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Thursday, September 5, 2019

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Soldiers 'at the heart of' modernizing warfighter gear

By Thomas Brading | Army News Service

SPRINGFIELD, Va. - Army leaders met with industry partners Aug. 20 to focus on new ways to outfit Soldiers with lighter weight, wireless, and techcompatible systems, looking at revamping the Adaptive Squad Architecture.

"For years, dismounted Soldiers have been overburdened by equipment which, while highly effective, often isn't integrated with other equipment," said Brig. Gen. Anthony Potts, PEO Soldier.

The restructure pinpoints Soldiers, at the individual and squad level, as the linchpin for ASA's future modernizations. It's one of the largest reconstructions conducted by PEO Soldier, Potts

A Soldier's lethality, mobility, and overall safety is "at the heart of the matter," he said.

Potts, who took over PEO Soldier last year, unveiled his organization's new vision to more than 100 industry leaders Aug. 20 in Springfield, Virginia. The goal is harmonizing Soldiers and squads as an integrated combat platform, similar to a Black Hawk helicopter or Abrams tank.

"[The Army] wouldn't buy a tank piece-by-piece," said Col. Travis Thompson, Soldier Lethality Cross-Functional Team chief of staff, to stakeholders. "So why would you buy a Soldier's kit that way?"

The Adaptive Squad Architecture targets tomorrow's battlefield, and creates ways to modernize, train, and structure ground forces within the architectural framework laid out by the Army, Potts said, adding, "The goal is to collaborate with private companies to provide nextgeneration capabilities and increase the lethality, mobility, and survivability, while countering emerging threats."

"This is a collective venture [with the Army and industry partners] to change the paradigm of bringing capabilities to Soldiers," Potts said, adding, "I'll own the architecture. I just want the ability to plug in and plug out."

Although the broad view doesn't initially affect Soldiers, in the future their daily lives will change as modernized equipment becomes standard in their kits. The framework provided will "deliver capabilities to the field, faster, more effective, and cheaper" than before, according to Thompson.

In a grassroots effort to ensure effective modernization of new capabilities, Potts has welcomed input from groundlevel Soldiers who are impacted by their decisions the most.

Tapping into how Soldiers feel about their equipment helps leaders develop an architectural path forward.

'Soldiers designing systems for Soldiers is dependent on [Adaptive Squad Architecture]," Potts said, adding, the "from the bottom up" path to an integrated combat platform depends on the thoughts and ideas of every Soldier.

Potts, along with other senior leaders, has traveled the nation listening to Soldier's needs, giving them a voice of change regarding their equipment.

Dismounted Soldiers may carry from 50 to 70 percent of their body weight in gear. In the past, with each piece of new technology a Soldier received, came the burden of more weight to carry around,

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>> 'READY FIRST' TANKS

Soldiers with 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, conduct preventive maintenance checks and services on newly-acquired M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tanks at Fort Bliss, Aug. 22. The "Ready First" Brigade converted from a Stryker to an armored brigade on June 20 as part of the Army's strategic focus to counter the threat of near-peer adversaries.

Target Mensuration course

Bulldog Brigade trains target acquisition with precision

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

Targeting officers from 3rd Armored Briade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division facilitated a week-long Target Mensuration Only course at Fort Bliss, Aug. 11-16.

The course trains field artillery Soldiers deliberate and dynamic targeting to employ national geospatial intelligence agency-validated imagery and target coordinate mensuration tools to meet the commander's desired effect on specific target sets.

The rigorous preparation conducted prior to the Fort Sill [TMO accreditation team] coming down to evaluate 3rd ABCT's instructors during the course was intense, but it motivated us to fully understand the material before giving the class to Soldiers who weren't See PRECISION Page 2A



Photo courtesy 3rd ABCT, 1st AD

The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division Target Mensuration Only course cadre certified 12 Soldiers at Fort Bliss, Aug. 11-16. Incorporating TMO into a unit training plan allows ground force commanders to employ Army, joint, and multinational forces accurately and effectively while mitigating collateral damage during real-world operations, which increases a unit's readiness and lethality if called upon to respond to a contingency. Pictured left to right: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Finan, counter-fire officer, for 3rd ABCT, 1st AD; Sgt. 1st Class Brock Benson, TMO evaluator with U.S. Army Multi-Domain Targeting Center; Chief Warrant Officer 3 Calvin Cameron, targeting officer for 3rd ABCT, 1st AD; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joseph Kenny, field artillery intelligence officer for 3rd ABCT, 1st AD; and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Steven Fernandez, targeting officer for 1st AD.

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Army offers more than \$80,000 in re-up bonuses

By Thomas Brading | Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Effective Sept. 9, Soldiers willing to reenlist in some of the Army's most in-demand careers have the chance to receive up to \$81,000 in lump-sum bonuses – the highest amount in more than five years, officials announced Aug. 27.

In addition to critical fields, this latest announcement also offers a wide range of cash options for Soldiers re-upping for longer commitments, or reclassifying into needed fields.

"Reenlistment bonuses are reviewed continuously, and encourage long-term retention of Soldiers going into or staying in critical skills," said Sgt. Maj. Mark Thompson, the senior Army career counselor.

In other words, he added, the Army is investing heavily in its people, with hopes that they continue their investment in the Army.

The payouts are based on critical skills and selective retention. The Selective Retention Bonus program is designed to incentivize Soldiers to maintain their current military occupational specialty or reclassify into another MOS based on demands for the individual jobs.

Understanding not every Soldier will commit to longer terms, to sweeten the offer, last year the Army instituted the ability for Soldiers to extend their service versus reenlisting.

"We're incentivizing the longer-term commitments without taking away the ability for Soldiers to choose shorter-term commitments, too," Thompson said.

These efforts have directly impacted the "historically high retention rates" the Army is currently experiencing, Thompson added. At least 82 percent of eligible Soldiers have already reenlisted in fiscal year 2019.

"The Army is experiencing unprecedented success in the retention program, due in large part from engaged leaders and professionally-developed career counselors," Thompson said, adding, "The Army continuously evaluates the current enlisted strengths with future projections to establish precision incentives."

Although retention is at a historic high, the Army still needs to fill certain fields. The

Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Ikenna Tanaka

U.S. Navy Seaman Daniel Menchaca, from El

Paso, Texas, looks through binoculars while

on watch aboard the aircraft carrier USS John

C. Stennis (CVN 74) in the Atlantic Ocean, Aug.

ing carrier qualifications in support of Chief of

24. The John C. Stennis is underway cond

>> ON WATCH

/ USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74)

Naval Air Training Command.



Spc. Samuel D. Keenan / army.mil

Spc. Eugene Bromberg, left with hand raised, an infantryman, is led in the oath of reenlistment by his commanding officer Army Capt. Evan Dimakas, right with hand raised, in Poptun, Guatemala, July 15. The two are flanked by Soldiers from B Company, 182nd Infantry Regiment and Guatemalan Kaiblies. Bromberg, who immediately bonded with the Guatemalan special forces soldiers, asked that they be included in his reenlistment ceremony.

price tag actually creates a cost-effective solution to fill those positions internally, Thompson added.

"Investing in Soldiers with critical skills – such as cyber, intelligence, Special Forces, etc. – helps meet the retention needed to strengthen the Army's ability to size, shape, and stabilize its force," he said.

Bonuses are categorized into tiers, one through 10, with the latter having the largest payout.

Examples of top-tier fields include cyber and Special Forces. One of the smallest bonuses would occur with an individual in tier one, who may receive \$1,000 for extending their service through reenlistment 12-23 months.

On the other hand, for example, a staff sergeant wishing to move into, or currently in, a tier 10 MOS, and extends service by at least five years may become eligible for the maximum payout.

The Army will match increased commitment with increased bonus amounts.

The intent of the SRB tier changes is to appropriately incentivize long-term reenlistments, Thompson said. For example, a cavalry scout sergeant on the old SRB message would get \$7,800 for a six-year reenlistment; the new SRB message will give the same Soldier \$9,900; this is an increase of \$2,100.

Bonus amounts depend upon a Soldier's primary MOS, rank, time in service with

skill identifiers, or reclassification into high-demand careers. However, individuals reclassifying will receive payment upon completion of training.

Another example of bonuses includes location stabilization. Soldiers who reenlist for a location-specific bonus will be stabilized for a minimum of 24 months (12 months if reenlisting for a short tour area) unless otherwise directed.

Investing in Soldiers is nothing new for the Army, Thompson said, adding, "The chief of staff's No. 1 priority is people, and we are investing in that priority."

This is the sixth bonus message this fiscal year, with rates in 85 skills increasing, 88 decreasing, and 671 not changing.

Another example is infantrymen, who have six different SRB variations across four different skill levels, and five different reenlistment terms, creating hundreds of possible bonus variations across multiple MOSs. In addition, roughly 45 percent of the Army is eligible for a potential payday for many reenlisting Soldiers.

"The Army consistently reviews structure and projected strength requirements, and releases bonus messages as necessary," Thompson said.

Soldiers with questions pertaining to bonuses and eligibility requirements should contact their servicing career counselors. PRECISION Continued from Page 1A

familiar with the software," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Calvin Cameron, a native of College Park, Georgia, targeting officer for 3rd ABCT, 1st AD. "We were, however, better prepared to answer any and all questions the students presented to better grasp the in-

formation we provided, which resulted in all of our students passing the course."

the course."

The benefit of having a TMO program is that it affords certified instructors to create operators and maintain their currencies, which will minimize cost to the division and allow the brigade to remain flexible on training for worldwide deployments.

age may have operational or strategic implications, fires delivered with pinpoint accuracy is a necessity."

"In an environ-

ment where

collateral dam-

>> U.S. Army Field Artillery School

"[TMO certification] is a direct force multiplier, which allows me to instruct and certify individuals across the force, as well as the National Guard, or whomever needs the course," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joseph Kenny, a native of Staten Island, New York, field artillery intelligence officer for 3rd ABCT, 1st AD.

Incorporating TMO into a unit training plan allows ground force commanders to employ Army, joint, and multinational forces accurately and effectively while mitigating collateral damage during real-world operations, which increases a unit's readiness and lethality if called upon to respond to a contingency.

"The TMO certification allows me to enhance the force by teaching junior enlisted Soldiers, as well as brand new lieutenants, the software, so they can mensurate at the battalion level too, which means more precise target acquisition and conservation of resources," said Kenny.

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SUN CITY SHIPMATE





Staff Sqt. Carmen Fleischmann / army.mil

GEAR Continued from Page 1A

along with the challenge to find more space to secure it.

Lighter gear will be found by eliminating excessive power sources and heavy cords currently lugged around, and streamlining multiple tech capabilities through a single hardware device.

"Our lethality comes from improving Soldiers' kits," said Potts.

This is a "new approach formed by old failures," said Col. Troy Denomy, Soldier Warrior project manager. "Ultimately, this will get us very quickly to a point of sustained overmatch against our adversaries."

Instructors from the Project Management Soldiers, Censors and Lasers section of PEO Soldier at Fort Belvoir, Va., train the Florida National Guard's 3rd Squadron, 54th Security Forces Assistance Brigade on weapon firing techniques at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Fla.

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



Military health care consolidation moves to next phase 11A



Army closer to delivering new infantry squad vehicles 14A



M1A2 SEP V2 arrive 'Ready First' receives tanks following armor conversion

By Staff Sgt. Kris Bonet | 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team. 1st Armored Division

Soldiers with 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, received their first M1A2 SEP V2 Abrams Main Battle Tanks Aug. 21.

Fourteen tanks arrived as part of the 1st ABCT conversion from a Stryker brigade to the Army's sixteenth armored brigade combat team June 20.

The "Ready First" Brigade was chosen based on a military value analysis of Fort Bliss demonstrating efficiency and effectiveness in aspects, such as training facilities, land for maneuvering, deployment infrastructure, and quality of life for Soldiers and families.

The division will now be made up of three armored brigade combat teams and meet the Army's intent of having a more lethal and capable force better able to overmatch any potential near-peer adversaries.

"Now we have the ability to decisively engage the enemy whenever our scout troops come into contact with them," said 1st Lt. Daniel Serrano, troop executive officer with 6-1 CAV. "This gives the squadron a lot more firepower as opposed to [before with] the Strykers."

The entire training and certification process will be supervised by an Abrams Operator-New Equipment Training team from the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command. The process will ensure Soldiers receive both classroom and hands-on training before testing the tanks during a gunnery live-

"Every tank has an OPNET instructor on it and they are taking [the Soldiers] through the training," said David McLelland, an OPNET instructor. "They are instructed on the correct way to do safety checks on the driver, commander, loader and gunner crew compartment stations. Then we get them ready for gunnery."

Private Jacob Valenzuela, an armor crewman with 6-1 CAV, was one of various Soldiers who waited eagerly for the arrival of the tanks. He graduated one-station unit training and arrived at his unit back in February.

"Before the tanks arrived, I was learning the concepts of tactical movement and patrolling," said Valenzuela. "After six months, it was surreal to see everything come to frui-



Soldiers with 6th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, conduct preventive maintenance checks and services on newly-acquired M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tanks at Fort Bliss, Aug. 21. The "Ready First" Brigade converted from a Stryker to an armored brigade on June 20 as part of the Army's strategic focus to counter the threat of near-peer adversaries.

tion; seeing it all come together. I feel satis-

The "Ready First" Brigade will also receive

Bradley Fighting Vehicles, Paladin artillery systems and the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle later this year as part of the conversion.



Photos by Lt. Col. Cynthia King / 30th ABC7



30th ABCT uses step approach to training

By Lt. Col. Cynthia King |

30th Armored Brigade Combat Team

A "crawl, walk, run" approach is used by organizations who know to accomplish large-scale tasks, it is best to advance in stages. This methodology includes the Army and National Guard, who assess readiness from Soldier to unit level, through individual, crew and collective training.

Since arriving at Fort Bliss in August for mobilization activities, Soldiers in the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team have been honing their skills with weapons training using this step approach.

"Our Soldiers, after completing the initial [Soldier Readiness Processing], must qualify with their individual weapons," said Sgt. Maj. Sidney Baker, 30th ABCT operations sergeant major. "This proficiency, with either the M4 rifle or M9 pistol, is important for force protection and to prepare the Soldiers for what they may be doing downrange."

After completing the individual weapons training on small arms ranges, Soldiers advance to crew-served weapons, which can include the M2, M249 and M240

"All of these building blocks are key parts to our col-

(Top left) U.S. Soldiers in Echo Company, 236th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, North Carolina National Guard, fire the M2 .50 caliber machine gun in the vicinity of Fort Bliss, Aug. 27. The Soldiers are training on crew-served weapons as part of their preparations to support Operation Spartan Shield.

(Left) Soldiers in E Co., 236th BEB, 30th ABCT, NCNG, fire the M2 .50 caliber machine gun in the vicinity of Fort Bliss, Aug. 27. After completing the individual weapons training on small arms ranges, Soldiers advance to crew-served weapons, which can include the M2, M249 and M240 machine guns.

lective training that enables us to operate at the higher level," said Col. Robert Bumgardner, commander of the 30th ABCT. "We train as we fight and the more proficient we are at the individual, squad, platoon and higher levels, the more successful we are executing our roles under stressful conditions."

The 30th ABCT has trained at Fort Bliss on multiple occasions for other events, including the XCTC (eXportable Combat Training Capability) exercise in

"This is my fourth time at Fort Bliss," said Sgt. Andrew Buffaloe, a North Carolina National Guard Infantry Soldier in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 30th ABCT. "I was here for a deployment to Kosovo, XCTC and now for this deployment."

According to Baker, Fort Bliss and its facilities provide commanders with flexibility and the ability to have control over their training objectives to meet their Mission Essential Task List (METL) requirements.

Echo company in the 236th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 30th ABCT, qualified crews on the M2 .50 caliber machine gun on Aug. 27. Spc. Sean Greenly, an all-wheeled vehicle mechanic in the unit said that training was going very well, and he and his fellow Soldiers were enjoying the range time.

"Weapons safety is the biggest thing," said Greenly. "I volunteered for this deployment and I'm looking forward to it."

The 30th ABCT is comprised of over 4,000 Citizen-Soldiers from four state National Guards - North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio and West Virginia - who will deploy once all weapons and mobilization tasks are complete to support Operation Spartan Shield.

"The ranges here at Fort Bliss are world-class, where we can use all of our weapons systems," said Bumgardner. "This is a phenomenal facility where we can walk onto a range and execute training like we need to.'

Army, JMC assess new navigation, positioning systems

By Jonathan Koester |

Joint Modernization Command Public Affairs

A critical part of Army modernization will be upgrading positioning, navigation and timing systems to allow Soldiers to know exactly where they are, where friendly forces are, and where autonomous information and attack systems are at all times.

A team from the U.S. Army Joint Modernization Command recently spent several weeks at White Sands Missile Range assessing the latest dismounted navigation systems, and gathering Soldier feedback and observations on the latest technology available from the industry. The assessment was part of the Army's PNT modernization effort led by the Assured Positioning, Navigation and Timing Cross-Functional Team, which is responsible for placing emerging PNT, Tactical Space and Navigation Warfare technologies into the hands of Soldiers.

The newest PNT systems have impressed Soldiers because they allow them to maintain position accuracy while in a city, inside buildings, or other environments that interfere with the traditional Global Positioning System, said Capt. John Sexton, logistics applications officer at JMC, headquartered at Fort Bliss.

"There are a couple systems that use emerging technology – using multiple sources to correlate and pinpoint exactly where you are based on those different data sources that they're pulling in," Sexton said. "It's fascinating, because typically, you think of GPS as the system to tell me where I'm at, but there are now other sensors to enhance position accuracy."

As the Army faces a future of competing with peer or near-peer adversaries in multidomain operations, Soldiers will need to be able to operate in challenged PNT environments where GPS may not be available, said Capt. Javier Martinez, observer/analyst at JMC. One of the new dismounted systems will replace the defense advanced GPS receiver, or DAGR, that the Army currently uses for PNT.



Jonathan Koester / JMC Public Affair

From left: Sgt. 1st Class Ian Walsh, systems manager at U.S. Army Joint Modernization Command; Capt. John Sexton, logistics applications officer at JMC; Sgt. 1st Class Jorel Santiago, an air defense observer/controller Non-Commissioned Officer in the Multi-Domain Operations Group at JMC; and Capt. Javier Martinez, observer/analyst at JMC, recently spent several weeks at White Sands Missile Range assessing the latest dismounted navigation systems, gathering Soldier feedback and observations on the latest technology available from industry.

"This is important because it will enhance the ability of Soldiers to move and maneuver in combat situations and in contested environments," Martinez said. "We've relied on GPS signal for almost 30 years. Now, we're adding to GPS with other sources to increase accuracy to know where we are at, at any time."

The dismounted systems being assessed by JMC are impressive, not only for their accuracy, but for their easy portability, said Sgt. 1st Class Jorel Santiago, an air defense observer/controller noncommissioned officer in the multi-domain operations group at JMC.

"The mapping systems that they have are normally in heavier pieces of equipment, like a laptop," Santiago said. "Now it's becoming more handheld and [wearable], so those capabilities are going to be useful. The lighter they are, the easier they are for Soldiers to carry."

JMC's assessors worked with Soldiers with the Colorado National Guard to test

"We've relied on GPS signal for almost 30 years. Now, we're adding to GPS with other sources to increase accuracy to know where we are at, at any time."

>> Capt. Javier Martinez

the PNT systems in a variety of conditions at White Sands. JMC's role is to assess the available PNT systems to help find the best one for the Army. The exacting process should help the Army save money while getting the best equipment possible into the hands of Soldiers.

"Our role is to assess the military feasibility of the dismounted systems," Sexton said. "Does this dismounted system make sense for a Soldier to carry in the field? Will it get [the Soldier] through the dismounted mission? We're looking at aspects of size, weight and power. Is it going to tangle up on things? Does it impede movement? Is it easy for Soldiers to use and quickly adapt to?"

The dismounted PNT assessment was one of the worldwide multi-echelon, joint and multinational live experiments JMC plans and executes in support of the Army's modernization strategy. The JMC also leads a yearly joint warfighting assessment – the Army's premier modernization and interoperability exercise.

Once the equipment capabilities and Soldier feedback is assessed, the APNT CFT will use the information to build requirements for modernized PNT systems. Getting accurate, easy-to-use PNT systems into the hands of Soldiers is critical to the joint forces' capability in multi-domain operations.



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Civilian helps keep Army's AI Task Force on cutting edge

By Gary Sheftick | Army News Service

PITTSBURGH, Pa. – Ruben Cruz says he has been fascinated by science and engineering since he was a student in the engineering magnet program at Miami Coral Park Senior High.

"I love learning about new technology," he said, adding that's part of what drove him to the Army's Artificial Intelligence Task Force, located at the National Robotics Engineering Center in Pittsburgh.

Cruz is no data scientist or algorithm developer though; he's an attorney specializing in contracts and acquisitions. The Army civilian employee joined the task force in June as its procurement analyst.

"One of the things I do is sit down with the team and try to see where they're headed," Cruz said, explaining that he then tries to proactively provide the support they will need.

He aligns a variety of procurement mechanisms that the task force can use such as cooperative agreements with universities, financial grants for researchers, and contracts with small businesses.

Trailblazing research

Since much of the AI Task Force work is advanced technology in its early stages, he said financial assistance for researchers is more common than traditional contracts.

"We're still in the early phases to find these ideas, test them out, and see how they could apply," Cruz said.

"It's revolutionary," he said of the AI projects.

"It's a burgeoning field," he said of artificial intelligence in general. "It's getting increased emphasis throughout the federal government and industry as a whole.

"Getting in on the ground floor



Gary Sheftick / Army News Service

Ruben Cruz, procurement analyst for the Army Artificial Intelligence Task Force, examines sensors in an autonomous robot built at Carnegie-Mellon University in the 1980s, now on display in the lobby of the National Robotics Engineering Center in Pittsburgh.

is very exciting and makes such a dynamic environment to come into every morning."

Less than a year old, the Army AI Task Force has already been working collaboratively with academia and industry experts on artificial intelligence applications ranging from automated recognition of images to aircraft maintenance protocols to talent management of personnel.

Collaboration network

The task force is working, through a partnership with Carnegie Mellon University, to put together an AI Hub to support the Army and collaborate with researchers.

"They already have a great reputation within the industry," Cruz said of CMU, which developed the first computer program with artificial intelligence and now boasts a Robotics Institute with more than 1,000 researchers.

Cruz said CMU experts help keep the Army informed of the latest developments in artificial intelligence from both industry and academia, and the AI Hub facilitates that knowledge transfer.

"They help us bring on academic partners from other universities

to help with the different challenges we have with Army modernization," he explained.

Cruz also reaches out to potential academic partners. In fact, much of his job is to coordinate with researchers from academia and industry to facilitate their collaboration with the task force.

"It's my job to figure out how to bring them into the fold," he said, adding that he considers himself an "enabler."

Technology incubators

Cruz also reaches out to small businesses. He often works with individuals and companies that have never done business with the government before.

It used to be that Army acquisition was focused primarily on large "prime" contractors, said his supervisor, Col. Doug Matty, the AI Task Force deputy director. Now the Army is looking to engage with startups, small businesses and midlevel companies, he said, through the Army Futures Command, the task force's parent organization.

Cruz uses the term "technology incubators" for the small organizations he deals with.

"If there are certain businesses or people whom we feel have innovative technology to support AI ... we want to talk to them," Cruz said

Return to roots

Cruz is a former Air Force officer. After leaving active duty, he served in the Air Force Reserves until 2011, while working for the Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. and then for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supporting the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

He and his wife both worked for the CDC's Pittsburgh office. Then he attended law school at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh before joining the Army AI Task Force.

"It feels good that I can be back here helping the Army," Cruz said. He described the officers on the task force as brilliant and said he feels fortunate to work with them.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to be a part of this task force," he said. "We're working on some innovative solutions to modernizing the Department of the Army.

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History of hooah

National Museum of the U.S. Army to open in June 2020

By U.S. Army Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – The Army announced Aug. 28 that the National Museum of the United States Army will open to the public on June 4, 2020.

The National Museum of the United States Army will be the first and only museum to tell the 244-year history of the U.S. Army in its entirety. Now under construction on a publicly accessible area of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, the museum will be open to the public with free admission.

The museum will tell the Army's story through Soldier stories. The narrative begins with the earliest militias and continues to present day.

"The Army has served American citizens for 244 years, protecting the freedoms that are precious to all of us. Millions of people have served in the Army, and this museum gives us the chance to tell their stories to the public, and show how they have served our nation and our people," said acting Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy.

In addition to the historic galleries, the museum's Army and Society Gallery will include stories of Army innovations and the symbiotic relationship between the Army, its civilian government and the people. The Experiential Learning Center will provide a unique and interactive learning space for visitors of all ages to participate in handson geography, science, technology, engineering and math (G-STEM) learning and team-building activities.

"This state-of-the art museum will engage visitors in the Army's story – high-

lighting how the Army was at the birth of our nation over 240 years ago, and how it continues to influence our everyday lives," said Tammy E. Call, the museum's director. "The National Museum of the United States Army will be stunning, and we can't wait to welcome visitors from around the world to see it."

The museum is a joint effort between the U.S. Army and the Army Historical Foundation, a non-profit organization. The Army Historical Foundation is constructing the building through private funds. The Army is providing the infrastructure, roads, utilities and exhibit work that transform the building into a museum.

The Army will own and operate the museum 364 days a year (closed Dec. 25). Museum officials expect 750,000 visitors in the first year of operation. A timed-entry ticket will be required. Free timed-entry tickets will assist in managing anticipated crowds and will provide the optimum visitor experience. More information on ticketing will be available in early 2020.

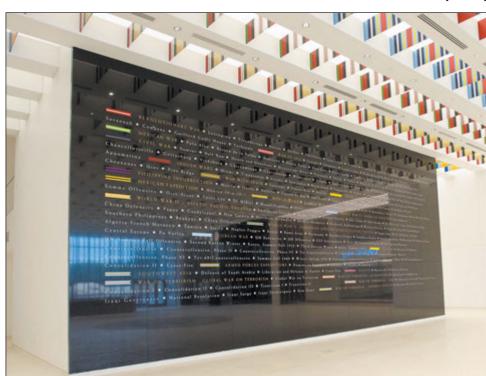
For more information, visit the museum's website at http://www.theNMUSA.org

(Top right) The National Museum of the United States Army will be the first and only museum to tell the 244-year history of the Army in its entirety. Now under construction on a publicly accessible area of Fort Belvoir, Va., the museum will be open to the public with free admission.

(Right) A black granite wall listing every American campaign is displayed in the entrance lobby of the National Museum of the United States Army. The National Museum of the United States Army will be the first and only museum to tell the 244-year history of the Army in its entirety.



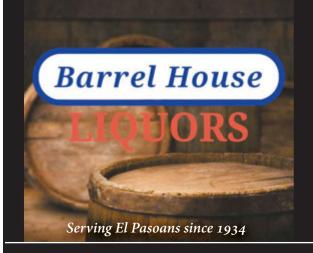
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Photo courtesy U.S. Army

The Army Career Skills Program provides Soldiers transitioning out of the Army with an opportunity to participate in free or minimal-cost apprenticeships, on-the-job training, employment-skills training and

Career Skills Program helps Soldiers transitioning out of the Army

By Installation Management Command

SAN ANTONIO, Texas - The Army Career Skills Program provides Soldiers transitioning out of the Army with an opportunity to participate in free or minimal-cost apprenticeships, on-the-job training, employmentskills training and internships.

The Installation Management Command has 200 career skills programs hosted at 32 garrisons, with more than 4,000 employers that return an impressive 93 percent career placement rate for Soldiers. Managed by IM-COM, the program is open to Soldiers 180 days prior to transitioning out of the military.

"Since the program's inception in 2013, more than 17,500 Soldiers have been placed directly into high-wage careers post military service, contributing to a steep decline in unemployment compensation payments for the Army," said Christine Krieger, Indtai Inc. contractor, Army Continuing Education System assistant program manager, IMCOM.

"The Career Skills Program helps Soldiers turn their military skills into post-service careers," Krieger said.

Partner employers recognize the importance that Army values and ethos bring to their companies in direct support of Soldier

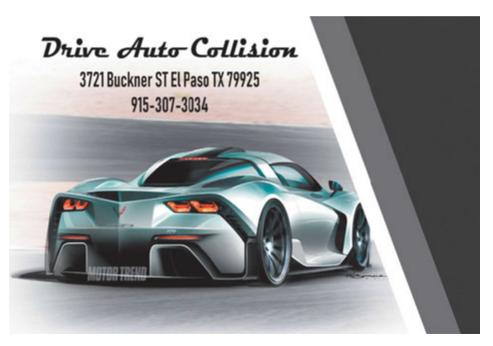
The program has won several prestigious awards, including the American Business Awards Gold Stevie for Best Overall Organization of the Year (governmental) and Best Overall Customer Service Team of the Year (small, nonprofit); the Council of College and Military Educators Barry Cobb Government Organization Award; and the Federal Recognition Awards for Large Teams (second place). The program was also a finalist for the Harvard University Innovation in American Government Award in 2018.

IMCOM's latest federal career skills program is a collaboration with the Army Civilian Human Resources Agency providing internships at Soldiers' garrisons with direct appointments to federal careers as HR classifiers and specialists.

Programs vary by Army garrison. Some of the areas covered are heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration; sprinkler fitting; forestry land management; diesel technician; welding; software and computer systems; telecommunications; airframe and powerplant; and painting, drywall and glaz-

Efforts are ongoing to increase federal agency participation, expand successful programs, and serve transitioning populations in nontraditional garrison locations.

Soldiers interested in the program should visit the local installation administrator at their education center or transition office, or visit https://home.army.mil/imcom/index. php/customers/career-skills-program





West Nile virus cases rise in New Mexico

By New Mexico Department of Health

SANTA FE, NM – The New Mexico Department of Health has identified five additional cases of West Nile virus infection in residents of Bernalillo, Doña Ana, San Juan and Valencia counties, since the first case was reported in early August.

West Nile virus is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the continental United States. It is most commonly spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito, and there are no vaccines to prevent or medications to treat it in people

Five of the six West Nile virus cases this year resulted in neuro-invasive disease, the most severe form of the disease, and one case of uncomplicated West Nile fever. All six people, however, have survived the infection.

There were seven cases of human West Nile virus infection in New Mexico last year and 33 cases in 2017. Increased rain routinely brings more mosquitoes, which can transmit West Nile virus, among other diseases. It only takes one bite from an infected mosquito for a person to get sick.

"West Nile Virus can be dangerous, but New Mexicans can take precautions to protect themselves and their families," said Department of Health Secretary Kathy Kunkel.



"The fastest, easiest ways are to use insect repellent and wear protective clothing where mosquitoes may be active."

Specifically, to prevent bites and disease NMDOH recommends residents use an approved insect repellent every time they go outside and follow the instructions on the label. Among the EPA-approved repellents are those that contain DEET, picaridin, IR3535 and oil of lemon eucalyptus/para-menthanediol.

Regularly drain standing water, including water collecting in empty cans, tires, buckets, clogged rain gutters, saucers under potted plants, birdbaths, wading pools, and pet water bowls. Mosquitoes that spread West Nile virus breed in stagnant water and can do so in objects as small as a bottle cap.

Make sure rain barrels are tightly screened. Wear long sleeves and pants at

dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. Use air conditioning or make sure there are screens on all doors and windows to keep mosquitoes from entering the home.

Mosquitos will likely continue to be a problem for months until the first hard freeze in your community.

People 50 years and older, and those with chronic conditions, are at a higher risk of becoming seriously ill or dying when they become infected with the virus. If people have symptoms and suspect West Nile virus infection, they should contact their health-care provider.

Symptoms of the milder form of illness, West Nile fever, can include headache, fever, muscle and joint aches, nausea and fatigue. People with West Nile fever typically recover on their own, although symptoms may last for weeks to months. Symptoms of West Nile neuro-invasive disease can include those of West Nile fever plus neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis.

For more information, including fact sheets in English and Spanish, about how to protect against West Nile virus, visit the West Nile Virus section of the NMDOH website, https://nmhealth.org.

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Military health care consolidation moves to next phase

By C. Todd Lopez | army.mil

WASHINGTON - The Defense Health Agency will take the next step this fall in evolving health care across the Military Health System, which oversees the care and well-being of some 9.5 million people, including service members, families and retir-

As part of Phase 2 of the MHS overhaul, half of the roughly 375 military treatment facilities in the United States that had been previously operated by the Army, Navy or Air Force will move under the control of the

Eventually, every military treatment fa-



Army 2nd Lt. McKenzie Smith, a nurse at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., pulls medicine for a patient, April 26.

cility will move under the DHA, and the agency has opted to manage those facilities by dividing them into a variety of "markets."

The large-market segment includes the national capital region, San Diego, San Antonio and Southwestern Kentucky, among others. The DHA has identified about 20 such

Small markets will include Central Louisiana, Las Vegas, New England, Central Virginia and Central Oklahoma. About 16 similar small markets have been identified.

Finally, the nearly 70 treatment facilities that don't fall within the boundaries of either a small or large market will be part of a "stand-alone" segment managed by the same office that manages the small markets.

Similar markets will eventually be formed in Europe and the Indo-Pacific region, home to about 75 military treatment facilities.

Navy Vice Adm. (Dr.) Raquel Bono, the DHA's director, said these changes should be transparent, rather than disruptive, to health care beneficiaries around the nation.

"From the patient's perspective, the way I like to describe it is that at first it should be very transparent to them," she said. "They won't see any real visible changes."

What will eventually change, Bono said, is that things across all military treatment facilities will become easier for patients.

For example, Bono said, as the military treatment facilities and the markets continue to evolve under the DHA, beneficiaries will find that how they make an appointment in the Tidewater area of Virginia will be the same way they make an appointment at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio or at a facility in San Diego.

A move to joint electronic health records is also part of the Military Health System transformation, making the movement of beneficiary health records between different facilities seamless, Bono said. This will allow them to be treated anywhere, including



Photos by Mark Oswell / army.mi

Army 1st Lt. Gabrielle Williams, a nurse, at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., cares for a patient, April 26.

at facilities run by the Department of Veterans Affairs, she added.

"This is one of those efforts we've been trying to accomplish for some time now," Bono said. "Being able to share the medical data in a seamless way, and make it actionable, is a very big step in the right direction. And it's a direction that private health care or commercial health care is also trying to do, ... making the data about patient and patient care more visible, not only to the patient, but also to other people that are providing care to that individual.'

That data sharing, she said, means patients won't have to retrieve their records, make copies of them and bring them to their provider. This makes things easier for patients and also ensures that different providers don't run tests multiple times because they can't access existing results, the admiral

Bono retires next month, and she said she hopes her successor will be able to keep the changes and improvements happening at the same pace they are already moving.

"Going forward, what I'd like for all the folks to bear in mind is that we've built a head of steam," she said. "We've got some momentum now. More and more people are becoming informed about the reasons for why we are doing this in the first place, and I think it's easier for them to see the role they have in being able to make these changes happen. I think this is a real pivotal time. I think we are at a major inflection point for military health."

Phase 3 of DHA's transformation of the MHS is slated for October 2020, and includes bringing the rest of U.S.-based military treatment facilities under its purview. Overseas facilities will move under DHS during Phase 4 in October 2021.



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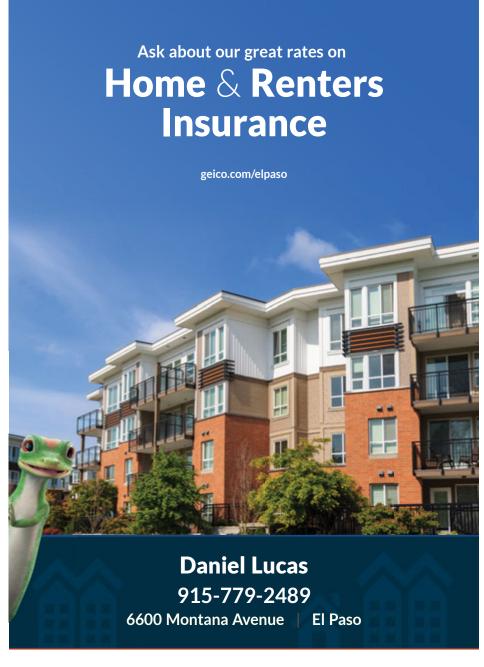






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Army committed to developing capable civilian workforce

By Kari Hawkins | Army Materiel Command

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. - When employers talk about providing opportunities for workforce professional growth, the response from their employees is often: "Show me the commitment."

Investing in its workforce is exactly what the Army has done.

Professional growth and career development are high on the priority list for Army civilians, with a host of training opportunities coordinated through the Army's career programs, and including the Civilian Education System, and the Enterprise Talent Management and Senior Enterprise Talent Management training

In a 2017 Army Directive, then acting Secretary of the Army Robert Speer said, "The development of an adaptive professional civilian workforce is essential to the success of our Army in this complex and dynamic global security environment. Our Army demands that civilian employees commit to a lifetime of professional and personal growth. I hold each Army civilian accountable for mapping and navigating a progressive program of selfdevelopment. Commanders, supervisors and managers share responsibility for enabling Army civilian employees to reach their full potential."

Expanding and enhancing civilian professional and leadership development programs is required to meet the Army's long-term performance needs in the most productive and efficient way, Speer went on to say in the direc-

Doing so, he said, "... will ensure that we are ready and capable to work in a variety of environments and side-by-side with our uniformed service members to achieve strategic advantage in a complex world."

As the Army's largest civilian employer, Army Materiel Command is spearheading efforts to ensure all civilians have the development and training opportunities to support readiness requirements.

"We need 100 percent of our employees doing 100 percent of the work. Our civilian workforce is vital to ensuring we succeed in our readiness mission," said AMC Commander Gen. Gus Perna. "A civilian workforce that is trained and experienced, competent and committed to the mission of materiel readiness, and understands the vision of synchronizing capabilities and resources to ensure materiel readiness will provide the full ability to meet all materiel needs related to equipping Soldiers

Many of the training and development opportunities provided to civilians are considered functional or technical, but additional training through CES and the talent management programs emphasize leadership training. The opportunities are associated with one of the 32 career programs, which ensure the Army's 330,000 civilians are properly equipped to fulfill the requirements of more than 540 career fields.

Of those career programs, the most recently established is CP 71, the Army Cyberspace Effects Career Program for personnel who conduct the Army's cyberspace capabilities. CP 71 is still in its development stage, defining and setting the standards for a future civilian workforce of 440 employees who will transfer to CP /I based on their mission, said program direc tor Andricka Thomas.

CP 71 civilians work alongside cyber Soldiers, where they enable and execute cyberspace operations when engaging adversaries. Their expertise is deep, highly-specialized and requires constant training to stay ahead of the threat," Thomas said.

Like other career programs, CP 71 will develop, empower and advocate on behalf of employees, and will provide a central hub of workforce coordination that trains, educates and develops a globally distributed team of professionals, she said.

"We're focused on developing the training, securing funding and creating professional development opportunities, career enhancement models, and career paths for the workforce," Thomas said. "The Soldier and civilian communities executing this mission area have been absolutely critical to how far we've come. Since the establishment of the Cyber Command, Soldiers have done a great deal of work articulating these missions, so that's been an incredible asset to our civilian efforts."

Professional development opportunities are also key to the Ready Army Civilian program being developed by Army Materiel Command, under the direction of AMC Executive Deputy to the Commanding General Lisha Adams.

"From Ready Army Civilian, our goal is civilians who are always prepared to accomplish the mission and who have a better understanding of how they impact the mission," Adams said. "We want to ensure our civilians have the training they need to build both their hard skills and soft skills. It can be truly difficult for an employee to see the progress and the difference they are making. But, when we link performance to Ready Army Civilian tenants, they will have a better perspective.'

Being adaptable, accountable, competent, mentally ready, disciplined, committed to Army values, technologically proficient and resourceful are all valued aspects of Ready Army Civilian, Adams said. Civilians who embrace life-long learning and change, are committed to their profession, have a positive attitude and are willing to work hard in support of Soldiers will ensure mission success for AMC and the Army, she said.

An AMC employee-led group is developing a Ready Army Civilian assessment tool that defines employee skills needed for a high level of performance and then pinpoints development opportunities required to improve those

"Our vision is to actively choose to manage the capabilities for employee readiness," said RAC team member Nate Parks. "We want to encourage passionate and productive employees by being able to assess those traits with a model of how a RAC operates. The number one outcome is readiness. The model is to assess and determine how to generate readiness."

The components of the assessment tool include hard skills gained from education, training, job-related skills and experience and soft skills - character and attributes, such as time management, listening skills, teamwork and conflict resolution, said RAC team member Sandra Gaston.

"Hard skills are the skills derived from your position description and that you need to do your job," Gaston said. "Soft skills are those personal attributes that enable you to interact with others and get along. They are hard to measure, evaluate and develop. It is important for an employee to have a balance between hard and soft skills that will help them be successful in the workplace and throughout their

With the Chief of Staff of the Army's focus on people, the Army's investment in talented, skilled and qualified civilians is driven by both a need to ensure a professional workforce for now and the future, and a need to provide continual support for a strategically adaptable and expeditionary Soldier force. Because of their commitment to selfless service in support of Soldiers, the Army civilian service continues to be one of the largest, busiest and most successful elements within the Department of De-

"It is our people who will deliver on our readiness, modernization and reform efforts," wrote Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville in his initial message to the Army team after his confirmation in May. "Army leaders have a sacred obligation to build cohesive teams that are highly trained and disciplined ... Cohesive teams drive tactical to strategic readiness and enable dynamic force employment."



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First enlisted female to graduate from Ranger School reflects on experience

By Joe Lacdan | Army News Service

WASHINGTON - As Staff Sgt. Amanda Kelley made her way through mountainous terrain in the midst of a scorching Georgia summer in 2018, she admittedly struggled, carrying more than 50 pounds of gear during a patrol exercise.

Tired and physically drained, her body had withstood nearly a month of training in the Army's most challenging training school. She had already suffered a fracture in her back in an earlier phase, as well as other physical ailments.

But then she looked to her left and right and saw her fellow Ranger School teammates, many of whom she outranked.

"I know that I have to keep going," said Kelley, the first enlisted female graduate of the Army Ranger School at Fort Benning, Georgia. "Because if I quit, or if I show any signs of weakness, they're going to quit."

In the middle of 21 grueling training days in northeast Georgia, Kelley knew if she could weather the mountain phase of the Army's Ranger School, she and her teammates would reach a new pinnacle, a critical rite of passage for Ranger students. The electronic warfare specialist endured four days of mountaineering, five days of survival techniques training and a nine-day field training exercise. She had already been recycled in the school's first phase and didn't want to relive the experience.

"It's not about you at that moment," Kelley said. "It's about the people around you. You don't realize in that moment how many people look up to you until you complete it. Everybody has those trying periods because those mountains are really rough."

Her graduation from Ranger School paved the way for her current assignment as an electronic warfare specialist with the Third Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Since 2016, more than 1,200 female Soldiers have entered combat career fields, including field artillery, armor and infantry.



Staff Sgt. Amanda Kelley meets family and friends after becoming the first enlisted woman to graduate from the Army's Ranger School Aug. 31, 2018. She is currently assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Kelley said the Ranger training pushed her to meet the same standards as her male counterparts. She finished the 12-mile ruck march in under three hours.

'You literally go through the same thing," Kelley said. "It's not any different ... You do the same thing that they do. That's the greatest thing about Ranger School: there's one set standard, across the board."

Taking the easy road has never been how Kelley has lived her life. As a teenager she competed as a center fielder on boy baseball teams. She also was on her high school's track team. Growing up in the small rural community of Easley, South Carolina, she had few mentors as a teen.

"I just wanted to be somebody," Kelley said. "And I also want to be someone that others can look up to. I didn't have that growing up. We don't all come from a silver spoon background; some of us have to fight for things."

She joined the Army on a whim in 2011, considering joining the service only six months prior to enlisting. She admired the Army's rigid discipline and high standards.

"Better opportunities," was one reason Kelley said she joined the Army. "I wanted to get out of where I was."

Kelley wanted to reach even higher. The 30-year-old wanted to one day become sergeant major of the Army and let her supervisors know that it wasn't some pipe dream. After an Iraq deployment with the 1st Armored Division, Kelley's battalion commander, Lt. Col. Mike Bandy, told her that attending Ranger School would help chart her path to success.

"When I went to Ranger School, I didn't go so I could be the first [enlisted female]." Kelley said. "I went so that I could be sergeant major of the Army. And I want to be competitive with my peers."

After Kelley decided to apply for Ranger School, she spent five months physically preparing herself and studying while deployed. Her roommate in Iraq, former Staff Sgt. Mychal Loria, said Kelley would work 12-hour shifts, workout twice a day and still found time for study. At the same time, she helped mentor other Soldiers.

'She just exemplified the perfect NCO; al-

ways there for her Soldiers," Loria said.

Kelley praised former Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey for helping create more opportunities for women in combat career fields. Since the first two female graduates -Capt. Kristen Griest and then-1st Lt. Shaye Haver – completed Ranger training in 2015, more than 30 female Soldiers have earned their Ranger tab. Sgt. 1st Class Janina Simmons became the first African American woman to graduate from the course earlier this year.

Kelley is preparing for a six-month deployment to an undisclosed location. The South Carolina native said she looks forward to using many of the skills she learned during her time training to be an Army Ranger.

The eight-year Army vet said the Third Special Forces group has fostered a welcome environment for unit members, offering a wealth of training opportunities to help advance her career, including electronics and intelligence courses.

Kelley offered some advice for Soldiers who may be considering Ranger School or other certifications to advance their careers.

"Soldiers need to understand that sometimes things you had planned change," she said. "So just be open-minded to new things and don't be scared to go after things that seem impossible. Because nothing's impossible if somebody's done it before you.'







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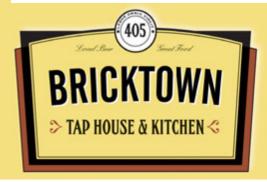
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Staff Sqt. Jacob Sawyer / army.mil

Paratroopers with 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne) test CH-47 Chinook capabilities by sling loading their newest vehicle, the Army Ground Mobility Vehicle. In 2020, the Army plans to roll out 600 modernized versions of the lightweight vehicle, called the Infantry Squad Vehicle.

Army closer to delivering new infantry squad vehicle

By Thomas Brading | Army News Service

DETROIT – The Army is one step closer to fielding a new infantry squad vehicle after naming three industry leaders to develop prototypes, Aug. 23.

The \$1 million mock-up contract makes strides toward the Army's goal of producing new ISVs in 2020.

"The modernized vehicles will provide enhanced tactical mobility for an infantry brigade combat team to move quickly around the battlefield," said Steven Herrick, ground mobility vehicle product lead, Army Program Executive Office Combat Service and Combat Service Support. The vehicles will have the ability for repositioning operations to provide commanders greater freedom of movement and action, he added.

In February 2019, the Army approved a procurement objective and plans to purchase

A nine-Soldier infantry squad, along with associated equipment, will comfortably maneuver in the vehicles up to 5,000 pounds, Herrick added.

The scheduled delivery date for all three competing teams is Nov. 13, at Aberdeen Test Center in Maryland for initial assessment. The competing teams include Oshkosh Defense/Flyer, GM Defense, and

ing ground, all designs will compete in several performance, operational, and characteristics tests. Evaluations are scheduled to run through December," Herrick said.

Following their early trials, the vehicles will be moved to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to undergo their second round of testing. Once there, they will be subject to operationalized assessments through a series of tests on how effective the prototypes work for Soldiers.

"The Army plans to select one company for production in the second quarter of fiscal year 2020," Herrick said. "This selection will be based largely on Soldier input and response to a formal request for proposal for

The ISVs have been intended to provide ground mobility vehicle capabilities to the Army since the original model.

At first, the Army started looking toward industry to develop the new ISV in September 2018. Lightweight vehicles are essential to increase speed in combat and provide ability to be transported by helicopter into austere locations, Herrick said.

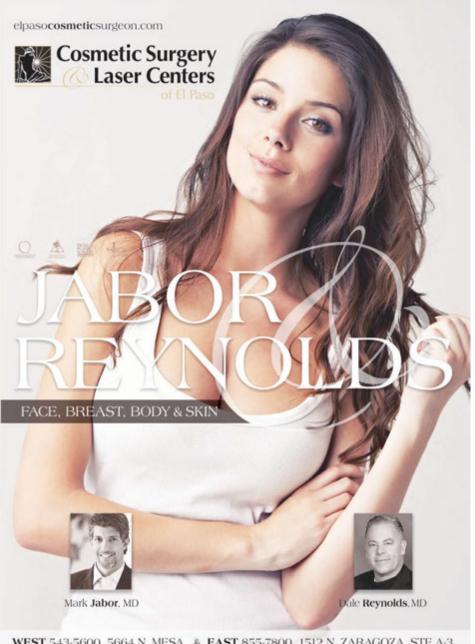
"Ground mobility vehicles provide flexibility for entry operations, permissive and non-permissive, to counter threat anti-access strategies through the use of multiple entry points - air-drop, air-land, and air-insertion, he said.



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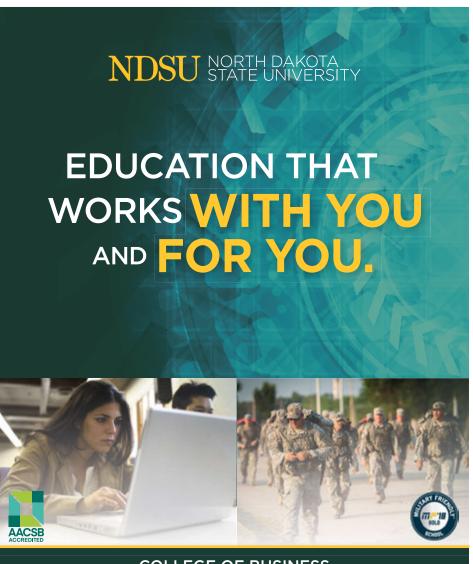


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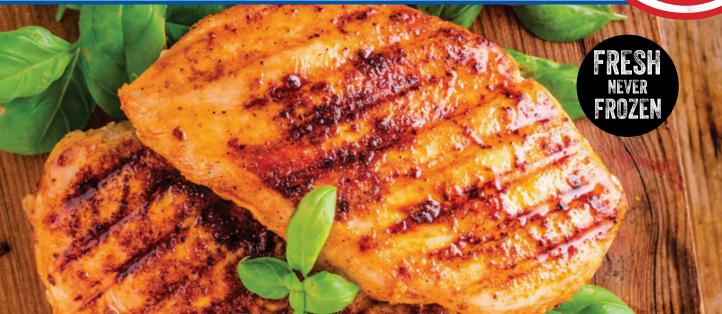




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WBAMC celebrates Women's Equality Day ■ 2B



Beyond the barracks Lake Valley, N.M, is a step back in time ■ 3B



Total energy, Total Gym Fitness class in top gear at Milam PFC ■ 7B

Things to do:

Center Chapel One reopening ceremonies: Center Chapel One, located on West Fort Bliss, will be rededicated and a pastor will be installed in a ceremony. Lunch provided. Community invited. Sunday. 10 a.m.

White Sands Hot Air Baloon/Music Fest: The Alamogordo (N.M.) Chamber of Commerce's ballooning and event is 6 a.m.midnight Saturday, and 6-10 a.m. Sunday. Thirty balloons launch at 7 a.m. each day, and are expected to be up for about three hours. Saturday's launch is at Ed Brabson Balloon Park, 223 La Velle in Alamogordo, with music fest beginning at 2 p.m. and balloon glow at 7 p.m. Sunday's launch at White Sands National Monument, on Dunes Drive near Alamogordo. No vendors present; guests should bring their own water. Cost: \$20 per carload or \$10 per person for walkins; White Sands fees apply Sunday. (575) 437-6120 or alamogordo.com

Alfresco! Fridays: Come out for Alfresco! Fridays at the El Paso Convention Center Plaza. These free outdoor summer concerts are presented by ElPasoLive. 534-0600

Jazz at sunset: El Paso Community College will host a free outdoor jazz show. Performers are Emmy Award nominated L.A. guitarist Grant Geissman with special guests Michel Herndon Group, Frank Zona Group, Ruben Gutierrez Quintet and Azucar. Friday. 6-11 p.m. EPCC Valle Verde Campus Americana Language Village, 919 Hunter. Cost: Free. 831-2292 or epcc.edu

Our Lady of the Light Fiesta: Our Lady of the Light Catholic Church, at 4 La Luz Road in Cloudcroft, N.M., will host its annual festival 5-11 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday. Live music, king and queen crowning, family activities and more. (575) 434-9460 or ourladyofthelight.org

El Paso Black Expo: The inaugural weeklong celebration "Celebrating Our Multi-cultural Heritage," concludes with an expo 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sept. 14, at the El Paso Convention Center. Will feature small business owners, authors, entertainers, service professionals, organizations, and more, as well as panel discussions, seminars, workshops, live entertainment, kids corner and health zone. Cost: \$10 (free for kids 5 and younger). workshops are additional \$15 each. 345-1661, elpasoblackexpo@gmail. com or elpasoblackexpo.com

Magic Morning Market: The Marketplace at Placita Santa Fe, 5034 Doniphan, hosts an indoor and outdoor market 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday with vendors, music, face painting yoga and a special breakfast menu at Magic Bistro. 585-9296.

Tequila and Margarita at the Park: Sunland Park Racetrack & Casino, 1200 Futurity Dr. hosts the evening of tequila sampling and live music 5-10 p.m. Saturday, with more than 50 premium tequila brands and frozen margaritas available for sampling. Free. 1-800-572-1142, sunland-park.com

Bee Real: The City of San Elizario hosts a week-long celebration of "biodiversity in our own backyards" through Friday, featuring a Bee Real Street Festival and free Farmer's Market Friday, cityofsanelizario.

'Dog Day' swimming event: The City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department's 7th annual dog swim days are 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, at Nations Tobin Aquatic Center, 8831 Railroad, A paper copy of current shot records for each dog must be shown to gain admittance. Among the contests on both days are "Doggie Paddle Swim" at 9:30 a.m., Cutest bathing suit at 10:30 a.m. and Dog Splash Contest at 11:45 a.m. Cost: \$2 per dog. Animal Rescue League and El Paso Animal Services will have information on dogs available for adoption. 212-0551 or elpasotexas.gov/

Service, fitness, heritage characterize Army civilian

By Spc. Matthew Marcellus | 1st Armored Division

An underlying sense of energy and spirit invigorated the room as Brandon Gangstad recalled how his past, heritage and love for fitness has shaped his important role as an Army civilian.

Gangstad, the operations chief for the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security for the garrison at Fort Bliss and native of Duluth, Minnesota, explained the critical role that he and other Department of the Army civilians serve for the Army as well as his part in the greater com-

"I work on current operations, where we track any tasks and orders once they are published," said Gangstad. "I also run the emergency operations center, where we support the leadership of the installation to make sure they have the information for decisions they need to make; and the deployment operations center, where we help facilitate all the requests needed to make their deployment smooth.'

Gangstad's role as the operations chief is crucial for the operational success, continued readiness and completion of training objectives for units across Fort Bliss.

"It's important to manage operations, because it can turn to chaos quickly," Gangstad said. "Every unit has its own priorities; if someone's not helping them manage those, then specific areas can become congested and clogged.'

DA civilians such as Gangstad, a former sergeant major, come from a wide range of backgrounds and contribute a significant amount of experience and knowledge to the Army.

"I was fortunate to have a few jobs before I retired from the military where I worked with civilians, so I started to quickly learn the depth of knowledge and experience they have," said Gangstad. "I'd really pay attention to civilians as they told me how they've seen things done, as a lot of them have seen things done a lot of different ways and can give that information to you, so that you can make a decision."

In order to ensure that the vast pool of knowledge and experience is best utilized, it is important to maintain a strong working relationship between DA civilians and Soldiers.

"There's a way to tap into that wealth of knowledge if a relationship is built," said Gangstad. "I know that sometimes there's a fine line where there are civilian and military, but when you build those relationships, you find that those civilians can do a lot for you that you don't realize."

Gangstad participates in the Fort Bliss community well beyond the role of his position as a DA civilian. He has also been the coach and manager of the Fort Bliss Army Ten-Miler Team since

"When I was in the Army, I was on the ten-miler team several times and I'm still active and an Ironman certified coach," said Gangstad. "I talked with the U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation guys and said that I'd really like to coach as a volunteer."

Gangstad reinforces the importance of teamwork to his team – a theme which defines his view on the importance of collaboration between DA civilians and Soldiers.

"I like to see people come from all over the installation to become a team and work hard," said Gangstad. "The way I train isn't just, 'here's your task for the day, go do it,' but rather, 'here's your task, this is why you're going to do it, and here's the benefit of it.'

Gangstad finds tremendous pride in his heritage as a member of the Ojibwe people, a Native American people centered in Minnesota, northern United States and southern Canada.

"I'm really proud of my heritage," Gangstad said. "When I was in the military, I cut my hair, had a flat top for 32 years and I loved it, but I'm proud of my heritage, and now I've decided to let my hair grow back out."



Spc. Matthew J. Marcellus / 1st AD

Brandon Gangstad, the operations chief for the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security for the garrison at Fort Bliss, and civilian employee of the Department of the Army, poses for a picture in front of the 1st Armored Division headquarters Aug. 23. Gangstad uses his wealth of knowledge from his previous career as an operations sergeant major to ensure that operational readiness and training success remain constant throughout Fort Bliss.



Gangstad competes in the Ironman Arizona bicycle racing course in Tempe, Arizona. Gangstad uses his knowledge and love for physical fitness as the coach and manager of the Fort Bliss Army Ten-Miler Team, a running team which competes annually in Washington D.C.

"I was fortunate to have a few jobs before I retired from the military where I worked with civilians, so I started to quickly learn the depth of knowledge and experience they have."

>> Brandon Gangstad

A sense of family, belonging and tight bonds are present in both the Army and Gangstad's Ojibwe heritage — traits which Gangstad has come to appreciate and pass on through his family.

"There's a close-knit values system that Native Americans have and that the Army has as well," he said. "I enjoy that and I teach my grandkids that. They don't call me grandpa, they call me 'Ogimaa' which means 'chief' in Ojibwe.

Gangstad uses the opportunity of living in El

Paso to connect with and support Native Americans in the Fort Bliss and El Paso communities.

'There's a good handful of Native Americans here in the El Paso area. I always try to go up and talk to them to get a little bit of background as to why they are here," said Gangstad. "It's nice to get with them and see different Native Americans who are keeping their heritage alive."

Gangstad's love for his Native American heritage is shared by many throughout the local communities who join organizations to further promote their culture and heritage.

"There's an organization called the Eagle Claw Warrior Society, which is a conglomeration of different Native Americans who are here and who are mostly retired military," said Gangstad. "I'm an active member and we do different Native American ceremonies "

DA civilians such as Gangstad, with their wide array of experiences, knowledge and expertise, as well as the unique roles that they play in their communities, ensure stability and continuity, enabling mission success at Fort Bliss, the 1st Armored Division and across the Army.

WBAMC celebrates Women's Equality Day

By Capt. Olivia Cobiskey | William Beaumont Army Medical Center

In celebrating Women's Equality Day, William Beaumont Army Medical Center recognized not only the significance of women's contributions to the medical profession, but also the value of a diverse and inclusive environment.

The WBAMC family celebrated the historic day in the Clinic Assembly Room Aug. 15. The guest speaker for the occasion was Sgt. Maj. Tammy Bosier, senior enlisted advisor to the deputy commander of WBAMC.

"The right to vote is kind of like water, you don't miss it until you're thirsty," said Bosier. "When you're not counted as an equal, it seers your soul, and if you haven't experienced it, you can't imagine it."

While the 19th Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920, giving women the right to vote nationally, states often had other laws, Bosier added.

"Women had the right to vote; they didn't however, have the right in every state to enter the voting booth without their husband - meaning that men could go into the voting booth and tell the women how to vote. They didn't have the right to own property solely in their name, if they inherited property, it had to go in their husbands' names," said Bosier. "If women married a foreign national, they would have to give up their citizenship, while men did not. Women weren't allowed to seek contraception without the permission of their husbands."

Throughout history, women have fought for equality on many fronts - even the military, Bosier told the audience. Women have served in every conflict, usually returning to civilian life once the conflict ended. All of that changed when more than 400,000



Col. Michael S. Oshiki, commander of William Beaumont Army Medical Center, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Janell Ray, right, present Sgt. Maj. Tammy Bosier, middle, a gift for speaking at the WBAMC Women's Equality Day observance, Aug. 15, in the Clinical Assembly Room of the main hospital.

women served during World War II - some becoming prisoners of war, many receiving medals and citations for their contributions - all fighting for their right to serve, return to their pre-war jobs, and receive veterans' benefits.

Some of the key points in history:

In 1976, women were allowed to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. In 1978, women in the Navy and Marine Corps were allowed to serve on non-combat ships as technicians, nurses, and officers. In 1993, Congress authorized women to serve on combat ships. In 2000, Navy Capt. Kathleen McGrath became the first woman to command a Navy warship. In 2005, Army National Guard Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester became the first woman awarded the Silver Star for combat action. In 2013, women were granted the right to serve in direct ground combat roles. Finally, in 2019, a U.S. district judge ruled that requiring all men to register for a military draft, while excluding women, was unconstitutional.

"We live in exciting times and the only person that can limit you is yourself," said Bosier. "We can make excuses or we can make things happen. We're allowed opportunities that our grandmothers only dreamed

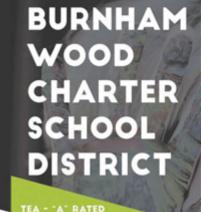
Col. Michael S. Oshiki, commander of WBAMC, agreed that these are exciting

"Our connection in Army Medicine to women in uniform is quite significant. There are 200,000 women serving in uniform. The number one field, medicine – 40,000 women in the health care field across the services," Oshiki said. "And it's not just in uniform, there are another 200,000 women who serve as [government] civilians. Medicine is the second highest field, with 86,000."

Military medicine has a long history of women who have become icons, Oshiki continued. He named two in particular from the American Civil War. The first was Dr. Mary Walker, the first female surgeon employed by the Union Army and the only woman to receive the Medal of Honor - the nation's highest military honor for bravery. The other example was Clara Barton, known as the "Angel of the Battlefield." She risked her life to bring supplies and support to Soldiers on the field during the Civil War and she was the progenitor of the American Red Cross, which was created in 1881. She served as its president until 1904.

At the end, both Oshiki and Bosier challenged the participants to reflect on what they can do to create a more equitable en-

Bosier said, "I want you to do one kind thing today."



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BEYOND THE BARRACKS Lake Valley, N.M., is a step back in time



Photos by David Burge / Special to the Fort Bliss Bugle

Onsite volunteer Dan Peeler shows some desks that are inside the old schoolhouse building at the Lake Valley Historic Townsite.

By David Burge | Special for the Fort Bliss Bugle

Lake Valley, N.M., is a step back in time. An easy day trip from El Paso and Fort Bliss, the Lake Valley Historic Townsite preserves the remnants of an old, abandoned mining town – an authentic ghost town.

"Lake Valley is a little jewel," said Carty Carson, district park ranger for the Las Cruces District Office for the Bureau of Land Management. "It is a cool little spot to visit and get some history," she added.

Lake Valley is preserved and managed by the BLM. It is located about 30 miles northwest of Hatch, N.M., or about two hours from El Paso. At one time, Lake Valley was a bustling mining town – first with silver and then, manganese, which is used to make high-quality steel.

The historic site is free to visit, but donations are encouraged.

"This is something you won't forget," said Dan Peeler, an onsite volunteer and host who lives at Lake Valley with his wife, Alison. "I will let you touch things, most museums don't," Peeler said. "You will remember that a lot more than something that is behind a velvet rope."

The town's heyday was from 1878 to 1893, when silver prices crashed, Peeler said. At one point, Lake Valley had about



The inside of the church offers a glimpse back into the past.

4,000 people living there, more than a dozen saloons, four churches and two newspapers, he said

A huge fire destroyed much of the town's business district in 1895 and it was never rebuilt, Peeler said. The last permanent resident left in 1994.

The historic site features an easy, three-quarter mile, self-guided walking tour.

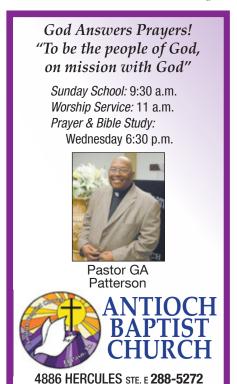
On the walk, you can see 10 buildings. Two of them – the town's second schoolhouse and a church – you can walk into and see what life was like back in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Both the schoolhouse and church are authentic, original buildings, but have had some stabilization and rehabilitation work done to them

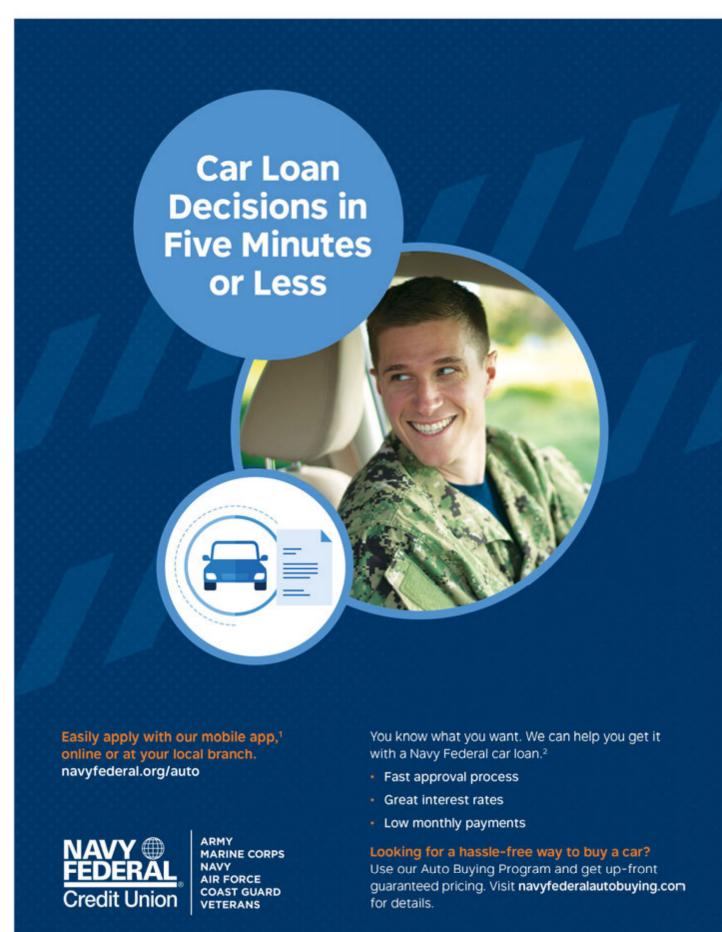
The schoolhouse – the second in the town's history – was built in 1904 and used until 1960. It includes authentic desks, a bellows organ, books and other artifacts. About half of the building has been turned into a museum that showcases items from the once bustling mining town.

"Everything here was either found here or donated by someone who used to live here,"

See **TIME** Page 4B







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Photos by David Burge / Special to the Fort Bliss Bugle
The church at Lake Valley is one of two buildings you can walk into and see how life was back when
Lake Valley was a bustling mining town. This building was built around 1920.

TIME Continued from Page 3B

Peeler said. "They are all artifacts that have to do with Lake Valley. These aren't artifacts from other towns."

The church was built around 1920 and contains authentic pews and an organ. There are plans to do some rehabilitation work on the justice of the peace's house and open that up to the public in the next few years, Peeler said.

You can see the outside of seven other buildings that are still standing in various conditions

Several buildings – including the old Conoco gas station – are on private property. You can view these buildings from the outside, but they are posted and fenced off.

Other buildings on BLM land, you can walk right up to them, touch them and look

through the windows. You can see things like ornate wallpaper that was common back in those days, some furniture, desks and tools.

The grounds are also full of artifacts, like glassware, shards of broken teacups, nails and industrial equipment. You are free to touch the artifacts, but you aren't allowed to take anything home and you need to put them back where you found them.

One highlight is an old car – a 1935 Plymouth – that is along part of the walking trail.

Peeler and his wife are available to answer questions at the schoolhouse/museum. He will also take you out on a free, guided tour if you want, giving you what is known as the "Dan Tour."

Lake Valley got its name because at one time, the valley had some lakes, Peeler said. But they dried up after dams were built at Caballo Lake and Percha Creek, he added.



A 1935 Plymouth is one of the things you can see along an easy three-quarter mile, self-guided tour of Lake Valley.

MAKE PLANS ...

Location: Lake Valley Historic Townsite is about 30 miles northwest of Hatch, N.M.

Directions: Take Interstate 25 north to the turnoff for Hatch. From Hatch, take N.M. Highway 26 to Nutt, N.M. From there, take Highway 27, or the Lake Valley National Back Country Byway, about 13 miles to Lake Valley.

Cost: Free, but donations are encouraged. Money is used to help preserve and manage the site.

Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Monday. Gates are closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, but you can still walk in and take the self-guided tour. The schoolhouse and church are not open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Rules: Day use only. No camping is allowed. Some buildings are on private property. Respect the property owner's rights by not trespassing.

Pets: Are allowed, but must be kept on a leash at all times.

Artifacts: You are free to touch artifacts out on the grounds, but you can't take them home and you need to put them back where you found them.

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College survival requires only the 'essentials'

By Lisa Smith Molinari | www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com

"Mom! Where did you put the cups for my smoothie maker?!" my daughter, Anna, yelled from our basement last week while packing for her last year of college. An artsy fashion design major who considers orderliness boring, Anna was infamous in our family for losing things and accusing others of taking them.

To help Anna avoid the college moving day fiascos of years past, I had advised her to place her belongings in our dining room where they could be sorted, then taken out to the car. The plastic tubs she'd lugged up from our basement contained the jumble of things Anna felt were "key and essential" for the apartment she would share with three of her fashion design major girlfriends.

Many items thrown haphazardly into the tubs were a good sign.

The laptop, printer, and tangle of charging cords conjured visions of late nights studying to get good grades. The desk caddy packed to the gills with pencils, charcoals, scissors, brushes and Tempera paint cakes would surely spur creativity. The mismatched plates, cups, bowls, cutlery, pots and pans were a comforting indication that Anna might not go broke buying takeout. Though I suspected that the toilet bowl brush might never see any action, I was pleased that, at the very least, Anna wanted the impression of cleanliness. The Keurig, while a bit extravagant for a college student, would enable Anna to rise early and get the worm.

However, other items gave me an uncomfortable pause.

I had suspected that the smoothie maker was merely a parent-appropriate way to describe a margarita blender. But the humungous four-gallon jar with a spigot affixed to the bottom was surely not for lemonade. Anna might be 21, but my eye still twitched when I saw the bottle of rum she packed between her bed linens.

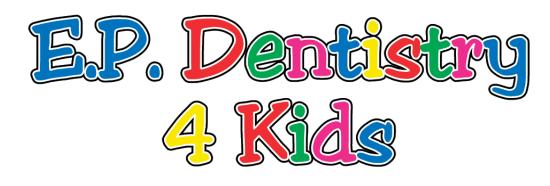
Two large stuffed suitcases, three garbage bags bursting with hanging clothes, and two sets of plastic drawers filled with accessories seemed excessive, even for a fashion design major, and had me wondering why she needed anything other than comfy sweats for studying in the library. The bins filled to the top with makeup, nail polish, hair accessories and flat irons were enough to set up a small beauty salon. The strings of lights, electronic neon lips, and a tub full of costumes — wigs, hats, flower leis, leather pants, feather boas, hip-high cowboy boots, and a metallic spandex catsuit — made me wonder if Anna was going into the nightclub business.

Somehow we forced it all into the car, and drove the six hours to her new apartment at Syracuse University. I helped Anna hump the boxes, bins and suitcases up to the seventh floor apartment where she would spend her senior year, but after two trips up together, Anna took pity on her middle-aged mom and ordered me to unpack while she brought the rest up alone.

I stationed myself in her bedroom, where I set about hanging up the clothing and accessories from the suitcases and garbage bags. The shoes Anna chose to bring were definitely not conducive to walking to class - lime green alligator pumps, orange booties with lucite heels, silver metallic combat boots, and snakeskin high heels with straps that wrapped up to the knee. And other than a few sorority sweatshirts, the garments included an inordinate number of clubbing outfits — holographic pants, a pleather crop top, a faux-snakeskin vest, an animal-print miniskirt, and many dresses fashioned out of less than a yard of fabric.

After unpacking Anna's belongings, we made the obligatory annual trip to the nearest Target for "just a few things" to fill the gaps. Conveniently, Anna had made a list of the most "necessary" supplies: sweet potato gnocchi, cashew pesto, goat cheese crumbles, arugula, greek yogurt, quinoa, garbanzo beans, Kind bars, gluten-free bread, almond milk, a 48-pack of coffee pods, and a 12-pack of spiked seltzer.

Target didn't have the goat cheese crumbles, but as I made the six-hour drive back home, I suspected that my daughter's resourcefulness would ensure that she would survive her senior year of college just fine.



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The value of work

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

"Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" are three "unalienable rights" listed in the United States Declaration of Independence. Please ponder the last one - the "pursuit of happiness" and how it relates to our recent federal holiday of Labor Day. Grow-



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Christopher Degn

ing up, my father would say to me, "Son, when it comes to work you will pursue, you need two things to be happy: 1. a job that pays the bills, because not even the most fulfilling employment can overcome the burden of financial stress, and 2. a job that excites you to get out of

bed in the morning.' I have shared that advice to many Soldiers over the years. As far as my life goes, I have been thrilled to wear the Army uniform for 38 years now, 20 of it on active duty as a U.S. Army Chaplain serving "God and

Country." It has certainly filled both of my dad's criteria for happiness. Labor Day, which became a U.S. federal holiday in 1894, came out of the 19th centu-

ry American labor movement. It served two purposes - recognizing the invaluable contributions of American workers toward the development, growth, and prosperity of our nation – and promoting fairer, more tolerable work conditions, to include time off. Unfortunately, most Americans today see

Labor Day as simply that – a day off. Labor Day, along with Memorial Day are often referred to as "bookend holidays" that mark the left and right limits of the U.S. summer holidays.

So, while recognizing the new federal holiday of Labor Day was socially significant in 19th century America, it is only truly so in the 21st century if we make it so. I challenge each of us to ponder how our labor contributes to our "pursuit of happiness." How has being a Soldier, working for the American people, benefited you? And how are you benefiting them? Are you deriving any kind of satisfaction out of it? Are you making a difference for something or someone as you do your thing each day?

A blogger named Russ Cherry speaks of unhappy labor, referring to it as the "J.O.B."

"So, what is a J.O.B.? It stands for 'Just Over Broke.' You are Just Over Broke when all you do is trade time for money - when your work doesn't engage you or elevate you or bring meaning to you." In his blog, he speaks of strategies for overcoming the J.O.B. and turning it into something better,

"Sometimes, it's more about changing your perspective, looking for ways to find meaning in what you do ... Challenge yourself to do something better, learn something new, or find a different way to do the same old thing - and then do it."

Here on some more thoughts on changing one's work perspective:

"Amateurs sit and wait for inspiration. The rest of us just get up and go to work." author Stephen King.

"I didn't get there by wishing for it or hoping for it, but by working for it." - businessperson Estee Lauder

"All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty." - Proverbs 14:23

"Put your shoulder to the wheel, push along. Do your duty with a heart full of song. We all have work; let no one shirk. Put your shoulder to the wheel." - from a hymn entitled, "Put Your Shoulder to the Wheel," composer Will L. Thompson

I once attended a skill-building workshop with my basketball-player son and heard a motivational speaker say to players and coaches, "Talent will get to you the table, but hard work is the food on the table. So, put the time in on the court if you want to eat."

Labor Day celebrates workers, and American labor has grown our nation. Hardworking farmers feed us; hard-working blue collar workers built our infrastructure, our homes and communities; hard-working first responders serve us; hard-working educators taught us and inspired us; hard-working service members protect us – and the list goes

Yes, Labor Day should mean more than just the end of summer. It should be a time of reflection - an opportunity to count our blessings. I am grateful for my fellow citizens, past and present, who turned off the alarm clock, got dressed, and went to work. I am grateful for the freedom to "pursue happiness" through education and vocation.

Dad, I listened to your advice. My bills get paid; I enjoy what I do, and I try to make a difference, small or large, for my family, my community, my unit, my country, and my

May you, too, find a payoff that is beyond the paycheck, and thus, find the true value of work.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Center Chapel One building rededication / pastor installation service to be held Sunday at 10 a.m. Lunch following. Community invited.

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

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 (11275 Biggs St.)

Traditional Service Sunday 10 a.m.

WBAMC Protestant Community (5005 N Piedras Dr.)

Protestant Service Sunday 10 a.m.

SERVICES St. Michael's Catholic Community

CATHOLIC WORSHIP

(1542 Sheridan Road) Weekday Mass 11:35 a.m. Wednesday Confession 10:35 a.m. Saturday Confession 4 p.m. 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 (5312 Buffalo Soldier)

Sunday Mass 10 a.m. odd days

OTHER RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Jewish Chapel (Bldg. 1441)

Friday Oneg Shabbat 7 p.m.

Islamic Service (Bldg. 442)

Friday Jummuh 1:30 p.m. Sunday Ta'Aleem 12:30-2 p.m.

Buddhist Service

(Bldg. 449 Pershing Road) Thursday 6 p.m. Intro to Nichiren Buddhism 2nd Tuesday 5 p.m.





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CHAPEL ORGANIZATIONS

Catholic Women of the Chapel (Bldg. 2498 Hope Chapel)

Friday 8:45-11 a.m. **Protestant Women of the Chapel**

(11272 Biggs St., 1st AD Chapel) Thursday 9-11:30 a.m. Teen Connection - Teens of the Chapel

(6-12 grade) (11272 Biggs St., 1st AD Chapel) Saturday 6-9 p.m.

AWANA

(11272 Biggs St., 1st AD Chapel) Wednesday 5-7 p.m.

PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICES

Center Chapel

(315 Pershing Road) Liturgical Service Sunday 10 a.m.

Hope Chapel



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SPORTS

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Sports Briefs

EP Black Expo 5K Health and Fitness Run/Walk: The run and walk hosted by El Paso Black Expo will be 7-9 a.m. Saturday. Participants can choose to run, walk, or support by encouraging others. Sunrise Park, 3800 Sunrise. Cost: \$10. 345-1661 or elpasoblackexpo.com

BOSS Glow Soccer and Frisbee: Looking for more ways to have fun in the dark? Join the Bliss Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program at the Monti Warrior Zone for a glow-in-the-dark fun night. There will be glow-in-the-dark frisbees, soccer balls and more gear – a phone pic, can't-miss event. Open to active-duty Soldiers. Transportation available. Saturday, 7-10 p.m. 21171 Medic Ave. Free. 892-5195

UTEP Women's Soccer: Catch the Miners when they do battle against Texas State University Friday at 7 p.m., and Sunday against the University of Southern Utah at noon. Home games are played at University Field at UTEP. 747-6150 or utepathletics.com

9/11 Heroes Run: 5K run, walk and ruck, and 1-mile fun run will be 10 a.m. Saturday. Packet pick up will be 1-6 p.m. Friday at Up and Running, 1390 George Dieter, Suite 140. Race proceeds support the Travis Manion Foundation, which empowers veterans and families of fallen heroes. Eastwood (Album) Park, 3110 Parkwood. Cost: \$30 in advance, (\$35 on race day); Family 4-Pack registration: \$100 in advance (\$115 on race day); \$27 first responder and active-duty military in advance (\$30 on race day). Advance registration at travismanion.org

McKelligon Canyon Challenge: El Paso On the Move's 5K run/walk and 1-mile fun walk will be at 8 a.m. Sept. 15, at McKelligon Canyon Amphitheater, beginning in the courtyard. Packet pickup will be at 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sept. 12 at Central SDA Church, 1801 McRae, and 7-7:45 a.m. on race day (gates close at 7:45 a.m.) Cost: \$30 through Wednesday; \$25 military and team; \$20 ages 12 and younger. Late and race day registration: \$35 (no race day registration for teams). Contact Irish Pugao for information at (909) 528-0394. Raceadventuresunlimited.com

Knights in Action 5K: Knights in Action Fabens Council #15799 hosts its 5K run/walk and 1-mile walk benefiting St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital 8 a.m. Sept. 14, at Album Park, 3110 Parkwood. Packet pick up will be noon-6 p.m. Sept. 13, at both Up and Running locations at 3233 N. Mesa, Suite 2015, or 1475 George Dieter, Suite 0, and 7-7:45 a.m. at the start line on race day. Cost: \$25 through Sept. 12; \$30 Sept. 13-14. Chris Rowley at 478-5663 or raceadventuresunlimited.com

El Paso Walk to End Lupus Now: Lupus Foundation of America's Lone Star Chapter will host the 5K and 1-mile walk at 6 p.m. Sept. 14, at Ascarate Park, 6900 Delta. Check-in at 4:30 p.m. and ceremony at 7 p.m. Cost: Free; fundraising is encouraged. Adrienne Kohlenberg at (866) 205-2369, adrienne@lupuslonestar.org or elpasolupuswalk.org.

WSMR Freedom Triathlon: The 10K run, 40K bike and 400-meter swim will get underway 7:30 a.m. Sept. 14, at White Sands Missile Range near Alamogordo, N.M. Packet pick up is 6-7 a.m. Cost: \$65. Team fee: \$75. Military discounts offered.itsyourrace.com

Pacific Coast League playoffs: El Paso Chihuahuas playoffs are at Southwest University Park on Santa Fe Street in Downtown El Paso. Conference Championship Series (Best of Five home games are Friday-Sunday if necessary. League championship home games planned for Tuesday and Wednesday. 533-BASE or EPChihuahuas.com

Gun show: The Paso Del Norte Gun Collectors Spring Gun Show is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 14 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 15, at the El Maida Shrine Temple, 6331 Alabama Street. The show includes guns and antiques for buy, sell or trade. Cost: \$6, \$4 for under 18. Minors must be accompanied by a parent. Free admission for wounded warriors. 564-0904 or pasodelnorteguncollectors.com

Run for the Mountain: LCMC Foundation's 3rd annual 5K run/walk is 8 a.m. Sept. 14, at Ruidoso Links Walking Path, 685 Hull in Ruidoso, N.M. raceadyenturesunlimited.com

'Running of the Chihuahuas': The 7th annual Running of the Chihuahuas event is 4-7 p.m. Sept. 21, at Animal Rescue League of El Paso, 7256 La Junta in Canutillo. Races for Chihuahua/Chihuahua mixes, under 20 lb. category and a costume contest for all dogs. Cost: \$20 in advance per dog (limit two per family); includes t-shirt and goodie bag. Spectator admission is free. The event also feature music, vendors; raffle and more. All well-mannered dogs and their families are welcome. 877-5002, arlep.org, or on Facebook.

Borderland Roller Derby: The derby's next bout is 6 p.m. Sept. 15, at El Paso County Coliseum's Judging Arena, 4100 E. Paisano, with featuring Chulas, and vs. Diablas. Cost: \$10; (\$7 with valid military ID; \$1 for ages 10 and younger; or \$8 each for pack of six) at brownpapertickets.com or borderlandrollerderby.com

TOTAL ENERGY, TOTAL GYM

FMWR fitness class in top gear at Milam PFC



Photos by David Poe / USAG Fort Bliss

Elvira Amey, the Milam Physical Fitness Center manager, spends her lunchtime workout right in her own facility as she takes in Total Gym at Milam on West Fort Bliss Aug. 28.



With a series of adjustable accessories for the Total Gym system, instructor Rosalind Roger offers students a thorough workout for those with tight schedules.



Rosalind Roger leads her Total Gym class at Milam Physical Fitness Center on West Fort Bliss Aug. 28. "The keywords are movement and motion,' she said of her midday class. "My job is to help you learn about your body and just get better every day."

By David Poe | USAG Fort Bliss

Twenty years ago, Staff Sgt. Rosalind Roger was full of energy. Greeting strangers down every hall she walked, she had a bounce in her step and spoke to people like everything was new and amazing, and her energy knew no bounds.

Two decades later – nothing has changed.

"The Army was very good to me," she said, following her Total Gym class at Milam Physical Fitness Center Aug. 28. Although she's traded her Army green for workout T-shirts, the ball of energy that served 20 years as a radio technician, and unsurprisingly raised a daughter who also became a Soldier and earned her Ranger tab in January, the NCO in her remains.

Today she teaches Total Gym for the Fort Bliss Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports program. Total Gym is a commercial product endorsed by model Christie Brinkley and Hollywood butt-kicker Chuck Norris. According to the company, the idea for the system, a collection of accessories that attach to a rolling board, started in rehabilitation centers as patients needed highly-customized exercise regimens following injuries.

"Let's go!" Roger encouraged as a group of women pulled and heaved their Total Gym machines to life last week. While sweat rolled off of her students' brows and hit the floor, she counted down repetitions with the glee of a New Year's Eve ball drop. She said she had the same exuberance toward teaching fitness when she taught Physical Education to elementary-school-aged private school kids. "I said 'P-E," she remembered with a

"I said 'P-E," she remembered with a laugh, and included exclamations on the letters P and E. "You will be physically-educated.

"We try to work every area of the body during the class," she said. "Because you're using your own body weight as the main resistance [with Total Gym] there's never any need for jerky movements that can cause injury."

Although she may operate at a high speed, she said her Total Gym class suits new students at their own speeds because of the degrees of difficulty afforded by the Total Gym system, as well as the students' prerogative to modify their movements to limits they feel most comfortable with.

True-to-form to her white-soled sneakers that have "Teach Love" and "Teach Peace" drawn into the rims with a black permanent marker, 20 years after retiring from the Army, the Soldier and NCO who enjoys teaching indeed remains

"I try to 'keep them pumpin'," Roger said before pinballing her way out of Milam following her class Aug. 28. "The keywords are movement and motion. My job is to help you learn about your body and just get better every day."

For more information on this class and the variety of others available, visit https://bliss.armymwr.com/categories/sports-and-fitness.



The men's All-Army Rugby Sevens team won first place at the 2019 U.S. Armed Forces tournament for the seventh time in a row. They beat the Air Force 33-5 in the championship game.



Photos by Brittany Nelson / IMCOM

Sgt. Dacoda Worth during the Army vs Coast Guard game at the U.S. Armed Forces Rugby Sevens tournament. The Army beat the Air Force 33-5 in the Armed Forces Championship finals.

EP MEMBERS! BRING AN ACTIVE DUTY

MILITARY MEMBER TO WORK OUT

Men's rugby wins seventh straight Armed Forces Championship

By Brittany Nelson | IMCOM

GLENDALE, Co. – The men's All-Army Rugby Sevens team won their seventh straight U.S. Armed Forces Championship at Rugby-Town Sevens in Glendale, Colorado, on Aug. 24 beating the Air Force 33-5.

"To win seven times in a row means everything," said Mark Drown, the All-Army Rugby Sevens head coach. "Everything we do is about representing the Army and winning that Armed Forces championship."

The Soldier-athletes beat the Navy, the Marines, the Air Force and the Coast Guard, advancing them to the championship game where they won gold over the Air Force.

The Army outscored their opponents 198-22 in five games, similar to last year, 159-2. They also went on to earn the Plate Championship of RugbyTown Sevens over 20 national and international teams for the second year in a row.

After sweeping the competition, the Soldierathletes mentally prepared for the finals.

"These are good teams and these services

are representing all their men and women, and you can take nothing for granted ever," said Drown. "We wanted to spread the Air Force, expose their defensive gaps and then exploit them, and that's exactly what our guys did."

The team was composed of Soldiers from all over the country including Soldier-athletes in the U.S. Army's World Class Athlete Program.

The championship team receives support from the entire Army because all Soldier-athletes must have permission from their command to compete.

"The fact that we have been able to get the people out and away from their commands for seven straight years and have good enough players to win a championship has been amazing," said Capt. William Holder, the team's captain since 2017. "The support we've received from the commands is great."

A week prior to the tournament, the Soldierathletes meet to train at Camp Williams in

"We are able to train two-a-days with no dis-

tractions of Glendale or any other teams," said Sgt. Dacoda Worth, an intelligence analyst at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. "We get to focus on us and rugby."

Drown, a retired colonel, uses the camp to work toward his two goals: creating a brotherhood-like culture and winning the Armed Forces Championship.

"The first step is for us to become brothers, coach really emphasizes that," said Worth, a Soldier-athlete of the team for three years. "If we can't become brothers we aren't going to mesh on the field. We are from all over so we don't get to practice every day together. Building the team relationship is important."

Once in Glendale, the team made their annual visit to Children's Hospital Colorado to spend time with the children.

"It is an amazing experience to see the kids," said Worth. "For us to go in and share time with them and uplift their spirits is a great time for us."

Holder said that all of the Soldier-athletes

directly support Army readiness because of what they bring back to their units after the tournament.

"We expect and demand so much from these Soldiers," said Holder. "We hold them to a very high standard. They are able to go back to their units and share what they have learned in the process."

Holder mentioned that the team meets the Army's new chief of staff's priorities.

"He has three priorities: winning, which we have showed the past seven years; people, we are constantly looking for the best people; and team, we strive to have the best one," said Holder.

Holder said the team truly believes in the priorities and appreciates that the team is able to emulate them.

"We have won the Armed Forces Championship but we do not want it to stop there," said Holder, a member of the team since its establishment in 2013. "We have shown that we can compete with the best teams in the world."

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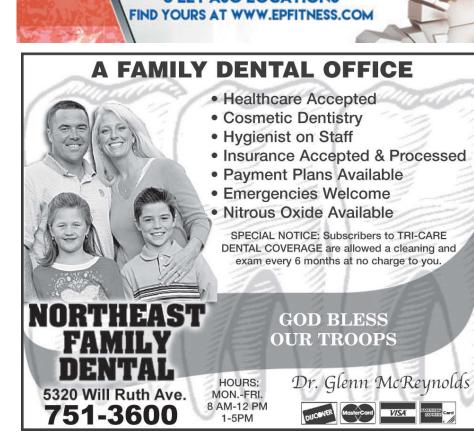


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OFF DUTY

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

Center Chapel One reopening ceremonies: Center Chapel One, located on West Fort Bliss, will be rededicated and a pastor will be installed in a ceremony. Lunch provided. Community invited. Sunday. 10 a.m.

Free military parent legal clinic: Military and family law attorneys and representatives from the attorney general's office will discuss questions and concerns about: child support, custody, visitation, paternity, and more. Child care provided at Main CDC for event attendees. Children must be registered with CYSS. Sept. 17. 2- 4 p.m. ACS Building. McGregor Room. 2494 Ricker Rd. 568-7141

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 2 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.

Traffic lights advisory: Traffic lights on Haan Road at the intersections of Haan and J.E.B. Stuart, Haan and Chaffee, and Haan and Carrington now flash amber for the east and westbound directions on Haan and flash red for the north and southbound directions on the intersecting streets. The flashing hours are 6 p.m.-5 a.m., seven days a week. Officials ask that drivers use caution at each of the noted locations.

McGregor/FBTX ammo point closings: The McGregor Range/FBTX Ammunition Supply Point will be closed Sept. 16-20. Issue documents can be submitted through TAMIS during the closures. 569-9528

New traffic pattern at Old Ironsides gate: Bliss DES is added an additional, temporary lane to alleviate congestion during peak hours 5-9 a.m., Monday-Friday. This change is intended to increase traffic and decrease wait times. Be on the lookout for new signs and proceed safely as drivers adjust to the change.

Wednesday bible study: Join the Fort Bliss chaplain community for a weekly bible study. Free food served at 5:30 p.m. Child care provided. Bldg. 449-451 on Pershing Rd. 568-4334

Face-to-face TARP training: Fort Bliss offers Threat Awareness Reporting Program training at two locations monthly. Get your learn on at the Soldier Activity Center on East Fort Bliss on the second Tuesday of the month, or at Stayton Theater on West Fort Bliss on the third Thursday of the month. This training will be offered in these locations through September. 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 expected: 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 Mondays-Saturdays between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

FMWR

Doggy Swim Day: Adults 18+ are invited to bring their vaccinated pooches into the pool; there will be games and prizes to enjoy. Kids 5 and younger will not be permitted entry to the event. Proof of current vaccinations (Rabies and Parvo/Distemper) to be shown at time of entrance. Fort Bliss Veterinary Clinic will be on-site checking these forms. If you need assistance for getting current vaccination forms and your dog(s) are registered with the Fort Bliss Veterinary Clinic, they will be able to provide copies. You must make an appointment prior to the event. Saturday. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Community Pool, 251 Club Rd. Free. 568-2554

Make a mini garden at Mickelsen: Join

ANNOUNCEMENT

Debt collection notice:

This is a debt collection notice for **Sgt. 1st Class Wavie G. Shumate, Jr.** All services under Shumate's name should be put on hold. All those with debts to be collected under the name of Shumate, or for information regarding collections, call Capt. Joshua Anderson at 741-0536.

your friends at the Mickelsen Community Library for this continuing series. This month they will be making a rock garden. Supplies are provided, but guests are welcome to bring their own as well. Open to DoD ID card holders 8+. Parents must be present with minors. Sept. 14. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. 2 Sheridan Rd. (Under NCOA). Free. 568-6156

BOSS Bash: Single Soldiers, this is your day to have fun! Come out to Biggs Park for this year's BOSS Bash. There'll be games, chances to win great prizes, food trucks, a mechanical bull, inflatables, music and drinks will be available for purchase. Free food will be available to the first 1,000 Soldiers who attend BOSS Bash. Sept. 13. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. East Fort Bliss. Free. 892-5195

Go Youth

CYS Saturday child care: Need a parents' day out? Child and Youth Services will provide Saturday child care at the Milam Child Development Center on Central Fort Bliss. Reservations required. Saturday. 1-11 p.m. Cost: \$5 an hour with a \$10 deposit. 744-7879 or FCC at 568-4198

Oktoberfest child care: Need a sitter? Child care will be available at Milam Child Development Center. Children must be registered with CYS. Sept. 20-21. 5-11 p.m. Cost: \$5 per hour, per child. Reservations required. 744-7879

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 2-5 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: This is

Kids' range/firearm safety class: This 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



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Community

Free TxDOT car safety check: TxDOT Traffic Safety is partnering with Whataburger and the El Paso Police Department to offer car seat checks at specific locations in September. Bring your children and their seats for installation pointers and other car seat safety tips. Friday -Whataburger, 650 Sunland Park Dr.; Sept. 21 - Whataburger, 1300 Airway Blvd.

Upper Valley Artists/Farmers Market: Sundays. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The substation at Doniphan and Sunset.

El Paso Strong Tour in the 9-1-5: Magoffin Home State Historic Site, 1117 and 1120 Magoffin Ave., hosts free tours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 15. The tour will cover topics of cultural diversity, religious acceptance, and historic solutions during El Paso tragedies. Free. 533-

Fiesta San Elceario: San Elizario's annual fiesta is Sept. 13-15 at Veterans Memorial Placita in front of San Elceario Catholic Church, 1556 San Elizario Road, with food and game booths, carnival rides, folklorico and matachines dancers. 851-2333

Legend of La Llorona: Lost Paranormal's 3rd annual "Evening with the Wailing Woman" is 6 p.m. Sept. 13, in the San Carlos Building, 501 Texas Ave. Performing and visual artists share their works related to La Llorona, such as dance, art, poetry, multimedia, music and more. Costumes encouraged. Also planned is a ghost tour, The Lost Sideshow traveling paranormal museum, and La Llorona lookalike and screamalike costume contest. Free. 503-8960, lostelpasoparanormal@gmail.com

Shakespeare on-the-Rocks: Shakespeare on-the-Rocks' 31st season runs through Sept. 22, at El Paso Community College's Transmountain Campus Forum Theatre. Sept. 13-15: "Julius Caesar," directed by Vanessa Keyser. Showtime is 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Cost: \$10 (\$8 for students with valid ID, seniors 65 and older, active military; \$6 group rate for 10 or more; available in advance online or at the EPCC Valle Verde Campus cashiers. 540-3813, shakespeareontherocks.com

Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta: The 39th annual regatta begins at 7:15 a.m. Sept. 13-15 at Lions Beach, Elephant Butte Lake State Park. (575) 744-5923, ebbr.org or on Facebook. Tethered balloon rides start at 7:30 a.m. Cost: \$30 (\$20 age 12 and younger).

Diez y Seis de Septiembre Fiesta: The annual fiesta is noon-10 p.m. Sept. 14 and noon-7:30 p.m., Sept. 15, at the Mesilla Plaza, with vendor booths offering art, crafts, games, drinks and food. There will also be a greased pole climb and piñatas for kids. No alcohol, smoking or pets allowed on the plaza. The Fig. smoking or pets allowed on the plaza. The Fiesta Parade begins at 10 a.m., Sept 14 along Avenida de Mesilla, beginning at Four Points Gin and ending at the Mesilla Town Hall. Headliners are Nosotros at 7 p.m. Sept. 13 and Tudy and the Silver Bullet Band at 4 p.m. Sept 15. (575) 524-3262, ext. 116

Full Moon Nights: White Sands National Monument, 15 miles southwest of Alamogordo, N.M., on U.S. 70, hosts a performance by acoustic trio Los Soneros del Valle Bajo, which specializes in Son Jarocho, for its full moon event at 7:30 p.m., Sept. 14. Programs are free with regular park admission fees. White Sands

entrance fees \$10 per person; \$20 per vehicle; and \$15 per motorcycle. The final full moon program of the season is 6:30 p.m., Oct. 13, with Native American flutist Randy Granger. (575) 479-6124, ext. 236 or (575) 679-2599, ext. 232; or go to nps.gov/whsa

Gila River Festival: The Gila Conservation Coalition's 15th annual festival "Our River, Our Future," is Sept. 19-22, 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 Sept. 21, featuring Fort Sill Apache Fire Dancers. (575) 538-8078 or gilariverfestival.org

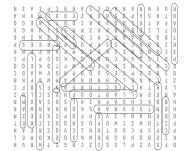
La Union Maze: The 12-acre cornfield maze is open Sept. 21-Nov. 3 (weather permitting) for its 2019 season at 1101 Highway 28 in La Union, N.M., next to Zin Valle Winery. Cost: \$12 (\$10 military; \$7 seniors 65-75); \$6 for ages 2-5 (\$5 military). Free for age two and seniors over 75. Admission is additional \$1 more per person on peak days (Oct. 12-13 and Oct. 19-20). Tickets in advance at ticketleap.com. 549-1323 or launionmaze.

Trolley History Tour: El Paso First Lady Adair Margo will host a historical tour while riding the El Paso Streetcar, 11 a.m.-noon, Sept. 17, meeting at the El Paso Museum of History, 510 N. Šanta Fe Street. 212-3161 or epmh@elpasotexas.gov.

El Paso County Fair: El Paso County Fair Association runs Sept. 19-21, at El Paso County Coliseum. The El Paso County Fair will feature expanded programming all around with live music, livestock on display, and an open auction for the public to attend A full clandar of El Paso County Fair activities and attractions will be released by the El Paso County Fair Association. epcfa.org

Beer Bites and Beats: KISS FM and Deadbeach Brewery hosts the new Craft Beer Festival 3 p.m.-midnight Sept. 21, at Deadbeach Brewery and other locations throughout El Paso. Free. beerbitesandbeats.com. A Hops and Holes Golf Tournament is 3-7 p.m., Sept. 19 at Butterfield Trail Golf Club, 1858 Cottonwoods. Cost: \$75.

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, hand spun yarns, dryer balls, wet felted soaps and more. Live music and Wiseman's Garden Creations canned goods and dips on site Sept. 29. 494-7248 or NationalAlpacaFarmDay.com



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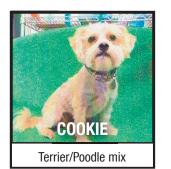
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Solve the code to discover words related to autumn Each number corresponds to a letter (Hint: 1 = L)

13 22 1 8 7 14 10

Clue: Plant leaves

6 22 1 22 5 26

Clue: Different hues

6 24 8 1 1 3

Clue: Tad cold

13 7 1 1

Clue: Season of the year

WORD SCRAMBLE Rearrange the letters to spell NROAC

Guess Who?

New York on September 9, 1966. I developed my comic skills at New York University and on "Saturday Night Live" before moving on to films. My production company is named after two of my movie characters.

ләтриру шррү :ләмѕиү

илоэү :ләмѕиү

AUTUMN WORD SEARCH

S N ΚZ Ζ 0 C S A Н

WORDS

APPLES AUTUMN CIDER CINNAMON COOL CRISP	EQUINOX FOOTBALL GOURDS HARVEST LEAF BLOWER LEAVES	OCTOBER PUMPKIN RAKE ROAD TRIP SCARECROW SCARVES	SEPTEMBER SQUIRREL TREES
CRISP	LEAVES	SCARVES	on page 10B.
CROPS	MAZE	SCH00L	

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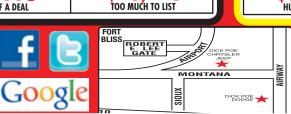




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