



National Army Museum
quickly taking shape ■ 7A



MWR to host 5th annual
cardboard regatta ■ 1B

Thursday, August 8, 2019

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>> UNITED WE STAND

Robert Aranda / Special to the Fort Bliss Bugle

A sign describing the relationship between Fort Bliss and the local community is part of a makeshift memorial outside of a Walmart in East El Paso, where a gunman killed 22 people and injured 24 others on the morning of August 3.



Spc. Keisha Brown / U.S. Army

Gen. Joseph M. Martin, left, is sworn in as the Army's vice chief of staff at the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia, July 26. He succeeds Gen. James C. McConville who served in the position since June 2017. McConville was confirmed by the Senate to succeed Gen. Mark A. Milley, pictured right, as the service's chief of staff.

Seasoned combat leader sworn in as Army's vice chief of staff

By Joe Lacdan | Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Experience on the battlefield helped earn Gen. Joseph Martin the nomination to the Army's second highest military rank.

Martin was sworn in as the Army's 37th vice chief of staff in a Pentagon ceremony July 26, following a steady progression of the service's senior leadership into higher positions within the Department of Defense.

Gen. Mark A. Milley, the Army's chief of staff, said Martin's extensive time in combat during several deployments amply qualified him for the job.

"This is probably one of the top two, maybe three, general officers with combat experience," said Milley, who presided over the ceremony. "He has been in combat at every level of command. This guy's got five combat tours. He's got over 40 months in combat. It's an amazing combat record."

A 1986 graduate of West Point, Martin deployed to Iraq five times including stints as a company commander during Operation Desert Storm, as a battalion and brigade commander during Iraqi Freedom and he commanded the famed 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Martin also served as the commander of the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command during the pivotal Battle of Mosul, a major multinational offensive that helped the Iraqi government retake control of the Iraqi city from ISIS forces.

Martin has said that he will continue to emphasize the Army's priorities of readiness, modernization and people, and to recruit the "best and brightest" into the force.

Martin, the Army's former director of Army Staff, succeeds Gen. James C. McConville, who will take over for Milley as the service's chief of staff. Milley and former Army Secretary Mark Esper both received nominations for higher leadership positions within the DoD. The Senate confirmed Milley on July 25 to succeed Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and President Donald Trump swore in Esper as secretary of defense July 23.

A graduate of the U.S. Army War College who holds a master's degree in education, Martin earned such military awards and decorations as the Distinguished Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device, the Defense Superior Service Medal, and the Army

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Blissfully happy to be back

New garrison commander excited to support the warfighter, mission

By David Burge | Special to the Fort Bliss Bugle

Fort Bliss' new garrison commander thinks he is the perfect fit for the job.

Col. Stu James has been stationed here before, understands the installation's complex mission and now wants to take his turn to provide support for units and Soldiers who are about to deploy.

"People don't start their career, saying 'I want to be a garrison commander,'" said James, who took over in this key role on July 9.

"But as you mature and go through the Army, you realize the importance of those who support the warfighter forward," he continued. "They can't do their mission without support from the installation and the home station. Now, it is my turn to do that."

The garrison commander is the Army equivalent of a city manager. He also serves as an unofficial ambassador to El Paso and the rest of the Borderland.



David Burge / Special to the Fort Bliss Bugle

Col. Stu James took over as garrison commander at Fort Bliss on July 9. He and his family were stationed here previously in 2014-17.

"I'm excited," said the 50-year-old who is originally from Wheeling, West Virginia.

"I have been here before, deployed out of here, and have a lot of knowledge about the

installation and the area," he said.

James and his family were previously stationed at Fort Bliss from 2014-17. During that

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FORT BLISS

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Army awards laser weapon system contract

By Claire Heininger | army.mil

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – The U.S. Army issued a contract award to accelerate the rapid prototyping and fielding of its first combat-capable laser weapon system.

This prototype will deliver 50 kilowatt-class lasers on a platoon of four Stryker vehicles in fiscal year 2022, supporting the Maneuver-Short Range Air Defense mission. The directed-energy M-SHORAD capability is intended to protect maneuvering brigade combat teams from unmanned aerial systems, rotary-wing aircraft, and rockets, artillery and mortar.

“The time is now to get directed energy weapons to the battlefield,” said Lt. Gen. L. Neil Thurgood, director of hypersonics, directed energy, space and rapid acquisition. “The Army recognizes the need for directed energy lasers as part of the Army’s modernization plan. This is no longer a research effort or a demonstration effort. It is a strategic combat capability, and we are on the right path to get it in Soldiers’ hands.”

High-energy lasers engage at the speed of light and provide a solution to a constantly evolving threat space, while reducing the logistics trail associated with conventional kinetic weapon systems. In May 2019, the Army approved a new strategy for accelerating the rapid prototyping and fielding of a variety of directed energy weapons to enable Army modernization.

As the first step in delivering prototypes with residual combat capability, the Army Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office selected two vendors to build the directed-energy M-SHORAD mission prototypes in order to foster competition and stimulate the industrial base for directed-energy capabilities. Those vendors, Northrop Grumman and Raytheon, are subcontractors in an Other Transaction Authority agreement between the Army and Kord Technologies.

Under the OTA award action, issued on July 26 in the amount of \$203 million, Kord has teamed with Northrop Grumman and Raytheon to develop the competing prototypes with support from General Dynamics Land Systems, which makes the Stryker, for integration work. Under the terms of the contract, the two laser vendors have approxi-



Claire Heininger / Army News Service

A 5 kilowatt laser integrated on a Stryker participated in the Maneuver Fires Integrated Experiment at Fort Sill, April 5, 2017. The Army is now accelerating the rapid prototyping and fielding of 50 kW-class lasers on a platoon of Strykers.

mately one year to produce the required laser subsystems, integrate them onto the Stryker platform, and complete a competitive performance checkout leading into a range demonstration against various threats.

After the Army evaluates the results, it plans to purchase three additional laser-equipped Strykers, for a total of four prototype vehicles that would be fielded to an operational M-SHORAD platoon in fiscal year 2022. The OTA award has the potential to increase to \$490 million for the delivery of the four prototypes.

The directed-energy M-SHORAD prototypes are part of the progression of an Army technology maturation initiative known as the Multi-Mission High Energy Laser.

“Both the Army and commercial industry have made substantial improvements in the efficiency of high-energy lasers – to the point where we can get militarily significant laser power onto a tactically relevant platform,” said Dr. Craig Robin, RCCTO senior research scientist for directed energy applications. “Now, we are in a position to quickly prototype, compete for the best solution, and deliver to a combat unit.”

The Army is also welcoming participation from additional vendors who were not selected for the OTA awards, but desire to compete for the same M-SHORAD requirement and timeline using their own internal research and development funding.

In a related effort, the Army is also adapting its High Energy Laser Tactical Vehicle Demonstrator system into a prototype pro-

gram in order to increase its combat effectiveness and speed up its delivery to Soldiers.

The Army will adjust the current HEL-TVD, a 100 kW-class laser system integrated on a family of medium tactical vehicles platform developed by Dynetics and subcontractor Lockheed Martin. Under the new directed energy strategy, the Army is leveraging progress made in that effort in order to merge the HEL-TVD with similar technologies in development by the Navy and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

This partnership will allow the services to achieve a higher power system, of approximately 250-300 kW-class, that can protect sites from RAM and UAS as well as more stressing threats – significantly increasing the warfighting capability being transitioned on the original timeline. The Army’s goal is to deliver four such prototype lasers integrated on tactical vehicles, for a capability known as High Energy Laser-Indirect Fire Protection Capability, to a platoon by Fiscal Year 2024.

“By teaming with the other services and our industry partners, we will not only save resources, but exponentially increase the power level and get a better system to Soldiers faster,” Thurgood said.

The Army RCCTO, headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama is chartered to develop rapid prototypes and field residual combat capabilities. Its current focus areas are hypersonics and directed energy.

LEADER *Continued from Page 1A*

Commendation Medal with “V” device.

The Michigan native credited his former military mentors and his wife Leann in helping him reach this career milestone, which included a promotion to four-star general. Martin was joined on stage by several fellow members of the West Point class of 1986, including Esper.

“Today is an opportunity ... to see what can happen when a family of families, a band of brothers, a lifetime of friends can do when they combine the incredible power of tough love, friendship and care while raising a leader and supporting his family over the course of a lifetime,” Martin said.

Serving as the deputy to the Army’s chief of staff, the vice chief is charged with the management of the Army staff and the many programs that fulfill the Title 10 responsibilities of the department. The vice chief often will take the duties of the chief of staff when the chief must engage in interservice responsibilities, such as those of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Milley, who said he has known Martin for nearly 10 years, said Martin’s humility and experience were deciding factors in his nomination.

“He’s a person of phenomenal character,” Milley said. “This is a guy who has a backbone of titanium steel. He’s never afraid to speak truth-to-power, but he also does it with class. He does it with dignity, he does it with respect. A beautiful thing about Gen. Martin is that he’s a team player and he’s incredibly humble.”



HAPPY *Continued from Page 1A*

time, he served as the chief of plans for the division and then as a battalion commander.

He stood up the 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment, got the unit ready and then deployed with it to the Middle East with the rest of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

James also has done two other tours with the 1st Armored Division when it was headquartered in Germany.

For James and his family, this assignment has the feel of a happy homecoming – being back at Fort Bliss and back with the division.

“We love it here; we asked to come back,” James said.

After leaving Fort Bliss, James served as the senior mechanized task force trainer at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, and then was a student at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

But James and his family couldn’t wait to get back to Fort Bliss and El Paso, where they have plenty of friends from their previous time here.

“Growing up in West Virginia, you don’t really understand the West,” James said. “You come out here and fall in love with it.”

“The terrain, the people, the environment, training armored forces,” James said. “It doesn’t get better than here at Fort Bliss.”

As garrison commander, James oversees about 3,000 Soldiers, civilians and contractors who are responsible for running the installation on a daily basis – everything from roads, fire and police, recreation, the training area to administration.

Garrison Command also works with numerous on-post organizations to help manage another huge mission. Fort Bliss is one of two Mobilization Force Generation Installations in the Army. The other is Fort Hood.

Last year, 45,000 National Guard troops and Reservists came through Fort Bliss to get

their final training before deploying. They also received all the necessary administrative support before and after deploying.

Another 30,000 National Guard and Reservists received additional training here at Fort Bliss, James said.

That is in addition to getting their own Soldiers and units ready, James said, noting that last year 3rd Bde. deployed to South Korea.

With four deployments of his own, James said he knows exactly what it takes to get Soldiers and units ready.

“I understand what you think about when you are forward deployed,” James said. “You don’t want to worry about your family.”

James said he wants to take what his predecessor – Col. Steven O. Murphy – did and take it to the next level.

“I’m going to build on his success,” James said. “We are going to continue to advance Fort Bliss, continue to improve our training area, continue to improve Soldier quality of life and support our families.”

James said he is looking forward to all the challenges inherent in his new job.

“I understand the mission set probably better than anyone, having deployed out of Fort Bliss myself,” he said. “I understand what we have to do to position forces for success down range.”



>> CONGRESSMAN VISITS 5TH ARMORED BRIGADE

Staff Sgt. Mylinda DuRousseau / 5th Armored Brigade PA

Tennessee Congressman David Kustoff meets with leaders from 5th Armored Brigade, First Army Division West at McGregor Range Complex, New Mexico July 30. Kustoff was briefed on training 5th AR BDE provides Army Reserve and National Guard units from Tennessee as they prepare for various missions around the world. They discussed how military readiness and proper training are fundamental to the success of each unit’s mission.

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Recruiters are the Army’s ambassadors to the nation ■ 6A



Postal service issues military working dog stamps ■ 10A



919th CB heads to Afghanistan

Battalion to be responsible for providing mission command of contracting support

By Michelle L. Gordon | USAG Fort Bliss Public Affairs

Soldiers with the 919th Contracting Battalion cased the unit colors July 29 at Sage Hall on Fort Bliss in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel.

The battalion will be responsible for providing mission command of contracting support to United States Forces – Afghanistan, and will be responsible for more than 100 contracting personnel across the combined joint operations area.

“The heart and soul of a unit is symbolized by the colors under which it fights, and the battle streamers affixed to those colors,” said Lt. Col. Eric A. Brooks, 919th Bn. commander. “They record the glories of the past, stand guardian over the present, and provide inspiration for the unit’s future.”

Brooks spoke about the unit’s short, but mighty history since its activation in April 2013 and alignment to the 1st Armored Division in 2016. Soldiers of the 919th deployed to Iraq in May 2017, and later this month, they will replace the 918th Contracting Battalion from Fort Carson, Colorado at Regional Contracting Center – Afghanistan.

Their mission will be to provide effective contracting solutions throughout the

southwest Asia area of operations in order to enable U.S. and coalition forces to build capacity and legitimacy for the Afghan national security forces.

“This geographically dispersed mission represents a significant challenge,” Brooks said. “Despite these challenges, I’m confident that this team is ready, and the men and women standing before you today have answered the call.”

He continued, “For some, this will be their third, fourth, or even fifth deployment. Regardless of number, they stand ready to do their duty, and their families take on the burden that no one else can ever imagine, unless they’ve personally done it themselves.”

The 919th CB is composed of approximately 35 service members and 35 civilians. The six members of the battalion headquarters, including Brooks, are scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan for nine months.

“We’re excited and we’re ready,” he said. “Before any deployment, casing the colors is a bittersweet day, where we prepare to leave our homes and loved ones. We look forward to showing what this great team is capable of, and most importantly, with getting on with the mission that we’ve worked so long and hard to prepare for.”



Michelle L. Gordon / USAG Fort Bliss PA

Master Sgt. Rachel Harris, left, and Lt. Col. Eric A. Brooks, right, furl the 919 Contracting Battalion colors during a ceremony held July 29 at Sage Hall on Fort Bliss. The colors will travel with the members



Photos by Spc. Matthew J. Marcellus / 1st AD

>> 1ST AD HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTALION DEPLOY TO AFGHANISTAN

Countdown to homecoming begins

(Above) Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Armored Division board an airplane at Fort Bliss, August 1, and begin their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel. The 1st AD forces will replace the 4th Infantry Division’s headquarters in Afghanistan, offering firepower and support to complete their mission and build stability in the region.

(Top left) Spc. Eduardo Toro, an intelligence analyst assigned to HHB, 1st AD, hugs his daughter while preparing to depart Fort Bliss, August 1, for Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel. Providing support and resources to the families of deployed Soldiers is key, as the Army recognizes the strength of familial bonds in supporting Soldiers as well as the resiliency and dedication that families display as they are separated.

(Left) Staff Sgt. Marqus King, a signal support systems specialist assigned to HHB, 1st AD, colors with his children at Fort Bliss, August 1, before departing for Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel. Operation Freedom’s Sentinel is part of the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission and provides robust mission capability and support to the Afghan National Security Forces in order to build security and help stabilize the region, demonstrating a continued commitment to the Afghan people.



Two members from the 49th Civil Engineer Squadron's fire department discuss their job during the civic outreach tour, July 29, on Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico. The tour allowed more than 20 members from the local southern New Mexico community to tour and learn the base mission.



Roy Seawolf, Silver City Chamber of Commerce executive to the president, looks inside a T-38 Talon with 1st Lt. Preston Spaulding, 586th Flight Test Squadron flight test engineer, during the civic outreach tour, July 29, on Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico. The tour was a stepping stone for the base to strengthen community ties.



Lynn Crawford, Ruidoso mayor, controls an MQ-9 sensor operator simulator, July 29, on Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico. Crawford visited Holloman during the Civic Outreach Tour and was able to see a quarterly load competition, 15 static displays and had the opportunity to use an F-16 and MQ-9 simulator.

Holloman hosts civic outreach day

By Airman Autumn Vogt | 49th Wing Public Affairs

Civic leaders from across southern New Mexico toured the 49th Wing July 29 during a civic outreach tour for key leaders of the local community.

The tour provided more than 20 community leaders an opportunity to see how the base runs and to meet the faces of tomorrow's air power community, as well as how the backbone of combat air power completes its everyday mission.

"It is very important to let the surrounding community know what we do here on base and how we can benefit from each other," said Staff Sgt. Timothy Young, 49th Wing community engagement noncommissioned officer in charge. "This tour gave us an opportunity to better our diligence on reaching out to local communities."

The tour included a quarterly load competition, static displays and the option to operate an F-16 and MQ-9 simulator.

"The determination I see on everyone's face even though they're so young [is the best part]," said Ruth Seawolf, Silver City community member. "[They have] a great pride in what they do."

Many civic leaders were prior military members and enjoyed the opportunity to view military operations in the 49th Wing. Roy Penick, Hobbs city commissioner, was enlisted in the Army as a military police officer and later became a Ranger. Penick said when the opportunity arose to visit Holloman he jumped on it.

The tour was a stepping stone in the 49th Wing's effort to become a better neighbor and strengthen its community ties.



Airman 1st Class Autumn Vogt / Holloman AFB

Tech. Sgt. Carmine Androsiglio, 49th Security Forces Squadron operations support noncommissioned officer in charge, displays base weaponry to civic leaders, July 29, on Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico. The 49th Wing held a Civic Outreach Tour to allow southern New Mexico civic leaders a chance to learn about its mission.

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CRAWFORD



Have a good idea for the Army? Here is your chance to shine

By Antonietta Rico | SR2 Strategic Communications

WASHINGTON – Think you have a great idea that will revolutionize readiness and resilience? The Army wants to boost your chance at making it happen.

In June, the Army implemented a formal process to capture and evaluate grassroots, personal readiness and resilience initiatives, before considering the idea for potential Ar-

my-wide use.

The new process, outlined in the just released Initiative Evaluation Process technical guide, is designed to ensure ideas can demonstrate results, have applicability Army-wide and avoid duplication or unintended consequences.

“Not every good idea, even if it’s a great idea, may hit the mark,” said Joe Ezell, a

management and program analyst at the Army’s G-1 SHARP, ready and resilient directorate. “Sometimes people don’t quite understand the second and third order effects associated with their good idea ... and the execution of that idea might not quite evolve into what they are looking for.”

Previously, the Army may have implemented ideas sent by local installations, but

without thorough analysis or resourcing, those initiatives fell by the wayside. The new technical guide, developed jointly by SR2 and the Army Public Health Center, requires that proposed initiatives undergo a five-step screening process to assess effectiveness and Army-wide applicability.

Army program managers, Army leaders or anyone with a great idea to improve Soldier, civilian and family member personal readiness and resilience can begin the process of fielding it by reaching out to their Commander’s Readiness and Resilient Integrator.

This first step in the process provides the individual leader or organization proposing an idea with the backing of a work group that will help them gather effectiveness data, walk them through the other steps in the process and, if the idea has merit, put together the proposal package for submission to the local installation commander. The initiative will then undergo review at several echelons before it is potentially forwarded to the Army G-1 level.

Although the process may seem cumbersome, it is not intended to inhibit innovation, instead it is meant to refine it, said David Collins, evaluations branch chief at SR2.

“As with any good ideas, it has to be well thought out,” Collins said. “It forces people to think about outcomes. Oftentimes we just think about execution, we never really think about the impact.”

The end result will be that the best ideas will rise to the top and get pushed through up to the highest levels for evaluation and possible implementation Army-wide, Collins said. Other ideas may work better at the local or regional level, and commanders can still count on the IEP process to validate those initiatives.

The proposal package the CR2I puts together is intended to show the quantifiable impact an idea has, and gather objective evidence that will reinforce the value of the idea so that when a new program is presented to senior Army leaders, they will be able to make evidence-based decisions.

The IEP will “save time, energy and effort across the board,” Ezell said.

Grassroots efforts have traditionally driven innovation in the ranks, so if you are ready to submit your idea, download the technical guide at <https://readyandresilient.army.mil/resources.html>



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OBITUARY

Leslie Lee Jr.



Leslie Lee Jr., our adored and beloved Father, Husband, Brother, Uncle, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather and Friend went to be with our Father in Heaven on July 30, 2019. Born on February 27, 1940 to Mamie Mae Lee and Leslie Lee Sr., he leaves a legacy of those who loved him the most and miss him dearly. He is survived by his loyal and loving Wife of 42 years, Yong Suk Lee, his caring sons Leslie Lee III and his Wife Debra, Steven Lee and Phil Lee, and his devoted daughters LTC Brenda Kemp and her husband Willie, Phyllis Toliver and Jean Lee. He is also survived by his three brothers and seven faithful sisters, nine adoring grandchildren and five Great-Grandchildren. Leslie's affectionate personality was loved by everyone who came in contact with him. He proudly served his Country for 28 years in the United States Army before retiring to public service and volunteer work. He loved and cherished his Wife and was a unconditional provider to her. He loved and was exceptionally proud of all his children and family. He leaves behind a host of friends and family who are saddened by his passing and who will miss him profoundly but who also know that he is looking down on us from Heaven embracing us with his sweet and loving spirit. The viewing will take place August 6, 2019 from 6-8 p.m. and the Home Going Ceremony will take place August 7, 2019, at 11 a.m. both at Blessing Funeral Home. The Military ceremony will take place on August 7, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. at the DFW National Cemetery.

THIS IS A PAID OBITUARY



Pictured left to right: The unit patches of 1st Space Brigade, the Army Space and Missile Defense Command, and the 100th Missile Defense Brigade.

Army looks at cadets to bolster Army space force

By Thomas Brading | Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. – As the Army steadily grows its space force with current Soldiers, a path is now being offered to help cadets quickly become Functional Area 40 space operations officers.

Since its inception in 2008, FA40 has “developed billets and found technically qualified individuals to fill them,” said Mike Connolly, Army space personnel development office director.

The Army currently has approximately 3,000 billets in its force of space-qualified professionals, including 285 active component FA40 space operations officers. The increased need for space operations expertise within Army formations is resulting in further growth of the Army’s space force, officials said.

As the core of the space force, FA40s provide in-depth expertise and experience to leverage space-related assets. They also deliver space capabilities to the warfighter and have the ability to integrate space capabilities into the future, according to a news release.

The goal is to recruit and fill a rapidly increasing demand for Army officers into the FA40 career field each year, Connolly said, with initially 10 of these officers transferring as cadets through the Assured Functional Area Transfer program.

Assured functional area transfer

A more guaranteed route for officers to transfer into the Army space force begins before they commission under the A-FAT program. Upon commissioning into their operational basic branch, selected cadets with STEM degrees – science, technology, engineering, and mathematics – will be assured a transfer into FA40 space operations at the four-year mark in their career.

While in their basic branch, the officers must remain in good military standing, and if selected, sign a contract to transfer into the

Army space force as a space operations officer.

Once selected, FA40 officers attend the space operations officer qualification course, which includes the National Security Space Institute, the space 200 course, and seven weeks of Army-focused space training provided by the Space and Missile Defense Command’s Space and Missile Defense School.

Voluntary transfer incentive program

The voluntary transfer incentive program is also accepting applications from eligible officers for a branch transfer into the Army space force at the four-year mark in their career. VTIP is the primary means of balancing branches and functional areas within the Army.

Once applications are received, officers are vetted from the current career field into the Army space operator career field. Subject-matter experts within the respective careers determine the best fit for the Army, by deciding which career best suits the applicant. In addition to technical abilities, applicants are vetted based on their values and leadership abilities.

Due to the needs of the Army, the VTIP is not a guaranteed process for all applicants hoping to transfer into the Army’s space force, Connolly said.

The Army remains the largest user of space-based assets within the Department of Defense, and nearly every piece of equipment Soldiers use “on a day-to-day basis” such as GPS devices and cell phones, are space enabled, Connolly said.

In the future, he said, the Army’s prevalence toward space and need for more officers within Army’s space force will continue to grow.

Individuals interested in becoming an FA40 officer should visit the space knowledge management system for additional information.

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National Army Museum quickly taking shape before 2020 opening

By Thomas Brading | Army News Service
FORT BELVOIR, Va. – With doors expected to open next year, the National Museum of the United States Army is quickly coming to life.

Located on an 84-acre hilltop site at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, just south of the nation’s capital, the 185,000-square-foot gleaming, stainless-steel structure will offer free admission to the public and give a comprehensive look at more than 240 years of Army history and traditions.

The museum’s goal is “telling the Army’s story to an estimated 750,000 visitors every year,” said Tammy E. Call, museum director, and “creating new opportunities for the public to connect with the American Soldier.”

The museum is also dedicated to “remembering and honoring their legacies,” Call said, of Soldiers and veterans.

“This will be America’s Army museum,” she added, “telling the Soldier’s story 364 days a year.”

The museum will immerse visitors into “what it means to be a Soldier” in times of war and peace throughout American history.

The primary galleries are: Soldiers’ Stories, Army and Society, and Fighting for the Nation. Each gallery will have artifacts, films, documents, and lifelike Soldier figures.

Visitors will learn about Army history through Soldier stories from America’s co-

lonial beginning, and lead through the generations of service to the ground force it is today.

The first four macro artifacts – a FT-17 tank, a Sherman tank, a Higgins boat used during the D-Day invasion, and a Bradley Fighting Vehicle – were installed in August 2017, before the building’s walls were built. Since then, a Sikorsky R-4B helicopter and a UH-1B Huey helicopter were installed in February 2019.

The macros were all used in battle, and are chronologically placed to visually tell the Army’s history, through every major conflict.

The museum will also include the Experiential Learning Center, or ELC, a Medal of Honor Experience and a rotating exhibit gallery. Future exterior elements include a memorial garden, Army trail, and outdoor event space, according to a museum official.

The ELC will provide hands-on learning activities in geography, science, technology, engineering, and math, or G-STEM, which visitors can apply to a simulated Army humanitarian mission, said museum public affairs assistant, Kate Wacker.

“It’s something for all ages to enjoy,” she added.

The design of the museum evokes the principles of the Army: it is disciplined, modest, and rigorous, according to the project description, adding the simplicity and



Thomas Brading / Army News Service
A Liberty Truck, pictured left, is displayed at the National Museum of the United States Army, July 25. It was the first truck developed as a dedicated military vehicle for the U.S. Army. The design was the result of a War Department project with private industry.


sharpness of the walls and huge windows allow reflections to be cast on the facade, transforming the character of the building through every season and time of day.
The museum is scheduled to open in 2020.

The museum is also recruiting volunteers to be trained and ready before the first visitors arrive. For more information, call 1-800-506-2672.












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Sgt. Kevin Roy / U.S. Army

Former U.S. Army Staff Sgt. David G. Bellavia, left, and his Army Recruiter Retired Sgt. 1st Class Gustavo Reina, right, in Washington, D.C., June 25. Bellavia was awarded the Medal of Honor June 25, for actions while serving as a squad leader with the 1st Infantry Division in support of Operation Phantom Fury in Fallujah, Iraq when a squad from his platoon became trapped by intense enemy fire.

Recruiter of MOH recipient: Recruiters are the Army’s ambassadors to the nation

By Amanda Surmeier and Maj. Jessica Rovero | army.mil

FORT KNOX, Ky. – When he was selected for recruiting duty in 1997, he never imagined the impact it would have on the Army or himself.

Gustavo Reina joined the Army in April 1991 as a unit supply specialist. He was looking for something different, a little excitement and opportunities for training and education; and the Army delivered.

Reina ended up serving a full career where he received opportunities to grow and develop in ways he never expected; and eight years after retiring as a sergeant first class, he found himself standing next to Medal of Honor recipient Staff Sgt. David Bellavia, someone he had personally brought into the Army.

Reina, 49, met Bellavia during the spring of 1999 and was immediately impressed with his intelligence and charisma, so it came as no surprise when Bellavia was first nominated for the award.

“Right from the get-go, Staff Sgt. Bellavia impressed me as a young man with a very good head on his shoulders,” Reina said. “He was highly intelligent, charismatic and an overall good guy. I remember telling him that one day he’d do great things in his life. A Medal of Honor was not what I had in mind at that time, but I was not at all surprised when I found out that through his heroic actions he had been nominated.”

Bellavia received his Medal of Honor award June 25, 2019. Reflecting on the experience, Reina recounted his initial reaction to his selection for recruiting duty and how the experience changed both his life and Bellavia’s.

“I had not wished to be a recruiter at first and was slightly disappointed when selected for the recruiting assignment,” Reina said. “As I’ve always believed, however, that things in life happen for a reason, I figured that recruiting duty was where God wanted me to be.”

Reina had wanted to become a drill sergeant and turned down a recruiting assignment twice, but in the end, the need for recruiters was larger and he reported for recruiting duty in December 1997. With that in mind, Reina put forth all his effort into doing the best job he possibly could for all of his applicants and learned many lessons along the way. A large one being to always perform his duties with “absolute integrity and with the highest stan-

dards of professional behavior.”

“As representatives of the best Army in the world, we are the first ambassadors that people would see in the streets of their hometown and in their schools,” Reina said. “This has served me well in my personal and professional lives after retiring from the Army. To this day, I strive to always do my best to represent myself, my employer, and any organizations that I am a part of with the utmost ethical behavior.”

Recruiting duty grew Reina as an individual. Naturally shy, he was pushed out of his comfort zone providing public presentations to classrooms full of people. As he got better, he noticed more people requesting information and looked forward to each opportunity to share the Army and its benefits.

Following recruiting duty, he became an Army instructor serving at an NCO academy and an advanced individual training unit, and throughout the rest of his career, he taught hundreds of other classes before he retired. All of which led to his current position as education coordinator for the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

Having experienced the benefits himself, Reina continues to encourage young men and women embarking on careers to select an Army career field that interests them and to take advantage of all of the benefits the Army provides. Educational opportunities are plentiful, and the ability to get a degree, receive certification and learn trades is easily achievable.

“The opportunities are there for you and the Army can help you make your dreams a reality,” he said.

Reina feels both humbled and proud to not only have met and worked with Bellavia during a short special duty assignment, but to have also introduced many other men and women to a life of service. He encourages recruiters to always recruit with integrity and honor, and to do their best for every single applicant with whom they have the privilege to work.

“If they were your son or daughter, or a brother or sister, what level of service and professionalism would you expect another recruiter to give to them?” Reina said. “Treat your applicants like that, and don’t ever forget that they are the reason that you are there.”



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Capt. Jo Nederhoed / www.army.mil

Troopers from the 3d Cavalry Regiment are refining their skills through repetition July 29 through August 11 during a Squad Training Exercise at Fort Hood.

Brave Rifles refine skills with intense tactical training

By Capt. Jo Nederhoed | www.army.mil

FORT HOOD, Texas – Troopers from the 3d Cavalry Regiment are refining their skills through repetition July 29 through August 11 during a Squad Training Exercise at Fort Hood, Texas.

The regimental headquarters and all seven squadrons are in the field for a situational, scenario-driven, mission-oriented, limited exercise designed to train on collective tasks and battle drills. The STX is one of several pre-deployment training exercises that the Brave Rifles will be taking part in over the next several months.

During the STX event troops are conducting tactical training lanes including an attack lane, movement to contact and defense lane. Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3d Squadron (Thunder) conducted mission control and Opposing Forces for the Regimental Troop Attack Lane.

“We are providing a realistic urban environment and intelligent OP4 for the opposing forces,” HHT commander, Capt. Jordan Marks said. “We are enabling the infantry troop’s ability to conduct attacks into an urban environment and react to dynamic circumstances.”

Thunder Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Travis Shain said the objective of the lane was to train an infantry rifle company on conducting an attack. Troops conducted the operations process of planning, preparing, executing, and assessing for the attack in Boaz Mount Facility.

“The troop achieved its end state by successfully seizing the town of Boaz and turn-

ing back control of the town to the Atropian National Police Forces,” Shain said. “The troop commander successfully employed the fundamentals of breaching (suppress, obscure, secure, reduce, and assault) and used a variety of intelligence assets such as the RAVEN and scout reconnaissance to gain intelligence and analyze to drive his future actions and decisions.”

This type of training increases warfighting capabilities because after conducting the mission and after action reviews, troop commanders and leaders are more capable of conducting operations in a dynamic and complex environment against a hybrid threat. Shain said the troops that conduct the lane are better prepared and trained to conduct security, assault on an objective, secure a foothold on the objective, kill, capture, and/or force the withdrawal of enemy forces while complying with rules of engagement.

This type of training also allows the Brave Rifles to integrate other systems into the scenario.

“The troops also integrated other enablers successfully into the assault to include engineer breaching units and military police forces,” he said. “Further enhancing their ability to accomplish the mission.”

The Brave Rifles will continue STX over the next week and ramp up for the troop Company-Level Combined-Arms Live-Fire August 12-29. The CALFEX will validate the ability of troop commanders to plan and conduct a tactically sound, safe and realistic live fire, applying the principles of maneuver tactics within a combat environment.

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Postal service issues military working dog stamps

By U.S. Postal Service

OMAHA, NE – The U.S. Postal Service issued Forever stamps Aug. 1 recognizing Military Working Dogs, the four-legged heroes of the nation’s military.

The first-day-of-issue event took place during the American Philatelic Society Stamp Show in Omaha, Nebraska. In the booklet of 20, each block of four stamps features a stylized geometric illustration of one of the canine breeds – German shepherd, Labrador retriever, Dutch shepherd and Belgian Malinois – that commonly serve in America’s armed forces. News of the stamp is being shared using the hashtag #MilitaryDogs-Stamps.

“As a military veteran and former law enforcement officer, I have the greatest appreciation for these animals and the service they provide,” said David C. Williams, vice chairman of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors, who served as the dedicating official for the ceremony. “Today, these dogs are born and raised to serve alongside Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and members of the Coast Guard. They are heroes deserving of our respect and gratitude.”

Joining Williams to dedicate the stamps were Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE); Scott English, executive director, American Philatelic Society; Lt. Col. Michael Cheatham, Offutt Air Force Base; Ronald Aiello, president, United States War Dogs Association; and Dave Keeton, author and former military working dog trainer and caretaker.

DKNG Studios created the stamp artwork by hand-sketching the dogs and then using Adobe Illustrator to bring them to life with basic shapes and layers of color. The red, white and blue color scheme represents the American flag and patriotism displayed by military working dogs. The background of each stamp features a detail of a white star, and a star appears in the center of each block

of four stamps. USPS Art Director Greg Breeding designed the stamps.

Background on military working dogs

Brave and loyal military working dogs are essential members of America’s armed forces. Courageous canines have aided U.S. Soldiers in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. Today, the 341st Training Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base just outside of San Antonio, Texas, trains American military working dogs and their handlers.

Dozens of dog breeds have served in the U.S. armed forces. Modern military working dogs are predominantly Belgian Malinois, German shepherds, Dutch shepherds and Labrador retrievers.

German shepherds are tall, strong, fast, athletic and easily trainable. Dutch shepherds are similarly built, but their coats differ in look and feel. Muscular, but slightly smaller than shepherds and light on their feet, Belgian Malinois are also ideal military dogs. A Belgian Malinois named Cairo accompanied Navy SEAL Team Six on its mission to find Osama bin Laden.

The military prizes retrievers, including Labradors, for their extraordinary sense of smell. Labrador retrievers are often trained as specialized search dogs.

When military working dogs reach retirement age, they are usually adopted by their handlers or civilians. Across the country, there are memorials dedicated to these animals. The bravery, loyalty and service of all past and present military working dogs will never be forgotten.

Customers may purchase the Military Working Dogs stamps at The Postal Store at usps.com/shop, by calling 800-STAMP24 (1-800-782-6724), by mail through USA Philatelic or at post office locations nationwide.



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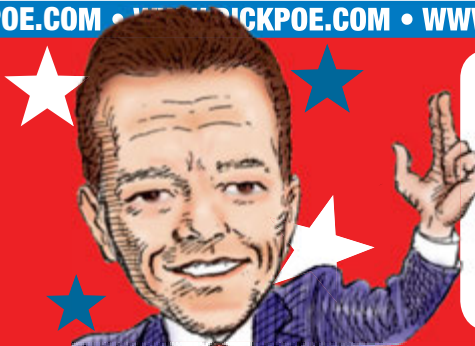
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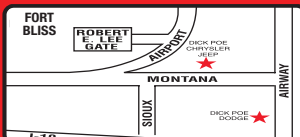
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Army officer stamps his ticket
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Things to do:

Plaza Classic Film Festival: El Paso Community Foundation's 12th annual classic and "semi-classic" movie festival is going on now and runs through Sunday. This year's themes include space exploration, the year 1969, United Artists 100th anniversary and musicals. Special guests this year include Academy Award nominees Sam Elliott and Katharine Ross, and award-winning television writer-producer Victoria Riskin. Screenings are in the Plaza's Main (Kendle Kidd) Theatre and Philanthropy Theatre. 533-4020 or plazaclassic.com

The Fab Four: The world's greatest tribute to the Beatles is 8 p.m. Saturday, at the Spencer Theater, Airport Hwy 220 in Alto, N.M. Tickets: \$76-\$79. (575) 336-4800 or spencertheater.com

Alfresco! Fridays: The 17th season of Alfresco! Fridays, a free outdoor summer concert series is 6 p.m. Fridays, Convention Center Plaza. No outside food, beverages, or pets allowed. 534-0600, alfrescofridays.com

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

Cool Canyon Nights: The 9th annual series of free outdoor summer concerts are 6-9 p.m. Thursdays at McKelligon Canyon, Amphitheatre, sponsored by WestStar Bank. Patio performance begins at 6 p.m. with headliner at 7 p.m. on the main stage. Admission is free, but space is limited. VIP tickets are \$10. elpasolive.com

Bug Fest: The El Paso Zoo, 4001 E. Paisano, will host its annual Bug Fest 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Cost: \$7.50-\$12. 212-0966 or elpasozoo.org

Full Moon Nights: White Sands National Monument, on U.S. 70, hosts its full moon event at 8:30 p.m., Aug. 15. The program features a performance Iron Will: 1st AD Old Ironsides Band featuring selections spanning R&B, Pop, Classic and alternative Rock, and more. Free with regular park admission fees. (575) 479-6124, ext. 236, (575) 679-2599, ext. 232, or nps.gov/whsa

Music Under the Stars: The 36th summer concert series sponsored presented by the City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department is 7:30-9:30 p.m., Sundays. 800 S. San Marcial. Free. elpasolive.com or on Facebook at Music Under the Stars

Rough Riders Turkey Run: The Rough Riders Motorcycle Club Hueco Chapter, will host its 15th annual run to fund Thanksgiving turkeys for the needy 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Aug. 25, from Barnett Harley Davidson to San Elizario. \$10. Information: rough-riders-mc.com.

Upper Valley Artists/Farmers Market: The artists and farmers market is 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays at the Substation on Doniphan at Sunset. Free.

Mission Trail Art Market: Area artisans and craftspeople display their fine arts and crafts for their 11th season 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month March-November in the historic Veterans Memorial Plaza in San Elizario, with arts and crafts, music, reenactments, food and more. Pets welcome.

Mini Garden Series: Want to make a Mini Garden? Join the Mickelsen Community Library for Mini Garden Series starting Saturday from 11 a.m.-1p.m. and create a fairy garden. This is free while space is limited, supplies will be provided, however feel free to bring supplies from home. It is open to DoD ID cardholders, ages 8+. 568-6156

El Paso Psychic Fair: The El Paso Psychic Fair is 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Aug. 17-18, at Hawthorn Inn, 1700 Airway. Free for military with active duty ID. 345-6245 or elpasopsychic-fair.com

BOSS Soldiers compete with the best in Esports

By Chris Ward | AAFES

DALLAS – Soldiers attending the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers 2019 Symposium in Indianapolis, Indiana, had the unique opportunity to put their gaming skills to the test against esports professionals from Complexity gaming, a professional esports organization.

This was the third event as part of a partnership between the Exchange, U.S. Army Installation Management Command Family and MWR Programs and Complexity Gaming, which are bringing esports tournaments to installations around the world. MSI was a presenting sponsor of the Army Entertainment esports event.

Prior events had Complexity professionals

spend a day in the life of a Soldier at Fort Bliss, learning about artillery, donning full war gear and eating meals ready to eat. Two weeks later, 15 Soldiers from all over the world visited Complexity Gaming headquarters at the GameStop Performance Center in Frisco, Texas to experience the life of a professional esports gamer.

"The esports phenomena is not just a phase and the Army realizes that," said Joe Leavell, Chief, Garrison Programs

for IMCOM. "They are embracing something that will increase the value of the Soldier and contribute to their resiliency and relevance. Partnering with the Exchange gives us the ability to cross-market with them. The Exchange motto is 'we go where you go' and now we're



Photo courtesy AAFES

Soldiers attending the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers 2019 Symposium in Indianapolis, Indiana, a partnership between the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, U.S. Army Installation Management Command Family and MWR Programs, and Complexity Gaming, had the unique opportunity to put their gaming skills to the test against esports professionals from Complexity gaming, a professional esports organization.

going with them."

BOSS Soldiers at the symposium enjoyed competing with and learning from the professionals.

"It's awesome playing with these gamers," said Staff Sgt. Derrick Collins. "I see myself getting better. They gave me a lot of pointers, tips and strategies. And this is good for the Army as a whole. It's not just all running and gunning on the battlefield anymore. It's getting much more technical as we have people operating drones and running the war from much farther away than the frontlines. The skills learned from gaming provide a much safer way of fighting a war."

The social aspect and mental well-being of Soldiers who participate in gaming through the

Army cannot be underestimated as well.

"Participating in Army esports will get the young guys out of the barracks," said Command Sgt. Maj. Muriel Macdonald. "If we have gaming in our garrisons and in our [recreation] centers, it will give these Soldiers an opportunity to get out and meet people. It's good for their overall mental well-being."

For the Exchange, partnering on esports is an opportunity to continue its mission of supporting Warfighters.

"The Exchange is all in to help support readiness and resiliency," said Col. Collin Fortier, the Exchange's military community liaison. "Events such as these help Soldiers both mentally and socially and strengthen retention and recruitment."

MWR to host fifth annual cardboard regatta

By Natalie Hinojos | Fort Bliss Family and MWR Marketing

Back to school sales have started and the end of summer is on the horizon, but before the pool closes for the season, Fort Bliss Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is ready to set sail and host the fifth annual cardboard regatta, scheduled for Aug. 24.

To participate, each team of sailors needs to register at bliss.armymwr.com. Come up with a silly or clever team name, gather materials and start preparing for the long voyage.

There are three categories: adult and child, ages 5 to 9, youth, ages 10 to 17, and adults, ages 18 and older. All boats must have two sailors – a captain and first mate – and both must remain in the boat at all times.

Registration is open now through Aug. 16, but participants are encouraged to register early and begin building a seaworthy ship. The fun begins while creating your masterpiece. This year, approved construction materials have changed, only cardboard and duct tape will be used, and duct tape can only be used for the seams. It cannot cover the entire boat. MWR will provide life vests and oars for each team.

There will be three award categories: most creative, longest voyage and biggest shipwreck. The most creative title begins with your team name and includes theme, boat decorations and costumes, and overall attitude. Longest voyage means your boat is seaworthy enough to make it down and back across the community pool,



Courtesy photo

Participants in the 2018 Cardboard Regatta set sail across the community pool. The 2019 regatta is scheduled to be held at 1 p.m., Aug. 24 at the community pool.

without capsizing or forcing its sailors into the water. Biggest shipwreck is the most fun award because if, at any time, your boat begins to sink ... make a big splash out of it – most dramatic takes the top prize in this category.

With all of this fun you're probably wondering about the cost to join this event, well guess

what, it's free. Come out, get creative, and set sail at 1 p.m., August 24th at the community pool, located at 253 Club Road.

Don't forget to register online at bliss.armymwr.com, search cardboard regatta. Race rules will be provided online and they will be enforced. For more information, call 568-2554.

Hiring class provides tips, techniques prior to Thursday job fair

By Michelle L. Gordon | USAG Fort Bliss Public Affairs

The Fort Bliss Army Community Service fall hiring fair is Thursday, so to prepare the attendees, the Employment Readiness Program hosted a prep class August 1.

The class included resume-writing tips, interviewing techniques, and a fashion show to showcase work-appropriate clothing, as well as some not-so-appropriate clothing. The class was not required for hiring fair attendees, said Deana Garcia, employment readiness program manager. It simply provided extra help.

“We showed them how to walk up to the table and introduce themselves,” Garcia said. “We helped them learn how to talk about what they bring to the table and answer any questions the employer might ask.”

In addition to resume writing and interview techniques, the attendees wrote and practiced their elevator speech with hiring supervisors from throughout Fort Bliss Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. An elevator speech is a clear, brief message or a 30-second commercial about yourself. It communicates who you are, what you’re looking for and how you can benefit a company or organization. Each attendee prepared their speech and then rotated around the room to each supervisor, who would listen and provide feedback.

“We all come from different backgrounds, said Garcia. “For those who have never created a resume before, these tips are benefi-



Michelle L. Gordon / USAG Fort Bliss PA

Ana Hernandez, ACS operations officer, right, provides feedback to family member Jolyne Lopez about her 30-second elevator speech. Lopez said the workshop was beneficial, because the workforce is constantly changing, and she wants to stay current on what employers are looking for in a new applicant. She said she is looking for a career change, and she is excited about the upcoming Fort Bliss Hiring Fair scheduled for Thursday, 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center.

cial because we talked about streamlining and customizing it for employers. For those nervous about interviewing, hiring fairs can be intimidating and for some people, it can be debilitating, so being able to practice in this forum provides them with confidence

and assures them that when they actually hit the hiring fair, it’s going to be okay.”

The Fort Bliss Hiring Fair is scheduled for Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center. More than 100 employers will be present

“All of the registered employers at the fair will have jobs available; we don’t want to waste the job seekers’ time.”

>> Deana Garcia

and the event is free to attend, no registration necessary. To see the full list of participating employers, visit the Fort Bliss Employment Readiness Program Facebook page.

“This is the largest Fort Bliss hiring fair in history,” Garcia said. “We traditionally focus on local employers, but we had a lot of out-of-state contractors notify us to participate, because they want to hire our Soldiers and their families. All of the registered employers at the fair will have jobs available; we don’t want to waste the job seekers’ time.”

Garcia said the prep class was extremely successful, with more than 60 Soldiers and family members in attendance. She said her office will definitely host another one, most likely in the spring. In the meantime, the Fort Bliss Employment Readiness Office is available to provide one-on-one assistance to job seekers year-round. It is located at 2494 Ricker Road.

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Soldiers help make young man’s wish come true

By **Spc. Valencia McNeal** | www.army.mil

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – At times, remembering what it’s like to be a kid can be great. For others, not so much.

Many children around the world, including Alexander Hipp, suffer with a critical illness. They are unable to have a care-free childhood, taking away the very foundation of what it’s like to be a kid.

Even though Hipp lived with an illness for most of his life, he dreamed to one day visit Hawaii and be immersed in all things military. Known by his family to be timid, Hipp brimmed with excitement and joy thanks to the 25th Infantry Division and Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The 25th Inf. Div. hosted Hipp, a Make-A-Wish recipient, and his family during a visit to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as part of his wish to tour historic sites related to World War II and military installations.

“Just being here on the military installation was amazing,” said Hipp. “I’ll never forget it. Everything that happened here was just a dream come true.”

Hipp dreams of being in the military himself one day, and with the help of leaders from the 25th Inf. Div., he was granted his wish and more as they made him an honor-

ary “Tropic Lightning” Soldier.

During his trip to Hawaii, he visited the Tropic Lightning Museum, participated in an M-4 semi-automatic rifle engagement skills trainer, flew in three military flight simulators, and ended the day with an aerial tour of Oahu in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Daniel Farrell, a pilot assigned to 3rd Battalion, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Inf. Div., recognized the significance in making an impact on the community.

“Doing Make-A-Wish is an excellent opportunity for us to give back to our communities while being accessible and giving opportunities for those individuals to take part in what we do,” explained Farrell.

Before visiting Hawaii, Hipp’s dream seemed unreachable. In early childhood, he was diagnosed with Chronic Granulomatous Disease. The disease he suffered with significantly lowered his ability to fight off bacterial and fungal infections. Like his younger brother, also diagnosed with CGD, successful treatment options were limited.

Most children with CGD have a low chance of living beyond the age of 20 years, Hipp said.

However, doctors recently determined that a bone marrow transplant would help patients diagnosed with CGD. After his younger brother successfully underwent the transplant surgery, Hipp did as well.

“There was a rather decent chance that I might not make it through it,” said Hipp. “The whole experience was not fun. You’re sick for a long time and completely drained of energy.”

Thankfully for Hipp, the transplant was a success and he is now completely cured.

With the help of the 25th Inf. Div., a lifetime memory was made for Hipp and for Stephen Hipp, his father, who had nothing but overwhelming happiness for his son.

“As his father, it made me feel a great sense of joy today,” said Stephen.



Photos by **Spc. Valencia McNeal** / www.army.mil

(Top left) Alexander Hipp, Make-A-Wish recipient, fly’s an AH-64 Apache flight simulator to learn flight systems normally operated by highly trained pilots at the Flight Simulation and Installation Digital Learning Center on Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii, July 25. Hipp, a survivor of a hereditary disease, was given the opportunity to visit Schofield Barracks as part of his wish to visit historic sites in Hawaii related to World War II.

(Left) Daniela Hipp congratulates her son, Alexander, on receiving certificates and gifts presented by 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, during his visit to the Flight Simulation and Installation Digital Learning Center on Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii, July 25.

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Step-child adoption

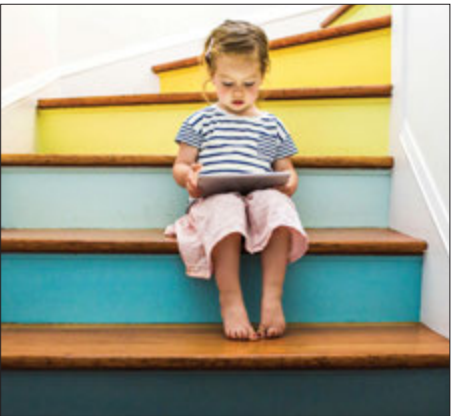
By Jennafer Tallant | Fort Bliss Legal Assistance Office

If you are thinking about adoption, the Fort Bliss Legal Assistance Office may be able to assist you. The LAO assists with agreed step-parent adoptions for Soldiers in the rank of corporal and below, and with the pro se paperwork for adult adoptions. For all other adoption matters, the LAO may be able to provide legal advice or a referral list for attorneys in the local area who specialize in adoptions.

In Texas, any time a case involves a child, the judge must answer one question: “what is in the best interest of the child?” The court considers and weighs various factors. For adoptions of children in Texas, chapter 161 of the Texas Family Code provides the grounds for termination. For purposes of receiving representation by an attorney in the LAO, the biological parent terminating his or her rights must sign a notice of termination prepared by one of the LAO attorneys.

Frequently, the parent whose rights are to be terminated is alleged to be absent or a “deadbeat.” Those facts are not relevant for purposes of termination and adoption. If the biological parent whose rights are to be terminated is alive, that person is entitled to notice and the opportunity to be heard before termination of their parental rights. The client seeking to terminate that parent’s rights will have to make attempts to locate the other parent. Otherwise, the client will end up paying an attorney about \$300 an hour to locate that parent. Additionally, if the person truly cannot be located, then the court will have to appoint an attorney to represent the absent parent, which may cost the client an additional \$1,000 or more.

Assuming the person seeking to adopt the child is in the grade of corporal and below, and the biological parent, whose rights are to be terminated, agrees to consent to the adoption, then the client will need to meet with a



legal assistance attorney to obtain paperwork and more information about the process to ensure the case can be accepted.

For an uncontested adoption handled by the LAO, the attorney’s fees are free to the client. However, the client will need to save \$1,500 for other costs: \$25 for a background check by the Texas Department of Public Safety, \$363 filing fee with the court, \$600 for a mandatory social study, and \$250-\$500 for amicus attorney’s fees.

The termination and adoption are filed in one case, and from filing to final hearing, it takes approximately four months to finalize a termination and adoption case. In the interim, the Soldier should update his estate plan to include recognition of the adopted child as his own child.

These cases are not adversarial by nature, and as such, judges usually enjoy them and sometimes provide small gifts to the children. Family and friends are welcome to attend the final hearing, which is relatively short, although children will usually be excluded from the courtroom for the termination part, even if the child is aware of termination.

Unless otherwise stated in the court order or prohibited by another state’s law, a child whose rights are terminated in Texas will be able to inherit from the biological parent and that parent’s family.

Regardless of rank, if you are considering adopting your step-child, stop by the legal assistance office at building 113 or call 568-7141 to schedule an appointment to meet with an attorney.

VA increases urgent care access

By Ginette Bocanegra | VA Public Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs implemented the MISSION Act June 6 to strengthen their ability to deliver trusted, easy to access, high-quality care at health care facilities, virtually through telehealth, and in their community.

The act ensures veterans get the care and services they need, where and when they need them.

Similar to TRICARE benefits, for which many veterans are also eligible, the MISSION Act allows veterans to receive urgent care at “in network” walk-in clinics throughout the Borderland. Like most health benefits obtained in the community, veterans must be enrolled for benefits and have been seen by their primary care provider within the last two years.

In El Paso and Las Cruces, there are 13 “in-network” clinics available for urgent care services and the list is growing. Veterans can visit <https://www.va.gov/find-locations> to find the most up-to-date and closest participating facilities. It is important to know that if an eligible veteran goes to an out-of-network provider, they will be required to pay the full cost of care.

Veterans should visit urgent care clinics for non-life-threatening, time-sensitive conditions, such as allergic reactions, bone x-rays for sprains or strains, tetanus or influ-

enza vaccinations, eye swelling or irritation, fever, cold, sinus problems, sore throat, painful urination, ear aches, mild to moderate asthma attack, vomiting, diarrhea and other stomach issues. While same-day services are available at the VA clinics if a veteran wants to wait, urgent care is another option. Additionally, urgent care is ideal for nights, weekends and holidays when the VA is closed.

Unless a veteran is subject to copayments for care received, urgent care walk-ins are limited to three complementary visits per year, so primary care providers should still be consulted for the timely treatment of acute illness and injuries such as: preventative care, common illnesses, referrals to a specialist and ongoing medical conditions. Veterans who are required to pay a copay, and all veterans after the third annual urgent care visit, will incur a \$30 copay.

For more serious or life-threatening conditions, such as heart attack symptoms, chest pain, numbness in limbs or face, difficulty speaking or shortness of breath, coughing up blood, mental confusion, difficulty breathing, stroke, unexplained loss of consciousness, or a wound that won’t stop bleeding, dial 911 or visit your nearest emergency room. Veterans do not have to or contact the VA before seeking emergency services.

For more information, contact the El Paso Community Care Office at 564-7899.



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SERVICES

Center Chapel

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Liturgical Service Sunday 10 a.m.

Hope Chapel

(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.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Catholic Women of the Chapel

(Bldg. 2498 Hope Chapel)

Friday 8:45-11 a.m.

Protestant Women of the Chapel

(Bldg. 11272 1st AD Chapel)

Thursday 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Teen Connection - Teens of the Cha-

pel (6-12 grade)

(Bldg. 11272, 1st AD Chapel)

Saturdays 6-9 p.m.

CATHOLIC WORSHIP
SERVICES

St. Michael's Catholic Community

(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 a.m.

Sunday Mass 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 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.

That yellow porch light

By Master Sgt. John G. Howell | Master Religious Affairs,
1st Armored Division

Growing up back in the 1980s as a teen-ager was the highlight of my life. My life revolved around roller skating, driving, and hanging out with my cousin Harley and getting into whatever trouble we could find. My wife gets onto me every now and then for being too nostalgic. I tell you, all it takes is the



Master Sgt. John
G. Howell

smell of honeysuckles, or an old song or photograph ... and down memory lane I go. The emotions that accompany my memories are so powerful, I can almost relive some events that touched my heart as a kid. One such series of memories was when Harley and I would play in my backyard. You should understand the term “backyard” from the northern hills of Alabama could mean 20 acres deep. We would play for hours deep into the woods and fields behind my house – games such as cops and robbers, Army, hide-and-seek, you name it. During these play sessions, I was awarded a wonderful gift that I didn’t even know I had at the time — peace. We would play without a care in the world; I wasn’t worried about the mortgage, car note, physical health, or the next war on the horizon. The only thing we worried about was the glow from that infamous yellow bulb of our porch light. When we saw that light come on, we knew to drop everything and get home, as my daddy was waiting on us. Many times I would run up to the house and my father would be standing there with open arms. He would wrap his arms around me and let me know my play time was done. I would always be a little upset, as I felt like I wasn’t finished playing yet ... but I knew I was safe at home with my father.

You know, in many ways my Heavenly Father works the same way. The Bible tells us in Job 4:15, “A person’s days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed.”

Job understood that his days on earth were numbered and he was at peace with the timing of his Heavenly Father’s call home. I always wondered back then, “Why did daddy cut the light on so early? — I’m not ready

to come home.” For more than 40 years as a non-believer, I was not ready to come home, but I am now a man of faith and have no fear of the porch light.

I mentioned the wonderful gift of peace earlier, and how I played as a child with no worries of this life. As a Christian I believe I have received that gift back. As I go through life now, I know of the struggles of this world, and by no means am I immune to them. I guess I see through the eyes of a child again, whatever struggle comes upon me now will have to go through my daddy first. At the end of the day one of these struggles may be my last, and I must be ready for the porch light to come as my Father calls me home. But I can tell you this, I am going to play and have some fun until then, and not allow the troubles of this world to rob me of my joy.

Several years ago, I used to have a fear of flying. I lost my half-brother in a plane crash when I was young and that day has been etched in my brain. On a flight returning to Fort Knox, Kentucky from a routine TDY, our plane was experiencing some violent turbulence and I was about to come unglued. My neighbor sitting next to me noticed my anxiety and spoke the most calming words. He said, “You know, we are all immortal until He calls us home.” Being the nostalgic guy I am, I immediately went back to playing in the backyard with my cousin, looking for that yellow porch light. The man went on to say that God had a plan for my life, and that I should be courageous and trust in Him.

A bit of guilt came over me as I allowed an old fear to enter my thoughts, I knew that God had me in the palm of His hand. His word tells us in Jeremiah 29:11, “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” I also knew that I had nothing to fear as it is written in Deuteronomy 31:6, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.”

This world can take a toll on us, and leave us battered and bruised with all of life’s trials. Both the believer and non-believer are not immune to the challenges of this fallen world. I do have good news, you do not have to go through this life alone. Live your life, laugh and have fun, and definitely be ready for when your porch light comes on. The best part is this, anyone can truly know and experience that “childhood peace” through faith.

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Have Life’s rules changed?

By Lisa Smith Molinari | www.themeatandpotatoesofflife.com

Parking my yellow convertible on the square, I read the words aloud, “‘Inherit shrunken head collection. Pay \$10,000 for museum to accept it.’ Aw, man!”

“Quit yer whining!” my older brother snickered with sick satisfaction. No matter what game we played, he always appointed himself the banker, setting an immediate tone of domination. He snapped the brightly-colored bills out of my hand with a greedy sneer.

Growing up in the 1970s with only three television channels and one mind-numbingly monotonous Atari Tennis game, my brother and I relied heavily on board games for entertainment. We played Monopoly, Sorry!, Risk, Payday, Stratego, Rock’em Sock’em Robots, Battleship and other games expressly intended to reward the rich, ruthless, lucky, and intellectually superior.

There were no consolation prizes – if you lost, you suffered complete destitution and utter humiliation, and we liked it that way. After all, if losing wasn’t so unbearable, why bother winning?

Once I’d had my own kids, they would often whine, “We’re bored!” I’d remind them of the bikes, scooters and athletic equipment lying dormant in our garage, and they would sigh. I’d remind them of our four televisions with more than 200 channels each, and they would sigh. I’d remind them of our stacks of neglected board games, and they would sigh.

One summer, I baited them with unhealthy snacks into playing The Game of Life, which they had received for Christmas that year. A few minutes later, I heard their banter coming from the dining room.

“‘Support Wildlife Fund.’ Ooo, I got \$5,000.”

“‘Cycle to work.’ Ha! I got \$10,000!”

“Wait a minute? What game are you guys playing?” I interrupted. There on our table lay The Game of Life with its characteristic segmented pathway, rainbow spinner, and white plastic buildings. However, upon closer inspection, I could see that this was not the game of my youth.

“What’s this – ‘Countryside Acres?’ What happened to The Poor Farm? And are these minivans? You get money for recycling now? What’s going on?”

Confused, I called my mother, who like me is unable to get rid of anything. Sure

enough, she found The Game of Life my brother and I used to play in the basement of our 1950s brick ranch. She carefully opened the brittle old box and read to me from its faded game board.

“Big day at the races. Collect \$80,000.”

“Pay \$5,000 for toupee.”

“Find Uranium deposit. Collect \$100,000.”

“Buy raccoon coat. Pay \$500.”

“Uncle in jail. Pay \$500 bail.”

“Buy Rolls Royce. Pay \$16,000.”

“Revenge. Collect \$100,000 from any player.”

With each square, fond memories of summer days spent trying to crush my opponent flooded my mind. Back then, the rules of Life were clear – get a good job, be responsible, make as much money as possible. Sure, every player had to deal with hard knocks in Life like tornadoes, jury duty, poison ivy, and poor relatives. But if you got rich, there was no shame in rewarding yourself with yachts and trips to Monte Carlo. Simply put, wealth was necessary to win at The Game of Life.

But players in The New Game of Life get money for planting trees, having family picnics, returning lost wallets, joining health clubs and even making new friends. Nobody goes bald or inherits a skunk farm anymore. Gambling and revenge have been outlawed, and players have ample chances in Life to “Spin again if not in the lead.”

The old game’s daunting “Day of Reckoning” has now been replaced with an anti-climactic choice between a government subsidized retirement community called “Countryside Acres,” and watered-down Millionaire Estates. No more Poor Farm or risk-taking Millionaire Tycoons. Everyone’s a winner. Frankly, I’m surprised the game doesn’t award trophies for every player.

Gloomily, I said goodbye to my mother and hung up the phone. “What’s this world coming to?” I thought.

Just then, I heard a commotion in the dining room, and rushed in to find my son holding his sister in a headlock as she squealed, “You’re just mad ‘cause I beat you again! I’m richer than you are!”

“Whew,” I thought, and was relieved to see that some things in Life will never change.

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SPORTS

Sports Briefs

Outdoor Recreation information fair: Join Outdoor Recreation Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Soldier Activity Center. Learn about different activities Outdoor Rec has to offer and visit with state parks in the area. There will be free pizza while supplies last. 744-1532

Kick it: KEI Paso's professional soccer team, the Locomotive, will face off against the Portland Timbers 2 Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at Southwest University Park in downtown El Paso. They will return to El Paso Aug. 17 to take on the Seattle Sounders FC2. Cost: \$5 to \$49. 235-GOAL, ep locomotivefc.com

Play ball!: See tomorrow's Major League Baseball stars today and go see the El Paso Chihuahuas, El Paso city's AAA baseball team, Thursday through Friday against the Round Rock Express, followed by a four-game series against the San Antonio Missions Saturday through Tuesday. The Chihuahuas play at Southwest University Park in downtown El Paso. Game times are 7 p.m. (Sunday games are 6 p.m.). Cost: \$11-\$30. 533-BASE or EPChihuahuas.com

Tour de Tolerance: The 14th annual "Riding to Remember" bicycling event, benefiting the El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center, will be Aug. 18, with a 50K competitive or non-competitive bike ride and a 5K run/walk. 351-0048, ext. 24, elpasoholocaustmuseum.org or on Facebook.

Borderland Roller Derby: The derby's opening season bout is 6 p.m. Aug 18 at El Paso County Coliseum's Judging Arena, 4100 E. Paisano, with a doubleheader featuring Sexies vs. Chulas, and Catrinas vs. Viudas. Tickets: \$10; (\$7 with valid military ID; \$1 for ages 10 and younger; or \$8 each for pack of six) at brownpapertickets.com. Information: borderlandrollerderby.com or on Facebook.

Kharisma James Scholarship 5K: EPCC and Veterans Resource Center host the 5K run and 1-mile adaptive and fun walk at 8 a.m. Sunday at Valle Verde campus Americana Language Village, 919 Hunter. Registration at raceadventuresunlimited.com. 831-2398.

UFC Fight Night: Catch UFC Fight 241 for free at 6 p.m., Aug. 17 at Monti Warrior Zone. There will be drink specials available. 741-3000

Basketball tournament series: The fun begins with a 3-point Shoot-out Tournament, Aug. 24 from 4-10 p.m. at Monti Warrior Zone! Then, take on the challenge later this fall with a HORSE contest Sept. 28 and a 3-on-3 tournament Oct. 26. Cost: \$15 per person, per tournament, which includes a t-shirt and one drink of your choice. Tournaments are open to the public, ages 18 and older. 741-3000

Tennis Scramble: The Tennis Scramble is on the last Wednesday of every month. Cost: \$5 fee for non-ID card holders and free for DoD ID card holders. The scrambles are held at the Tennis Club, 262 Club Road. 569-5448

Kids Golf for \$5: Join Underwood Golf Complex as children get to play golf for \$5 Monday-Friday. Children ages 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Open to children 16 or younger. 568-1059

Sun City Regional Bodybuilding Qualifier: The bodybuilding competition will be Saturday at UTEP's Magoffin Auditorium. Pre-judging begins at 9:30 a.m., finals at 6 p.m. suncityregionalel Paso.com

Group tennis class for beginners: A group tennis class for beginners will be held from 8:30-10 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday at Building 262 on Club Road. Tennis rackets will be provided. 569-5448

Total Gym: Classes improve function and produce transformational results for every fitness level and for all users. Classes are held at Milam PFC. 744-5800

Insanity: Based on the home DVD program of the same name. It is challenging, group-focused athletic training, cardio conditioning, and total-body strength drills, designed for people of all levels. Classes are held at Stout PFC. Cost: \$3 per class or \$35 for unlimited monthly pass. 744-5800

Yoga: A class consisting of poses and following transitions with a focus on core strength cardiovascular fitness flexibility and an overall sense of well-being we build upon basic yoga poses to target specific muscle groups while maintaining safe alignment to reduce the risk of injuries. All levels welcome. Classes are all at Milam PFC. 744-5800

Body Flow: Body Flow: During Bodyflow you'll stretch through a series of simple yoga moves and embrace elements of Tai Chi, and Pilates. You'll strengthen your entire body and leave the class feeling calm and centered. Class is held at Soto PFC. Cost: \$3 or \$35 unlimited monthly pass. 744-5800

Indoor Cycling: Get back on the bike and push your endurance at Indoor Cycling. Classes are held at Soto and Stout PFC. Cost: \$3, or \$35 unlimited monthly pass. Group fitness classes are free for active-duty Soldiers in PT Uniform. 744-5800

Iron Divas: This well-rounded class is designed to improve muscular strength and endurance. Classes are held at Soto PFC. Cost: \$3, or \$35 unlimited monthly pass. 744-5800

Body Pump: The original Les Mills barbell class will sculpt, tone and strengthen your entire body fast. Focusing on low weight loads and high repetition movements, you'll burn fat, gain strength and quickly produce lean body muscle. Classes are held at Soto PFC. Cost: \$3, or \$35 unlimited monthly pass. 744-5790

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BLOOD, SWEAT, HEART

Army officer stamps his ticket to CrossFit Games

By Devon L. Suits | Army News Service

FORT MEADE, Md. – After placing fifth at the Rogue Invitational in Columbus, Ohio, an armor officer and member of the Army Warrior Fitness Team has stamped his ticket to the CrossFit Games, which began August 1 in Madison, Wisconsin.

During the four-day competition, Capt. Chandler Smith said he looked forward to sharing his Army story at one of the largest fitness contests in the world.

“My goals at the CrossFit Games are reflective of my Army career goals as a whole,” Smith said. “My efforts there could potentially [bring in] a Soldier that will help educate my [future] son or daughter when they decide to join the Army.

“I want to do something at the games that [helps] the Army, and the world, become a better place,” he added. “If someone sees my positivity and chooses to reflect that in their daily life – that is a win.”

Smith was born in Gainesville, Florida. His father, Cedric, was a former NFL fullback and currently works as a strength and conditioning coach in the league. As an aspiring young athlete, Smith had ample opportunity to interact with many players and coaches, which taught him to remain humble, he said.

During high school, Smith decided to get into wrestling. His coach, Nage Damas, was a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and a three-year letter winner on its wrestling team. Through their interaction, Smith decided to enroll in the academy.

“I am the person who is big on discipline,” Smith said. “West Point presented the hardest road ... and presented the biggest challenge in comparison to the other academies.”

At the time the Army was highly involved in Iraq and Afghanistan. Smith believed the Army provided the best opportunity for applied leadership.

“Those were conflicts I saw myself in. As an aspiring leader, you want to place yourself at points of friction,” he said.

As both a cadet and wrestler, Smith worked hard to exceed West Point's academic, physical and military performance standards, he said. He strived to be a positive example for all of his teammates and peers.

“I have been given some gifts in the physical realm,” Smith said. “It is something that the Army has helped me foster by putting me around similarly-minded [people].

“I’m big on putting a focused effort toward whatever it is that I am in charge of doing,” he added. “Anything less than my best would be to sacrifice my gift – that’s how I see it.”

A new path

Smith’s respect for CrossFit started long before his time at West Point, he said.



Photo courtesy U.S. Army Recruiting Command

Capt. Chandler Smith stamped his ticket to the CrossFit Games last week, in Madison, Wisconsin, after placing fifth at the Rogue Invitational in Columbus, Ohio. Smith, an armor officer and member of the Army Warrior Fitness Team looks forward to sharing his Army story at one of the largest fitness contests in the world.

“I wanted to do all the cool guy stuff that you see on TV. [CrossFit] helped me out with wrestling during high school and college,” he said.

After Smith graduated in 2015, CrossFit presented the most natural transition to help “stoke that competitive fire,” he added. In between his duties as a new lieutenant, Smith would spend hours in the gym. He was determined to make the CrossFit Games by 2020.

However, Smith’s fitness career almost derailed in February 2016. During an Army exercise, Smith sustained an injury, which broke his left ring finger in two places and sliced off the tip.

The injury happened a day before the CrossFit Open, the first qualifying stage for the CrossFit Games. The year prior, Smith placed 174th overall out of 273,000 total participants, according to CrossFit officials.

Smith took some time to recover and had to learn to operate with his new hand. He took a step back and started to reevaluate his ability to compete.

I didn’t realize that grip strength is a weakness of mine until I had something that affected my ability to grip. I began to specialize in the type of fitness my musculature can naturally support,” he said. “It ended up being a case of traumatic growth as this setback led to greater results.”

Through it all, Smith continued to move up in the ranks. He placed 128th overall in 2018 in the CrossFit standings. Coming into this year’s CrossFit Games, he is ranked 40th overall, according to program officials.

“I’ve gotten a chance to work out with [Smith],” said Master Sgt. Glenn Grabs, the first sergeant of the Army Recruiting Command’s outreach and recruiting company. “He speeds up as the workout gets longer, which makes him such a great competitor. Even though he’s maybe suffering inside, he’s just so positive and never backs down.”

As an overall athlete, Smith is relentless and the true embodiment of the warrior spirit, Grabs added.

“Captain Chandler Smith is not only a great Soldier, but he is a great person,” he said. “When I see him interact with people at competitions or in public, he goes the extra step to connect with people. That’s just who he is as a person and what makes him so remarkable.”

All in

As a Soldier, Smith looks forward to more milestones he hopes to accomplish in his career. He was recently selected to lead an infantry platoon as an armor officer, which ended up being one of his crowning achievements thus far, he said.

“That’s not something that happens too often. We went over to Bulgaria for nine months as part of the Operation Atlantic Resolve,” he said. “Knowing that my command trusted me enough to take on a role that I wasn’t necessarily trained for – it empowered me a lot.”

For the most part, Smith has not experienced a lot of difficulties while balancing his fitness goals and Army career, he said. However, anything that falls outside those two priorities is sometimes pushed aside.

“I think I am overly focused on doing my nine to five at work. I also take my fitness hobby very seriously. It doesn’t leave much time for anything else,” he said. “I haven’t done too much vacationing or maybe spent as much time with my family as I would have liked to.”

These sacrifices were necessary to keep him relevant in the Army and fitness community, he said.

“[Making the CrossFit Games] is a goal that I’ve had in mind since 2012, and I’ve been in the Army the whole time,” he said. “So figuring out a way to do this all while balancing my Army requirements was going to be a challenge, but I wouldn’t have it in any other way.

“I’m super happy that it has paid off with a trip to the games this year.”



Photos by Maj. Michelle Lunato / www.army.mil
First Lieutenant Sarah Beard, a Danville, Ind. native with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, fires in the standing position during the women's 50m three-position rifle finals at the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, Peru. Beard claimed the gold medal while her teammate, Ginny Thrasher, took the bronze medal and an Olympic quota.

Army Soldier wins gold at Pan American Games

By Maj. Michelle Lunato | www.army.mil

LIMA, Peru – Army 1st Lt. Sarah Beard won the gold medal in women's three-position rifle at the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, Peru, July 28.

Her qualification round score of 1165-61x included a perfect 400 in the prone stage and placed her into the finals with the second-best score. Puerto Rico's Yarimar Mercado had the top qualification round score of 1168-54x.

In the final, the Danville, Indiana native fought her way to the top. After the first kneeling stage, she was in third place. After the prone stage, she had moved up to second. In the standing stage, she battled it out to seize the gold with a 454.9, a .7 point lead over silver medalist Eglys De La Cruz from Cuba.

Meanwhile, team USA's Ginny Thrasher was still in the mix and ended up claiming the bronze medal with a score of 444.0, which included her shooting the highest five-shot string of the eight competitors with a 51.2 (10.24 average).

Since Beard had already won a 2020 Olympic quota in women's three-position rifle with her gold medal at the 2018 Championship of the Americas, she was ineligible to win another. That meant that De La Cruz' silver medal and Thrasher's bronze medal would earn the Olympic quotas, bringing the United States to their maximum two-quota allotment in the event.

"A bronze medal has never felt so much like gold to me," Thrasher explained to USA Shooting. "Any day I can represent my country on the podium is a great day and being able to win a quota for team USA to compete in Tokyo is an achievement I'm proud of. Peru has been such a great host country to us and getting to share the podium with my teammate on such a beautiful range made today even more special."

After receiving her gold medal, Beard told USA Shooting that she too was thrilled to share the podium with another team USA athlete. "As always, it's an honor to represent team USA on the podium," Beard said. "It's even better sharing it with a teammate. I'm happy to come home having accom-



Beard waves to the crowd after winning the gold medal at the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, Peru.

plished my job."

Beard is a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier who is assigned to the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program and trains with the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Georgia. Her father, 1984 Olympian William Beard, also trained at the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit.

Exchange celebrates grand opening of 5.11 tactical shop

By Marisa Wolfe | Army and Air Force Exchange Service

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service's Freedom Crossing at Fort Bliss celebrated the grand opening of a 5.11 tactical shop Aug. 3 with music, food, giveaways and more for Soldiers and families.

The festivities included a traditional ribbon cutting—and 5.11's own tradition of a ceremonial door breach. 5.11 leaders broke down a replica door, which was then signed and will be displayed in the store.

"The Exchange is excited to welcome 5.11 to Freedom Crossing at Fort Bliss," said Darryl Porter, Exchange Vice President of Services and Commercial Leasing. "We're happy to partner with a vendor that has a long history of supporting the military."

Shoppers received gift cards and discounts to mark the opening of 5.11's 50th U.S. location.

"We are honored to be opening our 50th company-owned retail store in the U.S. at Freedom Crossing at Fort Bliss," said Francisco J. Morales, CEO and co-founder of 5.11. "We can't imagine a better location to serve our country's servicemen and women, as well as their families, with innovative apparel and gear designed for life's most demanding missions."

The Fort Bliss 5.11 is at 1614 Pleasonton Road, suite D-123, next to GameStop, and is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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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

Hiring Fair: Stop by the hiring fair Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center. Free, open to DoD ID cardholders only. 569-5838

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

Bible study: Fort Bliss post-wide Bible study takes place every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. at Bldg. 449-451, Pershing Road. Free dinner from 5:30 p.m. Child care provided. 568-4334

ICE comments: Make your voice heard. Tell us exactly how we are doing. Good or bad: Bring it on. You may remain anonymous, if you choose to do so. Listing your contact information allows us to provide direct feedback. Fort Bliss has an outlet available, the Interactive Customer Evaluation program, fully functional again to all customers. Find it online at https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=435.

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

TARP training: Fort Bliss offers Threat Awareness Reporting Program training at two locations monthly at the SAC on East Fort Bliss on the second Tuesday of the month, or at Stayton Theater on West Fort Bliss on every third Thursday of the month. 568-4604

New traffic pattern: Bliss DES has added an additional, temporary lane at Old Ironsides gate to alleviate congestion during peak hours 5-9 a.m., Monday-Friday. This change is intended to increase capacity and decrease wait times. Be on the lookout for new signs and proceed safely as drivers adjust to the change. 744-1551

FMWR

Oktoberfest tickets on sale: Enjoy authentic German beer, food and entertainment by Terry Cavanagh and the Alpine Express band, and performances by Fort Bliss' German Air Force Schuhplattler dancers! Come over to Biggs Park Sept. 20-21 from 6 p.m.-midnight and Sept. 22 from noon-5 p.m. Cost: \$25 (includes stein) for Sept. 20 and 21, Open to adults ages 18+ only. Sunday is free family fun day, all ages are welcome. There will be inflatables, dancing and singing for the kids to enjoy! Buy your tickets at eventbrite.com or at any Leisure Travel Services located at Freedom Crossing food court or SAC. Biggs Park is located at 11388 Sgt. Major Blvd. 588-8247

Free books for deploying troops: Come to the Mickelsen Community Library and pick up a unit book kit. The book kits contain a selection of popular fiction and non-fiction paperback items. 2 Sheridan Rd (Under the NCOA), West Fort Bliss. Free. 568-1902

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

Adult Automotive Care class: The Auto Crafts Center is holding an Adult Automotive Care class Aug. 17 from noon-3 p.m. to learn the basics of oil changing, tire pressure and rotation, brake inspection, safety orientation in the do it yourself bays and much more. Cost: \$30. Open to DoD ID cardholders, ages 18+. Auto Crafts is located at 820 Marshall Road. 568-7280.

Cardboard Regatta: Who's ready to float the high seas of the Community Pool in their own cardboard boat? There are three age categories registered participants will compete in: adults, ages 18 and older, youth, ages 10-17 and parent/child, ages 5-10. Free, Must register by 4:30 p.m., Aug. 16. 568-2554 or www.bliss.armymwr.com

UFC Fight Night: Catch UFC Fight 241 for free at 6 p.m., Aug. 17 at Monti Warrior Zone. 741-3000

Golden Girls Crochet Club: Crochet, chit chat and watch the Golden Girls every Wednesday from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at the Art & Hobby Shop. Cost: \$5 per session, basic supplies are provided, but feel free to bring your latest project to work on. Registration is recommended at Auto

Crafts, located at 820 Marshall Road. Open to DoD ID cardholders. 568-5563

Go Youth

Family Day at the Wall: The Soldier Activity Center holds "Family Day at the Wall" every Thursday, Friday and Saturday 12-6 p.m. The SAC is normally open to guests ages 18 and older, but on Family Day, the wall is open to all climbers age 6 and older. 20732 Constitution Ave. 744-1532

In-home Child Care: Family Child Care offers in-home providers for CYS-registered kids. Cost: \$5/hr. with \$10 deposit. Reservations required. 568-4198 or 744-7879

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

Story Time: It's Story Time! Stop by the Mickelsen Library every Tuesday from 10:15-11 a.m. or 11-11:45 a.m. as children ages 2 to 5 listen to stories read aloud. There will also be crafts, activities and refreshments available. 568-6156

Child Range Orientation: This is a one-hour child firearm safety course required for children ages 6-17 to accompany parents or guardians at Rod and Gun Club live fire ranges. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. 568-5426

SKIESUnlimited Open House: SKIESUnlimited is opening their doors to new and seasoned military families here at Fort Bliss. Come by the open house Aug. 24 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Bldg. 3508 and 3509 Ellertorpe Road. There will be door prizes, face painting, free trial classes, on-site registration for CYS, daycare information, Youth Sports and a chance to enroll your children into some of the classes. 568-5544 or www.bliss.armymwr.com

SKIESUnlimited Drum Lessons: SKIESUnlimited offers drum lessons for students, ages 7+. They will learn how to count beats, recognize rhythm, pattern and musical expressions. Private lessons are 30-minute sessions held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays starting at 4 p.m.,

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4:30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$72. Lessons are held at the SKIESunlimited Center Bldg. 3508 Ellertorpe Ave. 568-5544

SKIESUnlimited Judo: Judo is a Japanese art that uses balance and leverage, it has the beginnings in Ju Jitsu but is taught as a sport. All students are required to follow basic discipline and show respect to everyone. Classes are every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-6 p.m. for students, ages 5-6, and 6-7:30 p.m. for students, ages 7+. Cost: \$40 per child. 568-5544

Community

Car seat safety checks: The TxDOT Traffic Safety Division in El Paso is partnering with Whataburger and the El Paso Police Department to offer car seat checks at specific locations. Each car seat check will take place at a selected Whataburger from 8 a.m.-10 a.m on the dates below. Technicians will assist attendees on a first come, first served basis, and TxDOT Traffic Safety Specialist and other certified CPS technicians will be on-hand to provide education on proper use and correct installation of car seats. Residents must bring their child and/or children along with the car seat or booster seat the child is currently using. Scheduled car seat safety check locations: Aug. 16 - Whataburger, 4640 Transmountain; Sept. 6 - Whataburger, 650 Sunland Park Dr.; Sept. 21 - Whataburger, 1300 Airway Blvd.

Gaming Lounge Grand Opening: The grand opening of PLAYlive Nation will be Saturday, 11 a.m. until close, at Freedom Crossing. Take advantage of the all-day passes and play. Membership options are available for frequent visitors, which offer discounted game time rates. Play free time slots and discounts on most items in the store. PLAYlive Nation is a premium gaming lounge that aims to provide an outstanding gaming experience.

Retired Officers Wives Club Luncheon: The Retired Officers’ Wives’ Club will meet at noon Aug. 20, in the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center. After lunch, Jaime Perez, Igung, and Mae Quon will demonstrate Chinese Martial Arts. Donations of school supplies for elementary school students and non-perishable food for the Junior Enlisted Food Pantry will be accepted. Cost: \$20. Reservations required by noon, Aug. 16. 472-1979

2ID Vets group seeks members: The Second (Indianhead) Division Association is searching for anyone who served in the Army’s 2nd Infantry Division at any time.2idahq@comcast.net

Rough Riders Turkey Run: The Rough Riders Motorcycle Club Hueco Chapter, will host its 15th annual run to fund Thanksgiving turkeys for the needy 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Aug. 25, from Barnett Harley Davidson to San Elizario. Cost: \$10. rough-riders-mc.com

Carizozo Arts Weekend: The 5th annual arts weekend and studio tours featuring more than 40 artists at 18 sites is 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 17-18, throughout Carrizozo, N.M. (Highway 54 and 380). Local musicians and artist demonstrations at some stops. Free. (575) 336-4061, carrizozoarts.com

Run to the Copper Country Car Show: The 28th annual Copper Country car show is 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 17, at Gough Park in Silver City, N.M., with vendors, refreshments, raffles, and a trophy winner parade. Free. Registration \$35 per car. (575) 574-2186, (575) 313-4493, coppercountrycruizers.com

Harvest Wine Fest: The New Mexico Wine Growers Association presents its Labor Day Weekend festival noon-6 p.m. Aug. 31-Sept. 2, at the Southern New Mexico State Fairgrounds, Las Cruces. Cost: \$30 for two people. Designated drivers and age 15-20; \$10; kids under 15. Military: (with valid ID) and early bird general

admission is \$17. VIP admission: \$40. All adults must have valid ID, regardless of age; designated drivers encouraged. No pets, coolers or open containers allowed. (575) 649-8994, vivavino@nmwine.com, nmwine.org or on Facebook. Tickets at holdmyticket.com.

Great American Duck Race: The 40th annual running of the ducks is Aug. 22-25, in Deming, N.M. This year’s theme is “Racing Through the Stars.” Free. (888) 345-1125, (575) 544-0469 or demingduckrace.com

‘Rolling Stones’ Gem/Mineral Show: Grant County Rolling Stones Gem and Mineral Society’s 36th annual show is Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at the Grant County Veterans’ Memorial Conference Center, 3031 U.S. 180 East in Silver City. Free. The show features dealers from around the Southwest with mineral specimens, jewelry, and arts crafted from rock and gems. Quantities of “rough” stones are available for cutting and polishing work, as well as equipment and supplies. (575) 654-4424 or rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com

Hatch Chile Festival: The “chile capital of the world” holds its 48th annual celebration Aug. 31-Sept. 1, at the Hatch Airport on N.M. Hwy 26, 1 1/2 miles west of Hatch, featuring vendors, carnival rides, arts and crafts, chile food and ristra tying and painting demonstrations, live music, beer garden, mud volleyball, mariachi competition, and fresh roasted Hatch green chile and contests. (575) 267-5483, hatchchilefest.com

Marfa Lights Festival: The 33rd annual Marfa Lights Festival that pays tribute to Marfa’s mysterious lights is Aug. 30-Sept. 1 around the Presidio County Courthouse in Marfa, Texas. Activities include food and crafts booths, a main street parade, contests, concerts and street dances in the Presidio Courthouse area. marfacc.com

Back to School Party/Expo: Freedom Crossing will host a Back-to-School Party and Expo, Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. The first 200 kids will receive free school supplies. Other activities include music by DJ Johnny Kage of 104.3 FM and Sirius XM Channel Pitbull Globalization, dancing, football challenge, soccer dart, basketball throw, jumping castle and more.

Archaeological Society rummage sale: El Paso Archaeological Society’s annual fundraising sale begins at 9 a.m. Aug. 31, at El Paso Museum of Archaeology, 4301 Transmountain. 449-9075 or epas.com or on Facebook

Minerpalooza 2019: UTEP’s 29th annual back-to-school bash and pep rally is 6-11 p.m. Aug. 30, on the UTEP campus, corner. This year’s headliner is Drake Bell. The family-friendly event features fall sports teams, games, information booths and appearances by UTEP athletes, along with live entertainment, family activities, and beer and wine garden for 21 and older. Free. Miner game tickets will be sold. 747-5648 or minerpalooza.com

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16103	2016	KIA RIOS	\$13,995	26441A	2015	FORD MUSTANG	\$16,995
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26143A	2014	JEEP CHEROKEE LIMITED	\$14,995	A15735	2019	JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE	\$19,995
A16017A	2016	JEEP COMPASS	\$14,995	26034A	2015	JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE	\$22,995
26110A	2015	DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROADS	\$14,995	A15791	2019	FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE	\$26,995
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