

SAFE HOLIDAY
Reception encourages safe, sober holiday season

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MAKING A MARK
Engraving shop commemorates graduations, awards
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VOLLEYBALL
Team Roll Tide takes title as post volleyball champions
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ARMY FLYER

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

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FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

DECEMBER 15, 2011

Post honors Instructors of the Year

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Fort Rucker officials and Families came out to honor the post instructors that received the awards for Fort Rucker Academic Instructor/Instructor Pilot of the Year, at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum, Tuesday.

"You are the key to the Army's success," said Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, referring to the winners of the award as he set the tone for the ceremony.

He emphasized the important role that the instructor plays in the development of Soldiers.

"Nothing is more important to me than making sure that the highly qualified Aviation professionals are trained by [other] highly qualified aviation professionals. "You are instructing the future of not only the Army, but our Branch," Crutchfield said.

The general spoke of the individual strength and character of the instructors by quoting a former mentor.

"You cannot fake passion. You can't...because people will see right through you. Today's Soldiers

are the smartest in history and we can only be successful in keeping that capability with instructors, no matter what your rank or whether you're civilian or not, we can't do it without you— [the instructor]," he said.

The awards were given for Academic Instructor of the Year, Instructor Pilot of the Year and Flight Instructor of the Year, in four categories: officer, warrant officer, noncommissioned officer and civilian, according to Henry Spohrer, instructor programs manager.

"The instructors must first be chosen as Instructors of the Quarter before being eligible for the Instructor of the Year award," he said. "At the end of the year, the staff and faculty of the training and technologies branch do a review of the quarterly winners, and select the instructors with the highest scores to determine the winners for Instructor of the Year."

The winners of the Academic Instructor of the Year were: CW3 Philip G. Kraemer, warrant officer category; Sgt. 1st Class Adam F. Mauro, NCO category; and James E. Baker, the civilian category.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, presents CW2 Nicholas A. Missler, Officer Instructor Pilot of the Year, with an award certificate during the ceremony at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum Tuesday.

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PHOTO BY ERIN MURRAY

Breakfast with Santa

Fort Rucker Families enjoyed a morning of festive food and fun at Breakfast with Santa Saturday at The Landing. Santa discussed Christmas wishes and posed for pictures with many young guests.



PHOTO BY ERIN MURRAY

Col. Patrick Denman, U.S. Army Aeromedical Center commander and member of the CFC board of directors and host of the Victory Awards ceremony, unveils this year's total with Bev Arnold, CFC campaign associate, to the honorees at the ceremony.

CFC celebrates record year

By Erin Murray
Army Flier Staff Writer

Christmas time is a season of giving, but the Heart of Alabama Combined Federal Campaign started the giving in September, with its annual campaign concluding with a full-blown celebration at the Victory and Awards Celebration Tuesday at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.

"This is a celebration. That is why you have the party horns on your seat. This is an opportunity for all of us to blow our own horns," said Bob Crittenden, emcee of the event, explaining that contributions to the CFC exceeded this year's goal of \$1.25 million, reaching \$1,304,173, or 116% of the goal. In addition to exceeding this goal as a campaign, 30 donor groups set new records for amount pledged, 15 groups exceeded their stretch goal and 16 met their goal within the first three weeks of the campaign.

Among the distinguished guests at the event was Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker commanding general, who addressed the group with a personal message of thanks.

"I want to say thanks to everyone here – all of the volunteers, organizations and supporters. All of us here at the Aviation Center re-

ally appreciate what you've done," said Crutchfield, before unveiling the total of funds raised, a number he called "very impressive."

Crutchfield described his first experience with the CFC nearly 30 years ago, and touched on the many lives the CFC touches through its many charitable options.

"You don't have to have to go very far to learn about people in need. You can read it in the newspaper, watch it on TV or listen to it on the radio. Earlier this year, we witnessed several disasters in our own state, here in Alabama. It's personal. You want to give. You want to help others. I don't think there's one person in here that cannot open the (CFC) brochure and be touched in some way by some organization that helps mankind. That's why your generosity means so much," he said.

Bev Arnold, CFC Wiregrass area campaign associate, thanked the many groups of donors for their hard work during the campaign.

"During our training, I read a quote to you (the key workers and project officers) that said that the top people do what's expected and then some. Some of you might have seemed a little leery about whether we could meet our goal or not, and this proves that you can. I'm

SEE CFC, PAGE A7

Officials urge safe driving during exodus

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Safety officials urge members of the Fort Rucker community to take the proper precautions before traveling during holiday exodus this weekend.

"Make sure to plan your trips before you leave," said Robert Saliewicz, Aviation Branch Safety Office safety and occupational health specialist. "Mark your route on a map and give a copy of that plan to a Family member, friend or business associate as an extra precaution."

During the winter months, driving can be particularly dangerous so people should make sure their vehicles are in proper working order, said safety officials.

"Make sure to check your car out completely before you get on the road," said Saliewicz. "Many breakdowns are avoidable, especially those involving fuel, oil, cooling or electrical problems."

Drivers are urged by safety officials to check the following on their cars before traveling: battery, antifreeze, windshield wipers and fluid, ignition system, thermostat, lights, flashing lights, exhaust system, heater/defroster, brakes, oil levels and tires.

One of the things people fail to check the most on their vehicles before



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Randy Varner, auto craft center mechanic, works on a vehicle before exodus to ensure it is properly running for holiday travel.

traveling is the tires, Saliewicz said. "Until people have a blow-out or a flat tire, people usually don't realize they had a problem with their tires."

People should always check to make sure the tires on their vehicles have the proper tread and are properly inflated, said the safety officer.

"Tire tread equals stopping power," said Saliewicz. "The less tread you have, the less stopping power you have."

When driving in winter weather, he also recommends that people should

be more aware of inclement weather warnings and the hazards inclement weather presents.

"The roads will be turning icy and in some winter storms, visibility can be greatly impaired," said Saliewicz. "Make sure to have fresh windshield wipers that are properly installed to help with visibility while driving during a winter storm."

Before taking long trips during the holidays, it's important to make sure

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PERSPECTIVE

CG sends holiday message

By Maj. Gen. Anthony G. Crutchfield
USACE and Fort Rucker
Commanding General

On behalf of myself and my wife, Kim, we would like to wish you and your loved ones a joyous and wondrous holiday season. I'm sure, as we are, you are all looking forward to spending quality time with Family and friends, which may even mean a much-needed trip home. For us, it also means the arrival of our first grandchild.

As I reflect on the past year and think about this season of joy, I think about our Aviation Soldiers who will observe the holiday season in over 120 countries around the world



Crutchfield

again this year. Many are separated from their Families, and some may even once again be preparing for a deployment.

All of us who remember similar Christmas seasons in

our own lives can relate deeply to what they are going through. We also must think about those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice and their Families. We know their service was essential to our nation's well-being, and we appreciate the sacrifices they made and the sacrifices our Soldiers continue to make.

So during this season when many of us are warm, safe and happy in our homes with friends and relatives, please pause and toast all those who serve and those who never came back and their Families for all they have done and do to make this country proud.

The mission we execute here at Fort Rucker is essential to

our nation's security, and we are a critical enabler on battlefields across the globe to our Soldiers and coalition partners. We must all remember that our proximity to the battlefield has nothing to do with our contribution to the war fight.

Kim and I want to personally recognize the Fort Rucker Team for what you do on a daily basis to support our nation and our Soldiers. If it weren't for your efforts, we would not and could not succeed at producing and supporting the most highly trained professional Aviation force in the world.

We all must take time over the holidays to give thanks for our Families, our teammates, our Army and the great nation

we are blessed to call home.

I thank each and every one of you for your enthusiasm, your professionalism, your hard work and the sacrifices you make each and every day. And I thank your Families and loved ones who contribute so much to our mission by supporting you in the work you do.

Please enjoy your time away, and always keep safety in mind. We want to see each and every one of you back here in the New Year, refreshed and ready for the challenges ahead.

Again, my Family and I wish you and yours the very best holiday season, and health and happiness in the New Year. Above the Best!

Garrison commander sends warm wishes for holidays

By Col. James A. Muskopf
Fort Rucker Garrison Commander

My wife, Esse, and I would like to extend warm wishes for a happy, relaxing and safe holiday season to the entire Fort Rucker community.

This past year proved to be a great one at the Home of Army Aviation, and I thank each and every one of you for all you have done to make sure our Soldiers, Family members, civilian employees and veterans are well taken care of – you can all be proud for what you have done for the Army and our nation.

Next year promises to be full of challenges and provide even more opportunities for all of us to contribute keeping this community Army Strong and our nation's military the best in the world.

Enjoy your time with friends and Family in the coming weeks as you celebrate the season, but with your holiday cheer, please keep safety foremost in mind.

If you've been around the military for some time, you know all of these things, and if you're new to the Army, then you're going to be hearing about how to stay safe as you travel to your destination and even if you're staying at home this year, safety should always be first in mind.

All those safety sayings apply because they are tried and true — buckle up, don't drink and drive, wear a helmet, keep your speed down, don't text and drive, get plenty of rest, remain vigilant, watch out for each other, use risk management in all you do and all the others — follow them because they will keep you safe.

If alcohol is at all a part of your holi-



Muskopf

day plans, remember to have a designated driver — and be ready to have drivers on hand for your guests and non-alcoholic options for those drivers. And, if you see someone trying to drive after "just a few," do your duty and don't allow them to do it. Drinking and driving is just something you can't do or let others do — your life, and the lives of others, depend on it.

Also, keep an eye out on each other during the holidays, as this can be a stressful time for those in your Family and those you work with. If you see someone who seems to be down or in need of help, get them to the people who can help them. While many people will be all over the country celebrating the holidays, the garrison staff will remain on

point with those who can help Soldiers, Family members or employees who are struggling physically, mentally, spiritually or financially.

And if you are the one having a difficult period in your life, know that there is no shame in seeking help. We all need a helping hand at one time or another, and the Army and Fort Rucker's leadership understands this and provides numerous ways of helping people through the tough times. The help is available, so make use of it if you are in need. Seeking help is always the wisest choice.

This community is one of the best teams I have ever been a part of, and it is because of what each one of you do day after day that makes it so — each one of you is a critical part of our success. Again, have a good time, enjoy your well-deserved time off and stay safe!

Happy holidays everyone, and I hope you have a great New Year! Support and Defend! Above the Best!

Rotor Wash

“What is your New Years resolution?”



CW2 Jimmy Kafer,
E Co. 1st Bn., 212th Avn.
Regt.

“Lose about 10 pounds.”



Staff Sgt. Eugene Bullard,
6th MP

“Make changes and not to be doing the same thing.”



1st Lt. Ryan Hopkins,
B Co. 1st Bn., 145th
Avn. Regt.

“Qualify for the Boston Marathon.”



2nd Lt. Sean Keplar,
B Co. 1st Bn., 145th Avn.
Regt.

“Get more sleep.”



Teresa Kozen,
AAFES employee

“Spend less money.”

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FORT RUCKER COMMANDING GENERAL

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ARMY SAFE, ARMY STRONG.



PHOTO BY ERIN MURRAY

Guard celebrates 375th birthday

The Army National Guard celebrated its 375th birthday Tuesday with a ceremony at the USAACE Headquarters Building. Pvt. Leanne N. Creasy, junior cake cutter, and Col. Mark W. Weiss, senior cake cutter did the honors at the ceremony.

Reception encourages safe, sober holiday season

By Erin Murray
Army Flier Staff Writer

Holiday parties can be a great time to enjoy the company of family and friends, but it can also be a time for dangerous overindulgence.

The Army Substance Abuse Program seeks to inform the community of the dangers that come with intoxicated driving with a reception recognizing National Drunk and Drugged Driving

Prevention Month, also known as 3D Month. The reception's theme is "Have a Buzzed-Free Holiday: Designate Before You Celebrate," and it will be held at ASAP Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We endeavor to promote a safe holiday season to those entertaining and hosting parties as well as those attending. ASAP will provide a mocktails [nonalcoholic cocktails] tasting to give guests



ideas on beverages they can serve guests and Family to keep them safe during the holiday season," said Denise Clarke, ASAP risk reduction program coordinator.

ASAP coordinated the event as a fun way to encourage safe behavior and give the Fort Rucker

community plenty of tips for a sober holiday season.

"We understand that the holidays are a festive time for Family and friends to get together. During the Christmas Exodus, many will either host or attend holiday parties. So we decided, why not

throw our own party and give the community an opportunity to taste nonalcoholic drinks that are not boring and can be added to their holiday party menu," said Clarke.

Along with a selection of appetizers, some of the nonalcoholic drinks offered include mock champagne, mojitos, aporetinis and margaritas.

"According to the Centers for Disease Control, nearly 30 people in the U.S. die every day in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. This amounts to one death every 48 minutes. ASAP encourages sober driving because it only takes one time to get behind the wheel while intoxicated to destroy a life, a Family and a Soldier or civilian's career," Clarke said.

For those who cannot attend the event, Clarke provided a few tips that can help contribute to a safer holiday season.

"When hosting a party, make sure to offer guests nonalcoholic drinks. Have a cut off time for serving alcohol, and above all, don't make alcohol the main focus.

If you are attending a party where there will be alcoholic beverages, designate a driver in advance, make plans to stay overnight, walk to the party or bring your own batch of mocktails. [Safety] begins with the right mind set," she said.

"We invite everyone to come out to our holiday open house and see our expanded facility, while getting a taste of the holidays. ASAP wishes Fort Rucker a joyous holiday. The only way to be absolutely sure to have a safe, buzzed-free holiday is to remember if you drink, don't drive, and if you drive, don't drink," said Clarke.

For more information on ASAP, call 255-7509.

DFAS releases 2011 tax statements via myPay, U.S. mail

Defense Finance, Accounting Service
Press Release

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.— Electronic and postal delivery of 2011 tax statements for servicemembers, military retirees and federal civilian employees paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service have begun and continue through January, with all customers receiving their W-2s and 1099Rs by January 31.

For most, tax statements will be available online using the DFAS myPay pay management system (<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>) a week or more earlier than delivery via mail.

Military non-appropriate fund civilian employees receive tax statements from their respective military service. Army NAF employee tax statements are made available via myPay.

The myPay advantage

While tax statements are available on myPay earlier than waiting for an envelope in the mail, there are other advantages to using the online system throughout the year.

Availability: Tax statements available on myPay will remain online for one year. These, as well as other documents such as leave and earning statements, may be printed or downloaded for storage on computer hard drives, CDs, DVDs or flash drives.

Except during periodic system maintenance periods, myPay is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The only requirements are valid login credentials (ID and password) and a computer connected to the

2011 tax statement myPay and USPS mail schedule:		
Form/Document	Date available on myPay	Dates mailed via the U.S. Post Office
Retiree Account Statement (RAS)	Dec. 4, 2011	Dec. 19, 2011 - Jan. 10, 2012
Retiree 1099R	Dec. 15, 2011	Dec. 19, 2011 - Jan. 10, 2012
Annuitant Account Statement (AAS)	Dec. 14, 2011	Dec. 19-31, 2011
Annuitant 1099R	Dec. 14, 2011	Dec. 19-31, 2011
Active Duty Air Force, Army, Navy W-2	Jan. 24, 2012	Jan. 24-29, 2012
Reserve Air Force, Army, Navy W-2	Jan. 6, 2012	Jan. 6-9, 2012
Marine Corps Active & Reserve W-2	Jan. 16, 2012	Jan. 19-21, 2012
Civilian employee W-2 (DoD/Non-DoD)	Jan. 5, 2012	Jan. 7-15, 2012
Military VSI/SSB W-2*	Not available via myPay	Jan. 4-5, 2012
Savings Deposit Program 1099INT	Jan. 21, 2012	Jan. 21-22, 2012
Vendor Pay 1099	Not available via myPay	Jan. 20-25, 2012
Vendor Pay MISC W-2	Jan. 31, 2012	Jan. 20-25, 2012
Travel PCS** W-2	Jan. 31, 2012	Jan. 20-25, 2012
Army Non-Appropriated Fund Civilian Pay W-2	Jan. 20, 2012	Not available

* Voluntary Separation Incentive/Special Separation Benefit
** Permanent Change of Station

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Internet.

The inner circle: myPay users have a need to allow trusted individuals to access their pay documents and information. Military members deployed away from home may wish to have their spouses, parents or other associates to retrieve information for tax preparation purposes. An elderly retiree may desire to grant access to his or her tax accountant or legal guardian.

Users can establish limited access passwords for their Family members or other trusted individuals by logging in and establishing access in their Personal Settings. Individuals granted limited access to a myPay account may retrieve documents or view information but cannot make changes to existing addresses, bank accounts, allotments or other pay account information.

Security: While each pay account customer has a personal responsibility to keep their login information secure, myPay uses security tools that

surpass industry standards to keep that customer's pay information safe.

Recently, myPay was changed to allow customers accessing the system using a Computer Access Card-enabled computer to log in without using their login ID or password. This change made the system even easier to use while not compromising its security.

Savings: By using myPay, each military member, retiree and federal civilian employee saves their department or agency the cost of mailing documents. While each individual W2, 1099R or LES might be inexpensive, the overall costs of mailing millions of individual documents can become substantial.

When combined with the environmental costs of paper, printing and delivery, using myPay is one way each individual can contribute to ensuring funds are available for their department's mission, such as supporting the needs of military men and women for DOD customers.

News Briefs

Munson Heights Neighborhood Center opens

The Munson Heights Neighborhood Center is set to open today. The Family-centered facility will feature the same amenities as the Allen Heights and Bowden Terrace Neighborhood Centers, but will have a different look and feel. The neighborhood center will feature amenities such as:

- A fitness room with cardio equipment and weight stations;
- A media lounge complete with video games;
- A multi-purpose room perfect for meetings, clubs and party events attached to a fully-equipped kitchen;
- A clubroom with overstuffed furniture for reading a book or visiting with friends;
- A computer lab with multiple, state-of-the-art computers, the latest software and high-speed Internet access; and
- Outside will feature a 25-meter, six-lane pool with beach-like entry with water features, and a playground for the kids to play on outside the pool gates.

The Neighborhood Center will also house the Munson Heights neighborhood management and maintenance teams. There will be an open house for

the new center in January. Details will be announced when they are finalized.

Wounded warrior support

The Army Homefront Fund, launched on June 13 with a Memorandum of Understanding between Operation Homefront and the U.S. Army Warrior Transition Command helps provide financial aid to Wounded Warriors and their Families. Wounded warriors often face financial challenges, and the Army Homefront Fund liaisons closely with the WTC and in conjunction with a robust non-profit agency network works diligently to support their needs.

The Army Homefront Fund provides grants, not loans, for emergency financial assistance, emergency food, transitional Family housing, emergency home repairs, critical baby items, vehicle repair service, furniture and household items, local moving assistance and wounded warrior spouse retreats. Its goal is to get the Wounded Warriors and their Families the resources they need.

Soldiers can apply for assistance through its Web site at <http://www.armyhomefrontfund.org/Mafa.aspx>. For more on the program, visit the Web site or call (210) 549-4600.

Army developing next-generation helicopter

By Kris Osborn
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon and the U.S. Army are in the early stages of a far-reaching science and technology effort designed to engineer, build and deliver a next-generation helicopter with vastly improved avionics, electronics, range, speed, propulsion, survivability, operating density altitudes and payload capacity, service officials said.

The Army-led Joint Multi-Role program is a broadly-scoped Pentagon effort, including input, officials and working group members from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, other military services, Coast Guard, Special Operations Command and NASA, among others.

“Our overall philosophy from a program perspective is to leverage what we are learning from the user communities and establish what technologies will provide the desired new capability. Right now the Future Vertical Lift community is working on developing the capabilities document,” said Ned Chase, chief, Platform Technology Division,

Aviation Applied Technology Directorate, and science and technology lead for the JMR Technology Demonstrator Program.

Vision of capabilities

Building a helicopter able to sustain speeds in excess of 170 knots, achieve an overall combat range greater than 800 kilometers (combat radius of 424 kilometers) and hover with a full combat load under high/hot conditions (altitudes of 6,000 feet and 95 degrees) are among the many capabilities sought after for the JMR.

Plans for the next-generation aircraft also include having a degree of autonomous flight capability or being “optionally manned,” successful weapons integration and compatibility, a core common architecture in terms of next-generation electronics, sensors and on-board avionics, manned-unmanned teaming ability and shipboard compatibility.

“We’re trying to create a vision,” Chase said, referring to the effort to harness technological innovation with a mind to looking beyond current force technology and identifying

possible next-generation solutions in a range of areas such as propulsion, airframe materials, rotor systems, engine technology, survivability equipment and mission systems, among others.

The JMR program, which seeks to begin designing several “demonstrator” aircraft by 2013 and conduct a first flight in 2017 as a series of first steps toward developing a next-generation fleet of helicopters, is a subset of the Pentagon’s Joint Future Vertical Lift effort squarely aimed at exploring emerging technologies and best identifying the realm of the possible with respect to future aircraft and helicopter capabilities.

DOD plans to begin fielding a new fleet of next-generation helicopters by 2030.

Technology yields savings

“The JMR Program is a key part of our strategy to modernize vertical-lift capability long term. With current budget pressures, it is critical that a strong industry-government-academia team be fleshing out the technology enablers in integrated relevant con-



Conceptual graphic illustration of a potential future Joint Multi-Role configuration for the next-generation helicopter.

texts to establish a solid case for both the operational and fiscal benefits of these advanced aircraft,” said Army Chief Scientist Scott Fish.

“This team will be leveraging not only lessons learned from recent conflicts, but a broad spectrum of Army and DOD basic and applied research investments made in areas that include: engine and driveline efficiency and cost reduction, advanced mate-

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\$40 CHRISTMAS PACKAGES

Rituals

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Army: Development breaks down into 2 phases

Continued from Page A1

rials including polymeric and metal matrix composites, sensor/weapon/other payload integration cost reduction, and very high-performance aerodynamic and reliability modeling and simulation. These investments position us well for risk and cost reduction in our vertical-lift endeavors," Fish said.

JMR configurations

Planned mission sets for the JMR include cargo, utility, armed scout, attack, humanitarian assistance, medical evacuation, anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, land/sea search and rescue, special warfare support, vertical replenishment, airborne mine countermeasures and others, according a Nov. 9 Joint Multi-Role Technology Demonstrator Phase 2 Mission Systems Demonstration Request for Information.

The over-arching JFVL efforts span a range of four classes of future aircraft, ranging from light helicopters to medium and heavy-lift variants and an ultra-class category designed to build a new fleet of super-heavy-lift aircraft. The ultra-class aircraft will be designed to lift, transport and maneuver large vehicles around the battlefield such as Strykers and mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles known as MRAPs. The ultra-class variant, described as a C-130 type of transport aircraft, is part of an Air Force led, Army-Air Force collaborative S&T effort called Joint Future Theater Lift, or JFTL.

Two phases

The JMR Technology Demonstrator effort is broken down into two distinct, measurable phases; phase one includes an 18-month Configuration and Trades Analysis designed to explore technological possibilities for a new platform or Air Vehicle. Phase one also includes the design, fabrication and test of several demonstrator aircraft, Chase explained.

Phase two will be focused on trade studies and the development of mission systems. The idea is to build several "technology demonstrator" helicopters as a method of refining and informing the requirements for the new aircraft, requirements that will likely evolve and change as technologies mature and emerge over time, officials said.

The JFVL effort, which includes both the JMR acquisition program as well as the JMR Technology Demonstrator effort, is designed to incorporate

findings from a series of OSD-led studies and analyses on Future Vertical Lift directed by the secretary of Defense in 2009, including a Rotorcraft Survivability Study, a capabilities-based assessment, an S&T plan and a strategic plan.

Four industry teams

The JMR S&T effort, led by the Army's Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center, or AMRDEC, at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., has awarded "concept trade and analysis" deals with four industry teams tasked with examining the set of attributes, designs and technologies needed to build a new, more capable attack or utility helicopter, said Dave Weller, science and technology manager, Program Executive Office - Aviation.

"The real focus of JMR is to get at the three major tenets: improve the performance, improve the survivability and significantly reduce the operating cost. The next-generation aircraft will have to be a

whole lot less expensive to operate than the current fleet," Weller added. "Also, a big issue is increasing reliability and shortening the supply chain to get the logistical benefits of commonality of parts. When we did an adjunct capability-based assessment done to identify gaps, we came up with some 55 gap areas. The number one gap was reliability."

While the JMR program includes the exploration of light, medium and heavy-lift helicopter variants, the effort will initially focus on medium-lift options.

The Army's Aviation Applied Technology Directorate, or AATD, at Fort Eustis, Va., which leads the execution of the tech-demo effort on behalf of AMRDEC, awarded 18-month Technology Investment Agreements to Boeing, a Bell-Boeing team, Sikorsky and a 15-month contract to the AVX Corporation. The first phase of the process will be for the government and its industry partners to conduct analytical studies and trade

assessments designed to articulate the scope of what might be technically possible. These initial findings will help inform the specifications to describe the rotorcraft demonstrator vehicles which will then be built.

Two demo aircraft

"Right now, the plan is to go through the first phase to define what the state of the possible would be, followed by a down-select to build two demonstrators. The idea is to identify, develop and demonstrate the best trade solution that covers the attribute matrix. The government is doing the same kind of analysis that industry is doing, so we plan to compare our results," Weller explained.

Initial results from these efforts are due by the end of next year, Weller said.

"We're doing these trade studies to figure out the best way to optimize aircraft. We are working very closely with our user committees who have identified the types of capabilities they would like these

future aircraft to have," Chase added.

Building a new aircraft from the ground up is part of an overall strategic effort to harness the best new technologies, allow for the platform to be upgraded as new technologies emerge, integrate systems into a common architecture and, perhaps most of all, drive down costs.

Affordability important

Affordability is the utmost priority with the JMR effort, Chase and Weller emphasized.

"It is envisioned that some of these novel ideas may not only drive down the acquisition cost, but also allow much easier and cheaper incorporation of upgrades to the aircraft and its systems," the JMR RFI documents state.

With these Configuration Trades and Analysis studies, Army S&T has taken the lead in exploring the operational benefit and technical feasibility of advanced vertical lift air vehicles, working in concert with the Army's ac-

quisition and requirements communities, said Mac Dinning, AMRDEC aviation liaison for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology.

"While this program is currently wholly funded by the Army, other services are actively participating to define and develop a Joint Service Air Vehicle system that might replace the existing Black Hawk/Seahawk and Apache medium fleet aircraft," Dinning said.

Phase I - Air Vehicle

The goal of the JMR S&T program is to leverage the S&T needed to successfully influence the development of a program of record, Weller explained. The program plans to have an approved initial capabilities document by April 2013.

The areas of S&T focus on the JMR Technology Demonstrator program span a wide spectrum of emerging technologies

SEE ARMY, PAGE A6



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Army: Research aims to reduce manned footprint

Continued from Page A1

from composite materials to electronics and various rotor configurations designed to increase speed without compromising hover ability, Weller said.

For example, one of several existing "compound helicopter" technologies under examination is the potential use of a coaxial rotor system. With this technology, the idea is to place auxiliary propulsion technologies or "thrusting" devices at the back end of the aircraft to provide extra speed, Weller explained.

Another example of these so-called configurations is to build a helicopter which uses two turbo-shaft engines and two small fixed wings on each side of the aircraft fitted with a pusher-propeller for extra propulsion.

Tilt-rotor technology

Also under examination is the potential use of tilt-rotor aircraft technology, such as that currently used for the V-22 Osprey; with this design, the aircraft can reach high speeds in airplane mode and then maintain its ability to hover successfully in helicopter mode.

"When you develop capability like these, however, you give up some hover ability. A main focus of the

research is to look at ways of increasing speed without sacrificing the ability to hover," Weller said. "Part of the Science and Technology program is to look at different configurations."

One of the options being taken up through this effort is the exploration of multi-speed transmission capability, a unique configuration designed to increase speed while avoiding the aerodynamic phenomenon of transonic shock, Dinning explained.

"All of the helicopters we develop now are built with a single-speed transmission. We are looking at how we can leverage technology and put in a multi-speed capability," he said.

New materials

In addition, the new Air Vehicle may contain composite materials and or items now in development, Chase explained.

"We are exploring how to get the most efficiency out of the new structure that we can. One way to do that may be by using composite materials," he added.

Increasing Air Vehicle speed can shorten the response time for these extended missions or combat radius, a critical necessity for saving lives through MEDEVAC operations, and getting supplies such as food, water and ammo to forward-positioned forces,

Dinning explained.

"Current helicopter systems are designed to operate for about two hours without refueling. Typical cruise speeds of 140 knots limit the range that these aircraft can operate in," Dinning said.

Short of off-loading

payload (troops, weapons, cargo) to add extra fuel bladders, extended-range operations must rely on Forward Arming and Refueling Points, or FARPs, where fuel and armaments are prepositioned.

"The Army recognizes the need to reduce the

manned footprint of these forward operation positions," Dinning said.

Non-linear, asymmetric or counterinsurgency-type environments, such as the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, underscore the need to reduce the risks associated with hav-

ing deployed units travel to potentially hostile prepositioned locations to set up FARPs, he said.

Phase 1 will be followed by a Phase 2 extensive Mission Systems and Aircraft Survivability Equipment, or ASE S&T developmental effort.

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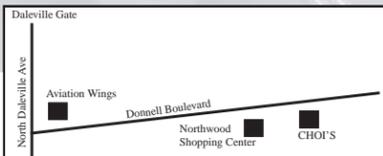
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Instructors: 'They will remember your names'

Continued from Page A1

The Instructor Pilot of the Year winners were: CW2 Nicholas A. Missler, officer category; and Daniel A. Fessler, civilian category.

Sgt. 1st Class Edgar A. Alvarado was honored with the Flight Instructor of the Year award.

"It blows me away to stand up on stage as Instructor Pilot of the Year when I know there are so many other instructor pilots that are absolutely amazing instructors," said Missler.

He expressed how honored he was to be recognized for this award because it shows that Fort Rucker and USAACE care about their training program. "They recognize the passion and dedication that every instructor has that receives this award."

"There are a lot of great instructors," added Kraemer, "especially those I've worked with at the Warrant Officer Career College, so I can imagine that the post-wide competition was tough."

He wants to encourage other instructors to get involved and to try and achieve the award.

"Other instructors need to get the support of their leadership to find out what they need to do to get this award," he said. "You never know what you can achieve until you get up there and try it."

"Instructors inspire, motivate and teach people to go forth and do great things," said CW4 Paul/M. Sivacek, 2010 Warrant Officer Academic Instructor of the Year, who later went on to be named TRADOC Instructor of the Year.

"It's very powerful, but which is really more powerful?" he asked. "The person who goes forth and does individual things, or the

person who inspires thousands to go forth and do these things around the world?"

Crutchfield also emphasized the impact that the instructors have on the Soldiers they teach.

"Every successful leader must first be a successful follower," he said. "We never stop learning, and when you exude that learning spirit, Soldiers see you and live by your example."

"They will remember your names," the general added. "For all of you sitting here today, that name will be remembered in excellence."

CFC: 'Our hard work resulted in a record campaign'

Continued from Page A1

proud of you and of your work this year," she said.

After acknowledging the more than 50 groups of donors who met or exceeded this year's goal,

Crittenden concluded the event, inviting each guest to enjoy cake and company, along with the pride of

knowing they made a difference.

"Our hard work resulted in a record campaign. Each

of us can take pride that serving as volunteers and giving as donors will help to strengthen and improve

the lives of many people," he said.

For more information on the CFC, call 255-9261.

Safe: Do not text while driving

Continued from Page A1

people are well rested before driving urge safety officials.

"Driver fatigue can be a killer," said Saliewicz. "It's especially dangerous when you're driving alone or at night."

"It's best to avoid long drives at night. The glare of lights from outside and the dashboard can increase the chance of highway hypnosis," said the safety officer.

If driving at night is unavoidable, safety officials recommend adjusting the car's environment to help stay awake by: keeping the temperature cool; turning the radio up and switching stations frequently; not using cruise control and keeping your body involved in the drive. "Break the monotony," said Saliewicz.

"People should also take frequent breaks," he continued. "Stop at well-lit rest areas or service stations, and get out of the car to stretch or have a snack."

If you absolutely cannot keep your eyes open, Salie-

wicz recommends stopping and getting some sleep.

"Staying at a motel for the night is usually the safest bet," he said, "but if you can't find a motel, pull safely off the road—preferably at a well-lit, secure rest area, service plaza or truck stop."

It is recommended to keep a phone in the car in case of emergencies, but safety officials discourage people from using them while driving.

According to Saliewicz, people with a phone in the car run a 34 percent higher risk of having a collision due to the fact that they are distracted from their driving.

"If you must dial, pull safely off the road, stop, then dial," he said. Speakerphone units allow you to talk and listen without holding a receiver, anything that pulls your attention away from the road can be dangerous.

"It's best to only use the phone in the car as an emergency aid, or to let people at your destination know in advance if you are going to be late," said the safety officer.

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DECEMBER 15, 2011

Soldier earns German medal



By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — In combat, it doesn't make a difference what language your allies speak — every Soldier who fights alongside you is like a brother, said a German who was saved by Americans in Afghanistan.

The German government highlighted that reality of war Dec. 8 when Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany Peter Ammon presented Staff Sgt. Peter Woken with the German Medal of Honor for Gallantry in Action — an award similar to the American Silver Star.

Woken's actions were instrumental in saving the life of German Cpl. Tim Focken, Ammon said. Addressing Woken's wife and two sons who attended the ceremony, he told the Family an entire nation is thankful for the actions of the noncommis-

sioned officer.

"The German government and the German people are deeply grateful for your husband and your father," Ammon said. "He will be the first American to receive the German Medal of Honor for Gallantry in Action here in the U.S. You can be proud."

Ammon pinned the medal on Woken's uniform. The sergeant, now part of the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Hood, Texas, is the first American to receive the medal on American soil. Seven other American Soldiers involved in saving Focken's life also received the medal, though it was presented to them in theater by German Minister of Defense Thomas de Maizière.

Woken had said that he views the recognition as confirmation of what Soldiers know about their comrades -- that soldiering together unites servicemen across language and

nationality.

"Even though Germany is honoring me this way, I think what they are conveying is that we are all brothers," Woken said. "This type of award generally doesn't go to Americans. It will go to Germans on German soil. We feel the same way. They are fighting the same enemy that we are, and we are all brothers."

Focken said the same — to an infantryman, uniform, language and nationality make no difference if you're fighting on the same side.

"We've had a lot of battles, and we've fought side-by-side with 10th Mountain," he said. "There was never a discussion on who is there to help who and to save who. It's basically like brothers, and if anybody needed help, nationality doesn't matter. You're there to

PHOTO BY C. TODD LOPEZ
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Peter Ammon, presented Staff Sgt. Peter Woken with the German Medal of Honor for Gallantry in Action, which is similar to the American Silver Star, during a ceremony Dec. 8 at the ambassador's home in Washington, D.C.

SEE MEDAL, PAGE B4



PHOTO BY KEITH DESBOIS

Lending Santa a hand

A U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter releases a pallet of toys, which was being delivered to Blackstone, Va., Dec. 8, as a community outreach mission. Soldiers from the Quartermaster School's Aerial Delivery and Field Services Department, which is responsible for training officer and enlisted personnel from all branches of the armed services, allied nations and civilians as parachute riggers, airdrop and sling load inspectors and shower, laundry and clothing repair specialists, participated in the Dec. 8 transportation of toys for the Blackstone community. Once the delivery was safe on the ground, the Soldiers surrounded the pallet to unwrap the precious cargo contained inside. The toys were then presented to Jane S. Barnes, executive director of the Blackstone Chamber of Commerce, for distribution to deserving families in the community.

Army activates first-of-its-kind Cyber Brigade

By Tina Miles
780th Military Intelligence Brigade

FORT MEADE, Md. — Network warfare, cyber security and the illegal release and posting of classified information on the Internet are all hot topics in recent news headlines — topics which the government, and more importantly its military, take seriously.

The nature of that seriousness is evident with the Army's recent activation of its first computer network operations brigade.

With help from the National Security Agency, Department of Defense and U.S. Cyber Command, Army and Congressional staff, the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command created the 780th Military Intelligence Brigade to support U.S. and Army Cyber Commands with their missions to provide a proactive cyber defense.

In an event that marked the culmination of years of preparation, the colors of the 780th MI Brigade were unfurled for the first time during an activation ceremony at NSA's Friedman Auditorium, Fort Meade, Md., Dec. 1.

"While normally it is enough to gather in time-honored tradition to pass unit colors to mark the transition of commanders and continuity of mission, on really rare occasions like today we have the opportunity to activate a new unit — hand-picked, spe-



PHOTO BY TINA MILES

The 780th Military Intelligence Brigade conducted its first official brigade run Dec. 2. The unit's official activation ceremony was Dec. 1 at Friedman Auditorium at Fort George G. Meade, Md.

cifically recruited and purpose built, which has and will continue to contribute to a complex fight against those who present a clear and present danger to our nation's security, while providing new and breathtaking capabilities to our Army's already impressive portfolio of war fighting capabilities," said Maj. Gen. Mary A. Legere, INSCOM commanding general.

Though fully preoccupied with two wars in the Middle East, engaged in other operations globally and confronted by resource constraints that might have been an excuse for inaction, the Army empowered INSCOM to once again build a unit in response to a specific threat — providing it with the mandate, mission and resources to form this brigade.

In December 2010, the Army

approved the establishment of an Army Cyber Brigade and designated the 780th MI Brigade to fulfill this mission with an effective date of Oct. 1.

"Never rely too heavily on intuition. It will never be a good substitute for good intelligence," said Legere, quoting a phrase from Gen. Omar Bradley. "It

SEE CYBER, PAGE B4

Mine rollers designed to blow up, save lives

By J. Elise Van Pool
401st AFSB Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — "These are designed to blow up," said Albert Bacon, indicating a mine roller mounted to a tactical vehicle.

"They really work," said Bacon, a field service representative for R4, a contractor supporting Product Manager IED Defeat/Protect Force.

Bacon helps coalition forces in Afghanistan install mine rollers on the front of tactical vehicles. He has traveled across the country providing support to Soldiers and assisting with mine rollers installations.

Product Manager IED Defeat/Protect Force is one of the more than 200 separate programs managed by Program Manager Close Combat Systems. While deployed, PM IED Defeat/Protect Force is supported by the 401st Army Field Support Brigade's Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Directorate.

The 401st AFSB and its two battalions are part of Army Sustainment Command, Army Materiel Command's operational arm.

"It's a good piece of equipment," said Spc. John Rollins, of the 548th Transportation Company. "It does its job."

That job is detonating improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, before Soldiers drive over them. The rollers are one element in the effort to defeat IEDs.

"I feel safer and I know everyone behind me is safer," said Pfc. Juan Callepiedrahit, also in the 548th.

The current model mine rollers were first fielded by the Army in 2007 to protect Soldiers from IEDs that detonate when their vehicles drive over them. Since then, there have been several adaptations to the mine rollers that allow Soldiers to adjust the equipment without leaving their vehicle.

The rollers also help prevent expensive damage to vehicles that could leave them vulnerable to additional attack.

At the end of the day it's about saving Soldiers' lives said Bacon. "Proper use of the rollers saves lives."

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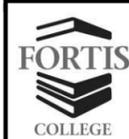
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OPELIKA-AUBURN NEWS

Medal: Soldier honored for saving ally's life

Continued from Page B1

help.”

On Oct. 7, 2010, a German ground patrol at Qala-ye Zai, Afghanistan, came under enemy fire — Focken was shot in the conflict. After receiving immediate medical assistance from German Army medics, Focken boarded an American Black Hawk helicopter, where flight medic Woken tended to the injured Soldier's wounds during travel to a military hospital.

The action in Afghanistan that earned him the award was typical of what combat medics like Woken are called upon to do as many as 10 times a day. The Soldier said he'd performed so many rescues that he's lost count.

"I had stopped counting at 357," Woken said. "At that point it was becoming kind of redundant to even count."

Originally from Tacoma, Wash., Woken said teams like his are on call for 48 hours at a time with 24 hours of down

time between. On that day in Afghanistan, his team was waiting in a "relaxed state," he said, to conserve energy until they got the call to do a rescue. Then, he said, "we went from basically zero to 100 in a matter of minutes."

"We were flying about as fast as we could go to the scene," he said. "We were told there were troops in contact. Once we got there we overflew the scene one time. Normally we will do a high recon and then a low recon. And we only did one low recon and we landed. I guess our pilot chose to not do a full landing. We took off due to safety reasons."

Woken said the crew onboard the aircraft decided quickly to land again to pick up the injured German Soldier — personal risk is not part of the equation when you are trying to save somebody's life, he said.

"A flight medic shouldn't feel like they are taking a risk whatsoever," Woken said. "You have to think that God has your back, and you have the back of

the Soldier on the ground."

Woken said the Black Hawk stayed on the ground for less than a minute before Focken was onboard. Focken had been on the ground leading a team of three Soldiers when he got injured.

"Our job was to go into the town, Qala-ye Zai, to do recon," Focken said. "We got there early so our company commander could do HUMINT (human intelligence gathering) and recon. My three Soldiers and I were on the compound roof securing the perimeter. About a half hour after we got into Qala-ye Zai, heavy fighting broke out, with the Taliban insurgents firing. After about one and half hours of intense fighting, a sharpshooter picked me off the roof."

Focken was hit in the left shoulder.

"I was talking to one of my guys when I got shot," he said. "It felt like a bolt of electricity going through my arm."

He was able to maintain order among his Soldiers even af-

ter he was shot, and his Soldiers applied aid to try to stop his bleeding. Once on the ground, a German medic tended to his wound, and then he was able to get to the helicopter.

"His attitude was probably one of the best I've seen out of any injured Soldier," Woken said. "He was still in top physical condition. He was able to jump into the helicopter even though it was 3 1/2 feet off the ground. He was able to speak with me and explain how he was feeling. And at the end of the mission he walked off the helicopter."

Both Woken and Focken were present at the ceremony — brought together for the event by the German government. The two had not been in contact with each other since Focken departed Woken's Black Hawk in Afghanistan in 2010.

"I get to meet the only person I've ever MEDEVACed from any theater," Woken said of the opportunity. "Normally I'll get my patient, I'll take care of them on the aircraft, then they

walk away. I never hear or see from them again. This morning I got to meet Corporal Tim Focken and start a relationship. It provides a lot of closure for me."

For Focken, he got a chance to say "thank you" to one of the American Soldiers that helped save his life.

"It's a great thing to say thank you personally to Sergeant Woken and to his crew that saved me," he said.

Ammon said the award ceremony was about more than just a medal. He said it was about an enduring friendship between two allied nations.

"Today is more than just paying tribute to the bravery of one courageous serviceman who saved a fellow Soldier," Ammon said. "Today we also celebrate the lasting vitality of our alliance in challenging times — an alliance that has roots going back to the American revolution of 1776, and an alliance that will remain a cornerstone of our security well into the 21st century."

Cyber: 'The challenge to our nation in this domain is upon us'

Continued from Page B1

is his spirit, and in response to a sense of foreboding, that our Army has had the wisdom to resource and create the 780th."

The ceremony also marked the assumption of command for Col. Jonathan E. Sweet, as he accepted the colors from Legere.

"August 19th, 1942, Maj. Gen. Lee, commander of the newly formed 101st Airborne Division, told his Soldiers assembled at Camp Claiborne, La., that 'the 101st has no history, but it has a rendezvous with destiny,'" said Sweet. "These men were the infantry's best-of-the-best. They were selected, trained and deployed to counter an adversary that threatened our country during the Second World War."

Sweet compared his new brigade to a more seasoned one.

"Like the 101st, the 780th MI Brigade

has no history, and was formed to counter an adversary operating in a different domain — a highly technical, man-made domain called cyberspace," Sweet added.

While recognizing numerous individuals responsible for the creation of the brigade, and those who assisted his career accomplishments, Sweet said it is an honor to have the opportunity to return to Fort Meade and join Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Hoke, 780th MI Brigade command sergeant major, to activate, command, and operationalize this incredibly special brigade.

"The first 26 miles of this marathon began in October 2002, with the activation of Detachment Meade. Since then it's evolved and expanded into the Army's Network Warfare Battalion, assembled a headquarters company and staff, and today the 780th MI Brigade," said Sweet. "As we cross this finish line and take a moment to enjoy the accomplishment,

we're reminded that it's merely a transition point, providing us enough time to catch our breath and get ready to step out across the start line for the next phase of what is actually a triathlon."

The brigade's 781st MI Battalion and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, at Fort Meade, and the 782nd MI Battalion, located at Fort Gordon, Ga., will collectively enable the unit's mission to conduct signals intelligence, computer network operations, and when directed, offensive operations, in support of DOD, Army and interagency operations worldwide, while denying the same to its adversaries.

"This [activation] is a tribute to the belief in the notion that our nation requires assured freedom of maneuver in cyberspace in this era of persistent conflict and the advent of the increasingly more sophisticated threats to our security," Legere added.

Legere added that the Army's newest brigade is fully prepared to assist Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, chief of staff of the Army, as they forge ahead in promoting cyber defense and full-spectrum Cyber Ops as one of their top priorities, and in helping Gen. Keith B. Alexander, commander of US-CYBERCOM and director of the NSA, as he continues to educate, implore and challenge our nation's leadership to take decisive action to develop and expand this kind of capability that is now so critical to our nation's security.

"The challenge to our nation in this domain is upon us. You see this every day. The future danger that you envisioned has arrived," said Legere. "And the time for the men and women of the 780th to take your place in the Army's long gray operational line as a fully resourced operational unit ready for action is now."

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www.nnorrisphotography.com

<p>Décor Divas owner Cindy Cassidy offers Custom Wreaths, Raz decorations, apparel, jewelry, sorority gifts, Ken English Alabama & Auburn Sculptures, Kringle Candles, Dylan's Candy, Itty Bitty Invitations, Artist Tree Door Hangers, Handmade Heirloom baby gowns & bibs, Girl's Miss Me Jeans & Jackets, & Glenda Gies vintage purses</p>	<p>Maggie Overby Studios Owner/designer Maggie Overby creates superhero capes and crayon keepers for kids. Handmade fabric flowers to adorn just about anything including her bright quirky pillows & rejuvenated furniture in fun punchy colors mixed and her one of a kind art.</p>	<p>Azalea Antiques and Interiors owned by Lucy Townsend, offers timeless antique pieces and classic home décor.</p>	<p>Southern Stitches owned by Haley Willette, specializes in custom embroidery including appliqued children's items, baby accessories and personalized gifts.</p>
<p>Petals in Motion owner, photographer and designer of Greeting Cards and Prints that are inspired by nature.</p>	<p>Why Knot Crochet is owned by Kristi Peters. Handmade items include crocheted scarves, hats, earrings, baby afghans, and purses.</p>	<p>Vanoli is a clothing line designed and produced by Jessie Holley Hendrix. The line boasts an array of colorful dresses for GameDay, Sorority Events, children's attire, and other Special Occasions.</p>	<p>Style ASAP Amazingly Stylish, Affordable Prices Owners Patsy Holland, Stephanie Walden, and Allison Hancock offer great gift ideas from Natural Life, original pieces, and repurposed treasures. We offer pieces for all of your home and garden needs.</p>
<p>The Purple Tulip's owner Kelley Marsh makes unique gifts personalized with vinyl. From wine glasses to beer mugs, collegiate cups to personalized ornaments for the tree.</p>	<p>Ms. Shannon Country Crafts offers handmade country decor by owner Shannon Elkins. Goose Creek candles, tin ware, and more.</p>	<p>Tyme in a Bottle Owner- Paula Teeter Offers decorated Slumped bottles.</p>	<p>Just "Gourd" geous Carole McDaniel- Handmade Vintage Inspired Bird Houses.</p>
<p>Sassy Girlie Bags Laurie Payne- Handmade Alabama and Auburn Purses, Scarves, & blankets.</p>	<p>Adorn Fashion Sangita Chabbya- Apparel, Jewelry, & Bags</p>	<p>Natalie Norris Photography Natalie Norris</p>	<p>Beanstalk Originals Jeff & Dee Hodges- Magnetic Dry-Erase boards for recipes, grocery, and to do list.</p>



DECEMBER 15, 2011

MAKING A MARK

Engraving Shop commemorates graduations, awards

From Staff Reports
Army Flier Staff Writer

The Fort Rucker Arts and Crafts Center Engraving Shop offers sublimation on just about everything that can be engraved and some things that can't.

Sublimation is the process of color printing on mugs, metals, woods and even T-shirts, according to Lynelle Bumgardner, Fort Rucker Arts and Crafts Center, engraver.

The shop is a model of continuous improvement.

"The engraving shop has changed a lot in trying to meet the needs of the Soldiers and Families of Fort Rucker," said Joan Varner, Fort Rucker Arts and Crafts Center program manager. "That's our goal."

The center's two laser engravers make the majority of all trophies and awards for the installation. They engrave mugs, pens, plaques, name plates, signs, coins and picture frames. All at a price that beats most outlets off post, said Bumgardner.

"They have everything you could want here," said W01 Boe Searight, a former flight school student.

It is tradition for Chinook classes to place a plaque in a flight line room. Searight finalized a plaque for his class last year.

"The room is full of (the plaques) we can see some of our (instructor pilots') names on them from when they went to flight school," he added.

In addition to plaques and nameplates, the shop does custom work. Sometimes the work involves more than one department at the center.

For example, the woodshop makes flag and shadow boxes, the framing shop cuts and mounts the glass and the engraving shop will engrave the glass or a plate for the piece.

"It's really neat when people come in and want something done and three departments combine their expertise to create it," Bumgardner said. "We're miracle workers."

Just about anything can be engraved.

"The most complicated piece I've done is a sword blade, I worked hard to get the curve right," she said. "The most technically expensive piece was a crystal bowl the customer wanted engraved on the curves and edges."

Making sure the customer is happy is one of Bumgardner's strong points.

"(Her) attention to detail is superb," said Varner.

To find out more about what the engraving shop can do, call 255-2444 or visit the arts and crafts center in Bldg. 9205, off Fifth Avenue.



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU



Above: Delores Chitwood, volunteer teacher at the Fort Rucker Arts and Crafts Center, shows Jesse Poole, Army Spouse how to properly hem pants.

Left: Joan Varner, program manager for Fort Rucker Arts and Crafts Center, shows a patron how to properly use a guillotine chopper used to cut frames.

Stray facility provides tips for 'forever friends'

By Erin Murray
Army Flier Staff Writer

Giving or receiving a new pet can be a great way to brighten up the holiday season, but the Fort Rucker Stray Facility encourages those looking to add a new furry family member to take caution before adopting.

"If people do want to adopt at Christmas, we always recommend that they have the permission of the person that they're going to give the pet to – no surprises. An animal can be a 10-20 year commitment," said Lisa Moore, animal health aide at the stray facility.

The Fort Rucker Stray Facility is open Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and houses up to 11 dogs and 10 cats that are strays or relinquished by their owners. All animals brought into the stray facility are held for three business days to allow owners to claim them, and are considered strays on the fourth day.

Moore noted that while there are many pets in need of homes this holiday season, potential owners should be prepared.

"Always make sure you have the time,

energy, supplies and a back-up plan before you adopt. [Before adopting], make sure that you're going to have enough time for the basic training and a yard that is secure," she said, adding that many of the animals at the facility arrive there because former owners could not provide these basics.

The winter and holiday season also causes some obstacles for pets and pet owners, including protection from the cold and proper amounts of playtime.

"[This time of year] can be a stressful time for animals and owners. Be sure that you have spare time for your pets during Christmas and a place for them to stay. Dogs are domesticated. They prefer to be inside with their family," said Moore.

If a pet must be outside during the winter, Moore emphasize that they should be out no more than a few hours at a time and never overnight. Inside pets should also be given ample attention if they must be left alone for many hours of the day.

She suggested having a neighbor visit, hiring a dog walker or doggie day care,



PHOTO BY ERIN MURRAY

Meet Titus a six-week-old male domestic short hair available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility. She is sweet and friendly. It costs \$81 to adopt Titus and other animals at the facility, which includes all up-to-date shots, microchip and neutering. For more information on animal adoptions, call the stray facility at 255-0766.

ON POST

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

Newcomer's Welcome

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

For more, call 255-3161 or 2887.

Parent Support Program

Army Community Service's Promotion Points hosts a new Parent Support Program from 9-11 a.m. at the Early Childhood Activity Center, Bldg. 3705, on Dean Street. These monthly parenting education classes are designed for Soldiers and are held the first Friday of every month, with the next class Jan. 6.

For more information and to register, call 255-3898.

EFMP information, support

The Exceptional Family Member Program invites all active duty military families that have an exceptional or special needs Family member to the EFMP Information and Support Group meeting Jan. 10 from 9-10 a.m. at the Center Library on Fifth Avenue. The topic for the meeting is "Available Resources for Individuals with Special Needs and Disabilities." The meeting and group are designed to help let EFMP Families know they are not alone and provide an opportunity for them to learn and also provide suggestions for future topics for the support group.

For information and to register, call 255-9277.

Becoming a Love and Logic Parent Workshop

Fort Rucker's Family Advocacy Program holds "Becoming a Love and Logic Parent" classes Thursdays from Jan. 12 to Feb. 23 from 9-11 a.m. at the Early Childhood Activity Center, Bldg. 3705, on Dean Street. Topics include raising responsible children, instilling values, problem solving and using natural consequences as a discipline technique. This workshop is a seven-part series. Participants must attend all classes in order to receive a certificate of completion. The workshop is open to active duty, retired military, Department of Defense employees and their Family members. The workshop will not meet on holidays.

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

Winnie the Pooh craft making

The Center Library celebrates Winnie the Pooh Day Jan. 17 with a craft



PHOTO BY NANCY RASMUSSEN

Creative Social

Deborah Cisneros, Family Readiness Support Assistant, and Sarah Geraci, flight student spouse, share crafting tips in preparation for a Creative Social earlier this year. The arts and crafts center hosts creative socials every third Thursday of the month from 4:30-6 p.m., with the next one today. The social is for aspiring artists to share ideas, inspiration and resources, and also serves as an opportunity to showcase artists' work. The socials are open to the public. For more, call 255-9020.

making activity for children ages 3-11 from 4-5 p.m. Space is limited to the first 65 children to register.

For more information or to register, call 255-3885.

AFTB Level III

Army Community Service hosts Army Family Team Building Level III training Jan. 18-19 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Commons in Bldg. 8950. Class topics include communication skills for leaders, leadership styles, building cohesive teams, managing group conflict and more. Advance registration is required.

For registration and childcare information, call 255-2382.

Comedy Live at Rucker

Comedy Live at Rucker will feature comedians Richie Holliday and Collin Moulton Jan. 20. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and the comedy show will last from 8-9:45 p.m. The show is considered adult rated and is for ages 18 and older. Advanced tickets are \$10 and are available at The Landing Zone until 4 p.m. Jan. 20. Tickets are \$15 at the door. People attending the comedy show are invited to hear the disc jockey in The Landing Zone after the show. The event is open to the public.

For more, call 255-9810.

CYSS Parent Advisory Council meeting

Fort Rucker Child, Youth and Schools Services will hold a Parent Advisory Council meeting from noon to 1 p.m. Jan. 23 at the youth center on 7th Division Road. The

purpose of the meeting is to provide information on items of interest and ideas about CYSS programs.

For more, call 255-2958.

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

Army Community Service's Get R.E.A.L., Rucker Experience, Army Learning, is an Army Family Team Building concept block designed to help those who might be confused by Army life. The class discusses terms and acronyms and provides information on Fort Rucker. The next class is Jan. 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Commons. Topics include: acronyms, Army customs and courtesies, military ranks, community resources and more. Advanced registration is required.

For registration and childcare information, call 255-2382.

Stress Management Workshop

Army Community Service's Family Advocacy Program hosts a Stress Management Workshop Jan. 31 from 9-11 a.m. at the Early Childhood Activity Center in Bldg. 3705 on Dean Street. Topics include: identifying causes of stress, symptoms of stress, techniques on how to manage stress and developing a stress management plan. Registration is required. This workshop is open to active duty, retired military, government employees and their Family members.

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

DFMWR Spotlight

December Events
Silver Wings Golf Course



HOLIDAY SALE

Dec. 16 - 24
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HOLIDAY Ham
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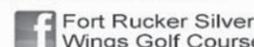


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1-Man
Golf Scramble
Saturday, Dec. 31
Tee Time: 7 a.m.



For more information call
Silver Wings Golf Course 598-2449

www.ftruckerdmwr.com



FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 15-18

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

In Time (PG-13) 7 p.m. Tower Heist (PG-13) 7 p.m. Tower Heist (PG-13) 7 p.m. Harold & Kumar Christmas (R) 7 p.m.

TICKETS ARE \$4.50 FOR ADULTS AND \$2.25 FOR CHILDREN, 12 AND UNDER. MILITARY I.D. CARD HOLDERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE WELCOME. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 255-2408.



PHOTO BY ERIN MURRAY

Noel is an adult female domestic medium hair available for adoption at the Fort Rucker stray facility.

Friends: Facility gets help from community

Continued from Page C1

crate training or owners visiting their pet during lunch time. Pets should also always have clean bedding and lots of water and food.

For those interested in adopting a pet, the pets from the Stray Facility will receive their first round of shots, microchip, spaying or neutering and tests for feline leukemia, feline AIDS and heartworms; all provided by the \$81 adoption fee.

"If you're looking for a forever friend, this is the place to go. We adopt to military and civilians, anyone on or off post may come visit us. The facility is clean and sanitary and the animals have plenty of room to play. We have a good selection of pets and competitive prices," Moore said.

Moore said that the Stray Facility gets a lot of help from the community, including many requests to volunteer. While the facility is not allowed to have

volunteers due to safety regulations, the need for material assistance is always present. Currently, the facility needs blankets for the outdoor sleeping quarters as its most needed items.

Donations can be dropped off at the commissary drop box during regular hours, at the vet clinic from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or at the Stray Facility from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information on the Stray Facility, call 255-0766.



PHOTO BY ERIN MURRAY

Pick-of-the-litter

Meet Jessie, a female collie. She is energetic and sweet. It costs \$81 to adopt her, which includes spaying, a microchip and heartworm testing. For more information on animal adoptions, call the stray facility at 255-0766, open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. 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 veterinary clinic or the commissary. 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.

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MAIN POST CHAPEL (BLDG 8940)

- Catholic Confessions, 4 p.m., Saturday.
- Catholic Mass, 5 p.m., Saturday
- Catholic Mass, 9:30 a.m., Sunday.
- Liturgical Service, 8 a.m., Sunday.
- General Protestant, 11 a.m., Sunday.

WINGS CHAPEL (BLDG 6036)

- Contemporary Protestant Service, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., Sunday.

SPIRITUAL LIFE CENTER (BLDG 8939)

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

ADULTS GROUPS

- Protestant Women of the Chapel meets every Tuesday at 9 a.m. at Wings Chapel. Childcare provided.
- Military Council of Catholic Women meets every Thursday from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Spiritual Life Center. Childcare provided.
- Catholic Adult Fellowship meets regularly throughout the year. For more information, call 255-9894.

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1 Corinthians 11:1

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Horoho takes oath as Army's 1st nurse, female surgeon general

By Rob McIlvaine
Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho, the first nurse and first woman appointed, became the Army's 43rd surgeon general Dec. 7 in a ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall.

She was nominated to the position by President Barack Obama May 10 and was later approved by the Senate.

She succeeds Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, who will retire in January.

"Over the past decade, Army medicine has led the joint health effort in the most austere environments," Horoho said. "As part of the most decisive and capable land force in the world, we stand ready to adapt."

A decade of this war, she said, has left a fighting force with both physical and psychological scars.

"We are dedicated to identifying and caring for those Soldiers who have sustained psychological and physical trauma associated with an Army engaged in a protracted war," she said, adding that the war fighter does not stand alone.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, who passed the U.S. Army Medical Command flag to Horoho in a ceremony Dec. 5 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, promoted her to lieutenant general and administered the oath to swear her in as the Army's top medical officer.

"The Army cannot provide trained and ready forces to the nation without our talented medical professionals and leaders. In everything we do, we rely on medical command and the surgeon general to set the vision for this community and have the courage to carry it out," Odierno said.

Horoho has commanded the Army Nurse Corps since 2008, when she received a rare two-grade promotion from colonel to major general.

As Army surgeon general, she will direct the third-largest healthcare system in the United States, behind the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Hospital Corporation of America.

With an annual budget of \$13.5 billion, the surgeon general manages more than 480 facilities and 29 executive agencies, many of which lead groundbreaking research efforts. She also oversees 140,000 military and civilian employees, and more than 3.5 million beneficiaries, globally.

The Army surgeon general's impact, said Odierno, extends far beyond the Army to the national and international level, collaboration and partnership with other public and private entities on research, standards of practices, national leadership in areas such as brain injury, concussive disorders, mental health promotion and pain management.

"This position requires a special officer who can lead change and achieve unity of effort in a dynamic, joint interagency and also in a multi-national role, working with our allies and partners around the world," Odierno explained. "For these reasons, it's important to pick the right person. And we are absolutely, incredibly lucky to have Lieutenant General Patty Horoho as the 43rd Army surgeon general."

"She's earned this extremely important leadership position, not only because of her incredible past performance and achievements, but more importantly her outstanding potential, as she will lead Medical Command



PHOTO BY ROB MCILVAINE

Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, Army chief of staff, and retired Col. Ray Horoho, her husband, pin the three-star epaulets on the shoulders of Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho, the 43rd surgeon general and commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Command, during a Dec. 7 ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington, Va.

and lead as the Army surgeon general," Odierno said, adding that her 28 years of experience and education will prove to be "an inspiration for many others."

"Army medicine," Horoho said, "has a responsibility to all those who serve, to include Family members, and our retirees who have already answered the call to our nation. We will fully engage our patients in all aspects of their healthcare experience at each touch point, starting with the initial contact."

"We will make the right care available at the right time by demonstrating compassion to those we serve and value to our stakeholders. The collective healthcare experience is driven by a team of professionals partnering with the patient, focused on health, health promotion and disease prevention to enhance wellness."

One of Army medicine's greatest challenges over the next three to five years, she said, is managing the escalating cost of providing world-class healthcare in a

fiscally constrained environment.

"I see these challenges as windows of opportunity for us to shape the future of Army medicine and I

am confident, regardless of the environment or the landscape, we will meet all challenges in true Army medicine fashion — with innovation, dignity and strength. Together, we will usher in the new era of possibilities."

While deployed to Afghanistan, Horoho remembered asking a young medic how he would describe Army medicine.

"He replied, 'We carry healthcare on our backs.' As we sit here today there are young men and women willing to put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. Thank God we have young medics who are carrying innovative quality and precision healthcare on their backs, regardless of risk to personal safety. This is our privilege. This is our honor,

and this is why Army medicine will face all challenges with strength, resolve and dedicated focus," she said.

As a registered nurse, Horoho earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of North Carolina, her Master of Science degree as a clinical trauma nurse specialist from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a resident graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, where she earned a second Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy.

Her recognitions include being selected in 1993 by "The Great 100" as one of the top hundred nurses in the state of North Carolina. In the same year, she was selected as Fort Bragg's supervisor of the year. She

deployed to Haiti with the Army's first Health Facility Assessment Team.

After she co-authored a chapter on training field hospitals that was published by the U.S. Army Reserve Command surgeon in 1998, Horoho was honored Dec. 3, 2001, by Time Life Publications for her actions on Sept. 11, 2001, at the Pentagon.

She was among 15 nurses selected Sept. 14, 2002, by the American Red Cross and Nursing Spectrum to receive national recognition as a "Nurse Hero." In 2007, she was honored as a University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate. In April 2009, she was selected as the USO's "Woman of the Year," and in May 2009, she became an affiliate faculty with Pacific Lutheran University School of Nursing, Tacoma, Wash.

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Thousands lay wreaths at nation's cemetery

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — As part of a tradition now 20 years old, thousands of volunteers showed up in the early morning Saturday at Arlington National Cemetery to place wreaths at the gravestones of those buried there.

This year, about 85,000 wreaths made their way from Maine to the cemetery — donations from both Americans and from wreath manufacturer Morrill Worcester, of the Worcester Wreath Company. Worcester began laying wreaths at the cemetery in 1992.

Thousands of volunteers, including civilians from Virginia, Maryland and Maine as well as other parts of the country, along with servicemembers, and young people from scouting and cadet programs, gathered in the Memorial Amphitheater at the cemetery before placing the wreaths.

Speaking to the crowd were both Morrill and wife Karen Worcester — founders of the “Wreaths Across America” program. Volunteers from the program brought wreaths to Arlington and 740 other cemeteries this year. Also speaking were Kathryn A. Condon, executive director, Army National Cemeteries Program, and Wayne Hanson, chairman of the board for Wreaths Across America.

Hanson said the wreaths were a “thank you for the service and sacrifice” of those buried in the cemetery.

After Hanson’s words, the crowd poured into the cemetery and volunteers gathered around the several tractor trailers that had carried the wreaths down the east coast from Maine. When the doors opened, volunteers passed boxes of wreaths out to the waiting crowds,

who quickly distributed the wreaths among eager hands to place on grave sites.

Jerry Gladwell, a Cub Scout master from Manassas, Va., was among those who placed wreaths on graves. With him was his son Scott, age 7, in a Cub Scout uniform.

“We do this to respect the Soldiers,” Scott said. “They fought for us to be free.”

Jerry said he didn’t know what his son and Scott’s friend Cohen, who is just 6 1/2, and also a Cub Scout, would gather from attending the event. But he said he had written down the information from the grave stone where he laid a wreath, and hoped to learn more about who was buried there. He also said many know about Arlington National Cemetery, but being there provides another perspective on sacrifice.

“For me, taking it in as a whole — it’s awe inspiring, you just don’t think of the numbers of people here until you see all the stones. There are a lot of folks here,” Jerry said.

Nearby, Spc. Tyler Ahrens, a military policeman from the 488th Military Police Company, Maine Army National Guard, struggled to get two wreaths attached to a fairly large memorial to the servicemen who had been killed as part of the Battle of the Bulge.

Ahrens had come down from Maine for the event for the sixth time. This year was the second time the young Soldier had been asked to escort to the event Sir Stanley A. Wojtusik, a World War II veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and who now serves as member of the board of trustees for Wreaths Across America.

Ahrens also escorted to the event Edith T. Nowels, member of the Wreaths Across America board, and



PHOTO BY C. TODD LOPEZ

A child from Springfield, Va., lays a wreath at a grave stone at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. This year, about 85,000 wreaths made their way from Maine to the Arlington National Cemetery to be laid by volunteers at grave stones there Saturday as part of the 20th annual Wreaths Across America event.

sister of Medal of Honor Recipient Cpl. Bud Thorne, who also fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Ahrens said it was a “great honor” to escort the two to the Wreaths Across America event, and said he was humbled by the number of graves in the cemetery that represent so much sacrifice on the part of so many servicemen and women who were as young as himself.

Wojtusik, who had been held as a prisoner of war in

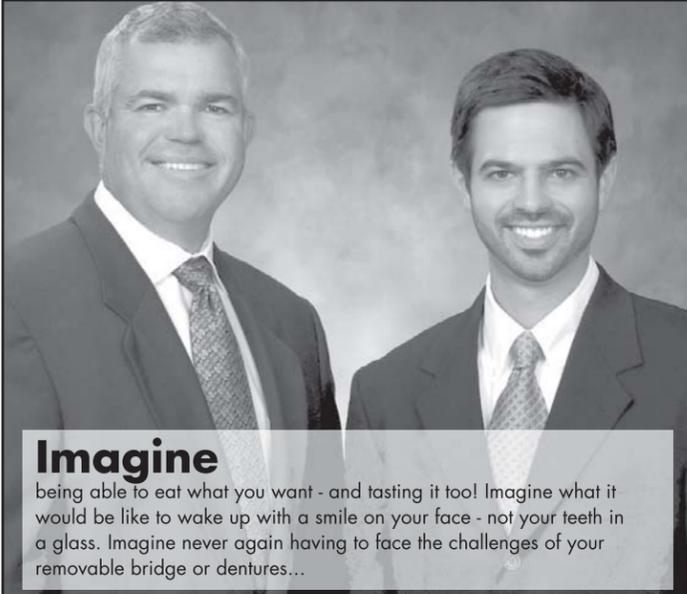
German Stalag IV-B, near Dresden, for six months during World War II, didn’t place a wreath himself — Ahrens had placed wreaths for him at the memorial to Soldiers from the Battle

of the Bulge. He said the wreaths represent a little bit of Christmas for Battle of the Bulge veterans — during World War II, he said, those Soldiers were “deprived of Christmas by

Hitler.”

But Wojtusik said the Wreaths Across America event was meant “to honor all deceased members of the services — all veterans.”

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The Montgomery Ballet Presents 'The Nutcracker'

Montgomery Ballet Press Release

MONTGOMERY — Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the Montgomery Ballet presents "The Nutcracker," a holiday tradition the world over, at Montgomery's historic Davis Theatre.

The River Region's professional ballet company promises to enchant people of all ages with brilliant dancing, Tchaikovsky's renowned score, magical scenery and colorful costumes. The Montgomery Ballet's full-length production of "The Nutcracker" has thrilled audiences since 1976, when it was first produced in its entirety.

With new choreography for 2011 by Stevan Grebel, the magical story of "The Nutcracker" will be brought to life by over 100 dancers.

Emma Slawson of the Montgomery Youth Ballet will perform the cherished role of Clara, whose Christmas Eve dream of The Land of Sweets and Kingdom of Snow will delight audiences of all ages.

Kyana Goodyear, principal dancer with Montgomery Ballet, will dance the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy partnered with Max van der Sterre, her Cavalier.

Friday and Saturday evening performances will be at 7:30 p.m., with matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$35 and can be purchased online at www.montgomeryballet.org or through the ballet office at (334) 409-0522, and there are discounts for children, seniors, students and military personnel.

Saturday and Sunday, the Sugar Plum Fairy Party will take place on stage in The Land of Sweets after each matinee performance. The Sugar Plum Fairy, Clara, and other "Nutcracker" favorites will meet and greet their young guests who will receive autographs, party favors and photographs with their favorite Nutcracker character. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the theatre box office before each matinee performance, through the Montgomery Ballet office at (334) 409-0522, and online at www.montgomeryballet.org.



WIREGRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ANDALUSIA

ONGOING — Andalusia Public Library offers free practice tests. Patrons can choose from more than 300 online tests based on official exams such as the ACT, SAT, GED, ASVAB, firefighter, police officer, paramedic, U.S. citizenship and many more. Patrons may select to take a test and receive immediate scoring. Call 222-6612 for more information.

DALEVILLE

SATURDAY — Wiregrass Tennis Association, Inc. will host free tennis lessons on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Copter Courts on post. The classes are open to children ages 4 to 18 and adults 19 and older. To register, visit www.wiregrasstennisassociation.com/CommunityRelations.html or call Carmell Corn at 439-1128.

DOTHAN

FEB. 18 — The Southeast Alabama Community Foundation hosts its annual half marathon at Flowers Hospital. SACF's half-marathon raises funds for grants given to organizations that provide services to Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry and Houston counties. For more information, visit www.sacf-halfmarathon.org.

ONGOING — The Wiregrass Museum

of Art hosts First Saturday Family Day the first Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m.

Children and parents will learn about color, shape, texture and different types of art such as painting, drawing and collage. The event is recommended for elementary aged children.

For more information, visit wiregrassmuseum.com or call 794-3871.

ENTERPRISE

SATURDAY — The College Street Elementary Choral Cats hosts Pancakes with Santa breakfast at the Enterprise City Schools Service Center from 7:30-10 a.m.

The breakfast raises money for a trip to a choir festival. The price of the breakfast is \$7 and includes pancakes, sausage, grits, eggs and a drink.

For more information and to purchase a meal ticket, call Christina Pearson at 464-1405 or email cknp1220@gmail.com.

ONGOING — Enterprise State Community College holds classes to teach English as a second language at the Fort Rucker campus Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. until noon in Bldg. 4502, Rm. 131.

GENEVA

ONGOING — The Geneva County Relay for Life meets the last Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Citizens Bank.

For more information, call 248-4495.

MIDLAND CITY

ONGOING — Residents are invited to Town Hall meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 1385 Hinton Waters Ave.

For more information, call 983-3511.

NEW BROCKTON

TODAY — Disable American Veterans Chapter #99 meet at 6 p.m. in the New Brockton City Hall. Members and guest can expect finger food, drinks, fellowship and Christmas cheer after a short briefing of up-coming DAV events. New members are always welcome. For more information, call 718-5707.

OZARK

SATURDAY — The Ozark-Dale County Humane Society hosts a Christmas open house from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information on donating and volunteering for the Humane Society will be provided, along with refreshments and treats. For directions and more information, visit <http://www.odchspets.petfinder.com> or call 774-PETS.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 7 — Dale County Council of Arts and Humanities sponsors an art show entitled "Shaping My Thoughts," featuring works by Beverly West Leach at the Ann Rudd Art Center, 144 East Broad Street in downtown Ozark.

FEB. 16-18 — The Ann Rudd Art Center will hold a stained glass class from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. taught by John Hogarth. The fee for the class is \$175.

For more information call 774-7322.

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 on 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 Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

TROY

ONGOING — Troy Bank and Trust Company sponsors senior dance nights every Saturday night from 7-10 p.m. at the J.O. Colley Senior Complex.

The complex is transformed into a dance hall and features music from the 40s, 50s, and 60s, finger foods, and refreshments.

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

Beyond Briefs

Gadsden First Friday

The City of Gadsden hosts First Friday events downtown the first Friday of every month from 5-9 p.m. Stores stay open late into the evening and there is live entertainment, special events, food, sales and local artists. For more information, call (256) 547-8696 or visit www.downtowngadsden.com.

Alabama Jammer Day

The Alabama Music Hall of Fame will honor Alabama musician Sam Phillips' 89th birthday Jan. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free event will have birthday cake and other refreshments and the Alabama Jammer, a custom-made Gibson guitar, will be officially turned over to the Hall of Fame after a year of touring the state during the Year of Alabama Music. For more information, call 242-4169 or (800)

239-2643, or visit www.alamhof.org.

George Washington Carver Day

Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, the National Park Service and the Tuskegee University Archives will commemorate George Washington Carver Day with a ceremony Jan. 5. For more information, call 727-3200 or visit www.nps.gov/tuin.

Red Nose Run

The city of Homewood will host a Red Nose Run benefiting the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Alabama from 6-11 a.m. There will be a 1-mile fun run with Ringling Brothers clowns and Ronald McDonald and participants can run or walk the 5k- or 10-mile courses. Participants also receive a goodie bag with coupons, circus tickets and more. For more information, call 205-933-8911 or visit www.rednoserrun-bham.com.

Polar Bear Dip

People can visit the Flora-Bama lounge in Gulf Shores and celebrate the New Year Jan. 1 with a dip in the Gulf of Mexico, along with other festivities. For more information, call (251) 980-5118.

Junior/Senior Music Recital

On Jan. 12, Junior and senior year students at the Alabama School of Fine Arts will perform at 3 p.m. The recital is free and open to the public. For more information, call 252-9241.

Take a Hike Events

The Jacksonville State University Field Schools has partnered with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and Alabama State Parks to offer diverse moderate level hikes each second Saturday of every month. Registration is \$5 per person, with pre-registration required five days prior to hike date. For more information, call (256) 782-5697 or visit www.jsu.edu/epic.

NORAD gears up to track Santa Claus

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON — For the 56th year, the North American Aerospace Defense Command will add the job of tracking the global flight of Santa on Christmas Eve to its mission of North American aerospace warning and control.

"NORAD stands the watch protecting the skies of North America 365 days a year, but on Christmas Eve the children of the world look to NORAD and our trusted partners to make sure that Santa is able to complete his mission safely," said Army Gen. Charles H. Jacoby Jr., who commands NORAD, as well as U.S. Northern Command, both based at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

The NORAD Tracks Santa mission "is a duty to the children of the world," he added, "and a privilege we've enjoyed for 56 consecutive years."

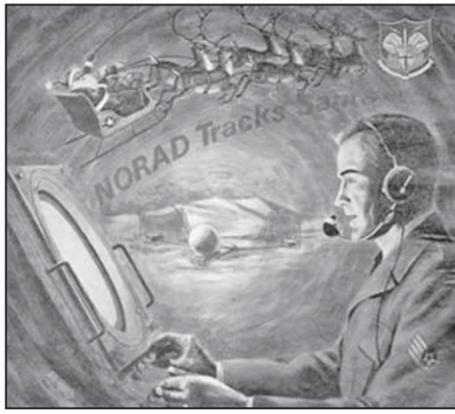
From a NORAD video of the 2010 Santa flight, a military specialist looks up from a bank of computer screens:

"Sir," he says, turning to look at the camera, "we've picked up 'Big Red' on the radar. He's entering from the northeast."

"Recommend fighter escort as he transitions over North America," the specialist adds, as the video shows an F-16 moving down the runway.

This year, the NORAD Tracks Santa website went live Dec. 1 and features a Countdown Calendar, a Kid's Countdown Village with holiday games and activities that change daily, and video messages from students and troops from around the world.

The website is available



COURTESY GRAPHIC

The North American Aerospace Defense Command based at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., will again track Santa Claus on his annual Christmas Eve flight to deliver presents to children around the globe.

in English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Japanese, Brazilian Portuguese and Chinese.

For the first time, using free apps in the Apple iTunes Store and in the Android market, parents and children can use their smart phones to count down the days until Santa and his reindeer take off from the North Pole to deliver presents to children everywhere.

Facebook, Google+, YouTube and Twitter also offer tracking opportunities. Santa followers can type "@noradsanta" into each search engine to get started.

And that's not the only technology that goes into the Santa tracking mission. To track the big man in red, NORAD uses radar, satellites, Santa cams and fighter jets.

A NORAD radar system called the North Warning System consists of 47 installations strung across the northern border of North America. On Dec. 24, NORAD monitors the radar systems continuously for indications that Santa Claus has left the North Pole.

The moment radar indicates a lift-off, satellites positioned

in geo-synchronous orbit at 22,300 miles from the Earth's surface are equipped with infrared sensors, which enable them to detect heat. Rudolph's bright red nose gives off an infrared signature that allows the satellites to detect Santa's sleigh.

NORAD started using the Santa cam network in 1998. Santa cams, according to NORAD, are ultra-cool, high-tech, high-speed digital cameras prepositioned at many locations around the world. They use the cameras once a year to capture images and videos of Santa and his reindeer.

In the air, Canadian NORAD pilots flying the CF-18 fighter will intercept and welcome Santa to North America.

In the United States, American NORAD fighter pilots in F-15s, F-16s or F-22 Raptors will fly alongside Santa's airborne sleigh pulled by his famous reindeer: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and Rudolph.

Once data is collected on Dec. 24, it is pushed into Google Maps and Google

Earth so Families all over the world can follow Santa.

Thanks to these systems and technologies, starting at midnight Mountain Standard Time Dec. 24, visitors to the NORAD Santa website can watch Santa's progress around the globe.

It all started in 1955 when a Sears media advertisement directed kids to call Santa Claus, but printed a telephone number that rang through to the crew commander on duty at the Continental Air Defense Command Operations Center.

The colonel on duty told his staff to give all children who called in a "current location" for Santa Claus. The tradition continued when NORAD

replaced CONAD in 1958.

"The [NORAD Tracks Santa] effort," Jacoby said, "could not be carried out without the superb assistance of numerous government and nongovernment contributors."

Sponsors of this year's program include Acuity Scheduling, Big Fish Worldwide, Carousel Industries, the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council, General Electric, the National Tree Lighting Ceremony, RadiantBlue Technologies Inc., thunderbaby studios, the U.S. Coast Guard Band, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Band,

Visionbox, and the West Point Band.

Returning sponsors include the Air Force Academy Band, Analytical Graphics Inc., Air Canada, Avaya, Booz Allen Hamilton, Colorado Springs School District 11, the Defense Video & Imagery Distribution System, the Federal Aviation Administration, First Choice Awards & Gifts, Globelink Foreign Language Center, Google, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, Meshbox, the Naden Band of the Maritime Forces Pacific, Naturally Santa's Inc., the Newseum, OnStar, PCI Broadband, the Space Foundation, tw telecom, Verizon and UGroup Media.

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M-F 7:00 & 9:20 • SAS 2:10, 7:00 & 9:20
iii ARTHUR CHRISTMAS - PG
M-F 7:00 & 9:00 • SAS 2:00, 7:00 & 9:00

OZARK
iii THE MUPPETS - PG
Fri 7 & 9:10 • Sat 2, 7:00 & 9:10
Sun 2 & 7:00 • Mon - Thurs 7:00
ii ARTHUR CHRISTMAS - PG
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Sun 2 & 7:00 • Mon - Thurs 7:00

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DECEMBER 15, 2011

ROLLING TIDE

Team Roll Tide takes title as post volleyball champions

By Nathan Pfau
Army Flier Staff Writer

Department of Defense contractor team, Roll Tide, took on the Headquarters, Headquarters Company 110th Aviation Brigade, Dec. 8, to take the title as post champions in the intramural coed volleyball championship.

The final tournament matchup consisted of a three-match game to determine which team would take home the post championship, with Roll Tide emerging victorious, winning two out of three matches in the final game.

"We kept our strategy simple," said Clay Craig, team captain for Roll Tide. "It's easy to get confused with six people playing if you haven't played for a long time, so we kept our hitters spread out and had our defense cover certain areas of the court."

"This was the first year any of us had played in the league, so even though there are three of us that are related, our chemistry had to build," he added. "During the playoffs, we finally got it together and played the best we ever had at the finals."

He discussed the pressure his team was



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Players square off at the net during the coed volleyball championship matchup Dec. 8 between Team Roll Tide and HHC. Roll Tide claimed the title with 2-out-of-3 match wins.

under to pull out the win because of a loss early on in the first game of the tournament.

"[The pressure] was on us to win be-

cause we had a loss by forfeit, so it was a win-or-go-home situation, but I think the extra pressure made us play better," said Craig.

In the final three matches of the game it seemed that the tournament could go either way with Roll Tide winning the first match 25-10. The HHC 110th put the pressure back on Roll Tide, however, by winning the second match 15-25.

"The other team was very good," said the Roll Tide captain. "[Team HHC 110th AB] knows the game, gave 100 percent effort and their big hitter was a key player who we focused on the entire time."

Craig emphasized the how his team worked together to pull out the win, rather than accrediting the victory to any single player.

The final victory went to Roll Tide when they pulled out a win in the final match, beating HHC 110th 15-7 for the tournament win.

"It's really hard to give an individual an MVP in volleyball because it is truly a team sport," he said. Every point matters and some people are stronger at certain things than others but as long as everyone gives full effort on each play, it usually works out in [the teams] favor. Overall, it was a good season and I look forward to next year."



PHOTO BY ERIN MURRAY

Mistletoe 5K

More than 230 participants braved the cold to run the Mistletoe 5k on the new route around Parcours Lake. Several participants dressed in their holiday best, adding to the festive feel of the run. The next physical fitness facility race is the Black History 5k on Feb. 4. For more information, call 255-2296.

So long, 2011 season

Thanks for all the bowl games

By David C. Agan Jr.
Fort Rucker Public Affairs

The 2011 edition of college football is drawing to a close. The regular season schedules have all been played, the major awards have been bestowed and all of the bowl bids have been passed out.

And so, we enter the post-season. During this time, we are sure to hear many arguments about how the majority of bowl season doesn't really mean anything, about lackluster matchups and how desperately we need a playoff system. I, however, will not be complaining. After all, we're talking about an extra month of football. It's kind of hard to complain about three whole weeks of college football games played in the middle of the week.

I will complain about one thing, though, before I begin previewing some of the more marquee-worthy matchups of this bowl season. Since January 1 falls on a Sunday this year, it means that instead of enjoying a full slate of New Year's Day bowl games we get to watch the final week of the National Football League's regular season. I can only hope that our regional NFL coverage will feature teams jockeying for a last-minute wildcard spot and not playoff teams that are resting their starters.

There will be 35 games in all this bowl season and, admittedly, there are quite a few duds on the schedule. And since some really horrible conferences (I'm looking at you, Big East) enjoy automatic qualifier status within the Bowl Championship Series, even some of the marquee bowl matchups are dead on

arrival. But for nearly every stinker on the card there is a game worth watching, so let's dig in and preview the ones that should be circled on the calendar.

The Champs Sports Bowl Dec. 19 pits the Florida State Seminoles against the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame. Both teams underachieved this season. The Seminoles were the trendy pre-season pick for a title run and finished the year with a disappointing 8-4 record. Notre Dame also finished 8-4 after enduring a painful 0-2 start and quarterback controversy that has carried on into their post-season. After losing running back Jonas Gray, the Irish may have trouble establishing a running game against Florida State's defense, which ranks No. 2 in the country against the run. The key matchup in this game will be Florida State's passing attack, which ranks No. 34 in the nation. Notre Dame's passing defense is also ranked No. 34, which could make things pretty interesting.

The Chick-fil-A Bowl, featuring the Virginia Cavaliers and the No. 25-ranked Auburn Tigers, headlines this year's New Year's Eve offerings. To say Auburn's defense was abysmal this season is understating things a bit. Following the departure of defensive coordinator Ted Roof, Auburn Head Coach Gene Chizik will be assuming control of the defense for the bowl game. On the offensive side, Auburn will be hampered by the suspension of star running back Michael Dyer, but running backs are never in short supply for the Tigers. Watch for Onterio McCalebb

SEE COLLEGE, PAGE D3

PIGSKIN PICKS



Champs Sports
Florida State vs. Notre Dame

Chick-Fil-A
Auburn vs. Virginia

Outback
Michigan State vs. Georgia

Fiesta
Oklahoma State vs. Stanford

Rose
Wisconsin vs. Oregon

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LSU vs. Alabama

 David C. Agan, Jr. Fort Rucker Public Affairs (70-28)											
 Kent Anger Plans, Operations and Mobilization Division (73-25)											
 Maj. Michael R. Ivy 1-13th Avn. Regt. XO (69-29)											
 Shane Jones Network Enterprise Center (71-27)											
 Capt. Paul McKinney B Co., 1-13th (60-38)											

DOWN TIME



T R I V I A

- LITERATURE: Who wrote the "Little House on the Prairie" book series?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the official animal of Oklahoma?
- HISTORY: By what other name did Southerners refer to the Battle of Bull Run?
- PERSONALITIES: What was the first name of pirate Captain Kidd?
- MOVIES: The film "Schindler's List" won how many Oscars?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the approximate total square mileage of land in Hong Kong?
- TELEVISION: Who played the character of Norm on "Cheers"?
- INVENTIONS: What did Robert Goddard develop in 1926?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many years did Franklin Roosevelt serve as president?
- LANGUAGE: What common vegetable's Latin name is Solanum tuberosum?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

Super Crossword COOL CHARACTERS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Composer Schifrin
 - 5 Norm de crime?
 - 10 Theatrical Joseph
 - 14 Exclude
 - 19 Way off base?
 - 20 Mete out the mine-stone
 - 21 "God's Little —" ('58 film)
 - 22 Lose one's tail?
 - 23 English talk-show host
 - 25 "The Alamo" actor
 - 27 Kitchen utensil
 - 28 Arboreal animal
 - 30 Jai —
 - 31 Trombonist Winding
 - 32 Took a shot at
 - 34 Salve
 - 37 Chinese principle
 - 38 Fit for farming
 - 42 "Ligeia" author
 - 43 Conductor Jeffrey
 - 45 Thuman of "Final Analysis"
 - 48 Southern staple
 - 50 PC key
 - 52 Make wine divine
 - 55 Drives and drives?
 - 58 '87 Warren Beatty film
 - 60 Word game
 - 65 Ol' Blue Eyes' birthplace
 - 67 Church area
 - 68 Apple variety
 - 69 Mauna —
 - 70 Coeur d'—, ID
 - 71 Skater Midori
 - 72 Actress Nell
 - 73 "The King and I"
 - 74 Subordinate to
 - 75 "It Was a Good Day" rapper
 - 78 Pithy
 - 80 Hazell's boss
 - 81 Add color
 - 83 Quiet — mouse
 - 84 Jeweler's weight
 - 85 Novelist
 - 86 "— homo"
 - 87 Neighbor of Neb.
 - 88 Author France
 - 91 Film site
 - 93 Forceful
 - 95 Neiman or Anderson
 - 96 — Dinh
 - 97 Broadway letters
 - 99 Director von Stroheim
 - 101 Curly poker?
 - 102 Singer Woolley
 - 106 TV's "My — Dads"
 - 108 Swift savages
 - 111 — Cob, CT
 - 114 Strauss opera
 - 117 Japanese porcelain
 - 120 Recite a soliloquy
 - 121 Pants measurement
 - 122 Addis —
 - 126 Mythical weeper
 - 128 "Poetry Man" singer
 - 132 "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure" star
 - 134 A Muse
 - 135 California resort
 - 136 Become boring
 - 137 Warty one
 - 138 Talk out of
 - 139 Fluff the flour
 - 140 Used a whetstone
 - 141 Humorist Bombeck
- DOWN**
- 1 The Four —
 - 2 Expect
 - 3 Sweetheart
 - 4 "Twelfth Night" role
 - 5 Landon or Kjellin
 - 6 Ulrich of Metallica
 - 7 Matinee —
 - 8 As well
 - 9 Brief brawl
 - 10 Part of PST
 - 11 Cologne cry
 - 12 Paris' pop
 - 13 Small shot
 - 14 One of the Clintons
 - 15 Yalie
 - 16 Like some sweaters
 - 17 Dwight's competition
 - 18 Varnish ingredient
 - 24 Mailer's "The — Park"
 - 26 Natalie's sister
 - 29 With-it
 - 33 Mr. Hammar-skjold
 - 35 — Dame
 - 36 It's in the bag
 - 39 Feta marinade
 - 40 Fleur-de-—
 - 41 Racial
 - 44 Jug part
 - 45 "Gross!"
 - 46 Bovine bellow
 - 47 "Wozzeck" composer
 - 49 Chihuahua or Tabasco
 - 51 Freighter
 - 53 "My Little Margie" star
 - 54 Ham up
 - 57 "Hamlet"
 - 56 Pleat
 - 57 Singer Davis
 - 59 Guacamole base
 - 61 This instant
 - 62 "The Kitchen God's Wife" author
 - 63 Common
 - 64 Cul-de-—
 - 66 Physicist Fermi
 - 74 Metropolitan
 - 75 Stuff
 - 76 Grammari-an's concern
 - 77 High-rise building?
 - 79 Be important
 - 80 Irate
 - 82 Member of the mil.
 - 84 Snag
 - 87 Crab's expression
 - 89 Card game
 - 90 Spud bud
 - 92 Ring stats
 - 94 Long or Peeples
 - 98 Hwy.
 - 100 — polloi
 - 103 Port
 - 104 New York county
 - 105 Met men
 - 107 Slangy suffix
 - 109 Word form for "all"
 - 110 Sault — Marie, MI
 - 111 Like Batman
 - 112 Paint pigment
 - 113 Summer ermine
 - 115 Dog star
 - 116 Humiliate
 - 118 Turbine part
 - 119 Steal support
 - 123 Palo —, CA
 - 124 Comic Orson
 - 125 Ferris-wheel feature
 - 127 The Valkyries' mom
 - 129 When Sattie sweltered
 - 130 Klutz
 - 131 Humor
 - 133 Tie the knot

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
 ★★★ HOO BOY!

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See Page D3 for this week's answers.

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

KID'S CORNER

Puzzle Card

Place five small pieces of paper close together on the back of someone's hand.

Now bet them that they can't blow them away, one by one. They will almost always blow two or more away at a time.

Illustrated by David Coulson

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

Answers: 1. Abbot 2. Bizar 3. Bacon 4. Croone 5. Tenet.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A PACK OF "CURS"

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

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

Answers: 1. Curt 2. Curse 3. Curtain 4. Curator 5. Curtail 6. Curled 7. Curtsey 8. Curious 9. Curbside.

Wishing Well

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

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

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Window curtains have changed 2. Palmans have no pink dots 3. Nightgown has black bow 4. Mug is different 5. More chairs in hall 6. Box is different

Week 14: Survival, Darwin Awards for playoff hopefuls

By Jim Hughes
Command Information Officer

Week 14 was largely a week of survival for teams with playoff hopes, with notable exceptions being the Packers, who were absolutely dominant once again, and Dallas and Chicago, who should both earn Darwin Awards for the dramatic deaths of their playoff hopes on Sunday.

At least the Bears can claim devastating injuries to key players as a partial alibi, while also taking credit for their own amounts of stupidity, mainly in the form of Marion Barber, who must've forgotten he is no longer a Cowboy since he went brain dead late in a big December game and then fumbled in overtime. Tony Romo and Co. must be proud of their former teammate.

How 'bout them Cowboys? Well, they can only claim self-inflicted wounds and rampant stupidity as they continue their traditional December swoon with an epic collapse against the Giants Sunday night. Can't let the playoffs get in the way of a winter vacation in the tropics, eh Cowboys?

They might also ask defensive coordinator Rob Ryan to pay attention during the game instead of flipping his admittedly impressive hairdo and tearing off his headphones and randomly yelling at apparently no one in particular.

If a team keeps smoking your blitz for big yardage and scores, you might want to tone it down a little. You know, Rob, that whole thing about insanity and expecting different results from doing the same thing over and over? Especially if a member of your secondary can't be found within 20 yards of a Giants receiver on a routine basis.

Hey, at least the Cowboys don't need to call on Romo to throw pick-sixes or fumble late in the game to lose anymore. The 'Boys are well rounded when it comes to blowing big games.

And, someone needs to let Dallas kicker Dan Bailey know that extensive scientific research concludes that icing a kicker does not work, because it works on him 100 percent - even when it is his own coach. "Ice, Ice Bailey!"

On the survival side, the Saints survived a close one in Tennessee, 22-17, to earn

its fifth straight win. Couple that with San Francisco's loss to Arizona, and you have the Saints in good position to earn a first-round bye in the playoffs, especially since the Steelers are next up on the 49ers' schedule.

Also in survival mode was Not-So-Hotlanta, as the Falcons fell behind the Carolina Panthers at halftime 23-7, but rallied for 24 unanswered points to get the win. This sets up the Falcons with a great shot at the wildcard since, with the exception of a Saints matchup at home, their schedule is easy, Chicago is reeling and Dallas is, well, Dallas.

Detroit cut down on stupid penalties and scored two touchdowns on defense to survive hosting the Vikings, 34-28. The Lions weren't exactly impressive, but a win is a win, and they needed a win to keep their wildcard hopes alive.

Congratulations are in order for the Houston Texans, who clinched the franchise's first playoff appearance and division crown all in the same day by downing the Bengals 20-19. This season could've been a wash for the Texans when quarterbacks No. 1 and

No. 2 went down in consecutive weeks, but third stringer T.J. Yates looks like the best backup to the backup in the league. Houston might make some noise in the playoffs after all.

As Houston clinched, Cincinnati saw its playoff hopes circling the drain. The Bengals need the Jets to collapse in the final three weeks, while keeping ahead of Tennessee and Oakland for that last wildcard spot - Pittsburgh or Baltimore have the remaining spot, depending on who wins the AFC North.

Props to the Bengals on a surprisingly good season, but they really lose style points for sticking Yates' Family in the upper deck for the game. Sometimes taunting the enemy doesn't work out so well.

There was a lot of survival taking place in Washington, too, but of course it wasn't the Redskins - they don't survive anything. The Patriots did survive their trip to their country's capital, though, 34-27, despite trying not to on several occasions. This game even featured a red zone turnover by Tom Brady, which shocked offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien so much (while probably secretly delighting

him for finally having a reason to say something negative to the star quarterback) he wanted to fight the QB on the sideline.

The exchange between the two was great, but nothing in this game compared to tight end Rob Gronkowski and his "I'm Bo Jackson in Tecmo Bowl" impression. The 6-foot, 6-inch, 265-pound receiver trampled numerous Redskin defenders while others harmlessly bounced off him like common thugs off Super Man.

And of course, what would talk of survival be without a Denver Bronco mention. Da' Bears got Tebowed! Tim Tebow and the Broncos did it again.

Denver's recipe for success: add 11 cups of offensive floundering, mix with 11 cups of awesome defense and cook for three and a half quarters. Then mix in three or four teaspoons of stupid plays by the opposition, activate the Unstoppable Tebow mode of the as-seen-on-TV Magic Gridiron Incredotron, and shake and bake for a half quarter, or turn the dial to overtime if necessary. And don't forget the long-range hotshot kicker topping.

Tebow may cost more than \$29.99 and you don't get two when you draft now, but the Broncos lead the AFC West. No one, except maybe Tebow himself, could've predicted that when the team handed him the reins when they were 2-4.

Something that is not magical is the Packers. They're just awesome. As I've said before, doing my impression of Mr. Obvious, they score as much as they want to score, and no one can do anything about it.

They scored a 46-16 win against Oakland, and now it becomes a matter of if they chase the never-been-done 19-0 mark and keep their starters in, or if they take Sunday's injury to wide receiver Greg Jennings as a warning sign and start resting people to ensure the health of the team going into the playoffs.

The Super Bowl should be the main goal, but being the first to do the 19-0 thing has to be an alluring objective. If any team could do the 19-0 thing, it is this year's Packers. It would be a shame, though, to go 16-0, lose Aaron Rodgers on the last day and get whacked by the Lions in the playoffs. Yikes!

College: Jan. 2 gridiron line-up promises a 'fantastic day of football'

Continued from Page D1

and freshman Tre Mason to do well against Virginia's mediocre run defense.

Jan. 2 is going to be a fantastic day of football. Kicking off at noon is the Outback Bowl, featuring the No. 16-ranked Georgia Bulldogs against the No. 17-ranked Michigan State Spartans. Both teams are coming off losses in their respective conference championships. Michigan State will be without senior defensive tackles Kevin

Pickelman and Jonathan Strayhorn who are out with knee injuries. The last time these two teams met was in the Capital One Bowl after the 2008 season, which Georgia won 24-12.

Later in the day is the "Granddaddy of Them All," the Rose Bowl, in Pasadena, Calif. I am not a huge fan of the Big 10 Conference or the PAC-12 Conference, but I can't wait for this matchup between the No. 5-ranked Oregon Ducks and the No. 10-ranked Wisconsin Badgers. There is a lot going on in this

game. Oregon features a dynamic offense and incredible team-speed. The Badgers have a very successful, very balanced offense. Between Oregon's LaMichael James and Wisconsin's Montee Ball there will be some fantastic running on display. This is a can't-miss bowl game.

But there's more! After the Rose Bowl, be sure to tune in to the Fiesta Bowl featuring quarterback Andrew Luck and the No. 4-ranked Stanford Cardinal against the latest victim of the BCS, the No. 3-ranked Oklahoma State Cow-

boys. The Cowboys will be looking to prove they deserved a shot at the BCS national championship. That may prove to be an advantage for the Cardinal, though, if Oklahoma State's disappointment has an effect on their ability to play. It will be interesting to see whether or not Oklahoma State's defense, who did a fantastic job against the Oklahoma Sooners in the Bedlam game, can keep Andrew Luck under wraps.

Finally, on Jan. 9, we have the BCS National Championship

Game between the No. 1-ranked LSU Tigers and the No. 2 Alabama Crimson Tide. This column has covered the LSU/Alabama saga fairly extensively over the course of this season, so there isn't really a reason to rehash things. What you got on Nov. 5 is pretty much what you can expect on Jan. 9. While I think an LSU vs. Oklahoma State matchup might have been more appealing, I am looking forward to another defensive showdown between these two Southeastern Conference titans.

PIGSKIN PICKS

	Dolphins @ Buffalo	Seahawks @ Chicago	Lions @ Oakland	Patriots @ Denver	N.Y. Jets @ Philadelphia	Browns @ Arizona	Steelers @ San Francisco
Jim Hughes Fort Rucker Public Affairs (65-33)							
Master Sgt. Jimmy Lindsey DPTMS NCOIC (62-36)							
Erin Murray Army Flier Staff Writer (68-30)							
Capt. Mike Simmons Directorate of Public Safety (69-29)							
Sharon Storti Network Enterprise Center (65-33)							

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TRIVIA

Answers

- Laura Ingalls Wilder
- Buffalo
- Manassas
- William
- Seven
- 407
- George Wendt
- Liquid-fuel rocket
- 12 years, 42 days
- Potato

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

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

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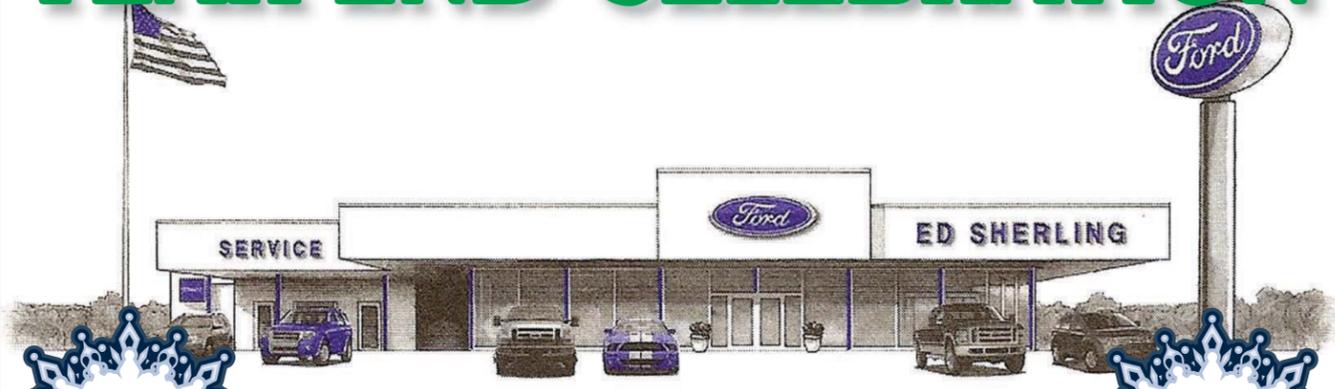
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