

Nov. 18, 2013



# 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](http://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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Ask the Garrison Commander

## Arsenal Officer a Finalist in Army's "Best Warrior" Competition:

It's considered the Super Bowl of Army events: the Best Warrior competition in Fort Lee, Virginia. One of the Rock Island Arsenal's own is making an improbable run for



Noncommissioned Officer of The Year.

There are more than 79,000 noncommissioned officers in the U.S. Army worldwide. And Staff Sergeant Andrew Gregory of the Army Sustainment Command here at the Rock Island Arsenal will compete this week as one of twelve finalists in the Best Warrior Competition. "My mom never thought when she signed the contact when I was 17 that I would be where I am today," says Gregory. He has spent

14 years in the Army, including four tours to Iraq and Afghanistan; Gregory has spent the last two years on the Rock Island Arsenal. Now, he's giving his all toward next week's warrior competition. "Without a doubt, I am in the best shape of my life," he explains. "Which is sad to say at 30 years old that I'm in better shape than I was at [age] 17." Gregory will be tested on his skills at everything from physical fitness, shooting skills,



"HOME OF US ARMY LOGISTICS"



land navigation, and even an officer's army knowledge. ([More](#))

## **Thanksgiving Holiday Safety**

**Message:** Thanksgiving is the time of year when we reflect on our many blessings. Although life has many challenges, our military success in the past year has certainly given us reason to be thankful. Soldiers are the heart and soul of our mission.



They are both our purpose and our greatest asset, creating a larger family that includes DA civilians, coworkers and battle buddies. As we pause to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us remember to honor those men and women who stand guard and defend freedom for us all over the world. This Thanksgiving holiday, I ask that each of you renew your commitment to safety in all that you do. The safety and security of this nation is accomplished by the hard work and sacrifices made by true professionals. Keep your mind on the safety basics: Wear seatbelts, don't drink and drive, and don't speed. Use a designated driver if you do choose to drink. Also, do not try to multi-task while driving; do not text or talk on your cell phone while behind the wheel. I ask

everyone to include composite risk management into your holiday plans to help ensure safety is priority one. Take a moment to review the tools and resources available on the US Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center website, <https://safety.army.mil>. Remember your family and extended Army family during the Thanksgiving holiday. Be thankful, as I sincerely am, for your service and your commitment to both the Army and this great nation. – *John F. Wharton, Major General, USA, Commanding General, Rock Island Arsenal*

## **Hutchison Receives AUSA Award:**

The Association of the U.S. Army has selected Michael Hutchison, deputy to the Army Contracting Command commanding general, to receive its 5th AUSA region: 5th Region Civilian Exceptional Service Award. The announcement was made at the AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, DC on Oct. 23. Though Hutchison was unable to attend the award ceremony, he commented that he was "truly honored to receive this award



# Upcoming Dates

- Nov. 16-22:** CBWTU Muster
- Nov. 18-22:** Transition Assist. Program, Bldg. 56
- Nov. 26:** National American Indian Heritage Observation, 1 p.m., Bldg. 60, Heritage Hall
- Nov. 28:** FMWR Thanksgiving Day Buffet, Arsenal Island Clubhouse
- Nov. 28:** Thanksgiving Day Holiday (*Federal Holiday*)
- Dec. 5:** FMWR Tree Lighting Ceremony, 11 a.m., in front of Bldg. 60.
- Dec. 5:** Arsenal Island Clubhouse Open House, 2:30 p.m.
- Dec. 5:** Right Arm Night, 4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 5:** USO Holiday Reception, 3-5 p.m.
- Dec. 5/6-13:** Trees for Troops, Memorial Park
- Dec. 7:** RIA Installation Holiday Reception
- Dec. 10-12:** DA Photo Studio on RIA
- Dec. 11:** Tenant Senior NCO Meeting, Arsenal Island Clubhouse, 11:30 a.m.
- Dec. 12:** JMC Holiday Reception, Quarters One
- Dec. 14:** Wreaths Across America, 11 a.m., Rock Island National Cemetery
- Dec. 14:** USO Discovery Kids, Christmas with the Animals, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1 p.m.
- Dec. 14:** Operations Family Time Out, 1-5 p.m. Davenport YMCA
- Dec. 14:** Army-Navy Game, Arsenal Clubhouse, 1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 17-18:** AFTB Training: Level L Leadership Development
- Dec. 18:** EQCC, Bldg. 90, Room 25, 10 a.m.
- Dec. 18:** RIA Tenant Senior Leaders Luncheon, Arsenal Clubhouse, 11:30 a.m.
- Jan. 1:** New Year's Day (*Federal Holiday*)
- Jan. 7-9:** DA Photo Studio on RIA
- Jan. 8:** Senior NCO Tenant Meeting, Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse, 11:30 a.m.
- Jan. 20:** Martin Luther King Remembrance Day (*Federal Holiday*)



because it recognizes the hard work and dedication of the ACC-Rock Island contracting center team." [\(More\)](#)

**Tree Lighting Ceremony:** Mark your calendar and don't miss this opportunity to help the RIA community usher in the holiday season with our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Thursday, Dec. 5, 11 a.m., in front of Bldg. 60. There will be carolers, cookies, cocoa and of course a visit from jolly old Saint Nick complete with complimentary keepsake photos with Santa. After we light the Garrison tree there will be lots of door prizes given away and there will be a special drawing for those who bring a new, unwrapped gift for our Toys for Tots drive. Call (309) 782-5890 for more info. [\(Flyer\)](#)



**Adding New Federal Locality Pay Areas for 2014; Quad Cities Included:** The Federal Salary Council reviewed data for Combined Statistical Areas and Metropolitan Statistical Areas with 2,500 or more GS employees that are currently in the "Rest of U.S." locality pay area. Based on this review, the Council recommended a phased



approach for removing areas from the Rest of U.S. locality pay area and establishing them as individual locality pay areas. For additional locality pay areas to be established in January 2014, the Council selected 12 areas with the largest pay disparities between GS and non-Federal pay averaging more than 10 points above that for the "Rest of U.S." locality pay area over a 4-year period. These 12 areas are: ∞ •Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL Metropolitan Statistical Area [\(More\)](#)

### **Defense Bill Stalls Over Dem, GOP**

**Divide:** A \$625 billion defense bill that establishes military policy stalled in the Senate on Wednesday as Democrats and Republicans struggled over how to move ahead on the massive measure.



Republicans insist on an open process that would allow them to vote on amendments to the popular defense authorization bill that has become law every year for the past half century. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., is trying to limit amendments and wrap up the legislation in a few days, avoiding a vote on a possible measure to

impose new penalties on Iran and another on health care. [\(More\)](#)

### **Feds Push for End to Sequester:**

Federal unions and professional groups are urging a House-Senate budget committee both to head off another round of sequester-related spending cuts early next year and avoid raising worker pension



contributions. Federal employees have already stepped up through the "ongoing three-year pay freeze," Greg Junemann, president of the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, said in a Friday letter to Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash. [\(More\)](#)

### **Sequestration's Second Year Worse Than Its First, Military Chiefs Warn:**

The chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps returned to Capitol Hill Thursday with a message they've been delivering to the same



audience for two years: Sequestration is a terrible idea. But the second year of the automatic cuts, they warned, would be significantly more damaging than the first. If Congress doesn't pass a budget and eliminate the sequestration caps, the service chiefs warned the Army will have to reduce its overall size by 18 percent over the next seven years and inactivate almost half of its active brigade combat teams. By the end of 2014, 85 percent of all brigades will fall below minimum readiness levels. ([More](#))

## **Comptroller: Instability Affects Readiness, Civilian Workforce:**

The Defense Department has assumed a substantial level of risk to military readiness and to its civilian workforce because of the long-term instability of its budget and the budget process, Pentagon Comptroller Robert F. Hale said here last week. Speaking Nov. 14 at the Defense One Summit, the department's chief financial officer told interviewer Tom Shoop, editor in chief of Government



Executive, that DOD had to cut \$37 billion in 2012, \$20 billion of that in its operating budget. ([More](#))

**Dempsey: Military Battles Against Fiscal Uncertainty:** The U.S. military, the most formidable force on the globe, is being challenged by the current fiscal uncertainty amid a changing world, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said today during his speech at the Reagan National Security Forum held at the Reagan Library in Simi Valley, Calif. Rising and reemerging powers, new relationships among the governed and governing, internal religious differences surfacing after being suppressed, and a roller-coaster fiscal environment are all shaping the world and the future, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey said. ([More](#))



## **Lawmakers Eye Federal-Retiree Benefits In Upcoming Budget Talks:**

Federal employees are bracing for the possibility of paying more toward their retirement benefits as political leaders slowly renew budget discussions



with an eye toward deficit reduction. House Republicans and President Obama have both proposed the change in order to achieve savings. Democrats in both chambers of Congress have opposed the cuts, but Republicans are suggesting that they have leverage in the upcoming talks because of the automatic spending reductions known as sequestration, which are already in place through 2021. ([More](#))

## **Investigation Finds 'Epic Waste' at DoD:**

The Defense Department is losing billions of dollars because of slipshod accounting, logistics and acquisition practices, Reuters reports in an investigation posted online this week. The story, titled "Unaccountable: the high cost of the Pentagon's bad bookkeeping," combines original reporting with previous findings of problems at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the Defense Logistics Agency and the military services; it also references the growing odds that the Pentagon will not meet a congressionally mandated deadline to have auditable books by 2017. ([More](#))



## Don't Worry About Obamacare – Feds' Health Benefits Are Safe:

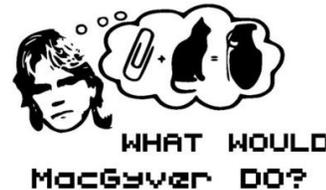
People tend to define financial security by the numbers in their paychecks: Namely, salary, bonuses, and deductions for health care and retirement benefits. Federal employees, many of whom probably scoffed at the mention of bonuses, face uncertainty over pay and pensions right now. It's looking like they might get their first across-the-board pay increase in three years in 2014, if Congress doesn't reject President Obama's proposed 1 percent pay bump between now and the end of the year. The boost is probably more symbolic than actually useful to many people, but still, it's something. The debate over federal employee pensions - - whether to require feds to contribute more to them or to eliminate them altogether -- continues to crop up in deficit reduction talks in Washington. Then there's the certainty of more furloughs in 2014 if sequestration continues, or heaven help us, there is another government shutdown. ([More](#))



season affecting FEHB under way, a misunderstanding seems to be continuing in the federal workforce regarding Affordable Care Act insurance plans. So-called Obamacare has no impact on eligibility for FEHB coverage except that members of Congress and their personal staff must leave FEHB and get their health care through the exchanges (or from another source such as a spouse's employment)—and, to keep the government contribution toward premiums, specifically from one plan offered in the District of Columbia. ([More](#))

## Inadequate Resources Are Turning Fed Employees into MacGyvers:

I keep waiting for the day when federal agencies start distributing to employees pencils, paper clips and rubber bands with the expectation that these supplies will be sufficient to make the government run. But, as skilled as federal employees are, not all of them are MacGyvers who can do so much with so little. (For those Generation Y federal employees, "MacGyver" was a 1980s TV show



whose namesake hero always managed to use whatever he found in his pockets or on the ground to perform seemingly impossible tasks). ([More](#))

## 80 is the New 60 When It Comes to Retirement:

American business has become a gray area. As in hair color. Call it the new American nightmare: Running out of money in retirement is scaring the hell out of record numbers of older workers, forcing them to stay in the workforce. Now 80 is the new 60 when it comes to retirement. Many older workers who finally clock out have sharply underestimated their financial needs in retirement, raising the specter of personal financial disaster. ([More](#))



## AKO Ends for Retirees, Family Members on New Years:

Army retirees and family members need to activate the forwarding function for their Army Knowledge Online email before Dec. 31, officials said, because after then they will no longer be able to access their AKO accounts. As part of the Army's AKO transition to enterprise services,



retirees and family members can have their AKO email automatically forwarded to a commercial email address until the end of 2014. In the past, users could only forward AKO email to a government email address, Army G-6 officials pointed out. ([More](#))

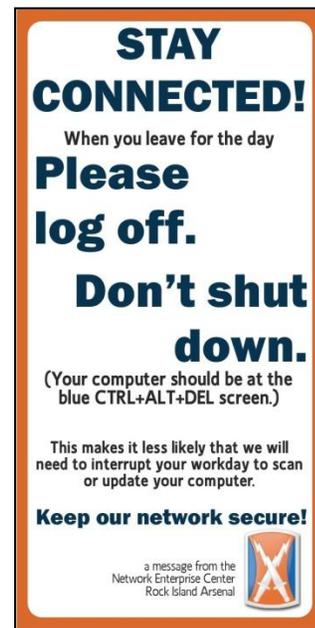
**Trees for Troops:** The Trees for Troops organization, in coordination with Rock Island Arsenal FMWR, will begin giving away more than 120 Christmas trees to service members and their families at Rock Island Arsenal after the trees are delivered to the Post tentatively scheduled for Dec. 5. Trees will be handed out on a first come, first serve basis to Active Duty, Reserve and Guard (all branches of military) and their families at the Memorial Park Pavilion on Arsenal Island, which will be available to active-duty troops, Monday – Friday, **Dec. 6-12**, from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Any remaining trees will be distributed on **Dec. 13** to the rest of Arsenal Island workforce (civilians and contractors). Please call (309) 782-4420 for more information.



**Transition Directorate of Logistics to Logistics Readiness Center:** Effective Oct. 15, the Directorate of Logistics now has been designated Logistics Readiness Center.

### **Stay Connected - Messaging**

**Campaign:** The Network Enterprise Center has entered into a campaign to increase customer awareness of network connection policy and to encourage customers to log off rather than shut down at the end of the day. This will significantly reduce the number of technician hours needed to achieve compliance with Information Assurance Vulnerabilities and other Information Assurance requirements. Security vulnerabilities in common software applications are constantly being discovered and published. We are notified of these vulnerabilities through



our Chain of Command and have a limited time period to scan and update all affected systems. The U.S. Army Cyber Command requires that we scan and update all affected systems by given deadlines or remove them from the network. This calls for disabling your computer - you won't be able to log in to it until we can get in touch with you and install the required updates. Here are some steps we encourage you to follow to make sure your computer gets scanned and updated: • At a minimum, your computer must be powered on and connected to the RIA network at least two days a week, for six to eight hours at a time, to allow for scanning and updating (patching). • When you leave for the day, log off....don't shut down. Your computer should be at the blue CTRL+ALT+DELETE screen. • If you take a laptop off Island, use the Cisco Virtual Private Network to connect to the RIA network. • If you get a pop-up notification saying that you need to call us to have updates installed, please call us. We will do our best to get our work done while minimizing your downtime. • If you are going to be gone for an extended period, please notify your Information Assurance Security Officer. The process for keeping your computer online will vary depending on the length of your absence and your organization's



policies. Please help keep our network secure by participating in this campaign. We appreciate your support.

## Wreaths Across America Ceremony:

The Rock Island National Cemetery will have a Wreaths Across America ceremony on Saturday, **Dec. 14**, at 11 a.m., at the main cemetery flagpole.



The Wreaths Across America story began more than 20 years ago when Worcester Wreath Company (a for-profit commercial business from Harrington, Maine) and began a tradition of placing wreaths on the headstones of our nation's fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery during the holidays. The wreath laying is now held annually on the second Saturday of December. This year, the organization has more than 800 participating locations in all 50 states and nearly 30 locations overseas. Wreaths Across America will lay between 355,000 to 401,000 remembrance wreaths on the headstones of those who served and sacrificed for our freedoms; all focused on the mission to Remember - Honor - and Teach. The public is invited to attend the Rock Island National

Cemetery ceremony. POC is (309) 716-8620.

**End of Year Donations:** For those wishing to donate annual leave to another Federal civilian employee in the Leave Transfer Program, please complete Statement of Leave Donor (RIA form 690-43) and submit with supervisor signature to the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. To ensure a leave donation will be deducted from this calendar year, all donations must be received in the CPAC no later than **Dec. 20**. Reminder: In any leave year, an employee may donate no more than one-half of the amount of annual leave he or she would accrue during a leave year. For employees with 'use or lose' annual leave, you may donate no more than the number of hours remaining in the leave year as of the date of the transfer for which you are scheduled to work and receive pay. POC: Janine Couppee may be reached at PECH-NCR-E, (309) 782-1278.

**Blood Drive:** The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is hosting a blood drive in the Caisson Room (First Floor, Bldg. 60), on **Friday, Dec. 13 & 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](mailto:SHoegerl@mvrbc.com) with the time you'd like to schedule, or call their Donor Center at (563) 359-5401, ext. 119. A **2<sup>nd</sup> shift** blood drive will be held in the Cafeteria (Bldg. 210) beginning at **6:30 p.m. on TBD**. A **3<sup>rd</sup> shift** blood drive will be held in the Cafeteria (Bldg. 210) beginning at **2:15 a.m. on Dec. 6**. To sign up for a blood drive held on either the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> shift, donors should contact their shift supervisor. **Vista Technical Services Blood Drive** in Bldg. 350: This drive will be held Wednesday, **Dec. 11**, 12:30-4 p.m., in the MVRBC Donor Bus parked at Bldg. 350. To donate, please contact Paula Johnson at (309) 782-0562 or visit [bloodcenterimpact.org](http://bloodcenterimpact.org). ([Blood Transfusion En Route to Trauma Center Keeps Navy Vet Alive](#))



***Charlie Corpuscle Says, "Fall is definitely in the air. Did you know that when someone "falls," your blood donation helps to pick them up? In some cases, it is the reason patients are able to get up and carry on in life. On behalf of the patients whose lives you have "picked up," thank you."***

**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](#).

## VIOS Schedule for December, January, February, March, April and May:

Official DA Studio Photography (DA, Government passport and command photos) will be offered at Rock Island Arsenal **Dec. 10, 11, and 12; Jan. 7, 8, and 9; Feb. 11, 12 and 13; March 11, 12 and 13; 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.

## Executive Ready and Resilient

**Course:** An Executive Ready and Resilient Course will be conducted on **Nov. 26**, 8-12 p.m., at Heritage Hall, Bldg 60. The course will be conducted by Col. Ken Riddle, Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness (CSF2) Program Director for the Army. The audience for this training is Lieutenant Colonel and above, Master Sergeant and above, GS-15 and above, and unit Master Resiliency Trainers. This training will provide an executive level introduction and understanding of the Army's Ready and Resilient Campaign (R2C), and is open for attendance by all

commands and organizations on Rock Island Arsenal. Point of contact is [Maj. Paul Beausoleil](#), First Army, G-1 Plans and Ops, (309) 782-9485.

## Quarters One Opens for Christmas

**Tea:** Quarters One on Arsenal Island opens for a Christmas Tea & Tour on Sunday, **Dec. 8**, at 3 p.m. hosted by the Colonel Davenport Historical Foundation. Attendees of the Christmas Tea will enjoy savory and sweet delights, several types of teas, and a guided tour of the historic Quarters One mansion decorated for the holidays. Tickets are \$25 per person, and may be purchased online at [www.davenporthouse.org](#) or by calling Judy Tumbleson at (309) 786-5980. Only paid attendees of the Christmas Tea will be able to tour Quarters One.

## Arsenal Island Employee Local

**Discounts:** *The following discounts are exclusively available to Arsenal Island employees –*

### **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 (📍).

**Pepperjack's Restaurant & Lounge in Davenport:** Rock Island Arsenal employees receive 20 percent off their Pepperjack's entrée when they present their Arsenal identification card (one discount per ID) (📍). **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.*

## Arsenal Traffic/Construction

☺  
*No Arsenal Traffic/Construction related announcements this week.*

## Building/Space Closures

☺  
*No Building/Space Closure related announcements this week.*

## Active Duty/Reserve Zone

☺  
**Military Pay, Benefits Surface for Possible Cuts:** The Congressional Budget Office has proposed 103 ways to reduce the federal deficit, including controversial ideas for cutting military and veterans benefits. CBO produces such reports every two years, usually to minimal fanfare. Some past options have made it into law, but most of the recommendations are tough actions that would cause major outcry from affected constituencies — and a lot of political pain for lawmakers — if they were formally proposed. Proposals include: Cap military raises; Change retirement pay; Halt concurrent receipt; Limit disability pay; Tighten unemployability; Set minimum TFL fees; Raise other Tricare fees; and Cancel/delay weapons. (More)

**Troops Can Send Satellite Radio Holiday Messages:** The Joint

Hometown News Service, part of the Defense Media Activity here, is partnering this year with SiriusXM Radio to enable service members worldwide to send holiday greetings to loved ones back home. Military members anywhere can call a toll-free number, 888-776-2790 Call: 888-776-2790, to record a holiday message for airing on the satellite radio network. For 30 years, holiday greetings have been collected by Joint Hometown News Service teams that travel overseas and bring messages back to air on stateside radio and television stations. While this year's team already has returned home, it's not too late for service members to participate by calling the toll-free number or DSN 312-733-4660 Call: 312-733-4660, said the program's director. (More)

**Illinois CPA Society Tax Filing Assistance to 2013 Deployed Personnel:** Illinois residents that were (or are) in the military and deployed in 2013 may have their taxes filed for free by the Illinois CPA Society. This may be of value to persons not near Rock Island Arsenal, but call us for information or assistance. (More)

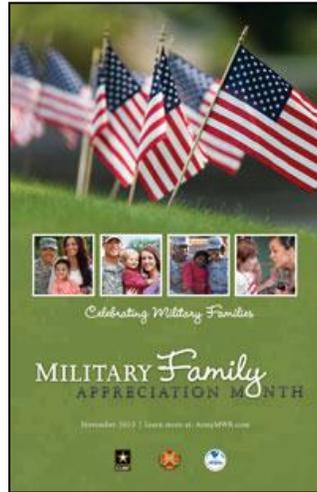
**Warrior Care Month:** Warrior Care Month, initiated in 2008, is observed by



the military services each November. This is a time to reaffirm a commitment to the care and support for wounded, ill or injured service members and their families. The theme for this year's joint observance is Warrior Care - Building a Ready and Resilient Force. The Warrior Transition Command is the lead proponent for the U.S. Army Warrior Care and Transition Program. This program enables the Army to provide comprehensive support to wounded, ill or injured Soldiers through medical care, rehabilitation, professional development, and achievement of personal goals. ([More](#))

**November Honors Military Families' Sacrifices, Contributions:** Service members' families also serve the nation and are the force behind the total force, a senior Defense Department official said, yesterday. "Our military members are as effective as they can be because of the support their families provide them," said Barbara Thompson, director of DOD's office of family policy and children and youth. "[DOD] wants to make sure the people who are important in the lives of our service members -- spouses, children, parents, partners, aunts, uncles, siblings and cousins -- are part of the military family." ([More](#))

**Military Family Month:** Throughout our Nation's history, an unbroken chain of patriots has strengthened us in times of peace and defended us in times of war. Yet the courageous men and women of the United States military do not serve alone. Standing alongside them are husbands and wives, parents and children, sisters and brothers. During Military Family Month, we celebrate the families who make daily sacrifices to keep our Nation whole, and we remember a most sacred obligation -- to serve them as well as they serve us. Military families exemplify the courage and resolve that define our national character. For their country and their loved ones, they rise to the challenges of multiple deployments and frequent moves -- spouses who care and provide for children in their partners' absence, kids who make new friends and leave known comforts behind. They are the



force behind the force, patriots who support their family members in uniform while enriching the communities they call home. ([More](#)) ([StandTo!](#)) ([DoD News](#))

**2013 Military Family Appreciation Month PSA:** U.S. Army Installation Management Command senior noncommissioned Soldiers recognize the Army Family during Military Family Appreciation Month. It is observed every November to recognize and honor Army families for their contributions and sacrifices. The Army recognizes that the selfless dedication and commitment of Army families directly contributes to the readiness of our Soldiers. Families are the force. ([More](#))

←-----→

## Safety Spotlight

**Everyone is a Pedestrian:** Everyone has different preferences when it comes to transportation, but there's one that all road users share—everyone is a pedestrian. Unfortunately, pedestrians were one of the few groups of road users to experience an increase in fatalities in the United States in 2011, totaling 4,432 deaths. ([More](#))



## **One Text or Call - Could Wreck It**

**All:** Distracted driving is a dangerous epidemic on America's roadways. In 2011 alone, more than 3,000 people were killed in distracted driving crashes. ([More](#))

## **Equal Opportunity Focus**

**EEO Office Closure:** The EEO Office will be closed **Nov. 29**. Those with emergencies can call (309) 738-8044.

## **National American Indian Heritage Month Observance:**

The 2013 Rock Island Arsenal's National American Indian Heritage Month Observance will be held on **Nov. 26**, 1-2 p.m., at Heritage Hall, Bldg 60. Every member of the Island and their families are invited to attend the observance. The guest speaker will be Professor from the University of Notre Dame, Dr. Scott M. Stevens. Dr. Stevens is also the Director of the Newberry's D'Arcy McKickle Center and a member of the Akwesasne



Mohawk Nation. He will be speaking on this year's theme "Guiding Our Destiny with Heritage and Traditions." The theme is decided each year by the Society of American Indian Government Employees. The observance is available in [TEDs](#). To register please use keyword (2013 NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN). For additional information or accommodations please contact [Sgt. Raymond Gonzalez](#) at (309) 782-3021. National American Indian Heritage Month celebrates and recognizes the accomplishments of the peoples who were the original inhabitants, explorers and settlers of the United States. In 1990 Congress passed Pub. L. 101-343, which authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the month of November 1990 as "National American Indian Heritage Month. Congress chose the month of the November to recognize the American Indians as this month concluded the traditional harvest season and was generally a time of thanksgiving and celebration for the American Indians. For more information on National American Indian Heritage Month please visit The Library of Congress at <http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov>. And, for more information on Society of American Indian Government

Employees please visit <http://saige.org>. ([StandTo!](#))

## **Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR)**

**Visit the MWR website at [www.riamwr.com](http://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.**

## **November Auto Skills Newsletter:**

Check out the [November edition of the Auto Skills newsletter](#) for some great tips on winter vehicle maintenance. If the shutdown and/or furloughs caused you to miss out on the October oil change special, have no fear, we've extended the special through the end of November. For just \$20 you can get a standard, full service oil change (excludes diesel and full synthetic oils). Call (309) 782-8631 to schedule an appointment.

## **Wine Tasting at the Arsenal Island**

**Golf Clubhouse:** Join your friends at the Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse for a delightful evening of wine, hors d'oeuvres and good conversation. You'll



be able to sample over 24 different wines. Tickets are available for \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Call (309) 782-4372 for more info and to purchase advance tickets. ([Flyer](#))

Date: **Friday, Nov. 22**

Time: **7-10 p.m.**

### **Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet at the Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse:**

Join us Thursday, **Nov. 28**, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Arsenal Island Golf Clubhouse for a delicious all-you-care-to-eat Thanksgiving dinner buffet featuring all of your favorite holiday dishes. Leave the hassle of planning, shopping, cooking, and clean-up to us so you can spend more time with your family and friends this holiday. Cost is \$20.95/adult and \$10.95/child (10 & under). Please call (309) 793-1601 for more info and to make your reservations. ([Flyer](#))

### **Tree Lighting Ceremony:**

Mark your calendar and don't miss this opportunity to help the RIA community usher in the holiday season with our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Thursday, **Dec. 5**, 11 a.m., in front of Bldg. 60. There will be carolers,



cookies, cocoa and of course a visit from jolly old Saint Nick complete with complimentary keepsake photos with Santa. After we light the Garrison tree there will be lots of door prizes given away and there will be a special drawing for those who bring a new, unwrapped gift for our Toys for Tots drive. Call (309) 782-5890 for more info. ([Flyer](#))

### **Holiday Open House & Right Arm**

**Night:** The holiday cheer from the Tree Lighting Ceremony continues at the Golf Clubhouse as we welcome you to come in and enjoy complimentary light hors d'œuvres, holiday music & decor and drink specials aplenty Thursday, **Dec. 5**, with the open house beginning at 2:30 p.m. Right Arm Night kicks off at 4:30 p.m. so finish up the workday by bringing your employees in for a drink to say thanks for all that they do for your organization. Open to the public and everyone is welcome so this will be a great event to meet and mingle with other folks from around the RIA and Quad Cities communities. Call (309) 782-6319 for more info. ([Flyer](#))

**Trivia Night at the Arsenal Club:** Get up to seven of your smartest friends together Thursday, **Dec. 5**, at 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 8. Call (309) 782-6319 for more info and to sign up in advance. ([Flyer](#))

### **Army Navy Game Viewing &**

**Celebration:** Call up your service buddies and come cheer for your team as the Army Black Knights



take on the Navy Midshipmen in the 114<sup>th</sup> annual grudge match between these two fierce rivals Saturday, **Dec. 14**. The doors to the Golf Clubhouse will open at 12:30 p.m. and kick-off is at 2 p.m. There is no cover charge, we'll be showing the game on multiple big screen T.V.'s and there will be free wings all thanks to our great sponsor, the Rock Island Arsenal Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, (AUSA). Call (309) 782-4372 for more info. ([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](#))

**Military Ticket Voucher Program:**

Leisure Travel will not be ordering or making reservations through this program. Changes are being made in the way of ordering tickets and hotel reservations. Once changes are in place ordering will resume. For more information please contact the office (309) 782-5890.

**Outdoor Rec. Size Up for Winter**

**Event:** Come into Outdoor Recreation (Bldg 333, next to the PX) on Saturday, Dec. 7, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., and get sized up for all your winter sports gear to include skis, snowboards, boots, poles, ice skates, cross country skis and more. Outdoor Rec. will keep your sizes saved for future reservations so you'll never need to waste time getting fitted again, just make your reservation, grab your gear and get your recreation on. Call (309) 782-8630 for more info. ([Flyer](#))

**MWR Christmas BUNCO:** Holiday Bunco It's Back! Join us in Heritage Hall (Bldg 60) for Bunco, Christmas edition. Cost is \$5/player. There will be door prizes and a special drawing for

women's shelter donation participants. For a list of currently needed items for donations items please visit [www.christiancareqc.org/docs/needlist.pdf](http://www.christiancareqc.org/docs/needlist.pdf). To RSVP call (309) 782-5890.  
Date: **Thursday, Dec. 12**  
Time: **6-8 p.m.**

**Chicago Loop/Water Tower Bus Trip:**

Join MWR Saturday, Dec. 14, 6:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. (approx.), for an exciting day of shopping (or whatever you'd like to do) in downtown Chicago. Price is \$41/person and which covers transportation only. Bus departs from COL Davenport Pavilion area at 6:30 a.m., and departs from Chicago at 5 pm. Call (309) 782-5890 for more info and to sign up. ([Flyer](#))

**Circa '21: A Christmas Story: The**

**Musical:** Set in the 1940's in the fictional town of Homan, Indiana, the musical follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker and his quest for the Holy Grail of Christmas gifts - an official Red Ryder Carbine-Action 200 Shot Range Model Air Rifle. Seats on sale for \$45 (dinner & show) until Nov. 30.  
Date: **Saturday, Dec. 14**  
Time: **6 p.m.**

**Adler Theatre Presents: Mamma Mia:**

A mother. A daughter. Three possible

dads. And a trip down the aisle you'll never forget. More than 45 million people all around the world have fallen in love with the characters, the story and the music that make Mamma Mia. Reduced tickets on sale until Nov. 15. \$65 each  
Date: **Tuesday, Dec. 17**

**A Fairy Tale Christmas:** Circa 21 presents a children's musical A Fairy Tale Christmas. Cinderella, Snow White, and a host of other fairy tale characters are getting ready for the Crystal Christmas Ball. However, a new person, doesn't quite follow the rules. On sale while seating lasts until Dec. 7. Cost is \$10.50 per person.  
Date: **Saturday, Dec. 21**  
Time: **9:30 a.m.**

**Adler Theatre: Green Day's**

**American Idiot:** Direct from Broadway, the smash-hit musical American Idiot tells the story of three lifelong friends, forced to choose between their dreams and the safety of suburbia. Their quest for true meaning in a post-9/11 world leads them on the most exhilarating theatrical journey. On sale until Dec. 6. \$58 each.  
Date: **Wednesday, Jan. 8**



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

## Child, Youth & School Services

**Family Movie & Potluck Night:** Event will be held at the School Age Center, Saturday, **Nov. 23**, 5-8 p.m., in Bldg. 150, and is open to all registered Youth & School Age patrons and their families. This is a family event, so we do ask that children are accompanied by their parents/guardians. Please bring a dish to share. POC: (309) 782-1651.

**Parent Central Services Office Temporary Move:** In order to complete necessary renovations to the Parent Central Services Office (Bldg. 110), the office will be temporarily located down the hall between **Nov. 25 and Dec. 16**. Please plan ahead and conduct any business that you possibly can before or after this period, e.g. pass renewals, new registrations, etc. We will still be able to serve you from the temporary office but it may just take a little longer so try

to take care of urgent business early. Please call (309) 782-0791 for more info and to schedule appointments.

**Summer Day Camp:** With winter still approaching, it seems odd to be thinking of summer. However, if you are wanting your child to be eligible to participate in the Summer Day Camp Lottery, you must have your child registered with Child Youth and School Services by COB on Friday, **Dec. 20**. If you have any questions, please call the School Age Center at (309) 782-5019.

## Army Community Service (ACS)

ACS is located in Bldg. 110, 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

**Special Needs Informational Forum:** Join us for a relaxing evening filled with crafts and snacks. We will be making Holiday thank you cards and have a recipe exchange. Bring your favorite

holiday cookie/dessert and your recipe to share. A snack dinner is provided and free onsite child care is available with advanced RSVP. All children in child care must be registered in CYSS. Bring a friend. Call (309) 782-6515 or (309) 782-4736 to RSVP.

Date: **Tuesday, Dec. 10**  
Time: **5:30-7:30 p.m.**

**Operation: Family Timeout:** Four hours of free childcare is available to military families and families of deployed civilian for children ages six weeks to 12 years old. Operation: Family timeout upcoming events will be: **Dec. 14**, at the Davenport YMCA. ([Flyer](#))

**Personal Finances During a Transition:** Personal Finances in a Transition for Separating and Retiring Military Personnel. Army Community Service is supporting the Arsenal's Army Career and Alumni Program by providing web based lessons, work sheets and MS Excel spreadsheets for use by our Military Personnel and Families as they transition out of the service. The Personal Finances in a Transition section may be found towards the bottom of the [ACS Financial Readiness web page](#). POC is [Jon Cook](#), (309) 782-1499.



## 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, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, East.

### The Great American Smokeout:

Thursday, Nov. 21, is the Great American Smokeout! The Great American Smokeout is an annual event to encourage people to stop smoking for 24 hours, and hopefully their decision to quit will last the rest of their life. Take the first step and try to be tobacco free for 24 hours on the 21<sup>st</sup>. For information on free smoking cessation classes, contact the RIA Employee Assistance Program at (309) 782-4357.



### Tobacco Cessation and Tobacco-Free

Living: Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease and degrades the health and readiness of Soldiers and the Army family. Inhaling or ingesting tobacco releases harmful chemicals into the lungs and blood stream, sending toxins to every organ in the body. Smoking and tobacco use causes cancer, heart disease, strokes, emphysema, bronchitis, airway obstructions and other chronic diseases. Approximately 444,000 Americans die annually from smoking-related diseases and about 49,000 are deaths related to second hand smoke. Quitting tobacco improves your quality of life and reduces risk for developing tobacco-related diseases or premature death due to tobacco use. ([More](#))

### Seasonal Affective Disorder –

November 2013: The leaves are changing; the first breeze of chilly air comes through your window; and the days keep getting shorter. For many people, the change to winter weather can trigger Seasonal Affective Disorder or what is commonly known as SAD. SAD is a depression that occurs each year at the same time, usually starting in fall or winter and ending in spring or early summer. This mood disorder is often attributed to the lack of light during the

colder months of the year. Between 10 and 20 percent of the U.S. population may suffer from mild symptoms associated with the disorder. Three-quarters of those are women. Symptoms of SAD can include: • Excessive sleeping or feelings of extreme fatigue; • Overeating and weight gain during the fall or winter; • Inability to maintain regular lifestyle schedule; • Depression (feelings of sadness, loss of feelings, apathy) and irritability; • Lack of interest in social interactions, losing interest in activities of enjoyment; • Remission of symptoms in the spring and summer months. SAD is a diagnosable disorder that may require treatment, so this November the Rock Island Arsenal Employee Assistance Program (EAP) invites you to take advantage of free, confidential short-term counseling, referral services and follow-up. The RIA EAP is located in Building 56, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, East Wing. You may contact the EAP by calling 782-4357 to schedule an appointment. You can also access an anonymous free mental health screening at [www.militarymentalhealth.org](http://www.militarymentalhealth.org).

Grief Support Group: 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, 3-4 p.m., in



Bldg. 56, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Room 122. For more information contact Rita Baugh, EAP counselor, at (309) 782-2552.

**Stress Management:** Do you want to learn effective strategies to reduce stress? Sign up for a Stress Management Class. **Dec. 17, Jan. 28, Feb. 25,** Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m., Bldg. 56, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 122, Call (309) 782-4357 to reserve your spot. Sponsored by: Employee Assistance Program.

**Understanding PTSD:** Classes are being offered for those who wish to learn more about the nature and treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder **Nov. 26, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, Feb. 11,** Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m., Bldg. 56, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 122. Call (309) 782-4357 to reserve your spot. Presented by the Rock Island Arsenal 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.

**Smoking Cessation Group:** The Great American Smoke-Out is Thursday, November 21st. What better time to kick the habit. The Employee Assistance Program offers an educational support group for people who would like to quit smoking. The group meets each Wednesday, 3–4 p.m., at the EAP office in Bldg. 56, 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

## Education/Training Review

☉  
**The Rock Island Army Education Center is located in Bldg. 56, 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**

**Scheduled Closure:** Western Illinois University will be closed the following Tuesdays for Winter Break – **Dec. 24** and **31**. The National Testing Center will also be closed on those dates.

**ACES Newsletter Hits the Streets:** The RIA Army Education Center's Army Continuing Education System November edition of its newsletter is out on the streets. [The quarterly publication](#)

[is available for viewing off of the AEC's website.](#)

**Get Ready, Get Set, Go-Go-Go to School!** Seeking or Pursuing a College Degree? Have Questions? Meet with school representatives and learn about educational opportunities in the Quad Cities, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Bldg. 56, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 121. • Ashford University: (563) 508-0927, **Jan. 24;** • Black Hawk College: (309) 796-5191, **Jan. 9;** • Eastern Iowa Community College: (563) 441-4060, **Dec. 5;** • Kaplan University: (563) 441-2485, Nov. 14; • Saint Ambrose University: (563) 333-6170, **Jan. 16;** • Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences: (309) 779-7812, **Nov. 21.** Military personnel, family members, and DoD civilians are welcome to stop by. No appointments are necessary. Education Center POC: Guidance Counselor, [Lorrie Blumberg](#), (309) 782-6343.

**NDIA Academic Year 2014-15 Scholarship:** Applications for the Iowa Illinois Chapter NDIA Academic Year 2014-15 scholarship are now being accepted. The scholarship application may be found at [www.ndia-ia-il.org](http://www.ndia-ia-il.org). Applications must be postmarked by **March 24**. Call (563) 650-3252 for further information.



**Sgt. Paul Fisher Academic Year 2014-15:** Scholarship Applications for Academic Year 2014-15 Sgt. Paul Fisher Scholarship are now being accepted. High school senior sons and daughters of active duty, reserve, and retired military members in Iowa and northwestern Illinois are eligible to apply. Applications are available on the chapter's web site, [www.ndia-ia-il.org](http://www.ndia-ia-il.org). Applications must be postmarked by **March 24**. Call (563) 650-3252 for any additional information.

## 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](http://www.commissaries.com) ([Facebook](#))**

**Your Commissary Offers More Savings for the Holidays:** Military families facing the annual ritual of planning their holiday menus need look no farther than their commissary for quality and savings. "Your commissary has the most affordable, high-quality, name-brand ingredients for the perfect holiday meal," said Randy Chandler, the Defense Commissary Agency's sales director. "Whether the menu is a traditional roast turkey and potatoes, or a vegetarian meal with organic fruits and vegetables, you can find everything you need at your commissary to prepare a memorable holiday smorgasbord. "Our industry partners are offering greater savings than ever before through high-value coupon booklets," he added. "Some promotions include a free turkey opportunity and there's a promotion benefitting wounded warriors." Throughout November, the commissary's industry partners - vendors, suppliers and brokers - are collaborating with stores to offer discounts beyond everyday savings. Overseas stores may have substitute events for certain promotional programs.

**Commissaries to Start Scanning IDs:** Commissaries will soon begin scanning customers' Department of Defense ID cards at checkouts as the Defense Commissary Agency continues its pursuit to deliver a 21st century benefit. The commissary at Fort Lee, Va., became the first store to scan ID cards on Oct. 22 as the first part of an agency-wide rollout to all stores that begins Nov. 10 and will be completed by mid-January. Commissary shoppers are used to showing their ID cards to establish their eligibility to use the commissary. By scanning the ID at checkout, DeCA will no longer need to maintain any personal information on customers in its computer systems, such as the system used for customers who write checks. Scanning will also help improve the commissary benefit for all patrons, according to Joseph H. Jeu, DeCA director and CEO. "In addition to verifying customers as authorized commissary patrons, we'll gain information that will give us a better understanding of our patrons, allowing the agency to provide the commissary benefit more effectively and efficiently," Jeu said. Cross-referenced with other DOD data, the scan data will give DeCA useful information about patron usage, by military service, along with customer demographics that does not identify



specific personal data of an individual. This will eventually help the agency identify shopping needs and preferences - information that is essential in today's retail business environment. It will also allow more accurate reporting to the military services on commissary usage. The demographic information DeCA will use is strictly limited to: card ID number, rank, military status, branch of service, age, household size and ZIP codes of residence and duty station. DeCA will not be using any personal information such as names, addresses or phone numbers. "The methods, processes and information we'll use will not compromise our customers' privacy - they can be sure of that," Jeu said. "We're putting technology to work to better understand our customers and ensure the commissary benefit continues to remain relevant to them now and in the future."

## 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](#))**

**Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society – December 2013:** The Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, **Dec. 5**, 6 p.m., at Quarters One. The menu will be Tossed Salad with Bread Sticks, Filet of Salmon with Cucumber Tomato, Coleslaw, Rice Pilaf, Green Bean Almandine, Rolls and Dessert prepared by the Golf Club Chef, all for \$14, including tax and tip. This 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. Guest speaker will be Historical Society Board Member/ Vice President, Jolene Keeney, who will talk about the first 100 years of history of Moline's beautiful city hall building, 1913-2013. For reservations call Monica (563) 650-4349 or Linda (563) 355-6165 or email [chiicaliinda@aol.com](mailto:chiicaliinda@aol.com). Reservations are due by noon on Monday, **Dec. 2**. 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.

**This Week in Rock Island Arsenal History – Nov. 18-24:** On Nov. 19, 1872, Maj. D. W. Flagler, the RIA Commander, responded to citizen appeals and opened the newly constructed government bridge to the public. Maj. Flagler, in a letter dated Nov. 23, 1874, that was addressed to the Chief of Ordnance, recommended that all wrought iron scrap be retained at the RIA for conversion into high grade bar iron for use in construction of RIA Shops.

## Healthbeat

**Pet Health = Public Health:** When thinking of family health, family pets are often overlooked. A primary mission for the U.S. Army's Public Health Command is to maintain public health for military personnel. Animal diseases can impact human health, so it stands to reason that keeping pets healthy keeps their owners healthy. The staff at Naval Station Rota's Veterinary Clinic knows this all-important fact very well and works to keep pets and their owners in top shape. ([More](#))

## Notes for Veterans





## **VA Offers Dental Insurance Program:**

VA is partnering with Delta Dental and MetLife to allow eligible Veterans, plus family members receiving care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA), to purchase affordable dental insurance beginning Nov. 15, VA officials announced today. “VA continues to explore innovative ways to help Veterans get access to the care and services they have earned and deserve,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “This new dental program is another example of VA creating partnerships with the private sector to deliver a range of high-quality care at an affordable cost, for our Nation’s Veterans.” ([More](#))

## **House Bill Pushes Telehealth**

**Expansion for Veterans:** A new bill sponsored by Reps. Mike Thompson (D-Calif.) and Scott Peters (D-Calif.) hopes to encourage the use of telehealth for veterans by expanding current telehealth reimbursement policies. The 21st Century Care for Military & Veterans Act (H.R. 3507) is co-sponsored by Reps. Gregg Harper (R-Miss.) and Peter Welch (D-Vt.) and endorsed by the American Telemedicine Association. The VA, which launched telehealth services in 2003, has seen a 40 percent

reduction in bed days and 87 percent reduction of annual per-patient costs when compared to other care programs, according to VA studies. ([More](#))

## **Senate Committee Advances Bills to Expand Veteran Health Benefits:**

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee approved a package of bills Tuesday including one that would expand access to health care and dental care to veterans. One of the bills (S.1604) would require VA to provide services to certain veterans previously ineligible to receive care. It would allow veterans with noncompensable service-connected disabilities--one which VA has determined is service-connected, but does not meet requirements for compensation--to gain access to VA healthcare. ([More](#))

## **Statement from Secretary Shinseki on the Disabilities Treaty:**

Ratification of the Disabilities Treaty is important to our Nation's 5.5 million disabled Veterans. Ratification of the Disabilities Treaty is not about changing America. It's about helping the rest of the world raise their accessibility standards to the gold standard the United States has set through our ADA. Ratification will help reinforce America's global leadership role and reputation, putting us in the

strongest position to advance disability rights worldwide. By joining the treaty, we will be helping the 5.5 million Veterans with disabilities and the 50 million Americans with disabilities study and work with dignity and pursue greater opportunity abroad with the same access they enjoy at home. ([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.

## **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



# Island Insight

Moline 9<sup>th</sup> & 53<sup>rd</sup>, (Franklin School area) (309) 757-5755.

## Around the Q.C.

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**Nov. 23:** [Lighting on the John Deere Commons and Holiday Pops Concert](#)

(Downtown Moline)

**Nov. 22-Dec. 1:** [Quad City Arts Festival of Trees](#) (RiverCenter, Davenport)

**Nov. 23:** [Festival of Trees Parade](#)

(Downtown Davenport)

**Nov. 28:** [Scott County Family Y Turkey Trot](#) (Downtown YMCA, Davenport)

**Dec. 1:** [19<sup>th</sup> Century Christmas](#) (Butterworth Center, Moline)

**Dec. 6-7:** [Christmas in the Village](#) (Village of East Davenport)

**Dec 7:** [Ugly Sweater & Tie Run/Walk](#) (Downtown Davenport)

**Dec. 14:** [USO Discovery Kids, "Winter Holiday Celebration w/ the Animals,"](#) Naibi Zoo

**Dec. 14:** [Jingle Bell Run/Walk 5K for Arthritis](#) (South Park Mall, Moline)

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

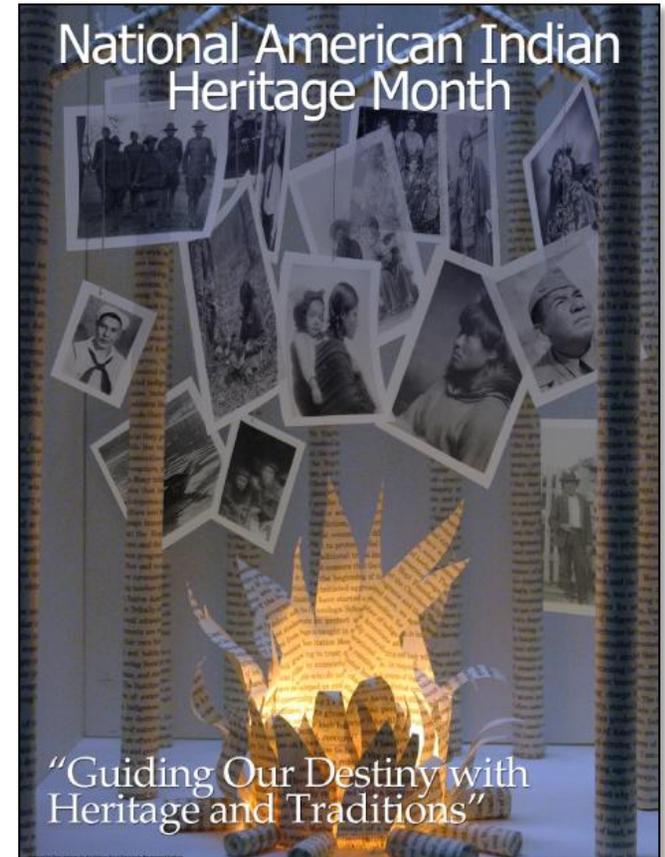
## Island Insight

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**Col. Elmer Speights, Jr., Garrison Commander;** **Eric Cramer, Public Affairs Officer;** **Mark Kane, Editor**

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