



U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command FLIGHT

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AMCOM Soldiers show grit at Rucker competition

After a hiatus in 2020 due to the pandemic, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command Soldiers vied for top spots in the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence Best Warrior Competition at Fort Rucker, Alabama, May 10-14.



Two specialists and a staff sergeant were among the 11 competitors in the typically annual event: Staff Sgt. Daron Ashcraft from AMCOM's Aviation Center Logistics Command at Fort Rucker, Spc. Christian Kerkado-Colon from Corpus Christi Army Depot and Spc. Jaycob Vellon-Colon from Letterkenny Army Depot.

There were also two noncommissioned officers competing for the 2021 Drill Sergeant of the Year Competition, for a total of 13 Soldiers going through rigorous paces.

Ashcraft was dubbed the AMCOM NCO of the Year and Kerkado bested Vellon to earn the AMCOM Soldier of the Year title. Both will represent AMCOM at the U.S. Army Materiel Command level later this year.

"This is my favorite event of the year because I get to see and interact with Soldiers as they compete at the highest levels," said AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Dove. He said he was really proud of the heart, intestinal fortitude and grit all the Soldiers showed.

A team of rivals – two MPs and a helicopter repairer

Though the three AMCOM Soldiers are all putting their best boots forward with the goal of getting top honors, they are all representing the same headquarters. In the May 11 land navigation event, the trio finished in second, third and fourth place.

Ashcraft is a UH-60 helicopter repairer who is originally from Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

ACLC Sgt. Maj. Nicholas Burney said this particular NCO was selected based on his attitude, willingness to better himself and his ability to transition from his maintenance background and adapt to the mission of ACLC.

"This command is unique in that we don't actually turn wrenches but we oversee a contract," Burney said. "He has adapted to the new position and continues to get better."

"It's actually good to be able to get outside of work and actually come out and compete against other Soldiers," said Ashcraft,... [READ MORE](#)



Moving forward

Over the past several months and weeks, we've had some positive changes in reference to COVID-19. The overall positive rate continues to trend downward, vaccination rates have gone up, installations have generally reduced their Health



Protection Condition, and DoD changed its mask rules for those who have been fully vaccinated.

So, of course, the obvious question is where do we go from here?

First, I want and need to acknowledge and say thank you to all our employees who have successfully worked at their normal place of duty since COVID started. Literally thousands of great Americans at our depots, Fleet Management Expanded sites, field maintenance sites and calibration technicians have executed their jobs without missing a beat. Soldiers around the world have what they need in large part due to your dedicated efforts.

Likewise, our employees who quickly transitioned to telework also deserve credit. You, too, have enabled readiness across the force to remain high.

So how or when will things change?

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Moving forward

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As I have said all along, it will be conditions-based and guided upon several principles.

- *Employee safety remains my top priority.*
- *We will change by location. The conditions at Redstone Arsenal may not be the same as at other locations.*
- *We will ensure employees have advance notice of any changes.*
- *We will prioritize any return based on functions that are either required or are better suited to do in the workplace.*
- *We will take every individual's unique situation into account.*
- *We will take the general success of telework into account.*

With those considerations in mind, we're currently systematically looking at gradually transitioning additional personnel back into the workplace, while simultaneously ensuring both safety and mission accomplishment. As we develop our way forward, we will keep all informed.

As always, thank you for what you do!

Maj. Gen. Todd Royar
AMCOM commanding general

AMCOM small business programs office provides opportunities, assistance

Sometimes contracting with the federal government can seem intimidating for small businesses, but the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command has an office to help make it a little easier.

“The Office of Small Business Programs is, essentially, AMCOM’s advocate for small business firms,” said Dr. Antronett Pitts, OSBP outreach program manager. “Our primary role is to ensure that small business firms are getting a fair opportunity with AMCOM contracts.”



Program Director Christopher Evans echoed Pitts’ thoughts on being an advocate for small businesses, but added that utilizing them can also benefit the warfighter.

“A lot of times, small businesses don’t come to the forefront, even though they make up a good majority of the U.S. workforce,” Evans said. “They need an advocate to put them out there. Our office provides that resource — we are their advocate... [READ MORE](#)”

Apple tree is symbolic reminder at Army Test, Measurement, Diagnostic Equipment Activity



For most people, the name Sir Isaac Newton conjures up a mental image of an apple tree, but for personnel who work at the U.S. Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Activity, his name is mostly associated with the study of science.

Whether the apple actually hit Newton in the head in the summer of 1666 is debatable, but there are records of him telling the story of how he observed an apple falling to the earth — leading him to discover the law of universal gravitation.

“If there is one thing that is symbolic of the work we do at USATA, it’s that instant where Newton discovered gravity,” said Robert Branin, USATA deputy director for management and operations. “That one point in time is certainly fitting for us and the field that we are in.”

That scientific link to Newton is what led the past leadership of USATA to plant a descendant of the Newton apple tree.... [READ MORE](#)

P2P Performance-to-Promise is a measurement of how an organization holds itself accountable to the commitment to meet worldwide customer-required delivery dates.

Missile SA
82.0% ↑ 6.5%
Second pass

Aviation SA
91.3% ↑ 0.7%
Second pass

Letterkenny Army Depot

93.1% ↑ 1.1%

Corpus Christi Army Depot

78.7% ↑ 4.0%

SA Supply availability is defined as the percentage of demands placed on the wholesale echelon of supply that are not backordered, excluding future material obligations.

Aviation Center Logistics Command

Mission-capable aircraft
71.4%

4.0%
Non mission-capable supply

‘Sense of accomplishment’ drives employee’s dedication to duty

Nearly every male in Erica Huettel’s family has been in the military at some point. In her own way, she has continued that tradition.

“Both of my brothers started in the Army after high school,” the Bishop, California, native said.

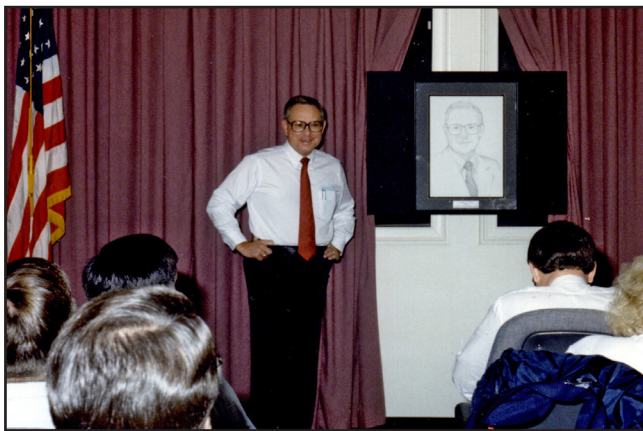
After completing her bachelor’s degree in computer information systems, Huettel was accepted into a Navy outstanding scholar internship as a logistics management specialist. “I was told that the job would be different every day and the variety sounded interesting,” she said.

The job didn’t disappoint.

As part of the Navy mine countermeasures community, Huettel supported the mission of clearing the ocean of sea mines to protect people... [READ MORE](#)



AMCOM Logistics Center prepares for award season



After a year like no other, many are looking for something to celebrate and the coordinators of the Ernest A. Young Awards are ready to do just that as they prepare for the 2021 logistics award.

Established in 1991 by what was then known as the U.S. Army Missile Command’s Missile Logistics Center, the annual event recognizes excellence in the field of logistics. The award is named for Ernest A. Young, a former director of the logistics center and deputy to the commanding general.

The award honors individuals who make significant contributions to the logistics community, according to U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command Logistics Center Human Resources Division Chief Lisa Thomas... [READ MORE](#)

This month in history



May 5, 1961: U.S. Navy Commander Alan B. Shepard Jr. became the first American in space when he rode the Mercury “Freedom 7” capsule, launched by a Redstone missile, to 115 miles above the Earth. Shepard’s flight came three weeks after the Soviet Union’s Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space.



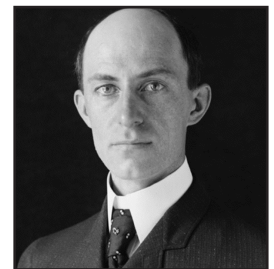
May 6, 1941: Igor Sikorsky completed a 1 hour, 32 minutes, 26 second nonstop helicopter flight in the 75 horsepower VS-300 helicopter in Stratford, Connecticut. The flight set a new endurance world record for helicopter flight.



May 8, 1945: Victory in Europe was declared as Germany surrenders to Allied Forces. VE Day marked the end of more than five years of constant conflict in Europe that began with the German invasion of Poland Sept. 1, 1939.



May 26, 1972: President Richard Nixon signs the first Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, which included the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, with Soviet General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev. The treaty prohibited a nationwide missile defense system but allowed each country two deployment sites and a maximum of 100 interceptor missiles.



May 30, 1912: American aviation pioneer Wilbur Wright died of typhoid fever at age 45. His death marked the end of his groundbreaking partnership with his younger brother Orville. His contributions to powered flight were instrumental in creating powered aviation as we know it today.



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