



**Oct. 6, 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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## Arsenal Conducts Domestic Violence Awareness March

Rock Island Arsenal Army Community Service Domestic Violence Advocacy held their annual Domestic Violence Awareness March on Oct. 5 during the lunch hour that started at the Exchange and concluded at the steps of



ACS at the southeast corner of Building 110. During the march the crowd chanted, "It's never ok. It's never alright. Raise your voice and join the fight!" Col. Todd Allison, Garrison Commander, US Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal, and Command Sgt. Maj. John Dobbins, Command Sergeant Major, US Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal, helped to lead the march and the signing of this year's proclamation, as well as signing the rock for the DVAM observance. Crystal Bartholomew, domestic violence advocate, RIA Army Community Service, lead the coordination efforts for this year's event. "I want to thank everyone who joined us for being willing to take time out of their day and show their support," said Bartholomew. "Every person who was in attendance was telling victims and survivors that there are those who care and we will be there for you, and we will

## Upcoming Dates

**Sept. 1-Jan. 15:** 2021 Combined Federal Campaign, pledge through the CFC for your designated charity today!

**Sept. 15 – Oct. 15:** Hispanic Heritage Month

**October:** National Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

**October:** National Disability Employment Awareness Month

**October:** Energy Action Month

**October:** National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

**Oct. 11:** Columbus Day (*Federal Holiday*)

**Oct. 11-16:** National Drug-Free Work Week

**Oct. 11-22:** ACS DVAM Coloring Contest and Dress Your Pet in Purple Contests

**Oct. 13:** U.S. Navy 246th Birthday

**Oct. 13:** Workforce Wednesday, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Thirsty Thursday, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3 p.m.

**Oct. 15:** Paint the Island Purple Photo Submission to ACS

**Oct. 15:** ImpactLife Blood Drive, donor bus in Commissary parking lot, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Oct. 15:** Rocktoberfest, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3 p.m.

**Oct. 16:** Boss's Day

**Oct. 16:** Army Psychological Operations 15th Birthday

**Oct. 18:** Family and Friends Guide to Help Someone in an Abusive Relationship, ACS Bldg. 110, 11 a.m.

continue to show the world abuse is not acceptable." (More: [www.army.mil/article/251049](http://www.army.mil/article/251049))

### **RIA Factory Wraps Ambulance Program**

In 2009, the Army National Guard identified a capability gap in their ambulances, demonstrating a need for upgrades. An order was placed for 500 military ambulances, exclusively for the National Guard, to Rock Island Arsenal – Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (RIA-JMTC). “Bottom line, you need (the ambulance) for (the Warfighter), because they’re bringing our brothers, sisters and kids home, so they need it to work,” said David Reed, assembly supervisor for the ambulance program at RIA-JMTC. “The fact that it is an ambulance: it’s almost just as important as the rifle they carry, in my mind.” Five prototypes were built in 2011 with full-rate production starting in 2013. As production continued, it expanded to include supplying the active duty and Reserve components, increasing the number of units required. (More: [www.army.mil/article/250796](http://www.army.mil/article/250796))



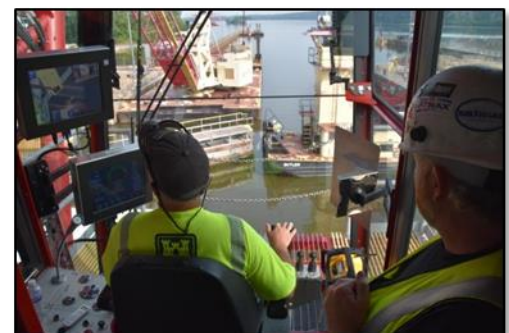
### **JMC Honors Retirees at Quarterly Ceremony, Salutes 175 Years of Combined Service**

U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command celebrated the dedication and achievements of five retiring members of the Army team in a send-off Sept. 30. Brig. Gen. Gavin Gardner, JMC commanding general, lauded the loyal and committed service of four Department of the Army Civilians and one Soldier gathered with their families at the quarterly Rock Island Arsenal Retirement and Retreat Ceremony. “Retirement ceremonies are a long-standing tradition, and they’re important,” Gardner said. “They provide an opportunity to talk about the selfless service and sacrifices of our retirees for their long and honorable service to our nation. It’s a testament of their faithful execution to their duties to their Army, to their nation, and these five distinguished retirees have accomplished so much. The honorees had served an average of 35 years apiece. Two, Tony Livingston and Vicki Barbour of JMC, served more than 40 years, starting in 1980. (More: [www.army.mil/article/250890](http://www.army.mil/article/250890))



### **Building a Positive Lock and Dam Repair Reputation**

When the Rock Island District acquired its newest heavy-lift crane, the Quad Cities, a little more than two years ago, the Mississippi River Project Structures Maintenance crew knew it would be lifting a large workload in the District and beyond. Since its arrival, the crane and its crew have performed at least 25 lifts including several this past July in the St. Paul District at Lock and Dam 2 in Hastings, Minnesota, where the original miter gates from the 1940s needed to be replaced. Over the past 80 years, miter gates like the ones at Lock and Dam 2 have endured an extensive amount of wear and tear, leading to serviceability and safety issues. Installation of new gates will increase navigational longevity and operational readiness in support of the economically significant navigation infrastructure. From the surface, miter gates might not appear to be a “heavy-lift” but below the water line lies a massive metal structure which can only be removed by a large-scale crane like the Quad Cities. (More: [www.dvidshub.net/news/406664](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/406664))





## New ASC Display Honors Its Civilian Employees with 40-Plus Years of Federal Service

A new display on the first floor of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command headquarters honors ASC civilian employees who have 40 years or more of federal service. In an informal ceremony held Sept. 24, Maj. Gen. Chris Mohan, ASC commanding general, unveiled the new display located on the north end of the first floor hallway. Currently, it shows 27 ASC civilian employees with a combined federal work experience of 1,125 years. “As I came into the command, one of the things I recognized early on is the very great depth of experience we have within our civilian teammates,” Mohan said. Some of the employees have military experience as part of their federal service, while others have worked as a federal civilian their entire tenure. (More: [www.army.mil/article/250814](http://www.army.mil/article/250814))



## Historic House on RIA Vacant of Living Residents, Yet Seemingly Home to Spirits

I am, by nature, a skeptic. I have never been one of those people who are overly sensitive, and I don't let emotion cloud my judgment. I am a “just the facts, ma'am” kind of gal who believes the proof is in the pudding. So, when I was asked to write about the upcoming paranormal event being hosted here this upcoming Halloween weekend, I chuckled and said, “Why not?” It's not like anything was going to happen at 10 a.m. on a Friday morning ... or ever, for that matter. Let's get serious -- ghosts aren't real. I arrived at historic Quarters One, built over a time span from 1870-1872, and met up with Anna Winters, the “gatekeeper” of the massive former residence who works for Morale, Welfare and Recreation. The home no longer serves as a residence, but is available for rentals for receptions, promotions and other events. (More: [www.army.mil/article/250789](http://www.army.mil/article/250789))



## Army-Navy Game Had Different Feeling after 9/11

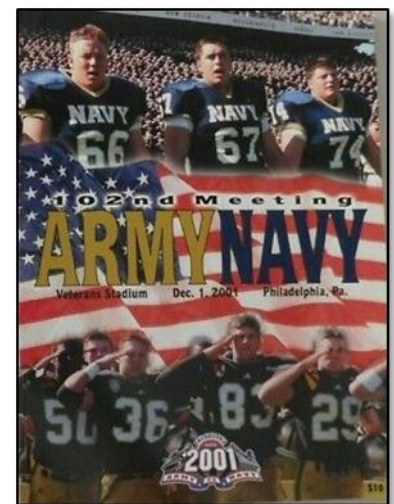
Every year since 1930, one of America's most beloved rivalries has played out on the gridiron. The Army vs. Navy game is known for its (mostly) tongue-in-cheek antics: the “prisoner” exchange; the disparaging T-shirts and memes; the Sports Center interviews where the branches toss humorous insults at one another:

*“I tried to change my password to “Navy” but Gmail said it was TOO WEAK.”*

*“Army waits a half hour after eating to swim.”*

*“Let's play Navy ... said no kid ever.”*

This year the Army-Navy game – routinely watched by some 8 million Americans the second Saturday of December – will be played in New Jersey's MetLife Stadium, just 11 miles from the World Trade Center. During the 20th anniversary year of the 9/11 terror attacks, the game is sure to have some added significance. Here on Rock Island Arsenal, we're already planning for a “friendly” football game between the Soldiers and Sailors who call this island home. Deed 6 – a proud West Point graduate – keeps hinting he'd like to get in for a play or two. (More: [www.army.mil/article/250837](http://www.army.mil/article/250837))



## Setting Priorities on Our People

When it comes to delivering value to the nation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers views safety, efficiency and accuracy as key elements in the process. Command Sgt. Maj. Patrickson Toussaint, 14th Command Sergeant Major to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is a major proponent of this theory and spends his days connecting with the workforce to identify gaps and develop solutions. When Toussaint visited the Rock Island District earlier this year, his focus was on getting away from the District headquarters and meeting with the employees who work in the field. His primary role as Command Sergeant Major is to support the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon, by keeping him informed of employee concerns and challenges associated with their job duties. Toussaint took his time and visited multiple locations around the District including lock and dam sites, river project offices and lake projects. He spoke with as many employees as he could during his week-long visit. (More: [www.dvidshub.net/news/406645](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/406645))



## ASC Rolls Out New Civilian Fitness and Health Promotion Program with Holistic Approach

It's never too late to get in better shape! The U.S. Army Sustainment Command's new and improved Army Civilian Fitness and Health Promotion Program aims at helping ASC's workforce achieve such goal, with a new and integrated holistic approach to well-being. Following updated Army guidance issued in July, ASC made some improvements to the existing CFHPP to provide additional health and fitness opportunities to its workforce across a wide array of areas. "This is such a step forward," said Linda Ottman, program specialist for health, wellness and resilience at ASC. The new CFHPP policy, signed on July 12 by Maj. Gen. Chris Mohan, ASC commanding general, was distributed to the entire ASC footprint with the goal of enhancing the health, fitness, and quality of life for all ASC civilians, while increasing mission productivity and organizational wellness. (More: [www.dvidshub.net/news/407032](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/407032))



## Mandatory Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination of DoD Civilian Employees

To defend the Nation and protect the American people, we need a healthy and ready Total Force. To accomplish this, the Secretary of Defense directed the mandatory vaccination of Service members against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) by signing the memorandum, "Mandatory Corona virus Disease 2019 Vaccination of Department of Defense Service Members," on August 24, 2021. On September 9, 2021, the President of the United States directed Executive Branch agencies to implement a COVID-19 vaccination requirement for Federal employees to ensure the health and safety of the Federal workforce and members of the public with whom they interact by signing Executive Order 14043, "Requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination for Federal Employees." All DoD civilian employees must be fully vaccinated by November 22, 2021, subject to exemptions as required by law. Employees are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after completing the second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine or 2 weeks after receiving a single dose of a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine. (More: [www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2799045](http://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/2799045))





## Army and Industry Leaders to Discuss Climate Change Impacts during AUSA Annual Meeting

Leaders from across the U.S. Army and defense industry will discuss critical threats to Army readiness poised by climate change and extreme weather threats during a Contemporary Military Forum at this year's Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The discussion will not only include how these threats impact the Army's strategic readiness and sustainability, but also what the Army will do to adapt to and mitigate climate threats. Experts have said that climate change is reshaping theaters of operation, destabilizing fragile states, increasing natural disasters, interrupting supply chains, and damaging infrastructure. Adapting to, and mitigating climate change, is imperative as the Army transforms. (More: [www.army.mil/article/250905](http://www.army.mil/article/250905))



## Debt Ceiling Deadline Just Ahead: Impact of Default on Federal Workplace Is Unknown

While the potential effect on the economy is the main concern should political leaders fail to suspend or raise the federal debt ceiling, the impact on government operations is another consideration; both are unexplored territory although studies have suggested that unlike in a funding lapse, there would not necessarily be a partial government shutdown. The Treasury Department has projected that the current ceiling will be hit October 18, when the leeway provided by financial maneuvers that have been used in recent months will have been used up. However, pressure is building to head off a potential default on the national debt well before that date, given the negative impact already being seen in the financial markets. (More: [www.fedweek.com/fedweek/debt-ceiling-deadline-just-ahead-impact-of-default-on-federal-workplace-is-unknown](http://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/debt-ceiling-deadline-just-ahead-impact-of-default-on-federal-workplace-is-unknown))



## Employee Groups React to Health Insurance Open Season Announcement

The Office of Personnel Management announced Wednesday that this year's Federal Employees Health Benefits Program open season period will run from Nov. 8 until Dec. 13, and that next year, federal workers will pay an average of 3.8% more toward health insurance premiums. Non-postal federal workers enrolled in "self-only" plans will pay an average of \$3.17 more in premiums per biweekly pay period, while employees in "self plus one" plans will pay \$7.61 more per pay period on average. Feds who are enrolled in family coverage will pay an average of \$10.09 more per pay period in 2022. ([www.govexec.com/pay-benefits/2021/09/employee-groups-react-health-insurance-open-season-announcement/185729](http://www.govexec.com/pay-benefits/2021/09/employee-groups-react-health-insurance-open-season-announcement/185729))



## All DoD Security Clearance Holders Are Now Subject To Continuous Vetting To Keep Them

Traditionally, the agency that bestows security clearances on government employees re-investigates those candidates on a cyclical basis, checking on their credit reports, criminal histories and so on, once every several years. But a new vetting process means the Defense Department, and employees of dozens of other government agencies, will continuously scan background check databases and have any new events sent straight to investigators. The Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency announced Tuesday that all DoD clearance holders are now part of its continuous vetting program. This means that if an employee comes under criminal investigation, or forecloses on a home, multiple agencies will ping DCSA with the news immediately. At the same time, DCSA software will automatically scan those databases for new information.

([www.federaltimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2021/10/05/all-dod-security-clearance-holders-are-now-subject-to-continuous-vetting-to-keep-them](http://www.federaltimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2021/10/05/all-dod-security-clearance-holders-are-now-subject-to-continuous-vetting-to-keep-them))



## Midwestern Combined Federal Campaign in Full Swing

The Midwestern Combined Federal Campaign is in full swing and will run through **Friday, Jan. 15.**

*"Housing is absolutely essential to human flourishing. Without stable shelter, it all falls apart."* - Matthew Desmond

During any given night in 2019 in the U.S., more than half a million people did not have a home. Of those, 65% stayed in a homeless shelter, while the remaining 35% battled the elements and slept in parks, cars, and sidewalks. The unsheltered spend most of their day searching for their next meal and sometimes go days, even weeks, without a shower or access to hygienic facilities and resources. Inadequate housing conditions can be the main causing factor in the onset of many preventable diseases and injuries, including respiratory, nervous system, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer. Here in the U.S., one in 16 children under the age of six, roughly 1.45 million, have experienced homelessness. Roughly 31% of families with children under the age of 18, are suffering or have suffered from high housing burdens, which amounts to spending more than 30% of monthly income on housing expenses. This results in difficulty to afford other necessities such as food and medical expenses. Here's how your CFC pledge can make an impact:

- \$49 Shelters a homeless child for a week.
- \$500 Covers rent or partial rent for a family dealing with a medical crisis.

"You can be the Face of Change" – make your pledge today – how?

1. Visit <https://givecfc.org>
2. Click on the <https://cfcgiving.opm.gov/welcome> > button
3. Register or Log in – select your favorite charities... and pledge

Thank you for choosing CFC as your pathway for giving to the cause you care about! CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with numerous CFC campaigns throughout the country and internationally to help to raise millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world. The CFC was started in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy and is the only authorized



solicitation of employees in the federal workplace for charitable organizations. (More: <https://midwesternefc.givecf.org>)

### 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. 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil)**

### RIA Attic Thrift Shop Hours for October

The RIA Attic Thrift Shop, NW corner of Building 60, will be open in September from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on the following days:

- **Tuesday – Oct. 12, 19 & 26**
- **Thursday – Oct. 21**
- **3rd Saturday – Oct. 16**

Call the Attic at 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.

### Military Retiree Appreciation Day Cancelled

The annual Military Retiree Appreciation Day event has been, and will continue to be, a Fort McCoy sponsored event that is coordinated by its Retirement Services Office. All Fort McCoy sponsored Retiree Appreciation Days (RADs) scheduled for the 2021 calendar year have been cancelled. The Fort McCoy RSO is planning to reestablish their RAD schedule for the 2022 calendar year however the dates/locations are not available at this time. They expect to announce the Fort McCoy sponsored RAD schedule for the 2022 calendar in the 2022 edition of the HONORS newsletter. The Fort McCoy RSO website and





link to the electronic version of the HONORS newsletter is available at:

<https://home.army.mil/mccoy/index.php/my-fort/all-services/soldier-life-retirement-services-transition-assistance-program-1>

### **Base Supply Store Closure**

The Base Supply Store will be closing for inventory **Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 12 and 13;** and will resume business on **Friday, Oct. 15.** The Base Supply Center, located at 3154 Rodman Ave., Bldg. 104, in the Basement, has normal hours Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; safety measures have been taken to make sure our employees and RIA customers are safe while they shop. Plenty of stock on all COVID-19 cleaning supplies so that RIA employees have a clean safe work environment. Manager Zole Forsythe can be reached at 309-782-1573 or email at [zforsythe@bscsource.com](mailto:zforsythe@bscsource.com).

### **RIA Deer Hunt**

The Rock Island Arsenal will be conducting a deer hunt for active duty and military veterans during the upcoming deer hunting season from **Friday, Oct. 22 through Saturday, Jan. 16.** Participants will be selected via random drawing on **Monday, Oct. 12.** In order to apply to be chosen as a participant for this season's hunt, contact the below for a copy of the program rules, permit application, and hunting zones:

George J Schaub IV  
USAG RIA Natural Resources Coordinator  
309-782-6379  
[george.j.schaub.civ@mail.mil](mailto:george.j.schaub.civ@mail.mil)

### **Energy Action Month**

October is Energy Action Month, a time to raise awareness about energy resilience, efficiency, water conservation, and drive behavior change. This year, the U.S. Army theme is "Power To Win," which reflects the critical importance of installation and operational energy and water resilience to Army readiness. The Army is improving energy resilience and security at its 156 Army installations and more than 1,000 community-based National Guard and Reserve centers. These locations provide the vital infrastructure to organize, train, equip, and deploy Army Soldiers. The Army is accounting for energy in contingency planning, acquisition requirements, and ensuring facilities can maintain operations in the face of disruption. Through diverse energy projects, investments in infrastructure and diligent energy management, Army installations become more resilient and sustainable. Army energy will continue to focus on energy resilience and security well into the future. The Army will integrate energy resilience and security measures into decision-making processes that address energy and water resilience across installations and enable Army readiness. These projects will include onsite generation, energy storage and control infrastructure to enable the direct routing of electricity to essential requirements in the event of a major power grid disruption or other power emergency. You can find more information and materials for Energy Action Month here: <https://www.asaie.army.mil/Public/ES/energyactionmonth.html>



### **Los Primos Mexican Grill Food Truck - Modification**

The Los Primos Mexican Grill Food Truck has modified its days on Arsenal Island effective immediately and will now be limited to Tuesdays and Thursdays due to short staffing and slow sales; Los Primos management apologizes for any inconvenience. During normal operations, 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. During a normal week, they are serving Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and located on Rodman Avenue in front of the Building 350 parking lot.

### **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](mailto:tomelissa.a.simatovich.civ@mail.mil) by **Friday, Oct. 1**. Thank you for your support and consideration.

### **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](mailto:usarmy.ria.usag.mbx.id-card-office@mail.mil).

### **Quad City Storm Salute to Military Night**

Join your Quad City Storm hockey team on **Saturday, Nov. 13**, versus the Evansville, Indiana Thunderbolts at the TaxSlayer Center, and as they honor our service men and women at one of the most memorable games of the year, puck drop is at 7:10 p.m. On **Wednesday, Nov. 10**, fans are invited to come Paint the Ice at the TaxSlayer Center. Red and blue paint will be provided to paint the names of friends and loved one who serve or have served our country. The names will remain on the ice for the Salute to



Military Night game on the 13th. During the game, they will honor all service men and women in attendance. You don't want to miss this one. Get your [tickets here](#) and any individual or business interested in purchasing tickets for donation to local service members can get more info by emailing [Ann](#) or [Andrew](#).

### **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](mailto:jaime.l.slocum.civ@army.mil) OPM Form 1638: [https://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf\\_fill/opm1638.pdf](https://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/opm1638.pdf)



### **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.

### **Building 351 3-Hour Parking Spot Closure for Fire Hydrant Replacement**

From **Oct. 8-15**, the Public Works IGSA Contractor (City of Rock Island) will replace Fire Hydrant #324 vicinity Building 351. During this time period, 4x "3-hour" Parking Spaces will be closed in lot 3M at the SE corner of Building 351 to allow the contractor access to the work site. The replacement timeline is weather dependent and safety barriers will be positioned at the work site.

### **Memorial Park Demolition Project**

Directorate of Public Works will begin a demolition project in Memorial Park on **Thursday, Oct. 14** in preparation for the establishment of a community dog park. Work includes the demolition of playground equipment and the basketball court. Demolition is expected to be completed by **Friday, Oct. 29**. Caution tape will be used to section off the area during demolition.

### **Government Bridge Closure**

The Government Bridge will be closed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic on **Saturday, Oct. 16**, from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m., for bridge washing and sealing. Appropriate signage will be used to warn and direct traffic during all activities.

### **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 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**.



*There are no announcements at this time.*



### **Army Senior Leaders to Offer Insights, Answer Questions in AUSA Military Family Forums**

The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-9 will host three family forums during this year's Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting & Expo. These forums demonstrate the Army's commitment to improving the quality of life for our Soldiers, Families, civilians and survivors. The first family forum, "Army Quality of Life at your Fingertips," (Oct. 11, 2:00-4:00 p.m.), will discuss of how the Army and DoD are improving Army quality of life, with an emphasis on innovation, accountability, and enhanced service delivery through digital applications. The keynote speaker for this event is Lt. Gen. Ronald J. Place, director of the Defense Health Agency. (More:

[www.army.mil/article/250966](http://www.army.mil/article/250966))



## Military Spouse Coffee Connection

Join the USO as we host a small gathering for military spouses for fall crafts, pumpkin spice treats, and great conversations on **Wednesday, Oct. 27**, at 7 p.m. to connect with each other while enjoying a cup of coffee at USO Illinois Rock Island in Building 110. This is a great way to network, share advice, discuss local events, and meet new friends. All spouses of currently-serving military members are welcome.

## 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>)



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>

## Hike Smart

Come and take a walk through one of our historic battlefields; stroll along the scenic paths; or maybe traverse through the breathtaking backcountry. Be prepared for your walk or hike, keep in mind these general safety tips in mind before starting your adventure. National parks offer a wide range of hiking trails to accommodate different hiking skills and capabilities. You won't miss out on the spectacular views, wildlife sightings, and connection with nature by choosing an easier trail for your adventure. Don't overestimate your abilities. (More: [www.nps.gov/articles/hiking-safety.htm](http://www.nps.gov/articles/hiking-safety.htm))

# Equal Employment Opportunity Focus

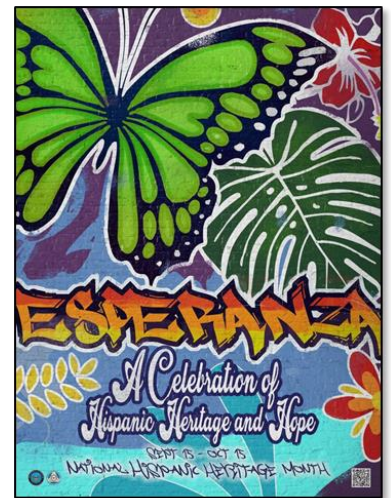


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It is the policy of the Department of Army to provide equal opportunity in employment for all people and to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age (40 and over), disability, genetic information, 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](#)) ([Presidential Proclamation](#))



## National Disability Employment Awareness Month

During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we recognize the indispensable contributions Americans with disabilities make to our Nation. The Army relies on the abilities of all to accomplish our mission. By drawing on the strengths and talents of our diverse workforce, we are better positioned to defend our Nation. The Army expresses its sincere gratitude for the many contributions and achievements of Americans with disabilities. These extremely capable Americans, including Civilian Employees, Wounded Warriors and Disabled Veterans routinely overcome significant challenges in order to serve their country and communities. The Army is committed to showing them the same level of appreciation and dedication. This



month, join us as we recommit ourselves to implementing effective practices that increase employment opportunities for Americans with disabilities and foster an inclusive work culture that welcomes the skills and talents of all. Army Strong! ([Presidential Proclamation](#))

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# 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.

## 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. Call 309-782-6319 for more information.

## Trunk or Treat, Trunks Needed – Boo on the Rock

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.

## 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.

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## MWR Leisure Travel Office



We offer substantial discounts on tickets to local attractions, concerts, amusement parks and regional bus trips to exciting destinations. Check with us first for all your entertainment needs, we can save you money. **Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 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](mailto:anna.winters@us.army.mil)) (website: <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/leisure-travel-office>)

## 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.

## Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party

Join Mickey Mouse and his friends at Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party, an adventure filled with world-class skating, high-flying acrobatics and unexpected stunts! Look for clues in the

search for Tinker Bell through immersive, fantastic worlds. Explore the colorful spirit realm of Coco, sail away with Moana as she bravely saves her island, see Belle in the sky as the enchanted chandelier comes to life, and singalong with Elsa in the icy world of Frozen. Make memories with your whole family during Aladdin, Toy Story and The Little Mermaid as the search party becomes an all-out celebration.

- **Thursday, Nov. 18** – 7 p.m.
- **Friday, Nov. 19** – 7 p.m.
- **Saturday, Nov. 20** – 7 p.m.
- **Sunday, Nov. 21** – 3 p.m.

Discounted tickets are on sale until Oct. 15; Section 107, rows 2-11, seats 5-14; \$22 per person. For more information contact the Leisure Travel Office 309-782-5890.

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## 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](http://www.facebook.com/RIACYSS))**

### **CYS Sports and Fitness Offerings**

Enjoy the early fall and winter sports and fitness opportunities through Child and Youth Services (CYS) Sports and Fitness. What better way to stay active in a safe and healthy environment. With programs for children age three all the way up to 17-years-old, there is something for all ages. Sign-ups are going on now or coming up for many programs including:

- 5-on-5 Winter Basketball Leagues (for children Kindergarten through 8th grade)  
Sign up dates **Oct. 20 – Nov. 30**; practices in late December and January, games Saturday mornings **Feb. 5 – March 12**.
- (Floor) Hockey 101 clinic w/the Quad City Storm and QC DekHockey (for children 5-10 and 11-17, and tickets to Storm Hockey Military Night Game **Nov. 13**) Sign up dates **Oct. 12 - Oct. 29**.
- Archery (for children 8-17, held indoors)  
Sign up dates **Oct. 7 - Nov. 5**
- Basketball Skills Clinic (for children 6+)  
Sign up dates Oct. 7 – Oct. 29
- "Little Hoopsters" Parent/Child Basketball (for children 3-5)  
Sign up dates **Oct. 7 - Oct. 29**
- "Little Pros" Parent/Child Golf (for children 3-5, held indoors)  
Sign up dates **Oct. 7 – Nov. 5**

Help wanted! Volunteer coaches needed within the Sports and Fitness Program especially to help with upcoming winter basketball season. Call CYS Parent Central Services at 309-782-0791 or stop

in to the office in 1st Floor, Building 110 to sign up or for more information. Each child must be registered with CYS in order to participate. Sports physicals required.

# Army Community Service



Army Community Service is an Army-wide community, social service program that provides services that assist Soldiers, Family members, and Department of the Army civilians maintain readiness, develop self-reliance, resiliency and stability. U.S. Army Installation Management Command provides these services through a network of programs that support goals related to recruitment, retention, morale, and operational readiness of the force. ACS on RIA is located in Bldg. 110, 1<sup>st</sup> floor SE; visit our ACS website <https://rockisland.armymwr.com/programs/army-community-service> or phone 309-782-0829. Call ahead for special accommodations when attending ACS classes. Find us on Facebook click here: [www.facebook.com/RIAACS](http://www.facebook.com/RIAACS). 24/7 Domestic Violence Crisis Line: **309-912-6089**. 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.

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

If it's a program or service, AFAP can improve it; if it's a policy or regulation, AFAP can change it; if it's a law, AFAP can amend it. AFAP can improve quality of life in our Army Community one issue at a time. Army Community Service is conducting an issue solicitation campaign from **Monday, Oct. 11, through Friday, Oct. 15**. This is an opportunity for the community to provide the AFAP Manger with quality of life issues they would like to see worked through the AFAP process via multiple media platforms. During the solicitation campaign submissions may be made via the ACS Facebook page [www.facebook.com/RIAACS](http://www.facebook.com/RIAACS), email at [usarmy.ria.imco-central.mbx.usag-acg@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.ria.imco-central.mbx.usag-acg@mail.mil), online at [www.armyfamilywebportal.com](http://www.armyfamilywebportal.com), or by simply calling ACS at 309-782-0829. For additional information please contact ACS. Point of contact for this article is Chassity Morse; 309-782-0816; [chassity.r.morse.civ@army.mil](mailto:chassity.r.morse.civ@army.mil).



## 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. 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](mailto: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

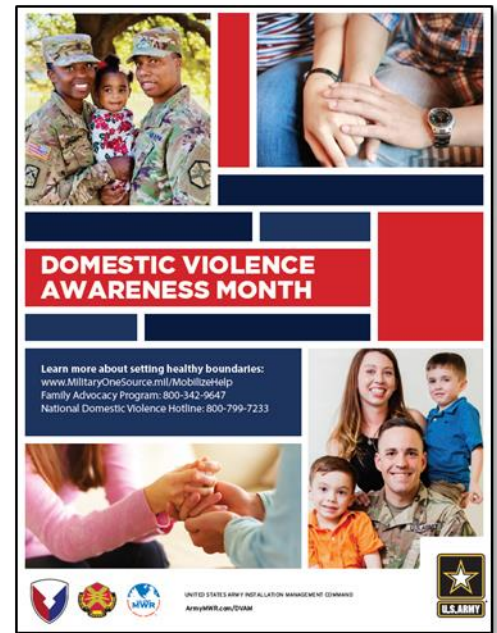


feel unsafe in your current relationship, contact Crystal Bartholomew, Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate at [crystal.l.bartholomew2.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:crystal.l.bartholomew2.ctr@mail.mil) or by phone at: 309-782-3773.

### 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!



### 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](mailto:crystal.l.bartholomew2.ctr@mail.mil) or 309-782-3773.

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# MWR Outdoor Recreation Office



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

*There are no announcements at this time.*

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# Employee Assistance Program



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

## National Drug-Free Work Week

The National Drug-Free Workplace Alliance is proud to announce the 13th annual anniversary observance of National Drug-Free Work Week, **Oct. 11-16**. This yearly public awareness campaign highlights the importance of a drug-free workplace and encourages workers with alcohol and drug problems to seek help. National Drug-Free Work Week was initiated by the U.S. Department of Labor as a cooperative agreement focused on improving safety and health in the construction industry through drug-free workplace programs. The first Drug-Free Work Week was observed in 2006, and in subsequent years, more and more organizations—representing a range of industries—also rallied behind the effort, helping firmly establish it as an annual opportunity to reinforce to employers and employees alike that “working drug free works.” Today, the National Drug-Free Workplace Alliance, a division of Drug Free America Foundation, in collaboration with stakeholders for a safe and healthy workplace, promote this annual observance. Together, we spread the message to encourage individual workplaces to take this opportunity to educate and strengthen their safe and healthy work environments—reflecting the true spirit of National Drug-Free Work Week.



## 2022 ASAP/EAP Calendar Logbooks Are Available

The Rock Island Arsenal Substance Abuse Program/Employee Assistance Program has joined the Department of Defense (DOD) in promoting Suicide Prevention Month to provide education about suicide prevention, resources, and steps everyone can take to protect one another against suicide. Each September, DOD observes Suicide Prevention Month to promote prevention resources across military communities and share ways to take simple action to be there for others and themselves. This year's Suicide Prevention Month campaign slogan is Connect to Protect: Support is Within Reach, highlighting the important role connections with family, friends, the community, and resources play in preventing suicide, especially in these unique and challenging times. Research indicates connectedness is a protective factor against some of the risk factors for suicide, such as loneliness or feeling like a burden. The slogan reinforces how everyone within reach – leaders, co-workers, service members, and families – can play a role in preventing suicide. If you know someone who is struggling, reach out and ask how they are doing. This small action can mean a lot to someone who needs someone to show they care. Your Army Substance Abuse Program/Employee Assistance Program is committed to keeping you and our community safe by providing free and confidential assessment, short-term counseling, referral and follow-up services to the RIA workforce. You can contact an EAP Counselor by calling; 309-782-4357 (HELP). If you are having thoughts of suicide, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255, provides immediate and confidential support. The lifeline is available 24 hours a day 365 days a year (English and Spanish speaking). The 2022 date log books, "Teamwork - Together We Achieve the Extraordinary," provide important contact information should you or a loved one need assistance with alcohol or drug misuse, or find yourself struggling with other life challenges like anxiety, stress, depression or relationship problems. The 2022 Date Log Books will be available from 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the ASAP/EAP office in Building 56, 1st Floor, Room 104. If you prefer to have us put your calendar log book in the on-post mail, please email Lori Griffin at [lori.j.griffin2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:lori.j.griffin2.civ@mail.mil) and include your name and office symbol. Please note: We will not be mailing the Log Books to off-post addresses.

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## Education/Training Review



**Army Continuing Education System (ACES) is the Army's method for delivering educational opportunities to Soldiers that remediate, develop, and enhance skills needed for present and future jobs. The Army Continuing Education Division (ACED) promotes lifelong learning, readiness and resilience through flexible and relevant education programs, services and systems in support of the Total Army Family. The Rock Island Army Education Center is located in Bldg. 56, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, west end of the building. Office hours: 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. Phone: 309-782-2065 Fax: 309-782-7901. Contact Mary Hansarik at [mary.p.hansarik.civ@mail.mil](mailto: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



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

## Commissaries Honor Navy's 246 Years of Service

On Oct. 13, the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) salutes the U.S. Navy on the 246th anniversary of their establishment by the Continental Congress in 1775. Throughout its history, the commissary benefit has gained the admiration and gratitude of sailors and their families, said Marine Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Saucedo, senior enlisted advisor to the DeCA director. "At DeCA we salute the Navy's 246 years of service by delivering a commissary benefit that provides valuable savings to sailors, retirees and family members," Saucedo said. "The commissary consistently ranks as one of the military's top non-pay benefits, and many of our young service families simply could not make ends meet each month without the savings provided by the commissaries." (More: [www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/happy-anniversary-commissaries-honor-navys-246-years-service](http://www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/happy-anniversary-commissaries-honor-navys-246-years-service))

## Exchange Shoppers Can Win Custom 2021 Ford Ranger RTR

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service and Monster Energy have partnered to give Exchange shoppers worldwide a chance to ride off in a custom 2021 Ford Ranger RTR. Through Nov. 30, authorized shoppers 18 and older, including honorably discharged Veterans who have confirmed their eligibility to shop at ShopMyExchange.com, can enter for a chance to win the grand prize: a custom 2021 Ford Ranger RTR, valued at \$65,000. Sixty-five runners up will each receive a BOXO tool roll valued at \$225. "The Exchange is excited to give our shoppers a chance to ride off in their dream truck," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Osby, the Exchange's senior enlisted advisor. "This sweepstakes is one way for the Exchange to honor and celebrate our deserving military community." To enter, shoppers can visit [ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes](http://ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes). No purchase is necessary to enter or win. The drawing for winners will take place on or around Dec. 3. (More: <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/ExchangePost/2021/10/05/exchange-shoppers-can-win-custom-2021-ford-ranger-rtr>)

## Trick or Treat Win a Turkey to Eat

Eligible patrons can win a turkey from your commissary; entries accepted **Oct. 1-31**.

- Commissary patrons, submit a photo of yourself, your family, or your pet in their Halloween costume on our website.
- One submission/entry per person. Entries must be submitted by **Oct. 31**.
- Winners will be announced no later than **Nov. 15**. Winners will receive one 14-16 lbs. turkey.

View complete contest rules and details at [www.commissaries.com/halloween-costume-contest](http://www.commissaries.com/halloween-costume-contest).

## **Spook-tacular Pets Can Fetch Prizes for Military Shoppers in Army & Air Force Exchange Service's Halloween Photo Contest**

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service and the JM Smucker Co. are inviting military shoppers to submit photos of their boo-tiful pets decked in their Halloween finest for a chance to win their share of \$3,000 in Exchange gift cards. Authorized Exchange shoppers 18 years and older can enter the Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest from Oct. 1 through Oct. 31 at

[ShopMyExchange.com/Sweepstakes](https://shopmyexchange.com/Sweepstakes). Honorably discharged Veterans who have verified their eligibility to shop can also enter. Two grand-prize winners will each receive a \$500 Exchange gift card, and eight runners-up will each receive a \$250 Exchange gift card. (More: <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/ExchangePost/2021/09/28/spook-tacular-pets-can-fetch-prizes-for-military-shoppers-in-army-air-force-exchange-services-halloween-photo-contest>)

## **Exchange Giving Away the Hottest Toys to Military Kids in Fall Sweepstakes**

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service and Hasbro are working together to put the hottest toys in the hands of military kids this fall. Beginning in October, the Exchange is giving away Nerf, Marvel, Play-Doh and board game prizes in four sweepstakes. (More: <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/ExchangePost/2021/09/27/exchange-giving-away-the-hottest-toys-to-military-kids-in-fall-sweepstakes>)

## **Celebrating 30 Years: Commissaries Observe Third Decade of Being the Military's Grocer; Director Applauds Legacy of Service**

On Oct. 1, 1991, the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) officially took over the responsibility of providing the commissary benefit to U.S. military members and their families. As the agency enters its 30th year, DeCA Director and CEO Bill Moore applauded the agency's legacy of service. "When you think about the enormity of forming this agency you cannot escape the tremendous investment Congress made in DeCA to serve the greatest customers in the world," Moore said. "Today, that legacy of service drives us to be the military's grocery provider of choice, reaffirming our commitment to deliver the commissary benefit to as many eligible patrons as possible at the best possible savings directed by Congress." (More: [www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/celebrating-30-years-commissaries-observe-third-decade-being](http://www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/celebrating-30-years-commissaries-observe-third-decade-being))



# **Arsenal Archive**



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

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## 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 \(CDC\)](#).

*There are no announcements at this time.*

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## Notes for Veterans

### **VA Launching Outreach and Care Networks for Long COVID**

There are more than 240,000 Veterans that have tested positive for COVID-19, and that number is growing. The long-term effects of virus are still being understood, but one in ten people who have contracted it may suffer from what has become known as "Long COVID," which could threaten to become the next public health emergency that will challenge the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) system. To this end, the VHA Innovation Ecosystem (VHA IE) and the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) are launching an extensive, multi-faceted approach to understanding and treating Long COVID. And they need your help. (More:

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/95516/va-launching-outreach-and-care-networks-for-long-covid>)

### **VA Resumes Overpayment Notifications, Medical Copayment Collections While Continuing To Offer Veterans Expansive Debt Relief Options**

The Department of Veterans Affairs will resume over-payment notifications for new benefit debts and the debts deferred from April 6, 2020 through Sept. 30, 2021 due to the COVID pandemic. VA suspended debt collection April 6, 2020 and will restart debt collection Oct. 1, 2021, however, VA will not deduct debts from benefits payments until January 2022. Collections on medical co-payments created prior to April 6, 2020 and on new medical co-payments will also resume Oct. 1, 2021. (More: [www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5722](http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5722))



## Quad Cities Regional Services for Veterans Project Online

Event Update – We have transformed the way we are providing these services. Instead of an in-person event on Oct. 22 & 23, we created an [online survey tool](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSef4mpVRZHR7A4RFtcDfxTiMIZhp-IGzVpjr_jc3J45wikK6w/viewform?usp=sf_link&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=QC+Regional+Services+for+Veterans+Project) that will allow you to choose which services you are interested in. Our team of partners will then reach out to you directly to provide the services. Survey open **Oct. 1 - Nov. 19**. Only 5 minutes of your time visit:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSef4mpVRZHR7A4RFtcDfxTiMIZhp-IGzVpjr\\_jc3J45wikK6w/viewform?usp=sf\\_link&utm\\_source=google&utm\\_campaign=QC+Regional+Services+for+Veterans+Project](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSef4mpVRZHR7A4RFtcDfxTiMIZhp-IGzVpjr_jc3J45wikK6w/viewform?usp=sf_link&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=QC+Regional+Services+for+Veterans+Project)



## Around the Q.C.



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

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

Once you have joined you can see a listing 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



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