

This St. Patrick's Day,
plan before you party ■ 4A



El Paso VVA remembers
combat, recognizes veteran contributions ■ 1B

Thursday, March 16, 2017

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>> SLING MODE

Wendy Brown / Fort Bliss Bugle Managing Editor

Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade, attach a Conex box to a CH-47 Chinook during sling load training at Biggs Army Airfield here Friday. For more on this story, see page 8A.

Modernization hits the road

Lead-up training, integration activities move to Fort Campbell

By Vanessa Flores

ASA(ALT) System of Systems Integration Directorate Public Affairs

As the home of the Network Integration Evaluation, large-scale exercises that progress the Army's network through Soldier feedback, Fort Bliss is synonymous with modernization.

Now, after six years of making technological strides for Soldiers across the force, the NIEs are transforming to meet the Army's current mission by adding new venues and new units to the mix.

This summer at NIE 17.2, Soldier participation and feedback will come from a new test unit - Fort Campbell, Kentucky's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division. The 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., will be the first of several rotating units participating in the NIEs and Joint Warfighting Assessments (formerly the Army Warfighting Assessments), after the previously dedicated test unit, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, was reassigned for different missions. Although the formal NIE 17.2 event will still take place at Fort Bliss in July, lead-up training and integration activities are taking place at Fort Campbell with the 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div.

"Now that we do not have a dedicated test brigade, there is an opportunity to gain a fresh perspective,"



Vanessa Flores / ASA(ALT) System of Systems Integration Directorate Public Affairs

During Army Warfighting Assessment 17.1, two Soldiers work together in the Integration Motor Pool here Aug. 25, 2016.

1st AD Soldiers train on disaster response coordination

By Cpl. Von Marie Donato

1st Armored Division Public Affairs

Hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, floods and complex emergencies – the catastrophic results of these disasters require immediate expert attention and recovery at a moment's notice.

That's what the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and the U.S. Agency for International Development prepare for and respond to when needed.

OFDA's mandate is to save lives, alleviate human suffering and reduce the economic and social impact of disasters. The USAID serves as the first responders on behalf the U.S. government to lead and manage humanitarian assistance and disaster response around the world.

Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Armored Division, and Army Reserve Soldiers from the 410th Civil Affairs Battalion participated in a Joint Humanitarian Operations Course hosted by USAID at the Master Sgt. Roy B. Benavidez U.S. Army Reserve Center in El Paso March 1 and 2.

The objective of the course is to educate Soldiers on civil-military roles in an international disaster response scenario, describing the inner-workings of how the U.S. military and USAID cooperate with each another to provide effective and immediate disaster response.

"Soldiers taking this course will understand how the U.S. government responds to overseas disaster and how the military fits into the response

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Photos by Vanessa Flores / ASA(ALT) System of Systems Integration Directorate Public Affairs



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“What we see happening here with Fort Campbell is how we will operate in the future. We will still be able to leverage the expertise and processes that we have developed at Fort Bliss from an NIE and JWA perspective. However, we will also be able to leverage some of the existing exercises that are going on in the respective locations of other units.”

This new effort involves utilizing a combination of infantry, Stryker and armor units to fulfill the Army’s modernization exercise goals. It will also give participating brigades training experience on capability sets they may be equipped with in the future. By rotating in different formations, the Army will be able to assess how different units use the tactical network for their unique mission sets.

Systems Under Test, including the WIN-T Tactical Communications Node-Lite (TCN-L) and Network Operations and Security Center-Lite (NOSC-L), and the WIN-T Tri-Band Line of Sight (TRILOS), will remain the main focus of NIEs. Preparation is currently taking place at Fort Campbell to accommodate the 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., Airborne Soldiers. This includes working on phases such as platform integration, where

(Top) An integrator works on a vehicle in support of Network Integration Evaluation 17.2 in the Build Integration Facility at Fort Campbell, Ky., as a part of the Vehicle Platform Integration Design efforts Feb. 15.

(Left) Engineers work on the Vehicle Platform Integration Design efforts in support of Network Integration Evaluation 17.2 in the Build Integration Facility at Fort Campbell, Ky., Feb. 15.

engineers will be configuring the vehicles with radio and test equipment. This process will lead into the Golden Vehicle build, where prototype vehicles are built and used to replicate the fleet of vehicles for the exercise.

“Integration is going to be integration, no matter where we conduct the effort,” Harris said.

Nearly half of the Capability Package Directorate team is on site at Fort Campbell conducting the vehicle platform and integration design efforts. Simultaneously, they are proving their efforts are transportable and can be replicated at other units. The rest of the CPD team plans and prepares for the next few NIEs and JWAs, which now require more advance coordination under the new rotational construct.

“The Army is now having to plan for NIEs and JWAs four or five years out, and our team is aligning to meet that new norm,” Harris said. “The biggest change for us is from a planning and coordination perspective to support NIE, JWA, and potentially leveraging both events to evaluate prototypes accelerated through the Army Rapid Capabilities Office.”

Established last year, the RCO was set up to expedite critical technologies to the field, aiming to counter urgent and emerging threats, particularly pertaining to the areas of cyber, electronic warfare, survivability, and positioning, navigation and timing.

Going forward, the Army will conduct one JWA and one NIE annually. While the NIEs are designed to further integrate and rapidly progress the network, the JWAs provide a more experimental environment to help shape requirements and improve capabilities, with an emphasis on Joint and Multinational interoperability.

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process,” said retired Col. Steven D. Katz, a humanitarian assistance advisor-military for USAID and a course instructor at the JHOC. “They also gain understanding on how the international humanitarian community reacts to overseas disasters and how all the pieces fit together.”

“The course has helped our Soldiers understand the vast levels of coordination that are required with USAID, especially in regards to logistics, transportation, and financing,” said Maj. Bryan Harmon, chief of civil military operations for 1st AD. “It has also given our Soldiers a larger perspective, outside of the Department of Defense, showing that our interagency partners are critical in every effort we conduct.”

Mission readiness is key to every Army unit and is part of Maj. Gen. Pat White’s list of priorities as commanding general for 1st AD and Fort Bliss.

“Our relationship with USAID is an important one. They bring capabilities that the U.S.

military doesn’t have and vice versa,” Harmon added.

“For Soldiers deploying to the Middle East in support of current operations, this course is certainly beneficial due to the humanitarian crisis in Iraq and Syria,” Katz said. “As the U.S. government is conducting humanitarian efforts, the U.S. military is also conducting its operations and it’s helpful to have that awareness.”

The JHOC can benefit Soldiers from a variety of specialties including logistics, transportation, aviation, legal, operations, civil affairs, engineering (and) intelligence, just to name a few, Katz said.

“Each staff section can definitely gain different benefits from attending this course. This will only enhance our ability to plan and prepare for future operational missions,” Harmon said. “Understanding the interagency collaboration is beneficial for everyone.”

USAID annually hosts approximately 120 JHOCs for all U.S. military branches. For more information on hosting a JHOC at your military installation, email jhoc@usaid.gov.



Cpl. Von Marie Donato / 1st AD Public Affairs
Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Armored Division, and Army Reserve Soldiers from the 410th Civil Affairs Battalion listen to retired Col. Steven D. Katz, center, a humanitarian assistance advisor-military for the U.S. Agency for International Development, during a Joint Humanitarian Operations Course at the Master Sgt. Roy B. Benavidez U.S. Army Reserve Center in El Paso March 2.



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UNIT NEWS

Training is the oil that keeps the engine of our Army running



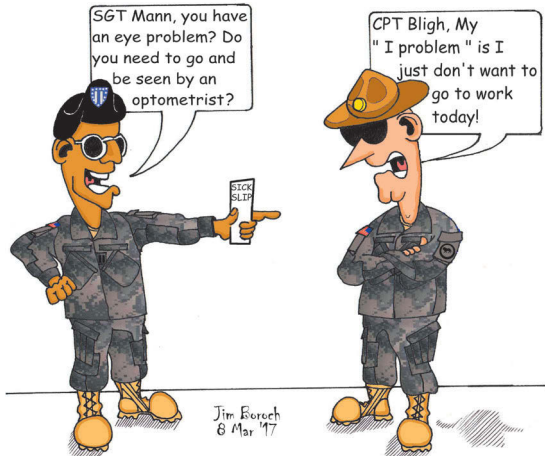
‘Archangels’ bid farewell,
welcome new first sergeant ■ 13A

Unit Briefs

Downed aircraft response exercise: The 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss will conduct a downed aircraft response rehearsal at Noel Field here at 10 a.m. Friday to validate the installation’s emergency response procedures. The roads surrounding Noel Field will be blocked off during the exercise, including Howze and Pleasonton roads on the east and west sides of the field and Pershing and Sheridan roads on the north and south sides. The exercise will ensure all parties involved are trained on procedures to minimize casualties and equipment loss in the event of an accident, regardless of unit or location, both at the training ranges and on-post.

Medical Simulation Training Classes: The schedule for MSTC classes is ready, and people can call 568-9649 or 568-6915 to sign up for a class. The free classes are available as retraining for medics or for Combat Life Saver training for nonmedical personnel.

Office Closure: The Fort Bliss Legal Assistance and Claims Offices, located on the first floor of Bldg. 113 on Pershing Rd., will be closed between 1-4:30 p.m. on April 4 and from 3-4:30 p.m. April 5 for training, and between 3:30-4:30 p.m. on April 11 for a unit function.



Spc. Ivon Perez, assigned to 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, plates her dish for judging during the quarterly Iron Chef training event at the Fort Bliss Culinary Center here March 8.

Iron chefs put cooking skills to test

By Abigail Meyer
Fort Bliss Bugle Editor

The pressure is palpable. Steam rises from dishes cooking on the stove and the kitchen is quiet, other than the sound of banging pots and pans. These chefs are serious about their cooking.

Eight culinary specialists assigned to various units across 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss competed in the quarterly Iron Chef training event at the Fort Bliss Culinary Center here March 8.

“From every DFAC on post. We give them a mystery basket, like you see on TV and they take that and add some chicken or fish and give it to them and they have a certain amount of time to do a menu,” said Staff Sgt. Guatrelle Spears, a judge and member of the Fort Bliss Culinary Team. “Then they present the menu to us and then they can start getting their supplies together.”

Soldiers had just 30 minutes to come up with recipes for a three-course meal. Pfc. Davon Arnold, assigned to 3rd Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division, went with a chicken and carrot soup.

“It’s kind of stressful, because for me, I



Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Davidson, left, and Staff Sgt. Gautrelle Spears confer during the quarterly Iron Chef training event at the Fort Bliss Culinary Center here March 8.

like to know what I’m cooking so I can get my ingredients ready,” Arnold said. “I kind of like how they do it like that because it makes you think. You have to work fast and efficient.”

The meal had to include a soup, salad and entrée. After figuring out what to make, they start cooking. They had about one hour to prepare four full meals, one for each of the three judges and one for display.

“They’re learning to enhance and do better things like fine-dining wise,” Spears said. “Whatever they learn they can take that to the dining facility and influence the other ones to do it.”

Time management and efficiency were critical. As the clock counted down, judges called out the remaining time over a bullhorn.

“They’re doing pretty good; everyone has different strengths and weaknesses,” Spears said.

Pfc. Davon Arnold, assigned to 3rd Sqdn., 6th Cav. Regt., CAB, 1st AD, works on his soup.



The thrill of victory, lessons learned in defeat

By Staff Sgt. Johnathan Hoover
11th Air Defense Artillery, 32nd AAMDC, Public Affairs

The Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 11th “Imperial” Air Defense Artillery Brigade, had two Soldiers compete in the 1st Armored Division Iron Chef of the Quarter Competition March 7-9 at the Fort Bliss Culinary Center here.

Sgt. Kaiden Nguyen of Riverdale, Georgia, and Spc. Devin Broussard of Houston, displayed the courage and tenacity to take on all of Fort Bliss for Imperial with Nguyen winning it all in the noncommissioned officer category.

“I felt like I accomplished something great, not really for myself but for my section,” said Nguyen.

“I have to get ready for the Iron Chef of the Year now,” said Nguyen. “I’m going to continue to study and expand my knowledge of all areas of preparation and presentation.”

This isn’t exactly Nguyen’s first time achieving this goal, winning his first competition at Fort Drum, but he did not win in his first competition here at Fort Bliss.

“Persistence really does pay off,” said Nguyen. “When you put your mind to something and you continue to work toward that goal, you’ll usually end up achieving it.”

“Win or lose, the lesson I would have taken back with me is how much this has improved my cooking skills and how much it showed me if I buckle down to something and put my mind to it, then I can achieve it,” said Nguyen.

Unlike Nguyen, this was Broussard’s first competition, and although Broussard didn’t win this time, he isn’t ready to hang it up and will be back.

“It was new to me so I’m still in the learning process,” said Broussard. “I hope during the next competition, I do better than I did in this competition.”

Nguyen added that just one time coming here and doing this will increase a Soldier’s knowledge. It makes better leaders, it makes a better Soldier and it’s just an all-around good competition, he said.

That’s exactly what it did for Broussard.

“I learned to try to stay calm, try not to get frustrated so I’ll do better on concentrating and focus,” said Broussard.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Davidson said the Soldiers of ADA don’t receive the same training on plate presentation for a competition like this. Most just work in the dining facility and that’s all they know.

“I think the cooking portion is the hardest portion,” said Nguyen.

Broussard agreed the cooking was the hardest part.

“I’ve never done culinary before and I just learned culinary from cooking in the dining facility. Here it’s all about art, presentation and time management. I’m used to cooking for everyone and not for looks,” said Broussard.

Nguyen suggested researching a few things before coming to this competition.

“Before coming to this competition, look at the food channel, check out Pinterest and just study up on everything,” said Nguyen.

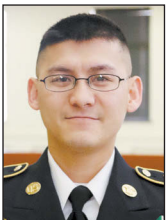
The competition also included a physical fitness test, weapons qualification, cooking portion and a knowledge board.

Nguyen said sometimes food service specialists are looked down on for the job they chose and people don’t consider them real Soldiers.

“I want everyone to see this competition and acknowledge cooks can do PT, we can shoot our weapons on the range, we go to the board, and with all that, we still have to demonstrate our culinary skills and put out a wonderful meal every day in the dining facility,” said Nguyen.

“As a Soldier, you should already be physically fit and you should already be able to shoot your weapon,” added Nguyen.

“The one thing I would like to add about this competition, if you’re a noncommissioned officer you should really urge your Soldier to do this,” said Nguyen. “It will set them up for the future Soldier of the Month board and promotion board.”



Sgt. Kaiden Nguyen

This St. Patrick’s Day, plan before you party

Remember: Buzzed driving is drunken driving

By Richard Depew
Fort Bliss Army Substance Program

Widely celebrated across the country, St. Patrick’s Day has become a dangerous holiday because drunken drivers take to the roadways.

The St. Patrick’s Day holiday period (6 p.m. March 16 to 5:59 a.m. March 18) from 2011 to 2015 saw the loss of 252 lives due to drunken-driving crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

In 2015 alone, 30 people (25 percent of all crash fatalities) died in drunken-driving crashes over the St. Patrick’s Day holiday period. During post-party hours, between midnight and 5:59 a.m., nearly a third of crash fatalities involved drunken drivers.

Drunken driving kills more than 10,000 people each year in our country, and every single one of those deaths is preventable.

Planning ahead is the key to staying safe after you’ve been drinking. Before the party starts, make a plan for how to get home safely and to stay out of jail.

Buzzed driving is drunken driving. Alcohol and driving don’t mix.

There’s no such thing as being “OK to drive.” Just one or two drinks can impair your judgment and increase the risk of getting arrested for driving drunk – or worse, causing a crash and killing yourself or someone else – if you get behind the wheel.

Many factors determine the effect alcohol has on your body, and it can vary from person to person depending on factors such as your weight and when and what you last ate.

Too many people wait until after they’ve started drinking to figure out how they will get home, but by then, it’s too late to make a clear-headed decision.

Drinking after driving is deadly dangerous and never worth the risk of injuring or killing yourself or others.

Drinking and driving will cost you, possibly your life.

Impaired driving causes tragedies year round. According to NHTSA, 35,092 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2015, and 10,265 (29 percent), of those fatalities occurred in drunken-driving-related crashes.

If you’ve been drinking and then get behind the wheel, you run the risk of causing a crash or getting arrested for a DUI.

If you are convicted of a DUI, you could face jail time, the loss of your driver’s license, higher insurance rates and other expenses including attorney fees, court costs, car towing and repairs, and lost wages due to time off from work. There’s also the embarrassment, humiliation and consequence of telling family, friends and employers of your arrest.

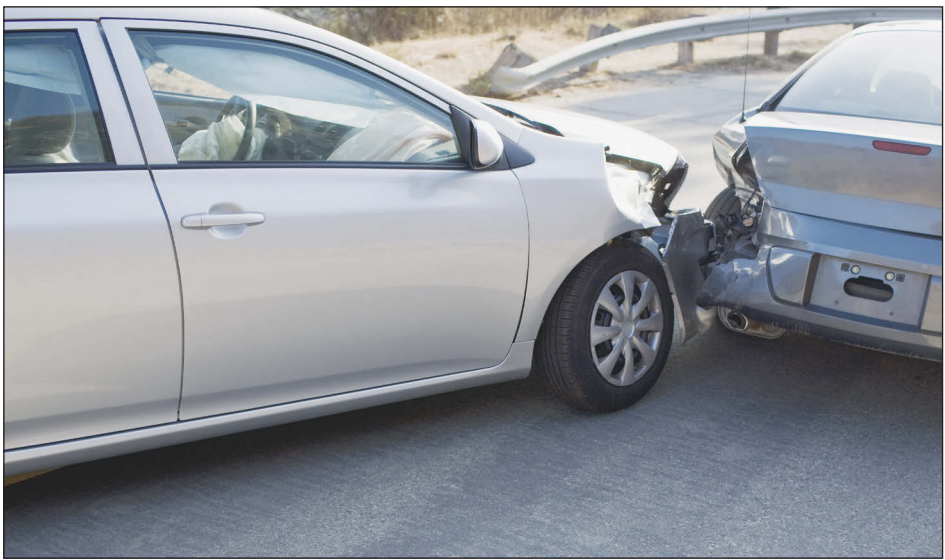
The average DUI costs about \$10,000. The costs for public transportation, a taxi or a shared ride home are one of life’s biggest bargains compared to the cost of an arrest.

Plan your sober ride home before you party.

A safe, sober ride home is an essential part of any plan that includes drinking.

Before celebrating St. Patrick’s Day this year, decide whether you’ll drink or you’ll drive. You can’t do both.

If you’re planning on driving, commit to staying sober.



If you have been drinking and need a sober ride home, there are many options. Call a taxi or sober friend or family member, use public transportation or (insert your local sober ride program specifics here). Also, try NHTSA’s SaferRide mobile app, which helps users call a taxi or a sober friend for a ride home, and helps to identify their location so they can be picked up.

Help those around you be responsible, too. Walking while intoxicated can also be deadly, as lack of attention could put you at risk of getting hit by a vehicle. If someone you know is drinking, do not let that person

get behind the wheel and help the person find a sober ride home.

If you see someone who appears to be driving while drunk, call the police. Your actions could help save a life.

But remember this St. Patrick’s Day: Plan before you party. Buzzed driving is drunken driving.

Contact the Army Substance Abuse Program at 744-5148 for more information on DWI prevention to include tips for those that may be hosting celebration festivities. For a free ride home call Sun City Cab at 544-2211.



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Women’s History Month observance: Together, everyone achieves more

By Abigail Meyer
Fort Bliss Bugle Editor

March is Women’s History Month, a time when the nation reflects on women’s contributions to society through the years. It’s a nationwide observance and, for the Army, serves as a time to recognize achievements by female Soldiers.

The U.S. Sergeants Major Academy hosted an observance in the Kenneth W. Cooper Lecture Center here Friday, packing the room.



Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham

This year’s theme is honoring trailblazing women in business and labor and aims to show special recognition to the achievement of women in the labor force and business. Guest speaker Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham, assistant chief of staff for Installation Management, spoke to the assembly.

“It’s a very fitting and exciting time to reflect on the outstanding commitment, sacrifice and achievement of our women warriors and our Army civilians,” Bingham said. “We recognize the triumphs and trials, the inspiration and determination of so many women who have made our Army what it is today. A shining beacon of freedom and opportunity. A place of inclusion, diversity and outstanding leadership.”

Bingham has served in the Army for more than 35 years, including a stint as commanding general of White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

“During my own 35 years of duty, I’ve seen the Army make tremendous progress recognizing the importance of equality and diversity regardless of gender, race, religion or creed,” Bingham said. “I too am grate-



Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham, at podium, assistant chief of staff for Installation Management, speaks to the students of U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy during a Women’s History Month observance at the Kenneth W. Cooper Lecture Center here Friday.

ful to stand on the shoulders of pioneers who have come before me. I’m proud to see women in the military and public service continually accomplish significant milestones. It’s no secret that women play a vital role in today’s Army.”

Bingham said the month serves to remind us of the strength our Army and nation has gained and will continue to gain through offering more opportunities for women.

“With all MOSs (military occupational specialties) now open to women, we have seen our first women graduates of both armor and infantry officer basic leader courses,” Bingham said. “They’re following on the trail blazed by those who have gone before them and blazing their own as they push forward.”

During the observance, students assigned to USASMA recognized and highlighted several women in business and former Soldiers.

“During this important month, in honor of all of our women Soldiers, today, past and present, let us all continue eradicating any and all inequities facing women in our Army and society today,” Bingham said. “While we have made enormous progress and strides over the last decade, there is still much more work to be done. After all, true parity is in the eye of the beholder.”

Bingham said the Army knows that integrating women into military positions makes the Army and armed forces a stronger team.

“We can and we should take pride in all that we have achieved as a service and what

“We recognize the triumphs and trials, the inspiration and determination of so many women who have made our Army what it is today. A shining beacon of freedom and opportunity. A place of inclusion, diversity and outstanding leadership.”

>> Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham

women have achieved as civilians, Soldiers, teammates. Together, everyone achieves more,” Bingham said. “We are not a perfect Army, but we are leading our nation in so many ways as it relates to equality, diversity and opportunity.”

Master Sgt. Kathy Cade, a USASMA student, found Bingham’s speech inspiring and said it’s important to remember the trailblazers of the past.

“In the military, being the standard bearers that we are, even to the civilian world for outside of the military, it’s important that we lead the way in honoring those who led the way,” Cade said. “Having met her today is even more inspiration that I can be whatever I want to be. As she said, ‘If I can conceive it and believe it, then I can achieve it.’”

Congress designated March as Women’s History Month in 1987 to encourage the observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. To learn more about women’s service in the Army go to www.army.mil/women.

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From the Field

➤ PREPARING THE TROOPS



Staff Sgt. Russell Horton talks to Pvt. Ephrium Ni left, both assigned to Helicopters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade, during sling load training at Biggs Army Airfield here Friday. Spc. Ethan Fleck, far left, and Spc. Kevin K to him, await another training.

(Above right) A team of soldiers lock arms so they don't as they run out from under the powerful blades of a Chinook.



Spc. Dylan McNatt, upper center, assigned to the 2nd Bn., 501st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Armored Division, delivers communications from the bottom of a CH-47 Chinook as it hovers above a Conex box during sling load training at Biggs Army Airfield here Friday. Cpl. Andres Rios, in sunglasses, assigned to HHC, STB, 1st AD Sust. Bde., prepares to climb off the box with two fellow Soldiers.

TRAIN AS YOU FIGHT

1ST ARMORED DIVISION

1st AD Sust. Bde. conducts hands-on sling load training

Story and photos by Wendy Brown, Fort Bliss Bugle Managing Editor

■ BIGGS ARMY AIRFIELD, Texas – One after the other, groups of Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade, ran out to a Conex box here Friday for sling load training.

Two Soldiers held a ladder and stayed below while four, and sometimes five, Soldiers climbed up and hooked the box to a CH-47 Chinook hovering a few feet from their heads. Then, back down the ladder they went, and the Soldiers all linked arms to support each other as they ran away from the box and the helicopter. A hovering CH-47 can produce a downwash of up to 94 mph 50 feet away from the helicopter, according to one Army study.

When everyone was safely out of the way, the helicopter briefly lifted up the empty box and put it back down for another round. Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st AD, assisted with the training.

Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Phipps, assigned to HHC, STB, 1st AD Sust. Bde., said organizers relied on the old Army standard of “train as you fight” when putting together the training for the brigade’s 18-member sling-load team.

“Everything we do, if we have the capability on post, we like to implement (elements of reality) to make sure our guys are better prepared for a combat situation,” Phipps said. “It’s going to be fast and expedient downrange, so we want to make sure that we’re doing our part to support the warfighter.”

The training included one day of classroom training, another day of rigging training and one day of the hands-on training on the airfield, Phipps said.

In addition to the Conex box, the Soldiers also practiced hooking up a 1,500-pound load of meals ready to eat to the Chinook. Three at a time, the Soldiers attached the load’s netting to the bottom of the helicopter and quickly got

out of the way so the helicopter could lift it up.

Cpl. Andres Rios, assigned to HHC, STB, 1st AD Sust. Bde., said brigade officials pulled Soldiers from different military occupational specialties for the sling load team, and he worked as a mechanic before joining the team about six months ago. Others are ammo and supply specialists.

Rios said he has participated in the training before, and he can’t help but find the training realistic every time the helicopter flies over his head.

“It’s the bird coming at you for me,” Rios said. “... After the initial gust of wind, you stay calm and do everything right.”

Sgt. Maj. Gavine Roache, sergeant major, Support Operations, 1st AD Sust. Bde., observed the training to ensure the Soldiers were doing everything safely.

An experienced sling loader, Roache said sling loading is an important option for commanders.

“Sling load training is important because it gives the commander a second option for resupply and it exposes less people to the risk of (improvised explosive device) and all those enemy actions that produce casualties,” Roache said. “It’s by far the quickest way to get supplies to our units out there in theater.”

For a few members of the team, the training was the first time they had participated in hands-on sling load training.

Pvt. Kwasi Kwarteng, assigned to HHC, STB, 1st AD Sust. Bde., said he had a healthy fear of standing right below a hovering Chinook, but used his Army training to face that fear and in the end found it exciting and fun.

“It was a good experience,” Kwarteng said. “Doing hands-on training, facing risk like this and doing something to support the Army with transportation and everything, that’s the exciting thing about it.”



Spc. Sharnell Garrett, left front, assigned to HHC, STB, 1st AD Sust. Bde., attaches a Conex box to a CH-47 Chinook with two fellow Soldiers.

“It’s going to be fast and expedient downrange, so we want to make sure that we’re doing our part to support the warfighter.”

>> Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Phipps



A team of Soldiers assigned to HHC, STB, 1st AD Sust. Bde., lock arms so they don’t fall over as they run out from under the powerful blades of a CH-47 Chinook during sling load training at Biggs Army Airfield here Friday.



Pvt. Deandre Haynes, right, communicates with Cpl. Andres Rios, left, both assigned to HHC, STB, 1st AD Sust. Bde., during sling load training at Biggs Army Airfield here Friday.

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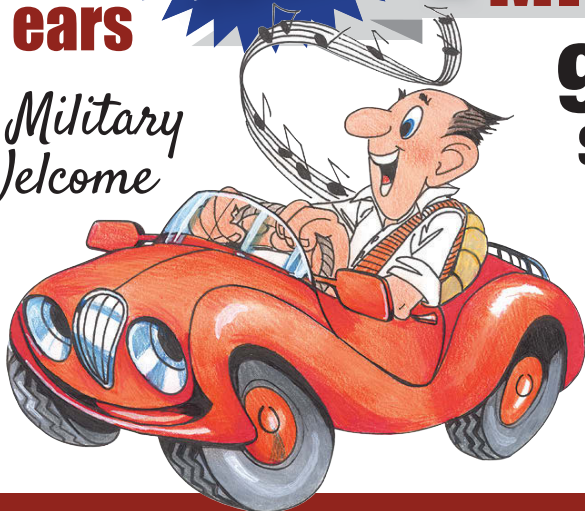


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W-F	0730-0900	1200-1330	1530-1700
THU	0730-0900	1200-1330	1530-1700
WKND	BRK: 0800-0930 LUN: 1200-1330 DIN: 1700-1830		

MARCH 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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F	0730-0900	1130-1300	closed
Grab & GO	1630-1800		Friday 1530-1700

March 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	




Area 1A (Far East Fort Bliss)
Bldg. 21214
Bayonet Ave.

	BRK	LUN	DIN
M-T	0730-0900	1130-1300	1700-1830
W-F	0730-0900	1130-1300	1700-1830
THU	0730-0900	1130-1300	1530-1700
WKND	BRN 0930-1300 SUP 1700-1830		

March 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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March 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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THU	0730-0900	1200-1330	1530-1700
WKND	BRN 1000-1300 SUP 1700-1830		

March 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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1st Lt. John Hensley Williams / 3rd Bn., 43rd ADA, 11th ADA Bde. Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, "Legion," 43rd Air Defense Artillery, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, conducted a quarterly safety stand-down day in preparation for the Presidents' Day weekend on Feb. 16.

3rd Bn., 43rd ADA, stands down for safety

By 1st Lt. John Hensley Williams
3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery, 11th ADA Brigade

Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, "Legion," 43rd Air Defense Artillery, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, conducted a quarterly safety stand-down day in preparation for the Presidents' Day weekend on Feb. 16.

Covering everything from cold weather safety to Sexual Harassment Assault Response Prevention and equal opportunity, representatives from the battalion's eight batteries presented classes to all of Legion at the company operations facility.

Battery A led winter safety and cold weather injury prevention training, and Battery B's Staff Sgt. Jon Moseley, a PATRIOT launching station enhanced operator and maintainer, presented to the battalion a SHARP class that included the video "Tea." The video's main idea: If someone doesn't want tea, you shouldn't try to give them tea, and the same goes for sex.

Staff Sgt. Alberto Brau, a PATRIOT launching station enhanced operator and maintainer assigned to Battery C, gave an interactive presentation on EO and presented the training in the context of the Army workplace.

Staff Sgt. Peter Castillo, a PATRIOT launching station enhanced operator and maintainer assigned to Battery D, led a class on firearm and alcohol safety. He taught Soldiers the rule of the law for firearm ownership and concealed carry.

An instructor from Battery E, the Legion's maintenance company, gave a class on stress and stress reduction. As the Legion's maintainers transition into a heavier rotation of access control point presence, that training is sure to be useful.

The two Terminal High Altitude Area Defense batteries that comprise the Legion's upper tier air defense, also took a full role in the training.

Battery A, 4th Air Defense Artillery's instructor reiterated the importance of suicide prevention and "Ask, Care, Escort" training. Battery B, 2nd Air Defense Artillery's instructor taught something that is of significance particularly to the returning air defenders: vehicle safety and driver's training.

The reinforcement of these important subjects during a demanding operations tempo serves to bring safety to the forefront of the thoughts of Soldiers before any long weekend.



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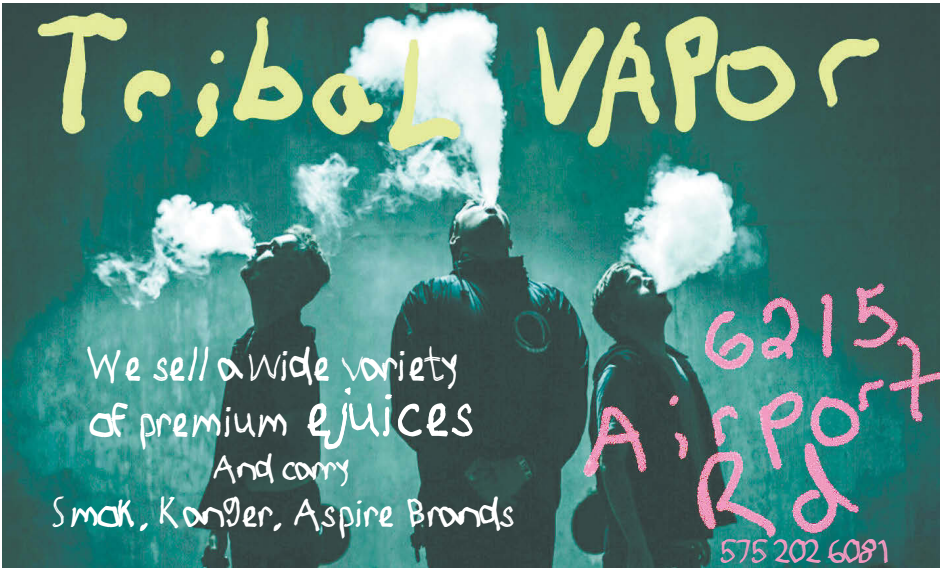
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Photos by Staff Sgt. Johnathan Hoover / 11th ADA, 32nd AAMDC, Public Affairs



‘Archangels’ bid farewell, welcome new first sergeant

By Staff Sgt. Johnathan Hoover
11th ADA, 32nd AAMDC, Public Affairs

The Soldiers of Battery A, “Archangels,” 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, 11th “Imperial” Air Defense Artillery Brigade, gathered for a change of responsibility ceremony at Imperial Field here March 3.

The Archangels said a heartfelt farewell to 1st Sgt. Andrea Garza and welcomed back 1st Sgt. Howard Hill, who previously served as the battalion’s first sergeant.

“I’m back in my home turf,” Hill said.

Hill thanked the brigade’s command for allowing him to return and the opportunity to deploy with the battery.

“I’m excited to be back here and excited to deploy once again with this unit,” Hill said.

The 11th ADA is the largest, most deployed air defense unit in the Army. Each battery within the brigade must always be ready to be activated, and that includes the Archangels.

Whatever the future holds, Hill said he is focused on mission success.

“Right now, the focus is to get through upcoming training, deploy downrange and return safely with every Soldier,” Hill said.

While one is focused on the future, another will have memories of serving as first sergeant of the Archangels.

“I had some great troops, some great Soldiers, so today is a sad, sad day,” Garza said.

The Archangels are the best battery in the brigade, Garza said.

“I’m going to miss my Soldiers, taking



First Sgt. Howard Hill assumes his position as the new first sergeant of Battery A, “Archangels,” 5th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery, 11th “Imperial” Air Defense Artillery Brigade, after completing a change of responsibility ceremony at Imperial Field here March 3.

care of them and having the opportunity to be a part of their life, and hopefully I made a lasting impression on them which will be positive on them to further their careers to do good things,” Garza said.

The Archangels will truly miss Garza, but the brigade will keep the exceptional first sergeant within its ranks as the rear-detachment first sergeant for 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery.

(Top left) First Sgt. Andrea Garza passes the noncommissioned officer sword to Command Sgt. Maj. Suarez, command sergeant major, 5th Bn., 52nd ADA, 11th ADA Bde., relinquishing her responsibility as first sergeant of Battery A, “Archangels,” 5th Bn., 52nd ADA, 11th ADA Bde., in a change of responsibility ceremony at Imperial Field here March 3.

(Left) Suarez presents the noncommissioned officer sword to 1st Sgt. Howard Hill, acknowledging his acceptance of responsibility of Battery A, “Archangels,” 5th Bn., 52nd ADA, 11th ADA Bde., during a change of responsibility ceremony at Imperial Field here March 3.

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DWI Statistics for FY17

Total DWIs			
Unit	% of Bliss Population	% of Total DWI	DWIs
BMC	0%	0.00%	
32ND AAMDC	1%	0.00%	
11TH ADA BDE	10%	4.26%	2
JTF North	0%	0.00%	
1/1 AD	15%	27.66%	13
2/1 AD	14%	21.28%	10
3/1 AD	15%	6.38%	3
1AD CAB	9%	12.77%	6
1AD DIVARTY	1%	12.77%	6
1AD SUST BDE	5%	6.38%	3
5th AR BDE/402ND	1%	2.13%	1
31ST CSH	1%	0.00%	
93D MP	3%	4.26%	2
204th MI	1%	0.00%	
86th ESB	2%	2.13%	1
80th CA	1%	0.00%	
HHBN 1AD	3%	0.00%	
Garrison	0%	0.00%	
WBAMC	4%	0.00%	
USASMA	2%	0.00%	
TOTALS			47

Drug Statistics for FY17

Total Drugs Offenses						
Unit	% of Bliss Population	% of Total Drugs	Drugs (UA)	Drug Poss	Drug Distro	Total Drug Incidents
BMC	0%	0.00%				0
32ND AAMDC	1%	0.00%				0
11TH ADA BDE	10%	6.02%	10			10
JTF North	0%	0.00%				0
1/1 AD	15%	28.92%	31	14	3	48
2/1 AD	14%	24.10%	37	3		40
3/1 AD	15%	6.63%	9	1	1	11
1AD CAB	9%	7.23%	10	2		12
1AD DIVARTY	1%	11.45%	17	1	1	19
1AD SUST BDE	5%	8.43%	14			14
5th AR BDE/402ND	1%	0.00%				0
31ST CSH	1%	0.00%				0
93D MP	3%	1.81%	3			3
204th MI	1%	0.00%				0
86th ESB	2%	4.22%	4	2	1	7
80th CA	1%	0.00%				0
HHBN 1AD	3%	0.00%				0
Garrison	0%	0.00%				0
WBAMC	4%	1.20%	2			2
USASMA	2%	0.00%				0
TOTALS			137	23	6	166

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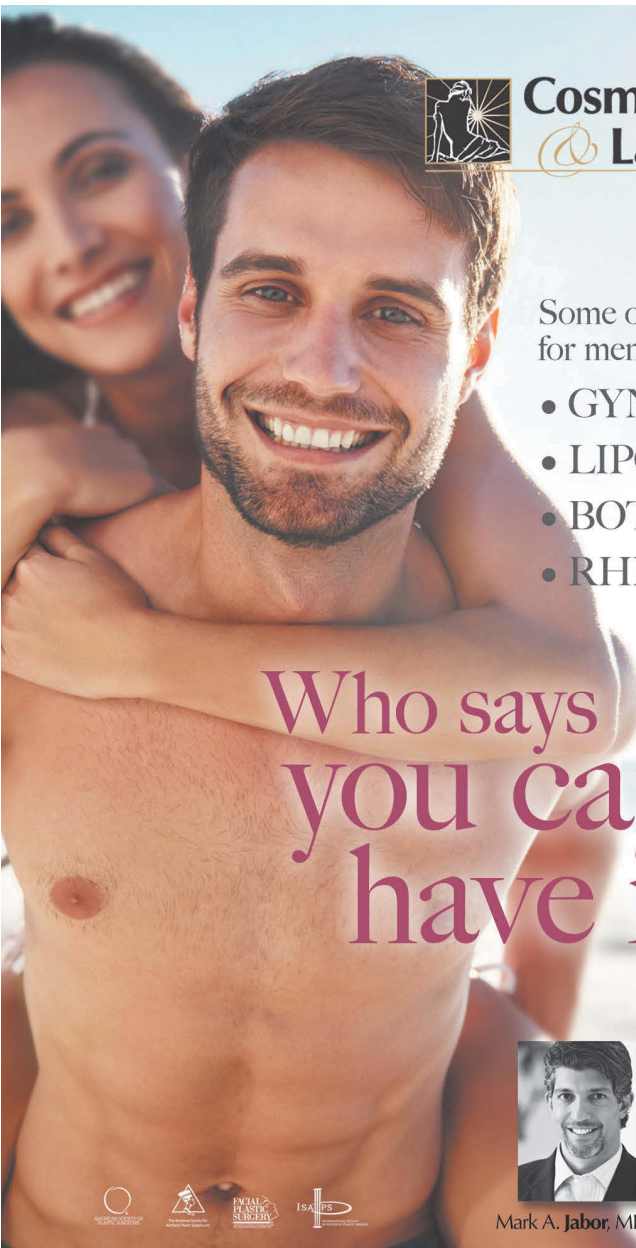


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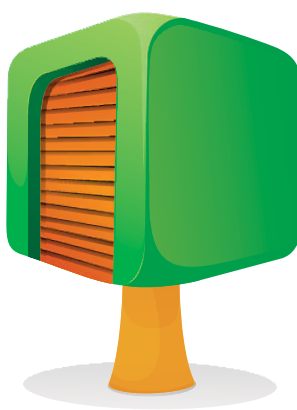
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Things to do ...

Freedom Crossing St. Paddy's Fest: A celebration of green, gold and good luck will take place Thursday through Saturday on the grounds of Freedom Crossing at Fort Bliss. There will be live music over the course of three days. The schedule of daily activities and band performances is available at www.freedomcrossingatfortbliss.com. This event is free and open to the public. To enter Fort Bliss during the event, drivers must show a valid U.S. driver's license or other U.S. government issued ID at the Buffalo Soldier, Chaffee or Sheridan gates. Freedom Crossing is located at 1611 Haan Road.

Chefs and Stars Chef Competition: Rebuilding Together El Paso hosts this culinary experience with six local chefs and six local celebrities 5-10 p.m. Saturday at Epic Railyard Center, 2201 E. Mills. Taste all six recipes in three categories then vote for the favorite chef. Cost: \$25-\$75. 519-0063 or chefsandstars.com

'Alamogordo to Ireland, via Alaska': The New Mexico St. Patrick's Day Party featuring Alaska's Fiddlin' Poet, Ken Waldman is at 7 p.m. Friday at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts, 1110 New York Ave, Alamogordo, N.M. Waldman is joined by friends and musical guests including Steve Smith, Tim May, Russ Bradburd and Bayou Seco with Ken Keppeler and Jeanie McLerie and Scott Mathis and Linda Askew. Tickets: \$15, \$25 and \$35. (575) 437-2202 or flickingercenter.com

Cook the Book: Do you enjoy sampling and sharing new dishes? Then grab your apron and sign up for Cook the Book Saturday from 4-5:30 p.m. at Mickelsen Community Library. The library will pick the cookbook, you select and make the recipe, then share the finished products. This month's cook book will be Italian. Each month will feature a different cookbook and theme. Please see the adult circulation desk at the Mickelsen Library to select your recipe and sign up. 568-1902

Las Cruces Arts Fair: Doña Ana Arts Council's 7th annual regional juried fine arts event is 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday in the Las Cruces Convention Center, 680 University. More than 100 artists from around the county will participate, with artists' demonstrations, silent auction and more. The silent auction benefits Doña Ana Arts Council. Admission: \$8 per day; free for children under 12. (575) 523-6403 or DAArts.org

St. Patrick's Day: Ardovino's Desert Crossing is hosting its 13th Annual St. Patrick's Day Party on Friday. Join us for traditional Irish food and drinks, live music by The San Patricios and The Fox and the Sound. Cover charge: Adults \$10 and children \$5. Doors at Sunset Hall open at 5 p.m. (575) 589-0653

Hueco Tanks Birding Hike: Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site is visited by more than 200 different species of birds throughout the year, and this is your chance to see some of them. Whether you are a birder or just curious how to tell one bird from the other, this tour is for you. The tour starts at 8 a.m. Saturday. Please be aware that there will be a \$2 fee for the tour in addition to the admission fee to enter the park. To reserve a spot on the tour, call 849-6684.

El Paso Holocaust Museum: The El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center is featuring a traveling exhibit, "Vedem: The Underground Magazine of the Terezin Ghetto," through May 31. The interactive, multi-media exhibit tells a powerful story of teenage resistance and resilience during the Holocaust. There is no charge to attend the exhibit opening or to tour the exhibit. 351-0048

Fort Bliss Youth Bowling League: Does your child love to bowl? Help us bring youth back to bowling and bring your child to Desert Strike Lanes for the Fort Bliss Youth Bowling League. There are tournament and scholarship opportunities available. The league will be at 10:30 a.m. every Saturday at the facility. This is a sanctioned U.S. Bowling Congress youth league. Cost: \$10 for membership and \$10 per week for league lineage and prize fund. 568-6272

Trinity Site tour: The New Mexico Museum of Space History is hosting a motor coach tour to the Trinity Site, the place where U.S. officials detonated the world's first atomic bomb in July 1945, on April 1. Area historian Pete Eidenbach will accompany guests on the coach, giving an in-depth talk on the bomb, its history and the effect it had on the world, and more. Cost: \$60 for museum members; \$70 for all others. For reservations, call 575-437-2840 ext. 41132 or email msh.info@state.nm.us.

Downtown Artist and Farmers Market: The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department's market for area artists and regionally grown agricultural products is 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each Saturday in the Union Plaza District along Anthony Street. 212-1780 or elpasoartsandculture.org



Photos by Staff Sgt. Ricardo J. Branch / Fort Bliss Garrison Public Affairs

Humberto M. Nevarez, president, El Paso Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 574, salutes the flag, signaling the start of the group's monthly meeting at the Veterans of Foreign Wars post 10354 in East El Paso March 8.

El Paso VVA remembers combat, recognizes contributions of combat veterans

By Staff Sgt. Ricardo J. Branch
Fort Bliss Garrison Public Affairs

Two veterans, one from World War II and the Korean War, and the other from the Vietnam War, struggled to keep their composure as they stood before the members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 574, in East El Paso March 8 and praised their country.

"Everyone who has served and still serves deserves to be recognized for their contributions while in the military," said former Spc. Michael De La Rosa, a Vietnam veteran and recipient of an award certificate from the VVA. "It comes with a lot of sacrifice to wear the uniform."

Both combat veterans, hailing from different parts of the country, came to the night's event at the behest of the local VVA to honor them for their military service and for enduring some of the hardest fought wars in U.S. history.

"Serving back then was an interesting experience for me," De La Rosa said. "In 'Nam, you had to prove yourself pretty quickly after you arrived because you were the bottom of the totem pole ... once you proved yourself and more people arrived, you were OK."

De La Rosa, 65, from San Antonio, remembers why he enlisted in the Army and eventually fought for his country in Vietnam.

"I joined when I was just 17 years old," he said. "I joined more so to get out of the house and see the world. I wanted to travel as much as I could, but the Army sent me to Germany, so I volunteered to go over to Vietnam and help out."

The Vietnam veteran recalls one instance where he witnessed a CH-47 Chinook crash on a beach and didn't think he'd be able to stand 46 years later to remark on the occasion.

"Me and a buddy saw the Chinook plunging down to the beach," De La Rosa said. "We hopped on a wrecker and rushed over there to help anyone that might be hurt. When we got there, it was a lot of smoke, explosions, and people needing help ... we were able to help those people that day."

Staff Sgt. Ralph Moreno, who served during WWII also with the Army, echoed the sentiments of De La Rosa.

"When you are in combat, you need to help those people around you to accomplish the mission," he said. "Serving your country is about



Retired Staff Sgt. Ralph Moreno, right, a World War II and Korean War veteran, receives a certificate of appreciation award from Humberto M. Nevarez, president, El Paso Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 574, during an award presentation in East El Paso March 8.

giving more of yourself to make things happen."

Moreno, 90, from El Paso, credits the military with giving him something he never had but only realized after he got out and joined others as a veteran.

"I got a lot of discipline from being a Soldier," he said. "I remember being in basic training and hearing the corporals command such authority while they helped make people better Soldiers."

As a young draftee, he credits that time as the moment he found what he wanted to do in life.

"I wanted to be a Soldier back then but didn't know it just yet," Moreno said. "Twenty-five years later, I had four children while in the Army, most of them have served and my grandchildren always say, 'Grandpa, I want to be like you,' so I think I did something alright."

Approximately 50 people from the Vietnam Veterans, city of El Paso and Fort Bliss installation gathered in the local VFW post to witness the honors bestowed upon the two veterans.

Among the attendees was Vietnam War veteran, Humberto M. Nevarez, who remarked about the occasion and why it's so special to keep honoring the troops that serve in America's wars.

"For us Vietnam veterans, it's really important to keep recognizing all the guys who fought in war," Nevarez said. "During Vietnam, we all were never properly recognized for our sacrifices to our country, so it's vital to support those who have been and still are in harm's way."

For more information on the Vietnam Veterans of America, visit the website at <https://vva.org/> or call 346-9975 to speak to a member of the local 574 chapter.

What good can possibly come of this?

By Chaplain (Capt.) Darrell Burriss
3rd Bn., 43rd ADA, 11th ADA Bde., 32nd AAMDC

Life can be full of joy:

- Couples getting married in our beautiful chapels and churches in El Paso.
- Soldiers learning they have made promotion lists.
- Babies being born.
- Celebrating holy days and seasons such as the ongoing Lent season in Christianity.
- Just being here and experiencing all that the greater El Paso area has to offer.

All these things bring joy to the heart. The joyful experiences of life are great opportunities to live to the fullest and create lifelong memories.

However, life can also be full of pain and disappointment brought on by varying degrees of adversity. Just as joyful experiences can be great opportunities, so too, can adverse experiences be opportunities.

While adversity is not good in and of itself, good can result from adversity. Even from life's most tragic events, good can result. How is that possible?

Adversity requires us to reconsider our notions of good. In our culture, good is thought of in terms of what brings pleasure, comfort



or convenience. If that is the case, then adversity can result in nothing good.

But, what if good means something vastly

different? If we think of good in terms of what causes growth or maturity, then adversity can certainly result in good.

Adversity can and should result in mental, emotional and spiritual growth and maturity. As we grow and mature in those areas, we develop the skills to survive adversity and thrive in spite of it. We learn to exercise tactical patience, assess the situation, envision an end state, shoot an azimuth to get there and step off. In other words, we learn to become future focused. Or as Sergeant Airborne teaches, we learn to keep our eyes on the horizon.

With mental, emotional and spiritual maturity also comes the ability and desire to help others survive adversity and then thrive in spite of it. In other words, we learn to become outward focused. Or, as an old German proverb says, "When you dig another out of his troubles, you find a place to bury your own."

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him," Romans 8:28.

That promise from Romans applies even to adversity. To see it fulfilled requires us to view adversity as an opportunity to grow and mature. It also requires us to focus on the future and on others who are in need.



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Local recruits learn basic Army skills, prepare for future career

By Abigail Meyer
Fort Bliss Bugle Editor

"Yes, sergeant!" Future Soldiers and their friends caught on quickly as Soldiers assigned to 1st Armored Division's Iron Training Detachment taught them a little about Army life. Acknowledging they understood, or at least heard, the instructions given by the ITD Soldiers, the sound of "Yes, sergeant!" rang out across 1st Lt. Paul A. Noel Parade Field here March 4.

Thirty eight recruits and their friends woke up bright and early on their Saturday to learn a little more of what the Army's all about.

"We're teaching some of the new recruits who haven't gone to basic training yet basic Army skills," said Staff Sgt. Travis Browning, assigned to the ITD. "Helping to keep them motivated and stay excited to go to basic training. Sometimes they have a really large window from the time they decide to join the Army to when they actually ship."

They started with a little physical training. The ITD Soldiers demonstrated basic Army exercises that those who enlist will do hundreds of times during their military career.

"We're showing them some fun things that the military does, preparing them and giving them a leg up when they go to basic training," said Capt. Stephen Berryman, commander, El Paso Recruiting Company.

Michael Hughes, a senior in high school who enlisted to be an infantryman with the option of attending Ranger school, said familiarization days help out a lot.

"I think it's good because a lot of people who haven't been in ROTC or anything really need to have a background or a little knowledge of the marching and all that," Hughes said.

Allen Rabb, another high school senior, enlisted to be a 25U, signal support specialist, and heads off to basic just two weeks after he graduates high school.

"I want to go to college, but I think it's a good way for me to get job experience and get college paid for," Rabb said.

Rabb said he's looking forward to the camaraderie many military members experience.

"It shows the family bond that I'll actually have when I'm active duty," Rabb said. "I played football and I liked the camaraderie that we had in football, so it's going to be there in my job when I join."

Billy Garrett is considering joining the Army, so he wanted to learn a little more.

"I've learned how to march and how to be disciplined," Garrett said. "It's fun, I wouldn't want to spend my Saturday any other way. I want to be a Ranger."

The future Soldiers spent the whole day at Fort Bliss learning drill and ceremony and then had classes on basic skills such as map reading, individual movement techniques, how to move under fire, drill and ceremony and basic weapons introduction.

"Thank you to Fort Bliss and the training detachment here for the Soldiers and the resources they provide," Berryman said.

The ITD frequently hosts community outreach events like this, showing members of the El Paso community a little bit of Army life.

"The more that we interact with the community, the more the community appreciates the military here on Fort Bliss," Browning said. "I think that's a good thing. If we support the community, they're going to support the Soldiers."

(Top) Luis Ramirez learns to salute properly during the Recruiting Field Day at the 1st Lt. Paul A. Noel Parade Field here March 4.

(Right) Michael Hughes, a senior in high school who will head to basic training in July, does pushups during the Recruiting Field Day at the 1st Lt. Paul A. Noel Parade Field here March 4.



Photos by Abigail Meyer / Fort Bliss Bugle Editor



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14th German Spring Bazaar aids community

By Wendy Brown
Fort Bliss Bugle Managing Editor

The 14th Annual German Spring Bazaar here Saturday did not have an admission fee, but people lined up at the bratwurst stand as though they had to eat at least one to get inside.

Jerald Starks bought one for each member of his family as soon as they arrived.

“We’re new to Fort Bliss and we like cultural activities, so we thought we could come down and check it out,” Starks said.

Hundreds attended the bazaar at 747 Carter Road to eat bratwurst, choose from a large selection of German cakes, drink beverages in the sunshine and peruse the handmade items of many vendors.

Ursula Schaefer, whose husband is stationed in the German Air Force here, sold stuffed fabric bunnies and other Easter-related items at her stand. She made the colorful selection herself, she said, and enjoys coming to the bazaar.

“I like the people,” Schaefer said. “The people are very friendly.”

Members of the GAF stationed here run the event annually, and this year, proceeds went to Rebuilding Together El Paso, a non-profit organization that helps low-income elderly and disabled homeowners with necessary repairs and safety installations, said Franz Huber, an organizer of the bazaar and a civilian who works for the GAF here.

Roger de Moor, president and chief executive officer of Rebuilding Together El Paso, said the organization tries to help as many people as possible, but can only help as many as 50 percent of the people who apply for help.

“The money today will make additional



Wendy Brown / Fort Bliss Bugle Managing Editor
Heidi Robeson, left, looks over cakes as Christine Morrow, volunteering for the Morgen Café, helps serve during the 14th Annual German Spring Bazaar at 747 Carter Road here Saturday. The Morgen Café donated proceeds from the cakes to a variety of organizations, including the El Paso Humane Society, Ben’s Pet Pantry and the Reynolds Home.

homeowners happy,” de Moor said.

In addition, money from the cake sales, under the umbrella of the Morgen Café, went to organizations including the El Paso Humane Society, Ben’s Pet Pantry and the Reynolds Home, organizers said.

Huber said the GAF remains scheduled to leave Fort Bliss, but not until 2020 or possibly later. Until then, members of the GAF will continue to hold the German Spring Bazaar, the German-American Night Run (slated this year for Sept. 16) and the Christmas market.

“As long as we have the support by the community and the demand, we will continue,” Huber said.



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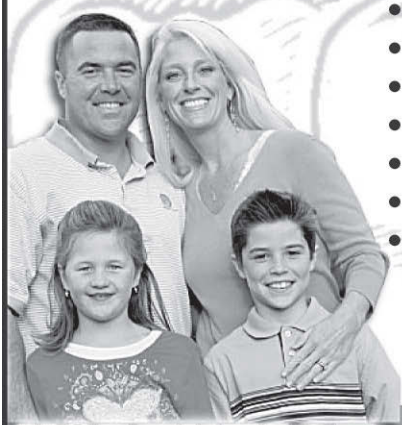
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Catholic Worship Services

Chapel Two
(1542 Sheridan Road)
Weekday mass 11:35 a.m.
Saturday Confession 4 p.m.
Saturday Mass 5 p.m.
Sunday Mass 8 a.m.
Sunday Mass 11 a.m.

WBAMC Hospital Chapel
(5005 N Piedras Dr.)
Saturday Mass 5 p.m.
Sunday Mass 8:30 and 11:30 a.m.

German Chapel
(5312 Buffalo Soldier)
Sunday Mass 10 a.m. Odd Days

Religious Activities

Catholic Women of the Chapel (Bldg. 250)
Friday 9-11 a.m.

Protestant Women of the Chapel (Bldg. 11272)
Thursday 9-11:30 a.m.

THIRST (Community Wide Protestant Study)
Thursday 6 p.m. (Starting Jan. 18)

- Spanish Adults
- Women's Study (PWOC)
- Men's Study
- Youth
- Children

Protestant Worship Services

Center Chapel
(315 Pershing Road)
Traditional Service 10 a.m.

Hope Chapel
(2498 Ricker Road)
Crossroad Service 9 a.m.
Samoan Service 11:15 a.m.

1st Armored Division
(11272 Biggs St.)
Gospel Service 9 a.m.
Chapel Next 11:30 a.m.
Latter Day Saints Service 1 p.m.

USASMA Memorial Chapel
(11275 Biggs St.)
Traditional Service 10 a.m.

WBAMC Protestant Community
(5005 N Piedras Dr.)
Protestant Service 10 a.m.

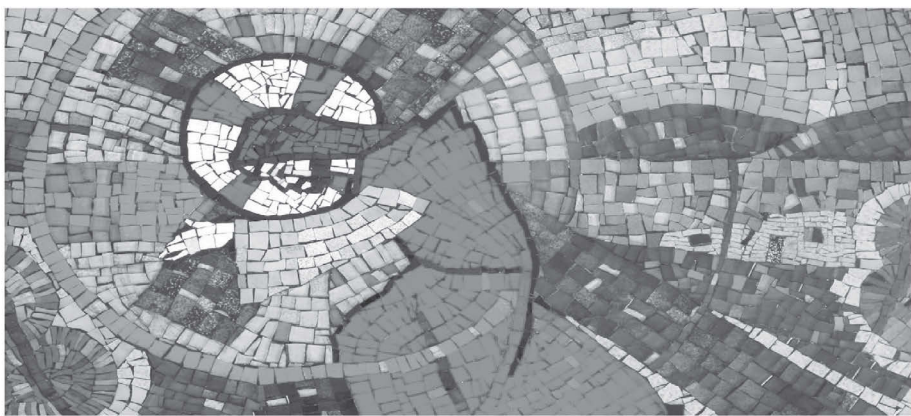
German Chapel
(5312 Robert E Lee)
Sunday 10 a.m. even days

Other Religious Services

Jewish Chapel (Bldg. 1441)
Friday Shabbat Service 8 p.m.
Saturday Torah Study 10 a.m.

Islamic Service (Bldg. 442)
Friday Jummuh 12:30 p.m. MST, 1 p.m. DST
Sunday Ta'Aleem 12:30-2 p.m.

Wiccan Open Circle (Bldg. 440)
Thursday 7 p.m.



Lent & Easter Schedule

3rd Sunday of Lent

Friday, March 17: Stations of the Cross at Center Chapel 2 at 5:30 p.m. and soup and bread at Chapel 2 Annex at 6:15 p.m., sponsored by the Youth Group and Choir

Saturday, March 18: Confessions at 4 p.m. and Mass at 5 p.m., Center Chapel 2

Sunday, March 19: Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., Center Chapel 2

4th Sunday of Lent

Friday, March 24: Stations of the Cross at Center Chapel 2 at 5:30 p.m. and soup and bread at Chapel 2 Annex at 6:15 p.m., sponsored by the lectors

Saturday, March 25: Confessions at 4 p.m. and Mass at 5 p.m., Center Chapel 2

Sunday, March 26: Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., Center Chapel 2

5th Sunday of Lent

Wednesday, March 29: Penance service at 6:30 p.m., Center Chapel 2

Friday, March 31: Stations of the Cross at Center Chapel 2 at 5:30 p.m. and soup and bread at Chapel 2 Annex at 6:15 p.m., sponsored by the EMHCs

Saturday, April 1: Confessions at 4 p.m. and Mass at 5 p.m., Center Chapel 2

Sunday, April 2: Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., Center Chapel 2

6th Sunday of Lent

Friday, April 7: Stations of the Cross at Center Chapel 2 at 5:30 p.m. and soup and bread at Chapel 2 Annex at 6:15 p.m., sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Saturday, April 8: Walking in the Footsteps of Christ, Mt. Cristo Rey, Sunland Park, N.M., 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Confessions at 4 p.m. and Mass at 5 p.m., Center Chapel 2

Sunday, April 9: Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., Center Chapel 2

Holy Week Services

Monday, April 10: Chrism Mass at 6 p.m., St. Patrick Cathedral, 1118 North Mesa St.

Holy Thursday, April 13: No daily Mass. Service at 6 p.m., Center Chapel 2

Good Friday, April 14: No daily Mass. Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m., service at 6 p.m., Center Chapel 2.

Holy Saturday, April 15: No 5 p.m. Mass. Easter Vigil at 8 p.m., Center Chapel 2

Easter Sunday, April 16: Mass at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., Center Chapel 2

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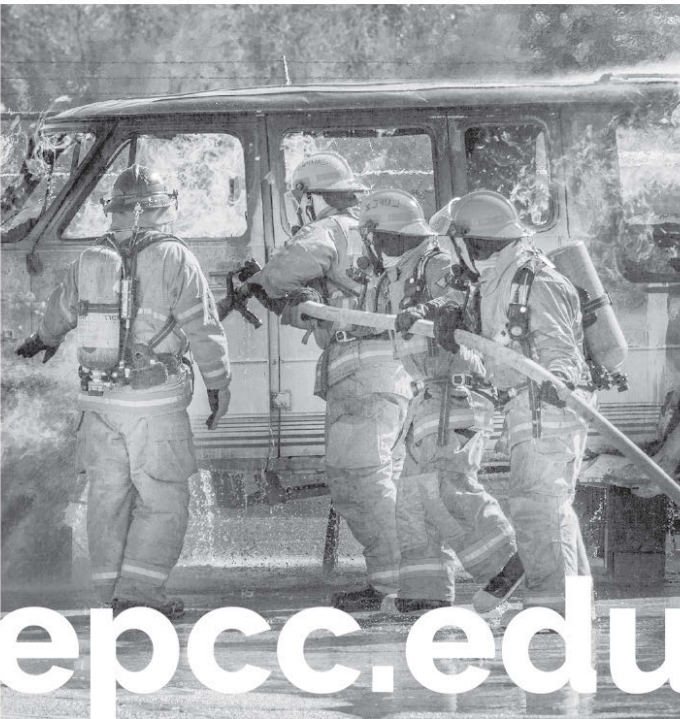
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From rags to ratchet: Are there no riches in military life?

By Lisa Smith Molinari
Special to the Fort Bliss Bugle

“What the ...?” my 16-year-old daughter, Lilly, stopped herself short in front of our minivan on a blustery, rainy morning before school this week. There, on the driveway, was a pile of shattered black glass. Just above the shards on the passenger’s rear side was a gaping hole where the window used to be.

“Holy ... cow!” I adjusted the expletive to accommodate my teenage companion. Two days prior, I had noticed that the rear window had detached from the mechanical arm that opened it, and made a mental note to do something about it, having no idea that it might blow completely off the side of the van.

I peeked inside the hole left by the absent window and saw gum wrappers floating in rainwater collected in the cup holders. “Good Lord,” I muttered helplessly, and told Lilly to get in. Of course, my husband Francis was away with our other car, so I had no choice but to drive the minivan to school, rain and all.

After dropping Lilly off, I headed straight to the auto body shop to plead my case.

“She’s old,” I told Tiego, the mechanic. “We really don’t want to plunk too much money into her.” Our minivan, which we bought used in Virginia Beach 11 years ago, had almost 200,000 miles on her. Even though her headlights were hazy, her body was pitted with chips and dents, there was a crack running across her dashboard, the alloy wheels were corroded, the carpeting was worn bare in spots and the various school stickers on the rear window were peeling — her engine ran like a top. We were waffling about whether to keep her for a few more years to save money, or trade her in for an upgrade.

I explained to Tiego that I had to take my daughter to Pennsylvania for college visits that weekend, but he wasn’t sure he could get a replacement window in time. I envisioned Lilly and I pulling up to a group of visiting prospective students on an ivy-covered campus, and jumping out of our old minivan with a pizza box duct-taped over the window.

“I’ll see what I can do,” Tiego said.

I walked to a nearby coffee shop to wait for the verdict. Tiego called just as I burned my tongue on a cup of green tea. “Well,” he paused, indicating that the news was bad. “I can get the replacement window today, but it will cost \$300, \$450 with labor.”

“Why am I driving such a hunk of junk, anyway?” I thought. “Francis served in the



Navy for 28 years, and all our family has to show for itself is two used cars, credit card debt, a bunch of Polish pottery and a paltry savings? Is this all you get for dedicating your life to military service?”

I wondered whether I should tell Tiego to put our old minivan out for scrap.

But then, I remembered that our minivan was a beauty when we bought her, gleaming white, with only 8,000 miles and lingering new car smell. Through three tours in Virginia, she carted us to soccer games, school pick-ups, speech therapy appointments and the commissary. She gave me no mechanical trouble during Francis’ yearlong deployment, and didn’t complain about all the dog hair, up chuck, stray French fries and fruit snacks that we dropped on her carpeting.

In 2008, she moved with us to Germany, where she safely negotiated winding roads in Austria, Italy, France, Czech Republic, Spain, Poland, Belgium and Switzerland. When we moved to Florida, then Rhode Island, she zipped over U.S. highways and byways, taking us to visit friends and family up and down the East Coast.

I realized, regardless of our modest budget, our military life had been quite rich all along, and told Tiego to replace the window after all. “She’s got a few more years in her,” I said, suddenly appreciative of our family’s unique lifestyle.

I was a little bummed that I wouldn’t be able to embarrass Lilly with a duct-taped pizza box, but I was grateful for whatever adventures our military family would encounter on the road ahead.

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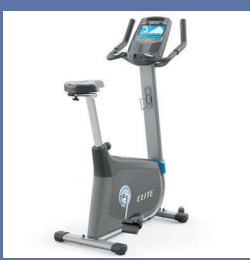
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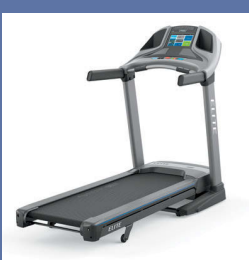
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USASMA, DEA partner to honor fallen

By Master Sgt. Michelle M. Johnson
U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy

Students from the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy collaborated with the Drug Enforcement Agency to honor fallen Soldiers and leaders as part of the El Paso area DEA Maltz Challenge here March 9.

More than 300 future sergeants major and DEA personnel completed the grueling physical challenge that consists of eight tasks. Competitors worked in teams of eight to complete a 400-meter run, followed by



Master Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon / USASMA
Master Sgt. Oracio Pena performs pull-ups while participating in the Maltz Challenge. Future sergeants major from the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy participated in the Maltz Challenge in honor of fallen service members here March 9.

200 pullups, eight 100-meter fireman carries, 200 triceps dips, 400 pushups, 200 hanging knee-to-elbow crunches, 400 sit-ups and finished with a second 400-meter run.

The Maltz Challenge is named in honor of Air Force Master Sgt. Michael Maltz, 42, of St. Petersburg, Florida, who died in an Air Force combat search and rescue craft crash on March 23, 2003, in Afghanistan. Maltz was assigned to the 38th Rescue Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Georgia.

What started as a workout to honor the memory of one fallen service member has turned into an annual international event at the end of winter that remembers its namesake and other fallen service members, chosen by local participants. Countless U.S. military units, gyms, law enforcement agencies, five NFL teams and DEA offices throughout the world team up for the Maltz Challenge to pay homage to and let Gold Star families know their sons and daughters will always be honored and remembered.

USASMA named two sergeants major as their 2017 honorees.

Sgt. Maj. Bradley D. Conner, 41, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, died May 9, 2007, near Al-Hillah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improved explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Conner was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group, Fort Lewis (now Joint Base Lewis-McChord), Washington.

USASMA student Master Sgt. Joshua Miller nominated Conner.

"He was a stalwart member (of my battalion)," Miller said.

Command Sgt. Maj. Martin R. Barreras, of Tucson, Arizona, died May 13, 2014, of wounds from any enemy attack in Harat Province, Afghanistan, May 6, 2014. Barreras was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, here at Fort Bliss.



Master Sgt. Jose Fernando Raymundo / USASMA
Future sergeants major from the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy perform the buddy carry event as part of the Maltz Challenge in honor of fallen service members here March 9.

"This (challenge) is just a fraction of what he went through," said USASMA student Master Sgt. Caesar J. Llanez, who nominated Barreras to be one of USASMA's honorees,

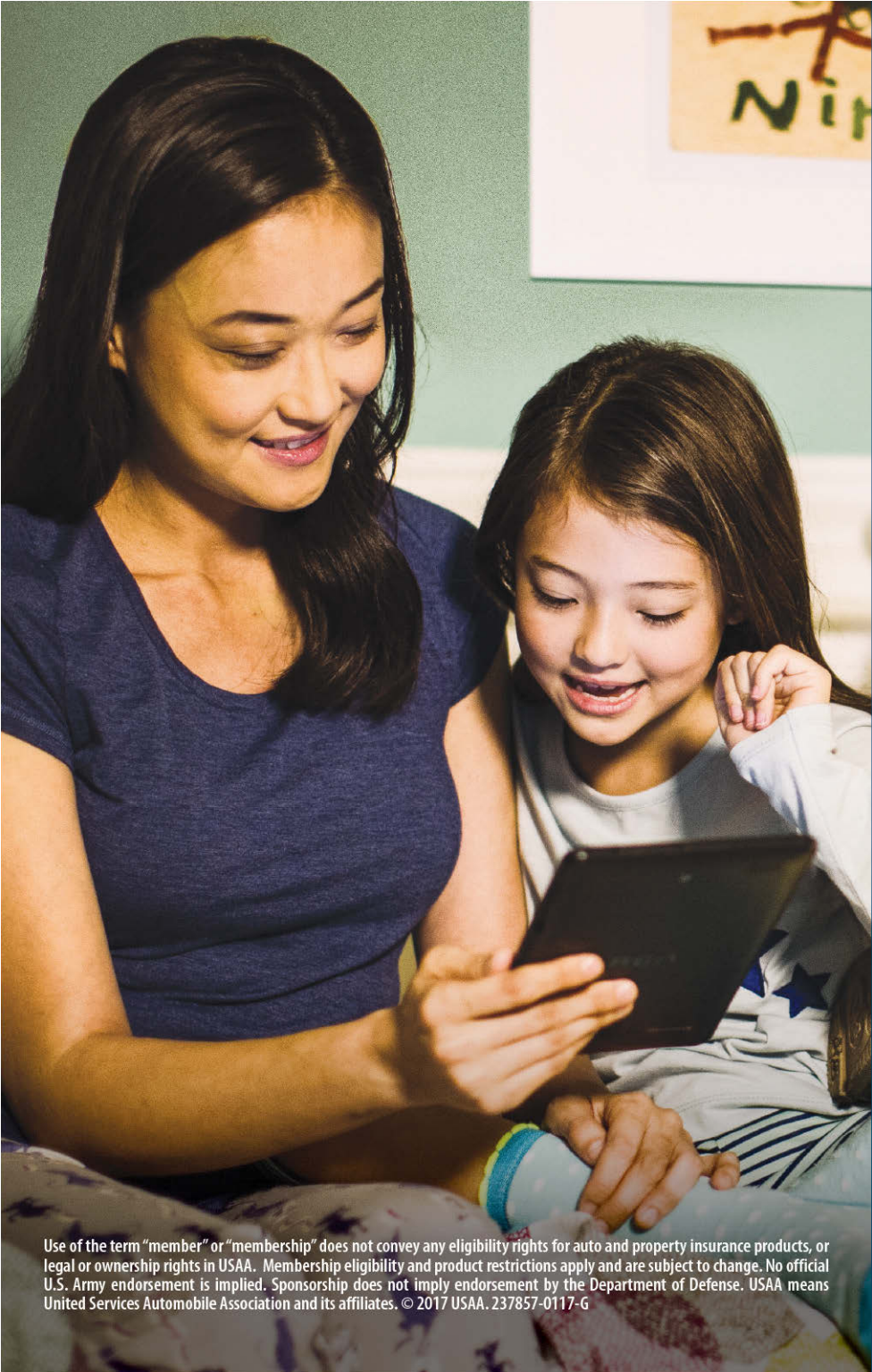
"He was my mentor. He was all about the Soldier. He took care of the Soldier 24/7," Llanez said.

The DEA's 2017 local honoree, Spc. William J. Byler, 23, of Ballinger, Texas, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, was killed Oct. 31, 2005, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee during patrol operations in Mahmudiyah, Iraq. Byler was on his second tour of duty at the time of his death and the Maltz Challenge is just one way to honor him and his family.

Editor's note: Jennifer Tinkler, with the Drug Enforcement Agency, contributed to this article.



Master Sgt. Derrick Witherspoon / USASMA
Master Sgt. Michelle Johnson performs pull-ups during the Maltz Challenge. Future sergeants major from the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy participated in the Maltz Challenge in honor of fallen service members here March 9.



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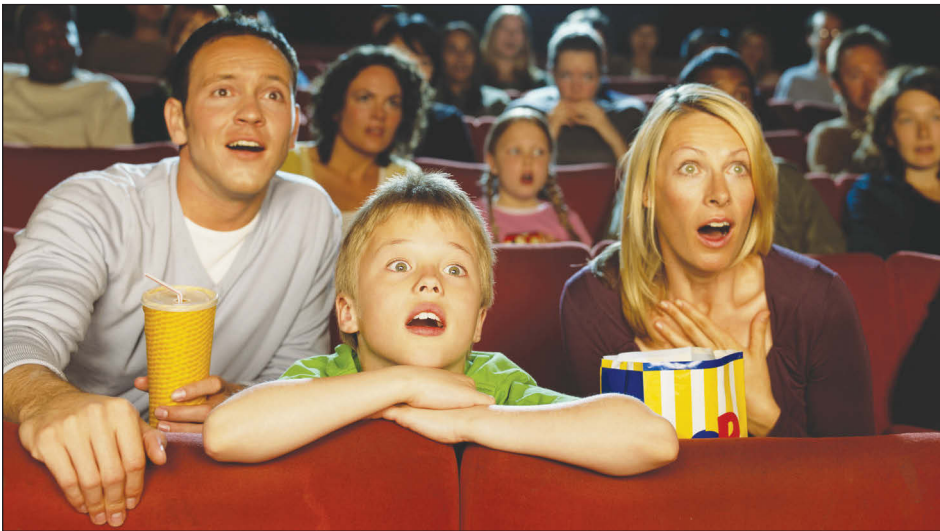


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Movie Fan: ‘Kong: Skull Island’ is simply fantastic

By Movie Fan
Special to the Fort Bliss Bugle

Tarzan may be “Lord of the Jungle” and Godzilla is called “King of the Monsters,” but King Kong bows to no one – man or beast. He is, after all, “The Eighth Wonder of the World,” according to the original movie. American filmmaker Merian C. Cooper (who co-directed that film) named and created the character of the giant ape, with minor contributions from British writer Edgar Wallace (whom Cooper had hired to write the script, but who died early in the revisions process). The result was the iconic 1933 film – followed by several other movie versions and multiple representations of Cooper’s monster in various media and other forms.

The various cinematic incarnations of the titular great ape have seen him with different personalities (sometimes as a wantonly destructive beast and others as a sympathetic anti-hero), at different sizes (portrayed between 12 feet and 60 feet tall) and with different levels of human-like characteristics (for example, walking upright in the 1933 and 1976 versions, but on all-fours for the 2005 movie). He also battled his rival for the title of biggest, baddest monster in the 1962 Japanese film (and its 1963 re-edited American version), “Godzilla vs. King Kong,” which became and remains the most-attended Godzilla film of all. Regardless of how he looks or what he is doing, the colossal primate has become such a fixture in our cultural consciousness that the 2017 version need only refer to him by a single name, joined with a reference to what outsiders call his kingdom: “Kong: Skull Island” (PG-13, 1:58).

Rather than another remake of the original 1933 version, 2017’s mammoth monkey movie is a reboot. It’s an origin story for the King Kong character and the second installment in Legendary Entertainment’s MonsterVerse series which began with 2014’s “Godzilla” reboot. “Kong: Skull Island” leads into another Godzilla movie, followed by a King Kong – Godzilla crossover. A clever and game-changing post-credits scene reveals the connection and sets the stage for the coming movies.

In 1973, government official William “Bill” Randa (John Goodman) and scientist

Houston Brooks (Corey Hawkins) convince a Senator Willis (Richard Jenkins) to support their proposed mapping expedition of a mysterious island in the South Pacific. Bill and Houston travel to Vietnam where they hire former British Special Air Service Capt. James Conrad (Tom Hiddleston) to lead the mission. They also secure a military escort from Army Lt. Col. Preston Packard (Samuel L. Jackson) and his “Sky Devils” helicopter squadron, which includes his executive officer, Maj. Jack Chapman (Tony Keibell), and a diverse and colorful group of experienced soldiers (including Jason Mitchell, Shea Whigham, Thomas Mann and Eugene Cordero).

After flying through storm clouds which perpetually surround the island and keep it isolated from the rest of the world, the helicopters start dropping seismic charges, ostensibly as part of the mapping mission. The de facto simian ruler of this island doesn’t take kindly to anyone disturbing his home. Kong (walking upright, appearing to be about 100 feet tall and played through motion capture by Terry Notary) takes out his anger on those helicopters, killing about half of the expedition’s personnel in the process. The survivors, separated into small groups (and one individual) with limited communications, all set out for the other side of the island, where they are to be picked up in three days. Along the way, they encounter a variety of large, unique and deadly creatures, a tribe of island natives and an American (John C. Reilly) who has been stranded on the island for many years.

“Kong: Skull Island” is simply fantastic. The casting, characterizations and acting are especially strong, the fight scenes and visual effects are even stronger and King Kong appears appropriately powerful, and terrifying, but also sympathetic. Rather than simply building towards one huge showdown, there are surprises and exciting moments throughout the film, but the intensity is well-balanced with some comic relief, mostly from the loopiness of Reilly’s character. This film is at least as good as previous Kong movies, or 2014’s “Godzilla,” and is a terrific lead in to subsequent adventures. “A”

For more reviews, visit the Movie Fan page on Facebook.

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Eye on PIE: Student Ambassador Program

By Dwain Gulley
Fort Bliss School Liaison

Imagine what military-connected students' academic school years can be like when they must move from one school to another, sometimes two or three times in one year. Most military-connected students will move several times before they reach their senior year of high school. When military-connected students are the "new kid on the block" time after time, it can produce high levels of stress. Finding someone to hang out with and getting to know the school and community can be very stressful.

Research indicates the most difficult transition that military children and youth experience is school transition. Because this is such a sensitive and profound issue, the Student Ambassador Program social and emotional support program was developed with school transition as its primary focus by the Army.

The program is a school-based program designed to aid youth who are changing schools due to their parent's mission requirements. This program is designed to allow children and youth to acclimate more easily and quickly into their new school environment. The program is school managed and student led.


A team of selected students monitored by a school staff member will be trained to help transitioning students in three key subject areas. By providing much needed critical information to help them fit in and

make friends. The student ambassadors will provide an environment for all incoming students to quickly feel welcomed, comfortable, connected and accepted into their new school community.


SAP is a great program that uses student trainers to help change a transitioning student's focal point from what the student just lost to what the student will gain. When students feel accepted, well informed and get that warm, fuzzy feeling that they are wanted and connected to the new school, it makes the transition that much more fun.


Transition for our military-connected students does not have to be stressful, it can be a great experience.


Many of the local school districts have implemented the SAP into all school levels. Listed below are schools that now have the SAP in full swing on their campuses. In the El Paso Independent School District: Bradley, Cielo Vista, Logan, Barron, Clendenin, Tippin, Travis, Collins, Burnet, Bliss, Kohlberg, Lundy, Hughey, Polk and Nixon elementary schools, Nolan Richardson, Bassett, Ross and Hornedo middle schools, and Andress, Austin and Chapin high schools. In the Socorro Independent School District: Paso Del Norte School, Spc. Rafael Hernando, Sun Ridge and Staff Sgt. Manuel R. Puentes middle schools, and Americas, Eastlake, El Dorado and Pebble Hills high schools. Contact your local School Liaison Office at 569-5064 for more information.



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Sports briefs

Free Callaway Demo Day: Come try out the latest golf equipment made by Callaway Friday from 12-4 p.m. at Underwood Golf Complex. The TrackMan launch monitor will be here to track your swing and ball speed, ball spin and launch angles. This is a free event and open to the public. 568-1059

Foam Glow 5K: The foam glow run is Saturday at Ascarate Park, 6900 Delta Dr., for runners and walkers of all ages and fitness levels. Runners must wear white; runners run through glowing foam and a ton of black lights all over the course. After race party for participants. Cost: \$40; \$10 parking fee. Spectator admission is free. Online registration at active.com. Packet pickup date and race time to be announced; \$5 fee for packet pick up on race day.

Cystic Fibrosis Great Strides Walk: The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's fundraising 5K walk is 9 a.m.-noon Saturday at Eastwood (Album) Park, 3110 Parkwood. The family oriented celebration includes various activities, games and food to raise awareness and donations to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Admission is free, but donations are welcome and walkers are encouraged to form a team online and raise money for the cause. 667-5206 or fightcf.cff.org

Henry Kellen Memorial Golf: The El Paso Holocaust and Study Center will host the inaugural Henry Kellen Memorial Golf Open April 3 at the Butterfield Trail Golf Club, 1858 Cottonwoods Dr. Kellen is the founder of the EPHSC and the event will raise money for the center. The format is a four-person scramble (men, women and mixed teams) and registration is open through March 22. Early bird cost through March 12 is \$100 per player and then the cost increases to \$125 per player. 351-0048 or elpasoholocaustmuseum.org/events

Texas Basic Hunter Education course: The Rod and Gun Club has a Texas Basic Hunter Education class on the second Saturday of every month, taught by a Texas Parks and Wildlife-certified instructor. It covers hunting rules and regulations, ethics and responsibility, wildlife management, conservation, modern and primitive sporting arms and ammunition, safe firearms handling, outdoor skills, survival and first aid, live firing and field exercises. Cost: \$15 and it's open to the public. Registration is required. 594-0159

Golf Performance Center: Check out the Underwood Golf Complex's newest addition, the TrackMan 4 system, inside the new performance center. The system allows players to take lessons on how to measure their swing speed, ball speed, swing path and smash factor. Use the simulator to play online against other players, or play on courses like Pinehurst and Pebble Beach. The system is designed for extreme golf game improvement and when paired with our staff of PGA Professionals, there is no stopping your game. Cost: \$50 for one series, \$125 for three series and \$200 for five series. The simulator rental is \$60 per hour, up to eight players and for simulator party rental, it's \$300 for three hours up to 12 people (each additional person \$25). It will include drinks, hot wings, nachos or quesadillas. Ongoing. 568-1059

Total Body Workout: Glide your way to a Total Body Workout Monday through Friday at Milam Physical Fitness Center. Challenge your core through incline training using the Total Gym System. You will burn fat and promote lean muscle all while moving through a full range of motion. 744-5800

Group tennis class for beginners: Group tennis class for beginners is 8:30-10 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday at Bldg. 262 on Club Road. If you've never played tennis before, this is a great introduction. Tennis rackets provided. 569-5448

The Players Championship: PGA TOUR's signature event – THE PLAYERS Championship offers all active duty, retired and reserve military personnel and their dependents with FREE admission to the tournament May 9-14 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Military activities will be throughout the week including a military appreciation day, hospitality tent and military job fair.

STEP Incorporated: Get ready to count your steps at Step Incorporated from 9-10 a.m. Fridays at Stout Physical Fitness Center. This step aerobics class consists of choreographed step patterns. You'll challenge your mind and body as you burn calories. The intensity of your workout will be determined by the speed, travel and execution of your movements. Core training using weights with Pilates and yoga movements are all incorporated into this fun, energetic class. 568-4508

WBAMC nurse to coach All-Army team

By Marcy Sanchez
WBAMC Public Affairs

Health care professionals work closely with athletes in every sport: on the sidelines, in the locker rooms, even during the off-season. It's no surprise then when people think of sports, they may also associate the thought with injury.

Although it's necessary for the appropriate medical personnel to be on hand during sporting events, Capt. Scott Lentsch, a critical care nurse, is trading in his skills with a stethoscope for a shot at coaching this year's All-Army Bowling Team.

Lentsch, a reserve-component Soldier attached to William Beaumont Army Medical Center's Post-Anesthesia Care Unit, will coach the team during this year's Armed Forces Championships, May 5 through 9, at Camp Pendleton, California.

"I started bowling when I was eight years old," said Lentsch, 54, native of Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Lentsch's accomplishments include regional and national Professional Bowlers Association tournaments in which he earned cash prizes for placing in top spots.

Although Lentsch began his All-Army Bowling career as a bowler in 2013, recent changes to the team's roster left the team in need of a new head coach.

"(Lentsch) was the logical choice because he's an experienced bowler, an avid learner and cares about the sport," said Don Diego Aguilar II, business and general manager of Fort Bliss' Desert Strike Lanes. "That's the great thing about Lentsch: he wants to learn everything but doesn't want to just keep it to himself, he wants to make others better and

build the (bowling) program as a team."

According to Aguilar, Lentsch's bowling experience will prove beneficial as he coaches other players and his love of learning and teaching will offer each team member the attention they deserve.

"That passion for being the student and being a teacher is a great thing about him," said Aguilar, who coached the All-Army Bowling Team from 2013-2016. "He understands that it's a team. He understands that he's not there to help the best player, he's there to help all eight players on the team."

Bowling has been lifelong passion and a family affair for Lentsch, with both parents introducing him and his siblings to the sport at a young age. Lentsch himself married his wife after meeting her at a bowling alley in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and has gone on to introduce his children to the sport. Lentsch's 20-year-old son is even on the University of New Mexico's bowling team, a Division I college, where Lentsch currently volunteers as coach and has plans to coach full time in the near future.

When not on orders, Lentsch also works as a critical care nurse in an Albuquerque level II trauma center. Lentsch's Army and civilian occupation came in handy during an Armed Forces championship when a teammate was injured while competing.

"(Lentsch) was there during (the injury)," said Aguilar. "He was on the spot, took care of him and we took (the injured team member) off for medical attention."

Lentsch likens his ethics on the lanes to those as a nurse.

"You have to be dedicated and willing to put in the time and commitment," said



Marcy Sanchez / WBAMC Public Affairs

Capt. Scott Lentsch, a critical care nurse assigned to William Beaumont Army Medical Center, holds one of his 20 bowling balls at WBAMC's Intensive Care Unit Ward, Feb. 27. Lentsch, a Reserve-component Soldier and native of Fort Dodge, Iowa, is slated to coach this year's All-Army Bowling team during the Armed Forces Championships, May 5 through 9, at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Lentsch.

According to Aguilar, the challenge of being a Soldier puts stress on many bowlers who may have to trade-off bowling for service at times. That same challenge is why Aguilar believes Lentsch may lead the team to victory as a coach.

"It's one thing when you have a civilian coach, it's another when you have an active duty Soldier," said Aguilar. "I think with the team now coming under him you'll see some big things."



>> OLYMPIC
WORK OUT

Rachelle Phillips
FMWR Marketing Assistant

Children from the Fort Bliss community practice for the Special Olympics at Mitchell W. Stout Physical Fitness Center track here March 4. Command Sgt. Maj. Martin Celestine, a volunteer coach, helped five children learn about a few different sports to help them choose one to compete in at the Special Olympics. This year's competition will take place at El Paso's Burges High School May 6 at 8 a.m. The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The children will practice every Saturday until the competition to help them get comfortable in a sports environment.



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OFF DUTY. >>

Off Duty is a compilation of military-affiliated information and events focused on the Soldier, their family members and veterans. Information should be 100 words or fewer and contain no editorializing. An informational brief that is not time-specific will not run for more than four weeks. Submissions are due no later than Friday for publication in the following week's paper. To learn more, call 568-4088.

Bliss Briefs

Office moves: The DEERS and identification card office, the personnel operations services division (records), the Soldier for Life Retirement Services Office and the installation voting assistance office are now located in Bldg. 1741 Marshall Road (the old FirstLight Federal Credit Union building). Also, the Casualty Assistance Center will be located on the third floor of Bldg. 500-B. Business websites, email and telephones will be operational during the moving process. For more information, call Mr. Kukkola, chief of military personnel services, at 568-3043, Mr. Hernandez, RSO and enlisted retirements officer, at 569-6233, or Mr. Birdsong, with the DEERS, ID card and personnel operations services division, at 568-6619.

Shifting Gears: A representative from the Shifting Gears Automotive Technician Training Program will be attending the Fort Bliss Transition Summit at the Centennial Banquet and Conference here March 22-23. There will also be a specialized brief at 2 p.m. March 21 in Bldg. 639, Rooms nine and 10, for all Soldiers who RSVP. The program is a General Motors, Raytheon, and Department of the Army initiative. Veterans earn certificates, specialized training and familiarity with GM automotive systems and equipment to aid them in finding employment with any one of the 4,200 GM dealerships across the country. Organizers encourage 91 series MOSs to attend. Entrance into the program will require command approval, a successful assessment test and an interview conducted telephonically. Soldiers must have four months left on their contract on the first day of the training program. 254-226-2451 or mark.t.bauer@Raytheon.com

Downed aircraft response exercise: The 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss will conduct a downed aircraft response rehearsal at Noel Field here at 10 a.m. Friday to validate the installation's emergency response procedures. The roads surrounding Noel Field will be blocked off during the exercise, including Howze and Pleasonton roads on the east and west sides of the field and Pershing and Sheridan roads on the north and south sides. The exercise will ensure all parties involved are trained on procedures to minimize casualties and equipment loss in the event of an airframe accident, regardless of unit or location, both at the training ranges and on-post.

Easter Sunrise Service: Easter Sunrise Service: The Fort Bliss Easter Sunrise Service is at 7 a.m. April 16 at Noel Field, across from the Fort Bliss Replica Museum. The guest speaker will be Chaplain (Col.) Robert Whitlock. In case of rain, the service will move to Center Chapel One. 568-1519

Lane Closures: The Fort Bliss Water Services Company is conducting utility work in the historical warehouse area along Lufberry Road, and motorists can expect lane closures on Lufberry Road from Bldg. 1107 to Bldg. 1113 through March 31. The typical work hours will be Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Drive safely and obey all temporary traffic signs in this area.

Medical Simulation Training Classes: The schedule for MSTC classes is ready, and people can call Sgt. Mai Nguyen at 568-9649 or Mr. West at 568-6915 to sign up for a class. The free classes are available as retraining for medics or for Combat Life Saver training for nonmedical personnel.

Transition Summit: A free hiring fair and transition summit for service members, veterans and military spouses is Wednesday and March 23 at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center. The first day, from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., will feature an opening program, industry sector briefings for job seekers and a networking reception. The

second day, workshops for job seekers will begin at 9 a.m. and a hiring fair will begin at 1 p.m. Register at <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/event/fort-bliss-transition-summit-1>.

Stop smoking: If you are ready to quit smoking, call the Fort Bliss Tobacco Cessation Program at 742-1343 to enroll into their classes. The classes are at the Soldier Family Care Center and Mendoza Clinics on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. Walk-ins are welcome. This class is free to DOD civilian employees of William Beaumont Army Medical Center, active duty personnel and their spouses and retirees who are Tricare beneficiaries. There are four sessions to complete the program and each session is one hour and a half long.

Fire Marshal Training: Fire marshal training is from 9-10 a.m. the first Wednesday of every month at Bldg. 11240, Staff Sgt. Sims St. No appointment necessary. Open to all Fort Bliss employees, military or civilian. 744-8194 or 744-8195

Veterinary Treatment Facility: The Fort Bliss Veterinary Treatment Facility offers appointments Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Pet owners can schedule wellness exams, microchip implantation, heartworm tests, nail trims, recheck exams, inoculations against rabies, distemper (parvo) and Bordetella, sick calls and feline leukemia tests. The facility is located at Bldg. 6077 Carter Road, past Desert Strike Lanes. 742-2266

Office Closure: The Fort Bliss Legal Assistance and Claims Offices, located on the first floor of Bldg. 113 on Pershing Road, will be closed between 1-4:30 p.m. on April 4 and from 3-4:30 p.m. April 5 for training, and between 3:30-4:30 on April 11 for a unit function.

FMWR

Bring your Right Arm Night: Fort Bliss, are you ready for free appetizers and great drink specials? If so, stop by the Pershing Pub from 4-9 p.m. Friday during Right Arm Night. This is a great event to unwind after a long week. 781-6809

Debt Management: Wouldn't it be nice to take control of your debt rather than having debt control you? Discover tools to take control of your debt now. Class will be held at Army Community Service at Bldg. 2494 Ricker Road on West Fort Bliss from 1:30-3 p.m. Friday. Receive a free childcare voucher for attending class. Call CYS at 568-4374 to make reservation.

Banking and Money Management: Did you know that all banking institutions are not all equal? Discover how to find the right bank for you. Learn to protect your money. Discover unique military banking benefits. It's the matter of your money. Class will be held at Army Community Service in Bldg. 2494 Ricker Road on West Fort Bliss from 1:30-3 p.m. Wednesday. Receive a free childcare voucher for attending class. Call CYS at 568-4374 to make reservation.

TSP the New Blended Retirement: Are you ready to make a decision for your financial future? BRS or Legacy System? Learn to understand the components, rules, and timeline of the Blended Retirement system. Discover how matching contributions work. Be aware of tools, references, factsheets and resource guides. Class will be held at Army Community Service in Bldg. 2494 Ricker Road on West Fort Bliss from 1:30-3 p.m. Wednesday. Receive a free childcare voucher for attending class. Call CYS at 568-4374 to make reservation.

Planning and Budgeting: Struggling to find a way to balance your expenses with your income? Don't let your finances run your life. It's time to set up a budget you can live with and build a plan to financial freedom. Class will be held at Army Community Service in Bldg. 2494 Ricker Road on West Fort Bliss from 1:30-3 p.m. April 21. Receive a free childcare voucher for attending class. Call CYS at 568-4374 to make reservation.

Knitting Techniques: Come and learn knitting techniques from 12:30-2:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the Mickelsen Community Library. All skill levels are welcome. The class is free and meets for six sessions, but students will need to purchase one skein of worsted-weight yarn, preferably in a light color, one pair of straight, bamboo knit-

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ting needles size seven or eight. No children or makeup sessions offered due to missed classes. Space is limited to 10 spots. Sign up on the adult side of the library. Open to DOD ID cardholders. 568-6156

Annual Volunteer Award Nominations: Fort Bliss Army Volunteer Corps recognizes volunteers for their commitment to the community. Have someone in mind? If so, go online and nominate that person at bliss.armymwr.com (search Army Volunteer Corps). The nominations are open through Monday. To see who may be eligible and what awards will be presented, visit the website. 569-4227

Brushstrokes: Join the Mickelsen Community Library from 2-5 p.m. March 25 for a social art class. This month's theme for the club is "Northern Lights." The class is open to DOD ID cardholders ages 10 and older. Registration is required. Space is limited to 10 participants. Cost: \$15, including all supplies as well as instruction. 568-6156

Fort Bliss Salutes Volunteers: Help celebrate volunteers for their service by nominating them for the Fort Bliss Salutes Volunteers Campaign. Each day during volunteer week, one volunteer will be recognized with various prizes and highlighted on the Fort Bliss MWR and Fort Bliss Volunteer Facebook page. Post and tag a pic of a volunteer you want to be recognized with #2017FBSalutesVolunteers from March 27 to April 7. For more information, call the Fort Bliss Army Volunteer Corps at 569-7733 or 569-5500.

Unit Book Kits: Are you part of a unit going into the field or deploying soon? If so, you can stop by the Mickelsen Community Library and pick up book kits for free. The kits contain a selection of popular fiction and nonfiction paperback items. 568-1902

Pershing Pub: The Pershing Pub is a great place to gather at the end of a long week. Open every Friday at 4 p.m. (except training holidays). Come enjoy weekly drink specials and free snacks. 568-6272

Paint N' Pour: The Library After Hours presents: Paint N' Pour a social painting class. Get together with friends and come paint an acrylic masterpiece in a staffed class from 6-8 p.m. April 7 at Mickelsen Community Library. This month's theme is "Floral rabbit." Cost is \$20, it includes supplies, instruction and one glass of wine. Wear appropriate clothing for painting. Space is limited to 12 participants, so hurry and reserve your spot! Payment is due when you place reservations, cash only. It is open to DoD ID card holders, 21 and older. 568-1902

Post-wide Yard Sale: The spring bi-annual yard sale is April 15 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. throughout post housing. It is open to all those living in military housing. This is the perfect opportunity to unload some of your unwanted household goods especially if you have an impending PCS move. There is a sales opportunity at Old Fort Bliss Replica, located at 5054 Pershing Road, for those not living in military housing. Participants must bring their own table to display. Only personal items no commercial sellers. To reserve a spot, call 915-588-8482. Shopping for this event is open to all including the El Paso

Community. 568-2554

Go Youth

Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead: Looking to expand your child's horizons? Join the Mickelsen Community Library for Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead. What is S.T.E.A.M.? It's an educational approach to learning that employs science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics. It's "fun"ctional learning for children. Children ages 8 and older will meet from 1-3 p.m. Saturday in the MakerSpace to explore different topics on a monthly basis. Activities will include robotics, circuitry, arts and crafts, 3D printing and much more. Space is limited to 10 children, first-come, first-served. Children younger than 13 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. 568-6156

Builder's Club: Join us for the Builder's Club March 25 at Mickelsen Community Library and create different things with your imagination. There will be two sessions available from 2-3 p.m. and 3-4 p.m. One session per child between the ages of 2-12. Parent or guardian must be present. Supplies provided. 568-6156

EFMP Sensory Storytime: The Exceptional Family Member Program will be having Sensory Storytime once a month, from 10-11 a.m. starting March 31 at the Mickelsen Community Library. This is intended for children who have a hard time sitting through a story, who are on the autism spectrum or have other developmental disabilities. We will read, sing, stretch and play to keep the children actively engaged throughout the hour. This is a free event and open to DOD ID cardholders (for children ages 5 and younger). Spaces are limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call EFMP at 568-4227, ext. 5 or the library at 568-6156.

UTEP Summer Theatre and Dance: Registration for UTEP's summer theatre and dance camps begins April 14. The camps take place June 5-23, and limited financial assistance is available. 747-6213 and www.theatredance.utep.edu

ASUS scholarships: The American States Utility Services, Inc., is accepting scholarship applications through March 31. Applicants must be dependent children of active, full-time U.S. military members at ASUS served locations who work 32 hours or more per week and have at least one year of service by the application deadline and high school seniors who have been accepted into a full-time undergraduate course of study in environmental science, technology, environmental engineering, biology, chemistry, medical sciences, mathematical sciences, business management or acquisition and contract management at an accredited two- or four-year college or a vocational-technical school. <https://www.scholarsapply.org/asus/>

School Age Book Club: The School Age Book Club is designed for children ages 7-12. A staff member will read for part of the time and the children will read aloud from 4-5 p.m. every Wednesday at Mickelsen Community Library. 568-6156

Tell Me a Story: Free event for military families at Fort Bliss April 13. This is a Tell Me a Story event where we will have Emma White as our

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Veterans Resource Center



El Paso Community College

915.831.2398
veteranscenter@epcc.edu



The Center offers:

- Computer stations with internet access, networked printer and specialized software
- Veteran-related EPCC and community resource information
- Book lending library
- Current veteran-related magazines, periodicals and literature
- Lounge/study area
- Meeting space
- Quiet room
- Telephone for local calls
- Laptop checkout



Veterans Resource Center

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The El Paso County Community College District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

guest reader. She will be reading a story called "While You Were Away" by Eileen Spinelli that helps support children through deployment.

Teen Book Club: The Teen Book Club meets at 4 p.m. every second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Mickelsen Community Library. There will be a discussion, debate and reading from current and popular young adult books for students ages 13-18. 568-6156

Paws for Reading: Do you have a school-aged child who struggles with reading? Come to the Mickelsen Community Library from 4-5 p.m. every first and third Wednesday of the month and join Paws for Reading. Children will have the opportunity to read to a certified therapy dog to improve their reading skills and build self-confidence. Parents must register for a time slot (roughly 15 minutes, or more if slots are available) on the children's side of the library. Registration will occur the day of the program on a first-come, first-served basis. Maximum of four slots. Parents must remain at the library during the program. Free. 568-6156

Child Range Orientation: This is a one-hour firearm safety course required for children ages 6-17 to accompany parents or guardians on Rod and Gun Club live-fire ranges, and it will take place at 2 p.m. the second and fourth Saturday of each month. A parent or guardian must accompany all children. It is open to the public. Free. 568-5426

SKIESUnlimited: SKIESUnlimited offers a variety of fun and educational programs geared for children of all ages and talent levels. Music classes such as piano, voice, guitar and drums are available. SKIES also has a variety of art, sports, driver's training, and babysitting courses just to name a few. Call our team today at 568-5544. All students must be enrolled with CYS Services Parent Central. Call 568-4374 to set up an appointment. Class registration opens from the 20th of the month prior to the seventh of the month you are enrolling for. www.bliss.armymwr.com

Community

Hub of Human Innovation: The Hub of Human Innovation will host a series of events and workshops, including 1 Million Cups, a program that connects entrepreneurs, which takes place from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Wednesdays at 500 W. Overland, Suite 230. The organization will also host a SHIFT Customer Discovery Workshop from 5-7:30 p.m. every Tuesday from Feb. 28-Tuesday. Contact nancy@hubep.org or 321-3121. <https://hubep.incutrack.net/apply.cfm>. In addition, the organization will host a SHIFT Business Model Canvas Workshop from 5-7:30 p.m. every Wednesday from April 12 to May 3. <https://hubep.incutrack.net/apply.cfm>. www.hubep.org or 321-3123

Retired Officers' Wives' Club: The club will meet for lunch on Tuesday at noon in the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center. Lucy Sanchez, manager of volunteers at the Fort Bliss USO will speak. Wives and widows of retired officers from any branch of service are invited. Cost is \$18 and reservations are required by noon Friday. 231-9630

Star City Tattoo Expo: The 2017 Star City Tattoo and Arts Expo is Friday through Sunday at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center. The expo is the only tattoo expo on a military base and it will feature more than 130 tattoo artists and entertainment. www.starcityexpo.com

Model trains: The Model Railroad Model and Historical Association of El Paso will have their first 2017 open house from noon-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The train yards are located at 6335 Vaughn Court between Alameda and Delta, just west of Ascarate Road. N, HO, and O scales will be on display to watch running. Free. 751-6213

EPCC Spring Arts Festival: Come and experience our many talented artists and departments March 24 from 4-7 p.m. There will be an unveiling of a new mural by local artist Jesus Alvarado. Free. epcc.edu/events/artsfestival

KidsPalooza: The 10th Annual Downtown KidsPalooza is scheduled for March 25 from 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Downtown KidsPalooza is an all-

day family event organized by the El Paso Symphony Orchestra with the support of our Family Fun Partners. Downtown area arts organizations join forces to present a day of fun for families throughout the downtown area. The El Paso Symphony presents A Star Wars Concert at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. at the Plaza Theatre. Tickets are \$5 general admission. Kids are encouraged to dress as their favorite character. Photo ops available with Storm Troopers.

Lake Lucero Tours: Hike with a ranger to the source of the gypsum sand. Reservations required and accepted one month in advance. Program fees apply. The tour is at 9 a.m. March 25. For reservations & information visit: www.nps.gov/whsa.

Side by Side Concert: On March 26 at 3 p.m. in El Paso's historic Plaza Theatre, the El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras and the El Paso Symphony will present their 11th annual Side by Side Concert. Led by music director Dr. James O. Welsch, there will be over 400 musicians from the El Paso Symphony, El Paso Symphony Youth Orchestras, and Tocando playing pieces including Sobre Las Olas by Juventino Rosas and Symphony No. 3 in D Minor by Anton Bruckner. This concert showcases all of the components of the EPSO's artistic and educational mission in one terrific event. Tickets prices: \$15-\$34 for adults, \$10-\$19 for student/senior/military/music educators. More information available at www.epsyos.org or 532-3776.

Community Art Contest: El Dorado High School invites the El Paso, Juarez and Las Cruces communities to participate in the school's art contest, Metamorphosis: Trash to Treasure, to raise awareness about environmental concerns. Contest rules and guidelines can be found in the It's Your World project website at www.tinyurl.com/j23deme and click on the Competition link. Artists may enter the contest by submitting a photo of their artwork before midnight March 31 to itsyourworldproject@gmail.com. For more information, call El Dorado High School at 937-3200 or contact Candace Printz at 731-6271 or by email at itsyourworldproject@gmail.com.


Massing of the Colors: The 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division color guard, 1st Armored Division Band, veterans, school and civic organizations will participate in the annual Massing of the Colors at 2 p.m. April 1 at St. Raphael Church, 2301 Zanzibar. The event, sponsored by the El Paso Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars, is a nonsectarian ceremony dating back to 1922 that recognizes the sacrifices of all Americans, military and civilian, in war and peace. All civic, veteran, patriotic and Girl and Boy Scout organizations are invited to participate. Free. 449-8994 or pballes1@epcc.edu

Properly dispose of U.S. Flags: The Roy Benavidez-Robert Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Association collects and properly disposes of unserviceable U.S. Flags. Free and open to the public 24 hours a day, place flags in the blue collection bin outside of 2608 Fort Blvd. 240-8104

Full Moon Bike Ride: White Sands National Monument near Alamogordo, N.M., will hold a full moon bike ride at 8 p.m. April 8. Enjoy a leisurely unguided bike ride along Dunes Drive under the light of a full moon. No private vehicles are allowed on the road during the event. Reservations required. Park entrance and program fees apply. www.nps.gov/whsa

Women's Day Retreat: Priscilla Shirer Simulcast presented on Saturday, April 22 at First Baptist Church, 805 Montana Ave. from 9 a.m. -3 p.m. The simulcast will be presented in both English and Spanish. Lunch will be provided, as well as child care for a cost \$10. Registration closes April 14th. To register or for more information call the church office at 533-1465.

Hawker Reunion: Attention all veterans who served with the U.S. Army Hawk Air Defense Artillery missile systems. A reunion will take place April 27-30 in Huntsville, Alabama. Find the website at <http://www.mlsinc.com/hawkers/default.html> and the registration packet at <http://www.mlsinc.com/hawkers/2017hawkersrp.pdf>. 828-256-6008



Railroad Model & Historical Association

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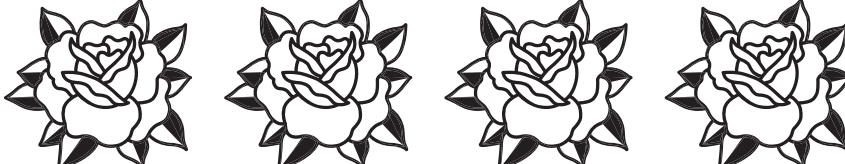
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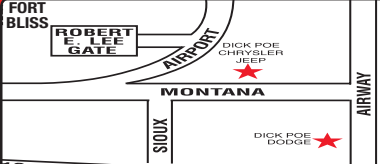
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