audiology staff officer for the Office the Army Surgeon General.

“The genesis of both specialties resulted from the collaborative efforts to rehabilitate

troops returning from World Wars I and II with hearing loss, and resultant communication disorders.”

Strategies for the prevention, identification, and rehabilitation of hearing loss and communication disorders have evolved since WWII and the Department of Defense has robust prevention and treatment programs to maximize service member hearing readiness and beneficiary hearing health.

Current auditory research initiatives are advancing the ability to predict auditory

performance in operational environments, to maximize the function of advanced hearing protection and communication devices, and pharmacological strategies for preventing hearing loss. Defense Health Agency speech-language pathology research focuses on the mitigation of swallowing, voice and language disorders.

Studies are also being conducted to identify early indicators of hearing loss, so that measures to prevent hearing loss and tinnitus can be implemented early.

Auditory injury is an invisible condition that is often viewed as an unavoidable, acceptable consequence of military service, but service-related hearing loss is largely preventable. Most hearing protection, if worn properly during noise-hazardous conditions, is effective in preventing hearing loss.

Off-duty noise exposure can cause hearing loss as well including loud music, motorcycles, lawn mowers and power tools can cause permanent hearing loss.

FORT RUCKER SPORTS BRIEFS

Free fitness classes

For Military Spouses Day and Mother’s Day, the Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center will offer free fitness classes Friday. This is a Strong B.A.N.D.S. event, so people who pick up a ticket at the event will be entered into a drawing. People who go to all the Strong B.A.N.D.S. events will be eligible to win a grand prize. People can bring their tickets to the last event, the spin challenge or to Fortenberry-Colton PFC for the drawing. For more information, call 255-3794.

Spin challenge

People can challenge themselves at the two-hour spin challenge beginning at 5:30 p.m. May 23 at Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center. The cost is \$3.50 or a card punch. The event is open to all autho-

rized patrons. Refreshments will be available and all participants will be entered into the Strong B.A.N.D.S. drawing for the opportunity to win a prize.

For more information, call 255-3794.

Lifeguard training course

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will host a lifeguard training course Friday from 4-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and May 20-21 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The course is open to patrons ages 15 and up, and costs \$125 for military and Department of Defense ID card holders and \$150 for others. A prerequisite test on the first day must be passed to enter the course. People may register at the front desk of the Fort Rucker PFC. The cutoff for registration is three days prior to the course start date. Candidates who take the training program are also eligible

for employment with the Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. All candidates who apply with Fort Rucker MWR Aquatics after successful completion of the training program will have 50 percent of their training fees reimbursed to them at the end of the 2017 summer season – people must work through Labor Day.

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

Deep sea fishing

MWR Central will host a private charter deep sea fishing trip in Destin, Florida, May 27. The private charter is a 45-foot walk-around boat that heads out for a six-hour trip. The cost of the trip is \$175 per person and includes transportation, bait, rod, reel, fishing license, fish cleaning and tip. The staff recommends

people bring a small cooler with drinks and snacks (no glass). The bus departs from Fort Rucker at 2 a.m. – time subject to change based on fishing conditions.

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

British Soccer Camp

The Fort Rucker Youth Sports Department is partnering with Challenger Sports to bring British Soccer Camp to the post May 30 to June 2. Participants will receive a camp T-shirt, soccer ball and evaluation form. A current sports physical, and a valid child and youth services registration are required to participate. If WebTrac was used for registration, parents should call 255-2257 to let the staff know what size shirts to order for their children. Full-day camp participants will need to bring lunch.

For more information, call 255-2257 or 255-9638.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Answers

1. The Potomac
2. Ursula
3. 1986
4. Neil Sedaka
5. Trees and shrubs
6. Divine wind
7. ... never boils.
8. Sylvia Plath
9. A fear of bees
10. Geography

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