



March 16, 2015

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 Garrison Internet page under "Information" and on the installation website at www.usagria.army.mil under "News" and then "Local News."

Island Insight Submission: <https://home.ria.army.mil/sites/ii/ii.cfm>

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RIA-JMTC Achieves ISO/IEC 17025 Accreditation for Third Straight Year

The ISO/IEC 17025 "General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories" is the main ISO standard used by testing and calibration laboratories. In most major countries, ISO/IEC 17025 is the standard for which many labs must hold accreditation in order to be deemed technically competent. There are many commonalities with the ISO 9000 standard, but ISO/IEC 17025 is more specific in requirements for competence. The Rock Island Arsenal Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center Materials Science Lab has just passed their accreditation audit for the third-year in a row, and this time passed with no non-conformances and no observations. "The lab worked very hard to prepare for this audit and ensure that the work they are doing is valid and completed to the highest standard," stated Stephanie Hoaglin, RIA-JMTC materials science branch chief. She continued that the past few weeks were spent updating the lab's quality management system, and completing annual training



Upcoming Dates

- March 19:** DeCA AAFES & FMWR Advisory Council Meeting, Bldg. 90, Rm. 12, 1 p.m.
- March 20:** Hearts Apart Support Group, ACS, Bldg. 110, 10-11 a.m.
- March 23:** Women's History Month Observance, Bldg. 60, Heritage Hall, 1 p.m.
- March 24:** Retirement and Retreat Key Leader Rehearsal, Bldg. 60, Heritage Hall, 1 p.m.
- March 25:** Retirement and Retreat Full Dress Rehearsal, Bldg. 60, Heritage Hall, 1 p.m.
- March 26:** Newcomers Orientation, Arsenal Island Clubhouse, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- March 26:** 2nd Quarter Retirement and Retreat, Heritage Hall, Bldg. 60, 2 p.m.
- March 29:** RIA Museum Vietnam War Exhibit Grand Opening, RIA Museum, Bldg. 60, 2 p.m.
- April 1:** Military Singles & Geo-Bachelors Dinner, USO, 5-7 p.m.
- April 3:** Island-Wide Social, Lock and Dam Lounge, Bldg. 60, 4 p.m.
- April 4:** RIA Easter Egg Hunt, Memorial Field, 10 a.m.
- April 5:** MWR Easter Brunch, Arsenal Island Clubhouse, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- April 7:** Tornado Drill, Island-wide, 10 a.m.
- April 8:** Tenant Senior NCO Meeting, Arsenal Island Clubhouse, 11:30 a.m.
- April 10:** Denim & Diamonds Dinner and Charity Auction (Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse)

requirements and proficiency testing programs to demonstrate their abilities to the lab accreditation service provider." ([More](#))

Arsenal General Responds to March 8 Editorial

Recently, I had the unique privilege of meeting with the Quad-City Times editorial board. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to discuss several topics affecting First Army and Rock Island Arsenal. However, I would like to clear up some potential misperceptions that may have resulted from the March 8 Quad-City Times editorial. The majority of Rock Island Arsenal's tenant units, including Army Sustainment Command, Joint Munitions Command, Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center, in particular – are subordinate commands of U.S. Army Materiel Command, which is the Army's premier provider for logistics. Hence, you can see the handsome new signs that denote the Arsenal as "Home of U.S. Army Logistics." First Army's primary mission, on the other hand, is training and mobilizing Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers. Although First Army is a tenant unit and led by a lieutenant general, Army Sustainment Command's commanding general Maj. Gen. Kevin G. O'Connell is the Arsenal's "senior mission commander," responsible for garrison operations. Col. Elmer Speights Jr., is the garrison commander and is responsible to Maj. Gen. O'Connell. We all work together as a team to make the Arsenal a great place to serve, work, live and visit. ([More](#))



House Budget Plan Would Require Higher Federal Employee Retirement Contributions

A budget plan unveiled Tuesday by the Republican leaders of the House Budget Committee repeats a proposal to require federal employees to pay more of their salary toward their retirement benefits. “In keeping with a recommendation from the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, this budget calls for Federal employees—including Members of Congress and congressional staff—to make greater contributions toward their own retirement,” the legislative language says. The measure does not specify a percentage change, but that commission, commonly known as the Simpson-Bowles Commission, recommended that employees and the government equally share in funding those benefits. For most employees, that would mean an increase in their contributions of about 6 percent of salary. ([More](#))



DoD Pursues Back-Office Savings Ahead of Potential Cuts From Sequestration

As the return of cuts under sequestration looms, the Defense Department is trying to make some headway in preparation for a smaller budget. Pentagon officials say there is a small treasure chest of money in back-office operations that could be used for mission and readiness needs, and they are going after it. DoD spends more than \$100 billion a year on six back-office business areas, including human resources, procurement, logistics, service contracting, real estate and property management, health care and financial management. ([More](#))



Treasury Halts Pension Investment

The U.S. Treasury officially suspended some investments of federal employee pension funds as part of the “extraordinary measures” the government will need to take to keep the country funded while Congress reconsiders the statutory debt limit. In a letter to House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio,

sent Friday, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew “respectfully” urged Congress to raise the debt limit as soon as possible. ([More](#))

Strapped Federal Workers Paid for the 2013 Partial Shutdown for Months, Study Says

The 2013 partial government shutdown had lasting effects for some federal workers already short on cash, a reminder of the personal cost from the political standoff. “Those with the least liquidity struggled most to smooth spending and were left holding more debt months after the shutdown,” a new study concludes. After Congress failed to sign off on a budget, the federal government partially shut down for 16 days in October 2013, sending more than 800,000 workers home without pay, forcing others to stay on the job without a paycheck and closing various operations across the country. ([More](#))



McHugh: Budget Cuts Would Mean 'Dark and Dangerous' Future

The Army's ability to continue to operate globally and to stay trained and equipped to perform missions around the world is threatened by looming budget cuts, Army Secretary John M. McHugh told lawmakers. McHugh testified March 17 before the House Armed Services Committee during a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Budget request. For the committee, McHugh highlighted recent Army actions and activities, which illustrate precisely the kinds of things the Army would be unable to do were its funding to be cut below the \$127 billion it requested in its Fiscal Year 2016 budget, and were it not able to adequately prepare Soldiers for the kind of pop-up contingencies the Army responds to now. ([More](#))



As the Government Bridge Turns

River navigation season is kicking into high gear once again as locks on the Mississippi River are open and the river is free of ice. With river navigation season comes a drastic increase in the turning of the Government Bridge here at Arsenal Island. Barge traffic will once again be making its way up and down the river and the Government Bridge here at Locks and Dam 15 will be turning to accommodate it. *Resources to keep a pulse on river navigation:* ([Barge Traffic Report](#)) ([Locks and Dam 15 Cam](#))



RIA Award, Retirement, and Retreat Ceremony

Maj. Gen. Kevin O'Connell, senior commander, Rock Island Arsenal, commander, Army Sustainment Command, cordially invites you to attend the 2nd Quarter FY15 Award, Retirement, and Retreat Ceremony, Thursday, **March 26**, at 2 p.m., in Heritage Hall, Bldg. 60. The ceremony is in honor of: • Lt. Col. Michael Triplett, Iowa Army Ammunition Plant; • Maj. Tayonia Williams, First Army; • Chief Warrant Officer 5 Patrick Wyman, ASC; • Master Sgt. Gerardo Claudio-Santiago, ASC; • Master Sgt. Jack Harlan, ASC; • Master Sgt. Luther Kirby, ASC; • Sgt. First Class John McLaughlin, ASC; • Eddie Fowler, JMTC; • Jimmy Uribe, JMC; • Gary Millsap, JMC.

RIA AUSA Bowling Fundraiser

Gather your friends and family - let's bowl for RIA AUSA. Come bowl at Miller Time Saturday, **March 28**, in Davenport (Kimberly and Elmore) from 12-8 p.m. Tell the cashier you want to bowl on the 24 AUSA reserved lanes and 50 percent of the proceeds will go to support the local chapter

to support Soldiers, veterans, civilians, families, and chapter activities. No RSVP required - they hope to see you there.

Corps to Host Boating Safety Classes

Boating can be a fun and entertaining summer activity but one close call on the water can end it all. To help get ready for the upcoming boating season, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Project will be offering free boating safety education classes at the Mississippi River Project Office in Pleasant Valley, Iowa. Classes will be offered **March 28, April 11, April 25, and May 2**. Only one eight-hour class is required to complete certification. Pre-registration is required, space is limited, and the classes fill quickly. To register, contact the park rangers at (309) 794-5338.



Striving for Continuous Improvement!

Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) is the Army's web-based application for receiving and responding to customer feedback and is your direct link to the Garrison Team at Rock Island Arsenal. Your voice can make a difference today. The USAG-Rock Island Arsenal staff is actively using ICE program feedback to drive continuous improvement of programs and services. The Garrison is dedicated to improving customer satisfaction by using the information that is provided by your input. ICE can assist in identifying customer issues and best practices. ICE can also identify systemic issues, develop solutions to improve our services and programs leading to enhanced quality of life for Soldiers, Families and Civilians. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you better. Go online to <https://ice.disa.mil>, select - USAG-Rock Island Arsenal, where more than 100 services can be rated. Please use the link below to answer five questions on how to improve the ICE program at Rock Island Arsenal (some users may have to copy and paste the link into their browsers). www.surveymonkey.com/r/MD5MQQB Thank you for your participation.



Tax Season Is Here

Income tax filing season is here and the Rock Island Arsenal will again host a free tax assistance center. The Rock Island Arsenal Tax Center, located on the 1st Floor of Bldg. 390, will be operational effective Jan. 28. The tax center serves members of the RIA community eligible for legal assistance services - primarily active duty service members, military retirees, and family members. In a change from recent years, an appointment is required and there is no "drop-off" service. Appointments will be available weekdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., starting the last week of **January through April 15**. Most appointments can be expected to take about an hour, with more complex returns taking longer. In accordance with IRS guidelines, the tax center may prepare and submit most – but not all – federal and state income tax returns. For example, we cannot prepare returns for a home-based business. If you expect your return to be complex, please discuss that with us when you call, and we can advise as to whether we will be able to prepare your return. To schedule an appointment please call 309-782-1709/8457. Please bring the following to your appointment: a photo ID; your social security card (or official SSA correspondence with your SSN on it); documents showing income of any type (W-2s, 1099s, etc.); documents to support any deductions/credits; copy of last year's return; direct deposit information; dependents' birth dates.



Blood Drives

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is hosting a blood drive at the Naval Reserve Center (across from the Clock Tower Building, Bldg. 218), on **Friday, March 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. 211) beginning at 2:15 a.m. on **Thursday night, March 19**. To sign up for a blood drive held on either the 2nd or 3rd shift, donors should contact their shift supervisor. **Vista Technical Services Blood Drive: Wednesday, April 8**, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., MVRBC Donor Bus parked by entrance #3 at Bldg. 350. To sign up, contact [Paula Johnson](#). **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](#).**



Taco Dinner for Bridging the Gap QCA

A Taco Dinner to benefit the Bridging the Gap QCA. When: **March 31**, 5-7 p.m. Where: Viking Club, 1450 41st Street, Moline. A \$5 donation for tacos. Funds will be used for operations costs of Stand Down 2015-2016 for Homeless Vets. Info: Contact [Mike Malmstrom](#), 309-269-2012. The purpose of Stand Down is to provide a one-stop-shop for homeless veterans to find homeless services. 30+ Quad-Cities area agencies usually attend the event to offer services to homeless veterans. "Bridging the Gap" Homeless Veterans Stand Down is more than an assemblage of services. It is a group of volunteers and participants brought together in the spirit of caring and respect. They hope to inspire the hope, strength and will of the homeless veteran so each can gather the individual, internal energy and initiative to rebuild his or her life.

VIOS Schedule for April and May

Official DA Studio Photography (DA, Government passport and command photos) will be offered at Rock Island Arsenal on **April 7, 8, 9** and **May 5, 6, 7**. Appointments may be scheduled online by submitting a DA Form 3903 Work Request using the [Visual Information Ordering Site](#) for the available times: 7:20 a.m. - 3:40 p.m. Click on "Frequently Asked Questions" on the [VIOS site](#) for more information. Walk-in appointments are not available. Photographs will be taken at the Photo Studio (Bldg. 56, basement, by elevator). Priority is: 1. Active duty Soldier's DA photos; 2. Official government passport photos; 3. Official command photos; 4. DA photos for Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers (not on active duty). The 8"x10" head and shoulders - command photos will be printed and available digitally. Additional prints can be ordered in [VIOS](#). To obtain an official government passport photo: 1. Schedule a passport photo appointment at the [RIA VIOS website](#). 2. Go to transportation to obtain a printed DA Form 3903, Multi-Media/Visual Information Work Order, signed by the passport agent in Block 14. 3. Present that DA Form 3903 to the photographer before the passport photo is taken. You will receive two 2" x 2" passport photos. All scheduled dates can be found on the [RIA VIOS website](#) FAQ.

Denim & Diamonds Dinner and Charity Auction

The Rock Island Arsenal Welcome Club invites you to the Inaugural Denim & Diamonds Dinner and Charity Auction on **April 10**, 6-10 p.m., at the Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse. Cost is \$25 per person which includes dinner; menu items include BBQ buffet, brisket and chicken, potato salad, baked beans, and peach cobbler. All proceeds to benefit scholarship and community outreach grants. Tickets are on sale now. Contact RIAWCVP@yahoo.com for more information.

Booth Space Still Available for Summertime Youth Activities Expo

Booth space still available! In honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Military Child, the Rock Island Arsenal Family Advocacy Program and Child, Youth and School Services will be hosting the 2nd Annual Youth Summertime Activities Expo on Saturday, **April 11**, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., in the Fitness Center. The purpose of the Youth Summertime Activities Expo is to provide information to QC residents on the opportunities available to families of children 0-18 years of age during the summer months. The Expo will host agencies in four major categories, summer fun and activities (free and fee-for-service), day and resident camps, volunteer opportunities and education. We are still accepting applications for businesses/vendors to provide information about their programs & activities available for children and youth this summer. Booth space is free but registration is required by **March 24**. Space is limited. This event will be free and open to the public. [Email](#) or call 309-782-3049 for more information.

Honor Flight Golf Outing

Join us for the Inaugural R.I.A. Federal Credit Union Honor Flight Golf Outing, Friday, **April 24**. Check-in begins 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$300/team or \$75/person. There's a 36 team limit. Lunch will be provided at check-in. A 19th Hole Party at the Clubhouse is also included. Proceeds will benefit Honor Flight of the Quad Cities. Send registration and/or sponsorship payment(s) to: Jake Ward, R.I.A. FCU, PO Box 4750, Rock Island, IL 61204. POC for the event is Jake at 563-355-3800 ext. 7004 or jward@riafcu.com.

Baylor Complex Conference Rooms to Go to Turn Key Operations

Due to loss of contractor support, the Baylor Complex Conference Rooms will operate as a "turn key" service effective **April 1**. RIA personnel wishing to use the space will be responsible for scheduling, checking out room keys, unlocking/locking, providing their own desktop/laptop, and safe operation of existing equipment. Training will be conducted on how to operate the Baylor equipment. The Garrison will conduct hands-on training in the Baylor conference room on these dates and times: • Monday, **March 23**, 9 a.m.; • Monday, **March 23**, 1 p.m.; • Wednesday, **March 25**, 9 a.m.; • Thursday, **April 2**, 9 a.m.; • Friday, **April 3**, 9 a.m.; • Friday, **April 3**, 1 p.m. Training should not exceed one hour. Included in the training will be general information for turning on/off the systems, connecting a laptop, and operating the microphones/adjusting the volume. Individual needs can be addressed on a case-by-case basis (e.g. VTC connection). Register for training in [TEDs](#) by searching the keyword "Turn Key." A full SOP on how to operate the equipment will be distributed at the training.

Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop & Boutique

During the month of March, the Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop, Bldg. 60 Basement, will be open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. every Tuesday, Thursday and 3rd Saturday (**March 21**). We've added this extra hour to accommodate our working customers. Remember, all proceeds go to providing scholarships for our military family seniors and continuing education students. We believe in this very worthy cause and hope you'll stop in to your Thrift Shop. POC 309-782-6977.



Arsenal Island Employee Local Discounts

The following discounts are exclusively available to Arsenal Island employees — **Chocolate Manor**: All Arsenal Island military and civilian employees will receive a 10 percent discount off their total purchase on any of our award winning homemade chocolates at 110 E. 2nd St., Davenport, just show your ID. **Roosters Sports Bar and Grill**: All military and civilian's get 10

percent off their bill. Come head down for lunch at 2130 3rd St., Rock Island, new specials daily. **Peachwave Frozen Yogurt:** Peachwave, 3431 Devils Glen Rd., Bettendorf, offers a 10 percent discount every day to all military and veterans. *This information is included for general workforce interest and does not constitute endorsement of the businesses or products.*

Arsenal Traffic/Construction

Construction to Affect Traffic at Moline Gate

Effective **March 13**, through Friday, **March 27**, the Directorate of Public Works will be replacing the main guard booth at the Moline Gate. During this project the traffic pattern at the gate will be modified. During high volume hours (5-8:30 a.m.), the main inbound lane will be shut down with the two additional lanes open for traffic. A DA security guard will be positioned ahead of the intersection of Cemetery Drive and Rodman Avenue to direct traffic to one of two lanes. Vehicles in the middle lane will enter the Arsenal and proceed directly to Rodman Avenue. Vehicles in the far right lane will enter the Arsenal and proceed directly to Blunt Road onto King Drive. During low volume hours the far right lane will be closed with the exception of emergencies. During this time vehicles will be allowed to enter the Arsenal either via Rodman Avenue or Blunt Road onto King Drive. Commercial vehicle traffic will be routed as normal through the turnaround at the vehicle inspection area. Depending on the size of the commercial vehicle, inbound traffic may be temporarily stopped to allow access.

Parking Closure Near Bldg. 64

Effective **March 1** through Wednesday, **July 1**, the Directorate of Public Works will begin replacing the roof on Bldg. 64. Parking along the east side of the street (2nd Street) will be closed **March 1 through May 8**. Parking along the west side of the street (3rd street) will be closed **April 17 through July 1**. During these closures fencing, barricades, and signage will be positioned, as required. Timeframes may be extended depending on weather related issues.

Reserved Parking for March 26 Retirement/Retreat Ceremony

Sixty-four spaces in Lot 3B along North and Gillespie North of Bldg. 360 will be reserved to support the RIA Retirement and Retreat Ceremony on **March 26**. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your labor relations specialist or ombudsmen.

Rock Island Viaduct Sidewalk Closed to Pedestrians

"Sidewalk Closed" signs have been erected at either end of the Rock Island Viaduct sidewalk. These signs were placed because of the tripping hazard that the condition of the sidewalk presents. Attached illustration indicates the suggested alternative route (STR276 American Discovery Trail and Pedestrian Bridge) during the closure.

Future Ft. Armstrong Construction

In the upcoming construction season, Rock Island Arsenal will be performing work on the intersection of Ft. Armstrong Drive and Rock Island Drive. This work will result in a full vehicle closure for the Installation's Rock Island Gate and Rock Island Viaduct, as well as restricting vehicles crossing the Government Bridge to "Installation-only" traffic. The American Discovery

Trail will remain open. Construction is expected to last approximately two months, barring major weather delays. The exact construction start date is currently unknown. However, we have been coordinating with external agencies in an effort to minimize impact to the surrounding communities.

Building/Space Closures



There are no announcements at this time.

Active Duty/Reserve Zone



Services on Track to Open All Military Jobs to Women

Pentagon officials say all four of the services are on track to open all military jobs to women by next year, and expect rules for those changes to be in place by this fall. In testimony before the House Armed Services Committee on Tuesday, defense officials said each of the services are reviewing the final male-only occupations within their ranks, to see what accommodations, if any, will need to be made in coming months. Under current law, Pentagon officials have until the end of September to develop gender-neutral standards for all military occupations and until the end of December to finalize plans to allow women to compete for those jobs. ([More](#))

Putnam Museum is a Blue Star Member Institution

The Putnam is now one of more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and the Department of Defense.

Any active duty military personnel including National Guard and Reserve, and up to five family members, receive free admission to the Museum and Science Center **Memorial Day through Labor Day**.

"We are honored and excited to be able to bring this program to our Quad Cities Military families," said President and CEO Kim Findlay. "Through our participation in the Blue Star Museums program, we are able to show our continued support for all our active military and thank them for their hard work and sacrifices." Leadership support has been provided by MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families. The program provides families an opportunity to enjoy the nation's cultural heritage and learn more about their new communities after a military move. The complete list of participating museums is available at arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums.



Military Singles & Geo-Bachelors Dinner

Come all ranks and all branches to the Military Singles & Geo-bachelors Dinner on **April 1, 5-7 p.m.**, in the USO spaces in Bldg. 110. The menu for the evening is slated to include: fried chicken,

mashed potatoes, corn, rolls, and dessert. For more information and to RSVP please contact Jackie Inman at 309-782-3896 or via email at jinman@usoofillinois.org.

Inaugural Island-wide Baby Shower

Mark your calendars and save the date for the Inaugural Island-wide Baby Shower hosted by the Iowa State Chapter, Mississippi Valley Division March of Dimes. The event will take place **May 19**, 10 a.m. – Noon, at the Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse. This baby shower is for all expecting Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve with military ID card holder spouses. To RSVP for the event, contact Deena at 563-323-6378. Space is Limited.



YMCA Camp Abe Lincoln Military Kids Camp

Military Kids Camp is a specialty camp for children with parents in the service. It is a great opportunity to build a community for military children ages 8-16 from **June 28 - July 3**. We have funding this year and are pleased to offer this camp again, free of charge. Space is limited, so we are currently [accepting applications here](#).

Military 4-H Scrapbooking SPIN Club

Explore, Engage, Innovate... the world of scrapbooking. Take photos you have and create a scrapbook that will last a lifetime. Each month youth will learn a new scrapbooking technique and create a page. Snacks will be at each meeting. Eligibility includes military youth, ages 12-18. This program will meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month, **Feb. 18 to Dec. 16**, 5:30-7 p.m., in the Cassion Room, in Bldg. 60. Cost includes a supply fee of \$20; non-4-H members add a \$20 program fee (fee waivers available upon request). [Register online today!](#) Or for more information call the University of Illinois Extension, Rock Island County 4-H Office at 309-756-9978. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate call 309-756-9978 at least two weeks in advance.



Safety Spotlight



**ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG**



Arrive Alive

I know we all take safety very seriously. However, we have had a substantial rise in fatal sedan accidents over the last 90 days. We, as senior leaders, must be more engaged, communicating at all leader levels how imperative safe driving is to preserve our force, across all components. To date this fiscal year, 68 percent of all private motor vehicle fatalities reported Army-wide involved Soldiers in the rank of E1 through E4 and 63 percent were between the ages of 18 and 24. The majority of all fatal PMV-4 accidents were single vehicle accidents, often caused by excessive speed, distracted or inattentive driving. Most occurred over the weekend period Friday through Sunday, with the majority of the accidents occurring between the hours of 0500 and 1700 and not during periods of limited visibility. As Leaders, we must consistently engage our Soldiers and remind them of the hazards inherent to driving, particularly in inclement weather. Emphasize the risks of inattentive driving and encourage safe arrivals without multi-tasking while en route. As our engaged Leaders mitigate driving risks for our Soldiers brought about by cold weather road hazards, we must also prepare for the arrival of spring, warmer weather, and all the high risk activities this

season reintroduces. Let's get all our Leaders engaged and proactive in restoring "Arrive Alive" as our recurrent travel outcome. We're counting on every Soldier to strengthen our great team. Army Safe is Army Strong! - *Gen. Daniel Allyn, Army Vice Chief of Staff*

Equal Employment Opportunity Focus



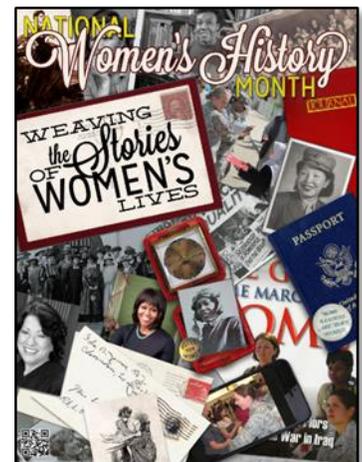
Women's History Month Observance

The Women's History Month Observance is to be held on **March 23**, 1-2 p.m., at Heritage Hall. The Keynote Speaker will be Kathryn Szymansk who serves as the chief counsel for Army Sustainment Command. This month's theme is "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives." The theme presents the opportunity to weave women's stories-individually and collectively-into the essential fabric of our nation's history. This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Women's History Movement and the National Women's History Project. In 1981, Congress passed legislation authorizing and requesting the president to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as Women's History Week. Congress continued to pass joint resolutions declaring a Women's History Week every March until 1987, when it passed a law designating March 1987 as Women's History Month after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project to do so. Since that time, every president has issued proclamations for Women's History Month.



Women's History Month: Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives

The Army dedicates each March to highlighting individual and collective stories of female Soldiers. Their stories are inextricably woven into the essential fabric of the nation's history and the history of the U.S. Army. This year, the Army acknowledges the accomplishments and contributions of pioneering women from the past and recognizes their impact on the force of today. The theme for this year's observance is: Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives. In just over two years, the Army has opened to women six previously closed military occupational specialties and over 55,000 positions across all Army components. For the first time in history, the Army recently allowed the female Soldiers to attend the Army's Ranger Course to possibly earn the Ranger tab. This is one of the many steps the Army is taking to integrate women into combat roles. Army leadership encourages the entire Army Family to publicly honor women's contributions by highlighting women and their military and civil service, at all levels, by telling their story in command information products. ([More](#))



Morale, Welfare & Recreation



Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR)

Visit the MWR website at www.riamwr.com for information on all MWR programs.

Arsenal Island Golf Course

Spring is here! Drag those clubs out of the attic because it's golf season once again. The course will open this Wednesday, **March 18**. Carts will not be available immediately, but we hope to be able to get them out soon. Call 309-793-1604 for tee times or more info.



Newcomers Orientation and Tour

Are you new to the Arsenal or do you have new employees or Service Members in your office? Make sure to get them/yourself signed up for our next Newcomer's Orientation and Tour on Thursday, **March 26**, at 8 a.m., at the Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse. The briefings and info on the tour will include everything a new employee needs to know to successfully transition to the Rock Island Arsenal and the surrounding Quad Cities and make their new home feel like home. This free service includes breakfast and lunch courtesy of our sponsor, Rock Island Arsenal Federal Credit Union and free childcare is also available but you must RSVP for care by **March 19**. To RSVP for care call Leslie 309-782-6793. Space is limited so call 309-782-0829 for more info and to reserve your spots. ([Flyer](#))

Ghost Hunters Dinner & Tour of Quarters One

Enjoy a prime rib & chicken buffet at the Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse and then join the Rock Island Paranormal Society for a tour of Historic Quarters One Saturday, **March 28**, beginning at 6 p.m. The Paranormal Society staff have spent countless hours in this massive Italianate style mansion and will regale you with tales of the paranormal activity they have experienced there throughout the years. The cost is \$35/person and reservations can be made by calling 309-782-4372. RSVP required by **March 26**. Event subject to change/cancellation based on number of reservations. ([Flyer](#))

Paintless Dent Repair Service

Back by popular demand, the paintless dent repair technician will be available for repairs Thursday, **March 26**, 9 a.m. - 7:30 p.m., in the Auto Skills Shop. If you have small dings, dents and other imperfections in your vehicle it may be possible to have them fixed without the excessive costs of more traditional body work. Call 309-782-8631 for more information and to schedule an appointment. ([Flyer](#))

Group Fitness Class Survey

We want to hear from you. How can we structure our group fitness classes differently to make them more appealing and accessible to you? If you haven't had a chance yet, please consider taking 1-2 minutes (that's all, we promise) to take this quick survey to tell us how we can serve you better. The survey can be found here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/RIA_CLASSES

New Beginnings Fitness Class at the Fitness Center Resumes

Our instructor has returned and we're happy to once again be able to offer New Beginnings as part of our group fitness class schedule. This fitness program provides students with great physical and mental benefits. Offered in the middle of the day allows an opportunity to take that much needed break away from work. This class is designed for those new to exercise and is presented in a non-competitive environment. The instructor will take things slow, with the workouts beginning with a short walk/cardio segment, followed by simple strength exercises, and wrapping up with relaxing stretching movements. Exercise variations will be offered so both beginners, as well as slightly more advanced students, will reap great benefits and be challenged at their own fitness levels. Let today be the day you take that first step. Class is held Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-12:45 p.m. [More info on all classes can be found here.](#)

Remodel Project Begins on the Island Oasis Café

Crews will begin work on renovating the Island Oasis located inside the Fitness Center effective March 9. However, the café will remain open during construction so stop by and grab a quick bite to eat for breakfast or lunch. More info on the Island Oasis including the menu can be [found here.](#)

Dodgeball League

Get your team of four to six players together and get ready to duck, dodge and dash your way to victory. This four-versus-four league will play five games of five minutes each on Tuesday evenings at the Fitness Center. Rosters can have up to six players. Cost is \$40/team. Co-ed teams are welcomed but not required. League starts **March 24**, deadline to register is **March 20**. Call 309-782-5124 for more info and to register your team.

Beer Pairing Dinner

Do you like craft beer? What about fine cuisine? What about craft beer perfectly paired with fine cuisine? Then get all your foodie & beer connoisseur friends together and get signed up for our next beer pairing dinner **April 17**, 6-10 p.m., at the Arsenal Island Clubhouse. This fun evening will feature brews from local brew masters, Great River Brewery alongside gastronomic delights from our talented chef and kitchen crew designed to complement and enhance each other. Cost is \$45/person and includes six courses and a keepsake Great River glass that's yours to keep. There will be a cocktail hour from 6-7 p.m. and dinner will start at 7 p.m. Please RSVP on or before **April 15** by calling 309-782-4372. ([Menu](#)) ([Flyer](#))

Garden Plot Program Cancelled This Season

The annual Garden Plot Program will not be offered this year. The current site is located where construction of housing will begin this spring. We hope to have another site prepared and ready for the 2016 planting season. If you have additional questions please call Bob Lampert at 309-782-8630.

Date Night Dance Classes

Come join local dance group, QC SoDa (QC Social Dancing), every Thursday, at 7 p.m., in Heritage Hall (Bldg. 60), for a fun evening of dance lessons in various styles including Swing, Salsa and more. Classes are \$8/person/class or \$35/individual or \$60/couple for the full six week session. Sign up and pay the first night you attend class. ([Flyer](#))

MWR Leisure Travel Office



Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Bldg. 333. The office is closed for lunch from 10:30–11 a.m., 309-782-5890. ([email](#)) ([website](#))

MWR Storage Units

Outdoor Recreation have several storage spaces available for rental. For more information please contact Outdoor Recreation at 309-782-8630.

Books Are Fun

Books Are Fun will once again be visiting the Rock Island Arsenal for two days. They will be in Bldg. 60 Heritage Hall dining area **April 16-17**. They will have discounted books and other merchandise.

Time: **9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Church Basement Ladies (The Last Potluck Supper)

All new show – the latest and final installment in the uproarious series, the lovely ladies of the church kitchen serve up a rib-tickling panorama of the Church's changes, without spilling a drop of their egg coffee. Leisure Travel has discounted tickets on sale until **April 11**. This is a show that always sells out.

Date: **Saturday, April 25**

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

MWR Spring Fair

MWR has invited 40 vendors to participate at this two-day vendor fair. All sorts of products will be offered from Enchiladas to Scentsy. This event will be held in Heritage Hall dining area, Bldg 60.

([Flyer](#))

Date: **Wednesday, April 29**

Time: **9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Pretty In Pink Doll Party

This is our first Pretty In Pink Doll Party. The party will take place at Historical Quarters One. Finger food and dessert buffet, free photo with your favorite doll, movie with free popcorn and other activities. Cost is \$25 per person. Limited seating. For more details contact the Leisure Travel Office. ([Flyer](#))

Date: **Saturday, May 2**

Time: **1-3 p.m.**

Chuggington Live! The Great Rescue Adventure at the Adler Theatre

The Great Rescue Adventure the trainees are on their first day of advanced training, and are eager to impress their mentors by mastering new roles that test their courage, speed, and determination.

Limited discount seats available for \$33.50. Section B, Row G, Seats 1-10.

Date: **Tuesday, May 12**

Time: **6:30 p.m.**

NASCAR Xfinity Series Bus Trip

Bus will depart from the Auto Skills Center, Bldg. 351 at 8 a.m. with no stops en route. Please arrive 30 minutes prior to departure, refreshments provided prior to departure. Limited alcohol allowed on the bus. Pre-register by **April 1** and receive 50 percent off a Fan Pass for access behind pit row for \$5. Cost of bus trip is \$69. Event registration ends **April 20**. Seats are filling up fast.

([Flyer](#))

Date: **Sunday, May 17**

Time: **8 a.m.**

Cubs vs. Cardinals Bus Trip

MWR Leisure Travel has a Cubs vs. Cardinals bus trip scheduled. Cost will be \$99 per person to include transportation and ticket to game. Seats are located in Upper Deck Box Outfield. Departing from RIA at 6 a.m. from the COL Davenport Pavilion. Limited alcohol permitted on chartered bus. Coolers must fit under the seats and not block the aisle. No glass bottles. No smoking permitted on motor coach. Estimated return time will be 8 p.m. ([Flyer](#))

Date: **Saturday, Sept. 19**

Time: **12:05 p.m.**

Davenport Cinemark 53rd 18 + IMAX Theatre

Leisure Travel is selling Platinum Supersaver Prepaid Admission Tickets to Davenport Cinemark 53rd 18 + IMAX theatre (formally 53rd cinemas and RAVE cinemas) These tickets have no restrictions or expiration date.

Child, Youth & School Services



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Youth Summertime Activities Expo

Attention all parents! Do you need to find activities to keep you and your child busy this summer? Do you need ideas for summer fun? Need information about volunteer opportunities for your child or teen? In honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Military Child, the Rock Island Arsenal Family Advocacy Program and Child, Youth and School Services will be hosting the Second Annual Youth Summertime Activities Expo on Saturday, **April 11**, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the Fitness Center. The purpose of the Youth Summertime Activities Expo is to provide information to QC residents on the opportunities available to families of children 0-18 years of age during the summer months. The Expo will host agencies in four major categories, summer fun and activities (free and fee-for-service), day and resident camps, volunteer opportunities and education. Vendors will have games/activities for the children. A pinwheel garden (sponsored by the Child Abuse Council) will be displayed and a dedication signing ceremony will be held at 9:30 a.m. that day in front of the RIA Fitness Center. This event will be free and open to the public. [Email](#) or call 309-782-3049 for more information. Hope to see everyone there.

2015 Military Child of the Year Award – Recognizing Young Patriots

Operation Homefront is pleased to present the Military Child of the Year Award to outstanding military children who demonstrate resiliency, leadership and achievement. Recipients representing

each service branch are recognized at a Washington, DC Gala celebration in April each year. The seventh annual award will be presented **April 16** at the Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City, near Washington, DC. In addition to the trip to our nation's capital, recipients are awarded a laptop computer and a \$10,000 award. To learn more about Operation Homefront and the Military Child of the Year Award, please go to: www.militarychildoftheyear.org

Army Community Service



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**.

Scream Free Marriage Course

This class provides participants with new skills and techniques to assist them in effective communication with their partner. Four sessions are offered for this course 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., in the Army Community Service spaces, in Bldg. 110. Session 3 (**March 24**): Getting closer through intimacy & love. Session 4 (**March 31**): Getting closer through intimacy and love. RSVP with Army Community Service at 309-782-0829. ([Flyer](#))

Stress Management Workshop

This free workshop, Wednesday, **March 25**, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., at Army Community Service in Bldg. 110, will teach techniques that focus on breathing and mindfulness that will help alleviate stress in your daily life. Call 309-782-0829 for more info and to sign-up. ([Flyer](#))

Special Needs Forum

Is your child diagnosed with ADHD, OCD, ODD, ASD, SPD or other special needs? Are they struggling in school? Join us for a presentation to learn how to help build your child's self-esteem and be more successful at school. The Exceptional Family Member Program invites all families with special needs children to our next special needs forum on **March 26** at 5:30 p.m. at Bldg. 150. A snack dinner will be provided and free onsite childcare is available for children enrolled in CYSS. Please RSVP for child care by **March 19** by calling 309-782-6515, 309-782-4736, or [email](#). ([Flyer](#))

Army Community Service/USO Military Spouse Fun Night

Attention Active Duty Military Spouses... its March madness and basketball season is upon us. Join us Tuesday, **March 31**, at 6 p.m., for a fun evening weaving baskets and playing basketball. If time permits, bring something to eat. Please RSVP for this event so we can plan for supplies. To RSVP call 309-782-4736 or 309-782-0829. ([Flyer](#))

Employee Assistance Program



ASAP/EAP is located in Bldg. 56, 1st floor; visit our [ASAP/EAP website](#) 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.](#)

RIA ASAP/EAP on a Mission

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.

Education/Training Review



The Rock Island Army Education Center is located in Bldg. 56, 1st floor, west end of the building. Office hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday. Phone: 309-782-2065 Fax: 309-782-7901. [Please visit our website to learn more.](#)

Employment-Education Event at Rock Island Arsenal

Mark your calendars now! The Directorate of Human Resources, U.S. Army Garrison, will be hosting the semi-annual Employment-Education Event, on Wednesday, **April 15**, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., in the Heritage Hall, Bldg. 60. Soldiers, veterans, and family members are the target audience for this great event. More than 60 employers from throughout the Midwest as well as more than 20 academic institutions and many Veterans Service Organizations, attended our 2014 events. Valid job offers were made and accepted. We expect at least the same level of participation and success for this event. Employers may have jobs available in locations nation-wide as well as in the Quad Cities area and throughout the Midwest. This event represents a great opportunity for employers to review resumes, interview candidates, and potentially hire separating active duty, Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers, veterans, and family members. Please come ready; have resumes to hand out and be appropriately dressed for a possible interview. Academic institutions will have experts on hand to provide information on programs of study as well as on the GI Bill and scholarship opportunities, for both local and online classes. They will provide information regarding educational opportunities for Soldiers, veterans, and family members. Veterans Service Organizations will be available to assist with resources, benefit information, and resume development. If you would like individual resume or interview training prior to attending this event, you may contact [Chris Gegenheimer](#), Army Community Services, at 309-782-0815. Any questions about the event can be directed to Sharon Lampert, 309-782-7780 or Lafayette Ausborn, 309-782-

4799, or email usarmy.ria.usag.mbx.hrm-tsm@mail.mil. Don't let this great opportunity pass you by.

2015 WID Scholarship Application – Open

The Iowa/Illinois Chapter, Women In Defense, a national security organization, has established an annual scholarship to provide opportunities of higher education for students who are interested in achieving a place of leadership in their chosen fields. Applicants will be limited to those individuals meeting one or more of the following criteria AND who have never received a scholarship from Women In Defense: A current member of the Iowa/Illinois chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association or WID and their dependents; corporate charter members and their dependents; current government employees on Rock Island Arsenal or Iowa Army Ammunition Plant and their dependents. Note: Dependents are defined as children, step-children, children of legal guardian, or spouse. All applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, **May 1**.

NDIA Scholarship

The Iowa Illinois Chapter NDIA is accepting applications for its one-year \$2,000 scholarship. This scholarship is available to high school senior students of the NDIA chapter members and civilian and military employees on Arsenal Island. Scholarship applications can be found at www.ndia-ia-il.org. Applications must be postmarked no later than **March 24**. Call John Masengarb, 563-650-3252, for additional information.

NDIA Lifetime Achievement Awards

Nominations are being accepted for the Lt. Gen. (Ret) Lawrence Skibbie award for Lifetime Contributions to National Defense, the Maj. Gen. (Ret) William Eicher award for Lifetime Contributions to the Weapons Industrial Base and the Maj. Gen. (Ret) Paul Greenberg award for Lifetime Contributions to the Ammunition Industrial Base. Applications must be postmarked no later than **April 12**. Send nominations to Jimmy Morgan, 289 Niabi Zoo Road, Coal Valley, IL 61240 or jimcmorgan@aol.com. Application details at www.ndia-ia-il.org.

Sgt. Paul Fisher Scholarship

The Iowa Illinois Chapter NDIA is accepting applications for its one-year \$2,000 Sgt. Paul Fisher Scholarship. This scholarship is available high school seniors of active military, reserve, National Guard, or veteran in zip codes 61200-61699 in Illinois and 50000-52899 in Iowa. Scholarship applications can be found at www.ndia-ia-il.org. Applications must be postmarked no later than **March 24**. Call John Masengarb, 563-650-3252, for additional information.

Army Emergency Relief Announces Opening of Scholarship Application Period

Army Emergency Relief has announced the opening of its scholarship application period. Applications will be accepted from **Jan. 2** until **May 1**. AER supports both the Spouse Scholarship Program, as well as the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program for dependent children. Scholarship specifics and the applications are available on [AER's website](#). The Spouse Scholarship can be used for full or part-time students, while the Ursano Scholarship is only for full-time students. Last year AER awarded 3,637 scholarships, totaling more than \$8.8 million to Spouses and Children of Soldiers. "The entire scholarship process is on line," said Tammy LaCroix, manager for AER's scholarship programs. "Last year we found that the on line process worked best for those who downloaded the step-by-step instructions and used them as a checklist." "Applicants are able to create their own profile, submit their documentation online, and check their status,"

added LaCroix. "This proved to be a huge time saver for both the applicants and the scholarship staff." ([More](#))

RIA AUSA Scholarship Program 2015-2016

The Rock Island Arsenal Association of the United States Army announces the annual scholarship program for 2015-2016 school year. Applications are available on the RIA AUSA web site at www.ria-ausa.org. Eligible applicants must reside in the RIA AUSA geographical footprint covering eastern Iowa and western Illinois identified in the application, and be associated with the military as a current military member, veteran, family member or DoD civilian. Applicants can download the application and return it completed no later than **May 1** to the mailing address listed in the application form. Questions can be directed to the RIA AUSA chapter representative Tim Considine, at considinet@aol.com or by calling 512-565-4089.

Area Schools to Visit RIA

The [Army Continuing Education Systems Rock Island Arsenal](#) is coordinating with Quad-City area schools to have them visit with eligible Ed Center patrons where they will meet with school representatives and learn about educational opportunities in the Quad Cities. These visits will take place in Bldg. 56, Room 121, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The schedule for this fiscal year is: • Ashford University, **April 21**, and **July 23**; • Black Hawk College, **April 9** and **July 9**; • Eastern Iowa Community College, **April 2**, **May 7**, **June 4**, **July 2**, **Aug. 6** and **Sept. 3**; • Kaplan University, **May 14**, and **Aug. 13**; • Saint Ambrose University, **April 16**, and **July 16**; • Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences, **May 21** and **Aug. 20**; • Upper Iowa University, **May 13**, and **Aug. 12**.

Defense Commissary Agency / Exchange



The [Rock Island Commissary](#) and the [Exchange](#) are for active duty military and retirees only. There are exceptions for select items (mainly consumable) at the Exchange that can be purchased by Arsenal Island employees with ID. The 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](#))

RIA MWR, Commissary and Post Exchange Advisory Council Meeting

The Rock Island Arsenal MWR, Commissary and Post Exchange Advisory Council will meet from 1-2 p.m., Thursday, **March 19**, in the second floor conference room of the Garrison headquarters, Bldg. 90. People interested in submitting questions to the council via Facebook can do so through that date on the following link: <http://on.fb.me/1zhL3aT>

Exchange Opens Earlier, Serves Breakfast

The Exchange located on Rock Island Arsenal began opening at 7 a.m. Oct. 1. Also effective Oct. 1, the Exchange began featuring heat-and-eat breakfast items at the front of the store. "We will be running these hours for two months to make sure that there will be demand to be open at 7 a.m.," said Carl Wolfe, store manager, Rock Island



Exchange. "We are really hoping with the Exchange having an entire new 'Heat and Eat,' that we will cater to the Soldiers coming on the Island in the morning and we know a lot of them have PT in the mornings and this will give them a chance to grab something before they go in the office for the day." The new open-to-close store hours are 7 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; and 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. on Saturdays. The "Heat and Eat" items being sold in the mornings will include: Breakfast Tornados, Breakfast Deli Express sandwiches, Cappuccino, and coffee, Roller Bites, and Breakfast Style Pizza. The Exchange will also have a lunch menu to include: Tornado's, Deli Express hot and cold sandwiches, hot dogs, Polish sausage, jalapeno sausage, Roller Bites, egg rolls, and pizza. In addition, the Exchange will also have microwaveable meals, soup, and Asian noodles for sale all day long.



Arsenal Archive



Information for the Arsenal Archive is made available by the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. The Museum is open to the public, Tuesday through Saturday, 12-4 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday, federal holidays, the Friday after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve. Admission is free. ([website](#))

RIA Historical Society Monthly Meeting

The Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society will have its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, **April 2**, in the Veranda Room of the Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse. The menu for dinner is tossed salad with roasted vegetables and herb vinaigrette, grilled ham steaks with maple glaze, mashed potatoes and medley of vegetables, peach upside down cake with lemon custard. All dinners include rolls, breadsticks, coffee, tea and water. The total cost is \$14 per person including tax and tip. Our event is open to both members and non-members. Interested parties may choose to attend only the program portion of the meeting at 7 p.m. at no cost. The guest speaker will be Lawrence Bay, long time history buff, who will concentrate on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the hunt for John Wilkes Booth. For reservations call Monica 563-650-4349 or Linda 563-355-6165 or email chiicaliinda@aol.com. Reservations are due by Noon on Monday, **March 30**. Cancellations must be made by the reservation deadline or you will be liable for cost incurred and billed accordingly. If further clarification is required on this notice, please call Kris Leinicke at 309-782-3518. Visit the RIA Historical Society's Website at www.arsenalhistoricalsociety.org.

This Week in Rock Island Arsenal History – March 16-22

On March 17, 1941, the RIA organized the RIA Armament Machinist Training School. In March 1868, the old Rock Island wooden wagon bridge, purchased by the government from the City of Rock Island, was destroyed and carried away by ice. During the month of March 1945, the workers of Shop L (Bldg. 250) completed 310 machine guns. On March 22, 1903, RIA employees formed Local 81 of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Union. Work on the dam of Locks and Dam 15 began in March 1932.

Healthbeat

Rock Island Arsenal Health Clinic Closure

The Rock Island Arsenal Health Clinic will be closed the afternoon of Friday, **March 20**, from 12-4 p.m., for training. However, we will be open on the last Friday of the month, **March 27**.

Make the Decision to Quit Tobacco for National Kick Butts Day

Make the commitment to quit tobacco on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 for Kick Butts Day. Kick Butts Day is a national day of activism organized by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. This Kick Butts Day, TRICARE beneficiaries can pledge to quit smoking by joining others in the effort to raise awareness about the serious effects of using tobacco. In the United States, tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death, disease, and disability. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, around 443,000 people die each year from smoking or exposure to secondhand smoke, and another 8.6 million suffer from a serious illness caused by smoking. In fact, two new CDC reports indicate that, despite the dangers of tobacco use, about 46.6 million adults in the U.S. still smoke, and 88 million non-smokers are exposed to secondhand smoke. ([More](#))

Am I Healthy? A Closer Look at the Meaning of Well Being

Most people view 'being healthy' as desirable, sought after and often elusive. There are many definitions of healthy, leading to quite a bit of dispute over what it is to be healthy. Exploring what the 'healthy' label might imply may shed light on our individual understanding of what health means to us, and better help us reach our personal health goals. So, what is healthy? Is it following a diet without any fat, sugar, meat, carbohydrate and gluten? Is it eating very little? Is it eating only during the day? Should we eat plenty of small meals, or only a few big ones? Is healthy exercising for 10 hours each day? Running marathons? Lifting weights? Is healthy only if you do all of these things, all at once? The list seems endless, and the more we hear about doing 'this or that' to be healthy confuses and overwhelms us even more. The truth is: Healthy has a different meaning for everyone. Different diet or exercise regimens affect each person differently, so there is not one simple answer. ([More](#))

Save Your Vision Month

Save Your Vision Month offers the Army an opportunity to focus on the importance of vision safety and engage Soldiers on how to protect it in combat, the office and at home. The annual event is recognized as a Military Health System observance. The U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center (USACRC), U.S. Army Public Health Command (PHC), Program Executive Office-Soldier and DOD/Veterans Affairs Vision Center of Excellence teamed to enhance awareness by highlighting Save Your Vision Month, which began March 1. Each organization provides useful tools, products and information promoting vision safety and preservation. Materials and content focus on ways to protect vision on and off duty, including wearing protective eyewear detailed on the Authorized Protective Eyewear List (APEL) while training or conducting combat operations, and using appropriate eye protection for recreational activities. ([More](#))

Notes for Veterans

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All Public Colleges Will Soon Offer Veterans In-state Tuition

Thanks to a new bill veterans won't have to worry about paying out-of-state tuition at any public university. Provisions in the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 will require all public universities to offer in-state tuition to veterans making use of their GI Bill. "The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 expands a veteran's ability to maximize his or her Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit and use that benefit at any public school in the nation regardless of residency restrictions," Jason Hansman of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America says. "This provision will benefit both states, by allowing them to retain new veteran residents who end their period of active service and decide to remain local, and veterans, who will no longer face financial constraints in attending the public school of their choice. This law is a win-win for the new greatest generation." ([More](#))

VA Establishes MyVA Advisory Committee

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced the establishment of the MyVA Advisory Committee (MVAC). The Committee brings together skilled experts from the private, non-profit and government sectors to assist in reorienting the Department to better meet the needs of Veterans. This Committee is charged with advising the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with a focus on improving customer service, Veteran outcomes and setting the course for long-term reform and excellence. The Advisory Committee will meet multiple times per year and will engage in periodic reviews to ensure the Department achieves the goals of MyVA. The Committee will provide advice on competing short-term and long-range plans, priorities and strategies to improve the operational functions, services, processes and outputs of the Department, and will also advise on appropriate levels of support and funding necessary to achieve objectives. Further, the Committee will review implementation of recommended improvements and suggest any necessary course corrections.

([More](#))

VA Eliminates Net Worth as Health Care Eligibility Factor

The Department of Veterans Affairs is updating the way it determines eligibility for VA health care, a change that will result in more Veterans having access to the health care benefits they've earned and deserve. Effective 2015, VA eliminated the use of net worth as a determining factor for both health care programs and copayment responsibilities. This change makes VA health care benefits more accessible to lower-income Veterans and brings VA policies in line with Secretary Robert A. McDonald's MyVA initiative which reorients VA around Veterans' needs. "Everything that we do and every decision we make has to be focused on the Veterans we serve," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "We are working every day to earn their trust. Changing the way we determine eligibility to make the process easier for Veterans is part of our promise to our Veterans." ([More](#))

Around the Q.C.



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- March 19:** [Wacoal's Fit for the Cure](#) (SouthPark Mall, Moline)
March 26-29: [QCCA Flower and Garden Show](#) (QCCA Expo Center, Rock Island)
March 27-29: [Advance Renewal Weekend for 21-32 Year-Olds](#) (St. Ambrose Parish Center, Milan, Ill.)
March 28: [Havana Daydreamn' 11th Annual Havana Daydreamn' by the Quad City Parrot Head Club](#) (Waterfront Convention Center, Bettendorf)
March 28: [RIA AUSA Bowling Fundraiser](#) (Miller Time Bowling, Davenport)
March 31: [Fundraiser for Bridging the Gap QCA](#) (Viking Club, 1450 41st Street, Moline)
April 11: [Bandits Race to Home 5K](#) (Modern Woodmen Park)
April 11: [Marine Corps League Trivia Night](#) (American Legion Post #26, 702 West 35th Street, Davenport)
April 11: [18th Annual Public Swap Meet](#) (QCCA)
April 11: [Kids Club: Powered by Nat Geo Kids](#) (SouthPark Mall, Moline)
April 18: [Quad Cities on Tap Craft Beer Festival](#) (QCCA)
April 18: [Passport to Safety](#) (SouthPark Mall, Moline)
April 25: [March of Dimes March for Babies](#) (Rock Island Arsenal, Memorial Park)
April 25: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (3-6 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimber Rd.)
May 2: [Festival of the Arts' Village in Bloom](#) (Village of East Davenport)
May 4-10: [Navy Week Quad Cities](#) (Quad City Area)
May 9-10: [29th Quad City Air Show, featuring the U.S. Navy Blue Angels](#) (Davenport Municipal Airport)
May 9-10: [Beaux Arts Fair](#) (Figge Art Museum Plaza, Downtown Davenport)
May 10-11: [Scott County Kennel Club AKC Dog Show](#) (QCCA)
May 16: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (6-9 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimber Rd.)
May 16: [2nd Annual Live Fit With Lupus Run](#) (Black Watch Room, Pebble Creek Golf Course, LeClaire, Iowa)
May 22-31: [Historic Homes & Gardens of the Scottish Highlands](#) (QC Botanical Center, Rock Island)
May 25: [50th Annual Quad Cities Criterium](#) (Village of East Davenport)
June 1-6: [25th Annual Quad Cities Senior Olympics](#) (1800 3rd Ave, Rock Island)
June 3, 4: U.S. Army & NDIA Small Business/APBI Symposium (iWireless Center)
June 5-6: [Rhubarb Festival](#) (Aledo, Ill.)
June 6: [QC Pridefest](#) (Downtown Davenport)
June 12-13: [Gumbo Ya Ya](#) (The District, Rock Island)
June 13: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In Carshow](#) (4-9 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimber Rd.)
June 13-21: [Quad Cities Museum Week](#) (Greater Quad Cities)
June 17-20: [Rally on the River](#) (Centennial Park, Davenport)
June 20: [2nd Annual Micro Brew Mile & 6K Road Race](#) (Moline)
June 21: [Ride the River Bike Ride](#) (Mississippi River bike paths, Iowa & Illinois)
June 28: [Blossoms at Butterworth](#) (Butterworth Center, Deere family homes, Moline)
July 3: [Red, White & Boom!](#) (The District, Rock Island & Downtown Davenport)
July 2-4: [Mississippi Valley Blues Festival](#) (LeClaire Park, downtown Davenport)
July 4: [Firecracker Run & Parade](#) (Run starts at 7:30 a.m. with the parade at 1 p.m., East Moline)
July 4: [Bettendorf Old-Fashioned 4th of July](#) (parade at 10 a.m.)
July 6-12: [John Deere Classic PGA TOUR](#) (TPC Deere Run golf course, Silvis, Ill.)
July 9-11: [Walcott Truckers Jamboree](#) (Iowa 80 Truckstop, Walcott, Iowa)
July 11: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (6-9 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimber Rd.)
July 15-19: [Rock Island County Fair](#) (Fairgrounds, East Moline)
July 24-25: [Downtown Street Fest](#) (2nd Street in downtown Davenport)
July 25: [Bix 7 Run/Walk](#) (Downtown Davenport)
July 30-Aug. 2: [Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Jazz Festival](#) (RiverCenter/Adler Theatre, Davenport)
Aug. 4-9: [Great Mississippi Valley Fair](#) (Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, Davenport)
Aug. 6: [Freedom Run 5k](#) (Moline)
Aug. 7-8: [Ya Maka My Weekend](#) (The District, Rock Island)
Aug. 8: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (6-9 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimber Rd.)

Aug. 13-15: [Tug Fest](#) (LeClaire, Iowa & Port Byron, Ill.)
Aug. 15: [Floatzilla](#) (Sunset Marina, Rock Island)
Aug. 28-29: [River Roots Live](#) (Downtown Davenport)
Aug. 28-30: [World Series of Dragracing](#) (Cordova Dragway, Cordova, Ill.)
Sept. 5-6: [Rock Island Grand Prix](#) (Downtown Rock Island)
Sept. 5-7: [Labor Day Weekend Pow Wow](#) (Black Hawk State Historic Site, Rock Island)
Sept. 12: [Quad City Symphony Riverfront Pops](#) (LeClaire Park, downtown Davenport)
Sept. 12: [QCA Heritage Tractor Parade & Show](#) (John Deere Pavilion, Moline)
Sept. 12: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (6-9 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimber Rd.)
Sept. 12-13: [Beaux Arts Fair](#) (Downtown Davenport)
Sept. 18-19: [Celtic Festival & Highland Games](#) (Centennial Park, Davenport)
Sept. 19: [Brew Ha Ha](#) (LeClaire Park, Davenport)
Sept. 19-20: [Riverssance Festival of Fine Arts](#) (Village of East Davenport)
Sept. 27: [Quad Cities Marathon](#) (downtown Moline)
Sept. 25-27: [Hot Air Balloon Festival](#) (Kennedy Square, East Moline)
Oct. 10: [Trinity Quad Cities Classic Regatta](#) (Mississippi River in Moline)
Oct. 10: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-In](#) (3-6 p.m., Davenport Learning Center, 1002 W Kimber Rd.)
Oct. 11: [Apple Fest](#) (Downtown LeClaire, Iowa)
Oct. 29: [Fright Night](#) (The District, Rock Island)
Oct. 24: [Lagomarcino's Cocoa Beano 5K Race](#) (Village of East Davenport)
Nov. 20-29: [Quad City Arts Festival of Trees](#) (RiverCenter, Davenport)
Nov. 21: [Festival of Trees Parade](#) (Downtown Davenport)
Nov. 21: [Lighting on the John Deere Commons](#) (Downtown Moline)
Dec. 4-6: [Heartland Emergency Response Conference Expo](#) (QCCA)



Island Insight



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