

The WILDCAT

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE 81ST REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND

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Edition 4

Jan-Mar
2016

Safe and Secure



81st Celebrates
Red Ribbon
Week
-Page 30



ESC 151 What do
they do?
-Page 6

Inside The WILDCAT

Commanding General	Page 3
Chaplain Notes	Page 4
ESC 151 What they Do?	Page 6
Excellence is a Way of Life AMSA166	Page 8
How DPW Supports and Sustains	Page 12
Medical Readiness	Page 14
Wildcat Holiday	Page 18
Internet Security Precautions	Page 22
OSJA Operating and Informal Funds	Page 24
Plans, Analysis and Integration	Page 25
Preparing to Pop Smoke	Page 28
Suicide Awareness Walk	Page 27
Red Ribbon Week	Page 30
Safety at Home	Page 32
Strategic Plan Update	Page 36

Letter from the Editor:

Hello! I am pleased to offer you the newest edition of The WILDCAT. The 81st RSC has published another quarterly newsletter. Our commanding general is very interested in telling the story of our Wildcats. The history of this organization goes back to WWI and I am proud to share with you the stories of our historic and current achievements.

Each quarter, The WILDCAT will carry with it a theme that is appropriate with the upcoming quarter. We will also share stories of events that happened inside the 81st pawprint during the previous three months and looking forward to the next four months.

My hope is to give you, the reader, the best snapshot of the 81st RSC as a reliable resource of information. As we develop this newsletter, we will need full participation from all Wildcats in our region. If there are things you would like to see inside The WILDCAT, specific topics or information that we have not included, please go to the following link and provide me the information I need to bring you the information that is important to our customers.

https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=134944&cs=959&dep=*DoD&sc=2

Enjoy this edition of The WILDCAT!

Staff Sgt. Antoinette Walker
Public Affairs NCO / Editor

81st RSC Command Team

MG Janet L. Cobb - Commanding General
Mr. Peter Quinn - Chief of Staff
CW4 Johnny Allen- Command Chief Warrant Officer
CSM Ronald Law - Command Sergeant Major

Mission:

The 81st Regional Support Command provides essential customer care and services to Soldiers, Civilians, and their Families in the Southeast Region, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, enabling supported commanders and leaders to maximize resources and meet global requirements.

Vision:

Be the best Regional Support Command – in the eyes of our supported commanders – committed to excellence, living the Army Values, and focused on Wildcat P.R.I.D.E.

The WILDCAT Publication Staff

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All website and email hyperlinks are enabled in the PDF format for quick, easy access!



On the Cover: Richland County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team assists 81st RSC with an active shooter drill as a part of our antiterrorism training.

Commanding General

Maj. Gen. Janet L. Cobb

Greetings Wildcats!

The theme for this quarter's edition is 'Safe and Secure.' Safe and secure means a lot of different things to a lot of people but they are all vitally important to us and to our families.

Maintaining vigilance is key to staying safe and secure. All of us in uniform have all put ourselves in harm's way in order to serve and protect our nation, but it's important not to take risks when we don't have to.

I have had the privilege of visiting Wildcats in Puerto Rico and Alabama this quarter and I am always impressed with your dedication to excellence and safety. I am pleased we are in the running once again for the Army Reserve Commanders Excellence in Safety Award in the RSC and installation category.

Recent events around the world remind us the world is a dangerous place and you can fall prey to an attack anywhere. Here are some things you should focus on:

1. **Physical Security:** ensure you keep your house locked, turn on lights outside and inside at night, use your home alarm and ensure your smoke alarms work.
2. **IT Security:** Never post your whereabouts or allow geotagging on Social Media sites. Don't make your family or yourself vulnerable by telegraphing your next move and advertising that you are in the Bahamas. Keep your anti-virus up to date.
3. **Battle Buddy safety:** Check up on your friends and family regularly. Be in tune with any changes in behavior or mindset to see if they are experiencing depression or health concerns. If you or your buddy have drinking, line up a designated driver or call a cab.
4. **Financial security:** Credit card fraud and identity theft can cause lots of heartache and can be detrimental to your home and job. Check statements carefully, opt out of credit card offers and check your credit reports frequently.

Don't take yourself or allow others to take you out of the fight. Keep safe, maintain vigilance and start the New Year right!

Wildcats Never Quit!



Chaplain Notes



Resiliency for our Soldiers, Families, and Civilian Workers is a chief concern and priority for our military leadership today. Being a chaplain and having 13 years of experience with our military personnel and Families, I have found religion to be a leading contributor to resiliency. Now there is evidence-based research supporting the benefits of being involved in a faith community or religion. The diagram below depicts how participation in a religion positively supports individuals, causing them to be less likely to have emotional disorders, attempt suicide or abuse alcohol, and more likely to experience social connections and marital stability. These issues are some of the most common and critical challenges impacting the resiliency of military personnel and their Families alike. Though this research is new, some 2000 years ago the writer of the Hebrews letter in the New Testament stated something similar: "let us consider how to spur one another to love and to good works. Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but let us exhort one another, especially as you see the Day approaching." The assembling together or congregating is what we do in various religious traditions to learn and develop our faith in God as we gather to worship Him. The benefits we receive are some of the positive results of practicing our religion, as stated in the above study.

It is my prayer, in reading this article and considering the evidence from the research, that you might hear God's still voice calling you to active participation in a faith community. Should you have questions, chaplains are a great resource for confidentially discussing your spiritual journey and providing direction and prayer as you are making such decisions. CH (LTC) Michael DuCharme

Religion and Health *by the numbers*

RELIGIOUS PREFERENCES

Active Duty Army



2/3

of all research studies before 2010 show the religious have:

- ⋈ more positive emotions
- ⋈ more social connection
- ⋈ healthier lifestyle
- ⋈ less emotional disorders



READY and RESILIENT EXORD

- 28x** physical mentioned
- 10x** mental mentioned
- 1x** spiritual mentioned
- 0x** religion mentioned

MORE RELIGIOUS ARE

57% less likely to make a suicide attempt

LESS RELIGIOUS ARE

5x more likely to commit suicide



of studies indicate that as religious involvement increased
alcohol abuse decreased



of studies show a significant positive correlation between participation in religious communities and marital stability.

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SPIRITUALITY

A solidifying of one's purpose, beliefs, values, identity, and life vision in order to live with integrity, persevere in responsibilities, create a life meaning, and grow through adverse experiences.

V

RELIGION

A system of spiritual beliefs, practices, or both, typically organized around the worship of an all-powerful deity and involving such practices as prayer, meditation, and participation in public rituals.



WWW.STRONGBONDS.ORG

THE ARMY STRONG BONDS PROGRAM



Strong Bonds Schedule FY 2016 81st Regional Support Command



DATE	LOCATION	VENUE
19-21 Feb 16	New Orleans, LA	Couples/Singles
18-20 Mar 16	Orlando, FL	Couples/Family
20-22 May 16	Nashville, TN	Couples/Singles
10-12 Jun 16	Myrtle Beach, SC	Couples/Singles/Family
15-17 Jul 16	Ft. Walton Beach, FL	Couples/Singles/Family
12-14 Aug 16	Charlotte, NC	Couples/ Singles/Family



To register go to:

https://army.deps.mil/Army/CMDS/USARC_81RSC/Chaplain/Li sts/Strong%20Bonds%20Registration/User%20View.aspx

Which Venue Should I Register For?

Singles Event: Register for if you are not legally married. Free childcare is provided for children ages 0-6 (must be registered in DEERS). You may NOT bring a significant other or a friend. If you would like to bring a child(ren) age 7 or older, register for the Family venue instead.

Couples Event: Register for if you are bringing your spouse (must be enrolled in DEERS). For the maximum benefit of this retreat, we recommend you do not bring children to this event. However, if you cannot find alternate childcare, we provide free childcare for children ages 0-6. If you bring a child age 7 or older, you must register for the Family venue instead.

Family Event: Register for if you and your spouse are bringing a child(ren) age 7 and older. All dependents must be enrolled in DEERS. Children ages 7 and older will attend all the Family Training with you. Single parents may attend this venue with their child(ren). Free childcare is provided for children ages 0-6.

Soldiers must live within 400 miles of the event location for which they register.

QUESTIONS: USARMY.USARC.81-RSC.MBX.STRONGBONDS@MAIL.MIL, OR SFC WIGGINS AT 803-751-9638





Equipment Concentration Site 151: What do they do?

Ms. Jacqueline Wren
81st Regional Support Command Public Affairs

FORT RUCKER, Ala. – On Hatch Road, across from the Equestrian Center, sits a large yard with 1800 Army vehicles parked on grassy rolling mounds. Maybe you've passed a small convoy rolling out one morning, or perhaps you have passed the field on the way to golf course and wondered: Who owns this and what do they do?

Equipment Concentration Site (ECS) 151 is a U.S. Army Reserve equipment and storage facility under the command of the 81st Regional Support Command (RSC), and has been located at Fort Rucker, Alabama over 30 years. The ECS is made up of the large vehicle storage yard on Hatch Road and the maintenance facility on Knox Field Road. The ECS 151 team is made up of 36 dual-status military technicians and 11 contractors, responsible for the maintenance and storage of supported Army Reserve unit equipment.

The ECS 151 Maintenance Branch provides critical Field Level Automotive and Communication & Electronic equipment maintenance support for 23 USAR Units, consisting of 4,135 pieces. The equipment is maintained to the Army maintenance standard, TM 10 series and TM 20 series following AR 750-1 guidelines.

The ECS 151 Storage Branch provides storage, accountability and maintenance for USAR units that don't have the parking space or maintenance assets to maintain the equipment at home station. The ECS currently provides storage for 59 USAR units consisting of 1,786 pieces of rolling stock valued at over \$224 million. ECS 151 ensures its supported units equipment remains in a fully mission capable (FMC) condition and is ready and available for mission completion at all times.

ECS 151 also serves as the 81st RSC's New Equipment Fielding Facility (NEFF) Site, receiving, staging and fielding the latest Force Modernization Equipment to USAR units. To date, ECS 151 has fielded 4,375 pieces of Force Modernization equipment valued at over \$574 million. Which means that some of the Army and Army Reserve's newest and most modern equipment starts right here.

ECS 151 also provides support to Fort Rucker tenant units and activities through providing or movement of vehicles for a variety of purposes. Some of the tenant units and activities the ECS has supported are: U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center (Safety Center), U.S. Army Warrant Officer Career College/Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCC/WOCS), Non-Commissioned Officer Academy (NCOA), Logistics Readiness Center (LRC) (formerly DOL), 1-58th Airfield Operations Battalion (AOB) (AC), Knox Airfield Fire Station, and the Alabama National Guard Unit Training Equipment Site (UTES).

Among its peers, ECS 151 is one of the most recognized shops for its diligence and productivity in maintenance. The Fort Rucker team has been the recipient of the FY 13 USARC Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME), 81st RSC FY 14 ECS of the quarter award for 1st, 3rd, and 4th quarters, 81st RSC FY 14 ECS of the year award, 81st RSC FY 15 ECS of the quarter award for 1st and 2nd quarter, and the FY 15 81st RSC AAME winner (packet is currently being considered for the Department of the Army level competition).

ECS 151 is one of eight within the 81st RSC footprint that supports over 53,000 Army Reserve Soldiers and civilians in over 275 Army Reserve Facilities in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The large yard on Hatch Road has a large mission that supports the readiness and missions of a large part of the Army Reserve. **W**



An aerial view of the vehicle storage yard located on Hatch Road on Fort Rucker, Ala. The storage yard is a part of Equipment Concentration Site 151, a U.S. Army Reserve equipment and storage facility under the command of the 81st Regional Support Command.



Members of Equipment Concentration Site 151 conduct maintenance in the shop located on Knox Field Road in Fort Rucker, Alabama. ECS 151 is a U.S. Army Reserve equipment and storage facility under the command of the 81st Regional Support Command.

Excellence is a way of life at Winterville Shop AMSA 166

Mr. Michael Mascari
81st Regional Support Command Public Affairs

WINTERVILLE, N.C.—It takes a team effort to fill a trophy case.

Senior Leaders of the 81st Regional Support Command visited Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA) 166 in Winterville and added another trophy by presenting them the 81st RSC Chief of Staff Award for Supply Excellence for 2015. The shop has won the award or finished runner-up nearly every year since the 1980s, and they've received word they have also won at the United States Army Reserve Command level.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Law, Director of Logistics Ardis Ferguson and Deputy Director Gregg Charvoz, and Supervisory Equipment Specialist James Watkins were on hand to make a site visit and to present the shop with the awards.

“To compete for this award and to win it, your shop maintenance and supply discipline must be performed at a very high level,” Charvoz said. “They have set the standard for the AMSA mission. Others are catching up since (Shop Supervisor) Karen Kay and her staff have actually mentored those other shops.”

The result of sharing best practices has been an improvement for other shops and accolades for many of them.

The shop's focus on supply discipline and attention to detail is the catalyst for its latest honor, which is given based on the effectiveness and efficiency of the Command Supply Discipline Program. Among the best practices is keeping a low inventory on parts that are infrequently used and keeping a clean parts room with open bins for quicker inventory in order to prevent over-ordering and to keep costs low.

An immaculately maintained shop and focus on teamwork helps speed up the repair times and improves customer service.

This team concept and attention to detail has propelled



Employees from the Area Maintenance Support Activity 166 shop receives the 81st RSC Chief of Staff Award for Supply Excellence in 2015.

the shop to winning many accolades. They have already filled two trophy cases in the past few years and will have to get another one to hold their latest award.

Heavy Mobile Equipment Repair mechanic, Todd Stanford doesn't take anything for granted and acknowledges their role is to help the customer to accomplish their own mission.

“The Soldiers' lives are in our hands. When we put the equipment out, they expect that when they get into the vehicles, they expect the vehicles to start, the breaks to work, that there's not going to be any breakdowns,” said Stanford.

Sergeant John Becker, a mechanic for the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 362nd Quartermaster Battalion is one of those customers and said this is probably the best shop he's dealt with.

“Their experience levels are very high, their dedication is always there, they can quote regulations verbatim and they really know their stuff. On top of that, they are extremely friendly and very helpful. Any time we need assistance they are there, motivated, and accomplish it in a very timely manner ensuring our mission readiness,” Becker said.

For now the AMSA will wait to see if they will win the Department of the Army level, and move one step closer

to filling up a third trophy case.

Shop supervisor Karen Kay said awards are nice but the shop's highly dedicated staff is focused on the customer's readiness.

"The trophy case is not for us. We know we're good. It's there for when people visit here so they know who they are dealing with," said Kay. "The competition for the award is nice, it causes you to strive for excellence. We are competing against the standard. Earning the award is more meaningful when you view it like that. Winning is nice because it's a gauge of how you are doing as a shop."

Employee Efforts Pay Off for Area Manager

The accolades keep coming in for James Watkins. The AMSA's strong performances are also a reflection of his efforts.

Watkins supervises AMSAs and Equipment Concentration Sites (ECS) in North and South Carolina attended the AASE award presentation only to find out he is bringing home additional recognition. The 81st RSC Command representatives presented Watkins with the Department of the Army Superior Civilian Service Award.

"He does very good quality of work. He is absolutely one of the best supervisory equipment specialists in the Army and his area is run very well," said Deputy Director of Logistics, Gregg Charvoz.

The award, which is equivalent to the Army's Meritorious Service Medal, is the highest level of award a 2-star Commanding General can award. Receiving the award was quite an accomplishment for Watkins, but it's even more unusual because his staff put together a packet to nominate him.

"This is very rare," Charvoz said. "It's unique in the process and it speaks very well of him as a leader and as a supervisor that his employees felt so strongly that they pursued the process. I've never seen this before."

Watkins, who also received his 30-Year Service Award, was humbled by the recognition.

"It was a big surprise. I didn't expect it, I am at a loss for words. It's a complete honor to receive such a prestigious award," Watkins said. "It makes me want to do even that



James Watkins, supervisory equipment specialist for North Carolina and South Carolina, received the Superior Civilian Service Award. Watkins, at AMSA 166 for the Command visit and Army Supply Excellence Award presentation, was surprised by the award, which his employees nominated him for. (Photo by Michael Mascari, 81st Regional Support Command

much better."

He was also surprised to find out his employees nominated him.

"It's nice to be appreciated by the people you work with and I appreciate them too. My success is a direct reflection of their efforts and their motivation and dedication to the customer," said Watkins.

"Personally I have a lot of respect for him professionally, but personally I do as well. As a person and as a Soldier he sets a great example for everyone," said Charvoz. "He's very consistent in what he does. I can go to any one of his shops and they are all dress-right-dress. He creates an environment that fosters team work and his employees really buy in to his leadership." **W**

81st RSC Annual Dining Out





HOW WE SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN THE WARFIGHTER

81ST RSC DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS



Broad Brush

When you look at the broad footprint of facilities associated with the 81st RSC, it becomes evident that resiliency is a must. Serving the facility needs of 54,000 Soldiers training in 314 locations in an area over 8 million square miles is a difficult task. In each DPW division, decisions are made considering many factors; such as the functional needs of the Soldier, contract mechanisms, service life of building components and stationing, to name a few. Ultimately, all considerations must get prioritized against available funding. Sometimes that's where it stops, I mean we think resiliency is low cost or lowest cost. But it's much more than that; it's maximizing resources.

We must think about processes in place and challenge the way things are being done. This is how we find new more efficient ways to do things. We work for the best, most creative fighting force on the planet, and that, combined with our inventive American spirit makes our process more sustainable; there is no limit to what can be accomplished.

Specifics

Planning and Engineering Division

One of the most publicly recognizable, facility related, sustainable process has been done by the DPW Planning Division adopting the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building standards in all new building construction (MILCON). LEED considers the energy efficiency, storm water management, materials used, and renewable energy, to name a few. Another major component in the division is Real Property management. This process keeps accountability of unit space authorizations and matches new needs against available footprints. Simply put, this maximizes the use of available square footage and lowers cost.

Maintenance and Operations Division

In the last three years the M&O division has improved the business model to introduce and ultimately solidify preventive maintenance as the predominant way to care for buildings. Preventive maintenance or predictive maintenance, lowers cost and increases quality of life for the Soldiers. Since fiscal year 2013, repair or reactive (non-scheduled) work has shifted from 75% of the M&O budget to less than 20% of the budget. This game changer has opened the way to allow scheduling center revamps we call resets. These resets take an aged center and bring it up to standard. This lowers repair cost and feeds the new business model with additional long term available funding. Wax on, wax off.

Environmental and Natural Resources Division

The Army maintains a high standard in regards to sustaining the environment. The 81st RSC strives to uphold that standard by providing required environmental support services to Reserve centers in all program areas. One of the difficulties in maintaining quality and compliance is keeping environmental training up to date on each site. Currently, like many programs, the standard Army training does not address the needs of the reserves. The concept now is to do a pilot training program using custom designed posters addressing the dos and don'ts of the major areas of concern. These will be placed in centers and available when the population is there.

Business Operations and Integration Division

On the surface, sustainable may not seem to be a word that could be used to describe the BOID. However, consider the ripple effect of how effective the BOID was in streamlining a payment process to pay for basic utilities. Prior to implementation of the new process, there were late fees and at times utilities were cut off. The old process in some cases had a 30 day waiting time for bill payment. This did not fit the payment model for many of the utility providers. The staff corrected the problem and has saved staff time, money and made facilities available to the training units when they were needed.

Another process that has improved the support to the Soldier is how the BOID personnel have cross trained in each different fund type to assure continuity when personnel are out of the office.

The people in the Directorate of Public Works are committed to providing professional facility planning, engineering, maintenance, construction, and environmental support to make our Army Reserve Centers as sustainable as possible; knowing that ultimately, sustainability maximizes resources to the warfighter.





ARE YOU MEDICALLY READY!

By: 81st Regional Support Command: Surgeon Office

Each Soldier is required to obtain an annual periodic health assessment and oral evaluation which results in a Medical and Dental Readiness Class (MRC/DRC). MRC 1 or 2 indicate a Medically Ready deployability status and DRC 1 or 2 indicates a Dental Ready deployable status.

MRC 3A or MRC 3B or MRC4 indicates and a DRC 3 or 4 indicates a Dental Not-ready or in determinant status, and therefore non-deployable status*. Failure to complete one or both of the annual examination requirements results in a MRC4 status. A Soldier's DRC is viewable in the Medical Protection System (MEDPROS) by commanders, unit administrators, and health readiness coordinators.

MR3A	All current IMR deficiencies resolvable >72 hrs but <31 days; timeframe allows for treatment of abnormal screening tests	DRC3 – Dental Class 3 DL6 – Temp (T3/4) Profile <31 days	Not Available	Eligible except LAD-90 units
MR3B	Most Serious IMR Deficiencies not resolvable >30 days	DL1 – Profile Code F/V/X or P3/4 not in e-Profile, no board DL2 – In MAR2, not completed DL3 – in MEB/PEB, not completed DL4 – Temp (T3/4) Profile >30 days DL5 – Pregnant DL7 – in MEB/PEB, not completed Other – HIV positive Soldiers; Soldiers in COAD/COAR status; Soldiers hospitalized or on convalescent leave	Not Available	(case-by-case) P3/4 non-adjudicated profile not eligible
MR4	Soldier status unknown for Dental and PHA due to overdue exams	DRC4 – Dental Class 4, Exam Overdue PHA – Periodic Health Assessment Overdue	Available	Not Eligible



DR3	Nondeployable without treatment for urgent conditions that likely will cause a dental emergency within 12 months.	
DR4	Nondeployable with no examination documented within the past 15 months.	

The Secretary of the Army, will change how Medical Readiness is reported on/about 01 Apr 16, the Medical Readiness Classification 4 (MRC4) population will change from available to non-available on the Commander's Unit Status Report (CUSR).

Individual Medical Readiness Requirements:

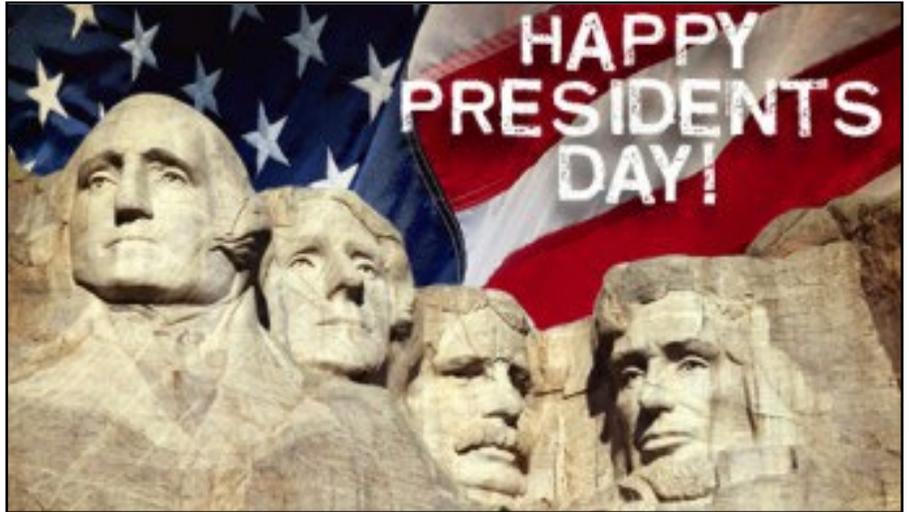
- 1) Annual Dental Assessment
- 2) Dental Treatment (if needed)
 - LHI will contact you to schedule the dental treatment
 - Attend your scheduled appointment on time
- 3) Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) and IMR requirements
 - Complete PHA Part 1 on AKO

Step	User Action	What to Check/System Response
	Login to AKO	AKO homepage opens.
	Click on the My Medical Readiness hyperlink. The link is located on the right side of the screen under My Professional Data.	The My Medical Readiness page opens. See image below.
	Click on the Periodic Health Assessment hyperlink.	The PHA application opens.

- Call LHI to make IMR appointments for labs, immunizations, vision, hearing
- Complete PHA Part 2 with a healthcare provider

For assistance with improving your unit's medical readiness please contact the 81st Surgeons Office:
 LTC John Mann- Deputy Surgeon, (803) 751-3561, john.r.mann.mil@mail.mil
 MSG Jorge Cruz- Chief Medical NCO, (803) 751-9793, soto.j.cruz.mil@mail.mil
 Mrs. Toshiko Gregg- Heath Readiness Coordinator, (803) 751-2640, toshiko.f.gregg.civ@mail.mil

Training Events & Programs:



January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 5 100th Army Band-Kentucky State Senate (Frankfort, KY)
- 16-17 Yellow Ribbon
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 23 Pre-Retirement Brief Charleston,SC
- 25-29 Facility Coordinators Course (81st RSC HQ)
- 29 313th Army Band- Mardi Gras Ball (Mobile, AL)

February – African American/Black History Month

- 5-7 81st RSC Battle Assembly
- 9-10 Feb Physical Security Training Workshop (Pinellas Park, FL)
- 12-14 Strong Bonds New Orleans, LA
- 15 Washington's Birthday
- 20-21 Yellow Ribbon
- 27 Pre-Retirement Brief, New Bern, NC

March - Women's History Month

- 1-2 Mar Physical Security Training Workshop (Fort Buchanan, PR)
- 18-20 Strong Bonds Orlando, FL
- 11 208th Army Band-Signal Ball (Springfield, VA)
- 25 Good Friday

Observances/Holidays:

January

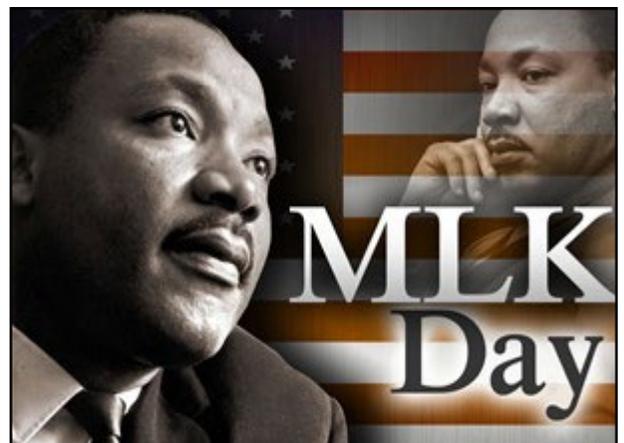
- 15 DONSA
- 18 Marthin Luther King Jr. Day

February

- 12 DONSA
- 15 President's Day

March

- 25 Good Friday



Resources and Web Links

For Deployed, AGR, Wounded, Ill, Injured or Fallen Soldiers



Army Fee Assistance is provided by General Services Administration (GSA,) working with those who serve in the military find and afford child care that suits their unique needs. Through the fee assistance program, Families are eligible to receive monthly fee assistance to help offset the cost of child care in their communities.

Visit: http://financeweb.gsa.gov/childcare_portal

Army Respite Care will provide the Family between 8 to 16 hours of hourly child care each month for each of the eligible children. Parents can use this time to run errands, attend appointments, or just take some well-deserved time out for themselves. The Army recognizes the challenges and extraordinary stress the parents and their Families may be experiencing, and wants to help support them in meeting their unique child care needs. Eligibility: Deployed; Temporary Change of Station; Unaccompanied Permanent Change of Station; Temporary Duty; Wounded, Ill or Injured Status; Survivors of Fallen Warriors.



Our Military Kids provides grants for K-12 youth dependents of overseas deployed National Guard and Reserve personnel or severely injured Service Members. Visit: ourmilitarykids.org/

For Various Duty Statuses



Army Reserve Family Programs provides programs, training, services, resources, youth programming and camping opportunities to Army Reserve Families. Visit: arfp.org/



Military OneSource provides an online library, web resources, and non-medical counseling to military Families. Visit: militaryonesource.mil/



Military Kids Connect (MKC) is an online community of military children (ages 6-17 yr. olds) that provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children from pre-deployment, through a parent's or caregiver's return. Visit: militarykidsconnect.t2.health.mil/



Zero to Three has information and resources for parents of infants and toddlers. A new phone app, Babies on the Home Front, provides Military and veteran parents with strategies for enhancing everyday moments with their child. Visit: zerotothree.org/



Military Child Education Coalition Military (MCEC) is a non-profit organization focusing on academic and school-related needs of military-connected youth. Visit: militarychild.org



National Military Family Association has programs that provide military Families with camps, Family retreats, and healing adventures during deployment, reintegration, and coming together after an injury. Visit: militaryfamily.org/



America's Tooth Fairy has several signature programs engaging caring dental professionals in providing donated services and oral health education and supporting initiatives that expand access to care for children in need. Visit: ncohf.org/



Give an Hour is dedicated to meeting the mental health needs of Troops and Families, provides counseling to individuals, couples and Families, and children (on-line request for assistance). Visit: giveanhour.org



This information has been provided by Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services. For more information on resources and programs, please visit: ARFP.org/CYSS

Fort Family Outreach & Support Center - We Inspire and Empower
Anytime. Anywhere. 24x7x365
Call: 866-345-8248 Visit: ARFP.org

A WILDCAT HOLIDAY

Story by: Mr H. Allen Skinner, Command Historian

As we are in the midst of celebrating holiday traditions at the end of the year, it is fitting to pause and consider how Soldiers before us celebrated.

The origins of the modern Thanksgiving holiday are commonly attributed to a thanksgiving feast held at Plymouth Massachusetts, an event which over the years evolved into a yearly tradition. It wasn't until 1863 that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day as a way of marking the turning of the tide in the American Civil War

Lincoln's 1863 proclamation did little to alter the lot of the common Union soldier, since the Army could not officially observe the holiday. Nevertheless, Soldiers not in active combat did find ways to celebrate a Thanksgiving dinner, often with a conveniently "liberated" Confederate turkey as the main course.

World War I

The Thanksgiving tradition was thoroughly engrained in the American culture, and was naturally carried over when the National Army was formed in fall 1917. Compared to earlier wars, the dough-boys were remarkably well fed – when the combat situation permitted. For example, the men of the 321st Infantry, 81st Division spent Thanksgiving Day 1918 in the middle of a 175 mile foot march to rest areas near Chatillon-Sur-Seine. As the regimental historian recounts:

Thanksgiving came while we were on the long hike. That Thanksgiving will be remembered mostly for what we didn't

have and didn't do in contrast to what we had had and had done on previous Thanksgivings. The Y. M. C. A. sent us some candy and cigars, which were badly needed and thoroughly enjoyed... [but] Extras for a big Thanksgiving dinner were

out of the question. During the hike it was difficult for the mess sergeants to get even the regular supplies. But they did not forget us and as soon as we got settled in our new training area, they prepared a real Thanksgiving dinner with turkey.

While post-Armistice negotiations dragged on, the Wildcats remained in their camps near Chatillon-Sur-Seine and prepared for a holiday season away from home:

The cessation of hostilities had robbed bayonet practice, field problems and maneuvers of all of their interest and excitement... For men who have just experienced the excitement and horrors of real battle, playing at war is the tamest and most farcical of all games... This intensive training schedule gave way to a more lenient one after Christmas.

The decorated "Y" huts with their Christmas trees and gift box for each man, and the Christmas trees for the French children on New Year's given by the American Soldiers, were the only visible signs of a Christmastide. The 2x4x6 boxes that stuffed the mail bags at that time were joyful reminders of the folks

at home... But the good cheer they brought and the happy memories they awakened meant even more to the homesick Sammies.



World War II

For the Wildcats of the 81st Infantry Division, the holidays took on a different form each year. In 1942, the Division was deep in the middle of individual and unit training at Camp Rucker, Alabama. Despite the busy schedule, the division still observed Thanksgiving and Christmas 1942, albeit within the confines of a mobilization camp. Soldiers were allowed to decorate their common areas, and those with Families in the area had the opportunity to enjoy a full-fledged holiday meal at the mess halls.



In 1943, the 81st Infantry Division participated in spring maneuvers in Tennessee before moving to Camp Horn Arizona. There, the Wildcats underwent grueling field problems marked by scorching heat, little sleep and a continuous diet of monotonous canned B rations. In early

November, the Wildcats were sent to Camp San Luis Obispo in upstate California for amphibious training. The accommodations were much better than those of Camp Horn:

In contrast to the raw dust and mud of most camps, there was much grass-covered ground and a profusion of flowers... the fresh food, well prepared – salads, beef, milk, eggs, pies, ice cream – eaten out of chinaware, was luxury for the desert trained, dehydrated Wildcats.

The Christmas holiday period was marked by a reduced training schedule, and a liberal leave policy to allow soldiers one break before deployment to the Pacific.

For most Wildcats, Thanksgiving Day 1944 was notable only as the seventy-fifth day of combat in the Peleliu campaign. The 81st Infantry Division landed a regimental combat team on Anguar atoll on 17 September, and on 22 September the division began funneling units into the Peleliu fight. On Thanksgiving Day, combat elements were engaged in large scale clearing operations at the China Wall; for them Thanksgiving dinner consisted of a canned “K” ration. For those Soldiers not directly involved in the Peleliu fight, Thanksgiving dinner was little better:

After weeks of B rations a Thanksgiving dinner of more stew and hash was hard to take, particularly when press releases spread the news that troops all over the world were eating turkey and cranberry sauce. Thanks to the Quartermaster's special efforts, Christmas was different. The Division had turkey – its first fresh meat since the 17th of September – and all the trimmings.

Thanksgiving Day 1945 was much better for the Wildcat Soldiers. Japan had surrendered the previous September, and the division had begun occupation duties in Aomori Province on 25 September. During the fall, the division kept busy in collecting and destroying war material, while simultaneously building and their camp infrastructure. By December 1945, the Wildcats had completed their demilitarization mission and were ensconced in comfortable base camps. As the division historian later described:

In short life in Aomori was interesting [and] it was comfortable too...fresh foods began to arrive in mid-October. Twelve tons of turkey, with the proper trimmings helped make Thanksgiving Day one of the most memorable in the Division's history.

Even while engaged in occupation duty, many Wildcats began to leaving for other assignments or to rotate home for discharge, while the division itself received a timely Christmas present in the form of a demobilization order on 17 December 1945. **W**

FLOOD STORIES

"I volunteered at the Village Church in Blythewood. We collected clothing food water, bedding and cleaning supplies from drop off points in coordination with our youth group. It made me feel good to share my time with to help those who were really affected hard by the flood."

Laura Steele, Director of Emergency Services

"It's been tough on my family. Our basement was flooded, and when you have a large family like us every bit of space counts. The Small Business administration has been a helpful resources to us during this time."

Lt. Col. Desdemona Franklin, Command Group

"I volunteered at the Airport USO after the flooding. The phones rang non-stop with people concerned about flight information, the curfew and road closures. It was rewarding to help people during that time of uncertainty and the unknown."

Helen Hall, Internal Review

South Carolina experienced historically high heavy rains in early October that resulted in dam breaks and flooding around the state. Members of the 81st RSC headquarters located in Fort Jackson, S.C. live and work in the some of the most devastated areas. In the surrounding community some lost everything and others, Wildcats included, lent a helping hand to friends neighbors and strangers.

"I went with the Red Cross to a tiny town near Orangeburg to distribute much needed supplies. It was an incredible experience to give to an entire town and to experience firsthand what people were dealing with – some lost everything. My son volunteered in an area closer to Fort Jackson and it really demonstrated how the flood was an equalizer. Rich and poor were affected by the devastation and crisis. At the same time a ton of people volunteered to help."

Chaplain Lt. Col. Mike Ducharme

"I've spent most of my life in Columbia and I was not surprised at how much the community came together to help one another. It's exactly what I expected from a very caring and diverse community. This experience was a confirmation that I'm in the right place."

Master Sgt. Rosalind Chamberlain

"I was in Kenya at the time. My daughters called and told me about the seriousness of the flooding, but I didn't believe it until I saw the footage on the news. I've been in Columbia since 1997, and I've never seen anything like it. I had flooding in my Florida room and some leaking, but compared to others I don't have much of a story – I have no complaints about that."

John West, IMO



Earn extra \$\$ &/or retirement points, just for going to the doctor!

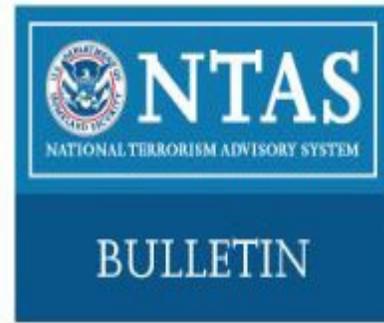
- Earn up to 12/yr RMA Code 61 (Readiness management assemblies)
- Schedule an in-clinic dental or PHA / IMR appointment with LHI
- Call 1-877-437-6313 to schedule appointment as early as 9 months following your last assessment
- LHI will let you know what services are due and when
- Attend your scheduled appointment on time
- Submit voucher, signed by the clinic, to your UA or pay agent

About the Flu

Influenza, or the flu, is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. Flu seasons are unpredictable and have the potential to impact Department of Defense readiness and mission. Each year in the United States, seasonal influenza kills more than 36,000 people and hospitalizes 200,000 more.

The goal of DOD's Influenza Vaccination Program is to protect all active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel, mission-essential civilian personnel, healthcare personnel and Tricare beneficiaries from influenza and related complications.

Everyone 6 months and older should receive an annual flu vaccination. The peak season for flu is usually October through May. Get vaccinated as soon as possible.



Describes current developments or general trends regarding threats of terrorism



Warns of a credible terrorism threat against the United States



Warns of a credible, specific and impending terrorism threat against the United States

Internet Security Precautions

Jayson Allain

Director, 81st RSC Information Management Office

When folks graduated from college back in the 80s they did not comprehend the shift in technology that is currently available at our fingertips. PC's, laptops, tablets and smart phones with more processing power than was required to launch Apollo 13. The internet provides more information than most folks would ever want or need.

We are fortunate that we have systems and tools that allow individuals to perform the work of many.

With the advent of social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.), forums, email, chat rooms, instant messenger and web browsers we have more ways to share information than ever before. That being said, there is a down side to the use of technology and this is information security. Organizations, specifically the military have an added concern to be cautious about revealing sensitive information.

Below is a checklist of internet security precautions 81st RSC employee should keep in mind when using broadband technologies at work and at home:

- Ensure your computer is up to date with the most recent AR image and current antivirus protection; social networking sites are frequent targets of malware attacks (rootkits, botnets and spyware).
- Never use the same passwords that you use at home while accessing government sites (i.e., AKO, MEDPROS, etc.). Change them periodically and use a minimum of 8 - 14 characters, be as meaningless as possible, and use uppercase letters, lowercase letters and numbers, e.g., da20PE15. And, never give your password to anyone!
- Only use social networking sites for personal use and do not post work related discussions on your site.
- Avoid mentioning where you work; hackers are experts at finding valuable information about what you do and where you do it. Never talk or write about work on social media, ensure location is set to "off" on sites like Facebook or any social media.
- Do not automatically trust that posts are from who they claim to be. Be wary of unexpected dialog boxes asking whether you want to run a particular program or perform another type of task. Always select "no" or "cancel," or close the dialog box by clicking the "X" icon in the title bar.

- Be aware of hoaxes and urban legends. Chain letters and ridiculous or unbelievable offers are usually masking viruses or malicious activity. Offers of monetary rewards seldom develop and this activity consumes bandwidth and storage space. Report them immediately to your supervisor for proper handling.

- Always be skeptical and wary. Ensure you personally know that person before accepting them as they could be an imposter. Offers of prizes or free stuff may actually be phishing attacks.

- When traveling and using a government computer, Internet cafés and public computers should not be used to log on to social network pages. Hackers might have installed a key logger that would later get access to your credentials. Try connecting via VPN to ensure secure connection.

- When traveling, never let anyone use your computer to send emails. Hackers have been known to ask people to use their computers as an emergency and they need to send a message home or work.

- Never send sensitive or confidential information through a social networking site even if someone who has legitimate access to that information asks you to.

- Never send work related emails to your personal email. Hackers are always on the move and may track both, your personal and work emails.

- Limit the amount of personal information you post and never ever have your profile set to public. Take advantage of a sites privacy settings. This policy should state how the information will be used and whether or not the information will be distributed to other organizations. Look for evidence of encryption. Many sites use SSL, or secure sockets layer, to encrypt information. Indications that your information will be encrypted include a URL that begins with "https:" instead of "http:" and a lock icon in the bottom right corner of the window.

- Ensure that your home Wi-Fi router is locked down. Unless you enable encryption, mobile users nearby can easily connect to your network capture your passwords or hijack your accounts. You can use any of several separate protocols that provide different levels of security: WEP, WPA, and WPA2.

W

CPF 0037-14-CID361-9H

20 May 2015

(Version 2)

Social Networking Safety Tips

Overview:

Social networking sites allow people to interact with others and find people with similar interests or backgrounds. Social networking sites enjoy worldwide popularity, underscoring the need to understand potential risks associated with the use of these sites. A person's online activities may inadvertently expose excessive information about their identity, location, relationships, and affiliations, creating an increased risk of identity theft, stalking, or targeted violence. A safer social networking experience is available by accepting some basic assumptions and following a few recommendations.

Assumptions:

- Once something is posted on a social networking site, it can quickly spread. No amount of effort will erase it – the Internet does not forget.
- You are not anonymous on the Internet.
- There are people on the Internet who are not who they purport to be and will take advantage of you if afforded the opportunity.
- Participating in more social networking sites increases your attack surface and overall risk.
- Everyone on the Internet can see what you post, from where you post it, who your friends and associates are, the comments your friends make and your "witty" replies.
- An embarrassing comment or image will come back to haunt you...one day...when you least expect it...at the least opportune time.
- There is a complete record of your online activity...somewhere.

Recommendations:

- Do not post anything you would be embarrassed to see on the evening news.
- Do not accept friend/follower requests from anyone you do not know; independently verify identities.
- Avoid using third-party applications; if needed, do not allow them to access your social networking accounts, friends list or address books.
- Do not post personally identifiable information.
- Be cautious about the images you post. What is in them may be more revealing than who is in them. Images posted over time may form a complete mosaic of you and your family.
- Do not allow others to tag you in images they post. Doing so makes you easier to locate and accurately construct your network of friends, relatives and associates.
- Securely configure your social networking accounts to minimize who can see your information.

CONFIGURATION GUIDES

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Google+](#)

CLICK FOR DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS
ADDITIONAL GUIDES FORTHCOMING



Contact Information:
Cyber Criminal Intelligence Program
27190 Telegraph Road
Quantico, Virginia 22134

Phone: 571.905.4482 DSN 2401

Fax: 571.905.4100 DSN 2401

E-mail:

usarmy.cciintel@mail.mil

CCIU Web Page:

www.cid.army.mil/cciu.html



Approved for

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"Do What Has To Be Done"

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

Establishing and Operating an “Informal Fund”

“Informal Funds” are great tools that allow offices, sections, and shops to easily - and legally - conduct unofficial activities such as providing coffee for the office, recognizing birthdays, and providing tokens of appreciation for those that are leaving the command. This article, along with Chief of Staff Policy #3, “Establishing and Operating an Informal Fund,” provides detailed instructions on how to create, obtain approval for, and properly operate such funds.

There are three typical types of informal funds:

- **Cup and Flower Funds:** Used for participating members to make small purchases of flowers, cups, cards, or similar items to commemorate a wedding, anniversary, promotion, sickness, etc.
- **Office Coffee or Soda Funds:** To provide conveniently located coffee, sodas, popcorn, candy bars, crackers or similar items to the participants at actual cost.
- **Plaques/Mementos for Departing Personnel:** To provide items to thank participating members that are departing due to the PCS or retirement for their service.

If an organization wishes to establish an informal fund for one of these purposes, the appropriate commander, directorate or section head, or supervisor must prepare a memorandum detailing the type fund, its purpose, membership and operating procedures, and who the fund custodian will be. This memorandum is sent to the Chief of Staff, 81st RSC for approval.

Once approved, supervisors must monitor the operation of the fund to ensure it is operating as described in the memorandum and that it is abiding by the restrictions of the Chief of Staff policy. The following are key items regarding these funds:

- The fund custodian must maintain the fund and prepare an annual report of the income, expenses and current balance of the fund. Army regulations require that only one individual be responsible for the fund’s custody, accounting and documentation.

- Money for informal funds is derived only from the collection of membership dues or assessments from participating members. Any other fundraising activity is prohibited.
- For office coffee or soda funds, a volunteer may purchase supplies at the post exchange, commissary or shoppette. Items in the coffee/soda fund must be sold at cost, since the fund is a non-profit fund.
- Informal funds cannot exceed a net worth of \$1,000. The fund must operate at a bare minimum to accomplish its purpose and should not accumulate money unnecessarily. If the fund is greater than \$100, the fund custodian must open a checking account to conduct all transactions. If the fund operates at less than \$100, the custodian will maintain all moneys in a locked container. Funds may request permission from the Chief of Staff to exceed the \$1000 limit if necessary for a short period of time and for a specific purpose.
- Membership in funds is open to all personnel within an organization. However, membership is voluntary and personnel should not be coerced into joining.

Anyone with questions regarding establishing or properly operating an informal fund should contact the 81st RSC Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

References:

- Joint Ethics Regulation (JER) (DoD 5500.7R), Chapter 2, Section 1, 2-100.
- DoDI 1000.15, Procedures and Support for Non-Federal Entities Authorized to Operate on DoD Installations, 24 October 2008.
- AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, 6 November 2014. **W**





DOL Fiscal Year 16 GSA Fleet Program Service



The 81st Regional Support Command Directorate of Logistics Transportation and Services Division and the General Services Administration (GSA) Fleet Services Representative (FSR) have conducted phase-I of the new fleet card distribution initiative for 315 GSA fleet vehicles for Army Reserve facilities located in the nine Southeastern States.



The current SmartPay2 fleet card accepting vendors are located at 130, 000 fueling and 45,000 maintenance locations in the Continental United States of America. Throughout FY 15, our customers and drivers have benefited from the services provided by the authorized vendors who supports over 150,000 GSA fleet

vehicles in the Department of Defense fleet program.

In FY 15, the 81st RSC DOL Transportation and Services Division had adopted the General Services Administration's concept, "RIGHT VEHICLE, RIGHT PRICE, GREAT SERVICE," due to the DOL Directors insight and guidance in formulating a viable fleet reduction plan for our customers. Upon receiving marching orders to from the DOL and other assignments from the GSA Regional Fleet Services Representatives, the 81st RSC Transportation Management Specialist have conducted additional initiatives including, the directors fleet reduction plan to reduce the GSA fleet by 15 percent. The managers conducted a cost benefit analysis which allowed a number of larger class vehicles to be replaced with smaller and energy efficient class vehicles. Concurrently, the GSA new vehicle replacement and acquisition will include more replacement of sedans, which give the directorate's budget more cost savings due to a reduced budget projected for FY16.

Another challenging and ongoing initiative includes safety recalls from Chrysler, Ford and General Motors, which notification are sent from the manufactures to GSA Fleet Management and Fleet Services Representatives serving all four Army Reserve Regional Support Commands. The current recalls are part of the Federal Government's oversight of vehicles recall services due to defective parts. Wildcats! ^W



81st RSC joins Columbia community for Suicide Awareness walks

Sgt. Christina Dion
319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Members of the 81st Regional Support Command based at Fort Jackson walked “Out of the Darkness” alongside hundreds of local Columbia residents Oct. 25. The event spread awareness about suicide, which plagues both the military and civilian community.

The walk, hosted by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, is designed to raise awareness and promote prevention of suicide through personal stories of darkness, loss and hope.

“Suicide claimed 41,149 lives in 2013 in the United States alone, with someone dying by suicide every 12.8 minutes,” according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. “A suicide attempt is made every minute of every day, resulting in nearly one million attempts made annually.”

One of those statistics in 2013 was Christian J. Thiele, born June 20, 1987 to Debbie Thiele and Christopher Vinson. On September 21, 2013, he ended his life.

Vinson and his wife Michelle joined the walk in honor of Vinson’s son, known as CJ which is short for Chris Vinson, Jr. CJ joined the Army in 2009. After serving with the 4th Infantry Division in Iraq as an infantryman, he was medically discharged in January 2013.

“He made it home from war, but didn’t win the battle back home,” Vinson said. “He was a good man and he did his part. He’s so missed. It’s hard every day. Events like this get his name out; his picture. He’s not just a number. That gives me comfort. I don’t go to many events, but this one means a lot.”

Because of veterans like CJ, Aljournal Franklin strives to help combat the stigma attached with mental health and other hidden wounds that both veterans and community members deal with. Franklin, the suicide prevention program manager with the 81st Regional Support Command based at Fort Jackson, said he wanted to bring the two together and bridge the gap because suicide affects everyone.

The U.S. Army Reserve has had an average of 12 to 15 suicides per region annually, Franklin said. The U.S. Army Reserve has had reported numbers as high as 59 and as low as 39 in a year.

As of the latest numbers released by the U.S. Army Reserve in an August report, it is revealed that from 2010 through 2014 suicide rates were around 25 deaths per 100,000 people ratio, Franklin said. “(This) places the Army’s rate of Suicide just a little ahead of the Civilian population which is usually in the high teens.”

“(Within the U.S. Army) suicide prevention training is designed to increase Soldier, Family and Leader awareness of the signs and symptoms of suicidal thinking and behavior,” Franklin said. This is to promote help-seeking behavior, improve one’s ability to provide care and get referrals for resources, and to provide advanced intervention training to gatekeepers.

If Soldiers feel something is wrong with a buddy, Franklin said to follow the acronym ACE: Ask, Care and Escort. Have the courage to ask the question, Franklin said, but stay calm and don’t be accusatory. Remove any means that could be used for self-injury and show compassion by listening. If necessary, escort them to the chain of command, chaplain, behavioral health professional or primary care provider.

He also said that in a crisis situation, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and press one for the military crisis line. The Fort Family Outreach and Support Center can be reached at 1-866-345-8248 or visit www.arfp.org.^W





Preparing to Pop Smoke

RSC Partners with VA to conduct Retirement Services Brief

Mr. Michael P. Mascari
81st Regional Support Command Public Affairs



Capt. LaToya Kearns, 81st Regional Support Command Retirement Services Officer, shares a laugh with Col. Julia Christian, an attendee from USARE-COTS, during a Pre-Retirement Services brief at the Lexington, Ky. VA Medical Center December 5. (Photo by Mr. Michael Mascari, 81st Regional Support Command.)

LEXINGTON, Ky. - Soldiers preparing for retirement often have lots to think about and little time to prepare by the time they attend a Retirement Services Brief, if they attend one at all.

The 81st Regional Support Command (RSC) is working to help make the preparation time a little smoother by partnering with the Veterans Administration. The December 5th Retirement Services event in Lexington, Kentucky was the first time the RSC conducted an event at a VA center. Many of the attendees saw a lot of value in both the briefing and the partnership.

“I am comfortable at the VA as a veteran and the people that you need to talk to for many things are here at the VA,” said Master Sgt. Loretta Cotham. “Not everyone lives close to a VA, so this is very convenient and helpful to connect with people to assist me through the process. I am grateful.”

The RSC conducts regular retirement services brief-

ings throughout the year, seeing over 1,300 soon-to-be and recently retired troops per year. They don't just serve Reserve Soldiers, they assist National Guardsmen and Reservists from the Navy, Marines and Air Force. Spouses are encouraged to attend as well.

While seeking to better serve those who serve, the RSC team determined that teaming up with the VA would benefit the servicemembers and both organizations. Members of the VA and select vendors that serve Reservists and Guardsmen can provide onsite assistance and the servicemembers can make contact with people and organizations that can assist them through the retirement process.

This partnership helps the 81st and the VA share valuable information with each other helping both to provide the most current information to their customers. The 81st RSC would like to partner with the VA for all of its retirement events and is seeking to do so.

Mr. James Belmont Jr., Associate Director for the Lexington VA Medical Center, said the VA is very happy with the partnership and he would like to see this become the model.



SFC Lloyd Robertson, Retirement Services NCOIC for the 81st Regional Support Command assists MSG Loretta Cotham of the 5th Medical Brigade in Birmingham, Ala. with benefits registration. The 81st RSC presented a Pre-Retirement Services brief at the Lexington, Ky. VA Medical Center December 5. (Photo by Mr. Michael Mascari, 81st Regional Support Command.)

“There’s a dual benefit,” Belmont said. “One for the Army, where they can have a central facility wherthey can bring Service members in to one place and from the VA’s perspective, we can reach the veterans, and let them know about their health benefits. We can sign them up and advise them of their eligibility. Many veterans don’t know there is dual eligibility.”

Servicemembers can receive both the military retirement healthcare through Tri Care and also are also eligible for VA benefits. Belmont seeks to sign up more people earlier to see to what they may be entitled and for how much they qualify.

“The dual eligibility is always a surprise for retiring military members. We want to let them know about these benefits. These aren’t given, they’re earned.”

Cotham, the NCOIC of Radiology for the 5th Medical Brigade in Birmingham found out what she’s entitled to, how much her retirement will be, and even that she is entitled to veterans hiring preference and medical benefits she was not aware of.

“If you don’t think you need to attend these briefings, you are wrong. You need to make the time. This is yours. You’ve done these years and when you retire,



Capt. LaToya Kearns, Retirement Services Officer for the 81st Regional Support Command, and Mr. James Belmont, Jr., Associate Director of the Lexington VA Medical Center exchange thanks during a briefing. (Photo by Mr. Michael Mascari, 81st Regional Support Command.)

it’s not a given you will get everything. If you don’t work to get it, you will lose it. It’s up to you.” Cotham has advice for Soldiers to consider earlier in their careers.

“Be mindful of all of your paperwork. Check into the system to ensure they have all of your paperwork and things are being updated on a regular basis. You have to be proactive in your own retirement to make everything work.” **W**

For more information and resources, call the 81st RSC Retirement Service Officers at (803) 751-9864/9698 or you can contact Human Resources Service Center at (888) 276-9472, askhrc.army@us.army.mil. To speak with someone at the Veterans Administration at (800) 827-1000 or www.va.gov.

81st RSC Celebrates Red Ribbon Week

By Michael Mascari



FORT JACKSON, S.C. - The 81st Regional Support Command reached out to two local high schools' JROTC programs and two Fort Jackson elementary schools as part of Red Ribbon Week.

"The students like this because it's something different," said Blythewood High School Senior and Army JROTC instructor, Charles White.

"The hands-on activities are a good learning tool because the kids are up and moving around, not sitting through a lecture. When I discuss the program with parents of the kids who have participated, they talk about how their kids really enjoyed the drug and alcohol training."

The program was founded in honor of Enrique 'Kiki' Camarena, a Drug Enforcement Agency agent tortured and killed by a drug cartel in 1985.

Camarena's work as an agent led to the discovery

of a multi-million dollar narcotics operation in Mexico. Residents of Agent Camarena's home town wore red ribbons to honor him.

Congressman Duncan Hunter, teacher David Dhillon, and First Lady Nancy Reagan launched an anti-drug campaign using the ribbon as its symbol.

The program focuses on awareness, advocacy and resources. Kent McMillian, 81st RSC Alcohol and Drug Control Officer, works with area schools, presenting educational programs with hands-on opportunities for the students.

"It is a national campaign for drug and alcohol awareness education for school age children, but adults have participated in this program as well," said McMillian. "The earlier they get the information and the longer they have to process the information, the higher the likelihood they'll

make better choices when it comes to drugs and alcohol.”

The JROTC programs make a great target audience for the Army Reserve, since many of these students will become Citizen Soldiers, according to McMillian. The program featured hand-outs, a “Family Feud”-style game and two exercises for student participation.

The hands on exercises were two inebriation simulators - the overwhelming student favorites. Students put on goggles that distorted their vision the way excessive alcohol or drug consumption might impair them. They then had to walk a straight line.

The second simulator involved driving a vehicle without the glasses, then with the goggles while others observed.

“It was very blurry, I thought I was walking a straight line until I took the goggles off and I figured out I was nowhere near the line I was supposed to be walking on,” said Blythewood JROTC student, Jasmine Mills.

Mills said the experience of losing an uncle to an alcohol-related cause, and the training she received through Red Ribbon week is an eye-opener. She hopes other students take the course and learn the information provided.

“Before, I thought it was joke and I didn’t really take it seriously,” said Mills. “But now that I’ve experienced loss in my own Family and to see through the simulators what the effects are first-hand, it will cause me to think harder about the decisions I make down the road.”**W**



Jasmine Mills, Blythewood High School student and JROTC cadet, participates in training that simulates the effects of drug and alcohol impairment. The simulations were part of a partnership between the 81st Regional Support Command and local schools during Red Ribbon week (Photo by Michael Mascari, 81st Regional Support Command).

Safety At Home

Submitted by Mr. Daniel Heath

Are you ready at home?

A home fire isn't the time to create a family evacuation plan.

Home fires never occur at a convenient time. You may be awakened at 2:30 a.m. by the smell of smoke or the sound of an alarm. Your mind races: Am I really awake? Is this really happening? I've got to get my Family out of here, now! Do something!

Your ability to get out of a fire emergency depends on warnings from smoke detectors and advanced planning, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

"In a fire, seconds count and you may have as little as one to two minutes to safely escape once the smoke alarm sounds," said the NFPA's Judy Comoletti. "That's why it's critical every home has working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home (including the basement), outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms so when one sounds, they all sound."

During 2013, an estimated 369,000 reported structure fires resulted in 2,755 civilian deaths in the United States. Planning is key to preparing to evacuate in a fire emergency at your residence.

Gather as a Family and make a plan by walking through your home and inspecting all possible exits and escape routes. Think about showing children two exits from each room, such as a door and window. Designate a gathering point outside the home for everyone to meet once they exit.

"Escape planning is an important element of home fire safety," said Comoletti. "A home fire escape plan is put in place if the smoke alarm sounds. The plan should include two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place where everyone will gather. Once outside the home, call 911 using a cellphone or neighbor's phone. It's important to practice your home fire drill at least twice a year."

The American Red Cross reports that 80 percent of Americans don't realize home fires are the single-most common disaster in the United States. The organization estimates only 26 percent of families have actually developed and practiced an escape plan.

"The leading cause of home fires is unattended cooking. Stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or broiling food. If you must leave the kitchen, even for a short time, turn off the stove," said Comoletti.

For more information on fire safety, visit:
<https://safety.army.mil>.

Directorate of Communication and Public Affairs,



VISION
Anytime. Anywhere.
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We Inspire and Empower

Mission and Vision

MISSION We provide relevant and responsive programs and services to Soldiers, Family members, command teams and civilians throughout the geographically dispersed Army Reserve Community.



KNOWLEDGE

OFFICIAL SAFETY MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. ARMY

THIS WEEK 16-20 NOV 2015



KEEP GOING IN THE SNOW

Driving is a challenging task. Traffic, road construction, rain, kids making noise, the radio and ringing cellphones can all be very distracting. Couple that with slick wintry roads, black ice, snow and sleet and you've added a whole new element to driving. While you can't control the weather, you can apply risk management to reduce your driving risks.



PLAYING WITH FIRE

Soldiers remain indoors much more during the cold winter months. In some cases, this means many appliances and electronic devices will remain plugged in and running for longer periods of time, which can increase the risk of an accidental fire.



FUNNEL CLOUD

One of the last things you expect to encounter when on a landing approach is a funnel cloud. Yet, it happened to me in Kandahar, Afghanistan, in the winter of 2013 on an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission.

DID YOU KNOW?



CLICK TO VIEW

SAFETY FEATURE

READY ...OR NOT?

Ready ... or Not? is a call to action for leaders, Soldiers, Army Civilians and Family members to assess their "readiness" for what lies ahead—the known as well as the unknown.

Throughout our professional and personal lives, events happen all around us. We are often able to shape the outcome of those events, but many times we're not. Navigating life's challenges is all about decision-making.

So are **YOU** ready ... or not?

<https://safety.army.mil>

CLICK TO DOWNLOAD

PRODUCTS & TOOLS



A collection of resources to aid commanders and leaders in the management of range operations and safe weapons handling.



The Ground Risk Assessment Tool is an interactive, automated online system developed to augment risk management planning and decision-making for ground operations.



The latest installment of the Army's **Ready ... or Not?** campaign is now available and contains a new collection of safety videos, posters and articles to help Soldiers and leaders prepare for the unique challenges the next few months will bring. Click here to learn more.

Are you **Ready ... or Not?**

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE

KNOWLEDGE HOME

CONTACT US





The 81st RSC Commander, Maj. Gen. Janet Cobb and Chief of Staff, Peter Quinn visited Equipment Concentration Site 151 in Fort Rucker, Ala., Oct. 15, 2015, to recognize them as both the 2015 81st RSC level Army Award for Maintenance Excellence and 2015 2nd quarter Shop of the Quarter Award recipients. The AAME award recognizes the exceptional accomplishments in maintenance and provides additional incentive to competitive major Army Commands. ECS 151 is currently competing for the Army Reserve and Department of the Army level AAME, which will choose winners at upcoming dates. In addition to the AAME, ECS 151 received the 2nd quarter Shop of the Quarter, an honor the team previously received three of the four quarters in 2014. “I’m happy that the team here is being recognized by the command for what I tell them all of the time,” said Johnny Allen, ECS 151 Supervisor. “For the commander to take the time to thank my team in person for their hard work is important to me, and I think it means a lot to them as well.”



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Set a goal.

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Fewer than 50% of Americans say they have a savings plan with specific goals

56% of divorces cite financial stress as the leading cause of the breakdown of marriage

Money is the top source of psychological stress for adults



Capture this QR code on your mobile device to take the Military Saves Pledge!

Join a Military Community of Savers & Encourage Others to do the Same

Here is an opportunity for you and your organization to have a positive impact on the finances of servicemembers, their families, and civilian employees. **Motivate** people to **Start Small, Think Big**. Encourage everyone to take the Military Saves Pledge at www.militarysaves.org.

Military Saves is part of the Department of Defense's Financial Readiness Campaign and has been a partner with DoD since 2003. Military Saves is a research-based campaign which seeks to persuade, motivate, and encourage military families to save money every month, and to convince leaders and organizations to be aggressive in promoting automatic savings.

Military Saves is a part of America Saves, the larger nation-wide campaign for all Americans. Military Saves encourages all servicemembers, their families, and civilian employees to "Take the Military Saves Pledge." Savers who take the pledge can opt to receive a monthly e-newsletter from Military Saves, as well as a quarterly e-newsletter from America Saves. Military Saves also works with the defense credit unions, military banks and other non-profit organizations to promote savings and debt reduction.

Military Saves encourages:

- Saving a portion of each paycheck
- Developing a personal financial plan
- Establishing good credit
- Enrolling in programs such as
 - Thrift Savings Plan
 - Savings Deposit Program (when eligible)
 - Servicemembers Group Life Insurance

All four DoD service branches (Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy), the Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserves participate in the campaign. Since the launch of Military Saves Week in 2007, more than 200,000 individuals have taken the saver pledge or re-pledged. Military Saves is a year-round campaign and provides savings-themed resource packets available to organizations throughout the year.

Military Saves Week 2016 is February 22 – 27, which coincides with America Saves Week. Military and America Saves are sponsored by the Consumer Federation of America.

Who is eligible?

Active-duty, Guard and Reserve servicemembers, their families (spouses and youth), DoD civilians and contractors, retirees, and veterans.

For more information please visit www.militarysaves.org

81st RSC Family Programs Center, 2179 Sumter Avenue, Ft. Jackson, SC (803) 751-3559



Strategic Planning Update

The focus of our strategic planning efforts has always been to improve our ability to serve our customers. Our approach this year has changed: we are focused on involving the workforce at all levels to develop our objectives and refine our plan. This has delayed publishing FY15 guidance but is establishing a foundation for all future planning efforts.



Sixty Wildcats participated in our focus group discussions to refine our objectives. Mr. Quinn presented Two-Star notes from MG Cobb to recognize their contributions.

What we have accomplished so far:

- ACOE SITE VISIT
- SMS TRAINING FOR NEW OWNERS AND ADMINISTRATORS
- STRATEGIC PRIORITY ISSUES METRICS REVIEW AND ALIGNMENT
- RE-DESIGN OF LINE OF EFFORT BRIEFING
- STARTED WILDCAT WORKSHOPS

What we will accomplish soon:

- Priority Issues Briefing
- Strategic Initiatives Group
- LSS Project identification selection
- SMS demonstration to USARC

Mission: The 81st Regional Support Command provides essential customer care and services to Soldiers, Civilians, and their Families in the Southeast Region, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, enabling supported commanders and leaders to maximize resources and meet global requirements.

Vision: Be the best Regional Support Command – in the eyes of our supported commanders – committed to excellence, living the Army Values, and focused on Wildcat PRIDE

One-hundred, eighty-eight Wildcats provided feedback on our Mission and Vision statements. Based on their input, we kept our Vision statement and refined our current Mission statement to include the Virgin Islands.

The next Wildcat Workshop is scheduled 20 Jan 16 and the topic is Customer Service and Surveys. Please join us in room 102 for this event and for staff not in the building, join us via telecon at 1-877-521-4337 passcode 528114.

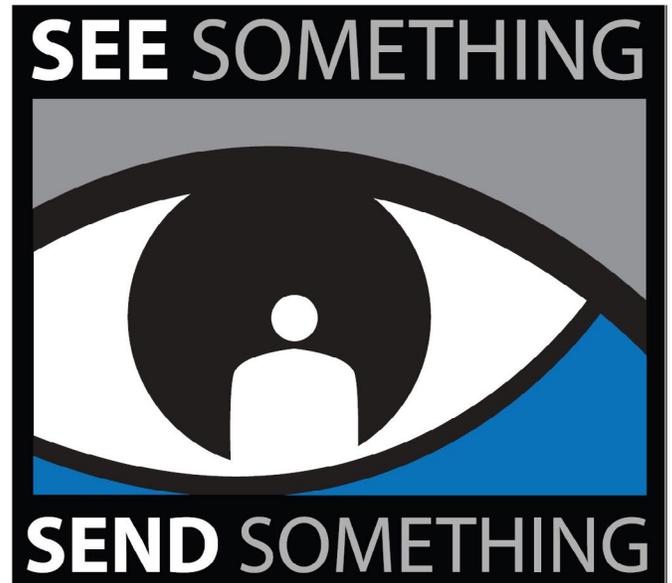
The topics for the remaining workshops are:
 17 FEB Military Evaluations and awards
 16 MAR Outreach
 13 APR Civilian Education System
 18 MAY Strategic Planning
 22 JUN Resource Management
 13 JUL Contracting

SEE SOMETHING SEND SOMETHING

David W. Perkins

Directorate of Emergency Services (DES)

On Wednesday the 16th of December, 81st RSC DES Antiterrorism office briefed a mobile application called *See Something Send Something*. Working with various state and federal representatives My Mobile Witness, the company responsible for *See Something Send Something* developed advanced suspicious activity reporting (SAR) technology for State Homeland Security and Major City Intelligence Centers. The *See Something Send Something* system connects concerned citizens, first responders and law enforcement directly to key intelligence centers throughout the United States. The system routes geo tagged suspicious activity reports and location based messaging using a methodology for storing law enforcement data and protecting citizens privacy. To learn more about *See Something Send Something*, you can go to



<http://mymobilewitness.com>



Do you know someone who you has great Wildcat PRIDE? Nominate them to be in our next spotlight of The WILDCAT. Simply follow the link below, submit their name and tell us why you feel they should be recognized.

https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=134944&s=959&dep=*DoD&sc=2