



**Oct. 14, 2020**

# Island Insight

This publication is published weekly and contains information about, for, and of interest to the Island Workforce.

**Island Insight Submission:** <https://home.army.mil/ria/index.php/contact/public-affairs>

## Sections:

- [Arsenal Traffic/Construction](#)
- [Building/Space Closures](#)
- [Active Duty/Reserve Zone](#)
- [Safety Spotlight](#)
- [Equal Employment Opportunity Focus](#)
- [Morale, Welfare & Recreation \(MWR\)](#)
- [MWR Leisure Travel Office](#)
- [Child & Youth Services](#)
- [Army Community \(ACS\)](#)
- [MWR Outdoor Recreation](#)
- [Employee Assistance Program](#)
- [Education/Training Review](#)
- [Defense Commissary Agency/PX](#)
- [Arsenal Archive](#)
- [Healthbeat](#)
- [Notes for Veterans](#)
- [Around the O.C.](#)

## JMC Welcomes New Commanders to the Munitions Enterprise

"The Pre-Command Orientation provides new Commanders entering the Joint Munitions Command with vital information necessary to lead their installations and provides them with the opportunity to interact and build relationships with key headquarters leaders that will be essential to their success in command," said Col. Todd Burnley, JMC chief of staff and former Tooele Army Depot commander. JMC staff hosted the first ever virtual PCO for six newly assigned senior leaders. There were four engaging sessions held in September 2020, with the sole intent-- to prepare senior leaders for their upcoming missions within the ammo enterprise. Burnley provided opening remarks while welcoming the incoming senior leaders to the organization. He started with, "we are here to support you" giving the new leaders confidence and sharing his open door policy to assist the new commanders. "Like everyone else, we need some guidance and that is what we are here for." The first day of the PCO included Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Equal Employment Opportunity



## Upcoming Dates

- Sept. 15 - Oct. 15:** Hispanic Heritage Month
- Sept. 21-Jan. 15:** Midwestern Combined Federal Campaign, [www.GiveCFC.org](http://www.GiveCFC.org)
- October:** Domestic Violence Prevention Month
- October:** National Disability Awareness Month
- October:** National Cybersecurity Awareness Month
- October:** Energy Action Month
- Oct. 12-17:** National Drug-Free Work Week
- Oct. 15:** International Credit Union Day
- Oct. 16:** Boss's Day
- Oct. 21:** Boo on the Rock Trunk or Treat, parking lot north of Bldg. 60, 4-6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 22:** Drive Thru Success Fair, Memorial Park, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- Oct. 22:** Illinois Series: Leverage Home Buying Tools, [ACS Facebook Live](#), 6-6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 23-31:** National Red Ribbon Week
- Oct. 26:** National Day of the Deployed
- Oct. 28:** Managing Holiday Expenses, MS Teams, 12-1 p.m.
- Oct. 29:** RIA Virtual Fall/Winter Safety and Wellness Stand-Down, [MS Teams](#), 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Oct. 31:** Halloween
- November:** Military Family Month
- November:** Native-American Heritage Month
- November:** Warrior Care Month
- November:** NoSHAVEmber

presentations. The second day included Public and Congressional Affairs and Resource Management. The third day included familiarization of the Munitions Logistics Readiness Center and Army Contracting. The last day included a Legal brief provided by Army Materiel Command's Legal Center Senior Executive Service, Kathy Krewer. Throughout the sessions, Burnley encouraged the attendees to "ask questions and make important network contacts." (More: [www.army.mil/article/239902](http://www.army.mil/article/239902))

### **Course Leaves First Army Chaplain with Deeper Understanding of the Army's Operations**

An Army Training Requirements and Resources System course, "How the Army Runs," affords students the chance to gain a deep understanding of how the service operates. This knowledge comes with many benefits to the Soldier, the unit, and the Army. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Carl Livingston, First Army deputy command chaplain, said completing the course left him with a better understanding of the Army's intricacies. The intensive four-week class, given through Microsoft Teams, takes students on a deep dive of Army force management, priorities, budgeting, manning, resourcing, and networking. (More: [www.dvidshub.net/news/380818](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/380818))



### **Army Secretary Announces People as Top Priority**

Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy announced Tuesday that "people" will now be the Army's top priority, as the force works to give junior leaders more time to build cohesive teams. "As we took a closer look at ourselves over these past couple of months, we understand that the last 19 years of combat operations and global deterrence has come at a cost," McCarthy said during the opening ceremony of this year's Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition. "Just as we did with readiness, we must invest in people," followed by readiness and modernization, he added. "The time is now." Army leadership will continue to put "people first" as they work to balance operational tempo requirements and make policy changes, said Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville. (More: [www.army.mil/article/239882](http://www.army.mil/article/239882))



### **AUSA Events to Focus on Civilian Workforce**

Civilian professional development forums will be held next week to provide updates and vital information to the Army's civilian workforce during the Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition. The Army Civilian Forum is scheduled Wednesday from 2:45-3:30 p.m. Eastern Time and includes a panel of senior civilian leaders that will highlight talent management efforts. The keynote speaker of the event will be E. Casey Wardynski, assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and reserve affairs. Panelists include Todd Fore, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for civilian personnel; Anselm Beach, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for equity and inclusion; Michael Formica, deputy to the commanding general of U.S. Army Combined Arms Center; and Carol Burton, director of the Army Civilian Human Resources Agency. (More: [www.army.mil/article/239815](http://www.army.mil/article/239815))



## OPM Announces 2021 Health, Dental, and Vision Program Premiums

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced today that for plan year 2021, the average total premiums for current non-Postal employees and retirees enrolled in plans under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program will increase 3.6 percent. This year's increase is lower than last year's increase. This year, OPM has negotiated a new, seven-year contract for the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). While the majority of current FEDVIP enrollees should not experience a significant increase in premiums, enrollees are encouraged to research the various FEDVIP plans and choose the dental and vision coverage that best fits their needs. "Our team has worked diligently throughout the year with healthcare providers and carriers to secure top-tier health benefits for federal employees, retirees, other eligible individuals, and their families," said OPM Acting Director Michael J. Rigas. "We hope today's announcement will help members of the Federal community successfully plan for the coming Open Season." (More: [www.opm.gov/news/releases/2020/10/rate-announcement-2020](http://www.opm.gov/news/releases/2020/10/rate-announcement-2020))



## DOD's COVID-19 Response Illustrates Commitment to Families, People

Priorities within the 2018 National Defense Strategy include lethality, partnerships and reform. After assuming office in August 2019, Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper added his own fourth priority: taking care of people. While the impact of COVID-19 has been an unexpected challenge to implementing the NDS, it hasn't stopped the department from prioritizing its people and families, Esper said. "These men and women serve our great nation every day, bearing the burden of long deployments, short-notice permanent change of station moves, and many other challenges," Esper said today during a recorded address to participants of the 2020 Virtual Military Family Caucus Summit. "We, in turn, must do our utmost to improve their quality of life and give them the support they need — and so rightfully deserve. This is especially true during the global pandemic." During the pandemic, Esper said, the department has especially prioritized the protection of service members, families and Defense Department civilians. (More: [www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2378529](http://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2378529))



## Operation Warp Speed Makes Swift Progress

Unprecedented progress has been made recently on Operation Warp Speed — the effort by the Defense Department, Health and Human Services, other federal agencies and private industry to develop a coronavirus vaccine, an HHS official said Friday. In a telephone briefing with reporters, HHS policy deputy chief of staff Paul Mango said, "We're very, very pleased with where we are." He was joined on the media conference call by Dr. Janet Woodcock, M.D., the director of the centers for drug evaluation research at the Food and Drug Administration, and Dr. Jay Butler, the deputy director for infectious diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mango reminded reporters that four of the six vaccine candidates are in phase III clinical trials, and added that the Food and Drug Administration continues to review vaccine safety information on the candidates. (More: [www.army.mil/article/239865](http://www.army.mil/article/239865))



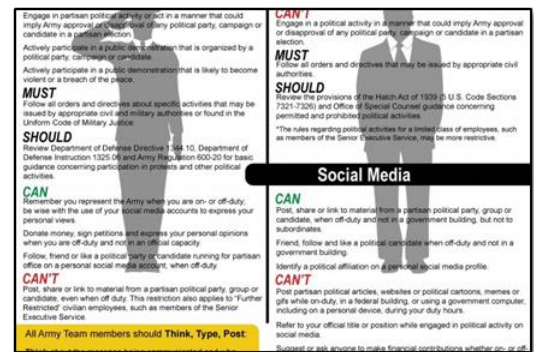
## National Museum of the United States Army to Open Veterans Day 2020

The U.S. Army plans to open the National Museum of the United States Army on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020. Building construction and exhibit installations are now complete, and the museum is ready to open its doors to the public for the first time. The National Museum of the U.S. Army, located on a publicly accessible area of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, will be the first and only museum to tell the entire history of the U.S. Army since its establishment in 1775. "The U.S. Army and the American Soldier forged the birth of our nation," said Secretary of the Army, Ryan D. McCarthy. "The National Army Museum will be a place for members of the total Army family to gather and share their stories, while also creating an opportunity for visitors to connect with our nation's history through the eyes and voices of individual Soldiers." (More: [www.army.mil/article/239858](http://www.army.mil/article/239858))



## Hatch Act, DOD Regulations Govern Political Activities on Social Media

With 2020 being an election year, Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians must remember laws and directives outlining what can and can't be done when it comes to political support – including what is done online and during telework hours. Department of the Army Civilians must adhere to the Hatch Act, which is a law intended to assure the public that federal programs are being administered fairly and without the influence of partisan politics. "It also serves to shield federal employees from partisan political coercion and political influence in personnel decisions," said Larry Wilde, an ethics counselor at Army Materiel Command. "In large part because of the Hatch Act, personnel decisions are based on merit, not patronage or political affiliation." (More: [www.army.mil/article/236270](http://www.army.mil/article/236270))



## Federal Voting Assistance Program

If you voted absentee, show your family and friends where you're sending a ballot from with our customizable "I Voted From" sticker: [FVAP.gov/IVotedSticker](http://FVAP.gov/IVotedSticker). They may still have time to request an absentee ballot. Voters can select their state on [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) to see if they still have time to request an absentee ballot with the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). Please elect to have the ballot sent to you by email to speed up the process. Voters please be aware that you must send your ballots by the recommended vote-by date.

- **Tuesday, Oct. 27** for active duty service members stationed stateside.

But no need to wait Americans can vote, sign and send their ballot as soon as it arrives. Ballots can travel by mail, email, or fax. Voters can select their state on [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) to see their specific submission guidelines at [www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Images/FPCATransmissionMethods.pdf](http://www.fvap.gov/uploads/FVAP/Images/FPCATransmissionMethods.pdf) Voters can check the status of their ballot. Voters can select their state on [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) and click "Check the status of your voted ballot." There's a backup ballot. If voters haven't received their ballot by early October, you can use the [Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot \(FWAB\)](http://Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB)) as a backup. If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact one of the Rock Island Arsenal Installation Voting Assistance Officers:

- Carlous Dawson, IVAO  
309-782-0968 or 309-738-3615 cell  
[carlous.r.dawson.civ@mail.mil](mailto:carlous.r.dawson.civ@mail.mil)

- Capt. Jonathan Vallone, IVAO  
309-782-0448 or 915-208-7060 cell  
[jonathan.c.vallone.mil@mail.mil](mailto:jonathan.c.vallone.mil@mail.mil)

Their office is located in Army Sustainment Command headquarters Building 390, 4th floor, Southwest corner. There are currently no scheduled elections for federal office in October 2020. November 2020 - 60 Day Notice:

- **Nov. 3:** General Election

December 2020 - 90 Day Notice:

- **Dec. 1:** Arkansas (general election runoff)
- **Dec. 5:** Louisiana (general election runoff)

FVAP assists voters through partnerships with the military services, Department of State, Department of Justice, election officials from 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) works to ensure service members, their eligible family members, and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so - from anywhere in the world. Wondering what's on your ballot? Your election office may send you a voter information guide, or you can consult the website for your state's office of elections or secretary of state. Sites like Ballotpedia ([https://ballotpedia.org/Voter\\_guides](https://ballotpedia.org/Voter_guides)) and VOTE411 (<https://www.vote411.org>) can help you find your local ballot and learn about the candidates on your ballot and where they stand on issues important to you.

### Leave Transfer Program

For those wishing to donate annual leave to another federal civilian employee in the Leave Transfer Program, please complete Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient (Form OPM 630a) and submit to the CPAC POC Jaime Slocum ([Jaime.l.slocum.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Jaime.l.slocum.civ@mail.mil)). To ensure a leave donation will be deducted from this calendar year, all donations must be received no later than **Friday, Dec. 18**. Reminder: In any leave year, an employee may donate no more than one-half of the amount of annual leave he or she would accrue during a leave year. For employees with 'use or lose' annual leave, you may donate no more than the number of hours remaining in the leave year as of the date of the transfer for which you are scheduled to work and receive pay. The CPAC POC Jaime Slocum may be reached at CHRA-NCR-E, 309-782-2430.

### Join the RIA SHARP Team

The Rock Island Arsenal SHARP Team needs you. We are currently looking across the RIA workforce for additional collateral duty victim advocates.

- Do you have a passion for helping others through tough times?
- Do you want to be part of something bigger than yourself?
- Do you enjoy continuously learning and educating others?
- Are you looking for a way to do this on a part time basis as part of your current job?

If you answered "yes" to any or all of these, don't hesitate to contact a member of the RIA SHARP Team today to see how you can utilize your skills to help further our mission. For more information contact:

- **Megan Osborne**  
RIA Installation & ASC SHARP Program Manager  
309-281-8220, [megan.k.osborne.civ@mail.mil](mailto:megan.k.osborne.civ@mail.mil)
- **Sgt. First Class (P) April Taylor**  
RIA Installation & ASC Lead SARC

309-752-8388, [april.d.taylor39.mil@army.mil](mailto:april.d.taylor39.mil@army.mil)

## MVRBC Blood Drives

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is hosting a blood drive in Building 333, next door to Outdoor Recreation, on **Oct. 16**, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. If you would like to donate at this blood drive, feel free to email [bhancock@mvrbc.org](mailto:bhancock@mvrbc.org) with the time you'd like to schedule, or call their Donor Center at 563-359-5401; you may also log on to [www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org) and use code 029 to locate the blood drives. There is a critical need for O positive and O negative blood types, but all types are need.



**Charlie Corpuscle says,** *"Our fall blood donor promotion started Sept. 14 and concludes on Nov. 8. All presenting donors get a voucher to redeem for their choice of black PacMan t-shirt or a \$5 electronic gift card. Eligible donors will be able to redeem their vouchers through Sunday, Nov. 15. Gift card options (all electronic) include: Amazon.com, Starbucks, Walmart, Target, and Dunkin' Donuts."*

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center does not currently test blood donors for Covid-19 antibodies. For more information about our response to the pandemic, please visit: [www.bloodcenter.org/donate/donor/covid19-response](http://www.bloodcenter.org/donate/donor/covid19-response)

**The Army encourages its employees to volunteer as candidates for any of the variety of medical donor programs, including blood, bone marrow, and organ donor/transplant programs. For additional information: [www.militaryblood.dod.mil](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil)**

## New Army Digital Garrison App Serves as Guide to On-Post Services

The Army has launched the new Digital Garrison mobile app that provides information and facilitates access to a full array of on-post services, as part of a partnership with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, or AAFES. The app, which can be downloaded on Android and Apple devices, provides users with secure access to facility information and other "quality-of-life" services by consolidating data from three related networks, said Scott Malcom, Army Installation Management Command public affairs director. "It puts real-time installation information in everybody's pockets," Malcom said. "There are hundreds of thousands of people that access Army installations every day. Almost every one carries a cell phone. The app will add value to their time spent on an installation -- whether it is to live, work, train, or play." (More: [www.army.mil/article/237660](http://www.army.mil/article/237660))



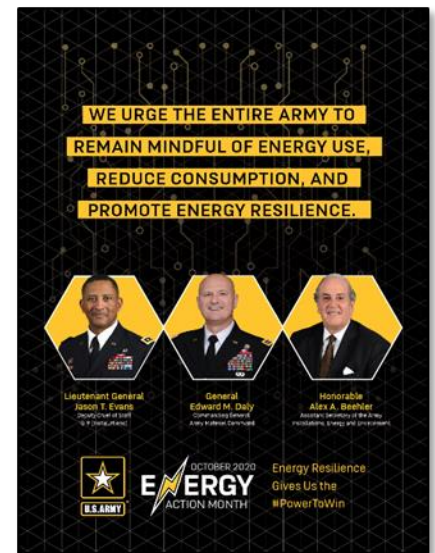
## Midwestern Combined Federal Campaign in Full Swing

The Midwestern Combined Federal Campaign is in full swing and will run through **Friday, Jan. 15**. The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) allows federal employees and retirees to combine efforts to raise money, volunteer, and Show Some Love to their favorite CFC-supported charities. The Office of Personnel Management invites federal employees and retirees to Be The Face of Change and support meaningful causes through charitable giving. There are so many ways to give – online, through the CFC Giving Mobile App, or using a traditional paper pledge form. Our favorite option is giving online. Simply visit [GiveCFC.org](https://midwesterncfc.givecfc.org) and click donate to give to the causes you care about most through the CFC. The mission of the Combined Federal Campaign is to support and to promote philanthropy through a voluntary program that is employee-focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. The charities you support through the CFC focus on people, animals and environments that really need help - including the hungry, homeless, sick, elderly, children and families in need. They may be your relatives, friends, neighbors or co-workers. They may be down the street, across the country or across the globe. CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with numerous CFC campaigns throughout the country and internationally to help to raise millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world. The CFC was started in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy and is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workplace for charitable organizations. (More: <https://midwesterncfc.givecfc.org>)



## Energy Resilience Gives us the Power To Win

This year's Army theme for October's energy month is "Energy Resilience Gives us the Power To Win." So how is RIA trying to show this them? The RIA Public Works section has asked the Army Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI) to help us plan and put a project in place that will increase our energy resilience. This project should give RIA the ability to continue operating when everything around us is down. Last winter, the OEI sent out a request for information (RFI) asking companies and individuals for suggestions that RIA could do to increase its resilience. We had a good response to the RFI. OEI took the responses and boiled them down to several general groups. OEI then brought the National Renewable Energy Lab on board to analyze the economics of each general group. Part of this economic analysis showed that we might be able to receive military funding through the Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program (ERCIP). OEI will give the Col. Todd Allison, garrison commander, USAG RIA, a decision brief later this month. They will give him two to three different possible projects, the differences between the projects and how each project would increase our energy resilience. Once the RIA GC decides which project we should do here at RIA, OEI will then put it on the Army's ERCIP request list for FY24 or FY25. Nothing is guaranteed, but most of the OEI projects do eventually get funded. Stay tuned later this month to find out what Allison decides. Energy month factoid – even though RIA generates about 25% of its electrical power from our hydroelectric plant, the plant must be shut down during MidAmerican local power grid outages. This is for the safety of the MidAmerican linemen that will be working to bring the local power grid back up. If there are



questions, please contact the energy manager, Doug Van Werden, located at Public Works in Building 102 at 641-414-0991 or [douglas.d.vanwerden.civ@mail.mil](mailto:douglas.d.vanwerden.civ@mail.mil).

## 2020 Federal Benefits Open Season Dates and Options Announced by OPM

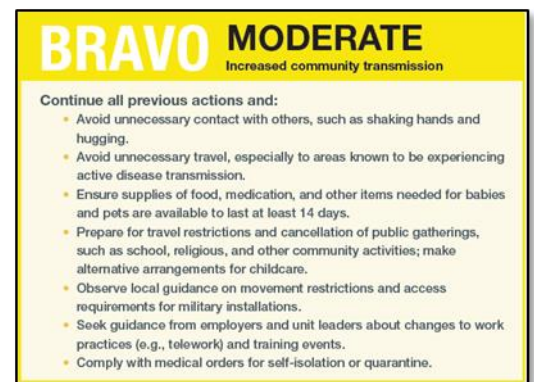
The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) officially announced the dates for the 2020 Federal Benefits Open Season which will run from **Monday, Nov. 9 through Monday, Dec. 14**. This open season is for the 2021 plan year of federal benefit programs. During the annual open season, federal employees can enroll, change plans or plan options, change enrollment type, or cancel their enrollment for the:

- Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program
- Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP)

Employees can also re-enroll or newly enroll in the Federal Flexible Spending Account Program (FSAFEDS). The Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) Program and the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP) do not participate in the annual open season. There will be a total of 23 dental plan options and 10 vision plan options in 2021. Additional information will be provided by OPM prior to the beginning of the open season. (More: [www.myfederalretirement.com/fehb-open-season](http://www.myfederalretirement.com/fehb-open-season))

## Installation at HPCON Bravo

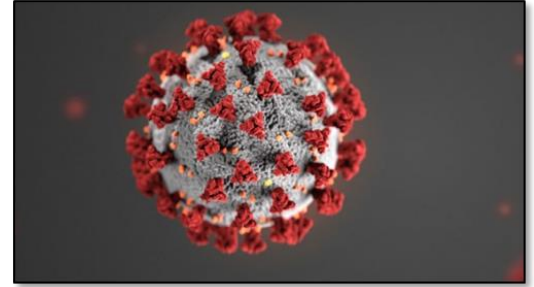
The Rock Island Arsenal transitioned from Health Protection Condition Charlie (HPCON C-) to Bravo effective Aug. 17. This transition was the second step in the "Return to the Rock" plan – the installation's planned recovery from the COVID-19 precautions instituted in March and April. The decision to change from HPCON Charlie-minus to HPCON Bravo was made after carefully monitoring a favorable decline over the past 30 days in both numbers of new cases and positivity rates in both Scott and Rock Island County. The Rock Island Arsenal has been tracking local case numbers very closely, and has evaluated local ability to test, monitor, and treat since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Should circumstances warrant, the Arsenal retains the ability to revert back to Charlie-minus. In addition, the Arsenal continues to leverage teleworking and shift work, adheres to social distancing and wearing face coverings in work spaces, and acts in an abundance of caution to ensure the safety of employees, patrons, and visitors. Our battle with COVID-19 is not over – it is important that everyone continues to protect themselves, families, and coworkers on and off the installation. Remember to maintain an appropriate physical distance from others and wear a face covering when you cannot maintain more than six feet of separation. Limit gatherings to the minimum essential number, and not more than 50 people. Continue to practice proactive personal hygiene. Questions on telework and/or leave status should be directed to your chain of command. We look forward to our continued transition from mission essential functions to more normal operations when the environment supports the change. RIA COVID-19 Local Impacts Page: <https://home.army.mil/ria/index.php/about/Garrison/public-affairs/covid19-closures>



## **HPCON C Mitigation Measures Remain Active**

RIA continues to follow guidelines issued by Army health organizations and by the Centers for Disease Control. Leaders at all levels are ensuring mitigation measures remain in place to protect the force from the spread of COVID-19. Changes as a result HPCON C (and remain under HPCON B) include:

- **Installation Access**: The installation remains closed to non-official visitors and public recreational visitors with the exception of MWR eligible patrons accessing MWR events and/or services. However, the Rock Island National Cemetery is open to the public who have obtained a visitor's pass, and numerous other areas are open to eligible patrons such as the Commissary, the Exchange, the RIA Health Clinic, the USO, and many MWR services and facilities. For information specific to individual commands employees are directed to contact their immediate supervisor or chain of command.
- **Rock Island National Cemetery**: The Rock Island National Cemetery resumed committal services for families who are interring their loved ones effective June 9. Rock Island National Cemetery has remained open for interments and visitation throughout the pandemic. Military funeral honors, customarily provided by the Department of Defense and volunteer honor guards, will be based on local availability. The Cemetery continues to adhere to CDC and prevention guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19; in doing so, we will limit the number of individuals attending committal services, require all attendees to practice physical distancing between individuals not from the same household, ensure all attendees and employees wear face coverings, encourage frequent use of hand sanitizer, and ask sick individuals to stay home. In keeping with federal, Illinois state, and RIA guidance, committal and memorial services at Rock Island National Cemetery will be limited to 50 family members and guests at the service. Cemetery employees, funeral home personnel, and military honors providers will not count toward the family's limit on attendees. Individuals specifically entering the Rock Island Arsenal to visit the cemetery can do so with a current non-expired visitor's pass, those without a pass can obtain one at the Visitor Control Center located at the Moline Gate.



RIA COVID-19 Local Impacts Page: <https://home.army.mil/ria/index.php/about/Garrison/public-affairs/covid19-closures>

## **VIOS DA Photos Schedule Suspended**

All official Department of the Army photos are suspended until further notice. There is no estimated date when operations will resume. Contact us for help: 309-782-2843.

## **USO Opens for Grab-N-Go Operations, Frank'n Friday Coming Back**

USO Rock Island is open for Grab-n-Go operations from their back door entrance via the hallway in the SE corner of Building 110 on the first floor, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Frank'n Friday as part of the Grab-n-Go operation; hours will be 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. every Friday unless it is a holiday or training holiday. Eligible patrons will not be allowed in the center and a plexiglass shield is positioned in the doorway with a pass thru so items can be safely given to patrons. Active duty, National Guard, Reserves, military retirees, and their dependents are eligible (current military ID required). The USO is complying with all CDC regulations with all volunteers and eligible patrons



Illinois

required to wear face coverings. Hand sanitizing stations are available and in use. Signage indicates social distancing and also wearing of face coverings and use of hand sanitizer. Grab-n-go will consist of snacks, drinks and a few microwave items. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak USO Rock Island all other USO operations beyond what is listed above remain suspended until further notice in order to maintain safe environments and avoid unnecessary risks of exposure. USO will evaluate conditions on a weekly basis and will reopen when possible. We remain committed to responsibly supporting our service members and their families across the U.S. and overseas. If you should have any questions, please contact Jackie Inman, USO Rock Island center manager at [jinman@uso.org](mailto:jinman@uso.org). More on Frank'n Friday is available at: <https://illinois.uso.org/programs/uso-frank-n-fridays>

### **CAC/ID Hours, Appointments**

USAG-RIA Common Access Card (CAC)/ID office hours are by appointment (DEERS/RAPIDS scheduler). Our hours are:

- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., closed 12-1 p.m.
- Tuesday: 7:15 a.m. - Noon

For questions/concerns 309-782-0596 or [usarmy.ria.usag.mbx.military-personnel-division@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.ria.usag.mbx.military-personnel-division@mail.mil). Appointment Scheduler Website: <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil> More info at: <https://go.usa.gov/xwReK>



### **RIA SHARP COVID-19 Impact**

Questions can go the USAG victim advocate, Linda Robertson, at 309-782-1455. Due to our current operating environment, there is limited staffing of the RIA SHARP office in Building 110. For support & assistance, please use the information below to contact a member of our RIA SHARP team and we will ensure care is provided promptly.

- 24/7 RIA SHARP Hotline: 309-229-8412
- RIA Lead SARC, Sgt. First Class April Taylor: [april.d.taylor39.mil@mail.mil](mailto:april.d.taylor39.mil@mail.mil), C: 309-752-8388
- RIA Victim Advocate, Linda Robertson: [linda.m.robertson.civ@mail.mil](mailto:linda.m.robertson.civ@mail.mil), C: 309-558-4283
- General inquiries: [usarmy.ria.asc.mbx.sharp@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.ria.asc.mbx.sharp@mail.mil)

### **Rock Island Arsenal Museum Closure**

The Rock Island Arsenal Museum closed effective March 18 until further notice.

### **Some Corps Areas Open, Mississippi River Visitor Center Remains Closed**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District announces campgrounds along the Mississippi River and at Coralville Lake, Saylorville Lake, and Lake Red Rock reopened on June 1. Online reservations through <https://www.recreation.gov> are required for all sites and same day reservations are now permitted. Click on the news releases below for more details:

- Mississippi River Project: <https://go.usa.gov/xw4Du>
- Coralville Lake: <https://go.usa.gov/xw4Wq>
- Saylorville Lake/Lake Red Rock: <https://go.usa.gov/xw4Wx>

Some facilities remain closed to include the Mississippi River Visitor Center that falls under the Corps' Mississippi River Project ([check the MRP link above for the current status of the Visitor Center](#)); the facility is located at the west end of Arsenal Island at Locks and Dam 15. For questions regarding current or future reservations, click here: [www.recreation.gov/contact-us](http://www.recreation.gov/contact-us). Details about



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Rock Island District

specific ramps at various projects across the District can be found online at: [www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation).

### Base Supply Center is Open

The Base Supply Center, located at 3154 Rodman Ave., Building 104, in the Basement, is operating on normal hours Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Base Supply Center has taken all safety measures to make sure our employees and RIA customers are safe while they shop. We have plenty of stock on all COVID-19 cleaning supplies so that RIA employees can come back to a clean safe work environment.



- You can also purchase your supplies online at [www.bsccsource.com](http://www.bsccsource.com)
- You can email the manager at [zforsythe@bsccsource.com](mailto:zforsythe@bsccsource.com) and we will work to get what you need.

Manager Zole Forsythe can be reached at 309-782-1573 or email at [zforsythe@bsccsource.com](mailto:zforsythe@bsccsource.com). Thank you for your continued support as we work through these difficult times.

### Arsenal Attic is Open

All Attic volunteers, shoppers and consignors, the Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop is open. The shop will be open the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays and the 3rd Saturday of the month 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. No consignments at this time. Come to shop and drop off donations only. No items will be priced... just make a reasonable cash/check donation. Sorry, no charge or debit cards at this time. Face coverings and social distancing are required... only three customers are allowed in the Attic at one time. Any questions, please text Laura at 309-912-6589, or call the Attic at 309-782-6977.



### Arsenal Island Employee Local Discounts

*The impact and availability of products and services at these vendors in light of COVID-19 is unknown. It is recommended that employees contact the business to get details.*

*The following discounts are exclusively available to Arsenal Island employees — Contents of the Island Insight are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Army. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Garrison or the Department of the Army.*

- **Backwater Crossfit**, 221 E 2nd Street in Davenport, is offering all Arsenal Island workforce employees and their families a free membership with classes that includes child care with certified individuals, for more information 309-781-0539.
- **Bayside Bistro**, 1105 Christie Street, Davenport, offering a 10% discount to active, retired, reserve and National Guard members and government civilians on all menu items.
- **Pillar Equipment**, 2001 5th Street, STE 40 in Silvis, Illinois, offering \$100 off on new Kubota mowers and up to \$500 off on select new Kubota tractors for Farmer Veteran Coalition members; this is a free membership. See [www.kubotausa.com](http://www.kubotausa.com) or [www.myorangetractor.com](http://www.myorangetractor.com) for details.

*This information is included for general workforce interest and does not constitute endorsement of the businesses or products.*

# Arsenal Traffic/Construction



## RIA Visitor Control Center Hours

The operating hours of the RIA Visitor Control Center located at the Moline Gate are 7 a.m. - 3 p.m., Monday through Sunday. Other COVID-19 impacts and details are accessible off of the RIA Garrison website at <https://home.army.mil/ria>.

## Rock Island Gate Is Open, It and Davenport Gates Return to Regular Hours

The Rock Island Gate is open; all morning RIA inbound and outbound traffic is now directed to the Rock Island Gate. The Rock Island Gate has reverted to the following hours:

- Monday - Friday: 5:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. with outbound traffic only from 10:30 p.m. - midnight
- Saturday: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Sunday: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

The Davenport Gate has reverted for use for only outbound traffic, 2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Outbound RIA traffic using the Davenport Gate are required to turn right only upon exiting.

## Arsenal Annual Passes Reinstated, Cemetery Open to Public, Other Access Limited to Official Business, Deliveries, Eligible Patrons, and Residential Visitors

The Rock Island Arsenal has reinstated current year-long passes and is now issuing new year-long passes for delivery to locations on Arsenal Island, to the Rock Island National Cemetery, and to eligible patrons of the Commissary, The Exchange, the Barber Shop, the RIA Health Clinic, the USO, and those eligible to access MWR facilities and services located on Arsenal Island such as Auto Skills and Craft Center, Outdoor Recreation, the Fitness Center, and those with appointments with Army Community Service. Restrictions remain in place under HPCON Bravo to limit the opportunity for COVID-19 transmission. The installation remains closed to ineligible patrons and recreational visitors. Exceptions include authorized persons with identification who are allowed use of the facilities and services mentioned above, deliveries, and visitors to residential quarters.

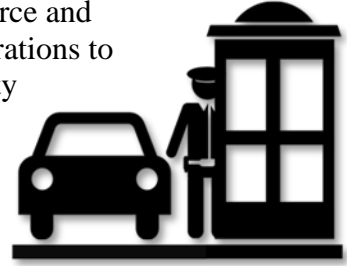


## Building 212 Roof Replacement

Effective the week of June 29, DPW's contractor began mobilizing for a project to replace the Building 212 roof. The work area includes the roof west of door number 5 and includes the removal of obsolete equipment and catwalk, and rubber membrane replacement. The contractor has equipment (i.e. cranes, tele handlers) on the south and alley side of the building at various times to support project. The project is anticipated to be completed by **Sunday, Nov. 1.**

## COVID-19 "No Touch" Policy at Access Control Points

Rock Island Arsenal has taken precautionary measures to protect the health of the force and maintain operational readiness. We will continue to evaluate current day-to-day operations to ensure the safety of our Soldiers, family members, civilian personnel, and community members who are eligible to be on RIA. Out of an abundance of caution, Rock Island Arsenal implemented the following procedures at all Access Control Points.



- Security guards at the Access Control Points will no longer "touch" identification cards or approved post access paperwork.
- Personnel entering Rock Island Arsenal must continue to use proper procedures for access; however, the guards will no longer have physical contact with identification cards or paperwork.
- When vehicle operators enter the ACP lane, DASGs will ask the vehicle operator to hold the ID/Pass so they can visually verify the ID holder to the photo and then ask the ID holder to flip the card to allow the DASG to scan appropriate bar code with the hand held scanner.
- In the event the vehicle has multiple occupants, the DASG will have the vehicle operator roll down the driver side windows (front and back) collect all IDs/Passes and each ID/Pass will be verified and scanned separately.
- DASGs will not reach inside the vehicles or lean into vehicles, so all passengers will need to position themselves where the DASGs can easily verify their identities.

You can take routine steps to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19. Regularly washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoiding contact with those who have been sick, going to the doctor when you feel ill, and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces. These simple actions will safeguard our operational readiness and help protect the Rock Island Arsenal workforce and QCA communities.

## Gate Hours

Hours of operation for Rock Island Arsenal gates are as follows:

- Moline Gate
  - Open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day
- Rock Island Gate:
  - Monday - Friday: 5:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. with outbound traffic only from 10:30 p.m. - midnight
  - Saturday: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
  - Sunday: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Davenport Gate:
  - Monday – Friday: Outbound traffic, 2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
  - Weekends: Closed

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## Building/Space Closures



*There are no announcements at this time.*

# Active Duty/Reserve Zone



## Family Forum to Highlight Housing, Moving, and Child Care Initiatives

Soldiers and families concerned over an upcoming permanent change of station and want the latest information can tune into the military moves family forum during this year's Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition. A panel of Army leaders will discuss critical Quality of Life Task Force initiatives in the virtual "AUSA Family Forum II: Military Moves" event on **Oct. 15 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Central Time**. Critical improvements to housing, household goods, and child care programs will also be highlighted. Editor's note: Those interested in watching the family forum can register here to attend the AUSA annual meeting: <https://www.ausa.org/military-families/family-readiness-meetings> (More: [www.army.mil/article/239717](http://www.army.mil/article/239717))

# Safety Spotlight



**ARMY SAFE  
IS ARMY STRONG**



**The top priority of the installation safety office is to safeguard and protect service members, their families, civilian employees and Army property as well as to create the safest workplace and living environment possible. Website:**

<https://home.army.mil/ria/index.php/about/Garrison/safety-office>

## Virtual Fall/Winter Safety and Wellness Stand-Down

It is the duty of all who work at the Rock Island Arsenal to ensure the safety of Soldiers, civilians, and their families. As such, you are encouraged to attend RIA's Virtual Fall/Winter Safety and Wellness Stand-Down. It will be hosted by the Safety Office of the headquarters, Joint Munitions Command, on **Thursday, Oct. 29, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** via Commercial Virtual Remote (CVR) environment using Microsoft Teams (MS Teams).

Opening remarks will be given by the Joint Munitions Command leadership promptly at 10:30 a.m. This event is open to the RIA workforce who have access to MS Teams. To access the Fall/Winter Safety and Wellness Stand Down event, copy and paste the following link to your MS Edge browser,

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3a66986223ff0f411082c211def992932c%40thread.skype/conversations?groupId=21d7c5ce-af1b-4960-b730-ef1eec613015&tenantId=21acfbb3-32be-4715-9025-1e2f015cbbe9>, search Fall/Winter Safety and Wellness Stand Down team in MS Teams, or

type in search code 79x7818 under Join in a Team or follow the hyperlink Join Microsoft Teams Meeting. There will be multiple safety, wellness, and health booths/channels sponsored by participating commands and organizations throughout the Island. The Safety and Wellness Stand Down event will be presenting many diverse topics to include fire extinguisher training, general safety and wellness information, and seasonal-specific information relative to Halloween and winter safety. Representatives from Palmer Clinics, UnityPoint Health, and St. Ambrose University will



also be in attendance and providing booth/channel for the event. The handouts and materials which were provided during the live event will remain available on MS Teams for two weeks following the event. If you are not able to participate in the event, you will be given the opportunity to access and download great information to support your wellness and safety goals for you and your family.

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## Equal Employment Opportunity Focus



**The Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) program formulates, directs, and sustains a comprehensive effort to maximize human potential to ensure fair treatment for military personnel, family members, and civilians without regard to race, color, gender, religion, or national origin, and provide an environment free of unlawful discrimination and offensive behavior. The Garrison EEO office is providing services virtually. Please contact EEO staff at 309-782-2548.**

### **National Disability Employment Awareness Month is October**

The Job Accommodation Network has an interesting article that addresses disability management and etiquette strategies. The article states: As the baby-boomer population ages and continues employment, the prevalence of disability management in the workplace continues to be a significant issue for employers. Disability management should include etiquette strategies that foster inclusion of people with disabilities in employment settings. Appropriate disability etiquette allows all employees to be more comfortable and productive. For employers wanting to successfully integrate people with disabilities into their organizations, the following etiquette strategies may be useful. Go to: <https://askjan.org/topics/disetiq.cfm> to read more. *This information is included for general workforce interest by the EEO office and does not constitute endorsement of the publication/businesses or products; the information referred to is strictly for informational purposes only.*



### **COVID-19 EEO Impact**

The Garrison EEO office is providing services virtually. Please contact EEO staff at 309-782-2548.

# Morale, Welfare & Recreation



Army MWR is a quality-of-life program that directly supports readiness by providing a variety of community, Soldier, and family support programs, activities and services. Included in MWR are social, fitness, recreational, educational, and other programs and activities that enhance community life, foster Soldier and unit readiness, promote mental and physical fitness, and generally provide a working and living environment that attracts and retains quality for U.S. Army Soldiers, Family members, Retirees and its civilian workforce. Visit the MWR website at <https://rockisland.armymwr.com> for information on all MWR programs. How is MWR doing? Tell us by going to <https://ice.disa.mil>, navigate to "Rock Island Arsenal" and search "MWR" for a full listing of all our programs and services.

## Calling All Trunks - Trunks Needed for Boo on the Rock - Trunk or Treat

Hey Rock Island Arsenal, we need your help now to put on a great event for our kids this Halloween. We've seen all the spooky and creative trunks you've put together in years past so please help us give our community a proper Halloween celebration with a full parking lot. Trunks will once again be judged by Garrison leadership and the top three trunks will receive a unique, Halloween themed award that can be proudly displayed in your office. Call/email today to register your vehicle, call 309-782-1133 or email [brianne.r.johnson2.naf@mail.mil](mailto:brianne.r.johnson2.naf@mail.mil).

## Boo on the Rock: Trunk or Treat 2020

Join us **Wednesday, Oct. 21**, 4-6:30 p.m., in the parking lot north of Bldg. 60, for Boo on the Rock – Trunk or Treat 2020. Get your costumes ready to join us for a family friendly Trunk or Treat event. Participate by driving your vehicle through a socially distanced and safe display of trunks decked out for Halloween. Fast food meals will be available for purchase and all children will receive a free age appropriate goodie bag at the end. This year, due to safety concerns, participants will remain in their vehicles while driving through to view the trunks. We need lots of volunteer trunks to make this a great event for our RIA

community so start brainstorming those awesome trunk decorating plans. Once again trunks will be judged and awards will be presented to first, second and third place winners. Everyone is welcome to provide a trunk, so individuals and installation units get your teams together and build that camaraderie while helping us offer this fun opportunity to our RIA family. This event is open to MWR authorized patrons, which includes all active duty military, reserves, National Guard, retirees, RIA workforce civilians & contractors, and their families. Call 309-782-1133 for more information and to sign up your trunk.



## Fitness Center

The newly remodeled Fitness Center is open to all eligible patrons including families, civilians, and retirees and face coverings are mandatory. The Fitness Center is open Monday-Friday from 5 a.m. - 3 p.m. Come check out all the great improvements we have made and the new equipment that has been added during closure. Upon your first visit to the Fitness Center, all patrons are asked to stop at the front desk so that staff can update your information in our system.

Additionally we are in the process of implementing an All The Time Fitness program where eligible patrons can access the Fitness Center outside of regular hours, stay tuned for more info as we get closer to offering that service. Call the Fitness Center at 309-782-6787 for more information.

Details: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/fitness-center>



## The Fitness Center is Proud to Present: The Rock Solid Report (RSR)

A new monthly email newsletter from your Fitness Center Team, the RSR will include Fitness Center happenings, health and wellness breakdowns, free workouts, staff and patron highlights, upcoming events, monthly health observances, and more. The RSR will be emailed out the first Tuesday of each month, starting this October. You can leave your email address with staff the next time you stop in to the Fitness Center, or email [brett.m.robertson2.naf@mail.mil](mailto:brett.m.robertson2.naf@mail.mil) to be added to the email list. Opt out available at any time.



## Auto Skills & Service Center

The Auto Skills & Service Center is open by appointment only, Wednesday - Thursday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and face coverings are mandatory. Please call 309-782-8631 for more information and to make an appointment. The coin operated air machine located outside the front door is functional so stop by if your tires need a little air. Our workshop has all the tools and equipment to help you keep your car running smoothly. Our skilled auto technicians can assist if you get stuck along the way. We also offer full-service auto repair for those less mechanically inclined. If your ride could use a deep clean, make sure to check out the detailing service we offer and book your appointments at: <https://go.oncehub.comArsenal> or call or text to 563-362-0909. Through the month of August, every detail package includes a free engine detail, so go online or call/text today to schedule your detailing appointment. Call the Auto Skills & Service Center at 309-782-8631 for more information. Details: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/auto-craft-shop>



## Island Oasis Grill & Café

The Island Oasis Grill located outside on the lawn in front of the Fitness Center (Building 67) is open for carryout service only Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. During inclement weather (and through the winter), lunch is served inside the Fitness Center lobby and is served outside at the grill the rest of the time. Mitigation measures are employed at the outside grill and face coverings are mandatory inside the Fitness Center lobby at the Café when it is open. Welcome to September, new month means new special at the Island Oasis Grill. You can get a great deal on lunch at the Island Oasis located outside the Fitness Center (Building 67). For just \$6 you'll get the choice of a burger, tenderloin or chicken breast with all the fixings, a bag of chips and a soda. We also have lots of other delicious lunch items available including chicken and tuna salad, turkey and ham deli sandwiches, hotdogs, bratwursts and much more. Make



sure to stop by the Oasis on Thursdays for our always popular ribeye steak sandwich special and get there early as these are always a big hit and can sell out fast. Call 309-782-6319 for more information on the Island Oasis. Details: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/island-oasis-cafe-grill>

### **Company Kitchen Cafeterias**

We are happy to announce that the cafeterias in buildings 60, 212, and 350 are now reopened for breakfast and lunch service. Building 212 is full service, made to order breakfast from 6-9 a.m. so come see Jesse in Building 212 for your breakfast favorites made just like you like them. Lunch service at Building 212 and breakfast and lunch at all other buildings will continue to be pre-made and placed under the warming lights to minimize staff/customer contact. Due to the ongoing challenges related to COVID-19, the cafeteria services will look a little different than before. For example, hot coffee, tea, and fountain soda continue to be unavailable at this time. You may also notice that there is an absence of staff at the cafeterias. In an effort to minimize staff/customer contact and keep everyone safe, the daily hot item will be pre-boxed and placed under warming lights. You'll simply need to grab whatever items you'd like from the grab-and-go display and/or the pre-packaged hot item station, scan them into the self-serve kiosks, pay with your debit or credit card and enjoy. Company Kitchen has completed deep cleaning and sanitizing their cafeteria's to ensure the safety of their employees and customers. Hand sanitizer is available at entrances. Please practice social distancing by maintaining six feet apart. Soldiers, family members, Army civilian employees and contractors should follow the CDC's guidelines on the use of cloth face coverings in public settings or where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. We look forward to serving you again. Call 309-751-7008 for more info on the Company Kitchen facilities. ([Interactive Customer Evaluation \(ICE\) for MWR Cafeterias](#))



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## **MWR Leisure Travel Office**



**We offer substantial discounts on tickets to local attractions, concerts, amusement parks and regional bus trips to exciting destinations. Check with us first for all your entertainment needs, we can save you money. Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Bldg. 333. The office is closed for lunch from 10:30–11 a.m., 309-782-5890. (email: [anna.winters@us.army.mil](mailto:anna.winters@us.army.mil)) (website: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/leisure-travel-office>)**

### **Leisure Travel Office, COVID-19 Impact**

The Leisure Travel Office closed on March 21 in order to allow patrons to return equipment and settle bills. As soon as this facility closed, it began to be cleaned and prepared to reopen as soon as possible after lowering the installation's HPCON.

# Child & Youth Services



Child & Youth Services provides a full range of child care programs and services for children ages six weeks through senior year in high school. Services include full-day, part-day, hourly, pre-k, school outs, summer programming, sports and fitness, and instructional classes. All CYC programs/facilities will be closed all federal holidays, CYC CDC/CD Home/FCC staff in-service day and any other additional days/installation closures approved by the garrison commander. Fees will not be reduced, refunded, or prorated for these days. (Website: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/cy>) (Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RIACYSS](http://www.facebook.com/RIACYSS))

## CYS Care Expanded under HPCON Bravo

CYS is invested in your child's health. As our facilities have reopened, all on-post child care facilities follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. All employees are trained on new health and safety protocols. Visit <http://armymwr.com/cys-reopening> Additional child care spaces at both the Child Development Center and School Age Center are becoming available for return to duty enrollments. Please call Parent Central Services at 309-782-0791 for more information and eligibility. #ArmyMWRCare #CYSReopening

## Family Child Care Opportunities Available

Child and Youth Services (CYS) is looking for new family child care providers on the Arsenal. Do you live on Rock Island Arsenal or know someone who does who is looking to own their own business and make a difference? Call CYC at 309-782-0791 to inquire about opportunities to provide family child care in your home. Benefits of being a family child care provider include:

- An expedited background check clearance process
- Paid training
- Opportunities to increase your salary with training and education
- The opportunity to stay at home with your children while still earning a salary
- And perhaps best of all, this is a business opportunity that moves with you when you PCS.

Call CYC Parent Central Services at 309-782-0791 for more information on becoming a FCC provider.

# Army Community Service



Army Community Service is an Army-wide community, social service program that provides services that assist Soldiers, Family members, and Department of the Army civilians maintain readiness, develop self-reliance, resiliency and stability. U.S. Army Installation Management Command provides these services through a network of programs that support goals related to recruitment, retention, morale, and operational readiness of the force. ACS on RIA is located in Bldg. 110, 1<sup>st</sup> floor SE; visit our ACS website

<https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/army-community-service> or phone 309-782-0829. Call ahead for special accommodations when attending ACS classes. Find us on Facebook click here: [www.facebook.com/RIAACS](http://www.facebook.com/RIAACS). 24/7 Domestic Violence Crisis Line: **309-912-6089**.

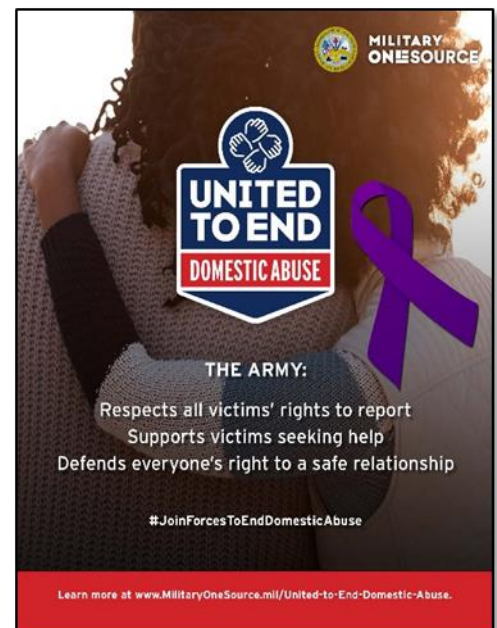
## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The U.S. Army supports the Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) observance every October to bring attention to an issue that undermines the Army Values. Through Army-provided programs and community support, the Army will continue to promote healthy relationships, support victims and hold perpetrators accountable. Domestic violence goes against the army values and has negative effects on both Soldier and Family readiness. The Army makes it clear in word and deed that domestic violence is unacceptable and not tolerated, and resources are available for those who need help. The Army is committed to fully supporting its Families and assisting in the development of their resiliency, health and wellbeing. This year, where we may be living in more of a virtual world rather than going into our offices or schools we need to remember that those places may have been the only source of safety for some. With that said, our awareness, connectedness, and support can make the difference in giving someone an outlet or lifeline to safety and success. Without awareness we are blind, without action we are perpetual, and with these two key ingredients, we can create social change that leads us to

a healthier, happier existence. Just as abuse is a pattern of abusive behavior(s), we can create a pattern of change in doing our part by raising awareness and taking action to create social change.

Join us throughout the month of October to bring awareness to the issue of domestic abuse. And don't forget the annual Paint the Island Purple contest that will run throughout the month with the submission of pictures by the **Oct. 26** and the winner announcement on **Oct. 30**. Contact RIA Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate Crystal Bartholomew at 309-382-3773 or

[crystal.l.bartholomew2.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:crystal.l.bartholomew2.ctr@mail.mil) to register for any of these events or to get more details. Keep an eye on our FB page [www.facebook.com/RIAACS](http://www.facebook.com/RIAACS) for a printable coloring book, relationship cards, and posters to show your support. We will also be asking our community to share what R-E-S-P-E-C-T means to them on **Oct. 15** as well as posting the winners of our contests.



## Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Issue Solicitation Campaign

If it's a program or service, AFAP can improve it; if it's a policy or regulation, AFAP can change it; if it's a law, AFAP can amend it. AFAP can improve quality of life one issue at a time. Army Community Service (ACS) is conducting an issue solicitation campaign from **Monday, Oct. 19, through Friday, Oct. 23**. This is an opportunity for the community to provide the AFAP Manger with quality of life issues they would like to see worked through the AFAP process via multiple media platforms. During the solicitation campaign submissions may be made via the ACS Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/RIAACS](https://www.facebook.com/RIAACS), email at [usarmy.ria.imco-central.mbx.usag-ac@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.ria.imco-central.mbx.usag-ac@mail.mil), online at [www.myarmyonesource.com](https://www.myarmyonesource.com), or by simply calling ACS at 309-782-0829. For additional information please contact ACS.



## Illinois Series: Leverage Home Buying Tools

Join us **Thursday, Oct. 22**, 6- 6:30 p.m. to learn about Illinois tools that can help you make purchasing your next home more affordable. We will be hosting via [Facebook Live](#) on the main [Rock Island Arsenal Army Community Service Page](#) at [www.facebook.com/RIAACS](https://www.facebook.com/RIAACS). We will also be on Microsoft Teams. If you would like a Microsoft Teams invitation (which will allow you to ask questions and communicate directly with the presenter) please contact ACS either by messaging us on Facebook or calling 309-782-8253.

## Managing Holiday Expenses

Please join the RIA Financial Readiness Program on **Wednesday, Oct. 28**, 12-1 p.m., via MS Teams as we discuss several tips to help you plan for the holidays without breaking the bank or going into debt. Please RSVP to Travis Phillis, AFC®, Financial & Employment Readiness Program Manager, at 309-782-0815 or by email at [travis.j.phillis.civ@mail.mil](mailto:travis.j.phillis.civ@mail.mil). RSVPs are a must to receive a MS Teams invite by **Friday, Oct. 23**.

## Order Gives Employees Social Security Withholding Tax Deferral, Not Forgiveness

The RIA Financial Readiness Program can provide you with information regarding the Aug. 8, 2020 Presidential Memorandum of the Social Security Tax Deferral through the end of the 2020 calendar year. If you have any questions regarding the Social Security Tax Deferral or are unsure of how it will impact you, please contact Travis Phillis,

AFC®, Financial & Employment Readiness Program Manager at 309-782-0815 or by email at [travis.j.phillis.civ@mail.mil](mailto:travis.j.phillis.civ@mail.mil) for assistance. (DFAS info: [www.dfas.mil/taxes/Social-Security-Deferral](https://www.dfas.mil/taxes/Social-Security-Deferral)) (StandTo!: [www.army.mil/standto/archive/2020/10/02?s\\_cid=standto](https://www.army.mil/standto/archive/2020/10/02?s_cid=standto))



## Army Community Service Status Update

Due to the current situation Army Community Service (ACS) will not be open to the public until further notice. ACS continues to provide most of their services via email and over the phone, but please note that according to guidance from IMCOM headquarters, no items are being issued from the lending closet. ACS programs can be reached at the following:

- Army Emergency Relief (AER), Financial Readiness and Employment Readiness: 309-782-0815, or email: [travis.j.phillis.civ@mail.mil](mailto:travis.j.phillis.civ@mail.mil)
- Exceptional Family Member Program: 309-782-4736 or email: [janice.n.saito.civ@mail.mil](mailto:janice.n.saito.civ@mail.mil)
- Family Advocacy Program: 309-782-3049 or email: [jennifer.a.kerr10.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jennifer.a.kerr10.civ@mail.mil)
- Domestic Abuse Victim Advocacy: 309-912-6089
- Relocation Readiness, Army Volunteer Corps and Army Family Action Plan: 309-782-0816 or email: [chassity.r.morse.civ@mail.mil](mailto:chassity.r.morse.civ@mail.mil)
- General ACS Information/ACS Director: 309-782-0829, 309-782-0828 or email: [terese.w.seibert.civ@mail.mil](mailto:terese.w.seibert.civ@mail.mil)

We know that this is inconvenient, but we want to ensure the health and safety of you and our staff. Please feel free to message me if you need assistance, but do not know who to reach out to.

## Army Family Web Portal

Are you ready for a modernized way to access the resources and information you need? The Army Family Web Portal is Army Community Service's (ACS) newest virtual resource to get connected and stay connected. With the Army Family Web Portal, community members can access information on ACS services, search volunteer opportunities, submit quality of life issues and much more. Get connected to the new Army Family Web Portal today at [www.armyfamilywebportal.com](http://www.armyfamilywebportal.com).

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## MWR Outdoor Recreation Office



**Outdoor Recreation is your one-stop rental shop for all your outdoor adventures, special events, home maintenance and repair. No matter the season, we have the equipment to get you out into the great outdoors. From skis and snowboards to campers and canoes, we have you covered. Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. – 4 p.m., Bldg. 333, Phone: 309-782-8630. (email: [robert.l.lampert.naf@mail.mil](mailto:robert.l.lampert.naf@mail.mil)), Website: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/outdoor-recreation>**

## Bike and Table Rentals at Deeply Discounted Prices from Outdoor Recreation

Effective Sept. 17 and running **through Tuesday, Nov. 3**, you can save some serious money on bicycle and table rentals from Outdoor Rec. Are you planning a fall garage sale, get together or other event that requires lots of tables? Rent 4 tables for a week for just \$10, that's an 84% savings off the regular price of \$64. As the leaves begin to change and temps start to cool, this time of year is a great time to get out and explore all the bike trails around the Quad Cities and Outdoor Rec has the rental bikes you need at a great rate. Rent bikes complete with helmets and locks for just \$30 per bike per week, regular price is \$80/week. Discover the perfect trail for your biking adventure on this resource: <https://www.qctrails.org> Call Outdoor Recreation at 309-782-8630 for more info and to reserve your gear and remember to wear a face covering as it is mandatory inside the facility.

Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) for MWR Outdoor Recreation:  
[https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=141231&s=520&dep=\\*DoD&sc=15](https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=141231&s=520&dep=*DoD&sc=15)

# Employee Assistance Program



The ASAP/EAP is dedicated to excellence in providing a standard of care that enhances the quality of life for its clients and the workforce of Rock Island Arsenal. We believe that personal, family, and workplace problems can affect an employee's well-being and job performance. The ASAP/EAP promotes healthy lifestyles. Our most important asset is our employees and we are committed to providing professional counseling, educational assistance, and intervention services in an effort to promote wellness and improve the climate of the Rock Island Arsenal. ASAP/EAP is located in Bldg. 56, 1<sup>st</sup> floor; visit our ASAP/EAP website <https://home.army.mil/ria/index.php/my-fort/all-services/army-substance-abuse-program> or phone 309-782-4357 or 309-782-HELP. Office hours are from 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. After Hour Emergencies: 309-782-6116. Rock Island Arsenal Emergency Services will contact an EAP counselor who will call you back promptly. Find us on Facebook click here: [www.facebook.com/RIAEmployeeAssistanceProgram](http://www.facebook.com/RIAEmployeeAssistanceProgram).

## National Drug-Free Work Week

This year is the 12th annual anniversary observance of National Drug-Free Work Week, **Oct. 12-17**. This yearly public awareness campaign highlights the importance of a drug-free workplace and encourages workers with alcohol and drug problems to seek help. National Drug-Free Work Week was initiated by the U.S. Department of Labor as a cooperative agreement focused on improving safety and health in the construction industry through drug-free workplace programs. The first Drug-Free Work Week was observed in 2006, and in subsequent years, more and more organizations—representing a range of industries—also rallied behind the effort, helping firmly establish it as an annual opportunity to reinforce to employers and employees alike that “working drug free works.” Today, the National Drug-Free Workplace Alliance, a division of Drug Free America Foundation, in collaboration with stakeholders for a safe and healthy workplace, promote this annual observance. Together, we spread the message to encourage individual workplaces to take this opportunity to educate and strengthen their safe and healthy work environments—reflecting the true spirit of National Drug-Free Work Week.



## Addiction Recovery Advocates Discuss Battling Addiction

The Quad Cities Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (QC SAPC) would like to invite you to this year's Red Ribbon Week Virtual Event being held on **Oct. 29**, 1-2:30 p.m. Special guest speakers Tim Ryan, famously known as A&E's Dope Man and a substance abuse interventionist, and his wife Jennifer Gimenez, world renowned model, actress, substance abuse counselor, and reality TV star are not your typical celebrity couple in Hollywood. Not only are they famous and in active recovery, they are both proactive in changing lives. Tim and Jenn speak to audiences all over the world. Whenever possible, they travel and work together during public speaking engagements. They inspire their audiences to live a more fulfilling, passionate and purposeful life. This is an event you

don't want to miss. Since opioid misuse continues to be a nationwide epidemic affecting all ages, we would like to provide you with an additional resource brought to you by RALI Iowa & CODE3. The RALI CARES Virtual Trailer is an interactive experience that demonstrates and highlights the dangers of opioid abuse while providing tools to help you identify potential signs of opioid misuse. Visit the RALI Website and experience the RALI CARES Virtual Trailer at [www.ralicaresvirtual.org](http://www.ralicaresvirtual.org).

### National Substance Abuse Prevention Month

October marks National Substance Abuse Prevention Month – an observance to highlight the vital role of substance abuse prevention in both individual and community health and to remember those who have lost their lives to substance abuse. Millions of Americans suffer from substance abuse, which includes underage drinking, alcohol dependency, non-medical use of prescription drugs, abuse of over-the-counter medications, and illicit drug use.

- Young Americans aged 12 to 20 account for 11 percent of the country’s monthly alcohol consumption.
- Approximately 23 million people aged 12 or older used illicit drugs in 2010.

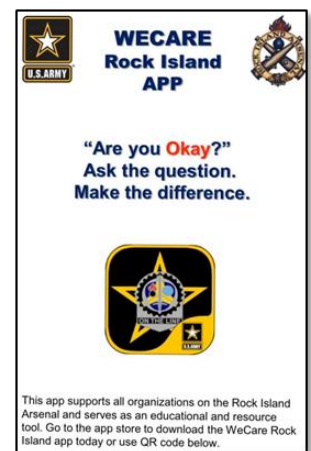
Prevention strategies targeting the root of the problem are essential to curb drug use and help people lead healthier lives. Early intervention helps prevent substance abuse and reduce the negative consequences of addiction before they occur. Through community-based efforts involving youth, parents, educators, and government officers, we can strengthen the support systems that deter our Nation’s young people from drug consumption and improve both academic performance and workforce readiness. “This month, we pause to remember the lives lost to addiction, and recommit to protecting all Americans — particularly our Nation’s young people — from the devastating effects drugs can have on them and their loved ones. We also commend the healthcare professionals, law enforcement officials, educators, family members, and community volunteers who raise awareness about the risks and dangers of alcohol and drug use, treat the afflicted, and support prevention. Together, we will build healthy families, safe neighborhoods, and thriving communities by preventing substance misuse.” – Presidential Proclamation 2020 [www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-national-substance-abuse-prevention-month-2020](http://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-national-substance-abuse-prevention-month-2020)



### WeCare Rock Island Arsenal App

The WeCare Rock Island Arsenal App (WeCare RIA) is available for download to mobile devices from the App Store. At the touch of a finger you can readily access vital tools and resources available to you and your family. The WeCare RIA App was developed to support the Rock Island Arsenal and US Army's Domestic Abuse, Resilience in the Workforce, Suicide and Sexual Harassment/Assault Prevention campaigns. It serves as an educational and resource tool for the user to recognize and reduce high risk behavior. The app allows all military, civilians, and family members who are aware of, witness to, or involved with a high risk behavior the ability to have points of contact and resources readily available with one click of a button. The main features include emergency phone numbers for local and national points of contact on a one-touch dialer. Go to the App store and download the WeCare Rock Island Arsenal App or from the below link:

- Apple's iOS: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/wecare-rock-island->



[arsenal/id1454377310?ls=1&mt=8](https://arsenal/id1454377310?ls=1&mt=8)

- Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=mil.army.wecarerockisland&hl=en>

Tell your Family and friends.

## Army Substance Abuse Program, Employee Assistance Program Services Remain Available To Assist You

Due to our current operating environment, the Army Substance Abuse Program and Employee Assistance Program staff are teleworking. EAP counseling and consultation services continue to be provided through the COVID-19 pandemic; however, those services will be provided via email, phone call, or virtually. For support and assistance, please use the information below to contact a member of our RIA ASAP or EAP team members and we will ensure attention and care is provided promptly.

- Lori Griffin, chief asap and EAP counselor: [lori.j.griffin2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:lori.j.griffin2.civ@mail.mil), 309-782-2551
- Bob Donohoo, EAP counselor: [robert.w.donohoo.civ@mail.mil](mailto:robert.w.donohoo.civ@mail.mil), 309-782-2552
- Earlyn Conway, drug test program manager, [earlyn.conway.civ@mail.mil](mailto:earlyn.conway.civ@mail.mil), 309-782-3827
- Jay Nichols, drug test program coordinator, [jay.d.nichols12.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jay.d.nichols12.civ@mail.mil), 309-782-2555
- Adrianna Rubio, contractor, prevention coordinator, [adrianna.i.rubio.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:adrianna.i.rubio.ctr@mail.mil), 309-782-2053

MEDCOM has launched a 24-hour Army COVID-19 Hotline (1-800-984-8523), which gives trusted COVID-19 information sources and answers questions. The OCONUS DSN number is 312-421-3700. An associated article can be found at:

<https://health.mil/News/Articles/2020/03/23/A-full-nights-sleep-could-be-the-best-defense-against-COVID-19>

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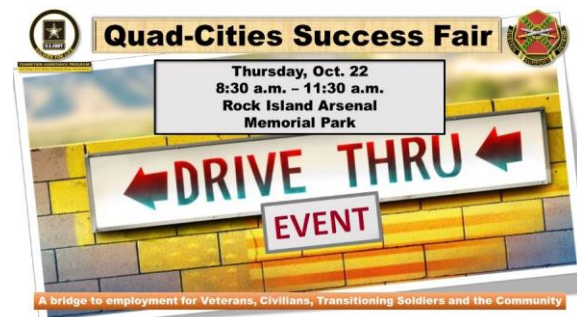
## Education/Training Review



Army Continuing Education System (ACES) is the Army's method for delivering educational opportunities to Soldiers that remediate, develop, and enhance skills needed for present and future jobs. The Army Continuing Education Division (ACED) promotes lifelong learning, readiness and resilience through flexible and relevant education programs, services and systems in support of the Total Army Family. The Rock Island Army Education Center is located in Bldg. 56, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, west end of the building. Office hours: 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. Phone: 309-782-2065 Fax: 309-782-7901. Please visit our website to learn more: <https://home.army.mil/ria/index.php/my-fort/all-services/continuing-education-services>

## Quad-Cities Success Fair Drive Thru Event at RIA

The U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal will host the 3rd Annual Quad-Cities Success Fair, as a drive thru event, on **Thursday, Oct. 22**, on Rock Island Arsenal at Memorial Park, from 8:30 a.m. through 11:30 a.m. The Human Resources directorate Military Personnel Division is coordinating the event that is a bridge to employment for veterans, civilians, transitioning Soldiers, and the community. The fair helps veterans and those leaving active duty find jobs, resources and



educational opportunities. This year's event is different than the previous years due to COVID-19 and the mitigation measures in place, thus it will be a drive thru event. Participants will not leave their vehicles, but will be able to access the installation after being vetted using their driver's license upon entering from either the Moline or Rock Island gates; from the gates signage will be in place to guide everyone to Memorial Park. At the Success Fair participants will receive packets of employment information and job opportunities from a wide array of greater Quad-Cities employers. After driving thru the event, participants will depart the installation unless they have eligibility to access one of the facilities or services on Island. The Rock Island Arsenal is currently at Health Protection Condition Bravo which restricts accessing the installation for recreational or tourist related activities.

### **RIA Army Education Center COVID-19 Impact**

The RIA Army Education Center is only providing virtual services; contact Mary Hansarik at [mary.p.hansarik.civ@mail.mil](mailto:mary.p.hansarik.civ@mail.mil) for Education Center requirements. Additional information about the Education Center is available at <https://home.army.mil/ria/index.php/my-fort/all-services/continuing-education-services>

### **Military Family Freedom Grant**

The Upper Iowa University is offering its Military Family Freedom Grant to qualified individuals. Take classes whenever and wherever the service takes you; \$250 per credit hour for all active duty, reserve, National Guard service members, and their eligible spouses and dependents (undergraduate only). Apply today – classes start **Oct. 26**. Email [info@uiu.edu](mailto:info@uiu.edu) or call 800-553-4150. More information is also available at [www.uiu.edu/freedomgrant](http://www.uiu.edu/freedomgrant).

### **Study Edge Announces Free Access for Veterans Through December 31, 2020**

In the midst of a global pandemic, access to education has been more challenging than ever before. For Veterans planning to return to the classroom and those starting college for the first time, this year in particular makes having the right tools and resources more important than ever. Study Edge can help. No matter where you're studying – whether on campus or at home – Study Edge provides Veterans with access to a multitude of helpful materials, including concise study guides, online explanation videos, and tutors for an array of subjects and classes. (More: [www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/79361/study-edge-announces-free-access-veterans-december-31-2020](http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/79361/study-edge-announces-free-access-veterans-december-31-2020))

### **Army Offers College Prep Website Amid Pandemic**

As high school students look to continue learning in a COVID-19 environment, the Army has provided an online option to help students prepare for college. Whether or not a school chooses in-class or online learning, students can prepare for college using the Army's college readiness website, March2Success, to augment their learning and study for entrance exams. Students can take practice tests for exams like the ACT, SAT, Medical College Admission Test and Dental Admission Test. The website provides an alternative for students unable to seek a tutor or join a study group due to pandemic restrictions. (More: [www.army.mil/article/237238](http://www.army.mil/article/237238))

# Defense Commissary Agency / Exchange



The Rock Island Commissary, [www.commissaries.com/shopping/store-locations/rock-island-arsenal](http://www.commissaries.com/shopping/store-locations/rock-island-arsenal), and the Exchange, [www.shopmyexchange.com/exchange-stores/United%20States/IL/Rock%20Island/Rock-Island-Arsenal-9999912](http://www.shopmyexchange.com/exchange-stores/United%20States/IL/Rock%20Island/Rock-Island-Arsenal-9999912), are for active duty military, retirees, and service-connected disabled veterans only. There are exceptions for select items (mainly consumable) at the Exchange that can be purchased by Arsenal Island employees with ID. Check out local specials and get POC information here: [www.commissaries.com/shopping/store-locations/rock-island-arsenal](http://www.commissaries.com/shopping/store-locations/rock-island-arsenal). For information on this and other Commissaries, visit: [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com) (Facebook: [www.facebook.com/YourCommissary](https://www.facebook.com/YourCommissary))

If you would like to be placed on our email contact list to receive periodic information on events happening at your Rock Island Arsenal Commissary, please email us at: [rockisland@deca.mil](mailto:rockisland@deca.mil) and type 'Subscribe' in the subject line.

## Energy Action Month: Commissaries Offer Special Pricing on Specific Products during October

Military commissaries are highlighting energy-saving products during October as the Department of Defense observes National Energy Action Month. Energy Action Month promotes sustainability and energy efficiency, while encouraging the smart use of resources including energy, water and transportation. It helps bring attention to energy usage, and encourages the development of long-term energy efficiencies. (More: [www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/energy-action-month-commissaries-offer-special-pricing-specific](http://www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/energy-action-month-commissaries-offer-special-pricing-specific))

## Ghoulish Reflections: October Features a Halloween Photo Contest, Discounts on Candy, Private Label Products and More

Costumed ghouls and goblins may not be able to roam the streets for Halloween because of COVID-19. However, for commissary customers, their scary images captured in photos could win a free Thanksgiving turkey. “Whether it’s our Halloween costume contest, extra discounts on energy-saving products or private label sales promotions, October offers our customers a lot of opportunities for savings,” said Tracie Russ, the Defense Commissary Agency’s director of sales. (More: [www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/ghoulish-reflections-october-features-halloween-photo-contest](http://www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/ghoulish-reflections-october-features-halloween-photo-contest))

## ‘Best of All Worlds’: Commissaries’ Fall Promotion to Offer Over 200 Store Brand Products At Up To 20% Savings

More than 200 commissary store brands will be available at savings up to 20 percent during one of the Defense Commissary Agency’s largest ever private label promotions **Oct. 12-25**. “Our customers will see some of our leading private label products in several categories put together in a unique sales promotion,” said Tracie Russ, the agency’s sales director. “This sale brings together the best of all worlds – quality products at deeper savings, video recipes and more.” (More: [www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/best-all-worlds-commissaries-fall-promotion-offer-over-200-store](http://www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/best-all-worlds-commissaries-fall-promotion-offer-over-200-store))

## **Spooktacular Pets Can Earn Families \$3,000 in Exchange Gift Cards During Howl-O-Ween Photo Contest**

Military shoppers can show off their furry friends' boo-tiful costumes for a chance to win \$3,000 in gift cards during the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's Howl-O-Ween pet costume contest. From **Oct 1. through Oct. 31**, authorized Exchange shoppers can submit a photograph of their pet dressed for Halloween at [ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes](https://publicaffairs-sme.com/ExchangePost/2020/09/30/spooktacular-pets-can-earn-families-3000-in-exchange-gift-cards-during-howl-o-ween-photo-contest). Two grand-prize winners will each receive a \$500 Exchange gift card, while eight runners-up will each receive a \$250 Exchange gift card. (More: <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/ExchangePost/2020/09/30/spooktacular-pets-can-earn-families-3000-in-exchange-gift-cards-during-howl-o-ween-photo-contest>)

## **RIA Commissary and Exchange COVID-19 Impact**

The Commissary and Exchange is open to all eligible patrons that can access the installation (active duty military, reservists, retirees, and service-connected disabled veterans). The Commissary changes reflect a number of moves made by the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) after the onset of COVID-19 concerns. These changes include:

- Patrons and store employees at the Commissary and Exchange are required to wear face coverings to help slow the spread of COVID-19.
- The hours of 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays are reserved for senior shoppers who may be more vulnerable to COVID-19.
- Commissary cashiers no longer handle patron ID cards in order to prevent potential customer-to-customer spread of germs. Instead, customers will be asked to hold up their ID so that commissary employees can scan them without touching them. Cashiers can use the handheld scanner if available or have the customer scan their own card.
- Patrons will use bags on site, and not bring their own bags into the store.
- All commissaries suspended early bird shopping to allow more time to clean and restock the store.
- Because of increased demand and to ensure that everyone has equal access to essential items, quantity limits on select items have been implemented. Items identified include antibacterial gels, wipes and sprays, hand soap, bleach, toilet paper, and tissues.

Any questions or concerns, please contact us at the commissary at 309-782-4614.



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# Arsenal Archive



Information for the Arsenal Archive is made available by the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. The Museum is open to the public, Tuesday through Saturday, 12-4 p.m. Closed Sundays and Mondays, federal holidays, the Friday after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve. Admission is free. (website: [www.arsenalhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.arsenalhistoricalsociety.org)) (Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RIAMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/RIAMuseum))

## National Museum of the United States Army to Open Veterans Day 2020

The U.S. Army plans to open the National Museum of the United States Army on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020. Building construction and exhibit installations are now complete, and the museum is ready to open its doors to the public for the first time. The National Museum of the U.S. Army, located on a publicly accessible area of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, will be the first and only museum to tell the entire history of the U.S. Army since its establishment in 1775. "The U.S. Army and the American Soldier forged the birth of our nation," said Secretary of the Army, Ryan D. McCarthy. "The National Army Museum will be a place for members of the total Army family to gather and share their stories, while also creating an opportunity for visitors to connect with our nation's history through the eyes and voices of individual Soldiers." (More: [www.army.mil/article/239858](http://www.army.mil/article/239858))

## Rock Island Arsenal Museum Closure

The Rock Island Arsenal Museum closed effective March 18 until further notice.

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# Healthbeat



## Annual Flu Vaccine Remains a Health Priority During COVID-19 Era

With the novel coronavirus still in circulation, "We don't know how this flu season will impact us," said Army Lt. Gen. Ron Place, director of the Defense Health Agency. "We do know that getting your influenza vaccine is a critical step to keep you and your family healthy." Influenza is a contagious respiratory illness. It can be spread to others up to about 6 feet away, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The flu is spread mainly by droplets from sick people when they cough, sneeze, or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people nearby, or they might be inhaled into the lungs. The flu can be associated with serious illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths - particularly among older adults, very young children, pregnant women, and people of all ages with certain chronic medical conditions. As the CDC notes, flu vaccines cause antibodies to develop in the body about two weeks after vaccination. These antibodies provide protection against infection from the viruses that are used to make the vaccine. (More: <https://health.mil/News/Articles/2020/10/13/Annual-flu-vaccines-remains-a-health-priority-during-COVID-19-era>)

## DVBIC Blood Plasma Study Assists in TBI and PTSD Diagnosis

For many years, researchers have looked for objective measures to help diagnose traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorders. Information from the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center's 15-year natural history study is assisting medical researchers in determining whether a protein found in a patient's blood could be a promising candidate for future diagnostic tools. A blow to the head is one of the ways a service members can sustain a TBI, and after witnessing psychologically disturbing events, they may also experience PTSD. Diagnosing these can be complex as they have similar symptoms that can be compounded when both are present. (More: <https://health.mil/News/Articles/2020/10/08/DVBIC-blood-plasma-study-assists-in-TBI-and-PTSD-diagnosis>)

## TRICARE Open Season: Education and Awareness Toolkit

TRICARE Open Season is the annual period when beneficiaries can enroll in or change their health care coverage for the next year. TRICARE Open Season is **Nov. 9–Dec. 14, 2020**. Enrollment actions made during this period take effect on **Jan. 1, 2021**. Eligible beneficiaries can also enroll in vision and/or dental coverage through Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) during Federal Benefits Open Season, which is also **Nov. 9–Dec. 14, 2020**. (More: <https://health.mil/About-MHS/MHS-Toolkits/TRICARE-Open-Season-Education-and-Awareness-Toolkit>)

## RIA Health Clinic COVID-19 Impact

The RIA Health Clinic will continue to see patients for limited appointment that include school physicals, immunizations, and well-child examinations. Please contact the RIA Health Clinic if you have questions about particular services or appointments.

## Keep COVID-19 Out of the Workplace

Rock Island Arsenal Team, as the national and world-wide COVID-19 situation continues to develop, it is imperative that we take actions now to protect the Soldiers, civilians, and family members that make up the Rock Island workforce and to ensure mission assurance for the headquarters and organizations that reside on the installation. The most effective way to protect our fellow employees and ensure that our missions can continue is to keep COVID-19 out of the workplace. If you believe that you have been exposed to COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms:

1. Stay home!
2. Inform your supervisor.
3. Follow the guidance from your health care provider.
4. Update your supervisor after talking to your health care provider.

If you are symptomatic or believe you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and you are a:

- Uniformed Service Member: Inform your chain of command, call ahead to a local Emergency Room, and follow their guidance. Follow up with your chain of command when complete.



- Department of the Army Civilian: Inform your supervisor, call your PCM and follow their guidance. Follow up with your supervisor when complete.
- Family Member of a Uniformed Service Member: Call ahead to a local urgent care facility and follow their guidance.
- Retiree: If your PCM is at the Rock Island Arsenal Health Clinic, call ahead to a local ER and follow their guidance. If your PCM is off the installation, call them and follow their guidance.

Keep in mind that the RIAHC cannot test for COVID-19, and that by visiting the clinic you could potentially expose more people to COVID-19. When in doubt, pick up the phone first. If you are a supervisor and you receive a call from one of your Soldiers and/or DA civilians, ensure that you keep the right people in the chain of command informed, to include follow ups and updates as required. All of our commands and organizations have reporting requirements to higher headquarters, and we cannot report what we do not know. Within the work place, please pay special attention to customer service areas (e.g. front offices for each of the commands and organizations on the installation, CAC/ID Card Office, and Army Community Service facilities), points of sale locations (e.g. AAFES, Commissary, Island Oasis, and CDC/SAC front desks), and high traffic communal areas (e.g. common rooms, office refrigerators and microwaves, RIA Fitness Center, restrooms). Increase the frequency that you wipe down surfaces such as countertops, key pads, and point of sales machines. In the fitness center thoroughly wipe down equipment after use. Clean up after yourself in the restrooms and break areas. Remember, look out for your fellow Soldiers and employees in order to protect our wellbeing and continue the mission.

### **U.S. Army Guidance for the Use of Cloth Face Coverings Remains Active**

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the U.S. Army implemented Department of Defense guidance on the use of cloth face coverings. Soldiers, family members, Army civilian employees and contractors should follow Centers for Disease Control guidelines on the use of cloth face coverings in public settings or where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Soldiers are authorized to wear the neck gaiter and other cloth items, such as bandanas and scarves, as face coverings. Soldiers should not, however, fashion face coverings from Army Combat Uniforms or other materials that have been chemically-treated. Personal protective equipment, such as N95 respirators or surgical masks, must be reserved for use in medical settings. Force health protection is the Army's top priority. Army senior leaders are urging everyone to adhere to the latest CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus, including practicing rigorous protocols for personal hygiene, staying home when sick and implementing social distancing techniques. (More: [www.army.mil/article/234288](http://www.army.mil/article/234288)) ([Defense Health Official Urges Personnel, Families to Wear Face Masks](#)) ([DOD Guidance](#)) *For specific use of face masks at your command and worksite, please consult your supervisor or chain of command.*

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# Notes for Veterans



## **How Veterans Can Reschedule a Cancelled VA Health Appointment**

What should you do if you need to reschedule a VA health appointment that was cancelled due to COVID-19? If you need help rescheduling an appointment that was cancelled due to COVID-19, we're here to help. Do not delay getting in-person care. Make sure you're taking care of the medical needs you would have addressed before COVID-19, like renewing prescriptions and having regular check-ins with your care team. If you feel like something is not quite right and you would normally see a doctor during non-COVID-19 times, call your care team. It is far better to have someone on your care team review your symptoms than wait until it's harder to treat them. (More:

[www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/79821/veterans-can-reschedule-cancelled-va-health-appointment](http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/79821/veterans-can-reschedule-cancelled-va-health-appointment))

## **Federal Electronic Health Record Connects With More Community Partners**

The Federal Electronic Health Record Modernization (FEHRM) program office announced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) expanded their joint health information exchange (HIE) network with the private sector, Oct. 9, after connecting with the CommonWell Health Alliance. CommonWell brings a nationwide network of more than 15,000 hospitals and clinics to the 46,000 community partners already part of the joint HIE. Launched earlier this year, the joint HIE is a modernized health data sharing capability that enhances the ability of VA, DOD and USCG to quickly and securely share electronic health record (EHR) data bidirectionally with participating community health care providers. The result provides more informed care for patients who are navigating between different health care providers. (More:

[www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5542](http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5542))

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# Around the Q.C.



An interactive version of Around the Q.C. is now available at:

[www.facebook.com/groups/275103093432020](https://www.facebook.com/groups/275103093432020)

Once you have joined you can see a listing at the Facebook events people have posted to the group at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/275103093432020/events>

*The impact to these events in light of COVID-19 is unknown. It is recommended that employees look at the event link for details.*

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# Island Insight



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