

The WILDCAT



81ST REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND, FORT JACKSON, SC

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Staff Sgt. Jeremy Glasco and his son, Harmon, take a spin on a ride at Fort Jackson's Fun Fair as part of the activities celebrating military children. Glasco is assigned as a command chaplain assistant for the 81st RSC.

Team educates families about youth services

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Toshiko Fraley, 81st RSC Public Affairs NCO

FORT JACKSON, SC – The 81st Regional Support Command's Child, Youth & School Services team recently participated in its first Month of the Military Child Fun Fair held here.

This opportunity created a new friendship and introduced their existence to the Fort Jackson and Columbia, S.C., communities. At the Fun Fair, the CYSS team displayed opportunities for Reserve families to be linked with childcare solutions, foster unit and command support, employ community-based partnerships and engage in youth development opportunities along with school support services.

"This event was in observance of the Month of the Military Child," said Jennifer Stevens, from the 81st

Regional Support Command's community outreach specialist. "It was a celebration of our children and recognition of their service to this country as well as their parents. Our Soldiers, families and children need to know that they are appreciated. This event encouraged family participation in a safe and fun environment."

Each child that came to the 81st RSC's booth was given dog tags, bracelets and pins. In addition, the CYSS team ensured parents walked away with a wealth of information about both the 81st Family Programs initiatives as well as CYSS promotional information.

"The event gave Reserve and active-component Army families the opportunity to interact with one another, reinforcing the fact that all military families

see TEAM on page 3

Command Corner

By: Command Sgt. Maj. James Wills

My fellow Wildcats, I submit this letter to you with excitement in my heart yet with anticipation of what our future in the Army Reserve consists. It is no secret that we are forced to make cuts in every government checking account impacting the Department of Defense as a whole. What this means to the Army Reserve, we are in stand-by mode to see how our future shall transform. Of all the rumors on the street, I feel confident that the AR's future is stronger than ever. Meanwhile, I ask that our leaders be engaged in communicating among their Soldiers, civilians, and their families ensuring that they have the latest and greatest information.

On a lighter note, Lisa and I volunteered to support the 81st Wildcat Association in preparing a family cookbook as a fund raiser for the association. It is our goal to have this back from the press by September in time for the annual Wildcat Association Reunion. We are asking that every member of the Wildcat team along with their spouses submit a favorite recipe. We want to include as many personalized recipes and 81st historical photos and commentary as possible. If you are interested in supporting this team effort, please email the information direct to my email at james.wills1@usar.army.mil.

The command team just returned from a great week in Chicago where we attended the Army Reserve's Spring Senior Leader Conference. There are many initiatives and priorities which we need to heed from the Army and Army Reserve Leadership. I want to share some of them with you:

o Soldier Self Development:

SSD 1 has been launched and will be required for Soldiers attending Warrior Leader Course in FY13; there is not an SSD 2; SSD 3 will be launched later this month and will be required to attend Senior Leadership Course starting in Jan 13; SSD 4 will also be launched later this month and will be required to attend Advanced Leadership Course starting FY 13; SSD 5 will launch in June this year and will be required for joint or nominative Command Sergeant Major assignments.

o Soldiers who have trouble printing training certificates on their home computer may go to www.militarycac.com to download software to help print these certificates.

o The Physical Readiness Test

(PRT) per Training Circular 3-22.20 is in effect; there are still challenges to overcome concerning some of the equipment for the training events.

o The Combat Readiness Test

(CRT) will be briefed to the Chief of Staff Army in December 2011; it appears due to the intense resourcing of this event it may not get off the ground. The CRT will not replace the PRT, it will be a tool for commanders to determine Soldiers' ability to perform specific tasks in support of their military occupational specialty in a combat theater.

o Time in Service/Grade periods are changing:

The new TIS periods will be nine years for E7, 12 years for E8, and 17 years for E9. The TIG requirements will be Primary Zone: 48 months and Secondary Zone: 36 months across the board. All grades must



be held a minimum of three years to attain the grade upon retirement or separation.

o Effective 1 October 2011, NCOES waivers are no longer accepted for promotion.

Three imperatives from the Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, I want to share with you are: 1) trust in the chain of command and people, 2) fitness-tactical, spiritual, physical and mental 3) discipline all of the time. Over 80% of the Army is post 9-11. Leaders and Soldiers are not in tune with how to train their Soldiers conducting training in a garrison mindset anymore.

We need to do more Officer Professional Developments, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Developments and Tactical Exercises Without Troops. The Army has a lack of consensus as to whether we should focus on counter insurgency, full spectrum operation or major combat operations, therefore we are not operationally funded as an AR.

It is the Chief, Army Reserve's (CAR) focus to "Build the Army of 2020" along with the Chief of Staff of the Army. In order to accomplish this challenge, we have to get back to basics. We have to manage personnel closer ensuring that non-participant Soldiers are off the books. It is imperative that we get to know our Soldiers and

TEAM... (continued from page 1)

should be shown appreciation for their service regardless of branch affiliation," said Stevens. "On several occasions during the event, active-component families talked with us at the information table and were pleasantly surprised that so many services were offered to Army Reserve families."

CYSS is new to the 81st RSC's organization and building a friendship with Moral, Welfare

and Recreation has opened up several doors of opportunity and communication.

Community partnerships can provide opportunities to educate others about the strength, resiliency and sacrifices of military children, said Stevens.

Several partnerships are being developed with Richland County Recreation Commission, Edventure Museum, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, 4H, and Operation Military Kids and Riverbanks Zoo.

"These types of partnerships ensure maximum support of our Soldiers, families and children who are most often geographically dispersed," said Stevens.

Even though April is designated to celebrate the military child, the CYSS team plans to celebrate Army Reserve children 365 days out of the year.

They plan to reach this goal by providing education to Soldiers and family members regarding Command and Community Child and Youth activities.

Providing information about child and youth development can reduce stress in parenting and ultimately support mission readiness, said Stevens. On several occasions during the event, active-component families talked with the Wildcat staff at the information table and were visually surprised that so many services were offered to Reserve families.

Many had Army Reserve friends and took information to pass on to them. One Reserve family was new to the community and the event was a nice introduction to the community and a preview of events to follow.

"Families from the 81st, as well as Families from other Reserve units, were able to receive specific information about Army

Reserve Enrichment Camps and other CYSS Services," said Stevens. "I feel the event was very beneficial."

In the near future, the team has outlined plans for parent education seminars, weekend and day camps for children, family outings during battle assembly, service learning projects, a CYSS newsletter, a Teen Speak Out group and teen babysitter training. "I would like for Reserve families to know that we are here and available to serve them.

I, as well as my team mate, Amanda Hammond, are more than willing to assist in any possible way," Stevens said. "Our goal is to be of value to the command, the Soldier, and family, ultimately reducing the conflict of parenting while supporting the mission," said Stevens.

Taking care of the Army Reserve family is the responsibility of leadership, according to Command Sgt. Maj. James Wills, the senior enlisted Soldier for the 81st RSC.

"We, as leaders, are here to take care of our Soldiers and their families," he said. "One of my basic responsibilities as a noncommissioned officer is the welfare of my Soldiers. This includes educating our young warriors about the numerous programs available to them.

As we never would leave a comrade behind on the battlefield, we would never leave an Army Reserve family uneducated about the services and resources available to them," said Wills.

The Wildcat



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Deadline for submission of articles is the 20th of each month.



their families once again re-establishing the meaning of a "leader book." Suicides remain a major concern among our ranks, it's imperative that leaders talk with their Soldiers and know what is going on with them in their personal and professional lives. It is the goal of the CofS, Army to implement a nine-month boots-on-ground (BOG) dwell time for our Soldiers. AR Soldiers would be mobilized for 12-months allowing commanders to accomplish 90-days of pre-mob training at the right of the line prior to deployment.

Some points made by the new

Sergeant Major of the Army, SMA Raymond Chandler III: SMA Chandler recognizes that since 9-11, more than 160,000 USAR Soldiers have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Noble Eagle. Each year 30-60 thousand USAR and USARNG Soldiers are mobilized on active duty. The AR has proven itself time and again of its ability to step to the plate and serve when called. With this said, how do we maintain the combat edge? Soldiers are going to be once again asked to do more with less as we face fiscal constraints.

Building resilience in our force has to be among our top priorities, and getting our Soldiers training at the right levels within the right year of Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) is going to be critical.

Fellow Wildcats, I offer you this insight as regardless of the type of mission set or command we serve, the basics are a flat line of requirements in any organization.

I ask for our Soldiers and civilians alike to emphasize the need to getting back to the basics of Soldier and leadership. Ask yourself, do you really know your Soldiers and civilians and their family members? Do you know their personal challenges that may be hindering their performance at the unit? What have you done to go out of your way to ensure that your section, division or element are of the same winning spirit?

It's critical that we are on the edge of ensuring that our Soldiers and civilians are ready to support whatever the mission at a moment's notice.

As I wrap up my column, I can't stress to you enough the importance of safety. Safety should be a way of life for us all and our families. The AR has established a new safety web site at www.us.army.mil/suite/page/649463.

I encourage you all to visit the site for easy maneuvering to the annual training requirements and information provided on safety concerns for you and your families. I can't stress enough the negative impact it has on losing a member of your team to something that could have been easily avoided. I need your help, safety first at all times.

Why you should have a will

By: Capt. Cecil Davis, 81st RSC Judge Advocate General Office

Every state has a law called an intestacy statute that determines how a person's property passes after their death, should they die without a will.

Although, these statutes vary by state, they generally provide that upon a person's death their assets and property pass to their next of kin. This would mean their property would pass to their wife and/or children if they are married and/or have children, then to their parents, if they have no wife or child, and then to siblings if their parents have already predeceased.

Furthermore, upon a person's death, any money they hold in a joint bank account with another person would automatically become the property of the surviving person listed on the account.

However, some soldiers still need to have a will. If you want a portion of your property to go to someone other than your next of kin, or if you want to expressly disinherit someone you need a

will in order to accomplish this.

For example, Soldiers who are contemplating divorce or whose divorces are not final, and who are deploying, sometimes want to disinherit their spouse to the maximum permitted by law. If you have children, less than eighteen years of age, you need to have a will in order to appoint a guardian of the children, and sometimes a separate guardian or conservator of the property of the children. Furthermore, if you have substantial assets you may want to consider setting up a trust for the benefit of your children in your will. If you have specific items of personal property that you want to pass to a specific person you need a will. Wills can also address a person's last wishes for funeral arrangements or places of burial.

If you have any questions regarding whether you need a will contact your JAG section for more information.

Did you know?

That the 81st Wildcat Association needs your recipes?

The 81st RSC Wildcat Association needs your help in putting together a new cookbook.

Requests have been mailed to association members to solicit their favorite recipes. The new Wildcat cookbook will feature favorite recipes from Soldiers and civilian employees of the 81st RSC as well as photos from community relations events, association events, historical events and a listing of all association members. As a fund raiser for their cause, the Wildcat Association will sell these cookbooks at their next reunion, September 15-18, in Stone Mountain, Ga.

Please help by emailing your favorite couple of recipes to Command Sgt. Maj. James Wills, james.wills1@usar.army.mil or Dr. John Boyd, john.alan.boyd@usar.army.mil

Please remember to send with sufficient time for us to receive, compile and include your recipe in the master copy before the cookbook goes to the publisher.

The 81st RSC is looking for a few good volunteers?

The 81st RSC is now forming a speaker's bureau made up of volunteers who would like to go out and speak as subject matter experts to various civic groups and organizations within the communities in our 9-state footprint. If you'd like to join the speaker's bureau contact Gail Anderson @ (803) 751-9953.

Chaplain's Corner

During June 1944 there were four major battles or events that happened that helped head the allies towards victory in World War II. These events were the fall of Rome (June 4th, 1944), D-Day or Normandy invasion (June 6th, 1944), landing at Saipan in the Pacific (June 15th, 1944) and the Battle of the Philippine Sea (June 19th, 1944). Each of these events were important to the outcome of the war.

The fall of Rome was a central part of the Italian campaign and a goal that was held for a long time. But the fall of Rome didn't mean the end of fighting in Italy and the fighting went on until the end of the war.

We know about the D-Day invasion and it was our start to drive Germany back to her borders and to defeat them. But it was only the start on the road to defeating Germany.

The invasion of Saipan and the eventual fall of it, Guam and Tinian meant that for the first time our B-29s could bomb Japan on a regular basis. It was from Tinian that Enola Gay took off and dropped the first atomic bomb. But the fighting there was hard and took awhile.

The Battle of the Philippine Sea was also called the Mariana's Turkey Shoot where the Japanese naval aviation lost over 400 planes and pilots.

Even though the Japanese carriers were no longer effective they came close to destroying our fleet in Leyte Gulf a few months later.

Why mention all these battles from World War II? The reason is that even though they were great victories for the allies it didn't bring the war to an immediate conclusion. It is like life itself. We may have great moments and think that we no longer have to worry about things and we have won but we still have a long road ahead of us.

In life, we have great moments and great things happen in our lives, promotions, births, etc. But it is not the end of everything for us but it means we have a great start. We have to be willing to complete our task and life and to continue on. We take that great moment in our life and allow it to launch us to even greater things in our life.

We end our Strong Bond season soon for this fiscal year. Take this change to see the dates we have set and to make plans to attend and to get the tools to make a difference in all your relationships.

Strong Bonds Upcoming Dates:

15 to 17 July – Orlando, FL (40 couples and 40 singles)

29 to 31 July – Orlando, FL (40 Family event)

5 to 7 August - Savannah, GA (40 couples and 40 singles)



CH (Lt. Col.) Richard Savage

Summer jobs and volunteer opportunities for teens

By: Amanda Hammonds and Jennifer Stevens , 81st RSC Child, Youth and School Services Specialists

When the summer months begin to approach, as parents we begin asking our teenagers "What are you going to do this summer?"

If they haven't already started looking for a summer job or volunteer opportunities, they need to start now! Summer jobs and or volunteering offer great life-experiences, build self-esteem and provide opportunities to learn to work with others. Most importantly, summer

jobs and volunteer opportunities look great on college applications. The top ten places for teens to look for a summer job:

1. City, county, state and other government-run youth programs
2. Vacation and tourism spots such as hotels, parks and recreational areas, swimming pools, golf courses, campground facilities, day and summer camps, amusement/entertainment parks, museums,

zoos and aquariums.

3. Airport concession firms
4. Child or eldercare providers
5. Health care facilities
6. Business services such as moving and packing companies, pool and spa companies, lawn care and other maintenance firms
7. Construction companies
8. Movie theatres
9. Restaurant Establishments
10. Clothing and accessory stores

Tornado wreaks havoc on 81st RSC property

Story and photo by Gail E. Anderson, 81st RSC Public Affairs Specialist

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. – The 81st Regional Support Command suffered major damage to some its real estate here, as more than 360 tornadoes swept across the southeastern states, from Oklahoma to North Carolina on April 27th.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), said that Tuscaloosa appears to be the hardest hit and that April 27th was the deadliest single day for tornadoes since the March 18, 1974 outbreak that had 747 fatalities across seven states.

Tuscaloosa Mayor Walter Maddox estimated the cost of clean-up of his city between \$75 million and \$100 million, while officials with the 81st RSC are still assessing total dollar amount damages to its facility located on 10th avenue.

That facility includes the Woolsey Finnell Sr. Armed Forces Reserve Center and the Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA) 154 repair shop. Although more damage is being found every day as cleanup crews rummage through the debris, so far, “the costs incurred due to all losses could reach \$10 million,” said the 81st RSC deputy director of public works, Frank Eubanks.

“Because there’s more than just facility loss – there’s equipment loss – there’s the units that are working out of the building who had their mission equipment in there. Tools to work on stuff have been lost, computers, furniture, everything necessary to be able to run a business. Some of it can be lost; some of it can be salvaged. We don’t know what can be salvaged or what cannot yet because we’re currently in the process of having an emergency fence put up around the property line to secure



Damage to the Armed Forces Reserve Center is shown here, after an F-5 tornado ravished the facility April 27. The facility located on 10th avenue was home to the 75th Combat Support Hospital and the Area Maintenance Support Activity (AMSA) 154. Luckily, there were no injuries or casualties.

the area and then we’ll conduct a controlled access to let the units come in and retrieve their stuff; were going to have a structural engineer come out there and assess the building to ensure it’s safe for them to enter the building and if it’s not then the stuff that’s in the building may become a loss and we’ll have to do a loss report regarding that equipment,” said Eubanks.

The mission of the units, located in the heart of storm ravaged northwest Tuscaloosa, is relocating under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act to a new facility already near completion.

Staff Sgt. Jimmy Orange, a motor pool sergeant and maintenance noncommissioned officer in charge of the 75th Combat Support Hospital (CSH), said he estimates the damage to the 85 vehicles in his motor pool to be about a quarter of a million dollars.

“The way I look at it, it’s gonna be close to about \$250, 000 to repair my 85 Humvees and 5-ton trucks,” said Orange. “Each vehicle can cost up to \$250,000 by

itself, but not all my vehicles are total losses, some have damage to the only the windshield or only the door or frames.”

On his civilian job, Staff Sgt. Keltner Patterson is a military technician who works as a heavy equipment repairman in the AMSA shop, but he is also a member of the 75th CSH. He is the only person who just happened to be in the building at the time.

“We had a category five tornado come through, right over this shop, and I got trapped in -- couldn’t get out, couldn’t get to a safe place, and this was the safest place I could be at, at the time,” said Patterson.

“I moved to the back of the building, went to the bathroom door and got into the lowest part of the floor, and crouched down between the door facing and that’s how I survived the storm,” added Patterson.

When asked what he thought was the contributing factor to his survival, he didn’t hesitate to say “good construction – good construction and good faith.”

Wildcats help celebrate Military Spouse Day

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell, 81st RSC Public Affairs NCOIC

As citizen warriors continue to answer the call to serve across the globe for a variety of military operations, families are temporarily separated, and the tasks of normal daily life aren't so normal anymore.

Homework questions could go unanswered, trips to the grocery store may seem more difficult and special moments might involve an empty chair at the dinner table.

It's a story told thousands of times each year as Army Reserve Soldiers deploy to Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations to support military operations: the story about America's true unsung hero – the military spouse.

Today, Army Reserve leaders salute those heroes who have also scarified as their spouses deploy to arduous locations to support combat operations.

Military Spouse Day was first celebrated in 1984 when then-President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the observance to honor the contributions of military spouses. The military now sets aside the Friday before Mother's Day each year to pay tribute to the spouses who play a vital role in the nation's defense.

"We can never forget those who are left behind to take care of families and support our way of life as a Soldier," said Command Sgt. Maj. James Wills, the senior enlisted Soldier for the 81st Regional Support Command. "Those wives and husbands are key to the success of any deployment."

"When I first heard about Military Spouse Day, I was confused," Wills said. "I believe every day of the year is Military Spouse Day."

Wills said having the Friday before Mother's Day reserved to recognize their efforts is great, but the sacrifices and contributions made by his wife, Lisa, warrant more than a one-day-a-year celebration.

"I could never be in her shoes, let alone fill them," he said. "She goes above and beyond my greatest expectations as a wife and military spouse and understands my role in the Army Reserve. There are good days and days that are not so good as a member of the U.S. military. She is there to support me and remind me of why I joined the Army Reserve and continue to serve my country as a senior noncommissioned officer."

Lisa Wills said her role as a military wife is important because she should be her husband's greatest supporter and advisor on personal, family and emotional issues.

"The spouse offers balance to the Soldier and their family during intense training periods and deployments," she said.

During those extended times away from home, Lisa Wills has advice for young Army Reserve Families struggling with the military lifestyle, "Get involved with other family members and family programs."

Lisa Wills said the pillar to a successful military family is a strong support system that includes both

emotional and spiritual components.

"It's imperative to have a tight-knit family whether it's your immediate family or other families sharing the same experiences," she said.

Having an educated Army Reserve family is important to the Wills family. "We have to ensure our Soldiers and spouses are educated on all the support activities, organizations and the processes of deployment," she said. "They shouldn't procrastinate in making sure their personal affairs are in order prior to the last-minute notification of a mobilization call-up."

Lisa Wills defines a military spouse as, "a Soldier's greatest asset for a successful career." "They serve as a reminder of the big picture so the Soldier doesn't forget what they are working for," she said.



CSM Wills and wife, Lisa, pose at the 2010 81st Wildcat Association Reunion banquet.

(Photo by: Gail E. Anderson)

SOLDIERS LEADERS
CIVILIANS FAMILIES

Take 5

when it's hot!



What Have You Done
to Save a Life Today?

Sweatin' it

- Implement work/rest cycles
- Hydrate properly to replace fluids lost through sweating
- Eat well-balanced and regular meals
- Avoid using salt tablets unless directed by a doctor
- Wear loose, lightweight clothing to encourage heat release



ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG

