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Coping with cancer
Josh Santos wants to share his story to help others recognize warning signs

By ANGEL McCURDY
Florida Freedom Newspapers

FORT WALTON BEACH—Just six months ago, Josh Santos was living his life with no regrets and no thoughts on the future. Now, the 23-year-old cannot stop thinking about life’s what ifs.

The Air Force reservist was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer six months after he returned last August from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan. Now, he’s fighting for his life and the lives of other young people facing similar struggles.

“It changes your life,” Santos said. “There’s no way I’ll ever be the same. How do you go back when you’ve been through this fight? You don’t. You just find new purpose.”

The brown haired, brown-eyed man doesn’t look like he’s fighting for his life. He sat back in the Santa Rosa Mall food court one recent afternoon wearing a T-shirt and board shorts.

The only difference between Santos and the patrons walking past him is the thoughts in his head.

“This affects you more than you think,” he said. “Life’s so different now. I’m just trying to stay chipper and stay awesome for everyone around me.”

The disease

The Duke Field pilot began to show symptoms of the cancer during his deployment. But because the signs were minimal, the thought of cancer never crossed his mind.

“His thought he was OK,” said Lisa Santos, Santos’ mother. “It happened again a few months after he came home from deployment, but it wasn’t severe until February, and that’s when we started bugging him to go to the doctor.”

With every doctor’s visit, Santos struggled to get anyone to look further into his cause. He was working out daily and said that aside from his symptoms he’d never felt healthier.

After each appointment he left with a new medicine to try and a new idea as to what was causing his pain and bleeding.

“That whole time I was still working, not thinking about cancer or life, but then in February the pain didn’t go away,” he said. “I had to beg for them to look more closely at me.”

The doctors again misdiagnosed Santos’ symptoms in February and sent him home. When the pain came again just two weeks later, the doctors decided to do more tests.

“I remember they sat me down and started out saying, ‘Well, we’ve got some bad news,’” Santos said. “Finally, they came out and told me it was cancer.”

Santos was set up with an appointment to remove the tumor that had developed in his colon, but on the day of his surgery another evaluation was done with more bad news: His cancer had spread.

“They told me I had two options. I could get the tumor cut out, but I would have to recover before I could start chemo, so that would be four to six weeks, which they said they weren’t sure I would live through, or I could start chemo and, hopefully, the tumor will shrink,” he said.

“I was in so much pain that I was ready for Option 1. You don’t feel cancer; you feel the tumor. But the best option was the chemo, so that’s where I’m at.”

Santos completed his second dose of chemotherapy treatments last week and is scheduled for six more treatments.

“I’ve done the research. I know what I’m dealing with and what’s going on in my body. I think anyone who’s going through this should do the same,” Santos said. “I want to fight. I’m 23. I have a lot of life left to live.”

The changes

For as long as he can remember, Santos has wanted to follow in his parents’ footsteps and serve his country. While other children dreamed of being teachers or doctors, Santos’ goal was to fly.

Santos was a member of a C-130 air crew in Afghanistan. But since his diagnosis, Santos fears his life in the Air Force will never be the
Special Forces Soldiers graduate qualification training

By DAVE CHACE
SWCS Public Affairs Office

FORT BRAGG, N.C.—The U.S. Army Special Forces regiment welcomed more than 120 men into its brotherhood during a Special Forces Qualification Course graduation ceremony May 17 in Fayetteville, N.C.

The ceremony, where the newest Special Forces Soldiers wore their green berets and the Special Forces tab for the first time, marked the completion of at least one full year of specialized, individual training at Fort Bragg, N.C. with the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

“The long, storied tradition of the legendary green berets began with just a few individuals who sought to strive for a higher standard of excellence in the profession of arms,” said Maj. Gen. Patrick M. Higgins, the ceremony’s guest speaker, to the graduates during the ceremony. “Now it’s your turn.”

Higgins is the director of the Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Organization, part of the joint staff in Washington, D.C. His first assignment as a Special Forces officer was as a detachment commander in 3rd Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in 1986, when the group was assigned to Fort Bragg. Since that time, Higgins has gone on to command 2nd Battalion, 5th SFG(A) at Fort Campbell, Ky., the 3rd SFG(A) at Fort Bragg and the U.S. Special Operations Command-Africa, headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany.

“Only through carefully, arduously and ruthlessly building the strength of the individual Soldier will we preserve the strength of the regiment,” Higgins said, acknowledging the graduates’ countless hours in training.

On July 12, 2010, Lewis witnessed a single-engine aircraft’s catastrophic crash at Horace Williams Airport in Chapel Hill, N.C. After the plane came to a halt, Lewis scaled a perimeter fence and ran more than 600 yards to the crash site to provide aid to the survivors. He found that the pilot was killed on impact but that the co-pilot was partially ejected from the wreckage and had suffered double below-the-knee amputations. Lewis saved the co-pilot’s life by applying improvised tourniquets to his legs and remaining with him while he was medically evacuated to a nearby hospital.

The Soldier’s Medal is awarded to any member of the United States armed forces or of a friendly foreign nation who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Army at the time of the heroic act, distinguished himself or herself by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. The same degree of heroism is required as that of the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, and performance must involve personal hazard or danger and the voluntary risk of life under conditions not involving conflict with an armed enemy.

Like Lewis and all SFQC graduates before them, the members of this gradu-
GRADUATE FROM PAGE 3

ing class will soon report to their first operational Special Forces assignment with one of the Army’s five active-duty or two National Guard Special Forces groups. In these assignments, the will work with host nations, regional partners and indigenous populations to shape the foreign political and military environments in order to prevent war.

“We live in a time of great consequence and change,” Higgins said. “Committed around the globe, the military continues to fight while simultaneously disengaging and reducing force structure. There has never been more of a demand for Special Forces.”

“Whether it’s destroying terrorist networks, stabilizing lawless regions or conducting humanitarian relief operations, rest assured you are trained and ready, and I have no doubt you will continue to bring honor and glory to our regiment,” he said to the graduates. “To navigate the uncertain conflicts of tomorrow, we must be able to deter, defeat and defeat aggression, not only by ourselves, but by, with and through our allies and partner nations.”

“America’s Army is the best-manned, best-trained, best-equipped, best-led and most decisive land force in the world,” Higgins said. “And the very best in the U.S. Army is its Special Forces.”

CANCER FROM PAGE 2

same.

“I don’t think I’ll ever fly again,” Santos said. “This is who I wanted to be. It’s what I wanted to do, but I don’t know if it will happen.”

For now, he continues to live his life as best he can while undergoing chemotherapy and dealing with the pain of his tumor. He said the hardest part is coping with his new reality.

“I’m reading a lot of books like Lance Armstrong’s book that talks a lot about how he handled the emotional part of all of this, because that’s been tougher than the physical part,” he said.

Santos said he has started going back to church and talking with spiritual leaders, but not about his cancer. He said he chooses to focus on his relationships and how he can be a support system for his friends and family.

“There are kids younger than me dealing with it, so I know I can,” he said. “If you look at somebody in their 40s with cancer they’re fighting to live; the kids, they’re fighting to play the next day and have fun. That’s the way I want to look at it.”

The biggest change for Santos has been day-to-day activities. Rather than going to work at Duke Field or at Crossfit, where he was a fitness coach, he’s working on staying positive.

“You wake up different because it constantly fills your mind,” Santos said. “I didn’t think a thing about it before, but once it happens to you it’s a different story. “Six months ago I was invincible and now I’m sitting in a room every two weeks while poison is being pushed into my body.”

The new life

Now, Santos said he has decided to focus on something other than his struggle with cancer. He said he wants to be an advocate for young people who may be ignoring the warning signs.

He wants everyone to understand it could happen to them.

“We had no family history of this. Josh is in good shape, he’s active and strong,” his mother Lisa said. “You would never know he has cancer. But we know he’s not alone.”

Lisa will host a benefit for her son that also will serve as a way for Josh to share his story. The event will be from 2 to 6 p.m. June 9 at the Rib Shack in Navarre.

“If this has taught us anything, it’s that young people need to be their own advocate,” she said. “These kids need to know what’s happening in their own bodies. I’m just sick thinking about what Josh is going through.”

Santos said he wants to ensure that other young people push for tests and proper diagnosis.

“Maybe if I would have taken the early signs more seriously I wouldn’t be dealing with Stage 4 cancer,” he said. “I’m lucky because I’m young and I can fight this. But everyone needs to know that this can happen to them.”

Santos said he hopes to speak at the benefit on the reality of his cancer and the treatment he is going through.

“There’s no way for anyone to understand this unless they go through it, but I can try and make it as real as possible,” he said. “Life will never be the same when you’re faced with something you have no control over. It makes you think.”

Bob Kerrigan, listed in Best lawyers in America for the last ten years, Law Dragon’s top 500 lawyers in the country, Florida Trend magazine’s Elite lawyers and the highest legal and ethical rating by Martindale Hubbell...

For 35 years attorney Bob Kerrigan has consulted with and represented military families when accidental injuries or death have occurred.

Call for a consultation…
Army Special Operations Command to remember fallen Soldiers

USASOC Public Affairs Office

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The U.S. Army Special Operations Command will honor 32 Special Operations Forces Soldiers killed while supporting combat operations during the past year in a ceremony, May 25, at 1 p.m. at the Fallen Special Operations Soldiers Memorial Wall adjacent to the USASOC headquarters building.

USASOC commanding general, Lt. Gen. John F. Mulholland will add the Soldiers’ names to the wall, paying tribute to them and more than 300 ARSOF Soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defending the United States in the war against terrorism.

Hundreds of family members, friends and special guests of those fallen Soldiers from many hometowns across the country are expected to attend.

After the Memorial Wall is unveiled, the names of those who died during current combat operations will be read. They are:

2012
- Master Sgt. Danial R. Adams
- Sgt. 1st Class Martin R. Apolinar
- Master Sgt. Benjamin F. Bitner
- Sgt. Aaron J. Blaso
- Spc. Ricardo Cerros
- Sgt. 1st Class Kristoffer B. Demej
- Sgt. 1st Class Wyatt A. Goldsmith
- Sgt. Tyler N. Holtz
- Pfc. Christopher A. Horns
- Staff Sgt. Michael W. Hosey
- Staff Sgt. Jeremy A. Katzenberger
- Sgt. Alessandro L. Plutino
- Capt. Waid C. Ramsey
- Capt. Joseph W. Schultz
- Master Sgt. Benjamin A. Stevenson
- 1st Lt. Ashley I. White
- Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin B. Wise

2011
- Sgt. Justin B. Allen
- Master Sgt. Mark W. Coleman
- Sgt. Andrew J. Creighton
- Spc. Joseph W. Dimock II
- Sgt. Ronald A. Kubik
- Sgt. Martin A. Lugo
- Sgt. Andrew C. Nicol
- Staff Sgt. Kevin M. Pape

FORT BRAGG, N.C. - The Special Forces Advanced Mountain Operations School course, based out of Fort Carson, Colo., is filling its classes of the Special Forces Senior Mountaineering Course throughout the summer of 2012. The school trains special-operations personnel to survive in and move through mountainous terrain during military operations.

Part of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, the SFAMOS is also known as A Company 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne).

The school will run three iterations of the Senior Mountaineering Course in 2012. The first, which is currently in progress, is scheduled to graduate June 8.

The course is scheduled to run two more times, from July 23 thru Aug. 30, and Sept. 10 thru Oct. 19.

The course is scheduled to run two more times, from July 23 thru Aug. 30, and Sept. 10 thru Oct. 19. This course is open to all special-operations personnel with mountaineering requirements within the U.S. Special Operations Command. Additionally, personnel in civilian government agencies with similar requirements may attend.

The six-week Special Forces Senior Mountaineering Course includes tactical mountain operations, field-craft training, horsemanship, animal packing instructions, equipment maintenance, high-alpine medical considerations and medical emergencies, weather forecasting, belaying techniques, casualty extraction, nighttime mountain operations, equipment hauling and the construction of improvised climbing equipment.

Graduates will have the ability to serve as their unit’s subject-matter expert in tactical military operations in mountainous terrain, lead untrained and indigenous forces over mountainous terrain, conduct pack-animal operations and have the ability to certify basic mountaineers for attendance to future iterations of the Senior course.

Additionally, Senior course graduates are qualified to attend the Special Forces Master Mountaineering Course, a four-week course held once each year, which integrates tactical-mountain operations in a winter environment. The next Master course is scheduled to run in February 2013.

Both courses are designed to host up to 22 students.

Special Forces units interested in sending personnel to the course should contact the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) G-3 office. Other interested personnel, or for more information, may contact the SFAMOS directly at (719) 524-1654.
Army team climbing Mount McKinley

By STAFF SGT. MATTHEW E. WINSSTEAD
U.S. Army Alaska Public Affairs

KAHILTNAGLAICER
BASE CAMP, Alaska
— Crowning a vast glacier and surrounded by other peaks of impressive magnitude rises Mount McKinley, also known as Denali (a Koyukon Athabaskan word meaning “The High One”). It stands as the tallest peak in North America and third highest in the world.

The mountain has a history of claiming the lives of unprepared climbers and offers some of the most treacherous terrain and harshest climates on the planet.

It’s exactly the kind of challenge a team of U.S. Army Alaska mountaineering experts is looking for.

Six members of the Army’s Northern Warfare Training Center cadre landed on the Kahiltna Glacier May 17 to begin a 14-to-20-day climb to the summit.

The NWTC trains Soldiers to fight and win in a variety of unforgiving environments. Its Black Rapids Training Center near Delta Junction, Alaska, offers courses in extreme cold weather operations and military mountaineering.

The NWTC team was shuttled in courtesy of two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crews from A Company, 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Brigade, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Even though this is a mission the U.S. Army hasn’t attempted since before the events of 9-11, the climbers are no strangers to mountaineering.

The NWTC instructors specialize in maneuvering on treacherous terrain in arctic conditions and say they’re ready for anything the mountain has to throw at them.

The team consists of five active-duty Soldiers and one Army civilian, each fully equipped with a tailored packing list of sustainment supplies and climbing gear.

“We’ve made sure to plan for everything from weather to altitude sickness,” said Maj. Gary McDonald, commandant of the NWTC, based at Black Rapids Training Area, Alaska.

“We’ll be moving in rope teams to help mitigate the danger from potentially falling into hidden crevasses and adhering to strict rest/movement plan.”

People typically experience altitude sickness at an
Climbing from Page 6

Elevation around 17,000 feet above ground level. Bodily functions begin to operate abnormally due to several factors, chiefly the lessened air pressure and reduced concentration of oxygen at the higher elevations, McDonald explained.

Some of the signs of altitude sickness can include altered mental states, a reduced ability to absorb nutrients, vertigo and decreased awareness along with a general feeling of being unwell, McDonald said.

With so many risk factors, this is no small mission for the members of NWTC.

They have planned meticulously for months to make everything happen safely and for some members of the team it is the opportunity of a lifetime.

“I’ve wanted to climb this thing for the last four years,” Sgt. Jacob Collins, an NWTC instructor said.

“I attended the mountaineering course back in 2007 as a (private first class) and I sorta fell in love with it. Ever since then, this mountain has been on my to-do list.”

In addition to meeting the personal goals of some of the team members, the climb is providing the consummate professionals of NWTC the perfect opportunity to hone their skills as they deal with conditions and travel methods most amateur climbers wouldn’t consider.

“Most of our early movements at the lower elevations will be done at night,” Staff Sgt. Brian Bailey said. “Nighttime provides us more protection from the heat and solar radiation reflected off the snow and ice and it also hardens the soft spots, allowing us to cross over them with less risk of falling through and into a crevasse. There’ll also be less traffic from other climbers to deal with, as the other climbers tend to travel during the day.”

Mount McKinley currently has an estimated 200 additional climbers on it at various levels, according to Denali National Park Service officials.

Steven Decker, a training specialist with NWTC and the team member with the longest tenure at the Northwest described the climb as a culminating training event using every technique and method taught at the schoolhouse.

“This is a capstone training event, similar to a unit going down to The Joint Readiness Training Center or Joint Readiness Training Center in the lower 48,” Decker said. “A climb of this magnitude refines critical skills helps establish a greater confidence in the methods we teach.”

In addition to his current service as an Army civilian, Decker was previously assigned to NWTC as a Soldier.

McDonald said training in such extreme conditions makes Soldiers more adaptable to any terrain and conditions.

“We do here makes us better as a fighting force,” he said. “Our Army might not always need to fight on terrain as harsh this, but having the ability and confident members who can make fighting on normal terrain that much easier.”

McDonald pointed out the vivid similarities between areas of the Black Rapids Glacier, where NWTC is located, and the mountainous regions of northern Afghanistan.

“There are photos of the mountains of Afghanistan that are completely indistinguishable from the landscape we have available here in Alaska,” he said.

“The terrain matches, the vegetation matches. The comparison is uncanny. The training benefits of such areas are invaluable and need to be used more than they currently are.”

In addition to summiting McKinley, the team has offered to assist in rescue missions conducted by the Denali National Park Service in their immediate area during the climb.

“While making it to the summit is a goal, it’s not the only goal we have in climbing the mountain,” McDonald said. “The park service has agreed to contact us in the event they receive word of a needed rescue in our immediate area, if that happens we’ll render any assistance that we can. While that may render our attempt to summit the mountain unsuccessful, we will do whatever we can to help out in those situations.”

The climbing team is currently making its way up Denali and rest at several camps along the way.

At the 17,000-ft. camp, the elevation is expected to begin affecting the climbers.

They are expecting the last leg of the climb to be the most strenuous and will have to conserve their resources for the climb down, where most fatalities traditionally occur.

“Just because you make it to the top doesn’t mean you’re done. You still gotta climb back down,” team member Sgt. Tony MacDougall said.
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Memorial Day scams target military families, supporters

By LT. COL. JEREMIE BARRETT
96th Security Forces Squadron commander

Memorial Day is a time to honor those who serve and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. It has also become a key opportunity for scammers to target those who are serving or have served their nation, especially elderly veterans. The Better Business Bureau urges consumers and donors to be on the lookout for deals that seem too good to be true, and for disreputable charities.

Among the scams to watch out for:

- People posing as Veterans Administration representatives who contact veterans to say they need to update their credit card, bank or other financial records with the Veterans Administration;
- Businesses that charge service members for services they could get for free or less expensive elsewhere, such as access to military records;
- Fraudulent investment schemes that convince veterans to transfer their assets into an irrevocable trust;
- Businesses that offer “instant approval” military loans, with language like “no credit check” and “all ranks approved,” that can have high interest rates and hidden fees;
- Businesses that advertise housing online with military discounts and incentives, and then bilk service personnel out of the security deposit;
- Businesses that try to sell things like security systems to spouses of deployed military personnel by saying the service member ordered it to protect his or her family;
- People who sell stolen vehicles at low prices by claiming to be soldiers who need to sell fast because they’ve been deployed;
- People who pose as government contractors recruiting veterans and ask for a copy of the job applicant’s passport (which contains a lot of personal information);
- People on online dating services who portray themselves as lonely service members in a remote part of Iraq or Afghanistan, and then ask for money to be wired to a third party for some emergency.

The BBB advises service members, veterans and all consumers never to give personal identification information (Social Security, bank account, military identification or credit card numbers, etc.) to anyone who contacts you by phone or e-mail, and to be wary of any solicitations that involve purchasing something or transferring money.

Consumers can check out businesses and charities for free at www.bbb.org.

NEW is Now Hiring Full-Time Positions in Crestview!
If you’re looking for a great career, we’ve got good news for you! NEW is now hiring full-time positions in Crestview! NEW was recently recognized as one of the ten “Best Places to Work” by the Washington Business Journal. NEW operates an inbound call center, where customers call in for help with extended warranties on products they bought at national retailers. Come grow with an industry leader poised for incredible growth and success. Learn more or apply at newcorp.com/careers

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Will Supreme Court review how states treat vets’ disability pay?

A disabled veteran has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to consider anew whether states violate federal law when they allow divorce courts to count a veteran’s disability compensation in calculating spousal support.

The petition also invites the justices to consider an issue that states are more sharply divided over: whether federal law bars state courts from considering VA disability benefits communal property to be divided in a divorce. In an interview, “One is not the veteran’s benefits,” Eisenberg said.

Eisenberg acknowledged that a Supreme Court ruling in favor of Barclay would not be a happy result for many former spouses of veterans. “But let us not forget these VA benefits are to make persons whole for loss of either physical or mental disability incurred while they are serving their country. The spouse gives the former spouse an advantage over the veteran, he said.

Barclay’s former spouse claims to have disabilities of her own. Eisenberg said relief should come from a state or federal assistance program such as Social Security Disability Insurance, not the veteran’s benefits.

Eisenberg disagrees. Disability pay, he said, is intended to compensate the veteran for loss of income due to a service-connected medical condition. If the veteran has a spouse, VA compensation tables set payments higher. But that extra amount, in recognition of the sacrifice the spouse makes in living with a disabled vet, stops if veteran gets divorced. That means the spouse has no direct claim on the compensation.

“If it’s not like the veteran’s disability caused the spouse a military-related disability,” Eisenberg said.

If a former spouse has no disability, she “has an advantage over the veteran” that the Oregon court should have considered and not try, using VA compensation, to “even the playing field.” Doing that gives the former spouse an advantage over the veteran, he said.

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**SPORTS BRIEFS**

From staff reports

**Florida Trail group activities**

The group has several activities planned for May and June.

- **May 26 - 27:** 8 a.m. a one night woman’s backpacking trip. Details: 850-729-0344.
- **June 2:** 9:30 a.m. celebrate National Trails Day with a short 1 mile hike around Anderson Pond.
- **June 3:** 9 a.m. a short hike on Eglin reservation followed by lunch (burgers and hot dogs). Eglin recreation permit required. Details: 850-492-8258 or 850-803-2000 or 850-916-5756.
- **June 13:** 9 a.m. bring your canoe or kayak for a paddle trip on Ecofina Creek. Details: 334-858-6448 or 302-528-2824.
- **June 26:** 6 p.m. the monthly meeting of the Florida Trail Association at Ed’s Hometown Seafood & Steaks in Niceville. Visitors welcome. Details: 850-654-1172.

**DISABILITY FROM PAGE 10**

is deemed to have no disabilities, certainly no disabilities from military service… There’s nothing in the record to reflect she can’t go out and get a job.

Barclay and his former spouse are in their early 40s. He is a veteran but not a military retiree. She worked at home throughout their marriage, raising children who are now grown.

The 1982 Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act (USFSPA) allows courts to distribute “disposable” military retired pay as marital property or as alimony or child support. But Barclay’s petition notes that the law also excludes disability compensation from the definition of “net disposable income” that can be divided under the USFSPA.

The petition also points to the Supreme Court’s 1989 Mansell decision in favor of a retiree who sought to reduce his spousal support when he won a disability award from the VA. When the retiree began drawing VA benefits, it lowered his military retirement being shared with the ex-spouse.

Despite the harmful impact on former spouses, the court said it had to follow the “plain and precise meaning” of the USFSPA. Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, now retired, dissented, writing that the majority was allowing VA disability compensation to warp the protections of the USFSPA. Barclay’s petition cites O’Connor’s dissent to point out that Congress hasn’t chosen to amend the USFSPA to address the concern. That means Congress still wants disability benefits protected from spousal support calculations, at least for military retirees, Eisenberg argued.

Arizona recently passed a law shielding veterans’ disability benefits from alimony calculations. Barclay’s petition refers to two other states in which VA disability benefits paid in lieu of retirement (Texas) are not subject to division as property or to alimony calculations (Vermont.)

Eisenberg argues it’s time the court addressed the states’ “various interpretations” and clarified the law in favor of his client and other disabled veterans. At least four justices would have to agree a review is merited.

Tom Philpott is a syndicated columnist. You may write to him at Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA 20120-1111 or at milupdate@aol.com.
MILITARY BRIEFS

Settlement of estate

Anyone with debts owed to or by the estate of SSG Andrew Britton-Mihalo must contact CPT Gabrielle Caldara, the Summary Court Officer for the Soldier. Call CPT Caldara at (850) 885-7250 or email gabrielle.caldara@us.army.mil.

Memorial Day ceremony

The Veteran’s Tribute Tower Committee will host the Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Beal Memorial Cemetery on Monday, May 28, at 11 a.m. During the traditional reading of the names of fallen comrades from the past year, guests and organizations are invited to place a fresh flower at the base of the flagpole and render appropriate honors.

Guest speaker for this year’s event will be Major General Select Michael J. Kingsley, Vice Commander, Air Force Special Operations Command, Hurlburt Field, with Army Chaplain Capt. Charles E. Shields, Ranger Camp and 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) providing the invocation and benediction.

For more information, call Tom Rice at 302-0266.

Youth Fishing Rodeo

Eglin Youth Fishing Rodeo is May 26-27 at Anderson Pond, 3 miles north of Niceville on East Side of U.S. Highway 85. The event is limited to children age 15 and under. Sign your children up for one of the May 26-27 time periods: 7-10 a.m., noon-3 p.m. and 4:30-7:30 p.m. (50 participants per period). Sign up with Jackson Guard through May 25 at 882-4165 or 882-4166.

Ultimate Day Camp

The Eglin Chapel will sponsor the Ultimate Day Camp, June 18-22 for children that have completed 1st - 6th grade. Cost is $70 for active-duty children and $90 for non-active duty children. To obtain a discount code, call the chapel at 882-2111.

Orientation Flights with Aero Club

Enjoy a spectacular bird’s-eye view of the beautiful Holmes Creek. Enjoy small springs and creeks as well as cypress, magnolia, and sweet gum trees along the way. Holmes Creek is a very easy paddle for an enjoyable day trip. Trip departs Post1 Point at 8 a.m. on Saturday, June 2. Cost is $35 per person and includes transportation, canoe, and lunch. Sign up at Outdoor Rec for information call 850-882-5058.

USO Holds Golf for Heroes event June 1

USO Northwest Florida Golf for Heroes will be held at AC Read Course. This fundraising event will help raise funds for USO Northwest Florida. A four person team scramble the event will feature a putting contest, lunch and fun times golfing. Deadline for entering the tournament is May 25 at 5 p.m. for the June 1 event. This fun, first time tournament on NAS AC Read Golf Course will be limited to the first 128 player (32 teams). Lunch will be provided. Format is a scramble and there will be a putting contest to enjoy as well as the normal golf event. All proceeds will go to benefit USO Northwest Florida. Registration can be mailed to: PO Box 33135, Pensacola FL 32504.

‘Movies on the Bay’ summer series

Outdoor Recreation will be hosting “Movies on the bay” at Camp Robbins on the following dates: June 8, July 13, Aug. 10, Sep. 7 and Oct. 19. Movies will begin at sunset. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, refreshments - all you need for your viewing comfort. Event is free and movies will be family friendly with a G or PG rating. Titles will be announced as show date approaches. For information, call 850-882-5058.