

ALLEN HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

January 2012

Fort Rucker, AL

One Company. One Mission. Families First.®

From the desk of Robert Frazier,
Community Management Director

Dear Families:

I would like to wish each and every one of our Soldiers and family members a Happy New Year. Picerne Military Housing's commitment to continue to improve the quality of life for you and your family can be seen through varying avenues, as we continue to improve the homes throughout the family housing areas. Quality in your home, neighborhood and community throughout the year will continue to be our focus.

Although many of our Soldiers at Fort Rucker do not deploy, let's please keep in mind those Soldiers who are deployed. Remember, Picerne Military Housing is here to help those families who are unable to be with their loved ones through these trying times.

We had many great achievements in 2011. One of these was the completion of our third Neighborhood Center in Munson Heights. This will provide your families with a third pool for the summer, as well as the addition of the many amenities that are offered in these facilities. Our hope is that these centers become an extension of your home and provide your family with the amenities you deserve.

We have continued our new construction in 2011 with the completion of 140 new homes. To date, we have completed 695 new homes in Bowden Terrace, Munson

Heights and Silver Wings. In 2012, 96 new homes are scheduled to be built.

Playground updates will continue throughout Bowden Terrace and Munson Heights through 2012. These upgrades include placing safety mulch in the existing playgrounds, removing outdated equipment, installing new equipment wherever needed, installing new park benches and trash receptacles and performing minor landscaping projects.

Please remember your neighborhood team is there to serve you. If you have any issues or problems with your home, please let us know so we can correct them. We want our families to know when they come into our offices they will receive the best customer service.

I hope all of you are as excited about 2012 as I am. We are poised to witness additional improvements in the quality of life for our Army families at Fort Rucker. Together we can make 2012 the best year ever for all who call Fort Rucker home.

Robert Frazier
Community Management Director



NEIGHBORHOOD NC CENTER

Manager
Bebe Jackson

Maintenance Supervisor
Jim Mock

Hours of Operation
M-F 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
SAT 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Holiday Hours Available on Back Page*

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Why Are Rental Rates For On-Post Homes Based on Rank and Not Home Type?

A Department of the Army memorandum dated April 28, 2005 states, "Effective immediately, it is Army policy that rents charged to service members at installations with privatized housing will be based on the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for their rank at the with-dependents rate of the installation that the privatized housing supports."

The housing improvements being brought about with privatization by Picerne Military Housing takes time. Fort Rucker is in its sixth year of a seven-year Initial Development Period. By December 2013, most homes at Fort Rucker will be either new or renovated. Your BAH dollars are paying for these quality of life improvements for military families. Since April 2006, Picerne Military Housing has completed three Neighborhood Centers and constructed more than 695 new homes.

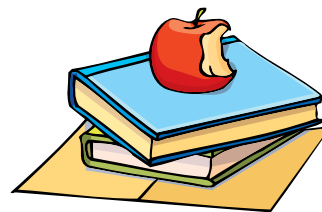
What Does My BAH Pay For Each Month?

- Rent for your home
- Curbside recycling, refuse and bulk trash pickup
- Electric*, gas, water and sewer
- Neighborhood Centers with fitness and recreational amenities
- Pools with lifeguards
- New playgrounds
- 24-hour responsive maintenance
- Scheduled and preventative maintenance
- Professional property management
- Seasonal lawn care
- Pest control
- Maintenance of playgrounds and common areas
- Capital improvements (road repair, sidewalks, HVAC duct upgrades, roofs, etc.)
- \$20,000 renter's insurance
- Free, family-friendly events and programs
- Site development for new home construction
- Construction of new homes
- Demolition and renovation of older homes

*up to the monthly-established baseline

Get to school safe

The following rules apply to students and parents at Fort Rucker Elementary School



1. The parking area across from the school is not a drop off point for students. The only authorized drop-off point for students is the entrance to the school which opens at 7:30 a.m.
2. Parental supervision of children does not end when the children leave home for school; you are responsible for their actions at all times
3. While waiting for the school to open, there should be no running, pushing, fighting, or throwing objects
4. Do not climb on the trees
5. Do not cross Red Cloud Road without the crossing guard

Students riding the bus:

Students attending the Elementary School and live one mile from school are eligible for transportation. Students who abuse the privilege by misconduct while riding the school bus will be denied bus service. Suspension of bus privileges does not mean that the student is suspended from school attendance. It does mean that parents must provide the transportation to and from school.

1. The school is not responsible for incidents occurring at bus stops. Parents are responsible before bus arrival and after bus drop off at the stops.
2. Always follow the orders of the bus driver
3. Make sure that you are on your assigned bus for transportation purposes
4. When seated, no excessively loud talking, or moving throughout the bus.
5. Stay seated when bus is in motion
6. No throwing items, shouting, or hanging out of bus windows



For more information, please contact Peggy Contreras, community police supervisor, at 255-3273.

EFMP Support Group meeting

An EFMP Information and Support Group meeting is scheduled for January 10 from 9 to 10 a.m., at the Center Library, Building 212, Fifth Ave. The topic for the meeting is "Available Resources for Individuals with Special Needs and Disabilities." Call ACS EFMP at 255-9277 for more information.

Army Emergency Relief Scholarships

The AER Spouse Education Assistance Program (SEAP) is available for spouses of active-duty, retired and deceased Soldiers. The SEAP Scholarships are based on financial need. Assistance is for part time or full time, first undergraduate studies only.

The MG James Ursano Scholarship Program is available for dependent children of active, retired, and deceased Soldiers. Children of a Grey Area Reservists or National Guard are eligible as retired members. The MG James Ursano Scholarship Program Scholarships are based on financial need, academics and leadership/achievement. Assistance is for full time, first undergraduate studies only.

Applications for the 2012-2013 school year are available online until April 2, 2012. Completed applications must be submitted by April 2, 2012. For more information and forms, log on to www.aerhq.org or call a scholarship counselor at 1-866-878-6378.



Green Corner – Green New Year's Resolutions

It's that time of year when we make promises about how we'll change ourselves in the upcoming new year. We look for ways to make a change in our lives, hoping for better health or a better job or less stress. Some resolutions are small; others are big life-changing challenges.

New Year's resolutions are often broken, especially if they are hastily made without thinking through the logistics. But if you take a few moments to think about what you want for the upcoming year, you're more likely to choose realistic commitments.

Going green is a great way to start off the new year, but it's such a broad term that the specifics of how you'll go green could end up taking a back seat to daily life. Instead of making a broad generalization, choose a few specific ways to green your life in 2012.

While making resolutions is a personal choice and the actual resolutions we make is a personal decision, consider some of the following suggestions for greener and cleaner living.

- Install timers so your lights will turn on and off at a certain time every night. Just make sure you reset the timers if the power goes out
- Keep the thermostat constant at 70 degrees or lower in cold weather months, 78 degrees or higher in the warm weather months
- Turn off lights when you leave a room
- Buy local at your neighborhood farmer's market. Buying from farmers markets or neighborhood grocers helps the local economy and also makes you feel like part of the community. This helps reduce "food miles," which contributes to climate change; the average meal travels 1,000 miles before it reaches your plate.
- Keep live plants in your home to naturally filter the air.
- Replace your cleaning supplies with biodegradable, non-toxic alternatives. Eco-friendly cleaning products are available at many grocers. Baking soda and vinegar substitute as great all-purpose cleaners. Other non-toxic household cleaners can be found at many stores.
- Recycle old batteries, they have toxic materials that don't belong in a landfill
- Replace bottled water with a reusable water bottle. Unless you're recycling them, they end up sitting in a landfill. Instead of buying bottled water, use a water filter. If you want to be able to take water with you, buy reusable containers.
- Reuse your grocery bags. Instead of getting paper or plastic grocery bags, take your own tote bags.

Fort Rucker Safety Gram

Button batteries are dangerous to kids, especially toddlers, and cause severe injuries when swallowed. Did you know.....?

- Coin-sized batteries are found in many devices: mini remote controls, singing greeting cards, watches, bathroom scales and flameless candles.
- If a battery is swallowed, do not let a child eat or drink. Do not induce vomiting; go to the Emergency Room Immediately!
- It takes as little as two hours to cause severe burns once a coin-sized lithium battery has been swallowed.
- Once burning begins, damage can continue even after the battery is removed.
- Kids can still breathe with the coin lithium battery in their throat. It may not be obvious at first that something is wrong.
- Repairing the damage is painful and can require multiple surgeries. The batteries can become lodged in the throat, burning the esophagus.
- In 2010 alone, more than 3,400 swallowing cases were reported in the U.S. 19 children sustained life-threatening or debilitating injuries and others died!

For more information, please contact the installation Safety Office at usarmy.rucker.usag.mbx.safety@mail.mil or 255-3000.



The Birthday Club is the 2nd Wednesday of every month at your Neighborhood Office from 3 to 4 p.m. Club members will enjoy cake and ice cream, have their picture taken and be recognized in the monthly neighborhood newsletter. For more information, please contact your Neighborhood Office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NEW CLUB MEMBERS!

Blake Priestler, Daniela Priestler, Catalina Smith, Rowdy Batts, Trevon Jacobson, Jeremy Turner, Landon Turner, Mikyia Gray, Esther Foster, Jeremy Gomez, Tyler Berndt

The January Birthday Club Celebration is Wednesday, January 11 from 3 to 4 p.m.

Munson Heights Neighborhood Center

The new Munson Heights Neighborhood Center opened in December 2011. This family-centered facility features the same amenities as the Allen Heights and Bowden Terrace Neighborhood Centers, but has a different look and feel. The Neighborhood Center features...

- A fitness room to test your endurance with cardio equipment and weight stations
- A media lounge complete with video games
- A multi-purpose room perfect for meetings, clubs and party events attached to a fully-equipped kitchen
- A clubroom with a pool table and television
- A computer lab with multiple, state-of-the-art computers, the latest software and high-speed Internet access, and
- Outside will feature a 25-meter, six-lane pool with beach-like entry with water features, and a playground for the kids to play on outside the pool gates.

The Neighborhood Center also houses the Munson Heights neighborhood management and maintenance teams. We'll be having a Grand Opening for the new Neighborhood Center Friday, January 27. If you have not had an opportunity to see the new Neighborhood Center, we encourage you to stop by and tour the facility.

Lawn Care Schedule

Lawn Care Schedule: Winter Schedule

See the Landscape Management Plan online at www.ruckerpicerne.com

There will be no mowing days for the month of January. However, residents will see landscaping crews in their neighborhood conducting weed control and pruning.

Quarterly Pest Control: Interior Treatments

January is Quarterly Pest Control month! It is not necessary for you to be present for services. In preparation for this service call, please secure all pets. To support efforts to maintain a comfortable living environment, it is critical we utilize preventive applications in each home. Thanks for understanding!

Our Family for Families First scholarship and grant applications available

Our Family for Families First, John G. Picerne's private charitable foundation, was established to support the educational goals of children and spouses of active-duty Service Members. College scholarships in the amount of up to \$50,000 for the children of active-duty Service Members and educational grants in the amount of \$5,000 are available each year for spouses of active-duty Service Members stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort Polk, Fort Bragg, Fort Meade, Fort Rucker, Fort Riley and Fort Sill. Scholarship and grant applications for 2012 are available online at www.ourfamilyfoundation.org. Scholarship applications are due February 16, 2012 and grant applications are due May 17, 2012. Please review the information located on the web site for eligibility requirements and to learn more about the Our Family for Families First Foundation.

The Foundation is committed to supporting military families in the pursuit of higher education, instituting a tradition of community service and encouraging professional career paths through education, internships, and mentoring programs and has awarded more than \$3 million since 2006. It also serves to further the primary mission of Picerne Military Housing – putting military Families First™.

Scale Back Alabama

Set to begin its sixth year in 2012, Scale Back Alabama is a statewide weight-loss contest that started in January 2007. The purpose of the 10-week contest is to encourage Alabamians to lose weight, to exercise and to have fun while doing it. Last year's campaign drew more than 33,000 people in almost every county with a cumulative reported weight loss of 143,309 pounds.

The campaign is geared toward adults and is primarily operated with the help of local employers (companies with 10 employees or more), hospitals and health departments. Each organization appoints one person to serve as the contact for the contest. Called the organization coordinator, this individual will have access to a comprehensive toolkit with everything needed for hosting a contest locally and serving as a weigh-in site. There is no charge for participating in the contest, and teams are eligible to win statewide prizes.

The Fort Rucker weigh-ins begin the week of January 23. For more information, please contact Denece Clayborne at 255-9915. You can also visit the Scale Back Alabama website at www.scalebackalabama.com.

JANUARY

New Year's Day
Offices Closed

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 New Year's Day Offices Closed	2 Office closed	3	4 Pest Control Call Backs due to your Neighborhood Office by noon on Wednesday	5 Pest Control Reps by appointment only	6	7
8 Recycling (curbside by 7:30 a.m.)	9	10	11 Birthday Club See Page 3 Pest Control Call Backs due to your Neighborhood Office by noon on Wednesday	12 Pest Control Reps by appointment only	13	14
15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Office open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	16	17	18 Pest Control Call Backs due to your Neighborhood Office by noon on Wednesday	19 Pest Control Reps by appointment only	20	21
22 Recycling (curbside by 7:30 a.m.)	23	24	25 Pest Control Call Backs due to your Neighborhood Office by noon on Wednesday	26 Pest Control Reps by appointment only	27	28
29 Recycling (curbside by 7:30 a.m.)	30	31	February Pest Control Call Backs due to your Neighborhood Office by noon on Wednesday	1 Pest Control Reps by appointment only	2	3
5 Recycling (curbside by 7:30 a.m.)	6	7	8 Pest Control Call Backs due to your Neighborhood Office by noon on Wednesday	9 Pest Control Reps by appointment only	10	11