

# The WILDCAT



81ST REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND, FORT JACKSON, SC

Volume 17, Issue 7

APRIL 2011



(Photos by: Lt. Col. Mike Brady)

**Willie Cody Jr. ground guides a M1045 Palletized Loading System truck onto an awaiting flatbed trailer for a move from Fort Gillem to Fort Benning. Cody is assigned to the 81st Regional Support Command's Equipment Concentration Site 43, which began occupying temporary facilities on Fort Benning, Feb. 7.**

## ECS team begins move to Fort Benning

Story by: Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell, Public Affairs NCO

**FORT BENNING, Ga.** - New Army Reserve neighbors moved on post Feb. 7 as the first of more than 4,000 vehicles, generators, trailers and other equipment began arriving from Fort Gillem, Ga.

Several M1045 Palletized Loading System trucks arrived on commercial flatbed trucks at Lawson Army Airfield to be off-loaded and taken to a secured location. During the next six months, a team of more than 100 military technicians assigned to the 81st Regional Support Command's Equipment Concentration Site 43 will begin occupying temporary facilities until construction of new state-of-the-art facilities including a 50,000 square foot maintenance facility and 150,000 square foot high bay storage warehouse are scheduled to be completed in late summer 2011.

Because of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission's decision to close Fort Gillem, the ECS 43 has been busy preparing for the 120-mile journey, said Darrell Shelton, the ECS shop manger.

Shelton said it is not easy to plan, coordinate and execute a move of this magnitude.

"This is a team effort on all levels," he said. "The Fort Benning staff has been great and very helpful in this painful process. We did it though, without a hitch."

Before the sun broke the Fort Gillem horizon, teams of ECS employees gathered their protective helmets and eye protection gear and assembled in the freezing temperatures surrounded by nearly a dozen commercial flatbed trucks filling the air with sounds of idling diesel engines.

"We love this weather," shouted one mechanic as he checked his breath against the cold air. "It's not an Army day unless it's a cold day."

As small teams gathered seemingly sporadically throughout the makeshift operations center outside, team leaders worked with truck drivers to ensure safety was the number one priority.

"My team has worked so hard on this move, and my number one concern is their safety,"

**see MOVE on page 3**

## The Wildcat



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Commanding General

Brig. Gen. Mark C. Arnold  
Deputy Commanding General

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The Wildcat is published monthly by the 81st Regional Support Command Public Affairs Office to provide information to Soldier and Civilian "Wildcats".

The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the 81st RSC, the U.S. Army Reserve or the Department of the Army. For more information, contact the 81st RSC Public Affairs Office, 1525 Marion Avenue, Fort Jackson, S.C. 29207 or at (803) 751-9694. Deadline for submission of articles is the 20th of each month.

## April is the "Month of the Military Child"

by: Christy Burns, Family Programs Director

All around the world military services and communities are celebrating and honoring our children whose parents serve our country.

Military kids are proud of their moms and dads for their commitment to defend our great nation.

During the month of April please take time to celebrate your children and youth who are unsung heroes. They make tremendous contributions and sacrifices for our country by being supportive of their parents.

When you are away from home, whether it be a long deployment, mobilization, battle assembly weekend or weeks of annual training, your children know you are away from home defending our country or training to be a better Soldier.

Set aside some time this month to participate in activities in your communities that honor our military children.

If you are not located near a military installation, plan a family celebration with your children to show them how much you appreciate their support to you as an Army Reserve Soldier.

One of the things you can do for your children this summer might be to enroll them in an Army Reserve enrichment camp.

This year there will be 17 Army Reserve Enrichment Camps, serving youths 8-16 years of age.

Through these AR Enrichment Camps, campers will have the opportunity to interact with and learn from each other while learning about the unique factors associated with being an Army Reserve dependent. This is a free residential camping experience, but parents/care givers are responsible for transportation to and from the campsites.

To register visit [www.arfp.org/AREC](http://www.arfp.org/AREC). You must register for the site (if you are a new user) and/or be logged in to proceed.

Please use a personal email i.e., AOL, Hotmail, Yahoo, etc.

If you would like to know more about what is happening in your community, contact your family readiness group leader, Child and Youth School Services, Family Readiness Support Assistant or call me at 803-751-9914, or [christa.burns1@usar.army.mil](mailto:christa.burns1@usar.army.mil).

## FORCE PROTECTION THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

**If it seems strange...DON'T OPEN IT!!!**



**If you receive a suspicious letter or package, follow these four steps:**

- 1** Handle with care. Don't shake or bump
- 2** Isolate it immediately
- 3** Don't open, smell, touch or taste.
- 4** Treat it as suspect. Call the MPs immediately – 751-3114/3115



## **Did you know?**

### **You can get free help with financial issues?**

Free 24-hour financial support, provided by the Department of Defense, is available to all active duty, guard and reserve members and their families. Consultants provide information and make referrals on a wide range of issues, including financial issues. You can reach the program by telephone at 1-800-342-9647 or through the web site at <http://www.militaryonesource.com>.

Military OneSource (MOS) continues to provide free tax filing services and free tax consultations to military service members and their families during the tax season. Visit the website or call the phone number above for more information.

### **You should update your Power of Attorney periodically?**

As a part of soldier readiness, you should periodically consider if you need a power of attorney; or if you already have one, review it to make sure it is up to date.

A power of attorney is a legal document in which you grant another person the legal authority to take action on your behalf in the event that you are unavailable to act on your own behalf. A *general power of attorney* grants another person broad powers to take almost any and all actions on your behalf whereas a *specific power of attorney* grants another person powers limited to a specific action or actions on your behalf.

### **The MMRB is being replaced by the MAR2 process?**

The Military Occupational Specialty/Medical Retention Board is being replaced by the MOS Administrative Retention Review.

Soldiers referred to the MAR2 will receive an email notification informing them of the referral and the steps to follow to complete their board packet. The packet consists of a checklist, a commander's memo, and a Soldier's memo. It's that simple. Templates are provided and should be used as indicated.

Further guidance can be obtained by contacting the 81st RSC boards branch at [RSC081HRO-Boards@usar.army.mil](mailto:RSC081HRO-Boards@usar.army.mil).

## ***Chaplain's Corner***



On April 14th, 1912 the RMS Titanic hit an iceberg and early on April 15th, the ship sank. This was a ship that had been hailed as the unsinkable ship and it could stand up to anything and survive. Several things went wrong even before the ship set sail and met its destiny. One; the designers and people sailing on the Titanic had put their faith in a ship design that was advanced for its time but was still in some ways flawed. Two; because of the false sense of security of the ship being unsinkable they didn't have enough life boats aboard and this contributed to the loss of life. Three; they failed to listen to the distress cables of other ships in the area and other ships didn't hear the Titanic's distress messages.

In our relationships in life we can let similar errors cause our relationships to be wrecked and destroyed. First, we can believe that we have done everything right in our relationship and so it is a perfect relationship and nothing can go wrong. We may have a relationship that can withstand a lot of things but we don't have that one perfect relationship that can hold up under everything. We need to realize that relationships take constant work and we have to keep working to improve them, daily.

Secondly, because of the length of our relationship or because we feel it is a perfect relationship, it can lead to a false sense of security that might cause us not to work on improving our relationship. Thirdly, a good relationship requires constant communications. We need to be talking and working through things in our relationship. Relationships depend upon it.

Our next Strong Bonds program works to help improve relationships. The skills we teach not only help improve Marriages but all relationships we have with those around us.

#### **Strong Bonds Upcoming Date:**

29 April to 1 May – Orlando, FL (40 couples and 40 singles)

CH (Lt. Col.) Richard Savage

## **MOVE....**

**(continued from page 1)**

Shelton said. "We can move thousands of pieces of equipment from our yard and warehouses and can call this a success, but it only takes one accident where someone gets hurt or injured to turn a great thing bad."

As ECS employees started four nearby PLS trucks, the sounds of the accelerators being slightly pressed filled the parking lot and caused small smoke plumes in the sea of dozens of military equipment.

The sight of the white smoke triggered one employee to raise his arms in the air with a clipboard in one hand and coffee cup in the other – spilling his coffee down his coat sleeve.

With the truck windows de-iced and flatbed trucks ready, ground guides carefully maneuvered the military equipment onto the awaiting trailers.

Truck drivers worked with the ECS employees to ensure the trucks were placed correctly onto the already tight-fitting platforms.

The massive PLS truck tires consumed nearly every available space as drivers

**(continued on next page)**

## MOVE...continued from page 3)

secured the large vehicles with dozens of chains for the short drive to Atlanta.

As the airbrakes were released, trucks pulled out of Fort Gillem and snaked their way through Atlanta's morning traffic down the Interstate 85, which connects Atlanta and Columbus, Ga.

A couple hours later, the trucks wound their way through the construction-heavy Fort Benning and slowly down the hill to the airfield normally used for paratroopers of the U.S. Army Airborne School.

As Shelton mentally checked off each piece of equipment, the truck drivers turned onto the awaiting airfield for a quick offload before heading back to begin the journey again – a process that will last several months.

"This is an important process to ensure the Army Reserve has the right resources in the right place," Shelton said. "It is our mission at the ECS to give Reserve commanders the assurance their vehicles

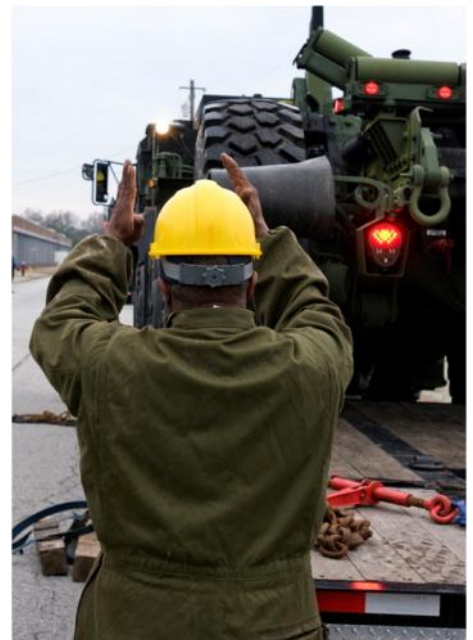
are ready for any mission at any time."

ECS 43 supports seven southeastern states and 120 different Army Reserve units with vehicles and more than 5,000 different types of equipment and supplies military units use to perform their missions, said Patrick Burns, the 81st RSC's director of logistics, based at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Burns said if required, the ECS 43 has the capability to maintain up to 4,500 vehicles.

"The ECS and Area Maintenance Support Activity shops have an important role in today's Army Reserve readiness," Burns said. "We have dedicated employees who take pride in their work."

"These military technicians work very hard at their jobs," he said. "To pull off a move like this with the conditions we gave them is great. To move an entire shop operation while still performing the mission is extremely difficult. If it wasn't for great leadership and positive employees there, it wouldn't be possible."



**ECS 43's new 50,000 square foot state-of-the-art maintenance facility is scheduled to be completed in late summer 2011.**

## WELCOMING OUR NEWEST KITTENS!



CSM James Wills and his wife, Lisa, have a new baby girl. Paige Riley Wills was born 3-8-11, at 10:32 p.m. She weighed-in at 7lbs. exactly and she was 18½ inches long.



CH (Col.) Glenn Winter and his wife, Vicki, have a new granddaughter Ann Elizabeth Vaughn. Born 3-16-11, at 6:30 p.m., she weighed-in at 6 lbs., 12 oz. and she was 19 inches long.

# How to identify quality childcare

By: Jennifer Stevens, Child, Youth and School Services

Locating quality child care can seem like an endless task for most parents. For military parents this task, coupled with the requirements of military life can often seem insurmountable. Military families often require daycare for non-traditional and extended hours due to the nature of their jobs. While finding child care can be difficult, finding quality child care can be an even greater concern. When looking for child care, parents must have the necessary tools and knowledge to identify quality care and to select the best “fit” for their situation.

When considering daycare, there are six indicators of quality that will assist parents in making a good decision. These indicators include level of supervision, provider training and education, opportunities for learning, health and safety concerns, program quality and evaluation and inclusion of parent involvement. Each of these indicators is equally important to the child’s positive learning experience.

When a parent is considering a day care facility, supervision should be a concern. The provider should be asked about the ratio of adults to children and should be able to give you this information immediately. This information should also be posted in plain view. Most states have a recommended adult/child ratio guideline that is to be followed at all times. Children should always be supervised, even during naps.

Lack of supervision can create situations where children can be at risk of harm.

Another important indicator of quality child care is documented training and education of staff.

All staff should be required to meet training and education requirements as determined by the state authority. Training and education of caregivers, helps to ensure that staff has knowledge of best practices in care and education of children. This training should include CPR and first aid, child abuse reporting and prevention, as well as appropriate practices for children.

Parents should also inquire about training in positive guidance techniques and ask to review a no corporal punishment policy.

On going training in these areas is more likely to result in an environment that is free of negative treatment of children. Parents should conduct a visit to the classroom prior to placing a child in any daycare environment. They should watch for positive, individual, and nurturing interactions between adults and children.

A third indicator of quality is room environment, materials, and activities. The child care space should be well organized with plenty of space for the amount of children being served. In a quality conscience facility, materials will be clean, available to the children and age appropriate. Activities will allow children to learn during play and include opportunities for interaction and exploration.

In addition to those indicators that have been mentioned, health and safety is very important in the childcare environment. It is the indicator that causes the most

concern for parents. There are many factors that can be readily assessed that will assist parents in evaluating the safety of a day care facility. The parent should ask or observe the following:

- \* Do adults and children wash hands regularly?
- \* Are parents required to present shot records?
- \* Are medicines and hazardous materials out of reach?
- \* Are floors and walls clean?
- \* Are meals/snacks nutritious/ Are foods refrigerated?
- \* Are first aid kits available/ Is there a working phone?
- \* Has all staff had background checks?

Parents may also check with state childcare licensing authorities to request information on the facilities’ history of health and safety violations.

A final indicator and very important factor of quality is the involvement of parents and Family.

Parents should be welcome to visit the facility at any time during operating hours. Parent involvement should be a welcome component of the program to include volunteering, fieldtrips, sharing special holidays or traditions and parent advisory boards.

Finding quality child care can be difficult but knowing these indicators can help parents to make a better decision.

For more information regarding quality child care in your area, please contact me at Child, Youth and School Services, at 678-799-1019. You can also visit: [www.NACCRRA.org/MilitaryPrograms](http://www.NACCRRA.org/MilitaryPrograms) for more info.



# Wildcats assist Soldiers in need

Story by: Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell, Public Affairs NCO

**FORT JACKSON, S.C.** – She had two stable jobs, bought a new car and everything seemed to be going well for one Army Reserve Soldier -- for a brief moment.

Shortly afterwards, she lost one job, the other cut back on her hours and soon found herself buried in bills and a few months later she was served with an eviction notice.

She almost lost it all until she made a decision that changed her life. A simple phone call asking for help and advice changed a bad situation into something better.

That decision made its way to the 81st Regional Support Command and Marlo Walker, a recovery care coordinator with of the Army Reserve Warrior and Family Assistance Center team here.

Within an hour, Walker was on the phone with the Soldier to figure out a possible solution and to her landlord to stop the eviction and saving unneeded stress for a young warrior.

Nearly hidden in a sea of cubicles at the “Wildcat” lair, Walker and her counterpart Chris Rhett work as advocates for Soldier and supports recovering service members, wounded and injured Army Reserve warriors and their family members or designated representatives by ensuring non-medical needs are met through all the phases of the continuum of care.

Rhett said the program is important because it bridges the gap between the Army Reserve family and the large amount of resources out there to assist them.

“One thing we don’t need our Soldiers doing is not asking

someone for help,” he said.

“It’s difficult for us, because we are right here for them, and most of the time the Soldiers and units don’t even know our services exist.”

Walker said the program provides assistance in navigating federal and state systems and helps connect Soldiers and families with the necessary financial, educational, employment, legal and medical resources.

Federal programs, including healthcare, retirement and disability compensation, transition assistance, VA adaptive housing and vehicle assistance, VA education and training, VA vocational rehabilitation and employment and certain Department of Labor programs, can go unnoticed to the average Army Reserve family, she said.

Rhett said his job gives him the satisfaction of assisting Soldiers who, for whatever reason, are not able to help themselves.

“I am a retiree and know firsthand the difficulties in navigating the transition to civilian life,” Rhett said. “Our warrior citizens are unique serving a dual role and face the difficulties in every aspect of life. It feels good to know I am able to help Soldiers through this process.”

Walker said being able work Soldiers and families on a daily basis is what she lives for and brings total satisfaction to her hard work.

“These Soldiers have put their lives on the line to serve our country, she said. “They need to know that they are appreciated, and someone is there to help them though their time of need.



**Marlo Walker and Chris Rhett review a case file and discuss different avenues of approach to helping a Soldier in need. Both Walker and Rhett are Recovery Care Coordinators who work in the Family Programs branch of the 81st Human Resources directorate.**

(Photos by: Gail E. Anderson)

**(continued on next page)**

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Nothing feels better then knowing that I am making a difference in a soldiers and his family's life."

As Walker worked with the landlord to stop the eviction and help with simple financial needs for the Soldier, she wanted to ensure this was not a quick fix or solution but rather assistance to get the Soldier on the right path for success.

"I wanted her to know it was her responsibility to do the right thing," she said after talking with local veterans' groups in the area to help the Soldier.

"The Army takes care of its own. Sometimes our young Soldiers wait until it's too late to recover. Luckily, she didn't wait until all was lost."

Rhett and Walker said Soldiers must realize they are not alone.

"We have programs that can make sure our soldiers and their families' needs are met,"



Walker said. "Soldiers and their families have to realize they are not alone in this time of need.

Knowing that one needs help is strength, not a weakness."

Rhett said Army Reserve families need to overcome their fear of asking for help when it is needed and said unless it is known that

help is needed, there is no way it can be provided.

"There is no shame in asking for help, and the shame comes from neglecting help that is here," he said.

"With a little persistence and a lot of patience, anything can be overcome," he said.

## What you need to know about SGLI

**Story by: Maj. Kimberly Gasperson-Justice, 81st RSC JAG Office**

Servicemembers Group Life Insurance is the insurance that is offered to service members. It is term insurance. That is, the insurance stays in affect so long as you pay the premium and your premium does not serve as an investment and gain dividends such as whole life or universal insurance policies do. Presently, a service member can elect coverage in amounts up to \$400,000. In addition, a service member may elect to also purchase spousal coverage in an amount up to \$100,000.

Since SGLI is an insurance policy it is a contract with you, the service member. As a result, your beneficiary is who you, as the policy holder, name and is not governed by your will.

The law requires that SGLI be paid to who you name as the beneficiary only. Therefore, it is imperative that you annually review your beneficiary designation and make changes accordingly. Also, you should always review your beneficiary designation any time you undergo a life changing

event such as the birth of a child, marriage, divorce or death and make changes accordingly.

While it is imperative that you review and change your will when you undergo one of these events, you also must change your SGLI beneficiary since changing your will does not affect your SGLI beneficiary designation.

In any event, make sure that you contact your JAG office if you are still uncertain what to do or if you have any further questions about naming a beneficiary. The 81st RSC office number is 751-3189.



# 42nd Annual Cottontail Festival & Egg Hunt

Sesquicentennial State Park-9564 Two Notch Rd

Park Admission: \$2/Adults; 15 and under, FREE

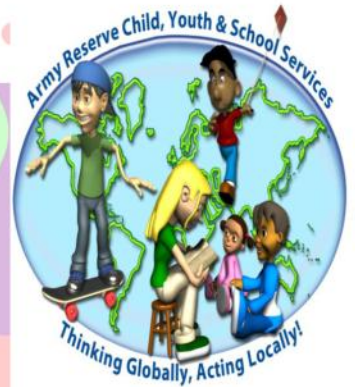
All activities are FREE, so come join the fun!

**FUN FOR ALL AGES!**

Carnival games, entertainment, live bunnies & tons of prizes!

Hunt for the **GOLDEN EGG!** Bring your Easter Basket!

Egg hunts begin at **1:00 PM**



**Saturday, April 16  
10:00AM-2:00PM**



## Army Reserve Families:

\*Visit the Child, Youth & School Services Booth to receive information on summer camps, child care and much more.

\*Bring this flyer and your orders showing that your Army Reserve Soldier is deployed and your child will receive a Hero Pack stuffed with lots of goodies!

\*Celebrate Month of the Military Child with the Army Reserve and our Partnership with Richland County Recreation.

POC: Jennifer Stevens, CYSS, 803-751-9857

**We salute all Military Families!**

**Thank You for Your Service!**