



May 5, 2021

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>

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Scott Relinquishes Responsibility as USAG RIA Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Tisa W.

Scott relinquished responsibility as the command sergeant major at the U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal, at a ceremony held in Heritage Hall on April 30 at Rock Island Arsenal. The ceremony marked the end of the assignment for Scott, who had served in the position since Jan. 7, 2020, after taking over from outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Heffernan. As the Garrison's Command Sergeant Major, Scott was employed by the garrison's commander for the care of Soldiers and civilians of the garrison, to extend command influence, assess morale of the command, and assist during critical events. Col. Todd Allison, garrison commander, US Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal, presided over the ceremony and said up front how bitter sweet Scott's departure from the garrison is. "Today we bid farewell to an amazing member of our team after 16 months of her tireless commitment and dedication to this garrison command and this installation," said Allison. "CSM Scott's time with us was during what will undoubtedly go down in our history as one of the most challenging of times facing our nation. However CSM Scott's exceptional talents and



Upcoming Dates

May: National Military Appreciation Month

May: National Mental Health Awareness Month

May: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

May: National Water Safety Month

May 2-8: Public Service Recognition Week

May 6: Right Arm Night, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3-7 p.m.

May 7: Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 7: National Provider Appreciation Day

May 8: Quarters One Historic Tour, 11 a.m., 1 p.m.

May 8: VE Day

May 9: Mother's Day

May 9-15: National Police Week 2021

May 10: 205th Anniversary of Fort Armstrong

May 11: Parenting During COVID-19, [MS Teams](#), 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

May 12: Workforce Wednesday, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3-7 p.m.

May 13: Children of Fallen Patriots Day

May 13: Thirsty Thursday, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3-7 p.m.

May 14: Army Ordnance Corps 209th Birthday

May 14: MVRBC Blood Drive, Bldg. 333, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

May 15: Armed Forces Day

May 15: National Peace Officers Memorial Day (*flags at half-staff*)

performance across an amazing career have not gone unnoticed at the highest levels of our Army. This is undoubtedly why she was selected to serve in a higher capacity and she is departing Rock Island Arsenal to serve as the Quartermaster General's regimental command sergeant major and this is great news for us and our Army." (More: www.army.mil/article/245982)

Joint Munitions Command Hosts Pre-Command Orientation at Rock Island Arsenal

JMC Commander, Col. Gavin Gardner, hosted a Pre-Command Orientation for newly assigned senior leaders to JMC subordinate installations. The orientation was held at JMC located on Rock Island Arsenal in Rock Island, Illinois and consisted of four days of engaging sessions with the sole intent to prepare senior leaders for their upcoming missions within the ammunition enterprise. Gardner provided opening remarks, while welcoming the incoming senior leaders to the organization. He started with, "our number one priority is our people. In order to meet munitions readiness for the Joint Warfighter as the Department of the Defense's premiere munition provider, we need to take care of our people. (More: www.army.mil/article/245889)



Strategic Readiness: Surge and Sustain

It is critical for the Defense Industrial Base to support requirements for all scenarios during peacetime but particularly during conflict. For JMC's surge analysis, these contingency requirements are compared to capacities at all levels of the supply chain to determine if they can be met or where shortfalls may occur. The process starts with industrial base analysts reviewing requirements data from all services along with inventory data to assess which ammunition items are most likely to need a "surge" in production. Once these items are identified, their requirements are loaded into an automated analysis tool with the ability to conduct industrial base simulations utilizing the immense data for bills of material and production capacities for ammunition end-items and components throughout the supply chain. (More: www.army.mil/article/245935)



Allison Accepts Military Appreciation Week Proclamation
Col. Todd Allison, Garrison Commander, US Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal, accepted the City of Davenport's Military Appreciation Week proclamation from Davenport Mayor Mike Matson on Wednesday, May 5, in front of the Davenport City Council at City Hall. Allison posted to social media stating, "It was an honor and privilege to accept the City of Davenport's Proclamation for Military Appreciation Week 9-15 May 2021. Thank you for everything the City of Davenport does to honor and thank our Veterans and Servicemembers!"

Davenport Celebrates Military Appreciation Week May 9 – May 15

Annual celebration honors local veterans and active duty military

The City of Davenport will celebrate Military Appreciation Week **Sunday, May 9 – Saturday, May 15**. Mayor Matson kicked off the event at the May 5 Committee of the Whole meeting with a proclamation to formally recognize the week as Military Appreciation Week in Davenport. Throughout the week, the City of Davenport, along with several businesses and organizations, will offer a number of perks to active members of the military, veterans, and their families. The City of Davenport will provide free green fees at its three golf courses - Emeis, Duck Creek, and Red Hawk - and CitiBus will offer free rides during Military Appreciation Week. The Putnam Museum and Science Center will offer free general admission to all military personnel (active duty and veteran) and their immediate families with proof of military ID. The Figge Art Museum offers free admission year round to all active U.S. armed forces and their families. Several downtown businesses are offering specials during Military Appreciation Week including Allied Barber Supply (224 W 3rd St) and Crafted QC (221 E 2nd St). A full list of businesses and their offers can be found on the [Downtown Davenport Facebook page](#). "Davenport is very proud to support our military members, families, and veterans," said Mayor Mike Matson. "We are very happy to have them in our community and we are thankful for their service to our great nation. They are loved and Military Appreciation Week is one way we can express our love and gratitude to them."



The Smooth Move of a Military Spouse

Trying to count your years as a military spouse is kind of like counting in dog years. The time seems like a normal passage, but the toll of military-specific events during that time actually compounds the span, making it seem like it's actually longer than it really is, hence the dog year comparison. For the record, I am presently 497 years-old using this measure. But, I digress... The event that prompted me to count this way is everyone's favorite part of military life: The Permanent Change of Station Move. The PCS is, possibly, the primary fear of many of military families, outside of war. At first, before the advent of social media, PCS moves were presented almost as urban legends. (More: www.army.mil/article/245944)



Army Senior Leaders Seek Sustained, Consistent Funding In New Budget

The Army requires consistent, predictable and sustained funding for readiness and modernization efforts to ensure overmatch against a near-peer competitor, the acting Army secretary said during a budget hearing Wednesday. "The Army has taken manageable risks to deliver the speed and capability needed to match our adversaries, but unforecasted operations and inconsistent funding are paid from readiness, infrastructure, and modernization accounts," John E. Whitley said before the House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on defense. For the past year, the Army has remained the nation's principal response force during times of need by providing support during the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, civil unrest, and the Southwest border, Whitley said. All the while, the Army continued to support missions in more than 140 countries around the world while serving as the Department of Defense's most lethal and decisive land force, said Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville. (More:



Public Service Recognition Week

36 Years of Honoring Public Servants and Connecting Citizens with Their Government

Public Service Recognition Week is a week dedicated to honoring our public servants. Since 1985, Public Service Recognition Week has been celebrated the first week of May, beginning on the first Sunday of the month.



PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

PSRW will be observed from **Sunday, May 2, until Saturday, May 8**, this year. Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) is organized annually by the Public Employees Roundtable, and its member organizations to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees. Public Service Recognition week is included in National Military Appreciation Month. Throughout the country, mayors, governors, agency leaders, communities and public service organizations participate in PSRW by issuing proclamations; hosting award ceremonies and special tribute events; and delivering messages about the value of public service. Public Service Recognition Week encourages government leaders and public servants from all backgrounds to participate, by showing appreciation to their employees and colleagues and by sharing their stories of excellence in public service.

Department of Defense Expands Access to Military Exchanges

The Department of Defense announced today the expansion of access to military exchanges. Starting May 1, 2021, DOD and Coast Guard appropriated fund and nonappropriated fund civilian employees are authorized to shop at military exchange stores in the United States and the U.S. territories and possessions. Online exchange access will also be available for active and retired DOD and Coast Guard appropriated fund and nonappropriated fund civilian employees by mid-October. **This shopping access does not include the purchase**

of military uniforms, tobacco products or alcohol. Previous in-store exchange access for DOD and Coast Guard civilian employees was limited to those on service agreements overseas (i.e., in foreign countries and the U.S. territories and possessions) and access was limited to overseas exchanges. The expansion will allow all DOD and Coast Guard civilian employees to shop in exchange stores in the United States and the U.S. territories and possessions. (More: www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2590000)



Defense Secretary Says 'Integrated Deterrence' Is Cornerstone of U.S. Defense

Deterrence has always been the first line of defense. Preventing conflict, when possible, is greater than engaging, said the secretary of defense. "The cornerstone of America's defense is still deterrence, ensuring that our adversaries understand the folly of outright conflict," Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III said in Hawaii Friday during a change of command ceremony for the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. "Throughout American history, deterrence has meant fixing a basic truth within the minds of our potential foes: And that truth is that the costs and risks of aggression are out of line with any conceivable benefit," Austin said. But Austin said that, going forward, deterrence must be different from what it has been in the past, characterizing a new approach as "integrated deterrence." (More: www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2592149)



DOD Expands Hacker Program to All Publicly Accessible Defense Information Systems

Ethical hackers now have many more targets within the Defense Department, DOD officials announced. The department is expanding its Vulnerability Disclosure Program to include all publicly accessible DOD information systems. The program grew out of the success of the "Hack the Pentagon" initiative that began in 2016. That initiative enabled the Defense Digital Service to offer a "bug bounty" program and engage with hackers. There really was no way for hackers to interact with DOD even if they spotted a vulnerability before this program. "Because of this, many vulnerabilities went unreported," Brett Goldstein, the director of the Defense Digital Service, said. "The DOD Vulnerability Policy launched in 2016 because we demonstrated the efficacy of working with the hacker community and even hiring hackers to find and fix vulnerabilities in systems." (More: www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2595294)



Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop Hours for May

The Thrift Shop will be open in May from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on:

- **Tuesday, May 11, 18**
- **Thursday, May 20**
- **3rd Saturday, May 15**

Lots of new items arriving daily. Check out our Facebook page at "Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop" for photos. All donations are greatly appreciated. No consignments at this time. All purchases must be paid with cash or check... no credit/debit cards at this time. All we ask for is a reasonable donation for your purchases... don't be intimidated by the "make an offer" policy. Laura, attic manager, will assist you with a fair price. Please remember... masks and social distancing are required. Call the Attic at 309-782-6977 if you have any questions or would like to make an appointment to drop off donations.

Regional Critical Blood Shortages, ImpactLife Blood Drives

The ImpactLife Blood Center has ongoing critical shortages of the following blood types: **O positive, O Negative, AB positive and AB negative**, but all types are needed. ImpactLife is hosting a blood drive in the ImpactLife Donor Bus in the Commissary parking lot, on **Friday, May 14 and 21**, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. If you would like to donate at this blood drive, feel free to email 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.ImpactLife.org and use code 029 to locate the blood drives. ImpactLife encourages those working remotely to visit one of their three local donor centers.

- Moline Donor Center – 3600 16th Street
- Davenport Headquarters – 5500 Lakeview Parkway
- West Davenport Center – 1320 W. Kimberly Road

ImpactLife will have a new donor promotion in May, this will be a \$10 electronic gift card redeemable at Amazon, Dunkin', Lowe's, Target, Starbucks, and Walmart.

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

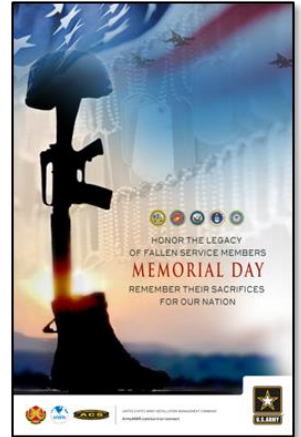
Flag Placement to be Conducted by Cemetery Staff, Active Duty Troops

U.S. flags will be placed on the headstones of fallen service members in honor of Memorial Day at the Rock Island National Cemetery this year by Cemetery staff in coordination with active duty troops serving on Rock Island Arsenal in the days preceding Memorial Day.



Memorial Day Ceremony

A private wreath-laying Memorial Day ceremony will be held at the Rock Island National Cemetery that will include Memorial Day remarks, rifle salute, taps, and a wreath laying. Memorial Day represents a day of national awareness and reverence, honoring the military men and women who gave their lives in defense of the nation and its values. Memorial Day honors fallen service members while Veterans Day is an opportunity for Americans to publicly recognize living military veterans. Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War Soldiers and a day to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, commander-in-chief, Grand Army of the Republic, proclaimed May 30 as Decoration Day by General Order No. 11. The Uniform Monday Holiday Act moved Memorial Day from May 30 to the last Monday in May. The law took effect in 1971 at the federal level. In 2000, Congress established the National Moment of Remembrance on Memorial Day.



Ammunition & Explosives Amnesty Day

Rock Island Arsenal will host an Ammunition and Explosives (A & E) amnesty day on **Thursday, June 17**, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., in the parking lot across from the Visitor Control Center and the test center (Building 25). Signs will be posted and no commercial ammunition to be turned-in. The intent of this process is to provide people a safe way to dispose of A & E. This process, by regulation, allows this to happen anonymously, without fear of reprisal. POC: John Peniston, 309-782-6386.



Arsenal Traffic/Construction



East Street Road Closure

Effective **April 5 through Friday, June 18**, East Street from Blunt Road to the South parking lot entrance of Building 56 will be closed to conduct Phase one of sewer, sidewalk and road replacement work. CDC users will be able to cross East Street using Ramsey Road for drop-off and pick-up at CDC buildings 11, 15, and 16. Ramsey Road will be used for traffic in both directions.

Building 90 North Parking Lot Closure

Effective **May 3 to Friday, June 18** the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) will close the north half of the Building 90 parking lot for contract personnel to conduct sewer, sidewalk, and parking

lot replacement work. Access and parking will still be available in the south half of the parking lot via the south entrance of Building 90.

Partial Closure, Building 90 Parking Lot

Effective **May 3 through Friday June 18**, the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) closed the north half of the Building 90 parking lot for contract personnel to conduct sewer, sidewalk, and parking lot replacement work. Access and parking will still be available via the south parking lot entrance.

Blunt Drive Paving Project

Monday, May 17, through Friday, May 21, the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) will close Blunt Drive from East Street to King Drive for contract personnel to mill and repave approximately 1,300 feet of the roadway. Signs and barricades will be used to warn and direct traffic. The closures may be extended due to weather or other unforeseen issues.

Building/Space Closures



Building 212 Fire Suppression System Flushing Project

Nov. 9 through **Monday, July 5**, the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) began the Fire Suppression System Flushing Project in Building 212. This involves temporary closure of some areas which will be isolated by barriers in coordination with JMTC Facilities department.

Active Duty/Reserve Zone



Army Leaders Encourage Soldiers to Get Vaccinated As DOD Ends J&J Pause

The Army will resume distribution of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine in limited capacity this week, helping the service reach its goal of vaccinating 80% of the force by July 4, its top medical officer said Monday. Although the Department of Defense temporarily paused the distribution of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine due to possible adverse reactions on April 13, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently recommended that the pause be lifted, according to a FDA press release last week. Lt. Gen. Scott Dingle, the Army's surgeon general, said during a media event that no member of the Army has reported experiencing harmful reactions from taking any of the inoculations. Dingle said he welcomes the opportunity to continue giving the Johnson & Johnson dose to Soldiers. (More: www.army.mil/article/245650)

Over the Edge 2021

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley is hosting the annual "Over the Edge 2021 on **Saturday, Aug. 21**." "Over the Edge 2021" is a major fundraising event to support their one to one youth mentoring program in the Quad Cities. For the month of May, active duty / reserve / National Guard Soldiers, Retirees, ROTC, and veterans will be exempt from the \$100 registration fee to

become an “Edger.” Edgers must raise \$1,000 through donations to rappel from the eleventh story of the Blackhawk Hotel. Points of contact are either Kayla Kiesey, kkiesey@bbbs-mv.org; Ally Sweeney, asweeney@bbbs-mv.org, or Beth Clark, bclark@bbbs-mv.org. Kayla/Ally/Beth can also be contacted at 563-323-8006 or check out the web page: www.bbbsmv.org/overtheedge.

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>

A Proclamation on National Building Safety Month, 2021

Throughout this past year, we have come to appreciate the contributions and complexity of our building and built environment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many people saw their homes become more than a place of dwelling, evolving into a comprehensive space for education, work, childcare, and entertainment. During National Building Safety Month, we recognize the importance of strengthening our buildings and infrastructure to serve the needs and ensure the safety of every American. We also honor the building safety professionals dedicated to creating safe, sustainable, and resilient communities. (More: www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/04/30/a-proclamation-on-national-building-safety-month-2021)

Equal Employment Opportunity Focus

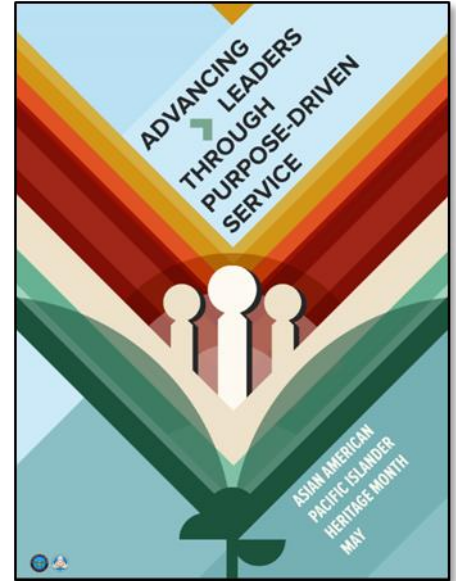


It is the policy of the Department of Army to provide equal opportunity in employment for all people and to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age (40 and over), disability, genetic information, and/or reprisal for prior EEO activity. Any Department of the Army employee, former employee, or applicant for employment, and certain contract employee, who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex (includes pregnancy, equal pay, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national original, age (40 and over), mental or physical disability, genetic information, and/or reprisal for prior EEO activity in an employment matter, subject to the control of the Army, may initiate the EEO complaint process.

To file an EEO complaint, you must contact the Garrison EEO Office within **45 calendar days** of the alleged discriminatory incident and express your intent to initiate the complaint process. The Garrison EEO office is currently providing services virtually. Please contact EEO staff at 309-782-2548.

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebrates the important contributions of individuals of Asian/Pacific Islander descent to the nation, both historically and in today's society. The month of May was chosen for this commemoration because it marks the anniversary of the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to American on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad by predominantly Chinese laborers on May 10, 1869. The theme for 2021 is Advancing Leaders Through Purpose-Driven Service. Purpose-driven service creates a positive culture of intimacy, empowers leaders who believe in leading with values, offers frequent encouragement and feedback, and puts employees first. Individuals of Asian and Pacific Islander descent have historically served in the Army with great valor and distinction and continue to be critical members of the Army team. They play vital roles in today's Army as Soldiers, Army civilians and Family members. Nearly 59,000 Soldiers who identify as Asian American/Pacific Islander serve in the Total Force (~ 29,000 Regular Army; ~ 14,000 National Guard; ~ 15,000 Army Reserve.) The contributions and achievements of individuals of Asian/Pacific Islander descent illustrates the strength of a diverse Army. ([DoD Special](#))



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.

Right Arm Night

Join us for Right Arm Night at the Lock & Dam Lounge on **Thursday, May 6**, at 3 p.m. Right Arm Night is a time honored Army tradition promoting camaraderie and esprit de corps. Leaders come together with those standing to their right - the ones helping them get through daily missions - to build relationships while mixing and mingling with other leaders who have brought their battle buddies with them. Everyone is welcome to bring your right arm(s) and join us at the Lock & Dam Lounge for Right Arm Night/First Thursday. Enjoy networking with your fellow Arsenal colleagues while building Esprit de Corps and partnerships. Exile Brewing Company from Des



Moines will be taking over the taps and are sure to have some tasty, unique brews for you to sip. Dawgers Hot Dog Stand will be onsite serving up their tasty fare. Please call 309-782-6319 for more information.

Lock and Dam Lounge is Open

Now open for Workforce Wednesdays and Thirsty Thursdays from 3-7 p.m., face mask and social distancing required. Join us for specials to include \$5 craft beers, \$2.50 domestics and \$1 sodas. We have some great new local beers on tap this week including Peanut Butter Porter from Contrary Brewing in Muscatine, Raging River IPA and Cherry Bomb Blonde from Front Street Brewery in Davenport, Ruthie from Exile Brewing in Des Moines, and Bikini Bottom from Five Cities Brewing in Bettendorf. Support the local brew scene at the coolest bar on the Arsenal! Also, for all you PBR fans, enjoy \$3 pints and \$6 pitchers of your favorite Milwaukee brew, Pabst Blue Ribbon. Stick around for dinner too, we'll be serving up burgers, grilled pork tenderloins, pizza, wings, and more. Please call 309-782-6319 for more information on the Lock & Dam Lounge.



Theme Nights at the Lock & Dam Lounge

Calling all Arsenal units, organizations, offices, etc. – we're going to let your team take over the Lock & Dam Lounge for the night. You choose your own theme, music and decorate the Lounge to fit your theme. Choose anything from 90s retro, luau, Hollywood glamour, superheroes, Harry Potter, masks and mimosas or glow in the dark; or choose your own theme, you're only limited by your own imagination. Come battle it out and let's see who can get the most participation all while enjoying an evening with your co-workers enjoying great food and drink specials at the Lock & Dam. Contact Cathy Harris at 309-782-6319 for more info and to reserve your Wednesday or Thursday date. Please note, the first Thursday of every month is Right Arm Night and as such is not available for your theme night.

Company Kitchen Temporary Closure

All three Company Kitchen café locations in buildings 60, 212 and 350 are temporarily closed effective May 1. Company Kitchen has been committed over the past year to providing limited services to the Arsenal workforce during the pandemic. Continuing service under the existing conditions is no longer feasible. Company Kitchen will continue to re-evaluate returning as the daily population continues to increase across the Arsenal. USAG Rock Island Arsenal, Family and MWR would like to thank them for their dedicated service they have provided to Rock Island Arsenal through this pandemic and we look forward to their return in the coming months. MWR is seeking interim breakfast and lunch options during this temporary closure. The Island Oasis located at the Fitness Center (Building 67) is open daily Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. serving fresh off the grill and the Lock and Dam Lounge (Building 60) is open with food options on Wednesday and Thursday from 3-7 p.m. For more information please contact the MWR management assistant at 309-782-6319.

Appointments Now Available at the Auto Skills & Service Center

Is your vehicle clunking, thunking, grinding, whining or squealing? Tired of looking at the check engine light? Stop by the newly repainted Auto Skills and Service Center (Building 351) and make an appointment for our skilled team of mechanics to diagnose that noise or error code and fix it at a fair and honest rate. Whether you're simply due for an oil change or tire rotation or you have something more major that needs repair, give us a call at 309-782-8631 and let our skilled and trustworthy mechanics keep you rolling down the road. If you're more hands on and like to work on

your own vehicles, schedule time for self-help service and get your ride fixed while saving money. For more information and appointments, call 309-782-8631.

All The Time Fitness Registration

Fitness Center customers can now register for access to the All the Time Fitness Program. Register in person at the front desk. Customers who have registered will be able to access the unmanned Fitness Center anytime from Friday at 7:30 p.m. to Monday at 5 a.m. If you encounter any problems with entry, please visit the Fitness Center Monday-Friday during manned hours and the front desk staff will be happy to help you. The Fitness Center is open and staffed Monday-Friday from 5 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information, please call the Fitness Center at 309-782-6787.

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, 8:15 a.m. – 4 p.m., Bldg. 333. The office is closed for lunch from 10:30–11 a.m., 309-782-5890. Face masks and appointments are required for service. The maximum facility capacity is five people. Contact the office at 309-782-5890. (email: anna.winters@us.army.mil) (website: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/leisure-travel-office>)

Quarters One Historic Tour

Quarters One on Rock Island Arsenal was once one of the largest residences in the federal inventory. In fact, when it was still used as Army housing, it was second only to the White House in size. Come join us **Saturday, May 8, 22, and 26**, at either 11 a.m. or 1 p.m., as we tour this majestic Joliet limestone mansion and listen to the history of this giant home as told by the Army Sustainment Command Historian. Cost is \$10/person and reservations and prepayment can be made by visiting the Leisure Travel Office in Building 333 (next to the Exchange). Please note that the facility is not handicapped accessible. Face masks and social distancing are required during the tours. For more information, please call 309-782-5890.

Adventureland Resort and Waterpark Tickets

The Leisure Travel Office once again has discount tickets to Adventureland Resort and Waterpark in Altoona, Iowa. Call 309-782-5890 or visit the Leisure Travel Office in Building 333 (next to the Exchange) to get your discounted tickets for just \$45 each. Also new this year, your tickets purchased through LTO gets you access to the new hospitality suite where you'll enjoy free pop and popcorn.

Great Entertainment at Great Prices

The Leisure Travel Office (Building 333, next to the Exchange) has great discounted ticket prices for Disney World, Universal Studios, and many other attractions including the return of discount Adventureland tickets in 2021 for just \$45 each. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact the Leisure Travel Office at 309-782-5890.

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)

Youth Cheerleading Clinic

Calling all future cheerleaders, get started right with our awesome cheerleading clinic. Everyone is welcome to attend this multi age level clinic with classes for ages 5-8 and 9+ which costs \$25/child. Clinic dates are: **May 10, 17, 22 and 24**. Ages 5-8 will meet on Mondays from 4:45 - 5:45 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Ages 9+ will meet on Mondays from 6-7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:45-10:45 a.m. All clinics will take place outdoors at Memorial Park (inclement weather site: School Age Center (SAC), Building 150). Visit our website for more information on programming or on how to be a volunteer coach: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/youth-sports>

Little Sluggers Baseball Class

Get the kids started playing the great American pastime of baseball! This parent and child baseball skill building clinic is for kids ages 3-5 and costs \$25/child. Learn the basic fundamentals of throwing, catching, batting and agility. Class dates are: **May 10, 14, 17 and 21** from 6-7 p.m. All clinics will take place outdoors at Memorial Park (inclement weather site: School Age Center (SAC), Building 150). Visit our website for more information on programming or on how to be a volunteer coach: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/youth-sports>

Little Pros Golf Class

Get the kids interested in a sport they can play for a lifetime. This parent and child golf skill building clinic is for kids ages 3-5 and costs \$25/child. The registration period is now through April 30th or until the class fills up. Class dates are: **May 10, 14, 17 and 21** from 4:45-5:45 p.m. All clinics will take place outdoors at Memorial Park (inclement weather site: School Age Center (SAC), Building 150). Visit our website for more information on programming or on how to be a volunteer coach: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/youth-sports>

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, 1st 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. 24/7 Domestic Violence Crisis Line: **309-912-6089**. The ACS center is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Appointments are strongly encouraged and can be made by calling 309-782-0829. ACS Rock Island virtual office hours are 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on [MS Teams](#).

TSP Training

With the move back to the office many people want to know more about their TSP. TSP offers a number of classes including classes regarding how TSP works, TSP for new hires, and TSP withdraws and retirement among others. You can find these classes (and a complete set of instructions on how to sign up) at www.tsp.gov/agency-service-reps/tsp-educational-resources.

Domestic Violence Support Group

Domestic Violence support group to be offered **every Tuesday** from 5-6 p.m. and every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. At this time the support group will be offered through MS Teams. Please R.S.V.P. to crystal.l.bartholomew2.ctr@mail.mil or call 309-782-3773. Confidentiality is of utmost importance.

Youth Summertime Activity Expo on MS Teams

Even though the live portion of the Youth Summertime Activities Expo is over, you can still access all of the information from the organizations on MS Teams by following this link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3a73728028bf9e4ed2b985e4c036f694fb%40thread.tacv2/conversations?groupId=beba8ec5-0eae-4f41-be6d-e0b34c3e694e&tenantId=21acfbb3-32be-4715-9025-1e2f015cbbe9>

Once there, you can browse through more than 20 organizations' worth of summer programming. Some of the organizations include Davenport Junior Theatre and Dance, QC Botanical Center, Visit Springfield, Bettendorf Parks and Rec, Nahant Marsh, Bereskin Gallery, the Sawmill Museum, and more. There are activities for kids of all ages, and even adults.

This link will stay live through **May 7**. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Kerr at Jennifer.a.kerr10.civ@mail.mil.

Parenting During COVID-19

Kids are returning to school, and parents are returning to work, but life is far from “normal.” Join Army Community Service and Child and Youth Services each month as we discuss how to manage as parents through the pandemic. Bring your questions and tips to the group, parents of all ages of

children are welcome. Classes are held the second Tuesday of the month from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., and can be accessed through Teams at the following link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3a90c8afc5e9a34120989982d78eb42e8f%40thread.tacv2/1615312862051?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2221acfb3-32be-4715-9025-1e2f015cbbe9%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%220943c39e-a114-4645-84a8-55d91c3efb99%22%7d>

If you do not have Teams, you can still access the meeting by calling 571-388-3904 and entering the passcode: 458005087#. Meeting dates are **May 11 and June 8**. For more information, call 309-782-6515 or 309-782-3049.

Out Processing Levy Brief

The out processing levy brief is designed to provide service members and their spouses with critical information regarding policy and procedures as well as resources available during PCS process. The brief will be delivered virtually through MS Teams. To receive a meeting link for one of the following Thursdays taking place 9:30 a.m. – noon, please contact MPD at 309-782-1526; **June 24 and July 22**.

ACS Rock Island Virtual Office Hours

ACS is holding public virtual office hours via [MS Teams](#) each Wednesday, except for days ACS publishes closures. Office hours are from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. We look forward to taking general questions related to finances, family programs, and relocation. We may periodically provide presentations on a topic selected by our office in advance. This is our public forum. Microsoft Teams link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MmIwNzkzYmYtZmE3ZC00ZmQ1LWJjMWUtYzRhMjlkZTAyMzNi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2221acfb3-32be-4715-9025-1e2f015cbbe9%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22209cc082-8b15-4656-8d36-a59e61db19c8%22%7d

Call in (audio only) at 571-388-3904,,890722855#, phone conference ID: 890 722 855#

If you have a question that you would like to discuss in private you can contact us to set a confidential appointment at 309-782-0829.

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., Building 333, Phone: 309-782-8630. Appointments are once again required for service in order to limit the number of customers in the lobby at any one time. The maximum facility capacity is five people and masks are still required for service.** (email: robert.l.lampert.naf@mail.mil), Website: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/outdoor-recreation>

Recreational Bike Meet-Up

We're celebrating 50 Years of Outdoor Recreation with ODR50! This summer, Outdoor Recreation is celebrating their 50 years of service with a campaign encouraging the exploration of the great outdoors, while taking advantage of the great services being offered by Outdoor Recreation. Our first of many events occurs in May, in conjunction with the MWR STRONG B.A.N.D.S. campaign. Participate in one of our upcoming events throughout May, June, July, and August and receive an Outdoor Recreation key chain. You will also be entered into an Army-wide photo sweepstakes for a chance to win some amazing prizes such as a Schwinn bicycle, stadium chairs, a Go-Pro, and more.



- What: Recreational Bike Meet-Up
- When: **Wednesday, May 26**
- Where: Meet us at the parking lot near the Skybridge in downtown Davenport at 4:30 p.m. for a recreational bike ride to Credit Island and a quick stop at the Freight House Farmer's Market.
- How: Call us now to sign up at 309-782-8630 or stop by and see us at Outdoor Recreation.

Bring your own bike or reserve one of ours for just \$5. #STRONGBANDS #ArmyODR50 Commit-Stay fit!

Gear Up With Outdoor Recreation

Graduation and outdoor party event season is fast approaching. Outdoor Recreation has party canopies, tables, chairs, bounce houses, charcoal grills and other items to help make your event a success. To reserve these and many other outdoor recreation items please contact Outdoor Recreation at 309-782-8630. Got roped into helping a friend, family member or coworker move? Rent a trailer and take fewer trips. Outdoor Recreation has a fleet of various sized flatbed and enclosed trailers. As the weather continues to warm up and you want to be outside, don't forget about our inventory of mountain and fat tire bikes. Get out and explore the Quad Cities on one of our bikes and check out QC Trails: <https://www.qctrails.org>, it's a great resource to discover all the various trail systems in the area. For a full listing of all rental gear available, check out our website at: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/outdoor-recreation>

Get Ready For Boating Season with Outdoor Recreation

Canoe and kayak season is just around the corner or here now, depending on your tolerance for chilly water and we want everyone to have a safe and fun season. Before renting a canoe or kayak from Outdoor Recreation, the State of Illinois requires each user to complete a boater safety class each year and for Outdoor Recreation to maintain on file a copy of your boater safety class completion certificate. Now is a great time to get your training done. We must have a copy of the completion certificate for everyone in your group who will be in or using the canoes and kayaks that you check out. There is a free online class at www.rentalboatsafety.com. Take the class for canoes/kayaks. On your completion certificate write your name, date of birth, driver's license number (if 16 years of age or older) and your signature. Without these certificates we are not allowed to rent canoes or kayaks to you. The canoes and kayaks can only be used on the water ways that we have listed and posted at Outdoor Recreation. See the full list of rental equipment available to you including bikes, campers, flatbed and enclosed trailers and much more on our website: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/outdoor-recreation> Stop in to see us and let us set you up with all the gear you need to get out and play in the great outdoors. Please call 309-782-8630 for more information about Outdoor Recreation.

Outdoor Storage Spaces Available from Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation now has outdoor storage spaces available for rent. These spaces are for vehicles 20' in length or less and are just \$25/month. Please call Outdoor Rec. at 309-782-8630 for more info and to reserve spaces.

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, 1st 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.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed in the U.S. since 1949. Each year millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness. During May, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) joins the national movement to raise awareness about mental health. This year, the theme is: "You Are Not Alone" -- Each year we join them to fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for policies that support people with mental illness and their families. Learn more at nami.org/MentalHealthMonth. One in five U.S. adults experience a mental

health condition each year. That includes individuals from every culture, community or background. Following are some myths about mental health:

- Mental illness is not your fault, but a medical condition and a product of your biology and, therefore, not the result of one or multiple life events (although major life events can trigger them).
- Seeking help is not a sign of weakness, but strength.
- Those living with mental illness are not dangerous any more than someone living with cancer.
- You are not alone. Nor are you expected to treat your illness on your own.
- People with mental illness are not crazy. Words matter and treatment is key.
- People with mental illness are not inept to function in the normal world. Most live productive, active lives while quietly bearing their symptoms.

There are some common signs of mental illness in adults, young adults, and children. But, because there is no simple test to confirm a mental health diagnosis, it can be very hard to differentiate between “normal” behaviors and common signs of mental illness. You are encouraged to seek an evaluation from a mental health professional so that you can get the proper diagnosis and treatment. We hope you find comfort in knowing treatment is available and you are not alone! Your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a great place to start a conversation about challenges you may be experiencing at home or in the workplace. We can help you by providing free and confidential counseling, or when appropriate, make a referral to a community mental health professional who can provide thorough and accurate diagnosis to meet your mental health treatment needs. You can reach the EAP by calling; 309-782-4357 (HELP) If you are having thoughts of suicide, dial 911 or go to the nearest local community hospital emergency center.

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, 1st 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. **The RIA Army Education Center is only providing virtual services; contact Mary Hansarik at mary.p.hansarik.civ@mail.mil for Education Center requirements. Please visit our website to learn more:**

<https://home.army.mil/ria/index.php/my-fort/all-services/continuing-education-services>

There are no announcements at this time.

Defense Commissary Agency / Exchange



The Rock Island Commissary, www.commissaries.com/shopping/store-locations/rock-island-arsenal, and the Exchange, www.shopmyexchange.com/company/storeDetails.jsp?storeId=1074020, 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. For information on this and other Commissaries, visit: www.commissaries.com (Facebook: www.facebook.com/YourCommissary) **COVID-19 Store Policies:** <https://commissaries.com/coronavirus>

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 and type 'Subscribe' in the subject line.

Military Pets Can Fetch Exchange Shoppers \$3,000 in Prizes in Photo Contest

Everybody thinks their animal companion is the cutest. Now, military pet owners can show them who the big dog or top cat is with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service and Hills Pet Nutrition Patriot Pet Just Say "Treat" Photo Contest. From May 1 through May 31, military shoppers worldwide can submit a patriotically themed photo of their pet or pets—whether they be furry, feathered or scaly—at ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes for a chance to win \$3,000 in Exchange gift cards. (More: <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/ExchangePost/2021/05/04/military-pets-can-fetch-exchange-shoppers-3000-in-prizes-in-photo-contest>)

'We Care and You Save!': Sidewalk Sales to Offer Discounts on Variety of Everyday Items at Stateside Commissaries

Commissary patrons stateside can stock up on their favorite items at significant savings during the Defense Commissary Agency's Military Appreciation Month Sidewalk Sale event in May (RIA Commissary Side Walk Sale **May 26-29**). "This is our way of saying 'thank you' to our patrons for their service and sacrifice," said Bonita Moffett, DeCA's director of sales. "These U.S. sidewalk sales give our military members and their families a chance to realize extra savings during this military recognition month. We care and you save!" (More: www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/we-care-and-you-save-sidewalk-sales-offer-discounts-variety)

May – Military Appreciation Month: Commissaries Highlight Patrons' Service with Extra Savings

Folks can tell military members and their families "thank you for your service," but commissaries are showing it every day through significant savings, especially in May during Military Appreciation Month. (More: www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/may-military-appreciation-month-commissaries-highlight-patrons)

National Pet Month: Commissaries Worldwide Offer Exceptional Savings for Pet Food, Supplies In May

Our pets are beloved family members, exercise partners and stress relievers. During the pandemic, they have made the lockdown much more bearable. During National Pet Month in May, commissaries worldwide give customers ways to show their furry, four-legged friends some love while saving big on all their pet needs. (More: www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/national-pet-month-commissaries-worldwide-offer-exceptional)

Arsenal Archive

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Information for the Arsenal Archive is made available by the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. (website: www.arsenalhistoricalsociety.org) (Facebook: www.facebook.com/RIAMuseum)

RIA Museum Closed For Renovation

The Rock Island Arsenal Museum is undergoing a \$1.5 million renovation. The project includes the biggest modernization of the museum in more than 50 years. The renovation will refocus the exhibits on the history of the U.S. Army's organic industrial base, Rock Island Arsenal, and the Arsenal's current role in producing Army readiness. It is part of the U.S. Army Museum Enterprise's five-year reform effort to refine its collection and enhance education and training capabilities at its 47 field museums. To provide a sneak peek of the new exhibits, a series of virtual presentations will be held this summer outlining the new interpretation and exhibit design. Stay tuned for updates on the [Museum's Facebook page](#) or website, arsenalhistoricalsociety.org, as it undergoes this exciting process. The museum has been closed since March 2020 due to a nationwide surge in COVID-19 cases. "We look forward to reopening our doors to the Quad Cities community in the fall of 2022," said Patrick Allie, Rock Island Arsenal Museum director. For more information or questions contact 309-782-3518.



Healthbeat

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RIA Remains at **HPCON Bravo**, Emphasizes Command Practices Across the Island Workforce -- the Rock Island Arsenal is maintaining the current Health Protection Condition Bravo and the "Return to the Rock" plan – the installation's planned recovery from the COVID-19 precautions instituted in March and April 2020 (meetings/gatherings limit at 50 people or 50 percent of sitting capacity, [masks required](#), six feet of distancing, and a continuation of practicing proactive personal hygiene). For a further details about individual commands, Island facilities and services, go to our [COVID-19 Local Impacts Page](#).

New Brain Proteins Suspected of Causing Depression

Using an innovative protein-based approach, researchers at the Atlanta VA Medical Center and nearby Emory University have found genes and corresponding proteins that could point the way to new depression treatments. Using a proteome-wide association study (PWAS) that integrated

genome-wide association study (GWAS) data with human brain proteomic and genetic data, researchers have identified 19 genes that may lead to depression by altering brain protein levels. They also pinpointed 25 such proteins that offer promise as potential targets for new depression treatments. (More: <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87984/new-brain-proteins-suspected-causing-depression>)

Month of the Military Caregiver

The Month of the Military Caregiver is observed in May each year to honor more than five million caregivers in the United States. Paying tribute to the people who care for more than two million veterans is an important part of supporting troops and military families. But for some, it's also about recognizing the work they do that qualifies them as caregivers even if they don't think of themselves that way. A Rand Corporation report on military caregivers reflects this sentiment. "Those caregivers often toil in relative obscurity, and they are challenging to count or describe." They are spouses, parents, children, and relatives of the wounded veteran, but many coworkers, neighbors, and friends also take on responsibilities. They provide care and assistance, promoting faster recovery for their loved ones and thus saving our nation millions of dollars in health care costs. (More: <https://militarybenefits.info/military-caregiver-month>)



CDC Alters Outdoor Mask Guidelines, Mandatory Federal Property and DoD Mitigation Measures Continue

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention eased its guidelines](#) Tuesday, April 27 on the wearing of masks outdoors, saying fully vaccinated Americans don't need to cover their faces anymore unless they are in a big crowd of strangers. And those who are unvaccinated can go outside without masks in some situations, too. The new guidance represents another carefully calibrated step on the road back to normal from the coronavirus outbreak that has killed more than 570,000 people in U.S. Under HPCON Bravo, the Rock Island Arsenal is opening facilities and the "return to the Rock" plan is underway to bring people back into offices after teleworking because of COVID 19 concerns. All employees still must wear a mask when indoors and in any environment where social distancing can't be arranged; this is in direct keeping with Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin's [signed memo](#) that directs all individuals on military installations and all individuals performing official duties on behalf of the Department from any location other than the individual's home, including outdoor shared spaces, to wear masks in accordance with the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. "Mask, distance and hygiene" remain the watchwords for safety as COVID conditions continue to improve. Don't Wait, Vaccinate! – Senior leadership and health personnel at the Rock Island Arsenal continue to highly encourage the Arsenal workforce and their families to get the first COVID-19 vaccine available to them from whatever resource they qualify to receive it, whether that's here at the Arsenal, a county vaccine clinic, the Veteran's Administration, their primary care provider, or a pharmacy. One resource for finding the vaccine outside of the installation is www.vaccinefinder.org; there are a number of other resources as well that everyone can find on the Internet or by contacting their primary care provider or country health department. DoD is now at [Phase 2 in its schema for COVID-19 vaccine eligibility](#); all persons aged > 16 years not previously recommended for vaccination are now eligible to receive the vaccine. If a member of the Island workforce wants to receive the vaccine at the RIA Health Clinic they need to go through their command or organization or by [calling the Clinic](#) for times and availability. The [RIA Health Clinic](#) has received and administered the COVID-19 Moderna vaccine to fully vaccinate more than 1,200 individuals in the workforce who were

identified and qualified in the groups directed by the DoD as high priority. The installation will continue to make the vaccine available to members of the workforce as more supply is received. As you prepare to schedule your vaccination you may have questions. TRICARE has provided some answers about when, where, and how you can get a COVID-19 vaccine on their website located at <https://newsroom.tricare.mil/Articles/Article/2544018/qa-when-where-and-how-can-i-get-a-covid-19-vaccine>.

Notes for Veterans



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Law Expands Veteran Housing Benefits

May is National Moving Month and many Veterans may find themselves moving to a new address as they take advantage of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) expanded home loan program, which now includes additional benefits for eligible borrowers. VA is currently implementing Public Law 116-315 containing three key loan provisions for Vietnam War era Veterans, eligible National Guard members, and service members, Veterans and certain surviving spouses with VA-guaranteed loans. (More: www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5662)

VA.gov Site Becomes Central Login for Accessing Benefits

Veterans and their families may begin accessing their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and services on the new and user-friendly VA.gov website starting April 30. Users will be able to access information about VA benefits and services through a single site rather than through multiple locations. All benefits-related features previously located in the eBenefits web portal will be available on VA.gov. Veterans are encouraged to start logging into the site using their current Digital Service (DS) Logon or creating a new account using ID.me. (More: www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5660)

Law Expands Veteran Housing Benefits

May is National Moving Month and many Veterans may find themselves moving to a new address as they take advantage of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) expanded home loan program, which now includes additional benefits for eligible borrowers. VA is currently implementing Public Law 116-315 containing three key loan provisions for Vietnam War era Veterans, eligible National Guard members, and service members, Veterans and certain surviving spouses with VA-guaranteed loans. (More: www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5662)

Around the Q.C.



An interactive version of Around the Q.C. is now available at:
www.facebook.com/groups/275103093432020

Once you have joined you can see a listing a 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.

Island Insight



Col. Todd J. Allison, Garrison Commander; Eric Cramer, Public Affairs Officer; Mark Kane, Editor The Army publication, *Island Insight*, is an unofficial publication authorized under AR 360-1 to provide information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of, about, and of interest to the Rock Island Arsenal community. It is published weekly using word processing software and Adobe PhotoShop using Portable Document Format reproduction for online distribution with the use of federal funds under provisions of AR 360-1 www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/pdf/r360_1.pdf by the Rock Island Arsenal-Garrison Public Affairs Office. **Contents of *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. The editorial content of *Island Insight* is the responsibility of the Rock Island Arsenal-Garrison Public Affairs Office.** Submission of announcements, articles, photos, letters, and graphic art of interest to the general readership is encouraged. All manuscripts are subject to editing and rewriting prior to publication. Postal address: Garrison Public Affairs, 1 Rock Island Arsenal, ATTN: IMRI-PA, Rock Island, IL 61299-5000. For submission of announcements to the *Island Insight*, use the following link: <https://home.army.mil/ria/index.php/contact/public-affairs>. To send comments email usarmy.ria.imcom-central.mbx.usag-ria-pa@mail.mil or phone 309-782-1121.

