

GAINING SKILLS

Course helps youth earn extra cash, provide service to families

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BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Local children get early visit with Old St. Nick

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LET IT FLY

Post disc golf course offers year-round play

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ARMY FLYER

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FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

DECEMBER 14, 2017

RINGING IN THE HOLIDAYS

Holiday concert brings sounds of season to post

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Music is a staple of the holiday season, and hundreds were treated to the sounds of the season by the Maneuver Center of Excellence Band Monday.

People came from all over Fort Rucker and the surrounding communities to fill Fort Rucker's post theater for the Commanding General's Holiday Concert where they were treated to holiday classics, got a chance to sing along to familiar carols and had the chance to meet a special visitor from the North Pole.

Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, was among those in attendance and said music holds a special place in peoples' hearts.

"I can think of no better way to bring in the holidays than with music," said the commanding general following the concert. "It's the music that gets everybody thinking about this time of year and how special it is."

Throughout the night, attendees were treated to classics like, "O Come All ye Faithful," "Silent Night," "Deck the Halls" and "Jingle Bells," as well as more contemporary and pop versions of some crowd favorites, including Bruce Springsteen's version of

"Santa Claus is Coming to Town," with an appearance from the man in red, himself.

To close the concert, students from the Fort Rucker Elementary School, as well as those from Enterprise's Pinedale and Harrard Creek Elementary schools were invited up to the stage to sing along with the MCOE band in a night that had many feeling the spirit of the season.

"This, in my opinion, really is the best way to get into the spirit of Christmas," said Jeremy Draper, Enterprise resident. "There's nothing else that makes it feel more like Christmas than Christmas music. I'm always listening to Christmas music way before I probably should be, but to be able to hear it in a live setting like this really is something special."

For Michelle Hawkins, military spouse, and her family, it's about getting to share special moments and memories together.

"I really like that we can be here for something like this," she said. "It's nice to come out with the family and get this time together with something I know the kids will remember. This has gotten them, and me, really excited for Christmas, so I was glad to be able to bring them out."

Although the concert is meant to help ring in the holidays, it's also a time to remember those who aren't



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

Devon Sellers, WTVY news anchor, recites 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' with the accompaniment of the MCOE Band during the Commanding General's Holiday Concert at the post theater Monday.

able to be around for the holiday season, said Gayler.

"Tonight, right now, we have about 180,000 United States Army Soldiers somewhere in the world – not here, not with their families – somewhere forward stationed," he said. "I ask that you please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers."

"I also want to recognize – and these are always hard – the sacrifice of our Gold Star Families," the commanding general continued. "This time of year is tough and we're reminded of it when you sit here with your families. It brings home the love of this time of year and there are those who have sacrificed so much. Please keep them in

SEE HOLIDAYS, PAGE A5



Santa Claus makes an appearance during a performance of 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town' during the Commanding General's Holiday Concert.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Soldiers take part in the Army Physical Fitness Test portion of the A Co., 1st Bn., 13th Avn. Regt. Warrior Challenge Dec. 2.

Warrior challenge puts Soldiers to the test

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Soldiers are only as strong as their weakest link, and one group of Soldiers got a firsthand lesson in teamwork during the A Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment Warrior Challenge Dec. 2.

Thirty-six Soldiers in five different teams braved the cold morning weather to compete in the challenge, which had Soldiers thinking as a unit rather than an individual as they tackled challenges meant to test their combined physical and mental strength.

Throughout the competition, each team had to take part in an Army Physical Fitness Test, traverse the obstacle course at the NCO Academy, push a Humvee uphill and participate in a 4-mile ruck march in full gear.

Although five teams competed, only one team would come out on top as the winner: the orange team, including Pvt. Jacob Bolling, Spc. Christina Contreras, Pfc. Monticello Reynolds, Pvt. Christopher Soule, Pvt. Jeremy Younger and Pvt. Brandon Starling.

"These individuals volunteered for it knowing what they were going to put themselves through," said 1st

Sgt. Eric Kahle, 1-13th Avn. Regt. "It takes a lot of mental toughness and physical endurance to do what they did – you really have to get at it. All 36 in my book are winners. You all have a lot of heart and I appreciate your participation."

To start out the competition, Soldiers took on the Army PFT, which had each Soldier perform a morning run, followed by pushups and sit ups. Following the PFT, the competitors made their way to the NCO Academy where they tackled the obstacle course.

SEE CHALLENGE, PAGE A5

REUNITED

Museum dedicates Huey gunship to former pilot

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

It's a rare thing when a piece of Aviation history in can be tied directly to a veteran, but in one extraordinary coincidence, a Huey gunship that flew over the skies of Vietnam found its way back to Fort Rucker and the Aviator that piloted it.

A UH-1C Huey, serial number 15156, was dedicated to its former pilot, Terry Morris, Vietnam veteran, and added to the U.S. Army Aviation Museum's visible collection during a ceremony Dec. 6, but the story of how the dedication became possible is as rare as they come, according to Bob Mitchell, museum curator.

The aircraft sat in museum storage for years when Mitchell happened upon the Huey after going through the collection with the hopes of configuring some of the UH-1s into the various configurations of the gunships used during the Vietnam War.

"I started doing some research and found that this particular aircraft was in the 116th (Assault Helicopter Company), the 191st and the 240th," said the curator. "I thought, 'Oh, the 240th, that was (my friend), Terry's unit.' So, I sent an email off to Terry and asked if he'd ever flown 156, and

SEE REUNITED, PAGE A5



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Terry Morris, Vietnam veteran, stands with the UH-1C Huey, serial number 15156, that he flew during the Vietnam War, as it was added to the U.S. Army Aviation Museum's visible collection during a dedication ceremony Dec. 6.

PERSPECTIVE

BE VIGILANT

CID warns against posting holiday travel plans

By Mary Markos
U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON — As Soldiers and their families prepare for the holiday season, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command warns that posting travel plans on social media sites makes people's homes vulnerable to burglary.

While Soldiers should always be vigilant in their postings to avoid releasing sensitive information, revealing personal holiday travel information puts Soldiers, their families and their homes at risk.

"Social media is a powerful and frequently used tool for Soldiers, their families and friends to stay connected, especially during the holiday season," said Daniel Andrews, director of the CID Computer Crime Investigative Unit. "Unfortunately, criminals use the same social media sites to conduct surveillance and identify potential targets."

In fact, Andrews said, posting vacation plans is like announcing to criminals that your residence will be unoccupied for an extended period.

"We recommend that personnel avoid publicizing the details of holiday plans and travel arrangements, whether upcoming



ARMY GRAPHIC

or in progress," Andrews said. "Wait until the vacation is over to comment on it and share photos, but still be cautious about what information you make publicly available."

Additionally, personnel are advised to take basic home security measures before leaving their house.

The FBI's "2014 Crime in the United States" reported an estimated 1,729,806 burglaries in the United States with burglaries of residential properties accounting for 73.2 percent. The average dollar loss for each burglary incident was \$2,251.

Basic home security measures, such as locking all doors and windows, not leaving spare keys outside, using variable light timers, keeping valuables out of sight,

and having a friend retrieve mail and newspapers are the first line of defense against burglary.

The use of a home security or video system is a further deterrent for criminals.

"Criminals are always on the lookout for opportunities to exploit. Whether driving through neighborhood streets or surfing social media sites, the criminal's goal is to identify soft targets that are lucrative and present the least chance of being caught," Andrews said. "This underscores the very real connection between the physical and virtual worlds."

CID officials encourage Army personnel to take the following steps to reduce their risk of being targeted by crooks in the virtual world.

- Update your privacy setting

on social media sites before leaving for vacation.

- Do not check in to airports or your holiday destination on social media sites. Sites, such as Facebook, use the GPS built into a phone to allow users to check in to businesses and locations across the country. This information tells would-be burglars that the home is likely to be vacant until the user announces their arrival at the airport for their return flight.
- Do not post in real-time. Posting information about your location while you are there is equivalent to telling a would-be burglar that you are not home. To minimize the risk of burglary while you are away, post information

after you return home for the holidays.

- Remove GPS data from pictures. GPS data, to include location coordinates, is automatically attached to photos taken from both smart phones and many digital cameras. When posted in real-time, the GPS coordinates gives a would-be burglar your exact location, which makes your home vulnerable if you are not there.
- Do not geotag posts or tweets. Much like the Facebook "check in" feature, geotagging or adding your exact GPS coordinates to a Tweet or post tells would-be burglars exactly how close you are to your home.
- Monitor what family members post. A would-be burglar only needs one member of the family to announce that the family has left for vacation to know the house might be empty. Speak to all members of the family, especially teens, about what they are posting online.

Additionally, personnel should review the CID Computer Crime Investigative Unit's crime prevention and online safety flyers at its website at <http://www.cid.army.mil/cciu2can.html> for more ways to avoid being victimized.

Rotor Wash

“People are visiting families and taking road trips as the holidays approach. What tips can you offer for people to stay safe as they travel over the season?”



Lois Walker,
civilian

"Get plenty of rest."



Jaleicia Reynolds,
civilian

"I would say just keep your belongings close by."



Candace Taylor,
military spouse

"Make sure they have safety blankets and always have a first-aid kit. People that are traveling in the snow or something, it's good to have some things like that."



Chris Hyatt,
Navy veteran

"Be vigilant."



Marcus Edgar,
civilian

"Make sure to check your tires if you're going to be on the road. Make sure your car is ready for a long trip if that's what you'll be doing."

COMMAND

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FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

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FORT RUCKER GARRISON COMMANDER

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

ACE suicide intervention

Ask your buddy

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

Care for your buddy

- Remove any means that could be used for self-

injury.

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

Escort your buddy

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

GAINING SKILLS

Course helps youth earn extra cash, provide service to families

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker Child and Youth Services offers youth the chance to become entrepreneurs with its babysitter training course Dec. 20.

The course will equip youth with the necessary skills to become providers in the childcare field, according to Sasha LaForge, youth center assistant director.

“The course provides youth with a better understanding from the viewpoint of a toddler or child,” she said. “There will be interactive challenges for the youth to spot dangers inside and outside of the home that toddlers and children might get into.

“For example, silverware close to the end of the counter that a child can reach, bathroom doors

left open and tools left out in the yard,” she added. “These are things that youth may not think about when they are watching children.”

The course takes place at the youth center, located at 7th and Division Road, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Participants must bring a sack lunch. A wide range of topics will be covered throughout the day, according to LaForge.

“The training course will cover home and fire safety, American Red Cross and first aid training, basic childcare and feeding, diaper changing and basic child abuse reporting and prevention,” she said.

A valid CYS registration is required, but the process is simple, according to LaForge.

“They can sign up at parent central services located in Bldg.



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5700,” she said. “All they have to do is fill out membership forms and return it to PCS. Request to be put in the babysitter’s course and, if there is space available, they will enroll the youth.”

Deadline to register for the course is Dec. 19, but space is limited and early registration is encouraged. Additional course will be available in the future, but no dates have been set, she said.

LaForge offered a few tips for youth potentially babysitting for the first time.

“Think of it as a real job,” she said. “Put the cell phone down and focus on the children. Be observant, get to know the children. Do not be afraid to ask the parents question about the children, especially if there is a concern. Interact with the children. Play games with them, read them a book or let them read to you.

Pay attention to the environment. Look for things a child can pick up and put in their mouth.

“Do not open the door for strangers,” she added. “When you are babysitting and someone knocks on the door, don’t open it – it is not for you. The family has your number and you have theirs. Keep emergency numbers where you can find them.”

For more information, call 255-9638 or 255-0621.

Officials announce first DOD-wide audit, call for budget certainty

By Jim Garamone
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is starting the first agency-wide financial audit in its history, Pentagon officials announced Dec. 7.

Defense Department Comptroller David L. Norquist and chief Pentagon spokesperson Dana W. White spoke during the Pentagon news conference, in which they also addressed the possibility of a government shutdown when the continuing resolution that has been keeping the government running expires Dec. 22.

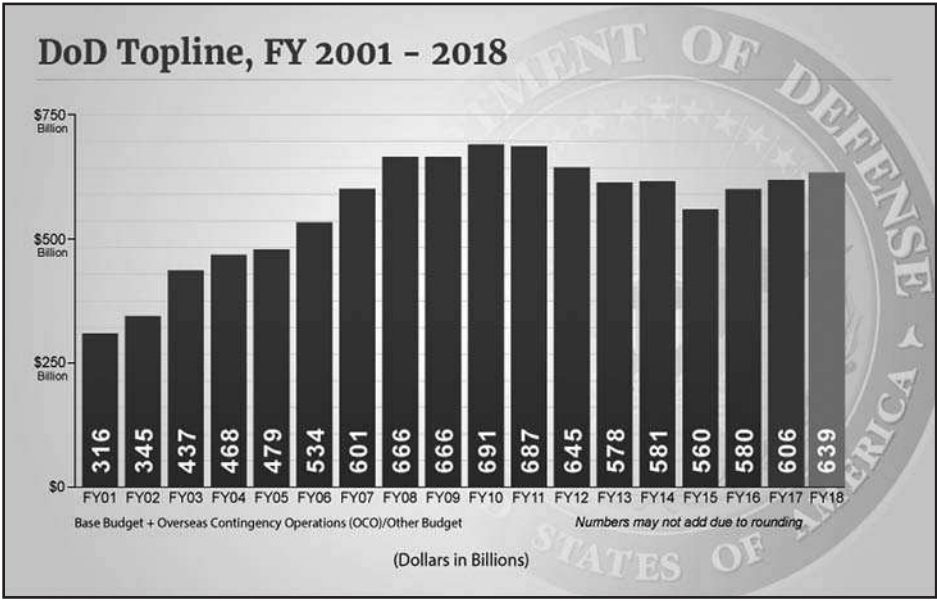
Norquist said he received the DOD Office of Inspector General’s notification that the financial statement audit begins this month.

TAXPAYER CONFIDENCE

The audit is massive. It will examine every aspect of the department from personnel to real property to weapons to supplies to bases. About 1,200 auditors will fan out across the department to conduct it, Pentagon officials said.

“It is important that the Congress and the American people have confidence in DOD’s management of every taxpayer dollar,” Norquist said.

Audits are necessary to ensure the accuracy of financial information. They also account for property. Officials estimate the department has around \$2.4 trillion in assets. “With consistent feedback from auditors, we can focus on improving the processes of our day-to-day work,” the comptroller said. “Annual audits also en-



DOD GRAPHICS

sure visibility over the quantity and quality of the equipment and supplies our troops use.”

The DOD Office of the Inspector General hired independent public accounting firms to conduct audits of individual components – the Army, Navy, Air Force, agencies, activities and more – as well as a department-wide consolidated audit to summarize all results and conclusions.

“Beginning in 2018, our audits will occur annually, with reports issued Nov. 15,” Norquist said.

LOOMING SHUTDOWN

Norquist also addressed the looming government shutdown. Military personnel will continue to report for duty to ensure the safety of the United States and its

citizens, he said. Military and civilian personnel conducting operations around the world will also report, he added.

“Any time we get close to the end of a CR, we automatically go through and update our contingency plans,” Norquist said. “And so we’ve had to do that several times this year.”

If a shutdown occurs, military personnel will report to work as normal, but the department cannot pay them until the shutdown ends. Civilian employees – and the department has roughly 700,000 – will be notified before the shutdown what to do. Employees performing an excepted activity – such as law enforcement – will report to work, he said.

“I cannot emphasize too much how destructive a shutdown is,” Norquist said.

“We’ve talked before about the importance of maintenance on weapons systems and others, but if it’s not an excepted activity, there’ll be work stoppage on many of those maintenance functions.”

Legislators have until Dec. 22 to pass a budget. The Defense Department has operated under a continuing resolution for 1,081 days over the past nine years, White noted.

CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS AFFECT READINESS

“And so we are optimistic that the Congress will pass a robust and predictable, fully funded [fiscal year 2018] budget,” she said. “Nothing has had a greater impact on combat readiness than CRs, and at a time where security threats are high, we really do need the predictability in the budget – certainty that we don’t have with CRs.”

Continuing resolutions are supposed to be short-term bridges for financing. A long-term CR is disruptive, Norquist said.

“Every time ... you add to it, it creates more challenges,” he added.

One problem with a CR is there can be no new starts, the comptroller told reporters. “In the administration’s budget, we requested additional money for munitions, and so we would like to increase the production of some of those munitions.

“What the CR says is, ‘Stop, wait, don’t award that contract yet,’ which delays when you begin to increase the quantity and the production,” he explained, adding that none of this can be fixed until there is a proper budget.

News Briefs

TRICARE brief

Lyster Army Health Clinic will host a TRICARE changes briefing today at 5:30 p.m. in the clinic’s Rm. J-100 to inform people on the changes coming to TRICARE in January. Officials stressed that the briefing is not for TRICARE for Life, as the changes do not affect TFL.

Christmas meals

The Fort Rucker dining facilities Christmas meals will be served today from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 6204 and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Bldg. 5914. The meals are open to Soldiers, Department of the Army civilian employees, retired military and family members. The standard holiday rate is \$9.05, but there is a discount rate of \$6.80 for family members of E-4s and below and small children.

Gate, VCC hours

The Ozark Gate Visitor Control Center will be closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1-2. The gate will remain open. Also, the Newton and Faulkner gates will be closed Dec. 21-Jan. 2.

Changes of responsibility

- The Air Traffic Services Command will host a change of responsibility ceremony Jan. 9 at 10 a.m. in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. Command Sgt. Maj. George S. Webster will assume responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. James R. Schley.
- The 110th Aviation Brigade will host a change of responsibility ceremony Jan. 10 at 9 a.m. at Howze Field.

MLK celebration

The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance and celebration, hosted by Lyster Army Health Clinic, will take place Jan. 17 at 2 p.m. at the post theater. The event will commemorate King’s legacy, and recognize the connection between his life’s work and the library world. Officials said they hope people will gain new perspectives, and be inspired with readings and the acting out of selected passages from the collected work and speeches of Dr. King.

Retirement ceremony

Fort Rucker will conduct its quarterly retirement ceremony Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. All are invited to attend and honor the quarter’s retirees for their service to the nation.

Beauty shop closure

The beauty shop inside the mall at the Fort Rucker Post Exchange is closed until a replacement contractor can be found. Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials said they hope to have a replacement in operation in the mid-January timeframe.

For more information, call 334-503-9044.

Thrift shop

The Fort Rucker Thrift Shop is open Wednesdays-Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The thrift shop needs people’s unwanted items. People can drop off donations at any time in the shed behind

the shop (former Armed Forces Bank building) located in front of the theater next door to the bowling alley. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information, call 255-9595.

Lyster update

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

The Lyster Twitter feed is at @Lyster-AHC.

Yoga classes

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

Weight control

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

For more information, call 255-7986.

Lost and found

People who have lost or misplaced property while on Fort Rucker can call the Directorate of Public Safety’s lost and found point of contact at 255-3239 to inquire if their property has been turned

in. To claim their property, people must be able to demonstrate ownership of the property. DPS retains property found or turned in at special events held on the installation, such as Freedom Fest – the most common items turned-in are keys, cell phones and wallets.

PTSD group

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

For more information, call 255-3903.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets

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

Lunch and learn

The Fort Rucker Army Wellness Center will host lunch and learn sessions in collaboration with the Fort Rucker Ready Resilient Training Center. All lunch and learn sessions are open to all eligible beneficiaries, including active-duty Soldiers and their dependents, retirees and Department of Defense civilian employees.

All sessions will be located at LAHC in V-130 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month.

For more information, call 255-3923 or 255-9218.

SECARMY:

U.S. Army Futures Command to reform modernization

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The new U.S. Army Futures Command with its eight cross-functional teams will provide the unity of effort and command needed to reduce the requirements development process from 60 months down to around 12, said Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark T. Esper Dec. 7.

Futures Command was informally referred to as modernization command when its inception was first announced by the acting secretary of the Army and chief of staff in October.

Esper spoke Dec. 7 during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on acquisition reform efforts within the Department of Defense.

There are eight CFTs being organized, he said. They consist of leaders from the requirements, acquisition, contracting and sustainment communities, who report directly to the under secretary and vice chief of staff of the Army.

The CFTs' primary focus will be on the Army's six modernization priorities, Esper said, which are the development of improved long-range precision fires, a next-generation combat vehicle, future vertical lift platforms, a mobile and expeditionary Army network, air and missile defense capabilities, and Soldier lethality.

"Mindful of past failures, the Army will ensure that technological solutions are mature before we begin a program of record,"



ARMY PHOTO

Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark T. Esper speaks before the Senate Armed Services Committee Dec. 7.

Esper said. "This includes a threat-based strategy that has aligned 80 percent of the Army's science and technology funding requests against the six modernization priorities."

Also, the process for getting requirements met will be streamlined, he said, consisting of an iterative process including prototype development, demonstration and testing, and evaluation.

If the evaluation results in failure, then

that three-step cycle will be repeated until a successful outcome is obtained, followed by production and fielding decisions.

Success, he added, could just be getting to the 80 percent solution on a requirement.

The secretary also listed a number of other modernization efforts the Army is focusing on.

In the past, personnel turnovers within programs of record have been a concern,

he said. To negate that, program managers' tenures will be aligned with critical program milestones.

The Army has also written eight directives intended to improve the capability and materiel development process by refining how requirements are generated, simplifying the contracting and sustainment processes, and evaluating progress through metrics, he outlined.

Finally, he said that the Army has "re-invigorated" its Requirements Oversight Council. A recent result of that effort was getting the new Army handgun delivered much sooner than anticipated.

While making reforms within the Army, the secretary asked for help from lawmakers in getting a budget passed with predictable and adequate funding.

Without an adequate budget, it is especially hard for small industries to do business with the Army, he said. "We risk losing those folks who may decide to get out of the defense business and go elsewhere."

He also asked the senators to look into simplifying the complexity of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

Lastly, Esper noted that the day of the hearing was the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

"We were caught off guard at Pearl Harbor," he said. "But in a few short years we re-energized industry and the American people to fight and win that war. We need to take that same sense of urgency to the challenges we face today."

Expert: Remote combat vehicles to punch as hard as Abrams tanks

By David Vergun
Army News Service

LIVONIA, Mich. — Within five years, the Army would like to start testing remote combat vehicle prototypes, which are unmanned, as light and as fast as a Stryker, but provide the same level of firepower as an M-1 Abrams tank, said Maj. Alan L. Stephens.

Stephens, an Acquisition Corps officer at the Mounted Requirements Division of the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence, spoke at the Future Ground Combat Vehicles Summit Nov. 30.

While the holy grail is the Next Generation Combat Vehicle, he said the Army thinks it can more quickly field a limited number of RCVs, and importantly, the results of that testing could help inform the requirements for the NGCV, which is slated for fielding in 2035.

Instead of a traditional program of record, Stephens said the plan is to buy a limited quantity of RCVs or components that could be used for RCVs, then let Soldiers put them through their grueling paces at the combat training centers and various test sites and proving grounds.

The analysis that result from that and Soldier feedback would then be used to inform requirements for the RCV and later on for the NGCV, he said.

A capability development doc-

ument for the RCV could be written as soon as 2022, he added.

RCV ADVANTAGES

RCVs will have a number of advantages over the Abrams, said Stephens, who has a background as a systems engineer.

For one, the RCV will be unmanned. That means in a manned-unmanned configuration, the unmanned variants could go ahead of the manned to scout out the area, navigate through the most dangerous sectors of the battlefield and engage the enemy, while the manned vehicle would follow, he said.

The current thinking for test configuration, he said, is two unmanned for every manned RCV, with the manned variant controlling the other two. But that ratio of 1:2 could change once testing commences and bugs are worked out. Eventually, he said, a 1:4 ratio could be likely.

Additionally, he said, the term "unmanned" implies varying levels of autonomy. At the lowest level, for instance, a vehicle might have no personnel inside, but would be controlled by Soldiers through a tethered radio link. At the highest level, a vehicle might be fully autonomous, requiring artificial intelligence and neural networking — something not yet achievable, but clearly on the horizon.

Another advantage with RCV over Abrams is that it will be lighter and more maneuverable.



PHOTO BY PATRICK A. ALBRIGHT

A remote combat vehicle in action during a maneuver robotics and autonomous systems live-fire demonstration Aug. 22 at the Digital Multi-Purpose Range Complex at Fort Benning, Ga. The Army wants to design a Remote Combat Vehicle like this, but more lethal and maneuverable.

That means, Stephens said, that it will be faster and could be air-lifted, giving the brigade combat team commander and the combatant commander greater options in the battlespace.

Since RCVs will be unmanned, that frees up a lot of space for direct and indirect fires capability, he said, along with a full suite of sensors and counter-unmanned aircraft system packages. An example of an indirect fire system, he said, is the 81mm mortar. Direct fire would be what an Abrams' main gun can deliver.

Stephens said there's even discussions of teaming UAS with the RCVs to provide over-the-horizon surveillance and reconnaissance.

The modular, open-systems architecture design would by necessity include cyber protection and anti-jamming equipment, Stephens said.

Daniel McCormick, deputy

joint program executive officer for Chemical and Biological Defense, said he's excited about RCVs and other robotics vehicles, given the chemical, biological and radiological threats that are proliferating around the world, particularly on the Korean peninsula and in the Middle East.

Existing sensors, like infrared ones, could double-down to not just detect the enemy's signature and dust but also the signature from biological and chemical weapons, he said.

Unmanned vehicles would also afford force protection and increased standoff distance, he said, meaning staying out of reach of enemy fire.

"We are near reaching parity with near-peer competitors on the battlefield," Stephens concluded, "so there's goodness in the RCV program."

However, he added, a lot of de-

velopmental work still remains to be done to make lethality the same as the Abrams while lightening the platform so it's more maneuverable.

"We're going to push the limit to get to initial requirement, but we don't want over-requirements," he added.

Stephens noted that there are three Army commands involved with the RCV program, including the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center; the Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center; and the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center.

He called on industry to help make the RCV a reality, and also suggested that testing could be conducted on surrogate vehicles, like the M-113 armored personnel carrier, that the Army would provide.



PHOTO BY DAVID VERGUN

Maj. Alan L. Stephens, an Acquisition Corps officer at the Mounted Requirements Division of the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence, speaks about the future RCV at the Future Ground Combat Vehicles Summit in Livonia, Mich., Nov. 30.

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Better boots, lighter uniform headed to Hawaii for field testing

By Devon L. Suits
Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — This January, some Soldiers within the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii will receive new uniforms and a new set of boots as part of Program Executive Office Soldier’s continued testing and evaluation of the improved hot-weather combat uniform and jungle combat boot.

Keeping in line with the modernization and readiness initiatives set by Secretary of the Army Dr. Mark T. Esper and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark A. Milley, the new versions of combat uniforms and boots will allow Soldiers to better operate in hot, extremely hot, and hot and wet environments.

“Today’s Soldier must be ready to execute the mission in any operational environment,” said Col. Stephen Thomas, project manager with Soldier protection and individual equipment, during a Dec. 7 media roundtable at Fort Belvoir. “[We’re] providing a capability to Soldiers that may give them a decisive edge in that type of environment.”

Production is near competition on 65,000 uniforms and approximately 750 new boots that will be sent to 25th Infantry Division



PHOTO BY DEVON L. SUITS

Program Executive Office Soldier officials discussed improvements to the hot weather uniform and jungle combat boot programs during a media roundtable event on Fort Belvoir, Va., Dec. 7.

Soldiers in time for the upcoming Pacific Pathways exercise in February, according to Capt. Daniel Ferenczy, assistant product manager for environmental clothing and footwear.

In March, PEO Soldier will then collect feedback from Soldiers and use that information to modify future versions of both systems, Ferenczy added.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COMBAT UNIFORM

To make the new uniform more breathable and lightweight, Ferenczy said that ex-

cess layers and seams, which often lock in heat and moisture, have been removed. Furthermore, the new uniform can be dried in 60 minutes, compared to the 90 minutes dry time of the current uniform.

In addition, program officials have incorporated feedback and made changes to the uniform design from previous field tests. Changes include:

- mandarin collar eliminated;
- shoulder pockets open from top rather than sides;
- zipper closures replaced by buttons;
- breast and back trouser pockets removed;
- crotch gusseted for better fit, prevent chafing or blowouts; and
- knee articulated for better maneuverability.

Moving forward, program officials will continue to evaluate other fabric compositions and uniform design elements through 2018, Ferenczy said.

Depending on the feedback received during the upcoming field test, and the requirements set by Army headquarters, a newer version of the hot-weather uniform could be requested and tested by the 25th Infantry Division around the same time next year.

JUNGLE COMBAT BOOT VERSION 2

In addition to the new uniform, 25th Infantry Division Soldiers will have a chance to try out five versions of footwear that represent a Version 2 of the jungle boot. These five variants are based on Version 1 of the boot Soldiers have already field-tested earlier this year.

After that field testing of Version 1, Soldiers determined that they wanted a combat boot that was lighter and more flexible, and which also had less stack-height off the ground. Ferenczy said the five types of Version 2 jungle boots meet all those Soldier demands, while also remaining puncture-proof and quick-drying.

The Version 2 boots also provide increased traction in the mud. Furthermore, he said, all the Version 2 boots are better designed to not hold in any moisture, and incorporate larger-sized drainage vents on both sides.

Come January, the Version 2 boots – 150 from each of five manufacturers – will be distributed to 25th Infantry Division Soldiers to be field-tested until March. The goal is for this current evaluation of Version 2 boots, and subsequent feedback, to be combined into a final offering.

Holidays

Continued from Page A1

your thoughts and prayers, as well.”

For members of the MCOE Band, it’s concerts like these that make what they do worth all the hours of preparation and rehearsal worth the work they put in, said Capt. Aaron Morris, MCOE Band commander.

“The holiday season is a special time of year, a time of

which we all have personalized memories of either our childhood and the mystery of Santa Claus, our cherished time with friends and family gathered around the tree, or a spiritual reverence for the days that are the cornerstone of faith,” he said. “Within these memories, I’m certain that music has been a special part of each of our experiences. So, tonight, the MCOE band and I are happy to share some of the holiday classics that we have all come to know and love.

“For us, we deeply cherish evenings like this when we have an opportunity to all come together with a shared purpose and unity to celebrate and enjoy each other’s company,” the band commander continued. “With all of the headlines we see day to day, opportunities like tonight may seem increasingly rare. Let tonight be a reminder to us all – regardless of where we are from, or what or how we choose to celebrate, we do it best together.”

Reunited

Continued from Page A1

in a few minutes he sent me a picture back of his log book from 1968 and there were several entries of 156 in it.

“I thought, ‘Oh my gosh! I’ve got the aircraft that my friend, Terry, actually flew in Vietnam – what are the odds of that?’” he said. “When you find something like this in your collection it’s a pretty big deal because it’s not often you have an artifact with a direct link to that veteran.”

The story of the aircraft and Morris’ time in it are equally impressive, Mitchell added, particularly one story, which occurred Aug. 18, 1968, when the 240th AHC was assigned an extraction mission to pick up a

long-range reconnaissance patrol.

During that mission, Morris was flying 15156 providing gunship support for the recon team that was to be extracted from the location where they were pinned and taking heavy enemy fire.

“They had made contact, and four of the 240th slicks went into that (pickup zone) to pick up the recon team and of the four slicks that went in with 16 crew members, 11 were casualties – eight wounded and three killed,” said Morris.

As the team approached the PZ, they immediately began to take on heavy fire and the two gunships providing support, including Morris’s aircraft, provided suppressive fire so that the recon team could board.

Although the mission was extremely hazardous, Morris said he knew he had to do what he could to help get those Soldiers out, so he did what he had to do, despite the consequences.

“Everyone that was involved in that operation got shot up pretty good,” he said. “On my last run, my last mini-gun quit firing and I thought I was out of ammo, but when I got back to the hospital, a crew chief started inspecting and saw that my mini-gun was gone – they’d shot it clean off the side of the aircraft.

“That was one of the more hazardous missions that old 156 participated in ... but this old girl took a licking and kept on ticking, and brought us home every night,” said

the Vietnam veteran. “She was a magnificent aircraft.”

Throughout the war, Morris said he flew 15156 from August through October of 1968, and in that time he expended 132 2.75-inch rockets and over 24,000 rounds of mini-gun ammunition.

After finding out the history of the aircraft, Mitchell said he made it a priority to get the Huey restored and dedicated to his long-time friend.

“This was a pretty big deal,” said the curator, adding that it’s a wonder that any aircraft flown in the Vietnam War were able to make it back to the U.S., let alone to have one that a veteran of Fort Rucker flew during the war.

Challenge

Continued from Page A1

Through the course, each Soldier had to start with a low-crawl event through sand, followed by a reverse climb, tire run, vertical wall climb and rope climb. Immediately after the course, each competitor had to attempt as many pull ups as possible.

It was during this part of the challenge that Contreras had particular difficulty, but with the support of her team, she was able to pull through.

“On the pull ups, I said, ‘Sorry team, but I’m not very good – that’s not my (strength),’” she said. “They just told me, ‘That’s OK, if you can do one, then that’s OK.’ We just did our best at everything we could.”

It was at that point that Contreras said she stopped focusing on how well the other teams were performing and started focusing on her own team.

It was that level of teamwork that helped the orange team get through the remaining portions of the challenge, which consisted of the Humvee push and Ruck March, which for many, like Soule, was one of the toughest parts of the competition.

“As I was failing at the very end, I realized how much I really had to rely on (my team) because I had to actually grab onto their backpacks to keep on moving,” he said. “My legs wouldn’t take anymore. It showed me basically what it’s like to rely on people when you need them the most.”

It was that level of teamwork that allowed the team to be able to push through the competition, not with winning in mind, but completing the competition together.

“Despite whatever challenges we faced, there wasn’t a moment where we were falling apart as a team,” said Reynolds. “That’s the key point of teamwork.”

“There were events that we didn’t feel particularly good about, but that didn’t stop us from just having a good time and leaning on each other,” added Bolling. “As a unit and as an Army, it’s important that you lift each other up and act purely as a unit and take care of those who need to be taken care of.”

The team didn’t expect to win the competition, but for many of the team members, the outcome was a lesson in life – to take risks and push through.

“We felt like we were behind throughout the whole competition,” said Reynolds. “As long as you just keep your head down and keep moving forward, and you know that your battle buddies are by your side, you can accomplish any goal.”

“Everyone should take a risk,” added Soule. “When they mentioned this (competition) I thought to myself that I couldn’t (compete) because all 300 (Soldiers) are going to do it, but this taught me that you should go for those risks that you think you can’t (achieve).”

Each of the winning team members were presented with



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

Pvt. Jacob Bolling, takes the edge position as he works with his team to push through the Humvee push challenge of the A Co., 1-13th Avn. Regt. Warrior Challenge Dec. 2.



Soldiers traverse the tire run at the NCO Academy obstacle course.

certificates of achievements, and Kahle said it takes a special Soldier to stand up and compete, and encouraged others to take the opportunity to better themselves through teamwork.

“The next time we do this, and any time you get the opportunity to participate in an event like this, (I challenge) you to go ahead,” he said during the presentation. “Get that intestinal fortitude and you do it, because you’re going to reap the benefits later and it’s going to be something that

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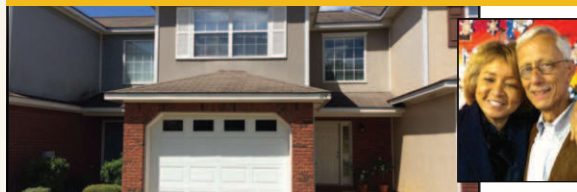
108 LAKE RIDGE DRIVE: Don't miss your opportunity to join the Country Club! Beautiful lot, Granite countertops in the kitchen. Walking distance from the clubhouse and the golf course make this home a steal! **CHRIS ROGERS 406-0726**

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2881 COUNTY RD 21: This adorable low maintenance vinyl clad 3bd/2ba 2011 built home is perched off the road with 2.3 acres of land. Country living with all the modern conveniences including a giant master bath shower! There are two wells on the property, a dog pen, and a shed! The open floor plan is great for entertaining! **CHERYL PICCININI 390-5973 & MAGGIE HAAS 389-0011**

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200 JASMINE CIRCLE: New construction convenient to schools, shopping, golf, restaurants and minutes from Ft. Rucker. Security system, 2 car garage, wood floor in dining area/living room/hall, carpet & tile floors, stainless appliances, natural gas heat/cooking/water heater, low E windows, sprinkler system, 2" faux wood blinds, framed mirrors in bathroom and tray ceiling in grandroom and fenced back yard. (Winterberry Plan) Owner is licensed residential home builder and REALTOR in the State of Alabama. **BCC 347-2600**

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175 JASMINE DR, OZARK: 4 bedrooms, sunroom, large walk out basement perfect for a game room or 5th bedroom on a large lot! Many extra details. Must see **JACKIE THOMPSON 406-1231 & TERRI AVERETT 406-2072**

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114 KIMBERLY DR: Great location, very close to town and to Fort Rucker. Great opportunity for an investor. This property can be a great rental or a fixer upper. It features 3 bedrooms, two baths, two living areas, kitchen with dining area, huge leveled and fenced back yard for outside activities. House sits on a corner lot with driveway on the side. 2 blocks from elementary school. This is a VA foreclosure to be sold as-is. Built before 1978, lead base paint potentially exist. Alabama Right of Redemption will apply. **NANCY CAFIERO 389-1758 & BOB KUYKENDALL 369-8534**

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302 NORTHSIDE DR: This updated 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick home is truly move in ready! Beautiful new low maintenance flooring and new lighting fixtures have just been installed. Home is freshly painted throughout, to include the two car garage. Brand new stove and hot water heater. The functional floor plan offers a large living room plus a spacious family room with new french doors to fenced backyard. Set in a super convenient location close to shopping, schools, and all city amenities. Easy drive to Ft. Rucker. **THERESA HERNANDEZ 379-5937 & EDITH HALL 470-330-5959**

NEW LISTING • \$107,000



301 DIXIE DR: Why rent when you can own? Come see this updated 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick ranch in move-in condition. Easy care carpet in the large bonus room and bedrooms, laminate flooring in living areas, recently repainted interior, pool liner and pump within the last year. Corner lot, a great fenced yard, lots of living space, and covered patio...a place you can own for just \$107,000. Schedule your showing today! **JUDY DUNN 301-5656**

FILL ‘ER UP



PHOTO BY SPC. DANIELLE CARVER

Soldiers with the 1-3rd Avn. Regt. prepare an AH-64D Apache at a fuel and ammunition resupply point during exercise Allied Spirit VII at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany, Nov. 15. Around 4,000 service members from 13 nations took part in the exercise Oct. 30 to Nov. 22. Allied Spirit is a U.S. Army Europe-directed, 7ATC-conducted multinational exercise series designed to develop and enhance NATO and key partner’s interoperability and readiness.

INHERENT RESOLVE

National Guard
Bureau chief visits
29th CAB in Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Isolda Reyes
For Army News Service

TAJI MILITARY COMPLEX, Iraq — The 28th chief of the National Guard Bureau visited with Soldiers from the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade at Taji Military Complex Nov. 25.

Air Force Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel received a briefing from Col. Mark Beckler, 29th CAB commander, and brigade staff officers about the Army Aviation mission in Operation Inherent Resolve.

Beckler noted that 29th CAB is the only Aviation brigade supporting Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve.

Lengyel expressed interest in the CAB mission as 29th CAB prepares to hand over its missions to the incoming 449th CAB, which is moving into Kuwait and Iraq now.

“I want to be able to understand the issues, so I can advocate what’s best for the



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ISOLDA REYES

Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, 28th chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Kepner, are greeted at Taji Military Complex, Iraq, Nov. 25 by members of the 29th CAB.

mission,” said Lengyel.

Following his meeting with other National Guard units at Taji, Lengyel and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Kepner, the 11th command sergeant major of the Army National Guard, enjoyed lunch with a selection of Airmen and Soldiers, during which he emphasized his role with Soldiers’ life in

the National Guard.

Lengyel stated that his Top 3 concerns are Soldiers and making sure they receive the right training, while ensuring National Guard personnel receive the right opportunities for their careers and families.

Soldiers followed up with questions that ranged from keeping an AH-64 Apache

fleet in the National Guard, operational support and personnel questions, including allowing National Guard Soldiers access to TRICARE even if they are federal government employees.

Lengyel expressed how important it is to bring these issues to the command’s attention because Soldiers and Airmen are at the forefront and they matter the most, because Soldiers are not easy to acquire and the organization thrives off of retention.

“I will follow up on each of these questions,” said Lengyel.

The Soldiers present at the luncheon appreciated the general’s and command sergeant major’s candid responses and conversation.

“They were both very personal with the Soldiers,” said Spc. Jacqueline Schultz, an Aviation operations specialist.

Other Soldiers echoed this appreciation and stated how much Lengyel made them feel at ease by telling them how appreciative he is for all of them as they all are willing serve the nation – a characteristic that not everyone possesses.

“Hearing this from the chief of the National Guard Bureau made me feel special and was extremely motivating,” said Schultz.

SAVING
A LIFE

Pennsylvania National Guard
members hoist injured hunter to safety

By Lt. Col. Angela King-Sweigart
Pennsylvania National Guard

TYRONE, Pa. – Members of the Pennsylvania Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team saved a hunter with life-threatening injuries in Blair County Nov. 22.

First responders on the ground called for the team’s assistance through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, according to Lt. Col. Michael Girvin, commander of 2nd Battalion (General Support), 104th Aviation Regiment. The responders needed to move the victim quickly and the remote heavily wooded terrain made the extraction difficult for wheeled vehicles.

This was the first in-state PA-HART rescue mission, said Girvin, although the team has been training to do this since 2006. The Pennsylvania National Guard has done other military only hoist rescues during domestic emergencies.

The unique capabilities of the team’s aircraft, a Pennsylvania National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk piloted by CW4 Keith Hogan and CW3 James Menoher, configured with a MedEvac package, including a hoist, were ideal for this scenario.

“We launched from the Army Aviation Support Facility No. 2 in Johnstown, where the aircraft is located and crew works,” said Hogan. “It took us about



PHOTO BY SGT. ARJENIS NUNEZ

Staff Sgt. Justin S. Seeley, assigned to 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade, does a propeller check on an RQ-11B Raven UAS Nov. 3 at Fort Benning, Ga.

Advisory brigade develops
own master UAS operators

By Sgt. Arjenis Nunez
For Army News Service

FORT BENNING, Ga. – Whether on land or in the skies, the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade is ready to gauge the battlefield to advise foreign partners. Soldiers continued their unmanned

aircraft systems training at the master level in early November at Fort Benning.

The purpose of the Master UAS course is to help the 1st SFAB develop its own UAS operators internally without having to request outside support.

“Being a UAS operator is more than just flying a drone,” said Staff Sgt.

Arturo Salcedo, a cavalry scout who is assisting the Master UAS operator training. “It’s about providing a real-time feed of the battlefield to the commander, past what the Soldiers on the ground can see, to be prepared for any situation.”

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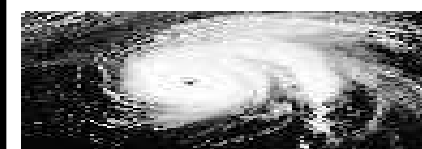


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Life

Continued from Page B1

20 minutes flying time until we reached the patient’s location. We started to hover above the tree line and sent Scott Grahn and Ricky Price [civilian rescue technicians] down on the hoist to assist the patient and first responders on the ground while Staff Sgt. Benjamin Turgeon operated the hoist.”

After the patient was loaded onto the aircraft the pilots and crew transported them to a nearby field. There they were moved to a civilian MedEvac aircraft and transported to a nearby hospital.

“The patient was relieved to see us,” said Hogan, “and we were happy to help; this is exactly what we train for and we’re ready to be called upon for the next rescue mission.”

According to news reports, the hunter injured his leg when he fell from a tree.

The PA-HART is a joint partnership between the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency along with credentialed civilian rescue technicians. PA-HART can respond at the request of a local emergency management coordinator. The coordinator must notify the State Emergency Operation Center.

Members of the Pennsylvania National Guard are assigned as military technicians to the Army Aviation Support Facility No. 2 in Johnstown. Their military assignments encompass a variety of commands throughout the Pennsylvania National Guard including: C Company, 1st Battalion, 230th Assault Helicopter Regiment, Tennessee National Guard, and Detachment 1, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion (General Support), 104th Aviation Regiment, 28th Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade, 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania Army National Guard.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pennsylvania National Guard CW3 James Menoher observes first responders transporting a patient that he and other members of the Pennsylvania Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team rescued moments before Nov. 22 in Blair County, Pa.

UAS

Continued from Page B1

As combat advisers, 1st SFAB Soldiers are tasked with providing combatant commanders with master tacticians who train, advise, assist, accompany, and enable allied nations and partner security forces.

“Modern combat operations, whether force-on-force or asymmetric, are driven by information collection,” said Staff Sgt. Justin S. Seeley, a military intelligence analyst assigned to the unit. “If our Soldiers have the ability to fly a sensor in preparation of a mission, or in response to a threat, the information they are gathering in real-time may serve as the decisive edge.”

Seeley, a native of Auburn, Georgia, joined the 1st SFAB in August. The drive to be a part of history and be a part of the foundation in a foreign nation’s army so that their nation may prosper and grow was too great to pass up, said Seeley.

“I am exposed to a multitude of knowledge,” said Seeley. “1st SFAB is an organization with personnel from various backgrounds with various experiences, and being able to talk to and learn from these Soldiers is an opportunity that may never present itself again.”

Before reaching the Master UAS training, 1st SFAB Soldiers need to complete a two-week initial qualification course, then two weeks of RQ-11B Raven and Puma all-environment UAS training and have 20 hours of flight time.

The ability to operate the different types of UAS’ is an important skill in addition to the growing proficiencies the unit continues to develop in its combat advisers, said Staff Sgt. Joshua Maynard, an infantryman assigned to 1st SFAB.

“The master course has helped me refine many of the skills I’ve acquired through previous courses, but it is also teaching me how to correctly prepare things such as



PHOTO BY SGT. ARJENIS NUNEZ

Seeley prepares to launch the RQ-11B Raven.

flight plans and most importantly, an aircrew training program, which is what we’ll use to develop our own operators,” said Maynard.

Maynard, originally from Dallas, has 14 years of service under his belt.

“I knew that volunteering for this unit meant that I, as well as those who also volunteered, wanted to be a part of something greater; wanted to be the best combat advisers they can be,” said Maynard.

Maynard said the abundance of knowledge surrounding him keeps him committed to developing his proficiencies as a master operator, as well as a combat adviser.

As with any training, there is a learning curve and different challenges that come with it, said Seeley.

“I think the biggest challenge I’ve faced is making heads or tails of the numerous Army regulations covering UAS’s that are sometimes at odds with each other,” said

Seeley. “It’s also challenging establishing an understanding of which regulation supersedes which.”

Maynard echoed that sentiment and included the challenge of fulfilling different roles on top of becoming a master UAS operator.

To overcome those challenges, 1st SFAB Soldiers believe that they have to remain diligent in reading and absorbing the material.

“I overcame the challenges of the course by reading between the lines, reviewing the material over again and voicing my questions to the course instructors to set me straight,” said Seeley.

In addition to the reading, Maynard also seeks help in studying from his family who is as much a part of 1st SFAB as he is. He is married and has a 5-year old daughter with another on the way.

“Me and my wife just got married in July 2017,” said Maynard. “She’s embracing the military lifestyle and reaches out to the spouses of other SFAB Soldiers through social media to build stronger relationships with their families.”

His wife sets up coffee meets with other SFAB spouses through their Facebook page, as well as park trips so their children can meet and make new friends, said Maynard.

The master UAS course will help certified 1st SFAB master operators instill confidence in the Soldiers they train to become operators, regardless of rank, and advise our foreign partners and allied nations on using the UAS systems correctly, said Salcedo.

“The training reinforces the SFAB’s combat advisor idea that they are specially trained and specially selected, with unique capabilities; providing the highest example for our partners and our own Army,” said Maynard.

The 1st SFAB is currently recruiting promotable specialists, sergeants and staff sergeants in combat medicine, vehicle maintenance, logistics, communications, field artillery and military intelligence.

Soldiers interested in joining the 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade should contact their branch manager or visit <http://www.armyreenlistment.com/sfab.html> for more information.

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DECEMBER 14, 2017



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

Callie MacLee, military family member, sits with Santa and tells him what she'd like for Christmas this year during Breakfast with Santa at The Landing Saturday.

Local children get early visit with Old St. Nick

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Santa is making his list and checking it twice, but Fort Rucker children had an extra opportunity to get in good standing with the jolly man in red.

The Landing hosted its annual Breakfast with Santa Saturday where families were able to enjoy a hearty meal and meet Jolly Old Saint Nick.

Families were treated to a buffet-style breakfast, complete with eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, grits, hash browns, fruit, pastries and more, and then were invited to take photos and spend some time with Santa.

"Breakfast with Santa brings the family together with other families from the military community, and (it) starts up the (holiday season) with great food," said Tim Carter, Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation food and beverage program manager.

Children were on their best behavior as they asked Santa to fill their Christmas wish list, and for many family members, the day was a treat they wouldn't soon forget.

Megan Smith, military spouse, came out with her children, Dana and Kaylee, and



Lyam Weijman, military family member, shows Santa a toy he picked out during Breakfast with Santa.

said her children couldn't have been more excited to meet the big man in red.

"It's all they talked about all morning," she said. "I love that they're so into the spirit of the season, and this is just the icing on the cake for them.

"We get to see Santa throughout the (season) and it really gets them excited, and when they're excited I'm excited, too,"

Smith continued. "It also doesn't hurt that it gives them some incentive to be good."

For Harriet and Jason Darlene, civilians, the event was just another excuse to be able to spend time together – something they said is a must.

"I think it's important to be able to share memories with your children and your whole family, especially when the kids are

young because I think that helps to build a stable foundation for them," said Harriet. "It's because of great memories as a kid that I want to be able to create these kinds of memories for my kids, and what better way to do it than by bringing them out to see Santa?"

Following the meeting with the man in red, children were able to pick out a toy of their own to take home with them, and for many of the children, the decision was a tough one.

"I feel like that was the hardest thing for Kaylee to do – pick out one toy out of the whole basket – but I know she's just happy that she was able to ask Santa in person for all the things she really wants, so she's happy either way," said Smith.

Being able to create those memories and special times is exactly what events like Breakfast with Santa are meant to do – show support for the families in the community, said Janice Erdlitz, DFMWR marketing director.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to show your support for Fort Rucker and (DFMWR) programs," she said. "We know we have a diverse community and we always want to offer something everyone can enjoy."

HISTORY IN THREADS II

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



PHOTO BY JAY MANN

Robert Mitchell, curator at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum, Fort Rucker, shows a patch from the 116th Beekeepers, one of five company patches made in-country for the unit in Vietnam.

By Jay Mann
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

(Editor's note: This is the second in a three-part series on the U.S. Army Aviation Museum's patch collection.)

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

"One patch success story here is our collection of 5 patches from the 116th in Vietnam," said Robert Mitchell, Curator at the Army Aviation Museum.

"This patch is from the Bee-

keepers," explained Mitchell, "Each company had their own patch. You had the Wasps, the Yellow Jackets, the Stingers, the Hornets and the Beekeepers. It was four line companies and the maintenance company. It comes from a lady named Linda who lost her brother in Vietnam. The veterans adopted her as an honorary member and she collected and donated the patches to the museum."

"This is a very nice collection, and very rarely do you get a complete collection of all of the unit company patches, said Mitchell, "What is unique about the collection is these are all in-country made patches, made on local sewing machines in Vietnam.

"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."

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.

"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."

ON POST

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

Youth center lock-in

The Fort Rucker Youth Center will host a lock-in Friday for registered child and youth services teens. Teen can be dropped off at 8 p.m. and be picked up the next morning at 6 a.m. Cost is \$20. For additional details, call 255-2260. Youth must be CYS members, ages 11-18 and in grades 6-12 to participate.

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

Winter Wonderland Skate Night

The Fort Rucker School Age Center will host its Winter Wonderland Skate Night Friday. Attendees are welcome to dress up as a snow princess, ice prince, snow boy or snow girl. Judges will pick the best costume and prizes will be presented to the winners. There will also be giveaways and picture taking sessions. Safety Skate will cost \$2 and will run from 5-6 p.m. Regular skate will cost \$5 and will run from 6-8 p.m. Only cash payment will be accepted. All participants must have a current pass with child and youth services.

For more information, call 255-9108.

Book club

The Center Library hosts a book club for adults the third Tuesday of each month from 5-6 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The club is open to authorized patrons. For more information, call 255-3885.

Teen babysitters course

The teen babysitters course is scheduled for Wednesday at the youth center from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The babysitters course is limited to 14 participants who must be ages 13-18. A valid child and youth services registration is required. Participants must bring a snack and lunch. Permission forms must be signed by a parent for the child abuse training, and release forms for the youth names to be placed on the CYS babysitter list. Youth must complete the one-day training to receive certification. The training course will cover the following: American Red Cross CPR and First Aid Training, home and fire safety training, basic childcare, feeding, diaper changing and basic child abuse training.

To register, call 255-9638 or 255-0621, or visit <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil>.

Bowling New Year’s Eve

Rucker Lanes will host its Wild West Countdown New Year’s Eve Party Dec. 31. Reservations are required. Cost will be \$35 per person or \$50 per couple, and will include a meal, unlimited bowling, shoe rental, party favors and a beverage to ring in the New Year. Two sessions will be available to choose from: 6-9 p.m. or 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. The event will be open to the public. No open bowling will be available during these times.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 255-9503.

Winter reading program registration

Registration for the Center Library’s winter reading program runs Jan. 3-16. The program’s kickoff event is scheduled for Jan. 6 from 2-3:30 p.m. The Center Library will offer events designed to allow time for creativity, reading and family time. This program will be open to all ages and people can register as individuals, groups or families to win prizes. The first 20 registrants will receive a special prize. The free program will be open to all authorized patrons and be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly.

The kickoff event will be a Maker Faire where there will be several makerspace areas where people can imagine, create, and design. The event will also feature a 3D printer, virtual reality system, yarn loom, paper crafts, and other ways for people to engage their creative ideas.

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

Employment readiness class

The Fort Rucker Employment Readiness Program hosts orientation sessions monthly in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, in the Army Community Service multipurpose room, with the next session Jan. 4. 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.

For more information, call 255-2594.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Single-parent family game night

Army Community Service and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service will host a single-parent family game night today from 5-7 p.m. at the AAFES post exchange food court. Free giveaways will be included. The event will be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly event. The event is an initiative of the Fort Rucker Community Health Promotions Council (CHPC) Community Resiliency Work Group. The event will be open to authorized patrons. Registration deadline is Friday and is limited to the first 20 families to register. The event will be open to single parents who are active duty, retired, Department of Defense employees and their families. To register or get more information, call 255-3359 or 255-9805. Pictured is a scene from a previous family game night.

Resilience training

Army Community Service will host its resilience training Jan. 12 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 350. People need to register by Friday. Resilience training is designed to provide family members and civilians with the tools to better cope and overcome adversity and challenges, as well as perform better in stressful situations, according to ACS officials.

For more information to attend a resilience training workshop or two-day training, or to schedule resilience training for a family readiness group or staff members, call 255-3161 or 255-3735.

Riding trails trip

MWR Central will host a day trip Jan. 13 to Sunshine Riding Trails, which includes over 10,000 acres of sand hills and preserved forest to explore on horseback with Tennessee Walking Horses. The cost is \$75 per person, and includes a two-hour horseback ride and transportation to Chipley, Florida. A beginners course will be offered for people who don’t know how to ride horses.

To register for the trip or get more information, call 255-2997 or 255-9517.

Winter Craft

The Center Library will host a winter craft session for children ages 3-11 Jan. 16 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited to the first 40 children to register. The event will be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly and open to authorized patrons.

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

Thrift Saving Plan 101 Seminar

Army Community Service accredited financial counselors will present a Thrift Savings Plan 101 Seminar Jan. 16 from 6-7 p.m. in Bldg. 5700, the Soldier Service Center, Rm. 350. The seminar will be a discussion of the significant aspects of the TSP, including: why people should consider investing with the TSP, how to start a contribution, risk tolerance, traditional and Roth accounts, TSP funds and diversification. Pre-registration is required by Jan. 15. Free child care will be available with registration.

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

Crazy 8’s Math Club

Center Library will offer its Crazy 8’s Math Club to children in grades kindergarten to second for eight consecutive Wednesdays beginning Jan. 17 from 4-4:45 p.m. Participants will build stuff, run and jump, make music, make a mess and enjoy math gone wild, according to library officials. Space is limited, and children must commit to participating in all eight sessions – parent participation is requested. The club will be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly and will be open to the public. People can register at the library.

DFMWR SPOTLIGHT

NEW YEAR’S EVE at Rucker Lanes

WILD WILD WEST COUNTDOWN

Sunday, December 31

Join us for our Wild West themed New Years Eve Party! Reservations are required.

First Session
6:00 pm–9:00 pm

— OR —

Second Session
10:00 pm–1:00 am

Cost:
\$35 per person
\$50 per couple

Includes:

- meal
- unlimited bowling
- shoe rental
- party favors
- a glass of champagne to ring in the New Year! (sparkling cider provided for ages 21 & under)

No open bowling. Lanes only available by reservation for Pin Down Countdown event. Bingo is open to authorized patrons and their guests.

For reservations call Rucker Lanes, (334) 255-9503. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Fort Rucker MWR

gram friendly and will be open to the public. People can register at the library.

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

Federal jobs workshop

Army Community Service will host its federal job workshop Jan. 17 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.

Newcomers welcome

A newcomers welcome is scheduled for Jan. 19 from 8:30-11 a.m. at The Landing. Active-duty military, spouses, foreign students, Army civilians and family members are encouraged by post officials to attend the newcomers orientation. A free light breakfast and 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.

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 14-17

Thursday, December 14

Suburbicon (R)7 p.m.

Friday, December 15

Star Wars: The Last Jedi (PG-13)4 & 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 16

Star Wars: The Last Jedi (PG-13)4 & 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 17

Star Wars: The Last Jedi (PG-13)1 & 4 p.m.

‘A DIFFICULT AND DIRTY JOB’

Soldiers push their limits in training at Army Sniper School

By Don Wagner
Army News Service

(Editor's note: This is the first of a four-part series on the U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, Georgia.)

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Sniper candidate Spc. Logan Boling, camouflaged in a ghillie suit, had been hiding in the woods under leaves and branches for what seemed like hours. He was attempting to crawl undetected several hundred meters, to take a shot at a target he had selected.

Boling made a mistake, however. The vegetation he chose to hide beneath didn't adequately conceal his weapon. The sun glistened off his barrel, which revealed his position to the spotters who had been looking for him. Boling had failed the challenge by allowing himself to be seen. As a result, an instructor pulled him from the training exercise.

Boling wasn't the first to make a mistake and wouldn't be the last, either. More than 300 Soldiers each year begin the seven-week U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, but only the best of those will make it through the course to graduation.

"Sniper school is one of the hardest schools in the military — not physically, but mentally," said Staff Sgt. Brian Moran, one of the 11 instructors who oversees the training.

DAY 1: WELCOME TO SNIPER SCHOOL

Before sunrise in early August, 46 Soldiers reported for the first day of sniper school as part of Class 10-17.

Every new student, private first class through staff sergeant, had already met demanding criteria just to be accepted into the school.

Before deciding to send a Soldier to sniper school, for instance, a Soldier's home unit typically evaluates them on land navigation and marksmanship skills. Those same Soldiers also needed to pass the Army Physical Fitness Test at their home unit, and needed exceptionally high marks on their Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. Experience as an infantry, cavalry or special forces Soldier is also a requirement.

Additionally, each student needed to undergo a psychological evaluation before being cleared to attend the training, to ensure they had the mental fitness to be a sniper.

"Snipers are often deployed in small two-man teams, which requires a great deal of mental fortitude to remain focused on the task at hand," Moran said. "If individuals have difficulty being isolated, there is a potential for mission failure."

Snipers must be physically fit, patient, even-keeled, quiet, smart, good at math, agile and adaptive, Moran said. They must also be able to make snap judgments and quick decisions on their feet.

On a miserably hot and humid day in middle Georgia, Soldiers formed up inside a makeshift gymnasium, and waited to be given another demanding physical fit-



PHOTOS BY DON WAGNER

Students learn that being a sniper can be a difficult and dirty job during training at the U.S. Army Sniper School, Fort Benning, Ga.

ness test. They had to prove once again to the Army that they were fit enough to be trained as snipers.

Moran said fitness is important because being a sniper is physically demanding.

"Instead of a normal 35-pound rucksack, a sniper might carry up to 110 pounds on his back and have to walk many miles or even crawl to accomplish the mission," Moran said. "Since snipers operate in small teams, if the equipment is needed, it has to be carried by that team."

The students, nervous and anxious, were fidgeting in anticipation before this first evaluation at sniper school. One by one, they cranked out pushups and sit-ups. Then they fell out on a nearby road and prepared for a 2-mile run that they had to complete in less than 16.3 minutes.

All the students passed the test, but as they finished, each was winded, breathing heavily, with T-shirts soaked from sweat.

Usually, during the initial physical evaluation, a few students will fail and are dropped from the course. But this day, every student passed.

In the afternoon, students were taken to a shooting range and tested on their marksmanship skills with the M4 carbine, using only the fixed iron sights.

During firing, instructors walked up and down the lines ensuring students were using the proper techniques they had been taught.

A few students looked confused and bewildered. It was apparent they needed some extra instruction. Instructors patiently stooped down to answer questions and ensure they understood.

During the firing, students wiped the sweat from their eyes as they squinted in the hot sun. They were uncomfortable, tired, hot and exhausted. However, they could not let these discomforts deter from their marksmanship. After each student shot, their scorecards were collected and evaluated by instructors.



A sniper school instructor inspects camouflage after students prepared the top of their ghillie suits.

Twelve students were sent home.

DAY 2: GHILLIE CHALLENGE

On the second day, students were taught how to make a ghillie suit, a type of camouflage designed to resemble the foliage in the environment where a sniper might operate. The suit helps break up the outline of a sniper's body.

Students laid a net on a large wooden table and then patiently attached strips of burlap, leaves, twigs, and other foliage to the net. The result was their own personalized garment that would help them blend into the natural foliage at the Fort Benning training area.

Students also learned to apply camouflage to places the ghillie suit wouldn't cover. Using mirrors, they applied the camouflage makeup to their face, neck and hands. Students then inspected one another to ensure no skin was exposed.

Later in the afternoon, dressed in their ghillie suits and with camouflage makeup on their faces, the students got the first opportunity to crawl through the mud like a real sniper.

Together, the students crawled several hundred feet through tall grass down the side of a road. Near the end of road, they turned and continued crawling through a deep ditch filled with water, mud, rocks, vegetation and fallen tree branches.

Moran observed and coached each stu-

dent as they crawled and paddled through the ditch. "Watch out for that rock," he called out. "And don't forget to open your eyes."

Part of the exercise also involved students helping one another. Each picked up and carried a classmate for a short distance in their wet and muddy ghillie suits. Then they pulled one of their buddies back down the side of the road in the grass.

The training is meant to prepare snipers for a situation where one of their fellow Soldiers is wounded or hurt. It enables them to live up to the motto: "never leave a Soldier behind."

Moran said he remembered doing the same exercises himself when he went through sniper school, and it made him smile.

But back then, he said, he didn't know for sure why it was they had been crawling through the mud.

Today, he knows. One reason for these exercises, he said, is to test the durability of the ghillie suits. When suits are tested in these conditions, they often become snagged on rocks or branches and tear. A suit that is not put together well will fall apart, he said.

"The object of this training is to teach students that being a sniper can be a difficult and dirty job," Moran said. "These are the conditions that snipers will often find themselves in."



Students are taught camouflage and concealment techniques at the U.S. Army Sniper School. They learned to weather a ghillie suit by crawling through ditches filled with water, mud, rocks, vegetation and fallen tree branches.



Sniper instructor Staff Sgt. Brian Moran explains the importance of proper camouflage techniques at the U.S. Army Sniper School.

Bringing People Together Thru Faith

ARMY FLIER

Church Directory

“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”
1 Corinthians 11:1

First United Methodist Church

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347-3467

Prayer Line 347-3467 ext 321

Service Times:

Traditional - in the Fellowship Hall..... 11:00AM

Contemporary C-3 - in the Fellowship Hall.....8:45AM

The Gathering (Youth)6:00PM

Sunday School9:55AM

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Call 347-9533 to advertise your church on this page.

PCB rings in the New Year

Army Flier
Staff Reports

Panama City Beach, Florida, will host its New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop Dec. 31 from 5:30 p.m. to midnight Pier Park. A family-friendly countdown will take place at 8 p.m. that will culminate with fireworks, live music and 10,000 beach balls being dropped over the

crowd. As the seconds tick down to midnight, thousands will watch the Celebration Tower as a glowing beach ball descends to signify the start of a new year and kicks off a second round of fireworks, according to organizers.

Formoreinformation, visit<https://www.visitpanamacitybeach.com/events/new-years-eve-beach-ball-drop/>.



WIREFLASS 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.andalusialegiopost80.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.andalusialegiopost80.org.

DALEVILLE

TODAY — The Above the Best Silver Chapter of the United States Warrant Officers Association will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 a.m. at Ole Choppers BBQ. Association membership is open to past and present warrant officers.

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.

DOTHAN

DEC. 17 — All Nations Family Worship Center, a new Christian ministry in Dothan at 1415 Honeysuckle Road, Ste. 1, will hosting its second of three pre-launch services at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. The grand opening celebration will take place Feb. 16-18. For more information, call 804-484-9696.

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 8-11a.m. The post can host parties, weddings, and hails and farewells.

ENTERPRISE

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](https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost6683).

ONGOING — Military Order of Purple Heart meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at American Legion Hall on East Lee Street. For more information, call 334-347-2727 or 334-447-6954.

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

TODAY — The Disabled American Veterans Wiregrass Chapter 99 will hold its sixth annual Community Christmas Get to Gather from 6-8 p.m. at the New Brockton Senior Center to show its appreciation to all in the Wiregrass, along with active-duty military, veterans and family members, that have supported the chapter's efforts. Beverages, hors d'oeuvres and Christmas sweets will be available. People should RSVP by Dec. 9. For more information or to RSVP, call 334-347-0114.

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.

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.

ONGOING — Every Monday through Friday, aerobic classes are open to the public at the Autrey Recreation Center from 8-10 a.m. Call 774-2042 for more information.

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.

WIREFLASS AREA

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

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

Beyond Briefs

Holiday lantern tours

Historic Pensacola, Florida, offers holiday lantern tours led by living history interpreters dressed in Victorian finery Dec. 15-16. The guides will take people inside the Lavallo, Dorr and Lear/Rocheblave houses, each decorated in keeping with the holiday traditions of the Colonial, Victorian and Edwardian periods. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for children younger than 12. People can meet begin the tours at 205 E. Zaragoza Street.

For more information, call 850-595-5985, Ext. 111.

'A Christmas Carol'

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival puts on its production of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens at various times through Dec. 24. Tickets may be purchased at <http://tickets.asf.net/single/PSDetail.aspx?psn=11828>.

For more information, call 334-271-5353 or visit asf.net/project/the-christmas-carol/.

Zoo Christmas lights festival

The Montgomery Zoo transforms into a winter wonderland sparkling with thousands of lights and festive decorations during its annual Christmas lights festival now through Dec. 31, according to zoo officials. People will be able to take a leisurely stroll, a brisk train ride or see the lights from atop the Zoo-fari Skylift Ride. There will also be a visit by

Santa, live nightly entertainment, hot chocolate and fresh-baked cookies. Regular night time admission is \$15 for ages 3 and older. Ticket includes entry and one train ride.

For more information, call 334-240-4900 or visit <http://montgomeryzoo.com/announcements/christmas-lights-festival-week-1>.

Governor's mansion Christmas tours

Alabama Governor's Mansion Christmas Candlelight Tours will be available Dec. 18 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Admission is free and tickets are available at the Governor's Mansion Gift Shop. No reservations are required.

For more information, call 334-834-3022 or visit governor.alabama.gov/governor-kay-ivey/governors-mansion.

Mobile Delta: Glass & Light

The Mobile Museum of Art is hosting the exhibit, "The Mobile Delta: Glass & Light" through March 11. Rene Culler's site-specific work is a mural in glass that celebrates the species-rich delta and its atmospheric qualities. The delta is a changeling environment that is constantly shaped and molded by the weather and waterways, according to museum officials. As the grasses, almost transparent, catch the light, Culler's drawings and painting in glass suggest the landscape that southern Alabama holds so dear. The composition is a wall of natural light utilized as a glass canvas for drawing, painting and printing with vitreous enamels. The museum is located at 4850 Museum Drive

in Mobile. Admissions is \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$8 for military members and students, and children under 6 are admitted for free.

For more information, visit <http://www.mobilemuseumofart.com/>.

Jacksonian Guard Colors Ceremony

People are welcome to celebrate Florida becoming a U.S. territory in Pensacola, where the original ceremony took place on July 17, 1821. The Jacksonian Guard is a Pensacola re-enactment group of Jacksonian era and Spanish soldiers, fifers and drummers who perform a colors ceremony the third Saturday of each month at noon in Plaza Ferdinand on Palafox Street downtown.

For more information, visit <https://downtownpensacola.com/businesses/jacksonian-guard>.

Palafox Market

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

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

Southern Thunder

Inspired by the Alabama Gang's influ-

ence on auto racing, Vulcan Park and Museum showcases its latest Linn-Henley Gallery exhibition through December 2018. Southern Thunder: The Legacy of Alabama Auto Racing, presented by the Jefferson County Commission, will showcase hair-raising stories and bring to life the impact that auto racing in Alabama had on the regional and national scenes, according to organizers. The exhibit relives this thrilling piece of Alabama history when driving by the seat of your pants wasn't a figure of speech and explains why this legacy is the foundation for auto racing in Alabama today.

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

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

Montgomery cruise

Montgomery's parks and recreation department welcomes people to come down to the river and experience history while enjoying a relaxing cruise on the city's greatest downtown attraction, the Harriott II Riverboat. Docked beside the uniquely built Riverwalk Amphitheater, this elegant 19th century riverboat is center stage of Montgomery's entertainment district. The Harriott II offers dinner, dancing, and live entertainment.

To reserve the boat for an event, call 334-625-2100. For more information on cruises, visit <http://www.funinmontgomery.com/>.

LESSON LEARNED

Candidates discover the key to lethality ‘a high tolerance for discomfort’

By Don Wagner
Army News Service

(Editor’s Note: This is the second article of a four-part series on the U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Links to past articles in the series are below.)

FORT BENNING, Ga. — For the candidates who made it to week two of the U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, their greatest challenges were just beginning.

Students in their ghillie suits were dispersed throughout the wooded hills and hid under leaves and branches. Instructors with high-powered optics were trying to locate them. If part of a student’s body became exposed, or if he became impatient and moved suddenly, his position was given away. When that happened, the student failed.

There was plenty in the woods there to make a Soldier uncomfortable enough to move and give away his position. There was the heat, for starters. And there was also an array of mosquitoes, ants and other insects that could crawl into a Soldier’s eyes or onto his face to make him squirm. But all of that had to be ignored for those Soldiers to pass the test.

Moran remembered, as a student years ago, he crept closer and closer toward a target: a driver of a truck, who was positioned some 600 meters away. Dressed in camouflage and a ghillie suit, and holding his high-powered rifle, he had been hiding under a pile of grass, stealthily crawling only five feet an hour, trying to remain undetected. When he had crept within 250 meters of his target, he fixed the crosshairs of his scope and pulled the trigger.

“Stalking requires close attention to detail of both the changing vegetation and light conditions through which a sniper moves,” Moran said. “Stalking also requires a high tolerance for discomfort.”

Sometimes snipers must be able to identify targets of opportunity, so another part of the training during this time was target detection.

In target detection, snipers must dissect their area of operation through observation, using their naked eye, binoculars, and rifle scope.

Snipers are trained to be able to get close enough to the enemy and take him out with one shot for one reason: to save Soldiers’ lives.

Moran added that the stalking and target detection exercises for the remainder of the week are the most significant disqualifiers. Many students fail during this portion of the course.

“Most of the students who are dropped from the sniper course have failed because of their lack of discipline,” Moran said. “Students must pay attention to the smallest details in every subject of the course ... and grasp the training concepts taught here at our school.

“In extreme weather conditions, some students lack the necessary attention to detail,” Moran said. “And for others, they come to the class without the proper preparation.

“With every class, I’m hopeful that we won’t have anyone fail,” he said. “It’s realistic to assume that some or all of student candidates may not have gotten the required training they should have gotten at their units before coming to our course here. However, students can return to their units, retrain and reapply to our school again.”

Twenty-five students failed during Week 2.

RECONNAISSANCE

Also during the first couple of weeks, students learned to do reconnaissance. Groups of three or four would simulate being deep behind enemy lines. They nestled behind shrubbery in a densely forested area where they couldn’t be seen.

In this exercise, students had to be patient, often lying perfectly still for hours at a time. When they moved, they crawled slowly and stealthily. Meanwhile, with their binoculars trained on a target, they would watch for en-



PHOTOS BY PATRICK A. ALBRIGHT

A Soldier takes part in the annual International Sniper Competition at Fort Benning, Ga., in 2016. Fort Benning is also the home of the U.S. Army Sniper School, where candidates undergo weeks of intense training in order to graduate.

emy movement.

“The sniper team’s secondary mission is the collection and reporting of battlefield information,” said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Doolittle, sniper school operations NCO.

“A highly effective team can move into an area, remain undetected, and report enemy movements, equipment, and patterns of life,” he said. “If need be and trained to, the sniper team can also call in artillery on enemy positions to disrupt or kill the enemy.”

Moran said it was one of his mentors that helped him understand what it means to benefit and help shape a unit from a reconnaissance and sniper perspective.

He chose to become a sniper, he said, because he feels that it is a vital service to the Army. But also, he said, he thinks the role of the sniper is misunderstood.

“Snipers are force multipliers,” Moran said, explaining that a few good snipers can sometimes swing momentum on the battlefield.

“This is why I chose this profession,” he said. “I wanted to be a force multiplier.

“Snipers don’t just shoot,” he continued. “Snipers are detail-oriented, can accomplish a task with little or no support, and can help every commander at every level if they are given the opportunity. Put faith in your snipers, and they will get you the results you need, and much more.”

WEEK 3

In the third week, students learned data-gathering strategies to engage targets at unknown distances. They were also taught the basics of sniper marksmanship.

Week 3 was a mix of classroom instruction and range time with 90 percent spent on the range. Students conducted standard Army physical training in the morning along with their instructors. After breakfast, they moved to a range for a day of firing where they were taught sniper/spotter dialogue.

Burroughs Range has some rolling terrain but is mostly flat. Both sides of the range are lined with trees to help separate range lanes. The firing line is worn down with no grass, exposing the red Georgia clay. The range is about 400 meters wide and about 950 meters long. There are several old burnt-out cars and a couple of old tank hulls that litter the range. These vehicles serve as markers to help students determine the distance to targets.

The targets that students fired at were man-sized, 20 inches wide by 40 inches tall steel targets. There was an audible “ding” heard when bullets hit the targets.

Targets were placed on the range from

300 meters to 800 meters, were painted white and had either a number or letter so that the instructors could tell the students what to shoot.

The entire week was daytime firing and students fired between 80 to 120 rounds a day.

On the range, a group of four to six students was assigned to a sniper/instructor. Sniper/instructors were “on glass” looking through a spotting scope at the targets and telling them what targets to shoot.

They coached the students on marksmanship fundamentals and instructed them to make adjustments in their rifle sightings after missed rounds, due in part to varying weather conditions. Instructor mentorship was critical.

“The instructors I work with now are some of the most professional individuals I’ve had the opportunity to work with,” Moran said. “They are knowledgeable in every aspect of the job and enjoy talking

about work in their off time. They are always thinking of ways to better the course so we can send the best-trained snipers back to their units.”

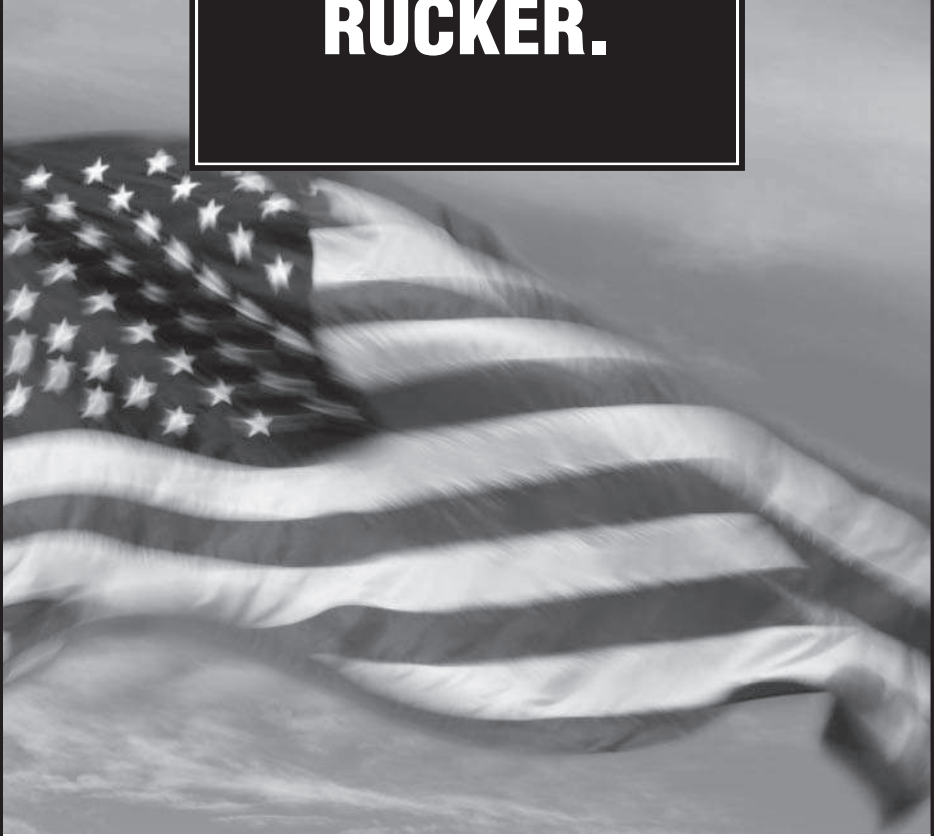
Moran and the majority of the instructors have engaged and killed multiple enemy targets as an infantryman.

“Whether as an infantryman or as a sniper, the act of conducting a lethal engagement is a severe one that cannot be overemphasized,” said one instructor.

In Moran’s first duty assignment, he served with the 75th Ranger Regiment. With that unit, he deployed six times, including three times as a sniper. After leaving the 75th Ranger Regiment to stand up a sniper section at 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, Moran served as the reconnaissance platoon sergeant. After that, he began teaching.

“I enjoy the independence that is often required for the job, and relying on a small group of select individuals,” Moran said.

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A Soldier takes part in the annual International Sniper Competition in 2016.

Battle of Cambrai remembered 100 years later for combined arms use

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — During the battle of Cambrai in World War I Nov. 20 to Dec. 7, 1917, the first American units saw action. The same battle also showcased the first large-scale effective use of combined arms, marking an evolution in warfare, said Dr. Brian F. Neumann.

The battle began with a successful British offensive against the Germans, said Neumann, who is an historian and WWI subject matter expert with the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

Success of the offensive, he said, was due to the effective coordination of combined arms, which included infantry, artillery, tanks and combat air support. All were used to overrun the German trench lines in the vicinity of the northern French town of Cambrai.

The use of combined arms gave the battlefield more of a three-dimensional look, with air, tanks and artillery all supporting infantry, along with some cavalry support, he said.

The British employed several hundred tanks, which were used to overrun the German trenches and tear holes through their lines, he said. It was the most significant utilization of tanks to date.

The U.S. Army's role in the fighting was fairly limited, he said, noting that it consisted of Soldiers from the 11th, 12th and 14th Engineer Regiments, who were engaged in railway construction work behind the trench lines in support of the

British. Although America's role in the battle was limited, the news that Soldiers were finally engaged in a major battle for the first time since war was declared in April made headlines and boosted morale on the home front, he said.

By Nov. 30, the British had essentially outrun their supply lines and artillery support, and that's when the Germans mounted a successful counterattack, Neumann said.

Luck for the Army engineers ran out on that day, as well, when the Germans overran their area, resulting in 28 U.S. casualties.

The survivors regrouped and were reorganized into reserve infantry with their main effort being to build trenches and help the British to re-stabilize their lines, he said.

The Battle of Cambrai, though heralded for successful use of combined arms, was actually a fairly typical of WWI battle, in that a successful offensive was then met by a successful counter-offensive, with the lines between friend and foe not shifting that much and a lot of casualties taken on both sides: around 45,000 on each side, he said.

Although America had declared war against Germany



GRAPHIC BY TRAVIS BURCHAM

seven months earlier, the Army wasn't yet ready for large-scale combat operations, Neumann said.

While the roughly four U.S. combat divisions in France were still in training, he said, they would see plenty of action in 1918.

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)

Fort Rucker Chapels **2017**
Holiday Worship Services & Events Schedule

CATHOLIC (MAIN POST CHAPEL, BLDG 8940)	
22 Nov (1700)	Thanksgiving Eve Mass
24 Dec (1600)	Children's Christmas Eve Mass
24 Dec (2200)	Christmas Eve Mass
25 Dec (0900)	Christmas Day Mass
31 Dec (1700)	New Year's Eve Mass (Holy Day of Obligation)

Worship with us!

JEWISH (MAIN POST CHAPEL, BLDG 8940)	
12-20 Dec (1700)	Hanukkah

PROTESTANT (HEADQUARTERS CHAPEL, BLDG 109)	
22 Nov (1130)	Thanksgiving Service

PROTESTANT (MAIN POST CHAPEL, BLDG 8940)	
10 Dec (1600)	Annual Children's Christmas Drama
13 Dec (1700)	German Christmas Service
24 Dec (1100)	Combined Protestant Worship Services
24 Dec (1900)	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
31 Dec (1100)	Combined Protestant Worship Services

For more information, contact the Religious Support Office, 334-255-2989/2012.

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Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/fort.rucker.chapels

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DECEMBER 14, 2017

LET IT FLY

Post disc golf course offers year-round play

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

As the seasons change throughout the year, opportunities for different recreational sports open up, but one sport lets players exercise their competitive spirit year round.

Fort Rucker's disc golf course has been a catalyst for the sports' growth locally, according to Lori Ciranni, Fort Rucker sports, fitness and aquatics manager, who added that she feels camaraderie, competition, an abundance of free facilities and a short learning curve have helped its growth.

"Disc golf is easy for someone to pick up," she said. "You can grow from not playing at all to being competitive within two months of playing regularly."

Ciranni said the Beaver Lake course, offering more than 90 minutes of play time, presents unique challenges to competitors.

"The lake is a tough hole," she said. "It is the decision hole. You can try to throw over the lake or go around and have one extra throw. The distance of some of the holes is also challenging. Playing in the woods makes it very challenging."

Disc golf is played much like traditional golf, but instead of using a ball and clubs, players use a flying disc. Whether you're a novice or professional, it is easy to develop proficiency on the course.

The course, located at Beaver Lake, is an 18-hole, 55-par course that follows the Beaver Lake trail, for the most part. It offers varying levels of difficulty with very basic holes with no hazards or trees to more advanced holes with water traps and obstacles.

The rules of disc golf are much



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Stephanie Woodard, civilian participant and advanced female winner, tosses a disc at one of the baskets on the disc golf course during a previous Winter Fling Disc Golf Tournament at Beaver Lake.

like the game of ball golf in that the goal is to use as few strokes as possible to throw a disc from a designated spot into a basket.

Disc golf has been around for quite some time, but was formalized in the 1970s, and began to gain most of its popularity in the 1990s and early 2000s among the college crowd. According to the Professional Disc Golf Association, which has more than 50,000 members, there are more 4,000 courses around the world.

Another one of the draws of disc golf is that it is a non-contact sport that is open to all ages, and

playing an entire round of disc golf, 18 holes, takes anywhere from 45-90 minutes, depending on the amount of players, and costs little to no money.

"Disc golf is very family-oriented," Ciranni said. "Because it's outdoors, you can bring a stroller, your dog and your entire family to play."

"The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness center offers discs to purchase or rent," she added. "So, if you just want to try the sport for the day, you can rent discs. Once you become addicted you will want to purchase your own.

We offer them in many colors and weights."

Discs are available to rent. All discs must be returned by close of business. If the disc is not returned, a \$7 fee will be charged. The course is open to the public. Disc check-out is open to authorized patrons only.

According to Ciranni, disc golf is not difficult to learn. However, joining an experienced player can help reduce the learning curve.

"Get with an avid player and let them show you the ins and outs," she said. "Groups meet

most every Saturday and Sunday around 9-10 a.m. to play. Discs are a little different to throw than a Frisbee. There are different discs for different distances. The best thing you can do is rent them and determine what you like.

"I personally used a putting disc for most of my first game," she added. "It was the only one I could get to go straight. Patrons can go to the Fort Rucker Freedom Flyers Disc Golf Club on Facebook to ask questions or find out times to play."

For more information, call 255-2296.



TRICARE GRAPHIC

TRICARE changes coming in 2018

By Jenny Stripling

Lyster Army Health Clinic Public Affairs Officer

As part of the changes coming to TRICARE Jan. 1, there will be new rules affecting disenrollment.

Beginning in 2018, if you're eligible for TRICARE and enrolled in a health plan, there are three ways you can be disenrolled.

- If you no longer wish to continue TRICARE coverage, you can voluntarily disenroll.
- If you fail to pay enrollment or premium fees.
- If you or your sponsor lose TRICARE eligibility.

"Enrollment processes for TRICARE are changing, so we want beneficiaries to take command and become informed so that they make sure they have the coverage they need and want," said Capt. Alyssa Schlegel, chief of Managed Care at Lyster Army Health Clinic.

Jan. 1, TRICARE Standard will transition to TRICARE Select. Under TRICARE Select, beneficiaries will need to be enrolled if they wish to use the program and disenroll if they no longer wish to use this health plan. In order to disenroll from TRICARE Select, you will need to fill out a change form.

This is different from the current disenrollment process. Currently, you can disenroll or be disenrolled from TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Premium Based Plans (TRICARE Young Adult (TYA), TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR), TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS), US Family Health Plan (USFHP)), but you can't be disenrolled from TRICARE Standard. Today, if you disenroll or are disenrolled from TRICARE Prime, then you're still automatically covered by TRICARE Standard. Once TRICARE Standard

SEE TRICARE, PAGE D3

ARMY SINKS NAVY

Bond among players, fellow cadets propels Army to victory

By Joe Lacdan

Army News Service

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — As hundreds of West Point cadets poured out from the stands onto a snow-covered Lincoln Financial Field following a 14-13 triumph over Navy, Army celebrated perhaps a turning point in the storied rivalry between the two schools.

For West Point's Class of 2018, being a part of the football tradition that shifted the rivalry in Army's favor after losing 14 straight to the Midshipmen made the victory sweeter, said Cadet Vincent Hale.

Army (9-3) has now won two straight over Navy (6-6), after last season's 21-17 victory in Baltimore. Before Saturday's game started, football players rushed to the stands to greet fellow classmates, many of whom they attend classes and take part in drills with on a daily basis.

"The football team acts as an extension of us," said Hale, who will commission in May as a field artillery officer. "They are our classmates. They are the guys that we do training with, that we do classes with, and that we kind of go through the same day-to-day military stuff with."

The weight of the annual contest was not lost on Army's seniors. Cadet Sam Crump, who will commission as a quartermaster, said the annual tradition continues to unite cadets.

"It's better than Christmas," Crump said. "I look forward to this more than 99 percent of the year. For people to sit in this seat and be lucky enough to view this game, it is an absolute blessing. I cannot think of a better experience with 4,000 of your closest friends. It's bar none the highlight of my college career."

After pounding their way to a 7-0



PHOTO BY EJ HERSON

Black Knight football players charge onto the field for the 118th Army-Navy Game in Philadelphia Saturday.

lead early in the first quarter, Army trailed the Midshipmen for most of the contest. Navy led 13-7 before a late run by senior running back John Trainor put Army at the one half yard line. Senior quarterback Ahmad Bradshaw, behind a smothering effort by the Black Knights' offensive line, scored the winning touchdown to put Army ahead.

"It was just a quarterback sneak," Bradshaw said. "I don't think I would've gotten in without my full-back and offensive line."

More than 68,000 spectators, including 4,000 West Point cadets, braved frigid temperatures and snow to attend the game.

At halftime, Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Mark Milley honored seven Soldiers for aiding hurricane relief efforts in Houston and Puerto Rico. Among them was 1st Lt. Nathan Degen, an assistant operations officer assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment. He had helped coordinate rescue operations in both Hurricane Harvey

and Maria.

While most cadets attend the contest each year, Lt. Col. Britt Erslev, a regimental tactical officer who mentors and coaches cadets at West Point, was attending her first Army-Navy game.

"It's a very historic game and it's a great opportunity to carry on the rivalry," she said. "But it also shows that we're united at the same time."

West Point cadets agreed that camaraderie runs strong between the two branches. That camaraderie is exemplified during the annual "prisoner exchange" that happens during the game. At the exchange, West Point cadets who had been attending a semester of school at the U.S. Naval Academy, and Midshipmen who had been attending a semester of school at the U.S. Military Academy, are symbolically returned to their own service. The exchange is symbolic because students won't actually return to their own campuses

SEE VICTORY, PAGE D3

DOWN TIME



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

TRIVIA

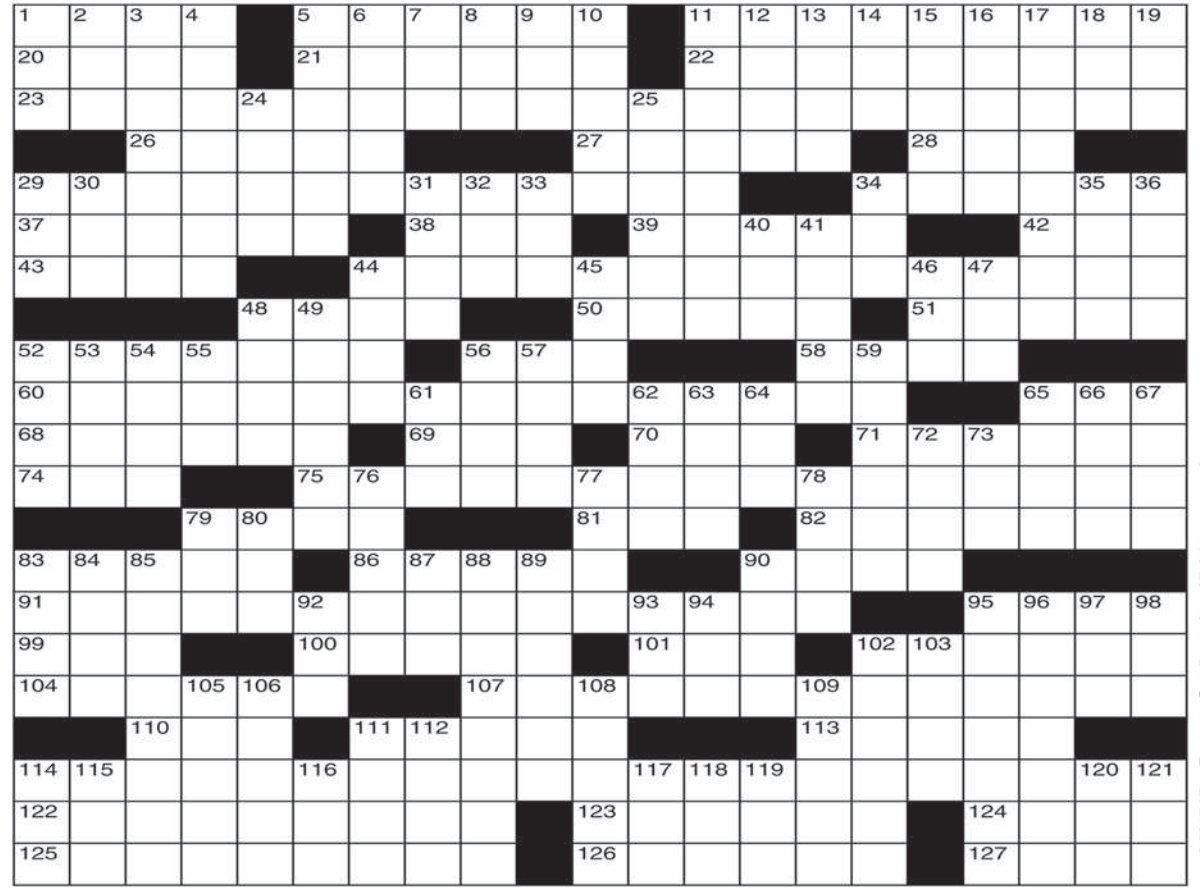
1. MEASUREMENTS: How long is a cubit?
2. MEDICAL: What malady would you have if you suffered from "striae gravidarum"?
3. TELEVISION: What long-running soap opera is set in Genoa City?
4. HISTORY: What world peace group preceded the United Nations in the 20th century?
5. MUSIC: Where did the Beatles have their first concert in the United States in 1964?
6. GEOGRAPHY: What English city's Roman name was "Aquae Sulis"?
7. LITERATURE: Who was Don Quixote's sidekick in the 17th-century novel?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the official residence of the Russian president?
9. AD SLOGANS: What company's advertising slogan proclaimed, "There are some things money can't buy"?
10. THEATER: What was the name of the family in the play "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword

LINKING VERBS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Defers (to)
 - 5 Pretenders
 - 11 Animistic religion of northern Asia
 - 20 Adored star
 - 21 How bed linens are often sold
 - 22 Audio product introduced by Bose in 1993
 - 23 CHARM
 - 26 Spending jag
 - 27 "— ed Euridice"
 - 28 "Ben—"
 - 29 SEE
 - 34 Citi Field MLB team
 - 37 Clothed very shabbily
 - 38 Prefix with color
 - 39 Fleecy beast
 - 42 Lose vigor
 - 43 Not difficult
 - 44 HEIGHTEN
 - 48 Grows older
 - 50 Daisy cousin
 - 51 California's Point —
 - 52 Was of use to
 - 56 See 29-Down
- DOWN**
- 13 Eventual oak
 - 114 ERASE
 - 122 Proper noun in an atlas
 - 123 Ripped thoroughly
 - 124 Huge-scale
 - 125 Person on both sides of an issue
 - 126 Treats with malice
 - 127 Gas brand
 - 15 Don Marquis' "— and Mehitabel"
 - 16 Poet Tate
 - 17 "It really seems to me..."
 - 18 Moral failure
 - 19 Pithy remark
 - 24 Math subj.
 - 25 Cave beings
 - 29 With
 - 56-Across, compete to obtain
 - 30 Suffix with czar
 - 31 LAX info
 - 32 Madras "Mr."
 - 33 Female sib
 - 34 Turner of an insurrection
 - 35 "Tall" story
 - 36 Mil. officers
 - 40 Rd. relative
 - 41 Physicist
 - 44 Curie
 - 45 Funny Foxx
 - 46 English noble
 - 47 Special time
 - 48 Strikes (out)
 - 49 Heady drinks
 - 52 Actor Driver
 - 53 "No" from a higher-up
 - 54 Italian wine area
 - 55 Luge surface
 - 90 Scale part
 - 92 Toys — (chain for kids)
 - 93 TV "Science Guy"
 - 94 Ruhr article
 - 95 Turnpike toll, e.g.
 - 96 Takes for ransom
 - 97 Wallach of "Nuts"
 - 98 Old aviation inits.
 - 102 What pull-ups work
 - 103 With 101-Across, thus far
 - 105 Actress
 - 106 Evaluated
 - 108 Sends cell messages
 - 109 Unclear
 - 111 Kind of gel
 - 112 Unchanged
 - 114 Photo —
 - 115 Deli staple
 - 116 Cut off
 - 117 Fizzy drink
 - 118 Geller from Israel
 - 119 Bottom-line
 - 120 Prefix with gender
 - 121 Prefix with friendly

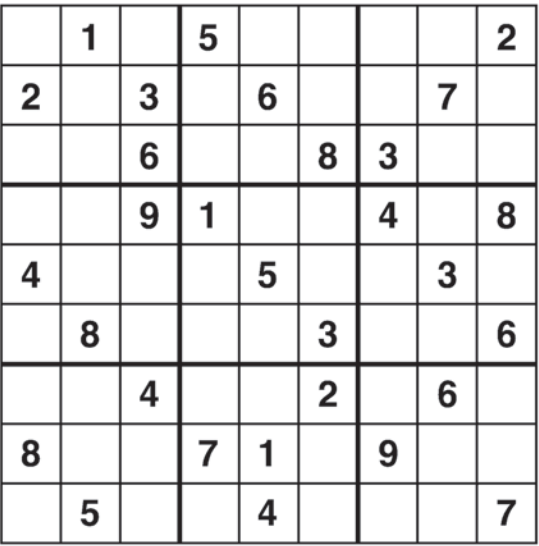


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See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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See Page D3 for this week's answers.

KID'S CORNER

FRUIT MARKET

OUR CIRCUS MONKEY finds gold at the fruit market! Can you correctly count all of the bananas pictured above? You have 30 seconds.

Answer: 58 bananas (did you count the one in his hand?)

FIND THE HIDDEN CITY in this man's sentence! (You'll also find it in Spain and Ohio.)

Answer: Toledo. — "Toledo" had only.

THEY WORK ONE DAY A YEAR FOR SANTA! To the right are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in grid B.

1. Get data from disk. 2. To confront boldly. 3. To eliminate; delete. 4. Your usual food and drink. 5. To gain from work. 6. To gain from work. 7. To gain from work. 8. To gain from work.

Answer: 1. Read-data. 2. Data-band. 3. Edit-disk. 4. Eat-meat.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

FIND THE BIG WORDS!

Using the definitions and the anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework picture on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

DEFINITION:

1. Where the firefighters hide.
2. Modern jazz devotees
3. A quarrel or dispute
4. Without imperfection.
5. Loudly proclaimed
6. North American virtues
7. Awning or billed cap
8. Handy paint holders

ANAGRAM:

sand + bald rest + ship gram + tune saws+ fell laze+ bond razz + buds dune + sash lest + tape

Answer: 1. Badlands 2. Hipsters 3. Argument 4. Buzzards 5. Palattes 6. Razzes 7. Sunshade 8. Painters

Wishing Well

6 3 5 6 8 4 8 4 5 4 5 6 3
F E B E D T O I E M A E V
7 2 8 3 2 6 8 7 4 7 2 5 2
M L C E O L U A E R O L K
7 4 7 8 2 3 7 4 8 7 8 7 8
I T T M F N A O E L N B T
5 6 2 7 8 3 6 8 5 3 6 7 6
E I O L T N N A F G I S
3 4 6 5 8 6 7 6 2 7 4 8 6
U C R D T U S N R S H H D
8 3 4 2 5 3 8 3 6 4 8 2 6
E L A W E M M E E N A A E
8 6 2 3 5 2 3 8 4 3 4 3 3
I P R E R D T L G I E N G

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

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTNOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Answer: 1. The boy is holding a video game. 2. The girl is holding a video game. 3. The boy is holding a video game. 4. The girl is holding a video game. 5. The boy is holding a video game. 6. The girl is holding a video game.

DOD’s international HIV/AIDS prevention program saves lives

Military Health System
Communications Office Staff Report

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Navy Capt. Gregg Montalto remembers the first time he met the young Ugandan teenager a couple of years ago sitting across the table. The boy was HIV positive with AIDS.

“He’s a pretty shy kid,” said Montalto, a pediatrician now stationed at Naval Medical Center San Diego. He met the boy through the Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program.

DHAPP is the DOD’s implementing arm of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, also known as PEPFAR, which is the largest commitment by any nation in history to combat a single disease.

“We talked a little bit, and I learned he was severely underweight at just 38 kilograms [about 83 pounds] and orphaned,” said Montalto. He recalled that the boy’s CD4 count, the amount of HIV virus-killing cells in the body, read just four. Anything below 200 means the AIDS virus is allowing other infections to attack the body.

The Department of Defense recognizes World AIDS Day Dec. 1 as a time to commemorate not just this Ugandan teenager but the millions of lives that have been impacted by HIV/AIDS in the last 35 years. It is an epidemic that continues to infect more than 37,000 people globally every week, and threatens the health and prosperity of families and communities.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 35 million people worldwide live with HIV/AIDS; more than two-thirds are in Sub-



COURTESY PHOTO

Air Force Capt. Crystal Karahan, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Air Forces Africa international health specialist, talks to Cameroonian nursing students during a clean site delivery workshop in Douala, Cameroon.

Saharan Africa. Nearly 75 percent of the 2.1 million new HIV infections in 2013 occurred in this area. The Navy was previously the Department of Defense executive agent for DHAPP, which includes Army, Navy and Air Force medical assets. Recently, DHAPP transitioned to the Defense Health Agency for oversight.

“We identify partner militaries and approach their medical folks,” said Richard Shaffer, DHAPP’s division chief and an epidemiologist. “We ask if there’s anything the U.S. military can help with when it comes to their medical programs that support their military members and family members with HIV.”

DHAPP collaborates with partner militaries to plan activities and implement programs to combat HIV/AIDS in their

military services. Through direct military-to-military cooperation, its goal is to maximize program impact by focusing on the HIV epidemic specific to the partner military. DHAPP’s support includes training health care workers to provide HIV clinical services and implementing testing strategies, such as the use of mobile testing units, to reach individuals most at-risk. It also helps equip laboratories and clinics for testing and diagnostics, links HIV-positive individuals into treatment, promotes health education, and provides training against stigma and discrimination.

Fifteen years after its inception, DHAPP’s partnership with 57 other countries’ militaries, mostly in Africa, works to help lower the incidence of HIV and AIDS in those countries. Shaffer said not

only does the program make a difference for the people living in those countries; it benefits American troops who may one day operate in those areas.

“Any time we can develop capable partners, it takes a health care burden off our U.S. military,” he said, adding that medical aid is a great foot in the door to help develop deeper relationships with other militaries and the larger civilian population.

In addition, American military doctors get to see other diseases firsthand they might have only read about. “We’ve got people who have learned about yellow fever in the United States through medical school, but never saw a case until they went with us to southern Africa to work on an HIV program,” said Shaffer. “Our medical departments are getting more experience than what they did before DHAPP.”

Moving responsibility of DHAPP to the Defense Health Agency gives the program a more defined DOD-wide role, said Shaffer. “There are so many organizational benefits I see coming out of this. We already had a good relationship with the combatant commands, and being part of the Defense Health Agency will help to improve that relationship. This transition gives us the ability to engage more at the military Joint Staff and interagency levels.”

Montalto recently saw the Ugandan boy again. He had gained about 45 pounds in two years, and his CD4 count was at about 300-400, meaning his immune system was far better equipped to keep him healthy. The captain said the youth had improved in part because he was taking better care of himself, when many in that condition might have just given up.

Victory

Continued from Page D1

until January.

“For us this game is a really great rivalry because it’s really the two biggest services duking it out,” said Cadet Nicholas Miller. “But in the future we’re basically going to be serving side by side combating U.S. enemies. To me personally, as a cadet, this is a way of just having that competitive spirit of ‘we are America and we’re the best,’ and we have to be the best in the

world to fight and win the nation’s wars.”

Navy, led by Malcom Perry’s 250 rushing yards, seemingly dominated Army throughout the night. But the Army’s defense, led by junior linebacker James Nachtigal (11 tackles) stiffened at the crucial moments. Navy threatened the Army defense one final time, but junior kicker Bennett Moerhing’s kick missed wide as time expired.

“Adrenaline rush,” said Cadet Teresa Groten as she stood on the field while cadets and football players celebrated

around her. “I thought it was over. It was awesome.”

Army coach Jeff Monken said he noticed a stronger bond among Army’s football players during the postgame celebration after winning the Commander-in-Chief’s trophy for the second straight season.

“The brotherhood is alive in that locker room,” Monken said. “I am privileged to be a part of this team and to represent the great Academy and the United States Army and for all those that serve all over the world. It is an incredible feeling.”

TRICARE

Continued from Page D1

transitions to TRICARE Select, you will not have this automatic coverage – you must actively enroll.

You may elect to disenroll from any TRICARE plan at any time. During calendar year 2018 (Jan. 1-Dec. 31), you’ll have a full-year grace period to enroll or re-enroll in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select at any time, as long as you remain eligible. Special rules will apply in 2018 for beneficiaries who are eligible for TRICARE, but aren’t enrolled in a plan. These grace period

rules include the following.

- * Your first episode of care from a civilian network provider will be covered by TRICARE.

- * You’ll have an opportunity to enroll or re-enroll.

- * If you don’t enroll at that time, you’ll only be able to receive care at a military hospital or clinic on a space-available basis and use military pharmacies. You’ll be responsible for all subsequent costs for seeing a civilian provider. TRICARE won’t pay any other claims.

The grace period doesn’t apply to premi-

um-based plans.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2019, once you voluntarily disenroll from TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select, you can only re-enroll if you experience a qualifying life event or during the next annual open enrollment season (and receive coverage beginning Jan. 1).

If you disenroll or are disenrolled from a premium-based plan like TRR, TRS or TYA, you must wait 12 months and requalify for TRICARE if you want to purchase coverage again. If you disenroll from the Continued Health Care Benefit Plan (CHCBP),

you can’t enroll in another TRICARE plan unless you become eligible for TRICARE again. Specific procedures and disenrollment forms are available online.

In cases of disenrollment due to loss of sponsor eligibility, you may be eligible for temporary coverage through the Transitional Assistance Management Program.

Are you ready for the upcoming TRICARE changes? The best way to prepare is to update your information in DEERS, sign up for TRICARE benefit updates and visit the TRICARE Changes page at <https://tricare.mil/changes>.

FORT RUCKER SPORTS BRIEFS

Track, field closure

The football field and quarter-mile track behind the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center are closed while the football field’s lights are replaced. The area will be off limits until Jan. 9.

Holiday Ham Golf Shootout

Silver Wings Golf Course will offer people a chance to win a holiday ham at its Holiday Ham Golf Shootout Saturday. Tee times will be from 7-9 a.m. Participants must tee off no later than 9 a.m. Cost is \$20 per person, plus cart and green fees, if applicable. The game will be a Stableford tournament where participants’ U.S. Golf Association handicaps

will be used to determine the number of points they must pull. Weekend dogfight points can be used if a USGA handicap is not established. Hams and gift certificates will be awarded as prizes to the winners. Registration deadline is Saturday at 9 a.m. The event will be open to the public.

For more information, call 255-0089.

T-ball, baseball, softball registration

Registration for youth T-ball, baseball and softball will run from Jan. 1-Feb. 23 at Fort Rucker Parent Central Services, located in Bldg. 5700, Soldier Service Center, Rm. 193 or online using WebTrac. A current sports physical and a valid child and youth

services registration are required for participation. There will be a parents meeting Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. in the youth center, Bldg. 2800, on Seventh Avenue.

For more information, including the various age groups and costs, call 255-9638 or 255-2254.

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.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

BOWS	FAKERS	SHAMANISM
IDOL	ASASET	WAVERRADIO
BEWITCH	YPNOTIZ	ENCHANT
SPREE	ORFEO	HUR
VIEW	WITNESS	POTNYMETS
INRAGS	TRI	LLAMA
EASY	RAISE	ELEVATE
AGES	ASTER	REYES
AVAILED	FOR	TSAIS
DESCEND	ROPLUM	METESS
ATTEST	ANA	BOO
MOI	LIFTHIE	VEEMBEZZLE
POET	PRE	ELLIOTT
LASSO	SODAS	NOEL
EQUIP	PROVIDE	ENDOW
NUB	UKASE	YET
TAPERS	ALTER	REVISED
ORA	OSSIE	ACORN
OBLITERATE	PUNGE	FFACE
PLACENAME	TOREUP	EPIC
STRADDLER	SPI	TES
		ESSO

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

- About 18 inches
- Stretch marks
- “The Young and the Restless”
- The League of Nations
- Washington Coliseum
- Bath
- Sancho Panza
- The Moscow Kremlin
- MasterCard
- The Pollitts



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NOT A CENT MORE.**



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For Current Chevrolet Owners and Lessees
\$4,654 Employee Discount for Everyone
+ \$1,500 Chevrolet Loyalty Cash
\$6,154 Below MSRP on this Camaro[†]

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For current Chevrolet owners and lessees
\$9,034 Employee Discount for Everyone
+ \$3,000 Chevrolet Loyalty Cash
\$12,034 Below MSRP on this Corvette[†]

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CREW CAB LT ALL STAR 4WD**



\$4,755 Employee Discount for Everyone
\$3,500 Total Cash Allowance
\$2,000 Trade Assistance
+ \$750 Option Package Discount
\$11,005 Total Value When You Trade In an Eligible Vehicle[†]

2017 SUBURBAN PREMIER



\$7,222 Below MSRP on this Suburban[†]

**2017 COLORADO
CREW CAB Z71**



\$3,031 Below MSRP on this Colorado[†]

2017 VOLT PREMIER



\$2,882 Below MSRP on this Volt[†]

2017 TAHOE PREMIER



\$7,033 Below MSRP on this Tahoe[†]

2017 TRAVERSE PREMIER



\$3,849 Employee Discount for Everyone
+ \$1,000 Total Cash Allowance
\$4,849 Below MSRP on this Traverse[†]

2017 CRUZE PREMIER

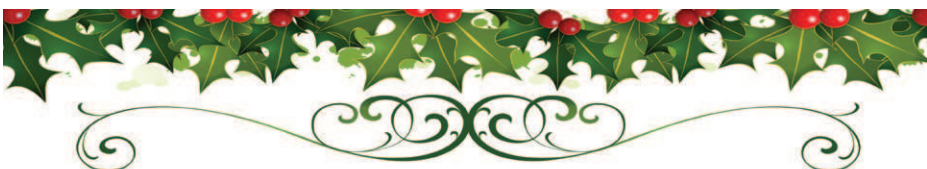


\$2,177 Employee Discount for Everyone
+ \$2,500 Cash Allowance
\$4,677 Below MSRP on this Cruze[†]

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