



April 6, 2022

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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Students Immersed In RIA Factory Opportunities with Career Day

Five Rock Island Arsenal – Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center employees shared their careers and experiences with Rock Island High School “Rocky” students during a career day hosted by the school March 30. RIA-



JMTC team members were invited to participate in this career day, which focused on bringing in 100 professionals from around the Quad Cities to speak to students, due to the command’s historic link to the community. Founded in 1862, RIA-JMTC, with the mission of manufacturing and delivering readiness solutions to the Department of Defense, is one of the largest employers in the area, most employees from the QC community and several Rocky alumni. These team members hold a variety of positions including welders, machinists, engineers, analysts and many others needed to support the readiness of the warfighter. RIA-JMTC participation was coordinated by Brandy Goettsch, RIA-JMTC human resources supervisor. “It is important for RIA-JMTC to participate in career events with local high schools

Upcoming Dates

March-September: PCS Season
April: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month
April: Month of the Military Child
April: Military Saves Month
April: Child Abuse Prevention Month
April 9: U.S. Army Special Forces 35th Anniversary
April 9: National Former POW Recognition Day
April 11: [Exploring the Pillars: Nutrition “Fueling Your Future”](#), 1-2 p.m.
April 12: U.S. Army Aviation 39th Anniversary
April 13: Workforce Wednesday, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3-7 p.m.
April 13: RIA Installation Community Town Hall, Lock & Dam Lounge Dining Area and MS Teams, 4-5 p.m.
April 13: Scooby Doo Movie Night, Lock & Dam Lounge, 5 p.m.
April 14: Air Force Reserve Birthday
April 14: Thirsty Thursday, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3-7 p.m.
April 15: **Purple Up! Day**
April 15: Good Friday (*Stock Market Closed*)
April 15: ImpactLife Blood Drive, Building 333, conference room left of MWR lobby, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
April 15: Lock & Fam Night, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3-7 p.m.
April 16: U.S. Army Medical Specialist Corps 75th Anniversary
April 17: Easter Sunday

to discuss our capabilities and the wide range career opportunities available,” said Goettsch. “It’s important for students to realize the significance of personal career development and explore career opportunities that will broaden their exposure to the working world they will one day enter.” (More: www.army.mil/article/255423)

RIA Returning To HPCON-Alpha April 11

The senior commander at Rock Island Arsenal has authorized a change in the installation’s operational status to Health Protection Condition - Alpha, effective April 11. On April 4, the Department of Defense issued a memo updating guidance directing Health Protection Level to coincide with CDC county levels. HPCON Alpha now coincides with Low county transmission. HPCON-Alpha lifts the restrictions on indoor locations. With this change, the following recommendations have been issued by the Department of Defense:

- Less than 100 percent of normal occupancy in the workplace, with telework as appropriate.
- Communicate to personnel how and when to report illness and seek care for potential influenza-like illness.
- Common areas and large venues (e.g., sit-down dining, movie theaters, gyms, sporting venues, and commissaries) should adhere to established cleaning and sanitation protocols.
- DoDEA schools will operate following CDC recommendations and guidelines specific to schools as implemented in operational procedures and guidance from the Director, DoDEA. Children are not required to mask. Any DoD guidance that is more stringent than CDC guidance must be followed.

The change also allows the resumption of installation services. Family and MWR facilities can operate at full capacity; Child Development Centers can open additional spaces for youth; and guests may attend ceremonies and events at full capacity. Senior leadership and health personnel at the Rock Island Arsenal continue to encourage the Arsenal workforce and their families to get the first COVID-19 vaccine. Any questions regarding this change should be addressed through your supervisory chain. For more information, please reference the full DoD memorandum located at <https://go.usa.gov/xuaVG>.



Gold Star Spouse Day Recognizes Spouses of Active Duty Soldiers Who Are Killed In Action

April 5 is Gold Star Spouse Day. Nearly all active military, veterans, and military Civilians know what a Gold Star Spouse is. They are the wives and husbands of active duty men and women who have been killed in action. We’ve all seen movies where a knock at the door by two uniformed service members brings with it the heart-rending news that no one wants to hear – the loss of a loved one in combat. But sadly, in the world in which we live, those traumatic encounters have happened and will continue to happen. Annie Cox, from Davenport, Iowa, is one of those who has been through the enormous emotional upheaval that comes with the loss of someone, who she called “the love of her life.” Army Staff Sgt. Nathan “Nate” Cox was killed in action by a roadside bomb Sept. 20, 2008 in the Korengal Valley, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was ten days shy of his 33rd birthday. (More: www.army.mil/article/255328)



Chaplains Plot Way Forward At Symposium

The First Army Command Chaplain directorate brought together about 60 senior chaplains and noncommissioned officers for a symposium to foster teamwork and readiness. Attendees include state chaplains from the Army Reserve and National Guard, along with religious affairs NCOs. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Nathan Kline, First Army Division East chaplain, explained, “We brought them in to identify more effective ways we can partner with them to meet their training needs. Our partnership helps prepare them for readiness and mobilization, and to satisfy the geographic combatant commanders’ needs in theater.” Kline spoke to the audience about the importance of getting to work even before a notification of sourcing. (More: www.army.mil/article/255374)



Army Industrial Base Poised For Holistic Modernization

As the Army undergoes its greatest transformation in more than 40 years, senior leaders are taking steps to ensure persistent modernization of the Organic Industrial Base to sustain the next generation of Army equipment, current unit readiness and the ability to surge in support of contingencies. The Army’s OIB Modernization Implementation Plan, led by Army Materiel Command, will modernize facilities, processes and the workforce across the 23 depots, arsenals and ammunition plants that manufacture and reset equipment, generating readiness and operational capability throughout Army formations. The Army OIB is comprised mostly of facilities that were built during World War II. “The 15-year OIB modernization plan represents a once-in-a-generation chance to holistically modernize,” said Gen. Ed Daly, commanding general of AMC. “The plan provides a deliberate and comprehensive roadmap to a 21st century OIB focused on processes, facilities, equipment, work force, data and information technology, as well as energy and cyber resilience.” (More: www.army.mil/article/255454)



Climate Investments Tied To Mission Objectives, DOD Official Says

Climate change is reshaping the geostrategic operational and tactical environment, with significant implications for U.S. national security and defense, said Joe Bryan, a Department of Defense official. Bryan, DOD chief sustainability officer and senior climate advisor to the defense secretary; Melissa Dalton, assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense and hemispheric affairs; and Richard Kidd, deputy assistant defense secretary for environment and energy resilience, spoke to the media yesterday. From extreme heat and drought to more intense and unpredictable weather, climate is also impacting military readiness and imposing significant costs on the department, Bryan said. Climate change is increasingly setting the context for DOD operations, and those of our allies and partners, as well as adversaries, he said. (More: www.army.mil/article/255284)



DOD Continues Mission to Stabilize the Middle East

Iran is the leading source of instability in the Middle East, and ISIS also remains a threat to the region, even though the organization does not hold territory anymore in Iraq and Syria, the deputy assistant secretary for defense for the Middle East said today at the Wilson Center. Dana Stroul said Iran's continued sponsorship and cultivation of violent proxies and terrorists, its proliferation of increasingly advanced and lethal unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, its ballistic missile program, maritime aggression and smuggling activities at sea all comprise reasons why Iran is a threat. "U.S. forces specifically, who remain present in northeast Syria to assist in the fight against ISIS through local partners, experience on a very regular basis threats from Iran and Iran-backed proxies," she said. ISIS remains intent on reconstituting and continues to direct and inspire attacks in the region and beyond it, Stroul added, she said Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III has reaffirmed U.S. commitment to maintaining U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria in an advise-and-assist capacity to support partner forces in their fight against ISIS. (More: www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2990349)



Parental Bereavement Leave Authority Finalized

OPM has issued guidance finalizing a new form of paid leave for federal employees, parental bereavement leave, in the most significant expansion of leave since the authority for paid parental leave took effect in October 2020. Two workweeks of this new form of leave can be used in connection with the death of an employee's qualifying child.

"Bereavement leave is a new, stand-alone type of paid leave entitlement that is administered independently from any other type of leave, including sick leave, to make arrangements necessitated by the death of a family member or to attend the funeral of a family member," says the guidance. The guidance, which sets the terms for agencies to follow in setting up their own programs, comes shortly after OPM announced that such instructions were coming although without indicating a timeframe. The authority provides for two weeks of leave for full-time employees—prorated for part-time employees—within a 12 month period, although with eligibility rules that generally mirror policies under the Family and Medical Leave Act. For the employee, that means being currently employed, having served under a permanent or term appointment for at least one year, and being covered by Title 5 annual and sick leave authorities; for children it means being under age 18, or if older incapable of self-support because of a disability. (More: www.fedweek.com/fedweek/parental-bereavement-leave-authority-finalized)



RIA Installation Community Town Hall

The U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal will conduct an Installation Community Town Hall **Wednesday, April 13** from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Lock & Dam Dining Area, Building 60. It will also be streamed online. All military, civilians, contractors, family members and patrons are invited to attend. For those joining online, visit the installation Rock Island Arsenal Facebook page at www.facebook.com/rockislandarsenal. The Town Hall will feature discussions on COVID-19, infrastructure updates, quality of life initiatives, and upcoming exercises and events occurring on the installation. Maj. Gen. Chris Mohan, U.S. Army Sustainment Commanding General and Installation Senior Mission



Commander, will provide opening remarks. The Island workforce and greater Arsenal community is encouraged to email their Virtual Town Hall questions prior to the event to usarmy.ria.incom-central.mbx.usag-agc@army.mil.

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

What is SAAPM? Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month is observed globally every April to raise awareness and educate communities on the prevention of sexual violence. SAAPM is an opportunity to highlight the corrosive effects sexual assault has on Soldiers, civilians, unit readiness, team cohesion, command climate, and trust. Sexual harassment and sexual assault violate the Army Core Values, the Warrior Ethos, and the nation's trust in leaders. Below is a list of events or awareness activities your ASC and RIA installation SHARP program is hosting this April.

- **Tuesday, April 19:** Male Victimization with guest speaker Heath Phillips – guest speaker Heath Phillips will speak on male victimization at 9 a.m. on [MS Teams](#); he will speak virtually to the RIA and ASC workforce on the struggles that he has endured and overcome. Phillips will discuss how it has affected him and the importance of why men need to speak up if they have been sexually assaulted. www.heathtalks.com
- **Wednesday, April 27:** Denim day decorating contest – this year to celebrate and bring awareness to Denim Day SHARP is hosting a "Show Us Your Denim" Contest. To participate all you need to do is find a way to use denim in the most creative way possible and then send us a picture to RIADenimDay@gmail.com. We want to see the most unique ways to show your advocacy by using denim in the most unique and creative way possible. A fun outfit, decorate your desk, or even decorate your dog. Submissions are due by **Tuesday, April 26**, and the winner will be announced on Denim Day. Find out more about Denim Day here at www.denimdayinfo.org/history.
- **Friday, April 29:** Step Out Against Sexual Assault – join the SHARP Program as we close out SAAPM with our culminating 5k run/walk. Start in the court in front of Quarters One at 6:30 a.m. No registration is necessary. All are welcome to attend and participate.



This year's Army theme is "Prevention Starts With You." This theme builds on the concept of upholding what it means to be a member of an Army team. When it comes to sexual assault and sexual harassment, the only person responsible for committing the act is the perpetrator, but all members of the team have the ability to look out for each other's safety. Leaders and Soldiers must work in unison to build comradery and trust amongst the ranks. This trust allows teams to focus on mission and unit readiness, eliminate harmful behaviors by preventing sexual harassment, sexual assault, and associated retaliation.

RIA Energy Resilience Readiness Exercise

Rock Island Arsenal will be conducting an Energy Resilience Readiness Exercise (ERRE) on **Monday, May 16**. The ERRE is a DoD-directed exercise to test installation emergency and standby energy generation systems, critical infrastructure and equipment to inform senior leaders of what infrastructure is required to support critical mission on the installation. For more information, contact Rock Island Arsenal Public Affairs at 309-782-1121.

Blood Donors Urgently Needed

Both nationally and here within this region, we are experiencing an urgent need for blood to prevent shortages for patients and hospitals. As the local blood provider for 126 hospitals in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin, ImpactLife shares in the concern over the state of the blood supply both nationally and within our region. Within their service region, they strive to collect an average of 3,600 donations on a weekly basis. In recent weeks, however, the donation rate has ranged from 2,500 to 2,800 donations per week. Christmas and New Year's holidays, as well as winter weather and the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic have combined to decrease the rate of donation. Blood products are perishable and must be used for transfusion within a short window of time, so they strive to keep a 5-day supply in their inventories to meet anticipated and unanticipated needs. Currently most blood products and types are less than 3-day supply. Urgent need for all donations & blood types especially Type O and all types for platelets. ImpactLife has a blood drive scheduled on Arsenal Island for the month of April:

- **Friday, April 8:** 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Building 333, conference room left of MWR lobby.
- **Friday, April 15:** 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Building 333, conference room left of MWR lobby.
- All donors who register to give with ImpactLife **March 21 – May 15** will get a voucher to redeem for an electronic gift card plus a tree planted on their behalf to support reforestation efforts. All automated donations/deferrals (platelet, plasma, and double red) will be eligible to redeem their voucher for their choice of a \$25 gift card; whole blood donors will get a \$10 gift card. Physical gift cards available on demand. Eligible donors will be able to redeem their vouchers through **May 22**. Gift card options: Amazon, Home Depot, Lowe's, Target, Subway, Starbucks, and Walmart.

If you would like to donate at either of these blood drives, feel free to email bhancock@impactlife.org with the time you'd like to schedule, or call the Donor Scheduling Team at 800-747-5401; you may also log on to www.ImpactLife.org and use code 029 to locate the blood drives.

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

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

True Lifestyle Medicine Wellness 9-Month Series

Army Contracting Command – Rock Island (ACC-RI) is proud to announce a 9-month Health and Wellness series presented virtually via MS Teams by Dr. Cheryl True of True Lifestyle Medicine, LLC which will start next month in February. This series is geared toward individuals who wish to embrace a healthier lifestyle and increased benefits of self-care. Schedule and topics are presented below with this [MS Teams link](#) (link is the same for each session). You must register in TEDs no later than the day prior to the event and self-certify in TEDs after the event to receive credit. Those that do not self-certify within one week will be deleted from TEDs. If you do not register in advance, you are welcome to attend using the teams' link, but you will need to add it to your TEDs history after the fact. TEDs key word: "True Lifestyle Medicine,"

1 CLP. The sessions will not be recorded.

- **April 11:** [Exploring the Pillars: Nutrition "Fueling Your Future"](#), 1-2 p.m.



- **May 9:** [Cooking Demo: “Whole Food Plant Based Recipes and Meal Preparation”](#), 1-2 p.m.
- **June 13:** [Exploring the Pillars: Physical Activity “Moving Through Your Day”](#), 1-2 p.m.
- **July 11:** [Exploring the Pillars: Stress & Resilience “The Human Capacity to Adapt and Thrive”](#), 1-2 p.m.
- **Aug. 8:** [Mindfulness, Meditation & Relaxation “Putting Your Mind to Work. Your Body is Listening”](#), 1-2 p.m.
- **Sept. 12:** [Exploring the Pillars: Social Relationships “The Power of Connections”](#), 1-2 p.m.
- **Oct. 17:** [“The Basics: Incorporating Lifestyle Changes at Home and at Work”](#), 1-2 p.m.

Health and Wellness POC: Theresa Fahrenkrug, 563-650-2093, theresa.m.fahrenkrug.civ@army.mil; TEDs POC: Rebecca Peterson, 563-210-4436, Rebecca.a.peterson.civ@army.mil.

Easter Sunrise Service

The Rock Island Arsenal Community (family and friends) is invited to join us for Easter Sunrise Service on **Sunday, April 17**, 6:30-7:30 a.m., at Quarters One, to come celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord in a brief service with Holy Communion. Sponsored by USAG & RIA Religious Support Teams. Coffee and Doughnuts will be served. Points of contact are Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Kevin J. Niehoff, 309-782-0923, and Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Gibbs, 309-782-9421.



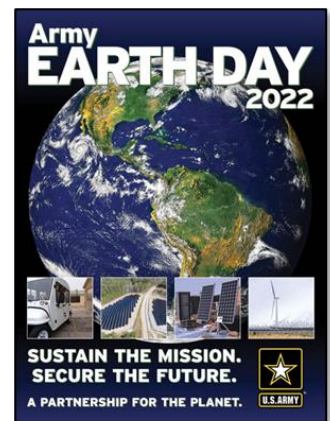
Passover Memorial Service

Join us for a Passover Memorial Service on **Tuesday, April 19** from 11:30 a.m. to noon in Heritage Hall, Building 60. The holiday of Passover begins at sundown on Friday, April 15 and lasts until Saturday, April 23. It commemorates the exodus of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. This brief annual Jewish observance is open to all people of all faiths and will include memorializing loved ones that are no longer with us. To request that the names of your dear ones be read aloud, please email Cantor Gail Karp, gailkarp@gmail.com. You may also include a pronunciation guide in your request.



RIA 2022 Earth Day

Join us **Thursday, April 21**, at the Memorial Park Pavilion, 10:30 a.m. - noon, for the Rock Island Arsenal's Earth Day program. Earth Day is officially recognized each year on April 22, but due to that day landing on a Friday when many installation employees are off, this event will be held on Thursday. Everyone will gather at Memorial Park Pavilion for a short presentation with our Garrison Commander providing opening remarks, followed by a guest speaker, Park Ranger Mike McKean from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, then the very popular free distribution of tree saplings provided by Living Lands & Waters, a very active Quad-Cities organization that specializes in environmental protection, preservation, and restoration. The Army joins the nation in observing Earth Day. Events across the Army highlight how the Army has and will continue to Act, Innovate and Implement changes to meet and defeat climate challenges. In a partnership for our planet, the Army is collaborating with federal agencies, academia and industry to evaluate how climate, conservation and species preservation contributes to readiness. The application of this knowledge will lead to improve installation infrastructure and ensure the homeland is protected and defended from current and future threats. Army land, air and water resources are vital to both present and future missions and we must nurture the environment with an



eye towards modernization and conservation. (Burr Oak, Red Oak, Swamp White Oak, and Overcup Oak)

USACE Offers Free Boater Safety Course

If you don't want to end up like this boater, you may want to consider taking a boater safety course. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Mississippi River Project will be hosting three classes on **April 23, May 7 & 14**. Classes are free and will be held at the Mississippi River Project Office in Pleasant Valley, Iowa. Some topics that will be covered include: safe operation, required equipment, hazards on the water and how to boat through a lock. Successfully completing this class will grant you a safe boating card which you may possibly need in order to legally operate a boat. Classes are open to anyone 12 years of age and older. Class sizes are limited and reservations are required. Please contact the Mississippi River Visitor Center at 309-794-5338 to sign up or for more information.



RIAWC Tour of Homes 2022

In celebration of the 160th Anniversary of the Rock Island Arsenal, the Rock Island Arsenal Welcome Club (RIAWC) invites you to its signature Tour of Homes 2022 on **Saturday, April 30**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a self-guided tour of several historic and modern homes, as well as the Clock Tower Building, the Colonel Davenport House, Locks and Dam 15, the Mississippi River Museum, the Confederate Cemetery, Memorial Park, and the Arsenal Attic. This is a self-guided tour, meaning you will be allowed to enter any of the listed homes and buildings at your own pace during the event timeframe that will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be docents in all the homes to answer any questions you may have. You will receive one Tour of Homes 2022 commemorative guide for each group of guests. Additional commemorative guides will be available to purchase at the event, as well a 160th Anniversary Christmas Ornament featuring Quarters One. The Lock & Dam Lounge will be offering a taco bar for \$10 per person from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. This event is not handicap or stroller accessible. There are no refunds. The event will take place rain or shine, so please keep that in mind when planning for the day. The RIAWC is a nonprofit organization committed to providing scholarships to high school seniors and continuing education students associated with the Arsenal, as well as grants for local charities and military-affiliated organizations. All the proceeds from the Tour of Homes 2022 will go directly to these scholarships and grants. (More: <https://riawc.com/ToH>)



ID & Common Access Card (CAC) Office (Building 56)

- 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@army.mil.

VIOS Scheduling Eliminated, Garrison PA Assumes Limited Command Photos

The Visual Information Ordering System (VIOS) will no longer be available to schedule official Department of the Army photos previously taken monthly by a representative from Fort Eustis' Multimedia Visual Information Center and coordinated through the Garrison's Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization & Security (DPTMS) Visual Information section. This was due to the impact of COVID-19 and former Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy and former Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville's direction to suspend the use of the photos from officer promotion board packages effective Aug. 1, 2020. Official U.S. Army "head and shoulders" command photos (**leadership photo board photography**) duties have been assumed by Garrison Public Affairs for on-Island commands **that do not have a public affairs office**; this will take place by appointment only at 309-782-1121. The scheduled photos will be taken at the Photo Studio in Room B11 in the basement of Building 90. The 8"x10" head and shoulders – command photos will not be printed, but will be made available digitally. The previous service administered through VIOS and Fort Eustis personnel included government passport photography, which is suspended along with service record/DA Photos. Walk-in appointments are not available.



Arsenal Traffic/Construction



East Street Road Closure

East Street from the Building 56 south parking lot entrance to the East Circle south entrance will be closed from **Monday, April 18 through Friday, June 17**, to conduct Phase 2 of the East Street Construction Project including sewer, sidewalk and road replacement work. There will not be any on-street parking allowed on East Street adjacent to Building 68 (First Army) during this period. The Intersection of North Avenue and East Street will be closed during this period. Employees and customers transiting to the ID Card Facility, Education Center, Garrison Staff Offices and Child Development Center (CDC) will use Gillespie Avenue and Ramsey Road to detour the construction area. CDC Customers may then use King Drive to drop-off and pick-up at CDC buildings 11, 15, and 16. East Street will remain open from Ramsey Road/King Drive to the Building 56 north parking lot entrance and Building 90 north parking lot entrance. Signage and barricades will be placed for safety and traffic control.

Sylvan Drive Phase II Construction Project

DPW will continue Phase 2 construction on the Sylvan Drive Repair Project effective March 28. Construction is planned to be complete on **Thursday, June 30**. The following traffic changes will be made on March 28:

- The south section of the road will be opened to allow JMTC's employee parking lot access via Beck Avenue.
- Sylvan Drive will be closed at the intersection of Rodman Avenue to the south in order to replace the road and sewers.
- USACE, Navy Reserve Center, Commissary, the Exchange, and Outdoor Rec will follow Beck Avenue to Gillespie Street to Rodman Avenue.

Signage and barricades will be placed for safety and traffic control.

Building/Space Closures



There are no announcements at this time.

Active Duty/Reserve Zone



SMOOTH MOVE: Tips for Soldiers during PCS Season

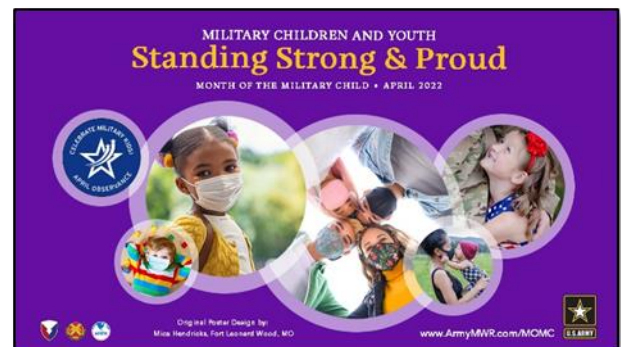
For American military personnel around the world, the permanent change of station season is late March through August. That means a Soldier, Airman, Sailor or Marine planning for a PCS in 2022 needs to get the ball rolling today. “We try to move Soldiers when it’s most convenient for them and their Family members, when kids are out of school,” said Kenneth Washington, director of Human Resources on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. “But you start to work two to three months in advance.” Washington said he moved about a dozen times with his Family over a 26-year Army career. Today, in a civilian role, he provides services to about 12,000 Soldiers and their Families in the greater Washington, D.C., area. (More: www.army.mil/article/254819)

Army Seeks Soldier Feedback on Navigating Parenthood While Serving

Maj. Karen Ruff-Northey is a military brat. She grew up in Honduras and at the age of ten her mom married an Army Soldier and they moved to Germany. Although she began life as a military child she made the decision to join the Army and begin her military career. “In my junior year of high school I joined the U.S. Army Reserve, went to basic training and came back. After I graduated, I went to AIT,” said Ruff. “I was in the Reserve for a while until I went to college and joined ROTC. After college I went into Active Duty.” (More: www.army.mil/article/255330)

April Is DOD's Month to Recognize Military Children

For nearly 40 years, April 1 has marked the Defense Department's kickoff for the Month of the Military Child, and this month promises to be packed with events for parents and children of all ages, said a program analyst in DOD's Children, Youth and Families, Office of Military Family Readiness Policy, Military Community and Family Policy. Dianna M. Ganote said DOD is supporting this month with the theme of mental health and the overall well-being of all military children. The Month of the Military Child is a time to focus on and celebrate the contributions of military children and the unique needs of their lives, she noted. The objective for this month's recognition is to "highlight the unique life and challenges of military children. Our goal is to improve their quality of life and help mitigate the demands they experience from all the transitions, such as frequent moves, parental separations for military training



and worrying about their parents when they're deployed" Ganote said. (More: www.defense.gov/News/Feature-Stories/Story/Article/2986528)

Coffee Connections - USO Rock Island

Join us for a cup of coffee, a slice of cake, and great conversation on **Wednesday, April 13**, at 6 p.m., in the USO, Building 110. Our special guest will be Dan McNeil from Spring Forward Learning. He will talk about after school and summer learning programs. USO Coffee Connections were created for military spouses to connect over a cup of coffee, craft, or activity and make new friends. Come as you are and join us as we host this event for you to make lasting friendships, learn more about your community, and find local resources to help you throughout your military journey. Make sure to check out our USO Illinois Facebook page for more information about this event and other programs to support your military family, as well as our event listing on our website at <https://illinois.uso.org/events>.

Tax Center Services

The U.S. Army Materiel Command Legal Center-Rock Island Arsenal no longer operates a tax center. As a result, free tax preparation and filing services will no longer be available on-post. There are, however, free online services available to active-duty service members, retired and honorable discharged members, spouses, dependent children and survivors. It's important to decide what best fits your needs. Some factors to consider include the complexity of your taxes, ability to do your own tax work, and cost. Many people who used to itemize find that their tax preparation has been simplified by the larger standard deduction. Below are some resources to use:

- **IRS: Free File**
Eligibility: All filers with income below \$66,000
Website: <https://www.irs.gov/filing/free-file-do-your-federal-taxes-for-free>
- **MilitaryOneSource, MILTAX**
Eligibility: Active duty military. Retired and honorable discharged members are authorized for up to 180-days past separation. Spouses, dependent children and survivors are able to use the free services as well.
Website: www.militaryonesource.mil/miltax-software
- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)**
Eligibility: Earn low to moderate income; or be disabled; or not speak English; or be a senior citizen.
Website: <https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/1543>
- **Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE)**
Eligibility: Over the age of 60 or older and in need of either counseling or return preparation services.
Website: <https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/722>

The VITA program works closely with Military OneSource, a DoD program that provides a host of services to the military community, including free, online tax preparation software. For additional details go to www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/tax-resource-center/preparing-filing-and-refunds/volunteer-income-tax-assistance-program

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>

Distracted Driving

Being an attentive and alert driver can help prevent crashes that lead to unintentional injury and death. With the wide use of smartphones in the United States, distracted driving has become an important traffic safety topic. While cell phones and navigation devices often are the culprit when it comes to distracted driving, conventional distractions such as interacting with passengers and eating also contribute to crashes. Distracting tasks can affect drivers in different ways and can be categorized as visual, manual, and cognitive distraction. The National Safety Council (NSC) analysis of National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) data finds that 3,142 people died in distraction-affected crashes in 2020. This is an increase of about 1% from 3,119 deaths in 2019. See Data Details to understand the data limitations and potential underestimation of the number of distraction-affected crashes. (More: <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/motor-vehicle/motor-vehicle-safety-issues/distracted-driving>)

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.

There are no announcements at this time.

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.

Island Oasis Outdoor Grill Begins April 11

The Island Oasis Outdoor Grill will begin service outside of Building 67 beginning **Monday, April 11**. Current the Island Oasis Café is serving lunch from their indoor location, inside the Fitness Center lobby (Building 67) and is open Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. There are lots of other delicious items on the regular menu as well. Call 309-782-6319 for more info on the Island Oasis.

Community Gardens Are Back

MWR is happy to bring back this popular program to military families to include National Guard, reserve, Retirees and DoD civilians. If you are looking for a place to enjoy the outdoors and get your hands dirty we have the place for you. Our new community gardens are located on the north side of the Island off of Blunt Road. The new and improved layout will provide you with four different garden size options, a pavilion, water source, fencing, and dedicated driving path for loading and unloading. We will start renting the gardens **Monday, April 11** at our Outdoor Recreation program located in Building 333. The schedule for rentals will be as follows:

- **Monday, April 11** – Military families, National Guard, Reserve
- **Monday, April 18** – Retirees, DoD Civilians

This will be a first come first selection program so please hurry and come in to select your desired garden. Outdoor Recreation is Open Monday through Friday 8:15 a.m. – 4 p.m. (closed all federal holidays). To reserve your garden you must come into Building 333 to complete your paperwork and make your selection. For more information call Outdoor Recreation at 309-782-8630.

Run the Rock 5K/10K Race, American's Kids Run

Run the Rock 5K/10K Race and the American's Kids Run have returned! Join us on **Saturday, May 21** as we celebrate Armed Forces Day with the ever popular Run the Rock 5K/10K and the America's Kids Run. Along with the races we will have a kid's zone, petting zoo, food and beer trucks, live music, military displays and so much more. Get registered today at <http://getmeregistered.com/RIARunTheRock>.

Lock & Dam Lounge Now Open Fridays

Your wish is our command... Lock & Dam Lounge will now be open on Fridays. We are planning food features each day and a variety of fun events such as First Friday/Right Arm Nights, trivia, Lock and Fam Night and so much more. Be on the lookout each month for upcoming food features,

beverage specials and happenings. Hours of operation Wednesday through Friday, 3-7 p.m. Please call 309-782-6319 for more information.

Appointments Available at the Auto Service Center.

Please call to make an appointment with our skilled team of mechanics. Some of our top services are oil changes, brake service, alignments, AC service, tire service and suspension repair. We can also provide you with a variety of other vehicle maintenance and repairs. Make an appointment for our experienced team of mechanics to diagnose that noise or error code and fix it at a fair and honest rate. Whether you're simply due for an oil change, tire rotation or have a major repair, let us provide you with quality service. For more information and appointments, call 309-782-8631, Tuesday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Company Kitchen Temporary Closure

All three Company Kitchen café locations in buildings 60, 212 and 350 are closed; 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. 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>)

American Forces Travel

Spring is just around the corner! Looking to plan a spring break vacation or even plan a staycation? Check out (www.americanforcetravel.com) for discounted airfare, hotels, rental cars, local attractions, and more.

Discounted Movie Tickets

MWR Leisure Travel Office has discounted movie tickets for Moline Regal Cinema and Davenport 53rd Cinema. Davenport tickets are \$10 each and we also have a concessions card for \$8 (junior popcorn and small fountain). Regal tickets are \$10 and we offer a gift packet that includes two movie tickets and a \$10 concession card. For more information call 309-782-5890.

Wanted – Crafters & Vendors

MWR is looking for crafters and vendors for upcoming events.

- **Saturday, May 21:** MWR Armed Forces Day Celebration, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Cost is \$25, we provide the table and two chairs. Contact the Leisure Travel Office for more information at 309-782-5890.

Scooby Doo Movie Night

Join us for Scooby Doo Movie Night in the Lock and Dam Lounge dining area on **Wednesday, April 13**, at 5 p.m., movie begins at 6 p.m. The Lock and Dam Lounge will be open and children's menu available for purchase. Any questions contact the Leisure travel Office 309-782-5890.

May The Fourth Be With You – Jedi Training

Join us for "May The Fourth Be With You" – Jedi Training on **Wednesday, May 4**, in Heritage Hall, Building 60, from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$25 per student. Train with our galactic warriors. Kid safe lightsabers provided. Lock & Dam Lounge will be open and children menu available for purchase. Any questions contact the Leisure travel Office 309-782-5890.

Pella Tulip Festival Bus Trip

Join us for our Pella Tulip Festival Bus Trip on **Saturday, May 7**, departing the Visitor Welcome Center at 7 a.m. Cost is \$30 per person. Pella is beautiful and unique all year long, but at Tulip Time it comes alive with tulips, Dutch attire, food, fun, and more. Thousands of residents wear Dutch attire and celebrate our Dutch heritage. Three days each spring, Pella is bursting with color and excitement for Pella residents and visitors alike. Contact the Leisure Travel Office to get your seat at 309-782-5890.

Cubs Baseball Trips – Baseball is Back

The MWR leisure Travel Office has two bus trips planned.

- Wrigley Field
 - St. Louis Cardinals vs. Chicago Cubs
 - **Saturday, June 4**, game time at 1:20 p.m.
 - \$169 per person
- Wrigley Field
 - Milwaukee Brewers vs. Chicago Cubs
 - **Sunday, Aug. 21**, game time at 1:20 p.m.
 - \$159 per person

Contact the Leisure Travel Office to purchase your seat at 309-782-5890

Planet Funk Con

Join us **June 24-26** for Planet Funk Con at the River Center in Davenport. For the last couple of years Planet Funk Con has held the biggest pop culture convention the Quad Cities has ever seen. Join our thousands of attendees for comics, toys, anime, celebrities, cosplay, panels, table top game, video games, tournaments, and a ton of fun. Join us for three days of fresh and funky fun. MWR Leisure Travel Office has tickets available for sale. Friday/Sunday \$10, Saturday \$15, weekend pass \$25, V.I.P pass \$55. For more information 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)

CYS Teen Council

CYS is looking for youth leaders to join our Teen Council. It is held the first Wednesday every month from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the School Age / Youth Center, Building 150. Teens will earn service learning hours while helping to plan future teen events and learning marketing, budgeting, event planning and leadership skills. Youth must be registered with CYS to participate, but no sign up is necessary. For more information call 309-782-6515. All military, civilian, veteran, and contractor teens are welcome to participate.

Scooby Doo Movie Night

Join us for Scooby Doo Movie Night on **Wednesday, April 20**, in the Lock & Dam Lounge dining area; doors open at 5 p.m. with the movie starting at 6 p.m. Children's menu available for purchase. More information 309-782-5890.

RIA Earth Day Celebration

On **Friday, April 22**, all 6th-12th grade teens are invited to join us for an Earth Day celebration at the School Age / Youth Center from 6-7:30 p.m. Teens will be planting a salsa garden, enjoying food and drinks as well as earning service learning hours. Youth must RSVP for the event to 309-782-6515 or 309-782-5019 and must be registered with CYS to participate. All 6th-12th grade military, civilian, veteran, and contractor CYS registered teens are welcome to participate in CYS teen events.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

On **Thursday, May 5**, all 6th-12th grade teens are welcome to join us for our Cinco de Mayo celebration from 6-7:30 p.m. at the School Age / Youth Center. Teens will create and fill their own piñatas and enjoy a nacho bar. Youth must RSVP for the event to 309-782-6515 or 309-782-5019 and must be registered with CYS to participate. All 6th-12th grade military, civilian, veteran, and contractor CYS registered teens are welcome to participate in CYS teen events.

MWR's Armed Forces Day Kids Run

On the morning of **Saturday, May 21**, all teens are welcome to volunteer for MWR's Armed Forces Day Kids Run. For more information call 309-782-6793. All 6th-12th grade military, civilian, veteran, and contractor CYS registered teens are welcome to participate in CYS teen events.

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. ([ACS on MS Teams](#))

Child Abuse Prevention Month Wreath Dedication

Everyone is invited to Army Community Service's Child Abuse Prevention Month Wreath Dedication at the front entrance on the East Street side of Building 110 on **Friday, April 8** at 10:30 a.m. when they unveil their awareness wreath. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and all month long ACS Family Advocacy will be sharing information and resources for parents and families to bring awareness to this issue. Watch the Rock Island Arsenal Army Community Service page for announcements on events and activities as well.

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:

- **Wednesday, April 20**
- **Wednesday, July 20**

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

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 campers to 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>

Spring Break Rentals

Before heading out on your spring break skiing vacation, stop by Outdoor Recreation in Building 333 (next to The Exchange) for all your winter time fun equipment rentals.

Employee Assistance Program



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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.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

Most adults in the United States who drink alcohol drink moderately and without complications. At the same time, alcohol-related problems are among the most significant public health issues in the country. Alcohol use disorder (AUD) affects about 15 million adults in the United States, and an estimated 88,000 people die from alcohol-related causes annually, making alcohol the third leading preventable cause of death in the nation. Alcohol use disorder (AUD) is a medical condition that doctors diagnose when a patient's drinking causes distress or harm. The condition can range from mild to severe and is diagnosed when a patient answers "yes" to two or more of the following questions. In the past year, have you:

- Had times when you ended up drinking more, or longer than you intended?
- More than once wanted to cut down or stop drinking, or tried to, but couldn't?
- Spent a lot of time drinking? Or being sick or getting over the after effects?
- Experienced craving—a strong need, or urge, to drink?
- Found that drinking—or being sick from drinking—often interfered with taking care of your home or family? Or caused job troubles? Or school problems?
- Continued to drink even though it was causing trouble with your family or friends?
- Given up or cut back on activities that were important or interesting to you, or gave you pleasure, in order to drink?
- More than once gotten into situations while or after drinking that increased your chances of getting hurt (such as driving, swimming, using machinery, walking in a dangerous area, or having unsafe sex)?
- Continued to drink even though it was making you feel depressed or anxious or adding to another health problem? Or after having had a memory blackout?
- Had to drink much more than you once did to get the effect you want? Or found that your usual number of drinks had much less effect than before?
- Found that when the effects of alcohol were wearing off, you had withdrawal symptoms, such as trouble sleeping, shakiness, irritability, anxiety, depression, restlessness, nausea, or sweating? Or sensed things that were not there?

If you have any of these symptoms, your drinking may already be a cause for concern. The more symptoms you have, the more urgent the need for change. A health professional can conduct a formal assessment of your symptoms to see if AUD is present. For an online assessment of your drinking pattern, go to RethinkingDrinking.niaaa.nih.gov. For more information about alcohol abuse and alcoholism, visit the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism at: www.niaaa.nih.gov.

WeCare Rock Island Arsenal App

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

- Apple's iOS: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/wecare-rock-island-arsenal/id1454377310?ls=1&mt=8>
- Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=mil.army.wecarerockisland&hl=en>

Tell your Family and friends.



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>

CES Intermediate Coming Back To Arsenal

Civilian Education System (CES) Intermediate (GS10-12) is coming back to the Rock Island Arsenal, the class details and registration information below.

1. Must have completed Phase 1 (Distance Learning) – If you have not yet completed Phase 1 and would like to attend Phase 2 at RIA, quickly register and complete Phase 1, then follow steps 2 through 4 for Phase 2.
2. Register in CHRTAS (<https://www.atrrs.army.mil/chrtas>)
3. Your supervisor will need to approve you
4. Contact Patrick Wagner with ASC directly, he will then complete your request in CHRTAS

This will be a great time to update your CHRTAS profile. Any incorrect email addresses (requestor &/or supervisors) will slow or stop the process (i.e. email address, supervisor changes, unit changes, GS grade changes, and any other changes that may have occurred). The formal course title is Civilian Education System (CES) Intermediate (GS10-12), course number 1-250-C61, Phase 2 (in-person), class number 707, report date is **Monday, May 2** (start date is the same), end date is **Friday, May 20**, the school is 704W – Army Management Staff College (AMSC), and the class type is O (Onsite – Rock Island Arsenal). For any questions and/or assistance please contact Patrick Wagner at 309-782-3561 or patrick.m.wagner.civ@army.mil.

Blanket Tuition Assistance Exception to Policy Still Available for FY22 Courses

Eligible Soldiers unable to request TA in ArmyIgnitED for courses with start dates between **Oct. 1 - Sept. 30** before the start date of the course are still able to receive TA under the blanket ETP until the ETP is discontinued. Contact your Army Education Center for additional information about the TA ETP. Find your AEC at <https://home.army.mil/imcom/index.php/customers/ACES>.

Transition Assistance Program

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) is a U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) led program that provides information and training to ensure service members transitioning from active duty are prepared for their next step in life – whether pursuing additional education, finding a job in the public or private sector, or starting their own business. It is highly recommended transitioning service members begin the transition process 365 days prior to transitioning for those who are separating and two years prior for those who are retiring. In the event of an unanticipated separation or retirement, or a member of the reserve component is demobilized with less than 365 days, TAP must begin as soon as possible within the remaining time period of service. Upcoming TAP dates:

- **May 9-13**
- **Aug. 8-12**

TAP is a week-long class; to register please contact Carol Beauford at usarmy.ria.usag.mbx.hrm-tsm@army.mil.



Rock Island Exchange information is located at:

www.shopmyexchange.com/company/storeDetails.jsp?storeId=1074020.

Work Hard, Earn Big! Military Students Can Score Gift Cards in Exchange's You Made the Grade Program

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is continuing its tradition of rewarding academic excellence through the Exchange's You Made the Grade program—honoring the resiliency of military kids worldwide. In its 22nd year, the You Made the Grade program honors academic excellence for students in first through 12th grades, including those who are home schooled. Students who maintain a B average or higher are eligible to receive a \$5 Exchange gift card each grading period. (More: <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/ExchangePost/2022/04/04/work-hard-earn-big-military-students-can-score-gift-cards-in-exchanges-you-made-the-grade-program>)

Calling All Military Kids! Multiple Prizes Up For Grabs in Exchange's Month of the Military Child Virtual Contests

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is calling on America's youngest heroes to show off their creative creations for a chance to win prizes during Month of the Military Child. The virtual contest lineup begins on April 1. (More: <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/ExchangePost/2022/03/31/calling-all-military-kids-multiple-prizes-up-for-grabs-in-exchanges-month-of-the-military-child-virtual-contests>)

Exchange Salutes Youngest Heroes During Month of the Military Child

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service, the Department of Defense's largest retailer, is saluting the spirit of America's youngest heroes with virtual activities, events and prizes during Month of the Military Child. Starting April 1, participating PXs and BXs worldwide will give away military "brat" patches. The collectible patches, which have been part of the Exchange's celebration of military children since 2018, will be available in-store while supplies last. (More: <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/ExchangePost/2022/03/30/exchange-salutes-youngest-heroes-during-month-of-the-military-child>)

Military Community Can Receive 10% Off Tax Preparation Through Army & Air Force Exchange Service and H&R Block

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is taking the stress and worry out of filing taxes by teaming with H&R Block to provide tax preparation services to military members and their families at a 10% discount at select locations worldwide and online. (More: <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/ExchangePost/2022/02/09/military-community-can-receive-10-off-tax-preparation-through-army-air-force-exchange-service-and-hr-block>)



Commissary Corner



Rock Island Commissary information is located at: www.commissaries.com/shopping/store-locations/rock-island-arsenal

Commissaries Remind Retirees, Former POWs, Purple Heart Recipients, Disabled Veterans, Certified Caregivers of Their Shopping Benefit

You're leaving money on the table. That's the message the Defense Commissary Agency is saying to military retirees and other eligible beneficiaries, such as disabled veterans and their designated family caregivers, Purple Heart recipients and former prisoners of war. "Shopping at the commissary puts more than 20 percent savings in your pocket every time you shop – that equals \$20-25 on every \$100 of groceries you buy," said Marine Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Saucedo, senior enlisted advisor to the DeCA director. "Along with saving you money, we have innovative ways, such as internet shopping with online ordering and curbside pickup, to help make your commissary shopping experience better than ever." (More: www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/youve-earned-it-commissaries-remind-retirees-former-pows-purple)

Children of Eligible Commissary Shoppers Can Help Save Environment, Enter Contest for Chance to Win \$25 Gift Card

Children of authorized commissary shoppers can help save the environment and enter to win a chance at a \$25 gift card in the Defense Commissary Agency's Month of the Military Child contest April 1-30. "Our military youth experience many sacrifices associated with living in military families – moving from place to place and in many instances watching a parent deploy," said Marine Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Saucedo, senior enlisted advisor to the DeCA director. "During April, the Month of the Military Child, we celebrate our military families and applaud their children for the adversity they've overcome." (More: www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/month-military-child-children-eligible-commissary-shoppers-can)

Commissary Open Mondays Effective April 4

Spring has sprung and so have the savings at your Rock Island Commissary. There is no need to hunt for deals this Easter, [click here for our new sales flyer for March 28 - April 10](#). In addition, the Commissary will be open on Mondays starting April 4 on a limited basis. Hours of operation on Mondays will be from 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., with Self Check Outs (SCO's) available for your purchases and convenience. The Commissary Click2Go will have pick up times every 1/2 hour from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

- Monday, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, 8 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Closed

If you have any questions or concerns, we are available to you via phone or email. Thank you for your service and for shopping your Commissary.



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

Rock Island Arsenal 160th Anniversary Series: The Black Hawk War

Join Kevin Braafladt, Deputy Historian, Army Sustainment Command, on **Wednesday, April 13**, at the Davenport Public Library located at 321 N Main Street, at 6 p.m., in exploring the history of the Rock Island Arsenal over its 160-year existence. The discussion will include the historic background to the conflict and the ties to the local community. This will highlight profiles of key individuals involved in the war some that might be surprising who go on to make history later. This program is scheduled to be held in person and virtually. Please follow this link to attend the program virtually: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82448923761>. The event will be recorded and available on the [Davenport Public Library's YouTube](#). This program is suitable for adults and teens. If you can't attend this session, the same talk will be presented at the Rock Island Public Library's Downtown Community Room the same day at 2 p.m.

RIA Museum Closed For Renovation

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



Healthbeat

Arsenal to Dedicate Health Clinic to Heroic WWII Medic

U.S. Army officials will formally dedicate the U.S. Army Health Clinic at Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, on **Thursday, April 14** at 10 a.m. The clinic will be known as the Woodson Health Clinic, in honor of a World War II medic who served with First Army and saved countless lives during the Allied Invasion of Normandy. Staff Sgt. Waverly B. Woodson, a Medal of Honor nominee, was assigned to the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, the Army's only African American unit to storm the beach on D-Day. According to congressional records, at about 9:30 a.m. on June 6, 1944, Woodson was headed ashore aboard a tank landing ship when it was damaged by a floating mine. The vessel lost power and faced a barrage of enemy mortar and machine-gun fire as it drifted ashore. He sustained a number of shrapnel wounds from the attack before making it to the shelter of an embankment up the beach. After a quick dressing of his wounds by a fellow Soldier, Woodson established a first aid station and began treating other wounded Soldiers. As the battle raged on, he worked for 30 hours straight, treating bullet abrasions, intestinal wounds, setting limbs and other aid for his fellow Soldiers and saved an estimated 200 lives before he was relieved to get rest, records show. As he headed down the beach to gather bedding, Woodson was flagged down and requested to assist three Soldiers pulled from a submerged tank landing ship. Woodson provided artificial respiration until the Soldiers could breathe on their own. Later, he and other wounded, ill and injured Soldiers were evacuated to a hospital ship for further medical treatment. After three days, Woodson requested to return to the front lines. For his heroic actions, Woodson was nominated for an appropriate award. At the time he received the Bronze Star, but since then, bipartisan congressional bills H.R. 8194 and S. 4535 have been introduced to posthumously award Woodson the Medal of Honor. Army officials chose to name the health clinic on Rock Island, home to First Army, in honor of the combat medic. Located in Building 110 on the Arsenal, the clinic provides primary care services for more than 1,940 Military Health System beneficiaries, including active duty Soldiers, retirees and family



members. It supports multiple RIA commands to include First Army, U.S. Army Sustainment Command, Army Contracting Command - Rock Island, Joint Munitions Command, Rock Island Arsenal Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center, U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District, and other units. The team operates an occupational health clinic for civilian employees in addition to an industrial hygiene cell, supporting approximately 8,100 civilian employees, as well as military workers. A live stream of the ceremony will be broadcast on YouTube at [www.https://youtube.com/c/BACHPAO](https://youtube.com/c/BACHPAO).

How Health IT Upgrades are Transforming the Military Health System

Top military health officials recently highlighted the importance of maintaining premium care for patients at a time when information technology systems are changing rapidly across the Military Health System. Speaking at the Health Information Management Systems Society conference in Orlando, Florida, in March, Dr. Barclay Butler, the Defense Health Agency's assistant director of management, spoke about the intricacies of institutional transformation, especially standardization and consolidation. "This transformation changes everything," Butler said. "Everything except the care of our patients." (More: <https://health.mil/News/Articles/2022/04/05/How-Health-IT-Upgrades-are-Transforming-the-Military-Health-System>)

RIA Health Clinic Appointment Number ☎

Rock Island Arsenal Health Clinic's patient appointment line has changed. Appointments should be made by calling **1-866-524-4677 (HOSP)** or by using TRICARE Online at www.tricare.online.com. Since June 7, the old appointment line is no longer available and patients must use the central appointment line to speak with appointment personnel. Rock Island Arsenal Health Clinic hours are the same, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. "This central appointment line booking will help with access to care and better customer service for our patient population," said Sgt. First Class Matthew Brockway, Rock Island Arsenal Health Clinic noncommissioned officer in charge.



Notes for Veterans



VA Ingenuity Affords Formerly Incarcerated Veterans Valuable Resources for Rehabilitation

The Department of Veterans Affairs introduces new efforts to improve interagency coordination and expand outreach to criminal justice partners, to better help those reentering into society after incarceration. In conjunction with a presidential proclamation designating April as Second Chance Month, the initiative is part of the Biden-Harris administration's goal to provide meaningful redemption and rehabilitation for formerly imprisoned persons. (More: www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5780)

Around the Q.C.



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

Once you have joined you can see a listing a the Facebook events people have posted to the group at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/275103093432020/events>

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

Island Insight



Col. Todd J. Allison, Garrison Commander; Staci-Jill Burnley, Public Affairs Officer; Mark Kane, Editor The Army publication, *Island Insight*, is an unofficial publication authorized under AR 360-1 to provide information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of, about, and of interest to the Rock Island Arsenal community. It is published weekly using word processing software and Adobe PhotoShop using Portable Document Format reproduction for online distribution with the use of federal funds under provisions of AR 360-1
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