

EFFECTIVE MARCH 19, OPERATING HOURS FOR FAULKNER GATE ARE  
**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
**4:30 AM - 8:30 PM**  
 CLOSED WEEKENDS, HOLIDAYS AND DONAS  
 PLEASE PLAN TRAVEL ACCORDINGLY.

## SMALL GESTURES

Military Spouse of the Year says better to give than receive

Story on Page C1



## CHAMPS

1-11th Avn. Champs earn moniker, title

Story on Page D1



# ARMY FLYER

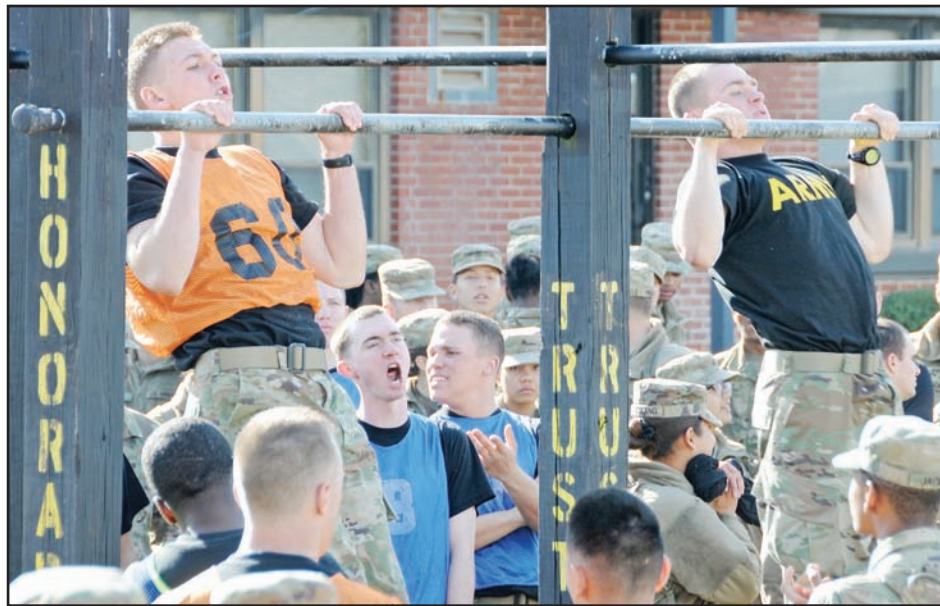
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FORT RUCKER ★ ALABAMA

MARCH 15, 2018

# PUT TO THE TEST



Soldiers participate in the pull-up portion of the AIT Warrior competition Saturday.



PHOTOS BY NATHAN PFAU

Pvt. Rebecca Sarmiento, A Co. 1-13th Avn. Regt., takes part in the 25-meter Humvee push with her team during the AIT Warrior Challenge Saturday.

## AIT Warrior Challenge all about teamwork, pushing limits

By Nathan Pfau  
 Army Flier Staff Writer

Soldiers are only as strong as their brothers and sisters in arms, and for one group of advanced individual training Soldiers, learning how to work together helped them overcome obstacles.

Thirty-six Soldiers in six teams took part in the A Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment, Warrior Challenge Saturday as a means to not only test the Soldiers' physically, but to see how well they could work as a team, according to 1st Lt. Lucero Melendez A Co., 1-13th Avn. Regt., company executive officer.

"It's all about support and for them to see all the benefits that come out of it," said Melendez. "They should have really come to realize what teamwork actually looks like, and also spend some time working on their weaknesses and where to apply their strengths – it's all about teamwork."

The competition consisted of

a reverse Army Physical Fitness Test, obstacle course, Humvee push and ruck march. During the APFT, each Soldier had to take part in a 2-mile run, as well as perform two minutes of pushups and sit-ups.

Following the reverse APFT, the teams headed over to the NCO Academy to take on the obstacle course that consisted of a bear crawl through sand, a reverse climb, tire run, wall climb and rope climb. Immediately after the course, each team member took part in a pull-up competition.

The competitors then headed over to Beaver Lake for the 25-meter Humvee push, and immediately had to transition into a 4-mile ruck march wearing 25-pound packs.

"This was focused on building esprit de corps and building teamwork among the ranks," said the company commander. "We want to get the Soldiers to learn how to work together with each other – it builds up unit morale and unit cohesion."

Of the six teams that compet-

**W**e want to get the Soldiers to learn how to work together with each other – it builds unit morale and unit cohesion."

— 1ST LT. LUCERO MELENDEZ, A CO., 1-13TH AVN. REGT., COMPANY EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ed, one team came out on top: the Black team, which consisted of Pvs. 1st Class, Jeffrey Ramos and Christian Ramos; and Pvs. Justin Mabry, Tristen Palmer, Jeremy Younger and Rebecca Sarmiento.

For many of the team members, competing in the competition was about being able to set goals and achieve them.

"I'm always looking to achieve that next goal, so for this competition I was looking to push myself a little bit further," said Jeffrey. "I hadn't pushed myself

since basic training, so I wanted to push myself a little bit more to achieve that extra step."

"I just saw this as an opportunity and I jumped at it," added Christian. "We heard about this challenge, so I figured it would be a good place to make my mark to set a footprint, set a goal and set something I can surpass."

Although each of the Soldiers started the competition individually with the APFT, they quickly realized that without their teammates, they wouldn't be able to pull out a win.

"It doesn't really matter who you know, it's just a matter of what the goal is, and if you all work together you can achieve the same goal," said Mabry. "In my Army career, I'll see a lot more challenges, and this was a good way to test myself and see how far I can go."

"Coming together as a team is really important and I think the most difficult challenge was in fact the ruck march," added Sarmiento. "We were able to (get through that) because we

were able to come together as a team. It was not easy. My legs were hurting and you definitely felt the whole competition before that, but just the ability to come together as a team. We started as six individuals, but came together to form one team, and that really helped us succeed in the competition."

Each winner was presented a coin and a certificate of achievement by Col. Jason Miller, 1st Aviation Brigade commander, and Lt. Col. Kevin E. McHugh, 1-13th Avn. Regt. commander. Each competitor was also presented with certificates of achievement, which were worth five promotion points.

"I've (witnessed) about five of these competitions and this is probably the best one that I have seen," said McHugh. "This is all about collective effort. We started off with individual events and ended up with teams working together as a team, and that is what this is all about. That's why you're all here – teamwork. All of you did a great job."

## PII violations can carry stiff penalties

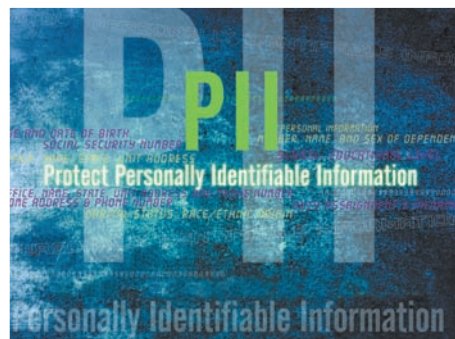
Army Flier  
 Staff Reports

Protecting personally identifiable information can become increasingly difficult as more information and services shift to the online world, but Fort Rucker officials want to remind people that it still comes down to personal responsibility.

PII is any combination of information that can be used to identify a person, according to Sean Sparks, director of Fort Rucker Directorate of Human Resources.

One of the most familiar PII violations is identity theft, said Sparks, adding that when people are careless with information, such as Social Security numbers and people's date of birth, they can easily be-

SEE PII, PAGE A7



DOD GRAPHIC

## LIFE-SAVING TRAINING

School of Aviation Medicine conducts MASCAL exercise

By Nathan Pfau  
 Army Flier Staff Writer

Some of the most stressful situations imaginable just come with the job for flight medics, and the staff at the U.S. Army School of Aviation Medicine makes sure its Soldier students are adequately trained to take on any situation.

Thirty-two students from USASAM's Class 18-174 recently took part in a mass casualty exercise as the culminating portion of their training that put the medics' skills to the test in an atmosphere of chaos, according to Sgt. Gaston Garcia, USASAM flight paramedic instructor.

The Soldier-students come from all over to complete the final stage of their training as a flight medic, with the MASCAL exercise testing their knowledge in a real-world scenario, Garcia said.

"These students are coming down here from Joint Base San Antonio (Texas) where they had six months of



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

Spc. Sarah Hanna (center), student from Knoxville, Tenn., provides patient care to a mannequin during a mass casualty exercise for USASAM March 2.

paramedic training, as well as three months of critical care training, so they come here with a vast knowledge of their medical expertise," said Garcia. "This is the final phase of their pipeline and we kind of operationalize the medicine portion of it – how to treat patients in a confined area."

The exercise itself exposes the students to a hectic scenario where they must treat three or more patients, as well as exposes them to the stressors of patient triage, in-flight patient care, patient treatment and how to control the scene in a chaotic situation.

During the scenario, the

flight medics were called to assist in an event where multiple injuries were reported. From the initial report, they had to board a UH-60 Black Hawk that took them to the point of injury, and during the initial flight were briefed on the event, which would

SEE TRAINING, PAGE A7



# PERSPECTIVE

## Attorney discusses credit score protection

By Capt. Paul Ferguson  
Fort Rucker Office of the Staff Judge  
Advocate Legal Assistance Attorney

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau reports that it has received a number of complaints from service members who reported damage to their credit reports because of identity theft or other misuse of their accounts while they were on active duty.

While the CFPB has received hundreds of these complaints, few consumers reported initiating an Active Duty Alert prior to leaving for active duty.

Here is a guide for how service members can protect themselves from harm by initiating one of the following credit alerts.

### WHAT ALERTS ARE AVAILABLE?

- Active Duty Alert.
- Initial Alert.
- Extended Alert.

Each of these alerts notifies users of your credit report of the potential for fraud or identity theft. The lender will have to take reasonable steps to verify the identity of someone who requests new credit in your name before they can approve it. New credit includes opening a new line of credit in your name – except for an open-end credit plan, such as a credit card – issuing an additional card on one of your existing credit accounts, or increasing your credit limit. If the lender does not verify the requester's identity, it will not approve the request.

You should be aware that these alerts do not prevent you from adding to the balance on an existing line of credit or credit card within your existing credit limit.

### ACTIVE DUTY ALERT

This alert is available to you if you are in the military on active duty and are assigned to service away from your usual duty station. The alert notifies credit reporting companies of your military status, which limits new credit offers while you're away. It works by notifying lenders that you have an alert on your credit file and they must take reasonable steps to verify the requester's identity before approving new credit.

The alert lasts twelve months -- unless you remove it sooner. Your name will be removed for two years from nationwide credit reporting companies' pre-screening lists for credit offers and insurance – unless you request otherwise.

### INITIAL FRAUD ALERT

This alert is available to you if you have a good-faith suspicion that you have been or will be a victim of identity theft or fraud. This alert is a good first step if you're worried that your identity has or will be stolen. You don't have to wait until identity theft happens to initiate this alert. It works by notifying lenders that you have an alert on your credit file and they must take reasonable steps to verify the requester's identity before approving new credit.

This alert lasts 90 days – unless you remove it sooner. You also have a right to

one free consumer report from each of the nationwide credit reporting companies, in addition to the free annual report all consumers may request.

### EXTENDED FRAUD ALERT

This alert is available to you if you actually have been a victim of identity theft and have filed a qualifying identity theft report with one of the nationwide credit reporting companies. If you have been a victim of identity theft, you may create a qualifying report online, by visiting [www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov). This alert requires lenders to contact you before approving new credit for you. It also gives you the right to request two free credit reports while limiting new credit offers. This alert works by notifying lenders that you have an alert on your credit file, and, if you provided a phone number or other contact method, they must use this information to verify the credit requester's identity – or verify the requester's identity in person – before approving new credit.

This alert lasts for seven years – unless you remove it sooner. You also have a right to two free consumer reports during the first 12 months after adding the alert to your account from each of the nationwide credit reporting companies. This is in addition to the free annual report all consumers are entitled to.

To add an alert, you can call, go online, or write to any one of the three largest nationwide credit reporting companies – Equifax, TransUnion or Experian. You will be required to verify your identity.

Once you place an alert with one nationwide credit reporting company, the alert will be added to your credit report with the other companies. You can remove any of these alerts by using the same method you used to initially add the alert, and it's free to place and remove these alerts. After contacting one company, you don't have to contact the others. You can reach Equifax by calling 800-525-6285, Experian by calling 888-397-3742, and Transunion by calling 800-680-7289.

### WHAT IF I WANT MORE PROTECTION?

The above alerts provide notice to lenders about potential fraud activity but do not fully prevent access to your credit file. If you want to completely prohibit the release of your credit file to potential new lenders, you may want a security freeze. The security freeze will stop these lenders from access to your credit file, which would prevent the approval of new credit.

Requirements and small charges for a security freeze vary by state, and you have to take affirmative steps to lift the freeze when you want to use your credit record. More information about credit freezes is available at: [www.consumerfinance.gov](http://www.consumerfinance.gov).

For additional information about credit alerts, visit the CFPB website at [www.consumerfinance.gov](http://www.consumerfinance.gov).

For those who qualify for legal services, you may also seek help by contacting the Fort Rucker Judge Advocate General's Corps Legal Assistance Office by calling 255-3482.

## Rotor Wash

“Volunteers are integral to any military installation, and Fort Rucker has a myriad of volunteer opportunities for people to explore. Why do you feel it's important to volunteer in your community?”



Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Ashendorf, HHC, 1-223rd Avn. Regt.

“(Volunteerism) in the Army shows that we're just actual people.”



Michelle Wayt, military spouse

“(Volunteer) services are good resources for military families.”



Stacie Pettis, civilian

“Taking care of each other is the most important thing we have.”



Lily Lane, military spouse

“It helps other people and it's good for people to get out and do something besides staying at home. It's better to get out and be (active).”



Sgt. Jordan Martinez, Fort Rucker

“It's about being part of something bigger than themselves.”

### COMMAND

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If you would like to contact the Army Flier by e-mail, please contact the editor at [jhughes@armyflieger.com](mailto:jhughes@armyflieger.com).

## ACE suicide intervention

### Ask your buddy

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

### Care for your buddy

- Remove any means that could be used for self-injury.

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

### Escort your buddy

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



# DUE RESPECT

## Joint Staff approves Humanitarian Service Medal for hurricane response

By Lisa Ferdinando  
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — Eligible military members who served in disaster relief efforts for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma or Maria are to receive the Humanitarian Service Medal.

The Joint Staff recently approved the military honor for qualified members in any branch of the armed services. The military departments are responsible for determining individual eligibility. Service members are advised to direct any questions to their respective military department.

For Hurricane Harvey, the award period starts Aug. 23 and ends Oct. 31 for the geographic area of Texas and Louisiana.

The Texas counties are Aransas, Austin, Bastrop, Bee, Bra-

zoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Karnes, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Tyler, Victoria, Waller and Wharton.

The Louisiana parishes are Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Natchitoches, Rapides, Sabine, Vermilion and Vernon.

For Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the dates for eligibility run from Sept. 8 to Oct. 20, and cover the state of Florida and the Caribbean Sea and adjacent waters from Barbados northward to Anguilla, and then westward to the Florida Straits.



PHOTO BY MARINE SGT. IAN LEONES

Sgt. Delton Reynolds, a flight engineer with Joint Task Force Leeward Islands, joins a chain with local residents and members of the Jamaican defense force to unload relief supplies from a CH-47 Chinook at Wotten Waven, Dominica, Oct. 3. The Joint Staff has approved award of the Humanitarian Service Medal for eligible service members who participated in 2017 hurricane relief efforts.

## Service secretaries: People most important part of DOD's success

By Lisa Ferdinando  
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — Speaking at a forum Monday on issues surrounding the president's fiscal year 2019 defense budget request, the three service secretaries agreed that the Defense Department's most crucial need is continued investment in people.

Army Secretary Mark T. Esper, Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer and Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson told the Center for Strategic and International Studies that the American military's most crucial advantage is its people and that investment must continue to attract and retain them. Kathleen Hicks of CSIS moderated the discussion.

All three service leaders said the fiscal 2018 budget goes a long way toward repairing the damage done by the Budget Control Act spending cuts and that the 2019 request will begin the road to modernization.

"At the end of the day, people are what makes everything work, and we really have to focus on this," Spencer said.

### WAR FOR TALENT

The services will be in a war for talent with the private sector, other portions of government and each other, the Navy secretary noted.

"We are all going to be looking for more people to do more things in a more intelligent manner," he said. "We are going to have to figure out a way to adopt and adapt



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. CARL GREENWELL

Army Secretary Mark T. Esper talks with Soldiers from Combined Task Force Defender, 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, at Seongju, South Korea, Jan. 1.

those people that we have."

Esper noted that the budget request supports the National Defense Strategy announced last month.

He said the world is entering a "dynamic environment" with the return of great-power competition with Russia and China and the threats from Iran, North Korea and terrorism. The Army must be capable of countering terror threats as well as those posed by near-peer competitors.

The Army must be able to fight across the spectrum of warfare, and it must be fast, Esper said. He pointed to the stand-up of the

Army Futures Command later this year as a defining moment for the service.

"It will be the biggest reform in the Army since 1973 in terms of structure," he said. "It promises to really reduce the time it takes to ... field a new piece of equipment [and] to do it at less cost, and in time for the soldier to be able to use it."

### JOINT FORCE EVOLUTION

Wilson stressed that the services are continuing the evolution to a truly joint force. When she first joined the Air Force, she said, being joint meant having to serve in an

assignment with people from other services, and joint operations meant deconflicting a battlespace.

"I would say the services are on the cusp of becoming integrated — not just interdependent, not just joint — but integrated in our operations," she said. "Because if we can do that — if we can gather information faster, decide faster and act faster, then we are going to prevail in 21st-century conflict. I think we are on the cusp of being able to think and move in that direction."

"What distinguishes our military, what makes us the premier fighting force in the world — which guarantees it will prevail in any conflict — is the quality of our service members," Esper said. "They are — bar none — the best in the world. They're smart, they're aggressive, they're resourceful, they are persistent and they have a lot of grit."

All of the secretaries said the services need some personnel reforms. Wilson noted that it takes 150 days to hire a civilian employee and said the backlog for security clearances has doubled over the past 18 months.

The Air Force secretary said she wants organizational shifting to stop while the service implements acquisition reform. "There is something we need to pause, which is organizational change," she said. "There's been a lot of it in the Pentagon, and we need to just let the org-chart boxes stay where they are this year and focus on things like personnel reform and fine-tuning acquisition."

## EUCOM commander: Violent extremism, Russia top threats in region

By Lisa Ferdinando  
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — The United States and NATO are working together to counter the biggest threats to European security — violent extremism and Russian destabilization efforts, Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, the commander of U.S. European Command, said March 8.

Scaparrotti, who is dual-hatted as NATO's supreme allied commander for Europe, appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee to provide testimony on the state of the command and its future needs.

"Together with NATO, the U.S. has made significant progress," he said, "but we have much work to do as we execute our National Defense Strategy, fielding an increasingly lethal, agile and resilient joint force in long-term strategic competition with Russia and ready to counter violent extremists organizations."

### COUNTERING RUSSIAN DESTABILIZATION EFFORTS

The U.S. and its allies have enhanced its presence in Europe to counter what Scaparrotti described as Russian activities aimed at exerting influence, spreading disinforma-

tion and diminishing confidence in NATO.

"Russia is carrying out a campaign of destabilization to change the international order, fracture NATO and undermine U.S. leadership around the world," he said. "To this end, Russia is advancing asymmetric capabilities in accordance with its concept of warfare, which envisions the employment of the full spectrum of military and nonmilitary power."

The general said Russia's increasingly modernized military is operating in every domain at levels not seen since the Cold War.

The United States has responded to the threat by deploying rotation forces to Europe, to include an armored brigade combat team and a combat aviation brigade.

Other actions include doubling the maritime deployments to the Black Sea, as well as theater anti-submarine warfare operations and bomber assurance and deterrence missions. Fifth generation fighters have been deployed to Europe for the first time, he said.

### COMMITTED TO DEFENSE, SECURITY

Scaparrotti lauded the NATO commitment to defense and security, noting

members of the 29-member bloc have added \$46 billion to defense spending over the last three years.

Eight alliance countries will meet NATO's target of spending two percent of their gross domestic product on defense, with at least 15 nations on pace to reach or exceed that mark by 2024, he said.

"I am proud to report that the alliance is strong, it is unified and it's committed to being fit for purpose," the general said. "Our European allies and Canada have turned the corner on defense spending with increases in each of the past three years."

### UNITED IN FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Scaparrotti commended NATO allies for deploying forces worldwide to support U.S.-led counterterrorism operations, to include in the defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria and in support of security efforts in Afghanistan.

"The allies are committed to this fight and their support is essential to ongoing counterterrorism efforts," he said.

Since 2014, Europe has endured 18 major terrorist attacks, the general said. "While the defeat ISIS coalition, which

includes NATO, recovers seized territory in Iraq and Syria, ISIS remains active and seeks to expand its operations across Europe," Scaparrotti said.

### Boosting Partnerships

EUCOM is strengthening strategic partnerships, bolstering regional security and reinforcing a free and open international order conducive to security and prosperity, he said.

The general thanked Congress for funding EUCOM, singling out the European Deterrence Initiative as particularly critical to the command's "significant headway in establishing a defense posture that is credible, capable and relevant to our strategic objectives."

The \$6.5 billion EDI request for Fiscal Year 2019 will allow the command to more adequately meet emerging threats to the security and territorial integrity of NATO allies, according to Eucom.

"At nearly \$2 billion more than the 2018 request, it also reflects the importance needed to deter aggression and malign influence in Europe by increasing our air, sea and land force responsiveness and expanding interoperability with multinational forces," the command explains on its website.

## News Briefs

### Faulkner Gate hours

Starting Monday, the operating hours for Faulkner Gate will be Mondays-Fridays from 4:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. The gate will be closed on weekends, holidays and days of no scheduled activity. People should plan their travel accordingly.

### Free access

Univisión NOW is offering 12 months of free access to its app with live and on-demand streaming of Univisión and Unimás Spanish-language TV channels to

active duty military members.

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines may go to UnivisionNOW.com, click on the blue 'START YOUR FREE TRIAL' bar, click on the orange 'Troop ID' button, click on 'sign up for an account', and select your preferred military status verification option. Once verified and a UNOW account set-up is complete, streaming live or on demand will be ready.

This is not an Army program or sponsorship, and all questions should be directed to Univisión at support@univisionnow.

Technical support is not available.

A subscription and high-speed broadband connection or minimum 3G is required. This is available only in the United States (excluding Puerto Rico). Some programming may not be available and other restrictions may apply.

### USAACE Aviation Ball

The U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence's 35th Aviation Ball is scheduled for April 14 from 6-11 p.m. at The Landing ballroom. Cost is \$31 for sergeants

and below; \$36 for staff sergeants to master sergeants, second lieutenants to captains, warrant officers 1 to chief warrant officers 2, and GS-12s and below; and \$41 for sergeants major, GS-13s, and majors, chief warrant officers 3 and above. Dress for military is mess or ASU with white shirt and bow tie. For civilians, it is formal attire.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://usaaceball.regfox.com/register>. People needing assistance can contact their unit representative.



# Army developing new route clearing system

By Sean Kimmons  
Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — The Army is developing technology that visually alerts Soldiers to hidden explosives in the ground rather than just providing them an audible notification during use of mine detector equipment.

Called real-time spatial location tracking, the technology can show sensor images of buried bombs on either a heads-up display or tablet attached to a handheld detector.

As a Soldier sweeps with the device, a colored representation of the area — where orange means the user is close to a metallic object — appears on the screen.

The goal is to keep Soldiers safe when clearing routes by being able to better identify potential threats.

“You can immediately see the shape of the object and roughly its size,” said Christopher Marshall, a scientist in the Countermine Division of the Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate. “By providing this information to the Soldier, it makes it easier to operate and it means a faster response.”

The directorate falls under the Army’s Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, which held a media day here late last month to highlight its emerging technology.

With the device’s position location capabilities, information about where a Soldier has swept, and what was found there, can be easily passed on, real-time, to observers in other locations. Current handheld minesweeping technology requires users to mark potential threats with sticks or other markers.

The system also monitors how a Soldier swings the mine detector as he or she uses it, to ensure they are not fatigued in such a way that it may cause them to miss a hidden object.

“If the Soldier is starting to swing erratically, that could be an early warning sign, so operationally that can help,” Marshall said. “Then someone could come up to take the place of the Soldier.”

Other advanced technology to better discriminate between metal objects that the device finds is also being worked on. That way, a Soldier can more quickly differentiate between harmless objects and would-be threats.

With its displays, Sgt. 1st Class Jared



PHOTO BY SEAN KIMMONS

Sgt. 1st Class Jared Huffstickler, a combat engineer assigned to the Countermine Division of the Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate, demonstrates how a Soldier would use real-time spatial location tracking at Fort Belvoir, Va., Feb. 22.

Huffstickler, a combat engineer assigned to the Countermine Division, said the technology would help Soldiers be more aware of their surroundings as they clear dangerous routes.

“This is giving us an opportunity to actually see signatures in the ground without taking away our situational awareness on the battlefield,” he said.

Since the device tracks sweeping patterns, it could even serve as a training tool for Soldiers like him who are taught to sweep at certain speeds and distances with metal detectors, he added.

Mine detection robots could also be equipped with the technology to capture and send back imagery to Soldiers in a nearby vehicle.

“The idea is that we take these exact same technologies that we’re maturing for the handheld dismounted operation and we put it there,” Marshall said of the robots. “Now the Soldier isn’t even in the picture and it’s much safer.”



ARMY PHOTO

A video still image of real-time spatial location tracking, a piece of technology the Army is developing to visually alert a Soldier to hidden explosives in the ground rather than just a sound while sweeping with a mine detector.

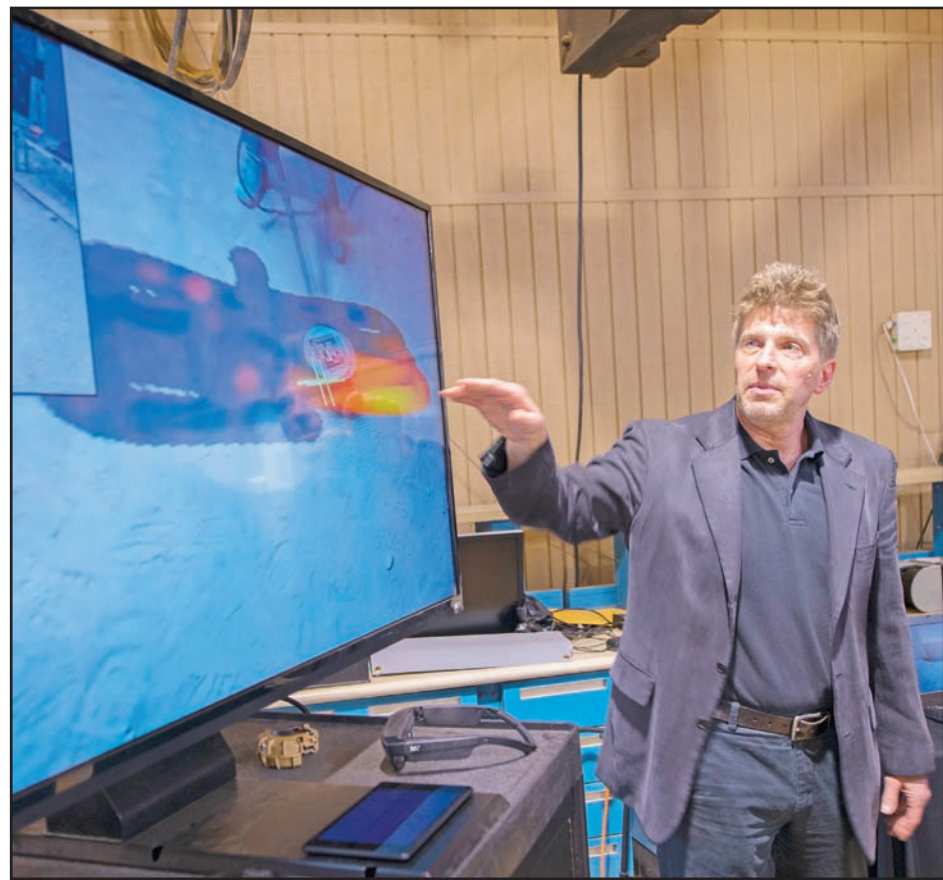


PHOTO BY SEAN KIMMONS

Christopher Marshall, a scientist in the Countermine Division of the Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate, explains how real-time spatial location tracking can display a potential threat in the ground at Fort Belvoir, Va., Feb. 22.

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# Army researchers improving biometrics

By David Vergun  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Huge advances in biometric collection and database query are now being made with more to come on the horizon, said William Graves, the chief engineer for Program Executive Office Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors.

That's great news for the intelligence community and for force protection efforts, said Graves, whose office is the lead for all Department of Defense biometrics.

Graves described the work that the researchers and engineers do in their Biometric System Integration Laboratory at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, during a media visit Feb. 22.

The current biometric collection system used by Soldiers worldwide is the Biometric Automated Toolset, he explained.

The system is fairly good at collecting fingerprints and iris characteristics, which are unique for every individual, but it is less adept at collecting other facial features, he noted.

A newer system, known as Next Generation Biometric Collection, is currently in the acquisition cycle after having navigated a successful material development decision.

Following Soldier feedback, the newer system will be smaller and more lightweight, as well as

more rugged and user friendly than what exists now. It will also be more accurate in collecting facial features and should process information in a timelier manner, Graves said.

The new system also takes a multimodal approach to biometric data collection, said Graves. The advantage of multimodal is that if fingerprint or voice recognition fails, an iris scan could still produce a match.

The lab, which is only four months old, is moving quickly to develop other modes as well, he said.

For example, voice and DNA modes of biometrics identification are in intense development as there is an urgent requirement to get that capability to Iraq by as early as this summer, he said.

Also, the lab is exploring ways to integrate biometrics into existing sensors and platforms, he said.

Another aspect of improvement that the lab is striving for is making biometrics completely contactless, he said, meaning no operator is needed to collect information from the person.

The lab had a demonstration area set up to showcase this new technology. Personnel walked through a screening area. They touched a pad for fingerprints and cameras captured iris and face scans in a matter of seconds without an operator present. The system was able to identify ev-

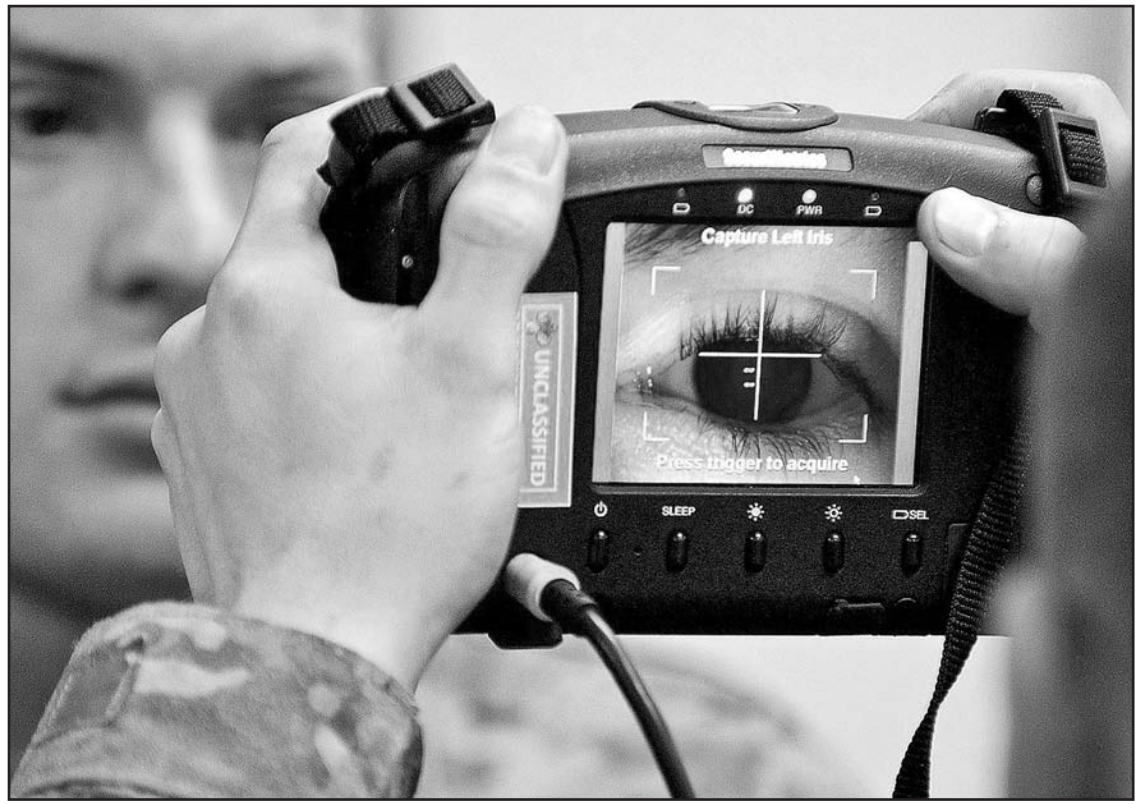


PHOTO BY SGT. MICHAEL J. MACLEOD

A paratrooper scans the iris of a Soldier using a biometric system during training at the Joint Readiness Training Center on Fort Polk, La.

everyone in a matter of seconds.

The lab is also developing biometric processes for capturing video images of persons of interest on the dark web. Graves said the technology for still photos can capture that, but now the algorithms are being developed for video as well.

## DATABASE QUERIES

Collecting data is just one of two focuses, Graves said. The other focus is querying the data-

base.

Once information from the person is captured, it is transmitted to the Automated Biometric Identification System in West Virginia, he said.

The lab is developing deployable ABIS sets for the U.S. European Command, specifically for the upcoming Unified Vision 18 NATO exercise, he said.

The portable ABIS system will be deployed in transit cases and can be plugged into existing net-

work architecture, he added.

An improved version of ABIS is getting ready for an Army Requirements Oversight Council decision for a new build out of the next increment in April, he said.

Graves said that improvements in biometrics are a big deal: "Demand signal from the stakeholder community is high and continues to increase. Foreign military sales are exploding in NATO and elsewhere."

## General: Command posts to be set up, torn down in 30 minutes

By David Vergun  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Currently, it takes too many hours to set up or tear down a command post, including its command and control network, and many additional hours to ensure connectivity is smooth, said the deputy commander of U.S. Army Forces Command.

In the near future, the Army hopes to develop, test and field a command post and network that can be set up in as little as 30 minutes and torn down just as quickly, said Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson, who spoke March 6 at a conference hosted by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

To illustrate the difference between the current state of command posts and the kind of command post the Army envisions it must have in the future, Richardson showed a slide to those in attendance at the conference. The example of a modern day command post was huge and full of network wires, while the command post of the future was more mobile and streamlined, and used wireless connectivity.

Getting the network right, Richardson said, is so important that it has been included in the Army's top six priorities for modernization, which, along with networks, includes long range precision fires, next generation combat vehicle, future vertical lift, air and missile defense, and Soldier lethality.

## SOLDIER TESTING

Last year, the Army organized two command post huddles at Fort Bliss, Texas, Richardson said.

The purpose of the huddles was to solicit Soldier feedback on the command post and its command and control network.

That feedback informed development of prototype command post structures and networks that will be tested this year, she said, with the topline goal of getting setup/tear down time down to 30 minutes.

The testing will be from July through December and will involve Soldiers from multiple types of units at both brigade and division level, she said.

The feedback gained from that testing will be invaluable in decision-making going forward, she said, adding that the timeline

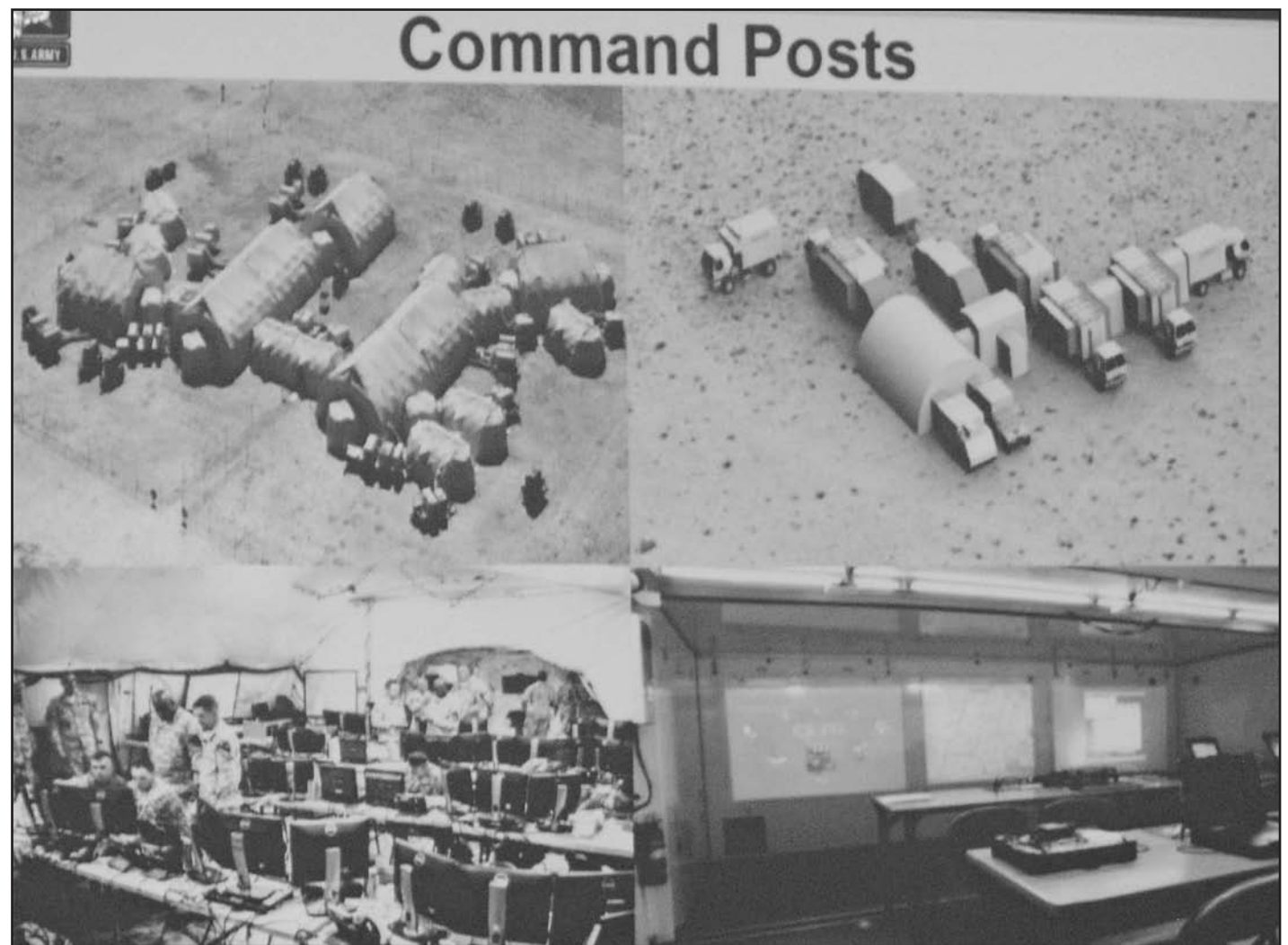


PHOTO BY DAVID VERGUN

Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson, deputy commander of U.S. Army Forces Command, at the AFCEA Army Signal Conference in Springfield, Va., March 6, points out how a command post looks on the two photos on the left of the slide. On the right of the slide is how the Army wants CPs to look very soon, without wires and easily set up and torn down.

from requirement to developing to testing to fielding is being compressed and a collaborative effort is taking place at the Network Cross Functional Team level, part of the soon-to-be stood up Futures Command.

Richardson added that the testing isn't just about creating a robust, expeditionary and reliable network or putting up and tearing down the command post. It's about everything that goes into the command post and network.

She provided an example. Years ago, when she was a battalion commander in Iraq supporting an infantry unit, Richardson said she recalled conducting a battlefield update over the network inside a container at an airfield.

The container, she said, was temperature-controlled by an environmental cooling sys-

tem. The system worked well, but was so loud that conversations over the network became difficult and time consuming. In order to allow the battlefield update to continue, uninterrupted, the cooling system had to be shut down, she said.

Those types of considerations, she said, will be important as new systems are developed.

Another example, she said, is power generation. A smart system that uses less fuel or alternate fuels is something else that will be looked at during testing to reduce the logistical footprint.

Ease of use and training, along with an intuitive human-network interface, are other desirable qualities that will be tested, she said.

Additionally, she said, network interoperability testing must also take place to ensure Army systems are compatible with both the joint and combined force.

## REDUCING VULNERABILITIES

Richardson also elaborated on current network and command post vulnerabilities.

She said besides network being fragile and lacking agility, lines of communications are vulnerable to being cut by adversaries who are becoming incredibly tech-savvy.

Furthermore, she said, the electromagnetic signature of command posts and command and control networks is large, and the visibility of this signature makes those important assets easy targets for enemy fire, which is rapidly gaining range and precision targeting.

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# DOD works to incorporate more gender perspective in operations

By Air Force Tech. Sgt. Chuck Broadway  
Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department is advancing its efforts to include more women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes following the signing of the 2017 Women, Peace and Security Act.

Mark Swayne, acting deputy assistant secretary of defense for stability and humanitarian affairs in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict, said DOD is looking to leverage the unique aspects women bring to the table, not only in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, but also in all facets of military operations.

“When working with partner militaries or civilians, we are trying to include women so they don’t get overlooked,” he said. “Ensuring that our partners include [female perspectives] makes us more effective in our military operations.”

Research on the effectiveness of including women in military peacebuilding and conflict resolution negotiations found that peace agreements between civil society groups are 64 percent more likely to succeed – and 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years – than agreements that overlooked the female perspective.

## SETTING THE EXAMPLE

According to the Women, Peace and Security Act, Congress found that, around the world, women remain underrepresented in conflict prevention, resolution, and post-conflict peacebuilding efforts. Meaningful participation of women in these operations helps to promote a more inclusive and democratic society, and is critical to the long-term stability of countries and regions, Congress determined.

To promote these findings, DOD is taking the necessary steps to be a global leader by setting a key example for international partners.

“We have a well-integrated military,” Swayne said. “Many of our allies and NATO partners are the same. But we have many military partners around the world where females do not have the same level of representation.”

Swayne added that when DOD representatives send female officers and senior non-commissioned officers to attend meetings with international partners, it conveys a strong message that females take a high priority within the government and the DOD.

**FULL-SCALE IMPLEMENTATION**  
DOD leaders are working with the National Security Council on an interagency strategy for incorporating and operationalizing the Women, Peace and Security Act. Once that strategy is finalized, a DOD instruction will be created outlining how to implement women, peace, and security measures into all DOD operations. Swayne

## once it goes into a recycling bin, that information is no longer protected.”

Any type of information that is disposed of in the recycling bins has the potential to be viewed by anyone with access to the bins. From the office, that information can travel miles to the recycling center where it is picked up by an organization outside Fort Rucker. “People are cleaning out their files and not thinking about what could happen putting that information into the recycle bin,” he said.

Sparks said that many people also seem to think that if the files they are throwing out are old, then they have no pertinent information in them. This is wrong. Regardless of how old they are, if the files or documents have any

type of PII on them, they need to be destroyed properly by shredding.

Most of the organizations and offices on post have shredding machines, and the installation has a high-volume disintegrator run by the DPTMS, security office that is available to use at the recycling center, he said, so people have no excuse not to properly destroy PII documents.

“We use a disintegrator for paper that will shred documents and turn them into briquettes,” said Linda Green, security assistant for the Fort Rucker security division. Essentially, the high-volume disintegrator turns paper into dust and compacts it into briquettes that the recycling center sells for various uses.

The recycling center also



PHOTO BY NAVY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS ELIZABETH MERRIAM

Pangarso Suryotomo, Kasubdit Peran Masyarakat National Disaster Management Authority; Royal New Zealand Navy Cmdr. Karen Ward, Pacific Partnership 2016 Women, Peace and Security lead; and Randa Mardanis, Women, Peace and Security seminar mediator, speak at a panel during the Pacific Partnership 2016 Women, Peace and Security seminar in Padang, Indonesia, Aug. 26, 2016.

said he hopes to have the new instruction in place by the end of 2018.

DOD and the Joint Staff recently instituted a Women, Peace and Security Synchronization Group. This group, consisting of representatives from the combatant commands, military services, regional centers and professional military education institutions, as well as DOD and Joint Staff leaders, meets monthly to enable cross-sharing, optimize lessons learned and best practices, and advance future programs throughout the department.

Combatant commands are already suc-

cessfully implementing Women, Peace and Security Act objectives through their individual theater campaign plans. These efforts aim to educate personnel on how integrating women, peace, and security concepts increases overall mission effectiveness.

“We are weaving Women, Peace and Security into all training activities, and into the fabric of how we institutionalize DOD objectives,” Swayne said. “It’s an opportunity for us to include women, peace, and security scenarios in every activity we are doing [to become] more effective in our military activities.”

## PII

Continued from Page A1

come the victim of the crime.

A person with any combination of that information has the potential to violate another’s PII, he said, but oftentimes, people are careless with their own information. Over the last few years, the DHR Administrative Services Division has had all Fort Rucker forms reviewed by the originating office to have the SSN removed or provide a justification to retain it to help in that regard, said the HR director.

One of the biggest mistakes people make is assuming that recycling bins are safe for disposal of PII, the HR director said. “Those bins are not to be used for placing any type of PII, those items are not secured and

houses a CD/DVD destroyer, as well as a hard drive degausser and destroyer, said Heather Androlevich, security assistant for the Fort Rucker security division. The degausser uses high-powered magnets to completely obliterate any data on the hard drives, and for classified hard drives, the hard drives are also physically destroyed to the point they cannot be recovered, she said.

In order to use the equipment, people must take a safety class provided by the security office and set up an appointment at their convenience, and unit training can be accommodated on a case-by-case basis.

To set up a training appointment, people can call 255-3094 or 255-2973.

People found in violation of

mishandling PII have the potential to be hit with civil penalties that range from payment of damages and attorney fees to personnel actions that can include termination of employment and possible prosecution, according to officials at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. Criminal penalties can also be charged from a \$5,000 fine to misdemeanor criminal charges if the violation is severe enough.

“PII violations can be a pretty big deal,” said Sparks. “It requires intervention on the part of the operational security manager, as well as the security office to assess the situation and that can all take a lot of time.”

The bottom line is people need to make sure to protect PII, said the HR director.

## Training

Continued from Page A1

give them some time to figure out how they wanted to approach the situation.

Upon landing, the students had to egress from the aircraft and rush to where the patients were waiting, each of which sustained different injuries the students had to treat.

“We had a patient that was a single-leg amputation, another patient was a gunshot wound to the chest and the third patient was (killed in action),” said Garcia. “(The students’) job was to identify who takes priority.”

Up until the exercise, the students were trained with classroom and simulation training, and for many of the students, the scenario added a true sense of realism to what they will have to endure in their profession, which included not only having to deal with different aspects of the aircraft, but having to deal with others on the ground and how to interact with them.

“Having the added stressors were very helpful (in the training),” said Spc. Sarah Hanna, a student from Knoxville, Tennessee. “I haven’t yet been deployed in a combat theater, but I have worked in civilian EMS, and even within the civilian practice you may have people on scene who are shouting and distracting you, not necessarily because they are trying to, but because they are upset and don’t understand what is happening.”

“So, you may have to direct people who are there to do different things to overcome those barriers of stress and noise,” she said. “I thought that was a really good facet to include in the training.”

For Staff Sgt. Mark Howard, C Co., 187th Medical Battalion, Fort Sam Houston, going from simulation to the actual aircraft training wasn’t as big of a transition as he thought, since much of what he encountered was covered in the training leading up to the exercise.

“It didn’t seem like a big transition,” He said. “When we were in the simulators, I felt like there was a lot more stress put on us – there were a lot more injuries and a lot more critical thinking had to go on.”

“Once we got into the back of the actual helicopter, for me, I barely even noticed that it was moving because I was so focused on patient assessment and treating the patient,” he continued. “They put us in that red zone of training so much that when we got to the actual (exercise) and it was time to treat, that’s all we were focusing on.”

For Howard, the main difference was the realism that the exercise provided, including the extra players at the point of injury, as well as in-flight time to the patients.

“It gave us a lot more time to formulate our plan, figure out how we want to attack things and overall just figure out how we want stuff to run,” he said. “Of course, when you get on the ground you have to alter your plan, but it gave us a little more time to get a better base.”

Although many of the students said they were well equipped to take on the scenario, the purpose of the exercise was to make sure that each of the flight medics would be able to handle the stresses that they’ll endure their real-world environments, said Garcia.

“This is very important for the students because most medical is done in a controlled environment – a clinic, emergency room,” said the flight paramedic instructor. “When we do this type of training in a helicopter, it’s not that controlled, so actually exposing them to those stresses of flight is vital, especially when they go downrange.”

“I do think this is very helpful training for multiple reasons, but the biggest one for pre-hospital medicine, there are a lot of similarities between civilian and military,” added Hanna. “But operating specifically in this airframe and the guidelines given for military is a very specific skill, and this is the only place that I’ve seen that critical care paramedics hone those specific skills.”

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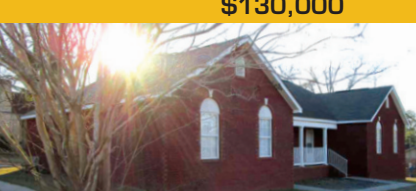



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**203 N GLENN STREET, GENEVA:** Lovely home on large lot 1 +/- acre, on quiet street is perfect for gatherings or relaxing days & evenings indoors or outdoors. Open split floor plan is spacious & living room & den have tons of storage, built-in bookcases & shelves. Other features: tray ceilings, crown molding, surround sound, metal roof, beautiful landscaped yard, flowering shrubs & trees & more! Large shed & workshop in backyard for storage & hobbies. Three doors lead to extra large screened porch. Make your appt to see this jewel today! **MARGE SIMMONS, 477-1962**



**\$459,000**



**2 REINDEER TRACE:** Gorgeous family home w/4550 sf ideally located convenient to Holly Hill Elem. Dauphin Jr. Faulkner Gate, Shell Field, Enterprise Country Club & Boll Weevil Circle. Home features 6 bedrooms, 4 baths, an office, screened porch, deck, beautiful woodwork/trim, awesome kitchen w/granite & stainless & a large laundry room w/natural light. The huge backyard on the 1.5 acre lot has plenty of room for a pool or workshop. Two water heaters - 1 gas/1 electric. Beautiful stone gas log fireplace in the living room. **JAN SAWYER, 406-2393**



**\$174,500**



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



View more pictures of these homes at [www.c21regencyrealty.com](http://www.c21regencyrealty.com)



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**334-347-0048**  
531 Boll Weevil Circle

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

**\$108,000**



**114 BALDWIN DRIVE:** VERY NICE HOME, IN VERY GOOD CONDITION. Washer/dryer will remain/current one will be exchanged. RENTS FOR 785.00. Currently tenant occupied for the past year. TENANT will be moving early next year 2018. Please call for appointment. **FRAN & DON KALTENBAUGH, 790-5973**



**\$277,000**



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




**\$215,000**



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



**\$345,000**



**103 GRAYSON:** This beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home is located on a cul-de-sac in Gateway Estates with access to 3 lakes. The kitchen has everything! Kraftmaid kitchen cabinets (all pull out drawers), Bosch appliances, double oven, gas cook top, walk-in pantry. The master bath has a very large walk-in closet and sit down built-in vanity. A large bonus room is perfect for family recreation and hobbies. Enjoy your coffee on the screened in porch or the pergola and arbor overlooking the pool. New liner/salt water system **JACKIE THOMPSON, 406-1231 & TERRI AVERETT, 406-2072**




**\$294,000**



**126 GRAYTON:** WOW!! This remarkable home is a MUST SEE in Cotton Creek Subdivision. Split bedroom floor plan with walk-in closets in all three rooms, very open grandroom to breakfast area and kitchen as well as a formal dining room. Separate laundry room w/sink and storage, and the garage features not only an insulated garage door, but screen door that lets you work or play in the garage without the bugs and a closet with the hot water heater. Also features an in-house high pressure sprayer/Vinyl privacy fenced backyard. **EVELYN HITCH, 406-3436**



View more pictures of these homes at [www.c21regencyrealty.com](http://www.c21regencyrealty.com)



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**OPEN HOUSE**

**COME CHECK US OUT**

**OPEN SUNDAY, MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**1:00PM-4:00PM**




**133 ROSEMOUNT COURT**

**\$219,000**

Separate water system and meter for sprinklers. Speakers wired inside and out. Remote system in separate room through infra-red receiver beside fireplace. Home is adjacent to golf course. HOA fees annually of \$500 which includes ground and fence maintenance and landscaping. Golf course, pool and club house requires an extra membership fee. Seller is very motivated.

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Boll Weevil Circle west to Tartan Pines. Turn right onto Tartan Way. Turn Right onto Rosemount Court. Home is on the left.



**AGNES KARVONEN**  
406-9752



## 'SO OTHERS MAY LIVE'

*Airmen, Soldiers partner to conduct Afghanistan rescue missions*



AIR FORCE PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. GREGORY BROOK

Air Force pararescuemen, assigned to the 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, exit an Army CH-47 Chinook at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Feb. 22. The pararescuemen primarily fly their missions on Army CH-47F Chinooks.

By Air Force Tech. Sgt. Gregory Brook  
455th Air Expeditionary Wing

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — It's dark. The air is heavy, filled with Afghanistan smoke and dust. On the flight line at Bagram Airfield, an Army CH-47F Chinook waits, beating thunder with its blades.

An 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron Guardian Angel team, which consists of pararescuemen and combat rescue officers, runs out and boards the helicopter. As the Guardian Angels settle into their seats, the helicopter takes off against the night sky over the mountainous terrain.

During the ensuing flight, two Operation Freedom's Sentinel teams will conduct a personnel recovery exercise, testing their capability to work together as they extricate simulated casualties from a downed aircraft. The Army and the Air Force are working together to execute personnel recovery.

### 'NO-FAIL STRATEGIC MISSION'

"Personnel recovery is a no-fail strategic mission," said Air Force Maj. Robert Wilson, 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron commander. "The interoperability between the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force, by way of the CH-47F, has enabled our Guardian Angel teams to effectively conduct a wide variety of personnel rescue operations in ways not previously attainable."

Executing missions with CH-47Fs gives the seven-man Guardian Angel team unique advantages, such as an increased capacity to recover a larger number of isolated personnel, and the ability to fly further and higher than previous platforms allowed.

"This partnership strengthens the resolve of those fighting on the ground and in the air to fight harder and longer, knowing that someone will always have their back," Wilson said.

SEE RESCUE, PAGE B4

## Working group's oversight earns award

By Rita Hess  
U.S. Army Environmental Command

REDSTONE ARSENAL — A group from the Program Executive Office for Aviation has been recognized by the Army for their environmental improvements to the Army's cargo helicopter aircraft and equipment.

The Secretary of the Army selected the System Safety Environmental Working Group from PEO-Aviation's Cargo Helicopters project office to receive the Environmental Award for Excellence in Weapons System Acquisition for their efforts on the CH-47F Chinook helicopter.

The CH-47 Chinook is a twin-engine, tandem rotor helicopter designed and produced in the early 1960s and is the Army's only heavy-lift cargo helicopter. Recent changes to a Block II configuration include a more efficient drivetrain, new swept-tip rotor blades and a strengthened fuselage that allows for heavier payloads. By reducing the six fuel tanks to two, the lighter Block II is also capable of carrying more fuel.

Changes of this magnitude don't just happen without careful oversight, and that is where the SSEWG group comes into the equation. The group analyzes and tracks environmental, safety and occupational health issues associated with Block II.

"It's critical to the Block II upgrade that we integrate ESOH mitigation efforts early in the acquisition process to avoid program delays and high costs associated with late identification of hazards and risks," said Col. Greg Fortier, cargo helicopters project manager. "Addressing ESOH issues throughout the program not only reduces those risks to the aircraft user and the maintainer, it also reduces the burden on Army installations where the aircraft will be fielded through reduced environmental risks and liability."

The SSEWG achieves its goals by meticulously logging safety hazards and tracking resolution actions. The group oversees the contractor pollution prevention programs, tracks projects that eliminate hazardous material (hazmat) in the aircraft design, recommends environmental compliance and provides recommendations for establishing or revising system safety requirements.

A cross-section of representatives from the U.S. Army and industry comprise the group, which is chaired by the Program Executive Office for Aviation: U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, U.S. Army Research Development and Engineering Command, U.S. Army Aviation Logistics Center, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Boeing Helicopters, Honeywell Aerospace and Rockwell Collins. The group meets semiannually to address environmental risks, regulations, policies and potential compliance issues. Thus far, the SSEWG has successfully communicated, implemented and executed ESOH requirements to the team, as well as discussed lessons learned and applied across all the supporting disciplines.

SEE AWARD, PAGE B4



### MOVIN' OUT

PHOTO BY SPC. JOSHUA P. MORRIS

Sgt. 1st Class Aaron Sanford, a maintenance supervisor with Delta Battery, 1st Bn., 145th Field Artillery Regt., gives commands to his platoon following their departure from a UH-60 Black Hawk near Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Feb. 28 during urban operations training.

## 'AWESOME OPPORTUNITY'

*Fires exercise integrates air assets in Germany*

By Lacey Justinger  
U.S. Army Europe

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Exercise Dynamic Front 18 may initially conjure up visions of field artillery shaking the ground, but the air space above Grafenwoehr Training Area is also fully active as U.S. Air Force and Army components work together to expand the operational reach of ground troops.

"Coming over here to Europe has been an awesome opportunity for us to really understand how to fight against an enemy air defense artillery, enemy field artillery and enemy maneuver forces that are on the same level as us," said Lt. Col. Nate Surrey, commander, 3rd Battalion, 227th Assault Helicopter Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cav. Division.

These combined arms training operations are layered laterally, by altitude and by time throughout 7th Army Training Command's area of operations during Dynamic Front: with both mortars and artillery shooting while troops are maneuvering on the ground; the Air Force enabling



PHOTOS BY SGT. GREGORY T. SUMMERS

A CH-47 Chinook crew assigned to B Co., 2nd GSAB, 227th Avn. Regt., 1st Air Cav. Bde., 1st Cav. Div., moves into position over artillerymen with Battery B, Field Artillery Squadron, 2nd Cav. Regt., to sling load an M777 howitzer during training at an airfield near Grafenwoehr, Germany, March 6.

German joint terminal attack controllers who are directing American close air support; and a rotational unit flying gun raids, air assault and route reconnaissance missions through the skies.

"Whether it be mortars or artillery, attack Aviation with helicopters or close air support with fixed wing: we can do all of that in a small space and

we've been very successful in making sure we bring all that combat effectiveness at the right place, at the right time," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Anderson, chief of GTA range operations.

### JOINT OPERATIONS

Those participating in Dynamic Front are working together to support maneuver at 7ATC's GTA. Airmen on Joint Multinational Readiness Center's Bullseye observer, coach/trainer team manage aircraft taking part in 7ATC-hosted exercises and serve as liaisons for sister-service integration. This includes overseeing the multinational JTACs who translate the air component to the maneuver and fire support elements on the ground.

"Our specific mission is to ensure joint integration between Army fire support, ground- and surface-to-surface fires, and close air support - both rotary and for fixed wing," said Air Force Master Sgt. Jason Tonkinson, superintendent of the Bullseye OC/T

SEE AIR ASSETS, PAGE B4



An AH-64 Apache crew with the 1st ARB, 227th Avn. Regt., 1st Air Cav. Bde., 1st Cav. Div., awaits fuel and ammo at a forward area refueling point at an airfield just outside of Grafenwoehr, Germany, March 7.



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**TOUR AMERICA 2018**

- \* West Tour San Francisco, California Red Wood Forest, OR, Seattle, WA. June 4-12, 2018
- \* Tropical Costa Rica - July 9-18, 2018
- \* Amish Tour, Ohio, Indiana, KY. August 12-19, 2018
- \* Bella Italia Tour - Sept. 20-29, 2018
- \* Cruise & Tour, New England & Canadian Maritimes - Oct. 15-20, 2018
- \* Christmas in New York City The Big Apple Nov. 26- Dec. 3, 2018
- \* Christmas at Holy Land Exp. Orlando, FL. Dec. 12-14, 2018

**For Information Call: Merita Stanley 850-594-9980**

**GENERAL & SPECIAL NOTICES**

**Dothan Gem and Mineral Club** ★  
**11th Annual Gem and Mineral Show**  
**March 17 (9-5) March 18 (10-4)**  
 Houston County Farm Center  
 1701 East Cottonwood Road, Dothan AL  
 Family friendly event - featuring gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry  
**For more information call: 334-200-3096**  
[www.wiregrassrockhounds.com](http://www.wiregrassrockhounds.com)

**VFW POST 6020 BENEFIT BASS TOURNAMENT MARCH 18, 2018**  
**Where: LAKE POINT MARIANA, EUFAULA, AL. Time: SAFE LIGHT TO 3:PM**  
**Cost:** \$80. per boat (1 or 2 man) Sign up at ramp will be \$90. per boat.  
**Details:** 75% payback. Optional \$10. Big Fish Pot 100% payback. 4oz penalty for dead fish, per dead fish. Life vest must be worn when boat motor is in gear. Live wells will be checked prior to launching boat. Any team 15 minutes late for weigh in will be disqualified. VFW Post 6020 is not responsible or liable for any accidents or injuries. Each boater is responsible for their own insurance.  
**Come out and join us for a great day of fishing and help support veterans.**  
 \* Entry fees are tax deductible, forms will be provided.  
**CONTACT: Ed Barry 334-379-9187 or VFW POST 3020 334-598-6211**

**YARD & ESTATE SALES**

**VENDORS WANTED NO CHARGE FOR SPACE**  
 5th Annual FUN ON THE FARM Morris Family Farm Eufaula AL.,  
**Event April 28th Gates Open 10am**  
 Looks for signs off Hwy 431. S. of Eufaula FREE Entrance. Live Music, Food and Retail Vendors, children activities, outdoor with covered area. BRING YOUR CHAIR.  
**Call for info: 334-703-0401**

**FINANCIAL**

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

**Wells Lawn Mower OWNER RETIRING**  
 Start your own Shop, New parts Inventory FOR SALE worth over \$30,000  
**Quick Sale for ALL \$15,000 OBO**  
 Some Owner Financing Available  
**Call: 334-702-9566**  
**Over \$5000. used parts FREE with this sale!**  
 Parts Bins, Decks, Electric PTO Clitches, Parts Mower, MTD Bagger, Tires & Wheels, Seats, Starters & Hoods.

**MERCHANDISE**

**MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE**

Meadowlawn Cemetery Plots  
 Lot 74, Spaces 1&2, Section 7, Includes granite marker, 2 vaults, vase. \$8500  
 Lot 68, Space 1, Section 5. \$1600  
 904-502-9342

**PETS & ANIMALS**

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 Vine Ripe tomatoes, frozen peas, butter beans, turnips, collard & mustard



**Mon.-Sat. (8am - 5:30 pm) Hwy 52 Malvern, AL 334-793-6690**

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**BAHIA SEED FOR SALE**  
 Excellent Germination  
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**Tim Hopkins CEDAR CREEK RANCH**  
 Ashford, Alabama  
**FOR SALE**  
 Service Age Angus Bulls & a nice group of ranch bred horses  
 Call 334-797-8722

**MEAT, FISH, POULTRY**

**FISH DAY THURSDAY, MAR. 15TH (4-5 PM)**  
 [4-6" - \$49] ★ [6-8" - \$69]  
 ★ [8-11" \$199/100] ★ (PER 100 CATFISH)  
**PIGGY WIGGLY FEED SUPPLY**  
 1140 MONTGOMERY HWY  
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**EMPLOYMENT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE & OFFICE WORK**

**THE CITY OF ENTERPRISE IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITIONS OF:**  
**STAFF ACCOUNTANT**  
**Summary:** Carries out financial procedures; manages general ledger; checks investments to ensure bond activity is current; monitors accounts; assists with preparation and monitoring of budgets; assists with annual audits; processes travel reimbursements; assists with elections; maintains records and prepares reports.  
**Primary Requirements:** Bachelor's Degree in Finance or Accounting and two (2) years experience in governmental accounting, ability to work non-standard hours as needed; ability to become bonded.  
**Starting Salary: \$39,013.04**  
**OPENING DATE: MARCH 7TH, 2018**  
**CLOSING DATE: MARCH 21ST, 2018**  
 To Apply, visit: [www.enterpriseal.gov](http://www.enterpriseal.gov)  
 CITY OF ENTERPRISE - CITY HALL, 501 S MAIN ST. ENTERPRISE, AL. M-F, 7:30 - 4:30 EOE.

**CONSTRUCTION, MINING & TRADES**

**SIMPLYSIDING LLC**  
 LOCAL VINYL SIDING COMPANY  
 HIRING MULTIPLE POSITIONS TO WORK IN THE WIREGRASS AREA.  
 • INSTALLER  
 • CUTMAN  
 • BREAKMAN  
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 Must have reliable transportation to and from job site. Experience in windows, doors, screened rooms, awnings and seamless gutters a plus. Starting pay \$12-\$20HR.  
**Call 334-796-0220 Leave Message.**

**EDUCATION, TRAINING & LIBRARY**

**SEARP&DC**  
 is creating hiring rosters for the following **Head Start positions:**  
**Teacher, Teacher Aide, and Early Head Start Teacher.**  
 Interviews will be held in Covington County, Geneva, Eufaula, and Headland. For detailed information including job posting and REQUIRED applications, please visit the employment page at [www.searpc.org](http://www.searpc.org) or call 334-794-4093 ext. 1415 for more information.  
**Applications must be received by close of business on March 29, 2018.**  
 EOE/E-Verify

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**Adkins & Kimbrough MECHANICAL**  
**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PROJECT.**  
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 and click on the employment tab to request an online application.  
**★ Send resumes to: [nbelcher@jadkinsmechanical.com](mailto:nbelcher@jadkinsmechanical.com)**

**BAXLEY BLOWPIPE CO., INC.**

**Baxley Blowpipe Company, a 70 year old Metal Fabrication and Contracting Company** located in Dothan, Alabama, is growing and has immediate openings for experienced **Mill Wrights and Welders** for our installation crews.  
**Anyone interested in these positions should be able to comply with the following:**  
 • Must be able to pass a drug test  
 • Must have a valid driver license  
 • Must not be afraid of hard work  
 • Should be able to wire and or stick weld  
 • Should be able to read a set of blue prints  
 • Must be willing to work up to 12 hours per day, 7 days a week if needed  
 • Must not be afraid to work heights over 80'  
 • Must be willing to be away from home for up to two weeks at the time  
 • Be able to work closely and intelligently with our customers and other installation employees.  
**If you feel you meet these criteria, we would like to talk with you.**  
**★ Please come by our offices at 3300 East Cottonwood Road in Dothan** to fill out an application. We offer a very competitive Salary, Blue Cross / Blue Shield Health Insurance, Dental Insurance, Simple IRA, and Paid Vacations after a year of service. We are a small, family owned business; we do quality work and provide the best service in our industry. Come join us and see why we are the best! We are not offering a job we are offering a career to the right people.

**Entendicare ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITIES**  
**NOW HIRING**  
**Part Time Bus Driver**  
 Needed to transport residents to various activities around the Wiregrass. Requires a valid Alabama CDL license and a big heart in helping residents enjoy their extended community. Benefits include love, fun and laughter!  
**Qualified Applicants Only**  
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**Vaughn-Blumberg Services**  
 Accepting Online Applications for the following position:  
 • Instructors/Substitute  
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**Requirements:**  
 High School Diploma or GED and Valid Drivers' License  
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 EOE

**FREIGHT BROKER**

Greenbush Logistics, Inc., has a career opportunity available for an experienced Freight Broker to join its 3PL team at its terminal location in Abbeville, Alabama.  
 Two plus years of success selling in a third-party (3PL) brokerage environment is preferred. Strong computer skills, analytical skills, and the ability to work in a fast-paced environment is a must. We offer competitive pay, bonuses, and a full benefits package.  
 Qualified? Email your resume to: [trwilliams@greenbushlogistics.com](mailto:trwilliams@greenbushlogistics.com).

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**HEALTHY START CARE COORDINATOR**  
 Full time opportunity to provide home visitation services to pregnant women and children three and under who are at risk for poor health outcomes. Will also provide family centered, strength based interventions with sensitivity toward cultural differences.  
**BA in Social Sciences or Education. Some travel . Salary range \$13.32 - \$13.99/HOUR D.O.E. + Travel Per Diem + Full Benefits Package**  
 (including 15 days vacation, 15 days sick leave, 10 paid holidays, health/dental/vision insurance, retirement program with 401K option and more).  
**HEALTHY START CARE COORDINATOR TECHNICIAN**  
 Full time opportunity to assist in providing home visitation services to pregnant women and children three and under who are at risk for poor health outcomes. Will also assist in providing family centered, strength based interventions with sensitivity toward cultural differences.  
**High school diploma or equivalent. Salary range \$11.19 - \$11.75/HOUR D.O.E. + Travel Per Diem + Full Benefits Package**  
 (including 15 days vacation, 15 days sick leave, 10 paid holidays, health/dental/vision insurance, retirement program with 401K option and more).  
**SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR**  
 We are looking for a counselor who wants to make a difference in the lives of our clients. Counselor duties include providing substance abuse treatment including psychosocial evaluation, treatment planning, individual, and group counseling. CARE is one of Florida's leading substance abuse agencies, and we have been providing services to our community for over 40 years and we have an opening at our Jackson County office. Potential counselors must have strong counseling skills, and the ability to communicate and document substance abuse treatment modalities.  
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 (including 15 days vacation, 15 days sick leave, 10 paid holidays, health/dental/vision insurance, retirement program with 401K option and more).  
**FOR ALL POSITIONS**  
**Send resume and cover letter to:**  
**CARE, Attn: Delbert Horton,**  
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 Join a caring dedicated team that is passionate about caring for the elderly. Entendicare has an excellent working environment with competitive salary and benefits. Experience in long term care is a plus but not a necessity. LPN responsibilities are to supervise the day to day care delivered to the residents by a wonderful team of CNA's. LPN staff must possess strong organizational skills and be able to inspire the staff with excellent leadership qualities.  
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GENERAL



**Eldridge Plumbing Company**  
is now hiring  
**Journeyman Plumber**

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  - Full Time
  - Paid Vacation
- LOCAL WORK**  
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GENERAL

**Farm Workers Needed:**  
Dates are as follows:  
**04/02/2018 - 05/28/2018**  
Job Order Number:  
**1995875271**

Bland Farms Production and Packing needs 351 temporary farm workers. The location of the jobs is Tattall County located in GA. Guaranteed ¾ of contract hours. All tools provided at no cost. Free housing provided for noncommuting workers. Transportation and subsistence reimbursed to worker upon completion of 50% of contract. Pay rate of \$10.95 per hour. 3 months of verifiable farm work experience required. An Equal Opportunity Employer

The Application is posted on the GA Dept. of Labor Website or applicants may apply at any one stop office using job order 1995875271

TRANSPORTATION



**LOCAL ROUTE DRIVER**

McPherson Oil is currently seeking an **Experienced Driver** for the Dothan area.

- \* Candidates must have 3 years of tractor experience with Class A and Tanker Endorsement.
- \* Previous bulk product dispensing or petroleum experience desired.
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- \* Hourly pay plus benefits
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Interested candidates should complete an employment submission/application at:  
**www.mcphersonoil.com**  
or 877-562-4667  
for employment consideration.  
EOE

HEALTHCARE



**CNA's needed for**  
3rd Shift 11p - 7:30a

→ We are now taking applications for CNA Class starting today until March 19th (Class date & time will be at a later date)

**RN's & LPN's** are needed for **CHARGE NURSE POSITIONS**:  
2nd Shift 3p - 11:30p  
3rd Shift 11p - 7:30a

\*Generous sign-on BONUS AVAILABLE FOR NURSES: Call for details

May apply in person or email resume to:  
rlyons@oakviewmanor.com

GENERAL



**NOW HIRING ON-AIR PERSONALITY**

This position is for 7pm-12midnight (yes, we actually have live dj's around the clock!) Must have prior on-air board operating experience and an air check.

**FULL TIME SALES REP**

If you enjoy talking to people, helping people and making a good living working at the most respected station in the market, then you should apply! Prior media sales experience is preferred.

**APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED UNTIL 12NOON ON APRIL 13TH, 2018. ALL APPLICATIONS ARE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. FOR MORE INFO CALL 334-792-1149 MON. - FRI. 9AM-5PM. WOOF INC. IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

THE CITY OF ENTERPRISE IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF:

**MAGISTRATE**

**Summary:** The employee establishes and monitors accounts of fees to be paid. Prepares and processes warrants, subpoenas, affidavits, appeal bonds and other legal documents. Accepts payment for fines and court cost and maintains related record. Assists the court clerk with court activities.

Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent, general office experience, ability to be on-call, ability to become bonded.

Starting Salary: \$11.93/HR

**OPENING DATE: MARCH 7TH, 2018**  
**CLOSING DATE: MARCH 21ST, 2018**

To Apply, visit: [www.enterprisecal.gov](http://www.enterprisecal.gov)  
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# Rescue

Continued from Page B1

The Chinook is a twin-turbine, tandem-rotor, heavy-lift transport helicopter with a useful load of up to 25,000 pounds. With its high altitude and payload capability, the CH-47F is vital to overseas operations, such as in Afghanistan. Its capabilities include medical evacuation, aircraft recovery, parachute drops, disaster relief, and combat search and rescue.

"I've been flying CH-47 models for 22 years," said CW3 Shawn Miller, a CH-47F pilot with the South Carolina National Guard. "This is an unprecedented tasking. Never in its history has an Army unit been tasked to provide dedicated Aviation assets and crew to conduct joint personnel

recovery operations."

Miller's team is also joined by the Illinois Army National Guard.

The CH-47F model, with its enhanced capabilities, combined with the combat search and rescue mission set, allows the team to transport more personnel and essential equipment higher, further distances, and offer longer on the scene station times than ever before, Miller added.

## JOINT OPERATIONS

Joint operations between services capitalize on the unique skill sets each branch brings to the fight.

For missions in Afghanistan, because of its high altitudes and current enemy threats, the benefits seem to out-

weigh the risks of using a different system. Especially in terms of the varied mission sets required of the personnel recovery enterprise.

The pararescue team also specializes in cold weather, avalanche, or snow and ice rescue, collapsed structure/confined space extrication, or many different forms of jump operations in static-line or free-fall configuration.

Using the teams to their full capacity is all about strengthening the resolve of those fighting on the ground and in the air.

"Critical to the warfighter is knowing that a highly trained and capable PR force is standing ready at a moment's notice, willingly placing themselves in harm's way ... so that others may live," Wilson said.

# Award

Continued from Page B1

Several technical accomplishments reflect the tenacity of the SSEWG. For example, rigorous laboratory tests and data analysis showed corrosion surface treatment met or exceeded all requirements necessary to replace the chromate surface treatments for cast magnesium surfaces. The project manager for Cargo Helicopters thus adopted an advanced coating system, which reduces the amount of chromium on the CH-47 aircraft and will reduce parts rejection.

The horizontal hinge pin had to be redesigned to meet the CH-47F Block II program's greater lift capacity and is compatible with all F and G models of the aircraft.

To meet ozone depleting substance regulations, the SSEWG pursued multiple replacement efforts, resulting in a new handheld fire extinguisher that may be used on



COURTESY PHOTO

CH-47F Block II enhancements are the result of collaborative efforts with a multitude of industry partners and support efficiencies that will improve unit workloads.

the CH-47F Block II following successful testing.

All of these efforts by the SSEWG en-

sure a safe and environmentally acceptable design, including the production, fielding and operation of Block II aircraft with minimal effect on mission effective-

ness and program cost.

The SSEWG will go on to compete against other military services in April at the Secretary of Defense's competition.

# Air assets



PHOTO BY SGT. GREGORY T. SUMMERS

Spc. Craig Gallegos, an armament and avionics maintainer with D Co., 1st ARB, prepares to load an AH-64 Apache's M230 30mm chain gun for gunnery training at an airfield near Grafenwoehr, Germany, March 6.

Continued from Page B1

team. "We're able to bring any multinational fixed wing in to any multinational fight and put all the pieces together in order to suppress, attack and destroy an enemy in order to allow for freedom of maneuver."

## ROTATIONAL TRAINING

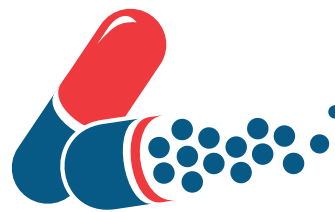
The common theme of integrating into and enabling the maneuver fight includes Army aircraft, as well. It's the basic definition of combining assets into one operation with field artillery fires suppressing enemy threats along air routes – that are in turn being used in route reconnaissance, security patrols and air assaults to support the infantry in its quest to seize an objective, explained Surrey.

"It's the meshing of all the different combined arms. The ground infantry wouldn't be able to have the operational reach that they do without our helicopters putting them

out there and putting the guns out there to support them, and without the attack helicopters providing the cover and security – so really enabling the ground force commander to execute his objectives, which is our main objective," said Capt. Eric Murphy, assistant operations officer for 3rd Bn., 227th Assault Helicopter Regt.

The integrated training environment at 7ATC during Dynamic Front enhances units' abilities and skills while improving their tactics, techniques and procedures.

"The continuous repetitions that we've had over here are exactly what any unit needs to really speed up our training time and efficiency," said Lt. Col. Jason Cook, commander, 1st Bn., 227th Attack Reconnaissance Regt. "The reaction time from call-for-fire to rounds hitting the target is reduced almost every day and every iteration that we do this. Every time we get a chance to work together, we learn each other's systems, we learn each other's processes and techniques, and it makes us fight better as one."






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MARCH 15, 2018

# 'SMALL GESTURES'

*Military Spouse of the Year says better to give than receive*



COURTESY PHOTOS

Gardner

**By Nathan Pfau**  
*Army Flier Staff Writer*

Military spouses make many sacrifices for the nation and their families, but many still find time to give back even more to the communities in which they live.

For Amanda Gardner, military spouse, giving back is a way of life, and for her contributions throughout the past year, she was recognized as the Fort Rucker Spouse of the Year by "Military Spouse" magazine – for the second year in a row.

The Military Spouse of the Year award is an honor given to spouses from all branches of service and was created to recognize those spouses who have gone above and beyond in their service, according to a letter by Lindsay Bradford, vice president of the Military Spouses Program for the magazine.

Gardner was recognized for her efforts not only in the community, but for helping all in need in times of crisis, according to the nomination letter by her friend and fellow military spouse, Amanda Saltsman.

"Amanda Gardner is more than worthy as a candidate for the Military

Spouse of the year. I actually met (her) on a (Random Acts of Kindness) group on Facebook, several years back – she was secretly sending others gifts out of kindness – and we instantly clicked," said Saltsman in the letter. "She is not only a wife, she is a mother of four perfect children, (parent teacher association) member, team mom for her kids' sports, classroom mom and my best friend – she runs her house like supermom and never complains."

Gardner has had her hand in various programs that she started to help the community on Fort Rucker, including a backpack program in 2017 that helped fill backpacks with school supplies for children in need.

Most notably, though, Gardner was instrumental in relief efforts that helped thousands of people who were affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma last year. What started off with helping as a dispatcher for relief efforts grew into something that involved thousands to help get supplies for victims of the storms.

"I worked with the Cajun Navy, (an informal volunteer group that was comprised of private boat owners to assist in relief and rescue efforts

in Louisiana), and they were doing dispatching and were rescuing people who were stuck in their flooded homes and their roofs," said Gardner. "I worked with them just taking calls and relaying information to the rescuers, but then I thought, you know what, this is going to be horrible and I felt like I needed to do more."

The best way she felt she could help was by starting a group on social media to help get supplies to the families who were in need, and although she began with local donations, it quickly grew into something that had a lasting impact, she said.

"I started a Facebook group by just inviting people that I knew in the area, and before I knew it, 12,000 people later, we had donations coming in from everywhere you could think of," she said. "We were shipping off diapers, wipes, body wash, lotion – just items people needed at the time and things that you don't think about."

Gardner was able to pair up with medical companies and even the University of Texas to help get out medical supplies and elderly care supplies to those affected, as well.

"It worked really, really well and was fantastic," she said. "I thought if we could help out one or two families it would be great, but it started growing and we had about 40 different drop-off points – it worked out really well and it was awesome."

It's for efforts like the hurricane relief that Gardner was selected for the MSOY award, and although she said she is humbled and honored to receive the recognition, her efforts aren't for her own gratification, but to try and help those who are in need, especially those in the military community.

"Military families have always been near and dear to me, but it feels better to help than it does to get help, or even buy something for myself," she said. "It's better to give and bless somebody else."

"It's an honor to be recognized two years in a row, but I was telling my husband that it's not about bragging about anything that I do, but hopefully the word gets out and people think that they can do it, too," she said. "They might see this and think, 'Well, I can send in two more packs of paper or a couple packs of pencils to my son or daughter's class.' We don't have to go out and spend all of our money to help, but small gestures go a long way."



Fort Rucker Military Spouse of the Year Amanda Gardner's two oldest children, Hayden and Kaylyn, take part in many of the efforts she takes part in throughout the year, including sorting school supplies for children and providing supplies for the community.

## Volunteering beefs up resumes, makes connections

**By Nathan Pfau**  
*Army Flier Staff Writer*

Volunteerism is just one way people can make a difference in the community in which they live, and Fort Rucker has no shortage of volunteer opportunities.

There are about 22 organizations that take active volunteers in about 44 different positions, and among the many benefits of volunteering, doing so is a way that newcomers to the installation can get work experience and make lasting connections, said Dolores Mabe, Fort Rucker Army Volunteer Corps program manager.

People come to Fort Rucker from all over the world, and making connections can be difficult, so a good place to start networking is through volunteerism, said Mabe. If people are unsure of how to get started or what they want to do, the Army Volunteer Corps is a good place to start.

"What I like to do when I have a volunteer come in who doesn't quite know what they want to do, is figure out where they might fit and we'll go through the opportunities," said the program manager.

By getting to know the volunteer, Mabe said she can better understand where their skills might benefit the community, or where they can gain work experience to beef up a resume.

Volunteer opportunities exist across a myriad of organizations, including Army Community Service, Boys and Girl Scouts of America, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, outdoor recreation, child and youth services, the International Military Student Office, Lyster Army Health Clinic, the thrift shop and family readiness groups, just to name a few.

People can also apply to volunteer at var-



FILE PHOTO

Thrift shop volunteers pose for a quick photo sporting some of the many items available in the store.

ious organizations through the Volunteer Management Information System by visiting the VMIS website at [www.myarmyonesource.com/FamilyProgramsandServices/Volunteering/VMIS/VMISHome.aspx](http://www.myarmyonesource.com/FamilyProgramsandServices/Volunteering/VMIS/VMISHome.aspx).

Whether a seasoned volunteer or newcomer, volunteers from all walks of life are welcome, said Mabe. For many volunteers, the time put in can help in the careers they choose to work in.

Kriselda Craven, military spouse and volunteer, teaches the English as a second language and beginner Spanish level courses at the Allen Heights Community Center, and said volunteering helps keep her resume current while she isn't working and helps her delve into the community she now lives in.

"This helps me get to know people and it helps to build my resume (and keep it current) for when I do decide to go back to work," she said.

Craven came to Fort Rucker from Austin, Texas, where she was a first-grade bilingual teacher, and upon arrival was seven months pregnant, but wanting to keep herself busy.

"I came (to ACS) and they had all of these programs available that I was certified for, so I wanted to help," she said.

Fellow volunteer Ilsa McCart teaches with the beginner Spanish level course, as well, and said this is a good way for her to reach her ultimate goal of becoming a Spanish teacher.

"I wanted to get involved as a way to network and get to know people," she said.

"When you move here, you don't know anybody, and one day I want to be a Spanish teacher, so being able to get involved with this class has been so much fun.

"Since I got here in January, everyone in (ACS) has helped me," said McCart. "They've gotten me connected with other people, and I'm getting official government hours for volunteering, so it's great for my resume. It's very rewarding, too."

Volunteerism is a great way for people to be able to build up work experience if they aren't able to find work or aren't currently in school, added Julianne Villanida, military spouse and ACS volunteer.

"I'm not in school and I'm not working, so this is something I started doing because I wanted to fill up my day, but now I've come to learn that I love doing the work," said the ACS volunteer, adding that gaining the work experience can help her secure a job in the future.

For Liz Tirol, ACS volunteer, the time spent volunteering is more about making connections when coming to a new community.

"I'm a new military spouse and my first duty station was with my husband at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and when we got there, volunteering is how I got to meet new people," she said. "Honestly, I'd rather spend my time volunteering than at a job because it's more fun. I wouldn't stop volunteering for anything."

If people are hesitant about whether they should volunteer, Craven added that it never hurts to ask questions.

"The people here have a lot of resources they can share," she said. "Just come out and talk to someone."

For more information, visit [myarmyonesource.com](http://myarmyonesource.com) or call 255-1429.



# ON POST

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

### Child care available

The Fort Rucker School Age Center has spaces available for before and after school care. The school age center is available for children kindergarten through fifth grade.

For more information, call 255-9638.

### Newcomers welcome

A newcomers welcome is scheduled for Friday from 9-11:30 a.m. at The Landing. Active-duty military, spouses, foreign students, Army civilians and family members are encouraged by post officials to attend the newcomers orientation. A free light breakfast and coffee will be served. For free childcare, people can register their children at the child development center by calling 255-3564. Reservations must be made 24 hours prior to the newcomers welcome.

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

### Go Green Skate Night

The Fort Rucker School Age Center is going green Friday with its Go Green Skate Night. Youth are encouraged to wear green from head to toe for a chance to take home a prize, according to organizers. Safety Skate will cost \$2 and will be from 5-6 p.m. Regular skate will cost \$5 and will be from 6-8 p.m. Payment will be accepted in cash only. Participants must be registered with child and youth services.

For more information, call 255-9108.

### Blended Retirement System Seminar

Army Community Service accredited financial counselors will present a Blended Retirement System Seminar Tuesday from 6-7 p.m. at Bldg. 5700, the Soldier Service Center, in Rm. 282.

The seminar will be a discussion of the significant changes to the current military retirement system, including continuation pay and the Thrift Saving Plan with matching government contributions. Pre-registration is required by Monday. Free child care available with registration. Class is subject to cancellation if enough people do not pre-register.

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

### Single Parent Family Game Night

Army Community Service and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service will host its Single Parent Family Game Night March 22 from 5-7 p.m. at the post exchange food court. Free giveaways will be included. The event will be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly. The event is an initiative of the Fort Rucker Community Health Promotions Council Community Resiliency Work Group. The game night will be open to authorized patrons who are single parents. The deadline to register will be Friday and will be limited to the first 20 families to register.

People are asked to pre-register by calling 255-3359 or 255-9647.

### WWI presentation

The Center Library will offer a World War I presentation by Bob Barlow of the Army Aviation Museum March 22 at 5 p.m. The presentation is titled "WWI Naval Warfare" and is part of a year-long commemoration of America's entry into WWI. The event will be open to authorized patrons and will be Exceptional Family Member Program friendly.

For more information, call 255-3885.

### Resilience training

Army Community Service will host resilience training March 23 and 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Bldg. 5700, Rm. 350. Resilience training is designed to provide family members and civilians with the tools to better cope with and overcome adversity and challenges, as well as perform better in stressful situations, according to organizers.

For more information, call 255-3161 or 255-3735.

### Children's Festival

The 14th annual Fort Rucker Children's Festival is scheduled for March 24 from 1-4 p.m. at the festival fields. The free family event offers activities, games, inflatables, crafts, children's karaoke, the seventh annual Diaper Derby – open to all crawling babies no older than 15 months – one of the area's largest Easter egg hunts and more, according to organizers.

For more information, including a schedule of events, visit <https://rucker>.



PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

## Wounded Warrior Spring Hunt

Fort Rucker will host the Wounded Warrior Spring Hunt April 6-8. Wounded Warriors from across the southeast will participate in the hunt free of charge through the support of sponsors assisting with lodging and food. Hunters are expected from Virginia, Florida, Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia and Mississippi. The hunt is open to the general public. Guides to assist the wounded warriors are also welcomed. All patrons wanting to hunt along with the wounded warriors must have a valid state hunting license, Fort Rucker hunting permit and a hunter education completion card. Hunters must also read Alabama and Fort Rucker regulations regarding authorized weapons and ammunition. Cost is \$25. Prizes will be awarded for the biggest turkey, biggest coyote and most coyotes. For more information, call 255-4305 or visit <http://rucker.armymwr.com/us/rucker>. Pictured is the Wounded Warrior Boat available for rent by wounded warriors. The boat was purchased using funds raised by previous wounded warrior hunts.

[armymwr.com/](http://armymwr.com/).

### Spring Break Cruise

MWR Central is offering a special on a spring break cruise to Cozumel, Mexico on a Carnival cruise ship. The five-night cruise will run from March 24-29. MWR Central will provide transportation to and from Mobile.

For a full itinerary and costs, call 255-2997.

### Super Hero Camp Spring Break

The Fort Rucker School Age Center will host its Super Hero Camp Spring Break March 26-30. The event will feature trips, super hero snacks, a costume party fit for a hero and more, according to organizers. Participants must be registered with child and youth services.

For membership information or to sign-up for membership, call 255-9638. For information on the event, call 255-9108.

### Spring break at the youth center

People can sign up now for the Fort Rucker Youth Center's spring break camp, which runs from March 26-30. Youth will participate in games, sewing, sports, dance, art and cake decorating challenges, and more. Camp hours will be 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, call 255-2271 or 255-2260.

### Employment readiness class

The Fort Rucker Employment Readiness Program will host a workshop March 29 in the Soldier Service Center, Bldg. 5700, in the Army Community Service multipurpose room. People who attend will meet in Rm. 350 at 8:45 a.m. to fill out paperwork before going to the multipurpose room. The class will end at about 11:30 a.m. The sessions will inform people on the essentials of the program and provide job search tips, as well. Advance registration is required.

For more information, call 255-2594.

### Fort Rucker Right Arm Night

The Landing Zone will host the Fort Rucker Right Arm Night March 29 from 4-6 p.m. Right Arm Night is an Army tradition, promoting a night of camaraderie and esprit de corps as leaders come together and treat those who help them accomplish the mission. Complimentary appetizers will be served while supplies last. Right Arm Night is held every month, and both military and civilians are welcome.

For more information, call 255-0768.

### Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month car wash

April is recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Prevention Month and this year's theme is Sexual Assault. Sexual Harassment. Not in Our Army. The installation Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention Team will partner with the U. S. Army Warrant Officer Career College Warrant Of-

# DFMWR SPOTLIGHT

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## girls' night out

**THE LANDING | 6-9 PM**  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 16**

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### Grand Prize!

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**Tickets:**  
\$5 Advance  
\$8 At Door

Advance tickets available Coffee Zones, The Landing and MWR Central.

Ladies, get ready for a night out with the girls! Join us on Friday, March 16 at The Landing from 6-9 pm for an evening full of fashion, health, beauty, and shopping!

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**Trivia • Door Prizes**  
**Shopping • Photo Booth**

Come dressed in your favorite St. Patrick's Day green attire for a fun night out with the girls!

Prize drawings will be held throughout the evening, with a grand prize drawing at 9 pm.

**Don't miss your opportunity to win some awesome door prizes!**

Tickets are on sale for \$5 which includes one drink stub, good for a complimentary themed-drink (ages 21+) or soft drink.

Must be present to win prizes.

Sponsorship does not imply Army endorsement.

ficer Candidate School Class 18-09 to host a car wash to help raise awareness March 31 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Shamrock Street.

For more information, call 255-2382.

### Girls Night Out

The Landing will host Girls Night Out Friday from 6-9 p.m. with a shamrock theme where attendees can wear their favorite green attire, according to officials. The event will feature entertainment provided by a disc jockey, door prizes, a fashion show, St.

Patrick's Day fun facts and trivia game, and more. Prize drawings will be held throughout the evening, with a grand prize drawing at 9 p.m. People must be present to win prizes. The event will be open to the public for those 18 and older. Advanced tickets are on sale for \$5 and are available at MWR Central, The Landing Zone, The Landing Catering Office, and the Coffee Zones at Lyster Army Health Clinic and The Landing Zone. The night of the event, tickets will be available at the door for \$8.

For more details, call 255-0769.

## FORT RUCKER MOVIE SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 15-18

### Thursday, March 15

**Phantom Thread (R)** .....7 p.m.

### Friday, March 16

**Maze Runner: The Death Cure (PG-13)** .....7 p.m.

### Saturday, March 17

**Peter Rabbit (PG-13)** .....3 p.m.  
**Fifty Shades Freed (R)** .....7 p.m.

### Sunday, March 18

**Peter Rabbit (PG-13)** .....1 p.m.  
**15:17 To Paris (PG-13)** .....4 p.m.



# U.S. Special Forces bring elite training to Panama

By Staff Sgt. Osvaldo Equite  
For Army News Service

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Within minutes, an elite multinational security force team managed to close with and overwhelm armed groups hiding along Panama's Caribbean shores and remote jungle locations.

The team's mission success however, would depend on the next hundred or so split-second decisions made — under fire and stress — between team members that had only met weeks before.

Still, the team freed all simulated hostages, while successfully culminating a month-long training exchange between U.S. Special Operations Forces and Panamanian security counterparts held in January and February throughout Panama.

"The Joint Combined Exchange Training improved the readiness of assigned quick reaction forces with Special Operations Command South by developing capabilities needed when responding to a crisis alongside partner nation security forces," said Lt. Col. Marcus Hunter, Special Operations Liaison Officer with U.S. Special Operations Command, in Panama City.

Participating U.S. Special Operations Forces units improved their overall competencies in marksmanship, small unit tactics training, air and maritime operations, communications, and sustained interoperability with counterparts by exchanging techniques, tactics, and procedures — while enhancing service members' language proficiency in Spanish.

Special Operations Command South integrated U.S. Special Operations Forces units from the Air Force, Army, and Navy to train alongside elite Panamanian counterterrorism units in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Panama City and Panamanian security forces.

## NOTHING LIKE BACK HOME

Although U.S. Special Operations Forces train regularly at their home station units in preparation for contingencies in the Americas, Joint Combined Exchange Trainings provide training opportunities not easily replicated stateside.

"Everyday was about learning something new, even if it was just a small interaction with our counterparts in Spanish," said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Gordon Boyer, a radio frequency transmission specialist with the 6th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida.

For weeks, Boyer, a Michigan native responsible for the maintenance and repair of communications equipment, relied on his working proficiency in Spanish to work side-by-side with his counterparts on a daily basis.

"We dove into the manuals for hours, figuring things out together," said Boyer, recalling an instance where he enabled communications between Panamanian air support, U.S. and partner nation



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. OSVALDO EQUITE

U.S. Special Forces and Panamanian security forces rush to rescue simulated hostages Feb. 1 during a training exchange in Colon, Panama, aimed at improving U.S. response capabilities and fostering partnerships in the Americas.

ground forces.

"We figured out the best way for us to accomplish our missions everyday using what we had and speaking with the little we both knew," he said, noting that the interactions really tested his Spanish and his counterpart's English.

Like Boyer, Spanish is a second language for the majority of the American exercise participants. Only a third of the service members who took part in the training were fluent, with the rest having a minimal working proficiency in the language.

"That's why training like this is so important. We get a full language and cultural immersion we wouldn't get back home," said Matt, a senior Special Forces weapons sergeant with the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), out of Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, who for security reasons spoke on condition of anonymity.

The first time many junior service members gain valuable experiences in leadership, mentorship, instruction and advisory roles are also during joint combined training.

"The first opportunity I had being a team leader was during a previous JCET, where I was responsible for leading a group of partner nation members as we conducted training," said the Special Forces sergeant, who has deployed eight times, with this trip being his first to Panama.

"It was during a prior JCET that I was also put in charge as a ground convoy commander for the first time," he added. "With little prior experience in such a position I put together a plan, thought of all the obstacles we might come across, and began to develop contingencies for a two-hour movement. The contingencies included coordination with an air element."

Additionally, U.S. Special Op-



A U.S. Army Special Forces Soldier with Special Operations Command South assigns sectors of fire to a Panamanian police officer during a hostage rescue scenario Feb. 1 as part of Joint Combined Exchange Training in Colon, Panama.

erations Forces tackle logistics, communications, and transportation hurdles on a daily basis during joint combined training that begins as soon as they arrive in country.

"That's another benefit to this training, working through and finding solutions to the day-to-day real-world problems that you do not encounter back home," said the Special Forces sergeant.

## BEYOND THE TRAINING

Aside from boosting U.S. force's response capabilities in the Americas, this exchange training also strengthened working relationships and built trust between the elite forces. This not only saves valuable time in being able to make split-second decisions during training, but also when working together in the event of a crisis.

"These relationships and trust can help reduce the scope and du-

ration of a crisis and increase the likelihood our partners can respond to crises on their own," said Navy Adm. Kurt W. Tidd, U.S. Southern Command's commander, before a Senate Armed Services Committee last year.

Similarly, the most rewarding aspect of the training for many of the exchange participants was building professional relationships needed if they are one day called to work alongside each other.

"Our mission is to execute high-risk operations in urban areas and to intervene against sabotage against the canal," said police Capt. Javier Bethancourt, deputy operations officer with Panama's National Police counterterrorism unit, known in its Spanish acronym as the UFEC.

Without these working relationships and training, it would be difficult for the multinational forces to

work together, said the operations officer. "So building these relationships is important, especially if it comes to protecting the canal."

"We build a relationship with these guys because they are the best and they might stay in the same unit for years," said the U.S. Special Operations Forces weapons sergeant. "This makes integration easier, knowing that we speak the same language when it comes to tactics and techniques. At the end of the day, the ultimate outcome for us is to build and maintain steady relationships that prepare us for any type of crisis we are tasked to respond to."

Other participating units included Panama's National Police Rural and Maritime Anti-Drug Unit, known as the UTOA, and elements from the National Aero Naval Service, known as SENAN, in their Spanish acronyms.

## Public Notice - Fort Rucker Environmental Assessment for the Construction and Operation of a Contractor-Owned, Contractor-Operated Fuel Station

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army, Fort Rucker, Alabama, has prepared a Final Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for the construction and operation of a contractor-owned, contractor-operated fuel station in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Copies of the EA have been provided for public review at the Daleville Public Library located at 308 Donnell Boulevard, Daleville, Alabama, 36322, phone number 334-503-9119; and the Fort Rucker Center Library, Building 212, 5th Ave., Fort Rucker, Alabama, 36362, phone number 334-255-3885; and the Sustainable Fort Rucker website at: <https://www.fortrucker-env.com/> under the Programs tab and then the NEPA tab. The EA will be available for review and comments for 30 days starting 15 March 2018. Comments on the EA should be sent to: Ms. Leigh Jahnke, Directorate of Public Works, Environmental and Natural Resources Division, ATTN: IMRC-PWE, Building 1121, Fort Rucker, Alabama, 36362 or [leigh.b.jahnke.civ@mail.mil](mailto:leigh.b.jahnke.civ@mail.mil). Comments will be addressed and incorporated into the Final EA.

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# PUERTO RICO

*Army Corps of Engineers announces 90-percent power restoration for citizens*

By Preston Chasteen  
For Army News Service

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Since Hurricane Maria struck the island of Puerto Rico nearly six months ago, a combined effort from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority and the utility industry continues to restore reliable power to the people of Puerto Rico.

In mid-October, USACE began issuing line restoration contracts in support of emergency power grid repairs.

To date, USACE partnerships with PREPA and the utility industry have restored power to 90.19 percent of customers, or more than 1,328,490 million clients.

This means fewer than 145,000 clients remain without service since Hurricane Maria devastated the island and its power grid, and the Army Corps of Engineers will continue in a unified effort to safely restore reliable power to these citizens as quickly as possible.

The Unified Command, consisting of PREPA, USACE, FEMA and the island's Restoration Coordinator, previously estimated the date for restoration of electricity to 90 to 95 percent of customers across the island as March 31.

Restoration in 35 municipalities is now 95 percent or greater, and six municipalities are 100 percent restored. Municipalities in more remote areas with challenging ter-



PHOTO BY MAJ. MICHAEL MEYER

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers uses helicopters to place poles and electrical power lines Feb. 6 in San German, a mountain community on the southwestern side of Puerto Rico.

rain — such as the municipalities of Arecibo, Caguas, and the surrounding areas where Hurricane Maria caused significant damage — remain less than 80 percent restored. Reaching 90 to 95 percent of customers restored in these regions will take until mid-April or late-May.

Crews are converging into these hardest-hit areas and working aggressively to restore smaller groups of outages throughout the island.

“Alongside our restoration partners from FEMA, PREPA and the utility industry, we remain focused on restoring power to the

Puerto Rican people — 90 percent restoration of the devastated grid is a notable milestone and a long way from the 20 percent start point — but our efforts continue on the work remaining,” said Col. Jason Kirk, USACE Power Restoration Task Force lead.

The Unified Command will continue to re-position some of the more than 3,700

workers remaining on the island, in accordance with PREPA's Master Plan.

These measures over the next several weeks will continue to maximize manpower and material against remaining priority lines to achieve the paramount objective of restoration of power for all citizens of Puerto Rico.



PHOTO BY PRESTON CHASTEEN

Col. Jason Kirk, Task Force Power Restoration commander, speaks with Gov. Ricardo Rossello, governor of Puerto Rico in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, as power was being restored to a neighborhood Feb. 5.



PHOTO BY PRESTON CHASTEEN

Despite the rugged terrain, power workers with a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contractor reconnect power lines near the town of Lares, Puerto Rico, Jan. 24. An estimated 80 percent of the power grid in Puerto Rico was destroyed by Hurricane Maria in September.

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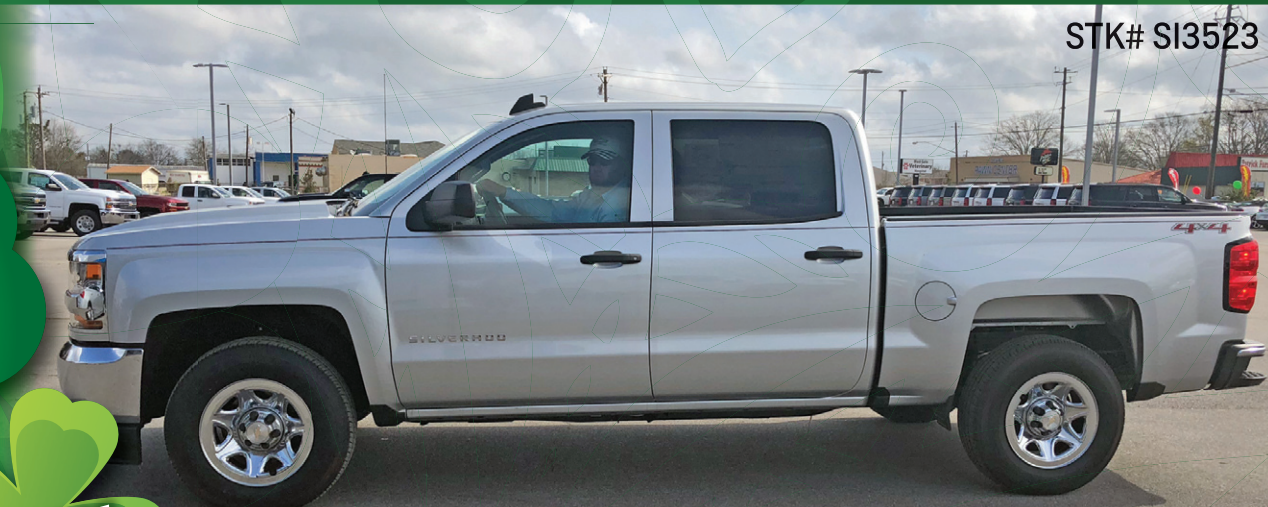
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# State park offers spring break options

Army Flier  
Staff Reports

ATLANTA — Georgia's State Parks and Historic Sites offer many ways for families to enjoy the outdoors on a budget during spring break.

From sleeping under the stars to paddling under a full moon, Georgia's State Parks have vacations for all ages. Below are ten ideas for memorable spring break vacations that are affordable and close to home.

- **Camping Under the Stars** — Pack the tent and build cherished memories while toasting gooey s'mores. Camping encourages the entire family to enjoy the simple pleasures of swapping stories while looking up at the stars. All campgrounds have water and electric hookups, plus hot showers. Many offer sewage hookups for RVs and site-specific reservations.
- **Glamping Yurts** — For a unique and affordable getaway, book a "glamour camping" yurt. These funky wood and canvas structures are a blend between a tent and cabin, with furniture inside and fire rings outside. Guests can even walk to nearby hot showers. Yurts are available at Cloudland Canyon, Red Top Mountain, High Falls, Fort Yargo, Sweetwater Creek and Tugaloo state parks.
- **Cozy Cabins** — For an affordable and cozy staycation, book a cabin or cottage surrounded by beautiful scenery. Ranging from one to three bedrooms, state park cabins come with fully equipped kitchens, screened porches and a wide range of activities right outside the door.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bring your four-legged family members along when you reserve a dog-friendly cabin in advance.

- **Parks After Dark** — Throughout 2018, Georgia's State Parks are spotlighting the sights and sounds of evening. Join park rangers for after-dark programs such as full-moon kayaking, astronomy outings, sunset hikes, frog frolics, candlelit tours and more.
- **Junior Rangers** — Children ages 6 to 12 will have fun learning in the outdoors as they work toward earning a Junior Ranger badge. By following guidelines in the activity book or attending ranger-led camps, they will experience nature first-hand and explore Georgia's fascinating history. The experience builds as

children work their way through three badge levels. Download the free book at <http://www.GaStateParks.org/EducationalResources>.

- **Hit the Trail** — Hit the trails with your children to discover the wonders of nature through their eyes. Georgia's State Parks offer a variety of hiking and biking paths, from easy paved loops to challenging backcountry trails. Families will experience Georgia's diverse landscape as well, with canyons and waterfalls, salt marshes and streams. Energetic explorers can join the Canyon Climbers Club or Muddy Spokes Club to earn a members-only t-shirt.
- **Go Fishing** — Grab your rod and reel and head out for a day of fishing

at parks like High Falls or Moccasin Creek. There is no fee for casting a line, but a license is required for ages 16 and older. For families who would like to take their adventure up a notch, many state parks rent boats by the hour.

- **Travel Back in Time** — Mix entertainment with education when you step back in time at Georgia's state historic sites. Children can explore colonial times at Fort Morris and Fort King George, or Civil War bunkers at Fort McAllister. To learn about Native American history, visit Kolomoki Mounds, New Echota, Chief Vann House and Etowah Indian Mounds. Even more historic sites are listed at <http://www.GaStateParks.org/History>.
- **Go Paddling** — Explore Georgia's waterways through a variety of paddling adventures. Canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards and aquacycles may be rented seasonally, or visitors may bring their own boats. Many parks offer guided tours, including Stephen C. Foster's tour of the mysterious Okefenokee Swamp and George L. Smith's tour of a beautiful mill pond. For a challenge, join the Park Paddlers Club which takes explorers to six state parks as they earn a members-only t-shirt.
- **Tee Off** — Tee off at one of Georgia's eight state park golf courses offering a family-friendly atmosphere surrounded by sparkling lakes and scenic forests. Lessons, putting greens, pro shops and a Junior Golf Tour are available.

For more information, visit <http://www.GaStateParks.org/>.

## WIREGRASS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT, EMAIL JIM HUGHES WITH ALL THE DETAILS AT [JHUGHES@ARMYFLIER.COM](mailto:JHUGHES@ARMYFLIER.COM).

### ANDALUSIA

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

### DALEVILLE

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

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

### DOTHAN

**APRIL 6-7** — The Wiregrass Master Gardeners will host its 22nd Spring Plant Sale on from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 6 and 8 a.m. to noon April 7. The sale will be held in the master gardeners' nursery at the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens, 5130 Headland Avenue. There will be a wide selection of plants — last year featured over 5,000 plants for sale. The event will also include free planting tips from the master gardeners, and information on fire ant control, soil testing and gardening in general. Admission is free. For more information, call 334-714-2759.

**MARCH 19-20** — Southeast Alabama Community Theatre will hold open auditions for its production of "The Cemetery Club" at 6:30 p.m. both days at the Cultural Arts Center, located at 909 South St. Andrews Street. No experience is necessary and audition information is available at [www.SEACT.com](http://www.SEACT.com). SEACT's mission is to provide a continuing source of quality live entertainment and theatrical experiences on stage and behind the scenes for the Wiregrass area. To learn more about SEACT, call

334-794-0400, send an email to [seact@seact.com](mailto:seact@seact.com), or visit [www.seact.com](http://www.seact.com).

### ENTERPRISE

**ONGOING** — The Enterprise Baseball League needs players. Tryouts take place now through March 17 at Warren Field. All ages are welcome. For more information, including exact dates and times, call 334-389-5972 or 334-347-1660.

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

### GENEVA

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

### MIDLAND CITY

**ONGOING** — Residents are invited to town hall meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 1385 Hinton Waters Ave. For more information, call 983-3511.

### NEW BROCKTON

**MARCH 22** — The Disabled American Veterans Wiregrass Chapter 99 will meet at 6 p.m. in the New Brockton Senior Center. For more information, call 334-718-5707.

**ONGOING** — The Disabled American Veterans Wiregrass Chapter 99 Veterans Assistance office is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9-11:00 a.m. except on federal holidays. The office is located in the town hall.

### OZARK

**ONGOING** — The Friends of Ozark holds a monthly meeting on the second Monday of every month at 6 p.m.

at the Ozark-Dale County Library. For more information, send an email to [jnbull@gmail.com](mailto:jnbull@gmail.com), call 334-774-1127, send an email to [marie.l.clark@gmail.com](mailto:marie.l.clark@gmail.com), or call 334-777-1156.

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

### PINCKARD

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

### SAMSON

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

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

### TROY

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

### WIREGRASS AREA

**APRIL 7** — Charles Williams and True Faith will celebrate their first anniversary at 6 p.m. at Jackson Chapel at 395 County Road 107 in Abbeville. Everyone is invited to attend.

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

## Beyond Briefs

### Montgomery rodeo

The Southeastern Livestock Expo Rodeo is scheduled for March 15-17 at Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery. The event will feature the top bucking stock in the country, according to organizers.

Tickets cost \$16 and can be purchased through Ticketmaster. For schedule details or more information, visit [slerodeo.com/](http://slerodeo.com/).

### River Region Comic Con

Montgomery will host its River Region Comic Con — a first-year, multi-genre, veteran-owned convention — March 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Cramton Bowl Multiplex, 220 Hall Street.

The focus will be on comics, gaming, e-sports, technology and film for the area, according to organizers. Rocket City Arcade will be hosting the arcade game room including a Donkey Kong high score tour-

nament.

Ticket information is available at <http://riverregioncomicon.com/shop/>. For more information on the event, visit [www.facebook.com/events/1221294874638531/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1221294874638531/).

### Carrabelle Culture Crawl

Carrabelle, Florida, will host its second annual Carrabelle Culture Crawl March 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The sprawling waterfront tour will feature art, music, history, food and fun in the heart of downtown Carrabelle, according to organizers. The crawl will take place at more than a dozen galleries, museums, shops, restaurants and spaces. Just a few days later, selected works from members of the Carrabelle Artists Association will be on exhibit at the Rio Carrabelle Art & Music venue.

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

### Doggie Easter Egg Hunt

Conservation Park in Panama City Beach,

Florida, will host its free Doggie Easter Egg Hunt March 24 from 9-11 a.m. The event will feature more than 400 eggs filled with doggie treats and door prizes.

For more information, call 850-233-5045.

### Civil Ties United Mudrun

Civil Ties United has partnered with the Capital City Kiwanis Club and the Lagoon Park Trail Group to design a unique mud course in Montgomery. March 24, there will be a wet-run of the course. The wet-run runners will pay \$25. There will be T-shirts and prizes. The Civil Ties United Mudrun is a mud run with a message: a physical demonstration that despite people's differences, they all run the same race, according to organizers. Participants who sign up for the 3-5-mile run are tethered to a person of a different race than themselves. The two-person teams must face 15 obstacles together that may require climbing, crawling or wading through mud. The idea is to open a

dialogue on diversity and show participants that if they're going to make it, they have to do

Tickets cost \$25 and people can register by visiting <https://mmstiming.com/race/2018-civil-ties-united-mudrun/>. For more information, visit [www.civiltiesmudrun.com/](http://www.civiltiesmudrun.com/).

### Easter Eggstravaganza Kids Fest

The Montgomery 2018 Riverfront Easter Eggstravaganza Kids Fest will be held March 31 from noon to 2 p.m. in Riverfront Park. The event will feature Easter egg hunts, games, face painting, balloon animals, K-9 demonstration, fire truck display, food vendors and a visit from the Easter Bunny, according to organizers. This event is free and open to the public. Children are encouraged to bring their Easter baskets so they can capture hidden eggs located in the park area.

For more information, call 334-625-2100 or visit [www.facebook.com/events/1458049780990870/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1458049780990870/).



# HONORING SACRIFICE

*Purple Heart awarded to World War II veteran – 74 years later*

By Kevin Larson  
For Army News Service

FORT STEWART, Ga. — On April 11, 1944, the “Kansas City Kitty,” a B-24 Liberator bomber assigned to the 566th Bombardment Squadron of the 8th Army Air Force out of Hethel, England, was shot down by enemy aircraft over Germany during World War II.

On Feb. 23, nearly 74 years later, Edward H. Mims was presented the Purple Heart Medal for the wounds he received in the crashing bomber. He was 20 years old that fateful day. He’s now 83 and living in The Villages – a retirement community roughly an hour northwest of Orlando -- with his wife, Sandi.

“I’m thankful that I’m here,” Mims said. “It was unbelievable that I was spared.”

Mims was the top turret gunner on the bomber, serving alongside 10 men. Seven men, including Mims, bailed out of the aircraft after it was hit by enemy fighter fire. One man’s parachute did not open. Mims and the surviving five men were captured and held as prisoners of war in Stalag 17B in Austria.

He spent 390 days in the camp, where 4,000 others were held. Mims was liberated by U.S. forces on May 3, 1945, after enduring a westward 300-mile march after the stalag was evacuated in the face of oncoming Soviet forces encroaching from the east. Being a POW “wasn’t a picnic,” Mims said.

“It was something I didn’t want to go through,” he said. “But most of us managed.”

Gene Parent, a military veteran and resident of The Villages, and Sandi were instrumental in securing Mims’ Purple Heart.

“We had to follow procedures to make a request to change military documents to include all military medals not yet awarded to him for World War II action in Europe,” said Parent during the Purple Heart Medal ceremony held in the Villages’ Eisenhower Recreation Center. “After filling out all the paperwork... (he was) denied the Purple



Staff Sgt. Edward Mims, 83, smiles and holds his Purple Heart Medal as well-wishers thank him for his service following a ceremony in his honor at the The Villages, a retirement community in Florida, Feb. 23. Mims was awarded the medal nearly 74 years after being wounded in World War II while serving as a top turret gunner on a B-24 Liberator bomber.

Heart because the review board said they could not be sure his injuries were sustained by enemy action. You see, his military records were destroyed in the St. Louis fire back in 1973.”

It took seven years of hard work and social media sleuthing to ensure Mims was awarded the medal he deserved.

“There was enough eye witness documentation to show that Sergeant Mims received injuries from the fire that went up through his top turret position and burned his face, head, and hands,” Parent said.

It also took the support of the Trump administration, Sandi said.

“I am overwhelmed and have abundant joy and appreciation that my husband can be honored the way he should be honored,” she said.

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield garrison command team Col. Jason Wolter and Command Sgt. Maj. Marty Conroy presented the Purple Heart to Mims in the community’s Eisenhower Recreation Center. It was a fitting location for the ceremony, with its museum vibe, showcasing artifacts from throughout the nation’s military history.

“This is long overdue,” Wolter said. “Thank you for your service and sacrifice.”

Although long overdue, Sandi said her

husband still endures the unseen wounds the war left behind.

“He has post-traumatic stress disorder,” she said. “He has nightmares, continual nightmares, where he is in the plane. And he’ll wake me and he says ‘would you please see if we’re on land or in the sky.’ It’s an everlasting effect. For so long, he kept it in, didn’t want to share it with his family. They kept on saying ‘Ed, our children need to know what you and others have done for our county. Talk about it.’ And he began to talk about.”

Mims started to open up about his service about eight years ago, roughly the same time Sandi bought tickets for him and her to fly in a restored B-24 on Father’s Day. Mims eyes’ lit up and he chuckled as she described the experience.

“It was so barbaric and so cold and smelled like gasoline,” Sandi said.

Mims said he was amazed people made an effort to restore a B-24.

“I was just surprised,” he said. “I appreciated it.”

As part of the ceremony, Parent asked for a moment of silence to honor the crew of Mims’ Liberator.

The names of the crew:

- Pilot, 1st Lt. Jack Wyatt, killed in action;
- Co-pilot, 2nd Lt. David Stiner, prisoner of war;
- Navigator, 2nd Lt. Richard Gustafson, killed in action;
- Bombardier, 2nd Lt. George Sherry, killed in action;
- Nose turret gunner, Staff Sgt. Robert Tackett, killed in action;
- Radio operator, Staff Sgt. Kenneth Herbert, killed in action;
- Ball turret gunner, Staff Sgt. Donald Williquette, prisoner of war;
- Waist gunner, Staff Sgt. Ralph Wetzel, prisoner of war;
- Waist gunner, Staff Sgt. Albert Rieser, prisoner of war; and
- Tail gunner, Staff Sgt. James Bradley, prisoner of war.

## 2018 Gerber Baby comes from Army National Guard family

By Staff Sgt. R.J. Lannom Jr.  
Army News Service

MARIETTA, Ga. — Georgia Army National Guard Spc. Jason A. Warren, an aircraft powertrain repairer with the Marietta, Georgia-based D Company, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment, and his wife Cortney garnered national media attention on Feb. 9 when their son Lucas was named the 2018 Gerber Spokesbaby.

The Warrens were amazed when they received the news of Lucas’ win.

“Absolute shock,” said Jason. “It was hard to believe he won out of 140,000 entries.”

Lucas, diagnosed with Down Syndrome, is the eighth Gerber baby since the contest began in 2010. Inspired by the original Gerber baby sketch of Ann Turner Cook, families began sharing their baby photos with Gerber. In response, Gerber launched its first official photo search competition in 2010.

“We hope this opportunity sheds light on the special needs community and educates people that with acceptance and support, individuals with special needs have potential to change the world,” said Cortney. “Just like our Lucas.”

The Warrens hope other families with special needs children

can look to Lucas as a source of inspiration.

“We hope this will help people kick-start their own lives and give them more confidence,” said Jason. “They might think if Lucas can do this, what can I do in my life?”

The winning photo shows Lucas, sitting in an overstuffed chair, grinning from ear to ear wearing a black and pink polka-dot bow tie.

“He is very outgoing and never meets a stranger,” said Cortney. “He loves to play, loves to laugh and to make other people laugh.”

“He is just the absolute cutest thing ever,” said Staff Sgt. Misty D. Crapps, supply sergeant with Company D, 171st Aviation Regiment. “He always smiles at everybody he sees.”

Jason looks forward to continued service in the Georgia Army National Guard. He feels a sense of pride and family being part of the organization.

“I absolutely love the Guard: the ability to help my community and serve my country,” said Jason. “The benefits of service are always great to have, and it allows me to serve my country the way I want to.”

The fellowship of his teammates in his aviation unit also reinforces the feeling of family.

“The Guard has been with

me with everything I’ve ever done,” said Jason. “Through my grandmother’s passing, when I had shoulder surgery, they’ve helped Cortney and me a lot, and they are a second family to us.”

The Aviators and Guardsmen in Jason’s unit share his feeling for service in the Guard and look forward to his continued service.

“He always volunteers to do the little things which are not part of his job description to make the unit better,” said 1st Sgt William W. Adcock, D Co., 171st Avn. Regt. “Specialist Warren is a fantastic Guardsman. He does what we all do: dedicates his time and personal energy to serve the people of this state and the United States.”

Jason plans to re-enlist in March for another six years and hope Lucas sees him and understands the importance of service.

“I hope one day Lucas will see I was in the military and has a sense of pride,” said Jason.

**Get your NEWS FEATURES SPORTS every Thursday in the Army Flier**



Lucas Warren, the son of Georgia Guardsman Spc. Jason Warren, was chosen as the 2018 Gerber Spokesbaby out of more than 140,000 entries. Lucas’ winning photo was selected based on the core judging criteria: visual appeal, expressiveness and consistency with Gerber’s heritage, which is grounded in recognizing that every baby is a Gerber baby. He is the eighth Gerber baby since the contest began in 2010.

## Religious Services

### WORSHIP SERVICES

Except as noted, all services are on Sunday.

#### Headquarters Chapel, Bldg. 109

8 a.m. Traditional Protestant Service

#### Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 8940

8:30 a.m. Catholic Confessions  
9 a.m. Catholic Mass  
11 a.m. Collective Protestant  
12:05 p.m. Catholic Mass (Tuesday-Friday)

4 p.m. Catholic Confessions (Saturday)  
5 p.m. Catholic Mass (Saturday)

#### Wings Chapel, Bldg. 6036

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

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MARCH 15, 2018

# CROWNED

## 1-11th Avn. Champs earn moniker, title

By Nathan Pfau  
Army Flier Staff Writer

The regular season for the Fort Rucker Intramural Basketball season came to a close with two teams going head to head to win the title of league champions, but only one team, fittingly named, would come out on top.

The 1st Battalion, 11th Aviation Regiment Champs took on the post team, the Black Hawks, Monday in a game that had spectators on the edge of their seats, but it would be the Champs who secured the league crown, narrowly edging out their opponents, 54-51.

For Staff Sgt. Denzel West, coach for the Champs, the winning factor came down to camaraderie.

“The team finally started syncing together,” said West. “We’ve been integrating all new players this year and picked up a couple of new faces, but nonetheless we gave everybody a chance and trusted each other – we had the camaraderie. Once you start to trust each other, everything becomes easy.”

Despite what West said, the game was no easy win for the Champs.

The Black Hawks took possession to start and came out strong, managing to get on the scoreboard first, but the Champs weren’t going to fall too far behind as they managed to stay on their opponent’s heels early on.

The post team, known for their shooting prowess, came out with their A-game and managed to sink a three pointer to extend their lead, putting the pressure on the 1-11th.

Both teams went shot-for-shot



Senior Airman Tony Hart, player for the Champs, goes up for a shot during the league championship game of the Fort Rucker Intramural Basketball regular season Monday.

PHOTO BY NATHAN PFAU

early on, with the Black Hawks managing to stay in the lead, but only just, giving the Champs the opportunity to tie it up and eventually take the lead just five minutes into the half.

Both teams seemed evenly matched, and although the Black Hawks started off with what seemed to be superior shooting, the Champs were starting to come together as a team to match their

opponent’s ability.

The post team started to slowly fall behind as the 1-11th found their footing, but were careful to not fall too far behind. The Black Hawks managed to creep back up from behind and tie the game again, 10 minutes in, and champs were doing everything they could to retake the lead, which they managed to do with a three point shot.

As the clock wound down, the lead bounced back and forth between the two teams as both teams brought an aggressive play style that seemed to bring more fouls than baskets toward the end of the half. With seconds left, the Black Hawks managed to sink a three-point shot at the buzzer to take the lead going into the second half, 27-25.

It was still anybody’s game, but

the 1-11th had the advantage going into the second half with possession of the ball and they capitalized on that with a layup to tie the game.

Both teams remained evenly matched throughout the half, but the Champs began to pull away with a 4-point lead, but their lead wouldn’t last long, as the Black Hawks stepped their game up and a managed to retake the lead, if only briefly.

The lead ping ponged back and forth for most of the remainder of the game, but the Black Hawks managed to take a 5-point lead, seemingly breaking the stagnation with 10 minutes remaining.

The Champs’ defense seemed to falter, allowing the Black Hawks to pull away, but the 1-11th had plenty of time left to reclose the gap and they banked on that time, scooping up rebound after rebound to close the gap.

The post team managed to stay ahead for most of the half, but fouls kept their opponents close, eventually allowing the Champs to retake the lead with 5 minutes remaining in the game.

The Black Hawks were desperate to get back ahead, but with their aggressive play style came consequences, as they gave up multiple points to their opponents via free throws.

As the clock wound down in the final seconds, the Champs managed to sink a 2-point shot, followed by two free throws to take a comfortable lead.

The Black Hawks needed to sink a 3-point shot to send the game into overtime, but another foul sealed their fate, and the Champs became the champs with a 54-51 victory.

# TRAUMA CARE

## Innovations saving Soldiers’ lives, says Army surgeon

By David Vergun  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Col. Shawn C. Nessen, a trauma surgeon who served on the battlefields of Iraq in 2003 and Afghanistan from 2006 to 2008, credits three trauma care procedures as being among those responsible for saving the most lives.

All three have to do with hemorrhage control, said Nessen, who is commander of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas.

Those procedures include greater use of tourniquets, improvements in transfusion therapy and hypothermia prevention.

### TOURNIQUETS

Early on in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, tourniquets were not widely being used for wounds to the extremities, Nessen said.

In 2004, 28 people died of hemorrhage from extremity wounds in Iraq and Afghanistan. Nessen said he believes some would have survived had they had tourniquets applied.

Tourniquets were not used because of the mistaken belief that complications, including the need for amputations, could result from their use, he said. At the time, medics used pressure dressings instead.

In reality, a tourniquet that’s on for around two hours won’t result in complications or amputations, Nessen said. It takes five or six hours before a tourniquet can do serious damage – but in those two hours, a tourniquet can save lives.

Once the use of tourniquets became widely accepted in 2004, the number who died from hemorrhage dropped to three in one year, he said.

Also, he noted that improvements in tourniquets in recent years have undoubtedly saved lives.



COURTESY PHOTO

Col. Shawn C. Nessen (center), commander of the 541st (Airborne) Forward Surgical Team in Afghanistan, works on a patient in the operating room while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

For instance, a Soldier can apply the Army’s Combat Application Tourniquet to himself with just one hand. Additionally, the Army also has available a junctional tourniquet, which can be applied to the groin, waist, pelvis or armpit.

The military’s greater use of tourniquets has had an impact on civilian trauma care, as well, Nessen said.

In the aftermath of the Sutherland Springs church shooting in Texas in November, Nessen said that some of the victims that were cared for had tourniquets on and they survived as a result.

### TRANSFUSION THERAPY

In 2003, when he was in Iraq, Nessen said he found that modern methods of blood storage – the splitting of blood into components such as red blood cells, plasma and platelets – caused some problems on the battlefield.

Combat support hospitals had the ability to keep frozen plasma and

red blood cells on hand in sufficient quantities. But the requirements for storing platelets proved a challenge. As a result, platelets were not always available or were given in a smaller quantity than necessary to enable blood to coagulate.

During his next tour, in Afghanistan, an improved means of cold-storing platelets had been developed. Now, platelets could be stored longer. And when patients in combat zones needed all three components of blood at the same time, all three were available in sufficient amounts. As a result of that advancement, he said, lives were being saved.

Today, blood platelets can be stored for weeks at a time, he said, instead of only a few days.

### HYPOTHERMIA PREVENTION

Trauma patients are very susceptible to hypothermia. Cold weather



PHOTO BY JENNY STRIPLING

Bridget Stroud, TRICARE contract liaison, talks with Heath Phillips, CEO of Flowers Hospital, Sharon Jones, Humana Military Health System consultant, and Suzanne Woods, CEO of Medical Center Enterprise. Wiregrass area community healthcare providers networked during the TRICARE Collaboration event at Lyster Army Health Clinic March 6.

# Providers team up to improve care

By Jenny Stripling  
Lyster Army Health Clinic Public Affairs Officer

Lyster Army Health Clinic and Humana Military held the fifth annual TRICARE Collaboration Event March 6 at the clinic welcoming community providers to Fort Rucker and providing them a chance to meet Lyster clinicians and staff.

The event gathers TRICARE Network Providers who see TRICARE beneficiaries, and works to enhance relationships, optimize military treatment facility care and increase satisfaction while affording an opportunity for the military physicians and civilian providers to meet and mingle. The new TRICARE contract that started in January has the biggest changes to the TRICARE Program since it started in 1996.

More than 140 community doctors, physicians and nursing staff attended the event that included a presentation from Lt. Col John Baker, LAHC commander.

“We rely on our network to get our Soldiers the specialty care they require and tonight is a great way to finally put faces to the names we see on patient reports from outside clinics,” Baker said. “We appreciate the networking with government partners.”

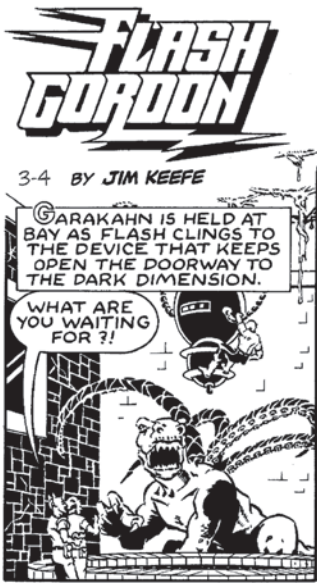
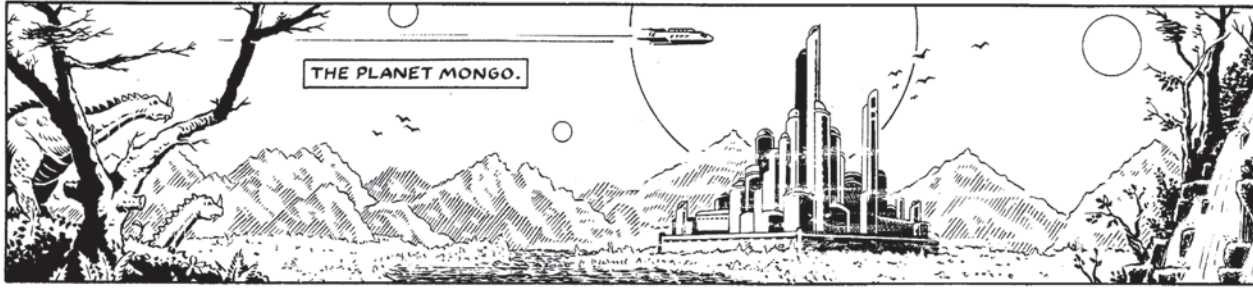
Baker thanked the providers for being an extension

SEE PATIENT CARE, PAGE D3

SEE INNOVATIONS, PAGE D3



# DOWN TIME



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



## Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

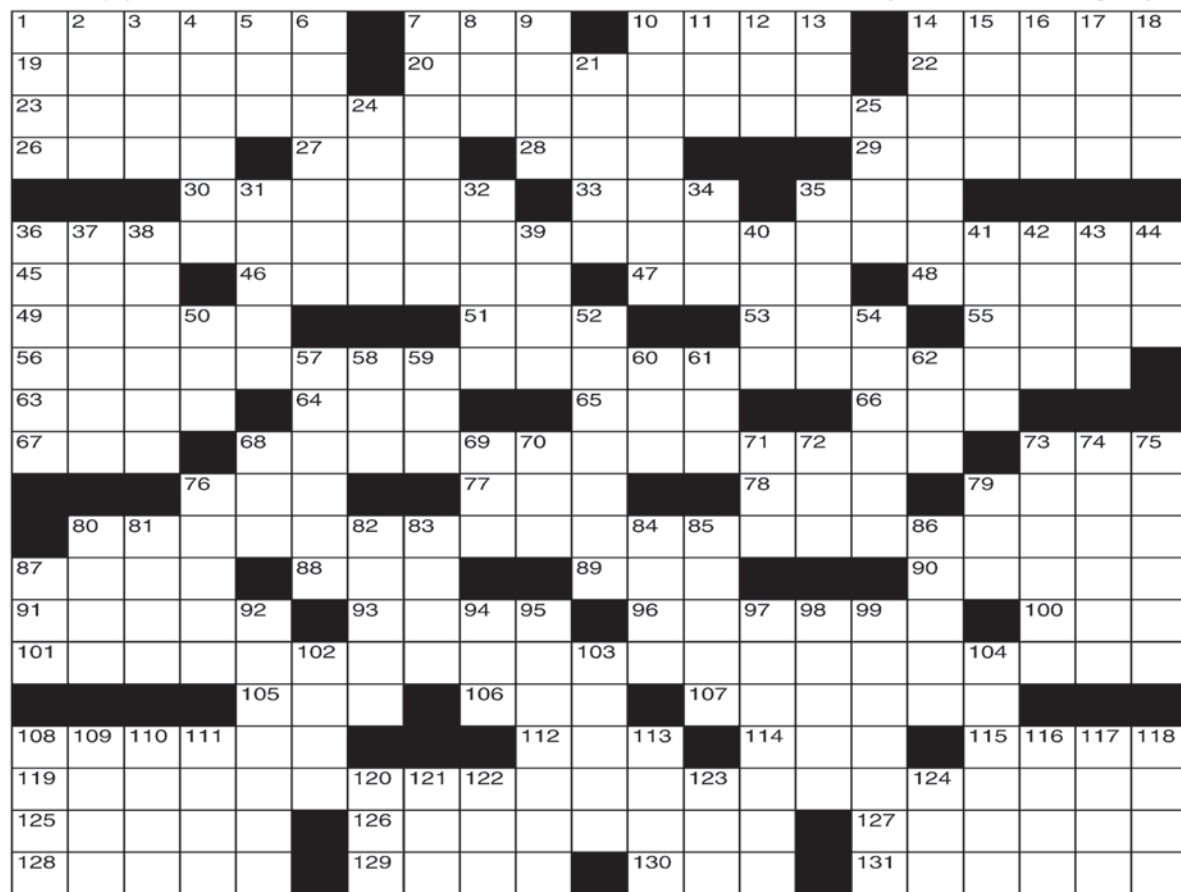
# T R I V I A

1. MYTHOLOGY: What was a harpy in Greek mythology?
2. GAMES: How many railroad spaces are on a Monopoly board?
3. LITERATURE: Which American novelist wrote the book "White Fang"?
4. U.S. STATES: What is the capital of Maryland?
5. MOVIES: What was the shortest title for a Best Picture Oscar winning movie?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which 19th-century president died from cirrhosis of liver?
7. ANATOMY: What does the Greek adjective "otic" refer to in the human body?
8. GEOGRAPHY: How many countries and principalities are neighbors of France?
9. THEATER: What musical features the song "Bali Ha'i"?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a young hen called?

See Page D3 for this week's answers.

## Super Crossword DRESSING ROOM DELAY

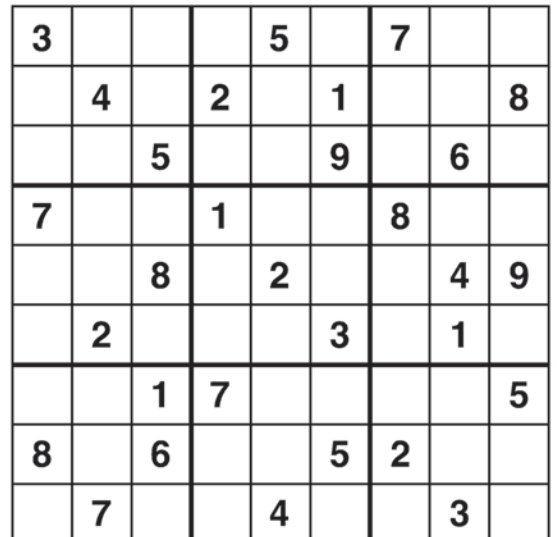
- ACROSS**
- 1 Bible book between Zephaniah and Zechariah
  - 7 Largest New Deal agcy.
  - 10 "The Wizard —"
  - 14 In the slightest
  - 19 Radiant
  - 20 Vacillating response
  - 22 Olive-green bird
  - 23 Start of a riddle
  - 26 iPod model
  - 27 Musician Brian
  - 28 From Jan. 1 until today
  - 29 Disagreeing (with)
  - 30 Tomorrow, to José
  - 33 Essen article
  - 35 Santa — winds
  - 36 Riddle, part 2
  - 45 Former WB rival
  - 46 Classical music record label
  - 47 Coup d'—
  - 48 Rises rapidly
  - 49 Overjoy
  - 51 Grafton's "— for Evidence"
  - 53 By way of
  - 55 Impel
  - 56 Riddle, part 3
  - 63 Within: Prefix
  - 64 Weapon
  - 65 Special span
  - 66 Lang. of the U.S.A.
  - 67 IRA options
  - 68 Riddle, part 4
  - 73 "... Mac — PC?"
  - 76 Buddhist discipline
  - 77 Letter after pi
  - 78 Pass along, as an email: Abbr.
  - 79 Male deer
  - 80 Riddle, part 5
  - 87 Minestrone, e.g.
  - 88 Moo — pork
  - 89 Pewter metal
  - 90 Reformer Sinclair
  - 91 Wide open, as a mouth
  - 93 Wide-mouthed fish
  - 96 Lassos
  - 100 Co. name ending, often
  - 101 End of the riddle
  - 105 Imitate a wolf
  - 106 "— -haw!"
  - 107 Morally base
  - 108 Lipstick messes
  - 112 "Evil Woman" gp.
  - 114 Riddle-me-—
  - 115 Actress Rowlands
  - 119 Riddle's answer
  - 125 Lopez of pop music
  - 126 More smart
  - 127 Straight, as an arm or leg
  - 128 Praise
  - 129 Trig calculation
  - 130 Gridiron pts.
  - 131 When wages are given
  - 10 Phrase on a thin coin
  - 11 New Deal prez
  - 12 Add-— (extras)
  - 13 Wildlife park
  - 14 Incarnations of deities
  - 15 Jazz great Puentes
  - 16 Very dry
  - 17 Advance, as money
  - 18 Captains' journals
  - 21 More fitting
  - 24 "For want of —, the shoe was lost"
  - 25 Half of Mork's sign-off
  - 31 Poker stakes
  - 32 Feel likewise
  - 34 Insect snare
  - 35 Be part of, as a film
  - 36 Montreal's province
  - 37 Elevated region
  - 38 Puts into law
  - 39 Tobaccoless smoke
  - 40 Sitarist Shankar
  - 41 Like a child
  - 42 Toad feature
  - 43 Jason's ship
  - 44 Reverse of NNW
  - 50 Boxing ref's ruling
  - 52 Be sure the job is done
  - 54 Docket
  - 57 Spoils
  - 58 "— longa, vita brevis"
  - 59 Big maker of SUVs
  - 60 Mr. Capote, to pals
  - 61 Tartan cap
  - 62 Neither Rep. nor Dem.
  - 68 "I'm talkin' to you!"
  - 69 Munic. law
  - 70 "Quiet down!"
  - 71 Little newt
  - 72 "So adorable!"
  - 73 Ear malady
  - 74 Kid-lit "pest"
  - 75 Part of NSA
  - 76 With 109-Down, one of five famed comedic brothers
  - 79 Big name in fuel additives
  - 80 For takeout
  - 81 Red Scare gp.
  - 82 "Hot dog!"
  - 83 Oahu feast
  - 84 Sorvino of Hollywood
  - 85 Monogram, e.g.: Abbr.
  - 86 Japanese fish dish
  - 87 Used a bench
  - 92 Involve in conflict
  - 94 Pig's place
  - 95 Honey
  - 97 Loving ones
  - 98 Drowsy
  - 99 Made sense
  - 102 Part of 44-Down
  - 103 Trojan beauty
  - 104 Move past carefully
  - 108 Place
  - 109 See 76-Down
  - 110 Send forth
  - 111 Latin "year"
  - 113 "Think nothing —"
  - 116 One- — jack
  - 117 "99 Luftballons" group
  - 118 J.D. holder who pass
  - 121 Mentalist Geller
  - 122 Swimming star Thorpe
  - 123 Blushing hue
  - 124 — big way



See Page D3 for this week's answers.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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See Page D3 for this week's answers.

# KID'S CORNER

## RIDDLE CARD

1. When are boys like bears?
2. What is history's favorite fruit?
3. What hobby do broken bones take up?
4. What nut has a hole in the middle?
5. Why is a crossword puzzle like a quarrel?

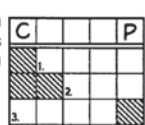


Answers: 1. When bare-footed; 2. Dates; 3. They knit; 4. A doughnut; 5. Because one word leads to another.

**A STEEPLE STUMPER!** If it takes six seconds for the town hall clock to strike four, how long does it take to strike twelve o'clock midnight?

Answer: Twenty-two seconds. After the first initial strike, there is a two-second interval between each succeeding strike.

**FIND-A-WORD!** On the top line is our mystery word. You need to fill in the missing letters. Clue words (smaller words contained in letter-by-letter order within the mystery word) are defined below.



Answers: 1. Ramp; 2. Amp; 3. Cramp; 4. Flam; 5. Mystery word: Cramp.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



**A EUROPEAN TOUR!** Hidden in the diagram above are the names of 16 European cities. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the cities you're looking for.

- Amsterdam
- Ballast
- Berlin
- Bern
- Brussels
- Bucharest
- Dijon
- Florence
- Grenoble
- Innsbruck
- Nice
- Paris
- Plymouth
- Seville
- Stockholm
- Tours

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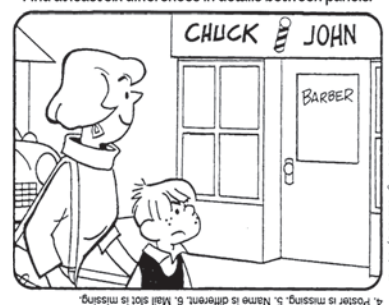
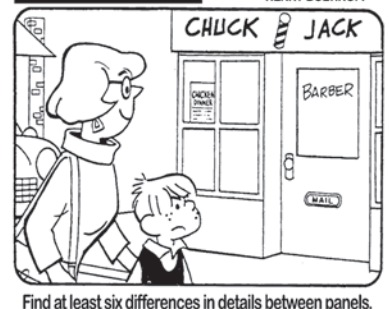
2	8	2	8	4	3	5	4	7	5	4	8	2
B	C	E	H	W	N	P	R	S	L	A	A	H
5	4	8	6	8	3	6	7	5	4	3	6	4
E	P	N	L	G	O	I	E	A	U	D	F	P
8	5	4	7	4	8	7	5	7	2	4	6	3
E	S	L	E	O	O	K	E	A	E	O	E	I
4	3	5	6	2	3	6	2	4	7	8	6	5
S	V	A	I	L	I	S	P	E	D	F	A	F
4	2	3	5	3	4	8	4	5	2	5	8	2
E	F	S	R	I	N	F	D	I	U	E	O	L
8	4	8	3	8	5	7	5	6	3	7	3	7
R	S	T	O	U	N	V	D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

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

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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTNOFF



Answers: 1. Changes are missing; 2. Changes are missing; 3. Changes are missing; 4. Changes are missing; 5. Changes are missing; 6. Changes are missing; 7. Changes are missing; 8. Changes are missing; 9. Changes are missing; 10. Changes are missing.

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# Soldiers find their way back to true self

By Annette P. Gomes  
Warrior Care and Transition

FORT BLISS, Texas — At 6 feet 2 inches tall, Army veteran Sarah Hughbanks, who is volunteering as an assistant coach at the 2018 Army Trials for sitting volleyball, has a bird's-eye view of Wounded Warriors on the volleyball court. She also has a clear view of what sitting volleyball and other adaptive sports can bring to the lives of wounded, ill and injured Soldiers.

"After injuries, some veterans may feel as if they've lost opportunities, but things like volleyball can be part of their journey to find their way back to their true self and help them realize they can conquer anything put in front of them," Hughbanks said.

Her own connection and love of sports began at the tender age of four. She learned the fundamentals of sports from her father while growing up in Idaho.

"My dad was a big baseball person, so when I came along he started teaching me how to throw a baseball that basically helped me develop my hand-eye coordination early on," Hughbanks said. "I started out playing softball and, of course, basketball because I was so tall. I made the volleyball team in high school, but I was terrible. I believe it was the height and eye coordination that helped secure my position," she laughed while recalling her first experience with the sport.

Hughbanks has come a long way since those high school days.



Assistant volunteer coach Army veteran Sarah Hughbanks helps Master Sgt. Jovan Bowser with her float serve at the Joshua W. Soto Gym, Fort Bliss, Texas, during Army Trials practice.

PHOTO BY ANNETTE P. GOMES

After being honorably discharged from the Army, Hughbanks eventually found her way to coaching volleyball. "I believe I have a special talent for coaching volleyball, understanding the game and finding new ways of teaching it is a welcome challenge. I know I have a gift and when you have a gift you have to share it with somebody."

After a stint coaching at a high school, she was recruited to coach the Armed Forces Volleyball Team at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. While coaching at West Point, Hughbanks volunteered to

help coach the Team Army sitting volleyball during the 2016 Department of Defense Warrior Games that were being held there. She enjoyed the experience and made an impression on Team Army sitting volleyball coach Linda Gomez.

"I loved Sarah's energy and spirit. We talked about adaptive sports and her having been in the Army. She fits into my philosophy of working hard and staying humble. She takes direction very well and from a leadership standpoint to administrative things she just gets it. She's a hard worker," Gomez said. "This is a labor of

love and we have to remember who we're serving and we're always on the same page. She's been a godsend and I just think she's a phenomenal person."

Hughbanks will tell you that sitting volleyball is much harder than standing volleyball because the ball comes at you so much faster. Your hand-eye coordination has to be spot on and that's a challenge. But teaching players to overcome that challenge is very personal for Hughbanks.

"I've had battle buddies that have committed suicide. I think volleyball, or other sports and activities, can help people connect to

something and maybe help them not feel like they should make that decision," Hughbanks said. "I can see it in their faces when they get it. When it all clicks and it comes together and they begin to understand the sport and that connection is made, this is definitely not just about sports or volleyball."

Hughbanks takes particular pride in teaching a sport she loves to Soldiers who have never played and seeing them fall in love with the game like she did. "Knowing that many of the Soldiers did not play the sport before they got injured and watching them find a love for it is incredible," Hughbanks said. "I love to see the light in their eyes. It's gratifying to watch them play so hard and know you've played a part in this life-changing moment. It's wonderful."

Hughbanks has enjoyed playing a part in those wounded, ill and injured Soldiers lives competing at the 2018 Army Trials. She hopes to come back and help coach at the 2018 DOD Warrior Games, June 2-9 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and also get more involved in coaching sitting volleyball. When asked about the impact of adaptive sports, Hughbanks herself delivers the answer with raw emotion.

"I believe veterans dealing with injuries often feel as if they're going to miss out on opportunities but adaptive sports provide an outlet for them to find their way back to their true self, it's a beautiful journey and I'm lucky to be part of it."

## FORT RUCKER SPORTS BRIEFS

### Indoor pool

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center Indoor Pool will have limited lap lanes available for lap swimming Mondays-Thursdays from 4-7 p.m. due to programming. Recreational swimming will also not be available during this time. For additional information, call 255-2296.

### Gobbler Classic Turkey Hunt

Outdoor recreation will host its Gobbler Classic Turkey Hunt today through April 30. The entry fee is \$25 and participants must have an Alabama State All-Game License, Fort Rucker Post Hunting Permit and hunter education completion card. Alabama State Regulation and Fort Rucker 215-1 regulation apply. The turkey must be harvested on Fort Rucker to qualify. The overall winner will receive a cash prize payout.

People can register at ODR or MWR Central. For more information, call 255-4305 or 255-2997.

### Shamrock Shuffle

The Fort Rucker Physical Fitness Center will host the annual Shamrock Shuffle 5K Walk, 5K/10K Run and 1-Mile Fun Run Saturday. Race day registration will run from 7:30-8:45 a.m. The 5k walk and 5K/10k run will start at 9 a.m. at the PFC on Andrews Avenue. Participants are encouraged to pre-register at either PFC. Forms are

available at either PFC or MWR Central, and are printable from the MWR website at <https://rucker.armymwr.com/>. The fun run will begin at about 10:45 a.m. after the race is complete. It will be open to all children and be free of charge.

For more information, including costs and awards categories, call 255-2296 or 255-3794.

### Thursday Evenings on the Range

Silver Wings Golf Course hosts its Thursday Evenings on the Range with PGA professional Ty Andersen Thursdays from 5-6 p.m. at the driving range. Cost is \$10 and can be paid at the pro shop before the session starts. The afternoon is a supervised practice with unlimited range balls.

For more information, call 255-0089.

### Wounded Warrior Spring Hunt

Fort Rucker will host the Wounded Warrior Spring Hunt April 6-8. Wounded Warriors from across the southeast will participate in the hunt free of charge through the support of sponsors assisting with lodging and food. Hunters are expected from Virginia, Florida, Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia and Mississippi. The hunt is open to the general public. Guides to assist the wounded warriors are also welcomed.

All patrons wanting to hunt along with the wounded warriors must

have a valid state hunting license, Fort Rucker hunting permit and a hunter education completion card. Hunters must also read Alabama and Fort Rucker regulations regarding authorized weapons and ammunition. Cost is \$25. Prizes will be awarded for the biggest turkey, biggest coyote and most coyotes.

For more information, call 255-4305 or visit <http://rucker.armymwr.com/us/rucker>.

### CG's Golf Tournament

Silver Wings Golf Course will host the Commanding General's Golf Tournament March 31 at 9 a.m. The format is four-person team scramble. Entry fee is \$60 for non-members and \$50 for members. Entry fee includes tournament course fees, 18 holes of golf, range balls, carts, lunch and prizes. Prizes go to the longest drive, closest to the pin, Top 3 teams and the highest scoring team.

For more information, call 255-0089.

### Ribbon Run

The Ribbon Run 2-Mile Fun Run is scheduled for April 6 at 6 a.m. at Howze Field. This run will support domestic violence, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, and child abuse awareness months. Entry is free as it is a physical training run and open to everyone. No registration is required.

For more information, call 255-2296 or 255-3794.

## Innovations

Continued from Page D1

contributes to coagulopathy, having frequently occurred to wounded Soldiers in the early war years in Afghanistan and Iraq. Nessen explained that coagulopathy means the blood's ability to coagulate is impaired, leading to excessive bleeding.

During Nessen's tour in Afghanistan, he said it got very cold in the eastern moun-

tainous region where he was serving, and coagulopathy was a real issue.

Fortunately, around the 2004, a Hypothermia Prevention Management Kit, developed by the USAISR, began to be issued, he said.

The kit is basically a hat and chemical blanket that wraps around a Soldier. When exposed to air, the chemical is converted to heat, he explained. Use of the kit has

kept Soldiers from dying, he said.

### IMPORTANCE OF PEOPLE

Nessen said the trauma system starts with the medic, who administers aid at the point of injury.

While the importance of that medic cannot be underestimated, he or she can never replace a surgeon who has years of training to do incredibly difficult procedures,

particularly in wounds to the stomach, chest and large blood vessels.

It's vitally important that battlefield trauma centers be fully staffed with surgeons, he added.

Lastly, Nessen said that "at the end of the day, it's like everybody else in the Army. We're only as good as our people. Technology enhances [damage control surgery] but it doesn't replace us."

## Patient care

Continued from Page D1

of Lyster and informed attendees that the clinic's success is also their success. LAHC staff spoke to the group of providers about the importance of referrals and complete results being sent back to the clinic.

Bridget Stroud, TRICARE contract liaison, Resource Management Division at LAHC, said these types of col-

laboration events help strengthen the relationships between outside providers and Lyster.

"Collaboration events such as this not only improve the relationships we have with our community healthcare partners, but most importantly, improve patient care that we are all providing to our beneficiaries," said Stroud. "During the event, many ideas were shared and there was much discussion on ways to improve and enhance the processes in which

patient care is provided. The event was a big success for everyone."

Lyster sends patients to community providers for services such as cardiovascular, dermatology, gastroenterology, general surgery, neurology, OB/GYN, ophthalmology, orthopedics, otolaryngology, and psychiatry.

Information on TRICARE can be found at [www.humanamilitary.com/](http://www.humanamilitary.com/) or by calling 1-800-444-5445.

# PUZZLE ANSWERS

### Super Crossword

#### Answers

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

### Weekly SUDOKU

#### Answer

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

### Trivia

#### Answers

1. A half-woman, half-bird that represented storm winds
2. Four
3. Jack London
4. Annapolis
5. "Gigi"
6. Franklin Pierce
7. The car
8. Eight: Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Monaco, Andorra and Spain
9. "South Pacific"
10. A pullet

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<b>2014 MINI COOPER COUNTRYMAN</b> #1165800P <b>\$17,992</b>	<b>2014 CHEVY IMPALA LTZ</b> #1165400P <b>\$23,992</b>	<b>2014 GMC ACADIA SLT</b> #4535300L <b>\$25,995</b>	<b>2013 JEEP RUBICON</b> #2168800S <b>\$30,991</b>
<b>2015 NISSAN FRONTIER S</b> #2146720 <b>\$17,995</b>	<b>2017 CHRYSLER 300 LIMITED</b> #3538100F <b>\$23,992</b>	<b>2012 JEEP WRANGLER RUBICON</b> #2163800S <b>\$25,995</b>	<b>2018 CHEVY COLORADO 4WD</b> #2169500L <b>\$32,991</b>
<b>2015 CHEVY EQUINOX LT</b> #2169310 <b>\$19,551</b>	<b>2013 CHEVY SILVERADO LT</b> #2168300P <b>\$23,992</b>	<b>2014 FORD F-150 XL</b> #2164900P <b>\$25,995</b>	<b>2015 GMC YUKON SLT</b> #4535200L <b>\$38,995</b>
<b>2014 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE</b> #2166400Z <b>\$20,992</b>	<b>2015 CHEVY TRAVERSE LT</b> #2167900P <b>\$24,991</b>	<b>2012 RAM 1500 LARAMIE</b> #2167600S <b>\$27,991</b>	<b>2016 CHEVY SILVERADO LT</b> #2168500L <b>\$45,991</b>
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<b>2014 CHEVY CAMARO LT</b> #1165700P <b>\$21,992</b>	<b>2014 CHEVY CAMARO SS</b> #8000000 <b>\$25,991</b>	<b>2014 CHEVY TAHOE LT</b> #2166200S <b>\$28,992</b>	<b>2014 GMC SIERRA 3500 DENALI</b> #2162700P <b>\$48,995</b>

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