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Soldiers can now wear 2 ID badges

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LET FREEDOM RING

Freedom Fest returns with music, food, festivities

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

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FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

JUNE 15, 2017

# HONORING SACRIFICE

# Post hosts survivors at Gold Star Simulator Day

By Nathan Pfau Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker Survivor Outreach Services hosted its fourth Gold Star Simulator Day at the Goodhand Simulator Complex Satur-

Nearly 40 Gold Star Family members, representing 13 fallen service members, were able to spread their wings and try their hand at flying in simulators designed to train today's Army Aviators.

Fort Rucker leadership, including Col. Shannon T. Miller, Fort Rucker garrison commander; CW5 Joseph B. Roland, chief warrant officer of the Aviation Branch; and William G. Kidd, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker deputy to the commanding general, as well as a multitude of Aviation instructor pilots were on hand to spend the day with the family members and give them a taste of Aviation training.

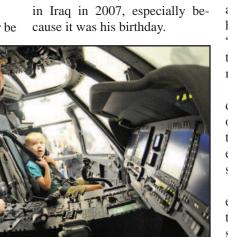
"There is no place I'd rather be

on a Saturday morning than sitting here with Gold Star Family members, and I mean that from the bottom of my heart," said Roland. "We have a trust and a responsibility to honor you all because of the service members you lost in service to the nation.

"As a father of a service member ... I can't fully grasp what you all are going through," he added. "This is a small way for us to get you together and honor your service members."

The Gold Star Family members started off with breakfast and a meet-and-greet where they were able to talk with other family members, as well as Soldiers and leaders before getting behind the simulators of some of Aviation's most well-known aircraft, including the TH-67 and UH-60 Black Hawk.

For Yolanda Brooks, Gold Star Family member, it was a perfect day to remember her son, Sgt. Curtis Glawson, who was killed



Branson and Kohen Barker, Gold Star Family members, get a flight lesson from CW4 Scott Skaug, Headquarters Headquarters Co., 1-223rd Avn. Regt., in a UH-60M training simulator.



Za'kyran Dunlap and Bryan Glawson, Gold Star Family members, take a turn in a TH-67 training simulator during Gold Star Simulator Day at the Goodhand Simulator Complex Saturday.

"He would have been 35 today, and it's nice to be able to celebrate his birthday today here," she said. "I really appreciate that they take the time and remember - it really makes you feel special."

Brooks brought her grandchildren to the simulator day to not only share in the remembrance of their fallen Soldier, but to experience Army training as a way to stay connected.

"It's nice to be able to do some experiences that you wouldn't get Aviation," she said. "This is also to," she said. "This is just really an opportunity for them to learn special and I really appreciate it. [A loss] is something you don't wish on anybody, but it helps to be around other family members, so you're not alone."

Making sure that family mem-

bers aren't alone when going through one of the toughest times of their lives is exactly why SOS exists, said Cheareice Thomas, SOS support coordinator. The event is meant as a way to bring families together at their own pace to show that support is there when they need it.

"It's really difficult to make a decision to come and be connected, especially if it's a fallen service member that was part of about the Aviation world and experience it, and have a connection to some of the service members who have taken some time out today to be here with us.

"It is tremendously impor-

tant to continue this support," she continued. "When you go through a loss, I don't know that there is ever a time that void is filled – it's just always there. Doing things like this is just another opportunity to embrace [the family members] and give them that hug of support for as long as they need it."

The important thing people should remember is that Gold Star Family members live with their loss every day, said Thomas, so it's important to make sure that they are taken care of every day, if needed.

"We think about them every day," she said. "When they lost, we all did - our nation experienced a loss."

# 1-145th welcomes new CSM

By Nathan Pfau Army Flier Staff Writer

The 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment welcomed its new command sergeant major during a change of responsibility ceremony at Howze Field Friday.

Command Sgt. Maj. Francisco J. Declet, 1st. Bn., 145th Avn. Regt. command sergeant major, assumed responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. David S. Lane as the unit colors changed hands from Lane to Lt. Col. Col. Kent MacGregor, 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt. commander, to Declet dur-

SEE 1-145TH, PAGE A7



Command Sgt. Maj. Francisco J. Declet, 1st. Bn., 145th Avn. Regt. command sergeant major, accepts the unit colors from Lt. Col. Kent MacGregor, 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt. commander, as he assumes responsibility as command sergeant major for the unit during a ceremony on Howze Field June 9.

# PUT TO THE TEST

### Post conducts allhazards exercise

By Nathan Pfau Army Flier Staff Writer

Emergency situations can quickly go from bad to worse, and Fort Rucker put its first responders and emergency services personnel to the test with a scenario that kept officials on

The installation held its annual all-hazards exercise June 7 with an ever-changing scenario that involved a stolen vehicle, active shooter and fuel leak to test Fort Rucker and surrounding communities' response to an emergency situation, according to Willie Worsham, Fort Rucker emergency manager.

During this scenario, there was a fuel tanker that was delivering fuel to the Triangle Express on the corner of Farrell and Artillery Road, said Worsham. As the driver went inside the building, the tanker was stolen and headed toward Lowe Army Heliport via Farrell Road.

The scenario had the truck then crash on the

SEE EXERCISE, PAGE A7



Carlos Whitehead, Fort Rucker community police officer, and Sgt. Michael Adams, 6th Military Police Detachement, advance on a suspect during a scenario.



Fort Rucker Fire Department firefighters perform a safety check on the scene during the installation's all-hazards exercise scenario June 7.

# PERSPECTIVE

# EATING CLEAN

# Dietitian advises: choose closer to farm than factory

By Kathleen Viau

Kenner Army Health Clinic

FORT LEE, Va. — Summer is a great time of year for foodies.

Backyard barbecues please the palate with tangy goodness, and few vacationers can resist the waft of roadside cookeries or the tantalizing treats found at small community farmer's markets and

How does one enjoy this exploration of epicurean delights while maintaining a healthy lifestyle? Just remember the 80-20 split. Ensure at least 80 percent of the items consumed daily are healthy, nutrient-rich foods that promote energy and well-being. Allot the other 20 percent to fun food choices that may not fall into the healthy category but are good for one's mood and satis-

To eat clean, it's important to choose edibles closer to the farm than factory. Fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables are a great start. Avoiding boxed or frozen convenience meals is another good move toward healthier eating. Most of those foods are high in salt, unhealthy saturated and trans-fats, cholesterol and added

Remember also, many food distributors use words like "natural" or "whole grain" as marketing gimmicks. The best way to know what's in the product is to read the ingredients list. Labels with contents impossible to pronounce are typically not a healthy choice. When ordering a restaurant meal,



ARMY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

ask the server if it's fresh or prepackaged. Pay attention to the calorie listings on most menus, and ask them to hold the salt, so you can add it yourself and control the amount.

Here are some other suggestions for cleaner eating.

- Choose fresh chicken instead of processed nuggets, wings or patties.
- Buy bacon and beef patties
- from the butcher case. When buying processed meats (which should be very limited in everyone's diet) it is best to look for brands with no nitrates or nitrites added.
- Opt for homemade nut and raisin snacks instead of packaged trail mixes.
- For a side dish, eat wild rice, Quinoa or barley instead of prepackaged rice and pastas
- that are high in salt and trans-
- Sweet potatoes and whole potatoes are a very nutritious side dish.
- Limit intake of cheese to one ounce per day - roughly the amount of a single cheese stick or a thumb-sized serv-
- Eat fish high in Omega-3 fatty acids, e.g., salmon or tuna, at

What are some ways you can

show your father or any father-

**66** Father's day is this Sunday.

- least two or three times per week.
- Limit meat portions to 3-4 ounces - size of a deck of cards – and only eat red meat, including pork, two or three times per week.
- Be wary of the label when looking for trans-fat, frequently disguised as partially hydrogenated oils. Trans-fat is linked to increased LDL (bad) cholesterol levels, a contributor to heart disease.
- When building a plate, fill three quarters of it with plantbased foods: vegetables, fruits, starches and true whole grains.
- Salads containing fresh vegetables and fruit are a good option. Choose beans as a protein instead of high-fat cheese and processed meats. Use a light amount of dressing with an olive oil base.
- Air-popped popcorn is a healthier choice than pretzels or chips. Try cold yogurt instead of ice cream. Be wary of the sugar in fruit juices – even with labels that read "100-percent juice" - and sodas.

Clean eating is a matter of careful meal planning, smart shopping, thinking about ingredients and being choosey as to what lands on your plate. Just remember, those not taking steps to control their diet are feeding the factors of illness and dis-

Want to learn more? Talk to your health care provider about nutritional counseling.



Staff Sgt. Jacob Ware, **Idaho National Guard** "I just like spending the day with my kids.



Doug Miller, retired military "Simple - a hug."

# figure appreciation?"

Joelene Gibson, military spouse

"Just let them know they're doing a good job. In the Army, a lot of dads are away because they're deployed, so if they're spending Father's Day with their dad, let them know that they're loved and appreciated - it's about the little things.'



Carl Walker, civilian

"Just have fun and show how caring and responsible he is, and spend that day with him.'



Robinson, 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt.

"Remind him what he's done for you in the past and how much it means to you that he's your father. Thank them for the things they've done for you."

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

# **UNIFORM CHANGES**

### Soldiers can now wear 2 ID badges, women can wear slacks at socials

By Stacy A. Ouellette Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Soldiers' feedback on the department's uniform policy have been heard at the highest level, and the results: two new updates to the Army uniform regulation.

Soldiers with multiple identification badges will be able to wear two badges, one on each side of their Army Combat Uniform, or ACU. Female Soldiers are also now allowed the option of wearing skirts or slacks as part of their dress uniform for social func-

#### **ID BADGES**

"For a long time, Soldiers were only allowed to wear one badge on the Army Combat Uniform," said Sgt. Maj. Anthony Moore of the Army's G-1 Uniform Policy Branch. "Soldiers are now authorized to move identification badges to the opposite side of the ACU coat in order to wear two badges normally prescribed for the same side of the ACU."

In the past, badges were authorized for either the right or left side. If Soldiers were awarded two right-side or two left-side badges, they had to choose one to place on the authorized side of their ACU

"For a lot of Soldiers, it was a



ARMY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

New Army regulations allow Soldiers to wear two identification badges on the same uniform - one on each pocket.

source of frustration because they were proud of the achievements that they had accomplished and wanted to display both badges, but the regulation prohibited them from doing so," Moore said. "We already allowed two badges on the Army Service Uniform, so it made sense to do it for the ACU

Specific ID badges include: The Guard - Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Badge, Military Horseman

Badge, Drill Sergeant Badge, U.S. Army/USAR Recruiter Badge, Career Counselor Badge, Army National Guard Recruiter Badge, and the Instructor Badge.

Soldiers are authorized only one Recruiting Badge on their uniform at a time.

For example, if a Soldier is awarded the Tomb of the Unknown Solider Badge and the Career Counselor Badge, they may wear both by moving the Career Counselor Badge to the left side. Placement of badges is in the order of precedence and the lower one is moved to the opposite side

#### DRESS SLACKS FOR WOMEN

of the uniform.

The second major change is specific to female Soldiers. During the Senior Enlisted Council in March, members voted to allow women to wear either the skirt or slacks with the Army blue dress uniform at social functions.

According to Moore, there was a concern among some female Soldiers as to why they were only allowed to wear the skirts with the blue dress version of the uniform.

"As a female, we are required to have both and being able to make the decision to wear either for that event is a great opportunity," said Maj. Mollie Kedney, 10th Mountain Division. "Especially in places where weather comes into play, like here at Fort Drum, keeping my legs warm is something I might enjoy when it comes to going to these events. It's a good change and I think it will be well received by the female community."

Exceptions to Department of the Army Pamphlet 670-1, Guide to the Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia, were recently issued via memorandums and will serve as guidance for the two uniform changes until the revised DA Pam 670-1 is published, Moore said.

"These decisions help morale and also show that senior leaders are listening to their concerns," Moore said. Soldiers cannot always receive everything they want, he added, "but when there is an opportunity that doesn't impact readiness, senior leadership is willing to do that for Soldiers."

# REDUCE THE FOOTPRINT

### Army installation chief asks for new BRAC round to improve readiness, morale

By C. Todd Lopez

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — There's a lot of excess infrastructure in the Army – about 161 million square feet of it.

And paying to maintain that is costing the Army a lot of money. These vital resources could instead be used to reduce maintenance backlogs on about 33,000 facilities across the force that are now deemed in "poor or failing condition," said Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham, the Army's assistant chief of staff for installation management.

Bingham told lawmakers during a June 6 hearing on Capitol Hill that the Army has a deferred maintenance backlog on infrastructure of about \$10.8 billion. That accounts for about 22 percent of the Army's buildings and means more than one in five buildings are in poor condition.

"The condition of these mission facilities – airfields, training areas, maintenance facilities, roads, ports, dams, bridges, housing and barracks - directly impacts the readiness of our units and the morale of our Soldiers, civilians and families," Bingham

Bingham testified before the Senate Appropriations Committee - Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans' Affairs and Related Agencies.

Another round of base realignment and closure, she said, would mean that excess facilities around the Army could be closed and would no longer need to be maintained -- they could be demolished. Additionally, dollars saved from no longer having to maintain those facilities could also be applied toward repairing facilities that the Army continues to need and toward other readiness priorities of the Army.

"The Army has infrastructure capacity in

excess of any foreseeable future force structure, not always located where it is needed, but consuming precious dollars that could be better invested elsewhere," Bingham said. "BRAC preserves irreplaceable training land and airspace, while eliminating unneeded assets and excess buildings to efficiently facilitate future growth."

The fiscal year 2018 budget request for the Army, released May 23, includes about \$1.79 billion for facilities. That's allocation for \$1.2 billion for military construction, \$529 million for family housing, and \$58 million to continue execution of the last BRAC round, which happened in 2005.

Bingham said she's grateful for the budget request, and hopes Congress will approve it, but that the request is still lower than what is needed. Because the Army continues to prioritize readiness over everything else, she said, it is taking risks in facilities maintenance. Still, she said, the budget request for military construction this year is 40 percent more than what it was in 2015.

"This increase demonstrates the Army's intention to reverse past underfunding, admittedly over an extended timeframe," Bingham said. "When you combine the sustainment funding, the restoration and modernization, coupled with the [military construction], this FY18 budget request, if approved, will be able to arrest the accelerated trend in facility degradation. We are grateful for that."

Bingham also explained to lawmakers the Army's "three-pronged" effort to reset its backlog of facilities that are in poor con-

First, she said, resources are being directed now to sustain facilities that are currently in good condition, so that those facilities don't fall into a state of disrepair.



U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, South Korea, is one of the largest construction projects in the U.S. Army. Another round of base realignment and closure could free up funds to help the Army complete projects such as the one at Camp Humphreys, but also repair the 33,000 facilities in disrepair, and also aim money at readiness efforts.

Additionally, she said, the Army is applying resources to go after the \$10.8 billion deferred maintenance backlog. "We apply resources to modernize and upgrade our facilities to keep pace with our execution of our missions," she explained. As part of that, the Army will demolish some buildings as funds are available.

Finally, she said, the Army started a new initiative about a year ago called Reduce the Footprint.

"We are consolidating all of our men and women into our best facilities first, and then being able to rid ourselves of facilities that are in failed conditions," she explained. "We know we have about 161 million square feet of excess capacity. We programmed that we could probably account for about 33 million in excess."

Even with the Reduce the Footprint ini-

tiative, she said, the Army will be left with about 128 million square feet of excess facility space. And she said that the Army would like to stop worrying about maintaining that space.

"Save from having a BRAC, that's about all we'll be able to do as it relates to diminishing our excess," she said.

Bingham also told lawmakers that the return of sequestration or another continuing resolution would "have a devastating impact on our men and women. Not only the morale, but also the state of affairs of our infrastructure."

She said that Army installations can only be ready and resilient with "adequate, predictable, and sustained funding - and the authority to implement efficiency measures such as closing and realigning our installations."

# News Briefs

#### **ACOE** recognition

Fort Rucker will host a recognition ceremony Monday at 2 p.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum to celebrate workforce contributions that led to the post's recent selection as the Chief of Staff of the Army's Army Communities of Excellence Silver Award winner.

#### Clinic closure

Lyster Army Health Clinic will close June 23 at 11:30 a.m. The pharmacy and lab will also close at this time. Lyster will remain open all day June 21.

#### **Indoor pool closure**

The indoor pool at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will close for two weeks beginning Monday. The closure is necessary to fix several mechanical issues. In the interim, physical training lap lane reservations and lap swimming will occur at SPLASH! Pool and Spray Park Mondays-Fridays from 5:30-10:30 a.m. The indoor pool is scheduled to re-open July 3.

For more information, call 255-2296.

· The 1st Battalion, 223rd Aviation Regiment will host a change of command ceremony Friday at 8:30 a.m. on Howze Field.

• The 1st Battalion, 14th Aviation Regiment, will host a change of command ceremony June 22 at 8:30 a.m. on Howze Field. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. Lt. Col. Michael S. Johnson will assume command from Lt. Col. Jeffrey S. Dahlgren.

· The U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory will host a change of command ceremony July 7 at noon at the U.S. Army Aviation Mu-

· U.S. Army Garrison Fort Rucker will host a change of command ceremony July 12 at 2 p.m. at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. Col. Brian E. Walsh will assume command from Col. Shannon T. Miller.

#### PTSD group

A post traumatic stress disorder education

group meets Tuesdays from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Fort Rucker Spiritual Life Center in Bldg. 8939 on Red Cloud Road. The group follows the Veterans Affairs protocol PTSD Recovery Program and is for anyone interested in learning more

For more information, call 255-3903.

#### **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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

The Defense Military Pay Office now closes at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Also, beginning Tuesday, 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.

#### 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.

# CENTENNIAL

# Army installations commemorate 100 years of operation

By David Vergun Army News Service

WASHINGTON - Many installations across the Army this year are marking the centennial of the construction of their posts, which occurred in the weeks and months following the U.S. declaration of war on Germany April 6, 1917.

Prior to World War I, the regular Army numbered 133,000 Soldiers. At the time, an additional 400,000 served in the Army National Guard. By the end of World War I, the combined total of active and Guard had grown to over 4 million, said Eric Setzekorn, a historian at the Center of Military History.

"Never before or since has the Army experienced a comparable period of massive expansion, coupled with unprecedented organizational transformation, in such a brief period as during 1917 to 1918," he said.

To house and train all of the new Soldiers, hastily constructed or expanded camps sprouted up across the country, 16 of which were Guard installations, he said. Swamps were drained, forests were cleared to build parade fields and roads, and the wood was used to erect barracks and chow halls. Small cities of 30,000 to 40,000 Soldiers seemed to materialize overnight.

Many of the installations took on names of Civil War generals, such as Camp Meade, Camp Gordon, Camp Lee and Camp Jackson, he said. Fort Belvoir was originally called Camp Humphreys, also a Civil War general. The name changed after the war.

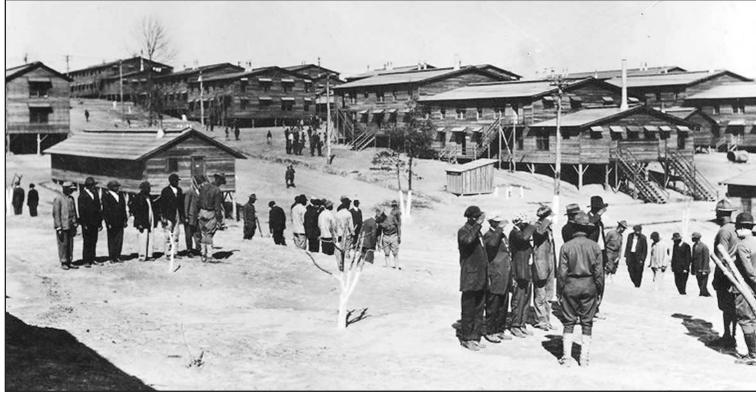
The Civil War wasn't the only source of names for new camps. Camp Travis, for instance, was named for a hero of the Battle of the Alamo. It later became Fort Sam Houston and is now Joint Base San Antonio. And Camp Dix was named for a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War. After the war it was re-named Fort Dix and today is part of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

Camp Funston, named for Spanish-American War leader Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston, eventually became Fort Riley. Camp Lewis, in Washington State, was named for early American explorer Meriwether Lewis. That installation became Fort Lewis, and is now known as Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

A few camps, like Camp Cody near Deming, New Mexico, and Camp Wadsworth, near Spartanburg, South Carolina, were inactivated following the end of the war.

#### **COMMUNITY EFFORT**

Community involvement in setting up the camps was essential, Setzekorn said. Not only did people from the surrounding communities help build the new camps and then work there, they were also instrumental in getting the camps there in the first place.



COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Soldiers train at newly constructed Camp Gordon, Georgia, during World War I.

Take Fort Jackson, South Carolina. When word came down that a location was needed to house and train Soldiers, the people in the nearby city of Columbia saw the new Army post as being potentially good for business, public relations and patriotism, Setzekorn said. "So they acquired the land, cleared the trees, drained the swamps and basically started building from scratch."

Other camps across America had similar stories of communities eager to pitch in and do their part for the war effort, he said.

#### IN THE ARMY NOW

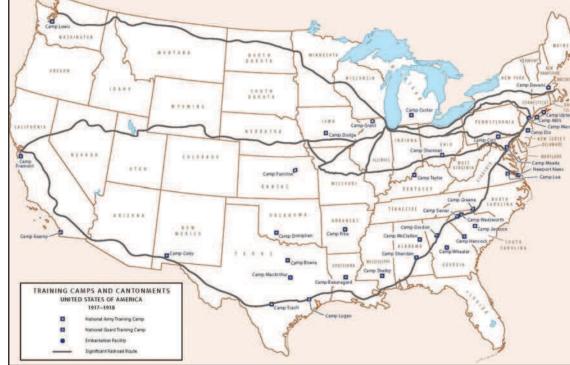
Many of the arriving recruits had never ventured far from home, Setzekorn said. The vast majority had also never experienced military life. Army chow replaced their mom's cooking. Recruits learned close-order drill, marksmanship and how to use their bayonets. And every Soldiers was issued brown doughboy uniforms.

It was a culture shock for some, he said. And for the many recruits who had recently immigrated to the U.S. and hadn't yet learned English, it was a double challenge for them.

Once their training was complete, they were ready to ship out to France.

Soldiers boarded troop trains for the journey to the east coast where they would await transport across the Atlantic. The largest embarkation facility was Camp Merritt near Tenafly, New Jersey, about 10 miles from New York City. The location had good access to rail, he said, noting that the Interstate Highway System was decades away from being built and rail was the preferred mode

In the two-year period from the summer of 1917 through 1919. roughly 1.6 million Soldiers passed through the ports that surrounded New York City. More than 1 million of those Soldiers passed through Camp Merritt. That installation was later closed, never to reopen, Setzekorn said.



COURTESY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY

Camps sprouted up across the U.S. after war was declared April 6, 1917.

Newport News, Virginia, functioned as the secondary embarkation port for Soldiers. Nearly 300,000 were processed over the course of the war from that location. Another 140,000 Soldiers departed from ports ranging from Baltimore to Québec, Canada.

For the tens of thousands of Soldiers who died in combat while in Europe, these embarkation ports would be the last American soil they'd ever see, he said.

#### **DEMOBILIZATION**

After the war, which ended Nov. 11, 1918, the new camps became demobilization centers for the returning doughboys. And, at least one place, Camp Funston, Kansas, housed Soldiers who had contracted the deadly Spanish flu.

Setzekorn said the establishment of the camps, along with advancements in military tactics, technology and organizational structure, "laid the foundation for not only the American Expeditionary Force's contribution to Germany's eventual defeat, but also to the creation of the modern U.S. Army and the emergence of America as a world power."



This Mark VIII Liberty Tank was produced just after World War I, but Soldiers in Europe during the war were involved in tank warfare with similar looking behemoths. Photo taken at the Fort George G. Meade Museum.



Rucksack marching and horse transportation were primary means of training and wartime mobility during World War I, not that different from the Civil War. Photo taken at the Fort George G. Meade Museum.

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# **DOD launches Blended Retirement** System comparison calculator

By Lisa Fernando Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON - With the launch of the new Blended Retirement System, service members may wonder how to compare their retirement benefits with the existing legacy system.

To help with this, the Defense Department has launched a comparison calculator for eligible service members to analyze their estimated retirement benefits under both the legacy system and the Blended Retirement System, according to Air Force Maj. Michael Odle, the Defense Department's assistant director of military compensation policy.

The tool walks members through five screens, allowing users to adjust 12 data fields and compare benefit scenarios under both systems, he added.

The calculator is aimed at helping eligible members make the best decision about whether to remain in the current retirement plan, known as the High-3 System, or opt into the Blended Retirement System, which goes into effect Jan. 1, he

Eligible service members have until Dec. 31, 2018, to enroll in the new system. Military members who enter service on or after Jan. 1, 2018, will automatically be enrolled in the BRS.

The tool is meant to provide flexibility so that members can compare estimated benefits under a variety of situations, said Steve Galing, the lead analyst in the Defense Military Personnel Policy Analytical Directorate.

Service members are advised to consult with a financial professional, he said. "This is a personal decision," he added. "There are a lot of various resources available to our members, but ultimately it is up to the member."

#### DOD-ENDORSED CALCULATOR

The calculator is a comprehensive tool designed to take into account the unique financial situations of all who serve – active duty, National Guard members and reservists, Odle said. It is designed to be **EXPLORING OPTIONS UNDER** used in conjunction with the mandatory BRS opt-in course.

This comparison calculator is the only comparison tool endorsed by DOD, he added.



The opt-in BRS course is available with a common access card through Joint Knowledge Online, or through a service's learning management system.

Additionally, an optional training course for the calculator will be available in the next few weeks, Odle said.

### CALCULATOR

If users hover over underlined text in the calculator, an information box will pop up that will highlight further information on that particular topic, Odle explained. More information is available through the links in the "more info" section under each page of the calculator.

After a user inputs all the information in the 12 data fields, the calculator will generate a results page. Service members are encouraged to go through the process several times to see how their projected benefits change under various situations,

The comparison calculator does not take into account optional Thrift Savings Plan service member contributions under the legacy retirement plan, and it does not account for optional monthly automatic Treasury Direct Government Savings Bonds purchased under the legacy plan, he explained.

All currently-serving members are grandfathered under their legacy retirement plans. Active component service members with fewer than 12 years of service as of Dec. 31, 2017, and reservists in a pay status with fewer than 4,320 retirement points as of Dec. 31, 2017, are covered under the existing system, but are eligible to opt into the Blended Retirement System.

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# 'WRITE HISTORY'

### New brigade a groundbreaking opportunity for proven leaders

By Lisa Ray Army News Service

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — The commander of the Army's newest formation, the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade, spoke with nearly 100 Soldiers here on Wednesday about the conventional Army's first permanent unit, whose core mission is to advise and assist foreign security forces.

Col. Scott Jackson is the first commander of the brigade, which will be staffed with more than 500 seasoned officers and noncommissioned officers who volunteered to be a part of the unit.

The Secretary of the Army approved the growth of SFABs in 2016 to provide a specially designed force for security force assistance, to preserve brigade combat team readiness, and to provide a cadre to support rapid regeneration of brigade combat teams if required.

Jackson said the Army is looking for Soldiers who are already proven leaders in the conventional Army to provide the best advice and assistance to foreign security forces. The Soldiers must have successful operational experience and have demonstrated competence in their career fields.

Once selected for the brigade, Soldiers will report to Fort Benning, Georgia., in October to begin a year-long training regimen that will include formal schooling of security force assistance-specific tasks such as building, training, advising, assisting, and assessing security forces.

Additionally, SFABs will receive collective training with a new training strategy developed specifically for security force as-



Soldiers assigned to security force assistance brigades will advise and assist foreign security forces.

sistance including cultural, language and the place for you." foreign weapons training.

"If you want a chance to write history, to be a part of where history is being made, this is the brigade for you," said Jackson. "If you want the chance to do what you joined the Army for; to be a master-at-arms, then this is

Soldiers who volunteer and are selected for assignment to an SFAB will be eligible for a \$5,000 Assignment Incentive Bonus. Soldiers who successfully complete their SFAB assignment of 2-3 years will also be eligible for a follow-on "Assignment of

The first SFAB is on track to be ready for deployment by the first quarter of fiscal year

Choice.'

Soldiers interested in joining a security force assistance brigade should contact their branch manager or unit S1.

# Army language translation system assists Soldiers' readiness

**By Michael Doney** 

Machine Foreign Language Translation System Product Director

WASHINGTON - What kind of wall is impervious to bullets, bombs, drills, or tidal waves?

A language barrier.

The Army's Machine Foreign Language Translation System punches through that barrier by providing language translation capabilities to individual Soldiers.

Traditionally, an Army linguist, military operational specialty (MOS) 35P, trains continuously from six to 16 months in order to achieve the required level of proficiency for a given language. Skilled linguists, native speakers who serve as interpreters for the Army with MOS 09L, and even language translation contractors are always in short supply - and are typically over-tasked once they are deployed.

Enter MFLTS, a software application that provides a language translation capability to individual Soldiers. Since today's Army is increasingly engaged on a global scale, it is more important than ever that Soldiers must be able to communicate effectively with native, non-English speaking populations. For example, if a Soldier is conducting base security or is working among native populations to gather information via tactical questioning, he or she must be able to communicate with these populations in order to effectively complete the mission.

There are currently two MFLTS applications in use. One provides two-way, real-time speech-to-speech translation, while the other provides text-to-text translation of electronic documents, web pages, and social media. Both versions utilize state-of-the-art machine language translation technology and allow users to select from a number of language packs, depending on the languages spoken in their area of operations or on other specific user require-

With the mission in mind, the MFLTS program office is also developing a web-based portal that will enable users to download and install the MFLTS application, update the application, or download language packs as needed by the user. In the future, a user will be able to customize his or her MFLTS application by accessing more than 65 individual language packs.

Although MFLTS uses open systems architecture and advanced machine learning technologies inspired by the private sector, it was also specially designed to meet some very unique Army requirements. Soldiers typically operate in environments where connectivity to networks and remote servers is not guaranteed, so MFLTS must be hosted locally on the users' smartphones and computers. The Army also uses military-unique language content that is not understood by commercial language translation products, and must be developed and integrated into the MFLTS in order to support full spectrum military opera-

"Today's Army routinely supports Joint Interagency, Intergovernmental, Multinational missions where the multinational partners do not speak (or) write English," said Tracy Blocker, the MFLTS representative to Training and Doctrine Command.

"MFLTS supports the Army's No. 1 priority – readiness - by providing an automated language translation capability that can be used by deployed Soldiers who have a need to communicate with local foreign language speakers when a human linguist is not available," she said.

Deployed Soldiers can also use MFLTS to enhance

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their situational awareness and understanding via the translation of foreign language documents and social media, such as websites and blog pages.

The MFLTS program will continue to support the Army by developing new language packs and making them available for download by users via the MFLTS Language Portal. This new, deployable and adaptable language translation capability directly enables the Army to win in a complex world by effectively breaking through the language barriers that the Army will encounter – today and tomorrow.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTINE SHEA

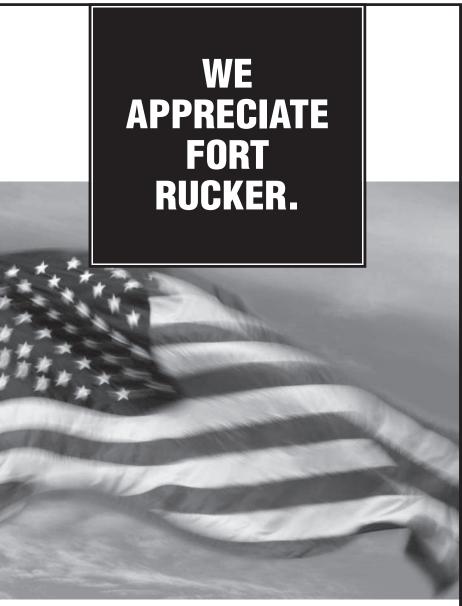


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# Exercise

Continued from Page A1

bridge heading to Lowe, followed by a van approaching the downed tanker. As the van approached, the driver of the stolen tanker opened fire on the van and its five occupants, changing the scenario from a stolen vehicle to an active shooter scenario.

"With this scenario, we were testing the response capability of our [Directorate of Public Safety] and triage of our [emergency medical service] people," said the emergency manager. "We needed to ensure that the installation is prepared to handle any type of situation.

"The major flavor recently for terrorists is to use a [vehicle-borne improvise explosive device], or use a vehicle to crash into people or cause harm, so we were trying to test our capability to deal with that," he added.

The initial responders for the scenario were Fort Rucker police department members, but the scenario included not only DPS and EMS, but the Directorate of Public Works, as well as outside agencies, such as Enterprise Medical Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Marcel Dumais, Fort Rucker police chief, said the training is integral to keep the installation's officers adapting to changing situations.

"The initial call came across to us as a stolen vehicle in the scenario, so we deployed what we would normally deploy to a stolen vehicle call," said the police chief. "Information came in pretty fast changing the scenario to a traffic accident, then shortly after shots fired on the scene of the traffic accident."

The changing scenario is meant to keep the officers and other first responders thinking on their feet to understand that any situation can escalate at any moment, said Worsham.

Dumais said his officers were prepared for any changes that might come their way.

"We receive in-service training every year where we cover different scenarios such as this one, so that [the officers] understand that, at any given time or day when they're working, they can go from zero to 100 very rapidly," said the police chief. "I think this training is critical and we're lucky enough to be able to do one once a year at the installation level with the full-scale exercise.

"It gives us the opportunity to respond to crisis situations in a controlled environment," he continued. "It allows our folks to hone their critical thinking skills because it started out as just a theft of a vehicle and escalated rapidly, and I think they did a good job of ramping up once they knew what was going on out there."

The exercise also allows the responders to test their standards of procedures, said Dumais. The scenario will either validate the procedures or give them the opportunity to tweak and change them if necessary.

In addition to being the first to respond to a call, all first responders, including police, fire department and EMS, need to know how to work together in situations like these, which is also what the scenario is meant to test, he added.

"Working with the fire department, EMS, off-post agencies, that all allows us to make sure that our procedures are sound in that they do what they're suppose to do for us," said Dumais. "You've got to have [that partnership]. We exercise this stuff annually, but we have monthly meetings off the installation with our local law enforcement officers just to build good relationships and good rapport with them."

# 1-145th

Continued from Page A1

ing the ceremony.

"The sergeants major and command sergeants major in this organization have upheld a profound tradition and lineage of the NCO corps, and I have had the distinct privilege of working alongside one of these prestigious NCOs in Command Sergeant Major Lane, who exemplifies these traits in every way," said MacGregor during the ceremony, and welcome the incoming command sergeant major and his wife, Brenda, to the team.

"Command Sergeant Major Declet and Brenda, welcome to the team. I have absolute confidence that you will continue to uphold the lineage of outstanding sergeant majors and command sergeants major who have served this battalion," he said. "In the short time that I've gotten to know you, your zeal, discipline, knowledge and energy is impressive. I know that you will serve the battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade and the Wiregrass community with distinction."

Declet comes to Fort Rucker from previous assignments that span multiple countries and continents, including Camp Humphreys, Korea; Illesheim, Germany; and Egypt. He's served in multiple deployments, including Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom in Kuwait, as well as deployments in Bosnia and Kosovo.

With his extensive experience, Declet said he will do his best to ensure the Soldiers of the battalion are ready and able to complete their mission.

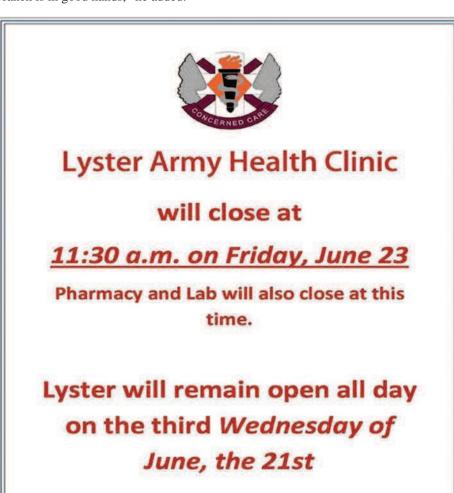
"As your senior enlisted leader, I will ensure you remain ready to fight and win today's wars, and our training for the future Army Aviation and Aviators will continue to be a No. 1 priority," said the incoming command sergeant major. "I believe the Army gives us a handful of once-in-a-lifetime opportunities throughout our military career and service to our country, and I believe this is one of them for me.

"Standing here as the command sergeant major of the 145th Aviation Regiment is a great pleasure and a great honor, and it is important to maintain and continue, but it is just as important to welcome change," he continued. "The excellent reputation of the 145th is known to all the Aviation community, and I understand I have a unique responsibility to serve the Soldiers and civilians of the 145th."

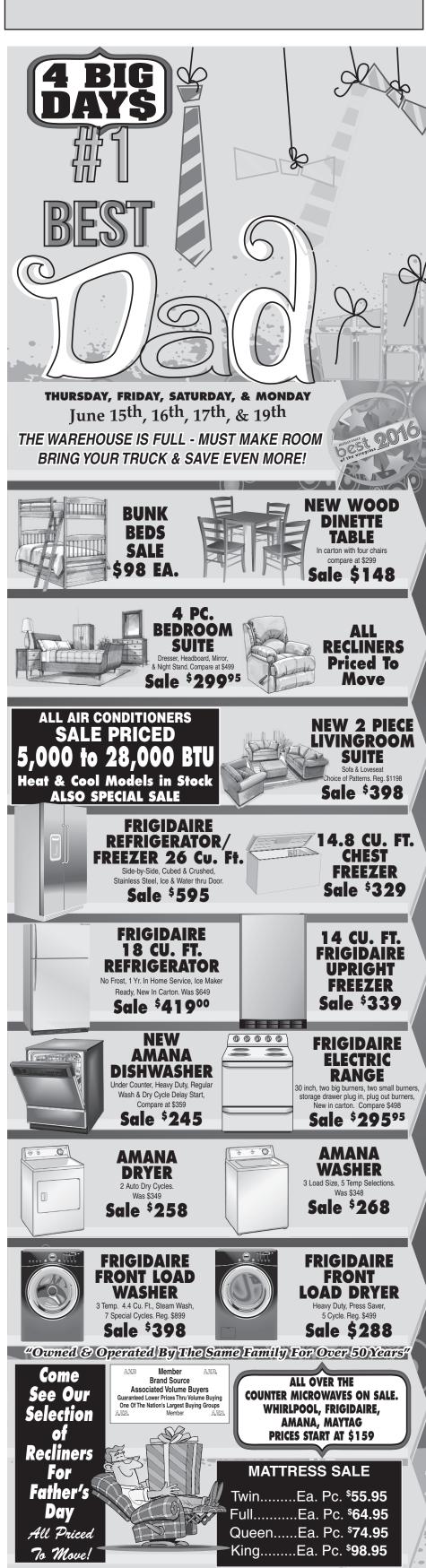
Lane understands Declet's new responsibilities better than anyone and said he has full confidence that he'll fulfill his duties as the battalion's highest ranking NCO.

"Frank, what was once my responsibility is now yours. This has been the smoothest and most gratifying (transition) I've ever been a part of. I couldn't have chosen a better successor myself and I can't wait to see where you take the Old Warriors," said the outgoing command sergeant major as he bid farewell to the Soldiers of the battalion and thanked the leadership for the opportunity to serve.

"Being your sergeant major has been one of the highlights of my career. Knowing that the senior Aviators of the Aviation Branch all once stood right where you are today, really is not just humbling but is quite enlightening because it lets me know the future of the Branch is in good hands," he added.



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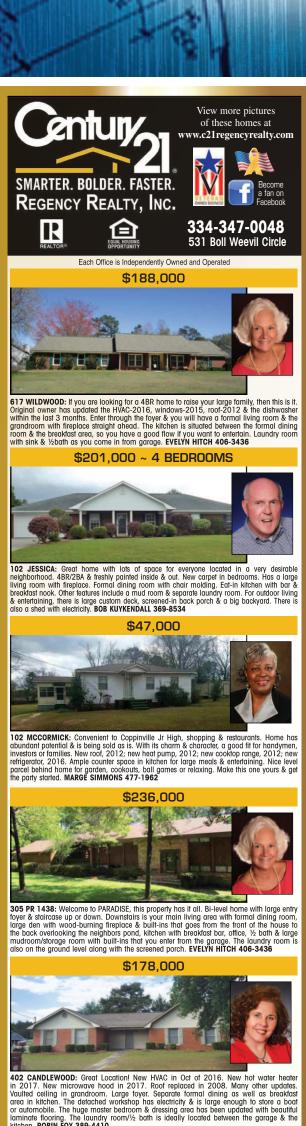
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**JUNE 15, 2017** 

# COMBINED RESOLVE

# Aviators help 3rd ABCT evolve into multinational brigade

By Staff Sgt. Ange Desinor 3rd Brigade Combat Team, \ 4th Infantry Division

HOHENFELS TRAINING AREA, Germany — Soldiers of 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, are gearing up with land and Aviation forces from six NATO-allied and partner nations for a Combined Resolve VIII exercise that will put them through an intense scenario to defend a European nation from attack.

Tanks, wheeled and tracked artillery, helicopters and more have been arriving over the last week, assembling a multinational contingent from Albania, Finland, Hungary, Kosovo, Romania and the Ukraine that will directly operate within the U.S. 3rd ABCT's combined-arms structure, according to Lt. Col. George Mitroka, commander of the 588th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd ABCT, 4th ID.

The Soldiers will spend a few days getting acclimated to each other's capabilities during enhanced maneuver lanes before entering a nine-day battle period that pits them against a conventional force of equal strength, he said. The complex scenario focuses on how unified land operations would be conducted if a NATO Article V incident was to occur, where an attack on on ally would be considered an attack on the entire alliance.

"We always look forward to these types of training rotations because it brings us all together, creates a larger team," Mitroka said. "It's always a pleasure working together with people who are from different ing on is vastly different than open desert places with one goal in mind: accomplishing the mission together."

All total, more than 3,400 participants from 10 nations will take part in Combined Resolve VIII, with some working in



Soldiers of the 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, 1st Armored Division Combat Aviation Brigade, refuel an AH-64 Apache during the Combined Resolve VIII exercise at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, May 28.

the capacity of a higher echelon above 3rd ABCT, managing the larger fight. The 3rd ABCT brought more than 2,100 Soldiers to the exercise, which also served as a chance to demonstrate that the brigade can quickly assemble and move a large portion of its forces around Europe.

The environment in Germany offers different challenges to what 3rd ABCT Soldiers have trained on during prior brigadelevel exercises, such as a National Training Center rotation at Fort Irwin, California.

"The terrain that we are going to be trainterrain," said Mitroka. "We have done, and continue to do, a lot of reconnaissance, and we have been working in this type of constricted, highly populated environment for the last four months. We've prepared

ourselves the best that we can for what we are about to encounter here."

As part of the mix for Combined Resolve VIII, 3rd ABCT has integrated Romanian infantry and artillery, Hungarian wheeled infantry, Albanian anti-armor and aviation assets, a Kosovar explosive ordnance disposal team, Ukrainian mechanized infantry and Finnish exchange officers working with U.S. maneuver battalion staffs.

"This training is great practice," said 1st Lt. Imre Nagy, a Hungarian soldier from Bocskai István Infantry Brigade. "I've had experience working with the U.S. Army before and appreciate what we can share during training. I'm looking forward to another successful mission with the U.S. Army and other countries."

Training with multinational forces is an

experience the 3rd ABCT has grown accustomed to as its served since January as U.S. Army Europe's regionally allocated land force under Operation Atlantic Re-

"This exercise differs from the last brigade-level training we conducted at NTC in that now we're training to defend against a near-peer threat who's just as strong as we are rather than a counter-insurgency fight," said Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Alvarez, a senior telecommunications sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd ABCT.

"The training location and the opportunity to work with other nations and combine our forces also makes this more complex. We are touching up on the basics with things like warrior tasks and battle drills as we join with our allies and partners," he said.

Also participating is the 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment from Fort Bliss, Texas, which is serving as part of 10th Combat Aviation Brigade's regionally allocated force for Atlantic Resolve.

Integration allows all of the elements supporting and working with the brigade to strengthen interoperability – the ability to move, shoot and communicate together.

"The first challenge is that most of the enablers that come to work with our organization, we are meeting them for the first time. You only spend a few days getting to know each other and build a relationship in a short amount of time," said Mitroka.

"But we embed them into our battle rhythm, planning sessions, integration in companies. Building the team and getting over the initial friction of not knowing each other quickly mitigates any initial challenges," he said.



AH-64E Apache pilots prepare to depart for a mission in Kunduz, Afghanistan, May 31.

### 10th CAB helps infantry Soldiers train for rapid deployment

By Pvt. Nicholas Vidro 7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

HOHENFELS, Germany — Soaring through the sky over Germany, Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, embarked on their final training exercise during their rapid deployment to Grafenwoehr Training Area.

They were flown to the training area June 1 to participate in one of their most realistic training exercises to date - an air assault mission, according to Capt. Austin Caroe, commander of B Company, 2nd Bn., 12th Inf. Regt.

The Soldiers of 2nd Bn., 12th Inf. Regt., were brought to Germany as part of an emergency deployment readiness exercise, one of the Army's plans to showcase the readiness of Soldiers to prepare themselves and deploy on short notice, Caroe said. The battalion was given two weeks to prepare for the deployment and once they got on the ground in Germany, they faced some of the most intense training an infantryman could expect.

In the beginning of this training, the infantrymen with the 2-12th Inf. Regt., worked on successfully clearing the UH-60 Black Hawks they would be boarding to fly to Hohenfels. The Black Hawks were supplied by the 2nd Assault Helicopter Battalion,

SEE 10TH CAB, PAGE B4



via 10th CAB helicopters.

### Soldiers from the 2-12th Inf. Regt. arrive at the training area

# **Aviators support British** Royal Marines during exercise

By Sgt. Shiloh Capers 10th Combat Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

ADAZI MILITARY BASE, Latvia — U.S. Soldiers from the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade based out of Lielvarde provided a CH-47 Chinook and UH-60 Black Hawk for hot and cold load training to about 100 British Royal Marines at helicopter pads on Adazi Military Base June 2.

The training was preparation for an upcoming event during Saber Strike 17 that will include the quick uploading and offloading of personnel. Saber Strike is a U.S. Army Europe-led multinational combined forces training exercise in the Baltic region. The exercise tests the capability of multiple nations to act against a threat, according to USAREUR officials.

Cold load training is the practice of entering or exiting the aircraft while the aircraft is not operational. Hot load training is entering or exiting the aircraft while the aircraft is operational, , said CW3 Douglas Patterson, UH-60



PHOTO BY SGT. SHILOH CAPERS

British Royal Marine Commandos rush out of a 10th CAB CH-47 Chinook in a session of cold load training at Adazi Military Base, Latvia, June 2.

Black Hawk pilot and safety officer for A Company, 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York.

The purpose of the exercise was

training, he added. Training began with familiarizing the British Royal Marines with simple aircraft features for emergency purposes. The brief

to support the Royal Marines in their

SEE EXERCISE, PAGE B4

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# 10th CAB

Continued from Page B1

10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division.

After the refresher course on entering and exiting the aircraft they made their way to Hohenfels where they needed to maneuver through the woods covertly as they captured a simulated hostile target in a mock town nearby, Caroe said.

"We were a brand new crew brought together at the last minute, but, ultimately, we were successful in our mission," he said.

The planning process was stressful on such short notice, testing different components to see that a mission like this could be conducted within rigorous time constraints. There had to be planning on the part of the 2-12th Inf. Regt., as far as precise movements and backup maneuvers. Then they needed to work with the 10th CAB, which is spread across Europe in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. The 2-12th Inf. Regt. also worked closely with Albanian special forces, who provided area reconnaissance for the mission, Caroe said.

"We were working on a condensed timeline to bring together multiple partners, which made this mission more challenging than the others we've done," he

For some of the Soldiers on the



PHOTO BY PVT. NICHOLAS VIDRO

Soldiers from the 2-12th Inf. Regt. pull security as helicopters buzz overhead at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, June 1.

ground, this was a first-time experience, but they did their duty to the fullest of their ability, said Pvt. Noah Zalesky, a rifleman with 3rd Platoon, B Co., 2-12th Inf. Regt., who recently arrived to the unit from basic training.

He described what it was like to be a part of such a complex mission so soon. "It was crazy and really fast paced, but everyone knew what to do and when to do it. That teamwork really made the mission successful."

That kind of commitment to teamwork is what made the entire emergency deployment readiness exercise successful. From the moment these Soldiers were given their deployment orders all the way up to conducting combined

missions in Germany, the resolve of the 2-12th Inf. Regt. has not lessened. They have pushed themselves to their limits and proved that the Army is ready to go anywhere in the world at any time, Caroe said.

# **Exercise**

Continued from Page B1

transitioned to hands-on-training providing the Royal Marines an opportunity to conduct passenger aircraft load procedures.

Within the CH-47, U.S. crew members flashed countdown hand signals to alert Royal Marines of the approaching landing and the subsequent exit of the aircraft. For the exit, the Royal Marines maneuvered out of the aircraft, into defense positions to pull security for the departing aircraft.

Training for the Black Hawk and Chinook occurred simultaneously, with groups performing three iterations before rotating or concluding the cold load training.

Transitioning into hot load training, the 10th CAB crew flew to multiple locations, uploading and offloading personnel.

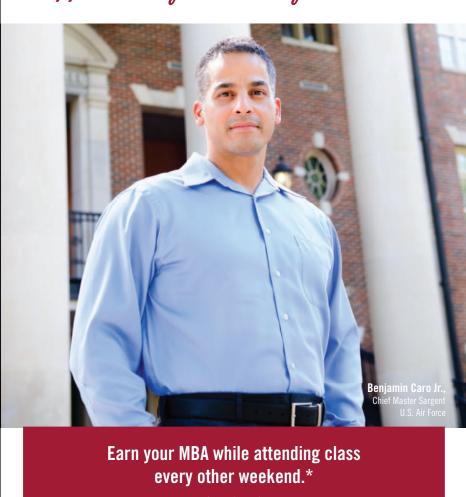
"They (training exercises) create a good discussion and a good battle rhythm and synchronization with our partners and allies," Patterson said.



British Royal Marine Commandos rush out of a 10th CAB CH-47 Chinook in a session of cold load training at Adazi Military Base, Latvia, June 2.



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**JUNE 15, 2017** 

# FREEDOM RING



Fireworks burst in the night sky during last year's Freedom Fest celebration.

# Freedom Fest returns to Wiregrass

Freedom Fest is a tradition

for many families. We often

hear our retirees comment

on attending Freedom Fest

when they were stationed

here as active duty Soldiers.

Building memories to last a

lifetime is one of best parts

of what MWR does for our

families."

JANICE ERDLITZ,

By Jeremy Henderson Army Flier Staff Writer

Freedom Fest returns to the Fort Rucker Festival Fields June 30 with food, live music, fun for all ages and one of the top fireworks displays in the

Janice Erdlitz, DFMWR marketing director, said the annual event is the perfect opportunity for Soldiers and families to celebrate the nation's independence and experience a full day of local entertainment.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to show your support for Fort Rucker," she said. "Freedom Fest is a celebration for our entire community. When we look around at our neighbors across the Wiregrass, we look forward to this day when we invite everyone out to celebrate our nation's independence with us at Fort Rucker.

"We all stand together, side by side, Soldier to neighbor and feel the same powerful emotions of being proud Americans," she added. "Freedom Fest is a tradition for many families.

We often hear our retirees comment on attending Freedom Fest when they were stationed here as active duty Soldiers. Building memories to last a lifetime is one of best parts of what MWR does for

The event, which takes place from 4-10 p.m., will feature many family vendors and activities, according to Lynn Avila, special events coordina-

"Patrons will recognize many vendors, but we will also have some new additions," she said. "The crowd will have the opportunity to enjoy Italian sweet tea, crawfish menu items and gelato.

"The fun zone will return for children this year," she added. "We will also have rides, a trampoline, zip line, pony rides and trackless train rides."

According to Avila, families may purchase a \$10 arm band to allow each child unlimited access to bouncy houses in the fun zone or pay \$1 per en-

"We invite the community to come early and enjoy all the food, drinks and entertainment before the fireworks show," Avila said. "The fun zone is perfect for children, but we have also added a tiki hut that will serve refreshments for adults and live music entertainment.

"As you come in to park, make sure you park in the designated area that will get you out the

> preferred gate," she added. "As you leave your parking area, you will be directed to the gate exit that is assigned

> to your parking area." Marcel Dumais, Fort Rucker chief of police, reinforced Avila's advice.

"Ensure when you arrive on Fort Rucker that you park in the parking area for the gate you wish to exit from when the fireworks are complete," he said. "As an example, if you want to leave from the Daleville gate after the fireworks,

make sure you park in the

DFMWR MARKETING DIRECTOR Daleville parking area because the exit routes will be strictly enforced. "During the Freedom Fest celebration there will

be multiple police personnel on the fields to assist patrons," he added. "The DPS incident command post will also be located on Field A and patrons can ask for assistance at that location. A medical tent and lost child tent will also be set up on Field A for assistance."

According to Dumais, signage will be in place to direct visitors to the correct parking area for their preferred gate.

"It is important for patrons to follow the parking and traffic flow plan because the plan was developed to ensure safety as people enter and exit the

SEE FREEDOM, PAGE C4

# DIG IT!

# Vacation Bible School takes youth on archaeological adventure

By Nathan Pfau

Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker youth were given the chance to take an archaeological trip back to biblical times to learn about the history of their faith during an event that had them digging for knowledge.

The Fort Rucker Religious Support Office held its Vacation Bible School June 5 through Friday where children were able to take part in music, crafts and even an archaeological dig, which was perfectly aligned with this year's theme – come fly with us to a VBS archaeology adventure, according to Nancy Jankowski, Fort Rucker Religious Support Office director of religious education.

"We chose the biblical archaeology theme because we could pull material from any historical era, including after biblical times into modern times," said Jankowski.

Children were divided into groups representing the 12 tribes of Israel, and each tribe rotated through different stations to take part in different activities, ranging from games meant to teach about Jesus, to crafts like building wooden airplanes or creating a work belt to take with them on an archaeological dig.

Each day of the program featured a different lesson in archaeology of significant figures throughout biblical history that would

take children through the ages from biblical to modern times, said the director, and was meant to educate the children on the history of their faith.

Throughout the days, children were able to sift through the sands of the "dig site" to find various treasures, some of which they were allowed to keep.

For Joshua Evans, military family member, the dig site was one of his favorite parts of the experience.

"I really liked to get to go through the sand and find the gold coins," he said. "I thought that was a lot of fun and I learned a lot about history and how archaeology works."

The first day focused on evidence of Abraham, who is the father of all three of the monotheistic religions in the area surrounding Israel, said Jankowski, so the children were set to look for archaeological evidence of Abraham.

The second day featured the people of Israel coming in under Joshua and conquering Jericho to begin taking care of their lands.

On the third day, the children were learning about David, who was not only a shepherd boy tending his father's sheep, but a servant in Saul's army who later became king, so it featured some archaeological finds around the city of Jerusalem and the temple mound, said the religious education director.

The fourth day brought the children into



Children sift through a dig site to find different treasures during Vacation Bible School at the Spiritual Life Center June 7.

more recent times when a boat, aptly named the Jesus Boat, was discovered in the Sea of Galilee in 1986.

"During that time, the sea levels in the Sea of Galilee had dropped down significantly and two fisherman brothers were washing along the shore and spotted something in the water," explained Jankowski. "They called the Israeli archaeology authorities and they discovered it was a first-century fishing boat that was still underwater, so they had to come up with this special method to keep it intact as they raised it out of the water and eventually built a museum around it."

Learning about the boat taught the children about special methods developed and adapted to new situations when coming across a find, she said.

The final day focused on the Judea wilderness and the Dead Sea caves, but no matter where the children traveled throughout the program, the lessons of archaeology and history were clear. "Each day's themes had something to do with archaeology and how the people lived," said the religious education director. "Not only the Israelites, but the Philistines and other groups that were

in the area during that period of history.

"They learned a lot about the history of the world and how different people of various times were either friends or enemies, and how they determined where to live depending on where there was water or good pasture lands," she added. "They were learning a lot of information that will help make them better students."

Because VBS is a chapel program, Jankowski said its important for the children to learn and understand where the history of their faith comes from, but that they should also know how that history relates to modern times because many of the peoples who settled the land in ancient times still reside there today.

"We need to learn how ancient people lived and how they managed to get along or not get along, and how problems were solved," she said. "[The children] got to learn about how every one of the three major monotheistic religions has holy sites in the area, and sometimes those sites are in very close proximity or maybe even overlap. So they had to learn how to be respectful of everybody's customs, and how to appreciate and respect everybody's heritage."



Children take turns blowing into a horn to make noise.

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

#### **Army Family Team Building app**

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

#### **School Age Center Summer Camp**

The Fort Rucker School Age Center hosts its summer camp through 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.

#### **Rock'et Out Summer**

The Fort Rucker Youth Center host its Rock'et Out Summer – offering rocketry, robotics, sports, cooking, arts and animation - through June 30. Field trips will be included in the camp fees and will be to: Big Kahunas Water Park, Wednesday; Wonder Works, June 28; and Water World each Friday. Camp will run Mondays-Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Youth must be a child and youth services member (ages 11-18 and grades six-12) to participate.

For membership information or to signup for membership, call 255-9638 or 255-2260.

#### Newcomers welcome

A newcomers welcome is scheduled for Friday from 8:30-11 a.m. at The Landing. Active-duty military, spouses, foreign students, Army civilians and family members are encouraged by post officials to attend the newcomers orientation. A free light breakfast and Starbucks coffee will be served. For free childcare, people can register their children at the child development center by calling 255-3564. Reservations must be made 24 hours prior to the newcomers welcome.

For more information, call 255-3161 or 255-2887.

#### Shipwreck Island day trip

MWR Central will host a day trip to Shipwreck Island Water Park in Panama City, Florida, Saturday. The cost of this trip is \$49 per person and includes transportation to and from the park, and admission to the park. Guests under 35 inches only pay the transportation fee of \$20. The trip will depart from Bldg. 5700 at 8:30 a.m. and arrive back at about 7 p.m.

For more information or to sign up, visit MWR Central or call 255-2997.

#### **Blended Retirement System seminar**

The Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program will present a Blended Retirement System seminar Tuesday from 6-7 p.m. in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, 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. This discussion will be facilitated by ACS accredited financial counselors. Pre-registration is required by Monday. Free childcare is available with registration.

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

#### Trivia Tuesday

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

For more information, call 503-0396.

#### FRG key contact training

Army Community Service will host



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

# **Summer outdoor yard sale**

Fort Rucker will host its summer outdoor yard sale July 15 from 7-11 a.m. on the festival fields. The outdoor event provides the opportunity for the Fort Rucker community to buy and sell used household items in a consolidated fashion, according to organizers. No commercial vendors will be allowed without a contract - contact special events at 255-1749 for details and fees. The sale will be open to the public. Booth cost for ID card holders - active-duty and retired military, family members, reserve component members and Department of Defense civilians, DOD civilians - is 15x20, \$25; 30x20, \$35; and tables, \$10 each. Cost for the general public is 15x20, \$35; 30x20, \$45; and tables, \$10 each. Registration is due by July 12. People can register as a seller at MWR Central by calling 255-2997. For more information on the event, call 255-1749 or 255-9810. Pictured is a scene from the April yard sale.

family readiness group key contact training June 26 from 8:15-11 a.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 284. The training will highlight the standards that provide guidance for FRG operations, the FRG mission, and the various FRG roles and their responsibilities. Pre-registration is required by June 22. Free childcare will be available -call 255-3564 for more information on setting up child care or to register.

For more information or to register, call 255-9578 or 255-3161.

#### **Employment readiness class**

The Fort Rucker Employment Readiness Program hosts orientation sessions monthly in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, in the Army Community Service multipurpose room, with the next session June 22. People who attend will meet in Rm. 350 at 8:45 a.m. to fill out paperwork before going to the multipurpose room. The class will end at about 11:30 a.m. The sessions will inform people on the essentials of the program and provide job search tips, as well. Advance registration is required and attendance at a session is mandatory for participation in the program.

For more information, call 255-2594.

#### Freedom Fest

Fort Rucker will host its Freedom Fest June 30 from 4-10 p.m. at the festival fields. The event will feature one of the largest firework displays in the area, a children's zone with inflatables, rides, games, and a variety of local and regional vendors, along with static aircraft displays. The Army's Maneuver Center of Excellence Fort Rucker Detachment Band will provide musical entertainment throughout the evening with a Patriotic Concert starting at 7 p.m. Admission to the event is free and it is open to the public. People who attend do need to have a gate access pass. Prohibited items include coolers, backpacks (except for medical and baby care items), pets, fireworks of any kind, glass containers, weapons, and bicycles, scooters, roller blades and skateboards. For more information, call 255-1749.

#### Wild Adventures trip

The Fort Rucker Youth Center will host a day trip to Wild Adventures Theme Park in Valdosta, Georgia, July 8. Youth must be child and youth services members to participate – ages 14 and up.

For membership information or to signup for membership, call 255-9638 or 255-

#### **Library summer craft**

The Center Library will host a summer crafting session July 11 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. for children ages 3-11. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited to the first 40 children to register. The event will be open to authorized patrons and be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly.



For more information or to register, visit likely to face. the library or call 255-3885.

#### Care team training

Army Community Service will be hold a care team training session July 12 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 284. As care team members, volunteers perform a valuable role to families of fallen and injured Soldiers, according to ACS officials. The training is given to people interested in being care team volunteers. It is designed to give an understanding of care team volunteers' responsibilities and offers guidance on how to handle issues they are

For more information, call 255-9578.

#### **Coupon clippers**

The Center Library will hold a coupon clip and swap July 12 from noon to 1 p.m. People are welcome to bring their coupons, swap with others and learn the how to get the best deals on their next shopping trip. Coupon clippers is open to authorized patrons ages 13 and older. The event is Exceptional Family Member Program friendly.

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

### FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 15-18

Thursday, June 15

The Secret Life of Pets (PG) .....9:30 a.m. **Pirates of the Caribbean** (PG-13) ...7 a.m.

Friday, June 16

**Cars 3** (*PG*) ......4 & 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 17

Sunday, June 18

**Cars 3 3D** (*PG*) ...... 1 p.m. **Cars 3** (PG).

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.

# 'TOTAL CHAOS'

# D-Day veterans describe beach landings 73 years later

**By Sean Kimmons** Army News Service

WASHINGTON — When the ramp to his World War II landing craft slammed down onto Utah Beach, then-Cpl. Herman Zeitchik jumped out and dashed across the sand as deadly rounds were shot out from fortified bunkers.

With the amphibious assault under way in the early morning of June 6, 1944, Zeitchik and other 4th Infantry Division Soldiers – who were part of the first wave of troops to land - desperately tried to find safe passage through the German-occupied

"When the front of these landing crafts went down, we just took off," said Zeitchik, now 93 years old. "We couldn't see where to fire. We just had to get off the beach and try to find the rest of the unit."

Along a 50-mile stretch of coastline in northern France, more than 160,000 Allied troops stormed Utah Beach and four other beaches that day to gain a foothold in continental Europe. By the end of the D-Day invasion, over 9,000 of those Allied troops were either dead or wounded – the majority of them Americans.

While several in his unit were casualties, Zeitchik and others survived to push on into enemy territory and liberate Paris.

"There were so many of us coming ashore. I was just lucky," he said June 6, before attending a remembrance ceremony at the World War II Memorial here that commemorated the 73rd anniversary of D-

Known as the largest-ever seaborne invasion, more than 5,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft were used in the massive operation, which would turn the tide against Nazi Germany forces entrenched across Europe.

"I don't know that we could have ever done a better job of recreating what happened on this historic day back in 1944," said Lt. Gen. Gary Cheek, director of the Army Staff.

Speaking at the ceremony, Cheek said the heroics witnessed on D-Day helped pave the way for an Allied victory in Europe, while also giving Americans freedom for years to come.

"They stormed these beaches so we might stand here free and prosperous," he said. "They were steadfast and loyal to the mission at hand and met their rendezvous with destiny head-on, and they were successful."

#### **TOTAL CHAOS**

Then-Pvt. Arnald Gabriel recalled wading through the cold ocean water after his landing craft failed to make it all the way to Omaha Beach. "The water, believe it or not, in June was awfully cold and that with the combination of fear, it was quite an experience," he said.

A machine gunner with the 29th Infantry Division, Gabriel described how the chaotic scene unfolded.

"With the Air Force overhead, the Navy shelling [enemy positions], the enemy firing at you and we're firing at them, it was just total chaos," he said.

"Nobody landed where they were supposed to," he added. "I landed way over to the left flank and ended up with the 1st [Infantry] Division. It took me a day to get back and find the 29th Division. It was that



Lt. Gen. Gary H. Cheek, director of the Army Staff, takes a moment to talk with Herman Zeitchik during a D-Day remembrance ceremony at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., June 6.

kind of chaos."

After storming Omaha Beach, helping liberate parts of France and earning two Bronze Stars with the Army, Gabriel later joined the Air Force as a band director. Before the war, he was in his high school band and he always wanted to get back into music, he said.

#### **KEEPING BUSY**

Music provided him comfort and kept his mind from dwelling too long on the memories of D-Day and other combat missions.

"The way I overcame my post-traumatic stress was to keep so busy that I had no time to look back," he said before the ceremony.

Shortly after the war, he said, it was a lieutenant that gave him the advice about keeping busy. It came at a time when he was struggling to deal with his thoughts of what happened that fateful day.

"It's OK to look back, but just don't stare," said Gabriel, who retired as an Air Force colonel after serving 36 years. "What great advice that was. By keeping busy, you don't have time to look back."

Gabriel, who celebrated his 92nd birthday last week, stood at a podium June 6 and led a band of high school musicians who played patriotic songs during the cer-

As a veteran, Gabriel still participates in 25 musical performances each year and has vowed to return to the memorial to conduct a band again.

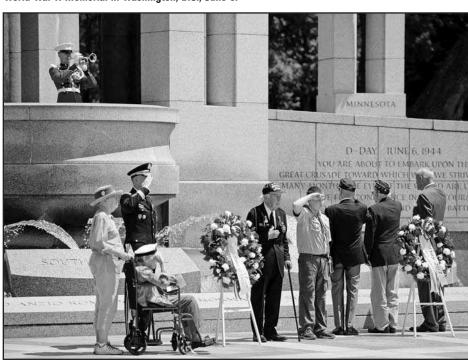
"I'm going to do the 75th and the 80th [D-Day anniversary] when I'm 100 years old," he said, smiling. "I love it. It's great therapy – it really is."

Performing at these events in front of audiences isn't just about him, though. It's for those who never made it home, he said.

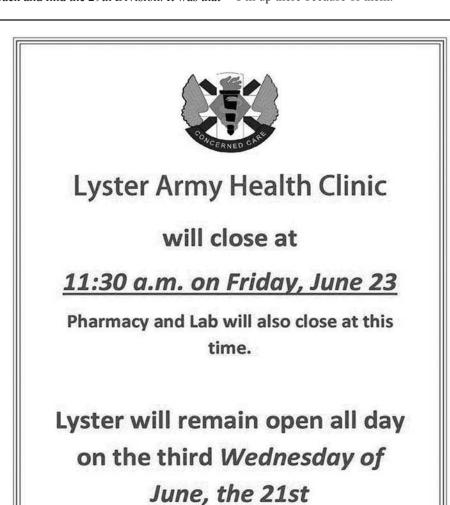
"I remember them every day of my life," he said. "They're at the podium with me. I'm up there because of them."



Retired Air Force Col. Arnald D. Gabriel salutes the crowd during a D-Day remembrance ceremony at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., June 6.



Honored guests of the D-Day remembrance ceremony render honors during the playing of 'Taps.'





# Wake Island a lesson in American WWII bravery

By Jim Garamone Defense Media Activity

WAKE ISLAND — The story of the Wake Island defenders in December 1941 has inspired generations of Americans, but the island is so remote that few ever get the chance to see the site of their courage.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff remedied that for his staff on his way back from the Australia-U.S. Ministerial Consultation in Sydney June 7.

'We had to have a fuel stop for the plane, so I thought why not at Wake," Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford told reporters traveling with him.

Dunford had been to the island before when serving as the senior aide to Gen. Carl Mundy, the commandant of the Marine Corps from 1991 to 1995 - the period covering the 50th anniversary of World War II. "General Mundy used to say that the defense of Wake and the story of Jimmy Devereux was what really inspired him to join the Marine Corps," the general said.

The then-6-year-old future commandant was not the only one inspired by the defense of Wake Island - Americans everywhere

members there. **OUTNUMBERED, OUTGUNNED** 

were electrified by the efforts of the service

Then-Marine Corps Maj. James Devereux was the commander of the 1st Defense Battalion on the island when Japanese forces attacked just a few hours after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. The Japanese destroyed eight of 12 Marine Corps Grumman Wildcat fighters on the island and raided several more times. Civilian contractors joined with the 450 Marines to hold off any attempt to take the island.

On Dec. 11, 1941, they did just that, holding fire with their coastal artillery until the Japanese approached the island. The gunners sank a Japanese destroyer and a submarine and the four Wildcats sank another Japanese destroyer.

The South Seas Fleet beat a hasty retreat. But the Japanese came back on Dec. 23 with many more ships, including two of the aircraft carriers that attacked Pearl Harbor. They stayed outside the range of Devereux's guns and hammered their positions as more than 1,500 Japanese marines stormed the beaches. The Wake Island defenders had no choice but to surrender.

"I thought it would be a great place to stop and share the history of Wake Island with the rest of the team," Dunford said.

Dunford and his staff donned exercise gear and ran the 4-mile course, stopping at various World War II sites along the way. Air Force personnel based on the island accompanied the party, pointing out the sites of interest. "What affected all of us was the rock with the 98 carved into it," the general said.

The rock is a boulder of coral with "98 PW 5-10-43" carved into it. The Japanese killed 98 prisoners of war on the island on Oct. 10, 1943. One of the prisoners escaped, swam the mile-and-a-half channel and carved the inscription. He was later captured and beheaded by the Japanese admiral commanding the captured base.

The general's run began at the 98 Rock and ended at the Marine Memorial near the airport terminal.

"For me, whenever I go back to those World War II battlefields, you see what 400 Marines did with some Sailors, some Soldiers, some contractors," he said. "They killed 700 enemy, they sank a submarine, they sank a couple of ships, they held out under unbelievable conditions. They endured being held as POWs.

"My commitment as we're leaving here is we are not going to soil the colors on our watch," he continued. "We're proud to follow in your footsteps, we're not going to let you down and we're going to do you proud."



PHOTO BY JIM GARAMONE

Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his staff examine the Wake Island Defenders Memorial June 7.

### **Freedom**

Continued from Page C1

installation," he said. "There will be a number of road closures associated with Freedom Fest and it is important for people to follow the signs posted as well as any instructions from police personnel and event staff. The egress routes are set up to move the large volume of vehicles off the installation as quickly and safely as possible. Patrons should understand that it is going to take time to get all the vehicles off the installation so we ask for their patience up front."

Dumais also urged visitors to be patient at the end of the event as personnel work to help everyone exit the facility safely.

"I ask people to remember there are probably 8,000-10,000 people in attendance and only so many roads to exit the post -, the

egress routes have been set up to allow the maximum number of vehicles to exit each of the gates as safely as possible," he said. "I ask for the public's help in making sure they park in the parking area for the gate they want to exit from, this greatly helps law enforcement so we don't have vehicles trying to cross established routes and causing back-ups or accidents."

Visitors are also reminded that certain items are prohibited during Freedom Fest.

"No coolers, tote bags or backpacks permitted except for medical and baby care items," Dumais said. "No pets. No fireworks. No glass containers. No weapons, to include guns, knives, pepper spray or other such items. No bicycles, scooters, roller blades or

Safety] wants everyone to come out and enjoy Freedom Fest 2017. but we ask that you do it responsibly," he added. "There will be prohibited items signs posted in the parking areas as a reminder not to bring those items on the field. Last year, there were still a number of patrons that brought pets to the event - please leave your pets at home."

Admission to the event is free and open to the public. However, a gate access pass is required. Unescorted visitors planning to attend Freedom Fest music obtain a visitor's pass from one of two Visitor Control Centers prior to the day of the event. VCCs will not be open June 30.

Visitors may obtain passes from VCCs at the Daleville and Ozark gates. The Daleville VCC is open Mondays-Sundays from "The [Directorate of Public 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Ozark VCC



The 98th Army "Silver Wings" Band plays to a packed crowd during the Freedom Fest celebration last year.

is open Mondays-Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

""We strive each year to make our Independence Day celebration something the entire community can enjoy," Erdlitz said. "And the fireworks are spectacular under the Alabama stars. Freedom Fest has the ability to pull at

our patriotic heart strings. "It's an event like no other with thousands of people joining together to enjoy the splendors of all things that make our nation so great," she added. "Freedom Fest offers something for everyone from an amazing concert, brilliant fireworks show, military aircraft static displays, to some of the best festival foods to enjoy."

For more information, call 255-1749.



others. Do not

talk or text and

drive. It can wait.











# SOLDIER FOR LIFE

### Colin Powell speaks on Vietnam War experience, today's Soldiers

**Deputy Chief of Staff** G-4 Staff Report

WASHINGTON — Former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin Powell said he was "Very proud to call myself a Vietnam Veteran," in remarks delivered at the Pentagon Auditorium June 8.

Speaking to the packed auditorium as part of an event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Vietnam, he said, "One thing the American people can always be assured of is that when the call comes, America will respond. We will always be there."

The audience included more than 30 Vietnam veterans who work at the Pentagon - several current and former generals – and many current Soldiers and civil-

The heads of the governmentwide effort to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War were also in attendance, including Michael Rhodes and retired Maj. Gen. James Jackson.

partners across the country, who are holding events like this to connect with the 7 million living Vietnam War-era veterans.

Powell served two tours in Vietnam: the first as a captain, when he was an adviser with the 1st and 2nd Infantry Divisions from 1962-63; and the second as a major, when he was executive officer and deputy G-3 with the Americal Division from 1968-1969.

He said that he has often visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, taking foreign dignitaries with him. He always points out the sculpture "Three Servicemen" near the wall and wonders: "Are they looking for a friend or themselves?"

He added that commemorations like this are important for "never forgetting the sacrifices of our young men and women, not only in Vietnam, but in every other place we assemble."

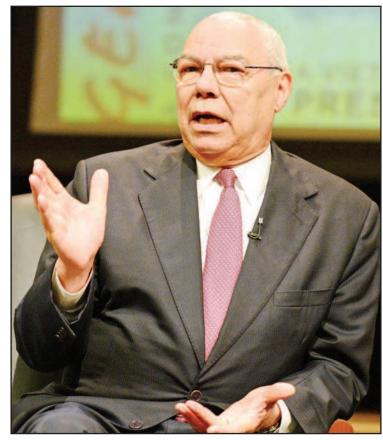
When asked what advice he would give to military leaders today, Powell said the priorities

The effort has more than 10,000 of each service should be taking care of the people fighting and their families, and making sure the weapons they need for today's modern warfare are there for them.

> "Never short the accounts for Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines," he said.

> He also praised today's Soldiers, saying, "I think of what you are asked to do, and the multiple tours you are doing and it is far more demanding than what I had to do in Vietnam or Soldiers had to do in World War II. Over, and over, and over, your assignments require you to go to Afghanistan, Iraq and so many other places. I couldn't be more proud of you, every single one of you."

> "General Powell has been a role model to all of us," remarked Lt. Gen. Aundre F. Piggee, deputy chief of staff for Army logistics, G-4, who serves as the Army's executive agent for the Vietnam 50th Commemoration. "And it all began with his bravery in the jungles of Vietnam."



Retired Gen. Colin Powell speaks at a special Vietnam War commemorative event at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., June 8.

### French memorial honors Native American sacrifices on D-Day

By Airman 1st Class Alexis Schultz For Army News Service

SAINT LAURENT SUR MER, France — One of the few surviving American Indian WWII combat veterans, retired Master Sgt. Charles Norman Shay, returned to the country he helped liberate to attend a memorial dedication in his honor June 5.

"As one of the few surviving American Indian combat veterans who participated in the liberation of France, I speak here not only for myself but also on behalf of my comrades from Turtle Island," Shay said, citing the Native American name for North America.

Shay, a Penobscot Indian from Maine, was only 19 years old when he struggled ashore Omaha Beach June 6, 1944, as a platoon medic serving in F Company, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment. The 16th Infantry Regiment was one of three combat regiments in the 1st Infantry Di-



PHOTO BY A1C ALEXIS C. SCHULTZ

D-Day veterans Charles Shay, right, and George Kline shake hands at the Charles Shay Memorial in Saint Laurent sur Mer, France, June 5.

vision that spearheaded the assault on D-

"On the evening of June 5, 1944, I was aboard the Henrico heading across the channel, when I had a surprise visit from a Penobscot Indian warrior named Melvin Neptune," Shay recalled. "He didn't trouble me with his combat experience,

nor did he offer me advice. Instead, we talked about home because he knew I had never been in combat— all hell was about to break loose on me.

"Only two of us appear to have survived the war without being wounded," Shay continued. "We were lucky. Call it what you want, fate, destiny, angels, spirits or God. All I know is that my mother prayed for me."

He said his mother prayed fervently for his other three brothers serving in World War II, as well – two in the U.S. Navy and one in the Army Air Corps as a B-17 gun-

"There were mothers across Turtle Island praying for their brave sons," Shay said. "My heart breaks for those women who were never able to welcome their sons home again."

According to Dutch Anthropologist Dr. Harald E.L. Prins, 175 Native Americans landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day – but only 55 have been identified. The memorial dedication to Shay and his Native American comrades is part of an ongoing effort to recognize the Native American contributions to WWII.

"This is the reason why we decided together with the mayor of Saint Laurent sur Mer and city council to honor the Native Americans who landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day," Shay said.

The memorial unveiled in the June 5 ceremony is aptly named the "Turtle Monument" after the ancestral home of Shay and his fellow Native Americans. It is the first time that this site has been recognized as part of a D-Day commemoration.

"Every Soldier who landed on this beach was a hero," Shay declared, who also went on to serve in the Korean War. "There is now a plaque commemorating Indian Soldiers who left Turtle Island to help liberate our ancient French allies. We will not forget their sacrifices."











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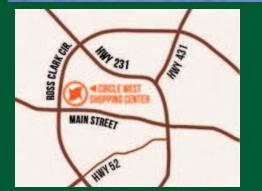


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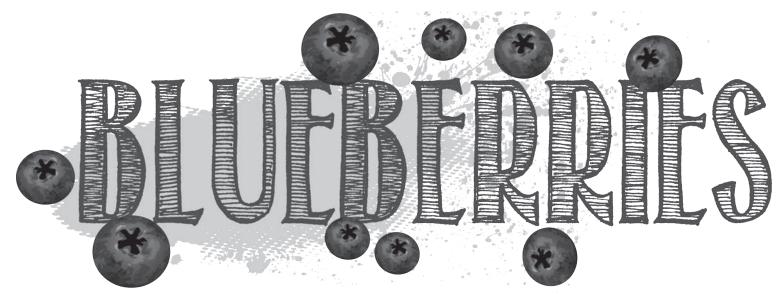
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# Festival welcomes all things blueberry

**Army Flier**Staff Reports

Brewton will host the Alabama Blueberry Festival June 17 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The festival will feature arts and crafts, a car show, live entertainment, blueberries, blueberry bushes, cookbooks and food. There will also be a free children's play section. The festival is home of the "original" blueberry ice cream made especially for the festival, according to organizers.

For more information, visit http://www.brewtonchamber.com/.



# WIREGRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

#### **ANDALUSIA**

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

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

#### DALEVILLE

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

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

#### DOTHAN

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

**ONGOING** — Disabled American Veterans Dothan Chapter 87 maintains a service officer at its office at 545 West Main St. (Mixon Business Center) Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The chapter will assist veterans who were injured or disabled while in military service. DAV service officers help veterans and their spouses with disability compensation claims and other veterans benefits. All veteran services provided are free of charge. For more information, call 836-0217, Ext. 123, or send an email to davchapter87@gmail.com.

**ONGOING** — Disabled American Veterans Chapter 87 will host a dinner and meeting at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Doug Tew Recreation Center. For more information, call 836-0217, Ext. 123, or send an email to davchapter87@gmail.com.

#### **ENTERPRISE**

JUNE 18 — Local artist Roy Hoobler will perform a piano recital at First Presbyterian Church at 3 p.m. Works will include Mozart's piano sonata k.310 in A minor and music of Debussy, including Clair De Lune and Pour Le Piano. He will be joined by local vocalist singing French songs. The recital is free. For more information, call 334-390-1009.

**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.

**ONGOING** — Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6683, John Wiley Brock Post monthly membership meetings for the VFW Post 6683 and Auxiliary are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the post headquarters building located at 2615 Coffee County Road 537. The post mailing address is P.O. Box 311752 Enterprise, AL 36330. For more information, call 334-464-1171 or the auxiliary at 334-464-2222. The post also has a Facebook site at vfw post 6683.

#### 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.

#### **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

**ONGOING** — The Marine Corps League, Wiregrass Det. 752, welcomes all Marines, Navy corpsmen and chaplains, and their families, to its monthly meetings. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Attendees are welcome to arrive early for food and camaraderie. The next meeting will be at the Golden Corral in Dothan. For more information, call 718-4168 or 805-7335.

### **Beyond Briefs**

#### Slocomb Tomato Festival

Slocomb will host its 28th annual tomato festival June 15-17. The event starts off with a city-wide prayer meeting June 15 at 6 p.m. at the First Baptist Church. June 16 there will be a karaoke contest. June 17, the festivities begin with a parade at 9 a.m. and then more entertainment at the festival grounds – with the headlining band, the Kentucky Headhunters, taking the stage at about 5 p.m.

For more information, visit http://slocombtomatofestival.org/2017/.

#### Florida Panhandle Boat Show

The Florida Panhandle Boat Show is scheduled for June 16-18 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Panama City Marina in Panama City, Florida. Power boats, sail boats, kayaks and marine accessories of all types will be featured throughout the extended pier for dry space and in-water marina dock parking, according to organizers. The area's industry leaders will be showcasing their best for the boating and fishing enthusiasts of the southeast region. Included in the \$10 adult paid admission will be viewing of new boats and marine accessories for all types of boating, boating safety seminars, Pier Jam Seafood Music Festival (Saturday and Sunday), live music, cornhole tournament, stand-up paddleboard demonstration, hands-on sailing techniques, Jet-Pack Fly Board Guy demonstration and food vendors.

Children under 16 will be admitted for free. For more information, visit http://www.ba-yartsevents.com/event/the-florida-panhandle-boat-show/.

#### Juneteenth Celebration

Juneteenth is the oldest known commemoration of the ending of slavery in Texas, but is used to mark the overall ending of slavery in the United States, according to the organizers of the Juneteenth Celebration scheduled for June 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Montgomery. Officials will block off Montgomery Street between Lee and Molton for this first celebration. The free event will feature local food and merchant vendors, performances and free tours of the Rosa Parks Museum.

For more information, call 334-241-8615 or visit www.facebook.com/events/403539403336878.

#### NASA in the Park

The fourth annual NASA in the Park event will be held June 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Big Spring Park East in downtown Huntsville. Admission is free. NASA and Marshal Space Flight Center representatives will show the public what they have been working on, as well as conduct experiments for people to watch.

For more information, visit http://www.downtownhuntsville.org/featured-events/.

#### Helen Keller Festival

The 39th annual Helen Keller Festival will be held June 22-25 in Tuscumbia. The event

will kick off with a parade down Main Street and will also include musical artists, arts and crafts vendors, athletic events, and a car and truck show. Other events will include Keller Kids educational activities, historic tours and trolley rides. For more information, visit http://www.helenkellerfestival.com/.

#### USS ALABAMA living history

History will come alive aboard the USS Alabama when the ship's living history crew reports for duty June 24-25 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Mobile. The historical re-enactors will portray life aboard the ship during WWII. They will wear some of the ship's original gear, conduct drills and even swab the deck. They will re-enact call to battle stations and simulate fighting enemy airplanes during the YAK attack using the restored 20mm and 40mm guns mounted on the deck. The Deep South Amateur Radio Club will also broadcast live from the ship during drill weekends. Admission is free for children 5 and younger, \$6 for children ages 6-11 and \$15 for ages 12 to adult. For more information, visit http:// www.ussalabama.com/.

#### **Purdy Butterfly House**

The Huntsville Botanical Garden's Purdy Butterfly House is open through Sept. 30 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. The largest open air butterfly house in the country features butterflies in a kaleidoscope of colors, according to organizers. People can also see turtles sunning in the pond or digging in the dirt, and the Butterfly Discovery Cart helps visitors encounter

even more wonder.

For more information, visit http://hsvbg.org/.

#### Blue Angels Practice

People can observe the Blue Angels, the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, practice most Tuesdays and Wednesdays between March and November at the National Naval Aviation Museum viewing area in Pensacola, Florida. Practices typically begin at 11:30 a.m. and last about an hour. The outside viewing area for the Blue Angels practice is located on the museum flight line north of the museum. Signs are posted to direct visitors to viewing and parking locations, including limited parking for handicapped visitors.

Open bleacher seating is available for 1,000 people. Chair service is provided at each practice session –chairs are available for a fee of \$3 per chair good for that day's practice session. Concessions and merchandise are also available, and there is a 100-percent ID check for all visitors 16 years old and over to access the museum flight line. Backpacks, daypacks, luggage and similar items are not allowed on the flight line. Small purses, bags containing medications, and diaper bags are allowed, but are subject to search by Naval Air Station Pensacola Security personnel.

Cancellations due to weather or maintenance are made at the team's discretion and may not be made until the morning of the practice.

For more information, visit http://www.navalaviationmuseum.org/.

# ARMY K-9 CORPS

# Man's best friend raises paw, serves, too

By Cindy McIntyre Fort Sill Tribune Staff Writer

FORT SILL, Okla. — Many Americans have had pets at one time or another. In fact, about 40 percent of American households have at least one dog. These companions truly become members

They are cherished, pampered and spared no expense for their medical treatments. They are also mourned terribly when they pass.

of the family.

Despite the mutual affection between humans and their pets, animals such as dogs and horses have often been viewed more as beasts of burden than as companions, especially in days before the industrialized age. Wartime was no exception. Many of these furred and feathered friends have given their lives in wartime, with the same bravery and dedication as the Soldiers who fought alongside them.

Militaries around the world have honored and awarded their courage and devotion. Movies have even been made about them. "War Horse," for example, was a recent film about a beloved farm horse sold to the British cavalry in World War I.

Perhaps the best-known war animals are dogs. More than 30,000 dogs have served in the U.S. military since the K-9 Corps was established by the Army in 1942.

The U.S. military still has around 2,500 active Military Working Dogs today, with 700 or so deployed at any one time. The animals are often tasked with sniffing out explosives and other deadly devices that terrorists might use, and have a 98-percent accuracy rating.

Tragically, some of these dogs go home wounded. Some don't come home at all - due to death or, previously, to policy.

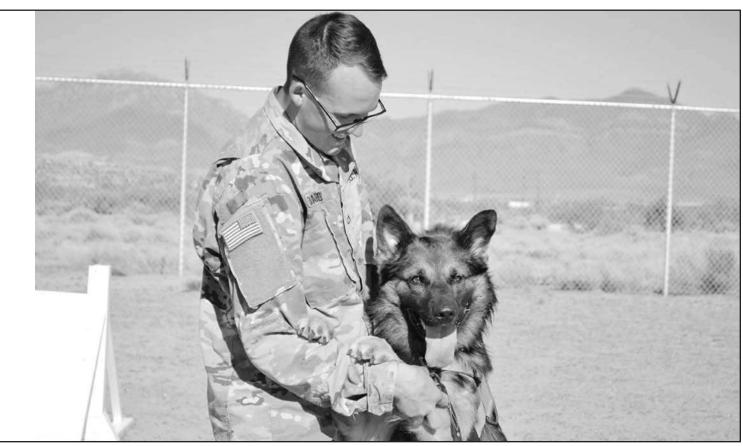
In fact, it wasn't until recently that K-9s were allowed to return stateside with their Soldier companions.

During the Vietnam War, many MWDs were viewed as surplus equipment, rather than as faithful compatriots who saved lives and boosted the morale of their human counterparts. Following the end of hostilities, these dogs were often euthanized or reluctantly abandoned by the very Soldiers

whose lives they saved. According to a May 2014 article in National Geographic, "This was one of the darkest parts of war dog history." Around 4,000 dogs served in the Vietnam War and saved around 10,000 lives. The War Dog Association states that only 204 returned home, but not as pets. Many warriors tried unsuccessfully to find out what happened to their canine battle buddies, or to adopt them.

Then, a law was passed in 2000 to allow handlers and their families to adopt these faithful soldiers of war.

Problems persisted, however. MWDs that retired overseas were not eligible for military transportation and were left behind. In response, the American Humane Society successfully advocated



Pfc. Jackson Darling, assigned to the 513th Military Police Detachment, 93rd Military Police Battalion, helps Toto, a patrol explosive detection dog, pose for a photo at the detachment's K-9 kennel at Fort Bliss Aug. 26.

for an additional provision to the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act that ensured military dogs are retired on American

Today, around 90 percent of MWDs are adopted by their former handlers when they retire. Between 2012 and 2014, the Department of Defense adopted out 1,312 dogs to individuals and 252 to law enforcement agencies.

Military dogs have a distinguished record of service throughout U.S. history. They have done everything from carrying messages, laying telegraph wire, detecting mines, digging out bomb victims, and acting as guard or patrol dogs.

Stubby, a bulldog/pitbull/ Staffordshire terrier mix, was one such famous MWD. Smuggled to Europe with the American Expeditionary Force during WWI, he became the unofficial mascot of the 102nd Infantry, 26th Yankee Division.

Although he wasn't a trained military dog, he alerted Soldiers to put on their masks when a gas attack occurred. He also captured a German spy dressed as an American Soldier.

Stubby, who was promoted to sergeant, almost died during a gas attack, and he also survived an exploding grenade. After 18 months in war, he returned home. He met three U. S. presidents before he died in 1926.

To honor his service, the government paid for a taxidermy treatment so that Stubby could forever reside in the Smithsonian's National Museum of

American History. Another noteworthy MWD, a Belgian Malinois named Cairo, accompanied the Navy SEAL Team Six when they raided Osama bin Laden's compound.

These elite dogs begin their training at places like the 902nd Military Working Dog Detachment at Fort Sill. This particular detachment consists of eight dogs trained to sniff for either explosives or drugs. These MWDs have deployed to Afghanistan,



The first national monument for U.S. Military Working Dog teams was dedicated in 2013 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. Military Working Dogs are bred and trained by the base's 341st Training Squadron to detect arms, ammunition, and explosives -- both of the conventional and home-made varieties. Combat Tracker Dog Teams are also trained for the Marine Corps to recognize and follow enemy insurgents, IED makers, and snipers.



Pfc. Elizabeth Adrian, an Army military working dog handler with the Directorate of Emergency Services, Area Support Group-Kuwait, walks with her military working dog, Freddy, during a demonstration of MWD capabilities at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait on March 7.

Iraq and Kuwait; cleared hotel rooms for the secretary of state; and patrolled the convention halls for the 2016 Republican and Democratic national conventions. One team was even specially requested to provide security for the 2017 presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C.

For all of this vital work, the dogs love nothing more than to chew on a kong as a reward, or receive affection and friendship from their human compatriots. When these dogs retire, they are often given a ceremony to honor their service, in addition to a forever home with a loving family.



Senior Airman Kaleb Sermeno, 60th Security Forces Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, Calif., carries his military working dog, Ben, through a training area near Fort Bliss, Texas, Nov. 10 to simulate what he will do if his dog is injured on deployment.

# Religious Services

#### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

Headquarters Chapel, **Bldg. 109** 

8 a.m. Traditional Protestant Service

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

4 p.m. Catholic Confessions (Saturday) 5 p.m. Catholic Mass (Saturday)

#### Wings Chapel, Bldg. 6036

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

### Security Clearance Denied/Revoked?

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D-Day through the eyes of a combat medic, 73 years later

See Briefs on Page D3

JUNE 15, 2017

# ROLLING ALONG

# 1-145th extinguishes Plug Uglies, 13-3

**By Nathan Pfau**Army Flier Staff Writer

With less than two weeks in the regular season, the 2017 Fort Rucker Intramural Softball Season is heating up as teams get ready for the playoffs.

The D Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment, Where My Pitches At? Scorched the Fort Rucker Fire Department's Plug Uglies 13-3 in the bottom of the fifth during a bout that had the fire department team asking, "where my runs at?"

The D Co. team was off to a hot start, but the Plug Uglies couldn't seem to find their footing throughout the game with a string of errors that gave up multiple runs to their opponents, eventually leading to their downfall.

"Today we knew it was going to be a big game coming out to play the Plug Uglies because they have a really prestigious ranking in the league, so we were really excited," said Shelby Naifeh, team captain for D Co, 1-145th. "We came out really good and strong, and we had a few things going in our favor, so we just kept rolling with the momentum.

"We were hitting really well, too," she said. "We had a few plays that went in our favor and we were really aggressive on the bases."

That aggressive play style allowed the 1-145th to take an early lead as they took to the plate first and got off on the right foot with a shot to center for a double, followed up by a single to get a runner on third, set up to be brought home.

They brought the run in with a pop up to left that was heading straight into the glove of a Plug Uglies player, but it slipped through and gave D Co. the chance to bring in their first run.

The 1-145th continued their assault, and



HOTO BY NATHAN PFA

Second Lt. Zack Heibel, player for D Co., 1-145th, beats the ball to first during a game against the Fort Rucker Fire Department Plug Uglies at the Fort Rucker Softball Fields Tuesday.

despite a strikeout giving them two outs on the board, they followed up with a triple to bring in more runs.

The D Co. team continued to find the gaps in their opponent's defense and managed to bring in five runs during their at bat before a line drive to center ended their time at the plate.

Plug Uglies needed a strong start to stay in the game, and they managed a line drive to right field for a base hit, but a string of fouls with their following batter got their first out on the board, building the pressure for the batters who followed.

D Co. kept a strong defense and didn't let the ball slip through their fingers, man-

aging to catch two pop ups to center field to send the fire department back into the outfield, scoreless, behind 5-0 heading into the second.

The 1-145th managed a string of base hits during their time at bat to get multiple runners on base to set themselves up to bring in more runs, and they managed to do just that by keeping the ball on the ground and out of the hands of their opponents.

Although the Plug Uglies' defense managed to tighten up, a string of errors led to them falling further behind, with the 1-145th leading 9-0.

The fire department team had to step up

their game if they wanted to stay in the game since they were dangerously close to the 10-run rule, which would end the game for them in the fifth inning.

They managed to get a string of base hits to get runners on base and with two outs an error allowed for the fire department team to bring in their first run. That's where their luck would end, though, as a line drive straight into the opponent's glove ended their time at the plate.

The 1-145th's advance slowed as the Plug Uglies' defense started to tighten up, and the fire department team sent their opponents packing, scoreless for the first time.

Plug Uglies came back to the plate with a string of base hits and were able to bring in a two runs during their time at the plate, managing to find the gaps in the opposing defense, but they needed a stronger offense if they planned to overtake their opponents, behind 9-3 going into the 4th.

Plug Uglies' couldn't manage to keep the 1-145th down as D Co. started off the inning with a double, followed by a string of base hits allowing them to bring in another run following an error by the Plug Uglies.

Plug Uglies took to the plate determined to close the scoring gap, but couldn't keep the ball out of their opponent's hands racking up three outs with a double play and pop fly.

Going into the fifth, if D Co. managed to increase their lead to 10 runs by the end of the inning, they could take home the win, and the pressure mounted for the fire department team as the 1-1-145th achieved their 10-point lead.

Plug Uglies had to bring in at least one run to stay in the game, but weren't able to get through the opposing defense and the game ended in the bottom of the fifth, 13-3.



PHOTO BY EJ HERSOM

First Lt. Christopher Parks throws a discus during the 2016 Department of Defense Warrior Games at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., June 16, 2016. The 2017 Warrior Games are scheduled to take place in Chicago June 30-July 8.

# WARRIOR GAMES

# Star-studded concert to kick off competition

**Defense Media Activity**Staff Report

CHICAGO — A star-studded concert featuring Grammy Award-winning artists Blake Shelton and Kelly Clarkson will kick off the 2017 Department of Defense Warrior Games – the annual Paralympic-style competition for wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans – at Soldier Field in Chicago

"The men and women that serve and protect this country on a daily basis allow the rest of us the freedoms we enjoy," Shelton said. "I'm proud to be part of this event and root these heroes on to victory at this year's Warrior Games."

Clarkson said she shares Shelton's enthusiasm.

"I can't wait to perform this year at the Warrior Games! Any time we can all be a part of something that lifts up and shines a light on all of these heroes that are participating is an amazing moment! We need more of these moments," she said. "These men and women have put their lives on the line for us and have overcome so much in the process of doing that. It will be a tremendous honor to perform for them and their families who have sacrificed so much."

Comedian Jon Stewart is returning as master of ceremonies for this year's event. "Last year, the Warrior

SEE WARRIOR, PAGE D3

# Technology provides ability to save lives through telesurgery

By Eve Meinhardt Womack Army Medical Center Public Affairs

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — It's 3 a.m. and a physician assistant deployed to a remote location in Africa is sound asleep. All is quiet until an urgent radio call from a special forces medic out in the field breaks the silence.

A special forces Soldier was wounded while conducting clearing operations in a nearby village and a few of his comrades are transporting him to the PA's location.

The gunshot wound is near the groin and has damaged the femoral artery. It's an injury that can be deadly if care isn't rendered quickly. The unit's medic was able to slow the bleeding by applying a junctional tourniquet, but the measure wasn't able to completely stop the bleeding and now surgical intervention is required.

The physician assistant quickly informs his team that they have a wounded Soldier inbound. As the team prepares the room for the procedure, the PA grabs a pair of augmented reality glasses and starts reviewing the procedure he is about to perform. He then contacts the on-call trauma surgeon – who is stateside and more than 3,000 miles away.

Though they are physically separated, the surgeon will be able to monitor and communicate with the PA through the communications link created by the glasses.

After the PA briefs the surgeon on the situation, he asks if the surgeon agrees with the assessment and then begins the procedure.

The surgeon is not only able to communicate and provide feedback to the PA throughout the procedure, but he is also able to help monitor vital signs and is able to draw or write directly within the PA's field of vision. This allows the PA to immediately identify incision points or problem areas as the surgeon's notes "appear" on the patient.

This scenario was the basis for



PHOTO BY EVE MEINHARDT

Navy Lt. Cmdr. C. Long, a Special Operations Forces physician assistant, performs a surgical procedure to stop the bleeding at the femoral artery on a manikin during training using augmented reality glasses May 11 at Fort Bragg, N.C.

training recently conducted at Fort Bragg's Medical Simulation Training Center. Based on a real-life injury that caused the death of a Soldier in Somalia, the training helped explore a way that physician assistants can step in to perform lifesaving measures on a Soldier injured in theater where there either isn't the time or the capability to get them to a surgeon immediately.

The training also tested a new capability that will allow forward providers to stabilize injuries that threaten life, limb, or eyesight. This capability comes in the form of the augmented reality glasses that the PA wore, which not only gave him the ability to review the procedure before he performed it, but also allowed the surgeon to be there with him even though the surgeon wasn't physically present.

physically present.

"I've been in situations where this definitely would have been helpful," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. C. Long, the special operations forces physician assistant who performed the procedure during the training scenario.

"When it's a situation where it's literally life or death, I'd rather be able

to do something to try to save their life rather than nothing and just sitting there and watching them die."

Dr. (Lt. Col.) Tyler Harris, an orthopedic surgeon at Womack Army Medical Center, served as the surgeon and tele-mentor during the training. As Long wore the glasses and performed the procedure to stop the bleeding on the manikin, Harris was watching on a computer screen at another location. He was able to not only observe everything that Long was seeing and doing, but was also able to talk to him. Harris was even able to take a screen shot of Long's field of view, draw a line on it where the incision should go and send that image back to Long's glasses, so that Long knew exactly where to cut when beginning the procedure.

Harris highlighted that he received the same training as the PA in the field so that he not only knows how the equipment works and how to use it, but he also knows the training the PA received on how to perform the procedure from beginning to end.

SEE TECHNOLOGY, PAGE D3

# OWNIIM



















### **Super** Crossword

### PLANE

#### **ACROSS** 1 Charlotte

- of "Diff'rent Strokes' 4 Champion 10 Insect feeler
- 14 Slight smell 19 North Dakota's tree
- 20 Farewells 21 Regal Norse
- 22 Sharpening device 23 Talk show
- host with three Emmys 25 Best Actor nominee for "Hotel
- Rwanda' 27 Giant in retail furniture be my
- pleasure" 29 Cold cubes 30 Childishly trivial 31 "Quantum
- Healing" author 35 Cause a floating log walking on it
- 36 Direct (at) letters
- 38 Apt. units 39 30-day mo.

23

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- 40 Writer Rice 41 Very familiar (with): Fr.
- 44 Irked greatly 46 He played Clark Kent on "Lois &
- Clark" 48 Ending of some pasta names
- 49 Gestures from 4-Acrosses 51 Start to fall
- 53 Juice brand 54 "Designing Women" co-star
- 57 Kickoff prop 59 Catholic leaders 63 Univ. helpers
- 64 MD's gp. 65 Jim who played Gomer Pyle
- 67 Psychic glows 68 Rats on 70 Jet airliner model that's
- title for this puzzle 71 Talks glibly 73 Zones 74 Fit for

(regal)

20

32 33

49

84

74

93

121

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an apt

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- - 77 Building wing 78 They bray 79 Slimy stuff 80 Sixth actor to
    - play James Bond 84 Pop music's Lobos 86 Ending for

76 Small, like

Abner

- 88 What you might call a cool cat
- 89 4 p.m. social 90 She played Frenchy in "Grease"
- -ski party 96 Landscaping tools 98 Kiwi cousins
- -- cool!" 100 "Kill bill" vote
- 101 Brit's prison 102 Red Cross skill, for short
- 103 Big birds of 104 "How to Win Friends and Influence
- People" author 110 Selma locale
- 112 32nd prez 113 Cur's threat 114 Nada

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& Carol & Ted & Alice 120 - nous

115 "Wayne's

World"

co-star

She played

Alice in "Bob

- 121 Snack 122 Breathing problems 123 USN officer
- 124 Navigate 125 Zoomed 126 E. Sicilian volcano

#### DOWN

- 1 Made over 2 Not different 3 Show host
- 4 Dust buster, for short 5 Boise loc.
- 6 Social studies class 7 Canines, e.g.
- 8 Defeat 9 Pre-U queue 10 Shows to be
- downloaded 11 Burn soother 12 PC linkup
- 13 Many a sewer-line tube, briefly 14 Tire holder 15 Winter frost

16 Gary's state

39

46

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88

122

126

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

113

- 17 Filmmaker Federico 18 Ex-slaves
- 24 Sorority letter 26 Cry from a 4-Across 29 Old TV's "My
- Friend -32 "— always said ...
- 33 Tastelessly artistic 34 Being there 35 Harass
- 40 Equip 41 Give relief 42 Ally makers
- 127 King, to Juan 43 Obsesses 44 Farming-related prefix
  - 45 Leveling stuff 47 Attack like a playful pup 50 Sean Penn
  - drama 52 Slews 55 Galilee
  - residents 56 Assessed 58 Eyed 60 High-ranking
  - cleric 61 Previously 62 Mil. draft gp.
  - 66 Sudafed alternative 68 Goat's call 69 Pt. of NBA 70 Threads

53

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118 119

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- 72 Not closing seasonally 75 Five womb-
- mates 76 Pan covers 81 Scot's denial
- 82 Nucleotide triplet 83 With 118-
- Down, fuel container 85 Wine region
- in California 87 Like batik fabric
- 90 Century parts 91 Embed
- firmly 92 Comic
- Jimmy 93 Extreme diet
- rule, perhaps 95 Jack of early
- 97 Beck of radio 101 January gem 103 Relay athlete
- 105 Nile locale 106 Heavy lifter
- 107 Lost cause
- 108 Hole (ace) 109 Itsy-bitsy
- 111 Undecorated 112 Gala
- 116 Big shot 117 Beaver work 118 See
- 83-Down 119 Simile part

83

rights

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# CONTACTS COST TWICE AS MUCH SO I FIGURE: I'M MARRIED, WHO AM I TRYING TO IMPRESS ANYWAY?

by Dave T. Phipps

Just Like Cats & Dogs

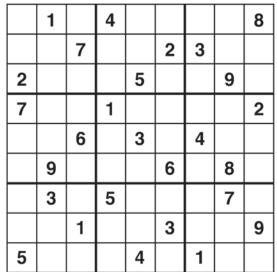
### Rodriguez 1. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Petrified Forest National Park? 2. MOVIES: Who starred in the movie version of the musical "Evita!"? 3. TRANSPORTATION: What major airport's three-letter designation is ORD?

- 4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Hannibal Hamlin served as vice president to which U.S. president?
- 5. ANATOMY: What part of the human body is affected by Graves'
- 6. LITERATURE: A biography of which five-star general was titled "Old Soldiers Never Die"?
- 7. MEASUREMENTS: How many tablespoons are in a cup?
- 8. CARTOONS: What are the names of the "The Chipmunks" singing
- group? 9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:
- When is a sesquicentennial? 10. FOOD & DRINK: What type of spice can be Hungarian or Spanish?

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!

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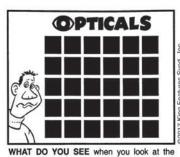
See Page D3 for this week's answers.

# KID'S CORNI

114

123

127



SHORT-NAME EUROPEAN CITIES!

nswer: You see gray dots. If you look at any one dot, it

intersections of white lines above?

HERE'S ANOTHER BETCHA! Bet your friends that you can prove that half of eight is three. When they give up, print the number "8" on a sheet of paper (fig. 1). Then cover the left half of it with another sheet of paper (fig. 2). The "8" has now been changed to a "3."

THE "G" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the G's. Here are some hints from the top down.

1. \$1,000 (sl). 2. A Monopoly square 3. A ship's diary. Of great duration. 6. Charitable giving. 5. A strange language 7. A computer getting data. 8. A slanted line. Answers: The words are: G, go, log, long, lingo, doling, loading, diagonal



puzzle above. Use the trial-and-error method. Keep a good eraser handy. ARLES DEAL LILLE

Relow are the names of 15 European

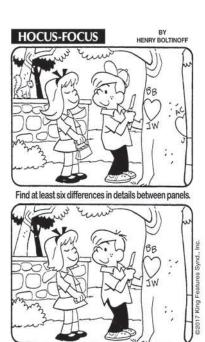
cities that you will need to complete the

PALMA RYDE SELBY



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

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## D-Day through the eyes of a combat medic, 73 years later

**Military Health Systems** Communications Office

SILVER SPRING, Md – They trained with infantry Soldiers, carrying first aid kits instead of weapons. They dodged bullets to tend to wounded Soldiers, sometimes with whatever supplies they could find. And even in the midst of thick combat, they remained steadily focused on their mission of saving lives.

They were the combat medics of World War II.

No amount of training or planning could have prepared them for the casualties inflicted during the largest amphibious assault in history: the Allied invasion of Europe, commonly known as D-Day.

"Boy Scouts was the closest thing to medical training I had before that," said Edwin Pepping, who was just a 21-year-old private first class at the time. "But you didn't have a chance to be nervous."

In preparation for ground combat after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Army hurried to create a ready force. Medical units made up of individuals of both military and civilian background were gathered and trained. Their duties included treating minor in-



Edwin "Doc" Pepping and Albert "Al" Mampre both served as combat medics attached to Easy Company - also known as the "Band of Brothers" - during World

juries, applying splints and tourniquets, and bandaging wounds.

Known as "band-aid bandits" to their comrades, Pepping and then-Staff Sgt. Albert Mampre were attached to Easy Company, 2ndBattalion of the 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, also known as the "Band of Brothers."

Seventy-three years ago today, the U.S. took part in the invasion of Normandy, which would ultimately be the turning point of the war in Europe. More than 13,000 aircraft and 5,000 ships were used in the D-Day landing, which was part of Operation Overlord. In the early morning hours of June 6, 1944, Pepping boarded a C-47 transport for the big jump. But, as often happens in combat, the plan didn't go as expected.

"We were supposed to be dropped at 700 feet at 95 miles per hour, which was enough to get our parachute to open and get our equipment down safely, but they dropped us at 300 feet at 165 miles per hour, which is almost impossible to survive," said Pepping, who turns 95 in July.

As Pepping jumped, he was hit

ripped 125 pounds worth of supplies off of him. His parachute opened at the same time, causing him to violently spin before falling to the ground. He hit the ground so hard that his own strapped helmet flew back and knocked him in the neck, leading to a concussion and three cracked vertebrae.

After landing near the town of Angoville-au-Plain behind Utah Beach, Pepping spent the next several hours helping another medic, Willard Moore, bring severely combat-wounded soldiers to a makeshift aid station in a nearby church. Moore drove the jeep while Pepping loaded his wounded and nursed them until they got back to the church, he said.

"There were so many catastrophic wounds that a lot of the time it was beyond us to do anything except to see if we could get a doctor to help," said Pepping. Two other medics treated patients at the aid station. They used whatever medical supplies they could find after losing most of theirs in the jump, and they treated whomever they found - American, French and German alike. Together, they saved more than 80 lives that day.

"When we flew into Normandy, we met some very, very serious by a high speed gust of air that cases and a lot of the time we didn't know exactly how to handle them," said Pepping, adding that it taught him perseverance. Today, the church serves as a memorial. The blood stains where the wounded were laid remain on the

"A sense of humor is really what saved us," said Pepping, who said the biggest lesson he learned as a medic was to duck. "You couldn't make it through the war without it." Although medics were unarmed, they were identified by the Red Cross symbol on their helmets and arm bands. Even so, they weren't always spared as a target.

Mampre, who had to miss the jump on D-Day after coming down with a severe infection just a few days before, went on to receive the Purple Heart for action in Holland. After spotting a wounded lieutenant in a field, he was told the Soldier was dead and best left alone. Mampre ran out to him through heavy gunfire and found him alive. Despite being shot through the leg, he and the lieutenant made it to safety and survived.

"I'd do it all over again," said Mampre about being a combat medic. "But if they need me again at 95 years old, boy we're in trou-

# **Technology**

Continued from Page D1

He said that's the best way to ensure that everyone is on the same page, no matter who is on the other end of the phone from either side.

"From this training, I'm confident that we can guide a provider remotely to save a life," Harris said. "The procedure and the training are straightforward. With just two instruments and a pair of glasses, we saved a guy's life in under a minute."

Army special operations forces are currently serving in more than 60 countries around the world. Most teams are too small and sometimes in too remote of a location to have their own organic surgical support, said Lt. Col. Stephen DeLellis, the deputy surgeon at U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

"We're not training folks to do surgery," said DeLellis, who is also a physician assistant. "Surgery is a surgeon's business. We're just giving them the ability to get our special operators to a surgeon. We're

giving them the ability to stop a hemorrhage, to save limb, to sustain someone's life until we can get them to a care facility with a surgeon."

Eventually, the training program will expand to include guidance for non-surgical providers on providing advanced burn care, releasing pressure behind an eye, packing and temporarily closing the abdominal cavity, easing pressure in the skull and, as in the training scenario, accessing deep vessels to stop bleeding. The list was jointly developed by USASOC medical staff and Womack surgeons, all with the intent of what can realistically be done with the end goal of being able to immediately save someone's life, limb(s), or eyesight.

"The point is to teach these lifesaving procedures to the people who are actually out there providing care in the field," said Lt. Col. Kenneth Nelson, an orthopedic trauma surgeon at WAMC. "This is already being done with special operations medics already trained to do a number of

these procedures. This isn't a time to be territorial, it's a time to come together to save lives. I can't bring someone back to life, but if someone in the field is able to stabilize them so they get to me alive and breathing, there's a lot I can do to fix them up then."

While the preference is always to have an experienced surgeon with a full surgical team close by to support all deployed forces, that's simply not feasible. Special Forces medical sergeants have been receiving training to perform anesthesia and minor surgical procedures since the Vietnam War. This training would expand on that to provide physician assistants and non-surgical physicians those same skills.

"We're not asking someone who has never touched a scalpel or handled tissue before to do this," said Harris. "Everyone who does this will be fully trained on the procedures before they're asked to provide treatment in the field. Non-surgeons do a variety of surgical procedures all the time. So do paramedics. This isn't all that

far-fetched and with the technology that's available, it makes more sense than ever before to start training PAs to do this."

As part of the training, non-surgeons will not only be fully trained on the equipment and procedures, they will also be brought in to the operating room in a garrison environment to serve as surgical assistants to more fully understand the scope of their responsibilities.

In the end, the importance of bringing this technology and capability to military medicine comes down to saving lives.

"To save the lives of those who are putting themselves in harm's way to protect us, we simply need more surgically capable people," said DeLellis. "We just don't have enough to go around and when you're talking about some place like Africa where there's thousands of miles and dozens of borders between you and the surgeon, having this technology available and providers trained on how to use it can potentially save a life that might have previously been lost."

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Games were so impactful that I couldn't wait to participate again as the master of ceremonies for the 2017 Games," he said. "This is a can't-miss event for Chicago. Join me in celebrating our nation's service members."

The star-studded event will officially kick off the 2017 DOD Warrior Games, scheduled to begin June 30 and run through July 8. About 265 wounded, ill and injured service

members and veterans representing teams from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and U.S. Special Operations Command, as well as military forces from the United Kingdom and Australia. Athletes will participate in eight adaptive sports: archery, cycling, field, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, track and wheelchair basket-

"Warrior Games showcases the resilience and triumph of these athletes after overcoming significant injuries and

illnesses," said Navy Capt. Brent Breining, director of the 2017 DOD Warrior Games. "Having artists like Blake and Kelly perform at our opening ceremony concert demonstrates their support and gratitude for our military service men and women, and encourages people to get out and show their support for these heroes."

To purchase tickets for the DOD Warrior Games opening ceremony concert, click on the "Ticket" icon at the Warrior Games website at http://www.dodwarriorgames.com/.

# FORT RUCKER SPORTS BR

Deep sea fishing private charter

MWR Central is giving people the chance to kick off red snapper season on its private charter deep sea fishing trip June 24. 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. Organizers recommend 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.

Fort Rucker Hunting Incentive Program

Fort Rucker Outdoor Recreation offers a hunting incentive program to help control the coyote and feral pig population on post. The program is targeted to controlling these invasive species. The hunting runs through Aug. 31. The first five registered hunters who kill five coyotes or 20 hogs and turn them in will be given a doe tag for deer season. In order to get credit for the kill and have it count towards the incentive, hunters must be signed

into Hunt-Trac, so their location is known and can be verified. Hunters will be allowed to email pictures in after hours to outdoor recreation with the hunter and the harvest killed in front of one of the weigh stations. Hunters on post are required to have an Alabama State Hunting Permit, a post hunting permit and must have completed the hunters' education course. Hunting on Fort Rucker is open

For additional information on how to participate, including the email addresses for emailing the photos, call 255-4305.

**Independence Day Golf Tournament** 

Silver Wings Golf Course will host it Independence Day Golf Tournament July 4. The format is four-person team scramble. Registration, a continental breakfast and range open at 7 a.m. Announcements will be at 7:45 a.m. and there will be an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Entry fee is \$45 for non-members and \$35 for members. Entry fee includes tournament course fees, range balls, tee gifts, tournament meals and prizes. The tourney is open to the

For more information, call 255-0089.

Super Crossword

#### Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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

Answers

1. Arizona 2. Madonna

3. O'Hare International Airport, Chicago

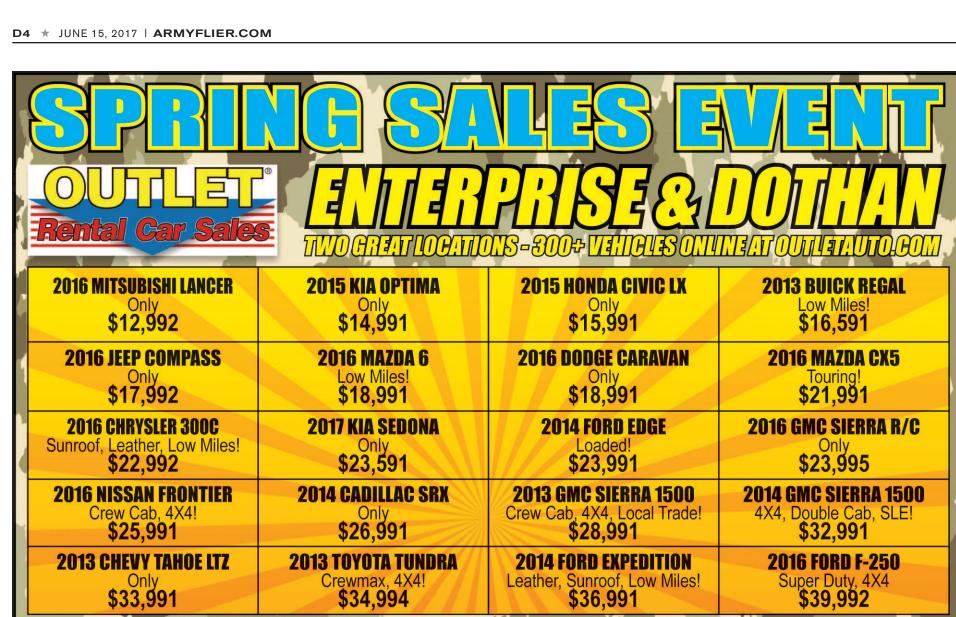
4. Abraham Lincoln

5. The thyroid gland

6. Douglas MacArthur 7.16

8. Theodore, Simon and Alvin 9. 150-year anniversary

10. Paprika



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