

HISTORY IN THREADS

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

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GAME ON

ACS, AAFES partner for Single Parent Family Game Night

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WILD WEST

Rucker Lanes offers up striking New Year's celebration

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ARMY FLYER

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

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FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

DECEMBER 21, 2017

'IT'S YOUR BUILDING'

Post renovates BOSS facility for single Soldiers



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Pvt. 1st Class Shyyandria Walker, VETCOM, plays a game of foosball with Spc. Mykea Carroll, A Co., 1-145th Avn. Regt., at the newly renovated BOSS building Dec. 13.

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Taking care of Soldiers and families is a major focus for the Army, and Fort Rucker is making sure its single Soldiers aren't left out when it comes to quality-of-life improvements.

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers facility reopened during a ceremony Dec. 13 after major renovations to offer a place single Soldiers can come together, mingle and have some fun on the installation, according to Aida Stallings, Directorate of Family, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsorship and advertising manager.

"Everything we do in the BOSS program is for a better quality of life for these Soldiers," said Stallings. "They're away from home, some are by themselves just get-

ting here, and this facility gives them all a chance to get together, get to know each other, mingle and see what they have in common – it's all about getting them together and socializing and benefitting from each other's experience."

The facility, which initially opened in 2012, underwent a \$20,000 renovation that included new carpeting, new furniture, new gaming systems, new TVs, new appliances, new cookware and a revamped theater room – all catered to the single Soldier. The facility also houses a new air hockey table, foosball table, dart board and newly covered pool table.

Col. Brian E. Walsh, Fort Rucker garrison commander, William G. Kidd, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker deputy to the commanding gener-

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SECURITY EXPERTS:

Holidays no time to let guard down

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

As the pinnacle of the holiday season approaches, people tend to let their guard down, but officials want to remind people to remain vigilant when it comes to their personal safety both on and off the installation.

Personal operational security is something many tend to take for granted, especially around the holiday season, said Terrence Clark, plans and operations specialist, adding that although it's the season for giving, people need to keep their guard up.

"People have got to be mindful and they've got to be smart," Clark said. "There are a lot of people out there that want to do you harm."

Because of this, Clark said it's important that people keep an eye out for certain things while they are out doing their holiday shopping or simply enjoying the holiday season, and one of the big things people need to be on the lookout for are "shoulder surfers."

Shoulder surfers can be any individual with a

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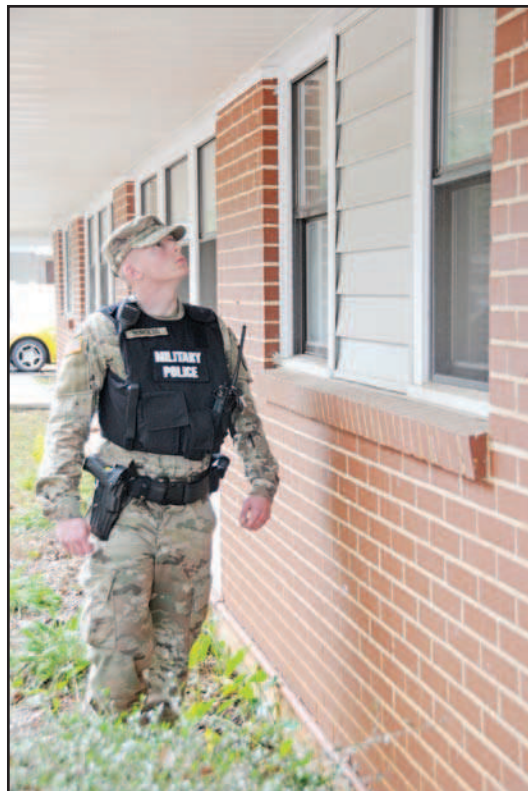


PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Spc. James Burgess, 6th Military Police Detachment, inspects the windows of a home on Fort Rucker as he performs a quarters check Tuesday.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

This AH-1 G-model Cobra sits in storage at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum and sports a unique paint job, featuring a shark's mouth, which many consider synonymous with the Cobra look.

APACHE ANCESTOR

Vietnam-era AH-1 Cobra ushered in modern attack fleet

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Before the AH-64 Apache became the might of the skies for Army Aviation, another aircraft was paving the way for the Army's modern attack helicopter fleet.

The Bell AH-1 Cobra, three of which sit in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum's inventory, became the world's first attack helicopter and was born out of the need for a faster, more aggressive gunship during the Vietnam War, and when the Cobra was delivered in 1967, that's just what they got, said Bob Mitchell, U.S. Army Aviation Museum curator.

During the Vietnam War, the UH-1 Huey was the star of the show, acting as a troop transport, MedEvac helicopter and gunship. Although the Huey made for a decent gunship, it was too wide and too slow when it came to attack capabilities, said Mitchell.

"The Huey was not fast enough as a gun ship," said the curator. "They were just getting shot out of the sky left and right, so they had to do something, and they finally came up with the Cobra."

The Cobra was built using many

components of the already existing Huey helicopter, including the engine, transmission and rotor system, said Mitchell.

"Basically, what they did was they took the Huey and they narrowed it down by putting a tandem seating arrangement in it," he said. "That reduced the fuselage width down to 36 inches, which made it extremely hard to see and even harder to hit. That also made it a lot more streamlined and reduced a lot of the drag, so you could get a lot more air speed out of it."

"They took the rotor system that they had on the Charlie-model (Huey) gunship and put it on (the Cobra), and it had a different type of hub on it that allowed it to flex and absorb rotor loads better – it really was the perfect gunship," Mitchell continued. "It was fast – you didn't have a requirement for a large cargo area and the weight from hauling troops went down to just the crew and weapons on board."

The early-model Cobras, which were G-model aircraft, were fitted with two 2.75-inch rocket pods, 7.62-mm minigun and a 40-mm grenade launcher. The aircraft could also be fitted with a 20-mm wing-mounted cannon. Later models dropped the rocket pods in favor of tow missiles,

The common saying amongst former Cobra pilots who were then Apache pilots was that the Apache fixed all the problems we had with the Cobra, and that was pretty accurate."

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

said the curator.

The Cobras began seeing combat in Vietnam in 1968 and remained in the fight through 1973, with more than 1,100 of the aircraft delivered during their time in the war. Although about 300 Cobras were lost throughout the conflict, unlike the Huey, all Cobras were brought back to the U.S. to be upgraded into the S-model, said Mitchell.

Eventually, the Cobras were phased out of operational use to make way

SEE MUSEUM, PAGE A5

PERSPECTIVE

USAACE CG issues holiday message

By Maj. Gen. William K. Gayler
U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence
and Fort Rucker Commanding General

With parades and tree lightings already underway in our communities, it's no secret that special time of year is upon us, when we gather with family and friends and focus on the many blessings in our lives. As we think back over the past year and make our resolutions for the New Year, Michele and I have so many things to be grateful for--and topping our list is our Fort Rucker family.

It's an honor and a privilege to serve alongside our great Soldiers and Aviation

professionals, and Department of the Army Civilians that keep us strong. It's your dedication and hard work, your energy and innovative ideas that accomplish the mission every day and, in the larger picture, ensure the blessings of liberty are passed on to our children.

We are so grateful for our Families' unending sacrifice and support of their Soldiers. It is because of you that we are able to do what we do every day.

This season, as always, our thoughts and prayers are with the many service members currently deployed, for their safety and great success as they do our Nation's bidding.

We are thankful that so many Veterans across all services and components answered the call and gave us the freedoms we enjoy today. We remember those who gave the last full measure of devotion. We link our hearts with those of Family members who continue to keep the light on for those Missing in Action.

One of our blessings is the support of our surrounding communities that make the Wiregrass such a great place to live, work and play. It's because of you that the "Home of Army Aviation" feels like home--to our Soldiers and Civilians.

Thank you to all of you who work, volunteer, and support service members.



ARMY PHOTO

Gayler

SOLDIER FOR LIFE: Master application important to job search

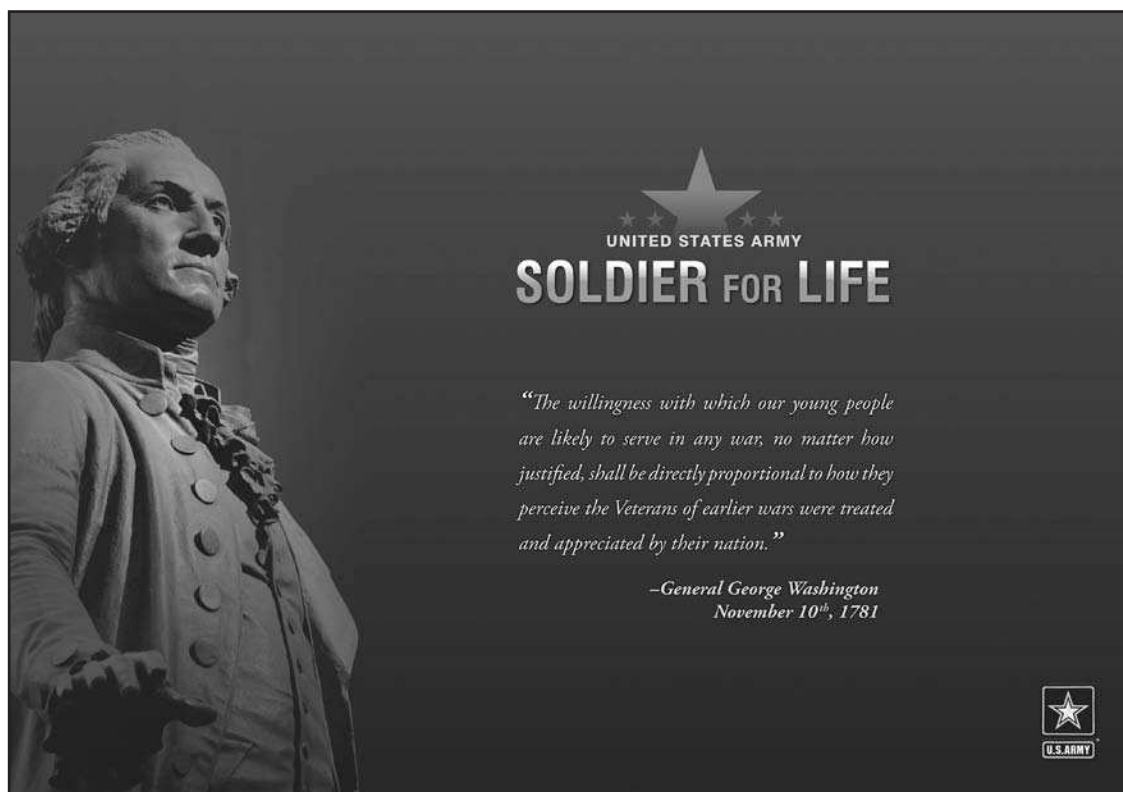
By Mary Markos
U.S. Army Criminal
Investigation Command
Public Affairs

Have you gone for a job interview lately? Chances are, if you have, you were asked to arrive a few minutes early to complete your job application.

This is something that everyone has to complete before they begin work for the new employer. Filling out the application is a breeze if you are prepared, but if you are not prepared it can be a nightmare and may cost you the job.

Frequently, the employer does ask the job candidate to arrive a few minutes before the job interview to fill out the application. If you are not prepared, you may go into the interview with a negative mindset from having to rush through the lengthy application.

The application asks for a vast amount of information including your previous experience and skills, completed education and schools, dates and addresses of



employment, names and contact information of previous employers, salary history, reason for leaving each job, and more. All

of this information must be verifiable and accurate. Otherwise, even if you get the job and the employer finds out that the infor-

mation is false, you could lose the job.

To make the application process easier and to maintain a

positive mindset going into the interview session, it is crucial to develop a master application to take with you to the interview. This master application will have all the details of your previous jobs -- usually going back 10 years -- to include the information listed above. The details of your previous jobs must also be in terms that are familiar to the employer.

Having this information handy in the form of a master application, will help you feel prepared as you fill out the application, and you can be confident that the information you are providing is accurate. However, you still can't just hand in your master application; you will still have to fill out the application.

For more information on job search skills, transitioning Soldiers and their spouses should contact the Fort Rucker Soldier for Life Center at 255-2558 to register for SFL services, and schedule additional events and appointments.

Rotor Wash

“2017 is coming to a close and the New Year is upon us. What are you looking forward to in 2018?”



Sgt. John Simpson,
1st Bn.,
223rd Avn. Regt.

“PCSing out of Fort Rucker – hopefully I’ll be going to Fort Eustis.”



Magan Grantham,
military family member

“I’m graduating college – I graduate in April – and building relationships with family.”



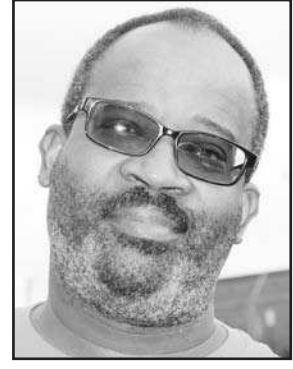
W01 Ryan VanWinkle,
1st Bn., 145th Avn. Regt.

“Finishing up flight school.”



Octavia Lyerly,
military spouse

“One of my biggest goals this year is to actually finish my cookbook that I’m putting together. I want to spend more time with family – we just moved here from Kansas. I also want to be more active and volunteer ... and get out and do more things in the community.”



Al Youngblood,
retired military

“I’m going to be spending more time with my wife.”

COMMAND

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FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

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USAACE IMSO receives top award

By Kelly P. Morris
USAACE Public Affairs

The International Military Student Office at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence here received the Training and Doctrine Command 2017 IMSO of the Year award.

The 37 eligible organizations were grouped into three categories based on student attendance. The USAACE IMSO, which is part of D Co., 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment, 1st Aviation Brigade, received the top award in the large IMSO category.

Lt. Col. Kevin E. McHugh, commander of the 1-13th Aviation Regt., said the focus on teamwork and partnership across all echelons contributed to their success.

"I am very proud of the entire IMSO staff. This award was earned through the collective efforts of each member within the IMSO team and is well deserved," McHugh said.

The IMSO provides administrative support for all international military students assigned to the USAACE and conducts the Field Studies Program. The USAACE



PHOTO BY KELLY MORRIS

The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence International Military Student Office received Training and Doctrine Command's IMSO of the Year award for 2017 in the large IMSO category. Pictured from Left to Right are: (Standing): PFC Victor Carpio, SGT Melony Rosario, CPT Thomas Grace, Otis Smith, Eddie Pineiro, Ruben Aviles and Andres Ramos. (Seated): Elsie Dunn, Mary Morejon, Gladys Martin, and Mary Craddock.

IMSO supports students from as many as 30 different allied and strategic partner nations participating in various Aviation related courses of instruction.

"The IMSO staff is small [in number], but a dynamic and passionate team of professionals that absolutely puts their hearts and souls into ensuring that each in-

ternational military student and their families are received, integrated, and cared for from the moment they arrive at Fort Rucker," McHugh said.

This year was the first year the award was given. The award criteria, which was evaluated by Training and Doctrine Command's Security Assistance Training Field

Activity, included student administration, financial management, the Field Studies Program and a commander's nomination letter.

Capt. Tom Grace, IMSO commander, said it can be a challenge to work with so many different cultures, but it's something his team does well.

"The staff here has really figured out how to respect [the students'] backgrounds and their cultures while still figuring out how to get everything done," said Grace.

Otis Smith, deputy chief for IMSO, said it's the extra effort from the student managers that makes all the difference.

"When a student graduates, they feel proud about that because they go out of their way to help the student. They want to make sure they get everything they need for graduation and they're squared away. It's just a sense of pride in doing what we do here because everybody wants to work together and support each other," Smith said.

As some students return for future courses, they remember the student manager they worked with in the past and ask to work

with them again, which reflects on the staff's efforts, he said.

"You have that because they build a good relationship with the students," Smith explained.

While attending training, the students participate in the Field Studies Program which is designed to provide an understanding of the American way of life through structured trips to historic sites of national interest. One of the opportunities for Captain's Career Course students is a visit to the nation's capital.

Student and family sponsorship is another service the IMSO provides, "putting a friendly face to an otherwise unfamiliar place," McHugh said.

Sponsorship helps ensure the students' ability to focus on their training during their assignment to Fort Rucker.

"The fact that international students return to Fort Rucker later in their military careers as seasoned leaders and remember the quality of training and level of support provided from the USAACE IMSO is a testament to the global reach this team has," McHugh said.

HISTORY IN THREADS III

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

By Jay Mann
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

(Editor's note: This is the third article 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 sto-

ries, they need to look back at the history of Army Aviation.

"During WWII, one of the theaters was the China Burma India Theater," said Robert Mitchell, Curator at the Army Aviation Museum.

"That was a particularly harsh place to fight. It was the jungles, and was very mountainous and rugged. We had basically three large units that were assigned there. One was the First Air Commandos, there are many stories about their exploits with helicopters," he said. "They were the Aviation side that supported the unconventional warfare troops on the ground. The troops on the ground were General Mer-

rill's Marauders, and Brigadier Wingate's Chindits. A Chindit is a Burmese mythical lion. This patch was given to one of the air commandos who was supporting the campaign in Burma."

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, Mitchell said.

"There are lots of great stories in these patches, and there are a lot of people all over the world who collect them," he said. "Just go on the internet and there are groups who post photos of patches they find to share information and trade patches."



PHOTO BY JAY MANN

Robert Mitchell, curator at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker, shows a patch from British Brigadier Orde Wingate's Chindits that was given to a U.S. Air Commando Soldier in WWII.

OSJA reports on military justice actions from August to October

Fort Rucker Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
Staff Report

COURTS-MARTIAL

- In August at a general court-martial and pursuant to her plea, a military judge found Spc. Jessica A. Barton guilty of six specifications of an attempt to steal money, in violation of Article 80 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice; one specification of desertion, in violation of Article 85 of the UCMJ; five specifications of stealing money, in violation of Article 121; and 22 specifications of falsifying documents with the intent to steal money, in violation of Article 134. She was sentenced to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for nine months and to be discharged from the service with a Bad-Conduct Discharge.
- In September at a general court-martial, a military panel found Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Guinn guilty of two specifications of committing a sexual act on a child who had not attained the age of 12 years, in violation of Article 120 of the UCMJ. Guinn was sentenced to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for four years and to be discharged from the service with a Dishonorable Discharge.

SELECT REPRIMANDS

- In August, the commanding general permanently filed a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand in a warrant officer 1's Official Military Personnel File for sending threatening text messages, violating an Ex Parte Order of Protection and a Military Protective Order, and giving a false official statement.
- In September, the commanding general locally filed a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand for a sergeant for driving under the influence of alcohol.
- In October, the commanding general locally filed a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand for a staff sergeant for driving under the influence of alcohol.

SELECT NONJUDICIAL PUNISHMENT

- At an Article 15 hearing in August, a private 2 was found guilty of dereliction of duty, in violation of Article 92 of the UCMJ, and failure to obey a lawful order, in violation of Article 92.
- At an Article 15 hearing in August, a private first class was found guilty of assault, in violation of Article 128 of the UCMJ. The punishment imposed was restriction to the limits of the company area, dining and medical facilities, and place of worship for 14 days, extra duty

for 14 days and an oral reprimand.

- At an Article 15 hearing in September, a private was found guilty of violating two lawful orders, in violation of Article 92 of the UCMJ. The punishment imposed was 10 days extra duty, 10 days restriction and an oral reprimand.
- At an Article 15 hearing in October, a private was found guilty of failing to report, in violation Article 86 of the UCMJ. The punishment imposed was forfeiture of \$373, restriction to the limits of the company area, dining and medical facilities, and place of worship for 14 days, and extra duty for 14 days.

OFFICER ELIMINATIONS

- In September, a second lieutenant was eliminated with an Honorable characterization of service based on both misconduct, and moral or professional dereliction, and derogatory information filed in the lieutenant's Official Military Personnel File. The officer was driving under the influence of alcohol and caused a single-car accident.
- In October, a lieutenant colonel was retained and the elimination processing was terminated. The elimination action was initiated by Human Resources Command due to misconduct, moral or professional dereliction, and substantiated derogatory information filed in the

lieutenant colonel's Official Military Personnel File. The officer received a referred Officer Evaluation Report and a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand for creating a hostile and toxic work environment.

- In October, a chief warrant officer 2 was eliminated with an Honorable characterization of service based on substandard performance of duty. The warrant officer was unable to keep pace or to progress with contemporaries, as demonstrated by a low record of efficiency when compared to other officers of the same grade and competitive category.

SELECT ADMINISTRATIVE SEPARATIONS

- In August, a sergeant was discharged from the Army with an Honorable characterization of service for failing two consecutive record Army Physical Fitness Tests.
- In August, a private first class was discharged from the Army with a General, Under Honorable Conditions characterization of service for misconduct-abuse of illegal drugs.
- In October, a private 2 was discharged from the U.S. Army with a General, under honorable conditions characterization of service for patterns of misconduct.

News Briefs

Community Strengths and Themes Survey

Fort Rucker will run its Community Strengths and Themes Survey Jan. 3 through March 16. The survey is located at <https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/Survey/se.aspx?s=25113745152ACC87>. All Soldiers and Department of the Army civilian employees should complete the survey. Family members and retired military are welcome to take part in the survey, as well. The survey is designed to help leadership assess the community's health, according to officials.

Gate, VCC hours

The Ozark Gate Visitor Control Center will be closed Monday and Tuesday, and Jan. 1-2.

The gate will remain open. Also, the Newton and Faulkner gates will be closed today through Jan. 2.

Ruf Avenue change

Starting Jan. 3, Ruf Avenue will be closed on all duty days from 5:15-7:15 a.m. for physical training.

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.

SANTA WATCH

NORAD stands ready to track Santa's flight

North American Aerospace Defense Command
Press Release

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – The North American Aerospace Defense Command is celebrating the 62nd Anniversary of tracking Santa's yuletide journey.

The NORAD Tracks Santa website, www.noradsanta.org, features Santa's North Pole Village, which includes a holiday countdown, games, activities and more. The website is available in eight languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Chinese.

Official NORAD Tracks Santa apps are also available in the Apple and Google Play stores, so parents and children can count-down the days until Santa's launch on their smart phones and tablets! Tracking opportunities are also offered through social media on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.

Starting at 2:01 a.m. EST Sunday, website visitors can watch Santa make preparations for his flight. NORAD's Santa Cams will stream videos on the website as Santa makes his way over various locations.

Then, at 6 a.m. EST, trackers worldwide can speak with a live phone operator to inquire as to Santa's whereabouts by dialing the toll-free number 1-877-Hi-NORAD (1-877-446-6723) or by sending an email to noradtrackssanta@outlook.com.

Any time Sunday, Amazon Alexa users



COURTESY PHOTO

Volunteers answer phones during the annual NORAD Tracks Santa event on Peterson AFB, Colo., a previous year. Last year, NTS had more 1,500 volunteers answering 150,000 phone calls, 2,800 emails and 3,000 on-star requests from children around the world asking where Santa is at and when he will arrive at their house.

can ask for Santa's location through the NORAD Tracks Santa skill for Amazon Alexa, and OnStar subscribers can press the OnStar button in their vehicles to locate Santa. Bing and Cortana users can also find Santa's location Sunday.

IT STARTED WITH A TYPO

On Dec. 24, 1955, a call was made to the Continental Air Defense Command

Operations Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. However, this call was not from the president or a general. It was from a young child in Colorado Springs who was following the directions in an advertisement printed in the local paper – the youngster wanted to know the whereabouts of Santa Claus.

The ad read, "Hey, Kiddies! Call me direct and be sure and dial the correct

number." However, the number was printed incorrectly in the advertisement and rang into the CONAD operations center.

On duty that night was Air Force Col. Harry Shoup, who has come to be known as the Santa Colonel. Shoup received numerous calls that night and rather than hanging up, he had his operators find the location of Santa Claus and reported it to every child who phoned in that night.

Thus began a tradition carried on by the North American Aerospace Defense Command when it was formed in 1958. Today, through satellite systems, high-powered radars and jet fighters, NORAD tracks Santa Claus as he makes his Yuletide journey around the world.

Every year on Dec. 24, 1,500 volunteers staff telephones and computers to answer calls and e-mails from children – and adults – from around the world. Live updates are provided through the NORAD Tracks Santa Web site (in seven languages), over telephone lines and by e-mail to keep curious children and their families informed about Santa's whereabouts, and if it's time to get to bed.

Each year, the NORAD Tracks Santa Web Site receives nearly 9 million unique visitors from more than 200 countries and territories around the world. Volunteers receive more than 140,000 calls to the NORAD Tracks Santa hotline from children around the globe.

OPERATION SANTA

Alaska National Guard brings holiday cheer to remote towns

By Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead
For Army News Service

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska — The Alaska National Guard has a 61-year tradition of serving communities throughout Alaska during the holiday season, delivering Christmas gifts and a variety of delights to children in remote locations around the state.

This year, the island-town of St. Michael – with a population of 400 – was selected for a visit, and the citizens expressed gratitude and enthusiasm to their out-of-town guests who showed up to spread holiday cheer.

"Operation Santa" delivered wrapped Christmas gifts for every child – infants through age 18 – as well as new backpacks. As the National Guard troops served fruit and ice cream sundaes, the children and teens walked through a line of tables and filled their backpacks with snacks, stuffed animals, books, socks, toiletries, basketballs, footballs, and beautiful hand-knit hats made with love from a group of volunteers who live in Florida.

Santa and Mrs. Claus also visited the town during the operation, bringing along about 30 Soldier elves on one of the Alaska Air National Guard's brand new HC-130J Combat King II aircraft from the 211th Rescue Squadron.

"It was an honor to step in for Rudolph and the other reindeer and fly these folks here in one of our rescue aircraft, still shiny and new," said Lt. Col. Eric Budd, Op Santa pilot and commander of the 211th Rescue Squadron.

After the aircraft arrived in St. Michael, a flurry of activity began as Soldiers and Airmen stepped out onto crunchy snow and large boxes were off-loaded and trans-

ferred to vans and pickup trucks driven by community volunteers. The National Guard troops were welcomed with hospitality and smiles as they arrived at the local school to set up for the event.

The faculty and students had eagerly anticipated their guests and the Christmas event, as evidenced by the many colorful decorations, lights, and an impressive display built by the students to house Santa and Mrs. Claus, including a tree, chairs, décor and lighting.

"We've been looking forward to Op Santa for months," said Anthony A. Andrews School principal Jon Wehde. "Our community is so excited for this visit and we really appreciate the generosity and kindness of everyone involved."

Op Santa began in 1956 as the Anchorage community assisted the village of St. Mary's after negative impacts of natural disaster left the citizens with no money to buy Christmas gifts. The Air Guard's 144th Airlift Squadron delivered donated goods to the remote village in a C-123J Provider. Since then, Air Guard C-130s, Army Guard C-23 Sherpas, UH-60 Black Hawks, and other aircraft have transported Santa and Mrs. Claus, elves, gifts and other desirable items to tens of thousands of children throughout rural Alaska.

"The event is important because it began due to the impact of natural disaster and continued as a way to reach rural Alaska for building community relationships, serving those in remote areas, and providing joy and comfort to Alaskans during the holiday season," said Maj. Gen. Laurie Hummel, adjutant general for the Alaska National Guard.

Many Alaskans in rural communities may go most of their lives without personal interaction with service members

in the U.S. military, and Op Santa allows Soldiers and Airmen to build connections in a personal and tangible way.

"Engaging Alaskan communities is a priority for the Alaska National Guard and Operation Santa Claus is one way we can show our Alaskan neighbors that we care," said Hummel.

Airmen and Soldiers in the Alaska Na-

tional Guard worked with The Salvation Army and community volunteers to coordinate and execute the Op Santa mission.

"Op Santa really isn't possible without all of the volunteers who pull it together," said Hummel. "This community outreach program is a time-honored tradition that we hope to continue for many years to come."

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PHOTO BY 2ND LT. MARISA LINDSAY

Santa and Mrs. Claus, travelling with Operation Santa Claus, de-board an HC-130J Combat King II from the 211th Rescue Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, after landing in St. Michael, Alaska, on Dec. 5.

Southeast Alabama Medical Center employees and medical staff thank Fort Rucker for its commitment to the security of our community and our country.

We extend our appreciation to the soldiers and military families for their personal sacrifices.



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Army partners with Marine Corps on 3-D printed drones

By David McNally

U.S. Army Research Laboratory
Public Affairs

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — Army researchers are working with the Marines to develop 3-D printed drones as materials science, Aviation technology and software development merge to deliver new capabilities.

“Several years ago when we were collaborating with our academic partner, Georgia Tech, we had this project where we were focusing on design engineering of small unmanned aircraft systems,” said Eric Spero, a team lead within the laboratory’s Vehicle Technology Directorate.

Spero and his team brought their idea to fruition at the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command’s annual event at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 2016. The Army Expeditionary Warrior Experiment puts new technologies in the hands of Soldiers.

This is theme of a new YouTube documentary released by the U.S. Army Research Laboratory (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0erL9bTHvi4>). The video details how researchers first envisioned on-demand printing with a suite of tools that would allow for Soldiers to enter mission parameters and then get a 3-D printed aviation asset within 24 hours.

Researchers then reached out to the U.S. Marine Corps and started working with the service to provide a software catalog that Marines would use to select and print an unmanned aircraft system for



Army researcher John Gerdes works closely with Marines at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 27 to showcase 3-D printed drones.

a specific mission.

Additive manufacturing, or 3-D printing, is maturing as a viable means to produce mission-essential parts or equipment at the point of need, said ARL engineer Larry “LJ” R. Holmes Jr.

“We have interacted with Marines who have never touched an unmanned system before to Marines who are experts in unmanned aerial flight,” Holmes said. “Across the board they all seemed to be very interested in the topic of being able to manufacture a tool that they can use that was mission specific and has a turn

around.”

Holmes said the Marines expected the turn around to be days or weeks, and the ARL team showed them that the turn-around time can be anywhere from minutes to hours.

Researchers said they plan to streamline their processes based on feedback received from the Marines in order to enable unprecedented situational awareness.

“Things like additive manufacturing with materials, artificial intelligence and machine learning, unmanned systems



Lance Cpl. Nicholas Hettinga, 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, prepares to pilot a 3-D printed UAS during a Sept. 27 test flight at Camp Lejeune.

technologies, these will enable us to bring together the capabilities that will allow the future Soldiers and Marines the decisive edge that they need in the battlefield,” said Elias Rigas, a division chief in ARL’s Vehicle Technology Directorate.

The capability to print something from a spool of plastic that flies off on a military mission is something that captures the imagination, Holmes said.

“I think a lot of folks are interested in additive manufacturing because we’ve seen on sci-fi shows ... just walking up to a user interface and saying, ‘cheeseburger,’ and there’s my cheeseburger,” he said. “I think that as additive manufacturing continues to grow and the technologies continue to evolve that we’re going to get to a point eventually where we will be making things in a similar fashion where you will walk up to your user interface and say, ‘unmanned aerial system,’ and it will make it for you.”

BOSS

Continued from Page A1

al, and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher D. Spivey, Fort Rucker garrison command sergeant major, were among those on hand to cut the ribbon to the newly renovated facility.

“To you single Soldiers, this building is (yours) – this building is not mine, it’s not Mr. Kidd’s, it’s not USAACE’s – it belongs to the

single Soldiers,” said Spivey.

The facility’s theater room, which received new carpet, also received renovated seating to provide a more stadium-style arrangement while Soldiers enjoy a theater-type experience.

Additional security was also installed to ensure the safety of all the Soldiers and the equipment in the facility.

One of the big driving forces

behind the renovation was to continue to serve single Soldiers in the Army, said Teresa Whitman-McCall, recreational delivery system program manager, and provide them a facility where they can gather, which is essential to their quality of life.

“If you live in the barracks, you don’t have a stove or a big fridge, so (Soldiers) can come in and put their stuff in the fridge with their

names on it,” she said. “They can come in here and cook a real meal. A lot of times when you come in here, there will be three or four of them in here and they’ll cook a pot of spaghetti or something and share with each other – they get something that’s more like home.

“This gives them a chance to come in and have a relaxed atmosphere, spread out a little bit and let them get away from their room-

mate for a few hours – this is a great (escape),” said the RDS program manager. “We just hope that all the single Soldiers will utilize the facility – it’s here for them. The BOSS program is a great program that brings people together who have the same common interest, and they can bond with an extra friend out there who understands what they’re going through as a single Soldier.”

Museum

Continued from Page A1

for today’s Apache helicopters, which had greater attack capabilities.

“The common saying amongst former Cobra pilots who were then Apache pilots was that the Apache fixed all the problems we had with the Cobra, and that was pretty accurate,” said the curator.

“We didn’t have a power problem anymore. We had two engines in case one engine was shot out, so you could still continue to fly. It had a better fire-control computer on it, so it was everything the Cobra wasn’t and of course it’s still evolving today,” he continued, adding that despite its advances, the Apache wouldn’t be where it is today without the Cobra.

Today the museum houses one S-model Cobra, which sits

just outside the entrance of the museum, and two of the rarer G-model aircraft, one of which sits next to the stage inside the museum, with the other in storage having recently been restored and sporting a new paint job.

The G model in storage is one of two Cobras that were sent to Spain to serve the Spanish navy in the early 1980s in the Army’s lend-lease program, and is unique in that it has a rotor-brake system that is required of any helicopters on any kind of shipboard operation, said Mitchell.

“The Spanish navy gave the two Cobras back to the Army (in the late 80s), and by this time, all the G-models had been converted to S models, so those were two very unique aircraft,” said the curator. “We got one, and the other went to the 6th Cavalry Brigade and sits by the gate at Camp Humphreys, South Korea.”

Another thing that makes the G-model Cobra in storage

unique is the paint job it now sports, which is a two-tone paint job complete with shark mouth at the front of the aircraft.

“When people think about the Cobra, they always think about the model with the shark mouth on it and since this particular aircraft doesn’t have any Army prominence, we thought, ‘let’s pick a really cool paint job and do it,’” said the curator.

Although the aircraft sports a unique skin, the museum doesn’t have the space in its visual inventory to place the Cobra, but Mitchell said that people will be able to view the aircraft during special events, when the museum will bring it out for veteran reunions and such.

“We hate to leave it in storage because it looks so distinctive and neat, so we’ll bring it out on special occasions for people to enjoy,” he said.

Security

Continued from Page A1

camera on their phone or even their watch that can take photos of credit cards or ATM cards while people are making a purchase or withdrawing money out of an ATM, said the plans and operations specialist.

“Be cognizant of other people around you with cell phones when using your ATM cards,” he said, adding that when they get their receipts from machines or purchases, they should dispose of them properly rather than nonchalantly toss them.

“A lot of times when people get their credit card receipts, they’ll ball them up and throw them away, and people need to be aware that their credit card receipts do carry some of your personal information, so you need to take it with you and destroy it properly,” said Clark.

Another holiday OSPEC faux pas is carrying large amounts of cash, he said. Although the holiday season calls for increased shopping, carrying large amounts of cash can make people a target for thieves, but if one must carry cash, Clark suggests people carry only what they need.

“If you’re carrying large amounts of cash, you don’t want to put it all in one place – try to separate it,” he said. “You don’t want to broadcast the fact that you have a large amount of cash on you – it’s the wrong thing to do.”

Also, after making large purchases after a day of shopping, Clark suggests that people store their items out of sight, such as in the trunk of their car. Around this time of year, thieves patrol parking lots for cars that might have recently purchased items stored in plain view, he said.

Marcel Dumais, Fort Rucker community police chief, added that this also goes for people’s purses and wallets.

“If you are carrying purses, watch your

purse, even if you’re in your car and you’re just outside pumping gas in the car, make sure you have eyes on your purse and your wallet,” said the police chief.

Additionally, when finding a parking space, Clark suggests that people make sure they park in a well-lit area that might deter a thief from trying to break into their vehicle.

After the shopping is complete and people return home, Dumais maintains that people shouldn’t let their guard down simply because they’re home – houses can become prime targets for criminals during the holidays.

Although burglaries are a rarity on post, people should do what they can to stave off any thieves by properly storing their items out of site and taking precautions when disposing of their holiday trash, said the police chief.

“For those who live on post, specifically in Allen Heights, don’t store high-value items under your car ports,” he said. “They don’t have a garage, so people should make sure to put their high-value items inside their quarters or in their storage buildings,” adding that although it may look nice to have their tree and presents on display in their windows, it can serve as an open invitation for thieves.

“I also recommend that you break down your boxes after Christmas if you decide to put them off to the side of the road,” said the police chief. “Break down that 60-inch TV box so that it’s not a big neon sign outside your house asking (for someone) to come steal it.”

In recent years, rather than brave the throngs of shoppers, many people have turned to online, shopping and having their packages delivered to their homes, which can leave people open to what Clark calls “snatch and grab” theft.

“When delivery services deliver packages on the doorstep, there are those who will run up and grab the package and run off,” he said, recommending that people invest in home security systems with surveillance cameras to deter potential thieves.

Also, if people are traveling during the season, Clark said people should take steps to make sure their homes are safe while they are away.

“When traveling, leave some lights on at home or put your lights on a timer to give the appearance that someone is home,” he said.

Dumais urges people to refrain from posting travel plans on social media, as well, which can be an open invite for criminals to come into their homes while they’re away.

“Don’t advertise if you’re taking a trip around the holidays on social media,” said the police chief. “What you’re doing is just ringing the doorbell for the thieves to come and rob your house, basically.

“Watch what you post, as well,” he continued. “Posting that you just got 60-inch TV to social media might not be the brightest thing you do, so be cautious of what you’re putting up on social media and what your kids put on social media, also.”

To help residents on Fort Rucker feel safer, the Directorate of Public Safety offers a quarters check program. Residents can visit Bldg. 5001 on Lucky Star St. to sign up for quarters checks, and DPS officials will visit their home during the day or night to make sure there aren’t any issues.

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NEW LISTING • \$136,500
 208 CORAL WAY: Brick 3 bed/2ba with 2 car garage on corner lot! The sq feet don't reflect the heated and cooled laundry room. MAGGIE HAAS 389-0011

NEW LISTING • \$120,000
 208 ANTLER DR: Charming well maintained home. Freshly painted interior & exterior. Wood tile in living room & hall area. All ceiling fans have been replaced. New disposal in 2017. Gorgeous decorative solid wood front door. Roof replaced in 2013. Water heater replaced in 2012. Custom slate large master shower. Wood frame of mirror in master bath come from shore croppers home in Ozark. It is over 80 yrs. old. Lots of closet space. Fireplace in kitchen/dining area adds extra charm. Sliding door provides natural light. SHAWN REEVES 475-6405

NEW LISTING • \$105,500
 216 YELLOWLEAF DR: Big ranch, with lot of space with excellent location, very close to Fort Rucker. This asset features 4-5 bedrooms, 3 baths, two living areas, separate dining room, kitchen, laundry, storage room, big work shop in back yard, with concrete floor and electricity. In-ground pool, condition is unknown. Property need some repairs. This is a VA foreclosure to be sold "as is". Built prior to 1978, lead paint potentially exist. Alabama Right of Redemption may apply. NANCY CAFIERO 389-1758 & BOB KUYKENDALL 369-8534

NEW LISTING • \$ 149,900
 939 HIGHWAY 167: County comfort fills this gracious 3 bedroom ranch located only minutes from town. Located on a one acre landscaped lot, this brick house features living room with wood burning fireplace for those winter days, a formal dining room & eat-in kitchen. Large master with bath & walk-in closet, laundry room & 2 car side entry garage. If you're looking for a comfortable home, call today to schedule an appointment to see this great one owner home -- you won't want to miss it! JUDY DUNN 301-5656

NEW LISTING • \$277,000
 118 BROOKWOOD DR: Newer 4 BR, 2.5 BA, on .44 Acre lot w/Pool & privacy fence. Granite throughout. Stainless appliances in kitchen, to include convection oven. 4th BR is a generous upstairs loft. Huge Master retreat w/pine, tray ceiling. Master Bath boasts clawfoot tub, walk in shower, 2 vessel sinks, granite, & His & Her closets. Fenced backyard w/dual fans on porch, cable, gas grill hook up, Saltwater pool, diving board & new pump/filtration. Extra parking pad. Garage w/grid lock tile floors & shelving. Many more amenities. CHERYL PICCININI 390-9612 & THERESA HERNANDEZ, 379-5937

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\$69,500
 130 FOXHILL DR: Perfect starter Home or very good rental property, just minutes from the Ft Rucker gate. Being sold "AS IS" House in need of TLC. Rent in its current condition for 650.00, tenant has been there for many years, wish to remain. FRAN KALTENBAUGH 790-5973 & DON KALTENBAUGH 464-1069

REDUCED • \$64,900
 349 JOSEPH DR, OZARK: Beautiful oversized wooded lot with both chain link and privacy fencing. The main area consists of a large grandroom w/corner fireplace and eating bar to kitchen as well as a dining area. The kitchen has a center island with cabinet space below and tiled countertops. The garage has been enclosed to make another bedroom on the left side of the house. Come take a look to see if it can be your dream home. EVELYN HITCH 406-3436

REDUCED • \$106,500
 318 EAGLE LANDING: Conveniently located to Ft. Rucker, shopping, schools and recreation activities. All brick exterior, 9' walls downstairs/master bedroom has a coffee ceiling and balcony off the back and the master bath has a tile shower/Jacuzzi combi! Monthly HOA dues include use of pool, clubhouse and grass cutting. JACKIE THOMPSON 406-1231 & TERRI AVERETT 406-2072

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NEW LISTING • \$175,000
 104 TOM MORRIS LN: Beautifully updated home in Tartan Pines. 2 bedroom, 2 bath with new carpet, new roof, and freshly painted walls throughout. This home has lots of windows throughout to provide natural light, and the back patio overlooks a beautifully wooded scene. Owner is licensed residential home builder and REALTOR in the state of Alabama. BILLY COTTER CONSTRUCTION 347-2600

NEW LISTING • \$249,500
 504 RIVERWOOD: 4 bedroom/2 bath home with stainless steel appliances, hardwood floors, carpet, and tile. low energy windows and sprinkler system. Owner is licensed residential home builder and REALTOR in the state of Alabama. BILLY COTTER CONSTRUCTION 347-2600

NEW LISTING • \$244,000
 116 BROOKSTONE DR: New 4-3 in Stonechase Phase II. This new home is in the framing stage allowing someone to pick their interior and exterior colors. Owner is a licensed residential home builder and REALTOR in the State of Alabama. NORMAN RILEY 406-6746

NEW LISTING • \$239,500
 181 COUNTY ROAD 680: Beautiful home on 2.3 +/- acre lot. French doors open onto a huge & gorgeous screened patio that looks out onto a large, wooded back yard. Previous owners created a nice walking trail through the woods. Across the street is a view of Lake Nichols & its community dock & picnic area. The bonus room could have a closet added for a 4th bedroom. This home offers peaceful country living and plenty of room for a large family or for entertaining lots of guests. Can be rented for \$1300 per month. JAN SAWYER 406-2393

NEW LISTING • \$229,000
 304 HUNTINGTON DR: Located in desirable Huntington Ridge you will find this lovely 4/2 with a pool and workshop. The split plan has a separate dining room as well as a breakfast area. The bedrooms are all nicely sized. The screened in porch overlooks the backyard with its lovely pool perfect for entertaining friends and family. The 10x14 detached garage/workshop is located here, too. Freshly painted inside this beauty is move in ready. Washer and dryer convey with the property. Granite counter tops & stainless appliances. JAN SAWYER 406-2393

IN THE YEAR 2025

Robots, railguns, lasers to team with Soldiers on battlefield

By David Vergun
Army News Service

LIVONIA, Mich. — It's December and many are doing their holiday shopping or making a wish list of gifts they'd like to receive.

During the Future Ground Combat Vehicle Summit earlier in December in Livonia, Army acquisition professionals and program managers had their own wish lists that included an assortment of robots and ground combat vehicles meant to protect Soldiers and give pause to potential adversaries.

ROBOTS

Brian McVeigh, project manager for force protection, was big on robots.

Over 7,000 were fielded in just the last decade, he noted. The challenge now is to move the most effective ones into programs of record.

Among these, he said, is the M-160 Robotic Mine Flail, which efficiently clears

land mines using rotating chains that flail the ground. It is also rugged enough to be protected against mine explosion fragments.

The M-160 made it into a program of record this year before the holidays, and a number are already involved in route-clearance missions in Afghanistan.

By 2025, dismounted Soldiers will conduct foot patrols alongside robots called Squad Multipurpose Equipment Transport vehicles that carry rucksacks and other equipment that will lighten the Soldier load, McVeigh said.

In order to get these to the warfighter sooner rather than later, the Army is procuring them through an Other Transactional Agreement, he said.

The OTA got the program rolling fast, with requirements out in April and a down-select six months later in November, he said. Four contracts were awarded for 20 vehicles each, which will be tested



ARMY GRAPHIC

By 2025, the Army sees ground troops conducting foot patrols in urban terrain with robots, called Squad Multipurpose Equipment Transport vehicles, that carry rucksacks and other equipment alongside Soldiers. Overhead, UAS will also serve as spotters to warn troops, so they can engage the enemy on their own terms, according to the Army's new strategy on robotic and autonomous systems.

SEE BATTLEFIELD, PAGE B4

GOING HOME



PHOTO BY SGT. MICHAEL BROUGHEY

Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division Combat Aviation Brigade and Sailors of Navy Cargohandling Battalion One load a CH-47 Chinook aboard USNS Brittin by crane at the Port of the Americas in Ponce, Puerto Rico, Nov. 24. The CAB's aircraft and Soldiers are returning home to Fort Bliss, Texas, after supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency's emergency disaster relief effort for Hurricane Maria.

WORKING TOGETHER

29th CAB MedEvac course creates new opportunities for partnerships

By Staff Sgt. Isolda Reyes
29th Combat Aviation Brigade
Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — Over the past several months Soldiers from the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade have been active in working with their counterparts from the Iraqi security forces, including Iraqi army aviation.

And when the request came for the CAB to collaborate with this group once again, they jumped at the chance.

The result of this request was an aeromedical evacuation familiarization course that assisted in training Iraqi forces in Baghdad, Iraq, Nov. 26.

The familiarization training included cold load training, in which a patient is loaded onto a helicopter when the helicopter is turned off, and hot load training, in which the helicopter is on with the rotors spinning, explained Sgt. Johnny Kilroy, a flight medic with the 29th CAB's 2-149th General Support Aviation Battalion.

During the initial discussion at the start of the course between the two partner forces, the CAB instructors quickly realized that in addition to regular front-line soldiers, Iraqi medical professionals were also in attendance, including a general who is a flight surgeon, flight medics and clinicians.

The Iraqi trainees had significant medical experience, shifting the focus of the training from basic HH-60 MedEvac helicopter familiarization to a collaboration on how the U.S. and Iraqi forces can better help each other in the future.

"I was taken by surprise once we



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ISOLDA REYES

Iraqi soldiers and airmen practice loading a simulated casualty onto an HH-60M Black Hawk with Soldiers from the 29th CAB during the aeromedical evacuation familiarization course at Baghdad, Iraq, Nov. 26.

realized who we were training," said Kilroy. "We quickly shifted our discussion to better meet their needs."

The Iraqi forces detailed how they worked in the field, especially during the fight for Mosul; and a desire to improve training for their soldiers on how to treat injuries on and off of the battlefield.

"I learned that several of our Iraqi counterparts are scheduled to go to Fort Sam Houston (Texas) to attend the Flight Medic Train-the-Trainer course," said Kilroy. "I think this was a great segue coming here because they will be familiar with some of our tools and equipment and will bring their experience to the course, as well."

The discussion about equipment and techniques transitioned to a practical application of placing someone onto a litter and working as a team to lift that casualty prop-

erly. Finally, the training attendees secured a simulated patient into an HH-60M MEDEVAC helicopter and practiced all of those techniques as if it were a real-life event.

"Everyone participated, including the Iraqi general flight surgeon," said Sgt. Blaze Amodei, a flight medic from 2-149th GSAB. "It was a good day of training and I learned a lot."

"I enjoy working with the U.S. Soldiers. They have shown us many examples of how to better treat patients we come across," said an Iraqi army aviation major.

This is not the first time Soldiers from the 29th CAB have trained with their Iraqi counterparts. Past training events included a flight medic course and a Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Defense training event, which occurred this past summer in Erbil, Iraq.

SUMO STYLE

160th SOARs with Marines for nighttime aerial refueling

By Cpl. Carlos Jimenez
Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan
Public Affairs

NAVAL AIR FACILITY EL CENTRO, California — Marines with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152 "Sumos" conducted a joint aerial training mission with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment during unit-level training called El Centro Horizon at Naval Air Facility El Centro, California, Dec. 6.

VMGR-152 and the 160th SOAR performed an MH-60 Black Hawk air-to-air refueling in the night at low altitude with covert aircraft lighting, aided with night vision imaging systems. The units accomplished their mission in order to maintain effective training while maximizing combat capabilities.

"Army 160th are the best of the best helicopter pilots, and working with them always makes us better," said Marine Corps Capt. Donald Shrewsbury, a KC-130J Hercules pilot with VMGR-152. "160th SOAR is a huge Aviation unit across the Army. They have multiple platforms that we can refuel. We have to work with them, so they can stay proficient at tanking and we can stay proficient at helping them out."

Although air-to-air refueling is standard training for VMGR-152, conducting it at night enhances the Marine's capabilities to work and execute proficiently under challenging circumstances.

"There's a different aspect when the sun goes down, and without the use of night vision it can get scary out there," said Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Paul Folk, a crewmaster with VMGR-152. "If we can't see, neither can the enemy. We do night systems training to be able to operate in an environment that keeps us more camouflaged from the enemy's sight."

Night helicopter air-to-air refueling is one of many exercises that VMGR-152 now has the opportunity to conduct as a result of El Centro Horizon.

The exercise provided the unit and the Marines who participated the unique experience of combining three different aspects of training — performing aerial refueling, low visibility conditions and with another service branch — each of which is essential to maintaining the Marine Corps' place as the most elite fighting force in the world.

"War doesn't have a time frame. War is 24/7," said Folk. "We have to be able to operate in any environment. That's why we do what we do."

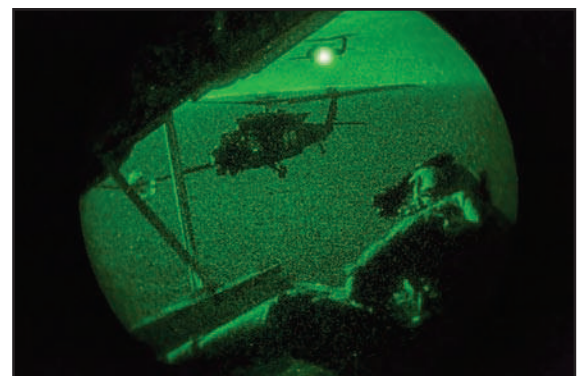


PHOTO BY CPL. CARLOS JIMENEZ

Marine Corps Cpl. Justen Hagstrom, a crewmaster with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron (VMGR) 152, informs his pilots that an Army MH-60 Black Hawk with the 160th SOAR has made successful contact with the drogue to conduct night air-to-air refueling during unit-level training called El Centro Horizon at Naval Air Facility El Centro, Calif., Dec. 6.

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Battlefield

Continued from Page B1

by Soldiers in two brigades until the end of next year. Low-rate initial production is expected to follow with a production contract in place.

The requirements were limited to give manufacturers more flexibility in the trade-space, he said. The only firm requirements were that SMET be able to haul 1,000 pounds off-road, cover 60 miles in 72 hours and cost \$100,000 or less each.

The OTA was used because Army leaders prioritized getting the weight off the backs of dismounted Soldiers, he noted.

Common Robotic System (Heavy) is designed to disarm or disable unexploded ordnance using a highly dexterous arm remotely controlled by a Soldier. The Army just published requests for information from industry for the wireless-range manipulator arm, McVeigh said.

Feedback from industry on CRS-H has been good, he said. It is expected that by next summer, draft performance specifications will be issued, and it is hoped that fielding can begin as early as 2020. This system is also going the OTA route.

The Enhanced Robotics Payload is another explosives ordnance disposal robot. A request for proposal has been released, McVeigh said. And in October, a contract was awarded to Endeavor Robotics for another EOD robot, the Man-Transportable Robotics System Increment II.

GROUND COMBAT VEHICLES

David Dopp, program manager for Mobile Protected Firepower Vehicle, Ground Combat Systems, said a request for proposal was released in late November for MPF.

The MPF he envisions can be described as a light tank. It will be light in the sense that it will weigh less than half as much as an Abrams tank, which will allow two to fit inside a C-17 aircraft. That means its armor will be less than an Abrams.

The MPF will also sport a gun in the 105mm to 120mm range, similar to the ones on early versions of the Abrams, Dopp said.

It is expected that the MPF will provide infantry brigade combat teams with a long-range, direct-fire capability for forcible entry and breaching operations, he noted, so it is not by any stretch a tank replacement.

There will not be a lot of requirements other than MPF being light and powerful, he said. Army leaders are eager to quickly get it into the hands of Soldiers for testing.

A contract could be awarded by early FY19 with low-rate initial production to follow, he said.

Maj. Gen. John Charlton,

commander of the Army Test and Evaluation Command, said that although the Next Generation Combat Vehicle fielding isn't expected until 2035, a lot of the components that may find their way onto the NGCV in one shape or another are being currently tested around the Army.

Two such systems that will likely inform development of NGCV, he said, are the Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station-Javelin and the Stryker Remote Weapons Station.

CROWS-J allows the warfighter to remotely engage targets with precision fire from the Javelin while on the move, he said. Stryker RWS is a 30mm cannon on an unmanned turret. Both systems keep the gunner inside the vehicle, in a less exposed area than the turret.

Electro-magnetic interference testing is now underway on the sensors and software, he said.

There are some challenges to overcome in putting this technology on the NGCV, he said, describing a few.

Although the gunner is tucked inside the ve-

hicle, rounds must still be loaded and reloaded in the gun, which means being exposed to enemy fire and working in cramped conditions, he said.

Getting everything working correctly will require a lot of software development, he said. This is probably the most difficult challenge.

And finally, situational awareness could be lost with the crew fully buttoned up inside the vehicle, he said. This could be particularly bad in urban terrain where Soldiers cannot get good visuals of what's around and above them.

The situational awareness issue could be addressed through adding sensors and cameras so the crew doesn't feel so completely closed in, he noted.

OTHER FUTURE WEAPONS

Charlton said several promising weapons are in the science and technology and testing stages.

Engineers are now designing extended-range cannons that can be mounted on the Paladin and will fire much greater distances than current artillery, he

said, noting that the distances are impressive but classified.

The cannons could find their way on the NGCV, he said.

The challenges are now designing a breach in the gun system that can handle the enormous pressures and getting the APS software and sensors developed. Also, the crew might be adversely affected by the enormous pressures, so some sort of dampening mechanism would be needed.

Another weapon that will eventually make its way to the battlefield is the high-energy laser, Charlton said.

The Army and Air Force are now out at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico using them to knock out air-to-ground and surface-to-air missiles, as well as unmanned aircraft systems, he said.

A 300-kilowatt laser will

be built and tested in the near future, he added.

"We want to ensure the lanes are clear when firing the laser," he said. "We don't want to take out one of our own satellites, so it will need to be equipped with an avoidance detection system."

Lastly, Charlton said that an electromagnetic rail gun will be developed soon, but he's not sure if it will find its way onto the NGCV. "But it will be on the battlefield in some shape or form."

The rail gun will shoot small, dense projectiles to distances of 30 kilometers at several times the speed of sound using electromagnetic pulses, he said. That will require some serious power, so initially it might have to be loaded on a large cargo truck.

JOINT DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Dale Ormond, princi-

pal deputy of the Research Directorate of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, said his office is working to ensure all of the laboratories across the Department of Defense are talking to each other, helping each other and avoiding duplication of effort.

The areas he's particularly excited about are artificial intelligence paired with autonomy. Machines programmed for artificial learning will be able to collaborate much better with Soldiers and give commanders more options on the battlefield, he said.

Other promising areas are hypersonic weapons, he said, like the rail guns and lasers that the Army is working on.

He said he also expects to see a lot of developments in the space and cyberspace domains, as well as being able to operate in GPS-denied environments.

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DECEMBER 21, 2017

'IT MAKES ME HAPPY'



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

Aaliyah Arcelay and A.J. Page, military family members, along with Julius Brown, civilian, play against each other in a game of Operation during Single-Parent Family Game Night at the post exchange Dec. 14.

ACS, AAFES partner for Single-Parent Family Game Night

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

With Soldier deployments and constant moves, oftentimes families can find themselves in a single-parent situation, and that's why Fort Rucker strives to ensure single parents on post don't have to go it alone.

With the help of the Fort Rucker Community Health Promotions Council Social Resiliency Work Group initiative, Army Community Service hosted its Single-Parent Family Game Night at the post exchange Dec. 14 with the help of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, which provided the venue and food for the evening, according to Joy McCormick, ACS New Parent Support Program and Family Advocacy Program social worker.

"It's so important for parents and children to sit down at the table to play games with one another because of the interaction that happens during that time and the fun it creates," said McCormick. "It stimulates the brain and growth, so there are a lot of

things that happen during this time together."

The Single-Parent Family Game Night has become a quarterly event put on by ACS and is now in its second year, with each session becoming increasingly popular, said the ACS social worker.

"Every time we seem to have more and more families, and they all seem to have a good time," she said. "Our partnership with the AAFES and the post exchange food court manager always makes sure we have food, and we get to give games away to the families — they get to pick a game to take home with them.

This is free for them, so it's great."

Great is just how many of the family members described their time during the game night and said it's something that they're grateful to be able to take part in.

"It's awesome," said Kathrin Meadows, military spouse, whose Soldier is currently stationed in South Korea. "We normally would have dinner and watch a movie, so this is a nice

change. It's a great surprise and it's very welcoming. All of these organizations come together and make me feel like they've got us (taken care of)."

"We like to enjoy quality time with them out of the house (with the children," added Marla Arcelay, military spouse. "It makes me happy because they're thinking about us."

For Josephine Maltzberger, military spouse, the event is the second her and her children, Aiden and Annalese, have attended, and they enjoyed it so much they decided to return.

"We came to the first one a few months back and we had a really good time," she said, "so we came back. It's nice — there's food and the kids have a good time."

It's when families are able to come out and enjoy themselves that makes all the preparation put into the game night worth the effort, said McCormick.

"This just takes a bit of coordinating, but the most difficult part of planning the evening is making sure there is no conflict with other activities that might be



Kathrin Meadows, military spouse, enjoys a game of Jenga with her son, Mark.

going on around post," she said. "But once we get our time and date together, we just send out the information and get the word out.

"We have a blast doing it — we

have a lot of fun watching the kids play," McCormick continued. "I love watching them play and watching the parent interaction with the children — it's just so important for them."

Center Library set to enhance people's reading experience in 2018

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

As families put the finishing touches on their holiday celebrations, Fort Rucker's Center Library is busy gearing up for exciting changes in 2018.

According to Jodi Wilcox, Center Library reference librarian, patrons can expect a number of enhancements to their reading experience in 2018.

"Currently, we are working on converting our collection over to a new system for circulation," Wilcox said, looking ahead. "This new system will bring a few changes to the way books are checked out. There will be a self-check-out kiosk for patrons to utilize.

"Anyone who wants to use the computers will have to be registered with us in our system," she added. "Patrons can also expect more programs for adults, single Soldiers and families. It is our goal to provide the community with meaningful programs while providing resiliency."

Although the library's winter reading program has been canceled, its Maker Faire will proceed as scheduled.

"The Maker Faire will showcase several spaces for patrons to imagine, design and build their ideas in various forms," Wilcox said. "There will be tools for paper or yarn crafts. Patrons will also have opportunities to use technology to create their ideas with a 3D printer, Oculus Rift or audio visual tools to make a short animated video. For the musically inclined, a keyboard will be available that can be used with headphones. In addition to all of these, there will be equipment where patrons can convert their VHS tapes.

"Patrons will see the Makerspace being offered as a monthly program with a different focus each month and a Maker Faire will be offered each quarter," she added. "The community has more to look forward to as the Makerspaces will be used



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Marcus Whiting, Livia Johnson, Ella Wilde and Jaden Whiting, all military family members, experiment with their cars and their track as they test the speed from varying heights during the library's Mad Scientist Workshop: Speedometry in June. While the library's winter reading program has been canceled, programs similar to the reading programs will be available through the Center Library's Maker Faire.

to host programming for adults and families. Some of the Makerspaces are still being developed, such as the tool library, Raspberry Pi to learn programming, and a photography module. In February, we will have a bike repair workshop to highlight our bike repair tools."

According to Wilcox, the spaces will serve an important role in furthering the creative spirit of the Fort Rucker community.

"Center Library recognizes the talent

and creativity of the many people in our community and that everyone may not have access to the tools and materials needed to construct their ideas," she said. "It is important to have multiple spaces for the community to come and craft and design as support for resiliency.

"Our youth should always be encouraged to continue their creativity and think outside of the box," she added. "Creative thinking can help them in future jobs, projects or other areas of life."

"The community's needs are as diverse as the people who live here. Center Library tries to offer programs that are educational, entertaining and meaningful. In addition, we try to meet the many needs of our youth, Soldiers, families, adults, retirees and veterans."

— JODI WILCOX,
CENTER LIBRARY
REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

Center Library will also continue to host diverse and inclusive programs, such as the recently-hosted Tal Waggin' Tutors, as offerings continue to develop in 2018.

"The community's needs are as diverse as the people who live here," Wilcox said. "Center Library tries to offer programs that are educational, entertaining and meaningful. In addition, we try to meet the many needs of our youth, Soldiers, families, adults, retirees and veterans."

The library's hours during the holiday season will be different than normal: now through Dec. 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 1-5 p.m.; closed Sunday and Monday; Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Dec. 29, 1-5 p.m.; Dec. 30, 1-5 p.m.; closed Dec. 31-Jan. 1; Jan. 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Normal hours will resume Jan. 3.

For more information, call 255-3885.

ON POST

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

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.

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>.

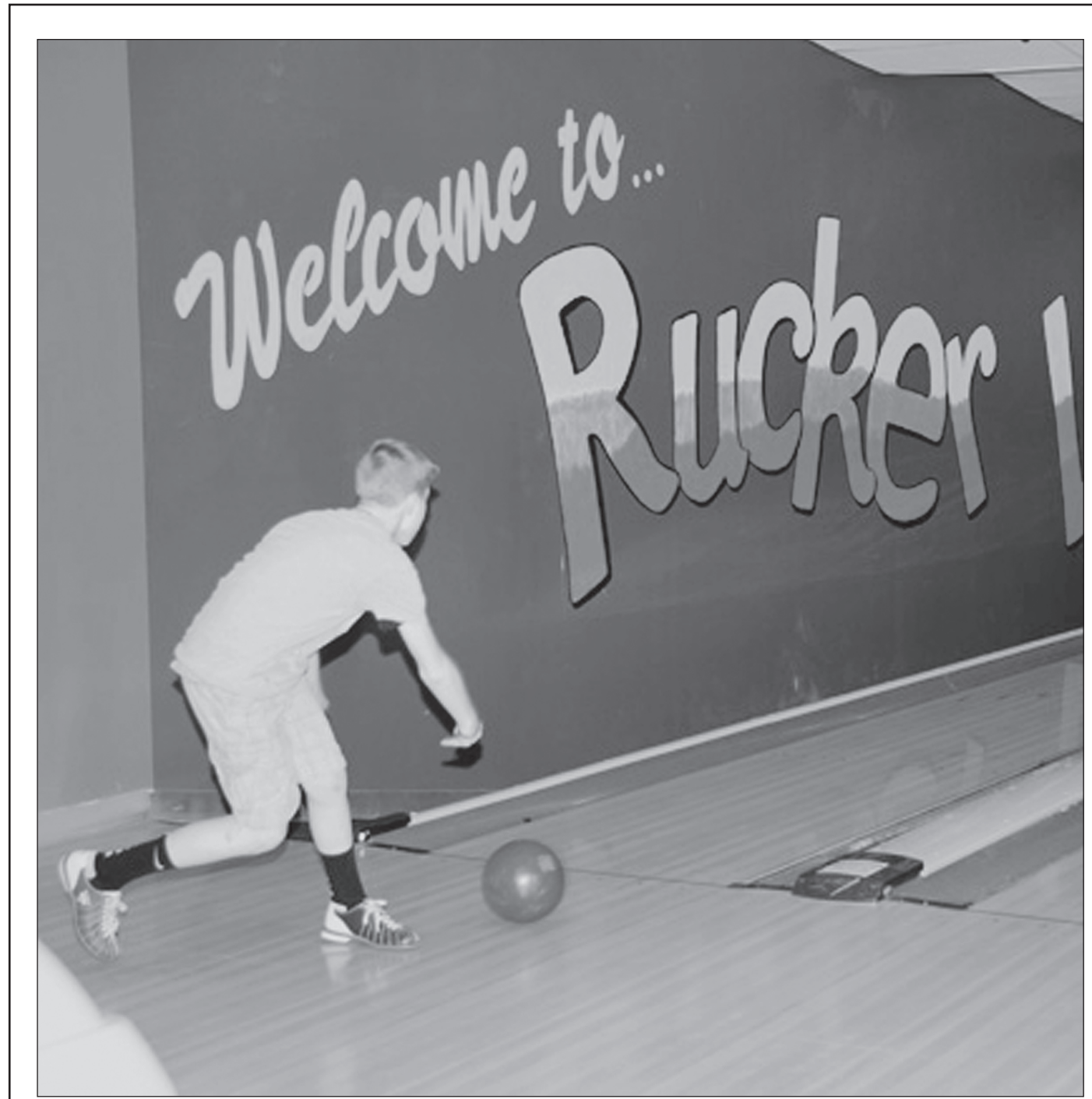
Crazy 8's Math Club

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.

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



FILE PHOTO

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.

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.

International Spouses Get Together

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

For more information, call 255-3735.

Army Family Team Building app

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

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.

DFMWR SPOTLIGHT

HOLIDAY HOURS

EXODUS DATES: DEC 20-JAN 2
ALL NORMAL HOURS WILL RESUME ON JAN 3

The Mini CDC will be **CLOSED** from December 20-January 2. During this time if you are needing to schedule extended care please call the CDC, (334)255-2262.

The Landing (including The Landing Zone, Coffee Zone, and Bingo) will be **CLOSED** from December 21-January 2.

Mother Rucker's will be **OPEN** the following days during EXODUS: December 21, 22, 28, 29 & January 2, from 3 - 10 PM.

ACTIVITY	DECEMBER 25	DECEMBER 26	JANUARY 1	JANUARY 2
ACS Main Office	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	7:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Arts & Crafts Center	CLOSED	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	CLOSED	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
MWR Central	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Automotive Skills Center	CLOSED	10:30 AM - 5:00 PM	CLOSED	10:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Center Library	CLOSED	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	CLOSED	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Outdoor Recreation	CLOSED	7:30 AM - 5:00 PM	CLOSED	7:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Lake Tholocco Lodging	CLOSED	7:30 AM - 5:00 PM	CLOSED	7:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Riding Stables	FEED ONLY	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	FEED ONLY	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Fort Rucker PFC	CLOSED	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	CLOSED	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Fortenberry-Colton PFC	CLOSED	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	CLOSED	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Indoor Pool	CLOSED	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM	CLOSED	11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
All Coffee Zone Locations	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Rucker Lanes	CLOSED	10:00 AM - 10:00 PM	New Year's Party	10:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Mother Rucker's	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	3:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Silver Wings Golf Course	CLOSED	6:30 AM - 4:00 PM	6:30 AM - 4:00 PM	6:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Divots	CLOSED	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Parent Central Services	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	*CLOSED
Child Development Center	CLOSED	7:00 AM - 5:00 PM	CLOSED	*CLOSED
School Age Center	CLOSED	7:00 AM - 5:00 PM	CLOSED	*CLOSED
Youth Center	CLOSED	7:00 AM - 5:00 PM	CLOSED	*CLOSED
Mini CDC	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	*CLOSED

*Professional Development Day



For a complete listing of holiday hours visit rucker.armymwr.com.

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 21-24

Thursday, December 21

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

Friday, December 22

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

Saturday, December 23

Thank You For Your Service (R)4 p.m.
Jigsaw (R)7 p.m.

Sunday, December 24

The Star (PG)1 p.m.
A Bad Mom Christmas (R)4 p.m.

A TEAM EFFORT

Army sniper candidates work together to pass grueling training

By Don Wagner
Army News Service

(Editor's Note: This is part three of a four-part series on the U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, Georgia. For previous installments in this series, please see the links at the end of the article.)

FORT BENNING, Ga. — For candidates at the U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, Georgia, their first three weeks at the school tested their physical limits as they crawled through mud trenches in ghillie suits and patiently crouching in marshy, bug-infested terrain for hours, practicing target detection and reconnaissance.

By Week 4, the remaining students had surmounted the most physically difficult portion of the school, but the course's mental trials were just beginning.

WEEK 4

In Week 4, students were taken to a range and practiced firing the M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System throughout the day. In the evening, they practiced night fire. This training enabled students to use their rifle scope in limited-visibility scenarios.

Most nights, students fired about 60-80 rounds. The targets were a little bit closer, between 300 meters and 600 meters. Old ammunition cans were hung on the back of the targets filled with charcoal, simulating human body heat, so that when they were hit, targets would heat up and be easier to see in a student's thermal sights. This went on for the first four days of the week.

Later in the week, students practiced to qualify in night unknown distance fire. Friday was unknown distance record fire.

The students were later called up to the line in sniper shooter/spotter teams. Two groups of instructors graded the hits/misses. The students were given a set of five targets and a time limit. They had to locate, determine the range and engage their set of five targets in seven minutes or less. They had two rounds per target to score points. A first-round hit was worth 10 points and a second-round hit worth five points.

If the student hit the target with the first round, he could move on to the next target. Once the first student engaged all of his targets or his time had expired, the sniper team moved to the next group of instructors and switched positions. The team had to score a collective 70 points to pass this record fire.

This was nerve-racking for some students who couldn't make quick shot corrections. If one team member was not on his game, then both students could fail this event and be disqualified.

Three students failed record fire and were sent home.

WEEK 5

Week 5 was devoted to training students in unknown-distance firing and moving targets. At the range, students learned that most targets are not stationary, and they learned how to lead a moving target.



PHOTOS BY SGT. BRANDON WALSH

Green Berets assigned to the Special Forces Advanced Skills Company Sniper Detachment, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) make elevation adjustments to engage their target during an urban stress shoot on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., June 29.



ARMY PHOTO

Spec. Adrian Leatherman, a sniper team leader with 1-23rd Inf. Regt., waits to proceed through a stalking lane during the International Sniper Competition at Fort Benning, Ga. in October.

Students meticulously calculated distance range, and learned how to engage moving targets using different techniques from 300 to 600 meters. Targets moved at a slow walking pace, and were 10 inches wide to simulate a Soldier walking on patrol.

"In an operational environment, most targets will never be stationary for an extended period," said Staff Sgt. Brian Moran, one of the 11 instructors at the school. "Students must learn how to properly lead their target so the round will impact a given position when the target will be there."

In this training, some of the students



Green Berets prepare to engage their target at the beginning of an urban stress shoot on Joint Base Lewis-McChord June 29.

were stationed behind large concrete berms. They held 10-foot tall sticks with targets at the top. The students in the pits walked the targets back and forth as other students on the line fired. A sniper instructor in the pits called cadence to keep students with the targets walking at the same pace.

After about two hours the students switched positions so that everyone could fire. After dinner, they waited for night and went back out on the range. During the night, students placed chemical lights on the targets so they could see better, firing from 300-600 yards.

Two students failed record fire.

TEAMWORK: SHOOTERS/ SPOTTERS

During Weeks 3-5, students train together in teams of two, alternating as spotter and shooter. The spotter does most of the calculations, judges the wind

and provides the necessary data to ensure the shooter hits the target, Moran said.

"Shooters and spotters are trained to work in tandem, in two-man teams, to take out enemy targets with one accurate shot," he said.

Moran said the spotter uses a hand-held ballistic computer called an Advanced Ballistic Calculator and a book that contains data of previous engagements.

The distance of each target requires an elevation dialed onto the scope. The ABC takes in the muzzle velocity, atmospheric conditions, and the caliber of the weapon to provide the elevation. The data is recorded in the data book.

A spotter carefully uses a high-powered optic to read the wind's speed and direction. Always vigilant, the spotter also protects the shooter with his M4 rifle. To graduate, students need to be proficient both as a sniper and as a spotter, and have to pass as a team.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

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

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

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

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1 Corinthians 11:1

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Pensacola hosts Wonderland of Lights now through Dec. 30

Army Flier
Staff Reports

Pensacola, Florida, hosts its Wonderland of Lights through Dec. 30 starting at 6 p.m. each day at the Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds. The Christmas season springs to life with dazzling displays of electric cheer, according to organizers. This holiday tradition offers dazzling displays of

holiday scenes – these illuminated spectacles are easily visible during drive-through car tours, but at Santa's Village, even more holiday wonder awaits, such as Santa's House, pony and camel rides and a holiday market. Admission is \$20 per vehicle, \$35 per mini-van or limousine and \$75 per motor coach.

For more information, visit <https://www.thewonderlandoflights.com/>.



WIREGRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

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

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

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

DOTHAN

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

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

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

can host parties, weddings, and hails and farewells.

ENTERPRISE

ONGOING — The 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

ONGOING — Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 9-11 a.m., Disabled American Veterans Chapter 99 maintains a service office in the New Brockton Town Hall (old armory building) at 706 McKinnon Street. The office will assist veterans who were injured or disabled while in military service. DAV service officers help veterans and their spouses with disability compensation claims, Veterans Affairs pensions, death benefits, VA medical care, Social Security disability benefits, veterans job programs, homeless veterans services and other veteran services. All veteran services are provided free of charge. For more information, call 334-406-6700.

ONGOING — Adult education classes are offered in Rm. 12 at New Brockton High School, 210 South

Tyler St., Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m. All classes are free for individuals 16 years old or older who are not enrolled in public school. Individuals must take an assessment test prior to attending class. Call 894-2350 for more information.

OZARK

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

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

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.

WIREGRASS 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.

Beyond Briefs

First City Lights Festival

Downtown Pensacola is lit up with half a million white lights for the holiday season from Garden to Main Street on Palafox, and there's a 30-foot tree added at end of Palafox Pier this year through Jan. 28.

For more information, call 850-434-5371.

Pensacola New Year's Eve fireworks

The Pensacola, Florida, beach skies will light up Dec. 31 with a free New Year's Eve fireworks display at 8 p.m. overlooking the Santa Rosa Sound from the Pensacola Beach Boardwalk.

Pensacola Symphony Orchestra New Year's celebration

The Pensacola Symphony Orchestra will host its New Year's celebration Dec. 31 from 7-9 p.m. at the Saenger Theatre, 118 South Palafox Place, Pensacola, Florida. The concert will be a swing, soul and blues-inspired performance celebrating the music of Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles and other timeless vocalists to kick off the new year, according to organizers. Ticket prices range from \$23-\$99.

People can purchase tickets online by visiting www.ticketmaster.com, calling 800-745-3000, or going to the Saenger Theatre Box Office at 22 East Intendencia

Street, Pensacola, Mondays-Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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

Polar Bear Plunge

Pensacola, Florida, will host its annual Polar Bear Plunge Jan. 1 at 2 p.m. at the Paradise Bar & Grill. Hundreds of dippers and spectators – many dressed in costume – are expected to flock to the beach to participate in this long-established tradition, according to organizers. Registration begins at noon and the fee is \$15 per person. Cub Club participants – those in fifth-grade or younger – can register for \$5. Participants will receive a Polar Bear Plunge T-shirt. All proceeds go to the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Beach Ball Drop

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.

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

www.visitpanamacitybeach.com/events/new-years-eve-beach-ball-drop/.

'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 www.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 Zoofari 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>.

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>.

COME PREPARED

U.S. Army Sniper School sets high bar for candidates

By Don Wagner
Army News Service

(Editor's Note: This is the final installment of a four-part series on the U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, Georgia. For previous articles in the series, please see the links below.)

FORT BENNING, Ga. – At first glance, the U.S. Army Sniper School may seem like a reality TV elimination show akin to “Survivor.” Of the 46 candidates who entered the course in August, only four remained by the end of Week 5.

For the remaining students, though, there were no comforts in the form of television producers or catering tents during the course. And the sniper candidates still had to face their most daunting challenge – a culminating exercise that would test all of the skills they had learned over the past six weeks.

WEEK 6

In Week 6, students were taught to engage targets from less-stable platforms or positions, since the majority of engagements they will encounter as snipers will not occur while in prone position.

“Snipers rarely can engage targets from a prone supported position in combat situations,” said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Doolittle, sniper school operations noncommissioned officer. He added that snipers must use alternate positions and must utilize whatever is around them to create the most stable position possible.

Among other weapons, students shot the M2010 Winchester Magnum rifle on ranges up to 1,300 meters. They also shot the M9 pistol and the M107 .50-caliber sniper rifle.

WEEK 7

In the final week of school, also known as the “employment phase,” students planned and executed their mission after receiving an operations order. The first day covered urban infiltration and hide setup. Candidates observed battlefield information and countered sniper operations.

Students then moved into the woods to build a “subsurface hide,” digging holes in the ground and meticulously camouflaging them.

To complete the culmination exercise, students marched to specified areas and were tested on skills that included stalking, target detection, range estimation and shooting.

On the last day of the course, students were given a time-limited road march to the range to conduct a “final shot,” since snipers must be able to move quickly, carry a rucksack of equipment, and be physically able to perform their missions after extended marching.

To conduct the final shot, students were given two rounds and one target. Once they located the target, they calculated and determined the range to it and engaged the target. A first-round hit was worth 100 points, a second-round hit 50 points, and a miss, zero. These scores went to determine the honor graduate and “top gun” points for graduation.

GRADUATION DAY

On Sept. 22, out of the 46 sniper candidates who began the course at Fort Benning, only four remained to graduate.

Sgt. Stephen Ray, Sgt. Dale Taylor, Spc. Charles Gifford, and Sgt. Nathan Vencil sat together. The four Soldiers were now qualified as both Army snipers and spotters.

Ray graduated No. 1, or Top Gun in the class. An Oklahoma native, Ray is from the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas. During the training, Ray said that it was always in the back of his mind that he would make



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. MICHEL SAURET

Sgt. Ian Rivera-Aponte, a U.S. Army Reserve sniper and infantryman with the 100th Infantry Battalion, Honolulu, Hawaii, poses for a promotional photo shoot for Army Reserve recruiting at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., July 26.

it to the next phase of training.

He said that after he was given notice that he would be attending school, his platoon’s leadership went out of their way to ensure he had several chances to develop his shooting skills. This helped set him up for success in being able to pass the first challenge at sniper school, he said.

He mentioned his biggest challenge during the course was stalking. He overcame the difficulties by learning from his mistakes and by applying what he had been taught.

“The training in sniper school is hands down the best I’ve received in the Army,” Ray said. “All of the instructors are driven to train you to be the best sniper you can be. They want you to succeed and will do everything they can to help you do so while simultaneously maintaining the highest of standards. Instructors will spend as much time as needed to help ensure we grasp the concepts being taught.”

Ray said the best advice he can give Soldiers interested in being a sniper is to excel at their current job.

“Someone aspiring to be a sniper needs to stand out among his peers,” Ray said. “A Soldier needs to excel at his job and put himself in a position that will allow him to pursue the chance to go to sniper school.”

When Ray returns to his unit, he plans to teach his Soldiers what he has learned.

“I will do everything I can to prepare my Soldiers who wish to attend sniper school,” Ray said. “If a Soldier has been appropriately trained on the tasks he will face at school, it will significantly increase his chances to pass sniper school successfully.”

Gifford, 28, from Sequin, Texas, believes being an Army sniper is the epitome of being a Soldier. He said he wanted to be a sniper since “playing army” as a kid, and said he knew within the first week of sniper school that he would graduate.

During the training, he said the only time that he was in doubt of passing was during the rapid fire exercise during Hurricane Irma.

“You have to adapt to the weather behind the gun,” Gifford said.

He credits his previous unit for training him until he was ready. His goal now is to take the knowledge he has back to his unit.

“Don’t come here unless you are prepared,” Gifford said.

South Chicago native Taylor said that he

felt accomplished and relieved to graduate. He said the stalking exercises were the hardest because of the heat and humidity. He advised that the secret to passing is not getting frustrated.

Soldiers who are interested in attending sniper school need to be resilient, Taylor continued. He said he prepared at his unit by taking every free day to train. He waited six years for his sniper school application to be approved.

“This class was unusual,” said Staff Sgt. Brian Moran, one of the 11 instructors at the school. “Normally, 48 to 52 percent of the students graduate.”

Last fiscal year, 310 students attended sniper school and 140 graduated.

“About 90 percent of the time, it’s men-

tal fortitude that determines whether a student will fail or succeed,” Moran added.

Even though only four of 46 graduated this class, Moran said he’s still happy that a new group of excellent snipers can go back to their units and hopefully change the prevailing thoughts about snipers by being proactive, seeking opportunities to train, and continuing to better themselves in their craft.

He added that Soldiers interested in being a sniper should know that the job is 95 percent observing and reporting, with 5 percent shooting.

“It’s not the movies, you don’t shoot people daily, and there are no pats on the back for doing a good job,” said another instructor.

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Sgt. Ian Rivera-Aponte, a U.S. Army Reserve sniper and infantryman with the 100th Infantry Battalion, Honolulu, Hawaii, clears a room during a staged promotional photo shoot for Army Reserve recruiting at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., July 25-27.

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Daleville, AL

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DECEMBER 21, 2017

WILD WEST

Rucker Lanes offers up striking New Year's celebration

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

With 2018 just around the corner, the Fort Rucker Bowling Center is ready to help people ring in the New Year with a striking celebration.

Unlimited bowling, a three-course meal and a party to remember are just some things people can expect at Rucker Lanes New Year's Eve celebration Dec. 31, according to Andrea Lopez, Rucker Lanes operations assistant.

The Wild West-themed celebration will be held during two sessions: 6-9 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Both sessions will include a meal with a choice of chicken or steak, a starch, vegetable, side salad and dessert. The meal will also come with a choice of water or tea, but additional beverages are available at cost.

The cost is \$35 per person or \$50 per couple, and not only includes a full meal, but also unlimited bowling with shoe rental, party favors for those who attend and a party people won't soon forget, Lopez said.

"We like to do this for families and we see a lot of our regular families out here, so it's for (bowlers) of all ages," said Lopez, adding that, generally, the early session is for families with younger children with the second session usually caters to an older crowd.

Reservations are required if people want to enjoy the full extent of the celebration, and space is limited, so people should call



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Landon Elmore, military family member, bowls with his family at Rucker Lanes Tuesday.

early, said the operations assistant.

To make a reservation, call 255-9503.

Lopez said the full-course meal is something Rucker Lanes started about five years ago to give people on the installation something different when it came to ringing in the New Year.

"We wanted to offer a sit-down,

enjoyable dinner for everybody who wanted to come out and ring in the New Year with us," she said. "It's gone over very well ... and people really enjoy the setting.

"This year's theme is the Wild West, so we would love for people to come dressed according to the theme," Lopez continued. "We've got staff who are interested in the look, so they'll be dressed in their

costumes, but otherwise people only need to bring themselves and a smile."

Although reservations are required for the full experience of the night, Lopez said people are still welcome to come join the festivities at the bowling center for the evening and, if they are able, they'll be more than happy to cater to them.

"It's a really fun night and we just try to enjoy the evening ringing in the New Year," she said. "The staff will come out (right before the countdown) and we stop everything at the last minute when the ball is dropping, and we'll just have a fun environment where anybody can come out and enjoy a special evening, so we welcome all."



PHOTO BY JONATHAN THOMPSON

A team of U.S. Army researchers at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research has developed a Zika vaccine that has induced a strong immune response in early trials.

Vaccine induces strong immune response in early trials

By Walter Reed Army Institute of Research
Press Release

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Three Phase 1 human clinical trials evaluating an Army-developed Zika purified inactivated virus vaccine, known as a ZPIV, have shown it was safe and well-tolerated in healthy adults and induced a robust immune response. Initial findings from the trials were published earlier this week in the medical journal "The Lancet."

Each of the three studies included in the paper was designed to address a unique question about background immunity, vaccine dose or vaccination schedule. A fourth trial with ZPIV is still under way in Puerto Rico, where the population has natural exposure to other viruses in the same family as Zika (flaviviruses) such as dengue.

"It is imperative to develop a vaccine that prevents severe birth defects and other neurologic complications in babies caused by Zika virus infection during pregnancy," said Dr. Kayvon Modjarrad, WRAIR's Director for Emerging Infectious Diseases, the Zika program co-lead and the article's lead author. "These results give us hope that a safe and effective vaccine will be achievable."

Across the three trials, a total of 67 healthy adult volunteers (55 vaccine, 12 placebo) received two vaccine injections, four weeks apart. Researchers measured the immune response by monitoring levels of Zika virus-neutralizing antibodies in the blood. More than 90 percent of volunteers who received the vaccine developed an immune response against Zika.

"Not only is the development of a Zika vaccine a global public health priority, but it is also necessary

SEE VACCINE, PAGE D3

DREAMS REALIZED

3 Soldiers qualify for Olympics in luge

By Joe Laddan
Army News Service

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. — Sgt. Taylor Morris could barely hide his emotions as he walked through the stands of the Lake Placid Olympic Center Friday after learning he had finally become an Olympian, a goal he had been working toward for 16 years.

During the luge World Cup competition here, Morris and two of his Army teammates — Sgt. Emily Sweeney and Sgt. Matt Mortensen — qualified for the Olympic Winter Games that begin Feb. 9 in PyeongChang, South Korea.

For Morris, a weight had finally been lifted off his shoulders after narrowly missing qualification for the 2014 U.S. Luge Olympic Team. This weekend Morris finished fifth, claiming the final spot in the men's singles competition, posting times of 51.046 and 51.183 to secure his first Olympics with a combined time of 1:42.229.

After receiving congratulatory hugs from family and friends, Morris, still in his leotard, then found his wife, Megan, standing in the track exit, and the couple wrapped arms for two minutes. After the sprint race competition Saturday, Morris currently ranks 15th in the Viessmann Luge World Cup standings.

"We always believed in him," Megan Morris said. "There was never a second that we did not think he was capable."

"It's the biggest amount of redemption that you really could ever feel when you train for so long," Taylor said. "This is 16 years for me now, it means the world to have my family here -- to have my home crowd cheering me on and wishing me the best."

Morris and his fellow Army World Class Athlete Program competitors braved the subzero temperatures and arctic wind chills to compete for their chance to represent the United States on the Olympic stage.



PHOTO BY JOE LADDAN

Staff Sgt. Matt Mortensen takes off from the starting line during a practice run at the 2017 World Cup competition at Lake Placid, N.Y.

SWEENEY

Joining Morris in PyeongChang will be WCAP's Sweeney, who qualified for her first Olympics in women's singles before even making her first run in the World Cup competition Friday. Sweeney's teammate, Raychel Germaine, failed to place in the top five during the Nation's Cup Competition Thursday, leaving a slot open for Sweeney.

Sweeney's sister Megan, along with her parents, friends and family sat in the stands during the competition this week.

Emily missed qualifying for the Olympics in 2010 and 2014 when her sister Megan qualified. This week, the sergeant learned she made the squad after receiving a text message from her mother.

"I'm so fortunate to have all these people," Sweeney said. "And I'm so lucky. I really don't know what I did to deserve all this. They're amazing. And to have this experience with them ... I know they fully support me no matter what I do."

After winning sprint race gold during the World Cup in Winterberg, Germany in November, Sweeney did not make the cut for the sprints at Lake Placid, after committing a

crucial error on her first run. Still, the setback did not dampen the 24-year-old's spirits.

"She's a tough athlete," said Gordy Sheer, USA Luge director of marketing and promotion. "She's rebounded really nicely and she's stronger and faster than she's ever been."

MORTENSEN AND HYRNS

Mortensen, competing with luge partner Jayson Terdiman, will make his third Winter Olympics appearance after qualifying for PyeongChang in men's doubles.

"Matt is a really hard-working guy — a great guy," Sheer said. "The kind of guy you want to succeed. He does all the right things and is very focused."

Finally, Sgt. Jake Hyrns, competing in men's doubles with partner Anthony Espinoza, posted a personal-best time during their first run, but finished eighth, missing a spot on the Olympic team. Hyrns, a staff sergeant in the National Guard, will serve as an alternate for PyeongChang.

REACHING GOALS

Nestled amid tall pine on Lake Placid's Mount Van Hoevenberg, the

SEE OLYMPICS, PAGE D3

DOWN TIME

FLASH GORDON
by JIM KEEFE 12-10

FLASH GORDON: I TRIED TO HELP HIM, BUT MY BLASTER JAMMED.

DALE ARDEN: I DON'T UNDERSTAND... I THOUGHT THE WEAPONS FROM BARIN'S ARMORY WERE TOP OF THE LINE!

THE CREATURE'S JUST DOWN THIS CORRIDOR!

I WANT ALL AVAILABLE FIREPOWER TRAINED ON THIS ENTRY!

HOW'S RENSHAW'S LEG, DOC? WHAT HAPPENED TO THORNE?

JUST A SPRAIN, HE'LL BE OKAY.

DEAD. HIS WEAPON BACKFIRED.

HE WAS DEFENSELESS AGAINST THAT THING.

HERE'S YOUR ANSWER. THESE AREN'T THE ORIGINAL CARTRIDGES.

SOMEONE SWITCHED THEM!

NEXT: FOUNT OF DECEIT!

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

UH...JUST WONDERING...DID YOU MAKE THIS BEFORE OR AFTER WE GOT IN THAT ARGUMENT?

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

T R I V I A

- MONEY:** What was the common currency in Portugal prior to the euro?
- MOVIES:** What 1990s horror movie featured Henry Winkler as the principal of Woodsboro High School?
- THEATER:** What musical included the characters of Maria Rainer and Captain Georg von Trapp?
- ANATOMY:** What are the names of the arteries that supply blood to the head and neck?
- MEASUREMENTS:** What does an isobar represent on a map?
- LANGUAGE:** What word represents the letter R in the NATO Phonetic Alphabet?
- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the significance of the 38th parallel north?
- FAMOUS QUOTES:** What 20th-century politician once said, "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** Where does the Oberammergau passion play take place every 10 years?
- ASTRONOMY:** What is the only constellation of the Zodiac representing an inanimate object?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Santa — (desert winds)
 - Heroic tales
 - "Zombie" network
 - Marathoner's statistic
 - Promote
 - Horror, e.g.
 - Prefix with gram or liter
 - Strong — ox
 - Start of a riddle
 - "That is to say ..."
 - Piper's garb
 - AWOL part
 - Pat lightly
 - Short literary sketch
 - Riddle, part 2
 - Jailbird
 - Poet's "always"
 - German's "one"
 - Suffix with suc- or lact-
 - Riddle, part 3
 - Starting point
 - Ike's inits.
 - Cell stuff
 - Government loan agcy.
 - Runway user
 - Clumsy sort
 - Dollar pts.
 - He beat Romney
 - Riddle, part 4
 - "Look, I did it!"
 - Ostrich kin
 - Bohea, e.g.
 - That, in Chile
 - Oil gp.
 - Riddle, part 5
 - '90s-'00s boy band
 - Thrice-spun-off TV show
 - Wimbledon unit
 - Swimming (in)
 - Sue Grafton's "— for Evidence"
 - Mind-reading ability
 - Lilted syllable
 - "Häger the Horrible" creator Dik
 - Riddle, part 6
 - Pitching whiz
 - Ballpark fig.
 - Prefix meaning "equal"
 - Syllable after "Mao"
 - End of the riddle
 - Merit the best score, maybe
 - Half of hexa-120
 - See 45-Down
 - Lacking width and depth, for short
 - Els of golf
 - Riddle's answer
 - Baseball team count
 - Actress Tierney
 - Plants used in first aid
 - Borscht vegetable
 - Anti-DUI org.
 - More sneaky
 - Flirty laugh
 - Probability
- DOWN**
- Slanting
 - Like free banking
 - Acoustic
 - Rock's Perry
 - "I" problem
 - Chapel seat
 - Hotel's kin
 - Set of beliefs
 - Roomy car
 - "No need to share all that," in texts
 - That bloke
 - School pupil, in France
 - Actresses Bloom and Danes
 - Fancy shoes
 - George of "Star Trek"
 - "... true statement, correct?"
 - Dog or cat breed
 - Went inside
 - Ida, borderer
 - British TV network, with "the"
 - Tiny self-propelled machine
 - Clicked-on graphic
 - Bart Simpson, to Marge
 - With a sharp image, briefly
 - do-well
 - Long ditch
 - Marge Simpson, to Bart
 - Magnon
 - Prefix with day or week
 - With 120-Across, 65 and older, e.g.
 - Secondary details
 - Elegant
 - Voting 69-Down
 - Cordon — (chicken dish)
 - Particles composed of quarks
 - South Pacific region
 - Soho locale
 - Left-leaning
 - Ring around a castle
 - Pa. hours
 - Surrendered
 - Listless feeling
 - Yummy morsel
 - Edge shyly
 - Abbr. at LAX
 - 1990s fitness fad
 - "— a drink!"
 - Looked at provocatively
 - Swift homes
 - Wrath
 - Acoustic organ
 - "So fancy!"
 - Peace gesture
 - Nationality suffix

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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See Page D3 for this week's answers.

KID'S CORNER

Puzzle Card

Place five small pieces of paper close together on the back of someone's hand. Now bet them that they can't blow them away, one by one. They will almost always blow two or more away at a time.

Illustrated by David Coulson

TAKE ONE HUNDRED AND ONE, AND TO IT FITX THE HALF OF A DOZEN, OR IF YOU PLEASE SIX, ADD FIFTY TO THIS, AND THEN YOU WILL SEE WHAT EVERY GOOD BOY TO OTHERS SHOULD BE.

Answers: 1. A tree principle. 2. A destructive fire. 3. A part of a BLT (given). 4. Found high above Earth. 5. A true principle.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A PACK OF "CURS"!

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

Don't "bark" up the wrong tree looking for these words. The grid to the left has room for nine words, and they all contain the word "cur." We also give you plenty of hints to help you fill in the missing letters.

1. Rudely, brief in speech.
2. To swear at.
3. Specific time to be home by.
4. A museum director.
5. To cut short; abbreviate.
6. Spoiled milk.
7. A hasty performance.
8. A fancy flourish made with a pen.
9. Part of a paved road.

Answers: 1. Curt 2. Curse 3. Curfew 4. Curator 5. Curly 6. Curried 7. Curdery 8. Curlew 9. Curlew

Wishing Well

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

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.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTNOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Answers: 1. Left boy missing 2. Right boy missing 3. Right boy missing 4. Right boy missing 5. Right boy missing 6. Right boy missing 7. Right boy missing 8. Right boy missing 9. Right boy missing

ABOUT MORE THAN NUTRITION

Eating disorders, disordered eating: A look into the personal struggle for balance

Military Health System
Communications Office Staff Report

SILVER SPRING, Md. — For almost two decades, the spouse of an active-duty service member kept a secret from loved ones.

No one knew of her guilt after she binged on a bag of cookies or snuck candy when she was alone. She was overweight, and yet remained determined to cut out sugar and treats. Her struggle with food continued for years, but she never expected to hear a psychiatrist diagnose a binge eating disorder.

“Not even my husband knew,” said the spouse, who preferred to remain anonymous. Food was constantly on her mind. She learned she had a disorder after starting the process for gastric bypass, which required an appointment with a psychiatrist before surgery.

“I was in total denial,” said the spouse, who underwent about eight months of treatment. “But when I started going through therapy, I thought, ‘Yeah, you know what, I do have that.’ Therapy has changed my life.”

While most people would have been surprised to learn of her disorder, being overweight had a big impact on her life and her health, she said. In therapy, she talked about why and when she binged, which helped her become more aware of her habits. In just nine weeks, she lost 44 pounds. While it hasn’t been easy, she’s healthier, happier, and able to think of food differently than before treatment.

Despite the name, eating disorders are about more than nutrition. These disorders involve psychological, physiological and behavioral characteristics. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, eating disorders include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and binge eating, and can often coexist with depression, anxiety disorders and substance abuse.

Anorexia nervosa, the most deadly of the disorders, is

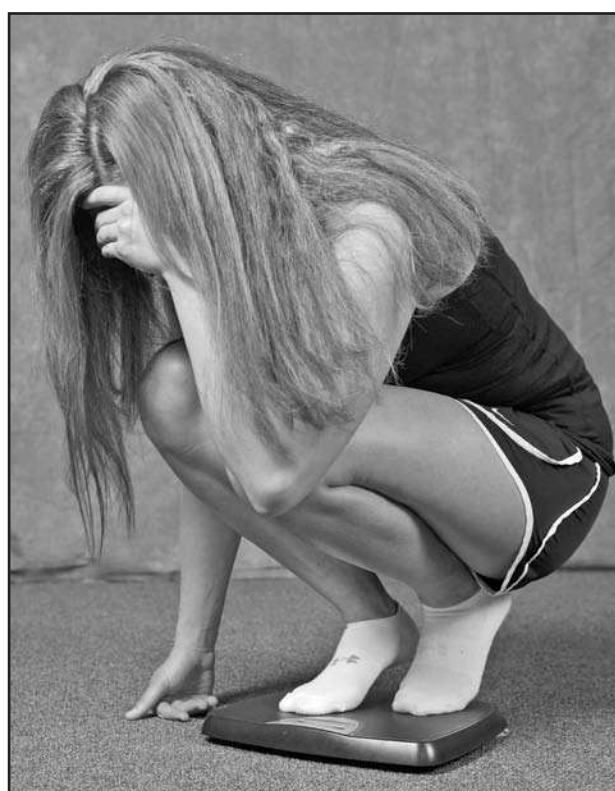


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. KEITH BALLARD

characterized by extreme thinness and food restriction. People with anorexia have a distorted body view, usually seeing themselves as overweight rather than severely underweight. Bulimia nervosa involves frequent episodes of eating unusually large amounts of food, followed by purging, excessive exercise, or strict food restriction. Binge eating, the most common eating disorder in the United States, occurs when someone loses control over his or her eating and consumes an unusually large amount of food in a single sitting. Unlike bulimia, binge eating isn’t followed by excessive exercise, purging or food re-

strictions.

Angela Gray, a licensed clinical psychologist for the Psychological Health Center of Excellence, said eating disorders can affect people of any age and any weight. Both women and men are impacted by eating disorders, but women are more likely to show symptoms and seek treatment, she added.

While no specific causes have been found, risk factors include a mix of biological, environmental and psychological factors, according to information provided by NIMH. Factors such as trauma, major life changes, or family history can contribute to an individual’s risk for developing an eating disorder.

“Any time you’re looking at large life shifts, that can be a time period where somebody feels a loss of control, and sometimes that loss of control and not being sure how to cope with those emotions will channel into focusing on food,” said Maj. Susan Stankorb, a dietitian at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Symptoms include difficulty concentrating, being withdrawn, and looking distressed during group meals, said Gray. Other signs include preoccupation with thoughts of food or meal preparation, over exercising (such as spending three or four hours at a time in the gym), skipping meals and losing weight, she added.

Treatment for eating disorders is usually geared to meeting individual needs. According to information from NIMH, the goal of treatment is to restore nutrition, maintain a healthy weight, and reduce harmful behaviors, such as excessive exercise and purging. The first line of treatment is psychotherapy, such as cognitive behavioral health therapy; however, treatment can also include nutritional counseling, medications, and group or family psychotherapy.

“Ultimately, we want to make sure that everyone is operating at their optimal psychological and physical health,” said Gray.

Olympics

Continued from Page D1

weather conditions presented a unique challenge for the luge competitors this weekend. On Lake Placid’s slick and fast 3,707-foot course, the 26-year-old Morris finally found his footing. Morris’ combined finishing time marked a career best.

“Taylor is certainly one of (our best) if not our best slider in terms of sheer ability to drive a sled down the hill,” Sheer said. “He’s blindingly fast. He suffered some heartache in the 2014 games, narrowly missed qualifying for the team, but he’s hungry.”

Morris, who began training in luge at age 10, missed the cut for the 2014 games by four-tenths of a second. Morris previously finished fifth at the World Championship spring race in Austria. He bounced back from finishing 20th during the World Cup qualifier in Calgary last week and 31st in the men’s singles competition at Altenburg, Germany.

“This was the biggest dream in his life,” said his wife Megan. “I can’t even imagine how amazing this moment is for him. He has put in more hard work and more sacrifice than anybody else I’ve ever known and he finally was able to achieve his dream. This is the biggest moment for him.”

WCAP

The World Class athlete Program, which provides Soldiers with the opportunity to train and earn places on Olympic and world championship teams, has been a welcome support system, said USA Luge’s Sheer.

“The WCAP program has been huge for our athletes, it’s really allowed them to serve and at the same time train and frankly make a living in a way that they haven’t been able to do in the past,” Sheer said. “It really allows them to think about luge as a career as opposed to something that they have to struggle to do. From my perspective as a USA Luge official, we’re very proud and it’s a point of honor to have

athletes serving.

“Our WCAP athletes are not only obviously great athletes competing among the world’s best, but they’re also really great role model and they really do represent the best that our country has to offer,” Sheer added.

While Mortensen and Terdiman posted a course-best time of 43.641 during their men’s doubles race Dec. 15, German duo Sascha Benecken and Toni Eggert eventually broke the mark and won the gold in that event.

“The interesting thing about the sport today is you’re seeing athletes stronger and faster,” said Sheer, who won a silver medal in men’s doubles at the 1998 Winter Games in Nagano, Japan. “You’re also seeing a huge push in terms of technology and really trying to get the most out of the sleds. I think we’re probably more technically engaged than we’ve ever been and it’s by necessity; our competition’s very fast and we’re doing all we can to keep up with them – and beat them.”

Vaccine

Continued from Page D1

to protect Service Members and their families,” said Col. Nelson Michael, director of WRAIR’s Military HIV Research Program and Zika program co-lead.

The ZPIV vaccine candidate was developed as part of the U.S. Department of Defense response to the 2015 outbreak of Zika virus in the Americas. WRAIR researchers conceived the ZPIV vaccine in February 2016 and were able to advance the candidate to a Phase 1 human trial by November

of the same year.

“WRAIR has previously steered to licensure a similar vaccine for Japanese encephalitis, a flavivirus in the same family as Zika, which helped speed our vaccine development effort,” said Dr. Leyi Lin, who led one of the trials at WRAIR.

In the volunteers who received the vaccine, neutralizing antibody levels peaked two weeks after they completed the 2-dose vaccine series, and exceeded the threshold established in an earlier study needed to protect monkeys against a Zika virus challenge

(Science. 2016 Sep 9; 353(6304):1129-32). Researchers also found that antibodies from vaccinated volunteers protected mice from a Zika virus challenge, providing insight into how this vaccine might prevent Zika infection.

Next steps include evaluating how long vaccine-induced immunity lasts, and the impact of dose, schedule and background immunity. Michael added that “Army researchers are part of integrated, strategic US Government effort to develop a vaccine to protect against Zika.”

The ZPIV program is led by Col. Michael and Dr. Modjarrad. The principal investigators at each of the study sites were Dr. Leyi Lin at WRAIR, Dr. Sarah L. George at SLU and Dr. Kathryn E. Stephenson at BIDMC. The sponsor of the investigational new drug application for two of the studies (WRAIR and SLU) is the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health. The BIDMC study is investigator-sponsored by Dr. Kathryn Stephenson.

FORT RUCKER SPORTS BRIEFS

Track and 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.

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.

Deer season

The Fort Rucker 2017-2018 Deer Season has begun. Archery season continues through Feb. 10. Gun season continues through Feb. 10. Antlered bucks only, with three points or better on one side for both archery and gun deer season.

For more information, call 255-4305.

Fort Rucker Big Buck Contest

Fort Rucker Outdoor Recreation hosts its Big Buck Contest through Feb. 10 during daylight hours. The entry fee is \$25 per person and the contest is open to the public. Participants must be registered before harvesting their buck and the buck must be harvested on Fort Rucker to qualify. Fort Rucker requires that individuals ages 16 and older have an Alabama State Hunting License, a Fort Rucker Post Hunting Permit and a hunter education card.

For more information and to register, call 255-4305.

Youth soccer registration

Youth spring soccer registration runs today through Jan. 19. All interested participants must have a current sports physical, and a valid child and youth services registration. Children must meet the age requirements by July 31, 2017. Cost is \$25 for youth ages 3-4 years and \$45 for youth ages 5-14. Additional children will receive a percentage discount to be determined at parent central services during registration. Parents who used Webtrac to register their children need to call 255-22548 to let the staff know what size shirt and shorts to order. Practices will begin around Jan. 29 and the season will begin Feb. 20. There will be a parents meeting Jan. 24 at 6 p.m. in Bldg. 2800, the youth center, located on Seventh Avenue. To register, visit parent central services or use Webtrac.

For more information, call 255-9638 or 255-2254.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

ANAS	EPICS	THECW	TIME
TOUT	GENRE	MILLI	ASAN
IFRE	NOWNED	IMEAN	KILT
LEAVE	DAB	VIGNETTE	
TELE	VISION	ENTERTAINER	
CON	EEER	EIN	OSE
MCM	AHONHAD	BEENS	POTTED
ORIGIN	DDE	RNA	SBA
MODEL	OAF	CTS	OBAMA
LYING	RIGHT	TONTO	POFA
TADA	EMU	TEA	ESA
ABIG	SWARM	OFMORAYS	
NSYNG	CSI	SET	AWASH
EIS	ESP	TRA	BROWNE
HOW	WOULD	SOME	ONELIKELY
ACE	RBI	ISO	TSE
DESCRIBE	THAT	SITUATION	
RATE	ATEN	TRI	RANGE
ONED	ERNIE	EDOVER	EELS
NINE	MAURA	ALOES	BEEET
SADD	SLIER	TEHEE	ODDS

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

- Escudo
- “Scream”
- “The Sound of Music”
- Carotid
- Atmospheric pressure
- Romeo
- It forms the border between North and South Korea.
- Daniel Patrick Moynihan
- Germany
- Libra (the scales)



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CREW CAB Z71**



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2017 VOLT PREMIER



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2017 TAHOE PREMIER



\$7,033 Below MSRP on this Tahoe[†]

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\$4,849 Below MSRP on this Traverse[†]

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[†]*Available only on 2017 models excluding select base trims and purchase of 2018 Equinox and Silverado 1500 Crew Cab. Not available with other offers. At participating dealers. Take delivery by 1/2/18. ©2017 General Motors.

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