



EFMB

Army medics compete ■ 6A



Like a BOSS

Bash breaches Biggs ■ 1B

Thursday, September 19, 2019

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>> 'MULESKINNERS' CASE COLORS

Staff Sgt. Shawn Casey / 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade

Col. Ronnie Anderson, commander, 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade and Command Sgt. Maj. Carla Hill, command sergeant major, 1st Ar. Div. Sust. Bde., hold the brigade colors while Col. Michael Wagner, chief of staff, 1st Ar. Div., attaches a Meritorious Unit Commendation streamer for the brigade's contributions in Afghanistan in 2017 and 2018, during a color casing ceremony Sept. 4. The 1st Ar. Div. Sust. Bde. will deploy once again to Afghanistan in support of operations Freedom's Sentinel and Resolute Support. For more on this story, see page 3A.



Graphic courtesy Army Public Health Center

Soldiers and their family members who do not currently use tobacco products are encouraged to avoid all e-cigarette or vaping products, particularly those sold off the street or modified to add any substances not intended by the manufacturer.

Army issues public health alert after multiple severe lung illness cases associated with vaping

By Douglas Holl / U.S. Army Public Health Center

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – The Army Public Health Center issued a Public Health Alert Sept. 10 warning Soldiers and family members who do not currently use tobacco products to avoid all e-cigarette and vaping products, particularly those sold off the street or modified to add any substances not intended by the manufacturer.

The warning follows reports of more than 450 possible cases of severe lung illness associated with e-cigarette products that have been reported across multiple states, which all have Army installations also located in these states. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have confirmed at least six deaths across multiple states associated with this illness.

All patients have reported recently using e-cigarette products, and many reported using e-cigarettes containing cannabinoid products such as tetrahydrocannabinol or cannabidiol, also known as THC or CBD respectively, said Dr. Amy Millikan Bell, APHC medical advisor. Symptoms appear over the course of a few days to several weeks and include cough, shortness of breath or chest pain; in addition to, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea; and fatigue, fever or weight loss.

“Pulmonary infections do not appear to be causing the symptoms, which have generally not improved with antibiotic treatment alone, according to physicians treating the affected individuals,” said Bell. “The recent multi-state outbreak of severe lung illness associated with e-cigarette use here in the United States, has raised the level of concern across the country. When otherwise healthy youth and young adults experience severe illness resulting in hospitalization and, in some cases, death, it’s important to remain cautious until exact causes are identified.”

Army Public Health Center experts warn that buying vaping products or e-cigarettes over-the-counter still poses a serious risk.

“Until an exact cause of the outbreak is identified, the CDC recommends individuals consider not using any e-cigarette products,” said Dr. Marc A. Williams, a toxicologist and an e-cigarette and vaping expert in APHC’s Toxicology Directorate. “This recent outbreak has elevated concern.”

Although using e-cigarettes or vaping devices has been thought of as safer than smoking, Williams cautions there is considerable uncertainty due to the complex mixture of chemicals in vaping aerosols. Many of these chemicals are not intended to be inhaled to the lungs, where adverse health effects are likely to start.

“There is a lack of quality control standards in the safe manufacture of these de-

Be it engineer or infantry Soldier ...

Bliss garrison holds change of responsibility Sept. 11

By David Poe / USAG Fort Bliss

With more than 30 years of service, Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Holschbach, the outgoing U.S. Army Garrison Fort Bliss CSM, who joined the Army as a 21E Heavy Equipment Operator, passed responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. James Brasher, an 11B Infantryman, during the unit’s change of responsibility ceremony on East Fort Bliss, Sept. 11.

Soldiers and civilians from across the garrison command and Team Bliss were in attendance, as well as partners from El Paso and the Borderland.

USAG Fort Bliss is composed of 15 directorates that support the installation’s Strategic Deployment Platform mission, enabling rapid and efficient deployment and redeployment of America’s forces. Also, as the home of the 1st Armored Division and several other large-scale and highly-specialized units, the garrison is responsible for services and facilities for the approximately 30,000 troops stationed here and their families.

In his remarks, a laudatory Holschbach said he was appreciative of his many “battle buddies” in attendance at the ceremony for their teamwork



David Poe / USAG Fort Bliss

Command Sgt. Maj. James Brasher, the incoming USAG Fort Bliss command sergeant major, receives the garrison colors from Col. Stu James, the unit’s commander, during a change of responsibility ceremony on East Fort Bliss, Sept. 11. As the senior enlisted advisor to the commander, the command sergeant major is thought of as the “keeper of the command colors.”

since he assumed responsibility in 2017.

“It was great working with you and building great relationships,” he said during his remarks. “You’ve been a bunch of great people to work with and with each new group, it gets that much better, so thank you.”

Col. Stu James, the garrison commander, said

being the senior noncommissioned officer of a multi-faceted organization like USAG Fort Bliss requires a CSM of many hats.

“Sergeant Major Holschbach has remained ‘on task’ handling a multitude of issues, giving me the maneuver space to focus on my ‘blind

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USASMA teacher named 2019 TRADOC Educator of the Year ■ 2B

FORT BLISS

Thursday



Partly cloudy
Hi 91, Lo 69

Friday



Sunny, warm
Hi 92, Lo 70

Saturday



Partly cloudy
Hi 93, Lo 69

Sunday



Sunny, warm
Hi 92, Lo 68

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Social media security: Tips from an Army special agent

By C. Todd Lopez | Defense.gov

WASHINGTON – Even the most innocuous data posted to a social media feed can be mar-ried up with other publicly-available informa-tion to provide online criminals the tools they need to exploit members of the military or gen-eral public, an Army special agent said.

Special Agent Deric Palmer, program man-ager for the Digital Personal Protection Pro-gram, part of the Major Cybercrime Unit at the Army Criminal Investigation Command, ex-plaind how those who aren’t careful or aren’t paying attention can unwittingly provide scam-mers and other online criminals all the informa-tion they need to exploit them.

Social media accounts, Palmer said, serve as fertile ground for digging up the kinds of infor-mation that can be used to impersonate some-one, steal identities or break into other online accounts, such as banking or insurance.

A Facebook page, for example, might con-tain current and past physical addresses where a person has lived, phone numbers, email ad-dresses, names of pets, significant events such as birthdays and anniversaries, hobbies and other interests. Just browsing a Facebook page, Palmer said, he can figure out your favorite music, books, TV shows, political and religious leanings.

All that, he said, serves as “an attack vector” that an unscrupulous person can use to com-municate with users further and gain their trust. Additional communications can bring out even more details that might later be used to break into online accounts or exploit users in other ways. Some social media users, Palmer added, even volunteer critical information that could be used to access their online financial accounts that they’d never divulge if they were asked by a stranger.

Some online memes, he noted, pose as games that get users to volunteer information that, coupled with other easily obtainable infor-mation, can be used to exploit them. A quick search online reveals a simple graphic meme that purportedly allows users to choose “your new cat name” and then post the results, along with the meme itself, on their own social media feed.

For the “cat name” meme, users would use the last digit of their phone number as a selec-tor for any of nine name prefixes, their zodiac sign to choose from a list of 12 middle names, and their favorite color to choose from a list of eight potential last names.

A user might end up with “Count Sassy Pants” as a silly name for their cat. When they post that on their social media feed, along with the meme im-age itself, would-be criminals will know their phone number ends in 8, they were born in either August or September, and that their favorite color is yellow. Coupled with data already on their social media feed, and with data that can be obtained from data brokers, the information makes it easier to exploit users, Palmer explained.

Military personnel also are candidates to be impersonated online – malicious users might opt to use imagery of real-world service mem-bers available online to exploit other users. The U.S. military is one of the most trusted institu-tions in the nation, and online criminals, Palm-er said, take advantage of that.

“The U.S. military is viewed as a prestigious club ... It’s an indicator of prestige,” Palmer said. “It’s instant respect. If I can pretend to be a general, unwitting people will respect me im-mediately.”

With that respect, he said, a criminal can ex-ploit other users while pretending to be a mem-ber of the military. Palmer’s advice to service members: don’t post your picture in uniform with the name tape visible. “It immediately makes you a target,” the special agent said.

Palmer offered some tips to avoid being scammed:

- Immediate red flag! Be suspicious if you are asked for money or a wire transfer to pay for a purported service member’s transporta-tion, medical bills, communication fees or

marriage-processing charges.

- Be suspicious if the person with whom you are corresponding wants you to mail anything to a foreign country.
- Be aware that military members at any duty location or in a combat zone have access to mail, cyber cafes, Skype and other means of commu-nicating with their families, and they have access to medical and den-tal treatment.

- The military will ensure that family mem-bers are notified should a service member is in-jured.
- Insist on a “proof of life.” The scammers will not video chat with you, be-cause they know you will catch

them in their lie.

- Trust your instincts! If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

The special agent also provided eight points for better security online, and to make users less likely to be victimized by on-line criminals:

- Permanently close old, unused accounts.
- Enable two-factor authentication on any platform that allows it.
- Use strong passwords, and use different passwords for every account.
- On social media, accept friend requests se-lectively.
- Configure the strongest privacy settings for each social media account.
- Think before you post.
- Limit use of third-part applications on so-cial media applications, read the license agree-ment, and be sure exactly what those applica-tions want to be able to access.
- Change answers to security questions, and use false answers so that online criminals can’t use information they gather online to gain ac-cess to your accounts.



Graphic by C. Todd Lopez / DoD
Image memes such as this one ask users to construct and share on their social media feeds new, “fun” information that is constructed from their personal information.

30th ABCT Soldiers support suicide prevention awareness march

By Lt. Col. Cynthia King |
30th Armored Brigade Combat Team

For many, it was too painful to talk about. Instead, they quietly wrote the name of some-one they lost to suicide on a piece of olive-colored tape and wore it during the march to remember them.

Soldiers in the 1st Squadron, 150th Cavalry Regiment from the West Virginia National Guard, attached to the 30th Armored Brigade

Combat Team, participated in a Suicide Pre-vention Awareness march while in the vicinity of Fort Bliss, Sept. 7.

The unit’s chaplain, Capt. Justin Elliott, said the event was planned to learn more about pre-venting suicide and share ways to help one an-other, as well as find support.

“September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness month and Sept. 10 is National Suicide Prevention Day,” said Elliott. “We are

taking this opportunity to help our Soldiers, let them know they are not alone and that there are ways to find support.”

The more than 500 Soldiers who marched in formation were dressed in duty uniform and donned their Improved Outer Tactical Vests. They were told if they wanted to recognize someone they cared about who died from sui-

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spots,” James said, who has been the garrison commander since July, “As a new commander, I couldn’t ask for anything more. He’s had a sig-nificant impact across the installation.”

James said that because of the experience it takes to become a command sergeant major, changes of responsibility, while vital, usually occur with predictability, but that wasn’t the case at USAG Fort Bliss.

“This position is unique because you don’t have any Soldiers from your former MOS in the formation, unless you hail from the mighty Chaplain Corps or the JAG Corps,” said James. “In a typical Army command, the sergeant ma-jor is the most knowledgeable Soldier in the formation ... a large portion of the unit usually holds the same MOS that the sergeant major once held. I’d say this change of responsibility is a little different than most because the garrison sergeant major is entering a new, and somewhat foreign operational environment.”

Holschbach said he wasn’t sure how to pre-pare for being the CSM of a complex group of people and missions like USAG Fort Bliss, but was able to figure it out along the way.

“In all previous jobs, Soldiers did what you told them because position and rank required them to — this job is quite different,” Holsch-bach said. “I’ve really had to leverage the softer skills of communication and create a ‘coalition of the willing’ to be effective.

“Our job is to support our teams that support our Soldiers and families, and members of the military community that give us structure,” he said. “Our goal is to maintain a steady state that



David Poe / USAG Fort Bliss

Command Sgt. Maj. James Brasher, the incoming USAG Fort Bliss command sergeant major, and his daughter share a moment during the outdoor-indoor ceremony change of responsibility on East Fort Bliss, Sept. 11.

creates as many efficiencies as we can in the ser-vices we support.”

So, whether it was a heavy equipment op-erator, or now an infantry Soldier, James said staunch leadership is the MOS for the garrison sergeant major and James said he looked for-ward to serving alongside his unit’s newest se-nior enlisted advisor.

“This assignment will test the sergeant ma-jor’s flexibility and ability to adapt to a new operational environment, where the need to in-fluence and build teams ‘is’ the critical skill set. Sergeant Major Holschbach has done a remark-able job meeting this challenge and I know Ser-geant Major Brasher will rapidly adapt to meet this challenge as well.”

VAPING *Continued from Page 1A*

vices and products, which should make us all deeply skeptical or at least questioning of the general safety of these devices,” said Williams.

Both the CDC warning and Army Public Health alert also caution against using e-ciga-rettes or vaping in ways that are not intended by the makers, like dripping or dabbing. Dripping is when users drop e-cigarette solvents onto the hot coils of the e-cigarette, resulting in more concentrated compounds, said Corey Fitzg-erald, an APHC public health social worker. Dab-bing is when substances containing high levels of THC or CBD are superheated in the device. Adult smokers who are attempting to quit by using e-cigarettes should consult their health-care provider for consideration of evidence-based alternative methods.

“If you use e-cigarette or vaping products, monitor yourself for respiratory or gastrointes-tinal symptoms and seek prompt medical atten-tion if you experience the symptoms described above or any other abnormal symptoms,” said Bell.

Williams says vaping of e-cigarettes is found to be detrimental to performance, readiness, resilience and personal health in military per-sonnel.

“It should be considered a myth that vap-ing is less harmful than conventional cigarette smoking,” said Williams. “Army researchers have discovered that vaping might be associ-ated with anxiety, increased blood pressure and seizures. In efforts to conserve the fighting strength, and strengthen Army readiness and re-silience, vaping of e-cigarettes should be highly discouraged at this time.”



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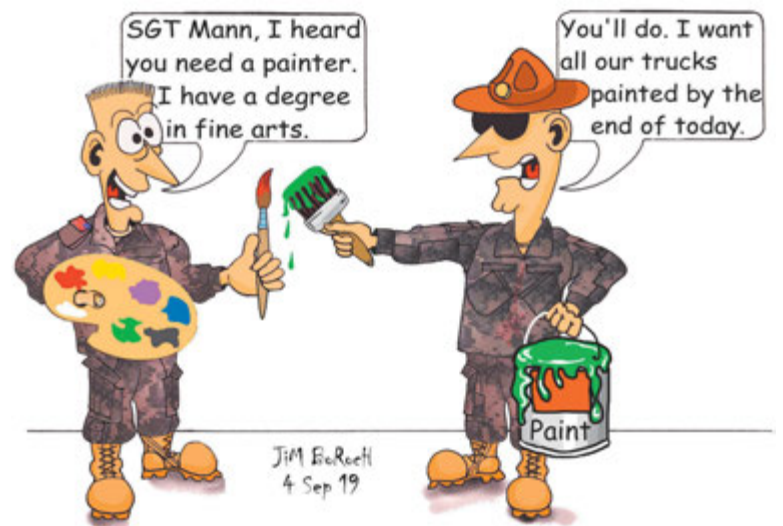
Training is the oil that keeps the engine of our Army running



FBFD provides support, assistance during tanker fire ■ 4A



UAE officers visits JMC, consider their own modernization org. ■ 5A



'Muleskinners' case colors, mark start of deployment

By Staff Sgt. Killo Gibson | 1st Armored Division

The 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade marked the start of a combat deployment with a colors casing ceremony on Muleskinner Field, Sept. 4.

The casing of the colors – a traditional ceremony held by Army commands, brigades and regiments – symbolizes the unit's movement of operations from its home station to the U.S. Army Central Command area of operations in support of operations Freedom's Sentinel and Resolute Support.

"The team on the field has invested countless hours training and preparing for whatever mission we may be given," said Col. Ronnie D. Anderson, commander, 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade. "America's Tank Division is very fortunate to have the facilities and community that supports the best training in our Army."

During the ceremony the unit received an award for its past contributions in Afghanistan.

"It's a great honor to recognize the heritage

of excellence this brigade has established by officially presenting the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the units' contributions in Afghanistan in 2017 and 2018," Anderson said.

Some of the brigade and subordinate elements will deploy to Afghanistan with approximately 200 Soldiers.

"As we assume the Resolute Support sustainment brigade mission for the third time in six years, we are fully aware of the enormity of the mission we are assuming," said Anderson. "The breadth, depth, scope, scale and pace of logistics, finance, postal, medical, and customs operations in Afghanistan today will be both challenging and rewarding."

He continued, "As strategic decisions reach a critical point in history, I assure you, regardless of the mission, the Muleskinners are up to the task, and we look forward to a great reunion at the best place in the Army to train, live and call home – right here at Fort Bliss and El Paso."



Staff Sgt. Shawn Casey / 1st AD

Col. Ronnie Anderson, commander, 1st Armored Division Sustainment Brigade and Command Sgt. Maj. Carla Hill, command sergeant major, 1st Ar. Div. Sust. Bde., case the brigade colors during a ceremony Sept. 4 as they prepare to deploy to Afghanistan in support of operations Freedom's Sentinel and Resolute Support.



Lt. Col. Cynthia King / 30th ABCT

Soldiers in 1st Squadron, 150th Cavalry Regiment from the West Virginia National Guard, attached to the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, participate in a Suicide Prevention Awareness march while in the vicinity of Fort Bliss, Sept. 7. They were told if they wanted to recognize someone they cared about who died from suicide, they could display the name on their vests. Nearly one-third of the Soldiers displayed a name and sadly, some Soldiers wore more than one name.

PREVENTION *Continued from Page 2A*

cide, they could display the name on their vest. Nearly one-third of the Soldiers displayed a name and sadly, some Soldiers wore more than one name.

Elliott placed signs along the route with words of reassurance and strength. One of the signs read, "Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day, saying 'I will try again tomorrow.'"

"We believe in the ACT initiative, where we ask if someone is hurting and thinking of suicide; care by listening and letting them know they are not alone; and treat, meaning get the individual to assistance," said 1-150th CAV Commander, Lt. Col. Clifford Brackman. "We know this is making a difference."

When they reached the end of the mile-and-a-half march, the Soldiers formed around Command Sgt. Maj. James Phillips. He reminded them it was so important they look

out for one another, and understand that when someone commits suicide, it deeply affects everyone.

"Sometimes we never know why we didn't see the signs," said Phillips. "You have to get to know your battle buddies. You have to talk to each other."

Brackman said that he hopes the Suicide Prevention Awareness march reminded his Soldiers that there is help out there. He also wanted the 30th ABCT "Old Hickory" tradition of "stay and fight" to resonate for them.

"We want our Soldiers to stay and fight for their families, stay and fight for their fellow Soldiers, and stay and fight for their lives," said Brackman.

Soldiers from the 30th ABCT, headquartered in the North Carolina Army national guards, are preparing to support Operation Spartan Shield. The organization is comprised of units from the North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio and West Virginia Army national guards.



Spc. Justin Hobbs / 36th Inf. Div., Texas Army National Guard

>> TEXAS SOLDIERS EARN GERMAN ARMED FORCES BADGE FOR MILITARY PROFICIENCY

Texas and Alabama Soldiers from Task Force Gunslingers, 3rd Battalion, 133rd Field Artillery Regiment, 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 36th Infantry Division, Texas Army National Guard, graduated from the week-long German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency hosted by the German Air Force Air Defense Center at Fort Bliss, Aug. 12-16.

The Soldiers participated in a 100-meter swim, German Physical Training, P8 German pistol range, and 12-kilometer ruck march before graduating.

The German Air Force Air Defense Center has been stationed at Fort Bliss since 1956 and has fostered a relationship built on mutual respect and learning. Beginning in the 1970s, German airmen have invited U.S. participants to compete for one of the most sought-after foreign badges authorized for U.S. military wear – the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency.

The German Proficiency Badge is one of the foreign awards that U.S. Soldiers are allowed to wear on their dress uniforms. Requirements to acquire it are stringent and require physical and mental determination, making it that much more respected among U.S. service members.

FBFD provides support, assistance during tanker fire

By Michelle L. Gordon | USAG Fort Bliss Public Affairs

When the 911 call came in during the early morning hours of Sept. 12, Fort Bliss firefighters were ready to respond to the fuel-tanker truck fire near the vicinity of CSM Barreras Gate, located at Sergeant Major Boulevard and Loop 375.

Fort Bliss Deputy Fire Chief Cliff Hansen said, “The call was cloned to our dispatch from El Paso 911 because they thought it might be closer to us. I had Station 5 respond, which is Ladder 52 and Engine 51.”

Once on the scene, Hansen made contact with the battalion chief from the El Paso Fire Department and they established a unified command, allowing the two departments to work together seamlessly – sharing radio communications and calling in multiple crash trucks to extinguish the blaze.

“I called in for two of our crash trucks from Biggs Field and the battalion chief from El Paso called in one of their crash trucks, because we needed foam,” Hansen said. “There was more than 8,000 gallons of unleaded fuel, so we needed as much foam as we could get.”

Foam is used during fuel fires because it smoothers the oxygen. Hansen explained that fuel fires are so hot, water alone cannot put them out.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, but Hansen said it appears to have been a rear-brake malfunction. The driver escaped unharmed.

“Fuel tankers are compartmentalized,” Hansen said. “This one was carrying about 8,100 gallons of unleaded fuel in four compartments. The fire started in one of the compartments near the rear, and shortly before we arrived, it compromised one of the other compartments. We let it burn until all of the compartments were compromised because each time one fails, it’s a big explosion.”

He said flames reached 50 to 60 feet in the air.

Hansen estimates the Fort Bliss Fire Department dumped about 70 gallons of foam mixed with 2,800 gallons of water on the fire, and the city did the same amount.

The initial call came in about 3:20 a.m., and Hansen said they had it completely out by around 6:30 a.m.; the northbound lanes of Loop 375 remained closed until mid-day.

“We work with El Paso a lot, but I’ve been here 26 years and I think this unified command was one of the best we’ve had at a major incident like this,” Hansen said. “We worked hand-in-hand and no one got hurt. We came together and eliminated the hazard.”



Photos by Cliff Hansen / Fort Bliss Fire Department
A fire erupted during the early morning hours of Sept. 12, near the vicinity of CSM Barreras Gate, located at Sergeant Major Boulevard and Loop 375. Although flames reached 50 to 60 feet in the air, the driver of the truck escaped unharmed. Firefighters from Fort Bliss and El Paso worked together to extinguish the blaze.



Firefighters from Fort Bliss and El Paso worked together to extinguish a fuel-tanker fire during the early morning hours of Sept. 12, near the vicinity of CSM Barreras Gate, located at Sergeant Major Boulevard and Loop 375.

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UAE officers visit JMC, consider their own modernization organization

By Jonathan Koester | Joint Modernization Command

As military officers with the United Arab Emirates looked for ways to improve procurement processes and build interoperability with their partners, they attended a Joint Warfighting Assessment in Germany led by the U.S. Army Joint Modernization Command.

After observing how the JMC incorporates Soldier feedback during live testing to modernize the Army, the UAE requested a visit to the command so they could learn more, and perhaps stand up their own assessment and modernization organization.

A land forces delegation from the UAE visited JMC headquarters on Fort Bliss, the first week in September to begin that process.

“The UAE hosts ‘Iron Union’ exercises with the U.S. four times a year and is working toward making sure their systems are interoperable with their allies,” said Maj. Matthew W. St. Pierre, chief of plans at JMC.

He continued, “The UAE started to realize that in their procurement process, they were missing opportunities to make sure the systems they procure integrate correctly with coalition partners. They are trying to build interoperability, and they realized after watching JWA 18 in Germany that they want to emulate an organization like JMC.”

Lt. Col. Awad Ghareeb AlNuaimi, chief of training in UAE’s armament section, said



Jonathan Koester / JMC

From right, Col. Waleed Abdulla AlShehhi, chief of UAE’s communication section, and Lt. Col. Awad Ghareeb AlNuaimi, chief of training in UAE’s armament section, speak to leaders from the U.S. Army Joint Modernization Command. They were part of a UAE delegation that visited JMC on Fort Bliss in early September to learn more about assessment and procurement.

he was impressed by JMC’s efforts to make systems joint and interoperable, while thinking about future needs. UAE’s armament section currently handles procurement.

During the visit, AlNuaimi learned about JMC’s recent assessment of the newest positioning and navigation systems. He said developing a good navigation system that

allies can use together is an important goal for the UAE.

“We need to build our evaluation procedures,” AlNuaimi said. “We use the procedure provided by the company that produces each system. We need independent procedures, like the JMC uses. That is our goal.”

The UAE is located across the Persian Gulf from Iran, and is a strategic partner with the U.S. The visit allowed the UAE delegation to understand how the JMC plans and conducts Soldier-led assessments, with civilian engineers, civilian computer programmers and others working alongside military assessors.

JMC plans and executes worldwide multi-echelon, joint and multinational live experiments in support of the Army’s modernization strategy. These live experiments assess and ensure the Army’s capability in Multi-Domain Operations.

In addition to an annual JWA – the Army’s premier modernization and interoperability exercise – JMC assesses potential Army equipment year-round in smaller exercises. The next JWA is scheduled for April and May 2020 in Germany and Poland, during which, JMC will assess more than 50 concepts and capabilities to provide Soldiers with the best tools for future conflicts.

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Training

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

(From left to right)

First Lt. Mackenzie Grigsby, medical-surgical nurse with William Beaumont Army Medical Center, decontaminates herself during a combat testing lane as part of the Expert Field Medical Badge while Sgt. Eric Payment, a joint fire support specialist with 4th Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, grades her performance.

Second Lt. Lekeisha Haynes, health services administration officer with 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd ABCT, 1st AD, surveys the field before heading out to a land navigation exercise.

Spc. Nicholas Njoku, combat medic with 1st Bn., 77th AR, 3rd BCT, 1st AD, inspects a makeshift combat wound during a combat testing lane.

Noncommissioned officers with 1st ABCT, 1st AD, demonstrate the correct way to perform a push up within the Army Physical Fitness Test standard to a group of Expert Field Medical Badge competition candidates.

(Below) Pfc. Oscar Martel, combat medic with 4th Bn., 1st FAR, 3rd ABCT, 1st AD, inspects his Home Station Instrumentation Training System equipment before conducting a land navigation exercise as part of an Expert Field Medical Badge at Fort Bliss, Sept. 6.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Kris Bonet / 1st ABCT, 1st AD



CURRENT BADGE REQUIREMENTS

> PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST

Score at least 80 points in each event at the test.

> M4 BASIC MARKSMANSHIP QUALIFICATION

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> LAND NAVIGATION

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> COMBAT TESTING LANE 1

Disassemble, assemble, and perform a functions check on an M4 or M4A1 Carbine
Move under direct fire
Correct malfunction of an M4 Carbine or M16-series Rifle
Perform a Tactical Combat Casualty Care patient assessment
Evacuate casualties using one-person carries or drags
Control bleeding using a tourniquet
Control bleeding using a hemostatic device
Control bleeding using dressings
Initiate a saline lock and intravenous infusion
Initiate treatment for hypovolemic shock and prevent hypothermia
React to indirect fire
Triage casualties
Insert nasopharyngeal airway
Treat a penetrating chest wound
Perform needle chest decompression
Treat an open head injury
Treat an open abdominal wound
Immobilize a suspected fracture of the arm
Treat lacerations, contusions, and extrusions of the eye
Prepare a Tactical Combat Casualty Care Card
Evacuate casualties using two-person carries or drags
Load casualties onto ground evacuation platform

> COMBAT TESTING LANE 2

Disassemble, assemble, and perform a functions check on an M9 Pistol
React to an UXO or possible IED
Submit Explosive Hazard Spot Report
Protect yourself from chemical/biological contamination using your assigned protective mask
Decontaminate yourself using chemical decontamination kits
Protect yourself from CBRN injury/contamination with Joint Services Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology chemical protective ensemble
Perform self-aid for mild nerve agent poisoning
Submit NBC 1 Report
Protect yourself from chemical or biological injury/contamination when removing Mission Oriented Protective Posture using JSLIST
Store the M40-series protective mask with/without hood
Load casualties onto nonstandard vehicle

> COMBAT TESTING LANE 3

Move over, through, or around obstacles
Evacuate casualties using litter carries
Extricate casualties from a vehicle
Evacuate a casualty using a SKED litter
Load casualties onto ground evacuation platform
Load casualties onto a UH-60 helicopter
Load casualties onto a HH-60L helicopter
Establish a helicopter landing point
Assemble and operate SINGGARS or SINGGARS
Load FH/COMSEC data and conduct radio check using SINGGARS or SINGGARS
Prepare and transmit a MEDEVAC request

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E X P E R T

FIELD MEDICAL BADGE

'Validation of readiness, not just a level of excellence'

BY SPC. CHRISTINA WESTOVER | 24TH THEATER PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPPORT ELEMENT

ARMY MEDICS COMPETE FOR PRESTIGIOUS RECOGNITION

> USUALLY DURING COMPETITIONS, PARTICIPANTS STRIVE TO BE FIRST PLACE, trying to outdo, outwit, and defeat the other candidates in order to win.

But to earn the Expert Field Medical Badge, the competition is yourself.

What makes this badge hard to get is that medics have to overcome 43 medical evaluations within the time allotted without making a single mistake, while physically and mentally exhausted.

"This is my first time competing in the EFMB course, and hopefully I get it," said Capt. Stephen Scott, a health services human resources officer with the 424th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, Pennsylvania Army National Guard. "They say what you do in your twenties lasts a lifetime. I'm 29 and I think that this will have a positive impact on my career."

Medics from two active-duty divisions, the Minnesota and Arizona National Guard and a Pennsylvania Reserve component, traveled to Fort Bliss to participate in the assessment alongside 1st Armored Division medics. This year's event was hosted by the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team. Soldiers were tested on lifesaving skills while under physical and mental stress at Fort Bliss, Sept. 5 to 11.

More than half of the Soldiers who entered the competition have competed in the past and failed, but they come back throughout their military career, in the hopes of finally obtaining it.

"You have to carry your crown before you can wear it," said Scott. "So needless to say, if I do not complete it here at this time, I will most definitely come again and knock it out of the

park. You know what they say, 'It's better to take a bumpy road to success than a smooth road to failure.'"

The EFMB qualification measures Soldiers' physical fitness, mental toughness, and ability to perform to standards of excellence in a broad spectrum of critical medical and military skills.

While the events covered include basic Soldier tasks, such as land navigation and the Army physical fitness test, it also includes combat testing lanes that cover litter carries, extraction from a military vehicle and using a radio to call for medical evacuation.

The badge was established in June 1965 as a Department of the Army special skill award for the recognition of exceptional competence and outstanding performance by field medical personnel and is considered to be one of the most prestigious awards Soldiers can earn.

"For a test that started as a validation of skills for the medical units of 5th Corps, the EFMB has become the standard by which we measure excellence," said Command Sgt. Maj. William Vernon, Troop Command, William Beaumont Army Medical Center. "For those of you that have earned your badge today, you have also earned the responsibility."

"Today is a day of celebration, but tomorrow the real work starts," said Vernon. "Others have made it possible for you to be here, so tomorrow, in addition to maintaining your level of excellence for as long as you wear the badge, you are responsible for ensuring that we field the greatest, ready medical force possible."

"We owe a debt to those that came before us – a debt that can only be paid by preparing those

that come after us," said Vernon. "That is only possible if you become the standard, and this test becomes a validation of readiness, not just a level of excellence."

With only three percent of the Army's medical community sporting the badge, the numbers speak for themselves.

By the end of the week-long event, only five Soldiers out of 126 - four percent - met all of the rigorous requirements to earn the badge, showcasing their exceptional skills as an expert field medic.

"My next goal is seeing the Soldiers underneath succeed," said Sgt. Richard Kennedy, combat medic with 2nd Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment and one of the five EFMB recipients. "I want them to get the badge as well, so I will do everything in power to make that happen."

"I'd say (to Army medics), don't focus on just one aspect of our job," said Kennedy. "You should try to get as much out of the Army as you can. People are so full of knowledge, it's up to us to absorb that and teach as well."

Although the competition is hard, Soldiers need determination and dedication to not only earn the badge, but accept the fact that they may have someone's life in their hands.

"We ask for blessings, as these hard-working Soldiers are awarded the EFMB today," said Maj. Gino Hernandez, 1st Armored Brigade chaplain, during the invocation at the award ceremony, Sept. 11. "We realize that these badges are not mere decor upon a uniform, but emblems of responsibility to run toward disaster, so that others may be saved."

Lasting legacy: Iraqi linguist becomes U.S. Soldier

Risks life to reunite with American flag

By **Stephanie J. Santos** | USAG Fort Bliss Public Affairs
How far would you go to reunite with a symbol you love?

For one Iraqi man, it took 13 years, 7,474 miles, help from a family member, a trip to an isolated field and a rusty can to reclaim a treasured part of his life – an American flag.

Staff Sgt. Ahmed* shared how reuniting with the America flag changed the course of his life as he spoke to the Iron Soldiers of 1st Battalion “Bandits,” 37th Armored Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division Sept. 11, on East Fort Bliss.

More than 200 Soldiers listened intently as Ahmed gave tribute to the Bandits he served and fought with during the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Remembering the Bandit legacy

In 2003 Ahmed was serving as the official military translator for the Iron Soldiers of the 1-37 AR, 2nd ABCT. His assignment was to translate for the unit’s command team during meetings with local dignitaries and special missions. After a few months, however, the Iraqi native began to work heavily with infantry troops and accompanied them on raids, night missions and surveillances through downtown Baghdad.

The now 37-year-old vividly described the core of his job as working with U.S. Soldiers, becoming part of their team and sharing in their comradery.

“I wanted to help these U.S. Soldiers,” he said. “I wanted to be a part of rebuilding the Iraqi police and the Iraqi Army. When I got the chance to become a linguist for the Bandits, I witnessed, learned and experienced many things.”

Ahmed recounted images filled with watching local streets in Iraq swarmed with Bradley Fighting Vehicles, tanks, convoys and barbed-wire fences. He said that even at a young age, he had a drive to bring change into his country. He added that although his own family was



Sgt. Michael West / 2nd ABCT Public Affairs
An encased flag is displayed during a ceremony held Sept. 11 at the 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division motor pool.

proud, and they respected his decision to help U.S. troops, he had to remain cautious, as the war-torn county remained in turmoil.

Loyalty

Ahmed continued his work with the American Soldiers who believed in him enough to invite him into their inner circle of trust during his time with the 1-37 AR, 2nd ABCT. They continued working together on missions and conducting local surveillances. During this time, he began to appreciate the strength and core values of the U.S. Army and its Soldiers.

“I began to see the Army as a melting pot,” he said. “There was so much diversity and different nationalities, and yet they fought together, they served together and they mourned together. Although I was from a different culture, they trained me and respected my background and ethnicity. As my role as their translator increased, so did our brotherhood.”

Ahmed said the Bandits’ last ambush toward Fallujah was a memory that will always stay with him. It was an intense mission and not every Soldier survived.

“You are never prepared to lose a comrade,” he said. “On that mission, I lost my best friend, Sgt. Scott Larson. It was hard to believe. These

Soldiers were the same age as me and we all bonded; we formed a team.”

When the Bandits’ deployment was extended and assigned to a different area of operation, the Soldiers presented Ahmed with an American flag. Each of the Soldiers signed the flag to solidify their loyalty and friendship. He recalled how proud and honored he felt to receive it.

“It meant so much to me to become a part of the team with these great Soldiers,” he said. “I saw their discipline and integrity every day, and I was honored that they gave this U.S. flag to me.”

Courage

Ahmed continued his work with the American Soldiers. In 2005, two years after his time with the Bandits, he decided to take the flag to his home in Baghdad; he wanted to hang it in his room. He protected the flag with two heavy-duty plastic bags and then hid it inside a gym bag. But, while traveling home, his bus driver received a call that there was an anti-American checkpoint ahead.

Ahmed knew he could lose his life if he was caught with an American flag. In a panic, he decided to descend the bus and walk off the

freeway. He continued walking until he got to a residential neighborhood. He then quickly buried the bag using an old-rusty tin can as a shovel.

Why I Serve

Ahmed moved to the United States in 2008. Inspired by his time with the Bandits and seeing their dedication for upholding the Army values, he took the oath of enlistment to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and become a U.S. Soldier. He now lives in California and serves as a staff sergeant in the Active Guard Reserve.

In 2016 Ahmed’s parents made a special trip from Iraq to visit him and celebrate his accomplishments. But before his parents departed the country, Ahmed called his father with one special request – locate the buried flag and bring it with him to the United States.

“Even though more than a decade had passed since I buried the flag in Iraq, I knew exactly where it was buried, and I instructed my father to please bring it to the U.S.,” said Ahmed. “When my father told me he had located the flag, a part of me was alive again.”

The proud father and husband said his dream came true when he arrived at Fort Bliss Sept. 11 carrying the framed flag and sharing its legacy with a new era of Bandits.

“The flag finally made it home,” said Ahmed. “I think of these Soldiers every day when I put on my Army uniform and display the flag on my shoulder. Today, I did not see faces and ranks, but as I looked around, I saw the Old Ironsides patch and friendships that will last a lifetime. Larson did not live to see his flag again, but these Soldiers did.”

For Cpl. James Klingel, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-37 AR, 2nd ABCT, seeing and hearing Ahmed was inspirational.

“I was shocked that the flag was buried for so long, had traveled so far, and still looks amazing,” he said. “It showed us that it doesn’t matter how much time passes by. We still have the same Army traditions and the same Army values that should always be upheld, and deeply respected.”

*Editor’s note: *Name has been changed to protect identity.*





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MASCAL exercise prepares combat medics

By Lt. Col. Cynthia King |
30th Armored Brigade Combat Team

Immediately after the radio call came into their troop medical clinic with a report of an accident, combat medics from the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team donned their gear and departed in three field litter ambulances. While they knew the call was part of a training exercise, they didn't know what they would encounter when they arrived at the mock crash scene outside of Fort Bliss, Sept. 3.

This night-time Mass Casualty exercise was planned between the 30th ABCT and 5th Armored Brigade, First Army Division West, to test the skills of combat medics responding to a simulated bus crash with multiple casualties ejected from the vehicle on a remote dirt road.

"Once the medics arrived, they began the process of triage," said Sgt. 1st Class Meredith Kiser, the 30th ABCT's medical noncommissioned-officer-in-charge. "As EMTs, we refer to it as the 'golden hour' when we stay with the patients, treat them and have them evacuated within an hour."

Capt. William Faulk, a commander in the 5th Armored Brigade, was acting in both the

role of a casualty and as an observer-controller-trainer for the exercise. The other four simulated casualties were training manikins with notional injuries.

"I'm going to be evaluating how they respond to my injuries – if they talked to me, and if they check my dog tags to see if I have any medical allergies – by playing a casualty, I'm right there, and can observe firsthand and hear everything they are doing," he said.

Kiser said the two battalions from the 30th ABCT who responded to the simulated crash scene were the 4-118th Combined Arms Battalion from the South Carolina Army National Guard, and the 1-145th Combined Arms Battalion from the Ohio Army National Guard.

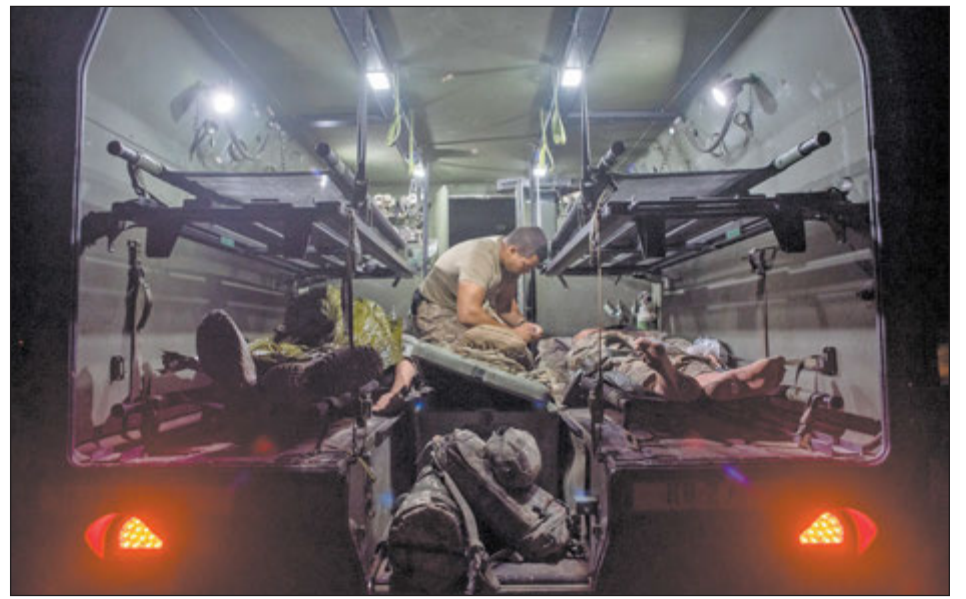
"The live patient needed treatment for an open head wound, where you could see

his skull and he had a piece of metal sticking out of his thigh, along with a sucking chest wound," said Kiser. "He was labeled 'urgent-surgical,' so he was the one we had to call for MEDEVAC."

When the UH-60 Black Hawk MEDEVAC helicopter from the 5th Armored Brigade arrived on scene, it performed what is called a 'dustoff,' as the combat medics

"5th Armored Brigade was able to use this exercise for training on their end, including accepting the patient, calling it into range operations, and finishing out the scenario."

>> Sgt. 1st Class Meredith Kiser



Sgt. Devin Lewis / 30th ABCT

Army combat medic Soldiers in the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, participate in a Mass Casualty training exercise with the 5th Armored Brigade, First Army Division West, near Fort Bliss, Sept. 3. The exercise tested the skills of combat medics responding to a simulated bus crash with multiple casualties ejected from the vehicle on a remote dirt road. The manikin patients were loaded onto the three field litter ambulances. From the time the combat medics arrived on scene, to the point when all patients were triaged, treated and transported, was 58 minutes.

carefully loaded Faulk on the gurney and into the helicopter, with the rotors whirling overhead. The manikin patients were loaded onto the three FLAs.

From the time the combat medics arrived on scene, to the point when all patients were triaged, treated and transported, was 58 minutes, according to Kiser.

"These were two teams who had never worked together before during an exercise like this," said Kiser. "The feedback from 5th Armored Brigade was that this was one of the better groups they've observed, and the fastest response time of other units they've observed in training."

Kiser added that the value in the MAS-

CAL exercise also assisted the 5th Armored Brigade, as once they completed the response portion with the 30th ABCT, they went on to complete their own training tasks.

"5th Armored Brigade was able to use this exercise for training on their end, including accepting the patient, calling it into range operations, and finishing out the scenario," said Kiser. "It was a great exercise that benefited all of us."

The 30th ABCT is headquartered with the North Carolina Army National Guard and is comprised of units from the South Carolina, Ohio and West Virginia national guards. The Soldiers are mobilized to support Operation Spartan Shield in the Middle East.






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Maj. Anthony Clas / 3rd ABCT, 1st AD PA
Five Soldiers from 4th Battalion “Regulars,” 6th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division were inducted into the Order of Saint Maurice during the 1st Armored Division National Infantry Association chapter awards ceremony Sept. 12 at Fort Bliss.

1st AD National Infantry Association chapter hosts awards ceremony

By Maj. Anthony Clas | 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division Public Affairs

Five Soldiers from 4th Battalion “Regulars,” 6th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division were inducted into the Order of Saint Maurice during the 1st Armored Division National Infantry Association chapter awards ceremony Sept. 12 at Fort Bliss.

The newly-inducted Soldiers are: Capt. Gregory Gaines, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Aaron Smith, 1st Sgt. Moises Arreola, 1st Sgt. Christian Beyer; and Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Howerton.

Also during the ceremony, Family Readiness Group Leader Christy Beyer, 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, was awarded the Shield of Sparta.

“It’s important to have a professional organization to honor infantrymen and non-infantrymen; today is something special,” said Lt. Col. Colin Mahle, a native of Sacramento, California, commander of 4th Bn., 6th Inf. Regt., 3rd ABCT, 1st AD, and president of the 1st Armored Division National Infantry Association chapter. “To echo what Major General Patrick Matlock said, ‘the framework of any world-class maneuver formation is world-class infantrymen.’”

The Order of Saint Maurice and the Shield of Sparta are awarded by the National Infantry Association and the Army’s Chief of Infantry to recognize significant contributions made by infantry Soldiers, infantry supporters, and spouses.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Aaron Smith, native of Boulder, Colorado, maintenance technician with 4th Bn., 6th Inf. Regt., 3rd ABCT, 1st AD, prides himself on 19 out of 24 years of service supporting infantry and armor units.

“I think any infantryman or armor individual cannot do their job without sustained readiness being a focus at some point,” said Smith. “It’s a combined effort on all levels. We need infantrymen to do what they do best, but they cannot do their job without me, or my mechanics, making sure they have the platform to maneuver them onto the battlefield. It’s a collective balance of skills and relationships.”

When Smith was asked how it felt to be inducted into the Order of Saint Maurice he responded, “I can’t even describe it, I’m humbled by it because supporting them (infantry units) for so many years, I never would’ve imagined this was even an option for me,” said Smith. “But to have an infantry command recognize me for my support, it means more than any award I’ve ever received so far.”

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STK# 91057 MSRP \$27,160 SUPPLIER PRICE-26210.95 CONSUMER CASH-1500 CHEVROLET BONUS CASH-1250 MISSION SAVINGS-1461.95= \$21,999 +TTL WITH CONQUEST-2000= \$19,999 +TTL



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STK# 91359 TRAVERSE MSRP \$34,095 SUPPLIER PRICE-32815.80 CONSUMER CASH-2000 SELECT MARKET BONUS CASH-750 MISSION SAVINGS-2066.80 \$27,999 +TTL WITH CONQUEST-2000= \$25,999 +TTL



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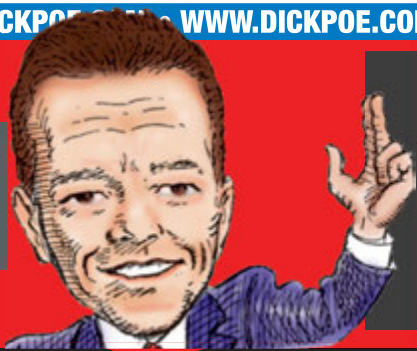


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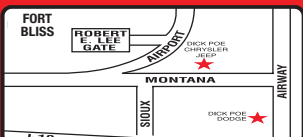
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Fort Bliss NPSP offers
free 'Baby Boot Camp' ■ 8B

Things to do:

Oktoberfest: Head over to Biggs Park for authentic German beer, food, music and dance. 18+ only for Friday-Saturday, while Sunday will be an all-ages family day. Buy your tickets for Friday and Saturday evening events at eventbrite.com or Leisure Travel Services kiosks at Freedom Crossing or the SAC on East Fort Bliss. 11388 Sgt. Maj. Blvd. Cost: \$25 (includes stein) for evening events, free Sunday. 588-8247

Oktoberfest child care: Child care will be available at Milam Child Development Center Friday-Saturday, 5-11 p.m. Children must be registered with CYS. Cost: \$5 per hour, per child. Reservations required. 744-7879

El Paso County Fair: The El Paso County Fair runs tonight through Saturday at the El Paso County Coliseum. The fair will feature expanded programming all around with live music, livestock on display, and an open auction for the public to attend. epcfa.org/2019_EPCFA_Schedule.pdf

Gila River Festival: The Gila Conservation Coalition's 15th annual festival "Our River, Our Future," is today through Sunday at various locations in Silver City, N.M. Events feature presentations and hands-on activities designed to foster a deeper intimacy with the Gila River, such as river outings, expert-led hikes and field trips, presentations, panel discussions, music, community art projects, and more. The Gila River Extravaganza is Saturday, featuring Fort Sill Apache Fire Dancers. (575) 538-8078 or gilariverfestival.org

Farmer's Market: The 18th annual Farmer's market hours are 7:30 a.m.-noon Saturdays at Ardovino's Desert Crossing, 1 Ardovino Drive in Sunland Park, N.M. Game Garden offers bocce ball, horseshoes, corn-hole and washer toss. Yoga is 9-10 a.m. Yoga cost: \$10; bring a mat. (575) 589-0653, ardovinos.com

Crossland Gallery opening: Head to the Crossland Gallery Friday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., for the opening of "Fresh Faces/El Paso Strong," featuring Reggie Watterson, Frank Valdez, C. Manny Guerra, Terrance Flores, Santiago Gonzales and others. 500 W. Paisano (in the Art Junction of El Paso). Cost: Free. 534-7377, CrosslandArtGallery.com

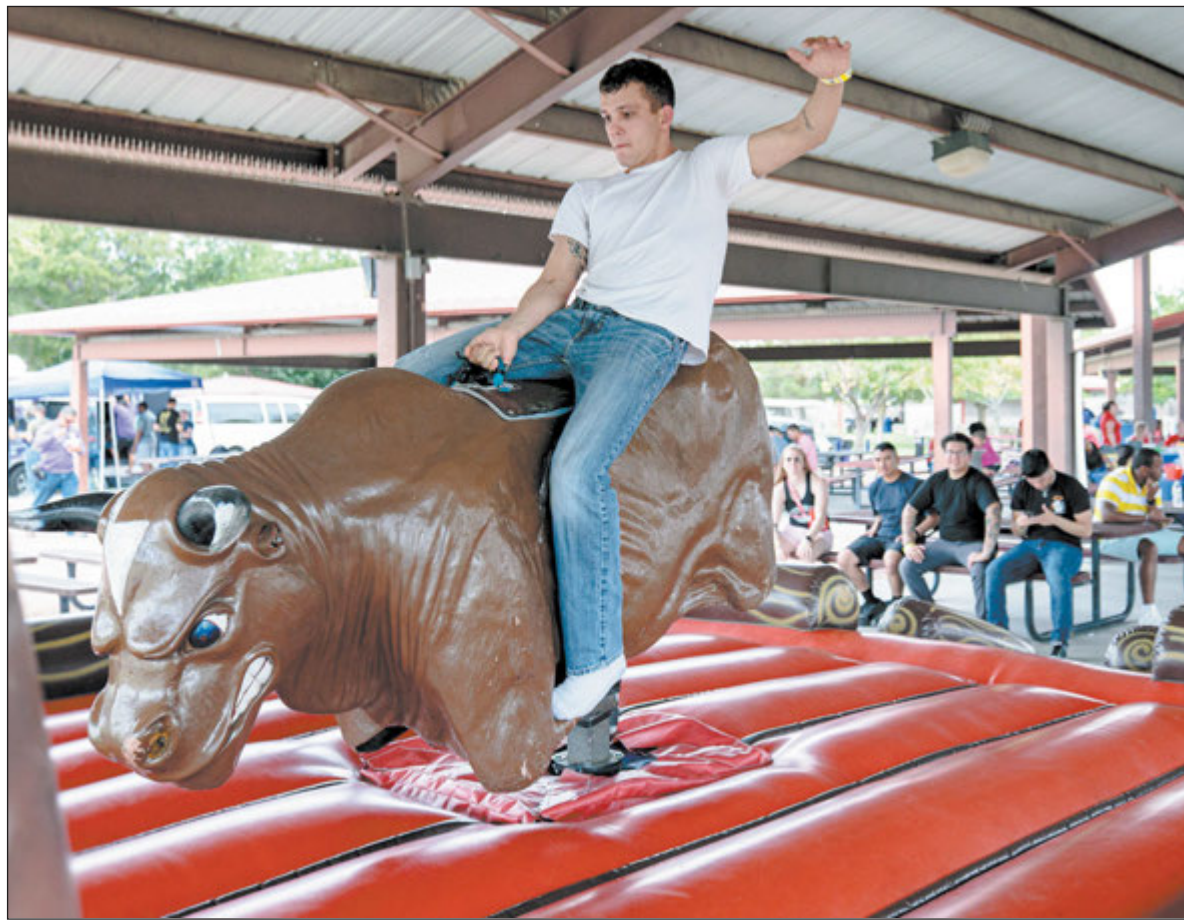
Pool Tournament: Get ready for a fun evening of pool Oct. 5, 6-10 p.m. at Monti Warrior Zone. Chances to win great prizes for the first, second and third place winners. Open to the public, 18+. Cost: \$15. 741-3000

Mesilla Valley Corn Maze: The labyrinth and pumpkin patch at Lyles Family Farms is open 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays, Sept. 28-Oct. 27 at 3855 W. Picacho, Las Cruces, N.M. Food and beverage concessions available. Cost: \$12 (\$10 children under 12; free children under 2) \$2 discount for military with ID (not to be used with other discounts). (575) 526-1919, mesilla-valleymaze.com

Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta: Texas Parks and Wildlife will host its 15th annual fiesta celebrating Franklin Mountains State Park's 40th anniversary is 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 28, at Franklin Mountains State Park's Tom Mays Section (off of Transmountain Road on the west slope), with educational exhibits, guided hikes, demonstrations and outdoor activities. 566-6441 or chihuahuandesert.org

National Alpaca Farm Days: Mesa Vista Wine Tasting Room, 3200 Hwy 28 in Anthony, N.M., offers guests a chance to meet some of the "long-necked teddy bears" noon-6 p.m., Sept. 28-29, and see items that are made from their fiber including woven rugs, han-spun yarns, wet-felted soaps and more. Live music and Wiseman's Garden Creations on site Sept. 29. 494-7248 or NationalAlpacaFarmDay.com

Like a BOSS: FMWR Bliss BOSS Bash breaches Biggs



Photos by David Poe / USAG Fort Bliss



By David Poe | USAG Fort Bliss

Hundreds of Fort Bliss Soldiers reported for special duty on East Fort Bliss Friday. The mission – fun.

The Fort Bliss Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers team and their partners from Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation put on their annual BOSS Bash, an end-of-summer party for single Soldiers and geo-bachelors at Biggs Park.

The East Bliss recreation space was transformed into a big-kid playground with free food from eateries like Buffalo Wild Wings and Smashburger, a DJ, mechanical bull, plenty of free beverages, a mobile gamer truck, a lot of football and tons of giveaways from FMWR.

BOSS is a Soldier-led program at installations throughout the Army designed to organize community service, quality of life, and recreation and leisure opportunities for troops. From volunteering in downtown El Paso to rafting the Rio Grande, Bliss BOSS offers Army-funded fun with budgets that can increase with participation.

If you're a single or geo-bachelor Soldier who wants to break out of the barracks for adventure and have the Army write the check, get more information at <https://bliss.armymwr.com/programs/boss-better-opportunities-single-soldiers>.

(Clockwise from top)

Pfc. Billy Clark from 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment owns the mechanical bull at the 2019 BOSS Bash at Biggs Park Friday. Clark, an Arkansan, said he rode bulls before enlisting in the Army and remembered mutton-busting when his mom would take him to rodeos as a kid.

A Fort Bliss Soldier catches some air at the reverse bungee jump station. Team Bliss BOSS troops and FMWR partners put on the annual end-of-summer throwdown.

Spc. William Bethel, a Soldier from Bravo Company, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, hits a receiver during a touch football game.

Although the El Paso summer has drawn to a close, cold beverages were still in demand.

Soldiers get a good workout playing human foosball.

Biggs Park was transformed into a big-kid playground with free food from eateries like Buffalo Wild Wings and Smashburger, a DJ, mechanical bull, plenty of free beverages, a mobile gamer truck, a lot of football and tons of giveaways.

USASMA teacher named 2019 TRADOC Educator of the Year

By Danielle O'Donnell | NCO Leadership Center of Excellence

Dr. Evelyn Hollis, an educator for the NCO Leadership Center of Excellence, Sergeants Major Course at Fort Bliss was named the 2019 U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Educator of the Year, during ceremonies held at Fort Eustis, Virginia, Aug. 9. Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy J. Sellers, commandant of the NCOL CoE and USASMA, lauded Hollis' accomplishments.

"Over the past two years I've watched Dr. Hollis in action – developing lesson plans and students. She's one of the best at capturing and maintaining their attention and getting the best out of them through the way she facilitates each lesson" Sellers said. "Her methods encourage students to engage in the classroom discussion, which helps make the learning environment rich and productive."

"My primary responsibility as a professional educator and leader is to advance the mission of the NCO Leadership Center of Excellence, where learning is central to developing senior leaders into disciplined professionals capable of meeting the chal-

"For the Soldiers and young Americans who would like to join the Army, you can achieve anything your heart desires in the United States Army. Truly, 'you can be all you can be.'"

>>> Dr. Evelyn Hollis

lenges of a complex world," Hollis said. "As a professional educator, I bring character, a positive demeanor, and enthusiasm to the classroom.

"I envision that all students, faculty, and administration will not only have meaningful contributions to make to the NCO Leadership Center of Excellence mission, but that each person will become a valued participant."

As an educator in the Department of Command Leadership at the USASMA, Hollis works to promote a dynamic learning culture and encourages her colleagues to engage in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

"As a scholar and a practitioner, I serve as a role model and steward of the profession for senior-enlisted leaders," she said. "I believe setting goals, working toward, and achieving those goals builds self-confidence that embodies a leader of character."

Hollis is the first educator in the history of the NCOL CoE and USASMA to receive the title of the TRADOC EOY.

"When I learned of Dr. Hollis' latest achievement in being selected as the TRADOC Educator of the Year, I was extremely



Photos by Danielle O'Donnell / NCO Leadership Center of Excellence

Gen. Paul E. Funk II, commanding general, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and TRADOC Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy A. Guden, pose for a photo with Dr. Hollis, during the TRADOC Instructor of the Year Awards Ceremony at Fort Eustis, Va., Aug. 9.

excited for her," Sellers said. "Dr. Hollis has a reputation throughout the organization as being a hardworking and extremely dedicated professional. It was great to see her get recognized for her hard work and efforts outside of this organization and at the highest level of her profession."

The EOY is one of seven categories in the annual TRADOC Instructor of the Year competition. Hollis was amongst 72 nominees from across 38 Army TRADOC institutions, which were all in competition for the title IOY and EOY.

The title of TRADOC EOY adds another achievement to the list of Hollis's successes. She is the first African American woman in Army history to assume duties as a command sergeant major for a combat unit. The U.S. Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame recognized Hollis as a trailblazer for her exceptional contributions to women in the Army and inducted her into the Hall of Fame in 2018.

She entered the Army Sept. 16, 1979 and almost 40 years later, she still makes a difference in the Army.


"For the Soldiers and young Americans who would like to join the Army, you can achieve anything your heart desires in the United States Army. Truly, 'you can be all you can be!'" Hollis said.

Dr. Evelyn Hollis holds many titles, she is a retired command sergeant major, a daughter, a mother, a grandmother, an author, an educator and now the 2019 TRADOC Educator of the Year.

The NCOL CoE is the premier institution driving innovative development for enlisted leaders. The educators of the institution develop, integrate and deliver education and training readiness by providing professional military education that develops fit, disciplined, well-educated professionals capable of meeting the challenges of an increasingly complex world.




Hollis receives praise during the TRADOC Instructor of the Year Awards Ceremony Aug. 9.




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Balancing blind faith with stranger danger

By Lisa Smith Molinari | www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com

Before our girls went back to college this year, we gave them the usual advice. Don't walk on campus at night alone, don't take rides with strangers, etc. I stopped short before arming them with pepper spray.

I wondered, do they really need to have their thumbs poised, ready to blind someone with pepper spray? Or, has our culture become paranoid?

As a freshman at Miami University in tiny, ivy-covered Oxford, Ohio, I was utterly naïve. Violent crime seemed some far off rarity that happened in New York City or Los An-

geles. So, when a strange man with a thick foreign accent offered me a ride when I was stranded at the Cincinnati bus station, I took it.

I was on my way back to school from my cousin's wedding in Louisville, Kentucky. Due to some kind of mechanical failure, my bus was late arriving in Cincinnati, causing me to miss the one daily connection to tiny Oxford. I used my last coins at the payphone trying to call my dorm phone to see if anyone could make the 50-mile drive to pick me up, but no one answered.

I sat in the vinyl bus station chairs and glanced around the shabby terminal. Realizing I would have to wait for the next day's bus, my mind raced, "I'm out of money. No one knows where I am. I have to spend the night in the bus station. What am I going to do?"

I began to cry.

Mid sob, a thin man with a brown face and a thick Indian accent tapped me on the shoulder.

"Es-cuse me, Miss, can I help you?" he said.

I was so relieved to have some kind of human contact and looked up at the man with

tears flowing from my eyes.

"I missed my bus back to school!" I sobbed.

He inquired where I needed to go, and after a moment of thought, offered to drive me to Oxford.

"Are you sure?" I asked. "It takes about an hour." But he agreed, and I followed him out of the grungy bus station to his car – a brown Ford Fairlane sedan with no distinguishing features. The stranger closed the passenger's seat door after I willingly got in with my backpack. I didn't even know the way to Oxford, and could only tell him to go north. He headed out of the city on unfamiliar roads, looking for signs along the way.

Soon, the last traces of suburban sprawl were in the rear view mirror, and we were surrounded by the vast cornfields of southwestern Ohio. Not many cars on the road; no one really noticed the plain brown sedan with the stranger and the 18-year-old girl. No one – not my roommates, my parents, my aunt in Kentucky – had any idea that I was in the middle of a cornfield, locked in an unmarked car with a strange man.

It would take hours for them to realize that I wasn't on that Greyhound bus. The strang-

er had plenty of time to hide my lifeless body in a cornfield and get back to the anonymity of the city, and his secret life as a serial killer.

But that didn't happen.

"Thanks so much for the ride, Mister," I said to the stranger as he pulled up to my dorm. I offered to run inside and get money to pay for gas, but he politely refused, only asking me to point out the nearest fast food place.

Without the need of pepper spray, my faith in humankind was blissfully blind, and I gratefully waved farewell as the stranger pulled away.

What am I saying? Should we unlock our doors, unzip our purses and tell our teenage daughters to take up hitchhiking from city bus terminals?

Definitely not a good idea, but who wants to live with the pessimistic assumption that all strangers are dangerous? Sure, there are a few wackos out there who make it smart to carry pepper spray, but as we protect ourselves, let's not chastise the entire human race.

Besides, without the kindness of strangers, I might still be stuck at that bus station in Ohio.

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You balance your tires, why not your life?

By Chaplain (Capt.) Simon M. Jackson | Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Armored Division

Proverbs 11:1 “A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight.”



Chaplain (Capt.) Simon Jackson

A few years ago, I was driving down a snowy road in Colorado Springs, Colorado when I hit a pothole. I’m sure some of you can relate. Afterwards, I noticed the car was pulling to the left, so I drove to the tire shop, where the manager-on-duty explained that my tires needed to be rebalanced. If not checked, unbalanced tires can lead to unnecessary wear and tear on your vehicle. Just like the tires on our vehicles, if not checked, our lives will get out of balance.

Here is a list of seven excellent ways to get, and keep yourself out of balance:

Ignore your health. Do not get the quantity and quality of sleep you require. Eat the wrong stuff. Do not take time to exercise. As a result of ignoring your health, your resistance level will be reduced and you will be susceptible to all the latest sniffles going around. This way, you will ensure that you can take advantage of all the sick days you are allowed. When someone gets a new car, they bring it in for the scheduled maintenance, put the right grade of fuel in the tank, and keep it shiny and clean.

Postpone family time. Your spouse and children will always be there for you when you get the time for them, right? A Soldier once asked me, “What’s the best way to take my 4-year-old on vacation?” Answer, “Take her when she is 4 years old.” Fifty percent of marriages wind up in divorce court. Imagine, getting married at age 25 and 20 years later, you give up half of everything you have worked for. The average working person spends less than two minutes per day in meaningful dialogue with their spouse or “significant other” and less than 30 seconds per day in meaningful communication with

their children.

Don’t not plan your financial life. Be assured that your employer, or the government, or maybe even a kind relative will take care of your needs in your old age. Most people arrive at age 65 financially deficient and dependent upon some type of assistance from the government or relatives. Most people do not devote even a little of their time, on a regular basis, to create financial freedom and to live their lives the way they “want to.” Rather, they do what they do because they “have to.”

Stay away from intellectual development. It has been said that five percent of Americans purchase 95 percent of all books. The other 95 percent purchase the other five percent of the books. They don’t have time to read them. They give them away as gifts. You barely have enough time to keep your head above water, with work and other interests. Coast through life with only the knowledge you already have. Hopefully, you filled the reservoir enough early on that it will carry you through your life.

Let your social contacts decide your future. Follow the advice of your friends about what you should be doing with your life, even if they are not in a place in their own lives where you would want to be. Be ever conscious of “What would my friends think if I did...?” Always seek out and act only with the approval of your peers. Take comfort in the knowledge that when there is a question regarding how you should be spending your time, someone else will fill that leadership void and tell you what to do.


Let your professional life just happen. Do not establish career goals. Take whatever opportunity placed in front of you and be satisfied. Do not rock the boat. Seek the familiar and avoid the unfamiliar. Play it safe. Be comfortable. If you chose an MOS when you were 18 or 20 years old, and now at age 40 you are unhappy, do not even think about a change. Hold on to that decision you made 20 years ago. It will be like going to a 20-year-old for career counseling. **Avoid spending time in spiritual development.** By this, I mean not only in a formal religious sense, but also in our relationships to others, our community, our environment, and the

universe. Leave the hard questions to others to ponder. It has been said, “When man forgets his Creator, his own creations will be turned upon him.”

Sure, the preceding points were a tongue-in-cheek exploration of what happens when the tires of the automobile of your life are

out of balance, but if you follow these seven steps, you are pretty much guaranteed a life filled with doubts, fears, and misery. Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu said, “If you don’t do something about where you’re headed, you’re likely to end up there!” So, what are you waiting for?

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Saturday 6-9 p.m.

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Wednesday 5-7 p.m.

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1st Armored Division
(11272 Biggs St.)
Gospel Service Sunday 8:45 a.m.
Chapel Next Sunday 11:30 a.m.
Latter Day Saints Service Sunday 1:30 p.m.
USASMA Memorial Chapel
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Traditional Service Sunday 10 a.m.
WBAMC Protestant Community
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Protestant Service Sunday 10 a.m.

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Wednesday Confession 10:35 a.m.
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Saturday Mass 5 p.m.
Sunday Mass 8 and 11 a.m.
1st Friday of the Month - Adoration 1 p.m.
WBAMC Hospital Chapel
(5005 N. Piedras Dr.)
Weekday Mass 12:05 p.m.
Saturday Mass 5 p.m.
Sunday Mass 8 and 11:30 a.m.
German Chapel
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Photo courtesy Fort Bliss Religious Support Office

Following the service, the pastoral staff, congregation members, and guests from the community partook of a festive and celebratory meal. The meal concluded with the traditional Army custom of cutting the cake by the former senior pastor and the new senior pastor.

Center Chapel One: renovated, rededicated

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Christopher Degn |
USAG Fort Bliss Religious Support Office

The Center Chapel One liturgical service congregation had a historic Sunday, Sept. 8 celebrating two milestone events in one service.

Center Chapel One is a legacy chapel on Fort Bliss, having been used as a chapel since 1938. Prior to being a chapel, the facility, built in 1925, was originally purposed as the post theater. Within the last few years, some major structural problems due to foundation issues began developing. Eventually, cracks began opening up throughout the interior and exterior walls.

Last January, the liturgical congregation had to vacate the building for safety reasons while major repairs took place from deep under the foundation to the top of the walls. Forced to move to Sage Hall during the period of major repairs, the congregation was able to move back into the historic chapel once the chapel repairs were complete. A few external cosmetic repairs remain and will soon be completed.

The historic sanctuary is as beautiful as ever and the congregation is overjoyed at being back in its longtime residence. The congregation took time during the service to rededicate the facility and give thanks for the repairs and the return home. More than 100 parishioners attended the rededication celebration.

Center Chapel One, in its second milestone for the day, celebrated the installation of new senior pastor, Chaplain (Maj.) Erik Spicer, who takes the reins from Chaplain (Col.) Al-

len Staley, who is also the garrison chaplain for Fort Bliss.

The installation service included a biblically-inspired Changing of the Stole (vestment) or Pastor Installation Ceremony, led by the entire pastoral staff – symbolizing the pastoral authority of the Chapel Center One liturgical service transferring from Staley to Spicer.

Spicer, the new deputy garrison chaplain, just arrived from Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, where he served as an observer, coach, trainer for 181st Multifunctional Training Brigade, First Army Division West.

Following the service, the pastoral staff, congregation members, and guests from the community partook in a festive and celebratory meal. The meal concluded with the traditional Army custom of cutting the cake by the former senior pastor and the new senior pastor.

After the service, Staley had this to say, “We are very thankful to God, and events like today are a tremendous encouragement to our congregation. It has been my honor to serve this wonderful faith community during some months of transition and I look forward to witnessing their reinvigorated ministry to the Fort Bliss community.”

Located on the corner of Pershing and Merritt Roads, Chapel Center One is the oldest chapel on Fort Bliss and the liturgical service is the oldest, continual-running service on Fort Bliss. One of the most diverse services, Chapel Center One offers a children’s program, a choir program, and additional Bible studies.

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Sports Briefs

Mexico U-20 v Rhinos: Mexico's national U-20 junior ice hockey team will take on the national Western States Hockey League Thorne Cup Champion El Paso Rhinos with a two-game exhibition series at 7 p.m. Sept. 28 and 4:30 p.m. Sept. 29, at El Paso County Coliseum Events Center, 4100 E. Paisano. Cost: \$5 (Ticketmaster).

Lumberjack Day: Lumberjack Day is 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday in Zenith Park, Cloudcroft, N.M. with axe throw and standing block chop and "hot saw" competitions, demonstrations and more. Visitors can test their own lumberjack skills. Kids activities, food and drink available. Admission is free for spectators. Cost: \$5 per event (registration in advance). (575) 682-2733 or coolcloudcroft.com/lumberjack-day

UTEP Women's Soccer: The Miners return to the battlefield Sunday for a match against conference rival Florida International University at 11 a.m. Home games are at UTEP's University Field. 747-6150 or utepathletics.com

Red Bull Tennis Tourney/Carnival: Have some fun at the Tennis Club and Fitness Zone Oct. 5, 9-11 a.m. There will be a tennis tournament, court games, activities, snacks and beverages. Registration required at the Tennis Club and Fitness Center. Cost: \$5. 569-5448 or 568-5043

'Running of the Chihuahuas': The 7th annual Running of the Chihuahuas event is 4-7 p.m. Saturday, at the Animal Rescue League of El Paso, 7256 La Junta in Canutillo. Spectator admission is free. The event will also feature music, vendors; a raffle and more. 877-5002, arlep.org

H-O-R-S-E hoops tourney: The Monti Warrior Zone will host a HORSE tournament on their courts Sept. 28, 6-10 p.m. 21171 Medic Ave. Cost: \$15 per person per tournament. 741-3000

Miners Hockey Club: UTEP's hockey team and 2018-2019 TCHC Champions' opens its regular season home games 3:30 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. Sunday, against Texas State at El Paso County Coliseum Events Center, 4100 E. Paisano. Cost: \$7. 491-7879, info@minershockey.com or minershockey.com

Nathaniel LaCour Halloween Classic: If you're interested in playing in the Nathaniel LaCour Halloween Classic Tournament Oct. 25-27, then don't wait, registration is happening now. Cost: \$225 per team from Oct. 1-13. 744-5785.

WWE Live: The WWE Live professional wrestling event is 7:30 p.m. Sept. 27, at UTEP's Don Haskins Center. Cost: \$15-\$75. Events include Street Fight with Seth Rollins vs. Baron Corbin, and a RAW Women's Champion Triple Threat match with Natalya vs. Nikki Cross vs. Becky Lynch. Also appearing are Braun Strowman, the Lucha House Party, Ricochet, United States champion AJ Styles, Lacey Evans and more.

Miner Dash and Family Fitness Fiesta: The 10th annual Miner Dash and Family Fitness Fiesta kicks off UTEP's Homecoming festivities Sept. 29, at UTEP's Centennial Plaza. The 5K run and 3K walk begin at 8 a.m., plus a 5K wheelchair race. Cost: \$30 until Sept. 26. The UTEP Fitness Fiesta is 8-11 a.m., and offers a variety of physical activities and health screenings including a jumping balloon, inflatable obstacle course, zumba, yoga and more. Cost: \$5. Register minerdash.utep.edu or 747-7245.

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MORE THAN A TEAM

Tech sergeant plays football, improves quality of life

By Airman Autumn Vogt | 49th Wing Public Affairs

His dark brown eyes are fixated on the ball, waiting for the opposing team to dare to come onto his turf. Sweat is dripping down his face and he can feel his thighs beginning to burn from the defensive crouch he's been holding.

Nothing matters more in this moment than preventing the offense from crossing the goal line and scoring. Otero County Bucks' coach, player and 49th Air Maintenance Squadron production expeditor, Tech. Sgt. Courtlyn Collier, enjoys playing football for many reasons.

"Playing football relaxes me," said Collier. "I like being around people and helping them the best I can. We have high school kids who graduate and don't know what to do with their lives. This is an opportunity for them to keep playing ball, stay in shape and eventually move onto college instead of getting in the streets and into trouble."

Collier attends practice regularly, and has participated in this program since 2011. Locals and military personnel gather for practice every Sunday at the Jim R. Griggs Sports Complex in Alamogordo, N.M., to adapt to each other's playing style in preparation for football season, which runs from March to June.

"(The Otero County Bucks) is a semi-pro football team in Alamogordo," said Collier. "I'm an on-the-field coach and I play defense as defensive tackle and defensive end. Next year, I'll be one of the four owners of the team and I'll be fully coaching, if I'm still here."

There is more to being on the team than just playing football to Collier. The people he has met and the friends he has made has been a motivator to continue playing with the team.

"We hang out a lot, it's like a family,"



Airman 1st Class Autumn Vogt / 49th Wing Public Affairs

Courtlyn Collier, center, Otero County Bucks defensive player, practices side shuffling against an opponent, Sept. 8, 2019, on the Jim R. Griggs Sports Complex in Alamogordo, N.M. Collier has been a part of the Otero County football team for eight years.

said Collier. "We have barbeques at each other's houses, help each other move; if someone's grandma needs help – we help. We have guys who run the softball team in town and we have others helping in the high school. We turn into a family and keep in touch throughout the year, it's not just during practice."

In the military it is good to expect the unexpected and Collier hopes to continue playing or actively be a part of semi-pro football for a while – even if he moves.

"I would try to join another team like this if I moved, because I love football," said Collier. "Some guys come into the military and want to play backyard football. We can

do something better – make it a semi-pro team and get a couple cities around to join in. Then you can play football again, feel like a professional athlete and play until you're 45."

Collier believes something as simple as joining a football team could improve an airman's time at Holloman Air Force Base and help them make more of a connection with the local community.

"Everybody says Alamogordo is boring, but I use this to occupy my free time," said Collier. "By joining, people have the opportunity to play tackle football and travel around New Mexico and Texas, and see cities they never thought they would see."

SUN CITY SHIPMATE

>> SECOND PLACE

Sarayuth Pinthong

The Air Force won its second straight Alpha Warrior Inter-Service Championship over the Army and Navy Sept. 14 at Retama Park in Selma, Texas, but Navy Cmdr. Timothy White, Naval Operations Support Center, El Paso, took second place. From left to right: Cmdr. Timothy White (second place), Naval Operations Support Center, El Paso, Texas; Petty Officer William Rosencrans (first place), American Forces Network, Tokyo, Japan; and Petty Officer 2nd Class Austen Alexander (third place), Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Harbor Patrol Unit, Seal Beach, Calif.



Fort Bliss NPSP offers free ‘Baby Boot Camp’

By David Poe | USAG Fort Bliss

Do not fear the green poop. That and many other messages were shared during the New Parent Support Program’s Baby Boot Camp class at the Army Community Service building on West Fort Bliss, Sept. 4.

The one-day class was the voluntary duty location for Soldiers and spouses as they received hands-on training on what to expect when you’re expecting. NPSP, which is part of the Army Family Advocacy Program at Bliss, is a program for any Soldier or Army family member to help “transition successfully into parenthood and provide a nurturing environment for their children” through several services.

Baby Boot Camp covered pregnancy through the first months of a child’s life with details on not only the physiological activities, but also encouraged developing coping skills for the mental and emotional trials that are common in most pregnancies.

Jessica Anderson, a registered nurse with the Fort Bliss NPSP, said she enjoys instructing the Baby Boot Camp class because she feels it can give students a wealth of information in a focused setting.

“It gives them all the information they’ll need, in one spot,” she said. “It’s not one particular topic, they get a baseline of information.”

Prenatal classes are only one way that the NPSP supports Army families. They also offer home visits and host playgroups and parenting classes beyond the first phases. NPSP provided reference books for parents, as well as take-home presentations to help keep them sharp after the class was completed. Students watched

short videos with important points in relation to sudden infant death syndrome and when to recognize other potential problem signs.

Sgt. Ulysses Bento, from 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, and his wife, Mariana, said they both appreciated the class.

“It was great, I thought it was really informative,” said Bento. “There was a lot I didn’t know that now I do know and I think will be helpful in the future.”

Mariana said she appreciated the NPSP’s effort to connect beneficiaries with other experts. Lactation consultants from William Beaumont Army Medical Center were brought in for the Sept. 4 class.

“There were many things about breastfeeding that I did not know,” Mariana said. “As a first-time mom, it was really enriching. It was amazing to bring [Ulysses] as well because there will be plenty

of things he can help me with.”

As an NCO, Ulysses said he already has handouts for his troops when they’re expecting; he will advise them not to fear the green poop, and will encourage them to go to Baby Boot Camp.

“I feel more fit and ready to help my wife and my kid in the future,” he said. “I have a few flyers that I’ll keep with me, so that whenever the situation comes along, I’ll advise them to come here — head to the class.”

The next Baby Boot Camp class at Bliss will be held Nov. 6. For more information, and to register, visit <https://bliss.armymwr.com/programs/family-advocacy-program-fap>.



David Poe / USAG Fort Bliss

A student follows along while he practices his baby-carrying arm placement at the Fort Bliss New Parent Support Program Baby Boot Camp class on West Fort Bliss, Sept. 4.



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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

Army housing town hall: The next Fort Bliss Army housing town hall is scheduled for Sept. 19 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Centennial Club's Austin Room. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, the event will not be streamed live.

ID cards/DEERS office moved: The ID Cards/DEERS office recently moved to Building 505, Pershing Road. 569-6036.

Retiree Appreciation Day: Retired service members, family members and survivors are invited to Retiree Appreciation Day, Sept. 28, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the NCO Leadership Center of Excellence, 11291 Sergeants Major Boulevard. The event will include information about retirement programs, benefits and entitlements, health and wellness, as well as updates regarding legislative issues of interest and installation services.

Gate changes: CSM Barreras Access Control Point will close at 9 p.m., Sept. 28 and will remain closed while the Texas Department of Transportation and Fort Bliss' Directorate of Public Works conduct construction projects in that area. Upon completion of these projects, the ACP will reopen. During the closure, Constitution ACP will open 24/7 until the TXDOT/DPW projects are completed.

Legal Assistance and Claims Offices closure: The Fort Bliss Legal Assistance and Claims Offices, located on the first floor of Bldg 113 Pershing Road, will be closed Sept. 20 and Sept. 23. The offices will also be closed for training during the afternoons of Sept. 25-26.

Combined Federal Campaign: The 2019 Combined Federal Campaign kicks off Oct. 9 and will continue until Dec. 20. The CFC is the world's largest and most successful workplace charitable campaign. Pledges made by federal, civilian, postal, and military donors during the campaign season support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world. See your unit CFC representatives to find out how you can contribute.

Directorate of Human Resources Training Holiday Columbus Day: The Directorate of Human Resources will have reduced operations Oct. 11 and the directorate will be closed Oct. 14. For emergencies during the closure call 568-3093.

PPPO Closure: Beginning Oct. 10 the Personal Property Processing Office located in Bldg 504A, will be closed for training from 8-10 a.m. on Thursdays. Customers can drop off documents pertaining to the movement of their household goods, but access to computers and entitlements counseling will not be available during the training time. 569-5806.

Power outage: Rio Grande Electric will reset substation breakers Sept. 29 at 6 a.m. A power outage may occur due to this work and is expected to last no longer than two minutes. The outage will affect Old Fort Bliss, Lower Beaumont, and the northwest training area; traffic lights in these areas could be affected as well.

WBAMC eye exams: Optometry Services at Mendoza and SFMC Clinics are open for routine eye exams for dependents and retirees enrolled in TRICARE Prime and Tricare For Life. If you have had a routine eye exam on the economy through TRICARE or other health insurance in the past year, please do not book an appointment until it is time for your next exam. If you would like to schedule an eye exam, call the Mendoza Optometry clinic at 742-2229 or SFMC at 742-2390.

Face-to-face TARP training: Fort Bliss offers Threat Awareness Reporting Program training at two locations monthly. Get your learn on at the SAC on the second Tuesday of the month, or at Stayton Theater on the third Thursday of the month. 568-4604.

Let your voice be heard: Log on to the Interactive Customer Evaluation program to provide feedback for a wide array of services at Bliss. Submitters can remain anonymous or include their contact information for follow-up. https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=435

Lower Beaumont traffic disruptions: According to Bliss DPW, work trucks may cause disruptions at lower Beaumont, to include noise and dust, but no road closures, until late November. The work is part of a clean up project to haul debris to an off-site, licensed landfill. Work will occur Monday-Saturday between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

FMWR

Mini Garden Series: Join the Mickelsen Community Library for their Mini Garden Series Oct. 12, 11 a.m.-1p.m. and make terrariums. Space is limited, supplies will be provided, however feel free to bring supplies from home. It is open to DoD ID cardholders, ages 8+. Free. 568-6156.

Base yard sale: The fall bi-annual yard sale is Oct. 19, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. throughout post housing. This is the perfect opportunity to unload some of your unwanted household goods especially if you have an impending PCS move. There will be a sales opportunity at Old Fort Bliss Replica, located at 5054 Pershing Road, for DoD ID cardholders, who are not living on post. Participants must bring their own table to display. Only personal items, no commercial sellers. 568-2554.

Free books: Deploying soon? Come to the Mickelsen Community Library and pick up a unit book kit. The book kits contain a selection of popular fiction and non-fiction paperback items. 2 Sheridan Rd (under NCOA). 568-

ANNOUNCEMENT

Debt collection notice:

This is a debt collection notice for **Spc. Benjamin Vasquez**. All services under Vasquez's name should be put on hold. All those with debts to be collected under the name of Vasquez, or for information regarding collections, call 2nd Lt. Micah Brown at (845) 521-6937.

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1902.
Auto Crafts orientation: The Auto Craft Center offers mandatory safety orientations for their customers, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m. This orientation is required before use of the facility for automotive do-it-yourself projects. DoD ID card holders only. 820 Marshall Rd. Free. 568-7280.

Go Youth

Story Time: It's Story Time! Stop by the Mickelsen Library every Tuesday from 10:15-11 a.m. or 11-11:45 a.m. as children ages 2 to 5 listen to stories read aloud. There will also be crafts, activities and refreshments available. Start children on the road to literacy. 568-6156.
Kids' range/firearm safety class: his is a one-hour course required for children 6-17 to accompany parents or guardians at the Fort Bliss Rod and Gun Club live fire ranges. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Open to the public. 3730 Roy Johnson Lane. Free. 568-5426.
CYS In-Home child care: Family Child Care offers in-home providers for CYS-registered kids. Reservations required. Cost: \$5 an hour with a \$10 deposit. 744-7879 or 568-4198.

Community

Free TxDOT car seat safety checks: TxDOT Traffic Safety is partnering with Whataburger and the El Paso Police Department to offer car seat checks at Whataburger, 1300

Airway Blvd., Saturday. Bring your children and their seats for installation pointers and other car seat safety tips.
Be a mentor in the Sea Cadets: Calling adult volunteers to lead in the Navy Sea Cadets program, El Paso Unit. Must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident, free of felony convictions and be capable of communicating USN-SCC values to our cadets. No military background is required and you will be allowed to wear the Navy Sea Cadet uniform. epnayseacadets@outlook.com or search "El Paso Navy Sea Cadets" on Facebook.
Purple Heart recipients sought: Transitioning from the battlefield to the homefront has never been more difficult, and volunteers make a difference in the lives of our men and women in uniform. Stand with the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 393 and honor the sacrifice of American veterans by continued commitment. Meetings held on the first Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. 82nd Airborne Memorial Museum. 2608 Fort Blvd. @MOPHChapter393 on Facebook.



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