



Jan. 17, 2012

Island Insight



This publication is published weekly and contains information about, for, and of interest to the Island Workforce. This document is also available on the island intranet under "Information" and on the installation website at www.ria.army.mil under "About USAG-RIA" and then "News" and "Local News."

Island Insight Submission: <http://www.ria.army.mil/sites/IslandAnn/announcement.cfm>

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INCREMENT WEATHER
OPERATING STATUS

Spencer New Top NCO at ASC:

Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer accepted responsibility for "good order and discipline among the troops" of Army Sustainment Command during a Jan. 18 ceremony here. Spencer takes over from Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen D. Blake, who is retiring. Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston, ASC commanding general, presided over the event, during which an NCO sword was passed from Blake to Spencer.

According to Army lore, the sword serves as a visual reminder of the power, strength and fidelity of the position it represents. A native of Humboldt, Tenn., Spencer began his Army career in 1986. Since then, he has risen through the ranks to become the senior NCO of a global command with more than 500 Soldiers, nearly 2,000 Department of the Army civilian employees and some 65,000 contractors. His assignments have taken him to Kentucky, North

Carolina, Virginia, Texas and Germany, including his most recent assignment at the 21st Theater Sustainment Command. Among his professional training are the basic Airborne and Air Assault courses, Warrior Leader Course, Battle Staff Course and the Army Sergeants



Major Academy. Among Spencer's decorations are two Bronze Star Medals, two Southwest Asia Service Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and three Iraq Campaign Medals. ([More](#))

CSM Puig Leaves JMC: Saying goodbye is never easy. But saying goodbye to JMC's Command Sergeant Major David Puig as he leaves for his next tour of duty will be especially difficult.



Puig has become a fixture during his two and a half years of service to JMC. Since 1990, Puig worked in explosive ordnance disposal and held many leadership positions. "I knew about the storage and destruction of ammo, but I didn't have a clue about the industrial side of ammo, about production, processes, locations," Puig said. "And nothing prepared me for leading a purely civilian organization." ([More](#))

Combined Federal Campaign Successfully Wraps Up

Season: Federal, military and postal employees capped 50 years of giving at a Combined Federal Campaign awards



ceremony and luncheon. Employees from a myriad of federal agencies encompassing 37 counties in the bi-state area celebrated contributions totaling \$678,418 for the fall 2011 campaign period. Maj. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, commanding general of the Army Sustainment Command and the 2011 CFC Honorary Chair served as the keynote speaker. Referring to this year's contributions, McQuiston said, "That's an incredible amount of good that can be done to help international organizations, national organizations and, probably most dear to our hearts, local organizations in so many different ways." ([More](#)) ([McQuiston praises CFC](#))

ASC Soldier Mentors Students: The U.S. Army Sustainment Command is partnering with a local school to provide mentorship to its students. Capt. Justin Bergen, ASC's Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, offers his Thursday afternoons to the children of Lincoln Academy. "My hope is that this program will assist the students by giving them positive role models that they can look up to," he said. This Davenport school



Upcoming Dates

- Jan. 17:** 21st Anniversary of Operation Desert Storm
- Jan. 22-28:** Tobacco-Free Awareness Week [🔗](#)
- Jan. 23-27:** No Name-Calling Week [🔗](#)
- Jan. 27:** National Eosinophilia Day [🔗](#)
- Jan. 29:** Thomas Paine Day
- Feb. 1:** National Freedom Day
- Feb. 1-7:** National Patient Recognition Week [🔗](#)
- Feb. 2:** Groundhog Day
- Feb. 2:** National Junior Achievement Groundhog Job Shadow Day
- Feb. 3:** National Wear Red Day [🔗](#)
- Feb. 3:** National Patient Recognition Day
- Feb. 4:** USO 71st Birthday [🔗](#)
- Feb. 4:** World Cancer Day [🔗](#)
- Feb. 5:** Super Bowl XLVI [🔗](#)
- Feb. 5:** Army Emergency Relief 70th Birthday [🔗](#)
- Feb. 5:** National Weatherman's Day
- Feb. 5-11:** Burn Awareness Week
- Feb. 6-12:** Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week [🔗](#)
- Feb. 6-12:** World Salt Awareness Week [🔗](#)
- Feb. 7:** Nat. Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day [🔗](#)
- Feb. 8:** Susan B. Anthony Day
- Feb. 11:** National Inventors' Day
- Feb. 12:** Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb. 12:** Darwin Day
- Feb. 12-19:** Children of Alcoholics Week
- Feb. 13-17:** Random Acts of Kindness Week
- Feb. 14:** Valentine's Day
- Feb. 14:** National Donor Day
- Feb. 14:** National Pet Theft Awareness Day
- Feb. 19:** 71st USCGR Birthday [🔗](#)
- Feb. 19:** 67th Anniversary of Battle of Iwo Jima
- Feb. 20:** Presidents' Day (*Federal Holiday*)
- Feb. 19-25:** National Engineers Week [🔗](#)
- Feb. 19-26:** Military Saves Week [🔗](#)
- Feb. 24:** Introduce a Girl to Engineer
- Feb. 24:** Great American Spit Out [🔗](#)



participates in the Partners in Education, an Army-wide program focused on partnering military volunteers and schools. Soldier-mentors help students develop academic and life skills necessary to be successful. ([More](#))

Arsenal Has New Batch of Interns:

There are 10 participants in Minority College Relations Program's spring 2011 internship, here. The 15-week program runs from January through May and focuses on getting students integrated into the federal work place and shows them many different ways to serve the nation, aside from military service. ([More](#))



Raise Proposal Will Restart Pay

Battle: President Obama's plan to recommend a 0.5 percent federal raise for January 2013 in his upcoming budget proposal, in what would be the first basic raise since 2010, likely will restart a battle over dueling assertions that federal workers are either underpaid or overpaid already. The budget proposal, which is to come out in several weeks, is only a starting point for a pay decision in the congressional budget process that typically extends through

the year. Salary schedules were frozen at 2010 levels for 2011 and 2012 under an unusual two-year law enacted in late 2010, although employees remain eligible for within-grade raises and raises on promotions. ([More](#))

Pay Parity and Your 2013 Pay Raise:

The debate over a pay raise for federal employees in 2013 has already begun in earnest. The White House recently proposed a 0.5% pay increase as part of its 2013 budget proposal which is set to be released within the next couple of months. Critics on both sides were quick to attack the proposal. Union leaders and members of Congress in districts with high percentages of federal workers criticized the proposal as being far too small, failing to keep pace with inflation or cost of living, or just being generally unfair after coming off of a two year pay freeze. ([More](#))

Sequester Unlikely, But Major

Defense Cuts Ahead: Taxes and death are certain. Less certain is what will happen with the 2013 budget. Unless Congress can come up with an alternate plan, sequestration will set in. That will remove \$600 billion from future DoD budgets. "What we've already seen from both the administration and the Pentagon is they're not going to provide

a budget at sequester levels," said Russel Rumbaugh, co-director of budgeting for foreign affairs and defense at the Stimson Center. "They're going to come in at the levels mandated by the Budget Control Act, the debt deal signed last August." ([More](#))

Bill Takes Plain Language Requirements a Step Further:

Agencies already are under the gun to put their public communications into plain language. A congressman behind the original effort now wants to take the spirit of that open-government effort a step further and rid federal regulations of government jargon. "You shouldn't have to have an accountant and a lawyer to explain to you every regulation that impacts your business," said Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa). ([More](#))

Federal Health Plans to Offer Blue Button Digital Health-Record Access:

All health insurance options in federal health plans will soon allow members to download a digital version of their health records using a technology called Blue Button, the Office of Personnel Management announced. Most plans in the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan already offer a personal-health-record option. However, the Blue Button technology, whose use was spearheaded



by the Veterans Affairs Department, will make it easier to share digital records with family members and physicians. ([More](#))

Mileage Reimbursement Unchanged at 51 Cents Per Mile: Federal employees will see no change in their 51-cents-per-mile reimbursement for driving their own cars for federal business. The standard reimbursement allowed by the IRS remains at 55.5 cents per mile, but the General Services Administration set the federal rate, effective Jan. 1, after its own independent analysis. ([More](#))

Treasury Looks to G Fund as Debt Ceiling Looms: The Treasury Department has temporarily ceased issuing new securities to the Thrift Savings Plan's Government Securities Investment Fund—also known as the G Fund—as the government once again approaches the federal debt ceiling. Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board Executive Director Greg Long released a message to plan participants on the TSP website notifying them of the Treasury Department's move, and reminding them that G Fund investors are protected by a 1987 statute that safeguards them against any reduction of assets or loss of interest income.

Federal law requires the Treasury Department to restore the securities and lost interest when the suspension period is over. ([More](#))

Historic Clock Tower and Eagle Watch Tour: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project announces that the Visitor Center at Locks and Dam 15 is inviting guests to come participate in a Historic Clock Tower and Eagle Watch Tour. Relive the early days of the Rock Island Arsenal as you climb your way up the historic corridor of the Clock Tower Building which has been a Quad City landmark for over 100 years! Waiting at the top is a spectacular view of the Mississippi where you will have the opportunity to see Bald Eagles who visit our area during the cold winter months. ([More](#))

Fire Alarm Testing: Contractors will test the Simplex system as it pertains to the remodeled main entrance of Bldg. 390 on **Jan. 23**. These tests will result in both strobes and horns being tested repeatedly (short bursts) to ensure operation at both the site and fire station. If a true emergency exists, alarms will sound continuously.
Time: **6-6:30 p.m.**

9th Annual Quad Cities Henry Farnam Dinner - Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Rock Island Arsenal: Friday, **March 9**, at Jumer's Casino and Hotel. The main part of the evening's program will feature two illustrated presentations on the history of the Arsenal and the Island. Regena Schantz, expert on Fort Armstrong and the life and career of Colonel Davenport, will discuss Fort Armstrong and the Island before the Arsenal. Featured speaker Leslie Jensen, Curator of Arms and Armor at the West Point Museum in New York, will present the Rock Island Arsenal, Reflection of an Army 1862-1920. The 2012 Farnam Dinner will also feature numerous displays relating to the Arsenal, the Island, the River, and other historical topics. Reservations are required - dinner and program is \$40 per person; \$375.00 for a reserved table of 10. For further information or to receive a formal invitation, contact Curt Roseman, (309) 764-6122 or croseman@usc.edu. ([Facebook](#))

Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop & Boutique: Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop is open Tuesday, Thursday, and this Saturday, **Jan. 21**, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. We're not your average "thrift shop." Now



accepting unlimited consignments.
Parking available. POC: (309) 782-6977

Blood Drive: The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is hosting a blood drive in the Caisson Room (First Floor, Bldg. 60), on **Friday, Jan. 20, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.** If you would like to donate at this blood drive, feel free to e-mail SHoegerl@mvrbc.com with the time you'd like to schedule, or call their Donor Center at (563) 359-5401, ext. 119. A 3rd shift blood drive will be held in the Cafeteria (Bldg. 210) beginning at **2:15 a.m. on Feb. 10**. To sign up for a blood drive held on either the 2nd or 3rd shift, donors should contact their shift supervisor.



The Truth About Donating Blood! Excuse: Plenty of people donate, they don't need my blood. Truth: The fact is that plenty of people don't donate. Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. Unfortunately, of the 38 percent of the U.S. population that is eligible to donate blood, less than 10 percent do annually.

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 [click here.](#)

Installation Voting Assistance Officer:

It's a freedom that you defend, vote! Your installation voting assistance officer is: Lafayette Ausborn; Location: Bldg. 56, 3rd floor; Phone: (309) 782-4799; Fax: (309) 782-4451; lafayette.ausborn.civ@mail.mil

Travel Warning – Philippines: The

Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of terrorist activity in the Philippines. While most of the recent incidents of terror have occurred on the island of Mindanao and in the Sulu Archipelago, U.S. citizens are reminded that terrorist attacks could be indiscriminate and could occur in any area of the country, including Manila. Public gathering places may be targeted, including (but not limited to) airports, shopping malls, conference centers and other public venues. Military and DoD employees traveling outside the United States are



required by regulation to attend an Area of Responsibility briefing within 90 days of travel. Contact your commands respective Antiterrorism Officer for further information. The JMC ATO can be reached at (309) 782-1823 and the ASC ATO can be reached at (309) 782-5809. The USAG-ATO can be contacted at (309) 782-0116. For tenants without ATO's on the installation, the USAG-ATO will provide the briefing.

Esprit de Corps Toastmasters Club:

The Esprit de Corps Toastmasters Club meets the first and third Wednesdays each month in the Clock Tower Building. We love guests. You may visit as often as you wish before deciding if you would like to join us. Check us out. No one is beyond hope for becoming a skilled and confident speaker.

Date: **Wednesday, Jan. 18**
Time: **11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.**

Arsenal Workforce Discount: Bayside Smoothies, a local family-owned business, is giving all Arsenal Island employees a 10 percent discount off of purchases at their location at



2730 W. Locust Street in Davenport. Patrons can call their orders ahead at (563) 391-6360 for pick-up. To see their menu check out [their website](#).

Arsenal Traffic/Construction

Traffic Change at the Davenport Gate: Effective **Jan. 16**, all southbound (Illinois-bound) traffic crossing the Government Bridge will be required to stop at the intersection with the Davenport Gate regardless of the time of day. This change is not anticipated to significantly affect inbound Arsenal traffic flow given the extremely short queue space for traffic entering the Davenport Gate. Outbound Rock Island Arsenal traffic will remain unchanged.

Government Bridge Closures: This is to provide you information on Government Bridge Closures. The Government Bridge will be closed **Jan. 21**. On Saturday, **Jan. 21**, the Government Bridge will be closed to "vehicular" traffic from 7 a.m. - 5p.m. This closure is necessary to allow workmen to place equipment and materials on the "I" wall that will be used for the repair of the pedestrian walkway(s) and supporting steel on either side of the Swing Span. If you

have any questions or concerns, please contact your Labor Relations Specialist or Ombudsman.

Building/Space Closures

Restroom Closure(s): Public Works in conjunction with their contractor has scheduled the temporary closure of Bldg. 350 Restrooms 6N and 4N. The restrooms will be closed Tuesday, **Jan. 17** thru Monday, **Feb. 27** for complete renovation. Please excuse any inconvenience this may cause. Other facilities are located south of the affected restroom(s) on each floor.

Restroom Closure(s): Public Works in conjunction with their contractor has scheduled the temporary closure of Bldg. 350 restrooms 3M and 6N. The restrooms will be closed Tuesday, **Jan. 31** thru Monday, **March 12**, for complete renovation. Please excuse any inconvenience this may cause. Signs will be posted outside these restrooms with directions to the nearest open restroom (women's, men's, or unisex).

Closure: There will be construction projects requiring closure of the archway opening with man doors on basement level of Bldg. 102 and 104,

northwest corner of the respective courtyard entrances by passenger elevators. Alternative routes for entering and leaving the buildings will need to be used for approximately 2-3 weeks. Construction will begin **Jan. 23**. Time: **7 a.m.**

Bldg. 60 SW Stairwell Closure: Bldg. 60 SW stairwells, basement to 3rd floor will be closed for cleaning and construction improvements from **Dec.27 through March 31**. Notifications will be posted on all entries to the stairwell by Dec. 19. POC is Amy Henry at (309) 948-1020.

Active Duty/Reserve Zone

Army One Step Closer to Replacement of ACU Pattern: The Army is now one step closer to selecting a new set of camouflage patterns that could replace what Soldiers are wearing now in most places. As part of the "Phase IV" camouflage effort, the Army this week awarded contracts to five vendors -- selected from an initial 20 -- to each provide enough fabric in the new camouflage patterns they have developed to produce 150 uniforms for the Army to test. Each vendor had been



asked to produce a "family of camouflage patterns," including one that would be suitable in a woodland environment, one that would be suitable in a desert environment, and one that would work in a "transitional" environment. The Army will spend the next nine months testing the effectiveness of those patterns. ([More](#))

Rock Island Arsenal Tax Center: It's that time again, as the New Year begins so does tax season. Your Rock Island Arsenal Tax Center is here to help. Below



are a few tips that can prepare you for this tax season:

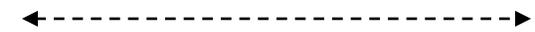
- First, begin gathering your records. You will need to bring forms and/or other documents supporting income or deductions you are taking on your return and a cancelled check or document that has your account and routing number if you want to receive your refund electronically. You should be on the lookout for W-2s, 1099s and interest and dividend statements, which will show up in your mailbox or your online accounts.
- Second, according to DFAS, Annuitant and Retiree 1099s are available on MyPay, as are civilian (DoD and non-DoD) W-2s. Reserve component W-2s

became available Jan. 6 and Active Duty Soldier's W-2 will be available **Jan. 24**. Visit <https://mypay.dfas.mil> for more information and to access MyPay.

- Third, if you filed your taxes last year with the Rock Island Arsenal Tax Center, we should have your information in our system but we will still need proper identification. If this is your first time filing with us please make sure you have your Social Security Number or your Tax Identification Number with you and bring a copy of your last year's tax return and all accompanying documents. We can prepare your state tax returns for you; but we must have all of your state tax information. If you are an Iowa Resident, we must have your 2010 Federal and State return in order to complete this year's tax return for you.
- Finally, the Rock Island Arsenal Tax Center is continuing with its drop off service. The drop off service streamlines the process for both you and your tax preparer. Our location is in Bldg. 390, in the paralegal suite of the Office of Counsel. We opened as of Jan. 17; you can call (309) 782-8327 with questions.

Revised Policy Streamlines The Disability Evaluation Process For Wounded, Ill and Injured Service Members: The recently updated

Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) Directive-Type Memorandum (DTM) includes several major changes to streamline the process for wounded warriors. "The updated guidance will immediately help the Military Departments and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ensure Service members and families experience the best possible disability evaluation system and delivery of benefits process," said Al Bruner, Deputy Director in charge of Disability Evaluation policy, Office of Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy. "It establishes policy, assigns responsibilities, and prescribes procedures for the IDES." ([More](#))



Safety Spotlight

Free Training Opportunity - OSHA 30 Hour Course: The Garrison Safety Office is hosting a 30-hour OSHA Training Course, **Feb. 6-10**, in Room 4 of the Baylor Conference Center (Bldg. 103-104, 3rd floor). Course hours are 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Monday – Thursday; and 7-11 a.m. on Friday. The course is free of charge. The course covers safety topics from general OSHA and Army safety requirements, as well as specific topics employees can use to make their



workplaces safer. This course meets the requirements for Collateral/Additional Duty Safety Officers. Employees may sign up in [TEDs](#), key word: 30-hr. Additional course information may be obtained from Ed Welch, (309) 782-6798. If your organization does not have access to [TEDs](#), please call Ed Welch at (309) 782-6798 to enroll. Class size is limited to 26 students. Additional classes will be scheduled as needed.

Equal Opportunity Focus

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Garrison EEO Interactive Customer Evaluation: The Garrison Equal Employment Opportunity office Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) is now available by clicking [HERE](#) to go to their website to complete the Ice survey. If you are commenting on a Special Emphasis Program select the program from the drop down menu provided.

Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR)

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Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR): Visit the MWR website at www.riamwr.com for information on all

MWR programs. Also [click here](#) to become a fan on Facebook and stay up to date on all the great MWR offerings here at the Arsenal.

MWR Super Bowl Party: Head over to Heritage Hall (Bldg. 60) on Sunday, **Feb. 5** and watch the biggest game of the year on multiple screens. Doors will open at 3 p.m. \$5 cover charge includes a chili & hot dog buffet. There will also be drink specials and door prizes. Please call (309) 782-6319 for more information. ([Flyer](#))
Time: **3-10 p.m.**



2012 RIA Fitness Center Health Fair: The annual RIA Fitness Center Health Fair is the place to gather helpful information on every aspect of your physical, mental, and emotional well being. 80+ exhibitors will be present with information on various topics such as heart and cardiovascular health, neurology, chiropractic care, and much more. Call (309) 782-6789 for more information. ([Flyer](#))
Date: **Wednesday, Feb. 15**
Time: **10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF)

Equipment Silent Auction: The Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Directorate will conduct a silent auction on **Jan. 18 & 19**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. The auction which will take place at Bldg. 112, will offer bargain hunters a great opportunity to purchase used NAF equipment at rock bottom prices. ([Flyer](#)) ([Listing of Items](#)) There will be a "viewing day" conducted on **Jan. 17**, 1-3 p.m., where patrons can see the items up for bid prior to the actual auction. Call (309) 782-3956 for more information.

Trivia Night: Call up to nine of your smartest friends and join us for our monthly trivia at Heritage Hall, Bldg. 60. Cost is \$10 per player with mulligans and double bonuses available. Food & drink available. Prizes for 1st - 3rd place. Open to everyone. Call (309) 782-6319 for details. ([Flyer](#))
Date: **Thursday, Jan. 19**
Time: **6 p.m.**

Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse

Holiday Hours of Operation: Will be closed for the season during the period of **Dec. 22 - Jan. 31**, re-opening for lunch on **Feb. 1**. Lunch is served Tues.-Fri. No bar operations in the clubhouse



until **Feb. 1**. Please call (309) 782-6319 for more information.

Arsenal Club Bar: The bar in the Arsenal Club (Bldg. 60) will be open Thurs. and Fri. evenings at 2:30 p.m., effective Jan. 12. Please call (309) 782-6319 for more information.

MWR Leisure Travel Office

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Bldg. 60. The office is closed for lunch from 10:30–11 a.m., (309) 782-5890. ([email](#)) ([website](#))

Chicago Cubs vs. Milwaukee

Brewers: Hey Cubs and Brewer fans. Do we have a deal for you. Let us provide the transportation to Milwaukee, Miller Park, and a game ticket for only \$84 per person. Seats on sale now.

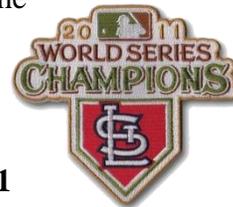
For more information contact the Leisure Travel Office. Date: **Saturday, May 12**
Time: **12:05 p.m. (game time)**



No Limit Texas Hold 'Em

Tournament: Head on down to the Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse on Saturday, **March 10**, for the No Limit Texas Hold Em' Tournament. Entry fee is \$40 per player, which includes lunch. Please register in advance by calling (309) 782-4372 or (309) 793-1601. Time: **12 p.m.**

Cubs vs. Cardinals: The Chicago Cubs will be taking on the defending World Series Champion St. Louis Cardinals at Busch Stadium. The bus will **depart at 8 a.m.** from the COL Davenport Pavilion area. Seats on sale now for \$104 per person.



Date: **Saturday, July 21**
Time: **3:05 p.m. (game time)**

Circa 21: Southern Crossroads:

Southern Crossroads tells the tale of a hilarious traveling family of singers and musicians during the Great Depression, trying to eke out a living with their musical talents. Enjoy live musicians and such great classic hits as "Keep It on the Sunny Side", "I'll Fly Away", "Midnight Special" and many more!

Date: **Saturday, April 14**

Time: **5:45 p.m.**

Circa 21: Spreading It Around: An upbeat comedy about a well-to-do widow living in a retirement community in Florida. Tired of handing out money to their neglectful, unappreciative children, Angela Drayton and her friends set up an organization which gives to those really in need. Discounted seats are \$43.50

Date: **Saturday, May 26**

Time: **5:45 p.m.**

Grease at Circa 21: This is the 1950s

Rock 'n Roll Musical: Rydell High's spirited class of '59 captures the look and sound of the 1950's in a rollicking musical. Grease is one of the longest running shows in Broadway history. It is a lively and funny musical which includes such favorites as "Summer Lovin'," "Beauty School Dropout," "Greased Lightening," "We Go Together" - all of the '50s favorites that made this musical a Broadway and film blockbuster. Discounted tickets are \$43.50. Please call (309) 782-5890 or visit the Leisure Travel Office in Bldg. 60 to purchase tickets.

Date: **Feb. 18**



Outdoor Recreation is Your Winter Sports Equipment Headquarters: The snow is finally here and whether you need a pair of skis (Nordic or Alpine), a snowboard, snow shoes or ice skates, Outdoor Recreation located in Bldg. 333 has you covered with our large selection of high quality and affordable equipment rentals. A complete listing of all available equipment can be found [HERE](#). Call (309) 782-8630 to reserve your equipment or for more info.

Adler Theatre: Damn Yankees: This is the story of a 1950s middle-aged baseball fanatic who trades his soul to the Devil for a chance to lead his favorite team in the pennant race against The New York Yankees only to realize the true worth of the life (and wife) he's left behind. Discounted seats are \$46.
Date: **Friday, March 23**
Time: **7:30 p.m.**

Adler: Red Green's Live Wit & Wisdom Tour: It is time to bring out the flannel shirt, find those suspenders, dig out the duct tape and join Red Green for a famous Possum Lodge meeting. Ticket on sale now for \$47.50 (Floor Seating)
Date: **Tuesday, May 1**
Time: **7 p.m.**

Skiing, Snowboarding & Snow Tubing Outings: Join Outdoor Recreation for a fun day of Skiing, Snowboarding, and Snow Tubing at Snowstar Winter Sports Park in Andalusia, Ill. on **Jan. 20** and **Feb. 17**. Cost is \$13/person for snow tubing. Skiing & Snowboarding lift tickets are \$10, with equipment rental being \$10 at Snow Star. Need to get a quick lesson before hand? Ski lessons are \$4 and board lessons are \$9. If carving up the slopes over and over again is not your idea of fun, then grab a cup of hot cocoa and cozy up to the bonfire at the bottom where you'll have a great view of all the activities. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from Snowstar and should meet there no later than 4 p.m. Outing goes till closing time at 10 pm. Please call (309) 782-8630 to sign up. Minimum of 15 people required to sign up or outing will be cancelled. ([Flyer](#))

Discount QC Mallards Tickets: Visit Leisure Travel in Bldg. 60 to get your discount tickets to watch the Quad City Mallards dominate the rink all season long. Tickets are available in the lower bowl for



every home game this season for only \$15. Call (309) 782-5890 for more info.

Need a Vacation?: Do you need help planning your vacation - let the leisure travel staff help turn your vacation into a dream vacation. Stop by or call our office at (309) 782-5890. Let us do the work.

Child, Youth & School Services

Martial Arts: SKIESUnlimited is offering Martial Arts for ages 6-18 years old. The winter session is **Dec. 1 – Feb. 28**. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays 5-5:55 p.m. Please contact (309) 782-5969 for additional information.

All Child, Youth & School Services Holiday Hours of Operation: Jan. 2, New Years Day Observed - Closed (H)

Dance: SKIESUnlimited is offering Dance for ages 3-5 years old. The winter session is **Dec. 5 – Feb. 27**. Classes will be held on Mondays, 9:30-10 a.m. Please contact (309) 782-5969 for additional information.



Tumbling/Gymnastics:

SKIESUnlimited is offering three sections of tumbling for ages 3-5 years old. Beginning tumbling will be held on Mondays 9-9:30 a.m. Intermediate Tumbling will be held on Mondays 10-10:50 a.m. and Thursdays 9:30-10 a.m. Please contact (309) 782-5969 for additional information.

German Language:

SKIESUnlimited is offering German Language classes for the winter session, **Dec. 5 – Feb. 27**. Class for 3-5 years will be held on Mondays 3-3:30 p.m. Class for 5-18 years will be held on Mondays 4-4:45 p.m. Please contact (309) 782-5969 for additional information.

Spanish Language:

SKIESUnlimited is offering Spanish Language classes for the winter session, **Dec. 1 – Feb. 23**. Classes for 3-5 years old will be held on Thursdays 3-3:30 p.m. Classes for 5-18 years old will be held on Thursdays 4-4:45 p.m. Please contact (309) 782-5969 for additional information.

Child Care Spaces Still Available:

Are you looking for top quality, affordable and convenient child care? Child, Youth & School Services currently has spaces available for Full & Part-time Preschool

age care. Call (309) 782-0791 for more info and to reserve your space.

Army Community Service (ACS)



ACS is located in Bldg. 110, 1st floor SE; Visit our [ACS website](#) or phone (309) 782-0829. Call ahead for special accommodations when attending ACS classes. Find us on Facebook [click here](#). **24/7 Sexual Assault Hotline: (309) 229-8412**



Newcomer's Briefings Schedule: New to the Island and want to know all that there is to do and what's available to you here at Rock Island? If so, make sure to get signed up for one of the upcoming newcomer's briefings. Upcoming date is **Jan. 26**. Call ACS at (309) 782-0816 or stop by the office in Bldg. 110 for more info and to sign up.

Employee Assistance Program



Employee Assistance Program: For free, confidential counseling assistance

or for information on services that are available, call (309) 782-4357. Normal business hours are 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For additional information on the Employee Assistance Program, go to www.riamwr.com or [Facebook](#).

Anonymous Online Mental Health Screening – January 2012:

Beat the post-holiday blues this month by helping your community and yourself. The social connection and sense of shared purpose that one gains from community service can often help one feel better. However, if you haven't been feeling well lately and nothing seems to help, consider taking a free screening offered by the Rock Island Arsenal Employee Assistance Program. These screenings can help you detect common mental health conditions that you can't just snap out of. However, with treatment you can be on your way to feeling like your old self again. The screenings are available [HERE](#) enter keyword ASAP. Screenings are confidential and you will receive immediate feedback along with steps you can take if you are concerned about your results. The Rock Island Arsenal EAP hopes you have a great start to the New Year.



PTSD Support Groups: You don't have to go through this alone. The Rock Island Arsenal Health Clinic and Employee Assistance Program are sponsoring support groups to assist you through this difficult challenge. Contact Rita Baugh, EAP counselor, at (309) 782-2552 for more details.

Smoking Cessation Group: Start the New Year with a healthy plan to quit smoking. The Employee Assistance Program offers an ongoing educational support group for people who would like to quit smoking. The group meets each Wednesday, 3-4 p.m. at the EAP office located in Bldg. 110, 1st floor, SE wing.



Education/Training Review

Army Continuing Education Services: Army Continuing Education Services has new hours from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. We are located in Bldg 56, 1st floor. We would like to

introduce our new Guidance Counselor, Stephanie Allers and new Education Technician, Jessica Shepherd. If you required assistance please stop by or call us at (309) 782-2065.

RIA Welcome Club Announce Applications For Scholarships: A fundamental principle of the Rock Island Arsenal Welcome Club is to generate funds to support philanthropic endeavors within the Quad-Cities metropolitan areas. The RIAWC Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for Scholarships until **March 15**. Interested applicants may download an application from the RIAWC Web-Site, (www.riawc.org). Applications are also available at the RIAWC Arsenal Attic on Tuesday's or Thursday's from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the School Support Services Office in Bldg. 110. Once the application is completed, it should be sent to: Rock Island Welcome Club, ATTN: Scholarship Chairperson, P.O. Box 3186, Rock Island, IL 61204-3186, Applications will not be accepted after **March 15**.

Richard C. Maguire Scholarship: The Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society will again sponsor the \$1,000 Richard C. Maguire scholarship; being offered to an individual studying for a Master's degree

or Doctorate in history or a related field. Applications are available upon request at rimahoch@aol.com. Return by **May 1**.

NDIA Scholarships 2012-2013: The NDIA Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for its \$1,500 scholarships. Scholarship applications and eligibility criteria may be found by clicking on the scholarship application line at www.ndia-ia-il.org. Applications must be postmarked by **March 31** or earlier. For additional information call (563) 650-3252.

Sgt. Paul Fisher Scholarships: NDIA is now accepting applications for the awarding of two \$1,500 Sgt. Paul Fisher scholarships. Scholarship applications and eligibility criteria may be found by clicking on the scholarship application line at www.ndia-ia-il.org. Applications must be postmarked by **March 31**. For additional information call (563) 650-3252.

AER Scholarships for 2012-13 Available On-line: Army Emergency Relief (AER) scholarship on-line applications for spouses and dependent children are now available through April 2012 at www.aerhq.org and look under the Education Assistance button. For



more information call (309) 782-0815 or jon.c.cook.civ@mail.mil.

Defense Commissary Agency / PX

The [Rock Island Commissary](#) makes fresh fruit baskets daily for you! Shopping for someone who has everything? Problem solved. They are hungry for fresh fruit. Just buy them a fruit basket and relax. Ask our friendly staff to make you one or order one in advance. Check out local specials and get POC information [HERE](#). For information on this and other Commissaries, visit: www.commissaries.com ([Facebook](#))

PX/AMCSS Annual Inventory - Store Closing:

The PX, AMCSS, and Barber Shop will be closed on Saturday, **Jan. 21**, for the entire day for our annual inventory. The PX and AMCSS will be open regular hours on Monday, **Jan. 23**, and the Barber Shop will re-open on Tuesday, **Jan. 24**.

Sales Flyers: Patrons can visit the [AAFES website](#) and sign up to receive free online sales flyers.

Arsenal Archive

Information for the *Arsenal Archive* is made available by the [Rock Island Arsenal Museum](#). The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays and major holidays. Admission is free.

Arsenal Island Sesquicentennial

History Breaks: At Noon, **Feb. 9**, in the Caisson Room in Bldg. 60, George Eaton, the ASC Historian, will present the history of Quarters One as part of the monthly Rock Island Arsenal Sesquicentennial "History Break" series. Sponsored by the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society, these lunch and learns will be held the second Thursday of each month in 2012. Join us in the Caisson Room, Bldg. 60, first floor, south wing, from 12-1 p.m. As these presentations occur during lunchtime, you may bring a brown bag lunch or purchase food at the adjacent food court. Employees can sign up for these professional development opportunities in [TEDs](#). If you don't have access to [TEDs](#), please call Kris



Leinicke at (309) 782-3518 to make a reservation. Due to the size of the Caisson Room, participation is limited to 50. See the following information to search for the course in [TEDs](#). Course: Sesquicentennial History Breaks; Course Description: Various "Lunch and Learn" type history overviews in celebration of the Rock Island Arsenal's Sesquicentennial; Search Term: *History Breaks*. Upcoming presentations include: • **March 8:** Keri Pleasant, JMC Historian will present the history of the Davenport House. • **April 12:** Paul Ferguson, JMC Archivist will present, "RIA by RAIL: Bridging the Mississippi."

This Week in Rock Island Arsenal

History – Jan. 17-22: Col. Adelbert Rinaldo Buffington assumed command of RIA on Jan. 21, 1892.

Healthbeat

Couples Who Cohabitate Are Happier Than Marrieds: We've heard married people are happier, but that might not be a reason to rush to the altar, according to a new study. In terms of health, self-esteem, and psychological well-being, marriage offers little benefit over simply living together without wedding rings,



the study found. It's the relationship itself, rather than its official status, that's key to its benefits, said study researcher Kelly Musick, an associate professor of policy analysis and management at Cornell University's College of Human Ecology. ([More](#))

Health Clinic Announcement: Sick Call Hours 7-8 a.m. Clinic closed Staff Meeting/Training **Jan. 27** at 11:30 a.m. For any issues or concerns with the RIAHC clinic please call our customer support line (309) 782-0721.

Notes for Veterans

Federal Civilians Can 'Buy Back' Military Time: Federal employees who have served in the military could see an increase in their civilian retirement annuity if they "buy" their military service time back from the government. For those government employees who are military veterans, there is the option to "buy back" military service time and apply it toward civilian retirement. There are several scenarios that may be considered beneficial for veterans, for example: those who served just a few years active duty before joining federal civil service, those who retired from active duty and are receiving a military

retirement paycheck, and those who are concurrently serving in the National Guard or Reserves and are employed by the federal government. ([More](#))

Mobile Health Centers Deliver Medical Care to Rural Veterans:

About 41 percent, or 3.3 million, veterans enrolled in the Veterans Affairs Department health system live far from a VA hospital, so last week the department added another 20 vehicles to its fleet of 50 mobile vet centers packed with sophisticated communications gear to bring medical care and other services to rural veterans. VA Undersecretary for Health Robert Petzel, speaking at the Columbus, Ohio, plant of Farber Specialty Vehicles, which builds the mobile centers, said, "VA is committed to expanding access to VA health care and benefits for veterans and their families, and these 20 new vehicles demonstrate that continued commitment." ([More](#))

New Law Change Increases Insurance Coverage for Veterans:

Some Veterans covered under the Veterans Group Life Insurance program (VGLI) now have the opportunity to increase their coverage to the current maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program.

"Currently, 70 percent of the Veterans covered under VGLI are under age 60, have less than \$400,000 of coverage, and will greatly benefit from this law change," said Allison A. Hickey, Department of Veterans Affairs under secretary for benefits. Under the Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010, enacted on Oct. 13, 2010, Veterans can increase their coverage by \$25,000 at each five-year anniversary date of their policy to the current legislated maximum SGLI coverage, presently, \$400,000. ([More](#))

VA Announces Changes to

Emergency Care Payment Policy: The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today a change in regulations regarding payments for emergency care provided to eligible Veterans in non-VA facilities. "This provision helps ensure eligible Veterans continue to get the emergency care they need when VA facilities are not available," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. The new regulation extends VA's authority to pay for emergency care provided to eligible Veterans at non-VA facilities until the Veterans can be safely transferred to a VA medical facility. ([More](#))

Car Pooling Announcements





Submit car pooling announcements via the [Island Announcements](#) page. Please use that page to contact ROCK-RIA-PA to take your announcement off once you have found a ride.

Car Pool:

- **Carpool:** Commuter living in Silvis looking for a ride to Bldg. 60. Employee works from 6:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. with the 2nd Friday off. Willing to pay for ample gas. Contact elizabeth.m.urbaniak3.civ@mail.mil or (309) 782-2817.

Around the Q.C.



- Oct. 22-March 24:** [Quad City Mallards](#) (iWireless Center)
- Jan. 18-20:** [Big Brothers Big Sisters Putt-A-Round](#) (RiverCenter, Davenport)
- Jan. 20-22:** [Rod & Custom Show](#) (QCCA Expo Center)
- Jan. 28:** [Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament](#) (Blue Grass Community Club)
- Feb. 10-12:** [QC Home Builders Show](#) (QCCA Expo Center)
- Feb. 10-12:** [Iowa/Illinois Regional Auto Show](#) (RiverCenter)
- Feb. 16-19:** [Outdoor Show](#) (QCCA Expo Center)
- Feb. 24-26:** [RV Camping Show](#) (QCCA Expo Center)

March 23-25: [Flower & Garden Show](#) (QCCA Expo Center)

April 14: [In-Fisherman Swap Meet](#) (QCCA Expo Center)

March 3-4: [KWQC-6 Women's Health & Lifestyle Fair](#) (RiverCenter)

May 12-13: [Scott County Kennel Club AKC Dog Show](#) (QCCA Expo Center)

March 14-17: [Gathering of the Green](#) (RiverCenter)

Island Insight



Joel Himsel, Garrison Manager; **Eric Cramer**, 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 processor software and Adobe PhotoShop using Portable Document Format reproduction for online distribution with the use of federal funds under provisions of [AR 360-1](#) 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 Manager, 1 Rock Island Arsenal, ATTN: IMNE-RIA-PA, Rock Island, IL 61299-5000. For [submission of announcements to the Island Insight](#); usarmy.ria.imcom-central.mbx.usag-ria-pa@mail.mil; Phone: (309) 782-1121. The *Island Insight* is available on-line.

SOLDIERS LEADERS CIVILIANS FAMILIES

Take 5
Beat the Cold

- More than 350 armed forces members suffered cold weather injuries in 2010
- Prevention is a command and individual responsibility
- Keep cold weather clothing clean and dry
- Watch for skin color changes, blurred vision or slurred speech
- Stay hydrated

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



Rock Island Arsenal

Winter Weather Awareness



Soldiers, their Families, DA Civilians, contractors and visitors of RIA can visit the website below for information during severe winter weather. No CAC needed!

http://www.ria.army.mil/sites/inclement_weather



- The Garrison Installation Operations Center monitors current and projected hazardous weather conditions and advises the Garrison Manager.



- RIA closures, delays and early dismissals will be made by the Senior Commander, Garrison Manager and other key leaders.



- Information will be sent through command channels as soon as a decision is made and will be posted to the RIA Inclement Weather Operational Impact Page.



- Organizations are encouraged to use the RIA Inclement Weather Operational Impact Webpage to post their organizations status during inclement weather.

Post closures will include closing of all non essential garrison services (e.g. CYSS, Dining Facilities, Gym etc.)



<http://readyarmy.ria.army.mil>