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Warhawks during
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FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

MARCH 15, 2012

Post responds to simulated attack

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker was on alert as the sound of explosions rang out, smoke billowed from a helicopter and injured Soldiers cried for help behind the Fort Rucker Fitness Facility as the installation's emergency responders put their "boots on the ground" to take on a simulated terrorist attack during an all-hazards/protection exercise March 6.

"It's a three-day exercise," said Lt. Col. Dale Bedsole, operations officer in the force protection branch of the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. "[The exercise] began with us receiving intelligence from various U.S. government agencies that led us to believe that there may be an attack on the installation."

The installation holds about three exercises a year to test Fort Rucker's emergency response, but the all-hazards exercise is the biggest exercise of the year, according to the operations officer.

"These exercises keep our Army Family aware of the threats that are out there," said Justin Mitchell, Fort Rucker deputy garrison commander. "[The exercises] also assure them that we have effective plans to protect

them from threats ranging from terrorist attacks, to accidents and weather hazards."

The day before the all-hazards exercise, the installation's crisis management team evaluated the intelligence that was gathered and put together the necessary force-protection measures in case of an attack, according to Bedsole.

The scenario for the attack involved a helicopter that was stolen by terrorists in order to fly over the installation and spray an unknown chemical on Soldiers and civilians, according to the operations officer. While making a second pass, the terrorists flying the helicopter hit the power lines behind the fitness facility and crashed onto the track.

"From there, it turned into a response for our fire department and police to respond to a terrorist attack [involving] chemicals," he said.

"It's important that we keep our emergency responders sharp," said Mitchell, "and practicing through the year goes a long way in keeping the edge we need to perform effectively in case a crisis situation happens.

"We take the safety and security of our people very seriously," he said. "It is truly a no-fail mission. Con-



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Fort Rucker firefighters place a Soldier onto the decontamination station set up outside the Fort Rucker Fitness Facility during a simulated terrorist attack March 6.

SEE ATTACK, PAGE A3



FILE PHOTO

Music Under the Alabama Stars

CW4 Jesse Pascua, 98th Army Band commander, gets some help conducting from Elizabeth Nowel during a Music Under the Alabama Stars concert at Howze Field last year. The popular concert series starts up again March 23 at 6 p.m. at Howze Field featuring the Silver Wings Band. The series will continue through the year with performances scheduled for April 20, May 17 and June 15. Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, welcomes the community to attend the concerts and enjoy good music, good company and the Alabama evenings. Guests are welcome to bring their Families, folding chairs, food and beverages and pets on leashes.

Get financially set with ACS class

By Angela Williams
Army Flier Staff Writer

Almost everyone can learn something at Army Community Service's upcoming "Where's Your Money?" class, scheduled for 6:30-8 p.m. on March 22 at the Bowden Community Center.

Mike Burden, the ACS financial readiness program manager, said the class will cover topics such as credit, mortgages, automobile financing and credit cards. The class will include information about getting out of debt, as well as principles that will help Soldiers and Family members stay out of debt.

"The class is for everybody, regardless of (their) financial situation," Burden explained.

He said many Soldiers start receiving their first regular paycheck when they join the Army, but most of them have little experience managing that kind of money. Sometimes, when they start receiving that check, Soldiers will buy an expensive car or something else they really don't need.

"Sometimes people do things they regret ... and get themselves in debt," he said.

This leads some people into what Burden calls "the cycle of debt." If a person is short on cash,

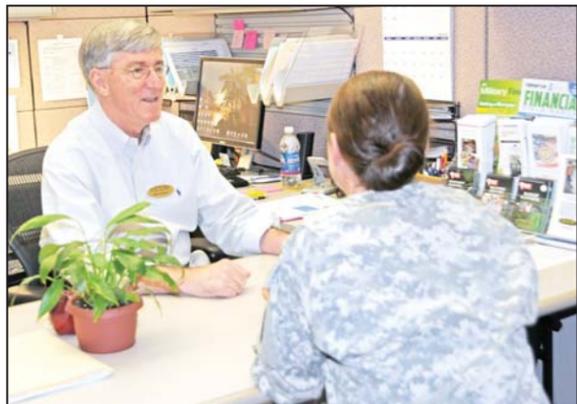


PHOTO BY ANGELA WILLIAMS

Mike Burden, financial readiness program manager, speaks with a Soldier in his office at ACS.

they'll use credit to cover the difference. This increases the debt and usually starts the cycle over. Burden said he will discuss this cycle in the class.

"I think people will get the most value out of what we do during the questions part of the class," he added. "I'll say something about credit scores and someone will ask a question and then that generates other questions."

Burden said he likes for the audience to participate in the class, even if that means they disagree with him, because he likes to hear

about the experiences of others. "Even though we are certified financial counselors, we don't know everything," he said.

The class was scheduled after normal working hours to make it convenient for Soldiers and spouses to attend together, Burden said. "Some people have actually walked to the community center," he said. "We try to make it as painless as possible. It's very casual."

After the presentation, if people want more personalized assistance,

SEE CLASS, PAGE A7



FILE PHOTO

Earl Rogers loads a container of recyclable office paper into the back of his truck during his weekly rounds for the post's Qualified Recycling Program. Recycling is a key component to the post's sustainability efforts, and may be expanded to include plastics and glass in the near future.

Rucker reduces consumption of natural resources

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker is doing its part to reduce energy and water consumption, reduce waste and promote recycling through its ongoing sustainability efforts.

The installation is required to reduce its energy consumption by 3 percent a year, and water consumption by 2 percent a year, according to the Energy and Environmental Keys to Success in the Installation Management Campaign plan for Fort Rucker.

"We're doing pretty well on energy and we're doing great on water consumption," said Candy Vaughn, branch chief of Utilities and Energy Management for the Directorate of Public Works.

Fort Rucker has taken on many initiatives to reduce its energy and water consumption by trying to eliminate waste, said the branch chief. The installation has an ongoing effort to replace older water mains to eliminate leaks and keep up water quality.

Many of the water mains on Fort Rucker are dead-end lines, according to Vaughn. These lines can cause water to be stagnant and degrade the quality of water if the lines aren't

flushed through frequently enough.

"We're creating loops in areas that didn't have them before," said Vaughn. "If you can take that end line and connect it to where there is more flow, then everything will circulate and there will be better water quality."

Through the water main replacement efforts, Vaughn said that Fort Rucker should be able to reduce its water waste and consumption by another 18 million gallons per year.

Along with the reduction in water consumption and waste, energy waste and consumption is another issue that DPW is tackling in order to work into Fort Rucker's sustainability efforts.

Tony King, resource efficiency manager for DPW, said that saving energy saves money, which can be spent on other parts of the sustainability efforts, but it starts with the people on Fort Rucker.

"You can do all the technology things right," he said. "You can go ahead and put new stuff in that's going to reduce energy in theory, but if the occupants of the facility don't cooperate ... then you negate

SEE RESOURCES, PAGE A7

PERSPECTIVE

IMCOM promise: world-class customer service

By Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter
Installation Management Command
Commanding General

Every day across our installations, members of Team IMCOM are working hard to provide world-class customer service and make it a great day to be a Soldier, Family member or Army civilian.

A prime example is when a 71-year-old retired sergeant first class visited the Fort McCoy, Wis., ID card office to renew his card. Ken Quade, a separation and retirement services specialist, noticed the retiree needed a different kind of card. He was not receiving all the benefits he should have.

Quade could see the customer needed help, and so he took corrective action. Incredibly, with Quade's help, the retiree was eventually able to recover more than \$41,000 in back pay and receive other benefits he had earned.

Just imagine the impact of this on the sergeant first class and his wife. They returned to the office to tell Quade in person what a big difference it made in their lives.

We in the Installation Management Command are charged with delivering the majority of installation services and Soldier and Family programs, and we know that a critical element of service delivery depends on our people.

World-class customer service depends on making



connections with the customers across the counter — listening to them, working to find solutions and saying thank you. It doesn't cost a penny to make someone feel like a million dollars. It does take a commitment to serve and provide leadership at every level.

Our focus on customer service is a promise of predictable service. It is a promise that customers will always be treated with courtesy, respect and an attitude

of "let's make this work."

We can see many other great examples of customer service across IMCOM. There's Carol Pryer, a survivor support coordinator with the Florida Army National Guard, who with great persistence and compassion built a strong network for our most revered members, Army survivors.

Or Robin Greene at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, who worked hard to streamline the process for providing housing for Soldiers with medical needs. Or Jessica Zagelow, Family child care director at Fort Bliss, Texas, who goes above and beyond for children who need extra care. Or Nick Overstake and Pat Fielder at Campbell Army Airfield, Ky., who came in Christmas Day to repair runway lights and make sure a flight with redeploying Soldiers could land. There are way too many great examples to name them all, and to that I say, "Go Team!"

Thank you, IMCOM personnel, for setting the standard for customer service. I am extremely proud of our team and what you do for Soldiers, Families and civilians every day.

And thank you, too, to our customers for your feedback. Keep sending us those ICE comments. Visit the IMCOM Facebook page and tell us about our team members who deliver excellent customer service. We want to know how we can improve, and just as much, we want to hear about our stars.

Army strong!

This month in Army Aviation history

This month we're spotlighting the March 1978 issue of the *U.S. Army Aviation Digest*. This issue features:

GUTS ARE GREAT, BUT BRAINS ARE BETTER

The title of this article might insinuate that "guts," bravery, audacity are not as important as brains in combat. But the fact is: guts have never been more important.

ME QUIT? HOW?

By this time, we are all aware that smoking is linked to cancer, emphysema, chronic bronchitis and circulatory diseases. Some

medics say that the smoker's smoke is a health hazard to nonsmokers in the vicinity.

KEEPING UP WITH ARMY AVIATION R&D

Effective 30 August, the name of the U.S. Army Air Mobility Research and Development Laboratory, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Calif., was changed to the U.S. Army Research and Technology Laboratories.

NEW TRAINING DEVELOPMENTS AT FORT RUCKER

U.S. Army Aviation was the first to

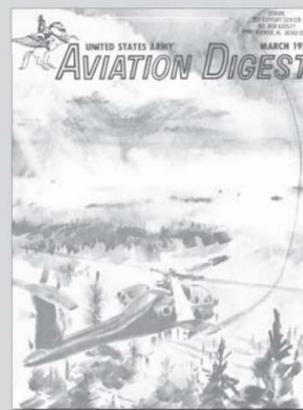
develop and use helicopter flight simulators with a visual system. To date, two helicopter simulators have been developed using a camera model visual system — the CH-47Fs and the AH-1Fs.

RETURN OF THE WRIT

The annual writ is alive and well and about to arise, Phoenix like, as the written component of the Aviator Annual Proficiency and Readiness Test.

PEARL'S

... and more.
Download this issue of the *U.S. Army Aviation Digest* at <http://bit.ly/av8-mar78>



Rotor Wash

“ St. Patrick's Day is Saturday?
What do you feel lucky to have in your life? ”



Sherrie Badger,
Army spouse

"Twenty two years ago we were flooded out on St. Patrick's Day and better things have happened since then."



Pat Dawson,
Army spouse

"My mother just passed so I feel lucky and blessed to have the Family that's still here."



Capt. James Outland,
23rd FIS

"I'm so good I don't need luck."



WO1 Josh Groth,
B Co., 1st Bn.,
145th Avn. Regt.

"My Family."



Staff Sgt. Zinn Belt,
131st MPAD

"Good friends, good Family and good health."

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FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

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

Attack: Exercises give post chance to practice procedures

Continued from Page A1

ducting these exercises regularly helps us validate our plans, and also points out potential shortfalls or areas we need to make adjustments on to keep our Soldiers, civilians and Family members safe.”

As the exercise got further under way, smoke simulated a burning helicopter and Soldiers lay injured on the ground crying for the responders to come help. Two of the injured Soldiers ran into the fitness facility to seek shelter, but unknowingly contaminated the building and its occupants with the unknown chemical substance, which now became another issue for the first responders, according to Bedsole.

The emergency responders had to determine what course of action was to be taken given the circumstances, he said. They determined that they needed to respond to calls coming from inside the fitness facility and immediately evacuate the facility and get the people inside to the decontamination station that was set up in the parking lot.

The Fort Rucker fire department simulated dousing the flames that were coming from the helicopter using a high-powered water cannon before the hazardous material team was sent onto the track to retrieve the injured Soldiers.

Emergency responders from local communities are also invited to participate when the installation conducts an exercise such as the all-hazards/protection exercise, according to Mitchell.

“This partnership [with local communities] helps all parties know what to expect from each other,” he said, “what kinds of support to expect from each other and tests the plans that are in place to respond to an emergency on post.”

The installation works with various agencies in the surrounding communities as well as federal agencies when responding to different crises, according to Bedsole.

“We have memorandums of agreement and understanding with local emergency management agencies and state EMAs,” he said. “We even deal with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.”

Fort Rucker also has agreements with local hospitals so that they can provide the installation with ambulances and medical personnel in case of an emergency like the simulated attack.

“We don’t have an actual hospital on Fort Rucker,” said the operations officers. “All of our casualties would go to local hospitals in the event of a real attack or emergency.”

Fort Rucker also has agreements with the Red Cross in the event that there is a natural disaster or anything that requires their aid, according to Bedsole.

“[These exercises] give us a chance to practice our procedures,” he said. “We can write all the plans in the world, but it’s for nothing if we don’t actually test them.”



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

Hazmat team members work to rescue an injured Soldier during a simulated terrorist attack at the Fort Rucker Fitness Facility March 6.



Members of the Fort Rucker Fire Department help role-playing injured Soldiers and civilians out of the building that was contaminated with an unknown chemical during a simulated terrorist attack at the Fort Rucker Fitness Facility March 6.



Fort Rucker firefighters scrub down a Soldier inside a decontamination station set up outside the Fort Rucker Fitness Facility during a simulated terrorist attack March 6.



Fire crews aim a water cannon at a simulated helicopter crash in an attempt to put out the flames from a safe distance during a simulated terrorist attack at the Fort Rucker Fitness Facility March 6.

News Briefs

Commissary closure

The Fort Rucker Commissary will be closed for Easter Sunday, April 8.

For more, call the commissary at 255-9177.

Picerne town hall

Picerne Military Housing will host a town hall meeting today from 5-6 p.m. at the Picerne-Partners Building located at 2908 Andrews Ave. to address the transition of on-post housing utility services to Minol USA. Representatives from Minol as well as Picerne will be on hand to answer any questions regarding the transition. Representatives will also discuss the Live Army Green program.

Minol USA has assumed responsibilities over third-party billing in regards to electricity in Family housing. Picerne Military Housing is working diligently to provide residents with the best services available. Families can look forward to a website that is easier to navigate while being rewarded for conserving energy, according to Picerne officials.

For more information, contact your neighborhood office.

AAFES St. Patrick's Day specials

Shoppers using their Military Star Card at Fort Rucker Exchange restaurants on St. Patrick's Day Saturday will save a

“wee bit o’ the green” with a 20 percent discount off their entire order, according to Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials.

“Diners using their Military Star Card at Fort Rucker Exchange fast food facilities always receive 10 percent off of their entire purchase,” said the exchange’s food court manager, Isaiah Oxendine. “But for this one day, Irish eyes will be smiling as our restaurants offer a 20 percent discount on any purchase — from something as small as a cup of coffee to catering orders.”

In addition to saving at the food court, card holders receive exclusive savings at the pump with a 5-cents-a-gallon discount every time they fuel up at Fort Rucker gas stations. On top of the everyday savings, steeper discounts are offered periodically throughout the year.

SSA inventory

The Directorate of Logistics Supply Support Activity in Bldg. 1212 conducts its annual wall-to-wall inventory Monday through March 23. SSA will shut down normal operations at 4:15 a.m. Friday and plans to resume normal operation hours March 26. Customers will be notified by the accountable officer. During this period, the SSA will only accept emergency requisitions.

For more, call Sandra Edwards at 255-9504 or send an email to Sandra.r.edwards2.civ@mail.mil.

Industry Day

The Fort Rucker community is invited to attend the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence Aviation Training Industry Day March 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at The Landing.

The theme for the event is Future Aviation Capabilities and Emerging Training Requirements and features more than 40 industry vendors. USAACE senior leaders will also discuss future training from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m.

The event serves as an interactive forum between Army Aviation trainers and Aviation training industry leaders to discuss available Aviation training technology, enablers and future requirements.

Thrift shop

The Fort Rucker Thrift Shop willingly accepts people’s unwanted items as donations. People can drop items off at the shed behind the thrift shop, which is located in the former bank building next to the post theater. Donations are tax deductible. The shop is open Wednesdays-Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more, call 255-9595.

CIF closure

The Central Issue Facility will be closed for inventory March 26-30. For more information, call 255-1095.

Congress hears Army needs more BRAC

By Gary Sheftick
and J.D. Leibold
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army needs two more rounds of base realignment and closure, known as BRAC, to align its infrastructure with a downsizing force, the assistant secretary responsible for installations told lawmakers March 7.

"The Army does support the Department of Defense request for BRAC authority for 2013 and 2015," said Katherine Hammack, assistant secretary of the Army for installations, energy and environment, "because changes in force structure will necessitate evaluation of our facilities to optimize usage and capability."

Hammack testified on Capitol Hill to the House Appropriations Committee, subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies. Her testimony followed that of Dorothy Robyn, deputy undersecretary of Defense for installations and environment, who made the case for additional BRAC rounds.

"Of all the efficiency measures that the department has undertaken over the years, BRAC is perhaps the most successful and significant," Robyn said.

Under BRAC 2005, the Army closed 11 installations and 387 reserve-component sites while realigning 53 other installations, Hammack said.

While BRAC legislation is used to close installations in the United States, no such authority is required overseas, and Hammack outlined to legislators how the Army has realigned in Germany and Korea.

"We have listened to Congress and have followed your guidance to reduce costs and footprint in Europe and in Korea," she said.

In Europe over the last six years, the Army closed 97 sites and returned 23,000 acres. In Korea over the same time period, Hammack said the Army closed 34 sites with 7,300 acres returned to the host nation.

"In the next four years, we plan to close another 23 sites and return 6,400 acres, primarily to Germany," she continued, adding that in Korea over the next four years the Army plans to close 20 sites and return 9,400 acres.

"And so we are implementing a BRAC-like base realignment and closure overseas," Hammack said, "similar to what has been done in the United States."

The last BRAC round stateside greatly benefited the Army National Guard and Reserve, she said, explaining that dilapidated buildings were closed and units consolidated in new facilities. She added this

enabled the return of land to local communities, helping their economies and tax base.

The Army will downsize its active-duty force by 80,000 Soldiers over the next six years, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno said in separate testimony March 8 to the Senate Armed Services Committee. Overall, DOD plans for a 5.5 percent reduction in troops from across all services over the next five years.

"The math is straightforward," Robyn told the House Appropriations Committee members. "Force reductions produce excess capacity. Excess capacity is a drain on resources. Only through BRAC can we align our infrastructure with our defense strategy."

In the fiscal year 2013 budget, the Army is asking for about \$100 million to handle environmental cleanup and caretaker issues at sites closed by the last round of BRAC. Another \$79 million is requested primarily for environmental cleanup of sites closed by even earlier rounds of BRAC.

The Army's overall fiscal year 2013 budget request for military construction, family housing and BRAC



Katherine Hammack, assistant secretary of the Army for installations, energy and environment, signs a memorandum of understanding with the Environmental Protection Agency, Nov. 28 to collaborate on the Army's Net Zero initiative to conserve energy, water and waste. She testified on Capitol Hill, March 7 about energy security and base realignment and closure.

is \$3.6 billion, a 32 percent reduction from this year's budget, Hammack said. She added that the smaller budget request "reflects the current fiscal reality."

One way the Army plans to save money is by reduc-

ing energy consumption and producing its own power through large-scale renewable-energy projects such as solar arrays, wind turbines and geothermal power.

"Reducing energy at

Army facilities is mission-critical to us as we have seen energy challenges due to recent weather events," Hammack said.

Midwest tornadoes over the last year hampered the ability of some installa-

tions to access energy off the grid as power lines went down, she explained.

Since 2003, the Army has reduced installation energy consumption by 13 percent, she said, while at the same time the number of active Soldiers and civilians has increased by 20 percent.

An Energy Initiatives Task Force was stood up at the Pentagon last year to help installations with large-scale energy projects. It is currently reviewing about 10 projects that could generate up to a gigawatt of energy, Hammack said.

In fact, she said a request for proposal, or RFP, was released last week for a \$7 billion multiple-award task order for energy projects.

"These projects are going to give us more energy security by relying on natural resources," Hammack said.

She concluded her testimony noting that within the first quarter of fiscal year 12, the Army implemented \$93 million in energy-saving performance contracts, "and that was more than we did in all of fiscal year '11, which was \$74 million."

She said contract processing time had also been cut in half and was down to 12 to 14 months.

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March 25 -
April 3, 2012



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NEWS

Auction conducted under the auspices of James Eric Vaughn, Auctioneer License No. 5138 (AL).

Health system seeks savings while retaining excellence

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Iraq and Afghanistan have been dangerous places over the past decade, but deployed troops often passed a saying on to new arrivals: “If you’ve got to get shot, this is the best place to do it.”

The saying spread because the medical care for wounded service members was state-of-the-art, with the survival rates significantly higher than in previous conflicts.

Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, told the House Appropriations Committee’s defense subcommittee yesterday that he wants to retain this excellence while controlling spiraling costs.

“Over the last 10 years, the men and women of the military health system have performed with great skill and undeniable courage in combat,” Woodson said. “Their contributions to advancing military and American medicine are immense. The military health system’s ability to perform this mission and be able to respond to humanitarian crises around the globe is unique among all military and nonmilitary organizations on this globe.”

All department leaders are committed to sustaining this precious resource, Woodson said. But he acknowledged that military health care is now more than \$51 billion of the yearly defense budget. The 2011 Budget Control Act calls for \$487 billion in defense cuts over the next 10 years, and the health care system is not immune, he said.

Military health system officials are taking four roads to savings, Woodson told the panel. The first is to find effi-

ciencies inside the system. The second is a continuation of efforts to appropriately pay for private-sector providers. A third initiative promotes healthy lifestyle choices while seeking to reduce illnesses, injuries and hospitalizations. The last is proposed changes to beneficiary cost-sharing under the TRICARE military health plan.

The fiscal 2013 defense budget request includes this recommended path to reorganize the military health system, Woodson said.

“We have learned a great deal from our joint medical operations over the last 10 years,” he added, “and we recognize that there is much opportunity for introducing even a more agile headquarters operation that shares common services and institutes common clinical and business practices across our system of care.”

Woodson noted that the recommended changes to TRICARE fees came about only after officials had explored other avenues of potential savings. “Before we even considered TRICARE fees, there were a number of initiatives and considerations taken,” he told the committee.

DOD health affairs is looking to control headquarters costs, Woodson said, and it has had some success eliminating 780 full-time equivalent positions from the headquarters. Other efforts, he added yielded further savings.

“We put in a number of management reforms that have yielded very positive results in reducing costs, including

a robust fraud and recuperative program that has yielded \$2.6 billion over the last four years,” he said.

In addition, Woodson said, a pharmacy management program has saved \$3.4 billion, medical supply and acquisition standardization has saved \$31 million, and an amalgamation of other efficiencies that saved about \$1 billion.

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Obama: Troops, veterans will benefit from housing settlement

By Lisa Daniel
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON — Thousands of service members and veterans whose mortgages were wrongfully foreclosed on, or who were improperly denied lower mortgage interest rates in the national housing crisis, can receive "significant relief," President Barack Obama announced March 6.

"It is unconscionable that members of our armed forces and their families are among those who were most susceptible to losing their homes due to the unscrupulous acts of banks and mortgage lenders," Obama said during a White House news briefing.

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta issued a statement, applauding the announcement.

"These new steps are the result of an extensive inter-agency effort made by this administration to protect and support servicemembers and veterans, and this initiative will help military families overcome obstacles to purchasing and maintaining a home," Panetta said.

Helping military families achieve personal and financial security "is a vital part of maintaining a strong national defense, just as home ownership is a vital part of fulfilling the American dream," Panetta said.

"I thank the president for ensuring that our service members receive the support they need so they and their families can pursue their dreams while carrying out their vital missions around the world," he said.

Federal and state officials announced Feb. 9 that the nation's five largest mortgage lenders — Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Wells Fargo and Ally Financial (formerly GMAC) — agreed to pay \$26 billion to settle a government lawsuit claiming mortgage loan and foreclosure abuses. At least \$20 billion is to be returned to aggrieved homeowners, according to White House and Housing and Urban Development Department news releases.

"If you are a member of the armed forces whose home was wrongfully foreclosed, you will be substantially compensated," the president said.

The settlement also restores lower interest rates and reduces fees for Federal Housing Administration borrowers for those who were wrongly given higher rates and fees.

Under the agreement, lenders will:

- Review the records of every servicemember whose home was foreclosed upon since 2006 and provide any who were wrongly foreclosed upon with compensation equal to a minimum of lost equity, plus interest and at least \$116,785;
 - Refund to servicemembers money lost because they were wrongfully denied the opportunity to reduce their mortgage payments through lower interest rates;
 - Provide relief for service members who are forced to sell their homes for less than the amount they owe on their mortgage due to a permanent change in station;
 - Pay \$10 million into the Veterans Affairs fund that guarantees loans on favorable terms for veterans; and
 - Extend certain foreclosure protections afforded under the Servicemember Civil Relief Act to those serving in harm's way.
- Obama also announced that the FHA will cut its fees



PHOTO BY LAWRENCE JACKSON

Thousands of service members and veterans whose mortgages were wrongfully foreclosed on, or who were improperly denied lower mortgage interest rates in the national housing crisis, can receive "significant relief," President Barack Obama said during a press conference in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House March 6.

for refinancing loans already insured by the FHA. Two to three million Americans could save about \$1,000 annually under today's fee structure, he said.

Still, Obama said, "No amount of money is going to be enough for a family who has wrongfully had their piece of the American dream taken away from them."

Later on a conference call with reporters, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan said it was shameful of financial institutions to wrongfully foreclose on servicemembers' homes or not provide them the full financial protections that the law allows. In many cases, he said, lenders "did not review or even read the

foreclosure documents they were processing."

"That's not only wrong, it's not who we are as Americans," Donovan said. The settlement, he added, "ensures that the men and women risking their lives for our country get treated with the dignity and respect they deserve."

Military families "won't just be compensated," Donovan said, explaining that they will be eligible for modifications to their mortgages even for homes in which they are not living.

Holly Petraeus, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's head of servicemember affairs, said the former regulation requiring service members to live in

a home to have a mortgage lowered, as well as the difficulty of selling a home quickly for a change of duty

station, has caused many military families to live separately. Emphasizing the frequency of military moves, she told reporters she and her husband, retired Gen. David H. Petraeus, who currently is serving as the CIA Director, moved 24 times in 37 years.

With the "unique challenges" of deployments and frequent forced relocations, Petraeus said, "many see no other solution than to go it alone in military barracks while leaving their families behind" in their homes.

Petraeus said she would urge all financial institutions to understand the Servicemember Civil Relief Act. She also warned service members against a possible "cottage industry" of people who will claim to help them receive help under the new settlement.

veterans who believe they can take part in the settlement are encouraged to call the Justice Department at 1-800-896-7743.

Todd Perez, assistant attorney general for Justice's civil rights division, told reporters that under the settlement, lenders must have court approval to foreclose on the home of a deployed servicemember; anyone who was wrongly charged an interest rate above 6 percent can receive four times that back in damages; and all negative entries to credit agencies will be repaired.

Also, Perez said, victims in the housing crisis don't have to contact the government; the settlement requires the banks to contact them.

As for servicemembers and veterans, he said, "they have our backs and they need to know that we have theirs."

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Class: Financial information remains confidential

Continued from Page A1

they can make an appointment with Burden or one of the other certified financial counselors in ACS. This gives Family mem-

bers an opportunity to speak with an adviser in private.

"It's embarrassing for people to come talk to a total stranger about personal finances because they have problems," Burden

said. "But it doesn't take more than a day or two to get an appointment and it's all confidential."

Burden said he had even met clients outside the office if com-

ing to ACS was a concern for them.

ACS certified financial counselors provide classes almost every quarter. Some the other classes offered are about home

buying and selling, investing and the Thrift Savings Plan.

For more information, or to register for the class, call 255-9631 or email Burden at edwin.o.burden.civ@mail.mil.

Resources: Officials urge everyone to be 'good stewards'

Continued from Page A1

some of the effort."

In order to help people on Fort Rucker be smarter about energy and water consumption, DPW is looking to ramp up its current building energy monitor program, according to Vaughn.

"The BEM is a person that is the eyes and ears [for the DPW] in that facility," said King. "They monitor things that can help reduce energy costs like noticing a crack in a door and adding weather stripping or noticing that certain systems are not working properly."

DPW is responsible for about 6 million square feet on Fort Rucker, which it must monitor, but it can't monitor the entire installation by itself, said the efficiency manager. BEMs are there to notice anything that can be corrected and it is their duty to call DPW and let them know of the problem so that it can be dealt with, and energy and water waste can be diverted.

Another example of efforts that DPW is taking in order to reduce consumption is the recycling of existing heat exhaust into a useable resource, according to King.

"In one of the hangars, we're putting in heat recovery on the chillers," which are essentially air conditioning units, he said. "It's just throwing [the heat] into the outside air, so we're going to capture that heat and throw it back into the reheat loop so that we can dehumidify with it."

A heat pump water heater is going to be added that will capture the heat at a four-to-one ratio and will save a quarter to half the cost of firing up a gas boiler, according to the efficiency manager.

Recycling is a big way Fort Rucker can cut costs and be more environmentally friendly, and recycling is a big step toward sustainability, said Melissa Lowlavar, Environmental Management

Branch chief for DPW.

The installation recycles paper and some metals in order to eliminate the amount of waste that is being sent out to landfills, she said, adding that the installation has future plans to expand the recycling program to plastic and glass.

"We have our qualified recycling program that handles the paper and the cardboard and brass," she said, "which all takes place at the recycling center at Bldg. 9332."

Solid waste diversion of 50 percent is required for the recycling program, according to Lowlavar, and the basic goal of the program on Fort Rucker is to recycle any materials to keep waste out of landfills.

"There is only so much land that we can put waste in," she said. "Being good stewards of the environment, we just don't want to do it."

The installation also has programs and guidelines to keep hazardous waste out of the landfills, according to Colleen Quinlan, hazardous waste program manager for DPW. With a contract through Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services, they deal with hazardous waste like antifreeze and paint. Some hazardous waste can potentially cause chemicals like lead and mercury to leak into ground water, she added.

There are hazardous material management plans in place for Soldiers, contractors and civilians working on post that let them know how to go about handling and disposing of hazardous waste, but there is no such plan for the households on the installation, said Lowlavar.

"It's a little trickier when dealing with hazardous waste in a household because it's just too easy to throw things away," said Quinlan. "Education is the only way to get people in homes involved in responsible hazardous waste management."

Promoting sustainability and getting the communities involved in energy management and waste reduction is one of DPW's main focuses. Vaughn said that people on Fort Rucker should be more mindful of energy and water waste, and they should do their part to help, like turning off a light when leav-

ing a room or reporting a leaky toilet. "Our resources won't be here forever."

"I have children ... and they're going to get married and I'll have some grandchildren," said King. "I want there to be something left for them and that means being good stewards of what you've got."



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MARCH 15, 2012



PHOTO BY SGT. MELISSA STEWART

Soldiers in the Unmanned Aircraft System Platoon, B Co., 3rd Bde. Special Troops Bn., 3rd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div., at FOB Pasab, Afghanistan, recently surpassed 5,000 flight hours.

Spartans log more than 5,000 UAS deployment flight hours

By Sgt. Melissa Stewart
Army News Service

KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Soldiers with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team (Task Force Spartan), 10th Mountain Division, have been taking the lead in operations, both on the ground and in the air, in southern Afghanistan for more than 11 months.

The Unmanned Aircraft System Platoon of B Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, is setting the example for all other UAS platoons in Kandahar Province with more than 5,000 accumulated flight hours.

"The TF Spartan UAS Platoon currently holds the record in flights and combat hours in the Regional Com-

mand-South area of operations," said Warrant Officer Marylyn Payano, UAS Platoon leader. "The Soldiers hit the ground running and will not stop until the mission is complete. From April 2011 until now, the Shadow Platoon flew a total of 5,060 combat hours supporting a total of 1,170 brigade- and battalion-level missions in support of Task Force Spartan."

The UAS Platoon has been functioning at full capacity throughout the deployment, despite the fact that it has not always had a full staff.

The platoon provides the brigade with 22 hours a day of real coverage with only 10 aircraft operators and four RQ-7B Shadow-200 systems.

"We pretty much do it all. We provide

full-motion video or still photos," said Sgt. 1st Class Dominick Simone, UAS Platoon sergeant.

The coverage that the UAS Platoon can provide to commanders is critical to the success of Soldiers on the ground, so it is always in high demand. The Shadow provides units on the ground the advantage of an aerial view of enemy activity and the ability to monitor insurgent actions without risking Soldiers or resources.

"It was quite a challenge to be able to uphold the brigade's demands, but this platoon was up for the challenge and pushed forward," Payano said.

The UAS Platoon flies the aircraft TF Spartan requires on an almost daily basis. The only reason the Shadow drone

will not fly is inclement weather. The Soldiers work tirelessly to help monitor the battlefield in almost every operation that has been conducted for the past 11 months.

It is an operator's job to fly the aircraft and monitor the battlefield for TF Spartan, but the platoon also has UAS maintainers who work to keep the equipment mission ready at all times.

"Everybody has to do their part, so I am just happy to do my part," said Spc. Daniel Burt, a UAS maintainer in B Company, 3rd BSTB.

TF Spartan UAS Platoon members are currently training their replacements from 82nd Airborne Division, but they will continue to fly their aircraft until the unit redeploy to Fort Drum, N.Y.

Warrant officer commissioned

By Sgt. Keven Parry
CAB Public Affairs

The Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division has experienced a lot of "firsts" recently, such being the first to field the new AH-64D Apache Block III helicopter and the first Aviation brigade to have extended dwell time.

Recently the "Demon" brigade experienced another, rare first. CW3 Nate Blackford, the executive officer of 1st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, CAB, 1 Inf. Div., was promoted to chief warrant officer 4 on Feb. 1 at the 1st ARB, 1st Avn. Regt. headquarters building. Then he was promoted to captain through direct commission.

Although direct commissions from the warrant officer corps do

happen, it is usually only seen in the legal and medical fields. Blackford, an AH-64 Apache helicopter pilot, is the first warrant officer in his field to receive a direct commission to captain since the Demon brigade stood up in 2006.

"I'm not one to know the exact stats for warrant officer to captain promotions, but it is extraordinarily rare," said Lt. Col. Eddie Veder, the commander of 1st ARB, 1st Avn. Regt. "I haven't seen it in my 23 years in uniform."

The move to become an officer was a plan that Blackford considered throughout his career, including his time as the aide to the commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div., Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks.

Blackford said that now that he

SEE OFFICER, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY MOLLIE MILLER

Capt. Nate Blackford receives his rank from his wife during a promotion ceremony held at the headquarters for 1st Battalion, 1st ARB, CAB, 1st Inf. Div. Blackford said that he realizes his direct commission to captain is a "big step, and a big responsibility."

'Red Ball Express' keeps everything moving in eastern Afghanistan



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DONNA DAVIS

Task Force Atlas's "Red Ball Express" is one of a few small commuter planes shuttling troops and parts across Regional Command-East in eastern Afghanistan, for the 82nd CAB. By using the plane instead of combat helicopters to shuttle parts between the brigade's five task force locations, they've reduced delivery time for critical parts from more than two days to just 17 hours.

By Spc. Jamie Ramsdell
82nd Combat Aviation Brigade

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan — The 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade's Task Force Atlas has found a way to free up helicopters, saving the Army time and money in the process.

Roads in the foothills of the Hindu Kush mountains are treacherous, and keeping troops resupplied so they can conduct their daily missions relies mostly on air power.

Using combat helicopters to ferry supplies, however, puts a strain on combat missions.

The 82nd CAB's Task Force Atlas has found a way to free up helicopters, saving the Army time

and money in the process. They began a flight called the "Red Ball Express," where a small commuter plane used to ferry supplies and passengers throughout Regional Command-East.

While the pilots are civilian, TF Atlas Soldiers handle all cargo and passenger management. At each stop, they sign over cargo and perform a joint inventory to make sure nothing goes missing during transportation.

"Flying from Forward Operating Base to FOB to deliver parts has been one of the best experiences I've had this entire deployment, and it makes the time go by quicker," said Spc. Michael Bresett.

The brigade's more than 170

helicopters require massive amounts of parts to continue operating in the harsh Afghan environment. Since the helicopters are dispersed throughout five major locations across RC-East, the mission of distributing those parts is hefty.

"Getting the parts out quickly and [keeping] the helicopters up helps not only the brigade but all of Regional Command-East," said Staff Sgt. Justin Pellack, one of the Red Ball's three crew chiefs.

Task Force Poseidon began a joint venture with CJTF-1 and the 257th JMCB air cell to use a contracted civilian plane to move

SEE EXPRESS, PAGE B4

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Officer: Soldier humbled by rare opportunity

Continued from Page B1

has had more time in service, he feels like he has more to offer to his fellow Soldiers.

"I care about people. I want to make a bigger difference in their lives personally and professionally," he said.

After almost two years serving as an aide, Blackford informed Brooks of his plan to attend Officer Candidate School and enter the commissioned officer ranks. Brooks researched what programs were available to promote warrant officers to commissioned officers. He then informed Black-

ford of the possibility of a direct commission.

Blackford said that it took a lot of support from others in order to complete the process. He received help from former leaders, colleagues and a human resources clerk who came in after hours to help him put his packet

together.

Eventually, Blackford received word that he would be commissioned on the same day that he would be promoted to chief warrant officer 4. During his promotion ceremony he said he knew the commission to captain was a big step and a big responsibility

and that he would never take his rank or position for granted.

"I fully acknowledge that this is a rare experience, a rare opportunity for me," Blackford said.

Blackford is now the maintenance platoon leader for C Company, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, CAB, 1 Inf. Div.

Express: 'Everything was so well organized, comfortable'

Continued from Page B1

parts and equipment throughout region. As a result, parts are getting to the locations that need them most in less than half the time. A part that used to take more than 48 hours to deliver now gets there in about 17 hours.

"Being able to free up our pilots and crews to do more mission-specific combat operations feels great," said Pellack. "I like knowing I'm a part of that."

A helicopter that sat on the ground unable to fly for four days previously is now out of the fight for less than a day; enabling the 82nd CAB to fly more hours per airframe than any brigade has been able to do in the history of Operation Enduring

Freedom.

Aircraft movement is done through a civilian contract company, traveling more than 450 miles a day to deliver as many mission-essential parts as possible across RC-East.

Each FOB has a liaison noncommissioned officer that receives the parts and makes sure they are delivered from the airstrip to the maintenance hangers at each task force.

The Red Ball is more than a parts aircraft, though. It carries a precious commodity to Soldiers in remote locations.

"We also take our time to make sure all the Soldiers in out-lying FOBs receive their mail," said Sgt. John Sapp. Sapp is the third member of the military team

on-board the Red Ball. "This was a great idea."

Soldiers get a faster, more comfortable ride between locations. During the winter, temperatures have dropped dramatically, particularly in the high mountain passes aircraft must pass through to reach out-lying FOBs. The Red Ball plane is much like a civilian flight, with heat and comfortable seats, which something your average commuter might take for granted, but something Soldiers don't often get to appreciate.

"It was a smooth trip," said 1st Lt. Erica Robinson. "Everything was so well organized and comfortable. I enjoyed it; I really did. Everything was just right."

The Red Ball Express has moved more

than 2,000 Soldiers and civilians across the battlefield, allowing TF Poseidon helicopters to be used on other high-priority missions. The tiny crew and their tiny planes have also moved more than 200 tons of cargo throughout RC-East in the past four months.

The name "Red Ball Express" comes from one of World War II's most massive logistics operations, manned primarily by African-American Soldiers. The trucks kept gasoline and other vital supplies rolling to the frontlines as American troops pushed the Germans out of France and back toward Berlin.

At its peak, the original Red Ball Express operated 5,958 vehicles and carried 12,342 tons of supplies to the front.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO

Evening flight

CH-47 Chinook helicopters continue a mission after being aerially refueled during Emerald Warrior, at Duke Field, Fla., March 6. The primary purpose of Emerald Warrior is to exercise special operations components in urban and irregular warfare settings to support combatant commanders in theater campaigns. Emerald Warrior leverages lessons from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and other historical lessons to provide better trained and ready forces to combatant commanders.

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MARCH 15, 2012

Travel EXTRAVAGANZA



Event offers vacation ideas for Soldiers, Families

By Angela Williams
Army Flier Staff Writer

From as close as Coffee County and as far away as Orlando, 49 vendors made their way to Fort Rucker to promote vacation destinations during the 24th annual travel extravaganza held March 7 at The Landing.

More than 960 people attended the three-hour event, said Heather Linnell, a travel clerk for Leisure Travel Services.

"We had an awesome crowd," said Kristen Hartwell, Leisure Travel Services program manager. "It was the best show we've ever had."

About 80 door prizes were given out during the show — more than one prize every 15 minutes. Patricia Shelton, an employee of Erica Lane Enterprise, won a two-night hotel stay with breakfast. Shelton said she was excited about the prize and thanked the leisure travel staff.

Linnell and Hartwell were quick to deflect the praise, saying the prize drawings were completely random. "We collected all the prizes, but then we passed it on. Our hands weren't in it at all," Hartwell said.

This year, a number of vendors returned to the show after having displays last year, but a few, such as Medieval Times and the Inside CNN Studio Tour were first-time visitors, said Linnell.

Kathy Isaacs, the Medieval Times representative, said the show was "fabulous." About an hour into the show, she was already concerned about having enough brochures to last through the end of the event.

Her concern was shared by several other vendors. Linnell said the leisure travel staff had to make copies for several vendors who had run out of the material they brought with them.

Sherry Rushing was at the show



PHOTO BY ANGELA WILLIAMS

Kathy Isaacs, left, talks about Medieval Times with Jamie Hendzel, who works with Flatiron March 7.

representing Northwest Florida's Emerald Coast, an area including Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Okaloosa Island. She was especially excited to tell people about Buccaneer Pirate Cruises, a new attraction in the Destin area.

"We've had a great turnout," Rushing said of the show.

Peggy Clinansmith, whose husband is retired military, browsed the brochures at the Emerald Coast table and chatted with Rushing about the Silver

Sands outlets in Destin. Clinansmith said she attended the travel show because she likes going places and was always looking for day trip ideas.

Ginny Canon and Harriett Patterson had plenty of ideas for day trips at their table. They were there representing the Coffee County Arts Alliance. They passed out information about the Piney Woods Arts Festival, coming up March 24-25, and asked people to sign up to receive in-

formation about the alliance's events for the 2012-2013 season.

Overall, the vendors were very happy with the show, said Hartwell.

"It went very well. We didn't hear any negative," added Charlotte Allen, a travel clerk in the Leisure Travel office.

Hartwell said the staff is already making plans for next year's travel extravaganza, slated for the beginning of March. She said the travel office had received

a few surveys from vendors, but that most of the vendors would return the surveys by mail.

"Bigger, better, more vendors," she said of her hopes for next year's show. "That's always our goal."

Leisure Travel Services is in Rm. 130 on the ground floor of the Soldier Service center, Bldg. 5700. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. For more information, call (334) 255-2997 or 334-255-9517.

'Get REAL' prepares new spouses for military life

By Angela Williams
Army Flier Staff Writer

Christin James had been an Army spouse for several years before she took any Army Family Team Building classes. She thought she already knew everything she needed to know about military life, but when she finally took a class, she was amazed at how much she learned.

"I fell in love with the program" said James, the AFTB volunteer program manager. She went on to complete all the levels of AFTB and the instructor training.

Eventually, James, three other AFTB instructors and Shellie Kelly, the Army Family Action Plan program manager, came together to create Get REAL — a monthly one-day event that teaches the fundamentals of AFTB.

The class covers military acronyms, Army customs and courtesies, chain of command, rank structure and community resources. A portion of the class also teaches the etiquette of formal military functions.

The next Get REAL class is March 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Commons, Bldg. 8950.

"Get REAL is targeted toward spouses who are new to the military and may find military life a little confusing or daunting, where other AFTB classes are geared toward literally everyone," Kelly said.



FILE PHOTO

Military spouses enjoy refreshments during a break from the Army Community Service and Army Family Team Building Rucker Experience, Army Learning monthly class last year. The class is intended to help make the transition into Army life easier.

James says Get REAL, a program offered only at Fort Rucker, focuses on the things she and the other instructors thought were the most important things everyone needed to know.

"We wanted to make it fun, make it really relaxed and informal," she said.

The class is discussion-based and activity-driven, Kelly explained, adding the instructors use games like Jeopardy

to teach various sections of the class.

"It's not just me telling them where to go," she said.

Get REAL begins in a classroom, but in the afternoon, classes get to participate in an activity on post. In the past, classes have gone bowling or painted a piece of pottery at the arts and crafts center. The upcoming class is scheduled to take a tour of the Silver Wings Golf

Course and have a basic golf lesson, if weather permits, said Kelly.

"People don't realize all that's available to them here on post," she added.

In addition to all the information, one of the most important things James thinks a person will gain from Get REAL is that they're in an environment with other people, spouses usually, that are going through the same thing they're going through.

"If nothing else, it's a great way to meet other people," she said.

All Get REAL instructors are volunteers and most of them are military spouses, said Kelly. They know what it's like to be new to the military.

"The people who teach (Get REAL) are people who care about the total military Family and they just want to give back. They use their skills and their experiences to mentor and teach those who are newer to the military," she said.

James agrees, saying, "There's always someone who has been through what you're going through. Don't ever feel like you're alone. The best way to overcome your fear is to educate yourself and I think AFTB is a great way to do that. It gives you the confidence you need to be a successful military spouse. In AFTB, we give you the tools you need to succeed."

To register for Get REAL, call Kelly at 255-2382.

ON POST

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

Character Dining

The Landing Zone hosts Character Dining Tuesday from 5-8 p.m. where children can enjoy kid-friendly entertainment such as balloons, magic, karaoke, face painting, and more, along with a buffet. Two children eat free from the children's buffet with one paid adult entrée.

\$5 Steak Special

The Landing Zone offers its \$5 Steak Specials every Monday in March from 5-9 p.m. The special includes an 8-oz. flat iron steak with fries for \$5, with the purchase of a beverage. Diners can add a side salad for an additional \$1 and other sides are also available for purchase. The special is limited to the first 100 guests per night and is available for dine in only with a limit of one per guest.

For more, call 598-2426, Ext. 35.

AFTB Level II

Army Community Service offers Army Family Team Building Level II training Monday-Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Commons in Bldg. 8950. AFTB is free and allows Army Family members a chance to gain personal growth skills. AFTB Level II classes include communication, stress management, time management, acknowledging change and more. Advance registration is required.

For registration and childcare information, call 255-2382.

Kick Butts Day – Tobacco Free Campaign for Kids

Youth services hosts a National Kick Butts Day event for the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids Wednesday by setting up a display in front of the youth center from 4-6 p.m. For more, call 255-9915.

Story Time

The Center Library holds Story Time Fridays from 10:15-11 a.m., except for holidays and days of no scheduled activity. The free program introduces "the joy of reading" to children ages 2-5 years old and enhances parent-child interaction, according to library officials. A typical event includes a story, music, and coloring or craft time.

For more, call 255-0891.

Comedy Live at Rucker

Comedy Live at Rucker will feature comedians Cerrone Russell and Ryan Reiss Friday. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and the comedy show will last from 8-9:45 p.m. The show is considered adult rated – for ages 17 and older. Advanced tickets cost \$10 and are

available at The Landing Zone until 4 p.m. the day of the event. Tickets cost \$15 at the door. The event is open to the public.

For more, call 255-9810.

St. Patrick's Day celebration

The Landing Zone hosts a St. Patrick's Day celebration with DJ Dave Friday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The event will feature green beads, specials and a Best Dressed Leprechaun contest.

For more, call 598-2426.

Newcomers Welcome

Army Community Service offers the next Newcomers Welcome Friday from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at The Landing. Active duty, foreign students, Army civilians, and Family members are all welcome to attend the informative event to learn about Fort Rucker. A free light breakfast and Starbucks coffee will be served. For free childcare, register children at the child development center by calling 255-3564. Reservations must be made 24 hours prior to the event.

For more, call 255-3161 or 2887.

EFMP Support Group

The Exceptional Family Member Program invites all active duty military Families that have an exceptional Family member to the EFMP Information and Support Group meeting Tuesday from 9-10 a.m. at The Commons in Bldg. 8950 on Seventh Avenue. The topic for the meeting is "Diabetes: Health and Nutrition Overview," presented by Amanda Goodson, a registered nurse with the Family Advocacy Program. Tips, techniques and tools to manage diabetes will be discussed.

For more, call 255-9277.

Get R.E.A.L. (Rucker Experience, Army Learning)

Army Community Service hosts Get R.E.A.L., Rucker Experience, Army Learning, an Army Family Team Building concept block designed to help those who might be confused by Army life, March 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Commons. The class discusses terms and acronyms and provides information on Fort Rucker. Topics include: acronyms, Army customs and courtesies, military ranks, community resources and more. Advanced registration is required. For registration and childcare information, call 255-2382.

Stress Management Workshop

Army Community Ser-



FILE PHOTO

Children's Festival

Children rush the field during the Easter egg hunt portion of last year's Children's Festival. The eighth annual Fort Rucker Children's Festival is March 31 from 1-4 p.m. at the Festival Fields. The free event for military Families offers various activities, games, inflatables, crafts, the Diaper Derby and one of the area's largest Easter egg hunts complete with candy, prizes and the Easter Bunny. This year's theme is "Up, Up, and Away!" and people are welcome to bring kites for high-flying fun. For more, call 255-1749.

vice's Family Advocacy Program hosts a Stress Management Workshop March 27 from 9-11 a.m. at the Family Advocacy Program Early Childhood Activity Center in Bldg. 3705 on Dean Street. Topics include: identifying causes of stress, symptoms of stress, techniques on how to manage stress and developing a stress management plan. Registration is required. This workshop is open to active duty service members, retired military members, Department of Defense employees and Family members.

For child care information and registration, call 255-3898 or 255-9641.

BOSS spring break

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers offers a spring break trip to Panama City Beach, Fla., March 23-25 and single and unaccompanied Soldiers are invited to attend. The trip is \$80 for transportation to and from the hotel, room accommodations and more. There are 30 spaces available.

For more, call 255-2677 or 255-9810.

Jump Rope with Buddy Lee

The Fort Rucker community is invited to the free "Get Fit - Be Strong" jump rope workshop with world-renown champion and former Olympian Buddy Lee. The Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff workshop is March 29 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the youth center, a workshop for youth ages 6-18 is March 30 from 4-6 p.m. at the youth center and a community workshop is March 31 from 1-2 p.m. at the Children's Festival at Festival Fields.

For more, call 255-0666.

DFMWR Spotlight

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COURTESY GRAPHIC

The Army will survey members of its communities worldwide as part of an effort to improve Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. The survey seeks to identify what customers are interested in, whether they are using available services and if so, how satisfied they are with the programming their garrison has to offer.

Survey assesses interest, use, satisfaction with MWR programs

By **Evan Dyson**
Installation Management Command

SAN ANTONIO — The Army will survey members of its communities worldwide beginning in March as part of an effort to improve Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

The survey, conducted by the Marketing Research and Analysis Branch of the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Programs directorate, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, seeks to identify what customers are interested in, whether they are using available services and if so, how satisfied they are with the programming their garrison has to offer.

The marketing branch will distribute the survey to randomly selected participants at 75 garrisons.

According to project managers, this survey will directly aid garrisons by giving

them feedback from their communities.

“The survey is going to give us the information we need to make sound business decisions based on customer interest,” said Joseph Rayzor, marketing chief for Family and MWR Programs.

“There is great value for senior leadership to receive input from the entire Army community,” added Rayzor. “The information from this survey will be used to shape Family and MWR programs and services

that support the Army of the future.”

Those selected to participate in the Army MWR Services Survey will be contacted by email. Follow-up messages will be sent by postal mail. Survey answers can be submitted online or through traditional means.

The survey will remain open from March through mid April.

Results will be analyzed and compiled into a report by late summer 2012.

Religious Services

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

HEADQUARTERS CHAPEL, BUILDING 109

Multi-Cultural Worship Service 8 a.m. Sunday.

MAIN POST CHAPEL, BUILDING 8940

9:30 a.m. Catholic Mass Sunday
11 a.m. Liturgical Worship Service Sunday
12:05 p.m. Catholic Mass (Tuesday - Friday)
4 p.m. Catholic Confessions Saturday 5 p.m. Catholic Mass Saturday.

WINGS CHAPEL, BUILDING 6036

9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Chapel Next Contemporary Worship Protestant Service.

SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER, BUILDING 8939

9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School
10:45 a.m. CCD (except during summer months).

BIBLE STUDIES

9 a.m. Protestant Women of the Chapel, Wings Chapel, Tuesday 11 a.m. Above the Best Bible Study, Yano Hall, Wednesday 1 a.m./6 a.m. Adult Bible Study, Spiritual Life Center, Wednesday noon/1 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Soldier Service Center, Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Catholic Adult Bible Study, Spiritual Life Center,

Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. Youth Group Bible Study, Headquarters Chapel, Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Chapel Next (Meal/Bible Study), Wings Chapel, Thursday 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study, Spiritual Life Center, Thursday.

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

MOPS is a Christian-based mom's group. MOPS is about meeting the needs of every mom of a child from conception through kindergarten. MOPS will meet every first and third Thursday, 9 a.m., at Wings Chapel, Bldg 6036. For more information, call the Religious Support Office at 255-2989.

Protestant Women of the Chapel

PWOC meets every Tuesday at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. at Wings Chapel, Bldg 6036. Childcare provided. For more information, call 255-9894.

Military Council of Catholic Women

MCCW meets every Tuesday from 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center. Childcare provided. For more information, call 255-9894.

Catholic Adult Fellowship

CAF meets regularly throughout the year. For more information, call 255-9894.

Youth Groups (CLUB BEYOND)

1836 Varsity Club (Ninth-12th Grade), Tuesday
1703 JV Club (Sixth - Eighth Grade), Thursday
For more information, call Eric Gillis at (850) 333-3039.

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II PROJECT X - R
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WESTGATE CENTER

III TYLER PERRY'S GOOD DEEDS - PG-13
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Sun: 2:00 & 7:00 • Mon - Thurs 7:00

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PHOTO BY NATHAN PFALZ

Pick-of-the-litter

Meet Soft Paws, a 1-year-old female domestic short hair available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility. She is already declawed and spayed. It costs \$30 to adopt Soft Paws. For more information on animal adoptions, call the stray facility at 255-0766, open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit the Fort Rucker stray facility's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/fortruckerstrayfacility/> for constant updates on the newest animals available for adoption.

Church Directory

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

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• Nursery - Children - Youth
Office: 334 347 5044
www.centerpointag.org
centerpoint3351@yahoo.com

First United Methodist Church
Traditional Worship Service 8:30 am & 11:00 am
Contemporary Worship - New Connection 8:45 am
The Gathering - Youth 5:45 pm
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Resilience training aims to build stronger Families

By Angela Williams
Army Flier Staff Writer

"It's an eye-opener." "You understand yourself better." "The light bulb turns on." "It's about self-awareness." All these phrases and more have been used to describe resilience training, a new class offered by Army Community Service.

The Army partnered with the University of Pennsylvania and found that resilient people have six basic competencies, said Ruth Gonzalez, ACS relocation readiness program manager and resilience training instructor.

The competencies include self-awareness, self-regulation, optimism, mental agility, strengths of character and connection. The resilience training offered by ACS teaches skills that enable participants to build the six competencies.

"I think the study shows that people who have those six competencies were better able to deal with the challenges and adversities, or even the good things in their lives. Sometimes good things can be a bit overwhelming as well," said William Allen, director of ACS and another instructor.

A condensed version of the class will be offered Tuesday and Wednesday, but a full version will be offered in April. That class will meet four hours a day every Monday in April for a total of 20 hours.

Shellie Kelly, Army Family Action Plan program manager, has been through resilience training. She calls it an "awesome opportunity" — especially for military spouses.

Kelly said military spouses are often so busy meeting the needs of everyone around them that they don't have time to focus on themselves. This class gives them a chance to do that. She goes on to compare the training to other conferences that would cost several thousand dollars to attend as a civilian.

"It's a class where you actually do a lot of participation and a lot of exercises," Allen said. "(The participants) will walk away with skills that will help them in their lives."

He said the class is structured like a pyramid.

"We start at the bottom and we start building skills," he said.

The initial skills ask participants to reflect back on specific situations in their lives and ask themselves

questions such as, "Should I have felt that way?" "Why did I feel that way?" "What could I have done differently?" The answers to these questions build self-awareness, one of the six competencies.

From there, the class continues on to self-regulating and other skills such as identifying deep-seated beliefs and values, Allen said.

"If I'm not sure of my feelings or thoughts or why something upsets me or makes me happy or emotional, then I can't really work with it, so we give our students skills to be able to recognize what pushes their buttons so they can control it or understand where it's coming from and prepare for it later," Gonzalez explains.

The goal of the class is to teach people to use the skills in real-time, not just in reflecting back, Allen said.

"Resilience is a process. There is no end. There is no 'I've arrived,'" Gonzalez added.

She said she may be resilient right now, but that six or seven months from now she may realize she needs to get back to the skills of understanding reactions and feelings because she doesn't understand herself as well as she once did.

"It doesn't matter where you are or how resilient you



PHOTO BY ANGELA WILLIAMS

Resilience training at Fort Rucker is taught by William Allen, Luticia Trimble-Smith, Karen Hayes and Ruth Gonzalez.

are, you can still pick up some things in the class," Allen said. "It's about identifying things that can help you and help others as well."

The class is geared toward spouses and Family members because resilience training is being incorporated into training the Soldiers already get, Allen said.

"We're trying to get the Soldiers and spouses on the same page when communicating so they'll hopefully have a more successful

relationship and Family as they become more resilient," Gonzalez said.

However, Gonzalez cautions against using the training to try to change other people. "This is a training where you change yourself. This is not going home and doing it for your husband or the kids," she said.

Allen described the class as "personal." Though participants are encouraged to take part in the discussions and exercises, they don't have to share anything.

However, both Allen and Gonzalez say they can tell when people start to see how the skills and competencies apply to their lives.

"It's really great as an instructor when you see that ah-ha moment," Allen said. "People will start looking at the pyramid and start sharing and they'll come up with something in their lives they might want to do a little differently ... they're coming up with strategies to fix it as they go through the class. It's a good feeling, as an instructor,

to watch that happen."

Kelly said the class was difficult to describe in just a few words but "the competencies are effective. If you take them, learn them, use them and continue to grow in them, then you will be a more resilient person. No matter what wave crashes over you, you're going to rise to the surface."

To register for resilience training or for more information, call 255-3817. Group classes can be scheduled separately as time allows.

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Sesame Street, USO launch tour

By Cheryl Rodewig
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Military Families across the nation soon will be invited to take a stroll down Sesame Street.

The Sesame Street and USO Experience for Military Families, a free traveling tour exclusively for military Families, will kick off April 7 at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., and will visit more than 70 installations over the next eight months.

The show features Sesame Street favorites Elmo, Grover, Cookie Monster and Rosita, as well as a new addition, Elmo's friend, Katie, a character from a military Family dealing with a military move.

During the musical show, Katie opens up to her Muppet friends about her fears and excitement about the move. With the help of a few songs, Elmo and other pals reassure her that she'll make new friends while still remaining close with old ones.

"Our goal is to reach as many military children and their Families as we can with Elmo and Katie's messages of hope and resilience," H. Melvin Ming, Sesame Workshop president and CEO, said in a news release. "And as we begin our sixth phase of this tour, we are proud to see the growing number of troops and their Families reached by this effort."

Created exclusively for this tour, Katie first was introduced to military Families in April by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, at a Joining Forces rally in Columbus, Ohio. Joining Forces is the White House's initiative to rally the nation's support for troops, veterans and their Families.

"The USO is very excited to partner again with Sesame Workshop as we return the tour to the U.S. with a fresh new look, theme and character," Sloan Gibson, USO president and CEO, said in the release. "Our nation's military community is our top priority, especially our youngest heroes."

Before the show rolls onto installations across the country, officials are inviting people to help in naming the new tour bus. People can submit their ideas on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/SesameStreetForMilitaryFamilies>. Later in the month, Families can visit Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/theUSO> to vote on the finalists. In early April, officials will announce the winning name and unveil the new tour bus.



PHOTO BY FRED GREAVES

Elmo and Katie, a new character from a military Family, bend down to greet children from military Families. During a traveling show called "Sesame Street and USO Experience for Military Families," Elmo and friends help Katie open up about her fears and excitement about moving to a new location.

The Sesame Street and USO Experience for Military Families debuted in July 2008 to help Families deal with the challenges of deployment and homecomings, according to the news release. Since its inception, the tour has taken its message to more than 248,000 troops and military Families, and performed 433 shows on 131 military bases in 33 states and 11 countries, the release said.

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Piney Woods Arts Festival readies for 38th annual event

By Ginny Canon
Coffee County Arts Alliance

One of the oldest arts and crafts shows in the area, the Piney Woods Arts Festival is preparing for its 38th consecutive year of original arts, crafts, special displays, food and entertainment.

"Piney Woods features quality arts and crafts for reasonable prices and offers something for everyone in the family," said David Deal, chairman of the festival. "There will be many new artists – come out and enjoy a fun-filled weekend."

This year Piney Woods will be March 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and March 25 from noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free to the festival on the grounds of Enterprise State Community College (on the track) located in Enterprise at the intersection of Highway 167 South and the Boll Weevil Circle.

Several policies help Piney Woods attract the best artists to the show. First, it is a juried arts and crafts show, which means all goods offered must be hand-made by the artist thus reflecting the creativity of the artist.

Second, there are significant monetary awards for artists in several categories. Finally, there is a guaranteed purchase program in place that assures a certain level of purchases at the festival.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Piney Woods Arts Festival takes place March 24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and March 25 from noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free to the festival on the grounds of Enterprise State Community College (on the track) located in Enterprise at the intersection of Highway 167 South and the Boll Weevil Circle.

All of these together help Piney Woods showcase a variety of high quality artists and crafters.

"While this is my first time exhibiting at The Piney Woods Art Festival, I've heard nothing but rave reviews from patrons and fellow artists alike. I am very much looking forward to this year's show," says Derek W. Rogers, landscape artist.

Elaine Howard, creator of hand-crafted purses, clothing and jewelry, is looking forward to her third year at the Piney Woods Arts Festival. She particularly enjoys seeing all the wonderful people she has met at the festival the last couple of years.

Mary Johnson, a Southern folk artist, describes Piney Woods this way, "The festival is a wonderful

show to do and the staff is absolutely terrific. There are so many great crafters and so many nice people at the show."

Describing Piney Woods as one of his favorite shows, Jack Davis, collage nature artist, recently stated, "We usually sell out and the crowds are friendly and appreciate the excellent art and crafts."

The Festival provides an opportunity for local junior and senior high school students to display their art and photography and receive recognition in the form of ribbons and cash awards for each category they enter.

Many activities are offered for families. The Children's Fun Center will delight children with inflatables, face painting, carnival games, pony rides and a petting zoo.

A Civil War living history display will be on the Piney Woods grounds. Re-enactors from the 15th Alabama Infantry, Company E, Confederate States of America/1st Battalion 15th U.S. Infantry Company E, Federal, will be in uniform in a camp area with tents set-up to share the history of that era.

The Weevil City Cruisers Car and Truck Show is March 24 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be cars from the 1900s up to the newest models. About 100 entries are expected.

Food and beverages will be provided by several vendors and this year there will be boiled peanuts.

The festival is presented by the Coffee County Arts Alliance and Martin-Colley Drug Company. For information, call 406-ARTS (2787) or visit www.CoffeeCountyArtsAlliance.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 — Andalusia Public Library offers free practice tests. Patrons can choose from more than 300 online tests based on official exams such as the ACT, SAT, GED, ASVAB, firefighter, police officer, paramedic, U.S. citizenship and many more. Patrons may select to take a test and receive immediate scoring. Call 222-6612 for more information.

DALEVILLE

ONGOING — Daleville Chamber of Commerce meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce office in the Daleville Cultural and Convention Center. For more information, call 598-6331.

DOTHAN

APRIL 21-22 — A gem and mineral show, featuring gemstones, fossils, minerals and finished jewelry, will be at the Westgate Park Recreation Center. Cutting and polishing gemstones will be demonstrated. Admission and parking is free. For more information, visit www.wiregrassrockhounds.com or call (334) 792-7116.

ONGOING — The Wiregrass Museum of Art hosts First Saturday Family Day the first Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m. Children and parents will learn about color, shape, texture and different types of art such as painting, drawing and collage. The event is rec-

ommended for elementary aged children. For more information, visit wiregrassmuseum.com or call 794-3871.

ENTERPRISE

MARCH 24 — The Chapter 9 DAV office will be open from 8 a.m. until noon to assist all veterans with filing their claims with the Veterans Administration. The office is at 704 Crawford Street. For more information, call 308-2480.

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 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

MARCH 22 — Disabled American Veterans Chapter 99 will meet at 6 p.m. in the New Brockton City Hall. Food and drinks will be served followed by regular chapter business. The group invites veterans throughout the Wiregrass to join it as new members. Call Chuck Lobdell at 718-5707 for more information.

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

MARCH 24 — Ozark artist Tim Richardson will be spotlighted in a solo show, "The Science of Primary Colors" at the Ann Rudd Art Center.

About 100 pieces will be shown, including sculpture, costumes and paintings. Richardson says, "The show will feature a mixture of old and new, something for everyone."

The exhibition will open March 24 with a reception from 6-8 p.m., and will run through April 28. The public is invited.

The Ann Rudd Art Center, home to the Dale County Council of Arts and Humanities is on the square in downtown Ozark.

APRIL 14 — Music and food are the fare of the day when Ozark Leisure Services sponsors its sixth annual Crawdad Festival on the square in downtown Ozark.

Starting at 10 a.m., the day kicks off with one of several bands that will play blues, beach, country and rock throughout the day.

Enter the hot dog eating contest and enjoy the down-home hospitality Ozark

is famous for. Call Denise Ellis at Ozark Leisure Services for more information at 334-774-2618.

Carroll High Band Boosters will sponsor a 5K run/walk/crawl in conjunction with the festival. The 5K route starts at the intersection of Carroll and Martin Streets and highlights Ozark's new school, parks and municipal building.

To register, or for more information, call David Speck at 237-4186 or email david.speck96@yahoo.com.

PINCKARD

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

SAMSON

ONGOING — American Legion Post 78 meets monthly on the second Tuesdays 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, finger foods, and refreshments.

For more information, call Janet Motes at 808-8500.

Beyond Briefs

ArchiTreats Lecture

The Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery hosts ArchiTreats lectures on the third Thursday each month. The next lecture will be held today from noon-1 p.m. and is entitled Food for Thought: Hank Hung the Moon ... And Warmed Our Cold, Cold Hearts. For more information, call 353-4726 or visit www.archives.alabama.gov.

Historic homes tour

Enjoy a tour of historic homes in one of Mobile's oldest neighborhoods Friday and Saturday. This year's tour features several private homes built in the antebellum era, including the house where General Buchanan watched the Battle of Mobile Bay. Doors open at 10 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$20 in advance

and \$25 the weekend of the event. For more information, contact the Mobile Historic Preservation Society at (251) 432-6161.

Annual arts festival

The 38th annual Piney Woods Arts Festival takes place March 24 and 25 on the grounds of Enterprise State Community College. One of the oldest juried arts and crafts shows in the area, it features original art and crafts, a children's fun center, food and entertainment. Special events include a Civil War Living Display and the Weevil City Cruisers Car & Truck Show. For information, call 406-2787.

Fun on the farm

Turn back the clock 100 years and experience living history demonstrations of sheep shearing, blacksmithing, plowing with draft animals, basket weaving, quilting and other traditional spring farm activities, Saturday from 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. at Dothan's Landmark Park. Tickets range from \$4 to \$8. For information, call 794-3452.

Easter light show

DeSoto Caverns Family Fun Park in Childersburg celebrates the Easter season, March 26-April 9, with a sound, water and light show telling the biblical story of Christ.

The show is featured on every caverns tour. For more information, call (256) 378-7252 or visit www.desotocavernspark.com.

Discovery Day at Dauphin Island

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab invites families to a fun-filled day of environmentally-themed children's activities, an open house at the Research Facilities of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and free children's admission to the Estuarium on April 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, call (251) 861-2141

Mrs. Dempsey urges spouses to share 'amazing' stories

By Elaine Sanchez
American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — Military spouses have amazing stories that all Americans need to hear, the wife of the nation's top military officer said here March 3.

"I want all of America to see what I see — this is a group that can be an incredible source of good," Deanie Dempsey, wife of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, told a group of military spouses attending Military.com's 2012 Military Spouse Summit.

This past decade of war has challenged military Families in ways no one could have anticipated, Dempsey noted. Yet, spouses have remained steadfast — serving and sacrificing alongside their service members.

"As Marty and I have traveled around, we have been personally touched by your commitment and your sense of service to your country," she told the spouses.

As a nearly 36-year military spouse who has moved 21 times, Dempsey said, she understands spouses' challenges, whether it's health care, education or employment. She's also a military mom — all three of her children served in the Army, and her son remains on active duty.

When it comes to issues such as employment, military spouses aren't seeking special treatment — just equal treatment, she said.

The Joining Forces campaign is making strides in its efforts to aid military Families, Dempsey noted, citing its progress tackling spouse employment issues. First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, launched this initiative last year to rally the nation in support of troops, veterans and their Families.

A few weeks ago, the first lady and Biden, alongside senior defense officials, unveiled a report



PHOTO BY ELAINE SANCHEZ

Deanie Dempsey, wife of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, urges a group of military spouses to share their "extraordinary" stories with the American public while speaking at Military.com's 2012 Military Spouse Summit in Arlington, Va., March 3.

that aims to remove employment barriers for the thousands of spouses with occupational licenses. A lack of license portability — the ability to transfer an existing license to a new state with minimal application requirements — can cause spouses to bear high administrative and financial burdens as they attempt to obtain a license.

At the time of the announcement, eight states had passed legislation to ease license

portability issues, while 15 others had legislation pending or waiting to be introduced. Since then, Dempsey said, four more states have introduced legislation to support spouse licensure.

Additionally, the American Society of Travel Agents has announced the creation of the Joining Forces Travel Industry Coalition, which will amass veteran and military spouse hiring commitments from travel industry firms. Coalition

companies have committed to providing nearly 3,000 jobs for veterans and spouses by 2014, Dempsey said.

Finally, hiring fairs for veterans and military spouses will take place across the nation throughout the month, she added.

Each day, more and more people are recognizing that military spouses represent "a tremendous source of strength," Dempsey said, citing a Marine Corps wife as an example.

Stephanie Geraghty started the "Stroller Warriors," a running and fitness club for military spouses at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., to stay healthy, to foster friendships and to help create stronger Families. She also helps to raise funds to support Families who lost military loved ones, Dempsey said, even as she cares for her two children, one with special needs.

Dempsey recalled a quote from Geraghty: "Together we laugh, we cry, we overcome and we run. They are the best teammates I ever had."

Stephanie has it right, Dempsey told the spouses. "You are resilient, accomplished, experienced men and women who possess strong values and an even stronger work ethic," she said. "You are the best teammates everyone can ever have."

Dempsey encouraged spouses to keep telling their "extraordinary" stories — to each other and to the American public — "because it's an amazing story that everyone should hear," she said.

Dempsey recalled a story the first lady shared at the Pentagon event to unveil the licensure report. Obama was meeting with a group of spouses in Kentucky, she said, when one spouse, with tears in her eyes, discussed concerns about her husband's deployment.

Another spouse in the group jumped in immediately and said, "I don't know this woman. I didn't meet her before today. But when she leaves here today, she will have my number and she will be able to call me any time. She will get the support of this friend right here."

"That story tells us who military spouses are," Dempsey said. "This is the life so many of you lead, [and] that is the commitment I'd like all of us to give each other."

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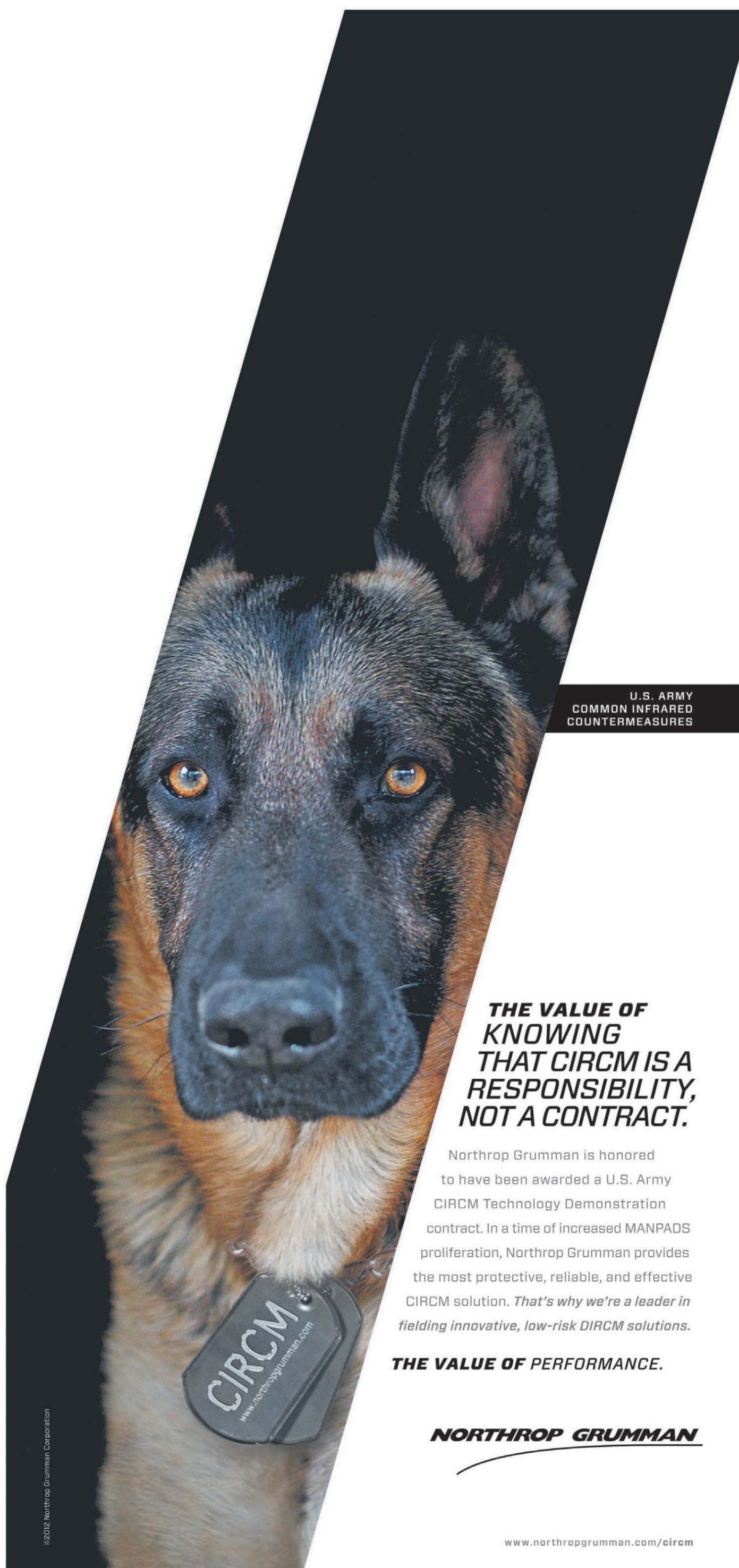
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MARCH 15, 2012

TOP DOGS

Bulldogs take out Warhawks during quarterfinals



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFALU

Titus Sanders, of the Warhawks, goes in for a shot in an attempt to tie the game as Brandon Martin, of the Bulldogs, tries to block his shot during the Fort Rucker intramural basketball loser's bracket quarterfinal game at the Fort Rucker Fitness Facility Monday.

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

The Bulldogs took on the 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group Warhawks during the Fort Rucker Intramural Post Championship loser's bracket quarterfinals with the Bulldogs coming out on top 56-54 Monday.

The Bulldogs, consisting of military police and firefighters, started the game off right scoring a three-pointer within the first few minutes of the game. They were able to maintain a strong lead of over 10 points throughout most of the first half.

"We had to get inside the painted areas down low so that we could work outside and shoot the open shots," said Charles Brown, player for the Bulldogs. "The main set was getting [the ball] to the hole."

The Bulldogs strong defense over the Warhawks helped them keep their opponent from scoring early on in the game, which helped them pull out ahead.

"We wanted to come out and play with intensity so that we could keep them running," said Brandon Smith, player for the Bulldogs.

The first half finished with the Bulldogs leading the Warhawks 33-21. As the second half got under way, the Warhawks started to close the gap between them and the Bulldogs, coming within six points of them.

They were unable to hold onto that momentum; however, as the Bulldogs commanded another 10-point-plus lead.

As the final minutes of the game wound down, the Warhawks started to play more aggressively and again closed the gap between the teams with the Warhawks barely trailing 54-52 with only 30 seconds left.

With only seconds left in the game, the Warhawks started to play a bit too aggressively, which led to fouls on their part giving the Bulldogs a chance to pull ahead with free-throw shots.

"Can we make those free throws?" was what was going through the minds of Lakitha Lumpkin, coach for the Bulldogs, and Henry Lockett, Bulldog's assistant coach. "The free throws were the main thing [at the end.] We just needed to make one of the free throws," said Lockett.

The Bulldogs sank one of the free throws and beat the Warhawks, ending the game 56-54.

"Everybody put forth a good effort on our team," said Lumpkin, adding that there was no isolated individual that contributed more than another to the Bulldogs win over the Warhawks.

"The Bulldogs consist of military police and firefighters, so we're just building team spirit and camaraderie between the two departments," she said.

The 2012 Intramural Post Championship tournament started off with 10 teams March 5, and ends tonight with the championship game played at 6:30 p.m. at the Fort Rucker Fitness Facility.

Priority tee times offered for active-duty Soldiers

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Active-duty Soldiers take priority when it comes to weekend and holiday tee times offered at the Fort Rucker Silver Wings Golf Course.

"It's a priority system," said David Unsicker, business manager at Silver Wings Golf Course. "The first person to call with priority gets to make whatever tee time they want until all the tee times are full. That's the order that we'll start people on during that day of play."

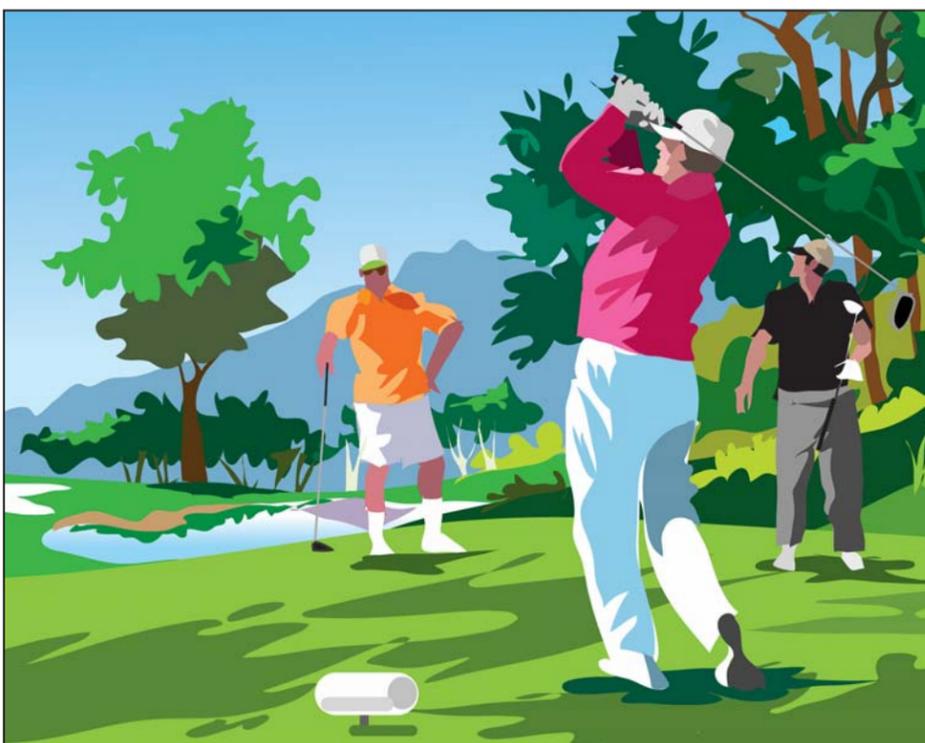
The tee time priority, according to the SWGC tee time procedures, is given in the following order:

- **Priority 1** – Active duty, including Reserve and National Guard and their Families, may call or go in-person Tuesdays at 7 a.m. to reserve a tee time for the following weekend.
- **Priority 2** – Retired military and Silver Wings Golf Course members may call or go in-person Tuesdays at 8 a.m. to reserve a tee time for the following weekend.
- **Priority 3** – Department of Defense civilians, federal employees, contractors and veterans may call or go in-person Wednesdays at 8 a.m. to reserve a tee time for the following weekend.
- All remaining tee times will be scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis Wednesdays at 9 a.m. for the following weekend.

Tee times are only offered during the weekend and on holidays, said Unsicker, and during normal weekday play, no tee times are taken and play is granted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

If a person wishes to reserve a weekend or holiday tee time, he or she must either call or go in person to the golf course and reserve a time, said the business manager, adding that most people shouldn't have a problem getting a tee time in.

"It's not a problem during this time because we're not operating at maximum capacity right now," said Unsicker. "When we are operating at maximum capacity, the



time policy may vary or change, but it's not an issue right now."

There is no cost associated with reserving tee times, said the business manager, but if a tee time is requested, people are urged to be present for their reserved tee time.

"We won't assess a financial penalty for not showing up for a tee time because we can usually fill the spot," said

Unsicker, "but it can be a bother."

Tee times are also not offered unless at least three players will be present, he said.

"We don't do [tee times] for singles or a twosome," Unsicker said, "but they are more than welcome to come out and we will group them up."

For more information, call 598-2449.

DOWN TIME

FLASH GORDON
Character Profile:
Dale Arden

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FLASH GORDON BY JIM KEEFE

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

T R I V I A

- HISTORY:** In what year did the RMS Titanic sink, killing 1,517 people?
- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the largest country in South America?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** In what year was the festival of Kwanzaa established?
- POLITICS:** Nellie Tayloe Ross was the first woman governor of what state?
- MOVIES:** Which Disney movie's soundtrack features five Elvis Presley songs?
- SUPERHEROES:** What was the name of The Green Hornet's car?
- SCIENCE:** What substance speeds the rate of a chemical reaction?
- LANGUAGE:** What is the meaning of the Latin word "contra"?
- MUSIC:** What is the name of Tom Petty's backup band?
- PERSONALITIES:** What actress was briefly married to boxer Mike Tyson?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Everybody's Irish Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Auctioneer's item
 - Column style
 - Tiff
 - Wallace or Ayres
 - Revenue
 - Ann —, MI
 - Well-ventilated
 - Have bills
 - Irish mobster?
 - Irish singer?
 - Fluffy female
 - contact
 - Frighten
 - Corduroy ridge
 - Sean of "Colors"
 - Covered thickly
 - In any way
 - Furnish
 - "The Dating Game" producer
 - Young follower?
 - "Rigoletto" composer
 - Adams' apparatus
 - Home wreckers?
 - "Make double!"
 - Last name in fashion
 - Diva Leontyne
 - "— been had!"
 - Baseball's Bucky
 - Evangelist Roberts
 - Sag
 - Bottled spirits?
 - Box
 - Kind of carpet
 - Fit for a king
 - Easy stride
 - Irish explorer?
 - "East of Eden" character
 - Dancer Gregory
 - They may be wild
 - Porthos' pal
 - Turn inside out
 - Cremona craftsman
 - Clarinetist
 - Artie
 - School founded in 1440
 - Always, to Auden
 - Less available
 - Bartlett bits
 - Space
 - Ally Walker series
 - Country gentleman
 - cotta
 - Bruins' sch.
 - Compare
 - Castle feature
 - Greek island
 - Celtic cultists
 - Sociable starling
 - Bluenose
 - Actress Davis
 - Rainbow shape
 - Scholastic abbr.
 - Irish composer?
 - Irish boxer?
 - Infamous Amin
 - Chip off Woody's block
 - Carve a canyon
 - Ill-tempered
 - Rock's — Zeppelin
 - AMEX rival
 - Impressionist painter
 - Elbow
 - DOWN
 - Tackle a bone
 - Lot size
 - Cubic meas.
 - Philips of "UHF"
 - Saga
 - Knight's
 - Pool shot
 - Magnon
 - Irish musician?
 - European health resort
 - Patrick Harris
 - Torrid
 - Kelly's possum
 - Candle
 - Delhi wrap
 - Shoots the breeze
 - A la King?
 - Curb
 - "Git, Garfield!"
 - Bile producer
 - Circus sound
 - City in Pakistan
 - Talk really big
 - Dickens villain
 - Veneration
 - code
 - Sea, to Seurat
 - Decks have four
 - Grimm creature
 - Tidy
 - Extended metaphor
 - College courtyard
 - Amaze
 - Terra del —
 - Multiplied 2 X 2
 - On the — vive
 - Significant years
 - Directional suffix
 - Industrialist
 - oil
 - Unbending
 - Crusoe's creator
 - "The A-Team" actor
 - Skier Mahre
 - Architectural features
 - Aphrodite's lover
 - Evgan or Gumbel
 - Unwind a rind
 - Some
 - Ashen
 - Northwestern st.
 - Marsh
 - Author "Red River"
 - Joanne of "River"
 - Sturm — Drang

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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See Page D3 for this week's answers.

KID'S CORNER

Junior Whirl
by Hal Kaufman

SUM LUCCI Also, the simple magic number square shown at right is missing five of its numbers. These missing numbers—2, 4, 5, 6 and— are required to produce a total of 15 in all directions—across, down and diagonally. How quickly can you put them in place?

WEATHER WORDS! Find weather words—warm, windy, rainy and clear—among consecutive letters: 1. Sally brought a new armchair. 2. Edwin dyed his hair. 3. Al met Sara in Youngstown. 4. We all read the article Arty wrote.

STEP-BY-STEP DEN WORDS
HOW quickly can you fill blanks above with appropriate DEN words? Let's see.
Definitions of six words with letters DEN in stepped-off progression are as follows:
1. Bear's digs (DEN, in place).
2. Adam and Eve's garden spot.
3. Add another lane to highways, for instance.
4. Summerall's TV broadcast sidekick.
5. Add to the general joy of things.
6. Free oneself from a heavy chain.
Try to adhere to a two-minute time limit.

NEW RESULTS! Which route does the ball take to reach the net? Choose 1, 2, 3 or 4, and see if you got the answer right.

Wishing Well

ON HOLD! What time does the balloon go up? Right now, son, if you don't hang on. Color code: 1—Red, 2—Blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Light brown, 5—Teal tones, 6—Dark green, 7—Light purple.

SPELLBINDER
SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:
OUTSHINE
THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.
Try to score at least 50 points.

Wishing Well

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

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 BOLTINOFF

CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.
Differences: 1. Cap is missing. 2. Hand is missing. 3. Teapot is missing. 4. Hair is missing. 5. Chair is missing. 6. Glass is missing.

Research at Fort Rucker shows heavy predation of fawns

By Daryl Kirby
Alabama Outdoor News

(Editor's note: This article is republished with permission from Alabama Outdoor News magazine.)

Deer managers and hunters now know for certain coyotes in Alabama and other southeastern states are taking a bite out of fawn numbers.

Top deer researchers, including the team at Auburn's Deer Lab, have studied fawn mortality and found survival is significantly lower than it used to be. Coyotes are the primary fawn killer.

A recently published study on fawn survival at Fort Rucker showed there was hardly any survival to speak of. At Fort Rucker and in other recent studies in the Southeast, fawn survival ranged from 20 and 23 percent, and that is translating to low recruitment rates of 0.2 to 0.25 fawns per doe. Recruitment rate is the number of surviving fawns per adult doe in the pre-hunt population. In a healthy deer herd, recruitment rates should be 0.6 to 0.8., and the fawn survival rates should be at about 50 percent.

A decade ago, you'd have been scoffed at for saying coyotes kill a significant number of fawns in the Southeast, but it's a fact backed by the latest research. Now, there is growing evidence coyotes are actually limiting deer populations. Even more shocking is that fawn-eating coyotes, when combined with overharvest of female deer, may be causing a deer-management black hole called a predator pit.

In the predator-pit scenario, if a deer population is reduced past a certain point by hunter harvest, it will then get hammered even more by coyotes to a point the population is so low the coyotes won't let the deer herd recover.

Dr. Steve Ditchkoff, an Auburn professor and a top whitetail researcher who heads up Auburn's respected Deer Lab, talked to AON about the predator-pit concept, which has come to the forefront as researchers examine fawn mortality at several locations where deer populations are usually low.

"We're guessing at this point — trying to make an educated guess — at what is going on and why. This predator-pit model really describes, I think, what we're seeing," Ditchkoff said. "If a predator pit is occurring, essentially what it's telling us is we can harvest does, and that's an important part of a deer-management program, but we just have to be careful not to push it 'too hard.' I put too hard in quotes because I don't know how to describe that any better."

The general consensus in Alabama and other southeastern states was that it was nearly impossible for hunters to kill too many does. Either-sex days were liberalized, and



COURTESY OF ALABAMA OUTDOOR NEWS

Fort Rucker wildlife biologist J.B. Bruner holds one of 14 fawns radio-collared during a fawn mortality study at the military property. Only three of the 14 fawns survived to six months of age.

limits for antlerless deer were practically deemed unnecessary in the minds of many deer managers.

Now it appears coyotes are a wildcard that could dramatically change the deer-management game on some tracts of land.

"If you keep a deer population above a certain threshold level, the deer population will rebound back to high deer numbers," Ditchkoff said. "But if you push it below a threshold level, then coyotes are able to pull it down further to a second point of equilibrium."

Once the deer herd gets to that point — mired in a predator-pit scenario — reducing hunter harvest isn't enough to bring the deer population back up. The coyotes won't let the herd recover.

The Fort Rucker situation

Too many deer, time to whack some does. That was the thinking in the late 1980s at Fort Rucker, a 63,100-acre Army facility located in Dale and surrounding counties in the Wiregrass region of southeast Alabama. Fort Rucker

has a rich history of great hunting and fishing, thanks in large part to on-staff biologists and good management practices.

Like many tracts of land in the mid to late 1980s, the deer herd at Fort Rucker flourished a bit too much. Low weights and heavy parasite loads indicated an overpopulation of deer. Antlerless harvest was increased, and dog drives were allowed so more deer could be killed. It worked.

The record harvest at Fort Rucker was 633 deer in 1987, which was the first year hunters killed more female deer than male deer. Five years later, the harvest had dropped to 338 deer. Two years later, in 1994, the harvest was down to 162 deer, and the antlerless harvest was reduced and dog drives were stopped. The next season only 74 deer were killed, including only three female deer.

But even with reduced antlerless harvest, the herd never recovered as it should have. The highest harvest in subsequent years was 189 deer in 2000. Last season only 50 deer were killed at Fort Rucker.

Something significant was going on. The wildcard was at work — coyotes.

On Aug. 6, Auburn University published a graduate thesis written by Angela Jackson titled "Survival Estimates of White-tailed Deer Fawns at Fort Rucker, Alabama."

Jackson and other researchers, under the direction of Ditchkoff and with the help of Fort Rucker biologists and volunteers, radio-collared and monitored 14 fawns in 2009 and 2010. The low deer density that made Fort Rucker a prime location to study fawn survival also posed a problem. There were so few deer they couldn't get enough for a larger sample size.

Does were trapped with cannon nets over areas baited with corn. The does were sedated, and vaginal implant transmitters were inserted. When a doe gave birth, the transmitter was expelled, and researchers could move in and find the fawn, which was fitted with a telemetry collar.

According to Jackson's thesis, "Of the 14 fawns, only three survived to 6 months of age. Six of seven predation events were attributed to coyotes based on examination of bite patterns and remains left at the site."

The study estimated the probability of fawn mortality at Fort Rucker due to coyotes to be 65 percent.

"This study, like other recent studies in the Southeast, has found that low fawn recruitment seems to be driven by greater levels of coyote predation than originally believed," Jackson wrote.

The Fort Rucker study was the first in the Southeast to look at both fawn survival rates and coyote densities.

SEE RESEARCH, PAGE D4

BRIEFS

ST. PATRICK'S DAY 5K/10K RUN

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility hosts its annual St. Patrick's Day 5k/10k and 1-Mile Fun Run Saturday. Race Day registration begins at 7:30 a.m. The 5k and 10k runs start at 9 a.m. The free 1-Mile Fun Run is open to all children and begins after the races are completed. Participants are encouraged to pre-register at either the Fortenberry-Colton or Andrews PFF. Each Fun Run participant will receive a medal. This event is open to the public. For registration fees and more information, call 255-3794.

BOOT CAMP IN PFF

The Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Facility hosts its six-week boot camp April 2 through May 11. The boot camp helps people get in shape with the help of personal trainers, various fitness classes and weekly consultations. The program runs weekdays from 6:30-7:30 a.m. or 8-9 a.m. Cost is \$100 and T-shirts are available to participants who complete the class. Orientation for the boot camp is March 30 at 6:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. at Fortenberry-Colton PFF.

Registration forms are available at both fitness facilities. For more information, call 255-3794 or send an email to kristina.l.fink.naf@mail.mil.

YOUTH BOWLING

Rucker Lanes and Child, Youth and Schools Services are accepting registrations for youth bowling. Cost for ages 7 and younger is \$50. This includes two games of bowling, shoe rental, a Bowlopolis weekly cartoon, U.S. Bowling Congress membership, trophies and awards and an end-of-season "XTREME" party. Cost for ages 7 - 19 is \$65 and includes three games of bowling, shoe rental, a youth bowling jersey, USBC membership, trophies and awards and an end-of-season "XTREME" party. Children must be registered with CYSS and have a current sports physical to participate.

For more, call 255-9503.

PAN FISH TOURNAMENT

Outdoor recreation hosts a Pan Fish Tournament March 31 from 6:30-10:30 a.m. at Lake Tholocco. People need to register for the event by March 30. The tournament costs \$3 for those 15 and younger, and \$10 for those older than 16. Door prizes will also be given away. All participants 16 years and older must have an Alabama state fishing license and a Fort Rucker post

fishing permit. Creel limits must meet the post creel size for Lake Tholocco to qualify for weigh in and only pan fish count for the weigh in. This event is EFMP friendly and open to the public.

For more information or to register, visit outdoor recreation in Bldg. 24236 or call 255-4305.

ROLLER HOCKEY

A group on post is putting together pickup roller hockey games Saturdays at 9 a.m. at Bldg. 6209, next to the Lemon Lot and behind Yano Hall. People interested in playing roller hockey are welcome to attend no matter what their skill level may be.

Players are required to wear helmets, and other safety gear is highly recommended.

For more information or to let the group know you would like to play roller hockey, call Tim Waychoff at (630) 870-9264 or send an email to tim.waychoff@us.army.mil.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

Pick-up games every Wednesday and Friday morning at 6 a.m. behind the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility on the soccer field. All skill levels and athletic abilities are welcome. Cleats and water are highly recommended. For more information, call 255-0870.

RIDING STABLES RULES

Riding Stables staff reminds community members that letting horses out of their stalls can be dangerous to the horses and motorists. Visitors are also reminded to stay on the main roadways, do not approach any of the horses without owners' permission, stay out of the pastures and obey the speed limit of 10 miles per hour at all times. For more information, call 598-3384.

GERMAN ARMED FORCES PROFICIENCY BADGES

The German Liaison Staff and the 6th Military Police Detachment host the training and testing for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge April 9 to May 15. Training will be conducted daily at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Facility track from 6-7 a.m. The cutoff for participants is 40 and Soldiers must be cleared with their chain of command.

For more information or to reserve a slot to try out for the badge, call 255-2120 or send an email to Jamie.p.osmon@mail.mil.

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Research: Camera surveys help provide deer numbers

Continued from Page D3

"Presenting both of these estimates creates a baseline for comparison with future studies and could help to elucidate our understanding of the interactions between these two species," Jackson wrote.

How we got here

In the late 1980s, deer populations were at all-time highs after making a remarkable comeback. Restocking efforts in the 1950s worked, and enforcement of game laws limited the harvest of does.

Too many deer meant it was time to kill some does, and deer management in Alabama and other southeastern states quickly went from little antlerless harvest to hunters killing about as many and in some cases more does than bucks. About the same time, the concept of quality deer management took off. Fewer deer meant better quality.

"With the QDM push, it did a good job of educating the hunters about the need to harvest does," Ditchkoff said.

Deer management in the late 1990s and the next decade seemed to be on auto pilot — the herd had been restored, liberal doe days and limits allowed for plenty of antlerless harvest to keep overpopulated areas in check and bigger bucks were being grown.

Hunky-dory in the deer woods.

"Cruise control is a real good description of where we were. I pretty much felt that same thing, and 15 years ago we would have been on cruise control," Ditchkoff said. "But the thing we started to push was — harvest does, harvest does, harvest does — not realizing that you possibly could push populations over the edge."

Coyotes, the wildcard, have changed the game. The idea that it's possible to kill too many does may have seemed ludicrous to some deer managers, but it's a concept that's now on the table at least for discussion and study.

"We're realizing it is possible to push a population down too far in some cases," Ditchkoff said. "We don't know if this is common, but there have been a couple of populations that have been studied that show that you can push a population to the

point where you have very low recruitment rates, and as a result that population has a very difficult time rebounding.

"Now we're essentially saying, 'Whoa, you can shoot too many does.' The scary part from a deer-management perspective is that hunters could go too far back the other way and not shoot any does," he said.

Hunters were the first to sound the alarm that they were seeing drastically fewer deer. As far back as 2006, the Conservation Advisory Board heard enough complaints from hunters that coyotes and doe days were the subjects of a discussion during a CAB meeting.

"Some of them were seeing considerably lower deer numbers, and I think others were just seeing less deer," Ditchkoff said. "The one thing I've always said is, the whole reason we increased doe-harvest numbers was to drive deer populations down. If our goal was to reduce a population by 20 percent, then we should see less deer, No. 1. But No. 2, if you reduce a deer population by 20 percent, your deer sightings probably go down by 50, 60 or 70 percent, and most people don't realize that. So it's difficult to gauge hunter observations."

"Three things we've documented," he said. "One, coyotes are here. Two, we're documenting greater rates of predation

on fawns. Three, we've documented if you reduce predator numbers you can get increases in recruitment rates. I don't think that's a solution to the problem, but it may play a role in management in some form or fashion."

As hunters who also want to best manage their property, what do we do about the coyote wildcard?

"I think what this means is, take a more conservative approach, No. 1. But two, I think it requires us monitoring our deer population a little more carefully. More specifically, what I'm saying is we need to understand what recruitment rates are. If we have recruitment rates that are like .2 to .25 fawns per doe, then we need to be very, very, very cautious. But if our recruitment rates are .5, .6, .7, then we can shoot some does. Hunters have considered themselves managers for years. They read the QDM magazines, watch TV and try to do everything — well, they just need to do a little bit more," he said.

That little bit more should focus on getting a handle on the recruitment rate of deer on their property. Fortunately, there's a tool many landowners already have that is helpful for determining recruitment rates — trail cameras.

"Camera surveys can provide a decent estimate if done at the right time and the right way," Ditch-

koff said. "Essentially, you can't do it on bait. If you run your surveys on bait, depending upon the time you do it, your numbers can be significantly inflated or may significantly under-represent the number of fawns that are out there. Do them on trails. You start to get an unbiased estimate of what's out there. Here in Alabama, you don't want to do it in August and September — you'll under-represent the fawns. Go out in October and November and throw a camera out there on a trail," he said.

Getting a feel for the

recruitment rate will help guide your antlerless harvest, but that's only half of the equation. If your property has already fallen into the predator-pit scenario, reducing your doe harvest isn't going to help much.

You'll have to deal with the coyotes. Fighting back against coyotes is something we covered most recently in the June 2011 issue of AON, and we'll continue to provide information on hunting and trapping coyotes.

Deer management always seems to be evolving. In Alabama, the rapid

expansion and growth of coyote numbers in our deer woods has changed the game yet again.

The Deer Lab

Auburn's Deer Lab is largely dependent on financial support from private individuals and organizations. Donations have provided support for important deer research that would not be possible without their support. People can visit <http://deerlab.auburn.edu/> for information on how they can help support deer research in Alabama.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

- Answers
- 1912
 - Brazil
 - 1966
 - Wyoming
 - "Lilo & Stitch"
 - Black Beauty
 - A catalyst
 - Against
 - The Heartbreakers
 - Robin Givens

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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