



**Feb. 9, 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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## Apply Now: Virtual Job Fair Seeks College Students, Recent Graduates for Hire

Recent college graduates and college students will have an opportunity to kick-start their Army Civilian career at the upcoming Becoming Everything You Are virtual hiring event. The U.S. Army Sustainment Command is recruiting at BEYA for the second year in a row, with the goal of hiring 10 or more recent graduates and current college students. The job fair portion of the event is set to take place Feb. 18-19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST, virtually. In lieu of an in-person job fair, BEYA will take place in a two-dimensional virtual village, known as BEYA World II. Attendees will have the opportunity to visit the U.S. Army Materiel Command's virtual booth, where leaders and managers from all 10 of AMC's major subordinate commands, including ASC, will be present. On-the-spot interviews will take place with the intention of issuing letters of intent during the event. ASC has positions available in accounting, finance, management and communication that they are hoping to fill at BEYA. "Ideally, as we recruit students, we want those who are seeking degrees in the related field, and having an interest of living in the



## Upcoming Dates

**February:** Black History Month  
**February:** American Heart Month  
**February:** National Cancer Prevention Month  
**Feb. 12:** Quarters One Historical Tour, 10 a.m.  
**Feb. 12:** Do-It-Yourself Saturday, Auto Service Center, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
**Feb. 12:** Eagle Watch/Clock Tower Tour, Mississippi River Visitor Center, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.  
**Feb. 13-19:** National Salute to Veteran Patients Week  
**Feb. 13-19:** National Children of Alcoholics Week  
**Feb. 14:** St. Valentine's Day  
**Feb. 14:** [Foundations of Health & Wellbeing. Thinking Outside the Clinic: An Intro to Lifestyle Medicine](#), 1-2 p.m.  
**Feb. 16:** 31st Anniversary of the beginning of Operation Desert Storm  
**Feb. 16:** Workforce Wednesday, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3-7 p.m.  
**Feb. 17:** Thirsty Thursday, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3-7 p.m.  
**Feb. 18:** ImpactLife Blood Drive, donor bus in Commissary Parking Lot, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
**Feb. 18:** USO Frank'n Friday, Bldg. 110, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
**Feb. 18:** TGIF, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3-7 p.m.  
**Feb. 18:** Trivia at Lock and Dam Lounge, 5:30 p.m.  
**Feb. 19:** U.S. Coast Guard Reserve 81st Birthday

commuting area would be a bonus,” said Justine Maass, a human resources specialist working to manage and coordinate ASC’s recruitment efforts with BEYA. (More: [www.army.mil/article/253794](http://www.army.mil/article/253794))

### **Moline Plans to Repair 16th St. Bridge to Arsenal and Add Bike Path**

Moline's 16th Street viaduct bridge that connects the city to the Rock Island Arsenal needs at least \$7 million in repairs and upgrades. During a round table discussion Tuesday night, city council members met with officials from the Arsenal to discuss repairs to the shared bridge and grants they could apply for to help fund the project. Colonel Todd Allison, Garrison Commander of U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal, said since the bridge was built in 1982, the Arsenal population has grown in both workforce and residents, going from 40 to 80 homes on the island. "We're in the process right now of privatizing our housing on there, per Congressional mandate," Allison said. "It's very feasible that in the next couple of years, not only will housing be privatized, but we are deficient in housing. We only can house about 10% of our active-duty service members, even though we have a considerable population." (More: [https://qctimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/moline-plans-to-repair-16th-st-bridge-to-arsenal-and-add-bike-path/article\\_30361803-6315-515f-9b14-859bd7d367d7.html](https://qctimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/moline-plans-to-repair-16th-st-bridge-to-arsenal-and-add-bike-path/article_30361803-6315-515f-9b14-859bd7d367d7.html))



### **When the Army Plays Cupid, Unexpected Adventure Awaits**

We got married in jail. Let me clarify: We were not in custody or under arrest – it just happened to be where the magistrate’s office was located during our last-minute real estate hunt at his next duty location right before he deployed. Did we know we would be getting hitched at the jail beforehand? No. Did it deter us from tying the knot? No. Because you do what you have to do when military love strikes during war time. In honor of Valentine’s Day, I would like to reflect on the very unique aspects of our Army love story, and how awkwardly and inconveniently wonderful (and, let’s be honest- downright maddening, at times) military marriage can be. While not your typical fairy-tale wedding, it is par for the course when it came to our relationship. We met at work when we were both assigned to U.S. Army Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Virginia. We didn’t work together on the same team, but he was in the same building. I spoke first, and spoke with the most alluring and irresistible pick-up line ever crafted: “You should try the cake with the nuts in it – it’s really good.” (More: [www.army.mil/article/253906](http://www.army.mil/article/253906))



### **ArMA to Expand ‘Fence-To-Fence’ At Army Installations**

The Army Maintenance Activity, or ArMA, is expanding to all facilities across each of the 73 installations managed by Army Installation Management Command in 2022. Aligned with Army modernization efforts, ArMA digitizes the work order process for all Army-owned facilities with a centralized system for submission and tracking. “Automation of the maintenance-customer relationship is at the core of what we are doing,” said Doug Enfield, ArMA program manager. “Customers expect this. This is part of the Army operating in the information age – not just for housing but for all facilities on the



THE MAINTENANCE WEBSITE THAT HAS HELPED THOUSANDS OF HOUSING RESIDENTS IS EXPANDING TO ARMY FACILITIES POSTWIDE. [armymaintenance.com](http://armymaintenance.com)

installation, which is what we call fence-to-fence.” The IMCOM ArMA team provided on-site support to the Directorate of Public Works team at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Jan. 11-13 – the first fence-to-fence deployment of the year. (More: [www.army.mil/article/253876](http://www.army.mil/article/253876))

### **Army Introduces Strategy to Combat Climate Change Threats**

Producing a fleet of field purpose-built, hybrid-drive tactical vehicles by 2035 and providing 100% carbon pollution-free electricity at Army installations by 2030 are among the goals outlined by the Army’s first Climate Strategy as the service adapts to the effects of changing weather. Additionally, melting Arctic ice has opened new trade routes in the northern hemisphere while increasing great power competition for natural resources said Paul Farnan, acting assistant secretary of the Army for installations, energy and environment. Extreme weather and natural disasters pose a looming danger to national security and Army installations. Changing rain and snow patterns threaten water supplies. (More: [www.army.mil/article/253863](http://www.army.mil/article/253863))



### **Message from the Secretary of the Army to the Force**

Whether it is defending the country at home or overseas, our nation counts on the United States Army to be the first line of defense. We stand ready to deter and defend around the globe, as the tip of the spear in Europe and the backbone of joint operations in the Indo-Pacific. The Army surges in times of crisis and is ready when called upon to fight and win the nation’s wars. We are navigating an unpredictable future, and our nation and our Army are at an inflection point. Building on our strong foundational priorities of people, modernization, and readiness, I have defined six objectives to help guide the force through these shifting times. Through these objectives, my goal is to enable the Total Army to achieve specific and tangible outcomes that we can continue to advance in the years ahead. As we emerge from two decades of counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations, my first objective is to put the Army on a sustainable strategic path amidst this uncertainty. (More: [www.army.mil/article/253814?dmd&linkId=151473380](http://www.army.mil/article/253814?dmd&linkId=151473380))



### **DOD Focused on Protecting the Defense Industrial Base from Cyber Threats**

The Defense Department relies on the entrepreneurial companies and their innovative, hard-working employees in the defense industrial base, or DIB, to create capabilities for warfighters. Through procurements from private-sector sources, the department leverages the best technologies and innovations to give service members the battlefield advantages they need to win decisively, Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen H. Hicks said. "DIB cybersecurity is and will remain an expanding priority for the U.S. Department of Defense. More than 220,000 companies provide value to the department's force development, and the DIB is now facing increasingly sophisticated and well-resourced cyber-attacks that must be stopped," she said, referring to the defense industrial base. (More: [www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2926539](http://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2926539))





## Another Stopgap Funding Bill In Process with Feb. 18 Lapse Coming Up

Congress is moving toward enacting yet another short-term extension of agency funding as it continues to work to finalize agency budgets for the fiscal year that is now more than four months old. The measure (HR-6617) which the House has passed and sent to the Senate would head off the threat of a funding lapse when the current temporary funding bill expires February 18; it would continue spending authority through March 11. Like the expiring stopgap—and the one before it that covered October-early December—the measure generally would continue spending at fiscal 2021 levels with some add-ons. Under longstanding policies, if the government comes within a week of a funding lapse—as it still may—agencies are to dust off their “contingency” plans which require some employees to work temporarily without pay in a partial shutdown while others would be furloughed without pay. Both groups would be assured of receiving back pay, however. (More: [www.fedweek.com/fedweek/another-stopgap-funding-bill-in-process-as-next-budget-process-lies-just-ahead](http://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/another-stopgap-funding-bill-in-process-as-next-budget-process-lies-just-ahead))



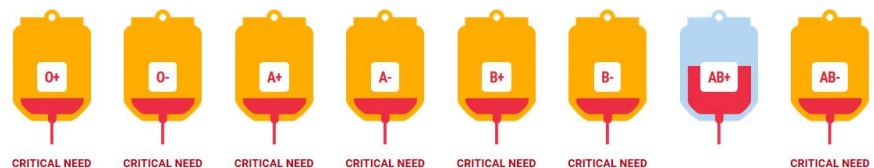
## Ban on Vaccine Mandate Stays in Effect, at Least for Now

The Fifth Circuit federal appeals court has left in place a lower court’s order blocking the federal employee Coronavirus vaccination mandate, although its ruling contained indications that a different outcome may lie ahead. The court rejected what in effect was an emergency motion from the Justice Department to stay the injunction while it considers the administration’s appeal. However, a three-judge panel of the court ordered that the motion be “carried with the case” as it moves forward to a consideration of the merits of the underlying legal arguments. “This matter is expedited to the next available randomly designated regular oral argument panel. The Clerk is directed to issue a schedule for expedited briefing. The merits panel, once identified, will be free, in its discretion, to rule immediately on the motion to stay or await oral argument,” the court said in a 2-1 decision. (More: [www.fedweek.com/fedweek/ban-on-vaccine-mandate-stays-in-effect-at-least-for-now](http://www.fedweek.com/fedweek/ban-on-vaccine-mandate-stays-in-effect-at-least-for-now))



## 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, AB and all types for Platelets. ImpactLife has a blood drive scheduled on Arsenal Island for the month of February:

- **Friday, Feb. 18:** 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Building 333, conference room left of MWR lobby; donor promo – shamrock t-shirt or \$5 gift card.
- Gift card options: Amazon, Home Depot, Lowe's, Target, Subway, Starbucks, Walmart

If you would like to donate at either of these blood drives, feel free to email

[bhancock@impactlife.org](mailto: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](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.

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

### **Eagle Watch/Clock Tower Tour**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District will host multiple eagle watch events this season in January and February. For each event, participants will meet at the Mississippi River Visitor Center on:

- **Feb. 12:** 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Climb back in history as you ascend the Clock Tower Building on Arsenal Island. The upper floors offer a great view of the Mississippi River around Locks and Dam 15 where there is a good opportunity to view bald eagles in the wild. At the height of the tour, we will be six floors up in the clock room looking at the inner workings of the historic clock installed in the tower in 1868. Reservations are required which can be made by calling the Mississippi River Visitor Center at 309-794-5338.



### **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.

- **Feb. 14:** [Foundations of Health & Wellbeing. Thinking Outside the Clinic: An Intro to Lifestyle Medicine](#), 1-2 p.m.
- **March 14:** [Setting Up for Success: Defining and Achieving Your Goals](#), 1-2 p.m.
- **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](mailto:theresa.m.fahrenkrug.civ@army.mil); TEDs POC: Rebecca Peterson, 563-210-4436, [Rebecca.a.peterson.civ@army.mil](mailto:Rebecca.a.peterson.civ@army.mil).

## AMC Looks to BEYA as Valuable Tool to Build Diversity in Workforce

When the goal is building a diverse workforce of scientists and engineers, one of the best places to start is with graduating college students. But, with efficiency in mind, recruiters from both private industry and government organizations need ways to quickly introduce their job opportunities to a wide range of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)-educated students from higher educational institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Enter the Black Engineer of the Year Awards STEM Global Competitiveness Conference (also known as the Becoming Everything You Are conference). For 36 years, BEYA has been a leading venue for introducing the nation’s minority STEM-educated students to the workplace. During that time, several government agencies – including the Army Materiel Command – have partnered with BEYA to connect with the most recent graduates in science and technology fields. This year, the BEYA STEM Global Competitiveness Conference is set for **Feb. 17-19** and will be virtual. (More at: [www.beya.org](http://www.beya.org))



## U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Boater Safety

Looking for a state approved boating safety course or need a boating safety certificate? Boat America is a state approved boating safety course taught by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary qualified instructors. We’re offering this course on:

- **March 5 and March 12**
- 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Two days, 4.5 hours per day, nine hours course total
- Cost: \$40 per person

Don’t let a good boating day become a bad one – for more information and/or to register contact Charles Brennan at [Charles.Brennan@CGAuxDiv9.org](mailto:Charles.Brennan@CGAuxDiv9.org) or 630-290-4773. Course Content:

- Know Your Boat
- Before You Get Underway
- Operating Your Boat... Safely
- Legal Requirements of Boating
- Boating Emergencies... What To Do
- Enjoying Water Sports with Your Boat

USCG Auxiliary, Division 9 Station, Sunset Marina, 10 - 31st Avenue, in Rock Island.

## RIA 2022 Earth Day

Join us **Thursday, April 21**, at the Memorial Park Pavilion, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 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 an off-post guest speaker, 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.

## 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, March 14**. 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)

## Weingarten Notice

It is time once again for the annual reminder of Weingarten Rights provided by 5 USC 7114. The information below applies to all bargaining unit employees: An exclusive representative of an appropriate unit in an agency shall be given the opportunity to be represented at any examination of an employee in the unit by a representative of the agency in connection with an investigation if the employee reasonably believes that the examination may result in disciplinary action against the employee, and the employee requests representation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Labor Relations Specialist or Ombudsman.

## 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.





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## Arsenal Traffic/Construction



### Building 227 Demolition and Partial Parking Lot 2C Closure

The Directorate of Public Works will block off 102 parking spaces in parking lot 2C (adjacent to Building 227) from **Nov. 1 to March 4**. This closure is required for the demolition contractor to set up heavy lift equipment and provide requisite clear zone during the demolition and removal of material from Building 227. The personnel turn-style entry toward Building 220 will remain open and available at all times. Signage, fence and barricades will be in place for safety.

### Extension of Sylvan Drive Construction Project at Beck Road Intersection

Sylvan Drive from the Beck Avenue intersection north to the Building 208 parking lot will remain under construction through **Thursday, June 30** 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. There is no change to the previously published closure area and detour routes. Signage and barricades will be placed for safety and traffic control.

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## Building/Space Closures



*There are no announcements at this time.*

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## Active Duty/Reserve Zone



### Share Your Voice! The Army Housing Tenant Satisfaction Survey Is Live!

The Army's annual housing tenant satisfaction survey active through **Thursday, Feb. 24**, to gather feedback about living in Army housing. You are encouraged to rate your satisfaction with services, property and the overall housing experience through the survey, that response will guide future Army decisions. Tenants received a link via email from CEL & Associates, Inc. – an independent, third-party company. Army privatized, government-owned and government-leased housing tenants can rate their satisfaction with services, property and the overall housing experience through the online survey. Feedback will be used by the Army to help maintain a high quality of life for service members and their families. The Army is investing billions of dollars into transforming barracks and on-post housing at installations





across the globe to provide Soldiers and their families with quality, safe and secure housing and a better quality of life. The Army has fully implemented the Tenant Bill of Rights, ensuring privatized housing tenants receive quality housing and fair treatment. Housing tenants who do not receive the survey notice email from [ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com](mailto:ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com) should contact their local garrison housing offices. The Tenant Satisfaction Survey is Office of Management and Budget approved: OMB Control Number 0704-0553; OMB Expiration Date 03/31/2022. (More: [www.army.mil/article/253145](http://www.army.mil/article/253145))

### Upcoming Online USO MVP Events

On behalf of Amazon's upcoming series, Reacher, we have tickets available to the virtual advanced screening of the first two episodes, followed by Q&A special pre-recorded conversation with Jack Reacher himself, Alan Ritchson, and author and executive producer Lee Child.

- Register and submit your questions here: [usomvp.org/Reacher](http://usomvp.org/Reacher)
- From the movie DOG, we will have actor/co-director Channing Tatum, co-director Reid Carlin, & story by and producer Brett Rodriguez live for a Q&A on **Thursday, Feb. 10**, at 10 a.m.
- Register and submit your questions here: [usomvp.org/DOGMovie](http://usomvp.org/DOGMovie)
- Join the USO and multi-award winning singer/ songwriter Garth Brooks for a live discussion and Q&A on Random Acts of Kindness Day, **Thursday, Feb. 17**, at 1 p.m. Register here: [usomvp.org/GarthBrooks](http://usomvp.org/GarthBrooks)
- In celebration of Black History Month, join the USO and celebrity chef Carla Hall for a live Q&A and soul food cooking demo on **Friday, Feb. 18**, at 11 a.m. Register and submit your questions here: [usomvp.org/CarlaHall](http://usomvp.org/CarlaHall)

USO Illinois Rock Island is located on Rock Island Arsenal in Building 110. USO Illinois Rock Island provides a vital connection to USO programs and services for nearly 50,000 troops and their families in the Quad Cities. All amenities are offered free, daily, to active duty, guard and reserve military and their dependents, and retired military members. The center features a Cyber Canteen furnished with computers, printer and fax, as well as free WI-FI access. (More: <https://illinois.uso.org/rockisland>)

### 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](http://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](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/tax-resource-center/preparing-filing-and-refunds/volunteer-income-tax-assistance-program)

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## Safety Spotlight



**ARMY SAFE  
IS ARMY STRONG**



The top priority of the installation safety office is to safeguard and protect service members, their families, civilian employees and Army property as well as to create the safest workplace and living environment possible. Website: <https://home.army.mil/ria/index.php/about/Garrison/safety-office>

*There are no announcements at this time.*

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## 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.

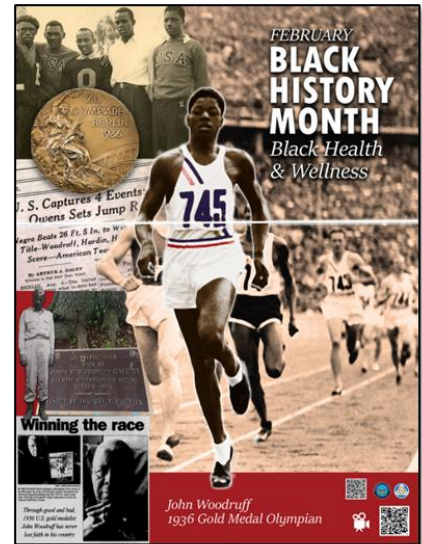
### **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Are Necessities in U.S. Military**

Diversity, equity and inclusion in the military are necessities for the United States, Bishop Garrison, the senior advisor to the secretary of defense for human capital and diversity, equity and inclusion said. Garrison spoke to the Center for a New American Security today about the progress being made by the department and what still needs to happen. Some 41 percent of the military identify as members of minority groups, and that number will grow larger, Garrison said. The military must be

able to attract, train and retain them for the services to retain competitive edges, he said. (More: [www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2929658](http://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2929658))

## Black History Month

February is Black History Month, and the Army reflects upon and celebrates the tremendous contributions of African-Americans to the nation. The theme of 2022 Black History Month is "Black Health & Wellness." During this observance the Army reflects on the contributions of African American Soldiers. The Army is dedicated to leveraging the strength of our diverse force and ensuring equality for all its members. To sustain a high-quality Army 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. African Americans make up more than 19 percent of the Total Army and the Department of the Army Civilian Workforce. African Americans play vital roles in today's Army as Soldiers, Army Civilians and family members, and are critical members of the Army team. The Army strongly embraces diversity as a way to maximize individual talent, increase morale and greatly enhance military effectiveness. The Army finds its strength not only in its diversity, but in its ability to bring together people of different faiths, cultures, and races who share common values like duty, honor, selfless service, loyalty, and respect. The Army is confident that the myriad of talent, skills, and abilities in the diverse force will help to meet future defense challenges and win the nation's wars.



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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.



## 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.

### **Auto Service Center, “Do-It-Yourself” Saturdays**

Exciting news from the Auto Service Center, dedicated “Do-It-Yourself” Saturdays are continuing in the New Year. Please hurry and reserve your spot now before the “bays” and “lifts” are full. We will be open **Feb. 19**. “Do-It-Yourself” space available from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. For those mechanically inclined come on in to perform all of your vehicles maintenance and repair jobs. The cost will be \$13 for the first hour and \$10 an hour for any additional hours needed. For more information please call 782-8631.

### **FMWR Digital Photo Contest**

Enter your best photo in the 2022 U.S. Army Digital Photography Contest through **March 15**. This is an event encouraging novice or photography enthusiasts to capture their favorite views, moments and adventures from all across the world. Entries submitted showcase some of the most original and creative minds at work. Share your best shots for a chance to win great prizes. Enter at [www.armymwr.com/programs-and-services/arts-crafts/digital-photo-contest](http://www.armymwr.com/programs-and-services/arts-crafts/digital-photo-contest)

### **Island Oasis Now Inside Only**

The Island Oasis is serving lunch today from their indoor location, inside the Fitness Center lobby (Building 67) and is open Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The soup today will be sent to the workforce each day. There are lots of other delicious items on the regular menu as well. Please remember to bring a mask as it is required for entry to the Fitness Center and please remember to social distance while waiting in line and for your order. Call 309-782-6319 for more info on the Island Oasis.

# 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>)

## Wanted – Crafters & Vendors

MWR is looking for crafters and vendors for upcoming events.

- **Saturday, April 2:** Easter Egg Hunt, 8-11 a.m.,
- **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.

## 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.

## Galena Day Trip

Join us for a trip to Galena, Illinois, on **Saturday, Feb. 12**. Depart from the Moline Gate Visitor Control Center parking lot at 8 a.m.; departing Galena at 3 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person.

Transportation only. Masks required. Stroll along Galena, Illinois' Main Street and discover art galleries, home decor, antique stores, boutiques and kitschy treasures. The historic architecture provides the perfect background for you to shop until you drop. Take your time enjoying special sweet treats from our local bakeries, chocolatiers, and more while strolling down Main Street. Contact the Leisure Travel office at 309-782-5890 to reserve your spot.

## Trivia at Lock and Dam Lounge

**Friday, Feb. 18**, 5:30 p.m., Lock & Dam Lounge (Building), Trivia Night will be presented by Brain Gamez. Come out and test your knowledge. Fun for all and a chance to win \$50. Get your team together for an exciting evening. Cost is \$5 per person or \$25 for a team of 6. You can enjoy a great burger or other Lock & Dam favorites on our food menu as well as some great drink specials. Please call 309-782-6319 to sign your team up or walk-ins welcome.

## Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration

Join us **Wednesday, March 2**, in the Lock & Dam Lounge dining area; doors open at 4 p.m., and the movie begins at 5 p.m. The Lock & Dam Grill will be open and adult & child menus will be available. Come celebrate the birthday of one of the most beloved children's authors of our time, Dr. Seuss. I am what I am! That's a great thing to be! If I say so myself, Happy Birthday to me!

### **Canoecopia Event**

MWR is planning a van trip to the Canoecopia event held in Madison, Wisconsin, on **Saturday, March 12**. The MWR van will depart from the Visitor Control Center at 6 a.m., departing from event at 2 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person, 10 passenger van. Masks are required. Transportation only. Canoecopia is the largest paddle sports consumer event in the world. More than 250,000 square feet of kayaks, canoes, stand up paddleboards, outdoor equipment and clothing, with the best selection of the season, make Canoecopia a "must go" place for gear. More than 180 seminars and clinics make Canoecopia an educational event where you can learn about the perfect gear for your style of paddling, develop skills to get you where you want to go, and discover some of the many places to paddle, both near and far. Tickets can be purchased at the door – 1-day is \$15. Ages 17 and under are free. Cash or check only for tickets purchased at the event.

### **Quarters One Paranormal Investigation**

Join us **Saturday, March 26**, in Quarters One; doors open at 5 p.m., with the Illinois Paranormal Introduction at 6 p.m., and the investigation from 7-10 p.m. Limited to 30 guests; cost is \$25 per person. RSVP by calling 309-782-5890. Must be 18 years of age or older no alcohol allowed. Face masks are required. Quarters One is not handicapped accessible.

### **Cinch World's Toughest Rodeo**

Cinch World's Toughest Rodeo will be returning to the TaxSlayer Center on **Saturday, April 2**, at 7:30 p.m., and **Sunday, April 3**, at 2 p.m. Fans are invited into the arena to a meet and greet with both contestants and specialty entertainers for autographs and photographs one hour prior to show. Enjoy the free preshow featuring interactive fun for adults and kids of all ages. Leisure Travel Office has discounted seats on sale for \$31, \$43 and \$61. Call 309-782-5890 to get your tickets.

### **Quarters One Historical Tour**

Join us for Quarters One Historical Tour on **Saturday, March 19**, at 10 a.m. Cost: \$10 per person. At 51 rooms and more than 20,000 square feet, Quarters One is the second largest government homes. Being behind only the White House. To learn more of the history behind this hidden treasure and a guided tour get your spots today. Contact 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](http://www.facebook.com/RIACYSS))**

### **DoDEA Pilot Program Kicks Off Second Year**

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is accepting applications for the second year of its Expanded Eligibility Pilot Program (E2P2). This program allows dependents of active-



duty military members serving in locations that do not have a DoDEA brick-and-mortar high school the chance to enroll in the DoDEA Virtual High School (DVHS). E2P2 was authorized as part of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act and is limited to 400 enrollments. Students can take up to two, year-long courses per academic year and must obtain approval from their local school system. Homeschooled students are also eligible for the program. The courses are intended to supplement the local education activity and must be used as part of graduation requirements. Courses offered include World Languages, Career and Technical Education, and Advanced Placement. The full list of courses and the application for E2P2 can be found at [www.dodea.edu/dvs/e2p2.cfm](http://www.dodea.edu/dvs/e2p2.cfm). During its first year, students from all over the country enrolled in E2P2. Parents of the students are stationed at military installations like Fort Drum, New York; Norfolk Naval Base, Virginia; and even Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska. The program has students from all four services: Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. Tenth-grader Brianna W. is the dependent of a soldier stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Brianna enrolled in German 2 through E2P2, and says the program allowed her to continue her language studies even though German wasn't offered at her local high school. "This program is helpful and engaging," Brianna said. "As long as you set goals for yourself and apply yourself accordingly online you will see that it is actual fun."

### **CYS Sports and Fitness Opportunities**

Enjoy these 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 ages 3 to 17, there is something for all ages. Military, civilian, veteran, and contractor families are eligible to participate in all attached offerings. Sign-ups begin and end very soon for many programs including:

- Baseball Leagues (for children 4-15 years old), sign up period **Feb. 7 to March 8**
- Softball Leagues (for children 4-16 years old), sign up period **Feb. 7 to March 8**
- Basketball Skills Clinic (for children 6-17 years old), sign up **until Feb. 11**
- "Little Hoopsters" Parent/Child Basketball (for children 3-5), sign up **until Feb. 8**
- "Little Sluggers" Parent/Child Baseball (for children 3-5), sign up **until Feb. 8**

Help Wanted – volunteer sports coaches needed within the Sports and Fitness Program, especially to help with upcoming baseball/softball spring season. POC: Andy Milton, sports and fitness director, 309-782-6793. To sign up for sports, call CYS Parent Central Services at 9 a.m. during the sign up periods listed above at 309-782-0791, or stop in to the office on 1st Floor, Building 110. Each child must be registered with CYS in order to participate. Sports physicals are required.

### **Parent Training**

RIA parents of 4th-12th graders, please join us for a collaborative training opportunity at the School Age/Youth Center on **Thursday, Feb. 24** from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. We will be discussing topics such as respect, bullying, and healthy relationships. There is a MS Teams option to join in on the training. This training opportunity is open for military, civilian, veteran and contractor families. Please call and RSVP with our School Liaison Office at 309-782-6515.

### **Teen Training Event**

Join the School Age/Youth Center for a Teen Training Event on **Thursday, March 3**, 6:30-7 p.m. We will be discussing topics such as bullying, healthy relationships, and interactions with individuals with special needs. Service learning hours will be provided for participation along with

pizza and soda. Military, civilian, veteran and contractor teens are welcome, CYS registration is required. Call 309-782-6515 or 5019 to RSVP for the event.

### **Teen Movie Night**

Attention all Rock Island Arsenal teens. Join the School Age/Youth Center for a Teen Movie Night on **Friday, March 4**, from 6-8 p.m. We will be watching Shrek and make sure to wear something green and enjoy green snacks. Military, civilian, veteran and contractor teens welcome, CYS registration is required. Call 309-782-6515 or 5019 to RSVP for the event.

### **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.



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

### **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.

### **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.

# 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>

## Ice Skate Rental

Now open, RIA's ice rink located behind Building 312. Outdoor Recreation has plenty of ice skates for rent.

## Snow Days

Whether you're planning a trip to the mountains or getting out to explore the winter wonderlands of the Mississippi River Valley, Outdoor Recreation has the equipment you need. Downhill skis, snowboards, cross country skis, snowshoes, ice skates and fat tire bicycles are available for rental. Before your next winter adventure please stop by the Outdoor Recreation Office in Building 333 to see all the great equipment available for your use. Open Monday thru Friday 8:15 a.m. – 4 p.m. (closed all federal holidays). For more info please call 309-782-8630.

## Winter Camping

For the more adventurous the camping trailers at Outdoor Recreation are available during the winter months. Many Iowa and Illinois state parks are open for winter camping with limited amenities. The plus side is that the campground will be much less crowded, quieter and at night around the campfire there will be a million stars in the sky. Check ahead with the state parks to see what kind of services are available at this time. With the Outdoor Recreation camper trailer and your own electric space heater you are sure to have a great a great relaxing time. For more information please contact Outdoor Recreation at 309-782-8630.

## Fat Tire Bicycles

Your bicycle riding does not need to stop when there is snow on the ground. There are miles of trails in the Quad Cities region and several fat tire bicycle riding events planned over the winter months by area bicycle clubs. Outdoor Recreation has five inch adult fat tire bicycles available for rental. Come try something new and see how fun riding in the snow can be. For more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at 309-782-8630.



# 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).

## Feb. 13-19 is Children of Addiction Awareness Week

Children of Addiction Awareness Week calls attention to the one in four children under the age of 18 who are exposed to a family alcohol problem, and the many others affected by parental drug abuse. The week celebrates the recovery of the many thousands of children who have received the help they needed to recover from the pain and loss suffered in their childhood, and offers hope to those still suffering. The Robert Young Center-Center for Alcohol and Drug Services is pleased to present, "Family Roles – Children of Addiction," a class to further awareness of children and parental addiction. When living under the same roof with someone who is dependent on alcohol or other drugs, children of addiction and other family members may adopt coping strategies that can create lasting negative effects. These coping strategies include individual roles each family member takes on to keep the attention off the individual with a substance dependence and keep the family secret from getting out. Participants of this training will learn about the common roles children of addiction take on and how they are impacted by the chaos of living in a home where drug addiction is present.

- Date: **Wednesday, Feb. 16**
- Time: 1-2 p.m.

Register in TEDs using the search key words: "FY22 Garrison Substance Abuse" With your organization's approval, the following training qualifies to meet your FY22 Substance Abuse Awareness training requirement. Check with your organization's Training Coordinator for guidance.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86498252740?pwd=NzVFNHp5UXhiQ29xdDRCamZscmQ2dz09>

Please sign in to the class using your full name to obtain credit for attending. Trouble-Shooting Instructions:

- If you click on the link in this email and get a screen that states "This website doesn't work in Internet Explorer" or will not load, exit that screen and try copy/pasting the link in your Chrome, MS Edge, or Firefox browsers.
- Once the Zoom screen appears, click on the blue button "Launch Meeting," you will not be connected to the class as you do not have Zoom installed. Click "Join From Your Browser" at the very bottom of the page. This will take you to the class.

## 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.



## 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>

## RIAWC Scholarship

The Rock Island Arsenal Welcome Club (RIAWC) scholarship applications became available online Jan. 25 at <https://riawc.com/scholarship>. The deadline for the applications is **Friday, March 18**. The applications are open to active duty, Guard, Reserve as well as civilian and contractor employees on Rock Island Arsenal and spouses and dependents of all those individuals. The application further explains requirements. Questions can be directed to [riawcscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:riawcscholarship@gmail.com).

# 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).

## **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>)

## **DeCA Assesses Mission, Vision Progress During 2021, Adjusts Direction To Work Harder For Patrons In 2022**

“We have made great progress this first year. Now we need to assess where we are, and adjust our way ahead based on what we’ve learned, along with the dynamics of our rapidly evolving environment.” That’s what Bill Moore, DeCA director and CEO, told agency senior leaders who gathered for the agency’s Transformation Summit at its headquarters in mid-December. The event assessed how the agency was performing in its year-old vision of being “THE grocery provider of choice for our eligible patrons – delivering a vital benefit exclusively for our military community and their families.” (More: [www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/focusing-customer-deca-assesses-mission-vision-progress-during](http://www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/focusing-customer-deca-assesses-mission-vision-progress-during))

## **Hit Us with Your Best Smile Shot For A Chance To Win A \$1,000 Exchange Gift Card**

Military shoppers can cash in on their million-dollar grin by submitting a photo of their best smile in the Procter & Gamble Best Smile Contest for a chance to win a share of \$1,750 in Army & Air Force Exchange Service gift cards. Through Feb. 17, authorized shoppers 18 and older can visit [ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes](http://ShopMyExchange.com/sweepstakes) to enter to win the grand prize—a \$1,000 gift card to use at ShopMyExchange.com or in PXs and BXs. (More: <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/ExchangePost/2022/02/07/hit-us-with-your-best-smile-shot-for-a-chance-to-win-a-1000-exchange-gift-card>)

## **Share the Love! Exchange Helps Military Communities Make Valentine’s Day Special with Gifts, Flowers and More**

Warfighters and military families can shower their sweethearts with affection this Valentine’s Day by picking up fresh flowers and gifts from the Army & Air Force Exchange Service. Starting the week of Feb. 7, military shoppers can choose from a selection of fresh Designer’s Choice and Fantasy Farms flowers at participating Exchanges and Expresses. Flowers can also be delivered directly to shoppers’ loved ones when ordered from [ShopMyExchange.com](http://ShopMyExchange.com). (More: <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/ExchangePost/2022/02/03/share-the-love-exchange-helps-military-communities-make-valentines-day-special-with-gifts-flowers-and-more>)



## **Feb. 17 Is the Application Deadline for the Annual Scholarships for Military Children Program**

The Feb. 17 deadline to apply to the Scholarships for Military Children program, administered by the nonprofit Fisher House Foundation, is quickly approaching. A total of 500 scholarship grants, each for \$2,000, will be awarded for the 2022-23 school year with at least one recipient selected at every commissary location where qualified applications are received. Additional recipients will be selected based on a prorated basis, so more applicants will be selected from those commissaries with larger numbers of applicants. (More: [www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/clock-ticking-feb-17-application-deadline-annual-scholarships](http://www.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/clock-ticking-feb-17-application-deadline-annual-scholarships))



## **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))

### **Arsenal of Democracy - Women Workers at Rock Island Arsenal During WWII**

Join us **Sunday, March 13**, at 11 a.m., online, when Rock Island Arsenal Museum director, Patrick Allie, as he explores the history of women workers at Rock Island Arsenal during WWII. (More: [www.facebook.com/events/504448280912562](https://www.facebook.com/events/504448280912562))

### **RIA Museum Closed For Renovation**

The Rock Island Arsenal Museum is undergoing a \$1.5 million renovation. The project includes the biggest modernization of the museum in more than 50 years. The renovation will refocus the exhibits on the history of the U.S. Army's organic industrial base, Rock Island Arsenal, and the Arsenal's current role in producing Army readiness. It is part of the U.S. Army Museum Enterprise's five-year reform effort to refine its collection and enhance education and training capabilities at its 47 field museums. To provide a sneak peek of the new exhibits, a series of virtual presentations will be held this summer outlining the new interpretation and exhibit design. Stay tuned for updates on the [Museum's Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/RIAMuseum) or website, [arsenalhistoricalsociety.org](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.



# 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 \(CDC\)](#).

## **Why Dental Health is Essential for Warfighters and Military Readiness**

To help service members understand the importance of healthy teeth, some dentists use military-style terminology. Tooth decay is an "enemy you are fighting" and you need to "execute a plan to eliminate that foe," said Air Force Col (Dr.) Robin Fontenot, a consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General for expeditionary dentistry. Fontenot compares routine dental check-ups to aircraft maintenance. (More: <https://health.mil/News/Articles/2022/02/04/Why-Dental-Health-is-Essential-for-Warfighters-and-Military-Readiness>)

## **‘Tactical Napping’ and Other Tips to Sleep Well On Deployment**

Getting enough sleep is always essential for optimal performance and functioning. But service members know that a full night's sleep is not always an option. On deployment, many things make sleep a challenge, including combat operations, long work days or 24-hour watch duty. Service members on deployment may be anxious, concerned about their own safety or missing home. And they may face uncomfortable sleeping surfaces and unusual sleep-wake cycles. (More: <https://health.mil/News/Articles/2022/02/09/Tactical-Napping-and-Other-Tips-to-Sleep-Well-On-Deployment>)

## **For Thousands of Troops, Eye Surgery is Key to Vision Readiness**

For military eye doctors and eye surgeons, one of their top priorities is to preserve and enhance vision for the service members who need it most, including those in career fields like aviation, special operations and the security forces. The core of this effort is the Warfighter Refractive Eye Surgery Program, which has supported more than 750,000 surgical procedures during the past 20 years. The surgical procedures, which include Lasik and PRK surgery, often aim to eliminate service members' dependence on glasses or contact lenses in austere environments. (More: <https://health.mil/News/Articles/2022/02/10/For-Thousands-of-Troops-Eye-Surgery-is-Key-to-Vision-Readiness>)

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# Notes for Veterans



## VA Funding Available To Create Technology Helping Eligible Service Members And Veterans Adapt Their Homes

The Department of Veterans Affairs has Specially Adapted Housing Assistive Technology grants available for fiscal year 2022 to develop new technologies that enhance the ability of seriously disabled service members and Veterans to live more independently. VA encourages researchers, organizations and individual technology developers to apply for SAHAT grant funding via Grants.gov. by 11:59 p.m., ET, March. 11, to develop specially adapted housing assistive technologies that will improve the livability of Veterans' adapted residences. (More: [www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5762](http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5762))

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## Around the Q.C.



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

Once you have joined you can see a listing 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.*

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## Island Insight



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