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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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FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

88 PERCENT COMMITTED

CG: Hurricane relief one of many Army Aviation commitments

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — As of Friday morning, 110 helicopters were headed out of Fort Rucker to avoid storm damage that might come from Hurricane Irma, said Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler.

Gayler, who serves as commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker, spoke Sept. 7 at the Association of the United States Army's Army Aviation Hot Topics forum.

Even as those helicopters are moved to safety, Army National Guard Aviation assets from 20 states are still in Texas and Louisiana, assisting with recovery efforts

there, post-Hurricane Harvey, he said.

Those missions, while vital and in the current spotlight, are just a drop in the bucket so to speak, of Army Aviation's global commitments, Gayler noted.

In all, an astonishing 88 percent of entire Army Aviation assets are committed, he said, explaining that "committed" is defined as actively participating in operations or training missions.

Those commitments include training missions at the combat training centers, as well as the several combat Aviation brigades operationally deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Korea and Europe. In

SEE COMMITTED, PAGE A7



ARMY PHOTO

A MedEvac helicopter of the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, Texas Army National Guard, participates in Hurricane Harvey rescue efforts.

IN REMEMBRANCE



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

ABOVE: Many of Fort Rucker's first responders gathered inside the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, entryway Friday to form a line of remembrance and clear the building's staircases. After the chiming of a bell at 8:46 a.m. to signify when the first tower was hit, participants completed 18 revolutions to symbolize the 110 floors New York firefighters climbed in their efforts to assist people caught inside the World Trade Center during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

LEFT: Scott Reid, Fort Rucker firefighter, leads participants up the first few steps of Friday's stair climb.

OOMPAAH-OOH AHH!

Oktoberfest set to end with bang

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

This year's Oktoberfest is scheduled to end with a bang at Fort Rucker's festival fields Sept. 29.

Lynn Avila, Fort Rucker Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation special events coordinator, said the free event, beginning at 4:30 p.m., is the perfect way for families to celebrate the arrival of fall.

"Oktoberfest is such a great family friendly event," she said. "We have so many different activities for the kids and adults."

According to Avila, the annual event brings back several familiar activities, such as the Volksmarch and inflatables for children, but fireworks will accent the end of the night this year as an extra treat to help make up for the show being cancelled at Freedom Fest in July.

"We always try to offer several fun and energizing events for our Soldiers, families, retirees and civilians in the Wiregrass," she said. "We understand we have a diverse community and we always want to offer

SEE OKTOBERFEST, PAGE A7

RESPECT THE PROCESS

Government flight representative team strives to keep Aviators safe

By Jay Mann
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

In 1981, Dean Doudna, a flight student and prior aircraft maintainer and door gunner in Vietnam, walked onto the flight line to preflight the helicopter he would train in that day.

"Because of my background as an enlisted Soldier, I saw that the aircraft was not returned to service correctly, but they told me we are here to rent them, not buy them. I cooperated that day, but it stuck with me."

Serving as the government flight rep-

resentative at Fort Rucker since 2005, Doudna put his 36 years of active duty experience to work ensuring the safety of Soldiers and instructors as they carry out the flight training mission.

"If it flies on Fort Rucker, it is because I signed a piece of paper that says it can fly on Fort Rucker," said Doudna.

"But let's unpack that a little," he added. "The GFR is really responsible for indemnifying the contractor and approving all the doctrinal material. When the contractor shows up, they cannot begin ground or flight operations until the procedures have been approved in writing

by the GFR.

"This is the largest footprint in the Army and the contract is a huge document, but basically it says go fix, test fly, and release aircraft for student throughput," Doudna said. "So, even though they have a big contract that says they can work on aircraft, they cannot do that until the GFR has approved their processes and procedures."

There are times when that doctrinal material is incomplete and new procedures are required, said Doudna.

"The GFR is a risk-mitigator on behalf of the Army to indemnify the processes and procedures of the contract," he said.

The next charge of the GFR is the return of service to aircraft, said Doudna. "If they fix it, we have to review it, and that's a lot of helicopters. The return to service is the other large marker for the GFR."

"The mission is fantastically large," he added. "We have built the shop up to four people — two GFRs and two ground government flight representatives, but we still see more in 30 days than most people see in three years."

"We repair every flavor of aircraft in the Army. What better place to learn lessons?" said Doudna. "The book does not fix everything. We can deviate from the book right after we call the Aviation



FILE PHOTO

An instructor pilot walks onto the flightline while maintenance crews inspect a UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter at Lowe Army Helipoint in a dense fog in 2013.

SEE RESPECT, PAGE A7

PERSPECTIVE

SOLDIER FOR LIFE

Transition specialist explains that job search a process

By Alfred Alexander
Soldier for Life
Transition Services Specialist

Searching for a job is a process and it can sometimes be a lengthy one.

It involves drawing on skills you've developed over time, including reflection, research, planning, writing, speaking, problem solving and self-advocacy.

You can be successful in the job search, but it will take a reasonable investment of time and energy.

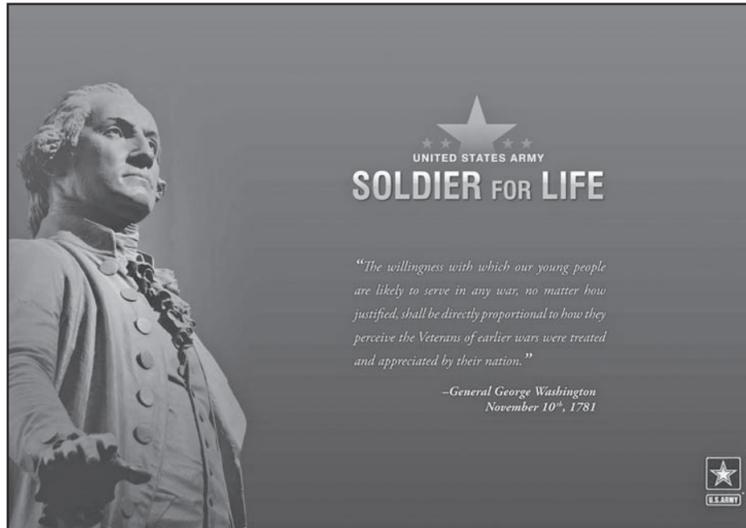
1. Identify your skills and interests.
2. Develop your documents.
3. Research possible job opportunities.
4. Utilize your network.
5. Fine tune your documents and submit applications.
6. Keep track of everything.
7. Prepare for interviews.
8. Follow up.
9. Prepare to negotiate and accept an offer.
10. Learn about being successful in the workplace.

• **Step 1** — Identify and analyze your skills, values and interests. The first step in a successful job search is to think about what you want to do and how well your skills, values and interest align with the expectations of the job.

Take a skills assessment to assist with what career field you want to be in. Determine if you need to gain any additional skill sets or experiences to make you more competitive in the job search process, e.g., licenses or credentials.

• **Step 2** — Develop your documents and fine tune your social media presence. You will need to have a great resume that you will later change for each specific job. Work on writing your cover letters.

Be prepared to submit a personal state-



ARMY GRAPHIC

ment or for letters of recommendation if requested, some employers ask for them.

Review your social media accounts, e.g., Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, to make sure the image you present online is representative of how you want to be seen by prospective internship sites and other professionals.

• **Step 3** — Research the kinds of jobs that are out there that match your interests and skill set. Focus your job search by identifying prospective employers by field of interest and geographic area.

• **Step 4** — Utilize your network. Employers and job seekers affirm that networking is the most powerful tool you can use to find a job. Many opportunities are filled by candidates known by the employer through networking contacts. Your networking contacts can also help you fine-tune your documents before you submit them for consideration.

• **Step 5** — Tailor your documents to fit

each job posting you are interested in and then submit your applications. In addition to submitting applications electronically or via mail, you might also try attending a job fair. We can help prepare you with how to handle a job fair.

• **Step 6** — Maintain an organizational structure and keep at it. An organizational structure will help you keep track of your network of contacts, dates and follow up information.

Examples of things to track are jobs you applied for, dates you applied for the jobs and when to make follow up contacts, dates and times of interviews, names of people to network with, dates of follow up contacts made, who you spoke with and weekly or monthly goals.

Following up after you have submitted your application can be helpful. We have some tips for professional communication etiquette here. If the organization has requested no calls or no emails, follow its

instructions. Be patient and adhere to the request.

• **Step 7** — Prepare for Interviews and practice marketing yourself. Even if you've been successful in interviewing for college admission, fellowships and summer work or service, this is a different type of interview. Practice, practice, practice!

Make sure you have the appropriate professional attire.

Many interviews will also involve a meal, so make sure you brush upon your dining etiquette.

• **Step 8** — Follow up after the interview. We have some tips for professional communication etiquette here. Following up with an employer after an interview or even after submitting your application is something many job seekers are reluctant to do because they think it could be viewed as pestering.

However, if done professionally, following up can demonstrate your enthusiasm and interest.

If the organization has requested no calls or no emails, follow the instructions.

Be patient. For most employers, jobs take months to fill – what may feel like a very long time to wait for you, may be lightning speed for an organization.

• **Step 9** — Do your homework to decide if you will accept an offer or not and be prepared to negotiate if necessary. You may want to create a list of pros and cons to help you determine if the job is a good fit for what you want to be doing.

• **Step 10** — When you are ready to start, remember to do what you need to do to stay hired and make sure you are prepared to be a successful professional at the workplace. Learn more about workplace etiquette and professional attire.

For more information on the job search process, call the Fort Rucker Soldier for Life Center at 255-2558.

Rotor Wash

“Fort Rucker’s Oktoberfest will be held at the festival fields Sept. 29 from 4:30-9 p.m. How should people stay safe when taking part in the festivities?”



Then-W01 Charles Matthews, 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt.

“Make sure you’re with your friends and stay together as a group.”



Dave Baskins, military family member

“Don’t overindulge in food or drinks.”



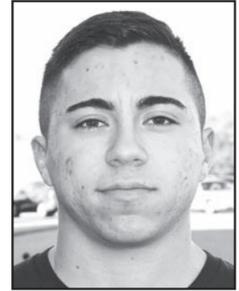
Then-W01 Marshall Drew, 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt.

“Don’t drink and drive. Always have a way to get home if you’re drinking.”



Joseph Tallman, Army veteran

“Be courteous of other people at the festival and try to pace yourself, and just have a good time.”



Then-2nd Lt. Robert Lindon, 1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt.

“Don’t go too crazy when having a good time with friends. Practice a bit of responsibility.”

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GAME ON

ACS-AAFES event supports single parents

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

Time can be in short supply for busy military families, and the Fort Rucker Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation seeks to help single parents make the most of it during Single Parent Family Game Night Sept. 21.

The free event, which takes place from 5-7 p.m. at the post exchange food court, is open to single parents – military or Department of Defense civilians – and their children, according to Joy McCormick, Fort Rucker New Parent Support Program social worker.

“This is an initiative of Fort Rucker Community Health Promotions Council Community Resiliency Work Group,” McCormick said. “They are promoting programs that build or enhance single parent families and enhance the parent’s ability to interact more effectively with their children. This will create and maintain a safe home environment where self-esteem and learning are encouraged.”

Registration is open to the first 20 families and parents are encouraged to sign up early to secure their spot. Deadline to register is Monday.

“The family advocacy program, in partnership with Army and Air Force Exchange Service, will conduct the family game night for single parents,” McCormick said. “This is to provide parents with a fun night out with their children,

with no cost to them. AAFES will supply sub sandwiches, drinks and the venue for this event. All who pre-register will receive a voucher for a free movie at the post theater at a later date.

“Each registered child will be able to pick out a game to take home with them,” she added.

According to McCormick, the event is a perfect opportunity to spend quality time with their families and strengthen familial bonds.

“It enhances the parent-child attachment, provides a positive role model, and also foster skills development and information-sharing opportunities that enhance the parent’s ability to interact more effectively with their children, and to create and maintain a safe home environment in which self-esteem and learning are encouraged,” she said.

Aside from attending single parent family events on post, McCormick said single parents can take other small steps to make the most of their time with family.

She offered the following tips.

- 1. Set Priorities** — Dedicate your time and energy to those areas that are most important.
- 2. Set a Good Example** — Be the kind of person you want your child to be – they learn by watching you.
- 3. Help your child build positive self-esteem** — Show your child affection every day and love without conditions. Praise and encourage your



Thia, Emma and Mari Ramirez, and Tyson Armstrong, Army family members, play a game during a past Fort Rucker Family Advocacy Program Family Game Night.

child’s efforts.

- 4. Be honest** with your child, but don’t involve them in unnecessary adult matters.
- 5. Be involved in your child’s education** — Attend open houses, if possible, and meet your child’s teachers and assist with homework.
- 6. Set aside time to spend with your child every day** — Dedicate at least a few minutes every day to give them your complete attention and really listen carefully to them. Don’t

rush or interrupt.

- 7. Plan outings and activities to do together** — They don’t have to cost money-go for a walk, visit a park, play a game.
- 8. Encourage personal responsibility in your child** — Make a list of chores for your child that is appropriate for their age.
- 9. Discipline with love** — Set firm, fair rules and be consistent. Discuss the consequences for breaking the rules and

make sure they understand what is expected.

If parents miss the opportunity to attend this family game night, McCormick said there will be more opportunities in the future.

“We are trying to offer a single parent family event each quarter,” she said. “The [FAP NPSP] offers services to our single parents that can benefit from extra support and educational services. Please contact them for more information.”

For more information or to register, call 255-9647.

Commander: Afghan forces increasingly on offensive against Taliban, ISIS

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Over the past year, Afghan military forces have switched from a largely defensive posture to an offensive one, bringing the fight to the enemy and recapturing ground lost in the last few years to the Taliban and Islamic State fighters, said Col. Larry Burris.

Burris, the brigade commander of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), spoke during a media roundtable at the Pentagon Sept. 6.

The brigade returned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in July, after a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan.

There were a couple of factors leading to the Afghan military’s change in fighting posture, he offered.

First, the Afghans realized that their defensive posture wasn’t working, he said, adding that U.S. Soldiers were also advising them on taking a more aggressive approach.

Part of the problem was that old commanders, indoctrinated in Soviet-era warfare, were leading Afghan brigades, he said.

The Afghan president relieved them of command back in October and November of last year, replacing them with commanders



PHOTO BY CAPT. KAY M. NISSEN

A member of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces participates in air-to-ground integration training in Kabul Province, Afghanistan, Dec. 27.

who had previously demonstrated aggressive and effective action against the enemy, Burris continued. “We saw an immediate change.”

The Afghan military leaders now understand that in a defensive posture, “you’re a static target” and in the offense, “you’re interacting and making it difficult for the enemy,” he said.

Besides losing ground, some enemy units have even met with Afghan military leaders to discuss terms of peace, he added.

The Afghans have also gone after corruption, such as weeding out “ghost soldiers” who don’t exist and swell unit payrolls. That problem, Burris said, is being dealt with by requiring soldiers

and police to enroll in the electronic funds transfer system after providing biometric data.

The army is also investigating corruptions and making arrests, whether it be for skimming money or fuel, he said.

EFFECTIVE PACKAGES

One of the ways Soldiers of 3rd Brigade, also known as “Rakkasans,” helped turn the Afghan army around was to advise and train using a creative concept known as “Expeditionary Advisory Packages,” Burris said.

The packages consist of a mix of U.S. Soldiers and equipment including security elements for force protection, counter-fire radars, howitzers, mortars, intelligence,

surveillance and reconnaissance equipment, forward refueling capability, surgical teams, explosive ordnance disposal advisors and so on, he noted.

Because the Rakkasans are spread thin across a vast swath of the country, these packages were designed to be deployed to Afghan brigades in the field for anywhere from a day to several weeks at a time, he said.

Packages are sized and configured for the brigade to which they’ll be assigned, the length of stay there and the mission set, he said.

The U.S. Soldiers who accompany their package will then advise their Afghan counterparts, he said. For instance, EOD technicians will watch the Afghans do route clearance and will then advise them on ways to improve.

The Afghan brigade’s leadership is evaluated as well, Burris mentioned, saying he thinks that part of the Afghan president’s decision to change leadership at the top was the evaluations he received from the Rakkasan advisors, via the chain of command.

Expeditionary Advisory Packages are not a new concept, Burris said. One or two were tried in 2015 and more in 2016. What’s new, he said, was the frequency in which they were used during the last year.

In all, the U.S. advise mission

has succeeded, he said, with Afghans taking the lead and even coordinating elements of their air force and army to provide close-air ground support and targeting strikes. “They’ve made great strides integrating their air and ground,” Burris said.

PROUD OF HIS SOLDIERS

For his part, Burris said he’s especially proud of the work his Soldiers have done in Afghanistan and that he’s grateful for the good training the Army has provided them at the Joint Combat Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana, before they deployed.

In particular, he singled out the decisive action training they received that emphasized the fundamentals for surviving on the battlefield when it becomes kinetic.

The saddest time in Afghanistan, he said, was when three of his noncommissioned officers were killed and one wounded during an incident June 10, just a month before the Rakkasans were scheduled to return home.

Burris said a few junior Soldiers who survived the initial attack entered the building where the attack occurred, took out the terrorist and effected an extraction. That initiative from Soldiers who were not even NCOs is indicative of the training and Army values they had, he said.

News Briefs

POW/MIA ceremony

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

Clinic closure

Lyster Army Health Clinic will close at noon Wednesday for training.

Gold Star Family Luminary Service

Fort Rucker will host a Gold Star Mother’s Day and Family Day Luminary Service Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel. The mission of the Gold Star Luminary Initiative is to promote awareness of Gold Star Family Day, and urge organizations and individuals in communities throughout the United States to light luminaries at dusk on the last Sunday of each September in honor of the nation’s fallen heroes, according

to survivor outreach services officials.

For more information, call 255-9637.

CIF closure

The Fort Rucker Central Issue Facility will close Sept. 25-29 for a 100-percent, wall-to-wall inventory. Normal hours will resume Oct. 2.

For more information, call 255-1095.

Change of command

The 1st Warrant Officer Company will host a change of command ceremony Oct. 13 at 1 p.m. at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. CW4 Olga Elliott will assume command from CW4 Jerry D. White.

AAFES restaurants open to visitors, employees

While Army and Air Force Exchange Service shopping privileges are only

open to Soldiers, Airmen and their families, anyone can dine in Fort Rucker Exchange restaurants or pick up grab-and-go fare from Express locations. Army Regulation 215-8/Air Force Instruction 34-211 (I) lets anyone – including visitors, contractors and Department of Defense civilians – dine at the exchange’s more than 1,600 restaurants worldwide. The regulation also authorizes anyone to buy grab-and-go food and beverages from one of the exchange’s 300-plus Express locations as long as the items are consumed on the installation.

“Whether you work on the installation or are just visiting a military family member, the Exchange has you covered with a variety of satisfying meal options,” said Ralph Kleemann, Fort Rucker Exchange general manager. “With numerous better-for-you options in both the food court and Express, the

exchange proves you don’t have to wait until you’re off-post to eat a hearty, healthy meal.”

Guidelines on who is authorized to use exchange operations are prescribed by Army Regulation 215-8/Air Force Instruction 34-211 (I) and the Armed Services Exchange Regulations, Department of Defense Instruction 1330.21.

Anyone who believes they qualify for full exchange benefits, including access to main stores, should contact the Fort Rucker Exchange at 334-503-9044.

Tobacco cessation program

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

For more information, call 255-7930.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Nation grieves with 9/11 survivors, president tells Pentagon victims' families

By Terri Moon Cronk
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON – When the United States came under attack Sept. 11, 2001, Americans turned their sorrow “into an unstoppable resolve to achieve justice” in the names of the fallen, President Donald J. Trump said Monday’s Pentagon 9/11 Memorial observance.

“It was the worst attack on our country since Pearl Harbor, and even worse because this was an attack on civilians – innocent men, women and children whose lives were taken so needlessly,” the commander in chief said.

Trump noted that for the more than 300 family members at the Pentagon anniversary, not a single day goes by when they don’t think about the loved ones stolen from their lives.

“Today, our entire nation grieves with you and with every family of those 2,977 innocent souls who were murdered by terrorists 16 years ago,” he said.

“The [sanctified] grounds on which we stand today are a monument to our national unity and to our strength,” Trump said. “For more than seven decades, the Pentagon has stood as a global symbol of American might – not only because of the great power contained within these halls, but because of the incredible character of the people who fill them. They secure our freedom, they defend our flag and they support our courageous troops all around the world.”

Among the 184 Americans who perished at the Pentagon were young enlisted service members, dedicated civil servants who had worked in the Pentagon for decades and veterans who served the U.S. in Korea, Vietnam and the



PHOTO BY AIR FORCE TECH. SGT. BRIGITTE N. BRANTLEY

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, First Lady Melania Trump and President Donald J. Trump face the flag during the 9/11 Observance Ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., Monday.

Middle East, he said, adding that all of them loved their nation and pledged their lives to protect it.

“That September morning, each of those brave Americans died as they had lived: as heroes doing their duty and protecting us and our country. We mourn them, we honor them and we pledge to never, ever forget them,” Trump said.

Trump also paid tribute to those who boarded American Airlines Flight 77 at Washington Dulles International Airport that morning, minutes before it slammed into the Pentagon’s west side.

“Every one of them had a family, a story and beautiful dreams. Each of them had people they loved and who loved them back.

And they all left behind a deep emptiness that their warmth and grace once filled so fully and so beautifully,” he said.

The living, breathing soul of America wept with grief for every life taken on that day, Trump said. “We shed our tears in their memory, pledged our devotion in their honor, and turned our sorrow into an unstoppable resolve to achieve justice in their name.”

The terrorists who attacked the United States thought they could incite fear and weaken the spirit of the nation, he noted, adding, “But America cannot be intimidated, and those who try will soon join the long list of vanquished enemies who dared to test our

mettle.”

Terrorists tried to break Americans’ resolve when they attacked the Pentagon, Trump said, adding, “But where they left a mark with fire and rubble, Americans defiantly raised the Stars and Stripes – our beautiful flag, that for more than two centuries has graced our ships, flown in our skies and led our brave heroes to victory after victory in battle – the flag that binds us all together as Americans who cherish our values and protect our way of life.”

Woven into the American flag is the story of the nation’s resolve, he said.

“We have overcome every challenge -- every single challenge,

every one of them -- we’ve triumphed over every evil, and remained united as one nation under God. America does not bend. We do not waver. And we will never, ever yield,” Trump said.

At the Pentagon 9/11 memorial, he said, with hearts both sad and determined, the nation honors every hero who keeps Americans safe and free, and they pledge to work together, to fight together, and to overcome together every enemy and obstacle in the country’s path.

“Our values will endure,” Trump said. “Our people will thrive. Our nation will prevail. And the memory of our loved ones will never, ever die.”

SecDef honors Pentagon’s fallen, survivors, families 16 years after 9/11

By Cheryl Pellerin
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON – During a Pentagon remembrance Monday on the 16th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford honored those who died, the survivors and the families left behind.

On that day, 184 people lost their lives in the halls of the Pentagon and on American Airlines Flight 77, Dunford said in remarks he made before introducing the secretary.

“Sixteen years ago, when terrorists attacked the Pentagon, the World Trade Center and as they attempted other attacks in Washington, D.C., they did so with a sense of purpose. They were attacking symbols that reflect our way of life and our values,” the general said.

The terrorists believed that the attacks would shake U.S. commitment to those values, he added, and quoted then-President George W. Bush, who hours after the attacks said the terrorists thought they could frighten Americans into chaos and retreat. But they were wrong.

RENEWED COMMITMENT

“Instead of retreat, the tragedy of 9/11 produced in us an unyielding resolve,” Dunford said. “Instead of hopelessness, mourning turned into action. And we have strengthened our commitment to the idea that the freedom of many should never be endangered by the hatred of a few.”

Recalling the events of 9/11, the general said that it’s appropriate for those who still serve the nation to remember and honor those who died, those who still suffer from injuries sustained that day and those who were left behind.

“If we truly want to honor those remembered today, each of us will walk away from this ceremony with a renewed sense of commitment to our values in the cause of freedom,” he said. “Each of us will walk away from this simple ceremony reminded that the war is not over and that further sacrifice will be required, and each of us will walk away with resolve to strengthen our personal commitment to protect their family, friends and fellow citizens from another 9/11.”

BOUNDLESS COMPASSION

In his remarks, Mattis welcomed the 306 family members gathered at the Pentagon to remember their loved ones lost 16 years ago.

“We are here to honor those 2,977 lives claimed by the brutal attacks of Sept. 11,



PHOTO BY AIR FORCE TECH. SGT. BRIGITTE N. BRANTLEY

Pentagon workers unfurl a large American flag over the west side of the Pentagon at sunrise Monday on the 16th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

2001 – the men and women who woke that day, never anticipating an attack on their place of work or against this country, innocents who hailed from 90 nations and all walks of life,” the secretary said.

Heroism and compassion were boundless on 9/11, he added. Patriots from all backgrounds and all walks of life responded with speed, courage and compassion.

“In the aftermath of the attack,” Mattis said, “our service members – our nation – rallied together as one. For, while we had never asked for this fight, we are steadfastly committed to seeing it through, as President [Donald J.] Trump has made abundantly clear, and with no more temporizing, as our example of leadership galvanized other nations to stand united against this threat to all humankind.”

The secretary said that “maniacs” disguised in false religious garb thought that hurting Americans would scare them that day.

“But we Americans are not made of cotton candy, we are not seaweed drifting in the current, we are not intimidated by our enemies,” the secretary added.

“And Mr. President, your military does not scare,” Mattis told Trump, who also spoke at the ceremony.

PROTECT AND DEFEND

The men and women of America’s armed forces have signed a blank check to protect

the American people and to defend the constitution, a check payable with their lives, Mattis said.

“Your military stands ready and confident to defend this country, this experiment in democracy,” the general added. “And we will continue to do so using all means necessary and as long as necessary.”

On this 16th anniversary of 9/11, Mattis

said, “We remember the loss of so many in New York City, in a somber field in Pennsylvania, and here in this very building behind me, and in many battles since. And some of those battles are still raging.”

To the families of those who perished, the secretary added, “The loss you have endured drives us in our mission today and every day.”

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EMERGENCY RESPONSE

DOD continues coordinated Hurricane Irma response efforts

By Defense Media Activity
Staff Report

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department has naval, air and ground assets ready to initiate response operations in Florida Tuesday and will continue Hurricane Irma response operations throughout the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico region, DOD spokesman Lt. Col. Jamie Davis said Tuesday in a statement.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Northern Command and the Coast Guard are closely coordinating on the management of air assets to maximize the effective unity of effort, he said. DOD will complete the evacuation of U.S. citizens from St. Martin in the British Virgin Islands today, coordinate evacuation of U.S. citizens from other British Virgin Islands, and will provide humanitarian assistance – water, sanitation, logistics support, movement of disaster relief personnel, and humanitarian commodities movement – in response to State Department requests.

FEMA estimates that nearly 5 million people -- 34 percent of the state's population -- are without power in Florida. The main water line into the Florida Keys is reported to be offline. Damage to the Keys may necessitate evacuation of the 10,000 persons who did not evacuate before the storm.

VIRGIN ISLANDS AND PUERTO RICO

- About 4,600 service members are supporting relief operations in the region.
- The amphibious assault ships USS Wasp and USS Kearsarge – with the embarked 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit – and the dock landing ship USS Oak Hill are in the U.S. Virgin Islands transferring non-critical care patients and delivering food and water.
- The 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit will transfer British Marines in St. Croix forward to the British Virgin Islands.
- U.S. Transportation Command continues support to the St. Martin evacuation and humanitarian assistance, and the strategic lift of commodities to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.
- Army Corps of Engineers power restoration teams, debris removal experts, temporary roofing teams, and port survey personnel are on station.
- The Defense Logistics Agency is shipping commodities and large generators to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

FLORIDA

- About 10,400 service members are supporting relief operations in the region.
- The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln arrived off Florida's east coast last night with 24 helicopters and is prepared for operations in southern Florida and the Florida Keys this morning. The amphibious



PHOTO BY PFC. REGAN RIGGS

Soldiers of 1-30th Inf. Regt., 2nd IBCT, 3rd ID, prepare for Hurricane Irma, Friday at Fort Stewart, Ga.

assault ships USS Iwo Jima and USS New York were expected to arrive this morning.

- Homestead Air Reserve Base is assessed to be in good condition. The assessment of Naval Air Station Key West is ongoing.
- The Army is pre-positioning 200 High-Water Trucks to be able to rapidly support Florida Army National Guard requirements.
- U.S. Northern Command intends to establish airfields in southern Florida and support operations from the sea with air assets from the USS Iwo Jima, USS New York, USS San Jacinto and USS Abraham Lincoln.
- Army Corps of Engineers power teams, debris removal teams, temporary roofing teams and port survey personnel are on alert and ready in Florida and Georgia.
- The Defense Logistics Agency will support distribution of over 12 million meals over the next 10 days. All fuel requirements are met.

EVACUATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

- U.S. Southern Command has coordinated the evacuation of 1,904 persons – including 35 foreign nationals – over the past three days. DOD and the State Department plan to evacuate all remaining U.S. citizens requesting evacuation today.
- Overnight, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis approved a State Department request to evacuate U.S. citizens from the British Virgin Islands.

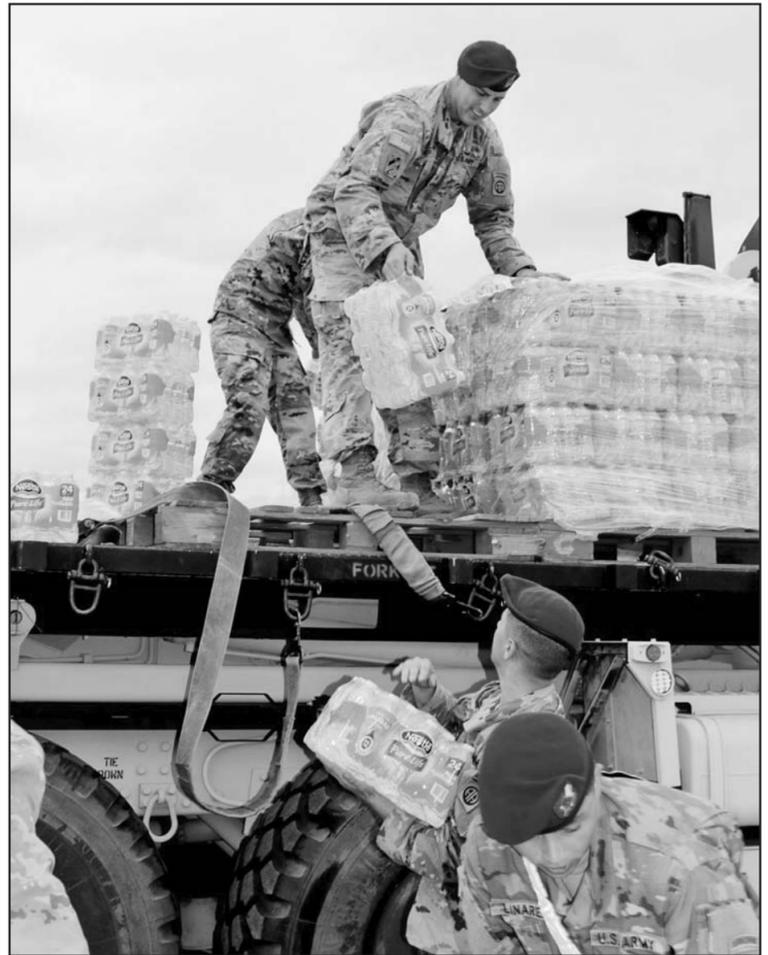


PHOTO BY PFC. REGAN RIGGS

Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Div. and the 82nd Airborne Div. Sustainment Bde. load supplies in preparation for supporting missions for Hurricane Irma relief.

Almost 10,000 Army personnel engaged in Irma response, relief operations

Defense Media Activity
Staff Report

WASHINGTON – The Total Army, which includes active duty, Reserve and Army National Guard personnel, remains involved in or prepared to support state, territory and other federal agencies as part of Hurricane Irma relief operations, Army spokesman Col. Patrick Seiber said Sunday.

“Governors are best postured to determine the needs of their residents and establish response priorities,” he said. The state governors are using Army National Guardsmen to help meet those needs.

“The Army has pre-positioned or is in the process of positioning equipment and personnel in the affected areas to ensure adequate resources are readily available if needed,” Seiber added.

As of 5 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time Sunday, the Total Army response includes the following:

- The Army response for Hurricane Irma involves more than 9,900 soldiers and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civilians in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S.
- The Army has six aircraft, about 500 trucks and more than 80 generators committed to relief efforts with more than 150 aircraft, almost 600 generators, 150 boats and nearly 3,000 trucks

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SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

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ARMY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

on standby to support response efforts if called upon.

- Army National Guardsmen from Florida, South Carolina, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are on State Active Duty status and are either responding or prepared to respond to each governor's priorities. Additionally, Army National Guard units in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas

are conducting routine inactive-duty training that they will utilize to prepare for a Hurricane Irma response if required.

- The Army Corps of Engineers is already working in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to assist with power restoration efforts and have teams on standby to assist in Florida if needed. The Corps is also monitoring con-

ditions at the Herbert Hoover Dike around the waters of Lake Okeechobee, Florida, and will continue to provide expert status updates.

- The Army also has active-duty officers assigned with Federal Emergency Management Agency Regions II, IV, and V Headquarters to provide expert military advice on storm response efforts.

Soldier, former New York EMT recalls 9/11

By Bob Reinert
USAG Natick Public Affairs

NATICK, Mass. — When his fiancée woke him up in their tiny apartment on that September morning 16 years ago, Chris Knox couldn't understand why she wouldn't let him sleep.

Knox had spent the previous evening at the New York City Fire Department's EMS Academy in Bayside, Queens, and he was tired. When she turned the TV to Channel 11, however, he saw why: a plane had struck the north tower of the World Trade Center in Lower Manhattan.

"Mayhem, just mayhem," Knox recalled. "So, I jumped in the car ... and I jumped on the (Long Island Expressway), blue light flashing all the way into Fort Totten, where the academy was."

Eventually, Knox, then 20 years old, and the other academy students, just days away from graduation, were assigned to do triage near the attack site. Now a 36-year-old Army staff sergeant and Research Support Division NCOIC at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine at Natick Soldier Systems Center, Knox well remembers how that day unfolded.

On their way into Lower Manhattan, the EMTs had to cross the Brooklyn Bridge.

"There wasn't a car on the bridge," Knox said. "It was just filled with people on both sides walking into Brooklyn. It was crazy. You've never seen that before."

The triage site was equally surreal, and no one came through for



PHOTO BY DAVID KAMM

Staff Sgt. Chris Knox of the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine was a New York City Fire Department EMT on 9/11.

treatment.

"The air was smoky," Knox said. "We all wanted to go down (to the site). It just felt like not being able to do anything was driving everyone insane. It was pretty intense."

Finally, they were allowed to move closer to Ground Zero to help evacuate people and offer them masks so that they could breathe more easily in the dusty conditions. Knox never reached the site on that day, but later when

he did, President George W. Bush had already visited, and the large American flag was on display.

"Cried like a baby," Knox said. "Lost friends. Lost peers."

Knox spent a great deal of time there in the coming days, weeks

and months.

"You worked your eight-hour shift and then you went to the site," Knox said. "Very rarely did you not do two tours in a day."

While at the World Trade Center site, Knox drove a small, red utility vehicle around the rubble as construction workers sifted through it.

"It's just a very sobering experience, being a 20-year-old kid and being involved as I was," Knox said. "It just blew my mind that this could happen. It's definitely an experience that I wish I didn't have to experience — driving that little ... Gator and picking up body parts."

"(The remains) would go back to a forensic lab that was onsite there, and they would identify who it was. And that was what we did the whole time."

Knox had grown up in Farmingville, New York, in a family of volunteer firefighters, himself included. But he was also an Army Reserve member on 9/11 and he went on active duty a year later.

"I always knew I wanted to serve in one capacity or another," said Knox, who has deployed twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan. "I don't regret my choices at all. I love what I do now."

Time has taken away some of the sting of 9/11 for Knox, but he still carries it with him.

"New York has definitely not forgotten. That's for sure," Knox said. "I think one of the biggest things that really struck me, and that I remember to this day, is the outpouring from the community."

"It showed the strength of New York and what New York is really about."

Committed

Continued from Page A1

Europe, he said, units are stretched from Estonia to Romania.

Gayler, who participated in Operation Desert Storm, recalled that, at that time, Army aviation consisted of about 9,000 helicopters. Today, that number is less than 4,000.

The Army of today, Gayler said, is doing a lot of heavy lifting with a lot less rotor-winged lifting power.

Looking ahead, Gayler said he sees those commitments continuing to grow in coming years, even though the Army's budget took a nose-dive following sequestration and with eight years of back-to-back continuing resolutions.

Maj. Gen. John A. George, who serves as director of force development with the Army G-8, put into context the effect of continuing resolutions on Army Aviation.

Continuing resolutions, he said, "mean we have to operate at the previous year's funding level. It prohibits us from starting new programs. It stops us from entering useful multi-year contracts. And, it prohibits increasing production rates or reprogramming funds. For Army Aviation, that's 18 new starts and eight production rate

increases that will not happen in FY18."

Gayler said as a result of continuing resolutions, and with the effects of the 2011 Budget Control Act that produced sequestration, Army Aviation's buying power "has come down almost 42 percent since 2012. We absolutely have to address that, as it gives little room to fund readiness today and modernization for the future."

FIELDING OBSOLESCENCE

The Army currently has no new programs in the works for Aviation — that is, there are no completely new aircraft systems planned for the Army.

But even if there were new programs in the works, Gayler said that historically as new programs make their way through the various phases of development and acquisition to eventual production, it can take 40 years to completely field a new system.

In effect, as technology progresses, "we are fielding obsolescence," he candidly said.

The mindset needs to change to "introducing new capability, not replacing legacy systems," he said.

Currently, with the Army not buying new helicopters,

the strategy is to make incremental improvements to existing platforms, he said.

One of the problems with that approach is that the increments usually require that the helicopter be taken off the flight line and sent to the manufacturer for the install.

That process is bringing U.S. Army Forces Command "to its knees," he said. He explained that the non-availability of those aircraft means that combatant commanders don't have the lift needed to perform essential missions.

The solution, he said, is for the Army to insist on "plug and play" standards that allow increments to be installed without taking the aircraft away from its unit.

If and when the Army does get the funds needed to acquire new aircraft, Gayler said the requirements should be flexible enough to do a smart cost-benefit analysis of the tradeoffs that result in an effective aircraft that may not be perfect in terms of everything — range, speed, lift, size, fuel consumption, survivability, lethality and cost.

The entire range of capabilities need to be understood in the context of the threats and future threats, rather than single variables, he said.

Respect

Continued from Page A1

Engineering Directorate and change the maintenance manual. Multiply that times 650 helicopters and that's a ton of fixing. But we fix them in accordance with the maintenance manual in all cases. Now the entire Army gets the benefit. You have to respect the process.

The GFR office samples the fleet, with both contractors and government reporting in, he added. "I supervise the efforts of the entire command to ensure surveillance oc-

curs in returning aircraft to service."

There is a lot of communication that comes in to the GFR, said Doudna. The GFR then weighs out that communication to determine if engineering needs to be brought in, or if the process is correct. But the entire command conducts surveillance and reports.

"Nobody wakes up and says they are going to go in to work and do the wrong thing. They want to do the right thing, but stumble into the wrong thing by error," he said. "I am just holding the line. There is

no line held stronger by the GFR than that doctrinal line that holds the contractor to fixing aircraft in accordance with doctrinal requirements."

Dudna retired at the end of August, but prior to that, he said he was confident the mission would continue on just fine without him.

"I have fastidiously crew coordinated and trained my team, so that when I retire, after 47 years of total government service, I will lift my finger out of the pond and it will not create a ripple. I made sure every

one of these guys are a world class person of their trade — whether it is GFR or GGFR. It will be an uninterrupted event when I depart."

He said the GFR office does its job so well "that we standardize the Army. Aviation/Missile Resources Assessment and Analysis came here three times to see how we do things, so that they can go out and better standardize the world."

"I can't think of a higher calling than to fix aircraft doctrinally correct," said Doudna. "You have to respect the process."

Oktoberfest

Continued from Page A1

something everyone can enjoy.

"This will be the third year we will have a Volkswagen 'Show N Shine' with several vintage Volkswagens," she added. "We will have inflatables, rides, ponies, games, crafts, pumpkins and much more for the kids. The German food and music is always enjoyed by all."

Oktoberfest will feature live German music; traditional German food, including bratwurst and schnitzel; a keg toss competition; a Volkswagen Show & Shine; inflatables for children; a pumpkin patch; craft activities; and more.

Another new addition to this year's event, according to Avila, will be a root beer garden for children and a separate garden for adults. Although the event is open to public, visitors must possess a military ID or obtain a gate access pass prior to the event.

"Visitors to the installation must have a visitors pass to enter the installation unescorted," Avila said. "People can obtain a visitor's pass from one of the two visitor control centers located at the Daleville and Ozark gates."

The Daleville VCC is open Mondays-Sundays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the Ozark VCC is open Mondays-Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Be sure to bring a valid driver's license in addition to the gate access pass," she added. "Give yourself plenty of time to get through the gates and also to get a gate access pass, if needed."

The event is free, but vendors will be present to sell food and refreshments. Vendors only accept cash and ATMs will be available on site. Coolers, backpacks, pets, glass containers, weapons, bicycles, scooters, roller blades and skateboards are prohibited.

In the event of inclement weather, the event will relocate to The Landing from 4:30-9:30 p.m.

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IN THIS WEEK'S COMMUNITY SECTION.

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104 YELLOWLEAF: Charming 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom home with a bonus room and the large backyard offers space for your recreational vehicles. Located close to Fort Rucker, schools, and shopping. **SOMMER RAKES 406-1286**

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34 ASHLEY: Lovely home on a quiet street in Level Plains is located near Fort Rucker and shopping, only minutes from Enterprise and the Dothan Metro Area. Open layout of grand room with fireplace and dining area complete a relaxing setting for meals, entertaining or sharing updates of the day's activities. Security system wiring in place. Electrical system wiring installed for hot tub. Spacious back yard with screened-in porch is just right for entertaining, relaxing, or other outdoor activities. **MARGE SIMMONS 477-1962**

DALEVILLE • \$64,500



124 CR 442: Only about ten miles to Wal-Mart, but on the road to the beach, this three bedroom, one bath home is situated on two lots (almost 2 acres). It has laminated wood and tile flooring except for the bathroom which is ceramic tile. All appliances to remain to include the washer and dryer (no warranty on W/D). There are still a few electric wall heaters that are working, but a central heating and cooling system had been added. Well is in shed along with a separating wall for storage. Plenty of room for an RV. **EVELYN HITCH 406-3436**

13 +/- ACRES • \$79,900



9195 PALM: Are you looking for that private GET AWAY, but don't want to have to travel too far, then STOP because this is IT! Just on the outskirts of the City of Geneva, you have city water and Alabama Power for electric, and the utilities are underground with your own transformer close to the property. Three bedroom, two bath manufactured home with eat-in kitchen, living room and laundry with washer and dryer. 13 +/- acres of wooded land with all kinds of trees, hardly any pines and a small creek on the property. **EVELYN HITCH 406-3436**

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186 COMMONS: Come see this 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse! Featuring a tiled entry/foyer area, stainless steel appliances in the kitchen and beautiful white cabinetry throughout. This move-in ready home is only minutes from Fort Rucker, local shopping and dining. **SOMMER RAKES 406-1286**

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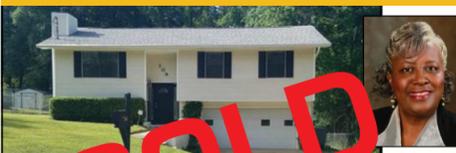


2577 HWY 84: ELBA: This two story 2400+/- sq. ft. renovated 3/3 is county living at its best. Sits on approx. 5 acres, huge barn and an additional shed. The home is beautiful, unique and private, A MUST SEE!! **EDITH HALL 470-330-5959**

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5401 S HIGHWAY 27: Don't miss this great buy. GRAB A COUPLE OF ROCKING CHAIRS AND ENJOY THE VIEW!! location, just outside of town!! 2 storage sheds, the blue shed will not stay. **PROPERTY BEING SOLD AS IS. FRAN & DON KALTENBAUGH 790-5973**



109 LEIGH: This lovely home in a neighborhood minutes from Fort Rucker has a large dining area and 3 bedrooms on the main level. Spacious room in the basement, with a 1/2 bath could be used as a 4th bedroom, has no windows. Replaced 2011 with 30-year architectural shingles. Six-inch wide gutters with debris screen installed. Air conditioning unit replaced 2010, new carpet 2017, staircase rebuilt in 2016. Spacious back yard, privacy from trees in back and side of the 1/2 +/- acre lot. **MARGE SIMMONS 477-1962**

NEW LISTING • \$359,500



103 GRAYSON: This beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home is located on a cul-de-sac in Gateway Estates with access to 3 lakes. The kitchen has everything! Kraftmaid kitchen cabinets (all pull out drawers), Bosch appliances, double oven, gas cook top, walk-in pantry. The master bath has a very large walk-in closet and sit down built-in vanity. A large bonus room is perfect for family recreation and hobbies. Enjoy your coffee on the screened in porch or the pergola and arbor overlooking the pool. New liner/salt water system. **TEXT TERRI 406-2072**



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HELPING HANDS

Task Force Iron Eagles brings Aviation to Hurricane Harvey relief efforts

By Capt. Tyson Friar
1st Armored Division
Combat Aviation Brigade

SAN ANTONIO — Establishing at Kelly Airfield near San Antonio, the 1st Armored Division Combat Aviation Brigade brought the 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, a general support Aviation battalion, with CH-47 Chinooks and UH-60 Black Hawks for transporting supplies and personnel, and HH-60 helicopters capable of providing medical evacuations with medically trained crews and equipped with a hoist and gear ideal for search and rescue operations.

The 3-501st Avn. Regt. also provided over 40 of its Soldiers

and additional UH-60 Black Hawks, bolstering the capabilities of the 2-501st Avn. Regt.

“We are a nation of helpers,” Lt. Col. Chris Chung, the commander of the 2-501st AVN, said. “And this battalion and brigade deployed forward is just a reflection of that.”

Over 90 personnel from the CAB’s 127th Aviation Support Battalion provided the backbone support vital to sustain the helicopters. The 127th ASB’s expert technicians provide maintenance, communications and refueling capabilities, ensuring that each helicopter remains prepared to conduct each assigned mission.

“We are proficient at what we do,” Spc. Ryan Brandman, an

avionic and survivability equipment repairer with the 127th ASB said. “We focus on our mission of maintaining aircraft, so that they can focus on their mission of flying out.”

The CAB’s headquarters also arrived not only to facilitate the operations of its internal units, but also to lead one of the Aviation task forces for the relief efforts. The 7-158th Avn. Regt. of the 11th Expeditionary CAB, and the Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14 (HM-14) which is a Navy helicopter squadron from Norfolk, Virginia, flying the MH-53E Sea Dragon, joined the organic elements of the CAB to form Task Force

SEE IRON EAGLES, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY CAPT. TYSON FRIAR

CH-47 Chinooks take on 13,440 packaged meals from FEMA at Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio, Sept. 5. The meals were delivered to officials in Orange, Texas, for distribution to flood victims following Hurricane Harvey.



LICENSED TO CARRY

PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. TODD POULIOT

Two UH-60 Black Hawks from the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, sling-load howitzers during an air assault demonstration Aug. 25 at Fort Campbell, Ky. The demonstration, performed by the 101st CAB and instructors of The Sabalauski Air Assault School, was open to the public as part of the division’s 75th anniversary celebration.

2-17th Cavalry takes reins of Task Force Saber



PHOTO BY CAPT. STEPHEN JAMES

Soldiers from C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 17th U.S. Cavalry Regiment perform inspections and maintenance on an AH-64E Apache at Qayyarah West Airfield, Iraq, Sept. 2.

By Capt. Stephen James
29th Combat Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs

TAJI MILITARY COMPLEX, Iraq — The 4th Squadron, 6th U.S. Cavalry Regiment transferred authority to the 2nd Squadron, 17th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, which will take the reins for Task Force Saber in the fight against ISIS.

The 2-17th Cav., from the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade (Air Assault), became the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade’s primary attack and reconnaissance squadron for Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve, in Erbil, Iraq, following the successful conclusion of the 4-6th Cav.’s mission Aug. 29.

The 2-17th Cav. will provide an at-

SEE SABER, PAGE B4

Day or night, 3-10th GSAB ready to fly, fire

By Pfc. Nicholas Vidro
7th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

LIELVARDE AIR BASE, Latvia — Soaring through the sky, the Soldiers of 3rd General Aviation Support Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, embarked on one of their last training exercises, flying to Adazi Training Area Sept. 8 to participate in a day-night aerial gunnery.

The Soldiers of the 3-10th GSAB were brought to Latvia for Atlantic Resolve, a NATO mission between the U.S. and its European allies and partners to promote peace and ensure stability across eastern Europe.

The platoon leader of 3rd Platoon, B Company, 3-10th GSAB, 1st Lt.

SEE 3-10TH, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY PFC. NICHOLAS VIDRO

Spc. Ivan Yagi, a crew chief with B Co., 3-10th GSAB, 10th CAB, 10th Mountain Div., takes aim at targets on an artillery range during an aerial gunnery table at Adazi Training Area, Latvia, Sept. 8.

ON DECK

UH-60 pilots conduct deck-landing practice in Arabian Gulf

By Staff Sgt. Jeremy Miller
For Army News Service

ARABIAN GULF, Kuwait — Wisconsin, Michigan and Texas Army National Guard Soldiers with the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade conducted deck-landing qualifications with two UH-60 Black Hawks aboard the U.S. Naval Ship Alan Shepard Aug. 9 in the Arabian Gulf.

Soldiers from B Company, 1st Brigade, 147th Air Assault Helicopter Battalion, Michigan National Guard; Headquarters Co., 1st Brigade, 147th Air Assault Helicopter Battalion, Wisconsin National Guard; and the 2nd Brigade, 149th General Support Aviation Battalion, Texas National Guard successfully completed an integral part of the Black Hawk crew’s training regimen in the Middle East.

To maintain proficiency, the crews must complete a total of 10 landings, five day and five night-vision landings on a ship deck every month. The qualifications are necessary to ensure perishable skills are not lost and Aviation crewmembers are able to support maritime missions.

The danger involved includes air turbulence from the Black Hawk pushed downward onto a rolling ocean. Also, the pilots must negotiate the deck landing onto a ship moving at about 7 knots with a surface area barely larger than the aircraft.

Before the mission took off, the crew reviewed the safety brief, emphasizing water-borne emergency operations, and conducted final pre-flight checks. Capt. Lucas Sivertson, 2-149th operations assistant, says a large part of their success is the crew’s thorough preparation and attention to safety protocol.

“We review emergency water operations because we want to prepare for the worst case scenario,” said Sivertson.

Some Soldiers were able to take a tour of the ship and speak with USNS Alan Shepard’s captain, Capt. Scott Christofferson, while waiting for DLQ to begin.

“We’re happy to help the Army train when at all possible,” said Christofferson. “It helps our landing crew, as well, and it’s a great day on the water to do it.”



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. JEREMY MILLER

Soldiers assigned to 1st Bde., 147th Air Assault Helicopter Bn., and the 2nd Bn., 149th GSAB, 29th CAB conduct a deck landing qualification with a UH-60 Black Hawk on U.S. Naval Ship Alan Shepard Aug. 9 in the Arabian Gulf.



Soldiers with the 29th CAB conduct a deck landing qualification.

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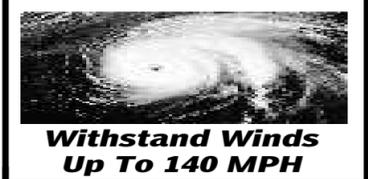
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Iron Eagles

Continued from Page B1

Iron Eagles. The Task Force is led by the CAB commander, Col. Jay Hopkins, Command Sgt. Maj. James Hall, and the command chief warrant officer, CW5 Steve Donahue.

The CAB was selected to deploy in support of the relief efforts not just because of its capabilities, but also since it's currently in an on-call status for responding to such emergencies within the continental United States. Not only did the CAB begin moving east in less than 24 hours, but the 2-501st Avn. Regt. and members of the 127th ASB completed a month-long rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California, and proceeded directly to the hurricane response.

"Our ability to transition from one mission to the next when called upon challenged us,"



PHOTO BY CAPT. TYSON FRIAR

Maintenance crews from the 127th ASB and the 2-501st Avn. Regt. deployed to Kelly Airfield, San Antonio, for the Hurricane Harvey relief effort to ensure each helicopter in the brigade remains prepared to fly every mission received.

Chung said. "But it also demonstrated that we have the ability, leaders and Soldiers to accomplish it, even at short notice."

Task Force Iron Eagles transported over 600,000 pounds of blankets, cots, food and water to areas cut off by the flooding.

The Black Hawks flew leaders to the devastated regions, allowing them to survey the disaster and better plan recovery efforts. C Co., 2-501st Avn. Regt. provided recovery and medical assistance.

Sept. 1st, C Co. responded to

a rescue of a man with renal failure requiring emergency care. Cut off by flooding, emergency responders were unable to assist him. Due to trees in the area, the crew from C Co. lowered a hoist, and the onboard medic preformed care as they rapidly

moved him to the hospital, where he made his recovery.

CW3 Venancio Hernandez, a pilot for this rescue, said, "To be able to help even one person is worth the deployment."

The most remarkable event for C Co. came with a call for baby formula. While not appearing to be the high-risk mission it was classified as, the unit assumed the task and departed at 2 a.m. The crew later learned that the child hadn't eaten for a while and only had an estimated two hours to live.

While the delivery to the hospital would have taken local officials three hours, C Co. completed it in a little over 10 minutes, saving the child's life.

"It's humbling to see the disaster and effects of the devastation," said CW3 Jonathan Calise, a pilot on the flight. "But it's an honor to participate and help out on American soil."

Saber

Continued from Page B1

tack helicopter and tactical unmanned aircraft system capability to the coalition ground forces supporting OIR over the coming months, said Lt. Col. Cayton Johnson, 2-17th Cav. squadron commander.

In addition to its normal AH-64E Apaches and RQ-7Bv2 Shadows, the 2-17th Cav. will employ UH-60M Black Hawks, CH-47F Chinooks and HH-60M aeromedical

evacuation helicopters in OIR as part of its new role as Task Force Saber.

This isn't the first time that the 29th CAB and the 2-17th Cav. have worked together. The 2-17th Cav. participated in the 29th CAB's culminating training event at Fort Hood, Texas, prior to the current deployment in the Middle East.

"We welcome the 2-17th Cav. back to the 29th CAB and know that they will serve well as Task Force Saber," said Col. Mark Beckler, the 29th CAB commander.

The 2-17th Cav. is already executing missions in OIR. Wherever the battle shifts, Task Force Saber will be there, the commander added.

The 29th CAB, an Army National Guard brigade, provides Aviation assets, offensive strike capability, logistical and operational support to Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve, while simultaneously providing interoperability training and Aviation support to Operation Spartan Shield in Kuwait.

3-10th

Continued from Page B1

Adam Kunkle, explained the facets involved in working with others and in remaining tactically proficient.

"This is a mandatory proficiency test and qualification of weapons. Additionally, it was an opportunity to work with and use host nation resources that have been provided to us. This had us working on coordination efforts with Latvian forces, as well as the Canadian Enhanced Forward Presence group on this base," he said.

The training was a chance for the helicopter crews of UH-60 Black Hawks and CH-47 Chinooks to showcase their ability

to work together in assessing threats on the battlefield. The teams hovered around the range, prepping their gunners first in a dry run, so they knew what to expect later when they would come back around for the live-fire portion of the exercise. While this sort of training is routine in the U.S., the change of location to Europe really gave the Soldiers something new to think about, according to Staff Sgt. Neil McCrea, the platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon.

"This specific table gives us a different perspective of the battlefield and helps challenge our Soldiers – breaking up some of that muscle memory they may have developed from ranges back home,"

he said.

After the daytime portion of the exercise, the crews had to prepare to fly and fire in the dead of night. Although it was the same course, the unfamiliarity with the darkened range would prove to be a challenge for gunners searching for their targets. McCrea detailed the challenges of firing at night.

"The visibility issue adds a little stress to the range. Without being able to see their weapon completely, Soldiers have to do certain actions by feel rather than

sight," he said.

The Soldiers of the 3-10th hope the training area will be built up into a range used by many NATO allies and partners in the future.

Kunkle expressed his thoughts on what this exercise means for NATO Allies and partners going forward.

"We're helping to develop a quickly growing range complex with the operational procedures of an allied nation and Adazi has a lot of serious potential for future operations," he said.



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SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

UH-1 HUEY

Museum showcases helicopter 'that changed the world'

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The UH-1 Huey was the helicopter that forever changed the world of Army Aviation, and stories of its versatility and significance stem from the conflict that changed how the helicopter was utilized.

The Huey became synonymous with Army Aviation after it was able to showcase its versatility in the Vietnam War, being initially utilized as a medical evacuation transport, the Army quickly realized that the aircraft's adaptability also made it a capable troop transport and gunship, according to Bob Mitchell, U.S. Army Aviation Museum curator.

One such story of the aircraft's versatility involves then-Maj. Charles Kettles, who was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, and personnel of his unit who were ambushed by the North Vietnamese army in the Song Tra Cau riverbed during the morning of May 15, 1967.

"As the story goes, they were airlifting elements of the 101st Airborne Division into a landing zone, and it became apparent over the day that the fighting was getting more and more intense," said Mitchell. "The enemy had realized what was going on and were essentially allowing them to feed more troops into what was going to be a giant ambush."

When the ambush happened, the word came in to reinforce the unit and evacuate the wounded troops, and Kettles volunteered to lead an emergency extraction team of six UH-1D helicopters into the ambush zone.

In order to safely recover the wounded Soldiers, a covering force was established to provide cover while the extraction was taking place, said Mitchell. But during the extraction, the covering force was left behind.

"There were [eight] men who were left, and after that day's battle, neither side was interested in niceties, so it was apparent that those men were going to be killed if they didn't get out of there," said the curator.

Although 44 men were extracted, Kettles was determined to not leave any of the eight troops behind, and when he'd gotten word that there were troops left in the landing zone, he disregarded his own safety and returned to rescue the remaining troops without the support of other aircraft.

"He took a door gunner and himself, and shot his approach into the LZ, and he said the enemy was stunned in utter amazement that any anybody would be stupid enough



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

The UH-1D Huey helicopter sits as a centerpiece in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

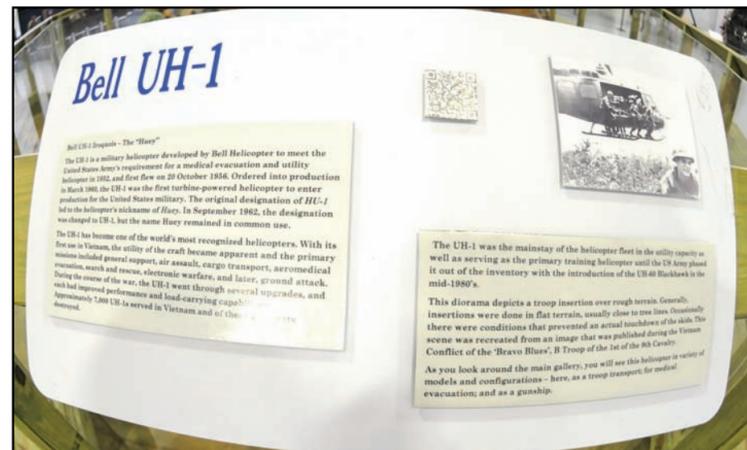


PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

The placard adorning the UH-1 display inside the U.S. Army Aviation Museum chronicles the helicopter's rich history and prominence.



ARMY PHOTO

President Barack Obama presents the Medal of Honor to retired Lt. Col. Charles Kettles for conspicuous gallantry during a ceremony at the White House July 18, 2016.

In addition to being a great medical evacuation helicopter, it was also a great troop transport and gunship. The Army really got a lot of bang for their buck out of the UH-1. If you were going to mount something on an aircraft, the first thing they looked to was the Huey because it was such a reliable machine."

— BOB MITCHELL,
U.S. ARMY AVIATION MUSEUM CURATOR

to find a single ship into that hornet's nest," said Mitchell.

While under heavy enemy fire, Kettles managed to keep control of the heavily damaged aircraft to allow the remaining Soldiers to board and save their lives.

"Kettles is doing his pilot magic and they're taking mortar rounds, and he finally gets the aircraft in the air and gets it out of there," said the curator. "The aircraft was basically shot to pieces, and he gets back, lands

and drops off the troops."

For his heroic efforts, Kettles was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama during a ceremony at the White House July 18, 2016.

"To the dozens of American Soldiers that he saved in Vietnam, half a century ago, Chuck is the reason they lived, and came home and had children and grandchildren — entire family trees, made possible by the actions of this one man," said Obama during

the ceremony.

It was the actions of Soldiers like Kettles who were able to showcase the significance and versatility of the UH-1 Huey, which became the image that most people equate with the Vietnam War, said Mitchell.

"The Huey pretty much became the Jack-of-all-trades in Vietnam," he said. "The Army realized when they were evaluating the Huey initially as a medical evacuation aircraft, that they could use the aircraft for all kinds of stuff."

"In addition to being a great medical evacuation helicopter, it was also a great troop transport and gunship," he continued. "The Army really got a lot of bang for their buck out of the UH-1. If you were going to mount something on an aircraft, the first thing they looked to was the Huey because it was such a reliable machine."

The Huey's reliability and power came from its use of a turbine jet engine, which Mitchell said made all the difference, and is why he regards it as the helicopter that changed the world.

HISTORY IN THREADS

U.S. Army Aviation Museum's patch collection tells Soldiers' stories

By Jay Mann
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

Army shoulder sleeve insignias tell a story about the Soldiers who wear them and the Soldiers who came before them.

Walking around Fort Rucker, Soldiers wear many different patches, either current unit or combat patches, but according to Bob Mitchell, curator at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum, if people want to see some strang-

er insignias that tell different stories, they need to look back at the history of Army Aviation.

"One of our really early ones is the 1105th Aero Replacement Squadron 'flying elephant' patch from WWI," said Mitch-

ell. "There are probably three or four of these original patches in existence. A veteran who lives north of here donated that patch — it is extremely rare."

"Modern day Army Aviation was not a branch until 1983," explained Mitchell. "Prior to that, the Transportation Corps had an interest in the cargo aircraft, MI [Military Intelligence] had an interest in surveillance aircraft, and the Medical Services Corps had an interest in the MedEvac [medical evacuation] aircraft. What we see as Army Aviation today was fractured into other branches of the military."

"Prior to 1983, our officers would be Armor, Infantry, or Artillery officers — that's where they would be trained. Of course, they were Aviators, too, but their primary corps was Artillery, Infantry or Armor. This led to some interesting unit patches — like you see here in the museum."

The museum maintains a collection of over 160 aircraft, many with unit insignias painted on or accompanied by unit

patches in the historical property collection.

It was normal in the past for units to just draw insignias up when units were formed, redesignated, split or combined, said Mitchell. "Like for our H-19 Chickasaws, they asked Walt Disney, a former Red Cross ambulance driver in post-WWI France, to design the insignia."

"Patches come and go," said Mitchell. "Just in the last 10 years with the global war on terrorism, I've seen a plethora of new patches created. Not only individual company patches, but also numbered unit patches. It is a constant ebb and flow when it comes to unit names, designations and patches."

Mitchell says people interested in collecting patches should just start looking. "There are lots of great stories in these patches and there are a lot of people all over the world who collect them. Just go on the internet, and there are groups who post photos of patches they find to share information and trade patches."



PHOTO BY JAY MANN

Bob Mitchell, curator at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum, points out the recurring themes in unit patches on display at the museum.

ON POST

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

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.

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.

Spouse Leadership Academy

Army Community Service will host its Spouse Leadership Academy Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center, Bldg. 8939. The academy will be a two-day forum designed to help spouses enhance their leadership capabilities, according to ACS officials. It will combine several Army Family Team Building modules, leadership classes and installation agency briefings for strengthening leadership skills. Free childcare will be available with registration by calling 255-3564. The academy will be open to spouses of section chiefs, platoon sergeants, first sergeants, sergeants major, command sergeants major, flight school and Captain Career Course students, unit commanders, battalion commanders and brigade commanders, senior leadership spouses and spouses within family readiness groups.

For registration and more information, call 255-9578 or 255-3161.

Single Parent Family Game Night

Army Community Service, and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service will host a single-parent family game night Sept. 21 from 5-7 p.m. at the post exchange food court. The event will feature free games, free food and a free movie ticket. All who pre-register will receive a voucher for a free movie at the post theater and a game to take home. Registration deadline is Monday. Registration is limited to the first 20 families. The event will be open to single parents who are active-duty or retired military, Department of Defense employees and their families. This is an initiative of the Fort Rucker Community Health Promotions Council Community Resiliency Work Group.

To register, call 255-3359 or 255-9647.

Home buying seminar

The Army Community Service Financial Readiness Program will present a home buying seminar Sept. 26 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, Rm. 282. Topics will include: why buy a house; credit history; Veterans Affairs mortgage insurance; types of mortgages; and applying for a mortgage. The discussion will be facilitated by accredited financial counselors. Pre-registration is required by Sept. 25. Free child care will be available with registration.

For more information and to register, call 255-3949 or 255-9631.

Fort Rucker Right Arm Night

The Landing Zone will host the Fort



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Fort Rucker Oktoberfest

The 15th annual Fort Rucker Oktoberfest and volksmarch is scheduled for Sept. 29 from 4:30-9:30 p.m. at the festival fields. Oktoberfest will feature live German music by Sonnenschein Express, traditional German food, a key toss competition and more – including inflatables for children, a pumpkin patch, craft activities, rides and fireworks. The volksmarch will take place from 4:30-6 p.m. Participants will receive beads and a German Oktoberfest hat as a souvenir for participating in the Volksmarch. There will be no cost to take part in the volksmarch and people can register for it at the event. Both events will be open to the public. For more information, call 255-1749 or 255-9810. Pictured is Sonnenschein Express performing at last year's event.

Rucker Right Arm Night Sept. 28 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 Sept. 28. 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.

Library book sale

Center Library will host a book sale Oct. 2. The library will be selling gently used books and other media at bargain prices, according to library officials. All proceeds will go back to the library for future programs and events.

For more information, call 255-3885.

Federal jobs workshop

Army Community Service will host its federal job workshop Oct. 5 from 8 a.m. to noon in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 284. The workshop is aimed at getting people the information they need to increase their federal employment possibilities. Participants will receive a free copy of Kathryn Troutman's "Jobseeker's Guide (7th Edition)." Registration is required two days prior to the workshop. Space is limited to the first 60 people to register and the workshop is open to authorized patrons only.

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

Care Team Training

Army Community Service will hold its Care Team training Oct. 11 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 284. As Care Team volunteers, volunteers perform a valuable role to both families of fallen and injured Soldiers, according to ACS officials. The training is given to people who are interested in being a Care Team volunteer. It is designed to give volunteers an understanding of a Care Team volunteer's responsibilities and offers guidance on how to handle issues they are likely to face.

For more information, call 255-9578.

Fall outdoor yard sale

The Fort Rucker Fall Outdoor Yard Sale is scheduled for Oct. 14 from 7-11

DFMWR SPOTLIGHT

FORT RUCKER HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

NEW MONTH 10K & 2 MILE TIMED RUN

Saturday, September 30

Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center

Entry Fee:

Pre-registration fee: \$20 by 24 September.

September 25 and up to race day: \$25.

No t-shirt registration option: \$15

Teams: Teams of 8 people pay: \$120 (\$15 per team member)

Each additional person pays normal registration fee.

On Sept 30, race day, all teams pay \$160 (\$20 per team member).

Teams must pay total amount at one time. **Competitors will receive T-shirts while supplies last T-shirts only are \$10**

Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center
(334)255-2296 or MWR Central,
(334)255-2997. EFMP Friendly
rucker.armymwr.com

a.m. on the festival fields. The event provides members of the Fort Rucker community the opportunity to buy and sell used household items in a consolidated fashion, according to organizers. The event is open to the public. Booth space fees apply to sellers. No commercial vendors allowed without a contract – call 255-1749 for details and fees. Booth cost for ID card holders (active-duty and family members, retired military, members of the Reserve, and Department of Defense civilians): 15x20 is \$25, 30x20 is \$35, and tables are \$10 each. Cost for members of the general public: 15x20 is \$35, 30x20 is \$45, and tables are \$10 each. Registration is due by Oct. 11.

People can register at MWR Central, 255-2997.

For more information, call 255-1749 or 255-9810.

International Spouses Get Together

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

For more information, call 255-3735.

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR SEPT. 14-17

Thursday, September 14

Atomic Blonde (R)7 p.m.

Friday, September 15

Annabelle: Creation (R)7 p.m.
The Dark Tower (PG-13)9:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 16

The Dark Tower (PG-13)4 p.m.
Annabelle: Creation (R)7 p.m.

Sunday, September 17

The Glass Castle (PG-13)1 p.m.
Wind River (R)4 p.m.

Oregon National Guard supports firefighting efforts for Chetco Bar Fire

By Sgt. Tyler Meister
For Army News Service

BROOKINGS, Ore. — A sky full of ash looms overhead while Oregon Army and Air National Guard members work around the clock to help contain the threats of wildfires across the state.

As of Friday, nearly 600 Oregon Guardsmen have volunteered to join the fight against the wildfires, working alongside local, state and federal agencies to battle one of the worst fire seasons in Oregon's history.

The largest of these fires, which was started by lightning strikes back in July, continues to burn Southern Oregon in the rural areas around the town of Brookings. With a total of 177,301 acres burned so far, relief crews work nonstop to contain the threat and prevent it from spreading and endangering local populations and structures.

"Everyday on the way out to the fire lines we pass through the town of Brookings and the locals are always waving at us with smiles on their faces," said Spc. Isaiah Wunische, of Estacada, a human resource specialist with 2nd Battalion, 218th Field Artillery Regiment, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "They constantly give praises and their support has rallied our troops here and helped keep morale extremely high."

Wunische said that most of the other Oregon National Guard personnel working alongside him were also called on to state active duty orders for 21 days. The first five days were spent at the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training academy in Salem receiving their certifications to go out on the fire lines and fight the fires.

"I was more than willing to come help out my state when they needed it the most and the training we received at the DPSST was great at preparing us to help our fellow Oregonians in need," said Wunische.

Ensuring our Soldiers and Airmen can remain on the fire lines has been the responsibility of medics like Sgt. K-Cee Sperry, of Molalla, a combat medic with C Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Sperry and her team have been able to triage minor medical ailments for their fellow Guardsmen at the Chetco Bar Fire, such as blisters and rolled ankles.

"This is my second time supporting the wildfire season and it has been a fantastic experience," said Sperry. "We have been resourcing with the civilian medical teams out here to ensure that all personnel and supply needs are met and the Soldiers can get back out on the fire lines ASAP to



PHOTOS BY CAPT. LESLIE REED

Julie Olsen-Fink, Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training instructor, initiates a controlled burn with a drip torch during a wild land field training exercise for more than 125 Oregon National Guard Soldiers at the DPSST facility in Salem, Ore., Aug. 28. The exercise was part of their four-day training certification before being dispatched to wild land fires across the state.

continue doing their job."

Sperry felt that challenges and experiences like this is why she and many others joined the National Guard. She said that being able to support fellow Oregonians and troops in order to give back to the community has been the most rewarding aspect of this experience.

Soldiers and Airmen from all corners of Oregon have been volunteering to help out with this year's fire season and the team at the Chetco Bar Fire has been under the leadership of the military liaison Maj. Christopher Markesino, commander of C Company, 141st Brigade Support Battalion.

A total of 240 Army and Air Guardsmen from 14 different units and squadrons have come together at the Chetco Bar Fire. Markesino said they have been able to seamlessly mesh together and do an outstanding job at working together to support the fire relief.

"The National Guard's presence here has focused on supporting the incident commander and firefighters of the city of Brookings with putting out the fire and traffic assistance points," said Markesino.

Markesino has worked side-by-side with many civil authorities in the incident command post and he said the experience has been extremely educational and fulfilling because they are very professional and supportive of the Na-



Oregon Army National Guard Soldiers work together during a wild land fire field training exercise. More than 125 Citizen-Soldiers from the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team volunteered to be a part of the second group that the Oregon Guard is deploying in support of wild land fires across the state.

tional Guard's mission there.

"I feel that we [the National Guard] are best suited to help in these types of disasters because this is our home and we will fight harder for our home than anyone else will," Markesino said. "We would not be able to do this without the support and understanding we receive from our employers and families."

Every year Oregon wildfires demand a lot from local, state and federal agencies that are in place to handle these types of disasters, but not every fire season requires

a large call-up of National Guard firefighters.

One veteran of the Oregon fire season, Adrian Torres, who works for the Oregon Department of Forestry as a wild lands fires specialist, said he has enjoyed being able to reminisce on his eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps while working with the National Guard troops during the fire seasons.

"The National Guard supporters who are here to help us have greatly relieved the work load, all while maintaining a super positive

atmosphere," said Torres. "The biggest challenge for the National Guard helpers is the stamina involved in fighting a wild fire, but it has been refreshing to see just how motivated and eager these Guardsmen have been."

More and more teams will be continuously rotating to and from the Chetco Bar Fire as the blaze continues to burn.

Markesino said that fortunately the Oregon fire season is nearing its end and Oregonians can rest easy knowing that Guardsmen are on the scene.

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.

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RIVER BY RIVER

Army Corps of Engineers working to restore Chesapeake, 1 river at a time

By Joe Lacdan
Army News Service

(Editor's note: This is the first in a three-part series on Chesapeake Bay restoration projects undertaken by the Army Corps of Engineers. The second part is on Page C5.)

GWYNN ISLAND, Virginia — On a bright, sweltering summer morning, a crane stacked clusters of granite into the brackish waters of the Piankatank River on Virginia's middle peninsula. The crane's hum broke the tranquil silence, steadily plunging the rock into a white swath of waves.

Here, hidden beneath rows of cypress and pine trees near the shores of Virginia's sparsely populated coastal plains, the Army Corps of Engineers built a \$2 million project — a 25-acre artificial reef in the lower section of the river near the Chesapeake Bay.

On the river's eastern edge where the Piankatank empties into the bay, the reef marks a small step in the hopes of creating a sustainable oyster population as part of the Chesapeake Bay Program. Corps leaders hope the restoration of the American Oyster will help resuscitate the bay and create a myriad of positive effects on the ecosystems and the Chesapeake watershed.

"We invest in oysters because it creates habitat," said Susan Conner, chief of planning for the Corps' Norfolk District. She said the goal is not just to grow oysters, but to achieve an "authentic diversity of organisms" on the bottom of the bay that oysters help bring about.

The Chesapeake originally boasted a great diversity of plant and animal life.

A BAY CHANGED

When English explorer John Smith travelled to the New World to settle what would later become Jamestown, Virginia, he marveled at the abundance of wildlife in the surrounding Chesapeake. The bay and its watershed still host more than 3,600 species of animals and plants, but about 360 are on the endangered list. The Chesapeake is the largest estuary in North America and third largest in the world, measuring in at 4,500 square miles — more than double the size of the Grand Canyon.

Smith mapped 3,000 miles of the bay and its watershed, which historians say looked much different than the Chesapeake of today. The eastern American oyster, once numbered in the millions, grew so abundant that oyster reefs were an obstacle for navigating ships.

In the three centuries since Smith's expedition, the bay has changed dramatically. The Chesapeake's once crystal clear waters has been replaced by murky brown liquid in some parts. Full of sediment, harmful minerals and a growing algae population, the bay's health and water quality has become an alarming concern. Centuries of human occupation has decimated or caused the extinction of several of the region's native species. The bay's watershed has grown in population and urbanization has crept into much of the natural habitat.

Overharvesting and pollution had already wreaked devastation on the oyster population when the MXS and Dermo bacterial diseases surfaced in the 1940s and 1950s. Then sediment and pollution flooded the bay's freshwater, threatening species dependent on the bay's unique ecosystem for survival.

"The ability to sustain the habitat and the species that rely on that habitat is why the Chesapeake Bay restoration is important," Conner said. "So we do consider it a unique watershed — a unique ecosystem within the United States. There are other ecosystems that are also unique and special but certainly Chesapeake Bay is one of those that is worth protecting."

More than 400 islands in the bay have disappeared due to erosion and rising sea levels. Several islands remain in danger including Tangier Island, located near the southeast tip of Virginia's Eastern Shore.

The project managers hope Piankatank, along with four other sites within the region, can help restore some of the depleted oyster population within the Bay. The project is part of the larger Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration effort, which began nearly 20 years ago to help return the once-plentiful oyster population back to the bay.

The Corps, whose numbers include more than 37,000 military and civilian members, has partnered with six states, the District of Columbia and the Defense Department to restore 20 Chesapeake Bay tributaries by 2025.

Recent successes still pale before the restoration work that remains. More restoration work will need to continue to im-



PHOTOS BY PATRICK BLOODGOOD

Susan Conner (center) chief of planning for the Army Corps of Engineers' Norfolk District and Col. Jason Kelly, Norfolk District commander, toss pieces of granite with their names inscribed into the Piankatank River. Kelly, Conner and other USACE staff, along with representatives of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, The Nature Conservancy, Senator Mark Warner's Office and Congressman Rob Wittman's Office visited the Piankatank River Oyster Recovery Project near Gwynn's Island, Virginia. The group signed pieces of granite and added the signed rocks to the reef as part of a dedication ceremony. The 25 acre reef will provide new sanctuary habitat for oysters in the estuary.



With the help of global positioning satellites, granite rock is methodically placed in the Piankatank River near Gwynn's Island in Mathews County, Va. The rock is the basis for the newest 25-acre oyster reef in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

prove oyster population in the bay.

"I do think it's still very critical," said Angie Sowers of the Corps' Baltimore District. "We started the ball rolling. We did not tip the scale for the system to progress on its own. Not yet."

Despite the efforts of the Corps and other government and civilian agencies, the oyster population still hovers at just 1 percent of the Bay's historic levels. The restoration is a monumental task that has drawn the interest of politicians, scientists and conservation groups.

THE PIANKATANK

Circling the barge in a small boat, three members of the Army Corps of Engineers and Andrew Button of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission gathered to discuss the project's progress and what it means for the local marine life. For nearly two months, barges have hauled 3,400-ton loads of granite from a quarry in Havre De Grace, Maryland, at the northernmost tip of the Chesapeake. Once a week, a barge made the 160-mile voyage to southern Virginia, passing through the Bay Bridge near Annapolis and winding past the southeast mouth of the Potomac before reaching Gwynn Island.

The Piankatank team began research for the project in 2014. The team used data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's analysis to map ideal locations. The Corps completed a 20-acre reef at Fishing Point and a smaller reef at Iron point. Building reefs requires meticulous planning and Conner said the Corps learned from past mistakes.

Previous reefs built by the Corps were built too deep and did not pick up the desired amount of oysters. Some reefs such as those built at Harris Creek, have been built too high and disrupted boat traffic. Harvesters have also poached oysters from Corps-built reefs illegally. Conner said that the Corps chose 12-18 inches as the ideal height for building the reefs. Four days a week for 10 hours, crews worked stacking the granite in 30-foot wide rows with 45-foot spacing between each row.

The tributary restoration projects pose a different challenge for the Corps; instead of restoring habitat from the ground up, they will be using life to restore life.

"The animal itself is the habitat," said Andrew Button, an oyster replenishment officer at the Virginia Marine Resources

Commission.

The Corps calls the oyster an "ecosystem engineer." The oysters act as a natural filter, improving water quality. A single oyster can filter 20-50 gallons of water a day, removing and trapping sediment from the bay's waters. Reducing sediment clears room for sunlight to penetrate the Chesapeake waters, which benefits plant and animal life.

Oysters are born male, but change into females as they age. The oyster's unusual anatomy allows the young oysters to latch onto the adult females.

THE WAY AHEAD

Tributary planning teams scouted 63 tributaries of the bay in both Maryland and Virginia, but decided on the 24.4-mile Piankatank because of its ample supply of oyster spat, or young oysters. The river also carried a higher concentration of oxygen than much of the Chesapeake and had fewer "dead zones" or areas with low oxygen.

Oysters, because of their unique biological composition, can survive in areas of low oxygen levels for one to two days, but their immobility can prove fatal when they

fall into a dead zone of the bay. "They can't move away from that area," Button said. "So if there's a persistent dead zone over an oyster area, you will have significant death."

The Corps and the tributary research teams also had to consider several factors: including depth, water salinity levels and hydrology (how water moves in an area). Researchers also had to check the softness of the river bottom, because the rock may sink if the surface is too soft.

Button said it will take three years to determine whether the Piankatank restoration proves to be a success. To monitor the success of the large-scale restoration reef, the Corps will dispatch a team of divers after one year to descend into the river to take water samples, measuring the oyster population size and density.

In the meantime, the Corps hopes to continue its restoration efforts in other rivers.

"We want to put enough substrate out there that we have enough oysters that we don't have to continue to build (more reefs)," Button said. "That's the goal we're working toward: How many (reefs) do we need so that population takes care of itself?"

Farther north, 23 miles up the bay at the Great Wicomico River, the Norfolk District built the world's largest restored oyster population in 2010. That is, until 2015 when the Baltimore District finished building reefs in 377 acres of Harris Creek in Talbot County, Maryland, on the western side of the Delmarva Peninsula.

The massive project proved to be a rousing success, as the Corps planted 2 billion baby spat on artificial reefs in Harris Creek. The creek now boasts 200 oysters per square meter, a level not seen for decades.

While construction has completed at Harris Creek, the Corps will continue to monitor the growth of the oyster population with more spat scheduled to be planted later this year.

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RESTORING THE BAY:

Army engineers build reefs on Maryland's Eastern Shore

By Joe Lacadan
Army News Service

(Editor's note: This article is the second one in a three-part series about Army Corps of Engineers' efforts to restore Chesapeake Bay.)

TALBOT COUNTY, Md. — Sandwiched between two peninsulas on Maryland's Eastern Shore where rural and open lands contrast the urbanization across the bay, the Army Corps of Engineers has built possibly the world's largest oyster sanctuary at Harris Creek.

Farther east in another bay tributary, the Tred Avon River, the Corps has built reefs to restore 80 acres.

And a few miles off the coast of Talbot County, the Corps is working with the Maryland Port Authority and other government agencies to restore and expand Poplar Island, a once-flourishing strip of land that saw its 1,000 acres dwindle to four over the past 170 years.

PRISTINE BAY

Talbot County, one of the earliest sites of European settlement in the New World, boasts 600 miles of coastline and a wealth of natural resources. Here, 30 miles south of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the Army Corps' Baltimore District has embarked on restoration projects to help resuscitate the Chesapeake's once-abundant oyster population and breathe life into its ecosystem.

British settlers first established Talbot County in 1662, during the middle of English colonization on the American east coast. The bay waters today contrast starkly with what the bay colonists saw.

Overharvesting, disease and a growing population in the bay's 64,000-square-mile watershed have gradually changed the water quality of the bay. The eastern or American oyster acted as a natural water filter for the 4,500-square-mile Chesapeake. But as the oyster's numbers fell, the bay's water quality suffered. In 1885, about 15 million bushels of oysters were harvested. That number fell below 100,000 in 1994 and again from 2003-2004 before rebounding to 345,621 in 2013.

Building oyster reefs not only benefits oysters, but other species such as blue crabs, according to experts.

"There's a community — an ecosystem that just lives on oyster reefs," said Susan Conner, chief of planning for the Corps' Norfolk District. "And the hard substrate along the bottom of the bay is helpful. It used to be that much of the Chesapeake Bay was covered with oysters that helped with sedimentation and it was just a different habitat than now. The Corps invests in oyster restoration for habitat quality improvement."

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement established in 2014 set a goal to restore the habitat of 10 tributaries by 2025. The Corps' Norfolk District and Baltimore District each will restore five tributaries of the bay, including the completion of a 25-acre project on Virginia's Piankatank River last month.

HARRIS CREEK

Built on the western edge of Talbot County, the 350-acre restoration site at Harris Creek has turned into a haven for new oyster populations and other aquatic life. The Corps, with the help of various Maryland-based contractors, completed the groundwork for oyster population restoration in 2016. The \$27.7-million project restored 8 percent of the creek's 4,500 acres. Corps officials hope projects like Harris Creek will create sustainable oyster populations in a bay that hosts only 1 percent of its historic levels.

"We're seeing good signs. We're seeing natural spat sets," said Angie Sowers, Integrated



PHOTO BY SARAH GROSS

Sean Fritzes, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District construction inspector, explains the interagency oyster restoration program to Josh Davidsburg, Maryland Public Television freelance reporter, during current Corps-managed mixed-shell oyster reef construction on the Tred Avon River sanctuary in Talbot County, Md., in April.



ARMY PHOTO

Crews placed granite and mixed shell (e.g., clam, quahog, etc.) as substrate materials to rebuild the oyster habitat in Harris Creek.

Water Resources specialist at the Corps Baltimore District. "We're seeing oysters surviving."

The Corps had planned to introduce new classes of oysters each year to help support the population growth. Since the project began, Sowers said the natural population growth had progressed so well that new oyster populations from outside sources were not planted until this summer.

Before the Corps began building reefs at Harris, only one site in the Chesapeake tributaries met the Corps goal of 15 oysters per square meter. After the Corps completed restoration groundwork, more than 90 percent of the 30 reefs built met that goal.

"There's 3D reefs that have not existed in the bay in a very long time," Sowers said. "That's really replacing a critical habitat that hasn't been in the system." As the Norfolk District did with the Virginia sites, the Baltimore District used data provided by National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration maps to scout the region and determine the best sites to plant the reefs. Due to limited quantities of oyster shell, the Corps used a mix of stone from a quarry at Havre De Grace, Maryland and clam shells processed in Cape May, New Jersey.

The Corps completed the initial groundwork for Harris Creek in 2016, but will continue to monitor the site.

GROWING OYSTER REEFS

The Corps will observe random points at all restoration sites, measuring and counting oysters. To collect samples at shell reefs, the Corps uses patent tongs. For stone reefs, divers must manually collect samples underwater due to the depth of the reefs.

In the Tred Avon, the NOAA planted a mix of oyster shell and rock at sites in the 17-mile tributary: one close to the river's mouth near the port town of Oxford, another at Hambleton Point

near Trippe Creek, and another at an inlet of Peachblossom Creek.

Sowers said frequent harvesting of oysters can decimate a natural oyster reef, making it necessary to create a sanctuary where oyster populations can thrive.

"(The) act of harvesting knocks a lot of that reef structure down," Sowers said. "So we wanted these reefs to be sanctuaries where they would be protected from harvesting."

Previous restoration projects prior to 2009's Executive Order 13508 suffered from illegal harvesting. President Obama signed the executive order to establish a leadership committee protecting and restoring the health of



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OYSTER RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP

The Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Maryland Department of Natural Resources, began placing substrate and spat in Harris Creek in spring 2012 and 2013 to help restore the oyster population. Recent monitoring in October showed healthy and significant oyster growth throughout Harris Creek.

the Chesapeake. Prior projects were not planned as well, Sowers said, and as a result, reefs broke down.

"You might have a reef survive for a while and have healthy oysters in it," she said. "But eventually most of it is degraded or poached, and not consistent in the long term. And it didn't have any system-wide impact."

The impact of the restoration projects has had minimal effects so far on the fortunes of Maryland's watermen, said Jim Mullin, Maryland Oysterman Association's president. Many Maryland

watermen said that the sanctuaries would be better served if they could occasionally be opened for harvesting.

THE WATERMEN

It is still dark when Ryan Mould casts off his workboat into the mouth of the Patuxent River in Solomons Island, Maryland. Five days a week during oyster season, Mould commutes an hour south from Shady Side, Maryland, to a dock in Solomons, on the eastern end of the Patuxent.

SEE BAY, PAGE C7

A **Ask your buddy**

- Have the courage to ask the question, but stay calm
- Ask the question directly: Are you thinking of killing yourself?

C **Care for your buddy**

- Calmly control the situation; do not use force; be safe
- Actively listen to show understanding and produce relief
- Remove any means that could be used for self-injury

E **Escort your buddy**

- Never leave your buddy alone
- Escort to chain of command, Chaplain, behavioral health professional, or primary care provider
- Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

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Public invited to Blue Angels practice



Naval Aviation Museum Press Release

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

Open bleacher seating is available for 1,000 people. Chair service is provided at each prac-

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

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

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

WIREFRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

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

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

DALEVILLE

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

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

DOTHAN

ONGOING — Disabled American Veterans Chapter 87 meets the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Doug Tew Recreation Center. For more information, call 334-86-0217 Ext. 122 or email davchapter87@gmail.com. The chapter maintains office hours at 545 West Main St. (Mixon Business Center, Rm. 122), Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to assist, free of charge, disabled veterans and their spouses with disability compensation claims and other benefits.

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

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

ENTERPRISE

ONGOING — The Coffee County Toastmasters Club, an organization dedicated to the development of leadership and public speaking skills, meets the second

and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 6:15-8 p.m. at the Enterprise State Community College Student Center Community Room. For more information, call 334-347-0259.

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

ONGOING — Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6683, John Wiley Brock Post monthly membership meetings for the VFW Post 6683 and Auxiliary are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the post headquarters building located at 2615 Coffee County Road 537. The post mailing address is P.O. Box 311752 Enterprise, AL 36330. For more information, call 334-464-1171 or the auxiliary at 334-464-2222. The post also has a Facebook site at [vfw post 6683](http://vfwpost6683).

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

ONGOING — The Friends of Ozark holds a monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m.

at the Ozark-Dale County Library. For more information, call 477-6221 or email wcholmes53@hotmail.com.

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

PINCKARD

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

SAMSON

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

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

TROY

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

WIREFRASS AREA

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

ONGOING — AMVETS Post 23 monthly meeting is held the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the AMVETS Service Center, 203 MLK Dr., in Opp. For more information, call 334-493-0785 or visit www.amvetpost23.com.

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.

ONGOING — Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, 970 County Road 528, Elba, offers Sunday school the first, second, third and fourth Sundays of the month at 9:45 a.m., and worship the first and third Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. Bible study is Wednesdays after the first and third Sundays from 6-7 p.m. For more information, call 334-774-1738.

Beyond Briefs

International coastal cleanup

Panama City Beach will host its portion of the international coastal clean-up effort Sept. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon Russell Fields City Pier across from Pier Park. The effort is part of an international effort to clean oceans and waterways around the world. Gloves and trash bags will be provided.

For more information, call 850-233-5045.

Gun, knife show

The Collectors and Shooters Club of Alabama will host the Montgomery Gun & Knife Show Sept. 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Multiplex at Crampton Bowl. The shows will feature more than 350 exhibitors will be present. Admission will be \$7 for adults, and children 12 and younger will be admitted for free.

For more information, call 334-322-8818, or visit gunshowtrader.com/gun-shows/casc-montgomery-gun-show/.

Ballet and the Beasts

The Montgomery Ballet will perform

for free Sept. 22 from 6-10 p.m. under the stars at the Montgomery Zoo. Zoo officials said the event will be fun for all ages. Admission will be free and people will be welcome to bring picnic blankets, lawn chairs and coolers. The event will also feature face painting and door prize drawings.

Ballet and the Beasts will be an evening event and all zoo animals will be in their night quarters during the event. Select animals will be on display prior to the event. Limited concessions will be available for purchase.

For more information, call 334-240-4930 or visit montgomeryzoo.com/announcements/ballet-and-the-beasts.

Fido Fest

The Shoppes at EastChase in Montgomery will host its Fido Fest Sept. 23 from 4-7 p.m. The event, which will benefit the Montgomery Humane Society, will include an array of vendors, activities for dogs, food from local food trucks, a splash zone for dogs and more.

For more information, call 334-279-6046, or visit www.facebook.com/events/1964169903867388/.

A walk through Montgomery's past

The Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery will offer a two-part walk through Montgomery's past. The first part will take place Sept. 23 at 8:30 a.m. and the second part will take place Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. The walk is free for Landmarks members and cost members of the general public \$10. According to organizers, the walk will be a leisurely stroll down one of Montgomery's most historic thoroughfares, Monroe Street, where once upon a time a future presidential assassin performed, famous actors strode the boards, billiard balls bounced, and the aroma of fried fish sandwiches competed with those of indoor restaurants, the stables of the police and fire departments and the day-or-so-aged vegetables from the market under city hall (which burned in 1932).

For more information, call 334-240-4500 or visit www.landmarksfoundation.com/events/upcoming-events/.

Beginners bird walk

Conservation Park, 100 Conservation Drive, Panama City Beach, Florida, will host a free beginners bird walk Sept. 23 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Park officials said the event will be a leisurely walk around Conservation

Park, where Bay County Audubon Society guides will teach people about birding. Binoculars will be loaned for free, as well.

For more information, visit <https://www.visitpanamacitybeach.com/listings/conservation-park/594/>.

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://visitvulcan.com/>.

Bay

Continued from Page C5

At 27, Mould has only harvested oysters for 10 years. He started a part-time harvesting business during his senior year of high school. One thing he understands, however, is the bay's impact on the seafood harvesting businesses.

He struggles to find words to describe what the Chesapeake means to oystermen. Growing up near one of the Chesapeake's tributaries, the West River, Mould has lived near the bay for most of his life.

"You're down at the boat before the sun comes up," Mould said. "And you hear the world start to move before lights come on in houses. (The bay is) everything ... I don't know how to explain it. There's no better way to make a living. It's freedom."

Maryland's oystermen have found that freedom has been limited in some places. Restrictions on oyster harvesting have reduced the number of areas they can go to harvest in the upper Chesapeake. Old oyster harvest staples such as Harris Creek have closed to enable bay restoration efforts.

Mould, whose business has steadily grown since its inception in 2013, employs eight people in the summertime, including his mother Diane, and wife Ashley. In order to keep their business going, Mould and many other watermen need to travel farther south.

Mullin said that watermen have spoken with Army Corps members and voiced their concerns. The watermen said they hope to change misconceptions about their views on bay restoration.

He sells oysters wholesale at local farmer's markets in Prince George's and Calvert counties, carrying bushels of oysters to sell to nearby residents. Oystermen now must travel to limited public harvesting areas and compete with other oystermen to keep their businesses going. In the 2016-2017 oyster season, watermen harvested 224,609 bushels of oysters down from 383,090 in 2015-2016. Mullin said the decline was due to poor spat sets in the bay since 2013.

Mould has served the Anne Arundel Watermen's Association for the past three years as its vice president and as a board member. He said the watermen support the bay restoration efforts, but would like to see some of the policies change.

The watermen have proposed turning sanctuaries like those in the Patuxent and St. Mary's River into a rotational harvest where the waters would remain open to harvesting during certain times of the year. Mould said sanctuary areas can grow stagnant and oyster populations will die out.

Blair Baltus, 57, has harvested blue crabs in the upper Chesapeake for more than 30 years. He remembers a different bay when he caught his first fish on Baltimore's shores as a child in the 1960s.

"I remember looking down into the water and seeing the bottom at six or seven feet deep," said Baltus, who harvests crabs near Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. "The water was crystal clear."

Baltus harvested oysters near the Chester and Choptank Rivers on the Eastern Shore for five years in the late 1980s.

Baltus said that fallout and sewage from storms created sediment plumes that can block sunlight from seagrass. Most recently in 2011, Tropical Storm Lee caused excessive flooding which poured sediment into much of the bay's waters. The Baltimore native said he worries the growing populations in the bay's watershed will do further damage to the ecosystem.

"They spend so much money – years and years cleaning up the bay," Baltus said. "The best they can do is maintain it where it's at. You're never going to get it back to when Capt. John Smith sailed up the bay and discovered the Chesapeake in the pristine condition that it was. You're never going to see that again."

"We're for restoration. We're for the bay to be better – cleaner," Mould said. "If the bay isn't clean, we don't make a living. Disease can come in and wipe our business out. We depend on that bay to make a living."

AN ONGOING BATTLE

While oyster populations may never reach their historic levels that the English colonists witnessed, the restoration projects have successfully increased oyster



PHOTO BY KIM COURANZ

Mixed shell used for oyster restoration reef construction in the Tred Avon River sanctuary is held by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers construction inspector. The shell is from Atlantic Coastal fisheries in New Jersey.



PHOTO BY SARAH GROSS

Angie Sowers, Baltimore District, Integrated Water Resources management specialist, is interviewed by ABC's local affiliate reporter Amy Aubert on oyster restoration efforts at Harris Creek in May 2015.

numbers in the bay.

The sanctuary at Harris Creek has grown into the largest oyster sanctuary in the world. Combined with the successes of the Corps' Norfolk District at the Great Wicomico River and the recent completion of restoration sites at the Piankatank River in August, prospects for future oyster populations look promising.

"It's definitely exciting. Things are going well," Sowers said. "But there's also always that cautious optimism because we know how big a role Mother Nature plays in this and we can't control that."

The restoration efforts continue to be a passion project for many in the Corps and other government agencies. Susan Conner, chief of planning for the Norfolk District, grew up in rural Dorchester County on Maryland's eastern shore. She returned to Maryland after working for the Corps' Jacksonville District in Florida. Conner said she felt the bay's impact on the community, the watermen and the farmers. Her father spent long years growing corn, beet and soy on her family's farm near Vienna.

Conner has helped spearhead the recent tributary restoration efforts for the past seven years. The Corps has not yet received approval to continue to build more reefs within the bay, but other sites have been identified. Two neighboring rivers, the Lafayette and Lynnhaven Rivers in the south, and tributaries such as the Great Wicomico and Lower York have been selected for restoration, but the Corps must wait for funding.

Building reefs in areas with a healthy supply of oysters is the key to shellfish restoration, said Andrew Button of the Virginia Resources Commission. In turn, he said the health of the bay could depend on a healthy oyster population.

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SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

'WE HAVE THEIR BACKS'

Fort Rucker aims to support wounded warriors with hunt

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

From track chairs to travel trailers to motor boats, Fort Rucker Outdoor Recreation for years has worked to ensure wounded warriors aren't left out when it comes to outdoor recreation, and that tradition continues with the 2017 Wounded Warrior Fall Hunt.

This year's hunt will run Oct. 4-7, and will give wounded warriors from all across the South, as well as Soldiers and civilians, the opportunity to hunt wild hogs and coyotes on the installation to win prizes while helping out a worthy cause, said John Clancy, ODR manager.

"This is about camaraderie, and giving wounded warriors an opportunity to open up around other people and meet new faces," he said. "A lot of times, they don't get out of the house much, so this gives them the chance to do so."

The hunt is open to the public and registration is \$25, but people can also volunteer their time to hunt with or spend time with wounded warriors during the hunt at no cost, said Clancy.

Hunters who wish to participate must be at least 16 years of age, have completed the hunter's education course, have an Alabama state hunting license, as well as Fort Rucker post hunting permit. Hunters are also required to have their weapons registered with the Fort Rucker Provost Marshal Office.

In order to obtain the necessary requirements to hunt on post, participants must be registered with the new iSportsman service by visiting <https://fortrucker.isportsman.net/>, or visiting ODR if they need help registering with the new system.

Through the system, people can obtain all the necessary requirements needed to hunt on post, including their state hunting license, hunter's education card and post permit, but hunters must still visit ODR to get their permits verified, said Clancy.



FILE PHOTO

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

"We will help them establish their accounts and get their usernames all started, and they can do that all here at ODR," he said. "They will do all the purchasing online, but they must have it validated here at ODR and we'll print out their permit for them after they're validated."

Following the hunt, a ceremony will be held where prizes will be awarded for biggest and most of each game, door prizes will also be given out, as well, and people don't need to participate in the hunt to be eligible. Tickets for door prizes can be purchased for \$5 at ODR, MWR Central and any participating businesses sponsoring the hunt. Prizes can include coolers, hunting equipment, jewelry and even a boat.

Proceeds from the ticket sales always go toward providing some sort of handicap accessible equipment or facility for wounded warriors, and this year's proceeds will go toward funding a three-bedroom, handicap accessible cabin that will be available for use by wounded warriors at no cost to them.

"The cabin will be completely handicap accessible," said Clancy. "All of the rooms and bathrooms will be wheelchair accessible with ramps, so it's all designed for



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.

anybody who sits in a wheelchair."

Over the years, funds raised through the hunt have provided numerous amenities for wounded warriors, including two hydraulic hunting stands; track chairs; a specially designed, handicap-accessible boat; and a 42-foot, wheelchair accessible travel trailer.

Being able to provide for the wounded warriors for the sacrifices they've given in service to their country is the reason Clancy said the hunt is necessary.

"Oftentimes when [these Soldiers] go through [their traumatic experience], they feel like they're going through it alone, and something like this can help them break



FILE PHOTO

Then-Staff Sgt. Mark Brosel, checks out the track chair that he used during a previous Wounded Warrior Fall Hunt.

out of their shell," said the ODR manager. "They realize that we have their backs. They're not different, so we really just want to bring everybody back to the norm."

For more information, visit ODR or call 255-4305.

SOLDIERS PURSUE DREAMS OF OLYMPIC GLORY



PHOTO BY TIM HIPPS

A double fist pump by former U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program bobsled driver Steven Holcomb's crew of Curt Tomasevich, Steve Langton and WCAP brakeman Capt. Chris Fogt indicates USA-1 is well on its way to earning an Olympic bronze medal with a third-heat run of 55.30 seconds Feb. 23, 2014, in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

Athlete: Soldiering, Olympic training go hand in hand

By David Vergun
Army News Service

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. — Capt. Christopher Fogt sprints, lifts weights and trains on a bobsled track six days a week, month after month, preparing for the 2018 XXIII Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea.

It's grueling, he said of his training. Besides that, his two- and four-man sled team is competing for a spot on Team USA, so there's an understanding that most won't even qualify, adding to the competitive drive, he said.

A Soldier's way of life can at times be grueling, as well, he said.

For instance, the military intelligence

analyst said he spent 15 days in "the box," what Soldiers call the dusty, hilly, sparse terrain that is the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

During that time, the Soldiers didn't shower and often missed meals and sleep, he said.

But harsh conditions often bring out the best in people. "I saw Soldiers grow and develop as they trained, learned new skills and relied on teamwork to succeed," he said.

Hard work, perseverance and a desire to improve are qualities that make for a good Soldier as well as a good athlete, he continued, so there's a good fit in being able

SEE TRAINING, PAGE D3

Soldier-Olympian finds fulfillment volunteering with children

By David Vergun
Army News Service

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. — Sgt. Mathew Mortinsen was on Team USA bobsledding in Sochi, Russia, in the 2014 Winter Olympics.

The Olympian is now training to secure a spot on Team USA's bobsledding roster for the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, in February.

He said his goal to make the cut is within reach and he feels he has it in him to medal, too, as he's currently ranked first in the U.S. and third internationally.

Getting that good takes a lot of work and dedication, traits that are invaluable for the makings of a good Soldier, said Mortinsen, who serves as an interior electrician with the New York National Guard.

MENTORING FUTURE LUGERS

Despite training six days a week, month after month, Mortinsen said he manages to squeeze in time on weekends to volunteer with kids.

The group he volunteers with is known as USA Luge Slider, the official recruiting organization for Team USA Luge.

The organization, composed of volunteer coaches and athletes, travels the country, holding luge clinics for children, he said.

While many kids, particularly in the north, have gone sledding or tobogganing, the sport of luge is relatively unknown to them since luge courses are relatively nonexistent, he said. The clinic's aim is to introduce young people to the sport and look for potential candidates for the national team.

SEE VOLUNTEERING, PAGE D3



PHOTO BY DAVID VERGUN

Sgt. Mathew Mortinsen (luge driver in front) trains at the Lake Placid Olympic Training Center, Aug. 24 with teammate Jayson Terdiman. They're training to secure a spot on Team USA's bobsledding roster for the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, in February.

DOWN TIME



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

T R I V I A

- TRAVEL: What West and East Coast cities does Interstate 10 connect in the United States?
- ADVERTISING: Who was the mascot for Kellogg's Froot Loops cereal?
- TELEVISION: Who played the patriarch of the Clampett family in "The Beverly Hillbillies"?
- LITERATURE: What 1969 novel begins with the line, "All of this happened, more or less"?
- MUSIC: Where did Puff the Magic Dragon live in the Peter, Paul and Mary song?
- MOVIES: What was the last movie that singer Elvis Presley starred in?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which California city has an area code of 415?
- GEOLOGY: What are the softest and hardest minerals on the Mohs scale?
- GAMES: What color is Kentucky Avenue in the Monopoly game?
- GEOGRAPHY: What country has the most natural lakes?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword 51 PICKUP

- ACROSS**
- 1 Move springingly
 - 7 — mater
 - 11 Impact with sound
 - 15 Outfielder Slaughter
 - 19 With 49-Across, it's between Greece and Turkey
 - 20 Hive buzzers
 - 21 Moniker for Lincoln
 - 23 Automobiles that are really dirty?
 - 25 Edited work
 - 26 Tooth doctors' org.
 - 27 — Fridays (dining chain)
 - 28 "The Matrix" actor eases pain?
 - 30 Draw up new boundaries for
 - 32 Apple's mobile devices run on it
 - 33 Olds antique
 - 34 WNW's opposite
 - 35 Showy flight maneuvers done by some birds?
 - 40 Boy band of pop
 - 42 Geologic time periods
 - 43 Suffix with Wisconsin
 - 44 — Schwarz
 - 45 Traffic sign
 - 49 See 19-Across
 - 50 Deep-down faiths?
 - 55 Sound, as an argument
 - 59 "That's clear"
 - 60 Cloning material
 - 61 Auto tankful
 - 62 Alligator's cousin
 - 65 Bit of design info
 - 67 Persian Gulf country
 - 69 Serenade your purveyor?
 - 73 Horse riding movements
 - 74 Bedazzle
 - 75 Events with witnesses
 - 76 NY hours
 - 77 Lyric-penning
 - 79 Longtime Gershwin
 - 81 Skilled in youth org.
 - 85 "Whatever happened to your faith?"
 - 90 Vow for the nuptials
 - 91 What might follow "tra"
 - 92 Bit of body ink
 - 93 Fertility clinic cells
 - 94 Ring sealing a junction
 - 97 Seizes
 - 100 Give some yuletide plants moisture?
 - 103 Mrs., in France
 - 106 "— and Stimpny"
 - 107 Depressed
 - 108 Chaise spot
 - 109 Test done by a marine aquarium keeper?
 - 114 Suffix with 36-Down
 - 115 Diner bill
 - 118 Providing nourishment
 - 119 Bill of fare at an outdoor eatery on a clear night?
 - 122 Had profits equaling losses
 - 123 Helen of —
 - 124 Grippers on golf shoes
 - 125 Soup containers
 - 126 For fear that
 - 127 Besides that
 - 128 Grammar of "Frasier"
- DOWN**
- 1 "Qué —?"
 - 2 Necessary: Abbr.
 - 3 Océano filler
 - 4 Tchr.'s union
 - 5 W. Coast engineering school
 - 6 Puzzles
 - 7 Easy as —
 - 8 Tap mishap
 - 9 Piddling
 - 10 Tear into
 - 11 Drive- (pickup windows)
 - 12 One using a weeding aid
 - 13 Promoted insufficiently
 - 14 Dallas' — Plaza
 - 15 Major finale?
 - 16 Easily fooled
 - 17 Reed instruments
 - 18 Get a feeling
 - 22 Offshoot
 - 24 Zoologist
 - 29 Refusals
 - 30 Rocker
 - 31 — dieu (pew addition)
 - 35 Real pain
 - 36 Sword type
 - 37 Part of S&L
 - 38 See 121-Down
 - 39 City on Utah Lake
 - 40 Scot's refusal
 - 41 Longtime CBS show
 - 44 Least restricted
 - 46 Forum robes
 - 47 Studio sign
 - 48 "Hey ... you"
 - 50 Sci-fi captain
 - 51 Nature
 - 52 Gym set
 - 53 Rubber stamp go-with
 - 54 Charles de — Airport
 - 56 Skin woe
 - 57 Ziploc item
 - 58 Pen fixtures?
 - 63 "— longa ..."
 - 64 "Maybe later"
 - 66 Inferior dog
 - 68 Faint cloud
 - 69 Obama girl
 - 70 PC chip giant
 - 71 Anesthetize
 - 72 Chanteuse
 - 73 Cry weakly
 - 78 Watchful
 - 80 Opposite of 95-Down
 - 82 — torch (luau lamp)
 - 83 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
 - 84 Little 'uns
 - 86 Tattle (on)
 - 87 Owns
 - 88 "— had it!"
 - 89 Frontier figure Wyatt
 - 94 Took ill
 - 95 Just slightly
 - 96 — pitch
 - 98 Palmer of the links
 - 99 Actor Harvey
 - 100 Nursery cry
 - 101 "— Fideles"
 - 102 Greet
 - 103 "Hardball" network
 - 104 Tierney of "Liar Liar"
 - 105 Rocker John
 - 107 Fragrance
 - 110 Ticks off
 - 111 Part of YSL
 - 112 PC key abbr.
 - 113 Evil group in "Get Smart"
 - 115 Caddy picks
 - 116 Initial stake
 - 117 Not at all idle
 - 120 Seedy loaf
 - 121 With 38-Down, old New York Giants great

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

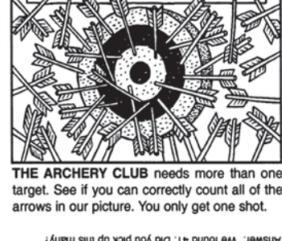
- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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See Page D3 for this week's answers.

KID'S CORNER

JUNIOR WHIRL ARCHERY MATCH

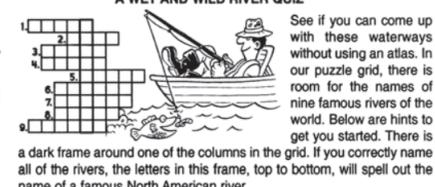


THE ARCHERY CLUB needs more than one target. See if you can correctly count all of the arrows in our picture. You only get one shot.

Answers: 1. A bellhop. 2. Closed circuit TV.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



A WET AND WILD RIVER QUIZ
See if you can come up with these waterways without using an atlas. In our puzzle grid, there is room for the names of nine famous rivers of the world. Below are hints to get you started. There is a dark frame around one of the columns in the grid. If you correctly name all of the rivers, the letters in this frame, top to bottom, will spell out the name of a famous North American river.

Answers: 1. Nile. 2. Niger. 3. Amazon. 4. Congo. 5. Danube. 6. Rhine. 7. St. Lawrence. 8. Volga. 9. Thames. 10. Amazon. 11. Nile. 12. Congo. 13. Danube. 14. Rhine. 15. St. Lawrence. 16. Volga. 17. Thames. 18. Amazon. 19. Nile. 20. Congo. 21. Danube. 22. Rhine. 23. St. Lawrence. 24. Volga. 25. Thames. 26. Amazon. 27. Nile. 28. Congo. 29. Danube. 30. Rhine. 31. St. Lawrence. 32. Volga. 33. Thames. 34. Amazon. 35. Nile. 36. Congo. 37. Danube. 38. Rhine. 39. St. Lawrence. 40. Volga. 41. Thames. 42. Amazon. 43. Nile. 44. Congo. 45. Danube. 46. Rhine. 47. St. Lawrence. 48. Volga. 49. Thames. 50. Amazon. 51. Nile. 52. Congo. 53. Danube. 54. Rhine. 55. St. Lawrence. 56. Volga. 57. Thames. 58. Amazon. 59. Nile. 60. Congo. 61. Danube. 62. Rhine. 63. St. Lawrence. 64. Volga. 65. Thames. 66. Amazon. 67. Nile. 68. Congo. 69. Danube. 70. Rhine. 71. St. Lawrence. 72. Volga. 73. Thames. 74. Amazon. 75. Nile. 76. Congo. 77. Danube. 78. Rhine. 79. St. Lawrence. 80. Volga. 81. Thames. 82. Amazon. 83. 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General: Prolonged field care the 'new normal'

By Ramin A. Khalili
U.S. Army Medical Research
and Materiel Command

KISSIMMEE, Fla — “The battlefield of the future is already here,” said Maj. Gen. Barbara R. Holcomb during her keynote speech at the 2017 Military Health System Research Symposium Aug. 28 in Kissimmee. “And so, as a result, the medical force of the future must be here as well.”

As the commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, Maryland, Holcomb highlighted prolonged field care, which military leadership designated in a capabilities needs analysis as the No. 1 capability gap across the Army.

“We need to adjust both the way we think and the way we execute,” said Holcomb. “And we need to understand that the multi-domain battlefield of the future will not always offer optimal—or even desirable—casualty care scenarios.”



PHOTO BY JAIME CHIRINOS

Maj. Gen. Barbara R. Holcomb, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and Fort Detrick, Md., commander, delivers a keynote speech on prolonged field care at the 2017 Military Health System Research Symposium Aug. 28 in Kissimmee, Fla.

During her presentation, Holcomb described evolving technologies and supporting capabilities designed to support patient care in austere environments, including battlefields composed of far

more dense and urban settings than current combat scenarios. These technologies include unmanned platforms to aid Warfighters in far-forward areas by delivering blood products and telehealth support.

Holcomb also highlighted Army Medicine’s investment in cutting-edge development in robotic surgery on the battlefield.

“This shift towards prolonged field care is a welcome challenge for both the Army and the joint program committees,” said Lt. Col. David Johnston, Combat Casualty Care Research Program military deputy. “For the CCCRP specifically, we are in a great place to leverage our current portfolio knowledge into positive, far-reaching change.”

One example of that change can be seen in the Army’s use of life support for trauma and transport technology. By integrating several miniaturized, commercially available medical devices into a self-contained platform that allows seamless transfer of a wounded Soldier from one echelon of medical care to the next, the Army is hoping the LSTAT will increase survival rates by putting sophisticated trauma equipment directly into the hands of medics on the

battlefield.

For Holcomb, it’s that type of thinking that represents the leading edge of a program-wide change that will likely set the tone for combat medical care for the next generation and beyond.

Said Holcomb, “The way we’ve been treating casualties in the past will not work in the future, and so our new reality begins now.”

The MHSRS is the DOD’s premier scientific annual meeting, which combines three previous conferences, including the former Advanced Technology Applications for Combat Casualty Care Conference; the Air Force Medical Service Medical Research Symposium; and the Navy Medicine Research Conference. By combining these conferences into one event, the meeting serves as a critical strategy session for leaders to set future milestones for the Department of Defense’s deployment-related medical research programs, centered on the needs of the Warfighter.

Training

Continued from Page D1

to do both.

Fogt also served in Iraq from 2010 to 2011. A year away from home is a big sacrifice for Soldiers and their families, he said. Soldiers missed their anniversaries, children’s birthdays and graduations and other meaningful events.

“In the Army, you bleed together, you sweat together ... and it makes you feel close.”

There are some similarities with a bobsledding team, he remarked. “You get very, very close. It’s a brotherhood.”

A lot of Soldiers would probably make good Olympic athletes because they have the qualities to succeed in whatever they do, he said, encouraging anyone interested to look into

the World Class Athlete Program to find a sport they might be interested in and qualify for.

WCAP helps by providing the coaches, training facilities and finances, he said.

In 2014, Fogt’s hard work and training paid off. He earned a bronze medal in Sochi, Russia, as a member of a four-man bobsled team, led by driver Steven Holcomb, who was also in WCAP. They also set a track start record of 4.75 seconds.

Besides having the honor of representing the Army and the United States at the Winter Olympics, Fogt said there are other perks.

Athletes get to travel a lot to different countries during the World Cup races leading up to the Winter Olympics.

Fogt said he had meals with athletes from such countries

as China, Russia and Iran in a friendly, collegial setting. “It was a lot of fun. I made friends and got to learn about new cultures.”

An added bonus for Fogt is that he gets to train at the U.S. Lake Placid Olympic Training Center here with his younger brother Brent. The two look alike and people frequently mistake one for the other, he remarked.

Besides training together, the brothers have also served together. Both were with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. Brent is a first lieutenant.

Although they are brothers and want to see each other succeed, they’re also fierce competitors. “We grew up competing against each other,” Fogt said.

Volunteering

Continued from Page D1

It’s a testament to the organization’s success that around 90 percent of Winter Olympic luge competitors today were discovered and then recruited from luge clinics for kids, he said.

The vast majority of the volunteer work occurs during the summer months, he said. Since there’s no snow and ice then, they remove the ice runners or sliders from their sleds and replace them with wheels, similar to those found on roller blades. Then, would-be lugers can roll down local streets as if they were paved with ice.

The luge clinics are for any kid between the ages of 9 to 13, but they must have a parent or guardian with them, Mortinsen said.

Kids participating in the clinics are given a safety brief and then they are invited to steer the luge down the street, following the centerline of the road. Then they eventually progress to weaving between cones and their confidence and skill increases, he said.

Meanwhile, the coaches and athletes are grading each kid for potential and trainability, he said. While skill and athletic ability is important, the team is especially looking for coach-ability.

“You’re always going to find talented

people, but if they don’t listen to what you’re saying, there’s no reason for you to be there and there’s no way to help them succeed because they don’t want your help,” he said. “If you can find someone with the ability and the coach-ability to be a great athlete, where they can go is limitless.”

That’s a similarity, in a way, to what Soldiers must do, he said. Soldiers, for instance, must listen to their officers and non-commissioned officers and learn and progress based on their advice and direction.

Out of, say 1,000 to 2,000 children tested from about six locations across the country each summer, about 60 to 100 are invited to come to the Luge Training Facility at Lake Placid to actually try out on ice and potentially become members of the USA Luge Junior Development Team, Mortinsen said.

They then receive additional training and can climb the development ladder to becoming members of the National and Olympic Luge Teams.

Previously, kids older than 13 were recruited, he said, but it was discovered through experience that kids 9 to 13 are more willing to train.

Mortinsen said that without the efforts of USA Luge Slider, “we would not have a

luge program.”

AFTER THE FINAL RACE IS OVER

Eventually, Mortinsen said, he will retire from the sport and fall back on his Army career. He said he hopes then to get into luge coaching, but he wants to see the United States continue to field a competitive luge team.

While retirement from competition is inevitable for every athlete, Mortinsen said he’s not looking forward to it. One reason for that is that he and teammate Jayson Terdiman have medaled in several World Cups.

Mortinsen said he feels he and Terdiman have the potential to excel even more, particularly since Terdiman, who is in his early 20s, is progressing rapidly in the sport.

“There’s a saying that an athlete dies twice,” Mortinsen said. “Once when they stop being an athlete, and once for real.”

“When you get to the end of the road as an athlete, it’s scary,” Mortinsen said. “Having the military in my background really helps me to get through that because I know the military will always be there to support me.”

But all of the training can take a toll on the best of athletes, he said.

Going down a slope at 80-plus mph without padding can be dangerous or even

deadly, he said. “I’ve been fortunate. I’ve only had one severe concussion. I’ve also broken most of the toes in my foot, split open an elbow, sprained ligaments, been bruised and had ice burns.”

He described what it’s like to crash: “When you lose control, you go flying and are basically a hood ornament at that point. All the weight of the sled and your teammate crashes down on you, plus the G-forces of the curves pushes you into the ice.”

Fortunately, crashes don’t happen very often, he said. They mostly occur on unfamiliar tracks or to junior athletes “who are still working out the kinks of the sport,” he said.

But athletes at any level can make mistakes and stumble, he added.

“You can learn from your mistakes. Mistakes in the long run help you to overcome and be a better person,” he said. “I don’t think of mistakes as a negative. I think of them as a positive way to learn and grow.”

Mortinsen said he’s proud to be in the Army, proud to represent the Army in competition, and proud of all who have served. He said he especially likes to hear from Soldiers on social media who may have seen him compete. “It means so much to me,” he said.

FORT RUCKER SPORTS BRIEFS

Thursday Evenings on the Range

Silver Wings Golf Course hosts its Thursday Evenings on the Range with PGA professional Ty Andersen Thursdays from 5-6 p.m. at the driving range. Cost is \$10 and can be paid at the pro shop before the session starts. The afternoon is a supervised practice with unlimited range balls.

For more information, call 255-0089.

Saturday Afternoons on the Range

Silver Wings Golf Course hosts its

Saturday Afternoons on the Range with PGA professional Ty Andersen Saturdays from 1-2 p.m. Cost is \$10 and can be paid at the pro shop before the session starts at the driving range. The afternoon is a supervised practice with unlimited range balls.

For more information, call 255-0089.

Hunting, fishing licenses

In an effort to continue to be the post’s one-stop shop for fishing and hunting information, Fort Rucker Outdoor Recre-

ation will continue to sell Alabama State fishing and hunting licenses for calendar year 2017-2018, according to ODR officials. ODR’s customer service professionals will also assist with obtaining the Fort Rucker post fishing and hunting permits through fortrucker.isportsman.net beginning around Oct. 1. In the interim, expiring post permits can be temporarily extended at ODR during its regular business hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sportsmen will receive an extension stamp on their current post hunting and fishing

permit that extends their privileges. Post permits that have not been stamped will not be valid. Alabama State licenses must always be current.

For more information on fishing and hunting at Fort Rucker, call 255-4305.

Mother Rucker’s NFL Ticket

Mother Rucker’s will get the NFL Ticket to show people’s favorite football teams in action and will open at 11 a.m. on Sundays. For more information, call 255-3916.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

1. Santa Monica, California, and Jacksonville, Florida
2. Toucan Sam
3. Buddy Ebsen (Jed)
4. “Slaughterhouse-Five” (Kurt Vonnegut)
5. The land of Honalee
6. “Change of Habit”
7. San Francisco
8. Talc and diamond
9. Red
10. Canada



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Joe Flint

Chief Warrant Officer 2
U.S. Army - Retired
Formerly Stationed At Fort Rucker.

In 2006, after nearly 10 years in the car business, Joe answered the call to serve his country in the U.S. Army. Joe's time in the Army was spent as an OH58D Kiowa Warrior pilot. In addition to normal pilot duties he held numerous additional duties, which include: Training and Simulations Officer, Communications and Information Management Officer, and most recently the Operations Officer for the Aviation Captains' Career Course and Warrant Officer Advanced Course. Joe had the pleasure to serve in OEF 12-13 with 3rd Squadron 17th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade. Joe retired April 2017.

We are proud to have Joe back in the car business and on the Outlet team. Joe's vast previous experience includes working in almost every department in the dealership, including parts, service, sales, and internet.

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FAST & EASY FINANCING FOR E-1'S & UP!

Outlet offers competitive financing through over 15 banks and lenders including one lender only available to active duty military members. Security National Automotive Acceptance Corp. (SNAAC) offers financing to active duty military members E1 and up, no co-signer required in most cases, no money required in most cases, and they even have a 1st time buyer's program.



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2016 Toyota Corolla LE \$15,492	2016 Ford Focus SE \$13,992	1982 Fiat 124 \$12,990
2014 Honda Accord LX \$14,995	2014 Nissan Sentra SR \$13,992	2006 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 \$11,995
2015 Kia Optima LX \$14,995	2015 Chevrolet Cruze LT \$13,991	2010 Honda CR-V LX \$11,991
2010 Cadillac SRX Base \$14,995	2015 Nissan Sentra S \$13,991	2010 Nissan Pathfinder SE \$10,991
2013 Honda Accord EX \$14,995	2016 Kia Forte LX \$13,991	2016 Kia Rio LX \$10,991
2015 Chevrolet Malibu LT \$14,995	2015 Toyota Corolla L \$13,991	2012 Ford Focus SE \$10,991
2014 Chevrolet Captiva Sport LTZ \$14,994	2016 Ford Focus SE \$13,991	2005 Ford Excursion XLT \$9,992

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DOTHAN, AL 36301
877-712-3354

*Payment based on 2.99% for 75 months (repayable at \$14.63 per month per \$1000 financed) subject to approved credit. \$179 payment based on financing \$12,400. Offers in this ad are not combinable. Guaranteed loan program is a product of an outside financial institution and subject to their terms. See dealer for additional details. Plus tax and tag on all vehicles.