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ARMY FLYER

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

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AUGUST 17, 2017

AVIATION INDUSTRY DAY

USAACE event targets challenges, future

By Kelly P. Morris
USAACE Public Affairs

Fort Rucker brought together representatives from industry and capability developers from the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence at The Landing here Aug. 10-11, to foster forward thinking about the Aviation branch's future.

The "Aviation Industry Day" event provided representatives from more than 30 vendors a chance to hear directly from the Aviation requirements experts through informative speaker sessions and question-and-answer opportunities.

Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler, USAACE and Fort Rucker commanding general, thanked attendees for participating at a critical time for Aviation.

"We can't do what we need to do as a nation without teaming very closely with industry. It is very important for us to have candid dialogue with you, and for you to understand where we have challenges," Gayler said.

In a concept-based and doctrinally-driven Army, a challenge for Aviation is a lengthy acquisition cycle for Aviation systems and platforms that lags behind the rate of technological innovation.

"Right about the time we think we've got it right, we haven't even started initial rate production yet and it's already obsolete," Gayler said.

"We've got to close that gap to give more survivability, more lethality, and greater capability as reach to our Aviation forces and to combatant commanders," he said.

Gayler said with the large scale of the



PHOTO BY KELLY P. MORRIS

Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, speaks to a packed crowd of industry representatives and Army personnel from across the Aviation enterprise during the opening session of the Aviation Industry Day event at The Landing Aug. 10.

"We can't do what we need to do as a nation without teaming very closely with industry."

— MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM K. GAYLER,
USAACE AND FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

Army's helicopter fleet, the fielding process could take 40 years to fully complete.

"We cannot get hemmed up in multibillion dollar programs that field obsolescence," Gayler said.

The bottom line is getting capabilities that provide options to the combatant commander sooner.

"The combatant commander needs that option, our Soldiers on the ground deserve it, and it's how we've got to start thinking

about it."

Without a budget, Army Aviation is lacking the resourcing it needs to "get healthy," Gayler said.

"In our Congress we still need to pass budgets, we still need to appropriate money for the military and we still need to have it in a predictable manner. That does not appear to be what's on the horizon. When you look at the growing delta right now between our capability and our capacity, we're not getting healthy fast enough, in

fact we're getting worse," he said.

Gayler said the Aviation portfolio has lost 37 percent of its buying power just since 2012.

"Aviation forces today are eighty-eight percent committed, so there's very little room [to invest in] modernization because we're spending money on readiness, and we have emerging threats," Gayler said.

Understanding true cost is paramount going forward, he added.

Gayler said air-ground operations are inherently necessary, regardless of the type of threat.

"Aviation will fight. We just have to give our Soldiers the best opportunity to succeed when they fight. That's our challenge," he said.

Col. Tom von Eschenbach, director of the Capability Development and Integration Directorate here, said USAACE is nested with Training and Doctrine Command's overarching mission to design, acquire, build and improve the Army.

Army Aviation is an enduring capability to "find things, kill things, and move things," and Aviation's core competencies enable combined arms maneuver and serve as a critical part of the air-ground team, he said.

"Chinook Block Two and [the Improved Turbine Engine Program] are two of the most important programs we've got in the near term. Those two things will keep our platforms and our capability relevant now. We know we have to invest in those now," von Eschenbach said.

He asked for industry's help with some "tweaking" to the lethality strategy. He also said smart decisions must be made regarding Aircraft Survivability Equipment.

SEE AVIATION, PAGE A7

Clinic streamlines entrances to improve security, safety

By Jenny Stripling
Lyster Army Health Clinic
Public Affairs Office

The safety and security of employees and beneficiaries is a top priority for Lyster Army Health Clinic. Since July 31, as a precautionary measure, Lyster has reduced the number of accessible entrances into the facility.

"The streamlining of entrances at LAHC is to increase facility security," said Luke Stewart, chief of plans and operations at LAHC. "We conducted thorough research on our entrances, and changing how some of them are utilized enables us to better protect our employees and patients from potential threats on the clinic."

This process of closing and limiting entrances should, however, be transparent to most patients, as the changes do not affect any LAHC patient entrance. Most changes affect badge-accessible entrances and the VA patient entrance. Both LAHC and VA patients utilize the front entrance.

"The VA door had been closed previously and will remain closed until further notice," said Stewart. "In order to have an unlocked door in the facility, the entrance is required to be manned at all times. Due to mission requirements and current staffing levels, the entrance is not able to be consistently manned."

Stewart adds that while the change is not tied to any specific threat, increased threats on national security have led LAHC to recognize the need to take steps to further ensure better safety measures at the clinic.

"Every day we strive to provide the best care for

SEE ENTRANCES, PAGE A7



ARMY PHOTO

The entrance to Lyster Army Health Clinic.

ORDER OF ST. MICHAEL

Civilian receives honor normally given to Aviators

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

An honor more known to be given to Army Aviators was awarded to a civilian Friday for his nearly 33 years of dedicated service to Army Aviation.

Jeffrey Babine, former visual information specialist with the Fort Rucker Multimedia Visual Information Center, was inducted into the Order of St. Michael during a ceremony at the training aids, devices, simulations and simulators building where he received a medallion and plaque to commemorate the honor.

"Rarely do we recognize non-Aviators, but we can't do this Aviation business without the support system of our civilians who do this, so I've personally made it my goal to find those civilians who spend the vast majority of their career supporting Army Aviation," said Col. Richard T. Calchera, U.S. Army Reserve deputy assistant commandant, during the induction. "I wanted to make sure Jeff got that recognition because of the 33 years he spent supporting



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Jeffrey Babine, former visual information specialist with the multimedia visual information center, receives the Order of Saint Michael medallion and plaque from Col. Richard T. Calchera, U.S. Army Reserve deputy assistant commandant, during an induction ceremony at the training aids, devices, simulations and simulators building Friday.

Army Aviation in different places."

"I'm almost speechless," Babine said. "This is a great honor and I thank Colonel Calchera for putting

[me in for it] – it was totally unexpected. I thank everybody for sup-

SEE HONOR, PAGE A7

Museum's AP-2 Neptune kept tabs on enemy

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

As if it was pulled out of a scene from a James Bond movie complete with covert ops and spy planes, one Army Aviation aircraft played a vital role as the eyes and ears over the skies of Vietnam.

The Lockheed AP-2E Neptune sits on the western lawn of the U.S. Army Aviation Museum and is one of the largest aircraft in the collection. It served as a signals intelligence aircraft during the Vietnam War, and although it wasn't the first signals intelligence aircraft to fly during the war, it provided greater capabilities than



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

The AP-2 Neptune sits on the west lawn of the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. The AP-2 Neptune was used as a surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft throughout much of the Vietnam War.

SEE MUSEUM, PAGE A7

PERSPECTIVE

‘MAGNIFICENT EVENT’

Health official advises on safe way to view total solar eclipse

By **Anastacio Dalde III**
U.S. Army Public Health Center

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — On Monday, North America will have the opportunity to view a total solar eclipse. It will be the first total eclipse in the continental United States in nearly 40 years and the first coast-to-coast eclipse in a century.

The eclipse will make landfall on the west coast at 10:15 a.m. (PDT) just north of Newport, Oregon. Traveling at more than 1,600 mph, the shadow will move across the country in just over an hour and a half before leaving south of McClellanville, South Carolina, at 2:49 p.m. (EDT).

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between Earth and the sun, obscuring the sun — either partially or totally — from a viewer on Earth. Most people in North America will be able to view at least a partial eclipse, while those in some states will see a total solar eclipse. Figure 1 shows the eclipse’s roughly 70-mile-wide path through the U.S. as the shadow travels from west to east.

Viewing a total solar eclipse is a unique and worthwhile experience, but if not done correctly, eye injuries can occur. Most of us would never stare directly at the sun because we know it can cause permanent eye damage. During an eclipse, though, the lower light levels may tempt some to watch it without suitable eye protection.

This, too, is extremely hazardous. While most people gradually recover their normal vision within one to six months, some end up with permanent blurry vision and central blind spots.

Indirect viewing using the pinhole-projection method will be the safest way to enjoy this eclipse. NASA has put together an excellent resource showing how to make a pinhole camera using only cardstock, aluminum foil, tape and a paper clip or pin at <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/project/how-to-make-a-pinhole-camera/>. This



ARMY GRAPHIC

On Aug. 21, 2017, North America will have the opportunity to view a total solar eclipse. It will be the first total eclipse in the continental United States in nearly 40 years, and the first coast-to-coast eclipse in a century.

simple tool will allow eclipse viewers to experience the event without risking damaging their eyesight.

For those who still want to view the eclipse directly, special eyewear is needed to avoid injury. Eyewear, including eclipse, prescription and safety glasses and regular sunglasses, are typically certified to various national and international specifications.

For example, the American National Standards Institute publishes consensus standards with specifications for prescription eyeglasses, safety glasses used for impact or chemical protection, and sunglasses. The European economic area requires CE (European Conformity) certification for eyewear. The International Organization for Standardization also provides certification of eyewear. Only ISO 12312 2 specifically addresses the safety of solar eclipse eyewear for direct viewing.

While many manufacturers claim their eclipse glasses are specifically made for safe viewing, our informal laboratory tests suggest that not all eyewear offers sufficient protection. Consider the following factors when purchasing solar eclipse eyewear.

- The best eclipse eyewear has the ISO 12312-2 certification. Many of the solar eclipse eyewear manufactured in the United States meet this ISO standard. We tested 25 samples of eclipse eyewear and found the ISO-certified glasses consistently provided adequate protection required to view the sun during an eclipse. All of the ISO-certified eclipse eyewear had additional CE certification markings.
- Eclipse eyewear with only CE certification markings might not offer sufficient protection. We tested two samples of eclipse eyewear that had CE certification markings, but no ISO certification markings. The first sample, manufactured in China, did not provide sufficient protection in our laboratory tests when compared to the ISO 12312-2 standard. The second sample, manufactured in the United Kingdom, provided so much protection that it may be too dark for viewing the eclipse.
- Some types of welding glass also offer sufficient protection for viewing an eclipse safely. Welding glass comes in

different shade numbers which characterize its level of protection. The higher the shade number, the darker the lens and more protection provided at visible wavelengths. Use at least Shade 14 welding glasses to view the eclipse. Shade 5 welding glasses are commonly marketed as eclipse glasses, but these do not provide enough protection.

- Sunglasses and safety glasses used for everyday sun protection and for occupational safety eye protection (including Military Combat Eye Protection sunglasses) do not provide the minimum protection to directly view the eclipse. Nevertheless, some safety glasses are marketed with the word “eclipse” in the name. Others advertise that the eyewear “Meets and Exceeds ANSI Z87.” However, ANSI Z87 has no safety specifications for direct viewing of the sun. ANSI Z87 is a standard for occupational safety glasses for protection against impact, dust, chemical splash and welding.
- Avoid various do-it-yourself techniques for making your own eclipse eyewear, which can be found in instructional videos/websites on the Internet.

If you suspect you have experienced an eye injury due to viewing the eclipse, get an evaluation by an eye care professional as soon as possible. Symptoms might develop immediately or in a few days. The severity or type of symptoms may also change over time. The most common indications of possible injury are blurry vision and central blind spots. Color vision can also be affected.

In closing, we hope many people will be able to experience the upcoming solar eclipse. To view the eclipse safely, remember to use eclipse eyewear with ISO 12312-2 certification for direct viewing or the pinhole-projection method for indirect viewing. While it will be a magnificent event, it’s not worth risking your eyesight.

Rotor Wash

“A total solar eclipse will move across the U.S. Monday. How will you celebrate this celestial event?”



Heather Gasser,
military spouse

“I’m going to join a company over at Henderson Park [in Enterprise]. They’ll be handing out the glasses so I’m going to watch over there.”



Ayan Brown,
civilian

“I’ll be outside watching it and enjoying it myself.”



Spc. Daniel Dohoney,
1st Bn., 117th Field
Artillery Regt.

“I’ll probably check it out with family.”



Alain Perez-Majul,
civilian

“I’m going to get together with some friends and make a party of it.”



Katie Pettengill,
civilian

“I’m going to visit my family and we’re all going to watch it together.”

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

U.S., Afghan forces confirm death of ISIS-affiliated terrorist

By Cheryl Pellerin
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — U.S. and Afghan forces have confirmed the Aug. 10 death of Abdul Rahman, a provincial emir in Afghanistan’s Kunar province for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria affiliate ISIS-Khorasan, Pentagon spokesman Col. Rob Manning said Monday.

In an operational update for Pentagon reporters, Manning said Rahman was killed in an airstrike along with three other ISIS-K members in Kunar’s Dara-e-Pech district in northeastern Afghanistan.

Rahman was a primary candidate to become the ISIS-K emir after the death of Abu Sayed in a July 11 strike on the group’s headquarters in Kunar province.

“The death of Abdul Rahman deals yet another blow to the senior leadership of ISIS-K, showing there are no safe havens in Afghanistan,” Manning added, noting that U.S. and Afghan forces are keeping pressure on ISIS-K to disrupt their expansion plans -- part of ongoing operations to defeat the group in Afghanistan.

IRAQ OPERATIONS

In northern Iraq this weekend,



PHOTO BY NAVY PETTY OFFICER 3RD CLASS LEON WONG
A Navy MH-60S Seahawk prepares to land aboard the USS Nimitz in the Persian Gulf Aug. 9. The aircraft carrier is deployed in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility to support Operation Inherent Resolve.

two U.S. Soldiers were killed and five others were injured, Manning said, as an Army artillery section conducted a counterfire mission against an ISIS mortar site when an incident occurred.

“There is no indication that ISIS had anything to do with

this,” Manning said, noting that the injured Soldiers were evacuated by air and that two eventually lost their lives. The other five Soldiers did not suffer life-threatening injuries.

The incident is now under investigation, and the unit will release information as appropriate,

he added.

Also in Iraq, in eastern and western Mosul, the colonel said holding forces consisting of federal police continue to conduct security operations and assess security requirements.

“To the west of Mosul, the 9th and 15th [Iraqi Army Divisions]

maintain defensive positions on the western forward line of troops near Tel Afar,” Manning said, “and the coalition continues to support the [Iraqis] as they reset and prepare for follow-on operations in the western Ninevah province.

SYRIA OPERATIONS

In Syria, Monday was Day 71 of operations to defeat ISIS in Raqqa, Manning said.

“Yesterday the [Syrian Democratic Forces] liberated about [4 square miles] in Raqqa and about 55 percent of the total area of Raqqa has been cleared,” he said.

On the western axis, the SDF maintained the forward line of troops despite ISIS sniper activity, and on the eastern axis, the SDF maintained incremental gains in the Old City north of the main supply route, Manning added.

On the southern forward line of troops south of the Euphrates River, the SDF maintained their defensive positions, he said, and the east-west deconfliction line south of the Euphrates is holding as regime forces remain south and SDF forces remain north of the agreed-upon line.

OIR spokesman: No safe havens left for ISIS in Syria, Iraq

By Cheryl Pellerin
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — With 50 percent of Raqqa, Syria, now under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces and holding forces in place in Mosul, Iraq, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria has no safe haven left in either country, the Operation Inherent Resolve spokesman said Aug. 10.

Col. Ryan S. Dillon, briefing the media live from Baghdad, gave an update on operations in Syria and Iraq, noting that determined SDF fighters continue to make progress against ISIS as they fight block by block in Raqqa.

“The SDF has now cleared more than 50 percent of the city from terrorists,” Dillon said.

“The SDF are in a fierce urban fight and have almost managed to link up their forces along the eastern and western axes as they conduct deliberate clearance operations of areas under their control,” he added.

SYRIA OPERATIONS

Fighting in the tightly packed old city is difficult because buildings and even corpses are rigged with improvised explosives by ISIS to stall the SDF advance, the colonel said.

In the past week, ISIS has used car bombs to attack evacuating civilians and working journalists. In attacks two days in a row, ISIS used armored vehicles packed with explosives to kill six noncombatants and wound five reporters, he said.

The Raqqa Internal Security Force, now more than 1,000 strong and composed mainly of Arabs from the Raqqa area, is filling in behind the SDF to provide security and prevent ISIS from returning to cleared neighborhoods, Dillon said.

In southern Syria, near the Iraq-Syria border, there were clashes Aug. 7 between ISIS and militia groups, he said, noting that there were initial allegations of coalition strikes on Iraqi popular mobilization forces.

“We verified that the coalition did not



PHOTO BY AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. TREVOR T. MCBRIDE
An Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle fires flares during a flight supporting Operation Inherent Resolve June 21.

conduct air or ground artillery strikes in that location at that time,” the colonel said. “This has since been confirmed and corroborated by Iraqi security forces and Iraqi popular mobilization forces.”

REBUILDING IRAQ

Holding forces are in place in Mosul, Dillon said, and the federal police, the 16th Iraqi Armored Division and some Counter Terrorism Service battalions remain in eastern and western Mosul to provide security as the cleanup begins and civilians start rebuilding their lives.

“We have seen the resilience of the Moslawis in East Mosul and we are beginning to see it in the west as markets open and people begin to return ... to their neighborhoods. The coalition continues to support the [Iraqis] as they reset and prepare for follow-on operations in Tal Afar,” he said.

The coalition conducted more than 50 strikes against ISIS defensive positions, headquarters, weapons caches and vehicle bomb and road bomb factories in Tal Afar and Kisik Junction, which is about 30 kilometers east of Tal Afar, Dillon said, where ISIS is defending the approach to the city.

The coalition estimates that about 2,000 ISIS fighters are in and around Tal Afar, and the colonel said the fight to root them out from one of ISIS’ last Iraq strongholds is expected to be difficult, he said.

“In former ISIS strongholds, where local Iraqis are back in control and taking care of their people, we see continued progress,” Dillon said.

In Tikrit, liberated in April 2015, more than 95 percent of those who fled the city have returned, the colonel said. In Ramadi, liberated in February 2016, more than 300,000 displaced persons have returned, and 20 schools, 18 health centers and 250 houses are rehabilitated, he added.

In Fallujah, liberated in June 2016, 400,000 displaced persons have returned, clean water is pumped to 60 percent of residents, and projects have begun to rehabilitate more than 10,000 houses over the next 18 months, Dillon said.

After ISIS is removed from an area and it is cleared of hazards, international aid and local governance resumes, he said.

DEGRADING ISIS FINANCES

Highlighting success in degrading ISIS financial resources, Dillon said the coalition

conducted precision airstrikes on five ISIS financial centers in Iraq and Syria over in early August.

“In southern Syria, two airstrikes in Abu Kamal destroyed an ISIS financial headquarters and a bulk cash depository, and another ISIS financial headquarters was destroyed in Deir ez-Zor. Two airstrikes in Iraq destroyed ISIS financial centers in Huwayjah and al-Muthanna,” the colonel said.

The coalition is disrupting ISIS financing across Iraq and Syria to keep the terrorist organization from raising, moving and using the resources to pay for fighters and fund terrorism around the globe, Dillon said.

The coalition has struck about 30 ISIS banks and financial centers over the past three years, destroying tens of millions of dollars, and Iraqi government has cut off more than 90 bank branches inside ISIS territory from global financial systems, he added.

ISIS also is under significant pressure because the coalition is targeting its oil and other revenue streams, the colonel said.

“They have been forced to cut fighter pay by half, and having lost Mosul, and with the SDF making steady progress in Raqqa, ISIS has lost much of its revenue base,” Dillon explained.

ISIS is becoming increasingly desperate and resorting to more arbitrary taxation and extortion, undermining credibility with the local population and attractiveness to recruits, he added.

These efforts along with ISIS battlefield losses, leader deaths and degraded propaganda all contribute to a losing organization, Dillon said.

“ISIS does not have the same level of leadership it once had. They do not have the same level of grandeur. People just no longer want to come and join these terrorists. And they do not have the resources they once had,” he noted.

“ISIS is losing [and] it will continue to lose under the pressure of our partner forces and the coalition until they are defeated in Iraq and Syria,” Dillon said.

News Briefs

POW/MIA ceremony

Fort Rucker will host its POW/MIA ceremony Sept. 15 at 8:30 a.m. at Veterans Park in front of the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

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.

Exchange Buddy List

Soldiers and Army families can get special offers from the Fort Rucker Exchange delivered straight to their inboxes every week by signing up for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Buddy List. All shoppers have to do is

contact the Fort Rucker Exchange and ask to join approximately 115,000 authorized exchange shoppers worldwide receiving exclusive offers via email from their local Exchange.

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

Any authorized shopper 18 and older may join the Exchange Buddy List. For more information, call 334-503-9044, Ext. 210.

ID card section closure

The Fort Rucker ID Card Section

will close from 2:15-4:15 p.m. for training the second Wednesday of every month.

Lyster update

People are welcome to check out the Lyster Army Health Clinic Facebook Page for the Healthy Tip of the Day and important clinic information, such as class dates and times.

The Lyster Twitter feed is at @LysterAHC.

Resiliency Resources

The Lyster and Fort Rucker Resiliency Resources mobile device app is available for free in Android and iPhone mobile app stores. The app can help people find information for Fort

Rucker, including addresses, phone numbers and event information, and also information such as where running trails are located, if there is a 5k race coming up, when Bible studies occur and more.

Thrift shop

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

For more information, call 255-9595.

‘IRONCLAD COMMITMENT’

Generals: U.S.-South Korean alliance ready to defend against North Korean threat

By Jim Garamone
Defense Media Activity

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S.-South Korean alliance can defend South Korea, Pacific allies and the American homeland from nuclear and missile threats emanating from North Korea, two top American military officials said Monday.

Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Army Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, the alliance commander in Korea, said the capabilities already in South Korea are enough to defend against a strike from Kim Jong Un, the North Korean dictator.

Both men told reporters at the headquarters for Combined Forces Command that U.S. and South Korean officials will continue to examine the threats from North Korea, and make adjustments to the force as they are needed and agreed upon.

The men spoke after meetings with senior Korean leaders, including President Moon Jae-in, Defense Minister Song Young-moo and Korean Defense Chief Army Gen. Lee Sun-jin. “The message today was the ironclad commitment to the alliance,” Dunford said at the press conference.

The U.S. and South Korea each want a peaceful solution, he said. “What I would like to see is Kim Jong Un to commit to ceasing the development of nuclear weapons and ceasing the testing of ballistic missiles.”

The chairman said the men shared some thoughts about the common challenges facing their nations, but focused mostly on North Korea.

He said he also spoke to Korean leaders about his trip to China, “and the messages we would be delivering when we met with our Chinese counterparts.”

The meeting follows passage of a resolution in the United Nations Security Council that imposed severe sanctions on North Korea for its continued efforts to develop intercontinental ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons. The world is uniting against the North Korean



PHOTO BY SGT. PATRICK EAKIN

A Bradley Fighting Vehicle from A Co., 8th Bde. Engineer Bn. returns after conducting breaching operations during an exercise in Korea Aug. 10.

an threat, and even China – North Korea’s only ally – voted for the resolution. China announced today that it would implement an import ban tomorrow on North Korean iron ore, lead and coal as part of the sanctions.

GUAM

In response to questions about the U.S. response if North Korea were to launch missiles against Guam, Dunford asked reporters to not confuse military action with policy. “What we would do in the event of an attack on Guam – or missiles being launched towards Guam – is a decision that will ... be made by the president of the United States and he will make that in the context of our alliance,” the chairman said. “Our job – General Brooks and I – is to make sure our leadership has options available to them to properly respond.”

The men have two priorities, he explained. The first is to defend against an attack and the second is to ensure the alliance has a de-

cisive response in the event of an attack.

But discussions of a preemptive attack are premature, to say the least, Dunford said. The United States is fully committed to the current policy of applying diplomatic and economic pressure to address North Korea’s malign intentions. “The military dimension today is directly in support of that diplomatic and economic effort,” he said. “We are seeking peaceful resolution to the crisis right now.”

The chairman stressed that all the decisions being made now and all the discussions the United States is having are in the context of the alliance. “We listen very carefully to Kim Jong Un’s rhetoric and we can’t afford to be complacent. We have to take it seriously in regards to our defensive measures and with regard to the development of military options in the event we are called upon to do that.”

He added that any changes to the U.S. posture in the region will

be made in consultation with the Japanese government -- who are also under threat from North Korea.

STRONG AND PREPARED

Brooks said the alliance is strong and is prepared to face the threat from North Korea. There are 28,500 U.S. service members on the peninsula and that number fluctuates from time to time due to exercises and new capabilities. But not enough has been said about the South Korean military and its contributions, the general said.

“There are 660,000 South Koreans who are on active duty at any given time in defense of South Korea and we are their partner, their ally,” he said. “We don’t defend by ourselves. We defend one another in an integrated way.”

The Combined Forces Command is truly a combined command, Brooks said – U.S. and South Korean forces are integrated in a manner not seen anywhere

else in the world.

“So I hear the voices not just of the Americans who are here, but the voices of the South Koreans,” he said. “[Troops from both nations] tell me that they want to be ready. They want to make sure they can do all they can to be prepared. They want to know if they have reason to be concerned, and in the meantime we tell them to continue their mission, and they do it very, very well every single day.”

Brooks noted the role played by the combined exercises in which the United States and South Korean forces take part. The annual exercise Ulchi Freedom Guardian begins next week and, he said, as a matter of course it draws condemnation from North Korea.

“This is why our exercises are so important – we have to have a credible deterrent,” the general said. “This is why we have military capability that undergirds our diplomatic activities. These threats are serious to us, and thus we have to be prepared.”

Battalion modernizes Patriot missile defense on Korean peninsula

By Capt. Jonathon Daniell
For Army News Service

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — After eight months of intense training, members of the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade successfully completed a Patriot missile defense system modernization effort that will provide continued protection from potential North Korean aggression.

In coordination with contractors from Raytheon and the Lower Tier Project Office, the brigade carried out the largest Patriot modernization project ever conducted outside a continental depot facility, said Steven Knierim, Raytheon project manager.

“The purpose of the battalion netted exercise was two-fold. First, it was to validate the systems to ensure everything worked and met the industry standard for performance,” said CW3 Tara Gibbs, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Patriot modernization project officer. “The second was to qualify the Soldiers and crews on the new equipment.”

As part of the training, the batteries

networked into the battalion data link architecture from geographically dispersed locations around the peninsula and conducted air battles. Each battery crew was required to complete a series of competency tests to demonstrate proficiency.

“Prior to the exercise, we spent three weeks split between formal classroom training and hands-on learning,” said 2nd Lt. Nathan Jackson, C Company, 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment fire control platoon leader. “The contractors taught us how to isolate faults in order to better diagnose problems in case the equipment goes down.”

According to Jackson, one of the biggest benefits of the modernization overhaul was the replacement of many legacy systems and updating outdated technology. The combination of the two improved the tactical capabilities and reduced maintenance requirements for the missile defense system.

“For the Soldiers that work in the engagement control station, one of the smaller but more comfortable enhancements was the ergonomic improve-

ments,” said Jackson. “Touch screen maneuverable displays, along with improved adjustable seats, make long shifts more enduring.”

Throughout the modernization process, the brigade carefully balanced the Fight Tonight mission in the Korean theater of

operation while rotating batteries through the improvised depot at Suwon Air Base.

The brigade is scheduled to modernize its platform of Avengers in the coming months as part of an ongoing plan of enhancing air defense capabilities on the Korean Peninsula.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. MONIK PHAN

Soldiers assigned to Battery D, 6-52nd Air Defense Artillery Regt. assemble an antenna in order to test communication links during a battalion-wide validation exercise Aug. 3 at Osan Air Base, South Korea.

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1:15 & 7:00	
	THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD — R
4:15 & 9:45	
2	NUT JOB 2: NUTTY BY NATURE PG
1:00, 4:00, 7:00 & 9:15	
3	DUNKIRK — PG13
1:00, 4:00, 7:00 & 9:45	
4	SPIDER MAN — PG13
1:15, 4:15, 7:15 & 10:15	
5	LOGAN LUCKY PG13 • 4K BAS
1:30, 4:15, 7:00 & 9:45	
6	THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD R • 4K BAS
1:15, 4:15, 7:15 & 10:00	
7	NUT JOB 2: NUTTY BY NATURE PG • realD3D
12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30 & 9:30	
8	KIDNAP — R
1:30, 4:30, 7:30 & 9:45	
9	DARK TOWER — PG13
1:30, 4:30, 7:30 & 9:45	
10	ANNABELLE: CREATION — R
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Army Special Forces: An inside look at elite group’s capabilities

By Cindy McIntyre
Fort Sill Public Affairs

FORT SILL, Okla. — When it comes to elite military teams, the Navy SEALs often come first to mind. For the Army, though, that’s okay -- Special Forces Soldiers prefer to be under the radar as the Army’s quiet professionals.

Recruiters visit Fort Sill and other installations regularly to find male and female officers and enlisted personnel who think they have the right combination of character and skills to wear the admired Special Forces Green Beret, or to be part of the three other Army Special Operations Forces branches.

Two junior officers were on hand Aug. 3 at Fort Sill to learn more about the opportunities, and one sergeant came by to submit his application packet as the result of a previous visit.

Sgt. Salah Elboraa, who reads and writes Arabic, said he wanted something more than what his current position offers.

“I’m looking forward to a more challenging environment,” he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Kiel Mulhern, center leader for Fort Riley (Kansas) Special Operations Recruiting Battalion (Airborne), and Staff Sgt. Zachary Wangerin, recruiter for the same unit, gave a video presentation to the officers about each branch, and told them what they needed for their application packets.

Officers must be within a specific year-group as lieutenants, said Mulhern. And, they only get one opportunity to apply. Enlisted ranks from E-3 to E-7 are also recruited and can apply again if they don’t get accepted the first time.

Wangerin said that only a small percentage of Soldiers even know that joining the ARSOF is an option in their careers. In addition to meeting a minimum 240 Army Physical Fitness Test score, and a 107-plus General Technical score (110-plus GT or 110 Combat Score for Special Forces), applicants must be U.S. citizens. They will all learn a foreign language and be airborne qualified by the time they complete their training, which takes up to 52 weeks or more to fully qualify them for a multifaceted job in one of the four branches.

In addition, all ARSOF receive a range of extra pay, which for the languages alone can range from \$100 to \$1,000 a month. ARSOF Soldiers also tend to earn promotions faster.



PHOTO BY SPC. GARRET SMITH

Soldiers from Group Support Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) conduct weapons training on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., July 17.

SECURE THE VICTORY

The Civil Affairs branch of ARSOF is prepared to thrive in culturally diverse environments after receiving 13 months of intensive training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. They work with conventional units, host nations and Special Forces to marginalize and weaken opposition forces. They also perform peacetime humanitarian work such as disaster relief, immunizations and provide running water.

They are well-versed in the culture of the host nation and work with U.S. ambassadors and local community leaders to prevent conflict and help avoid boots on the ground that could inflame hostilities.

“They use a diplomatic approach before direct action,” said Mulhern. “You’ll become cultural experts.”

A civil affairs team is typically composed of an officer, two NCOs and a medic who has enhanced medical skills.

PERSUADE, CHANGE, INFLUENCE

The Psychological Operations Regiment engages in psychological warfare to influence actions, behavior, values, beliefs and attitudes of citizens and communities in support of Special Forces teams, U.S. ambassadors, allies and coalition partners.

“They try to get the host nation to align

with U.S. interests,” said Mulhern. During training they are given “impossible tasks” that call upon their intellectual skills more than physical capabilities.

Deployments are typically six months in teams of three to 12. These teams are also based out of Fort Bragg.

DE OPPRESSO LIBER (TO FREE THE OPPRESSED)

The most elite team in the ARSOF is the Special Forces, also known as the Green Berets.

“They don’t like people to know what they’re doing and why they’re doing it,” said Mulhern. “They like to work behind the scenes.”

The Special Forces is the only military unit authorized by Congress to conduct “unconventional warfare,” said Mulhern. Even the Navy SEALs can’t engage in these types of operations, which include working with local resistance groups to remove leaders and promote greater regional stability.

They also engage in special reconnaissance, intelligence gathering, short duration direct action and counterterrorism. The Alpha Team consists of 12 members who train for at least 64 weeks to attain the highly esteemed Green Beret role.

NIGHT STALKERS

The 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) provides no-notice, worldwide, rotary wing support, precision air assaults and aerial gunnery. A Soldier must be in one of the authorized military occupational specialties to apply.

LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE

Knowing how to communicate in the language of the host country is critical to ARSOF teams, and if they are not already fluent in a foreign language, they are trained to learn one. The Defense Language Aptitude Battery is an aptitude test that cannot be studied for, as it measures one’s language-learning potential, not current knowledge.

Having a basic comprehension of how the English language works – grammar, sentence construction and parts of speech – are critical skills to grasping how the DLAB’s fictitious language works.

Scores to qualify for Category I languages mean one can learn the easier languages, such as French, Italian and Spanish. German is a Category II language, and the Category IV languages include Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Korean.

For more information on ARSOF, visit: GoArmySOF.com.

Enlisted Aide Program offers career-broadening experience for NCOs

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army is actively looking for a diverse array of Soldiers, from across a variety of military occupational specialties, to apply for career-broadening positions within the Army’s Enlisted Aide Program.

The deadline to submit application packets for the competitive program is Sept. 29, said Lt. Col. Drew Maddry, who serves as the chief of the Quartermaster Branch within the Army’s Human Resources Command.

The program is open to all active-duty enlisted Soldiers from sergeant (promotable) through master sergeant, irrespective of

military occupational specialty. The process for putting the packets together is a bit lengthy, so interested Soldiers should start right away, Maddry said.

More details about the openings and how to apply can be found within Military Personnel Message 17-253, “FY 18 Enlisted Aide Selection Panel Announcement.”

TAKING CARE OF LEADERSHIP

An EA serves on the personal staff of a general officer and undertakes a wide variety of day-to-day tasks that free the officer to concentrate on his or her primary military and official duties, said Sgt. 1st Class Maria Fuentes.

Duties of an EA include household management and security, preparing uniforms, orchestrating official social functions and preparing daily meals, said Fuentes, who serves now as the EA Special Programs Professional Development NCO at HRC. She has also previously served as an EA.

“It was rewarding for me personally because you get to see smiles on people’s faces when you are serving them food, ensuring things are in order and taking care of them,” said Fuentes of her own experience in the program.

Besides serving food, EAs learn how to manage a budget and plan a host of day-to-day

events, she said.

Those are skills that are valuable in any job, as well as in one’s own personal life, she added.

Fuentes said she has prepared meals for and interacted with the chief of staff of the Army, the sergeant major of the Army, senators and other dignitaries.

“Those were exciting moments,” she said.

Successful EAs are self-starters, motivated, eager to learn and adaptable. Those same traits are also what makes for successful Soldiers, she said.

Candidates train for EA and culinary skills at Fort Lee, Virginia, she explained. For someone not in the 92G culinary MOS, the EA career field often proves to

be a totally new and interesting experience, she said, adding that she encourages Soldiers from outside the culinary arts MOS to consider applying to be an EA. She noted that six have recently done so, and are proving successful in their efforts.

Those who complete their EA tour will return to their original branch, said Maddry. That is designed to ensure their leadership and MOS proficiency skill sets are maintained, an additional benefit to the Army of the broadening experience.

Maddry also said that promotion boards look favorably on broadening experiences like those that the EA Program provides.



ARMY PHOTO

Chief Petty Officer David Young and Master Sgt. Dwight Copeland, enlisted aides, prepare salads for a meal to be hosted by Gen. Curtis “Mike” Scaparrotti, commander of EUCOM/SACEUR, at SHAPE, Belgium, Nov. 8.

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Aviation

Continued from Page A1

“We need things fast because the enemy is continuing to adapt,” he added.

Modernization priorities for Aviation also include Future Vertical Lift and Future Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

Ellis Golson, director of the Concepts, Experiments and Analysis Directorate for USAACE, spoke about the operating environment, including changes in the concept of war.

“You’ve heard about Multi-Domain Battle. Essentially

you have land, maritime, air, cyber and space—five different domains. All of them are contested,” Golson said. “Contested does not mean denied, it means we’re going to have to work through it.”

Much effort has been made to deny the U.S. access into areas, and one of the contributing factors is “we can’t get there quick enough,” he said.

“We’ve had the luxury of operating without threat from the air. We can no longer say that, either from manned assets or from unmanned assets,” Golson said.

The two-day event also included panel sessions with experts across the Aviation enterprise. Topics included the

future force development strategy, and increasing Aviation’s reach, protection and lethality.

The event’s aim was an attempt at transparency in the interest of providing combatant commanders with the options they need, Gayler said.

“We’re not holding our cards so close to our chest that you don’t know what we’re thinking. I’m telling you what we’re thinking,” he said. “Every time you show a capability I’m seeing dollar signs, and I’m looking at other programs of the 63 inside of our portfolio that will be the bill payer, but we do need you, probably more now than ever.”

Honor

Continued from Page A1

porting for the close to 33 years of my career – without you guys I wouldn’t be where I’m at today.”

Babine began his career in civil service in 1984 as an equipment illustrator at Cairns Army Airfield with the U.S. Army Aviation Board, and produced graphic art for both his primary organization, as well as for the U.S. Army

Technical Test Center. During his time there from 1984 to 1996, he produced graphics that included two-dimensional technical illustrations of Aviation systems and sub-systems, brochures, fine art graphics, illustrations, and computer generated graphics and animations.

“My job was basically to help Army Aviators get what they need from anywhere from fine art graphic design to charts, graphs

and other instructional material to help keep the Soldiers alive on the battlefield,” said the inductee. “That’s what my calling was – to support the Army Aviator.”

In 1996, he was assigned to the MVISC training division of the Directorate of Plans, Training Mobilization and Security as a visual information specialist where he produced graphics and visual graphic designs per customer requests.

The Order of St. Michael recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the promotion of Army Aviation in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipient’s seniors, subordinates and peers, and Calchera said Babine has done that and more throughout his career.

“I’ve known Jeff for 28 years – back when I was a captain working here – and to me, Jeff is a cornerstone of Fort Rucker,”

he said. “We really appreciate all of his talents and we’re glad that Army Aviation was able to capitalize on some of those throughout his career.”

Babine, who is a professional artist by trade with two degrees in studio art, retired from civil service in May. He is proficient in oil paints, acrylics, water color, inks, charcoal and pencil art, and said he plans to continue working on his art in his studio.

Entrances

Continued from Page A1

our beneficiaries. We also want to ensure everyone feels safe when they walk through the front doors,” said Lt. Col. Jon Baker, LAHC Commander. “We are employing a number of methods in a comprehensive security program

to ensure improved safety.”

Baker said that in addition to the security methods already in place at LAHC, new improvements will be made to include bollards around the exterior of the building, vulnerability assessments, along with the hiring of security guards.

“LAHC has served the Fort Rucker community with high-quality care in a safe atmosphere for generations,” said Baker. “We want to maintain that safe and secure healing environment, and with these additional security features we hope this will provide an extra layer of ease for everyone in our clinic.”

Museum

Continued from Page A1

its predecessors, according to Bob Mitchell, U.S. Army Aviation Museum curator.

“Back during the Vietnam War, the Army Security Agency basically ran an operation where they were using U-8 [Seminole] aircraft to monitor low-power radio transmissions and other signals – it was a very covert program,” he said. “This program was designed to listen for communications in the field to determine what the enemy was doing and be able to monitor that without them knowing it.”

The program was successful in that the Army was able to intercept transmissions

and information, but the capability of the U-8 and other aircraft were limited by their size and weight limits, and the Army quickly realized that a larger aircraft was needed, said Mitchell.

“When the mission first started out, they didn’t have a lot of equipment or a lot of capability, so they had a small aircraft. As they got more involved with the mission, they realized that they needed more monitoring devices, better devices and more powerful devices,” he said.

Since the Army didn’t have a large, fixed-wing aircraft of its own, it eventually turned to the Navy, which had been operating P-2 Neptunes for some time

as long-range, anti-submarine patrol aircraft.


In 1966, it was decided that the Navy would give the Army 12 P-2s that would be retrofitted to fit the Army’s needs, and they were designated AP-2 Neptunes in the Army inventory.

“Since it was a covert program, the Army didn’t want anyone to know that this aircraft was doing anything special, so they called it an AP-2 Neptune and not an RP-2, which would denote reconnaissance or security,” said the curator. “The only external clues to the role of the aircraft were extended wing tips tanks to house the sensors, extra antenna and a

solid nose, of which the original aircraft had a glass nose.”

The plane was also kept painted in the Navy colors and proved to be a very effective surveillance system, able to house much more surveillance equipment, radios and monitoring devices, as well as a crew of up to 15, including pilots and ASA agents.

The program ran from 1965 to 1972, but as the Vietnam War began to wind down and the mission was no longer required, the Army returned the aircraft to the Navy, but the Navy allowed the Army to keep one, which now sits on the lawn of the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.



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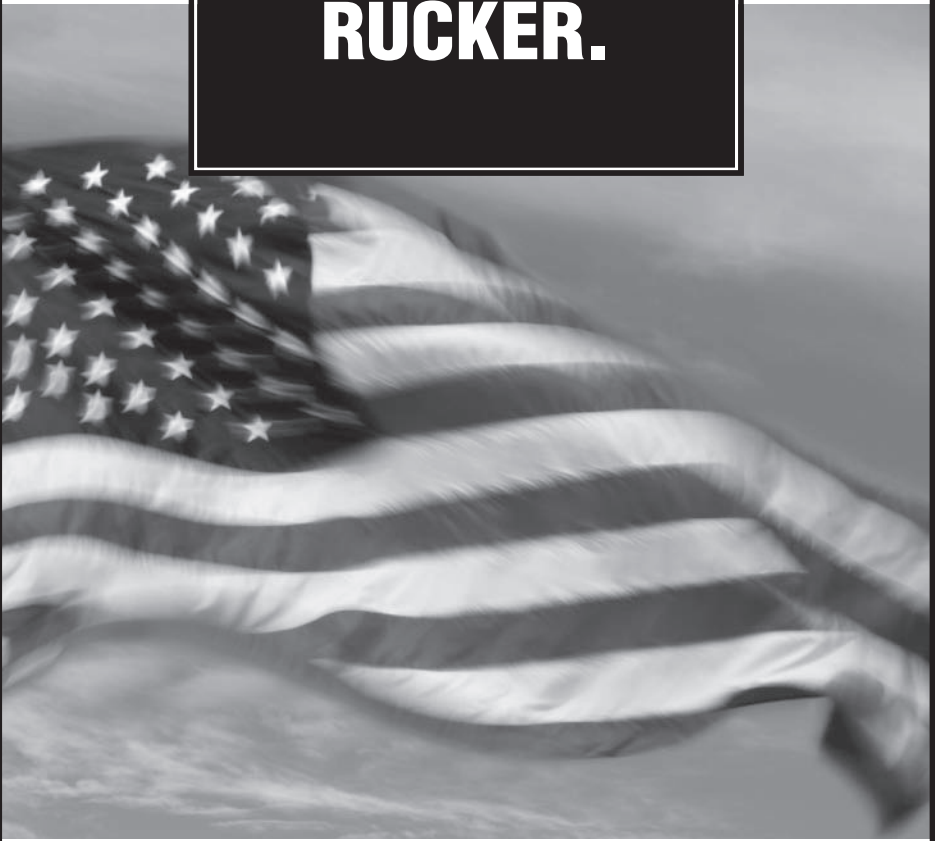
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PHOTO BY AIR FORCE SENIOR AMN. MICHAEL HUNSAKER

Two AH-64 Apaches land at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 7 while an F-16 Fighting Falcon taxis behind them. Soldiers of the 4-2nd Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade participated in a joint forward-arming and refueling point to support their battalion's aircraft during a live-fire, air-to-sea interdiction and attack exercise near Kunsan.

29TH CAB

Soldiers expand partnership with Iraqi security forces

By Capt. Stephen James
For Army News Service

CAMP TAJI MILITARY COMPLEX, Iraq – Soldiers from the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade and the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Red Falcon, were hosted at Camp Taji Military Complex July 19 by their Iraqi partners to conduct joint training to create a foundation for further operational cooperation and interoperability between the two organizations.

The planning session began with both the paratroopers and Iraqi Security Forces sharing tactics, techniques and procedures for quick reaction force situations.

"Today's training and planning session was a culmination of almost three months working with our Iraqi partners," said Capt.



PHOTO BY CAPT. STEPHEN JAMES

Members of the Iraqi security force load onto a CH-47F Chinook fielded by the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade at Camp Taji Military Complex, Iraq, July 19.

Logan Reed, the 29th CAB's Iraqi partnership officer.

This event also included a dry-run exercise in which Task Force Red Falcon Paratroopers and the ISF worked together to set up a security perimeter on a 29th CAB CH-47F Chinook provided by B Company, 2-149th

General Support Aviation Battalion, operating as part of Task Force Rough Rider.

"Training at the lowest level is essential for fluidity on the battlefield," said 1st Lt. Max Wiese, an infantry officer assigned to C Co., 1-325th AIR, 2nd BCT.

The 29th CAB Soldiers also assisted their

Iraqi counterparts with improving their radio capabilities to allow for both Iraqi and U.S. aviation operations centers to digitally talk with one another.

"We assisted in bridging the communication gap between Iraqi army aviation headquarters and the 29th CAB, both located at Camp Taji," said Reed.

Spc. Andrew Minter, a radio-telephone operator from the 29th CAB, acknowledged that working with his Iraqi counterparts was an "eye opening experience" as they exchanged information regarding communications equipment.

The 29th CAB will continue working with their Iraqi army aviation counterparts as they continue to build upon successes in training and on the battlefield.

"We look forward to continuing this vital partnership as we assist the ISF in defeating ISIS and building their capabilities," said Reed.

The 29th CAB supports Combined Joint Task Force -Operation Inherent Resolve by providing aviation assets, offensive strike capability, operational and logistical support. CJTF-OIR is the Coalition to defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria.



PHOTO BY PFC. NICHOLAS VIDRO

A British soldier with the 5th Battalion, The Rifles, 20th Armored Brigade, pulls security in front of a 10th CAB UH-60L Black Hawk during a training exercise at Saase, Estonia, Aug. 9.

STRENGTHENING BONDS

U.S., British soldiers seamlessly integrate forces in Estonian exercise

By Pfc. Nicholas Vidro
7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TAPA TRAINING AREA, Estonia — U.S. Army Soldiers of the 3rd General Support Aviation Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division and the 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard, trained with NATO allies during a combined aerial-ground exercise near Jagala Aug. 10.

The exercise consisted of U.S. CH-47 Chinooks, escorted by U.S. UH-60L Black Hawks, dropping off infantrymen with the British army's 5th Battalion, The Rifles, 20th Armored Brigade on their mission to secure a civilian highway. They were able to

practice these specific air maneuvers the day before during a separate exercise that seized an objective and acquired a high value target at Saase Training Area.

The 3-10th GSAB is currently in country as a part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, a NATO mission involving the U.S. and European allies and partners in a combined effort to strengthen bonds of friendship and to deter aggression.

This event was an opportunity for U.S., British, and Estonian soldiers, as well as local law enforcement, to come together under a unified command to successfully land A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft in a civilian area. British army Lt. Col. Andrew Ridland, commander of the Enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group, explained the

importance of combined events like this.

"This is all about air-land integration. This exercise comes a week after Vice President Mike Pence visited Estonia and spoke about how Enhanced Forward Presence is the embodiment of NATO in many respects. What we've got today is my soldiers working with American helicopters and planes demonstrating operations with our allies," he said

This marks the third time the Maryland Air National Guard has been able to complete this event successfully, thanks to the teamwork between U.S., British and Estonian forces on the ground, said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Spencer Burkhalter, deputy chief of

SEE BONDS, PAGE B4

WHEN DOGS FLY

K9s, handlers, MedEvac Soldiers conduct hoist training

By Staff Sgt. Nicholas Farina
Kosovo Force Multinational Battle Group – East Public Affairs

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo – Military working dogs are well-trained, serious animals that often work in difficult, hard-to-access terrain because of their maneuverability.

If an MWD gets injured during one a mission in Kosovo, the MedEvac Soldiers of Multinational Bat-

SEE DOGS, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY SPC. DERRIK TRIBBEY

Sgt. Bruce Brickleff, 131st Military Working Dog Detachment, 709th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade out of Grafenwoehr, Germany, and Buri get prepped for hoist training.

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Dogs

Continued from Page B1

tle Group – East will come to its aid like any other service member in need of medical attention.

In order to remain proficient in this specific capability, medical Aviators and MWD handlers of MNBG-East teamed up to carry out canine hoist training with a UH-60 MedEvac crew Aug. 1 on Camp Bondsteel.

Hoisting capabilities can get injured MWDs out of those hard-to-access areas they tend to work in.

“We have the hoist capabilities and we can hoist up to a maximum height of 295 feet,” said Sgt. Zachary Smith, MNBG-East standardization instructor and critical care flight paramedic for Detachment 1, C Company, 1st Battalion, 169th Aviation Regiment of the Oklahoma National Guard. “It doesn’t really matter where you are. We should be able to get you with the tools that we have.”

If a, MWD team was out in a mountainous area where there is no landing zone and something happened to the canine service member, whether it hurt its foot, stepped on a mine or was so sick that it could no longer perform its job, a MedEvac can come in to hoist them out of there, Smith explained.

The MWD and its handler are hoisted together using a 420C rescue device, said Smith. It is used for canines because it has a small seat that allows handlers to pin the MWDs in between themselves and the seat. It allows for less movement of the dog.

Master Sgt. Bruce Brickleff, MNBG-East kennel and MWD handler for the 131st Military Working Dog Detachment out of Grafenwoehr, Germany, said the hoist training serves as a way to familiarize the dogs with the aircraft, as well as getting lifted up into the helicopter. It also trains the MedEvac Soldiers on how to maneuver the MWD team into the Black Hawk once hoisted up.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. NICHOLAS FARINA

Sgt. Bruce Brickleff, MNBG-East kennel master, and Buri exit a UH-60 Black Hawk.

Brickleff and his MWD, Staff Sgt. Buri, who is a male Belgian Malinois mix, were hoisted together several times during the training. “He has full and total trust in me as the handler and knows that I am not going to let any harm get to him.”

When it comes to hoisting a canine into a helicopter, special safety equipment is used and certain aspects are taken into consideration.

Brickleff goes over the precautions as they prepare to be hoisted up. Weather is usually a factor. During this day’s training in particular, the heat was a concern. Dogs can overheat, so he ensures Buri is drinking water. He monitors the interactions between Buri and the other Soldiers participating in the training. He observes the preparation for hoisting as the MedEvac Soldiers on the ground use d-rings and harnesses to properly secure them

into the 420C.

Buri is outfitted with canine-specific eye protection called “Doggles” and a muzzle. “It’s fun to use the Doggles,” said Capt. Jarrod Miller, MNBG-East veterinary officer and a field service veterinarian for Task Force Med., 21st Combat Support Hospital out of Fort Hood, Texas.

Soldiers wear eye protection when conducting training and operations with a helicopter. This includes canine service members, said Miller.

It is also good to have the MWD wear a muzzle during possible stress-inducing training conditions, Miller assured. If the dog gets stressed around the intensity of the helicopter while working with unfamiliar personnel, such as a crew chief, the muzzle eliminates risks.

Miller has personally worked with canine hoist training in the past, but this was his

first time actually watching it take place. He explained that the canine hoist training is something that’s been developing within the last several years. MWD Handlers and veterinarians brainstormed with Medevac Soldiers on how to evacuate canines if they are in a hard-to-access location. This capability is up and coming. Aviators and dog handlers are working with MWD hoist procedures a lot more now.

The ability to hoist an MWD team via MedEvac helicopter out of an otherwise inaccessible area allows for MNBG-East to protect a valuable and multi-faceted force asset.

“Their primary mission here is they are a force multiplier. They can go essentially anywhere,” said Miller.

“We are here to assist in any way possible that we can, in accordance with our regulation,” Brickleff assured.

Bonds

Continued from Page B1

the Office of Defense Cooperation in Tallinn.

“The planning took over six months to make this happen as successfully as in the past. On the Estonian side, there was a lot of groundwork to cover. Their military police worked with local police to close this road. On the Ameri-

can side, the A-10 pilots planned the flight mission. In addition to those elements, the British component provided security for the airfield in an assault exercise conducted before landing,” he said.

After the British infantrymen created a defensive perimeter around the area, the Warthogs began their descent, and after landing were assessed by a maintenance crew before

taking off on the same strip. Ridland spoke on how this military display affects the public perception in Estonia.

“Here you have many people, families and the like, and for them this is an exciting thing to see. It’s also a reassurance to the public that NATO is here, their country is secure, and they don’t need to worry about anything,” he said.

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AUGUST 17, 2017

1-STOP SHOP

*Auto skills center helps
people save money*

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

Whether people are looking for a place to get their vehicles serviced or repaired, or even if they'd like to do it themselves – or learn to -- the Fort Rucker Auto Skills Center is a one-stop shop for most automotive needs.

For those just needing basic maintenance who aren't interested in doing it themselves, there's the Quick Lube service.

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

Quick Lube features standard or synthetic oil changes, fluid top off and multi-point visual vehicle inspection while the customer waits. Customers can also purchase oil, filters, brake fluid, antifreeze and other common automotive maintenance products.

The Quick Lube Program also offers personally-owned vehicle inspections. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Patrons are advised to call ahead to schedule their quick lube service.

For members of the do-it-yourself crowd, Barber said the installation of seven new lifts in 2015 allowed the facility to better meet their needs.

"The lifts replaced older equipment that was still functional, but did not have the lifting capacity to meet the needs of the community," she said. "We went from two-post lifts with a 9,000-pound lifting capacity to two-post lifts with a 12,000-pound lifting capacity. We also have three four-post lifts with a 14,000-pound capacity."

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

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

"Also, the upgraded equipment makes the dismounting and mounting of low profile tires a one-person operation, whereas before, it could take two or three individuals to dismount and mount a low-profile tire," she added.

The center offers a variety of services for authorized personnel.

- A self-help program — patrons can sign into the facility and conduct repairs on their own vehicles. ASC has the tools and equipment needed to complete the repairs.
- Instructional classes — oil change, transmission service, front brake repair, rear brake repair, ignition system tune-up and how to use scan tools.
- Mechanic-for-Hire program — patrons can have their



PHOTOS BY JEREMY HENDERSON

Chris Erthal, ASC mechanic for hire, performs maintenance on a customer's vehicle.



Larry Perry (right), frequent Fort Rucker Automotive Skills Center patron and retired sergeant major, discusses his antique car restoration with Chad Grundhauser, ASC recreation assistant.

vehicles worked on by a trained professional.

- Carwash facilities — two manual and one automatic carwash bay.
- Two vacuum cleaners, one combination vacuum and shampooer, three vending machines and a fragrance machine. The automated carwash is now also a 24-hour operation, as are the manual wash bays. There is also a free standing dryer system that has been installed at the end of the automatic wash bay. It is activated when either the \$8 or \$10 selections are chosen.
- Auto detail program — ASC offers various packages to patrons, from partial to full detailing
- Propane resale operation —ASC fills propane tanks of various sizes, including recreation vehicles.
- Paint booth and areas for restoring vehicles. ASC does not offer instruction in this area. Patrons must have all the working knowledge necessary to restore and paint a vehicle.

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

"In most people's lives, the two biggest expenses are homes first and secondly vehicles," she said. "The biggest



Phil Schmitz, ASC lead technician and supervisor, performs repair work on a customer's vehicle in the center's Mechanic for Hire department.

advantage to Soldiers and authorized personnel is monetary savings. Patrons can literally save hundreds of dollars through the self-help program because they are doing the work themselves instead of hiring a repair shop.

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

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

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

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

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

Center Library strives to offer something for everyone

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The modern library is more than just a haven for avid readers to escape into tales of faraway lands, but more of a resource for community members to utilize in all aspects of life, and Fort Rucker's Center Library is no different.

The Center Library has more than just books to keep people entertained, offering 22 high-speed public access internet computers, WiFi, study areas, reading programs and activities throughout the month to keep people coming back.

One of the libraries most popular events, the Mad Scientist Workshop, will return today with two sessions from 3:30-4:30 p.m. and 4:30-5:30 p.m. The event will feature Fizzy Chemistry and will have focuses on science, technology, engineering, art and math, according to Cameron Hill, Center Library youth librarian.

"We wanted to put something like this on also because we have a lot of programs for younger kids, but not for a lot of older children, and a lot of these concepts are missing in some schools today, especially with art," she said. "There is a big need in the job market today for science and



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Samantha and Jacob Baguley, military family members, enjoy sharing stories in the newly renovated children's room during the Center Library's grand reopening Jan. 11.

technology positions, and children want to learn about these things. Hopefully this will build on the concepts that they already know and they can work and grow on it."

This isn't the first Mad Scientist Workshop that the library has hosted, and parents like Mimosa Whiting, military spouse, said these are the kinds of events that she likes to bring her children to.

"We have a keen interest in science, and since they're home schooled our opportunities to do scientific experiments are limited,

so I thought this would be a great opportunity to have a hands-on scientific experiment with other kids," she said during a previous workshop. "I'm happy that the Fort Rucker library is offering this type of thing for older kids – it's nice to see something that's geared toward middle-school aged kids."

In addition to events throughout the month, the library also hosts weekly programs that people can take advantage of. The library hosts a weekly story time every Friday from 10:15 to 11 a.m.,

which is a free program that helps to introduce reading to children ages 2-5. Library staff will read a story followed by a coloring or crafting activity.

There are also book clubs for teens and adults that people can take part in. The Center Library Adult Book Club meets every third Tuesday from 5-6 p.m., and people are invited to come and discuss their favorite genre or author.

The Teen Book Club, for ages 13-17, meets every third Thursday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. where teens can discover a new favorite author and participate in activities.

Also, teens and children are welcome to take advantage of the youth rooms that opened earlier in the year, which feature the library's Picture Book and Early Reader collection, and also houses areas that cater to creative learning and interaction between parents and their children.

There will also be a World War I Book Club, which will meet Aug. 24 at 5 p.m., to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the U.S.'s entry into World War I. During the meeting, "Cataclysm" by David Stevenson will be the book of discussion.

If people are in the market for

a little less reading and a bit more hands-on work, Yarn It Darn It returns Tuesday from 5-6 p.m. where people can create projects for every skill level from beginner to expert. The event is free and open to ages 10 and up.

The library will also host a Game-A-Thon Aug. 31 from 4-5:30 p.m. where people can enjoy family-friendly games. No registration is required.

The library also partners with other organizations to bring events and educational opportunities to its patrons. In conjunction with the Alabama Humanities Foundation, the library will host the Literature and Veteran Experience Aug. 29 at 5:30 p.m.

The veteran-led program is geared toward veterans and active-duty military to provide an opportunity to meet and discuss readings from books, short stories, poems and personal accounts of their choice within a safe environment. Registration is limited to the first 15 participants.

In addition to the events and activities the library hosts, the library also houses a collection of books, DVDs, audio-books, video games, foreign language learning material and more.

For more information, call 255-3885.

ON POST

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

Mad Scientist Workshop

The Center Library will host its Mad Scientist Workshop – a science, technology, engineering, art and math program – today. The event, Fizzy Chemistry, will be divided into two free sessions. The first session will be from 3:30-4:30 p.m., and the second will be from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Each session will be open to ages 7-12 and be limited to the first 20 people to register. The event will be open to authorized patrons and be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly.

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

Girls Night Out

The Landing will host Girls Night Out Friday from 6-9 p.m. Attendees will enjoy an evening full of fashion, fun, and prizes while visiting with numerous organizations from throughout the community that cater to women, according to organizers. Tickets are on sale for \$10 at MWR Central, The Landing Zone, The Landing Catering Office, and the Coffee Zone locations at Lyster Army Health Clinic and The Landing Zone.

For more information, call 255-0769.

Before, after school care

The Fort Rucker Child and Youth Services School Age Center has spaces available for before and after school care starting Sept. 11. All new school-age children in kindergarten through fifth grade must have an orientation and their paperwork completed with parent central services prior to starting care.

For more information, call 255-9108.

BOSS Whitewater Rafting Day Trip

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will host a whitewater rafting trip to Phenix City Friday that will be free to BOSS-eligible Soldiers. The trip will be limited to 60 participants. Slots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, call 255-9810.

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.

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, according to ACS officials. This discussion will be facilitated by ACS accredited financial counselors. Pre-registration is required by Monday. Free childcare will be available with registration.

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

Literature and the Veteran Experience

The Center Library and the Alabama Humanities Foundation are partnering to bring area veterans and active-duty Soldiers a new program titled Literature and the Veteran Experience. It will provide an opportunity to meet and discuss readings from books, short stories, poems and personal accounts of participants' choice within a safe environment, according to organizers. The program will be led by a veteran who is also an active reader and has experience in leading discussion groups. Registration is limited to the first 15 participants and is open to both veterans and active-duty Soldiers. The first meeting will be Aug. 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the Center Library.

To register or get more information, visit the Center Library or call 255-3885.

Game-a-thon

The Center Library will host its Game-A-Thon Aug. 31 from 4-5:30pm. The



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Dog Days of Summer Dog Swim

SPLASH! Outdoor Pool and Spray Park will host its Dog Days of Summer Dog Swim Sept. 9 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration will be required to participate. Cost will be \$7 per dog. At time of registration and payment, all dog owners will be required to attach a copy of their dog's current vaccination records. No people will be allowed in the pool water with the dogs unless there is an emergency. Users of the facility will do so at their own risk. Owners are responsible for the actions of their dogs. There may be a limit to the number of dogs allowed at one time. Dogs must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Humans are limited to two dogs at the facility at any given time. Dogs must be under owner control at all times, must be leashed when not swimming, and will be removed at the first sign of any aggression. Humans must clean up after their dogs – plastic waste bags and bins will be provided. For more information or to register, call (334)255-9162. Pictured is a scene from the spring Dog Days Swim.

event will feature family-friendly games and no registration will be required. The event will be open to authorized patrons and be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly.

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

Fort Rucker Right Arm Night

The Landing Zone will host the Fort Rucker Right Arm Night Aug. 31 from 4-6 p.m. Right Arm Night is an Army tradition, promoting a night of camaraderie and esprit de corps as leaders come together and treat those who help them accomplish the mission. Complimentary appetizers will be served while supplies last. Right Arm Night is held every month, and both military and civilians are welcome.

For more information, call 255-0768.

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 Aug. 31. 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.

High school football field trip

The Fort Rucker Youth Center will host a field trip to see a high school football game -- Northview High at Enterprise High -- Sept. 1. Youth going on the trip need to be registered with child and youth services. The bus will leave the facility at 5:30 p.m. The deadline to sign up is Aug. 25. Youth are responsible for their own game admission fees, and buying their own food and drink.

For more information, call 255-2271.

Federal jobs workshop

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

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255-2997. Open to the Public.
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For more information or to register, call 255-2594.

Army Family Team Building app

People can complete Army Family Team Building training through AFTB's app. Visit <http://www.ftruckermwr.com/acs/army-family-team-building/> to find the direct link to the app. Once complete, people can contact Fort Rucker

AFTB to receive their certificate. Search for AFTB in the app store for Apple devices. For more information, call 255-9637.

Part-day preschool open house

The child and youth services school age center will hold a part-day preschool open house Sept. 7 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. For more information, call 255-9108.

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 17-20

Thursday, August 17

My Cousin Rachel (PG-13)7 p.m.

Friday, August 18

Transformers: The Last Sword (PG-13)7 p.m.

Saturday, August 19

Despicable Me 3 (PG-13)4 p.m.
Dunkirk (PG-13)7 p.m.

Sunday, August 20

Dunkirk (PG-13)1 p.m.
Spider-Man: Homecoming (PG-13) 4 p.m.

Army veterinarians team with Tonga to provide animal care on the islands

By Sgt. Walter Lowell
For Army News Service

NUKU’ALOFA, Tonga — A whole menagerie of animals are familiar members of American households and are often considered full-fledged members of a family, sometimes even acquiring a sappy term of affection, such as fur baby.

Americans usually strive to provide their domestic pets and livestock the best available food and veterinary care, including spaying and neutering when necessary. In some parts of the world, however, resources for animals are in short supply, with few veterinarians, no heartworm medication and no ability to slow population growth.

Tonga is one such place. The remote island-chain country with its population of 100,000 has only one government-run animal clinic. The one clinic is low on supplies and short-staffed with no full-time veterinarian. It relies on foreign volunteers to bring in expertise, along with desperately needed medications.

Two Army veterinarians are actively working to improve animal health care in Tonga. In late July, Army vets in the Public Health Command - Pacific teamed up with the Nevada National Guard State Partnership Program to visit Tonga and evaluate the health and care of the domestic animals in the islands.

ANIMALS SUSTAIN TONGAN LIFE

The State Partnership Program had been working with the Kingdom of Tonga since 2014. During their ongoing engagements to help the country develop better security, disaster relief systems and public health projects, the Nevada National Guard members identified that essential services for the islands growing animal population were needed.

Program officials reached out to Pacific Command, who assigned two Army veterinarians to join the program and evaluate the needs and shortfalls in the country.

Maj. Kimberly Yore is an Army veterinarian from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. She was the first to arrive and was able to get to work right away with the help of the partnership program’s government contacts.

“Everywhere in Tonga, one sees horses, cows, pigs, chickens, ducks, goats and sheep. Although the animals appear to run free, they are all owned by a family who relies on them,” said Yore. “Animals running freely leaves lots of potential for disease and injury such as parasites, the spread of infection and trauma. Some diseases can spread between people and animals.”

Lt. Col. Howard Gobble, the director of veterinary services for Public Health Command - Pacific, joined Yore for a portion of her two week mission. He had previously visited Tonga a few weeks earlier to assess the veterinary needs of the country.

Gobble said the veterinarians had three goals while in Tonga: evaluate the human/animal health status of the country; disease surveillance; and the restoration of the King of Tonga’s Royal Guard’s horse detachment to a functional level.

“Veterinarians play a vital role in animal health, which in turn affects human and environmental health,” Yore said. “The Nevada Guard saw the huge role that animals play in the lives of the Tongan people and Tonga’s lack of veterinary services. I was invited to assess how veterinarians could help fill the gap in veterinary care and public health in Tonga as part of future SPP engagements.”

Yore spoke with top Tongan officials to determine the priorities of future State Partnership Program involvement.

“I met with local animal health aids and leaders in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries to determine areas where the SPP can partner with Tongan agencies to improve veterinary care and public health,” Yore said.

1 ANIMAL CLINIC, 0 VETERINARIANS

The team first had to evaluate the current system that was in place to determine what kind of care was needed for the animals of Tonga.

They visited Ana Pifeleti, the Tongan Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries official who is the head of livestock management. She supervises the only animal clinic in the kingdom – it has a staff of 14 government employees.

She said the clinic treats domestic house pets as well as large animals and livestock like cows, horses, pigs, chickens and ducks.

“We have 18 South Pacific Animal



PHOTOS BY SGT. WALTER LOWELL

Lt. Col. Howard Gobble, the director of veterinary services for Public Health Command, Pacific, and Maj. Kimberly Yore, an Army vet from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state, conduct dental care to a stallion belonging to the Tongan Royal Guard, horse detachment, in the Kingdom of Tonga July 19.

Welfare teams, a group of volunteers who visit here on a quarterly basis,” she said. “They provide a number of free services for domestic animals and bring supplies.”

“The Tongan people seek help from the clinic for their sick animals in exchange for donations of money or handicrafts,” Yore said. “There is no veterinarian in Tonga, so the veterinary nurses who work at the clinic have to do the best that they can, working with limited training, supplies, medicines and equipment.”

Pifeleti said the government provides animal medical services for free to Tongan citizens, but, with much of the population on far-flung islands, many Tongans are unable to acquire adequate care for their animals.

“It was a very challenging process. We did meet a very competent veterinary tech working at the clinic,” Gobble said. “We worked with him all week and gave him some training. We also took samples from local animals to check them for diseases.”

While the Army veterinarians were at the clinic, a local man arrived with four small puppies. The team of vets and the veterinary technician stopped their inventory of supplies to tend to the puppies. They examined the scared canines, administered medication, and gave the thankful man advice on how to look after his pups and when to come back for a check-up.

“You can’t disclose the fact you are a veterinarian in a land so desperate for veterinarians and then not treat anything, so I did that, too,” Yore said. “I mostly treated dogs and cats for internal and external parasites and made recommendations to their owners to improve the health of their animals.”

ALL THE KING’S HORSES

The team was also tasked with improving the health of the Tongan Royal Guard’s horses. The detachment cared for about six horses on the grounds of the King’s Royal Palace.

“The previous king had a small cavalry unit and one stallion imported from Australia,” Yore said.

She said that stallion started breeding and since there was no one on the island trained to handle, catch or castrate them, the herd was quickly turning into a feral population. Castration is a standard procedure for male horses in the United States.

The veterinarians reported the condition of the pastures to the MAFF, including recommendations in caring for the horses in the future. After, they were able to catch one stallion for castration.

“Unfortunately, they only let us castrate one,” Yore said. “However, I think the success of this one procedure and the other recommendations we made elevated the Royal Guard’s concern for the equine situation and they will likely be open to further procedures when veterinarians return.”

She said they trained the vet tech how to do the procedure and left him with the equipment and medication he needed in hopes that the Royal Guard will call for his assistance.

“If the people of Tonga see the king taking steps to care for his horses and pasture, perhaps they will realize the importance of proper care for the other animals in Tonga,” Yore said.

“It’s a baby step, but it’s a step in the right direction,” Gobble said.



Gobble and Yore pose with several puppies at the Tongan Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries clinic.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

The State Partnership Program regularly returns to Tonga, each time bringing a small team of subject matter experts to engage with the Tongan Defense Force and government leadership. Each time, they revisit the issues addressed in the past to ensure they are moving forward, create partnered solutions for topics they identified in previous visits, and investigate to find areas where the program can help in the future.

“There will be many future opportunities to help the people of Tonga improve the health of their animals,” Yore said. “Improving animal health directly impacts the health of the environment and the people.”

Gobble said the National Guard’s SPP enables ongoing American support with in Tonga and other remote nations. Each

program director is in constant communication with its respective country’s ministers and senior military officers. The SPP allows teams to have access for engagements and the ability to follow up to make sure progress continues.

“The SPP is not looking to come in and just perform veterinary care for Tonga. There is too much need even to scratch the surface,” Yore said. “The SPP is in the business of building capabilities within Tongan society. That starts with Tongan citizens having the desire to improve their situation and seeing that improvement is indeed possible.”

To learn more about the State Partnership Program between the Nevada National Guard and the Kingdom of Tonga, visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NevadaStatePartnershipProgram/>.

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VIGILANT GUARD

Army, FEMA train for disaster relief in southwest during exercise

By Staff Sgt. Tomora Nance
For Army News Service

SANTA FE, N.M. — Whether stemming from manmade or natural causes, a disaster can strike at any time — and the best way to mitigate the resulting fallout is through preparedness and extensive training.

The Army and the Department of Defense are at the forefront of preparing for any potential disasters in the southwestern United States. Soldiers and DOD employees with U.S. Army North’s Task Force 51 participated in exercise Vigilant Guard 17-04 from August 3-11 at the Ornate Military Complex in Santa Fe.

The exercise simulated possible real-world, catastrophic disasters to help local, state and federal agencies collaborate emergency relief efforts through preparation and coordinate response and recovery management to the effected populace.

“Vigilant Guard is an annual exercise that takes place all over the county,” said Col. Berry Graham, Region VI deputy coordinating officer. “It is a joint response that is sponsored by Northern Command and the National Guard Bureau for the purpose of readying the National Guard forces for responding to catastrophic, domestic disasters.”

For this exercise, the scenario that sparked the emergency response was a 7.0 magnitude earthquake.

“This exercise was based off of the Rio Grande Rift scenario, which is a [Federal Emergency Management Agency] study,” said Graham.

According to the FEMA website, the Rio Grande Rift is a geologic break in the Earth’s crust that is approximately five miles deep and filled with volcanic residue, that bisects New Mexico. Any potential trouble with the rift could possibly affect over one million people in 11 counties.

The U.S. is divided into ten FEMA regions. Each region analyzes threats to its areas and conducts training to provide support to the citizens affected. Not only does FEMA train to help those affected, but they also train to build relationships



PHOTOS BY SGT. SARA YOKE

The New Mexico National Guard and other state, local, tribal and volunteer elements trained on search and rescue in the Sandia Foothills in Albuquerque, N.M., Aug. 7 during Vigilant Guard 2017.

with various echelons of government, including the military. FEMA Region VI encompasses five states to include New Mexico.

“New Mexico National Guard was one of many emergency relief participants for this exercise,” said Col. Emily Perry, the New Mexico Army emergency preparedness liaison officer assigned to ARNORTH. “And, as part of the exercise, they wanted to use their various capabilities to assist in disaster relief with one main goal — helping the citizens effected.”

If an actual emergency transpired, how do all of the different entities receive the call to action?

Graham explained the systematic chain of assistance following a catastrophic event.

“If there is a no-notice event such as an earthquake, we are completely in response mode at that point. The first responders to

an event are local fire fighters, police and medical personnel. Once it reaches beyond the local level’s capacity and capabilities, it goes up to the county. Once the county reaches their capacity, then they turn to the state authorities,” he explained.

Once the state reaches beyond their capacity, then the federal government is called in for assistance. We as [Department of Defense] are a part of that federal

government footprint and are notified as an integral part of the FEMA’s alert roster,” he said.

Not only was there a seismic earthquake that devastated New Mexico during the exercise’s scenario, there was also a train derailment that caused a hazardous chemical spill in Lamy and a riot in Albuquerque.

“There were secondary incidents that resulted from the earthquake. So, the exercise had a very complex environment. It was a multi-echelon event, which made for great training of all agencies involved,” Graham said. “The various events were spread out over the state to encompass a larger footprint and make the training more realistic.”

Perry said the New Mexico National Guard was able to train in the emergency relief efforts through rebuilding infrastructure, providing medical support, and assisting with search and rescue through unique aviation support elements.

As for the outcome of the exercise, both Graham and Perry agreed that the training was a success.

“We learned a lot during this exercise about working together and rehearsing our capabilities with local, state and federal assets to show a united effort in supporting the affected citizens,” said Perry.

Graham added, “I’ve been working with New Mexico officials on this exercise for two years and each time we conduct this exercise we hone our skills using this as a baseline for future exercises. I think it has been a great exercise and everyone has gotten something out of this training. New Mexico is very prepared because of this exercise.”

Religious Services

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

Headquarters Chapel, Bldg. 109

8 a.m. Traditional Protestant Service

Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 8940

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

Wings Chapel, Bldg. 6036

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

Spiritual Life Center, Bldg. 8939

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

BIBLE STUDIES

TUESDAYS

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

Protestant Women of the Chapel

Wings Chape, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Adult Bible Study
Spiritual Life Center, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

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

Above the Best Bible Study

Yano Hall, 11 a.m.

1-14th Avn Regt Bible Study

Hanchey AAF, Bldg. 50102N, Rm. 101 11:30 a.m.

164th TAOG Bible Study

Bldg. 30501, 11:30 a.m.

Precepts Bible Study

Soldier Service Center, 12 p.m.

Kingdom Kidz & Youth Group

Bible Study
Spiritual Life Center, 5:30 p.m.

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Preparedness fair set for September

Army Flier
Staff Reports

Wiregrass first responders will gather in September to help residents answer an important question: “Are you ready?”

The sixth annual Coffee County Emergency Disaster Preparedness Fair will be Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Enterprise Civic Center and will feature several repeat vendors who focus on public safety.

Attendees have the opportunity to learn how to perform CPR and operate an automated

external defibrillator, put together a 72-hour kit for themselves and their family, use a fire extinguisher to put out a fire and communicate in an emergency using amateur radios. Attendees can also learn life saving tips from first responders and search and rescue teams, as well as check out fire trucks, helicopters, police cars and more.

The fair is a joint effort between the Coffee County EMA and the Coffee County Community Emergency Response Team.

For more information, call 804-1994.



WIREGRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

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

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

DALEVILLE

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

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

DOTHAN

AUG. 22 — The Ed Burkhalter Chapter of the Military Officer Association of America will hold its next quarterly meeting at 5:30 p.m. at O’Charley’s at 3320 Montgomery Highway. The chapter is seeking new members. People who are interested should attend the meeting or send an email to majordpodom@gmail.com.

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

THROUGH SEPT. 30 — The Wiregrass Museum of Art is hosting the “Museum of Wonder,” an exhibition by self-taught artist, storyteller and collector of oddities, Butch Anthony, according to organizers. The Museum of Wonder, housed in a log cabin built by Anthony in Seale, is temporarily relocated to WMA’s galleries. The exhibition also includes a mobile drive-thru museum. This re-creation of the artist’s self-described “World’s First Drive Thru Art and Antique Gallery,” located just off of U.S. Highway 431 in Seale and constructed from shipping containers, is housed in an Airstream trailer in WMA’s parking lot and available to visitors 24 hours a day.

ENTERPRISE

AUG. 24 — Disabled American veterans Chapter 99 will meet at 6 p.m. at Mom’s restaurant in Morgan Square Mall. Business for the meeting will be confined to swearing-in of a new commander, senior and junior vice and other vital positions within the chapter for 2018. Meal and soft drinks will be served at \$13 per person. Members are asked to RSVP by calling 718-5707 by Aug. 18.

AUG. 21 — Beginning Waltz dance lessons are offered at the Hildreth Building, 202 N. Main Street. Classes are from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$3 per person per evening. For more information, call 393-4811

SEPT. 9 — The Coffee County Emergency Management Agency and Coffee County Community Emergency Response Team will host their sixth annual Emergency Preparedness Fair and Safety Saturday at the Enterprise Civic Center, 2401 Neil Metcalf Road, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fair is part of National Preparedness Month, and is billed as a fun-filled, family event designed to raise awareness about home safety and individual emergency preparedness. The event will feature several awareness displays and demonstrations to help citizens see how a few simple steps now can increase safety and emergency preparedness in homes, businesses and communities throughout the county. Emergency response vehicles and resources, such as the Arrive Alive Tour by Unite, a texting and driving virtual vehicle simulator; mobile command post; bomb squad; hazardous materials vehicles; sheriff’s posse; search and rescue helicopters; Bloodmobile; electrical safety; pet preparedness; and other preparedness and safety organizations will be on site.

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 Town Hall (old armory building) 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

AUG. 18-19 — The 23rd annual South Alabama Pro Rodeo Classic will be at the Dale County AgPlex Arena at the intersection of Hwy. 123 and 231 South. Events will include bull riding, cowgirl barrel racing, saddle bronc riding, bareback riding, calf roping, breakaway roping, steer wrestling, team roping and a calf scramble. Gates will open at 6 p.m. and the rodeo will start at 8 p.m. Advance tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$8 for children ages 6-12 and ages 5 and under are admitted for free. At the gate, tickets will cost \$12 and \$10. For more information, including places to buy advance tickets, call 334-774-9448 or 334-797-9754.

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

Brett/Robinson Alabama Coastal Triathlon

The Brett/Robinson Alabama Coastal Triathlon is scheduled for its 11th year on Alabama’s beaches Sept. 9 at Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. Locals and visitors are invited to participate in the long-course triathlon that will feature a 1 ½-kilometer swim in the Gulf of Mexico, a 40-km bike ride through the Gulf State Park and 10-km scenic run, or the “Tri-It-On,” consisting of a 300-yard swim, 10-mile bike ride and 2-mile run, according to organizers. Pre- and post-race activities for both events will take place at The Hangout. People can register for the triathlon by Aug. 20 for \$120 for individuals, \$170 for two-person relays and \$200 for three-person relays. “Tri-It-On” registrations received by Aug. 20 costs \$70 for individuals, \$90 for two-person relays and \$105 for three-person relays. Prices will increase Aug. 21. To register, visit <http://team-magic.com/events/67/contents/register>.

There is also a heavy need for volunteers during this race. The Sports Commission Volunteer Incentive Program supports civic groups by contributing \$40 per volunteer for each shift worked at designated sporting events. To learn about volunteering with the Sports Commission, call Sarah Cooper at 251-947-4611 or send an email to SCooper@GulfShores.com.

For information on upcoming athletic events along Alabama’s Gulf Coast, visit GulfShores.com/Sports/Media-Room, or call 1-800-745-SAND.

Zoo’s Twilight Tuesdays

The Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum will host its Twilight Tuesdays each Tuesday in August. The zoo and museum will open at 11 a.m. and the last ticket will be sold at 6:30 p.m. to allow guests the opportunity to enjoy the animals and exhibits in the cooler evening hours. All rides, attractions and animal encounters will remain open pending weather and animal husbandry needs. All guests must exit the front gate by 7:30 p.m.

Schedule of events: Aug. 15: Superhero

Night – Dress up as a favorite superhero; Aug. 22: Zoo Tour Night – Follow a guided tour of the zoo and Mann Museum; and Aug. 29: School Spirit and Game Night – Dress in a favorite team’s colors and enjoy playing festive games.

Regular admission to the Montgomery Zoo is \$15 for adults (13-64 years), \$11 for children (3-12 years), and free for toddlers (2 years and under). Combination admission for the zoo and museum is \$20 for adults (13-64 years), \$15 for children (3-12 years), and free for toddlers (2 years and under). Discount rates for military and seniors are available.

For more information, visit www.montgomeryzoo.com.

Southern Thunder

Inspired by the Alabama Gang’s influence on auto racing, Vulcan Park and Museum showcases its latest Linn-Henley Gallery exhibition through December 2018. Southern Thunder: The Legacy of Alabama Auto Racing, presented by the Jefferson County Commission, will showcase hair-raising stories and bring to life the impact that auto

racing in Alabama had on the regional and national scenes, according to organizers. The exhibit relives this thrilling piece of Alabama history when driving by the seat of your pants wasn’t a figure of speech and explains why this legacy is the foundation for auto racing in Alabama today.

Daily admission rates: adults, \$6; Seniors (65 and older) and military, \$5; children ages 5-12, \$4; and children 4 years and younger are admitted for free.

For more information, visit <http://visit-vulcan.com/>.

Palafox Market

Downtown Pensacola hosts its Palafox Market Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays at Martin Luther King Plaza. Admission is free to the market that features fresh produce, live plants, baked goods, fine art, antiques and more. Items originate directly from onsite vendors who grow, make, or create the fruits, vegetables, herbs and art for sale, according to organizers. The event takes place rain or shine.

For more information, call 850-434-5371 or visit <http://palafoxmarket.com/>.

For Army medic, South African exercise turned into homecoming

By Sean Kimmons
Army News Service

LOHATLA, South Africa – Before Maj. Paul Auchincloss made the U.S. Army his current career, the South African native was a flight instructor on single-engine aircraft in Africa.

While he was happy being an aviator, life got in the way. He ended up falling in love with one of his students and later moved with her to the United States.

Now an award-winning physician assistant, the 42-year-old Soldier – who married the woman and had a son with her – said he has no regrets with how his life has turned out so far.

“It was the best move I’ve ever made,” he said, while on his first trip back to his motherland in an Army uniform for the Shared Accord exercise. Held annually at different sites on the continent, the two-week exercise enhances peacekeeping capabilities of U.S. and African forces.

Born in Johannesburg, but a proud American citizen today, Auchincloss said the exercise’s opening ceremony in late July put his return to South Africa into perspective.

“It was the first time that I stood and recognized both national anthems back-to-back,” he said, calling it “a surreal experience.”

AMERICAN SOLDIER

In 1995, Auchincloss left Africa for America. He didn’t waste time either, because two weeks later, he and his future wife, Nikki, started a course to be certified as emergency medical technicians. For the next two years, he responded to calls in ambulances racing to save lives.

Helping people desperately in need of medical care, he said, was the greatest part of the job since he saw firsthand the fruits of his labor. As he treated more people, his passion for medicine grew.

“I always had an interest in medicine, but originally I didn’t qualify for some of the medical schools out of high school, being a young and immature student,” he said. “As I matured, I was able to focus my studies a little bit more.”

Expensive college courses, though, made it difficult for him. He then turned to the U.S. military and its educational benefits. While he had a strong desire for medicine, he still yearned to fly. So, he initially targeted his search on being a Navy fighter pilot.

“That was the first thing I looked at; however, at the time I wasn’t a citizen and didn’t have a college degree,” he said. “You can’t commission if you don’t have a college degree and if you can’t commission, you can’t fly jets.”

He narrowed his search again on becoming an Army medic, but hit another snag when bonuses he hoped to get were not being offered for those jobs. His career goals took yet another unexpected turn when he decided to enlist as an E-1 private in the field artillery, where he’d go on to spend eight of his 19 years of service.

“I figured here was a country that had welcomed me in,” he



PHOTOS BY SEAN KIMMONS

Maj. Paul Auchincloss, a senior physician assistant with U.S. Army Africa, shows South African soldiers U.S. Army medical techniques during a training session for the Shared Accord exercise at the South African Army Combat Training Center in Lohatla July 26.

said. “I can do a couple of things: I can give back to a country that had welcomed me in and at the same time get money for college.”

BACK ON TRACK

Using his benefits, Auchincloss carried on his studies in the medical field. On a whim, he said, he applied for the Army’s physician assistant program after being persuaded by his wife, who is now a nurse practitioner.

“My wife was the one who poked and prodded me to look into the PA program,” he said.

After he graduated from the master’s degree-level program, he finally found his calling.

“For me, being a physician assistant is probably one of the best medical fields you can be in, in the Army,” he said. “I still get to work with and train Soldiers ... and still get my hands dirty practicing medicine in the field and clinic environment.”

As a brand new physician assistant, he received a familiar assignment: treating Soldiers in a field artillery battalion. He found satisfaction in surprising some field artillerymen who thought he didn’t know what they went through in their demanding jobs.

“Coming in as their doc, I used to have a lot of Soldiers say, ‘Sir you don’t know how it is, you have no clue.’ And I had the ability to say, ‘Absolutely, I know how it is. I spent eight years doing your job,’” he said, smiling. “It was kind of full circle.”

The major’s most recent assignment is a dual-hatted position, where he serves as the U.S. Army Africa Headquarters and

Headquarters Battalion’s surgeon, as well as the command’s senior physician assistant.

His main role is ensuring Soldiers are physically and mentally fit to travel to Africa. He also travels around the continent to participate in training exercises and provide medical care to senior leaders. In his first assignment with USARAF in 2014, he briefly deployed to Liberia to help stem the deadly Ebola outbreak as part of Operation United Assistance.

Even after completing a tour to Afghanistan a few years before, the Liberia mission was eye-opening to the major as he ensured members of the joint task force surveying Ebola treatment sites remained healthy.

“It was a new experience, but I welcome new experiences,” he said. “The rapid halt of the spread of Ebola was a result of a lot of things that were put into place by the joint task force and [non-governmental organizations].”

His travels have also taken him to Contingency Location Garoua in northern Cameroon, which is home to a small U.S. Army task force that supports the country’s military in its fight against the Boko Haram terrorist group.

There, he modified a tracking tool he learned in Afghanistan to lower disease and non-battle injury trends to under 6 percent in most cases at the newly established outpost. Because of those positive results and his other work in medicine, the major received the Army Surgeon General’s Physician Assistant Recognition Award this year.

“The nice thing about [the

tracking tool] is that it gives us real-time identification of changes in the health of the force,” he said, “that we can report back to the commanders and then apply interventions and different modalities to halt certain trends and improve health and welfare.”

TEACHING OTHERS

Spc. Kassandra King, a combat medic with USARAF, was in Cameroon with Auchincloss. She also assisted him during the Shared Accord exercise, which ended last week.

Currently in her first duty assignment, King said she has relied heavily on the major to help improve her skills. During a recent training lesson where Auchincloss introduced South African soldiers to U.S. Army medical gear, the major put King on the spot asking her to perform an IV procedure on a volunteer.

“He likes to go over doing IVs, especially since in USARAF we don’t get to do much of actual healthcare – we’re more administrative,” she said. “He’s very informative and he loves to teach, so I learn a lot from him.”

One of the South Africans watching her was Maj. G.A. Ackerman, the officer-in-charge of nursing at the South African Army Combat Training Center’s hospital.

“It’s better to familiarize yourself with equipment of both countries so that we can help the patient quicker,” she said afterward.

While some of the equipment and procedures of both armies differ, Ackerman said they still have a shared duty. “It doesn’t

matter which country you’re from, the purpose is the same – we serve the brave.”

Using his ability to speak Afrikaans, one of the country’s 11 official languages, Auchincloss also shared something more in common with his foreign counterparts, which helped break the ice.

“It feels like my brother from another mother is coming home,” Ackerman said, laughing. “It’s always nice to have somebody who was from here and then come back again. It just shows the person still has appreciation for South Africa.”

Auchincloss was also impressed with the exercise’s unique training, which included treating mock casualties alongside the South Africans.

“We have some of the best medical equipment in the world,” he said of the U.S. health care system. “I know South Africa has a great medical system, but some of it may not be available in these environments, yet they have great clinical acumen. Sometimes in the U.S. we lose sight of that because we have all these tests and the bells and whistles.”

As for calling South Africa his home again, the prognosis of that occurring anytime soon is bleak. He still feels compelled to stay in the U.S. Army, he said, serving the country that put him where he’s at today.

“This is absolutely the American dream,” he said of his career. “My wife and I moved over with very little. I came over with a suitcase and that was it. So being able to give back, that’s what has kept me in.”



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DOG DAYS
Sweltering summer heat no walk in park for pets
See Page D3

ON TARGET

Fort Rucker to roll out new system to track hunters

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Hunters on Fort Rucker will soon be utilizing a new system to sign in an out of hunting areas on post, as well as obtaining all recreational permits on the installation.

The Fort Rucker iSportsman service will go live Sept. 30 and HunTrac will be going away, and although there is plenty of time to switch to the new system, John Clancy, Fort Rucker Outdoor Recreation manager, suggests people make the switch early for a smooth transition to the new system.

“People need to sign up with the new system as soon as possible,” he said. “HunTrac will be phased out and people must be registered with the new system in order to be able to hunt on post.”

People can register by visiting <https://fortrucker.isportsman.net/>, or visiting outdoor recreation if they need help registering with the new system.

Although the site is not yet fully functional, Clancy said people can go ahead and register to prepare for when the system goes live.

With the new system, people will be able to sign into hunting areas using their phones and will be able to keep track of which areas for hunting are open.

“When people come on Fort Rucker to hunt, they must sign into the area that they wish to hunt in, so that installation officials know how many hunters are in an area at any given time,” said Clancy. “There are limits to how many hunters can be in an area at any given time, therefore, if an area is full, hunters will be able to see that with the new system.

“We need to know who is in the woods and what weapons they are using,” continued the ODR manager. “The game wardens or [military police] need to know in case [hunters] get lost or there is an issue, and that way they will know where they are and what kind of weapon they should have in hand if they have to approach them.”

With nearly 56,000 acres of hunting area on Fort Rucker, the new program is a boon for safety of the hunters, as well,



FILE PHOTO

Then-Staff Sgt. Mark Brosel, checks out the track chair that he used during a previous Wounded Warrior Fall Hunt. Outdoor recreation sports a host of equipment catering to wounded warriors, including a camping trailer and a boat.

since they will be able to track where each hunter as last signed into in case of an emergency.

“The game warden will carry a tablet with him and he’ll be able to see where

someone signed in, so if anything comes up, he can see the last place someone was,” said Clancy.

The program is not just meant for tracking hunters, but also will be where people



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Mark Yoakum, outdoor recreation facilities manager, drives The Warrior on Lake Tholocco with Tony Vilardo, a wounded warrior, in this file photo.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

The wounded warrior trailer is available for wounded warriors and disabled veterans to rent either at the lake or to take on a trip.

will obtain their permits for things like hunting, boating and fishing. They will also be able to take courses online, such as the boater’s safety course through the program, as well, said the ODR manager.

Before hunting, Clancy said that people must be sure to have all their permits, paperwork and licenses in order.

For people to be able to hunt on post, hunters must first complete the hunter’s education course, have an Alabama State Hunting License and purchase a post permit.

Although the bulk of paperwork will be done online, Clancy said people must visit ODR before hunting to have all of their permits verified.

There are areas that are designated for hunters of all types, including rifle hunting, shotgun hunting and bow hunting. Also, as of Aug. 31, there will be no more hog hunting at night, but raccoon hunting at night will still be allowed.

For more information, call 255-4305 or visit <https://rucker.armymwr.com/us/rucker/programs/hunting-and-fishing>.

READINESS AT RISK

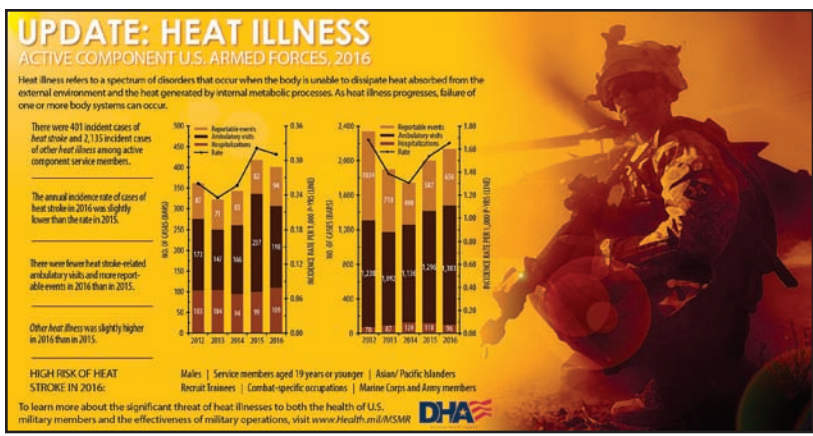
Heat injuries pose annual threat to service members

By Briana Booker
Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Summer is in full swing as the temperatures rise and the warm weather triggers heat illnesses that could threaten the readiness of the U.S. armed forces — especially among the youngest and most inexperienced service members and those training at installations in the southeastern United States.

“Prevention and treatment of heat illness among service members is important to the U.S. military because it speaks to readiness. Heat illnesses put warfighters at risk, making them unable to complete tactical missions. Moreover, trends are not decreasing,” said Dr. Francis G. O’Connor, a professor and chair of Military and Emergency Medicine and associate director for the Consortium on Health and Military Performance at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

In 2016, the number of cases of heat stroke among active component service members was 401, declining 4.1 percent from 418 cases in 2015. But the annual number of cases of “other heat illness” — known as heat exhaustion and “unspecified effects of heat” — was 2,135 in 2016, up 6.7 percent from 2,001 cases in 2015, according to recent analysis published in the peer-reviewed journal the Medical Surveillance Monthly Report. The term “heat illness” refers to a spectrum of disorders that occur when the body is unable to dissipate heat absorbed from the external environment and the heat generated by internal metabolic processes.



DOD GRAPHIC

In 2016, the overall incidence rates of heat stroke and “other heat illness” were 0.31 and 1.65 cases per 1,000 person-years (p-yrs.), respectively. Incidence rates of heat stroke were highest among males and service members aged 19 years or younger, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Marine Corps and Army members, recruit trainees, and those in combat-specific occupations. The incidence rate of heat stroke among female service members was 44 percent lower than the rate among males.

In contrast, the incidence rate of “other heat illnesses” was higher among females than males. Rates were also higher among service members aged 19 years or younger, Marine Corps and Army members, recruit trainees, and service members in combat-specific occupations, according to the analysis in the MSMR.

“The main causes of heat illness are not being adequately acclimated to heat and humidity in a local environment, lack of adequate fitness for the demands of the task, and the competitiveness of the training environment,” O’Connor said. “Baseline fitness is very important to protect against heat illness. An

increasing number of recruits may face challenges that they have not seen before, as the nation currently struggles with issues of decreasing fitness levels and increasing problems with overweight and obesity. This is why good military leadership is key— because good leaders help encourage proper training, education, and preparation for the warm weather by showing their people how to protect themselves in the heat while recognizing heat can hurt them.”

Military leadership can minimize heat illnesses and injuries among recruits and service members by knowing prevention guidelines, knowing service members’ physical limits, and promoting the buddy system.

“Protecting recruits and service members from heat exhaustion is to encourage starting workouts at a lower intensity, be well hydrated and familiar with onsite hydration and cooling sources,” said O’Connor, who has been a leader in sports medicine and education and research for the military for more than 20 years. “The most common time of the day



DOD GRAPHIC

FEEDBACK

Patient survey streamlined across healthcare services

By Jenny Stripling
Lyster Public Affairs Office

Have you received a survey regarding your recent health care visit?

The Military Health System began mailing its patients Joint Outpatient Experience Surveys in June. JOES, which replaced the Army Provider Level Satisfaction Survey, is a single survey for all military treatment facilities across the services. It will combine and standardize methods used to learn about beneficiary healthcare experiences with the goal of making them better.

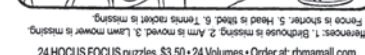
According to the Defense Health Agency the new survey will have considerable impact on how the MHS delivers health care. Whichever health care system service members, retirees and their families go to, they will receive the same questionnaire and will be able to relate their experience.

“With the Army, Navy, Air Force and DHA each having different surveys, it was difficult to accurately measure the quality of service we were providing to beneficiaries,” said Richard Bannick, branch chief of Decision Support Division within Defense Health Agency, in a recent interview with the Military Health System. “But now that we have a standardized survey instrument, are using standardized sampling, and a universal means of delivery [such as mail and email], we will have better comparisons across the services. And these new elements will give us information to improve the level of service we provide.”

If you receive a Joint Outpatient Experience Survey, please fill it out and let Lyster Army Health Clinic know about your recent experience here.

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