



Five tips to help  
new NCOs succeed ■ 7A

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Fort Bliss couple's loss  
turns to legacy at WBAMC ■ 1B

Thursday, June 6, 2019

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**>> THANKS**  
Courtesy photo  
The Joint Task Force North command team presents Brig. Gen. Laura Yeager, the JTF-N commander, with a framed command guidon during a hail and farewell ceremony recently. Joined by Yeager, they are, from left, Army Col. Paul Garcia, the deputy commander; Marine Sgt. Maj. Aaron McDonald, Yeager's senior enlisted adviser; and retired Army Col. Forrest E. Smith, JTF-N's chief of staff. The first woman to command JTF-N will relinquish command in a ceremony at Fort Bliss Monday. Turn to page 3A for more on Yeager and her unit.

HOUSING  
TOWN  
HALL

TONIGHT, 6 p.m.

Centennial Banquet and  
Conference Center,  
East Fort Bliss

## SMA: Boards to rank NCOs solely on merit

**By Gary Sheftick | Army News Service**  
WASHINGTON – More deserving Soldiers will be promoted sooner and fewer school seats should go vacant under the Army's new Enlisted Centralized Promotion Board process, said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey.  
Dailey took part in a Facebook Live session May 29 with Sgt. Maj. Mark Clark of the G-1 Directorate of Military Personnel Management. They discussed changes to the Army's noncommissioned officer boards scheduled to be implemented over the next three years.  
"It used to be called a promotion board; in the future, it will be called an evaluation board," Dailey said. Future boards will evaluate Soldiers for schooling and assignments as well as promotion.

Under the new process, if an NCO cannot go to school for any reason, then the next in line will immediately be offered the seat, he said.

**Talent-based sequence**  
The fundamentals of how NCO records are evaluated by the boards will not change, he said. The big change will come on how those deemed fully-qualified are sequenced.

"Previously the board members would vote; they would 'rack and stack' individuals based on DA Pam 600-25 and then they would be re-sequenced based on time in service, time-in-grade. That process will not happen anymore," Dailey said. "It will be a true talent-based list."

When the board decides a Soldier is the most talented and all prerequisites have been met, that Soldier will be No. 1 on the list.

"That number, for the first time in the history of our centralized promotion board system, will show you how you rated against your peers," Dailey said. It won't be based simply on seniority.

"We want to change our system from largely a time-based system to a talent-based system," he said, where the most talented is promoted first.

"I can assure you that it is the right direction to take our NCO Corps," he said.

**Promotion lists**  
Following future boards, a sequenced promotion list will not be published, Clark said.

A list of all fully-qualified NCOs will instead be published in alphabetical order.

"So there won't be a committed list where you have to wait 12-to-18 months to be promoted," he said.

NCOs will first be evaluated 18 months from when eligible, Dailey said. "The perception is going to be that we

See NCOS Page 2A

# MISSION READY

## Army announces upcoming 1st AD Headquarters unit rotation

**By 1st Armored Division Public Affairs**  
The Department of the Army announced Friday the upcoming 2019 rotation to Afghanistan of the 1st Armored Division Headquarters stationed at Fort Bliss.  
The 1st AD Headquarters will replace the 4th Infantry Division Headquarters as part of a regular rotation of forces in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.  
"Elements of the 1st Armored Division Headquarters will deploy this summer in support of coalition and partner operations in Afghanistan," said Maj. Gen. Patrick Matlock, the 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss commanding general. "Like all Soldiers of America's Tank Division, this team is very well-trained, prepared to execute their mission, and proud to be Iron Soldiers."



Pfc. Matthew Marcellus / 1st AD PA

"Elements of the 1st Armored Division Headquarters will deploy this summer in support of coalition and partner operations in Afghanistan," said Maj. Gen. Patrick Matlock, the 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss commanding general. "Like all Soldiers of America's Tank Division, this team is very well-trained, prepared to execute their mission, and proud to be Iron Soldiers."

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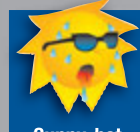
**Retreat ceremony honors**  
'unparalleled leadership' of Naumann ■ 4A

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participate in logistics-focused exercise ■ 9A


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School grades sometimes miss the mark ■ 6B

FORT BLISS


Friday      Saturday      Sunday



Sunny, hot  
Hi 98, Lo 71



Sunny, hot  
Hi 100, Lo 73



T-storms poss.  
Hi 98, Lo 70

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# Oklahoma National Guard supports local communities following severe weather

By Pfc. Emily White | National Guard Bureau

TULSA, Okla. – The Oklahoma Army National Guard mobilized May 23 to parts of northeastern and central Oklahoma in response to flood and tornado damage.

More than 250 Oklahoma Army National Guard Soldiers from the 160th Field Artillery Regiment and 279th Infantry Regiment have conducted various disaster relief missions, including the inspection of flood walls along the Arkansas River, filling thousands of sandbags to be placed along fatigued levees, water pump set-up, and the stabilization of the historic WWII submarine, USS Batfish (SS-310).

Guard aviation assets from the 245th Aviation Battalion recorded more than 45 flight hours in UH-60 Black Hawk and UH-72 Lakota helicopters while assisting with rescue missions and relief efforts in the most devastated parts of the state.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Zahn, a Black Hawk pilot with 1st Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment, said he was proud of the work he and his crew members performed, especially the rescuing of flood victims.

“It’s very rewarding to see the sense of relief on flood victims’ faces as we fly in and load them onto the helicopter,” said Zahn.

Cpl. Steven Ward, a Soldier with the 120th Engineer Battalion, assisted in the evacuation of citizens from Braggs, Oklahoma, via a Black Hawk helicopter.

“It’s not about us, it’s about the people hurting and in need -- they are our people,” Ward said. “They are Oklahomans and Americans, so they are family, and family takes care of each other.”

In El Reno, Oklahoma, 12 Soldiers from the 63rd Civil Support Team provided search-and-rescue assistance to the community, which was dealing with the EF3 tornado damage that occurred May 25. The Guard Soldiers searched a destroyed hotel and adjacent mobile home park.

Currently, the damage from the record-breaking floods spans much of northeastern and central Oklahoma and continues to devastate the surrounding areas.



Pfc. Jessica Todd / Oklahoma National Guard

Oklahoma National Guard Soldiers from the 700th Brigade Support Battalion help fill sandbags recently. Soldiers assisted several Oklahoma communities following record rainfall and numerous tornadoes. The Guard Soldiers’ assistance included swift water rescue, filling and distributing sandbags, and delivering purified, potable water.



Pfc. Reece Heck / Oklahoma National Guard

Oklahoma Army National Guard Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 279th Infantry Regiment deliver sandbags to flood-stricken areas of northeastern Oklahoma, May 25. Soldiers assisted several Oklahoma communities following record rainfall and numerous tornadoes. The Guard Soldiers’ assistance included swift water rescue, filling and distributing sandbags, and delivering purified, potable water.

## NCOS Continued from Page 1A

will promote Soldiers too fast,” Dailey said. “That’s not true.”

An NCO must still meet all the qualifications before being promoted, he stressed.

**More flexibility**

Under the old process, boards drew a line across the sequenced list based on an estimate of how many NCOs in that MOS would be needed at that rank. Only those on top of the line would be promoted.

“Sometimes we got it right. Sometimes we didn’t,” Dailey said.

The new process will allow more NCOs to be promoted mid-year if more are needed, he explained.

“This is an evolving, adapting and changing Army,” he said.

“Most importantly, this process will improve Army readiness,” Clark said. “We will now be able to promote Soldiers, assign them and train them based on being the best-qualified to man our forces so that we could be the most lethal Army in the world.”

**Implementation**

Education about the new board process will begin this year with sergeants major, and be followed by training for the trainers. Comprehensive education in the new system will be provided over the next three years to all Soldiers, Dailey said.

Current sequence numbers from recent boards will remain in effect, for now, Dailey said. The new process will be adopted over time to keep from hurting any NCOs, he said.

The process will be implemented first for

# “We want to change our system from largely a time-based system to a talent-based system.”

>> Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey

the most senior ranks. Beginning this year the nominative sergeant major board and command selection boards were canceled. They will be replaced with an evaluation board that will take place in August, Clark said.

Also, the master sergeant board that was conducted will not sequence those qualified by time, but instead by merit. In November 2020, a new sergeant first class evaluation board will be held, he said, later explaining this was formally known as the master sergeant promotion board.

In February of 2021, staff sergeants will be evaluated by the new board for promotion to sergeant first class and for assignments, he said.

The old centralized promotion process served the Army well for 50 years, Dailey said. “That doesn’t mean we can’t improve upon it,” he added.

The new process should allow qualified NCOs to attend school and be promoted with less delay, he said.

“It rewards those who are working hard to do what the Army needs them to do,” he said.



Mike Curtis / U.S. Army

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel A. Dailey, center, greets Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Soldiers during an installation visit last year. The old centralized promotion process served the Army well for 50 years, Dailey said. “That doesn’t mean we can’t improve upon it,” he added.

## Bliss Brief

### Lower Beaumont traffic disruptions expected

Trucks may cause traffic disruptions in Lower Beaumont beginning Monday and continuing until late November, according to the Fort Bliss Department of Public Works. It will be part of a cleanup project to haul debris from former WBAMC Lower Beaumont buildings, incinerator, arroyo, and WBAMC landfill areas to an off-site, licensed landfill. Road closures are not expected, but the work could include noise and dust. The work will be scheduled Mondays through Saturdays, 6:30 a.m. until 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.



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The *Fort Bliss Bugle* has a circulation of 13,000 copies. Editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Bliss, Bldg. 15, 568-4088 or fax 568-2995.

Items submitted for publication in the *Fort Bliss Bugle* should be sent to [fortblissbugle@gmail.com](mailto: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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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](mailto:susan@lavenpublishing.com).

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UNIT NEWS

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



Program builds positive military-to-military relationships ■ 10A

Unit Briefs

**ACES Recognition Ceremony:** The Fort Bliss Army Continuing Education System-Education Center will have a recognition ceremony, Monday, honoring Soldiers and their family members who earned a certificate, associate's, bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree within the past year and did not attend any other ceremony. Also being recognized will be those Soldiers and their family members who are within six credits of completing a degree program they are actively pursuing. Stayton Theater, building 2495, Ricker Road, 6 p.m. 568-9740 or 588-5334

**Old Ironsides ACP changes:** Old Ironsides access control point will no longer be operational on federal holidays, Saturdays, or Sundays. Anyone transiting the post can do so using MSG Pena ACP (open 24/7) and CSM Barreras ACP (open 24/7).

**TARP training:** Fort Bliss offers Threat Awareness Reporting Program (TARP) 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



Brig. Gen. Laura Yeager leads an organization of about 150 civilians and service members of all branches. They provide Department of Defense support to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to combat transnational criminal organizations and drug trafficking. "We are a fairly small organization and the amount of work we get done is really incredible," Yeager said.



Brig. Gen. Laura Yeager has led JTF-N for the past 21 months. She will relinquish command Monday at the organization's headquarters at Fort Bliss. Photos courtesy of Joint Task Force North

Moving mountains

BG Yeager ends tour with JTF-N, to lead California National Guard

**By David Burge |** Special for Fort Bliss Bugle

The commanding general for Joint Task Force North is wrapping up what she calls the "most amazing assignment" of her career.

Brig. Gen. Laura Yeager has led JTF-N for the past 21 months. She will relinquish command Monday at the organization's headquarters at Fort Bliss.

"I have enjoyed every minute of it. I am really sorry to be leaving," said Yeager, a 54-year-old from Fountain Valley, California.

"It is really the people within the command that made it stand out," Yeager continued. "They are the most talented people I have ever worked with in my career."

Yeager leads an organization of about 150 civilians and service members of all branches. They provide Department of Defense support to local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to combat transnational criminal organizations and drug trafficking.

"We are a fairly small organization and the

amount of work we get done is really incredible," she said.

Yeager, a helicopter pilot by trade, is the first woman to command Joint Task Force North. She said she has never viewed herself as a pioneer or trailblazer, but just a Soldier who just does her job to the best of her ability.

"Brig. Gen. Yeager will leave an enduring legacy that will continue long after she has departed," said retired Army Col. Forrest E. Smith, the JTF-N chief of staff. "Her extraordinary emphasis on understanding people and her compassion for subordinates set her apart from many senior leaders."

During Yeager's time at JTF-N, they picked up an additional mission -- the command and control of 146 mobile surveillance camera teams across the 2,000-mile border with Mexico.

"It's a new task, but it nests with what we already do," Yeager said.

One of her biggest challenges has been to make sure that she and her organization con-

tinue to attract and keep top people on their relatively small team.

"I think we have done a great job of that," Yeager said. "It is a very small team but they get mountains of work done."

JTF-N also has extremely close relationships with law enforcement agencies like the Border Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Agency, she said.

Last fiscal year, JTF-N helped with the interdiction of \$55 million of illicit drugs. So far this fiscal year, that figure has risen to \$230 million with several months still to go, Yeager said.

"There is a very large network of agencies at the state and federal level that we work with, all working toward the same objective," Yeager continued "It is great to be part of that network and contributing to what they are doing."

The active-duty units they work with have also seen their readiness increase by an average of 42 percent according to metrics that JTF-N tracks, the general said.

"It is such a win-win," Yeager said. "It provides support for law enforcement, but also increases readiness across different active duty units who do their wartime mission."

Yeager said her organization has gotten plenty of support from its higher headquarters at U.S. Northern Command at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado and U.S. Army North at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Fort Bliss and the 1st Armored Division have also been great partners to work with, she added.

"I can't help but feeling Fort Bliss is the best-kept secret in the Army," Yeager said. "People need to know what a great community this is, what a great installation this is, how much it has to offer for the families and Soldiers assigned here."

Yeager will return home to California where she will become the commander of the California National Guard and the 40th Infantry Division.

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**>> SUN CITY SHIPMATE**

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Kyle Carlstrom  
Amphibious Squadron Five

Navy Seaman Juan Rivera, from El Paso, signals to a pilot of a landing craft air cushion, assigned to Assault Craft Unit 5, during well deck operations aboard the San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS John P. Murtha (LPD 26) in the Pacific Ocean May 28. John P. Murtha is currently on its maiden deployment and part of the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group and the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit team and is deployed to the 7th Fleet area of operation to support regional stability, reassure partners and allies, and maintain a presence postured to respond to any crisis ranging from humanitarian assistance to contingency operations.



# >> RETREAT CEREMONY HONORS ‘UNPARALLELED LEADERSHIP’ OF NAUMANN

Photos by Spc. Matthew Marcellus / 1st Armored Division



Brig. Gen. Scott Naumann, the deputy commanding general-support for the 1st Armored Division, receives a polished shell as Maj. Gen. Patrick E. Matlock, the commanding general of 1st AD and Fort Bliss, looks on during a retreat ceremony honoring Naumann as he transfers out of the division and on to a new assignment. Matlock hosted the ceremony and made remarks commemorating the invaluable service that Naumann has provided 1st AD throughout his tenure.



Naumann addresses a crowd of friends, family and peers during a retreat ceremony honoring his time, service and dedication to the 1st AD May 22 on Fort Bliss. Naumann was awarded the Legion of Merit during the ceremony by Matlock, commemorating his tireless service to the division.



Naumann laughs as he is embraced by Command Sgt. Maj. John Knight, the senior enlisted adviser for 3rd Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st AD, after a retreat ceremony honoring his service with the division. Friends, family and peers attended the ceremony to celebrate Naumann’s tireless service with America’s Tank Division and say goodbye as he prepares to transfer out to a new assignment.



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# Army turns to smart technology to defend against threats to installations

By Joe Lacdan | Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment Alex Beehler doesn’t need proof of threats to military and government installations. He is reminded every day.

His office sits next to the point of impact where American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the western side of the Pentagon nearly 18 years ago during the 9/11 attacks.

“It’s a constant daily reminder that the Pentagon, (which) is the Department of Defense’s foremost installation, clearly can be ... under a surprise attack,” said Beehler.

As the variety and complexity of threats continue to increase, security at U.S. military installations has taken increased importance in the years since 9/11. Potential U.S. adversaries can threaten American bases in cyberspace and at their perimeters.

### Vulnerabilities

While defending against attacks to U.S. installations has always been a priority for the Defense Department, information technology and the possibility of lethal attacks before major conflicts has made military posts more vulnerable than ever before.

“The homeland is no longer a sanctuary,” said Richard Kidd, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for strategic integration. “We’ve been treating our military installations as if they were sanctuary cities for a very long time, immune from the effects of the adversary. That is no longer the appropriate assumption.”

The Army plans to use smart technology to help defend against the increasing complexity of these security threats. Beehler said the Army needs to build a “technology-enabled” force by 2028. Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham, assistant chief of staff for installation management, said that has been in discussions for the past 18 months to bring 5G wireless connectivity to all of its installations.

Army installations serve an important function as the strategic support area, which is part of the service’s multi-domain concept. The strategic support area features frequent communication between commanders and



Patrick Albright | U.S. Army

Members of the 4th Infantry Division run from one building to another at Selby Combined Arms Collective Training Facility on Fort Benning, Ga., during the 36th Best Ranger Competition in April. Army installations have become more vulnerable, said Lt. Gen. Gwen Bingham, assistant chief of staff for installation management. In order to better protect Army posts worldwide, senior Army leaders said that the service will consider using smart technology to bolster security and enable commanders to respond to threats swiftly.

support agencies as well as housing crucial warfighting components such as cyber, command and control.

“Installations are really part of the battle front,” Beehler said. “One of the things that you need to be concerned about: what happens when the grid goes down and there’s no power on military bases or in the surrounding communities, which service the military bases?”

### Smart technologies

The Army is currently exploring 10 technologies to innovate installations, including automated assessments of systems with limited manpower and monitoring utilities for anomalies in energy consumption. The service is also looking to track fault detection, install smart thermostats, and create autonomous vehicles. The Army will explore frictionless entry, allowing secure and efficient

installation access.

The Army Corps of Engineers is looking at using its Virtual Test Bed Installation, which involves artificial intelligence that will analyze data of a military installation’s facilities.

“The battle space is changing,” Beehler said. “Installations are part of the fight. They’re critical to the Army’s success. They are where the Army builds readiness, sustains the force, develops Army culture (and) supports our Soldiers and families ... They are under constant attack.”

The possibility of threats to its installations further increases the importance of the Army’s current modernization efforts. At-risk infrastructure can undermine a base’s operational ability to act.

To help field new ideas for installation technological innovations, Bingham partnered with Army Training and Doctrine

Command to gather feedback from Soldiers at Army training centers at Fort Lee, Virginia; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; and Fort Gordon, Georgia. The average age of the Soldier surveyed was 23 years old.

“We know that we must move quickly to adapt and change to be proactive vs. reactive and to really get ahead of technology,” Bingham said. “In other words, we want to be the driver of change vs. the passenger.”

### Survey findings

Soldiers wanted the capability to access installation services 24 hours a day using biometric-enabled kiosks or mobile apps. They also wanted applications both for base information alerts and for healthy food options. Soldiers said the Army should consider using “walk out” technology where shoppers can purchase items by having a remote system scan their credit and debit cards and automatically deduct from bank accounts.

The Army could explore building the capability to counter enemy attacks against utility and infrastructure control systems. Bingham said the service could develop the means to counter against kinetic surveillance and then attack the enemy using drones and using remotely-operated sensors.

Chris Thomas, director of information and technology, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, outlined objectives to help build Army bases into smart installations capable of defending against enemy attacks.

Thomas said that industry partners must determine how the service provides connectivity and bandwidth and speed to Soldiers; new technology must be implemented sooner. Thomas said that identifying and securing operational technology will provide the ability to withstand attacks. And finally, the new technology will help provide resilience.

“We must be able to recover when these attacks happen,” Thomas said. “Keep in mind it’s not if we’re going to get attacked. It’s when. It’s going to happen.”

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**>> ALL THE WAY UP**  
Capt. Roxana Thompson / 1st AD CAB PA  
A 1st Armored Division Combat Aviation Brigade UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flies across Afghanistan executing aviation operations in support of Afghan and coalition partners as part of Operation Freedom's Sentinel recently.



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Spc. Valencia McNeal / U.S. Army

A Soldier scales the monkey bars as part of the Green Mile physical endurance course during week three of the Jungle Operations Training Course at the Lightning Academy, in Wahiawa, Hawaii, April 18.

## In their own words: Five tips to help new NCOs succeed

By Master Sgt. Alex Licea | 1st Armored Division Public Affairs  
*Continued from last week ...*

### Communicate, communicate, communicate

Communication is key to becoming a successful leader, no matter the industry. However, this is especially true in the military, and for NCOs it is vital to instill confidence into those in which they serve.

As an NCO, you are often the first conduit of information for junior members to hear and understand the commander's guidance/intent. NCOs need to be able to effectively communicate to their subordinates with accuracy and clarity to ensure the mission gets done right.

Becoming an effective communicator takes time and effort. It is not easy, and it can take years to master. Get down to the details, stay away from generalizations and always ask others to restate what your intent is so there is no miscommunication.

Now, trust me when I say that this is easier said than done and it does take time. Having the ability to communicate will help you solve problems and build trust\*(see first tip) with your junior members.

As the U.S. Army NCO Creed states: I will communicate consistently with my Soldiers, and never leave them uninformed.

### Commit to self-improvement

Here is something that shouldn't be a surprise to any of us – There are no perfect people and there are certainly no perfect leaders.

Leadership is not a "one sizes fits all" model. This is especially true when it comes to NCO business

Experience and self-development are critical to helping you develop your skills and leadership traits. Don't be afraid to continue to learn. Embrace it! Continue working on your management abilities, planning habits, and listening skills. Self-improvement will not only help you on an individual level, but it can help improve your unit/command overall.

Whether you serve 4, 8 or a 20-year military career, these five tips are just the tip of the iceberg on your journey through the NCO Corps. Hopefully, they serve as your foundation as you pin on your new rank.

As you read these tips and receive advice from peers or mentors over the next few years remember to always try to do the right thing, and do the best you can do. It's old-school advice, but it's effective!

*Master Sgt. Licea is a public affairs professional, father, writer, lifelong learner, movie lover and chicken wing aficionado. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2002 and earned his Master's Degree in Public Relations and Corporate Communications from Georgetown University in 2016.*

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Marcy Sanchez / WBAMC PA  
Maj. Justin Orton, a clinical psychologist at William Beaumont Army Medical Center, pins a green ribbon on a kid in support of Mental Health Awareness Month during a wellness walk at Bliss Elementary School at Fort Bliss May 6.

# End the stigma

## WBAMC Behavioral Health proactively raised mental health awareness across Bliss last month

By Marcy Sanchez | WBAMC PA

An estimated 50 percent of all Americans are diagnosed with a mental illness or disorder at some point in their lifetime. Throughout May, mental health awareness was raised to recognize trauma and the impact it can have on physical, emotional and mental well-being.

Service members are not immune, with an estimated 15 percent of Soldiers having a behavioral health diagnosis in 2017, an ailment which also affects many military spouses and children.

In an effort to cease the stigma associated with mental health ailments, William Beaumont Army Medical Center’s Department of Behavioral Health proactively engaged the Fort Bliss community with a series of “lunch and learn” classes discussing varying topics from sleeping habits to conflict resolution, at WBAMC’s Clinical Assembly Room, throughout May.

In addition, the department’s Child, Adolescent and Family Behavioral Health Services kicked off the month with events at local schools, recognizing National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day which is observed May 10.

“During the events, we are focused on connecting those in need to information, services, and supports that can help some-

one struggling with mental health issues,” said Lashonda Bogan, outreach program coordinator, Child, Adolescent and Family Behavioral Health Services. “This year’s Awareness Day theme for youth is ‘Suicide Prevention: Strategies That Work’ and will focus on the impact that suicide has on children, youth, young adults, families, and communities.”

Wellness walks, information booths and green ribbons took place at local schools. Teachers were also involved with information to discuss with parents.

“(Lunch and learn series) is focused on decreasing stress and psychological distress, enhanced mental functioning, increased emotion regulation, and self-control,” said Bogan. “These classes are open to civilians, veterans, employees, military family members and service members.”

To combat behavioral health issues in local units, the Army has implemented the embedded behavioral health model, an early treatment and intervention model of care that promotes Soldier readiness by providing Soldiers care in close proximity to their work areas. Research studies have demonstrated the use of the EBH model results in statistically significant improvements in mission readiness, increased outpatient care and leader-provided collaboration, and a decreased need for acute inpatient psychiatric care.

“Mental Health Awareness Month is the time for our organization to educate and inform our Fort Bliss community on the importance of enhancing the quality of life and improving overall well-being,” said Lt. Col. Liquori Etheridge, deputy chief, Department of Behavioral Health, WBAMC. “Mental Health Services are readily available on Fort Bliss for Soldiers and Family members. We strive to ensure that our Soldiers and families are ‘ready and resilient.’”

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# US, Croatian, Slovenian forces participate in logistics-focused exercise

**By Pvt. Laurie Ellen Schubert | U.S. Army**

SLUNJ, Croatia – Every year, thousands of European armed forces members participate in multiple exercises with the U.S. to help improve interoperability and stability of the region.

Exercise Immediate Response 19 is a multinational exercise co-led by Croatian Armed Forces, Slovenian Armed Forces and U.S. Army Europe. From May 10 through Friday, held throughout Croatia, Slovenia and Hungary, the logistics-focused exercise is designed to test and improve movements of allied and partner forces and equipment rapidly from one location to another.

During their first two days in Croatia, U.S. Army Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) participated in medical training, live-fire exercises, cold-load air assault, and a joint forcible entry.

On the first night of the exercise, 173rd IBCT “Sky” Soldiers began to train the minute their feet hit the ground.

“In Udbina we had the night exercise with the American Army and we were quite impressed at how fast, how aggressive and the quality of the exercise and the attack,” said Croatian 2nd Lt. Marina Miskovic, a fire support platoon leader.

These attack simulations allowed the U.S. Army to train with forces that have different strengths and assets. According to Miskovic, the Croatian military also had the chance to see how an opposition force would attack them, while defending their positions.

“For the Croatian [military], the advantage is that obviously, this is their terrain,” said 1st Sgt. Jeremy Lemma, also of the 1-503rd PIR, 173rd IBCT (A). “They had excellent covered and concealed positions.”

The first night the Sky Soldiers had to reach three objectives. Aided by night optical/observation devices, they covered the battlefield both on foot and with the new Army Ground Mobility Vehicle.

During the first operation involving live fire exercises, U.S. and Croatian forces en-



Paratroopers from 1st Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), rehearse a cold-load air assault from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during exercise Immediate Resolve 19 at Udbina Airbase, Croatia, May 17.

hanced their training by wearing multiple integrated laser engagement system equipment that helps identify when a target has been hit. This is a two-way feedback system that helps simulate more realistic training.

The main operation of exercise IR 19 involved Sky Soldiers performing an air assault operation into Military Training Area Eugen Kvaternik, Slunj, Croatia. Part of the air assault involved sling loading humvees and AGMVs to CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

U.S. and Croatian forces also traversed the field to make contact at different locations on MTA at Slunj.

“Our advantage was [that with] our flexibility as an airborne unit, we had mobility,” Lemma said. “We were able to employ some small ambushes, very decentralized, move around the battlefield, and engage the enemy with, essentially, guerilla-style tactics.”

With two different military forces on the battlefield, there were many moving pieces to the exercise that Sgt. 1st Class Felix Sanchez, an infantry Soldier, helped assess and

keep the exercise moving.

The full combat simulation, medical exercises, air assault, the new implementation of the Army Ground Mobility Vehicle, and the establishment and integration of a multinational battalion resulted in an intense and active training that both Miskovic and Lemma said taught the Soldiers valuable lessons on the battlefield.

“Here, we had a special mix of operations,” Miskovic said. “We had attacks, we had defenses, we had patrolling, and during those types of exercises and operations we tried to strengthen the cooperation and to see what are the main advantages and the main disadvantages between us and the U.S. Army.”

Immediate Response 19 is one of many joint exercises conducted in Europe. Although the training was for the Soldiers to grow in their expertise on the field, it also fostered stronger partner capabilities, deterring any potential adversaries.



Sky Soldiers from 1st Bn., 503rd PIR, 173rd IBCT (Airborne), rehearse cold-load air assault operation from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during the exercise.









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# Program builds positive military-to-military relationships

By Clare Froehlich | U.S. Army

The Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program, a part of Cadet Summer Training for Army cadets, was designed to immerse cadets in the culture of another country to understand the lifestyle of those who live there and work alongside that country’s military. This year, the CULP office is maintaining the same important purpose of the program while changing the name – Cadet Coalition Warfighter Program.

The name change is a result of a misconception of the program’s ultimate goal. While cultural understanding is a large part of the program, there is much more involved than tourist activities. The greatest reason cadets are sent abroad is to build positive military-to-military relationships. The new name – Cadet Coalition Warfighter Program – is meant to emphasize the importance of these military connections.

Maj. Leslie Graham, officer-in-charge of the CULP/CCWP detachment, said this program is especially beneficial to future lieutenants to understand how our country and military interacts with others. When they become leaders during deployment, they will already have experience interacting with coalition partners.

Douglas Kadetz, deployment coordinator for CULP/CCWP, said there’s a difference between knowing how to lead in America and knowing how to lead in other countries.

“The same solutions to a problem that you would apply here don’t necessarily apply in that country and that culture,” Kadetz said. “It’s totally different.”

Cadets typically spend 37 days in one of the 25 countries involved in the program. Some countries associated with the program are Brazil, Honduras, Guyana, Nepal, Estonia and Romania. Most of the areas cadets travel to are impoverished, so they are totally immersed in the lifestyle of the locals.

Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Eric Storer explained how CULP/CCWP is not the same as a study abroad or a vacation.

“They’re not just there sightseeing,” Storer

“They come in not knowing anything ... not really knowing how to deal with anybody from another country.”

>> Senior Master Sgt. Eric Storer

said. “They’re actually integrated into the military, into society. They eat the same food that they eat, they use the same currency. A lot of times they’re embedded with their military, so they are living in the same conditions that their military lives in.”

Cadets could be assigned to work with other countries’ military service academies or their infantry schools, as well as spend time learning about the functions and history of the embassies in country. It’s also important for cadets to become familiar with the other country’s weapons and machinery. On top of that, they could do humanitarian projects. For example, they could go to orphanages or clean up beaches.

According to the CULP/CCWP staff, it’s common for cadets to return to America with a whole new perspective. They gain an understanding of the struggles of the populations in poorer countries and the difficulties their militaries face.

“They transform,” Storer said. “They come in not knowing anything about the country, not really knowing how to deal with anybody from another country. When they come back, they’re just a whole different person.”

Another great benefit of this program is having first-time deployment experience. Cadets go through the entire deployment process. They start preparation for their travel six months in advance. This can be immunizations, studying and training requirements.



Cadets Claire De Souza, Saint Leo University, and Cadet Ross Martin, Montana State University, prepare to navigate the orienteering course at the Academia Militar das Agulhas Negras, Brazil.



Soldiers from the Cabo Verde Military teach cadets how to assemble an AK-47 during a CU&LP mission to Cabo Verde, while supervised by Cabo Verdean Marines and Cadre May 17, 2018 in Mindelo, Cabo Verde.

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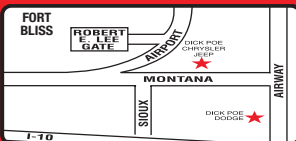


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## Things to do:

**WWII/D-Day Commemorative Celebration:** The Benavidez-Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc. will commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day at 6 p.m. June 6, at LTC Robert "Bob" Chisolm Park, at Alabama and Harrison. The event honors veterans of all World War II Campaigns. Information: John Ceballos, 240-8104 or JohCeb@msn.com.

**Art and a Movie night:** The Bliss FMWR Art and Hobby Shop will have a monthly "Art and a movie" night Friday and July 12. There will be different movies and crafts each month to enjoy. Scheduled events are "The Lego Movie" and emoji or unicorn themed ceramics, Friday; and "The Goonies" and pirate themed ceramics July 12. Open to all DoD ID card holders. \$15. 820 Marshall Rd., West Fort Bliss. 568-5563

**Race for the Cause:** The 10K and 5K run and walk benefiting #EndAIDS will be 7 a.m. Saturday at ADP El Paso, 7651 San Felipe. Part of the "More Than a Marathon" series. Packet pick up is noon to 6 p.m. Friday at Up and Running, 3233 N. Mesa, and at 6 to 6:45 a.m. on race day at the start line. \$25. [raceadventuresunlimited.com](http://raceadventuresunlimited.com).

**'Foam Wonderland' Block Party:** GTA headlines the "Sunken Savage" Tour Saturday in Downtown El Paso on Main, with special guests Herobust, DublDads and Monxx. Expect to get wet; bring cell phones in plastic bags. All ages event; 21+ beverages available. \$20 general admission; \$30 VIP. [foamwonderland.com](http://foamwonderland.com).

**Alfresco! Fridays:** The 17th season of free outdoor summer concerts are 6 p.m. Fridays, Convention Center Plaza. Presented by ElPasoLive. No outside food or beverages, or pets allowed. 534-0600, [alfrescofridays.com](http://alfrescofridays.com) or on Facebook.

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

**Aquapalooza:** It will be all about water with FMWR at the annual Aquapalooza, June 22 from noon to 4 p.m. at Biggs Park. Kick off the summer with water games, inflatables and fun activities. Free. 588-8247

**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 and Saturdays, June 14-July 27, at McKelligon Canyon Amphitheatre. Cost: \$24 (\$16 ages 2-12, seniors 65 and older and military with valid ID). Tickets on June 15-16 are only \$10. [ElPasoLive.com](http://ElPasoLive.com)

**Sun City PrideFest 2019:** El Paso Sun City Pride's 12th anniversary festival is 2 p.m.-midnight June 22, parking lot near EPIC, 510 N. Stanton, in honor of LGBTIQ Month, with performances to be announced. Cost: \$20. All ages event. (615) 603-2122 or [epsccp.org](http://epsccp.org)

**State Line Music Series:** El Pasoans Fighting Hunger and State Line Restaurant, presents the Rudolph Chevrolet-Honda-Mazda-VW outdoor concert series 8 to 10 p.m. Wednesdays. Free. 21+. All customers asked to bring non-perishable food donation or monetary donation for El Pasoans Fighting Hunger. 1222 Sunland Park Dr. 581-3371

**Brewdoso:** Ruidoso's 2nd annual festival featuring New Mexico craft beer and wine is June 22-23, at Wingfield Park, 801 Resort Drive, featuring brews, wines and spirits from around New Mexico. Proceeds benefit the community of Ruidoso. Cost: \$20 one day; \$30 weekend in advance at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). [ruidosomainstreet.com](http://ruidosomainstreet.com).

## Fort Bliss couple's loss turns to legacy at WBAMC

By Marcy Sanchez | WBAMC PA

On Sept. 22, 2018, Ryder Lucas Barnett was delivered at William Beaumont Army Medical Center. His passing was reflective of the one-in-four pregnancies that end in a loss, on average, in the United States.

It's estimated that 19 percent of the adult population has experienced the death of a child (this includes miscarriages through adult-aged children). After the loss of Ryder, Kelsey and 1st Lt. Hunter Barnett knew they had to do something to memorialize their son.

"Ever since I lost him I've told myself, through my faith, family, friends, and everyone here at WBAMC who helped me, I'm going to use my pain to help others," said Kelsey, a National Guard veteran. "It definitely helps to use my pain to help someone else."

The couple wanted to do more for the staff who helped them get through their difficult loss, so they partnered with a nonprofit organization to donate a cooling device, which dons a placard memorializing Ryder, designed to prolong parents' time with babies who suffer fetal demise.

"If that piece of equipment gets used, it means someone has lost a child," said Hunter, an operations officer with the 72nd Military Police Detachment, 93rd Military Police Battalion at Fort Bliss. "One of the first things me and my wife talked about when [Ryder passed] was, it doesn't matter if it happens at 20, 14, or 35 weeks; it's still your daughter or son. They had a name, they had a life you expected them to have, then all that's gone in an instant. I hope this equipment never gets used."

Fourteen weeks into her pregnancy, Kelsey's doctor found it difficult to hear a heartbeat when performing an ultra-

sound. Further examination revealed her baby had passed.

"I knew something was wrong because it was just really still. The worst words I have ever heard were, 'there's no heartbeat,'" she said. "You feel like you're stuck in place in the world, there's no words to describe how it feels to hear that your baby has no heartbeat."

Hours later, Ryder was delivered after 14 weeks and two days of pregnancy.

"When I got here, on the day I had Ryder, the staff took me to [a separate delivery area]," said Kelsey. "For someone going through that, you don't want to hear babies crying and the staff respected that they honored my wishes about that. From the time I got here until I had Ryder and we left, I always had someone checking on me, staying with me, praying with me. I'm very thankful I had the nurses here at WBAMC to help me."

While there is no prescribed method of grieving after a loss, according to studies by the device manufacturer, families handle infant loss better if they are able to spend more time with their departed child.

"(The device) could have at least added a few more hours with him," said Kelsey.

"Fort Bliss has been home for three-and-a-half years; we had two children born in this hospital, so it really means a lot to be able to give back to our community; to the hospital where our children were born," said Hunter. "One of the things they focus on in the military is servant leadership, [the device] is Kelsey and my way of doing that. I'm proud of her for coming up with this. She channeled everything she's feeling into something good, that's how I think everyone should handle bad experiences."



Marcy Sanchez / WBAMC PA

First Lt. Hunter Barnett, with the 72nd Military Police Detachment, 93rd Military Police Battalion, and wife Kelsey Barnett present a plaque and cooling device at William Beaumont Army Medical Center April 30. The device, designed to keep families and babies together longer in cases of fetal demise, was donated in memory of their son Ryder.



Sgt. Ashton Hofmeister / 1st AD CAB PA

Spc. Austin Zahara stands before the Turbine Tavern that he helped design and construct in Afghanistan recently.

## Talented 1st AD CAB Soldier builds morale in more ways than one downrange

By Sgt. Ashton Hofmeister | 1st AD CAB PA

AFGHANISTAN — Being thousands of miles from home isn't always easy. This is especially true when it comes to leaving loved ones and missing the comforts of home for an extended period of time.

While being in a deployed environment can bring lots of challenges for Soldiers, one member of Task Force Apocalypse used his skills in carpentry and construction to bring a little bit of comfort for his fellow Soldiers and gave them a chance to explore the skill set in the process.

Spc. Austin Zahara put his skills to use and constructed a small building outside of the aircraft hangars known as the "Turbine Tavern" in Afghanistan. The tavern houses a workspace for maintenance Soldiers and a tool room. The exterior of the "tavern" has a relaxation area with handmade benches and a newly-constructed Gazebo.

"I just kind of threw something together," said Zahara, who has ten years of experience in construction, prior to serving in the Army.

When Zahara's leadership came to him and asked him to build something that would boost morale in their austere location, he said he knew just what to do.

After using materials donated to them by engineers from other units at the location, Apocalypse Soldiers can now carry out work in a less-complicated manner.

The construction of the space boosted morale because it allowed Soldiers to become involved in a new skill set and work hard as a team.

Soldiers like Pfc. Dennis Wilson had a helpful role in the completion of the tavern. Wilson said he learned how to work with a circular saw, and the intricacies of metal roofing.

Pvt. Horacio Almendariz said he has not only learned a lot from the experience, but is also inspired to do more.

"I like it, I want to dabble in it a little bit," Almendariz said. "I'm thinking, my big goal in life is to make a house."

After witnessing the outstanding results of Zahara's work and influence, other Soldiers have come forward and asked him for help and advice on construction. The work has even boosted his own morale.

"It feels pretty good," Zahara said. "I mean, I'm getting recognized a lot for the work I did. People are pretty impressed, and they can see what I can do now."



## >> SUPER SOLDIER

Spc. Matthew Marcellus / 1st Armored Division PA

Spc. Laderius Beattie, a human resources specialist with the 1st Armored Division's Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, receives an Army Commendation Medal from Maj. Gen. Patrick E. Matlock, the 1st AD and Fort Bliss commanding general, at Fort Bliss May 23.



# Army considers leasing vacant space for companies to start projects

By Sean Kimmons | Army News Service

HONOLULU – The Army is interested in the possibility of leasing underutilized government facilities in an effort to help smaller companies start modernization projects, the Army’s acquisition chief said recently.

Through conversations with industry partners, Dr. Bruce Jette, assistant secretary of acquisition, logistics and technology, said he often heard the challenges some companies face in winning government contracts due to their lack of available investment capital.

While a company may have the engineering capacity to turn advanced ideas into reality, it may not have sufficient investor backing necessary to win a contract.

The Army is not likely to award a contract to a company without the facilities to carry out their project.

“It’s a chicken-and-egg problem for the smaller yet innovative companies the Army wants to attract and work with,” Jette said, May 23, during the Land Forces Pacific Symposium, hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army.

The idea of government-owned, contractor-leased operations could help non-traditional defense contractors bring innovative projects to fruition. It could also serve as a motivating factor for the larger defense contractors, he said.

There are government-owned properties at Army depots, arsenals and other installations that now sit idle, but still have lots of capability.

Under the concept, which started being developed a few weeks ago, vacant space could be leased to a company that can confidently show the Army it can complete a

project using it.

“We’ll lease you the facility, which might be included in the price of your vehicle, and then I can employ unused space, generate income, upgrade the space, and you’ll be able to enter the market more easily,” he said.

While he does not see the potential construct focused on making money for the government, it will allow an equitable comparison between companies that intend to use their own facilities and those including the government resource in their bids.

Additionally, it may allow the Army and a company to share labor expenses at a specific facility.

“I may be able to take people who are currently overhead expenses and put them in a billable form by then making them available for hiring by the offering

company,” he said. “In one way, I can share excess labor with them.”

As the founder of a defense firm after he retired from the Army, Jette also realized it was “extremely difficult” to do business with the government.

“At a certain point, particularly for small companies, from which most innovation comes, they just give up and walk away,” he said. “So, one of the things I’ve done is made an extensive effort to try and lower that barrier.”

For instance, he could have put a team together to bid for a next-generation combat vehicle, he said, but could not afford the \$200 million investment necessary to have access to facilities that would make him a viable bidder.

“That’s the issue. You can put an engineering team together that will make an offer that is really top notch... but they won’t have the facility,” he said. “I can’t accept an

offer from somebody who has no ability to show me that they can actually achieve the outcome.”

His office has begun to speak with members of Congress to see if the Army now has the authorities to run the program, which he foresees to be in place in a year or so.

“We’re not sure if it’s going to require new authorities or if current authorities are sufficient,” he said. “We are talking to Congress

to make sure that they have no specific objections to it.”

Some companies have already expressed interest in the program, but Jette said they won’t really know how many will take advantage of it until it goes live.

“It really does help us make it easier for companies that can bring competency to the table,” he said, “but don’t have the resources to compete in more capital-intensive areas.”

“That’s the issue. You can put an engineering team together that will make an offer that is really top notch... but they won’t have the facility.”

>> Dr. Bruce Jette



## >> VACATION IN GARMISCH, GERMANY

Courtesy photo

Beginning Monday, active-duty military service members, retirees and civilian/military ID card holders living outside Europe will be eligible to vacation at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany. The Edelweiss recently received approval from U.S. Army Europe and the Federal Republic of Germany to allow military members stationed outside Europe and retirees to visit the resort on a limited, space-available basis. Guests outside Europe are encouraged to make reservations at the Edelweiss well in advance to ensure availability. Eligibility restrictions had been in place at the Edelweiss since June 2015 after a command review determined that eligibility rules consistent with the Status of Forces Agreement were not being fully met. For more information about reservations at Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, visit <https://www.edelweissslodgeandresort.com>.

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Steven McNally / UC Berkeley

Researchers at the University of California at Berkeley first unveiled Salto the jumping robot in 2016. Now, they've equipped the robot with a slew of new skills, giving it the ability to bounce in place like a pogo stick and jump through obstacle courses like an agile dog. Powered by a radio controller, Salto can even take short jaunts outside.

(Right) UC-Berkeley robotics graduate student Justin Yim discusses his jumping robot, Salto, which is funded by the U.S. Army.



Courtesy photo

# I, robot: Army project develops agile scouting robots

**By CCDC Army Research Laboratory Public Affairs**

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. – In a research project for the Army, researchers at the University of California at Berkeley have developed an agile robot, called Salto, that looks like a Star Wars Imperial walker in miniature and may be able to aid in scouting and search-and-rescue operations.

Robots like this may one day be used to save lives of both warfighters and civilians, researchers said.

Topping out at less than a foot tall, Salto, which stands for saltatorial (leaping like a grasshopper) locomotion on terrain obstacles, now has a sophisticated control systems that allows it to master increasingly complex tasks, like bouncing in place, navigating an obstacle course or following a moving target, all controlled with a radio controller.

In 2016, the research team demonstrated how Salto could take a leap, and then immediately spring higher by ricocheting off a wall, making it the world's most vertically agile robot -- jumping for more than three times its height.

With its new capabilities, the researchers hope Salto will propel the development of small, nimble robots that could leap through

rubble to aid in search-and-rescue and other military missions.

"The physical environment the Army operates in is highly irregular, cluttered, and constantly changing," said Dr. Samuel Stanton, program manager at Army Research Office, an element of U.S. Army Combat Capability Development Command's Army Research Laboratory. "The science underlying the advancements is critical for achieving the desired mobility, speed of action, and situational-awareness generation necessary for future Army operations."

The research team described the robot's new skills at the 2019 International Conference on Robotics and Automation in Montreal, May 21.

"Small robots are really great for a lot of things, like running around in places where larger robots or humans can't fit. For example, in a disaster scenario, where people might be trapped under rubble, robots might be really useful at finding the people in a way that is not dangerous to rescuers and might even be faster than rescuers could have done unaided," said UC Berkeley robotics graduate student Justin Yim. "We wanted Salto to not only be small, but also able to jump really high and really quickly, so that it could navigate these difficult places."

Yim works with Ronald Fearing, an electrical engineering and computer sciences professor at UC Berkeley, whose Biomimetic Millisystems Lab explores how the mechanics of animal movement can be applied to create more agile robots.

Fearing's lab is known for building insect-inspired robots that can safely crawl across tricky surfaces that are too smooth or too rough for a wheeled robot to navigate.

Salto's single, powerful leg is modeled after those of the galago, or Senegalese bush baby. The small, tree-dwelling primate's muscles and tendons store energy in a way that gives the spry creature the ability to string together multiple jumps in a matter of seconds. By linking a series of quick jumps, Salto also can navigate complex terrain -- like a pile of debris -- that might be impossible to cross without jumping or flying.

"Unlike a grasshopper or cricket that winds up and gives one jump, we're looking at a mechanism where it can jump, jump, jump, jump," Fearing said. "This allows our robot to jump from location to location, which then gives it the ability to temporarily land on surfaces that we might not be able to perch on."

Yim has also equipped Salto with new technology that allows it to feel its own body, telling it what angle it is pointing and the bend of its leg. Without these abilities, Salto has been confined to a room in one of Berkeley's engineering buildings, where motion capture cameras track its exact angle and position and transmit that data back to a computer, which rapidly crunches the numbers to tell Salto how to angle itself for its next leap.

Now that Salto has a sense of itself and its own motion, the robot can make these calculations for itself, allowing Yim to take the robot outside and use a joystick and radio controller to tell it where to go.

"By understanding the way that these dynamics work for Salto, with its mass and size, then we can extend the same type of understanding to other systems, and we could build other robots that are bigger or smaller or differently shaped or weighted," Yim said.

In the future, Fearing hopes to continue to explore the possibilities for hopping robots.

"This Army investment extends the current state of the art for small ground robot mobility beyond what is currently capable through traditional wheeled and tracked locomotion which are severely limited in complex three-dimensional terrain," said Dr. Brett Piekarski, Vehicle Technology Directorate, ARL. "These advances will inform and guide our Army Research Laboratory researchers as they continue to develop innovative solutions for robotic actuation and mobility and will enable agile robots that can go anywhere a Soldier can and beyond. This research brings us a step closer to providing our warfighters with effective unmanned systems that can be deployed in the field."



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# VFW remembers fallen at Yokohama War Cemetery

**By Wendy Brown** | U.S. Army Garrison Japan Public Affairs  
YOKOHAMA, Japan — After surviving the Bataan Death March during World War II, 2nd Lt. Darwin C. Becker spent more than two years as a prisoner of war in the Philippines before Japanese forces decided to ship him to Japan.

Becker started his journey on the Oryoku Maru, but on the way, U.S. forces bombed and sank the unmarked ship, unaware U.S. POWs were aboard. Becker lived, however, and boarded another ship, the Enoura Maru. U.S. forces bombed that unmarked ship as well, and Becker went on to sail on a third ship, the Brazil Maru.

That ship made it to Moji Harbor, Japan, but Becker, 29, died upon arrival of acute enteritis, or inflammation of the small intestine, on the docks Jan. 30, 1945, with 30 of his comrades.

Becker is among 58 U.S. service members commemorated at the Yokohama War Cemetery’s Yokohama Cremation Memorial, and members of Camp Zama’s Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9612, as well as other area VFW posts, honored him and all fallen service members during a Memorial Day ceremony May 26 at the cemetery.

“We present our love, we present our honor and we present our remembrance on this day to those who have sacrificed so much,” said Mike Lutman, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Department of Pacific Areas, District 2 Mainland Japan, during his speech.

The Navy Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps from Nile C. Kinnick High School, U.S. Fleet Activities Yokosuka, provided a color guard, and members laid flowers at the memorial. In addition, Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 103, performed a Navy Two Bell Memorial Ceremony. A VFW representative also read the classic poem “In Flanders Fields” by John McCrae.

During his keynote speech, Lutman called on members of Congress, leaders of veterans groups and all U.S. citizens to help and support the families of those missing in action in Vietnam.

“They still sacrifice and they still suffer,” Lutman said. “Vietnam is not over for them. They cannot rest until they know the fate of those they loved and watched march off to serve their country. Our dedication to their cause must be strengthened with these events here today.”

Rick Farris, senior vice commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Department of Pacific Areas, Post 1054, also spoke, and said Memorial Day is not “barbecue day,” but instead is a day to remember those who have fallen and sacrificed for their nation.

“I love this day; I love this place,” Farris said. “I think there’s no better place to have a Memorial Day service, and remember those who have given so much, than at this place right here at Hodogaya.”

The cemetery, located in Yokohama’s Hodogaya Ward, contains more than 1,500 graves of service members from the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and India (and one U.S. service member who had been assigned to a Canadian unit) who died in Japan as prisoners of war or with the occupying forces after the war. The cremation memorial honors 335 service members from the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and India.

The memorial shows the names of 48 U.S. service members and notes that the memorial’s urn also contains the remains of 10 unknown U.S. service members. Most of the named service members — 31 of them — arrived in Moji Harbor, Japan, on Jan. 30, 1945, aboard the Brazil Maru and died on dock the same date, according to a War Department “informal action sheet” dated Nov. 15, 1945, and articles about the service members.

The other service members included in the memorial died of dysentery, complications of pneumonia, beriberi (caused by low levels of vitamin B1), and malnutrition in Moji in the following months, according to the War Department’s informal action sheet and POW records.

The men as a whole belonged to a variety of units from the Army, the Army Air Forces



Wendy Brown / U.S. Army Garrison Japan Public Affairs  
Chris Smith, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1054, U.S. Fleet Activities Yokosuka, and his daughter, Sarina, 4, lay flowers inside the Yokohama Cremation Memorial within Yokohama War Cemetery in the Hodogaya Ward of Yokohama, Japan, May 26. The memorial contains the remains of 58 U.S. service members who fought in World War II.

(the predecessor to the Air Force), the Navy and Marine Corps and came from states that spanned from Connecticut to California.

Many of the men, including Becker, had endured trips on three ships on their way to Japan, according to POW camp records from the POW Research Network of Japan, and due to the bombings and conditions on board, many did not survive.

“Of the 1,619 POWs who boarded Oryoku Maru on Dec. 14, 1944, 497 arrived in Moji,” according to “American POWs on Japanese Ships Take a Voyage Into Hell, Part 2,” in Prologue magazine by Lee A. Gladwin. “An estimated 500 died aboard the Brazil Maru during the voyage from Takao (Japan) to Moji.”

Becker, a native of Brenham, Texas, joined the New Mexico National Guard at Fort Bliss, Texas, and was a member of the NMNG’s 515th Coast Artillery Regiment at his death. He died with two other members of the NMNG’s 200th Coast Artillery Regiment and the 515th CA Regt. nearby. About 1,800 Soldiers from the units deployed to the Philippines in 1941, according to the New Mexico Military Museum, and many of them participated in the 66-

mile Bataan Death March.

First Lt. James Hunter, assigned to the 515th CA Regt. and from Silver City, N.M., and Pvt. Rufus Patterson, assigned to the 200th CA Regt. and from Deming, N.M., also died on the docks with Becker and are included in the memorial. Sgt. William McGee, assigned to the 200th CA Regt. and from Portales, N.M., died shortly thereafter, on Feb. 23, 1945.

Becker, an enlisted Soldier, received a battlefield promotion to second lieutenant, according to the Bataan-Corregidor Memorial Foundation of New Mexico, Inc.

Jan Stringer, who posted a photo of Becker on the “Find-A-Grave” website, said via email that her husband, Robert Stringer, is Becker’s nephew.

Becker was a member of the science club and airplane club in high school, but the family does not know much about his military service except that he survived the Bataan Death March and did all he could to help his fellow POWs in captivity, Stringer said.

“From family stories, he did a lot to help fellow prisoners by stealing extra food, medicine and clothes for them,” Stringer said.

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# The meaning of D-Day

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Chris Degn | USAG Fort Bliss

Today marks the 75th anniversary of the landing operations of the Allied invasion of Normandy in WWII’s Operation Overlord. Codenamed Operation Neptune, it is most commonly referred to simply as, “D-Day.” The largest seaborne operation in history, it



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Chris Degn

led to liberation of German-occupied Europe from Nazi control, and laid a foundation for Allied victory on the Western Front. D-Day was a massive operation involving eight Allied nations, a substantial military deception, codenamed Operation Bodyguard, to mislead the enemy as to the true date and location of the main Allied landings, tremendous aerial and naval bombardment to soften the landing zone, and an airborne assault. In addition to what had to be a tremendous financial outlay, D-Day cost the Allies an estimated 4,000 lives of 160,000 that went ashore, with thousands more wounded or missing.

Historians debate the meaning of the letter, “D” in D-Day. Interpretations include, “designated”, “decision”, “debarkation”, “deliverance”, and “departure.” Hints of the true meaning can be found long before WWII in a U.S. Army Field Order dated September 7, 1918, stating, “The First Army will attack at H hour on D day with the object of forcing the evacuation of the St. Mihiel Salient,” therefore implying the “D” simply means “day” or “date”.

Regardless of its exact meaning, it was a mark on the wall that could be used to work with for planning, preparing, executing, and evaluating the operation. Soldiers and Leaders understand the importance of having D-Days that drive our Military Decision Making Process and Troop Leading Procedures.

So, now we know what D-Day meant in terms of cost to the Allies – and its meaning as a term in their lexicon, but what was its real value or meaning to them? Why did they engage in such a mission? General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force told us why in his famous D-Day message to the troops,

“You are about to embark upon the Great

Crusade...The eyes of the world are upon you...In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about...the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world. Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle hardened. He will fight savagely...I have full confidence in your courage and devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!”

Why fight? They fought for freedom from oppression.

How to fight? They fought with courage, devotion, and skill. And as a Chaplain and a believer in a Higher Power I point out that General Eisenhower added, “And let us beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.” The why and the how found in the General’s message don’t just apply to the Allies storming the beaches of Normandy, but also to our own day with the battles we ourselves fight.

Years ago, as a young chaplain, I learned that all my teammates, whether Soldier, Civilian, or Family member, fought some kind of battle – be it military while deployed to a combat zone – or be it financial, psychological, social, spiritual, etc. back home in garrison. I became known for my customary greeting to my battle buddies of, “How goes the battle?” If that greeting got answered with something more substantial than a greeting of the day such as “Good afternoon, Chaplain,” or “Airborne, sir!,” then I could go into Eisenhower mode and discuss the why and the how of their current battle.

D-Day encourages us to remember the pivotal moment of WWII that turned the tide toward Allied victory. It had tremendous cost in monetary and human terms, but it was fought well. Despite that cost, the further oppression D-Day prevented is, perhaps, incalculable. I encourage us to look up and read and listen to Eisenhower’s message, to remember the cost, to be grateful to a courageous generation fast fading away from us, and to apply the why and how tips he gives to our own battles today.

As a young Infantry lieutenant, I was once counseled in a challenging moment “Lieutenant, the failure to make a decision is in itself a

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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 p.m.

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

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

### RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

**Catholic Women of the Chapel**  
(Bldg. 2498 Hope Chapel)  
Friday 8:45-11 a.m.

**Protestant Women of the Chapel**  
(Bldg. 11272 1st AD Chapel)  
Thursday 9-11:30 a.m.

**Protestant Youth Group**  
(11275 Biggs St. 568-4334)  
Sunday 5 p.m.

**Sundays Free Dinner** (6:30-7 p.m.)  
5:30-6:30 p.m. Middle School  
7-8 p.m. High School

**Post-wide Bible Study**  
(Bldg. 11272 1st AD Chapel)  
Wednesdays 5:30-7:00 p.m.

### CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICES

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Saturday Mass 5 p.m.  
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Sunday Mass 11 a.m.  
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**WBAMC Hospital Chapel**  
(5005 N. Piedras Dr.)  
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**German Chapel**  
(5312 Buffalo Soldier)  
Sunday Mass 10 a.m. odd days

### OTHER RELIGIOUS SERVICES

**Jewish Chapel** (Bldg. 1441)  
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**Islamic Service** (Bldg. 442)  
Friday Jummuh 1:30 p.m.  
Sunday Ta’Aleem 12:30-2 p.m.  
Buddhist Service  
(Bldg. 449 Pershing Road)  
Thursday 6 p.m.  
Intro to Nichiren Buddhism  
2nd Tuesday 5 p.m.

decision.”

I have used that line many times to help struggling Soldiers in my counseling with them in order to motivate them to move on with their lives and their mission. The Allies made a decision to take the fight, in a big way, to the enemy

at Normandy on D-Day. You too can make your own “decision” to win, “depart” from previous unsuccessful ways of thinking, “deliver” yourself or a battle buddy from a struggle, and make today your “day” to turn the tide.



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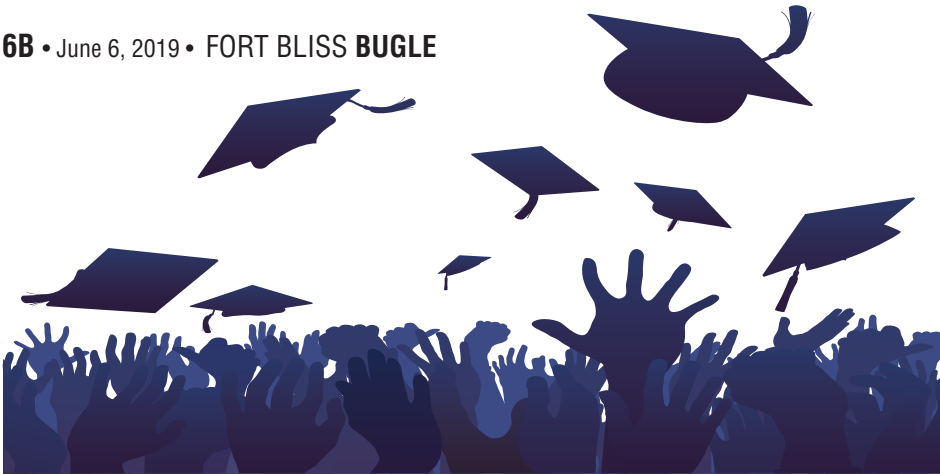
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# The Wailing Wall: School grades sometimes miss the mark

By Lisa Smith Molinari | [www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com)

I had done it, all by myself this time. I would finally make my parents proud.

It was 1991, and I was about to graduate from law school. My parents made the nine-hour drive from Pennsylvania to Michigan for the occasion, the first time since I had left home three years prior. I met them at school, eager to show them the place where I finally transitioned from child to adult.

Unlike college when I was still under my parents’ thumbs, I completed law school without their hand-holding or bank accounts. As much as it would have been nice to have them foot the bills, I knew I had to cut the apron strings and set out on my own.

In order to do this as a flat-broke college grad, I had to get every loan possible, and work at least 20 to 30 hours a week with a full course load. It wasn’t easy. I drove a 1976 Volkswagen Beetle through snow-blown Michigan winters, shopped at thrift stores, and ate plenty of ramen.

But I did well, earning a spot on Law Review, getting a coveted internship at the county prosecutor’s office, and securing two job offers before graduation. All I had to do now was accept the sweetest reward of all — my parents’ approval.

Dressed in the eggplant business suit I’d splurged on with my meager savings, I walked them through the institution that would award me my degree later that day. I pointed out the library, the bookstore, the mock courtroom, the school cafe where I ate bran muffins and the heavily smoke-infused student lounge.

I told them how the system worked — how our final grades in every non-writing course were based on anonymous “blue book” exams. To demonstrate this, I pulled my “Secured Transactions and Bankruptcy” blue book out of my bag while we sat in the cafe for a coffee break. It was the last exam I had taken, and I still needed to check my grade.

“See Mom and Dad, this booklet is what we record our exam answers in. Each one has a random number in the corner... here,” I pointed.

ed. “In order to see what grade I got on this exam, I have to find that number on a bulletin board upstairs. We call it ‘The Wailing Wall,’” I said with a chuckle, “I’ll show you.”

After finishing our Styrofoam cups of coffee, we took the elevators to the Wailing Wall on the sixth floor. Students were milling about, muttering the long numbers from their blue books, pointing to the printouts on the wall, and drawing their fingers across the board to the columns of final grades.

“Okay, so let’s find my Secured Transactions and Bankruptcy blue book number,” I guided my parents, who seemed fascinated by my world.

The three of us scanned the lists, looking for the right combination of numbers.

“Is that it?” my mother said excitedly, pointing and squinting at a number high on the wall.

“You found it, Mom, nice job!” I said. I held the place with my fingertip. “Now, let’s follow the line over to the grade column.” I dragged my finger along, and they watched, each of us sporting an eager grin.

“And voila!” I said when my fingertip reached the column of letter grades. “What does it say?” I asked, as they craned their necks to see.

My parents’ expressions turned from cheerfully entertained, to somewhat confused, to downright embarrassed.

“It says D+,” my father reported with deadpan delivery.

For that moment, I felt that all was lost. Every bad memory of disappointing Cs on my high school report cards and college transcripts bubbled to the surface. Would I ever exceed my parents’ mediocre expectations for me?

But less than an hour later in the auditorium, they watched, tears flooding their eyes, as their only daughter accepted her hard-earned Juris Doctor degree.

“We’re so proud of what you’ve accomplished,” they gushed, hugging and kissing me after the ceremony. Turns out, my grades hadn’t defined me after all. And much to my surprise, my parents knew that better than I did.



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Sports Briefs

**UFC Fight Night:** The Monti Warrior Zone will be fight central for UFC 238 Saturday, 6 p.m. Drink specials throughout the night. 21171 Medic Ave., Free. 741-3000

**Sand Volleyball tournament at Warrior Zone:** The Monti Warrior Zone and Bliss FMWR will host a sand volleyball tournament June 14, 4-10 p.m. Cost includes a t-shirt and one drink of your choice. Bring your friends and play against other competitors for the last tournament. Open to the public, ages 18+ Cost: \$15. 21171 Medic Ave., 741-3000

**Race for the Cause:** The 10K and 5K run and walk benefiting #EndAIDS will be 7 a.m. Saturday at ADP El Paso, 7651 San Felipe. Part of the "More Than a Marathon" series. Packet pick up is noon-6 p.m. Friday at Up and Running, 3233 N. Mesa, and at 6-6:45 a.m. on race day at the start line. Cost: \$25. raceadventuresunlimited.com.

**El Paso Locomotive FC:** El Paso's professional soccer team will host the LA Galaxy II at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Southwest University Park. Cost: \$5-\$49. 235-GOAL, eplocomotivefc.com, or tickets@eplocomotivefc.com

**Run Through the Clouds 10K:** Cloudcroft Runners will the 10K run/walk and 1 mile Kids Dash Saturday starting at Zenith Park in Cloudcroft, N.M. Kids Dash starts at 8 a.m. and 10K at 8:30 a.m. Run is on a mountain course with dirt and paved roads throughout Cloudcroft. Kids Dash is a 1-mile gravel trail loop around Zenith Park. Refreshments at finish line. Cost: \$30; \$35 on race day; (\$10 kids dash for age 9 and younger; \$15 on race day). Packet pickup will be 5-7 p.m. Friday at the Pavilion at Zenith Park on Hwy 82, or 7-7:45 a.m. on race day at the start line. (575) 430-7634. Registration raceadventuresunlimited.com.

**Family Day at the Wall:** The Soldier Activity Center holds "Family Day at the Wall" every Thursday, Friday and Saturday 12-6 p.m. How's the view from the top? Find out during Family Day at the Wall. The Soldier Activity Center is normally open to guests ages 18+, but on Family Day, the wall is open to all climbers age 6+. Climbing is available on a first-come, first-served basis. 20732 Constitution Ave., 744-1532

**Pro rodeo:** The 29th annual PRCA Rodeo rides into Silver City 8 p.m. June 12-15, at Southwest Horseman's Park, U.S. 180 East (at Caballero Road). Performances begin at 8 p.m.; doors open at 6:30 p.m. with mutton bustin' at 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$15 in advance; \$18 at the gate. (575) 534-5030, silvercityprrodeo.com

**Dads, Deadlifts and Donuts:** Guys! Are you into fitness competitions and donuts? Well, during Father's Day weekend, you can sign up for GroupFIT's Dads, Deadlifts and Donuts! It will be June 15, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. behind Soto Physical Fitness Center. Be prepared to do Deadlift, Tire Flip, Sled Push and Keg Toss! Open to all male competitors with an optional parent and child event. Register now through Wednesday at Soto or Stout PFCs. Cost: \$30 (plus \$5 late fee) with guaranteed t-shirt, and the option for parent and child, ages 12-17, event for an additional \$10. All competitors 21+ can enjoy free donuts after the event. Non-alcoholic beverages will be available. 744-5790

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**Hook a Soldier on Golf Clinic:** Underwood Golf Complex will have their Hook a Soldier on Golf Clinic every 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



Photos by Sgt. Thomas Mort / 358th MPAD  
U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Cameron Battle, a tactical air control party airman with 3rd Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, prepares for a lift during the 1st World Bench Press Championships of the Uniformed Services at Wroclaw, Poland, recently.

US service members compete with Polish in bench press competition

By Sgt. Thomas Mort | 358th MPAD

WROCLAW, Poland – Eight service members with 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division competed in the 1st World Bench Press Championships of the Uniformed Services, May 24-26.

“This weekend Poland hosted the first world’s bench press competition of uniformed service members, a one-lift event, bench press only,” said Ohio Army National Guard Sgt. Christopher Shulz, a combat medic from Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, attached to the 1st ABCT, 1st ID. “I loved being a part of it, I’m glad that the Polish were so inviting.”

Over 100 uniformed athletes were on hand for the international competition open to active and retired military service members and uniformed services.

“We have seen that this kind of international competition, especially with those who wear the uniform are all the time competing to be the best,” said Polish Army Maj. Piotr Kowalczyk. “I know the U.S. guys want to be the best, so the Polish would like to show them that there are some sport competitions that we are better.”

The primary goal for events like this is to bring together people from different uniformed services and countries, to meet up and have fun competing.

Sometimes we have to cooperate on the outside together, so it’s better to [get to] know

each other on the civilian side [at events like this], so we can work better together when in uniform, said Kowalczyk. We now know that it’s a hybrid warfare, more or less, fighting with the terrorists.

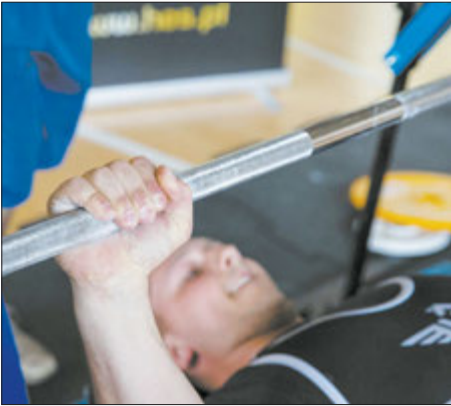
This was a bench press only competition because for some it can be easier to train only one event and it’s a way to include veterans who may have lost a leg during combat. The bench press is a strength lift that consists of three attempts to achieve a maximum weight.

“We want to activate the other veterans,” said Kowalczyk. “Sometimes someone might be deaf or they lost a leg, but they still can press.”

“I think that doing events like this lets the Polish know that we’re not just here because we have to be,” added Shulz. “We want to be here and do things together, that aren’t necessarily military related.”

The competition started off Friday afternoon with weigh ins, and continued through Sunday afternoon. Women competed in three separate weight and two different age categories. The men were split into 10 different weight and four different age categories.

“I would definitely love the opportunity to come back and do this again, it was a lot of fun,” said Shulz. “Everyone that came, were thankful that we were invited out by the Polish and we look forward to doing more things like this with them.”



U.S. Army Sgt. Joshua Closser, from Charlie Battery, 1st Bn., 174th ADA warms up with a lift.



Polish Army Maj. Gen. Jaroslaw Roman Gromadzinski talks with service members from 1st ABCT 1st ID, during the 1st World Bench Press Championships of the Uniformed Services at Wroclaw, Poland, May 24-26.





Airman 1st Class Quion Lowe / 49th Wing PA  
Air Force Maj. Zachary Garrett, 49th Aerospace Medical Squadron human performance flight commander, poses for a portrait, May 8 on Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. Garrett competed with the U.S. Armed Forces cycling team for approximately three years.

# Pedal to the metal

Holloman flight commander stays at high level through competitive cycling

By Airman 1st Class Quion Lowe | 49th Wing PA  
HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – The Air Force has a reputation of holding airmen to a high standard. For physical fitness specifically, that standard is assessed by a waist measurement, push-ups, sit-ups and a 1.5 mile run. However, working out does not always have to be a chore – there are many avenues available where one can maintain physical fitness and boost their morale. For Air Force Maj. Zachary Garrett, 49th Aerospace Medical Squadron human performance flight commander, he chooses elite cycling as a means to stay fit. Garrett got into competitive cycling at a young age. After participating in many triathlons he eventually narrowed his focus to cycling and has used his talent and experience throughout his career in the U.S. Air Force. He even cycled with the U.S. Armed Forces cycling team for approximately three years.

The benefits of playing sports at such a high level are not only physical, but mental as well. Garrett said cycling helped him with setting and achieving long-term goals, a very essential skill for any career. “I diagram it out and tell myself, ‘I want to be at this level of fitness around this week of the year,’” said Garrett. “It gives you some of that long-term planning that may be about a year in advance.” In elite cycling, it is standard for races to last for hours and in some cases, like the Tour de France, competitors can ride for 90 miles a day for two weeks. Garrett said daunting tasks like training



for a race are great preparation for staying engaged during long workdays in any career field. Although there are some similarities between having a successful military career and competing in cycling at an elite level, there are a lot of key differences that can be challenging when juggling both at the same time. One challenge Garrett mentioned is how difficult it was when he was competing, getting to all the different locations of high level races around the world. “When I was attending the Air Force Academy, (traveling to cycle) was much more restrictive,” said Garrett. “But once I was on active duty and competing with the Armed Forces cycling team, it was easier to go to the commander and say, ‘can I have two weeks off to go to Italy and Slovenia?’ It also helped to mention it was for the military world championship.” Even though cycling is not an area tested in the Air Force Physical Fitness Test, and it takes extra effort to stay at a high level, finding a fun way to work out is worth the energy and it can be adjusted to fit AF PFT standards. “For all the new Airmen out there, look around for stuff that interests you,” said Garrett. “If you don’t like running but you like swimming, let’s get you in the pool. Any beneficial activity that moves you will move you forward in the Air Force.”

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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

**Housing Town Hall June 6:** Team Bliss invites you to the next Army housing Town Hall meeting June 6, 6-7:30 p.m. in the Austin Room at the Centennial Banquet and Conference Center. 11199 Sgt. E Churchill St., East Fort Bliss.

**ACES Recognition Ceremony:** The Fort Bliss Army Continuing Education System-Education Center will have a recognition ceremony, Monday, honoring Soldiers and their family members who earned a certificate, associate's, bachelor's, master's or doctorate degree within the past year and did not attend any other ceremony. Also being recognized will be those Soldiers and their family members who are within six credits of completing a degree program they are actively pursuing. Stayton Theater, building 2495, Ricker Road, 6 p.m. 568-9740 or 588-5334

**Old Ironsides ACP changes:** Old Ironsides access control point will no longer be operational on federal holidays, Saturdays, or Sundays. Anyone transiting the post can do so using MSG Pena ACP (open 24/7) and CSM Barreras ACP (open 24/7).

**TARP training:** Fort Bliss offers Threat Awareness Reporting Program (TARP) 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

**McGregor/FBXTX ammo point closings:** The McGregor Range/FBXTX Ammunition Supply Point will be closed June 17-21; and Sept. 16-20. Issue documents can be submitted through TAMIS during the closures. 569-9528

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

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

## FMWR

**Monthly Art and a Movie night:** The Bliss FMWR Art and Hobby Shop will have a monthly "Art and a movie" night Friday and July 12. There will be different movies and crafts each month to enjoy. Scheduled events are "The Lego Movie" and emoji or unicorn themed ceramics, Friday; and "The Goonies" and pirate themed ceramics July 12. Open to all DoD ID card holders. \$15. 820 Marshall Rd., West Fort Bliss. 568-5563

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

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

## Go Youth

**Aquapalooza:** It will be all about water with FMWR at the annual Aquapalooza, June 22 from noon to 4 p.m. at Biggs Park. Kick off the summer with water games, inflatables and fun activities. Free. 588-8247

**Family Day at the Wall:** The Soldier Activity Center holds "Family Day at the Wall" every Thursday, Friday and Saturday 12-6 p.m. How's the view from the top? Find out during Family Day at the Wall. The Soldier Activity Center is normally open to guests ages 18 and older, but on Family Day, the wall is open to all climbers age 6 and older. Climbing is available on a first-come, first-served basis. 20732 Constitution Ave., East Fort Bliss 744-1532

**In-home Child Care from CYS:** Family Child Care offers in-home providers for CYS-registered kids. For care information, or to receive an updated list of FCC providers, call 568-4198 or visit the office at 3503 Story Rd. Cost: \$5/hr. with \$10 deposit. Reservations required. 744-7879

**School Age Book Club:** The School Age Book Club is designated for children ages 7-12. A staff member will read for part of the time and the children will read aloud as well from 4-5 p.m. every Wednesday at Mickelsen Library. Activities and projects are completed at home, returned and shared at subsequent meetings. Occasional refreshments are provided. 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. Start children on the road to literacy. 568-6156

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

**Teen Basic Automotive Maintenance Class:** SKIESUnlimited will be hosting this event every second Saturday of the month. Students with their driver's licenses or permits will learn basics such as changing the oil to replacing a tire and more. When the class is completed, students will receive a safety card to work at Auto Crafts. Cost: \$25 per student, registration is required and can be done at SKIESUnlimited. All students, ages 15 and older, must be enrolled with Child Youth Services before registering for any SKIESUnlimited class. 568-5544

**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

**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. Call our team today at 568-5544. All students must be enrolled with CYS Services Parent Central. 568-4374

## Community

**WWII/D-Day Commemorative Celebration:** The Benavidez-Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc. will commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day at 6 p.m. June 6, at LTC Robert "Bob" Chisolm Park, at Alabama and Harrison. The event honors veterans of all World War II Cam-

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**Paso Del Norte 45380 Ellerthorpe**

Fort Bliss FAMILY HOMES

paings. Information: John Ceballos, 240-8104 or JohCeb@msn.com.

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

**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. For information about the association and their 98th annual reunion in Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 18-22, contact Bob Haynes at 2idahq@comcast.net

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

**Be a mentor in the Sea Cadets:** Calling adult volunteers to lead in the newly forming Navy Sea Cadets program, El Paso Unit. 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. No military background is required and you will be allowed to wear the Navy Sea Cadet uniform. For more information look up "El Paso Navy Sea Cadets" on Facebook, or e-mail [epnavyseacadets@outlook.com](mailto:epnavyseacadets@outlook.com)

**You made the grade:** First-through 12th-graders with a B average or higher are eligible for a \$5 Exchange gift card for each grading period and a chance to win a \$2,000, \$1,500 or \$500 prize. Visit the Exchange at Fort Bliss.

**Music Under the Stars:** The 36th summer concert series sponsored presented by the City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department opens 7:30-9:30 p.m. Sunday with Soul Parade (indie rock/synth pop) at the Chamizal National Memorial, 800 S. San Marcial. Free. [elpasolive.com](http://elpasolive.com) or on Facebook at Music Under the Stars

**Cool Canyon Nights:** The 9th annual series of free outdoor summer concerts are 6-9 p.m. Thursdays at McKelligon Canyon, Amphitheatre. Patio performance begins at 6 p.m. with headliner at 7 p.m. on the main stage. June 13: Joe Barron Band. Free. [elpasolive.com](http://elpasolive.com)

**Parks and Recreation concerts:** El Paso Parks and Recreation presents a free outdoor concert of Mariachi music at 6 p.m. June 15, Ponder Park, 7500 W.H. Burges. Bring lawn chairs and blankets, food and beverages (no alcohol). All locations are dog friendly, but dogs must be on leash. 212-0092 or [elpasotexas.gov/parks](http://elpasotexas.gov/parks)

**Hearse and Classic Car Show/Shine:** Calaveritas and El Paso Funeral Museum, 6111 S. Desert, host their first-ever, family-friendly hearse exhibit and classic car show and shine noon-6 p.m. June 15, with free museum tours, food truck, local artists and vendors and more. Free. 209-0097, [elpasofuneralmuseum.com](http://elpasofuneralmuseum.com)

**El Sombrero Taco Eating Contest:** El Sombrero Patio Café hosts the 2nd annual Taco Eating Contest 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, on the Plaza de Las Cruces, on Main Street, Las Cruces, with live music, performances, food trucks, vendors and a beer and margarita tent. Entertainment includes Maricachi Alma de Jalisco, demonstrations by Luchador wrestlers and Diamantes del Valle Ballet Folklórico. Free. (575) 642-8338

**Nichols Ranch Cherry Festival:** The inaugural festival is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. June 15-16, at its at Nichols Ranch and Orchard, 236 Cottonwood Canyon, seven miles east of La Luz, N.M. with cherries and cherry products, cherry picking, live music, food and drinks, beer and wine garden, petting zoo, and more. Free. (575) 430-7953 or on Facebook at [nicholsranch1882](https://nicholsranch1882)

**Raft the Rio Festival:** Kiwanis Club of Las Cruces hosts the raft race at 10 a.m. June 15, beginning at La Llorona Park beneath the Picacho Street bridge, in Las Cruces, and finishing at the Calle de Norte bridge in Mesilla. Cash prizes for first to finish, best use of recycled materials, least likely to finish, and most spirited crew. Theme is "Pirates of the Rio Grande." All crew members must have and wear a life jacket. Cost: \$20 in advance through June 12; \$35 day of event (for two sailors), \$5 each for additional crew members (must all be age 13 or older). [kiwanis-las-cruces.org](http://kiwanis-las-cruces.org), (410) 925-9126 or [northcuttj@comcast.net](mailto:northcuttj@comcast.net)

**Full Moon Nights:** White Sands National Monument, 15 miles southwest of Alamogordo, N.M., on U.S. 70, presents a performance by 1st Armored Division Old Ironsides Band at 8:30 p.m. June 17, as part of its monthly full moon pro-

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Debt collection notices:

This is a debt collection notice for **PV2 Mamady K. Kaba**. All services under Kaba's name should be put on hold. All those with debts to be collected under the name of Kaba or for information regarding collections, call 2nd Lt. Brett Cullen at 410-960-3881.



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