



Dec. 14, 2015

Island Insight

This publication is published weekly and contains information about, for, and of interest to the Island Workforce. This document is also available on the Garrison Internet page under "Information" and on the installation website at www.usagria.army.mil under "News" and then "Local News."

Island Insight Submission: www.usagria.army.mil/News/II.aspx

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Wreaths Across America Ceremony Held On Arsenal Island

Sonja Brinckley of Morrison, Ill., said the Wreaths Across America ceremony Saturday was a personally moving experience. She was not alone. The annual event took place at the Rock Island National Cemetery on Arsenal Island. Its origin goes back to 1992 when Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine, began placing wreaths on the headstones of the nation's fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery during the holidays. It has grown since to include Rock Island National Cemetery and other locations across the country. This marks the 11th year a ceremony was held locally, and the sixth year that Tennant Yard Management and Simplex Leasing Inc. of Colona has been a major player by volunteering time and trucks. Tennant not only helps locally, but helps to deliver thousands of wreaths across the nation. The mission is to "honor, remember and teach about America's fallen soldiers and veterans and their families"



Upcoming Dates

- Dec. 14-18:** DA Photos, Bldg. 90, Basement, B11, 7:20 a.m. – 3:40 p.m.
- Dec. 18:** MVRBC blood drive, Lock & Dam Lounge, Bldg. 60, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Dec. 19:** Discovery Time Playgroup, Community Christian Fellowship, 9:30 a.m.
- Dec. 19:** Time with Teddy, Quarters One, 1 p.m.
- Dec. 25:** Christmas Day (*Federal Holiday*)
- Jan. 1:** New Year's Day (*Federal Holiday*)
- Jan. 6:** Military Singles & Geo-Bachelors Dinner, USO Spaces, Bldg. 110, 4:30 p.m.
- Jan. 8:** End of year donation deadline to CPAC
- Jan. 13:** Tenant Senior NCO Meeting, Arsenal Island Clubhouse, 11:30 a.m.
- Jan. 18:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (*Federal Holiday*)
- Jan. 20:** RIAWC Declutter Your Life Luncheon, Arsenal Island Clubhouse, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Jan. 21:** RIA DeCA, AAFES and FMWR Advisory Council Meeting, Bldg. 90, Rm. 25, 1 p.m.
- Jan. 25:** DA Photos, Bldg. 90, Basement, B11, 7:20 a.m. – 3:40 p.m.
- Jan. 28:** Council of Colonels, Arsenal Island Clubhouse, 11:30 a.m.
- Jan. 28:** Newcomer's Orientation and Tour, Arsenal Island Clubhouse, 8 a.m.
- Jan. 30:** Self Defense Seminar, RIA Fitness Center, 9 a.m.

by placing wreaths on their graves before the holidays and raising funds to do so across the nation. ([More](#))

Arsenal Receives "Best Military Blood Drive" Honor

Employees at the Rock Island Arsenal won a state-wide award for collecting blood donations.

The award titled "Best Military Blood Drive" from the Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers, which was presented Friday, Dec. 11, at Rock Island Arsenal. While they serve those in the military community Arsenal employees also provided life-saving resources to local hospitals by hosting mobile blood drives. Military and civilian personnel on the island make a point of contributing to the community in many different ways. "Blood drives on the island, it speaks well of the Midwest and the Quad

Cities and the Arsenal itself as to how much they freely give without asking for anything in return," said Col. Elmer Speights, Jr., garrison commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Rock Island Arsenal. Every year the Arsenal hosts about 50 blood drives; providing more than 900 donations. ([More](#))



Staff Ride Brings ASC Senior Leaders Together

Senior leaders from U.S. Army Sustainment Command shared leadership lessons and bonded during a staff ride where they learned about the Black Hawk War of 1832 near Sparta, Wisconsin, Dec. 12-13. Staff rides are Army-approved training sessions where senior leaders visit historical military sites, learn lessons applicable to current operations about military strategies, tactics, logistics and structure while also conducting their own research into past leaders' thought processes. This staff ride also marked the first time that nearly all of ASC's brigade commanders and senior staff came together and participated, so the event was not only about history,

but building camaraderie. ASC is the largest two-star command in the Army with units spread over four continents. "I want everyone to take this time to get to know one another and work together as a team," said Maj. Gen. Kevin O'Connell, commanding general, ASC. ([More](#))



Meet Your Army, with Major General Charles W. Whittington, Jr., First Army Deputy Commanding General

As part of a community initiative to sustain a connection with the American public, Major General Charles Whittington visits for a free program to discuss the #MeetYourArmy initiative and to provide updates on current operations. Presented in partnership with the U.S. Army Office of Public Affairs, Midwest and the First U.S. Army. Throughout the last 14 years, the American public saw a steady stream of information about the Army through television and newspapers. But as involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan has died down, Americans are seeing fewer soldiers in the press. And even fewer Americans know a soldier personally. Through the newly-created #MeetYourArmy campaign, the Army hopes to put soldiering back in the spotlight. ([More](#))



Congress Reaches \$1.1 Trillion Spending Deal Plus Billions In Tax Cuts

Congressional leaders unveiled a massive \$1.1 trillion federal spending package that will keep government funded through September, abandoning most of the controversial provisions Republicans wanted to add to block President Obama's policies on topics ranging from immigration to armor-piercing bullets. But it includes a major Republican goal of lifting a 40-year ban on exports of domestic crude oil. The 2,009-page bill released early Wednesday morning will be paired with legislation to extend dozens of expiring tax breaks worth hundreds of billions of dollars to corporations and individuals. The 233-page measure will permanently extend the enhanced child tax credit and earned income tax credit that were boosted by the 2009 stimulus bill, and extend through 2019 a popular corporate tax break that allows companies to more quickly depreciate the value of new equipment. The two bills also delay for two years unpopular taxes that were part of Obama's signature health care law. Despite the fact that the massive bills were released in the middle of the night, Congress still expects to pass it over the next few days. ([More](#))



Spending Deal Keeps Feds, Troops on Track for 1.3 Percent Raise

Federal civilian employees and military service members would receive a 1.3 percent pay raise next year under the fiscal 2016 spending package congressional appropriators unveiled late on Tuesday. The \$1.1 trillion omnibus bill, which funds federal agencies through Sept. 30, 2016, allows for the 1 percent base pay raise for civilian employees that President Obama requested, as well as the 0.3 percent bump to their locality pay. The spending package also allows for troops in the military to receive a 1.3 percent pay increase. The legislative package funds all 12 areas of the federal government that under regular order require their own annual appropriation. The provisions include providing money for defense, financial services and general government activities, the traditional vehicles for federal civilian and military workforce pay. ([More](#))



\$1.1 Trillion Spending Package Extends ID Protection for Hacked Feds to a Decade

Hacked federal employees should receive an extra seven years of anti-fraud protection in their stockings this holiday season, once Congress votes on a must-pass spending bill. A legislative package negotiated Tuesday night to keep the government operating slipped in a policy to protect, for a decade, the identities of victims of a personnel records and background investigation breach at the Office of Personnel Management. Right now, OPM is only providing a year of financial safeguards to 4.2 million current and former federal employees whose Social Security numbers were compromised. Some 21.5 million individuals who applied for security clearances and their family members are receiving three years of coverage, in light of a related, more severe breach. ([More](#))



Obama Calls on Americans to Reject Fear

Every American has a role to play in defeating terrorist extremists like the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, President Barack Obama said in his weekly address to the nation today. Americans, the president said, must remain vigilant, but must not give in to the fear that would change what we stand for as a nation. "In San Bernardino, even as the community continues to grieve, people are refusing to be ruled by fear," the president said, referring to the couple who



opened fire at a holiday party, killing 14 and wounding 22. “Faith communities have come together in fellowship and prayer,” Obama said. “Families lined the streets for the annual children’s Christmas parade—because we can’t let terrorists change how we live our lives.”

Service Members Doing Part

American service members are doing their parts to root out and kill the ideology. “Our men and women in uniform are stepping up our campaign to destroy ISIL,” the president said. “Our airstrikes are hitting ISIL harder than ever, in Iraq and Syria. We’re taking out more of their fighters and leaders, their weapons, their oil tankers. Our special operations forces are on the ground — because we’re going to hunt down these terrorists wherever they try to hide.” It is not limited to Iraq and Syria. “In recent weeks, our strikes have taken out the ISIL finance chief, a terrorist leader in Somalia and the ISIL leader in Libya. Our message to these killers is simple — we will find you, and justice will be done,” he said.

Across Government

The fight against ISIL is a whole-of-government effort, the president said. On Monday, he will review the military campaign against the group during a meeting at the Pentagon. Later, he will visit the National Counterterrorism Center, where he will review government efforts to prevent attacks and protect the homeland. “This week, the Department of Homeland Security will update its alert system to ensure Americans get more information, including steps that you and your communities can take to be vigilant and to stay safe,” he said. ([More](#))

Daily Dining in Bldg. 60

Effective Nov. 2 seating for daily dining in Bldg. 60 has been temporarily moved to the room west of the food court through the double doors, while the Caisson room is being expanded and remodeled to give patrons a pleasant dining atmosphere. Questions, please call 309-782-5890.

Blood Drives

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is hosting a blood drive in the room outside the Lock and Dam Lounge (in Bldg. 60), on **Friday, Dec. 18, 10 a.m. – 3 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. **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

Official DA Studio Photography (DA, Government Passport and Command Photos) will be offered at Rock Island Arsenal on **Dec. 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18; Jan. 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29; and Feb. 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26.** Appointments may be scheduled online by submitting a DA Form 3903 Work Request using the [Visual Information Ordering Site](#) for the available times: 7:20 a.m. - 3:40 p.m. Click on "Frequently Asked Questions" on the [VIOS site](#) for more information. Walk-in appointments are not available. Photographs will be taken at the Photo Studio (Bldg. 90, Basement, Room B11). 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. All scheduled dates can be found on the [RIA VIOS website](#).

Retired General to Speak at Farmer2Farmer

Join Lt. General Jim Huggins, U.S. Army (Ret.), at Farmer2Farmer taking place **Dec. 15-17**, at the Quad City Waterfront - Convention Center in Bettendorf, for a fascinating talk on how analytics are changing the 21st century battlefield. Warfare is a challenge in managing complex environments, factors beyond your control, and making important decisions with imperfect information - just like farming. No one knows this better than Lt. General Jim Huggins, who commanded at nearly every echelon of the Army, participated seven combat tours, and is a six-time Bronze Star recipient. Lt. General Huggins most recently was Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations & Strategy, where he coordinated U.S. Army operations and strategy for the Secretary of the Army and Chief of Staff of the Army. Huggins previously commanded the historic 82nd Airborne Division, and multinational NATO-ISAF forces in Afghanistan, where he led 22,000 American and 9,000 coalition forces in combat operations across six Afghan provinces. Military and Government employees can register by using the code Military after clicking on [Reserve Your Tickets](#).



AbilityOne® Base Supply Center on Arsenal Island Undergoing Name Change

Starting **Jan. 1**, PaperclipsEtc.com will become bscsource.com, a re-designed website and improved shopping experience that will retain your account information, saved carts and other features you use and love. Why change? The bscsource.com name reflects the mission of the AbilityOne Base Supply Center (BSC) program: offering employment opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired. Our PaperclipsEtc physical stores, owned and operated by Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind, will officially take the AbilityOne® BSC name **Jan. 1** as well. Our name change reflects an entire new team of procurement specialists connected to a huge network of vendors. We can design custom processes and features to ensure you have what you need, when you need it. Your purchases provide jobs for people who are blind or visually impaired. Base Supply Center Stores, formerly known as Paperclips Etc. stores, and bscsource.com are operated by Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind. We are your on-site location for a wide range of AbilityOne® Procurement List products and other commercial products.

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) or OPM form 630a 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 **Jan. 8**. Donations received after **Jan. 8**, will be posted to leave year 2016. 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.

Fish Fry and More Every Friday

American Legion Post 1233, 312 Broadway Street, Colona, Ill., is having a fish fry every Friday evening from 5 to 8 p.m. Come enjoy a variety of entrees from steak sandwiches, fish and chicken dinners, to sides and hors d'oeuvres; very reasonably priced. Proceeds go to veterans; their families;

and other veteran organizations. For more information, call Anna DeFrieze at 309-792-8934. Note: **Dec. 25** and **Jan. 1**, no food served.

Career Program 34 101 Outreach Briefing

Career Program 34 (Information Technology Management) will provide an outreach briefing to the CP-34 workforce at Rock Island Arsenal on Friday, **Jan. 22**, at the Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse Ballroom, 9-10 a.m. Career Program 34 provides career management, education and training to the Army civilian IT/cyber workforce.

Wounded Warrior J.R. Martinez to Speak in the Quad Cities

Vera French Community Mental Health Center will be having several educational events the week of **Feb. 15-20** to increase community awareness of the challenges of mental illness and the need for community support for the services provided by the Vera French Community Mental Health Center. This year they have the honor of presenting wounded U.S. Army veteran, J.R. Martinez as their signature inspirational speaker on Saturday, **Feb. 20**, at 7 p.m., at the Bettendorf High School Performing Arts Center. J.R. Martinez was wounded in Karbala, Iraq, April 5, 2003, by a roadside bomb that burned more than 34 percent of his body. ([More](#))

Arsenal Island Employee Local Discounts

The following discounts are exclusively available to Arsenal Island employees — **Infinity Salon & Spa:** Located at 220 W 3rd St. in Davenport, we offer 15 percent off services for military and the Arsenal Island workforce. We are a full service salon: hair, manicure, pedicures, massage, waxing, facials, for men, women, and children. Eligible personnel only need to show a military or work ID. **The Venue:** Located at 1405 5th Ave. in Moline, we would like to say thank you to all Rock Island Arsenal personnel – bring in your Arsenal ID/badge on Mondays and receive a 20 percent discount on food and soda (this excludes family feast special). **New Life Chiropractic Clinic:** All Arsenal Island military and civilian employees will receive a 10 percent discount off its services located at 2500 18th Street in Bettendorf. **Chocolate Manor:** All Arsenal Island military and civilian employees will receive a 10 percent discount off their total purchase on any of our award winning homemade chocolates at 110 E. 2nd St., Davenport, just show your ID. **Roosters Sports Bar and Grill:** All military and civilian's get 10 percent off their bill. Come head down for lunch at 2130 3rd St., Rock Island, new specials daily. **Peachwave Frozen Yogurt:** Peachwave, 3431 Devils Glen Rd., Bettendorf, offers a 10 percent discount every day to all military and veterans. *This information is included for general workforce interest and does not constitute endorsement of the businesses or products.*



Arsenal Traffic/Construction



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RIA Rodman Avenue Partial Closure Dec. 18-22

Beginning Friday, **Dec. 18**, through Tuesday, **Dec. 22**, Rodman Avenue (between East Street and the Moline Gate entrance), and the walking/bicycle trail north of Rodman Avenue, are planned to be closed to through traffic. This closure will be effective between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Access to the Rock Island National Cemetery, Memorial Field, Building 150, and the Rodman Housing Area will be provided. In addition to the Rodman Avenue closure, pedestrians and traffic should avoid

proximity to the "project area." This closure is necessary to provide a safety zone for identification and removal of any unexploded ordnance in the project area to ensure a clear site for future family housing construction. If an unexploded ordnance is found, the plan is to detonate in place by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, so there is a possibility of unexpected noise. If a detonation is required, additional measures will be instituted to ensure safety requirements. Work may be delayed pending weather conditions and updates will be provided through the Garrison Public Affairs Office as necessary.

Rock Island Viaduct Sidewalk Closed to Pedestrians

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



Building/Space Closures



There are no announcements at this time.



Active Duty/Reserve Zone



Military Service Members to Get 3.4 Percent More In 2016 for Housing

The Defense Department released housing allowance rates for 2016, as service members head into a second year of cost-sharing increases. DoD said Dec. 15 that the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates will increase by an average of 3.4 percent starting Jan. 1, or roughly \$54 per month. "The cost-sharing amounts incorporated in the 2016 Basic Allowance for Housing rates vary by grade and dependency status and range from \$24 to \$57 monthly. This means for 2016, a typical member will need to absorb [2] percent of the national average housing cost by pay grade," the department stated in a release. The 2 percent increase is part of a four-year phase-in to shift some costs to members, with the amount increasing each year by 1 percent through 2018. By 2019 and after that year, members will be paying for 5 percent of their housing costs and utilities. ([More](#))

Soldiers See Increase in Clothing Allowance For 2016

Earlier this month, the Army's G-4 released an All Army Activities, or ALARACT, message that lists the fiscal year 2016 clothing bag list for enlisted Soldiers, as well as the dollar amount for the accompanying clothing allowance. For FY16, Soldiers saw an increase of about seven percent for their clothing allowance. Inside the clothing bag, new additions reflect the Army's adoption of the Operational Camouflage Pattern. The "clothing bag" is the name for the set of clothing items issued to Soldiers in basic training. That list of items evolves and changes year-to-year as the needs of the Army change. The clothing bag list is published yearly, and all Soldiers are required throughout

their career to maintain in their possession serviceable items that match what is listed in the most current clothing bag list. ([More](#))

New Army Breastfeeding Memo Bans Bathroom as Lactation Area

The Army's updated breastfeeding and lactation policy forbids the use of restrooms as lactation spaces, offers suggestions on the duration of breaks for nursing mothers and requires commanders to provide such breaks at least until the child's first birthday — addressing many issues raised by critics of the initial directive. The first Army-wide guidance on the matter, a September memo from then-Army Secretary John McHugh, included a little more than a page of information, far shorter than installation policies either in place or in process at Fort Bliss, Texas, and other locations. It also offered fewer specifics than the rules used by other services; the Army was the last branch to implement servicewide regulations on the topic. ([More](#))

Army Drawdown: More Early Outs for Junior Enlisted Soldiers

Two early out programs, one voluntary and one involuntary, have been re-authorized for certain categories of Regular Army enlisted soldiers as part of the service's drawdown strategy for 2016. Both programs have been in effect since 2014, and generally are targeted at soldiers who decline to extend their careers, or who are in specialties that will become overstrength as the Army gets smaller. Here are the details: ([More](#))

Military Singles & Geo-Bachelors Dinner

There will be a Military Singles & Geo-Bachelors Dinner on Tuesday, **Jan. 6**, in the USO spaces, Bldg. 110. This month's menu items include turkey & veggie soup, cheeseburger soup, bread, garden salad, fruit, and dessert surprise. All ranks, all branches, are welcome. Please RSVP to [Jackie Inman](#), 309-782-3896.



Safety Spotlight



**ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG**



Winterizing Homes, Caution Critical To Safe Holiday, Winter Seasons

Shoveling snow, checking your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and keeping track of your health this holiday season may seem trivial but taking the initiative to do so may be the difference between life and death. Adrain Kendrick, chief of safety and occupational health, said there are multiple reasons why unintentional deaths and injuries happen in and outside the home during the winter months. For one, he said people introduce objects into their homes that sometimes aren't normally there, like space heaters and live Christmas trees, during the winter. Live Christmas trees are hazardous when they aren't properly watered as they can become highly flammable, said James Dansereau, one of three fire inspectors on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. Dansereau wrote in an email that when a live Christmas tree is not watered, it dries out making it vulnerable to heated objects, like light bulbs and space heaters. Home fires, according to the American Red Cross, are a common disaster and many Americans are uninformed about this fact. ([More](#))

Equal Employment Opportunity Focus



Army Diversity and Inclusion Roadmap

The U.S. Army's Diversity and Inclusion Roadmap (ADIR) supports Force 2025 and Beyond and contributes to mission readiness while transforming and sustaining the Army as a global leader in diversity. The new ADIR is scheduled to be published in fiscal year 2016. An inclusive mindset is crucial to recruiting, retaining and developing the human talent necessary to maintain readiness. A diverse Army represents the American people and demonstrates the strength of the committed men and women from different backgrounds working together to support the nation's defense. The Army's commitment to diversity facilitates cultural understanding and exemplifies the American principles. ([More](#))

Morale, Welfare & Recreation



Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR)

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

MWR Text Alerts

Grab your mobile phone and text **EZZHV32984 4** to the number **313131** to join our text list and have all the latest and greatest MWR news delivered right to your phone. We'll keep you up to date with all the fun and exciting upcoming MWR events and programs as well as coupons and special offers available only to text alert subscribers. Message and data rates may apply and you can opt out at any time by replying "**stop**" to **313131**. Check out the flyer for a quick and easy QR code that you can scan with your smartphone to automatically generate the message for you. ([Flyer](#))



Now Accepting Submissions

Are you a photography enthusiast? Do you think you've taken the perfect shot? We want you to share your favorite moments and adventures with us by entering the 2015 U.S. Army Digital Photography Contest. Contest closes Thursday, **Dec 31**. Find out how to enter:

www.armymwr.com/digital-photo.aspx

Time with Teddy

Parents, gather the kids and their favorite teddy bears, dolls, stuffed animals, etc. and join us Saturday, **Dec. 19**, 1-3 p.m., at Historic Quarters One, for a fun, social event featuring arts and crafts, a movie with popcorn and other snacks, a photo area, goodie bags and a special visitor from the North Pole. Cost is \$20 for one child and one adult, additional guests to your group are just \$5 each. Call to reserve your spots at 309-782-5890. ([Flyer](#))

Volleyball & Basketball Leagues Registration Deadlines Extended

Due to low response, the registration deadlines for the adult volleyball & basketball leagues have been extended. The leagues will now begin in early January 2016. Get your teams together and get signed up for our winter adult sports leagues. Registration packets and more information are available at the Fitness Center or call 309-782-6787. (Flyers: [Basketball](#) & [Volleyball](#))

Group Fitness Class Instructors Needed

Are you looking for some extra cash for holiday shopping? The Rock Island Arsenal Fitness Center is looking for group fitness instructors. Call us today at 309-782-6787 or tell someone you know who might want to join our team. ([Flyer](#))

Lunch Service at the Arsenal Island Clubhouse

Has it been a while since you've had lunch at the Golf Clubhouse? If so come back Tuesday - Friday, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., and give it another try because we've got some exciting new options that are sure to fit your appetite and schedule. Try the daily soup, salad and sandwich buffet featuring a delicious house made soup du jour and fresh baked breads for just \$9/person. Maybe your lunch break is short and you don't have time for a sit down meal, we've got you covered there too. Order a sandwich or burger off the grab and go menu and you'll be out the door in no time. ([Menu](#))

MWR Leisure Travel Office



Office Hours

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

Leisure Travel Office Discounts for Shows in January & February 2016

Visit Leisure Travel in Bldg. 333 (next to the Exchange) to save money on some great shows coming to the Quad Cities in early 2016 including:

- **Jan. 9:** Harlem Globetrotters at the iWireless Center
- **Jan. 22-23:** World's Toughest Rodeo at the iWireless Center
- **Feb. 20:** Phantom at Circa 21 Dinner Playhouse

Check out the flyers for [Harlem Globetrotters](#), [World's Toughest Rodeo](#), [Phantom](#), or call Leisure Travel at 309-782-5890 for more info and to reserve your discount tickets.

Create Lasting Family Memories with the Harlem Globetrotters

Hilarious antics and amazing basketball skills will entertain the whole family. Discounted tickets on sale now. Section 107 Rows 7-9 \$27.50 adults & children (one and under free on lap)

Section 213 Rows 1- 3 \$35.50 adults & children (one and under free on lap) on sale until **Dec. 28.**

Event Date: **Saturday, Jan. 3**

Event Time: **7 p.m.**

Snowstar Winter Sports Park, Snow Tubing Outing

Gather the kids and kids at heart and join Outdoor Recreation at Snowstar for a fun evening of tubing Friday, **Jan. 22**, 5-9 pm. Cost is \$15/person which includes tube rental and lift ticket.

Transportation to Snowstar is not included, participants will meet at Snowstar. Pre-registration & payment is required by **Jan. 13**. Call 309-782-8631 or stop by Outdoor Rec. in Bldg. 333 (next to the Exchange) for more info and to reserve your spots. ([Flyer](#))

World's Toughest Rodeo

The World's Toughest Rodeo also opens the arena nightly for the free Preshow as we invite fans to "get down in the dirt." It's a FANtastic opportunity to go out west for the night with interactive activities for all ages including pony rides, all access meet and greet with cowboys and entertainers, autographs and photos, sit on midnight the bull in the bucking chutes, or get up close and personal with the World's Toughest Rodeo animal superstars as our staff host a behind the chutes tour. The sidewalk ends and the Wild West begins with more fun and free for all ages.

Leisure Travel has discounted seats on sale until **Jan. 18**.

Event Date: **Jan. 22-23**

Event Time: **7:30 p.m.**

Circa 21: Presents Phantom

A timeless tale. A haunting score. A stunning production. The mesmerizing Phantom is a sensation that enraptures with beautiful songs and characters more richly developed than in any other version, including the original novel. The story traces the obsession of the disfigured composer who falls in love with his protégé only to be undone by his passion. A theatrical rendition of Gaston Leroux's classic novel. Leisure Travel has discounted seats on sale until Tuesday, **Feb. 2**. All seats are \$46.

A Timeless Tale. A Haunting Score. A Stunning Production.

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Event Date: **Saturday, Feb. 20**

Event Time: **5:45-9 p.m.**

Star Trek: The Ultimate Voyage Concert Tour 2016

This lavish production includes an impressive live symphony orchestra and international special solo instruments. People of all ages and backgrounds will experience the franchise's groundbreaking and wildly popular musical achievements while the most iconic Star Trek film and TV footage is simultaneously beamed in high definition to a 40-foot wide screen. The concert will feature some of the greatest music written for the franchise including music from Star Trek: The Original Series, Star Trek: The Motion Picture, Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan, Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home, Star Trek: Insurrection, Star Trek: The Next Generation, Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, Star Trek: Voyager and much more. This never-before-seen concert event is perfect for music lovers, filmgoers, science-fiction fans and anyone looking for an exciting and unique concert experience. MWR Leisure Travel has discounted seats on sale now. Stop by the office located in Bldg. 333 or call 309-782-5890.

Date: **Friday, March 22**

Time: **7 p.m.**

Child, Youth & School Services



Summer Day Camp Registration Opens

Although winter is not even officially here yet, we are busy preparing another awesome Summer Day Camp program for 2016. Parents, please check with Parent Central Services at 309-782-0791 to make sure that your registration is current for your children and mark Monday, **Jan. 4**, on your calendars as the day that applications for the 2016 Summer Day Camp program are available for pick-up. Call the School Age Center at 309-782-7544 for more info.

Covenant Cottage Child Development Home

Covenant Cottage Child Development Home is available for backup, emergency, and hourly care for ages four weeks through 12 years. The home is located on post and is open from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Army Family Covenant Guidelines state deployed Soldiers are entitled to 16 hours free respite childcare per child, per month. For reservations call 309-782-6793. We encourage you to call as far in advance as possible because spaces fill quickly.

Army Community Service



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

Employee Assistance Program



ASAP/EAP is located in Bldg. 56, 1st floor; visit our [ASAP/EAP website](#) or phone 309-782-4357 or 309-782-HELP. Office hours are from 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. After Hour Emergencies: 309-782-6116. Rock Island Arsenal Emergency Services will contact an EAP counselor who will call you back promptly. In addition, [a list of our classes & groups with dates, locations, and times, is located here](#). [Find us on Facebook click here](#).

National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month

The month of December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month. According to the Center for Disease Control, everyday 36 people in the United States die and approximately 700 more are injured in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. This holiday season, don't put your life, or anyone else's life on the line. Be smart and be responsible. If you are going to drink, don't drive. If you are



going to drive, don't drink. Don't allow one bad decision haunt you for the rest of your life.

Keep Your Mental Health in Check During the Holidays – December 2015

Another year will soon be coming to a close, but not without the big rush of the holiday season. Relatives to visit, meals to prepare, presents to buy... whether it is the most joyous time of year is up for debate, but it might certainly be the busiest. The holiday season is a happy time for many; however, the stress of the season may exacerbate existing problems. Strained family relationships may be harder to tolerate, financial pressures more troubling, an already hectic schedule pushed to the brink. Depression, anxiety, and other mental health concerns can also be aggravated during the holidays. If you were feeling down or anxious before the holiday season, now you might feel even more worried or isolated. Some good times with friends and family may be all you need to feel better, but if you find you haven't felt like yourself for more than a week or two, something more serious may be going on. To help you identify if your holiday stress or blues could be a sign of an underlying mental health condition, contact the Rock Island Arsenal Employee Assistance Program at 309-782-4357 to schedule an appointment. The EAP is located in Bldg. 56, Room 104. All services are confidential and offered at no cost.



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.](#)

Rock Island Arsenal Welcome Club Scholarship Applications

Rock Island Arsenal Welcome Club Scholarship Applications are now available. Applications can be picked up at the Arsenal Attic Thirft Shop, Bldg. 60 basement; or the Education Center, Bldg. 56. You can also [access the applications online here](#). The applications list the specific eligibility requirements for applicants. Please note that all RIA active duty military, civilians, and contractors, and all of their dependents, are eligible to apply, as well as those who regularly volunteer on the Arsenal. Please email RIAWC Scholarship Chair Nicole Kirschmann at RIAWCScholarships@yahoo.com with any questions.

Area Schools to Visit RIA

The [Army Continuing Education Systems Rock Island Arsenal](#) is coordinating with Quad-City area schools to have them visit with eligible Ed Center patrons where they will meet with school representatives and learn about educational opportunities in the Quad Cities. These visits will take place in Bldg. 56, Room 121, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The schedule for this fiscal year is: • Ashford University, **Dec. 17, March 17, and June 16**; • Black Hawk College, **Jan. 14, April 14, and July 14**; • Eastern Iowa Community College, **Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, and July 7**; • Kaplan University, **Feb. 18, May 19, and Aug. 18**; • Saint Ambrose University, **Jan. 21, April 21, and July 21**; • Trinity College of Nursing & Health Sciences, **Jan. 28, April 28, and July 28**; • University of Dubuque, **Feb. 11, May 26, and Aug. 11**; and • Upper Iowa University, **March 10, and June 9**. Meet with school representatives and learn about educational opportunities in the Quad Cities.

Defense Commissary Agency / Exchange



The [Rock Island Commissary](#) and the [Exchange](#) are for active duty military and retirees only. There are exceptions for select items (mainly consumable) at the Exchange that can be purchased by Arsenal Island employees with ID. The Commissary makes fresh fruit baskets daily for you! Shopping for someone who has everything? Problem solved. They are hungry for fresh fruit. Just buy them a fruit basket and relax. Ask our friendly staff to make you one or order one in advance. Check out local specials and get POC information [HERE](#). For information on this and other Commissaries, visit: www.commissaries.com ([Facebook](#))

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](#))

This Week in Rock Island Arsenal History – Dec. 14-20

In December 1905, the Army Chief of Ordnance authorized RIA workers the right to heat coffee at noon hour. From this authorization developed an organized effort by the workers to create a hot lunch and cafeteria program. In December 1870, Aikens & Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., furnished the RIA with slate at \$15.25 per square. The slate was used to cover the roofs of buildings. In December 1959, the RIA repaired and modified the first XM70 boosted rocket launcher prototype. During the winter of 1863, temporary shops were built on the Island for use in construction of Arsenal buildings.

Healthbeat



December, Holiday Hours for RIA Health Clinic

On Friday, **Dec. 18**, the clinic and pharmacy will be closed 12-4 p.m. for its annual holiday party. The clinic will close for holidays **Dec. 24** and **25**, as well as **Jan. 1**.

Practice Food Safety During the Holidays

As the holiday season quickly approaches, many of us are looking to spend some quality time with family and friends. Nothing draws us closer together than enjoying a delicious home-cooked meal with the ones we love, but things can take a turn for the worse if food safety is not kept in mind. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that approximately 48 million

people get sick from foodborne illness each year. Of those that contract a foodborne illness, 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die. The following are a few food safety tips to keep you, your families and your friends healthy during the holidays. Foods most commonly associated with foodborne illnesses are raw foods of animal origin; that is raw meat and poultry, raw eggs, unpasteurized milk and raw shellfish. Adequate cooking will kill most bacteria and their toxins. Fruits and vegetables consumed raw are also a particular concern. Washing can decrease but not eliminate contamination, so cooking to proper time and temperature is vital. Also, unpasteurized fruit juices can be contaminated if there are pathogens in or on the fruit that is used to make it. The best bet is to only drink pasteurized juices. ([More](#))

Notes for Veterans



Disabled Veteran Leave Law Only Applies to New Title 5 Feds

The new law providing a full year's sick leave up front to new federal employees who are disabled veterans only applies to those hired on, or after Nov. 5, 2016. The 2015 Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act gives 104 hours of sick leave up front to first-year feds who are vets with a service-connected disability rating of at least 30 percent to attend medical appointments related to their disability. It also only applies to those new feds who are covered under Title 5 leave provisions, and including employees of the Postal Service and Postal Regulatory Commission. Non-Title 5 disabled veteran employees hired on or after Nov. 5, 2016, including those at the Federal Aviation Administration and Transportation Security Administration, are not eligible for the new benefit. Many jobs at the Veterans Affairs Department, for instance, also are not covered under Title 5. Title 5 governs most, but not all, of the federal personnel system. Current federal employees who are disabled veterans also are not eligible for the new type of leave. Obama signed the bill into law on Nov. 5, 2015, and it applies to those hired a year after its enactment. ([More](#))

Around the Q.C.



Jan. 8-10: [Bald Eagle Days Environmental Fair and Wild Life Art Show](#) (QCCA, Rock Island)

Jan. 18-20: [24th Quad Cities Farm Show](#) (QCCA, Rock Island)

Jan. 23-25: [Rod and Custom Show](#) (QCCA, Rock Island)

Feb. 1: [35th Annual Motorcycle Parts Swapmeet for the Harley Enthusiast](#) (QCCA, Rock Island)

Feb. 6-8: [Quad Cities Home Builders Home Show](#) (QCCA, Rock Island)

Feb. 18-21: [Fishing, Hunting, and Outdoor Adventure Show](#) (QCCA, Rock Island)

Feb. 26-28: [QCCA RV/Camping Show](#) (QCCA, Rock Island)

Feb. 27: [Havana Daydreamn' by the Quad City Parrot Head Club](#) (Waterfront Convention Center, Bettendorf)

March 6-8: [Quad Cities Antique Spectacular](#) (QCCA, Rock Island)

April 1-3: [QCCA Lawn and Garden Show](#) (QCCA, Rock Island)

April 11: [18th Annual In-Fisherman Swap Meet](#) (QCCA, Rock Island)

May 10-11: [Scott County Kennel Club AKC Dog Show](#) (QCCA, Rock Island)

Island Insight



[Col. Elmer Speights, Jr.](#), Garrison Commander; [Eric Cramer](#), Public Affairs Officer; [Mark Kane](#), Editor

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