



>> BLACK JACK LAND NAV

Sgt. La'Shawna Custom / 32nd AAMDC PA

Staff Sgt. Kevin Mauney, a Soldier from the 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, plots points on a map during a land navigation assessment June 24 during the annual Black Jack Warrior Competition. The week-long 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command "Black Jack" Best Warrior competition identified and recognized individuals that encompass the "total Soldier" concept. "This competition is about recognizing the best of the best," said 32nd AAMDC Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry E. Jacobitz. "There were 11 different events and every single one of these troopers excelled at them." For more on this story, see page 3A.

WARRIOR CARE Bliss WTB physical therapist supported Team Army at DoD Warrior Games June 21-30

By Joseph Jones | Madigan Army Medical Center (Wash.) Public Affairs

TAMPA, Fla. - In any professional sporting event, you can often find physical therapists tending to the participating athletes. For the Department of Defense Warrior Games, a weeklong adaptive sports competition for service





Gary Sheftick / Army News Service Sgt. 1st Class Arianna Cook offloads a Stinger missile from an Avenger pod so that it can be fired off the shoulder as a Man-Portable Air Defense System. MANPADS is used under degraded conditions if the Avenger cannot fire due to a cyber attack or electronic warfare.

Army rebuilding short-range air defense

By Gary Sheftick | Army News Service

FORT SILL, Okla. - The Army is now standing up short-range air defense units, known as SHORAD battalions, and offering a five-week pilot Stinger course for Soldiers in maneuver units.

It's part of a critical effort to defend maneuver units against the threat of aircraft, drones and cruise missiles, said Col. Mark Holler, commandant of the Air Defense Artillery School at Fort Sill.

Most of the SHORAD battalions in the active component were deactivated a decade ago because the U.S. Army needed this force structure to grow maneuver brigade combat teams for counter-insurgency operations, Holler said.

The Army is now reshaping its capability and capacity to conduct large-scale combat operations against a near-peer adversary like Russia or China, he said, so SHORAD units are once again needed. He added the Army was given a "wakeup call" when it observed the conflict in Ukraine.

Bringing back Avengers

In the 1990s, every Army division had a SHORAD battalion to protect it. In 2017, none of the 10 active divisions had one.

Last year, the Army re-established an tive SHORAD battalion in German The 5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment was stood up with Avengers - modified Humvees with a turret on top and two pods of Stinger missiles. The Avengers were first used by the Army in 1990, but in recent years most had been relegated to the National Guard or stored in depots. A total of 72 Avengers were pulled out of mothballs last year from Letterkenny Army Depot in Pennsylvania, Holler said. Half are now with the 5-4 ADA and the others are ready for issue at a pre-positioned equipment depot in Germany.

members and veterans who are wounded, ill, or injured, the U.S. Army Warrior Transition Care Program has those same resources available to its athletes, who are supported by an interdisciplinary health care team, including a physical therapist who tends to each athlete with an individual-based treatment approach.

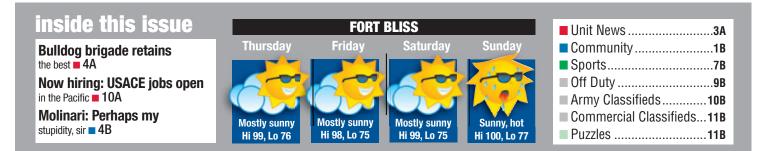
Warrior Games aside, physical therapists are assigned at every one of the Warrior Transition battalions that the Army has established at major military treatment facilities at 14 military installations. At WTBs, PTs care for injured, ill and wounded Soldiers year-round, assisting in their physical reconditioning therapy, which includes their participation in adaptive sports.

Sqt. 1st Class Joseph Fontenot receives stretch therapy from Louis Cortez, a staff physical therapist from the Fort Bliss Warrior Transition Battalion, prior to powerlifting practice at the Short Fitness and Sport Center at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., during the 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games recently.

Louis Cortez, a Fort Bliss WTB physical therapist, was the PT supporting Team Army at the DoD Warrior Games this year, providing that vital one-on-one care to the athletes.

"First and foremost, when you have a Soldier who's a hard-charger, and that [initiative is] taken away due to an injury or illness, they can lose themselves and sometimes need that focus again. [Life after rehabilitation is a] lifestyle change, but they are still able to do these things, just at a different level or in a new way," See CARE Page 2A

Lee Packnett / U.S. Army



Growing the force

The plan is to eventually have 10 SHO-RAD battalions again to defend maneuver units and other critical assets within each of the Army's divisions, Holler said. These will be stood up incrementally over time, he explained, with the next four between now and 2024.

Eventually these battalions will upgrade from Avengers to the new Maneuver SHORADs on a Stryker platform with two hellfire missiles, a 30mm chain gun,

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★ ★ ★ ACROSS THE FORCE \star

Army leaders eyeing Campbell Army hospital's transition to Defense Health Agency

By Maria Yager | U.S. Army

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. - The commanding general of U.S. Army Forces Command, Gen. Michael X. Garrett, visited Blanchfield Army Community Hospital at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, June 25, to discuss how the hospital's transition to the Defense Health Agency will impact Soldier medical readiness on Fort Campbell and medical care for service members, retirees, and family members enrolled at the facility.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 called for transitioning the management of the three separate military health systems of the Army, Navy and Air Force to one, managed by a single Defense Health Agency. Blanchfield's transition from an Army Medicine managed facility to DHA is scheduled for Oct. 1.

"For our beneficiaries, the change should be seamless. Hospital administrators are the ones who are going to do all the hard work of making those administrative transitions, but for the community, it should be seamless," said Col. Patrick Birchfield, BACH and U.S. Army Medical Department Activity Fort Campbell commander, in a joint brief to Garrett with Maj. Gen. Brian Winski, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) commander.

As FORSCOM commander, Garrett's mission is to train and prepare a combat ready, globally responsive total force in order to build and sustain readiness to meet combatant command requirements.



Col. Patrick T. Birchfield, center, the Blanchfield Army Community Hospital (Ky.) commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Earle, right, welcome Gen. Michael X. Garrett, U.S. Army Forces Command commander, to the hospital, June 25. Garrett met with Birchfield and Maj. Gen. Brian Winski, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) commander, to discuss how the hospital's transition from Army Medicine to the Defense Health Agency, Oct. 1, will impact Soldiers from the 101st and Fort Campbell, and retirees and families in the community.

Blanchfield supports that effort by enabling the medical readiness of nearly 27,000 Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division and Fort Campbell. Blanchfield also established and maintains oversight of the medical Soldier Readiness Processing Site and a Troop Medical Clinic at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, capable of supporting large-scale Reserve mobilizations. When activated, the medical SRP site is capable of processing hundreds of Soldiers per day to ensure they are quickly ready for their follow-on mission.

"Efficiency is a big part of what DHA is after, improving efficiencies across all three of the services. We think that directly relates to improving the deployability of our forces and enhancing patient access," said Birchfield.

Garrett also asked about the transition's impact to the Fort Campbell community's retired military population.

"The retiree population is large, but if we're able to maintain the same capabilities it shouldn't have to affect the retiree population," said Birchfield. Nearly 16,300 retirees and their family members and 30,000 family members of active duty Soldiers are enrolled at Blanchfield.

Under the transition, the hospital's mission will remain the same -- to support medical readiness of warfighters, provide medical care for their families and all patients seen at Blanchfield.

After the assessment, Garrett said he felt confident in Winski and Birchfield's ability

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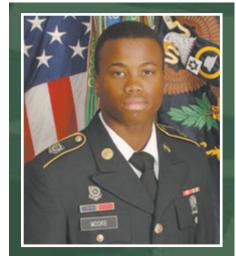
a 7.62 machine gun and four Stinger missiles. The first M-SHORAD prototypes are expected to roll off the assembly line later this month.

The Army is also planning to stand up Indirect Fire Protection Capability, or IFPC units, in both the active component and National Guard to defend fixed and semi-fixed assets at corps and division-level, Holler said.

These battalions, currently fielded with the Land-based Phalanx Weapons System, or LPWS, used to counter rockets, artillery and mortars - also known as the C-RAM system - will eventually transition to a new IFPC capability as well, he said.

Soldiers quadrupling

The Army currently has 519 positions for



Soldiers with the 14P Air and Missile Defense Crewmember military occupational specialty. That number is expected to quadruple over the next five years, said Sgt. 1st Class Arianna Cook, senior career advisor for 14Ps at the ADA School.

"We will have one of the fastest-growing MOSs in the Army," Cook said.

Two years ago, the ADA School had only one 14P instructor and most of the students were National Guard Soldiers, as the Guard kept seven Avenger battalions, she said. Now there's eight 14P instructors at the school just for the new Man-Portable Air Defense System or MANPADS Stinger course.

"We're making a comeback," Cook said. "That's kind of where we're at with our MOS." **MANPADS** course

Maneuver forces had not seen short-range air defense in a long time, Cook said. So the first goal of the new course was to show Infantry and Cavalry troops what SHORAD looks like, she explained.

"I spent two years at Fort Benning with '19 Kilos,' with tankers ... none of them had ever heard of [short-range] air defense," Cook said. "All they knew was Patriot launchers."

So a MANPADS pilot course was developed in late 2017. The focus was on creating two-man Stinger teams for units rotating into Germany or South Korea as an interim soluthe 1st Infantry Division, 1st Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division and 210th Fires Brigade.

What maneuver troops learn at the fiveweek course is termed "degraded" Stinger operations, Cook said, because firing the missiles from an Avenger system is more accurate. **Upgraded Avengers**

The Avengers have multiple optics, rangefinders and a forward-looking infrared receiver or FLIR monitor. It's difficult to see some of the smaller drones with the naked eye, Cook said, whereas radars can pick them up and direct the Avenger turret to lock onto them.

When the Avengers were pulled out of depot storage last year, some were modified with a new "Slew-to-Cue" Avenger Targeting Console. This enables the turret to automatically turn and lock onto targets provided by remote radars, Cook said.

"A Soldier still needs to pull the trigger though," she said.

The remainder of the Avengers that didn't get Slew-to-Cue last year will receive it as part of an ongoing two-phase Modification Service Life Extension Program known as SLEP, said Holler. All Avenger consoles should be upgraded by the end of September 2020, he said.

The second phase of the SLEP upgrade includes installation of a Mode 5 Identification Friend or Foe, a new fire-control computer, and converting analog communications equip-

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said Cortez.

Last year, Cortez was awarded the 2018 Spirit of Hope Award, at the Pentagon. The award, named after the late comedian Bob Hope, who was a prolific supporter of the military, is presented to one individual or an organization selected by each branch of service, as well as an honoree from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, who characterize the values Hope embodied: duty, honor, courage, loyalty, commitment, integrity, and selfless dedication.

Cortez has helped hundreds of wounded, ill and injured Soldiers with the WTB for over three years, providing its Soldiers with innovative and individually-based approaches to physical therapy, resulting in many making full recoveries from otherwise debilitating injuries and physical combat-related trauma. Cortez applied that same standard of care at the 2019 DoD Warrior Games.

"It does so much for these athletes mentally, as well. That's what I have seen from adaptive sports. I have been a physical therapist for over 21 years," said Cortez. "Nothing gives me greater pleasure than helping someone achieve their goal. That's one way I can contribute to help them."

Warrior Transition Battalions similar to Cortez' are the foundation of the Warrior Care and Transition Program and play an integral role in assisting wounded, ill and injured Soldiers as they recover and overcome. The DoD Warrior Games are a culmination of adaptive sports reconditioning that takes place in the WTBs, in the form of an adaptive sports competition for the athletes selected to participate.

to keep the Soldiers from the 101st medically ready and would continue to work with DHA to tie-up any loose ends across all his forces.

"We'll lead through it, and this team will lead through it, and we'll continue to have exceptional health care for our Soldiers and our families," said Garrett.

forms," Cook said.

When the new M-SHORADs come off the assembly line, 14P Soldiers will need to know four platforms, she said.

"It's a massively-growing MOS," she added.

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Items submitted for publication in the Fort Bliss Bugle should be sent to fortblissbugle@gmail.com, or sent to Fort Bliss, Texas 79916, by noon on Friday before issue. All submissions become Army property and should be typed, double-spaced with the author's name. signature and mailing address. Photos should have information attached describing the photo and have the photographer's full name. The editor reserves the right to reject or edit all editorial submissions that do not conform to the Fort Bliss Bugle's journalistic standards.

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>> 4-70 AR SOLDIER DIES IN JULY 1 ACCIDENT

U.S. Army photo

A 1st Armored Division Soldier has died as a result of an accident at an El Paso car dealership July 1. Pvt. Readus L. Moore Jr., 23, an armor crewman assigned to B Co., 4th Bn., 70th AR, 1st ABCt and native of Hiram, Georgia, died as a result of injuries sustained from the accident. "Pvt. Moore was a terrific Soldier and beloved member of the 4-70 AR Thunderbolts battalion," said Lt. Col. Bryan Frizzelle, 4-70 AR Bn. commander. "He was a patriot who volunteered to serve his country as a tanker during a time of war. His tragic and unforeseeable death deprives his family, his son, and our Army of a truly talented young man." Moore's awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal and Army Service Ribbon. Moore enlisted in the Army in November 2018. Another Soldier was treated for injuries as a result of the accident and has since been released. The incident is currently under investigation.

tion to provide short-range air defense.

"You can't flip the switch overnight and fill a critical gap," Cook said.

But since the Army has determined that SHORAD is a critical gap, the ADA School is attempting to fix it as soon as possible with the five-week course.

So far, six brigades have sent 156 Soldiers through the course and the graduates have been awarded the A5 additional skill identifier, or ASI. This means they are certified to operate the Stinger MANPADS missile launcher in two-man teams to defend their unit against enemy aircraft.

The course includes practice in the Stinger Dome, where the teams simulate firing at enemy helicopters that fly across terrain on the circular walls. It also includes identifying friend or foe aircraft, or IFF programming with the Sentinel radar that maneuver units have. And it includes instruction on visual aircraft recognition. The course concludes with a tactical employment practical exercise.

Soldiers have completed the course so far from the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division, the 1st Brigade of

ment in the Avengers to digital communications. It also includes a new air-conditioning and heating unit and a new .50-caliber machine gun. The Phase II upgrades are scheduled to begin in the 4th quarter of FY 2020 and continue through FY 2023, Holler said.

Along with the battalion of Avengers that stood up last year in Germany, the active Army also has four separate Avenger batteries: one in South Korea, one at Fort Sill, one at Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and one with the Global Response Force at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

In addition to Avenger upgrades, proximity fuses are being installed in some of the Stinger missiles, Holler said. Stingers with proximity-fuse warheads will have greater lethality against small drones and unmanned aerial vehicles, he explained.

Cook said Soldiers who hold the 14P MOS actually need to know how to operate three different systems: Avengers, Stinger shoulder launchers and the C-RAM system that shoots up to 90 rounds per second at incoming rockets and mortars.

"We're one of the only MOS's in the Army that has to understand and operate three plat-

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The Fort Bliss Bugle is published by the commanding general of Fort Bliss through The Laven Group, LLC, 7717 Lockheed Dr., Ste. A, El Paso, Tx. 79925, 915-772-0934, fax 915-772-1594. email susan@lavenpublishing.com.

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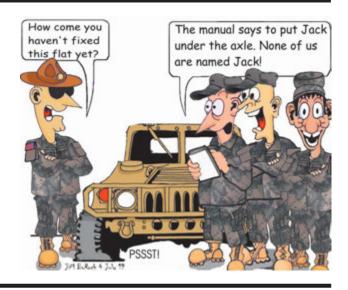
UNIT NEWS Training is the oil that keeps the engine of our Army running



2-43 ADA put to the test during exercise Op Dragon Slayer 5A



US troops hone artillery skills during Hungarian exercise 8A



Super Soldiers Three 'Imperial' Soldiers named 32nd AAMDC 'Black Jack' Warriors

By Sgt. La'Shawna Custom |

32nd Army Air and Missile Command's

The 32nd Army Air and Missile Command's annual Black Jack Warrior Competition was conducted a little different than

last year's competition. With an emphasis on teamwork and critical thinking, fifteen competitors were evaluated from the time they arrived at Fort Bliss June 24 until the last day of the competition June 28.

Three 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade "Imperial" Soldiers, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Frank Konya, 2nd Lt. Daniel Kotnik and Sgt. Joselito Reyes, were identified as the best officers. Pfc. Julio Salaman, from the 69th ADA Bde., was the winner for the Soldiers. Pfc. Julio Salaman, a Soldier from Staff Sgt. Kevin Mauney, the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, tems. This speaks volume from the 108th ADA Bde., was the competition's top career counselor.

The winners of the NCO Competition. and Soldier category will

go on to represent 32nd AAMDC at the 2019 U.S. Army Forces Command Best Warrior Competition scheduled for the middle of August.

"[The] 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command wanted this year's competition to be better than last year's," said Master Sgt. Martin Pelayo, the 32nd AAMDC command senior engineer and the noncommissioned officer-in-charge for this year's competition. "The only way to properly do so was to study the After Action Review notes, which were captured in great detail to build on that platform."

The weeklong competition identified in-

the ACFT." These warriors also executed one of the most perishable skills the Army has to offer, land navigation.

"The competitors gave it everything they had," Pelayo continued. "That's what we wanted. We wanted to create a competition that was both physically and mentally tough."

Soldiers also completed marksmanship skills on the M9 pistol and M4 carbine at the qualification range as they fought to be the best Black Jack Warrior 19 competitor.

"Everyone did really well on qualifications," Jacobitz expressed. "It was some of their first time on some of the weapon sysplots his points on a map during day on the amount of trainland navigation assessment June 24 ing we're doing right now during the annual Black Jack Warrior within this organization."

As a part of their evaluation, equipped with non-

lethal training ammunition, teams went into Kamal Jabour Village to secure a high valued target and fought their way through opposing forces as they successfully executed tactical movements, radio communications, medical aid, and MEDEVAC procedures.

"I was extremely proud of what every one of these Soldiers was able to accomplish," said the senior adviser. "I didn't hear anyone complain about the competition and it was challenging. What I did hear them say was, 'I probably need to work on this more sergeant major, I'm not good at this event like I thought I would be."

At a temperature of 100 degrees, the Soldiers also conducted a stress shoot in a stressful, combat-like environment while demonstrating exemplary qualities.



A Black Jack Warrior competitor qualifies on the M9 pistol June 24 during the annual Black Jack Warrior Competition.



The 2019 Black Jack Warrior competitors at Stout track at Fort Bliss after completing the Army Combat Fitness Test June 27 during the annual Black Jack Warrior Competition. (Below left) A Black Jack Warrior competitor conducts push-ups for the Army Physical Fitness Test.



dividuals that encompass the "total Soldier" concept.

"This competition is about recognizing the best of the best," said 32nd AAMDC Command Sgt. Maj. Jerry E. Jacobitz. "There were 11 different events and every single one of these troopers excelled at them.'

The events included the Army Physical Fitness Test and the Army Combat Fitness Test. Participants successfully and safely conducted the ACFT that consisted of six events: maximum deadlift, standing power throw, hand-release pushups, sprint-dragcarry, leg tuck, and a two-mile run.

"We were able to update certain events towards the current direction our Army is headed," Pelayo added. "This is why we included

Each competitor conducted a 200-meter sandbag carry, evaluated then evacuated a casualty 200 meters to an extraction point. After taking cover, competitors configured radios and reached out to the base operation as they called for a MEDEVAC. From there, they disassembled and assembled an M4 carbine and .50 caliber weapon.

"We were very confident that each mission selected would bring out the best in the competitors,' Pelayo said sincerely. "Based off of this year's competitor's feedback, next year's competition should raise the bar."

>> MEET THE 'BLACK JACK' WARRIOR WINNERS

Best officers: Chief Warrant Officer 2 Frank Konya, 2nd Lt. Daniel Kotnik, Sgt. Joselito Reyes, 11th ADA Bde.

Best Soldier: Pfc. Julio Salaman, 69th ADA Bde.

Best career counselor: Staff Sgt. Kevin Mauney, 108th ADA Bde.



On target: Bulldog brigade retains the best

By Maj. Anthony Clas | 3rd ABCT, 1st AD PA

CAMP HUMPHREYS, Republic of Korea – "Giving all I got. I ain't never going to stop. Army changed my life"

The lyrics to "Giving All I Got," U.S. Army Recruiter Anthem, figuratively played on as 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team "Bulldog," 1st Armored Division (Rotational), 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-U.S. Combined Division, exceeded their retention expectations while forward deployed to South Korea.

The 3rd ABCT, 1st AD, deployed to the Korean Peninsula, has been conducting combined training with their ROK Army allies since September 2018 to provide 2ID/ ROK-US Combined Division fully trained units for an increased overall readiness posture and still managed to exceed the Army retention standard.

"First of all, I would like to say that our Soldiers out here were very motivated, and pure readiness played a factor in our retention program," said Command Sgt. Major Michael Oliver, senior enlisted adviser for 3rd ABCT, 1st AD. "We were the first brigade to close out our mission from the three large brigades in 1st AD – Strike, Ready, and us Bulldogs."

The Bulldog brigade has participated in more than 230 training and cultural events, in terms of combined training exercises to increase interoperability; as well as commu-



Spc. Benjamin Amirault, right, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, reenlists at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, June 10.

nity partnership activities to further strengthen the ROK-US alliance throughout their deployment. However, meeting retention goals did not come without its challenges.

"We exceeded what we were supposed to for the first half (of the fiscal year), but it was definitely one of the more challenging missions I've ever had because we began with a huge disadvantage," said Master Sgt. Nicholas Thompson, a career counselor for 3rd ABCT, 1st AD. "When the mission started on October 1st, Main Body 1 (first deployment flight from home station to South Korea) was leaving, so we really didn't even start retention actions until mid-November, almost December."

Bonuses, duty station and assignments of choice are some of the incentives offered to Soldiers by career counselors to encourage retention, however, career counselors at each unit also have to take other aspects into consideration that may impact a Soldier's decision to reenlist.

"What is making the Soldiers disgruntled? What is the problem? Are they being taken care of as far as their finances go?" he said. "We get involved in their personal stuff. We'll even have spouses call and ask questions because it's their career too. There's a lot involved."

Unit career counselors also have to consider the quality of individuals they are able to retain because the continuation of service is not guaranteed. Military service is regarded as a privilege, not a right, due to the responsibility, risk, and high-operational tempo each service member will be required to face during their tour of duty.

"I believe serving in the Army is a privilege and we should only retain the best of the best in the military," said Oliver. "We're glad to have Soldiers serve, and we appreciate all of those who want to stay, but this is a hard job and we need the best for the Army from our American society."



>> BORDER SUPPORT

ALABAMA NG ADJUTANT GENERAL VISITS TF GUNSLINGERS NEAR EL PASO

Spc. Christina Clardy / 36th ID, Texas Army National Guard

Maj. Gen. Sheryl Gordon, the adjutant general of the Alabama National Guard, and her command staff, visited Task Force Gunslingers during a visit to the Texas border region near El Paso and Del Rio, Texas, June 25-27. The visit included tours of border ports of entry, meetings with Task Force Gunslingers command staff and OGS Soldiers, and briefs by U.S. Border Patrol senior agents. Alabama National Guard Soldiers have supported Texas' Operation Guardian Support border mission since Fall 2018.





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2-43 ADA put to the test during exercise Op Dragon Slayer

By Sgt. La'Shawna Custom | 32d AAMDC Public Affairs

The training exercise for 2nd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade "Imperial" ensured injects as opposing forces created challenges and failures for the unit to learn from recently. Three batteries survived week-long chaos as they conducted a field training at McGregor Range Complex in order to validate the battalion's ability to rapidly deploy, occupy a tactical site and sustain and defend their area of responsibility.

"The Operation Dragon Slayer exercise is important because we are trying to change our cultural mindset," said 1st Lt. Evan Pelletier, the battalion chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear officer for 2-43 ADA. "The number one killer for Soldiers is complacency. Complacency kills."

These warriors were placed in several scenarios forcing Soldiers to explore beyond their comfort zones as they experienced improvised explosive devices and CBRN attacks.

"We have to work out other muscles, change the culture and learn from the lessons," Pelletier added.

Although the Imperial brigade's main mission lies within the realm of aerial defense, Alpha Battery responded well to ground threats after executing a resupply convoy. Planning was at the forefront as Soldiers carried out troop-leading procedures while facing multiple threats.

According to subject matter experts, OP-FORs from the 1st Armored Division's recent home station training noted Alpha's hasty ability to stay in the fight after losing communications. Soldiers had a battle rhythm as they returned fire and met the intent.

"Seeing what is in front of us and being aware of that is important," Pelletier noted. "When you look at what is in front of us, there is no denying that there is going to be conflict, it is just a matter of when."

To make the training more chaotic, Charlie Battery underwent a barrage of aerial and ground-based attacks. In fulfilling their ADA mission set, aerial threats that contained chemical warheads were intercepted.

"The CBRN attack was great for Soldiers to experience," said 1st Sgt. Gabriel Rodriguez, the first sergeant for C Btry., 2-43 ADA. "It showed what they had to do in case a unit gets attacked with gas. It is different when you get attacked outside of the perimeter. Gas NBC attack is different because you have to react to that before you can actually go and fight the war. If you don't protect yourself, you can't protect the site."

The intent was to see how warriors react amidst disarray while maintaining unit tactical discipline, resulting in successfully completing the mission.

Pfc. Lucas Miller, a Patriot launching station enhanced operator/maintainer from C Btry., was caught by surprise when his site was hit.

"This exercise is important because you never know what can happen in air defense artillery," the Patriot operator said. "You can never be too prepared. This is good general Army knowledge to have under your belt as a Soldier."

Miller also said the best way for his team to execute is practice over and over again.

"The training has been going good," Miller concluded. "It is invaluable for Soldiers to be immersed in real-life situations. It is equally important for noncommissioned officers and officers. They're seeing where we need to improve in order to provide the best training."

After the event, the commander completed a battle damage assessment of personnel, equipment, and capabilities.

"This exercise is a great tool for the command team to assess the unit's proficiency and make any changes or updates to the standard operating procedures on how to conduct defense on site," Rodriguez noted. "Soldiers are learning from their mistakes. When we conduct the After Action Review, feedback is positive. We've received great comments on how to improve defenses and increase proficiency."



Photos by Sgt. La'Shawna Custom / 32d AAMDC PA

A Soldier from Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 43d Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade helps maintain a security perimeter after her team experienced an improvised explosive device attack during the Operation Dragon Slayer convoy training in southern New Mexico May 31.



Mock chemical fires at a Charlie Btry., 2-43 ADA, 11th ADA Bde. site during the Operation Dragon Slayer exercise May 31 at McGregor Range Complex in New Mexico.





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El Paso native trains to serve as part of next generation of Navy pilots

By Rick Burke | Navy Office of Community Outreach

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – An El Paso native is participating in a rigorous training process that transforms officers into Navy pilots. Ensign James Coronado is a student pilot with the "Boomers" of Training Squadron (VT) 27, based at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. The squadron operates the T-6B Texan II aircraft.

A Navy student pilot is responsible for learning the basic skills needed to effectively and efficiently fly a military aircraft.

"The best part of learning to fly aircraft for the Navy is the challenge," Coronado said. "The pace at which this training goes is by far the most challenging school I have ever gone through. Each and every event requires a lot of preparation and being able to take what I have studied and successfully demonstrate those skills or conduct maneuvers in the plane brings with it a sense of accomplishment that drives me to keep pushing through to achieve my goal of becoming a Naval aviator."

Coronado credits success in the Navy to many of the lessons learned growing up in El Paso.

"I have learned to work hard and keep pushing toward your goals," Coronado said. "Looking back to when I was young, the first time I saw the Blue Angels at an airshow I decided that naval aviation was the route I wanted to take, and being able to chase that desire and seeing it play out is hands down one of the best feelings in the world."

The T-6B Texan II is a training aircraft that is powered by a 1,100 shaft horsepower, free-turbine, turboprop single-engine, fourbladed propeller, with a cruising speed of 320 mph.

VT-27's primary mission is to train fu-



"My father is currently serving in the Navy on the USS Mount Whitney (LCC-20) and my grandfather served aboard the USS Constellation (CV-64) during Vietnam," Ensign James Coronado, an El Paso native, said recently. "To continue the tradition of serving in the Navy means a lot because as I was growing up seeing and hearing about how they were directly or indirectly changing peoples lives through their selfless actions has given me a perspective on what it means to be a part of this great organization."

ture naval aviators to fly, as well as instill leadership and officer values, Navy officials explained. Students must complete four phases of flight training in order to graduate, including aviation pre-flight indoctrination, primary flight training, and advanced flight training. After successfully completing the rigorous program, naval aviators earn their coveted pilot badges.

After graduation, pilots continue their training to learn how to fly a specific aircraft, such as the Navy's F/A-18 Hornet fighter attack jet aircraft, the P-8 Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft or the SH-60 Seahawk helicopter. Graduates are later assigned to a ship or land-based squadron.

The value of a strong Navy is tied to the fact that America is a maritime nation, and that the nation's prosperity is tied to the abil-

ity to operate freely on the world's oceans. More than 70 percent of the Earth's surface is covered by water; 80 percent of the world's population lives close to a coast, and 90 percent of all global trade by volume travels by sea.

Coronado plays an important role in America's focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

"Our priorities center on people, capabilities, and processes, and will be achieved by our focus on speed, value, results, and partnerships," said Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer. "Readiness, lethality and modernization are the requirements driving these priorities."

Though there are many ways for Sailors to

"To me, serving in the Navy means doing something bigger than yourself and giving to a greater cause."

>> Ensign James Coronado

earn distinction in their command, community, and in their careers, Coronado is most proud of currently being at VT-27 as a student naval aviator.

"It's nice seeing all the hard work and support that was put in to get me to where I am at today," Coronado said.

Serving in the Navy is a continuing tradition of military service for Coronado, who has military ties with family members who have previously served. Coronado is honored to carry on the family tradition.

"My father is currently serving in the Navy on the USS Mount Whitney (LCC-20) and my grandfather served aboard the USS Constellation (CV-64) during Vietnam," Coronado said. "To continue the tradition of serving in the Navy means a lot because as I was growing up seeing and hearing about how they were directly or indirectly changing peoples lives through their selfless actions has given me a perspective on what it means to be a part of this great organization."

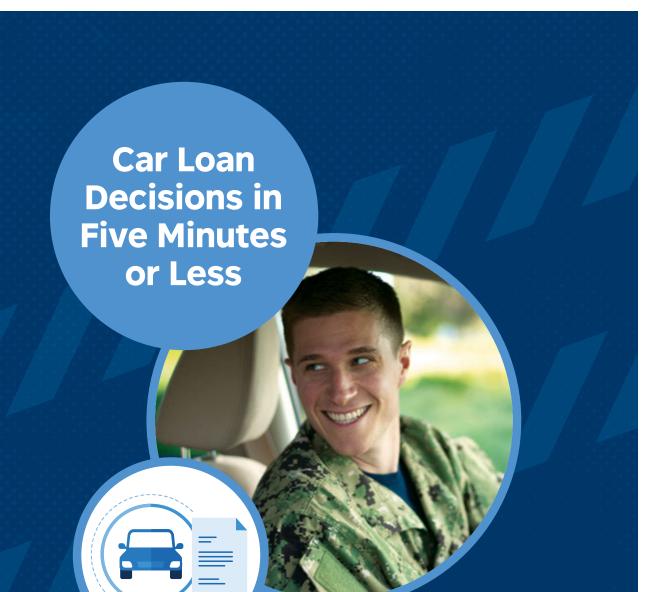
As a member of one of the Navy's most relied upon assets, Coronado and other Sailors know they are part of a legacy that will last beyond their lifetimes providing the Navy the nation needs.

"To me, serving in the Navy means doing something bigger than yourself and giving to a greater cause," Coronado said. "It allows me an opportunity to grow as a person and one day help change the lives of people not just in one community, but from communities across the United States."



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Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston, command sergeant major of FORSCOM, presents the divisionlevel Army Exceptional Organization Safety Award to Col. Judson Gillett, the chief of staff for 32nd AAMDC, June 18 at the 32nd AAMDC headquarters

32nd AAMDC earns FORSCOM safety award

By Sgt. La'Shawna Custom | 32nd AAMDC PA

building at Fort Bliss.

The 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command was awarded the 2018 divisionlevel Army Exceptional Organization Safety Award from U.S. Army Forces Command June 18 at their headquarters building at Fort Bliss.

"I am proud to be here today to present this award," said Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston, the FORSCOM command sergeant major. "[The] 32nd AAMDC has a wonderful reputation and I am honored. Winning the safety award is a big deal and I want to commend you."

The AEOSA is a Department of the Army unit safety award given each fiscal year to the division, brigade, battalion and garrison (or equivalent) with the most effective overall safety program.

"This means you all are actually saving each other lives," Grinston added. "There are a lot of bad things in the world that can kill you. So, we don't need to do it to ourselves.'

With 32nd's aggressive safety policies and initiatives, the unit succeeded by incorporating training, standards, and discipline in congruence with the commander's safety philosophy. This guidance outlines the criticality of good stewardship, safeguarding Soldiers and preventing mishaps that directly impact global readiness.

"[The] 32nd's safety improvement is the result of deliberate action and focus," said Capt. Benjamin Detrempe, the current safety director for the 32nd AAMDC. "Statistics didn't get better by accident, it was due to the emphasis on safety that leaders had at all levels. We remain committed to keeping this trend by identifying both on and off duty hazards within our formations and giving our Soldiers the tools to keep themselves safe and still do their jobs."

The command achieved a "meets or exceeds requirements" rating from FORSCOM auditors in individual component assessments, resulting in a passing score from the command's safety officer.

"I'm proud of the rating we received," Detrempe energetically added. "We did so well. It speaks volumes of both the impact of the involved senior leadership of Brig. Gen. Christopher Spillman and now Brig. Gen. Clement Coward Jr. and their staffs' emphasis on safety."

The Risk Management Information System, which summarizes accident data, showed zero accidents from the 32nd and its units during Roving Sands 18.

"The message was received down to the lowest level," Detrempe continued. "All of the individuals and first-line leaders are aware that a difference was really made by applying the safety and risk mitigation to training and missions that they do on a daily basis.' To ensure safety is being met across the command's subordinate brigades, inspections, additional duty safety training, and certification have been the focus. Motorcycle safety programs, along with accident recording and regular safety metric reviews are currently in place. Safety remains a top priority that continues to save lives and money. "Safety increases financial readiness because it is part of being a good steward of the Army profession," Detrempe noted. "This includes Patriot and THAAD systems; but more importantly, our most precious resource, the American Soldier." "Safety is important for so many reasons but the two I'd like to highlight are trust and sustainability of combat power," Detrempe concluded. "I feel confident about the safety program across the Army and within 32nd. I think we are giving the tools and feedback they need to use safety as a way to increase our ability to accomplish the mission."

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US troops hone artillery skills during Hungarian exercise

By Staff Sgt. George Davis | Ohio National Guard

VARPALOTA, Hungary – Ohio National Guard Soldiers of A and B Batteries, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment participated in BREAKTHROUGH 2019, a training exercise hosted June 4 through 15 by the Hungarian Defence Forces' Land Forces. The exercise was an opportunity for Ohio's artillery battalion to deploy its weapons systems in a more complex bilateral operational environment.

"Exercise BREAKTHROUGH 19 showcased the U.S. Army's 'Total Army' concept," said Gen. Christopher Cavoli, commander, U.S. Army Europe. "The exercise brought together Ohio National Guard units and Army National Guard units from four other states to exercise with U.S. Army Europe's 2nd Cavalry Regiment. BREAKTHROUGH 19 demonstrates our ability to conduct combined field artillery operations with the Hungarian Defence Forces, which builds our interoperability and collective readiness."

The Hungarian Land Forces established a challenging environment for the training and provided opportunities for the participating units to develop lethal capacity with their assigned artillery pieces.

"Our Soldiers were given a unique experience to hone their skills as 13B Field Artillerymen," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Alfred, with B Battery, 1-134th FA. "This Hungarian range here outside Camp English allows the Soldiers to fire direct-fire and indirect fire at once, which are opportunities they don't get often stateside."

The exercise tested the participants with fire missions on multiple ranges and distances during the day and night. Ohio's Soldiers were grateful for the opportunity to develop mastery on the latest generation of light artil-



Staff Sgt. George Davis / Ohio National Guard

Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard conduct livefire artillery training with their M119A3 howitzers June 13 near Varpalota, Hungary. The units participated in BREAKTHROUGH 19, a Hungarian national training exercise that utilized multiple artillery systems from the Hungarian Defence Forces, U.S. Army Europe, and Army National Guard units to create a collective capability that increases the interoperability and readiness of the participating militaries.

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"We are shooting [M119A3] light howitzers, which are relatively new to us," said Staff Sgt. David A. Lucero, a Soldier from B Battery, 1-134th. "This is our second year fielding them, so it's awesome to get the chance to come over and shoot them on foreign soil."

BREAKTHROUGH 19 was a good experience for the Ohio artillerymen to operate in coordinated action with their active-duty and Hungarian Land Forces counterparts.

"The training is interesting because we are able to not only work with other U.S. Army units but are able to work with the Hungarian units and see how they operate over here," Lucero said. "To see how they do the fires that we do and operate their light howitzers, to train with them and learn from them only increases our readiness."

The ability of these field artillery Soldiers to effectively integrate into the Hungarian exercise was facilitated by the Ohio National Guard experience in the State Partnership Program. This program partners foreign nations with U.S. state National Guards in military partnerships, which often facilitates joint training opportunities like BREAK-THROUGH 19.

"Our long-lasting partnership started in 1993," said Brig. Gen. Zsolt Sandor, chief of staff of the Hungarian Defence Forces. "We were one of the first partner states for the United States. We are particularly thankful for getting Ohio as our partner state and through the years we have been deployed together to places like Afghanistan. This is a partnership that is turning into a friendship and a brotherhood, so it is always good to have Ohio units welcomed to Hungary. Individuals knowing and understanding each other is important. We do have a common language with the Ohio National Guard, and it's helped a lot not just to organize the exercise but also when receiving the artillery unit."

Being received by their Hungarian cohorts and firing their weapons systems in coordination with multiple unit types is only part of the important experience Ohio's Soldiers gained participating in the exercise.

"This allowed us to not only work on our skills as artillerymen but also logistically," said Alfred. "We had to coordinate movement from Columbus, Ohio, to here in Hungary. Our Soldiers got the experience of conducting a three-day convoy from the port in Slovenia to here at our location at Camp English in Hungary."

The ability to conduct a movement like this by a National Guard unit is indicative of the strong partnerships between the U.S. and its allies abroad.

"Exercises like BREAKTHROUGH 19 succeed because of our ability to move these units and their equipment from the United States, offload them at European ports and then move them quickly throughout the region," Cavoli said. "We are grateful to our strong NATO ally Hungary for hosting this outstanding training event and appreciate the coordination and planning conducted by all our allies and partners in the Balkan Peninsula that ensured the success of this exercise. No nation can confront today's security challenges alone – BREAKTHROUGH 19 demonstrates the U.S. resolve to stand sideby-side with our NATO allies and partners."



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DWI Statistics for FY19

Total DWIs				
Unit	% of Bliss Population	% of Total DWI	DWIs	
JMC	0%	0.00%		
32ND AAMDC	1%	0.00%		
11TH ADA BDE	10%	8.79%	8	
JTF North	0%	0.00%		
1/1 AD	15%	19.78%	18	
2/1 AD	14%	23.08%	21	
3/1 AD	15%	3.30%	3	
1AD CAB	9%	13.19%	12	
1AD DIVARTY	1%	7.69%	7	
1AD SUST BDE	5%	10.99%	10	
5th AR BDE/402ND	1%	1.10%	1	
31ST CSH	1%	0.00%		
93D MP	3%	3.30%	3	
204th MI	1%	1.10%	1	
86th ESB	2%	2.20%	2	
80th CA	1%	0.00%		
HHBN 1AD	3%	1.10%	1	
Garrison	0%	0.00%		
WBAMC	4%	4.40%	4	
USASMA	2%	0.00%		
TOTALS			91	

Drug Statistics for FY19

Total Drugs Offenses						
Unit	% of Bliss Population	% of Total Drugs	Drugs (UA)	Drug Poss	Drug Distro	Total Drug Incidents
JMC	0%	0.00%	i			0
32ND AAMDC	1%	0.77%	2			2
11TH ADA BDE	10%	11.54%	26	4		30
JTF North	0%	0.00%				0
1/1 AD	15%	16.15%	29	12	1	42
2/1 AD	14%	20.77%	44	9	1	54
3/1 AD	15%	9.62%	24	1		25
1AD CAB	9%	8.85%	21	2		23
1AD DIVARTY	1%	13.46%	33	2		35
1AD SUST BDE	5%	10.38%	19	7	1	27
5th AR BDE/402ND	1%	1.54%	4			4
31ST CSH	1%	0.00%				0
93D MP	3%	0.38%		1		1
204th MI	1%	0.00%				0
86th ESB	2%	4.62%	10	2		12
80th CA	1%	0.00%				0
HHBN 1AD	3%	0.38%	1			1
Garrison	0%	0.38%	1			1
WBAMC	4%	0.77%	2			2
USASMA	2%	0.38%	1		1	1
TOTALS			217	40	3	260





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BH#5	7350 Gateway E., Blvd.	79915	598-9999	BH#21	11100 Sean Haggerty	79934	821-9996
BH#7	2400 North Mesa, Ste. F	79902	546-9919		The Liquor Company		
DITIN				BH#25	6101 Upper Valley Rd.	79932	642-4204
BH#8	6217 Airport Rd.	79925	772-9999				
	-			BH#27	4858 North Mesa	79912	500-4269

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Now hiring USACE jobs open in the Pacific

By Ana Allen | USACE

HONOLULU – The Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division is looking to expand their team of experts across the region, hiring at all four districts, with locations in Honolulu, Alaska, South Korea and Japan, as well as POD's regional headquarters, also located in Hawaii.

"We're looking for the top engineers/scientists across multiple disciplines, as well as construction control inspectors or representatives, architects, contracting liaisons, program managers, and other specialty and administrative staff," said Jimmy Lam, POD's human capital manager. "We have a vibrant program here in the Pacific, and the demand for dynamic experts at the entry, journeyman and senior levels has increased in concert with this upward trajectory. We're taking resumes now to stay ahead."

POD, which boasts a majority civilian workforce, has a mission focused on integrating USACE capabilities and delivering engineering solutions to protect and advance the nation's interests, and enhance stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

POD's mission contributes to the National Military Strategy and includes a \$25 billion program in Japan, as well as other vital work in the region, to include missile defense throughout the Pacific. Work also includes opportunities for travel throughout the Pacific in support of the National Security Strategy in order to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific for all countries to prosper.

Their projects range from civil works, military missions, international/interagency, contingency operations, research and development, real estate and geospatial.

Craig Ueda, a POD regional program manager in Honolulu, has worked at one of POD's overseas districts, where he most recently worked from 2009 until last year.

"Working in the Pacific region has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my career – both professionally and personally. Not only are the programs and projects truly world-class, but working hand-in-hand with our host nation partners provides a unique opportunity to learn and grow," Ueda said.

Prior to Ueda's tour overseas, he served at the Honolulu District after another tour abroad. "USACE provides numerous incentives, such as housing and post allowances that allow you to enjoy life abroad while supporting long-term financial goals," added Ueda.

Another POD employee, Mark Jones, Japan Engineer District's chief of engineering, has worked for 30 years as an engineer in the U.S., but for the past four years, he and his family have worked overseas. He calls his tour to Japan the most gratifying.

"I use all my U.S. training and experience but have to incorporate that with a new culture, methods of design and construction here in Japan in order to deliver on our commitments. An added benefit to this assignment is my family loves [Japan] too."

Lam also discussed the organization's pursuit of offering more than a job, but a lifestyle.

"We're focused not just on building things,

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Ana Allen / USACE The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division has kicked off yearlong recruitment campaign starting July 2019, hiring at all four districts, with locations in Honolulu, Alaska, South Korea and Japan, as well as POD's regional headquarters, also located in Hawaii. POD is seeking top engineers/scientists across multiple disciplines, as well as construction control inspectors or representatives, architects, contracting liaisons, program managers, and other specialty and administrative staff.

but building people, teams, community, and quality. I think that's what makes us stand out to our prospective employees and partners," Lam said.

Candidates from the commercial sector, as well as current Department of Defense professionals are welcomed to inquire and send in their resumes. "There's a perception that you have to be a current government employee to get through the application system. That's not so anymore. There are new programs in place that have made hiring the best, easier, while still maintaining all merit system principles and equal opportunity hiring principles" Lam said.

POD currently holds a prestigious workplace designation, the highest of its kind, issued through the Partnership for Public Service's annual ranking, published in December.

A federal survey conducted with POD staff showed 89 percent of employees would recommend their organization to others as a good place to work. Results also show current and prospective employees insight on leadership, pay, innovation, work-life balance and as well as other considerations.

Brig. Gen. Thomas Tickner, the POD commanding general, said the award is a reflection of its most valuable resource.

"We're a world-class workplace because of our people. We work to recruit the best and the brightest and then invest in our workforce through career broadening assignments and leadership development programs at all levels. I think we've also been able to develop a work culture that's centered on 'ohana,' or family. This means our leaders put their people first, knowing that the mission will follow. So when you take POD's highly talented, diverse and adaptive workforce, and combine that with leaders who care, you get a winning combination."

POD's Japan District also holds a current 'Best Place to Work'' designation. Prospective employees are asked to send resumes to podrecruitment@usace.army.mil or to call (808) 202-0523.



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Ysleta Mission Festival: The annual fiesta is this weekend at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 131 S. Zaragoza (at Alameda), with live music, southwest cuisine cooked by mission families, game booths, carnival rides and more. This year's headliners include Fungi Mungle Friday. Ysleta Mission is the second oldest practicing church in the United States and the oldest mission in Texas. Proceeds from the annual festival go towards maintaining the mission and surrounding grounds. Free. 859-9848, ysletamission.org

Summer Film Fest: Come out to Mickelsen Community Library this summer and watch movies on the lawn. Bring your blankets and friendly pups to watch "School of Rock" Saturday, 8:30-10:15 p.m. The library will sell popcorn and drinks for \$1 each. Free. Open to DOD ID cardholders. 568-6156

Viva! El Paso: El Paso Community Foundation and El Paso Live present the 42nd season of Viva! El Paso, the summertime outdoor musical extravaganza with performances at 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, through July 27, at McKelligon Canyon Amphitheatre, directed by Keith W. Townsend. Cost: \$24 (\$16 ages 2-12, seniors 65 and older and military with valid ID). Tickets available at Ticketmaster. ElPaso-Live.com

Apollo 11 Launch Reenactment: Fellowship of Las Cruces Rocketry Enthusiasts and Museum of Nature and Science will present a live reenactment the historic Apollo 11 launch Saturday, 7-10 p.m. in Las Cruces, N.M., at NMSU's Upper Intramural field. There will be a motorized replica of Saturn V Launch Complex 39, and scale model Saturn V Rocket accompanied by audio commentary. NMSU's Astronomy Observatory will be open for night viewing 8-10 p.m. flare-rocketry.com

Alfresco! Fridays: The 17th season of free outdoor summer concerts are 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 elpasoartsandculture.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. Free. elpasolive.com

New Bloodmobile to aid ASBP Fort Bliss **Road trip:**

By Amabilia Payen |

William Beaumont Army Medical Center Public Affairs

William Beaumont Army Medical Center received a new vehicle July 2 that will aid the Armed Services Blood Program at Fort Bliss.

This bus-size vehicle which is 41 feet in length and 12 feet in height, has the capability to expand like an RV and it houses six stations where donors can sit, relax and watch a video while donating. It has four air conditioning units, two generators, and an intercom system with modern electronics.

WBAMC leadership took the time to walk through the vehicle and ensure it met their expectations.

"It has been five years in the making to get this thing onboard," said Capt. Annette Mott, chief of Blood Services at WBAMC. "... it was definitely worth the wait."

The Fort Bliss ASBP donor center, along with the WBAMC transportation office and its leadership, was able to choose the specifications for the interior, the texture, and color of the materials, as well as the main components needed to ensure issues would be taken care of easily.

"We also had the opportunity to confer with other military blood donor centers that have bloodmobiles like this and we had the opportunity to discuss with them what the shortfalls were with their vehicles and we have taken the lessons learned and applied them," said Mott.

The new bloodmobile started with an idea, back when Michael L. Amaral, currently the director for the El Paso Veterans Affairs Health Care System, was the chief of staff at WBAMC.

"I was here when we first came up with the idea for it," said Amaral. "We have a huge troop and veteran population here in El Paso and Fort Bliss, we should have this vehicle. I am really proud of the folks who put this thing together."

A month before it arrived, Nathaniel Cuff, a phlebotomist at Fort Bliss ASBP donor center, and Hector Hernandez, a WBAMC transportation assistant, traveled to North Carolina



Photos by Amabilia Payen / WBAMC PA

Leaders from William Beaumont Army Medical Center, the Fort Bliss Armed Services Blood Program Blood Donor Center, and the El Paso Veterans Affairs Health Care System pose for a picture in front of the new bloodmobile July 2 at WBAMC.



Hector Hernandez, middle, a WBAMC transportation assistant, explains a few features designed and allocated for the new Fort Bliss Armed Services Blood Program bloodmobile to hospital leaders July 2.

to inspect the vehicle before it made the trip to Fort Bliss. They asked questions on not just the aesthetics, but also about the mechanics of the vehicle.

"I had to ensure the final touches were correctly laid out as we wanted," said Cuff. "I made sure it had all the right components that we asked for."

"I checked the hydraulic pumps, the slide outs, and I ensured we got the air conditioning that we asked for because it can get real hot in El Paso," said Hernandez.

Col. Erik Rude, the WBAMC commander, believes the vehicle will add more capabilities to the donor center and will allow them to go where Soldiers are to conduct blood drives so they are not taken away from their duties.

"[The] biggest thing is that our blood pro-

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

Upper Valley Artists/Farmers Market: The artist 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 through November in the historic Veterans Memorial Plaza in San Elizario, with arts and crafts, music, reenactments, food and more. Pets welcome. Free. 851-0093 or missiontrailartmarket.com

Free concerts in the parks: The City of El Paso Parks and Recreation invites you to their free concerts in the parks in locations across the Sun City this summer. See Borderline Band at Argal Park Sunday. Free. 212-0092 or www.elpasotexas.gov/parks

Monthly Art/Movie night: The Art and Hobby Shop will host "Art and a movie" night Friday. The movie will be "The Goonies" with a pirate-themed ceramics craft. Open to all DoD ID card holders. Cost: \$15. 820 Marshall Rd., West Fort Bliss. 568-5563



>> BLISS ARTILLERY OFFICER RECEIVES AWARD

Spc. Greg Hardy / U.S. Army

Capt. Christopher M. Dixon, center, a company commander with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, is awarded the Edmund L. Gruber Award at Fort Bliss June 21. The award was presented to Dixon by the Fires Center of Excellence's command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin M. King, and annually recognizes a Field Artillery Soldier for outstanding individual thought, innovation, and overall excellence that results in significant contributions to the Field Artillery's warfighting capabilities. "I know Dixon and I know how hard he works. I am incredibly proud to work alongside him, and I know that they couldn't have chosen a better person to receive this award," said Lt. Col. William J. Tolbert, the battalion commander for 2-3 FA.

gram is one of the best in the Department of Defense," said Rude. "It was an honor for me, as I am on my way out, to welcome this new capability into our organization. We can still achieve and focus readiness on Fort Bliss by going to where Soldiers are."

Rude encourages folks to donate whenever possible because the potential to save someone's life is always there.

"Whether it is in our operating room or sending it down range to Soldiers in the battlefield, there's goodness that is going to come from that [blood] donation," said Rude.

Mott echoed the commander's comments on blood donations.

'We want the Fort Bliss community to know that when they see this vehicle, and they donate in this vehicle, that their blood is supporting Soldiers and their beneficiaries and a good majority of our blood does go downrange in support of theater operations and combat transfusions," said Mott.

Fort Bliss provides about 20 percent of the blood that the U.S. Army sends downrange into combat operations and is one of seven ASBP blood donor centers designated to do so in the nation.

AFC inspires next generation of innovators with STEM outreach

By Amanda Ligon | CCDC PA

LEESBURG, Va. - As the Army Futures Command drives efforts to modernize capabilities for the future force, it also works to foster a pipeline of highly-skilled civilian engineers and scientists who will discover and develop the technologies beyond 2028. This pipeline starts with the Army Educational Outreach Program.

AFC's Combat Capabilities Development Command manages AEOP on behalf of the Army, and works to cultivate student interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) - and awareness of Army science and technology in particular - well before they enter the workforce.

"The global competitiveness for STEM talent is strengthening," explained Christina Weber, CCDC's acting chief of STEM Education & Outreach, and AEOP's cooperative agreement manager. "To be prepared, we need a more diverse, agile and resilient STEM workforce, and that's where AEOP comes in."

CCDC scientists, engineers, non-commissioned officers and support staff from the National Science Teachers Association played host to 75 sixth- through ninth-grade students competing in AEOP's 17th annual eCYBER-MISSION National Judging & Educational Event in Leesburg, Virginia, June 16-21.

Similar to an online science fair, eCY-BERMISSION is a web-based competition that challenges student teams from across the country to develop scientific solutions



Students participate in "Water Balloon Ballistics" during Army Labs Day at eCYBERMISSION in Leesburg, Va., June 18. Led by the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command, eCYBERMIS-SION is a web-based competition that challenges student teams from across the country to develop scientific solutions to problems in their local communities. eCYBERMISSION is part of the Army Educational Outreach Program.

to problems in their local communities. This year, the program tallied nearly 18,000 student participants.

"With programs like eCYBERMISSION, we're exposing the next generation of STEM talent to the Army's most cutting-edge research and technology through its highlyskilled civilian scientists and engineers," Weber said.

During each competition phase, students

interacted with countless Army scientists and engineers who answered questions, gave technical advice, shared insight, provided feedback, and judged project folders.

eCYBERMISSION is just one of the many STEM programs offered by AEOP, representing the Army's commitment to developing a diverse, agile, highly competent STEM talent pool to strengthen the Army, DoD, and the nation's workforce.

"It is our goal to make sure students are exposed to STEM opportunities," said John Willison, CCDC deputy to the commanding general, "And to help students understand what you can do with a STEM education, where vou can go with a STEM career, and how it contributes to the Army mission."

The eCYBERMISSION National Judging & Educational Event includes a variety of activities for students, who are joined by a team of CCDC scientists, engineers and noncommissioned officers who serve as mentors during the national competition. Teams learn about the Army Values, practice public speaking and presentation skills, tour Washington, D.C., meet with members of Congress, and participate in hands-on Army STEM activities like water balloon ballistics and remote control vehicle acceptance testing.

"I love being an Army scientist, and this is a great way for me to share that with the next generation of scientists and engineers,"

See **STEM** Page 6B





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Running by habit

By Chaplain (Capt.) Patrick Stefan | 142nd CSSB

"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable wreath." - 1 Corinthians 9:24-25. ESV



does to lives. It's not just exercise. It's not just achievement. It's a daily discipline that has nothing to do with speed, weight, social status . . It's about the slow and Chaplain (Capt.) painful process of being the best you can be." - Martin

Dugard

I enjoy running. Well, to be clear, I don't enjoy being tired, hot, and exhausted in the midst of running, but I do enjoy the process and the result of running. On days that I run my running time doubles as my prayer time as well. As my feet beat against the pavement I lift my heart and mind to God to thank him for the blessings in my life and pray for the people who matter most to me. And the reason why I find running so helpful for praying is that the process of running is much like the journey of life.

There is a reason why many religious traditions use running as a metaphor for one's spiritual journey. Running is made up of three parts.

I begin with excitement and encouragement, and generally at a pace that is a little too fast. Then, after I hit the third or fourth mile my body wears down, my breathing picks up, and I wonder to myself why in the world I thought it was a good idea to run six miles in the first place.

But I keep going. Finally, as I hit the last mile the end is in sight and I finish off strong.

What keeps me going is the repetition of the whole thing. The constant, repetitive sound of my feet on the pavement, the patterned movement of crisp morning air going into my lungs and out of them, the movement of the arms back and forth. Running is about repetition in a way that our lives are



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about our habits.

Our success in life, either physical, emotional, or spiritual, is directly related to the habits we form which keep us moving when life becomes most difficult. When we cultivate healthy habits in our lives, we can keep moving in the middle of the race, when our bodies are tired and there is sweat pouring from our brow. But when we indulge unhealthy habits we are more inclined to quit when the race becomes hard.

Habits are powerful, they are the things that we fall back on when we are not at a point of excitement in either the beginning of the race, or the end. As St. Augustine powerfully said in contrasting terms "Habit, if not resisted, soon becomes necessity," and "it is not by change of place that we can come nearer to Him who is in every place, but by the cultivation of pure desires and virtuous habits."

So, next time you find yourself on the pavement with the wind flowing through your hair take time to consider the habits you are forming in your life. Are your emotional habits leading to your growth and stability, or do you depend on unhealthy habits when your day is hard? Are your spiritual habits leading you closer to God, or have you drifted in recent years? Are your physical habits developing your body in a positive way, or are you declining? Develop habits for success so that you can keep going in the middle of the race, when life is at its hardest.

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.

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

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Center Chapel (Temporarily in Sage Hall) (315 Pershing Road) 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. 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 6:00 p.m. Intro to Nichiren Buddhism 2nd Tuesday 5 p.m.

God created us to have a relationship with Him, and our greatest spiritual need is to connect to Him.

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Perhaps my stupidity, sir

By Lisa Smith Molinari | www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com

Recently, while my husband, Francis, and I were lugging our window air conditioners out of the attic, he relayed a personal story I'd never heard in our 25 years of marriage. I'm not sure if it was the sticky weather we were experiencing or the sweat mustache that had sprouted on my upper lip, but Francis was reminded of an incident that happened 30 years ago in the oppressive heat of Pensacola, Florida - one that could have ended his military career before it ever really started.

He was eight weeks into Aviation Officer Candidate School, when, on a sizzling morning, his battalion was called outside the barracks to line up for an inspection, which were really routine harassment sessions meant to test the candidates' resolve. Francis stood at attention with his fellow recruits, eyes forward, monitoring peripherally as Staff Sergeant Hodgeman, USMC, made his way down the line. One recruit missed a belt loop. Another had a scuffed shoe. Each was doled out a dose of humiliation, along with an appropriate number of "hop and pops."

Upon reaching Francis, the Sergeant glared intimidatingly from under the bill of his Marine Corps campaign hat, slowly turning his line of sight downward to look at Francis' uniform. His carefully measured scrutiny stopped abruptly at Francis' belt buckle. Francis braced himself for a verbal assault.

"Did you even polish this?!" he spat out. "Sir, yes sir!" Francis lied.

"Look at this!" the sergeant demanded.

"Snap!" Francis shouted as trained, and dropped his eyes to the hazy, dull buckle.

"If you polished it, how did it get like this?!"

In such crucial moments during every military service person's basic training, one is expected to swallow one's pride, admit all transgressions, and accept the consequences without complaint. Francis knew that recruits who buck this time-honored system generally fail, but on that steamy Florida morning, while his angry superior was waiting for the expected response, standing rigidly, eyes pointed, Francis felt a twinge of mischief.

Although fully cognizant that mischievous behavior could ruin his chances of becoming a military officer, his mind quickly weighed the pros and cons of being funny rather than obedient. (Incidentally, Francis and I would later realize we had this character trait in common - we both place an inordinate importance on making other people laugh, even when a situation calls for restraint.)

It is not certain if the heat had impaired Francis' judgment, but as the scales tipped toward impishness, he formed the response that would either charm his superior officer or throw eight weeks of basic training down the latrine.

After a tense pause, Francis, standing at

perfect, obedient attention, barked the risky reply for all in the battalion to hear: "Perhaps the humidity, sir!"

For several knife-edged seconds, all that could be heard was the distant whirring of aircraft propellers. Francis' mind flashed with scenes of heading home in disgrace on a Trailways bus to report that he had been kicked out of the Navy for insubordination.

But then, he heard a snort, a muffled chuckle, and felt the welcome relief of a battalion full of stifled grins. Sergeant Hodgeman's hat remained angled toward the buckle, concealing his face, but Francis could see the marine's jaw clenching in an effort to hide a smile. With a restrained grunt, the sergeant regained his composure and raised his head, and with a twinkle in his otherwise fearsome eyes, he sidestepped down the line to the next recruit, leaving Francis' Navy career intact for another day.

Military friends have told similar stories, of moments when they took a stupid risk with a superior. One friend relayed, "I once said 'Marine Corpse' to a Gunnery Sergeant. I felt like a corpse by the time he was done with me."

Another was ordered by his boatswain's mate to be sure he had the bitter end while securing lines, and he replied indignantly, "I know I'm new here, but I'm not going to put the line in my mouth to see if it's bitter or not!"

No one knows why each foolish recruit survived their own idiocy in those fateful moments, but one thing is for certain: It most definitely wasn't the humidity, sir.



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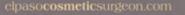
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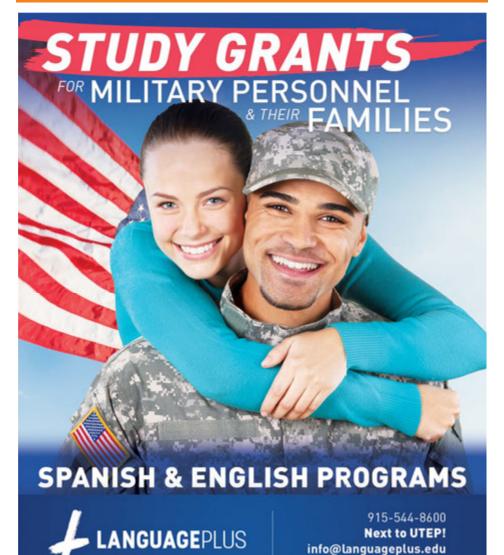
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ourtesy photo

David and Sandra Nevarez pose for a picture at a gym recently. "Have attainable goals," recommends David. "This is all a mental game. You just have to keep going and I owe my success to my wife, the WBAMC bariatric meetings and the staff, and to the VA for helping me understand my eating habits. Above all, stay positive because that positivity bleeds into your family life and friendships."

On the MOVE A veteran's weight loss success story through bariatric surgery

By Amabilia Payen | William Beaumont Army Medical Center Continued from last week's Fort Bliss Bugle

David also went to the bariatric support meetings twice a month. He learned about chewing properly, proper hydration while exercising, and other ways to help keep his weight off. Soon, David realized that, without the MOVE! program, he would have had a much harder time keeping the weight off than some of his colleagues.

His wife has continued to be a key supporter of David's journey with weight loss and a healthier life.

"Most people think bariatric surgery is the easy way out, but my husband did his research, went to support group meetings, and went through the MOVE! program at the VA," said Sandra. "He has encouraged me to exercise more and to eat healthier."

David decided to challenge his new body with the Bataan Memorial Death March, a yearly event at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, where participants either walk or run a 26-mile stretch of road through the desert in honor of the survivors of the Bataan Death March during World War II.

So, with the encouragement of his group, his wife, and his desire for change, David walked, swam, and kept a journal of his meals to prepare for the march. After a year of exercise, the day of the marching event came on March 17. David finished seven-

"You are getting a three-month head start. Doing the MOVE! program is like getting ahead of the game You are given literature that teaches you all you teenth in his age group with a time of four hours and 40 minutes.

"The bariatric surgery has led me to a much healthier life," reflected David. "I'm stronger mentally. Behavioral wise, I was miserable and it showed in my relationships and marriage. Now I have completely swung it around."

"I want him to continue to be successful and to continue to be an inspiration to other bariatric patients," said Sandra. "He continues to research this journey and he enjoys sharing with others."

David relates his experiences with the bariatric support group. He is now a mentor, offering his advice to group members when the WBAMC bariatric staff ask him to speak at the meetings.

David advises his fellow veterans that, if they are seriously considering bariatric surgery, to give the MOVE! program a try first with their respective VA clinic.

"You are getting a three-month head start," says David. "Doing the MOVE! program is like getting ahead of the game ... You are given literature that teaches you all you need to know about nutrition. Talk to your primary doctor about it and research it on your own, because everyone is different on the bariatric spectrum."

David now weighs 188 pounds, which is about a 192-pound weight loss so far. He still sets and works toward his goals. One goal is to participate in the next Bataan Memorial Death March in 2020. To beat his original time, David has incorporated weight lifting and more swimming, in addition to his walks up the McKelligon Canyon Road every morning, where he now does six laps around the five-mile road.

His wife continues to go with him to the gym and on some walks. She has lost up to 45 pounds and is considering weight-loss surgery herself.

"Have attainable goals," recommends David. "This is all a mental game. You just have to keep going and I owe my success to my wife, the WBAMC bariatric meetings and the staff, and to the VA for helping me understand my eating habits. Above all, stay positive because that positivity bleeds into your family life and friendships."



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need to know about nutrition."





Students learn the challenges of shipping military rations through an experiment to protect a shipment of Oreo rations during Army Labs Day at eCYBERMISSION in Leesburg, Va., June 18.

STEM Continued from Page 2B

said Dr. Sasha Teymorian, a chemist with the CCDC Army Research Laboratory who served as an eCYBERMISSION mentor this year. "I was fortunate to have a number of outstanding mentors in my school years, and these programs are the perfect way for me to be thankful and give back."

The week culminated for students with the set-up of their project displays, and a presentation to the national judging panel. This year, student projects ranged from reducing food waste and water contamination, to planting reflective grasses along roadways to reduce vehicle-animal collision and developing an alternative to finger pricks for diabetics.

"The students work hard to compete at this national event, and I love seeing them set-up their booths and practice," Teymorian said. "It gives me the opportunity to hear about why they chose the challenges they did for the project, and to learn how big of a difference their work has already made in their local communities."

The top four national winners, as well as the People's Choice and Army Values teams were announced at an awards banquet June 21. An additional five teams were recognized as "STEM in Action" recipients, who will receive funds to implement their solutions in their communities.

"The creativity and enthusiasm that students bring to the eCYBERMISSION competition every year is truly inspiring," Weber said. "These students are becoming the next generation of thought leaders in science and technology, and it's amazing to be a part of that."

Each member of the national finalist teams received a total of \$4,000 in U.S. savings bonds (matured value), and each member of the national winning teams received a total of \$9,000 in U.S. savings bonds each. Since the program's inception in 2002, eCYBERMIS-SION has awarded state, regional and national competition winners more than \$10 million in U.S. savings bonds.

2018-2019 national winning teams:

Sixth grade: H.O.T.C.A.R.S., Lubbock, Texas: Alexa Tindall, Ethan Djajadi and Josiah Morales worked with Team Advisor Laura Wilbanks to help combat the issue of Smith and Dimitrio Martinez worked with Team Advisor Laura Wilbanks to solve the problem of deer-related automobile accidents by using flora illumination.

Eighth grade: Antastic Acids, Madison, Alabama: Neha Chopade, Puja Chopade, and Pranav Somu worked with Team Advisor Beena Chopade and came up with an innovative solution to non-recyclable multilayered food packaging which involves separating the packaging's individual layers so that each component can be recovered in its original form.

Ninth grade: Phantastic Phage Phinders, West Jordan, Utah: Kate Watson, Rachel Amedee, Abigail Atkinson, and Gavin Grose worked with Team Advisor Lora Gibbons to identify isolated bacteriophages within the E. coli samples that could eventually be developed into two products that would serve either as a method of bacteria detection, or a method of bacteria elimination.

People's Choice: I-ANN Tech, Richland, Texas: Ivanie Leslie, Nolan Nguyen, Noel Obi, and Ayah Said worked with Team Advisor Richard Embrick to design a compact bracelet that includes various health packages for people of different ages groups and sizes.

Army Values: Team Microfiber Fighters, Bay Village, Ohio: Sarah Knox, Boden Mc-Dougal, and Gwyn Miller worked with Team Advisor Richard Gash to find a way to reduce the plastic microfibers being discharged into streams and lakes from washing machines using common household items.

The Army Combat Capabilities Development Command manages the Army Educational Outreach Program on behalf of the Department of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology. eCYBER-MISSION is administered by the National Science Teachers Association under the direction of AEOP.

CCDC, formerly known as the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, has the mission to provide the research, engineering, and analytical expertise to deliver the capabilities that enable the Army to deter and, when necessary, decisively defeat any adversary now and into the future. CCDC collaborates across the Future Force Modernization Enterprise and its own global



hot car related deaths by creating a device reminding parents when their children are still in the car.

Seventh grade: Oh, Deer!, Lubbock, Texas: Isaiah Baier, Aaron Barbee, Caleb Colenetwork of domestic and international partners in academia, industry and other government agencies to accomplish this mission under the strategic vision of the Army Futures Command.



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Sports Briefs

Lucha Libre wrestling: It will be a Night of Champions 6 p.m., July 19 at Stout PFC. The RWA Cruiserweight Championship Triple Threat will have Flamarion vs. Skydee vs. Crazy Star. There will be high-flying action from Black Fish, Rey Arturo, Yuri Star, Silver Hawk, Titanik and La Gata. Free. Open to the public. 588-8247

El Paso Locomotives FC: El Paso's professional soccer team will play San Antonio FC Wednesday and Real Monarchs SLC July 20. Home games are at Southwest University Park. Cost: \$5-\$49. 235-GOAL, eplocomotivefc.com, tickets@eplocomotivefc.com. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

El Paso Chihuahuas: The El Paso Chihuahuas AAA baseball team hosts the Albuquerque Isotopes at 7 p.m. tonight-Saturday and 6 p.m. Sunday, at Southwest University Park on Santa Fe Street in Downtown El Paso. Cost: \$11-\$30. 533-BASE or EPChihuahuas.com

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

Ruidoso Grindstone Trail Runs: Ski Run Road Challenge hosts the 4-mile, 8.5-mile and half-marathon runs on the multiple use trail system at Grindstone Lake, 2 miles from Downtown Ruidoso at 7:30-11 a.m. July 27, starting and finishing at Wingfield Park's Grindstone Lake Trails. Half-Marathon and 8.5K wave starts at 7:30 and 4-mile wave at 7:45 a.m. Cost: \$45 half marathon, \$35 8.5 mile run and \$25 4 mile run July 12-26. Race day registration: \$50 half marathon and 8.5 mile run, and \$40 4 mile run.Carry your own water container, there will be one refill station on the 8.5-mile and half-marathon routes. raceadventuresunlimited.com, words0250@gmail.com

Kids Golf for \$5: Join Underwood Golf Complex as children get to play golf for \$5 Monday through Friday. Children ages 12 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. It's open to children 16 and younger, they must walk, can only ride in a cart with a paying adult. 568-1059

Hook a Soldier on Golf Clinic: Underwood Golf Complex will have their Hook a Soldier on Golf Clinic everv first Saturday of the month now until September. Soldiers will learn the fundamentals of golf for free by PGA certified instructors. The clinic is from 10-11 a.m. Range balls and clubs provided. 568-1059

Hook a Spouse on Golf Clinic: Underwood Golf Complex will have their Hook a Spouse on Golf Clinic every second Wednesday of the month now until September. All spouses of active-duty Soldiers or retired military are welcome to learn the fundamentals of golf for free by PGA certified instructors. The clinic is from

NOLY MA Soldiers team with allies to showcase grappling skills

By Staff Sgt. Justin Hardin | U.S. Army

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - Booming cheers and thunderous applause from the crowd of U.S. and Kuwaiti service members, police officers and civilians fill the air as two competitors grapple on an oversized blue mat in the center of the Camp Arifjan zone 1 gym June 23.

PRT is an integral part

Loud music combined with the crowd noise makes it difficult for people trying to hear the person sitting next to them. Through all that noise, one distinctive voice pierces through like a knife.

"Pass that knee, pass that bottom knee," yells Sgt. Linsey Williams, a public affairs specialist with the 34th Infantry Division "Red Bull," Minnesota Army National Guard, as veins bulge out the sides of her neck.

Williams is coaching Staff Sgt. Kenry Trowers to help him remember an evasive maneuver during his match with a member of the Kuwaiti Navy in a friendly bout.

The crowd noise softens during a less-active moment in the match, then suddenly it erupts again as one competitor gains an advantage. The one constant through this fluctuating energy is Williams; even when the cheers subside she coaches.

"Control his knees man, he's going to try and bring them in," said Williams as she leans forward in her chair, edging as close to the action as possible.

Williams got her first taste of grappling in the basic combatives course during her initial entry training in the Army in 2011.

"While I was at Fort Meade, Maryland, I found a gym and kind of got hooked," said Williams.

Not long after she completed initial entry training, Williams deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in 2011. While at Camp Arifjan, Williams joined a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu club.

"That's where I really started, it was such an experience that I knew it was something I had to carry with me when I got home," said



Photos by Sgt. Christopher Lindborg / U.S. Army

Cpl. Eric Stanley, a Soldier from the 637th Chemical Company, Ohio Army National Guard, executes the Ezekiel choke during a combatives tournament at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June 23. U.S. Army Central hosts events such as the combatives tournament to strengthen its relationship and build partner capacity with the Kuwaitis. USARCENT operates throughout the Middle East region and appreciates the generosity of the host nation's willingness to maintain bilateral defense relationships.



9-10 a.m. Range balls and clubs provided. 568-1059

Group tennis class for beginners: Group tennis class for beginners will be held from 8:30-10 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday at Building 262 on Club Road. It is a very social and fun class to participate in. If you've never played tennis before it is a great way to be introduced to the sport. Tennis rackets will be provided. 569-5448

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. 744-5800

Texas Basic Hunters Education Class: The Rod and Gun Club offers a Texas Basic Hunters Education Class the second Saturday of every month, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. This class is six-hours taught by a Texas Parks and Wildlife-certified instructor. It will cover hunting rules and regulations, ethics and responsibility, wildlife management, conservation, safe firearms handling, cleaning and storage, outdoor skills, survival and First Aid field exercises and more Cost \$15 Registration required. Open to the public. 594-0159

Yank Kannady Memorial Run: The 3rd annual Yank Kannady Memorial Organ Donor Awareness 10K and 5K run and 1-Mile Fun Run is 8 a.m. Saturday at White Mountain Park 687 Hull Road in Ruidoso, N.M. Registration: \$25; \$10 age 10 and younger. Packet pick up is 4-7 p.m. Friday, 7-7:45 a.m. on race day at the park. 274-5222, (575) 682-7884 or (575) 937-1350

Williams.

Williams is taking a coaching role in the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu club and in the combatives tournament during her second deployment to Camp Arifjan.

"This was my time to help others as they started their competitive journey," Williams said.

Marine Capt. Dylan Grayston, an assistant Air Officer with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, improved his grappling by crosstraining with Williams.

"Sergeant Williams has taught me a lot," said Grayston. "It has been great having that experience having that comradery and training."

Trowers, an air movement request noncommissioned officer-in-charge with Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve, won his match with coaching from Williams.

Once the matches were complete and medals were presented, the crowd dispersed, but Williams remained to coach and mentor all eager to improve.

"It has been a really great experience getting to coach in real time - it has been a

Sgt. Linsey Williams, a public affairs specialist assigned to the 34th Infantry Division, Minnesota Army National Guard, shakes hands with service members of the Kuwait armed forces after a combatives tournament at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June 23.

cool way for me to link my understanding of competing with my understanding of helping others compete," said Williams.

After her deployment to Camp Arifjan,

Williams plans to return to Minnesota and continue to train and work for an Ultimate Fighting Championship career.

>> NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU CHIEF HOSTS USO TOUR



Air Force Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, center, stands with entertainers and performers who are part of the USO tour to Europe, Africa, and Southwest Asia, during a stop at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, July 2. Lengyel, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, hosted a sixday USO tour featuring comedians, actors and other celebrities who are scheduled to perform for Service members and their families based in Europe, Africa, and Southwest Asia. This is Lengyel's first USO tour since becoming CNGB and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "It's an honor to join the USO to thank our Guard members and all Service members and their families for all they do to keep our nation safe," said Lengyel. "It's important they know everyone back home values their service and cares about them." To follow the CNGB's USO Tour experience visit: www.facebook.com/GeneralLengyel – www. instagram.com/chiefNGB or www.twitter.com/Chief-NGB or the USO Channels on Facebook and Insta-gram at @theUSO and on Twitter: @the_USO.

Hood pair wins III Corps' Best Warriors, Soldiers of Year

By Pvt. Richard Barnes | 7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Each year, III Corps hosts the III Corps Best Warrior competition where Soldiers will compete representing their respective installations: Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort Riley, Kansas; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; and Fort Bliss and Fort Hood. At the end of the competition, there is a winner selected as the Soldier of the Year and the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. Those winners will go on to compete at the U.S. Army Forces Command level competition.

Having already proved themselves at division and installation levels, only two competitors, the winners of this year's competition, will continue on.

During this year's Best Warrior Competition, there were five noncommissioned officers and five Soldiers from five installations and four different divisions competing, said Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel T. Hendrex, the III Corps command sergeant major.

The competition occurred over four days,

allowing the Soldiers roughly three-to-four hours of sleep per night. These events included a modified fitness test, combatives, day and night land navigation, situational training lanes, a 12-mile ruck march, a weapons qualification range (M4 rifle, M9 pistol, and M240B machine gun), the Army Combat Fitness Test, and a board appearance.

At nearly every event throughout the competition, tests were given to examine how well the Soldiers knew their Level I tasks. The competitors were not only tested physically by these events, but mentally as well.

For their demonstration of physical and mental toughness, Staff Sgt. Michael Nixon, a Soldier from the 226th Military Police Detachment, 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade, was awarded the III Corps Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Spc. David Chambers, Crazy Horse Troop, 1st Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, won the III Corps Soldier of the Year.

"Overall, the competition was very rigorous, but at the same time, very valuable to the training that we do. Overall, it was a really good experience," said Chambers about this year's competition.

Chambers works as a fire team leader at Fort Hood. He also voiced that the competition showed him where his strengths and weaknesses are; so that he could work on them moving forward and be more equipped for combat in the future.

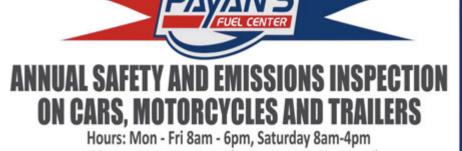
"These competitions are great because they're skill Level I-based, basic Soldiering skills, practiced to the extreme, that accurately prepare Soldiers for combat," said Nixon. Nixon is a squad leader for the 226th MP Det.

Both Nixon and Chambers and many of the other competitors found the 12-mile ruck march to be the most grueling part of the competition. It was the last event that they had to accomplish, and after days of little to no rest, the ruck would test all of the competitors.

"Despite how hard the tasks were, no Soldier or NCO showed any signs of giving up, and that's what was really inspiring about this year's group of individuals," said Hendrex.

The winners will progress to compete at the FORSCOM level, representing III Corps.





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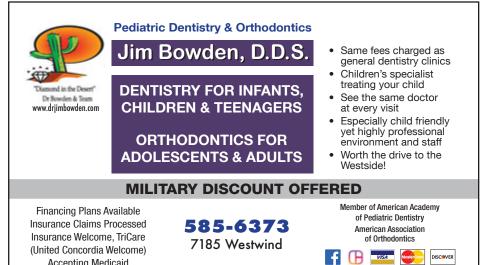
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OFF DUTY

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

Bliss Briefs

LRC August closure: LRC-Fort Bliss SSA SLOG AY11 will be closed to normal operations Aug. 5-9 from for a 100 percent wall-to-wall inventory. Direct all questions to the AY11 Warehouse Supervisor and/or Assistant Supervisor. 412-7401 or 412-7423

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.

Lower Beaumont traffic disruptions: Trucks may cause traffic disruptions in Lower Beaumont until late November, according to the Fort Bliss Department of Public Works. Road closures are not expected, but the work could include noise and dust. The work will be scheduled Mondays-Saturdays, 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Only five trucks a day will be used for the first few weeks with a gradual increase to 10 trucks a day TARP training: Fort Bliss offers Threat Awareness Reporting Program training at two locations monthly. Get your learn on at the Soldier Activity Center on East Fort Bliss on the second Tuesday of the month, or at Stayton Theater on West Fort Bliss on every third Thursday of the month. This training will be offered in these locations through September. 568-4604

FMWR

Monthly Art/Movie night: The Art and Hobby Shop will host "Art and a movie" night Friday. The movie will be "The Goonies" with a pirate-themed ceramics craft. Open to all DoD ID card holders. Cost: \$15. 820 Marshall Rd. 568-5563

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

Wilderness First Aid: Join Outdoor Recre-ation July 20-21 for Wilderness First Aid certi-fication class starting at 8 a.m. at the SAC. You will learn specialized desert climate response and early warning signs. This class is ideal for any avid hiker or climber. This class is also a re-guirement for guyane looking to be a commercial quirement for anyone looking to be a commercial guide at Hueco Tanks State Park. Cost: \$250 for the Wilderness First Aid portion. The class does require you to have CPR certificate and there will be a class July 19, for those who do not have one. Cost: \$299 with the CPR and AED portion along with Wilderness First Aid class. Open to the public. Registration required, deadline is Friday. 744-1532

Auto Crafts facility-use orientation: The Auto Craft Center offers mandatory safety orientations for their customers Wednesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m. 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



Community

Full Moon Night at White Sands: White Sands National Monument, 15 miles southwest of Alamogordo, N.M., on U.S. 70, hosts its full moon event at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday. The monthly full moon programs run through October. The July program features White Sands' chief scientist David Bustos with "Did the Hunter Get Its Prey?" a via bustos with Did the Hunter Ger its Preys a look at predators of the park. Programs are free with regular park admission fees. White Sands entrance fees \$10 per person; \$20 per vehicle; and \$15 per motorcycle. (575) 479-6124, ext. 236 or (575) 679-2599, ext. 232; or go to nps. gov/whsa.

Bluegrass Festival: The 24th annual all-day Bluegrass Festival is July 20-21, at the Weed Community Center in Weed, N.M. Continuous live music, food, arts and crafts, plus entertain-ment for kids. Bands begin at 9 a.m. Featured bands include Blue Sky Country, Vintage, Kitty Joe Creek, Higher Ground, Simple Gifts, Mickey Morgan and Tucumcari Crossroads. To get there: take Hwy 130, turn right at Cloudcroff, and fol-low the signs to Weed, 23 miles southeast of Cloudcroft. (575) 687-3316, (575) 687-4189, or WeedBluegrassFestival.com

Ruidoso Art and Wine Festival: The 48th annual Ruidoso Art and Wine Festival is July 26-28, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca, with more than 100 artists, and New Mexico wineries. Cost: \$6; \$4 for military; \$1 ages 10 and younger. Two-day passes are \$10; three-day passes are \$15. Mili-tary discount of \$4. (575) 257-7395, 1-877-RUI-DOSO (784-3676) or RuidosoNow.com

El Paso Sky Lantern Festival: The Sky Lantern Festival will be held July 27-28, 5-10 p.m. at their newly acquired 100 acre land in El Paso. Attend one day or camp out with us overnight and enjoy another day full of good food, mer-chandise vendors, Beer Pong without the beer, corn hole, archery, face painting, meet and photo session with the princess, Beer Tents, and an awesome music session. Tickets: \$10-\$180. Location to be emailed with registration.

Rockin' Tykes: "Planes, Trains and Automo-biles" is this coming Saturday, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Sunland Park Mall. You will be learning about different forms of transportation, play some fun games, ride some vehicles, and learn some prepositions. Free, but need need a ticket. Only children need a ticket. Every child must be accompanied by an adult who will be participating with them throughout the entire hour-long session. Event is for participants 18 months-4 years of age. Parent participation required. This is an educational initiative established by the El Paso International Music Foundation as a way to im-pact children's overall development and well-being via music.

Apollo 11 Launch Reenactment: Fellowship of Las Cruces Rocketry Enthusiasts and Museum of Nature and Science will present a live reenact-ment the historic Apollo 11 launch 7-10 p.m. in Las Cruces, N.M., Saturday at NMSU's Upper Intramural field, with a motorized replica of Saturn V Launch Complex 39, and scale model Saturn V Rocket accompanied by audio commentary. NMSU's Astronomy Observatory will be open for night viewing 8 to 10 p.m. flare-rocketry.com or on Facebook at Las Cruces Museum

Free concerts in the parks: The City of El Paso Parks and Recreation invites you to their free concerts in the parks in locations across the Sun City this summer. See Borderline Band at Argal Park Sunday. Free. 212-0092 or www. elpasotexas.gov/parks

Hampton University Alumni Round Up: The El Paso Alumni Chapter has monthly meetings held at noon in various locations close to Fort Bliss. Contact Warren E. Brown at 241-4672.

El Paso Public Library book club: The City of El Paso public library system's Summer Reading Club is underway now through July 27. Club members are asked to read eight books or eight hours, depending on their reading level. Once the club requirements are met, members will become eligible to win great prizes and get a certificate of recognition. People of any age can register for free by visiting any neighborhood li-brary branch and filling out a registration form or by going online at www.elpasolibrary.org. Purple Heart recipients sought: The Military Order of the Purple Heart El Paso Chapter 393 meets the first Saturday of every month at 1 p.m. at the 82nd Airborne Memorabilia Museum, 2608 Fort Blvd. Stand with the MOPH Chapter 393 and honor the sacrifice of American veterans by continued commitment. Facebook at MOPHChapter393 **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 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. each Saturday in the Union Plaza District along Anthony Street. 212-1780 or elpasoartsandculture.org

Bricktown has 5 New Bricktwisted[™] **Comfort Foods Menu Items!**

Fried Chickpea Salad:

Fried chickpeas, feta, avocados, cucumbers, red peppers and red onions tossed in Balsamic Vinaigrette. \$9 add chicken+\$3

Pork Green Chili Totchos:

Housemade tater tots, topped with pulled pork, green chili, cheese, bacon, cilantro and topped with a fried egg. \$12.75 Hot Fig & Goat Cheese Dip:

Served with pita points and apple slices. \$11

Protein Salad Bowl:

Pulled pork, guacamole, sour cream, cheese, bacon and cilantro on romaine lettuce and topped with a fried egg. \$11.25

AND BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND ...

Mac'd Grilled Cheese & Ham Sandwich with Tomato Soup:

Macaroni & cheese, shaved ham, American cheese and Pecorino Romano cheese between grilled bread Served with San Marzano tomato soup. \$8.95



Famiy Day at the Wall: The SAC holds "Family Day at the Wall" Thursday-Saturday, 12-6 p.m. 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. 744-7879, 568-4198 or visit 3503 Story Rd.

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. Activities and projects are completed at home, returned and shared at subsequent meetings. 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 SKIESUnlimited: SkiesUnlimited offers a variety of fun and educational programs geared for children of all ages and talent levels. Music classes like piano, voice, guitar and drums are available. SKIES also has a variety of art, sports, driver's training and babysitting courses. 568-5544 or 568-4374

Sea Cadets need mentors: Calling adult vol-

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unteers to lead in the newly forming Navy Sea Cadets program, El Paso Únit. Must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident, free of felony convictions, possess good moral character, a sound mind, and be capable of communicating USNSCC values to our cadets. epnavyseacadets@outlook.com or on Facebook

Silver City Clay Festival: The annual Silver City Clay Festival is July 15-21 in Silver City, N.M. Workshops held each day; cost varies. Youth workshops are also planned. A Maker's Market is 10 a.m.-4 p.m. July 20, with artists, music, storytelling, mud pie contest and dancing. Claymation films featured that day at the Silco Theater. A clay rodeo is July 21, at the HUB on Bullard Street. Clay Play for kids in grades 3-6 is July 15 at Gila Valley Library and July 16-18 at

the Bayard Library; and mud fun for grades pre-K through 6 is July 20. Highlighted workshops: Building with Clay workshop July 15-17 with Jeff LeBlanc; Adobe Building/Mud Immersion workshop with Mary Giardina July 15-19; Two-week workshops with Sunshine Cobb July 8-19; Imagery through China Painting and Decals work-shop July 16-19 with Brad Klem; Make a Bone workshop July 15, at Bear Mountain Lodge; amd Make An Empty Bowl July 20. clayfestival.com Kansas: The legendary band whose career spans more than four decades with hits like "Dust in the Wind," "Carry On My Wayward Son," and "Point of No Return," performs 7:30 p.m. July 21, at the Plaza Theatre. Cost: \$44.50-\$74.50; VIP packages \$184-\$285) at ticketmas-

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Miscellaneous

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Cowboy hat, men's size 7 3/8. Slightly used, excellent condition. Brown in color, Bailey brand. \$50 obo. 253-209-2481

Wood table (kitchen), 2 chairs, Bissell vacuum cleaner, weights 10-40 lbs, sleeping bags, couch sleeper, 2 floor fans, 2 bookcases, 2 padded folding chairs. 261-8736 Teenage boys clothes, deep fryer, women's XL clothes, large heavy wood table. 346-2678

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2014 Honda SXS 700 M2 Pioneer UTV. Excellent condi-

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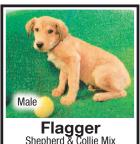






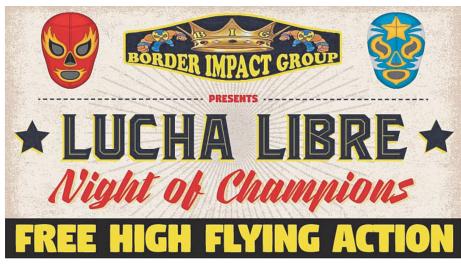












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Lucha Libre

Date: Jul 19 2019, 6 p.m. Stout Physical Fitness Center - 2930 Cassidy Road

It's a Night of Champions at Stout Physical Fitness Center! Watch the RWA Cruiserweight Championship Triple Threat: Flamarion vs. Skydee vs. Crazy Star! There will be high flying action from Black Fish, Rey Arturo, Yuri Star, Silver Hawk, Titanik and La Gata! Free to attend

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14344 Alma Point	\$1225	3905 Flory #3
8401 Parade		10048 Kellogg
2416 Escape Point		5613 Wadsworth
9160 Turrentine		11976 Mesquite lake
12078 Sterling Mary	\$1350	10001 Goliad
14377 East Cave		10905 Rogers Hornsby
11001701		5132 Paris
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12078 Sterling Mary	\$1350	10001 Golia
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315 Val Verde A.....\$750 5453 Rick Husband

05 Flory #3..... 048 Kellogg ... 13 Wadsworth 976 Mesquite lake ad ers Hornsby per Mine ntain.....\$1200 rcos Lucero sauite Rock asant Sand

x\$950	4904 Silver Ranch\$140
\$1050	11836 Mesquite Lake\$1350
ntry\$1175	10790 Aron\$150
CENTRAL	4312 Loma de Norte\$180
n 1/2\$475	WEST
en\$675	6262 Escondido Studio\$69
NORTHEAST	6262 Escondido\$110
#3\$425	6937 Bruce Bissonette\$1350
ogg\$850	7178 Royal Palm\$150
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RENTAL EAST SIDE NEAR EASTWOOD HIGH, SPUR 601

Refrigerated air, 3 bdrm/2 full bath, 6' jacuzzi tub, fans in every room, 1 car garage, auto opener, maintained lawn, garden, nat gas grill, washer dryer, stove, refrigerator. Water utilities paid. \$1100/mo., \$1000 dep. 1 year lease. 545-5595



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