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ARMY FLIER

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SOLDIERS RETURN TO ARMY'S ROOTS

164th TAOG takes to field to improve teamwork, readiness

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Immersion is an integral part of training in the Army, and the 164th Theater Airfield Operations Group made sure its Soldiers had a fully immersive experience during a weeklong field training exercise.

More than 160 Soldiers took part in Operation Guardian Chevron, an NCO-led field training exercise Dec. 2 through Friday at Camp Blanding, Florida, which was an exercise designed to bring Soldiers back to the Army's roots and to focus on the importance of team work, said Command Sgt. Maj. Shawn Jones, 164th TAOG command sergeant major.

"The goal of our training was to focus on individuals, teams and teamwork," he said. "We wanted to focus on the importance of leader development in training, with the overall purpose for readiness."

Throughout the week, Soldiers

endured a basic training-like environment, which was both physically and mentally demanding, having to endure obstacle courses, first aid training, land navigation courses and other team building exercises to learn how to live and work with one another in austere environments, added Master Sgt. Walter Kirkland, 3rd Battalion, 58th Airfield Operations Battalion sergeant major from Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

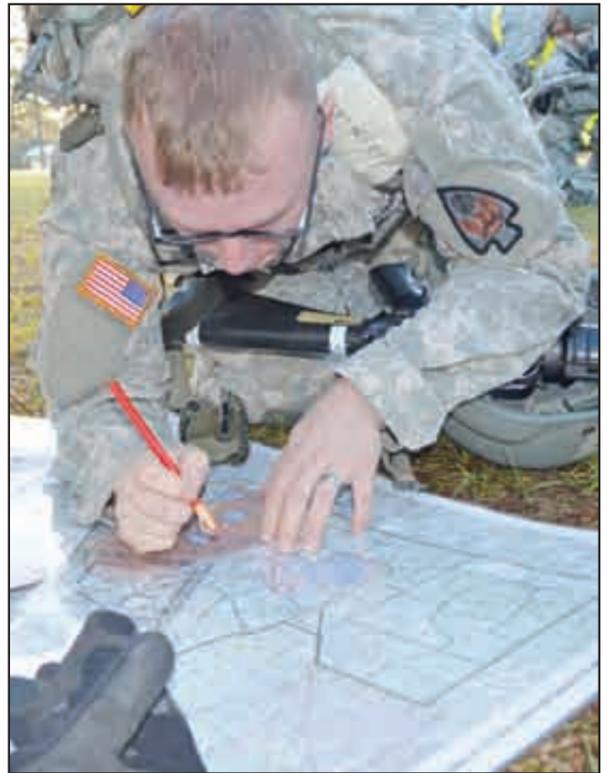
"We wanted to develop team building across the brigade and get the Soldiers back in the mindset of being able to employ their critical thinking skills in austere environments," said Kirkland. "Soldiers had to work long hours with having equipment possibly (fail), and they had to learn to deal with it and find a solution to those problems, and do so in a timely manner."

During the training exercise, the Soldiers had to participate in multiple training events that focused on working as a team, especially

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Soldiers of the 164th TAOG carry a simulated wounded Soldier during Operation Guardian Chevron, a field training exercise at Camp Blanding, Florida, Dec. 2 through Friday.



Sgt. Scott Scheuer, security manager for the 164th TAOG, maps out his route during a land navigation exercise for Operation Guardian Chevron, a field training exercise at Camp Blanding, Florida, Dec. 2 through Friday.

COURTESY PHOTOS

SPREADING CHEER

Silver Wings Band makes memories at concert

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

As the Wiregrass experiences a warmer than usual holiday season, there were still chills to be had during a performance that has become an annual tradition on the installation.

Fort Rucker's 98th Army "Silver Wings" Band served up holiday favorites, like "Jingle Bells" and "Have

Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," during the Commanding General's Holiday Concert at the post theater Dec. 9, which left many feeling the familiar nostalgia of the holidays.

"I thought the performances were great. I loved that there was so much singing, and great singing, too," said Jennifer Denison, Army spouse who came out to the concert with her daughters, Kylie and Krystal. "We're

used to areas with lots of snow fall, and down here it's much warmer that we're used to so it really doesn't seem like Christmas has been closing in, but anytime we hear holiday music, it just really brings the season around and gives us that warm, tingly feeling that we always get."

Concert goers were treated to nearly two hours of holiday music with classics like "Deck the Halls" and "Frosty the Snowman," and each song had a little twist put on them by the performers and those in the band who arranged the music.

The concert also included guest performers, retired Maj. Gen. Clyde Hennies and 2nd Lt. Daniel Trainor, U.S. Military Academy, who sang a couple of numbers to get the crowd in the holiday spirit.

"I'm just so glad that we were able to experience this here, which was really unexpected," said Denison. "It's refreshing and amazing to see that there is such talent in the Army, and that it doesn't go to waste – it really blew my mind."

That talent is part of the character,

SEE CHEER, PAGE A5



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Soldiers of the 98th Army 'Silver Wings' Band ring in the holidays with a performance during the Commanding General's Holiday Concert at the post theater Dec. 9.

NORAD tracks Santa for 60th year

North American Aerospace Defense Command
Press Release

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — The North American Aerospace Defense Command is celebrating the 60th anniversary of tracking Santa's yuletide journey.

The NORAD TracksSanta website, which launched Dec. 1, features Santa's North Pole Village, which includes a holiday countdown, games, activities and more. The website is available in eight languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese and Chinese.

Official NORAD Tracks Santa apps are also available in the Windows, Apple and Google Play stores, so parents and children can count down the days until Santa's launch on their smart

phones and tablets. Tracking opportunities are also offered on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Google+. Santa followers just need to type "@norad-santa" into each search engine to get started.

Also new this year, the website features the NORAD Headquarters in the North Pole Village and highlights of the program throughout the past 60 years.

Starting at 12:01 a.m. MST (1:01 a.m. CST) Dec. 24, website visitors can watch Santa make preparations for his flight. NORAD's Santa Cams will stream videos on the website as Santa makes his way over various locations. Then, at 4 a.m. MST (5 a.m. CST), trackers worldwide can speak with a live phone operator to inquire as to Santa's whereabouts by dialing the toll-free number 1-877-HI-NORAD (1-

877-446-6723) or by sending an email to noradtrackssanta@outlook.com.

Windows Phone users can ask Cortana for Santa's location at any time Dec. 24, and OnStar subscribers can press the OnStar button in their vehicles to locate Santa.

NORAD Tracks Santa is truly a global experience, delighting generations of families everywhere. This is due, in large part, to the efforts and services of numerous program contributors.

Efforts began in 1955 when a local media advertisement directed children to call Santa direct – only the number was misprinted. Instead of reaching Santa, the phone rang through to the crew commander on duty at the Continental Air Defense Command Operations Center. Thus began the tradition, which NORAD has carried on since it was created in 1958.

ATSCOM creates leadership course

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

No matter how long a Soldier has spent in the Army, there is always an opportunity to learn.

One such way Soldiers and civilians had the chance to learn more was through the Air Traffic Services Leader's Course, which was held Dec. 7 through Friday as a way to "enhance unit and Soldier readiness through leadership education," according to James Jones, Air Traffic Services Command deputy to the commander.

"Our goal is to bring these leaders in, expose them to principles, concepts and strategies, and discuss not only why air traffic control exists in the Army, but the different facets of air traffic control from airfield management, air traffic control in the tower and radar facilities, to airports and how we operate and function on an airport," he said. "This is to bring all of (those different units) together in a room and talk about all the things that we share in common."

Jones said the purpose was to get people from the different combat Aviation brigades and airfield operations battalions together to have a dialogue about issues or concerns, and help them to understand the doctrine, the training, the guidance, and the regulations and policies that govern their various responsibilities.

"With what is learned in air traffic control school or here at Fort Rucker, there has to be continual dialogue between controllers in the facility. So, if I'm operating an air traffic control tower, there could be as many as four operational positions in that control tower, and those controllers learn to communicate with each other so that they can provide safety and mitigate risk across all facets of the airfield," said Jones.

He added that what CABs do is different from what airfield operations battalions do, so in order for them to be able to work together well, they need to be able to better understand one another.

SEE COURSE, PAGE A5



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

James Jones, Air Traffic Services Command deputy to the commander, speaks with Soldiers and civilians of ATSCOM from all over the U.S. at the ATS Leader's Course Dec. 7.

PERSPECTIVE

GC sends warm wishes for holidays

By Col. Shannon T. Miller
Fort Rucker Garrison Commander

Fort Rucker Family,
I would like to extend warm wishes for a happy, relaxing and safe holiday season. As we draw closer to the end of 2015, I would like to thank all of you for your commitment and dedication in supporting our mission at the Home of Army Aviation. I sincerely appreciate all that you have accomplished this year – all of you should be extremely proud of what you do for our Army and our nation!

We encourage all of you to enjoy the festivities of the season as many of you are planning to celebrate with your loved ones. However, I ask that you please remember to make safe decisions as you enjoy this time off with family and friends. The No. 1 cause of accidents in the

U.S. continues to be distracted driving – do not become a statistic, do not text and drive! As many of you are traveling long distances, mitigate the risk by making frequent rest stops and being aware of the hazards if driving into icy conditions. If alcohol is part of your holiday plans, remember to have a designated driver or make other driving arrangements. I encourage you to be a good battle buddy, and watch out for your family and friends – your life, and the lives of others, depends on it.

Keep in mind that the holidays may be a sad time for those who are lonely or who may be experiencing difficult times. I ask for all leaders to be engaged and provide assistance to those who may be suffering or need help. There are many agencies and services that the military offers to provide assistance to those who may

be struggling – we are here for you. Let's all be our brothers' and sisters' keepers and not let each other be alone during this holiday season.

During the holiday season, all of us need to remain vigilant. The "See Something, Say Something" Campaign remains in effect. If you see any suspicious activity, please contact local law enforcement. Force protection involves all of us being vigilant and avoiding complacency in order to keep our community safe!

On behalf of myself, Command Sgt. Maj. William Lohmeyer, Dr. Beverly Joiner and the entire Fort Rucker Garrison Team, have a safe and joyous holiday season, and we wish you all the best in the upcoming New Year!

Support and Defend!
Above the Best!



Miller

DISTRACTED DRIVING

Drivers urged to remain vigilant, especially during busy holiday season

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Bowerman
U.S. Army Public Health Command

On Dec. 27, a 41-year-old husband and father of two was riding his bicycle during daylight hours in Baltimore in a marked bike lane when he was struck by a car and killed.

Police charged a local clergywoman – a bishop who presided over a large denomination – with driving under the influence of alcohol, texting while driving, as well as leaving the scene of an accident – although she later returned.

Certainly, the bishop did not set out that day to kill a man, ruin her career and damage the reputation of her church. However, as the old adage goes: you don't plan to fail, you fail to plan. The events of that day were set into motion long before she placed the key into the car's ignition switch.

Thanks to public safety campaigns and messaging by groups such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, there is an increased awareness of the dangers associated with driving under the influence and driving while intoxicated. It is not unusual to have a designated driver – one who agrees to remain sober during a night out and agrees to safely transport others who are not.

Yet, the problem still exists. For example, people drinking at home may run out of alcohol. The logical answer is perhaps to call it a night. They may or may



ARMY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

not be drunk, but alcohol and other drugs impair good judgment, so they may be inclined to drive to the store and buy more. This could put them and anyone nearby at risk of being involved in an alcohol-related incident. You do not have to be drunk to be a menace on the road.

Distracted drivers are also menaces on the road. Have you ever been behind a car that randomly drifted from one traffic lane to another or cruised at inconsistent speeds? When you have the opportunity to pass, what do you see? The driver is often talking on the phone or looking at the screen.

Many people feel that texting while driving is not a problem for them. Maybe they have been driving for years or are traveling on familiar roads. These drivers may feel that distracted driving is an issue for young people or inexperienced drivers. However, what all drivers need to do is hang up the phone, or use a hands-free device, if

legal, and drive.

Whether drivers around you are drunk, impaired or distracted, please practice attentive driving. As many parents tell their young beginner drivers, "You can be the best driver in the world, but what you can't control are the other drivers around you."

People run stop signs and traffic lights. You have to anticipate trouble while driving. Children and animals may dart out into the street unexpectedly. Keep your eyes on the road. Check your mirrors and blind spots.

Do not let your car's technology or entertainment become a distraction. Car stereos and even the Global Positioning System, while enhancing the driving experience, can be a distraction that takes your attention from the road and surroundings. This concern goes beyond the thrill of our gadgets. Have you ever passed a car on the interstate where the driver had a book spread open on the steering wheel? Believe it or not, incidences like this happen.

What happened on that December day in Baltimore was a tragedy. A life was lost and lives were ruined. The bishop should have known better. As a leader in the community, she should be setting an example. However, we are all human and subject to temptation, distraction and poor judgment, at times. We don't plan to fail, we fail to plan.

For more information on safe driving, visit the Army's Safety Center homepage at <https://safety.army.mil> where you will find resources on topics such as safe driving and travel risk planning.

Rotor Wash

“Winter is here and the cold will soon be upon us. What tips can you offer to help keep warm during the colder months?”



Jamie Jones,
Army spouse

"Make sure to wear layers when it gets colder."



1st Lt. Dwain Settles,
B. Co., 1st Bn., 145th
Avn. Regt.

"Get an electric space heater."



Daniel McDonald,
military family member

"Even though it might be colder, try to walk or run every day to burn off calories."



Michael Oliver,
military family member

"Stay indoors on those especially cold days."



2nd Lt. Justin
Breedlove,
D. Co., 1st Bn.,
145th Avn. Regt.

"If you have a fireplace, snuggle up with a blanket next to the fire place, but not too close."

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FLU SEASON

Pet owners urged to vaccinate, prepare pets for cold season

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Although many people have already gotten their vaccinations, oftentimes four-legged family members can be forgotten during flu season.

People aren't the only ones that can fall ill during the season, and Capt. Janas Gray, Fort Rucker veterinary clinic officer in charge, encourages pet owners to make sure they're taking care of their furry family members.

"Pet owners need to make sure pets are current on all their core vaccinations prior to traveling for the holidays," she said, which includes FVRCP and rabies vaccines for cats, as well as DAPV and rabies vaccines for dogs.

In addition to the core immunizations, boarding facilities require dogs to be vaccinated for canine infectious tracheobronchitis, otherwise known as kennel cough, and may also require them to have the canine influenza vaccination, said Gray.

Kennel cough is highly contagious, and is the result of an infection in the respiratory tract with one or more viruses or bacteria, and can be spread through the air and close contact, or through contaminated objects, such as toys, bowls, bedding and things of that nature, said the vet clinic OIC.

Gray said the most obvious sign people should look out for when looking for kennel cough is, of course, coughing.

"The cough can be a dry, hacking cough, unproductive (goose honk cough) or a productive (gagging or coughing up secretions) cough," she said. "Coughing episodes may be triggered by excitement, increased activity or if the dog pulls on its leash causing pres-



Leigh Ann Farris, civilian veterinarian at the Fort Rucker Veterinary Treatment Facility, administers a shot to her patient, Dixie, as Spc. Summer Palmer, Fort Rucker Veterinary Treatment Facility NCOIC, keeps the dog calm last year.

PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

sure on the throat."

With serious infections, nasal discharge, fever, decreased appetite and problems breathing may occur, and some complicated cases with bacterial infections can result in pneumonia, said Gray, adding that unvaccinated or young dogs are more susceptible to developing the complicated versions of the disease.

Although there is no cure for kennel cough, it can be treated through supportive therapy, which includes medication to help suppress the cough.

"Humidifiers can be useful in moistening the air to help with breathing and to break loose respiratory secretions," said Gray. "Uncomplicated cases do not require any antibiotics and will resolve over time, but complicated cases will require antibiotic therapy and

more severe cases with pneumonia may require hospitalization for fluids, oxygen therapy and other medication."

Although the effects of kennel cough can be devastating under the worst conditions, the disease is completely preventable, said the vet clinic OIC.

"Avoid contact with known infected animals," she said. "Keep recovering dogs isolated until all clinical signs have resolved, and pet owners should wear clean apparel around their pets after known exposure of an infected animal. Also, disinfect any items, such as cages or bowls that should come in contact with an infected animal with a diluted bleach solution or another appropriate disinfectant."

In addition to preventative measures, a medicinal preventative measure is also available in the

form of a vaccine.

Another disease pet owners should be on the lookout for is canine influenza, which can be spread by infected dogs sneezing or coughing on other dogs, through the sharing of contaminated objects, or even the owners coming in contact with infected animals, said Gray.

"The most common clinical sign is a persistent cough that can last more than 10 days, but up to 30 days regardless of antibiotic therapy and cough suppressants," she said. "A mild case can present with a soft, productive or moist cough or a dry cough similar to kennel cough, and more severe cases can present with a nasal discharge resembling pus and a low grade fever. The condition can progress to a high-grade fever, pneumonia and difficulty breathing."

As with kennel cough, there is no cure for canine influenza, but treatment is available, as well, in the form of supportive care. Antibiotic therapy may be needed in cases of a secondary bacterial infection and if pneumonia is present, in which case hospitalization and other medication may be needed.

The best medicine against canine influenza is prevention, said Gray.

"Avoid contact with infected known animals, and pet owners should wear clean apparel around their healthy pets after known exposure to infected animal," she said. "Dogs showing signs should be isolated immediately to prevent the spread to other dogs, and dogs recovering from an infection should be isolated for at least two weeks to prevent them from spreading the infection or to prevent them from being re-infected."

Sanitation also plays an important role in the prevention of the disease, said Gray, adding that any surfaces, kennels, equipment that has come in contact with infected dogs should be thoroughly disinfected with diluted bleach or another appropriate disinfectant, and pet owners should always remember to properly wash their hands before handling their pets.

Vaccinations are also available for canine influenza, however they are only recommended for puppies or dogs with increased risk that may live in endemic areas or traveling to endemic areas, said the veterinarian.

Although these diseases can cause a lot of discomfort for not only the animal, but owners, as well, with proper treatment and prevention, the worst can be avoided, said Gray.

Soldiers to see increase in clothing allowance

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Earlier this month, the Army's G-4 released an All Army Activities message that lists the fiscal year 2016 clothing bag list for enlisted Soldiers, as well as the dollar amount for the accompanying clothing allowance.

For FY16, Soldiers saw an increase of about seven percent for their clothing allowance.

Inside the clothing bag, new additions reflect the Army's adoption of the Operational Camouflage Pattern.

The clothing bag is the name for the set of clothing items issued to Soldiers in basic training. That list of items evolves and changes year-to-year as the needs of the Army change. The clothing bag list is published yearly, and all Soldiers are required throughout their career to maintain in their possession serviceable items that match what is listed in the most current clothing bag list.

New additions to the clothing bag this year include four sets of Army Combat Uniforms in the Operational Camouflage Pattern, as well as a number of items that match the new color scheme. The total list of new additions is:

- tan riggers belt;
- hot-weather combat boots in coyote color;
- temperate-weather combat boots in coyote color;
- ACU Operational Camouflage Pattern patrol cap;

- ACU Operational Camouflage Pattern coat;
- ACU Operational Camouflage Pattern trousers;
- tan drawers, men's brief;
- lightweight cold weather drawers;
- mid-weight cold weather drawers;
- black light duty utility glove;
- coyote glove inserts;
- black glove inserts;
- tan moisture-wicking T-shirt;
- lightweight undershirt, cold weather; and
- mid-weight undershirt, cold weather.

According to a spokesperson for Army G-4, changes to the clothing bag are made after taking recommendations from a number of sources, including Training and Doctrine Command, Soldier feedback, and limited user evaluations. The recommendations are presented to the Army Uniform Board, and subsequent adoption of new items is first approved by the Army's chief of staff.

Soldiers in basic training will start getting the new ACU in the Operational Camouflage Pattern later this month. For Soldiers already in the force, they can continue to wear the Universal Camouflage Pattern ACU until Sept. 30, 2019. It's not until Oct. 1, 2019 — the very next day — that they will be required to both own and wear the Operational Camouflage Pattern ACU.

The male and female clothing bags that are issued in basic training are similar in what they contain. Male Soldiers are issued about 83 items, while female Soldiers are issued about 74 items. Of those, more than 60



PHOTO BY C. TODD LOPEZ

Earlier this month, the Army's G-4 released the fiscal year 2016 clothing bag list for enlisted Soldiers.

are exactly the same.

Differences between the clothing bags are mainly due to clothing items that are designed specifically for either male or female Soldiers. Included in that list are male and female versions of the Army Service Uniform coat, male and female white dress shirts, male and female versions of the Operational Camouflage Pattern ACU, the male neck tie versus the female neck tab and various dress shoes.

Male Soldiers are issued nine items more than female Soldiers because male Soldiers are issued seven tan underwear briefs as well as two white cotton crew neck T-shirts. Female Soldiers are provided a larger cash allowance to purchase their own undergarments.

Both male and female Soldiers get cash allowances as part of their initial issue of uniforms in basic training. For male Soldiers, that \$94.33 cash allowance is meant for them to purchase running shoes and socks

for physical training. For female Soldiers, their larger cash allowance of \$391.27 allows them to purchase running shoes, physical training socks, underwear, black dress pumps and a handbag.

To help enlisted Soldiers maintain the items they are required to have, as spelled out in the clothing bag list, the Army provides them with a yearly clothing replacement allowance.

For male Soldiers with less than three years of service, their CRA for FY2016 is \$327.60 — an increase of about 7.05 percent. For those with more than that time in service, their CRA is \$468 — a 7.43 percent increase. For female Soldiers under three years of service, their CRA is \$349.20 — a 7.77 percent increase over last year. Female Soldiers beyond the three-year mark will get an annual \$496.80 CRA — a 6.97 percent increase over FY2015.

Soldiers are meant to use the yearly CRA stipend to ensure they own all of the items listed in the clothing bag list, and that the items are serviceable. Soldiers are allowed to manage on their own how they use the CRA. The CRA shows up as an untaxed item in a Soldier's paycheck, annually, on the anniversary month in which the Soldier entered the service.

For Soldiers who are assigned at a duty station where they are required to wear civilian clothing to work, the Army provides an initial civilian clothing allowance of \$1,022.40. That clothing allowance is offered to Army officers who serve overseas, and to enlisted Soldiers worldwide.

News Briefs

'Army Flier' break

This will be the last edition of 2015 for the "Army Flier." The newspaper will resume publication with its Jan. 7 issue.

Clinic closures

Lyster Army Health Clinic will maintain normal operational hours during the holiday season with the following exceptions: closed Dec. 25 and 26; and closed Jan. 1.

Doubles AAFES gas savings

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, from Dec. 18-20, will offer drivers fueling up with a MILITARY STAR card at exchange gas stations 10 cents

off per gallon instead of the everyday 5-cents-per-gallon discount.

"With the last weekend of holiday shopping approaching, we're giving military shoppers an extra reason to come on post and see what the Exchange has in store," said Beate Bateman, Exchange Express manager. "The extra savings at the pump are all part of the value authorized shoppers find at the Fort Rucker Exchange."

After fueling up, shoppers who stop into the express and make an additional purchase with their MILITARY STAR card will be treated to a free coffee or fountain drink.

When drivers use their MILITARY STAR card at the pump, they'll earn points as part of the new

rewards program, which launched this fall. Cardholders earn two points for every \$1 spent in Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy exchange stores, and wherever else the MILITARY STAR card is accepted. For every 2,000 points earned, shoppers will automatically receive a \$20 rewards card.

Every day, shoppers can reap the benefits of paying with their MILITARY STAR card. Besides the typical discount of 5 cents per gallon on all gas purchases, cardholders enjoy a 10 percent discount on all Exchange food court purchases year-round and free standard shipping at shopmyexchange.com.

For information about the features and benefits of the MILITARY STAR card, shoppers can visit www.mycp.com.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

NCOs with poor conduct, performance face possible discharge

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Senior NCO selection boards and the Qualitative Management Program boards scheduled for the second, third and fourth quarters of this fiscal year will consider Soldiers in all components, E-6 through E-9, for possible involuntary separation.

Notification memos went out today for the March QMP board, said Ronald Simons, chief of enlisted retirements and separations in U.S. Army Human Resources Command's Enlisted Transitions Branch, which manages enlisted Soldier QMP status.

"It is imperative that the Soldier review their AMHRR (Army Military Human Resources Record) because that is the record the selection board is going to be reviewing. If it is not up to date and correct, it is on the Soldier to make sure it is up to date and correct," Simons said.

Per Military Personnel Message 15-394, "Procedures for the FY16 QMP," published Dec. 7, consideration for denial of continued service will occur when an NCO receives one or more occurrences related to poor conduct or performance based on:

- A general officer's memorandum of reprimand;
- Conviction by court martial or Uniform Code of Military Justice Article 15 punishment;
- Department of the Army Form 2166-8, NCO Evaluation Report, or NCOER, with any of three things:
 - Relief for cause;
 - Annotation of "no" in Part IV, for (Army values); and
 - Senior rating of 4 (fair) or 5 (poor) in the overall performance or potential blocks;
- DA Form 2166-9-2, NCOER for E-6 through E-8 with any of three items:
 - Relief for cause;
 - Annotation of "did not meet standards" in Part IV, Blocks C, D, E, F, G, H or I; and
 - Annotation of "not qualified" in Part V, Block A;
- DA Form 2166-9-3, NCOER for E-9, with any of three things:



ARMY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

- Relief for cause;
- Annotation of "did not meet standards" in Part IV, Blocks A or E; and
- Annotation of "not qualified" in Part V, Block A;
- Academic Evaluation Report, DA Form 1059, indicating NCO Education System, or NCOES, course failure;
- Failure to qualify for promotion consideration to the next pay grade because of non-completion of NCOES for two categories:
 - E-6 who, on attainment of 48 months' time-in-grade, has not graduated from the Advanced Leaders Course; and
 - E-7 who, on attainment of 48 months' time-in-grade, has not graduated from the Senior Leaders Course.

Simons, of HRC's Enlisted Transitions Branch, said that on occasion, people do make mistakes in reviewing a Soldier's file.

"If a Soldier finds something with the document that identified them for QMP consideration, and they don't feel that it qualifies them for consideration, they should contact us. The reason being that sometimes a Soldier will get identified for QMP consideration and during the review of the documents, something might get

overlooked — that the document does in fact not qualify for QMP consideration," he said.

"So, rather than present mitigating matters to the board president, it is easier to let us know up front. We can review it and if doesn't qualify them, then we can remove that Soldier from consideration before it becomes a matter of board record," Simons said.

Contact information is in MILPER 15-394, which is available on the HRC website.

"We review thousands and thousands of records and then it is not uncommon for somebody to just overlook something and say this document qualifies (the Soldier for QMP consideration), when in fact it doesn't," Simons said.

"And we can take care of that up front rather than after the fact. After the fact, it becomes much more difficult for the Soldier and for the Army."

Leaders at all levels have a role to play in the process as well as the Soldier, Simons said.

"I would recommend that the leadership read the MILPER before they notify their Soldiers, and if they have any questions to contact us. That way, when they are counseling their Soldier, their questions have

already been addressed, and if the Soldier comes up with additional questions, we can certainly work those at that time," he said.

QMP exemptions

There are four categories of NCOs that QMP does not apply to.

- a. Those with approved retirements.
- b. Those previously retained on active duty by a QMP board, provided there's no new basis for QMP consideration since the earlier retention determination.
- c. E-9s who are within two years of their retention control point.
- d. Those who are promotable to the next higher grade, or have been selected to attend the Sergeant Major Course for the purpose of promotion to sergeant major — this is only applicable when the basis for QMP consideration was filed in the Soldier's Army Military Human Resource Record and was included in the official file seen by the promotion/training selection board.

There are many other details in the MILPER relating to processes of separation, appeals process, removal of unfavorable information from Soldiers' records, due process and so on.

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Roots: Exercise breaks down communication barriers

Continued from Page A1

with people they might not be familiar with.

"One of the things we did was a culminating event at the end of the training where we worked on their strengths, both mental and physical, and we also did team building exercises with Soldiers who had never met each other," said Kirkland. "That way you don't know anything about those you're going into the objective with, and together you have to accomplish a goal."

During the event, Soldiers had to break down any barriers in communication or otherwise, and learn to work together to accomplish a task.

"When you're actually going on a deployment or have a task to complete, sometimes you're separated from the people that you're

used to, and when you're on deployment, you don't really have all that time to be able to know the person that you're going to be working with," said the 3-58th sergeant major. "You have to be able to pick out what needs to be done because we're all on the same team, in the same fight, so we need to figure out what we need to do together to be able to accomplish this task and overcome any obstacle that we are faced with."

"They have to learn how to work together as a team because not everybody has the same strengths and weaknesses, so they have to find out where their weaknesses and strengths are, know how to deal with them and how to employ those accordingly," he said.

For Sgt. Scott Scheuer, 164th TAOG security manager, the training was something he said was necessary to keep Soldiers on

their toes and Army ready.

"I thought the training was excellent, and I feel like it took the Soldiers back to who they are and what they are - we're Soldiers first," he said. "We should be able to adapt and overcome any situation that is thrown at us. We need to be able to critically think and put ourselves out there and take charge, and that's what I think the exercise did for us."

Having to overcome any situation is just what one of the events was focused on, testing Soldiers in a scenario that might otherwise have them lost, said Scheuer.

"One of the exercises that we had was our culminating exercise where we had a bunch of scenarios happening at once, and during the exercise we had one of our platoon leaders or squad leaders taken out of the exercise, so we had to figure out who would take the initiative to take charge to be able to do

what we had to do," he said. "For me, the training really brought me back to square one for what I joined the Army to do."

That square one-type training is exactly what the Soldiers needed and were expected to overcome, said Jones.

"We wanted to make sure our Soldiers understand that one of our tenets is being expeditionary, and being expeditionary, to me, means being self sustaining," said the 164th TAOG command sergeant major.

"There are three key things that I always talk about, which are the individuals, leaders and equipment. I think the Soldiers got to find out about themselves, (and) got to know themselves, their leaders and their equipment, and I think that was the success of it all. I always talk about rough, realistic training, and that's something that we got accomplished out there."

Course: Soldiers, civilians provided opportunity to exchange ideas

Continued from Page A1

Although there are many differences between the units, there are also many similarities that will allow the units to be able to better communicate and understand what part of each unit is important to ATS.

"It's the cross talk that will cause them all to realize that there are some common things that they can share amongst each other in policies and regulations and concepts that will help them be better at their jobs," said the ATSCOM commander's deputy. "No matter their rank, they all share this com-

mon purpose, which is air traffic control and airfield management, so they all have to learn this common mission and that mission has to be how to safely mitigate risk, both on the airfield and in the air, and to provide that, they have to understand how those two things integrate."

An example would be how an aircraft or vehicle operating on the airfield can be just as dangerous as an aircraft that is inbound to an airfield, said Jones, adding that it's the goal of the conference to be able to get those two units that are operating different facets of the airfield to

understand one another.

"They have to understand those concepts and how they all work together, so it's really about the mission, and how all those people play a part in executing that mission," he said.

Soldiers came from all over the U.S., from Hawaii to Alaska, with the purpose to learn, and that's precisely why CW3 Mark Head, 2-224th Airfield Operations Battalion, Pineville, Louisiana, wanted to attend the conference - to build relationships and discuss what concerns they might have.

"We're the ones that have to be the go-to guy when it comes to

that ATS question (from the commander)," he said. "We have to be the one sitting there with that answer or know where to find that answer. I think getting everyone in one room, we can be amongst our peers to ask questions, and I think this is a fantastic forum to do that."

"What I expect to get out of this is also the contacts," Head continued. "I think that's one of the biggest things that we all can take out of here. Those contacts that we make are crucial. Six months down the road when I have a question that needs answering, I'll remember a guy that knocked

the question out of the park at this conference, and I'll give him a call and see exactly what he did to alleviate his issue."

In the future, Jones said he is hopeful that the course will become a staple for the Soldiers and civilians of ATSCOM to be able to come and exchange ideas.

"I think that the course being a first done here at Fort Rucker is an excellent opportunity for everyone, not only the folks here at Fort Rucker, but the folks across the Army," he said. "We do hope that this course will continue and perhaps down the road become a permanent fixture."

Cheer: Silver Wings plans 25 more holiday Wiregrass performances

Continued from Page A1

commitment and competence that is required of every Soldier, said to Maj. Gen. Michael D. Lundy, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, adding that he was excited to be able to attend.

"I'll tell you that I'm so very proud, and the thing that I'm most proud of is not that they're the professional musicians that they are, but that they're very professional Soldiers who demonstrate the character, commitment and competence that we expect of United States Army Soldiers, and they put that on display everywhere they go around the Wiregrass," said Lundy before the performance. "They represent our Soldiers, our Army and our families very well, so thanks for doing that every day. This is a great time tonight, and I made sure that I didn't have any travel going on, so that I could be here for this event."

Numerous hours of preparation and rehearsal goes into putting on a performance like the holiday concert, said CW2 Daniel Parker, 98th Army "Silver Wings" Band commander, and even more time is spent by the Soldiers individually to arrange the music to their specific standards.

"As commander (of this band), I'm particularly proud of the holiday concert because everything people see and hear, from the decorations on stage to the lighting, the sound, the narration

and music has all been designed, arranged, written, planned, produced and executed by Soldiers and NCOs of the Silver Wings band, and for that I'm extremely proud," he said.

In addition to the holiday concert, the Silver Wings band will have performed an additional 25 other engagements throughout the Wiregrass, not including caroling performances held

throughout the week, added Parker.

"We're just so excited to be able to share with (people) the fun and festive holiday music that we hoped that people can just

sit back, relax and enjoy," he said. "We want them to forget about all the stresses around the holidays, like the shopping, and just sit back and sing along to some old favorites."

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110 CRESTVIEW: Attractive home with 3BR/2BA & an attached 1-car garage. The enclosed yard features a shed & a large covered deck, perfect for entertaining or enjoying the outdoors. Tile flooring throughout the downstairs & carpet throughout the upstairs. Both upstairs bedrooms feature walk-in closets. Included with this home is a Rinnai tankless water heater. Come see this Cape Cod charmer today! SOMMER RAKES 406-1286

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UNDER CONSTRUCTION ~ \$155,000

221 JASMINE CIRCLE: Tucked in the woods off Boll Weevil Circle. While providing privacy, they offer the convenience to schools, shopping, golf, restaurants & minutes from Ft. Rucker. 3BR/2BA, security system, wood floors, stainless appliances, natural gas heat/cooking/water heater, low E windows, irrigation system, 2" faux wood blinds, framed mirrors in bathroom & tray ceiling in grandroom & fence across back. (Maple Leaf Plan)

UNDER CONSTRUCTION ~ \$154,000

244 JASMINE CIRCLE: 3BR/2BA, security system, stainless appliances, natural gas heat/cooking/water heater, low E windows, irrigation system, 2" faux wood blinds, framed mirrors in bathroom & tray ceiling in grandroom & fence across back. (Poplar Plan)

Army opening 19 specialties to women

Army News Service
Staff Report

WASHINGTON — A total of 19 military occupational specialties in the Army will open to women beginning early next year.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced Dec. 3 that women who qualify will be able to serve in any job, anywhere in the military. He directed the Army and other services to provide an implementation plan by Jan. 1.

More than 125,000 positions will potentially open for women in the Army's conventional forces, and more than 13,000 positions will potentially open in U.S. Army Special Operations Command.

Inside the conventional forces, the following MOSs will open:

- 11A, infantry officer, 6,296 positions;
- 11B, infantryman, 75,115 positions;
- 11C, indirect fire infantryman, 7,840 positions;
- 11Z, infantry senior sergeant, 2,194 positions;
- 13F, fire support specialist, 8,957 posi-

- tions;
- 19A, general armor officer, 403 positions;
- 19B, armor officer, 663 positions;
- 19C, cavalry officer, 1,165 positions;
- 19D, cavalry scout, 15,028 positions;
- 19K, M1 armor crewman, 6,828 positions; and
- 19Z, armor senior sergeant, 829 positions.

Inside USASOC, 13,482 positions will open in the following MOSs:

- 18A, Special Forces officer;
- 180A, Special Forces warrant officer;
- 18B, Special Forces weapons sergeant;
- 18C, Special Forces engineer sergeant;
- 18D, Special Forces medical sergeant;
- 18E, Special Forces communications sergeant;
- 18F, Special Forces assistant operations and intelligence sergeant; and
- 18Z, Special Forces senior sergeant.

Since May 2012, the Army has already opened about 95,216 positions and nine occupations to women, as it has taken a

SEE SPECIALTIES, PAGE B4



Second Lt. Rachel Parker, Field Artillery Basic Officer Leader Course Class 7-13, leads a formation during the Red Leg War Dec. 11, 2013. Officers in that class were among the first women able to officially hold positions within direct support field artillery battalions, brigade combat teams and cannon battalions in fires brigades.

PHOTO BY MARIE BERBEREA

ON GUARD



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ARMANDO R. LIMON

A Soldier assigned to 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division pulls security as a UH-60 Black Hawk from the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade takes off during air assault operations at the U.S. Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Hawaii, Dec. 2.

OPERATION TOY DROP

Aviators, paratroopers team to help children

By Staff Sgt. Shaiyla Hakeem
354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Olive-drab colored parachutes tinted the early morning sunrays on Sicily Drop Zone Dec. 4 at Fort Bragg during the 18th annual Randy Oler Memorial Operation Toy Drop.

For donations of toys, which are given to local children, Soldiers had the opportunity to earn partner nation jump wings and participate in a unique airborne experience, said Maj. Andre A. Battiste, Chief of Adjunct General Division for G1 command.

"Operation Toy Drop is a multifaceted training exercise which also has an important community relations aspect," he said. "It is also exposure to foreign nations on how we do our airborne operations."

United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations (Airborne), a U.S. Army Reserve Functional Command, hosted this international training event. Operation Toy Drop is the world's largest combined airborne operation. Partner nation participants this year included Canada, Colombia, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Latvia and the Netherlands. The event gives the nations' jumpmasters a chance to exchange a part of their culture with the U.S. Army, Battiste said.

Preparation for the big toy day included rehearsal training for static line jumps, refresher training on the main canopy parachute (MC-6), T-11 reserve parachute, aircraft familiarizations for the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, C-130, C-160 and C-27. Reserve Soldiers from the 824th Quartermaster Company supplied and packed more than 200 MC-6 and T-11 parachutes for the event.

Operation Toy Drop was founded in 1997 by the late Sgt. 1st Class Randall R. Oler, who on April 20th, 2004, suffered a heart attack on a C-130 aircraft while performing jumpmaster duties.

His international vision and legacy lives on.

"There are little offshoots of Operation Toy drop all around the airborne community and it spawned from Randy Oler's idea," Battiste said.

This event is huge in the toy collection aspect, but it also serves as a far-reaching training event. Capt. Juan DeValdenebro, Colombian Special Operations Command jumpmaster, said working with the U.S. has been a valuable training experience and he would like to come back to participate again. This was the first year his country has been a part of Operation Toy Drop.

"We are very glad of having this opportunity," DeValdenebro said, "It's great for us so we can share training techniques, procedures, know new aircrafts and other countries procedures so we can improve ours."

Aside from collecting more than 1,000 toys for underprivileged children and providing an international personal development opportunity, Operation Toy drop offered esprit de corps among soldiers with boost in moral.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Suyapa Lopez, with A Company, 407th Brigade Supply Battalion, cheered all the way through her descent to the ground. She earned a pair of Netherland wings from her jump in Operation Toy Drop.

"This was my smoothest, most calm jump ever," said Suyapa, "It was awesome!"



AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. DOUGLAS ELLIS
Multiple U.S. Army aircraft stage on a flight line during Operation Toy Drop Dec. 9. Operation Toy Drop is the world's

Pentagon honors UAS civilian

By Sofia Bledsoe
PEO Aviation

The deputy product director for the UAS Modernization Product Directorate within the Program Executive Office for Aviation never expected any of the surprises she received this year from the Army and the Department of Defense.

For Donna Hightower, first came the presentation of the DOD Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest award given to a DOD civilian, during a ceremony Oct. 8 in the Pentagon. Brig. Gen. Bob Marion, program executive officer for Aviation, first broke the news of the award to Hightower during a town hall Sept. 1.

Next, Nov. 20, Heidi Shyu, the Army's assistant secretary for acquisition, logistics and technology, praised Hightower's accomplishments and lauded her leadership among acquisition peers during a brown bag lunch at PEO Aviation.

Calling Hightower a "superstar," Shyu acknowledged her contributions that were critical in the fielding of airborne surveillance and weapons delivery capabilities across the Army and for joint users.

Hightower, not one accustomed to the spotlight, said, "I was surprised, but humbled that I could be considered for this award, much less receive the award. I work with a tremendous team of engineers, logisticians and business personnel that are far greater talented people who deserve this a lot more than I do."

Hightower first came to the world of unmanned aircraft systems on a dare. She began her career in 1988 with the Strategic Defense Command, then with the Aviation and Missile Command working in the labs reverse engineering black boxes. "It was fun, but it kept me very disconnected from the end users," she said.

Hightower honed her skills as a system and test engineer until 1995 when she noticed a requirement for a systems



PHOTOS BY CAPT. JOE BUSH

Donna Hightower, right, stands next to Heidi Shyu, the Army's top acquisition executive.

engineer in what was then called Tactical UAS. UAS was still in its infancy at the time, and Hightower thought it would be a great opportunity to contribute her expertise in something new and different. Her counterparts in the lab thought she didn't have a chance of being selected and dared her to apply for the job. She was interviewed and agreed to try the job for 30 days.

"The rest is history," Hightower said with a smile.

From there, Hightower blossomed to become an established leader, setting a precedence and preeminence in the field of unmanned aircraft operations. She chaperoned the Hunter UAS through a series of production and testing events leading to the first fielded Hunter system to the 15th Military Intelligence Battalion at Fort Hood, Texas. These exceptionally difficult years in the life of the Hunter program provided the foundation of refined requirements that would ultimately birth the robust fleet of UAS currently fielded and operated by the Army. Hightower has since been in the lead for every major evolution in Army UAS capability.

In 2007, at the request of the Joint IED Defeat Organization and Task Force Observe Detect Identify and

Neutralize, Hightower planned and executed a multiphase integration of UAS into the Army's combat Aviation brigades to support the counter IED mission.

Working with the 25th Infantry Division, she led her team through the planning to create a model for integration of the Gray Eagle UAS into the brigades, building the case for the capability that would ultimately impact the future force structure of each Army division.

The innovative plan used Hunter as a surrogate ahead of the actual fielding of the Gray Eagle, gaining two years of knowledge and experience to support senior leadership decision-making. It created the opportunity to develop tactics, techniques and procedures for an entirely new element of the CAB, a dramatic force multiplier, and demonstrated the power of organic UAS compared to task organized support.

"When I started with Hunter, no one really knew what a (UAS) was and what it could bring to the battlefield," Hightower said. "The manned world wanted no part of (UAS) and saw them as a threat.

"It gives me tremendous pride in my

SEE CIVILIAN, PAGE B4

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Contact **Jennifer Piland, 334-897-5016**, if additional information is required.

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Specialties: Working group findings guide decision

Continued from Page B1

methodical approach to assessing and removing barriers to women's service, officials said.

In September, then-Army Secretary John M. McHugh submitted to the defense secretary his recommendations on whether to open — or to request an exemption to keep closed — the remaining Army MOSs that have historically been closed to women.

Following a review of those recommendations, and the recommendations of the other service secretaries, the defense secretary announced Dec. 3 his intent that all positions in the U.S. military be opened to women.

The Army secretary's recommendations about what positions to open were informed by the studies and the findings of working groups designed to look into the feasibility of women serving

in combat arms roles.

Included among those were the Gender Integration Study conducted by Army Training and Doctrine Command; the Army Medical Command; U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine task assessment; the Medical Command Injury and Attrition Rates Working Group; the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy Risk Assessment and Suitability Analysis; and a one-

time pilot program at the U.S. Army Ranger School.

The Army also additionally prepared for opening the positions to female Soldiers by re-validating the physical standards required for entry into the closed MOSs. Army Training and Doctrine Command led the effort to re-validate those standards.

As part of the Army's Soldier 2020 initiative, all individuals joining the Army, male or fe-

male, will understand what standards must be met, and must also meet the standards, before being awarded a particular military specialty.

The defense secretary must pass on to Congress his signed recommendation. After 30 consecutive in-session days of Congress, if lawmakers have not disagreed with the recommendation, the Army can then begin recruiting female Soldiers into the MOSs.

Civilian: Employee helps develop universal UAS components

Continued from Page B1

team now that UAS are seen as force multipliers versus a hindrance or a threat. That's the biggest change I've seen — the acceptance of unmanned platforms by the manned world," she added.

Hightower then coordinated and supervised the Army's first manned-unmanned teaming demonstration of UAS assets with Apache and Kiowa Warrior aircraft, establishing the Find-Fix-Finish construct. This single event was the catalyst to move UAS from a pure intelligence platform to an integral part of the maneuver force.

Hightower was sought after to apply her expertise and innovation to establish numerous other efforts involving UAS, including the eventual weaponization of the Hunter UAS, which led to the weaponization of Warrior A systems, three of which deployed in theater in October 2007.

She then deployed to personally supervise efforts in Iraq knowing the tremendous importance of the Warrior A mission.

"I wanted to let the user know that I was willing to stand side-by-side with them and make the changes necessary to keep the system flying in real time. It allowed the user to put a face to a voice. It also gave me the opportunity of a lifetime to thank the people who allow me to have the freedom I so enjoy today," she said.

Hightower deployed three times in theater, two in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and one in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

She never rested on her laurels, however, and simultaneously focused her attention on the keystone of future UAS

operations. Early on she identified the pressing need for open architectures and commonality among the systems being developed, understanding the issues and inefficiencies that would be realized in the future with continued use of proprietary systems.

She worked diligently with industry partners to develop "open" system architectures and interoperability standards among platforms. The One System Ground Control Sta-

tion was the genesis of this effort and the foundation from which future work would be based. With the development, production and integration of the OSGCS, for the first time the Army possessed a GCS capable of controlling multiple unmanned aircraft platforms.

Continuing forward, Hightower also worked with leadership in the development and integration efforts of other universal components.

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DECEMBER 17, 2015

Operation Santa

Soldiers join forces to help local children

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Soldiers of the NCO Academy banded together in the spirit of giving to provide a merry Christmas to families on post.

Fort Rucker Sgt. Audie Murphy Club Soldiers did their part to try and make sure that no military child went wanting this Christmas with their annual Operation Santa at the NCO Academy Saturday.

Soldiers collected gifts, baked cookies, provided stockings and stocking stuffers, and created an atmosphere where children and parents could get into the Christmas spirit.

"We try to help the military community by helping to (alleviate) some of the financial burdens during the holiday season, and we do that by providing toys for the children of military families for Christmas," said Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Churchill, NCO Academy.

The SAMC switched things up a bit this year with Operation Santa. In the past, toys were collected and donated at random to give to children during the annual event. Children would come in and choose a toy, but this year, Soldiers wanted to add a more personal touch with their gift giving.

Children were able to make a wish list of what kind of toy they would like from Santa and Soldiers were able to provide that specific toy for the children.

"This way, children were able to get what they wanted, as well as able to pick two stocking stuffers, enjoy some cookies and decorate their own stocking," said Churchill.

For Staff Sgt. Vergia Farrow, C Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment, and her husband, Justin, it was something that was very much appreciated, not only by them, but their son, Bran, as well.

"I think things like this are really phenomenal," said Justin. "I like the atmosphere that they've provided here with the way it's set up, and how the kids can go through and get into to the holiday feel by creating stockings with Santa off in the corner for the kids to go to."

"My son just kept going back and forth showing Santa everything. I just thought that was really cool," he said. "(Things like Operation Santa) make you feel a little bit more connected to the Army."

Creating and maintaining that connection is an important part of the program, as well as the Army, but for Churchill, it's more about giving back and putting smiles on people's faces.

"We just want to help families on post who might be in a bit of financial need, and if we could help the whole post we would," she said. "And although the toys are for the children, it's really for the parents, too. It really brings smiles to parents' faces when they're able to get these toys for the children."

"This also makes me feel great because, personally, I've always wanted to help people," said Churchill, who one day hopes to be a social worker. "Doing something like this really brings a smile to my face. I don't want people to think it's charity, because it's not. It's really to be able to help those who need it. If we could provide toys for everyone, we would, but there are families on post who need it more than others."



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

Bran Farrow, military family member, shows Santa Claus a stocking he decorated with the help of his mother, Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Churchill, NCO Academy, and his father, Justin, during Operation Santa at the NCO Academy Saturday.



The Churchills pick out stocking stuffers during Operation Santa.



Sergeant Heather Schmadel, U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory, and her husband, Mike, help their daughters, Reagan and Ryleigh, decorate stockings.

PIN DOWN TO COUNTDOWN

Rucker Lanes hosts New Year's Eve party

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

The community can travel back to the 1950s for a New Year's Eve sock-hop celebration at Rucker Lanes.

"Our evening will feature a number of door prizes, as well as a special prize for the best 'in theme' family," said Ron Cook, bowling center business manager.

According to Cook, the evening will feature a 6-9 p.m. and 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. session. The earlier session will provide fun for the younger crowd, but Cook said both sessions feature similar programming.

"Celebrating the New Year should not be only reserved for the adults, nor should the kids have to stay up past midnight," he said. "Our mission was to provide a family-friendly New Year's Eve option for our community."

Reservations are required and Cook suggests calling as soon as possible.

"We have, historically, seen our New Year's Eve events reach full capacity," he said. "We recommend that anyone interested in attending the event make a reservation as early as possible."

Cost is \$30 per adult and \$20 per child, which includes: three-course meal, unlimited bowling, shoe rental, prize give-

aways, and a toast to ring in the New Year (sparkling cider will be provided for patrons under the age of 21).

"As with all of our programming, it is our mission to provide a fun, family-friendly and affordable experience for all of our military families," Cook said.

"Rucker Lanes is a fun-centered bowling facility that welcomes bowlers of all ages and skill sets," he added. "We feature bumper bowling and lightweight bowling equipment for children under the age of 10, so they can play along with the adult family members."

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Position: CYSS Youth Basketball Coaches

Duties: Teach basic fundamentals of basketball and attend practices and games. If interested, call 255-9108.

Position: CYSS Volunteer

School Age Center, Winter Wonderland Skating, Friday, 6:15-8:15 p.m. and 7:30-9:30 p.m. If interested, call 255-2246.

ON POST

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

Giving giveaway at library

The Center Library will help celebrate the holidays by holding a 12 Days of Giving Giveaway from now through Saturday. Patrons who check out any holiday-themed book will receive a gift during that timeframe. The giveaway will be open to all authorized patrons.

For more information, call 255-3885.

Mom & Me: Dad too!

Army Community Service hosts its Mom & Me: Dad too! playgroup Mondays from 9:30-11 a.m. at The Commons. The playgroup is for families with children ages birth to 3 years old.

For more information, call 255-9647 or 255-3359.

Army Family Team Building app

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

For more information, call 255-9637.

Winter Wonderland Skate Night

The Fort Rucker School Age Center Winter will host its Wonderland Skate Night Friday. Cost is \$2 for the safety skate from 6:15-7:15 p.m. (parents must be present) and \$5 for regular skate from 7:30-9:30 p.m. for ages 6 and older. Children are welcome to dress up as a snow princess, ice prince, snowboy or snowgirl, and judges will pick the best costume. A crown will be presented to the winner. There will also be giveaways and picture taking sessions. Youth must be registered child, youth and school services members.

For more information, call 255-9108. For CYSS membership information, call 255-9638.

Lifeguard recertification courses

Lifeguarding courses for recertification only will be held at the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center Jan. 2-3 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. People must have a current certification to enroll. The course is open to patrons ages 15 and up, and costs \$125 for Department of Defense ID card holders and \$150 for members of the general public. There will be a prerequisite test on the first day that must be passed to enter the course. People may register at the front desk of the Fort Rucker PFC. The cutoff for registration is three days prior to the course start date. Class may be canceled if minimum enrollment is not met.

For more information, call 255-2296.

English as a Second Language

English as a Second Language will be offered to spouses on the installation Wednesdays in January from 9-11 a.m. at the Allen Heights Community Center. Participants will practice their communication and written skills, and hopefully have some fun, as well, according to Army Community Service officials.

For more information, call 255-3161.

Employment readiness class

The Fort Rucker Employment Readiness Program hosts orientation sessions monthly in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, in the Army Community Service multipurpose room, with the next session Jan. 7. People who attend will meet in Rm. 350 at 8:45 a.m. to fill out paperwork before going to the multipurpose room. The class will end at about 11 a.m. The sessions will inform people on the essentials of the program and provide job search tips, as well. Advance registration is required and attendance at a session is mandatory for participation in the program.

For more information, call 255-2594.

Ski trip

MWR Central will host a ski trip to Wolf Ridge Ski Resort. Participants will travel to Mars Hill, North Carolina. Jan. 8, departing Fort Rucker at 4 p.m. and arriving in North Carolina at 1 a.m.



PHOTO BY JAY MANN

Rucker Lanes New Year's Eve Bowl

Rucker Lanes will host a pin down countdown Dec. 31 with its New Year's Eve Bowl. Patrons may choose from two sessions of Sock Hop-themed bowling - from 6-9 p.m. or 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. The cost per adult is \$30 and the cost per child is \$20. Both fees include unlimited bowling, shoe rental, a three-course meal of salad, steak or chicken entrée, dessert and a beverage suitable for ringing in the New Year. To make reservations or get more information, call 255-9503.

Jan. 9 will be a full day of skiing. The price of the trip includes transportation to and from Fort Rucker, two nights hotel accommodations, all-day lift ticket, ski rental, group lesson, and breakfast, lunch and dinner. Prices are \$291 for one person per room, \$211 for two people per room, \$187 for three people per room and \$173 for four people per room. Deadline to register is Jan. 4.

For more information, call 255-2997 or 255-9517.

International Spouses Get Together

Army Community Service Relocation Readiness Program will host an International Spouses Get Together Jan. 8 at 9 a.m. at the Allen Heights Community Center. Spouses are welcome to attend and meet spouses from other countries, along with gaining the support and knowledge in finding the resources for obtaining U.S. citizenship, education, getting a drivers license and more. Multilingual volunteers will be available.

For more information, call 255-3735.

EFMP information, support group

The Exceptional Family Member Program invites all active duty military families who have an exceptional or special-needs family member to attend its information and support group meeting Jan. 12 from 9-10 a.m. at The Commons, Bldg. 8950. The topic for the meeting is available resources for individuals with special needs and disabilities. Tools, techniques and resources will be discussed. The EFMP Information and Support Group offers camaraderie, friendship, information exchange, idea sharing, community resources, support and assistance with finding solutions.

For more information and to register, call 255-9277.

Winter craft

The Center Library will host a winter craft activity Jan. 12 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. for children ages 3-11. Light refreshments will be served. Space is limited to the first 65 children to register. The event is open to authorized patrons and exceptional family member friendly.

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

Newcomers welcome

Army Community Service will host a newcomers welcome Jan. 15 from 8:30-11 a.m. at The Landing. Active duty, spouses, foreign students, Army civilians and family members are encouraged to attend. A free light breakfast and Starbucks coffee will be served. For free childcare, register children at the child development center by calling

DFMWR

Spotlight

**Fort Rucker Family & MWR
Upcoming Events & Activities**

Rucker Lanes; New Year's Eve Party

**PIN DOWN
COUNTDOWN**

**Thursday
December 31**

Join us for our Sock Hop themed New Year's Eve Party! Reservations are required.

Early Session
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Late Session
10:00 pm - 1:00 am

Cost: **\$30 per adult**
\$20 per child

Includes:

- three course meal
- unlimited bowling
- shoe rental
- giveaways
- a bottle of "Bubbly" per line to ring in the New Year! (parking order provided for ages 21 and under)

No open bowling. Lanes only available by reservation for Pin Down Countdown event.

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

www.ftrucker.mwr.com

255-3564. Reservations must be made 24 hours prior to the newcomers welcome.

For more information, call 255-3161 or 255-2887.

Tot Time

Army Community Service hosts its Tot Time playgroup Wednesdays from

9:30-11 a.m. at The Commons, Bldg. 8950. The playgroup is for children 12-36 months and their caregivers. The playgroup provides programs and activities that enhance caregiver-child interaction, and stimulate child growth and development.

For more information, call 255-9647 or 255-3359.

FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 17-20

Thursday, December 17

The Martian (PG-13)7 p.m.

Friday, December 18

Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens (PG-13)7 p.m.

Saturday, December 19

Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens (PG-13)4 & 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 20

Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens (PG-13)1 & 4 p.m.

REMEMBERING

Wreaths honor those who gave all

By Sean Kimmons
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — Once Susan Zerbe learned that a CH-47 Chinook helicopter had been shot down in Afghanistan, killing all 30 U.S. troops on board, she knew her son was one of them.

"I heard it on the news that morning and I just knew he was on there," she said of her son, Tech. Sgt. Daniel Lee Zerbe.

Hours later, her premonition came true when military officers knocked on the door to inform her that Daniel was on that helicopter, as he and others traveled to help Army Rangers in a fierce battle against insurgents.

"It was a horrible feeling," she recalled of the Aug. 6, 2011, incident. "Your heart just sinks."

Zerbe and her family laid a wreath on Daniel's headstone during Wreaths Across America Day at Arlington National Cemetery Saturday.

The event drew roughly 50,000 family members of fallen troops and volunteers who placed more than 240,000 wreaths on the white marble headstones that line the cemetery to symbolize their respect for those who gave all.

"All of these people don't get to come home for Christmas," Zerbe said. "It's our way to honor and remember what they did for all of us."

But the wreaths, which were also placed at more than 1,000 locations across the country, were not just for decoration.

"We're not here to decorate graves," Karen Worcester, co-founder of the nonprofit Wreaths Across America, told a crowd at Arlington. "We're here so you can remember not their deaths, but their lives."

Memories

Emily Johnson traveled from Wisconsin to rekindle memories of her older brother, 1st Lt. David Andrew Johnson, who was killed by an improvised explosive device while on a dismounted patrol in Afghanistan in 2012.

"I wanted to spend the holidays with my brother," she said. "It was always a really special time for him."

Emily, 20, sat on a blanket in



PHOTO BY SEAN KIMMONS

Emily Johnson sheds tears in front of the headstone for her older brother, 1st Lt. David Andrew Johnson, who was killed by an improvised explosive device in 2012.

front of David's headstone as she reminisced about her 24-year-old brother and his "goofy smile."

"I don't get to see him that often, so I'll probably be here all day," she said. "I wish he was at home, but, at the same time, it's a big honor for him to be here."

Nearby, Bob and Pat O'Kane-Trombley recalled memories of their son, Air Force Capt. Thomas Gramith, an F-15E Strike Eagle weapons systems officer, who died along with the pilot when their aircraft crashed in Afghanistan.

They said he was "everybody's big brother" who had a selfless, humble attitude that even earned him a humanitarian of the year award at Seymour Air Force Base, North Carolina.

"He really did a lot of community service that others noted, but he never talked about it," Bob said.

The loss of Thomas in 2009 hit the family hard, they said, especially since the 27-year-old airman had 9-month-old twin daughters at the time.



A volunteer carries a wreath to a headstone in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., Dec. 12.

"We got the knock on the front door and the minute I looked out of a small window on the door, I could see the gleaming silver cross," Pat said of the insignia of the chaplain who would tell them the tragic news.

"That was the day when everything came crashing down," Bob added.

Thomas and his pilot, Air Force Capt. Mark R. McDowell, 26, were only two young men of countless

others who died defending the country. None of them should ever be forgotten, Bob said.

"If we fail to remember them," he said, "we will lose everything we have."

Fundraising

To honor the fallen, fundraising efforts amassed about 910,000 wreaths that were placed on headstones across the country. One of the largest fundraising groups was

the Civil Air Patrol, which helped bring in about one-third of the wreaths.

"They solicited wreath donations for over 1,000 sites," CAP Col. Dan Leclair, a retired Air Force master sergeant, said of the thousands of volunteers from the Air Force civilian auxiliary. "We're very privileged to do this."

The annual event started in 1992 with 5,000 wreaths. For the first time last year, volunteers had enough wreaths for every headstone at Arlington.

"We did this and then the American people with their American spirit got under us and lifted us up," Worcester said.

But placing wreaths was just one mission that volunteers were asked to do when recognizing those buried in Arlington.

"Please read the name out loud," Worcester said of the headstones. "Because we do die twice: when we stop breathing and the last time when a human being mentions our name out loud."



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Contemporary C-3 - in the
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Festival brings classic to stage

From Staff Reports
Army Flier

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery hosts its production of "A Christmas Carol" now through Dec. 24. ASF officials said, "Charles Dickens himself, who, with sleight of hand and sense of humor, brings his magical story to life. When miserly Ebenezer Scrooge receives an un-

wanted visit from the ghost of his former business partner, an overnight journey of epic proportions begins. With a gorgeous set, period costumes, carols and a spectacular new ending, you and your family will be left totally enthralled!"

For more information, show times and tickets, call 334-271-5353 or visit www.asf.net. Ticket prices vary based on play, date and availability of seating.



WIREFRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

DECEMBER — Court Square will host Christmas in Candyland Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in December. For more information, visit <http://www.christmasincandyland.com>.

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

DALEVILLE

DEC. 19 — The Korean American Association of South Alabama will host its annual Christmas party at 6 p.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6020 on Hwy. 84. Cultural entertainment and food will be provided. Tickets cost \$10 and will be available at the door. The association also seeks Korean War veterans who would like to attend and be recognized at the party. If interested, call 347-1796.

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

DOTHAN

ONGOING — The American Legion Post 12 holds monthly meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings are held at the VFW on Taylor Road. For more information, call 400-5356.

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

can host parties, weddings, and hails and farewells.

ONGOING — Disabled American Veterans Dothan Chapter 87 maintains a service officer at its office at 545 West Main St. (Mixon Business Center) Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The chapter will assist veterans who were injured or disabled while in military service. DAV service officers help veterans and their spouses with disability compensation claims and other veterans benefits. All veteran services provided are free of charge. For more information, call 836-0217, Ext. 123, or send an email to davchapter87@gmail.com.

ENTERPRISE

JAN. 8 — Enterprise High School will host a military appreciation night at its basketball games against Prattville. All military and veterans with military ID will get into the game for \$1. The girls team plays at 5:30 p.m. and the boys team plays at 7 p.m.

ONGOING — Disabled American Veterans Chapter 9 Enterprise-Coffee County located at 201 W. Watts St., meets the first Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m. DAV helps veterans with claims Mondays-Thursdays, 9-11 a.m., and other times by appointment. For more information, call 308-2480.

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

GENEVA

ONGOING — The Geneva County Relay for Life meets the last Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Citizens Bank. For more information, call 248-4495.

MIDLAND CITY

ONGOING — Residents are invited to town hall meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall,

1385 Hinton Waters Ave.

For more information, call 983-3511.

NEW BROCKTON

ONGOING — Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 9-11 a.m., Disabled American Veterans Chapter 99 maintains a service office in the New Brockton Police Station at 202 South John Street. The office will assist veterans who were injured or disabled while in military service. DAV service officers help veterans and their spouses with disability compensation claims, Veterans Affairs pensions, death benefits, VA medical care, Social Security disability benefits, veterans job programs, homeless veterans services and other veteran services. All veteran services are provided free of charge. For more information, call 718-5707.

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.

OSARK

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

ONGOING — The Ann Rudd Art Center offers free art lessons for children ages 5 and older. The young student class is Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon, and the adult-teen class is from 12:30-3 p.m. Slots are on a first come, first served basis. For more information, call 774-7922.

ONGOING — AL-ANON will hold weekly meetings on Mondays at noon at the Lutheran Prince of Peace. For more information, call 618-513-1258.

PINCKARD

ONGOING — The public is invited

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

SAMSON

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

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

TROY

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

WIREFRASS AREA

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

ONGOING — The U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Association, Inc., located in Columbus, Georgia, and adjacent to Fort Benning, represents and supports all Army officers commissioned through an Army Officer Candidate School, regardless of location or branch. Meetings, activities and reunions are conducted throughout the year. The annual USAOCS Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and USAOCS Alumni Association Reunion is scheduled for April 26-30 at Fort Benning. For more information, call 813-917-4309 or send an e-mail to ocsalumni.com.

Beyond Briefs

Christmas lights festival

The Montgomery Zoo will transform into a Winter Wonderland sparkling with thousands of lights and festive decorations during its annual Christmas lights festival now through Dec. 31. People are welcome to take a leisurely stroll, a brisk train ride or view the lights from atop the Zoofari Skylift Ride. The festival will also include Santa, nightly entertainment, and hot chocolate and fresh-baked cookies. Regular night time admission is \$15 for ages 3 and older. Ticket includes entry and one Christmas Lights Festival train ride.

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

Governor's Mansion Christmas tours

Governor's Mansion Candlelight Tours are scheduled for Dec. 21 from 5-7:30 p.m. to allow people to see the mansion decorated for Christmas. Admission is free and tickets are available at the Governor's Mansion Gift Shop. No reservations are required.

For more information, visit <http://governor.alabama.gov/governors-mansion/mansion-tours/>.

'The Alien Who Stole Christmas'

The W.A. Gayle Planetarium will host its "The Alien Who Stole Christmas" program throughout now through Dec. 19. People are welcome to take a tour of the winter's evening sky and then join Santa and concerned alien, Mr. Freep, as they explore the solar system's planets and meet the Christmas Eve needs of their fictitious inhabitants.

Showtimes are Mondays-Thursdays at 4 p.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m. The planetarium will be closed Dec. 21-Jan 1.

Tickets go on sale 30 minutes before showtime. Admission is \$6.50 per person for ages 5 and above. Shows start promptly, no admittance into building once show has begun.

For more information, call 334-625-4799 or visit www.facebook.com/gayleplanetarium.

Capital City Christmas parade

People are welcome to help the capital kick off the holiday season Dec. 18 with Montgomery's Christmas parade from 6-8 p.m.

For more information, call 334-625-2100 or visit www.funinmontgomery.com/announcements/capital-city-christmas-parade.

Camellia Bowl

The 2015 Raycom Media Camellia Bowl will be held Dec. 19 at 4:30 p.m. at the Cramton Bowl in Montgomery. This postseason college football game will match up the Sun Belt Conference against the Mid-American Conference. The game will be televised live on the ESPN family of networks.

For more information, email info@camelliabowl.com.

New Year's Eve – Panama City

Panama City Beach, Florida, will host its free New Year's celebration Dec. 31, starting at 5:30 p.m. at Pier Park. The New Year's Eve festivities will kick-off with a family celebration along the boardwalk where families will enjoy interactive activities like face painting, costumed characters and exclusive giveaways, as well as live entertainment. At 8 p.m., local dignitaries will release 10,000 inflated beach balls along Pier Park's beachfront boardwalk. Heralded as the nation's only family beach ball drop, it will be followed by a fireworks display. At 8:30 p.m., the official Countdown Celebration will begin with live musical performances

throughout the evening. Just before midnight, attendees will countdown to 2015 as an 800 pound LED lighted beach ball descends nearly 100 feet followed by a second fireworks display.

New Year's Eve – Montgomery

Montgomery will host its New Year's celebration Dec. 31 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Commerce Street Entertainment District, featuring live entertainment and fireworks.

For more information, call 334-625-2100 or visit www.funinmontgomery.com/events-news#12-2015.

Chocolate! The Exhibition

The Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center in Mobile will host Chocolate! The Exhibition now through Jan. 17. Chocolate! and its national tour were developed by the Field Museum of Chicago and supported, in part, by the National Science Foundation. Visitors will discover chocolate's impact on human cultures and tropical ecosystems through scenic elements, original video, interactive displays, rich imagery and graphics, and about 150 objects. This major exhibition includes replicated pre-Columbian ceramics and other decorative objects, European silver and porcelain servers, as well as examples of 19th- and 20th-century advertising and packaging, vintage chocolate molds and detailed botanical replications. The exhibition features the real story of chocolate beginning with the discovery of the cacao bean in the rainforests 1,500 years ago. The Mayans created a spicy drink and the Aztec civilization actually used the beans as currency.

Combination tickets are available for Chocolate! The Exhibition that also includes IMAX films: \$18 for adults, \$16 youth (13-17), \$14 child (7-12) and \$8 pre-kindergarten (4-6). Discounts are available for active and retired military.

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

JCS chairman's USO Holiday Tour concludes

By Jim Garamone
Department of Defense News

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff thanked USO performers for touching the lives of service members during the week-long holiday trip that ended Dec. 9.

Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. led the 2015 USO Holiday Show, which included actor/director/producers Elizabeth Banks and David Wain, singer Chris Daughtry, singer/songwriters Kyle Jacobs, Brett James and Billy Montana; comedian Sydney Castillo and Red Sox baseball players Steve Wright and Heath Hembree.

The group met and entertained thousands of troops and civilians on three continents, stopping in Sigonella, Italy; Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti; Manama, Bahrain; and Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, before ending at Ramstein.

In an interview, Dunford recalled his first experience with the USO.

"The first one I remember was in 1985 and I was having shoulder surgery at the Naval Hospital in Okinawa, and I woke up after the surgery and the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders are standing around my bed," he said. "And it wasn't a dream — it was the USO show was in town on tour and stopped by the hospital."

Then-chairman Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers led the first holiday tour in 2002.

"And it is my honor to do so this year," Dunford said.

The shows are more than just entertainment, he said.

"I can tell (the troops) that people back home support them," the general said during a farewell dinner in Kaiser-

lautern, Germany. "But after a while, it sounds like just talk. But when we go out there and say, 'Look who is here with us,' they see that Americans really do support them."

The performances really do touch the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, Dunford said.

"I asked how people liked the show," he said, "and about four or five times people told me, 'For a couple of minutes, I actually forgot I was here.' You know, when you are in Djibouti or you are in Bagram (and) just for a few minutes you actually forgot that you were there — it's a big deal."

In addition to being on stage, the performers also meet with service members who explained their jobs, how they do them, and why they are there. The performers met special operations forces in Bagram and pararescue airmen in Djibouti. They toured a minesweeper and a U.S. Coast Guard cutter in Bahrain. The examined C-130 Hercules refueling tankers, C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and Predator and Global Hawk remotely piloted aircraft.

Everywhere the performers went, they spoke with service members and got to know them. They also visited the USO Wounded Warrior Center at Landstuhl Hospital.

"You brought a piece of home out here to young men and women that I am incredibly proud of," Dunford told the performers. "For those of you who hadn't been around them before, I hope what you've seen this week tells you why I am so proud of them. Because they are incredibly talented, capable, smart young men and women who are committed, yes, to America, but really to each

other."

The performers said that they often felt humbled on the tour. "It's easy to feel insignificant compared to them," Daughtry said. "I mean, we're entertainers. We're having fun. To see the gratitude and appreciation on their faces is moving and humbling."

Wain said it is one thing to read about a deployment or watch a news report, but it is quite something else to be there. "Speaking to (troops) one-on-one and understanding these are people who are smart, interesting and caring, and have families and dreams and being able to do that has been inspiring, educational and a true honor," he said.

Banks said her father served in the Navy in the Mekong Delta during the Vietnam War. "My father tells very few

stories about Vietnam, but he tells a story about when he left Vietnam and was transferred to the eastern (Mediterranean Sea)," she said.

"His ship hosted David Niven, and his very hot and considerably younger wife. That's what he remembers. He remembers that day very fondly and not many others," Banks said. "And I really felt if I could make someone's deployment feel a bit more like home — feel special, give them a special day they can focus on rather than the bad — then that is definitely worth my time."

James called the experience "life changing."

And Jacobs — for whom this was his 9th USO trip — said he'll "continue doing this as long as I am needed. We owe it to them."

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2015

Event	Date/Time/Location
Advent Workshop	22 Nov, 1200-1430 Spiritual Life Center
Post-wide Thanksgiving Service	24 Nov, 1130-1200 Headquarters Chapel
Thanksgiving Eve Mass	25 Nov, 1700-1800 Main Post Chapel
Hanukkah	6-13 Dec, 1700 Main Post Chapel
Children Christmas Program "Miracle on Main Street"	13 Dec, 0930 Wings Chapel
A Night in Bethlehem: A Drive-Thru Nativity	15 Dec, 1800-2000 Spiritual Life Center
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	24 Dec, 1900-2000 Main Post Chapel
Children's Christmas Eve Mass	24 Dec, 1600-1700 Main Post Chapel
Christmas Midnight Mass	24 Dec, 2400-0100 Main Post Chapel
Christmas Day Mass	25 Dec, 0900-1000 Main Post Chapel
New Year's Eve Mass	31 Dec, 1700-1800 Main Post Chapel

For more information regarding other religious holiday services, contact the Religious Support Office at 334-255-2989/2012

Visit us at: www.rucker.army.mil/chapel or
Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/fort.rucker.chapel



COURTESY PHOTO

Pick-of-the-litter

Meet Ivy, a 6-month-old female long-hair orange tabby cat available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility. She is approximately the size of a 10-12-week old kitten. She is good-natured and loves to be snuggled. For more information on animal adoptions, call the stray facility at 255-0766, open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. All adoptable animals are vet checked and tested for felv/fiv (for cats) or heartworm for dogs (over six months) and on flea prevention. The facility needs donations such as dry or canned foods for cats, dogs, kittens and puppies, as well as blankets, toys and towels. Donations can be dropped off at the stray facility. 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.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

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

Main Post Chapel, Building 8940
9 a.m. Catholic Mass Sunday
11 a.m. Liturgical Protestant Service
12:05 p.m. Catholic Mass
(Tuesday - Friday)
4 p.m. Catholic Confessions Saturday
5 p.m. Catholic Mass Saturday

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

Spiritual Life Center, Building 8939
10:15 a.m. CCD
(except during summer months)

BIBLE STUDIES

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

Protestant Women of the Chapel
Wings Chapel, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Adult Bible Study
Spiritual Life Center, 7 p.m.

Wednesdays
Catholic Women of the Chapel
Wings Chapel, 8:30 a.m.

Above the Best Bible Study
Yano Hall, 11 a.m.

1-14th Avn Regt Bible Study
Hanchey AAF, Bldg 50102N, Rm 101,
11:30 a.m.

164th TAOG Bible Study
Bldg 30501, 11:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Study
Soldier Service Center, 12 p.m.

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

Adult Bible Study
Spiritual Life Center, 6 p.m.

Thursdays
Adult Bible Study
Spiritual Life Center, 9 a.m.

Latter-Day Saints Bible Study
Wings Chapel, 6:30 p.m.

Saturdays
Protestant Men of the Chapel
Wings Chapel (1st Saturday), 8 a.m.

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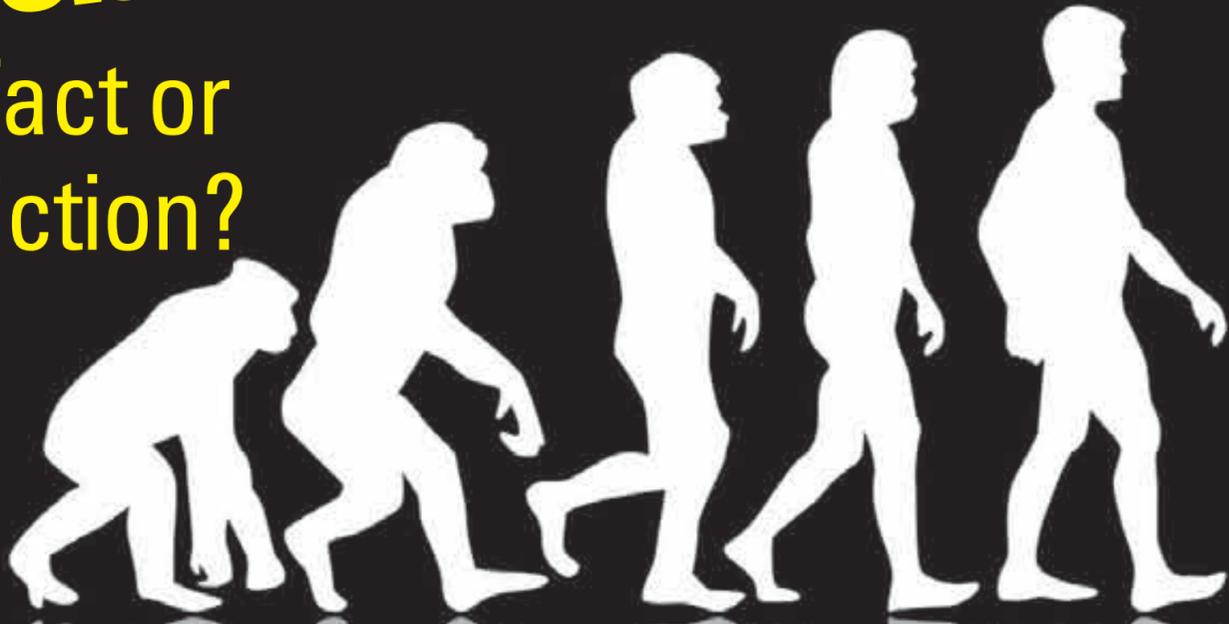
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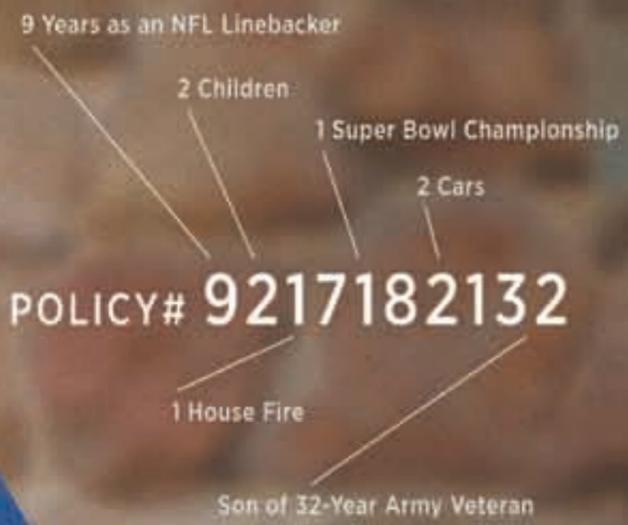
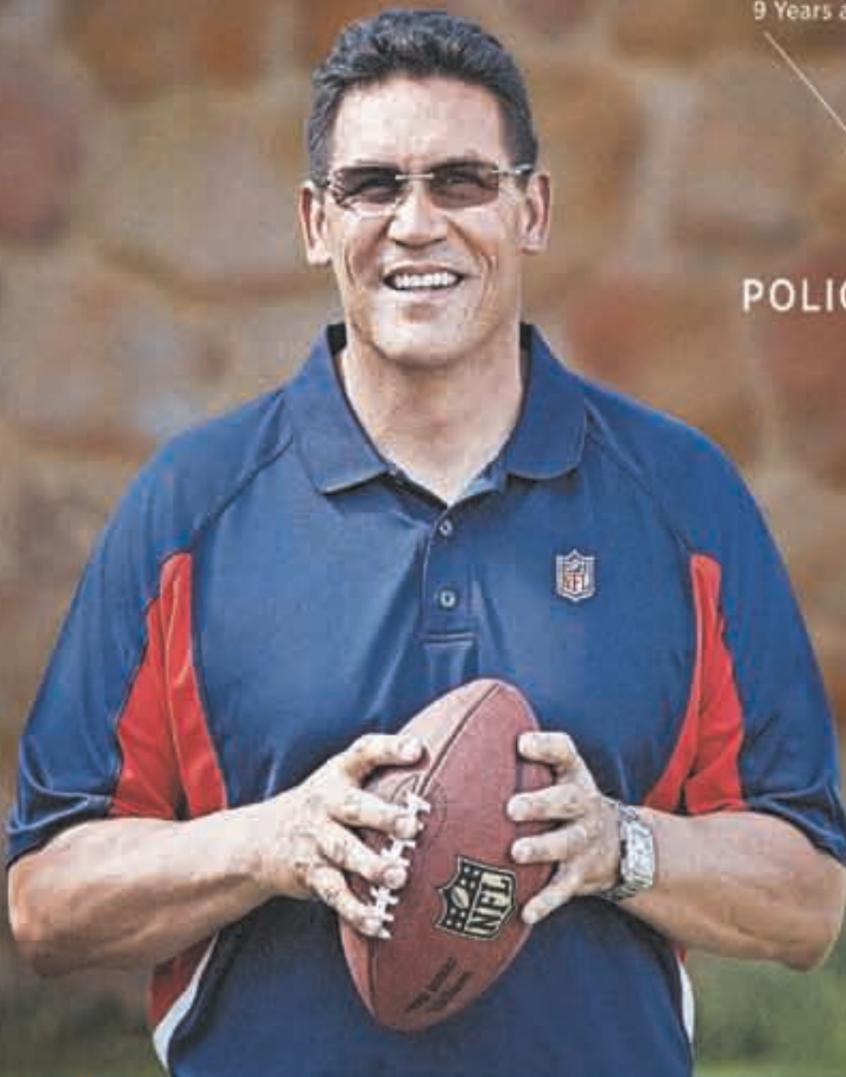
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DECEMBER 17, 2015

BREAKING BARRIERS

Instructor hopes to help patrons set impossible goals, meet them

By Jeremy Henderson
Army Flier Staff Writer

Most fitness journeys begin with a desire to change and it was no different for Rachael Scroggin, Fort Rucker's newest fitness specialist.

"I absolutely hated running," she said. "So I decided to make it a goal for myself to run a 5K. I created that goal and I accomplished that goal. I still hated running, but I kept with it. I wanted to get better at it, because I knew that's why I didn't like it."

That was three years ago, according to Scroggin, and the mindset of creating a goal and seeing it through has continued to push her to new heights.

"Fitness, for me, hasn't been purely a physical pursuit," she said. "It hasn't been about lifting a heavier weight just because I want to lift a heavier weight. There's a lot to be said about simply accomplishing a goal. It's about breaking through personal barriers."

And Scroggin hopes to help other people set their own seemingly impossible goals and demolish them.

"I want to be able to show someone their true potential," she said. "I want to help them see they can accomplish their goals because that has comprised a lot of my own fitness journey – setting goals I felt were impossible and then accomplishing them."

According to Scroggin, choosing a career in fitness came down to one question: why?

"I like to understand the 'why,'" she said. "I wanted to learn what made cardio, weight training, and all aspects of fitness great and efficient for overall health. I know the knowledge would allow me to better value the process."

"I think I have come a long way in my personal fitness journey," she added. "When I first began, I really didn't enjoy it as much as I do now. But I knew that, if I stuck with it, I would enjoy it. I knew that once I learned the mechanics of fitness and how each exercise benefited me, I would enjoy it. Once I understood the 'why' of fitness, I wanted to answer that question for other people."

Beginning in 2016, Scroggin hopes to bring her fitness vision to the Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Centers with weight training classes two days a week.

"I like to have a focus and schedule," she said. "The classes will be weightlifting and strength focused. But I would like to set up a cycle and target different muscle groups each day instead of a full-body routine each class."

"I am also attempting to organize a class that would help prepare people for a Tough Mudder or Spartan Race," she added. "I would love to help individuals set goals for an event of that type and then take the group to participate in the event."

What should participants bring if they choose to join her class?

"Intensity," she said. "I want to bring people to a point they are confident in their ability to set seemingly impossible goals and accomplish them. I want to show them they are capable of so much more than they thought."

Scroggin, originally from Arkansas, joined the Fort Rucker family after marrying Enterprise native 2nd Lt. Andy Scroggin, D Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment.

For more information about group fitness classes, call Fort Rucker PFC at 255-2296 or Fortenberry-Colton PFC at 255-3794.



PHOTO BY JEREMY HENDERSON

Rachael Scroggin, Fort Rucker fitness specialist, performs a dumbbell chest press during a recent personal weight training session at Fortenberry-Colton PFC. Scroggin will lead group fitness weight training classes on post beginning in January.

Mobile health app helps Fort Rucker stay resilient, healthy

By Jenny Stripling
Lyster Army Health Clinic
Public Affairs Officer

Do you know where to find running trails around Fort Rucker? How about where Bible studies are located? Did you know there is a 5K coming up soon? What about the operational hours for the post library?

These are questions many may have when first arriving at Fort Rucker. Now, there is a mobile app for your smartphone or tablet devices that can answer all of these questions and more.

The Fort Rucker Resiliency Resources Mobile App utilizes the five health domains from the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness campaign – Physical, Emotional, Family, Spiritual and Social – and combines the data from the Fort Rucker Community Resource Guide and Fort Rucker websites so you can easily access important information about the topics that impact you and your family's daily lives.

"The concept of the mobile app is this:

LYSTER STAFF SEEKS FEEDBACK

Patient satisfaction and access to quality healthcare services are the Lyster Army Health Clinic staff's top priorities. In order to better serve its service members, retirees and their eligible family members, Lyster Army Health Clinic and Regional Health Command-Atlantic are conducting a short survey to find out how we can make your healthcare experience at Lyster better.

The goal in Army medicine is to meet your expectations. That is why Lyster regularly surveys its patients to determine what it is doing right and what it can improve. Your comments in this 10-minute survey will allow the staff to make meaningful change – change important to you and your families.

To provide feedback, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/GM9Z5LL to access the survey. The survey is anonymous and no personal identification information will be collected.

in a year's time there are 525,600 minutes. Out of all of these minutes, a person may spend approximately 20 minutes with their health provider, on average, five times

a year," said Capt. William Capp, Lyster chief of information management. "If you are only seeing your primary health care provider for 100 minutes out of the year,

what else are you doing to positively affect you and your family's health the rest of the year? How can we at Lyster and at Fort Rucker impact your life space to help you make healthy lifestyle choices? This mobile health app (helps) impact the life space of our Soldiers and families."

Capp said the app has the ability to find information fast, so Soldiers and families can make healthier lifestyle choices and be active in their daily lives.

Future updates for the app include a push notification that you can opt in or out of that notifies you of upcoming events like 5K runs or healthy cooking demonstrations at Lyster.

As the app rolls out to other Army installations, a form of geo-targeting will give the ability to download the local base information into the app. This is a great feature, especially for someone that goes TDY to other places.

You can find the Fort Rucker Resiliency Resources Mobile App in your local mobile app store for Android and iPhone by typing in "Rucker" in the search field.

PIGSKIN PICKS	Tampa Bay vs. St. Louis	N.Y. Jets vs. Dallas	Houston vs. Indianapolis	Buffalo vs. Washington	Denver vs. Pittsburgh	Arizona vs. Philadelphia	Detroit vs. New Orleans

DOWN TIME



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



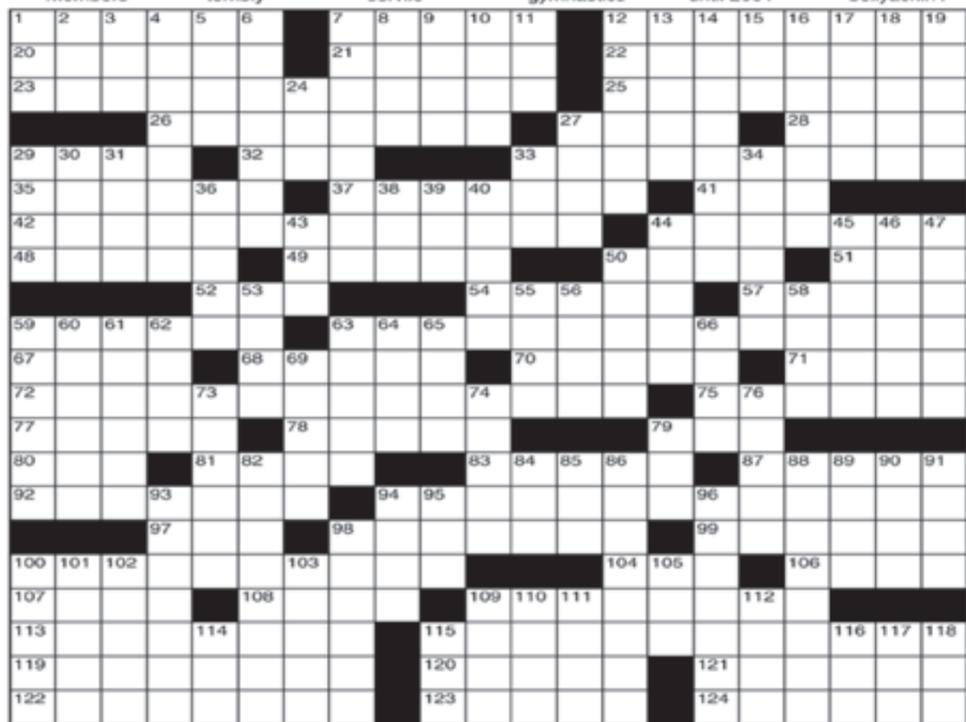
T R I V I A

1. COMICS: In the comic strip "Peanuts," where was Snoopy born?
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of unicorns known as?
3. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who once said, "When a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully"?
4. U.S. STATES: The Mystic River flows through which U.S. state?
5. MEDICAL: What is the medical name for a condition known as "the bends"?
6. ASTRONOMY: Which planets in our Solar System are known as the gas giants?
7. TELEVISION: Who did the character named Lurch work for?
8. HISTORY: Where was Martin Luther King assassinated in 1968?
9. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Balearic Islands located?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What would a vexillologist study?

See Page D4 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword LITERAL LANGUAGE LESSON

- ACROSS**
- 1 Brings together
 - 7 Refrain from
 - 12 Wild prank
 - 20 Toss again, as dice
 - 21 Took steps
 - 22 Wynton of jazz trumpet
 - 23 PANE
 - 25 Blows stormily, as wind
 - 26 Lessens in worth
 - 27 Congeal
 - 28 Plains tribe
 - 29 Baby's first word, maybe
 - 32 "— heard worse"
 - 33 CORNE
 - 35 Rudimentary seeds
 - 37 Skull
 - 41 Weed-chopping tool
 - 42 KIELBASA
 - 44 Requests desperately
 - 48 Sugary
 - 49 Car tire's outer layer
 - 50 "— la vie"
 - 51 Suffix with press or prefect
 - 52 UFO crew members
- DOWN**
- 54 "How can — thank you?"
 - 57 Archipelago part
 - 59 Result of a belly flop
 - 63 KOUCHUU
 - 67 Prudish type
 - 68 Garlic-seasoned mayonnaise
 - 70 Howling mad
 - 71 Artist Bonheur
 - 72 LUACH
 - 75 Shylock, e.g.
 - 77 Actor/singer Zac
 - 78 Pizzelle
 - 79 Eur. country or Can. province
 - 80 Stephen of "The Heavy"
 - 81 Old letter salutation
 - 83 Mountain cats
 - 87 Tail off
 - 92 Tobacco Road
 - 94 novelist Caldwell
 - 97 TORTILLA
 - 98 — Khan (Islamic title)
 - 99 Ships transporting fossil fuel
 - 100 CRUX
 - 104 Finish
 - 106 With 90-Down, side in a game that's not visiting
 - 107 "How sad!"
 - 108 DVR brand
 - 109 Summer starts with one
 - 113 At an unknown point in the future
 - 115 BAGVAERK
 - 119 Poe poem
 - 120 Dunne of film
 - 121 Make current
 - 122 Most cheeky
 - 123 Slacked off
 - 124 Usher, often
- 7 Tramway vehicle**
- 8 Light tan**
- 9 To — (exactly)**
- 10 Adriatic and Baltic**
- 11 Roush of the Reds**
- 12 Symbol**
- 13 Beauty shop**
- 14 They're leaned on for support**
- 15 Horse cousin**
- 16 Eye covers**
- 17 New Olds of 1999**
- 18 More terrible**
- 19 Ruhr city**
- 24 Of warships: Abbr.**
- 27 Rock's Mötley —**
- 29 Swabs**
- 30 Declare openly**
- 31 Equine hybrid**
- 33 Pear-shaped false fruit**
- 34 Immobilize at a rodeo**
- 36 Will of "Blue Bloods"**
- 38 Wish to undo**
- 39 Simile center**
- 40 Comaneci of gymnastics**
- 43 Holy people: Abbr.**
- 44 Flat cap**
- 45 Steamboat pioneer**
- 46 Bully's threat**
- 47 Rip anow**
- 50 Labor activist Chavez**
- 53 Warm up**
- 55 Writer Bagnold**
- 56 Wang of fashion**
- 58 Medicinal fluids**
- 59 Orb**
- 60 Opt for first**
- 61 Many babies born in fall**
- 62 Farming-related prefix**
- 63 Rivers and Baez**
- 64 "For — know ..."**
- 65 Pizzeria orders**
- 66 Toll producer**
- 69 Statement of empathy**
- 73 Pulver's rank**
- 74 Sherpa land**
- 76 Hawaii-born president**
- 79 Burning residue**
- 82 Dormant**
- 84 "A," in Brest**
- 85 Earth orbiter until 2001**
- 86 Gauged**
- 88 Suburb of Washington, D.C.**
- 89 To boot**
- 90 See 106-Across**
- 91 Smurf or Rock suffix**
- 93 Old Austrian emperors**
- 94 Mediocre**
- 95 Speaker systems, for short**
- 96 Sphinx riddle solver**
- 98 London's — Garden**
- 100 Makes it**
- 101 Honolulu "hi"**
- 102 Instills docility in**
- 103 Singer LeAnn**
- 105 — power**
- 109 Actress Gilbert**
- 110 Tip jar items**
- 111 Queue (up)**
- 112 Bullfight wear**
- 114 — chi (martial art)**
- 115 Stop existing**
- 116 Rat-a- —**
- 117 Traveler's path: Abbr.**
- 118 "Quit — bellyachin'!"**



See Page D4 for this week's answers.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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See Page D4 for this week's answers.

KID'S CORNER

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

SCHOOL DAZE! Instruction of the young has been a major dream of mankind down through the ages. Indeed, someone at night is a young person of education that is all about to happen.

THE STATE OF YOUNG

1. High-flying pears in red suit.

2. To furnish or decorate with ornaments, as a tree.

3. Courtship.

4. What collectors may do with beautiful card sets.

5. South American mountain chain.

Remember, words may also be across and down.

Wordy's wordy, it's wordy, it's wordy, it's wordy, it's wordy!

HERE, HERE! And who'd our wordy eyes should appear, but Santa himself, which path leads to, look to dreamy!

Wishing Well

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words.

HOUSETOP

THINK score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 30 points.

Wishing Well

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

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 BOLTHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Academy to host Warrior Games

Department of Defense News
Staff Report

WASHINGTON — The 2016 Department of Defense Warrior Games will take place at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York, June 14-22, Pentagon officials announced Monday.

This will be the first year the Army will host the Warrior Games, an annual sporting competition bringing together wounded, ill and injured service members and veterans from across the country.

“The United States Military Academy and the entire West Point community are honored to host the 2016 DOD Warrior Games,” said Lt. Gen. Robert L. Caslen Jr., U.S. Military Academy superintendent. “These warrior-athletes competing in the games, who at one time answered their nation’s call to service, exemplify the very best of America. They embody the resiliency, discipline, mental and physical toughness to overcome adversity and achieve their goals — all traits we aspire to instill

in our graduates, who will lead America’s sons and daughters as Army officers.”

DOD Warrior Games 2016 will feature eight sporting events: archery, cycling, shooting, sitting volleyball, swimming, track and field, and wheelchair basketball in a paralympic-style competition. About 200 athletes representing teams from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and U.S. Special Operations Command will compete. Each military service hosts trials in the months leading up to the games to determine their teams.

“The 2016 DOD Warrior Games will showcase the enduring strength of our service men and women who have overcome adversity and are using adapted reconditioning to become resilient warrior athletes. They represent the strength and resiliency of this great country,” said Col. Chris Toner, commander of U.S. Army Warrior Transition Command, and assistant surgeon general for warrior care and transition.

“Warrior Games is an opportunity for the services to communicate their sacred



PHOTO BY E.J. HERSON

Army visually-impaired cycling teams finish together to take gold, silver and bronze medals during the 2015 Department of Defense Warrior Games on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, June 21.

obligation and enduring commitment to their wounded, ill and injured service members, their families and caregivers,” Toner added.

Adaptive sports and athletic recondition-

ing activities play a fundamental role in recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration of service members back to their units or as they transition into the civilian sector, officials said.

Remember gift of life this holiday season by giving blood

By Katie Lange
Department of Defense News

A lot of military families give to charity during the holidays. One they should always be thinking about is giving in a way that’s crucial to injured service members — blood donations.

The winter months are slow for blood donation centers, especially around the holidays when many service members are on leave visiting their families. But it’s a key time to donate.

“It’s a time of giving, so we hope to remind people to remember to give that gift of life,” said Navy Capt. Roland Fahie, the director of the Armed Services Blood Program, which supplies blood products to deployed and injured American troops worldwide. “We still have troops out there who aren’t going to be able to come home for the holidays and who are still in harm’s way.”

The ASBP has to keep a steady supply of blood, platelets and plasma on hand at all times for wounded service members, and it



PHOTO BY E.J. HERSON

First Lt. Nick Vogt is reunited with his unit, the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, on May 16, 2012, for the first time since the blast that took his legs.

has to be prepared when military operations or crises come up.

“We always have to be ready. We don’t know what tomorrow’s going to bring for us,” Fahie said. “Our folks are working 24/7 to make sure we can support any contingency operation around the world.”

Saving lives

You don’t have to look any further for proof of how important

blood supplies are to the ASBP than Army 1st Lt. Nicholas Vogt. Vogt received more than 500 units of blood — more than any other survivor in U.S. combat history — after stepping on a roadside bomb in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 2011.

Vogt’s heart stopped five times before he was stabilized, and he lost both of his legs. He received a majority of his blood transfusions while in Kandahar, with much

of the supply coming from more than 300 service members on post who rallied to help him.

Vogt survived and has since received the Bronze Star. Needless to say, those who gave their time to give blood helped save his life. But it’s a mission that can be challenging for the ASBP.

Clearing up confusion

Contrary to what many service members believe, the ASBP is the only outlet that specifically collects blood for the military community. Civilian organizations such as the American Red Cross work with the ASBP in times of need and will collect donations on military installations, but most of that supply doesn’t go to military members.

Fahie said it can be a challenge to clear up that confusion.

“(Service members) may see an American Red Cross vehicle or some other agency on their base, and they’re thinking they’re supporting the military directly, but they’re really not,” Fahie said. “The primary mission of a civilian

agency is not really to support the military. Our primary mission is.”

The only way to ensure your donation will go to support service members is to look for the ASBP blood drop logo. Donors can give blood at any of the 20 ASBP donation centers on military installations around the world, or when mobile blood drives are held.

Those interested in doing so can sign up to make an appointment online. Anyone can donate, but the most frequent donors are service members and Department of Defense civilians and contractors, Fahie said.

Since many military members can’t donate because of deployments that restrict them from doing so, the ASBP often looks for new donors at schools within the DOD and it focuses on repeat business.

“It makes it more challenging for us, and it does impact the blood supply and our efforts to collect blood,” Fahie said.

But it’s an endeavor he said is more than worthwhile for the heroes it helps.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Holiday Ham Golf Shootout

Silver Wings Golf Course will host its Holiday Ham Golf Shootout Saturday. Tee times are from 7-9 a.m. Participants must tee off no later than 9 a.m. Cost is \$20 per person, plus cart and green fees, if applicable. This game is individual stroke play and USGA Handicap or Weekend Dogfight points will be used. Hams and gift certificates will be awarded to gross and net winners.

For more information, call 598-2449.

Fitness centers holiday hours

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center and indoor pool will be closed Saturday through Jan. 3. During the closure, the Fortenberry-Colton Physical Fitness Center will be open Mondays-Fridays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It will be open Dec. 24 and 31 from 6 a.m. to noon, and closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Both facilities will resume normal hours Jan. 4.

Wanted: Youth sports coaches

The Fort Rucker Youth Sports and Fitness Program is looking for prospective coaches for all of its sports activities. The program offers a wide range of sports to the youth of our community, including basketball, football, tennis and soccer. Those who feel up to the challenge and think they have what it takes to lead, guide and impact youth are welcome to stop by the recruiting table Jan. 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the lobby of the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700. Training will be held Jan. 23 at 9 a.m. at the youth center gym, Bldg. 2800.

For more information, call 255-2254.

Youth spring soccer registration

Fort Rucker Child, Youth and School Services youth spring soccer registration will take place Jan. 1-31. Cost is \$20 for youth, ages 4-5 and \$40 for youth, ages 6-14. If parents pay for child by WebT-rac, they will need to call in their child’s shirt and short sizes. League ages are Training League, 4-5; Pee Wee League, 6-7; Mites League, 8-9; Junior League, 10-11; and Senior League, 12-14. A current sports physical and a valid CYSS

registration are required for participation. The children must meet age requirements by Aug. 1, 2015. There will be a parent’s meeting Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. at the youth center gymnasium, Bldg. 2800, on Seventh Avenue. The season begins Feb. 22 and runs until March 25. Soccer practice begins Feb. 8. Coaches are needed. Those interested in coaching should call 255-0950. There will be no extensions on registration. Special requests for coaches or players will not be honored.

For more information or to register, call 255-2257, 255-2254 or 255-9638.

Adult swim lessons

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will offer adult swim lessons Tuesdays and Thursdays in January. Beginner level lessons will be held from 5:15-6 p.m. and intermediate level lessons from 6:15-7 p.m. for a total of eight sessions each. People can register at the Fort Rucker PFC’s front desk or MWR Central three days prior to the start of the first session. The cost is \$40 and there is a minimum requirement of three participants in order to conduct the course.

For more details, call 255-9162 or 255-2296.

Hunting Incentive Program

In an effort to control the coyote and feral pig population, Fort Rucker has developed a Hunting Incentive Program that runs now through Aug. 31. Registered hunters who shoot 20 feral pigs or five coyotes during the 2015-2016 hunting season will receive a free Fort Rucker Post Hunting Permit for the 2016-2017 hunting season. People who trap five or more coyotes July-September are also eligible for a free permit. Hunters must be registered to hunt on Fort Rucker, be a registered participant of the Hunting Incentives Program and verify, through an outdoor recreation staff member or the Fort Rucker Game Warden, all animals shot or trapped on the installation. After verification with an ODR staff member or the game warden, hunters may remove the animal.

For more information on how to participate, call 255-4305.

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PIGSKIN PICKS



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Auburn vs. Memphis

Notre Dame vs. Ohio State

Stanford vs. Iowa

Oklahoma vs. Clemson

MSU vs. Alabama

CHAMPIONSHIP

 David C. Agan Jr. PHD (55-36)								
 Kent Anget DPTMS (64-27)								
 Todd Conyers USAACE (55-38)								
 Wes Hamilton NEC (62-29)								
 John Tkac DPS (57-34)								

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

UNITES	CEASE	ESCAPADE
REROLL	ACTED	MARSALIS
ITALIAN	BREAD	BLUSTERS
DEVALUES	CLOT	CREE
MAMA	IVE	FRENCHHORN
OVULES	CRANIUM	HOE
POLISH	SAUSAGE	BEGS FOR
SWEET	TREAD	CESTURE
ETS	IEVER	ISLET
SPLASH	JAPANESE	EBEETLE
PRIG	AIOLI	IRATE ROSA
HEBREW	CALENDAR	LOANER
EFRON	ANISE	ALB
REA SIRS	PUMAS	ABATE
ERSKINE	SPANISH	HOMELET
AGA	COALERS	EATSAT
LATIN	CROSS	END HOME
ALAS	TIVO	SOLSTICE
SOMETIME	DANISH	PASTRY
THERAVEN	IRENE	UPDATE
SASSIEST	EASED	SEATER

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

- Answers:
- Daisy Hill Puppy Farm
 - Akita
 - Sausalito
 - Massachusetts
 - Decompression sickness (also known as divers' disease)
 - Yupik, Sami, Lapon and Nenets
 - "The Addams Family"
 - Manila, Luzon
 - Mediterranean Sea (Malina, Maresia, Otrac and Venetians)
 - Flag

Security Clearance Denied/Revoked?

Don't let security clearance issues jeopardize your employment or career.



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- Security Violations
- Drug Involvement
- Alcohol Consumption
- Personal Conduct
- Criminal Conduct
- Sexual Behavior
- Foreign Influence
- Foreign Preference
- Misuse of Information Technology



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