



Sept. 22, 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>

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 Q.C.](#)

JMC Optimizes Business Processes for the Information Age

As the Department of Defense's premier provider of conventional munitions, Joint Munitions Command continually optimizes its operations to more efficiently supply ammunition to troops stationed at home and abroad.



An essential component of those operations is JMC's business processes. The command oversees 17 subordinate arsenals, depots and ammo plants and is accountable for \$59 billion of munitions and missiles. To successfully manage this stockpile, the command analyzes its procedures across the enterprise to help ensure tasks are performed in a similar manner and take a similar amount of time to complete, accounting for varying ammunition type and site-specific variations such as larger installations that require more time to transport ammunition on base. "Our goal is a repeatable business model," Mike Harrington, JMC's acting government-owned, government-operated facility division chief, said. "We want to ensure that the same operation can be performed in an identical manner at each of our locations." Many of these subordinate organizations have functioned since World War II.

Upcoming Dates

September: National Preparedness Month
September: National Insider Threat Awareness Month
September: Suicide Prevention & Awareness Month
September: National Recovery Month
Sept. 15 – Oct. 15: Hispanic Heritage Month
Sept. 24: Gold Star Mothers and Family Day Remembrance, Behind Colonel Davenport House, 10 a.m.
Sept. 24: ASC Org Day, Memorial Park, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sept. 25: Navy Operational Support Center Rock Island Change of Command, NOSC, 10 a.m.
Sept. 25: MWR Flea Market, Memorial Park Pavilion, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sept. 25: Ghost Tales, Colonel Davenport House, 7 p.m.
Sept. 26: Gold Star Mothers and Families Day
Sept. 29: Workforce Wednesday, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3 p.m.
Sept. 30: Island-wide Suicide Awareness Walk, in front of Fitness Center, 9 a.m.
Sept. 30: RIA Quarterly Retirement Ceremony, Heritage Hall, 2 p.m.
Sept. 30: Thirsty Thursday, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3 p.m.
October: Domestic Violence Awareness Month
October: National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Historically, each command operated with its own procedures, leading to significant differences in the amount of time required to handle operations and disrupting the planning process. (More: www.army.mil/article/250464)

Veterans of Americal Division Unveil Commemorative Monument at RIA

Veterans who served in conflicts around the world in jungle environments gathered Wednesday, Sept. 8, to commemorate an Army division established exclusively for expertise in that environment. Members of the Americal (23rd) Division were present to participate in the unveiling of a stone memorial slab dedicated to the division, sponsored by the Americal Legacy Foundation. The monument can be found along the tree-lined path called Memorial Walkway, located within the National Cemetery Administration's property located on the arsenal. On-hand to assist with the unveiling was 97 year-old World War II Americal veteran Walter Lehman, a local resident from West Liberty, Iowa. (More: www.army.mil/article/250338)



National Preliminary Suicide Numbers Decline By 5.6% from 2019-2020

Dr. Joy Summerlin, U.S. Army Sustainment Command G1 R2 and Integration Division, said “preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows nationally suicides declined 5.6% from 2019 to 2020.” While that’s hopeful news, it still shows suicide cost the lives of well over 40,000 people in this country last year. “Every 40 seconds someone dies in the world by suicide,” Summerlin said. “This means every 41 seconds someone is left behind wondering why.” Events like walks and other gatherings help, Summerlin said, because “by raising awareness, reducing the stigma around mental illness and encouraging well-informed action, we can reduce instances of suicide.” (More: www.dvidshub.net/news/405817)

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, and the U.S. Army Sustainment Command, Rock Island Arsenal, and surrounding communities have been holding informational events and employee training to stress the urgency of connecting with individuals who might be having emotional/depression/suicidal thoughts.



There are still two upcoming events where you can show your support for suicide prevention:

Out of the Darkness – Quad Cities Iowa Walk, Sunday, September 26 at Veterans Memorial Park, 1645 23rd Street, Bettendorf, IA

- Check in is at 8 a.m. and the walk begins at 9 a.m.
- For more information, contact Ms. Jaime Atwood, fostersvoices2@gmail.com, or 309-263-3522

Island-wide Suicide Awareness Walk, 1.5 miles

- Thursday, September 30 starting in front of the Fitness Center, Building 67
- Start time is 9 a.m. with the walk ending about 10 a.m. For more information, contact Dr. Joy Summerlin, usarmy.ria.asc.mbx.wellness@mail.mil

Downward Trends in Munitions Requirements, Funding Make Joint Collaboration More Important Than Ever

The Joint Ordnance Commanders Group met virtually Sept. 1 to discuss the ongoing Army Ammunition Plant transformation and modernization efforts and to share insights regarding declining budgets and munitions requirements. U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Gavin Gardner, commanding general, Joint Munitions Command, co-chaired the semiannual assembly alongside Joint Program Executive Officer Armaments and Ammunition, Brig. Gen. Bill Boruff. Gardner and Boruff presented the modernization strategy that will lead to a 21st-century Organic Industrial Base capable of sustaining readiness, supporting modernization efforts and postured to meet wartime requirements. “Modernization is the number one priority for AMC,” Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command, said. “By examining and integrating the master plans of each of our OIB locations, we can move together collectively to support not only Army readiness, but the readiness of our joint partners as well.” (More: www.army.mil/article/250347)



Relationships, Connections and Support Critical To Preventing Suicide

Challenges created by the pandemic have left many feeling stressed and isolated. During times like these, relationships and interpersonal connections to family and friends are vital to a person's wellbeing. As the Department of Defense and the Army observe Suicide Prevention Month this September, officials say it's critical for people to remember the role that social connections play in preventing suicide, and that help is always available. This year's theme, "Connect to Protect: Support is Within Reach," emphasizes the importance of personal connections and encourages everyone to "reach" for support when in need, says Traci Waters, Army Substance Abuse Program manager. (More:

www.army.mil/article/250062)



New SHARP Policy Grants Additional Services To Army Civilians

The safety and well-being of all Department of the Army Civilians, or DACs, is at the forefront of a policy unveiled Friday, which now allows them to receive Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention services. "Our Army Civilians deserve our support if they are victims of a sexual assault," said James A. Helis, director of the Army Resilience Directorate, which oversees the SHARP program. "We ask our Army Civilians to support the prevention of sexual assault, to take sexual assault training, and to intervene when they can; the very least we can do is to be by their side if they themselves are the victim of sexual assault." The new policy is another example of the Army's commitment to eliminate harmful behaviors, like sexual assault, from its workforce, which impact all aspects of readiness including unit cohesion, trust, and good order and discipline, Helis said. (More: www.army.mil/article/250318)



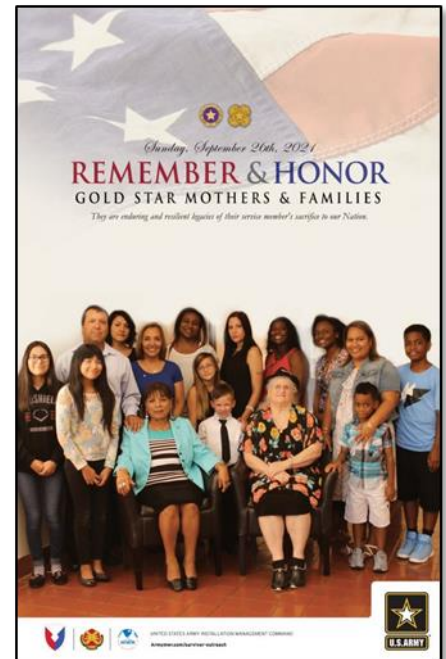
OMB Tells Agencies to Start Planning For Possible Government Shutdown

With the threat of a government shutdown just seven days away, the White House is formally urging federal agencies to prepare for the possibility of a lapse in appropriations next week. "We fully expect Congress to work in a bipartisan fashion to keep our government open, get disaster relief to the Americans who need it, and avoid a catastrophic default, especially as we continue to confront the pandemic and power an economic recovery," Abdullah Hasan, spokesman for the Office of Management and Budget, said Thursday in a statement. "In the meantime, prudent management requires that the government plan for the possibility of a lapse in funding." It is customary for OMB to meet with agencies about government shutdown planning seven days before a lapse in appropriations, regardless of the year or the particular circumstances in Congress. The House on Tuesday cleared a nine-week continuing resolution that would keep agencies running through Dec. 3, but the legislation faces an uphill battle in the Senate. Republicans have said they won't support a continuing resolution that includes a debt limit suspension, which the House proposal does. (More: <https://federalnewsnetwork.com/government-shutdown/2021/09/omb-tells-agencies-to-start-planning-for-possible-government-shutdown>)



Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day Remembrance

Army Community Service' Army Survivor Outreach Services will hold a Gold Star Mothers and Family Day Remembrance for survivor families and friends by honoring the fallen at a flower release at the Rock Island Arsenal behind the Colonel Davenport House on **Friday, Sept. 24**, at 10 a.m. – join us in our remembrance and salute to those who remain with us. Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day is observed in the United States on the last Sunday of September. The U.S. Congress recognizes this as the day when America honors surviving parents and families of fallen service members – specifically those who died while on active duty. The term "Gold Star" originated during World War I. Americans displayed flags in homes, businesses, schools and churches bearing a blue star for each Family member serving in the military. Families stitched a gold star over the blue star to honor those members who died during military service. On Sunday, Sept. 26, the Army will join the nation in observing Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day. Gold Star Mothers and Families are the legacies of their service member's ultimate sacrifice, and the Army considers Gold Star Mothers and Families as integral members of the Army community. The Army is dedicated to paying tribute to fallen service members in recognition of the loved ones they left behind. During the Soldier's funeral service, the Army presents the surviving Family members with a Gold Star Lapel Button or the Lapel Button for Next of Kin of Deceased Personnel in honor of their fallen Soldier. IMCOM is committed to continue to provide quality care, support and services to surviving family members, through programs such as Army Survivor Outreach Services. The Army is dedicated to providing ongoing support to more than 78,000 surviving Family members of fallen service members. Army Survivor Outreach Services offers resources including supportive counseling, financial education, benefits coordination and support groups to surviving Family members for as long as they need or request Army involvement. Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day is dedicated to remembering and honoring the surviving families of fallen service members.



Ghost Tales at Colonel Davenport House

Kick off the Halloween season as the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation presents "Ghost Tales" with spooky stories told by local storytellers on the grounds of the Colonel Davenport House on Arsenal Island at 7 p.m. on **Saturday, Sept. 25**. Local author Gena Schantz will kick off the stories with a reading from the book she wrote about George Davenport that was published in 2020. The Trader at Rock Island: George Davenport and the Founding of the Quad Cities is the first and only biography ever written about the man for whom the city of Davenport is named. Gena will be available to sign copies of her book starting at 5:30 p.m. The Trader at Rock Island tells the story of George Davenport and his entry into the Indian trade and his eventual transition into services and businesses marketed toward the new settlers. After the Black Hawk War, Davenport promoted land development as the frontier turned from Indian land to commercial centers of industry. By the time of Davenport's murder in 1845, the cities now known today as the Quad Cities in Iowa and Illinois were in their infancy. Admission for this family-friendly event is \$6 for adults; 12 and younger are free. Enjoy the refreshments for sale. Bring a mask to wear when inside the house. Don't forget to bring a lawn chair or blanket. Costumes encouraged. Come before the main event to get a tour of the Colonel Davenport House beginning at 5:30 p.m. that's included with admission. Attendees age 16 and older must show U.S. photo I.D. since the Island is a working military facility. Please enter

through the Moline gate. You don't need any additional passes since this is an approved special event. For more information, visit www.davenporthouse.org.

Emergency Leave Transfer Program to Assist Federal Employees Affected by Hurricane Ida

If you are interested in donating annual leave, [complete OPM Form 1638](#) and submit to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Building 104, no later than Monday, 14 March 2022. You must state on the 1638 which Emergency Leave Transfer Program you are donating to. If you have any questions contact the CPAC at 309-782-2430. This initiative has been directed by the President. The POC is Jaime Slocum at jaime.l.slocum.civ@army.mil OPM Form 1638: https://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/opm1638.pdf

EOY Fuel Station Closure & VIL Keys

The installation fuel station on Island will be shut down for End of Year inventory **Wednesday, Sept. 29**, at 3 p.m., and will not be accessible until **Friday, Oct. 1**, after 7 a.m. VIL keys that are used to obtain fuel from the fuel station, are due to expire on **Wednesday, Sept. 29**; please ensure you update your keys prior to that expiration date. Please contact LoRhonda Dickerson at 309-782-1883 or Iris Garner 309-782-1630 for guidance on updating VIL Keys to avoid an interruption of your service.

Attic Thrift Shop Hours or September

The RIA Attic Thrift Shop will be open in September from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on the following days:

- Tuesdays – **Sept. 28**
- Thursdays – **Sept. 30**

The Attic is located in Building 60, NW Corner (basement); our phone number is 309-782-6977 if you have any questions. Follow us on Facebook at Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop where you can check out photos of newly arrived items. Again, masks are required of everyone while shopping inside at the Attic. Your donations are always appreciated. They may be dropped anytime in the donations box outside the Attic door or brought to the shop when open.

RIA Quarterly Retirement Ceremony

The Rock Island Arsenal commanding general requests the honor of your virtual presence at the RIA Quarterly Retirement Ceremony on **Thursday, Sept. 30** at 2 p.m. in honor of:

- Lt. Col. Richard Davila, First Army
- Michelle Jaco, JMC
- Tony Livingston, JMC
- Vicki Barbour, JMC
- Peggy Peterson, JMC
- Kelly Gilhooly, JMC

You may view the event at: www.facebook.com/rockislandarsenal For those included in the limited attendance, the ceremony will take place in Heritage Hall, Building 60. Uniform for personnel not participating in ceremony, but in physical attendance is: Military: Duty Uniform & Civilian: Casual.

Regional Critical Blood Shortages, ImpactLife Blood Drives

The ImpactLife Blood Center has ongoing critical shortages of the following blood types: **O positive, O Negative, A positive, A negative, B negative, and AB negative**, but all types are needed. The Blood Donor Bus will be available for scheduled donations in the Commissary parking lot on **Friday, Oct. 8 and 15**, 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. If you would like to donate at this blood drive, feel free to email bhancock@impactlife.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 is requiring masks for donors, staff, and volunteers in all of their facilities and donor buses.** 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 donor promotion, 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

224th Brigade Engineer Battalion Trunk-or-Treat

224th Brigade Engineer Battalion is excited to announce the inaugural Trunk-or-Treat event at the Davenport Readiness Center on **Sunday, Oct. 24**, from 2-4pm. This event is a fun-filled afternoon of games, bounce houses, food, and more for our past and present Iowa National Guard service members and families. You are invited to participate as a vendor in this fun and informative Trunk-or-Treat event. Vendors are required to decorate their trunk or table, provide treats or toys to be given to youth participants and may provide informational materials about their programs or business to the service members and families. Vendors are encouraged to dress up in costumes appropriate for a 2-12 year-old audience. Prizes will be awarded to the most creative trunk. To become a vendor, please contact the tomelissa.a.simatovich.civ@mail.mil by **Friday, Oct. 1**. Thank you for your support and consideration.

Los Primos at RIA

Los Primos is on Arsenal Island serving up their delicious Mexican food during the lunch hour. Los Primos now has steak burritos and quesadillas as part of their new expanded menu. They are located on Rodman Avenue in front of Building 350 parking lot. They are serving **Tuesday-Thursday** each week from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

DoD Extended Policy Guidance For Identification Card Operations During the Corona Virus Disease 2019 Pandemic

The Rock Island Arsenal DEERS/ID Card Office is operating at full capacity to serve our supported customers. We ask that customers continue to observe masking and social distancing to protect the many higher-risk personnel in the population we serve. For those customers unable or uncomfortable visiting the facility, the Department of Defense has extended the expiration dates of Uniformed Services ID (USID) cards. Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness: In

view of the DoD's limited ability to return Identification (ID) Card facilities to normal operations while continuing to comply with local pandemic safety precautions, I am extending the temporary policy guidance at the reference for Uniformed Services ID (USID) cards that expired between Jan. 1, 2020 and July 31, 2021 only, through:

- **Oct. 31, 2021:** Dependents of Active Duty Uniformed Service members; Reserve and National Guard Uniformed Service Members and their dependents.
- **Jan. 31, 2022:** Retirees and their dependents; all other populations.

USID cards that expired before Jan. 1, 2020 or that expire after July 31, 2021 have not been extended and will not be accepted. Rock Island Arsenal DEERS/ID Card Facility (Building 56):

- Hours of operation: Monday; Wednesday- Friday: 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Closed for lunch 12-1 p.m.; No walk-ins after 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.); Tuesday: 7:15 a.m. – 12 p.m. (No walks-in after 11 a.m.).
- We recommend customers schedule appointments when possible to reduce waiting times.

Appointments may be scheduled at following website: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco>

Customer may contact the ID card office by phone - 309-782-0596; email – usarmy.ria.usag.mbx.id-card-office@mail.mil.



Quad Cities Marathon - Multiple Closures & Detours

The 24th Annual TBK Quad Cities Marathon and half marathon will be run across Rock Island Arsenal on **Sunday, Sept. 26**, and will impact Arsenal roads from 6 a.m. – 2 p.m. Marathon runners and walkers will enter the Arsenal through the Davenport Gate and exit the Arsenal through the Moline Gate using the eastbound lane of Rodman Avenue. Marathon and Half-Marathon runners will use different routes while on the Arsenal. Employees and residents should be prepared for potential delays beginning with course set-up at 6 a.m. until approximately 2 p.m. Traffic control personnel, signage and volunteers will be placed throughout the routes to help redirect traffic. The government bridge will close to all vehicle traffic and barges from 6 a.m. - noon.

Building 90 South Parking Lot Closure

On **Monday, Sept. 27 through Friday, Oct. 29**, the Directorate of Public Works will be closing a portion of the Building 90 parking lot for contract personnel to conduct power line work. The newly constructed north-side portion of the Building 90 parking lot will be temporarily open for building occupants. Access to the north portion of the lot will be through Building 56 parking lot to Building 90 parking lot north entrance. Current handicap parking at the south end of the Building 90 parking lot will continue to be available.

Sylvan Drive Construction Project at Beck Road Intersection

Directorate of Public Works will close Sylvan Drive from Beck Avenue intersection north to the Building 208 parking lot from **Sept. 27 through Dec. 17** in order to replace the road, sewers and railroad crossings. USACE, Navy Reserve Center, Commissary, the Exchange, and Outdoor Rec will follow Beck Avenue to Gillespie Street to Rodman Avenue. JMTC's employee parking lot will remain accessible via Rodman Avenue. Beck Avenue will be require alternating traffic at the Beck Avenue and Sylvan Road intersection from **Sept. 27 to Oct. 4** to install storm sewer inlets as part of

the project. Signage and barricades will be placed for safety and traffic control. Davenport gate operations will be conducted as normal 2-5 p.m.

Closure of Sylvan Drive at Rodman Avenue Intersection

Director of Public Works will close Sylvan drive at the Rodman Avenue intersection **Sept. 13-27** in order to excavate electrical lines. Access to the JMTC employee parking lot will be from the Beck drive following the yellow arrows on the attached map. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, Navy Operational Support Center Rock Island, Rock Island Commissary, the Exchange, and Outdoor Recreation will need to follow Beck Avenue to Gillespie Street to Rodman Avenue. Davenport gate operations will be conducted as normal 2-5 p.m. Signage will be placed for safety and to direct traffic.

Rodman Avenue Closures in Support of ACS Join the Fight March

USAG Rock Island Arsenal's Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program will be holding a Join the Fight March in awareness of Domestic Violence on **Tuesday, Oct. 5** beginning at 11 a.m. RIA PD will be blocking traffic along Rodman Avenue during the march. The route will begin at the Exchange and end in front of the ACS Building 110. This will be a rolling blockade so that the entire road will not have to be blocked off at the same time. All portions of Rodman Avenue are expected to be open no later than 11:30 a.m.

Closure of Parking Lot OK (July 6 to Dec. 30)

Parking Lot OK (Vicinity Building 56 and 68) will be closed from **July 6 to Dec. 30** for temporary use as a contractor staging area for the upcoming Building 68 construction project. Signage, fencing and barricades will be place for safety and to direct traffic.

Closure of Parking Lot 2C (Adjacent to Building 227)

Parking Lot 2C adjacent to Building 227 closed June 2. The closure is to accommodate asbestos remediation, establishment of a clear zone and the staging of equipment and supplies for the demolition of Building 227. Parking lot 2C is anticipated to remain closed until the building demolition is complete O/A **December 2021**.

Closure of Parking Lot 2C (Building 227)

Parking Lot 2C closed June 2. The closure is to accommodate asbestos remediation, establishment of a clear zone and the staging of equipment and supplies for the demolition of Building 227. Parking lot 2C is anticipated to remain closed until the building demolition is complete O/A **December 2021**.



Building/Space Closures



Planned Water Outage: Buildings 60, 61 and 62 (Oct. 4)

On **Monday, Oct. 4**, DPW will conduct a water outage to Buildings 60, 61, and 62 in order to replace two damaged service valves. Water service will be unavailable during the replacement. DPW will provide two portable toilets on the north side of Building 61 for use and bottled water upon request of the tenant agencies. Water service will be restored on **Tuesday, Oct. 5**. However,

these buildings will be under a boil order and water will be non-potable until satisfactory lab results are received. The affected areas will be posted. When satisfactory lab results are received, the boil order will be lifted. A notification will go out at the time and the Boil Order Lifted signs will be posted.



Deadlines Set for All Service Members' Vaccinations against COVID

Last week, the Army, Navy and Air Force finalized their deadlines for all service members in the active duty forces, Reserves and National Guard to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The final service announcement Sept. 14 from the Army follows an Aug. 24 order from Department of Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin, III, that all uniformed personnel be mandated to receive the shot. The FDA-approved COMIRNATY (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) and the FDA-authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) have the same formulation and can be used interchangeably to provide the COVID-19 vaccination series.

- The Army deadline for all active duty service members is **Dec. 15**.
- The Navy deadline is **Nov. 28** for active duty sailors and marines, while the reservists date is **Dec. 28**.
- The deadline for the Air Force is **Nov. 2** for active duty airmen and **Dec. 2** for reserves and the Air National Guard.

The services are each handling their own logistics for vaccinations. (More:

<https://health.mil/News/Articles/2021/09/20/Deadlines-set-for-all-service-members-vaccinations-against-COVID>)

DoD: Best Time to Take Military Spouse Survey is Now

Back in July, the Defense Department released the Active Duty Spouse Survey — something it does every two years. In the past, the survey was available by invitation only to a select few military spouses. But not this year. Through late October, all spouses of active-duty military members — more than 600,000 of them — can visit the OPA Survey Portal and tell the Pentagon what they think about being 'married to the military.' The results of the survey will be used to give Pentagon decision-makers a better idea about how they can adjust family policy and programs in the coming years — especially in relation to military benefits, financial stability, spouse employment, child care, and the overall health and well-being of spouses, children and families. (More:

www.defense.gov/News/Feature-Stories/Story/Article/2779803)

Changes to Army's Retention Program Slated To Begin Soon

Three changes to the Army's retention program are scheduled to take effect Oct. 1, as the Army looks to simplify aspects of the reenlistment process and give Soldiers more flexibility before their expiration term of service date. A modification to the Career Status Program, formerly known as the Indefinite Reenlistment Program, an adjustment to the Reenlistment Opportunity Window, or ROW, and to one of the extensions will all take effect starting fiscal year 2022, said Sgt. Maj. Tobey J. Whitney, the Army's senior career counselor. "These changes are being made with the

intent of increasing predictability for Soldiers and their families while also reducing turbulence within Army organizations," Whitney said. (More: www.army.mil/article/250557)

Garrison to Host 'Meet Your Neighbor' Town Hall for Arsenal Army Housing Residents

US Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal will hold a "Meet Your Neighbor" Army Family Housing Town Hall on **Thursday, Oct. 7**, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Memorial Park Pavilion on RIA (alternate site is Heritage Hall if extreme weather impacts event; residents will be notified). The Town Hall is for all residents of RIA Army Family Housing and their Families (Deer Crossing, Eagle Point, East Circle and Historic District). The RIA Senior Commander and Command Sergeant Major, and the Garrison Command Team are excited to meet the AFH residents and introduce them to Garrison leadership to discuss resources, services, and activities available to all AFH residents. Additionally, food and beverages will be available for residents to include numerous fun activities for all ages, as well as important information that will be made available through tables and booths.



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>

There are no announcements at this time.

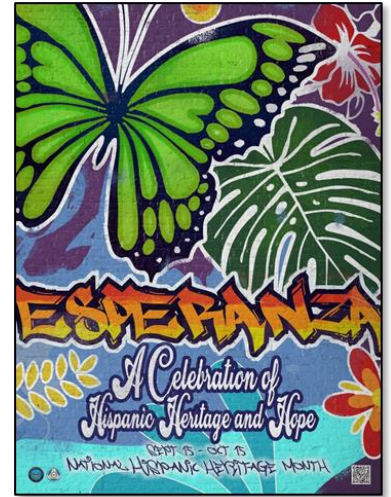
Equal Employment Opportunity Focus



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.

National Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from **Sept. 15 to Oct. 15**. During this celebration, the Army commemorates and celebrates the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the nation, society, and culture. The theme for the 2021 Hispanic Heritage Month is **Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope**. The observance begins Sept. 15 with the anniversaries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and, Nicaragua. This month also encompasses Mexico's Independence Day on Sept. 16, the Independence Day of Chile on Sept. 18 and Spain's "National Day" on Oct. 12. The Army understands the value and strength that an all-inclusive, diverse environment generates. To sustain a high-quality force that is trained and ready, the Army will continue to ensure that all Soldiers and civilians are given the opportunity to maximize their talents and potential and are treated with dignity and respect. Through coordinated efforts throughout the Army, this observance will be used to inform Army audiences and celebrate the contributions of Hispanic Soldiers, civilians, and their families. ([DoD Celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month](#)) ([Hispanics in the U.S. Army](#))



DOD Marks 10-Year Anniversary of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Repeal

Today marks the 10-year anniversary of the "don't ask, don't tell" repeal, which ended the 17-year military personnel policy enforced by the Defense Department and the military services. Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III, in a statement today, said: "The 10th anniversary today of the repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell' reminds us that when we strive for greater inclusivity, we help strengthen our nation's defenses. By insisting on standards of merit and allowing to serve in uniform all those who are qualified, we avail ourselves of more talent, better leaders and innovative solutions to the security challenges we face around the world. (More: www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2782167)

Morale, Welfare & Recreation



C 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.

Trunks Needed

MWR and CYS will be hosting the annual Trunk or Treat on **Thursday, Oct. 28**, 4-5:30 p.m. We are looking for individuals, groups or organizations to host a trunk at the event. Please call 309-782-0791 for more information or to sign up to host a trunk.

Rocktoberfest

2021 Rocktoberfest steins have arrived and supplies are limited so don't miss your chance to own one of these cool, custom beer steins. The mugs will be \$25, which will include the mug, first beverage at the Rocktoberfest and \$1 discount using the mug for beer purchases during "opening hour prices" until next year's Rocktoberfest. Purchase yours at the Lock and Dam Lounge any Wednesday or Thursday starting at 3 p.m. or at the Island Oasis, Monday-Friday 11-1 p.m. while supplies last. With your stein secured you'll just need to dig your lederhosen or dirndl out of the closet and you'll be all set for Rocktoberfest 2021 at the Lock & Dam Lounge on **Friday, Oct. 15**, starting at 3 p.m. This family friendly annual Arsenal tradition will feature fun for all members of the family. Live music by local favorite bands, Guttenberg German Band & Cody Road, and of course lots of good German style food and beer. Additional details to follow. With the new mugs available and preparing for Rocktoberfest we would like to clear out all of the 2019 mugs. Please plan to stop by and collect your 2019 mug no later than **Thursday, Sept. 16**. You can pick up your old mug during normal business hours on Wednesday and Thursday's from 3-7 p.m. Call 309-782-6319 for more information.

Workforce Wednesday and Thirsty Thursday at the Lock & Dam Lounge

Join us at the Lock & Dam Lounge for Workforce Wednesday and Thirsty Thursday specials from 4-6 p.m. Specials include \$5 craft beers, \$2.50 domestics and \$1 sodas. The Lounge opens at 3 p.m. Stick around for dinner too, we'll be serving up burgers, grilled pork tenderloins, pizza, wings and more. Come check out our new outdoor seating space. Located right outside the Lock & Dam doors. While you are here challenge your friends to a friendly game of bags. We also offer carry out service as well. If you're in a hurry to get home but don't want to cook, let us take care of dinner tonight. Please call 309-782-6319 for more information on the Lock & Dam Lounge.

Company Kitchen Temporary Closure

All three Company Kitchen café locations in buildings 60, 212 and 350 temporarily closed on May 1; a monthly evaluation is ongoing – at this time the lower RIA daily on-island workforce population continues to have Company Kitchen in a holding pattern before consideration of reinstating services. Company Kitchen has been committed to providing limited services to the Arsenal workforce during the pandemic. Continuing service under the existing conditions isn't feasible. 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 when a larger workforce population facilitates it. The Island Oasis is located at the Fitness Center (Building 67) and 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.

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. Contact the office at 309-782-5890. (email: anna.winters@us.army.mil) (website: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/leisure-travel-office>)

MWR Flea Market

MWR is planning a Flea Market at the Rock Island Arsenal for vendors to sell just about anything, aside from non-approved items. The Flea Market will be held **Saturday, Sept. 25**, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Memorial Field Pavilion parking lot. Patrons/vendors may pull in with their vehicle to unload their items and may also bring a 10x10 pop up tent if they wish. Cost to be a vendor is \$10 for a 10x10 spot, which includes a 6 ft. table and chair. Additional tables may be requested for \$5 each and additional chairs are \$1 each. Please contact us by 3 p.m. on **Thursday, Sept. 23** to reserve your spot. For more information or to sign up as a vendor, please contact Anna Winters with Leisure Travel at 309-782-5890.

Quarters One, Paranormal Investigation

Did you know that when it was still used as housing, Rock Island Arsenal's Quarters One was the second largest residence in the Federal inventory, second only to the White House? Join us **Oct. 29 and 30** as we partner with the Illinois Paranormal Research Team to explore the haunted history of this massive Italianate style mansion on the banks of the Mississippi River. The doors open at 5 p.m., the Army Sustainment Command Historian will present some historical info and facts beginning at 6 p.m. and the Illinois Paranormal Research Team will begin their investigation at 7 p.m. The cost is \$25/person and participants must be at least 18-years-old to attend. Face masks, social distancing and Arsenal visitor's passes (if needed) are required. Please RSVP and prepay at the Leisure Travel Office in Building 333 or call 309-782-5890 for more information.

Kids Cosplay

Does your children have a favorite movie, book or game character? Do they like to dress up? MWR is hosting their inaugural Kids Cosplay. Bring your child dressed up as their favorite character and have some fun. Several children activities will be offered and there will be several "meet a character" areas. This event will be held in Heritage Hall, Building 60, on **Saturday, Nov. 6**. There will be two separate time slots – 10 a.m. – noon or 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Cost to attend is \$10 per child; 30 spots are available for each time slot; face masks are required. For more information contact the Leisure Travel Office 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 CYS programs/facilities will be closed all federal holidays, CYS 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)

There are no announcements at this time.

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 Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and Wednesdays from 12-4:30 p.m.

Active Duty Out Processing Levy Brief

Out Processing Levy Brief schedule - this briefing is designed to provide you with access to the information and resources you need to complete your permanent change of station move. Service members that are put on assignment will sign up for the next available briefing. Spouses are encouraged to attend with or without their sponsor and should bring a power of attorney in case specifics need be discussed or coordinated. Upcoming Levy Brief dates:

- Tuesday, Oct. 26
- Wednesday, Jan. 19
- Wednesday, April 20
- Wednesday, July 20

Delivered through MS Teams, 9:30 a.m. – noon; to register call MPD at 309-782-1526.

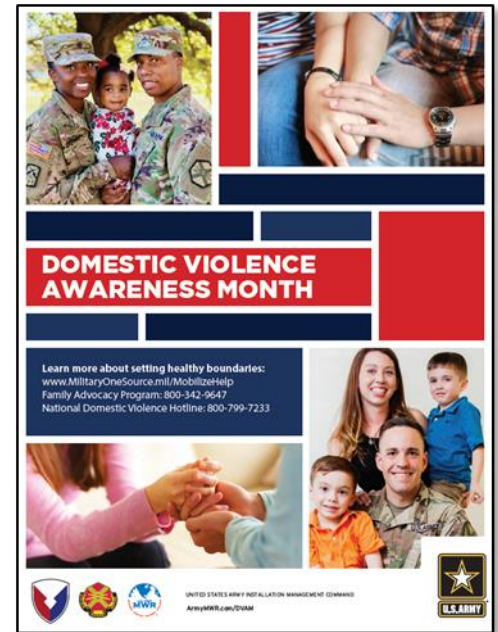
Domestic Violence Support Group Offered Twice Weekly

R.S.V.P. with the Domestic Violence Advocate at: crystal.l.bartholomew2.ctr@mail.mil or 309-782-3773.

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. 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 -Taking Action -To= Create Social Change!



Domestic Violence Awareness Month at ACS

Join us throughout the month of October to bring awareness to the issue of domestic abuse. ACS will be offering many ways to get involved and help us make a difference: **Oct. 1 and 18:** Join us from 11 a.m. – noon in the ACS training room Building 110 to learn how to support the ones we love, with "Family and Friends Guide to Help Someone in an Abusive Relationship." **Oct. 5:** We will be having our Island wide March for awareness beginning at 11 a.m. with opening remarks at the Exchange and ending remarks in front of Building 110 to conclude our march down Rodman Avenue. If you are unable to begin the march with us at the Exchange please join us as we pass your building to show your support. We are planning on having an open house afterwards with light snacks so you can get to know the ACS office and our staff. If COVID-19 restrictions impact the number of people allowed to convene indoors we will move the open house to Memorial Park. **Oct. 14:** Legal advocates from our community partners at Family Resources will be offering a zoom training at 1 p.m. discussing the difference between a civil and criminal order of protection and some of the differences between the laws in Iowa and Illinois. Please R.S.V.P to Crystal Bartholomew at 309-782-3773 or crystal.l.bartholomew2.ctr@mail.mil. We will be having a coloring contest and dress your pet in purple contest for the kids. Coloring pages can be found in the ACS office or in our hallway display in Building 110 and you can begin to submit your pictures on the ACS Facebook page beginning **Oct. 11** and the winner(s) will be announced on **Oct. 22**. We will also be having the Paint the Island Purple contest this year. Submit pictures of your workspace decked out in purple to the ACS Facebook page beginning **Oct. 8** with the announcement of the winner(s) on **Oct. 29**. Please watch the ACS Facebook page throughout the month for helpful information surrounding domestic violence. If you would like more information on strengthening healthy relationships, or feel unsafe in your current relationship, contact Crystal Bartholomew,

Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate at crystal.l.bartholomew2.ctr@mail.mil or by phone at: 309-782-3773.

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. (email: robert.l.lampert.naf@mail.mil), Website: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/outdoor-recreation>



There are no announcements at this time.

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.



There are no announcements at this time.

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. 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>

2021 Rock Island Arsenal AUSA Scholarship Submission Deadline is Sept. 30

The Rock Island Arsenal Chapter of the Association of the United States Army in coordination with community partners is offering the following scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year. Below is information on how to apply.

- Race Director Joe Moreno/Freedom Run Scholarships - two \$1,000
- AM General Scholarship - \$1,000
- Russell Construction Scholarship - \$1,000
- Phillips Corporation, Federal Division Scholarship - \$1,000 (Open to Trades/Manufacturing-related education)
- Rock Island Arsenal Federal Credit Union Scholarship - \$500
- A-1 Morris Heating and Cooling Scholarship - \$500

Applicants may be awarded only one of the above scholarships. Only one scholarship application is required. If an applicant wishes to apply for the Phillips Corporation, Federal Division, \$1,000 scholarship, they must provide verification of enrollment in trades/manufacturing education. The scholarship deadline is **Thursday, Sept. 30**; all applications must be postmarked by that date.

Notification of award will be the last week in October. Application requirements:

- Applicants must be a member of AUSA's Rock Island Arsenal Chapter prior to the scholarship application submission. Join by [visiting here](#).
- Applicants must have a 2.5 or greater cumulative grade point average, or equivalent, on a 4-point scale, and be accepted by or enrolled as a part-time or full-time student in an accredited education institution, trade certification, or apprenticeship program at the time the scholarship is awarded.
- In addition to the application, the packet must include:
 - A college OR high school transcript or GED transcript.
 - A resume with the following headings in order including dates and position(s) held:
 - a) Work History
 - b) Extracurricular Activities
 - c) Honors and Awards,
 - d) Community Activities
- An essay of 500 words maximum discussing:
 - a) Your future career goals

- b) How you see the Rock Island Arsenal or America's Army playing a vital role in our community or nation (choose one)
- c) How would you describe yourself to help the committee get to know you?
- The completed application and all information above must be postmarked no later than September 30, 2021, and mailed to: Rock Island Arsenal Chapter of AUSA, P.O. Box 3276, Rock Island, IL 61201.

For a copy of the application see our website at www.ausa.org/chapters/rock-island-arsenal-chapter



Rock Island Commissary information is located at: www.commissaries.com/shopping/store-locations/rock-island-arsenal; Rock Island Exchange information is located at: www.shopmyexchange.com/company/storeDetails.jsp?storeId=1074020.

Feds Feed Families: Commissaries lead DOD's record-breaking donation effort to food banks nationwide

The federal government's annual Feds Feed Families campaign has ended with just over 7.5 million pounds of food being donated to food banks across the nation. The campaign was conducted June 1 through Aug. 31 this year for federal workers, and commissary customers and Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) employees who wanted to donate to local food banks and pantries. (More: www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/feds-feed-families-commissaries-lead-dods-record-breaking)

Military Families Can Stream New Release 'My Little Pony: A New Generation' Free Through the Army & Air Force Exchange Service

For the first time, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service has partnered with Netflix and Hasbro to bring a new-release movie straight to military families' homes—for free. The Netflix-exclusive "My Little Pony: A New Generation" can be streamed from the Exchange's community Hub at ShopMyExchange.com/XKids. Streaming of the new release starts at 12 a.m. on Sept. 25, and the movie is available for 48 hours. (More: <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/ExchangePost/2021/09/16/military-families-can-stream-new-release-my-little-pony-a-new-generation-free-through-the-army-air-force-exchange-service>)

Military Shoppers Can Win Their Share of \$35,000 in MILITARY STAR Home for the Holidays Sweepstakes

MILITARY STAR® is looking to give 10 military shoppers on the "nice" list an extra holiday surprise – the gift of cash. From Sept. 24 through Oct. 21, shoppers who use their MILITARY STAR card twice at any military exchange and twice at any commissary will automatically be entered in the Home for the Holidays sweepstakes. Five grand-prize winners—one each from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard—will receive \$5,000. Five second-place winners, also one from each branch of service, will receive \$2,000. (More: <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/ExchangePost/2021/09/20/military-shoppers-can-win-their-share-of-35000-in-military-star-home-for-the-holidays-sweepstakes>)

Arsenal Archive



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](https://www.facebook.com/RIAMuseum) 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



The Rock Island Arsenal transitioned from Health Protection Condition Alpha (HPCON A) to HPCON Bravo Plus (HPCON B+) effective Aug. 23. The decision to transition to HPCON B+ was made based on guidance outlined in the [Secretary of Defense memorandum dated April 29, 2021](#), which takes into consideration increasing case rates and community transmission levels in and around the Quad Cities. Implemented measures under HPCON B+ includes enforcing social distancing in all gathering places, to include reduced gathering sizes to 40 percent normal capacity. Additionally, RIA is maintaining the current DoD indoor mask mandate applicable to the workforce, visitors, and contractors, for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, per the DoD memorandum dated July 28, 2021 – "[Updated Mask Guidance for all DoD Installations and Other Facilities](#)," stating installations must reinstitute mandatory use of masks indoors in geographic areas of **substantial** and **high** community spread of the COVID-19 virus as defined and publically identified by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

COVID-19 Can Lead To Long-Term Health Concerns

Debra Lamb has a message for anyone who believes the coronavirus is a hoax. Lamb, a 30-year civil service veteran and a Directorate of Public Works (DPW) housing manager, contracted the COVID-19 virus late in 2020 and experienced a harrowing ordeal before partially recovering months later. Even now, she uses a heart defibrillator and goes about her daily life at a slower pace than she did a year ago. "This virus is very real," she said. "People should continue to take precautions and do what's necessary to safeguard their health." (More: www.army.mil/article/250425)

Notes for Veterans



VA Makes Strides to Provide Practical Resources for Transitioning Service Members

The Department of Veterans Affairs wants to ensure service members exiting the military have appropriate resources needed to transition back into civilian life. To improve the experience and outcomes of service members transitioning, VA has new initiatives, partnerships and training opportunities. Launched this September, the Veteran Sponsor Partnership Network enables regional, non-monetary partnerships with community organizations to help transitioning service members and their families access VA services and community resources such as employment opportunities, education benefits and housing assistance. (More:

www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5718)

Quad Cities Vet Center

Has anyone heard of a vet center? Approximately 75% of all veterans have never heard of the Vet Center. All services are 100% free and confidential. The goal of a Vet Center is to provide counseling, outreach and referral services, to help veterans make a post-war adjustment to civilian life. All services are free and include:

- Counseling:
 - Individual
 - Group
 - Marital & family
 - Bereavement
 - Drug & alcohol
 - Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
- Employment guidance
- Liaison with the VA
- Benefits assistance
- Outreach in urban and rural communities
- Coffee and a safe place to talk
- Counselors with combat experience
- Flexible hours and walk-ins are welcome

All service branches including Reservists and National Guard members who served on active duty in a combat zone and have been discharged under honorable or general conditions are eligible.

Parents, spouses, and children of armed forces (Reservists and Guardsmen) personnel who died in the service of their country are welcome. Upcoming local community events include:

- Sept. 26: Quad Cities Illinois Out of the Darkness Walk: Beacon Harbor Pkwy, East Moline
- Sept. 26: Quad Cities Iowa Out of the Darkness Walk: Veterans Memorial Park, Bettendorf

The Quad Cities Vet Center is located at 465 42nd Ave. (Avenue of the Cities), Suite 140, East Moline, IL 61244; and can be reached at 309-755-3260.

Quad Cities Regional Services for Veterans Project

The Quad Cities Regional Services for Veterans Project will take place on **Friday and Saturday, Oct. 22 and 23** at the Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, in the Iowa Room, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. This event

is the most comprehensive veteran services event in the region. It is a collaboration between the Quad Cities Community Veterans Engagement Board, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, state, county, and local organizations, and the community. Register for preferred day at <https://quadcitiesrsvp.eventbrite.com>. If you're wanting to file a new claim, bring your DD214 and any medical evidence supporting the claim. For help with existing claims, bring the VA Claim Form 526 or the claim number. (Flyer) More: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/quad-cities-regional-services-for-veterans-project-qc-rsvp-tickets-164038967969>

Scott County/Home Base Iowa Partner to Serve Veterans

Veterans who put their boots – and roots – in Scott County now may be eligible for up to \$8,250 in relocation incentives thanks to a new partnership between Scott County and Home Base Iowa (HBI). Scott County has been designated as a Home Base Iowa Community, joining more than 100 other Iowa communities in the statewide network. The designation, which covers the entire county, involves several Quad Cities partners including Scott County, the City of Davenport, the Quad Cities Chamber and area employers. "It's an outstanding accomplishment having Scott County join other HBI communities across Iowa supporting veterans and their families," said HBI Program Manager Jathan Chicoine. "It's an important milestone in helping us onboard all 99 Iowa counties by Veterans Day of 2021." To honor veterans and transitioning military and to encourage them to relocate here, the Scott County Board of Supervisors and Davenport City Council have invested \$25,000 each to fund an incentive program. (More: <https://quadcitieschamber.com/news/blog/scott-county-home-base-iowa-partner-to-recruit-veterans>)



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.

24th Annual QC Marathon Needs You

Volunteer for the 24th Annual QC Marathon on **Sunday, Sept. 26**. The QC Marathon is a Boston Marathon qualifying race and is a great event for the whole community. The race starts and end in downtown Moline and more than 8 miles of the race is run on the historic Rock Island Arsenal. This large event is only possible with the help of volunteers. Individuals and groups of volunteers are need for aid stations along the course. Contact Morgan Meseke at 563-340-9683 or email at morganmeseke@gmail.com to volunteer.

Island Insight



Col. Todd J. Allison, Garrison Commander; Mark Kane, Public Affairs Officer and 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.

