

March 31, 2014



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

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Point System, Enhanced Enforcement for Arsenal Island Traffic: On Feb. 1, Col. Elmer Speights, Jr., Garrison Commander, approved Rock Island Arsenal Regulation 190-5, Rock Island Arsenal Traffic Regulation, to establish policies, rules, and procedures to ensure the safe and efficient movement of vehicles and personnel on Arsenal Island. The purpose of the changes are to promote a safe living and working

environment at Arsenal Island and to bring Rock Island Arsenal in compliance with DoD and Army traffic management and enforcement regulations, which are commonly applied at military installations worldwide. The major changes from the previous RIAR 190-5 are the assessment of a points system for violations and to clarify the prohibition of the use of cellular telephones while operating a

motor vehicle and headphones and/or other listening devices for walkers, runners/joggers, and bicyclists. Individuals, who accumulate 12 points in a 12-month period or 18 points within a 24-month period, may lose driving privileges on Arsenal Island. There is an appeals process and an administrative hearing



"HOME OF US ARMY LOGISTICS"



process before a suspension of driving privileges. The points assessment will begin on April 14. [\(More\)](#)

Army Mourning Loss of Soldiers at Fort Hood:

To the Fort Hood community and the Army family worldwide, "this is a time once again to come together, to stand as one as they have so many times before, drawing strength from each other," Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh told lawmakers today. [\(More\)](#)



Army Seeks Greater Awareness for "Gold Star" Wives:

April 5, 2014, has been designated by Congress as "Gold Star Wives Day." The intent is to publically recognize the sacrifices made by our service members in support of our nation. "We have 13 Army Gold Star Wives in the 12 counties that fall under our program," said Jack Wilson, support coordinator, Survivor Outreach Services, Rock Island Arsenal. "We're contacting each of the Gold Star Wives



to personally let them know about the day and to formally-delete recognize them. Many of them have their Gold Star pins, but if they don't we let them know how they can obtain them." [\(More\)](#)

AMC, ASA (ALT) Senior Leadership Tours RIA-JMTC:

On Tuesday, Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, deputy commanding general, Army Materiel Command and Mr. Gabe Camarillo, principal deputy assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA ALT) along with other leadership from AMC headquarters, TACOM Life Cycle Management Command, Research, Development and Engineering Command, and The Army National Guard Bureau toured the Rock Island Arsenal Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center. During the three hour tour and briefing, leaders discussed how to ensure RIA-JMTC remains relevant and ready to support the joint warfighter in an environment of decreasing budgets and workload. [\(More\)](#)



Upcoming Dates

- April 4:** Installation Planning Board, Baylor Conference Room, 10 a.m.
- April 5:** ACS & CYS Child Abuse Awareness and Recognition of Month of Military Child Expo, Fitness Center, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- April 6-11:** Volunteer Appreciation Week
- April 8:** Holocaust Remembrance Day
- April 8:** Installation Volunteer Ceremony, Heritage Hall, 1 p.m.
- April 8:** RIA Community Special Events Planning Mtg. Heritage Hall, 1 p.m.
- April 8:** Crime Victim Awareness Day, Heritage Hall, Bldg. 60, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- April 9:** National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day [📍](#)
- April 9:** Tenant Senior NCO Meeting, Arsenal Island Clubhouse, 11:30 a.m.
- April 12:** Free Spring Vehicle Inspection, Bldg. 351 Auto Craft Center, (TBD)
- April 12:** Easter Bunny at Commissary
- April 12:** QC Bandits Race to Home 5K Run, Government Bridge, 8 a.m.
- April 16:** Employment/Education Event, Heritage Hall, 9 a.m.
- April 16:** QC Honor Flights, Moline International Airport
- April 17:** Sexual Assault Review Board, Bldg. 390, 10:15 a.m.
- April 18:** Good Friday Service, Time TBD
- April 19:** RIA Easter Egg Hunt at Memorial Park, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- April 20:** Easter Brunch, Arsenal Island Clubhouse, 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- April 21:** Boundless Playground Dedication & Army Family Covenant Signing Ceremony, 10 a.m.
- April 22:** Army Earth Day [📍](#)
- April 22-24:** DA Photo Studio
- April 22-25:** JMC Pre-Command Course



PM DCATS Recognizes Several ACC-

RI Employees: Several Army Contracting Command-Rock Island, Ill., employees were recognized for their support of the Project Manager Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems. Col. Clyde E. Richards, Jr., PM DCATS, presented certificates of appreciations during a March 13 ceremony to 11 employees for their exceptional performance during the transfer of 56 PM DCATS contracts from ACC-National Capital Region to ACC-RI. ([More](#))



'Sex Signals' Aims to Eliminate

Sexual Assault: First Army ditched the PowerPoint and embraced the powerful. The unit hosted "Sex Signals," a dramatic, interactive play designed to combat sexual assault, in Rock Island Arsenal's Heritage Hall April 1. While the Army has increased sexual assault prevention



training in recent years, most of it has been in PowerPoint format, either in classrooms or online. ([More](#))

Group Urges Sweeping Civil Service

Reforms: The federal pay system would shrink from 15 to 5 levels, agencies would have greater flexibility in hiring and pay would be based on performance, under a new system laid out by the Partnership For Public Service in a report released April 2. ([More](#))



How the Government Can Compete With Google for Top Talent:

The ill-fated shutdown of the federal government last year had one modestly positive side effect: It reminded many Americans about the important things government does. To choose just a couple of examples, the closure of national parks not only blocked access to national treasures from visitors, but it also caused



deep damage to a wide range of local and state economies, because the businesses that depend on the parks—hotels, restaurants, outfitters, guides, souvenir shops, and so on—were devastated. ([More](#))

All Cafeterias On-Post Will Be

Closed: The food operations in buildings 212, 350 and 60 will be closed Friday, **April 4**, to allow Treat America, the new food contractor, to set-up their operation. Bldg. 212 and 350 will resume normal operations on Monday, **April 7**, and Bldg. 60 will resume operations on **April 21**. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause but feel confident that when you see the enhanced capability and quality of Treat America's food service operation you will agree that it was worth the wait. For more info please call (309) 782-7008 and [browse these briefing slides describing the new operation.](#)

Youth Summertime Activities Expo:

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 2014 Youth Summertime Activities Expo Saturday, **April 5**, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., in the Fitness Center on Rock Island Arsenal. The event will kick off with a Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation signing and presentation of the pinwheel garden to raise awareness of this important social issue. This event is free and open to the public. The purpose of the Youth Summertime Activities Expo is to provide information to area 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. Each organization in attendance will have a small game or craft activity for the children in attendance. Food from the grill will also be available for purchase from one of the local Family Readiness Groups on the lawn outside. Call (309) 782-3049 for more info. ([Flyer](#)) Vendors from area organizations will be there to help you find the right activities to keep your child and family busy all summer long. The Expo will have vendors from four major categories: summer fun and activities; day and resident camps; volunteer

opportunities; and education. All booths will have crafts and activities for children to do at the event plus there will be food available for purchase at the Island Oasis. QCA Children are invited to help "plant" a pinwheel garden with the Child Abuse Council, 8:30-9:30 a.m., in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month. The pinwheels stand for the chance at the healthy, happy and full lives all children deserve. The pinwheel garden will remain in place for the entire month of April. For more information about a booth or the Expo contact [Katie Mettee](#) at (309) 782-2165.

30 Years Restoring the Balance of Justice – Crime Victim Awareness

Day: Come join us **April 8**, at 11 a.m., in Heritage Hall, Bldg. 60, while we celebrate with the Quad Cities Crimes Victims' Rights Week committee members will be hosting the proclamation ceremony event on Rock Island Arsenal. In honor of 30 years of the Victims of Crime Act and its critical mission to fund crime



victim compensation and victim assistance programs across our nation. More than 100 area law enforcement personnel are expected to attend the event and sign the Victim's Rights proclamation. 2014 Theme – "30 years restoring the balance of justice" – reminds us how truly groundbreaking this bipartisan legislation continues to be for the millions of crime victims who are helped by it each year. The mission of the National Center for Victims of Crime, founded in 1985, has drawn on that same passion for rebuilding the lives of crimes victims. ([Flyer](#))

RIA Volunteer Recognition: You are invited to the National Volunteer Week Recognition Ceremony at Heritage Hall, Bldg. 60, Tuesday, **April 8**, 1-2:30 p.m. This year National Volunteer Week is April 6-14, and the theme is "Army Volunteers – Changing Lives & Communities." Throughout history, volunteers have played an integral role in the life of Soldiers and their Families. In the early years of our country volunteers mended uniforms, cared for the sick and wounded, and comforted Families of fallen Soldiers.



Today our volunteers are found throughout the military community. Soldiers, civilians, retirees, spouses and youth are providing service in schools, in hospitals, on sports fields, and in many other organizations and offices. Through their dedicated service, volunteers transform military installations into communities.

National Public Safety

Telecommunicators Week: The week of **April 13-19** is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. This is an opportunity to honor the women and men who serve as our public safety dispatchers.



They are the voice at the other end of the 9-1-1 call assisting a distraught caller and at the other end of the radio when police, firefighters, and medical personnel are responding to emergency situations. Often these "invisible" courageous professionals are the forgotten component of public safety. Telecommunicators Week began in California in 1981 and quickly grew to national recognition. Just ten years later, Congress designated the second full week of each April as a time to remember the critical role that

Dispatchers play in keeping us all safe. If you've ever been the victim of a crime, been in a collision, reported a fire or needed emergency medical help, you've called 9-1-1 and been helped by a Telecommunicator, also known as a "dispatcher." Not being visible or always recognized in the public eye, the critical role they play between the community and first responders is essential for every public safety call for service. Our Dispatchers are the direct link to our officers and firefighters in the field. They monitor the radios, computers, phones, and more; answering thousands of calls from our community each year. Please join us in conveying a big thank you to the often heard, but not seen "first of the first responders," our Rock Island Arsenal 9-1-1 dispatchers and call takers.

Antiterrorism Synchronization: The Army antiterrorism theme for the quarter three of fiscal year (3Q/FY14), April through June, is Antiterrorism Synchronization. Joint Pub 2.0, Joint Intelligence, defines synchronization as the arrangement of military actions in time, space, and purpose to produce maximum relative combat power at a decisive place and time. ([More](#))

National Sexual Assault Awareness

Month: National Sexual Assault Awareness Month is an annual observance held during the month of April to raise awareness and educate communities on the prevention of sexual violence. The U.S. Army, in conjunction with the Department of Defense (DOD), is implementing the new 2014 SAAM theme Speak Up! A Voice Unheard is an Army Defeated, which is designed to strengthen the collective moral and ethical commitment, in keeping with Army Values and Warrior Ethos, to show respect and dignity for every Soldier, Department of the Army Civilian, family member, and the nation. ([More](#))

RIA Retirement Ceremony: Maj. Gen. John F. Wharton, Commanding General of the United States Army Sustainment Command and Rock Island Arsenal, cordially invites you to attend the 3rd Quarter FY14 Award, Retirement & Retreat Ceremony at Heritage Hall, Bldg. 60. We will honor our retiring Department of the Army Civilians and exercise our Soldiers' first General Order by properly relieving them of their posts. Uniform for personnel not participating in the ceremony is Military: Duty Uniform and Civilian: Casual.



Date: **Thursday, April 24**
Time: **2 p.m.**

NEC-RIA Support Tools: The NEC-RIA has created a new tool that puts some of our most frequently used documents and resources right on your computer, so you can access them no matter where you are. Click the Start menu, then select All Programs and look for the _RIA Support Files folder. Resources include: • AESD Service Request Management Self Ticketing (link to the site and user guides for submitting tickets); • Cisco VPN instructions (how to connect to an off-island network and then to the RIA network); • Drive Map (reconnects your network drives if they drop off, such as your P: drive); • My IT Information (displays information about your user account and computer that can help you submit a ticket or troubleshoot with a technician); • NEC Additional Training Documentation (links to all of the user guides on the NEC's portal)



Quarterly Inventory for BSC: The Rock Island Arsenal's Base Supply Center is planning a quarterly physical inventory of the store next week. The store will be closed Wednesday, **April**

2, and Thursday, **April 3**, and resume normal operation on Monday, **April 7**, at 8 a.m.

RIA Army Education Center Co-Hosting Employment-Education

Event: The U.S. Army Garrison-Rock Island Arsenal is hosting a combined Employment-Education Event on Wednesday, **April 16**, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., in Heritage Hall, Bldg. 60. If you missed our last big Event in September, mark your calendars now. This event combines our education fair with our employment event. We will have expanded employer participation, veteran service organizations to assist with resources and resume development and up to 20 local and online academic institutions in attendance to provide information regarding educational opportunities for Soldiers, veterans, family members and government employees. A brief list of schools and organizations attending includes: Black Hawk and Scott Community colleges, Western Illinois, St. Ambrose, and Upper Iowa universities, American Intercontinental, Ashford, and Kaplan universities, Palmer School of Chiropractic and



Trinity School of Nursing and Health Sciences, the U.S. Small Business Administration, Iowa National Guard Family Assistance program, and more. Please join us to learn more about educational opportunities and how they can benefit you. Point of contact: [Stephanie Allers](#), or (309) 782-5895 for further information.

Army Family Team Building Level (L) Leadership Development:

Classes cover topics such as: leadership styles, effective communication for leaders, developing great meetings, establishing team dynamics, resolving conflict, coaching and mentoring, virtual meetings and more. Classes offered **April 10-11**, 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Please register no later than **April 8**. AFTB classes are held at Army Community Service (ACS), Bldg. 110. Classes are open to spouses, military members, family members, civilians and contractors affiliated with Rock Island Arsenal. To register, call ACS at (309) 782-0829. (Civilians can also register on [TEDs](#))



Army Family Team Building Level (G) Personal Growth and Resiliency:

Classes cover topics such as



communication, conflict management, problem solving, personality traits, team dynamics, time management, personal relationships, leadership and more. Classes offered **April 23-25**, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Please register no later than **April 21**. AFTB classes are held at Army Community Service (ACS), Bldg. 110. Classes are open to spouses, military members, family members, civilians and contractors affiliated with Rock Island Arsenal. To register, call ACS at (309) 782-0829. (Civilians can also register on [TEDs](#))

VIOS Schedule for April and May:

Official DA Studio Photography (DA, Government passport and command photos) will be offered at Rock Island Arsenal **April 22, 23 and 24**; and **May 6, 7, and 8** (Note changes to previous April dates). Appointments may be scheduled online by submitting a DA Form 3903 Work Request using the [Visual Information Ordering Site](#) for the available times: 7 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.

Blood Drives: The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is hosting a blood drive in the [Caisson Room](#) (First Floor, Bldg. 60), on **Friday, April 11 & 21, 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 **2nd shift** blood drive will be held in the Cafeteria (Bldg. 210) beginning



at **6:30 p.m. on April 25**. A **3rd shift** blood drive will be held in the Cafeteria (Bldg. 210) beginning at **2:15 a.m. on May 16**. To sign up for a blood drive held on either the 2nd or 3rd shift, donors should contact their shift supervisor. ([Blood Transfusion En Route to Trauma Center Keeps Navy Vet Alive](#))



Charlie Corpuscle Says, "Can you donate blood if you have recently gotten a tattoo? Yes! As long as you went to a licensed facility for the procedure. If the facility you went to was licensed, there is no waiting period before you can again donate blood."



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](#).

Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop: Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop and Boutique where every day is "Sale Day" is open in April every Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., and Saturday, April 19. Visit our



store in person, on Facebook, or on our website at www.riamwr.com/attic.htm. POC: (309) 782-6977.

Boundless Playground Dedication & Army Family Covenant Signing Ceremony:

The Rock Island Arsenal is the new home of a "[Boundless Certified Playground](#)"



providing a truly inclusive facility where children and adults of all abilities can play and learn together. The Arsenal Island workforce and Quad-Cities community is invited to the Boundless Playground dedication & Army Family Covenant signing ceremony on Monday, **April 21**, at 10 a.m., at the new Memorial Park playground area. The event is taking place during [National Playground Safety Week](#), which takes place this year **April 21-25**, with this year's theme as "Safe Sliders!" The Boundless Playground dedication event parking will be located behind Memorial Field across the street from Bldg. 110. The new Boundless Playground provides a world of opportunity where children along with their parents, caregivers, military veterans, and family members have the opportunity to play side by side and gain the developmental and health benefits

derived from unstructured play in an inclusive environment. The playground includes: ramped wheelchair access to the highest platform center, universally accessible pathways and surfacing, activity transfers that maximize accessibility, a swing with back support, elevated sand tables and activity panels, and activities for the hearing and visually impaired. A Boundless Playground provides a learning and growing environment so children develop a lifelong respect for and acceptance of individuals of all abilities. National Playground Safety Week was created by the National Program for Playground Safety, which works with national, state, and local community programs and schools to ensure children's play areas are safe and high quality. ([More](#))

AUSA Annual Golf Outing: Save the date -- the 2014 Rock Island Arsenal Chapter of the Association of the US Army will once again have its annual golf outing "A Round For Our Soldiers" on **July 17**, at 12 p.m., at the Arsenal Island Golf Course. Proceeds support Soldiers, civilians, families, local chapter activities, and the Army Emergency Relief Fund.

Arsenal Island Employee Local

Discounts: *The following discounts are exclusively available to Arsenal Island employees –* **Sears Automotive, NorthPark Mall:** Military discount for all members of the military, as well as for Arsenal Island employees; applying to tires and automotive services.

Peachwave Frozen Yogurt:

Peachwave, 3431 Devils Glen Rd., Bettendorf, offers a 10 percent discount everyday to all military and veterans.

The Slice: Right off the Moline Bridge exit, is offering \$2 off their pizza buffet with drink to Rock Island Arsenal workers.

Double Tap Firearms:

Double Tap Firearms offers a 10 percent firearm discount and \$15 firearm transfer fee in Illinois to active duty and retired military personnel in the QCA

(☞). **Bennigan's Rock Island:** Arsenal employees, service men, service women you are always welcome at Bennigan's in Rock Island, and to show you how much your welcome here, we offer a 25 percent discount off your meal, any day any time (☞).

New Life Chiropractic Clinic: Arsenal Island employees, we're offering you a 20 percent discount on our services (☞). **Goebel Family**

Dentistry: Active duty members of the military receive a 10 percent discount on all services. All other Arsenal civilian employees who are new patients can



receive either the free exam and x-rays or a free whitening treatment on their first visit (📄). *This information is included for general workforce interest and does not constitute endorsement of the businesses or products.*

Improve Your Speaking, Listening

Skills: Esprit de Corps Toastmasters meets on the first and third Wednesday each month at the Clock Tower Building from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Bring your lunch. The mission of a Toastmaster club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth; join us. One of the goals for this month is to bring a friend to at least one of the meetings to show them the benefits of Toastmasters. For more information, visit our [website](#).



Arsenal Traffic/Construction

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

☐
No Building/Space Closure related announcements this week.

Active Duty/Reserve Zone

☐
Post-Traumatic Growth--Thriving Through Life's Crises: How often do we hear that yet another Soldier,

colleague or family has been traumatized by an event? Learning that someone survived a crisis may cause us to look at him or her differently, imagining that they might now be damaged permanently by such events. We see little if any benefit to loss, struggle or suffering, and quickly label those who suffer "victims." Why do so many hold this viewpoint? Professionals have become very skilled in diagnosing, treating, and sometimes even preventing mental disorders; however, focus on disease and injury alone may blind us to hidden growth opportunities. Many experiencing crises and adversity are able to resolve and grow from these events, drawing upon internal strengths previously unrecognized. There is an advantage to not seeing yourself as traumatized. ([More](#))

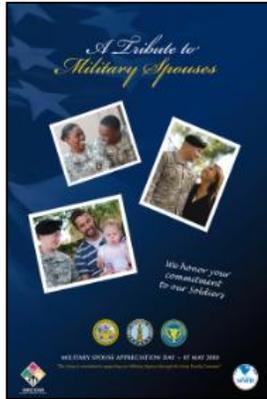
Operation Family Time Out: Open to military kids and kids of deployed civilian ages 6 weeks to 12 years. This past January at the Two Rivers YMCA, the kids had a 4-H science activity on magnets. They learned how to levitate objects using magnets. They had a super fun time learning how magnetic force works. Not only were they interested with the experiment but they had many questions about the topic. Frank, a 4-H volunteer, engaged the children in



interactive, hands-on learning. We hope you can join us for another new science experiment and other educational programs that are coming up. Upcoming Programs will meet at the following YMCAs, 1-5 p.m. Upcoming programs are as follows: • **April 12** at the Davenport YMCA • **May 10** at the Two Rivers YMCA.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day:

Friday, **May 9**, is National Military Spouse Appreciation Day, a day to recognize the efforts of all our military spouses. On that day, the Army Community Service is holding an observance event for National Military Spouse Appreciation Day 1-4 p.m., at the Arsenal Clubhouse. RSVP is required by contacting Army Community Service at (309) 782-0829. Availability for first 25 reserved spaces. ([Flyer](#))



What's On Your Dog Tag? : What do you want others to know about you? What if you had to limit that information to only four lines? Anyone who has

served for any length of time in the military is familiar with those metal ovals worn on a chain around the neck. Officially they are identification tags but almost everyone calls them dog tags. Dog tags have their origin in the Civil War, but only unofficially. Soldiers at that time would often write basic information about themselves on a piece of paper and pin it to their uniform in case they were killed or badly injured. Some units paid for more durable identification. But there was no standardization as to what was included. Today's identification tags identify vital information about the wearer: name, Social Security number, blood type and religious preference. ([More](#))

Bix 7 Road Race 40th Anniversary: Ed Froehlich, race director of the Bix & Road Race, has informed the community that this year's race will be free to all active duty military. The race is on **July 26** in Davenport. The 7 mile road race is annually held during late July, in the streets of downtown Davenport. The race was founded in 1975 by John Hudetz, a resident of Bettendorf, Iowa. After competing in the 1974 Boston Marathon, Hudetz was inspired to bring the excitement to the Quad-Cities with a race of his own. The inaugural race had a field consisting of eighty-four runners.

Today the race is often run by 12,000 to 18,000 runners. ([More](#))

Tax Assistance Center: The Arsenal's Tax Center continues to assist active duty service members and retirees with filing their income tax returns. In March the Center welcomed an additional volunteer preparer with significant professional experience. Service is by appointment, with most appointments taking about an hour and more complex returns taking somewhat longer. Appointments are available week days through **April 15**. In accordance with IRS requirements, the tax center may prepare and submit most - but not all - federal and state income tax returns. If you suspect that your return may be especially complex, please discuss that with us when you call, and we can advise whether we will be able to prepare your return(s). To schedule an appointment please call one of our preparers at (309) 782-8076/8457/1894/1709. Please bring the following to your appointment: photo ID; social security card (or official document showing SSN); documents showing income of any type (W-2s; 1099s, etc.); documents to support any deductions/credits; last year's return; voided check or deposit slip (if using



direct deposit); dependents' SSNs and birth dates.

Time: **7 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Safety Spotlight

☉
Motorcycle Riding Courses: The USAG Safety Office is offering Motorcycle Riding Courses for military personnel. The motorcycle rider training program is certified by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. The courses are designed to help riders manage their risk and increase their skills through riding and classroom instruction. Per DODI 6055.4, DOD Traffic Safety Program, military personnel who operate motorcycles must be appropriately licensed to operate on public highways and must have successfully completed an approved rider or operator safety course meeting the MSF-based State-approved curriculum. Any military member operating a motorcycle on or off Rock Island Arsenal must be in possession of a MSF card when they ride to verify completion of required training. The approaching motorcycle training courses are scheduled as follows: • Basic Motorcycle Riding: **June 10-11** (two 8-hour days) • Experienced Rider Course: **June 12** (one 8-hour day) Registration for either

course is through the web-based AIRS system at <https://apps.imcom.army.mil/AIRS>. Each course size is limited to 12 riders. If you need further information please contact either [Nancy Carlson](#) or [Michael Chaplin](#) via phone extension 782-1380.

Equal Opportunity Focus

☉
Holocaust Days of Remembrance Observance: The Arsenal Island 2014 Holocaust Days of Remembrance Observance will be held on **April 29**, 1-2 p.m., in Heritage Hall, Bldg. 60. Further details will be forthcoming; please add this observance to your calendars.

Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR)

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Visit the MWR website at www.riamwr.com for information on all MWR programs. Also [click here](#) to become a fan on Facebook, or Twitter [@golf1897](#), and stay up to date on all the great MWR offerings here at the Arsenal.

Trivia Night: Get up to seven of your smartest friends on Thursday, **April 3**, 6 p.m., and come wage a battle of wits against other trivia enthusiasts. This fun, multi-media, family friendly trivia competition held in the Arsenal Club (Bldg. 60) features a wide range of topics and is open to the public so invite all your trivia junky friends, the more players we get the better the prizes become. Cost is \$5/player or \$30/table of eight. Call (309) 782-6319 for more info and to sign up in advance. Advance reservations required. ([Flyer](#))

Free Spring Vehicle Inspection: Make sure your car is set for spring and those summer road trips Saturday, **April 12**, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. We will check your: belts, hoses, A/C performance, fluid levels & condition, tire condition, and much more, all for free. No appointment necessary, just stop by and we'll give your ride a good once over. Call (309) 782-8631 for more info. ([Flyer](#))

Oil Change Class: Do you want to save money by learning how to change the oil in your own vehicle? Come let the pros at the Auto Craft Shop show you step by step how to perform one of the most basic yet most important regular maintenance procedures on your vehicle, Wednesday, **April 16**, 5-6:30



p.m. The class is just \$5/participant and the first person to sign up receives a free oil change as we use your vehicle for the demonstration. Call (309) 782-8631 for more info and to register. ([Flyer](#))

Easter Egg Hunt: Join us Saturday, **April 19**, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., at Memorial Park (Bldg. 150 or Fitness Center in case of inclement weather) for an Easter Egg Extravaganza. The festivities will include a golden Easter Egg hunt for different age groups from 0-15 years, photos with the Easter Bunny, and all sorts of contests and games for all ages. There will also be an RIA Health Clinic teddy bear clinic so bring your favorite stuffed friend or doll to have it checked out for health and wellness. See the flyer for more info on the various contests or call (309) 782-2828. ([Flyer](#))

Easter Brunch at the Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse: Come join us Sunday, **April 20**, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse for a brunch in celebration of Easter. Bring the whole family and enjoy a delicious all you can eat buffet that features prime rib au jus, maple molasses glazed ham, sautéed chicken with marsala sauce and much more. The cost is \$21.95/adult and \$10.95/child (12 & under). Limited seating is available

so don't miss out, call and make your reservation today at (309) 793-1601. ([Flyer](#))

Auto Skills Newsletter: Check out the March edition of the Auto Skills newsletter for some great info on potholes, the dangers they pose to your automobile and how we can help you avoid costly repairs. Also in this month's issue: Spring car care month specials and info on a bus trip to see a NASCAR race this spring. ([Check it out here](#))

MWR 2014 Garden Plots: Do you have a green thumb but no place of your own to dig in the dirt? Sign up to use one of our garden plots this spring to grow all your favorite fruits, veggies, flowers, etc. Each plot is approx. 20' x 20' and can be rented for the entire growing season for just \$25 + \$100 refundable cleaning deposit. Sign-ups will be staggered and allotted based on patronage eligibility. For more information and complete details phone Outdoor Recreation at (309) 782-8630. ([Flyer](#))

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](#))

April BUNCO Night: Calling all BUNCO players ... get ready to shake, rattle & roll Thursday, **April 10**, at 6 p.m., during a fast paced night of BUNCO action in Heritage Hall (Bldg. 60). For just \$5 you can join in on this exciting and highly social dice game fun. There will be door prizes and this event is open to the public so bring all your friends even if they don't work on the Arsenal. RSVP is required by **April 7** by calling (309) 782-5890. ([Flyer](#))

Spring BUNCO: Come join the fun. Open to the public. Great door prizes. Entry fee is \$5. Please RSVP by **April 7**. Arsenal Club will be open for food and drinks.
Date: **Thursday, April 10**
Time: **6-8 p.m.**

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing: Circa 21 children's theatre presents: Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing. It is a humorous look at family life and the troubles that can only be caused by a younger sibling. This play teaches children about responsibilities and how to recognize certain feelings they have, whether with family or friends, and that the emotions they have are ok.



Discounted seats on sale until **April 5**
... \$9 per person.
Date: **Saturday, April 19**
Time: **10 a.m.**

Always a Bridesmaid: In this hilarious comedy, four high school friends made a vow to be in each other's weddings, no matter what. Little did they know, thirty years later, they'd still be keeping that promise. Join Deedra, Monette, Charlie and Libby Ruth through the years as they navigate the choppy and unpredictable waters of their friendship and many marriages. Discounted seats on sale until **April 26**.
Date: **Saturday, May 10**
Time: **5:45 p.m.**

Monster Jam: Monster Jam will be coming to the iWireless Center for two days. Leisure Travel has discounted tickets available for \$20 for adults and \$13.50 for children under 12-years-old. On sale until **April 28**.
Date: **Saturday, May 17**
Time: **7 p.m.**

FMWR's 1st Nationwide NASCAR Race Bus Trip: Leisure Travel/Auto Shop have seats available for the bus trip to the Iowa Speedway in Newton Iowa. Bus will depart from the Auto Shop at 6:30 a.m. please arrive early for

refreshments compliments of the Auto Shop. ½ stop to and from the Iowa Speedway. You are allowed to bring a small cooler. Cost of trip is \$69.
Date: **Sunday, May 18**
Time: **6:30 a.m.**

Lincoln Park Zoo/Museum Bus Trip: Drop offs at the Museum of Science & Industry, at the Museum Campus (Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, Planetarium) and at Lincoln Park Zoo. Admission to Museums on own. No general admission at Lincoln Park Zoo. Cost is \$41 per person. Limited seats available.
Date: **Saturday, June 28**
Time: **6:30 a.m.**

Taste of Chicago/Navy Pier: Join us for one of the most popular bus trips Leisure Travel offers every year. Dropping off at the Taste of Chicago or Navy Pier. Choice is up to you. Admission to Taste of Chicago is free. Cost is \$41 per person. Limited seats available.
Date: **Saturday, July 12**
Time: **6:30 a.m.**

Walt Disney Military Promotion Tickets: Disney has renewed the Armed Forces Salute for yet another year. The offer will run **Sept. 29, 2013 – Sept. 27, 2014**. Qualified individuals may

purchase up to a maximum of six theme park tickets during the period. Four-Day Park Hopper tickets \$169 Four-Day Water Park & More tickets for \$169 Four-Day Park Hopper tickets plus the Water Park & More option for \$198, **April 13** (no theme park or water park use) **July 4** (no Magic Kingdom use) Please allow three weeks for ticket arrival when ordering.

Universal Studios Orlando: This special ticket is good for unlimited admission for three days over a seven consecutive day period from first redemption. Universal Orlando Resort is more than a theme park, it is an entire universe of action and thrills featuring two spectacular theme parks unlike anything else in Orlando. Ticket expires on **May 9**; unused days shall be forfeited.

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





Loving Kids at All Ages and Stages:

Join us at the Arsenal Island Clubhouse Tuesday, **April 8**, 4-5 p.m., where best-selling author Jay Payleitner will offer dozens of thought-provoking ideas on how to express love to a newborn, toddler, school age kid, teenager and even our young adult children. Because love is a verb, and love never fails. A limited meal will be available. Those registered with CYSS will receive two participation points. ([Flyer](#))

CYSS In-Service Day: The Child Development Center, the CD Home, Family Child Care Homes and the School Age Center will be closed for In-Service Day on Friday, **May 23**. Fees for this day will not be reduced, refunded or prorated. Department of Army maintains a strong commitment to training and career growth. The secret of a high quality, well- run program for children lies in the training of its personnel. This day is set aside annually for staff to participate in required training and appreciate them for their hard work and dedication. Training is essential to ensure that each child is receiving quality care. Training allows staff to learn about current knowledge and research of child development and early childhood education. Training

opportunities ensure teachers have the time to revisit policies and procedures designed to maintain a safe and developmentally appropriate environment. Staff are revitalized through networking with others and sharing ideas. Thank you for your continued support and strong commitment to our programs and staff. If you have any questions regarding this closure day, please contact your specific program director.

Opening of Creative Arts Academy:

In the Fall of 2014, Davenport Community Schools will open the Creative Arts Academy of the Quad Cities, housed in community arts facilities throughout downtown Davenport and supported by arts partners from across the Quad Cities. The Creative Arts Academy will offer experiences in five disciplines based on participants interests, including Communications and Media Arts, Dance, Music, Theatre and the Visual Arts. In its first year, the Creative Arts Academy will serve three audiences: 1) a first cohort of 6th graders; 2) Dream students (high school juniors and seniors aspiring to careers in the arts) and 3) the general community. Incoming 6th grade students and Dream students will be required to audition into the program,

but community offerings and workshops will be open to all.

Date: **Monday, Aug. 11**



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



Money Smart Week in the QCA April 5-12:

National “Money Smart Week” will be observed **April 5-12**. Our local QCDollarWi\$e financial literacy group in cooperation with various sponsoring organizations are conducting an educational event: Money Smart Family Night on Friday, **April 11**, 6-8 p.m., at the Martin Luther King Center, 630 – 7th



Avenue, Rock Island. This financial education event is free, open to the public and it is on a walk-in basis. Refreshments are provided. For more information, contact RIA Federal Credit Union, Nichole Burton, (563) 355-3800 x1107. This event is for educational purposes only and not endorsed or supported by the Federal Government.

Army Emergency Relief Kicks Off

2014 Campaign: AER begins its annual fundraising drive in April. The theme of this year's Campaign is "A Soldiers First Choice."

The money is used to fund grants, scholarships, and gift cards for Wounded Warriors.

Organizational key persons will begin contacting our military personnel and retirees soon. For more information or to make a donation, contact Army Community Service at (309) 782-1499 or

jon.c.cook.civ@mail.mil or the

installation campaign coordinator, Staff Sgt. Bryan Lineback, (309) 782-2131, bryan.lineback@us.army.mil.



Employee Assistance Program



For free, confidential counseling assistance or for information on services that are available, call (309) 782-4357. Normal business hours are from 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday - Friday. For additional information on the Employee Assistance Program see [our website](#) or visit us on [Facebook](#). The new location for the EAP/ASAP is Bldg. 56, 1st floor, East.

National Alcohol Screening Day –

April 2014: Good news – did you know that a glass of wine with dinner or beer on Friday night with friends might be good for you? A compilation of research detailing the health benefits of moderate alcohol use suggests that it can reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, dementia, and even the common cold ([Hanson, 2007](#)). However, this research leads us to ask, what is moderate alcohol use? It is important to distinguish between moderate and heavy alcohol use, as consuming excessive amounts of alcohol can lead to many problems. In the short term you may be more likely to have an accident, commit a violent act (alcohol use is associated with two out of three incidents of intimate partner violence), or engage in risky sexual behavior that you would normally avoid. Long term health problems, including increased risk of stroke, dementia,

depression, high blood pressure and certain cancers are well known for being consequences of heavy alcohol use ([Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2008](#)). To help you know if you are using alcohol moderately rather than in a way that is hazardous, the Rock Island Arsenal Employee Assistance Program is honoring National Alcohol Screening Day, **April 10**, by offering you the opportunity to schedule a screening with an EAP counselor. You can also access an anonymous screening at www.militarymentalhealth.org. We here at the Rock Island Arsenal EAP hope that you will raise your glass in the name of good health and take a quick check of your drinking habits to help ensure your good health stays that way.

Assertiveness Training: Do you want to learn strategies to communicate effectively and to enhance yourself personally and professionally? Sign up for Assertiveness Training. Classes will be offered **April 8, May 6, June 10, July 8, Aug. 12**, Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Bldg. 56, 1st Floor, Room 122. Sign up in [TEDs](#) (key word 'assertiveness') or call (309) 782-2552 to reserve your spot. Sponsored by: Employee Assistance Program



Time Management: Do you feel that there is never enough time in a day to get everything done? Would you like to learn some tips to become more organized and free up some time for more fun? Sign up for a Time Management class. Classes will be offered **April 22, May 13, June 24, July 22, Aug. 26**, Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Bldg. 56, 1st Floor, Room 122. Sign up in [TEDs](#) (key word 'Time Management') or call (309) 782-2552 to reserve your spot. Sponsored by: Employee Assistance Program

PTSD Support Groups: Are you or a loved one experiencing symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder? 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.

Grief Support Group: Grieving? We can help. The Employee Assistance Program is sponsoring a support group for individuals who are mourning the death of a loved one. The group meets on Tuesdays from 3:00 until 4:00 in Bldg. 56, 1st Floor, Room 122. For more information contact Rita Baugh, EAP counselor, at (309) 782-2552.

Smoking Cessation Group: Want to join a supportive group of individuals with a common goal to quit smoking? The Employee Assistance Program offers an ongoing educational support group. The group meets each Wednesday, 3-4 p.m., in the EAP office located in Bldg. 56, 1st Floor, East Wing.

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.

Upper Iowa University Quad Cities Center MBA Lunch and Learn: There will be a Lunch and Learn, hosted by Weekend MBA, UIU, on Wednesday, **April 9**, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., in Bldg. 56, 1st Floor, Rm. #122 (Classroom #2). The lunch and learn will have details about the Upper Iowa University Quad Cities Center Weekend MBA program that is starting **May 10**. Information will include the length of the program, cost, eligibility, and areas of emphasis. For

more information contact Dr. Kris Blanchard, (563) 425-5977; or Marla Schultz, (563) 359-7111.

USAG Rock Island Employment-Education Event: The U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal is hosting its bi-annual Employment-Education Event on Wednesday, **April 16**, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., in Heritage Hall, Bldg. 60. The event will have over 50 employers and 20 local and online schools participating, as well as numerous Veteran Service Organizations to assist with career and resume development, business start-up, and other resources for Soldiers, veterans, family members and government employees. Please join us to learn more about educational opportunities and how they can benefit you. POC: Sharon Lampert, sharon.e.lampert.civ@mail.mil, (309) 782-7780 for further information.

AUSA- Rock Island Arsenal Chapter Scholarship: The Rock Island Arsenal Chapter of the Association of the United States Army is holding its annual scholarship application competition for two \$1,000 scholarships. This scholarship is open to applicants within the Rock Island Arsenal footprint covering the western Illinois, Eastern Iowa region. Previous recipients of any



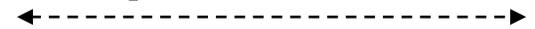
of our scholarships are not eligible for consideration. The application and all required documents must be mailed together in one envelope to the following address: Rock Island Arsenal Chapter Association of the United States Army, ATTN: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 3276, Rock Island, IL 61201. Scholarship applications are available on the [Rock Island AUSA website](#). Applications must be postmarked no later than **April 30**. All applicants will be notified by email by the **end of May 2014**. Scholarship funds will be presented to the student prior to the fall semester. The awarded funds will be in the form of a check issued to the student's college, university, or technical school. Recipients of the chapter scholarships and their guests will be honored at an AUSA general membership meeting prior to the 2014 school year. The funds must be used during the 2014-2015 school year. The RIA AUSA scholarship committee reserves sole rights to determine that each applicant meets eligibility criteria as stated in the scholarship application packet. If you have any questions concerning the application packet or would like further information, please contact the scholarship committee chairperson, Tim Considine, at considinet@aol.com.

UIU QC Lunch and Learn MBA: The Upper Iowa University Quad Cities Center MBA Lunch and Learn will take place on Wednesday, **April 9**, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., in Bldg. 56, on 1st Floor, Rm. #122 (Classroom #2).

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.

2014 IA/IL WID Scholarship: Applications for the IA/IL Chapter WID 2014-15 academic year are now being accepted. The application may be found at www.widiic.org, and must be postmarked by April 14. Questions: Contact Chioma Ezeugwu, (309) 269-7148 or e-mail: scholarships@widiic.org.

Date: **Monday, April 14**
Time: **3 p.m.**



Commissary / 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](#))

Exchange Shoppers Are in The Hunt for \$3,000 in Gift Cards in Easter Contest: The Army & Air Force Exchange Service wants to fill shoppers' baskets with \$3,000 in Exchange gift cards just in time for Easter with its latest contest sponsored by Hershey, Mars and Wrigley. The Hunt Is On



contest starts at the Exchange where shoppers search for clues throughout the store. A clue map can be picked up at the store or downloaded from the Exchange's Patriot Family Connection website at <http://shopmyexchange.com/patriotfamily>. After collecting all five answers, contestants can go to the Exchange's Facebook page to post their findings. All five correct answers must be provided to qualify for the prizes.

Commissaries Highlight Month of Military Child with Savings: April is the Month of the Military Child, and commissaries are celebrating with giveaways and savings for the entire family. "Children in military households face unique challenges because of the demands of military life," said Randy Chandler, DeCA's sales director. "So, at the Defense Commissary Agency, we want to acknowledge them and do all we can to provide their families with great values on quality products they can depend on." DeCA's industry partners - vendors, suppliers and brokers - are collaborating with commissaries in April to offer discounts beyond everyday savings.

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Arsenal Archive

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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](#))

This Week in Rock Island Arsenal History – March 24-30: On March 26, 1898, the RIA received orders to produce 25,000 complete outfits of infantry equipment. RIA Fire Department was organized on April 1, 1918, with the hiring of 20 firemen and a fire chief.

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Healthbeat

Ⓒ
April is Women's Eye Health and Safety Month: Women are often responsible for taking care of their family's health concerns but often neglect their own health, including the health of their eyes. Did you know that women account for two-thirds of people in the world affected by visual impairments and blindness even though they represent only 53 percent of the population? The rate of eye disease is on the rise in the United States, mostly

because people are living longer. Women, on average, live longer than men. As a result, more women are susceptible to age-related eye diseases such as macular degeneration, cataracts, dry eyes, glaucoma, diabetic changes of the eye and other conditions. Because of this, Prevent Blindness America has designated April as Women's Eye Health and Safety Month to help educate women about the steps they should take to make eye health a priority. While the following recommendations apply to everyone, during April the emphasis is for women to take care of themselves as well as their families. ([More](#))

USAPHC Water Experts Recommend Well 'Wellness' Checks: Groundwater is essential for human and animal health and well-being. The U.S. Army Public Health Command Water Resources Program helps preserve groundwater quality and protect Army communities from the adverse health effects of water pollution. "The Army often asks about the health of supply wells and the condition of the aquifer or water-bearing rock below ground that holds the water," said William Fifty, USAPHC WRP manager. "Our scientists and engineers regularly test these military water supplies to ensure that installations are in compliance with the federal Safe



Drinking Water Act and local applicable codes." ([More](#))

TRICARE Tip of the Week: If you need to be seen at an urgent care facility after hours, you must call 1 (877) 874-2273. Do not hang up until the agent gives you a tracking number. You should then call our office on Monday at (309) 782-0805, to advise us that you went for urgent care. Do not go to a specialist, even if they tell you to do so until you call our office. This will allow us the ability to ensure you have the proper authorizations in place.

Notes for Veterans

VA's Disability Claims Backlog Down By 44 Percent, But Problems Remain:

The Department of Veterans Affairs says it has reached a tipping point in its ongoing effort to eliminate its backlog of disability claims: The backlog is 44 percent smaller than it was a year ago. VA observers and overseers say there are several problems with the way VA is measuring success. More than half of the cases in the department's current queue of claims still fall under the department's current definition of "backlogged," and the time veterans are

waiting for appeals of claims that were previously denied has increased significantly within the past year. ([More](#))

Carpooling Announcements

Submit carpooling announcements via the [Island Insight submission page](#). Please use that page to contact Garrison Public Affairs to take your announcement off once you have found a ride.

Did You Know?: The [AMTBP \(Army Mass Transportation Benefit Program\)](#) is a program where Army employees can qualify for up to \$245 in reimbursements for use of mass transportation (to include van pooling). ([More](#))

Carpool:

- **Ride:** Looking for a ride and pay for gas. Location – Sherwood Forest Apartment, Davenport. Call thru Illinois relay at (800) 526-0857 to contact me at (309) 782-1078 (TTY). ([Email](#))

- **Carpool:** Carpool from Rio, Ill., looking for people to carpool with along 150. Please call (309) 782-5472.
- **Carpool:** New hire with flexible hours seeking to pay for ride from Moline 9th & 53rd, (Franklin School area) (309) 757-5755.

Around the Q.C.

- April 7:** [Eat Wings, Raise Funds](#) (Buffalo Wild Wings, Moline) Support the RIA Sergeant Audie Murphy Club by eating lunch at Buffalo Wild Wings 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. until close. 10 percent of proceeds will benefit the club.
- April 12:** [Bandits Race to Home 5K](#) (Modern Woodman Park)
- April 12:** [Operation: Family Timeout](#) (Davenport YMCA)
- April 12:** [Run for Renewal 5K](#) (Sr. Concetta Park, Davenport)
- April 26:** [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-in and Car Show](#) (Kimberly Center, Davenport)
- May 2-3:** [Army JROTC 7th Annual "Blue Devil" Raider Challenge](#) (Naval Operations Support Center, Bldg. 218, Arsenal Island)
- May 3:** [Village in Bloom: Festival of the Arts](#) (Village of East Davenport)
- May 3:** [Derby Day Party](#) (Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse)
- May 3:** [Venus Envy](#) (Bucktown Center for the Arts, Davenport)
- May 9:** Military Appreciation Day at the Quad-Cities River Bandits game (Modern Woodmen Park) *free tickets courtesy of AUSA for all military, active, Reserve,*



Guard, and veterans. You can pick up tickets at the USO office or see an AUSA representative in Bldg. 131

May 10-11: [Beaux Arts Fair](#) (Downtown Davenport)

May 16: AUSA 5th Region Training (Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse) *Guest Speaker SMA (ret) Preston, guest speaker at the Arsenal Golf Course Dining Room*

May 17: Armed Forces Day Celebration, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Brady Street Stadium Complex, Davenport

May 17: [5th Annual You Were Made for This 5K](#) (Young Life, Moline)

May 17: [Livefit With Lupus Run 5K](#) (LeClaire, Iowa)

May 17: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-in and Car Show](#) (Kimberly Center, Davenport)

May 26: [49th Annual Quad Cities](#) Criterium (Downtown Rock Island)

June 3-7: [Quad Cities Senior Olympics](#) (Rock Island)

June 6-7: [Rhubarb Festival](#) (Aledo, Ill.)

June 6-7: [22nd Annual Gumbo Ya Ya](#) (The District, Rock Island)

June 7-8: [QC Pridefest](#) (Downtown Davenport)

June 12: [Hot Rod Magazine Power Tour](#) (Isle Casino Hotel, Bettendorf)

June 12-15: [19th Annual Rally on the River](#) (Centennial Park, Davenport)

June 13: QC Military Gala – Army Birthday Ball (Quad Cities Waterfront Convention Center, Bettendorf)

June 14: [Run for the Hills XC 5K](#) (Crow Creek Park, Bettendorf)

June 14: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-in and Car Show](#) (Kimberly Center, Davenport)

June 14-15: [Juneteenth](#) (LeClaire Park, Davenport)

June 15: [30th Annual Ride the River Bike Ride](#) (Downtown Davenport)

June 16: [12th Annual YSB-Whitey Verstraete Memorial Golf Outing](#) (Pinnacle Country Club, Milan, Ill.)

June 17-21: [145th Annual Rock Island County Fair](#) (Rock Island County Fairgrounds, East Moline)

June 21: [Inaugural Micro Brew Mile & 6k Road Race](#) (Moline)

June 21: [Royal Ball Run For Autism 5K](#) (Milan, Ill.)

June 22: [Blossoms at Butterworth](#) (Deere Family Homes, Moline)

June 27-28: [Greek Cultural Fest](#) (Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, East Moline)

July 3: [Red, White & Boom!](#) (The District & Downtown Davenport)

July 3-5: [30th Annual Mississippi Valley Blues Festival](#) (LeClaire Park, Davenport)

July 4: [Firecracker Run & Parade](#) (East Moline)

July 4: [Bettendorf Old-Fashioned 4th of July](#) (Bettendorf)

July 7-13: [John Deere Classic PGA Tour](#) (TPC Deere Run, Silvis)

July 8-13: John Deere Classic Military Special (TPC Deere Run, Silvis, Ill.) *There will have a AUSA military hospitality Tent on Sunday on the 15th Green, free admission to the JDC with a military ID card*

July 10-12: [Walcott Truckers Jamboree](#) (Iowa 80 Truckstop, Walcott, Iowa)

July 12: [Case Creek Obstacle Run 5K](#) (Coal Valley, Ill.)

July 12: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-in and Car Show](#) (Kimberly Center, Davenport)

July 17: [AUSA Annual "A Round For Our Soldiers" Golf Outing, at 12 p.m.](#) (Arsenal Island Golf Course)

July 25-26: [43rd Annual Street Fest Presented by the MVRBC](#) (Downtown Davenport)

July 26: [41st Annual Quad-City Times Bix7](#)

July 29-Aug. 3: [95th Annual Great Mississippi Valley Fair](#) (Mississippi Valley Fairgrounds, Davenport)

July 31-Aug. 3: [43rd Annual Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Jazz Festival](#) (RiverCenter/Adler Theatre, Davenport)

Aug. 2: [British Auto Fest](#) (LeClaire, Iowa)

Aug. 7: [2nd Annual Freedom Run 5K](#) (East Moline, Ill.)

Aug. 7-9: [Great Tug Fest](#) (LeClaire, Iowa & Port Byron, Ill.)

Aug. 8-9: [22nd Annual Ya Maka My Weekend](#) (The District, Rock Island)

Aug. 9: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-in and Car Show](#) (Kimberly Center, Davenport)

Aug. 9-10: [28th Annual Quad City Air Show](#) (Davenport Airport, Mount Joy, Iowa)

Aug. 15-16: [10th Annual River Roots Live & Rockin' Rib Fest](#) (LeClaire Park, Davenport)

Aug. 16: [Floatzilla](#) (Sunset Marina, Rock Island)

Aug. 22-24: [World Series of Dragracing](#) (Cordova Dragway)

Aug. 23: [Silvis Home Run 5K](#) (Shadt Park, Silvis, Ill.)

Aug. 30-31: [Rock Island Grand Prix](#) (Downtown Rock Island)

Sept. 1: [Bettendorf Rotary Run with Carl](#) (Life Fitness Center, Bettendorf)

Sept. 5-21: [East West Riverfest](#) (Various QC Locations)

Sept. 6: [Quad City Symphony Riverfront Pops](#) (LeClaire Park, Davenport)

Sept. 6: [¡Viva! Quad Cities](#) (Isle of Capri, Bettendorf)

Sept. 6: [QCA Heritage Tractor Parade & Show](#) (John Deere Pavilion, Moline)



Sept. 6-7: [Beaux Arts Fair](#) (Downtown Davenport)
Sept. 13: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-in and Car Show](#) (Kimberly Center, Davenport)
Sept. 19-20: [Celtic Festival & Highland Games](#) (Centennial Park, Davenport)
Sept. 20: [15th Annual WQPT Brew Ha Ha](#)
Sept. 20-21: [Riverssance Festival of Fine Arts](#) (Lindsay Park, Village of East Davenport)
Sept. 28: [17th Annual Quad Cities Marathon](#)
Sept. 26-28: [Hot Air Balloon Festival](#) (Kennedy Square, East Moline)
Oct. 4: [Night of the Running Dead 5K](#) (Davenport)
Oct. 4: [GiGi's Super Hero Run](#) (Bettendorf)
Oct. 11: [Trinity Quad Cities Classic Regatta](#) (on the Mississippi River in Moline)
Oct. 11: [Quad Cities Cruisers Cruise-in and Car Show](#) (Kimberly Center, Davenport)
Oct. 12: [Apple Fest](#) (Downtown LeClaire, Iowa)
Oct. 23: [Fright Night](#) (The District, Rock Island)
Oct. 25: [Lagomarcino's Cocoa Beano 5K Race](#) (Moline)
Oct. 25-26: [Boo at the Zoo](#) (Niabi Zoo, Milan, Ill.)
Nov. 22: [Festival of Trees Parade](#) (Downtown Davenport)
Nov. 22: [Lighting on the John Deere Commons](#) (John Deere Commons, Moline)
Nov. 22: [Holiday Pops Concert](#) (Downtown Moline)
Dec. 7: [19th Century Christmas](#) (Butterworth Center, Moline)



Island Insight



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