



March 23, 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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JMC Command Sergeant Major: From Finland to a U.S. Army Soldier

When JMC's Command Sergeant Major Petra Casarez graduated from high school in 1988, her mom gave her a Finnish penny stamped 1907 and told her "You can be anything you want to be." The year 1907 is a significant year in Finland; parliamentary elections were held in the autonomous Grand Duchy of Finland, March 1907, the first through which members were elected to the new Parliament of Finland by universal suffrage, and the first in the world in which female members were elected. "All I really wanted to do was be a soldier and join the Finnish Army, but I wasn't allowed," said Casarez. Her father and grandfather had been soldiers, and her male peers were able to join the Finnish Army, but it wasn't until 1995, after she left the country, that Finland's military introduced voluntary service for women. Instead, Casarez went on to chase her love of languages. While studying in Germany, she met her husband, Tom. Together they moved to the United States where they married in 1991. "It was here, in the United States, I could fulfil my dream by joining



Upcoming Dates

March-September: PCS Season
March: National Women's History Month
March: Irish-American Heritage Month
March: National Brain Injury Awareness Month
March 26: Quarters One Paranormal Investigation, Quarters One, 5 p.m.
March 26: Earth Hour, 8:30 p.m.
March 29: National Vietnam War Veterans Day
March 30: Workforce Wednesday, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3-7 p.m.
March 31: Thirsty Thursday, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3-7 p.m.
April: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month
April: Month of the Military Child
April: Military Saves Month
April: Child Abuse Awareness Month
April 1: First Friday/Right Arm Night, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3-7 p.m.
April 2: RIA Easter Egg Hunt/Bloom on the Rock, Memorial Park, 8-11 a.m.
April 4-May 3: Global Defender 22 Phase 1
April 5: Gold Star Spouses Day
April 6: Workforce Wednesday, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3-7 p.m.
April 7: Thirsty Thursday, Lock & Dam Lounge, 3-7 p.m.
April 7: Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society April Dinner & Program, Lock & Dam Lounge, 6 p.m.
April 8: ImpactLife Blood Drive, Building 333, conference room left of MWR lobby, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

the Army,” said Casarez. “My mom was right, I could be anything I wanted to be.” In 1994, she enlisted in the United States Army as a Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic. (More: www.army.mil/article/255005)

World War I Opens Opportunity for Women Workers at RIA

During Women’s History Month, inspirational women such as Harriet Tubman or Susan B. Anthony are often remembered, but it is also important to recognize women closer to home who helped pave the way for future female employees here at RIA. During World War I, women from Rock Island and Moline, Illinois, Davenport, Iowa, and the surrounding areas, were hired in large numbers at RIA for the first time, in order to support the war efforts. As men were deploying to fight the war, women stepped in to take their place at the arsenal, reaching a peak of 1,400 female employees. This was the first time that women held prominent roles at RIA. They initially held positions such as office workers, typists, and stenographers. As the war effort grew and needs increased though, women began taking on more technical jobs in the artillery, ammunition and clothing shops. (More: www.army.mil/article/255051)



ACC-RI's New Base Operations Contract Keeps Arsenal Running

Members of the Munitions and Industrial Base Directorate recently accomplished a major feat, awarding and overseeing the successful transition of the Rock Island Arsenal Base Operations Support Services (RIA BOSS) to a new contractor in support of the United States Army Garrison – Rock Island Arsenal (USAG-RIA) for the first time in almost 25 years. The RIA BOSS contract supports the USAG-RIA in its mission to provide quality facilities and base operation support services to all installation tenants. These services enable the Rock Island Arsenal to operate successfully and complete its critical mission in providing logistical and manufacturing support to the warfighter worldwide. Rock Island Integrated Service (RIIS), a large business, has provided the RIA Base Operations Services since August 1997 with minimal changes to the scope of work throughout the years. (More: www.army.mil/article/254945)



ASC Employees Look Back On 2nd Anniversary of Teleworking Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

It’s been two years since the federal workforce was told to go home and telework because of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, those in management thought teleworking could be a fitting temporary solution, maybe lasting up to two weeks, after which everyone would be back working in the office. As unimaginable as this virus was elsewhere in the world, having U.S. federal employees work from home for two weeks was even more unrealistic if not downright unthinkable. But it happened. In fact, it’s only recently that the federal workforce is making strides toward coming back into an office environment. Of course, these plans could be stifled anytime by another variant that could prove itself to be just as bad, if not worse, than the Delta and Omicron variants. Nevertheless, things seem



to be improving here in the U.S. as a “new normal” is taking shape. This new normal has caused changes in people’s perspective on life – professional and personal – in ways not thought possible in March 2020. (More: www.army.mil/article/254896)

EAGLE Pre-Award Teams Help Program Soar

A year after a realignment in the Army Contracting Command-Rock Island’s (ACC-RI’s) Enhanced Army Global Logistics Enterprise (EAGLE) Contracting Branches, the resulting benefits to ACC-RI, the customer and industry are clear. The EAGLE Program supports Army Sustainment Command’s (ASC’s) mission to provide maintenance, supply, and transportation support services to 93 Logistics Readiness Centers/Army Field Support Battalions worldwide. The EAGLE acquisition strategy provides increased competition through the use of Basic Ordering Agreements (BOAs); increased opportunities for small businesses; standardization of acquisition and requirements packages; standardization of contract award and administration. (More: www.army.mil/article/255032)



Column: Arsenal Role in Defense Grows

This year, the Rock Island Arsenal turns 160 years old, meaning the Quad-Cities has played a vital role in defense manufacturing for more than a century and a half. In this time, the Arsenal has adapted. From its beginning as a prison camp to transitioning to manufacturing rifles to making howitzers, the Arsenal has played a critical role in supporting the men and women who serve our nation. As of this month, that role just got bigger. Nearly \$70 million in federal funding for research, development and manufacturing is headed to the Quad-Cities and the Rock Island Arsenal, secured in a major funding package that was just passed out of Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden. These investments in our community will ensure that the Rock Island Arsenal remains strong for years to come. (More: https://qctimes.com/opinion/columnists/column-arsenal-role-in-defense-grows/article_e668e7e1-2a6b-505b-80e5-76b317dbdb65.html)



OPM Announces Paid Time Off for Federal Employees to Vote

Today, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced that federal employees may now receive up to four hours of administrative leave to vote in federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial elections. OPM also announced that federal employees may now use up to four hours of administrative leave per year to serve as non-partisan poll workers or observers. “The functioning of our democracy and protecting the right to vote are core American ideals,” said Kiran Ahuja, OPM Director. “Today’s guidance advances fundamental goals of the Biden-Harris Administration: to promote democracy, reduce barriers to voting for federal employees, and further position the federal government as a model employer for other employers to follow. OPM is proud to help lead this effort.” In March 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14019 on Promoting Access to Voting. In the order, President Biden directed OPM to explore strategies to expand the Federal Government’s policy of granting employees time off to vote, including through efforts to expand early voting. It also directed OPM to explore ways to support employees who wish to serve as non-partisan poll workers or observers. (More: www.opm.gov/news/releases/2022/03/opm-announces-paid-time-off-for-federal-employees-to-vote)



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.



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.

Vietnam War – 50th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony

The Rock Island National Cemetery will host the Vietnam War – 50th Anniversary Commemorative Ceremony on **Tuesday, March 29**, at 10 a.m. This ceremony, held annually on National Vietnam War Veterans Day, will consist of the following elements coordinated by Vietnam Veterans of America Quad Cities Chapter 299.

- Welcome & Introductions – Matt Tomes, director, Rock Island National Cemetery
- National Anthem – Jim Bell, VVA #299
- Welcome Address – Matt Tomes, director, Rock Island National Cemetery
- RIA Speaker – Maj. Gen. Chris Mohan, Commanding General, U.S. Army Sustainment Command
- Keynote Speaker – John Lavelle, Vietnam Veteran
- Wreath Laying
- Rifle Salute – VVA #299
- Taps – Tracy Hepner

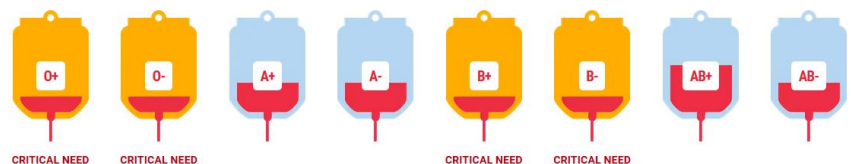
National Vietnam War Veterans Day is a U.S. holiday observed annually on March 29. It honors all United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location; each



year's theme is "Join the Nation... Thank a Vietnam Veteran for Service to our Nation." On March 28, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017. This act officially recognizes March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The Act also includes the day among those days on which the U.S. flag should especially be displayed. U.S. involvement in Vietnam started slowly with an initial deployment of advisors in the early 1950s, grew incrementally through the early 1960s and expanded with the deployment of full combat units in July 1965. The last U.S. personnel were evacuated from Vietnam in April 1975. This national commemoration was authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense, and launched by the President to thank and honor our Nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. In 2007, the 110th Congress incorporated language in House of Representatives (H.R.) 4986 authorizing the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. H.R. 4986 was signed into law as the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2008 by President George W. Bush on Jan. 28, 2008. President Barack Obama officially inaugurated this Commemoration at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Memorial Day, May 28, 2012. Congress outlined a total of five objectives for this U.S. Vietnam War Commemoration, with the primary objective being to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the Nation, with distinct recognition of former prisoners of war and families of those still listed as missing in action. The four remaining objectives highlight the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war; pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens; highlight technology, science and medical advances made during the war; and recognize contributions by our Allies. By Presidential proclamation, The U.S. Vietnam War Commemoration will continue through Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2025. ([United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration](#))

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.
- 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 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. 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

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,"

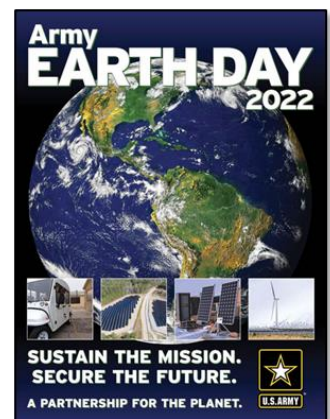
1 CLP. The sessions will not be recorded.

- **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.

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. The Army joins the nation in observing Earth Day on April 22. 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.

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 as 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



Government Bridge Lane Restrictions on March 29

The Government Bridge will have intermittent single-lane roadway closures on **Tuesday, March 29** between 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. for maintenance. Appropriate signage and construction flaggers will be used to warn and direct traffic around all activities.

Sylvan Drive Phase II Construction Project

DPW will continue Phase 2 construction on the Sylvan Drive Repair Project beginning **Monday, 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



Secretary Approves Implementation of Revised Army Combat Fitness Test

Secretary of the Army Christine E. Wormuth issued an Army Directive today outlining a time-phased implementation of a revised ACFT as the Army's general physical fitness test. Changes made to the ACFT incorporate feedback from Soldiers and independent analysis of test performance. Among the key changes announced by the Army are new age-and-gender-performance normed scoring scales; the replacement of the leg tuck with the plank for the core-strength assessment; and the addition of the 2.5-mile walk as an alternate aerobic event. "The revisions to the ACFT are based on data and analysis, including an independent assessment required by Congress. We will continue to assess our implementation of the test to ensure it is fair and achieves our goal of strengthening the Army's fitness culture." (More:

www.army.mil/article/254875)

USO Update

Stop by the USO every Tuesday for treats from Olde Towne Bakery. The Frank'n Friday will be **April 1st** from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Mark your calendars... starting **Monday, April 4**, the USO will be open Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Stop by and enjoy our new hours, grab a snack, and say hi to our volunteers that haven't been here for a while.

Operation Purple® Camp Summer 2022 Program Taking Applications

Operation Purple® Camp offers military kids a free week of camp where they connect with other kids, just like them. Children from all uniformed services, including National Guard, Reserve, Space Force, and the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and United States Public Health Service may apply. When your military child attends Operation Purple Camp, they'll enjoy a true summer camp experience, complete with arts and crafts and outdoor activities, like ropes courses, canoeing, swimming, archery, and climbing walls. Campers will thrive in an environment with fully trained counselors and camp staff experienced in helping children adapt and overcome the stressors of military life. By meeting kids like them, campers make life-long friends who understand what it's like for a parent to serve in the military. Campers are encouraged to celebrate the sacrifices they make and be proud of their role as a military kid! (More: www.militaryfamily.org/programs/operation-purple/operation-purple-camp)

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



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>

Prioritizing Heat-Illness Prevention

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is targeting occupational heat injury and illness prevention as part of its recent efforts to establish a universal standard to protect workers. According to OSHA, "Heat is the leading cause of death among all weather-related phenomena, and it is becoming more dangerous, as 18 of the last 19 years were the hottest on record." OSHA tracks workers who develop medical conditions or die from excessive heat exposures, and identifies those in construction and agriculture to be at the highest risk. These medical conditions, referred to as heat illnesses or injuries, occur when the body is unable to compensate for increased body temperatures due to hot and humid environmental conditions and exertion. (More: <https://safety.army.mil/MEDIA/Risk-Management-Magazine/ArtMID/7428/ArticleID/7145/Prioritizing-Heat-Illness-Prevention>)

March Is Brain Injury Awareness Month

An acquired brain injury (ABI) is an injury to the brain that is not hereditary, congenital, degenerative, or induced by birth trauma. Essentially, this type of brain injury is one that has occurred after birth. The injury results in a change to the brain's neuronal activity, which affects the physical integrity, metabolic activity, or functional ability of nerve cells in the brain. There are two types of acquired brain injury: traumatic and non-traumatic. A traumatic brain injury (TBI) is defined as an alteration in brain function, or other evidence of brain pathology, caused by an external force. Traumatic impact injuries can be defined as closed (or non-penetrating) or open (penetrating). (More: www.biausa.org/brain-injury/about-brain-injury/basics/overview)

Equal Employment Opportunity Focus

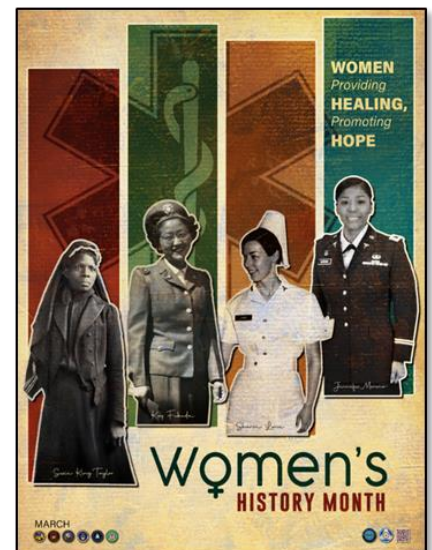


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It is the policy of the Department of Army to provide equal opportunity in employment for all people and to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age (40 and over), disability, genetic information, and/or reprisal for prior EEO activity. Any Department of the Army employee, former employee, or applicant for employment, and certain contract employee, who believes they have been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex (includes pregnancy, equal pay, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national original, age (40 and over), mental or physical disability, genetic information, and/or reprisal for prior EEO activity in an employment matter, subject to the control of the Army, may initiate the EEO complaint process. To file an EEO complaint, you must contact the Garrison EEO Office within 45 calendar days of the alleged discriminatory incident and express your intent to initiate the complaint process. The Garrison EEO office is currently providing services virtually. Please contact EEO staff at 309-782-2548.

National Women's History Month

March is National Women's History Month. This year's theme is "Providing Healing. Promoting Hope." During this observance, the Army pays tribute to the contributions of women in the building of this great nation. Army leaders across the department continue to set the conditions for all Soldiers and Civilians to reach their full potential, and assign tasks and jobs throughout the force based on ability, not gender. All Soldiers, regardless of gender, complete the same training and must pass the same requirements to be awarded a military occupational specialty in any career field. Women have served the United States Army since the Revolutionary War. Today more than 174,000 women serve in the Total Force. Women serve in every career field in the Army, and are critical members of the Army team. The Army is proud of today's women Soldiers, who serve with distinction and are role models exemplifying the Army's highest values. Women's History Month stands as a reminder of the strength the Army has gained through a high-quality diverse all-volunteer force. (2022 [White House Proclamation](#)) ([Women in the Army](#))



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.

First Friday/Right Arm Night

Join us for First Friday/Right Arm Night on **Friday, April 1**, 3-7 p.m., in the Lock & Dam Lounge (Building 60). Right Arm Night is a time honored Army tradition promoting camaraderie and esprit de corps. Leaders come together with those standing to their right - the ones helping them get through daily missions - to build relationships while mixing and mingling with other leaders who have brought their battle buddies with them. Everyone is welcome to bring your right arm(s) and join us at the Lock & Dam Lounge for Right Arm Night/First Friday. Enjoy networking with your fellow Arsenal colleagues while building Esprit de Corps and partnerships. This month taking over the handles will be, Front Street Brewery. Having been in continuous operation since 1992, Front Street Brewery is the oldest brew pub and second oldest brewery, in the state of Iowa. It was the 300th craft brewery to be established in the United States. The brewery's humble beginnings started with a 7-barrel brew house in the basement of the current Pub & Eatery location, located on River Drive in downtown Davenport. The 100+ year old building is nestled along the banks of the Mississippi River, in downtown Davenport, in what was known from the late 1800s into the early 1900s as the "Bucktown" neighborhood. Come out and celebrate and have a cold one. You can also enjoy a great burger or other Lock & Dam favorites on our newly updated food menu.



Island Oasis Outdoor Grill Begins April 4

The Island Oasis Outdoor Grill will begin service outside of Building 67 beginning **Monday, April 4**. 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.

RIA Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Bloom On The Rock

Join us for the RIA Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Bloom On The Rock on **Saturday, April 2**, at Quarters One for the Easter Egg Hunt from 8:30-11 a.m. Breakfast will be available from inside in Heritage Hall, Building 60 from 8:30-11 a.m. The event will include selfies with the Easter Bunny and a vendor/flea market. This event is open to MWR authorized patrons, which includes all active duty military, reserves, National Guard, military retirees, RIA workforce civilians & contractors, and their families, as well as RIA DoD/Army civilian retirees.

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.

Spring Break Tickets

If you're heading South for spring break Leisure Travel in Building 333 has great discount tickets to Orlando, Florida destinations for sale. For more information please call 309-782-8630 or 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.

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.

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.

Scooby Doo Movie Night

Join us for Scooby Doo Movie Night in the Lock and Dam Lounge dining area on **Wednesday, April 20**, 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.

MWR Easter Egg Hunt

On the morning of **Saturday, April 2**, teens are welcome to volunteer at MWR's Easter Egg Hunt. For more information call 309-782-2165. All 6th-12th grade military, civilian, veteran, and contractor CYS registered teens are welcome to participate in CYS teen events.

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](#))

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



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.

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, 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>

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.

Defense Commissary Agency / Exchange



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

Army & Air Force Exchange Service Salutes Vietnam Veterans with Special Truck Design

In recognition of National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is rolling out three tractor-trailers with a message to those that served during that era: “Thank you for your service to our Nation.” “The American public didn’t understand the sacrifices of Vietnam War Veterans, and these heroes often didn’t receive the homecoming they deserved,” said Exchange Director/CEO Tom Shull, a Vietnam era Veteran. “These trucks allow the Exchange to help properly acknowledge our Vietnam Veterans’ distinguished service.” (More: <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/ExchangePost/2022/03/14/army-air-force-exchange-service-salutes-vietnam-veterans-with-special-truck-design>)

New Barber Shop Hours

The Barber Shop that is part of The Exchange is changing its hours effective March 14. The new hours are as follows:

- Monday – closed
- Tuesday – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Wednesday – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Thursday – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Friday – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Saturday – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Reminder: Eligibility to use The Exchange and the Barber Shop includes all civilians who are a part of the Arsenal Island workforce.

RIA Exchange Hours Adjustment

The Exchange started the hours listed below effective Feb. 28.

- Monday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Sunday, Closed

The Exchange will run these hours for the month of March and then evaluate if they need to be expanded.

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>)

Arsenal Archive

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

Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society April Dinner/Program

Join us for the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society April Dinner and Program on **Thursday, April 7** in the Lock & Dam Lounge, dinner begins at 6 p.m. The program will be presented by Rick Harris, former bank lending vice president, now a methier (mead maker) and owner operator of Bootleg Hill Honey Mead. He will talk about the history of mead; the types of mead; Bootleg Hill Honey Meads; and current status of the mead industry. The program will follow a dinner of chicken mushroom alfredo, vegetable, rolls and butter. The cost of the dinner \$15. Reservations are due by noon on **Monday, April 4**. To make your reservation, please contact one of the following individuals – Linda Miller at 563-355-6165 or chiicaliinda@aol.com; Julianne Hardy at 563-343-5637; or Jim Jochum at jochum2823@msn.com. Dinner cancellations must be made by the reservation deadline or you will be liable for costs incurred and billed accordingly. No cost for attending the program only.

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

Rock Island Arsenal is at Health Protection Condition (HPCON) Bravo, in conjunction with this change is an [OSD Guidance memorandum dated 1 March 2022](#), which updates the policy regarding masks and screening testing. Updated guidance released by the Safer Federal Workforce Task Force on Feb. 28, 2022, updates masking and screening testing guidance requirements be based on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)



[coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Community Levels](#). All other force health protection guidance remains in effect, including guidance regarding workplace access, occupancy levels, physical distancing, travel, and meetings. Individuals must follow more rigorous workplace mandates when commands determine it is required to protect health and safety in the workplace. In these instances, commands/agencies must notify the RIA Garrison EOC of a higher standard and establish clear signage. Employees and visitors are encouraged to make the decision to wear/not wear a mask based on their personal, individual comfort levels, as well as to follow current CDC guidelines for COVID-19 mitigation practices which includes the requirement to wear masks when displaying symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19. For questions regarding COVID-19-related policies not discussed in this message, please contact your supervisor and agency management. ** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

How COVID-19 Made the Military Medical Community Stronger

The international responses to the COVID-19 pandemic led to a host of changes and lessons learned across the Military Health System that will be valuable in preparing for the next crisis - whether that's another pandemic, a new conflict or natural disaster. The far-reaching effects of the pandemic was a topic for top military health leaders from the U.S. and several other countries at an international COVID-19 panel discussion on Feb. 23. The virtual panel discussion was part of the annual meeting of AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Officials. (More: <https://health.mil/News/Articles/2022/03/21/How-COVID19-Made-the-Military-Medical-Community-Stronger>)

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 Promotes Greater Access to Voter Information to Veterans and Families

The Department of Veterans Affairs unveiled a series of measures, March 24, promoting greater access to voter information for Veterans and their families as part of the department's proposed designation as a voter registration agency under the National Voter Registration Act. In accordance with Executive Order 14019: Promoting Access to Voting, these steps are part of VA's "whole health" approach to care, ensuring Veterans and their families are able to exercise the right to vote which Veterans fought and served to protect. (More:

www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5776)

Call for Submission: 2022 Veterans Day Poster Contest

Are you an artist – professional or amateur? Do you like to create artwork that honors Veterans? VA and the Veterans Day National Committee are currently accepting submissions for the 2022 Veterans Day poster contest. Submissions are due by **11:59 p.m. (EDT) on April 1**. Anyone can enter. The winning design will be displayed in VA facilities; military installations; federal, state, and local office buildings; and classrooms across America. Winning posters are also occasionally observed in the background of TV shows and movies about Veterans. Most importantly, the poster will serve as the cover of the official program for the Veterans Day observance at Arlington National Cemetery on Nov. 11, during which a grateful nation will honor Veterans for their service and sacrifices. (More: <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/100592/call-for-submission-2022-veterans-day-poster-contest>)

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

https://armypubs.army.mil/ProductMaps/PubForm/Details.aspx?PUB_ID=1020482 by the Rock Island Arsenal-Garrison Public Affairs Office. **Contents of *Island Insight* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Army. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Garrison or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of *Island Insight* is the responsibility of the Rock Island Arsenal-Garrison Public Affairs Office.** Submission of announcements, articles, photos, letters, and graphic art of interest to the general readership is encouraged. All manuscripts are subject to editing and rewriting prior to publication. Postal address: Garrison Public Affairs, 1 Rock Island Arsenal, ATTN: IMRI-PA, Rock Island, IL 61299-5000. For submission of announcements to the *Island Insight*, use the following link: <https://home.army.mil/ria/index.php/contact/public-affairs>. To send comments email usarmy.ria.imcom-central.mbx.usag-ria-pa@army.mil or phone 309-782-1121.

